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Date: February 5, 2014

To: Catalina Hernandez, Environmental Specialist II  
Environmental Management Group  
M.S. 939

From: William Jones, Environmental Supervisor I  
Environmental Management Group  
M.S. 939

Subject: **GAFFEY POOL PROJECT (W.O. E1907453),  
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (SITE FLORA AND HABITAT) EVALUATION.**

As requested, a floristic survey was performed at the above-captioned project site, and potential impacts to biological resources were evaluated. The Gaffey Pool Project site was visited on August 27, 2013 and August 30, 2013. A list of species was compiled for the existing pool and adjacent areas (Table I). The purpose of this survey was to provide a record of existing vascular plant species, and characterize their vegetation community, which may be affected.

All vascular plant species were recorded, and California native plant species noted, within the project site. The study area was divided into two subareas: 1) enclosed pool area: and, (2) the adjacent area, surrounding the pool. The project site is located on the site of the former Fort MacArthur. The pool was constructed in 1943 on a north-facing slope above Gaffey Street, and facing San Pedro Harbor. Vegetation consists of mostly non-native landscaping, consisting of (mature and sapling) trees, with an understory of non-native shrubs, perennials and annual species. Nomenclature followed Munz (1974) and Baldwin, et al. (2012). Other references – CALFLORA (2013), Consortium of California Herbaria (2012), Gales (1974), Lipman, et al. (1999), Magney (2011), McMinn (1964), McMinn and Maino (1967), Raven et al. (1986 edition), Vasek (1982), Watson and Dalwitz (1992-1998) and Whitson (1992) - were also used.

Twenty-nine vascular plant species were recorded within the project site (Table I). Fourteen Species were found within the pool area, while nineteen species were found in the surrounding area, adjacent to the pool. Only three California native plant species were found. All three native plant species were found outside of the enclosed pool area.

The listed native species are commonly found in chaparral, coastal prairie/grassland communities, while many of the non-native species are typical of degraded or disturbed sites. Other non-native species consist of ruderal, landscape or garden escapee, plants. No rare, endangered or sensitive species were recorded or sighted within the project area.

### **CNDDB/CNPS**

According to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (August, 2013) by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch, four

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plant and seven animal species are listed as endangered or threatened within the San Pedro and adjacent quadrangles, 7.5-minute (1:24000) quadrangle (Table II). None of these species were recorded or observed within the project area. Suitable (native grassland) habitat was present for one of the four listed plant species (Lyon's pentachaeta), while suitable (coastal sage scrub) habitat is present for two of five listed animal species (California gnatcatcher and Palos Verdes blue butterfly). U.S. Fish and Wildlife (1980; 2007) established Critical Habitat for both species, which does not include the project site. As shown on Figure 3, the site is 2.1 kilometers (1.3 miles) from designated critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher and is 2.3 kilometers (1.4 miles) from critical habitat for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly (U.S. Fish & Wildlife 2013). Note that the designated gnatcatcher habitat appears to include unsuitable areas, such as roads and structures, and artificial boundaries, such as municipal boundaries. Presumably, this is the result of imprecision in the mapping process.

Of the four plant species listed in Table II, salt marsh bird's-beak (*Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum*) is found in coastal salt marsh habitats, while Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) is found in valley grassland habitats with clayey soils. California Orcutt grass is found in areas of vernal pools. Beach spectaclepod (*Dithyrea maritima*) is found in both sand dune and coastal sage scrub communities. Lyon's pentachaeta has been collected near Palos Verdes Mountain [San Pedro Hill?] in 1884 and at Point Fermin in 1899 and 1910 (Consortium of California Herbaria, 2012). Nevertheless, none of the listed plant species was observed within the study area.

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) lists three of four CNDDDB plant species and twenty-six other plant species as rare and endangered in the San Pedro and adjacent (1:24000) Quadrangles (Table III). However, none of the listed plant species was observed in the project area in this survey.

Three of the listed animal species were avian species: coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila californica californica*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) and California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*). The California least tern nests and breeds on bare, or sparsely vegetated flat substrates, including beaches, alkali flats, landfills or paved areas; least terns also feed in shallow coastal waters. Suitable bank swallow habitat is not present onsite. Bank Swallows nest along riparian areas with steep banks or cliffs comprised of fine-textured sandy soils. Suitable habitat (sparsely vegetated parking areas) may be present for the least tern; however, the species has not been observed onsite. Coastal Sage Scrub habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher is not present.

The federally and state listed, Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis*) has been recorded in the upper watershed of San Ramon Canyon, northwest of the project area (Mattoni 1995). The nearest recorded location, part of a USF&W designated critical habitat, includes the "switchbacks" of Palos Verdes Drive East (US Department of the Interior 1980), about 2.5 km (1.5 miles) to the northwest. Since the butterfly does not venture far from its host plant, or food source (Lipman, et al. (1999)), the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly is not expected to be affected by the project. Both host plants

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for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly --- Southern California locoweed (*Astragalus trichopodus* (Nutt.) A. Gray var. *lonchus* (M.E. Jones) Barneby), and deerweed (*Lotus scoparius* (Nutt.) Ottley) --- are not present.

**Wetlands**

No potential wetland habitat occurs within the project area.

Since this survey was comprised of a limited number of visits, the plant species list should not be considered complete. While the listing of woody shrubs and trees is fairly complete, the number of herbaceous species may be under represented. Nevertheless, the list is adequate for the evaluation of impacts to biological resources, or preparation of a preliminary re-vegetation plan for this site. Previous clearance work eliminated many of the existing annuals and perennials in understory.

Previous development of the military base, removed any vestige of native vegetation on this site. No recommendation is made for habitat restoration, or restoration with native plants. Yet, single, mature native shrub and tree specimens, such as toyon and sycamore, should be preserved where possible. Landscaped areas should be re-vegetated with a mixture of drought-tolerant and low-water use species, including native plant species as appropriate. This includes the application of a hydro-seed mixture in surrounding areas, for erosion control.

The Environmental Management Section staff should review the re-landscaping plan to insure compliance with any applicable State or local coastal permit conditions, or compliance with any City tree or landscape ordinances.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact me at (213) 485-5760, or [William.Jones@lacity.org](mailto:William.Jones@lacity.org).

WJ/wj-m674-GAF.doc:wvj

Attachments:

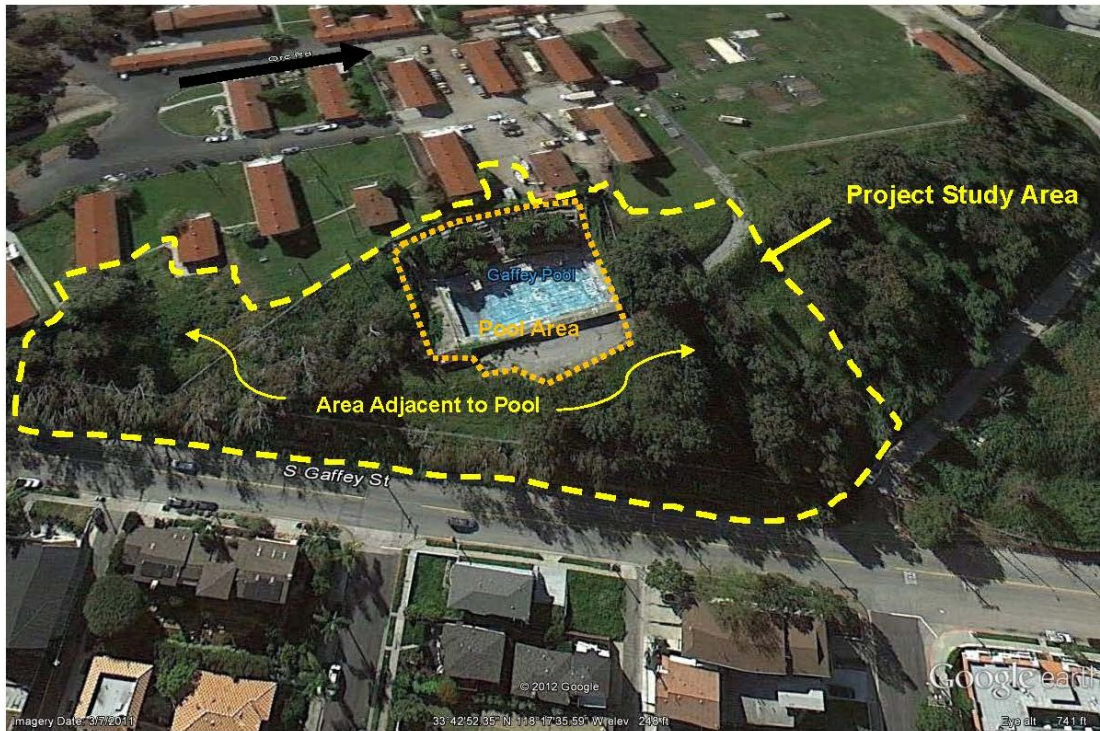
- Figures
- Tables
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**FIGURES 1 to 3**



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**Figure 2: Oblique Aerial Photograph of Project Site Showing Study Area Boundary. Pool Area and Area Adjacent to the Pool are also shown.**

# San Pedro Critical Habitat

Palos Verdes blue butterfly/ California Coastal Gnatcatcher



Figure 3: Online USF&W (2013) Critical Habitat Map Showing U.S.F & W Critical Habitat Areas for Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and Coastal California Gnatcatcher

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**TABLES I to III**



Table I:

**GAFFEY POOL PROJECT**  
 (W.O. NO. E1907453)

Plant Species Recorded at Gaffey Pool Site in Angel's Gate Park  
 in the Community of San Pedro, Los Angeles, California.  
 SAMPLING DATES: 082713 walkthrough. Site also visited on 8/30/2012

Pool Area	Adjacent to Pool Area	GENUS	SPECIES	SSP./VAR.	HABIT	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	California NATIVE SP.	CAL-IPC LIST	COMMENTS	AUTHORITY	Coastal		Disturbed		
												CSS	Prairie/Grassland		Strand/Bluff	Chaparral
	x	<i>Acacia</i>	<i>melanoxydon</i>		tr	Blackwood Acacia	FABACEAE				R. Br.					
x		<i>Brachypodium</i>	<i>distachyon</i>		an	False Brome	POACEAE		Moderate		(L.) Beauv.			x		
x		<i>Bromus</i>	<i>diandrus</i>		gr	Ripgut Brome	POACEAE				L.			x		
x		<i>Carpobrotus</i>	<i>edulis</i>		sh	Highway Ice Plant	AIOZACEAE		High		(L.) N.E. Br.					
	x	<b><i>Chamaesyce</i></b>	<b><i>albomarginata</i></b>		pr	<b>Rattlesnake Weed</b>	<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b>	Y			(Torrey & A. Gray) Small					
x		<i>Cistus</i>	<i>salvifolia</i>		sh	Rockrose	CISTACEAE			GAF-1	L.					
	x	<i>Crassula</i>	<i>ovata</i>		sh	Jade Plant	CRASSULACEAE				(Mill.) Druce					
	x	<i>Eriobotrya</i>	<i>japonica</i>		tr	Loquat	ROSACEAE				Lindl.					
	x	<i>Erythrina</i>	<i>coralloides</i>		tr	Coral Tree	FABACEAE				L					
	x	<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>globulus</i>		tr	Eucalyptus	MYRTACEAE				Labill.					
	x	<i>Euphorbia</i>	<i>teracina</i>		an	Geraldton Carnation Weed	EUPHORBIACEAE		Moderate		L.					
x	x	<i>Foeniculum</i>	<i>vulgare</i>		an	Sweet Fennel	APIACEAE		1-A		Miller			x		
x		<i>Hedera</i>	<i>helix</i>		sh	English Ivy	ARALIACEAE		High		L.					
	x	<b><i>Heteromeles</i></b>	<b><i>arbutifolia</i></b>		sh	<b>Toyon</b>	<b>ROSACEAE</b>	Y			(Lindley) Roemer		x			
x		<i>Juniperus</i>	<i>sabina</i>		sh	Tam Juniper	CYPERACEAE			GAF-2	A.					
x		<i>Juniperus</i>	<i>chinensis</i>		tr	Chinese Juniper	CYPERACEAE			GAF-3	L.					
x	x	<i>Malva</i>	<i>neglecta</i>		an	Mallow	MALVACEAE				Waltr.			x		
	x	<i>Musa</i>	<i>acuminata</i>		pr	Banana	MUSACEAE				Colla					
x		<i>Myrtus</i>	<i>communis</i>		sh	Myrtle	Myrtaceae			GAF-4	L.					
	x	<i>Phoenix</i>	<i>canariensis</i>		tr	Canary Is. Date Palm	ARECACEAE				Chabaud					
	x	<i>Phyllostachy</i>	<i>aurea</i>		gr.	Golden Bamboo	POACEAE				L.					
x	x	<i>Picris</i>	<i>euchioides</i>		an	Bristly Ox-tongue	ASTERACEAE				L.			x		
	x	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>canariensis</i>		tr	Canary Island Pine	PINACEAE				C. Smith					
	x	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>halepensis</i>		tr	Aleppo Pine	PINACEAE				P. Mill.			x		
	x	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>pinea</i>		tr	Italian Stone Pine	PINACEAE				L.					
	x	<i>Pittosporum</i>	<i>undulatum</i>		tr	Victorian Box.	PITTOSPORACEAE				Vent.					
	x	<b><i>Platanus</i></b>	<b><i>racemosa</i></b>		tr	<b>Calif. Sycamore</b>	<b>PLATANACEAE</b>	Y			<b>Nutt.</b>		x			
x		<i>Punica</i>	<i>granatum</i>		sh	Pomegranate	PUNICACEAE				L.					
x	x	<i>Salsola</i>	<i>tragus</i>		an	Russian Thistle	CHENAPODIACEAE			C	[S. iberica]			x		
14	19															
0	3											0	1	0	2	7

Total No. of Species 29 %  
 ---  
 California Native 3 10.3%

Elevation ranges from 61- to 85 meters (200 to 280 feet) above M.S.L. and the Average slope is approx. 28 % at the park's northern boundary.

Table II

Name (Scientific/Common)	CNDDDB Ranks	Other Lists	Listing Status	Total EO's	Element Occ Ranks						Population Status		Presence		
					A	B	C	D	X	U	Historic >20 yr	Recent <=20 yr	Pres. Extant	Poss. Extirp.	Extirp.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum</i> salt marsh bird's-beak	G4?T1 S1	CNPS: 1B.2	Fed: Endangered Cal: Endangered	27 S:2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	1
<i>Dithyrea maritima</i> beach spectaclepod	G2 S2.1	CNPS: 1B.1	Fed: None Cal: Threatened	28 S:1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i> El Segundo blue butterfly	G5T1 S1	CDFG:	Fed: Endangered Cal: None	4 S:2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0
<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis</i> Palos Verdes blue butterfly	G5T1 S1	CDFG:	Fed: Endangered Cal: None	15	1	0	0	0	13	1	13	2	2	7	6
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt grass	G1 S1	CNPS: 1B.1	Fed: Endangered Cal: Endangered	37 S:1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i> Lyon's pentachaeta	G2 S2	CNPS: 1B.1	Fed: Endangered Cal: Endangered	41 S:3	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	3	0
<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i> Pacific pocket mouse	G5T1 S1	CDFG: SC	Fed: Endangered Cal: None	13 S:2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	G3T2 S2	CDFG: SC	Fed: Threatened Cal: None	807 S:8	1	3	0	0	0	4	2	6	8	0	0
<i>Riparia riparia</i> bank swallow	G5 S2S3	CDFG:	Fed: None Cal: Threatened	296 S:2	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1
<i>Siphateles bicolor mohavensis</i> Mohave tui chub	G4T1 S1	CDFG:	Fed: Endangered Cal: Endangered	24 S:1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> California least tern	G4T2T3Q S2S3	CDFG:	Fed: Endangered Cal: Endangered	67 S:4	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	1	3	0	1

**Table III: CNPS List: San Pedro and Adjacent Quads**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Lifeform	Rare Plant Rank	State Rank	Global Rank	CESA	FESA	Elevation	Elevation	CA Endem
1 <i>Aphanisma blitoides</i>	aphanisma	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	1B.2	S3	G3G4	None	None	305	1	F
2 <i>Atriplex coulteri</i>	Coulter's saltbush	Chenopodiaceae	perennial herb	1B.2	S2	G2	None	None	460	3	F
3 <i>Atriplex pacifica</i>	South Coast saltscale	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	1B.2	S2	G3G4	None	None	140	0	F
4 <i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Parish's brittlescale	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	1B.1	S1	G1G2	None	None	1900	25	F
5 <i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	1B.2	S2?	G5T2?	None	None	200	10	F
6 <i>Calochortus catalinae</i>	Catalina mariposa lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	4.2	S3.2	G3	None	None	700	15	T
7 <i>Calystegia peirsonii</i>	Peirson's morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	4.2	S3.2	G3	None	None	1500	30	T
8 <i>Camissoniopsis lewisii</i>	Lewis' evening-primrose	Onagraceae	annual herb	3	S1S3	G2G3	None	None	300	0	F
9 <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	southern tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	1B.1	S2	G3T2	None	None	425	0	F
10 <i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i>	salt marsh bird's-beak	Orobanchaceae	annual herb (hemiparasitic)	1B.2	S1	G4?T1	CE	FE	30	0	F
11 <i>Cistanthe maritima</i>	seaside cistanthe	Montiaceae	annual herb	4.2	S3.2	G3G4	None	None	300	5	F
12 <i>Convolvulus simulans</i>	small-flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	4.2	S3.2	G3	None	None	700	30	F
13 <i>Crossosoma californicum</i>	Catalina crossosoma	Crossosomataceae	perennial deciduous shrub	1B.2	S2	G2	None	None	500	0	F
14 <i>Dithyrea maritima</i>	beach spectaclepod	Brassicaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	1B.1	S2.1	G2	CT	None	50	3	F
15 <i>Dudleya virens</i> ssp. <i>insularis</i>	island green dudleya	Crassulaceae	perennial herb	1B.2	S2.2	G2?T2	None	None	300	5	T
16 <i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	1B.1	S2.1	G4T3	None	None	1220	1	F
17 <i>Leptosyne maritima</i>	sea dahlia	Asteraceae	perennial herb	2B.2	S2.2	G3	None	None	150	5	F
18 <i>Lycium brevipes</i> var. <i>hassei</i>	Santa Catalina Island desert-thorn	Solanaceae	perennial deciduous shrub	1B.1	S1	G1Q	None	None	300	10	T
19 <i>Lycium californicum</i>	California box-thorn	Solanaceae	perennial shrub	4.2	S3.2	G4	None	None	150	5	F
20 <i>Nama stenocarpum</i>	mud nama	Boraginaceae	annual / perennial herb	2B.2	S1S2	G4G5	None	None	500	5	F
21 <i>Navarretia prostrata</i>	prostrate vernal pool navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	1B.1	S2	G2	None	None	1210	15	T
22 <i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>denudata</i>	coast woolly-heads	Polygonaceae	annual herb	1B.2	S2.2	G3G4T3?	None	None	100	0	F
23 <i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	Lyon's pentachaeta	Asteraceae	annual herb	1B.1	S2	G2	CE	FE	630	30	T
24 <i>Phacelia hubbyi</i>	Hubby's phacelia	Boraginaceae	annual herb	4.2	S3.2	G3	None	None	1000	0	T
25 <i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	Brand's star phacelia	Boraginaceae	annual herb	1B.1	S1	G2?	None	FC	400	1	F
26 <i>Suaeda californica</i>	California seablite	Chenopodiaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	1B.1	S1	G1	None	FE	15	0	T
27 <i>Suaeda esteroa</i>	estuary seablite	Chenopodiaceae	perennial herb	1B.2	S2	G3	None	None	5	0	F
28 <i>Suaeda taxifolia</i>	woolly seablite	Chenopodiaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	4.2	S2S3	G3?	None	None	50	0	F
29 <i>Symphotrichum defoliatum</i>	San Bernardino aster	Asteraceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	1B.2	S2	G2	None	None	2040	2	T

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