OTAY WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
and
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2554 SWEETWATER SPRINGS BOULEVARD
SPRING VALLEY, CALIFORNIA
Board Room

Tuesday
January 22, 2008
12:00 P.M.

This is a District Committee meeting. This meeting is being posted as a special meeting in order to comply with the Brown Act (Government Code Section §54954.2) in the event that a quorum of the Board is present. Items will be deliberated, however, no formal board actions will be taken at this meeting. The committee makes recommendations to the full board for its consideration and formal action.

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK TO THE BOARD ON ANY SUBJECT MATTER WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION BUT NOT AN ITEM ON TODAY'S AGENDA

INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AN 18-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT TIME FOR THE JONES & STROKES PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA (HMA) MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING (RIPPERGER/COBURN-BOYD) [10 minutes]

4. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:
Jose Lopez, Chair
Gary Croucher

All items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the Board.

If you have any disability that would require accommodation in order to enable you to participate in this meeting, please call the District Secretary at 670-2280 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Certification of Posting

I certify that on January 18, 2008 I posted a copy of the foregoing agenda near the regular meeting place of the Board of Directors of Otay Water District, said time being at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting of the Board of Directors (Government Code Section §54954.2).

Executed at Spring Valley, California on January 18, 2008.

Connie Rathbone, Assistant District Secretary

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AGENDA ITEM 3

STAFF REPORT

TYPE MEETING:	Regular Board	MEETING DATE:	February 6, 2008
SUBMITTED BY:	Lisa Coburn-Boyd LCB Environmental Compliance Specialist	Project/Subproject: P1253/002000	DIV. NO. 4
	Ron Ripperger Engineering Manager		
APPROVED BY: (Chief)	Rod Posada Chief, Engineering		
APPROVED BY: (Asst. GM):	Manny Magaña Assistant General Manager, Engineering and Operations		
SUBJECT:	Time extension for the Professional Environmental Services Contract issued to Jones & Stokes for the Habitat Management Area Maintenance and Monitoring		

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Otay Water District (District) Board approves an eighteen (18) month extension of the agreement time for the Jones & Stokes Professional Environmental Services Contract for the Habitat Management Area (HMA) Maintenance and Monitoring (see Exhibit A for locations).

COMMITTEE ACTION: _____

Please see Attachment A.

PURPOSE:

To update the Board regarding the status of Jones & Stokes progress in maintaining, monitoring, and reporting for the HMA and to obtain Board approval authorizing the General Manager to extend the original agreement for an additional 18-month time period.

ANALYSIS:

At the March 13, 2006, meeting the Board awarded a contract to Jones & Stokes to provide environmental services for a two year period with

an optional time extension of one year based on performance. However, the agreement was executed for only an eighteen month period to try and match the Fiscal Year cycle. In order to utilize the complete three year option, Staff is requesting an 18-month extension that will be for one time only. The original contract amount of $566,443 will be sufficient and will not change.

The HMA Jones & Stokes has performed a variety of work within the HMA to improve the quality of the existing habitat. They have been intensively working to improve the productivity of the Native Grasslands area which was in very poor condition when their contract began. Native species are now well distributed throughout the grassland and invasive non-native species have been effectively suppressed. Their successful efforts need to be continued or this area could be in jeopardy again. The artificial burrows in the burrowing owl restoration area are located within the grasslands area of the HMA. These burrows have not been used by burrowing owls for several years because of the poor conditions of the grasslands area. With the current success in this area, it is hoped that the burrows might be used again by the burrowing owls in coming years. The Rickey Pond restoration area is flourishing due to the efforts of Jones & Stokes. They have planted many willow cuttings around the pond area which are thriving and weed populations within the area are being effectively controlled.

Jones & Stokes biologists also conduct periodic surveys of the HMA for plants and animals species, as required by the California Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The results of these surveys and the description of management and maintenance efforts are presented in the monthly HMA progress reports for the District and in the annual reports which must also be sent to the California Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The District is required to maintain and report on the HMA in perpetuity to satisfy the Section 7 Biological Opinion approval of many of the District's CIP projects by the Resource Agencies.

The October 2007 Harris wildfire caused extensive damage to the HMA. About seventy-five percent of the vegetation was burned. Fortunately, two of the mitigation areas, the Native grasslands and the area directly around Rickey Pond were not burned in the fire and the efforts described above will continue. Jones & Stokes has evaluated the fire damage and has prepared a plan of action for the next eighteen months. There are specific fire-related tasks that have already begun in order to maintain the integrity of the HMA. These include repair of damage to the irrigation system and perimeter fencing and installation of erosion control measures. The District hopes to recover some of the cost for these tasks through FEMA. During the next six (6) months, Jones & Stokes will need to increase their monitoring of the HMA in order to keep track of rain related issues such as plant germination and potential erosion problems. The

scope of work for the next eighteen months is included in Attachment B. The Wildlife Agencies, US Fish & Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish & Game, are the agencies that established the operating procedures for the HMA. They expect that the burned areas will recover naturally with time. The Operating Procedures state that wildfires are a stochastic event beyond the control of the District and will not affect the mitigation value of the HMA. They also state that this type of event is considered to be temporary and does not remove the responsibility of site management.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The funds for this contract are covered by the existing operating budget. $350,000 is budgeted for the HMA maintenance and monitoring for Fiscal Year 2008. For future fiscal years covered by this extension, funds will be budgeted appropriately for the tasks that are covered under the HMA contract.

STRATEGIC GOAL:

This project supports the District's strategic goal of creating a comprehensive environmental program that is proactive in response to environmental compliance.

LEGAL IMPACT:

None.

General Manager

P:\WORKING\CIP W253 HMA\WO 8645\Staff Reports\HMA contract extension staff report 01-08.doc

LC-B/RR:jf

Attachments: Attachment A
Attachment B
Exhibit A

ATTACHMENT A

SUBJECT/PROJECT: P1253/002000 (W.O. 8645)	Time extension for the Professional Environmental Services Contract issued to Jones & Stokes for the Habitat Management Area Maintenance and Monitoring

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Engineering, Operations, and Water Resources Committee reviewed this item at a meeting held on January 22, 2008. The Committee supported Staff's recommendation.

NOTE:

The "Committee Action" is written in anticipation of the Committee moving the item forward for Board approval. This report will be sent to the Board as a Committee approved item, or modified to reflect any discussion or changes as directed from the Committee prior to presentation to the full Board.

ATTACHMENT B

SUBJECT/PROJECT:	Time extension for the Professional Environmental Services Contract issued to Jones & Stokes for the Habitat Management Area Maintenance and Monitoring
P1253/002000 (W.O. 8645)	

San Miguel Habitat Management Area
Scope of Work

Standard Monitoring (twice per month through July 2008, once per month thereafter)

For the Native Grassland Area:

Assess the general site conditions.
Inspect owl burrows for any sign of activity.
Identify any weed species that are becoming problematic, mapping these areas and communicate the need for increased weeding to D&D.
Take photographs from monitoring points.
Document any sensitive flora/fauna.

HRS: 195 $ 16,500.00

For Rickey Pond Area:
Inspect the restoration area for signs of new seedling establishment.
Make a qualitative assessment of the various fresh water marsh plants including willows, mule fat, and coyote bush.
Document signs of natural recruitment, weed outbreaks, erosion issues.
Take photographs from monitoring points.
Document any sensitive flora/fauna.

HRS: 154 $ 13,000.00

For the general HMA:
Inspect for any potential problems or threats to biological resources.
Identify invasive weed species.
Look for erosion or trash (illegal dumping).
Inspect the condition of the fence line.

Assess the conditions for the various sensitive species, both plant and animal.
Document any sensitive flora/fauna.

Note: Twice per month monitoring is necessary through June 2008 in order to conduct a more thorough inspection of the burned areas to document what plant species are recruiting. Large outbreaks of non-native species must be caught early to prevent a large scale conversion of fire-affected areas. One visit per month does not allow enough time to thoroughly inspect the hillsides for these conditions.

HRS: 120 $ 10,140.00

Survey Tasks
Surveys conducted once per year during species specific times. The following surveys are required by the Wildlife Agencies.

Quino Checkerspot butterfly surveys
Least Bells Vireo surveys
California Gnatcatcher surveys
Rare plant surveys
Vegetation mapping

HRS: 400 $ 44,000.00

Monthly Reporting
Monthly HMA reports to the District and included in the annual report to the Wildlife Agencies.

HRS: 225 $ 17,000.00

Annual reporting
Annual report submitted to the District and to US Fish & Wildlife and California Department of Fish & Game. Report includes three volumes, the overall Sam Miguel HMA Report, Native Grasslands Report, and Rickey Pond Report.

HRS: 280 $ 24,000.00

Fire-related Tasks

Pipes and Pumps
Remove 2,308 linear feet of reclaimed 3-inch schedule 40 pvc pipe, fittings, 1-valve, and 300 linear feet of silt fence, haul to the Otay Landfill.

Purchase, deliver & install 2,308 linear feet of reclaimed 3-inch schedule 40 pvc pipe, fittings and shutoff valve (re-use steel rebar J-Bar stakes to hold pipe).

Remove 260 linear feet of reclaimed ¾-inch schedule 40 pvc pipe, fittings and haul to Otay Landfill. Purchase, deliver & install 260 linear feet of reclaimed ¾-inch schedule 40 pvc pipe and fittings.

HRS: 60 $ 9,010.00

Fence Damages
Remove signs, wire and posts destroyed by fire and haul to Otay Landfill.

Purchase, deliver and install posts, signs and wire to replace materials destroyed by fire.

HRS: 40 $ 8,100.00

Erosion Control
Install 9-12-inch diameter rice straw wattles in strategic areas of all canyon flow channels that carry run-off rain water to all storm drains or water ways off-site. Jones & Stokes recommends a minimal installation, requiring 3,000 linear feet of wattles.

HRS: 30 $ 11,000.00

Re-seeding
No revegetation seeding or planting of the mature habitat areas that burned is recommended at this time. Good recovery can be expected if we receive minimal rain over the next three year period. A detailed evaluation of vegetation re-growth or losses should be done every four months to determine natural recovery or revegetation planting & seeding, if needed. A good pro-active approach would be to purchase enough native plant seed to hand cultivate in areas with poor natural recovery. Enough seed (25 lbs. per acre) to cover 10% of the burn areas (up to 30 acres) would be a reasonable assumption.

All of the fire-related tasks have been submitted to FEMA for cost reimbursement.

HRS: N/A $ 44,000.00

Total: HRS: 1,504 $196,750.00

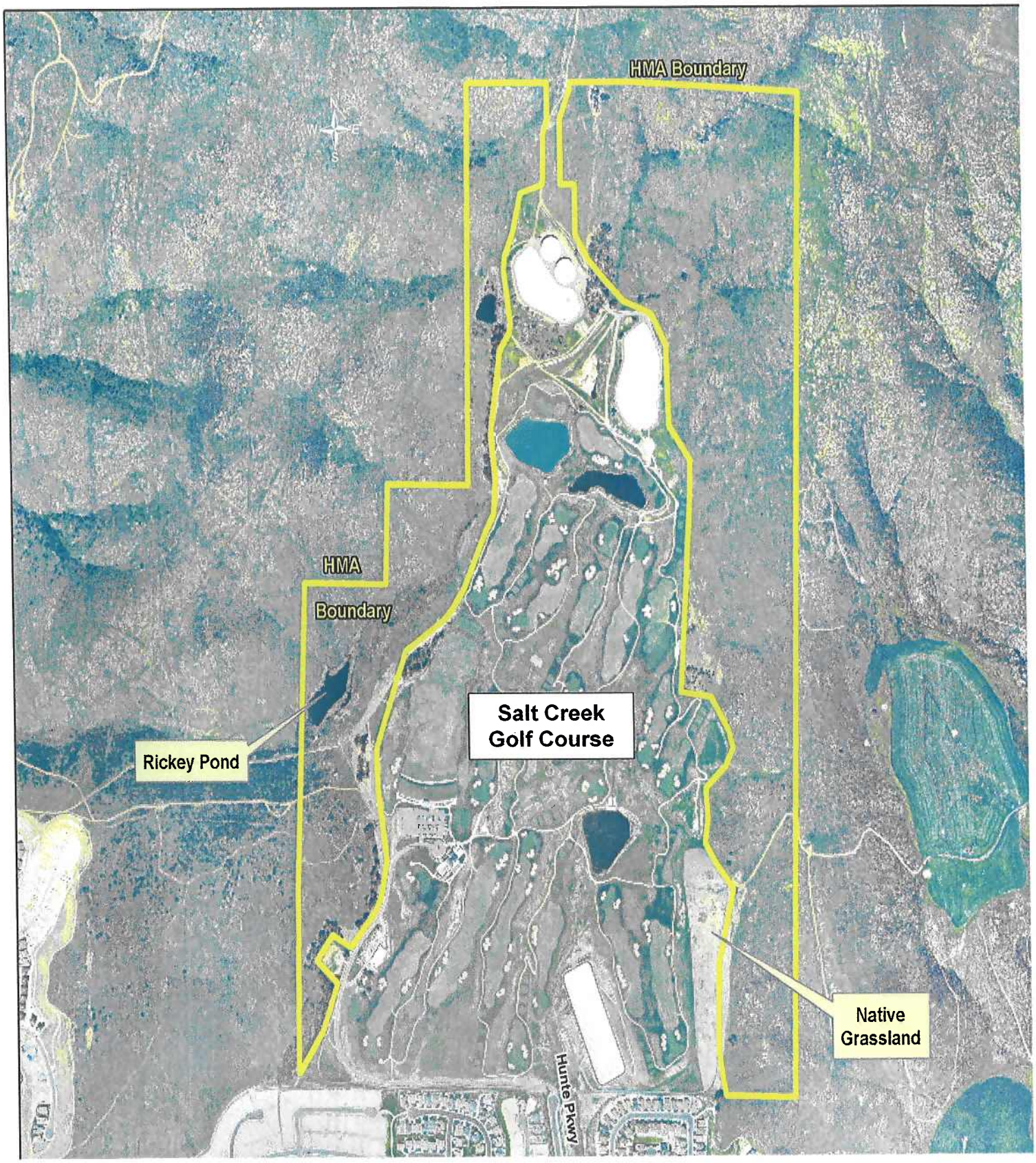
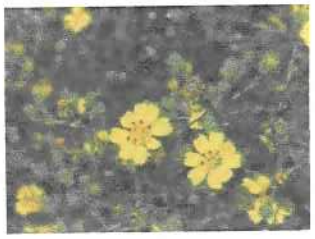


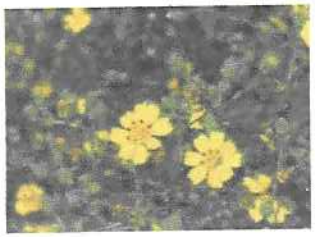
EXHIBIT A

Otay Water District San Miguel Habitat Management Area



The San Miguel Habitat Management Area

ESTABLISHED 1956 OTAY WATER DISTRICT



Status of the HMA

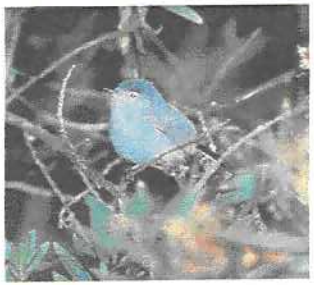
Background

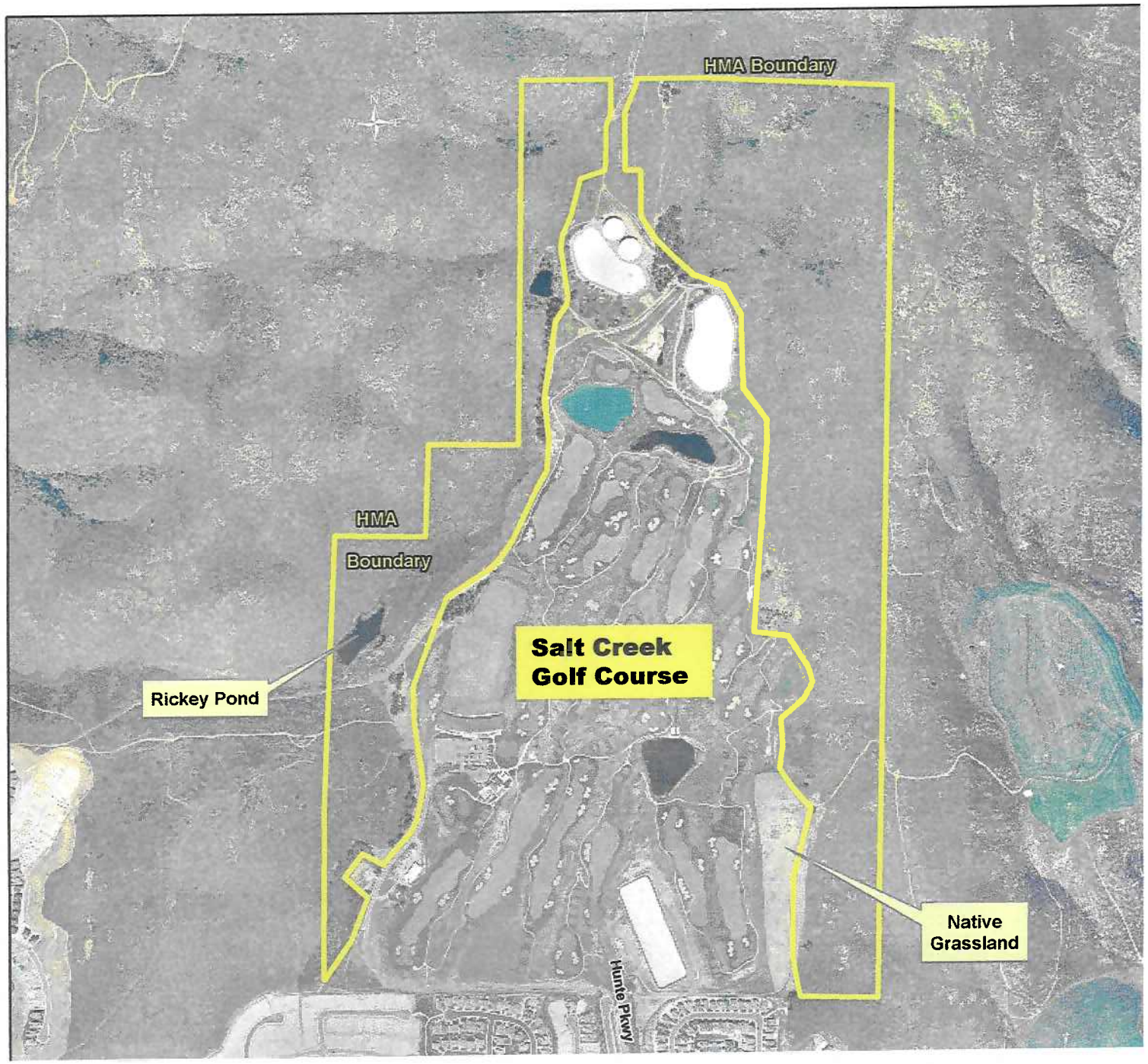
The HMA is a 230 acre biological preserve that surrounds the Salt Creek Golf Course in Chula Vista

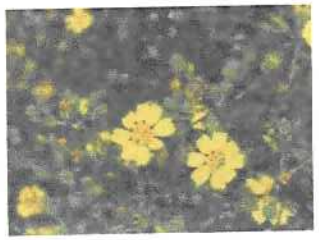
Functions

- Mitigation bank with credits that can be used to offset Coastal Sage Scrub impacts associated with District projects and facilities

- Habitat restoration area for other vegetation impacts associated with the construction of District projects and facilities

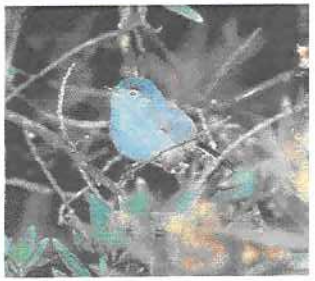


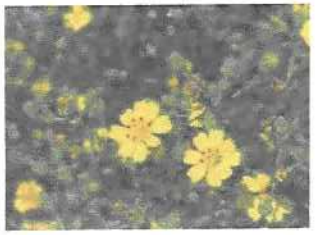

HMA Boundary
HMA
Boundary
Salt Creek
Golf Course
Rickey Pond
Native
Grassland
Hunte Pkwy



Important Areas at the HMA

- **Coastal Sage Scrub habitat** (210 acres) – created in 1994 as required by a Section 7 consultation with US Fish & Wildlife to mitigate for future impacts of District projects to the California gnatcatcher
- **Rickey Pond Restoration Area** – to compensate for wetland impacts by the construction of the 711-3 Reservoir
- **Native Grasslands Area** – for the restoration of 14 acres of native grasslands required because of impacts to burrowing owl and raptor foraging habitat associated with the construction of the 711-3 Reservoir and the Salt Creek Golf Course



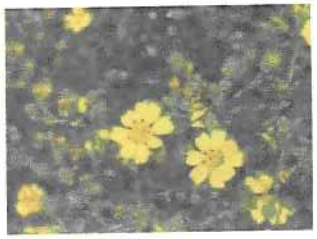


Vegetation Impacts due to Construction of the 30-inch pipeline, 450-1 Reservoir & 680-1 Pump Station

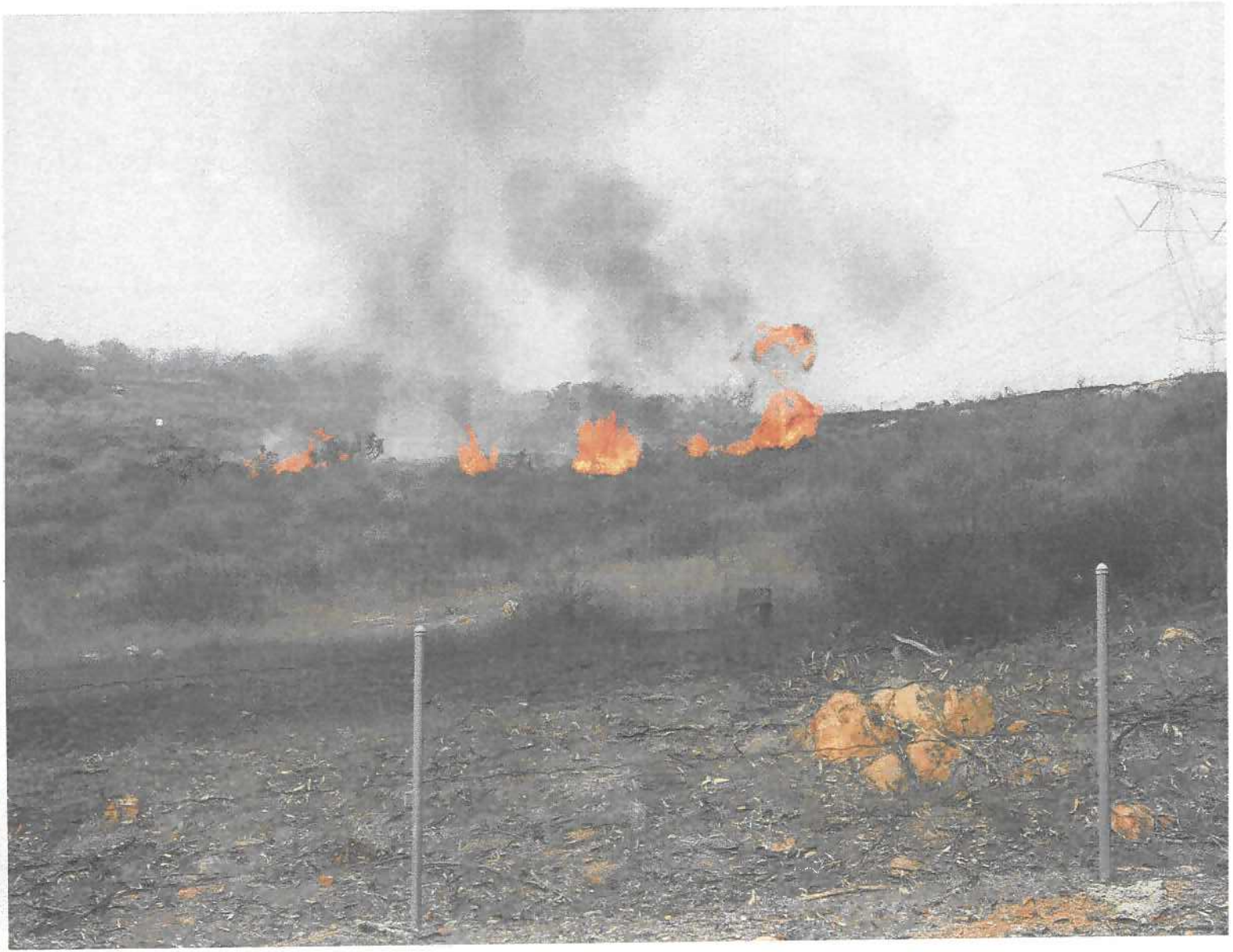
The impacts due to the construction of these projects includes the preservation &/or restoration of the following areas at the HMA

- 6.23 acres of Otay Tarplant
- 1.20 acres of Coastal Sage Scrub habitat
- 0.68 acre of Maritime Succulent scrub habitat
- 1.15 acres of Non-native Grasslands habitat
- 0.03 acre of Jurisdictional Wetlands
- 0.01 acre of Orcutt's birds-beak

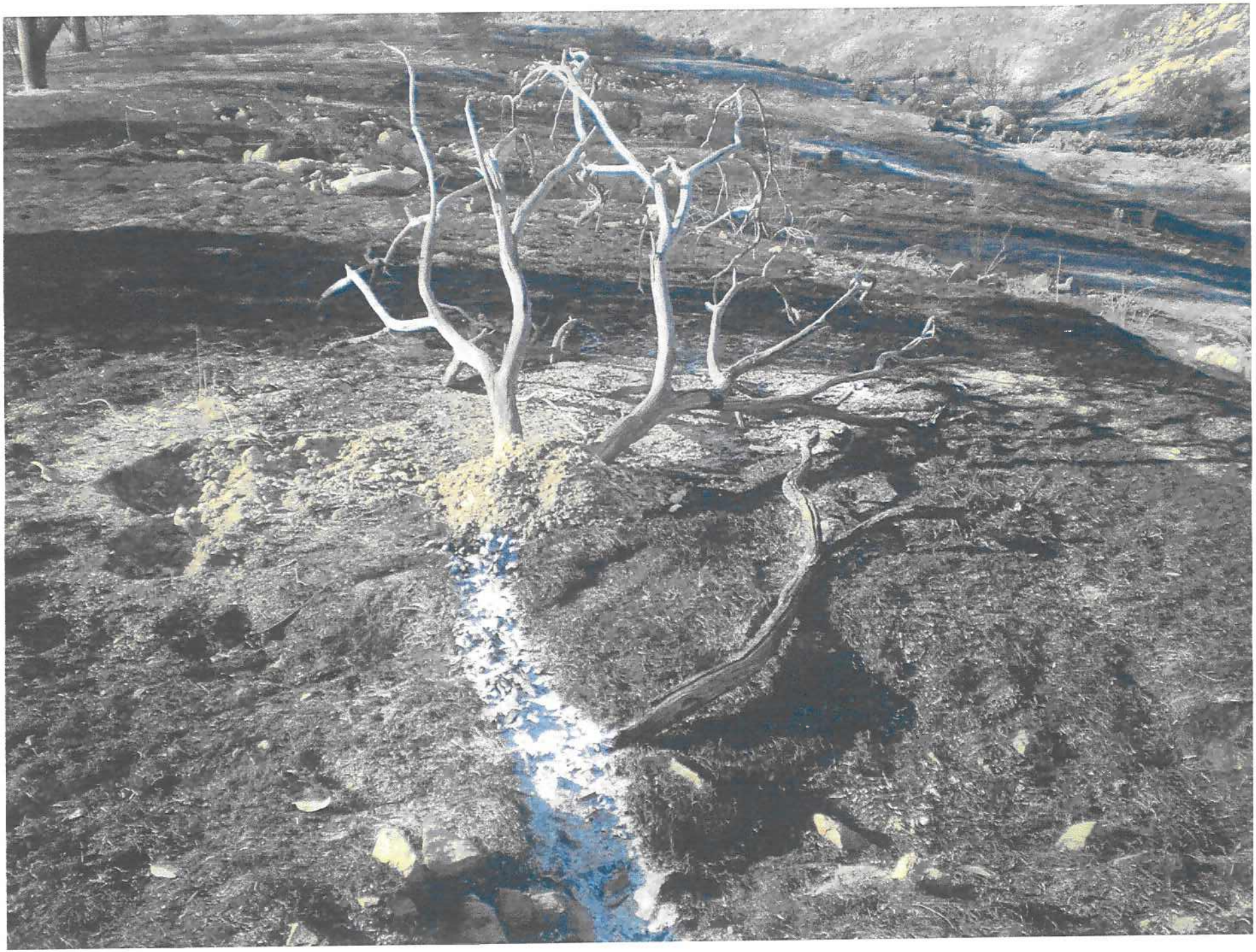
Photographs of the HMA pre-fire

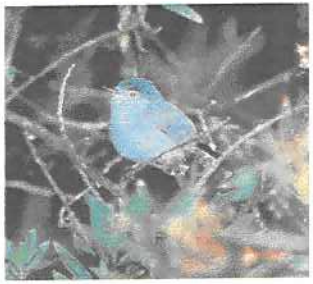


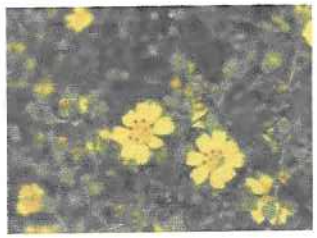
Photographs of the HMA post-fire



NO TRESPASSING
WILDLIFE HABITAT PRESERVE
Permission to pass subject to approval by Otay Water District Environmental Specialist





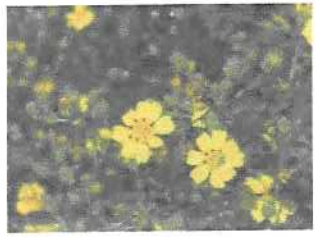


What's next for the HMA?

- Jones & Stokes, our HMA Maintenance & Monitoring contractor, has surveyed the damage and has come up with a plan of work for the area.
- Immediate work includes repairs of damaged irrigation system and perimeter fencing and erosion control measures.
- Monitoring during the next 6 months will be increased to keep track of any rain related issues (erosion, plant germination).
- Fire is considered to be a natural occurrence by the wildlife agencies and they anticipate that areas such as our HMA will recover with time.
- Jones & Stokes will meet with the wildlife agencies to discuss specific projects (i.e., 30-inch pipeline Project) that were to be mitigated for at the HMA to determine what their expectations are for these areas.

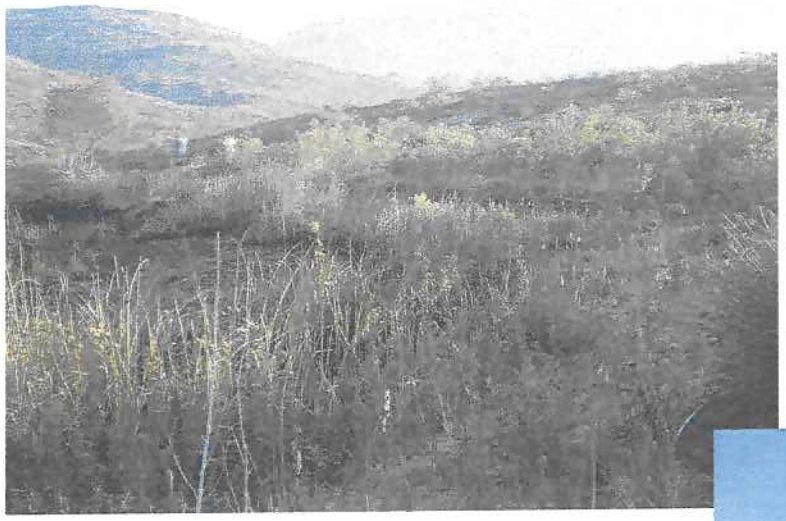
Trees at the HMA

Many eucalyptus trees burned and are in danger of falling, these will be cut down. These are non-native trees and are not needed for mitigation.



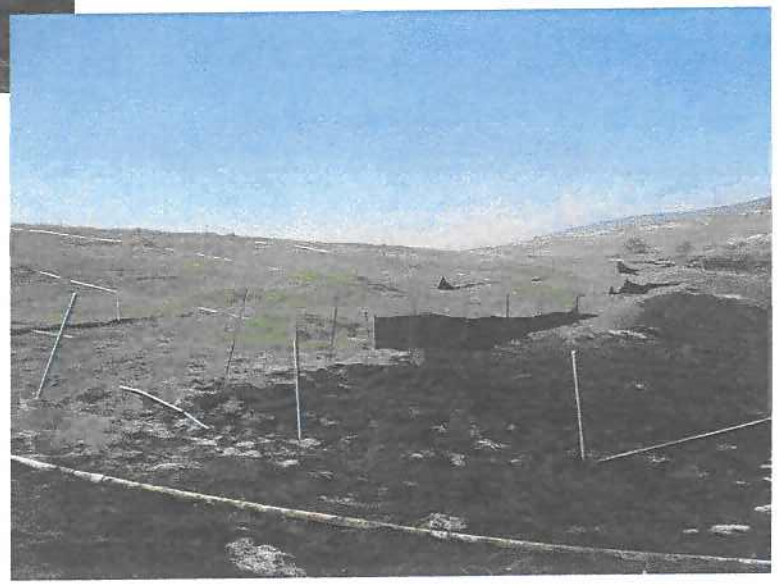
The good news…

Two mitigation areas did not burn, the native grasslands area and the area around Rickey Pond.



Area around Rickey Pond

Native grasslands area



Questions?