



Dennis Acuna, P. E., T. E.
Director of Transportation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Hector D. Davila, P.E.
*Deputy for Transportation/Capital
Projects*

Russell Williams
*Deputy for Transportation/Planning and
Development*

Transportation Department NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

October 17, 2024

PROJECT TITLE: Bautista Canyon Restoration

Work Order: # ZS5019B6 **Task Code:** #Z1530

PROJECT SPONSOR: County of Riverside Transportation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: Community of Idyllwild along Bautista Canyon Road

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The County of Riverside Transportation Department proposes to restore 0.486 acre of lands that were impacted during road maintenance activities in the Spring of 2024. The impact areas are known to support habitat for the federally endangered Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino* [QCB]) and Southern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus* [SWFL]).

The project area is located approximately 10-miles south of the community of Idyllwild in the San Bernardino National Forest, Riverside County, and partially occurs within USFWS Occupied and Critical Habitat for Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (QCB) and Southern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL). Specifically, the project areas are adjacent to the north side of Bautista Road near Tripp Flat Road and consists of twenty-one separate sites spanning a 1.0-mile-long segment of Bautista Road, totaling approximately 0.486 acre.

The County of Riverside proposes to conduct site restoration that will include the installation of cuttings and hydroseeding of the impacted areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

No additional right-of-way or temporary construction easements will be required for proposed restoration.

This project is subject to compliance with the Western Riverside MSHCP. In accordance with Section 7 of the Western Riverside MSHCP, necessary operation and maintenance along existing roadways are considered a covered activity outside/inside the Western Riverside MSHCP Criteria Cells. The following measures will be implemented:

- If tree and/or vegetation removal takes place during the migratory bird breeding season and/or SWFL nesting season (*January 15 – August 31*), a preconstruction nesting survey will be conducted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If active nests are found a qualified biological monitor will be present for all work during the avian nesting season.
- A qualified biologist will monitor any maintenance activities conducted during the QCB flight season, which spans from February 15 through May 31. Outside of the flight season, the QCB biologist will monitor restoration to avoid or minimize impacts to suitable vegetation and habitat. The QCB biologist may also be the biological monitor for nesting birds/SWFL.
- A USFS appointed archaeological monitor will be present for all ground disturbing work at sites 1, 2, 20, and 21.
- No heavy equipment shall be used to conduct ground disturbing activities within impact sites 1, 2, 20, and 21. Restoration activities in these areas shall be limited to the use of hand tools only.
- If cultural materials are uncovered during project activities, work will temporarily stop within a 100' buffer of the discovery until an archaeologist can assess the find. Work may be diverted to other portions of the project while assessments are conducted.
- If human remains are encountered during project activities, all project work will stop within a 100' buffer of the discovery and notifications made to the Forest Service and County Coroner. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Forest Service shall follow procedures under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The County of Riverside Transportation Department has found that the above-described project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:

Section 15333– Small Habitat Restoration Projects - Class 33 consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. The project in its entirety is consistent with Section 15333 because it involves the maintenance, restoration or enhancement and protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

By: Ken Baez, Administrative Manager

Signed: Jan Bulinski
Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CLERK & RECORDER

**AUTHORIZATION
TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

**-TO BE FILLED IN BY SUBMITTING AGENCY-
537280-20000-3130500000 ZS5019B6 Z1530**

AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: W.O.# ZS5019B6, Task Code Z1530

AMOUNT: \$50.00

DATE: October 17, 2024

AGENCY: County of Riverside Transportation Department

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO ISSUE A VOUCHER FOR PAYMENT OF ALL FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: One (1)

AUTHORIZED BY: Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

Signature: *Jan Bulinski*

PRESENTED BY: Ken Baez

-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK

ACCEPTED BY:

DATE:

RECEIPT # (S)



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Transportation Department

DATE: October 17, 2024

TO: Josefina Castillo-Avila, ACR Technician III

From: Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager *JB*

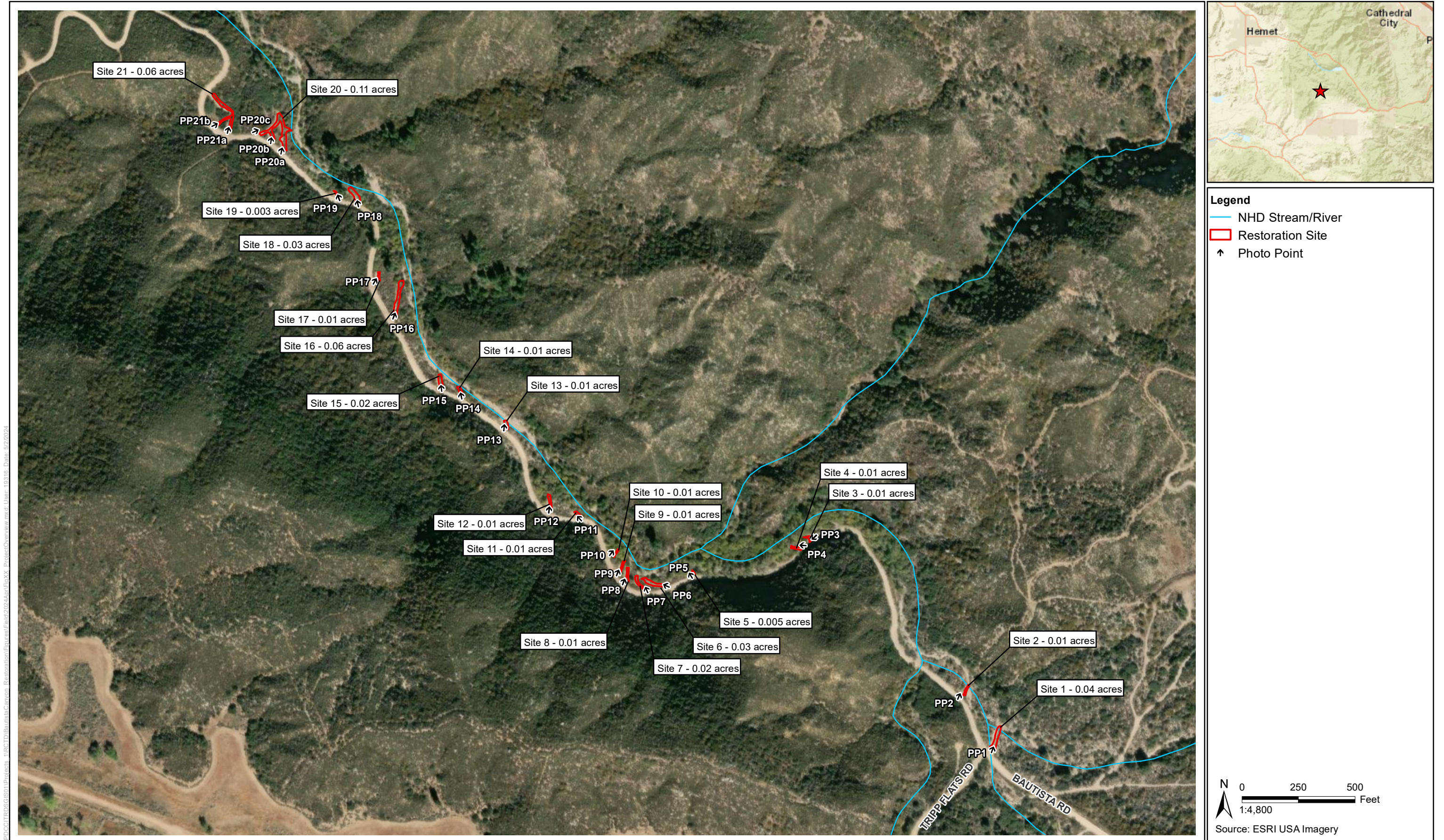
RE: **Bautista Canyon Restoration**
W.O.# ZS5019B6, Task Code # Z1530

The County of Riverside Transportation Department is requesting that you post the attached Notice of Exemption per County Implementing Resolution No. 82-213, Division 11, Section 205 C. Attached you will find an authorization to bill by journal voucher in the amount of \$50.00 for the posting fee.

After posting, please return the document to Mail Stop # 2136, Attention: Ken Baez. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Baez at Kbaez@rivco.org

Attachment
Cc:

Project Site Location Map



I:\Projects\1\RCTD\BautistaCanyon_Restoration\Figures\FigXX_ProjectOverview.mxd - User: 10316 - Date: 5/2/2024



Figure XX
Restoration Overview
Bautista Canyon Restoration