

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	FROM: (Public Agency)	Name:	South Coast Water District
			Address:	31592 West Street Laguna Beach, CA 92651
			Telephone:	951-674-3146
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk (Include County name) Address:	County of Orange Clerk's Office 601 North Ross Street Santa Ana, CA 92701		

Project Title:	LTM Pipeline Replacement at Calle Vista Torito & Slope Repair Project
Project Applicant:	South Coast Water District
Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	<p>The Project is located at the northerly terminus of Calle Vista Torito, at the intersection of Via Montego and Calle Vista Torito; it is within the north-coastal portion of San Clemente in south Orange County, California. The elevation of the Project Site is between 122 and 172 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).</p> <p>Interstate 5 (I-5), a regional transportation route and CalTrans Right-of-Way is approximately 185 feet northeast. San Gorgonio Park is approximately 590 feet west, and the Project is northeast of Shorecliffs Golf Course, approximately 300 feet north of Hole #3 and 700 feet east of Hole # 4 of Shorecliffs Golf Course. (See Figures 1 and 2: Regional Location Map and Local Vicinity Map). Access to the Project is from local streets: Calle Vista Torito, Via Montego, and Avenida Vaquero.</p> <p>The Project is located in a vegetated buffer between I-5 and urbanized areas of San Clemente. Project construction will occur in an area consisting of a ravine, steep slopes, above- and below- ground utilities, and a mixture of natural, ornamental, and invasive vegetation. Development surrounding the Project includes low-density residences to the south and east and public and private recreational facilities as well as the freeway. (See Figure 2: Local Vicinity Map). The closest residence is approximately 20 feet south.</p>
(a) Project Location – City: San Clemente	Project Location – County: Orange (Latitude/Longitude 33.448952, -117.639034)
Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>LTM Pipeline Replacement at Calle Vista Torito</p> <p>The Project is conceptually shown in Figure 3: Limits of Work. The Project is proposed to replace a segment of the existing failed Local Transmission Main (LTM), remove temporary surface bypass piping, and construct permanent maintenance access. The Project consists of the installation within an existing 25-foot-wide utility easement of 426 linear feet of 27-inch potable water pipeline and 18 linear feet of a 24-inch potable water pipeline; installation of approximately 20 linear feet of storm drainpipe and replacement of a catch basin; installation of a subterranean manway for maintenance; and, the development of 407 feet of 10-foot all-weather access path for permanent maintenance access. Based on Project plans, excavation for the proposed pipeline is anticipated to range between 6 to 10 feet deep; replacement of the existing catch basin will extend to approximately 28 feet deep. The Project work limits are currently underlain with artificial fill materials.</p>

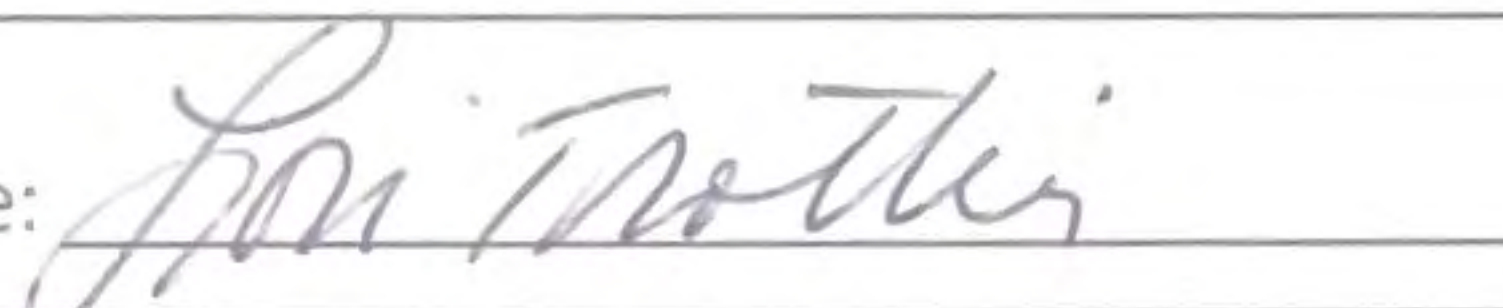
	<p>The Project will be constructed within the existing utility easement to provide the District with a permanent solution to the broken pipe from 2021, that led to the installation of the at-grade bypass piping, as a swift, temporary solution to the leaking main and difficult access due to flooding, depth of existing pipe, saturated soils, and steep slopes.</p> <p>Construction activities include vegetation removal, grading, trenching and establishment of the pipe bed, installation of pipe, testing and disinfection of the new pipeline, backfill and connections to the existing water and storm drain systems, and removal of the dual 16-inch diameter temporary potable water bypass piping.</p> <p>Slope Repair</p> <p>The flooding caused by the LTM leak in 2021 resulted in erosion and a portion of slope failure between the LTM easement and the slope to the south of the LTM easement, approximately 15 feet south of the District’s utility easement. Therefore, the District will also repair and stabilize the slope to the south prior to the installation of the permanent LTM pipeline replacement. Slope repair will consist of stepped excavation of the existing engineered slope, subgrade preparation, installation of a geogrid system and subdrain piping, conditioning, placement, and compaction of fill material, and installation of temporary fiber rolls, silt fence, and gravel bags, as well as hydroseeding to stabilize the finished slope surface; development of a temporary irrigation plan for the establishment of permanent hydroseeded vegetation on the slope; and grading and surface restoration along the pipeline easement within the limits of the slope repair Project.</p> <p>Construction activities include existing vegetation removal, excavation of the existing slope, regrading portions of the slope and placing compacted fill material, , installation of temporary erosion control features, and temporary irrigation system and hydroseeding.</p> <p>The pipeline replacement and slope repair will be implemented sequentially with the slope repair occurring first and the pipe repair occurring directly thereafter. Project construction for the slope repair will begin in the fall of 2025 and will last approximately three months. Construction of the pipe repair will begin in the winter of 2025 and will last approximately three months. Staging areas will be located within existing disturbed or developed areas of the utility easement, requiring no vegetation removal or earthwork in native soil; and occur within portions of the Calle Vista Torito Right-of-Way. Construction access is available via local streets (i.e., Calle Vista Torito, Via Montego, and Avenida Vaquero).</p>
Name of Public Agency approving project:	South Coast Water District
Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	South Coast Water District
Exempt status: (check one)	



(a) <input type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b) <input type="checkbox"/>	Not a project.	State CEQA Guidelines 15050(c)(2)-(3)
(c) <input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))
(d) <input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Project.	(Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b),(c))
(e) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	Class I (Sec. 15301)- Existing Facilities (b) Class II (Sec. 15302)- Replacement or Reconstruction (c)
(f) <input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g) <input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Explanation:	
Reason why project was exempt:		<p>The Project is not of a type or at a scale that would result in significant changes to the environment. The Project does not involve substantive upsizing resulting in growth inducement. South Coast Water District has made findings for Project compliance with CEQA Exemptions under CEQA Guidelines Sections 1530: Existing Facilities (Class I) and 15302: Replacement or Reconstruction (Class II) based on the following:</p> <p>Section 15301- Existing Facilities (b): The Project will replace an existing potable water pipeline and upgrade the storm drain system as part of publicly owned existing utility systems for domestic water and drainage services within the City of San Clemente. Therefore, is categorically exempt under Section 15301 (b) of CEQA.</p> <p>Section 15302- Replacement or Reconstruction (c): The Project will replace a damaged portion of the LTM and remove a temporary bypass piping system that was installed due to a leak that occurred in February 2021. The Project will also correct surface drainage and reconstruct a slope that was damaged from the leak. The Project will permanently correct a pipe leak, surface drainage, and utility maintenance access supporting potable water delivery in the surrounding area. The Project involves reconstruction and will not increase capacity or use beyond existing conditions and what has been previously considered and approved. The Project will replace existing utilities without expansion or capacity and will not result in direct or indirect impacts to scenic resources, cultural, historical, or tribal resources, or sensitive biological resources, and the Project is not located on a hazardous waste site according to Envirostor and Geotracker. Surfaces will be restored to preconstruction conditions or better and no permanent changes to a scenic vista or contribution to any cumulative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Based on the above, the Project is exempt under Section 15302 (c) of CEQA.</p> <p>Field surveys, performed by ELMT Consulting, indicate special-status species that could nest within proximity of the Project are Cooper’s hawk and California Gnatcatcher. Construction is not proposed during the nesting season and a preconstruction survey is recommended. A Geotechnical Design Report provided by GMU indicated that the Project is underlain with existing artificial fill over landslide debris; groundwater was encountered 11 to 30 feet below existing ground surfaces; existing soils are very moist and saturated. A list of recommendations from the Geotechnical Engineer are incorporated into construction plans and specifications.</p>

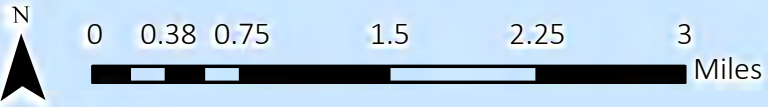
	<p>The Contract Documents for the Project include BMPs which avoid direct and indirect impacts under CEQA Guidelines, including impacts on sensitive resources protected under the Endangered Species Acts, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Air Act. The BMPs are as follows:</p> <p><i>Air Quality Best Management Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement particulate and equipment idling controls to Fugitive Dust and particulates <p><i>Biological Resource Best Management Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey. <p><i>Archeological and Native American Monitoring:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement archeological and Native American monitoring with earthwork within native soils. <p><i>Geotechnical Best Management Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Site Preparation, Demolition and Clearing, Safety During Trenching, Pipeline Trench Excavations, Shoring, Utility Trench Subgrade Stabilization, Trench Backfill, and All-Weather 10-foot Maintenance Access Path pursuant to the Geotechnical Engineer's recommendations. <p><i>Hazardous Materials and Spill Prevention Best Management Practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan and Implement Prevention and Response Procedures
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10. Lead Agency Contact Person:	Dylan LaFrance, Senior Engineer
Telephone:	949-395-4764
11. If filed by applicant: Attach Certificate of Determination (Form "B") before filing.	
12. Was a public hearing held by the Lead Agency to consider the exemption? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, the date of the public hearing was:	

Signature: 	Date: 06/24/25
Name: Lori Trottier for Dylan LaFrance	Title: Senior Engineer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signed by Lead Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing:	
(Clerk Stamp Here)	

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.



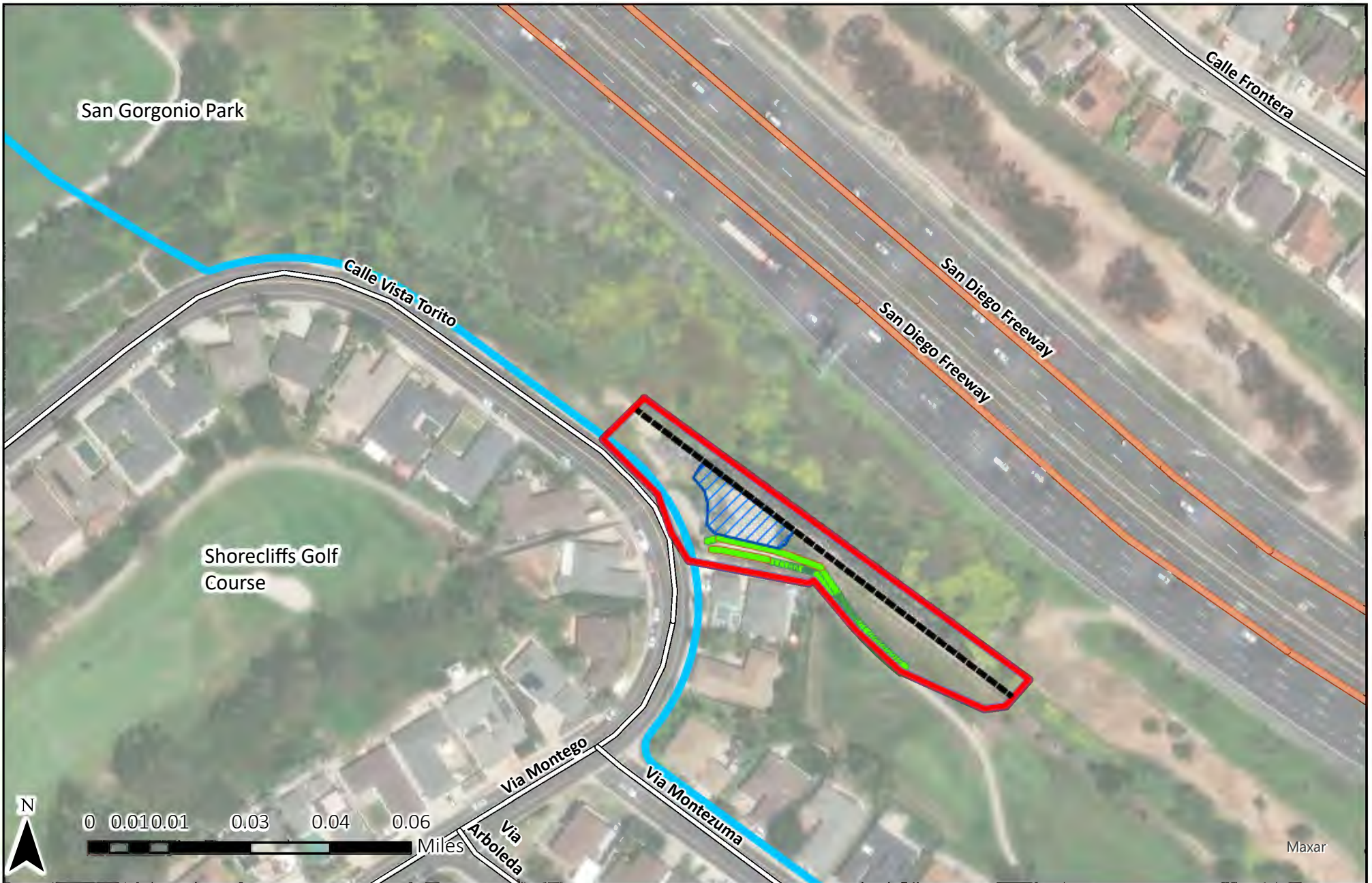
Legend

- Interstate
- Highway
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- Counties
- San Clemente
- San Juan Capistrano
- Dana Point
- Project

*South Coast Water District
LTM Replacement at Calle Vista Torito & Slope Repair Project*

Figure 1. Regional Location Map





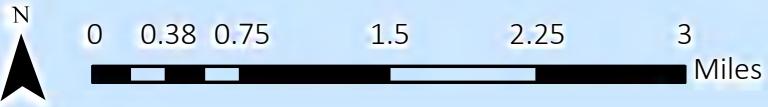
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- Limits of Project Construction
- Highway
- Residential
- Recreational Walking Path
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- - Proposed LTM Replacement & Trenching
- Proposed Grading Daylight

South Coast Water District
 LTM Replacement at Calle Vista Torito & Slope Repair Project

Figure 2. Local Vicinity Map





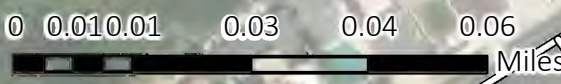
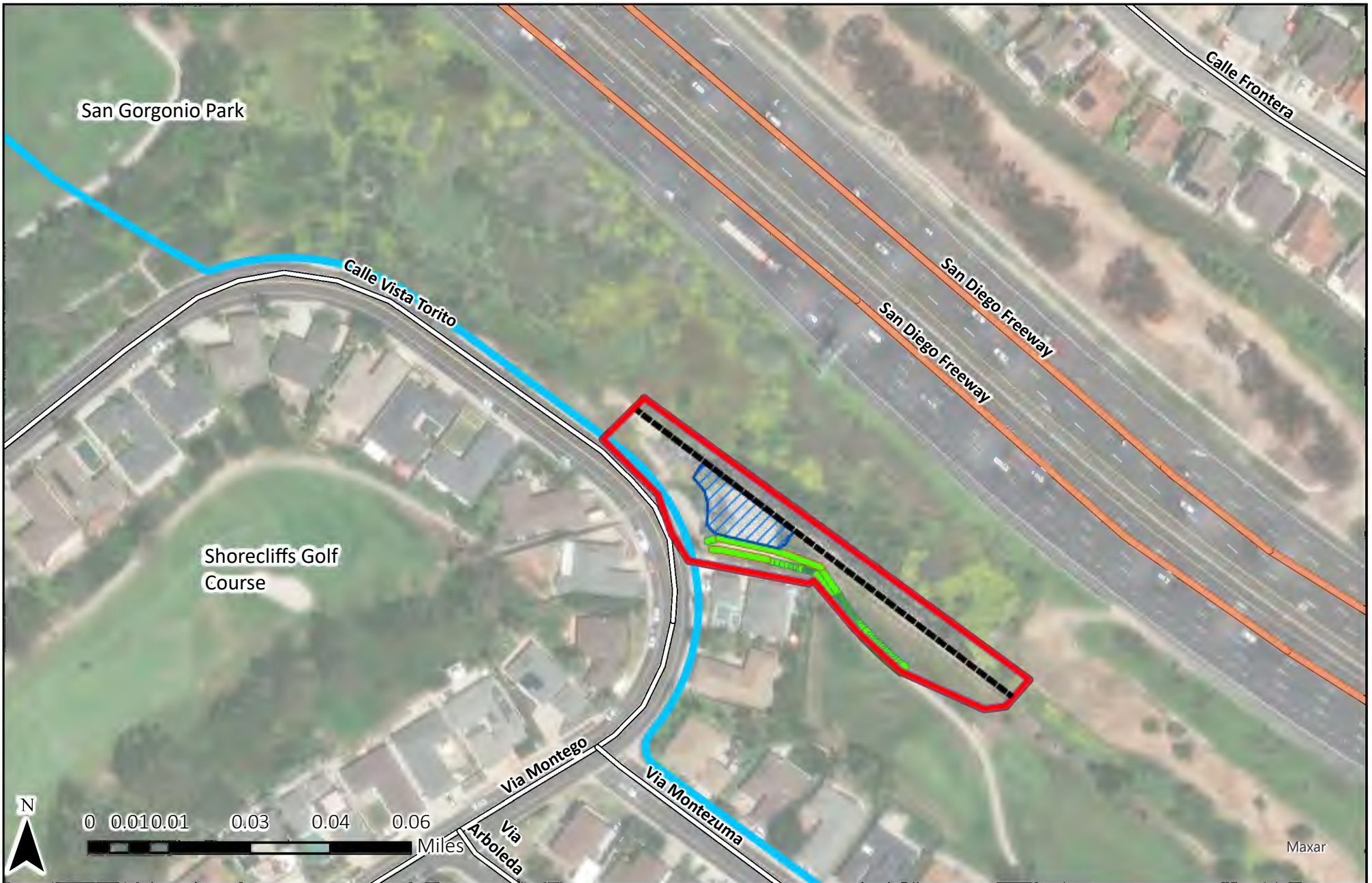
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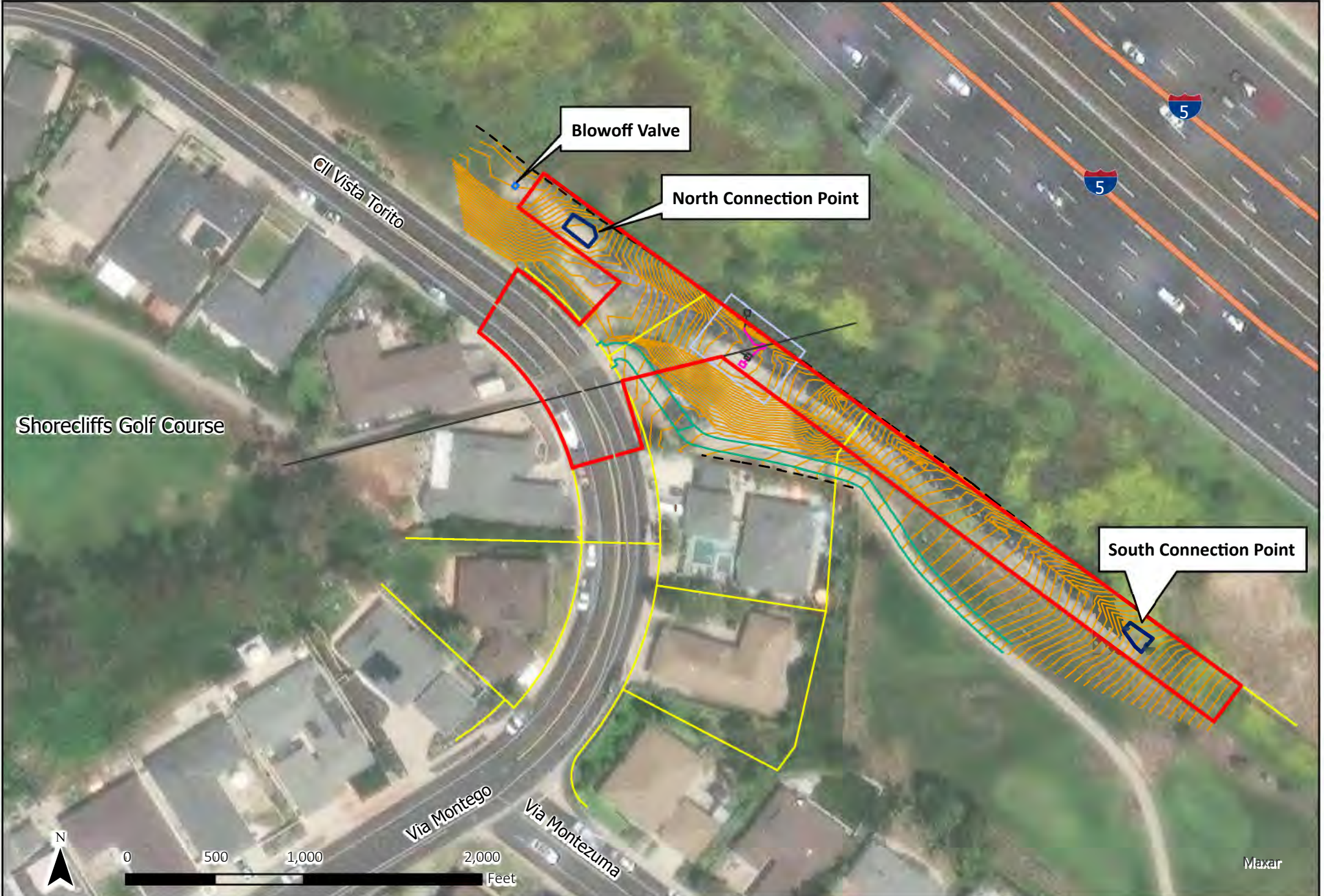


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South Coast Water District
 LTM Replacement at Calle Vista Torito & Slope Repair Project

Figure 2. Local Vicinity Map





Legend

- LTM Work Limits
- Parcel Boundaries
- Existing Stormdrains
- Topography/Slope Repair
- Connection Points
- - - Fence Line
- Stormdrain Cutout Boundary
- Recreational Walking Path
- Blowoff Valve
- New Stormdrains

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Figure 3. Work Limits

