CEQA Class 1
Notice of Exemption

DESERT LAWN DR SLOPE STABILIZATION PROJECT
CITY OF BEAUMONT, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared by:

Geovironment Consulting
630 W 7th Street
San Jacinto, CA 92583

April 2026

I. Project Information

1. **Project Title:**

   Desert Lawn Drive Slope Stabilization Project

2. **Lead Agency:**

   City of Beaumont, Public Works Department

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**

   Vincent Lopez
   (951) 572-3227

4. **Project Location:**

   Desert Lawn Drive between Champion's Drive and Birdie Drive

5. **Project Sponsor:**

   City of Beaumont, Public Works Department

6. **City General Plan Designation and Zoning:**

   Fairway Canyon Specific Plan

7. **Requested Permits:**

   None

8. **Project Description:**

   The proposed project consists of the repair and restoration of a failed storm drain pipeline and associated slope stabilization along a previously developed slope adjacent to Interstate 10 and Desert Lawn Drive in the City of Beaumont. The existing 36" CMP drop inlet and 24" corrugated HDPE pipeline have failed, resulting in erosion, slope destabilization, and infrastructure exposure along approximately 145 linear feet of the pipeline corridor.

   Specific construction activities include: (1) excavation and replacement of approximately 145 linear feet of the failed 24" corrugated HDPE storm drain pipe with new 24" RCP pipeline within the slope; (2) installation of a new 36" CMP drop inlet, headwall, and riprap energy dissipator at the drainage outlet; (3) slope stabilization through slurry application, compaction, and grading; and (4) revegetation of disturbed areas following construction. The Project footprint is limited to the existing pipeline corridor and immediately adjacent disturbed areas and does not expand the capacity or footprint of the existing drainage system. Total ground disturbance is estimated at approximately 0.50 acres, consistent with the mapped survey area.

The project does not expand system capacity, alter the drainage service area, change land use, or introduce new impervious surface beyond the pre-existing condition. All work is confined to the previously graded and disturbed slope area.

Surrounding Land Uses:

- North/East: Interstate 10 right-of-way (Caltrans)
- West/South: Desert Lawn Cemetery and associated golf course
- General area: Developed urban corridor; no sensitive natural communities observed adjacent to the project footprint

Environmental Setting:

The project site is a steep, previously graded slope within a fully urbanized setting. Site vegetation observed during reconnaissance consists primarily of ruderal (disturbed) species, including non-native grasses and forbs. No riparian habitat, wetlands, or sensitive natural communities have been identified within the project footprint. The site is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP area; a habitat assessment will be conducted to confirm consistency with MSHCP criteria and confirm the absence of survey triggers.

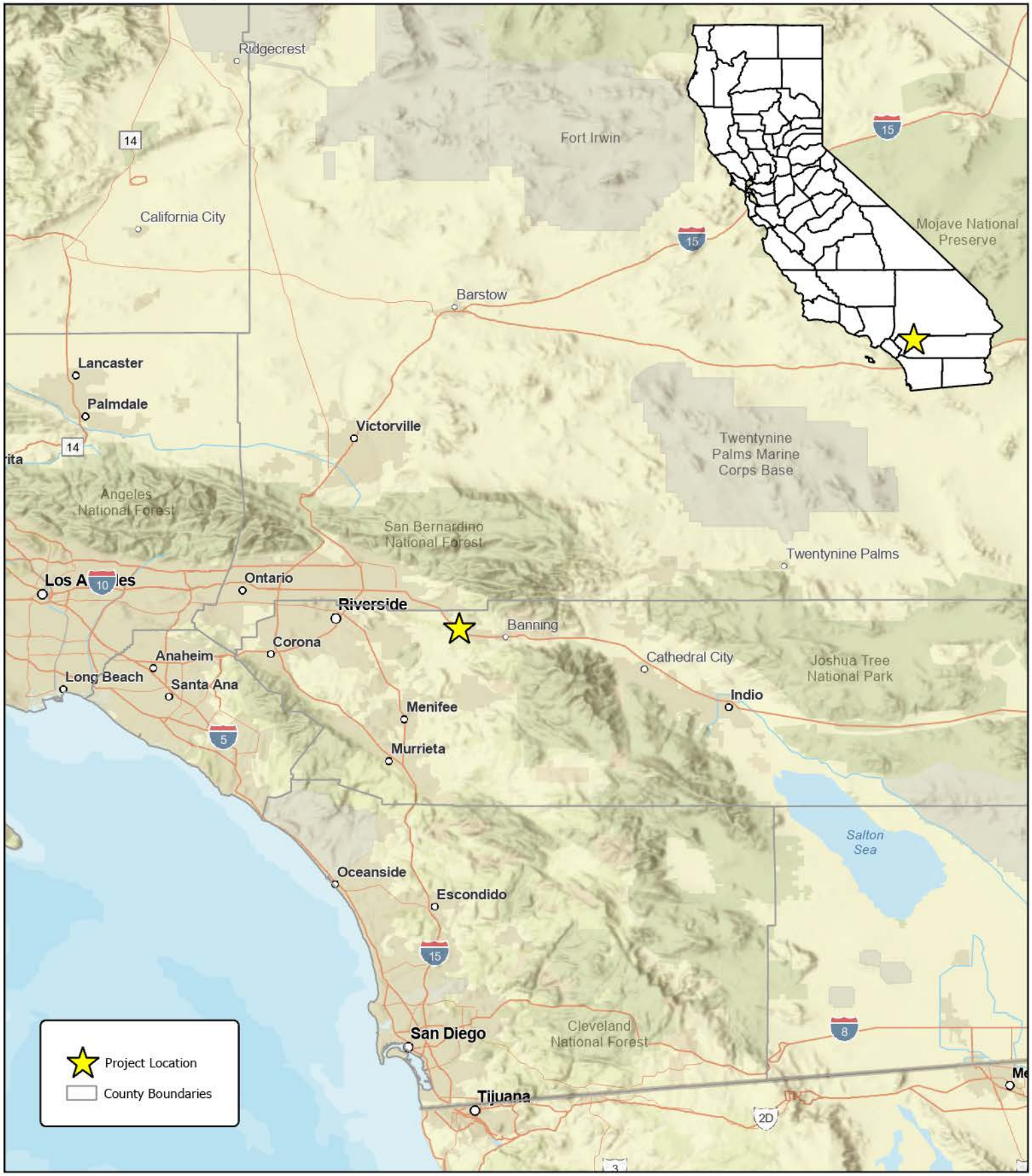
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Desert Lawn Slope Restoration Project
Figure 1: Regional Location

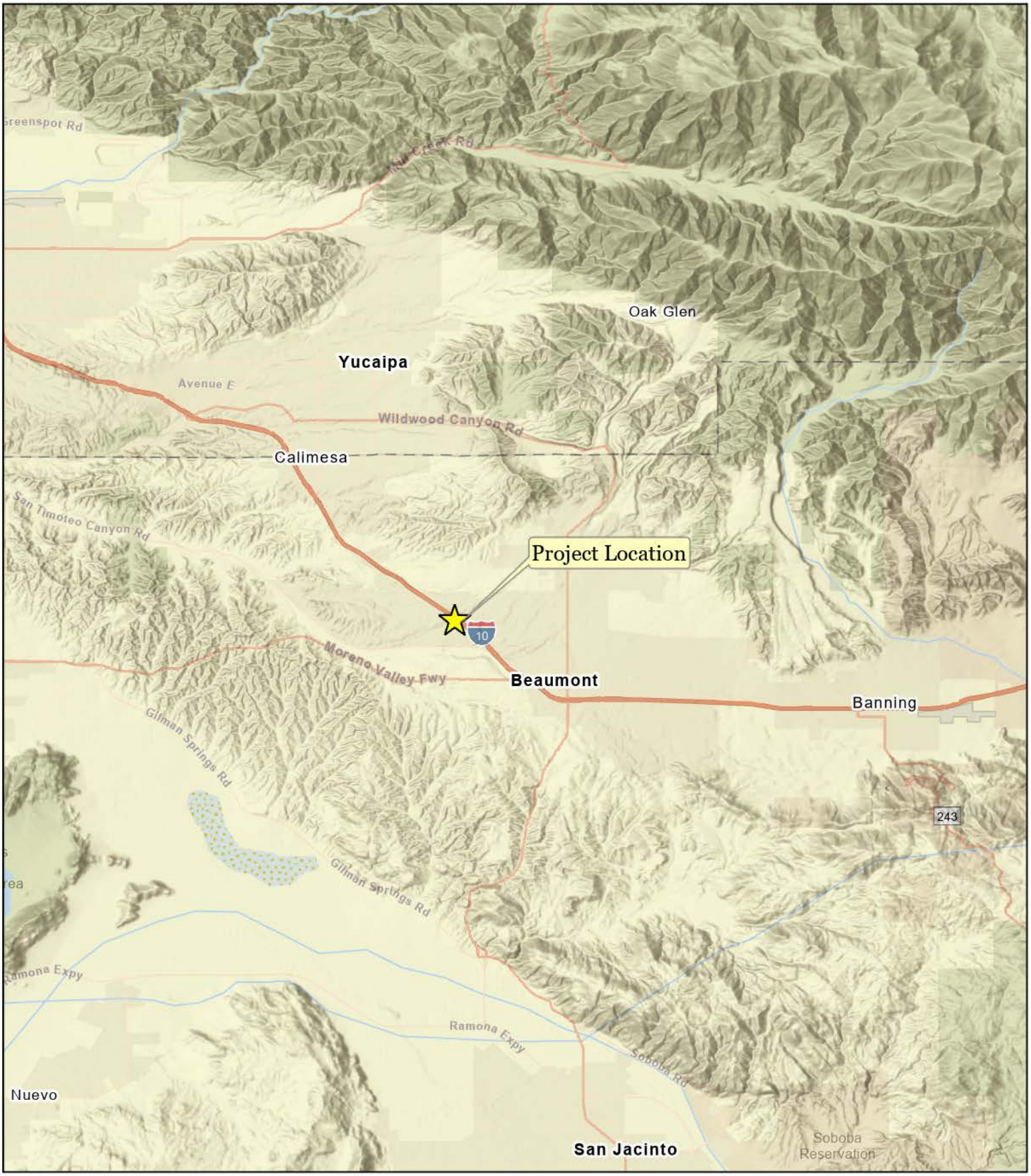


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Desert Lawn Slope Restoration Project
Figure 2: Project Location



US Feet
0 50 100

Desert Lawn Slope Restoration Project
Figure 3: Project Site



1. CEQA DETERMINATION

The City of Beaumont, as Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to:

CEQA Guidelines § 15301(d) — Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities)

The project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption under § 15301(d), which applies to the restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, with negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project consists entirely of the in-kind repair and replacement of an existing failed public storm drain system (36" CMP drop inlet and 24" corrugated HDPE pipeline) within a previously disturbed slope footprint, with no expansion of capacity, land use change, or new impervious surface.

EXCEPTIONS ANALYSIS (CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2)

The City has evaluated all exceptions to categorical exemptions under § 15300.2 and finds that none apply.

Criterion	Finding	Exception Applies?
§ 15300.2(a) Location — Sensitive Environment	The project site is a previously graded slope corridor bounded by the I-10 right-of-way and Desert Lawn Drive. No sensitive natural communities, ESHA, wetlands, or critical habitat are present within the project footprint. Biological resources report confirms MSHCP consistency.	Does Not Apply
§ 15300.2(b) Cumulative Impact	The project is a single, one-time repair of an existing failed storm drain system. No successive or repetitive activities of the same type are proposed. No cumulative impact pattern exists.	Does Not Apply
§ 15300.2(c) Unusual Circumstances	There is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Work is confined to a previously disturbed, fully urban site in a scope consistent with § 15301(d).	Does Not Apply
§ 15300.2(d) Scenic Highways	The project site is not located on or visible from a state-designated scenic highway. I-10 in this segment is not designated under the California Scenic Highway Program.	Does Not Apply

Criterion	Finding	Exception Applies?
§ 15300.2(e) Hazardous Waste Sites	A review of the Cortese List, DTSC EnviroStor, and SWRCB GeoTracker confirms the project site is not listed as a hazardous waste or substances site pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5.	Does Not Apply
§ 15300.2(f) Historical Resources	The project site is a previously graded engineered slope. No recorded cultural or historical resources are located within the project footprint. The highly disturbed, previously developed nature of the site precludes intact subsurface resources.	Does Not Apply

II. CEQA Exemption Checklist

Introduction

The City of Beaumont (City) proposes to implement the Desert Lawn Drive Slope Stabilization Project (Project), consisting of the repair and restoration of a failed storm drain pipeline and associated slope stabilization along a previously developed slope adjacent to Interstate 10 and Desert Lawn Drive in the City of Beaumont, Riverside County, California. The existing 36" CMP drop inlet and 24" corrugated HDPE pipeline have failed, resulting in erosion, slope destabilization, and infrastructure exposure along approximately 145 linear feet of the pipeline corridor.

The Project involves excavation and replacement of approximately 145 linear feet of the failed 24" corrugated HDPE storm drain pipe with new 24" RCP pipeline, installation of a new 36" CMP drop inlet, headwall, and riprap energy dissipator at the outlet, and re-grading and stabilization of the eroded slope face. All work is confined to the previously disturbed slope corridor and is limited to restoring existing public infrastructure to its pre-failure functional condition.

Criterion Section 15301(d): Restoration of Damaged Facilities

	Yes	No
The project consists of the restoration or rehabilitation of a deteriorated or damaged structure, facility, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, with negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.	☒	☐

The Project involves the repair and in-kind replacement of an existing public storm drain system that has experienced catastrophic failure, including undermining and exposure of the pipeline, active erosion of the slope face, and creation of a public safety hazard adjacent to Desert Lawn Drive. The proposed improvements restore the storm drain to its original functional alignment and capacity. No expansion of the drainage system capacity, service area, or land use is proposed. The Project is entirely within the previously graded and disturbed slope footprint.

Criterion Section 15301: Within City Limits / Previously Developed Site

	Yes	No
The project involves an existing public facility or infrastructure improvement located within a previously developed and disturbed area.	☒	☐

The Project site is located within the City of Beaumont on a previously graded slope corridor between Desert Lawn Drive and the I-10 right-of-way. The site has been previously disturbed and supports no natural undisturbed land. The slope, pipeline alignment, and associated drainage infrastructure were established as part of prior development of the surrounding area.

Criterion Section 15301: Biological Resources

	Yes	No
The project site supports sensitive biological resources that would preclude the Class 1 exemption finding.	☐	☒

A Biological Habitat Assessment was prepared by Geovironment Consulting (Brant Primrose, Staff Biologist) and a general biological survey was conducted on February 25, 2026. The survey documented existing vegetation, wildlife, and sensitive resource conditions across the approximately 0.498-acre project footprint.

Vegetation. Five vegetation communities and land cover types were mapped within the project survey area. The site is dominated by Non-Native Grassland (0.335 acres, 67.3%), consisting primarily of invasive annual grasses including red brome, ripgut brome, wild oat, and red-stem filaree with scattered ruderal forbs. Lesser amounts of Riversidean Sage Scrub (0.055 acres, 11.1%), Eucalyptus (0.052 acres, 10.5%), Disturbed habitat (0.043 acres, 8.6%), and Disturbed Coastal Sage Scrub (0.012 acres, 2.4%) are also present. Overall habitat integrity is low due to fragmentation, invasive species dominance, and long-term edge effects from Interstate 10 and the pipeline corridor.

Sensitive Natural Communities. No sensitive natural communities as defined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) were identified within the project footprint. The Disturbed Coastal Sage Scrub present on-site (0.012 acres) does not meet CDFW criteria for a sensitive natural community due to its highly degraded character, low native shrub cover, and lack of structural and compositional integrity.

Special-Status Species. No special-status plant or wildlife species were observed during the biological survey. A review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants identified no species with suitable habitat within the project footprint due to the highly disturbed site conditions, dominance of non-native vegetation, and ongoing disturbance from adjacent roadways and infrastructure. The potential for special-status species occurrence is considered low to absent.

Wildlife. Eight common wildlife species were detected during the survey (seven bird species and one mammal species). All are common and widely distributed in disturbed southern California habitats. No sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife species were detected and no evidence of sensitive species use was observed within or adjacent to the project footprint.

Jurisdictional Waters. No jurisdictional waters, wetlands, or riparian habitat were identified within the project area. Ephemeral surface features observed on-site do not exhibit hydrologic or vegetative characteristics consistent with Waters of the United States or State. No U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 or CDFW Section 1600 permitting is required.

MSHCP Consistency. The project site is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP boundary; however, the site is not within a Criteria Area Cell, focused survey area, or Additional Survey Needs and Procedures Area. No MSHCP-required focused surveys are triggered. The Disturbed Coastal Sage Scrub present on-site does not trigger MSHCP Section 6.3.1 survey requirements. The project is consistent with the MSHCP.

Avoidance Measure. If ground disturbance or vegetation removal occurs during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 72 hours prior to construction. If an active nest is identified, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established and maintained until young have fledged. With implementation of this standard measure, project impacts to biological resources are less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

The Biological Habitat Assessment (Geovironment Consulting, 2026) is included in the project administrative record.

Criterion Section 15301: Traffic

	Yes	No
Approval of the Project would not result in any significant effect related to traffic.	☐	☒

The Project involves construction activities along Desert Lawn Drive within the existing slope corridor. Construction traffic will be limited to equipment mobilization and material hauling consistent with a small public works repair project. No long-term traffic impacts are associated with the Project. Standard construction traffic control measures will be implemented in accordance with the City's encroachment permit requirements.

Criterion Section 15301: Noise

	Yes	No
Approval of the Project would result in significant effects related to noise.	☐	☒

Construction activities will generate temporary noise typical of small-scale public works repair projects, including grading, excavation, and pipeline installation. Construction noise will be short-term and temporary in nature. No long-term operational noise impacts are associated with the Project. Construction will be limited to normal daytime working hours consistent with the City's noise ordinance.

Criterion Section 15301: Air Quality

	Yes	No
Approval of the Project would result in significant effects related to air quality.	☐	☒

The Project involves limited ground disturbance for pipeline replacement and slope re-grading within a small project footprint. Construction-related air quality impacts will be temporary and minor, consisting primarily of fugitive dust and equipment exhaust. Standard dust control measures (watering, equipment maintenance) will be implemented in accordance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 403. No long-term operational air quality impacts are associated with the Project.

Criterion Section 15301: Water Quality

	Yes	No
Approval of the Project would result in significant effects related to water quality.	☐	☒

The Project will involve localized excavation and the implementation of erosion control measures to prevent sediment-laden runoff. To protect water quality, all construction work will be performed in compliance with standard BMPs, utilizing silt fences and other stabilization techniques to mitigate potential impacts. By replacing the existing failure points with stabilized infrastructure, the project will effectively resolve the current uncontrolled discharge, significantly reducing downstream turbidity and preventing further uncontrolled erosion. All construction activities will be conducted in accordance with established environmental protocols to ensure the continued protection of local watershed integrity.

Criterion Section 15301: Utilities and Public Services

	Yes	No
The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.	☒	☐

The Project restores an existing public storm drain facility and does not require new utility connections or expansion of public services. The site is located within the City of Beaumont service area and is accessible via Desert Lawn Drive.

III. EXCEPTIONS TO CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS CHECKLIST

In addition to investigating the applicability of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(d) (Class 1), this CEQA document assesses whether any of the exceptions to qualifying for the Class 1 Categorical Exemption are present. The following analysis compares the criteria of CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 to the Project.

Criterion 15300.2(a): Location

	Yes	No
Is there an exception to the Class 1 exemption for the project due to its location in a particularly sensitive environment, such that the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies?	☐	☒

No exception applies. The project footprint is located within a previously graded and disturbed slope corridor bounded by the I-10 right-of-way and Desert Lawn Drive. Preliminary field reconnaissance confirmed the slope face is dominated by ruderal, non-native vegetation with no sensitive natural communities present within the direct disturbance area. The project site is not

located within a designated critical habitat, ESHA, wetland, floodplain, or other mapped sensitive environmental resource area that would trigger this exception. A Biological Habitat Assessment (Geovironment Consulting, 2026) has been prepared to formally confirm this finding and document MSHCP consistency.

Criterion 15300.2(b): Cumulative Impact

	Yes	No
Is there an exception to the Class 1 exemption for the project due to significant cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type and in the same place, over time?	☐	☒

No exception applies. The Project is a single, one-time repair of an existing failed storm drain system. It does not involve successive or repetitive activities of the same type and does not contribute to any pattern of incremental environmental impacts over time. No cumulative impact exception applies.

Criterion 15300.2(c): Significant Effect

	Yes	No
Is there an exception to the Class 1 exemption for the project because there is a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances?	☐	☒

No exception applies. There is no reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The Project is limited to in-kind repair and replacement of existing public storm drain infrastructure within a previously disturbed and developed corridor. The project scope, scale, and setting are consistent with the type of activity contemplated by the Class 1 exemption.

Criterion 15300.2(d): Scenic Highway

	Yes	No
Is there an exception to the Class 1 exemption for the project because the project may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway?	☐	☒

No exception applies. The project site is not located within or visible from a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway pursuant to the California Scenic Highway Program. I-10 in this segment is not a designated state scenic highway.

Criterion 15300.2(e): Hazardous Waste Sites

	Yes	No
Is there an exception to the Class 1 exemption for the project because the project is located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code?	☐	☒

No exception applies. A review of the Cortese List and associated databases (DTSC EnviroStor, SWRCB GeoTracker) confirms that the project site is not listed as a hazardous waste or substances site pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5.

Criterion 15300.2(f): Historical Resources

	Yes	No
Is there an exception to the Class 1 exemption for the project because the project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?	☐	☒

No exception applies. The project site is a previously graded and engineered slope constructed as part of the development of the surrounding urban corridor. The site has been significantly disturbed by prior grading, utility installation, and infrastructure construction activities. Given the highly disturbed nature of the site and the absence of any intact native soils or undisturbed subsurface deposits within the project footprint, there is no reasonable possibility that the project will impact historical or archaeological resources. No built-environment resources or recorded cultural resources are known to be located within the project area.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis contained herein, the City of Beaumont has determined that the Desert Lawn Drive Slope Stabilization Project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15301(d) — Restoration or Rehabilitation of Deteriorated or Damaged Facilities. The Project meets all applicable criteria for the exemption and none of the exceptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2 apply. The Project is therefore exempt from further CEQA review.

This determination is based on the following key findings:

- The Project consists entirely of the repair and in-kind replacement of the existing failed 36" CMP drop inlet and 24" corrugated HDPE storm drain pipeline (approximately 145 linear feet) with new 24" RCP pipeline and a new 36" CMP drop inlet within a previously graded and disturbed slope corridor.
- The Project does not expand system capacity, alter land use, introduce new impervious surface, or extend the drainage service area.
- The project footprint is confined to a previously graded engineered slope dominated by non-native and ruderal vegetation, with no sensitive natural communities present within the direct disturbance area.
- The project site has been previously disturbed by grading and infrastructure construction, precluding the presence of intact cultural or archaeological resources within the project footprint.
- No exceptions to the categorical exemption under § 15300.2 apply.
- The Biological Habitat Assessment (Geovironment Consulting, 2026) confirms MSHCP consistency and is maintained in the administrative record as supporting documentation.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FINDING

The City of Beaumont finds that the documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings for this CEQA determination are located at the offices of the City of Beaumont, Public Works Department, 550 E. 6th Street, Beaumont, California 92223, and are available for public review upon request. The custodian of records is the City of Beaumont Public Works Department.

Documents comprising the administrative record include:

- This CEQA Exemption Checklist and Notice of Exemption
- Geovironment Consulting Proposal No. 00268, City of Beaumont Desert Lawn Drive Slope Stabilization Project (October 14, 2025)
- City of Beaumont Scope of Services — Desert Lawn Drive Slope Stabilization
- Topographic Survey — Desert Lawn Drive City Topo (Cozad & Fox)
- Existing Conditions Photographs — Exhibit A and Field Reconnaissance dated February 25, 2026
- Biological Habitat Assessment, Desert Lawn Drive Slope Stabilization Project (Geovironment Consulting, 2026)

SIGNATURE

This Notice of Exemption is hereby filed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15062.

Signature: 

Printed Name: Robert Vestal

Title: City Engineer
Agency: City of Beaumont, Public Works Department

Date: 9/1/2026

References

California Air Resources Board. (2019). *Air designation maps – state and national*. https://ww2.arb.ca.gov

California Air Resources Board. (2019). *California state implementation plan*. https://ww2.arb.ca.gov

California Department of Transportation. (2022, May 9). *California state scenic highway system*. https://dot.ca.gov

California Natural Resources Agency. (2024). *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statute and guidelines*. https://resources.ca.gov/ceqa

Geovironment Consulting. (2026). Biological Habitat Assessment, Desert Lawn Drive Slope Stabilization Project. Geovironment Consulting.

Southern California Association of Governments. (2020). *Regional transportation plan/sustainable communities strategy*. https://scag.ca.gov

South Coast Air Quality Management District. (2016). *Air quality management plan*. https://www.aqmd.gov