



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2023 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753 5a (Rev 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753 5a

RECEIPT NUMBER 37-10/19/2023-0756
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SWEETWATER AUTHORITY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 10/19/2023
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN DIEGO	DOCUMENT NUMBER 37-2023-0756	

PROJECT TITLE  
 ROBERT A. FERDUE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TREE HAZARD REMOVAL AND HABITAT RESTORATION

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SWEETWATER AUTHORITY	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER 619-409-6759
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 505 GARRETT AVENUE	CITY CHULA VISTA	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 91910

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency   
  School District   
  Other Special District   
  State Agency   
  Private Entry

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,839 25	\$	0 00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)/(ND)	\$2,764 00	\$	0 00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,305 25	\$	0 00

- Exempt from fee
- Notice of Exemption (attach)
  - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850 00	\$	0 00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50 00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	0 00

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

- Cash   
  Credit   
  Check   
  Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50 00

SIGNATURE <i>X Daniel Butler</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE San Diego County Clerk, DANIEL BUTLER, Deputy
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Payment Reference #: AUTH CODE: 049151 ORDER# 170675638



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK  
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET**

**FILED**  
Oct 19, 2023 01:27 PM  
JORDAN Z. MARKS  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK  
File # 2023-000832  
State Receipt # 37101920230756

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

**ROBERT A. PERDUE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TREE HAZARD REMOVAL  
AND HABITAT RESTORATION**

Check Document being Filed:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- Other (Please fill in type)

**FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY CLERK ON** October 19, 2023  
**Posted** October 19, 2023 **Removed** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Returned to agency on** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEPUTY** \_\_\_\_\_

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

<p>TO:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p>	<p>FROM: Name: Sweetwater Authority (Public Agency) Address: 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910 Telephone: 619-420-1413</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk (Include County name) Address:</p>	

<p>1. Project Title:</p>	<p><b>Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant Tree Hazard Removal and Habitat Restoration</b></p>
<p>2. Project Applicant:</p>	<p><b>Sweetwater Authority</b></p>
<p>3. 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>	<p><b>100 Lakeview Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977 Just west of Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant (see attached Figures 1 and 2)</b></p>
<p>4. (a) Project Location – City: <b>Unincorporated community of Spring Valley.</b></p>	<p>(b) Project Location – County: <b>San Diego</b></p>
<p>5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:</p>	<p><b>The Proposed Project consists of four phases, including (1) hazardous tree removal and fuel reduction, (2) soil stabilization and slope protection, (3) reforestation with fire-resilient native habitat, and (4) maintenance and monitoring. The Proposed Project would occur on an approximately 4.25-acre steep slope, on the west side of the Sweetwater Reservoir property, and adjacent to the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant and residential areas of the unincorporated community of Spring Valley, in San Diego County, California.</b></p> <p><b>Phase 1 includes site preparation activities and the removal of multiple fallen, dead, or dying eucalyptus trees ("hazardous trees"); other</b></p>

flammable debris and detritus will also be removed as part of Phase 1. The sparse native coastal sage habitat under the trees will be fully avoided, protected, and left in place. Phase 2 will include acquisition and installation of erosion and sediment controls (e.g. straw wattles, jute matting as appropriate), consistent with a Water Pollution Control Plan prepared for the project, by a qualified stormwater professional (e.g. QSD).

The Project site is on a steep slope, and underground public utilities do exist in the project area, and it is necessary to install erosion and sediment controls to minimize slope erosion issues after removal of the eucalyptus grove. Phase 3 will include fire-resilient habitat restoration that will involve the salvage and direct planting of coast cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*) cuttings as well as hand seeding with native wildflower seed mix. The native cactus species retain water and will inherently suppress and reduce the spread of fire. There are similar cactus patches in the vicinity of the project site, and this added 4.25-acre patch will enhance this coastal sage and maritime succulent scrub vegetation community. As a result, declining populations of the coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) and California gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila californica*) would benefit. The coastal cactus wren is a Federal Bird of Conservation Concern and State Species of Special Concern.

Phase 4 will maintain erosion and sediment controls, remove or treat any eucalyptus regrowth, weed non-native annual species to promote establishment of cactus, and monitor for wildlife species that have benefited from the native cactus and native scrub vegetation. No excavation or grading will occur as part of the project activities.

Phases 1, 2, and 3 will be performed in years 1, 2, and 3, with the first year mainly focusing on the removal of hazardous trees ("dead and dying trees") and the restoration of those same areas. Year 2 and Year 3 would be focusing on the removal of the rest of the eucalyptus trees. Phase 4, which includes monitoring and maintenance, would begin in Year 1 and scale up each following year as tree removal areas and habitat restoration

	<p>areas are added/expanded. The fully restored area would be managed indefinitely as a habitat management area, together with other habitat areas managed by the Authority.</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to remove hazardous trees and flammable vegetation from areas immediately adjacent to the Perdue Water Treatment Plant and residential areas of Spring Valley, and thus protect these areas from trees falling creating a hazard to life and property, and from the threat of wildfires. Portions of this area recently caught on fire, resulting in a fire that reached the adjacent Water Treatment Plant hydroelectric turbine building. Sweetwater Authority and the residents of the Spring Canyon development and other adjacent Spring Valley areas would benefit directly from this project, as it would remove hazardous trees and reduce available fuels in the urban-natural interface. In addition, the project area is adjacent to County of San Diego park lands and trails, and implementation of the restoration phase would beautify the area by removing dead and dying trees and replacing them with the planting of native, sensitive habitats, enhancing the trail users and naturalists experience. Finally, the project would also benefit of the overall restoration of 4.25 acres of native habitat, which could serve as habitat for sensitive species, such as the cactus wren and the California gnatcatcher. The four phases of the Project described above would be managed by an experienced professional wildlife biologist and in close coordination with a stormwater professional to ensure that no existing natural resources, including wildlife species, in the surrounding areas are negatively impacted by the crews performing the project work. The project would also include a monitoring component to ensure implementation of restoration efforts are successful.</p>
<p>6. Name of Public Agency approving project:</p>	<p>Sweetwater Authority</p>
<p>7. 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:</p>	<p>Sweetwater Authority</p>

8. 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:	CEQA Guidelines 15301(H), Existing Facilities & 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects.
(f) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	The project is statutorily exempt as the trees to be removed are a safety hazard, per State CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c).
(g) <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	
9. Reason why project was exempt:	<p>Many of the trees are dead or dying and some have fallen in the area and are deemed hazardous. The area is also subject to burning due to periodic wildfires, one of the recent fires reached a building at the adjacent water treatment plant. Removal of trees will prevent and mitigate future hazards.</p> <p>The proposed project includes (1) the removal of overgrown, dead, and dying non-native invasive eucalyptus trees, which were considered landscape trees for the Perdue Water Treatment Plant property; (2) maintenance and stabilization of the slope area; and (3) and replacement of removed landscape trees with fire-resilient native habitat. The proposed site does not exceed the 5-acre limitation of Class 33, and it would eventually be restored from landscape non-native invasive vegetation that is currently dead or in bad condition, to fire resilient native vegetation and potential habitat for sensitive wildlife species, including California gnatcatcher and cactus wren.</p>
10. Lead Agency Contact Person: Telephone:	<p>Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:imarquez@sweetwater.org">imarquez@sweetwater.org</a></p> <p>Office phone: 619-409-6759</p> <p>Cell: 619-410-1590</p>
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:	

Carlos Quintero  
Signature

Date: October 18, 2023

Carlos Quintero  
Name

Title: General Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

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.

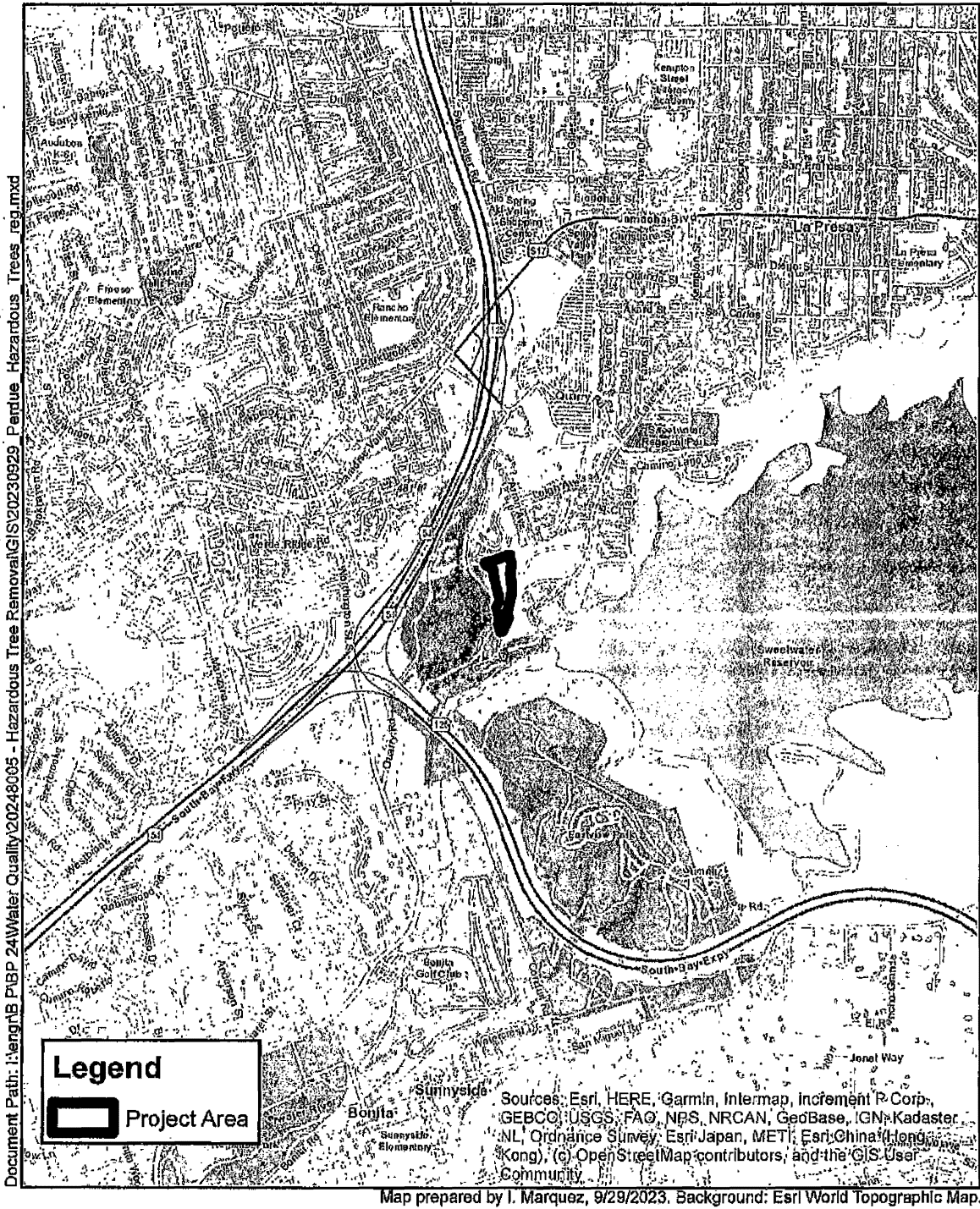
**CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION**

(If Notice of Exemption filed by Project Applicant, Project Applicant must Attach to Notice of Exemption)

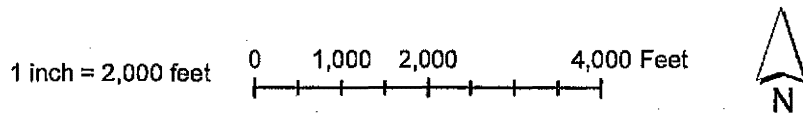
1. Name or description of project:	<b>Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant Tree Hazard Removal and Habitat Restoration</b>	
2. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	<b>100 Lakeview Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977 Just west of Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant (see attached Figures 1 and 2)</b>	
3. Entity or person undertaking project:	<b>A. Sweetwater Authority</b>	
	<b>B. Other (Private)</b>	
	(1) Name	
	(2) Address	
4. Staff Determination:	<p>The Lead Agency's Staff, having undertaken and completed a preliminary review of this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Lead Agency's Local Guidelines for Implementing CEQA has concluded that this project does not require further environmental assessment because:</p>	
a. <input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed action does not constitute a project under CEQA.	
b. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project is a Ministerial Project.	
c. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project is an Emergency Project.	
d. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project constitutes a feasibility or planning study.	
e. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is categorically exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption Class:	<b>Class 1(H). Existing Facilities Class 33. Small Habitat Restoration Projects.</b>
f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is statutorily exempt.	
	Applicable Exemption:	<b>CEQA Guideline Section 15269(c). Emergency Projects</b>
g. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project is otherwise exempt on the following basis:	
h. <input type="checkbox"/>	The project involves another public agency which constitutes the Lead Agency.	
	Name of Lead Agency:	

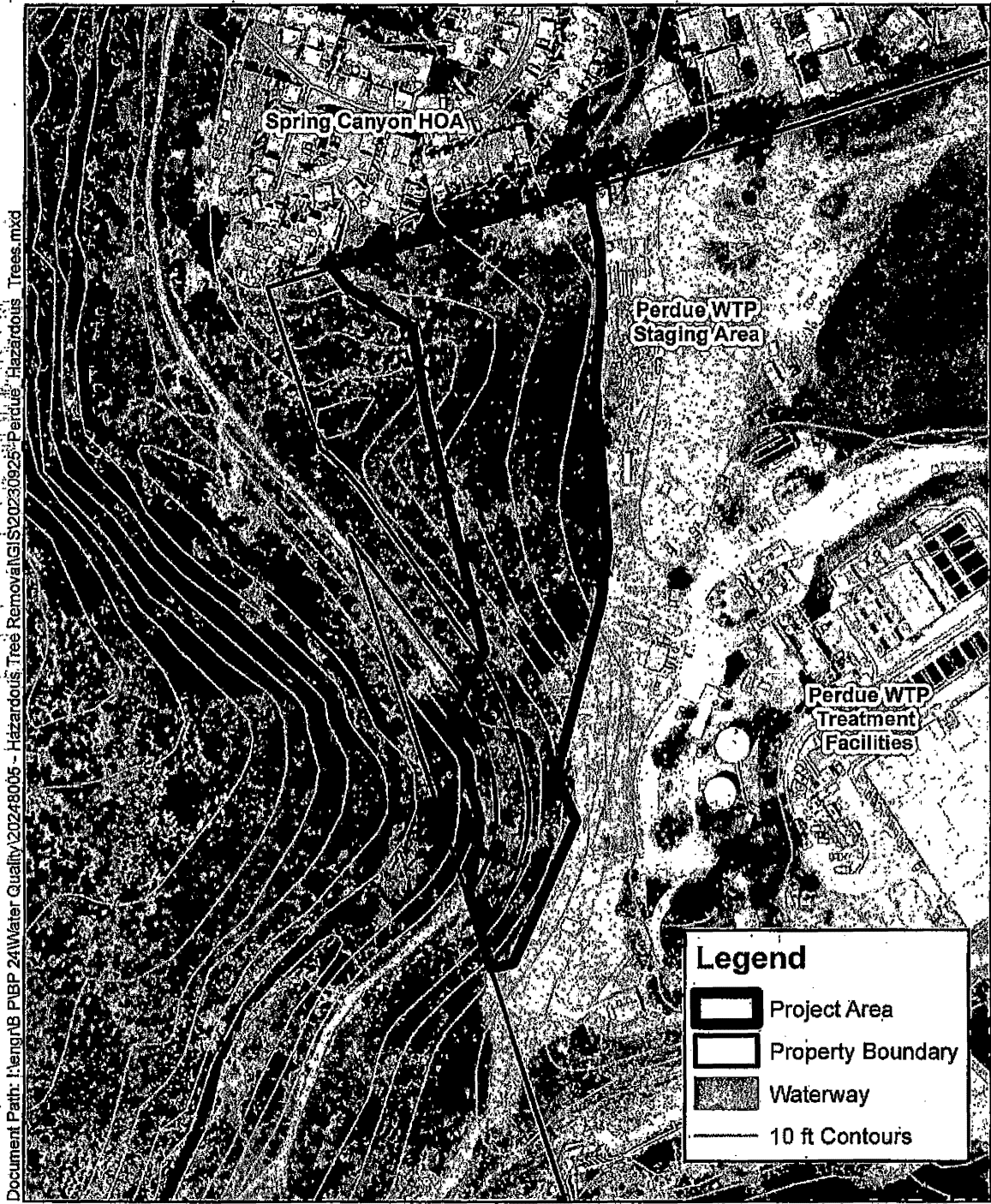
Date: **September 29, 2023**

Staff: **Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager**



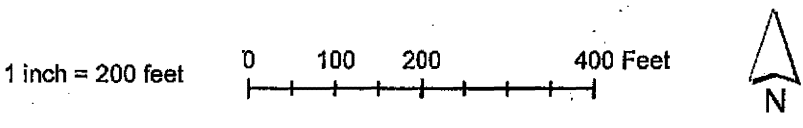
**Figure 1. Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant Hazardous Tree Removal and Habitat Restoration Project (B.P. 20248005)**





Map prepared by I. Marquez, 9/29/2023 Aerial photo by ArcGIS, 2017

**Figure 2. Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant Hazardous Tree Removal and Habitat Restoration Project (B.P. 20248005)**



San Diego County



Transaction #: 7433997  
Receipt #: 2023369261

JORDAN Z. MARKS  
Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk  
1600 Pacific Highway Suite 260  
P. O. Box 121750, San Diego, CA 92112-1750  
Tel. (619) 237-0502 Fax (619) 557-4155  
[www.sdarcc.gov](http://www.sdarcc.gov)

Cashier Date: 10/19/2023  
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 10/19/2023 1:28 pm

Payment Summary

Total Fees	\$50.00
Total Payments	\$50.00
Balance:	\$0.00

Payment	
VITALCHEK PAYMENT	\$50.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Filing	
CEQA - NOE	FILE #: 2023-000832 Date: 10/19/2023 1:27PM Pages: 9
	State Receipt # 37-10/19/2023-0756
Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee	\$50.00
<b>Total Fees Due:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Grand Total - All Documents:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>