



CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE NINTH CYCLE OF THE
TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
THREAT REDUCTION STEWARDSHIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials (hereafter referred to as "proposal") cannot exceed eight pages.

Applicant Name: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Address: 5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, San Diego, CA 92123

Phone and Email Address: Gina Cabrera, Gina.Cabrera@sdcounty.ca.gov; (858) 966-1315

Name of Property: Ramona Grasslands Preserve and Ramona Muncipal Water District Property

General Location: Unincorporated Community of Ramona (MSP MU5)

Jurisdiction: County of San Diego

Total Acres: 3,832 acres

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 190 acres

County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation and Ramona

Owner(s) of Property: Muncipal Water District

Land manager(s) of property Ramona Grasslands Preserve (Preserve) is fully owned and operated by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Ramona (include name[s]): Muncipal Water District property is owned and operated by the Ramona Muncipal Water District (RMWD) and DPR has an easement to enter the RMWD property to control or eliminate non-native animal species.

Brief Project Summary that includes your primary goal and objectives (200-word maximum)

The goal of the proposed project is to enhance the existing arroyo toad population and increase the potential for a southwestern pond turtle population within the Preserve. The objective of the proposed project is to implement a bullfrog eradication program within the Preserve and the treatment ponds on the adjacent RMWD property. Arroyo toad, a federally endangered species, is found within the Preserve. During 2016 monitoring surveys, adult and tadpole arroyo toad were observed within Santa Maria Creek west of Rangeland Road within the western portions of the Preserve. In addition, an individual southwestern pond turtle was observed in 2016 in the western portion of the Preserve (Figure 1). Adult and juvenile bullfrogs have been observed in Santa Maria Creek west of Rangeland Road and in the treatment ponds on the adjacent RMWD Property. Bullfrogs have been known to eat juvenile and adult arroyo toads and juvenile southwestern pond turtles. The presence of adult and juvenile bullfrogs reduces the chances of a viable population of arroyo toads and southwestern pond turtles within the Preserve. The project proposes to implement an eradication effort within the aforementioned areas.

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)

- Quantification of bullfrogs and special-status herptiles within the western portion of the Preserve and adjacent RMWD Property will occur before and after the bullfrog eradication efforts are completed to ascertain the effectiveness of the bullfrog removal efforts.

Brief Description of dedicated staff and/or consultants that would work on Project (200-word maximum)

The Project Manager will be a DPR staff biologist and will oversee the consultant contract and submittals. A consultant from DPR's as-needed consultant list will be used to complete the technical aspects of the project.

### Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	N/A	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	N/A	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant Expenses	<b>\$78,750</b>	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	<b>\$1,250</b>	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs	N/A	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

#### A. Project Purpose

Please describe how the proposed project meets the following criteria:

1. The proposed project addresses a high-priority Management Strategic Plan (MSP) species and their habitats. Refer to the MSP for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County.

The project proposes to implement a bullfrog eradication program within the Preserve including Santa Maria Creek west of Rangeland Road and within the two treatment ponds on the RMWD property in-between the northwest and southwest portions of the Preserve (Figure 2, Project Area). These treatment ponds have been identified through initial biological resources baseline surveys of the Preserve in 2009 as a source of bullfrogs. Arroyo toad is a SMMP Management Strategic Plan (MSP) category SO species and the proposed project is needed to increase the viability of the existing arroyo toad population within the Preserve. In addition, southwestern pond turtle, a MSP category SL species, has been observed in the Preserve and will also benefit from removal of bullfrogs.

The MSP states for arroyo toad under MGT-IMP, ANACAL-2 for Management Unit 5, *“Beginning in 2018, conduct routine management actions for arroyo toad identified through the IMG regional protocol monitoring, including ... removing aquatic predators and exotic species (which compete and/or prey on arroyo toads, primarily young) within the known arroyo toad habitat.”* The MSP states for southwestern pond turtle under MGT-IMP, EMYMAR-3 for Management Units 5, *“From 2017 to 2021, implement invasive aquatic animal ... control at natural ... pond turtle occurrences as needed to increase recruitment and basking habitat.”*

2. The proposed project will address an urgent need and includes actions that will reduce or manage an identified threat.

Adult and tadpole arroyo toad were observed within Santa Maria Creek west of Rangeland Road during monitoring surveys performed in 2016. Historically, this species is known to breed within Santa Maria Creek on the western areas within the Preserve. These sections of the creek contain high quality habitat; however, arroyo toad abundance in these areas is less than what has been reported in similar stream systems, and that is likely due to the high abundance of bullfrogs. Threat surveys performed in 2016 confirmed bullfrog presence within Santa Maria Creek within the western areas. A bullfrog eradication program within the western portions of the Preserve along Santa Maria Creek and the adjacent RMWD property will assist in the proliferation of the on-site arroyo toad population. In addition, southwestern pond turtle will benefit from the eradication of bullfrogs.

3. Success criteria have been identified and will be monitored and reported.

Success criteria will include the successful eradication of bullfrogs within Santa Maria Creek west of Rangeland Road within the Preserve and the treatment ponds on adjacent RMWD Property. Measurable actions will include quantification of pre- and post-effort conditions related to both bullfrogs, arroyo toads, and southwestern pond turtle within the Project Area which would be reported in the annual report to SANDAG.

4. Success of the proposed project is likely with clear, measurable, proven results that will promote conservation.

The scope for the proposed project includes pre-implementation surveying for bullfrogs and special-status herptiles and GPSing locations within the Project Area including portions of the Preserve and the adjacent RMWD property. Eradication efforts are expected to vary based on the observed localities of bullfrogs within the Project Area. Seines and dip netting are expected to be the primary methods for removing tadpoles from the ponds. Nighttime spotlighting allowing hand capture, dip-netting, or gigging will likely be the most effective tool for removal of adult and metamorph bullfrogs. Passive bullfrog traps may also be used. The proposed project includes testing the effectiveness of eradication efforts by quantifying pre- and post-effort conditions related to both bullfrogs, arroyo toads, and southwestern pond turtle within the Project Area. Qualified herpetologists with the County's on-call Consultants will perform both the eradication efforts and collection of the monitoring data. To ensure negative impacts to arroyo toad are avoided, all work will be conducted in conjunction with a USFWS approved arroyo toad handler and will follow the guidelines of the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force's Code of Practice.

5. Any activities necessary to maintain the proposed project after the 18-month grant period have been identified and funding for those activities has been secured. Please explain what source of funding (if any) has been used to fund this activity in the past and what kind of funding is available to support this work in the future (if needed).

The County possesses adequate staff to manage the grant funds and is able to act comprehensively to manage the project area beyond the 18-month grant period. The Project Area is located within the Ramona Grasslands Preserve and within a County maintained easement on RMWD Property. Continued maintenance and monitoring within the Project Area will occur as a part of the ongoing management at Ramona Grasslands Preserve and the easement within RMWD Property. The County of San Diego General Fund monies will be utilized to fund the ongoing management and maintenance efforts on the Preserve and RMWD easement lands.

6. To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be on lands conserved for native habitat within the MSP area. Where is the project located? (*Attach a map*)

The proposed project occurs on Ramona Grasslands Preserve (Preserve) and adjacent RMWD Property and is benefiting arroyo toad and southwestern pond turtle observed on the Preserve. The Preserve falls within MSP Management Unit 5 in the central portion of San Diego County (Figure 3) and the Preserve is identified as conserved lands in MSP Vol 1, Section 3.6.3.

B. Scope of Work by Task

Exhibit A – Proposed Project Scope of Work

Task No.	Task Name	Task Description	Quantifiable Results/Deliverables
1	Pre-eradication Bullfrog and Special-Status Herptiles Survey	Prior to beginning the Bullfrog Eradication Program (BEP), a team of qualified herpetologists will locate and GPS locations of bullfrogs and special-status herptiles observed within the Project Area, including portions of Ramona Grasslands Preserve and adjacent Ramona Municipal Water District property.	Figure showing GPS locations of bullfrogs and special-status herptiles shown in Year 1 Quarter 2 Report and Annual Report. GIS data submittal.
2	Bullfrog Eradication Program	During an 11-month period, 22 eradication surveys will be conducted within the Project Area. Eradication surveys will occur during each season but will be timed to focus efforts when encounters are most likely, in the spring and summer, or during times of optimal moisture levels and temperatures. Stomach samples will be examined to make inferences regarding bullfrog diet.	Documentation as to the amount of trapping effort, along with data tables of the summarized results of the trapping for invasive non-native animals removal will be included in the quarterly reports and the final report (Task 4).
3	Monitoring and Evaluation	Herpetologists will test effectiveness of eradication efforts and will evaluate results of BEP by quantifying pre- and post-effort conditions related to both bullfrogs and arroyo toads within the Project Area.	Quantification of pre- and post-effort conditions related to both bullfrogs and arroyo toads within the project area will be included in the Year 2 final report (Task 4).
4	Reporting	Invoices and progress reports will be prepared quarterly to document bullfrog eradication efforts in January, April, July, and October 2019, and January 2020. The final report will be prepared in February 2020.	Five quarterly reports and a final report will be prepared.

C. Budget by Task

Exhibit B – Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Grant Request
1	Pre-eradication Bullfrog and Special-Status Herptiles Survey	\$5,198.48
2	Bullfrog Eradication Program	\$67,260.99
3	Monitoring and Evaluation	\$4,576.96
4	Reporting	\$2,963.57
<b>Subtotal</b>		\$80,000.00
<b>Indirect Cost ( __%)</b>		N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$80,000.00

D. Project Schedule

**Exhibit C – Proposed Project Schedule**  
*(Assumes Fall 2018 Notice to Proceed [NTP])*

Task No.	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1	Pre-eradication Bullfrog and Special-Status Herptiles Survey	3 Months from NTP	1 Month	02/01/2019
2	Bullfrog Eradication Program	3 Months from NTP	11 Months	12/01/2019
3	Monitoring and Evaluation	14 Months from NTP	1 Month	01/01/2020
4	Reporting (5 quarterly and final)	3 Months from NTP	15 Months	2/28/2020

Please explain why and how much additional time would be needed in the event of any delays due to NTP being provided beyond Fall 2018 and/or unexpected weather conditions such as drought that could occur during the proposed project implementation.

\*A delay in the NTP would not delay the implementation of the project because the start of bullfrog eradication efforts is dependent on availability of surface water. In addition, the above schedule has been cushioned to accommodate a start date for eradication efforts three months from the NTP.

**NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES**

SANDAG's Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Land Management Grant Program projects are funded with *TransNet* revenues consistent with the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance adopted by the voters in November 2004 (SANDAG Ordinance 04-01). Although SANDAG Ordinance 04-01 does not require payment of prevailing wages, California law may require that public works projects pay prevailing wages for workers.

Applicant acknowledges that SANDAG has strongly encouraged Applicant to seek legal counsel regarding whether the Proposed Project will require applicant to pay prevailing wages and agrees that SANDAG will have no liability for conducting this analysis.  Yes  No

Applicant acknowledges that if awarded an EMP Land Management Grant, the grant agreement between SANDAG and the grantee requires grantee's compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the Agreement.  Yes  No

REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT

- Yes  No The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- Yes  No If the SANDAG Board of Directors approves the proposed project proposal, the proposed applicant agrees to sign and return the Agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions or amendments, within 45 days of receipt.
- Yes  No The applicant agrees to comply with SANDAG’s Board Policy No. 035, Competitive Grant Program Procedures, which outlines “Use-it-or-lose-it” project milestone and completion deadlines. Board Policy No. 035 is included in the Agreement, and also is on SANDAG’s website at the following link: sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy\_035.pdf
- Yes  No The applicant understands that 10 percent of all invoices will be retained until the completion of the proposed project.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that all invoices must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds and payment will not be made by SANDAG until all documents are satisfactorily submitted.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that invoices and reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis within three weeks after the period covering January 1 to March 31; within three weeks after the period covering April 1 to June 30; within three weeks after the period covering July 1 to September 30; and within three weeks after the period covering October 1 to December 31.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that the EMP quarterly report template (to be sent to the grantee after NTP is issued) must be used to document quarterly progress and that invoices with errors will be returned to the grantee for correction prior to being processed by SANDAG staff.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that the final invoice must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds; a final report (prepared in accordance with the final report template to be sent to grantee after NTP is issued); and all outstanding deliverables in order to receive final payment and have retained funds released.
- Yes  No The applicant understands that to be considered eligible for funding, a resolution complying with the requirements of Board Policy No. 035, Section 4.1, must be submitted to SANDAG at least *two weeks* prior to the recommendation by the Regional Planning Committee of the list of prioritized project proposals. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee’s anticipated meeting date.
- Yes  No The applicant agrees to submit all project data/information to SANDAG in a format compatible with the regional management database.

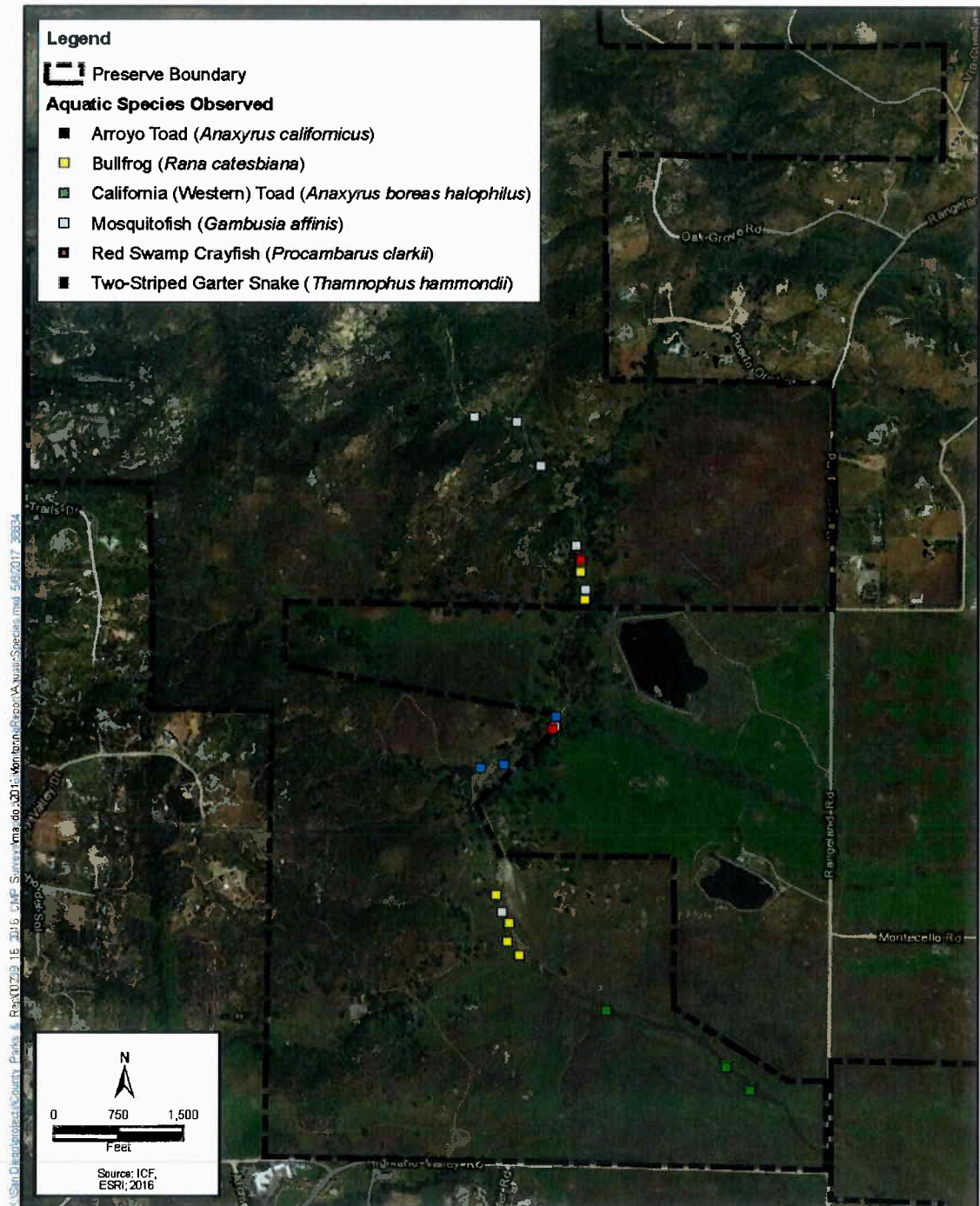
I have the authorization to submit this proposal (Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials) on behalf of my organization.

Brian Albright, Director

Applicant Name/Title (print or type)

  
Applicant Signature

1-8-18  
Date



**Figure 1**  
**Aquatic Species Observations - Ramona Grasslands Preserve**  
**Implementation of CMP – 2016 Resource Specific Monitoring Annual Report**  
**County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation**

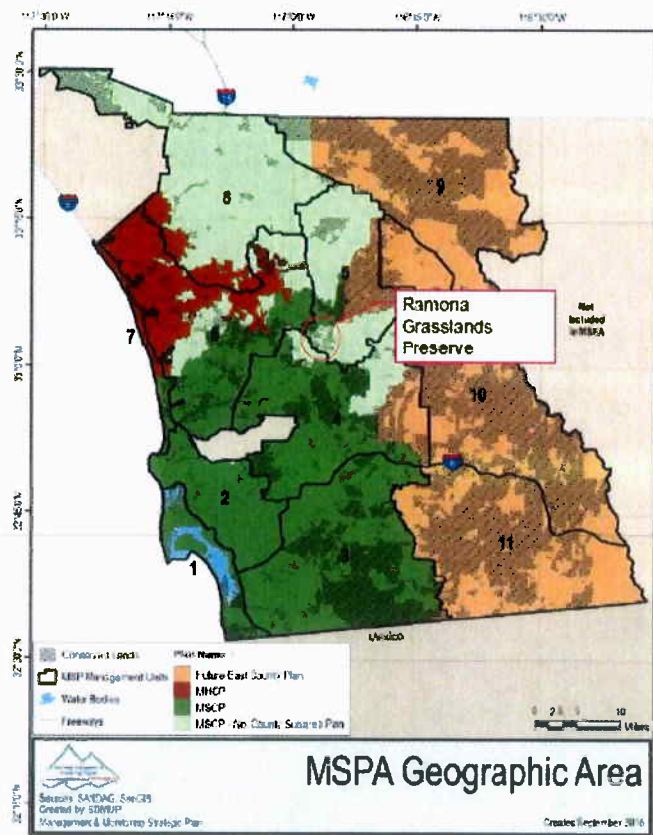
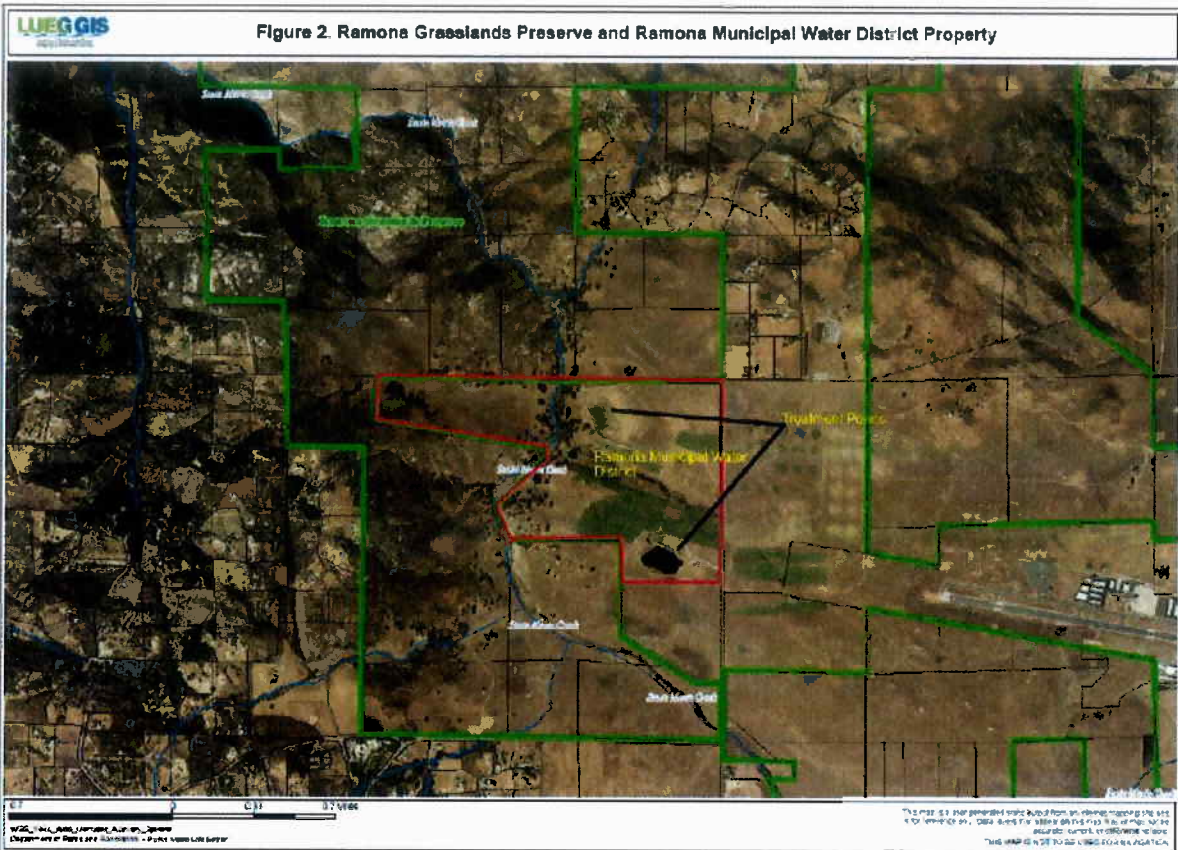


Figure 3