

January 27, 2025

Julia Varnergardner, Principal Environmental Specialist – Biology
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, California 91910

Subject: Proposal to Provide Environmental Compliance Services for the Central Wheeler Tank and System Improvements Project

Dear Julia Varnergardner:

Dudek appreciates this opportunity to submit this proposal to Sweetwater Authority for environmental compliance services for the Central Wheeler Tank and System Improvements Project (Project). Dudek understands the Project entails the construction of an 0.8 million gallon (MG) welded-steel water tank and associated water drainage and conveyance pipelines.

The scope of work presented in this proposal is based on the requirements of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) of the Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

Scope of Services

TASK 1 INFORMATION GATHERING AND PRE-CONSTRUCTION SURVEYS

Task 1.1 Information Gathering and Kickoff Meeting

The Dudek Project Manager will review the Project's environmental documents and construction plans to understand the Project's environmental constraints and commitments and develop a survey and monitoring plan. The Dudek Project Manager will also attend a one-hour kickoff meeting with Sweetwater Authority staff prior to the start of the Project, assumed to be in-person.

Task 1.2 Pre-Construction Nesting Bird and Raptor Survey

Dudek understands that construction is scheduled to begin on February 8, 2025. In accordance with BIO-1, if construction initiation occurs between February 1 and September 15, a pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey is required. Dudek will provide a qualified biologist to conduct the nesting bird and raptor survey. In the event that active nests are detected, the biologist will establish an avoidance buffer to ensure the protection of the nest. Upon completion of the survey, a survey methods and results memorandum will be provided to Sweetwater Authority.

Task 1.3 Pre-Construction California Gnatcatcher Survey

In accordance with BIO-2, Dudek will provide a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction survey to determine presence/absence of California gnatcatcher prior to initiation of Project clearing, grading, grubbing, or other construction activities. Given that a 9-pass protocol survey was conducted in 2019 and was negative, Dudek proposes conducting a 3-pass protocol survey to re-confirm absence. The survey will be conducted within the Project footprint and 300-foot buffer where legal access is allowed. A 15-day notification will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prior to the survey and the survey will be conducted by a biologist holding a valid Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit. If California gnatcatchers are detected in the survey area, coordination with the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be required to establish measures to reduce potential impacts. Upon completion of the survey, a survey methods and results memorandum will be provided to Sweetwater Authority and to USFWS following Sweetwater Authority review.

This task includes up to 2 hours of agency coordination time in the event that California gnatcatchers are detected.

Task 1.4 Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Surveys

In accordance with BIO-3, pre-construction surveys for the presence of burrowing owl are required prior to initiation of clearing, grading, grubbing, or other construction activities. Dudek will provide a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction take avoidance surveys as outlined in the 2012 CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. The first survey will be conducted 30 days prior to initial site disturbance and the second survey will be conducted within 24 hours of initial site disturbance. Upon completion of the survey, a survey methods and results memorandum will be provided to Sweetwater Authority.

If burrowing owls are present within the survey area, coordination with CDFW will be required to establish measures to avoid potential impacts. This task includes up to 2 hours of agency coordination time.

Task 1 Assumptions

- If any resources are located that require avoidance buffers, Dudek assumes that materials and installation will be conducted by others, but Dudek will support by overseeing the process.
- Mileage for all pre-construction surveys is estimated between the Dudek Encinitas office and the Project site at the 2025 federal mileage rate of 70 cents per mile.

Task 1 Deliverables

- Pre-construction nesting bird survey memorandum in PDF format
- Pre-construction California gnatcatcher survey memorandum in PDF format
- Pre-construction burrowing owl survey memorandum in PDF format

TASK 2 CONSTRUCTION MONITORING PER MMRP

Task 2.1 Worker Sensitivity Training

Preparation of a worker sensitivity training was scoped under a previous proposal for vegetation clearing at the Project site. This scope includes attendance at one in-person training session. The training will be administered by

a qualified biologist and the Qualified Archaeologist or an archaeologist working under their supervision. This task also includes attendance by the Native American monitor.

Task 2.2 Weekly Nest Surveys

Dudek will conduct once or twice weekly nest surveys of the construction area during the migratory bird breeding season, depending on the avian activity observed. Frequency of the nest surveys will be determined by the Project biologist in coordination with the Sweetwater Authority biologist. Dudek biologists can also assess avoidance buffers and noise restrictions, if applicable, to ensure avoidance of adjacent California gnatcatcher or burrowing owl occurrences. For the purposes of this scope, although work is planned for 31 weeks of the breeding season, up to two nest surveys per week for 20 weeks have been included in this task, based on our experience of typical nesting bird activity.

Task 2.3 Archaeological/Paleontological/Native American Monitoring

In accordance with CR-2 and GEO-3, Dudek will provide a qualified monitor that is dual trained for archaeology and paleontology to be present on-site each day during brush clearances, vegetation removal, grubbing, and grading activities. Dudek will subcontract with Red Tail Environmental to provide Kumeyaay Native American monitoring. Daily logs will be prepared by Dudek monitors detailing daily activities. Logs will be submitted digitally to Sweetwater Authority as part of the final reports, or as otherwise requested. Dudek assumes that no more than 65 days of monitoring by an archaeological monitor and Native American monitor (8-hour days without overtime, plus drive time [which is estimated to be 1 hour]) will be required. If workdays are shorter than 8 hours, Dudek will bill the actual hours worked (RedTail Environmental has a 4-hour minimum charge). The scope also includes site visits (up to 2 days) by the Project Archaeologist and Project Paleontologist to inspect potential discoveries.

Based on observations of the exposed sediments, the monitor will consult with Dudek's Project Archaeologist/Paleontologist, Native American monitor (if applicable), and Sweetwater Authority to determine when archaeological/paleontological and Native American monitoring efforts should be reduced or suspended.

Per CR-2, upon completion of archaeological and paleontological monitoring, Dudek will prepare a combined monitoring report documenting all activities and discoveries. Dudek assumes that no archaeological or paleontological resources will be discovered that require formal documentation or evaluation and that a combined letter report will be sufficient. Should any discoveries be made that require formal documentation, evaluation, and/or data recovery, Dudek will work with Sweetwater Authority to develop an appropriate scope of work and cost based on the mitigation measures for the Project. The report will be submitted within 60 days of completion of grading and be submitted to Sweetwater Authority, South Coastal Information Center, and any Native American groups who request a copy.

Task 2 Assumptions

- Dudek assumes that monitoring staff will be informed at least 48 hours before the start of each week (Monday) and at the end of each workday whether ground disturbing activities requiring construction monitoring, pursuant to the Project mitigation measures, will be occurring the next business day.
- No more than 65 days of monitoring by a dual-qualified archaeological/paleontological monitor will be required. Should the monitoring schedule need to be adjusted, additional staff time will need to be authorized through a contract amendment to provide additional monitoring and coordination.

- No more than 65 days of monitoring by a RedTail Environmental Native American monitor will be required to observe ground disturbance within sediments containing possible cultural resources. Should the monitoring schedule need to be adjusted, additional staff time will need to be authorized through a contract amendment to provide additional monitoring and coordination.
- If workdays are shorter than 8 hours, or fewer monitoring days are required, Dudek will bill the actual hours worked. Note: RedTail Environmental has a 4-hour minimum charge.
- The scope also includes site visits (up to 2 days) by the Project Archaeologist and Project Paleontologist.
- Mileage is estimated from the Dudek Encinitas office to the Project site at the 2025 federal mileage rate.
- No weekend or night work will be required.
- Dudek assumes a workday consists of 8 hours and work will occur Monday through Friday, with no overtime or night work.
- No discoveries will be made that require formal recordation or treatment beyond what can be accomplished by the monitors during the normal course of monitoring (i.e., no work diversions, formal test excavations, or large-scale salvage) or that require curation.

Task 2.4 Construction Monitoring for Initial Site Preparation

This task is limited to initial site preparation activities that involve mowing and work limit fence installation and which requires cultural resources monitoring compliance services. This task is scoped and budgeted separately from Task 2.1 and task 2.3, above.

In accordance with CR-1, Dudek will prepare and administer a worker sensitivity training to ensure that all construction personnel are trained to identify cultural resources that may be encountered during construction. The training will also outline procedures to follow in the event of a cultural resources discovery, including notification procedures. The training will be administered by the Qualified Archaeologist or an archaeologist working under their supervision and will be reiterated as necessary during morning tailboards. One formal in-person environmental training session is included in this scope of work, in addition to the 40-hours of monitoring described below. It is expected that the formal training session will be conducted during the Project's first day of work.

In accordance with CR-2, Dudek will provide a qualified archaeological monitor to be present on-site each day during brush clearances, vegetation removal, grubbing, and work limit fence installation. Dudek will subcontract with Red Tail Environmental to provide Kumeyaay Native American monitoring. Daily logs will be prepared by Dudek monitors detailing daily activities. Logs will be submitted digitally to Sweetwater Authority as part of the final report, or as otherwise requested. Dudek assumes that no more than 40 hours of monitoring by an archaeological monitor and Native American monitor (up to 8-hour days without overtime, plus drive time [which is estimated to be 1 hour]) will be required. If workdays are shorter than 8 hours, Dudek will bill the actual hours worked (RedTail Environmental has a 4-hour minimum charge). This scope also includes project management and scheduling coordination.

Per CR-2, upon completion of cultural resources monitoring, Dudek will prepare a monitoring report documenting all activities. This task is not included in this scope and instead, the initial site preparation activities will be included in the monitoring report that is being scoped in a separate monitoring proposal providing environmental compliance services for the Central Wheeler Tank and System Improvements Project involving the construction of

the water tank and associated water drainage and conveyance pipelines. However, this scope includes one weekly summary report of monitoring observations and data that will be provided upon the completion of the monitoring outlined herein.

Dudek assumes that no archaeological resources will be discovered that require formal documentation or evaluation during the initial site preparation activities. Should any discoveries be made that require formal documentation, evaluation, and/or data recovery, Dudek will work with Sweetwater Authority to develop an appropriate scope of work and cost based on the mitigation measures for the Project.

Task 1 Assumptions

- Dudek assumes that monitoring staff will be informed at least 48 hours before the start of each week (Monday) and at the end of each workday whether ground disturbing activities requiring construction monitoring, pursuant to the Project mitigation measures, will be occurring the next business day.
- No more than 40 hours of monitoring by a qualified archaeological monitor will be required. Should the monitoring schedule need to be adjusted, additional staff time will need to be authorized through a contract amendment to provide additional monitoring and coordination.
- No more than 40 hours of monitoring by a RedTail Environmental Native American monitor will be required to observe ground disturbance within sediments containing possible cultural resources. Should the monitoring schedule need to be adjusted, additional staff time will need to be authorized through a contract amendment to provide additional monitoring and coordination.
- If workdays are shorter than 8 hours, or fewer monitoring days are required, Dudek will bill the actual hours worked. Note: RedTail Environmental has a 4-hour minimum charge.
- Mileage is estimated from the Dudek Encinitas office to the Project site and will be billed at the 2025 federal mileage rate.
- No weekend or night work will be required.
- Dudek assumes a workday consists of up to 8 hours and work will occur Monday through Friday, with no overtime or night work.
- No discoveries will be made that require formal recordation or treatment beyond what can be accomplished by the monitors during the normal course of monitoring (i.e., no work diversions, formal test excavations, or large-scale salvage) or that require curation.

TASK 3 POST-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

A Dudek biologist will conduct a site visit upon the completion of construction to verify that all Project materials have been removed from the site and that temporary impact revegetation activities have been completed per the Project's Revegetation Plan. A brief memorandum will be provided for Sweetwater Authority's records.

Task 3 Deliverables

- Post-construction site visit memorandum in PDF format

TASK 4 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Dudek project team will perform staff coordination, Project setup and closure, budget and schedule maintenance, invoicing, task administration, and provide weekly survey and monitoring summary reports to Sweetwater Authority environmental staff.

TASK 5 REVEGETATION PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Dudek will prepare a brief 2-3-page memorandum that will serve as a Revegetation Plan that describes post-construction treatment for onsite mitigation of 0.14 acre of temporary impacts to non-native grasslands. The plan will include a description of Project impacts, the mitigation as outlined in the Project MND/MMRP, and the revegetation methodology and procedures. The plan will include a brief description of site preparation and hydroseed application including a seed mix, post-installation maintenance and qualitative monitoring. Performance standards that satisfy the Notice of Completion standards for the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be adopted in the revegetation plan. A Dudek habitat restoration specialist will conduct one site visit to review post-construction site conditions prior to plan preparation.

Task 5 Assumptions

- The plan will be reviewed and approved solely by SWA.
- The mitigation site will not be irrigated; however, we may recommend the use of a water truck to provide temporary irrigation water to the mitigation areas.
- All erosion control measures will be described in the SWPPP and implemented by the general contractor.
- No container planting is proposed for the revegetation Project.
- A draft plan will be submitted for review and comment by SWA. Following revisions, the plan will be finalized.

TASK 6 POST-CONSTRUCTION SITE REVEGETATION (OPTIONAL)

The Dudek project team will provide all labor, material, supplies and incidental items to implement the Revegetation Plan, as approved by SWA. We anticipate the work to include site preparation (performed by others), hydroseed installation, site maintenance (weed and erosion control) and monitoring for a period of 2-years post-construction. Maintenance visits will occur monthly for the first 6 months and then quarterly thereafter for the remainder of the 2-year period (6 additional visits). A total of 12 maintenance visits will be performed. Separately, Dudek will manually water the Project site on a weekly basis for the first two months following the completion of seed application. A total of 8 watering visits will be performed. Qualitative site visits will be conducted to monitor vegetation cover establishment, erosion, weeds growth, and other conditions that may impede reaching performance criteria. Site visits will occur on the same schedule as maintenance visits. A site observation report will be prepared after each site visit to describe and document site conditions and make recommendations if remedial actions are deemed necessary to reach performance standards.

Task 6 Assumptions

- The site will be manually watered with a water truck on a weekly basis for a period of two months.

- The seed mix will be a basic mix of commercially available native seeds not exceeding 30#/acre and composed of common annuals, grasses, and a limited number of coastal sage scrub species.
- There will be no local genetic seed requirements.
- Site preparation will be conducted by the general contractor including soil decompaction, weed removal, and stabilized slopes with temporary erosion control features such as fiber rolls.
- Standard soil amendments will be applied as part of the hydroseed slurry.
- The hydroseed slurry will include 2,500#/acre of wood fiber mulch and a guar gum tackifier (no bonded fiber matrix).
- Client will provide a point of connection (POC) for the water truck that is within a 10-minute commute from the Project site.
- Client will pay all water meter permit and usage fees.
- Client will conduct all regulatory agency coordination without support from Dudek.
- The final site observation report will serve as the final monitoring report for the Project.

Cost Summary

As summarized in the table below, a not-to-exceed cost of **\$183,182.30** is estimated to complete the outlined scope of work in Tasks 1 through 4. With Optional Tasks 5 and 6, a not-to-exceed cost of **\$224,627.30** is estimated to complete the outlined scope of work in Tasks 1 through 6. All work will be billed on a time and materials basis in accordance with the Agreement between Dudek and Sweetwater Authority for Professional On-Call Environmental Consulting Services.

Task Description	Cost
Task 1 – Information Gathering and Pre-Construction Surveys	
Task 1.1 – Information Gathering and Kickoff Meeting	\$1,773.60
Task 1.2 – Pre-Construction Nesting Bird and Raptor Survey	\$2,003.60
Task 1.3 – Pre-Construction California Gnatcatcher Survey	\$7,170.80
Task 1.4 – Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Surveys	\$3,072.20
Task 2 – Construction Monitoring per MMRP	
Task 2.1 – Worker Sensitivity Training	\$2,240.65
Task 2.2 – Weekly Nest Surveys	\$21,792.00
Task 2.3 – Archaeological/Paleontological/Native American Monitoring	\$125,490.70
Task 2.4 – Construction Monitoring Per MMRP	\$11,225.15
Task 3 – Post-Construction Activities	\$1,523.60
Task 4 – Project Management	\$6,890.00
Total Excluding Optional Tasks 5 and 6	\$183,182.30
Optional Task 5 – Revegetation Plan	\$3,570.00
Optional Task 6 – Post-Construction Site Revegetation	\$37,875.00
Total Including Optional Tasks 5 and 6	\$224,627.30

TO: JULIA VARNERGARDNER
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SERVICES FOR THE CENTRAL WHEELER TANK AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Sincerely,



Abby Bergsma
Environmental Compliance Manager

cc: *Vipul Joshi and Emily Seklecki, Dudek*
att: *Detailed Budget Spreadsheet*

Sweetwater Authority
 17035 (As Needed) - Central Wheeler Tank - Copy
 DUDEK FEE ESTIMATE
 1/27/2025

Dudek Labor Hours and Rates																			Subconsultant Fees							
Project Team Role:	Specialist IV	Specialist V	Specialist I	Specialist I	Assistant Biologist	Specialist III	Specialist I	Technician III	Analyst IV	Senior Specialist III	Analyst III	Specialist III	Analyst III	816 Foreman	Technician II	816 Foreman	GIS Analyst III	Publications Specialist II	TOTAL DUDEK HOURS	DUDEK LABOR COSTS	WEAP/Precon Attendance and Mileage - Red Tail Environmental		OTHER DIRECT COSTS	TOTAL FEE		
	Billable Rate:	\$200.00	\$210.00	\$165.00	\$155.00	\$110.00	\$195.00	\$150.00	\$95.00	\$120.00	\$265.00	\$110.00	\$195.00	\$195.00	\$195.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$130.00	\$120.00			Hours	Fee			
Task 1	Information Gathering and Pre-Construction Surveys																									
1.1	Information Gathering and Kickoff Meeting	2		8																10	\$1,720.00			\$53.60	\$1,773.60	
1.2	Pre-Construction Nesting Bird and Raptor Survey			2	8				1								2			13	\$1,950.00			\$53.60	\$2,003.60	
1.3	Pre-Construction California Gnatcatcher Survey		30	2													2	1		35	\$7,010.00			\$160.80	\$7,170.80	
1.4	Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey			2	9	9			1								1			22	\$2,965.00			\$107.20	\$3,072.20	
	Subtotal Task 1	2	30	14	17	9			2								5	1		80	\$13,645.00			\$375.20	\$14,020.20	
Task 2	Construction Monitoring Per MMRP																									
2.1	Worker Sensitivity Training			1	4		4	4												13	\$1,765.00	4	\$422.05	\$53.60	\$2,240.65	
2.2	Weekly Nest Surveys				48	112			8											168	\$20,720.00			\$1,072.00	\$21,792.00	
2.3	Archaeological/Paleontological/Native American Monitoring						24	28	593	8							2			655	\$66,435.00	858	\$55,464.50	\$3,591.20	\$125,490.70	
2.4	Construction Monitoring Per MMRP			6			2	6	45											59	\$6,555.00	45	\$4,283.75	\$386.40	\$11,225.15	
	Subtotal Task 2			7	52	112	26	38	642	16							2			895	\$95,475.00			\$5,038.40	\$160,748.50	
Task 3	Post-Construction Tasks																									
		10		4	4				1									1	1							
Task 4	Project Management																									
				20	2	8														40	\$6,890.00				\$6,890.00	
	Total Hours	12	30	45	69	125	28	46	642	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	0	1026		907				
	Total	\$2,400.00	\$6,300.00	\$7,425.00	\$10,695.00	\$13,750.00	\$5,460.00	\$6,900.00	\$60,990.00	\$2,280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00	\$240.00	\$0.00		\$117,480.00		\$60,812.86	\$5,467.20	\$183,182.30
	<i>Percent of Hours (Base)</i>	1%	3%	4%	7%	12%	3%	4%	63%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%							
Optional Services																										
Task 5	Revegetation Plan																									
		2								2	24															
Task 6	Post-Construction Site Revegetation																									
		8								6	40	8	8	72	60	60	8	2	0							
	Total Optional + Base Hours and Fee	22	30	45	69	125	28	46	642	19	8	64	8	72	60	60	8	2	0	1316	\$157,200.00	907	\$60,812.86	\$7,192.20	\$224,627.30	
	<i>Percent of Hours (Optional + Base)</i>	2%	2%	3%	5%	9%	2%	3%	49%	1%	1%	5%	1%	1%	5%	5%	1%	0%	0%							