

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Watershed Environmental, Inc.

Watershed Environmental is a small, innovative environmental consulting firm that is on the Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo County list of approved biological consultants. We specialize in the performance of biological assessments, botanical and wildlife surveys, biological mitigation design, habitat restoration, mitigation monitoring, wetland delineations, and wetland permitting. We are in the business of collecting and providing biological information and use Geographic Information System (GIS) technology as a tool for environmental impact assessment, environmental constraints analysis, mitigation design, biological inventory, and ecological and hydrologic modeling. The company routinely uses GIS to perform environmental analysis, understand and map complex spatial patterns, and model physical and ecological processes.

Since its inception in 1997, Watershed Environmental has provided biological consulting services to a variety of local government agencies, private corporations, nonprofit organizations, and individual property owners. The majority of our business is local within Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties and comes from past, and current, client referrals.

Watershed Environmental, Inc. is located in Orcutt, California and is owned and operated by Mark de la Garza. Mark has been working in the environmental consulting industry since 1988 when he graduated from UCSB with a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies. He returned to UCSB in 1999 to attend graduate school, receiving a Masters in Environmental Science and Management (MESM) from the prestigious Bren School. For more information on Watershed Environmental's qualifications or to download employee resumes, please visit our website at www.WatershedEnvironmental.com.

Botanical/Wildlife Surveys

Mark de la Garza has been performing botanical and wildlife surveys for common, rare, and state and federally endangered and threatened species in California for over two decades (since 1988). He is very experienced and knowledgeable of the local flora and fauna that exists within the tri-county region, the different ecotones, plant community, vegetation associations, and wildlife habitat types. Mark is a trained botanist, plant ecologist, and wetland scientist. He routinely performs surveys for rare, threatened, and endangered plants and delineates wetlands. Mark routinely performs general wildlife surveys, but in projects requiring a handling permit or the performance of protocol level surveys for threatened or endangered wildlife species, Watershed Environmental will bring in a qualified expert with the necessary handling permits to perform listed wildlife species surveys. Mark routinely works with Paul Collins from the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum when a project requires expertise with a particular listed wildlife species such as the San Joaquin Kit Fox, Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat, California Tiger Salamander, California Red-Legged Frog, or Steelhead Trout.

Mark also has extensive experience assessing potential biological impacts to plants, wildlife, and their habitats, and preparing technical reports per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA), and per local government guidelines and standards. He is experienced in working with his clients to avoid biological impacts when possible via project design, and in recommending and designing biological mitigation measures to reduce project impacts to acceptable levels and to ensure project consistency with federal, state, local biological resource protection policies and guidelines. Mark has participated in the CEQA, and NEPA required public environmental review process of new projects as an expert field biologist, and routinely provides testimony to local government agencies such as city councils, and county board of supervisors hearings regarding potential biological impacts, mitigation design and effectiveness, mitigation

monitoring, and project specific conditions necessary to ensure long and short-term protection of biological resources, and project consistency with local ordinances and state and federal environmental laws including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Fish and Game Code, and California Coast Act.

Wetland Surveys

Mark de la Garza is a formally trained and experienced wetland delineator and wetland scientist who has worked in a variety of wetland habitat types including: saltwater, brackish, and freshwater marshes; riparian scrub, woodland and forest; and vernal pools, swales, and seeps. He has taken a 40-hour training course on wetland delineation surveys using the ACOE 1987 *Wetland Delineation Manual*. In addition, he has completed a 40-hour advanced hydric soils wetland delineation training course. He is a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists, and has taken a 3-day long course taught by Mary Belk in the identification of fairy shrimp. Mark is currently working on obtaining certification from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to perform surveys for federally endangered and threatened fairy shrimp. The wetland training courses taken by Mark were taught by nationally recognized wetland scientists/experts affiliated with the Wetland Training Institute.

Wetland delineation surveys performed by Mark are done in accordance with the methods and procedures described in ACOE's *Wetland Delineation Manual* "Technical Report Y-87-1" (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, Arid West Region* "Technical Report ERDC/EL TR-06-16" (Environmental Laboratory 2006). Wetland surveys are typically performed in the spring (March-May) but may be performed at other times of the year, depending on type of wetland being surveyed, and the wetland plant phenology in the area being surveyed.

The purpose of wetland delineation surveys is typically to: 1) determine the presence and/or absence of state and federally regulated wetlands, 2) map extent (boundary) of state and federally regulated wetlands, and 3) identify the amount of permanent and temporary project related potential impacts to wetlands. Wetland delineation surveys are typically required by the state (California Department of Fish and Game, California Regional Water Quality Control Board) and federal (US Army Corps of Engineers) regulatory agencies prior to the issuance of permits authorizing work within river, stream, lake, or wetland.

Geographic Information System and Cartography

Watershed Environmental is a full service GIS company, we have experience using GIS to conduct complex geospatial analysis of habitat suitability for sensitive wildlife and botanical resources, watershed analysis, environmental constraints, habitat preservation/conservation modeling, public trail routing and feasibility, as well as creating maps and figures for the various reports we prepare. After completing surveys and field mapping, we typically convert the data collected in the field into a digital format and input the biological survey data into our GIS database. The GIS database is created using ArcView GIS software, and we typically create these databases so that they are fully compatible with our clients databases and with other state and locally maintained GIS database files. Upon completion of a project, we frequently provide the GIS data and metadata (meeting the Federal Geographic Data Committee [FGDC] metadata standards) we have created to the local permitting agency and to our clients engineering and architects firms.

The GIS work we perform is done in house by our GIS analyst/cartographer Melodee Hickman. Melodee has a M.A. in Geography from UCSB. Her responsibilities typically include compiling existing previously mapped analog and digital data, building a project-specific GIS database, creating the base maps for biological field surveys, inputting the mapped field data into the GIS database, generating map statistics (size of areas mapped and potentially impacted), performing constraints analysis, and creating maps and figures for technical reports and public presentations.

CLIENT REFERENCES

Project: *Dahlia Court Expansion Wetland Delineation (2009)*

Tasks: Wetland delineation survey to identify state and federally regulated wetlands

Client: Peoples' Self-Help Housing Corporation, 3533 Empleo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Contact: Kenneth Trigueiro, Director of Rental Housing Development (805) 783-4475

Project: *Westmont College Master Plan Update Phase 1 Riparian Enhancement Plan (2008)*

Tasks: Preparation of an habitat restoration/enhancement plan for a 7.5 acre oak woodland riparian habitat area on the Westmont College Campus, oversight of enhancement efforts, and long-term monitoring.

Client: Westmont College, 955 La Paz Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Contact: Randy Jones Director of Campus Planning, (805) 565-7048

Project: *Kalorama Drainage, San Buenaventura State Beach Biological Assessment (2007)*

Tasks: Biological Assessment and Impact Assessment per CEQA guidelines

Client: Venoco Inc., 6267 Carpinteria Ave., Suite 100, Carpinteria, CA 93013

Contact: Chris Fox, Sr. Engineering Manager at Venoco Captinteria (805) 745-2100

Project: *Pismo Medical Plaza, Biological Assessment and Wetland Delineation (2007)*

Tasks: Biological Assessment and Impact Assessment per CEQA guidelines and Delineation of state and federally regulated wetlands

Client: Inland Pacific Builders, 2049 Preisker Lane #E, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Contact: Randy Alonzo, Project Manager (805) 614-9799

Project: *Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan, Biological Resources Mapping Phase I Vegetative Resources (2004)*

Tasks: Vegetation mapping, identification of environmentally sensitive habitat

Client: County of Santa Barbara, 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Contact: Julie Harris, Sr. Planner (805) 568-3518

AGENCY REFERENCES

Melissa Mooney Biologist for the County of Santa Barbara, 624 West Foster Road Santa Maria, CA 93455-3623 (805) 934-6587

Matthew Vandersande Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division, 2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 110, Ventura, CA 93001 (805) 585-2151

Natasha Lohmus Resource Specialist California Department of Fish and Game, 1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9, Santa Barbara California, 93109 (805) 684-6281

Dominic Roques Clean Water Act Section 401 Program Coordinator Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 542-4780

Jackie Campbell Community Development Director City of Carpinteria, CA 93013 (805) 684-5405

Alan Hanson Senior Planner City of Goleta, 130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta, California 93117 (805) 961-7549

Kathy Fry Natural Areas Planner, City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation, Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102 (805) 897-1976