

Mark de la Garza

Environmental Scientist/Ecologist

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EDUCATION

1998 MESM: Environmental Science and Management, Ecology Emphasis
University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB)

1987 BA: Environmental Studies
University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB)

RECENT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Biological Surveys and Impact Assessment

Biological Assessment, Elings Park Phase III Improvement Plan (2009).

Report submitted to City of Santa Barbara Planning Department.

Performance of flora and fauna surveys, vegetation mapping, delineation of wetlands, and preparation of a biological assessment report describing the survey methods, results and assessment of potential biological impacts from the proposed Elings Park improvements, and recommendations for mitigation of biological impacts.

Biological Assessment, Capone Residence, Santa Ynez Valley, CA (2009)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development.

Performance of flora and fauna surveys, vegetation mapping, native grassland vegetation sampling, and preparation of a biological assessment report describing the survey methods, results and assessment of potential biological impacts from the proposed development of a new single family residence, and recommendations for mitigation of biological impacts.

Biological Assessment, Foothill Centre, Santa Barbara, CA (2009)

Report submitted to City of Santa Barbara Planning Department.

Performance of flora and fauna surveys, vegetation mapping, and preparation of a biological assessment report describing the survey methods, results and potential biological impacts from the proposed development of a commercial shopping center, and recommendations for mitigation of biological impacts.

Biological Assessment, Inn at Mattei's Tavern, Los Olivos, CA (2009)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development.

Performance of flora and fauna surveys, vegetation mapping, and assessment of potential biological impacts from the proposed development of a new hotel and recommendations of mitigation of biological impacts.

Biological Assessment, Parma Park Improvements, Santa Barbara, CA (2008)

Report submitted to City of Santa Barbara Parks and Planning Departments.

Performance of flora and fauna surveys, vegetation mapping, and assessment of potential biological impacts from the proposed park improvements to increase equestrian and handicap access and recommendations of mitigation of biological impacts.

Wetland Surveys, Delineation and Permitting

Wetland Delineation, Creekside Village Apartments, Los Alamos, CA (2009)
Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development and ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB for wetland permits.
Performance of vegetation, soil, and hydrology field surveys to identify the location and extent of state and federally regulated wetlands on a 5-acre parcel where construction of new apartments is proposed, and the preparation of a report identifying temporary and permanent project impacts to wetlands.

Wetland Delineation, Dahlia Court Expansion, Carpinteria, CA (2009)
Report submitted to City of Carpinteria Planning Department.
Performance of vegetation, soil, and hydrology field surveys to identify the location and extent of state and federally regulated wetlands on a 2-acre area, where construction of new apartments is proposed, and the preparation of a report identifying temporary and permanent project impacts to wetlands.

Biological Assessment & Wetland Delineation, Village at Los Carneros Project Phase II, Goleta, CA (2008)
Report submitted to City of Goleta Planning Department and ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB for wetland permits.
Performance of vegetation, soil, and hydrology field surveys to identify the location and extent of state and federally regulated wetlands on a 27-acre area, where construction of new condominiums, and single family homes is proposed, and the preparation of a report identifying temporary and permanent project impacts to wetlands.

Wetland Delineation, Alisal Golf Course, Solvang, CA (2007)
Report submitted to City of Solvang Planning Department and ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB for wetland permits.
Performance of vegetation, soil, and hydrology field surveys to identify the location and extent of state and federally regulated wetlands along portions of Alisal Creek, where creek bank stabilization was proposed, and the preparation of a report identifying temporary and permanent project impacts to wetlands.

Habitat Restoration and Revegetation

Riparian Enhancement Plan, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA (2008)
Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development and to ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB for wetland permits.
Plan describes the actions to be taken within a 7.5 acre area to remove non-native vegetation, and re-vegetate riparian oak woodland habitat with native riparian vegetation. Plan also describes monitoring and reporting methods, interim goals and success criteria. Enhancement work is in progress. Site preparation and installation of new plant materials is scheduled to be completed in 2013, and monitoring and reporting is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

Oak Woodland Mitigation/Enhancement Plan, Llano Avenue, Hope Ranch, CA (2008)
Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development.
Plan describes the actions to be taken within a 10,000 square foot area to remove non-native vegetation, and re-vegetate riparian oak woodland habitat with native riparian vegetation. Plan also describes monitoring and reporting methods, interim goals and success criteria. Mitigation/Enhancement work is in progress. Site

preparation and installation of new plant materials was performed in 2009 and monitoring and reporting is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Habitat Restoration Plan, Gaviota Holding, Santa Barbara, CA (2008)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Plan describes the methods that will be used to restore 4.13 acres of coastal sage scrub, 4.62 acres of native grassland, 0.79 acre of Eucalyptus Woodland, and 4.82 acres of non-native annual grassland habitat. Plan also describes monitoring and reporting methods, interim goals and success criteria. Restoration work is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2010, and monitoring and reporting is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

Wetland Mitigation Plan, Preserve at San Marcos Project, Santa Barbara, CA (2006)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development and to ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB for wetland permits. Plan describes the actions to be taken within a 0.6 acre area to create vernal freshwater marsh habitat, and actions to be taken to enhance 1.32 acres of riparian woodland habitat. Plan also describes monitoring and reporting methods, interim goals and success criteria. Wetland mitigation and enhancement work is in progress. Site preparation and installation of new plant materials was performed in 2008 and monitoring and reporting is ongoing and scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Native Grassland Restoration Plan, Preserve at San Marcos Santa Barbara, CA (2006)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Plan describes the methods to be used to create 18.34 acres of native perennial native grassland habitat. Plan also describes monitoring and reporting methods, interim goals and success criteria. Native grassland work is in progress. Site preparation and installation of new plant materials began in 2008 and is ongoing. Mitigation monitoring and reporting is also ongoing. The anticipated completion date for this project is 2015.

Coastal Sage Scrub Mitigation Plan, Preserve at San Marcos, Santa Barbara, CA (2006)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Plan describes the methods to be used to create 6.04 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat. Plan also describes monitoring and reporting methods, interim goals and success criteria. Coastal sage scrub mitigation site preparation and installation of new plant materials was performed in 2007 and 2008. Mitigation monitoring and reporting is ongoing and is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

Mitigation Monitoring/ Open Space Management Plans

Casa Dorinda Open Space Management Plan, Montecito, CA (2009)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Management plan provides an annual monitoring schedule and treatment plan for the management of invasive exotic vegetation within the 18.5-acre Casa Dorinda open space area. It also provides a description of current (as of September 2008) vegetation conditions with vegetation maps and prioritizes the management of invasive exotic vegetation based on the feasibility and ultimate benefit to the riparian and oak woodland habitat present in the open space area.

Environmental Quality Assurance Program, Westmont College Master Plan, Santa Barbara, CA (2008)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Plan describes the methods to be used to monitor and document project compliance with required mitigation measures prior to and during construction of the Westmont College expansion/improvements. Monitoring is ongoing and began in 2009, and is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Open Space Management Plan, Preserve at San Marcos, Santa Barbara, CA (2006)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Plan describes environmental resource protection measures, land use activities, and management actions to be taken in a 126.36-acre open space conservation area. Plan includes a description of biological resources within the open space area, management actions to control non-native species and reduce erosion, as well as integrated pest management, landscape screening, cultural resource protection, fuel management activities, and allowable public and private uses.

Open Space and Habitat Management Plan, Santa Barbara Ranch, CA (2006)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Plan describes environmental resource protection measures, land use activities, and management actions to be taken in an 800-acre open space reserve. Plan includes a description of biological resources within the open space area, management actions to preserve native plant communities and wildlife habitat and control non-native species and reduce erosion, as well as cultural resource protection, fuel management activities, and allowable public and private uses.

Environmental Quality Assurance Program, Preserve at San Marcos, Santa Barbara, CA (2006)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. Plan describes the methods to be used to monitor and document project compliance with required mitigation measures prior to and during construction of the Preserve at San Marcos residential development project. Monitoring was performed in 2007-08 and will resume when the second phase of construction begins.

Constraints Analysis and Geospatial Modeling

Environmental Constraints Analysis Preserve at San Marcos Project, Santa Barbara, CA (2005)

Report submitted to Bermant Development Company, Santa Barbara, CA and presented to Santa Barbara County Planning Commission at a public hearing. Environmental constraints analyzed within a 377-acre area zoned for residential development. Constraints analyzed included plant community types, slopes, wetlands, soils, cultural resources, geological faults, and sensitive biological resources and habitats. Purpose was to site proposed new residential development in appropriate areas and identify sites which should be preserved in perpetuity as open space.

Rural Resource Protection Project Sensitive Biological Resources Inventory (2003)
Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara comprehensive planning department.

Sensitive species habitat mapping and modeling over a 1,200+ square-mile study area. Specific tasks included: (1) Modeling the potential distribution of 56 species of plants and animals by combining wildlife-habitat relationships and local expert opinion; (2) Modeling land suitability for agricultural expansion; (3) Predicting land-use threats to species; and (4) Selecting areas for incorporation in a permit-based environmental protection program using heuristic reserve location techniques. The selection strategies utilized the SITE heuristic model, balancing species representation and spatial configuration.

Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan Biological Resources Mapping Phase 1 Vegetative Resources (2003)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Comprehensive Planning. Field survey and mapping of vegetation communities and land cover types within a 29-sq. mi. study area, and preparation of a technical report and a digital database, describing and depicting the vegetation communities and land cover types. The primary focus of this mapping was to identify and map vegetation communities and environmentally sensitive habitats within the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan planning area.

Gerber Fee Trail Feasibility Stud, Santa Barbara County Parks, CA (2000)

Report submitted to County of Santa Barbara Parks. Constructed a GIS database and used a least cost path (constraints) analysis to determine suitability of proposed public trail alignment from Jalama Beach to Point Conception.

PUBLICATIONS

De la Garza, M. 2007. *An Analysis of Policy-Driven Native Grassland Protection in Santa Barbara County, California*. Grassland Journal. California Native Grasslands Association. Woodland California.

Pyke, C. R.; de la Garza, M.; Bierwagen, B.; Wild, C.; Harris, J.; and Merrick, J. 2003. *The Long Canyon Vernal Pool Complex of the UC Sedgwick Ranch Reserve*. *Madroño* Vol 50:147–161. California Botanical Society: Berkley, California.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS/AFFILIATIONS

- Society of Wetland Scientists, since 2006
- National Wetland Science Training Cooperative, Hydrogeomorphic Wetland Assessment Training, 2001
- Wetland Training Institute, ACOE Wetland Delineator 404 Certification Program, 1994
- Wetland Training Institute, Advanced Hydric Soils Wetland Delineation 404 Certification Program, 2006
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, since 1992
- California Native Plant Society, since 1990