

**Draft Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for
the Endangered California Tiger Salamander and
the Threatened California Red Legged Frog**

**Southern California Gas Company
Line 1010 Pipeline Integrity Anomaly Inspection Project**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) has applied for a permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 153101544, 87 Stat. 884), from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) for the incidental take of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*; CTS; federally endangered (Santa Barbara County), California threatened) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*; CRLF; federally threatened). The potential taking would occur incidental to implementation of the Line 1010 Pipeline Integrity Anomaly Inspection Project (Project).

The Project is located along the State Highway 246 corridor, between Buellton and Lompoc, in northern Santa Barbara County. The Project involves excavation of a natural gas pipeline at four locations to inspect, and repair the pipeline if deemed necessary upon completion of the inspection. Two dig locations are located within close proximity to known CTS/CRLF breeding pools adjacent to State Highway 246. All four dig locations are located within suitable upland habitat for CTS, and two of the dig locations are also located in suitable upland dispersal habitat for CRLF. CTS and CRLF impacts will be limited to approximately 1.04 acres of combined upland habitat. No work will be conducted in any streams, drainages, riparian areas, wetlands, or other aquatic features.

The conservation program identified in this HCP includes appropriate pre-construction, construction, and post construction avoidance and minimization measures for CTS and CRLF. Additionally, offsite compensation (via in-lieu fee contribution) will occur to fully mitigate temporary impacts to upland habitat and any impacts of taking CTS and CRLF as a result of the project.

Section 1: Introduction and Background

1.1 OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

This HCP is intended to provide the basis for issuance of an ITP for the take of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*; CTS; federally endangered, California threatened) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*; CRLF; federally threatened) that may result from the implementation of the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) Line 1010 Post In-line Inspection (ILI) Anomaly/Validation Digs project (Project) located in Santa Barbara County, California. Internal inspection of Line 1010 has identified 16 anomalies in the pipeline section inspected, four of which fall within the range of the CTS and CRLF that warrant excavation for inspection, and if necessary, repair. The project purpose and need is to inspect and repair as needed the identified anomalies to ensure pipeline integrity and comply with rules and regulations related to pipeline safety. Specifically, the project shall comply with the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 and all state and federal regulations promulgated since that time and after the events associated with the PG&E pipeline rupture in San Bruno, California. Surveys and literature review conducted in 2014 and 2015 identified the presence of suitable habitat for the California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog within the four anomaly inspection areas.

This HCP has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

1.2 PERMIT HOLDER/PERMIT DURATION

SoCalGas requests an incidental take permit to cover take of the CTS and CRLF commencing on the date of permit issuance. Sarah Towne, Project Manager is the point of contact at the SoCalGas for this project. She can be contacted via mail at 9400 Oakdale Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311-6511, or via telephone (work) at (818) 701-3286, via fax (323) 518-2380, via cell phone (818-358-5449, or via email at SRTowne@SempraUtilities.com).

Although project construction is expected to be completed within a one-year period, issuance of local permits, availability of funds needed for construction of the project, as well as seasonal constraints on excavation or construction activities may delay project initiation following issuance of the incidental take permit. For these reasons, a permit duration of five (5) years is requested to allow for flexibility and ensure that all of the covered activities will be completed during the term of the incidental take permit.

1.3 PERMIT BOUNDARY/COVERED LANDS

The SoCalGas Line 1010 is a 16-inch diameter, high-pressure natural gas pipeline that transports natural gas from Gaviota Station in Gaviota, California to Divide Station near Orcutt, California. Sixteen anomalies were found within the inspected section of Line 1010, four of which are located between Lompoc and Buellton in northern Santa Barbara County.

Inspection Digs 10 and 11:

Digs 10 and 11 are located within SoCalGas ROW on private property just north of Highway 246, approximately 7.75 miles west of Highway 101. These digs are located along the Highway 246 corridor within the Santa Rita Valley. The plan area covers the areas required for excavation, staging, repair, and access as described in Section 4 and shown on Figures 4 and 5. Digs 10 and 11 are located immediately

adjacent to the highway ROW and are approximately 0.2 miles south of the intersection of Highway 246 and Campbell Road. The access road is located directly off of Campbell road as shown on Figure 4.

Inspection Digs 13 and 14:

Digs 13 and 14 are located within SoCalGas ROW on private property off of Gypsy Canyon Road approximately 2.4 miles north of Highway 246, 10.75 miles west of Buellton. These digs are located within the Purisma Hills north of the Santa Rita Valley. The plan area covers the areas required for excavation, staging, repair, and access as described in Section 4 and shown on Figures 6 and 7. Digs 13 and 14 are located in a rural ranch area. The access roads are located directly off of Gypsy Canyon Road as shown on Figure 6.

The latitude and longitude of the inspection dig sites are shown below and attached Figures 1 and 2 provide regional and vicinity location maps of the four digs.

Line 1010 Anomaly Dig Latitude/Longitude Locations (decimal degree):

- Dig 10 34.650441 / -120.310754
- Dig 11 34.650650 / -120.311154
- Dig 13 34.696684 / -120.350982
- Dig 14 34.696684 / -120.350982

1.4 SPECIES TO BE COVERED BY PERMIT

The following species are referred to as "covered species" related to the Incidental Take Permit:

Table 1-1. Covered Species

Covered Species	Federal /State Status
California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>)	Endangered (Santa Barbara County)/Threatened
California red-legged frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>)	Threatened/Species of Special Concern

1.5 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This section discusses the various federal, state, and local environmental laws and ordinances that this Project may need to comply with to receive its necessary permits.

1.5.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and Federal regulation pursuant to section 4(d) of the Act prohibit the take of endangered and threatened species, respectively, without special exemption. Take is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Harm in the definition of "take" in the Act means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering. Harass is defined by the USFWS as intentional or negligent actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but

are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Incidental take is defined as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity.

Pursuant to section 11(a) and (b) of the Act, any person who knowingly violates this section 9 of the Act or any permit, certificate, or regulation related to section 9, may be subject to civil penalties of up to \$25,000 for each violation or criminal penalties up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year.

Individuals and State and local agencies proposing an action that is expected to result in the take of federally listed species are encouraged to apply for an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act to be in compliance with the law. An application for an incidental take permit must be accompanied by a habitat conservation plan, commonly referred to as an HCP. Such permits are issued by the Service when take is not the intention of and is incidental to otherwise legal activities, and the HCP and applicant meet the permit issuance criteria (Section 10(a)(2)(B)).

Section 7 of the Act requires Federal agencies to ensure that their actions, including issuing permits, do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify listed species' critical habitat. "Jeopardize the continued existence of..." pursuant to 50 CFR 402.2, means to engage in an action that reasonably would be expected, directly or indirectly, to reduce appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of a listed species in the wild by reducing the reproduction, numbers, or distribution of that species. Issuance of an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act by the Service is a Federal action subject to section 7 of the Act. As a Federal agency issuing a discretionary permit, the Service is required to consult with itself (i.e., conduct an internal consultation). Delivery of the HCP and a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit application initiates the section 7 consultation process within the Service.

The requirements of section 7 and section 10 substantially overlap. Elements unique to section 7 include analyses of impacts on designated critical habitat, analyses of impacts on listed plant species, if any, and analyses of cumulative effects on listed species. Under section 7, cumulative effects are effects of future State or private actions, not involving Federal activities, which are reasonably certain to occur in the action area. The action area is defined by the influence of direct and indirect impacts of covered activities. The action area may or may not be solely contained within the HCP boundary. These additional analyses are included in this HCP to assist the Service with its internal consultation.

1.5.2 The Section 10(a)(1)(B) Process - Habitat Conservation Plan Requirements and Guidelines

The Section 10(a)(1)(B) process for obtaining an incidental take permit has three primary phases: (1) the HCP development phase; (2) the formal permit processing phase; and (3) the post-issuance phase. During the HCP development phase, the project applicant prepares a plan that integrates the proposed project or activity with the protection of listed species. An HCP submitted in support of an incidental take permit application must include the following information:

- impacts likely to result from the proposed taking of the species for which permit coverage is requested;
- measures that will be implemented to monitor, minimize, and mitigate impacts; funding that will be made available to undertake such measures; and procedures to deal with unforeseen circumstances;
- alternative actions to the proposed taking considered and the reasons why such alternatives are not being implemented; and
- additional measures the Service may require as necessary or appropriate for purposes of the plan.

The HCP development phase concludes and the permit processing phase begins when a complete application package is submitted to the appropriate permit-issuing office. A complete application package consists of 1) an HCP, 2) an Implementing Agreement (IA) if applicable, 3) a permit application, and 4) a \$100 fee from the applicant. The Service must also publish a Notice of Availability of the HCP package in the Federal Register to allow for public comment. The Service also prepares an Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Opinion; and prepare a Set of Findings, which evaluates the Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit application as in the context of permit issuance criteria (see below). An Environmental Action Statement, Environmental Assessment, or Environmental Impact Statement serves as the Service's record of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which has gone out for a 30-day, 60-day, or 90-day public comment period. A Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit is granted upon a determination by the Service that all requirements for permit issuance have been met. Statutory criteria for issuance of the permit specify that:

- the taking will be incidental;
- the impacts of incidental take will be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable;
- adequate funding for the HCP and procedures to handle unforeseen circumstances will be provided;
- the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the species in the wild;
- the applicant will provide additional measures that the Service requires as being necessary or appropriate; and
- the Service has received assurances, as may be required, that the HCP will be implemented.

During the post-issuance phase, the Permittee and other responsible entities implement the HCP, and the Service monitors the Permittee's compliance with the HCP as well as the long-term progress and success of the HCP. The public is notified of permit issuance by means of the Federal Register.

1.5.3 National Environmental Policy Act

The purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is two-fold: to ensure that Federal agencies examine environmental impacts of their actions (in this case deciding whether to issue an incidental take permit) and to utilize public participation. NEPA serves as an analytical tool on direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project alternatives to help the Service decide whether to issue an incidental take permit (ITP or section 10(a)(1)(B) permit). NEPA analysis must be done by the Service for each HCP as part of the incidental take permit application process. In contrast with the analysis of cumulative impacts under section 7 of the Act, NEPA analysis of cumulative impacts account for incremental impacts of the action on the environment when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. The geographic area for analysis may be defined by the manifestation of direct or indirect impacts as a result of covered activities.

1.5.4 National Historic Preservation Act

All Federal agencies are required to examine the cultural impacts of their actions (e.g. issuance of a permit). This may require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and appropriate American Indian tribes. All incidental take permit applicants are requested to submit a Request for Cultural Resources Compliance form to the Service. To complete compliance, the applicants may be required to contract for cultural resource surveys and possibly mitigation.

A cultural resource study has been completed for the project (Sapphos, May 2015), and has been provided to the USFWS and CDFW for review under separate cover. Results of this study indicated that no cultural resources have been identified within the plan area, and no new resources were identified during the study. The plan area has been heavily altered by construction (heavy grading and excavation) of the existing pipeline and access roads. The potential for intact, subsurface material is low.

1.5.5 California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) provides for the designation of native species or subspecies of fish, wildlife, and plants as endangered or threatened (CESA Sections 2062-2067). However, insects are specifically excluded as a type of animal that may be designated as endangered or threatened species. The CTS is listed under CESA. The CRLF is recognized as a species of special concern rather than endangered or threatened under the CESA. Since one of the covered species treated in this HCP is listed as threatened species by the CESA, this HCP will address CESA permitting requirements to allow the State of California to authorize the proposed activities pursuant to CESA Section 2081 (Incidental Take Permit) or Section 2081.1 (Consistency Determination).

1.5.6 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA requires state and local governmental agencies to complete an environmental review of discretionary projects that might impact environmental resources. CEQA differs from NEPA in that it requires that a project's significant environmental impacts be reduced to a less than significant level through the adoption of feasible avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures unless overriding considerations are identified and documented. With regard to wildlife and

plants, those that are already listed by any State or Federal governmental agency are presumed to be endangered for the purposes of CEQA (Section 15380) and impacts to such species and their habitats may be considered significant. The project presented in this HCP is consistent with CEQA Statutory exemption 15284, Pipelines.

Section 2: Project Description/Activities Covered By Permit

2.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Internal inspection of Line 1010 has identified four anomalies in the pipeline that warrant inspection, and if necessary, repair that fall within the range with suitable habitat of the CTS and CRLF. Figure 3 provides a regional CTS known and potential breeding pond map showing the project dig sites to be within 2,200 feet of known breeding pools. The project purpose and need is to inspect and repair the identified anomalies to ensure pipeline integrity and comply with rules and regulations related to pipeline safety. Specifically, the project shall comply with the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 and all state and federal regulations promulgated since that time and after the events associated with the PG&E pipeline rupture in San Bruno, California.

The project will involve accessing and excavating the four anomalies identified during the internal inspection of Line 1010. The project may require heavy equipment (water truck, excavator, back hoe, loader, flatbed trailer), and welding rigs, pickup trucks, portable restroom and ancillary equipment in order to access and excavate the dig locations. Fire suppression equipment will also be on site in the form of water truck, water buffalo and/or hand pump spray units. Up to 80 linear feet of excavation along the pipeline ROW from 10 to 20 feet wide around the anomaly locations may be required (up to 1600 square feet of disturbance per dig location). Approximately 0.5 acre of equipment and materials staging and laydown area would also be required for Digs 10 and 11 within annual grassland grazing lands. Staging for Digs 13 and 14 will be located within a developed corral and agriculture facility that is adjacent to a rural home site. All ground disturbance would be temporary. Each dig will take approximately two weeks to complete. Activities for Digs 10 and 11 that are close together may overlap to lessen the total two weeks per dig estimate. Dig 14 may take an additional week given the vegetation clearing needed to access the dig. Total duration of covered activities is estimated to be 16 weeks if no delays are experienced between digs. Refer to Table 2-1 for a summary of the project description / covered activities.

To the extent practical, project activities will be scheduled to occur during daylight hours, and during the dry season from May 1 to October 15. Depending on timing of final permit issuance (including CalTrans, USFWS, and CDFW) and type of repair mandated by the CPUC after the initial pipeline inspection, repairs may need to occur during the rainy season or during nighttime hours to ensure compliance with pipeline safety regulations. Avoidance and Minimization Measures have been proposed in Section 5 to address potential impacts associated with rainy season/nighttime work. If needed, nighttime work would likely be needed for up to one night per dig. Activities that occur during the rainy season could cause greater impacts to CTS and CRLF than activities during the dry season, because the species are typically more active during the rainy season. If covered activities must occur during the rainy season, SoCal Gas will not work during rain events, 48 hours prior to significant rain events (>0.5 inch), or during the 48 hours after these events.

Dig 10 and Dig 11 are located in a patch of coyote brush between Highway 246 and a grassland and agricultural field. Access to both digs would be from an existing ranch road. The digs are located within an approximately 375 foot area between two known CTS breeding pools (LOAL-2e and LOAL-2w). Pool LOALw is also a known CRLF pond per the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, 09/2014). One staging/laydown area for both digs of approximately 0.5 acre would be needed in the grassland/pasture

area immediately north of the digs. Staging for Digs 10 and 11 will be within grazed annual grassland that shows evidence of recent disking, and is immediately adjacent to the excavation areas and LOAL-2w. Access will be provided via approximately 1,400 linear feet of existing dirt ranch road off of Campbell road (no grading/veg clearing required). Figures 4 and 5 provide a detailed view of the Dig 10, Dig 11, and staging area locations. The two excavation areas may total 0.07 acres (80'X20' or 1,600 s.f. per dig), and are contained within the footprint of proposed 0.5 acre staging area.

Dig 13 is located in a grassland area on a hillside terrace immediately west of an unnamed blueline drainage that is west of the ranch residence and farm complex. Access to dig 13 will be from an existing ranch road from the farm residence off Gypsy Canyon Road. Dig 13 is approximately 200 feet southeast of potential CTS breeding pool LOAL-49, and within 2,200 feet from known CTS breeding pools LOAL-34, LOAL-35, and LOAL-36 (Figures 6 and 7). Staging for Dig 13 (and 14) will be within a developed corral and agriculture facility that is adjacent to a rural home site. This proposed staging area is not considered suitable upland refuge habitat for CTS or CRLF. The excavation area may total 0.04 acres (80'X20' or 1,600 s.f.), and extends from the existing access road.

Dig 14 is located in dense coastal scrub habitat on the top of a hill east of the farm residence/complex. Access will be from an existing ranch road off of Gypsy Canyon Road and a cleared path in the scrub habitat (Figure 8). Shrubs will be cut to ground level for equipment access to minimize ground disturbance and to allow the vegetation to regrow. The staging/laydown for dig 14 will be the same as for Dig 13 in the developed ranch complex area as shown on Figures 6 and 7. Dig 14 is located within 2,200 feet of three known and three potential CTS breeding pools (Figure 3). The excavation area may total 0.04 acres (80'X20' or 1,600 s.f.), and vegetation clearing along approximately 1,750 linear feet of existing access road and 250 linear feet of existing ROW will be required. Figure 8 provides a detailed view of Dig 14.

Table 2-1. Project Description / Covered Activities Summary Table

Dig ID	Dig Description	Access Route	Staging Area	Habitat Suitability
Dig 10	Along edge of coyote brush scrub within Highway road ROW and adjacent grazing lands. Dig is within 100' of known CTS breeding pool LOAL-2w and 280 feet of known CTS breeding pool LOAL-2e. Excavation will be up to 20'X80'. Dig will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Will require removal of approximately 6 coyote brush shrubs. Disturbance footprint will be within 0.5 acre staging area.	Access will be via approximately 1,400'X10' of existing ranch road just north of LOAL-2w off of Campbell road as shown on Figure 4. Access road to be shared for digs 10 and 11. No vegetation clearing required.	Staging to be located within 0.5 acres of existing grazed pasture lands adjacent to dig. Staging to be shared for digs 10 and 11.	Based on topography and close proximity to known breeding pool access route, staging, and dig area is considered moderate to high quality CTS/CRLF movement habitat and has low to moderate value for refuge due to minimal amount of small mammal burrows or other manmade refuge in footprint, and evidence of disking.
Dig 11	Along edge of coyote brush scrub within Highway road ROW and adjacent grazing lands. Dig is within 250' of known CTS breeding pool LOAL-2w and 280 feet of known CTS breeding pool LOAL-2e. Excavation will be up to 20'X80'. Dig will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Will require removal of approximately 6 coyote			

	brush shrubs. Disturbance footprint will be within 0.5 acre staging area.			
Dig 13	Within annual grassland adjacent to a highly incised ephemeral drainage, and is approximately 200' east of potential CTS breeding pool LOAL-49 and 0.4 miles from known CTS pool LOAL-36. Excavation will be up to 20'X80'. Dig will take approximately 2 weeks to complete.	Access will be via approximately 1,000'X10' of existing ranch road off of Gypsy Canyon Road as shown on Figure 6. Access includes existing crossing of ephemeral drainage.	Staging will be within existing disturbed residential parking / corral area.	Based on topography and proximity to a potential and known breeding pools access route, staging, and dig area is considered low to moderate quality CTS/CRLF movement habitat, and has low to moderate value for refuge due to minimal amount of small mammal burrows or other manmade refuge in footprint.
Dig 14	Within dense coastal scrub atop a steep ridgeline, and is approximately 975' north of potential CTS breeding pool LOAL-50 and 0.5 miles from known CTS pool LOAL-36. Excavation will be up to 20'X80'. Dig and access clearing will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.	Access will be via approximately 1,750'X10' of overgrown access road and 250'X10' of overgrown SoCalGas ROW at the top of the ridgeline. Access road extends from Gypsy Canyon Road as shown on Figure 6.	Staging will be within existing disturbed residential parking / corral area and in disturbed road shoulder at base of access route as shown of Figure 6.	Based on steep topography, dense coastal scrub vegetation, and isolated context to nearest known or potential breeding pool access route, staging, and dig area is considered marginal to low quality CTS/CRLF movement habitat, and has marginal to low value for refuge. Staging area within existing corral/residence is not considered suitable for CTS or CRLF (see Figure 6).

2.2 ACTIVITIES COVERED BY PERMIT

An incidental take permit is requested to cover short-term temporary impacts that could result from vegetation clearing, grading, trenching, excavation, equipment and materials storage, and other related construction activities required to complete the Project. Upon completion of all project activities, existing topsoil will be re-spread and native grassland seed will be broadcast in the excavation and staging areas to expedite revegetation and minimize potential for invasive species (existing dirt access roads will not be seeded). The incidental take permit is also requested to cover the survey, capture, and relocation of any CTS or CRLF out of harm's way discovered during excavation and/or that enter into potential impact areas during construction. No permanent or long-term impacts are proposed or expected to occur.

Section 3: Environmental Setting/Biological Resources

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1.1 Climate

The project areas are within close proximity of each other and are characterized by a Mediterranean climate. Summer temperatures typically range from 50°F to 80°F, and average summer temperature is approximately 65°F. Winter temperatures range from approximately 30°F to 80°F, and average is approximately 55°F. Annual precipitation is approximately 15 inches. Most precipitation falls as rain, although some can be contributed to fog drip. The rainy season extends from October to May, with the majority of the rainfall occurring between November and April.

3.1.2 Topography/Geology

Digs 10/11: Digs 10/11 are located at an elevation of approximately 560 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Both digs are located just off the north shoulder of State Highway 246, and are at the toe-of-slope below the highway shoulder/embankment and the adjacent agriculture field. The proposed excavation area and adjacent staging area are located on relatively flat ground within the USDA Arnold sand (5-15%) soil mapping unit. This soil unit is considered somewhat excessively drained and is not a hydric soil (USDA - NRCS, Esri, 2015).

Digs 13/14: Dig 13 is located at the base of a hillside, just above where the elevation breaks to a steeply incised ephemeral drainage channel. An existing dirt access road runs through Dig 13, and it is at an elevation of approximately 660 feet above MSL. Dig 14 is approximately 830 feet east of Dig 13, and is near the top of a steep ridgeline that is at an elevation of 800 feet above MSL. The proposed excavation area is relatively flat, and the access road and adjacent hillsides are gently rolling to steep. Dig 13 is within Botella clay loam (2-9%), and Dig 14 is within the San Andreas-Tierra complex (15-30%). Both soil units are well-drained and are not considered hydric soils (USDA - NRCS, Esri, 2015).

3.1.3 Hydrology/Streams, Rivers, Drainages

Digs 10/11: Digs 10/11 are located between two vegetated stock ponds (Service ID's: LOAL-2w and LOAL-2e) within the Santa Rita Valley watershed. Based on a review of historic aerial photography, no hydrologic surface connection exists between the two ponds, and the proposed impact area is not within a designated 100-year flood zone (Federal Emergency Management Agency, Esri, 2015).

Digs 13/14: Digs 13/14 are located within the Santa Rita Valley watershed. Dig 13 is located adjacent to the top-of-bank of an ephemeral drainage. An existing low-water crossing will be used to access the site across the drainage. Dig 14 is not located within close proximity to a surface water feature as it is atop a steep ridgeline. Neither of these digs are located within a designated 100-year flood zone (Federal Emergency Management Agency, Esri, 2015).

3.1.4 Existing Land Use

All four digs are located in rural agricultural areas within northern Santa Barbara County. Digs 10 and 11 are bordered to the south by State Highway 246 and to the north by agriculture / grazing

lands. Dig 13 is surrounded by natural lands dominated by annual grassland and coastal scrub. Dig 14 (including access road) is within undeveloped lands surrounded by coastal scrub. A rural residence with livestock stables and associated ranch facilities are located to the south of Dig 13 and to the north of Dig 14.

3.2 COVERED WILDLIFE AND FISH SPECIES

3.2.1 California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*)

Federal: Threatened (Central DPS)

State: Threatened

Description and Distribution:

The Service emergency listed the Santa Barbara County distinct population segment (DPS) of CTS as an endangered species under the federal ESA in January 2000. The Service August 4, 2004 final rule determined the Santa Barbara County is not a DPS and effectively down listed the endangered status of the Santa Barbara County population to a threatened species consistent with the taxon as whole throughout its range. On August 19, 2005 the U.S. District Court vacated the down-listing of the Sonoma and Santa Barbara populations from Endangered to Threatened. Therefore, the Sonoma and Santa Barbara CTS populations are once again listed as Endangered. As a result of a District Court Order, Critical Habitat was designated for the Santa Barbara County CTS population on November 24, 2004. Digs 10, 11, and 13 fall within the designated Critical Habitat Unit 5 (Purisma Hills; 1,957 acres total) and Unit 6 (Santa Rita Valley; 638 acres total) (Figure 2), respectively. The CTS was then listed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a threatened species throughout its range in March of 2010.

CTS are a relatively larger black amphibian with pale yellow spots, and can reach a maximum length of 8.5 inches. This species is a lowland inhabitant restricted to grasslands and low foothill and oak woodland regions of the central coast, central, and northern California. Adult and juvenile CTS aestivate during the dry summer and fall in underground burrows of California ground squirrels, Botta's pocket gophers, and other small mammal burrows. For breeding and larval development CTS require vernal pools and other seasonal ponds (natural or human-made) where ponded water is present for a minimum of three to four months. Adult CTS spend most of their lives underground in small mammal burrows and emerge with the onset of winter rains in the late fall or early winter. Adults emerge from underground retreats to feed, disperse, and migrate to suitable seasonal ponds for breeding. Male CTS arrive at breeding ponds earlier and spend more time there than females (average of 54 days for males and 14 days for females). Mating and egg laying occurs within a day or two of females arriving at a breeding pond with most females leaving the pond at night shortly after depositing their eggs. Most eggs hatch within 20 days or less and the aquatic CTS larvae then spend the next 10 weeks developing. Because of their long larval period, CTS require long-lived breeding pools (i.e. pools that hold water for a minimum of 120 days) if they are to successfully metamorphose. Following metamorphosis, juvenile CTS emigrate in mass at night from a drying breeding pond to nearby small mammal burrows. For the next five to seven years young salamanders mature and continue to seek refuge in small mammal burrows and have been recorded traveling over one mile from their breeding sites. Typically movement

from subterranean refuge sites to breeding sites (vernal pools and ponds) occurs following major, relatively warm late fall or early winter rains (late November through December).

For CTS population persistence, upland habitat within a short distance of a CTS breeding pond needs to have an adequate amount of suitable terrestrial refuge sites for CTS such as those constructed by small mammals. California ground squirrel burrows are used the most by CTS while gopher burrows are used to a lesser extent. It is extremely rare to find adult or juvenile CTS under surface cover objects such as logs, rocks or boards. Rather there appears to be a commensal relationship between California ground squirrels and CTS where CTS benefits from the subterranean habitat created as a result of the burrowing activities of ground squirrels. Ground squirrel burrows are important habitat for CTS both when CTS first disperse from their breeding ponds as well as throughout most of their life as they are maturing. Reduction of ground squirrel populations in areas developed for more intensive agriculture such as in vineyards, results in a reduction in the availability of subterranean habitat critical to the survival of CTS. A lower density of small mammal burrows results in salamanders having to travel further to locate a suitable underground refuge which in turn increases the risk of mortality for CTS. Eradication of ground squirrels and gophers from uplands within the dispersal range of a CTS breeding population can result in a significant decline in CTS breeding population over time. Maintaining a viable population of ground squirrels that provides adequate subterranean refuge for CTS is essential for the long-term persistence of CTS populations.

The current CTS habitat evaluation guidance by the Service and CDFW suggests CTS may disperse up to 1.37 miles from known breeding ponds. Multiple studies by Trenham, Shaffer from the a nearly 89-acre (36 ha) seasonal lake in Solano County surrounded by very level land in the Central Valley have indicated that approximately 90 percent of upland movement of CTS occurs within 2,200 feet (0.67 km) of a breeding pond. They further suggest that the dispersal distance was in response to a general lack of suitable small mammal burrows in closer proximity to the pond. The 1.37 mile (2.2km) dispersal distance comes from a five-year study in Contra Costa County (Orloff 2011) that found the majority of CTS migrated at least 0.5 mile (0.8 km) from an upland study area without a pond, to probable breeding sites. Orloff suggests a smaller number of salamanders were presumed to migrate even farther, traveling 0.75 mile (1.2 km) to almost 1.37 miles (2.2 km) from the study area in the direction of breeding ponds and upland habitat on adjacent property. However, there was no direct evidence of CTS movement the 2.2km distance presented in the Orloff study. There were two known breeding ponds much closer to the drift fence capture locations than the presumed movement of a direct line from the capture point to an outlier pond 1.37 miles away separated from the capture site by an active landfill.

Reasons for Decline:

A variety of anthropogenic activities have resulted in habitat loss for the California tiger salamander, including urban development, water supply/flood control projects, and conversion of land to agricultural use. Because of the species' dependence on both vernal pool and upland habitat containing small mammal burrows, land use changes that alter or destroy either of these habitat types may compromise existing populations.

Occurrence in Relation to Plan Area:

The CNDDDB has a recorded occurrence (2008) of CTS within the ponds to the north and south of Digs 10/11. Both of these ponds have also been identified by the Service as known CTS breeding pools (LOAL-2w and LOAL-2e). Although no additional known breeding pools have been documented within 1.2 miles of these Digs, the Service has identified eight additional potential CTS breeding pools within 1.2 miles of Digs 10/11.

The Service has identified 11 known CTS breeding pools within 1.2 miles of Digs 13/14, with the nearest (LOAL-35) being approximately 0.25 mile north of Dig 13. The Service has also identified 10 potential CTS breeding pools within 1.2 miles of Digs 13/14, with the nearest (LOAL-49) being approximately 225 feet west of Dig 13.

CTS may occur directly within the proposed disturbance footprint as a few scattered small mammal burrows are within the proposed project footprint at Digs 10/11 and 13/14 that support limited upland refuge for CTS within relatively close proximity to potential or known breeding ponds. CTS are known to disperse distances into uplands relative to the availability of suitable burrows. Digs 10/11 (Unit 6), and 13 (Unit 5) are located within designated CTS Critical Habitat.

3.2.2 California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*)

Federal: Threatened

State: Species of Special Concern

Description and Distribution:

The CRLF was listed as a federally threatened species on May 23, 1996. Critical habitat was designated on April 13, 2006; subsequent revisions were published on March 17, 2010. At this time, the Service recognized the taxonomic change from *Rana aurora draytonii* to *Rana draytonii*. A recovery plan was published on September 12, 2002, and the Service initiated a 5-year review for this species in 2011.

CRLF generally inhabit permanent water sources such as streams, lakes, marshes, natural and manmade ponds in valley bottoms and foothills up to 4,921 feet in elevation. However, they also inhabit ephemeral creeks, drainages and ponds with minimal riparian or emergent vegetation. CRLF breed from November to April, although earlier breeding records have been reported in southern localities. Breeding usually occurs in still or slow-moving water near emergent vegetation, such as cattails, tules or overhanging willows.

Accessibility to sheltering habitat is also essential for the survival of CRLF and can be a limiting factor in the survival of local populations. Sheltering habitat may include nearly any area within one or two miles of a breeding site that stays moist and cool through the summer, including vegetated areas with coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California blackberry thickets (*Rubus ursinus*), and root masses associated with willow and California bay trees (*Umbellularia californica*). Aquatic, riparian, or upland areas within the range of the species could serve as sheltering habitat. Features that could potentially be utilized include animal burrows, boulders/rocks, organic debris such as downed trees

or logs, and industrial debris. Incised stream channels narrower and deeper than 18 inches may also provide important summer sheltering habitat.

Adult CRLF are most often associated with permanent bodies of water. Some individuals remain at breeding sites year-round, while others disperse to neighboring water features. Dispersal distances are typically less than 0.5-mile, but may be up to two miles. Movements are typically along riparian corridors, but some individuals, especially on rainy nights, move directly from one site to another through normally inhospitable habitats, such as heavily grazed pastures or oak savannas.

CRLF was originally documented in 46 counties but now remains in 238 streams or drainages within 23 counties, representing a loss of 70 percent of its former range. CRLF are still locally abundant within portions of the San Francisco Bay area and the Central California Coast. Isolated populations have been documented in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, northern Coast, and northern Transverse Ranges.

Reasons for Decline:

Habitat loss, introduction of non-native species, water supply and flood control project, and urban encroachment are the primary factors that have adversely affected the CRLF throughout its range. Introduced species affect CRLF through predation, increased competition pressure, and reproduction interference. Urbanization of land within and adjacent to CRLF habitat, while known to be a major driver in the introduction and spread of non-native species, primarily affects CRLF through the physical alteration of riparian habitat. The channelization and enclosure of waterways blocks dispersal pathways, disrupts hydrologic regimes, and removes available habitat for breeding and sheltering. Diseases may also pose a significant threat, although the specific effects of disease on the CRLF are not known. Chytridiomycosis and rana viruses are a potential threat because these diseases have been found to adversely affect other amphibians, including listed species.

Occurrence in Relation to Plan Area:

The CNDDDB has a recorded occurrence (2008) of an adult CRLF within the pond just to the north of Dig 11. CRLF is known to occur in relative abundance within the region where suitable aquatic habitat is present. CRLF is unlikely to occur directly within the proposed impact area as no impacts will occur to suitable aquatic habitat, and activities would not occur during rain events when CRLF would be expected to be utilizing uplands for movement. A few scattered small mammal burrows are within the proposed project footprint at Digs 10/11 and 13/14 that support marginal upland refuge (no moist soil or dense leaf litter) for CRLF. No designated CRLF critical habitat is located within the plan area.

Section 4: Potential Biological Impacts/Take Assessment

4.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

The four digs are limited in size and scope and are short duration projects resulting in temporary small impacts located within SoCalGas ROW on private property. Effects on CTS and CRLF are expected to be minimal resulting in the potential capture and relocation of very few individuals out of harm's way, if any, from small mammal burrows or other upland refuges.

Digs 10 and 11 are in close proximity to two known CTS and/or CRLF breeding pools. Both digs are in an upland area dominated by dense coyote brush scrub and annual grassland (grazing land) immediately adjacent to Highway 246. No impacts to aquatic habitat would result from the project, and there is limited potential for use of the excavation areas as upland refuge by CTS or CRLF considering only a few degraded gopher burrows (less than 5) are present within the excavation footprints. Digs 10 and 11 also do not support a moist or dense duff layer or other understory component that would be expected to provide refuge for CTS or CRLF.

Dig 13 is in annual grassland (grazing land) adjacent to a dirt access road, and also had very few small mammal burrows within the proposed excavation area (less than 5).

Dig 14 is in dense coastal scrub habitat atop a steep hillside away from nearby breeding ponds, and also supports limited small mammal burrows within the proposed excavation area (less than 5). Access road will require vegetation clearing, and use during construction may impact small mammal burrows scattered along the road alignment.

Impacts to CTS and CRLF movement activities are considered negligible due to the small size of the covered lands, temporary nature of the impacts, relatively brief period in which covered activities would occur, and SoCal Gas' commitment to restore the original contours of the excavation areas. In addition, activities are not anticipated to occur during primary CTS or CRLF movement opportunities such as nighttime rainy periods. However, depending on final project schedule, and nature of the repairs needed, work may occur during the rainy season with potential for night work for repairs. Activities that occur during the rainy season could cause greater impacts to CTS and CRLF than activities during the dry season, because the species are typically more active during the rainy season. If covered activities must occur during the rainy season, SoCal Gas will not work during rain events, 48 hours prior to significant rain events (>0.5 inch), or during the 48 hours after these events.

Although considered unlikely, the proposed activities do have the potential to impact these species as described below:

- Direct impacts to CTS and CRLF could occur as a result of ground disturbing activities (e.g., grading and excavations), vegetation clearing activities, accidental spills or leaks, vehicular strikes, pitfall traps (e.g., open trenches that result in the entrapment of a species), nighttime lighting, potential activity-related fires, or by locating staging/stockpile areas and access routes within areas that are occupied by such species.

- Covered activities could also adversely affect CTS and CRLF by temporarily blocking movement, dispersal or migration corridors; or interfering with foraging, mating or other breeding behaviors. In addition, species relocation efforts could result in increased stress of individuals. These stress effects could reduce survival and reproductive success of relocated animals. Project activities could also result in increased predation and desiccation. Individuals could also be missed during pre-construction surveys and could be crushed, entombed, etc., without being detected.
- Indirect impacts to CTS and CRLF could occur as a result of the introduction of invasive weeds or amphibian parasite infection; polluted runoff from an adjacent activity site; spoil material washing into aquatic habitat; or increased predation that otherwise might not occur. These indirect impacts have the potential to affect CTS and CRLF species and potentially reduce reproduction and population sizes.

4.2 ANTICIPATED TAKE ON COVERED SPECIES

Excavation activities could result in the take of several CTS but, aside from capture and relocation, it is unlikely any individual CTS would be taken in the upland setting. Table 4.1 provides an upland habitat temporary impact summary.

Table 4-1. Summary of Impacts to Covered Species by Covered Activities

Covered Activity	Species Affected	Type of Impact	Quantify Take or Impact ¹
Digs 10 and 11	CTS / CRLF	harassment, injury, mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.50 acres upland habitat (includes staging and two approx. 20'X80' excavations) • unknown number of relocations • maximum of two CTS or two CRLF injured or killed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include existing access road as it does not require grading
Dig 13	CTS	harassment, injury, mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.04 acres upland habitat (approx. 20'X80' excavation) • unknown number of relocations • maximum of one CTS injured or killed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include existing access road as it does not require grading/veg clearing • Proposed staging is within active coral/residential area
Dig 14	CTS	harassment, injury, mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.50 acres upland habitat (includes 1,750'X10' access road clearing, 250'X10' ROW clearing, and 20'X80' excavation) • unknown number of relocations • maximum of one CTS injured or killed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include staging as it is within active corral/residential area.
TOTALS:			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.04 acres upland habitat • unknown number of relocations • maximum of four CTS and two CRLF injured or killed

4.3 EFFECTS ON CRITICAL HABITAT

Digs 10, 11, and 13 are located within CTS Critical Habitat. Digs 10 and 11 will impact up to 0.5 acres of CTS Critical Habitat Unit 6 (Santa Rita Valley), which represents 0.0008% of the 638 total acres within this unit. Dig 13 will impact up to 0.04 acres of CTS Critical Habitat Unit 5 (Purisma Hills), which represents 0.00002% of the 1,957 total acres within this unit. Due to the small temporary impacts associated with the proposed project and small quantity of potentially occupied burrows, no significant temporary or permanent disturbance are anticipated to occur to designated Critical Habitat within the region. Temporary impacts to Critical Habitat will be further minimized via restoration of the disturbance area to pre-project conditions, including native hydro-seeding as described below in Section 5.

No Critical Habitat is designated for the CRLF within any of the project areas, and as such, no impacts will occur.

4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The proposed digs are a result of recent internal inspections of Line 1010 that did not show other inspection anomalies within the 1.2 mile range of any Service known or potential CTS pools. Any future digs in compliance with safety regulations would likely be similar small impact and widely separated digs. Other utilities within the region are required to conduct similar inspection and maintenance activities that could result in similar temporary and minor impacts to CTS and CRLF. Considering the temporary nature of the impacts and the small size of the covered lands relative to the range of the species, the project would not contribute to significant or substantial cumulative impacts to the covered species.

Furthermore, considering the large number of projects and ongoing activities in the region that affect the covered species such as agriculture, infrastructure, urban uses, etc., the proposed small footprint temporary impacts would not contribute to significant or substantial cumulative impacts to the covered species. Contribution of in-lieu fee payment to the La Purismima CTS Bank (see Section 5) is considered a regional conservation effort that will further reduce the project's contribution to potential cumulative impacts to the species in the metapopulation.

4.5 ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF THE TAKING

The impact of take on CTS and CRLF during this project is expected to have negligible effects on the species' overall survival since the percentage of the species' habitat relative to the species' entire range is very small, and the number of individual CTS and CRLF that could be taken is also very small. The overall effect of the proposed project will include relatively small / short term impacts to mostly marginal upland habitat.

The potential for direct and indirect take of CTS and/or CRLF is considered low for this project, and no habitat for these species will be permanently affected. With implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures including preconstruction surveys, environmental awareness training, construction monitoring and relocation of individuals out of harm's way as necessary are expected to prevent the injury or mortality of this species, neither the mortality of CTS or CRLF potentially occupying the areas proposed to be disturbed, nor the temporary removal of habitat are anticipated to affect the persistence of the populations of CTS and CRLF in the region or persistence of these species as a whole.

Section 5: Conservation Program/Measures to Minimize and Mitigate for Impacts

5.1 BIOLOGICAL GOALS

Section 10(a)(2)(A) of the Act, 50 CFR 17.22(b)(1)(iii), and 50 CFR 17.32(b)(1)(iii) require that an HCP specify the measures that the permittee will take to minimize and mitigate impacts of the taking of any federally listed animal species as a result of activities addressed by the plan.

As part of the “Five Point” Policy adopted by the Service in 2000, HCPs must establish biological goals and objectives (65 *Federal Register* 35242, June 1, 2000). The purpose of the biological goals is to provide direction for development of the HCP’s conservation program and ensure that the operating conservation program in the HCP is consistent with the conservation and recovery goals established for the species. The goals are also intended to provide to the applicant an understanding of why these actions are necessary. These goals are developed based upon the species’ biology, threats to the species, the potential effects of the Covered Activities, and the scope of the HCP.

5.2 BIOLOGICAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The biological goals and objectives of this HCP are as follows:

The following biological goals and objectives were developed based on the CTS and CRLF biology and potential impacts of the covered activities within the scope of this HCP. They include on-site measures that will minimize take of the CTS and CRLF at the project site and off-site measures that will protect habitat with high conservation value for the CTS and CRLF in perpetuity.

Goal 1: Avoid and minimize take and related disturbance to CTS and CRLF within the project areas.

Objective 1.1: Avoid and minimize the potential for migrating CTS and/or CRLF to come into contact with construction equipment or become harmed as a result of construction related activities.

Objective 1.2: Remove CTS/CRLF from impact areas by performing surveys prior to and, if necessary, during construction, and relocate any individuals to suitable habitat outside impact areas.

Objective 1.3: Restore disturbed areas to original conditions as feasible through topsoil conservation and one time broadcast seeding with native grassland species.

Goal 2: Protect habitat for the CTS and CRLF at an off-site location with high conservation value for these species.

Objective 2.1: In order to fully mitigation impacts on the CTS and CRLF and to ensure consistency with pending state take coverage requirements for CTS, SoCalGas will provide funds, through the purchase of 1.0 acre of

conservation credits at the La Purisima Conservation Bank, to protect, manage, and monitor habitat of the CTS and CRLF in perpetuity. Although the bank does not currently offer CRLF credits, ongoing and scheduled management activities at the bank will also benefit CRLF and suitable habitat for the species.

5.3 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Section 10 of the Act requires that all applicants submit HCPs that “minimize and mitigate” the impacts of take authorized by an incidental take permit, and that issuance of the permit will not “appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild.” In general, HCPs should include mitigation programs that are based on sound biological rationale, and are practicable and commensurate with the impacts of the project on species for which take is requested. Additionally, the Service encourages applicants to develop HCPs that contribute to the recovery of a listed species. If the proposed project is expected to result in permanent habitat loss, then the mitigation strategy must include compensatory mitigation consisting of the permanent preservation of suitable habitat or similar measures. Although no permanent impacts are proposed, SoCalGas is providing offsite mitigation at the La Purisima Conservation Bank (see Appendix B, Credit Sale Agreement) for temporary impacts to CTS in order to ensure consistency with pending state take coverage requirements (Section 2081 or 2081.1).

In accordance with these guidelines and the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the Conservation Program of this HCP is intended to achieve its biological goals and objectives and to ensure that the impacts of Covered Activities on CTS and CRLF are avoided, minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. Impact areas have been designed to disrupt or remove as little habitat for CTS and CRLF as possible. Additional avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) are provided below.

5.3.1 Measures to Avoid and Minimize Impacts

1. Tailgate Training: Field crews shall participate in a “tailgate” training prior to the initiation of covered activities. Tailgate trainings shall emphasize project-specific information on CTS and CRLF potentially occurring within or adjacent to work areas, the applicable AMMs, roles and responsibilities, and communication protocols.
2. Work Areas: Work and staging areas (including parking and stockpile areas) shall be located, sized, and flagged, as necessary, to minimize impacts to natural areas.
3. Existing Routes of Travel: Project workers shall limit their vehicle use to existing routes of travel. Cross-country travel shall be prohibited unless access is determined critical for a particular activity and the route has been flagged to avoid or minimize adverse effects.
4. Fire Protection: To minimize the risk of fire, vehicle use and parking will be restricted, to the extent feasible, to areas of bare ground or sparse vegetation within existing access roads or activity staging areas. Field crews conducting activities with the potential to inadvertently cause a fire (e.g., welding, grinding, metal cutting) shall be equipped with an appropriate level of fire prevention and suppression equipment, such as fire extinguishers, backpack pumps filled with water, shovels, welding tents, shields, and/or fire-resistant mats.

5. **Travel at Slow Speeds:** Project-related vehicle speeds shall not exceed 10 miles-per-hour when within the upland habitat of CTS or CRLF.
6. **Under Vehicle Checks:** Prior to moving vehicles or equipment, employees shall look under the vehicles or equipment for the presence of CTS or CRLF. If a Covered wildlife species is observed, the vehicle shall not be moved until the animal has vacated the area on its own accord or has been relocated out of harm's way in accordance with Measure 8, Wildlife Encounters.
7. **Construction Monitoring:** A Service-approved biologist shall be present daily during the installation of construction fencing and initial grading and excavation activities (e.g., clearing of vegetation and stripping of the surface soil layer). The monitor shall have the authority to order any reasonable measure necessary to avoid the take of CTS and CRLF and to immediately stop any work or activity that is not in compliance with the conditions set forth in the incidental take permit. The stop work order shall remain in effect until the issue has been resolved. Upon completion of initial ground disturbance, the monitor will periodically (minimum twice per week) visit the project site throughout the construction period to ensure that impacts to the project site are in compliance with the permit. During periods of rain or heavy fog/dew the monitor will conduct daily pre-activity surveys to ensure no CTS or CRLF have migrated into the work area. No construction work will be initiated until the monitor determines that the work area is clear of CTS or CRLF. Should CTS or CRLF be observed within harm's way, the species shall be allowed to vacate the area on its own accord or be relocated in accordance with Measure 8, Wildlife Encounters.
8. **Wildlife Encounters:** Any CTS or CRLF (or other wildlife) shall be allowed to vacate the worksite on its own accord under the observation of a Service-approved biologist. If CTS or CRLF (or other wildlife) do not relocate on their own, or if they are in harm's way, they shall be relocated out of harm's way to nearby suitable habitat, similar to that in which it was found, and outside the project area. CTS or CRLF shall not be relocated, except by a Service-approved biologist. The Declining Amphibian Task Force Fieldwork Code of Practice shall be implemented for all amphibian relocation activities.

The Service-approved biologist shall relocate any Covered Species found within the project footprint to an active rodent burrow system located no more than 300 feet outside of the project area unless otherwise approved by CDFW and the Service. The individual will be handled with clean and moistened hands. During relocation they will be placed in a clean, covered plastic container with a non-cellulose moistened sponge. Relocations will take place immediately; individuals will not be stored for lengthy periods or in heated areas. The relocation container will be kept out of direct sunlight.

The relocated Covered Species shall be monitored until it enters a burrow and is concealed underground. Relocation areas shall be identified by the Service-approved biologist based upon best suitable habitat available. The Service-approved biologist shall document both locations by photographs and GPS positions. The Covered Species shall be photographed and measured (Snout-Vent) for identification purposes prior to relocation. All documentation shall be provided to the Service and CDFW within 24 hours of relocation.

9. Burrow Excavations: Rodent burrows will be avoided to the extent possible. If potentially occupied burrows for CTS cannot be avoided, burrow excavation may be performed using hand tools or via gentle excavation using construction equipment, under the direct supervision of a Service-approved biologist, until it is certain that the burrows are unoccupied. For the purposes of this HCP, “gentle excavation” is an excavation technique involving slow and shallow single passes with a backhoe/excavator bucket perpendicular to the burrow alignment that allows for burrow inspection for individuals after each pass. In lieu of burrow excavation, steel plates or plywood may also be utilized to protect small mammal burrows from ground disturbance. Plates and plywood will be removed nightly when a significant rain event is forecasted within 48 hours and will be removed if work is scheduled to cease for consecutive days. Any individuals encountered shall be allowed to vacate the area on their own accord or relocated out of harm’s way in accordance with Measure 8, Wildlife Encounters.
10. Exclusionary Fencing: Exclusionary silt fencing (or other suitable fence material) shall be installed around the excavation area(s) for Digs 10/11 and maintained for the duration of the project. Exclusionary barriers shall be installed at the discretion of the Service approved monitoring biologist to minimize the potential for individuals to enter the worksite. If a Covered wildlife species be observed within an enclosed worksite, a portion of the fencing shall be removed to allow the individual to vacate the area on its own accord. Alternatively, the species may be relocated out of harm’s way in accordance with Measure 8, Wildlife Encounters.
11. Excavation Inspections: Steep-walled excavations (e.g., trenches) that may act as pitfall traps shall be inspected for wildlife at least once per day by a Service-approved biologist and immediately before backfilling. In lieu of daily inspections (weekends, etc.), exclusionary fencing, covers, ramps, or similar mechanisms will be installed to prevent wildlife entrapment.
12. Pipeline Occupation: Open pipe segments shall be capped or sealed with tape (or equivalent material) nightly, or otherwise stored at least three feet above ground. Should a pipe segment become occupied by a CTS or CRLF, the species shall be allowed to vacate the pipe on its own accord or removed and relocated in accordance with Measure G 8.
13. Storm Water: SoCalGas’ Best Management Practices Manual for Water Quality and Storm Water Management (BMP Manual), as amended over time, shall prescribe the measures necessary to eliminate or reduce pollutants in runoff from Covered Activities.
14. Rain Events: If covered activities must occur during the rainy season, SoCal Gas will not work during rain events, 48 hours prior to significant rain events (>0.5 inch), or during the 48 hours after these events .
15. Restoration: Disturbed areas shall be restored and stabilized to reflect pre-existing contours and gradients to the extent practicable. Erosion and sediment controls (e.g., silt fences, fiber rolls, sandbags) shall be installed, where necessary, utilizing weed-free materials in areas with a predominance of native plants.

SoCalGas shall restore on-site the approximate 0.5 acre of annual grassland habitat that will be temporarily impacted for Digs 10, 11, and 13 to pre-project or better conditions. Within 6 months of approval of this HCP, SoCalGas shall prepare a Vegetation Restoration Plan (Plan) to facilitate revegetation of the approximately 0.5 acres of temporary construction disturbance on-site, and shall ensure that the Plan is successfully implemented. The Plan shall include detailed specifications for restoring all temporarily disturbed areas, such as seed mixes and application methods. The Plan shall also indicate the best time of year for seeding to occur. Restored areas shall be maintained and monitored, including weed removal (focused on noxious weeds and excluding non-native annual grasses), to reach a goal of a self-regenerating grassland. All planting and seeding shall occur the first year after construction is complete, after the first significant rain event of the year (i.e., more than 0.25 inches of precipitation).

16. Revegetation: Disturbed areas shall receive a one-time broadcast seeding with a native grass seed. The upper layer of topsoil material (6 inches) shall also be segregated during excavations of such sites to preserve the seed bank. Upon completion of the activity, the topsoil shall be replaced in the affected area. Existing access roads are not subject to this measure.
17. Take Notification: Upon locating individuals of CTS or CRLF that may be dead or injured as a result of project-related activities, notification shall be made within 72 hours to the Service Ventura Field Office at (805) 644-1766. In addition, upon locating a dead, injured, or entrapped CTS, CDFW shall be notified immediately.

Table 5-1. Summary of Minimization and Mitigation Measures and Corresponding Biological Goals and Objectives Based on the Level of Impacts Resulting from Covered Activities

Covered Activity	Species Affected	Type of Impact (Take ¹ or Impact)	Quantify Take or Impact ²	Avoidance, Minimization, & Mitigation Measures	Biological Goals and Objectives met
Surveys and relocation	CTS/CRLF (upland)	Harassment, injury or mortality	1.04 acres of upland habitat	CTS/CRLF surveys and relocation will be performed by a Service-approved biologist	Goal 1 Objectives 1.1, 1.2
Vegetation removal and grading (staging area)	CTS/CRLF (upland)	Harassment, injury or mortality	1.04 acres of upland habitat	Design of impact areas; CTS/CRLF surveys and relocation; contractor and worker education, monitoring	Goal 1 Objectives 1.1, 1.2
Excavation activities	CTS/CRLF (upland)	Harassment, injury or mortality	0.15 acres of upland habitat	CTS/CRLF surveys and relocation; protective fencing; contractor and worker education	Goal 1 Objectives 1.1, 1.2
Pipeline repair activities	CTS/CRLF (upland)	Harassment, injury or mortality	0.15 acres of upland habitat associated with up to 320 linear feet of pipeline	CTS/CRLF surveys and relocation; protective fencing; contractor and worker education	Goal 1 Objectives 1.1, 1.2

Covered Activity	Species Affected	Type of Impact (Take ¹ or Impact)	Quantify Take or Impact ²	Avoidance, Minimization, & Mitigation Measures	Biological Goals and Objectives met
Onsight Restoration	CTS/CRLF (upland)	n/a	n/a	CTS/CRLF upland habitat restoration of disturbed areas	Goal 1 Objective 1.3
Offsite Mitigation - La Purisma Conservation Bank	CTS/CRLF (upland)	Beneficial Impact	n/a	n/a	Goal 2 Objective 2.1

5.4 MONITORING

Monitoring tracks compliance with the terms and conditions of the HCP, Implementing Agreement (if needed), and permit. There are three types of monitoring: (1) compliance monitoring tracks the permit holder’s compliance with the requirements specified in the HCP, IA (if needed), and permit; (2) effects monitoring tracks the impacts of the covered activities on the covered species; and (3) effectiveness monitoring tracks the progress of the conservation strategy in meeting the HCP’s biological goals and objectives (includes species surveys, reproductive success, etc.). Monitoring provides information for making adaptive management decisions.

5.4.1 Compliance Monitoring

Compliance monitoring will be implemented via onsite construction monitoring, daily monitoring logs, and preparation of a post-construction compliance report (see Section 5.7).

5.4.2 Effects Monitoring

To quantify the incidental take at the end of the project, the biologist will measure the disturbance footprint (with sub-meter GPS) and shall count the number of individual CTS and CRLF that were found and translocated, or injured or killed during construction.

5.4.3 Effectiveness Monitoring

Effectiveness monitoring of the conservation strategy will be implemented via onsite construction monitoring and daily monitoring logs. The post-construction compliance report will include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the AMMs (see Section 5.7). The effectiveness of the HCP’s mitigation strategy will be assured through the La Purisma Conservation Bank’s perpetual management of the conservation bank to benefit the CTS and CRLF.

5.5 PERFORMANCE AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

Performance and Success criteria for each objective stated in Section 5.1 are as follows:

Objective 1.1: Avoid and minimize the potential for CTS and/or CRLF to come into contact with construction equipment or become harmed as a result of construction related activities.

Performance criteria: During compliance monitoring, the Service-approved biologist shall inspect the project site to ensure that construction activities are taking place only

in approved areas and that protective fencing is properly in place to preclude individuals from entering the work site. Hand excavation of small mammal burrows within the proposed project footprint will occur prior to pipeline excavation and vegetation removal for staging areas. A post-construction monitoring report summarizing the compliance monitoring effort will be provided to the Service.

Objective 1.2: Remove CTS/CRLF from impact areas by performing surveys prior to and, if necessary, during construction, and relocate any individuals to suitable habitat outside impact areas.

Performance criteria: During compliance monitoring, a Service-approved biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys and construction monitoring for covered species and common vertebrate species within the project area. Capture and relocation will occur only in the event that individuals are in harm's way. Relocation sites will be chosen by the Service-approved biologist, and will be as similar as possible to the capture site while still maintaining a safe buffer to project activities. The relocation site will not be more than 300 feet outside of the project area unless otherwise approved by CDFW and the Service. Silt fence barriers (or similar) may be utilized to limit potential for species to enter the project area.

Objective 1.3: Restore disturbed areas to original conditions as feasible through topsoil conservation and one time broadcast seeding with native grassland species.

Performance criteria: During compliance monitoring, a Service-approved biologist shall inspect the project site to ensure that the final construction restoration measures were implemented. A post-construction monitoring report summarizing the compliance monitoring effort will be provided to the Service.

Objective 2.1: In order to ensure consistency with pending state take coverage requirements for CTS, SoCalGas shall provide funds, through the purchase of 1.0 acres of CTS upland habitat conservation credits at the La Purisima Conservation Bank, to protect, manage, and monitor habitat of the CTS in perpetuity.

Performance criteria: SoCalGas shall provide Service proof of payment for 1.0 acre of suitable habitat compensation credit from The La Purisima Conservation Bank prior to initiating ground disturbing activities.

5.6 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

For some HCPs, the adaptive management strategy will be an integral part of an operating conservation program that addresses the uncertainty in the conservation of a species covered by an HCP. Based on the short duration and minimal impacts, low potential for take, and minimized disturbance footprint, adaptive management is not considered to be an essential part of this low-effect HCP. Nonetheless, additional AMMs may be implemented under the direction of the Service-approved biologist if deemed necessary to protect CTS or CRLF in additional ways not anticipated at the time the HCP was prepared.

5.7 REPORTING

By January 31st following each year of permit issuance and project implementation SoCalGas shall submit a report to the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office to document the status of the project. The report will provide the following information:

1. Brief summary or list of project activities accomplished during the reporting year (e.g. this includes covered activities or statement regarding schedule update);
2. Project impact summary;
3. Description of any take that occurred for CTS or CRLF (includes cause of take, form of take, take amount, location of take and time of day, and deposition of dead or injured individuals);
4. Brief description of conservation strategy implemented;
5. Monitoring results (compliance, effects and effectiveness monitoring) and survey information;
6. Description of circumstances that made adaptive management necessary and how it was implemented;
7. Discussion of AMMs effectiveness in minimizing and avoiding impacts;
8. Description of any changed or unforeseen circumstances that occurred and how they were dealt with; and
9. Description of any minor or major amendments.

If SoCalGas completes the proposed activities before the end of the 5-year permit duration, SoCalGas will notify the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office that it has completed all covered activities and mitigation measures; thus, subsequent annual compliance reports will not be necessary.

Section 6: Plan Implementation

6.1 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The project will be implemented by SoCalGas and their contractors. Precise timing of the project will depend upon the timing of permit issuance (i.e., Service, CalTrans, CDFW).

6.2 CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES

6.2.1 Summary of Circumstances

Section 10 regulations [(69 *Federal Register* 71723, December 10, 2004 as codified in 50 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Sections 17.22(b)(2) and 17.32(b)(2))] require that an HCP specify the procedures to be used for dealing with changed and unforeseen circumstances that may arise during the implementation of the HCP. In addition, the HCP No Surprises Rule [50 CFR 17.22 (b)(5) and 17.32 (b)(5)] describes the obligations of the permittee and the Service. The purpose of the No Surprises Rule is to provide assurance to the non-Federal landowners participating in habitat conservation planning under the Act that no additional land restrictions or financial compensation will be required for species adequately covered by a properly implemented HCP, in light of unforeseen circumstances, without the consent of the permittee.

Changed circumstances are defined in 50 CFR 17.3 as changes in circumstances affecting a species or geographic area covered by an HCP that can reasonably be anticipated by plan developers and the Service and for which contingency plans can be prepared (e.g., the new listing of species, a fire, or other natural catastrophic event in areas prone to such event). If additional conservation and mitigation measures are deemed necessary to respond to changed circumstances and these additional measures were already provided for in the plan's operating conservation program (e.g., the conservation management activities or mitigation measures expressly agreed to in the HCP or IA), then the permittee will implement those measures as specified in the plan. However, if additional conservation management and mitigation measures are deemed necessary to respond to changed circumstances and such measures were not provided for in the plan's operating conservation program, the Service will not require these additional measures absent the consent of the permittee, provided that the HCP is being "properly implemented" (properly implemented means the commitments and the provisions of the HCP and the IA have been or are fully implemented).

Foreseeable changed circumstances within the project area of this HCP including the following:

- the new listing of a species; or
- the discovery of another federally-listed animal species.

6.2.2 Newly listed species or Discovery of Other Currently Listed Species at the Project Site

If a currently listed species not covered in the HCP is discovered in the project area, or a species occurring in the project area that is not covered by the HCP but that may be affected by activities covered by the HCP is listed under the Act during the term of the section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the

section 10 permit will be reevaluated by the Service and the HCP covered activities may be modified, as necessary, to insure that the activities covered under the HCP are not likely to result in the take of these listed species or disturbance of any newly designated critical habitat. SoCalGas shall implement the modifications to the HCP covered activities identified by the Service as necessary to avoid the likelihood of take of these species or disturbance of newly designated critical habitat. SoCalGas shall continue to implement such modifications until such time as the Permittee has applied for and the Service has approved an amendment of the Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, in accordance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, to cover these species or until the Service notifies the SoCalGas in writing that the modifications to the HCP covered activities are no longer required to avoid the likelihood of take of these species or disturbance of newly designated critical habitat. The occurrence of these species within the plan area during the 5-year permit is unlikely due to the small size of the impact area where the covered activities are to occur.

6.3 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Unforeseen circumstances are defined in 50 CFR 17.3 as changes in circumstances that affect a species or geographic area covered by the HCP that could not reasonably be anticipated by plan developers and the Service at the time of the HCP's negotiation and development and that result in a substantial and adverse change in status of the covered species. The purpose of the No Surprises Rule is to provide assurances to non-Federal landowners participating in habitat conservation planning under the Act that no additional land restrictions or financial compensation will be required for species adequately covered by a properly implemented HCP, in light of unforeseen circumstances, without the consent of the permittee.

In case of an unforeseen event, the permittee shall immediately notify the Service staff who have functioned as the principal contacts for the proposed action. In determining whether such an event constitutes an unforeseen circumstance, the Service shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors: size of the current range of the affected species; percentage of range adversely affected by the HCP; percentage of range conserved by the HCP; ecological significance of that portion of the range affected by the HCP; level of knowledge about the affected species and the degree of specificity of the species' conservation program under the HCP; and whether failure to adopt additional conservation measures would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the affected species in the wild.

If the Service determines that additional conservation and mitigation measures are necessary to respond to the unforeseen circumstances where the HCP is being properly implemented, the additional measures required of the permittee must be as close as possible to the terms of the original HCP and must be limited to modifications within any conserved habitat area or to adjustments within lands or waters that already set-aside in the HCP's operating conservation program. Additional conservation and mitigation measures shall involve the commitment of additional land or financial compensation or restrictions on the use of land or other natural resources otherwise available for development or use under original terms of the HCP only with the consent of the permittee.

Thus, in the event that unforeseen circumstances adversely affecting CTS or CRLF occur during the term of the requested incidental take permit, SoCalGas would not be required to provide additional financial mitigation or implement additional restrictions above those measures specified in the HCP, provided that the HCP is being properly implemented. This HCP expressly incorporates by reference the permit

assurances set forth in the revised (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1998) Habitat Conservation Plan Assurances ("No Surprises") Rule (50 CFR Part 17).

6.4 AMENDMENTS

6.4.1 Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes that do not affect the scope of the HCP's impact and conservation strategy, change amount of take, add new species, and change significantly the boundaries of the HCP. Examples of minor amendments include correction of spelling errors or minor corrections in boundary descriptions. The minor amendment process is accomplished through an exchange of letters between the permit holder and the Service's Field Office.

6.4.2 Major Amendments

Major amendments to the HCP and permit are changes that do affect the scope of the HCP and conservation strategy, increase the amount of take, add new species, and change significantly the boundaries of the HCP. Major amendments often require amendments to the Service's decision documents, including the NEPA document, the biological opinion, and findings and recommendations document. Major amendments will often require additional public review and comment.

6.5 SUSPENSION/REVOCATION

The Service may suspend or revoke the ITP if SoCalGas fails to implement the HCP in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit or if suspension or revocation is otherwise required by law. Suspension or revocation of the Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, in whole or in part, by the Service shall be in accordance with 50 CFR 13.27-29, 17.32 (b)(8).

6.6 PERMIT RENEWAL

SoCalGas is requesting a permit duration of five (5) years. This period of time should ensure that the covered activities associated with the proposed project can be completed prior to permit expiration.

Upon expiration, the Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit may be renewed without the issuance of a new permit, provided that the permit is renewable, and that biological circumstances and other pertinent factors affecting covered species are not significantly different than those described in the original HCP. To renew the permit, *SoCalGas* shall submit to the Service, in writing:

- a request to renew the permit; reference to the original permit number;
- certification that all statements and information provided in the original HCP and permit application, together with any approved HCP amendments, are still true and correct, and inclusion of a list of changes;
- a description of any take that has occurred under the existing permit; and
- a description of any portions of the project still to be completed, if applicable, or what activities under the original permit the renewal is intended to cover.

If the Service concurs with the information provided in the request, it shall renew the permit consistent with permit renewal procedures required by Federal regulation (50 CFR 13.22). If SoCalGas files a renewal request and the request is on file with the issuing Service office at least 30 days prior to the permits expiration, the permit shall remain valid while the renewal is being processed, provided the existing permit is renewable. However, SoCalGas may not take listed species beyond the quantity authorized by the original permit or change the scope of the HCP. If SoCalGas fails to file a renewal request within 30 days prior to permit expiration, the permit shall become invalid upon expiration. SoCalGas and the mitigation bank operator (if applicable) must have complied with all annual reporting requirements to qualify for a permit renewal.

6.7 PERMIT TRANSFER

In the event of a sale or transfer of ownership of SoCalGas during the life of the permit, the following will be submitted to the Service by the new owner(s): a new permit application, permit fee, and written documentation providing assurances pursuant to 50 CFR 13.25 (b)(2) that the new owner will provide sufficient funding for the HCP and will implement the relevant terms and conditions of the permit, including any outstanding minimization and mitigation. The new owner(s) shall commit to all requirements regarding the take authorization and mitigation obligations of this HCP unless otherwise specified in writing and agreed to in advance by the Service.

Section 7: Funding

7.1 COSTS OF HCP IMPLEMENTATION

Estimated costs to implement the conservation strategy described in this HCP are listed below in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1. Estimated Costs to Implement the Conservation Program

Item / Activity	Unit Cost
Tailgate Training	\$1,500.00
Delineate Work Areas / Exclusionary Fencing	\$5,000.00
Pre-con surveys / Construction Monitoring	\$60,000.00
Restoration / Revegetation Installation	\$5,000.00
Monitoring and Reporting (3 years)	\$7,500.00
Offsite Mitigation Fee (1.0 ac)	\$50,000.00
TOTAL:	\$129,000.00

7.2 FUNDING SOURCE(S)

SoCalGas will pay for all costs associated with implementing this HCP's conservation strategies, including minimization measures, conservation credits, plus effects and compliance monitoring as itemized in Table 7-1. In recognition of the fact that the costs for these activities are estimates, the actual incurred costs may be more or less. However, if the actual costs for the minimization activities are higher than estimated in Table 7-1, SoCalGas agrees to pay the actual costs.

7.3 FUNDING ASSURANCE

SoCalGas is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to more than 20 million consumers connected through 5.8 million meters in more than 500 communities. The Company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout central and southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. SoCalGas is a regulated subsidiary of Sempra Energy, a Fortune 500 energy services holding company with 2013 revenues totaling more than \$10.5 billion. Sempra Energy and SoCalGas' financial health provides adequate assurance that the Company has the financial capability to fund implementation of all aspects of the HCP. In the event of any material change in its ability to meet these obligations, SoCalGas will immediately notify the Service.

SoCalGas understands that failure to provide adequate funding and consequent failure to implement the terms of this HCP in full could result in temporary permit suspension or permit revocation. To demonstrate the ability to cover these costs, SoCalGas will provide a letter of credit to the Service. A copy of the sales receipt for the purchase of conservation credits will also be provided to the Service prior to project commencement.

Section 8: Alternatives

8.1 SUMMARY

Section 10(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, [and 50 CFR 17.22(b)(1)(iii) and 17.32(b)(1)(iii)] requires that alternatives to the taking of species be considered and reasons why such alternatives are not implemented be discussed.

8.2 ALTERNATIVE #1: NO ACTION

Under the No Action Alternative, implementation of the proposed Project would not occur and SoCalGas would not request an incidental take permit, and an incidental take permit would not be issued by the Service. The existing pipeline within the project area would remain, but the proposed agency-mandated inspection and repairs would not be conducted.

Furthermore, the conservation measures described in this HCP would not be implemented and the purchase of 1.0 acre of conservation credits for the CTS and CRLF would not occur. This would reduce funding for preservation, management, and monitoring of the CTS and CRLF and its habitat at the La Purisima Conservation Bank. Thus the No-Action Alternative is concluded to be of lesser conservation value to the covered species than the proposed project and accompanying HCP. The No Action Alternative also does not comply with existing pipeline safety regulations, and as such has been rejected by SoCalGas.

8.3 ALTERNATIVE #2: REDESIGNED PROJECT

Under this alternative, the impact areas of the Project would be reduced, specifically at the staging area for Digs 10 and 11. However, the dig locations cannot be changed. This would result in less temporary impacts to potential upland refuge within active an active grazing area (recently disked) with limited small mammal burrows. Based on the location of the digs, no alternate staging area is available that would accommodate the required construction equipment while precluding work in close proximity to the adjacent CTS/CRLF breeding pools. No areas along State Highway 246 within a reasonable distance to the site are available due to safety concerns. Therefore, the Redesigned Project Alternative is not practical and reduced take would be negligible. The proposed project provides greater habitat conservation benefits than the Redesigned Project Alternative. For these reasons SoCalGas has rejected the Redesigned Project Alternative.

8.4 ALTERNATIVE #3: PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, SoCalGas would construct the Project as described in Section 2 of this HCP. This alternative would require the issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to allow construction of the project. The project would cause the temporary loss of approximately 1.0 acre of upland habitat for the CTS and CRLF, and although unlikely, possible mortality of individuals due to direct and indirect impacts. With the proposed offsite mitigation purchase, the conservation measures proposed in this HCP would result in greater conservation value for the CTS and CRLF than either the No Action or Redesigned Project alternatives, while best meeting the operational and safety requirements of SoCalGas. Therefore, the Proposed Action is the preferred alternative.

Section 9: Literature Cited

9.1 LITERATURE CITED

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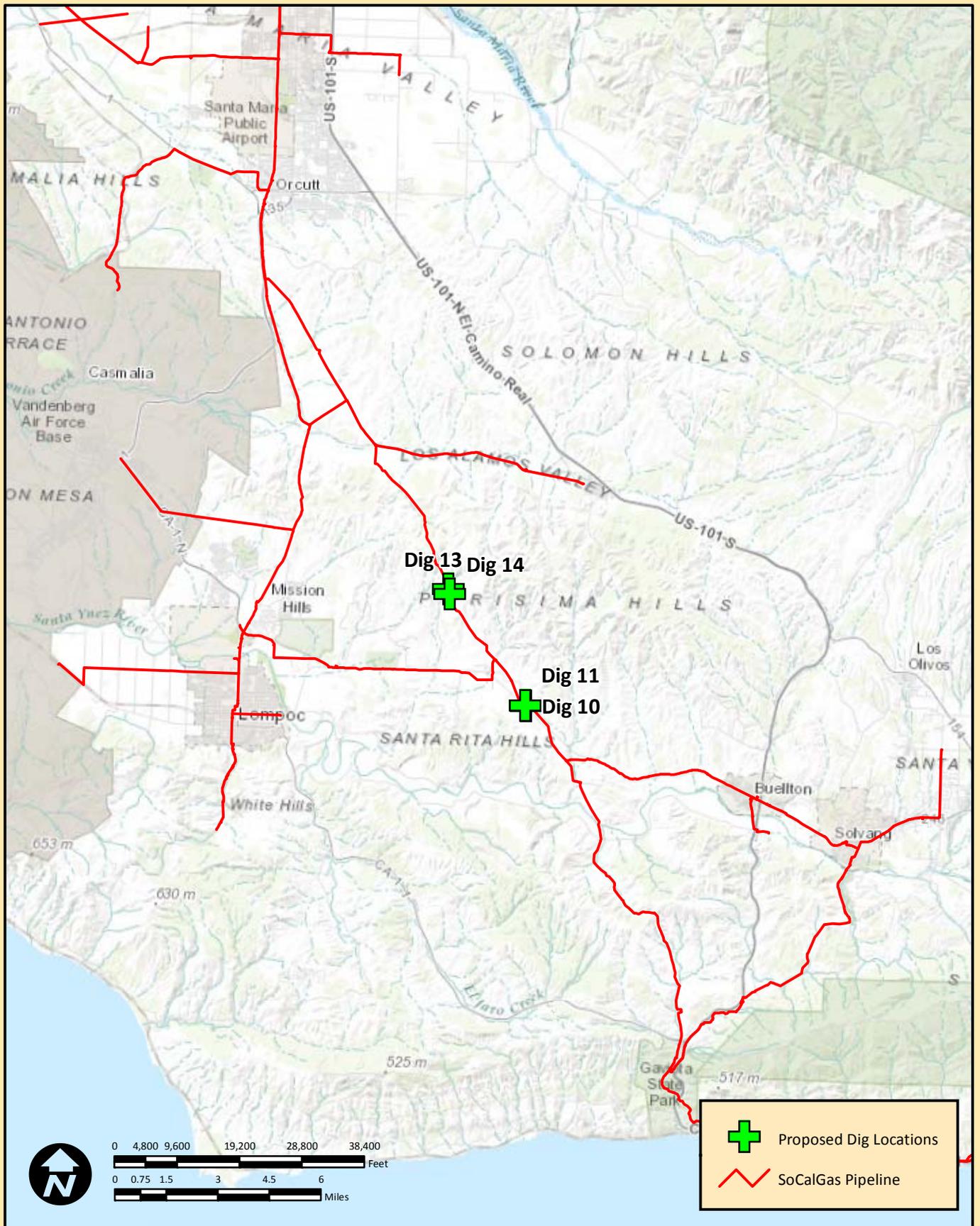
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

Line 1010 Pipeline Integrity Anomaly
Inspection Project

MAPS / FIGURES

APPENDIX A



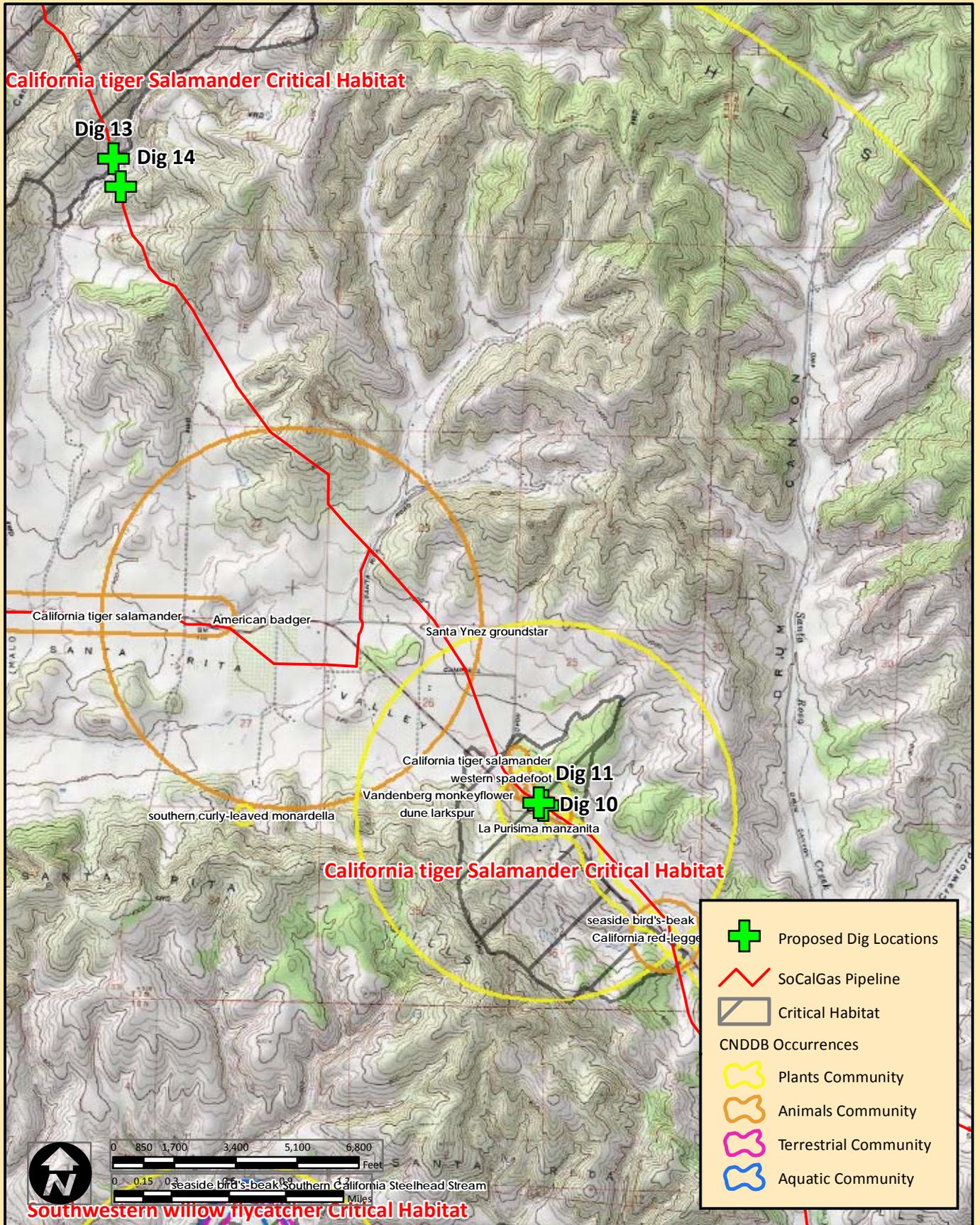
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 Proposed Dig Locations
 SoCalGas Pipeline



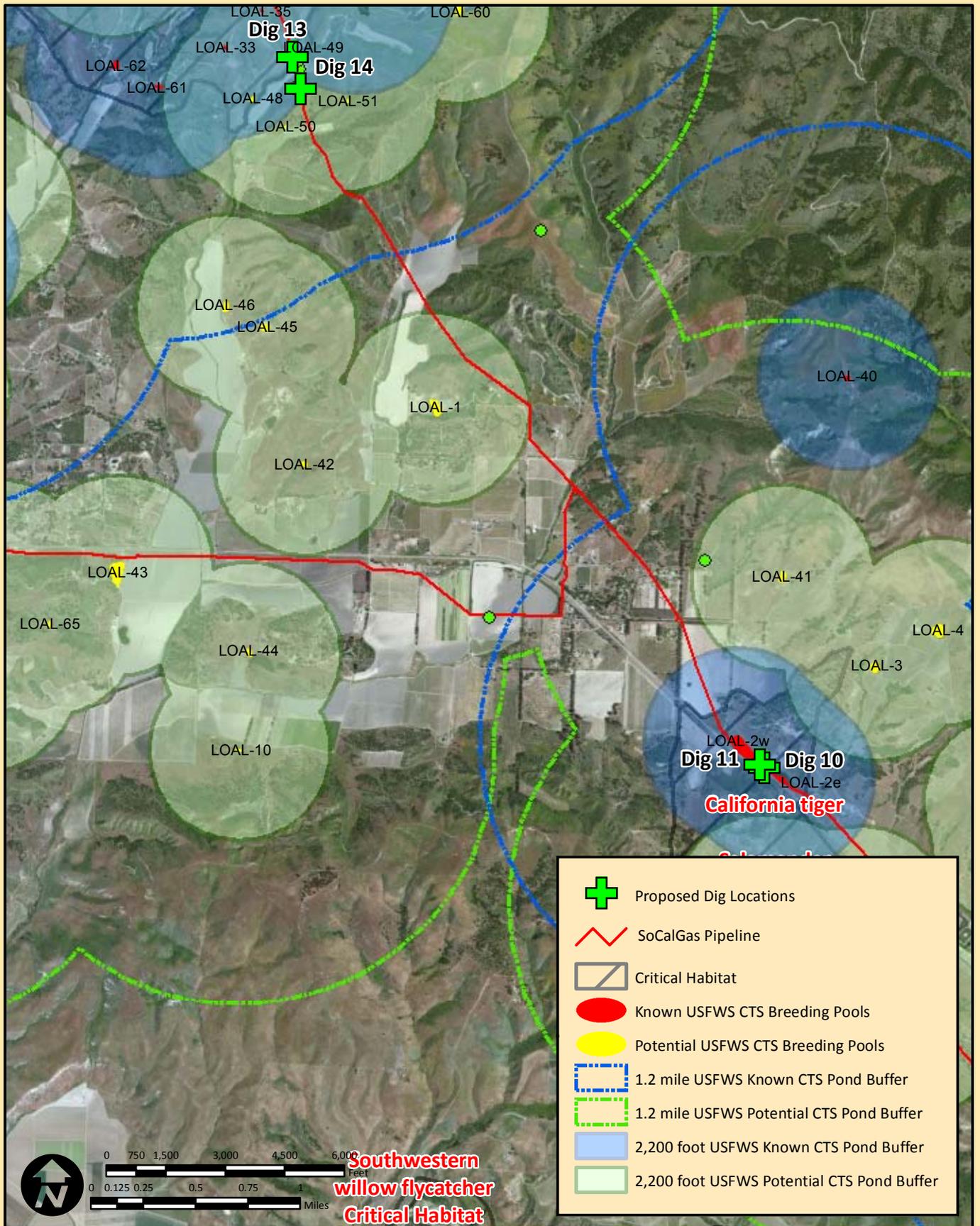
Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010

Figure 1
Regional Location Map



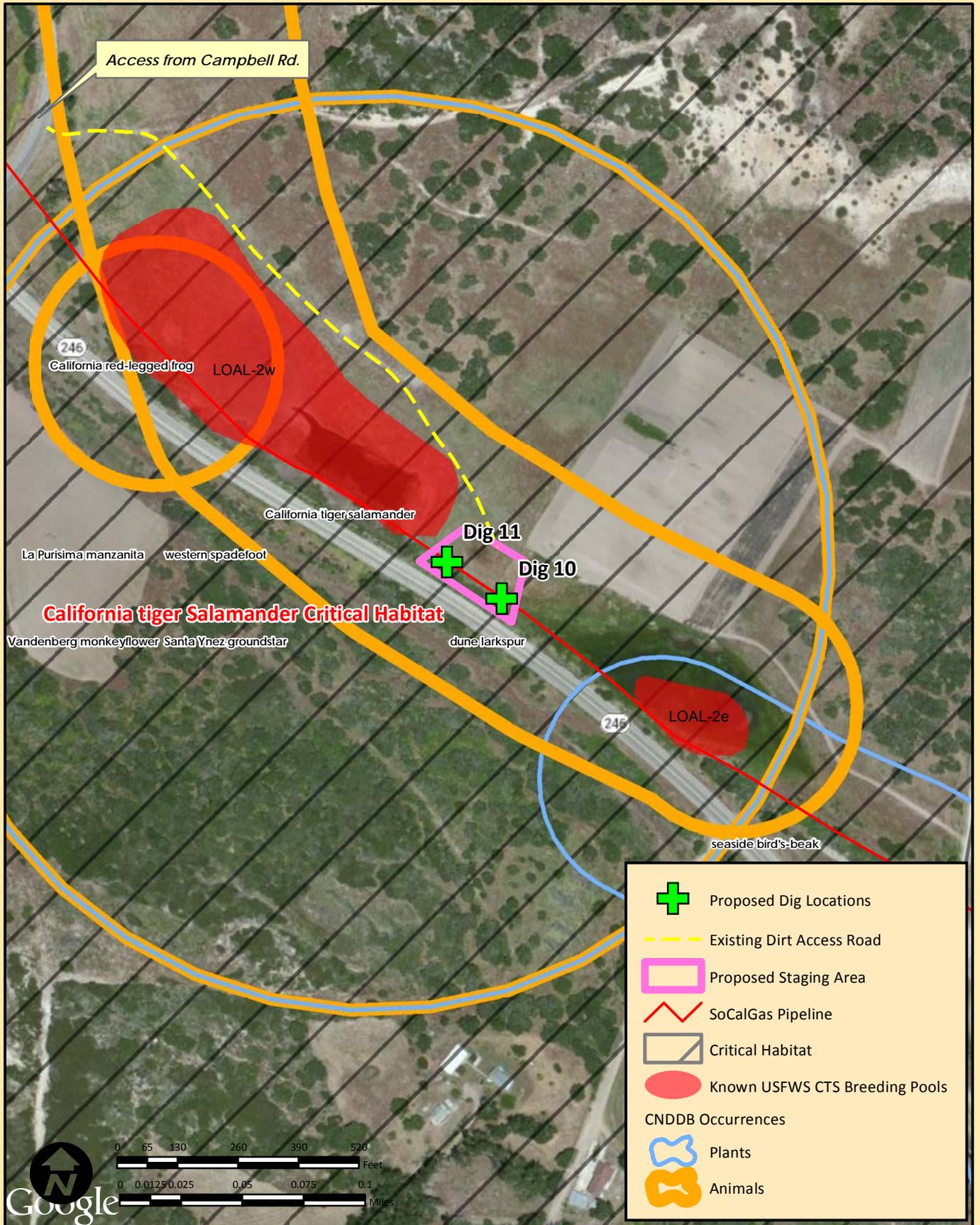
Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010

Figure 2
USGS Quad / CNDDB Map



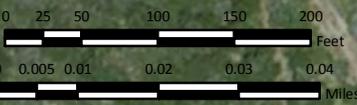
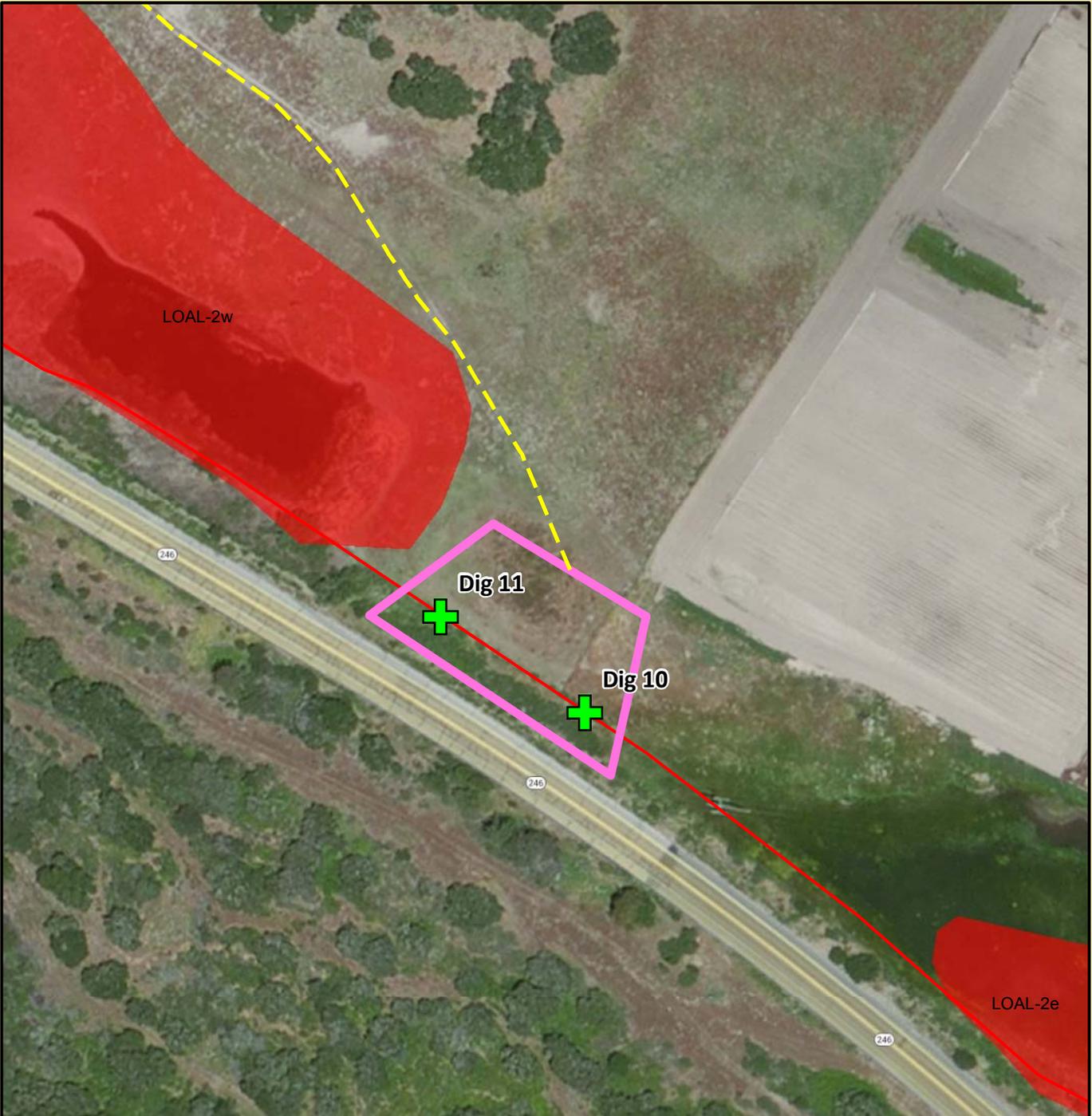
**Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010**

Figure 3
Aerial / CTS Pool Buffers



**Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010**

Figure 4
Aerial Photo / Digs 10 & 11

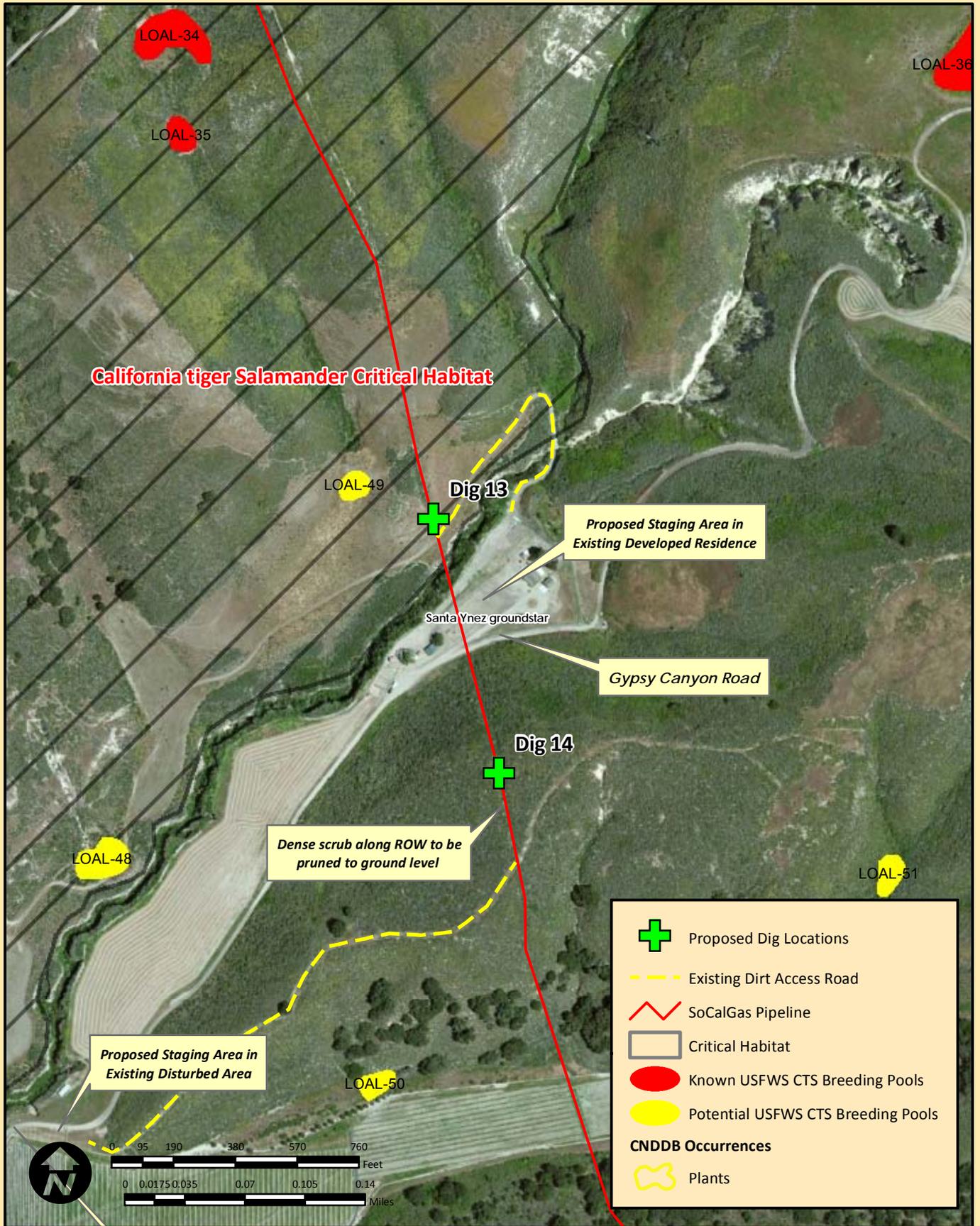


-  Proposed Dig Locations
-  Existing Dirt Access Road
-  Proposed Staging Area
-  SoCalGas Pipeline
-  Known USFWS CTS Breeding Pools



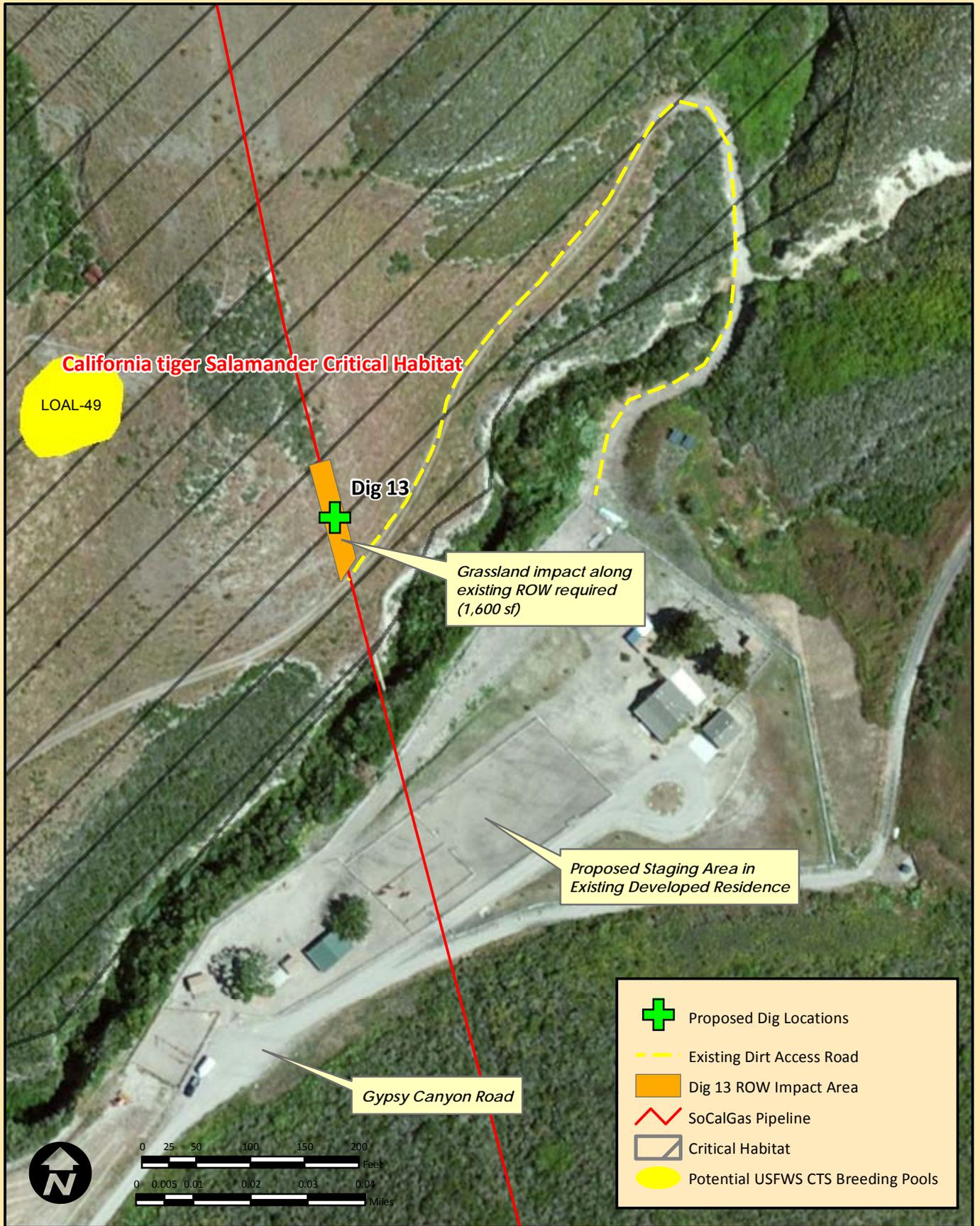
Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010

Figure 5
Aerial Photo Detail / Digs 10 & 11



**Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010**

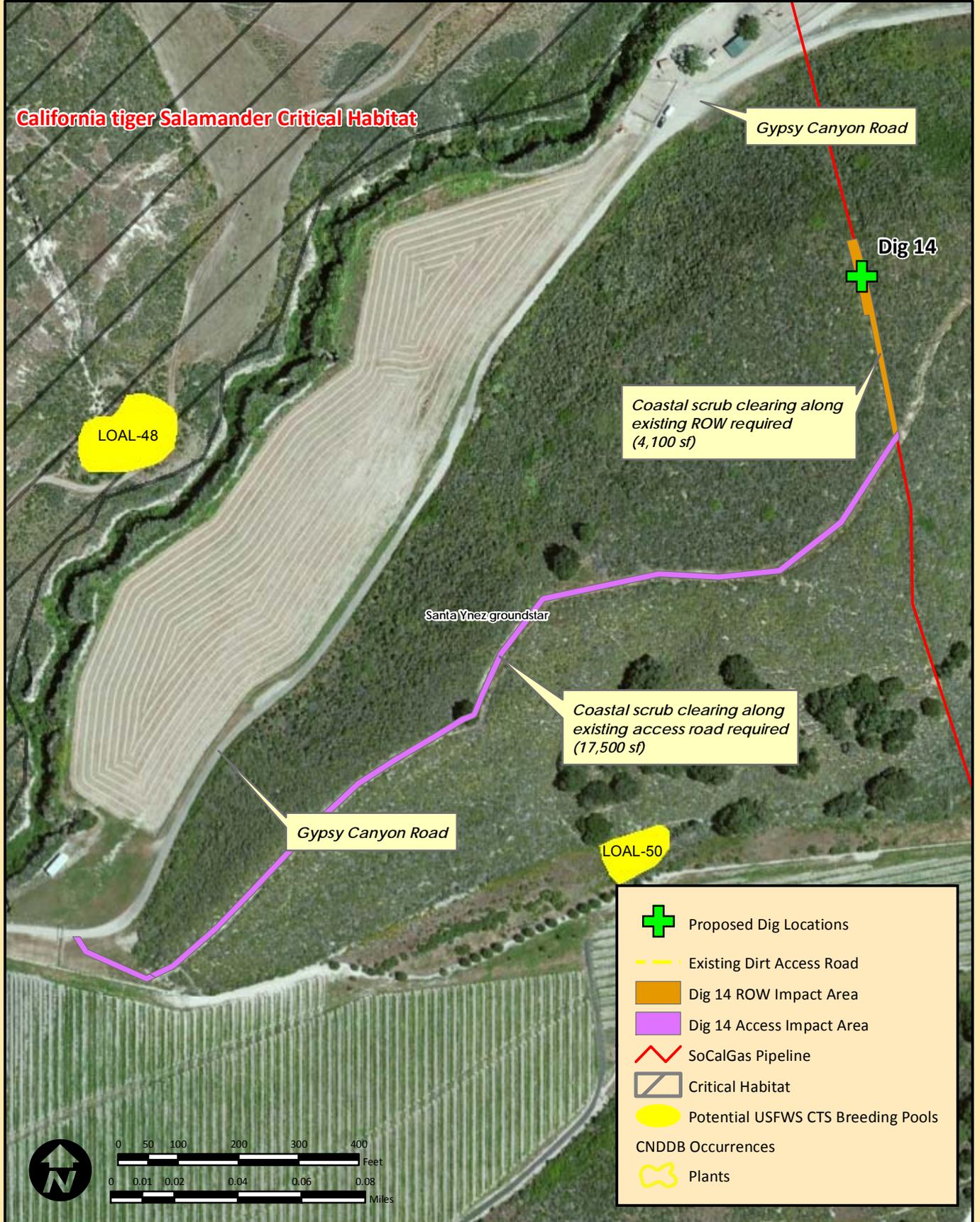
Figure 6
Aerial Photo / Digs 13 & 14



**Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010**

Figure 7
Aerial Photo Detail / Dig 13

California tiger Salamander Critical Habitat



	Proposed Dig Locations
	Existing Dirt Access Road
	Dig 14 ROW Impact Area
	Dig 14 Access Impact Area
	SoCalGas Pipeline
	Critical Habitat
	Potential USFWS CTS Breeding Pools
	CNDDDB Occurrences
	Plants



**Southern California Gas Company
PIP Line 1010**

Figure 8
Aerial Photo Detail / Dig 14

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

Line 1010 Pipeline Integrity Anomaly
Inspection Project

LA PURISIMA CONSERVATION BANK

CREDIT SALE AGREEMENT

APPENDIX B

AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF CONSERVATION CREDITS

USFWS File #1-1- _____

CDFW File # _____

This Agreement is entered into this 22nd day of June, 2015, by and between Rancho Purisima, LLC, a California limited liability company (Bank) and Southern California Gas Company (Project Applicant), jointly referred to as the "Parties," as follows:

RECITALS

A. The Bank Owner has developed the La Purisima Conservation Bank located in Santa Barbara County, California; and

B. The Bank was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("Service") and California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("Department") on March 13, 2014, and is currently in good standing with these agencies; and

C. The Bank has received approval from the Service and the Department to offer California tiger salamander and Western spadefoot toad credits as compensation for the loss of breeding and upland habitat for California tiger salamander and Western spadefoot toad as specified in the *La Purisima Conservation Bank Enabling Instrument* ("Bank Agreement"); and

D. Project Applicant is seeking to implement the project described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto (Project), which would unavoidably and adversely impact California tiger salamander habitat, and seeks to compensate for the loss of California tiger salamander habitat by purchasing Conservation Credits from Bank; and

E. Project Applicant has been authorized by the Service, Service File No. _____, and the Department, Department File No. _____, to purchase from the Bank **One Acre and Four One Hundredths (1.04)** California tiger salamander upland credits upon confirmation by the Bank Owner of credit availability/adequate balance of credits remaining for sale; and

F. Project Applicant desires to purchase from Bank and Bank desires to sell to Project Applicant **One Acre and Four One Hundredths (1.04)** California tiger salamander credits;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Bank hereby sells to Project Applicant and Project Applicant hereby purchases from Bank **One Acre and Four One Hundredths (1.04)** California tiger salamander credits for the purchase price of **Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)**. The Bank will then deliver to Project Applicant an executed Bill of Sale in the manner and form as attached hereto and marked Exhibit "B". The purchase price for said credits shall be paid by cashier's check or, at the option of Bank, wire transfer of funds according to written instructions by Bank to Project Applicant.

2. The sale and transfer herein is not intended as a sale or transfer to Project Applicant of a security, license, lease, easement, or possessory or non-possessory interest in real property, nor the granting of any interest of the foregoing.

3. Project Applicant shall have no obligation whatsoever by reason of the purchase of the Conservation Credits, to support, pay for, monitor, report on, sustain, continue in perpetuity, or otherwise

be obligated or liable for the success or continued expense or maintenance in perpetuity of the credits sold, or the Bank. Pursuant to the Bank Agreement and any amendments thereto, Bank shall monitor and make reports to the Service and Department on the status of any Conservation Credits sold to Project Applicant. Bank shall be fully and completely responsible for satisfying any and all conditions placed on the Bank or the Conservation Credits by the Service and Department.

4. The Conservation Credits sold and transferred to Project Applicant shall be non-transferable and non-assignable, and shall not be used as compensatory mitigation for any other Project or purpose, except as set forth herein.

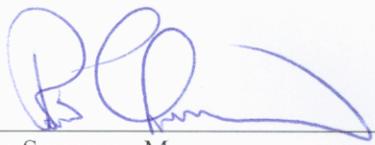
5. Project Applicant must exercise his/her/its right to purchase the Conservation Credits by September 30, 2015. After September 30, 2015, this Agreement will be considered null and void.

6. Upon purchase of the credits specified in paragraph D above, the Bank shall submit to the parties listed in the Notices section of the Bank Agreement / Bank Enabling Instrument, copies of the: a) Agreement for Sale of Conservation Credits; b) Bill of Sale; c) Payment Receipt; and d) an updated ledger. The updated inventory / ledger must detail: i) Project Applicant; ii) Project Name; iii) Status (sale complete/sale not complete); iv) Credit Sale Date; v) Service File Number; vi) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number (if applicable); vii) Total Number of Credits Authorized to Sell; viii) Total Number of Credits Sold to Date (inclusive); and ix) Balance of all Credits Available. The inventory / ledger should include all sales data from bank opening/establishment to the present.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement the day and year first above written.

BANK:

RANCHO PURISIMA, LLC

By: 
Brian Sweeney, Manager

Date: June 22, 2015

PROJECT APPLICANT:

By: _____ Date: _____

APPROVED

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:

This Agreement fulfills a portion of the Project Applicant’s proposed California tiger salamander habitat conservation measures, as described in the Service’s Biological Opinion; Service File Number _____ dated _____. The Service verifies that the La Purisima Conservation Bank is in good standing as of the date of this Agreement.

By: _____ Date: _____

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE:

This Agreement fulfills a portion of the Project Applicant’s proposed California tiger salamander habitat conservation measures, as described in CDFW’s File Number _____ dated _____. The CDFW verifies that the La Purisima Conservation Bank is in good standing as of the date of this Agreement.

By: _____ Date: _____

California Department of Fish & Wildlife, South Coast Region

Exhibit "A"

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
TO BE
MITIGATED**

Line 1010 Pipeline Integrity Anomaly Inspection Project

(Service File # _____; Department File # _____), Santa Barbara County,
California

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

Line 1010 Pipeline Integrity Anomaly
Inspection Project

LA PURISIMA CONSERVATION BANK

RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

APPENDIX C

Exhibit "B"

BILL OF SALE

Contract # 2015-___ [*Bank Sales Number*]

Service File # 1-1- _____

Department File # _____

In consideration of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00), receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Rancho Purisima, LLC does hereby bargain, sell and transfer to **Southern California Gas Company** (Project Applicant), **One Acre and Four One Hundredths (1.04)** credits in the *La Purisima Conservation Bank* in Santa Barbara County, California, developed, and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to the *La Purisima Conservation Bank Enabling Instrument* (the "Bank Agreement").

Rancho Purisima, LLC represents and warrants that it has good title to the credits, has good right to sell the same, and that they are free and clear of all claims, liens, or encumbrances other than those authorized by the Bank Agreement.

Rancho Purisima, LLC covenants and agrees with the buyer to warrant and defend the sale of the credits hereinbefore described against all and every person and persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same.

DATED: _____

RANCHO PURISIMA, LLC

By: _____
Brian Sweeney, Manager

Exhibit "C"

La Purisma Conservation Bank

CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER CREDITS: PAYMENT RECEIPT

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Name: **Southern California Gas Company**

Address: 9400 Oakdale Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311-6511

Telephone: (818) 701-3286

Contact: Sarah Towne

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Description: Line 1010 Pipeline Integrity Anomaly Inspection Project

Agency File Numbers:

Species/Habitat Affected: California tiger salamander

Credits to be Purchased: **1.04**

Payment Amount: **\$35,000.00**

Project Location: Dig 10 34.650441 / -120.310754
Dig 11 34.650650 / -120.311154
Dig 13 34.696684 / -120.350982
Dig 14 34.696684 / -120.350982

County/Address: Santa Barbara County

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payee: Rancho Purisima, LLC

Payer: Southern California Gas Company

Amount: **\$35,000.00**

Method of payment: Cash _____ Check No. _____ Money Order No. _____

Received by: _____ Date: _____

(Signature)

Name: Brian Sweeney Title: Manager