

**APPENDIX B**  
**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**  
**REPORT**



## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REPORT

### SLOVER AVENUE STREET WIDENING – TAMARIND AVENUE TO CEDAR AVENUE, BLOOMINGTON

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USGS Quad: Fontana, FH29A, R5W, T1S, Sections 21 & 28  
Thomas Guide page 605 B/C-7  
DPW WO#14141

#### **Project Description**

The County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department (County) has proposed street improvements along a 1.5 mile stretch of Slover Avenue in the unincorporated area of Bloomington. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic circulation by increasing the Level of Service (LOS) on Slover Avenue which is currently operating at an unacceptable LOS "F". The proposed project includes: construction of one (1) to two(2) additional traffic lanes or traffic lane infill for a total of four (4) traffic lanes; median islands (continuous left turn lane) along Slover Avenue, from Tamarind Avenue to Cedar Avenue; installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Slover Avenue/Laurel Avenue and Slover Avenue/Locust Avenue; relocation of traffic signals at Slover Avenue/ Cedar Avenue; construction of two cross gutters across Slover Avenue at Locust Avenue to carry the surface run-off south on Locust Ave; and construction of one cross gutter at Linden Avenue and one cross gutter at Orchard Street (south). The roadway will be widened to 80 feet, and right-of-way (ROW) up to ultimate ROW of 104 feet will be acquired along Slover Avenue for this project and for future landscaping and sidewalk improvements. Additional project-related improvements will also occur along streets intersecting Slover Avenue between Tamarind and Cedar. These improvements are discussed below. Also, refer to Figure 1, which shows the regional location and Figure 2, which shows the local vicinity of the project site.

Additional ROW will be acquired by the County along Slover Avenue from Tamarind Avenue to Cedar Avenue, including three (3) to four (4) parcel lots adjacent to intersecting streets (APN 256-021-07, 256-031-10, 257-013-04, and maybe 253-191-18). Approximately 44 feet of right-of-way (22 feet in each direction) will be acquired along Slover Avenue allowing the street to be widened to its ultimate width of 80 feet, and with an ultimate ROW width of 104 feet. At Tamarind, three (3) feet of ROW south of Slover Avenue will be acquired. At Alder Avenue, 14 feet of ROW in each direction, north and south of Slover Avenue, will be acquired for ultimate ROW of 88 feet. Along Laurel Avenue an additional six feet of ROW (three feet in each direction) will be acquired for ultimate ROW of 66 feet; along Locust Avenue approximately 28 feet of ROW (14 feet in each direction) will be acquired for ultimate ROW of 88 feet; and along

Maple Avenue approximately three feet of ROW on the west side will be acquired to accommodate improvements.

Improvements will be tapered to existing asphalt pavement north and south of Slover Avenue along intersecting streets. Along Alder, Laurel, Locust Maple Linden, and Cedar Avenues, and along Orchard and Valencia Streets, the following will occur: Pavement tapering and driveway improvements along Alder Avenue, up to 250 linear feet south and 250 linear feet north of Slover Avenue, along Laurel Avenue, up to 450 linear feet south of Slover Avenue, along Locust Avenue, up to 760 feet south and 350 feet north of Slover Avenue, along Maple Avenue, up to 300 feet south of Slover Avenue, along Linden Avenue, up to 265 feet north and 265 feet south of Slover Avenue, along Orchard Street (north), up to 230 feet north of Slover Avenue, along Valencia Street, roadway widening and street tapering up to 80 linear feet, along Orchard Street (south) up to 200 linear feet south of Slover Avenue, and along Cedar Avenue, roadway widening and tapering up to 180 feet north of Slover Avenue and to the end of the proposed curb return south of the intersection. Existing fencing and utilities (overhead and underground) will be relocated as necessary and trees and tree stumps will be removed. The additional roadway along Slover Avenue will be graded and constructed with a 8.4-inch thick asphalt concrete pavement on native soil, while the additional roadways intersecting streets will be graded and constructed with 6 1/3 -inch asphalt concrete pavement on native soil. Sidewalk ramps will be constructed at the corners of street intersections to accommodate pedestrians to cross the streets. Existing driveways will be replaced with concrete driveways along Slover Avenue to meet County standard plans. Driveways of intersecting streets will be replaced with similar materials. Concrete curb and gutter will be installed along Slover Avenue. Asphalt paving at intersecting streets will be tapered to meet the existing asphalt concrete pavement.

Construction will take approximately six months and will be completed by a County contractor. During the construction phase, a minimum of one traffic lane in each direction will be maintained for through traffic which shall be redirected via signage, traffic cones, flashing beacon and other equipment in accordance with current Caltrans Traffic Control Standards. Construction equipment will include, but not be limited to, dump trucks, loaders, mini crane, water truck, paving machines, concrete mixer, rollers, compressors and pulverizing equipment.

#### **Environmental Setting**

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, 2009) for the Fontana quad was reviewed, along with a site visit by the San Bernardino County Public Works Ecological Resource Specialist (ERS). Slover Avenue is a two-lane road that is well-traveled by automobile and commercial vehicles. The area surrounding the proposed project area is comprised of high density residential, industrial, and commercial development with little to no open habitat. More specifically, the San Bernardino County Public Works right-of-way along Slover Avenue was observed to have the following:

- Between Cedar Avenue and Orchard Street, only compact, bare ground with no vegetation exists on both the north and south sides (Photograph 1);
- Between Valencia Street and Linden Avenue, the north side has one (1) Canary Island date palm tree (*Phoenix canariensis*), a tree of heaven tree (*Ailanthus altissima*), and two (2) Mexican fan palm trees (*Washingtonia robusta*), while on the south side there is

primarily asphalt with small areas of compact bare ground and no vegetation (Photograph 2);

- Between Linden Avenue and Maple Avenue, the north side is professionally landscaped with a variety of different palm tree species, whereas the southern portion has an already existing sidewalk intermixed with open areas of compact soil and no existing vegetation (Photograph 3);
- Between Maple Avenue and Locust Avenue, the south side contains one (1) mature (~30 feet) and approximately ten (10) immature (< 5 feet) Mexican fan palm trees that are adjacent to residential housing (Photograph 4), while the north side consists of manicured landscaping with red fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum rubrum*) and Brazilian pepper trees (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) (Photograph 5);
- Between Locust Avenue and Laurel Avenue, an open field occurs (Photograph 6) immediately south of the widening project. Within the proposed right-of-way, approximately fifteen (15) eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* spp), along with a Mexican fan palm tree, tree of heaven, and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*) are present along the south side (Photograph 7), while to the north, compact, bare ground abuts rural, residential housing (Photograph 8);
- Between Laurel Avenue and Alder Avenue, a row of approximately twenty (20) eucalyptus trees exists to the south (Photograph 9), where a narrow stretch of open, compact bare ground and no vegetation exists on the northern portion (Photograph 10); and
- Between Alder Street and Tamarind Avenue, the northern side has an existing sidewalk and manicured landscaping (rosemary, eucalyptus). The southern side has approximately twenty (20) mature tamarisk trees (*Tamarix aphylla*) and four (4) eucalyptus trees within the right-of-way (Photograph 11).

The cross streets along Slover Avenue within the project footprint were also surveyed. Along Linden Avenue, residential housing with an existing sidewalk occurs south of Slover Avenue, with two (2) Canary Island date palms existing north of Slover Avenue on the western side of the street. Within the right-of-way along Maple Avenue, an existing sidewalk occurs along the entire eastern portion of the right-of-way, with the western side having only compact soil and no vegetation. Along Laurel Avenue (east side) and Locust Avenue (west side), the right-of-way consists primarily of bare, fine loamy sand with some dead Russian thistle scattered throughout. On the western side of Laurel Avenue, five (5) Eucalyptus trees exist. On Alder Street, south of Slover Avenue, various palm tree species are intermixed with Brazilian pepper trees on the eastern side, whereas approximately ten (10) Brazilian pepper trees exist on the west side. North of Slover Avenue, a row of mature eucalyptus trees exists on the eastern portion of the right-of-way.

#### **Conclusions - Further Action/Mitigation Required**

The project area occurs within the Jurupa recovery unit for the federally endangered Delhi sand flower loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*), DSF. In addition, past focus surveys conducted within the project vicinity found a low abundance of DSF occupation. Therefore, although it was the opinion of the ERS that there was little to no potential for the Delhi sand flower loving fly to occur within the proposed right-of-way, an informal consultation was

initiated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). After conducting a site visit on November 11, 2009(Attachment1), the Service concluded:

“The specific project site is highly disturbed and native soils have been mixed with non-native soils and compacted. Therefore, based on the current habitat conditions, I believe the proposed street-widening project will not result in take of the DSF.”

Finally, all the trees and vegetation that are to be removed are not native to the area. Thus, as long as the work is performed outside of nesting bird season, or a nest search is conducted prior to the commencement of work, there are no environmental issues.

**Attachments**



Photograph 1. Slover Avenue between Cedar Avenue (top) and Orchard Street (bottom) facing in an eastern direction.



Photograph 2. Slover Avenue between Valencia Street (bottom) and Linden Street (top) facing in a western direction.



Photograph 3. The photograph was taken at the Slover Avenue and Linden Avenue Intersection on the north side of Slover Avenue facing west. For reference, Maple Avenue is at the top of the photograph.





Photograph 4. The photograph was taken facing west of the Slover Avenue and Maple Avenue Intersection. For reference, the upper portion of the photograph is the south side of Slover Avenue just west of Maple Avenue.



Photograph 5. The photograph was taken at the Slover Avenue and Maple Avenue Intersection on the north side of Slover Avenue facing west. For reference, Locust Avenue is at the top of the photograph.



Photograph 6. Open field south of Slover Avenue between Laurel Avenue (west) and Locust Avenue (east).



Photograph 7. The photograph was taken at the Slover Avenue and Locust Avenue Intersection on the south side of Slover Avenue facing west. For reference, Locust Avenue is at the bottom of the photograph.



Photograph 8. The photograph was taken at the Slover Avenue and Locust Avenue Intersection on the north side of Slover Avenue facing west. For reference, Locust Avenue is at the bottom of the photograph.



Photograph 9. The photograph was taken at the Slover Avenue and Laurel Avenue Intersection on the south side of Slover Avenue facing east. The open field is immediately south of Slover Avenue between Laurel Avenue (bottom) and Locust Avenue (top).



Photograph 10. The photograph was taken at the Slover Avenue and Laurel Avenue Intersection on the north side of Slover Avenue facing west.



Photograph 11. A close up of the soil composition contained within the open field that is immediately south of Slover Avenue between Laurel Avenue and Locust Avenue .