
Wildlife Management Plan

Garden Grove Civic Center Revitalization Project

JANUARY 2024

Prepared for:

EDGEMOOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND REAL ESTATE

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1 Introduction

This Wildlife Management Plan (Plan) was prepared to detail the procedures for the capture and removal of all on-site dependent aquatic wildlife that are incapable of leaving on their own located within the pond at the City of Garden Grove Civic Center Revitalization Project (Project). Included in this Plan are the procedures and schedule proposed for handling and relocating aquatic wildlife, in addition to surveys and monitoring for nesting birds.

A biological assessment was conducted by Dudek biologists on January 5th, 2024 to survey the site for species present and discuss strategy for preparing the Plan. In addition, Dudek reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Project to determine species known to occur and species evaluated for their potential to occur within the Project site (City of Garden Grove 2023). It was determined that twelve special-status species have been recorded in the area and that none of these twelve species are expected to occur within the Project site (City of Garden Grove 2023). No special status resources were observed during the January field assessment.

1.1 Project Location

The Project site is generally located between the State Route 22 and State Route 91, and east of Interstate 405, within the City of Garden Grove, Orange County, California. The Project site is located within Section 33 of Township 4 South, Range 10 West, on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Anaheim 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. Specifically, the Project site is located on the existing 9.2-acre Civic Center campus at 11301 Acacia Parkway.

1.2 Project Description

The Project is comprised of the demolition of the existing Garden Grove Police Department public safety facility and Civic Center Park, followed by the construction of a new public safety facility on the western portion of the Project site, a new parking structure, and relocated and renovating the Civic Center Park. As part of the park relocation, the approximately 0.38-acre artificial pond located on the southwestern portion of the Project site will be removed. The pond is a closed system and does not connect to natural waterways, and all aquatic animals within the pond are released nonnative species (City of Garden Grove 2023).

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2 Wildlife Relocation

Wildlife relocation is a primary goal of this Plan and focuses on the capture and relocation of all on-site dependent wildlife that are incapable of leaving on their own. This includes any aquatic wildlife dependent on the pond, as well as any terrestrial wildlife encountered that are injured or in need of rehabilitation. Several non-native aquatic species have been observed in the Civic Center pond including: red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), Texas spiny softshell (*Apalone spinifera emoryi*), koi (*Cyprinus rubrofuscus*) and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).

Several avian species were also observed on the Project site by Dudek's biologists, including black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), and ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*). After consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), it was determined that a temporary authorization was required to capture and relocate the non-native aquatic species. The temporary authorization was issued until April 30, 2024 and under the provisions of Dudek biologist, Max D. Murray's current Scientific Collecting Permit (SCP) (S-213140001-22263-001) (Attachment A). The associated authorizations in this permit must be followed during the course of the wildlife relocation efforts.

2.1 Aquatic Wildlife Capture and Relocation

The Civic Center pond had two main basins; the larger basin is the lowest in elevation and is located on the western side of the Project and is connected to the smaller basin with a small waterfall feature. Coordination with the City of Garden Grove will be necessary to capture turtles and other aquatic wildlife as the surface water level in the pond is drawn down and to coordinate aquatic wildlife drop-off with the partnering non-profit organization, So Cal Koi Rescue. Before initial drawdown of the pond Dudek biologists will conduct a tailboard meeting with the crew on site and communicate safe and proper treatment of aquatic wildlife, as outlined in the SCP. Initial draw down of the Civic Center pond will begin on April 8, 2024 and Dudek biologists will capture aquatic wildlife as the pond reaches a minimum pool the following day on April 10, 2024. Turtles will be carefully captured, placed into 27-gallon totes, and kept in a cool safe place until all aquatic wildlife are captured. The drawdown of the pond is estimated to take 24 hours; however, it is likely that capture and relocation of all turtles will take up to two days. Once all turtles have been captured, Dudek biologists will transport the turtles to a turtle drop-off designated by So Cal Koi Rescue.

The non-profit organization only requires a \$20 donation per red-eared slider delivered. Dudek has included a budget of \$10,000 in the contract to cover the donation expense of up to 500 red-eared sliders. The final donation amount will be determined at the completion of the relocation effort. Edgemoor or the City will pay So Cal Koi Rescue directly for the donation amount, which can be made via check or electronic payment.

2.2 Wildlife Rehabilitation

In the event that injured or immobile wildlife are encountered during the pond draw down process, Dudek biologists will notify the appropriate local wildlife rehabilitation facility and coordinate a wildlife drop-off. CDFW provides a list of wildlife rehabilitation facilities throughout California. Table 1 summarizes the local facilities and their specialties.

Table 1. Local Orange County Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities

Facility Name	City	Phone Number	Specializations
Songbird Care and Education Center	Fountain Valley	714.222.6817	Songbirds
Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center	Huntington Beach	714.374.5587	All
Orange County Bird of Prey Center	Lake Forest	949.837.0786	Raptors

Source: CDFW

3 Nesting Bird Surveys and Avoidance

The dewatering and Plan implementation will occur during the nesting season of February through August, nesting bird surveys and avoidance measures will be conducted to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code Section 3500. Dudek biologists will conduct a pre-project clearance survey of suitable nesting habitat around the pond and within 500-feet surrounding the pond (study area) to determine if any active nests are present. The biologist will walk the entire study area scanning trees, shrubs, and other potential nesting locations for active nests or signs of nesting (e.g., carrying nesting material or food). If an active nest is found, a suitable buffer will be established around the nest depending on the sensitivity of the species to disturbance and location of the potential disturbance. If the dewatering and Plan implementation activities will potentially result in take of the nest, a monitor will be present and relocation activities will be moved to an area that reduces potential impacts to the nest.

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4 Safety

Dudek will ensure all biologists and City staff onsite will be aware of potential hazards that may be present during the implementation phase of this Plan. Prior to the start of work, Dudek biologists and City staff will all sign and fill out a Job Hazard Analysis form during their tailboard (Attachment B). All Dudek biologists will wear appropriate safety equipment in addition to field gear necessary for in-water work and handling wildlife, including but not limited to waders, long rubber gloves, and face protection.

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5 Reporting and Documentation

Upon completion of the relocation effort, Dudek will provide a brief letter documenting the results of the relocation effort and turnover of all aquatic wildlife to So Cal Koi Rescue and/or wildlife rehabilitation centers. The report will also include representative site photographs from the relocation effort. The letter will be provided electronically within one week upon completion of the relocation.

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6 References

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2024, January 18). California's Invaders: Red-Eared Slider. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Species/Redeared-Slider>

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2024, January 22). Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Rehab/Facilities>

City of Garden Grove. (November 2023). Civic Center Revitalization Project: Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. <https://ggcity.org/planning/environmental-documents>

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Attachment A

Temporary SCP Authorization for Non-Native Turtles

Max Murray

From: Hirano, Chad@Wildlife <Chad.Hirano@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:37 PM
To: Max Murray
Cc: Clipperton, Neil@Wildlife; O'Brien, John@Wildlife; Rice, Kyle@Wildlife; Sin, Hans@Wildlife; Greene, Lacey@Wildlife
Subject: RE: Temporary SCP Authorization for Non-Native Turtles (S-213140001-22263-001)

Hello Max,

Due to delays in the start of the project, this email is hereby extending your interim authorization to **April 30, 2024**.

Please carry a copy of this email along with the original interim authorization.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Chad

Chad Hirano
Environmental Scientist
[Scientific Collecting Permit](#) Coordinator
CDFW Wildlife Branch, Wildlife Diversity Program
West Sacramento, CA
Chad.Hirano@wildlife.ca.gov

From: Hirano, Chad@Wildlife
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:13 AM
To: Max Murray <mdmurray@dudek.com>
Cc: Clipperton, Neil@Wildlife <Neil.Clipperton@wildlife.ca.gov>; O'Brien, John@Wildlife <John.O'Brien@wildlife.ca.gov>; Rice, Kyle@Wildlife <Kyle.Rice@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Sin, Hans@Wildlife <Hans.Sin@wildlife.ca.gov>; Greene, Lacey@Wildlife <Lacey.Greene@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Temporary SCP Authorization for Non-Native Turtles (S-213140001-22263-001)

Hello Max,

Thank you for contacting us regarding the need to relocate non-native turtles.

By this email, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) hereby authorizes you to capture non-native turtles at **11200 Stanford Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92840** and transport them to **So Cal Koi Rescue** as part of an artificial pond removal project.

All of the provisions of your current SCP (S-213140001-22263-001) and associated authorizations must be followed during the course of your upcoming work. Additionally, you shall work with, and confirm, that So Cal Koi Rescue will provide potential adopters of turtles with information regarding the negative impacts of releasing non-native turtles back into the

wild. You can find information on the following CDFW webpage: [California's Invaders: Red-Eared Slider](#).

Please carry a copy of this email and your current SCP and associated authorizations while conducting the authorized activities.

This authorization is valid until **February 29, 2024**.

Please refer persons with questions about this authorization to me.

Thank you,
Chad

Chad Hirano

Environmental Scientist

[Scientific Collecting Permit](#) Coordinator

CDFW Wildlife Branch, Wildlife Diversity Program

West Sacramento, CA

Chad.Hirano@wildlife.ca.gov

Attachment B

Job Hazard Analysis

JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS – Biological Surveys

Project Name:	City of Garden Grove Pond Revitalization Project	Date:		Project Manager:	Tommy Molioo
Location:	Garden Grove Community Center Park			Lead:	Max Murray
Steps	Hazards	Preventative Measures			
Travel to site	Vehicle Use	Obey all traffic laws. Always wear seat belt. No cell phone use. Use headlights a half hour before sunset and a half hour after sunrise. Always use signals. Inspect vehicle prior to use. Ensure all items are secure and all emergency equipment is in place. Keep vehicle maintenance up to date. Be attentive when crossing traffic and walking around vehicles.			
	Parking	Park in designated parking spots at the Civic Center, or designated areas for loading wildlife.			
	Vehicle Fire	Never park a vehicle in tall dry grass. Do not leave the engine running. Always have a fire extinguisher in the vehicle.			
Hiking/working in the field	Trip/Fall	Wear appropriate walking shoes. Watch footing with every step; secure footing before taking next step. Watch for obstacles such as rocks, holes, uneven ground. Use proper body mechanics when walking, bending, and lifting.			
	Wading	Avoid deep sections of the pond. If needed use a trekking pole or wading stick to assist walking in the pond.			
	Wildlife	Always wear gloves when handling wildlife. Do not put your hands, arms or feet where you cannot see into or under clearly.			
	Snake Bite	Wear leather boots and snake chaps. When stepping over a downed log or other debris, kick the top with your boot to make sure a snake is not on the backside. If bitten by a snake, immobilize the bite and seek medical attention. Do not suck the venom, cut the wound or use a tourniquet.			
	Insect bites/stings	Avoid wearing heavy fragrances. Notify co-workers of any allergies and what to do if assistance is needed. Carry all necessary medication. Bees: watch for bees darting to and from the same area. If a nest is disturbed, run! Notify all workers in the area. Remove any loose clothing that bees could crawl into. Watch for allergic reaction. Spiders: Do not put your hands where you cannot see them without protection. If bitten, remove the stinger with piece of plastic such as a credit card or gauze from a first aid kit. Rinse with water. Use antihistamine if necessary. Watch for an allergic reaction. Ticks: Use insect repellent. Check for ticks after working in brushy areas. Remove ticks with tweezers by grasping the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull upward with steady even pressure. Do not yank the tick out. Clean the bite and watch for infection.			
	Heat	Drink plenty of water. Take breaks in the shade as often as possible and at a minimum, every 2 hours. Shade can be in a vehicle with air conditioning, trees and shrubs. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat illness.			
	Cold	Wear extra layers of clothes. Remove any wet clothing. Give hypothermic victim warm, not hot drinks. Do not drink caffeine or alcohol. Do not rub someone suspected of having frostbite.			
	Thunder/Lightning	Review the weather forecast prior to start of work. Seek shelter in an approved location (permanent grounded structure, vehicles). If no safe location is available, get low to the ground touching as little of the ground as possible (ex. Squat on a backpack). Stay sheltered for a minimum of 30 minutes after last visible sign of lightning.			
	Flood	Listen for roaring sounds. Get to high ground. Move away from streams with flood potential. Do not attempt to drive through ravines.			

