APPENDIX A

DEFINITION OF A RIPARIAN CORRIDOR AND WETLANDS

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A.1 DEFINITION OF A RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

For purposes of the *Management Plan*, a riparian corridor includes any defined stream channel including the area up to the ordinary high water (or bankfull-flow line), as well as all riparian (streamside) vegetation in contiguous adjacent uplands. This definition is consistent with the City's definition, as contained in the General Plan/LCP. Refer to Figure 1-3 for a depiction of the area of jurisdiction for different agencies along watercourses in the City. Jurisdictional areas are discussed in more detail in Chapter 1.0.

Characteristic woody riparian vegetation species that occur in riparian corridors include (but are not limited to):

- Various types of willow (*Salix* sp.)
- Red alder (*Alnus rubra*)
- Box elder (*Acer negundo* ssp. *negundo*)
- Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*)
- Big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)
- Western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)
- Coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia)

Stream channels include all perennial and intermittent watercourses shown as a solid or dashed blue line on USGS 1:24,000 scale topographical maps. Streams also include intermittent streams or "arroyos" that have well defined channels and some evidence of scour and/or deposition; many of these are not depicted on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps. CDFG has permitting jurisdiction along watercourses; refer to Figure 1-3 for a depiction of their typical limits of jurisdiction.

A.2 DEFINITION OF WETLANDS

Wetlands that have been previously identified through site-specific studies in the City have been included in this plan. Additional wetlands may be present on yet unsurveyed private and public property. Additional formal wetland delineations, as per ACOE and Coastal Commission criteria, were not conducted as part of this Management Plan.

Definition of Wetlands under City of Santa Cruz General Plan/LCP

Wetlands are defined as transitional areas between upland and aquatic areas. These areas have a water table usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water periodically or permanently. The City's definition of wetlands in the City's General Plan /LCP includes estuaries, lagoons and ponds, as well as seasonal wetlands that may occur as depressions within otherwise upland areas.

<u>Definition of Waters of the United States, Including Wetlands, Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act</u> and Rivers and Harbors Act

The ACOE regulates activities within Waters of the United States pursuant to two congressional acts: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1977, as amended).

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires a permit for any work in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States. Examples of work include piers, docks, breakwaters, and dredging. Navigable waters are defined as those waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide to the Mean High Water mark (tidal areas) or below the Ordinary High Water mark (freshwater areas). Navigable waters may be used currently, in the past, or in the future, to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Some watercourses and wetlands within the City of Santa Cruz support areas subject to this Act.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA, 1977, as amended) requires a permit for discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States. Under Section 404, Waters of the United States is defined as all waters which are used currently, or were used in the past, or may be used in the future for interstate or foreign commerce, including waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide up to the high tide line. Additionally, areas such as wetlands, rivers and streams (including intermittent streams and tributaries) are considered Waters of the U.S. Isolated waters (i.e., those not part of a surface tributary systems) and adjacent wetlands are also considered jurisdictional. Fill within wetlands is regulated under the CWA through a Nationwide Permit Program and an Individual Permit Program. Many of the watercourses and wetlands within the City support wetlands that are considered "special aquatic sites" under this Act.

For federal-review wetlands, the extent of wetlands is determined by examining the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetland hydrology. Under normal circumstances, all three of these parameters must be satisfied for an area to be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Refer to Figure 1-3 for a display of the typical jurisdiction of the ACOE.

Definition of Wetlands under the California Coastal Commission

The Coastal Commission, through adoption of the Coastal Act, regulates activities within wetlands that occur within the Coastal Zone. Section 13577 of the Coastal Commission's Regulations defines wetlands as land where the water table is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to promote the formation of hydric soils or to support the growth of hydrophytes, and also includes those types of wetlands where vegetation is lacking and soil is poorly developed or absent as a result of frequent and drastic fluctuations of surface water levels, wave action, water flow, turbidity or high concentrations of salts or other substances in the substrate. The Coastal Commission's definition of wetlands differs from the federal definition used by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Under normal circumstances, the definition used by those agencies requires all three wetland identification parameters (hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils) to be met, whereas the Coastal Commission's definition, which is similar to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's definition, requires the presence of at least one of those parameters. The Coastal Commission's definition distinguishes wetlands from uplands by the presence of the following attributes:

- (1) the land supports predominantly hydrophytic cover;
- (2) the soil is predominantly hydric;
- in the case of wetlands without vegetation or soils, the land is flooded or saturated at some time during years of normal precipitation.

For each of the regulatory definitions, characteristic plant species that occur in wetlands include:

- Cattail (*Typha* sp.)
- Bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.)
- Sedges (*Carex* sp. and *Cyperus* sp.)
- Grasses, such as rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), creeping wild rye (*Leymus triticoides*) and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*)