Biological Resource Assessment for the Evans Road and Rider Street Project

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

APPENDICES

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Approach

This report presents the findings of a Biological Resource Assessment (BRA) conducted by Carlson Strategic Land Solutions (CSLS) for the 15.1-acre proposed Evans Road and Rider Street residential development project located within the City of Perris (City). The purpose of this study is to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and in support of approvals that the Project Applicant is requesting from the City of Perris. This provides a summary of the conditions present during the 2022 field surveys, an assessment of the potential presence of sensitive biological resources, an analysis of the potential impacts to those resources due to Project implementation, and any proposed mitigation. The potential biological significance of site construction and development in view of federal, state, and local laws and regulations are also identified in this report. The report also recommends, as appropriate, Best Management Practices (BMPs) and avoidance and minimization measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts. While general biological resources are discussed, the focus of this assessment is on those resources considered to be sensitive. This report was prepared based upon results of a literature review and field surveys.

1.2 Project Location

The approximately 15.1-acre Project site is located within the City of Perris, Riverside County. The site is located along the south of Rider Street and west of Evans Road (Figures 1 and 2). The Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) for the site is 300-090-004. The City is a participant to the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP); therefore, the Project is subject to MSHCP surveys.

1.3 Existing Conditions

The approximately 15.1-acre Project site consists of disturbed habitat that is routinely maintained. Immediate surrounding land uses include residential to the north, east, and south, and open space to the west.

1.4 Scope of Study

The scope of this BRA encompasses descriptions of the Project site, methods of study, and existing site conditions including vegetation communities and the potential for sensitive biological resources. Further, avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures are included within this BRA to reduce any potentially significant impacts to sensitive species.

2.0 Project Description

The Project Applicant proposes to construct 17 apartment buildings and associated infrastructure (Figure 3).

GIS Prepared By: Carlson SLS Created: June 10, 2022	0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet 1 inch = 5,000 feet	Data Sources: Bing Maps	***Rider-Evans Project*** Regional Map

FIGURE 1

GIS Prepared By:
Carlson SLS

Created: March 3, 2022

0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet

1 inch = 250 feet

Data Source: Bing Map

Rider-Evans Project

Project Vicinity Map

FIGURE 2

Summary:

14.54 Acres
283 Units
19.46 Du/Ac

One Bedroom	27%	76 Units
Two Bedroom	54%	152 Units
Three Bedroom	19%	55 Units

Parking:

Total Required	612 (2.16)	
Total Provided:		
Garages	279	
Open	352	
Total Spaces	**631**	**(2.22)**

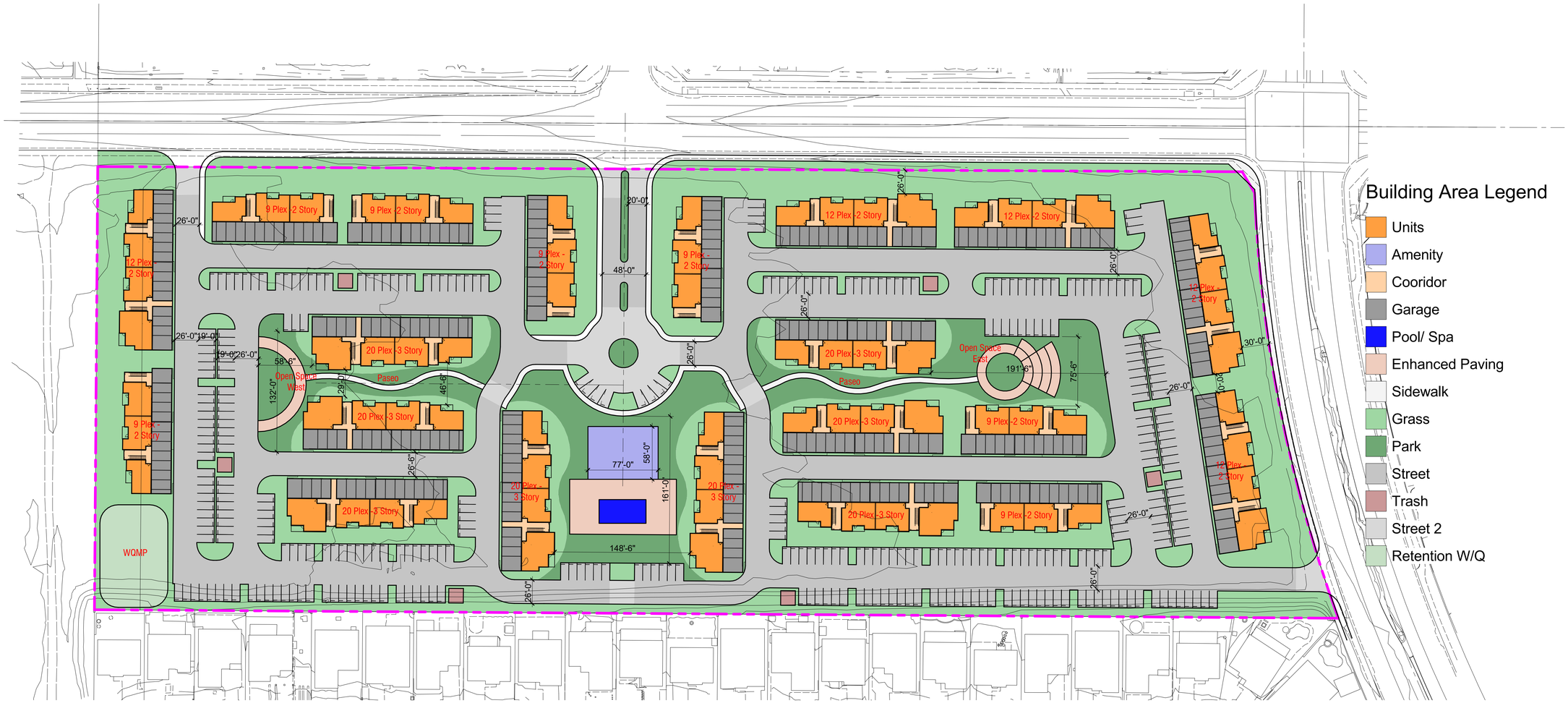
Notes:

- Recreation Area +/- 30,000 s.f.
- Amenity/ Leasing Building 4,500 s.f.
- Open Space West 7,000 s.f.
- Open Space East 16,000 s.f.
- Paseo Connection Space 18,000 s.f.

Notes:

- 19 Buildings
- Two & Three Story (Type-V)

- One Building Type w/ Two Variations
- One Bed - 776 s.f.; Two Bed - 974 s.f.; Three Bed - 1247 s.f.
- 275,609 net s.f.



1 1ST STORY
1" = 60'-0"

FIGURE 3

KAIDENCE EVANS
PERRIS, CALIFORNIA

TCA ARCHITECTS

KAIDENCE GROUP
TCA# 2022-062

7/07/2022

N

SITE PLAN - ALTERNATIVE

A1.1

3.0 Regulatory Framework

The following discussion describes the plant and wildlife species present, or potentially present, within the Project site that have been afforded special recognition by Federal, State, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. These species have declining or limited population sizes, typically resulting from habitat loss. Also discussed are sensitive habitats that are unique, of relatively limited distribution, or of particular value to wildlife. Protected sensitive species are classified by either Federal or State resource management agencies, or both, as threatened or endangered, under provisions of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts (FESA and CESA, respectively).

3.1 Federal Sensitive Resource Protection and Classifications

3.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 defines an endangered species as "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." A threatened species is defined as "any species which is likely to become an Endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." Under provisions of Section 9(a)(1)(B) of the FESA, unless properly permitted, it is unlawful to "take" any listed species. "Take" is defined in Section 3(18) of the FESA: "...harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Further, the United States of Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), through regulation, has interpreted the terms "harm" and "harass" to include certain types of habitat modification as forms of "take." These interpretations, however, are generally considered and applied on a case-by-case basis and often vary from species to species. In a case where a property owner seeks permission from a federal agency for an action which could affect a federally listed plant or animal species, the property owner and agency are required to consult with the USFWS pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA if there is a federal nexus, or pursuant to Section 10 of the ESA. Section 9(a)(2)(b) of the FESA addresses the protections afforded to listed plants. All references to federally-protected species in this BRA include the most current published status or candidate category to which each species has been assigned by the USFWS.

3.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects individuals as well as any part, nest, or eggs of any bird listed as migratory. In practice, the MBTA protects against activities that potentially impact migratory birds and contains conditions that require pre-disturbance surveys for nesting birds during the breeding season. In the event nesting is observed, a buffer area with a specified radius must be established, within which no disturbance or intrusion is allowed until the young have fledged and left the nest, or it has been determined that the nest has failed. The size of the buffer area varies with species and local circumstances (e.g., presence of busy roads, intervening topography,

etc.), and is based on the professional judgment of a monitoring biologist. A list of migratory bird species protected under the MBTA is published by the USFWS.

3.1.3 Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401 and 404

The Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 401 provides guidance for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Section 401 requires a project operator to obtain a federal license or permit that allows activities resulting in a discharge to waters of the United States to obtain state certification, thereby ensuring that the discharge will comply with provisions of the CWA. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) administers the certification program in California. Section 402 establishes a permitting system for the discharge of any pollutant (except dredged or fill material) into waters of the United States. Section 404 establishes a permit program administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The USACE implementing regulations are found at 33 CFR 320 and 330. Guidelines for implementation are referred to as the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, which were developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with USACE (40 CFR 230). The guidelines allow the discharge of dredged or fill material into the aquatic system only if there is no practicable alternative that would have less adverse impacts.

Under Section 401 of the CWA, the local RWQCB must certify that actions receiving authorization under Section 404 of the CWA also meet state water quality standards. The RWQCB requires projects to avoid impacts to wetlands if feasible and requires that projects do not result in a net loss of wetland acreage or a net loss of wetland function and values. Compensatory mitigation for impacts to wetlands and/or waters of the state is required.

3.1.4 Wetlands and Other Waters of the United States

Aquatic resources, including riparian areas, wetlands, and certain aquatic vegetation communities, are considered sensitive biological resources and fall under the jurisdiction of several regulatory agencies. The USACE exerts jurisdiction over waters of the United States, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; wetlands and other waters such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent or ephemeral streams), mudflats, sandflats, sloughs, prairie potholes, vernal pools, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds; and tributaries of the above features. The extent of waters of the United States is generally defined as the portion that falls within the limits of the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM). The OHWM is defined as the "line on the shore established by the fluctuation of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas."

The definition of Navigable Waters has undergone several iterations, including a much more streamlined definition which was published and formally adopted in April 2020. However, in August 2021, the April 2020 Navigable Waters definition was challenged in the case Pascua Yaqui Tribe v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In light of this case and subsequent order from US District Court for the District of Arizona, the EPA and USACE have halted implementation of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule from 2020 and are interpreting "waters of the United States" consistent with the pre-2015 regulatory regime until further notice.

The pre-2015 definition of Navigable Waters includes (1) all waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; (2) All interstate waters including interstate wetlands; (3) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters: (4) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition; (5) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (s)(1) through (4) of this section; (6) The territorial sea; and (7) Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (s)(1) through (6) of this section.

Wetlands, including swamps, bogs, seasonal wetlands, seeps, marshes, and similar areas, are defined by USACE as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 CFR 328.3[b]; 40 CFR 230.3[t]). Indicators of three wetland parameters (i.e., hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetlands hydrology), as determined by field investigation, must be present for a site to be classified as a wetland by Corps (USACE 1987).

It is important to note that the RWQCB definition of wetland was redefined and the new definition went into effect on May 28, 2020. The definition of a wetland is as follows: An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation. This RWQCB modified three-parameter definition is similar to the federal definition in that it identifies three wetland characteristics that determine the presence of a wetland: wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. Unlike the federal definition, however, the RWQCB wetland definition allows for the presence of hydric substrates as a criterion for wetland identification (not just wetland soils) and wetland hydrology for an area devoid of vegetation (less than 5% cover) to be considered a wetland.

However, if any vegetation is present, then the USACE delineation procedures would apply to the vegetated component (i.e., hydrophytes must dominate). Examples of waters that would be considered wetlands by the RWQCB definition, but not by the federal wetland definition, are non-vegetated wetlands, or wetlands characterized by exposed bare substrates like mudflats and playas, as long as they meet the three-parameters as described in the RWQCB definition. It is important to note that while the USACE may not designate a feature as a wetland, that feature could be considered a special aquatic site or other water of the U.S. by the USACE and potentially subject to USACE jurisdiction.

3.2 State Sensitive Resource Protection

3.2.1 California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) establishes the policy of the state to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance threatened or endangered species and their habitats. The CESA mandates that state agencies should not approve projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species if reasonable and prudent alternatives are available that would avoid jeopardy. There are no state agency consultation procedures under the CESA. For projects that would affect a listed species under both the CESA and the FESA, compliance with the FESA would satisfy the CESA if the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) determines that the federal incidental take authorization is "consistent" with the CESA under California Fish and Game Code Section 2080.1. For projects that would result in take of a species listed under the CESA only, the project proponent would have to apply for a take permit under Section 2081(b).

3.2.2 Protection of Birds

Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto." Activities that result in the abandonment of an active bird of prey nest may also be considered in violation of this code. In addition, California Fish and Game Code, Section 3511 prohibits the taking of any bird listed as fully protected, and California Fish and Game Code, Section 3515 states that is it unlawful to take any non-game migratory bird protected under the MBTA.

3.2.3 California Fish and Game Code

Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code requires any entity (e.g., person, state or local government agency, or public utility) who proposes a project that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake to notify the CDFW of the proposed project. The CDFW reviews the proposed project to determine whether it affects streambed habitats within the project area. The CDFW may then place conditions in the Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement to avoid, minimize,

and mitigate any potentially significant adverse impacts within CDFW jurisdictional limits.

3.2.4 California Fully Protected Species

California fully protected species are described in Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the California Fish and Game Code. These statutes prohibit take or possession of fully protected species. The CDFW is unable to authorize incidental take of fully protected species when activities are proposed in areas inhabited by those species.

3.2.5 Native Plant Protection Act

California's Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) requires all state agencies to use their authority to carry out programs to conserve endangered and rare native plants. Provisions of the NPPA prohibit the taking of listed plants from the wild and require notification of the CDFW at least 10 days in advance of any change in land use. This allows the CDFW to salvage listed plant species that would otherwise be destroyed. The project operator is required to conduct botanical inventories and consult with the CDFW during project planning to comply with the provisions of this act and sections of CEQA that apply to rare or endangered plants.

3.2.6 California Native Plant Society

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a private plant conservation organization dedicated to the monitoring and protection of sensitive species in California. The CNPS has compiled an inventory comprised of the information focusing on geographic distribution and qualitative characterization of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered vascular plant species of California (CNPS 2012). The list serves as the candidate list for Threatened and Endangered by the CDFW. The CNPS has developed five categories of rarity, of which Ranks 1A, 1B, and 2 are particularly considered sensitive.

Sensitive species that occur or potentially could occur within the Project site are based on one or more of the following: (1) the direct observation of the species within the project site during any field surveys; (2) a record reported in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB); and (3) the project site is within known distribution of a species and contains appropriate habitat.

3.2.7 Sensitive Plant Communities

Sensitive plant communities include those habitat types considered sensitive by resource agencies, namely the CDFW, due to their scarcity and/or their ability to support State and Federally-listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare vascular plants, as well as several sensitive bird and reptile species. The CDFW maintains a natural plant community list, the List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities. Sensitive natural communities (also referred to by the CDFW as 'rare', 'special-status', or 'special concern') are identified on the list by an asterisk and are considered high priority vegetation types (CDFW 2003; CDFW 2000).

3.2.8 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act

The RWQCB also has jurisdiction over waters deemed "isolated" or not subject to Section 404 jurisdiction under the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. USACE decision. Dredging, filling, or excavation of isolated waters constitutes a discharge of waste to waters of the state and prospective dischargers are required to obtain authorization through an Order of Waste Discharge or waiver thereof from the RWQCB and comply with other requirements of the Porter-Cologne Act.

3.3 Local Sensitive Resource Protection and Classifications

3.3.1 Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

The Project site is located within the area subject to the MSHCP. The MSHCP is a comprehensive plan that includes portions of the County of Riverside and numerous cities. The MSHCP plans for conservation of 146 species and proposes a reserve system of approximately 500,000 acres. The MSHCP is intended to contribute to the economic viability of the County of Riverside by providing landowners, developers, and public infrastructure projects a streamlined regulatory process.

The Riverside Conservation Authority (RCA) MSHCP Information Application website was reviewed to verify any overlays that may occur on the Project site. Regardless of other overlays, MSHCP Section 6.1.2, *Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools*, is applicable to all projects within the MSHCP Plan Area and describes the process through which protection of riparian/riverine areas, and vernal pools will occur within the MSHCP Plan Area. Protection of these resources is important for a number of MSHCP conservation objectives. An assessment of a Project's potentially significant effects on riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools is required. Guidelines for determining whether or not these resources exist on site are described as follows:

- Riparian/Riverine Areas include "lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent, or emergent mosses and lichens which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source or areas with fresh water flow during all or a portion of the year." Riparian/riverine areas under the MSHCP also include drainage areas that are vegetated or have upland (non-riparian/riverine) vegetation and that drain directly into an area that is described for conservation under the MSHCP (or areas already conserved).

- Vernal Pools are described by the MSHCP as "seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three parameters (soils, vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season." This definition excludes artificially created wetlands created for proving wetlands habitat or human actions to create open

waters or altering natural streams demonstrating characteristic as described above.

4.0 Methods of Study

4.1 Approach

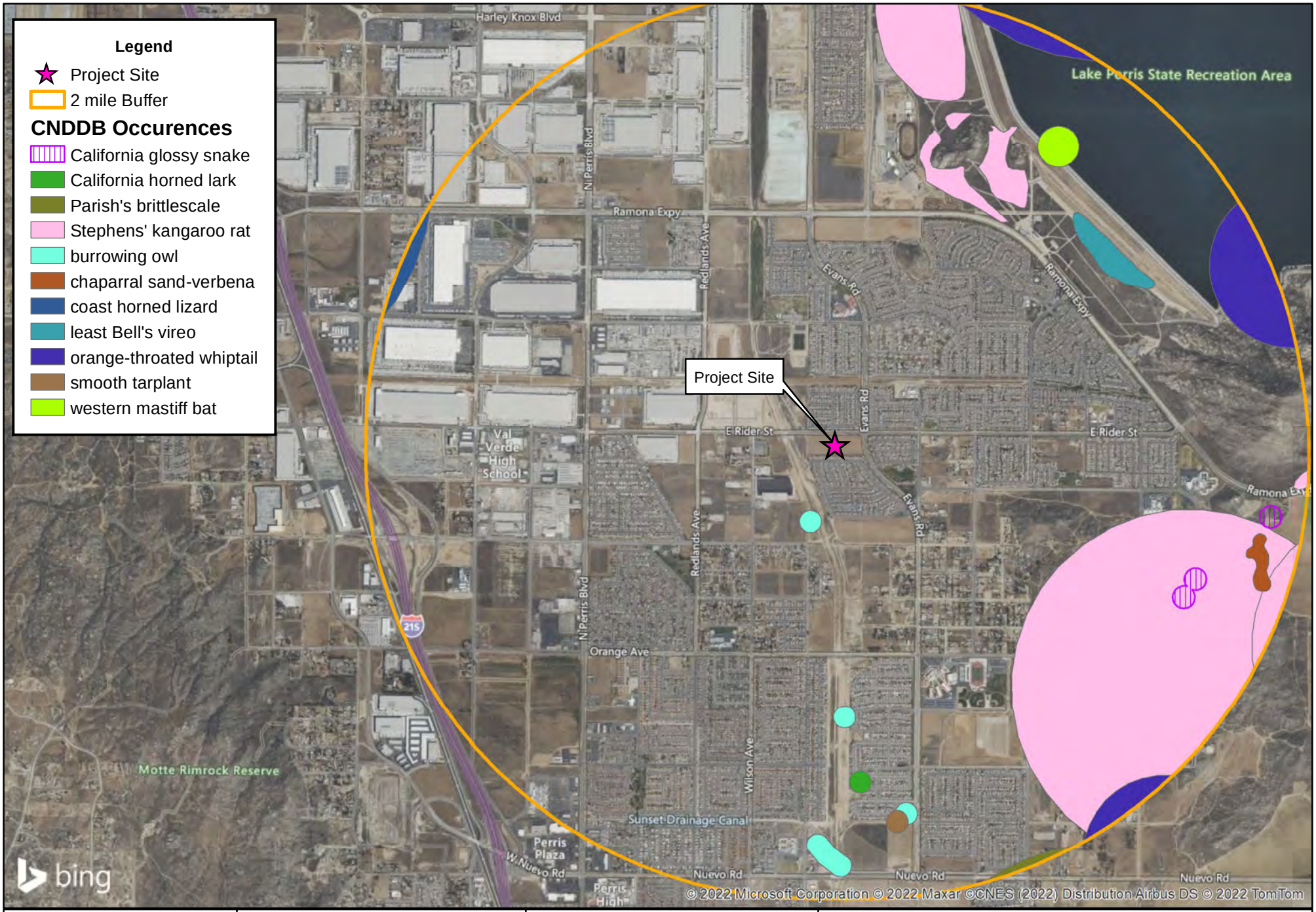
This BRA is based on information compiled through field reconnaissance and appropriate reference materials. Surveys included a general biological survey and vegetation mapping, a focused burrowing owl survey, and a jurisdictional waters and wetlands delineation.

4.2 Literature Review

Assessment of the Project site began with a review of relevant literature on the biological resources of the site and the surrounding vicinities. The CNDDB, a CDFW species account database, was reviewed for all pertinent information regarding the localities of known observations of sensitive species and habitats in the vicinity of the site (CNDDB 2022; Figures 4). The vicinity of the site included the Perris USGS topographic map and the surrounding eight USGS topographic quadrangles: Sunnymead, El Casco, Lakeview, Winchester, Romoland, Lake Elsinore, Steele Peak, and Riverside east. Federal register listings, protocols, and species data provided by the USFWS (USFWS 2022a), the CDFW, and the CNPS (CNPS 2022) were reviewed in conjunction with anticipated listed species with potential to occur within the project vicinity. Additional data sources reviewed include USFWS critical habitat maps (USFWS 2022b) and United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils mapping (NRCS 2022). In addition, numerous regional flora and fauna field guides were utilized to assist in the identification of species and suitable habitats. A list of all relevant references reviewed is included in Section 9.0, *References*.

4.2.1 Plant Community Mapping

Plant communities were mapped in the field directly onto a 200-scale (1" = 200') color aerial photograph focusing on dominant plant species. Plant species were identified using plant field and taxonomical guides, such as The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, second edition (Baldwin et al. 2012). Vegetation communities were characterized utilizing vegetation alliances in accordance with The Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition (MCVII) (Sawyer et al. 2009). Where necessary, deviations were made on best professional judgment when areas did not fit into a specific habitat description provided by MCVII. After completing the fieldwork, the plant community polygons were digitized using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to calculate acreages.



GIS Prepared By:
Carlson SLS

Created: July 13, 2022

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 Feet
1 inch = 3,000 feet

Data Source: Bing Map

Rider-Evans Project

CNDDB Occurence and Critical Habitat

FIGURE 4

4.2.2 Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats are of limited distribution statewide or within a county or region and are often vulnerable to environmental effects of projects. Sensitive habitats are often threatened with local extirpation and are therefore considered valuable biological resources. Sensitive Habitats are considered "sensitive" by the CNPS, and the CDFW if they meet any of the criteria listed below.

- The habitat is recognized and considered sensitive by the CDFW, the USFWS, and/or special interest groups such as the CNPS.
- The habitat is under the jurisdiction of the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA.
- The habitat is under the jurisdiction of CDFW pursuant to Sections 1600 through 1612 of the California Fish and Game Code.
- The habitat is known or believed to be of high priority for inventory in the CNDDB.
- The habitat is considered regionally rare.
- The habitat has undergone a largescale reduction due to increased encroachment and development.
- The habitat supports special status plant and/or wildlife species (defined below).
- The habitat functions as an important corridor for wildlife movement.

4.2.3 Sensitive Plant Species

The potential for sensitive plant species was assessed based upon the known occurrence of species in the area as identified from CDFW, USFWS and CNPS databases, and the presence or absence of suitable habitat within each site. Suitable habitat is defined as areas with appropriate vegetation communities, soils and/or topography (elevation at Mean Sea Level (MSL)) to support sensitive plant species based on known occurrences in those habitats. The available literature, databases, and existing field conditions were reviewed and compared to identify sensitive plant species that have the potential to occur within the Project site (Appendix A). During the field assessment, any observed special plant species location(s) and extent(s) were recorded in field notes and mapped using GPS.

4.2.4 Critical Habitat

Under the ESA, the federal government is required to designate "critical habitat" for any species it lists under the ESA (Figures 4). Federal agencies are prohibited from authorizing, funding or carrying out actions that "destroy or adversely modify" critical habitats. Section 3 of the ESA defines critical habitat as:

- The specific areas within the geographic area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the ESA, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protection.

- The specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

"Conservation" means the use of all methods and procedures that are necessary to bring an endangered or a threatened species to the point at which listing under the ESA is no longer necessary. Critical habitat receives protection under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA through the prohibition against destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat with regard to actions carried out, funded, or authorized by a federal agency. Section 7(a)(2) also requires conferences on federal actions that are likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.

The USFWS's online service for information regarding Threatened and Endangered Species Final Critical Habitat designation within California was reviewed to determine if the Project site occurs within any species' designated Critical Habitat. The USFWS regulatory mapping process for the designation of critical habitat is an imprecise, broad-based, mapping exercise of areas that may or may not include constituent elements of the critical habitat designation. Due to this approach in mapping, large areas are designated as critical habitat regardless of the existing habitat, and as a result may include developed areas, such as buildings, roads, hardscape, and other such facilities, as well as natural habitats.

The constituent elements of the critical habitat designation consider the physical and biological features needed for life processes and successful reproduction of the listed species. These included:

- Space for individual and population growth for normal behavior;
- Habitat cover or shelter;
- Food, water, or other nutritional or physiological requirements;
- Sites for breeding and rearing offspring; and
- Habitat that is protected from disturbance or is representative of the historical geographic and ecological distribution of a species.

4.2.5 Sensitive Wildlife Species

The potential for sensitive wildlife species was assessed based upon the known occurrence of species in the area as identified from CDFW and USFWS databases, and the presence or absence of suitable habitat within the site. Suitable habitat is defined as areas with appropriate vegetation communities and/or topography (elevation at MSL) to support sensitive wildlife species based on known occurrences in those habitats and/or CDFW and USFWS documented habitat descriptions for the species. The available literature, databases, and existing field conditions were reviewed and compared to identify sensitive wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the Project site (Appendix B).

4.2.6 Regional Connectivity/Wildlife Movement Corridor

An analysis of wildlife movement was conducted based on information compiled from the literature, analysis of aerial photographs and topographic maps, direct observations made in the field during survey work, and an analysis of existing wildlife movement functions. Relative to corridor issues, the focus of this assessment was to determine if development of the Project site that would have significant impacts on the regional wildlife movement associated with the site and the immediate vicinity.

4.3 Field Investigations

A general biological survey, vegetation mapping, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat assessment, delineation of jurisdictional waters and wetlands, and the first of a narrow endemic plant survey was conducted for the Project site by CSLS biologists Brianna Bernard and Justinne Manahan on March 08, 2022. A second narrow endemic plant survey was conducted on June 8, 2022. During the field visit, the biologists assessed the existing habitat on the Project site. The plant communities observed were identified and mapped. The biologists paid special attention to those habitat areas that appeared to provide suitable habitat for special status plant and wildlife species. Aerial photographs and maps were used to assist in the delineation of plant community boundaries.

4.3.1 General Plant Inventory

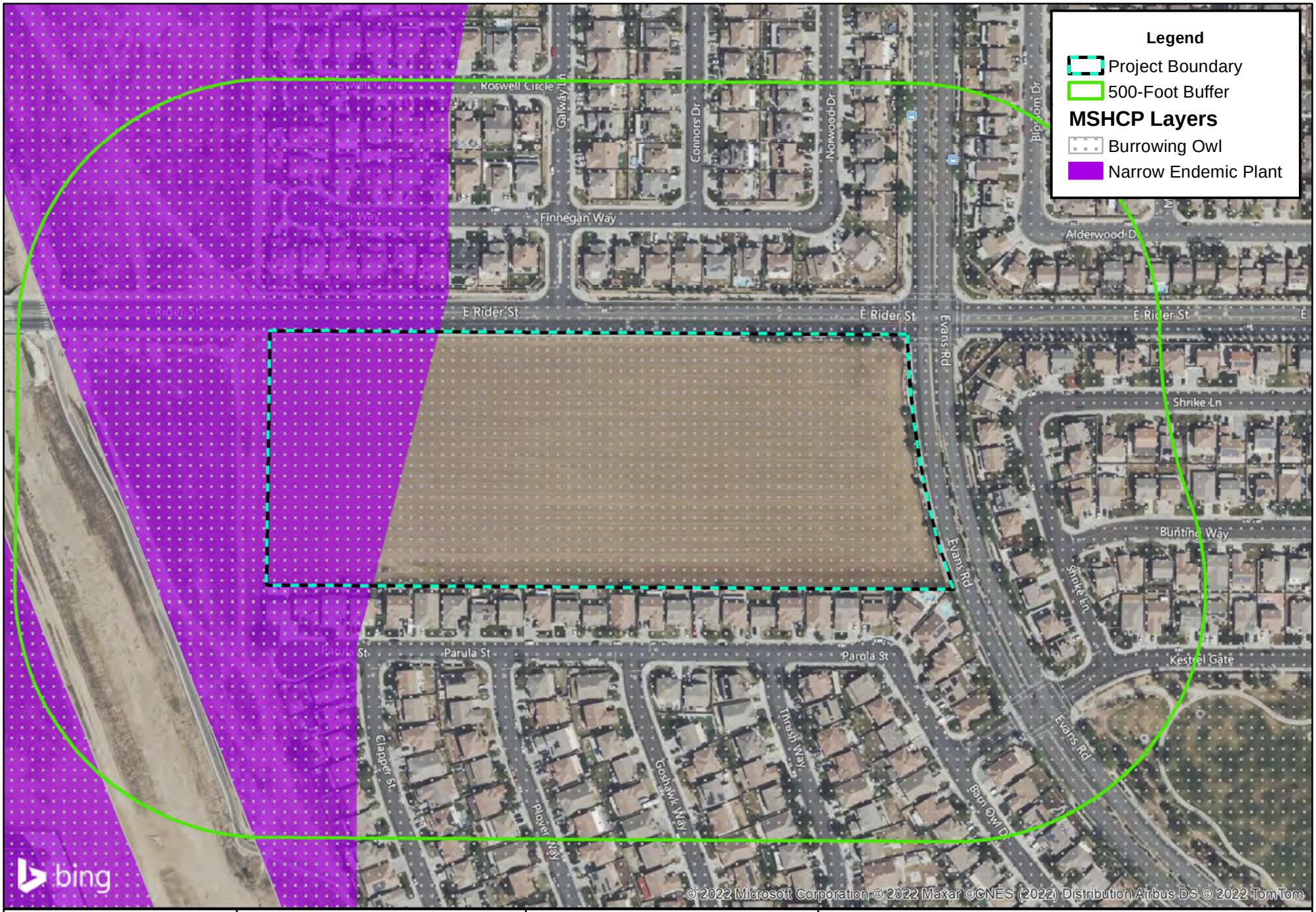
All plant species observed during the general and focused surveys were either identified in the field or collected and later identified using taxonomic keys. Vegetation communities were characterized utilizing vegetation alliances in accordance with The Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition (MCVII) (Sawyer et al. 2009). All plant species observed were recorded in field notes.

4.3.2 General Wildlife Inventory

All wildlife species observed on the Project site, as well as any diagnostic sign (call, tracks, nests, scat, remains, or other sign), were recorded in field notes. Binoculars and regional field guides were utilized for the identification of wildlife, as necessary. Wildlife taxonomy follows Stebbins (2003) and California Herps (2015) for amphibians and reptiles, the American Ornithologists' Union (1998) for birds, and Jameson and Peeters (1988) for mammals. All wildlife species detected were recorded in field notes.

4.4 MSHCP

The Project site is not located within MSHCP survey areas for Criteria Area Plant Species, Amphibians, Mammals, or Special Linkage Areas. The Study Area was assessed for MSHCP Section 6.1.2 Riparian and Riverine Areas and associated species, MSHCP Section 6.1.3 Narrow Endemic Plant, MSHCP Section 6.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface, and Section 6.3.2 Species Survey Requirements for the western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea* [BUOW]) habitat (Figure 5).



GIS Prepared By:
Carlson SLS

Created: March 3, 2022

0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet

1 inch = 250 feet

Data Source: Bing Map

Rider-Evans Project

MSHCP Overlays

FIGURE 5

4.4.1 Section 6.1.2 Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools

Volume I, Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP describes the process through which protection of riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools would occur within the MSHCP Plan Area. The purpose is to ensure that the biological functions and values of these areas throughout the MSHCP Conservation Area are maintained. The MSHCP requires that as projects are proposed within the overall Plan Area, the effect of those projects on riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools must be addressed. The Study Area was evaluated for the presence/absence of MSHCP riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools. With respect to riparian habitat, the Study Area was evaluated for the potential habitat to support the special status species including the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii traillii*), the western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), listed fairy shrimp, and other species identified in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP.

The Project site was evaluated to determine the limits of (1) USACE jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA; (2) CDFW jurisdiction pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Section 1600 of the Fish and Game Code; and (3) MSHCP riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools. Suspected jurisdictional areas were field checked for the presence of definable channels and/or wetland vegetation, soils and hydrology. Suspected wetland habitat on the site were evaluated using the methodology set forth in the USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (Wetland Manual) and the 2008 Regional Supplement to the Corps Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region Version 2.0 (Arid West Supplement). Any USACE and CDFW jurisdiction limits were recorded onto a 200-scale (1" = 200') color aerial photograph and a GPS unit paired with the ARCGIS Collector Application.

4.4.2 Section 6.1.3 Narrow Endemic Plants- Survey Area Number 10

The Project site falls within Narrow Endemic Plants (Survey Area Number 10). The CNDDB and MSHCP were reviewed to determine known occurrences of special- status plants in the region. Based on this information, a list of target plants (including their suitable habitats and soil) was developed and incorporated into a survey program to achieve the following goals: (1) characterize the vegetation associations and land use; (2) prepare a detailed floral compendium; and (3) document the distribution and abundance of any special-status plant species within the Project site.

General surveys were conducted to identify potential sensitive plant habitats, and to establish the accuracy of the data identified from the literature review and previous biological assessment and search. An aerial photograph and topographic map were used to determine the community types and other physical features that may support sensitive species or communities within the Project site and surrounding buffer area. The reconnaissance surveys also considered the guidelines adopted by the CNPS and the CDFW (Nelson 1984, CNPS 2001).

Where potentially suitable habitat was present, focused plant surveys included those MSCHP Covered Species identified by the NEPSSA Survey Area Number 10. For any locations with positive survey results, the MSHCP requires that 90 percent of those portions of the property that provide for long-term conservation value for the identified species shall be avoided until it is demonstrated that conservation goals for the particular species are met. Findings of equivalency shall be made demonstrating that the 90-percent standard has been met

4.4.3 Section 6.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface

The MSHCP Urban/Wildlands Interface guidelines presented in Section 6.1.4 are intended to address indirect effects associated with locating commercial, mixed uses and residential developments in proximity to an MSHCP Conservation Area. In order to evaluate direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed Project on urban/wildlands interface, an analysis of wildlife use/movement was conducted for the Project site and adjacent buffer area. The analysis considered the movement and use of large mammals (i.e., mountain lion and mule deer), medium-sized mammals (mesocarnivores), and other wildlife such as small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Methods utilized for the wildlife analysis included a review of existing information on wildlife use (including the MSHCP), general and focused biological surveys to document the presence/absence of wildlife, and opportunistic observations of mammal tracks and scat.

4.4.4 Section 6.3.2 Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment

Prior to the field survey, available literature and databases including the CNDDB, were reviewed to identify sensitive habitats and special status wildlife species, including BUOW in the vicinity of the Study Area. Consistent with the MSHCP Survey Instructions, pedestrian survey transects were spaced approximately 10 to 15 meters apart to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface.

Consistent with the MSHCP guidelines and where feasible, CSLS biologists walked the perimeter of the property, which consists of a 150-meter (approximately 500 feet) buffer zone around the Project boundary. Parcels of land that could not be accessed (e.g. private property) were viewed using binoculars from vantage points to survey for BUOW activity or signs thereof, as well as other nesting bird activity.

4.5 Jurisdictional Delineation

Prior to the field investigation, CSLS biologists reviewed historic aerial imagery, topographic maps, and background information for the Study Area to determine the potential for perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral drainages and associated riparian resources to occur at the Project site.

Furthermore, the National Wetlands Inventory map was reviewed, along with USGS 7.5-minute topo map to determine the potential presence or absence of jurisdictional streams/drainages, wetlands, and their location within any watersheds associated with

the site, and other features that might contribute to federal authority located within watersheds associated with the Project site.

5.0 Results

5.1 Biological Survey

CSLS biologists Brianna Bernard and Justinne Manahan conducted an analysis of biological resources and jurisdictional waters within the Study Area on March 8, 2022, a burrowing owl habitat assessment on March 8, 2022, and focused narrow endemic plant surveys on March 8, 2022 and June 9, 2022. Details of the surveys can be found in the table below. The CSLS biologists conducted all the surveys by foot, hiking all accessible areas. Any inaccessible or restricted areas were surveyed using binoculars. The vegetation, jurisdictional waters, and wildlife observed were documented and representative photographs of the Study Area were taken (Attachment A). The following table summarized the field survey data.

Table 1. Survey Information

Survey Date	Time	Temp.	Surveys	Surveyors
March 8, 2022	0800 - 1215	66° F	Biological Assessment, Jurisdictional Delineation, Burrowing Owl Assessment, and Narrow Endemic Plant Survey.	Brianna Bernard and Justinne Manahan
June 9, 2022	1100 - 1308	97° F	Narrow Endemic Plant Survey #2	Brianna Bernard and Justinne Manahan

5.1.1 Vegetation Communities

A single vegetation community occurs onsite. Observed vegetation communities were mapped in the field directly onto a 200-scale (1" = 200') aerial photograph and CSLS biologists utilized a Trimble R1 GNSS Receiver paired with the ARCGIS Collector Application. Vegetation mapping and acreages for each vegetation community is based on the observations of the field survey and is listed below in Table 2 and graphically depicted on Figure 6.

The surrounding 500-foot radius consists of developed community, including residential development and Southern California Edison Easement and open space.

Table 2. Vegetation Communities Observed

Vegetation Community	Acreage within in the Project Site	Acreage within in the Surrounding Buffer	Total Acreage within the Study Area
Ruderal	15.1	14.5	29.6
Developed	-	45.5	45.5
TOTAL	15.1	60.0	75.1

The general description of the vegetation communities observed during the 2022 field surveys are described below.

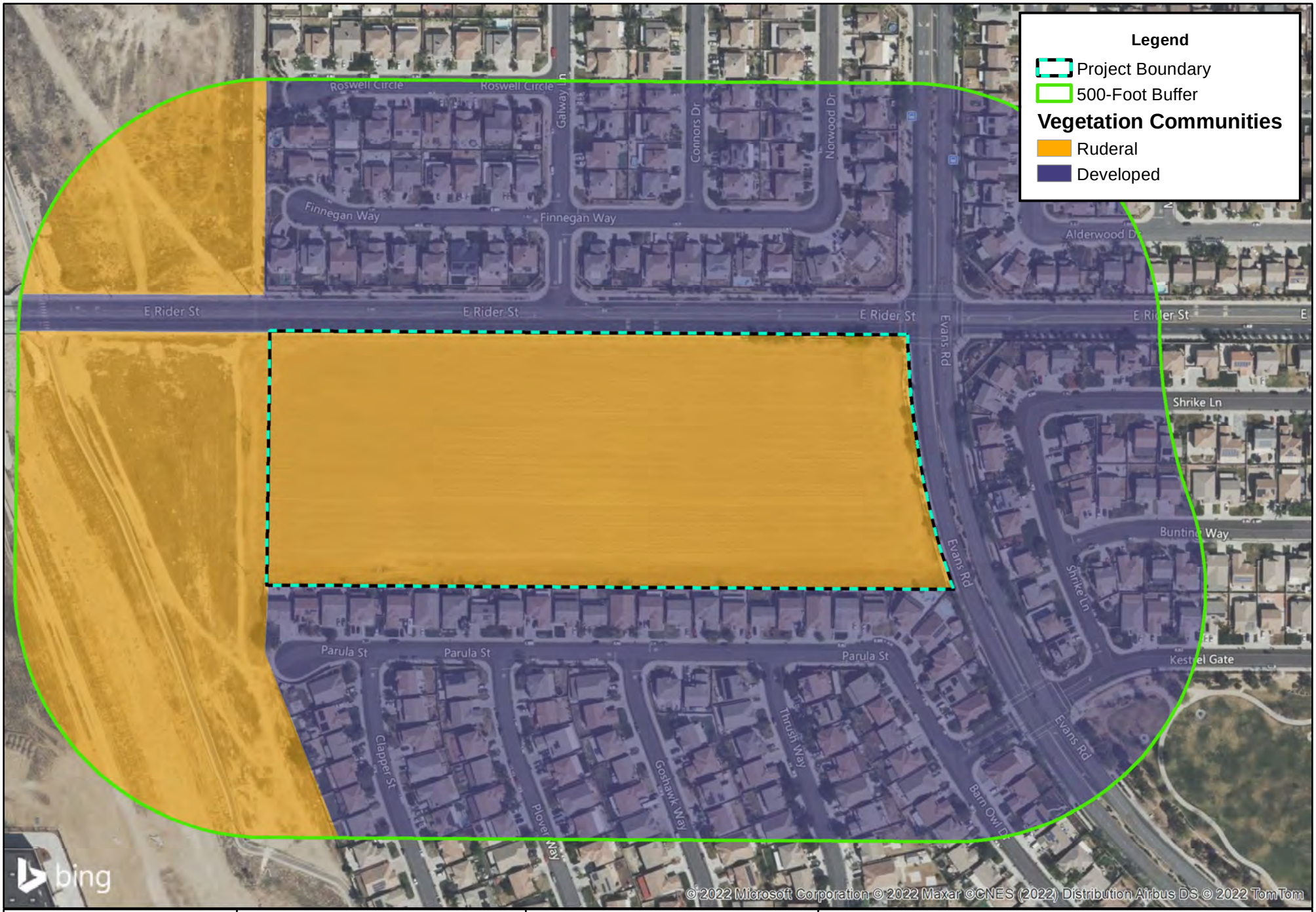
Ruderal
The Project site consist entirely of the ruderal vegetation community. The vegetation within this area is comprised of predominantly of summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*). Other species include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), rat-tail fescue (*Festuca microstachys*), foxtail brome (*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and Jimson weed (*Datura stramonium)*. The entire site is disked regularly for fire abatement. Open Space/disturbed community occurs to the west of the site. A Southern California Edison easement and powerlines occur to the west of the Project site.

Developed
This community occurs within the 500-foot buffer surrounding area. Residential uses occur to the north, east, and south.

5.1.2 CNDDB and Critical Habitat

The Study Area contains no special-status vegetation type listed by the CNDDB and the CDFW. No sensitive wildlife species were observed during the 2022 surveys.

The Study Area is not located within any designated critical habitat. The closest designated critical habitat is for the spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) and it is located an approximate 2.6 miles to the east of the Project site. No habitat suitable for spreading navarretia occurs on the Project site.



GIS Prepared By:
Carlson SLS

Created: July 13, 2022

0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet

1 inch = 250 feet

Data Source: Bing Map

Rider-Evans Project

Vegetation Communities

FIGURE 6

5.1.3 Wildlife Species

Wildlife activity was extremely low. Observations regarding the wildlife species present were made during the field visit (Table 3).

Table 3. Wildlife Species Observed Onsite

Scientific Name	Common Name
Catharus guttatus	Hermit thrush
Columba livia	Rock pigeon
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow
Melospiza melodia	song sparrow
Sayornis saya	Say's phoebe
Sturnus vulgaris	European starling

5.1.4 Sensitive Wildlife Species

Sensitive wildlife include those species listed as Endangered or Threatened under the FESA or the CESA, candidates for listing by the USFWS or the CDFW, and California Watch List, Fully Protected and Species of Special Concern to the CDFW. No listed wildlife was identified or observed within the Project site during the field surveys.

5.2 MSHCP Assessment

The Project site is not located within any MSHCP Criteria Areas, Cell Groups, or Subunits. Furthermore, the Project site is not located within any survey areas for Amphibians, Mammals, or Special Linkage areas. The Project site is subject to Riparian and Riverine Areas pursuant to MSHCP Section 6.1.2, Narrow Endemic Plants (Survey Area 10) pursuant to MSHCP Section 6.1.3, Urban/Wildlands Interface guidelines pursuant to MSHCP Section 6.1.4, and Western Burrowing Owl overlay pursuant to MSHCP Section 6.3.2.

5.2.1 Riparian and Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (Section 6.1.2)

The Project site was assessed for MSHCP riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools pursuant to Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. The Project site does not contain any MSHCP riparian/riverine features.

Species Protected under Section 6.1.2
During vegetation mapping conducted for the Project site, no special status plants were detected during the 2022 surveys. Likewise, the Project site did not contain any suitable habitat for the avian species listed in Section 6.1.2: Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools.

Vernal Pools
The Project site does not contain vernal pools or any suitable habitat for any of the riparian/riverine vernal pool species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, including listed fairy shrimp.

5.2.2 Narrow Endemic Plant – Survey Area Number 10 (Section 6.1.3)

The Project site is located within the Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Areas (NEPSSA) Number 10 overlay, which include the following target species:

- San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1, federally endangered
  Distribution: Riverside and San Diego Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools. Observed in sandy loam or clay soils, sometimes alkaline soils. Known from 20 to 415 meters (65 to 1360 feet) MSL. Blooms April through October.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

- Spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1, federally threatened
  Distribution: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, and San Diego Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Known from 30 to 655 meters (100 to 2,150 feet) MSL. Blooms April through June.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

- California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1, federally threatened, state endangered
  Distribution: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura, and San Diego Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting vernal pools. Known from 15 to 660 meters (50 to 2,165 feet) MSL. Blooms April through August.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

- Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii var. wrightii*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 2B.1
  Distribution: Merced, Riverside, and Sutter Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, riparian forest, and vernal pools supporting alkaline soils. Known from 5 to 435 meters (15 to 1,425 feet) MSL. Blooms May through September.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

Furthermore, several criteria species were mapped as an overlay of the Project site. Those plant species were surveyed concurrently with the Narrow Endemic Focused Plant surveys. Those species include the following:

- San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata var. notatior*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1, federally endangered
  Distribution: Riverside County.
  Habitat(s): Habitats include playas, valley and foothill grassland (mesic) and vernal pools. Known from 139 to 500 meters (455 to 1,640 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: April through August.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

- Parish's brittlescale (*Atriplex parishii*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1
  Distribution: Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting chenopod scrub, playas and vernal pools with alkaline soils. Known from 25 to 1900 meters (80 to 6,235 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: June through October.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

- Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana var. davidsonii*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1
  Distribution: Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub. Known from 10 to 200 meters (35 to 655 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: April through October.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

- Thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filfolia*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1, federally threatened, state endangered
  Distribution: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting chaparral (openings), cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Known from 25 to 1,120 meters (80 to 3,675 feet) MSL.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

- Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungen ssp. laevis*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1
  Distribution: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.
  Habitat(s): Alkaline areas in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, ditches, playas, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Known from below 480 meters (1,600 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: April through September.

Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat. Not observed during field visit.

- Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri*)
  Status: California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1
  Distribution: Colusa, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Solano, Tehama, Ventura, Yolo Counties.
  Habitat(s): Habitats supporting marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Known from 1 to 1,220 meters (5 to 4,005 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: February through June.
  Status onsite: None. The Project site lacks suitable habitat and soils. Not observed during field visit.

No special status plant species were observed during the focused 2022 narrow endemic plant surveys and, and none are expected to occur onsite due to the lack of suitable habitat or suitable soil found on the Project site.

5.2.3 Urban/Wildlands Interface (Section 6.1.4)

The Project site is not located adjacent to an existing or proposed MSHCP Conservation Area. Furthermore, the Project site is isolated from any large open space areas and instead is surrounded by residential development on three of the surrounding sides.

The Project site supports primarily disturbed habitat and is therefore restricted in its potential to support regional wildlife movement. Further, the site is constrained to the north, east and south by existing residential development and large busy streets which further constrains potential regional wildlife movement through the site. To the west of the site is a Southern California Edison powerline easement and the Perris Valley Storm Drain Channel, which may function as movement of urbanized wildlife species. The open space/disturbed habitat located to the west of the Project site is largely void of vegetation and does not function as a regional movement corridor.

5.2.4 Focused Burrowing Owl Survey (Section 6.3.2)

A Step I Habitat Assessment survey was conducted on March 3, 2022, to determine if the Project Site contains suitable BUOW habitat. Based on the Habitat Assessment it was determined the Project site does not contain suitable habitat for BUOW. The survey was conducted during typical BUOW peak activity time and was not conducted during rain, high winds, or dense fog. The Project site consists of a disturbed community that is regularly maintained for fire abatement.

No BUOWs or evidence of BUOWs were observed on site within the Project site or surrounding 500-foot buffer during the Habitat Assessment. The Project site lacked necessary sized burrows and vegetation cover to provide suitable nesting habitat for

BUOW. Much of the 500-foot buffer is developed, consisting of residential homes or busy streets. No California ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) or burrows were observed on the Project site. Therefore, based on the lack of suitable BUOW burrows, maintenance that occurs on the Project Site, and surrounding built environment, it is determined that the Project site does not contain suitable BUOW Habitat and is not occupied by BUOW. Based on these results, Step II of the MSHCP is not required.

5.3 Sensitive Plant Communities

A CNDDB search within the Perris USGS topographic quadrangle found a single special-status vegetation community designated by the CDFW. This vegetation community is Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland. The site does not contain this special-status vegetation community.

5.4 Sensitive Plant Species

Sensitive plants include those listed, or candidates for listing, by the USFWS and the CDFW; and species considered sensitive by the CNPS (particularly Lists 1A, 1B, and 2). Two sensitive plant species were reported within 2-miles of the Study Area based on the CNDDB and within the USGS 7.5′ Perris quadrangle search. The potential for sensitive plant species to occur on the Project site is discussed below and as indicated in Appendix A.

5.4.1 Sensitive Plant Species with Potential to Occur

Due to the disturbed nature of the site, it was determined no sensitive plant species had potential to occur on-site due to the lack of suitable habitat and soil. A complete list of species and their potential to occur onsite can be found in Appendix A.

5.5 Sensitive Wildlife Species

Sensitive wildlife include those species listed as Endangered or Threatened under the FESA or CESA, candidates for listing by the USFWS or the CDFW, and California Watch List, Fully Protected and Species of Special Concern to the CDFW. Several sensitive wildlife species were reported in the vicinity of the Project Site based on the CNDDB. It is determined the Project site does not contain suitable habitat for any listed species. The potential for sensitive wildlife species to occur on the Project site is discussed further in Appendix B.

5.5.1 Migratory Birds and Raptors

The Project site supports potential foraging habitat for nesting birds including raptors. However, the Project site lacks the necessary habitat for nesting for raptors. The Project site provides minimal habitat for ground nesters and other songbirds

Figure 7 Photographs

Looking east over the Project site containing maintained ruderal vegetation.

Looking west at the Project site containing ruderal vegetation.

Figure 8 Photographs

Looking north east over the Project site at the maintained ruderal communities.

Looking north over the Project site at the maintained ruderal communities.

5.6 Wildlife Movement

5.6.1 Overview

Wildlife movement corridors link areas of suitable wildlife habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. The fragmentation of open space areas by urbanization creates isolated "islands" of wildlife habitat, separating different populations of a single species. Corridors effectively act as links between these populations.

The Project site was evaluated for evidence of a wildlife movement corridor. The following resources were used to determine the potential for the site to be used as a wildlife corridor:

- information compiled from the literature review, including, aerial photographs, USGS topographic maps, and resource maps for the vicinity;
- field survey; and
- knowledge of desired topography and resource requirements.

5.6.2 Wildlife Movement Within the Project Site

The Project site supports primarily disturbed habitat and is therefore restricted in its potential to support regional wildlife movement. Further, the Project site is constrained to the north, east and south by residential development which further constrains potential regional wildlife movement through the site. The Project site is immediately adjacent to the Perris Valley Storm Drain Channel located to the west of the Project site, which allows for the movement of local and urbanized species.

Although there is no regional movement through the Project site, there is some potential for smaller or "local" movement through the site. Movement on a smaller scale could occur within the site for species that are less restricted in movement pathway requirements or are adapted to urban areas [e.g., raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), stripped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and bird species in general). Habitat within the site is dominated by disturbed habitat. As such, it may support some wildlife movement within the site and/or nearby areas for foraging. The home range and average dispersal distance of many of these species may be entirely contained within the site and immediate vicinity.

Bird species may utilize the site for foraging, although this is expected to be limited due to the high level of disturbance and lack of native vegetation. In summary, the site may support foraging habitat for species on a local scale. Due to residential developments surrounding the site, the site provides no function to facilitate movement for wildlife species on a regional scale.

5.7 Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

Based on the literature review and USGS quadrangle topographic map, no blue line drainages were mapped on the Project site. During the field survey, the biologists paid special attention for any drainages meeting the regulatory definitions of waters.

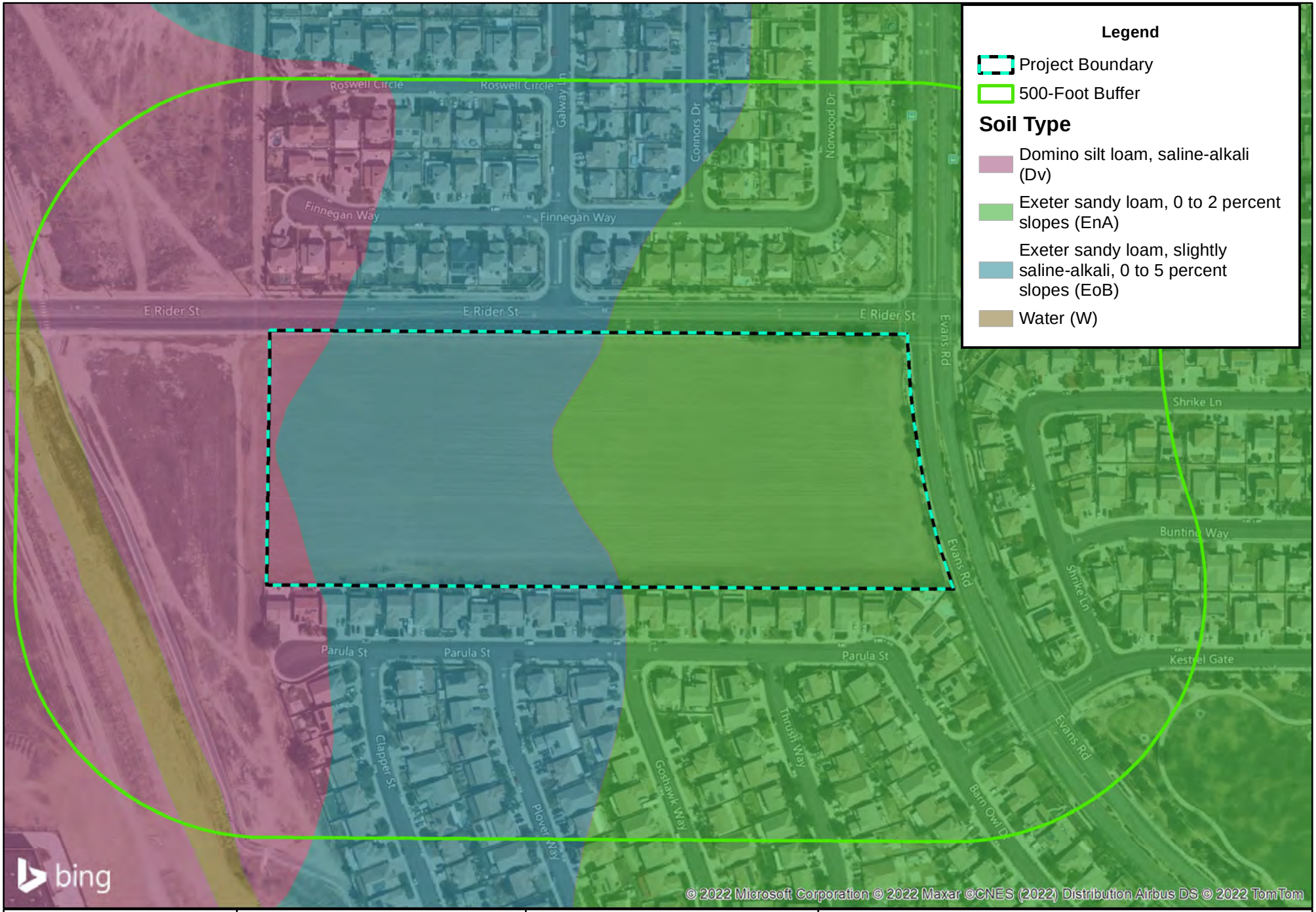
Based on the field survey, there are no features identified on the Project site that meet the definition and are considered jurisdictional Waters of the United States or Waters of the State, pursuant to Section 1600-1603 of the California Fish and Game Code and Section 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, respectively.

5.8 Soils

The United States Department of Agriculture NRCS lists several soil types (series) for the Project site. Please see below for the following soil type, which was used to determine the possibility for sensitive wildlife and plant species. No unique soil types exist on the Project site.

The following four soil types are mapped within the Study Area and shown on Figure 9:

- Domino silt loam, saline-alkali (Dv)
- Exeter sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (EnA)
- Exeter sandy loam, slightly saline-alkali, 0 to 5 percent slopes (EoB)
- Water (W)



GIS Prepared By:
Carlson SLS

Created: July 13, 2022

0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet

1 inch = 250 feet

Data Source: Bing Map

Rider-Evans Project

Soils Map

FIGURE 9

6.0 Threshold of Significance

Appendix G of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines) is used by public agencies, including the City of Perris, in determining whether a project may have a significant impact on biological resources. Under Appendix G, a project may have a significant impact on biological resources if it would:

Threshold BIO-A Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

Threshold BIO-B Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive plant community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

Threshold BIO-C Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

Threshold BIO-D Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery areas.

Threshold BIO-E Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

Threshold BIO-F Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan.

For the purposes of this impact analysis the following definitions apply:

- "Substantial adverse effect" means loss or harm of a magnitude which, based on current scientific data and knowledge would: (1) substantially reduce population numbers of a listed, candidate, sensitive, rare, or otherwise special status species; (2) substantially reduce the distribution of a sensitive plant community/habitat type; or (3) eliminate or substantially impair the functions and values of a biological resource (e.g., streams, wetlands, or woodlands) in a geographical area defined by interrelated biological components and systems. In the case of

this analysis, the prescribed geographical area is considered to be the region that includes the USGS topographic quadrangle for the site. For some species, the geographic area may extend to the vicinity of the site based on known distributions of the species.

- "Conflict" means contradiction of a magnitude, which based on foreseeable circumstances, would preclude or prevent substantial compliance.

- "Rare" means: (1) that the species exists in such small numbers throughout all, or a significant portion of, its range that it may become endangered if its environment worsens; or (2) the species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and may be considered "threatened" as that term is used in the FESA.

7.0 Significance Determination and Proposed Mitigation

7.1 Regulatory Setting

Sensitive species are provided protection by either Federal or State resource management agencies, or both, under provisions of the FESA and CESA.

There are a number of performance criteria and standard conditions that must be met as part of any review and approval of the proposed project. These include compliance with all of the terms, provisions, and requirements with applicable laws that relate to Federal, State, and local regulating agencies related to potential impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species, wetlands, riparian habitats, and blue lined stream courses. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant because, although they would result in an adverse alteration of existing local conditions, they would not substantially diminish or result in the permanent loss of an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

7.2 Project Related Impacts

For the purpose of this assessment, project-related impacts consist of direct and indirect impacts. Direct impacts are considered to be those that involve the loss, modification or disturbance of natural habitats (i.e., vegetation or plant communities), which in turn, directly affect plant and wildlife species dependent on that habitat. Direct impacts also include the destruction of individual plants or wildlife, which is typically the case in species of no to low mobility (i.e., plants, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals). The collective loss of individuals in these manners may also directly affect regional population numbers of a species or result in the physical isolation of populations thereby reducing genetic diversity and, hence, population stability.

Indirect impacts are considered to be those that involve the effects of increases in ambient levels of sensory stimuli (e.g., noise, light), unnatural predators (e.g., domestic cats and other non-native animals), and competitors (e.g., exotic plants, non-native animals). Indirect impacts may be associated with the construction and/or operation of a project; therefore, these impacts may be both short-term and long-term in their duration. These impacts are commonly referred to as "edge effects" and may result in changes in the behavioral patterns of wildlife and reduced wildlife diversity and abundance in habitats adjacent to the Project site.

The determination of impacts in this analysis is based on the proposed project development plan and the biological values of the habitat and/or sensitivity of plant and wildlife species to be affected. Any recommended mitigation measures to address impacts are discussed below, along with compliance of existing regulations. Based on the preliminary plans (Figure 3), the entire site is expected to be directly impacted. No direct impacts are expected to occur to the vegetation communities located within the surrounding 500-foot buffer area.

7.3 Threshold BIO-A

> *Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated.

7.3.1 Sensitive Plant Species

Development of the Project site would result in the direct removal of non-native and ruderal plant species. No special status species or sensitive species were identified to occur onsite, nor were they observed onsite. The Project would include the removal of non-native and ruderal species; therefore, impacts would not be considered a significant impact and no mitigation is required.

7.3.2 Sensitive Wildlife Species

Development of the Project site would result in the disruption and removal of habitat and the loss and displacement of non-sensitive common wildlife species. Due to the level of existing disturbance from human activity on-site and within the vicinity (e.g., nearby development), these impacts would not be expected to reduce the general wildlife populations below self-sustaining levels within the region and impacts to non-sensitive wildlife species do not meet the significance thresholds. Therefore, impacts to

common wildlife species would not be considered a significant impact and no mitigation is required.

The Project site consists primarily of disturbed habitat and lacks suitable nesting habitat for sensitive wildlife species. The Project site provides limited suitable habitat for ground nesters and some common avian species. While none of the common species carry a Federal or State listing as threatened or endangered, they are all protected under the MBTA during breeding. Therefore, a pre-construction survey is required in compliance with the MBTA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM BIO-1 would reduce potential impacts to the avian species to a less than significant level, if nesting individuals are present.

MM BIO-1 *Prior to the issuance of any grading permit that would impact potentially suitable nesting habitat for avian species, the project applicant shall adhere to the following:*

1. *Vegetation removal activities shall be scheduled outside the nesting season* (generally *September 1 to February 14 for songbirds; September 1 to January 14 for raptors, although the nesting season may be extended due to weather and drought conditions*) *to the extent feasible to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds and/or ground nesters.*

2. *Any construction activities that occur during typical nesting season (generally February 15 to August 31 for songbirds; January 15 to August 31 for raptors, although the nesting season may be extended due to weather and drought conditions) will require that all suitable habitat, on-site and within 300-feet surrounding the site (as feasible), be thoroughly surveyed for the presence of nesting birds by a qualified biologist before commencement ground disturbances. If active nests are identified, the biologist shall establish buffers around the vegetation (500 feet for raptors and sensitive species, 200 feet for non-raptors/non-sensitive species). All work within these buffers shall be halted until the nesting effort is finished (i.e. the juveniles are surviving independent from the nest). The biologist shall monitor the nest at the onset of project activities, and at the onset of any changes in such project activities (e.g. increase in number or type of equipment, change in equipment usage, etc.) to determine the efficacy of the buffer. If the biologist determines that such project activities may be causing an adverse reaction, the biologist shall adjust the buffer accordingly or implement alternative*

avoidance and minimization measures, such as redirecting or rescheduling construction or erecting sound barriers. All work within these buffers will be halted until the nesting effort is finished (i.e., the juveniles are surviving independent from the nest). The biologist shall review and verify the nesting effort has finished. Work can resume within these avoidance areas when no other active nests are found. Upon completion of the survey and nesting bird monitoring, a report shall be prepared and submitted to the City Perris Planning Division for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.

7.4 Threshold BIO - B

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No impact.

7.4.1 Sensitive Plant Communities

No sensitive plant community occur on the Project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

7.4.2 CDFW Jurisdiction

No jurisdictional features were identified on the Project site subject to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, as regulated by the CDFW. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

7.5 Threshold BIO - C

Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact.

No jurisdictional non-wetland or wetland waters regulated under Section 404 of the CWA were identified on the Project site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

7.6 Threshold BIO - D

Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less than Significant with Mitigation incorporated.

7.6.1 Wildlife Movement

The site supports potential live-in and movement habitat for species on a local scale (i.e., some limited live-in and marginal movement habitat for reptile, bird, and mammal species), however, the site provides little to no function to facilitate wildlife movement on a regional scale. Furthermore, the site is not identified as a Special Linkage area within the MSHCP. Movement on a local scale likely occurs with species adapted to urban environments due to the surrounding development and disturbances in the vicinity of the site. Although implementation of the Project would result in disturbances to local wildlife movement within the site, those species adapted to urban areas would be expected to persist on-site following construction. As such, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures would be required.

7.6.2 Migratory Birds and Raptors

The Project site supports potential foraging habitat and limited nesting habitat (ground nesters) for migratory birds, in addition to potential foraging habitat for raptors. Based on the disturbed nature of the site, the quality of foraging habitat is considered to be low. Therefore, impacts to foraging habitat would be considered less than significant and no mitigation measures are considered required.

The site has the potential to support avian ground nests due to the lack of vegetation and limited ground cover. Nesting activity typically occurs from February 15 to August 31. Disturbing or destroying active nests is a violation of the MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.). In addition, nests and eggs are protected under Fish and Wildlife Code Section 3503. As such, direct impacts to breeding birds (e.g. through nest removal) or indirect impacts (e.g. by noise causing abandonment of the nest) is considered a potentially significant impact. Compliance with the MBTA would reduce impacts to a less than significant level, as detailed in Mitigation Measure MM BIO-1.

7.7 Threshold BIO - E

Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact.

The Project is not subject to any local policies, such as a tree preservation ordinance. Therefore, no impacts would occur, and no mitigation is required.

7.8 Threshold BIO - F

Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

The Project site is located within the MSHCP Plan Area. The Project site is not located within any MSHCP Criteria Areas, Cell Groups, or Subunits. Furthermore, the Project site is not located in survey areas for Amphibians, Mammals, or Special Linkage areas. The Project site is subject to Riparian and Riverine Areas pursuant to MSHCP Section 6.1.2, Narrow Endemic Plans pursuant to Section 6.1.3, Urban/Wildland Interface pursuant to Section 6.1.4, and Western Burrowing Owl overlay pursuant to MSHCP Section 6.3.2.

There are no features identified on the Project site that are considered riparian and/or riverine, nor meet the definition of riparian and/or riverine as outline within the MSHCP Section 6.1.2. The Project site does not contain suitable habitat for any of the riparian/riverine vernal pool species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, including listed fairy shrimp. No impacts to those species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP are associated with Project implementation due to the lack of suitable habitat onsite. Therefore, the Project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.2.

Portions of the Project site are located within the Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Areas Number 10, which include the following target species:

- San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*)
- Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*)
- San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*)

No special status plant species were observed during the 2022 surveys and none are expected to occur onsite due to the lack of suitable habitat or suitable soil found on the Project site; therefore, there are no potential impacts to special status plants due to Project implementation. No impacts to those species listed in Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area Number 10 Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP are associated with Project

implementation due to the lack of suitable habitat onsite. Therefore, the Project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.3.

The Project site is not located to an existing or proposed MSHCP Conservation Area as pursuant to Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP. Therefore, there are no potential impacts to Urban/Wildlands Interface due to Project implementation. No impacts to urban/wildlands interface and no mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the Project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.4.

Furthermore, based on the Habitat Assessment it was determined the Project site does not contain suitable habitat for BUOW. No BUOWs or evidence of BUOWs were observed on site or within the surrounding 500-feet during the Habitat Assessment. The Project site lacked necessary sized burrows and vegetation cover to provide suitable nesting habitat for BUOW. Much of the 500-foot buffer is developed, consisting of industrial buildings and warehouses. No California ground squirrels, or burrows were observed on the Project site. Based on the lack of suitable BUOW burrows, maintenance that occurs on the Project Site, and surrounding built environment, it is determined that the Project site does not contain suitable BUOW Habitat and is not occupied by BUOW. Therefore, the Project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.3.2.

8.0 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined as the direct and indirect effects of a proposed project which, when considered alone, would not be deemed a substantial impact, but when considered in addition to the impacts of related projects in the area, would be considered significant. "Related projects" refers to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects, which would have similar impacts to the proposed Project. CEQA deems a cumulative impact analysis to be adequate if a list of "related projects" is included in the EIR or the proposed project is consistent with an adopted general, specific, master, or comparable programmatic plan [Section 15130(b)(1)(B)]. CEQA also states that no further cumulative impact analysis is necessary for impacts of a proposed project consistent with an adopted general, specific, master, or comparable programmatic plan [Section 15130(d)]. The Project is consistent with the City of Perris' existing General Plan land designation.

The loss of biological resources on the Study Area must be considered in the context of the other development in the area. The Project's direct impact analysis identified a single biological resource, nesting birds, that when combined with impacts from other reasonably past, present, and future projects, could result in a cumulative biological impact. Direct impacts may occur to nesting birds, should construction activities and ground disturbances begin during the typical nesting season. However, adherence and implementation of Mitigation Measure MM BIO - 1 will ensure impacts to avian species or their habitats are minimized thus reducing the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts to a less than significant level.

Furthermore, the MSHCP was specifically designed to cover a large geographical area so that it would protect numerous special-status species and sensitive habitats throughout the region. It is the projected cumulative effect of future development that has required the preparation and implementation of the MSHCP to protect multiple habitats and species. Because the MSCHP provides a regional and comprehensive approach to conservation planning, the proposed Project's contribution to cumulative impacts would also be less than significant.

With the implementation of the above, the cumulative impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

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APPENDIX A

Special Status Plant Species Potential Occurrence Determination

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Special Status Plant Species Potential Occurrence Determination

This table summarizes conclusions from analysis and field surveys regarding the potential occurrence of special status plant species within the Project site for the USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Map Riverside East and the surrounding two-mile radius. During the field surveys, the potential for special status plant species to occur within the Project site was assessed based on the following criteria:

- Present: observed on the site during the field surveys, or recorded on-site by other qualified biologists.

- Known to Occur: observed on site in the recent past, but not observed during the most recent biological survey.

- High potential to occur: observed in similar habitat in the region by a qualified biologist or habitat on the site is a type often utilized by the species, and the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species.

- Moderate potential to occur: reported sightings in surrounding region, or the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species, and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used by the species.

- Low potential to occur: the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species, but habitat on the site is rarely used by the species or for which there are no known recorded occurrences of the species within or adjacent to the site.

- None: a focused study failed to detect the species or no suitable habitat is present.

- Unknown: the species' distributional/elevation range and habitat are poorly known.

Even with field surveys, biologists assessed the probability of occurrence rather than make a definitive conclusion about species presence or absence. Failure to detect the presence of the species is not definitive and may be due to variable effects associated with fire, rainfall patterns, and/or season.

Special Status Plants: Potential to Occur within the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence within the Study Area
Abronia vilosa var. aurita	Chaparral sand-verbena	CRPR: 1.B1 MSHCP: Not Covered	Habitats supporting sandy chaparral, coastal scrub and Desert dunes. Known from 75 to 1,600 meters (245 to 5,300 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: January through September.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Arenaria paludicola	marsh sandwort	FE, SE CRPR:1.B1 MSHCP: Not Covered	Habitats supporting sandy openings and marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish). Known from 3 to 170 meters (9 to 558 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: May through August.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Atriplex coronata var. notatior	San Jacinto Valley crownscale	FE CRPR: 1.B1 MSHCP: Covered	Habitats include playas, valley and foothill grassland (mesic) and vernal pools. Known from 139 to 500 meters (455 to 1,640 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: April through August.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Atriplex parishii	Parish's brittlescale	CRPR: 1.B1 MSHCP: Covered	Habitats supporting chenopod scrub, playas and vernal pools with alkaline soils. Known from 25 to 1900 meters (80 to 6,235 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: June through October.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Atriplex serenana var davidsonii	Davidson's saltscale	CRPR: 1.B2 MSHCP: Covered	Habitats supporting coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub. Known from 10 to 200 meters (35 to 655 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: April through October.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Berberis nevinii	Nevin's barberry	FE, SE CRPR: 1.B1 MSHCP: Covered	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub with gravelly substrates from 275 to 825 meters (900 to 2,700 feet) MSL. Known to occur in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. Blooming Period: March through June.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Brodiaea filifolia	Thread-leaved brodiaea	FT, SE CRPR: 1.B1 MSHCP: Covered	Habitats supporting chaparral (openings), cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Known from 25 to 1,120 meters (80 to 3,675 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: March through June.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence within the Study Area
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa lily	CRPR:4.2 MSHCP: Covered	Perennial bulbiferous herb found in granitic or rocky areas. Habitat include chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal sage scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grasslands. Known from 100 to 1,700 meters (330 to 5,500 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: May through July.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Centromadia pungens ssp. laevis	smooth tarplant	CRPR:1B.1 MSHCP: Covered	Alkaline areas in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, ditches, playas, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Known from below 480 meters (1,600 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: April through September.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum	salt marsh bird's-beak	FE, SE CRPR: 1.B2 MSHCP: Not Covered	Habitats supporting coastal dunes and marshes and swamps (coastal salt). Known from 0 to 30 meters (0 to 985 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: May through November.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi	Parry's spineflower	CRPR:1B.1 MSHCP: Covered	Found in sandy or rocky openings. Habitat includes chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Known from 275 to 1,220 meters (900 to 4,000 feet) MSL. Blooming period: April through June.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Chorizanthe polygonoides var. longispina	Long-spined spineflower	CRPR: 1.B2 MSHCP: Covered	Habitats supporting chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Known from 30 to 1,530 meters (100 to 5,020 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: April through July.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Cylindropuntia californica var. californica	snake cholla	CRPR:1B.1 MSHCP: Not Covered	Habitat includes chaparral, and coastal scrub. Known from 30 to 150 meters (98 to 492 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: April through May.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Deinandra paniculata	paniculate tarplant	CRPR: 4.2 MSHCP: Not covered	Coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland/usually vernally mesic. Known from 25 to 9540 meters (80 to 3,085 feet) MSL. Blooming period: April through November.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri	Coulter's goldfields	CRPR: 1.B1	Habitats supporting marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Known from 1 to 1,220	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence within the Study Area
		MSHCP: Covered	meters (5 to 4,005 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: February through June.	survey.
Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii	Robinson's pepper-grass	CRPR: 4.3 MSHCP: Not Covered	Habitats include chaparral and coastal scrub. Known from 1 to 885 meters (3 to 2,900 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: January through July.	None. The site lacks suitable habitats. Not observed during field surveys.
Myosurus minimus ssp. apus	little mousetail	CRPR: 3.1 MSHCP: Covered	Habitats include valley and foothills grasslands and vernal pools (alkaline). Known from 20 to 640 meters (65 to 2,100 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: January through July.	None. The site lacks suitable habitats. Not observed during field surveys.
Navarretia fossalis	Spreading navarretia	CRPR: 1.B1 MSHCP: Not Covered	Habitats supporting chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Known from 30 to 655 meters (100 to 2,150 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: April through June.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Orcuttia californica	California Orcutt grass	CRPR: 1.B1, FE, SE MSHCP: Covered	Habitats supporting vernal pools. Known from 15 to 660 meters (50 to 2,165 feet) MSL. Bloom Period: April through August.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Study Area. Not observed during field survey.
Romneya coulteri	Coulter's matilija poppy	CRPR :4.2 MSHCP: Covered	Native to southern California and Baja California, it grows in dry canyons in chaparral and coastal sage scrub plant communities, sometimes in areas recently burned. It is a popular ornamental plant, kept for its large, showy flowers. Blooming period: March through July	None. The site lacks suitable habitats. Not observed during field surveys.
Senecio aphanactis	Chaparral ragwort	CRPR: 2B.2 MSHCP: Not Covered	Sometimes alkaline soils supporting chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub. Known from 15 to 800 meters (50 to 2,600 feet) MSL. Blooming Period: January through April (May).	None. The site lacks suitable habitats and soils. Not observed during field surveys.
Trichocoronis wrightii var. wrightii	Wright's trichocoronis	CRPR: 2B.1 MSHCP: Covered	Habitats supporting meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, riparian forest, and vernal pools supporting alkaline soils. Known from 5 to 435 meters (15 to 1,425 feet) MSL. Blooms May through September.	None. The site lacks suitable habitats and soils. Not observed during field surveys.

Legend

Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listing Codes: federal listing is pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).
FE = federally listed as endangered: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
FT = federally listed as threatened: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that is considered likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Listing Codes: state listing is pursuant to § 1904 (Native Plant Protection Act of 1977) and §2074.2 and §2075.5 (California Endangered Species Act of 1984) of the Fish and Game Code, relating to listing of Endangered, Threatened and Rare species of plants and animals.
SE = state listed as endangered: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that are in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of their range.
ST = state listed as threatened: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future.

California Rare Plant Ranks (Formerly known as CRPR Lists): the CRPR is a statewide, non-profit organization that maintains, with CDFG, an Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California. In the spring of 2011, CRPR and CDFG officially changed the name "CRPR List" or "CRPR Ranks" to "California Rare Plant Rank" (or CPRP). This was done to reduce confusion over the fact that CRPR and CDFG jointly manage the Rare Plant Status Review Groups and the rank assignments are the product of a collaborative effort and not solely a CRPR assignment.

> CRPR: 1B - California Rare Plant Rank 1B (formerly List 1B): Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere. All of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 1B meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Sections 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. It is mandatory that they be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.
>
> CRPR: 2 - California Rare Plant Rank 2 (formerly List 2): Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere. All of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 2 meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Sections 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. It is mandatory that they be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.
>
> CRPR: 4 - California Rare Plant Rank 4 (formerly List 4): Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List. Very few of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 4 meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and few, if any, are eligible for state listing. Nevertheless, many of them are significant locally, and CRPR and CDFG strongly recommend that California Rare Plant Rank 4 plants be evaluated for consideration during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.

California Native Plant Society (CRPR) Threat Ranks: The CRPR Threat Rank is an extension added onto the California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) and designates the level of endangerment by a 1 to 3 ranking with 1 being the most endangered and 3 being the least endangered. A Threat Rank is present for all California Rare Plant Rank 1B's, 2's, 4's, and the majority of California Rare Plant Rank 3's. California Rare Plant Rank 4 plants are seldom assigned a Threat Rank of 0.1, as they generally have large enough populations to not have significant threats to their continued existence in California; however, certain conditions exist to make the plant a species of concern and hence be assigned a California Rare Plant Rank. In addition, all California Rare Plant Rank 1A (presumed extinct in California),

and some California Rare Plant Rank 3 (need more information) plants, which lack threat information, do not have a Threat Rank extension.

0.1 = seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2 = fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

Sources:

- Calflora website - search for plants (Calflora 2022).
- CRPR Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CRPR 2022).
- The Status of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Animals of California, 2000–2004 (CDFW 2022).
- The Jepson Manual: *Vascular Plants of California,* second edition (Baldwin *et al.* 2012).
- RareFind, CDFW, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2022f).
- State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California (CDFW 2022i).

APPENDIX B

Special Status Wildlife Potential Occurrence Determination

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Special Status Wildlife Potential Occurrence Determination

This table summarizes conclusions from analysis and field surveys regarding the potential occurrence of special status wildlife species within the Project site for the USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Map Riverside East and the surrounding two-mile radius. During the field surveys, the potential for special status wildlife species to occur within the Project Site was assessed based on the following criteria:

- Present: observed on the site during the field surveys, or previously recorded on-site by other qualified biologists.

- Known to Occur: observed on site in the recent past, but not observed during the most recent biological survey.

- High potential to occur: observed in similar habitat in the region by a qualified biologist or habitat on the site is a type often utilized by the species, and the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species.

- Moderate potential to occur: reported sightings in surrounding region, or the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species, and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used by the species.

- Low potential to occur: the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species, but habitat on the site is rarely used by the species or for which there are no known recorded occurrences of the species within or adjacent to the site.

- None: a focused study failed to detect the species or no suitable habitat is present.

- Unknown: the species' distributional/elevation range and habitat are poorly known.

Even with field surveys, biologists assessed probability of occurrence rather than make definitive conclusions about species presence or absence. Failure to detect the species is not definitive and may be due to variable effects associated with migration, weather, fire, and/or time of day and year.

Special Status Wildlife: Potential to Occur within the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence
Agelaius tricolor	Tricolor blackbird	ST, SSC, BLMS, BBC MSHCP: Covered	Tricolor blackbird colonies require nearby water, a suitable nesting substrate, and open-range foraging habitat composed of grassland, woodland, or agricultural cropland.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Anniella stebbinsi	Southern California legless lizard	SSC MSHCP: Not Covered	Coastal sand dunes and a variety of interior habitats, including sandy washes and alluvial fans.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	SSC MSHCP: Not Covered	This species is found in a variety of habitats, primarily arid scrub areas with sparse vegetation including chaparral and grasslands areas.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Aspidoscelis hyperythra	orange-throated whiptail	SSC, FSS MSHCP: Covered	The species is generally found in semi-arid brushy areas typically with loose soil and rocks, including washes, stream sides, rocky hillsides, and coastal chaparral. Habitat types include low elevation chaparral, non-native grassland, (Riversidian) coastal sage scrub, juniper woodland and oak woodland. Associations include alluvial fan scrub and riparian areas. Friable soil appears to be a necessary requirement for excavating burrows and hiding eggs.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	coastal whiptail	SSC MSHCP: Covered	This species is found in a variety of habitats, primarily hot and dry open areas with sparse vegetation including chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas. This subspecies is found in coastal southern California, north into Ventura County, and south into Baja California. Additional important habitat characteristics include Important habitat components include shrub cover with accumulated leaf litter, and an abundance of invertebrate prey, particularly termites.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence
Athene cunicularia hypugaea	burrowing owl	SSC, BLMS, BCC MSHCP: Covered	Burrowing owls are a year-round resident of California including habitats of open, dry grassland, and desert. They are generally restricted to mostly flat, open country with suitable nest sites. They use rodent or other burrows for roosting and nesting cover and acquire their burrows from either abandonment or eviction. Burrowing owls typically hunt from a perch.	None. A habitat assessment was performed and no suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Bombus crotchii	Crotch bumble bee	SCE MSHCP: Not Covered	The crotch bumble bee inhabits open grassland and scrub habitats. This species occurs primarily in California, including the Mediterranean region, Pacific Coast, Western Desert, Great Valley, and adjacent foothills through most of southwestern California.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Chaetodipus fallax fallax	northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	SSC MSHCP: Not Covered	This species is a common resident of sandy herbaceous areas, often on sandy substrates (rocks or coarse gravel) in southwestern California. In San Diego County the species occurs mainly in arid coastal and desert border areas. Habitats include coastal scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT, SE, BLMS, FSS, BCC MSHCP: Covered	This species is an uncommon to rare summer resident of valley foothill and desert riparian habitats in scattered locations in California. Formerly much more common and widespread throughout lowland California. Roosts and nests in densely foliaged, deciduous trees and shrubs in extensive thickets, particularly willows.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Crotalus ruber	red-diamond rattlesnake	SSC, FSS MSHCP: Covered	It can be found from the desert, through dense chaparral in the foothills (it avoids the mountains above around 4,000 feet), to warm inland mesas and valleys, all the way to the cool ocean shore. It is most commonly associated with heavy brush with large rocks or boulders. Dense chaparral in	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence
			the foothills, cactus or boulder associated coastal sage scrub, oak and pine woodlands, and desert slope scrub associations are known to carry populations of the northern red-diamond rattlesnake, however, chamise and red shank associations may offer better structural habitat for refuges and food resources for this species than other habitats. They need rodent burrows, cracks in rocks or surface cover objects.	
Dipodomys merriami parvus	San Bernardino kangaroo rat	FE, SSC MSHCP: Covered	Typically found in Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub and sandy loam soils, alluvial fans and floodplains, and along washes with nearby sage scrub.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Dipodomys stephensi	Stephen's kangaroo rat	FE, ST MSHCP: Covered	This species prefers large areas of disturbed or patchy annual and perennial grasslands and open coastal sage scrub. Preferred perennials plant species include buckwheat and chamise and preferred annual plant species include brome grass. The nearest known populations are in Rancho Guejito and at the Naval Weapons Station in Fallbrook.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Eremophila alpestris actia	California horned lark	WL MSHCP: Covered	A year-long resident within the state and within a variety of open habitats, usually where trees and large shrubs are absent. They are not particular about the nature of the field, so long as it has very little vegetation. Range-wide, they breed in level or gently sloping short grass prairies, montane meadows, "bald" hills, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, alkali flats, and rangelands. Within southern California, California horned larks breed primarily in open fields, (short) grasslands, and rangelands. Grasses, shrubs, forbs, rocks, litter, clods of soil, and other surface irregularities provide cover.	Low. The ruderal community provide suitable foraging and nesting. However, with the implemented MM BIO 1, impacts are mitigated. Not observed during field surveys.
Icteria virens	yellow-breasted chat	SSC	In southern California they are primarily found in tall, dense, relatively wide riparian woodlands and	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence
		MSHCP: Covered	thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush with well-developed understories. Nesting areas are associated with streams, swampy ground, and the borders of small ponds. Breeding habitat must be dense to provide shade and concealment. It winters south to Central America.	survey.
Lanius ludovicianus	loggerhead shrike	SSC, BCC MSHCP: Covered	They breed mainly in shrublands or open woodlands with a fair amount of grass cover and areas of bare ground. They require tall shrubs or trees (also use fences or power lines); open areas of short grasses, forbs, or bare ground for hunting; and large shrubs or trees for nest placement. These requirements are met in shrub steppe, western juniper woodland, chaparral, oak woodland, oak savannah, riparian edges, desert scrub, Joshua tree habitats, riparian woodland and occasionally through-out in rural and agricultural hedgerows.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Lasiurus xanthinus	western yellow bat	SSC MSHCP: Not covered	Roost in trees, hanging from the underside of a leaf. Commonly found in the southwestern U.S. roosting in the skirt of dead fronds in both native and non- native palm trees and have also been documented roosting in cottonwood trees.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California black rail	ST, BLMS, BBC, Fully Protected MSHCP: Not Covered	Black Rails nest in marshes and wet meadows across North America, including riparian marshes, coastal prairies, saltmarshes, and impounded wetlands. All of the habitats have stable shallow water. Nests are primarily made of southern cattail or spikerush and are elevated above the mud substrate in clumps of vegetation. Black rails have also been known to nest on top of a mat of dead vegetation from the previous years' growth.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Lepus californicus bennettii	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	SSC	The black-tailed jackrabbit is a habitat generalist occurring in open areas or semi-open country, typically in grasslands, agricultural fields or sparse coastal scrub. It primarily is found in arid regions	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence
		MSHCP: Covered	supporting short grass habitats. Jackrabbits typically are not found in high grass or dense brush where it is difficult for them to locomote, and the openness of open scrub habitat probably is preferred over dense chaparral. They have also been found in annual grassland, Riversidean sage scrub, alluvial fan sage scrub, Great Basin sagebrush, chaparral, disturbed habitat, southern willow scrub and juniper woodland. They are not found in high mountain forests. It prefers valley bottoms or intermontane valleys.	
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	pocketed free-tailed bat	SSC MSHCP: Not covered	This bat species prefers rocky desert areas with high cliffs or rock outcrops. Rock crevices in cliffs are preferred as roosting sites, since the bat must drop from the roost to gain flight speed. Typically reproduces in rock crevices, caverns, or buildings. Ranges from southern California to New Mexico.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	SSC MSHCP: Covered	Prefers sandy soil for burrowing. Also known to occur on gravel washes and in rocky soils. Associated with coastal scrub.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	SSC, BLMS MSHCP: Covered	Occurs in a variety of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, chaparral, annual grassland, oak woodland and riparian woodlands.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Polioptila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT, SSC MSHCP: Covered	A non-migratory, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub habitat, which is a broad category of vegetation that includes the following plant communities: Ventura coastal sage scrub, Diegan coastal sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, Riversidean sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, southern coastal bluff scrub, and coastal sage-chaparral scrub. They also use chaparral, grassland and riparian habitats next to coastal sage scrub, but these habitats are used	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential For Occurrence
			dispersal and foraging. They avoid nesting on steep slopes.	
Spea hammondii	western spadefoot	SSC, BLMS MSHCP: Covered	May be found in coastal sage scrub, open chaparral, pine-oak woodlands and grassland habitats, but is most common in grasslands with vernal pools or mixed grassland/coastal sage scrub areas. Within these habitats, they require rain pools/vernal pools in which to reproduce and that persist with more than three weeks of standing water in which to metamorphose successfully. They can also breed in slow-moving streams (e.g., areas flooded by intermittent streams). Water breeding sites must lack fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish in order for to successfully reproduce and metamorphose. They estivates in sandy, gravelly soil in upland habitats adjacent to potential breeding sites in burrows approximating 1 meter in depth.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.
Streptocephalus woottoni	Riverside fairy shrimp	FT MSHCP: Covered	Coastal scrub; valley and foothill grassland; vernal pool; wetland.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site.
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	FE, SE MSHCP: Covered	Least Bell's vireos primarily occupy riverine riparian habitats that typically feature dense cover within 1-2 m of the ground and a dense, stratified canopy. Typically, it is associated with southern willow scrub, cottonwood-willow forest, mule fat scrub, sycamore alluvial woodland, coast live oak riparian forest, arroyo willow riparian forest, or mesquite in desert localities. It uses habitat which is limited to the immediate vicinity of water courses. 2,000 feet elevation in the interior.	None. No suitable habitat is found within the Project site. Not observed during field survey.

Legend
Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listing Codes: federal listing is pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The official federal listing of Endangered and Threatened Animals is published in the Federal Register, 50 CFR 17.11. FE = federally listed as endangered: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. FT = federally listed as threatened: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that is considered likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future. FC = federal candidate for listing. FPT = federally proposed threatened. *California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Listing Codes:* state listing is pursuant to §2074.2 and §2075.5 (California Endangered Species Act of 1984) of the Fish and Game Code, relating to listing of Endangered, Threatened and Rare species of plants and animals. The official California listing of Endangered and Threatened animals is contained in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, and Section 670.5. SE = state listed as endangered: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that are in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of their range. ST = state listed as threatened: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future. SCT = state candidate for listing as threatened. SCE = state candidate for listing as endangered. *California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):* SSC = species of special concern: status applies to animals which 1) are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or 2) historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist. The CDFW has designated certain vertebrate species as "species of special concern" because declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats have made them vulnerable to extinction. Fully protected = animal species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for collecting these species for necessary scientific research and relocation of the bird species for the protection of livestock. WL = watch list: these birds have been designated as "Taxa to Watch" in the *California Bird Species of Special Concern report* (Shuford and Gardali 2008). The report defines "Taxa to Watch" as those that are not on the current special concern list that (1) formerly were on the 1978 (Remsen 1978) or 1992 (CDFG 1992) special concern lists and are not currently listed as state threatened and endangered; (2) have been removed (delisted) from either the state or federal threatened and endangered lists (and remain on neither), or (3) are currently designated as "fully protected" in California. *United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):* BCC = USFWS bird of conservation concern: listed in the USFWS'S 2008 *Birds of Conservation Concern* report. The report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory non-game birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the ESA. While all of the bird species included in the report are priorities for conservation action, the list makes no finding with regard to whether they warrant consideration for ESA listing.

United States Forest Service (USFS):
FSS = Forest Service sensitive: those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester that are not listed or proposed for listing under the ESA and for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by: (a) significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density or (b) significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution."

United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM):
BLMS = BLM sensitive: those plant and animal species on BLM administered lands and that are (1) under status review by the USFWS/NMFS; or (2) whose numbers are declining so rapidly that federal listing my become necessary, or (3) with typically small and widely dispersed populations; or (4) those inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats. BLM policy is to provide the same level of protection as USFWS candidate species.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF):
CDF: S = CDF sensitive: species is a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection sensitive species. The Board of Forestry classifies as sensitive species those species that warrant special protection during timber operations.

Sources:

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