

Appendix B

Biological Technical Report

Biological Technical Report and Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis

Ethanac Travel Center

Riverside County, California

Assessor's Parcel Numbers 329-250-011 and 329-250-012

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Description
ARD	Aquatic Resources Delineation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CEQA Guidelines	Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
City	City of Perris
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNPSEI	California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FP	Fully Protected
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IA	Implementing Agreement
I-215	Interstate 215
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NEPSSA	Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
Project	Ethanac Travel Center Project
RCA	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
RCTLMA	Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAA	Streambed Alteration Agreement
SSC	Species of Special Concern
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	U.S. Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

1.0 INTRODUCTION

ECORP Consulting, Inc. was retained by De Novo Planning Group to provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) services for the proposed Ethanac Travel Center Project (Project) located in the City of Perris, Riverside County, California. Reconnaissance-level biological surveys of the Project Site were conducted in November 2021 and October 2023 to document the existing biological resources, to assess the habitat for its potential to support sensitive plant and wildlife species, and to determine whether Project-related impacts would occur to sensitive biological resources, as required under CEQA. Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat assessments of the Project Site were conducted concurrently with the biological reconnaissance surveys to determine if any suitable burrowing owl habitat or suitable burrowing owl burrows were present. The surveys were conducted in accordance with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The MSHCP provides information on plant and wildlife species of concern to the County of Riverside (referred to as Planning Species) and outlines goals for their conservation. Information on the MSHCP can be found at www.rctlma.org (Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency [RCTLMA] 2023). The purpose of the study is to comply with the requirements of the MSHCP and identify any biological resources that may require mitigation prior to impacts from development.

1.1 Project Location

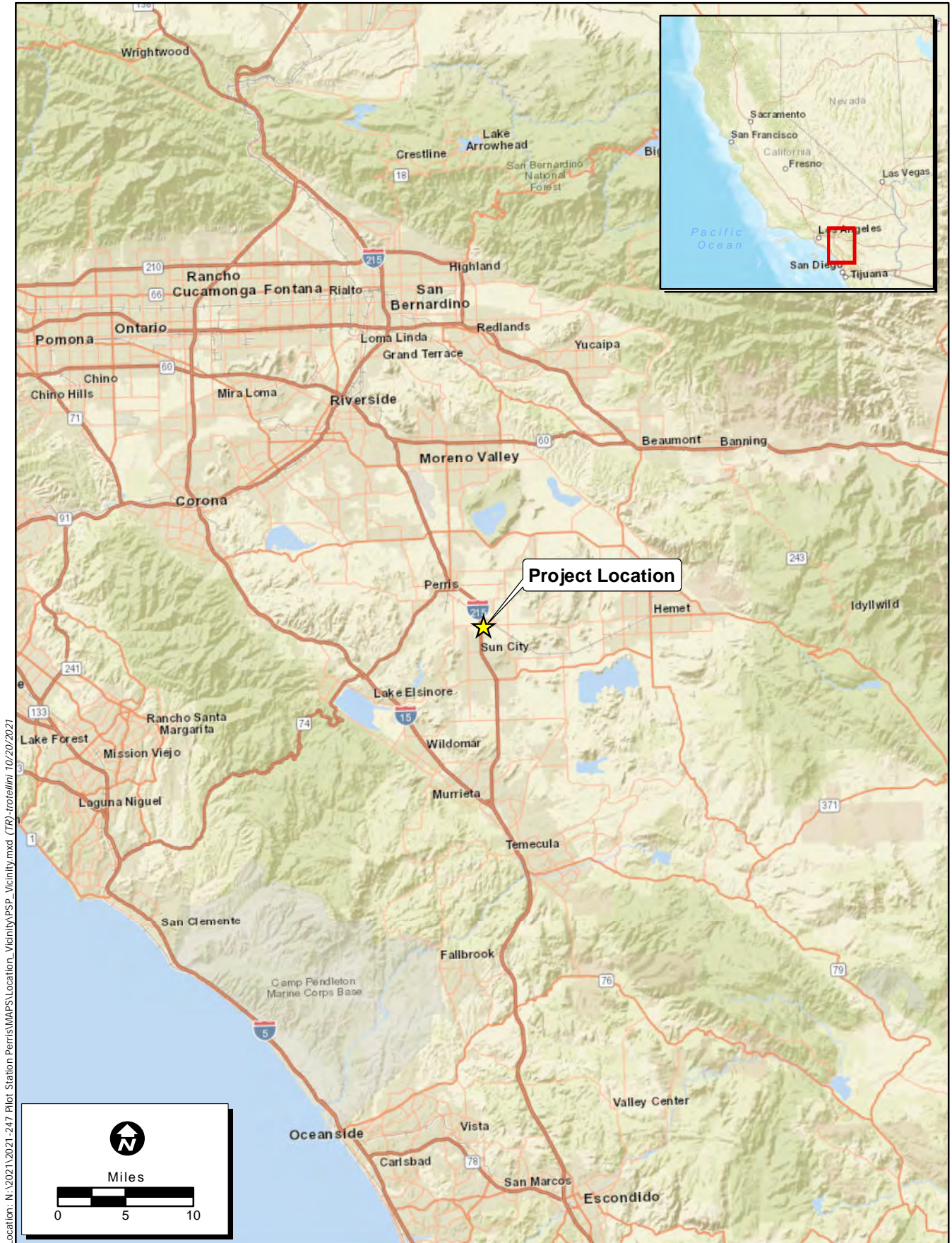
Per engineering calculations, the Project Site consists of an approximately 13.77-acre area composed of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 329-250-011 and 329-250-012. The Project Site is located within the City of Perris, east of the Interstate 215 (I-215) north onramp in Riverside County (Figures 1 and 2). The Project Site is north of Ethanac Road, south of a vacant lot, and west of Trumble Road. The Project Site is depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Romoland 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Elevation at the Project Site is approximately 1,426 feet above mean sea level.

1.2 Project Description

The Project applicant proposes the construction and operation of a travel station for regional and local highway traveling users. Implementation of the Project would involve the development of fueling facilities, travel amenities, and parking facilities for passing motorists and commercial truck operators.

2.0 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES REGULATIONS

The biological reconnaissance survey was conducted to identify potential constraints to Project development and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations regarding listed, protected, and sensitive species. The regulations are detailed below.



Location: N:\2021\2021-247 Pilot Station Perris\MAPS\Location_Vicinity.mxd (TR)-trale/ini 10/20/2021

Map Date: 10/20/2021

Sources:



Figure 1. Project Location

2021-247 Ethanac Travel Center Project



Location: N:\2021\2021-247 Pilot Station Perris\MAPS\Location_Vicinity\PSP_Location.mxd (TP) - rrostellini 10/20/2021

Map Date: 10/20/2021
 Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2. Project Location
 2021-247 Ethanac Travel Center Project

2.1 Federal Regulations

2.1.1 The Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects plants and animals that are listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct” (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.3). For plants, this statute governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 U.S. Code [USC]1538). Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a listed (or proposed) species (including plants) or its critical habitat. Through consultation and the issuance of a biological opinion, the USFWS may issue an incidental take statement allowing take of the species that is incidental to an otherwise authorized activity provided the activity will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Section 10 of the ESA provides for issuance of incidental take permits where no other federal actions are necessary provided a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is developed.

2.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implements international treaties between the U.S. and other nations devised to protect migratory birds, any of their parts, eggs, and nests from activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. As authorized by the MBTA, the USFWS issues permits to qualified applicants for the following types of activities: falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (rehabilitation, education, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), take of depredating birds, taxidermy, and waterfowl sale and disposal. The regulations governing migratory bird permits can be found in 50 CFR Part 13 General Permit Procedures and 50 CFR Part 21 Migratory Bird Permits. The State of California has incorporated the protection of birds of prey in Sections 3800, 3513, and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code.

2.1.3 Federal Clean Water Act

Tiering off of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which primarily pertains to discharge of fill into navigable waters, the purpose of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) is to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.” The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the CWA. “Discharges of fill material” is defined as the addition of fill material into Waters of the U.S., including, but not limited to the following: placement of fill necessary for the construction of any structure, or impoundment requiring rock, sand, dirt, or other material for its construction; site-development fills for recreational, industrial, commercial, residential, and other uses; causeways or road fills; and fill for intake and outfall pipes, and subaqueous utility lines [33 CFR § 328.2(f)]. In addition, Section 401 of the CWA (33 USC 1341) requires any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct

any activity that may result in a discharge of a pollutant into Waters of the U.S. to obtain a certification that the discharge will comply with the applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards.

Substantial impacts to wetlands, more than 0.5 acre of impact, may require an individual permit. Projects that only minimally affect wetlands, less than 0.5 acre of impact, may meet the conditions of one of the existing Nationwide Permits. A Water Quality Certification or waiver pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA is required for Section 404 permit actions; this certification or waiver is issued by the local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under the authority of the State Water Resources Control Board. For this project, the Colorado River RWQCB has jurisdiction.

A new ruling called the Navigable Waters Protection Rule came into effect June 22, 2020. Under this ruling, the definition of the term “waters of the United States” encompasses:

- the territorial seas and traditional navigable waters;
- perennial and intermittent tributaries that contribute surface water flow to such waters;
- certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters; and
- wetlands adjacent to other jurisdictional waters.

This latest Rule also excludes several waters and other features not mentioned in the above definition, including “ephemeral features that flow only in direct response to precipitation, including ephemeral streams, swales, gullies, rills, and pools.”

2.2 State and Local Regulations

2.2.1 California Endangered Species Act

The California ESA generally parallels the main provisions of the ESA but, unlike its federal counterpart, the California ESA applies the take prohibitions to species proposed for listing (called “candidates” by the state). Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the taking, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or in the regulations. Take is defined in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.” The California ESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects. State lead agencies are required to consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to ensure that any action they undertake is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in destruction or adverse modification of essential habitat.

2.2.2 Fully Protected Species

The State of California first began to designate species as “fully protected” prior to the creation of the federal and California ESAs. Lists of fully protected species were initially developed to provide protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction, and included fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Most fully protected species have since been listed as threatened or endangered under federal and/or California ESAs. The regulations that implement the Fully Protected Species Statute (California Fish and Game Code § 4700) provide that fully protected species may not be

taken or possessed at any time. Furthermore, the CDFW prohibits any state agency from issuing incidental take permits for fully protected species, except for necessary scientific research.

2.2.3 Native Plant Protection Act

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 (California Fish and Game Code §§ 1900-1913) was created with the intent to “preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State.” The NPPA is administered by the CDFW. The Fish and Wildlife Commission has the authority to designate native plants as “endangered” or “rare” and to protect endangered and rare plants from take. The California ESA of 1984 (California Fish and Game Code § 2050-2116) provided further protection for rare and endangered plant species, but the NPPA remains part of the California Fish and Game Code.

2.2.4 California Fish and Game Code

2.2.4.1 Streambed Alteration Agreement

Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code requires that a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration be submitted to the CDFW for “any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake.” The CDFW reviews the proposed actions and, if necessary, submits to the Applicant a proposal for measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources. The final proposal that is mutually agreed upon by the CDFW and the Applicant is the Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). Often, projects that require an SAA also require a permit from the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. In these instances, the conditions of the Section 404 permit and the SAA may overlap.

2.2.4.2 Migratory Birds

The CDFW enforces the protection of nongame native birds in §§ 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Fish and Game Code. Section 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the possession or take of birds listed under the MBTA. These sections mandate the protection of California nongame native birds’ nests and also make it unlawful to take these birds. All raptor species are protected from “take” pursuant to California Fish and Game Code § 3503.5 and are also protected at the federal level by the MBTA of 1918 (USFWS 1918).

2.2.5 Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The Western Riverside County MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional HCP focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The MSHCP identifies 146 species, referred to as “Covered Species,” for which the federal and California ESAs “take” authorization has been granted to signatories to the plan as long as they comply with its requirements. Of the 146 Covered Species within the MSHCP, 118 are considered to be “adequately conserved.” The remaining 28 Covered Species will be considered to be adequately conserved when certain landmark conservation requirements are met during the course of future development. The goal of the MSHCP is to maintain the biological and ecological diversity within a rapidly urbanizing region while also

improving the future economic development in the county by providing an efficient, streamlined regulatory process through which development can proceed in an efficient way.

The approval of the MSHCP and execution of the Implementing Agreement (IA) by the wildlife agencies allows signatories of the IA to issue "take" authorizations for all species covered by the MSHCP, including state- and federally listed species, as well as other identified sensitive species and/or their habitats. Each city of local jurisdiction will impose a Development Mitigation Fee for projects within their jurisdiction. With payment of the mitigation fee to the County and compliance with the survey requirements of the MSHCP where required, full mitigation in compliance with CEQA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California ESA, and the ESA will be granted. The Development Mitigation Fee varies according to project size and project description and is dependent on development density (Riverside County Ordinance No. 810.2). Payment of the mitigation fee and compliance with the requirements of Section 6.0 of the MSHCP are intended to provide full mitigation under CEQA, NEPA, and the California and federal ESAs for impacts to the species and habitats covered by the MSHCP, pursuant to agreements with the USFWS, the CDFW, and/or any other appropriate participating regulatory agencies as set forth in the IA for the MSHCP.

2.2.6 California Environmental Quality Act Significance Criteria

Section 15064.7 of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines) encourages local agencies to develop and publish the thresholds that the agency uses in determining the significance of environmental effects caused by projects under its review. However, agencies may also rely upon the guidance provided by the Initial Study checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Appendix G provides examples of impacts that would normally be considered significant. Based on these examples, impacts to biological resources would normally be considered significant if the project would:

- 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;
- 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 CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- 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 sites;
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; and
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state HCP.

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. Substantial impacts would be those that would diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, state, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant according to CEQA. The reason for this is that although the impacts would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish, or result in the permanent loss of, an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Literature Review

Prior to conducting the biological reconnaissance surveys, ECORP biologists performed literature reviews using the CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2021a, 2021b, 2023a, 2023b) and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI; CNPS 2021, 2023) to determine the special-status plant and wildlife species that have been documented in the vicinity of the Project Site. ECORP searched CNDDDB and CNPSEI records within the Project Site boundaries as depicted on USGS 7.5-minute Romoland topographic quadrangle, plus the surrounding eight topographic quadrangles including Steele Peak, Perris, Lakeview, Winchester, Bachelor Mountain, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore. The CNDDDB and CNPSEI contain records of reported occurrences of federally or state-listed endangered, threatened, proposed endangered or threatened species, California Species of Special Concern (SSC), and/or other special-status species or habitat that may occur within or in the vicinity of the Project. Additional information was gathered from the following sources and includes, but is not limited to:

- *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CDFW 2021b, 2023b);
- *Special Animals List* (CDFW 2021c, 2023c);
- *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012);
- *A Manual of California Vegetation*, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009); and
- various online websites (e.g., CalFlora 2021, 2023).

Using this information and observations in the field, a list of special-status plant and animal species that have potential to occur within the Project Site was generated. For the purposes of this assessment, special-status species are defined as plants or animals that:

- have been designated as either rare, threatened, or endangered by CDFW, CNPS, or the USFWS, and/or are protected under either the federal or California ESAs;
- are candidate species being considered or proposed for listing under these same acts;
- are fully protected by the California Fish and Game Code, §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, or 5515;

- are of expressed concern to resource and regulatory agencies or local jurisdictions; and/or
- are covered species under the MSHCP.

Special-status species reported for the region in the literature review or for which suitable habitat occurs on the site were assessed for their potential to occur within the Project Site based on the following guidelines:

Present: The species was observed on the site during a site visit or focused survey.

High: Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project Site and a known occurrence has recently been recorded (within the last 20 years) within 5 miles of the area.

Moderate: Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project Site and a documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within 5 miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within 5 miles of the Project Site; or a recently documented observation occurs within 5 miles of the area and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs in the Project Site.

Low: Limited or marginal habitat for the species occurs within the Project Site and a recently documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within 5 miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within 5 miles of the Project Site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site, but no records or only historic records were found within the database search.

Presumed Absent: Species was not observed during a site visit or focused surveys conducted in accordance with protocol guidelines at an appropriate time for identification; habitat (including soils and elevation factors) does not exist on site; or the known geographic range of the species does not include the Project Site.

Note that location information on some special-status species may be of questionable accuracy or unavailable. Therefore, for survey purposes, the environmental factors associated with a species' occurrence requirements may be considered sufficient reason to give a species a positive potential for occurrence. In addition, just because a record of a species does not exist in the databases does not mean it does not occur. In many cases, records may not be present in the databases because an area has not been surveyed for that species.

A review of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2023) Web Soil Survey, National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2023), and the corresponding USGS topographic maps was also conducted to determine if there were any blue line streams or drainages present on the Project Site that potentially fall under the jurisdiction of either federal or state agencies.

3.1.1 Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis

Data regarding the Project Site were reviewed to determine Project consistency with the MSHCP. The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) MSHCP Information Map was queried

to determine requirements for habitat assessment(s), potential focused survey(s), or other issues related to biological resources that could exist on the Project Site (RCA 2023).

Section 6.0 of the MSHCP also requires that an assessment of the Project Site be completed to identify any potential Project-related effects on biological resources, including burrowing owl, riparian/riverine areas, vernal pools, and fairy shrimp, if applicable. In addition, the MSHCP requires that an Urban/Wildlands Interface analysis be conducted to address the indirect effects associated with locating proposed development in the proximity of MSHCP Conservation Areas.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

The biological reconnaissance surveys were conducted by biologists with experience surveying and identifying sensitive biological resources in Riverside County. The biologists performed the surveys by walking the entire Project Site and surrounding areas to identify the vegetation communities and wildlife habitats on the Project Site. The biologist(s) documented the plant and wildlife species present on the Project Site, and the location and condition of the Project Site were assessed for the potential to provide habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species. Data were recorded on a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, field notebooks, and/or maps. Photographs were also taken during the survey to provide visual representation of the various vegetation communities and site conditions within the Project Site. The Project Site was also examined to assess its potential to facilitate wildlife movement or function as a movement corridor for wildlife moving throughout the region. In addition, the biologists mapped the vegetation communities present on the Project Site.

Plant and wildlife species, including any special-status species that were observed during the survey, were recorded. Plant nomenclature follows that of *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012). Wildlife nomenclature follows Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (2017), *Check-list of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2020), and the *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico* (Bradley et al. 2014).

In instances where a special-status species was observed, the date, species, location and habitat, and GPS coordinates were recorded. The locations of special-status species observations were recorded using a handheld GPS in North American Datum 1983, Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates, Zone 11S.

3.2.2 Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment

The Project Site is located within a MSHCP burrowing owl survey area. Focused surveys for burrowing owl are required as part of the Project review process where suitable habitat is present (RCTLMA 2023). In order to determine if suitable habitat is present, burrowing owl habitat assessments were conducted concurrently with the biological reconnaissance surveys. The site and a 500-foot buffer were walked using transects spaced 20 meters apart to identify the presence of owl habitat and search for presence of potential burrows (i.e., of suitable size and shape for burrowing owl use). Areas that were not accessible by foot were scanned using binoculars for suitable habitat, including presence of burrows.

Areas west of the Project Site between the I-215 and the on and off ramps were not surveyed due to safety issues and inaccessibility.

4.0 RESULTS

Summarized below are the results of the literature reviews and field surveys including site characteristics, vegetation communities, plants, wildlife, special-status species, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors).

4.1 Literature Review

4.1.1 Special-Status Plants and Wildlife

The CNDDDB and CNPSEI searches were conducted on September 27, 2021 and October 2, 2023. The 2021 database searches identified 41 special-status plant species and 47 special-status wildlife species that could occur near the Project Site. The 2023 database searches identified 42 special-status plant species and 45 special-status wildlife species that could occur near the Project Site. One additional special-status plant species and one additional special-status wildlife species were documented in the 2023 literature review that were not identified during the 2021 literature review. Additionally, the 2023 literature review resulted in the removal of three special-status wildlife species from further analyses. These are listed below along with their CRPR ranking and/or state and federal listing status. Removal or addition of special-status species is often due to a change in state listing, federal listing, and/or review and updates to occurrence data on behalf of the CNDDDB and CNPS.

Additional Species Not Identified in 2021 Literature Review:

- Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), CRPR 1B.1, state- and federally endangered, MSHCP Covered species; and
- Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), state-candidate endangered.

Removed Species:

- Dulzura pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*);
- northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), MSHCP Covered species; and
- San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), MSHCP Covered species.

A list was generated from the results of the literature review and the Project Site was evaluated for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant or wildlife species on the list. Appendix A contains a list of the special-status plant species with potential to occur on and/or near the Project Site and Appendix B contains a list of the special-status wildlife species with potential to occur on and/or near the Project Site.

The Project Site is within the MSHCP Survey Area for burrowing owl as well as in the Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) mitigation fee area (Figure 3).

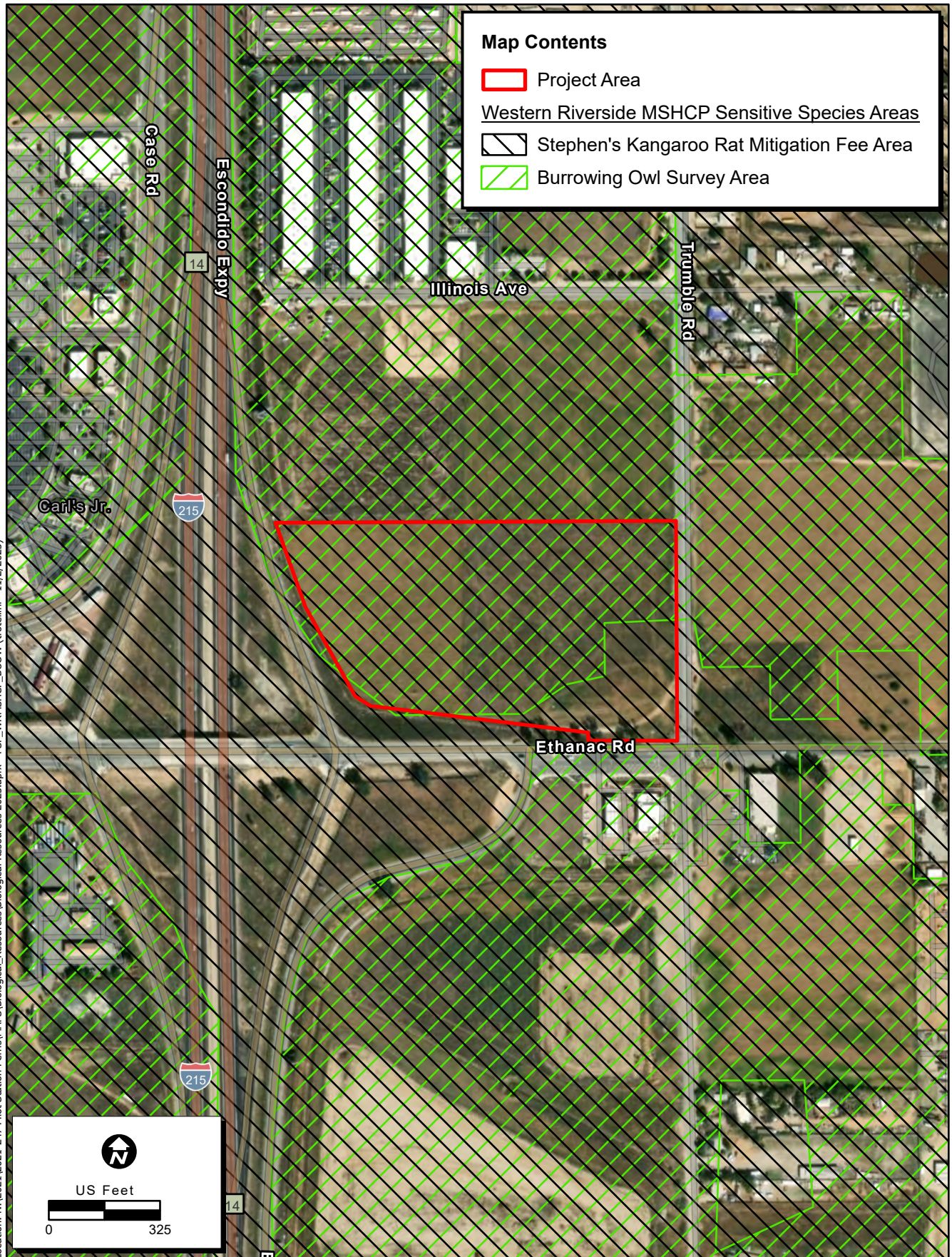


Figure 3. Western Riverside MSHCP Sensitive Species Areas
2021-247 Ethanac Travel Center Project

4.1.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Designated Critical Habitat

The Project Site is not located within any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat. The nearest designated Critical Habitat is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest for spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*).

4.1.3 State or Federally Protected Wetlands and Waters of the United States

Based on the results of the literature reviews, the Project Site does not include any state or federally protected wetlands or Waters of the U.S. (USFWS 2023).

4.2 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

The biological reconnaissance surveys were conducted on October 1, 2021 by ECORP biologists Verity Richardson and Chelsie Brown, and on October 4, 2023 by ECORP biologist Corrina Tapia. Summarized below are the results of the biological reconnaissance surveys including site characteristics, plants and plant communities, wildlife, special-status species, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors). Weather conditions during the survey are summarized in Table 1.

Date	Surveyors	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
10/1/2021	VR and CB	0640	1030	52	78	0	0	0-1	0-1
10/4/2023	CT	0645	0800	59.1	62.5	0	0	0	0-2

Notes: °F = degrees Fahrenheit, % = percent, mph = miles per hour, VR= Verity Richardson, CB= Chelsie Brown, CT= Corrina Tapia

4.2.1 Property Characteristics

The Project Site consists of an undeveloped lot containing ruderal vegetation that was heavily disturbed. Vehicle tracks were present throughout the site and trash was observed scattered throughout with heavier concentrations along the eastern and southern boundaries where the Project Site meets Trumble Road and Ethanac Road. At the time of the 2021 survey, the entire Project Site appeared to have been recently disced. At the time of the 2023 survey, although no signs of recent mechanical ground disturbance (e.g., discing) were evident, the Project Site did show a history of anthropogenic-related disturbance in the form of compacted soils, trash, and vehicle tracks. Additionally, vegetation appeared recently trampled on or tamped down in many areas.

Soil types within the Project Site consist of Madera fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (MaA) and Exeter sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (EnA; NRCS 2023). The Project Site is bounded by the I-215 north onramp to the west, Ethanac Road to the south, Trumble Road to the east, and vacant land to the north. There is commercial development to the west, commercial development and vacant land to the south, undeveloped and industrial areas to the east, and industrial and commercial development to the

north. Three drainage culverts were observed outside of the Project Site within the survey buffer: two outside the southwest corner of the site and one along the site's western boundary. One isolated roadside ditch was identified during the survey outside of the Project Site in the northwestern portion of the survey buffer. This feature did not connect to any water or wetland features within the Project Site. This roadside ditch was dry at the time of the survey but contained cracked soil and small amounts of low-growing mesic vegetation. The three drainage culverts and isolated roadside ditch are shown on Figure 4. Representative site photographs are included in Appendix C.

4.2.2 Vegetation Communities

The Project Site is within an urban environment that is generally subjected to repeated and ongoing disturbance from human activities. The vegetation community on the Project Site was identified as disturbed nonnative grassland during the 2021 survey. The northern and southwestern portions of the Project Site had been recently disced. Vehicle tracks were present throughout the Project Site. The vegetation height through the majority of the site was less than 6 inches at time of survey. Due to the level of disturbance and dominance of nonnative and weedy vegetation during the 2023 survey, this vegetation community classification has been revised to Disturbed. Disturbed is not a vegetation community but rather a landcover type. Areas defined as Disturbed are generally areas where native vegetation communities have been heavily influenced by human activities, such as discing, and lack development.

The dominant plant species observed on the majority of the Project Site were nonnative or weedy species. The northeastern portion of the survey buffer outside of the Project Site contained a much higher diversity of species. The isolated roadside ditch running along the northwestern edge contained more mesic species and the three drainage culverts contained a couple of riparian species. A stand of nine eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.) trees were observed in a row along the southern edge of the Project Site, north of Ethanac Road.

4.2.3 Plants Observed

Plant species observed on much of the Project Site were generally characteristic of disturbed urban areas: grass species (*Bromus* spp.), short-podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*) dominated the majority of the Project Site. Other plant species observed during the biological survey included bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*), salt heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), turkey mullein (*Croton setiger*), salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), Jerusalem oak (*Dysphania obtusifolia*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), flatsedge (*Cyperus* sp.), phacelia (*Phacelia* sp.), and sedge (*Carex* sp.). A full list of plant species observed on and immediately adjacent to the Project Site is included in Appendix D.



Figure 4. 2023 Biological Resources Survey Results

4.2.4 Wildlife Observed

The Project Site provides habitat only for species adapted to disturbances and urban environments. Six bird species were observed during the biological reconnaissance survey: red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*). One reptile species and two mammal species were also observed during the survey: side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). Many small mammal burrows were observed throughout the Project Site (Figure 4). A complete list of wildlife species observed on or immediately adjacent to the Project Site is included in Appendix E.

4.2.5 Potential for Special-Status Plant to Occur on the Project Site

The 2021 literature review and database searches identified 41 special-status plant species and 47 special-status wildlife species that occur near the Project Site. The 2023 literature review and database searches identified 42 special-status plant species and 45 special-status wildlife species that occur near the Project Site. However, due to the high level of disturbance at the Project Site and the current lack of suitable habitat for the special-status plant and wildlife species, many of the species are presumed absent from the Project Site.

4.2.5.1 Special-Status Plants

There were 41 special-status plant species (of those, nine are federally and/or state listed and 26 are covered by the MSHCP) that appeared in the 2021 literature review and database searches for the Project Site (CDFW 2021a, 2023a; CNPS 2021, 2023). The 2023 literature review documented 42 special-status plant species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. A list was generated from the results of the literature review and the Project Site was evaluated for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant species on the list. For the purposes of this study, the results of the literature review were limited to plant species occurring within a nine-quadrangle search of the Project Site. Plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1A were eliminated from the analysis because they are presumed to be extirpated from California. Additionally, CRPR 3 or 4 species were eliminated from the analysis because these rankings are considered a review list and a watch list, respectively. Descriptions of the CRPR designations are found in Table 2. A Potential for Occurrence table outlining each species and their designations can be found in Appendix A.

Table 2. CRPR Status Designations	
List Designation	Meaning
1A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, but Common Elsewhere
2B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but More Common Elsewhere

Table 2. CRPR Status Designations	
List Designation	Meaning
3	Plants about which more information is needed; a review list
4	Plants of limited distribution; a watch list
List .1, .2 and .3 extension meanings:	
.1	Seriously threatened in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2	Moderately threatened in California (20 to 80 percent occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
.3	Not very threatened in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Note: According to CNPS (Skinner and Pavlik 1994), plants on Lists 1B and 2 meet definitions for listing as threatened or endangered under Section 1901, Chapter 10, of the California Fish and Game Code (California Department of Fish and Game 1984). This interpretation is inconsistent with other definitions.

4.2.5.2 Plant Species with a Moderate Potential

Two plant species were found to have a moderate potential to occur on the Project Site for both the 2021 and 2023 surveys. The site provides marginal or limited amounts of habitat (including soils and elevation factors) onsite in the Disturbed land cover and recently documented observations occur within 5 miles of the Project Site; or a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within 5 miles of the Project Site. The special-status plant species with a moderate potential are listed below and also detailed in Appendix D.

- San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), federally listed endangered, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species; and
- Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*), CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species.

4.2.5.3 Plant Species Presumed Absent

The following 40 species (including the additional species identified in the 2023 literature review, Nevin’s barberry) are presumed absent from the Project Site due to the lack of suitable habitat, soil type, and/or elevation range at the Project Site:

- Alkali marsh aster (*Almutaster pauciflorus*), CRPR 1B.2;
- Bottle liverwort (*Sphaerocarpos drewiae*), CRPR 1B.1;
- California ayenia (*Ayenia compacta*), CRPR 2B.3;
- California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), federally listed Endangered, state-listed Endangered, CRPR 1B.1, MSCHP Covered Species;
- California screw moss (*Tortula californica*), CRPR 1B.2;
- Campbell’s liverwort (*Geothallus tuberosus*), CRPR 1B.1;

- Chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*), CRPR 1B.1;
- Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*), CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Hammitt's clay-cress (*Sibaropsis hammitii*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Intermediate mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Intermediate monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *intermedia*), CRPR 1B.3;
- Jaeger's bush milk-vetch (*Astragalus pachypus* var. *jaegeri*), CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Lemon lily (*Lilium parryi*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Long-spined spineflower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longispina*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Mud nama (*Nama stenocarpa*), CRPR 2B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), federally listed Endangered, state-listed Threatened, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), federally Endangered, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Parish's brittlescale (*Atriplex parishii*), CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Parish's meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba* ssp. *parishii*) state-listed Endangered, CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*), CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Prostrate vernal pool navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*), CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Salt spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*), CRPR 2B.2;
- San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*), CRPR 1B.2;
- San Diego button-celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*) federally listed Endangered, state-listed Endangered, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior*), federally listed Endangered, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- San Miguel savory (*Clinopodium chandleri*), CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Santa Lucia dwarf rush (*Juncus luciensis*), CRPR 1B.2;
- Santa Rosa basalt brodiaea (*Brodiaea santarosae*), CRPR 1B.2;
- Slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), federally listed Endangered, state-listed Endangered, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;

- Southern mountains skullcap (*Scutellaria bolanderi* ssp. *austromontana*), CRPR 1B.2;
- Spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), federally listed Threatened species, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Tecate cypress (*Hesperocyparis forbesii*), CRPR 1B.1;
- Thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), federally listed threatened, state-listed endangered, CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii* var. *wrightii*), CRPR 2B.1, MSHCP Covered Species;
- White rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) CRPR 2B.2;
- Wiggin's cryptantha (*Cryptantha wigginsii*), CRPR 1B.2; and
- Yucaipa onion (*Allium marvini*), CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species.

4.2.6 Potential for Special-Status Wildlife to Occur on the Project Site

There were 47 special-status wildlife species (of those, 14 are federally and/or state listed and 30 are covered by the MSHCP) that appeared in the 2021 literature review and database searches for the Project Site. The updated literature review documented 45 special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. Recent mechanical disturbances on the site, proximity to industrial and commercial development, the presence of anthropogenic influences on the site, and the lack of suitable habitat likely preclude many of these species from occurring. A complete list of the 47 special-status wildlife species with details on habitat requirements and potential for occurrence designations is included as Appendix B.

4.2.6.1 Wildlife Species with a High Potential to Occur

Two species have a high potential to occur on the Project Site due to the presence of suitable habitat occurring on the Project Site and a known occurrence that has been recorded within 5 miles of the Project Site: burrowing owl and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit. At the time of the 2021 report, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit was a SSC and included in analyses. However, in 2023 this species' listing status changed and it is no longer considered special status. Therefore, this species has been removed from further analyses.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl is an MSHCP Covered Species and a CDFW SSC. Burrowing owls historically occurred throughout much of California and the western U.S.; however, many former California populations have been extirpated. The burrowing owl inhabits open habitats, primarily grasslands and deserts. Burrowing owls require burrows for roosting and nesting cover. Although they often nest in abandoned California ground squirrel burrows, they will also use other small mammal burrows, pipes, culverts, and nest boxes, particularly where burrows are scarce (Zeiner et al. 1990). During the biological reconnaissance survey, a burrowing owl habitat assessment was conducted. Marginally suitable open grassland habitat is present on the Project Site. Additionally, numerous small mammal burrows and concrete debris was

observed onsite that could provide burrow habitat for burrowing owls. Soils within and adjacent to the Project Site appeared mechanically disturbed and compacted in some areas as a result. The locations of the potential burrowing owl burrows are depicted on Figure 4. Although the Project Site did provide marginally suitable burrowing owl habitat at the time of the survey, no burrowing owl sign or burrowing owls were observed onsite. However, due to the mobile nature of the species, it is possible for the burrowing owl to use the site in the future due to the presence of potential burrows. The literature review identified numerous recent and historical occurrences within 5 miles of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC #2035) was in 2017 approximately 4 miles from the Project Site. The closest occurrence (OCC #1940) was observed in 2017 approximately 1 mile from the Project Site. No new occurrences were documented in the 2023 literature review. Due to the presence of open marginally suitable grassland habitat and the recent documented occurrence of the species within 5 miles of the Project Site, burrowing owl was determined to have a high potential to occur.

4.2.6.2 Wildlife Species with a Moderate Potential to Occur

One wildlife species has a moderate potential to occur on the Project Site due to the presence of marginal or limited suitable habitat within the Project Site and recent and/or historic observations documented within 5 miles of the Project Site.

Crotch Bumble Bee

Crotch bumble bee is a state Candidate Endangered species. The flight period for Crotch bumble bee queens in California is from late February to late October. Their flight period peaks in early April and there is a second pulse in July. The flight period for workers and males in California is from late March through September; worker and male abundance peak in early July. Suitable Crotch bumble bee habitat includes areas of grasslands and upland scrub that contain requisite habitat elements, such as small mammal burrows. Crotch bumble bees primarily nest in late February through late October underground in abandoned small mammal burrows but may also nest under perennial bunch grasses, thatched annual grasses, or brush piles or in old bird nests and dead trees or hollow logs. Overwintering sites utilized by Crotch bumble bee mated queens include soft, disturbed soil, or under leaf litter or other debris. The 2023 literature review identified four historic and once recent occurrence of this species within 5 miles of the Project Site. This species was not included in the 2021 report because its status as a Candidate for state listing was not in effect at the time the 2021 report was written. The most recent occurrence was documented in 2020 approximately 5 miles northwest of the Project Site (OCC #215). The nearest occurrence was documented in 1973 (OCC #214) approximately 2 miles northwest of the Project Site. Due to the presence of suitable burrowing habitat (e.g., California ground squirrel burrows and pockets of friable soils), the presence of nectar resources, and recent and historic CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the Project Site, Crotch bumble bee was determined to have a moderate potential to occur.

4.2.6.3 Wildlife Species with a Low Potential to Occur

The following six species have a low potential to occur on the Project Site because limited habitat for the species occurs onsite and a known occurrence has been reported in the database, but not within 5

miles of the site; or a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within 5 miles of the Project Site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs onsite, but no records were found in the database search. At the time of the 2021 report, Dulzura pocket mouse and northwestern San Diego pocket mouse were SSC and determined to have low potential to occur. However, in 2023 these species' listing status changed and these species are no longer considered special status. Therefore, these species have been removed from further analyses.

- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), CDFW SSC;
- Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), federally listed Endangered, state-listed Threatened, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus ramona*), CDFW SSC;
- Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species; and
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), CDFW SSC.

4.2.6.4 Wildlife Species Presumed Absent

These 37 species were not present at the site during the site visit and/or habitat was not present or suitable. No additional occurrences were documented in the 2023 literature review. For some species, there were historic or recent sightings; however, due to the lack of suitable habitat within the Project Site, these species are presumed absent:

- Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), federally listed Threatened, MSHCP Covered Species;
- San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), federally listed Endangered;
- Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), federally listed Endangered, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), federally listed Endangered, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), federally listed endangered, CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), federally listed Threatened, CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Coast range newt (*Taricha torosa*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;

- Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*), CDFW SSC;
- California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*), CDFW SSC;
- Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- San Diego banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus abbotti*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*), CDFW SSC;
- Two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondi*), CDFW SSC;
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), state-listed Threatened, CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), CDFW Fully Protected (FP), MSHCP Covered Species;
- Long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), CDFW SSC;
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), state-listed Threatened, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), federally listed Threatened, CDFW SSC;
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), CDFW FP, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), state-listed Endangered, CDFW FP, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), federally listed Threatened, CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), federally listed Endangered, state-listed Endangered, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), CDFW SSC;
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*), federally listed Endangered, state-listed Candidate Endangered, CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), CDFW SSC;

- Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), CDFW SSC;
- San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species;
- Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*), CDFW SSC; and
- Jacumba pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris internationalis*), CDFW SSC.

4.2.7 Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment

Burrowing owl habitat assessments were conducted concurrently with the biological reconnaissance surveys on October 1, 2021 by ECORP biologists Verity Richardson and Chelsie Brown, and on October 4, 2023 by ECORP biologist Corrina Tapia. Weather conditions during the assessments are summarized in Table 1 (Section 4.2). Numerous small mammal burrows were present throughout the site during both the 2021 and 2023 surveys, many of suitable size with potential for burrowing owl occupation (Figure 4). Burrows were checked for sign of burrowing owl (e.g., whitewash, feathers, pellets). No burrowing owl signs were observed at any of the burrows. Representative photos of the potential burrowing owl burrows identified on the Project Site can be found in Appendix C.

Due to the presence of marginally suitable habitat, including potential burrows, additional owl surveys conducted during the burrowing owl breeding season (generally March 1 to August 31) are required to determine the presence of burrowing owls in the Project Area and will need to follow the MSHCP *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions* (County of Riverside 2006). In addition to focused burrowing owl surveys, preconstruction surveys will be required no more than 30 days prior to site disturbance (RCTLMA 2023). Mitigation measures discussing additional survey requirements are described in Section 6.0.

4.3 Raptors and Migratory Birds

Potential nesting habitat for migratory birds and raptors protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code was present in the eucalyptus trees that line the southern edge of the Project Site and the few isolated shrubs adjacent to the site. Suitable nesting habitat for ground-nesting bird species, such as mourning doves, was present on the Project Site. Additionally, during the 2023 survey, northwest of the Project Site and in the 500-foot buffer, an inactive stick nest was documented in a billboard structure. Raptors typically breed between February and August, and songbirds and other passerines generally nest between March and August, although the nesting season may be extended due to weather and drought conditions.

4.4 Wildlife Movement Corridors, Linkages, and Significant Ecological Areas

The concept of habitat corridors addresses the linkage between large blocks of habitat that allow the safe movement of mammals and other wildlife species from one habitat area to another. The definition of a corridor is varied, but corridors may include such areas as greenbelts, refuge systems, underpasses, and biogeographic land bridges, for example. In general, a corridor is described as a linear habitat, embedded in a dissimilar matrix, which connects two or more large blocks of habitat. Wildlife

movement corridors are critical for the survivorship of ecological systems for several reasons. Corridors can connect water, food, and cover sources, spatially linking these three resources with wildlife in different areas. In addition, wildlife movement between habitat areas provides for the potential of genetic exchange between wildlife species populations, thereby maintaining genetic variability and adaptability to maximize the success of wildlife responses to changing environmental conditions. This is especially critical for small populations subject to loss of variability from genetic drift and effects of inbreeding. Naturally, the nature of corridor use and wildlife movement patterns varies greatly among species.

The Project Site was assessed for its ability to function as a wildlife corridor. The Project Site is disturbed and is generally surrounded by industrial development, a major highway, and paved roadways. Although the Project Site is undeveloped, it is surrounded by development and isolated from large, contiguous blocks of native habitat. The I-215 is present to the west of the Project Site and is a large barrier to wildlife movement. Additionally, the lack of vegetative cover within the Project Site, the urban nature of the Project Site, and the high density of nonnative, weedy vegetation in portions of the Project buffer area would likely deter wildlife from using the Project Site for movement opportunities. Therefore, the Project Site is not considered a linkage or corridor between conserved natural habitat areas.

5.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS

All areas where construction and/or grading are currently proposed to take place are dominated by nonnative vegetation, with large areas having undergone recent discing or mechanical disturbances. Potential impacts to sensitive biological resources resulting from Project activities are presented below.

5.1 Special-Status Species

The Project Site consists of disturbed land and is largely devoid of native vegetation. No native vegetation communities are present within the Project Site; rather, the Project Site consists of the land cover Disturbed. The 2021 literature review and database searches identified 41 special-status plant species that occur near the Project Site. Of these 41 special-status plants, two were found to have a moderate potential to occur (San Diego ambrosia and smooth tarplant) on the Project Site due to the presence of marginally suitable habitat and records within 5 miles. The remaining 39 species were presumed absent. The 2023 literature review and database searches identified 42 special-status plant species that occur near the Project Site. This included the addition of Nevin's barberry, which is presumed absent due to the lack of suitable habitat and documented occurrences within 5 miles of the Project Site. San Diego ambrosia and smooth tarplant still have a moderate potential to occur. If rare, special-status, or narrow endemic plants occur on the Project Site, direct impacts in the form of ground disturbance, vegetation removal, habitat loss, and mortality may occur and may be considered significant under CEQA. Within the Western Riverside MSHCP, San Diego ambrosia is a Narrow Endemic Plant Species and smooth tarplant is a Criteria Area species. Impacts to these species have already been contemplated and addressed under the MSHCP. Furthermore, the Project Site is neither located in an MSHCP-designated Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area nor a Criteria Area. Therefore, additional

focused surveys and implementation of mitigation for these two species are not required for this particular Project, which is a covered activity under the MSHCP.

The 2021 literature review and database searches identified 47 special-status species that occur near the Project Site. Of the 47 special-status wildlife species identified in the literature search, two were found to have a high potential for occurrence: burrowing owl and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit. The 2023 literature review and database searches resulted in the removal of San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit from further analyses due to its change in status. The Project Site is located within a designated survey area under the MSHCP for burrowing owl (RCA 2023). The biological reconnaissance surveys and habitat assessments determined that marginally suitable burrowing owl habitat, including the presence of potential burrows, was present on the Project Site. Per MSHCP requirements outlined in Section 6.3.2 in the MSHCP, focused surveys will be required on the Project Site prior to construction to further ascertain presence of the species. During the surveys and burrowing owl habitat assessments, numerous suitable burrows were observed on the Project Site and within the survey buffer. California ground squirrel activity was also observed onsite during the survey. The soils within the Project Site appeared to have been recently mechanically disturbed (e.g., disced), which reduces the site's suitability for burrowing owl. No burrowing owls or burrowing owl sign were observed during the survey. However, due to the mobile nature of the species, it is possible that burrowing owl could use the site prior to the start of Project activities. If burrowing owl are found to be using or nesting on the Project Site prior to the start of construction, direct impacts may occur in the form of mortality or injury in the form of ground disturbance, entombment, and vegetation removal. Indirect impacts from construction noise, increased human and vehicular activity, dust, habitat loss, and ground vibrations may occur. In order to avoid potentially significant impacts to burrowing owl, it is recommended that Mitigation Measure BIO-1 be implemented. The Mitigation Measures for the proposed Project are discussed in Section 6.0.

In the 2021 report, eight wildlife species were found to have a low potential to occur on the Project Site: coast horned lizard, northern harrier, Dulzura pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, Stephens' kangaroo rat, southern grasshopper mouse, Los Angeles pocket mouse, and American badger. The 2023 literature review and database searches resulted in the removal of Dulzura pocket mouse and northwestern San Diego pocket mouse due to a change in their status. For the remaining six species with low potential to occur, if present, direct impacts to these species could occur in the form of injury or mortality due to vehicle or equipment strike or entombment inside of burrows that are graded over during construction and loss of habitat. Indirect impacts may occur in the form of increased human activity, noise, dust, nighttime lighting, and ground vibrations. If present, these species are not expected to occur at high densities due to the highly disturbed nature of the site and recent mechanical disturbances to the soil affecting habitat or prey base for these species. The loss of the SSC individuals (all species except Stephens' kangaroo rat), if present, on this 13.77-acre site would not contribute to the decline in regional populations and would therefore not be considered a significant impact under CEQA.

The Project Site is located within the Stephens' kangaroo rat fee assessment area that requires the payment of the appropriate fee set forth in Riverside County Ordinance No. 663 as mitigation for loss of habitat for the species (County of Riverside 2023). Stephens' kangaroo rat has a low potential to

occur on the Project Site due to the marginally suitable habitat present in the grassland habitat and loose friable soils; however, the relatively isolated nature of the site being surrounded by urban development and the recent and ongoing mechanical disturbances to soils on the Project Site likely preclude this species from occurring. To offset impacts to the species to less than significant, all applicants for development permits within the fee assessment area must pay a mitigation fee as set forth in Riverside County Ordinance No. 663.

The 2023 literature review and database searches resulted in the addition of Crotch bumble bee to analyses. This species was determined to have a moderate potential to occur. Crotch bumble bee is a Candidate for state listing and therefore afforded all the protections as though it were listed under the California ESA. It was determined that this species has a moderate potential to occur due to the presence of pockets of suitable friable soils, suitable burrow habitat, suitable burrows (i.e., California ground squirrel burrows), and nectar sources within and adjacent to the Project Site. Additionally, there are four historic and one recent occurrence of this species within 5 miles of the Project Site in CNDDDB. If Crotch bumble bee is found to be using or nesting on the Project Site prior to the start of construction, direct impacts in the form of ground disturbance, habitat loss, and mortality and indirect impacts from construction vibrations may occur. Impacts to Crotch bumble bee would be considered less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2.

The remaining 37 special-status wildlife species are presumed absent from occurring on or adjacent to the site due to the lack of suitable habitat, including the recent mechanical disturbances to the soils, proximity to I-215, and the presence of anthropogenic disturbances associated with the commercial and industrial development surrounding the site. No impacts to the 37 presumed absent special-status wildlife species are anticipated to result from the development of this Project.

The trees on and immediately adjacent to the Project Site as well as a few isolated shrubs adjacent to the site could provide nesting habitat for nesting birds and raptors protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Furthermore, the Project Site could provide nesting habitat for ground-nesting bird species. If construction of the Proposed Project occurs during the bird breeding season (typically February 1 through August 31), ground-disturbing construction activities could directly affect birds protected by the MBTA and their nests through the removal of habitat on the Project Site, and indirectly through increased noise, vibrations, and increased human activity. Impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3.

5.2 Sensitive Natural Communities

The Project Site does not support any sensitive natural communities; the only vegetation community present is disturbed nonnative grassland. No impacts to sensitive natural communities are anticipated as a result of this Project.

5.3 State or Federally Protected Wetlands and Waters of the United States

No state or federally protected wetlands or Waters of the U.S. were identified on the Project Site; therefore, no impacts to these resources are expected to occur. An isolated roadside ditch was

identified outside of the Project Site to the northwest that may be jurisdictional; however, an official Aquatic Resources Delineation (ARD) was not performed and because this feature is outside the Project Site, impacts are not expected to occur. Three drainage culverts were identified just outside the boundaries of the Project Site (Figure 4); however, impacts to these culverts are also not expected as a result of the Project due to their location outside of the Project Site boundaries. If any offsite improvements are planned that could affect either the drainage culverts or the isolated roadside ditch, a formal ARD is recommended to identify exact impacts to these features.

5.4 Wildlife Corridors and Nursery Sites

The Project Site is located within and adjacent to areas containing existing disturbances (e.g., paved roads and commercial and industrial developments). The Project Site is disturbed and contains poor vegetative cover that would not facilitate wildlife movement. No migratory wildlife corridors or native wildlife nursery sites were identified within the Project Site. No impacts to these resources are expected to occur during the development of the Project Site.

5.5 Habitat Conservation Plans and Natural Community Conservation Plans

The Project Site is located within the planning area for the Western Riverside MSHCP. The Project Site is not located within any Conservation Areas, Criteria Cells, or Subunit designations according to the MSHCP.

5.5.1 Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis

The Project Site is located within the planning area for the MSHCP, but outside of any Cell Groups, Criteria Cells, and Subunit designations. Section 6.0 of the MSHCP requires assessment of the potential effects from the Project on biological resources including riparian/riverine areas, vernal pools, fairy shrimp, burrowing owl, and Narrow Endemic Plant Species. In addition, the MSHCP requires an Urban/Wildlands Interface analysis be conducted to address the indirect effects associated with locating proposed development in the proximity of MSHCP Conservation Areas. These resources were assessed during the reconnaissance survey and are discussed below in relation to the Project.

The Proposed Project consists of construction of a retail fuel center including fueling facilities, travel amenities, and parking facilities on the approximately 13.77-acre Project Site in the City of Perris, California. Because development of the Project Site is a covered activity within the MSHCP, it is an allowable use that has been contemplated within the MSHCP. However, projects that are covered still need to comply with MSHCP requirements.

5.5.1.1 Riparian/Riverine, Vernal Pool, and Fairy Shrimp Habitat Assessment (MSHCP Section 6.1.2)

In accordance with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, a habitat assessment was performed for riparian and riverine communities, vernal pools, and fairy shrimp. The Project Site, consisting of Madera fine sandy

loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (MaA) and Exeter sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (EnA), was lacking clay soils and did not contain vernal pool habitat or suitable habitat for fairy shrimp. Off the Project Site, in the northwestern portion of the buffer, mesic vegetation was observed and an isolated roadside ditch with cracked soil was identified. Although this area has the potential to provide vernal pool habitat suitable for fairy shrimp, it is located outside the Project boundaries and will be avoided under the Proposed Project plans. Three culverts were recorded outside the Project boundaries during the survey; however, no hydric soils were observed in association with the three culverts located outside the Project Site boundaries. Therefore, no impacts to riparian and riverine habitat, vernal pools, or fairy shrimp habitat are anticipated as a result of the Project. If any offsite improvements are planned that could affect the isolated roadside ditch, a formal ARD is recommended to identify impacts to these features.

5.5.1.2 Narrow Endemic Plant Species (MSHCP Section 6.1.3)

The RCA MSHCP Information Map was reviewed to determine whether the Project Site is located within a Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA), in accordance with Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP. The Project Site is not located within a NEPSSA or a Criteria Area.

5.5.1.3 Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment (MSHCP Section 6.3.2)

In accordance with Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP, a habitat assessment for burrowing owl was performed. Additionally, the RCA MSHCP Information Map was reviewed to identify areas within the Project Site that may fall within the designated burrowing owl survey areas. The Project Site is located within the MSHCP-designated burrowing owl survey area (Figure 3). Suitably sized burrows were identified on the Project Site during the burrowing owl habitat assessment that was performed in accordance with the MSHCP burrowing owl guidelines (County of Riverside 2006) during the biological reconnaissance survey (Figure 4).

Although no burrowing owls or burrowing owl sign were observed during the survey, marginally suitable habitat and numerous potential burrows were observed on and adjacent to the Project Site during the 2021 and 2023 surveys. In accordance with the requirements in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP, focused burrowing owl surveys conducted during the burrowing owl breeding season will need to be conducted in order to determine burrowing owl presence on the Project Site. Furthermore, preconstruction surveys will need to be conducted prior to the start of Project construction. The focused surveys and preconstruction surveys shall follow the protocols set forth in the MSHCP burrowing owl survey guidelines (County of Riverside 2006). Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would keep the Project in compliance with the MSHCP requirements in Section 6.3.2.

5.5.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (MSHCP Section 6.1.4)

The requirements for Urban/Wildlands Interface for the management of edge factors do not apply to the Project Site because the Project Site is not situated adjacent to any wildlands or MSHCP-designated Conservation Areas. The Project Site is isolated from larger, contiguous blocks of native habitat and is completely surrounded by residential development, urban development, and other anthropogenic land use. A net long-term increase of edge impacts is not expected as a result of this Project.

5.5.1.5 **Additional Surveys (MSHCP Section 6.3.2)**

The RCA MSHCP Information Map was reviewed to determine if the Project Site was located with any other MSHCP-designated survey areas beyond burrowing owl. The Information Map revealed that the Project Site is not located within the amphibian species, criteria area species, or mammalian species survey areas. Therefore, no further habitat assessments or surveys are required.

6.0 **MITIGATION MEASURES**

The following section provides recommendations and/or mitigation measures to address the potential impacts to biological resources identified in this report. BIO-2 is a new mitigation measure to address potential impacts to Crotch bumble bee. Recommendations for avoiding impacts to sensitive biological resources are presented below:

BIO-1 **Preconstruction Surveys for Burrowing Owl:** The Project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction survey for resident burrowing owls within 30 days prior to commencement of grading and construction activities on the Project Site. The survey shall include the Project Site and all suitable burrowing owl habitat within a 500-foot buffer. The results of the survey shall be submitted to the City of Perris (City) prior to obtaining a grading permit. In addition, if burrowing owls are observed during the MBTA nesting bird survey, to be conducted within three days prior to ground disturbance or vegetation clearance, the observation shall be reported to the Wildlife Agencies. If ground disturbing activities in these areas are delayed or suspended for more than 30 days after the preconstruction survey, the area shall be resurveyed for owls. The pre-construction survey and any relocation activity will be conducted in accordance with the current Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP.

If burrowing owls are detected, the CDFW shall be sent written notification by the City, within three days of detection of burrowing owls. If active nests are identified during the preconstruction survey, the nests shall be avoided and the qualified biologist and Project applicant shall coordinate with the City Planning Division, the USFWS, and the CDFW to develop a Burrowing Owl Plan to be approved by the City in consultation with the CDFW and the USFWS prior to commencing Project activities. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall be prepared in accordance with guidelines in the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl (CDFW 2012) and MSHCP. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, minimization, relocation, and monitoring as applicable. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites and details on proposed buffers if avoiding the burrowing owls and/or information on the adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls for relocation. If no suitable habitat is available nearby for relocation, details regarding the creation and funding of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls may also be required in the Burrowing Owl Plan. The Permittee shall implement the Burrowing Owl Plan following CDFW and USFWS review and concurrence. A final letter report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the Burrowing Owl Plan.

The letter shall be submitted to the CDFW prior to the start of Project activities. When a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owls are no longer occupying the Project Site per the criteria in the Burrowing Owl Plan, Project activities may begin.

If burrowing owls occupy the Project Site after Project activities have started, then construction activities shall be halted immediately. The Project proponent shall notify the City and the City shall notify the CDFW and the USFWS within 48 hours of detection. A Burrowing Owl Plan, as detailed above, shall be implemented.

BIO-2 Preconstruction Surveys for Crotch Bumble Bee: If the Crotch bumble bee is no longer a Candidate or formally Listed species under the California ESA at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures are proposed for the species.

If the Crotch bumble bee is legally protected under the California ESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to begin, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in accordance with CDFW's Survey Considerations for California ESA Candidate Bumble Bee Species (CDFW 2023d) the season immediately prior to project implementation. A minimum of three Crotch bumble bee preconstruction surveys shall be conducted at two- to four-week intervals during the colony active period (April through August) when Crotch bumble bee is most likely to be detected. Nonlethal, photo voucher surveys shall be completed by a biologist who holds a Memorandum of Understanding to capture and handle Crotch bumble bee (if nesting and chilling protocol is to be utilized) or by a CDFW-approved biologist experienced in identifying native bumble bee species (if surveys are restricted to visual surveys that will provide high-resolution photo documentation for species verification). The surveyor shall walk through all areas of suitable habitat focusing on areas with floral resources. Surveys shall be completed at a minimum of one person-hour of searching per 3 acres of suitable habitat during suitable weather conditions (sustained winds less than 8 mph, mostly sunny to full sun, temperatures between 65 and 90 °F) at an appropriate time of day for detection (at least an hour after sunrise and at least two hours before sunset, though ideally between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.).

If Crotch bumble bees are detected, CDFW shall be notified by the Project biologist as further coordination may be required to avoid or mitigate certain impacts. At a minimum, two nesting surveys shall be conducted with focus on detecting active nesting colonies within one week and 24 hours immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the flight season (February through October). If an active Crotch bumble bee nest is detected, an appropriately sized no-disturbance buffer zone (including foraging resources and flight corridors essential for supporting the colony) shall be established around the nest to reduce the risk of disturbance or accidental take and the designated biologist shall coordinate with CDFW to determine if an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California ESA will be required. Nest avoidance buffers may be removed at the completion of the flight season and/or once the qualified biologist deems the nesting colony is no longer active. If no nests are found but the species is

present, a full-time qualified biological monitor who is experienced in surveying for and identifying the species shall be present during vegetation- or ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the queen flight period (February through March), colony active period (March through September), and/or gyne flight period (September through October). Because bumble bees move nest sites each year, two preconstruction nesting surveys shall be required during each subsequent year of construction, regardless of the previous year's findings, whenever vegetation- and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the flight season if nesting and foraging habitat is still present or has re-established.

BIO-3 Preconstruction Survey for Nesting Birds: In order to avoid violation of the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code, site preparation activities (ground disturbance, construction activities, staging equipment, and/or removal of trees and vegetation) for the Project shall be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the nesting season of potentially occurring native and migratory bird species.

If active nests are not located within the Project Site and an appropriate buffer of 500 feet of an active listed species or raptor nest, 300 feet of other sensitive or protected bird nests (nonlisted), or 100 feet of sensitive or protected songbird nests, construction may be conducted during the nesting/breeding season. However, if active nests are located during the preactivity field survey, the biologist shall immediately establish a conservative avoidance buffer surrounding the nest based on their best professional judgement and experience. 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) 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 onsite qualified biologist will review and verify compliance with these nesting avoidance buffers and will 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 City for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.

7.0 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Field work conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the project applicant or the applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the project.

Signed: Chelsie Brown Date: November 10, 2021
 Chelsie Brown
 Associate Biologist/Assistant Project Manager

Signed: Corrina Tapia Date: November 2, 2023
 Corrina Tapia
 Associate Biologist

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Sensitive Plant Species Potential for Occurrence

Appendix B – Sensitive Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence

Appendix C – Representative Site Photographs

Appendix D – Plant Species Observed

Appendix E – Wildlife Species Observed

Sensitive Plant Species Potential for Occurrence

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Bloom Period & Elevation (meters)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> Chaparral sand-verbena	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 none	(Jan) Mar- Sept 75-1600	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert dune habitats. Often found in sandy soil.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chaparral, coastal scrub, or sandy desert habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Allium marvinii</i> Yucaipa onion	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Apr-May 760-1065	Occurs in chaparral. Often found in openings on clay soils.	Presumed Absent: No chaparral habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles. The Project Site is outside of the elevation range for this species.
<i>Allium munzii</i> Munz's onion	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	END THR 1B.1 WR COV	Mar-May 297-1070	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands. Often found in clay soils, growing in grasslands and openings within shrublands or woodlands.	Presumed Absent: No suitable valley and foothill grassland habitat is present on the Project Site or adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer. The nearest observation (Occ # 21) was in 1897 and approximately 1 mile from the Project Site.
<i>Almutaster pauciflorus</i> alkali marsh aster	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 none	Jun-Oct 240-800	Occurs in meadows and seeps of alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable meadow or seep habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Ambrosia pumila</i> San Diego ambrosia	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	END none 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Oct 20-415	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Often found in sandy loam or clay, often in disturbed areas, sometimes found in alkaline soils.	Moderate Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable disturbed grassland habitat is present on the Project Site. The literature review revealed one recent record (Occ # 54) within five miles of the Project Site. The most recent and closest occurrence was observed in 2005 approximately 4.8 miles west of the Project Site.
<i>Arctostaphylos rainbowensis</i> rainbow manzanita	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 WR COV	Dec-Mar 205-670	Occurs in chaparral.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chaparral habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.

<i>Astragalus pachypus</i> var. <i>jaegeri</i> Jaeger's milk-vetch	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 WR COV	Dec-Jun 365-975	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Often found in sandy or rocky soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chaparral, woodland, coastal scrub, or foothill grassland habitat occurs on the Project Site. One historical occurrence (Occ # 17) was recorded in 1922 approximately 12.5 miles from the Project Site and is almost 100 years old.
<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i> San Jacinto Valley crownscale	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	END none 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Aug 139-500	Occurs in playas, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools in alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: The site lacks alkaline soils and suitable valley and foothill grassland. Numerous recent occurrences, less than 20 years old, and one historic occurrence have been documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (Occ # 2) was documented in 2015 approximately 1.5 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (Occ # 26) was documented in 2000 approximately one mile from the Project Site.
<i>Atriplex parishii</i> Parish's brittle-scale	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 WR COV	Jun-Oct 25-1900	Occurs in chenopod scrub, playas, and vernal pools in alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chenopod scrub, playa, or vernal pool habitats are present on site. One recent occurrence (Occ # 1) and two historical occurrences (Occ # 2 and 12) were recorded within 8 miles of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence was documented in 2006 approximately 8 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (Occ # 12) was documented in 1996 approximately 5.5 miles from the Project Site.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i> davidsonii</i> Davidson's salt-scale	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Apr-Oct 10-200	Occurs in coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub in alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: No coastal scrub habitat or alkaline soils are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles of the site. The Project Site is outside of the elevation range for this species.
<i>Ayenia compacta</i> California ayenia	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 2B.3 none	Mar-Apr 150-1095	Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub often in rocky habitats.	Presumed Absent: No suitable rocky, desert habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Berberis nevinii</i> Nevin's barberry*	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	END END 1B.1 WR COV	(Feb)Mar- Jun 70-825	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub. Sometimes within gravelly or sandy microhabitats.	Presumed Absent. No suitable habitat is present on the Project Site and no occurrences were documented in the vicinity of the Project Site in CNDDB.

<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> thread-leaved brodiaea	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	THR END 1B.1 WR COV	Mar-Jun 25-1120	Occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools, and in openings of chaparral. Often found in clay soils.	Presumed Absent: The site lacks clay soils and suitable valley and foothill grassland. Numerous recent and one historic observation were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (Occ # 1) was documented in 2000 approximately 1.5 miles from the Project Site.
<i>Brodiaea santarosae</i> Santa Rosa Basalt brodiaea	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 none	May-Jun 565-1045	Occurs in basaltic habitats of valley and foothill grasslands	Presumed Absent: No basaltic habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles. The Project Site is outside the elevation range for this species.
<i>Calochortus weedii</i> var. <i>intermedius</i> intermediate mariposa lily	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	May-July 105-855	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands, in rocky, calcareous soils.	Presumed Absent: The Project Site lacks rocky, calcareous soils and there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>Laevis</i> smooth tarplant	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Sep 0-640	Occurs in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodlands, and grassland habitats. Often found in alkaline soil.	Moderate Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable grassland habitat is present on the Project Site. Numerous historic and recent occurrences have been documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (Occ # 50) was documented in 2017 approximately 15 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (Occ # 100) was documented in 2008 approximately 1.5 miles from the Project Site.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Parry's spineflower	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Jun 275-1220	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitat. Often found in sandy or rocky openings. Generally associated with larger alluvial plains.	Presumed Absent: No suitable valley and foothill grassland habitat is present on the Project Site or adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer. Numerous recent and historical occurrences were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (Occ # 143) was in 2017 approximately 5 miles from the Project Site. The nearest observation (Occ # 67) was in 2001 and approximately 1.5 miles from the Project Site.

<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i> long-spined spineflower	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Apr-Jul 30-1530	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pool habitat. Often found in clay soil.	Presumed Absent: No clay soils occur on the Project Site and the site lacks valley and foothill grasslands. Numerous recent and historical occurrences have been documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (Occ # 118) was documented in 2008 4.8 miles from the Project Site.
<i>Clinopodium chandleri</i> San Miguel savory	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Mar-Jul 120-1075	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands. Often found in rocky, gabbroic or metavolcanic soils.	Presumed Absent: No valley and foothill grassland is present on the Project Site or adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer. Three recent and three historical occurrences have been documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (Occ # 6) was documented in 1965 and approximately 13 miles from the Project Site.
<i>Cryptantha wigginsii</i> Wiggin's cyptantha	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 none	Feb-Jun 20-275	Occurs in coastal scrub, often in clay soils.	Presumed Absent: No clay soils or coastal scrub habitat is present on the Project Site. One recent occurrence (Occ # 6) was documented in 2012 approximately 13 miles from the Project Site. The Project Site is outside of the elevation range of this species.
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> slender-horned spineflower	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	END END 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Jun 200-760	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub habitats. Often found in sandy soil.	Presumed Absent: No suitable scrub, chaparral, or woodland habitat is present on the Project Site and the site lacks sandy soils. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> many-stemmed dudleya	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Apr-Jul 15-790	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Often found in areas of clay soil.	Presumed Absent: Clay soils are not present on the Project Site and the site lacks valley and foothill grassland. One recent occurrence (Occ # 6) was documented in 2010 approximately 10.5 miles from the Project Site.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i> San Diego button-celery	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	END END 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Jun 20-620	Occurs in mesic habitats of coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: The Project Site lacks mesic habitats and vernal pools. Also, there are no records within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Geothallus tuberosus</i> Campbell's liverwort	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 none	Ephemeral liverwort 10-600	Occurs in soils of mesic coastal scrub habitats and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: The Project Site lacks mesic habitats and vernal pools. Also, there are no records within 5 miles of the site.

<i>Hesperocyparis forbesii</i> Tecate cypress	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 none	Perennial evergreen tree 80-1500	Occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, and chaparral habitat. Often found in areas with clay, gabbroic or metavolcanics soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable forest or chaparral habitat is present on the Project Site. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Juncus luciensis</i> Santa Lucia dwarf rush	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 none	Apr-Jul 300-2040	Occurs in chaparral, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chaparral, forest, seep, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 WR COV	Feb-Jun 1-1220	Occurs in coastal salt marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: Although four recent records (Occ #: 15, 76, 104, & 114) occur within 5 miles of the Project Site, no suitable marsh, swamp, playa, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project Site.
<i>Lilium parryi</i> lemon lily	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Jul-Aug 1200-2745	Occurs in lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, riparian forest, and upper montane coniferous forest. Often found in mesic soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable forest, meadow, or seep habitat is present on the Project Site. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles. The Project Site is outside of the elevation range for this species.
<i>Limnanthes alba</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i> Parish's meadowfoam	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none END 1B.2 WR COV	Apr-Jun 600-2000	Occurs in lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and vernal pools. Often found in vernal mesic habitats.	Presumed Absent: No suitable forest, seep, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project Site. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles. The Project Site is outside of the elevation range for this species.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>intermedia</i> intermediate monardella	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.3 none	Apr-Sep 400-1250	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and occasionally in lower montane coniferous forest habitat. Often found in areas of understory.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chaparral, woodland, or forest habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i> mud nama	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 2B.2 WR COV	Jan-Jul 5-500	Occurs in lake margins, riverbanks, marshes, and swamps.	Presumed Absent: No suitable marsh or swamp habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> spreading navarretia	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	THR none 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Jun 30-655	Occurs in chenopod scrub, shallow freshwater marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: Although five recent records (OCC #: 23, 39, 46, 47, & 90) occur within 5 miles of the Project Site, no chenopod scrub, marsh, playa, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project Site.

<i>Navarretia prostrata</i> prostrate vernal pool Navarretia	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Apr-Jul 3-1210	Occurs in coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, alkaline valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: The Project Site lacks seeps, vernal pools, coastal scrub, alkaline grasslands, and meadows. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt grass	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	END END 1B.1 WR COV	Apr-Aug 15-660	Occurs in vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: Although one historic record (Occ # 2) of this species was observed in 1941 approximately 3.1 miles south of the Project Site, no vernal pool habitat is present on the Project Site.
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i> white rabbit-tobacco	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 2B.2 none	(Jul)Aug- Nov(Dec) 0-2100	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland. Often found in sandy, gravelly soils.	Presumed Absent: The Project Site lacks sandy, gravelly soils and chaparral, woodland, and coastal scrub habitat. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Scutellaria bolanderi</i> ssp. <i>austromontana</i> southern mountains skullcap	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 none	Jun-Aug 425-2000	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Often found in mesic soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat was present on the Project Site. Typically occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. There are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Sibaropsis hammitii</i> Hammit's clay-cress	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 WR COV	Mar-Apr 720-1065	Occurs in clay soils of chaparral and valley and foothill grasslands.	Presumed Absent: No clay soils are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles of the site. The Project Site is outside of the elevation range for this species.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i> salt spring checkerbloom	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 2B.2 none	Mar-Jun 15-1530	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, and playas. Often found in mesic, alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chaparral, coastal scrub, forest, desert scrub, or playa habitat was observed on the Project Site. One historical observation (Occ # 1) was documented in 1966 approximately 9 miles from the Project Site.
<i>Sphaerocarpos drewiae</i> bottle liverwort	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.1 none	Ephemeral liverwort 90-600	Occurs in soil openings of chaparral and coastal scrub.	Presumed Absent: The Project Site lacks chaparral and coastal scrub habitat. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:	none none 1B.2 none	Jul-Nov 2-2040	Occurs in meadows and seeps, marshes, and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and vernal mesic valley and foothill grassland. Often found in disturbed areas and near ditches, streams, and springs.	Presumed Absent: The site lacks valley and foothill grassland. One historical occurrence (Occ # 70) was documented in 1923 approximately 13 miles from the Project Site.

<p><i>Tortula californica</i> California screw moss</p>	<p>Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none none 1B.2 none</p>	<p>Moss 10-1460</p>	<p>Occurs in sandy soil of chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable valley and foothill grassland habitat is present on the Project Site. Two recent occurrences were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. Occ # 7 was in 2013 approximately 8.5 miles from the Project Site. Occ # 8 was in 2012 and approximately 4 miles from the Project Site.</p>			
<p><i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> Wright's trichocoronis</p>	<p>Fed: Ca: CRPR: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none none 2B.1 WR COV</p>	<p>May-Sep 5-435</p>	<p>Occurs in meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, riparian forest, and vernal pools. Often found in alkaline soils.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable seep, marsh, riparian, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>			
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<p>* Species newly identified in the 2023 literature review</p>								
<p>Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) Romoland, Steele Peak, Perris, Lakeview, Winchester, Bachebr Mountain, Murrieta, Wildomar, & Lake Elsinore 7.5-minute quads.</p>								

Sensitive Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Invertebrates				
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee*	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	none CAN none	Found in coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Occurs in open grassland and scrub habitats. Prefers a diet consisting of certain plant species including milkweeds, dusty maidens, lupines, medics, phacelias, sages, clarkias, poppies, and wild buckwheats. Nests are often located underground in abandoned rodent nests or above ground in tufts of grass, old bird nests, rock piles, or cavities in dead trees.	Moderate Potential. Suitable burrowing habitat and burrows (likely from California ground squirrel) present within the Project Site. Suitable nectar sources within and adjacent to the Project Site. Four historic and one recent occurrence were documented in CNDDDB within 5 miles of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence was documented in 2020 approximately 5 miles northwest of the site (OCC 215). The nearest occurrence was documented in 1973 (OCC 214) approximately 2 miles northwest of the site.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	THR none WR COV	Vernal pools and ephemeral wetlands. Typically, in small and shallow pools with mud or grassy bottoms.	Presumed Absent: No ephemeral wetlands or vernal pools are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i> San Diego fairy shrimp	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	END none none	Vernal pools and ephemeral wetlands in San Diego and Orange Counties.	Presumed Absent: No ephemeral wetlands or vernal pools are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i> Quino checkerspot butterfly	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	END none WR COV	Chaparral and coastal sage scrublands in Riverside and San Diego counties.	Presumed Absent: No chaparral or coastal sage scrublands occur on the Project Site and no records were identified within 5 miles.

<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> Riverside fairy shrimp	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	END none WR COV	Occurs in vernal pools, tectonic swales, and earth slump basins in Riverside County.	Presumed Absent: No ephemeral wetlands or vernal pools are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
Fishes				
<i>Gila orcutti</i> arroyo chub	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	none SSC WR COV	Creeks, streams, and rivers with areas of slow-moving water with sand or mud bottoms. Ranges from San Diego to San Luis Obispo county.	Presumed Absent: No creeks, streams, or rivers are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.
Amphibians				
<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> arroyo toad	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	END SSC WR COV	Occurs in desert wash, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, south coast flowing waters, and south coast standing waters habitat. Found in semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams. Prefers rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. Often found in loose, gravelly areas of streams.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat was present on the Project Site. Typically occurs near rivers with riparian scrub. There are no records within 5 miles.
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	Fed: CA: MSHCP:	THR SSC WR COV	Occurs in aquatic, artificial flowing waters, artificial standing waters, freshwater marsh, marsh & swamp, riparian forest, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters, Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters, south coast flowing waters, south coast standing waters, and wetland habitats. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Often found in lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation.	Presumed Absent. No suitable habitat was present on the Project Site. One historic observation (OCC# 19) was documented in 2000 approximately 15 miles from the Project Site.

<p><i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Open areas with sandy soils in a wide range of habitats including lowlands to foothills, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, mixed woodlands, sandy washes, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, and grasslands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying. The species is almost completely terrestrial, entering water only to breed.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Although recently documented records of this species are within 5 miles of the Project Site, the presence of recent mechanical soil disturbances and lack of vernal pool features likely preclude this species from occurring.</p>
<p><i>Taricha torosa</i> coast range newt</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in wet forests, oak forests, chaparral, and rolling grasslands. Burrows in moist soil or wood debris.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No chaparral, forest, or moist soil habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>
<p>Reptiles</p>				
<p><i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> southern California legless lizard</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Coastal sand dunes, and variety of interior habitats including sandy washes and alluvial fans. Occurs in moist warm loose soil with plant cover and sparsely vegetated beach dunes, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, chaparral, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Sometimes found in suburban gardens.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Although two recent records occur within 5 miles of the Project Site, there is no suitable moist soil habitat with plant cover present on the Project Site.</p>

<p><i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California glossy snake</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Most common in desert habitats but also found in arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, low elevation coastal scrub, valley-foothill hardwood, and chaparral. Prefers washes and sandy areas with patchy brush and rocks. Perennial plants necessary in habitat for food source.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Although marginally suitable grassland habitat is present on the Project Site, the site lacks washes, sandy areas, and perennial plant species and the soils have been recently mechanically disturbed. The extremely limited habitat on the site paired with the high levels of disturbances on and adjacent to the site are expected to preclude this species from occurring. Three historical occurrences were documented within five miles of the Project Site; the nearest occurrence (OCC# 106) was in 1930 approximately 2 miles from the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Arid habitats including chaparral, woodlands, and dry riparian areas.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: The Project Site lacks suitable chaparral, woodland, or riparian habitats. Numerous historic and recent occurrences were observed within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 48) was in 2002 approximately 6 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (OCC# 32) was in 2001 and approximately 4 miles from the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Coleonyx variegatus abbotti</i> San Diego banded gecko</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Rocky areas in coastal sage scrub and chaparral.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable rocky habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>

<p><i>Crotalus ruber</i> red-diamond rattlesnake</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Found in coastal chaparral, arid scrub, rocky grassland, oak and pine woodlands, desert mountain slopes and rocky desert flats. Diet consists of birds, lizards, and small mammals including ground squirrels, wood rats, and rabbits.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No chaparral, scrub, rocky grassland, woodland, or desert habitat is present on the Project Site and there are only historic records within 5 miles.</p>
<p><i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in aquatic, artificial flowing waters, Klamath/North coast flowing waters, Klamath/North coast standing waters, marsh & swamp, Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters, Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters, south coast flowing waters, south coast standing waters, and wetland habitats. Needs basking sites (logs, rocks, and exposed banks) and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable aquatic habitat is present on the Project Site. There is 1 historic record (OCC# 849) within five miles but it is over 75 years old.</p>
<p><i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, desert wash, pinon & juniper woodlands, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Requires open areas for sunning, bushes to provide cover, and loose soil for burial. Diet consists mainly of ants and also small invertebrates. Most commonly found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable grassland habitat is present with open areas present for sunning and some loose soil for burial. Numerous historic and recent occurrences were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 719) was documented in 2009 approximately 8 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (OCC# 8) was documented in 1930 approximately 2 miles from the Project Site.</p>

<p><i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i> coast patch-nosed snake</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Coastal scrub and semi-arid brushy areas and chaparral in canyons, rocky hillsides, and plains. Brushy or shrubby vegetation in coastal Southern California. Require small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites. Diet consists mostly of lizards, along with small mammals.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Although many small mammal burrows were observed within the Project Site that could provide refuge, the Project Site lacks suitable brushy or shrubby vegetation habitat. One recent occurrence (OCC# 13) was documented in 2004 approximately 10 miles from the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Occur along aquatic habitats such as pools and creeks usually near chaparral, rocky areas, brushland, oak woodland, and conifer forests. Found in coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation. Hunts in water.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No aquatic habitat are present on or adjacent to the Project Site. The site is also missing chaparral, rocky areas, forest, and woodland habitats. No records occur within 5 miles.</p>
<p>Birds</p>				
<p><i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird (nesting colony)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none THR/SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in freshwater marsh, swamp, and wetland habitats. Largely endemic to California. Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few kilometers of the colony. Forages in open habitat such as cultivated fields and pastures.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No freshwater marshes for nesting are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>

<p><i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle (nesting & wintering)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none FP WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, pinon & juniper woodlands, upper montane coniferous forest, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Found in rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also large trees such as eucalyptus or oak in open areas.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Suitable nesting habitat and open expanses of foraging habitat are not present on or adjacent to the Project Site. One historic record (OCC# 2) of this species was observed within five miles of the Project Site in 1974; however, the amount of urban development and anthropogenic activity has changed in the area quite substantially since 1974 and the limited amounts of habitat that are currently potentially suitable aren't large enough to support this species. Furthermore, the high levels of disturbance paired with the high levels of vehicular and human activity likely preclude this species from foraging or using habitat within or adjacent to the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Asio otus</i> long-eared owl</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Occurs in cismontane woodland, Great Basin scrub, riparian forest, riparian woodland, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats. Found in riparian bottomlands grown to tall willows and cottonwoods. Also found in belts of live oak paralleling stream courses. Require adjacent open land, productive of mice and the presence of old nests of crows, hawks, or magpies for breeding.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat was present on the Project Site. There are no records within five miles.</p>

<p><i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl (burrow & some wintering sites)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Occurs in coastal prairie, coastal scrub, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel. Also found in vacant lots and airports.</p>	<p>High Potential to occur: Suitable open, grassland habitat was present on the Project Site and the Project Site is located within an MSHCP-designated burrowing owl survey area. The species are mobile and can fly over the Project Site at any time. Numerous suitable burrows were observed during the biological survey. Numerous recent and historical occurrences were documented within five miles of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 2035) was in 2017 and approximately 4 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (OCC# 1940) was in 2015 and approximately 1 mile from the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk (nesting)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none THR WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in Great Basin grassland, riparian forest, riparian woodland, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, & agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Nests in solitary bush or tree, or in small groves. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands or alfalfa/grain fields supporting rodent populations.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: This species is known to use and re-use nesting sites year after year and the lack of any previously documented records of this species in the literature review within 5 miles of the site indicates this species does not use the Project or surrounding areas for nesting or foraging. Although marginally suitable nesting habitat is present in the eucalyptus trees on the southern boundary of the Project Site, the high levels of disturbances likely preclude this species from occurring.</p>

<p><i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i> coastal cactus wren</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Coastal sage scrub with tall opuntia cacti. Nests in opuntia cactus.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No coastal sage scrub is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>
<p><i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> western snowy plover</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>THR SSC none</p>	<p>Sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No sandy or gravelly soils adjacent to water features are present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>
<p><i>Circus hudsonius</i> Northern harrier</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Open pine-oak woodland, savannah, and agricultural fields with scattered trees. Nests in solitary bush or tree, or in small groves.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable nesting habitat with scattered trees is present adjacent to the Project Site within the 500-foot buffer and there are no records within five miles.</p>
<p><i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite (nesting)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none FP WR COV</p>	<p>Open habitat in lowlands including savanna, open woodlands, marshes, and agricultural fields. Nests in trees, riparian scrub areas, oak woodlands, and other similar habitats.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable riparian scrub or oak woodlands exist on the Project Site for nesting. There are no records within 5 miles.</p>
<p><i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> bald eagle (nesting & wintering)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>DL END/FP WR COV</p>	<p>Breeding habitat most commonly includes areas close to coastal areas, bays, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or other bodies of water that reflect the general availability of primary food sources including fish, waterfowl, or seabirds. Nests in tall trees or on cliffs or pinnacles near open water.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No tall trees, cliffs, or pinnacles near open water are present to provide suitable nesting habitat and no bodies of water occur on the Project Site. There are no records within 5 miles.</p>

<p><i>Icteria virens</i> yellow-breasted chat</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape along streams or at the edges of ponds or swamps. Forages and nests within 10 ft of ground.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No riparian vegetation was observed on the Project Site to provide suitable habitat. There are no records within 5 miles of the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike (nesting)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in broadleaved upland forest, desert wash, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, pinon & juniper woodlands, riparian woodland, and Sonoran desert scrub habitats. Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable nesting habitat was present on the Project Site. The most recent and nearest occurrence (OCC# 50) was documented in 2007 approximately 3 miles from the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Poliptila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>THR SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Dry coastal slopes, washes, and mesas with areas of low vegetation and coastal sage scrub including California sagebrush, California buckwheat, salvia, and prickly pear cactus. Moves about actively in shrubs and low trees to forage. Generally found at elevations below 3,000 ft.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No coastal sage scrub or shrub habitat is present on the Project Site. Numerous historic and recent occurrences were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 736) was documented in 2018 approximately 6 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (OCC# 739) was documented in 2002 approximately 1 mile from the Project Site.</p>

<p><i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler (nesting)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: CNPS:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders. Diet consists primarily of insects.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Typically occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. No riparian vegetation was observed on the Project Site. There are no records within 5 miles of the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo (nesting)</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>END END WR COV</p>	<p>Occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian vegetation in the vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms, below 2,000 ft msl. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, mulefat, and mesquite.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Although two records (OCC# 408 & 413) occur within 5 miles within the past 20 years, no suitable riparian habitat or vegetation is present on the Project Site for nesting.</p>
<p><i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> yellow-headed blackbird</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Marshes, swamps, and wetlands. Frequently found nesting in freshwater emergent wetlands with dense vegetation and deep water. Often along borders of lakes or ponds.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable riparian habitat is present on the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>
<p>Mammals</p>				

<p><i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i> Dulzura pocket mouse</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert grasslands in San Diego county along the U.S.-Mexico border.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: Although marginally suitable grassland and scrub habitat is present on the Project Site and adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer, there is presence of mechanical ground disturbance and the site is outside of San Diego County. One historic record (OCC# 1), observed in 1993, has been identified approximately 3 miles from the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 53) was documented in 2005 approximately 13 miles from the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i> northwestern San Diego pocket mouse</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Sandy herbaceous areas, usually in association with rocks or coarse gravel in southwestern California. Primarily occurs in arid coastal and desert borders. Typical habitats include sandy desert fans and shrub communities such as coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: Although marginally suitable grassland is present on the Project Site and adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer, there is significant mechanical ground disturbance. Numerous historic and recent occurrences were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 26) was documented in 2017 approximately 9 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (OCC# 79) was documented in 1992 approximately 4 miles from the Project Site.</p>

<p><i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> San Bernardino kangaroo rat</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>END CAN/SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Gentle slopes of alluvial fans, on flood plains, along washes, and on adjacent upland areas with soils containing sand, loam, and gravel deposited by rivers and streams. Can also be found in sandy soils that are wind deposited. Found in alluvial sage scrub, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral vegetation.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No alluvial fans or washes are present on or adjacent to the Project Site and there are no records within 5 miles.</p>
<p><i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> Stephens' kangaroo rat</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>END THR WR COV</p>	<p>Annual grasslands, coastal sage scrub with sparsely spaced vegetation, loose friable soils, and flat or slightly rolling terrain. Prefer open habitats with less than 50% protective cover.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: The site is located in the Stephens' kangaroo rat fee assessment area. Limited suitable habitat is present for the species. Project Site contains loose friable soils that could be used for burrowing. The isolated nature of the site and routine discing shown in aerial images back to 2003 lessens the potential for occurrence. Numerous historic and recent occurrences were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 83) was documented in 2018 approximately 12.5 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (OCC# 42) was documented in 1999 approximately 1.5 miles from the Project Site.</p>

<p><i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Roosts high above ground in rock and cliff crevices, shallow caves, and rarely in buildings. Occurs in arid and semiarid regions including rocky canyon habitats.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Although there have been three records (OCC# 33, 78, and 81) of this species within 5 miles of the Project Site; all three occurrences are over 20 years old and are considered historic. In addition, no suitable rock or cliff habitat is present on the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> western yellow bat</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Found in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats and human developed areas. Roosts in trees, particularly palms. Forages over water and among trees.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable riparian habitat is present on the Project Site. Two historical occurrences were documented within 5 miles of the Project Site. OCC# 18 was documented in 1987 and OCC# 30 was documented in 1982. Both were within 3 miles of the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Variety of open or semi-open country including grasslands, croplands, and sparse coastal scrub. Diet consists primarily of a variety of grasses during spring and summer seasons, with various shrubs and forbs during fall and winter seasons.</p>	<p>High Potential to Occur: Suitable grassland and sparse scrub habitat is present throughout the Project Site and adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer. Numerous historical and recent occurrences were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence was in 2015 (OCC# 100) and approximately 1 mile from the Project Site.</p>

<p><i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Also found in coastal chaparral, sagebrush scrub, sandy desert, Joshua tree woodland, pinyon-juniper pine, and boulder habitats. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops & rocky cliffs & slopes.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: Moderate to dense canopies of vegetation are not present on the Project Site and rocky habitats were not observed. In addition, there are no records within 5 miles.</p>
<p><i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Roosts in crevices of outcrops and cliffs, shallow caves, and buildings. Found along rugged canyons, high cliffs, and semiarid rock outcroppings.</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: No suitable rugged canyon, cliff, or rock outcropping habitat is present on the Project Site and no records occur within five miles.</p>
<p><i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i> southern grasshopper mouse</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Low, semi-open, and open scrub habitats with flat, sandy valley floors. Habitats include coastal and mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub, low sagebrush, and grasslands with interspaced shrubs.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable semi-open grassland and open scrub habitat is present on the Project Site and adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer. Two historic records (OCC# 32 and 33) of this species have been identified within five miles of the site, however, both occurrences are over 89 years old.</p>

<p><i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i> Los Angeles pocket mouse</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC WR COV</p>	<p>Lower elevation grasslands, alluvial sage scrub, and coastal sage communities in and around the Los Angeles Basin. Can be found in fine, sandy soils associated with washes or dunes. May hide under weeds and dead leaves in addition to digging burrows.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable grassland and scrub habitat is present on the Project Site and adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer. Numerous historic and one recent occurrence were documented within the vicinity of the Project Site. The most recent occurrence (OCC# 30) was in 2016 approximately 8.5 miles from the Project Site. The nearest occurrence (OCC# 26) was documented in 1993 approximately 3 miles from the Project Site.</p>
<p><i>Perognathus longimembris internationalis</i> Jacumba pocket mouse</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Desert, grassland/herbaceous, shrubland/chaparral</p>	<p>Presumed Absent: The Project Site is outside of the range for the species and the nearest record is over 19 miles away.</p>
<p><i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger</p>	<p>Fed: CA: MSHCP:</p>	<p>none SSC none</p>	<p>Low, semi-open, and open scrub habitats with flat, sandy valley floors. Habitats include coastal and mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub, low sagebrush, and grasslands with interspaced shrubs. Prefers open areas and may also frequent brushlands with little groundcover. When inactive, occupies underground burrow. Young are born in underground burrows.</p>	<p>Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable grassland habitat is present on and adjacent to the site within the 500-foot buffer. No records have been documented within 5 miles of the Project Site.</p>
<p><u>Federal Designations:</u> (Federal Endangered Species Act, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</p>		<p><u>State designations:</u> (California Endangered Species Act, CDFW)</p>		<p><u>Other Designations</u> WR COV: Covered under the Western Riverside MSHCP</p>

END: Federally-listed, Endangered

END: State-listed, Endangered

THR: Federally-listed, Threatened

THR: State-listed, Threatened

FC: Federal Candidate Species

CAN: Candidate for state listing

DL: Federally-delisted

SSC: Species of Special Concern

FP: Fully Protected Species

WL: Watch List Species

* Species newly identified in the 2023 literature review.

Struckthrough text: Removed due to the 2023 literature review and changes to special-status listing

Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) Romoland, Steele Peak, Perris, Lakeview, Winchester, Bachelor Mountain, Murrieta, Wildomar, & Lake Elsinore 7.5-minute quads.

Representative Site Photographs



Photo 1. Disturbed nonnative grassland present on the Project Site in 2021, facing west.



Photo 2. Representative photo of Project Site in 2021 from southwest corner, facing east.



Photo 3. Representative photo of Project Site in 2021, facing northwest.



Photo 4. Representative photo of Project Site in 2021, facing south.



Photo 5. Land recently disced at the southeastern end of the Project Site in 2021, facing southwest.



Photo 6. Representative photo of vehicle tracks in the Project Site in 2021, facing east.



Photo 7. Trash observed in the Project Site in 2021 within the north-western buffer, facing west.



Photo 8. Aggregate pile with ground squirrel burrows observed in 2021.



Photo 9. Representative photo of small mammal burrows present in the Project Site in 2021.



Photo 10. Potential burrowing owl burrow in the Project Site in 2021, no sign of burrowing owl use.



Photo 11. Roadside ditch located outside of the Project Site in the northwest portion of the survey buffer, looking south. Photo taken in 2021.



Photo 13. Two culverts in survey buffer outside of southwest corner of Project Site, facing south. Photo taken in 2021.



Photo 14. Culvert in survey buffer along eastern boundary under I-215 north onramp, facing west. Photo taken in 2021.



Photo 15. Project Site along the southern border, facing north. Photo taken in 2023.



Photo 16. Project Site at southeast corner, facing west. Photo taken in 2023.



Photo 17. Project Site at northeast corner, facing north. Photo taken in 2023.



Photo 18. Old vehicle tracks within the southwest area of the Project Site. Facing east. Photo taken in 2023.



Photo 19. Isolated roadside ditch located northwest of the Project Site, in the 500-foot buffer, facing southwest. Photo taken in 2023.



Photo 20. Old stick nest in billboard structure northwest of the Project Site, in the 500-foot buffer. Photo taken in 2023.



Photo 21. Representative photograph of a suitable potential burrowing owl burrow. Taken in 2023.

APPENDIX D

Plant Species Observed

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Scientific Name	Common Name
VASCULAR PLANTS	
ANGIOSPERMS (DICOTYLEDONS)	
AMARANTHACEAE	AMARANTH FAMILY
<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i>	prostrate pigweed
<i>Dysphania botrys*</i>	Jerusalem oak
ASTERACEAE	SUNFLOWER FAMILY
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mulefat
<i>Dittrichia graveolens*</i>	stinkwort
<i>Encelia californica</i>	bush sunflower
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	telegraph weed
<i>Oncosiphon pilulifer*</i>	stinknet
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	rough cockleburr
BRASSICACEAE	MUSTARD FAMILY
<i>Hirschfeldia incana*</i>	short-podded mustard
<i>Brassica spp.*</i>	mustard spp.
BORAGINACEAE	BORAGE FAMILY
<i>Heliotropium curassavicom</i>	salt heliotrope
<i>Phacelia spp.</i>	phacelia species
CHENOPODIACEAE	GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
<i>Salsola tragus*</i>	Russian thistle; tumbleweed
EUPHORBIACEAE	SPURGE FAMILY
<i>Croton setiger (= Eremocarpus setigerus)</i>	dove weed
GERANIACEAE	GERANIUM FAMILY
<i>Erodium cicutarium*</i>	red stemmed filaree
LAMIACEAE	MINT FAMILY
<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	vinegar weed
MALVACEAE	MALLOW FAMILY
<i>Malva parviflora*</i>	cheeseweed mallow
MYRTACEAE	MYRTLE FAMILY
<i>Eucalyptus sp.*</i>	gum tree
POLYGONACEAE	BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
<i>Erigonium fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat
<i>Polygonum aviculare*</i>	prostrate knotweed
SOLANACEAE	NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimson weed
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	BEAN CAPER FAMILY
<i>Tribulus terrestris*</i>	puncture vine
ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTYLEDONS)	
CYPERACEAE	SEDGE FAMILY
<i>Cyperus sp.</i>	flat sedge species
<i>Carex sp.</i>	sedge species
POACEAE	GRASS FAMILY
<i>Avena sp.*</i>	wild oat species

<i>Bromus sp.*</i>	bromus species
<i>Bromus diandrus*</i>	ripgut brome
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	salt grass
<i>Cortaderia selloana*</i>	pampas grass

*non-native species

APPENDIX E

Wildlife Species Observed

WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED

Scientific Name	Common Name
REPTILIA (REPTILES)	
Phrynosomatidae	Spiny Lizards, Horned Lizards, etc.
<i>Uta stansburiana elegans</i>	Side-blotched lizard
AVES (BIRDS)	
Accipitridae	Hawks, Kites, & Eagles
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
Columbidae	Pigeons and Doves
<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	mourning dove
Corvidae	Jays and Crows
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven
Falconidae	Falcons
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel
Fringillidae	Finches
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
Passerellidae	New world sparrows
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah sparrow
Tyrannidae	New world flycatchers
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
MAMMALIA (MAMMALS)	
Canidae	Canids
<i>Canis latrans</i>	coyote (scat)
Leporidae	Hares & Rabbits
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail
Sciuridae	Squirrels
<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel

* Species of Special Concern (SSC)

** State and/or Federally Listed Species