

May 12, 2021

JN 182596

STIRLING DEVELOPMENT

Attn: *Brian Parno*

27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 300
Foothill Ranch, California 92610

SUBJECT: Results of a Biological Resources Assessment for the proposed Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) Lot 44 Distribution Center Project – Cities of Victorville and Adelanto, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Parno:

Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) is pleased to submit this report to Stirling Development documenting the results of a biological resources assessment for the proposed Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) Lot 44 Distribution Center Project (project or project site) located in the cities of Victorville and Adelanto, San Bernardino County, California. Michael Baker conducted a thorough literature review and a field survey to confirm existing site conditions and assess the potential for special-status¹ plant and wildlife species that have been documented or that are likely to occur on or within the immediate vicinity of the project site. Specifically, this report provides a detailed assessment of the suitability of the on-site habitat to support special-status plant and wildlife species that were identified in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) RareFind 5 (CDFW 2021a), the CNDDDB Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS; CDFW 2021b), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (Online Inventory; CNPS 2021), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) project planning tool, and other databases as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site.

Project Location

The project site is generally located north of the Palmdale Road, east of U.S. Highway 395, south of State Route 58, and west of Interstate 15 in the cities of Victorville and Adelanto, San Bernardino County, California (refer to Figure 1, *Regional and Project Vicinity*). The project site is depicted in Sections 21, 22 and 27 of Township 6 North, Range 5 West, on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) *Adelanto, California* 7.5-minute quadrangle. Specifically, the project site is located north of Air Expressway and east of Adelanto Road in the cities of Victorville and Adelanto (refer to Figure 2, *Project Site*).

¹ As used in this report, "special-status" refers to plant and wildlife species that are federally-/State-listed, proposed, or candidates; plant species that have been designated a California Rare Plant Rank species by the California Native Plant Society; wildlife species that are designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as Fully Protected, Species of Special Concern, or Watch List species; and State/locally rare vegetation communities.

Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction and operation of a warehousing/distribution center on an approximately 72.2-acre site on what is identified as Lot 44 of the SCLA. The project would include a warehousing/distribution building on Lot 44 that would function as a fulfillment center, operating 24 hours per day and 7 days a week, employing approximately 850 people. The facility would receive products from vendors and other warehouses, which would be stored and distributed to fulfill customer orders and sort them to downstream transportation connections. Ancillary improvements associated with the warehousing/distribution building would include truck and passenger vehicle parking, landscaping, lighting, and on-site/off-site access, roadway improvements, and utility infrastructure.

Methodology

Literature Review

Michael Baker conducted thorough literature reviews and records searches to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur on or within the general vicinity of the project site. Previous special-status plant and wildlife species occurrence records within the USGS *Adelanto, Helendale, Victorville NW, and Victorville, California 7.5-minute quadrangles* were determined through a query of the CNDDDB (CDFW 2021a), the CNDDDB BIOS (CDFW 2021b), the CNPS Online Inventory (CNPS 2021), the Calflora Database (Calflora 2021), and the USFWS IPaC project planning tool.

Current conservation status of species was verified through lists and resources provided by the CDFW, specifically the *Special Animals List* (CNDDDB 2021a), *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List* (CNDDDB 2021b), *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CNDDDB 2021c), and *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California* (CNDDDB 2021d). In addition, Michael Baker reviewed previously prepared reports, survey results, and literature, as available, detailing the biological resources previously observed on or within the vicinity of the project site to gain an understanding of existing site conditions, confirm previous species observations, and note the extent of any disturbances that have occurred within the project site that would otherwise limit the distribution of special-status biological resources. Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status species, as well as the following resources:

- *A Conservation Strategy for the Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*)* (CDFW 2019)
- *County of San Bernardino General Plan* (County of San Bernardino 2007)
- *Final Environmental Impact Report and Statement for the West Mojave Plan, A Habitat Conservation Plan and California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment Vol 1 and 2* (Bureau of Land Management [BLM] 2005)
- Google Earth Pro Historical Aerial Imagery from 1985 to 2020 (Google, Inc. 2020)
- *Mojave Population of Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) Five Year Review: Summary and Evaluation* (USFWS 2010)
- *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG] 2012)
- *Custom Soil Resource Report for San Bernardino County, California, Mojave River Area*, (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2021)

- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper and Environmental Conservation Online System (USFWS 2021)

Habitat Assessment/Field Survey

Michael Baker biologists Ashley Spencer and Tom Millington conducted a habitat assessment/field survey on March 16, 2021 to confirm existing site conditions within the project site. Vegetation communities occurring within the project site were mapped on an aerial photograph and classified in accordance with the vegetation descriptions provided in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (MCV; Sawyer et al. 2009) and cross referenced with the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986) for the purposes of evaluating the presence or absence of special-status vegetation communities identified in the CNDDDB records search, which uses the Holland vegetation system. In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, condition of on-site vegetation communities, and the presence of potentially regulated jurisdictional features were noted. Michael Baker used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) ArcView software to digitize the mapped vegetation communities and then transferred these data onto an aerial photograph to further document existing conditions and quantify the acreage of each vegetation community. Refer to Table 1 below for a summary of the survey dates, timing, surveyors, and weather conditions.

Table 1: Survey Dates, Timing, Surveyors, and Weather Conditions

Date	Time (start / finish)	Surveyors	Weather Conditions	
			Temperature (°F) (start / finish)	Average Wind Speed (mph)
March 16, 2021	0720 / 1020	Ashley Spencer Tom Millington	34 sunny / 45 sunny	9 – 11

It should be noted the northernmost portion of the project site was inaccessible due to fencing. As a result, Michael Baker biologists were unable to walk this area and instead scanned the entire area using binoculars. All plant and wildlife species observed, as well as dominant plant species within each vegetation community, were recorded. Plant species observed during the habitat assessment were identified by visual characteristics and morphology in the field while unusual and less familiar plant species were photographed and identified later using taxonomic guides. Plant nomenclature used in this report follows the *Jepson Flora Project* (2018) and scientific names are provided immediately following common names of plant species (first reference only). Wildlife detections were made through aural and visual detection, as well as observation of sign including scat, trails, tracks, burrows, and nests. Field guides used to assist with identification of species during the habitat assessment included *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2014) for birds, *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Stebbins 2003) for herpetofauna, *Bats of the United States and Canada* (Harvey et al. 2011) for bats, and *A Field Guide to Mammals of North America* (Reid 2006). Although common names of wildlife species are well standardized, scientific names are provided immediately following common names of wildlife species in this report (first reference only). To the extent possible, nomenclature of birds follows the most recent annual supplement of the American Ornithological Union’s *Checklist of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2019), nomenclature of amphibians and reptiles follows *Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding* (Crother 2017), and nomenclature for mammals follows the *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico* (Bradley et al. 2014).

Existing Site Conditions

According to the *Custom Soil Resource Report for San Bernardino County, California, Mojave River Area* (USDA 2021), the project site is underlain by the following soil unit: Bryman loamy fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes (refer to Figure 3, *USDA Soils*). After a review of Google Earth historic imagery and results from the field survey, it was determined that the project site is comprised of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground which consist of heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Google Earth historic imagery from 1985 through 2020 also shows that the project site has continually been exposed to disturbances due to aviation activities and development associated with the SCLA (i.e., airplane storage, runway grading, dirt/paved roadways). In addition, Google Earth historic imagery from 2017 through 2018 shows the northern portion of the project site was utilized as a storage lot for Volkswagen’s diesel-powered cars. Further, routine weed abatement activities (i.e., disking, tilling) throughout the non-developed portions of the project site have eliminated any natural vegetation communities. Runways, buildings, and land associated with the SCLA are located to the north and east of the project site. Residential land uses, a Dr. Pepper/Snapple industrial warehouse, and vacant lands are located to the west and south of the project site. The project site slopes towards the north and ranges in elevation from approximately 2,857 to 2,907 feet above mean sea level. Refer to Attachment B for representative photographs of the project site taken during the field survey.

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Natural habitats within the project site have been eliminated due to aviation, storage, and development activities associated with the SCLA as well as routine weed abatement activities (i.e., disking, tilling), resulting in heavily disturbed and compacted surface soils throughout. As such, native vegetation communities do not occur and the project site is instead primarily comprised of disturbed habitat that is dominated by ruderal/weedy, low-growing plant species. In addition, bare ground and developed areas were also observed within the project site. These land cover types are depicted on Figure 4, *Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses*, and described in further detail below. Additionally, refer to Attachment C for a complete list of plant species observed within the project site during the field survey. Table 2 below provides the acreages of each vegetation community/land use on-site, with each discussed in detail below.

Table 2: Vegetation Communities and Land Uses within the Project Site

Vegetation Community/Land Use	Acreage
Disturbed Habitat	88.58
Bare Ground	5.59
Developed	4.40
TOTAL*	98.57

Disturbed Habitat

Disturbed habitat areas comprise approximately 88.58 acres of the project site. These areas have been physically disturbed by anthropogenic activities (e.g., weed abatement, development activities associated with the SCLA [i.e., airplane storage, runway grading, dirt/paved roadways]) and are no longer recognized as a native vegetation community but continues to hold a soil substrate. Surface soils within these areas are heavily disturbed, eroded, and compacted. Vegetation that is present primarily consists of ruderal/weedy,

non-native plant species including Saharan mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*).

Bare Ground

Approximately 5.59 acre of bare ground is located within the project site, specifically within areas directly adjacent to Gateway Drive and Innovation Way. Areas of bare ground consist of heavily compacted soils that are devoid of vegetation and are subject to continual disturbance from vehicle and semi-truck traffic and illegal dumping.

Developed

Developed areas make up approximately 4.40 acres of the project site and consist of areas that have been constructed upon or physically altered to a degree that native vegetation is no longer supported. Developed areas within the project site consist of structures/paved roadways associated with the SCLA, Gateway Drive, Innovation Way, and landscaped areas within the adjacent Dr. Pepper/Snapple industrial warehouse property.

Wildlife

Natural vegetation communities provide foraging habitat, nesting/denning sites, and shelter from adverse weather or predation. This section provides a general discussion of common wildlife species that were detected by Michael Baker during the field survey or that are expected to occur based on existing site conditions. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather conditions in which the field survey was conducted. Refer to Attachment C for a complete list of wildlife species observed within the project site during the field survey.

Fish

No fish or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) that would support populations of fish were observed in the project site during the field survey. Therefore, no fish are expected to occur within the project site.

Amphibians

No amphibians or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) that would provide suitable breeding habitat for amphibians were observed within the project site. Therefore, no amphibian species are expected to occur.

Reptiles

No reptiles were observed within the project site during the field survey. Since the project site is primarily disturbed, it is expected to provide suitable habitat for a limited number of reptilian species that are acclimated to edge or urban environments. Reptilian species that may be present within the project site include western side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*) and Great Basin whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris tigris*).

Birds

Nine (9) bird species were detected during the field survey, including killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and white-

crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). In addition, California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*; a State Watch List Species [WL]) was observed foraging across the project site. Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*; a State Species of Special Concern [SSC]) was also observed during the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; BUOW) focused survey conducted on April 22, 2021.

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGF)². To maintain compliance with the MBTA and CFGF, clearance surveys are typically required prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities to avoid direct or indirect impacts to active bird nests and/or nesting birds. Consequently, if an active bird nest is destroyed or if project activities result in indirect impacts (e.g., nest abandonment, loss of reproductive effort) to nesting birds, it is considered “take” and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. The project site provides limited nesting habitat for year-round and seasonal avian residents as well as migrating songbirds that could occur in the area. One active common raven nest was observed on the structure located within the northeast portion of the project site. Additionally, the project site provides nesting habitat for avian species that nest on the open ground (e.g., killdeer). Further, the piles of tumbleweeds located along the fence that surrounds Lot 44 provide additional nesting habitat for species that nest in shrubs with thorns/tangled branching habitats.

Mammals

The project site provides marginal habitat for a limited number of mammalian species adapted to living in edge or urban environments. No mammals were observed within the project site during the field survey. Common mammalian species that may occur within the project site include coyote (*Canis latrans*), domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys* sp.), western desert jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus deserticola*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). Bats occur throughout most of southern California and may forage throughout the project site. Common bat species that may occur within the project site include California myotis (*Myotis californicus*) and Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). The remnant structure located on Lot 44 could provide marginal roosting habitat for bat species that occur within the Mojave Desert. Michael Baker biologists visually examined the structure and any crevices within it for bats or evidence of bat use (i.e., presence of guano, urine staining, culled insect parts, presence of bats roosting) using binoculars. However, no bats or evidence of bat use was observed.

Migratory Corridors and Linkages

Wildlife corridors and linkages are key features for wildlife movement between habitat patches. Wildlife corridors are generally defined as those areas that provide opportunities for individuals or local populations to conduct seasonal migrations, permanent dispersals, or daily commutes, while linkages generally refer to broader areas that provide movement opportunities for multiple keystone/focal species or allow for propagation of ecological processes (e.g., for movement of pollinators), often between areas of conserved land.

The project site is not located within any wildlife corridors, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Habitat Conservation Plans, reserves, or preserves according

² Section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by the CFGF or any regulation made pursuant thereto; Section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey); and Section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird except as provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the MBTA, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 703 *et seq.*).

to the San Bernardino County Land Use Plan (County of San Bernardino 2007). The project site is surrounded by a mixture of developed and undeveloped land on all sides. Wildlife movement into or out of the project site is likely reduced by the presence of surrounding high-traffic roadways (i.e., Adelanto Road, Innovation Way, Gateway Drive, Air Expressway) and activities associated with the SCLA. The movement of larger mammal wildlife within the northern portion of the project site is inhibited by the chain-link fence surrounding the SCLA which serves as a partial barrier. The southern portion of the project site located along and adjacent to Gateway Drive and Innovation Way provides unrestricted passage opportunities for wildlife movement, however; these areas are highly trafficked. The open space areas to the north, south, and west of the project site, located outside of the SCLA property, would continue to provide opportunities for local wildlife movement and function as a corridor for highly mobile wildlife species.

State and Federal Jurisdictional Resources

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredged or fill material into “waters of the U.S.” (WoUS) pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) regulates discharges to surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and Section 13263 of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and associated vegetation communities under Section 1600 *et seq.* of the CFGC.

Based on a review of aerial photographs, USGS quadrangle maps, and observations made during the field survey, no State or federal jurisdictional features (i.e., WoUS, wetlands, waters of the State, streambed) occur within the boundaries of the project site. As such, a formal jurisdictional delineation or regulatory permits/approvals from the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW would not be required.

Special-Status Biological Resources

The CNDDDB and CNPS Online Inventory were queried for reported locations of special-status plant and wildlife species as well as special-status natural vegetation communities in the USGS *Adelanto, Helendale, Victorville NW, and Victorville, California 7.5-minute* quadrangles. In addition, the USFWS IPaC project planning tool was queried. The field survey was conducted to assess the conditions of the habitat(s) within the boundaries of the project site to determine if the existing vegetation communities, at the time of the field survey, have the potential to provide suitable habitat(s) for special-status plant and wildlife species. Additionally, the potentials for special-status species to occur within the project site were determined based on the reported locations in the CNDDDB and CNPS Online Inventory and the following:

- **Present:** the species was observed or detected within the project site during the field survey.
- **High:** Occurrence records (within 20 years) indicate that the species has been known to occur on or within 1 mile of the project site and the site is within the normal expected range of this species. Intact, suitable habitat preferred by this species occurs within the project site and/or there is viable landscape connectivity to a local known extant population(s) or sighting(s).
- **Moderate:** Occurrence records (within 20 years) indicate that the species has been known to occur within 1 mile of the project site and the site is within the normal expected range of this species. There is suitable habitat within the project site but the site is ecologically isolated from any local known extant populations or sightings.

- **Low:** Occurrence records (within 20 years) indicate that the species has been known to occur within 5 miles of the project site, but the site is outside of the normal expected range of the species and/or there is poor quality or marginal habitat within the project site.
- **Not Expected:** There are no occurrence records of the species occurring within 5 miles of the project site, there is no suitable habitat within the project site, and/or the project site is outside of the normal expected range for the species.

The CNDDDB literature search identified twelve (12) special-status plant species and thirty-eight (38) special-status wildlife species as occurring within the USGS *Adelanto, Helendale, Victorville NW, and Victorville, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. No special-status vegetation communities were identified. In addition, the USFWS IPaC project planning tool identified two special-status species; one species (desert tortoise [*Gopherus agassizii*]) overlapped with the CNDDDB results while the other (California condor [*Gymnogyps californianus*]) did not for a total of thirty-nine (39) special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur. Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the project site based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. Special-status biological resources identified during the literature review as having the potential to occur within the vicinity of the project site are presented in *Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources*, provided in Attachment D. Additionally, refer to Attachment E for the USFWS IPaC species list.

Special-Status Plants

Twelve (12) special-status plant species have been recorded in the USGS *Adelanto, Helendale, Victorville NW, and Victorville, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDDB and CNPS Online Inventory (refer to Attachment D). However, no special-status plant species were observed within the project site during the field survey. It should be noted that two (2) western Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*; a State Candidate Threatened/Endangered species) were observed approximately 560 feet to the west of the northwest boundary of the project site, outside of the project limits. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, distributions, and elevation ranges, the special-status plant species identified by the CNDDDB, IPaC, and CNPS databases are not expected to occur within the project site.

Special-Status Wildlife

Thirty-eight (38) special-status wildlife species have been recorded in the USGS *Adelanto, Helendale, Victorville NW, and Victorville, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDDB (refer to Attachment D). In addition, the USFWS IPaC project planning tool identified two special-status species; one species (desert tortoise) overlapped with the CNDDDB results while the other (California condor) did not for a total of thirty-nine (39) special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur. One (1) special-status wildlife species was observed within the project site during the field survey: California horned lark (a State WL species). In addition, two loggerhead shrikes were observed within the northern portion of the project site during the BUOW focused survey conducted on April 22, 2021. One of the two was observed perched on the eastern fence line of Lot 44 carrying nesting material. This species could potentially nest within the piles of tumbleweeds located along the fence which surrounds Lot 44. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, occurrence records, known distributions, and elevation ranges, it was determined that the project site has a moderate potential to support BUOW(a SSC), and a low potential to support; Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*; a State WL species), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*; a State SSC), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*; a State WL species). All

remaining special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDDB and IPaC are not expected to occur within the project site. Due to regional significance, the potential occurrences of BUOW and Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*; MGS; a State Threatened species) are described in further detail below.

Burrowing Owl

The BUOW is currently listed as a CDFW Species of Special Concern. It is a grassland specialist distributed throughout western North America where it occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. BUOWs use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with well-drained, level to gently-sloping areas characterized by sparse vegetation and bare ground (Haug and Didiuk, 1993; Dechant et al. 1999). BUOWs are dependent upon the presence of burrowing mammals (e.g., California ground squirrels [*Otospermophilus beecheyi*], coyotes, American badger [*Taxidea taxus*]) whose burrows are used for roosting and nesting. The presence or absence of mammal burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence or absence of BUOWs. Where mammal burrows are scarce, BUOWs have been found occupying man-made cavities, such as buried and non-functioning drain pipes, stand-pipes, and dry culverts. BUOWs may also burrow beneath rocks and debris or large, heavy objects such as abandoned cars, concrete blocks, or concrete pads. They also require open vegetation allowing open line-of-sight of the surrounding habitat to forage as well as watch for predators.

According to the CNDDDB, there are twenty-five (25) occurrence records for BUOW within the USGS *Adelanto* and *Victorville, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. There are no occurrence records for this species within the USGS *Helendale* and *Victorville NW, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. The closest, extant occurrence (Occurrence Number 1606) was recorded in 2007, approximately 390 feet west of the survey project site; two (2) adults were observed at high concentrations of California ground squirrel burrows and two (2) adults and one (1) juvenile were observed at a California ground squirrel burrow in habitat consisting of creosote scrub (CDFW 2021a). In addition, according to eBird records, one (1) BUOW was observed approximately 3 miles west of the project site in 2018 (eBird 2021).

BUOW focused surveys were conducted by Michael Baker qualified biologists on four (4) separate days during the 2021 breeding season. The BUOW focused surveys were conducted in accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012) to document the presence/absence of BUOW within the project site and areas within 500 feet (survey area), where accessible. No BUOWs or BUOW sign (i.e., pellets, white wash, feathers, or prey remains) were observed during any of the four (4) focused surveys within the survey area. Suitable foraging habitat and line of site opportunities were observed throughout the survey area, however, the survey area lacked suitable burrows (> 4 inches in diameter) capable of providing roosting and nesting opportunities for BUOW. Most burrows observed were located within the southern portions of the survey area and consisted of small mammal burrows < 4 inches in diameter. In addition, the soils located within the northern portions of the survey area are heavily compacted and do not provide nesting/roosting opportunities for BUOW. Further, the existing telephone poles, light posts, fencing, and industrial warehouse that occur within and adjacent to the survey area further decrease the likelihood that BUOWs would occur as these features provide perching opportunities for larger raptor species (i.e., red-tailed hawk [*Buteo jamaicensis*]) that prey on BUOWs. Please refer to the *Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia) Focused Survey* report (Michael Baker 2021) prepared under a separate cover for more information.

Mohave Ground Squirrel

The MGS is a State threatened species that is restricted to a small geographic area in the western Mojave Desert of California. The MGS is a medium-sized ground squirrel that measures about 9 inches (22 centimeters) long, short legs, and a tail length of 2.4 inches (6.2 centimeters) (CDFW 2019). There is little difference in size between the sexes. Dorsal coloration is uniformly light gray or brown, often with a wash of cinnamon or pink, while ventral coloration is creamy. MGS can be distinguished from round-tailed ground squirrels (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus*) by a shorter, flatter tail with a white ventral surface and brown rather than white cheeks. The MGS occupies all major desert scrub habitats in the western Mojave Desert and generally inhabits flat to moderate terrain, avoiding steep slopes and rocky terrain (CDFW 2019). They prefer gravelly soils within the following habitats described by Holland (1986): Mojave creosote scrub, dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*); desert saltbush scrub, dominated by various species of saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.); desert sink scrub, which is similar in composition to saltbush scrub, but is sparser and grows on poorly drained soils with high alkalinity; desert greasewood scrub, with very sparse vegetation generally located on valley bottoms and dry lake beds; shadscale scrub, which is dominated by spiny saltbush (*Atriplex confertifolia*) and/or budsage (*Artemisia spinescens*); and Joshua tree woodland, which includes western Joshua trees widely scattered over a variety of shrub species.

According to the CNDDDB, there are eleven (11) occurrence records for MGS within the USGS *Adelanto, Helendale, Victorville NW, and Victorville, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. The closest extant occurrence (Occurrence Number 329) was recorded in 2007, approximately 2.45 miles northeast of the project site; one (1) adult was captured in 2007 within creosote bush scrub habitat dominated by creosote bush, Cooper's box thorn (*Lycium cooperi*), and burrobush (CDFW 2021a).

ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) biologist Phillip Wasz, who holds a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFW for performing MGS studies, conducted a field survey of the project site on March 10, 2021 to determine the presence/absence of suitable habitat for MGS. Based on the results of the field survey, no MGS were observed or detected during the field survey and it was determined that suitable habitat for MGS does not occur within the project site (ECORP 2021). As such, MGS is not expected to occur within the project site and no further studies or consultation with CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) would be required.

Special-Status Vegetation Communities

No special-status vegetation communities have been reported in the USGS *Adelanto, Helendale, Victorville NW, and Victorville, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDDB. In addition, no special-status vegetation communities were observed within the project site during the field survey.

Critical Habitat

Under the definition used by the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), designated "Critical Habitat" refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species that were occupied at the time it was listed that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species and that may require special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether the species is still extant in the area. Areas that were not known to be occupied at the time a species was listed can also be designated Critical Habitat if they contain one or more of the physical or biological features that are essential to that species' conservation and if the other areas that are occupied are inadequate

to ensure the species' recovery. If a project may result in take or adverse modification to a species' designated Critical Habitat and the project has a federal nexus, the project proponent may be required to provide suitable mitigation. Projects with a federal nexus may include projects that occur on federal lands, require federal permits (e.g., CWA Section 404 permit), or receive any federal oversight or funding. If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing funds or permits would be required to consult with the USFWS under the FESA. The project site is not located within designated Critical Habitat for any federally listed species (refer to Figure 5, *Critical Habitat*).

Local Policies and Ordinances

California Desert Native Plants Act and San Bernardino County Development Code

The California Desert Native Plants Act protects certain species of California desert native plants from unlawful harvesting on both public and privately-owned lands. It is applicable only within the boundaries of the Counties of Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. Within these counties, the California Desert Native Plants Act prohibits the harvest, transport, sale, or possession of specific native desert plants unless a valid permit or wood receipt, and required tags and seals are obtained. The sheriff or commissioner of the county where the collection will occur will provide the appropriate permits, tags, and seals for a fee. In addition, Section 88.01 of the San Bernardino County Development Code provides regulations and guidelines for the management of plant resources in the unincorporated areas of the County on property or combinations of property under private or public ownership.

No plant species that are protected under the California Desert Native Plants Act or Section 88.01 (Plant Protection and Management) of the County of San Bernardino Development Code were observed within the boundaries of the project site. It should be noted that two (2) western Joshua trees were observed approximately 560 feet to the west of the northwest boundary of the project site, outside of the project limits. This plant species is regulated under the California Desert Native Plants Act and Section 88.01 of the County of San Bernardino Development Code and may not be harvested except under a permit issued by the commissioner or sheriff of the County of San Bernardino.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project site is primarily comprised of disturbed habitat with heavily compacted surface soils that are either devoid of vegetation or dominated by ruderal, weedy plant species. No special-status plant species were observed within the project site during the field survey and based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, distributions, and elevation ranges, all special-status plant species identified by the CNDDDB, IPaC, and CNPS databases are not expected to occur within the project site. Two (2) western Joshua trees (a State Candidate Threatened/Endangered species) were observed approximately 560 feet to the west of the western boundary of the project site, outside of the project limits. Western Joshua trees are regulated under the California Desert Native Plants Act and may not be harvested except under a permit issued by the commissioner or sheriff of the County of San Bernardino. In addition, on October 15, 2019, the California Fish and Game Commission received a petition to list the western Joshua tree as threatened under the CESA (Center for Biological Diversity 2019). In February 2020, the CDFW completed a review of the petition, as well as other scientific information available to CDFW. In its review, CDFW determined that "the petition provides sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted" (CDFW 2020). On September 22, 2020, the California Fish and Game Commission

accepted for consideration the petition to list the western Joshua tree as threatened or endangered under the CESA and made the western Joshua tree a candidate species. As such, any potential impacts to this species would be considered significant under the California Environmental Quality Act and require further mitigation. Based on a review of the proposed project, impacts to western Joshua tree are not expected. However, if avoidance of western Joshua tree is not feasible, then an Incidental Take Permit and consultation with the CDFW would be required under the CESA prior to the commencement of project activities.

California horned lark was the only special-status wildlife species observed within the project site during the field survey. In addition, loggerhead shrike was observed during the BUOW focused survey conducted on April 22, 2021. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, occurrence records, known distributions, and elevation ranges, it was determined that the project site has a moderate potential to support BUOW and a low potential to support Cooper's hawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, and prairie falcon. All remaining special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDDB and IPaC are not expected to occur within the project site.

In order to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to biological resources, it is recommended that the following Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM) be implemented:

AMM BIO-1: Prior to initiating project activities, a qualified biologist shall prepare and present a Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training for all contractors, subcontractors, and workers expected to be on-site throughout the entire construction period. The WEAP shall include a brief review of any special-status species (e.g., California horned lark, loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl, western Joshua tree), including habitat requirements and where they might be found, and other sensitive biological resources that could occur in and adjacent to the project. The WEAP shall address the biological mitigation measures listed in the project's approved Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, as well as applicable conditions and provisions of any associated environmental permits, including but not limited to pre-construction biological surveys, pre-construction installation of perimeter sediment and erosion control best management practices, and any recurrent nesting bird surveys (as needed).

AMM BIO-2: If project-related activities are to be initiated during the nesting season (January 1st to August 31st), a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than three (3) days prior to the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities. The qualified biologist shall survey all suitable nesting habitat within the project impact area, and areas within a biologically defensible buffer zone surrounding the project impact area. If no active nests are detected during the clearance survey, project activities may begin, and no additional avoidance and minimization measures would be required. If an active nest is found, the bird species shall be identified and a "no-disturbance" buffer shall be established around the active nest. The size of the "no-disturbance" buffer shall be increased or decreased based on the judgement of the qualified biologist and level of activity and sensitivity of the species. It is further recommended that the qualified biologist periodically monitor any active nests to determine if project-related activities occurring outside the "no-disturbance" buffer disturb the birds and if the buffer shall be increased. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, project activities within

the “no-disturbance” buffer may occur following an additional survey by the qualified biologist to search for any new nests in the restricted area.

AMM BIO-3: Two pre-construction clearance surveys shall be conducted 14 to 30 days and 24 hours prior to any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to confirm the presence/absence of burrowing owls and ensure impacts to any burrowing owls or occupied burrows do not occur. The clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012) and cover all suitable habitat within the project impact area, including adjacent suitable habitat within a 500-foot buffer (as accessible). Following completion of the clearance survey, the qualified biologist shall prepare and submit a final report documenting the methods and results of the survey. If no burrowing owls or occupied burrows are detected, project activities may begin, and no additional avoidance and minimization measures would be required. If an occupied burrow is found within the project impact area during pre-construction clearance surveys, a burrowing owl exclusion plan shall be prepared and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for approval prior to initiating project activities that includes proposed mitigation for direct and permanent impacts to nesting, occupied and satellite burrows and/or burrowing owl habitat such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows and burrowing owls impacted are replaced as consistent with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012). If an occupied burrow is found within adjacent habitat that may be indirectly impacted by project activities, the individual shall be buffered following the distances recommended in the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012). The biologist shall monitor the burrow, adjust the buffer area as needed, and shall have the authority to stop construction activities to prevent take.

AMM BIO-4: Within 30 days prior to construction, a qualified bat biologist shall perform a clearance survey within all suitable structures within the project impact area. If bats roosts are found within the project impact area, the qualified bat biologist shall identify the bats to the species level and evaluate the colony to determine its size and significance. If any structures house an active maternity colony of bats, construction activities shall not occur during the recognized bat breeding season (March 1 to October 1). Any proposed work in areas with no suitable roosting or foraging habitat shall not require a bat survey. If a bat roost is present within the vicinity of a proposed project impact area that does not need to be removed, a qualified bat biologist shall establish a species-specific no-disturbance buffer that must be maintained throughout the duration of the project. If a maternity roost is identified, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established and maintained until a qualified bat biologist determines that the roost is no longer active.

If project activities must occur during non-daylight hours or during the bat breeding season (March 1 to October 1), a qualified bat biologist shall establish monitoring measures, including frequency and duration, based on species, individual behavior, and type of construction activities. Night lighting shall be used only within the portion of the project actively being worked on and focused directly on the work area. This measure would minimize visual disturbance and allow bats to continue to utilize the remainder of the area for foraging and night roosting. If bats are showing signs of distress, work activities shall

be modified to prevent bats from abandoning their roost or altering their feeding behavior. At any time, the qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt work if there are any signs of distress or disturbance that may lead to roost abandonment. Work shall not resume until corrective measures have been taken or it is determined that continued activity would not adversely affect roost success. Any roosting habitat loss shall be sequenced, and roosting habitat shall be restored or replaced in-kind and on-site to prevent temporal or permanent loss based on the bat species roosting requirements.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (949) 246-7004 or tommillington@mbakerintl.com or Ashley Spencer at (949) 472-3454 or ashley.spencer@mbakerintl.com should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Tom Millington
Senior Biologist
Natural Resources and Regulatory Permitting



Ashley Spencer
Biologist
Natural Resources and Regulatory Permitting

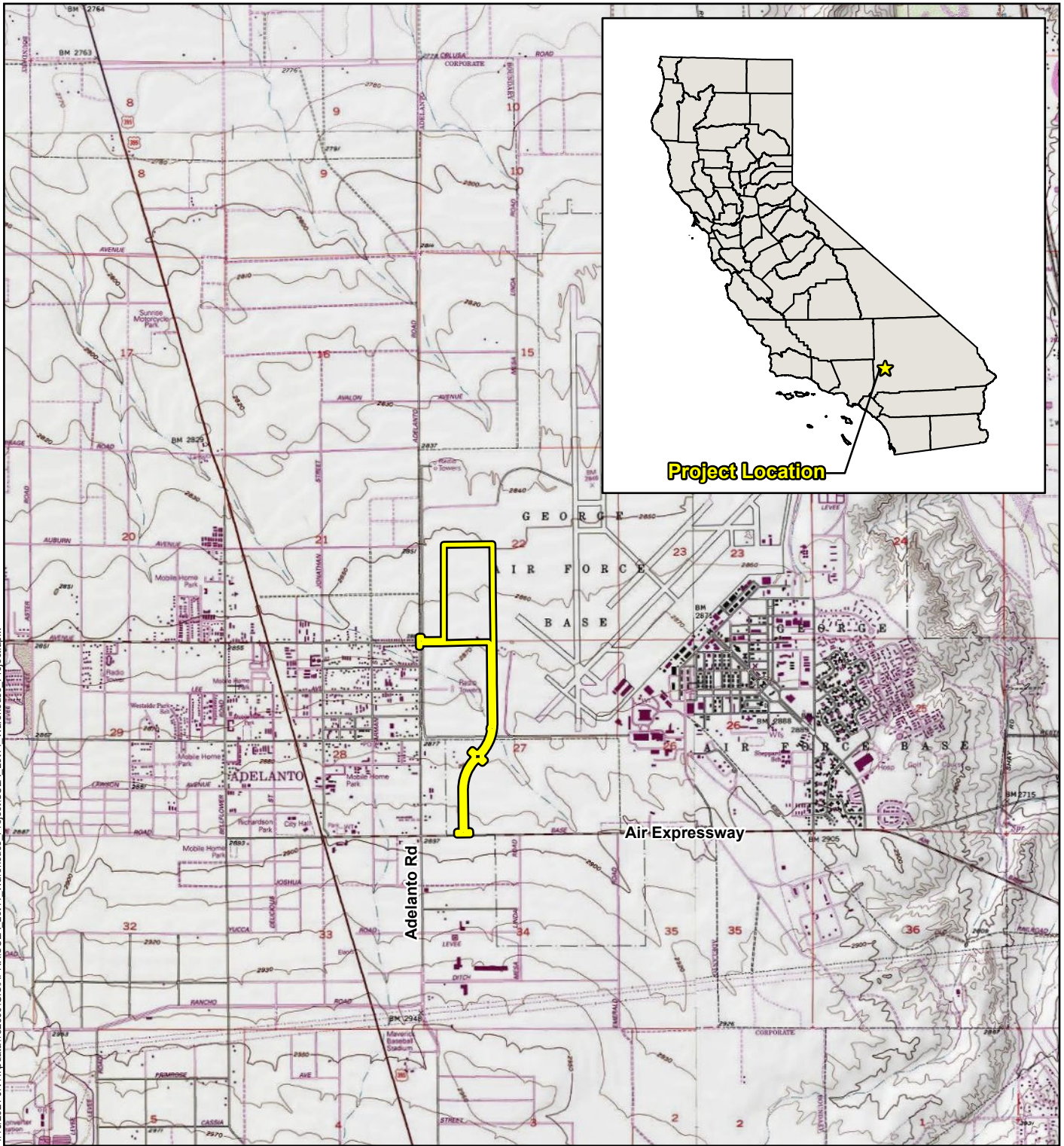
Attachments:

- A. *Project Figures*
- B. *Site Photographs*
- C. *Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List*
- D. *Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources*
- E. *USFWS IPaC Species List*
- F. *References*

Attachment A

Project Figures

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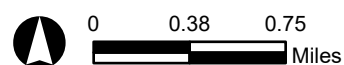


Legend

 Project Site

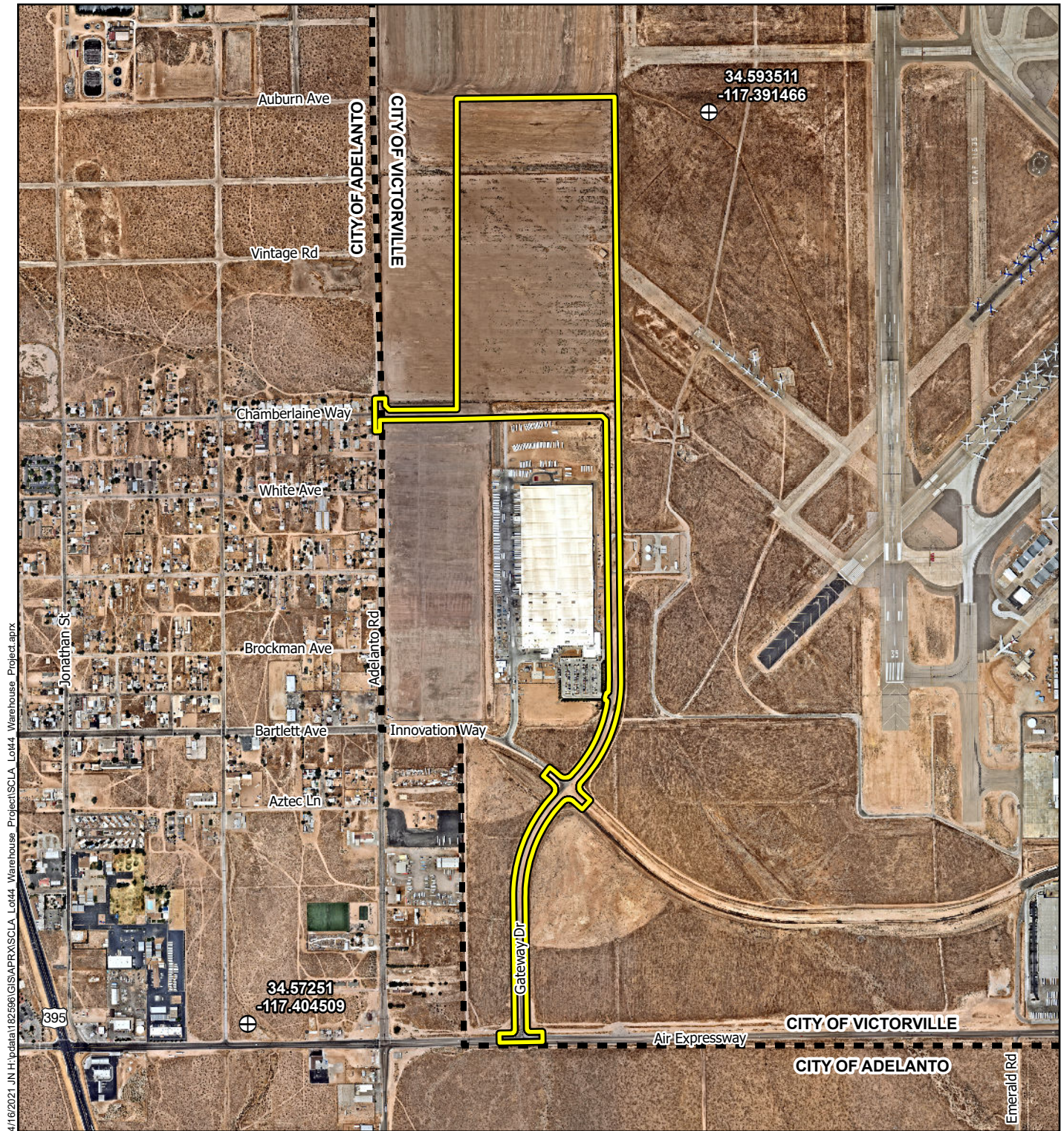
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOGISTICS AIRPORT (SCLA) LOT 44 DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Regional and Project Vicinity



Source: ArcGIS Online, 2018, USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: Victorville, California (2018)

Figure 1



Legend

- Project Site
- Reference Point

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOGISTICS AIRPORT (SCLA) LOT 44 DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT**



Project Site

Source: ArcGIS Online, 2018, USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: Victorville, California (2018)

Figure 2

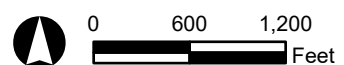


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Legend

- Project Site
- 105 Bryman Loamy Fine Sand, 0 To 2 Percent Slopes
- ⊕ Reference Point

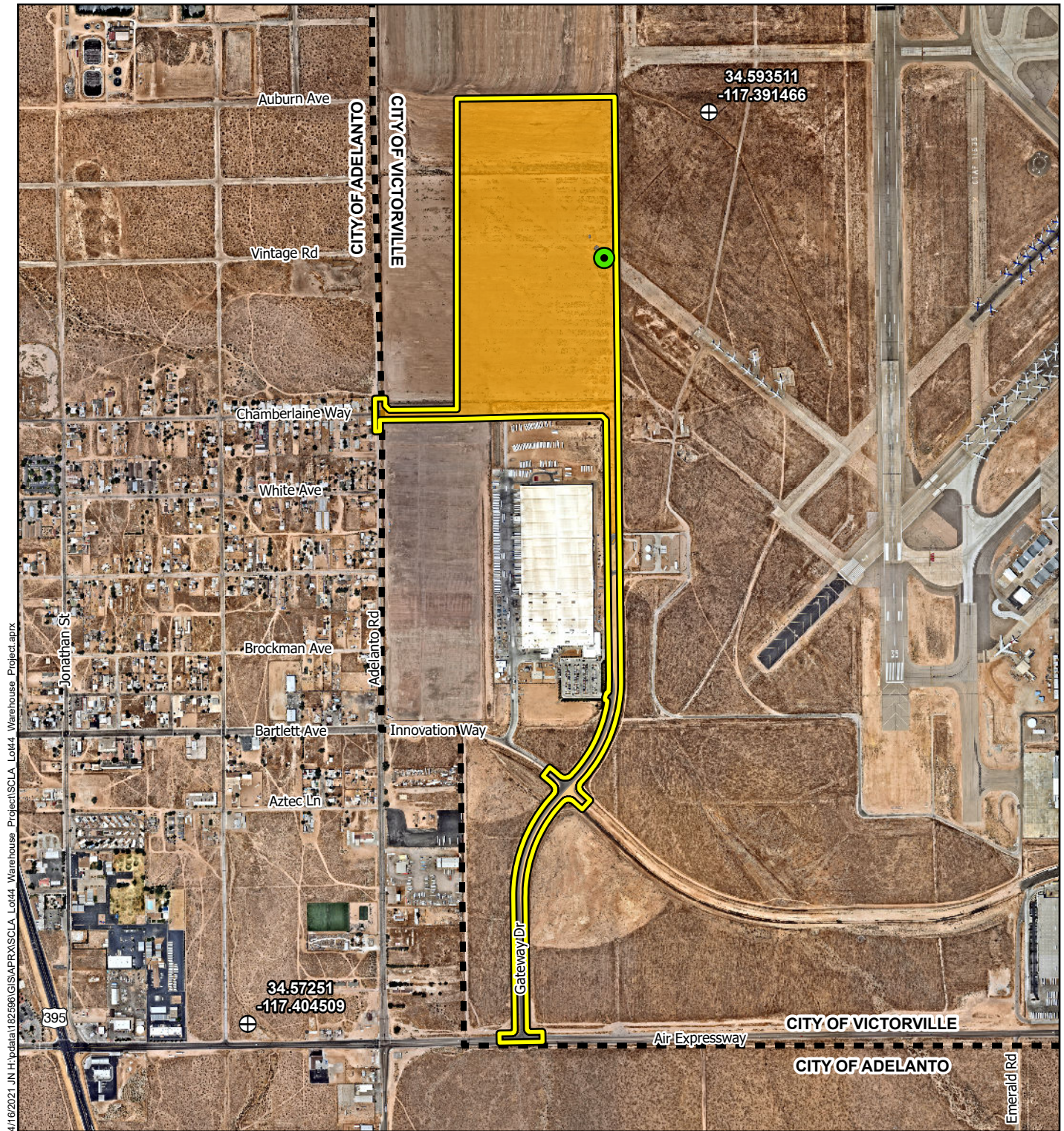
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOGISTICS AIRPORT (SCLA) LOT 44 DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT



USDA Soils







Source: Nearmap (07/2020), NRCS Soil Survey, County of San Bernardino

Figure 3

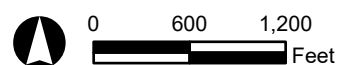


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Legend

	Project Site		Disturbed Habitat (88.58 ac)
	Common Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>) Nest - Active		Bare Ground (5.59 ac)
	Reference Point		Developed (4.40 ac)

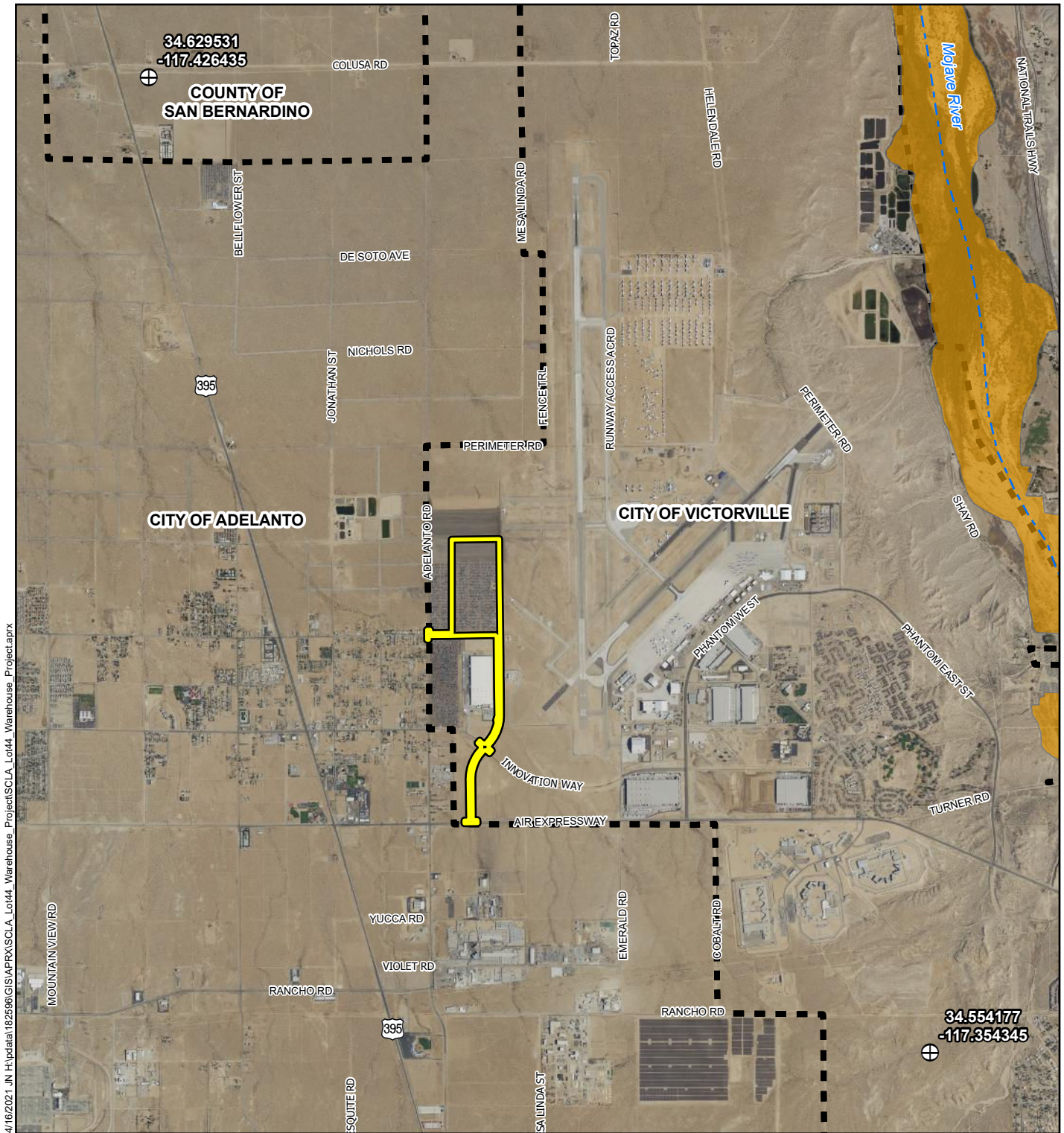
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOGISTICS AIRPORT (SCLA) LOT 44 DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECT
 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT






Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses

Source: Nearmap (07/2020), County of San Bernardino

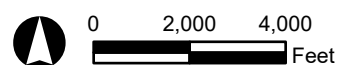
Figure 4



Legend

-  Project Site
-  Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
-  Reference Point

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOGISTICS AIRPORT (SCLA) LOT 44 DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECT
 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT



Critical Habitat

Source: USFWS (2019), National Aerial Imagery Project (NAIP 2018), County of San Bernardino

Figure 5

Attachment B

Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Standing in the southeast portion of Lot 44, within the northern portion of the project site, facing north.



Photograph 2: Standing in the southeast portion of Lot 44, within the northern portion of the project site, facing west.



Photograph 3: Standing in the northern portion of Lot 44, within the northern portion of the project site, facing south.



Photograph 4: Standing in the northern portion of Lot 44, within the northern portion of the project site, facing west.



Photograph 5: Standing in the northern portion of Lot 44, within the northern portion of the project site, facing north.



Photograph 6: Standing in the northwest portion of Lot 44, within the northern portion of the project site, facing south.



Photograph 7: Standing to the south of Lot 44, within the northern portion of the project site, facing east.



Photograph 8: Standing in the southern portion of the project site, at the Gateway Drive and Air Expressway intersection, facing west.



Photograph 9: Standing in the central portion of the project site, to the east of Gateway Drive and to the north of Innovation Way, facing south.



Photograph 10: Standing in the central portion of the project site, on Gateway Drive and to the north of Innovation Way, facing north.

Attachment C

Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

Table C-1: Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

<i>Scientific Name*</i>	Common Name	Cal-IPC Rating**	CRPR***	Special-Status Rank****
Plants				
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>variabilis</i>	dapple pod locoweed			
<i>Brassica tournefortii</i> *	Saharan mustard	High		
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	rubber rabbitbrush			
<i>Salsola tragus</i> *	Russian thistle	Limited		
<i>Schismus barbatus</i> *	common Mediterranean grass	Limited		
Birds				
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	killdeer			
<i>Columba livia</i>	rock dove			
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven			
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	California horned lark			WL
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch			
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike			SSC
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe			
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	western meadowlark			
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	common starling			
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	white-crowned sparrow			

* **Non-native species**

** **California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Ratings**

High These species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Most are widely distributed ecologically.

Limited These species are invasive, but their ecological impacts are minor on a statewide level or there was not enough information to justify a higher score. Their reproductive biology and other attributes result in low to moderate rates of invasiveness. Ecological amplitude and distribution are generally limited, but these species may be locally persistent and problematic.

**** **Special-Status Rank**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

SSC Species of Special Concern – any species, subspecies, or distinct population of fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, or mammal native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

- is extirpated from California or, in the case of birds, in its primary seasonal or breeding role;
- is listed as federally-, but not State-, threatened or endangered; meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed;
- is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (noncyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status; or
- has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for State threatened or endangered status.

WL Watch List - taxa that were previously designated as “Species of Special Concern” but no longer merit that status, or which do not yet meet SSC criteria, but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status

Attachment D

Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES				
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	WL G5 S4	Yearlong resident of California. Generally, found in forested areas up to 3,000 feet above mean sea level (amsl) in elevation, especially near edges and rivers. Prefers hardwood stands and mature forests but can be found in urban and suburban areas where there are tall trees (25 to 50 feet high) for nesting. Prefers pines (<i>Pinus</i> spp.), oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.), Douglas firs (<i>Pseudotsuga</i> spp.), beeches (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), spruces (<i>Picea</i> spp.) for nesting. Common in open areas during nesting season.	No	Low (Foraging): The project site provides marginal foraging habitat for this species. This species is not expected to nest within the project site due to the lack of tall hardwood stands and mature forests.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	ST SSC G1G2 S1S2	Range is limited to the coastal areas of the Pacific coast of North America, from Northern California to upper Baja California. Can be found in a wide variety of habitat including annual grasslands, wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands, agricultural fields, cattle feedlots, and dairies. Occasionally forage in riparian scrub habitats along marsh borders. Basic habitat requirements for breeding include open accessible water, freshwater marsh dominated by cattails (<i>Typha</i> spp.), willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.), and bulrushes (<i>Schoenoplectus</i> spp.), and either flooded or thorny/spiny vegetation and suitable foraging space providing adequate insect prey.	No	Not Expected: Suitable nesting and foraging habitat consisting of annual grasslands, seasonal wetlands, freshwater marsh, and open accessible water are not present within the project site.
<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> arroyo toad	FE SSC G2G3 S2S3	Occurs in semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill grasslands, desert riparian, desert washes, and oak woodlands. Breeding habitat consists of shallow streams with a mixture of sandy and gravelly substrate and sandy terraces. Generally, requires mule fat (<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>) and willows in the streambed for vegetative canopy for breeding areas and forages for insects primarily under oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.), Fremont cottonwood (<i>Populus fremontii</i>), and California sycamore (<i>Platanus racemosa</i>) trees. Occurs at elevations from near sea level to about 4,600 feet amsl.	No	Not Expected: Suitable stream/desert wash and upland habitats preferred by this species for breeding and aestivation are not present within the project site. In addition, the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	FP WL G5 S3	Yearlong resident of California. Occupies nearly all terrestrial habitats of the western states except densely forested areas. Favors secluded cliffs with overhanging ledges and large trees for nesting and cover. Hilly or mountainous country where takeoff and soaring are supported by updrafts is generally preferred to flat habitats. Deeply cut canyons rising to open mountain slopes and crags are ideal habitat.	No	Not Expected: This species is not expected to occur within the project site due to the lack of hilly and mountainous terrain preferred by this species for nesting. In addition, the activities associated with the SCLA likely deters this species from occurring. This species is expected to be more concentrated further northwest/west around the Tehachapi Mountains. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	SSC G4 S3	Yearlong resident of California. Primarily a grassland species, but it persists and even thrives in some landscapes highly altered by human activity. Occurs in open, annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. The overriding characteristics of suitable habitat appear to be burrows for roosting and nesting and relatively short vegetation with only sparse shrubs and taller vegetation.	No	Moderate (Foraging and Nesting): The project site provides suitable foraging opportunities for burrowing owls, however; very few suitable burrows (> 4 inches in diameter) capable of providing roosting and nesting opportunities were observed within the project site.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	ST G5 S3	Summer migrant in southern California. Typical habitat is open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the Central Valley. Forages in adjacent grassland or suitable grain or alfalfa fields or livestock pastures.	No	Not Expected: This species is possibly extirpated from the area (CDFW 2021). This species is not expected to nest within the project site due to their preference of nests being constructed adjacent to agricultural fields and other "productive" areas that have high prey bases for foraging. Further, eBird reports within the last five years do not provide any evidence of nesting (e.g., use of breeding codes, description of breeding activities, photos) adjacent to the project site within the last 5 years (eBird 2021).
<i>Chaetodipus fallax pallidus</i> pallid San Diego pocket mouse	SSC G5T3T4 S3S4	Common resident of sandy herbaceous areas, usually in association with rocks or coarse gravel in southwestern California. Occurs mainly in arid coastal and desert border areas. Habitats include coastal scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland.	No	Not Expected: The habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground which consist of heavily disturbed/compacted soils.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> northern harrier	SSC G5 S3	Yearlong resident of California. Frequents meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, desert sinks, fresh and saltwater emergent wetlands; seldom found in wooded area. In general, it prefers saltwater marshes, wet meadows, sloughs, and bogs for nesting and foraging. Nests on the ground in shrubby vegetation or patches of dense vegetation, usually at the marsh edge.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging and nesting habitat preferred by this species are not present within the project site. This species is more likely to occur around agricultural fields and open grasslands. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT SE G5T2T3 S1	Uncommon summer resident where its breeding distribution is restricted to isolated sites in the Sacramento, Armargosa, Kern, Santa Ana, and Colorado River valleys. The species requires large patches of multi-layered riparian forest, with cottonwoods and willows. The presence of standing or flowing surface water under the riparian canopy is also preferred. Mesquite (<i>Prosopis</i> spp.) groves may also be used, but usually only when cottonwood-willow habitat is unavailable.	No	Not Expected: Suitable multi-layered riparian forest habitat preferred by this species for foraging and nesting is not present within the project site. In addition, this species is possibly extirpated from the area (CDFW 2021) and the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i> olive-sided flycatcher	SSC G4 S3	Uncommon to common, summer resident in a wide variety of forest and woodland habitats below 9,000 feet amsl throughout California exclusive of the deserts, the Central Valley, and other lowland valleys and basins. Preferred nesting habitats include mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>), redwood (<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>), red fir (<i>Abies magnifica</i>), and lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>).	No	Not Expected: Suitable woodland habitats preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site. Further, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	SSC G4 S2	Now considered uncommon in California. Details of its distribution are not well known. This species is found in all but subalpine and alpine habitats and may be found at any season throughout its range. Most abundant in mesic habitats. Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting.	No	Low (Foraging and Roosting): The project site provides marginal foraging habitat. In addition, the structure located in the northern portion of the project site provides marginal roosting habitat for this species.
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> Stephens' kangaroo rat	FE ST G2 S2	Occur in arid and semi-arid habitats of open grassland or sparse shrublands with less than 50% protective cover. Require soft, well-drained substrate for building burrows and are typically found in areas with sandy soil in areas with < 30 percent slope.	No	Not Expected: The project site is located outside of the known range for this species. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site and the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> willow flycatcher	SE G5 S1S2	A rare summer resident of California with currently known breeding locations restricted primarily to the Sierra Nevada/Cascade region, near Buelton in Santa Barbara County; Prado Basin in Riverside County; and several locations in San Diego County. In California, the species is restricted to thickets of willows, whether along streams in broad valleys, in canyon bottoms, around mountain-side seepages, or at the margins of ponds and lakes.	No	Not Expected: Suitable thickets of willows preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher	FE SE G5T2 S1	Uncommon summer resident in southern California primarily found in lower elevation riparian habitats occurring along streams or in meadows. The structure of suitable breeding habitat typically consists of a dense mid-story and understory and can also include a dense canopy. Nest sites are generally located near surface water or saturated soils. The presence of surface water, swampy conditions, standing or flowing water under the riparian canopy are preferred.	No	Not Expected: Dense, multi-storied, riparian habitats preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site. Further, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site and the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	SSC G3G4 S3	Found in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, and irrigation ditches, with abundant vegetation, either rocky or muddy bottoms, in woodland, forest, and grassland. In streams, prefers pools to shallower areas. Logs, rocks, cattail mats, and exposed banks are required for basking. May enter brackish water and even seawater. Found at elevations from sea level to over 5,900 feet amsl.	No	Not Expected: Suitable aquatic habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
<i>Falco columbarius</i> merlin	WL G5 S3S4	Winter resident of southern California. Nest in forested openings, edges, and along rivers across northern North America. Found in open forests, grasslands, and especially coastal areas with flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds. This species does not breed in California.	No	Not Expected: The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site. Further, this species does not nest in California.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> prairie falcon	WL G5 S4	The prairie falcon is associated primarily with perennial grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, some agricultural fields during the winter season, and desert scrub areas, all typically dry environments of western North American where there are cliffs or bluffs for nest sites. The species requires sheltered cliff ledges for cover and nesting which may range in height from low rock outcrops of 30 feet to vertical, 400 feet high (or more) cliffs and typically overlook some treeless country for hunting. Open terrain is used for foraging.	No	Low (Foraging): Marginal foraging habitat for this species is present within the project site. Suitable nesting habitat (e.g., tall, sheltered cliff ledges or tall structures) is not present within the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> American peregrine falcon	FP G4T4 S3S4	This species breeds and winters throughout California, with the exception of desert areas. Use a large variety of open habitats for foraging, including tundra, marshes, seacoasts, savannahs, grasslands, meadows, open woodlands, and agricultural areas. Sites are often located near rivers or lakes. Riparian areas, as well as coastal and inland wetlands, are also important habitats year-round for this species. The species breeds mostly in woodland, forest, and coastal habitats. The nest is typically a scrape or depression dug in gravel on a cliff ledge or on manmade structures, including skyscraper ledges, tall towers, and bridges. Within southern California, peregrine falcons are primarily found at coastal estuaries and inland oases wherever a food source is located.	No	Not Expected: This species does not breed/winter in desert areas. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Gila orcuttii</i> arroyo chub	SSC G2 S2	Native to the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, San Luis Rey, Santa Ana, and Santa Margarita rivers and to Malibu and San Juan creeks. This species has been introduced and have successfully established populations in the Santa Ynez, Santa Maria, Cuyama and Mojave river systems as well as smaller coastal streams such as Arroyo Grande Creek and Chorro Creek in San Luis Obispo County. Warm streams of the Los Angeles Plain, which are typically muddy torrents during the winter, and clear quiet brooks in the summer, possibly drying up in places. They are found both in slow-moving and fast-moving sections, but generally deeper than 16 inches.	No	Not Expected: Suitable stream habitat preferred by this species is not present within the project site. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Gopherus agassizii</i> desert tortoise	FT SCE G3 S2S3	Can be found in a wide variety of habitats, such as alluvial fans, desert washes, canyons, and saltbush plains; most tortoises in the Mojave Desert are usually associated with creosote bush scrub on alluvial fans and bajadas. Wildflowers, grasses, and in some cases, cacti make up the bulk of their diet. Some of the more common forbs consumed by the tortoise include desert dandelion (<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>), primrose (<i>Camissonia</i> spp. and <i>Oenothera</i> spp.) desert plantain (<i>Plantago ovata</i>), milkvetches (<i>Astragalus</i> spp.), gilia (<i>Gilia</i> spp.), desert marigold (<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>), Mojave lupine (<i>Lupinus odoratus</i>), phacelia (<i>Phacelia</i> spp.), desert wishbone-bush (<i>Mirabilis laevis</i>), lotus (<i>Lotus</i> spp.), forget-me-knots (<i>Cryptantha</i> spp.), goldfields (<i>Lasthenia californica</i>), California coreopsis (<i>Leptosyne californica</i>), white-margin sandmat (<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i>), and the introduced red stemmed filaree (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>).	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground which consist of heavily disturbed and compacted soils. Further, the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> California condor	FE SE FP G1 S1	Current distribution of California condor is considered to be all of the Los Padres National Forest and western half of the Angeles National Forest (USDA Forest Service 2000), with some occasionally found in the Sequoia National Forest. Nest sites are typically located in chaparral, conifer forest, or oak woodland habitats. Nest sites are in cliff caves in the mountains. Some have nested in large cavities within sequoias (<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>).	No	Not Expected: The project site is located outside of the known range for this species. Further, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site and the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.
<i>Icteria virens</i> yellow-breasted chat	SSC G5 S3	Summer resident of California. Primarily found in tall, dense, relatively wide riparian woodlands and thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush with well-developed understories. Breeding habitat within southern California primarily consists of dense, wide riparian woodlands and thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush with well-developed understories. Nesting areas are associated with streams, swampy ground, and the borders of small ponds. It winters south the Central America. Found at elevations ranging from 820 to 2,625 feet amsl.	No	Not Expected: Riparian woodland and willow thicket habitats preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	SSC G4 S4	Yearlong resident of California. Prefers open habitats with bare ground, scattered shrubs, and areas with low or sparse herbaceous cover including open-canopied valley foothill hardwood, riparian, pinyon-juniper desert riparian, creosote bush scrub, and Joshua tree woodland. Requires suitable perches including trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. Nests in branches up to 14 feet above the ground frequently in a shrub with thorns or with tangled branching habitats.	Yes	Present: Two individuals were observed within the northern portion of the project site during the BUOW focused survey conducted on April 22, 2021. One of the two was observed perched on the eastern fence line of Lot 44 carrying nesting material. This species could potentially nest within the piles of tumbleweeds located along the fence which surrounds Lot 44.
<i>Microtus californicus mohavensis</i> Mohave river vole	SSC G5T1 S1	Found in moist habitats including meadows, freshwater marshes and irrigated pastures in the vicinity of the Mojave River. Suitable habitat is associated with ponds and irrigation canals along with the Mojave River proper. Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i>) fields may also provide habitat.	No	Not Expected: This species is restricted to the Mojave River and moist habitats in the Mojave River's immediate vicinity.
<i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i> southern grasshopper mouse	SSC G5T3 S3	Common in arid desert habitats of the Mojave and southern Central Valley of California. Known elevation range is generally below 3,000 feet amsl. Little is known about habitat requirements; however, it is commonly found in scrub habitats with friable soils for digging in desert areas. It is believed that alkali desert scrub and desert scrub habitats are preferred, with somewhat lower densities expected in other desert habitats, including succulent shrub, wash, and riparian areas. Also occurs in coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, low sage, and bitterbrush habitats.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging and nesting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground which consist of heavily disturbed/compacted soils. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> double-crested cormorant	WL G5 S4	Yearlong resident of California. Prefers water less than 30 feet deep with rocky or gravel bottom. Rests in daytime and roosts overnight beside water on offshore rocks, islands, cliffs, dead branches of trees, wharfs, jetties, or even transmission lines. Occupies diverse aquatic habitats in all seasons. In California, most individuals are found nesting in coastal regions. Requires suitable places for daytime resting (e.g., rocks, sandbars, pilings). Forage in shallow water (> 30 feet deep).	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging and nesting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	SSC G3G4 S3S4	Occurs in a wide variety of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland and coniferous forest. Its elevational range extends up to 4,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada foothills and up to 6,000 feet in the mountains of southern California. In inland areas, this species is restricted to areas with pockets of open microhabitat, created by disturbance (e.g. fire, floods, unimproved roads, grazing lands, and fire breaks). The key elements of such habitats are loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction; an abundance of native ants or other insects; and open areas with limited overstory for basking and low, but relatively dense shrubs for refuge.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground which consist of heavily disturbed and compacted soils and lack the loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction. Further, ant hills were relatively uncommon throughout the entire project site.
<i>Piranga rubra</i> summer tanager	SSC G5 S1	Summer resident in southern California where it breeds in low-elevation willow and Fremont cottonwood woodlands, and in higher-elevation mesquite and saltcedar (<i>Tamarix</i> spp.) stands. Winters in the tropics, mainly in lowlands but also up to middle elevations in mountains, both in solid forest and in edges and clearings with scattered trees. Nests close to creeks, favoring broad riparian zones (196 feet [60 meters]).	No	Not Expected: Woodland habitats dominated by willow and Fremont cottonwood preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site.
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> vermillion flycatcher	SSC G5 S2S3	Occurs in a variety of open habitats including open woodland, clearings, desert scrub, savannah, agricultural land, golf courses, and recreational parks. The species tends to stay near water, often occurring in riparian vegetation characterized by Fremont cottonwoods, mesquite, willows, and California sycamores.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging and nesting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	FT SSC G2G3 S2S3	Breeding sites are in a variety of aquatic habitats including streams, deep pools, backwaters within streams and creeks, ponds, marshes, sag ponds, dune ponds, lagoons, and artificial impoundments (i.e., stock ponds). Breeding adults are often associated with deep (greater than 2 feet) still or slow-moving water and dense shrubby riparian or emergent vegetation.	No	Not Expected: Suitable aquatic habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site and the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	SSC G5 S3S4	Present in California from April through September. Nests in riparian areas dominated by willows, cottonwoods, California sycamores, or alders (<i>Alnus</i> spp.) or in mature chaparral. May also use oaks, conifers, and urban areas near stream courses.	No	Not Expected: Suitable riparian habitats preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Siphateles bicolor mohavensis</i> Mohave tui chub	FE SE FP G4T1 S1	Formerly found in deep pools and slough-like areas of the Mojave River; this species now only occurs in highly modified refuge sites in San Bernardino County. The existing, genetically pure Mohave tui chub populations occur at three sites: Soda Springs (Zzyzx Springs), Camp Cady Wildlife Area, and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS).	No	Not Expected: The project site is outside of the known range of existing populations. Additionally, the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	SSC G5 S3	Occupies a wide variety of habitats including dry, open grassland, sagebrush, and woodland habitats. Badgers are generally associated with treeless regions, prairies, park lands and cold desert areas (Lindzey, 1982). Require dry, friable, often sandy soil to dig burrows for cover, food storage, and giving birth. Occasionally found in riparian zones and open chaparral with less than 50% plant cover.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats and friable sandy soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	SSC G4 S3S4	Occurs in or near permanent fresh water, often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth up to 7,000 feet amsl.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitat consisting of areas near permanent fresh water with rocky beds and riparian growth are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i> Bendire's thrasher	SSC G4 S3	Occurs primarily as a summer resident in California from March to late August (rarely October or later). Most birds leave by mid-August. Closely associated with plants in the genera <i>Yucca</i> and <i>Opuntia</i> as well as firmly packed dirt with less rocks, sand, and desert pavement than other Mojave soil types. Generally, avoid areas with steep slopes and rocky terrain. In the Mojave Desert, nearly all Bendire's Thrashers breed in Mojave Desert scrub with a high density and cover of either Joshua Tree (<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>), Spanish Bayonet (<i>Yucca baccata</i>), Mohave Yucca (<i>Yucca schidigera</i>), cholla cacti (<i>Opuntia</i> spp.), or other succulents.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging and nesting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i> Le Conte's thrasher	SSC G4 S3	Common yearlong resident in southern California. Typically occurs primarily in open desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and desert succulent shrub habitats; also occurs in Joshua tree habitat with scattered shrubs. Habitats with a high proportion of one or more species of saltbush (<i>Atriplex</i> spp.) and/or cylindrical cholla cactus (<i>Cylindropuntia</i> spp.) is preferred. The ground is generally bare or with sparse patches of grasses and annuals forming low ground cover. Prefers thick, dense, and thorny shrubs or cholla cactus for nesting.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging and nesting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	FE SE G5T2 S2	Summer resident in southern California. Breeding habitat generally consists of dense, low, shrubby vegetation in riparian areas, and mesquite brushlands, often near water in arid regions. Early successional cottonwood-willow riparian groves are preferred for nesting. The most critical structural component of nesting habitat in California is a dense shrub layer that is 2 to 10 feet above ground. The presence of water, including ponded surface water or moist soil conditions, may also be a key component for nesting habitat.	No	Not Expected: Suitable riparian woodland habitats preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site. In addition, the project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat for this species.
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> yellow-headed blackbird	SSC G5 S3	Occurs primarily as a migrant and summer resident; breeds from mid-April to early October. Small numbers winter in the southern Central Valley and the Imperial and Colorado River valleys. Occurs in freshwater emergent wetlands, and moist, open areas along croplands and mud flats of lacustrine habitats. Prefers to nest in tall, dense wetland vegetation characterized by tules (<i>Scirpus</i> spp.), cattails, or other similar plant species along the border of lakes and ponds.	No	Not Expected: Suitable wetland habitats preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Xerospermophilus mohavensis</i> Mohave ground squirrel	ST G2G3 S2S3	Restricted to the Mojave Desert in creosote bush scrub (most common), desert saltbush scrub, desert sink scrub, desert greasewood scrub, shadscale scrub, Joshua tree woodland, and annual grasslands. Prefers deep, sandy to gravelly soils on flat to moderately sloping terrain; species tends to avoid rocky areas and is not known to occupy areas of desert pavement. May consume leaves, forbs, shrubs, and grasses of several species and genera, including creosote (<i>Larrea tridentata</i>), winter fat (<i>Krascheninikovia lanata</i>), spiny hop sage (<i>Grayia spinosa</i>), freckled milk vetch (<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i>), white mallow (<i>Eremalche exilis</i>), woolly marigold (<i>Baileya pleniradiata</i>), lilac sunbonnet (<i>Langloisia setosissima</i>), Mojave monardella (<i>Monardella exilis</i>), saltbush, gilia, golden linanthus (<i>Linanthus aureus</i>), and Mediterranean grass (<i>Schismus arabicus</i>), as well as seeds of box thorn (<i>Lycium</i> spp.).	No	Not Expected: There is no suitable habitat within the project site. In addition, MGS was not detected during the habitat suitability assessment conducted by ECORP on March 10, 2021.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES				
<i>Canbya candida</i> white pygmy-poppy	4.2 G3G4 S3S4	Annual herb. Occurs on gravelly, sandy, granitic soils in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 2,297 to 5,249 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through June.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Chorizanthe spinosa</i> Mojave spineflower	4.2 G4 S4	Annual herb. Found on sometimes alkaline soils within Joshua tree woodland, playas, Mojavean desert scrub, and chenopod scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 20 to 4,265 feet. Blooming period is March through July.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Diplacus mohavensis</i> Mojave monkeyflower	1B.2 G2 S2	Annual herb. Found only in the Mojave Desert of California with the highest population densities in areas south of Daggett and Barstow. Occurs on gravelly banks of desert washes, sandy openings between creosote, rocky slopes above washes, and areas that are not subject to regular water flows in Joshua tree woodland and creosote bush scrub communities. Found at elevations ranging from 1,969 to 3,937 feet amsl. Blooming period is April through June.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils.
<i>Eremothera boothii</i> ssp. <i>boothii</i> Booth's evening-primrose	2B.3 G5T4 S3	Annual herb. Occurs in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 2,674 to 7,874 feet amsl. Blooming period is April through September.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils.
<i>Lycium torreyi</i> Torrey's box-thorn	4.2 G4G5 S3	Perennial shrub. Grows on sandy, rocky, washes, streambanks, desert valleys within Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from -164 to 4,003 feet amsl. Blooming period is (January-February) March through June (September-November).	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Mentzelia eremophila</i> solitary blazing star	4.2 G4 S3S4	Annual herb. Grows in Mojavean desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 2,297 to 4,003 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through May.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Muilla coronata</i> crowned muilla	4.2 G3 S3	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Occurs in Joshua tree woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and chenopod scrub. Known elevations range from 2,200 to 6,430 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through April (May).	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils.
<i>Pediomelum castoreum</i> Beaver Dam breadroot	1B.2 G3 S2	Perennial herb. Occurs on sandy soils in washes and road cuts in Joshua tree woodland and Mojavean desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 feet amsl. Blooming period is April through May.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils.
<i>Sclerocactus polyancistrus</i> Mojave fish-hook cactus	4.2 G3 S3	Perennial stem succulent. Grows on carbonate soils within Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree woodland, and Mojavean desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 2,100 to 7,612 feet amsl. Blooming period is April through July.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Scutellaria bolanderi</i> ssp. <i>austromontana</i> southern mountains skullcap	1B.2 G4T3 S3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Found on mesic soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 1,394 to 6,562 feet amsl. Blooming period is June through August.	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Symphotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	1B.2 G2 S2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs near ditches, streams, and springs within cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows, seeps, marshes, and valley/foothill grassland. Grows in elevations ranging from 7 to 6,693 feet amsl. Blooming period is July through November (December).	No	Not Expected: The habitats and soils preferred by this species are not present within the project site. The project site consists of developed land and areas of disturbed habitat and bare ground with heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site.
<i>Yucca brevifolia</i> western Joshua tree	SCE/SCT GNR SNR	Evergreen, tree-like plant. Occurs in desert grasslands and shrublands in hot, dry sites on flats, mesas, bajadas, and gentle slopes in the Mojave Desert. Soils in Joshua tree habitats are silts, loams, and/or sands and variously described as fine, loose, well drained, and/or gravelly, while the plants can reportedly tolerate alkaline and saline soils. Found at elevations ranging from 2,461 to 7,218 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through June.	No	Not Expected: This species was not observed within the project site during the field survey. It should be noted that two Joshua trees were observed approximately 560 feet west of the western boundary of the project site, outside of the project limits.

* **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

- FE Endangered – any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- FT Threatened – any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

- SE Endangered – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease.
- ST Threatened – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required under the California Endangered Species Act.
- SCE State Candidate for listing as Endangered - The classification provided to a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the Fish and Game Commission has formally noticed as being under review by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for addition to the list of endangered species, or a species for which the commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to the list of endangered species.
- SCT The classification provided to a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the Fish and Game Commission has formally noticed as being under review by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for addition to the list of threatened species, or a species for which the commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to the list of threatened species.
- FP Fully Protected – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, or reptile that were determined by the State of California to be rare or face possible extinction.
- SSC Species of Special Concern – any species, subspecies, or distinct population of fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, or mammal native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following criteria:
- is extirpated from California or, in the case of birds, in its primary seasonal or breeding role;
 - is listed as federally-, but not State-, threatened or endangered; meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed.
 - is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (noncyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status; or
 - has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could

lead to declines that would qualify it for State threatened or endangered status.

- WL Watch List - taxa that were previously designated as “Species of Special Concern” but no longer merit that status, or which do not yet meet SSC criteria, but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank

- 1B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
 2B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.
 4 Plants of limited distribution – Watch List.

Threat Ranks

- .2 Moderately threatened in California (20 to 80 percent of 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).

NatureServe Conservation Status Rank

The Global Rank (G#) reflects the overall condition and imperilment of a species throughout its global range. The Intraspecific Taxon Rank (T#) reflects the global situation of just the subspecies or variety. The State Rank (S#) reflects the condition and imperilment of an element throughout its range within California. (G#Q) reflects that the element is very rare but there are taxonomic questions associated with it; the calculated G rank is qualified by adding a Q after the G#. Adding a ? to a rank expresses uncertainty about the rank.

- G1/T1 Critically Imperiled – At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.
 G2/T2 Imperiled— At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.
 G3/T3 Vulnerable— At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.
 G4/T4 Apparently Secure— Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
 G5 Secure – Common; widespread and abundant.
 GNR Unranked – Global rank not yet assessed.
 S1 Critically Imperiled – Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the State.
 S2 Imperiled – Imperiled in the State because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the nation or State.
 S3 Vulnerable – Vulnerable in the State due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
 S4 Apparently Secure – Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
 SNR Unranked – State conservation status not yet assessed.

Attachment E

USFWS IPaC Species List



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385
Phone: (760) 431-9440 Fax: (760) 431-5901
<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>

In Reply Refer To:

April 05, 2021

Consultation Code: 08ECAR00-2021-SLI-0826

Event Code: 08ECAR00-2021-E-01853

Project Name: Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) Lot 44 Warehouse Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and proposed species, designated critical habitat, and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>;

<http://www.towerkill.com>; and

<http://>

www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

(760) 431-9440

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08ECAR00-2021-SLI-0826

Event Code: 08ECAR00-2021-E-01853

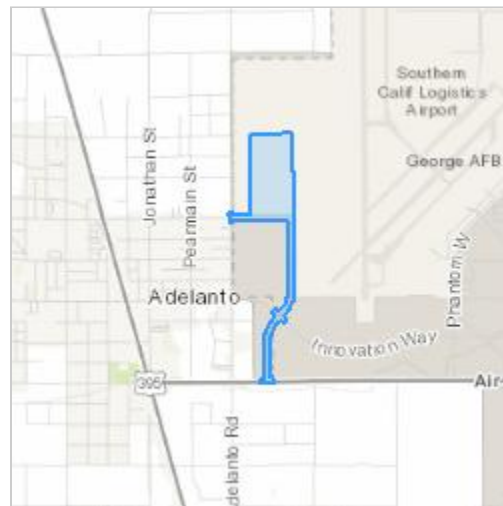
Project Name: Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) Lot 44 Warehouse Project

Project Type: DEVELOPMENT

Project Description: The proposed project includes the construction and operation of a warehousing/distribution center on an approximately 72.2-acre site on what is identified as Lot 44 of the SCLA. The project would include a warehousing/distribution building on Lot 44 that would function as a fulfillment center, operating 24 hours per day and 7 days a week, employing approximately 850 people. The facility would receive products from vendors and other warehouses, which would be stored and distributed to fulfill customer orders and sort them to downstream transportation connections. Ancillary improvements associated with the warehousing/distribution building would include truck and passenger vehicle parking, landscaping, lighting, and on-site/off-site access, roadway improvements, and utility infrastructure.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.582969750000004,-117.3942196421306,14z>



Counties: San Bernardino County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> Population: U.S.A. only, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193	Endangered

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Desert Tortoise <i>Gopherus agassizii</i> Population: Wherever found, except AZ south and east of Colorado R., and Mexico There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4481	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Attachment F

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