

Appendix D Biological Resources Technical Report

Appendices

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Biological Resources Technical Report

Rancho Cucamonga Campus Master Plan

Chaffey Community College District, San Bernardino County, CA

DRAFT REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

The following biological resources technical report describes a detailed assessment of potential sensitive natural resources located within and/or immediately adjacent to the Chaffey College Master Plan study area (Study Area) located within the Rancho Cucamonga Campus (Project Site). The report has been prepared to support compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation including the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), Master Plan and environmental review process conducted by the Chaffey College Governing Board, City of Rancho Cucamonga, and other responsible agencies. As discussed below, the assessment included a thorough literature review, site reconnaissance characterizing existing conditions (including floral, faunal and dominant vegetation communities), impact analysis, and development of proposed mitigation and avoidance measures to reduce impacts to a level of less than significant, as warranted.

PROJECT LOCATION

The 163.32-acre Study Area is located within the 200-acre Chaffey Colleges' Rancho Cucamonga campus Project Site, 5885 Haven Avenue in the northern region of the City of Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County, California, as shown in Figure 1, *Regional Location Map*. Specifically, the Study Area extends north of Banyan Street, east of Haven Avenue, south of Wilson Avenue, and southwest of the Chaffey College Rancho Cucamonga Campus Nature Preserve, as shown in Figure 2, *Project Site Map*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed action includes the demolition, construction, and renovation of buildings and facilities, parking additions and improvements to circulation (excluding the nature preserve) in 5 phases over 30 years. Specifically, the proposed action includes demolition of approximately 127,000 sq./ft. of buildings and facilities, construction of 673,00 sq./ft., and renovation of 187,000 sq./ft. of buildings and facilities.

Demolition: As part of the Master Plan, 16 buildings are identified to be demolished and replaced with new modern buildings.

New Construction: Nine new buildings would replace older outdated buildings.

Renovation: Due to the age and condition of the existing buildings, the Facilities Master Plan emphasizes renovation and modernization of existing facilities. The goals of the renovations are to maximize functional space, eliminate nonfunctional space, and improve efficiency/utilization of existing facilities. Building renovations could include new energy-efficient lighting; ceilings; paint; flooring; casework; stairwells; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. In some cases, interior walls could be removed or modified.



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Figure 1 - Regional Location Map
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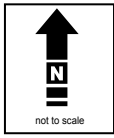
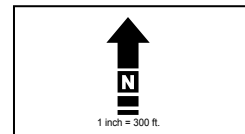




Figure 2 - Project Site Map
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METHODOLOGY

The following section details the methods implemented prior and during the reconnaissance survey conducted throughout the Study Area.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Existing biological resource conditions within and adjacent to the Study Area were initially investigated through review of pertinent scientific literature. Federal register listings, protocols, and species data provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were reviewed in conjunction with anticipated federally listed species potentially occurring within the Study Area. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2020a), a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Natural Heritage Division species account database, was also reviewed for all pertinent information regarding the locations of known occurrences of sensitive species in the vicinity of the property. In addition, numerous regional floral and faunal field guides were utilized in the identification of species and suitable habitats. Combined, the sources reviewed provided an excellent baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring in the area. Other sources of information included the review of unpublished biological resource letter reports and assessments. Other CDFW reports and publications consulted include the following:

- Special Animals (CDFW 2020b);
- State/Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened Animals of State (CDFW 2020c);
- Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California (CDFW 2020d); and
- Special Vascular Plants and Bryophytes List (CDFW 2020e).

FIELD SURVEY

A reconnaissance survey of the Study Area was conducted by Ruben Ramirez of Cadre Environmental (USFWS Permit 780566-14, CDFW Permit 02243) on January 13th, 2021 in order to characterize and identify potential sensitive plant and wildlife habitats, and to establish the accuracy of the data identified in the literature search. Geologic and soil maps were examined to identify local soil types that may support sensitive taxa. Aerial photograph, topographic maps, vegetation and rare plant maps prepared for previous studies in the region were used to determine community types and other physical features that may support sensitive plants/wildlife, uncommon taxa, or rare communities that occur within or adjacent to the Study Area. Habitat assessments were conducted for, but not limited to, the following target species/groups.

- Coastal California gnatcatcher – FT/SSC
- Least Bell's vireo – FE/SE
- Burrowing owl - SSC
- Southwestern willow flycatcher – FE/SE
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat – FE/SSC
- Sensitive plants
- Protected trees (City of Rancho Cucamonga Municipal Code, Chapter 17, Tree Preservation – Chapter 17.80)

Vegetation Communities/Habitat Classification Mapping

Natural community names and hierarchical structure follows the “*Manual of California Vegetation*” (Sayer and Keeler-Wolf 2009) classification system, which has been refined and augmented where appropriate to better characterize the habitat types observed onsite.

Floristic Plant Inventory

A general plant survey was conducted throughout the Study Area during the reconnaissance in a collective effort to identify all species occurring onsite.

All plants observed during the survey efforts were either identified in the field or collected and later identified using taxonomic keys. Plant taxonomy follows Hickman (1993). Scientific nomenclature and common names used in this report generally follow Roberts et al. (2004) or Baldwin et al. (2012) for updated taxonomy. Scientific names are included only at the first mention of a species; thereafter, common names alone are used.

Wildlife Resources Inventory

All animals identified during the reconnaissance survey by sight, call, tracks, scat, or other characteristic sign were recorded onto a 1:200 scale orthorectified color aerial photograph or documented using a global positioning system (GPS). In addition to species actually detected, expected use of the site by other wildlife was derived from the analysis of habitats on the site, combined with known habitat preferences of regionally occurring wildlife species.

Vertebrate taxonomy followed in this report is according to the Center for North American Herpetology (2021 for amphibians and reptiles), the American Ornithologists’ Union (1988 and supplemental) for birds, and Baker et al. (2003) for mammals. Both common and scientific names are used during the first mention of a species; common names only are used in the remainder of the text.

Regional Connectivity/Wildlife Movement Corridors

The analysis of wildlife movement corridors associated with the Study Area and immediate vicinity is based on information compiled from literature, analysis of the aerial photograph and direct observations made in the field during the reconnaissance site visit.

A literature review was conducted that includes documents on island biogeography (studies of fragmented and isolated habitat “islands”), reports on wildlife home range sizes and migration patterns, and studies on wildlife dispersal. Wildlife movement studies conducted in southern California were also reviewed. Use of field-verified digital data, in conjunction with the GIS database, allowed proper identification of regional vegetation communities and drainage features. This information was crucial to assessing the relationship of the Study Area to large open space areas in the immediate vicinity and was also evaluated in terms of connectivity and habitat linkages. Relative to

corridor issues, the discussions in this report are intended to focus on wildlife movement associated within the Study Area and the immediate vicinity.

Jurisdictional Resources Assessment

The Study Area was assessed for potential jurisdiction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pursuant to Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404; wetland and non-wetland waters of the State subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) pursuant to CWA Section 401 and State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne); streambed and riparian habitat subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the CDFW pursuant Sections 1600 *et seq.* of the California Fish and Game Code (CDFG Code). Non-wetland waters of the United States were assessed based on the limits of the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) as determined by erosion, the deposition of vegetation or debris, and changes in vegetation and soil characteristics. The assessment utilized the methodology for routine wetland determination according to the methods outlined in the USACE Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the Arid West Wetland Delineation Supplement and updated regulatory guidance letters (USACE 2008). Wetlands are identified by the presence of three characteristics: hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils. Specifically, the assessment of wetland hydrology was evaluated throughout the Study Area by recording the extent of observed surface flows, where applicable. In addition, indicators of wetland or riverine hydrology were recorded, including water marks, drift lines, rack, debris, and sediment deposits, as warranted.

EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The 163.32-acre Study Area is dominated by developed/ornamental landscaping (Chaffey College Rancho Cucamonga Campus), coastal sage scrub, disturbed, mule fat scrub and open water vegetation communities as described in this report, and illustrated in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*, Figures 4 to 7, *Current Study Area Photographs*, and summarized in Table 1, *Study Area Vegetation Community Acreages*.

Table 1.
Study Area Vegetation Community Acreages

Vegetation Community	Acres
Developed/Ornamental Landscaping	149.18
Coastal Sage Scrub	8.52
Disturbed	5.35
Open Water (Detention Basin)	0.23
Mule Fat Scrub	0.04
TOTAL	163.32

Source: Cadre Environmental 2021.

The Soil Survey of the San Bernardino County Area has the following soils mapped within the boundary of the Study Area as shown on Figure 8, *Soils Association Map*:

- SoC – Soboba gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 9 percent slopes.
- SpC – Soboba stony loamy sand, 2 to 9 percent slopes.

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Developed/Ornamental Landscaping

The majority of the Study Area is developed (Chaffey College Rancho Cucamonga Campus) and dominated by structures, roads, ornamental shrubs, trees and turf. Ornamental planted vegetation documented within the Study Area includes but is not limited to Peruvian peppertree (*Schinus molle*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), bottlebrush (*Callistemon* sp.), Brazilian peppertree (*Schinus terebinthifolia*), pines (*Pinus* sp), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Brisbane box (*Lophostemon confertus*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), olive (*Olea europaea*), holly oak (*Quercus ilex*), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), lowboy (*Acacia redolens*), western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), and fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*).

Coastal Sage Scrub

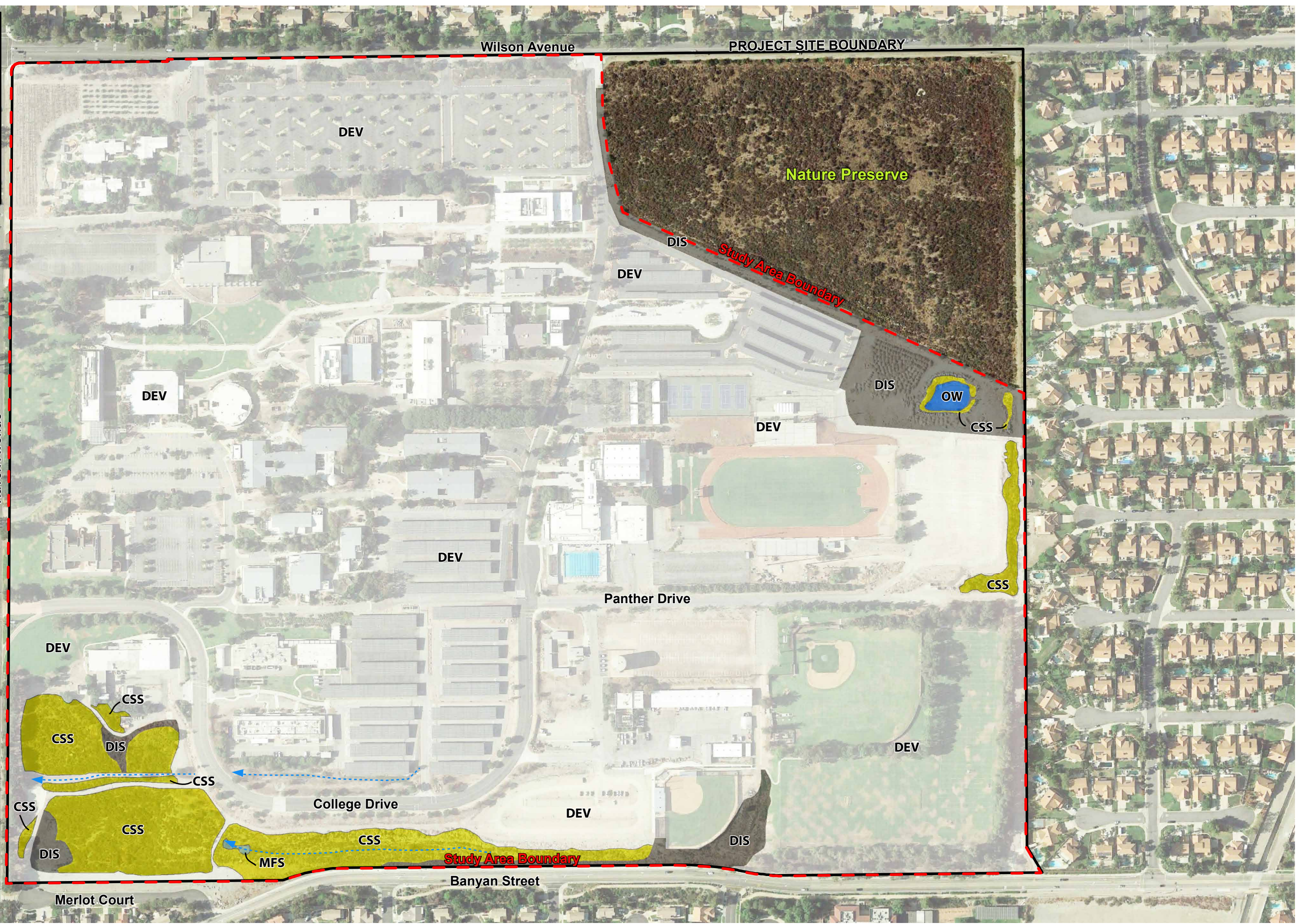
Coastal sage scrub extends primarily adjacent to the southwestern Study Area boundary. This vegetation community represents a remnant of alluvial fan sage scrub habitat. However, necessary fluvial, periodic flooding and scouring required to sustain alluvial fan sage scrub no longer persists. This conclusion is supported by the dense canopy cover of this vegetation community, dominance of California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and lack of scale-broom (*Lepidospartum squamatum*). Additional species documented within this vegetation community include thicket yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*), pinebush (*Ericameria pinifolia*), and tobacco tree (*Nicotiana glauca*).

Disturbed

Several regions of disturbed habitat occur within the Study Area. These areas are dominated by black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), white-stemmed filaree (*Erodium moschatum*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), Russian thistle (*Kali tragus*), foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), and tumbling pigweed (*Amaranthus albus*).

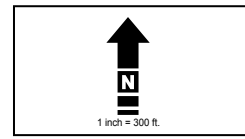
Legend

- DEV Developed (Ornamental Landscaping)
- CSS Coastal Sage Scrub
- DIS Disturbed
- MFS Mule Fat Scrub
- OW Open Water
- Drainage



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Figure 3 - Vegetation Communities Map
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PHOTOGRAPH 1 - Northward view of Study Area along the eastern boundary. Small remnant patches of coastal sage scrub were documented within this region.



PHOTOGRAPH 2 - Northwest view of the Study Area from the southwest corner of the campus. The majority of the Study Area is developed with classrooms, support facilities, and athletic fields.

Figure 4 - Current Study Area Photographs

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PHOTOGRAPH 3 - Northward view of disturbed habitat located within the Study Area. These areas are dominated by non-native invasive and ruderal vegetation.



PHOTOGRAPH 4 - Westward view of the southwestern region of the Study Area adjacent to Banyan Street.

Figure 5 - Current Study Area Photographs

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PHOTOGRAPH 5 - Westward view of the southwestern region of the Study Area where thick mature coastal sage scrub vegetation is located.



PHOTOGRAPH 6 - Westward view of drainage feature that bisects the coastal sage scrub and drains offsite in the southwest corner to a basin located west of Haven Avenue.

Figure 6 - Current Study Area Photographs

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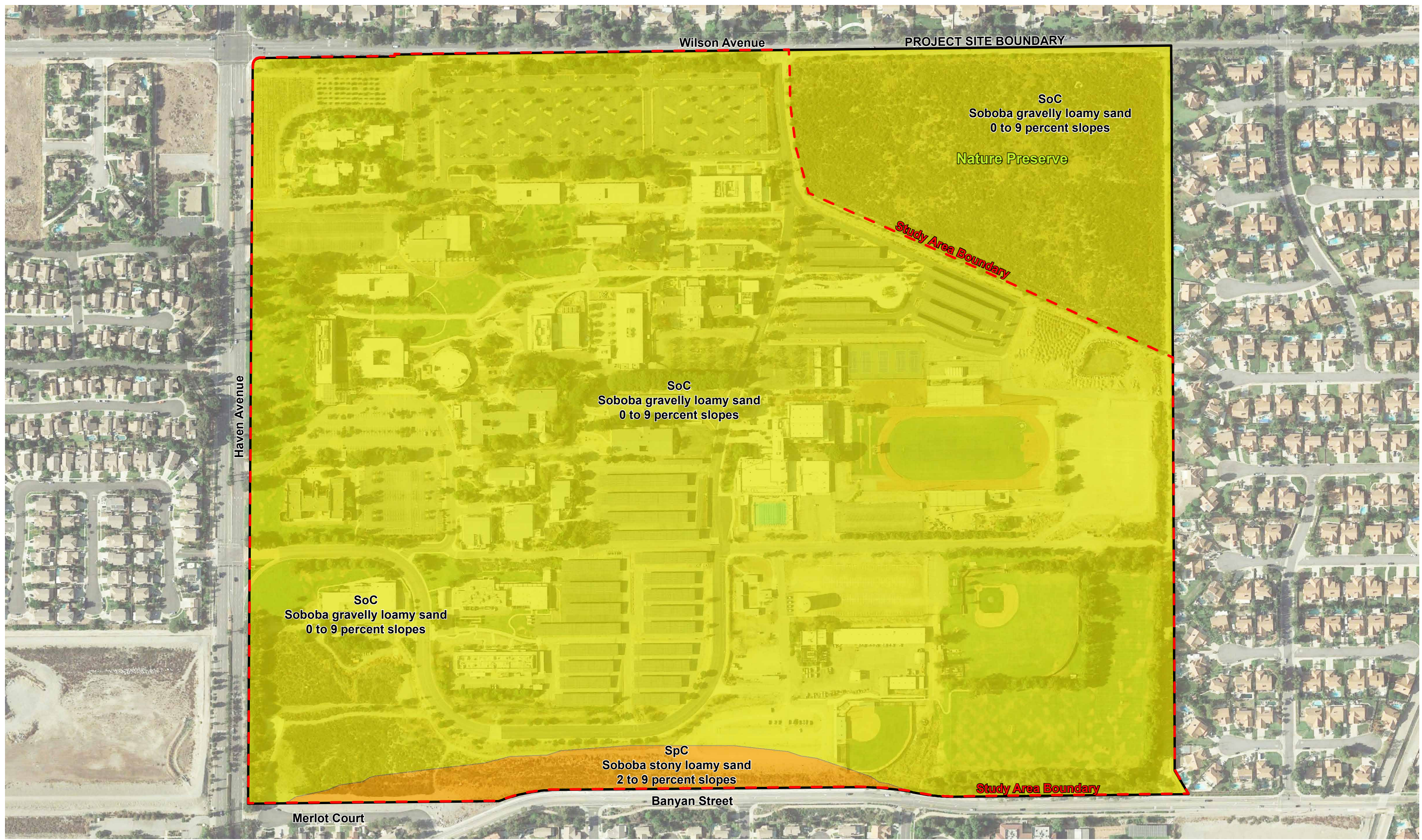
PHOTOGRAPH 7 - Eastward view of the Study Area from the northern region of the campus. The majority of the Study Area is developed with classrooms, support facilities, and athletic fields.



PHOTOGRAPH 8 - Southward view of the Study Area from the eastern region of the campus.

Figure 7 - Current Study Area Photographs

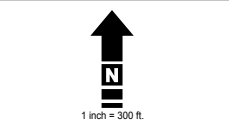
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Figure 8 - Soils Association Map

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Mule Fat Scrub

A single small distressed patch (0.04 acre) of mule fat scrub is located at the terminus of a drainage which extends through the coastal sage scrub in the southwestern region of the Study Area. This vegetation community is dominated by mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*).

Open Water

A single inundated detention basin is located within the eastern region of the Study Area. This open water area is bordered by disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat.

GENERAL PLANT & WILDIFE SPECIES

General plant species documented within the Study Area are presented in the previous section.

General wildlife species documented onsite or within the vicinity during the site assessment include but are not limited to red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), wrenit (*Chamaea fasciata*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), yellow rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), Lawrence's goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*).

JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND RESOURCES

A single wetland (open water) and potential jurisdictional resources (drainages in the southwestern region of Study Area) may be regulated by the USACE, CDFW, and/or RWQCB, as illustrated in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*.

Prior to issuance of grading or construction permits within phases potential directly or indirectly impacting wetlands or jurisdictional resources, the project applicant will conduct a formal jurisdictional delineation to determine the extent of resources onsite regulated by the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB. The project applicant will also be required to obtain all applicable permits which may include, 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, and a 401 Certification issued by the RWQCB pursuant to the California Water Code Section 13260.

SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The following discussion describes the plant and wildlife species present, or potentially present within the property boundaries, that have been afforded special recognition by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations, principally

due to the species' declining or limited population sizes, usually resulting from habitat loss. Also discussed are habitats that are unique, of relatively limited distribution, or of particular value to wildlife. Protected sensitive species are classified by state and/or federal resource management agencies, or both, as threatened or endangered, under provisions of the state and federal endangered species act. Vulnerable or "at-risk" species that are proposed for listing as threatened or endangered (and thereby for protected status) are categorized administratively as "candidates" by the USFWS. CDFW uses various terminology and classifications to describe vulnerable species. There are additional sensitive species classifications applicable in California. These are described below.

Sensitive biological resources are habitats or individual species that have special recognition by federal, state, or local conservation agencies and organizations as endangered, threatened, or rare. The CDFW, USFWS, and special groups like the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) maintain watch lists of such resources. For the purpose of this assessment sources used to determine the sensitive status of biological resources are:

Plants: USFWS (2020), CNDDDB (CDFW 2020a), CDFW (2020d, 2020e), CNPS (2020), and Skinner and Pavlik (1994),

Wildlife: California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (2008), USFWS (2020), CNDDDB (CDFW 2020a), and CDFW (2020b, 2020c).

Habitats: CNDDDB (CDFW 2020a, 2020f).

FEDERAL PROTECTION AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (FESA) defines an endangered species as "any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range..." Threatened species are defined as "any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." Under provisions of Section 9(a)(1)(B) of the FESA it is unlawful to "take" any listed species. "Take" is defined as follows in Section 3(18) of the FESA: "...harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Further, the USFWS, through regulation, has interpreted the terms "harm" and "harass" to include certain types of habitat modification as forms of a "take." These interpretations, however, are generally considered and applied on a case-by-case basis and often vary from species to species. In a case where a property owner seeks permission from a federal agency for an action that could affect a federally listed plant and animal species, the property owner and agency are required to consult with USFWS. Section 9(a)(2)(b) of the FESA addresses the protections afforded to listed plants. Recently, the USFWS instituted changes in the listing status of former candidate species. Former C1 (candidate) species are now referred to simply as candidate species and represent the only candidates for listing. Former C2 species (for which the USFWS had insufficient evidence to warrant listing at this time) and C3 species (either extinct, no longer a valid taxon or more abundant than was formerly believed) are no longer considered as candidate species. Therefore, these species are no longer maintained in list form by the USFWS, nor are they formally protected.

However, some USFWS field offices have issued memoranda stating that former C2 species are henceforth to be considered Federal Species of Concern. This term is employed in this document but carries no official protections. All references to federally protected species in this report (whether listed, proposed for listing or candidate) include the most current published status or candidate category to which each species has been assigned by USFWS.

For purposes of this assessment, the following acronyms are used for federal status species:

FE	Federal Endangered
FT	Federal Threatened
FPE	Federal Proposed Endangered
FPT	Federal Proposed Threatened
FC	Federal Candidate for Listing

The designation of critical habitat can also have a significant impact on the development of land designated as “*critical habitat*.” The FESA prohibits federal agencies from taking any action that will “*adversely modify or destroy*” critical habitat (16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2)). This provision of the FESA applies to the issuance of permits by federal agencies. Before approving an action affecting critical habitat, the federal agency is required to consult with the USFWS who then issues a biological opinion evaluating whether the action will “*adversely modify*” critical habitat. Thus, the designation of critical habitat effectively gives the USFWS extensive regulatory control over the development of land designated as critical habitat.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) makes it unlawful to “*take*” any migratory bird or part, nest, or egg of such bird listed in wildlife protection treaties between the United States and Great Britain, the Republic of Mexico, Japan, and the Union of Soviet States.

The Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act explicitly protects the bald eagle and golden eagle and imposes its own prohibition on any taking of these species. As defined in this act, take means to pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, or molest or disturb. Current USFWS policy is not to refer the incidental take of bald eagles for prosecution under the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d).

STATE PROTECTION AND CLASSIFICATIONS

California's Endangered Species Act (CESA) defines an endangered species as “...a native species or subspecies of a 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.” The State defines a threatened species as “...a native species or subspecies of a 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 by this chapter. Any animal determined by the commission as rare on or before January 1, 1985 is a threatened species.” Candidate species are defined as “...a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the commission has formally noticed as being under review by the department for addition to either the list of endangered species or the list of threatened species, or a species for which the commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to either list.” Candidate species may be afforded temporary protection as though they were already listed as threatened or endangered at the discretion of the Fish and Game Commission. Unlike FESA, CESA does not include listing provisions for invertebrate species.

Article 3, Sections 2080 through 2085, of CESA addresses the taking of threatened or endangered species by stating “No person shall import into this state, export out of this state, or take, possess, purchase, or sell within this state, any species, or any part or product thereof, that the commission determines to be an endangered species or a threatened species, or attempt any of those acts, except as otherwise provided...” Under CESA, “take” is defined as “...hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.” Exceptions authorized by the state to allow “take” require “...permits or memorandums of understanding...” and can be authorized for “...endangered species, threatened species, or candidate species for scientific, educational, or management purposes.” Sections 1901 and 1913 of the California Fish and Game Code provide that notification is required prior to disturbance.

Additionally, some sensitive mammals and birds are protected by the State as Fully Protected Mammals or Fully Protected Birds, as described in the California Fish and Game Code, Sections 4700 and 3511, respectively. SSC (“special” animals and plants) listings include special status species, including all state and federal protected and candidate taxa, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) sensitive species, species considered to be declining or rare by the CNPS or National Audubon Society, and a selection of species which are considered to be under population stress but are not formally proposed for listing. This list is primarily a working document for the CDFW's CNDDDB project. Informally listed taxa are not protected per se, but warrant consideration in the preparation of biotic assessments. For some species, the CNDDDB is only concerned with specific portions of the life history, such as roosts, rookeries, or nest sites. For the purposes of this assessment, the following acronyms are used for State status species:

SE	State Endangered
ST	State Threatened
SCE	State Candidate Endangered
SCT	State Candidate Threatened
SFP	State Fully Protected
SP	State Protected
SR	State Rare
SSC	California Species of Special Concern
CWL	California Watch List

Nesting birds, including raptors, are protected under California Fish and Game Code Section 3503, which reads, “It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto.” In addition, under California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5, “it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto”. Passerines and non-passerine land birds are further protected under California Fish and Game Code 3513. As such, CDFW typically recommends surveys for nesting birds that could potentially be directly (e.g., actual removal of trees/vegetation) or indirectly (e.g., noise disturbance) impacted by project-related activities. Disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings, or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered “take” by CDFW.

The CNPS is a private plant conservation organization dedicated to the monitoring and protection of sensitive species in the State. This organization has compiled an inventory comprised of the information focusing on geographic distribution and qualitative characterization of rare, threatened, or endangered vascular plant species of California (Tibor 2001). The list serves as the candidate list for listing as threatened and endangered by CDFW. The CNPS has developed five categories of rarity (CRPR):

CRPR 1A	Presumed extinct in California.
CRPR 1B	Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
CRPR 2A	Plants presumed extirpated in California but common elsewhere
CRPR 2B	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
CRPR 3	Plants about which we need more information – a review list.
CRPR 4	Species of limited distribution in California (i.e., naturally rare in the wild), but whose existence does not appear to be susceptible to threat.

As stated by the CNPS:

“Threat Rank is an extension added onto the California Rare Plant Rank and designates the level of endangerment by a 1 to 3 ranking with 1 being the most endangered and 3 being the least endangered. A Threat Rank is present for all California Rare Plant Rank 1B's, 2's, 4's, and the majority of California Rare Plant Rank 3's. California Rare Plant Rank 4 plants are seldom assigned a Threat Rank of 0.1, as they generally have large enough populations to not have significant threats to their continued existence in California; however, certain conditions exist to make the plant a species of concern and hence be assigned a California Rare Plant Rank. In addition, all California Rare Plant Rank 1A (presumed extinct in California), and some California Rare Plant Rank 3 (need more information) plants, which lack threat information, do not have a Threat Rank extension.” (CNPS 2010)

0.1	Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2	Fairly threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
0.3	Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

COUNTY PROTECTION AND CLASSIFICATION

As stated by the City of Rancho Cucamonga:

“The County of San Bernardino Code of Ordinances (Title 8, Division 8, Chapter 88.01: Plant Protection and Management) provides regulations and guidelines for managing plant resources in the unincorporated areas of the County on property or combinations of property under private or public ownership. A Tree or Plant Removal Permit is required for the removal of regulated trees and plants. Regulated trees and plants are identified in Section 88.01.070(b) (Regulated Trees) and Section 88.01.080(b) (Regulated Riparian Plants). Trees protected by Section 88.01.070(b) include (1) any living, native tree with a 6-inch or greater stem diameter or 19 inches in circumference measured 4.5 feet above natural grade level and (2) 3 or more palm trees in linear plantings which are 50 feet or greater in length within established windrows⁴ or parkway plantings. Riparian plants are regulated in riparian areas located on private land within unincorporated areas of the County and on public land owned by the County, unless exempt. Section 88.01.080(b) applies to the removal of vegetation within 200 feet of the bank of a stream⁵ or in an area indicated as a protected riparian area on an overlay map or Specific Plan.” (City of Rancho Cucamonga 2010)

LOCAL PROTECTION AND CLASSIFICATIONS

As stated by the City of Rancho Cucamonga:

“The City’s Tree Preservation Ordinance in the Municipal Code (Title 19, Environmental Protection - Chapter 19.08) states that eucalyptus, palm, oak, sycamore, pine, and other trees growing within the City are a natural aesthetic resource and are worthy of protection. A permit is required for the removal, relocation, or destruction of a Heritage Tree.” (City of Rancho Cucamonga 2010)

A certified arborist, horticulturist, or registered landscape architect familiar with the City of Rancho Cucamonga’s Tree Preservation Ordinance will be required to conduct an assessment of the mature trees proposed for removal to determine if a tree removal permit from the Community Development Director is required (17.16.080 Tree removal permit.). If required, a permit application will be submitted for review and approval.

SENSITIVE HABITATS

As stated by CDFW:

“One purpose of the vegetation classification is to assist in determining the level of rarity and imperilment of vegetation types. Ranking of alliances according to their degree of imperilment (as measured by rarity, trends, and threats) follows NatureServe’s Heritage Methodology, in which all alliances are listed with a G (global) and S (state) rank. For alliances with State ranks of S1-S3, all associations within them are also considered to be highly imperiled” (CDFW 2017c)

No sensitive habitats were documented within the Study Area. As previously stated, coastal sage scrub extends primarily adjacent to the southwestern Study Area boundary. This vegetation community represents a remnant of alluvial fan sage scrub habitat (sensitive habitat). However, necessary fluvial, periodic flooding and scouring required to sustain alluvial fan sage scrub no longer persists. This conclusion is supported by the dense canopy cover of this vegetation community, dominance of California sagebrush, California buckwheat and lack of scale-broom.

SENSITIVE PLANTS

The Study Area was assessed to determine the potential for thirty-six (36) sensitive plant species known to occur within the region, to occur onsite, as presented in Table 2, *Sensitive Plant Species Assessment*.

**Table 2.
Sensitive Plant Species Assessment**

Species Name <i>(Scientific Name)</i> Status	Habitat Description	Comments
Singlewhorl burrobrush <i>(Ambrosia monogyra)</i> CRPR 2B.2	Perennial shrub which generally blooms from August to November within chaparral or Sonoran Desert scrub in sandy substrates (CNPS 2021)	Not observed or expected to occur onsite based on a lack of detection or suitable habitat.
Nevin’s barberry <i>(Berberis nevinii)</i> CRPR 1B.1 FE/SE	Perennial evergreen shrub which generally blooms from February to June within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub in sandy, gravelly substrates (CNPS 2021)	Not observed onsite.

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
Slender mariposa lily (<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb which generally blooms from June to July within coastal bluff scrub, chaparral (maritime), lower montane coniferous forest (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Plummer's mariposa-lily (<i>Calochortus plummerae</i>) CRPR 4.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb which generally blooms from May to June within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and grassland habitats with granite and rocky substrates. (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.
Smooth tarplant (<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>) CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb which generally blooms from April to September within chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland (alkaline substrates). (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat and alkaline substrates.
Catalina mariposa-lily (<i>Calochortus catalinae</i>) CRPR 4.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb which generally blooms from March to June within chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley grassland, and coastal sage scrub (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.
Peninsular spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>) CRPR 4.2	Annual herb which generally blooms from May to August within chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest in alluvial fan, granitic substrates. (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.
Parry's spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>) CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb which generally blooms from April to June within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub and grassland habitats with sandy and/or rocky openings. (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
White-bracted spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb which generally blooms from April to June within coastal scrub (alluvial fans), Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland in sandy or gravelly substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
California saw-grass (<i>Cladium californicum</i>) CRPR 2B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb which generally blooms from June to September within meadows, seeps, marshes and swamps in both alkaline and freshwater. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected or expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Peirson's spring beauty (<i>Claytonia lanceolata</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>) CRPR 3.1	Perennial herb which generally blooms from March to June within subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected or expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Paniculate tarplant (<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>) CRPR 4.2	Annual herb which generally blooms from March to November within coastal sage scrub, valley foothill grassland and vernal pools with sandy substrates. (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.
Slender-horned spineflower (<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>) CRPR 1B.1 FE/SE	Annual herb which generally blooms from April to June within chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub (alluvial fan) with sandy substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Many-stemmed dudleya (<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Perennial herb which generally blooms from April to July within chaparral, coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland often associated with clay substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected or expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable substrates.
Santa Ana River woollystar (<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>) CRPR 1B.1 FE/SE	Perennial herb which generally blooms from April to September within chaparral, coastal scrub (alluvial fan) in sandy and gravelly substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected onsite.
Vanishing wild buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum evanidum</i>) CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb which generally blooms from July to October within chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland in sandy	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
	and gravelly substrates. (CNPS 2021)	
San Gabriel bedstraw (<i>Galium grande</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Perennial deciduous shrub which generally blooms from January to July within broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected onsite.
Mesa horkelia (<i>Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula</i>) CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb which generally blooms from February to September within chaparral (maritime), cismontane woodland and coastal scrub with sandy or gravelly substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected onsite.
Southern California black walnut (<i>Juglans californica</i>) CRPR 4.2	Perennial deciduous tree which generally blooms from March to August in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland in alluvial soils. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected onsite.
Robinson's pepper-grass (<i>Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii</i>) CRPR 4.3	Annual herb which generally blooms from January to July within chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats. (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.
Lemon lily (<i>Lilium parryi</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb which generally blooms from July to August within lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, riparian forest, and upper montane coniferous forest (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
San Gabriel linanthus (<i>Linanthus concinnus</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb which generally blooms from April to July within chaparral, lower/upper montane coniferous forest in rocky openings. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Parish's desert-thorn (<i>Lycium parishii</i>) CRPR 2B.3	Perennial shrub generally blooms from March to April within coastal scrub and Sonoran Desert scrub. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected onsite.

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
Hall's monardella (<i>Monardella macrantha ssp. hallii</i>) CRPR 1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb which generally blooms from June to October within broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. (CNPS 2021)	Not detected or expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
California muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia californica</i>) CRPR 4.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb which generally blooms from June to September within mesic, seeps and streambanks, coastal scrub, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest and meadows. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Prostrate vernal pool navarretia (<i>Navarretia prostrata</i>) CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb which generally blooms from April to July coastal sage scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland (alkaline), vernal pools. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Woolly mountain-parsley (<i>Oreonana vestita</i>) CRPR 1B.3	Perennial herb which generally blooms from March to September within lower montane coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest, upper coniferous forest within gravel or talus substrates (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Rock Creek broomrape (<i>Orobanche valida ssp. valida</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Perennial herb (parasitic) which generally blooms from May to September within chaparral and pinyon and juniper woodland in granitic substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Brand's star phacelia (<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>) CRPR 1B.1 FC	Annual herb which generally blooms from March to June within coastal dunes and coastal scrub habitats. (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.
White-rabbit tobacco (<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i>) CRPR 2B.2	Perennial herb which generally blooms from July to August within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland with sandy or gravelly substrates. (CNPS 2021)	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
Sanford's arrowhead (<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>)	Perennial rhizomatous herb which generally blooms from May to November near marshes and swamps. (CNPS 2021).	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Salt spring checkerbloom (<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>) CRPR 2.2	Perennial herb which generally blooms from March to June within chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, and playas within alkaline and mesic substrates gravelly substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat and soils.
Laguna Mountains jewelflower (<i>Streptanthus bernardinus</i>) CRPR 4.3	Perennial herb which generally blooms from May to August within chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
San Bernardino aster (<i>Symphotrichum defoliatum</i>) CRPR 1B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb which generally blooms from July to November near ditches, streams, springs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, and valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic). (CNPS 2021).	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Greata's aster (<i>Symphotrichum greatae</i>) CRPR 1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb which generally blooms from June to October within broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest and riparian woodland habitats. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
<p>California Native Plant Society (CNPS): California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) CRPR 1A – plants presumed extinct in California CRPR 1B – plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere CRPR 2A – plants presumed extirpated in California but common elsewhere CRPR 2B – plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere CRPR 3 – plants about which we need more information, a review list CRPR 4 – plants of limited distribution, a watch list .1 – Seriously endangered in California .2 – Fairly endangered in California .3 – Not very endangered in California</p> <p>Federal (USFWS) Protection and Classification FE – Federally Endangered</p>		

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
FT – Federally Threatened FC – Federal Candidate for Listing State (CDFW) Protection and Classification SE – State Endangered ST – State Threatened		

No suitable habitat or baseline conditions for federal or state listed threatened or endangered plant species was documented within the Study Area. However, suitable low to moderate quality habitat for a total of eight (8) regionally sensitive plant species was documented within the coastal sage scrub habitats located within the southwest region of the Study Area including:

- Plummer’s mariposa-lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), CRPR 4.2
- Catalina mariposa-lily (*Calochortus catalinae*), CRPR 4.2
- Peninsular spineflower (*Chorizanthe leptotheca*), CRPR 4.2
- Parry’s spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*), CRPR 1B.1
- Paniculate tarplant (*Deinandra paniculata*), CRPR 4.2
- Robinson’s pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*), CRPR 4.3
- Brand’s star phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), CRPR 1B.1, FC
- White-rabbit tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*), CRPR 2B.2

SENSITIVE WILDLIFE

The Study Area was assessed to determine the potential for twenty-eight (28) sensitive wildlife species known to occur within the region, to occur onsite, as presented in Table 3, *Sensitive Wildlife Species Assessment*.

Table 3.
Sensitive Wildlife Species Assessment

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
INVERTEBRATES		
Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis</i>) FE	Restricted to Delhi sand formations in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable soils, Figure 8, <i>Soils Association Map</i> .

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
AMPHIBIANS		
Arroyo toad (<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>) FE/SSC	Shallow, slow moving active and braided stream channels with sandy substrates for breeding, bench and terrace habitats for foraging and aestivation, willow scrub, coastal sage scrub and riparian/oak woodlands.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable breeding and upland habitat.
Southern Mountain yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana muscosa</i>) FE/SE/CWL Southern California Distinct Population Segment	Occurs in close proximity to lakes, streams, pools in rocky tributaries and canyons.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable breeding habitat.
REPTILES		
Coast horned lizard (<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>) SSC	The horned lizard occurs primarily in scrub, chaparral, and grassland habitats.	The coastal sage scrub and associated substrates provide suitable habitat for this species.
BIRDS		
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>) SSC	Cooper's hawk is most commonly found within or adjacent to riparian/oak forest and woodland habitats. This uncommon resident of California increases in numbers during winter migration.	Cooper's hawks occasionally nest in large pines and Eucalyptus trees. The mature ornamental trees documented within the Study Area represent potential nesting habitat for this species.
Sharp-shinned hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>) CWL	Potential habitat for the sharp-shinned hawk includes montane coniferous forest for potential breeding areas and riparian scrub, woodland, forest, oak woodland chaparral, and scrub habitats for foraging.	Not expected to breed onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name (Scientific Name) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>) CWL	Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow is a non-migratory bird species that primarily occurs within sage scrub and grassland habitats and to a lesser extent chaparral sub-associations. This species generally breeds on the ground within grassland and scrub communities in the western and central regions of California.	The coastal sage scrub represents suitable foraging and breeding habitat for this species.
Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) CWL, SFP	Within southern California, the species prefers grasslands, brushlands (coastal sage scrub and chaparral), deserts, oak savannas, open coniferous forests, and montane valleys.	Not expected to breed onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) SSC	The burrowing owl uses predominantly open land, including grassland, agriculture (e.g., dry-land farming and grazing areas), playa, and sparse coastal sage scrub and desert scrub habitats. Some breeding burrowing owls are year-round residents and additional individuals from the north may winter throughout the region.	No occupied burrows were documented within the Study Area. However, this species may occupy the disturbed habitats in the eastern region of the Study Area during annual migration.
Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) SSC	The northern harrier frequents open wetlands, wet and lightly grazed pastures, old fields, dry uplands, upland prairies, mesic grasslands, drained marshlands, croplands, shrub-steppe, meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, desert sinks, fresh and saltwater emergent wetlands and is seldom found in wooded.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>) FT/SE	The western yellow-billed cuckoo inhabits dense riparian and shrub communities.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable riparian habitat.
White-tailed kite (<i>Elanus leucurus</i>) SFP	The white-tailed kite is found in riparian, oak woodlands adjacent to open spaces including grasslands, wetlands, savannahs and agricultural fields. This non-migratory bird occurs in lower elevations of California.	Not expected to breed onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>) FE/SE	The southwestern willow flycatcher breeds in dense riparian and shrub communities where exposed water is present including rivers, wetlands and reservoirs.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable riparian habitat.
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) CWL	Transient in the spring and fall and may occasionally winter within the area. It does not require specific conditions or locations for nesting because it does not nest in the region.	Not expected onsite. Breeds in the northern Great Plains.
Prairie falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>) CWL	Habitat use of the prairie falcon includes annual grasslands to alpine meadows. 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.	Not expected to breed onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
American peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>) SFP	Throughout the species' range, peregrine falcons are found in a large variety of open habitats, including tundra, marshes, seacoasts, savannahs and high mountains.	Not expected to breed onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>) SSC	The yellow-breasted chat is associated with riparian woodland and riparian scrub habitats.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable riparian habitat
Coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>) FT/SSC	The coastal California gnatcatcher is a non-migratory bird species that primarily occurs within sage scrub habitats in coastal southern California dominated by California sagebrush.	The coastal sage scrub represents suitable foraging and breeding habitat for this species.
Yellow Warbler (<i>Setophaga petechia</i>) SSC	Habitat characteristics of the yellow warbler are well known to include riparian scrub, forest and woodland vegetation.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable riparian habitat
Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>) FE/SE	Least Bell's vireo reside in riparian habitats with a well-defined understory including southern willow scrub, mulefat, and riparian forest/woodland habitats.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable riparian habitat.
MAMMALS		
Pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>) SSC	Roosts in rocky areas and forages in grassland, shrublands, and woodlands.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat
Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>) SSC	The northwestern San Diego pocket mouse occurs in coastal sage, upland sage scrubs, and alluvial fan sage scrub, sage scrub/grassland ecotones, chaparral, and desert scrubs at all elevations up to 6,000 feet.	The coastal sage scrub represents suitable habitat for this species.
San Bernardino kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>) FE/SSC	Prefers alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub habitats with sandy and gravelly substrates.	Although suitable soils were documented onsite, the species is not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat. The mature thick canopy cover does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Western mastiff bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	Roosts in rocky areas and forages in grassland, shrublands, and	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
SSC	woodlands.	
Western yellow bat (<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>) SSC	Roosts in the skirts of palm trees and forages in adjacent habitats.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable foraging habitat within the vicinity of the Study Area.
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>) SSC	The San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit in open habitats, primarily including grasslands, sage scrub, alluvial fan sage scrub, and Great Basin sage scrub.	Not observed or expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat and sign of burrow structures.
Desert San Diego woodrat (<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>) SSC	The San Diego desert woodrat is found in sage scrub and chaparral wherever there are rock outcrops, boulders, cactus patches and dense undergrowth.	The coastal sage scrub represents suitable habitat for this species.
Los Angeles pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>) SSC	Low elevation grassland alluvial sage scrub and coastal sage scrub habitats.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat. The mature thick canopy cover does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
<p>Federal (USFWS) Protection and Classification FE – Federally Endangered FT – Federally Threatened FC – Federal Candidate for Listing</p> <p>State (CDFW) Protection and Classification SE – State Endangered ST – State Threatened SSC – State Species of Special Concern CWL – California Watch List SPF – State Fully Protected</p>		

Suitable habitat for one (1) federal or state listed threatened or endangered wildlife species was documented within the Study Area including:

- Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila californica californica*), FT/SSC

Suitable low to moderate quality habitat for a total of six (6) regionally sensitive wildlife species listed as State Species of Special Concern and California Watch List was documented within the coastal sage scrub and disturbed habitats located within the southwest and eastern regions of the Study Area including:

- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), SSC
- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), SSC

- Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), CWL
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), SSC
- Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), SSC
- Desert San Diego woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), SSC

The Study Area does not occur within or adjacent to a USFWS designated critical habitat for any federally listed threatened or endangered species.

JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND RESOURCES

A single wetland (open water) and potential jurisdictional resources (drainages in the southwestern region of Study Area) may be regulated by the USACE, CDFW, and/or RWQCB, as illustrated in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*.

Prior to issuance of grading or construction permits within phases potential directly or indirectly impacting wetlands or jurisdictional resources, the project applicant will conduct a formal jurisdictional delineation to determine the extent of resources onsite regulated by the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB. The project applicant will also be required to obtain all applicable permits which may include, 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, and a 401 Certification issued by the RWQCB pursuant to the California Water Code Section 13260.

Impacts to water quality would be less than significant during both construction and operation (i.e., compliance with NPDES permit and MS4 code provisions would ensure no impacts to species, and compliance with County of San Bernardino Phase 1 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements and LID manual would also ensure no indirect impacts to species).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following section includes an analysis of the direct and/or indirect impacts of the proposed action on sensitive biological resources. This analysis characterizes the project related activities that are anticipated to adversely impact the species, and when feasible, quantifies such impacts. Direct effects are defined as actions that may cause an immediate effect on the species or its habitat, including the effects of interrelated actions and interdependent actions. Indirect effects are caused by or result from the proposed actions, are later in time, and are reasonably certain to occur. Indirect effects may occur outside of the area directly affected by the proposed action.

THRESHOLD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The environmental impacts relative to biological resources are assessed using impact significance criteria which mirror the policy statement contained in the CEQA at Section 21001 (c) of the Public Resources Code. This section reflects that the legislature has established it to be the policy of the state to:

“Prevent the elimination of fish and wildlife species due to man’s activities, ensure that fish and wildlife populations do not drop below self-

perpetuating levels, and preserve for future generations representations of all plant and animal communities...”

The following definitions apply to the significance criteria for biological resources:

- “*Endangered*” means that the species is listed as endangered under state or federal law.
- “*Threatened*” means that the species is listed as threatened under state or federal law.
- “*Rare*” means that the species exists in such small numbers throughout all or a significant portion of its range that it may become endangered if its environment worsens.
- “*Region*” refers to the area within southern California that is within the range of the individual species.
- “*Sensitive habitat*” refers to habitat for plants and animals (1) which plays a special role in perpetuating species utilizing the habitat on the property, and (2) without which there would be substantial danger that the population of that species would drop below self-perpetuating levels.
- “*Substantial effect*” means significance loss or harm of a magnitude which, based on current scientific data and knowledge, (1) would cause a species or a native plant or animal community to drop below self-perpetuating levels on a statewide or regional basis or (2) would cause a species to become threatened or endangered.

Also, the determination of impacts has been made according to the federal definition of “*take*”. FESA prohibits the “*taking*” of a member of an endangered or threatened wildlife species or removing, damaging, or destroying a listed plant species by any person (including private individuals and private or government entities). FESA defines “*take*” as “*to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, would, kill, trap, capture or collect*” an endangered or threatened species, or to attempt to engage in these activities.

DIRECT IMPACTS

Specifically, the biological resources assessment report addresses the following CEQA Environmental Checklist items.

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X		
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X	
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Native Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X

The proposed action including the demolition, construction, and renovation of buildings and facilities, parking additions and improvements to circulation would result in impacts to 25.02 acres of developed/ornamental landscaping and natural vegetation as outlined in Table 4, *Study Area Vegetation Community Impact Acreages*, and illustrated in Figure 9, *Vegetation Communities Impact Map*.

Table 4.
Study Area Vegetation Community Impact Acreages

Vegetation Community	Acres	Impacts
Developed/Ornamental Landscaping	149.18	20.82
Coastal Sage Scrub	8.52	1.91
Disturbed	5.35	2.06
Mule Fat Scrub	0.04	0.00
Open Water (Detention Basin)	0.23	0.23
TOTAL	163.32	25.02

Source: Cadre Environmental 2021.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation. Suitable habitat for the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher was detected within those areas mapped as coastal sage scrub within the Study Area. Prior to initiating any phase of the project that may directly or indirectly impact coastal sage scrub habitat, focused USFWS protocol surveys to determine the presence/absence of the coastal California gnatcatcher will be required. Implementation of **BIO-MM1** Coastal California Gnatcatcher Surveys will ensure compliance with CDFW and USFWS species protection regulations and reduce impacts to less than significant.

Suitable habitat for four (4) sensitive wildlife species potentially occurring within the coastal sage scrub was documented within the Study Area including, coast horned lizard, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, and desert San Diego woodrat. Impacts to 1.91 acre of potentially suitable habitat (coastal sage scrub) would not result in a significant impact to these species locally or regionally because 1) these species remain regionally widespread and have a low sensitive status, 2) the loss of one or a few individuals would not substantially reduce or threaten the regional or local populations of these species below self-sustaining levels, 3) and the loss of only 1.91-acre within 8.52-acre of suitable habitat that is isolated and surrounded by development. No mitigation is required or proposed.

No suitable habitat for federal or state listed plant species was documented within the Study Area. Suitable habitat for eight (8) sensitive floral species potentially occurring within the coastal sage scrub was documented within the Study Area including, Plummer’s mariposa-lily, Catalina mariposa-lily, peninsular spineflower, Parry’s spineflower, paniculate tarplant, Robinson’s pepper-grass, Brand’s star phacelia, and white-rabbit tobacco. Impacts to 1.91 acre of potentially suitable habitat (coastal sage

scrub) would not result in a significant impact to these species locally or regionally because 1) these species remain regionally widespread and have a low sensitive status, 2) the loss of one or a few individuals would not substantially reduce or threaten the regional or local populations of these species below self-sustaining levels, 3) and the loss of only 1.91-acre within 8.52-acre of suitable habitat that is isolated and surrounded by development. No mitigation is required or proposed.

There is a possibility of burrowing owl colonization within the eastern region of the Study Area prior to site grading within the disturbed habitat. To ensure that no direct loss of individuals occurs, mitigation will be implemented prior to initiation of on-site grading activities within any phase of the project mapped as disturbed. A preconstruction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. Implementation of **BIO-MM2** Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Survey will ensure compliance with CDFW and USFWS species protection regulations and reduce impacts to less than significant.

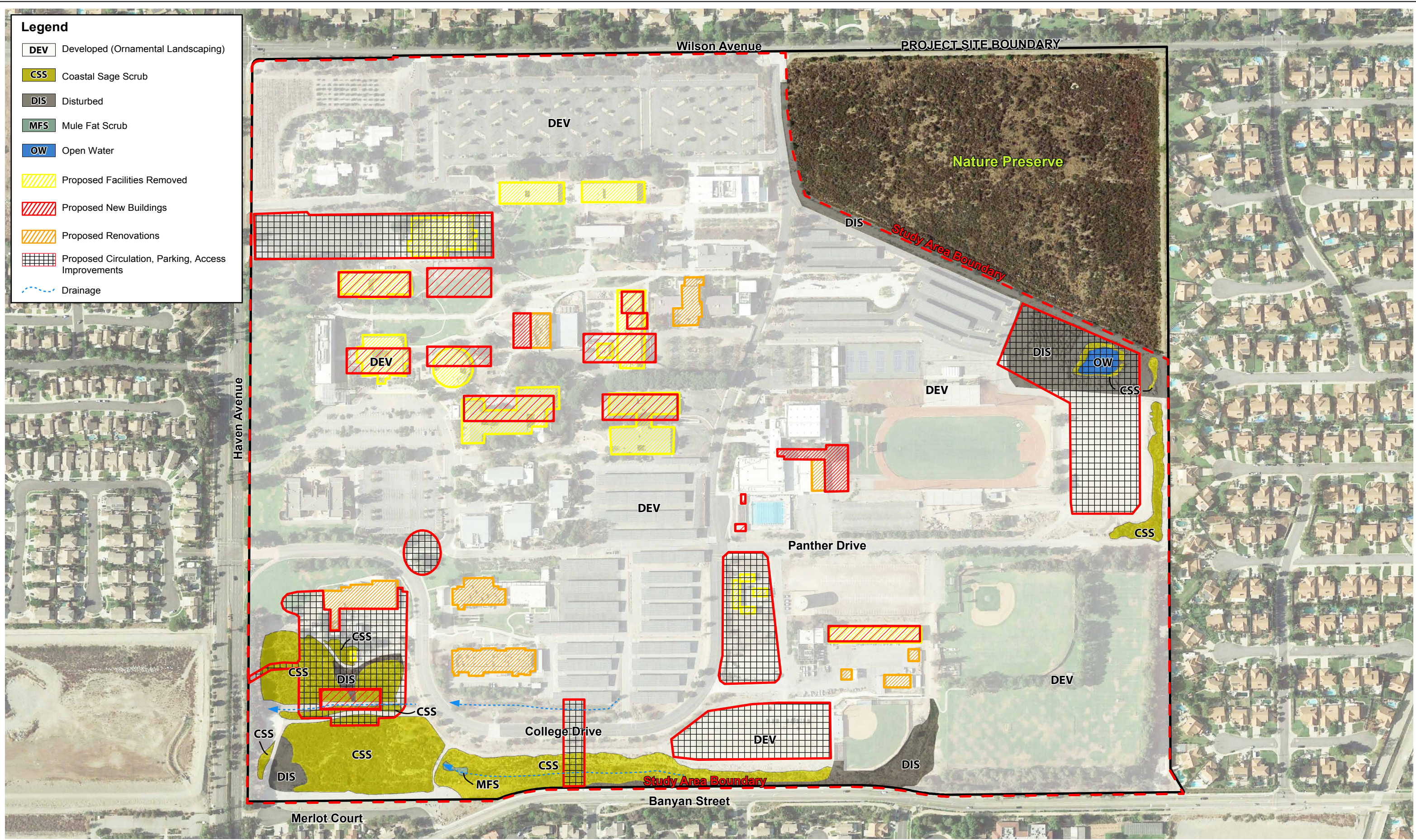
b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?*

No Impact. The 0.04-acre of mule fat scrub will not be directly or indirectly impacted as a result of any phase of the proposed project. No sensitive habitats were documented within the Study Area. As previously stated, coastal sage scrub extends primarily adjacent to the southwestern Study Area boundary. This vegetation community represents a remnant of alluvial fan sage scrub habitat (sensitive habitat). However, necessary fluvial, periodic flooding and scouring required to sustain alluvial fan sage scrub no longer persists. This conclusion is supported by the dense canopy cover of this vegetation community, dominance of California sagebrush, California buckwheat and lack of scale-broom which warrant classification as coastal sage scrub.

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

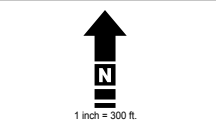
Less than Significant with Mitigation. A single wetland (open water) and potential jurisdictional resources (drainages in the southwestern region of Study Area) may be regulated by the USACE, CDFW, and/or RWQCB, as illustrated in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*.

Prior to issuance of grading or construction permits within phases potential directly or indirectly impacting wetlands or jurisdictional resources, the project applicant will conduct a formal jurisdictional delineation to determine the extent of resources onsite regulated by the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB. The project applicant will also be required to obtain all applicable permits which may include, 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, and a 401 Certification issued by the RWQCB pursuant to the California Water Code Section 13260. Implementation of **BIO-MM3** USACE/CDFW/RWQCB, Permits and Certifications will ensure compliance with regulatory protection regulations and reduce impacts to less than significant.



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Figure 9 - Vegetation Communities Impact Map
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- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation. The Study Area and Project Site are surrounded by urbanized uses including residential development and high traffic roadways and do not represent a wildlife movement corridor or route between open space habitats. However, the native and non-native ornamental vegetation, trees and shrubs within the Study Area are expected to potentially provide nesting habitat for common and sensitive bird and raptors (including the Cooper's hawk) protected under CDFG Code Section 3503. Mitigation for potential direct/indirect impacts to common and sensitive bird and raptor species will require compliance with the CDFG Code Section 3503. Construction outside the nesting season (between September 1st and February 15th) does not require preconstruction nesting bird surveys. If any phase of construction is proposed between February 16th and August 31st, a qualified biologist must conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey(s) no more than three (3) days prior to initiation of grading to document the presence or absence of nesting birds or raptors within or directly adjacent (100 feet) to the impact area.

Loss of an active nest would be considered a potentially significant impact. Implementation and compliance with **BIO-MM4** Regulatory Requirement CDFG Code will reduce potential impacts to nesting birds and raptors to less than significant.

- e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

Less than Significant. The City of Rancho Cucamonga's tree preservation ordinances regulate the removal of heritage trees. The City's Tree Preservation Municipal Code (Chapter 17, Tree Preservation – Chapter 17.80) states that eucalyptus, palm, oak, sycamore, pine and other trees growing within the City are a natural aesthetic resource and are worthy of protection. Prior to removal of a heritage tree within the City limits, a tree removal permit shall be obtained from the Planning Director and replacement trees may be required consistent with the City code. As stated by the City of Rancho Cucamonga:

"All "heritage trees" are protected under the City's ordinance, including those on private property. "Heritage trees" means any tree, shrub, or plant that meets at least one of the following criteria: 1. All Eucalyptus windrows; or 2. All woody plants in excess of 30 feet in height and having a single trunk circumference of 20 inches or more, as measured four and a half feet (4.5') from ground level; or 3. Multi-trunk tree(s) having a total circumference of 30 inches or more, as measured 24 inches from ground level; or 4. A strand of trees the nature of which makes each dependent upon the others for survival; or 5. Any other tree as may be deemed historically or culturally significant by the Planning Director because of size, condition, location, or aesthetic qualities. (City of Rancho Cucamonga 2017)"

However, the College District is not subject to the City's tree preservation ordinances, loss of a heritage tree defined by the City would not be considered a significant impact.

f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Native Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

No Impact. There is no habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan in the City of Rancho Cucamonga. Therefore, implementation of all phases of the project would not result in a conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan and no impact would occur. Therefore, no mitigation is required or proposed.

INDIRECT IMPACTS

Potential indirect impacts include hydrological modification, discharges, lighting, and construction noise during one or all phases of the project. Compliance with all the following guidelines will ensure that the proposed project activities will not result in significant indirect impacts to habitats and associated floral and faunal species within and/or adjacent to the Study Area.

Water Quality

Impacts to water quality would be less than significant during both construction and operation (i.e., compliance with NPDES permit and MS4 code provisions would ensure no impacts to species, and compliance with County of San Bernardino Phase 1 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements and LID manual would also ensure no impacts to species).

Toxics

Toxic sources within the Study Area would be limited to those commonly associated with facility developments such as pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and vehicle emissions. In order to mitigate for the potential effects of these toxics, each phase of the project will incorporate structural BMPs, as required in association with compliance with the NPDES permit system, in order to reduce the level of toxins introduced into the drainage system. Water quality measures will be implemented and no significant impacts are anticipated.

Lighting

Impacts related to lighting would be less than significant during both construction and operation. All construction related activities would occur during daylight hours and permanent lighting of each phase of the project would be directed away from native habitats including the nature preserve and coastal sage scrub located outside of the impact areas. No significant impacts are anticipated.

Noise

Indirect temporal noise impacts may occur to nesting bird species located adjacent to the Study Area during project construction. Noise and vibration associated with the use of heavy equipment during project construction has the potential to disrupt bird nesting, foraging and breeding behavior within and adjacent to sensitive receptor sites. Biological Mitigation Measure **BIO-MM4** Regulatory Requirement CDFG Code, has been incorporated into the project to collectively contribute to reducing potential indirect noise impacts to nesting bird species located within and adjacent to the Study Area to the level of less than significance.

No significant impacts are anticipated.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The temporary direct and/or indirect impacts of the project would not result in significant cumulative impacts (CEQA Section 15310) to environmental resources within the region of the Study Area. Cumulative impacts refer to incremental effects of an individual project when assessed with the effects of past, current, and proposed projects. The project represents primarily the enhancement (redevelopment) of existing structures and facilities. A total of 1.91-acre of permanent impacts to native habitat (coastal sage scrub) within the Study Area would not result in an adverse cumulative impact.

MITIGATION & AVOIDANCE MEASURES

The following biological mitigation measures (MM) address those adverse impacts determined to be potentially significant or are relevant to the protection of biological resources to the extent practicable as part of ensuring compliance and CEQA guidelines.

BIO-MM1 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Surveys

Suitable habitat for the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher was documented within and adjacent to the Study Area where coastal sage scrub was mapped. To ensure proposed project activities do not result in direct and/or indirect impacts to the species, any phase of the project that may result in direct/indirect impacts to coastal sage scrub will conduct focused USFWS protocol surveys to determine presence/absence of the species.

Focused surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher will follow the USFWS protocol guidelines for conducting breeding or non-breeding season coastal California gnatcatcher surveys. Specifically, nine (9) non-breeding or six (6) breeding season surveys will be conducted within all suitable habitats (coastal sage scrub) within the Study Area based on when the surveys are initiated. Surveys will only be conducted between the hours of 6:00am and 12:00pm when weather conditions provide conditions for high bird activity. Taped coastal California gnatcatcher vocalization will be played during the surveys in an effort to illicit a response from the species.

If the species is not detected within or adjacent to the phased action area or Study Area, no further action respective of this species is required. However, if the species is detected within or adjacent to the action area or Study Area, formal consultation with the USFWS will be required and appropriate take permit acquired.

BIO-MM2 Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Survey

There is a possibility of owl colonization within the Study Area prior to site grading within the disturbed regions of the property. To ensure that no direct loss of individuals occurs, prior to initiation of on-site grading activities within any phase of the project resulting in direct impacts to disturbed habitat a preconstruction survey will be conducted. The preconstruction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. The survey shall be conducted 14 days prior to construction activities within the disturbed regions of the phased action area. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed or suspended for more than 14 days after the preconstruction survey, the site shall be resurveyed for owls.

If owls are determined to be present within or adjacent to the phased construction footprint, they shall be captured and relocated. The preconstruction survey and any relocation activity shall be conducted in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, 2012. According to CDFW guidelines, mitigation actions will be conducted from September 1st to January 31st, which is prior to the nesting season. However, burrowing owl nesting activity is variable, and as such the time frame will be adjusted accordingly. Should eggs or fledglings be discovered in any owl burrow, the burrow cannot be disturbed (pursuant to CDFW guidelines) until the young have hatched and fledged (matured to a stage that they can leave the nest on their own). Occupied burrows shall not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1st through August 31st) unless a qualified biologist approved by CDFW verifies through non-invasive methods that either: a) the adult birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation; or b) the juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. If a biologist is unable to verify one of the above conditions, then no disturbance shall occur within 300 feet of the burrowing owls nest during the breeding season to avoid abandonment of the young.

BIO-MM3 USACE/CDFW/RWQCB, Permits and Certifications

Prior to issuance of grading or construction permits within phases potential directly or indirectly impacting wetlands or jurisdictional resources, the project applicant will conduct a formal jurisdictional delineation to determine the extent of resources onsite regulated by the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB. The project applicant will also be required to obtain all applicable permits which may include, 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, and a 401 Certification issued by the RWQCB pursuant to the California Water Code Section 13260.

BIO MM4 Regulatory Requirement CDFG Code

Regulatory requirement for potential direct/indirect impacts to nesting common and sensitive bird and raptor species will require compliance with the CDFG Code Section 3503. Construction outside the nesting season (between September 1st and January

31st) do not require pre-removal nesting bird surveys. If any phase of construction is proposed between February 1st and August 31st, a qualified biologist will conduct a nesting bird survey(s) no more than three (3) days prior to initiation of grading to document the presence or absence of nesting birds within or directly adjacent (100 feet) to the Study Area.

The survey(s) will focus on identifying any raptors and/or bird nests that are directly or indirectly affected by construction activities. If active nests are documented, species-specific measures will be prepared by a qualified biologist and implemented to prevent abandonment of the active nest. At a minimum, grading in the vicinity of a nest will be postponed until the young birds have fledged. The perimeter of the nest setback zone will be fenced or adequately demarcated with stakes and flagging at 20-foot intervals, and construction personnel and activities restricted from the area.

The qualified biologist will serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests occur.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-MM1 to BIO-MM4 would reduce all potential significant unavoidable impacts on biological resources below a level of significance for all phases of the proposed action.

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Certification *"I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge"*.

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