Appendix D Biological Resources Technical Report

Appendices

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Biological Resources Technical Report

New Fontana Campus, Chaffey Community College District

City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California

DRAFT REPORT

APNs 255-101-05 to 255-101-09

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September 2021

CADRE Environmental

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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 "New Fontana Campus, Chaffey Community College District" project site (Project Site). The report has been prepared to support compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation including the preparation of an Initial Study (IS), and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and environmental review process conducted by the City of Fontana, California. 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 applicable standards and regulations to ensure impacts remain at a level below significance.

PROJECT LOCATION

The 14.30-acre Project Site, Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 255-101-05, -06, -07, -08 and -09 is located within the southeastern region of the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California, as shown in Figure 1, *Regional Location Map*. Specifically, the Project Site extends west of the Sierra Avenue and Under Wood Drive intersection, as shown in Figure 2, *Project Site Map*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the construction of a new college campus. Specifically, the new campus will include a welcome center/library, student/community center, instructional, automotive technology, center for teaching effectiveness, and operations/maintenance buildings. The project is funded by the Measure P Bond Program.

METHODOLOGY

The following section details the methods implemented prior to and during the reconnaissance survey conducted throughout the Project Site.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Existing biological resource conditions within and adjacent to the Project Site 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 also reviewed in conjunction with anticipated federally listed species potentially occurring within the region of the Project Site. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2021a), 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 reviewed sources provided an excellent baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring in the area. Other CDFW reports and publications consulted include the following:

- Special Animals (CDFW 2021b);
- State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California (CDFW 2021c);
- Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California (CDFW 2021d); and
- Special Vascular Plants and Bryophytes List (CDFW 2021e).

FIELD SURVEY

A reconnaissance survey of the Project Site was conducted by Ruben Ramirez of Cadre Environmental (USFWS Permit 780566-14, CDFW Permit 02243) on August 17th, 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 Project Site. Habitat assessments were conducted for, but not limited to, the following target species/groups.

- Delhi sands flower-loving fly – Federally Endangered (FE)
- Coastal California gnatcatcher – Federally Threatened/State Species of Special Concern (SSC)
- Burrowing owl - SSC
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat – FE/SSC
- Common and sensitive bat species
- Sensitive plants
- Protected trees (City of Fontana, Municipal Code Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94)

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.

A general plant survey was conducted throughout the Project Site 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.

APNs 255-101-05 to 255-101-09

Figure 1 - Regional Location Map

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New Fontana Campus, Chaffey Community College District

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N

not to scale

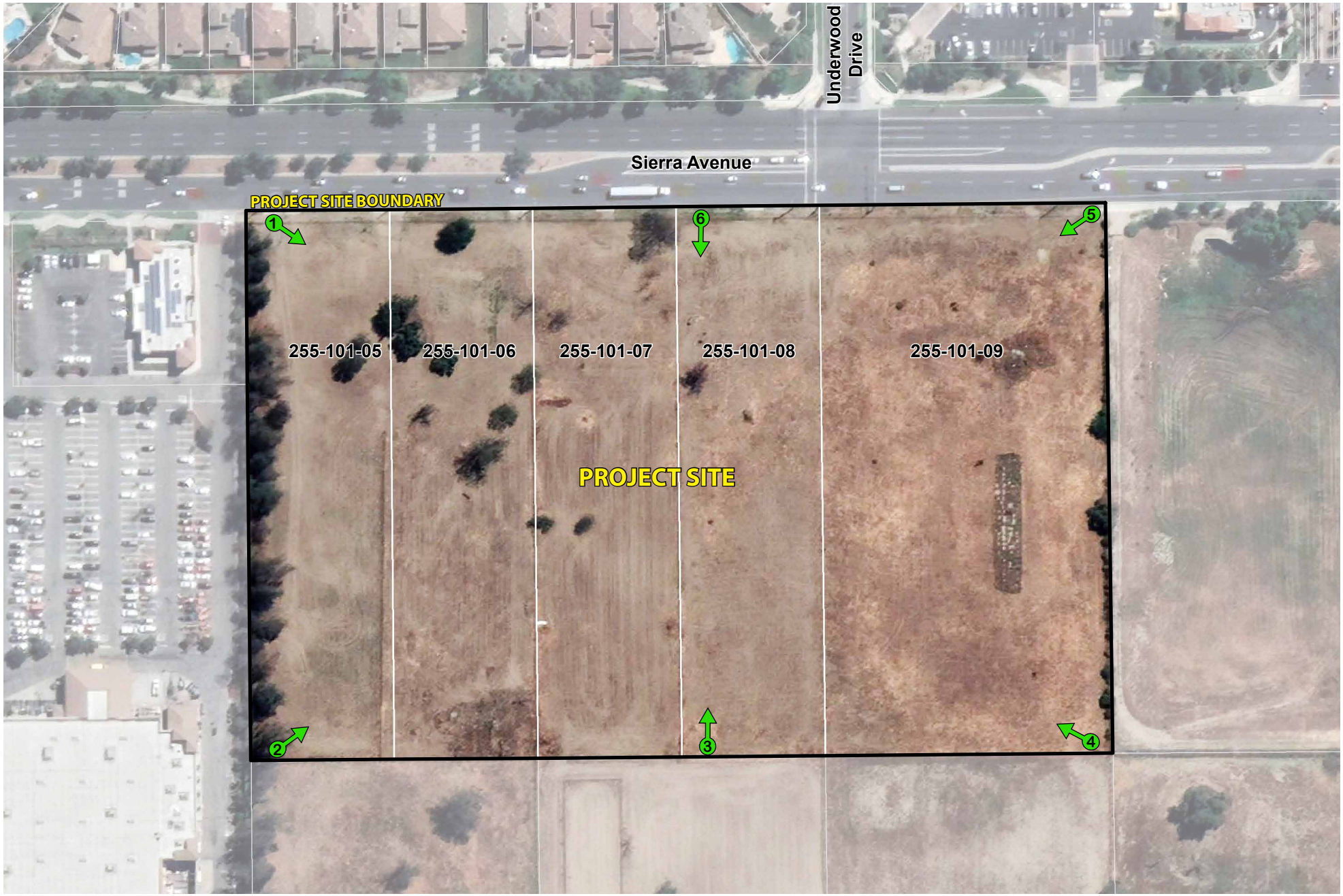

Figure 2 - Project Site Map
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New Fontana Campus, Chaffey Community College District

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1 inch = 150 feet

Wildlife Resources Inventory

All animals identified during the reconnaissance survey by sight, call, tracks, scat, or other characteristic sign were documented. 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.

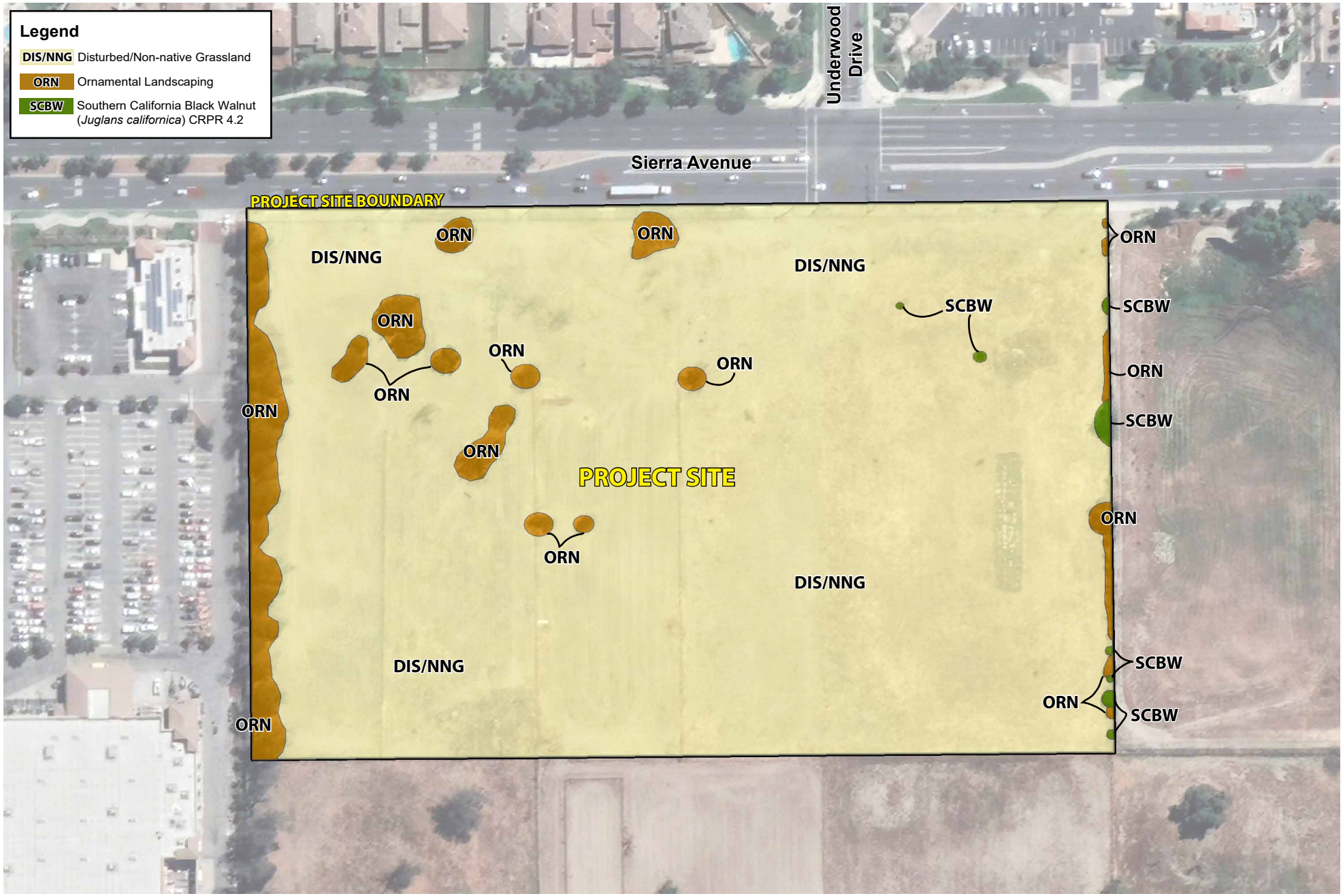
Jurisdictional Resources Assessment

The Project Site was assessed for jurisdiction by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Regional Water Quality Control Board. 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. If any of these criteria were met, one or more transects were run to determine the extent of the wetland. Specifically, the presence of wetland hydrology was evaluated throughout the Project Site by recording the extent of observed surface flows, depth of inundation, depth to saturated soils, and depth to free water in the soil pits, where applicable. In addition, indicators of wetland or riverine hydrology were recorded, including water marks, drift lines, rack, debris, and sediment deposits, as warranted. Any indicators of hydric soils, such as redoximorphic features, buried organic matter, organic streaking, reduced soil conditions, gleyed or low-chroma soils, or sulfidic odor were also recorded.

EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The following section presents the existing conditions of the Project Site assessment area. The Project Site is characterized as 14.30-acre of heavily disturbed/non-native grassland and ornamental vegetation as shown in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*, and Figures 4 to 6, *Current Project Site Photographs*. The Project Site is bordered to the north by commercial development, east by high traffic roads and residential/commercial development, south by a detention basin and west by disturbed lands similar to those documented onsite.

Substrates onsite are characterized completely as Delhi fine sand (Db), somewhat excessively drained, as shown in Figure 7, *Soils Association Map* (NRCS 2021).



APNs 255-101-05 to 255-101-09

Figure 3 - Vegetation Communities Map
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New Fontana Campus, Chaffey Community College District

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1 inch = 150 feet

PHOTOGRAPH 1 - Southwest view of Project Site from northeast corner adjacent to Sierra Avenue.

PHOTOGRAPH 2 - Southeast view of Project Site from northwest corner.

Refer to Figure 2 for Photographic Key Map

Figure 4 - Current Project Site Photographs
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PHOTOGRAPH 3 - Eastward view of Project Site from western (central) boundary.

PHOTOGRAPH 4 - Northeast view of Project Site from southwest corner.

Refer to Figure 2 for Photographic Key Map

Figure 5 - Current Project Site Photographs
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PHOTOGRAPH 5 - Northwest view of Project Site from southeast corner adjacent to Sierra Avenue.

PHOTOGRAPH 6 - Westward view of Project Site from Eastern (central) boundary adjacent to Sierra Avenue.

Refer to Figure 2 for Photographic Key Map

Figure 6 - Current Project Site Photographs
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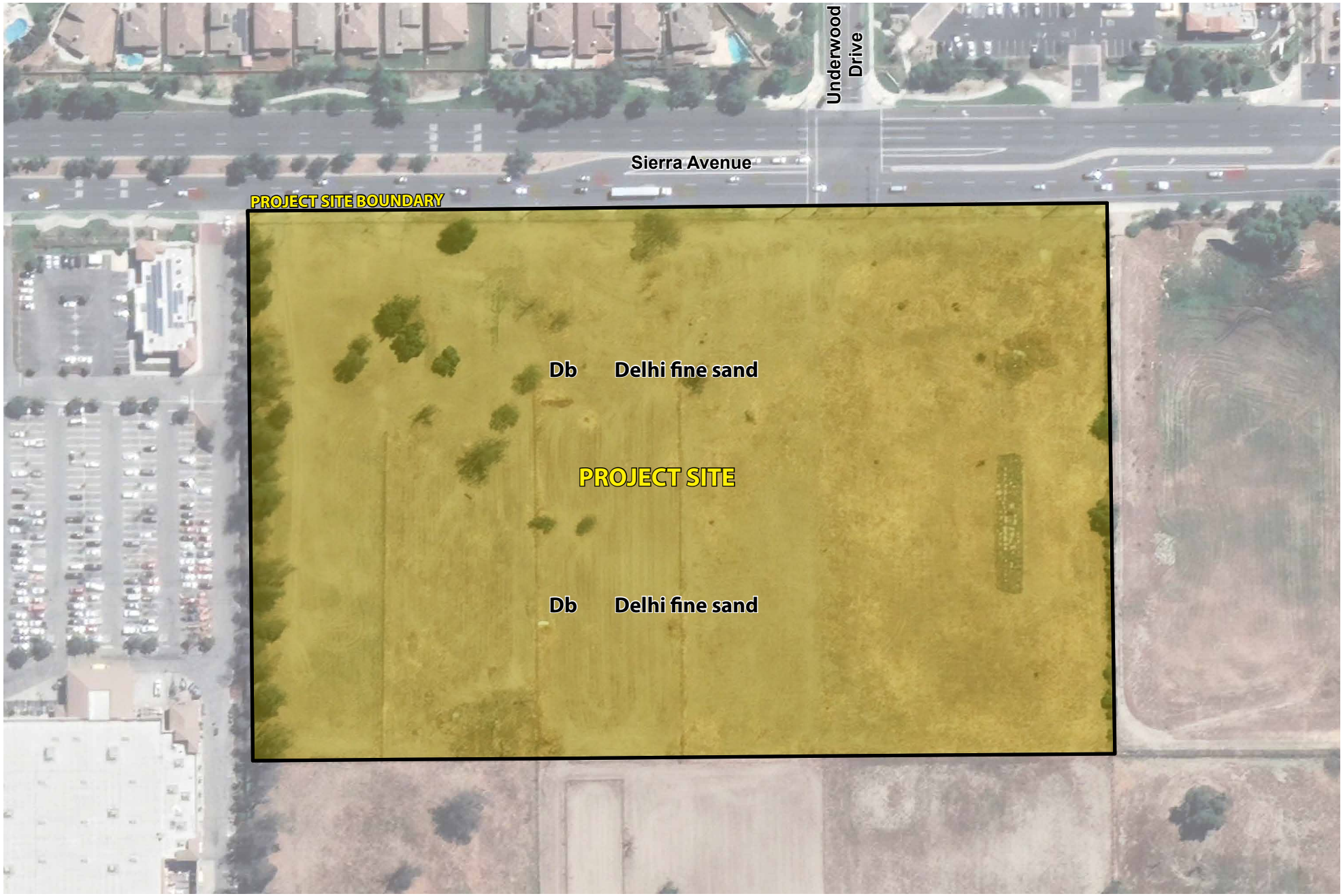

Figure 7 - Soils Association Map
Biological Resources Technical Report
New Fontana Campus, Chaffey Community College District

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1 inch = 150 feet

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

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.

Disturbed/ Non-native Grassland

The majority of the Project Site is characterized as disturbed/non-native grassland habitat as outlined in Table 1*, Project Site Vegetation Community Acreages*. This vegetation community is dominated by golden crownbeard (*Verbesina enceliodes*), lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*), annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), white-stemmed filaree (*Erodium moschatum*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), and puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*). Non-native grasses documented onsite include wild oats (*Avena fatua*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*).

A total of eight (8) Southern California black walnut trees (*Juglans californica*) occur in the southern region of the Project Site primarily along the property boundary. Several of the trees are in poor health and exhibit signs of distress.

Ornamental

The northeast region of the Project Site (APNs 255-101-05, 255-101-06 and 255-101-07) were historically developed with three (3) residential homesites. Although all structures have been removed, several scattered mature ornamental trees remain and include Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), pine (Pinus sp.), olive (*Olea europaea*), Peruvian pepper trees (*Schinus molle*), and ash (*Fraxinus* sp.)

Table 1.
Project Site Vegetation Community Acreages

Vegetation Community	Acres
Disturbed/Non-native Grassland	13.52
Ornamental	0.78
TOTAL	**14.30**

Source: Cadre Environmental 2021.

GENERAL PLANT & WILDIFE SPECIES

General plant species documented within the Project Site area are presented in the previous section.

General wildlife species documented onsite or within the vicinity during the site assessment include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), European

starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*).

JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND RESOURCES

No wetlands or jurisdictional resources regulated by the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB were documented within the Project Site.

Impacts to water quality would be less than significant during both construction and operation (i.e., if warranted, compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (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).

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), CNDDB (CDFW 2021a), CDFW (2021d, 2021e), CNPS (2021), and Skinner and Pavlik (1994),

Wildlife: California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (2008), USFWS (2020), CNDDB (CDFW 2021a), and CDFW (2021b, 2021c).

Habitats: CNDDB (CDFW 2021a, 2021f, 2021g).

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. For purposes of the MBTA, "*take*" is defined as to pursue, hunt, capture, kill, or possess or attempt to do the same.

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 CNDDB project. Informally listed taxa are not protected per se, but warrant consideration in the preparation of biotic assessments. For some species, the CNDDB 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 2021)

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)

LOCAL PROTECTION AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The City of Fontana's Municipal Code (Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94) requires the preservation and protection of heritage, significant and/or specimen trees within both private and public property. As stated by the City of Fontana:

> "*This article is adopted to establish regulations for the preservation and protection of heritage, significant and/or specimen trees within the city located on both private and public property. The city council finds that such trees are worthy of preservation in order to enhance the scenic beauty of the city, provide wind protection, prevent soil erosion, promote*

urban forestation, conserve the city's tree heritage for the benefit of all, and thereby promote the public health, safety and welfare."

"*For the purposes of this article only, development projects that require the following apply: a subdivision of property and/or a project requiring design advisory board review and/or a design review. Additionally, all heritage trees so designated by city council resolution, or endangered species as specified by federal or state statute are also covered by this article. A reversion of acreage subdivision project is not subject to this article*."

"Heritage tree means any tree which: (1) Is of historical value because of its association with a place, building, natural feature or event of local, regional or national historical significance as identified by city council resolution; or (2) Is representative of a significant period of the city's growth or development (windrow tree, European Olive tree); or (3) Is a protected or endangered species as specified by federal or state statute; or (4) Is deemed historically or culturally significant by the city manager or his or her designee because of size, condition, location or aesthetic qualities."

"*Significant tree means any tree that is one of the following species: southern California black walnut, coast live oak, deodora cedar, California sycamore or London plane*."

"Specimen tree is defined as a mature tree (which is not a heritage or significant tree) which is an excellent example of its species in structure and aesthetics and warrants preservation, relocation or replacement as provided in sections 28-66, 28-67 and 28-68. Specimen trees shall not include any tree located on a private parcel of property of less than one acre zoned for residential use." (City of Fontana, Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94)

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 2021g)

No sensitive or undisturbed native habitats were documented within the Project Site. The Project Site is primarily characterized as heavily disturbed non-native grassland and ornamental trees.

PROTECTED TREES

Several potential trees including but not limited to Southern California black walnut were detected onsite and are expected to be regulated by the City of Fontana Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94), as shown in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*, and Figures 4 to 6, *Current Project Site Photographs*.

A certified arborist, horticulturist, or registered landscape architect familiar with the City of Fontana's Tree Preservation Ordinance will be required to conduct an assessment of the trees onsite proposed for removal to determine if a tree removal permit from the Community Development Department is required. If required, a permit application will be submitted for review and approval.

SENSITIVE PLANTS

Based on a review of the CNDDB and as outlined in the City of Fontana General Plan, a total of fourteen (14) sensitive plant species are listed in the State database as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the Project Site and suitable habitat for eight (8) of the species occurs within the City boundary as presented in Table 2, *Sensitive Plant Species Assessment* (CNDDB 2021a, City of Fontana 2018). No suitable habitat for sensitive plant species listed as federal or state threatened/endangered was documented within the Project Site. A total of eight (8) sensitive Southern California black walnut trees (*Juglans californica*), CRPR 4.2 were documented in the southern region of the Project Site.

Table 2.
Sensitive Plant Species Assessment

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*) FE CRPR 1B.1	Perennial species. San Diego ambrosia is known from Baja California, Mexico, and San Diego and Riverside counties in the United States. San Diego ambrosia occurs primarily on upper terraces of rivers and drainages as well as in open grasslands, openings in coastal sage scrub, and occasionally in areas adjacent to vernal pools.	Not detected onsite.

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) FE/SE CRPR 1B.1	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 detected onsite.
Plummer's mariposa-lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) 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)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*) 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)	No potential to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable substrates and habitat.
Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi*) 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)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*) 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 undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium ssp. sanctorum*) FE/SE CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb which generally blooms from April to September within chaparral, coastal scrub (alluvial fan) in sandy and gravelly substrates (CNPS 2021).	No potential to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) CRPR 4.2	Perennial tree generally blooming from March to August (CNPS 2021)	Present – A total of eight (8) southern California black walnuts detected within the southern region of the Project Site as shown in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*.
Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula*) 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 expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Robinson's pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii*) CRPR 4.3	Annual herb which generally blooms from January to July within chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats (CNPS 2020).	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Lemon lily (*Lilium parryi*) 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 undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Parish's desert-thorn (*Lycium parishii*) CRPR 2B.3	Perennial herb which generally blooms from March to April in coastal scrub and Sonoran desert scrub habitats. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Pringle's monardella (*Monardella pringlei*) CRPR 1A	Annual herb which generally blooms from May to June in coastal scrub dominated sandy substrates. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*) CRPR 2B.2	Annual herb which generally blooms from January to May within chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub habitats. (CNPS 2021)	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.

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

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
.2 – Fairly endangered in California .3 – Not very endangered in California **Federal (USFWS) Protection and Classification** FE – Federally Endangered FT – Federally Threatened FC – Federal Candidate for Listing **State (CDFW) Protection and Classification** SE – State Endangered ST – State Threatened		

SENSITIVE WILDLIFE

Based on a review of the CNDDB and as outlined in the City of Fontana General Plan, a total of twenty-eight (28) sensitive wildlife species are listed in the State database as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the City and suitable habitat for seventeen (17) of the species occurs within the City boundary as presented in Table 3, *Sensitive Wildlife Species Assessment* (CNDDB 2021a, City of Fontana 2018).

The entire Project Site is mapped as Delhi fine sand soils, is located within the USFWS Jurupa Recovery Unit for the Delhi sands flower-loving fly, and may represent suitable habitat for the species (USFWS 2008, NRCS 2021), as shown in Figure 7, *Soils Association Map* (USFWS 2008).

Suitable nesting habitat for the Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), SSC is present within the mature ornamental trees. Suitable foraging habitat for the California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), SSC, white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), SFP, and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), SSC, is present within the disturbed/non-native grasslands.

Table 3.
Sensitive Wildlife Species Assessment

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
INVERTEBRATES		
Delhi sands flower-loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) FE	Restricted to Delhi sand formations in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.	The entire Project Site is located within the USFWS Jurupa Recovery Unit for the species (USFWS 2008) and is characterized as Delhi fine sand soils as shown in Figure 7, *Soils Association Map*. Potential impacts to this sensitive species will be

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	Habitat Description	Comments
		mitigated by implementing condition of approval (CM BIO-2 Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly Habitat Assessment)
FISH		
Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) FT	Preferred habitat, open water and emergent vegetation.	No potential to occur onsite based on a lack of open water.
Arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*) SSC	Preferred habitat, open water and emergent vegetation in lower gradient streams with sand or mud substrate.	No potential to occur onsite based on a lack of open water.
REPTILES		
Orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*) SSC	The orange-throated whiptail occurs in RSS and chaparral where loose soils and occasional rocky areas are found. Although no individuals have been observed during recent project biological surveys, the City provides some suitable habitat for this species, particularly in the north end, south of I-15 and in the Jurupa Mountains.	Not detected. Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Coastal western whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) SSC	The coastal western whiptail occurs in a wide variety of habitats including coastal sage scrub, desert scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan scrub, woodlands, grasslands, playas, and respective ecotones between these habitats.	Not detected. Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
Red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*) SSC	The red-diamond rattlesnake is often found in areas with dense vegetation especially chaparral and sage scrub up to 1,520 meters in elevation.	Not detected. Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) SSC	The horned lizard occurs primarily in scrub, chaparral, and grassland habitats.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
BIRDS		
Bell's sage sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli belli*) CWL	This species is typically found in chaparral on alluvial fans and foothills. This species was observed in north Fontana in 2002, north of the I-15.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed foraging or nesting vegetation.
Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) 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 may occasionally nest in large pines and Eucalyptus trees onsite.
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) 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.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed foraging or nesting vegetation.
Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) 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 occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed foraging or nesting vegetation.

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia)* SSC	The burrowing owl uses predominantly open land, including grassland, agriculture (e.g., dry-land farming and grazing areas), playa, sparse coastal sage scrub, desert scrub habitats. Some breeding burrowing owls are year-round residents and additional individuals from the north may winter throughout the region.	Not detected. Not expected to occur onsite. No potential burrows were documented within or adjacent to the Project Site.
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) SSC	The northern harrier frequents open wetlands, wet/lightly grazed pastures, fields, dry uplands/prairies, mesic grasslands, drained marshlands, croplands, meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, fresh and saltwater emergent wetlands.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed foraging or nesting vegetation.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) FT/SE	Although the preferred habitat, riparian scrub and forest, is well distributed at scattered locations within the Plan Area in the Riverside Lowland Bioregions, the western yellow-billed cuckoo apparently no longer inhabits much of this habitat.	No potential to occur onsite based on a lack of riparian scrub, forest or woodland habitats within or adjacent to the Project Site.
White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) SFP	The white-tailed kite is found in riparian, oak woodlands adjacent to large open spaces including grasslands, wetlands, savannahs and agricultural fields. This non-migratory bird species occurs throughout the lower elevations of California and commonly nests in coast live oaks (Unitt 2004).	May occasionally forage onsite within the open disturbed habitats.

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) FE/SE	The southwestern willow flycatcher is narrowly distributed at few locations within the Plan Area. Although the preferred habitat, riparian woodland and select other forests, is well distributed within all bioregions and spread over the entire Plan Area, few current locations for the willow flycatcher have been documented.	No potential to occur onsite based on a lack of riparian scrub, forest or woodland habitats within or adjacent to the Project Site.
California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) SWL	Habitat for the California horned lark includes agriculture (field croplands), grassland, cismontane alkali marsh, playa and vernal pool habitat, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, and coastal sage scrub (Garrett and Dunn 1988). It has been recorded in chaparral and riparian habitat - however these are not typical habitats used by the species.	May occasionally forage onsite within the open disturbed habitats.
Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) SSC	This species of shrike hunts in open or grassy areas and nests in large chaparral shrubs such as ceanothus and lemonade berry. The extreme northern and southern portions of the City (foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and the Jurupa Hills) provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. (City of Fontana 2018)	May occasionally forage onsite within the open disturbed habitats.

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) 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.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable breeding and foraging habitat.
Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) FE/SE	Least Bell's vireo resides in riparian habitats with a well-defined understory including southern willow scrub, mule fat, and riparian forest/woodland habitats.	No potential to occur onsite based on a lack of riparian scrub, forest or woodland habitats within or adjacent to the Project Site.
MAMMALS		
Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*) 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.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils.
San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) FE/SSC	Prefers alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub habitats with sandy and gravelly substrates.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a complete lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils. The Project Site is devoid of native vegetation.
Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) SSC	Roosts in rocky areas and forages in grassland, shrublands, and woodlands.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of roosting habitat.
Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*) SSC	Roosts in the skirts of palm trees and forages in adjacent habitats.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of roosting habitat.
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*) 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 expected or observed onsite.

Species Name (*Scientific Name*) Status	**Habitat Description**	**Comments**
San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) SSC	Prefers sage scrub and chaparral wherever there are rock outcrops, boulders, cactus patches and dense undergrowth.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*) SSC	Usually associated with rugged canyons, high cliffs, and rock outcroppings. Roosts in rock crevices and caves during the day; may also roost in buildings or under roof tiles (Ziener et al. 1988-1990).	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat.
Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*) SSC	Low elevation grassland alluvial sage scrub and coastal sage scrub habitats.	Not expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable undisturbed vegetation or soils. The Project Site is devoid of native vegetation communities.

Federal (USFWS) Protection and Classification
FE – Federally Endangered
FT – Federally Threatened
FC – Federal Candidate for Listing

State (CDFW) Protection and Classification
SE – State Endangered
SSC – State Species of Special Concern
CWL – California Watch List
SPF – State Fully Protected

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

JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND RESOURCES

No wetlands or jurisdictional resources regulated by the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB were documented within the Project Site.

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).

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**

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. No suitable habitat for sensitive plant species listed as federal or state threatened/endangered was documented within the Project Site. However, a total of eight (8) sensitive Southern California black walnut trees (CRPR 4.2) were documented in the southern region of the Project Site and would be directly impacted as a result of project initiation. Impacts to Southern California black walnut trees will be mitigated by implementing conservation measure (CM BIO-1 Protected Tree Survey - Municipal Code (Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94).

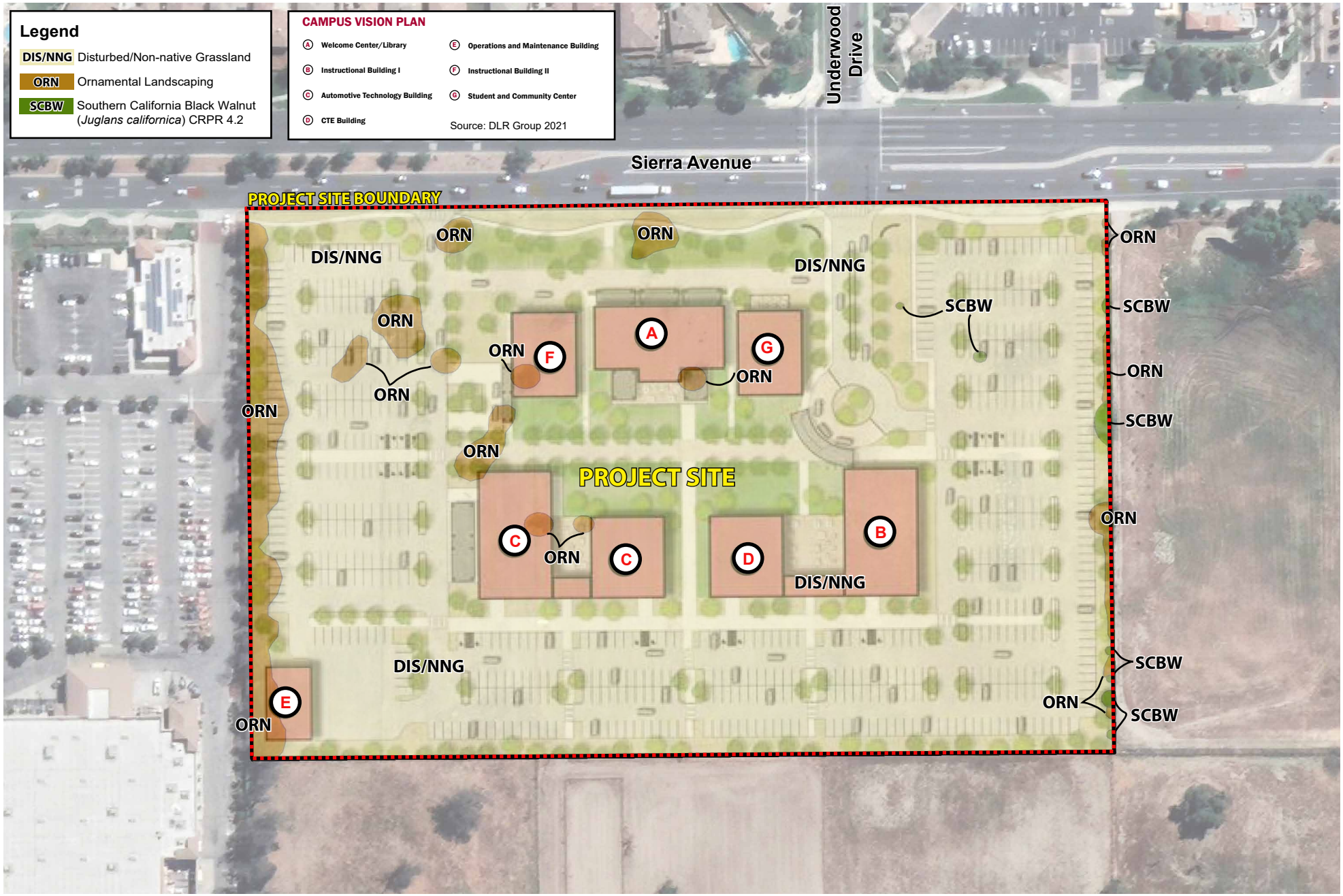
The entire Project Site is mapped as Delhi fine sand soils, is located within the USFWS Jurupa Recovery Unit for the Delhi sands flower-loving fly, and may represent suitable habitat for the species (USFWS 2008, NRCS 2021), as shown in Figure 7, *Soils Association Map* (USFWS 2008). Potential impacts to this sensitive species will be mitigated by implementing condition of approval (CM BIO-2 Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly Habitat Assessment)

Suitable nesting habitat for the Cooper's hawk (SSC) is present onsite within the mature ornamental trees. Suitable foraging habitat for the California horned lark (SSC), white-tailed kite (SFP), and loggerhead shrike (SSC) is present within the disturbed/non-native grasslands. Direct impacts to 13.52-acre of potential foraging habitat would not represent a substantial adverse effect to the species based on the presence of high-quality habitat in the region north of the property (Jurupa Hills). Potential impacts to nesting habitat for these sensitive species will be mitigated by implementing condition of approval (CM BIO-3 Nesting Bird Preconstruction Survey).

Although no burrowing owl burrows or individuals were documented within or adjacent to the Project Site, there remains a potential for occupation if the property remains fallow based on local observations of the species and suitable foraging habitat located west of the property. Potential impacts to the burrowing owl will be mitigated by implementing condition of approval (CM BIO-4 Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Surveys).

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. No riparian, sensitive or undisturbed native/natural habitats were documented within or adjacent to the Project Site as outlined in Table 4, *Project Site Vegetation Community Impacts,* and Figure 8, *Project Site Impact Map*. The Project Site is characterized as heavily disturbed/non-native grassland and ornamental vegetation. Therefore, no mitigation is required or proposed.



APNs 255-101-05 to 255-101-09

Project Site Impact Boundary

Figure 8 - Vegetation Communities Impact Map
Biological Resources Technical Report
New Fontana Campus, Chaffey Community College District

CADRE Environmental

1 inch = 150 feet

Table 4.
Project Site Vegetation Community Impacts

Vegetation Community	Project Site Acres	Impacts (Acres)
Disturbed/Non-native Grassland	13.52	13.52
Ornamental	0.78	0.78
TOTAL	**14.30**	**14.30**

Source: Cadre Environmental 2021.

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?

No Impact. No wetlands or jurisdictional resources regulated by the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB were documented within the Project Site. Therefore, no mitigation is required or proposed.

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 Project Site is bordered to the north by commercial development, east by high traffic roads and residential/commercial development, south by a detention basin and west by disturbed lands similar to those documented onsite. The Project Site does not represent a wildlife movement corridor or route between open space habitats.

The Project Site possess trees expected to provide nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds protected under the CDFG Codes. To avoid impacts to nesting birds within or adjacent to the Project Site and to comply with the CDFG Codes 3503 & 3513, and MBTA, clearing should occur between non-nesting (or non-breeding) season for birds (generally, September 1 to January 31). If this avoidance schedule is not feasible, the alternative is to carry out such activities under the supervision of a qualified biologist. This shall entail the following: A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey no more than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities. The survey will consist of full coverage of the proposed disturbance limits and up to a 500-foot buffer area, determined by the biologist and taking into account the species nesting in the area and the habitat present. If no active nests are found, no additional measures are required. Loss of an active nest would conflict with CDFG Codes 3503 & 3513 and MBTA. Implementation of (CM BIO-3 Nesting Bird Preconstruction Survey) will ensure compliance with the CDFG Codes and MBTA.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation. Several trees including but not limited to Southern California black walnut were detected onsite and are expected to be regulated

by the City of Fontana Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94), as shown in Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities Map*, and Figures 4 to 6, *Current Project Site Photographs*. A certified arborist, horticulturist, or registered landscape architect familiar with the City of Fontana's Tree Preservation Ordinance will be required to conduct an assessment of the trees onsite proposed for removal to determine if a tree removal permit from the Community Development Department is required. If required, a permit application will be submitted for review and approval. Condition of approval (CM BIO-1 Protected Tree Survey) will be implemented to ensure compliance with Municipal Code (Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94).

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. The Project Site is not located within or adjacent to the North Fontana Conservation Program Area. Therefore, implementation 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. Compliance with all the following guidelines will ensure that the proposed project will not result in significant indirect impacts to habitats and associated floral and faunal species outside of the Project Site.

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, as warranted, 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 Project Site would be limited to those commonly associated with educational/industrial developments such as pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and vehicle emissions. In order to mitigate for the potential effects of these toxics, the project will incorporate structural BMPs, as required in association with compliance with the NPDES permit system as warranted, 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. No native habitat is located adjacent to the Project Site and no indirect impacts to wildlife species will occur. No significant impacts are anticipated.

Noise

Indirect temporal noise impacts may occur to nesting bird species located adjacent to the Project Site during project construction (ornamental landscaping shrubs and trees). 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. Conservation Measure BIO-3 Nesting Bird Preconstruction Survey 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 Project Site. No impact 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 Project Site. Cumulative impacts refer to incremental effects of an individual project when assessed with the effects of past, current, and proposed projects. The project represents the development of 14.30-acre of disturbed/non-native grassland and ornamental landscaping vegetation, primarily surrounded by existing residential development and high traffic roads, and therefore will not result in an adverse cumulative impact.

CONSERVATION MEASURES

The following biological conservation measures (Conditions of Approval) is relevant to the protection of biological resources to the extent practicable as part of ensuring all potential impacts to sensitive or regulated biological resources are in compliance with CEQA.

CM BIO-1 Protected Tree Survey - Municipal Code (Ord. No. 1126, § 1, 8-16-94)

A certified arborist, horticulturist, or registered landscape architect familiar with the City of Fontana's Tree Preservation Ordinance will be required to conduct an assessment of the trees onsite proposed for removal to determine if a tree removal permit from the Community Development Department is required. If required, a permit application will be submitted for review and approval.

CM-BIO-2 Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly Habitat Assessment

The entire Project Site is mapped as Delhi fine sand soils, is located within the USFWS Jurupa Recovery Unit for the Delhi sands flower-loving fly, and may represent suitable habitat for the species (USFWS 2008, NRCS 2021). Either 1) a habitat assessment by a USFWS permitted biologist and concurrence from the USFWS that suitable habitat for the Delhi sands flower-loving fly does not occur onsite and focused surveys are not warranted or, 2) a two-year protocol survey for the Delhi sands flower-loving fly shall be conducted to determine presence/absence. If the species is detected onsite, formal consultation with the USFWS will be required.

CM BIO-3 Nesting Bird Preconstruction Survey

To avoid impacts to nesting birds within or adjacent to the Project Site and to comply with the CDFG Codes 3503 & 3513, and MBTA, clearing should occur between non-nesting (or non-breeding) season for birds (generally, September 1 to January 31). If this avoidance schedule is not feasible, the alternative is to carry out such activities under the supervision of a qualified biologist. This shall entail the following:

A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey no more than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities. The survey will consist of full coverage of the proposed disturbance limits and up to a 500-foot buffer area, determined by the biologist and taking into account the species nesting in the area and the habitat present. If no active nests are found, no additional measures are required.

If "occupied" nests are found, their locations shall be mapped, species documented, and, to the degree feasible, the status of the nest (e.g., incubation of eggs, feeding of young, near fledging) recorded. The biologist shall establish a no-disturbance buffer around each active nest. The buffer area will be determined by the biologist based on the species present, surrounding habitat, and type of construction activities proposed in the area. No construction or ground disturbance activities shall be conducted within the buffer until the biologist has determined the nest is no longer active and has informed the construction supervisor that activities may resume.

CM BIO-4 Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Surveys

Prior to initial grading or clearing, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey, in accordance with the CDFG Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, to determine the presence or absence of burrowing owl within the proposed area of impact. Specifically, two (2) pre-construction clearance surveys should be conducted 14 to 30 days and 24 hours prior to any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities. Documentation of findings shall be submitted to the City of Fontana for review and approval. If no burrowing owls or occupied burrows are detected, construction may begin. If an occupied burrow is found within the development footprint during pre-construction clearance surveys, a burrowing owl exclusion and mitigation plan would need to be prepared and submitted to CDFW for approval prior to initiating project activities.

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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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