Appendix C-1

Biological Resources Technical Report

WILEY CANYON (SMISER RANCH) MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

Biological Resources Report

Prepared for
City of Santa Clarita
23920 Valencia Boulevard, Suite 300
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

August 2020;Updated June 2023

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WILEY CANYON (SMISER RANCH) MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This Biological Resources Report (BRR) presents the findings of a biological survey conducted by ESA for the Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Development located at 24924 Hawkbryn Avenue, Santa Clarita (Project). This BRR analyzes potential impacts to plant and wildlife species, including special-status species and their associated habitats that have potential to occur in the Project vicinity. In addition, potential impacts to raptors, and protected trees are also assessed. This report is intended to disclose information related to the biological resources on the Study Area in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1.2 SOURCES

This BRR is based on information compiled through field reconnaissance and appropriate reference materials. A general biological survey, vegetation mapping, tree inventory and investigation of jurisdictional waters was conducted by ESA. No focused surveys for special-status plant or wildlife species were conducted. The information sources used in preparation of this BRR are provided in Section 9.0, *References*.

1.3 SCOPE OF STUDY

The scope of this BRR encompasses methods of study and existing site conditions including vegetation communities and the potential for special-status biological resources, followed by an evaluation of impacts to special-status biological resources pursuant to CEQA thresholds and regulatory requirements. Avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures are proposed to reduce any potentially significant impacts.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project is located on an approximately 31-acre site located at 24924 Hawkbryn Avenue, Santa Clarita, County of Los Angeles (project site). The project site is located immediately east of Interstate Highway 5 (I5), north of Calgrove Boulevard, and with access from and west of Wiley Canyon Road, as shown in **Figure 1,** *Regional Map*. The project site consists of two parcels (APNs 2825-012-010 and 2825-012-011) that are currently used for agricultural uses. A 2.5-acre portion of parcel APN 2825-012-011, which contains a 0.51-acre slope easement, lies east of Wiley Canyon Road and will remain in the current undeveloped condition. The project site also includes parcel APN 2825-012-007, which is 0.18 acre and located in the northwest corner of the project site. Specifically, the project site is located on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' Oat Mountain topographic quadrangle map (**Figure 2**, *Vicinity Map*).

The proposed project consists of 379 multifamily residential units, 8,914 square feet of retail commercial development and a 217-unit Senior Living Facility. Approximately 16 acres of the site would be developed with the remaining 15.2 acres retained as open space, landscaping or recreation areas. The project site is zoned Mixed Use Neighborhood (MX-N) and with the same land use category. In addition, the southern end of the project site will include a neighborhood park including field space. Off-site transportation infrastructure improvements are proposed along Calgrove Boulevard and Wiley Canyon Road. The site is surrounded by development and has been highly disturbed by past agricultural activities and limited commercial use.

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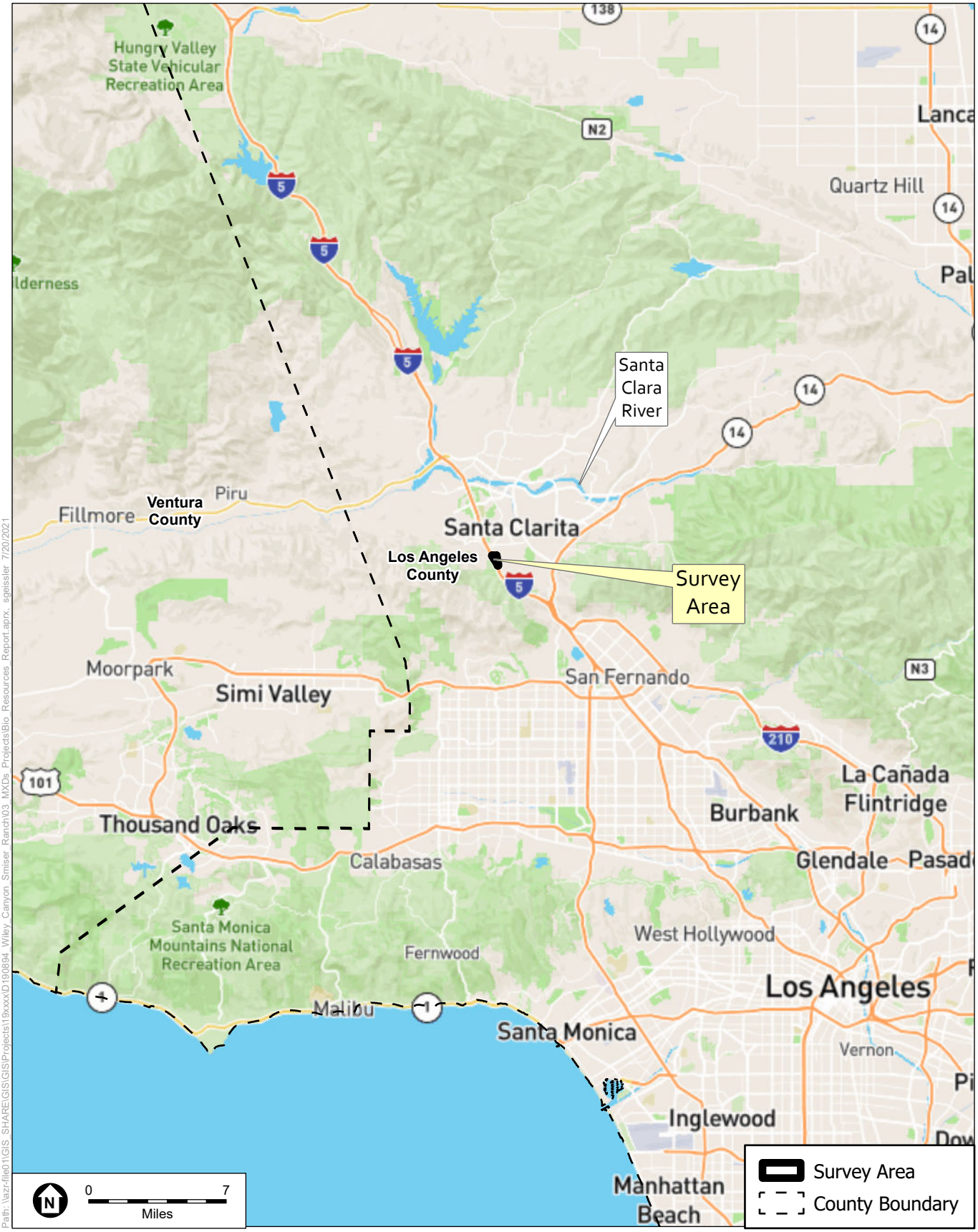
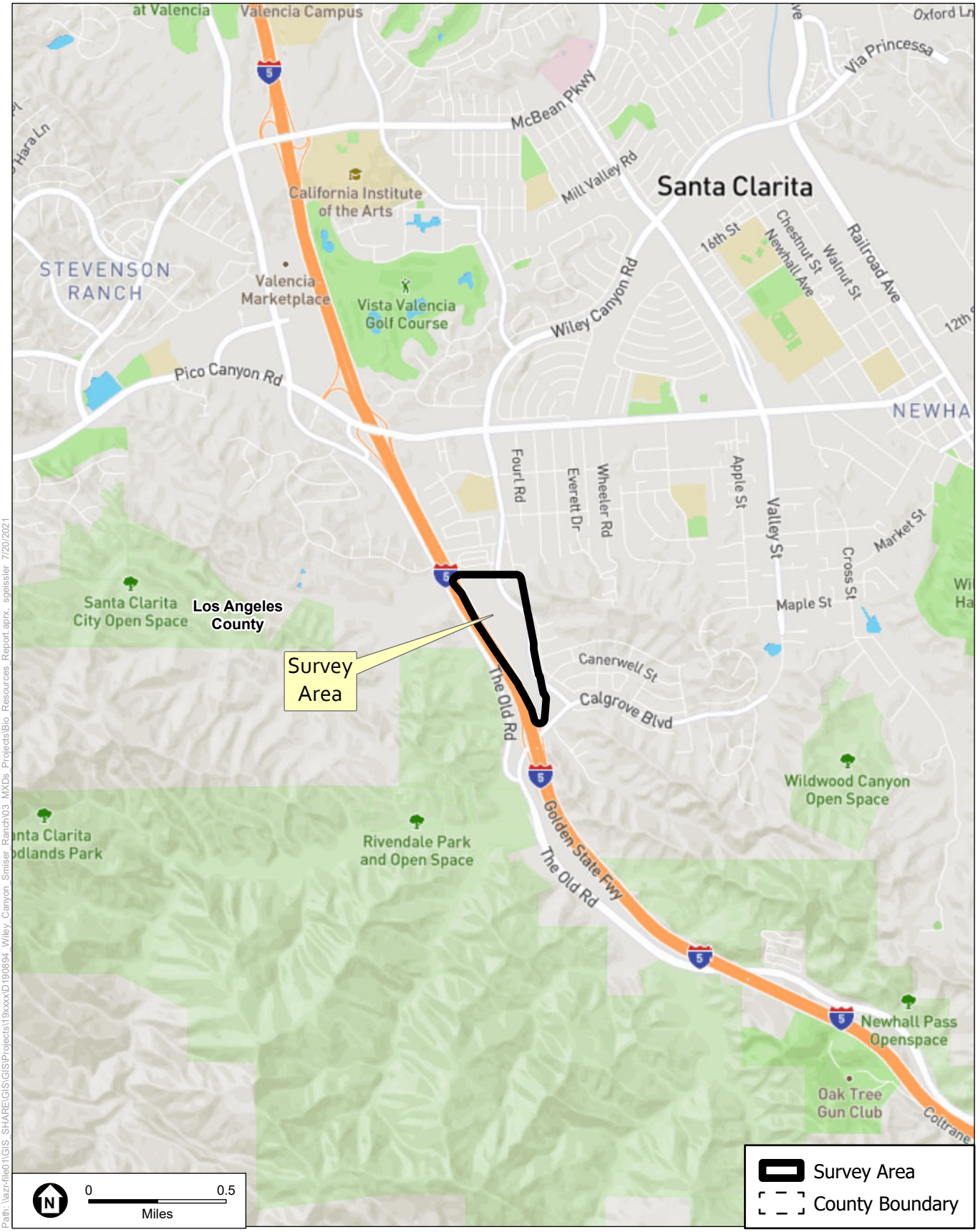


SOURCE: Open Street Map; ESA, 2023

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 1
Regional Map

ESA



SOURCE: Open Street Map; ESA, 2023

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 2
Vicinity Map

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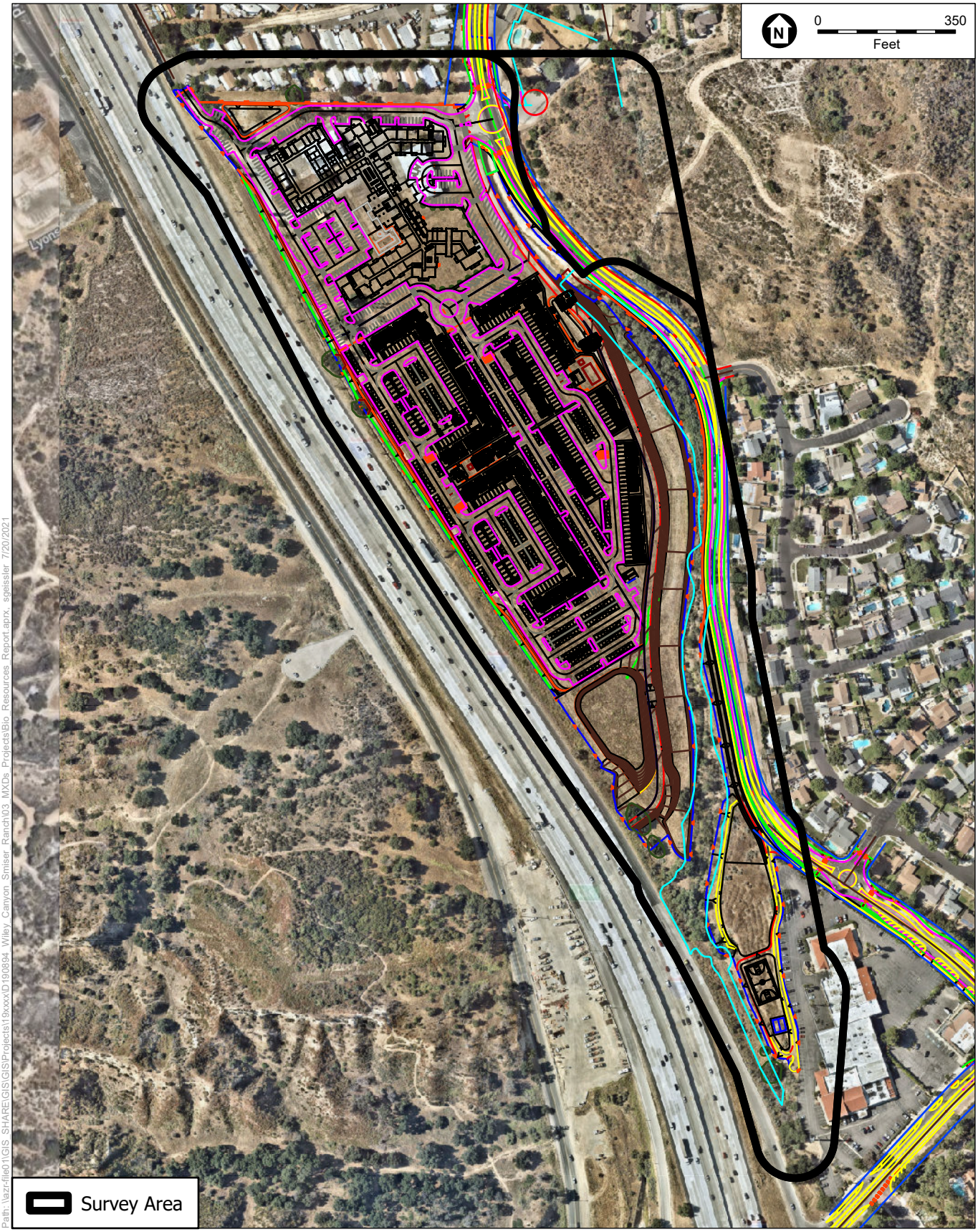

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SOURCE: NearMap; ESA, 2023

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 3
Site Plan

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3.0 METHODS OF STUDY

3.1 APPROACH

This assessment of the biological resources on the Study Area is based on information compiled during field reconnaissance and found in appropriate reference materials. The Study Area included the approximately 31-acre project site and an up to 100-foot buffer around the project site, for a total of 45.3 acres. Off-site transportation infrastructure improvements would occur within existing developed areas along or within Calgrove Boulevard and Wiley Canyon Road.

3.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

ESA reviewed relevant literature on the biological resources of the Project site and surrounding vicinity. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) species account database, was reviewed for all pertinent information regarding the localities of known observations of special-status species and habitats in the vicinity of the Project site (CDFW 2020). The project site is within the Oat Mountain USGS quadrangle, and the vicinity of the Project site included the following surrounding USGS topographic quadrangles: Val Verde, Newhall, Mint Canyon, Santa Susana, San Fernando, Calabasas, Canoga Park, and Van Nuys. Other data sources reviewed included USFWS critical habitat maps (USFWS 2020) and United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils mapping (NRCS 2020). In addition, the regional flora (Baldwin et al 2012) was utilized to assist in the identification of plant species, *CDFW Natural Communities List* for vegetation classification (CDFW 2020), and relevant local policies and guidelines were reviewed such as the Los Angeles County's Sensitive Bird Species (Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species Working Group 2009). Previous biological resource reports were also reviewed. A list of all relevant references reviewed is included in Section 9.0, *References*.

3.3 FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

An investigation of jurisdictional waters, general biological survey, and vegetation mapping was conducted on June 3, 2020 and September 22, 2022 by ESA biologists Douglas Gordon-Blackwood and May Lau. The purpose of the survey was to identify potential jurisdictional features and to document the existing biological conditions relating to plant communities and determine the potential presence of special-status species. An investigation of protected trees on the property was conducted by Douglas Gordon-Blackwood on January 7, 2020 and September 22, 2022.

During the course of the field visit, an inventory of all plant and wildlife species observed was compiled, focusing on dominant plant species for the purposes of vegetation mapping. The observed vegetation communities, special-status species (if present), and potentially jurisdictional drainage features (if present) were mapped on aerial photographs. Survey coverage of the entire Study Area, with special attention to sensitive habitats or those areas potentially supporting special-status flora or fauna, was ensured using aerial photographs. The methodology for these surveys is provided below.

3.3.1 Plant Community Mapping

Plant communities were recorded in Collector for ArcGIS using a sub-meter accuracy Bad Elf GNSS surveyor GPS and a smart phone. Plant community names and descriptions follow *A Manual of California Vegetation; Second Edition* (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf and Evans 2009). After completing the fieldwork, the plant community polygons were digitized using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to calculate acreages.

3.3.2 Sensitive Plant Communities

Sensitive natural habitats are listed by CDFW on their *List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities* (CDFW 2020).[1] Communities on this list are given a global (G) and state (S) rarity ranking on a scale of 1 to 5, where communities with a ranking of 5 are the most common and communities with a ranking of 1 are the rarest and of the highest priority to preserve. These high priority communities are denoted on the CDFW list with asterisks. For the purpose of this report, sensitive habitats are those communities that have a state ranking of S3 or rarer. Any sensitive habitats for the study area were identified based on the natural communities mapped for the Study Area (see Section *3.3.1 Plant Community Mapping* above).

3.3.3 General Plant Inventory

All plant species observed during the general surveys were either identified in the field or collected and later identified using taxonomic keys. Plant taxonomy follows Baldwin et al (2012). Common plant names, when not available from Baldwin, were taken from Munz (1974). Common names vary significantly between references, so scientific names are included upon initial mention of each species; common names consistent throughout the report are employed thereafter. All plant species observed are included in the **Appendix A**, *Floral and Faunal Compendia*, attached.

3.3.4 Special-Status Plant Species

The potential for special-status plant species was assessed based upon the known occurrence of species in the area as identified from CDFW, USFWS and CNPS databases (see Section 3.2, *Literature Review*), and the presence or absence of suitable habitat within the Project site based on plant community mapping (see Section 3.3.1, *Plant Community Mapping*). Suitable habitat was defined as areas with appropriate vegetation communities, soils and/or topography (elevation at MSL) to support the species based on known occurrences in those habitats and/or CDFW and CNPS documented habitat descriptions for the species. A table of special-status plant species for which potentially suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area was prepared prior to the field survey, and the potential for occurrence of each species was determined following completion of the vegetation mapping and updated following completion of the focused surveys. The potential for occurrence of each species is summarized in **Appendix B**, *Special-Status Plant Species.*

3.3.5 General Wildlife Inventory

All wildlife species observed within the Study Area, as well as any diagnostic sign (call, tracks, nests, scat, remains, or other sign), were recorded in field notes. Binoculars and regional field guides were utilized for the identification of wildlife, as necessary. Wildlife taxonomy follows Stebbins (2003) and California Herps (2015) for amphibians and reptiles, the American Ornithologists' Union (1998) for birds, and Jameson and Peeters (1988) for mammals. Scientific names are used during the first mention of a species; common names only are used in the remainder of the text. A list of all wildlife species detected is included in **Appendix A**, *Floral and Faunal Compendia,* attached.

3.3.6 Special-Status Wildlife Species

The potential for special-status wildlife species was assessed based upon the known occurrence of species in the area as identified from CDFW and USFWS databases (see Section 3.2, *Literature Review*), and the presence or absence of suitable habitat within the Study Area based on plant community mapping (see Section 3.3.1, *Plant Community Mapping*). Suitable habitat was defined as areas with appropriate vegetation communities and/or topography (elevation at MSL) to support the species based on known occurrences in those habitats and/or CDFW

[1] *Available online at: https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=153609&inline*

documented habitat descriptions for the species. A table of special-status wildlife species for which potentially suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area was prepared prior to the field survey, and the potential for occurrence for each species was determined following completion of the vegetation mapping and updated following completion of habitat assessments or focused surveys for specific species. The potential for occurrence for each species is summarized in **Appendix C**, *Special-Status Wildlife Species*.

3.3.7 Regional Connectivity/Wildlife Movement Corridor

An analysis of wildlife movement was undertaken based on information compiled from the literature, analysis of aerial photographs and topographic maps, direct observations made in the field during survey work, and an analysis of existing wildlife movement functions. Relative to corridor issues, the focus of this assessment is to determine if the proposed change at the Study Area will have significant impacts on the regional wildlife movement associated with the Project site and the immediate vicinity. The *South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network for the South Coast Ecoregion* document was reviewed (South Coast Wildlands 2008) to identify any linkage proposed within the Project site vicinity.

3.3.8 Investigation of Jurisdictional Waters

The Study Area was examined for any features that may potentially be jurisdictional. The potential for USACE jurisdictional "waters of the U.S." was based primarily on the presence or absence of jurisdictional field indicators consistent with the USACE guidelines (USACE 2008) such as the presence of an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and/or secondary indicators of hydrology, including evidence of the deposition of debris, scour, sediment sorting, and changes in vegetation. The extent of CDFW jurisdiction was assessed based on the limits of the defined bed and bank and includes riparian streambed associated vegetation, where applicable. A separate jurisdictional delineation report has been prepared for the project.

4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

4.1 GENERAL PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION

The Project study area is located within the jurisdiction of the City of Santa Clarita. The Project site is situated on the east side of Interstate 5 freeway, west of Wiley Canyon Road, and north of Calgrove Boulevard. The project site is former agricultural land with large expanses of highly disturbed land surrounded by fencing, some former equestrian facilities, and various small accessory buildings that have been used for limited commercial use.

Plant communities typically found within the region include a mosaic of xeric communities such as coastal sage scrub and chaparral throughout lower elevations directly abutted by development and ruderal habitats. The habitats and resources found within the region are known to support a wide variety of common plant and wildlife species, as well as many special-status species protected by federal, state, and/or local regulations.

The topography of the site remains flat throughout the majority of the site at 1300 feet. Elevations on site range from a low of approximately 1282 feet above mean sea level (MSL) within the south fork of the Santa Clara River, to approximately 1400 feet above MSL on the parcel north of Wiley Canyon Road (APN 2825-012-007).

Two soil types were mapped for the Project, Yolo Loam, fan piedmont, 0 to 9 percent slope, MLRA 20 was the dominant soil type throughout the flat portions of the site, and Saugus loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes comprised the slopes on the north side of Wiley Canyon Road (NRCS 2020). Representative figures depicting typical soils on site are provided in **Figure 5**, *Soils*.

The project site lies roughly 0.50 mile to the northeast of the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park and Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon. The Study Area is generally surrounded to the north, west, east, and south by developed land and the Interstate 5 freeway. Representative photographs depicting the natural vegetation and general site topography are provided in **Figures 4a, 4b, and 4c,** *Site Photographs*.

4.2 PLANT COMMUNITIES

Descriptions of each plant community found on the Study Area based on the classification specific to *A Manual of California Vegetation, Edition 2* (Sawyer et al 2009) are provided below. **Table 1**, *Plant Communities*, lists each of the plant communities observed, as well as the acreage within the Project site, and locations of each of the plant communities are shown in **Figure 6**, *Plant Communities*.

PHOTOGRAPH 1: View from northeast corner of property facing south. Photo depicts ruderal vegetation and old ranch facilities.

PHOTOGRAPH 2: View from eastern boundary of Study Area facing west, depicting the channelized south fork of the Santa Clara River in foreground with ruderal vegetation in background.

PHOTOGRAPH 3: View from eastern boundary of Study Area facing southwest, depicting the channelized south fork of the Santa Clara River in foreground with ruderal vegetation in background.

PHOTOGRAPH 4: View from southern end of 3-acre proposed impact area facing northwest. Photo depicts large span of ruderal habitat within the center of the site.

PHOTOGRAPH 5: View of the center of the site, taken from the center of the site facing southwest. Photo depicts ruderal habitat and former agricultural facilities.

PHOTOGRAPH 6: View of the northwest corner of the site, facing west. Photo depicts ruderal and non-native woodland vegetation communities.

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SOURCE: ESA, 2020

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 4A
Site Photographs

ESA

PHOTOGRAPH 7: View of parcel APN 2825-012-007 in the northeast corner of the site, depicting chamise chaparral.

PHOTOGRAPH 8: View facing north along Wiley Canyon Road and facing downstream along eastern bank of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. Photo depicts mulefat scrub in foreground and Fremont cottonwood forest in background.

PHOTOGRAPH 9: View facing south along Wiley Canyon Road and facing upstream along eastern bank of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. Photo depicts mulefat scrub in foreground and Fremont cottonwood forest in background.

PHOTOGRAPH 10: View downstream of South Fork of Santa Clara River, facing north. Photo depicts surrounding mulefat scrub.

PHOTOGRAPH 11: View upstream of South Fork of Santa Clara River, facing south. Photo depicts interface between channelized and natural portion of Santa Clara River. Several southern California black walnuts are visible in the left and right portions of the image.

PHOTOGRAPH 12: View downstream of South Fork of Santa Clara River, facing north.

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SOURCE: ESA, 2020

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 4B
Site Photographs

ESA

PHOTOGRAPH 13: View of southern portion of Study Area, facing south. Photo depicts coast live oak – arroyo willow – tree tobacco shrubland in background, California buckwheat scrub in foreground.

PHOTOGRAPH 14: View facing east towards eastern boundary of Study Area depicting interface of California sycamore woodland and ruderal vegetation communities.

PHOTOGRAPH 15: View of southern California black walnut growing along the South Fork of the Santa Clara River, facing west.

PHOTOGRAPH 16: View of coast live oak #452 facing north.

PHOTOGRAPH 17: View of big sagebrush within southern portion of Study Area, facing south.

PHOTOGRAPH 18: View of water retention basin surrounded by non-native woodland, facing northeast.

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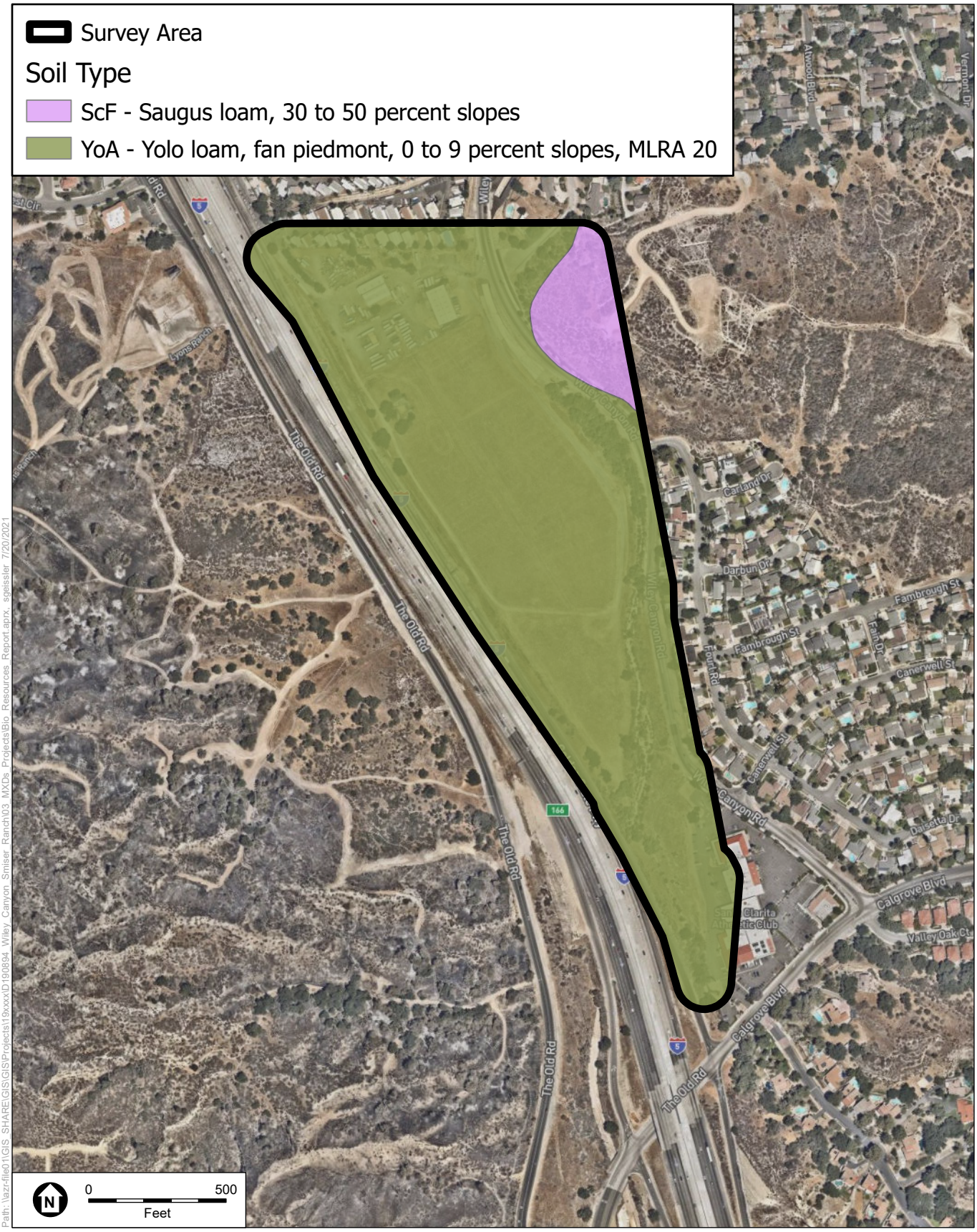
SOURCE: ESA, 2020

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 4C
Site Photographs

ESA

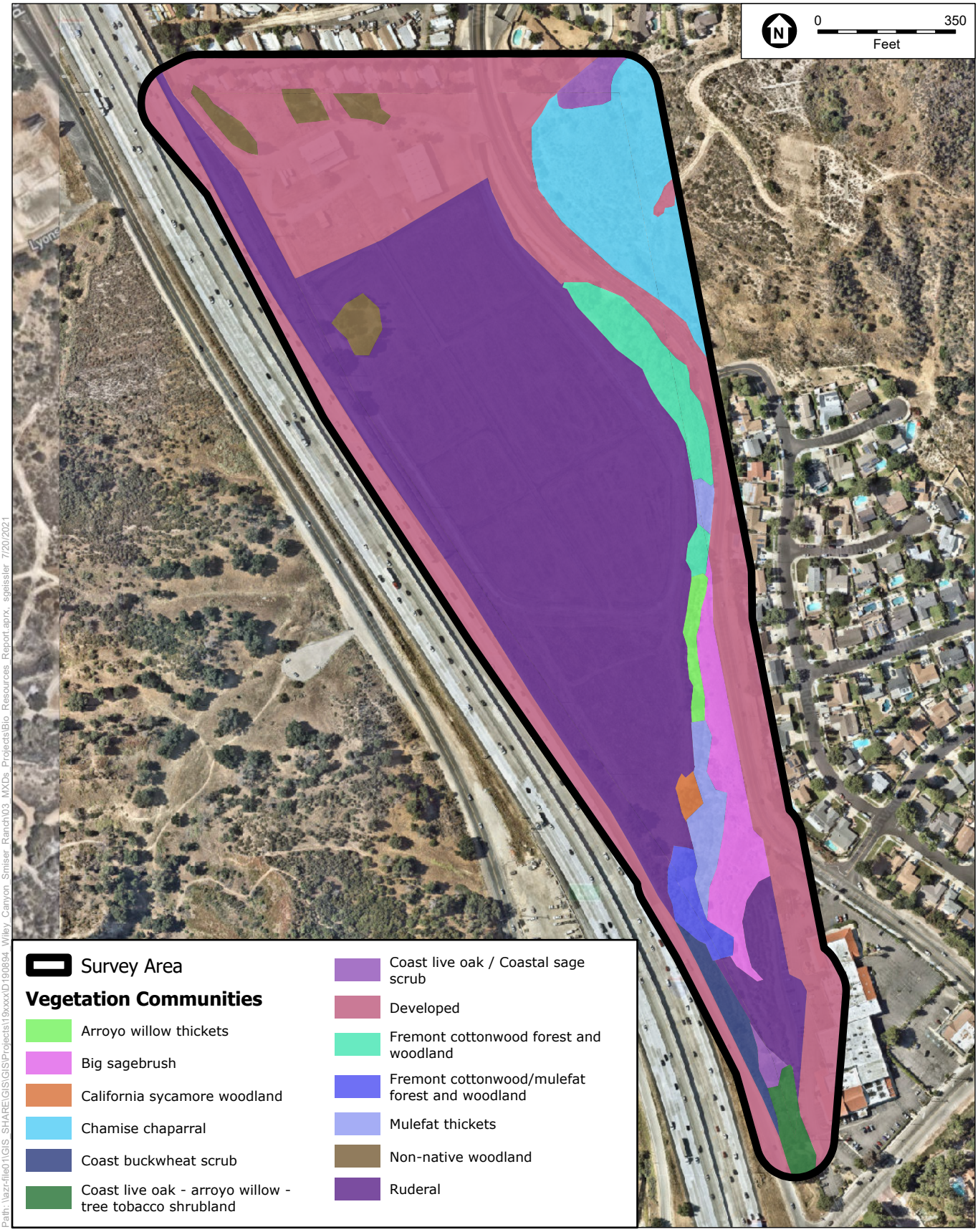


SOURCE: NRCS, 2020; ESA, 2023

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 5
Soils Map

ESA



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SOURCE: NearMap; ESA, 2023

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 6
Plant Communities

ESA

TABLE 1
PLANT COMMUNITIES

Alliance Scientific Name	Common Name	CA Rarity / Global Rarity	Acreage
Quercus agrifolia / Coastal Sage Scrub	Coast live oak / Coastal sage scrub	N/A[a]	0.46
Populus fremontii / Baccharis salicifolia Forest Alliance	Fremont cottonwood / Mule fat Forest	S3/G2	0.48
Populus fremontii Forest Alliance	Fremont cottonwood forest	S3/G4	1.31
Adenostoma fasciculatum Shrubland Alliance	Chamise chaparral	S5/G5	3.69
Baccharis salicifolia Shrubland Alliance	Mulefat thickets	S4/G5	0.70
Salix lasiolepis Shrubland Alliance	Arroyo willow thickets	S4/G4	0.29
Artemisia tridentata Shrubland Alliance	Big Sagebrush	S5/G5	1.57
Eriogonum fasciculatum Shrubland Alliance	California buckwheat scrub	S5/G5	0.48
Quercus agrifolia – Salix lasiolepis – Nicotiana glauca Woodland Alliance	Coast live oak – arroyo willow – tree tobacco woodland	N/A[a]	0.41
Platanus racemosa Woodland Alliance	California sycamore woodlands	S3/G3	0.12
Non-native Woodland	Non-native Woodland	N/A	0.83
Ruderal	Ruderal	N/A	22.65
Developed	Developed	N/A	17.05
TOTAL			50.03

NOTES:
[a] State/Global community ranks not described within *A Manual of California Vegetation*
SOURCE: ESA 2023

4.2.1 Coast Live Oak / Coastal Sage Scrub (*Quercus agrifolia* / Coastal Sage Scrub)

Coast live oak / coastal sage scrub has an overstory of coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) as the dominant species and an understory of coastal sage species including California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). This community typically occurs in a variety of habitats including upland savannahs and woodlands, to riparian forests and canyon lands. Within the Study Area, this community comprises a small portion of the southern boundary. The Coast live oak / coastal sage scrub occupies approximately 0.46 acres of the Study Area.

4.2.2 Fremont Cottonwood / Mulefat Forest (*Populus fremontii / Baccharis salicifolia* Forest Alliance)

Fremont cottonwood / mulefat forest has Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *fremontii*) as the dominant species, with mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia* ssp. *salicifolia*) as the dominant scrub layer species. This community typically occurs along perennial and intermittent streams, within floodplains, springs and canyons. Within the Study Area, this community occurs to the east of Interstate 5 Freeway where the Southern Fork of the Santa Clara River conveys flows in a covered box channel beneath the freeway. The Fremont cottonwood / mulefat forest occupies approximately 0.48 acre.

4.2.3 Fremont Cottonwood Forest (*Populus fremontii* Forest Alliance)

Fremont cottonwood forest has Fremont cottonwood as the dominant species, with a sparse understory. This community typically occurs along perennial and intermittent streams, within floodplains, springs and canyons. Within the Study Area, this community occurs along a portion of the south fork of the Santa Clara River. The Fremont cottonwood forest occupies 1.31 acres.

4.2.4 Chamise Chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance)

Chamise chaparral has chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) as the dominant species in the shrub layer, with California buckwheat, Whipple's yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) and nonnative grasses as common understory plants and typically occurs on dry, shallow colluvial soils on sun exposed slopes at low to moderate elevations. Within the Study Area, this community occupies the upslope area northeast of Wiley Canyon Road, outside of the development area. The chamise chaparral occupies approximately 3.69 acres.

4.2.5 Mulefat Thickets (*Baccharis salicifolia* Shrubland Alliance)

Mulefat thickets has mulefat as the dominant species in the shrub canopy. This scrub typically occurs in canyon bottoms, floodplains, lake margins, and streambeds at low to moderate elevations. Within the Study Area, this community occupies a portion of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. Mulefat thickets occupies approximately 0.70 acres.

4.2.6 Arroyo Willow Thickets (*Salix lasiolepis* Shrubland Alliance)

Arroyo willow thickets has arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) as the dominant species in the tree or scrub layer, with subdominant species including mulefat, California sagebrush and Fremont cottonwood. This scrub typically grows on seasonally or intermittently flooded sites. Within the Study Area, this community occupies a portion of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. Arroyo willow thickets occupies approximately 0.29 acre.

4.2.7 Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* Shrubland Alliance)

Big sagebrush has common sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) as the dominant species in the scrub layer, lacking other dominant species This scrub typically grows on plains, alluvial fans, valley bottoms, and dry washes. Within the Study Area, this community occupies a portion of the site east of the southern portion of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. Big sagebrush occupies approximately 1.57 acres.

4.2.8 California Buckwheat Scrub (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance)

California buckwheat scrub has California buckwheat as the dominant species, with California sagebrush, and deer weed (*Acmispon glaber*) as sub dominants. Within the Study Area, this community occupies small areas on the east-facing slopes along the boundary with Interstate 5 Freeway. The California buckwheat scrub occupies approximately 0.48 acre.

4.2.9 Coast Live Oak – Arroyo Willow – Tree Tobacco Woodland (*Quercus agrifolia – Salix lasiolepis – Nicotiana glauca* Woodland Alliance)

Coast live oak – arroyo willow – tree tobacco woodland has coast live oak as the dominant species in the tree layer, with arroyo willow, and tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) as dominants in the shrub layer. Within the Study Area, this community occupies a small patch at the very southern boundary of the site. The coast live oak – arroyo willow – tree tobacco woodland occupies approximately 0.41 acre.

4.2.10 California Sycamore Woodlands (*Platanus racemosa Woodland Alliance*)

California sycamore woodlands has California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) as the dominant species in the tree layer, with mulefat and tree tobacco in small quantities in the shrub layer. Within the Study Area, this community occupies a small patch along the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. The California sycamore woodland occupies approximately 0.12 acre.

4.2.11 Non-native Woodland

This community is dominated by primarily non-native, landscape trees and occurs on various slopes and aspects. On the Study Area, the community is consisted of deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) and Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) that were planted around a retention pond and in the vicinity of former residences on the property. Non-native woodland occupied approximately 0.83 acres.

4.2.12 Ruderal

The species assemblage and community characteristics of the ruderal habitat was largely disturbed by agricultural activity and the understory was primarily dominated by non-native forbs such as tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and non-native grasses as a result of the previous intensive agricultural uses. Ruderal habitat comprises the majority of the proposed impact area on site. This community comprised 22.65 acres.

4.2.13 Developed

The developed areas on the Study Area included the Interstate 5 Freeway, Wiley Canyon Road, and Calgrove Boulevard. It also included facilities and residences on site, as well as residential developments directly to the east, and north. Developed land use comprised approximately 17.05 acres.

4.3 GENERAL PLANT INVENTORY

The plant communities discussed above are composed of a variety of plant species, both native and non-native. Observations regarding the plant species present were made during the field visit to the Project site, and a list of all plant species identified is provided in **Appendix C**. Special-status plant species occurring or potentially occurring within the Study Area are discussed below in Section 4.7.3, *Special-Status Plant Species*.

4.4 GENERAL WILDLIFE INVENTORY

The plant communities discussed above provide habitat for various common wildlife species. Observations regarding the wildlife species present were made during the field visit to the Project site, and a list of all species observed is provided in **Appendix C**. Non-native habitats, such as the ruderal community, in addition to the native habitats, can provide habitat for these species. Special-status wildlife species occurring or potentially occurring are discussed below in Section 4.7.4, *Special-Status Wildlife Species*.

4.5 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT CORRIDORS

The fragmentation of open space areas by urbanization creates isolated “islands” of wildlife habitat. Wildlife corridors link together areas of suitable habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. The project site does not represent significant corridors for wildlife movement to and from adjacent sites. The South fork of the Santa Clara River is a regional wildlife movement corridor. The

South Fork of the Santa Clara River is channelized, both north and south of the project site. The majority of the Santa Clara River on site is natural and persists as a wildlife refuge as numerous species can access this area for shelter, water, and food sources. A majority of this area will be maintained and the project proposes to widen the existing channel to create additional riparian habitat. The majority of wildlife movement likely occurs to the southeast of the Study Area, in the open spaces east of the Interstate 5 Freeway (Ed Davis Park, Towsley Canyon, Santa Clarita Woodlands Park, Lyons Ranch). No impacts are expected to occur within these areas to the south of the project site.

The Project site is not within any linkages identified by the South Coast Missing Linkages report; the nearest linkage design identified is for the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection located approximately 1.4 miles southeast of the Project Site (South Coast Wildlands 2008). The Interstate 5 Freeway and surrounding development act as the primary barrier to wildlife movement in the area. Since the Project site is not identified as a linkage by the South Coast Wildlands, and it does not support habitat that connects two or more habitat patches that would otherwise be fragmented or isolated from one another, the Project site is not considered a wildlife corridor.

4.6 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS AND WETLANDS

A formal jurisdictional determination was conducted and the Study Area was evaluated for any potential jurisdictional features that may be present. The findings are presented within the Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Aquatic Resources Delineation Report, presented within **Appendix D**. In summary, the two aquatic features mapped from the field delineation are considered to be waters of the U.S., waters of the State, and features subject to FGC Section 1600 *et seq*. A discussion of both follows below.

4.6.1 South Fork Santa Clara River (IS-1)

The South Fork Santa Clara River is an intermittent stream originating in the Santa Susana Mountains, just east of East Canyon. It generally parallels the Interstate 5 Freeway until it reaches the survey area. This stream is heavily modified and channelized (i.e., concrete-lined) as it flows through urbanized areas. Riparian or alluvial scrub vegetation is generally present in the earthen segments of the stream. Within the survey area, the stream segment (IS-1) is dominated by Fremont cottonwood forest/woodland and flows northeasterly across the site.

4.6.2 Unnamed Intermittent Stream (IS-2)

IS-2 is an intermittent stream originating in La Salle Canyon, south of the survey area and east of the Interstate 5 Freeway. IS-2 flows in a northerly direction down the canyon, and then enters a detention basin prior to an underground culvert that is connected to the southern portion of the survey area. Within the survey area, IS-2 is dominated by coast live oak and ruderal habitats.

4.7 SPECIAL-STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The following discussion describes the plant and wildlife species present, or potentially present, within the Study Area that have been afforded special recognition by Federal, State, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. These species have 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 special-status species are classified by either Federal or State resource management agencies, or both, as threatened or endangered, under provisions of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts (FESA and CESA, respectively).

4.7.1 Special-Status Resource Classification

Federal Protection and Classifications

The FESA of 1973 defines an endangered species as "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." A threatened species is defined as "any species which is likely to become an Endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." Under provisions of Section 9(a)(1)(B) of the FESA, unless properly permitted, it is unlawful to "take" any listed species. "Take" is defined in Section 3(18) of 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 "take." These interpretations, however, are generally considered and applied on a case-by-case basis and often vary from species to species.

All references to Federally-protected species in this report 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, as applicable:

FE	Federally-listed as Endangered
FT	Federally-listed as Threatened
FPE	Federally proposed for listing as Endangered
FPT	Federally proposed for listing as Threatened
FPD	Federally proposed for delisting
FC	Federal candidate species

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects individuals as well as any part, nest, or eggs of any bird listed as migratory. In practice, Federal permits issued for activities that potentially impact migratory birds typically have conditions that require pre-disturbance surveys for nesting birds. In the event nesting is observed, a buffer area with a specified radius must be established, within which no disturbance or intrusion is allowed until the young have fledged and left the nest, or it has been determined that the nest has failed. If not otherwise specified in the permit, the size of the buffer area varies with species and local circumstances (e.g., presence of busy roads, intervening topography, etc.), and is based on the professional judgment of a monitoring biologist.

State of California 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 the FESA, CESA does not include listing provisions for invertebrate species.

Article 3, Sections 2080 through 2085, of the 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 the CESA, "take" is defined as, "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

Additionally, some special-status 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.

California Species of Special Concern are species designated as vulnerable to extinction due to declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats. Informally listed species are not protected per se, but warrant consideration in the preparation of biological assessments. For some species, the CNDDB is only concerned with specific portions of the life history, such as roosts, rookeries, or nest areas.

For the purposes of this assessment, the following acronyms are used for State status species, as applicable:

SE	State-listed as Endangered
ST	State-listed as Threatened
SR	State-listed as Rare
SCE	State candidate for listing as Endangered
SCT	State candidate for listing as Threatened
SFP	State Fully Protected
SSC	Species of Special Concern

California Native Plant Society

The CNPS is a private plant conservation organization dedicated to the monitoring and protection of special-status species in California. CNPS has compiled an inventory comprised of the information focusing on geographic distribution and qualitative characterization of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered vascular plant species of California (CNPS, 2015). The inventory serves as the candidate list for listing as Threatened and Endangered by CDFW. CNPS has developed six categories of rarity termed the California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR), and in which species ranked 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B are considered particularly sensitive:

Rank 1A	Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere.
Rank 1B	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

Rank 2A Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere.
Rank 2B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
Rank 3 Plants about which more information is needed – a review list.
Rank 4 Plants of limited distribution – a watch list.

The CNPS adds "threat ranks" which parallel the ranks used by the CNDDB. These ranks are added as a decimal code after the CRPR (e.g., 1B.1). The threat ranks are as follows:

.1 – Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat);
.2 – Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat);
.3 – Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known).

Special-status species that occur or potentially could occur within the Study Area are based on one or more of the following: (1) the direct observation of the species within the Study Area during the field survey; (2) a record reported in the CNDDB; and (3) the Study Area is within known distribution of a species and contains appropriate habitat.

4.7.2 Sensitive Plant Communities

The Study Area supports three sensitive plant communities that are considered high priority by CDFW based on its state ranking of S3 or rarer, namely the Fremont cottonwood / mulefat forest, Fremont cottonwood forest, and the California sycamore woodland. The Fremont cottonwood / mulefat forest totaled 0.48 acres within the southern portion of the Project Area. The Fremont cottonwood forest totaled 1.31 acres within the southern portion of the Project Area. The California sycamore woodland totaled 0.12 acre within the southern portion of the Project Area. As currently designed, project impacts to sensitive plant communities within the Project Area would occur.

4.7.3 Special-Status Plant Species

Special-status plants include those listed, or candidates for listing, by the USFWS and CDFW, and species considered special-status by the CNPS (particularly CRPR 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B). A total of 49 special-status plant species were reported in the vicinity based on CNDDB and CNPS within the 9-quadrangle search area. From this search, one special-status species was identified as having a potential to occur within the Study Area based on the literature review and habitat anticipated within the Study Area; Greata's aster (*Symphyotrichum greatae*). Two additional CNPS insufficiently known or watch list species (CRPR 3 and 4, respectively) were identified as having potential to occur within the Study Area. These species include ocellated Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *ocellatum*) and paniculate tarplant (*Deinandra paniculata*). These species were not observed during field surveys, and were considered absent from the project area. Surveys were conducted during suitable bloom period for all 4 species, and due to the disturbed nature of the site, were determined to be absent from the Study Area. One CRPR 4 species was observed along the Santa Clara River, southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) but the plants occur outside of the proposed impact area, and will not be affected by the proposed activities.

While focused special-status plant surveys were not conducted, all plants encountered during the general biological survey were identified and are listed in **Appendix A**, *Floral and Faunal Compendia* Of the potential special-status plant species, all bloom or were morphologically identifiable at the time when the survey was conducted.

4.7.4 Special-Status Wildlife Species

Special-status wildlife species include those listed as Endangered or Threatened under the FESA or CESA, candidates for listing by the USFWS or CDFW, and species of special concern to the CDFW or USFS. In addition, the Los Angeles Chapter of the Audubon Society has published a list of special-status bird species occurring in Los Angeles County (Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species Working Group, 2009). A total of 52 special-status wildlife species were reported in the vicinity based on CNDDB within the 9-quadrangle search area. From this search, a total of ten species were identified as having some potential to occur within the Study Area or use the Study Area based on the literature review and habitat anticipated within the Study Area.

Of the 52 species, three (3) species were considered to have a moderate potential to occur on the Study Area, including Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Of the 52 species, marginally suitable habitat exists on site for seven (7) species including California legless lizard (*Anniella* spp.), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), and overwintering California populations of monarch (*Danaus plexippus* pop. 1)

Three watch list species from the Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species list were observed within the Study Area; California towhee (*Melozone crissalis*), oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) and turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*). These species were observed foraging within the general area but were not observed nesting in the area and the survey took place during nesting season. A list of special-status wildlife species that have some potential to occur on the Study Area is provided in **Appendix C,** *Special-Status Wildlife Species.*

Migratory Bird and Raptor Species: The Study Area supports potential nesting and foraging habitat for migratory birds (including shrubs and trees), and also potential foraging habitat for birds including. Several species of birds were observed on-site (see Appendix A) and California towhee, oak titmouse and turkey vulture were identified as potentially occurring within the 9-quadrangle search area (described above).

4.8 Protected Tree Resources

The City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code 17.51.040 – Oak Tree Preservation protects all native oak trees, including but not limited to, canyon oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), coast live oak, interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), and scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*[2]) in recognition of their historical, aesthetic, and environmental value. Trees protected by the ordinance must have a trunk with a circumference measuring 6 inches (approximately 1.9" diameter) or larger; measured four and one half feet above natural grade. Heritage oak trees measuring one hundred eight (108) inches or more in circumference (approximately 34.3-inch diameter) or in the case of a multiple trunk tree, two (2) or more trunks measuring seventy-two (72) inches each or greater in circumference (approximately 22.9-inch diameter). In addition, the Planning Commission and/or City Council may classify any oak tree as a heritage tree regardless of size, if a majority vote determines a tree has exceptional historic, aesthetic, and/or environmental qualities of major significance or prominence to the community. Ten (10) coast live oaks were observed within the project area. An additional 22 non-heritage oak trees are located within the off-site transportation infrastructure improvement area, of which 19 are indigenous oak tree species. A full report about the protected tree resources within the Project Area can be found within **Appendix E** – **Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Development Oak Tree Report**.

[2] Considered *Q. dumosa* at time of ordinance publication, the species was split into multiple indistinct species. *Quercus berberidifolia*, which was formerly classified as *Q. dumosa* is more likely to occur near the City of Santa Clarita. In addition, *Q. john-tuckeri*, Tucker's oak, has been recorded within the City of Santa Clarita.

5.0 APPROACH TO THE ANALYSIS

5.1 REGULATORY SETTING

Special-status species are provided protection by either Federal or State resource management agencies, or both, under provisions of the FESA and CESA. In addition, the environmental review process required under CEQA for discretionary action mandates Lead Agencies to evaluate the potential for significant impact to special-status biological resources and provide mitigation to reduce such impacts. The following provides a discussion of Federal Regulations, State of California Regulations, and CNPS.

There are a number of performance criteria and standard conditions that must be met as part of any review and approval of the proposed project. These include compliance with all of the terms, provisions, and requirements with applicable laws that relate to Federal, State, and local regulating agencies related to potential impacts to special-status plant and wildlife species, wetlands, riparian habitats, and blue line stream courses.

5.1.1 Federal Regulations

As previously discussed in Section 4.8.1, Sensitive Resource Classification, under provisions of Section 9(a)(1)(B) of the FESA, unless properly permitted, it is unlawful to "take" any listed species. In a case where a property owner seeks permission from a federal agency for an action which could affect a federally-listed plant and animal species, the property owner and agency are required to consult with USFWS to obtain appropriate permits. Section 9(a)(2)(b) of the FESA addresses the protections afforded to listed plants.

5.1.2 State of California Regulations

As previously discussed in Section 4.8.1, Sensitive Resource Classification, Article 3, Sections 2080 through 2085, of the CESA addresses the taking of threatened or endangered species. Exceptions authorized by the State to allow "take" require permits or memoranda 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 by an initiator prior to disturbance.

5.1.3 California Native Plant Society

As previously discussed in Section 4.8.1, Sensitive Resource Classification, the CNPS has compiled an inventory comprised of the information focusing on geographic distribution and qualitative characterization of rare, threatened, or endangered vascular plant species of California which classifies plant species into categories of rarity. Informally listed species are not protected per se, but warrant consideration in the preparation of biological assessments. However, CNPS has no formal regulatory authority.

6.0 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The environmental impacts relative to biological resources are assessed using impact significance threshold criteria which mirror the policy statement contained in the CEQA, Section 21001(c) of the California Public Resources Code. Accordingly, the State Legislature has established it to be the policy of the State to:

> *"Prevent the elimination of fish or 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..."*

Determining whether a project may have a significant effect, or impact, plays a critical role in the CEQA process. According to State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.7, Thresholds of Significance, each public agency is encouraged to develop and adopt (by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation) thresholds of significance that the agency uses in the determination of the significance of environmental effects. A threshold of significance is an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, non-compliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant. In the development of thresholds of significance for impacts to biological resources State CEQA Guidelines provides guidance primarily in Section 15065, Mandatory Findings of Significance, and the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, *Environmental Checklist Form*. Section 15065(a) states that a project may have a significant effect where:

> *"The project has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or wildlife community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species..."*

Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines is more specific in addressing biological resources and encompasses a broader range of resources to be considered, including: candidate, sensitive, or special-status species; riparian habitat or other special-status natural communities; Federally protected wetlands; fish and wildlife movement corridors; local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources; and, adopted HCPs. This is done in the form of a checklist of questions to be answered during the Initial Study leading to the preparation of the appropriate environmental documentation for a project [i.e., Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impacts Report (EIR)]. Because these questions are derived from standards in other laws, regulations, and other commonly used thresholds, it is reasonable to use these standards as a basis for defining significance thresholds in an EIR. Therefore, for the purpose of this analysis, impacts to biological resources are considered potentially significant (before considering offsetting mitigation measures) if one or more of the following conditions would result from implementation of the proposed project.

Threshold BIO-A Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Threshold BIO-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?

Threshold BIO-C Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

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

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

Threshold BIO-F Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

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

- "Substantial adverse effect" means loss or harm of a magnitude which, based on current scientific data and knowledge would: (1) substantially reduce population numbers of a listed, candidate, sensitive, rare, or otherwise special status species; (2) substantially reduce the distribution of a sensitive natural community/habitat type; or (3) eliminate or substantially impair the functions and values of a biological resource (e.g., streams, wetlands, or woodlands) in a geographical area defined by interrelated biological components and systems. In the case of this analysis the prescribed geographical area is considered to be the region that includes the USGS topographic quadrangle for the Study Area, namely Oat Mountain. For some species, the geographic area may extend to the vicinity of the Project site based on known distributions of the species. The vicinity of the Study Area is considered to comprise the following eight USGS topographic quadrangles: Calabasas, Canoga Park, Mint Canyon, Newhall, San Fernando, Simi Valley East, Val Verde, and Van Nuys.

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

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

7.0 PROJECT RELATED IMPACTS

7.1 APPROACH TO THE ANALYSIS

The following discussion examines the potential impacts to plant and wildlife resources that may occur as a result of implementation of the Project or occurred subsequent to the development of the four Project Sites. For the purpose of this assessment, project-related impacts take two forms, direct and indirect. Direct impacts are considered to be those that involve the loss, modification or disturbance of natural habitats (i.e., vegetation or plant communities), which in turn, directly affect plant and wildlife species dependent on that habitat. Direct impacts also include the destruction of individual plants or wildlife, which is typically the case in species of low mobility (i.e., plants, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals). The collective loss of individuals in these manners may also directly affect regional population numbers of a species or result in the physical isolation of populations thereby reducing genetic diversity and, hence, population stability.

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

The determination of impacts in this analysis is based on both the proposed Project development plan and the biological values of the habitat and/or sensitivity of plant and wildlife species to be affected. Any recommended mitigation measures are discussed in Section 8.0 below.

The biological values of resources within, adjacent to, and outside the area to be affected by the proposed Project sites were determined by consideration of several factors, as applicable. These included the overall size of habitats to be affected, the Study Area's previous land uses and disturbance history, the Study Area's surrounding environment and regional context, the on-site biological diversity and abundance, the potential presence of sensitive and special-status plant and wildlife species, the Study Area's importance to regional populations of these species, and the degree to which on-site habitats are limited or restricted in distribution on a regional basis and, therefore, are considered sensitive in themselves. Whereas this assessment is comprehensive, the focus is on sensitive plant communities/habitats, resources that play an important role in the regional biological systems, and special-status species.

7.2 IMPACT ANALYSIS

Direct impacts typically represent the physical alteration (i.e., habitat degradation or loss) of biological conditions that are expected to occur within a site as a result of the project's implementation. Indirect impacts are those reasonably foreseeable effects on remaining or adjacent biological resources that are expected to be caused by the project subsequent to its implementation. Impacts can also be short- or long-term, depending on the duration of the effect on a given biological resource. Short-term impacts are temporary, arising from direct impacts to biological resources during a project's implementation, but not after completion. Long-term impacts result in the permanent modification of a biological resource caused by the project's implementation.

The physical alteration of habitat is not, in itself, a significant impact under CEQA. Significance is determined by comparing physical alteration of habitat to each of the significance threshold criteria defined above. For example, should the alteration of habitat result in the direct or indirect loss or have an otherwise substantial adverse effect on a species identified as a "candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or

regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS," impacts would be considered significant unless a project implements mitigation that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be substantial and, therefore, a significant impact must consider both the resource and the CEQA threshold of significance criteria. For example, because of the dependence of most plant and wildlife species on native habitats to satisfy various life cycle requirements, a habitat-based approach that addresses the overall biological value of a particular plant community or habitat area is appropriate when determining whether alteration of that habitat will substantially affect special-status species, sensitive habitats, wetlands, and movement corridors. The relative biological value of a particular habitat area—its functions and values—can be determined by such factors as disturbance history, biological diversity, its importance to particular plant and wildlife species, its uniqueness or sensitivity status, the surrounding environment, and the presence or absence of special-status resources.

However, direct impacts with respect to specific plant and wildlife resources (e.g., active nests and individual plants and wildlife) are also evaluated and discussed when impacts to these resources, in and of themselves, could be considered significant or in conflict with local, state, and federal statutes or regulations. The significance of impacts with respect to direct impacts to individuals or populations of plant and wildlife species takes into consideration the number of individual plants or animals potentially affected; how common or uncommon the species is, both within a site and from a regional perspective; and the sensitivity status if the species is considered of special status by resource agencies. These factors are evaluated based on the results of on-site biological surveys and studies, results of literature and database reviews, discussions with biological experts, and established and recognized ecological and biodiversity theory and assumptions.

7.2.1 Impacts to Special-Status Species

Threshold BIO-A: Would the project 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than Significant (Special-Status Plant Species)

Less than Significant with Mitigation (Special-Status Wildlife Species)

7.2.1.1 Special-Status Plant Species

Development of the Project site would result in the direct removal of common plant species within the ruderal area, which are primarily non-native forb and grass species (**Figure 7**, *Impacts to Plant Communities*). A list of plant species observed within the Study Area is included in Appendix A. Common plant species present within the Study Area occur in large numbers throughout the region and their removal does not meet the significance thresholds defined in Section 6.0, *Thresholds of Significance* above. Therefore, impacts to common plant species would not be considered a significant impact and no mitigation measures are required.

As discussed in Section 4.7.3, *Special-Status Plant Species*, there is only one special-status plant species with a potential to occur on the Study Area, Greata's aster. This species was not observed on the project during seasonally appropriate surveys and is considered absent. One CRPR watch list species, *Juglans californica*, was also observed within the study area. For southern California black walnut, this species is restricted to the riparian habitats along the South Fork of the Santa Clara River. There are three southern California black walnut trees within the riparian vegetation just south of the existing concrete channel, one in the central portion of the drainage near the east channel bank and at least two more trees scattered within the riparian vegetation southeast of the proposed development area.

No impacts to the South Fork of the Santa Clara River and associated riparian vegetation are proposed as part of the project. Since no special-status plant species were located as a result of the survey, no further action shall be required.

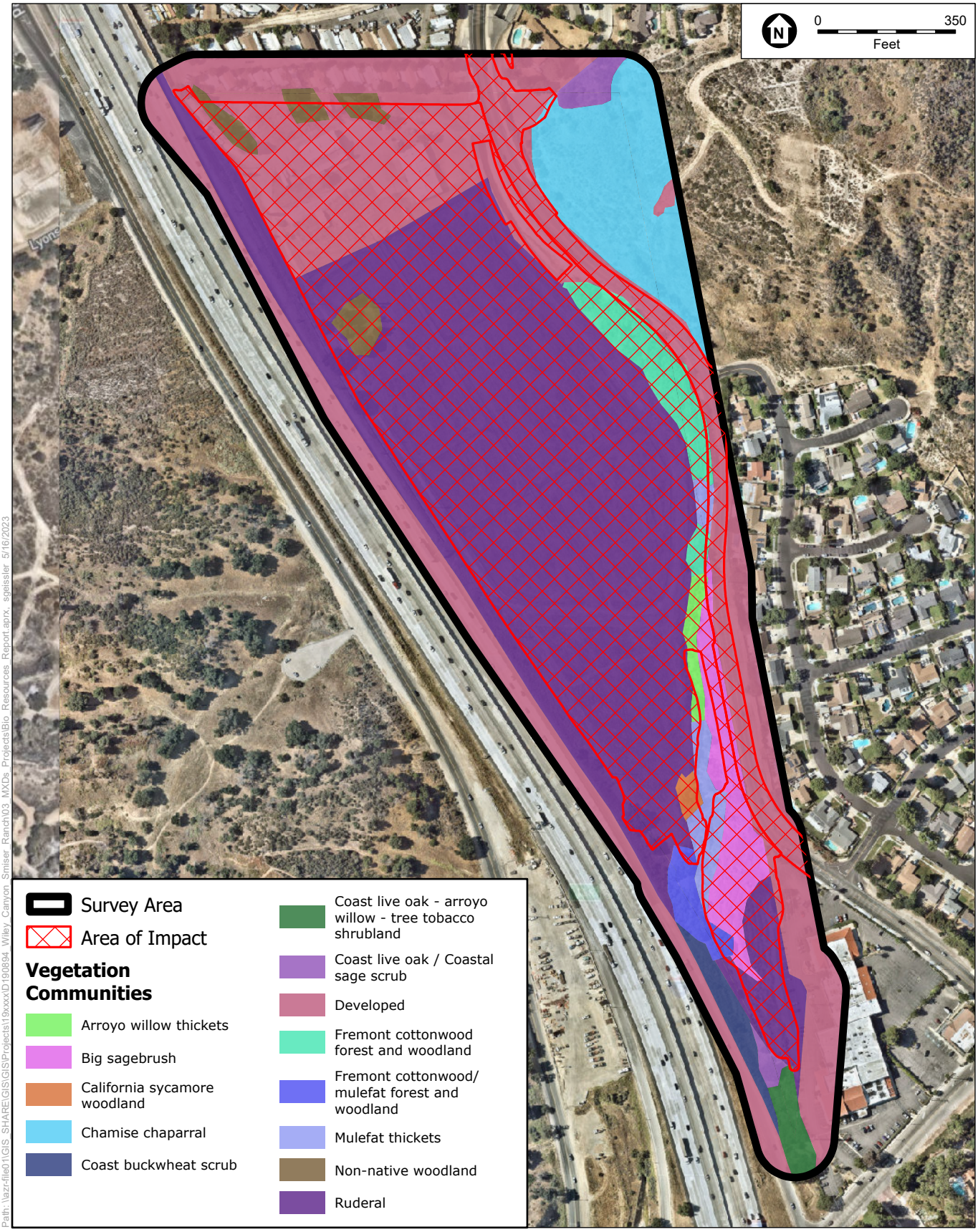
7.2.1.2 Special-Status Wildlife Species

Proposed grading and development of the site will be primarily restricted to ruderal areas within the Survey Area. Because vegetation removal would occur within the ruderal area and the majority of native vegetation in the remainder of the site would remain intact, these impacts would not be expected to reduce the general wildlife populations below self-sustaining levels within the region, and impacts to common wildlife species do not meet the significance thresholds defined in Section 6.0, *Thresholds of Significance* above. The three watch list bird species, California towhee, oak titmouse and turkey vulture, can easily escape harm's way prior to project construction. However, special-status bird species have a potential to occur within the Project site warranting that a biologist should conduct a preconstruction survey to confirm that none of these species are nesting prior to the start of construction. A list of wildlife species observed within the Study Area is included in Appendix A.

A total of 35 special-status wildlife species of the 52 species identified as occurring in the project vicinity in available databases (see Section 4.7.4 above) are not considered to have a potential to occur within the Study Area due to the lack of suitable habitat or because the site is outside the known distribution range for the species. These species are listed in Appendix C. Since these species are not expected to be present within the Study Area, no impacts would occur as a result of development and no mitigation measures are required.

If work occurs during the nesting season, a qualified biologist will need to conduct nesting bird surveys prior to any vegetation-disturbing activity, as mentioned above. Any nests present will be flagged with the qualified biologist establishing a buffer area. A qualified biologist will monitor the nests on a weekly basis to ensure that construction activities do not disturb or disrupt nesting activities. If the qualified biologist determines that construction activities are disturbing or disrupting nesting activities, the biologist will notify the client who has the authority to stop or modify construction to reduce the noise and/or disturbance to the nests. Responses may include, but are not limited to, increasing the size of the exclusionary buffer, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nest and the construction activities, and avoiding working in other areas until the young have fledged. If more than 30 days passes between the preconstruction survey and construction start date at that location, the survey will be repeated. Further information about nesting bird surveys are addressed in **7.2.4 - Impacts to Wildlife Movement and Migratory Species**, below. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is recommended to reduce impacts to special-status nesting birds to less-than-significant.

The remaining seventeen special-status wildlife species were determined to have some potential to occur within the Study Area. Only four of these species are federally- or state-listed as endangered or threatened species; least Bell's vireo, Swainson's hawk, southwestern willow flycatcher, and arroyo toad. Of the seventeen species with the potential to occur, thirteen species were considered to have a low potential to occur. Two species, Cooper's hawk, a CDFW Special Animal Watch List species, and least Bell's vireo, a federal and state Endangered species, were determined to have moderate potential to nest or roost on the Study Area. The three observed Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species, California towhee, oak titmouse and turkey vulture, are expected to leave the Project construction area with the commencement of the Project work. A preconstruction nesting bird prior to site construction to confirm presence or absence of nesting birds would reduce the significance to less than significant levels, as described above. If nesting birds are found to be on site prior to construction, a nesting bird management plan is recommended.



SOURCE: NearMap; ESA, 2023

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Project

Figure 7
Impacts to Plant Communities

ESA

Marginally suitable habitat is present in the Study Area for special-status species. Although not detected during the site survey, protocol surveys are recommended for least Bell's vireo, prior to construction. If protocol surveys indicate the presence of least Bell's vireo, work shall be halted until the qualified biologist can ensure a suitable avoidance or minimization buffer is in place to avoid impacts to this species. The habitat is marginally suitable; least Bell's vireo is anticipated to be absent in the Study Area at the time of construction, just as it was not observed during the site surveys. The Project design is anticipated to impact 0.78 acre of marginally suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 is recommended to avoid impacts to the federal and state Endangered least Bell's vireo to less-than-significant.

No direct impacts would occur to Cooper's hawks or least Bell's vireo and indirect impacts to foraging habitat would be considered less than significant if no impacts to riparian vegetation occurs. Direct impacts to the remaining potential special-status species are not expected since the majority of native vegetation in the bulk of the Study Area will not be removed, although some indirect disturbance may occur during site clearing and construction. Based on this, any impacts would be considered less than significant with recommended mitigation measures included.

7.2.2 Impacts to Sensitive Plant Communities

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation (Sensitive Natural Community)

The Study Area supports three sensitive plant communities that are considered high priority by CDFW based on their state ranking of S3 or rarer, namely the Fremont cottonwood/mulefat forest, Fremont cottonwood forest, and the California sycamore woodland. These communities are located along the drainage channel outside the majority of the proposed impact area. However, it is assumed that development along the drainage channel would impact each of thethree sensitive plant communities and should be considered a significant impact without mitigation. The current project design would impact 0.10 acre of the Fremont cottonwood/mulefat forest, 0.94 acre of the Fremont cottonwood forest, and 0.11 acre of the California sycamore woodland. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 is recommended to reduce impacts to sensitive plant communities to less-than-significant.

7.2.3 Impacts to Wetlands

Threshold BIO-C: Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less than Significant with Mitigation

There are 3.2-acres (3,209 linear feet) of federally and state protected waters (e.g., wetlands or drainages) identified on-site. The two aquatic features mapped from the field delineation are considered to be waters of the U.S., waters of the State, and features subject to FGC Section 1600 *et seq*. Both features may be impacted by the proposed project development. Significant impacts would occur as a result of the Project's implementation but may be reduced to less-than-significant when mitigation is applied.

The project design would impact 0.5 acre of waters of the U,S, and about 2.2 acre of CDFW jurisdiction. The proposed impact is approximately 1,500 linear feet in length, with about 400 feet of the 1,500 being within the existing concrete drainage channel at the northeast end of the project site. The project design avoids approximately

1,700 linear feet of onsite drainages. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 is recommended to reduce impacts to federally and state protected waters to less-than-significant.

7.2.4 Impacts to Wildlife Movement and Migratory Species

Threshold BIO-D: Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery areas?

No Impacts (Wildlife Movement)

Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation (Migratory Species)

7.2.4.1 Wildlife Movement

The Study Area supports potential live-in and movement habitat for species on a local scale (i.e., some limited live-in and at least marginal movement habitat for reptile, bird, and mammal species), but it likely provides little to no function to facilitate wildlife movement for wildlife species on a regional scale, and is not identified as a regionally important dispersal or seasonal migration corridor. Movement on a local scale is restricted within the project area due to frequent vehicular ingress/egress and human presence, and occurs in more suitable habitats to the north, east and west of each of the Project Site. Although implementation of the Project would, and may have in the recent past, resulted in disturbances to local wildlife movement within the Project site, those species adapted to disturbed areas would be expected to persist on-site following construction. As such, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation measures would be required. Since the Study Area does not function as a regional wildlife corridor and is not known to support wildlife nursery area(s), no impacts would occur and no mitigation measures would be required.

7.2.4.2 Migratory Species

Migratory Birds: As previously discussed in Section 4.7.4, *Special-Status Wildlife Species*, the site supports potential nesting and foraging habitat for migratory birds. Potential foraging habitat for raptors exists throughout the project site. Potential foraging and nesting habitat for other migratory birds exists within the Study Area, which includes the various vegetation communities discussed in Sections 4.2.1 through 4.2.12. Therefore, impacts to foraging habitat would be considered potentially significant without consideration for compliance with the requirements of MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Section 3503, 3503.5 and 3513. Direct impacts to the migratory and nest bird species would be avoided through compliance with the MBTA and the Fish and Game Code.

The Study Area has the potential to support songbird nests due to the presence of shrubs and trees and potential Project impact will be avoided through implementation of a pre-construction nest survey, as described below. Nesting activity typically occurs from February 1 (January 15 for raptors) to August 31. Disturbing or destroying active nests is a violation of the MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.). In addition, nests and eggs are protected under Fish and Game Code Section 3503. The removal of vegetation during the breeding season is considered a potentially significant impact as defined by the thresholds of significance (Threshold BIO-D) in Section 6.0 above. Any potential impacts to raptor and songbird nests would be considered potentially significant. Compliance with the MBTA would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. Compliance may be demonstrated by implementing the following recommend project design feature.

Prior to construction commencement require and the removal of potential habitat for raptor and songbird nests, the project proponent shall demonstrate that either of the following have been or will be accomplished:

1) Vegetation removal activities are scheduled outside the nesting season (September 1 to January 31 for songbirds; September 1 to January 14 for raptors) to the greatest extent feasible, to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds; 2) Construction activities planned during the bird nesting/breeding season, generally January through March for early nesting birds (e.g., Cooper's hawks or hummingbirds) and from mid-March through August for most bird species, shall be preceded by bird nest survey conducted by a qualified biologist; pre-construction nesting bird surveys should be conducted weekly, within 30 days prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities to determine the presence of active nests. The surveys should continue on a weekly basis with the last survey being conducted no more than three days before the start of clearance/construction work. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed, additional pre-construction surveys are recommended so that no more than three days will have elapsed between the survey and ground-disturbing activities.

If active nests are detected during pre-construction surveys, clearing and construction activities within 50 feet of the nest (100 feet for raptors) will be postponed or halted until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest should be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers and construction personnel should be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. The biologist would serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests will occur. The results of the survey, and any avoidance measures taken, should be submitted to the CDFW within 30 days of completion of the pre-construction surveys and/or construction monitoring to document compliance with applicable state and federal laws pertaining to the protection of native birds.

7.2.5 Consistency with Local Policies and Ordinances

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

Less than Significant Impact with Project Design Feature (City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance)

7.2.5.1 City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code 17.51.040 – Oak Tree Preservation

As previously discussed above in Section 4.8 – Protected Tree Resources, The City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance prohibits the removal of or damage to any oaks that meets the specified DBH requirement without the approval of a tree permit. The Study Area supports 10 coast live oak that are primarily located outside or at the periphery of the proposed impacts by the project design, and three of which are proposed for removal. In addition, four coast live oak trees will be encroached with project design implementation. There are an additional 19 indigenous oak trees within the off-site transportation infrastructure improvement area, of which seven will require removal with roadway improvements and another 12 oak trees will be pruned or encroached. Oak tree impacts of removal or encroachment are discussed within the project oak tree report, Appendix E. An Oak Tree Permit will be required to encroach and/or remove these coast live and other oaks. Further information can be found in Appendix E – Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Development Oak Tree Report.

Protective fencing of not less than five feet in height at the limits of the Tree Protected Zone ("TPZ") of all oak trees within or extending into the property that may be impacted by or are in close proximity (50 feet) with construction activities should be installed prior to start of construction. The protective fencing will be inspected by a qualified biologist or arborist prior to grading or ground disturbing activities, and the fencing will be maintained and remain in place until construction is completed and a certified arborist verifies that it is appropriate to be removed.

7.2.6 Consistency with Adopted Natural Community Conservation Plan

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

No Impact

The Project does not occur within the limits of any adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. As such, no impacts will occur.

8.0 PROJECT MITIGATION MEASURES

8.1 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

The following mitigation recommendations are proposed to reduce project impacts to less-than-significant.

8.1.1 Special-Status Nesting Birds

As discussed in Section 7.2.1, Special-Status Wildlife Species, there are three Watch List species, California towhee, oak titmouse and turkey vulture, that were observed during biological surveys. To avoid disruption or disturbance to special-status nesting birds. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is recommended to reduce project impacts to a less-than-significant level.

> **Mitigation Measure BIO-1:** Prior to construction that would require removal of potential habitat for raptor and songbird nests between January 15 and September 1, the Project applicant shall have a qualified biologist conduct surveys for any and all active avian nests. Pre-construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted weekly, within 30 days prior to initiation of ground-disturbing activities to determine the presence of active nests. The surveys should continue on a weekly basis with the last survey being conducted no more than three days before the start of clearance/construction work. Surveys should include examination of trees, shrubs, and the ground, within grasslands, for nesting birds, as several bird species known to the area are shrub or ground nesters, including mourning doves. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed, additional pre-construction surveys may be recommended so that no more than three days will have elapsed between the survey and ground-disturbing activities.
>
> If active nests are located during pre-construction surveys, clearing and construction activities within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest shall be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers and construction personnel should be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. The nest buffers may be reduced by the monitoring biologist when there is a biologist present to observe the nest for changes in behavior. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests will occur. It is recommended that the results of the survey, and any avoidance measures taken, be submitted to the City within 30 days of completion of the pre-construction surveys and/or construction monitoring to document compliance with applicable state and federal laws pertaining to the protection of native birds.

8.1.2 Least Bell's Vireo

As discussed in Section 7.2.1, Special-Status Wildlife Species, least Bell's vireo, a federal and state Endangered species, has a moderate potential to occur within the marginal habitat of the riparian community. The project site supports Fremont cottonwood/mulefat forest, Fremont cottonwood forest, and California sycamore woodland within the onsite drainage, which could support least Bell's vireo. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 is recommended to avoid project impacts to the listed special-status least Bell's vireo to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Prior to the start of construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct eight (8) focused surveys within suitable least Bell's vireo habitat between April 10 and July 31, and shall be spaced a minimum of 10 days apart, in accordance with the 2001 USFWS Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines. The eight focused protocol surveys shall be completed and the results of the surveys shall be submitted in a draft report to the City for review within 21 days of the completion of surveys. A final report shall be prepared and submitted to the City and USFWS within 45 days following the completion of the surveys. If least Bell's vireo is determined to be absent, not further action is required.

If least Bell's vireo is determined to be present based on the results of the protocol surveys, no construction may begin prior to consultation with CDFW and USFWS for compliance with both the CESA and FESA. Compensatory mitigation for impacts to 0.78 acre of marginally suitable least Bell's vireo habitat shall be achieved in conjunction with Mitigation Measure BIO-4 for impacts to a jurisdictional drainage with mitigation ratio of at least 2:1.

8.1.3 Sensitive Plant Communities

As discussed in Section 7.2.2, Sensitive Plant Communities, there are three plant communities with a State Rank of S3 and considered sensitive natural communities. The project site supports Fremont cottonwood/mulefat forest, Fremont cottonwood forest, and California sycamore woodland. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 is recommended to reduce project impacts to sensitive plant communities to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, impacts to sensitive plant communities (i.e., Fremont cottonwood/mulefat forest, Fremont cottonwood forest, and California sycamore woodland) shall be mitigated through enhancement or restoration of remaining on-site sensitive plant communities at a ratio of 1:1 or the creation of new sensitive plant communities within the newly created channel area. A habitat mitigation and monitoring plan shall be prepared by a qualified biologist or restoration ecologist and approved by the City prior to the issuance of a grading permit. The plan shall focus on the removal of non-native elements within disturbed habitat areas of the project site or depict creation areas, planting/restoration methods and success criteria. In addition, the plan shall provide details as to the implementation of the plan, maintenance, and future monitoring including the following components:

1. Description of existing sensitive plant communities on the Project site;
2. Summary of permanent impacts to the sensitive community based on approved Project design;
3. Proposed mitigation location areas, with description of existing conditions prior to mitigationimplementation;
4. Detailed description of restoration or enhancement goals;
5. Description of implementation schedule, site preparation, erosion control measures, plantingplans, and plant materials;
6. Provisions for mitigation site maintenance and control on non-native invasive plants; and
7. Monitoring plan, including performance standards, adaptive management measures, and monitoring reporting to the City of Santa Clarita.

Alternatively, mitigation for sensitive plant community impacts may be achieved through off-site restorationor enhancement at a ratio no less than 1:1, may include the purchase of mitigation credits at an agency- approved off-site mitigation bank or an in lieu fee program within Los Angeles County acceptable to the City.

8.1.4 Jurisdictional Drainage Courses

An aquatic resources delineation identified potentially jurisdictional features on the project site. Any development should try to avoid or minimize impacts to the potentially jurisdictional features, and concentrate development within areas that exhibit disturbance. If avoidance and/or minimization is not feasible and the project design will impact jurisdictional features, the appropriate permits will be obtained from the regulatory agencies (i.e., 404 permit from the USACE, 401 permit from the RWQCB, and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW). Mitigation Measure BIO-4 requires a minimum 2:1 mitigation replacement ratio and will reduce project impacts to less-than-significant after implementation.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Prior to the issuance of any grading permit for permanent or temporary impacts in the areas designated as jurisdictional features, the Applicant shall obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the USACE, a Clean Water Act Section 401 permit from the RWQCB, and Streambed Alteration Agreement permit under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code from the CDFW. The following should be incorporated into the permitting, subject to approval by the regulatory agencies:

1. On- or off-site restoration or enhancement of USACE/RWQCB jurisdictional "waters of the U.S."/"waters of the State" and wetlands at a ratio no less than 2:1 for permanent impacts, and for temporary impacts, restore impact area to pre-project conditions (i.e., revegetate with native species, where appropriate). Off-site restoration or enhancement at a ratio no less than 2:1 may include the purchase of mitigation credits at an agency-approved off-site mitigation bank or in lieu fee program within Los Angeles County or within the same watershed acceptable to the City, where the location has comparable ecological parameters such as habitat types and species mix;
2. On- or off-site restoration or enhancement of CDFW jurisdictional streambed and associated riparian habitat at a ratio no less than 2:1 for permanent impacts, and for temporary impacts, restore impact area to pre-project conditions (i.e., revegetate with native species, where appropriate). Off-site restoration or enhancement at a ratio no less than 2:1 may include the purchase of mitigation credits at an agency-approved off-site mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program within Los Angeles County or within the same watershed acceptable to the City, where the location has comparable ecological parameters such as habitat types and species mix

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APPENDIX A

Floral and Faunal Compendia

APPENDIX A – WILEY CANYON

Floral Compendium

Scientific Name	Common Name	Nativity	Status
EUDICOTS			
Adoxaceae	Muskroot Family		
Sambucus nigra subsp. *caerulea*	blue elderberry	Native	
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family		
Amaranthus albus	tumbleweed	Naturalized	
Anacardiaceae	Sumac Family		
Toxicodendron diversilobum	Poison oak	Native	
Asteraceae	Sunflower Family		
Ambrosia acanthicarpa	Annual bursage	Native	
Ambrosia psilostachya	western ragweed	Native	
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	Native	
Artemisia douglasiana	mugwort	Native	
Artemisia tridentata	big sagebrush	Native	
Baccharis salicifolia subsp. *salicifolia*	mule fat	Native	
Bebbia juncea	sweetbush	Native	
Carduus pycnocephalus subsp. *pycnocephalus*	Italian thistle	Naturalized	
Centaurea melitensis	tocalote	Naturalized	
Deinandra fasciculata	clustered tarplant	Native	
Encelia farinosa	brittlebush	Native	
Erigeron canadensis	horseweed	Native	
Helianthus annuus	annual sunflower	Native	
Heterotheca grandiflora	telegraph weed	Native	
Heterotheca sessiliiflora	golden aster	Native	
Lactuca serriola	prickly lettuce	Naturalized	
Lepidospartum squamatum	scalebroom	Native	
Malacothrix saxatilis var. *tenuifolia*	short leaved cliff aster	Native	
Pseudognaphalium californicum	ladies' tobacco	Native	
Sonchus asper subsp. *asper*	prickly sow thistle	Naturalized	
Uropappus lindleyi	silver puffs	Native	
Boraginaceae	Borage Family		
Amsinckia intermedia	common fiddleneck	Native	
Eriodictyon crassifolium	thick leaved yerba santa	Native	
Phacelia cicutaria subsp. *hispida*	caterpillar phacelia	Native	
Brassicaceae	Mustard Family		
Hirschfeldia incana	shortpod mustard	Naturalized	
Lepidium latifolium	perennial pepperweed	Naturalized	
Nasturtium officinale	watercress	Native	
Cactaceae	Cactus Family		
Opuntia species	prickly pear	Native	
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family		
Chenopodium album	lambs quarters	Naturalized	
Salsola tragus	Russian thistle	Naturalized	

Convolvulaceae	Morning-Glory Family		
Cuscuta californica	chaparral dodder	Native	
Cucurbitaceae	Gourd Family		
Cucurbita foetidissima	coyote melon	Native	
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
Croton californicus	Desert croton	Native	
Croton setiger	turkey-mullein	Native	
Ricinus communis	castor bean	Naturalized	
Fabaceae	Legume Family		
Acmispon glaber	deerweed	Native	
Lupinus succulentus	arroyo lupine	Native	
Melilotus indicus	sourclover	Naturalized	
Fagaceae	Oak Family		
Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	Native	
Quercus berberidifolia	scrub oak	Native	
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family		
Erodium botrys	big heron bill	Naturalized	
Erodium brachycarpum	white-stemmed filaree	Naturalized	
Erodium cicutarium	redstem filaree	Naturalized	
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family		
Juglans californica	southern California black walnut	Native	4.2
Lamiaceae	Mint Family		
Salvia apiana	white sage	Native	
Salvia columbariae	chia	Native	
Salvia mellifera	black sage	Native	
Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
Malva parviflora	cheeseweed	Naturalized	
Myrsinaceae	Myrsine Family		
Lysimachia arvensis	scarlet pimpernel	Naturalized	
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family		
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Red River gum	Naturalized	
Oleaceae	Olive Family		
Fraxinus uhdei	shamel ash	Naturalized	
Olea europea	olive	Naturalized	
Onagraceae	Evening-Primrose Family		
Clarkia unguiculata	woodland clarkia	Native	
Phrymaceae	Lopseed Family		
Erythranthe cardinalis	cardinal monkey flower	Native	
Erythranthe guttata	yellow monkey flower	Native	
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family		
Keckiella cordifolia	heart leaved keckiella	Native	
Platanaceae	Sycamore Family		
Platanus racemosa	western sycamore	Native	
Polemoniaceae	Phlox Family		
Eriastrum sapphirinum	sapphire eriastrum	Native	
Gilia angelensis	chaparral gilia	Native	
Polygonaceae	Buckwheat Family		
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California buckwheat	Native	
Persicaria lapathifolia	common knotweed	Native	
Polygonum aviculare	knotweed	Naturalized	
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family		
Ceanothus leucodermis	chaparral whitethorn	Native	
Rhamnus ilicifolia	evergreen buckthorn	Native	
Rosaceae	Rose Family		
Adenostoma fasciculatum	chamise	Native	
Salicaceae	Willow Family		
Populus fremontii subsp. *fremontii*	Fremont cottonwood	Native	

Salix exigua	sandbar willow	Native
Salix gooddingii	Goodding's black willow	Native
Salix laevigata	red willow	Native
Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	Native
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
Datura wrightii	jimsonweed	Native
Nicotiana glauca	tree tobacco	Naturalized
Solanum douglasii	Douglas' nightshade	Native
Solanum xanti	chaparral nightshade	Native
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family	
Tamarix species	tamarisk	Naturalized
Ulmaceae	Elm Family	
Ulmus parviflora	Chinese elm	Naturalized
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
Urtica dioica subsp. *holosericea*	hoary nettle	Native
Urtica urens	dwarf nettle	Naturalized
Zygophyllaceae	Caltrop Family	
Tribulus terrestris	puncturevine	Naturalized

MONOCOTS

Agavaceae	Century Plant Family	
Hesperoyucca whipplei	chaparral yucca	Native
Arecaceae	Palm Family	
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican fan palm	Naturalized
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
Bolboschoenus maritimus subsp. *paludosus*	saltmarsh bulrush	Native
Cyperus eragrostis	tall cyperus	Native
Cyperus involucratus	umbrella plant	Naturalized
Schoenoplectus acutus	hardstem bulrush	Native
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
Juncus bufonius	toad rush	Native
Poaceae	Grass Family	
Arundo donax	giant reed	Naturalized
Avena barbata	slender wild oat	Naturalized
Bromus diandrus	ripgut grass	Naturalized
Bromus rubens ssp. *madritensis*	red brome	Naturalized
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass	Naturalized
Festuca myuros	rattail sixweeks grass	Naturalized
Festuca perennis	rye grass	Naturalized
Hordeum murinum	wall barley	Naturalized
Pennisetum setaceum	fountain grass	Naturalized
Polypogon monspeliensis	annual beard grass	Naturalized
Polypogon viridis	water beard grass	Naturalized
Schismus barbatus	Common Mediterraeab	Naturalized
Stipa miliacea var. *miliacea*	smilo grass	Naturalized
Typhaceae	Cattail Family	
Typha latifolia	broadleaf cattail	Native

Key to Species Listing Status Codes

FE	*Federally Endangered*	SE	*State Listed as Endangered*
FT	*Federally Threatened*	ST	*State Listed as Threatened*
FC	*Federal Candidate*	SCE	*State Candidate for Endangered*
FPE	*Federally Proposed as Endangered*	SCT	*State Candidate for Threatened*
FPT	*Federally Proposed as Threatened*	SFP	*State Fully Protected*
FPD	*Federally Proposed for Delisting*		

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

Rank 1A: Presumed extirpated in California and either Rare or Extinct elsewhere. *Rank 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.* *Rank 2A: Presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere.* *Rank 2B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common in other states.* *Rank 3: Plant species about which more information is needed.* *Rank 4: Species of limited distribution in California.* Source: ESA 2020.	*<u>New Threat Code extensions and their meanings:</u>* *1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)* *2 Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)* *3 Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)*

APPENDIX A – WILEY CANYON
Faunal Compendium

Class	Family	Family Alias	Scientific Name	Common Name	Special-status?
Mammalia					
	Sciuridae	Squirrels, Chipmunks and Marmots	*Ostospermophilus Beecheyi*	California Ground Squirrel	N
Aves					
	Cathartidae	New World Vultures	*Cathartes aura*	Turkey Vulture	Y
	Trochilidae	Hummingbirds	*Selasphorus sasin*	Allen's Hummingbird	N
	Trochilidae	Hummingbirds	*Calypte anna*	Anna's Hummingbird	N
	Apodidae	Swifts	*Aeronautes saxatalis*	White-throated Swift	N
	Tyrannidae	Tyrant Flycatchers	*Tyrannus vociferans*	Cassin's Kingbird	N
	Aegithalidae	Long-tailed Tits and Bushtits	*Psaltriparus minimus*	Bushtit	N
	Corvidae	Crows and Jays	*Aphelocoma californica*	California Scrub-Jay	N
	Passerellidae	New World Sparrows	*Melozone crissalis*	California Towhee	N
	Paridae	Chickadees and Titmice	*Baeolophus inornatus*	Oak Titmouse	N
	Accipitridae	Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies	*Buteo jamaicensis*	Red-tailed Hawk	N
	Passeridae	Old World Sparrows	*Passer domesticus*	House Sparrow	N
	Icteridae	Blackbirds	*Icterus cucullatus*	Hooded Oriole	N
	Mimidae	Mockingbirds and Thrashers	*Mimus polyglottos*	Northern Mockingbird	N
Reptilia					
	Phrynosomatidae	Spiny lizards	*Sceloporus occidentalis*	Western Fence Lizard	N
	Phrynosomatidae	Spiny lizards	*Uta stansburiana*	Common Side-blotched Lizard	N
Amphibia					
	Bufonidae	True Toads	*Anaxyrus boreas*	Western Toad	N

APPENDIX B

Special-Status Plant Species

APPENDIX B – SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT POTENTIAL TO OCCUR
WILEY CANYON (SMISER RANCH) MIXED USE PROJECT

Scientific Name	Common Name	Flowering Period	CNPS	State	Federal	Preferred Habitat	Potential For Occurrence[1]
Angiosperms (Dicotyledons)							
Acanthoscyphus parishii var. *parishii*	Parish's oxytheca	Jun-Sep	4.2	None	None	Sandy or gravelly soils in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Arenaria paludicola	marsh sandwort	May-Aug	1B.1	Endangered	Endangered	Growing up through dense mats of *Typha*, *Juncus*, *Scirpus*, etc. in freshwater marsh, wetlands and swamps. Sandy soil. 3-170 m.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Astragalus brauntonii	Braunton's milk-vetch	Jan-Aug	1B.1	None	FE	Recent burns or disturbed areas, usually sandstone with carbonate layers in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Berberis nevinii	Nevin's barberry	(Feb)Mar-Jun	1B.1	CE	FE	Sandy or gravelly soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian scrub	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Calystegia peirsonii	Peirson's morning-glory	Apr-Jun	4.2	None	None	Chaparral, Chenopod scrub, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Canbya candida	white pygmy-poppy	Mar-Jun	4.2	None	None	Gravelly, sandy, granitic soils in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Castilleja gleasoni	Mt. Gleason paintbrush	May-Jun(Sep)	1B.2	CR	None	Granitic soils in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis*	southern tarplant	May-Nov	1B.1	None	None	Marshes and swamps (margins), valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic), vernal pools	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Cercocarpus betuloides var. *blancheae*	island mountain-mahogany	Feb-May	4.3	None	None	Closed-cone coniferous forest, Chaparral	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *fernandina*	San Fernando Valley spineflower	Apr-Jul	1B.1	CE	FC	Coastal scrub (sandy), valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's spineflower	Apr-Jun	1B.1	None	None	Sandy or rocky openings in Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Clinopodium mimuloides	monkey-flower savory	Jun-Oct	4.2	None	None	Streambanks, mesic soils in chaparral, North Coast coniferous forest	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Convolvulus simulans	small-flowered morning-glory	Mar-Jul	4.2	None	None	Clay, serpentinite seeps and openings in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Deinandra minthornii	Santa Susana tarplant	Jul-Nov	1B.2	CR	None	Rocky soils in chaparral, coastal scrub	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Deinandra paniculata	paniculate tarplant	(Mar)Apr-Nov(Dec)	4.2	None	None	usually vernally mesic, sometimes sandy soils in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools	**Absent.** Species was not observed at the time of survey.

[1] **OBSERVED** = species observed during focused surveys; **NONE** = species not expected to occur due to the lack of suitable habitat, or the site's location outside of the species' range; **ABSENT** = potentially suitable habitat is present but the species was not observed during the focused surveys.

Delphinium parryi ssp. *purpureum*	Mt. Pinos larkspur	May-Jun	4.3	None	None	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Dodecahema leptoceras	slender-horned spineflower	Apr-Jun	1B.1	CE	FE	Sandy soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub (alluvial fan)	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. blochmaniae	Blochman's dudleya	Apr-Jun	1B.1	None	None	Coastal bluff scrub, Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Dudleya cymosa ssp. *agourensis*	Agoura Hills dudleya	May-Jun	1B.2	None	FT	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Dudleya multicaulis	many-stemmed dudleya	Apr-Jul	1B.2	None	None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Harpagonella palmeri	Palmer's grapplinghook	Mar-May	4.2	None	None	Clay soils and open grassy areas within chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Helianthus inexpectatus	Newhall sunflower	Aug-Oct	1B.1	None	None	Freshwater, seeps in marshes and swamps, riparian woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula*	mesa horkelia	Feb-Jul(Sep)	1B.1	None	None	Sandy or gravelly soils in chaparral (maritime), cismontane woodland, coastal scrub	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Hulsea vestita ssp. *parryi*	Parry's sunflower	Apr-Aug	4.3	None	None	Granitic or carbonate, rocky, openings in lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, upper montane coniferous forest	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Juglans californica	Southern California black walnut	Mar-Aug	4.2	None	None	Alluvial chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland	**Observed.** Seven trees were observed along South Fork of Santa Clara River
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri*	Coulter's goldfields	Feb-Jun	1B.1	None	None	Marshes and swamps (coastal salt), playas, vernal pools	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Lepidium virginicum var. *robinsonii*	Robinson's pepper-grass	Jan-Jul	4.3	None	None	Often clay soils in chaparral, coastal scrub	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Lupinus paynei	Payne's bush lupine	Mar-Apr(May-Jul)	1B.1	None	None	Sandy soils in coastal scrub, riparian scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Malacothamnus davidsonii	Davidson's bush-mallow	Jun-Jan	1B.2	None	None	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. *hypoleuca*	white-veined monardella	Jun-Aug	1B.3	None	None	Dry slopes in oak woodland, chaparral	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Navarretia fossalis	spreading navarretia	Apr-Jun	1B.1	None	FT	Chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater), playas, vernal pools	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Navarretia ojaiensis	Ojai navarretia	May-Jul	1B.1	None	None	Chaparral (openings), coastal scrub (openings), valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Navarretia setiloba	Piute Mountains navarretia	Apr-Jul	1B.1	None	None	Clay or gravelly loam in cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Opuntia basilaris var. *brachyclada*	short-joint beavertail	Apr-Jun(Aug)	1B.2	None	None	Chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Phacelia hubbyi	Hubby's phacelia	Apr-Jul	4.2	None	None	Gravelly, rocky, talus soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.

Phacelia mohavensis	Mojave phacelia	Apr-Aug	4.3	None	None	Sandy or gravelly soils in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum	white rabbit-tobacco	(Jul)Aug-Nov(Dec)	2B.2	None	None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Riparian Sandy, alluvial benches and gravelly soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Senecio aphanactis	chaparral ragwort	Jan-Apr(May)	2B.2	None	None	Sometimes alkaline soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Stylocline masonii	Mason's neststraw	Mar-May	1B.1	None	None	Sandy soils in chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Symphyotrichum greatae	Greata's aster	Jun-Oct	1B.3	None	None	Mesic soils in broad-leafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland	**Absent.** Species was not observed at the time of survey.
Angiosperms (Monocotyledons)							
Calochortus catalinae	Catalina mariposa lily	(Feb)Mar-Jun	4.2	None	None	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Calochortus clavatus var. *clavatus*	club-haired mariposa lily	(Mar)May-Jun	4.3	None	None	Usually serpentinite, clay, rocky soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Calochortus clavatus var. *gracilis*	slender mariposa lily	Mar-Jun(Nov)	1B.2	None	None	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Calochortus fimbriatus	late-flowered mariposa lily	Jun-Aug	1B.3	None	None	Often serpentinite soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Calochortus palmeri var. *palmeri*	Palmer's mariposa lily	Apr-Jul	1B.2	None	None	Mesic soils in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa lily	May-Jul	4.2	None	None	Granitic, rocky soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Hordeum intercedens	vernal barley	Mar-Jun	3.2	None	None	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland (saline flats and depressions), vernal pools	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Lilium humboldtii ssp. *ocellatum*	ocellated Humboldt lily	Mar-Jul(Aug)	4.2	None	None	Openings in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland	**Absent.** Species was not observed at the time of survey.
Nolina cismontana	chaparral nolina	(Mar)May-Jul	1B.2	None	None	Sandstone or gabbro substrates in chaparral, coastal scrub	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Orcuttia californica	California Orcutt grass	Apr-Aug	1B.1	CE	FE	Vernal pools	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.

Key to Species Listing Status Codes

FE	*Federally Endangered*	SE	*State Listed as Endangered*
FT	*Federally Threatened*	ST	*State Listed as Threatened*
FC	*Federal Candidate*	SCE	*State Candidate for Endangered*
FPE	*Federally Proposed as Endangered*	SCT	*State Candidate for Threatened*
FPT	*Federally Proposed as Threatened*	SFP	*State Fully Protected*
FPD	*Federally Proposed for Delisting*		

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

Rank 1A: Presumed extirpated in California and either Rare or Extinct elsewhere. *Rank 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.* *Rank 2A: Presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere.* *Rank 2B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.* *Rank 3: Plant about which more information is needed.* *Rank 4: Species of limited distribution in California.* Source: ESA 2020.	*<u>New Threat Code extensions and their meanings:</u>* *1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)* *2 Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)* *3 Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)*

APPENDIX C

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal	State	Other Status	Preferred Habitat	Potential For Occurrence[1]
Insects						
Bombus crotchii	Crotch bumble bee	None	Candidate Endangered		Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Food plant genera include *Antirrhinum*, *Phacelia*, *Clarkia*, *Dendromecon*, *Eschscholzia*, and *Eriogonum*.	**Potential**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey. *Clarkia, Phacelia* and *Eriogonum* present on site.
Danaus plexippus pop. 1	Monarch - California overwintering population	None	None	USFS_S-Sensitive	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (*Eucalyptus*, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey. Wind protected tree groves not present.
Euphydryas editha quino	quino checkerspot butterfly	Endangered	None	XERCES_CI-Critically Imperiled	Sunny openings within chaparral & coastal sage shrublands in parts of Riverside & San Diego counties. Hills and mesas near the coast. Need high densities of food plants *Plantago erecta*, *P. ovata* var. *insularis*, and *Castilleja exserta*.	**None.** Host plants and food plants are absent.
Birds						
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk	None	None	CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Woodland, chiefly of open, interrupted or marginal type. Nest sites mainly in riparian growths of deciduous trees, as in canyon bottoms on river flood-plains; also, live oaks.	**Potential**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey but suitable habitat is present.
Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	None	Threatened	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_EN-Endangered | NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	**None**. Suitable habitat is not present
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	None	None	CDFW_WL-Watch List	Resident in Southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral. Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Ammodramus savannarum	grasshopper sparrow	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes. Favors native grasslands with	**None**. Suitable habitat is not present

[1] **NONE** = species not expected to occur due to the lack of suitable habitat, or the site's location is outside of the species' range; **NONE (N)** = species not expected to nest due to the lack of suitable habitat, or the site's location is outside of the species' range; **NONE (F)** = species not expected to forage due to lack of food sources, or the site's location is outside of the species' range; **NOT EXPECTED** = preferred habitat was considered potentially present based on the literature review and anticipated habitat in the study area, however no individuals were observed and/or suitable habitat was absent based on the general field survey or focused surveys; **POTENTIAL** = preferred habitat was considered potentially present based on the literature review and observed habitat in the Project site. **OBSERVED** = Observed onsite.

					a mix of grasses, forbs and scattered shrubs. Loosely colonial when nesting.	
Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDF_S-Sensitive | CDFW_FP-Fully Protected | CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also, large trees in open areas.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Artemisiospiza belli belli	Bell's sage sparrow	None	None	CDFW_WL-Watch List | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Nests in chaparral dominated by fairly dense stands of chamise. Found in coastal sage scrub in south of range. Nest located on the ground beneath a shrub or in a shrub 6-18 inches above ground.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's hawk	None	Threatened	BLM_S-Sensitive | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, & agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	western yellow-billed cuckoo	Threatened	Endangered	BLM_S-Sensitive | NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List | USFS_S-Sensitive | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Elanus leucurus	white-tailed kite	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_FP-Fully Protected | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Empidonax traillii extimus	southwestern willow flycatcher	Endangered	Endangered	NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List	Willow & Cottonwood dominated riparian woodlands in Southern California.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Eremophila alpestris actia	California horned lark	None	None	CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Coastal regions, chiefly from Sonoma County to San Diego County. Also main part of San Joaquin Valley and east to foothills. Short-grass prairie, "bald" hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, alkali flats.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Gymnogyps californianus	California condor	Endangered	Endangered	CDF_S-Sensitive CDFW_FP-Fully Protected IUCN_CR-Critically Endangered NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List	Require vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude. Deep canyons containing clefts in the rocky walls provide nesting sites. Forages up to 100 miles from roost/nest	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Icteria virens	yellow-breasted chat	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Summer resident; inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape; forages and nests within 10 ft. of ground.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Lanius ludovicianus	loggerhead shrike	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Broken woodlands, savannah, pinyon-juniper, Joshua tree, and riparian woodlands, desert oases, scrub & washes. Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Polioptila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	Threatened	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern |	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft. in Southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes,	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.

				NABCI_YWL-Yellow Watch List	on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	
Riparia riparia	bank swallow	None	Threatened	BLM_S-Sensitive | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting hole.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Setophaga petechia	yellow warbler	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	Endangered	Endangered	IUCN_NT-Near Threatened | NABCI_YWL-Yellow Watch List	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, *Baccharis*, mesquite.	**Potential**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey but suitable habitat is present.
Fish						
Catostomus santaanae	Santa Ana sucker	Threatened	None	AFS_TH-Threatened | IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Endemic to Los Angeles Basin south coastal streams. Habitat generalists, but prefer sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water, and algae.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present. This portion of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River is channelized both upstream and downstream of site and does not possess adequate hydrology to support this species.
Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni	unarmored threespine stickleback	Endangered	Endangered	AFS_EN-Endangered | CDFW_FP-Fully Protected	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small Southern California streams. Cool (<24 C), clear water with abundant vegetation.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present. This portion of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River is channelized both upstream and downstream of site and does not possess adequate hydrology to support this species.
Gila orcuttii	arroyo chub	None	None	AFS_VU-Vulnerable | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive	Native to streams from Malibu Creek to San Luis Rey River basin. Introduced into streams in Santa Clara, Ventura, Santa Ynez, Mojave & San Diego river basins. Slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms. Feeds heavily on aquatic vegetation and associated invertebrates.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present. This portion of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River is channelized both upstream and downstream of site and does not possess adequate hydrology to support this species.
Rhinichthys osculus ssp. 3	Santa Ana speckled dace	None	None	AFS_TH-Threatened | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive	Headwaters of the Santa Ana and San Gabriel rivers. May be extirpated from the Los Angeles River system. Requires permanent flowing streams with summer water temps of 17-20 C. Usually inhabits shallow cobble and gravel riffles.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present. This portion of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River is channelized both upstream and

						downstream of site and does not possess adequate hydrology to support this species.
Mammals						
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive | WBWG_H-High Priority	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive | WBWG_H-High Priority	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Euderma maculatum	spotted bat	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | WBWG_H-High Priority	Occupies a wide variety of habitats from arid deserts and grasslands through mixed conifer forests. Feeds over water and along washes. Feeds almost entirely on moths. Needs rock crevices in cliffs or caves for roosting.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Eumops perotis californicus	western mastiff bat	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | WBWG_H-High Priority	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer & deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Lasionycteris noctivagans	silver-haired bat	None	None	IUCN_LC-Least Concern | WBWG_M-Medium Priority	Primarily a coastal and montane forest dweller, feeding over streams, ponds & open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark, abandoned woodpecker holes, and rarely under rocks. Needs drinking water.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Lasiurus cinereus	hoary bat	None	None	IUCN_LC-Least Concern | WBWG_M-Medium Priority	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Lepus californicus bennettii	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Intermediate canopy stages of shrub habitats & open shrub / herbaceous & tree / herbaceous edges. Coastal sage scrub habitats in Southern California.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Macrotus californicus	California leaf-nosed bat	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | WBWG_H-High Priority	Desert riparian, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, alkali scrub and palm oasis habitats. Needs rocky, rugged terrain with mines or caves for roosting.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Onychomys torridus ramona	southern grasshopper mouse	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Desert areas, especially scrub habitats with friable soils for digging. Prefers low to moderate shrub cover. Feeds almost exclusively on arthropods, especially scorpions and orthopteran insects.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Lower elevation grasslands and coastal sage communities in and around the Los Angeles Basin. Open ground with fine, sandy soils. May not dig extensive burrows, hiding under weeds and dead leaves instead.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or

						detected at the time of survey.
Taxidea taxus	American badger	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Reptiles						
Anniella spp.	California legless lizard	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Contra Costa County south to San Diego, within a variety of open habitats. This element represents California records of *Anniella* not yet assigned to new species within the *Anniella pulchra* complex. Variety of habitats; generally, in moist, loose soil. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Patchily distributed from the eastern portion of San Francisco Bay, southern San Joaquin Valley, and the Coast, Transverse, and Peninsular ranges, south to Baja California. Generalist reported from a range of scrub and grassland habitats, often with loose or sandy soils.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	coastal whiptail	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland & riparian areas. Ground may be firm soil, sandy, or rocky.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_VU-Vulnerable | USFS_S-Sensitive	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Thamnophis hammondii	two-striped gartersnake	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_LC-Least Concern | USFS_S-Sensitive	Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000-foot elevation. Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Amphibians						
Anaxyrus californicus	arroyo toad	Endangered	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_EN-Endangered	Semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill and desert riparian, desert wash, etc. Rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores; loose, gravelly areas of streams in drier parts of range.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	Threatened	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Rana muscosa	southern mountain yellow-legged frog	Endangered	Endangered	CDFW_WL-Watch List | IUCN_EN-Endangered | USFS_S-Sensitive	Federal listing refers to populations in the San Gabriel, San Jacinto and San Bernardino mountains (southern DPS). Northern DPS was determined to warrant listing as endangered, Apr 2014, effective Jun 30, 2014. Always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 - 4 yrs. to complete their aquatic development.	**None.** Suitable habitat is not present.
Spea hammondii	western spadefoot	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive | CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern | IUCN_NT-Near Threatened	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	**None.** Vernal pool habitat not present

Taricha torosa	Coast Range newt	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Coastal drainages from Mendocino County to San Diego County. Lives in terrestrial habitats & will migrate over 1 km to breed in ponds, reservoirs & slow moving streams.	**Not Expected**. Species was not observed or detected at the time of survey.
Arachnids						
Socalchemmis gertschi	Gertsch's socalchemmis spider	None	None	Global Rank G1, State Rank S1	Known from only 2 localities in Los Angeles County: Brentwood (type locality) and Topanga Canyon.	**None**. Suitable habitat is not present
Crustaceans						
Branchinecta lynchi	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None	IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Vernal pool and Wetland endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools.	**None.** Vernal pool habitat not present
Streptocephalus woottoni	Riverside fairy shrimp	Endangered	None	IUCN_EN-Endangered	Endemic to Western Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties in areas of tectonic swales/earth slump basins in grassland and coastal sage scrub. Inhabit seasonally astatic pools filled by winter/spring rains. Hatch in warm water later in the season.	**None.** Vernal pool habitat not present

FE	*Federally Endangered*	SE	*State Endangered*	BLM	*Bureau of Land Management*	USFWS	*United States Fish & Wildlife Service*
FT	*Federally Threatened*	ST	*State Threatened*	CDFW	*California Department of Fish & Wildlife*	NCBI	*North American Bird Conservation Initiative*
FC	*Federal Candidate*	SCE	*State Candidate Endangered*	IUCN	*International Union for Conservation of Nature*		
FPE	*Federally Proposed as Endangered*	SCT	*State Candidate Threatened*	WBWG	*Western Bat Working Group*		
FPT	*Federally Proposed as Threatened*	SFP	*State Fully Protected Species*	AFS	*American Fisheries Society*		
FPD	*Federally Proposed for Delisting*	SSC	*State Species of Special Concern*	USFS	*United States Forest Service*		

APPENDIX D

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Development Aquatic Resources Delineation Report

APPENDIX E

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Development Oak Tree Report

APPENDIX F

Wiley Canyon (Smiser Ranch) Mixed Use Development Resumes

Douglas Gordon-Blackwood

Biologist III

EDUCATION

BS, Botany, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

14 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

CERTIFICATIONS/ REGISTRATION

American Society of Consulting Arborists Registered Consulting Arborist #689

International Society of Arboriculture, Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist - #WE-11726-AU

International Society of Arboriculture, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ)

Wetland Training Institute 40-hour Wetland Delineator Certification Program 2018

Helicopter Flight/Safety Training, Burns & McDonnell

CDFW Rare Plant Voucher Collecting Permit 2081(a)-17-021-V

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

California Native Plant Society

California Invasive Plant Council

American Society of Consulting Arborists

Douglas is a consulting biologist with 9 years of experience in biological resources and habitat restoration, and 14 years with arboriculture. During his career he has conducted or supervised biological surveys and mapping of plant communities, jurisdictional areas and wildlife throughout Southern California. He has acted as lead biologist on many large restoration, development, and transportation projects throughout Southern California. His experience includes extensive survey experience for biological resource assessments, habitat and vegetation mapping, nesting bird surveys, restoration site assessments, arboricultural assessments, invasive species eradication, and biological compliance monitoring.

Relevant Experience

Calamigos Tennis Ranch Biological Support, Calabasas, CA. *Biologist/Arborist.* Douglas conducted oak and native tree inventory, biological survey, mapped sensitive environmental resource areas, and provided reporting for an 8-acre mixed-use facility among oak woodland in support of the Santa Monica Mountains LCP Biological Assessment requirements. October 2019 – Present

Legado Properties Playa Del Rey Beachfront Properties Project, Playa Del Rey, CA. *Biologist.* Douglas conducted a vegetation mapping, post impact analysis, and a historical site assessment for beachfront properties located within coastal fore-dune scrub. August 2019

Berkeley Tuolumne Family Campground, Tuolumne Meadows, CA. *Lead Arborist.* Douglas conducted an arboricultural inventory for 2000+ trees burned during the 2013 Rim Fire within the City of Berkeley Family Campground. Douglas conducted large scale tree risk assessments and conducted vegetation mapping. January – February 2018

SCE Deteriorated Pole Replacement, Southern California, CA. *Biologist.* Douglas conducted Habitat Resource Assessments for multiple deteriorated SCE utility poles throughout Southern California. Douglas conducted habitat and vegetation mapping, prepared project evaluation memos and conducted desktop analysis and monitored pole replacement in a wide range of sensitive species habitats. June 2017 - March 2018.

SCE HTRP/DRHTP Hazardous Tree Removal Program & Drought Related Hazardous Tree Program, Southern California, CA. *Biologist/Arborist.* Douglas acted as an arborist for SCE's hazardous tree program. Douglas conducted tree surveys, habitat assessment, jurisdictional assessments, and tree removal monitoring for hazardous trees throughout Southern California. June 2017 - March 2018.

SCE/Plains Kinsey 12 kV Restoration Site, Gorman, CA. *Restoration Ecologist* Douglas oversaw seed collection, seeding, planting, BMP maintenance, and weed abatement of a SCE and Plains Pipeline chaparral restoration site within the Angeles National Forest. December 2017- March 2018

SCE McGrath Beach Substation and Peaker Station, Oxnard, CA. *Lead Botanist /Restoration Ecologist.* Douglas conducted Daubenmire cover class vegetation sampling and rare plant surveys for the SCE McGrath Beach Peaker Station. Douglas also oversaw site restoration, weed abatement, and irrigation maintenance of a 37-acre coastal dune site associated with SCE's McGrath Beach Substation. April 2017 – August 2018.

SCE Santa Catalina Pole Replacement Surveys, Santa Catalina, CA. *Lead Botanist.* Douglas oversaw and lead botanical, wildlife and habitat assessment surveys of pole replacement impact areas for SCE distribution lines throughout Santa Catalina Island. Douglas also conducted detailed reporting and impact assessment. April 2017.

SCE Lake Success Project, Porterville, CA *Lead Botanist.* Douglas conducted botanical and vegetation mapping of the Option 2 SCE alignment surrounding Lake Success in riparian and blue oak woodland habitats. April 2017 – May 2017.

SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) – Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties, CA. *Lead Botanist/ Lead Biological Monitor*. Douglas served as lead botanist, lead biological monitor, lead weed abatement monitor, nesting bird surveyor, and restoration ecologist for the Southern California Edison's (SCE) 173-mileTRTP project corridor. Douglas conducted rare plant surveys, oversaw invasive species mapping and removal, and monitored for plant salvage activities. March 2011 – March 2017.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Santa Monica Mountains/Mulholland Highway Storm Repair Project, Malibu, CA. *Botanist/Arborist.* Douglas provided biological monitoring and biological assessments for various road repair sites along Mulholland Highway and within oak woodland and riparian habitats of the Santa Monica Mountains. December 2019 – Present.

Irvine Ranch Water District Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project, Irvine, CA *Botanist/Arborist.* Douglas conducted habitat assessments, tree mapping, western spadefoot toad surveys and rare plant surveys within Syphon Reservoir. December 2018 – December 2019

Triunfo Canyon Corporate Retreat, Agoura Hills, CA. *Botanist/Arborist.* Douglas conducted oak tree assessments, rare plants, wildlife and habitat mapping of the Oak Canyon Ranch property within Triunfo Canyon. May 2019 – June 2019

City of San Diego Wetland/Restoration Mitigation Opportunities Site Evaluations, San Diego, CA. *Botanist.* Douglas conducted Wetlands Mitigation Opportunities assessments and Site Evaluations for riparian mitigation sites throughout the City of San Diego. March 2019 – Present.

May Lau

Permitting Program Manager

EDUCATION

BS, Environmental Science, University of California, Santa Barbara

16 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Wetland Delineations, Wetland Training Institute

USACE Regional Supplement Training, Richard Chinn Environmental Training

Environmental Site Restoration/Mitigation Creative Planning and Implementation, Northwest Environmental Training Center

Riparian Plant Identification for Coastal Southern California Rivers and Streams, Wetland Training Institute

Flowering Plant Families, Friends of the Jepson Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley

California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM), Riverine, University of California, Davis Extension

May is a permitting program manager and senior project manager with 16 years of experience in the environmental consulting industry. Her primary responsibilities include providing project management; permitting strategies; review of permit applications and supporting documentation; technical analyses for a variety of water/wastewater, energy, transportation, private development, and restoration projects; and informing her clients and ESA staff of the most current regulations governing aquatic and biological resources. May's management and technical capabilities include review and preparation of environmental documents in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), and California Endangered Species Act (CESA); wetland and jurisdictional delineations; Clean Water Act permitting; streambed alteration agreements; coastal development permits; mitigation planning; biological assessments; and natural resource studies. She has consulted extensively with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)), California coastal agencies, and regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs) to secure permits/authorizations, as well as to provide feasible and successful mitigation to her clients.

Relevant Experience

Castaic Dam High Intake Tower Access Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project, California Department of Water Resources, Castaic Lake, Los Angeles County, CA. *Permitting Program Manager.* This project involves seismic retrofit of an existing outlet tower bridge at Castaic Lake. ESA prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), biological and cultural surveys and reports to support CEQA and permitting. May led agency consultations and obtaining the Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project.

Cedar Springs Dam Spillway Repair Project, California Department of Water Resources, Silverwood Lake, Unincorporated San Bernardino County, CA. *Project Manager.* This project involves replacing a deteriorating asbestos spillway heel drain pipe and construction of a new gravel access road to the right side of the spillway. ESA prepared the nesting bird management plan, performed preconstruction wildlife surveys, conducted biological and archaeological monitoring, and prepared weekly monitoring reports during project construction.

Lyons Canyon Ranch Project, D.R. Horton, Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, CA. *Regulatory Specialist.* The Lyons Canyon Ranch development consists of 106 lots comprised of 92 single-family residential lots, one (1) condominium lot with 93 senior condominium units, five (5) open space lots, six (6) debris/detention basin lots, one (1) park lot, and one (1) fire station lot. The project is sited on an undeveloped, approximately 232-acre property located

just west of The Old Road and Golden State Freeway (I-5). May lead the permitting effort, including performing the jurisdictional delineation; preparing of a Section 404 Individual Permit, Section 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis, Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and Streambed Alteration Agreement; and lead agency field visits and consultations.

Perris Dam Emergency Release Facility Project, California Department of Water Resources, Perris, Riverside County, CA. *Project Manager/Permitting Program Manager*. The Perris Dam Emergency Release Facility Project would modify the existing emergency outlet facility for the Perris Dam and construct a water conveyance channel to connect with the Perris Valley Channel in the event of a need for an emergency drawdown. ESA prepared the EIR for the Perris Dam Remediation Program, conducted biological and cultural resources surveys, and prepared reports in support of permitting and compliance with the EIR's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). May managed the biological and permitting efforts and led agency consultations with the USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW to obtain Section 404 and 401 Clean Water Act permits and a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project, Watershed Conservation Authority, Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, CA. *Project Manager*: This project involves recreational improvements and ecological restoration opportunities to address resource management challenges resulting from high public use of a 1.5-mile reach of the East Fork San Gabriel River, near its confluence with Cattle Canyon Creek, within designated critical habitat for Santa Ana sucker. As a subconsultant to BlueGreen Consulting, ESA is providing environmental services for the project, including preparation of a joint NEPA/CEQA document (EIS/EIR), biological and cultural surveys and reports, hydrology and soils report, jurisdictional delineation, conceptual geomorphology and hydrology investigation, and support of the conceptual restoration approach during the feasibility/design stages. May is responsible for managing the staffing, schedule, and budgets, internal and client meetings/coordination, as well as review of all technical reports and the EIS/EIR.

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, California Coastal Conservancy, Playa Del Rey, CA. *Senior Biologist.* ESA is preparing an EIS/EIR to assess the potential environmental impacts of wetland restoration of the Ballona Wetlands. May is responsible for review of existing biological reports and data, coordination with various resource agencies and subconsultants, and preparation of the biological resources chapter of the EIR.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Program EIR, Long Beach and Seal Beach, CA. *Senior Biologist/Regulatory Specialist.* Lead by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA), a joint powers agreement between the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), City of Long Beach, and City of Seal Beach, ESA was retained to develop an Optimized Restoration Alternative and Restoration Plan for 500 acres of salt marsh, seasonal wetlands, and other freshwater marsh in the Los Cerritos Wetland Complex. The Restoration Plan will proceed through the CEQA review process in the form of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). In addition to the Restoration Plan, as part of the PEIR, ESA is facilitating a series of public workshops and technical advisory committee meetings. May is responsible for peer review of the jurisdictional delineation report and biological reports; and evaluation of the program's compliance with federal, state, and local regulatory requirements.

Daryl Koutnik, PhD

Principal, Biological and Environmental Compliance

EDUCATION

PhD, Botany, University of California, Davis

MS, Botany, University of California, Davis

BA. Mathematics and Biology, California State University, Northridge

25+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Dr. Koutnik has over 25 years of experience managing and conducting biological resources field studies for environmental compliance and planning. Fourteen years of which he worked in and managed the environmental review section of the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.

Dr. Koutnik has directed, managed, and performed hundreds of biological resources inventories, special-status species surveys and identification, environmental impact assessments, biological constraints analyses, plant and wildlife studies, habitat restoration plans, and mitigation and monitoring plans for a wide variety of private and public sector clients. These have been prepared in compliance and/or coordination with CEQA, NEPA, USACE, USFWS, CDFW, and RWQCB and related to residential, commercial, industrial, infrastructure, and educational developments.

In addition to biology, he is an expert in the application of federal and State Endangered Species Acts, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other regulations relevant to biological resources, as well as processing and acquisition of Coastal Development Permits within the California Coastal Zone.

As Supervising Regional Planner and Senior Biologist for the Department of Regional Planning, Dr. Koutnik managed the preparation of more than 30 EIRs for a wide variety of project types. In addition to EIRs, he managed and prepared a report on the biological resources of the Los Angeles County Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program with the inclusion of resource protection provisions and criteria for the designation of Coastal Zone environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA). As a result, he has unparalleled insight into the County's procedures and preferences relative to processing environmental documents.

Relevant Experience

Aidlin Hills Residential Development EIR, Stevenson Ranch, Unincorporated Los Angeles County, CA. *Project Manager.* The project proposed a 102-unit residential project on 210 acres in Stevenson Ranch with roadway access from Pico Canyon Road. Dr. Koutnik served as the project manager for entire CEQA process, including preparation of the project EIR, coordination with Native America Tribal Consultation, manage biological resource field surveys, and processing of regulatory permits.

Hidden Creeks Estates EIR, Los Angeles, CA. *Biology Manager.* Hidden Creek Estates is a proposed 188-unit residential project adjacent to Porter Ranch on 285 acres with the construction of a bridge over Mormon Canyon for primary access from the east. Dr. Koutnik managed the biological resource field

inventories and supervise the preparation of the Biological Resources section for the EIR.

Deerlake Ranch, Los Angeles County, CA. *Project Manager*. The Deerlake Ranch project involved a revised project design for an approved 325-unit residential project on 400 acres, including the construction of internal circulation and two bridges. As project manager, Dr. Koutnik was responsible for the preparation of three Addendum EIRs, requiring coordination with County planning staff, consultant processing the regulatory permits and the oak tree reports.

Vista Canyon Residential Project, Santa Clarita, CA. *Biology Manager*. The Vista Canyon Specific Plan project includes a mixed-use community of 1,110 residential units and including nearly 1 million square feet of office and retail space, installation of Vista Canyon bridge, new Metrolink station and transit center on 185 acres in Santa Clarita. As the biology manager he managed the field surveys, including for special-status species like spadefoot toad, and the preparation of the Biological Resources section for the EIR.

Neptune Marina Apartments/Woodfin Suites Hotel and Wetlands Park Project EIR, Marina del Rey, Los Angeles County, CA. *Project Manager*. Dr. Koutnik managed the preparation and certification of the EIR for the multi-component Neptune Marina Apartment and Anchorage/Woodfin Suite Hotel and Timeshare Resort residential and hotel project. The proposed project included the restoration of a public wetland and upland park.

Cielo Vista Residential Project, Unincorporated Orange County, CA. *Project Biology Lead.* Dr. Koutnik coordinated with ESA staff in the preparation of the Biological Resources section for the project EIR for the proposed development of up to 112 residential units within two separate planning areas on a total 48 acres within the 84-acre undeveloped site. Dr. Koutnik was also lead on addressing the biological comments in drafting responses for the Final EIR.

The Marina del Rey Marriott Courtyard and Residence Inn Hotel (formerly Woodfin Suite Hotel and Timeshare Resort), Marina Del Rey, Los Angeles County, CA. *Project Director*. Dr. Koutnik served as the Project Director for the Addendum to the Certified EIR for the same project at a reduced scale known as The Marina del Rey Marriott Courtyard and Residence Inn Hotel. The Reduced-Scale Project includes development of the northerly approximately 2.2 acres of Parcel 9U and is referred to as the "The Marina del Rey Marriott Courtyard and Residence Inn Hotel." Proposed development under the Reduced-Scale Project consists of one structure containing a five-story hotel "wing" and a six-story hotel wing with 288 hotel studios, suites, and standard guest rooms, which would include two meeting rooms, a hotel-oriented restaurant and bar/lounge, fitness center, and associated hotel operations space, such as the lobby, hallways, elevator shafts, mechanical rooms, offices, and laundry, maintenance and custodial facilities.

Oaks at Monte Nido, **Santa Monica Mountains, Unincorporated Los Angeles County, CA.** *Project Manager.* Dr. Koutnik managed the preparation of biological resources report, including oak and native tree surveys and the EIR preparation for the proposed development of 15 single-family residences on separate individual recorded parcels within the Monte Nido Community, along the scenic route of Piuma Road.