Appendix B
(Available on City website)

Biological Resources Assessment
Phase I & 2
March 2021 and August 2021

And

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Consistency Analysis
September 2021

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August 23, 2021 10589.0005

Patti Murphy
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San Francisco, California 94111

Subject: Biological Resources Assessment for the Desert Peak Energy Center - Phase I, Noble Site, City of Palm Springs, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Murphy:

This biological resource assessment describes the existing biological conditions of the proposed Desert Peak Energy Center – Phase I ("Project"). The Project site, totaling 188.7 acres, includes nine parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 668-130-017 through 668-130-021 and 668-270-016 through 668-270-019), within which Phase I of the Desert Peak battery energy storage system facility will be situated. The Project and special-status biological resources are analyzed in the context of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and in the context of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("CVMSHCP").

This biological resources assessment describes the existing conditions of special-status biological resources on the Project site and within a 500-foot buffer where access was granted (study area), totaling 352.6 acres; analyzes potential impacts in terms of biological significance under both CEQA and the CVMSHCP; and recommends avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to avoid and reduce potential impacts to special-status biological resources, if necessary. The proposed Project design is currently in development; therefore, while this report provides an analysis of potential impacts to special-status biological resources in the context of CEQA or the CVMSHCP based on the entire Project site, totaling 188.7 acres, an updated impacts analysis will be provided once the Project design has been finalized.

1 Project Location and Description

The Project is located in the City of Palm Springs at the northeastern intersection of Diablo Road and 16th Avenue (Figure 1, Project Location Map; figures are provided in Attachment A). The Project site is located approximately 1.1 miles north of Interstate ("I") 10, 1.1 miles east of State Route 62, and 1.5 miles west of North Indian Canyon Drive. The Project site is located in the southwestern corner of Section 4 and northwestern corner of Section 9, Township 3 South, and Range 4 East of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey Desert Hot Springs 7.5-minute quadrangle. The approximate center of the Project site corresponds to 33°55′44.37″ north latitude (33.928992) and 116°34′30.49″ west longitude (-116.575136).

The Project includes construction and operation of a battery energy storage system facility. The battery energy storage system facility would include a 400-megawatt by 4-hour facility on an approximately 35-acre footprint of the larger 188-acre Project site, along with associated on-site switchyard, inverters, fencing, roads, and supervisory control and data acquisition ("SCADA") system, and would store 1,600 megawatt-hours of energy. The Project also includes a 230-kilovolt overhead gen-tie line, which would extend approximately 0.3 miles north to the Southern California Edison ("SCE") Devers Substation.

2 Regional Planning Context

The Project is located within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016) as administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission. The CVMSHCP is a habitat conservation plan pursuant to Section 10(a) of the federal Endangered Species Act, which authorizes the issuance of take permits and establishes standards for the content of habitat conservation plans. It is also a natural community conservation plan pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2835, which authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") to permit the take of any covered species whose conservation and management are provided for in an approved natural community conservation plan. Compliance with the CVMSHCP (and associated permits) provides permittees with take authorization for covered species so long as the activity is covered by the CVMSHCP. Covered species include listed and non-listed species that are adequately conserved by the CVMSHCP.

The Project is a covered activity under the CVMSHCP and would receive coverage for impacts to covered species. The Project site is east and north of the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon conservation area but is not located within a CVMSHCP conservation area (Figure 2, Coachella Valley MSHCP). The Project site is mapped as Developed (Wind Energy) in the CVMSHCP (see Figure 3-1 of CVAG 2016).

3 Methods

3.1 Literature Review

For the purposes of this biological resources assessment, "special-status" species are those that are (1) listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act; (2) listed or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act; (3) a state fully protected species; (4) a CDFW Species of Special Concern; (5) a Fish and Game Code Section 4000 fur-bearing animal; (6) a species listed on the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants with a California Rare Plant Rank ("CRPR") of 1B or 2B; or (7) a species requiring additional surveys under the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016).

Other special-status biological resources include sensitive plant communities; wetlands, including riparian habitat; and wildlife corridors. Sensitive plant communities are those that are considered to support unique vegetation communities that have a rank of S1–S3 on the CDFW List of Terrestrial Communities or are considered locally important by a local planning document such as the County of Riverside General Plan or the CVMSHCP.

Special-status biological resources present or potentially present on the Project site were identified through a literature search using the following sources: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") IPaC (USFWS 2021), CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2021), and the California Native Plant Society's online Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021). Searches were completed for the following U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles (which include the quadrangle within which the study area is located and the eight surrounding quadrangles): Catclaw Flat, Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley South, White Water, Desert Hot Springs, Seven Palms Valley, San Jacinto Peak, Palm Springs, and Cathedral City.

3.2 Field Reconnaissance

The study area consists of the parcels in which project components would be situated and a 500-foot buffer where accessible (Figure 3, Study Area and Survey Areas). A general biological survey was conducted within the study area. The survey was conducted on May 11, 2021, between 0830 and 1530, when weather conditions were favorable, with 0% cloud cover, wind speeds from 1 to 2 miles per hour, and temperatures ranging from 77°F to 94°F.

The general biological resources assessment and jurisdictional delineation were conducted on foot, and the Project site was walked thoroughly where accessible to complete the resource inventory. The survey buffer was surveyed visually from Diablo Road, Melissa Lane, and Dillon Road, and from within the eastern portions of the Project site, as access was not granted to these parcels. All native and naturalized plant species encountered within the study area were identified and recorded. The potential for special-status plant and wildlife species to occur within the study area was evaluated based on the vegetation communities and soils present and surrounding features. Vegetation communities and land covers on site were mapped directly in the field. The methods and results of the jurisdictional delineation are provided under separate covers; therefore, they are not further discussed in this report.

Latin and common names for plant species with a CRPR follow the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021). For plant species without a CRPR, Latin names follow the Jepson Interchange List of Currently Accepted Names of Native and Naturalized Plants of California (Jepson Flora Project 2021), and common names follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service Plants Database (USDA 2021a). Natural vegetation communities were mapped in the field following CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016) where feasible, with modifications to accommodate the lack of conformity of the observed communities to those of *A Manual of California Vegetation*, second edition (Sawyer et al. 2009) or Oberbauer et al. (2008). Latin and common names of animals follow Crother (2012) for reptiles and amphibians, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU 2015) for birds, Wilson and Reeder (2005) for mammals, and the North American Butterfly Association (NABA 2001) for butterflies.

Dudek used geographic information system software to map biological resources and generate figures.

3.3 Special-Status Plant Survey

Based on the results of the literature review, four non-listed special-status species not covered by the CVMSHCP were determined to have a moderate to high potential to occur within the study area: (1) singlewhorl burrobrush (*Ambrosia monogyra*), (2) Arizona spurge (*Euphorbia arizonica*), (3) slender cottonheads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *gracilis*), and (4) desert spike-moss (*Selaginella eremophila*). Therefore, focused surveys were conducted for these target species on May 6 and May 21, 2021 (Figure 3).

Surveys for special-status plant species were conducted by walking transects spaced 20 meters apart throughout suitable habitat within the rare plant survey area, where accessible. Focused special-status plant surveys conformed to California Native Plant Society *Botanical Survey Guidelines* (CNPS 2001), *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Populations and Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018), and *USFWS General Rare Plant Survey Guidelines* (Cypher 2002).

All plant species encountered during the field surveys were recorded and identified to subspecies or variety, if applicable, to determine sensitivity status.

3.4 Survey Limitations

Access was not available on all areas within the 500-foot buffer and along Melissa Lane due to private properties; therefore, vegetation mapping was conducted using public roads and/or using aerial signatures of those communities occurring within the Project.

Surveys for special-status plant species were conducted in May 2021 within the rare plant survey area. The timing of the survey coincided with the blooming period for most target species. Furthermore, target species did not include CRPR 3 and 4 species and instead focused on special-status species that are federally or state listed or CRPR 1 or 2 species. All special-status species, including CRPR 3 and 4 species, would have been mapped if observed.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA 2021), the rainfall total for the City of Palm Springs from July 1, 2020, to April 30, 2021 was 1.38 inches based on available precipitation data. According to the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC 2021), the City of Palm Springs precipitation average is approximately 5.49 inches. Therefore, the 2020–2021 precipitation year was below average, which may have precluded the growth of some annual plant species, if present.

Surveys specifically aimed at detection of the full range of wildlife species were not conducted. However, notes were taken for incidental wildlife observations made during surveys to establish a general baseline of wildlife diversity within the study area. These surveys were conducted during the daytime, which usually results in few observations of mammals, many of which may be active at night. In addition, many species of reptiles and amphibians are nocturnal or cryptic in their habits and are difficult to observe using standard meandering transects.

The current survey efforts, including review of available literature, aerial signature assessment, and field reconnaissance provide an accurate representation of the potential for special-status species to occur in the Project study area.

4 Results

4.1 Site Description

The Project site is located within the Colorado Desert, in the northwestern end of the Coachella Valley, which is generally bounded by the San Bernardino Mountains and Little San Bernardino Mountains to the north, the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains to the south, and the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley to the east. The study area is relatively flat; however, elevations gradually slope from northwest to southeast. Elevation within the study area ranges from approximately 1,050 feet above mean sea level in northern portion to approximately 950 feet above mean sea level in the southern portion of the study area.

The Project site is characterized as an active wind turbine farm with associated development (i.e., concrete pads, wind turbines, storage yard, and associated dirt roads) in the eastern portion of the site, with the remaining portions containing a series of dirt roads and native desert vegetation. Historic aerials depict vegetation clearing for development associated with the wind turbine farm sometime between 1972 and 1996 (Historic Aerials 2021). Residential homes, SCE infrastructure and portions of the SCE Devers Substation, as well as native desert vegetation

are located within the 500-foot buffer. This Project site is bordered by Dillon Road to the south and 16th Avenue to the north. Indian Canyon Drive is further east, I-10 is located to the south, and State Route 62 is located to the west.

Existing adjacent land uses include a mix of associated wind turbine farms and vacant lands to the north, east, south, and west, as well as scattered rural residences. Representative photographs of the study area are included in Attachment B.

4.2 Soils

Two soil series are mapped within the study area: Carsitas fine sand, 0%–5% slopes and Carsitas gravelly sand, 0%–9% slopes. These soils are described in more detail below (USDA 2021b), and the spatial distribution of these soils is depicted in Figure 4, Soils Map.

- **Carsitas Family Series** consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained soils that formed in alluvium derived from granitic and/or gneissic rocks. Carsitas soils are on alluvial fans, fan aprons, valley fills, and remnants of alluvial fans and in drainage ways at elevations of 220 feet below mean sea level to 2,625 feet above mean sea level. These soils have low runoff and high saturated hydraulic connectivity. Carsitas soils are distributed in southeastern California and support irrigated agricultural areas that include citrus and grapes, as well as watershed, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Vegetation in uncultivated areas includes creosote bush, burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), barrel cactus (*Ferocactus* sp.), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), and paloverde (*Parkinsonia* sp.).

4.3 Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

A total of five vegetation communities and land cover types occur within the study area based on general physiognomy and species composition. Three vegetation communities were mapped and include Sonoran creosote bush scrub, disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub and unvegetated channel; and two land covers (disturbed habitat and urban/developed) occur on site. Figure 5, Biological Resources Map, illustrates the distribution of land covers, and Table 1 provides a summary of each land cover's extent within the study area.

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Covers within the Study Area

Vegetation Community/Land Cover	Acreage
Vegetation Communities	
Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub[1]	219.3
Disturbed Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub[1]	0.6
Unvegetated Channel	5.0
Disturbed Habitat	95.0
Urban/Developed	32.6
Total[2]	**352.6**

Sources: CVAG 2016; Oberbauer et al. 2008.
Notes:
1 Considered a Covered Natural Community under Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVAG 2016).
2 Totals may not add due to rounding.

4.3.1 Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub

The Sonoran creosote bush scrub community includes creosote bush as the dominant shrub, forming an open community approximately 0.5 to 3 meters (2 to 10 feet) in height and occurring on well-drained soils (CVAG 2016). Burrobush is a common co-dominant shrub in the canopy, with various ephemeral herbs flowering in late winter/early spring within the herbaceous layer (CVAG 2016).

Within the study area, Sonoran creosote bush scrub is dominated by an open cover of creosote bush. Associated species present within this community include burrobush, cheesebush (*Ambrosia salsola*), sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), and jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*). The herbaceous layer is composed of common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*) and redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). Disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub is dominated by a lower cover of creosote bush and associated species as a result of past disking and disturbance. Sonoran creosote bush scrub was mapped within much of the study area, with disturbed Sonoran creosote bush mapped within portions of the site south of Dillon Road. These areas included evidence of past disturbance/grading with a lower cover of shrubs present.

Sonoran creosote bush scrub on site is dominated by creosote bush. The *Larrea tridentata* alliance has a rank of G5S5 by CDFW (CDFW 2019), meaning that it is apparently secure both globally and within the state. Therefore, CDFW does not consider this alliance a sensitive biological resource under CEQA (CDFW 2019). Sonoran creosote bush scrub is within the CVMSHCP and is considered a covered vegetation community (CVAG 2016).

4.3.2 Unvegetated Channel

Several ephemeral drainage areas are mapped as unvegetated channels. These do not conform to classifications in Oberbauer et al. 2008.

4.3.3 Disturbed Habitat

The CVMSHCP does not describe disturbed habitat; however, this land cover type refers to areas that have been permanently altered by previous human activity that has eliminated all future biological value of the land for most species. The native or naturalized vegetation is no longer present, and the land lacks habitat value for sensitive wildlife, including potential raptor foraging.

Disturbed land on site consists of dirt roads within the Project site and potential gen-tie alignment routes (e.g., Diablo Road north and south of Dillon Road) and vacant areas (i.e., storage yards southeast of Dillon Road and Diablo intersection and north of Dillon Road) that have been previously graded and are primarily devoid of vegetation.

Disturbed habitat is not a vegetation community; therefore, it is not considered a sensitive biological resource under CEQA (CDFW 2019).

4.3.4 Urban/Developed Land

Urban/developed areas include areas that have been constructed upon or otherwise physically altered to an extent that native vegetation is no longer supported. Developed land is characterized by permanent or semi-permanent structures, pavement or hardscape, and landscaped areas that often require irrigation (Oberbauer et al. 2008).

Within the study area, developed areas include paved roads (e.g., Dillon Road and Melissa Road) and SCE's Devers Substation within the northern portion of the study area.

Developed land is not a vegetation community; therefore, it is not considered a sensitive biological resource under CEQA (CDFW 2019).

4.3.5 Floral Diversity

A total of 34 species of vascular plants, including 30 native (88%) and 4 non-native (12%), were recorded within the study area. This low plant diversity reflects disturbed nature (i.e., disturbance associated with the active wind turbine farm) and proximity to adjacent rural developed areas. Plant species observed within the study area are listed in Attachment C, Vascular Plant Species.

4.4 Wildlife

Thirteen wildlife species were detected within the study area. Several commonly occurring birds were observed: common raven (*Corvus corax*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), and cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*). No nests were observed during the survey. No amphibian species were observed during site surveys and no amphibian species are expected to occur on site. Three reptile species were observed within the study area: common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), San Diegan tiger whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and coachwhip (*Coluber flagellum*). Four mammal species were detected during the survey: white-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), and coyote (sign; *Canis latrans*). No invertebrate species were observed during the survey. Wildlife species observed within the study area are listed in Attachment D, Wildlife Species. Other species that could occur on site include black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*), verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*).

4.5 Special-Status Plant Species

Attachment E, Special-Status Plant Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area, lists special-status plant species that were identified by the literature review. For each species listed, a determination was made regarding the potential for the species to occur in the study area based on information gathered during the field reconnaissance, including the location of the site, habitats present, current site conditions, and past and present land use.

No federally or state-listed species have a potential to occur within the study area. No special-status species were determined to have a moderate to high potential to occur within the study area (Attachment E). Additionally, no special-status plant species were detected within the rare plant survey area during the May 2021 focused survey.

4.6 Special-Status Wildlife Species

Attachment F, Special-Status Wildlife Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area, lists special-status wildlife species that were identified in the literature review and/or observed on site. For each species listed, a determination was made regarding potential use of the study area based on information gathered during the field reconnaissance, known habitat preferences, and knowledge of the species' relative distributions in the area.

No focused special-status wildlife surveys were conducted. Four special-status wildlife species were incidentally detected within the study area during the May 2021 biological surveys: olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl, and San Diegan tiger whiptail, all California Species of Special Concern. Loggerhead shrike, olive-sided flycatcher, and San Diegan tiger whiptail are not covered under the CVMSHCP; however, burrowing owl is covered under the CVMSHCP. Olive-sided flycatcher does not nest on site but is known to breed in the mountains to the west and southwest (Shuford and Gardali 2008). This individual was likely migrating through the site. Burrowing owl and loggerhead shrike have potential to nest on site and San Diegan tiger whiptail occurs on site. No federally or state-listed species have a moderate potential to occur within the study area; however, desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a federally and state-listed species covered under the CVMSHCP, was determined to have a low potential to occur within the study area.

Five other non-listed species have a moderate to high potential to occur within the study area: red diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus* [*Xerospermophilus*] *tereticaudus chlorus*). Of these, red diamondback rattlesnake and San Diego desert woodrat are the only species that are not covered under the CVMSHCP.

4.7 Nesting Birds

The study area contains shrubs that provide potential habitat for commonly occurring nesting birds, such as Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) or loggerhead shrike. No nests were observed within the study area during the 2021 reconnaissance surveys and focused special-status plant survey.

4.8 Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

Wildlife corridors are linear features that connect large patches of natural open space and provide avenues for the migration of animals. Habitat linkages are small patches that join larger blocks of habitat and help reduce the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation; they may be continuous habitat or discrete habitat islands that function as stepping stones for wildlife dispersal. Wildlife movement within the Project site is unlikely due to the urbanized area; fencing around the Project site to the north, east, south, and west; and moderate traffic along Dillon Road south of the Project site. However, the remainder of the study area and the surrounding environment consist of scattered rural development, wind energy development, and open scrub habitat that likely function as open habitat, but do not function as a corridor for wildlife. Furthermore, the CVMSHCP addresses regional wildlife linkages and crossings, and the Project site is not within a designated linkage; however, one wildlife corridor/linkage (Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area) identified by the CVMSHCP occurs immediately southwest of the Project site (Figure 2).

4.9 Local Regulatory Setting

4.9.1 CVMSHCP Consistency Analysis

The lead agency for this Project is the City of Palm Springs, which is a permittee of the CVMSHCP. Compliance with the CVMSHCP provides permittees with take authorization for covered species for all covered activities, which includes development outside of conservation areas. Therefore, the Project is a covered activity and compliance

with the CVMSHCP would provide take authorization for covered species. One CVMSHCP covered species was observed within the study area: burrowing owl. Three CVMSHCP covered species have a moderate potential to occur within the study area: Le Conte's thrasher, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel. One federally and state-listed species that is covered under the CVMSHCP has a low potential to occur: desert tortoise. The following provides a summary of the requirements of the CVMSHCP as they relate to the Project.

Section 4.5 of the CVMSHCP provides land use adjacency guidelines for new land uses adjacent to conservation areas. The Project is not located adjacent to any conservation areas; therefore, these measures do not apply to the Project.

Section 9 of the CVMSHCP sets forth species-specific conservation goals and objectives for each of the covered species. As previously mentioned, burrowing owl, Le Conte's thrasher, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and Palm Springs (Coachella Valley) round-tailed ground squirrel, covered species under the CVMSHCP, were determined to have a moderate to high potential to occur within the study area. Desert tortoise was determined to have a low potential to occur within the study area. Section 9 of the CVMSHCP does not identify any avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures for these species for areas outside of the conservation areas.

According to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit (TE-104601-1), permit term and condition no. 45 states for projects located outside of the proposed conservation areas within the 50,272 acres of naturally occurring desert tortoise habitat anticipated to be impacted, the Permittee shall either (1) notify the USFWS 45 days prior to the issuance of a grading permit to allow for the potential salvage of adult tortoises within this notification time period or (2) condition such projects to conduct desert tortoise clearance surveys per the USFWS's protocol.

Section 10 of the CVMSHCP sets forth conservation goals and objectives for each of the covered natural communities. Covered natural communities present in the study area include Sonoran creosote bush scrub. No measures are required outside of conservation areas for this community. Payment of the CVMSHCP development fee would provide coverage for sensitive natural communities that will be impacted.

A fee is required for all projects located within the CVMSHCP plan area. With payment of this fee and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45, the Project would be consistent with the CVMSHCP.

5 Impacts and Recommendations

This section addresses potential impacts to special-status biological resources that could result from implementation of the Project. Although the Project footprint is yet to be determined, this section addresses each CEQA significance threshold, identifies potential impacts, and provides expected mitigation measures, as applicable.

CEQA Significance Thresholds

The following are the significance thresholds for biological resources provided in the CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist, which states that Project activities could potentially have a significant affect if they:

1. Impact-BIO-1: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS (Threshold Bio-1).

2. **Impact-BIO-2:** Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS (Threshold Bio-2).
3. **Impact-BIO-3:** Have a substantial adverse effect on state and federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means (Threshold Bio-3).
4. **Impact-BIO-4:** Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites (Threshold Bio-4).
5. **Impact-BIO-5:** Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance (Threshold Bio-5).
6. **Impact-BIO-6:** Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan (Threshold Bio-6).

5.1 Impact-BIO-1: Special-Status Species

5.1.1 Special-Status Plants

No federally or state-listed plant species have a potential to occur within the Project site. There are no special-status plant species with a moderate or high potential to occur. Therefore, the Project would not result in direct or indirect impacts to special-status plant species. As such, impacts to special-status plant species would be less than significant.

5.1.2 Special-Status Wildlife

Four non-listed special-status wildlife species were observed within the Project site during the April and November 2020 biological surveys: olive-sided flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl, and San Diegan tiger whiptail. Olive-sided flycatcher, loggerhead shrike and San Diegan tiger whiptail are not covered under the CVMSHCP; however, burrowing owl is covered under the CVMSHCP. No federally or state-listed species have a moderate potential to occur within the study area. One federally and state-listed threatened species has a low potential to occur within the study area: desert tortoise. Desert tortoise is covered under the CVMSHCP. Five other non-listed species have a moderate to high potential to occur within the Project site: red diamondback rattlesnake, Le Conte's thrasher, San Diego desert woodrat, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel. Of these, red diamondback rattlesnake and San Diego desert woodrat are the only species that are not covered under the CVMSHCP.

5.1.2.1 Birds

One non-listed special-status species, burrowing owl, was observed within the study area, and one non-listed special-status species, Le Conte's thrasher, has a high potential to occur within the Project site. These species are covered by the CVMSHCP; therefore, with consistency with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1), there would be no significant impacts to these special-status wildlife species. These species are also protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Section 3516, which protect nesting birds. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2, Nesting Birds, and Mitigation Measure BIO-3, Burrowing Owl Pre-Con Survey, would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Two non-listed species–olive-sided flycatcher and loggerhead shrike--were observed within the Project site during the May 2021 biological survey. These species are not covered by CVMSHCP, and impacts could be potentially significant absent mitigation. The Project contains suitable nesting habitat (i.e., open nesting habitat with scattered shrubs) for loggerhead shrike that may be impacted as a result of Project implementation. Due to the amount of adjacent and nearby habitat, loss of fragmented habitat is considered less than significant. However, direct mortality of individual loggerhead shrikes would be considered significant absent mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would reduce potential direct impacts to loggerhead shrike to a level that is less than significant.

Indirect impacts to loggerhead shrike that could occur during construction include an increase in human activity, construction noise, and dust in the immediate vicinity of an active nest that could result in significant harassment and nest abandonment, causing take of the nest. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would result in avoidance of these indirect impacts, as monitoring and avoidance measures, if applicable, would be implemented should a nest be present, such that construction activities would not result in take.

Olive-sided flycatcher does not nest on site, and the individual observed was likely migrating through the area. No impacts to this species are anticipated.

5.1.2.2 Reptiles

One federally and state-listed threatened species has a low potential to occur within the Project site: desert tortoise. This species is covered by the CVMSHCP. According to the USWFS CVMSHCP amended permit (TE-104601-1), permit term and condition no. 45 states for projects located outside of the proposed conservation areas within the 50,272 acres of naturally occurring desert tortoise habitat anticipated to be impacted, the Permittee shall either (1) notify the USFWS 45 days prior to the issuance of a grading permit to allow for the potential salvage of adult tortoises within this notification time period or (2) condition such projects to conduct desert tortoise clearance surveys per the USFWS's protocol. Therefore, with compliance with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1), and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45 (Mitigation Measure BIO-4), there would be no significant impacts to desert tortoise.

San Diego tiger whiptail was observed on site, and one special-status reptile has a moderate potential to occur within the Project site: red diamondback rattlesnake. These species are not covered by the CVMSHCP, and impacts could be potentially significant absent mitigation. Due to the amount of adjacent and nearby habitat, loss of fragmented habitat is considered less than significant. Direct impacts could occur through crushing of individuals during grading, entombment of burrowing species, and removal of habitat.

Most reptile species exhibit a "flight" response to disturbance, resulting in temporary displacement, or if disturbance is constant, permanent displacement. The Project contains suitable habitat (i.e., desert flats) that may be impacted as a result of Project implementation; however, suitable habitat will be available adjacent to the affected region, and individuals would be expected to move away from construction activities. Entombment of individuals would be avoided through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-5, Best Management Practices, which would include covering open trenches. Direct impacts to the few individuals that may be harmed by construction activities would be less than significant.

Potential indirect impacts to San Diego tiger whiptail and red diamondback rattlesnake would be limited to short-term impacts from construction activities and could result from fugitive dust that can degrade habitat and result in health implications for wildlife species; noise and vibration that can stress wildlife species or cause them to leave an area of otherwise suitable habitat; increased human presence, which can also disrupt daily activities of wildlife and cause them to leave an area; nighttime lighting, which can disrupt the activity patterns of nocturnal species; and release of chemical pollutants, such as from oil leaks from construction vehicles and machinery. Mitigation Measure BIO-5, Best Management Practices, reduces indirect impacts to less than significant through limiting impacts to the proposed footprint, removing invasive species, dust control measures, prohibiting pets and trash left on site, etc.

5.1.2.3 Mammals

Palm Springs pocket mouse has a high potential to occur within the Project site, and Palm Springs (Coachella Valley) round-tailed ground squirrel has a moderate potential to occur within the Project site. These species are covered by the CVMSHCP. Therefore, with consistency with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) there would be no significant impacts to these special-status wildlife species.

One non-listed species, San Diego desert woodrat, has a high potential to occur within the Project site. This species is not covered under the CVMSHCP and impacts could be potentially significant absent mitigation. Due to the amount of adjacent and nearby habitat, loss of fragmented habitat is considered less than significant. Direct impacts could occur through crushing of individuals during grading, entombment of burrowing species, and removal of habitat. Most mammal species exhibit a "flight" response to disturbance, resulting in temporary displacement, or if disturbance is constant, permanent displacement. The Project contains suitable habitat (i.e., desert scrub) for San Diego desert woodrat that may be impacted as a result of Project implementation; however, suitable habitat will be available adjacent to the affected region, and individuals would be expected to move away from construction activities. Entombment of individuals would be avoided through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-5, which would include covering open trenches. Direct impacts to the few individuals that may be crushed or otherwise harmed by construction activities would be less than significant.

Potential indirect impacts to San Diego desert woodrat would be limited to short-term impacts from construction activities and could result from fugitive dust that can degrade habitat and result in health implications for wildlife species; noise and vibration that can stress wildlife species or cause them to leave an area of otherwise suitable habitat; increased human presence, which can also disrupt daily activities of wildlife and cause them to leave an area; nighttime lighting, which can disrupt the activity patterns of nocturnal species; and release of chemical pollutants, such as from oil leaks from construction vehicles and machinery. Mitigation Measure BIO-5, Best Management Practices, would reduce indirect impacts to a level that is less than significant through limiting impacts to the proposed footprint, removing invasive species, dust control measures, prohibiting pets and trash left on site, etc.

5.2 Impact-BIO-2: Riparian and Special Status Vegetation Communities

The Project site does not contain any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified by CDFW or USFWS. However, the Project site includes Sonoran creosote bush scrub, which is a natural community covered under the CVMSHCP. To comply with the CVMSHCP, development fees will be required to mitigate habitat loss. Therefore, with compliance with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) there would be no significant impacts to special-status vegetation communities.

5.3 Impact-BIO-3: Jurisdictional Waters

Aquatic resources (waters/wetlands) under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and CDFW were mapped within the Project site and are discussed under separate covers (Dudek 2021a, 2021b). Direct impacts to jurisdictional waters are considered significant absent mitigation.

If the Project impacts waters and streams that are regulated under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and California Fish and Game Code, permits would be required from each of the regulatory agencies. The Regional Water Quality Control Board regulates waters of the state under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616 give CDFW regulatory powers over streams and lakes, as well as vegetation associated with these features. Permits are required from each of the regulatory agencies and typically entail providing mitigation to offset the impacts and loss of beneficial uses and functions and values to the jurisdictional waters and habitats. A waste discharge report would be required for impacts to waters of the state, and a Streambed Alteration Agreement would be required for impacts to jurisdictional streambed. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-6 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

5.4 Impact-BIO-4: Migratory Birds and Wildlife Corridor/Nursery Sites

5.4.1 Nesting Birds

Project construction could result in direct and indirect impacts to nesting birds, including the loss of nests, eggs, and fledglings if ground-disturbing activities occur during the nesting season (generally February 15 through August 31). Construction activities during this time may result in reduced reproductive success and may violate the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code. If construction (including any ground-disturbing activities) occurs during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to grading activities, and impacts to nests must be avoided. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2, no significant impacts to nesting birds would occur.

5.4.2 Wildlife Corridors and Nursery Sites

The Project site does not function as a wildlife corridor and does not support any wildlife nursery sites. As a result, implementation of the Project would not result in impacts to these resources.

5.5 Impact-BIO-5: Other Local Ordinances

The City of Palm Springs does not have any policies or ordinances protecting biological resources that are applicable to the Project.

5.6 Impact-BIO-6: Habitat Conservation Plans

The Project site is located within the CVMSHCP area. The Project site is not located within or adjacent to any CVMSHCP conservation areas. A fee is required for all projects located within the CVMSHCP plan area. With payment of this fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45 (Mitigation Measure BIO-4), the Project would be consistent with the CVMSHCP.

6 Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Fee Payment

As a signatory to the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, the City of Palm Springs shall require a local development mitigation fee prior to the issuance of building permits for the proposed use on the Project site at the rates applicable at the time of payment of the fee as set forth in the most recent fee schedule. The Project applicant shall be required to provide documentation to the City of Palm Springs confirming the payment of the local development mitigation fee.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 Nesting Birds

To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, if ground-disturbing and/or vegetation clearance activities are scheduled to occur during the avian nesting season (typically February 15 through August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the Project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint. Surveys shall be conducted within 3 days prior to initiation of activity.

If an active nest is detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist. The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for topography, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type. All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution if indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 Burrowing Owl

Pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls shall be completed in accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012), with the first survey no less than 14 days prior to initiation of Project-related activities, and the second within 24 hours of Project-related activities. If an active burrowing owl burrow is detected within 500 feet of the impact footprint, avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented in accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* guidelines or agreed upon by CDFW, including implementation of a non-disturbance buffer and monitoring of the nest to ensure activities are not adversely affecting the nest. If the Project will occur within this zone, then work must occur outside the nesting season, or until it can be shown that the birds have finished nesting, at which point passive relocation may occur.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 Desert Tortoise

Because the Project is located outside of a Conservation Area but within the 50,272 acres of naturally occurring desert tortoise habitat anticipated to be impacted under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), the Project applicant shall either:

1. Notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 45 days prior to the issuance of a grading permit to allow for the potential salvage of adult tortoises within this notification time period or
2. Condition such projects to conduct desert tortoise clearance surveys per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's protocol.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 General Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented during Project construction activities:

- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of special-status wildlife during construction, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep shall be covered with plywood or similar materials at the close of each working day, or be provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped wildlife. If trapped animals are observed, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow escape.
- Construction employees will limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to any fenced portion of the project footprint, where feasible.
- Equipment storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on disturbed upland sites with minimal risk of direct drainage into jurisdictional features or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. All necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters. All project-related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to the City and shall be cleaned up immediately and contaminated soils removed to approved disposal areas.
- Fugitive dust will be avoided and minimized through watering and other appropriate measures.
- Exotic species that prey upon or displace target species of concern should be permanently removed from the site.
- To avoid attracting predators of the native wildlife species, the project site shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s). Pets of project personnel shall not be allowed on site where they may come into contact with any native species.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 Jurisdictional Waters and Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation

If jurisdictional waters are impacted as a result of Project implementation, appropriate permits shall be obtained from the regulatory agencies, including a Waste Discharge Requirement from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

All mitigation measures and conditions contained within the permits shall be implemented. At a minimum, the following shall be completed for mitigation for impacts to waters of the state and jurisdictional streambed:

1. **Compensation for Permanent Impacts:** Permanent impacts to waters of the state and jurisdictional streambeds shall be offset by compensation at a 1:1 ratio, or as otherwise required by the respective permits.
2. **Temporary Impacts:** All areas temporarily impacted shall be restored to native grade and contour, and revegetated with native species as determined by an adjacent reference site or through documentation of baseline conditions prior to impacts.
3. **Best Management Practices**. Avoided jurisdictional waters shall be fenced or flagged as environmentally sensitive areas. Best management practices shall be implemented to avoid indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters, including the following:
    a. Vehicles and equipment shall not be operated in ponded or flowing water except as described in the permits.
    b. Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from grading or other activities shall not be allowed to enter jurisdictional waters or be placed in locations that may be subjected to high storm flows.
    c. Spoil sites shall not be located within 30 feet from the boundaries of jurisdictional waters or in locations that may be subject to high storm flows, where spoils might be washed back into drainages.
    d. Raw cement/concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to vegetation or wildlife resources resulting from Project-related activities shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering avoided jurisdictional waters.
    e. No equipment maintenance shall occur within 150 feet of jurisdictional waters and no petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment will be allowed to enter these areas or enter any off-site state-jurisdictional waters under any flow.

7 Conclusion

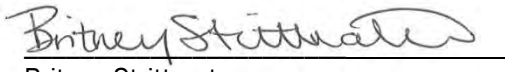
With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee, and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45 related to desert tortoise, the Project would not result in significant impacts to biological resources. Table 2 provides a summary of the biological resource impacts and mitigation.

Table 2. Impact Summary Table

Biological Resource	CVMSCP Status	Significance Before Mitigation	Applicable Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
Species-Specific				
Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)	Covered	Significant	Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-3	Less than significant
Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*)	Covered	Significant	Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2	Less than significant
Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)	Not covered	Significant (nesting)	Mitigation Measure BIO-2	Less than significant
Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)	Covered	Less than significant	Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-4	Less than significant
Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)	Not covered	No impact	N/A	No impact
Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*)	Covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-1	Less than significant
Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus* [*Xerospermophilus*] *tereticaudus chlorus*)	Covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-1	Less than significant
Red diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*)	Not covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-5	Less than significant
San Diegan tiger whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*)	Not covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-5	Less than significant
San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*)	Not covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-5	Less than significant
Other Biological Resources				
Rare plants	Varies	No impact	N/A	No impact
Vegetation (Sonoran creosote bush scrub)	Covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-1	Less than significant
Jurisdictional waters	Not covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-6	Less than significant
Nesting birds (Migratory birds)	Not covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-2	Less than significant
CVMSHCP Plan Area	Covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-1	Less than significant
USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term	Covered	Significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-4	Less than significant

If you have any questions regarding this biological resources assessment, please contact me at bstrittmater@dudek.com or 760.685.1231.

Sincerely,



Britney Strittmater
Biologist

Att.: *Attachment A – Figures*
Attachment B – Site Photographs
Attachment C – Vascular Plant Species Compendium
Attachment D – Wildlife Species Compendium
Attachment E – Special-Status Plant Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area
Attachment F – Special-Status Wildlife Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area

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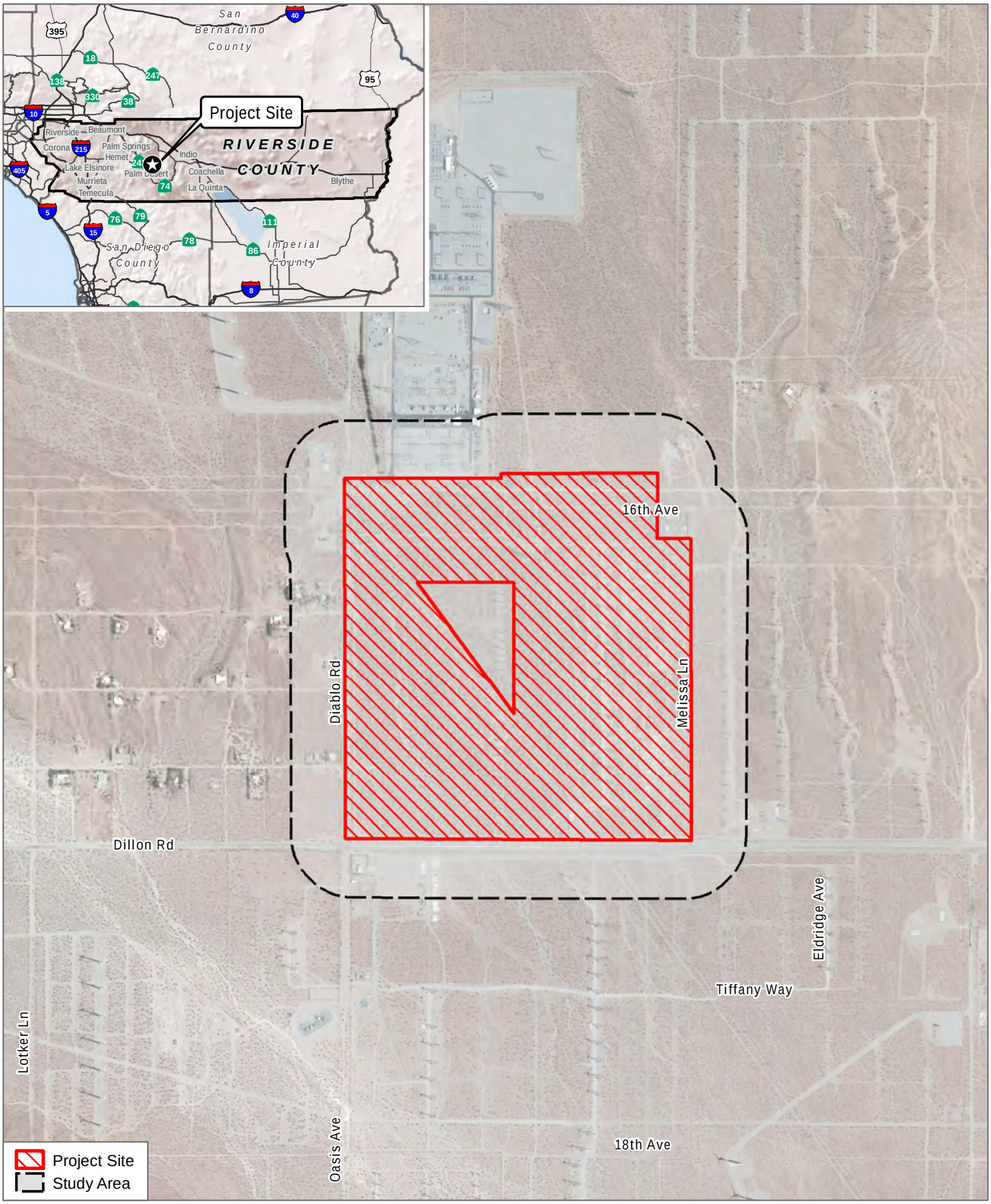
Attachment A

Figures



SOURCE: Esri Clarity Imagery 2021

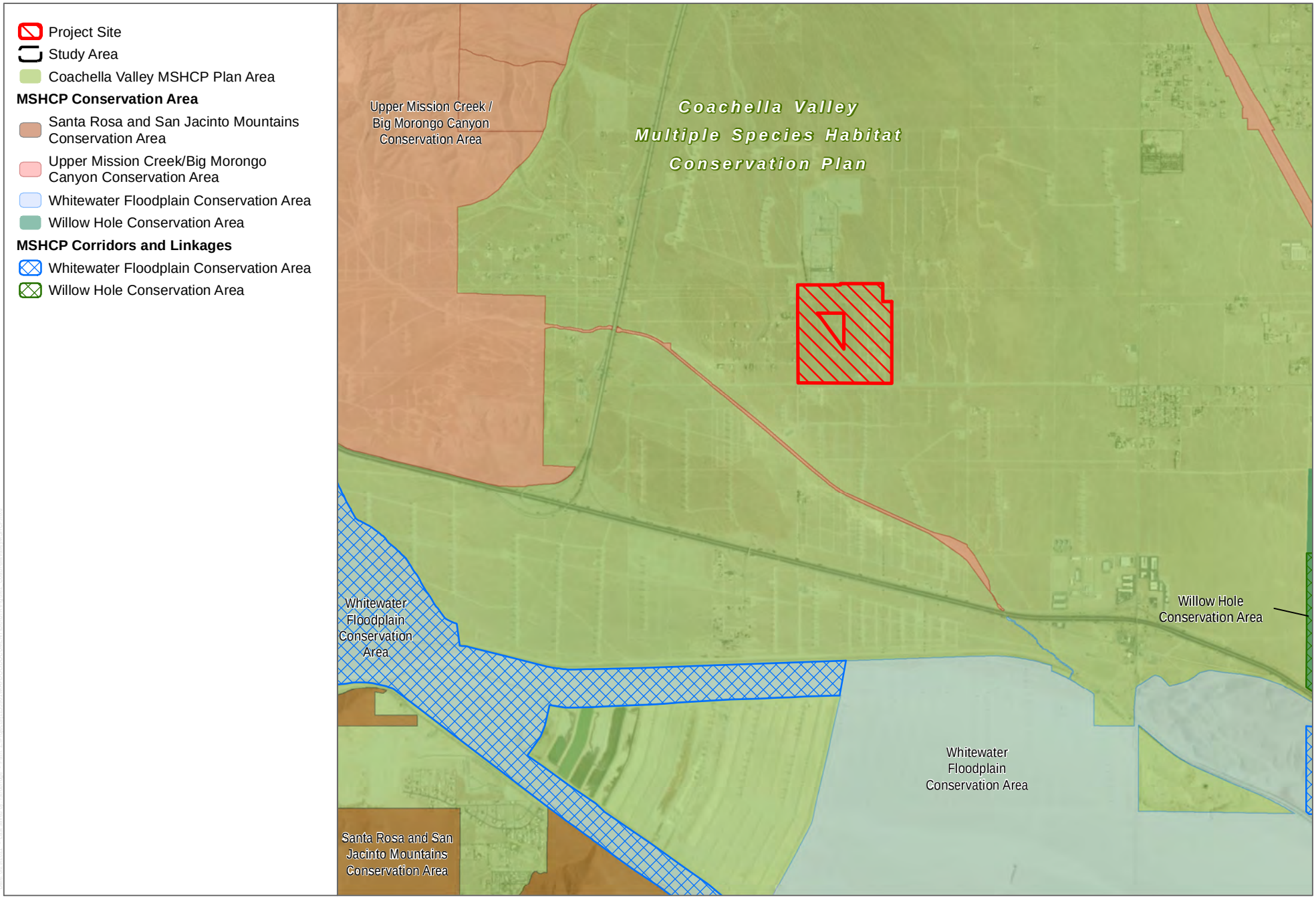
DUDEK

0 500 1,000 Feet

FIGURE 1

Project Location Map

Desert Peak Energy Center - Phase 1



SOURCE: Coachella Valley MSHCP 2019, Esri Clarity Imagery 2021

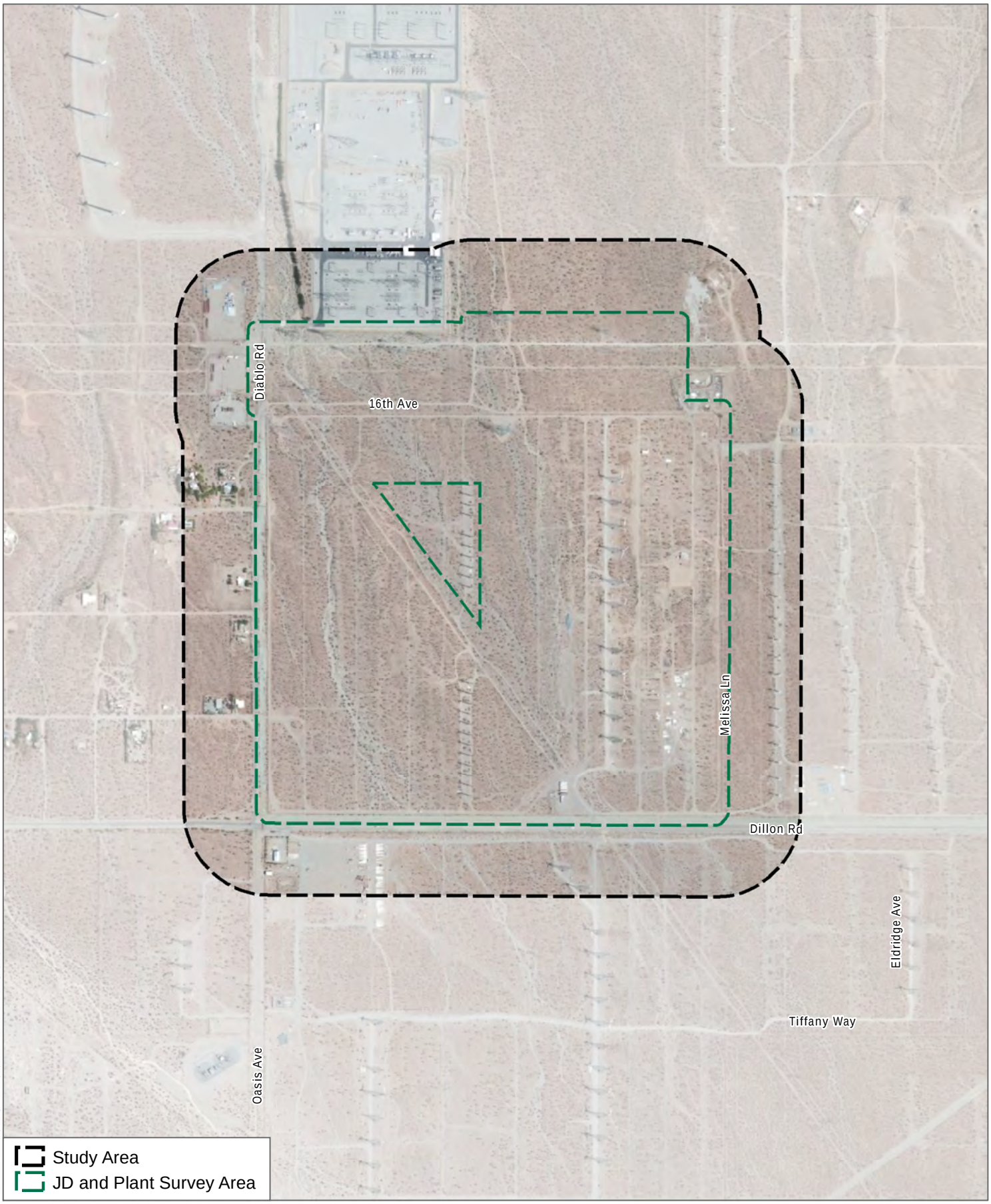
DUDEK

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

FIGURE 2

Coachella Valley MSHCP

Desert Peak Energy Center - Phase 1



SOURCE: Esri Clarity Imagery 2021

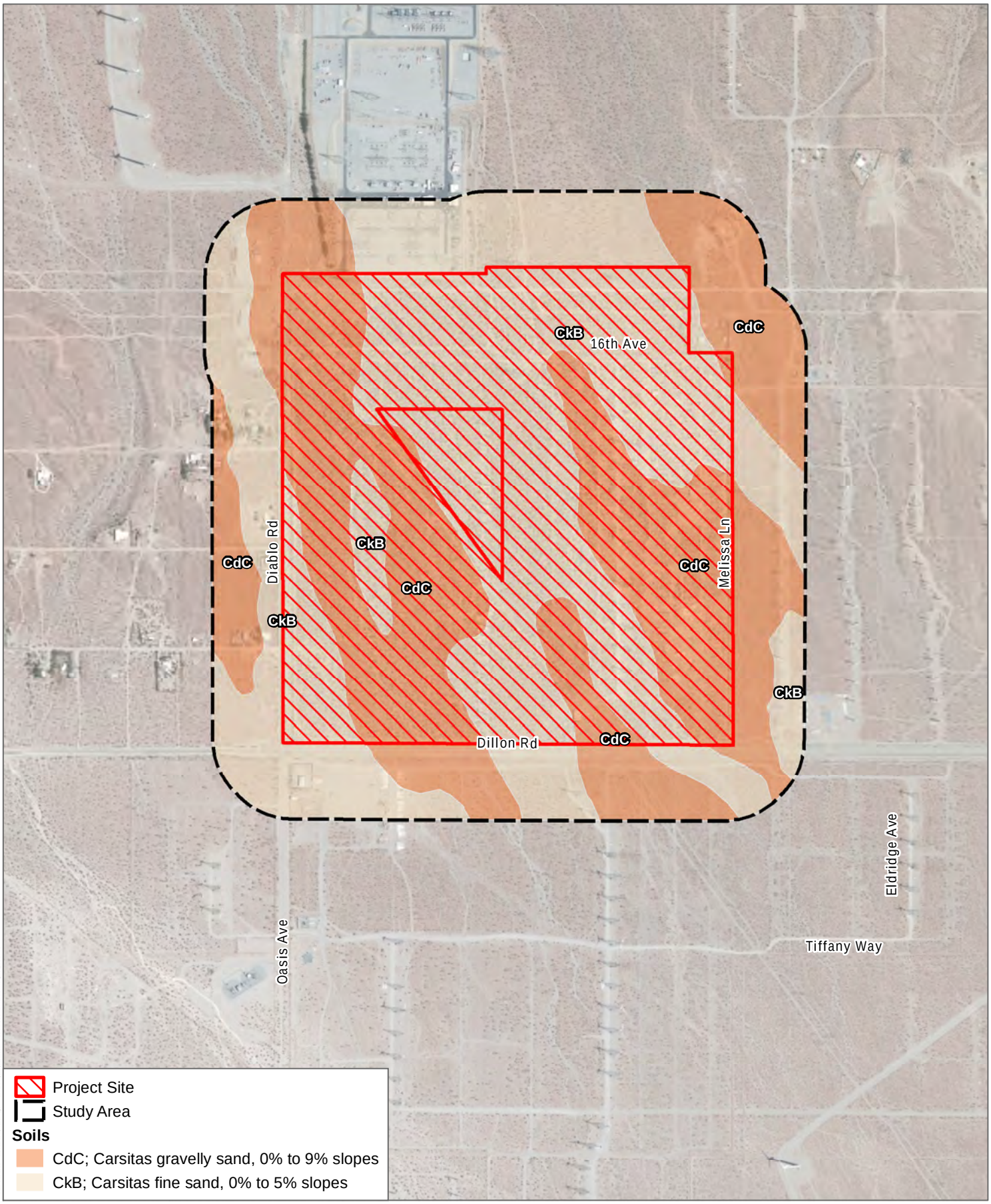
DUDEK

0 350 700 Feet

FIGURE 3

Study Area and Survey Areas

Desert Peak Energy Center - Phase 1



SOURCE: USDA 2008 / 2018, Esri Clarity Imagery 2021

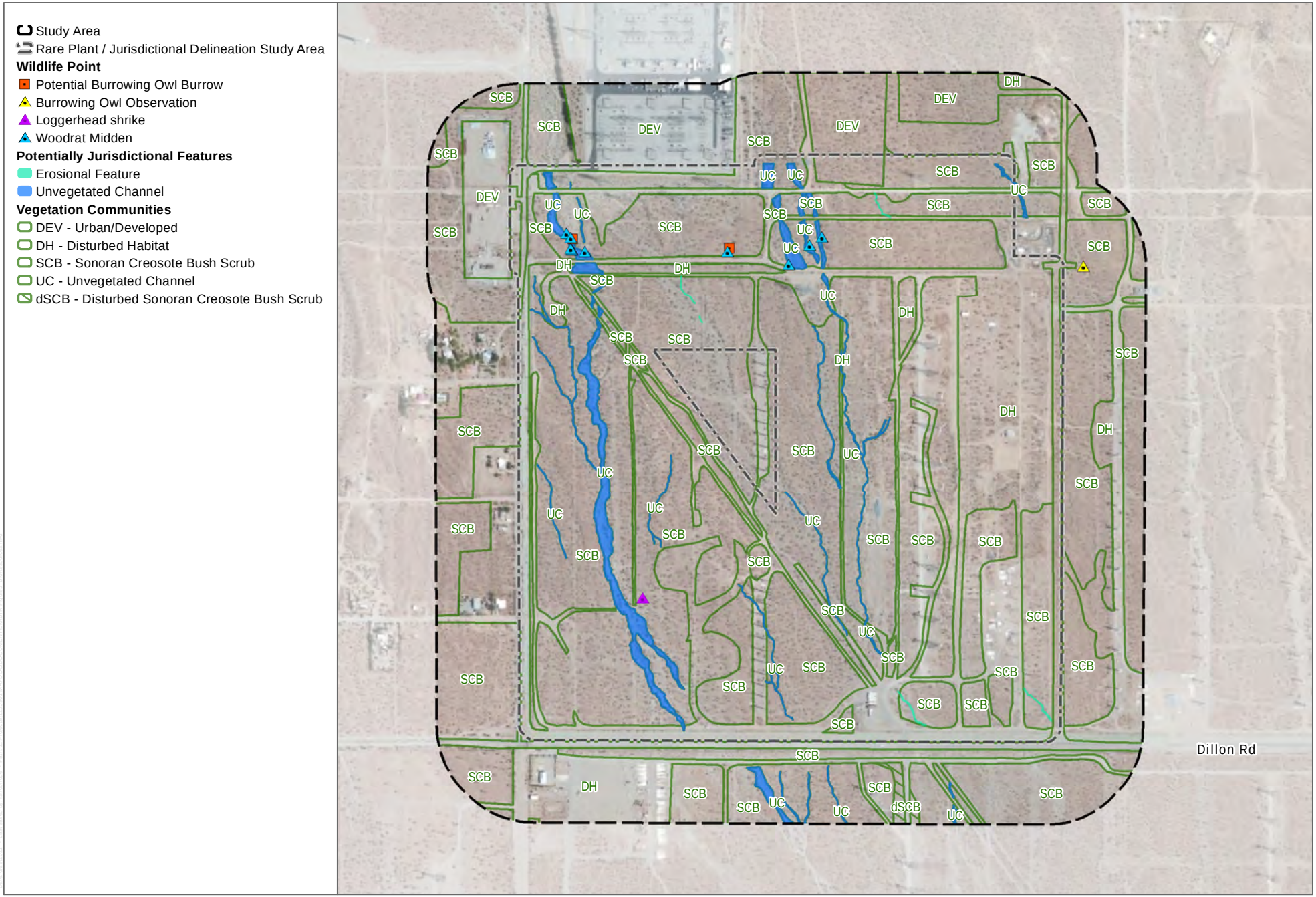
DUDEK

0 400 800 Feet

FIGURE 4

Soils Map

Desert Peak Energy Center - Phase 1



SOURCE: USDA 2008 / 2018

DUDEK

0 350 700 Feet

FIGURE 5

Biological Resources Map

Desert Peak Energy Center - Phase 1

Attachment B

Site Photographs

Photo 1: View of recently disturbed habitat in southeastern site.

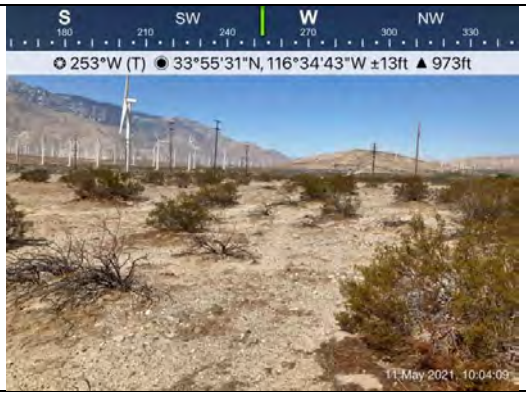
Photo 2: View of dirt road and Sonoran creosote bush scrub in northern portion of site.

Photo 3: View of Sonoran creosote bush scrub and relic swale.

Photo 4: View of disturbed habitat (foreground) and Sonoran creosote bush scrub.

Photo 5: View of Sonoran creosote bush scrub facing wind turbines.

Photo 6: View of disturbed habitat in northwest portion of site.

	
Photo 7: View of disturbed habitat (i.e., dirt road) along Diablo Road. Facing north.	**Photo 8**: View of Sonoran creosote bush scrub.

Attachment C

Vascular Plant Species Compendium

Vascular Species

Eudicots

ASTERACEAE—SUNFLOWER FAMILY

Ambrosia dumosa—white bursage
Ambrosia salsola—cheesebush
Bebbia juncea—sweetbush
Chaenactis fremontii—pincushion flower
Encelia farinosa—brittle bush
* *Lactuca serriola*—prickly lettuce
Malacothrix glabrata—smooth desertdandelion
* *Oncosiphon piluliferum*—stinknet
Palafoxia arida—desert palafox
Psathyrotes ramosissima—velvet turtleback
Rafinesquia californica—California plumeseed
* *Sonchus oleraceus*—common sowthistle
Stephanomeria pauciflora—brownplume wirelettuce

BORAGINACEAE—BORAGE FAMILY

Amsinckia intermedia—common fiddleneck
Cryptantha angustifolia—Panamint cryptantha
Cryptantha circumscissa—cushion cryptantha
Pectocarya penicillata—sleeping combseed
Pectocarya recurvata—curvenut combseed
Phacelia crenulata—cleftleaf wildheliotrope
Tiquilia plicata—fanleaf crinklemat

BRASSICACEAE—MUSTARD FAMILY

* *Brassica tournefortii*—Tournefort's mustard
* *Hirschfeldia incana*—shortpod mustard
* *Sisymbrium irio*—London rocket

CACTACEAE—CACTUS FAMILY

Cylindropuntia bigelovii—teddy bear cholla
Cylindropuntia echinocarpa—Wiggins' cholla
Ferocactus cylindraceus—California barrel cactus

CHENOPODIACEAE—GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

Atriplex canescens—fourwing saltbush

CLEOMACEAE—CLEOME FAMILY

Peritoma arborea—bladderpod

CUCURBITACEAE—GOURD FAMILY

Cucurbita palmata—coyote gourd

EUPHORBIACEAE—SPURGE FAMILY

Croton californicus—California croton
Ditaxis serrata—Yuma silverbush
Euphorbia albomarginata—whitemargin sandmat
Stillingia paucidentata—Mojave toothleaf

FABACEAE—LEGUME FAMILY

Parkinsonia florida—blue palo verde

GERANIACEAE—GERANIUM FAMILY

* *Erodium cicutarium*—redstem stork's bill

LOASACEAE—LOASA FAMILY

Mentzelia involucrata—whitebract blazingstar
Petalonyx thurberi—Thurber's sandpaper plant

NYCTAGINACEAE—FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY

Abronia villosa var. *villosa*—desert sand verbena

ONAGRACEAE—EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY

Camissonia contorta—plains evening primrose
Camissonia strigulosa—sandysoil suncup
Camissoniopsis pallida—paleyellow suncup
Chylismia claviformis—browneyes

PLANTAGINACEAE—PLANTAIN FAMILY

Plantago ovata—desert Indianwheat

POLEMONIACEAE—PHLOX FAMILY

Eriastrum eremicum—desert woollystar
Loeseliastrum schottii—Schott's calico

POLYGONACEAE—BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

Chorizanthe brevicornu—brittle spineflower
Eriogonum thomasii—Thomas' buckwheat

SIMMONDSIACEAE—JOJOBA FAMILY

Simmondsia chinensis—jojoba

Zygophyllaceae—Caltrop Family

Larrea tridentata—creosote bush

Monocots

POACEAE—GRASS FAMILY

* *Hordeum murinum*—mouse barley
* *Schismus barbatus*—common Mediterranean grass

* Signifies introduced (non-native) species

Attachment D

Wildlife Species Compendium

Bird

Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies

ICTERIDAE—BLACKBIRDS

Icterus bullockii—Bullock's oriole

Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers

SYLVIIDAE—SYLVIID WARBLERS

Polioptila melanura—black-tailed gnatcatcher

Shrikes

LANIIDAE—SHRIKES

Lanius ludovicianus—loggerhead shrike

Swallows

HIRUNDINIDAE—SWALLOWS

Hirundo rustica—barn swallow

Wood Warblers and Allies

PARULIDAE—WOOD-WARBLERS

Setophaga coronata—yellow-rumped warbler

Invertebrate

Butterflies

NYMPHALIDAE—BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES

Vanessa cardui—painted lady

Mammal

Hares and Rabbits

LEPORIDAE—HARES AND RABBITS

Lepus californicus—black-tailed jackrabbit

Sylvilagus audubonii—desert cottontail

Squirrels

SCIURIDAE—SQUIRRELS

Ammospermophilus leucurus—white-tailed antelope squirrel

Reptile

Lizards

PHRYNOSOMATIDAE—IGUANID LIZARDS

Uta stansburiana—common side-blotched lizard

Attachment E

Special-Status Plant Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area
Abronia villosa var. *aurita*	chaparral sand-verbena	None/None/1B.1	None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Desert dunes; sandy/annual herb/ (Jan)Mar–Sep/245–5,245	Not expected to occur. This species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species known blooming period.
Acmispon haydonii	pygmy lotus	None/None/1B.3	None	Pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran desert scrub; rocky/perennial herb/Jan–June/1,705–3,935	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Almutaster pauciflorus	alkali marsh aster	None/None/2B.2	None	Meadows and seeps; alkaline/perennial herb/ June–Oct/785–2,620	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation or alkaline soils are present to support this species.
Ambrosia monogyra	singlewhorl burrobrush	None/None/2B.2	None	Chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub; sandy/perennial shrub/ Aug–Nov/30–1,640	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range, and suitable vegetation and soils are present; however, the species was not detected during the May 2021 focused survey, and it is a large conspicuous species identifiable any time of the year. Therefore, it is considered absent from the study area.
Astragalus hornii var. *hornii*	Horn's milk-vetch	None/None/1B.1	None	Meadows and seeps, Playas; lake margins, alkaline/annual herb/ May–Oct/195–2,785	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *coachellae*	Coachella Valley milk-vetch	FE/None/1B.2	Covered	Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub (sandy)/annual / perennial herb/ Feb–May/130–2,145	Not expected to occur. The study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable Sonoran Desert scrub is present. However, the study area lacks adequate aeolian or fluvial sand systems, and the species was not detected during the May 2021 focused survey. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2 miles south of the study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2021).
Astragalus tricarinatus	triple-ribbed milk-vetch	FE/None/1B.2	Covered	Joshua tree woodland, Sonoran desert scrub; sandy or gravelly/perennial herb/Feb–May/1,475–3,900	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range. The nearest known CNDDB

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area
					occurrence is approximately 3.2 miles west of the study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2021). Furthermore, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during this species' known blooming period.
Atriplex parishii	Parish's brittlescale	None/None/1B.1	None	Chenopod scrub, Playas, Vernal pools; alkaline/annual herb/June–Oct/ 80–6,230	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species.
Ayenia compacta	California ayenia	None/None/2B.3	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; rocky/perennial herb/Mar–Apr/490–3,590	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and Sonoran Desert scrub is present; however, this species is more associated with rocky canyons, which are absent. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 8 miles south of the biological study area within Tahquitz Canyon (CDFW 2021). Furthermore, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey.
Boechera johnstonii	Johnston's rockcress	None/None/1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest; often on eroded clay/perennial herb/Feb–June/4,425–7,050	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation or clay soils present to support this species.
Boechera lincolnensis	Lincoln rockcress	None/None/2B.3	None	Chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub; carbonate/perennial herb/Mar–May/3,605–8,870	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and the study area lacks suitable carbonate soils to support this species.
Boechera parishii	Parish's rockcress	None/None/1B.2	None	Pebble (Pavement) plain, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky, quartzite on clay, or sometimes	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to

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				carbonate/perennial herb/ Apr–May/5,805–9,805	support this species.
Calochortus palmeri var. *munzii*	San Jacinto mariposa lily	None/None/1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps/perennial bulbiferous herb/Apr–July/ 2,805–7,215	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Calochortus palmeri var. *palmeri*	Palmer's mariposa lily	None/None/1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps; mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/Apr–July/2,325–7,840	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Carex occidentalis	western sedge	None/None/2B.3	None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/ 5,395–10,285	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Castilleja lasiorhyncha	San Bernardino Mountains owl's-clover	None/None/1B.2	None	Chaparral, Meadows and seeps, Pebble (Pavement) plain, Riparian woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/annual herb (hemiparasitic)/May–Aug/ 4,265–7,840	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present this species.
Chaenactis parishii	Parish's chaenactis	None/None/1B.3	None	Chaparral (rocky)/perennial herb/May–July/4,265–8,200	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's spineflower	None/None/1B.1	None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland; sandy or rocky, openings/annual herb/ Apr–June/900–4,000	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Chorizanthe xanti var. *leucotheca*	white-bracted spineflower	None/None/1B.2	None	Coastal scrub (alluvial fans), Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; sandy or gravelly/annual herb/Apr–June/980–3,935	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range, and desert scrub and sandy/gravelly soils are present; however, this species is

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area
					more associated with alluvial fans. A small portion within the southwestern corner provides marginal habitat; however, this species was not observed during the 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 0.4 miles west of the biological study area (CDFW 2021).
Deinandra mohavensis	Mojave tarplant	None/SE/1B.3	None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Riparian scrub; mesic/annual herb/ (May) June–Oct (Jan)/2,095–5,245	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 12 miles west of the biological study area within the San Jacinto Mountains (CDFW 2021).
Dodecahema leptoceras	slender-horned spineflower	FE/SE/1B.1	None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub (alluvial fan); sandy/annual herb/Apr–June/ 655–2,490	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species. Additionally, this species was not observed during the 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles west of the biological study area within the Whitewater River and was recorded in 1876 (CDFW 2021).
Draba saxosa	Southern California rock draba	None/None/1B.3	None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky/perennial herb/ June–Sep/8,005–11,810	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Eriastrum harwoodii	Harwood's eriastrum	None/None/1B.2	None	Desert dunes/annual herb/ Mar–June/410–3,000	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area
Erigeron parishii	Parish's daisy	FT/None/1B.1	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; usually carbonate, sometimes granitic/perennial herb/May–Aug/2,620–6,560	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Euphorbia arizonica	Arizona spurge	None/None/2B.3	None	Sonoran desert scrub (sandy)/perennial herb/ Mar–Apr/160–985	Low potential to occur. This species is found on sandy soils, and the Noble property contains more gravel/rockier soils. In addition, there are only three CNDDB occurrences for this species in the Coachella Valley, with two of these needing more fieldwork that also did not include observation dates for those occurrences, and the nearest occurrence is approximately 10 miles from the site (from 1922) (CDFW 2021). The species was not detected during the May 2021 focused survey.
Euphorbia misera	cliff spurge	None/None/2B.2	None	Coastal bluff scrub, Coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub; rocky/perennial shrub/Dec–Aug (Oct)/30–1,640	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range, and suitable desert scrub is present; however, this species occurs in rocky areas and canyons, which are absent. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2021). This conspicuous shrub would have been detected if present during the May 2021 focused survey.
Euphorbia platysperma	flat-seeded spurge	None/None/1B.2	None	Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub (sandy)/annual herb/Feb–Sep/ 210–330	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Galium angustifolium ssp. *jacinticum*	San Jacinto Mountains bedstraw	None/None/1B.3	None	Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/ June–Aug/4,425–6,885	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.

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Heuchera hirsutissima	shaggy-haired alumroot	None/None/1B.3	None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky, granitic/perennial rhizomatous herb/(May)June–July/4,985–11,480	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Heuchera parishii	Parish's alumroot	None/None/1B.3	None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Lower montane coniferous forest, Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; rocky, sometimes carbonate/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/4,920–12,465	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Imperata brevifolia	California satintail	None/None/2B.1	None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Meadows and seeps (often alkali), Riparian scrub; mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/Sep–May/0–3,985	Not expected to occur. The biological study is within the species' known elevation range, and desert scrub is present; however, alkali soils and mesic conditions are absent. This conspicuous perennial would have been detected if present during the May 2021 focused survey. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3.9 miles west of the biological study area within an irrigation ditch (CDFW 2021).
Ivesia argyrocoma var. *argyrocoma*	silver-haired ivesia	None/None/1B.2	None	Meadows and seeps (alkaline), Pebble (Pavement) plain, Upper montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/(May)June–Aug/4,795–9,710	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation, pebble plains, or alkali soils present to support this species.
Ivesia callida	Tahquitz ivesia	None/SR/1B.3	None	Upper montane coniferous forest (granitic, rocky)/perennial herb/ July–Sep/7,905–8,035	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation or granitic soils present to support this species.
Lilium parryi	lemon lily	None/None/1B.2	None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Riparian forest, Upper montane coniferous forest;	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable

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				mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/July–Aug/4,000–9,005	vegetation present to support this species.
Linanthus jaegeri	San Jacinto linanthus	None/None/1B.2	None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; granitic, rocky/perennial herb/ July–Sep/7,200–10,005	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Linanthus maculatus ssp. *maculatus*	Little San Bernardino Mtns. linanthus	None/None/1B.2	Covered	Desert dunes, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Sandy/annual herb/Mar–May/455–4,000	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is located within the species' known elevation range, and suitable desert scrub vegetation is present; however, there is a limited amount of sandy wash habitat present. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.8 miles west of the biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2021).
Malaxis monophyllos var. *brachypoda*	white bog adder's-mouth	None/None/2B.1	None	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/June, Aug/7,215–8,995	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Meesia uliginosa	broad-nerved hump moss	None/None/2B.2	None	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; damp soil/moss/July, Oct/3,965–9,195	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Mentzelia tricuspis	spiny-hair blazing star	None/None/2B.1	None	Mojavean desert scrub; sandy, gravelly, slopes, and washes/annual herb/Mar–May/490–4,195	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range, and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present. However, there is a limited amount of sandy wash habitat present. Furthermore, this species was not

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area
					observed during the May 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles west of the biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2021).
Monardella macrantha ssp. *hallii*	Hall's monardella	None/None/1B.3	None	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Oct/ 2,395–7,200	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Monardella nana ssp. *leptosiphon*	San Felipe monardella	None/None/1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–July/3,935–6,085	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Monardella robisonii	Robison's monardella	None/None/1B.3	None	Pinyon and juniper woodland/perennial rhizomatous herb/(Feb)Apr–Sep (Oct)/ 2,000–4,920	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis*	slender cottonheads	None/None/2B.2	None	Coastal dunes, Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub/annual herb/ (Mar) Apr–May/-165–1,310	Low potential to occur. This species occurs in coastal dunes, desert dunes, which are absent from the site. Species is known to occur in Sonoran desert scrub, which is present within the site; however, the nearest known CNDDB occurrence (0.9 miles from the site) is within the Whitewater Rivers so it's likely more commonly found near dunes (which is listed in CalFlora as its habitat) (CDFW 2021; CalFlora 2021). Furthermore, this species was mainly recorded in the Coachella Valley in the early 1900s (from 1900–1935), with only one recent record in

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area
					the Valley from 1980. The species was not detected during the May 2021 focused survey.
Penstemon pseudospectabilis ssp. *pseudospectabilis*	desert beardtongue	None/None/2B.2	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; often sandy washes, sometimes rocky/perennial herb/ Jan–May/260–6,345	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range, and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6 miles southwest of the biological study area (CDFW 2021).
Petalonyx linearis	narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	None/None/2B.3	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Sandy or rocky canyons/perennial shrub/(Jan–Feb) Mar–May(June–Dec)/-80–3,655	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present. However, this species is associated with rocky canyons, which are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 7.4 miles west of the biological study area (CDFW 2021).
Potentilla rimicola	cliff cinquefoil	None/None/2B.3	None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; granitic, rocky/perennial herb/ July–Sep/7,870–9,185	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Saltugilia latimeri	Latimer's woodland-gilia	None/None/1B.2	None	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; rocky or sandy, often granitic, sometimes washes/annual herb/Mar–June/1,310–6,230	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.

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Selaginella eremophila	desert spike-moss	None/None/2B.2	None	Chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub (gravelly or rocky)/perennial rhizomatous herb/(May) June (July)/655–4,245	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range, and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey. No mosses were observed within the study area. Based on CalFlora distribution, this species occurs more in the mountains surrounding the Coachella Valley (CalFlora 2021). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 5 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2021).
Sidotheca emarginata	white-margined oxytheca	None/None/1B.3	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland/annual herb/(Feb) Apr–July (Aug)/3,935–8,200	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Stemodia durantifolia	purple stemodia	None/None/2B.1	None	Sonoran desert scrub (often mesic, sandy)/perennial herb/ (Jan) Apr, June, Aug, Sep, Oct, Dec/ 590–985	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range, and there is suitable desert scrub present; however, mesic conditions are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey, which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 11 miles southeast of the biological study area (CDFW 2021).
Streptanthus campestris	southern jewelflower	None/None/1B.3	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland; rocky/perennial herb/ (Apr) May–July/2,950–7,545	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum	San Bernardino aster	None/None/1B.2	None	Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Marshes and	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area
				swamps, Valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic); near ditches, streams, springs/perennial rhizomatous herb/July–Nov (Dec)/ 5–6,690	
Thelypteris puberula var. *sonorensis*	Sonoran maiden fern	None/None/2B.2	None	Meadows and seeps (seeps and streams)/perennial rhizomatous herb/Jan–Sep/160–2,000	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Trichostema austromontanum ssp. *compactum*	Hidden Lake bluecurls	FT/None/1B.1	None	Upper montane coniferous forest (seasonally submerged lake margins)/annual herb/ July–Sep/7,870–8,790	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Xylorhiza cognata	Mecca-aster	None/None/1B.2	Covered	Sonoran desert scrub/perennial herb/Jan–June/65–1,310	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub present; however, this species is known to occur in arid canyons which are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the May 2021 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2021).

Status Legend
Federal:
FE: Federally listed as endangered
FT: Federally listed as threatened
State:
SE: State listed as endangered
SR: State Rare
California Rare Plant Rank:
CRPR 1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
CRPR 2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California but common elsewhere

CRPR 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
Threat Ranks
.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)
Coachella Valley MSHCP (CVMSHCP): Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Covered Species

CDFW. 2021. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). RareFind, Version 5 (Commercial Subscription). Sacramento, California: CDFW, Biogeographic Data Branch. Accessed June 2021. https://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/mapsanddata.asp.

CalFlora. 2021. Information on Wildlife California Plants. Accessed June 2021. www.calflora.org.

Attachment F

Special-Status Wildlife Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Amphibians					
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT/SSC	None	Lowland streams, wetlands, riparian woodlands, livestock ponds; dense, shrubby or emergent vegetation associated with deep, still or slow-moving water; uses adjacent uplands	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks any wetlands necessary for this species to occur.
Rana muscosa	mountain yellow-legged frog	FE/SE, WL	None	Lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and open riverbanks; rocky canyons in narrow canyons and in chaparral	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks any wetlands necessary for this species to occur.
Reptiles					
Anniella stebbinsi	southern California legless lizard	None/SSC	None	Coastal dunes, stabilized dunes, beaches, dry washes, valley–foothill, chaparral, and scrubs; pine, oak, and riparian woodlands; associated with sparse vegetation and moist sandy or loose, loamy soils	Not expected to occur. The study area does not contain the suitable habitat (i.e., dunes, dry washes, or riparian woodlands) for this species to occur.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	San Diegan tiger whiptail	None/SSC	None	Hot and dry areas with sparse foliage, including chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas.	Observed.
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	None/SSC	None	Commonly occurs in desert regions throughout Southern California. Prefers open sandy areas with scattered brush. Also found in rocky areas.	Low potential to occur. The study area has some open sandy areas that can provide potential habitat for this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 7 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Charina umbratica	southern rubber boa	None/ST	None	Montane oak–conifer and mixed-conifer forests, montane chaparral, wet meadows; usually in vicinity of streams or wet meadows	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable habitat for this species to occur.
Crotalus ruber	red diamondback rattlesnake	None/SSC	None	Coastal scrub, chaparral, oak and pine woodlands, rocky grasslands, cultivated areas, and desert flats	Moderate potential to occur. The study area is within a desert flat that may be suitable for this

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
					species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is less than 1.5 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Gopherus agassizii	Mojave desert tortoise	FT/ST	Covered	Arid and semi-arid habitats in Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, including sandy or gravelly locations along riverbanks, washes, sandy dunes, canyon bottoms, desert oases, rocky hillsides, creosote flats, and hillsides	Low potential to occur. Habitat is present (creosote bush scrub), and the study area has been identified as modeled habitat under the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.5 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2021), which is separated from the study area by State Route 62, a high traffic volume road that would limit any habitat connectivity to the site.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	Blainville's horned lizard	None/SSC	None	Open areas of sandy soil in valleys, foothills, and semi-arid mountains including coastal scrub, chaparral, valley–foothill hardwood, conifer, riparian, pine–cypress, juniper, and annual grassland habitats	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable vegetation present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 4.3 mile west of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Phrynosoma mcallii	flat-tailed horned lizard	None/SSC	Covered	Desert washes and flats with sparse low-diversity vegetation cover and sandy soils	Not expected to occur. Marginal habitat is present (sandy soils and creosote bush scrub), but the study area has not been identified as suitable habitat for the species (CVAG 2016). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 3 miles away and south of Interstate 10 (CDFW 2021).
Thamnophis hammondii	two-striped gartersnake	None/SSC	None	Streams, creeks, pools, streams with rocky beds, ponds, lakes, vernal pools	Not expected to occur. There are no water resources found on site.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Uma inornata	Coachella fringe-toed lizard	FT/SE	Covered	Sand dunes in sparse desert scrub, alkali scrub, and desert wash	Not expected to occur. Marginal habitat is present (sandy soils and creosote bush scrub), but the study area has not been identified as suitable habitat for the species (CVAG 2016). There is a broad CNDDB occurrence that overlaps the site, dated 1962 (CDFW 2021).
Birds					
Aquila chrysaetos (nesting and wintering)	golden eagle	BCC/FP, WL	None	Nests and winters in hilly, open/semi-open areas, including shrublands, grasslands, pastures, riparian areas, mountainous canyon land, open desert rimrock terrain; nests in large trees and on cliffs in open areas and forages in open habitats	Not expected to occur. The study area does not include large trees or cliffs to nest. Additionally, there are no grasslands or pastures for this species to forage. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 6 miles northwest of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Asio otus (nesting)	long-eared owl	None/SSC	None	Nests in riparian habitat, live oak thickets, other dense stands of trees, edges of coniferous forest; forages in nearby open habitats	Not expected to nest. The study area lacks any riparian or dense woodlands necessary for this species to nest. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is found 9 miles north just outside of Riverside County (CDFW 2021).
Athene cunicularia (burrow sites and some wintering sites)	burrowing owl	BCC/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in grassland, open scrub, and agriculture, particularly with ground squirrel burrows	Observed. One burrowing owl individual was observed within the western portion of the study area during the May 2021 survey. In addition, potential burrows and debris piles were observed.
Contopus cooperi (nesting)	olive-sided flycatcher	BCC/SSC	None	Nests in mixed-conifer, montane hardwood–conifer, Douglas fir,	Not expected to nest on site. This species was observed on site during the May 2021 surveys. It is known

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
				redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine habitats; usually close to water	to breed in the mountains to the west and southwest (Shuford and Gardali 2008). This individual was likely migrating through the site.
Cypseloides niger (nesting)	black swift	BCC/SSC	None	Nests in moist crevices, caves, and cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls in deep canyons; forages over a wide range of habitats	Not expected to occur. There is not suitable habitat for this species to occur.
Empidonax traillii extimus (nesting)	southwestern willow flycatcher	FE/SE	Covered	Nests in dense riparian habitats along streams, reservoirs, or wetlands; uses variety of riparian and shrubland habitats during migration	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks the riparian habitat suitable for this species to occur.
Icteria virens (nesting)	yellow-breasted chat	None/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in dense, relatively wide riparian woodlands and thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks dense riparian vegetation required for this species to occur.
Lanius ludovicianus (nesting)	loggerhead shrike	BCC/SSC	None	Nests and forages in open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, or other perches	Observed. This species was observed during the May 2021 site visit.
Piranga rubra (nesting)	summer tanager	None/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in mature desert riparian habitats dominated by cottonwoods and willows	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable habitat for this species to occur.
Polioptila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT/SSC	None	Nests and forages in various sage scrub communities, often dominated by California sagebrush and buckwheat; generally avoids nesting in areas with a slope of greater than 40%; majority of nesting at less than 1,000 feet above mean sea level	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks the suitable vegetation such as California sagebrush or buckwheat. Additionally, the study area is much too flat to be suitable for nesting. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 8 miles south along the mountain range.
Pyrocephalus rubinus (nesting)	vermilion flycatcher	None/SSC	None	Nests in riparian woodlands, riparian scrub, and freshwater marshes; typical desert riparian with cottonwood,	Not expected to occur. There is no riparian habitat within the study area for this species to occur.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
				willow, mesquite adjacent to irrigated fields, ditches, or pastures	
Setophaga petechia (nesting)	yellow warbler	BCC/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in riparian and oak woodlands, montane chaparral, open ponderosa pine, and mixed-conifer habitats	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks riparian, chaparral, or conifer habitats suitable for this species to occur.
Toxostoma crissale	Crissal thrasher	None/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in desert riparian and desert wash; dense thickets of sagebrush and other shrubs such as mesquite, iron catclaw acacia, and arrowweed willow within juniper and pinyon–juniper woodlands	Not expected to occur. There are no dense thickets or shrubs on the study area. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 7 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Toxostoma lecontei	Le Conte's thrasher	BCC/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, desert succulent, and Joshua tree habitats; nests in spiny shrubs or cactus	High potential to occur. There is potential desert habitat suitable for this species to occur. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 3 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Vireo bellii pusillus (nesting)	least Bell's vireo	FE/SE	Covered	Nests and forages in low, dense riparian thickets along water or along dry parts of intermittent streams; forages in riparian and adjacent shrubland late in nesting season	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks the riparian habitat suitable for this species to occur.
Mammals					
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	None/SSC	None	Grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, forests; most common in open, dry habitats with rocky outcrops for roosting, but also roosts in human-made structures and trees	Low potential to occur. There is a storage yard within the property that may provide suitable roosting habitat. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 9 miles north of the study area (CDFW 2021).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Chaetodipus fallax pallidus	pallid San Diego pocket mouse	None/SSC	None	Desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, and pinyon–juniper woodland	Low potential to occur. Possible suitable habitat within the Project boundaries. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 2 miles northwest of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	None/SSC	None	Mesic habitats characterized by coniferous and deciduous forests and riparian habitat, but also xeric areas; roosts in limestone caves and lava tubes, human-made structures, and tunnels	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks any riparian, coniferous, or deciduous forests. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 3 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Glaucomys oregonensis californicus	San Bernardino flying squirrel	None/SSC	None	Coniferous and deciduous forests, including riparian forests	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks suitable habitat such as riparian, coniferous, or deciduous forests for this species to occur.
Lasiurus xanthinus	western yellow bat	None/SSC	Covered	Valley–foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats; below 2,000 feet above mean sea level; roosts in riparian and palms	Low potential to occur. There are no palms within the study area to provide roosting habitat. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	None/SSC	None	Coastal scrub, desert scrub, chaparral, cacti, rocky areas	High potential to occur. The desert scrub on site provides suitable habitat for this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is less than 1 mile away from the study area (CDFW 2021).
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	pocketed free-tailed bat	None/SSC	None	Pinyon–juniper woodlands, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, desert riparian, desert wash, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree, and palm oases; roosts in high cliffs or rock outcrops with drop-offs, caverns, and buildings	Low potential to roost. Moderate potential to forage. The storage facility on site can provide potential roosting habitat. However, this species tends to prefer rocky outcrops and high cliffs. The desert

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
					scrub can provide suitable habitat for foraging. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6.5 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Nyctinomops macrotis	big free-tailed bat	None/SSC	None	Rocky areas; roosts in caves, holes in trees, buildings, and crevices on cliffs and rocky outcrops; forages over water	Not expected to occur. There are no rocky outcrops or cliffs for roosting. Additionally, the study area lacks water needed for foraging. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6.5 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Ovis canadensis nelsoni	Nelson's bighorn sheep	None/FP	None	Steep slopes and cliffs, rough and rocky topography, sparse vegetation; also canyons, washes, and alluvial fans	Not expected to occur. The study area does not have the suitable habitat (i.e., rocky topography and steep slopes) to support this species.
Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2 DPS	Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	FE/FP, ST	Covered	Dry, rocky, low-elevation desert slopes, canyons, and washes; females near water during lambing season	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks the slopes and canyons suitable for this species.
Perognathus longimembris bangsi	Palm Springs pocket mouse	None/SSC	Covered	Creosote scrub, desert scrub, and grasslands; sparse to moderately dense vegetative cover	High potential to occur. There is suitable creosote scrub within the study area and the study area has been identified as modeled habitat under the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016). There are CNDDB occurrences overlapping and adjacent to the study area (CDFW 2021).
Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	None/SSC	None	Lower-elevation grassland, alluvial sage scrub, and coastal scrub	Not expected to occur. There are no grasslands or coastal scrub for this species to occur.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Spermophilus (*Xerospermophilus*) *tereticaudus chlorus*	Palm Springs (Coachella Valley) round-tailed ground squirrel	None/SSC	Covered	Sandy arid regions of Lower Sonoran Life Zone including creosote bush scrub and creosote–palo verde	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable creosote bush habitat within the study area. The study area has been identified as modeled habitat under the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016). The nearest CNDDBB occurrence was in 1940 at approximately 3 miles southwest (CDFW 2021).
Taxidea taxus	American badger	None/SSC	None	Dry, open, treeless areas; grasslands, coastal scrub, agriculture, and pastures, especially with friable soils	Not expected to occur. There are no grasslands, coastal scrub, or pastures suitable for this species to occur. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is over 12 miles north of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Vulpes macrotis arsipus	Desert kit fox	None/None[1]	None	Sparse vegetated scrub habitats such as creosote scrub communities that support abundant rodent populations (Center for Biological Diversity 2013).	Not expected to occur. The study area contains creosote bush scrub; however, areas surrounding the study area are conducive to stray dogs and further limit desert kit fox habitat potential in the area.
Invertebrates					
Bombus crotchii	Crotch bumble bee	None/PSE	None	Open grassland and scrub communities supporting suitable floral resources.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for the species is not present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 5.5 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2021).
Dinacoma caseyi	Casey's June beetle	FE/None	None	Found only in two populations in a small area of southern Palm Springs; known historical distribution includes alluvial fan and river wash areas	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 6 miles southwest of the study area (CDFW 2021).

Status Legend
Federal:
FE: Federally listed as endangered
FT: Federally listed as threatened
BCC: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern
State:
SSC: California Species of Special Concern
FP: California Fully Protected Species
WL: California Watch List Species
SE: State listed as endangered
ST: State listed as threatened
PSE: Proposed state endangered
Coachella Valley MSHCP: Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Covered Species
Note:
[1] Section 4000 of the Fish and Game Code defines "kit fox" as a fur-bearing animal.

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March 5, 2021 12559.01

Patti Murphy
Desert Peak Energy Center, LLC
One California, Suite 16
San Francisco, California 94111

Subject: Biological Resources Assessment for the Desert Peak Energy Center Project, City of Palm Springs, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Murphy:

This biological resources assessment describes the existing biological conditions of the proposed Desert Peak Energy Center Project ("Project"). The Project Site, totaling 257.18 acres, includes two parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 668-280-017 and 668-280-007), within which the battery energy storage system facility will be situated, and two potential routes for an overhead generation tie line ("gen-tie line"). The Project and special-status biological resources are analyzed in the context of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and in the context of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("CVMSHCP").

This biological resources assessment describes the existing conditions of special-status biological resources on the Project Site and within a 500-foot buffer where access was granted (study area), totaling 575.11 acres; analyzes potential impacts in terms of biological significance under both CEQA and the CVMSHCP; and recommends avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to avoid and reduce potential impacts to special-status biological resources, if necessary.

1 Project Location and Description

The Project is located in the City of Palm Springs at the southeastern intersection of Diablo Road and Dillon Road. In addition to the proposed battery energy storage system facility, two potential gen-tie line routes were surveyed and analyzed along Melissa Lane (Figure 1, Project Location Map; figures are provided in Attachment A). The Project Site is located approximately 0.5 miles north of Interstate ("I") 10, 1.15 miles east of State Route 62, and 1.6 miles west of North Indian Canyon Drive. The Project Site is located in Section 9, Township 3 South, and Range 4 East of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey Desert Hot Springs 7.5-minute quadrangle. The approximate center of the Project Site corresponds to 33°55′16.66″ north latitude and 116°34′31.00″ west longitude.

The Project includes construction and operation of a battery energy storage system facility and overhead gen-tie line. The battery energy storage system facility is a 400-megawatt by 4-hour facility on an approximately 35-acre footprint of the larger 170-acre Project Site, along with associated on-site switchyard, inverters, fencing, roads, and supervisory control and data acquisition ("SCADA") system, and would store 1,600 megawatt-hours of energy. The Project also includes a 230-kilovolt overhead gen-tie line, which would extend approximately 1 mile north to the Southern California Edison ("SCE") Devers Substation. Although only one gen-tie route will be chosen, two potential gen-tie line routes have been analyzed herein, both along Melissa Lane.

2 Regional Planning Context

The Project is located within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016) as administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission. The CVMSHCP is a habitat conservation plan pursuant to Section 10(a) of the federal Endangered Species Act, which authorizes the issuance of take permits and establishes standards for the content of habitat conservation plans. It is also a natural community conservation plan pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2835, which authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") to permit the take of any covered species whose conservation and management are provided for in an approved natural community conservation plan. Compliance with the CVMSHCP (and associated permits) provides permittees with take authorization for covered species so long as the activity is covered by the CVMSHCP. Covered species include listed and non-listed species that are adequately conserved by the CVMSHCP.

The Project is a covered activity under the CVMSHCP and would receive coverage for impacts to covered species. While the southwestern portion of the Project Site is immediately adjacent to the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon conservation area (Figure 2, Coachella Valley MSHCP), the Project Site is not located within a CVMSHCP conservation area. The Project Site is mapped as Developed (Wind Energy) in the CVMSHCP (see Figure 3-1 of CVAG 2016).

3 Methods

3.1 Literature Review

For this biological resources assessment, "special-status" species are those that are (1) listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act; (2) listed or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act; (3) a state fully protected species; (4) a CDFW Species of Special Concern; (5) a Fish and Game Code Section 4000 fur-bearing animal; (6) a species listed on the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants with a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B or 2B; or (7) a species requiring additional surveys under the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016).

Other special-status biological resources include sensitive plant communities; wetlands, including riparian habitat; and wildlife corridors. Sensitive plant communities are those that are considered to support unique vegetation communities that have a rank of S1–S3 on the CDFW List of Terrestrial Communities or are considered locally important by a local planning document such as the County of Riverside General Plan or the CVMSHCP.

Special-status biological resources present or potentially present on the Project Site were identified through a literature search using the following sources: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") Critical Habitat and Occurrence Data (USFWS 2020), CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2020), and the California Native Plant Society's online Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2020). Searches were completed for the following U.S. Geological Survey quadrangles (which include the quadrangle within which the study area is located and the eight surrounding quadrangles): Catclaw Flat, Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley South, White Water, Desert Hot Springs, Seven Palms Valley, San Jacinto Peak, Palm Springs, and Cathedral City.

3.2 Field Reconnaissance

The study area consists of the two parcels in which the battery energy storage would be situated, preliminary potential gen-tie alignment routes along Diablo Road and Melissa Lane, and a 500-foot buffer where accessible (Figure 3, Study Area and Survey Areas). A general biological survey was conducted within the study area. The western portion of the study area, consisting of the proposed battery energy storage parcels south of Dillon Road and Diablo Road, totaling approximately 115 acres, was surveyed on April 14, 2020, from 8:50 a.m. to 5:05 p.m. (Figure 3). The survey was conducted when weather conditions were favorable, with 0% to 20% cloud cover, wind speeds from 1 to 7 miles per hour, and temperatures ranging from 68°F to 80°F.

The southeastern portion of the study area, consisting of the proposed battery energy storage parcels south of Dillon Road totaling approximately 67 acres, was surveyed on June 19, 2020, from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. (Figure 3). The survey was conducted when weather conditions were favorable, with 0% cloud cover, wind speeds from 3 to 8 miles per hour, and temperatures ranging from 74°F to 93°F.

The north and northeastern portions of the study area, consisting of the potential gen-tie line routes north of Dillon Road along Melissa Lane and SCE's Devers Substation totaling approximately 44 acres, was surveyed on November 6, 2020, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Figure 3). The survey was conducted when weather conditions were favorable, with 10% cloud cover, wind speeds from 1 to 10 miles per hour, and temperatures ranging from 78°F to 84°F.

The general biological resources assessments were conducted on foot, and the Project was walked thoroughly where accessible to complete the resource inventory. The survey buffer was surveyed visually from Diablo Road, Dillon Road, and Melissa Lane, and from within the eastern and southern portions of the Project Site, as access was not granted to these parcels. All native and naturalized plant species encountered within the study area were identified and recorded. The potential for special-status plant and wildlife species to occur within the study area was evaluated based on the vegetation communities and soils present and surrounding features. Vegetation communities and land covers on site were mapped directly in the field. In addition, a formal jurisdictional delineation was conducted on May 4, June 19, and November 6, 2020. The methodology and results are provided under separate covers; therefore, they are not further discussed within this report.

Latin and common names for plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank follow the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2020). For plant species without a California Rare Plant Rank, Latin names follow the Jepson Interchange List of Currently Accepted Names of Native and Naturalized Plants of California (Jepson Flora Project 2020), and common names follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service Plants Database (USDA 2020a). Natural vegetation communities were mapped in the field following CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016) where feasible, with modifications to accommodate the lack of conformity of the observed communities to those of *A Manual of California Vegetation*, second edition (Sawyer et al. 2009) or Oberbauer et al. (2008). Latin and common names of animals follow Crother (2012) for reptiles and amphibians, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU 2015) for birds, Wilson and Reeder (2005) for mammals, and the North American Butterfly Association (NABA 2001) for butterflies.

Dudek used geographic information system software to map biological resources and provide figures.

3.3 Special-Status Plant Survey

Based on the results of the literature review, four non-listed special-status species not covered by the CVMSHCP were determined to have a moderate to high potential to occur within the study area: (1) singlewhorl burrobrush (*Ambrosia monogyra*), (2) Arizona spurge (*Euphorbia arizonica*), (3) slender cottonheads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *gracilis*), and (4) desert spike-moss (*Selaginella eremophila*). Therefore, focused surveys were conducted for these target species concurrently with the reconnaissance survey on April 14, 2020, within the western portion of the study area (rare plant survey area, Figure 3). The survey area for special-status plant species consisted of suitable habitat within the western portion of the study area, where accessible. Focused special-status plant surveys were not conducted on the approximate 67-acre eastern portion or the approximate 44-acre northern portion of the biological study area, as these portions of the Project Site were added after the blooming period of the target species.

Surveys for special-status plant species were conducted by walking transects spaced 20 meters apart throughout suitable habitat within the rare plant survey area, where accessible. Focused special-status plant surveys conformed to California Native Plant Society *Botanical Survey Guidelines* (CNPS 2001), *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Populations and Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018), and *USFWS General Rare Plant Survey Guidelines* (Cypher 2002).

All plant species encountered during the field surveys were recorded and identified to subspecies or variety, if applicable, to determine sensitivity status.

3.4 Survey Limitations

Access was not available on all areas within the 500-foot buffer and along Melissa Lane due to private properties; therefore, vegetation mapping was conducted using public roads and/or using aerial signatures of those communities occurring within the Project.

Surveys for special-status plant species were conducted in April 2020 within the rare plant survey area. The timing of the survey coincided with the blooming period for most target species. Arizona spurge and slender cottonheads both have blooming periods in April. Singlewhorl burrobrush blooms August through November; however, this is a conspicuous perennial shrub that would be detectable during the April pass. Additionally, desert spike-moss blooms in June and sometimes may bloom in May or July; however, this is a perennial rhizomatous herb and would have been detectable in April. Furthermore, target species did not include CRPR 3 and 4 species and instead focused on special-status species that are federally or state listed or CRPR 1 or 2 species. All special-status species, including CRPR 3 and 4 species, would have been mapped if observed.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA 2020), the rainfall total for the City of Palm Springs from October 1, 2019, to April 9, 2020, was 5.37 inches. According to the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC 2020), the City of Palm Springs precipitation average from October to April is approximately 4.61 inches. Therefore, the 2019–2020 precipitation year was above average, suggesting that the target species would likely have been observed if present.

The eastern and northern portions of the study area were added after the rare plant survey was completed and after the blooming period for the target species; therefore, these areas were not surveyed for special-status plants.

However, there are no special-status plant species with a moderate or high potential to occur within the study area outside of the rare plant survey area.

Surveys specifically aimed at detection of the full range of wildlife species were not conducted. However, notes were taken for incidental wildlife observations made during surveys to establish a general baseline of wildlife diversity within the study area. These surveys were conducted during the daytime, which usually results in few observations of mammals, many of which may be active at night. In addition, many species of reptiles and amphibians are nocturnal or cryptic in their habits and are difficult to observe using standard meandering transects.

The current survey efforts provide an accurate representation of the potential for special-status species to occur in the study area. The surveys conducted to date were thorough and comprehensive, and the results of the study contained herein provide a reasonable, accurate assessment of the study area.

4 Results

4.1 Site Description

The study area is located within the Colorado Desert, in the northwestern end of the Coachella Valley, which is generally bounded by the San Bernardino Mountains and Little San Bernardino Mountains to the north, the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains to the south, and the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley to the east. The study area is relatively flat; however, elevations gradually slope from northwest to southeast. Elevation within the study area ranges from approximately 1,100 feet above mean sea level in northwest to approximately 837 feet above mean sea level in the southeast corner of the study area.

The portion of the study area not including the potential gen-tie line routes is characterized as an active wind turbine farm with associated development (i.e., concrete pads, wind turbines, storage yard, and associated dirt roads), with the remaining portions containing native desert vegetation. This portion of the study area is bound by Devers Substation to the north, Indian Canyon Drive to the east, I-10 to the south, and State Route 62 to the west. Historic aerials depict vegetation clearing for development associated with the wind turbine farm sometime between 1972 and 1996 (Historic Aerials 2020). The portion of the study area including the potential gen-tie line routes are characterized by native desert vegetation, dirt roads (i.e., Diablo Road and associated SCE transmission alignment roads), Melissa Lane, and SCE's Devers Substation. This portion of the study area is bound by Diablo Road to the west, Devers Substation to the north, and active wind turbine farms associated with development to the east and south.

Existing adjacent land uses include a mix of associated wind turbine farms and vacant lands to the north, east, south, and west. Representative photographs of the study area are included in Attachment B.

4.2 Soils

Three soil series are mapped within the study area: Carsitas fine sand, 0%–5% slopes, Carsitas gravelly sand, 0%–9% slopes, and Carsitas cobbly sand, 2%–9% slopes. Approximately 315.49 acres of Carsitas fine sand, 0%–5% slopes, approximately 258.24 acres of Carsitas gravelly sand, 0%–9% slopes, and approximately 1.38 acres of Carsitas cobbly

sand, 2%–9% slopes are mapped within the study area. These soils are described in more detail below (USDA 2020b) and the spatial distribution of these soils is depicted in Figure 4, Soils Map.

- **Carsitas Family Series** consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained soils that formed in alluvium derived from granitic and/or gneissic rocks. Carsitas soils are on alluvial fans, fan aprons, valley fills, and remnants of alluvial fans and in drainage ways at elevations of 220 feet below mean sea level to 2,625 feet above mean sea level. These soils have low runoff and high saturated hydraulic connectivity. Carsitas soils are distributed in southeastern California and support irrigated agricultural areas that include citrus and grapes, as well as watershed, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Vegetation in uncultivated areas includes creosote bush, burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), barrel cactus (*Ferocactus* sp.), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), and paloverde (*Parkinsonia* sp.).

4.3 Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

A total of four vegetation communities and land cover types occur within the study area based on general physiognomy and species composition. Two vegetation communities were mapped and include Sonoran creosote bush scrub and disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub, and two land covers (disturbed habitat and urban/developed) occur on site. Figure 5, Biological Resources Map, illustrates the distribution of land covers, and Table 1 provides a summary of each land cover's extent within the study area.

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Covers within the Study area

Vegetation Community/Land Cover	Acreage
Vegetation Communities	
Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub[1]	416.40
Disturbed Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub[1]	9.91
Disturbed Habitat	116.88
Urban/Developed	31.91
Total[2]	**575.11**

Sources: CVAG 2016; Oberbauer et al. 2008.
Notes:
1 Considered a Covered Natural Community under Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVAG 2016).
2 Totals may not add due to rounding.

4.3.1 Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub

The Sonoran creosote bush scrub community includes creosote bush as the dominant shrub, forming an open community approximately 0.5 to 3 meters (2 to 10 feet) in height and occurring on well-drained soils (CVAG 2016). Burrobush is a common co-dominant shrub in the canopy, with various ephemeral herbs flowering in late winter/early spring within the herbaceous layer (CVAG 2016).

Within the study area, Sonoran creosote bush scrub is dominated by an open cover of creosote bush. Associated species present within this community include burrobush, cheesebush (*Ambrosia salsola*), sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), and jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*). The herbaceous layer is composed of

common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*) and redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*). Disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub is dominated by a lower cover of creosote bush and associated species as a result of past disking and disturbance. Sonoran creosote bush scrub was mapped within much of the study area, with disturbed Sonoran creosote bush mapped within portions of the site south of Dillon Road. These areas included evidence of past disturbance/grading with a lower cover of shrubs present.

Sonoran creosote bush scrub on site is dominated by creosote bush. The *Larrea tridentata* alliance has a rank of G5S5 by CDFW (CDFW 2019), meaning that it is apparently secure both globally and within the state. Therefore, CDFW does not consider this alliance a sensitive biological resource under CEQA (CDFW 2019). Sonoran creosote bush scrub is within the CVMSHCP and is considered a covered vegetation community (CVAG 2016).

4.3.2 Disturbed Habitat

The CVMSHCP does not describe disturbed habitat; however, this land cover type refers to areas that have been permanently altered by previous human activity that has eliminated all future biological value of the land for most species. The native or naturalized vegetation is no longer present, and the land lacks habitat value for sensitive wildlife, including potential raptor foraging.

Disturbed land on site consists of dirt roads within the Project Site and potential gen-tie alignment routes (e.g., Diablo Road north and south of Dillon Road) and vacant areas (i.e., storage yards southeast of Dillon Road and Diablo intersection and north of Dillon Road) that have been previously graded and are primarily devoid of vegetation.

Disturbed habitat is not a vegetation community; therefore, it is not considered a sensitive biological resource under CEQA (CDFW 2019).

4.3.3 Urban/Developed Land

Urban/developed areas include areas that have been constructed upon or otherwise physically altered to an extent that native vegetation is no longer supported. Developed land is characterized by permanent or semi-permanent structures, pavement or hardscape, and landscaped areas that often require irrigation (Oberbauer et al. 2008).

Within the study area, developed areas include paved roads (e.g., Dillon Road and Melissa Road) and SCE's Devers Substation within the northern portion of the study area.

Developed land is not a vegetation community; therefore, it is not considered a sensitive biological resource under CEQA (CDFW 2019).

4.3.4 Floral Diversity

A total of 52 species of vascular plants, including 43 native (83%) and 9 non-native (17%), were recorded within the study area. This low plant diversity reflects disturbed nature (i.e., disturbance associated with the active wind turbine farm) and proximity to adjacent rural developed areas. Plant species observed within the study area are listed in Attachment C, Vascular Plant Species.

4.4 Wildlife

Eight bird species were detected within the study area: Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*). No nests were observed during the survey. No amphibian species were observed and none are expected to occur. One reptile species was observed within the study area: common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*). Three mammal species were detected during the survey: white-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). One invertebrate species was observed during the survey: painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*). Wildlife species observed within the study area are listed in Attachment D, Wildlife Species.

4.5 Special-Status Plant Species

Attachment E, Special-Status Plant Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area, lists special-status plant species that were identified by the literature review. For each species listed, a determination was made regarding the potential for the species to occur in the study area based on information gathered during the field reconnaissance, including the location of the site, habitats present, current site conditions, and past and present land use.

No federally or state-listed species have a potential to occur within the study area. Four non-listed special-status species not covered under the CVMSHCP were determined to have a moderate to high potential to occur within the biological study area: (1) singlewhorl burrobrush, (2) Arizona spurge, (3) slender cottonheads, and (4) and desert spike-moss; therefore, focused surveys were conducted for these species within the rare plant survey area. No special-status plant species were detected within the rare plant survey area during the April 2020 focused survey and these species are not expected to occur in the rare plant survey area. No special-status plant species were incidentally observed within the rare plant study area. Focused surveys were not conducted within the eastern or northern portions of the study area during the June and November 2020 general biological survey; however, no special-status plant species have a moderate or high potential to occur within the study area outside of the rare plant survey area (Attachment E).

4.6 Special-Status Wildlife Species

Attachment F, Special-Status Wildlife Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area, lists special-status wildlife species that were identified in the literature review. For each species listed, a determination was made regarding potential use of the Project Site based on information gathered during the field reconnaissance, known habitat preferences, and knowledge of the species' relative distributions in the area.

No focused special-status wildlife surveys were conducted. Two special-status wildlife species were incidentally detected within the study area during the April and November 2020 biological surveys: loggerhead shrike and burrowing owl, both California Species of Special Concern. Loggerhead shrike is not covered under the CVMSHP; however, burrowing owl is covered under the CVMSHCP. No federally or state-listed species have a moderate potential to occur within the study area; however, desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a federally and state-listed species covered under the CVMSHCP, was determined to have a low potential to occur within the study area. Five

other non-listed species have a moderate to high potential to occur within the study area: red diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus* [*Xerospermophilus*] *tereticaudus chlorus*). Of these, red diamondback rattlesnake and San Diego desert woodrat are the only species that are not covered under the CVMSHCP.

4.7 Nesting Birds

The study area contains shrubs that provide potential habitat for commonly occurring nesting birds, such as Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) or loggerhead shrike. No nests were observed within the study area during the 2020 reconnaissance surveys and focused special-status plant survey.

4.8 Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

Wildlife corridors are linear features that connect large patches of natural open space and provide avenues for the migration of animals. Habitat linkages are small patches that join larger blocks of habitat and help reduce the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation; they may be continuous habitat or discrete habitat islands that function as stepping stones for wildlife dispersal. Wildlife movement within the Project Site is unlikely due to the urbanized area; fencing around the Project Site to the north, east, south, and west; and moderate traffic along Dillon Road north of the Project Site. However, the remainder of the study area and the surrounding environment consist of scattered rural development, wind energy development, and open scrub habitat that likely function as open habitat, but do not function as a corridor for wildlife. Furthermore, the CVMSHCP addresses regional wildlife linkages and crossings, and the Project Site is not within a designated linkage; however, one wildlife corridor/linkage (Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area) identified by the CVMSHCP occurs immediately southwest of the Project Site (Figure 2).

4.9 Local Regulatory Setting

4.9.1 CVMSHCP Consistency Analysis

The lead agency for this Project is the City of Palm Springs, which is a permittee of the CVMSHCP. Compliance with the CVMSHCP provides permittees with take authorization for covered species for all covered activities, which includes development outside of conservation areas. Therefore, the Project is a covered activity and compliance with the CVMSHCP would provide take authorization for covered species. One CVMSHCP covered species was observed within the study area: burrowing owl. Three CVMSHCP covered species have a moderate potential to occur within the study area: Le Conte's thrasher, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel. One federally and state-listed species that is covered under the CVMSHCP has a low potential to occur: desert tortoise. The following provides a summary of the requirements of the CVMSHCP as they relate to the Project.

Section 4.5 of the CVMSHCP provides land use adjacency guidelines for new land uses adjacent to conservation areas. The Project is located immediately adjacent to the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon conservation area within the southwestern corner of the Project Site; therefore, these measures apply to the Project.

Section 9 of the CVMSHCP sets forth species-specific conservation goals and objectives for each of the covered species. Burrowing owl, Le Conte's thrasher, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel, covered species under the CVMSHCP, were determined to have a moderate to high potential to occur within the study area. Desert tortoise was determined to have a low potential to occur within the study area. Section 9 of the CVMSHCP does not identify any avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures for these species for areas outside of the conservation areas.

The CVMSHCP shows Coachella valley round-tailed squirrel, desert tortoise, Le Conte's thrasher, and Palm Springs pocket mouse modeled habitat overlapping the study area. As noted previously, Chapter 9 of the CVMSHCP does not identify any avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures for areas outside of the conservation areas for burrowing owl, Le Conte's thrasher, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel ground. For desert tortoise, only the areas north of Dillon Road contain modeled habitat. According to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit (TE-104601-1), permit term and condition no. 45 states for projects located outside of the proposed conservation areas within the 50,272 acres of naturally occurring desert tortoise habitat anticipated to be impacted, the Permittee shall either (1) notify the USFWS 45 days prior to the issuance of a grading permit to allow for the potential salvage of adult tortoises within this notification time period or (2) condition such projects to conduct desert tortoise clearance surveys per the USFWS's protocol.

Section 10 of the CVMSHCP sets forth conservation goals and objectives for each of the covered natural communities. Covered natural communities present in the study area include Sonoran creosote bush scrub. No measures are required outside of conservation areas for this community. Payment of the CVMSHCP development fee would provide coverage for sensitive natural communities that will be impacted.

A fee is required for all projects located within the CVMSHCP plan area. With payment of this fee, adherence to Land Use Adjacency Guidelines within Section 4.5 of the CVMSHCP, and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45, the Project would be consistent with the CVMSHCP.

5 Impacts and Recommendations

This section addresses potential impacts to special-status biological resources that could result from implementation of the Project. Although the Project footprint is yet to be determined, this section addresses each CEQA significance threshold, identifies potential impacts, and provides expected mitigation measures, as applicable.

CEQA Significance Thresholds

The following are the significance thresholds for biological resources provided in the CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist, which states that Project activities could potentially have a significant affect if they:

1. **Impact-BIO-1**: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS (Threshold Bio-1).
2. **Impact-BIO-2:** Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS (Threshold Bio-2).

3. **Impact-BIO-3:** Have a substantial adverse effect on state and federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means (Threshold Bio-3).
4. **Impact-BIO-4:** Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites (Threshold Bio-4).
5. **Impact-BIO-5:** Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance (Threshold Bio-5).
6. **Impact-BIO-6:** Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan (Threshold Bio-6).

5.1 Impact-BIO-1: Special-Status Species

5.1.1 Special-Status Plants

No federally or state-listed plant species have a potential to occur within the Project site. There are no special-status plant species with a moderate or high potential to occur. Therefore, the Project would not result in direct or indirect impacts to special-status plant species. As such, impacts to special-status plant species would be less than significant.

5.1.2 Special-Status Wildlife

Two non-listed special-status wildlife species were observed within the Project Site during the April and November 2020 biological surveys: loggerhead shrike and burrowing owl, both California Species of Special Concern. Loggerhead shrike is not covered under the CVMSHCP; however, burrowing owl is covered under the CVMSHCP. No federally or state-listed species have a moderate potential to occur within the study area. One federally and state-listed threatened species has a low potential to occur within the study area: desert tortoise. Desert tortoise is covered under the CVMSHCP. Five other non-listed species have a moderate to high potential to occur within the Project Site: red diamondback rattlesnake, Le Conte's thrasher, San Diego desert woodrat, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel. Of these, red diamondback rattlesnake and San Diego desert woodrat are the only species that are not covered under the CVMSHCP.

5.1.2.1 Birds

One non-listed special-status species, burrowing owl, was observed within the study area, and one non-listed special-status species, Le Conte's thrasher, has a high potential to occur within the Project Site. These species are covered by the CVMSHCP; therefore, with consistency with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) and adherence to the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), there would be no significant impacts to these special-status wildlife species. These species are also protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Section 3516, which protect nesting birds. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3, Nesting Birds, and Mitigation Measure BIO-4, Burrowing Owl Pre-Con Survey, would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

One non-listed species, loggerhead shrike, was observed within the Project Site during the April 2020 biological survey. This species is not covered by CVMSHCP and impacts could be potentially significant absent mitigation. The Project contains suitable habitat (i.e., open nesting habitat with scattered shrubs) for loggerhead shrike that may be impacted as a result of Project implementation. Due to the amount of adjacent and nearby habitat, loss of fragmented habitat is considered less than significant. However, direct mortality of individual loggerhead shrikes would be considered significant absent mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Indirect impacts to loggerhead shrike that could occur during construction include an increase in human activity, construction noise, and dust in the immediate vicinity of an active nest that could result in significant harassment and nest abandonment, causing take of the nest. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would result in avoidance of these indirect impacts, as monitoring and avoidance measures, if applicable, would be implemented should a nest be present, such that construction activities would not result in take.

5.1.2.2 Reptiles

One federally and state listed threatened species has a low potential to occur within the project site: desert tortoise. This species is covered by the CVMSHCP. According to the USWFS CVMSHCP amended permit (TE-104601-1), permit term and condition no. 45 states for projects located outside of the proposed conservation areas within the 50,272 acres of naturally occurring desert tortoise habitat anticipated to be impacted, the Permittee shall either (1) notify the USFWS 45 days prior to the issuance of a grading permit to allow for the potential salvage of adult tortoises within this notification time period or (2) condition such projects to conduct desert tortoise clearance surveys per the USFWS's protocol. Therefore, with compliance with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1), adherence to the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45 (Mitigation Measure BIO-5), there would be no significant impacts to desert tortoise.

One special-status reptile has a moderate potential to occur within the project site: red diamondback rattlesnake. This species is not covered by the CVMSHCP and impacts could be potentially significant absent mitigation. Due to the amount of adjacent and nearby habitat, loss of fragmented habitat is considered less than significant. Direct impacts could occur through crushing of individuals during grading, entombment of burrowing species, and removal of habitat.

Most reptile species exhibit a "flight" response to disturbance, resulting in temporary displacement, or if disturbance is constant, permanent displacement. The Project contains suitable habitat (i.e., desert flats) that may be impacted as a result of Project implementation; however, suitable habitat will be available adjacent to the affected region, and individuals would be expected to move away from construction activities. Entombment of individuals would be avoided through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-6, Best Management Practices, which would include covering open trenches. Direct impacts to the few individuals that may be harmed by construction activities would be less than significant.

Potential indirect impacts to red diamondback rattlesnake would be limited to short-term impacts from construction activities and could result from fugitive dust that can degrade habitat and result in health implications for wildlife species; noise and vibration that can stress wildlife species or cause them to leave an area of otherwise suitable habitat; increased human presence, which can also disrupt daily activities of wildlife and cause them to leave an area; nighttime

lighting, which can disrupt the activity patterns of nocturnal species; and release of chemical pollutants, such as from oil leaks from construction vehicles and machinery. Although red diamondback rattlesnake is not covered under the CVMSHCP, the Project would be required to implement the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines delineated in the CVMSHCP (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), which includes construction best management practices and compliance measures with regulations for air, noise, and light pollution; therefore, implementation of the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines and construction best management practices would reduce indirect impacts to a less-than-significant level.

5.1.2.3 Mammals

Palm Springs pocket mouse has a high potential to occur within the Project Site, and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel has a moderate potential to occur within the Project Site. These species are covered by the CVMSHCP. Therefore, with consistency with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) and adherence to the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), there would be no significant impacts to these special-status wildlife species.

One non-listed species, San Diego desert woodrat, has a high potential to occur within the Project Site. This species is not covered under the CVMSHCP and impacts could be potentially significant absent mitigation. Due to the amount of adjacent and nearby habitat, loss of fragmented habitat is considered less than significant. Direct impacts could occur through crushing of individuals during grading, entombment of burrowing species, and removal of habitat. Most mammal species exhibit a "flight" response to disturbance, resulting in temporary displacement, or if disturbance is constant, permanent displacement. The Project contains suitable habitat (i.e., desert scrub) for San Diego desert woodrat that may be impacted as a result of Project implementation; however, suitable habitat will be available adjacent to the affected region, and individuals would be expected to move away from construction activities. Entombment of individuals would be avoided through implementation of Mitigation Measure Bio-6, which would include covering open trenches. Direct impacts to the few individuals that may be crushed or otherwise harmed by construction activities would be less than significant.

Potential indirect impacts to San Diego desert woodrat would be limited to short-term impacts from construction activities and could result from fugitive dust that can degrade habitat and result in health implications for wildlife species; noise and vibration that can stress wildlife species or cause them to leave an area of otherwise suitable habitat; increased human presence, which can also disrupt daily activities of wildlife and cause them to leave an area; nighttime lighting, which can disrupt the activity patterns of nocturnal species; and release of chemical pollutants, such as from oil leaks from construction vehicles and machinery. Although San Diego desert woodrat is not covered under the CVMSHCP, the Project would be required to implement the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines delineated in the CVMSHCP (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), which includes construction best management practices and compliance measures with regulations for air, noise, and light pollution; therefore, implementation of the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines and construction best management practices would reduce indirect impacts to a less-than-significant level.

5.2 Impact-BIO-2: Riparian and Special Status Vegetation Communities

The Project Site does not contain any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified by CDFW or USFWS. However, the Project Site includes Sonoran creosote bush scrub, which is a natural community covered under the CVMSHCP. To comply with the CVMSHCP, development fees will be required to mitigate habitat loss. Therefore, with compliance with the CVMSHCP, including payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee (Mitigation

Measure BIO-1) and adherence to the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), there would be no significant impacts to special-status vegetation communities.

5.3 Impact-BIO-3: Jurisdictional Waters

Aquatic resources (waters/wetlands) under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and CDFW were mapped within the Project Site and are discussed under separate covers (Dudek 2020a, 2020b). Direct impacts to jurisdictional waters are considered significant absent mitigation.

If the Project impacts waters and streams that are regulated under the California's Porter-Cologne Act and California Fish and Game Code, permits would be required from each of the regulatory agencies. The Regional Water Quality Control Board regulates waters of the state under the California's Porter-Cologne Act. California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616 give CDFW regulatory powers over streams and lakes, as well as vegetation associated with these features. Permits are required from each of the regulatory agencies and typically entail providing mitigation to offset the impacts and loss of beneficial uses and functions and values to the jurisdictional waters and habitats. A waste discharge report would be required for impacts to waters of the state and a Streambed Alteration Agreement would be required for impacts to jurisdictional streambed. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-7 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

5.4 Impact-BIO-4: Migratory Birds and Wildlife Corridor/Nursery Sites

5.4.1 Nesting Birds

Project construction could result in direct and indirect impacts to nesting birds, including the loss of nests, eggs, and fledglings if ground-disturbing activities occur during the nesting season (generally February 15 through August 31). Construction activities during this time may result in reduced reproductive success and may violate the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code. If construction (including any ground-disturbing activities) occurs during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to grading activities and impacts to nests must be avoided. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3, no significant impacts to nesting birds would occur.

5.4.2 Wildlife Corridors and Nursery Sites

The Project Site does not function as a wildlife corridor and does not support any wildlife nursery sites. As a result, implementation of the Project would not result in impacts to these resources.

5.5 Impact-BIO-5: Other Local Ordinances

The City of Palm Springs does not have any policies or ordinances protecting biological resources that are applicable to the Project.

5.6 Impact-BIO-6: Habitat Conservation Plans

The Project Site is within the CVMSHCP area. The Project Site is not located within any CVMSHCP conservation areas; however, it is adjacent to the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon conservation area. A fee is required for all projects located within the CVMSHCP plan area. With payment of this fee (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) and adherence to Land Use Adjacency Guidelines within Section 4.5 of the CVMSHCP (Mitigation Measure BIO-2), and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45 (Mitigation Measure BIO-5), the Project would be consistent with the CVMSHCP.

6 Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Fee Payment

As a signatory to the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, the City of Palm Springs shall require a local development mitigation fee prior to the issuance of building permits for the proposed use on the Project Site at the rates applicable at the time of payment of the fee as set forth in the most recent fee schedule. The Project applicant shall be required to provide documentation to the City of Palm Springs confirming the payment of the local development mitigation fee.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Land Use Adjacency Guidelines

The Project applicant shall implement the following Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (CVMSHCP, Section 4.5) to minimize and avoid indirect effects from development adjacent to conservation areas (i.e., Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon conservation area), where applicable:

- **Drainage**: Proposed Development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area shall incorporate plans to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff discharged to the adjacent Conservation Area is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions. Stormwater systems shall be designed to prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes within the adjacent Conservation Area.
- **Toxics**: Land uses proposed adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that use chemicals or generate bioproducts such as manure that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife and plant species, habitat, or water quality shall incorporate measures to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in any discharge to the adjacent Conservation Area.
- **Lighting**: For proposed development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area, lighting shall be shielded and directed toward the developed area. Landscape shielding or other appropriate methods shall be incorporated in project designs to minimize the effects of lighting adjacent to or within the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.

- **Noise**: Proposed development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that generates noise in excess of 75 A-weighted decibels sound equivalent level hourly shall incorporate setbacks, berms, or walls, as appropriate, to minimize the effects of noise on the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.
- **Invasives**: Invasive, non-native plant species shall not be incorporated in the landscape for land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area. Landscape treatments within or adjacent to a Conservation Area shall incorporate native plant materials to the maximum extent feasible; recommended native species are listed in Table 4-112 [CVMSHCP, Section 4.5.5]. The plants listed in Table 4-113 shall not be used within or adjacent to a Conservation Area. This list may be amended from time to time through a Minor Amendment with Wildlife Agency Concurrence.
- **Barriers**: Land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers in individual project designs to minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass, or dumping in a Conservation Area. Such barriers may include native landscaping, rocks/boulders, fencing, walls and/or signage.
- **Grading/Land Development**: Manufactured slopes associated with site development shall not extend into adjacent land in a Conservation Area.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 Nesting Birds

To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, if ground-disturbing and/or vegetation clearance activities are scheduled to occur during the avian nesting season (typically February 15 through August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the Project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint. Surveys shall be conducted within 3 days prior to initiation of activity.

If an active nest is detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist. The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for topography, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type. All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution if indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 Burrowing Owl

Pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls shall be completed in accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012), with the first survey no less than 14 days prior to initiation of Project-related activities, and the second within 24 hours of Project-related activities. If an active burrowing owl burrow is detected within 500 feet of the impact footprint, avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented in accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* guidelines or agreed upon by CDFW, including implementation of a non-

disturbance buffer and monitoring of the nest to ensure activities are not adversely affecting the nest. If the Project will occur within this zone, then work must occur outside the nesting season, or until it can be shown that the birds have finished nesting, at which point passive relocation may occur.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 Desert Tortoise

Because the Project is located outside of a Conservation Area but within the 50,272 acres of naturally occurring desert tortoise habitat anticipated to be impacted under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), the Project applicant shall either:

1. Notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 45 days prior to the issuance of a grading permit to allow for the potential salvage of adult tortoises within this notification time period or
2. Condition such projects to conduct desert tortoise clearance surveys per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's protocol.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 General Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented during Project construction activities:

- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of special-status wildlife during construction, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep shall be covered with plywood or similar materials at the close of each working day, or be provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped wildlife. If trapped animals are observed, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow escape.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7 Jurisdictional Waters and Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation

If jurisdictional waters are impacted as a result of Project implementation, appropriate permits shall be obtained from the regulatory agencies, including a Waste Discharge Requirement from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

All mitigation measures and conditions contained within the permits shall be implemented. At a minimum, the following shall be completed for mitigation for impacts to waters of the state and jurisdictional streambed:

1. **Compensation for Permanent Impacts:** Permanent impacts to waters of the state and jurisdictional streambeds shall be offset by compensation at a 1:1 ratio, or as otherwise required by the respective permits.
2. **Temporary Impacts:** All areas temporarily impacted shall be restored to native grade and contour, and revegetated with native species as determined by an adjacent reference site or through documentation of baseline conditions prior to impacts.

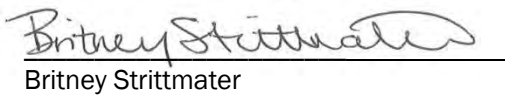
3. **Best Management Practices**. Avoided jurisdictional waters shall be fenced or flagged as environmentally sensitive areas. Best management practices shall be implemented to avoid indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters, including the following:
   a. Vehicles and equipment shall not be operated in ponded or flowing water except as described in the permits.
   b. Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from grading or other activities shall not be allowed to enter jurisdictional waters or be placed in locations that may be subjected to high storm flows.
   c. Spoil sites shall not be located within 30 feet from the boundaries of jurisdictional waters or in locations that may be subject to high storm flows, where spoils might be washed back into drainages.
   d. Raw cement/concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint or other coating material, oil or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to vegetation or wildlife resources resulting from Project-related activities shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering avoided jurisdictional waters.
   e. No equipment maintenance shall occur within 150 feet of jurisdictional waters and no petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment will be allowed to enter these areas or enter any off-site state-jurisdictional waters under any flow.

7 Conclusion

With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, payment of the CVMSHCP development mitigation fee, adherence to the CVMSHCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines, and adherence to the USFWS CVMSHCP amended permit term and condition no. 45 related to desert tortoise, the Project would not result in significant impacts to biological resources.

If you have any questions regarding this biological resources assessment, please contact me at bstrittmater@dudek.com or 760.685.1231, or Veronika Archer at larcher@dudek.com or 951.300.2181.

Sincerely,



Britney Strittmater
Biologist

Att.: *Attachment A – Figures*
Attachment B – Site Photographs
Attachment C – Vascular Plant Species Compendium
Attachment D – Wildlife Species Compendium
Attachment E – Special-Status Plant Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area
Attachment F – Special-Status Wildlife Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area

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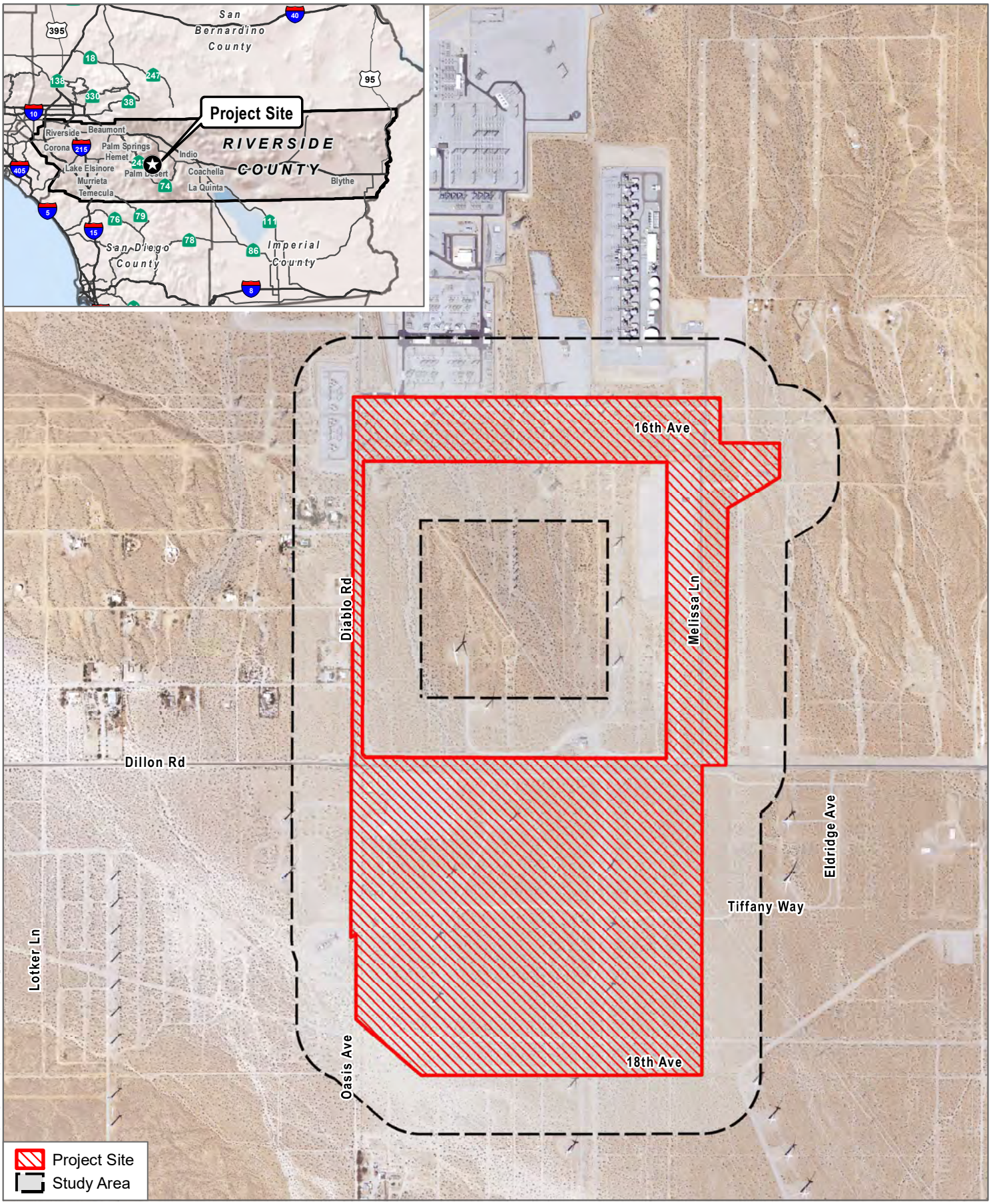
Attachment A

Figures



SOURCE: USDA NAIP 2018

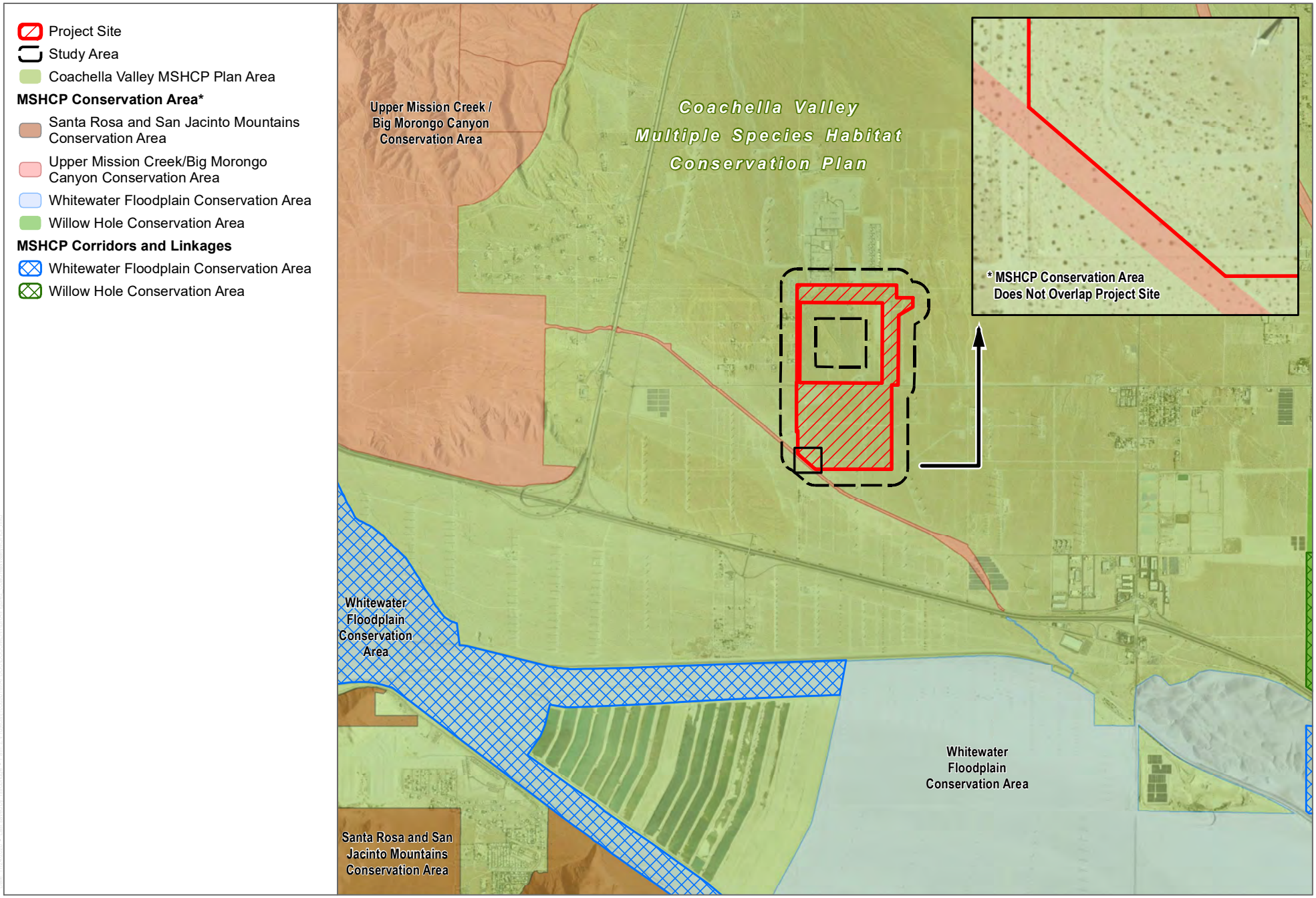
DUDEK

0 500 1,000 Feet

FIGURE 1

Project Location Map

Desert Peak Energy Center Project



SOURCE: Coachella Valley MSHCP 2019, USDA NAIP 2018

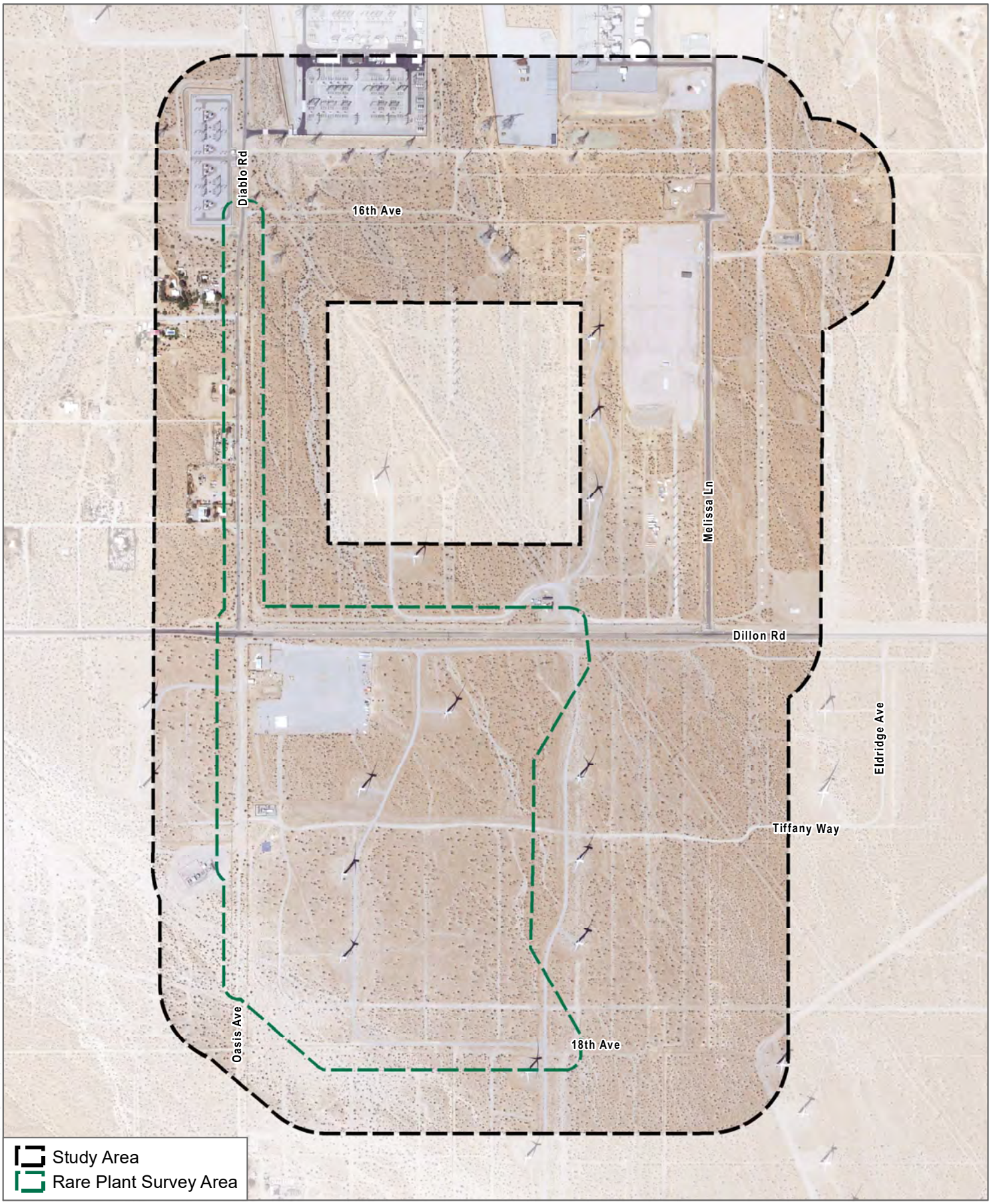
DUDEK

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

FIGURE 2

Coachella Valley MSHCP

Desert Peak Energy Center Project



SOURCE: USDA NAIP 2018

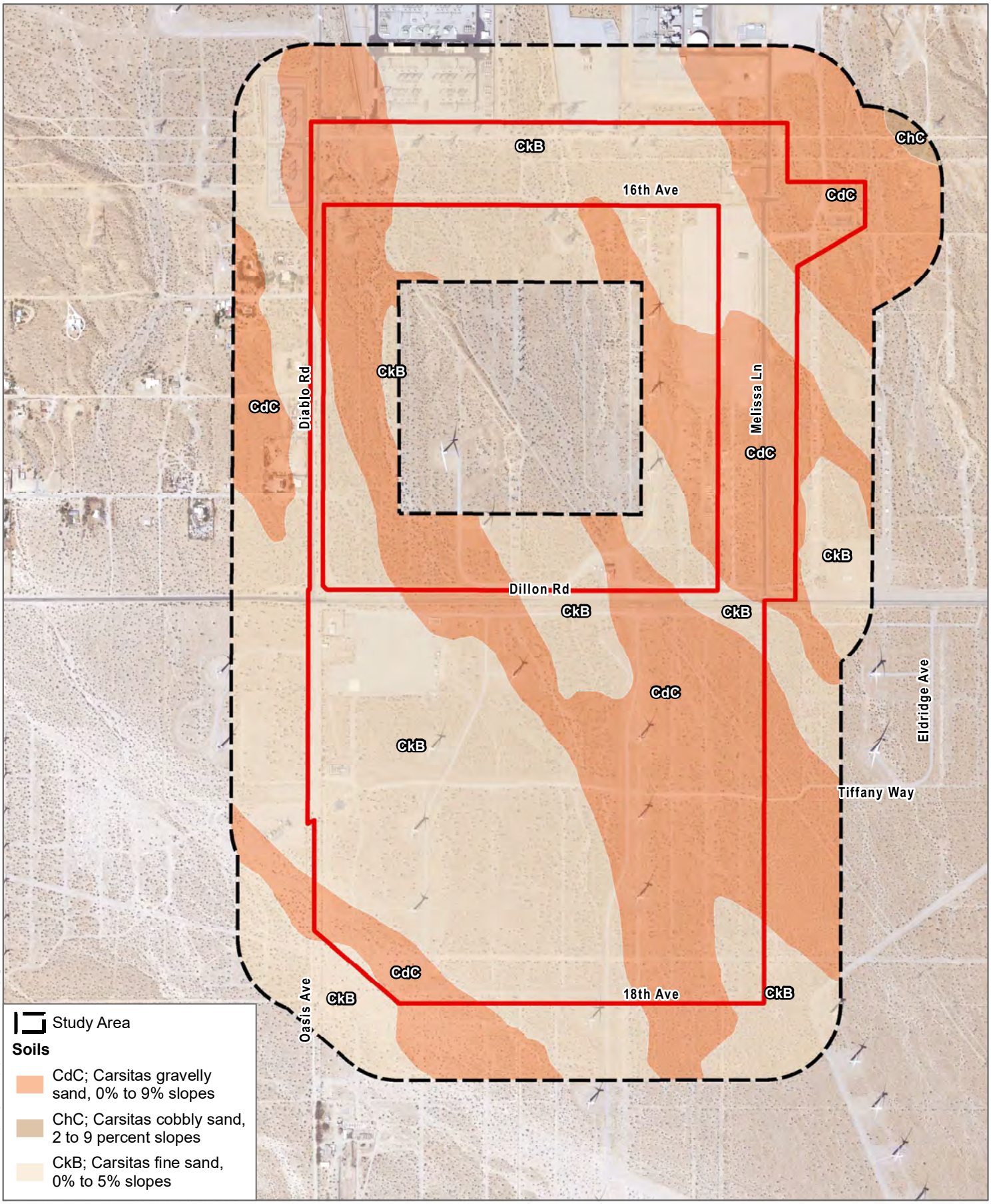
DUDEK

0 350 700 Feet

FIGURE 3

Study Area and Survey Areas

Desert Peak Energy Center Project



SOURCE: USDA 2008 / 2018

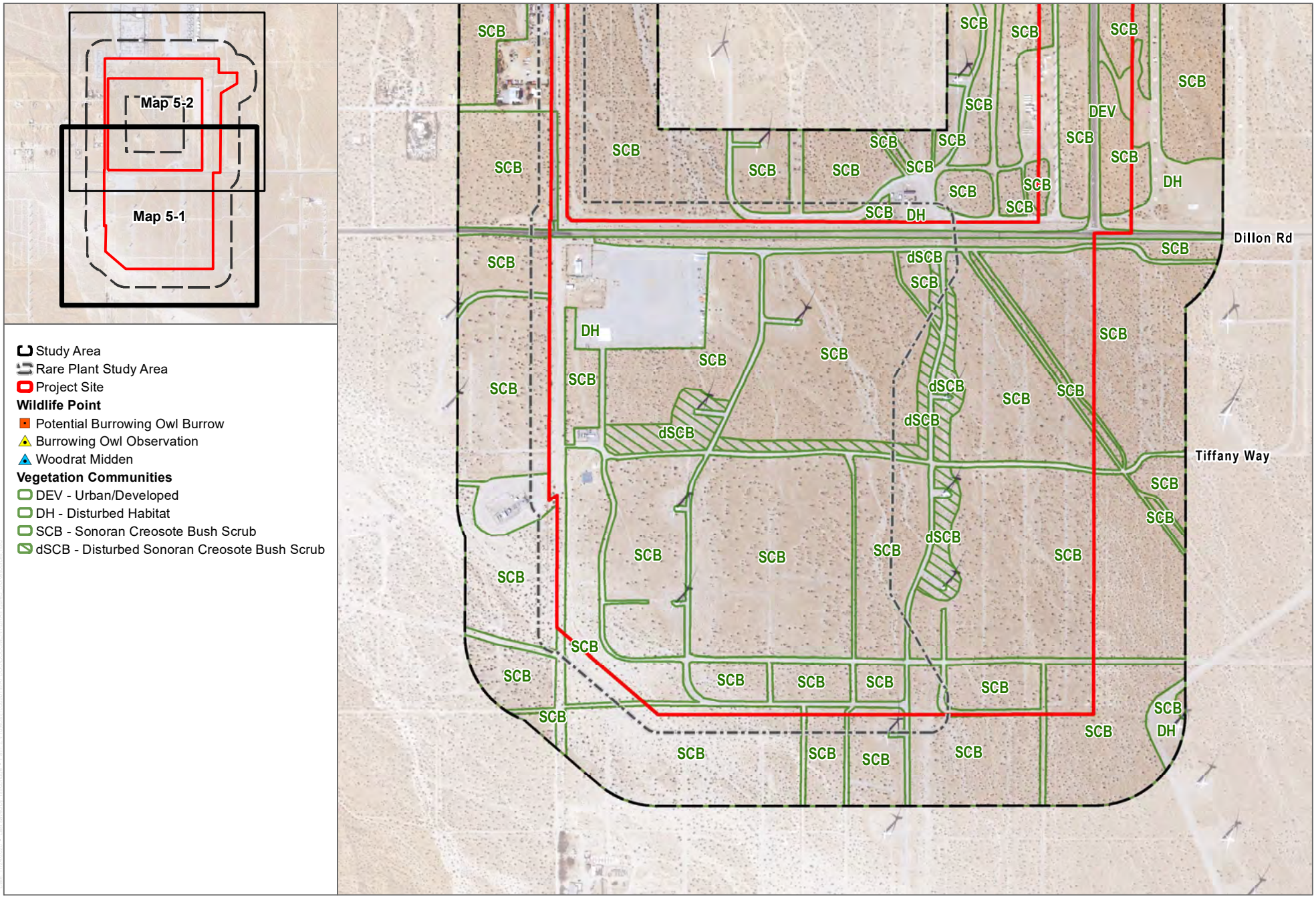
DUDEK

0 400 800 Feet

FIGURE 4

Soils Map

Desert Peak Energy Center Project



SOURCE: USDA 2008 / 2018

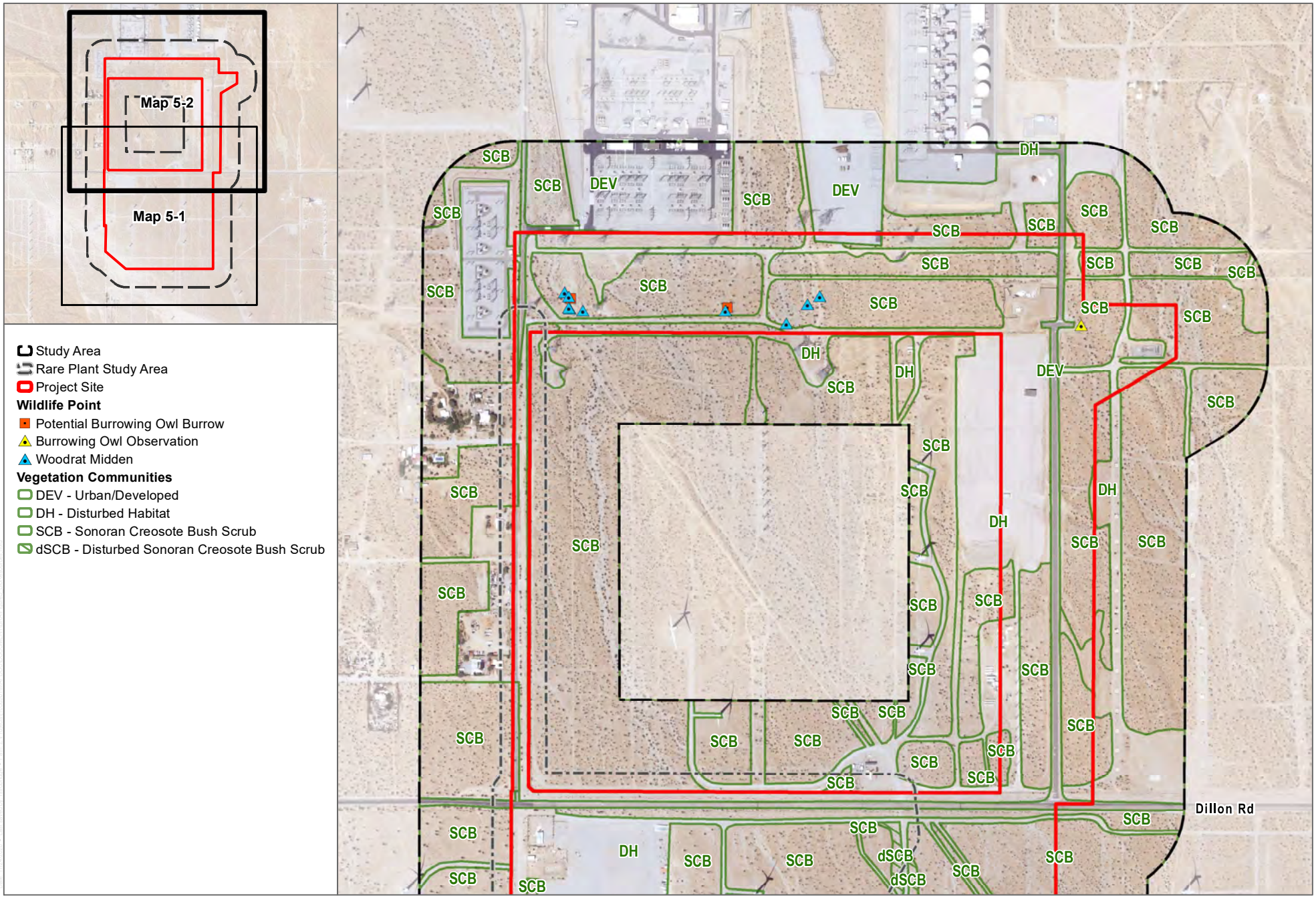
DUDEK

0 350 700 Feet

FIGURE 5-1

Biological Resources Map

Desert Peak Energy Center Project



SOURCE: USDA 2008 / 2018

DUDEK

0 350 700 Feet

FIGURE 5-2

Biological Resources Map

Desert Peak Energy Center Project

Attachment B

Site Photographs

	
Photo 1: View of disturbed habitat (i.e., dirt road) along the northern proposed generation tie line alignment adjacent to Diablo Road. Facing north.	**Photo 2**: View of disturbed habitat along the eastern proposed generation tie line alignment adjacent to Dillon Road. Facing east.
	
Photo 3: View of disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub with evidence of past disking within the proposed project site. Facing south.	**Photo 4**: View of Sonoran creosote bush scrub within the proposed project site. Facing northwest.

	
Photo 5: View of Sonoran creosote bush scrub within the southern portion of the proposed project site. Facing north.	**Photo 6**: View of Sonoran creosote bush scrub within the central portion of the proposed project site. Facing northwest.
	
Photo 7: View of disturbed habitat (i.e., dirt road) along the southern portion of the proposed generation tie alignment along Diablo Road. Facing south.	**Photo 8**: View of disturbed habitat (i.e., dirt road) along the southern portion of the proposed generation tie alignment along Diablo Road. Facing south.

	
Photo 9: View of disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub within the expanded study area portion of the proposed project site. Facing south.	**Photo 10**: View of Sonoran creosote bush scrub within the expanded study area portion of the proposed project site. Facing northwest.
	
Photo 11: View of disturbed habitat and Sonoran creosote bush scrub within the northern portion of the study area, immediately south of the Southern California Edison Devers Substation. Facing west.	**Photo 12**: View of Melissa Lane and Sonoran creosote bush scrub within the eastern portion of the proposed project site and along the proposed generation tie alignment. Facing southeast.

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Attachment C

Vascular Plant Species Compendium

Vascular Species

Eudicots

ASTERACEAE—SUNFLOWER FAMILY

Ambrosia dumosa—white bursage
Ambrosia salsola—cheesebush
Bebbia juncea—sweetbush
Chaenactis fremontii—pincushion flower
Encelia farinosa—brittle bush
* *Lactuca serriola*—prickly lettuce
Malacothrix glabrata—smooth desertdandelion
* *Oncosiphon piluliferum*—stinknet
Palafoxia arida—desert palafox
Psathyrotes ramosissima—velvet turtleback
Rafinesquia californica—California plumeseed
* *Sonchus oleraceus*—common sowthistle
Stephanomeria pauciflora—brownplume wirelettuce

BORAGINACEAE—BORAGE FAMILY

Amsinckia intermedia—common fiddleneck
Cryptantha angustifolia—Panamint cryptantha
Cryptantha circumscissa—cushion cryptantha
Pectocarya penicillata—sleeping combseed
Pectocarya recurvata—curvenut combseed
Phacelia crenulata—cleftleaf wildheliotrope
Tiquilia plicata—fanleaf crinklemat

BRASSICACEAE—MUSTARD FAMILY

* *Brassica tournefortii*—Tournefort's mustard
* *Hirschfeldia incana*—shortpod mustard
* *Sisymbrium irio*—London rocket

CACTACEAE—CACTUS FAMILY

Cylindropuntia bigelovii—teddy bear cholla
Cylindropuntia echinocarpa—Wiggins' cholla
Ferocactus cylindraceus—California barrel cactus

CHENOPODIACEAE—GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

Atriplex canescens—fourwing saltbush

CLEOMACEAE—CLEOME FAMILY

Peritoma arborea—bladderpod

CUCURBITACEAE—GOURD FAMILY

Cucurbita palmata—coyote gourd

EUPHORBIACEAE—SPURGE FAMILY

Croton californicus—California croton
Ditaxis serrata—Yuma silverbush
Euphorbia albomarginata—whitemargin sandmat
Stillingia paucidentata—Mojave toothleaf

FABACEAE—LEGUME FAMILY

Parkinsonia florida—blue palo verde

GERANIACEAE—GERANIUM FAMILY

* *Erodium cicutarium*—redstem stork's bill

LOASACEAE—LOASA FAMILY

Mentzelia involucrata—whitebract blazingstar
Petalonyx thurberi—Thurber's sandpaper plant

NYCTAGINACEAE—FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY

Abronia villosa var. *villosa*—desert sand verbena

ONAGRACEAE—EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY

Camissonia contorta—plains evening primrose
Camissonia strigulosa—sandysoil suncup
Camissoniopsis pallida—paleyellow suncup
Chylismia claviformis—browneyes

PLANTAGINACEAE—PLANTAIN FAMILY

Plantago ovata—desert Indianwheat

POLEMONIACEAE—PHLOX FAMILY

Eriastrum eremicum—desert woollystar
Loeseliastrum schottii—Schott's calico

POLYGONACEAE—BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

Chorizanthe brevicornu—brittle spineflower
Eriogonum thomasii—Thomas' buckwheat

SIMMONDSIACEAE—JOJOBA FAMILY

Simmondsia chinensis—jojoba

Zygophyllaceae—Caltrop Family

Larrea tridentata—creosote bush

Monocots

POACEAE—GRASS FAMILY

* *Hordeum murinum*—mouse barley
* *Schismus barbatus*—common Mediterranean grass

* signifies introduced (non-native) species

Attachment D

Wildlife Species Compendium

Bird

Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies

ICTERIDAE—BLACKBIRDS

Icterus bullockii—Bullock's oriole

Old World Warblers and Gnatcatchers

SYLVIIDAE—SYLVIID WARBLERS

Polioptila melanura—black-tailed gnatcatcher

Shrikes

LANIIDAE—SHRIKES

Lanius ludovicianus—loggerhead shrike

Swallows

HIRUNDINIDAE—SWALLOWS

Hirundo rustica—barn swallow

Wood Warblers and Allies

PARULIDAE—WOOD-WARBLERS

Setophaga coronata—yellow-rumped warbler

Invertebrate

Butterflies

NYMPHALIDAE—BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES

Vanessa cardui—painted lady

Mammal

Hares and Rabbits

LEPORIDAE—HARES AND RABBITS

Lepus californicus—black-tailed jackrabbit

Sylvilagus audubonii—desert cottontail

Squirrels

SCIURIDAE—SQUIRRELS

Ammospermophilus leucurus—white-tailed antelope squirrel

Reptile

Lizards

PHRYNOSOMATIDAE—IGUANID LIZARDS

Uta stansburiana—common side-blotched lizard

Attachment E

Special-Status Plant Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
Abronia villosa var. *aurita*	chaparral sand-verbena	None/None/ 1B.1	None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Desert dunes; sandy/annual herb/(Jan)Mar–Sep/245–5,245	Not expected to occur. This species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species known blooming period. The southwestern portion of the biological study area contains sandy, dune like habitat; however, only *Abronia villosa* var. *villosa* was observed during the April 2020 focused survey.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area does not contain any suitable habitat (i.e., desert dunes) to support this species. Furthermore, this species was not detected during the April 2020 focused survey within the adjacent biological study area immediately to the west.
Acmispon haydonii	pygmy lotus	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran desert scrub; rocky/perennial herb/Jan–June/1,705–3,935	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.	Not expected to occur. The expanded study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Almutaster pauciflorus	alkali marsh aster	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Meadows and seeps; alkaline/perennial herb/June–Oct/785–2,620	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation or alkaline soils are present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation or alkaline soils are present within the expanded biological study area to support this species.
Ambrosia monogyra	singlewhorl burrobrush	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub; sandy/perennial shrub/Aug–Nov/30–1,640	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable vegetation and soils are present; however, the species was not detected during	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable vegetation and soils are present; however, the nearest known CNDDB occurrence is

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					the April 2020 focused survey. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 7 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2020).	approximately 7 miles south (CDFW 2020). Furthermore, this species was not detected during the April 2020 focused survey within the adjacent biological study area immediately to the west; therefore, it has a low potential to occur within the expanded biological study area.
Astragalus hornii var. *hornii*	Horn's milk-vetch	None/None/ 1B.1	None	Meadows and seeps, Playas; lake margins, alkaline/annual herb/May–Oct/195–2,785	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *coachellae*	Coachella Valley milk-vetch	FE/None/1B.2	Covered	Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub (sandy)/annual / perennial herb/Feb–May/130–2,145	Not expected to occur. The study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable Sonoran Desert scrub is present; however, the study area lacks adequate aeolian or fluvial sand systems and the species was not detected during the April 2020 focused survey. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 1.2 miles south of the study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable Sonoran Desert scrub is present; however, the biological study area lacks adequate aeolian or fluvial sand systems to support this species. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 1.2 miles south of the expanded biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
Astragalus tricarinatus	triple-ribbed milk-vetch	FE/None/1B.2	Covered	Joshua tree woodland, Sonoran desert scrub; sandy or gravelly/perennial herb/Feb–May/1,475–3,900	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3.2 miles west of the study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020). Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during this species' known blooming period.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3.2 miles west of the expanded biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).
Atriplex parishii	Parish's brittlescale	None/None/ 1B.1	None	Chenopod scrub, Playas, Vernal pools; alkaline/annual herb/June–Oct/80–6,230	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species.
Ayenia compacta	California ayenia	None/None/ 2B.3	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; rocky/perennial herb/Mar–Apr/490–3,590	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and Sonoran Desert scrub is present; however, this species is more associated with rocky canyons which are absent. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 7.8 miles	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and Sonoran Desert scrub is present; however, this species is more associated with rocky canyons which are absent. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 7.8 miles

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					south of the biological study area within Tahquitz Canyon (CDFW 2020). Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during this species' known blooming period.	south of the expanded biological study area within Tahquitz Canyon (CDFW 2020).
Boechera johnstonii	Johnston's rockcress	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest; often on eroded clay/perennial herb/Feb–June/4,425–7,050	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or clay soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or clay soils present to support this species.
Boechera lincolnensis	Lincoln rockcress	None/None/ 2B.3	None	Chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub; carbonate/perennial herb/Mar–May/3,605–8,870	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and the study area lacks suitable carbonate soils to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and the study area lacks suitable carbonate soils to support this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
Boechera parishii	Parish's rockcress	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Pebble (Pavement) plain, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky, quartzite on clay, or sometimes carbonate/perennial herb/Apr–May/5,805–9,805	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Calochortus palmeri var. *munzii*	San Jacinto mariposa lily	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps/perennial bulbiferous herb/Apr–July/2,805–7,215	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Calochortus palmeri var. *palmeri*	Palmer's mariposa lily	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps; mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/Apr–July/2,325–7,840	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Carex occidentalis	western sedge	None/None/ 2B.3	None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/5,395–10,285	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
Castilleja lasiorhyncha	San Bernardino Mountains owl's-clover	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Chaparral, Meadows and seeps, Pebble (Pavement) plain, Riparian woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/annual herb (hemiparasitic)/May–Aug/4,265–7,840	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present this species.
Chaenactis parishii	Parish's chaenactis	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Chaparral (rocky)/perennial herb/May–July/4,265–8,200	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's spineflower	None/None/ 1B.1	None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland; sandy or rocky, openings/annual herb/Apr–June/900–4,000	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Chorizanthe xanti var. *leucotheca*	white-bracted spineflower	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Coastal scrub (alluvial fans), Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; sandy or gravelly/annual herb/Apr–June/980–3,935	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and desert scrub and sandy/gravelly soils are present; however, this species is more associated with alluvial fans. A small portion within the southwestern corner provides marginal habitat; however, this species was not	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and desert scrub and sandy/gravelly soils are present; however, this species is more associated with alluvial fans. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 0.5 mile west of the expanded study area (CDFW 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					observed during the 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 0.4 mile west of the biological study area (CDFW 2020).	Furthermore, this species was not observed during the 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately to the west of the expanded study area during the species' known blooming period; therefore, this species has a low potential to occur within the expanded study area.
Deinandra mohavensis	Mojave tarplant	None/SE/1B.3	None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Riparian scrub; mesic/annual herb/(May)June–Oct(Jan)/2,095–5,245	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 12 miles west of the biological study area within the San Jacinto Mountains (CDFW 2020).	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 12 miles west of the expanded biological study area within the San Jacinto Mountains (CDFW 2020).
Dodecahema leptoceras	slender-horned spineflower	FE/SE/1B.1	None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub (alluvial fan); sandy/annual herb/Apr–June/655–2,490	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species. Additionally, this species was not observed during the 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles west of the expanded biological study area within the Whitewater

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles west of the biological study area within the Whitewater River and was recorded in 1876 (CDFW 2020).	River and was recorded in 1876 (CDFW 2020).
Draba saxosa	Southern California rock draba	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky/perennial herb/June–Sep/8,005–11,810	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Eriastrum harwoodii	Harwood's eriastrum	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Desert dunes/annual herb/Mar–June/410–3,000	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation is present to support this species.
Erigeron parishii	Parish's daisy	FT/None/1B.1	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; usually carbonate, sometimes granitic/perennial herb/May–Aug/2,620–6,560	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Euphorbia arizonica	Arizona spurge	None/None/ 2B.3	None	Sonoran desert scrub (sandy)/perennial herb/Mar–Apr/160–985	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable vegetation and soils are present; however, the species was not detected during the April 2020 focused	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable vegetation and soils are present; however, the species was not detected during the April 2020

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					survey. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 9.7 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2020).	focused survey conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological study area to the west. Furthermore, the nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 9.7 miles south of the expanded biological study area (CDFW 2020); therefore, this species has a low potential to occur.
Euphorbia misera	cliff spurge	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Coastal bluff scrub, Coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub; rocky/perennial shrub/Dec–Aug(Oct)/30–1,640	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable desert scrub is present; however, this species occurs in rocky areas and canyons which are absent. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2020). This conspicuous shrub would have been detected if present during the April 2020 focused survey.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and suitable desert scrub is present; however, this species occurs in rocky areas and canyons which are absent. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles south of the expanded biological study area (CDFW 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
Euphorbia platysperma	flat-seeded spurge	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub (sandy)/annual herb/Feb–Sep/210–330	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Galium angustifolium ssp. *jacinticum*	San Jacinto Mountains bedstraw	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/June–Aug/4,425–6,885	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Heuchera hirsutissima	shaggy-haired alumroot	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky, granitic/perennial rhizomatous herb/(May)June–July/4,985–11,480	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Heuchera parishii	Parish's alumroot	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Lower montane coniferous forest, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; rocky, sometimes carbonate/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/4,920–12,465	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Imperata brevifolia	California satintail	None/None/ 2B.1	None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Meadows and seeps (often alkali), Riparian scrub; mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/Sep–May/0–	Not expected to occur. The biological study is within the species' known elevation range and desert scrub is	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study is within the species' known elevation range and desert scrub is

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
				3,985	present; however, alkali soils and mesic conditions are absent. This conspicuous perennial would have been detected if present during the April 2020 focused survey. The nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3.9 miles west of the biological study area within an irrigation ditch (CDFW 2020).	present; however, alkali soils and mesic conditions are absent. Furthermore, the nearest known CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3.9 miles west of the expanded biological study area within an irrigation ditch (CDFW 2020).
Ivesia argyrocoma var. *argyrocoma*	silver-haired ivesia	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Meadows and seeps (alkaline), Pebble (Pavement) plain, Upper montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/(May)June–Aug/4,795–9,710	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation, pebble plains, or alkali soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation, pebble plains, or alkali soils present to support this species.
Ivesia callida	Tahquitz ivesia	None/SR/1B.3	None	Upper montane coniferous forest (granitic, rocky)/perennial herb/July–Sep/7,905–8,035	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or granitic soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or granitic soils present to support this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
Lilium parryi	lemon lily	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Riparian forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/July–Aug/4,000–9,005	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Linanthus jaegeri	San Jacinto linanthus	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; granitic, rocky/perennial herb/July–Sep/7,200–10,005	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Linanthus maculatus ssp. *maculatus*	Little San Bernardino Mtns. linanthus	None/None/ 1B.2	Covered	Desert dunes, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Sandy/annual herb/Mar–May/455–4,000	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is located within the species' known elevation range and suitable desert scrub vegetation is present; however, there is a limited amount of sandy wash habitat present. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is located within the species' known elevation range and suitable desert scrub vegetation is present; however, there is a limited amount of sandy wash habitat present. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological survey area to the west. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.8 miles west of the biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).	approximately 2.8 miles west of the expanded biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).
Malaxis monophyllos var. *brachypoda*	white bog adder's-mouth	None/None/ 2B.1	None	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/June,Aug/7,215–8,995	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Meesia uliginosa	broad-nerved hump moss	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; damp soil/moss/July,Oct/3,965–9,195	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Mentzelia tricuspis	spiny-hair blazing star	None/None/ 2B.1	None	Mojavean desert scrub; sandy, gravelly, slopes, and washes/annual herb/Mar–May/490–4,195	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, there is a limited amount of sandy wash habitat present. Furthermore, this species was not	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, there is a limited amount of sandy wash habitat present. Furthermore, this species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles west of the biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).	was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological survey area to the west. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2.4 miles west of the biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).
Monardella macrantha ssp. *hallii*	Hall's monardella	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Oct/2,395–7,200	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Monardella nana ssp. *leptosiphon*	San Felipe monardella	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–July/3,935–6,085	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Monardella robisonii	Robison's monardella	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Pinyon and juniper woodland/perennial rhizomatous herb/(Feb)Apr–Sep(Oct)/2,000–4,920	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					vegetation present to support this species.	is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis*	slender cottonheads	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Coastal dunes, Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub/annual herb/(Mar)Apr–May/-,165–1,310	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 0.8 mile southwest of the biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological study area to the west. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 0.9 mile southwest of the expanded biological study area within the Whitewater River (CDFW 2020).
Penstemon pseudospectabilis ssp. *pseudospectabilis*	desert beardtongue	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; often sandy washes, sometimes rocky/perennial herb/Jan–May/260–6,345	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 5.3 miles southwest of the biological study area (CDFW 2020).	April 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological study area to the west. Furthermore, the nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 5.3 miles southwest of the expanded biological study area (CDFW 2020).
Petalonyx linearis	narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	None/None/ 2B.3	None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Sandy or rocky canyons/perennial shrub/(Jan–Feb)Mar–May(June–Dec)/-80–3,655	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species is associated with rocky canyons which are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 7.4 miles west of the biological	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species is associated with rocky canyons which are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological study area to the west. Additionally, nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 7.4 miles west of the expanded

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					study area (CDFW 2020).	biological study area (CDFW 2020).
Potentilla rimicola	cliff cinquefoil	None/None/ 2B.3	None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; granitic, rocky/perennial herb/July–Sep/7,870–9,185	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation or soils present to support this species.
Saltugilia latimeri	Latimer's woodland-gilia	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; rocky or sandy, often granitic, sometimes washes/annual herb/Mar–June/1,310–6,230	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Selaginella eremophila	desert spike-moss	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub (gravelly or rocky)/perennial rhizomatous herb/(May)June(July)/655–4,245	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey. No mosses were observed within the study area. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 4.4 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2020).	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub vegetation present; however, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological survey area to the west. Furthermore, the nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 4.4 miles south of the expanded

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
						biological study area (CDFW 2020).
Sidotheca emarginata	white-margined oxytheca	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland/annual herb/(Feb)Apr–July(Aug)/3,935–8,200	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Stemodia durantifolia	purple stemodia	None/None/ 2B.1	None	Sonoran desert scrub (often mesic, sandy)/perennial herb/ (Jan)Apr,June,Aug,Sep,Oct,Dec/ 590–985	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub present; however, mesic conditions are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 10.6 miles southeast of the biological study area (CDFW 2020).	Low potential to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub present; however, mesic conditions are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted immediately adjacent to the expanded biological study area to the west. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 10.6 miles southeast of the expanded biological study area (CDFW 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
Streptanthus campestris	southern jewelflower	None/None/ 1B.3	None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland; rocky/perennial herb/(Apr)May–July/2,950–7,545	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum	San Bernardino aster	None/None/ 1B.2	None	Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Marshes and swamps, Valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic); near ditches, streams, springs/perennial rhizomatous herb/July–Nov(Dec)/5–6,690	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Thelypteris puberula var. *sonorensis*	Sonoran maiden fern	None/None/ 2B.2	None	Meadows and seeps (seeps and streams)/perennial rhizomatous herb/Jan–Sep/160–2,000	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. No suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Trichostema austromontanum ssp. *compactum*	Hidden Lake bluecurls	FT/None/1B.1	None	Upper montane coniferous forest (seasonally submerged lake margins)/annual herb/July–Sep/7,870–8,790	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable vegetation present to support this species.
Xylorhiza cognata	Mecca-aster	None/None/ 1B.2	Covered	Sonoran desert scrub/perennial herb/Jan–June/65–1,310	Not expected to occur. The biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub present; however, this species is	Not expected to occur. The expanded biological study area is within the species' known elevation range and there is suitable desert scrub present; however, this

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/ CRPR)	CVMSHCP	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur within Rare Plant Survey Area	Potential to Occur within Study Area Outside of Rare Plant Survey Area
					known to occur in arid canyons which are absent. Furthermore, this species was not observed during the April 2020 focused survey which was conducted during the species' known blooming period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 4.9 miles south of the biological study area (CDFW 2020).	species is known to occur in arid canyons which are absent. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 5 miles south of the expanded biological study area (CDFW 2020).

Status Legend:
FE: Federally listed as endangered
FT: Federally listed as threatened
FC: Federal Candidate for listing
SE: State listed as endangered
SR: State Rare
CRPR 1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
CRPR 2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California but common elsewhere
CRPR 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
CRPR 3: Review List: Plants about which more information is needed
CRPR 4: Watch List: Plants of limited distribution
.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)
Coachella Valley MSHCP (CVMSHCP): Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Covered Species

Attachment F

Special-Status Wildlife Species Detected or Potentially Occurring in the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
			Amphibians		
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT/SSC	None	Lowland streams, wetlands, riparian woodlands, livestock ponds; dense, shrubby or emergent vegetation associated with deep, still or slow-moving water; uses adjacent uplands	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks any wetlands necessary for this species to occur.
Rana muscosa	mountain yellow-legged frog	FE/SE, WL	None	Lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and open riverbanks; rocky canyons in narrow canyons and in chaparral	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks any wetlands necessary for this species to occur.
			Reptiles		
Anniella stebbinsi	southern California legless lizard	None/SSC	None	Coastal dunes, stabilized dunes, beaches, dry washes, valley–foothill, chaparral, and scrubs; pine, oak, and riparian woodlands; associated with sparse vegetation and moist sandy or loose, loamy soils	Not expected to occur. The study area does not contain the suitable habitat (i.e., dunes, dry washes, or riparian woodlands) for this species to occur.
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	None/SSC	None	Commonly occurs in desert regions throughout southern California. Prefers open sandy areas with scattered brush. Also found in rocky areas.	Low potential to occur. The study area has some open sandy areas that can provide potential habitat for this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 7 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Charina umbratica	southern rubber boa	None/ST	None	Montane oak–conifer and mixed-conifer forests, montane chaparral, wet meadows; usually in vicinity of streams or wet meadows	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable habitat for this species to occur.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Crotalus ruber	red diamondback rattlesnake	None/SSC	None	Coastal scrub, chaparral, oak and pine woodlands, rocky grasslands, cultivated areas, and desert flats	Moderate potential to occur. The study area is within a desert flat that may be suitable for this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is less than 1.5 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Gopherus agassizii	Mojave desert tortoise	FT/ST	Covered	Arid and semi-arid habitats in Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, including sandy or gravelly locations along riverbanks, washes, sandy dunes, canyon bottoms, desert oases, rocky hillsides, creosote flats, and hillsides	Low potential to occur. Habitat is present (creosote bush scrub), and the northern portion of the study area has been identified as modeled habitat under the CVMSHCP (CVAG 2016). However, the species was not found during surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2020), which is separated from the study area by State Route 62, a high traffic volume road that would limit any habitat connectivity to the site.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	Blainville's horned lizard	None/SSC	None	Open areas of sandy soil in valleys, foothills, and semi-arid mountains including coastal scrub, chaparral, valley–foothill hardwood, conifer, riparian, pine–cypress, juniper, and annual grassland habitats	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable vegetation present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 4.3 mile west of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Phrynosoma mcallii	flat-tailed horned lizard	None/SSC	Covered	Desert washes and flats with sparse low-diversity vegetation cover and sandy soils	Not expected to occur. Marginal habitat is present (sandy soils and creosote bush scrub), but the study area has not been identified as

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
					suitable habitat for the species (CVAG 2016) and the species was not found during surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 3 miles away and south of the 10 FWY (CDFW 2020).
Thamnophis hammondii	two-striped gartersnake	None/SSC	None	Streams, creeks, pools, streams with rocky beds, ponds, lakes, vernal pools	Not expected to occur. There are no water resources found onsite.
Uma inornata	Coachella fringe-toed lizard	FT/SE	Covered	Sand dunes in sparse desert scrub, alkali scrub, and desert wash	Not expected to occur. Marginal habitat is present (sandy soils and creosote bush scrub), but the study area has not been identified as suitable habitat for the species (CVAG 2016) and the species was not found during surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is less than 1.5 miles away (CDFW 2020).
Birds					
Aquila chrysaetos (nesting and wintering)	golden eagle	BCC/FP, WL	None	Nests and winters in hilly, open/semi-open areas, including shrublands, grasslands, pastures, riparian areas, mountainous canyon land, open desert rimrock terrain; nests in large trees and on cliffs in open areas and forages in open habitats	Not expected to occur. The study area does not include, large trees or cliffs to nest. Additionally, there are no grasslands or pastures for this species to forage. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 7 miles north west of the Study area (CDFW 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Asio otus (nesting)	long-eared owl	None/SSC	None	Nests in riparian habitat, live oak thickets, other dense stands of trees, edges of coniferous forest; forages in nearby open habitats	Not expected to nest. The study area lacks any riparian or dense woodlands necessary for this species to nest. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is found 8 miles north just outside of Riverside County (CDFW 2020).
Athene cunicularia (burrow sites and some wintering sites)	burrowing owl	BCC/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in grassland, open scrub, and agriculture, particularly with ground squirrel burrows	Observed. One burrowing owl individual was observed within the northeastern portion of the study area during the November 2020 survey. In addition, potential burrows and debris piles were observed. Numerous individuals and were recorded during surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). Additionally, the nearest CNDDB occurrence is 0.6 miles north of the study area along with multiple observations in the surrounding areas (CDFW 2020).
Cypseloides niger (nesting)	black swift	BCC/SSC	None	Nests in moist crevices, caves, and cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls in deep canyons; forages over a wide range of habitats	Not expected to occur. There is not suitable habitat for this species to occur.
Icteria virens (nesting)	yellow-breasted chat	None/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in dense, relatively wide riparian woodlands and thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush	Not expected to occur. The Study area lacks dense riparian vegetation required for this species to occur.
Lanius ludovicianus (nesting)	loggerhead shrike	BCC/SSC	None	Nests and forages in open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, or other perches	Present. This species was observed on the April 2020 site visit.

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Piranga rubra (nesting)	summer tanager	None/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in mature desert riparian habitats dominated by cottonwoods and willows	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable habitat for this species to occur.
Polioptila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT/SSC	None	Nests and forages in various sage scrub communities, often dominated by California sagebrush and buckwheat; generally avoids nesting in areas with a slope of greater than 40%; majority of nesting at less than 1,000 feet above mean sea level	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks the suitable vegetation such as California sagebrush or buckwheat. Additionally, the study area is much too flat to be suitable for nesting. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 7 miles south along the mountain range.
Pyrocephalus rubinus (nesting)	vermilion flycatcher	None/SSC	None	Nests in riparian woodlands, riparian scrub, and freshwater marshes; typical desert riparian with cottonwood, willow, mesquite adjacent to irrigated fields, ditches, or pastures	Not expected to occur. There is no riparian habitat within the study area for this species to occur.
Setophaga petechia (nesting)	yellow warbler	BCC/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in riparian and oak woodlands, montane chaparral, open ponderosa pine, and mixed-conifer habitats	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks riparian, chaparral, or conifer habitats suitable for this species to occur.
Toxostoma crissale	Crissal thrasher	None/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in desert riparian and desert wash; dense thickets of sagebrush and other shrubs such as mesquite, iron catclaw acacia, and arrowweed willow within juniper and pinyon–juniper woodlands	Not expected to occur. There are no dense thickets or shrubs on the study area. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Toxostoma lecontei	Le Conte's thrasher	BCC/SSC	Covered	Nests and forages in desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, desert succulent, and Joshua tree habitats; nests in spiny shrubs or cactus	High potential to occur. There is potential desert habitat suitable for this species to occur and numerous individuals were recorded during surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). The

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
					nearest CNDDB occurrence is 3 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Vireo bellii pusillus (nesting)	least Bell's vireo	FE/SE	Covered	Nests and forages in low, dense riparian thickets along water or along dry parts of intermittent streams; forages in riparian and adjacent shrubland late in nesting season	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks the riparian habitat suitable for this species to occur.
Mammals					
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	None/SSC	None	Grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, forests; most common in open, dry habitats with rocky outcrops for roosting, but also roosts in man-made structures and trees	Low potential to occur. There is a storage yard within the property that may provide suitable roosting habitat. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles north of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Chaetodipus fallax pallidus	pallid San Diego pocket mouse	None/SSC	None	Desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, and pinyon–juniper woodland	Low potential to occur. Possible suitable habitat within the Project boundaries. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 3.5 miles north west of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	None/SSC	None	Mesic habitats characterized by coniferous and deciduous forests and riparian habitat, but also xeric areas; roosts in limestone caves and lava tubes, man-made structures, and tunnels	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks any riparian, coniferous or deciduous forests. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 3 miles west of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Glaucomys oregonensis californicus	San Bernardino flying squirrel	None/SSC	None	Coniferous and deciduous forests, including riparian forests	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks suitable habitat such as riparian, coniferous, or deciduous forests for this species to occur.
Lasiurus xanthinus	western yellow bat	None/SSC	Covered	Valley–foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats;	Low potential to occur. There are minimal palms within the study area

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				below 2,000 feet above mean sea level; roosts in riparian and palms	that may provide roosting habitat. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	None/SSC	None	Coastal scrub, desert scrub, chaparral, cacti, rocky areas	High potential to occur. The desert scrub onsite provides suitable habitat for this species and numerous middens were recorded during surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). The nearest CNDDB occurrence is less than 1 mile away from the study area (CDFW 2020).
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	pocketed free-tailed bat	None/SSC	None	Pinyon–juniper woodlands, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, desert riparian, desert wash, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree, and palm oases; roosts in high cliffs or rock outcrops with drop-offs, caverns, and buildings	Low potential to roost. Moderate potential to forage. The storage facility onsite can provide potential roosting habitat; However, it tends to prefer rocky outcrops and high cliffs. The desert scrub can provide suitable habitat for foraging. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 6.5 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Nyctinomops macrotis	big free-tailed bat	None/SSC	None	Rocky areas; roosts in caves, holes in trees, buildings, and crevices on cliffs and rocky outcrops; forages over water	Not expected to occur. There are no rocky outcrops or cliffs for roosting. Additionally, The study area lacks water needed for foraging. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 6.2 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Ovis canadensis nelsoni	Nelson's bighorn sheep	None/FP	None	Steep slopes and cliffs, rough and rocky topography, sparse vegetation; also canyons, washes, and alluvial fans	Not expected to occur. The study area does not have the suitable habitat (i.e., rocky topography and steep slopes) to support this species.
Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2 DPS	Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	FE/FP, ST	Covered	Dry, rocky, low-elevation desert slopes, canyons, and washes; females near water during lambing season	Not expected to occur. The study area lacks the slopes and canyons suitable for this species.
Perognathus longimembris bangsi	Palm Springs pocket mouse	None/SSC	Covered	Creosote scrub, desert scrub, and grasslands; sparse to moderately dense vegetative cover	High potential to occur. There is suitable creosote scrub within the study area. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is less than 1 mile northwest of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	None/SSC	None	Lower-elevation grassland, alluvial sage scrub, and coastal scrub	Not expected to occur. There are no grasslands or coastal scrub for this species to occur.
Spermophilus (*Xerospermophilus*) *tereticaudus chlorus*	Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	None/SSC	Covered	Sandy arid regions of Lower Sonoran Life Zone including creosote bush scrub and creosote–palo verde	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable creosote bush habitat within the study area; however, the species was not recorded during surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). Nearest CNDDBB occurrence was in 1989 at approximately 4.5 miles south west (CDFW 2020).
Taxidea taxus	American badger	None/SSC	None	Dry, open, treeless areas; grasslands, coastal scrub, agriculture, and pastures, especially with friable soils	Not expected to occur. There are no grasslands, coastal scrub, or pastures suitable for this species to occur. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is over 13 miles north of the study area (CDFW 2020).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Coachella Valley MSHCP	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Study Area
Vulpes macrotis arsipus	Desert kit fox	None/None[1]	None	Sparse vegetated scrub habitats such as creosote scrub communities that support abundant rodent populations (Center for Biological Diversity 2013).	Not expected to occur. The study area contains creosote bush scrub; however, the species was not recorded during extensive surveys conducted for a previous project that overlapped the study area (City of Palm Springs 2010). Furthermore, areas surrounding the study area are conducive to stray dogs and further limit desert kit fox habitat potential in the area.
Invertebrates					
Bombus crotchii	Crotch bumble bee	None/PSE	None	Open grassland and scrub communities supporting suitable floral resources.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for the species is not present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 6.5 miles south of the study area (CDFW 2020).
Dinacoma caseyi	Casey's June beetle	FE/None	None	Found only in two populations in a small area of southern Palm Springs; known historical distribution includes alluvial fan and river wash areas	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat is not present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 6 miles south west of the study area (CDFW 2020).

Status Legend
Federal
FE: Federally listed as endangered
FT: Federally listed as threatened
BCC: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern
State:
[1] Section 4000 of the Fish and Game Code defines "kit fox" as a fur-bearing animal.
SSC: California Species of Special Concern
FP: California Fully Protected Species
WL: California Watch List Species
SE: State listed as endangered
ST: State listed as threatened
Coachella Valley MSHCP: Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Covered Species

References

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