

Note: Site is 18.3 acres and this report includes the entire site.

GENERAL BIOLOGICAL
RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
and
CVMSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

Hayes Dietrich
17-Acre Palm Desert Site

Located Within
SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST
(APN 620-400-031-6 and 620-400-030-5)
Palm Desert, Riverside County, California

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March 10, 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A proposed 17-acre residential development necessitated a biological survey and impact analysis as required by the city of Palm Desert and California Environmental Quality Act. Most sensitive species known to occupy the *stabilized shielded sand fields* habitat that characterizes the project site are covered under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Impacts to these species are mitigated by payment of a habitat acquisition fee. The current fee amount is determined by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. This report focuses on species and habitats not covered under the Plan.

Desert washes are not a covered habitat under the CVMSHCP. However, no blue-line stream corridors or desert washes were found within the project boundaries. Therefore, no state or federal streambed alteration permits are required.

Casey's June beetle, a non-covered species and classified as Endangered by the federal government, was not detected. The site is not within the recommended beetle survey area established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Therefore, no surveys within, or adjacent to, project boundaries are necessary. The burrowing owl and other migratory bird species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and not functionally covered under the Plan. The owl was not detected within or adjacent to the project boundaries. The habitat, however, is suitable and this species could assume residence on site at any time. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife recommends **a burrowing owl clearance survey be conducted not more than 14-days prior to grading, grubbing or other site disturbance**. The site is not considered a significant resource for any other migratory bird species.

The loggerhead shrike, a California Species of Special Concern, is not covered under the Plan. The shrike was not observed nor detected during biological surveys. No breeding habitat for this species was found within the project boundaries. Therefore, no future surveys for this species are recommended.

Though the desert tortoise is a covered species under the CVMSHCP, clearance surveys to relocate tortoises to alternate locations are necessary prior to site disturbance. Focused, protocol-level surveys, however, revealed no evidence of the desert tortoise within the project site and, therefore, no clearance surveys are necessary.

The project site is not within, or immediately adjacent to, a Conservation Area as shown in the CVMSHCP.

Following the implementation of the required and recommended mitigation described in this report, development of the project site is not expected to have significant adverse impacts upon sensitive species or other biological resources on or adjacent to the project site.

I. INTRODUCTION

On February 8, 2022, James W. Cornett - Ecological Consultant, was retained by Mr. Cody Dietrich of Hayes Dietrich, LLC, to conduct a biological survey and analysis on a 17-acre site located along Portola Avenue in the city of Palm Desert, Riverside County, California. The project site lies within Section 4, Township 5 South, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. Assessor parcel numbers are 620-400-031-6 and 620-400-030-5. The regional location is shown in Figure 1, area location in Figure 2 and specific location with project boundaries in Figure 3. Site photographs are shown in Figures 4-7.

This study was included as part of an environmental assessment mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the city of Palm Desert. The biological survey and impact analysis were designed to ascertain the impacts of development on the biological resources of the project site and immediate vicinity.

Specific purposes of the biological surveys and impact analysis are listed below.

1. Determine the vascular plant and vertebrate animal species that occur on, and immediately adjacent to, the project site.
2. Ascertain the presence of plant or animal species given special status by government agencies. Emphasis is on non-covered species (under the CVMSHCP) that are (1) state or federally listed, (2) candidates for state or federal listing, and (3) state or federally protected species or communities.
3. Ascertain the existence of other significant biotic elements, corridors, or communities.
4. Consider the site's biological resources as they relate to the CVMSHCP and its Conservation Areas.
5. If necessary and where applicable, recommend measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts of the project on sensitive species and habitats not covered in the Plan but determined to occur within, or adjacent to, the project boundaries.

Figure 1. Regional Location of Project Site

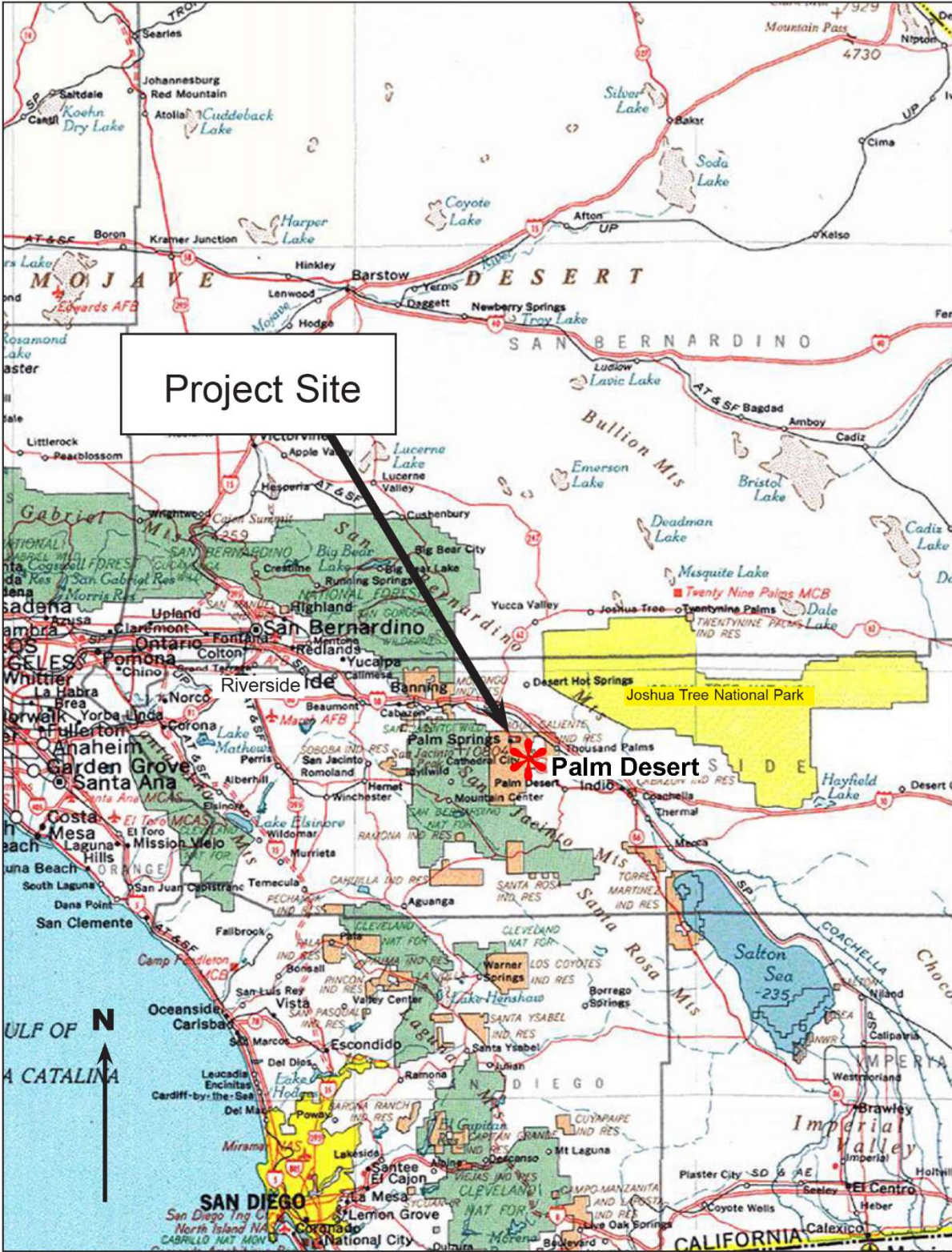


Figure 2. Area Location of Project Site

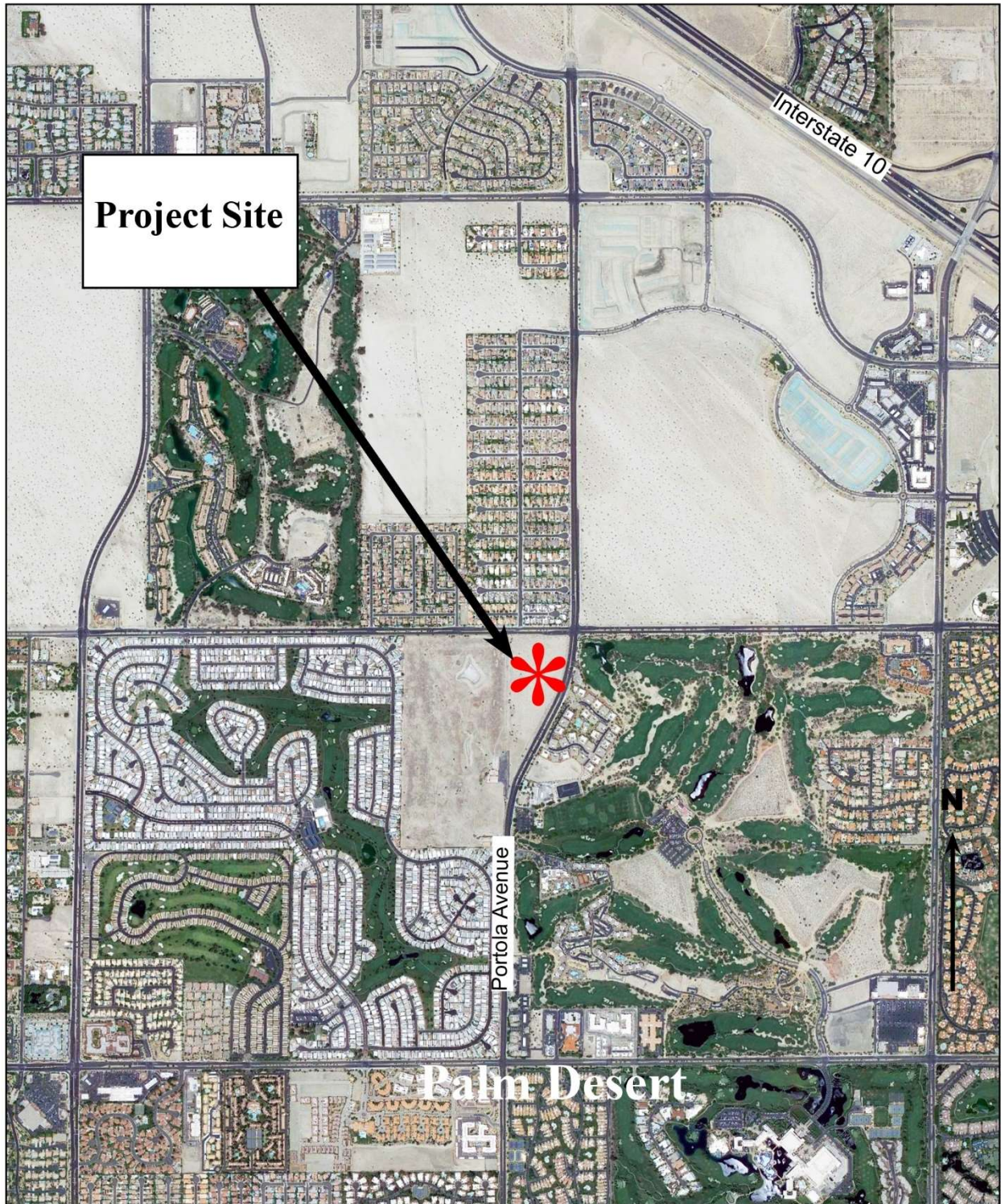
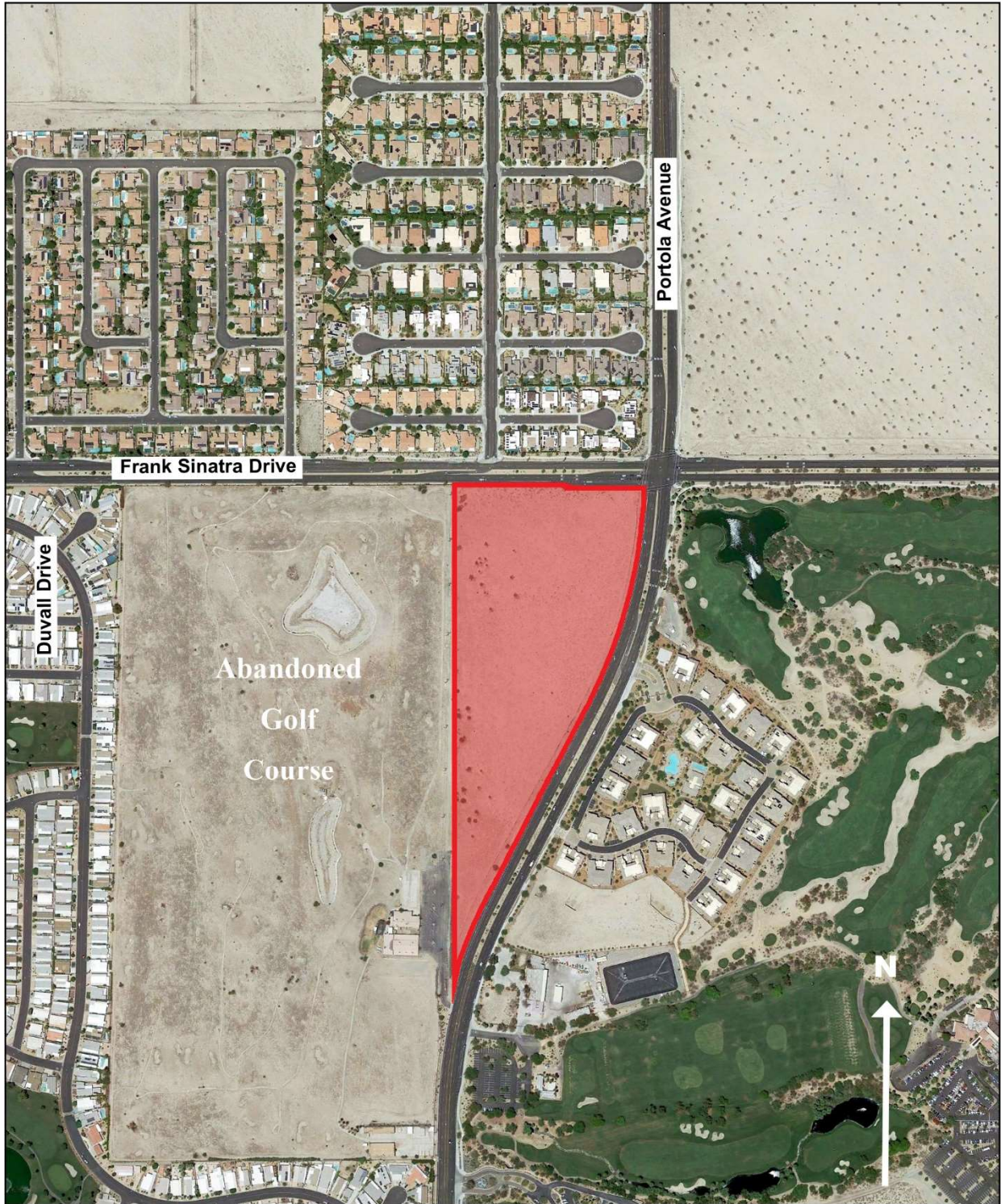


Figure 3. Project Site (in red)



Figures 4-6. Project Site Images

Figure 4. View across site to northeast.

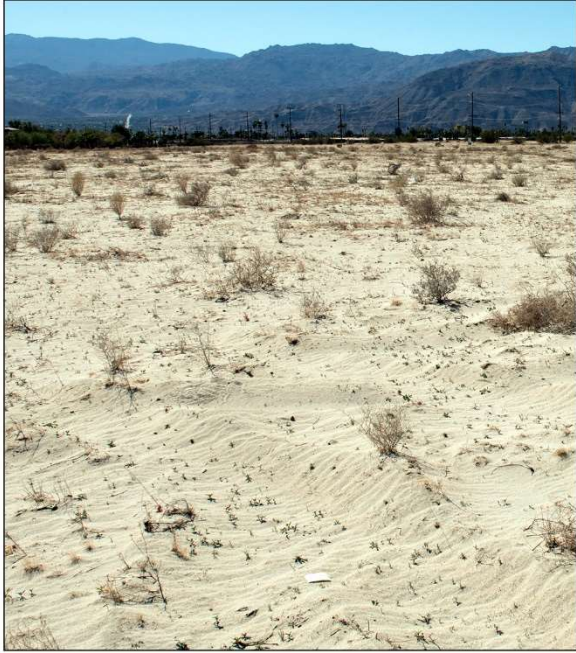


Figure 5. View across site to southeast.

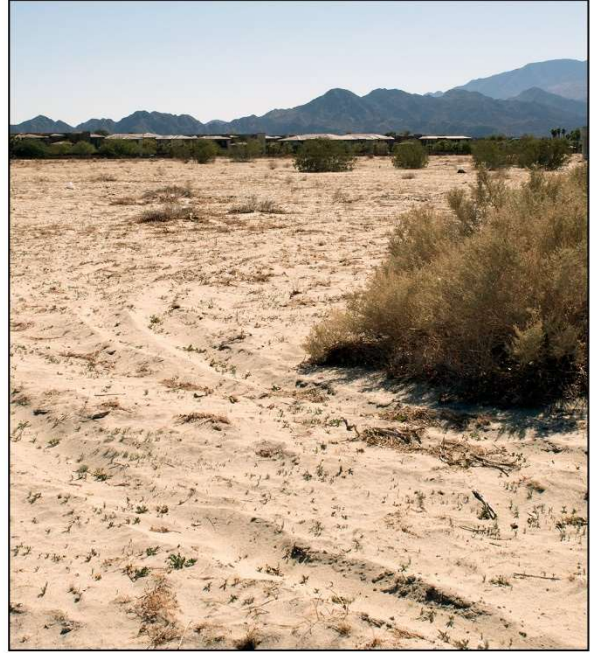


Figure 6. View to the north from southernmost point of project. Portola Avenue is on the right.

II. SITE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Climate

The project area lies within the confines of a geographical region known as the Colorado Desert (Jaeger, 1957). As is typical of this subdivision of the Sonoran Desert, annual rainfall averages just under five inches (National Climatic Center, 2021). Most precipitation falls during the winter and late spring with occasional summer storms accounting for approximately one-fifth the annual total. Winter days are mild, averaging 71 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter nights occasionally drop to near freezing. July brings the hottest temperatures with daytime highs averaging 109 degrees F.

Physical Features

The elevation of the project site is approximately 275 feet above sea level. There is no topographical relief. The environment of the project site is included as part of the sand field habitat of the valley floor as described in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

No naturally occurring springs or permanent aquatic habitats occur in or near the project site. No blue-line stream corridors (streams or dry washes) are shown on U.S. Geological Survey maps for the project site nor are there botanical indicators of such corridors. Thus, there appears to be no need to obtain streambed alteration permits from state or federal governments.

Soil characteristics are uniform over the entire site. Soil is composed of wind-blown alluvium created by historic and persistent air movements from the northwest. This process increased in intensity with the drying out of the Coachella Valley at the close of the Pleistocene epoch ending 10,000 years before present. At the current time, residential and commercial developments to the west and north have resulted in sand stabilization on the site.

Surrounding Lands

The project site and its immediate area are surrounded to the north, south, east, and west by residential developments (see Figures 2 and 3). The only possible source for native plant or animal dispersal to and from the project site would originate from the northeast where relatively undisturbed creosote scrub habitat persists. It is unlikely, however, that any consequential movement of plant and terrestrial animal species could successfully cross the often-busy intersection of Portola Avenue and Frank Sinatra Drive. The site is essentially an ecological island as of 2022.

Existing Impacts

Due to the paucity of mature creosote shrubs, it appears most of the site has been graded within the last twenty years.

Off-road vehicle tracks, impacting less than 10% of the site, were noted within the project boundaries.

Refuse was found on approximately 2% of the site area.

Noise from Frank Sinatra Drive and Portola Avenue, often-busy thoroughfares, was distinctive and distracting during daylight and early evening hours.

A windbreak fence has been installed along Portola Avenue.

A golf course occupied the property to the immediate west until 2015 when it was abandoned.

Project Description

The project proponent intends to grade the entire site and erect a variety of residential units.

III. STUDY METHODS

Prior to the initiation of field work, reviews of the literature and institutional records were conducted to determine the biological resources that might exist within the general area and to determine the possible occurrence of special-status species. Records, collections, websites and/or staff of the University of California at Riverside Herbarium, the Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments were consulted for specific information as to the occurrence of special-status species. The California Department of Fish & Game Natural Diversity Database was also consulted.

Field surveys were initiated in February of 2022. Specific dates of biological surveys were February 9, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and March 5 and 6, 2022. Night surveys were conducted on the evenings of March 5 and 6, 2022.

Survey dates were in late winter and early spring when both perennial and ephemeral plant species and resident vertebrate species were likely to be detected. Reducing the likelihood that any species would be detected was the existence of an unusually dry winter in 2021-2022. Drought dictates against the germination of ephemeral plant species and reproduction and survival of all animal species. Despite the severe winter drought, it was concluded the phenomenon did not change findings in this report because (1) species have been previously recorded at other locations in the area and/or (2) there is no historical information available that contradicts the findings and conclusions of the field surveys and literature review.

Surveys were conducted by walking north/south transects at 10-yard intervals through the project site. Surrounding properties were privately owned and permission was not granted to enter those properties. Nevertheless, binocular surveys were conducted from the project site across the vacant land immediately west of the project site (an abandoned golf course). The survey pattern used is approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for determining the presence or absence of the burrowing owl and desert tortoise and represents an intensive survey effort that resulted in no officially listed or federally protected species being overlooked within the project boundaries (see Results section).

Plant surveys were conducted simultaneously with animal surveys. In addition, twenty live-animal traps (which capture animals unharmed) for large and small mammals were set within the project site for twenty-four-hour periods on March 5 and 6, 2022.

To determine if large animal corridors existed on the project site special attention was given to observing and identifying animal tracks. In addition, sand sifting and smoothing was done in four areas so that tracks would be more prominent and identifiable. Road kills on Portola Avenue and Frank Sinatra Driver were monitored on each site visit.

Invertebrate sampling was conducted on the evenings of March 6 and 7, 2022. Two Bioquip Light Traps were used for attracting and live-capturing flying insects and some terrestrial arthropods. Black lights were the attracting mechanism with each trap powered by a 12-volt automobile battery.

Though scientific name changes occur as new discoveries are made in plant and animal taxonomy, the scientific names used in this report are taken from the standard and most available references describing the species found in the desert regions of Southern California—Bruce G. Baldwin's *The Jepson Manual* (Second Edition) published in 2012; D. P. Tibor's *Inventory of rare and endangered vascular plants of California* published in 2001; R. A. Stebbins and S. M. McGinnis' *Field guide to amphibians and reptiles of California* published in 2012; Peterson's *Bird of North America* published in 2008; and E. W. Jameson's and H. J. Peeters' *California mammals* published in 2004. Plant common names used in this report were taken from Baldwin (2012), Jaeger (1969) and Tibor (2001). Animal common names are taken from Stebbins and McGinnis (2012), Peterson (2008) and Jameson and Peeter (2004).

Fieldwork was conducted by James Cornett (M.S.) and Blake Gonzales (B.A.). Plant identifications were made by Andrew Sanders (B.S.) and Mr. Cornett. Animal remains were identified by Mr. Cornett. The literature review was conducted by Terry Belknap (B.S.). The report was written by Mr. Cornett.

IV. PLANT SURVEY RESULTS

A single plant association or *community* was found on site: the Sonoran creosote bush scrub community as described by Sawyer Keeler-Wolf (1995).

Sonoran creosote bush scrub community dominates vegetation of the natural landscapes in the area and is the pervasive plant community throughout the Colorado Desert of southeastern California. The creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) is the most conspicuous perennial. Other species noted within the project site boundaries include bugseed (*Dicoria canescens*), Emory's Dalea (*Dalea emoryi*), croton (*Croton californicus*) and wingscale (*Atriplex canescens*). A complete listing of vascular plants is found in Table 1.

Native and exotic weed species, mostly expired, occur over of the entire site but particularly in disturbed areas such as road shoulders and property borders. These species include Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), bugseed (*Dicoria canescens*) and Schismus grass (*Schismus barbatus*). These species are often found throughout the Colorado Desert of southeastern California whenever natural vegetation has been damaged or removed.

The Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, published by the California Native Plant Society (2001), the *CNDDDB Special Plant List* (2014) or the *Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California* (2014) lists a total of five plant species that could conceivably occur on the project site. They are the glandular ditaxis (*Ditaxis clariana*), ribbed cryptantha (*Cryptantha costata*), flat-seeded spurge (*Chamaesyce platysperma*), Coachella Valley milk vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus coachellae*), and Salton milkvetch (*Astragalus crotalareiae*).

1. The glandular ditaxis, *Ditaxis clariana*, is a rare perennial herb that blooms from December through March. It is restricted to sandy environments in the Sonoran Desert and has been found in the Coachella Valley at elevations like those found on the project site. Since the glandular ditaxis is a perennial, it likely would be detected during the plant surveys. It was not detected and therefore presumed to not occur onsite. This species is not listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by either the state or federal governments nor is it proposed to be listed at this time. Though considered sensitive by the California Native Plant Society, the glandular ditaxis is not a covered species under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).

2. The ribbed cryptantha is an uncommon ephemeral known to occur on sandy soils in the Coachella Valley. The project site can be considered suitable habitat for this species. It was not detected but the surveys were conducted in late winter and early spring during a drought cycle, so it is unlikely this species would be detected. The ribbed cryptantha is not listed as rare,

threatened or endangered by either the state or federal governments nor is it proposed to be listed at this time. The California Native Plant Society considers the ribbed cryptantha a sensitive species. It is not a covered species under the CVMSHCP.

3. The flat-seeded spurge is an extremely rare ephemeral herb known to occur on sandy soils in the Sonoran Desert. There has been at least one specimen found in the Coachella Valley. The species was not detected but the surveys were conducted in late winter and early spring during a drought cycle so it is unlikely this species would be detected. The flat-seeded spurge is not listed as rare, threatened or endangered by either the state or federal governments nor is it proposed to be listed at this time. The California Native Plant Society considers it a sensitive species. It is not covered under the CVMSHCP.

4. The Coachella Valley milk vetch is an uncommon, spring-blooming ephemeral herb that is known to occur on sandy soils in the Coachella Valley. It is known to occur within one mile of the project site (Cornett, personal files). The milk vetch is listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It has no formal state status. Impacts to the milk vetch are fully mitigated by the CVMSHCP through the payment of the Plan mitigation fee. No further action is necessary regarding this species.

5. The Salton milkvetch (*Astragalus crotalariae*) is a perennial herb found in the Sonoran Desert of California and Arizona. No individuals, evidence or records of the Salton milkvetch were found on or near the project boundaries. The Salton milkvetch is neither state nor federally listed. It is a rare plant usually encountered on sandy or gravelly soils below 1,000 feet in elevation. Though considered sensitive by the California Native Plant Society it is not a covered species under the CVMSHCP.

A complete list of vascular plant species found within the project boundaries has been placed in Table 1 of the Appendix. Planted ornamental species are not included within this list. Taxonomic nomenclature follows Baldwin (2012). Common names are taken from Jaeger (1969), Baldwin (2012), Munz (1974) or Tibor (2001).

V. ANIMAL SURVEY RESULTS

The fauna of the project site and surrounding vicinity is composed of species typical of disturbed, sandy, and windswept habitats in the Coachella Valley portion of the Colorado Desert, as defined by Jaeger (1957). Animal species associated with residential subdivisions were also recorded from the site.

Arthropods

Encountered arthropods on the site included the harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex californicus*), sand scorpion (*Paruroctonus mesaensis*), Eleodes beetle (*Eleodes armata*) and honeybee (*Apis mellifera*).

Three insect species known to occur within the Coachella Valley have been placed on the California Department of Fish and Game's *Special Animals* list. They are the Coachella giant sand treader cricket (*Macrobaenetes valgum*), Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket (*Stenopelmatus caluilaensis*) and Coachella Valley grasshopper (*Spaniacris deserticola*). None of these three insect species were found during the surveys and none have any official status with governmental agencies. The Coachella giant sand treader cricket and Jerusalem cricket are covered species under the Plan.

Amphibians and Reptiles

No amphibian species were found during the surveys, and none are expected.

Detected reptiles included the side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) and western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*).

The officially threatened Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*) was not detected and is not expected due to historical grading of the site. In any event, impacts to the fringe-toed lizard are fully mitigated by the payment of a habitat acquisition fee as required under the Plan.

A concerted effort was made to find sign of the officially listed desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*). However, no evidence of any kind was found, and no direct observations were made. In addition, the California Natural Diversity Database has no records of the tortoise on or within one mile of the project site. It is concluded this species does not occur within the project site and immediate vicinity and no additional surveys for this species are recommended.

An intensive effort was made to find individuals or sign of the flat-tailed horned lizard, *Phrynosoma mcallii*. No observations or evidence of this species within the project boundaries

were recorded. Additionally, the site is considered unsuitable habit for the horned lizard due to historical grading of the site. Impacts to the horned lizard are fully mitigated under the Plan.

Birds

Detected birds within the project area were the Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

No observations of LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) were recorded during surveys. In the Coachella Valley this species is associated with golden cholla, an arborescent cactus that provides a nesting site for the thrasher. The cactus species was not found onsite and, therefore, it was concluded the thrasher does not occupy the project site. LeConte's thrasher is a covered species under the Plan.

Two functionally non-covered and sensitive avian species were possible occupants of the project site and vicinity: the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).

Burrowing Owl

An intensive survey for the burrowing owl was undertaken following protocols established by state and federal governments. No observations of the owl were recorded, and no evidence of its presence was found. The habitat of the project site is suitable for the owl and active burrows of the species have been found several times within two miles of the project site (Cornett, personal files). Because the project site habitat is considered suitable and owls are known to occur in the immediate area, it was concluded that the burrowing owl could assume residence on the site at any time. The burrowing owl is not functionally covered under the Plan.

Loggerhead Shrike

The loggerhead shrike, a state Species of Special Concern, was not observed nor detected on or near the project site. The project site is not considered suitable breeding habitat for the shrike due to the absence of large, dense shrubs or trees. The shrike is not a covered species under the Plan.

Mammals

Recorded mammals included the black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), Palm Springs

ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*) and coyote (*Canis latrans*). No individuals of the Palm Springs Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), a covered species, were found.

No individuals of the desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*) were seen or detected on or near the project site. Human activity in the area is the likely explanation for its absence. The desert kit fox is fully protected in California and is not a covered species under the Plan.

The Palm Springs Ground Squirrel is the only mammalian covered species discovered within the project boundaries. It was detected twice (burrows) and should be expected throughout the project site as the habitat is suitable. It currently is not a listed species and has a much broader range than was previously thought (Federal Register, 2009). It is, therefore, unlikely that it will be listed in the near future. It is a covered species under the Plan and impacts to the squirrel are mitigated by the payment of the required habitat acquisition fee.

Wildlife Corridors

Smoothing of surfaces to yield tracks was performed on each site visit to determine if important wildlife corridors existed on the site. Tracks of ravens, roadrunners and coyotes were recorded. However, no discernable and routinely used corridors could be found.

A complete list of vertebrate species seen or detected on the project site can be found in Table 2 of the Appendix.

VI. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An intensive plant and animal survey was conducted within the proposed project boundaries. No evidence of the federally endangered Coachella Valley milk vetch was found onsite though known from the general region. The Palm Springs ground squirrel was detected within the site boundaries. Both of the above organisms are *covered* under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Mitigation for impacts to these species is accomplished through the payment of a fee to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. Fees vary depending upon the use to which the land is put, acreage, and density. Contact the Coachella Valley Association of Governments to determine current fees.

The remaining comments are restricted to those species or habitats not covered under the CVMSHCP or that are not functionally covered.

Casey's June Beetle

Though Casey's June beetle is known to occur in the Coachella Valley, trapping surveys did not detect this species. Thus far, this officially endangered, non-covered species has not been found east of Cathedral City. Therefore, no further surveys are recommended for Casey's June beetle and no mitigation is needed or recommended.

Desert Tortoise

Though the desert tortoise is a covered species under the CVMSHCP, clearance surveys for the tortoise can still be required by the United State Fish & Wildlife Service prior to grubbing, grading or other site disturbance. The desert tortoise occurs in the Coachella Valley but is not currently known to be present on the valley floor. Observations have been on upper bajadas surrounding the valley. In keeping with this distribution pattern, protocol-level surveys revealed no evidence of the desert tortoise within or adjacent to the project site. Therefore, no additional surveys or actions regarding this species are recommended or required.

Desert Dry Wash Woodland

No bodies of standing water, no streams and no washes (as indicated by wash plant species) are present on site. Therefore, streambed alteration permits from state or local agencies should not be necessary.

CVMSHCP and Conservation Areas

The project site is not within a Conservation Area as shown in the CVMSHCP. Additionally, the site does not abut a Conservation Area. Therefore, the project is not subject to Plan requirements regarding lands adjoining Conservation Areas.

Indirect Impacts

The project site is surrounded by highly disturbed environments including busy thoroughfares and residential developments. As a result, the site is essentially an ecological island with likely little significant biological interaction with natural habitats elsewhere in the Coachella Valley. Therefore, it is concluded the development of the project site will have no significant indirect impacts to biological resources in the region.

Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl was not seen nor detected on or near project site boundaries. However, site habitat is considered suitable for this species and the owl is known to breed in the area. The burrowing owl could assume residence on the site at any time. For this reason, the State of California recommends in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (March 7, 2012), that a clearance survey for this species occur not more than 14 days prior to grading, grubbing or other site disturbance.

Loggerhead Shrike

The loggerhead shrike is not a covered species under the Plan and is a state Species of Special Concern. However, as the project site is not considered suitable breeding habitat for the shrike, no additional surveys are recommended for this species.

Mitigation Summary

1. Contact CVAG to determine precise mitigation fees applicable under the CVMSHCP.
2. Conduct a burrowing owl clearance survey not more than 14 days prior to site disturbance.

Conclusion

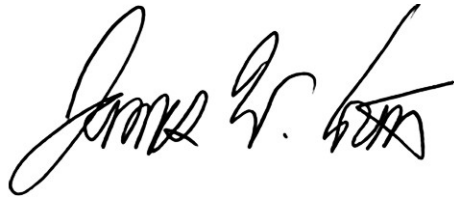
Development of the proposed project site is not expected to have significant adverse impacts upon biological resources in the region providing the mitigation described in this report is implemented.

VII. REFERENCES

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VIII. CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

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



March 10, 2022

Date

Principal Investigator

APPENDIX

Species Status Terms Used in This Report

State, Federal, Tribal and local governments, and occasionally private conservation organizations, determine certain plant and animal species are in need of special protection because their numbers are declining, and extinction may be likely. Collectively, such species are referred to as special-status species.

Species or subspecies officially classified as **Endangered** are in imminent danger of becoming extinct. State and federal endangered species laws require that government agencies take direct steps to prevent further decline in the numbers of each endangered species. Persons or companies wishing to develop land on which endangered animal species occur will be required to mitigate adverse impacts to the endangered species so that there is no reduction in numbers and no net loss of the species' habitat. Mitigation may take the form of avoiding development on that part of the site inhabited by the species, acquiring habitat for the species elsewhere (accomplished by the CVMSHCP) or, in rare instances, relocating the project to an alternate site. In certain instances, an endangered species may be adversely impacted even though it does not actually occur on site. If such a finding is made, mitigation will likely be required.

Species or subspecies officially classified as **Threatened** are likely to become endangered if action is not forthcoming from government agencies. These species are not in imminent danger of becoming extinct and there is more time to find ways to prevent their extinction. Mitigation requirements for threatened species are the same as those for endangered species.

The state of California has an additional classification known as **Species of Special Concern**. In brief, these are plant and animal species whose numbers may be declining or who status may be in jeopardy but there is insufficient data to formerly classify them as threatened or endangered. Mitigation for these species can be required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) but is not automatic.

Governmental agencies sometimes erect Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) that protect selected **Covered** species. Specific mitigation for Covered species may not be required under such a plan. However, occasionally Covered species may not be **functionally** covered because state or federal agencies have refused to allow the taking of such species despite an approved HCP.

If officially threatened or endangered species not fully covered under an HCP are adversely impacted by a development the project proponents should expect to meet with staff of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish & Game to review and decide upon mitigation alternatives.

TABLE 1
PLANT SPECIES RECORDED
PALM DESERT 17-ACRE SITE

ANGIOSPERMAE – DICOTYLEDONES

ASTERACEAE - SUNFLOWER FAMILY

Conyza canadensis - Horseweed
Dicoria canescens - Desert Dicoria
Encelia farinosa - Brittlebush
Hymenoclea salsola - Cheese-bush
Lepidospartum squamatum – Scale-Broom
Palafoxia arida - Spanish Needle
Stephanomeria exigua - Mitra

BORAGINACEAE - BORAGE FAMILY

Cryptantha micrantha - Purple-rooted Forget-me-not
Tiquilia plicata - Plicate Coldenia

BRASSICACEAE - MUSTARD FAMILY

Brassica tournefortii - Sahara Mustard

CHENOPODIACEAE - GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

Atriplex canescens – Wingscale
Salsola tragus - Russian Thistle

EUPHORBIACEAE - SPURGE FAMILY

Croton californicus - Desert Croton
Chamaesyce polycarpa - Sand-mat

FABACEAE - PEA FAMILY

Psoralemmus emoryi - Emory Dalea

GERANIACEAE - GERANIUM FAMILY

Erodium cicutarium – Filaree

NYCTAGINACEAE - FOUR-O'CLOCK FAMILY

Abronia villosa - Hairy Sand-Verbena

PLANTAGINACEAE - Plantain Family
Plantago ovata - Woolly Plantain

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE - CALTROP FAMILY
Larrea tridentata - Creosote Bush

ANGIOSPERMAE - MONOCOTYLEDONES

POACEAE - GRASS FAMILY
Bromus madritensis - Foxtail Grass
Cynodon dactylon – Bermuda Grass
Schismus barbatus - Abu-mashi

TABLE 2
EXPECTED BREEDING OR OBSERVED VERTEBRATES
PALM DESERT 17-ACRE SITE

REPTILES

GEKKONIDAE - GECKOS

Coleonyx variegatus - Western Banded Gecko

IGUANIDAE - IGUANIDS

Dipsosaurus dorsalis - Desert Iguana

Urosaurus graciosus - Long-Tailed Bush Lizard

Uta stansburiana - Side-Blotched Lizard *

TEIIDAE - WHIPTAILS

Cnemidophorus tigris - Western Whiptail *

LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE - BLIND SNAKES

Leptotyphlops humilis - Western Blind Snake

COLUBRIDAE - COLUBRIDS

Chionactis occipitalis - Western Shovel-nosed Snake ?

VIPERIDAE - VIPERS

Crotalus cerastes - Sidewinder ?

BIRDS

ACCIPITRIDAE - OSPREY, HAWKS, EAGLES

Buteo jamaicensis - Red-Tailed Hawk *

FALCONIDAE - FALCONS

Falco sparverius - American Kestrel *

COLUMBIDAE - PIGEONS AND DOVES

Columba livia - Rock Dove *

Zenaida macroura - Mourning Dove *

CUCULIDAE - CUCKOOS

Geococcyx californianus - Greater Roadrunner *

TROCHILIDAE - HUMMINGBIRDS

Calypte costae - Costa's Hummingbird *

TYRANNIDAE - TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Sayornis saya - Say's Phoebe *

CORVIDAE - CROWS AND JAYS

Corvus corax - Common Raven *

MIMIDAE - MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

Mimus polyglottos - Northern Mockingbird *

STURNIDAE - STARLINGS

Sturnus vulgaris - European Starling *

ICTERIDAE – BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES

Euphagus cyanocephalus - Brewer's Blackbird *

Quiscalus mexicanus – Great-tailed Grackle *

PARULIDAE – WOOD-WARBLERS

Dendroica coronata – Yellow-Rumped Warbler *

Vermivora celata – Orange-Crowned Warbler *

Wilsonia pusilla – Wilson's Warbler *

EMBERIZIDAE WOOD WARBLERS, TANAGERS, SPARROWS

Zonotrichia leucophrys – White-crowned Sparrow *

PLOCEIDAE - WEAVER FINCHES

Passer domesticus - House Sparrow *

FRINGILLIDAE - FINCHES

Carpodacus mexicanus - House Finch *

MAMMALS

VESPERTILIONIDAE - EVENING BATS

Pipistrellus hesperus - Western Pipistrelle *

LEPORIDAE - HARES AND RABBITS

Lepus californicus - Black-tailed Jackrabbit *

Sylvilagus audubonii - Audubon Cottontail *

SCIURIDAE - SQUIRRELS

Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus – Palm Springs Ground Squirrel *

GEOMYIDAE - POCKET GOPHERS

Thomomys bottae - Botta Pocket Gopher

CRICETIDAE - DEER MICE AND WOODRATS

Peromyscus maniculatus - Deer Mouse *

MURIDAE – RATS, MICE, VOLES

Mus musculus – House Mouse *

CANIDAE - FOXES, WOLVES, AND COYOTES

Canis latrans - Coyote *

* = Sign or individual observed on site

? = Possible occurrence on or near site; not detected during surveys