

August 29, 2022

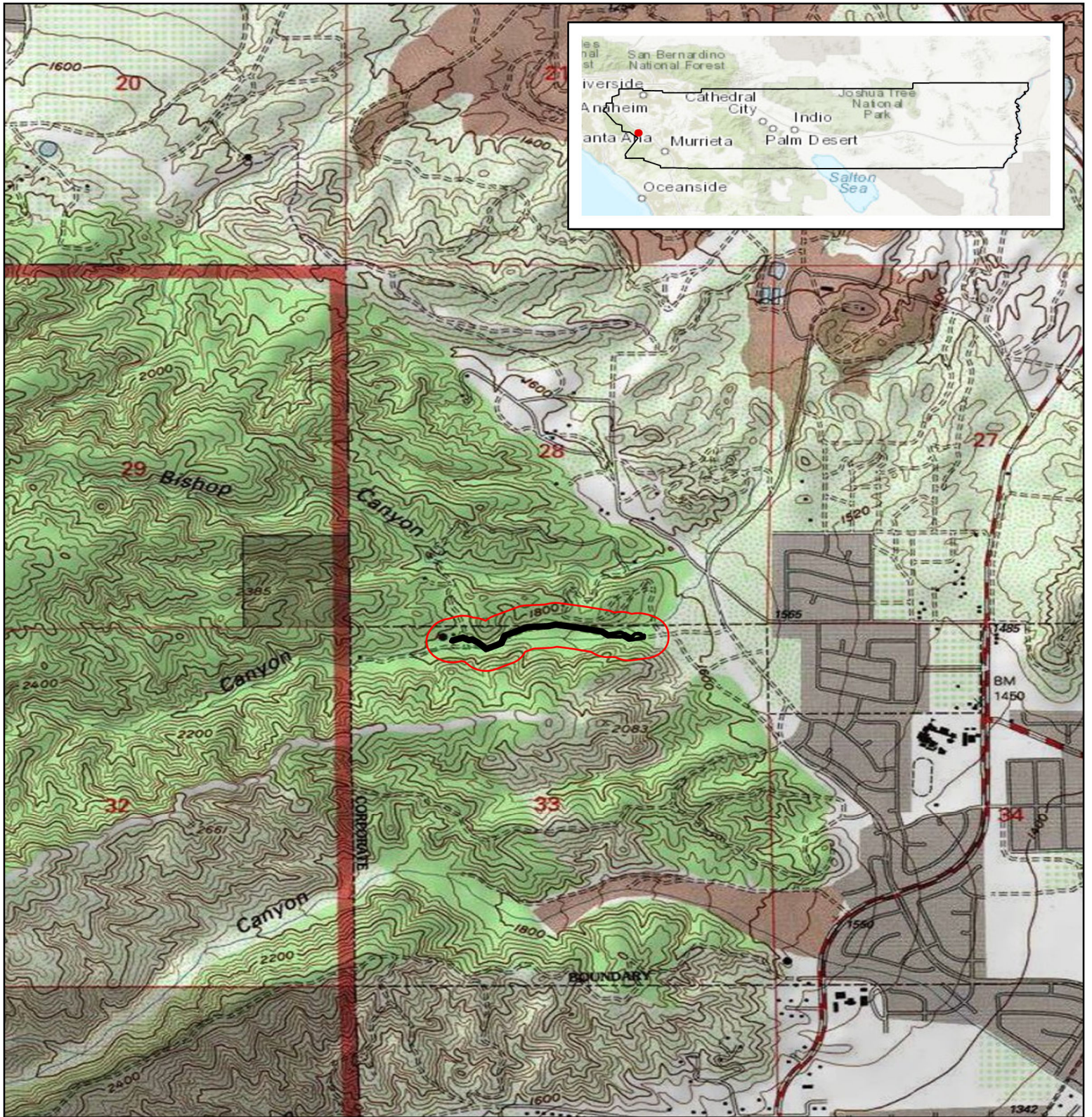
Stephanie Standerfer – Vice President
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**RE: Botanical Survey Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Rice Canyon Reservoir
Access Road and New Conduit Project in Lake Elsinore, California**

Dear Stephanie:

This letter includes the results of a botanical survey on a 2.56-acre project impact area comprising an unpaved, dirt road (project site) and a 300-foot buffer around the project site in Lake Elsinore, California (attached Figure 1 and Figure 2). The project site is within Rice Canyon where there is a proposal to improve a dirt access road leading from Dale Court to a water storage tank facility owned by Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD). The project is within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), and the focus of the botanical survey was to identify narrow endemic, criteria, and area plan plants as classified under the MSHCP.

The survey was conducted to determine the projects consistency with the goals and provisions of the MSHCP that includes an evaluation of the conservation status of plants in the region and their geographical natural occurrences. The MSHCP uses mapped "Criteria Cells" to indicate species of conservation concern, including a list of the "Narrow Endemic" and "Criteria Species" for each cell. In addition, the MSHCP designates "Area Plan" plants of conservation concern also based on geographic attributes. The plant survey involved first identifying the potential plant species for the site and then surveying for them. The site was surveyed on 5 dates spread out from early-February to mid-July of 2022 to capture the blooming period of all potential annual plants on the site. The report includes a complete list of the species observed on the site indicating species protected under the MSHCP and those with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR).



Source: ESRI USA Topo Maps and World Topo Map 2022

EVMWD Rice Canyon Project

Figure 1. Project Location

- Study Area (300-ft buffer)
- Project Site

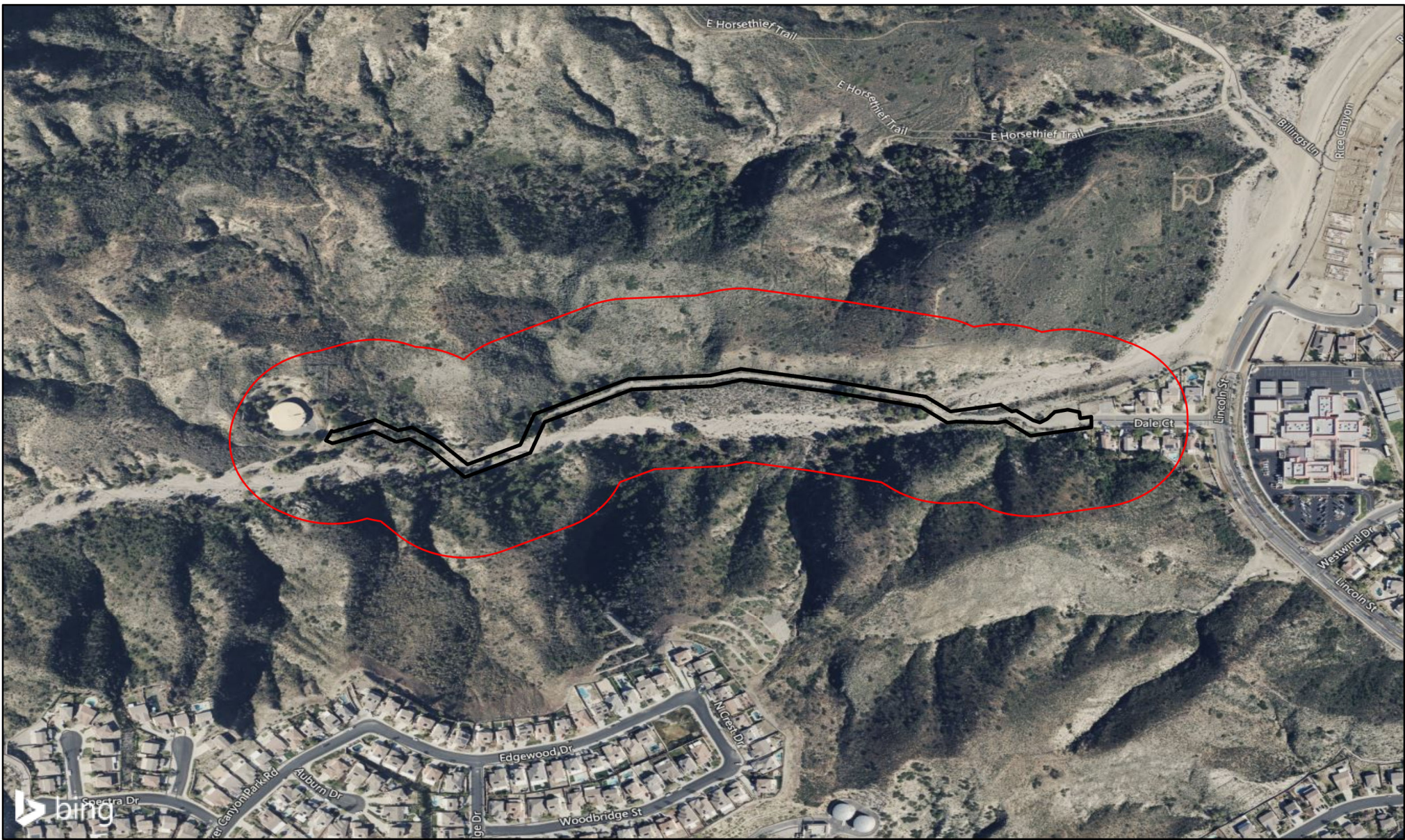
Project Site is within the City of Lake Elsinore, California, in Riverside County on the USGS Alberhill 7.5-minute quadrangle map in Sections 28 and 33 of Township 05 South and Range 05 West

Center Coordinate (Decimal Degrees):
 Latitude: 33.698366N, Longitude: -117.407709W



0 1,000 2,000 Feet
 Scale: 1:24,000



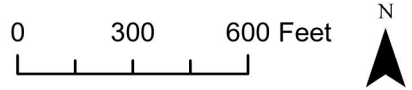


Source: BING Aerial Basemap 2022

EVMWD Rice Canyon Project

Figure 2. Project Site Vicinity

-  Study Area (300-ft buffer)
-  Project Site



Background

Project Site Description

The project site includes 2.56-acres located west of Rice Canyon Elementary School and Dale Court in Rice Canyon in the town of Lake Elsinore, California. The unpaved, dirt Rice Canyon Reservoir Access Road extends west from Dale Court for approximately 2,500-feet and ends at an EVMWD water reservoir facility. The area surrounding the project site to the north, south, and west is mountainous with undeveloped native habitats except for the existing water tank facilities at the west end of the project site. There is an ephemeral stream in Rice Canyon that winds along the canyon and the access road intersects with the stream. Urban development in the form of houses, community organizations, and roadways is present to the east of the project site beginning with Dale Court. The project site is located on portions of four assessor's parcels (APNs 394-140-003, 394-140-004, 394-150-001, 394-150-011, and 394-140-001) on the Alberhill USGS 7.5-minute quad in Sections 28 and 33 of Township 05 South and Range 05 West. The project site is located within the Elsinore Area Plan of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP; Dudek & Associates 2003).

Proposed Development

The EVMWD proposes to make improvements to the Rice Canyon Reservoir Access Road that include widening the road to a width of up to 40-feet and creating three new concrete Arizona crossings through Rice Canyon Creek for a total project footprint of 2.56-acres. The project improvements will allow access to the reservoir for interior repairs, and the project includes the future operation and maintenance of the road to allow for continued access to the reservoir.

Topography and Climate

The project site is at the eastern edge of the Santa Ana Mountains and approximately 2.60-miles northwest of Lake Elsinore. It is within a relatively flat canyon area with steep slopes to the north and south. Areas to the north, south, and west are undeveloped and mountainous; to the east the topography is relatively flat. At the base of the canyon is an ephemeral riverine streambed that is the remnant of a geologic feature that has created Rice Canyon. The project site is at an elevation of 1785-feet near the western end and 1650-feet near the eastern end (USGS 2022). Climate in the region is hot and dry, with average summer high temperatures in the mid-90s and average winter lows in the low-40s. Average yearly rainfall is 2.63-inches, and the wettest months are December – March, and almost no precipitation between June-September.

Soils

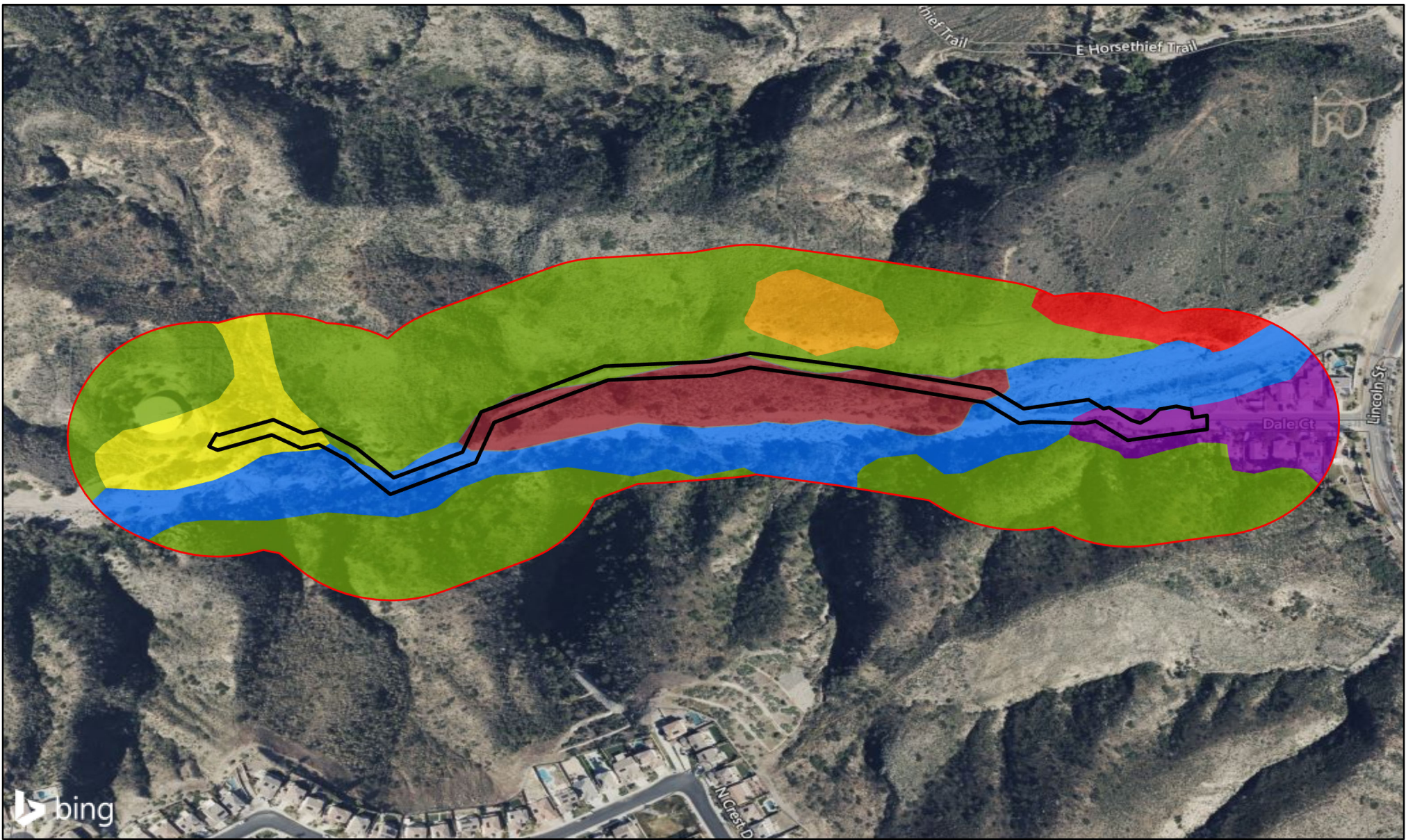
Seven soils occur on the project site as shown in Figure 3(USDA/NRCS 2022):

- **Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes** occurs in the western part of the project site. This is an alluvial fan soil and is well drained.
- **Riverwash** occurs in the western part and eastern part of the project site. This is an alluvial fan soil and is well drained.
- **Tujunga loamy sand, channeled, 0 to 8 percent slopes** occurs in the central part of the project site. This is an alluvial fan and flood plain soil and is excessively drained.
- **Cieneba sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes, eroded** occurs in the central part and western part of the project site. This is a residuum soil that is found on the side slope and backslope of hills and is somewhat excessively drained.
- **Soboba cobbly loamy sand, 2 to 25 percent slopes** occurs in the eastern part of the project site. This is an alluvial fan soil and is excessively drained.
- **Vista coarse sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes and 15 to 35 percent slopes, eroded** occurs in the eastern part of the project site and study area. These are non-hydric soils found on hills and backslopes that are well drained.

Methodology

Literature Review

The Western Riverside County MSHCP includes a comprehensive strategy for the protection of at-risk and rare plant species in Western Riverside County. The Plan is administered through the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) which is a coalition and collaboration of local government agencies. The MSHCP resulted in an assessment and subsequent designation of plant species that are at-risk or rare in the region. To assess the plant species, the MSHCP used several evaluation criteria and geographic scales. The evaluation resulted in the identification of "narrow endemic", "criteria", and "area plan" plants. A list of the narrow endemic and criteria plant species can be found for a particular geographic area using the RCA MSHCP Information Map online (RCA 2022). The Map uses criteria cells that can be easily identified and queried for a list of the narrow endemic and criteria species. In addition, Section 3.0 of the MSHCP indicates the at-risk and rare species for different geographic areas known as "Area Plans". Included in the MSHCP plant lists are rare, threatened, and endangered species listed at the federal and State of California level.



Source: BING Aerial Basemap April 2022

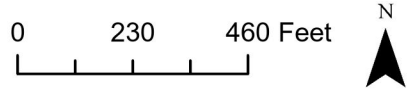
EVMWD Rice Canyon Project

Figure 3. Soils

-  Project Site
-  Survey Area

Soils

-  Cieneba sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes, eroded
-  Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
-  Riverwash
-  Soboba cobbly loamy sand, 2 to 25 percent slopes
-  Tujunga loamy sand, channeled, 0 to 8 percent slopes
-  Vista coarse sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, eroded
-  Vista coarse sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded



Prior to the survey the RCA MSHCP Information Map (RCA 2022) was queried to find the criteria cells and associated parcels corresponding with the project site to identify the narrow endemic and criteria plant species with a potential to be present there. The potential at-risk and rare plants for the site was also determined using the “Area Plan” in the MSHCP. The data from the map criteria cells and area plan were then combined into a comprehensive list of potential at-risk and rare plant species for the project site. The focus of the field survey was centered on narrow endemic, criteria, and area plan species identified in the literature search.

The querying of the RCA MSHCP Information Map online for narrow endemic and criteria plant species with the potential to occur on the site resulted in the identification of two criteria cells on the project site: 4250 and 4251. The cells are within the Santa Ana Mountains Habitat Management Unit and the MSHCP Elsinore Area Plan: Subunit SU2-Alberhill (RCA 2022). The subunit for the Elsinore Area Plan includes several at-risk and rare species as listed in the MSHCP (RCA 2022). Eight narrow endemic and 8 criteria plant species are included in the criteria cells 4250 and 4251. In addition, the area corresponding with the Elsinore Area Plan: Subunit SU2 – Alberhill lists 5 species, 4 of which are already among the narrow endemic and criteria species. The one species not among the narrow endemic and criteria species is vernal barley (*Hordeum intercedens*). Combining the different lists from the RCAS Information Map and MSHCP there are a total of 18 narrow endemic, criteria, and area plan plant species for the site which are listed below in Table 1.

Table 1. Narrow endemic, criteria, and area plan plant species with a potential to be on the site.

Scientific name	Common name	Narrow Endemic Species	Criteria Species	Area Plan Species	Criteria Cell #
<i>Allium munzii</i>	Munz's onion	X		X	4250, 4251
<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	San Diego ambrosia	X		X	4250, 4251
<i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Parish's brittle scale		X		4251
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> <i>var. davidsonii</i>	Davidson's salt scale		X		4251
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	thread-leaved brodiaea		X		4251
<i>California macrophylla</i>	round-leaved filaree		X		4251
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> <i>ssp. laevis</i>	smooth tarplant		X		4251
<i>Clinopodium chandleri</i>	San Miguel savory	X			4250, 4251
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	slender-horned spineflower	X			4250, 4251
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i>	many-stemmed dudleya	X		X	4250, 4251

<i>Hordeum intercedens</i>	vernal barley			X	
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> <i>ssp. coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields		X	X	4251
<i>Lepechinia cardiophylla</i>	heart-leaved pitcher sage		X		4250, 4251
<i>Myosurus minimus</i> <i>ssp. apus</i>	little mousetail		X		4251
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	X			4250, 4251
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	X			4250, 4251
<i>Sibaropsis hammittii</i>	Hammitt's clay-cress,	X			4250, 4251
<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> <i>var. wrightii</i>	Wright's trichocoronis	X			4250, 4251

Field Survey

The survey to identify narrow endemic, criteria, and area plan plant species identified from the MSHCP Information Map and the MSHCP — including federal and state rare, threatened, and endangered species — was carried out from early-February to mid-July of 2022. The survey dates with the weather conditions and South Environmental biologists conducting the surveys are below:

- February 9, 2022. 64-81F, light winds (3-6 mph), fair (Matt South, Scott Altmann)
- April 7, 2022. 81-93F, calm to light winds (0-7 mph), fair (Scott Altmann, James McNutt)
- May 13, 2022. 77-91F, calm to light winds (0-4 mph), fair (Scott Altmann)
- June 16, 2022. 77-95F, calm to light winds (0-8 mph), fair (Scott Altmann)
- July 15, 2022. 73-88F, calm to light winds (0-9 mph), fair (Scott Altmann)

During the surveys all plant species encountered were either identified at the time or in the case of unknown species a sample was collected and the species were identified using *The Jepson Manual of Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012) and by comparing them with taxonomically-related species from the area using I-Naturalist and other online digital photo sources.

Whenever possible the survey was conducted according to the *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities*

developed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2018) and the *Botanical Survey Guidelines* developed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2001). The survey followed the standard botanical protocol for rare, threatened, or endangered plant species surveys of identifying all plant species encountered. Although the goal was to identify all plant species, field surveyors placed a special emphasis on discovery of the narrow endemic, criteria, and area plan species identified in the literature search with the potential to occur on the site.

Results

A total of 84 plant species were identified on the project site. Of these 67 are native to this region of California and 17 are non-native. The habit of the species consisted of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and vines. Non-native species were primarily annual herbs. Important genera for which more than one species were observed included *Artemisia*, *Bromus*, *Chaenactis*, *Clarkia*, *Diplacus*, *Encelia*, *Eriogonum*, *Phacelia*, *Pseudognaphalium*, *Quercus*, and *Salsola*. A list of the species observed on the site is presented below in Table 2.

No narrow endemic, criteria, or area plan species were observed on the site. However, two important species — Coulter’s matilija poppy and Cleveland monkeyflower — were observed on the site that were not identified in either the RCA Information Map or MSHCP Elsinore Area Plan. The Coulter’s matilija poppy is included in the list of 146 conservation species — known as “Covered Species” — that are targeted by the MSHCP for conservation at a regional level. Both these species have a California Rare Plant Rating (CRPR) of 4.2. The CRPR’s are assigned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to plant species that have conservation challenges (e.g. threatened) often with a limited distribution, or which have the potential for conservation problems in the future. The Coulter’s matilija poppy and Cleveland monkeyflower observed on the site are briefly discussed below.

Table 2. List of plant species at Rice Canyon in Lake Elsinore, California.

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Habit</u>	<u>MSHCP Narrow Endemic</u>	<u>MSHCP Criteria Plant</u>	<u>CRPR*</u>
<i>Acacia redolens</i>	vanilla-scented wattle	*Tree/shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	deerweed	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	chamise	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	flatspine bursage	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Antirrhinum coulterianum</i>	Coulter snapdragon	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	California mugwort	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Avena barbata</i>	slender wild oat	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mulefat	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	ripgut brome	*Annual herb	--	--	NR

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Habit</u>	<u>MSHCP Narrow Endemic</u>	<u>MSHCP Criteria Plant</u>	<u>CRPR*</u>
<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	compact brome	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Bromus rubens</i>	red brome	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	coast morning glory	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Camissoniopsis bistorta</i>	California suncup	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Maltese star thistle	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	little mouse ear	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Chaenactis artemisiifolia</i>	Artemisia-leaved chaenactis	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i>	common yellow chaenactis	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Clarkia purpurea</i>	winecup clarkia	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Clarkia similis</i>	Ramona clarkia	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>	miner's lettuce	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Corethrogyne filaginifolia</i>	California sandaster	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Crocانthemum scoparium</i>	peak rushrose	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	field dodder	Annual herb/vine	--	--	NR
<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	bush poppy	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Diplacus¹ brevipes</i>	wide-throated yellow monkeyflower	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Diplacus clevelandii</i>	Cleveland monkeyflower	Perennial herb	--	--	4.2
<i>Diplacus longiflorus</i>	southern bush monkeyflower	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Ehrendorferia chrysantha</i>	golden eardrops	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Elymus condensatus</i>	giant wild rye	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Emmenanthe penduliflora</i>	whispering bells	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Encelia californica</i>	California brittlebush	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	brittlebush	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Eriastrum sapphirinum</i>	sapphire woollystar	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Eriodictyon crassifolium</i>	thick-leaved yerba santa	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Eriogonum gracile</i>	slender woolly buckwheat	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	golden yarrow	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	redstem storks-bill	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Gazania linearis</i>	striped treasureflower	*Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Helianthus gracilentus</i>	slender sunflower	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Hesperoyucca whipplei</i>	chaparral yucca	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	telegraph weed	Annual/perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	shortpod mustard	*Annual/perennial herb	--	--	NR

¹ This genus is synonymous with Mimulus, which is what is used in the MSHCP.

Scientific name	Common name	Habit	MSHCP Narrow Endemic	MSHCP Criteria Plant	CRPR*
<i>Keckiella antirrhinoides</i>	chaparral beardtongue	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Lepidospartum squamatum</i>	California broomsage	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Linanthus californicus</i>	prickly phlox	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Malacothrix saxatilis</i>	cliff aster	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Malacothamnus densiflorus</i>	many-flowered bush-mallow	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	laurel sumac	Tree/shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Marah macrocarpa</i>	chilicothe	Perennial herb/vine	--	--	NR
<i>Mentzelia micrantha</i>	San Luis blazingstar	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Mirabilis laevis</i>	wishbone bush	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	tree tobacco	*Tree/shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Oncosiphon pilulifer</i>	stinknet	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Pellaea andromedifolia</i>	coffee fern	Fern	--	--	NR
<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	showy penstemon	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Phacelia cicutaria</i>	caterpillar scorpionweed	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Phacelia distans</i>	distant phacelia	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Phacelia minor</i>	wild Canterbury bells	Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	western (California) sycamore	Tree	--	--	NR
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont cottonwood	Tree	--	--	NR
<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>	California cudweed	Annual/perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Pseudognaphalium microcephalum</i>	feltleaf everlasting	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	Tree	--	--	NR
<i>Quercus berberidifolia</i>	California scrub oak	Tree	--	--	NR
<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	hollyleaf redberry	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	sugar bush	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Ribes indecorum</i>	white-flowering currant	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Coulter's matilija poppy	Perennial herb	--	--	4.2
<i>Romneya trichocalyx</i>	hairy matilija poppy	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	Gooding's willow	Tree	--	--	NR
<i>Salsola australis</i>	southern Russian thistle	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	tumbleweed	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea</i>	blue elder	Tree/shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Schismus barbatus</i>	common Mediterranean grass	*Annual herb	--	--	NR
<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	California beeplant	Perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i>	eastern rocket	*Annual/perennial herb	--	--	NR
<i>Solanum parishii</i>	Parish's nightshade	Perennial herb/shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Stephanomeria diegensis</i>	San Diego wirelettuce	Annual/perennial herb	--	--	NR

Scientific name	Common name	Habit	MSHCP Narrow Endemic	MSHCP Criteria Plant	CRPR*
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	tamarisk	*Tree/shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Tetradymia comosa</i>	hairy horsebrush	Shrub	--	--	NR
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak	Vine/shrub	--	--	NR
*Non-native, NR = Not ranked					

MSHCP Narrow Endemic, Criteria, and Area Plan Plants

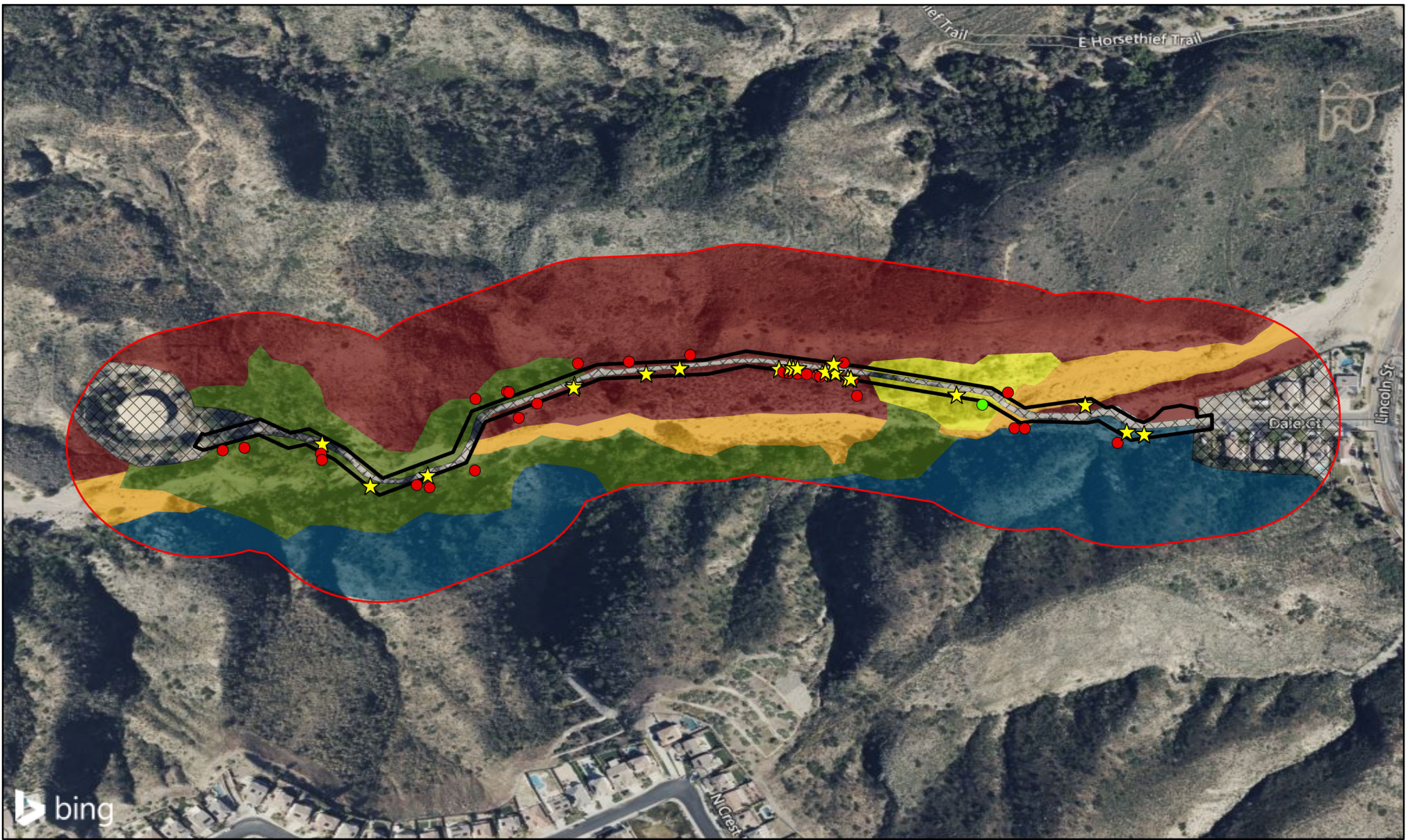
No narrow endemic, criteria, or area plan plant species were observed during the 5 field surveys. Furthermore, no rare, threatened, or endangered species at a State of California or federal level were observed.

MSHCP Covered Plant Species

A total of 54 Coulter’s matilija poppy was observed during the survey, and this species is part of the master list of “Covered Species” under the MSHCP. The covered species are a list of 146 plants and animals that are highlighted for conservation under the MSHCP. A list of these species can be found in Section 9.2 of the MSHCP and includes 29 plants. Twenty-four (24) of the Coulter’s matilija poppy are within the proposed development footprint and would be removed by the project. The location of this plant on the project site is shown in Figure 4.

- Coulter’s matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*): The Coulter’s matilija poppy was found throughout the project site in all identified plant communities. The plant is not rare, threatened, or endangered at a State of California or federal level but has a CRPR of 4.2. According to the CNPS (2022), the species inhabits chaparral and coastal scrub. It typically blooms from March to July and is found at an elevation range of 65 to 3935-ft. Using the Jepson Manual, the plant was identified by two main traits: the nature of the peduncle and leaf size. These traits varied between different samples with some of them indicating the hairy matilija poppy (*Romneya trichocalyx*). Thus, the two species intergrade at the site and there are likely hybrids.

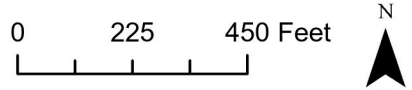
A total of one (1) Cleveland monkeyflower was also observed on the study area (Figure 4) and this species has a CRPR of 4.2 and is also a MSHCP Covered Plant Species. This plant is not within the project footprint and will not be impacted by the project.



Source: BING Aerial Basemap August 2022

EVMWD Rice Canyon Project

Figure 4. Botanical Survey Results



- Rice Canyon Project Site
- Study Area (300-ft buffer)

Botanical Survey

- Remove - Coulter's matilija (*Romneya coulteri*)
- Remain - Coulter's matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*)
- Cleveland monkeyflower (*Diplacus clevelandii*)

Plant Communities

- Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Disturbed/Developed
- Riparian Forest
- Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub

Riversidean Sage Scrub



- Cleveland monkeyflower (*Diplacus clevelandii*): The Cleveland monkeyflower was found in one place just outside the project footprint near the edge of the access road in the riparian forest. The plant is not rare, threatened, or endangered at a State of California or federal level. However, it has a CRPR of 4.2 indicating the species has a limited distribution or is uncommon in California and must be monitored. According to the CNPS (2022), the species is known to inhabit chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest where it prefers open areas that are disturbed, gabbroic, and rocky. It generally blooms from April to July and is found at an elevation range of 1475 to 6560-ft. According to Calflora, the species has been observed on the streambed within one mile of the site.

Conclusion

Narrow endemic, criteria, and area plan plant species were determined to be absent from the project site. During 5 days of fieldwork from early-February to mid-July of 2002, a total of 84 plant species were identified for the site. No narrow endemic, criteria, or area plan plant species were observed during this time. However, a “Covered Species” from the master regional conservation list of the MSHCP was observed in all plan communities — Coulter’s matilija poppy. Furthermore, a species with a CRPR of 4.2 (watchlist) — Cleveland monkeyflower — was observed. The project could result in the loss of 24 Coulter’s matilija poppy and one (1) Cleveland monkeyflower. It is important to note, however, that the Coulter’s matilija poppy intergrades with a close relative, the hairy matilija poppy. The Coulter’s matilija poppy is of further importance since it is given special protection consideration under Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP as it relates to *Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools*.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this report, please contact Matthew South by email: msouth@southenvironmental.com or by mobile phone: 303-818-3632.

Sincerely,



Matthew R. South

List of Attachments

1. **Attachment A.** Photograph Exhibit

Bibliography

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- United States Geological Survey (USGS). 2022. Topographical Maps Online. Available online: <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>

Attachment A:

Photograph Exhibit

29616 Dale Ct, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530, USA

📍 280°W (T) • 33.697941, -117.405082 ±0 m ▲ 477 m



09 Feb 2022, 11:25:30

Photo 1. Depicts the access road where the eastern Arizona crossing will be constructed in Rice Canyon Creek.

29616 Dale Ct, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530, USA

📍 281°W (T) • 33.697948, -117.405172 ±0 m ▲ 476 m



09 Feb 2022, 11:24:56

Photo 2. Depicts Rice Canyon Creek at the washed out section of access road on the east end of the project.



Photo 3. Depicts Rice Canyon Creek floodplain north of the access road on the east of the project site.



Photo 4. Depicts the second project crossing through Rice Canyon Creek.



Photo 5. Depicts the second project crossing of Rice Canyon Creek. Old access road is visible in the foreground.

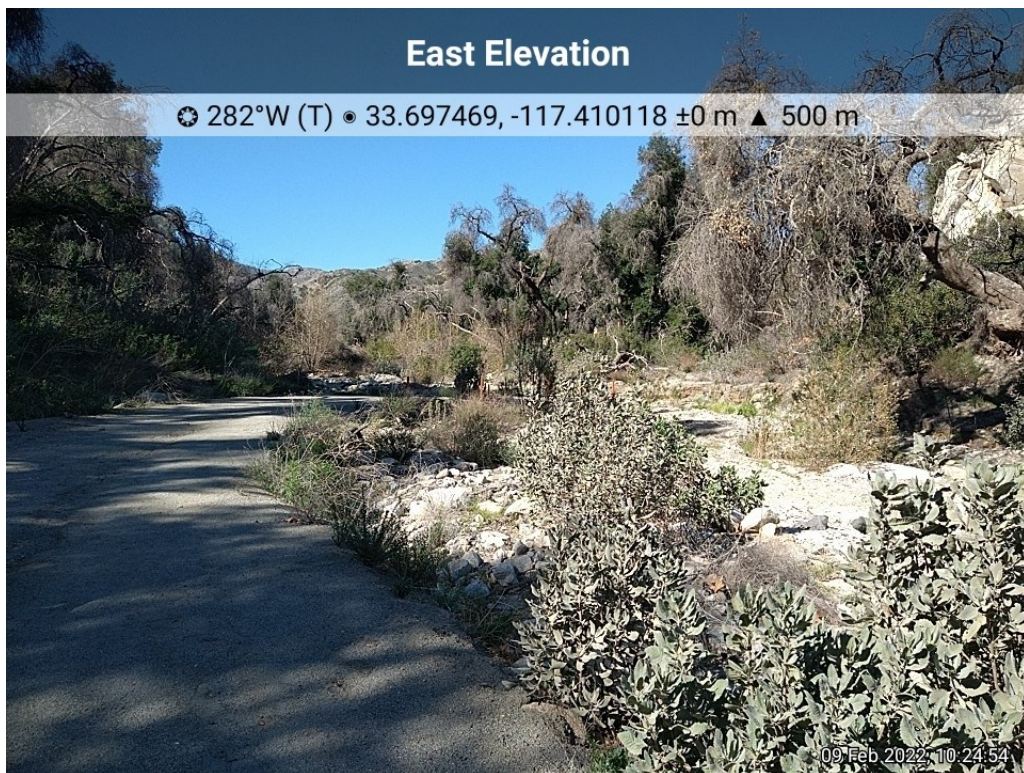


Photo 6. Depicts the third project crossing through Rice Canyon Creek on the west end of the project site.