

TEXAS STREET PROJECT

CITY OF REDLANDS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
(Assessor Parcel Number 0167-041-01)

Biological Resources Assessment

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June 2021
Updated March 2023

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The undersigned certify that the statements furnished in this report and exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and the facts, statements, and information presented is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusions to the best of our knowledge and beliefs.



Travis J. McGill
Director/Biologist



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Managing Director

June 2021
Updated March 2023

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Section 1 Introduction

This report contains the findings of ELMT Consulting’s (ELMT) biological resources assessment prepared for the Texas Street Project (Project) located in the City of Redlands, San Bernardino County, California. ELMT biologists Thomas J. McGill, Ph.D. and Travis J. McGill conducted a field survey and evaluated the condition of the habitat occurring on the project site on June 9, 2021. The purpose of the biological resources assessment was to characterize existing site conditions on the entire Project site, with an emphasis focusing on the habitat within the proposed limits of disturbance. The survey was conducted to assess the probability of occurrence of special-status¹ plant and wildlife species that could pose a constraint to project implementation.

Special attention was given to the suitability of the habitat on the parcel boundary and within the proposed limits of disturbance to support special-status plant and wildlife species identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and other electronic databases as potentially occurring in the general vicinity of the project. Particular emphases was given to the presence or absence of suitable habitat for San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*), Santa Ana River woolly star (*Eriastrum densifolium ssp. sanctorum*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), and California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) due to the site’s proximity to the Santa Ana River.

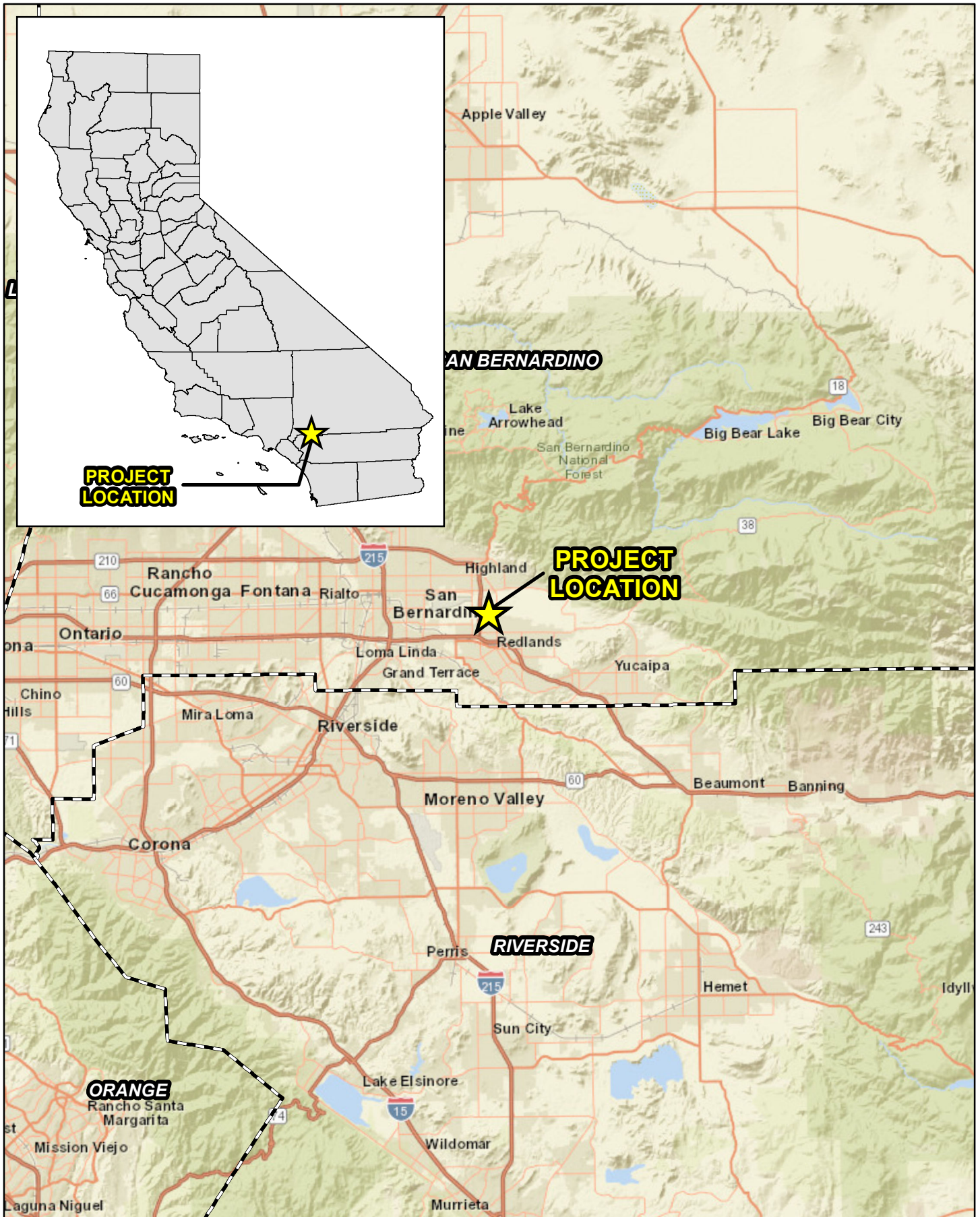
The habitat was also evaluated for its potential to support natural drainage features, ponded areas, and/or water bodies that have the potential to fall under the regulatory authority of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and Section 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project is generally located east of State Route 210, north of Interstate 10, south of the Santa Ana River and east of State Route 38 in the City of Redlands, San Bernardino County, California (Exhibit 1, *Regional Vicinity*). The Project is depicted on the Redlands quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey’s (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map series within Section 15 of Township 1 South, Range 3 West (Exhibit 2, *Site Vicinity*). Specifically, the parcel is bordered by Texas Street on its western boundary, north of Domestic Avenue, west of Clementine Street, and south of the Santa Ana River within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 0167-041-01 (Exhibit 3, *Project Site*). The Project site, as described in this report is broken up into three portions (Exhibit 4, *Project Areas*):

¹ As used in this report, “special-status” refers to plant and wildlife species that are federally or State listed, proposed, or candidates; plant species that have been designated a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank; wildlife species that are designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as fully protected, species of special concern, or watch list species; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection sensitive species; and International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List species.

- **Limits of Disturbance (or Project Impacts):** This portion of the parcel occurs outside of the influences of the Santa Ana River and is where the Project is proposed to be developed.
- **Slope/Bluff:** This portion of the parcel is a steep slope, outside of the Project impacts, separating the Santa Ana River floodplain to the north, and the limits of disturbance to the south.
- **Santa Ana River Floodplain:** This is the portion of the parcel that occurs on the floodplain of the Santa Ana River north of the bluff. This portion of the parcel is located outside of the proposed limits of disturbance.

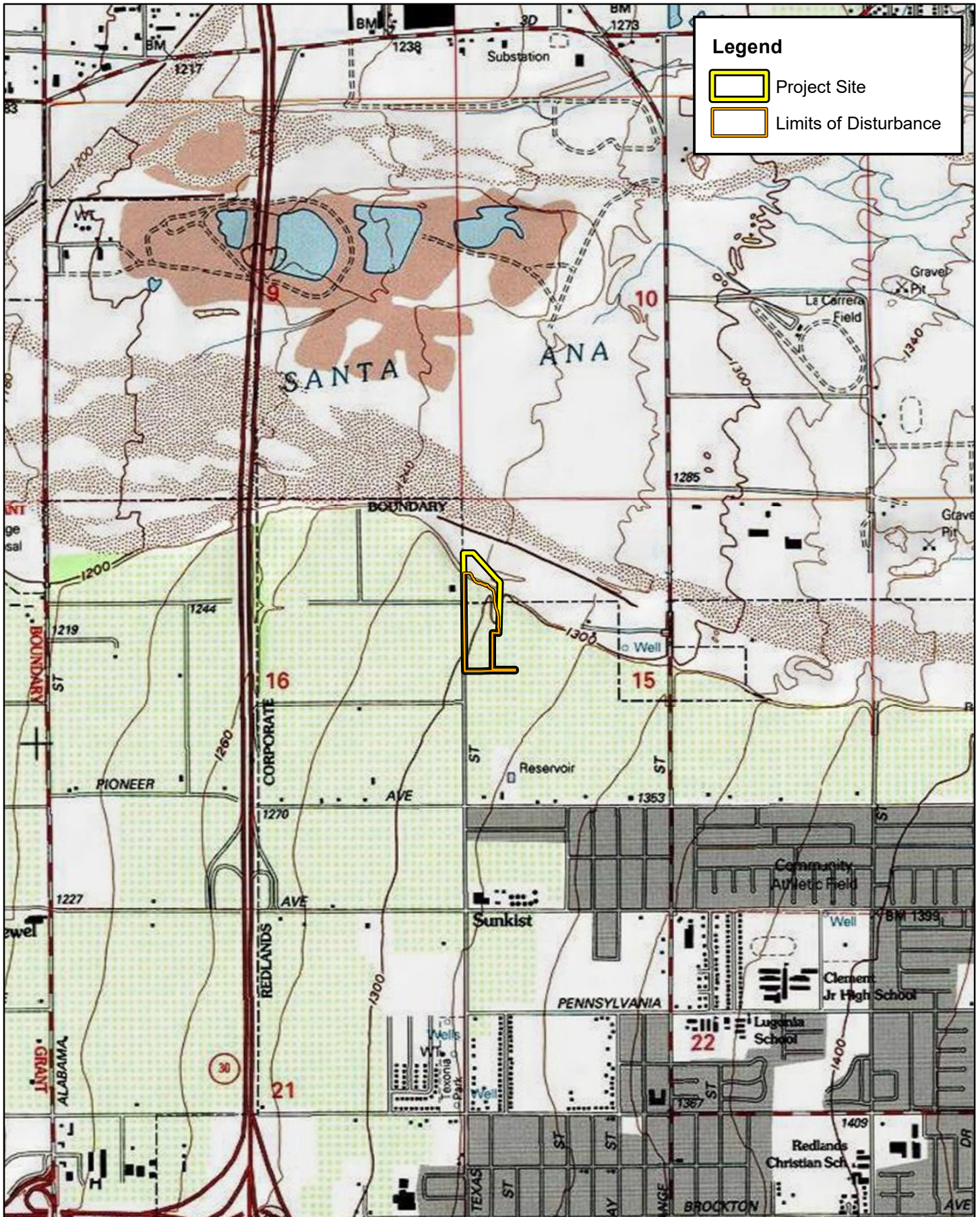


REDLANDS - TEXAS STREET PROJECT





Source: World Street Map, San Bernardino County

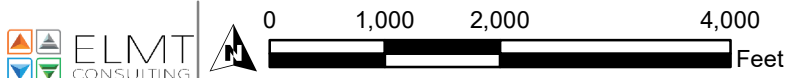
Regional Vicinity



Legend

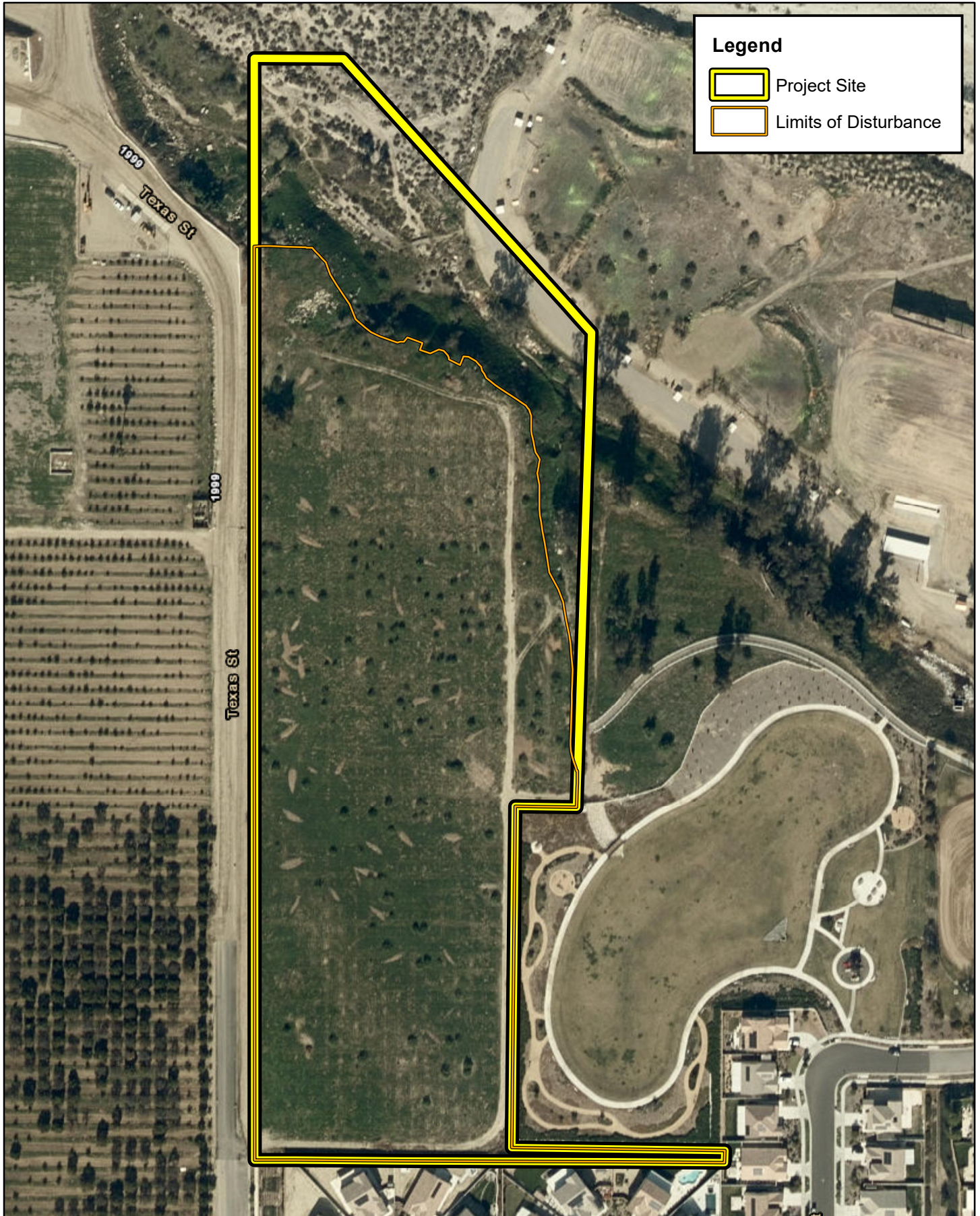
-  Project Site
-  Limits of Disturbance

REDLANDS - TEXAS STREET PROJECT



Source: USA Topographic Map, San Bernardino County

Site Vicinity



Legend

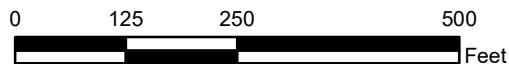


Project Site



Limits of Disturbance

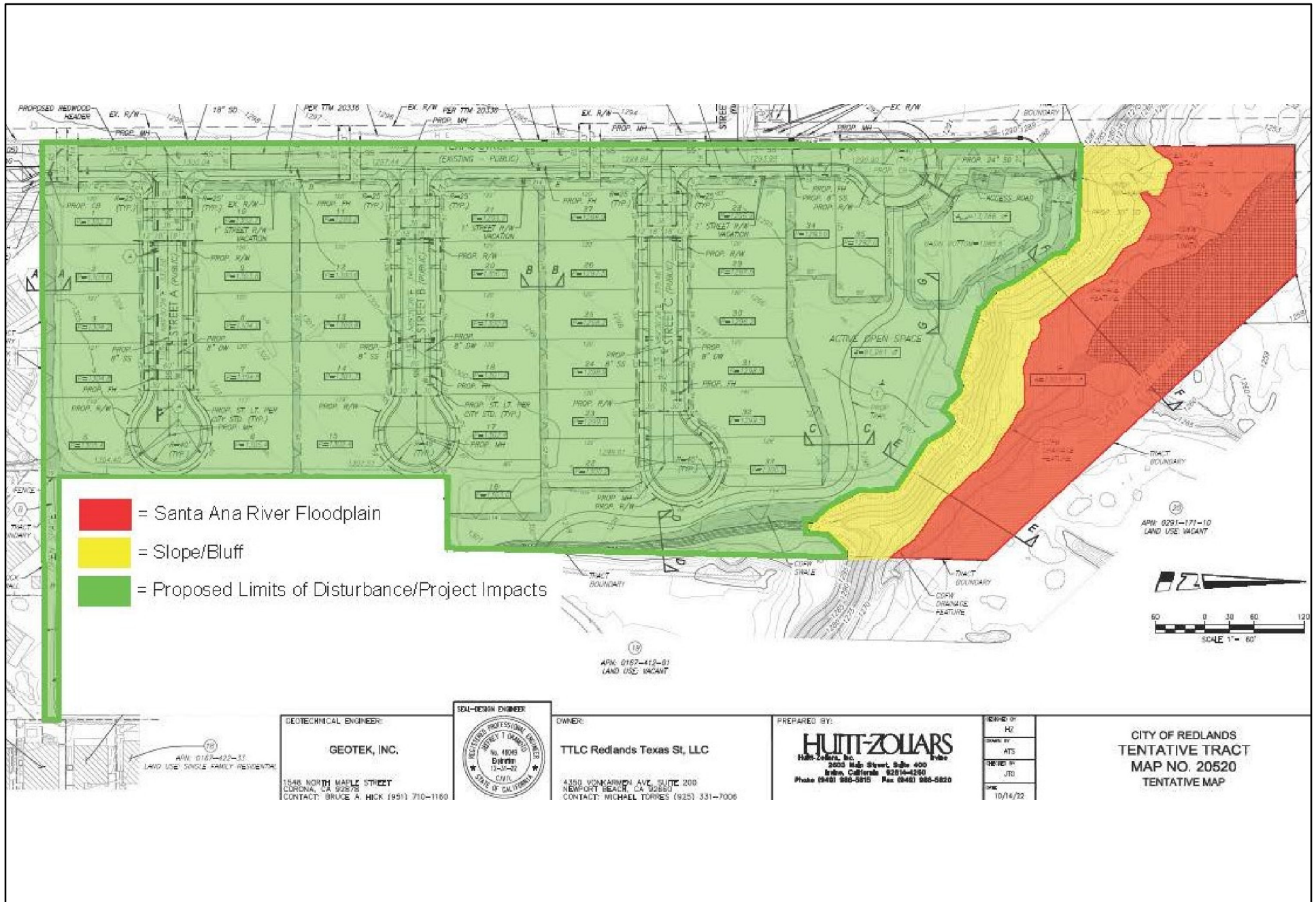
REDLANDS - TEXAS STREET PROJECT



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery, San Bernardino County

Project Site

Exhibit 3



REDLANDS - TEXAS STREET PROJECT



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery, San Bernardino County

Project Areas

Exhibit 4

Section 2 Methodology

A literature review and records search were conducted to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur on or within the general vicinity of the Project. In addition to the literature review, a general habitat assessment or field investigation of the habitat onsite was conducted. The field investigation was conducted to document existing conditions within the Project and assess the potential for special-status biological resources to occur.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Prior to conducting the field study, species and habitat information was gathered from the reports related to the specific Project and relevant databases for the Redlands USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles to identify species and habitats known to occur locally. These two quadrangles were queried due to existing on-site conditions proximity of the Project to quadrangle boundaries and regional topography. The literature review sources included:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) threatened and endangered species occurrence GIS overlay;
- USFWS Designated Critical Habitat Maps;
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) *Rarefind 5*;
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- CNDDDB Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS);
- California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) database;
- Calflora Database;
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey;
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Program “My Waters” data layers;
- Google Earth Pro historic aerial imagery (1985-2022);
- San Bernardino County General Plan;
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations for Threatened and Endangered Species;
- USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring on the subject property. The CNDDDB database was used, in conjunction with ArcGIS software, to locate the nearest recorded occurrences of special-status species and determine the distance from the Project site.

2.2 FIELD INVESTIGATION

ELMT biologists Thomas J. McGill, Ph.D. and Travis J. McGill evaluated the conditions of the plant communities found within the parcel boundary on June 9, 2021. Plant communities identified on aerial photographs during the literature review were verified in the field. The plant communities were evaluated

for their potential to support special-status plant and wildlife species. In addition, field staff identified any natural corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area.

The plant communities were evaluated for their potential to support special-status plant and wildlife species. Plant communities were mapped using 7.5-minute USGS topographic base maps and aerial photography. The plant communities were classified in accordance with Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf and Evens (2009) and delineated on an aerial photograph, and then digitized into ArcGIS. The ArcGIS application was used to compute the area of each plant community in acres.

Common plant species observed during the field survey were identified by visual characteristics and morphology in the field and recorded in a field notebook. Unusual and less familiar plants were photographed in the field and identified in the laboratory using taxonomic guides. Taxonomic nomenclature used in this study follows the 2012 Jepson Manual (Hickman 2012). In this report, scientific names are provided immediately following common names of plant species (first reference only).

Wildlife species detected during field surveys by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other sign were recorded during surveys in a field notebook. Field guides were used to assist with identification of wildlife species during the survey included *The Sibley Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America* (Sibley 2003), *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Stebbins 2003), and *A Field Guide to Mammals of North America* (Reid 2006). Although common names of wildlife species are fairly well standardized, scientific names are provided immediately following common names in this report (first reference only). In addition, field staff identified any natural corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area.

2.3 SOIL SERIES ASSESSMENT

On-site and adjoining soils were researched prior to the field survey using the USDA NRCS Soil Survey for San Bernardino County Southwestern Part. In addition, a review of the local geological conditions and historical aerial photographs was conducted to assess the ecological changes that the Project site has undergone.

2.4 JURISDICTIONAL DRAINAGES AND WETLANDS

Aerial photography was reviewed prior to conducting a field investigation in order to locate and inspect any potential natural drainage features, ponded areas, or water bodies that may fall under the jurisdiction of the Corps, Regional Board, and/or CDFW. In general, surface drainage features indicated as blue-line streams on USGS maps that are observed or expected to exhibit evidence of flow are considered potential riparian/riverine habitat and are also subject to state and federal regulatory jurisdiction. In addition, ELMT reviewed jurisdictional waters information through examining historical aerial photographs to gain an understanding of the impact of land-use on natural drainage patterns in the area. The USFWS NWI and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Program “My Waters” data layers were also reviewed to determine whether any hydrologic features and wetland areas have been documented on or within the vicinity of the Project site.

Corps - Waters of the United States

In the absence of adjacent wetlands, the limits of the Corps jurisdiction in non-tidal waters extend to the OHWM, which is defined as “. . . that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.”² Indicators of an OHWM are defined in *A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States* (Corps 2008). An OHWM can be determined by the observation of a natural line impressed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of the soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; presence of litter and debris; wracking; vegetation matted down, bent, or absent; sediment sorting; leaf litter disturbed or washed away; scour; deposition; multiple observed flow events; bed and banks; water staining; and/or change in plant community.

In accordance with the Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States” (March 20, 2023), “waters of the United States” are defined as follows:

The “waters of the United States” are defined in paragraph (a) of this rule:

- (1) traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, and interstate waters;
- (2) impoundments of “waters of the United States”;
- (3) tributaries to traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, interstate waters, or impoundments when the tributaries meet either the relatively permanent standard or the significant nexus standard (“jurisdictional tributaries”);
- (4) wetlands adjacent to traditional navigable waters; wetlands adjacent to and with a continuous surface connection to relatively permanent paragraph impoundments or to jurisdictional tributaries when the jurisdictional tributaries meet the relatively permanent standard; and wetlands adjacent to impoundments or jurisdictional tributaries when the wetlands meet the significant nexus standard (“jurisdictional adjacent wetlands”); and
- (5) intrastate lakes and ponds, streams, or wetlands not identified in (1) through (4) above that meet either the relatively permanent standard or the significant nexus standard.

The “relatively permanent standard” means relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing waters connected to traditional navigable waters, and waters with a continuous surface connection to such relatively permanent waters or to traditional navigable waters. The “significant nexus standard” means waters that, either alone or in combination with similarly situated waters in the region, significantly affect the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, or interstate waters.

Pursuant to the Corps Wetland Delineation Manual (Corps 1987), the identification of wetlands is based on a three-parameter approach involving indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. In order to qualify as a wetland, a feature must exhibit at least minimal characteristics within each of these three parameters. For this project location, Corps jurisdictional wetlands are delineated using

² CWA regulations 33 CFR §328.3(e).

the methods outlined in the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region, Version 2.0* (Corps 2008).

Regional Water Quality Control Board - Waters of the State

Pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity which may result in any discharge to waters of the United States must provide certification from the State or Indian tribe in which the discharge originates. This certification provides for the protection of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of waters, addresses impacts to water quality that may result from issuance of federal permits and helps insure that federal actions will not violate water quality standards of the State or Indian tribe. In California, there are nine Regional Boards that issue or deny certification for discharges to waters of the United States and waters of the State, including wetlands, within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) assumes this responsibility when a project has the potential to result in the discharge to waters within multiple Regional Boards.

Additionally, the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act gives the State very broad authority to regulate waters of the State, which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act has become an important tool post *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County vs. United States Corps of Engineers*³ (SWANCC) and *Rapanos v. United States*⁴ (Rapanos) court cases with respect to the State's regulatory authority over isolated and insignificant waters. Generally, any applicant proposing to discharge waste into a water body must file a Report of Waste Discharge in the event that there is no Section 404/401 nexus. Although "waste" is partially defined as any waste substance associated with human habitation, the Regional Board also interprets this to include discharge of dredged and fill material into water bodies.

Under the State Water Resources Control Board State Wetland Definition, an area is a wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.

CDFW Jurisdictional Streambed

Sections 1600 *et seq.* of the California Fish and Game Code applies to all perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral rivers, streams, and lakes in the State. CDFW Regulations define "stream" as "a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and that supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation." (14 Cal. Code Regs., § 1.72.) For this project location, CDFW jurisdictional limits were delineated using this definition of "stream."

³ Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 531 U.S. 159 (2001)

⁴ Rapanos v. United States, 547 U.S. 715 (2006)

Section 3 Existing Conditions

3.1 LOCAL CLIMATE

Southwestern San Bernardino County features a somewhat cooler version of a Mediterranean climate, or semi-arid climate, with warm, sunny, dry summers and cool, rainy, mild winters. Climatological data obtained for the nearby City of San Bernardino indicates that annual precipitation averages 16.26 inches per year. The majority of precipitation in the form of rain occurs in the months between December and March, with hardly any occurring between the months of May and June. The wettest months are January and February, with monthly average total precipitation of 3.07 and 3.78 inches, respectively, and the driest months are June and September, with monthly average total precipitation of 0.16 and 0.35 inches, respectively. The average maximum and minimum temperatures are 77.7- and 52.7-degrees Fahrenheit (° F), respectively, with July (monthly average high 93.2° F) being the hottest month and December and January (monthly average lows 40.8° F) being the coldest. The temperature during the site visit was in the low-80s ° F with no cloud cover.

3.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

Elevation within the proposed limits of disturbance ranges from to 1,290 to 1,310 feet above mean sea level, is generally flat with no areas of significant topographic relief. The property slopes steeply between the proposed limits of disturbance and Santa Ana River floodplain, where the elevation drops from 1,290 to 1,257 feet on the southern edge of the floodplain. Based on the NRCS USDA Web Soil Survey, the proposed limits of disturbance is underlain by Hanford sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes), and Santa Ana River floodplain are underlain by Psamments, Fluvents and frequently flooded soils. Soils within the proposed limits of disturbance have been mechanically disturbed and heavily compacted from previous anthropogenic disturbances (i.e., agricultural activities).

3.3 SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SITE CONDITIONS

The proposed Project site occurs in an area that historically supported agricultural land uses (i.e., citrus orchards) just south of the Santa Ana River. The Project site is bordered by residential development to the south, a park and gun club to the east, agricultural land to the west, and the Santa Ana River to the north. The proposed limits of disturbance are located south of the Santa Ana River floodplain that is separated by a slope/bluff. The Santa Ana River floodplain is slightly elevated from the “active” portion of the Santa Ana River, which is located immediately north of the Project site. The proposed limits of disturbance have been subject to agricultural activities for decades, and the habitats within the proposed limits of disturbance have been heavily disturbed.

Section 4 Discussion

4.1 VEGETATION AND LAND COVER

Due to existing and historical land uses, no native plant communities or natural communities of special concern were observed within the proposed limits of disturbance. The proposed limits of disturbance support vacant, undeveloped land that has been subject to a variety of anthropogenic disturbances associated with agricultural activities and surrounding development. The proposed limits of disturbance supports one (1) land cover type that would be classified as disturbed (refer to Exhibit 5, *Vegetation*). Refer to Attachment A, *Site Photographs*, for representative photographs of the Project site. No native plant communities will be impacted from implementation of the proposed Project.

The disturbed areas on the Project site are found primarily within the proposed limits of disturbance, south of the slope/bluff and Santa Ana River floodplain. These areas are composed primarily of non-native and early successional/ruderal plant species. Plant species found within the disturbed areas on-site include red brome (*Bromus rubens*), ripgut (*Bromus diandrus*), Mediterranean mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). Additionally, there is a strip of non-native grassland habitat on the bluff that separates the floodplain from the limits of disturbance. This non-native grassland plant community is dominated by non-native grasses, primarily *Bromus* species.

The Santa Ana River floodplain, is separated from the limits of disturbance by a steep slope/bluff that drops sharply, approximately 40 feet, to the Santa Ana River floodplain. This floodplain, supports an intermediate Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS) plant community. Plant species observed in the RAFSS habitat included scalebroom (*Lepidospartum squamatum*), California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), and Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium*).

4.2 WILDLIFE

Plant communities provide foraging habitat, nesting and denning sites, and shelter from adverse weather or predation. This section provides a discussion of those wildlife species that were observed during the field survey or that are expected to occur within the Project site. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather condition in which the field survey was conducted. Wildlife detections were based on calls, songs, scat, tracks, burrows, and direct observation.

4.2.1 Fish

No fish or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) with frequent sources of water that would support populations of fish were observed within the proposed limits of disturbance. Surface water is not expected to persist on-site long enough to support any fish species. Therefore, no fish are expected to occur and are presumed absent from the proposed limits of disturbance.

4.2.2 Amphibians

No amphibians or hydrogeomorphic features with frequent sources of water that would support populations of amphibians were observed within the proposed limits of disturbance. Surface water is not expected to persist on-site long enough to support any amphibian species. Therefore, no amphibians are expected to occur and are presumed absent from the proposed limits of disturbance.

4.2.3 Reptiles

The proposed limits of disturbance provides limited foraging and cover habitat for local reptile species. The only reptilian species observed during the field investigation was western side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*). Common reptilian species that could be expected to occur on-site include great basin fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*), southern pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus helleri*), San Diego gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer annectens*), and San Diego alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata webbii*).

4.2.4 Birds

The proposed limits of disturbance provides suitable foraging and limited nesting habitat for a variety of resident and migrant bird species. Avian species observed during the field investigation include northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*). All of the aforementioned bird species are common species, and are not special-status species.

4.2.5 Mammals

The proposed limits of disturbance provides limited foraging and cover habitat for local mammalian species. Most mammal species are nocturnal and are difficult to observe during a diurnal field visit. The only mammalian species observed during the field investigation was pocket gopher (*Thomomys* sp.). Common mammalian species that have the potential to occur onsite include desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyii*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

4.4 NESTING BIRDS

No active avian nests or birds exhibiting nesting behaviors were observed during the field investigation, which was conducted outside of the breeding season. Although heavily disturbed, vegetation regrowth has the potential to provide nesting habitat for year-round and seasonal avian residents, as well as migrating songbirds that could occur in the area adapted to a high degree of disturbance. Additionally, the disturbed habitats have the potential to support birds that nest on the open ground such as killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513 prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). If construction occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction

clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction.

4.5 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND LINKAGES

Habitat linkages provide links between larger undeveloped habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species yet inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are significant features for dispersal, seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

According to the San Bernardino County General Plan, the Santa Ana River (or Santa Ana River Floodplain) has been identified as a Wildlife Corridor or Linkage. The proposed Project will be confined to the heavily disturbed portion of the parcel south of the slope/bluff that separates the proposed limits of disturbance from the Santa Ana River floodplain (refer to Exhibit 4 that depicts the proposed limits of disturbance). The slope/bluff that separates the proposed limits of disturbance from the Santa Ana River floodplain, is heavily vegetated with non-native grasses. The proposed limits of disturbance are located approximately 600 feet south of the “active wash” of the Santa Ana River, which lines north of the Project site. The proposed Project will be confined to disturbed areas above the Santa Ana River floodplain and implementation of the proposed Project is not expected to disrupt or have any adverse effects on any migratory corridors or linkages within the Santa Ana River.

4.6 STATE AND FEDERAL JURISDICTIONAL AREAS

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The Corps Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredge and/or fill materials into “waters of the United States” pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the Regional Board regulates discharges into surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and associated plant communities pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code.

The USFWS NWI and the USGS National Hydrography Dataset were reviewed to determine if any blue-line streams or riverine resources have been documented within or immediately surrounding the project site. Based on this review, no wetland features have been mapped within the boundaries of the Project site. One (1) riverine resource was mapped north of the Project site in association with the Santa Ana River. The active channel of the Santa Ana River is located approximately 600 feet north of the proposed limits of disturbance.

One (1) unnamed ephemeral drainage feature (Drainage 1) and two (2) swales were observed within the boundaries of the Project site during the field delineation. These features are described in further detail in the Delineation of State and Federal Jurisdictional Waters report, prepared under separate cover.

Drainage 1 generally flows from a southeast to northwest direction across the Santa Ana River floodplain portion of the project, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. Drainage 1 originates near the northeast corner of the Project site and flows northwest before exiting on the northwest corner of the parcel boundary. Drainage 1 is located within the Santa Ana River floodplain portion of the Project site, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. No impacts to Drainage 1 will occur from project implementation.

Two (2) swales were also observed onsite. One swale is located near the northwest corner of the Project site and is a roadside ditch associated with Texas Street. The roadside only conveys water during and immediately following storm events, that sheet flow off the paved surface of Texas Street. The roadside ditch did not replace an existing blueline stream or drainage feature, but was created wholly in the uplands as a result of the development of Texas Street. Further, the drainage does not support any riparian vegetation or suitable habitat for riparian wildlife species, as vegetation with the roadside ditch is consistent with the surrounding disturbed area. The roadside ditch does not have a defined bed and bank, or discernable Ordinary High Water Mark, and will not fall under the regulatory authority of the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW.

The second swale is located in the middle of the eastern boundary of the Project site and is associated with a topographic low spot. A homeless encampment is located within this topographic low spot and storm flows are conveyed to the north. This feature only conveys water during and immediately following storm events, that are received from the residential development to the southeast. The swale did not replace an existing blueline stream or drainage feature, but was created wholly in the uplands as a result of the development of the residential development to the southeast. Further, the drainage does not support any riparian vegetation or suitable habitat for riparian wildlife species, as vegetation with the swale is consistent with the surrounding disturbed area. The swale does not have a defined bed and bank, or discernable Ordinary High Water Mark, and is not expected to fall under the regulatory authority of the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW. Further, the swale in the middle of the eastern boundary of the Project site will not be impacted from Project implementation.

4.7 SPECIAL-STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The CNDDDB Rarefind 5, CNDDDB Quickview Tool in BIOS and the CNPS Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California were queried for reported locations of special-status plant and wildlife species as well as special-status natural plant communities in the Redlands USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. The habitat assessment evaluated the conditions of the habitat(s) within the boundaries of the Project site to determine if the existing plant communities, at the time of the survey, have the potential to provide suitable habitat(s) for special-status plant and wildlife species.

The literature search identified twenty-two (22) special-status plant species, fifty-eight (58) special-status wildlife species, and three (3) special-status plant communities as having the potential to occur within the Redlands quadrangle. Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the Project boundaries based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. Species determined to have the potential to occur within the general vicinity are presented in *Table B-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources*, provide in Appendix B. Refer to Table B-1 for a determination regarding the potential occurrence of special-status plant and wildlife species within the Project site.

4.7.1 Special-Status Plants

According to the CNDDDB and CNPS, twenty-two (22) special-status plant species have been recorded in Redlands quadrangle (refer to Appendix B). Santa Ana River Woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*; SARWS), was on the only special-status plant species observed. This species was observed within the floodplain, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance.

Based on habitat requirements for the identified special-status plant species, known distributions, and quality and availability of on-site habitats, it was determined that the Santa Ana River floodplain, has a low potential to support Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*), white-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*), and slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*). It was further determined that Santa Ana River floodplain does not have potential to support any of the other special-status plant species known to occur in the vicinity and all are presumed to be absent. Of the aforementioned special-status plant species, SARWS and slender-horned spineflower are both federally and state listed as endangered, and both are CNPS Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 species. Neither Parry's spineflower or white-bracted spineflower are federally or state listed as endangered or threatened, but are CNPS Rare Plant Rank species, with being Rank 1B.1 species and white-bracted spineflower being Rank 1B.2.

The area within the proposed limits of disturbance has been heavily disturbed from years of historic agricultural activities and does not provide suitable habitat for any of the special-status species known to occur in the area. These disturbances have removed the natural habitats that historically occurred within the proposed limits of disturbance, reducing, if not eliminating its ability to support special-status plant species. Since Project activities will be confined to the proposed limits of disturbance, none of the special-status species known to occur in the area are expected to be impacted from Project implementation.

Santa Ana River Woollystar

The Santa Ana River woollystar is a short-lived, perennial subshrub of the phlox family (Polemoniaceae). The entire plant is covered with woolly pubescence, giving it a silvery-white appearance. The flower is a blue to violet-blue inflorescence. Santa Ana River woollystar is a pioneer species that colonizes washed sand deposits created by sporadic stream flow action. Between major flood events, these deposits typically exist as terraces above the high-water mark of the river and associated braided streams. Santa Ana River woollystar grows primarily in Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub habitat in sandy soils from approximately 300 to 2,000 feet above mean sea level. The Santa Ana River woollystar is both federally and state listed as endangered.

Small patches of SARWS were observed within the Santa Ana River floodplain, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. The proposed limits of disturbance will be confined to the southern two thirds of the Project site that is separated by the slope/bluff above the Santa Ana River floodplain. As a result, no direct or indirect impacts to SARWS or native RAFSS habitat will occur.

4.7.2 Special-Status Wildlife

According to the CNDDDB, fifty-eight (58) special-status wildlife species have been reported in the Redlands quadrangle (refer to Appendix B). Based on habitat requirements for the identified special-status species,

and known distributions, it was determined that the proposed limits of disturbance has high potential to support Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), and California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*); and a low potential to support great egret (*Ardea alba*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*; SBKR), Dulzura kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys simulans*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), and coastal California gnatcatcher. It was further determined that the area within the proposed limits of disturbance does not have potential to support any of the other special-status wildlife species known to occur in the vicinity and all are presumed to be absent.

Of the aforementioned special-status wildlife species, SBKR is federally and State listed as endangered. None of the other species are federally or state listed as endangered or threatened.

In order to ensure impacts to special-status avian species (i.e., Cooper's hawk, Costa's hummingbird, California horned lark, loggerhead shrike, great egret, great blue heron, and northern harrier) do not occur as a result of Project implementation, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities. With the completion of a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey, no significant impacts to special-status avian species will occur and mitigation related to special-status avian species will not be required.

The other special-status species determined to have a low potential to occur, would likely only be found in the RAFSS habitat on within the Santa Ana River floodplain, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. No impacts to the Santa Ana River floodplain or native RAFSS habitat will occur from Project implementation.

Based on regional significance and listing status, the potential occurrence of burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), San Bernardino kangaroo rat and California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*) are described in further detail below.

Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl is designated by the CDFW as a California species of special concern. It is a grassland specialist distributed throughout western North America where it occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. Burrowing owls use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with well-drained, level to gently-sloping areas characterized by sparse vegetation and bare ground. They are dependent upon the presence of burrowing mammals (such as ground squirrels) for roosting and nesting habitat. The presence or absence of colonial mammal burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence of burrowing owls. Where mammal burrows are scarce, burrowing owls have been found occupying man-made cavities, such as buried and non-functioning drainpipes, standpipes, and dry culverts. Small mammals may also burrow beneath rocks and debris or large, heavy objects such as abandoned cars, concrete blocks, or concrete pads. This species requires open vegetation allowing line-of-sight observation of the surrounding habitat to forage as well as watch for predators. The burrowing owl nesting season generally extends from mid-March to the end of August.

No burrowing owls or recent sign (i.e., pellets, feathers, castings, or whitewash) were observed during the field investigation. The majority of the proposed limits of disturbance are unvegetated and/or vegetated

with low-growing plant species that allow for line-of-sight observation favored by burrowing owls. However, these conditions only exist as a result of recent disturbance associated with removal of the existing agricultural crops from the proposed limits of disturbance. No suitable burrows (>4 inches) were observed during the field investigation. Further, weed abatement/disking activities further limit potential suitable burrows from establishing onsite. In addition, large trees are found in proximity to the site that provide perching opportunities for larger raptor species (i.e., red-tailed hawk [*Buteo jamaicensis*]) that will prey on burrowing owls, further decreasing the likelihood that burrowing owls would occur on the Project site.

Based on the results of the field investigation, it was determined that the Project site does not have potential to support burrowing owl and focused surveys are not recommended. However, out of an abundance of caution, a preconstruction burrowing owl clearance survey shall be conducted prior to development to ensure burrowing owls remain absent from the Project site.

San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat

The SBKR is one of several kangaroo rat species in its range. The Dulzura, the Pacific kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys agilis*) and the Stephens kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) occur in areas occupied by the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, but these other species have a wider habitat range. The habitat of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat is described as being confined to pioneer and intermediate Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS) habitats, with sandy soils deposited by fluvial (water) rather than Aeolian (wind) processes. Burrows are dug in loose soil, usually near or beneath shrubs.

The San Bernardino kangaroo rat is one of three subspecies of the Merriam's kangaroo rat. The Merriam's kangaroo rat is a widespread species that can be found from the inland valleys to the deserts. The subspecies known as SBKR, however, is confined to inland valley scrub communities, and more particularly, to scrub communities occurring along rivers, streams and drainages. Most of the drainages have been historically altered as a result of flood control efforts and the resulting increased use of river resources. This increased use of river resources has resulted in a reduction in both the amount and quality of habitat available for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat. The past habitat losses and potential future losses prompted the emergency listing of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat as an endangered species (USFWS, 1998a). Primary constituent elements (PCEs) are physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a species for which its designated critical habitat is based on. Examples of PCEs include food, water, space for individual and population growth, cover or shelter, etc. The PCEs essential to support the biological needs of foraging, reproducing, rearing of young, intra-specific communication, dispersal, genetic exchange, or sheltering for San Bernardino kangaroo rat are:

1. River, creek, stream, and wash channels; alluvial fans, flood plains, flood benches and terraces; and historic braided channels that are subject to dynamic geomorphological and hydrological processes;
2. Alluvial sage scrub and associated vegetation such as coastal sage scrub and chamise chaparral with a moderately open canopy;
3. Soil series consisting of sand, sandy loam, or loam within its geographical range; and
4. Upland areas proximal to flood plains containing suitable habitat (land adjacent to alluvial fan that provides refugia).

As noted above, the Santa Ana River floodplain portion of the project, is elevated above the “active” portion of the Santa Ana River. The Santa Ana River floodplain portion of the project is not routinely exposed to fluvial processes associated with the Santa Ana River, but has the potential to provide refugia habitat for San Bernardino kangaroo rat. Conversely, the bluff/slope separating the proposed limits of disturbance from the Santa Ana River floodplain, is steep and densely vegetated by non-native grasses that can restrict movement of the kangaroo rats from the floodplain to the proposed limits of disturbance. The steep slope and non-native grasses likely preclude San Bernardino kangaroo rat from occurring on the developable portion of the site.

The San Bernardino kangaroo rat is found primarily on sandy and loamy sand substrates, where they can readily excavate simple, shallow burrows. This is typically associated with the RAFSS plant community, a relatively uncommon desert-influenced plant community in southern California that develops on alluvial fans and floodplains subjected to scouring and deposition (Service 2009). Adjacent upland habitat can provide refuge for San Bernardino kangaroo rat during flood events. Animals occupying this refugia habitat repopulate core habitat areas within the floodplain following major flood events.

For decades, the proposed limits of disturbance supported agriculture (mainly citrus) land uses with several buildings and associated infrastructure to support agricultural activities. Since the removal of the agricultural crops from the proposed limits of disturbance, the site has been disked for weed control. The area within the proposed limits of disturbance south of the slope/bluff above the Santa Ana River floodplain have never been exposed to the fluvial processes needed to maintain the RAFSS habitat that would be required for the long-term viability of San Bernardino kangaroo rat. The bluff isolates the proposed limits of disturbance from the Santa Ana River floodplain, and San Bernardino kangaroo rat are not expected to occur within the proposed limits of disturbance.

California Gnatcatcher

California gnatcatcher is federally listed as threatened, and has restricted habitat requirements, being an obligate resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush. This species generally occurs below 750 feet elevation in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet inland. According to J. Atwood and J. Bolsinger (1992), 99% of all California gnatcatcher observations are in areas with elevations below 950 feet. There are reported occurrences of California gnatcatcher at 1,600 feet elevation (500 meters).

California gnatcatcher ranges from Ventura County south to San Diego County and northern Baja California and is less common in sage scrub with a high percentage of tall shrubs. It prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation. California gnatcatchers breed between mid-February and the end of August, with peak activity from mid-March to mid-May. Population estimates indicate that there are approximately 1,600 to 2,290 pairs of coastal California gnatcatcher remaining. Declines are attributed to loss of sage scrub habitat due to development, as well as cowbird nest parasitism.

California gnatcatcher are ground and shrub-foraging insectivores, feeding on small insects and other arthropods. A California gnatcatcher’s territory is highly variable in size and seems to be correlated with distance from the coast, ranging from less than 1 ha to over 9 ha. In a 1998 study, biologist Patrick Mock concluded that California gnatcatcher in the inland region require a larger territory than those on the coast in order to meet the nutritional requirements needed for survival and breeding.

The Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs)⁵ essential to support the biological needs of foraging, reproducing, rearing of young, intra-specific communication, dispersal, genetic exchange, or sheltering for California gnatcatcher that were surveyed for include:

1. Dynamic and Successional sage scrub Habitats and Associated Vegetation (Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Coastal Sage-Chaparral Scrub, etc.) that provide space for individual and population growth, normal behavior, breeding, reproduction, nesting, dispersal and foraging; and
2. Non-sage scrub habitats such as chaparral, grassland, and riparian areas, in proximity to sage scrub habitats have the potential to provide linkages to help with dispersal, foraging and nesting.

The proposed limits of disturbance do not provide suitable habitat for California gnatcatcher, and no California gnatcatcher are expected to occur within the limits of disturbance. However, the RAFSS habitat within the floodplain, provides minimal foraging and nesting opportunities for California gnatcatcher, and have a low potential to support California gnatcatcher.

4.7.3 Special-Status Plant Communities

According to the CNDDDB, three (3) special-status plant communities have been reported in the Redlands quadrangle: Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland. Based on the results of the field investigation, a RAFSS plant community is supported within the floodplain. No impacts to this plant community are expected to occur.

4.8 CRITICAL HABITAT

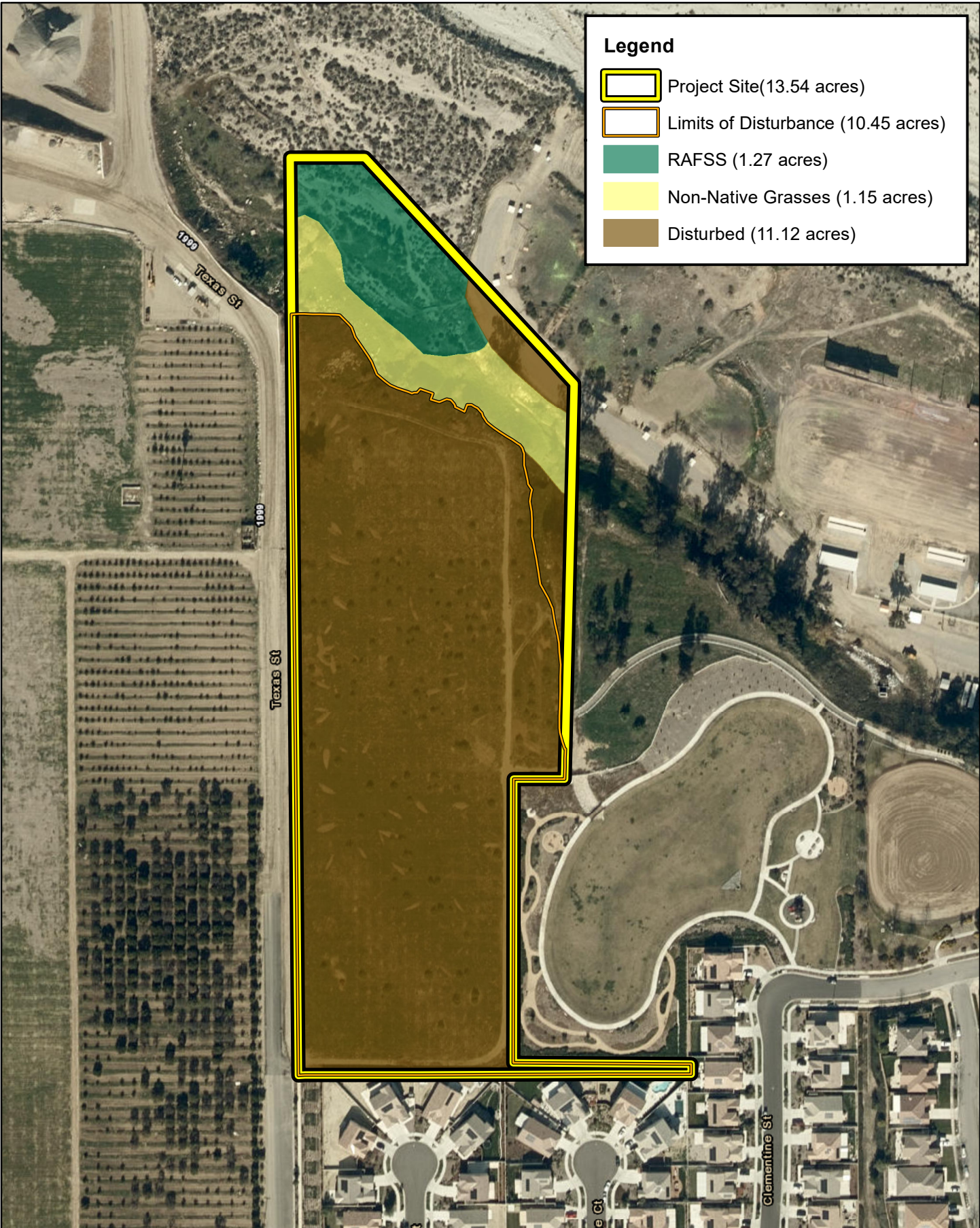
Under the federal Endangered Species Act, “Critical Habitat” is designated at the time of listing of a species or within one year of listing. Critical Habitat refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species at the time it is listed that include the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species. Maintenance of these physical and biological features requires special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether individuals or the species are present or not. All federal agencies are required to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding activities they authorize, fund, or permit which may affect a federally listed species or its designated Critical Habitat. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure that projects will not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species or adversely modify or destroy its designated Critical Habitat. The designation of Critical Habitat does not affect private landowners, unless a project they are proposing is on federal lands, uses federal funds, or requires federal authorization or permits (e.g., funding from the Federal Highways Administration or a CWA Permit from the Corps). If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing the funding or permit would consult with the USFWS.

The proposed limits of disturbance briefly crosses into a small portion of federally designated Critical Habitat for San Bernardino kangaroo rat that extends up the bluff/slope above the Santa Ana River floodplain. Refer to Exhibit 6, *Critical Habitat*. As noted above, the slope/bluff separating the proposed

⁵ Specific elements of physical and biological features that provide for a species’ life-history process and are essential to the conservation of the species.

limits of disturbance of the Project site from the Santa Ana River floodplain, is steep and densely vegetated by non-native grasses, that restrict San Bernardino kangaroo rat movement up the bluff/slope.

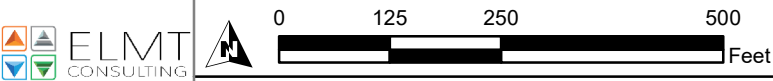
Since the proposed Project does not have a federal nexus (i.e., Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the Corps, or federal funding), a Section 7 consultation with the USFWS would not be required for loss or adverse modifications to Critical Habitat. Further, due to existing land uses, and separation of the Santa Ana River floodplain by the steep bluff/slope, San Bernardino kangaroo rat are not expected to occur onsite.



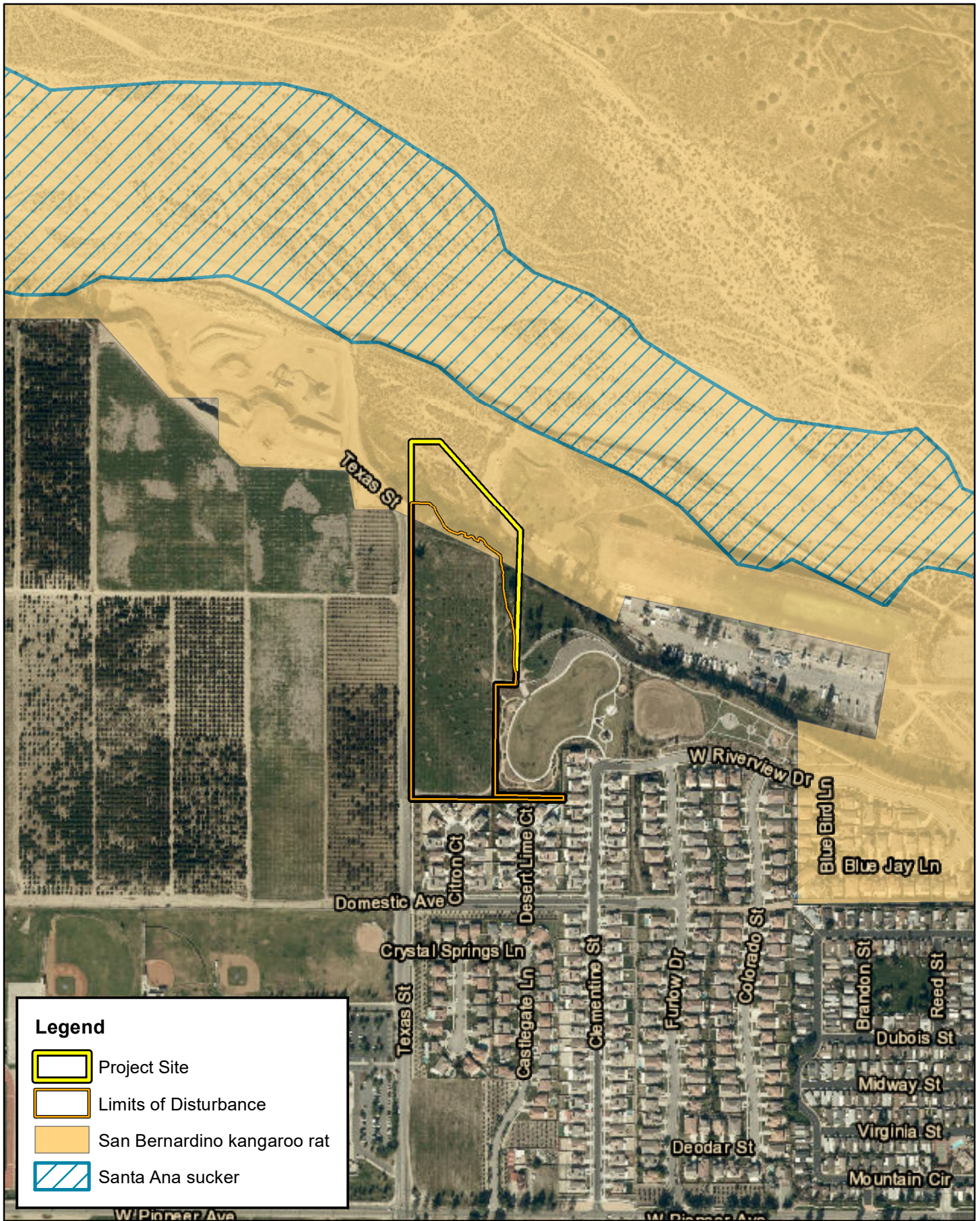
Legend

- Project Site(13.54 acres)
- Limits of Disturbance (10.45 acres)
- RAFSS (1.27 acres)
- Non-Native Grasses (1.15 acres)
- Disturbed (11.12 acres)

REDLANDS - TEXAS STREET PROJECT



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery, San Bernardino County



REDLANDS - TEXAS STREET PROJECT

Section 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The discussion below provides a summary of survey results; avoidance and minimization efforts; direct, indirect, and cumulative Project impacts; and compensatory mitigation measures for each biological resource area required to be analyzed according to CEQA, based on Appendix G (Environmental Checklist Form) of the CEQA Guidelines:

CEQA Threshold: *Would the proposed Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Special-Status Plant Species

Santa Ana River Woollystar was the only special-status plant species observed within the Project site, within the Santa Ana River floodplain. Based on habitat requirements for the identified special-status plant species, known distributions, and quality and availability of on-site habitats, it was determined that the Santa Ana River floodplain, has a low potential to support Parry's spineflower, white-bracted spineflower, and slender-horned spineflower. Since no impacts to the Santa Ana River floodplain will occur from Project implementation, focused special-status plant surveys are not recommended. Further, the slope/bluff that separates Santa Ana River floodplain from the proposed limits of disturbance will ensure no direct or indirect impacts occur to the habitats within the Santa Ana River floodplain.

No special-status plant species, or special-status plant communities were observed within the proposed limits of disturbance due to this portion of the Project site's historical use for agricultural purposes. The proposed limits of disturbance consists of existing disturbed and developed areas that have been subject to a high level of anthropogenic disturbances. These disturbances have eliminated the natural plant communities that once occurred within the proposed limits of disturbance resulting in a majority of the proposed limits of disturbance consisting of non-native, ruderal/weedy plant species. As a result, the proposed limits of disturbance do not provide suitable habitat for any of the special-status plant species known to occur in the area. No focused special-status plant surveys are recommended. Project implementation is not expected to impact any special-status plant species.

Recommendations for avoidance and minimization:

1. Orange construction "snow" fencing, or silt fencing shall be placed along the northern boundary of the limits of disturbance prior to Project implementation, under the guidance of a biologist, to demarcate the limits of disturbance and to ensure no construction personnel enters habitats within the Santa Ana River floodplain. All construction will be conducted within the demarcated limits of disturbance.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

No special-status wildlife species were observed during the field investigation. Based on habitat requirements for the identified special-status species, and known distributions, it was determined that the proposed limits of disturbance has a high potential to support Cooper's hawk, Costa's hummingbird, and

California horned lark; and a low potential to support great egret, great blue heron, northern harrier, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, *Dulzura* kangaroo rat, loggerhead shrike, Los Angeles pocket mouse, coast horned lizard, and coastal California gnatcatcher. It was further determined that the proposed limits of disturbance do not have potential to support any of the other special-status wildlife species known to occur in the vicinity and all are presumed to be absent.

Of the aforementioned special-status plant species, San Bernardino kangaroo rat is federally and State listed as endangered. None of the other species are federally or state listed as endangered or threatened.

To ensure impacts to special-status avian species (i.e., Cooper's hawk, Costa's hummingbird, California horned lark, loggerhead shrike, great egret, great blue heron, and northern harrier) do not occur as a result of Project implementation, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities. With the completion of a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey, no significant impacts to special-status avian species will occur and mitigation related to special-status avian species will not be required.

The other special-status species determined to have a low potential to occur, would likely only be found in the RAFSS habitat in the Santa Ana River floodplain, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. No impacts to the habitats within the Santa Ana River floodplan will occur from Project implementation.

Recommendations for avoidance and minimization:

1. Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.3, 3511, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). In order to protect migratory bird species, a nesting bird clearance survey should be conducted prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities that may disrupt the birds during the nesting season. Consequently, if avian nesting behaviors are disrupted, such as nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort, it is considered "take" and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

If construction occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a brief letter report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur. If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities should stay outside of a no-disturbance buffer. The size of the no-disturbance buffer will be determined by the wildlife biologist and will depend on the level of noise and/or surrounding anthropogenic disturbances, line of sight between the nest and the construction activity, type and duration of construction activity, ambient noise, species habituation, and topographical barriers. These factors will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when developing buffer distances. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest will be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers; and construction personnel will be instructed on the sensitivity of nest

areas. A biological monitor should be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and to monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.

2. Pre-construction surveys for Burrowing Owls on the Project site and in the surrounding area shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14-days prior to initiation of Project activities in accordance with guidelines identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (Department of Fish and Game Code, March 2012). If Project activities are delayed for more than 30-days (including the restarting of activities after Project/ground disturbing delays of 30-days or more), additional surveys will be required including but not limited to a take avoidance survey within 24 hours of ground disturbance.

If burrowing owl(s) are not observed onsite during any pre-construction surveys, a letter shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the survey.

If burrowing owls are observed on the Project site during the Pre-construction survey, a burrowing owl relocation plan will need to be prepared and processed through CDFW.

3. To ensure no impacts to San Bernardino kangaroo rat occur from Project implementation the following measures will need to be implemented prior to Project implementation:
 - a. A focused trapping study for San Bernardino kangaroo rat should be conducted prior to Project implementation to determine the presence/absence of San Bernardino kangaroo rat within the proposed limits of disturbance.
 - i. If no San Bernardino kangaroo rats are trapped onsite during the trapping study, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities.
 - The limits of Project disturbance will be clearly marked with flagging or similar means. All mechanized equipment shall remain within the designated limits of disturbance. Construction personnel will strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the designated work area.
 - All contractors and personnel involved in the construction will receive environmental awareness training. The training will be developed in consultation with a biological monitor and consist of an onsite or training center presentation with supporting materials (i.e., photographs, pamphlets, slides). The training will provide information about federally/state-listed species, special-status species, and sensitive habitats occurring within the

vicinity of the proposed limits of disturbance (i.e., San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and RAFSS).

- A San Bernardino kangaroo rat exclusion fence will be installed around the proposed limits of disturbance. The exclusion fence will be constructed to the following specification.
 - An approximately 4-foot-tall fence with 2 feet above ground and 2 feet below ground will be installed. The erect portion of the fencing will be covered in a material that cannot be climbed or chewed through by SBKR; metal flash, rubber with a smooth surface, or similar material is recommended. Similarly, the metal flashing, or similar material, will be buried two feet in the ground.
 - A qualified biological monitor, with San Bernardino kangaroo rat experience, will be present during initial construction activities. The biological monitor will have the authority to halt any and all construction activities.
 - The biological monitor will supervise the installation of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat exclusion fence around the proposed limits of disturbance. The biological monitor will ensure no burrows will be impacted by fence installation, by avoiding burrows within five meters, if any.
 - The biological monitor will inspect the exclusion fence before leaving the job site in the evening and repair any opening in the fencing.
 - The biological monitor will supervise the removal of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat exclusion fence to ensure no San Bernardino kangaroo rat burrows, if any, are impacted by fence removal.
 - Construction activities will be limited to daylight hours to the extent feasible. If nighttime work is necessary, lighting will be shielded away from Santa Ana River Floodplain north of the proposed limits of disturbance. Fixtures will be shielded to downcast below the horizontal plane of the fixture height and mounted as low as possible.
 - All lighting fixtures within the completed development will be shielded and directed away from the RAFSS habitat on the Santa Ana River Floodplain, north of the proposed limits of disturbance.
- ii. If San Bernardino kangaroo rat are trapped within the proposed limits of disturbance, Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) with the USFWS (Section 10 or Habitat Conservation Plan) and CDFW (Section 2081) will need to be prepared and processed to mitigate for impacts to the species and loss of habitat. The Project applicant will mitigate the loss of occupied SBKR habitat at a 3:1 mitigation ratio, or agreed upon ratio with the wildlife agencies. Mitigation to offset the loss of occupied habitat will include one or a combination of the

following: purchase of credits out of Cajon Creek Conservation Bank or other approved Conservation Bank with available credits for San Bernardino kangaroo rat; place a conservation easement or deed restriction over the RAFSS habitat in the Santa Ana River floodplain for inclusion in the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Plan; and/or enhance and maintain the RAFSS habitat within the Santa Ana River floodplain in perpetuity for San Bernardino kangaroo rat. Further, the aforementioned avoidance and minimization measures will also be incorporated into the ITPs.

CEQA Threshold: *Would the proposed Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Riparian Habitat and Special-Status Natural Communities

No jurisdictional drainage features, riparian/riverine areas, or vernal pools were observed within the proposed limits of disturbance. Therefore, regulatory approvals from the Corps, Regional Board, and/or CDFW will not be required for implementation of the Project.

One special-status plant community was observed on the Project site, RAFSS. The RAFSS plant community is only found within the Santa Ana River floodplain portion of the project, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. No impacts will occur to the RAFSS plant community within the Santa Ana River floodplain.

CEQA Threshold: *Would the proposed Project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

Federally Protected Wetlands

No inundated areas, wetland plant species, or wetland features that would be considered wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act occur within the proposed limits of disturbance. As a result, implementation of the proposed Project would not result in any impacts or have substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands.

CEQA Threshold: *Would the proposed Project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Wildlife Corridors

The Project site has not been identified as occurring in a wildlife corridor or linkage. The Santa Ana River, designated as a major open space by the San Bernardino County Land Use Plan, occurs approximately 600 feet north of the proposed limits of disturbance. The proposed limits of disturbance are separated from the “active” portion of the Santa Ana River by the Santa Ana River floodplain and slope/bluff. Due to the separation of the proposed limits of disturbance from the Santa Ana River and the degraded, disturbed nature of on-site habitats, the Project site is not expected to contribute to wildlife movement within the

Santa Ana River. Therefore, impacts to wildlife corridors or linkages are not expected to occur from project implementation.

CEQA Threshold: *Would the proposed Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

Local Policies or Ordinances

There are no local policies or ordinances that pertain to the proposed Project. Therefore, impacts to local polices or ordinances are not expected to occur from development of the proposed Project, and mitigation is not required.

CEQA Threshold: *Would the proposed Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?*

Local, Regional, and State Plans

The Project site is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan. Therefore, impacts to any local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans are not expected to occur from development of the proposed Project, and mitigation is not required. It should be noted that the proposed limits of disturbance are located approximately 600 feet south of the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan. The Plan boundary is generally synonymous with the “active” portion of the Santa Ana River, north of the Project site.

Section 6 References

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2010. List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations (Natural Communities List). Available online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/vegcamp/natural_comm_list.asp.
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Appendix A Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Looking north from the southwest corner of the site at the upland habitat, primarily non-native grasses and mustard in the foreground, with elderberry in the background.



Photograph 2: Heavy non-native grasses dominate the upland portion of the site.



Photograph 3: Mustard and elderberry in northern portion of the upland (developable) portion of the site.



Photograph 4: Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) along the eastern boundary of the upland portion of the site.



Photograph 5: Looking south from northwest corner of the site at the RAFSS habitat in the Santa Ana Riverbed. The upland habitat is located on a bench above the Santa Ana River. The slope separating the upland habitat from the Santa Ana River is heavily vegetated with non-native grasses.



Photograph 6: San Bernardino kangaroo rat sign in suitable soils in the riverbed.



Photograph 7: Santa Ana River woollystar in bloom in the riverbed.



Photograph 8: Santa Ana River woollystar in the vicinity of the Gun Club on an elevated pad.

Appendix B Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Table B-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES				
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	Fed: None CA: WL	Generally found in forested areas up to 3,000 feet in elevation, especially near edges and rivers. Prefers hardwood stands and mature forests but can be found in urban and suburban areas where there are tall trees for nesting. Common in open areas during nesting season.	No	High Suitable foraging habitat is present within and surrounding the site. Suitable nesting opportunities are expected to occur nearby. This species is adapted to urban environments and occurs commonly.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	Fed: None CA: SSC; CE	Highly colonial yearlong resident of California that frequents emergent wetlands, croplands, grassy fields, flooded land and along edges of ponds. Usually nests near fresh water, preferably in emergent wetland with tall, dense cattails (<i>Typha sp.</i>) or tules (<i>Schoenoplectus sp.</i>), but also in thickets of willow (<i>Salix sp.</i>), blackberry (<i>Rubus sp.</i>), and tall herbs.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	Fed: None CA: WL	Typically found between 3,000 and 6,000 feet in elevation. Breed in sparsely vegetated shrublands on hillsides and canyons. Prefers coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>) but can also be found breeding in coastal bluff scrub, low-growing serpentine chaparral, and along the edges of tall chaparral habitats.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> southern California legless lizard	Fed: None CA: SSC	Mostly found in coastal sand dunes and a variety of interior habitats, including sandy washes and alluvial fans. They live mostly underground, burrowing in the loose sandy soils.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Locally common species of low elevation in California. Mostly found in desert habitats, but also occur in oak and pine forested areas and open farmland. Prefer rocky outcrops for roosting, but also roost in caves, rock crevices, mines, hollow trees, and buildings; roosts with depth gradients are preferred.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	Fed: None CA: FP, WL	Occupies nearly all terrestrial habitats of the western states except densely forested areas. Favors secluded cliffs with overhanging ledges and large trees for nesting and cover. Hilly or mountainous country where takeoff and soaring are supported by updrafts is generally preferred to flat habitats. Deeply cut canyons rising to open mountain slopes and crags are ideal habitat.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Appendix B – Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Ardea alba</i> great egret	Fed: None CA: None	Yearlong resident throughout California, except for the high mountains and deserts. Feeds and rests in fresh, and saline emergent wetlands, along the margins of estuaries, lakes, and slow-moving streams, on mudflats and salt ponds, and in irrigated croplands and pastures.	No	Low The project site and surrounding area provide suitable foraging opportunities, with minimal nesting opportunities.
<i>Ardea herodias</i> great blue heron	Fed: None CA: None	Fairly common all year throughout most of California, in shallow estuaries and fresh and saline emergent wetlands. Less common along riverine and rocky marine shores, in croplands, pastures, and in mountains about foothills.	No	Low The project site and surrounding area provide suitable foraging opportunities, with minimal nesting opportunities.
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California glossy snake	Fed: None CA: SSC	Inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grassland, and chaparral. Appears in microhabitats of open areas and areas with soil loose enough for easy burrowing.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Artemisospiza belli belli</i> Bell's sage sparrow	Fed: None CA: WL	Occurs in chaparral dominated by fairly dense stands of chamise. Also found in coastal sage scrub in south of range.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Asio otus</i> long-eared owl	Fed: None CA: SSC	Hunts mostly at night over grasslands and other open habitats. Nesting occurs in dense trees such as oaks and willows where it occupies stick nests of other species, particularly raptors or corvids.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i> orangethroat whiptail	Fed: None CA: WL	Inhabits low-elevations coastal scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, and valley-foothill hardwood habitats. Semi-arid brushy areas typically with loose soil and rocks, including washes, streamsides, rocky hillsides, and coastal chaparral.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in a variety of ecosystems, primarily hot and dry open areas with sparse foliage - chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily a grassland species, but it persists and even thrives in some landscapes highly altered by human activity. Occurs in open, annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. The overriding characteristics of suitable habitat appear to be burrows for roosting and nesting and relatively short vegetation with only sparse shrubs and taller vegetation.	No	Presumed Absent The project site provides line-of-sight opportunities favored by burrowing owls; however, no suitable burrows (>4 inches) for roosting and nesting were observed and on-site topography and routine disturbance are generally not conducive to establishment by this species.
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	Fed: None CA: None	Exclusive to coastal California east towards the Sierra-Cascade Crest; less common in western Nevada. Characterized as a dietary generalist, it shows favor towards milkweeds and is also commonly associated with dustymaidens, lupines, medics, phacelias, sages, and buckwheats.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Bombus morrisoni</i> Morrison bumble bee	Fed: None CA: None	Open scrub habitat. Nests above and below ground in structures and grass hummocks. Occurs throughout the west from California, east of the Sierra-Cascade Ranges, to southern British Columbia; east to New Mexico, Texas, and north to western South Dakota. Dependent on habitats with rich floral resources throughout the nesting season.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Buteo regalis</i> ferruginous hawk	Fed: None CA: WL	Occurs primarily in open grasslands and fields, but may be found in sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills, or along the edges of pinyon-juniper woodland. Feeds primarily on small mammals and typically found in agricultural or open fields.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	Fed: None CA: THR	Typical habitat is open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the Central Valley. Forages in adjacent grassland or suitable grain or alfalfa fields or livestock pastures.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Calypte costae</i> Costa's hummingbird	Fed: None CA: None	Desert and semi-desert, arid brushy foothills and chaparral. A desert hummingbird that breeds in the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. Departs desert heat moving into chaparral, scrub, and woodland habitats.	No	High The project site provides suitable foraging habitat, and are known to occur within the Santa Ana River.

Appendix B – Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i> Santa Ana sucker	Fed: THR CA: None	Occur in the watersheds draining the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. Streams that Santa Ana Sucker inhabit are generally perennial streams with water ranging in depth from a few inches to several feet and with currents ranging from slight to swift. Seeks refuge from flooding events in backwater eddies and other less turbulent areas.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i> northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in desert and coastal habitats in southern California, Mexico, and northern Baja California, from sea level to at least 4,600 feet in elevation. Found in a variety of temperate habitats ranging from chaparral and grasslands to scrub forests and deserts. Requires low growing vegetation or rocky outcroppings, as well as sandy soils for burrowing.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Chaetodipus fallax pallidus</i> pallid San Diego pocket mouse	Fed: None CA: SSC	Common resident of sandy herbaceous areas, usually in association with rocks or coarse gravel in southwestern California. Occurs mainly in arid coastal and desert border areas. Habitats include coastal scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Charina umbratica</i> southern rubber boa	Fed: None CA: THR	Found in a variety of montane forest habitats, particularly in the vicinity of streams or wet meadows. Requires loose, moist soil for burrowing and seeks cover in rotting logs. Restricted to the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> northern harrier	Fed: None CA: SSC	Most common in large, undisturbed tracts of wetlands and grasslands with low, thick vegetation. They breed in freshwater and brackish marshes, lightly grazed meadows, old fields, tundra, dry upland prairies, drained marshlands, high-desert shrubsteppe, and riverside woodlands. During winter they use a range of habitats with low vegetation, including deserts, coastal sand dunes, pasturelands, croplands, dry plains, grasslands, old fields, estuaries, open floodplains, and marshes.	No	Low The project site and surrounding area provide suitable foraging opportunities, with minimal nesting opportunities.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> western yellow-billed cuckoo	Fed: THR CA: END	In California, the breeding distribution is now thought to be restricted to isolated sites in Sacramento, Amargosa, Kern, Santa Ana, and Colorado River valleys. Obligate riparian species with a primary habitat association of willow-cottonwood riparian forest.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Contopus cooperi</i> Olive-sided flycatcher	Fed: None CA: SSC	Uncommon to common, summer resident in a wide variety of forest and woodland habitats below 9,000 ft throughout California exclusive of the deserts, the Central Valley, and other lowland valleys and basins. Preferred nesting habitats include mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine. Montane and northern coniferous forests. Usually found in forest edges and openings, such as meadows and ponds.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> red-diamond rattlesnake	Fed: None CA: SSC	It can be found from the desert, through dense chaparral in the foothills (it avoids the mountains above around 4,000 feet), to warm inland mesas and valleys, all the way to the cool ocean shore. It is most commonly associated with heavy brush with large rocks or boulders. Dense chaparral in the foothills, cactus or boulder associated coastal sage scrub, oak and pine woodlands, and desert slope scrub associations are known to carry populations of the northern red-diamond rattlesnake; however, chamise and red shank associations may offer better structural habitat for refuges and food resources for this species than other habitats.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> monarch butterfly	Fed: CE CA: None	Occurs in open fields and meadows dominated by milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> sp.). In winter, species can be found on the coast of southern California in Eucalyptus groves and at high altitudes in central Mexico.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i> San Bernardino ringneck snake	Fed: None CA: None	Common in open, relatively rocky areas within valley-foothill, mixed chaparral, and annual grass habitats.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> San Bernardino kangaroo rat	Fed: END CA: SSC	Primarily found in Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub and sandy loam soils, alluvial fans and flood plains, and along washes with nearby sage scrub. May occur at lower densities in Riversidian upland sage scrub, chaparral and grassland in uplands and tributaries in proximity to Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub habitats. Tend to avoid rocky substrates and prefer sandy loam substrates for digging of shallow burrows.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the parcel, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance provide minimal suitable habitat. No suitable habitat is found within the proposed limits of disturbance.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Dipodomys simulans</i> Dulzura kangaroo rat	Fed: None CA: None	Relatively common in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, and peninsular juniper woodland habitats.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the project site, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance provide minimal suitable habitat. No suitable habitat within the proposed limits of disturbance.
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> Stephens' kangaroo rat	Fed: END CA: THR	Occur in arid and semi-arid habitats with some grass or brush. Prefer open habitats with less than 50% protective cover. Require soft, well-drained substrate for building burrows and are typically found in areas with sandy soil.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite	Fed: None CA: FP	Widespread in California along shores of coastal estuaries, fresh and saline emergent wetlands, ponds, slow-moving rivers, irrigation ditches, and wet fields. In southern California, common yearlong in the Imperial Valley and along the Colorado River.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> willow flycatcher	Fed: None CA: END	Occurs in riparian woodlands in southern California. Typically requires large areas of willow thickets in broad valleys, canyon bottoms, or around ponds and lakes. These areas typically have standing or running water, or are at least moist.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher	Fed: END CA: END	Occurs in riparian woodlands in southern California. Typically requires large areas of willow thickets in broad valleys, canyon bottoms, or around ponds and lakes. These areas typically have standing or running water, or are at least moist.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> California horned lark	Fed: None CA: WL	Occurs in meadows, grasslands, open fields, prairie, and alkali flats. This subspecies is typically found in coastal regions.	No	High There are suitable foraging and nesting habitat present within the project site.
<i>Euchloe hyantis andrewsi</i> Andrew's marble butterfly	Fed: None CA: None	Inhabits yellow pine forests near Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear Lake at elevations between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. Uses Laguna Mountains jewelflower (<i>Streptanthus bernardinus</i>) and pine rockcress (<i>Arabis holboelli</i> var. <i>pinetorum</i>) as host plants; larvae feed on mountain tansy mustard (<i>Descurainia incana</i>).	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Eugnosta busckana</i> Busck's gallmoth	Fed: None CA: None	Inhabits coastal scrub dunes.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily a cliff-dwelling species, roost generally under exfoliating rock slabs. Roosts are generally high above the ground, usually allowing a clear vertical drop of at least three meters below the entrance for flight. In California, it is most frequently encountered in broad open areas. Its foraging habitat includes dry desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, and agricultural areas.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Falco columbarius</i> merlin	Fed: None CA: WL	Nest in forested openings, edges, and along rivers across northern North America. Found in open forests, grasslands, and especially coastal areas with flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> American peregrine falcon	Fed: DL CA: DL; FP	Uncommon winter resident of the inland region of southern California. Active nesting sites are known along the coast north of Santa Barbara, in Orange County, in the Sierra Nevada, and in other mountains of northern California. Breeds mostly in woodland, forest, and coastal habitats. Riparian areas and coastal and inland wetlands are important habitats yearlong, especially in nonbreeding seasons.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Glaucomys oregonensis californicus</i> San Bernardino flying squirrel	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in white fir (<i>Abies concolor</i>) and Jeffrey pine (<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>) mixed conifer forests with black oak (<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>) components at higher elevations. Use cavities in large trees, snags, and logs for cover. Habitats are typically mature, dense conifer forest in close proximity to riparian areas.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> California condor	Fed: END CA: END ;FP	Permanent resident of the semi-arid, rugged mountain ranges surrounding the southern San Joaquin Valley, including the Coast Ranges from Santa Clara Co. south to Los Angeles Co., the Transverse Ranges, Tehachapi Mts., and southern Sierra Nevada. Forages over wide areas of open rangelands, roosts on cliffs and in large trees and snags.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> bald eagle	Fed: END CA: FP	Occur primarily at or near seacoasts, rivers, swamps, and large lakes. Need ample foraging opportunities, typically near a large water source. Found throughout most of North America from Alaska and Canada to northern Mexico. Prefers lakes and reservoirs with ample fish stock surrounded by old-growth forests. Winters around unfrozen lakes and hunts along coastlines, reservoirs, and rivers.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Appendix B – Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Icteria virens</i> yellow-breasted chat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily found in tall, dense, relatively wide riparian woodlands and thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush with well-developed understories. Nesting areas are associated with streams, swampy ground, and the borders of small ponds. Breeding habitat must be dense to provide shade and concealment. It winters south the Central America.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	Fed: None CA: SSC	Often found in broken woodlands, shrublands, and other habitats. Prefers open country with scattered perches for hunting and fairly dense brush for nesting.	No	Low Minimal foraging and nesting opportunities occur onsite.
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> western yellow bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Roosts in palm trees in foothill riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats with access to water for foraging.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in diverse habitats, but primarily is found in arid regions supporting shortgrass habitats. Openness of open scrub habitat is preferred over dense chaparral.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i> Yuma myotis	Fed: None CA: None	Common and widespread in California within open forests and woodlands with sources of water over which to feed. Roosts in buildings, mines, caves, or crevices. Has also been seen roosting in abandoned swallow nests and under bridges.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Neolarra alba</i> white cuckoo bee	Fed: None CA: None	Found in dry, sandy areas (particularly deserts) in the American southwest near the host plants for <i>Perdita</i> bee species (mainly <i>Euphorbia</i> sp., i.e., <i>E. albomarginata</i>), of which it is a nest parasite.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in coastal scrub communities between San Luis Obispo and San Diego Counties. Prefers moderate to dense canopies, and especially rocky outcrops.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Often found in pinyon-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, desert riparian, desert wash, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree, and palm oasis.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10</i> steelhead – southern California DPS	Fed: END CA: None	Found in permanent coastal streams from San Diego to the Smith River.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Perognathus alticola alticola</i> white-eared pocket mouse	Fed: None CA: SSC	Endemic to the San Bernadino and Tehachapi Mountains. Found in isolated montane areas among ponderosa and Jeffrey pine habitats, but sometimes found in mixed chaparral and sagebrush habitats as well as in fallow fields dominated by Russian thistle. Forages in open ground and beneath shrubs.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i> Los Angeles pocket mouse	Fed: None CA: SSC	Resides in lower elevation grasslands and coastal sage scrub communities in and around the Los Angeles Basin. Prefers open ground with fine sandy soils. May not dig extensive burrows, but instead will seek refuge under weeds and dead leaves instead.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the project site, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance provide minimal suitable habitat. No suitable habitat onsite.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in a wide variety of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland and coniferous forest. In inland areas, this species is restricted to areas with pockets of open microhabitat, created by disturbance (i.e. fire, floods, roads, grazing, fire breaks). The key elements of such habitats are loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction; an abundance of native ants or other insects; and open areas with limited overstory for basking and low, but relatively dense shrubs for refuge.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the project site, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance provide minimal suitable habitat. No suitable habitat onsite.
<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	Fed: THR CA: SSC	Obligate resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush. This species generally occurs below 750 feet elevation in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet inland. It prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the project site, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance provide minimal suitable habitat. No suitable habitat onsite.
<i>Progne subis</i> purple martin	Fed: None CA: SSC	Summer resident in a variety of wooded, low-elevation habitats throughout the state. Uses valley foothill and montane hardwood, valley foothill and montane hardwood-conifer, and riparian habitats. Also occurs in coniferous habitats, including closed-cone pine-cypress, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and redwood.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	Fed: THR CA: SSC	Found mainly near ponds in humid forests, woodlands, grasslands, coastal scrub, and streamsides with plant cover. Most common in lowlands or foothills. Frequently found in woods adjacent to streams. Occurs along the coast ranges from Mendocino County south and in portions of the Sierra Nevada and Cascades ranges.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Rana muscosa</i> southern mountain yellow-legged frog	Fed: END CA: END /WL	Occurs in lower elevation habitats characterized by rocky streambeds and wet meadows, while higher elevation habitats include lakes, ponds, and streams. Occupy streams in narrow, rock-walled canyons. Often found along rock walls or vegetated banks and always within a few feet of the water.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Rhinichthys osculus ssp. 8</i> Santa Ana speckled dace	Fed: None CA: SSC	Requires permanent flowing streams within summer water temperatures of 17 – 20 degrees Celsius. Inhabits shallow cobble and gravel riffles and small streams that flow through steep, rocky canyons with chaparral covered walls.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i> coast patch-nosed snake	Fed: None CA: SSC	Inhabits brushy areas in arid and semi-arid areas including chaparral, deserts, brushland, grassland, and scrub in canyons, rocky hillsides, sandy plains.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	Fed: None CA: SSC	Nests over all of California except the Central Valley, the Mojave Desert region, and high altitudes and the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Winters along the Colorado River and in parts of Imperial and Riverside Counties. Nests in riparian areas dominated by willows, cottonwoods, sycamores, or alders or in mature chaparral. May also use oaks, conifers, and urban areas near stream courses.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot	Fed: None CA: SSC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washed, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Rainpools which do not contain bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i> Lawrence's goldfinch	Fed: None CA: None	Typical habitats include valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, and, in southern California, desert riparian, palm oasis, pinyon-juniper, and lower montane habitats. Nearby herbaceous habitats often used for feeding. Open woodlands, chaparral, and weedy fields. Closely associated with oaks. Nests in open oak or other arid woodland and chaparral near water.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i> California spotted owl	Fed: None CA: SSC	Breeds and roosts in forests and woodland with large old trees and snags, high basal areas of trees and snags, dense canopies, multiple canopy layers, and downed woody debris. Large old trees are key as they provide nest sites and cover from weather.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Taricha torosa</i> coast range newt	Fed: None CA: SSC	Can be found in coastal areas and coastal range mountains in oak forests, woodlands, and rolling grasslands. In the terrestrial phase, they live in moist to dry habitats under woody or leafy debris, in rock crevices, or in animal burrows. In the aquatic phase they are found in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily occupy grasslands, parklands, farms, tallgrass and shortgrass prairies, meadows, shrub-steppe communities and other treeless areas with sandy loam soils where it can dig more easily for its prey. Occasionally found in open chaparral (with less than 50% plant cover) and riparian zones.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in or near permanent fresh water, often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth up to 7,000 feet in elevation.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	Fed: END CA: END	Primarily occupy Riverine riparian habitat that typically feature dense cover within 1 -2 meters of the ground and a dense, stratified canopy. Typically it is associated with southern willow scrub, cottonwood-willow forest, mule fat scrub, sycamore alluvial woodlands, coast live oak riparian forest, arroyo willow riparian forest, or mesquite in desert localities. It uses habitat which is limited to the immediate vicinity of water courses, 2,000 feet elevation in the interior.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> yellow-headed blackbird	Fed: None CA: SSC	Uncommon yearlong resident of southern California throughout freshwater emergent wetlands, and moist, open areas along agricultural areas, and mudflats of lacustrine habitats. Prefers to nest in dense wetland vegetation characterized by cattails, tules, or other similar plant species along the border of lakes and ponds.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES				
<i>Abronia villosa var. aurita</i> chaparral sand-verbena	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in sandy soils in coastal sage scrub and in chaparral habitats. Grows in elevation from 262 to 5,249 feet. Blooming period ranges from January to September.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i> marsh sandwort	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Grows mainly in wetlands and freshwater marshes in arid climates. The plant can grow in saturated acidic bog soils and soils that are sandy with a high organic content. Found at elevations ranging from 33 to 558 feet. Blooming period is from May to August.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Artemisia palmeri</i> San Diego sagewort	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in sandy, mesic soils within chaparral, coastal scrub, riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 49 to 3,002 feet. Blooming period is from February to September.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Berberis nevinii</i> Nevin's barberry	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs on steep, north-facing slopes or in low-grade sandy washes in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub. From 951 to 5,167 feet in elevation. Blooming period is from February to June.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Bouteloua trifida</i> three-awned grama	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Grows within Mojavean desert scrub (carbonate, rocky) habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 2,295 to 6,560 feet. Blooming period is typically from May to September and can begin as early as April.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i> Plummer's mariposa-lily	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Prefers openings in chaparral, foothill woodland, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest and yellow pine forest. Often found on dry, rocky slopes and soils and brushy areas. Can be very common after a fire. From 330 to 5,580 feet in elevation. Blooming period is from May to July.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Centromadia pungens ssp. laevis</i> smooth tarplant	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs in alkaline soils within chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Grows in elevation ranging from 0 to 2,100 feet. Blooming period ranges from April to September.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum</i> salt marsh bird's-beak	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.2	Upper terraces and higher edges of coastal salt marshes where tidal inundation is periodic. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 99 feet. Blooming period is from May to October.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i> Peninsular spineflower	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in granitic soils within alluvial fan, chaparral, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 984 to 6,234 feet. Blooming period is from May to August.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi</i> Parry's spineflower	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Occurs on sandy and/or rocky soils in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and sandy openings within alluvial washes and margins. Found at elevations ranging from 951 to 3,773 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the parcel, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance, provides minimal suitable habitat. No impacts will occur to the RAFSS habitat where this species has the potential to occur.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i> white-bracted spineflower	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Grows on sandy or gravelly soils within coastal scrub (alluvial fans), Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 984 to 3,937 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the parcel, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance, provides minimal suitable habitat. No impacts will occur to the RAFSS habitat where this species has the potential to occur.
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i> small-flowered morning-glory	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in clay and serpentinite seeps within chaparral (openings), coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 98 to 2,297 feet. Blooming period is from March to July.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Cuscuta obtusiflora</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i> Peruvian dodder	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Found in freshwater marshes and swamps. Grows at elevations ranging from 49 to 919 feet. Blooming period is from July to October.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i> paniculate tarplant	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Typically found in vernal mesic, sometimes sandy soils in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools. Found at elevations ranging from 82 to 3,084 feet. Blooming period is from April to November.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> slender-horned spineflower	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Chaparral, coastal scrub (alluvial fan sage scrub). Flood deposited terraces and washes. Found at elevations ranging from 1,181 to 2,690 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Low The RAFSS habitat on the northern third of the parcel, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance provide minimal suitable habitat. No junipers are cryptogamic crusts were observed within the northern third of the site.
<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i> Santa Ana River woollystar	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in sandy or gravelly soils within Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 299 to 2,001 feet. Blooming period is from April to September.	Yes	Present This plant species was observed on the northern third of the parcel project site, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. No impacts will occur.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i> California satintail	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.1	Occurs in mesic sites, alkali seeps, and riparian areas within coastal scrub, chaparral, riparian scrub, Mojavean scrub, and alkali meadows and seeps. From 0 to 1,640 feet in elevation. Blooming period is from September to May.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Juglans californica</i> southern California black walnut	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 165 to 2,955 feet. Blooming period is from March to August.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii</i> Robinson's pepper-grass	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Dry soils on chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 3 to 2,904 feet. Blooming period is from January to July.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Malacothamnus parishii</i> Parish's bush-mallow	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1A	Grows in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 1,001 to 1,493 feet. Blooming period is from June to July.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Pseudorontium cyathiferum</i> Deep Canyon snapdragon	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Occurs in rocky Sonoran desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 2,624 feet. Blooming period is from February to April.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Ribes divaricatum var. parishii</i> Parish's gooseberry	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1A	Found in riparian woodland and other riparian habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 213 to 984 feet. Blooming period is from February to April.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the project site.
dSPECIAL-STATUS PLANT COMMUNITIES				
Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Occur within broad washes of sandy alluvial drainages that carry rainfall runoff sporadically in winter and spring, but remain relatively dry through the remainder of the year. Is restricted to drainages and floodplains with very sandy substrates that have a dearth of decomposed plant material. These areas do not develop into riparian woodland or scrub due to the limited water resources and scouring by occasional floods.	Yes	Present This plant community was observed on the northern third of the parce;, outside of the proposed limits of disturbance. No impacts will occur to the RAFSS habitat within the parcel boundary.

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Open to locally dense evergreen riparian woodlands dominated by coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>). This type appears to be richer in herbs and poorer in understory shrubs than other riparian communities. Bottomlands and outer floodplains along larger streams, on fine-grained, rich alluvium. Canyons and valleys of coastal southern California.	No	Absent
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Occurs below 2,000 meters in elevation, sycamore and alder often occur along seasonally-flooded banks; cottonwoods and willows are also often present. Poison oak, mugwort, elderberry and wild raspberry may be present in understory.	No	Absent

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) - Federal
 END- Federal Endangered
 THR- Federal Threatened
 Candidate END – Under Review

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - California
 END- California Endangered
 CSC- California Species of Concern
 WL- Watch List
 FP- California Fully Protected

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)
California Rare Plant Rank
 1A- Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
 1B- Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
 2B- Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but More Common Elsewhere
 4- Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List

Threat Ranks
 0.1- Seriously threatened in California
 0.2- Moderately threatened in California
 0.3- Not very threatened in California