

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT AND
CVM SHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS**

**42500 WASHINGTON STREET PROJECT
COMMUNITY OF BERMUDA DUNES
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**PLOT PLAN #PPT210015
APN #609-020-024**

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT AND CVM SHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

**42500 WASHINGTON STREET PROJECT
COMMUNITY OF BERMUDA DUNES
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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LSA Project No. HRD2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LSA was retained by HI Bermuda Dunes, LLC to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment and to conduct a Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) Consistency Analysis. This report has been prepared for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CVMSHCP, and Federal and California Endangered Species Acts (FESA and CESA, respectively).

The study area lies within the planning boundaries of the CVMSHCP. The CVMSHCP provides take coverage for covered species, which include both listed and non-listed species that are adequately conserved by the CVMSHCP. To ensure adequate conservation of covered species, CVMSHCP Conservation Areas provide habitat and other ecological elements. The study area does not lie within a CVMSHCP Conservation Area.

Low-quality marginally suitable habitat for Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *cochellae* [CVMV]) and flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcalli*) was found to be present within the study area. Through participation in the CVMSHCP via payment of development fees, the project would mitigate for any impacts to CVMV and flat-tailed horned lizard, if present.

The study area contains suitable habitat for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) and other nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code. A burrowing owl pre-construction survey will be required to ensure any direct impacts to this species will be avoided (CDFG 2012). In addition, it is recommended that vegetation removal be conducted between September 1 and January 15 (outside the general bird nesting season) to avoid impacts to nesting birds. If vegetation cannot be removed outside the bird nesting season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey by a qualified biologist is required prior to vegetation removal.

No potential jurisdictional waters regulated pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are present within the study area. No waters of the State regulated pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act are present within the study area. No lake, rivers, or streambeds regulated pursuant to the California Fish and Game Code by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are present within the study area.

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INTRODUCTION

LSA was retained by HI Bermuda Dunes, LLC to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment and CVMSHCP Consistency Analysis. This report evaluates the approximately 2.4-acre proposed 42500 Washington Street Project (project) located in the Community of Bermuda Dunes, Riverside County, California. Specifically, the project lies east of Washington Street, south of 42nd Avenue, and north of Hidden River Road. The project study area is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *La Quinta, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles in Section 18, Township 5 South, Range 7 East (Figure 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed development consists of an approximately 9,990 sf commercial building for a day care/early education use complimented by an approximately 12,500 sf playground on the western portion of the property (Figure 2). A 44-unit apartment building is proposed for the eastern portion of the property. The project includes a General Plan Amendment (GPA), change of zoning to Mixed-Use (MU), and a lot split to create separate parcels to accommodate each use.

METHODS

Literature Review

A literature review was conducted to assist in determining the existence or potential occurrence of special-interest plant and animal species within the study area and in the project vicinity. A records search of the CDFW Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) *Rarefind 5*, and California Native Plant Society's *Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] v8-03 0.45) for the study area and a 3-mile radius around the study area was conducted on November 13, 2020 (CDFW 2020; CNPS 2020). Current and historical aerial photographs were also reviewed in Google Earth (Google Earth 2020). A review of the Final Recirculated CVMSHCP (CVAG 2007) was also conducted in order to determine CVMSHCP consistency and conservation measures that apply to the proposed project, and to reference vegetation types within the study area. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Mapper and National Wetland Inventory (NWI) were also queried (USFWS 2020a, 2020b). Geographic Information System software was used to map the project location, habitat types, land uses, etc.

Field Survey

A general field survey within the study area was conducted by LSA Biologist Jodi Ross-Borrego on December 1, 2020, at 8:45 a.m. Weather conditions consisted of mostly clear skies, temperatures ranging from 60 to 66 degrees Fahrenheit, and winds ranging from 0 to 3 miles per hour. The entire study area was surveyed on foot. Notes were taken on general site conditions, vegetation, and suitability of habitat for various special-interest elements. All plant and animal species observed or otherwise detected during this field survey were noted and are listed in Appendix A. Appendix B summarizes the special-interest plant and animal species potentially present within the study area.

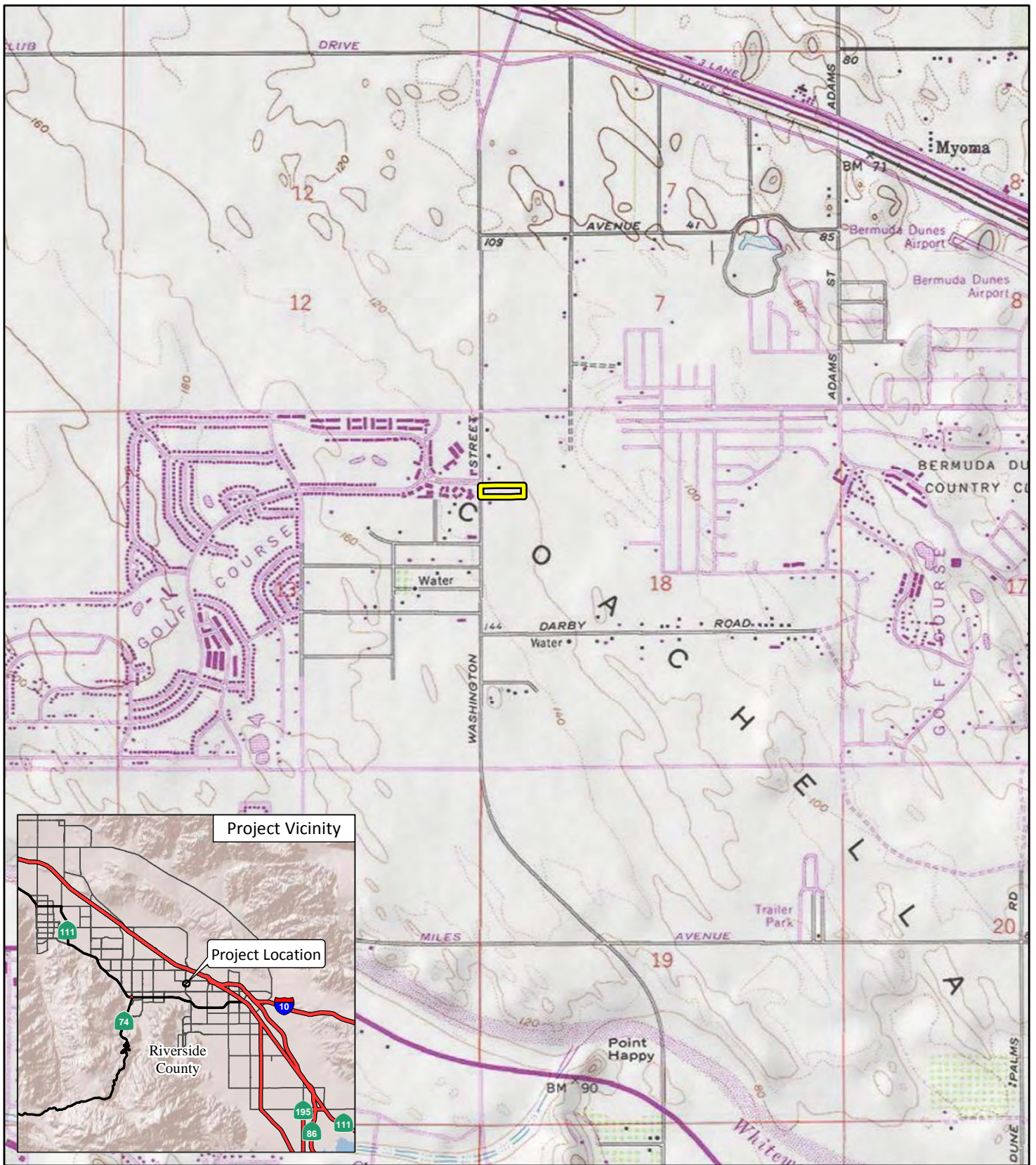



FIGURE 1

LSA

LEGEND

 Study Area



0 1000 2000
FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad La Quinta, CA

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42500 Washington Street
Regional and Project Location Map

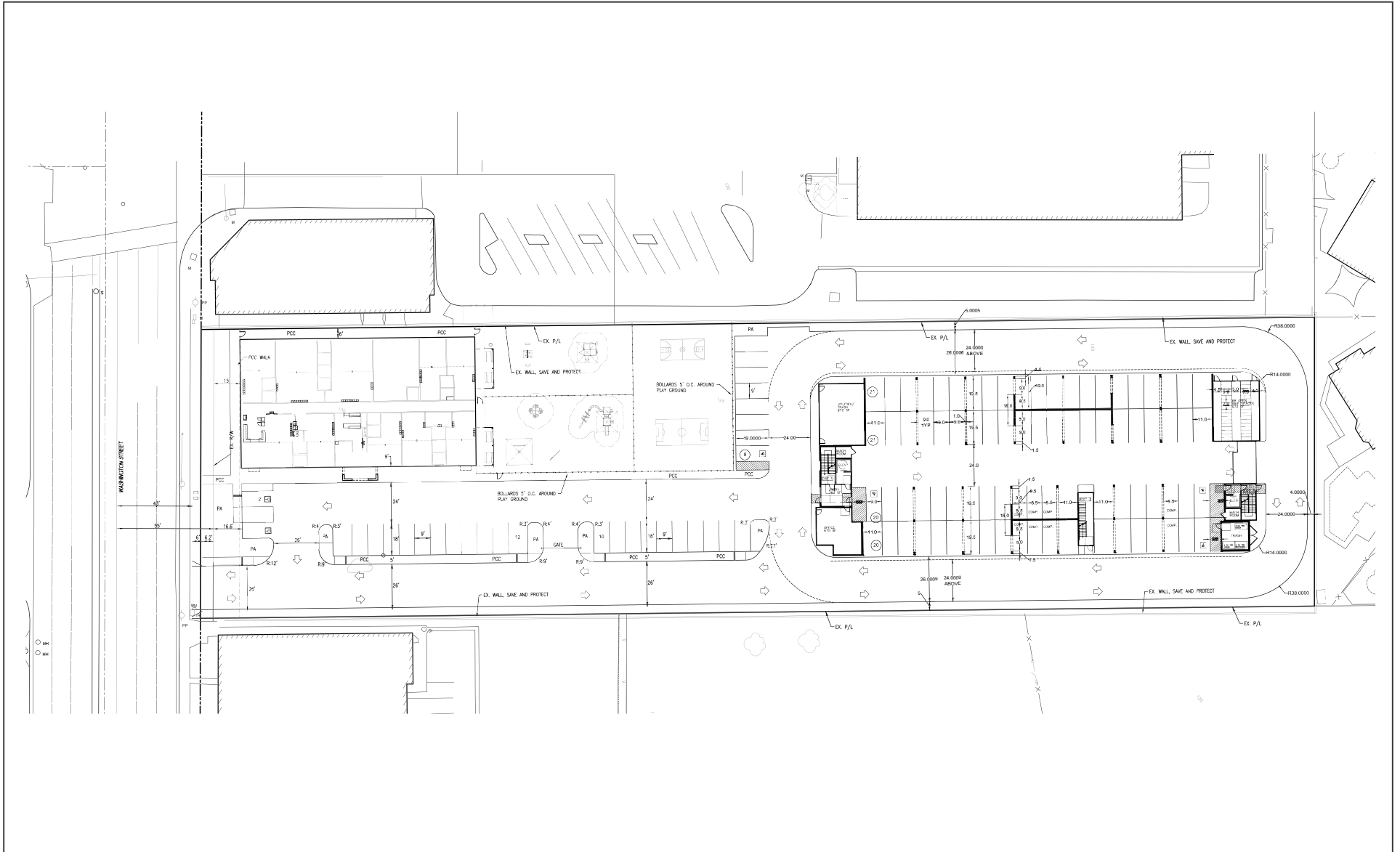
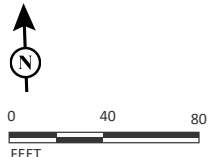


FIGURE 2

LSA



SOURCE: KES Technologies, Inc.

42500 Washington Street, Bermuda Dunes

Site Plan

RESULTS

Existing Site Conditions

The study area is generally located east of Washington Street, south of 42nd Avenue, and north of Hidden River Road. Surrounding land uses include residential uses to the east, commercial uses to the north, commercial uses and Washington Street to the west, and commercial and residential uses to the south. The project falls within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP, as discussed in further detail below.

The study area underwent substantial changes between 1996 and 2002 becoming completely surrounded by residential and commercial development by 2004. A single residence occurred within the western portion of the study area up until 2006 but has since been removed, as observed on historical aerial imagery.

Topography and Soils

The study area is situated on relatively flat land within elevations ranging from approximately 118 feet to 130 feet above mean sea level.

Soil present within the limits of the study area, as mapped by the Soil Conservation Service (Knecht 1980), consists of Myoma fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes (Figure 3).

Vegetation

Vegetation within the study area is best described as disturbed/ruderal. Dominant species include common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*), puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), and London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*).

A complete list of plant species observed is provided in Appendix A. Figure 4 shows vegetation and land use on the site and photograph key locations. Figure 5 shows site photographs.

Wildlife

Common wildlife species observed within the study area during the field survey include verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

A complete list of wildlife species observed is provided in Appendix A.

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan


The CVMSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in the Coachella Valley region of Riverside County. The overall goal of the CVMSHCP is to maintain and enhance biological diversity and ecosystem processes within the region, while allowing for future economic growth. The CVMSHCP covers 27 sensitive plant and wildlife species (Covered Species) as well as 27 natural communities. Covered Species include both listed and non-listed species that are adequately conserved by the CVMSHCP. The overall provisions for the plan are subdivided according to specific resource




FIGURE 3


LSA

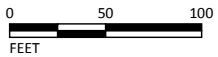
LEGEND

 Study Area

Soils

 (MaB) Myoma fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

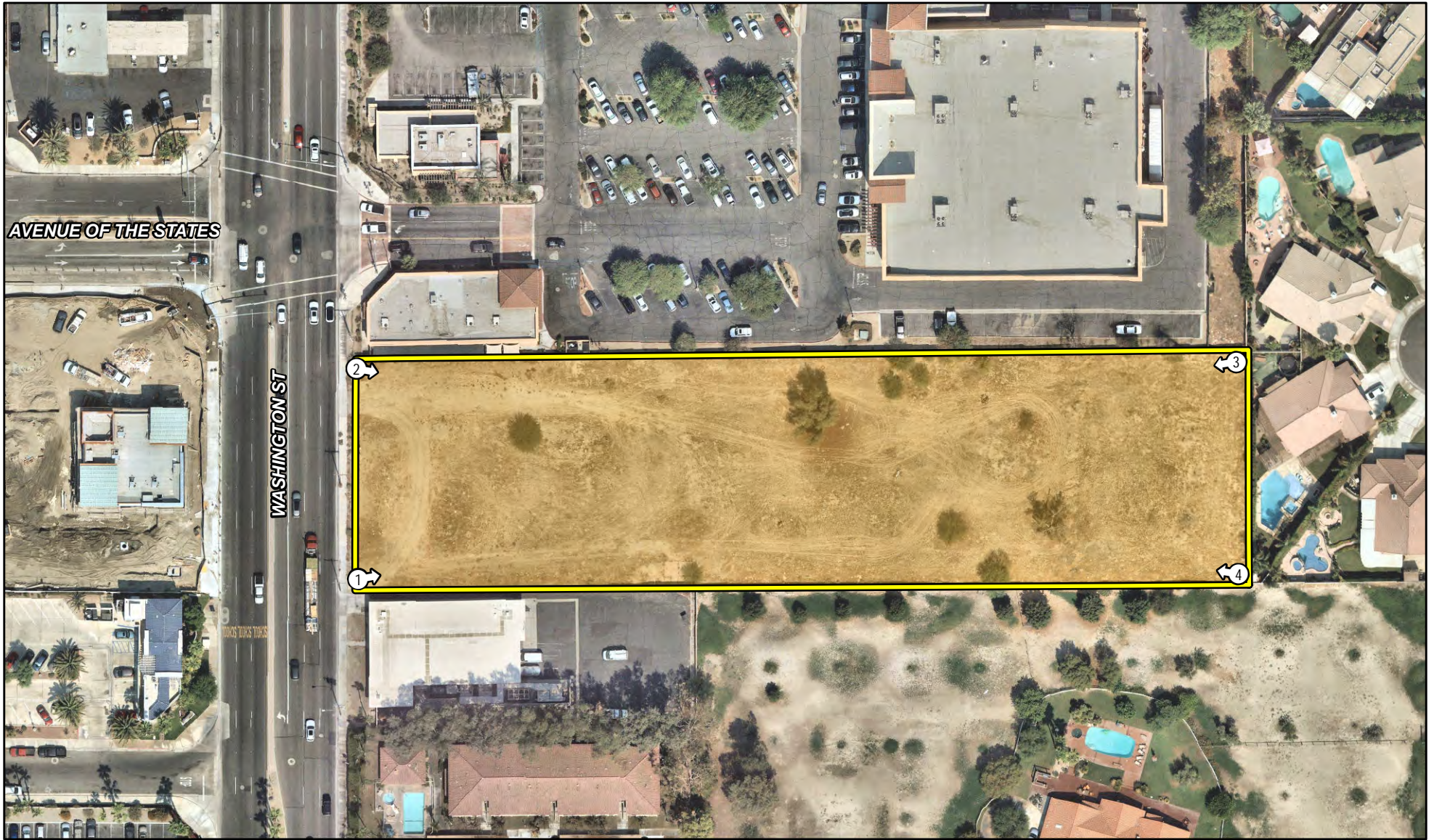
 (MaD) Myoma fine sand, 5 to 15 percent slopes



SOURCE: Nearmap (9/23/2020); Esri SSURGO (2020)


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42500 Washington Street
Soils



LSA

LEGEND

 Study Area

 Photograph Location

Vegetation

 Ruderal



0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (9/23/2020)

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FIGURE 4

42500 Washington Street
Vegetation, Land Use and Photograph Key Location



Photo 1: View from southwestern corner of the site facing east.



Photo 2: View from northwestern corner of the site facing east.



Photo 3: View from northeastern corner of the site facing west.



Photo 4: View from southeastern corner of the site facing west.

conservation goals that have been organized according to geographic areas defined as Conservation Areas.

The proposed project is within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP; however, it is not within any conservation areas identified in the CVMSHCP.

Special-Status Species

This section discusses special-status species observed or potentially occurring within the limits of the study area. Legal protection for special-interest species varies widely, from the comprehensive protection extended to listed threatened/endangered species, to no legal interest at present. The CDFW, USFWS, local agencies, and special-interest groups such as the CNPS, publish watch lists of declining species. Species on watch lists can be included as part of the special-interest species assessment. Species that are candidates for State and/or federal listing and species on watch lists are included in the special-interest species list. Inclusion of species described in the special-interest species analysis is based on the following criteria:

- Direct observation of the species or its sign in the study area or immediate vicinity during previous biological studies;
- Sighting by other qualified observers;
- Record reported by the CNDDDB, published by the CDFW;
- Presence or location information for specific species provided by private groups (e.g., CNPS); and/or
- Study area lies within known distribution of a given species and contains appropriate habitat.

The special-interest species analysis revealed 14 special-interest species with the potential to occur within the limits of the study area. Appendix B lists these species with a data summary and determination of the likelihood of each species occurring within the study area.

Threatened/Endangered Species

The following three federally/State listed species were identified as potentially present (Appendix B) in the project vicinity:

- Coachella Valley milkvetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae* [CVMV]): Federally listed as Endangered and a CVMSHCP covered species;
- Casey's June beetle (*Dinacoma caseyi*): Federally listed as Endangered; and
- Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*): Federally listed as Threatened, State-listed as Endangered, and a CVMSHCP covered species.

Habitat within the study area is considered unsuitable for Casey's June beetle and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. Low quality marginal suitable habitat for CVMV was found to be present within the study area.

Non-Listed Special-Interest Species

Of the 11 other non-listed special-interest species identified and discussed in Appendix B, seven species are considered absent based on lack of suitable habitat and four species are considered to have a low probability of occurrence due to the presence of low-quality marginally suitable habitat. The following non-listed special-interest species have a low probability to occur within the study area:

- Chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*);
- Flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcalli*);
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*); and
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).

Nesting bird species, including special-interest species identified in Appendix B, with potential to occur (i.e., burrowing owl) are protected by California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800, and by the MBTA (16 USC 703–711). These laws regulate the take, possession, or destruction of the nest or eggs of any migratory bird or bird of prey. However, the USFWS has recently determined that the MBTA should apply only to “... affirmative actions that have as their purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs” and will not be applied to incidental take of migratory birds pursuant to otherwise lawful activities.

Critical Habitat

The study area does not lie within federally designated critical habitat.

Jurisdictional Waters

No potential jurisdictional waters regulated pursuant to the CWA by the USACE or the RWQCB or waters of the State regulated pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act by the RWQCB are present within the limits of the proposed project. In addition, no lake, rivers, or streambeds regulated pursuant to the California Fish and Game Code by the CDFW are present within the limits of the proposed project. The results of the NWI query showed no wetlands within the study area.

IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a discussion of potential disturbances and recommendations for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures per applicable local, State, and federal policy.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Coachella Valley Milkvetch

CVMV is a covered species under the CVMSHCP. Through participation in the CVMSHCP via payment of development fees, the project would mitigate for any impacts to CVMV.

Non-Listed Special-Interest Species

The four special-interest species identified in Appendix B as having a low probability of occurrence in the study area have limited population distribution in Southern California and development is further reducing their ranges and numbers. These species have no official State or federal protection status, but they merit consideration under CEQA. Due to the relatively small project footprint, historic uses and maintenance of the study area, surrounding development, and isolated location, the study area does not provide long term conservation value for these species. Therefore, impacts from the project are anticipated to have a less than significant effect on these non-listed special-interest species. In addition, flat-tailed horned lizard is also a covered species under the CVMSHCP. No further surveys or additional mitigation measures will be required for impacts to chaparral sand-verbena and flat-tailed horned lizard, if present. Additional measures for burrowing owl are described below. Specific measures for loggerhead shrike will not be required as measures to avoid nesting birds, as described below, will be sufficient to prevent impacts to the species, if present.

Nesting Birds

To ensure compliance with California Fish and Game Code and to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds, it is recommended that the vegetation removal activities be conducted outside the general bird nesting season (January 15 through August 31). If vegetation cannot be removed outside the bird nesting season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey by a qualified biologist is required prior to vegetation removal. No further measures will be required if the pre-construction survey concludes that active bird nests are absent from the project site. If active bird nests are present, a suitable non-disturbance buffer will be placed around the active nest by a qualified biologist. The size of the non-disturbance buffer will be dependent on the location of the nest and species. Generally recommended buffers include 100 to 300 feet for songbirds and 500 feet for birds-of-prey. The buffer area will be staked or flagged for avoidance. No development activities will be permitted within the buffer until the young are no longer dependent on the nest as verified by a qualified biologist.

Burrowing Owl

A pre-construction burrowing owl survey would be required using an accepted protocol (as determined by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission in coordination with the permittees and the wildlife agencies). Prior to construction, a qualified biologist will survey the construction area and, as feasible, up to a 500-foot buffer outside the project limits for burrows that could be used by burrowing owl. If a burrow is located, the biologist will determine whether an owl is present in the burrow. If the burrow is determined to be occupied, the burrow will be flagged and a 160-foot diameter buffer will be established during the non-breeding season or a 250-foot diameter buffer during the breeding season. The buffer area will be staked and flagged. No development activities will be permitted within the buffer until the young are no longer dependent on the burrow.

Critical Habitat

No federally designated critical habitat is present within the study area; thus, there will be no project-related effects to critical habitat.

Jurisdictional Waters

No potential jurisdictional waters of the United States regulated by the USACE or RWQCB, waters of the State regulated by the RWQCB or CDFW jurisdictional lakes, rivers, or streams are present on the proposed study area. Thus, there will be no project-related effects to jurisdictional waters.

Habitat Fragmentation and Wildlife Movement

Wildlife movement and habitat fragmentation are important issues in assessing effects to wildlife. Habitat fragmentation occurs when a proposed action results in a single, unified habitat area being divided into two or more areas such that the division isolates the two new areas from each other. Isolation of habitat occurs when wildlife cannot move freely from one portion of the habitat to another or from one habitat type to another. An example is the fragmentation of habitats within and around “checkerboard” residential development. Habitat fragmentation can also occur when a portion of one or more habitats is converted into another habitat, as when scrub habitats are converted into annual grassland habitat because of frequent burning.

Because the study area does not lie within a CVMSHCP-designated wildlife corridor and the study area is isolated from other undeveloped lands as it is surrounded by commercial and residential development, the proposed project is not anticipated to have significant impacts related to habitat fragmentation and regional wildlife movement.

Local Policies and Ordinances

With participation in the CVMSHCP, the project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances.

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The study area lies within the planning area of the CVMSHCP; however, it does not lie within a Conservation Area identified in the CVMSHCP. The proposed project is subject to the requirements of the CVMSHCP (e.g., development fees).

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

According to Section 15130 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, “cumulative impacts” refers to incremental effects of an individual project when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, and probable future projects. Due to the relatively small proposed project footprint, its proximity to commercial and residential development, isolated location, and through compliance with the CVMSHCP, impacts are not considered to be cumulatively significant.

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- USFWS. 2020b. National Wetland Inventory. <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html> (accessed November 13, 2020).

APPENDIX A

PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED

Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
MAGNOLIOPHYTA: MAGNOLIOPSIDA	DICOT FLOWERING PLANTS
Anacardiaceae	Cashew family
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian pepper tree
Asteraceae	Sunflower family
<i>Stephanomeria exigua</i>	small wirelettuce
Bignoniaceae	Bignonia family
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	desert willow
Boraginaceae	Borage family
<i>Cryptantha</i> sp.	cryptantha
<i>Tiquilia plicata</i>	Fanleaf crinklemat
Brassicaceae	Mustard family
<i>Brassica tournefortii</i> (non-native species)	Sahara mustard
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i> (non-native species)	London rocket
Cactaceae	Cactus family
<i>Opuntia</i> sp.	cactus
Chenopodiaceae	Saltbush family
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	fourwing saltbush
<i>Salsola tragus</i> (non-native species)	Russian thistle
Fabaceae	Pea family
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> (non-native species)	Mexican palo verde
<i>Prosopis</i> sp.	mesquite species
Myrtaceae	Myrtle family
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Eucalyptus
Plantaginaceae	Plantain family
<i>Plantago ovata</i>	Desert plantain
Verbenaceae	Verbena family
<i>Lantana camara</i> (non-native species)	lantana
Zygophyllaceae	Caltrop family
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> (non-native species)	Puncture vine
MAGNOLIOPHYTA: LILIOPSIDA	MONOCOT FLOWERING PLANTS
Poaceae	Grass family
<i>Hordeum murinum</i> (non-native species)	foxtail barley
<i>Schismus barbatus</i> (non-native species)	Common Mediterranean grass

Wildlife Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
AVES	BIRDS
Columbidae	Pigeons and Doves
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning dove
Fringillidae	Finches
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House finch
Remizidae	Penduline Tits
<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>	verdin

APPENDIX B

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES SUMMARY

Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Activity Period	Occurrence Probability
Plants				
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> Chaparral sand-verbena	US: – CA: 1B	Sandy areas (generally flats and benches along washes) in chaparral and coastal sage scrub, and improbably in desert dunes or other sandy areas, below 1,600 meters (5,300 feet) elevation. In California, reported from Riverside, San Diego, Imperial, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties. Believed extirpated from Orange County. Also reported from Arizona and Mexico (Baja California). Plants reported from desert communities are likely misidentified.	Blooms mostly March through August (annual or perennial herb)	Low. Marginally suitable habitat (sandy areas) is present within the study area. The study area does not provide long term conservation value for this species.
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>coachellae</i> Coachella Valley milkvetch	US: FE CA: 1B CVMSHCP: C	Sandy areas, typically in coarse sands in active sand fields, adjacent to dunes, along roadsides in dune areas, or along the margins of sandy washes, in Sonoran Desert scrub at 60 to 655 meters (200 to 2,150 feet) elevation. Known only from Riverside County in the Coachella Valley between Cabazon and Indio, and in the Chuckwalla Valley northeast of Desert Center.	Blooms February through May (annual or perennial herb)	Low. Marginally suitable habitat (sandy areas) is present within the study area.
<i>Ditaxis claryana</i> Glandular ditaxis	US: – CA: 2B	Sandy soils in creosote bush scrub of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts at 0 to 465 meters (0 to 1,500 feet) elevation. Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, and Arizona and northern Mexico.	Blooms October through March (perennial herb)	Absent. Suitable habitat (sandy areas in creosote bush scrub) is absent within the study area.
<i>Euphorbia abramsiana</i> Abrams' spurge	US: – CA: 2B	Sandy areas of desert scrub below 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) elevation. In California, known from Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Also occurs in Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico (Baja California and Sonora).	Blooms mostly September through November following late summer rains (annual herb)	Absent. Suitable habitat (sandy areas in desert scrub) is absent within the study area.

Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Activity Period	Occurrence Probability
<i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> Slender cottonheads	US: – CA: 2B	Coastal or desert dunes, sandy mesquite hummocks, or similar sandy sites at -50 to 400 (560) meters (-160 to 1,300 [1,800] feet) elevation. Known from Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties in California, and from Arizona and Mexico.	Blooms mostly late March to mid-May (annual herb)	Absent. Suitable habitat (desert dunes and sandy mesquite hummocks) is absent within the study area.
Invertebrates				
<i>Dinacoma caseyi</i> Casey's June beetle	US: FE CA: SA	Associated with alluvial sediments, typically in Carsitas gravelly sand (CdC), riverwash, or possibly Carsitas cobbly sand (ChC) of broad, gently sloping alluvial fans at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Known distribution is an area of less than 800 acres (324 hectares) in southern Palm Springs within the Palm Canyon alluvial floodplain and eastward to East Palm Canyon Drive.	Spring (late March through June)	Absent. The study area is outside of the species' known geographic range.
<i>Macrobaenetes valgum</i> Coachella giant sand treader cricket	US: – CA: SA CVMSHCP: C	Wind-swept sand dune ridges, spring-dampened sandy areas. Restricted to Coachella Valley.		Absent. No suitable habitat (wind-swept sand dune ridges, spring-dampened sandy areas) is present within the study area.
Reptiles				
<i>Phrynosoma mcalli</i> Flat-tailed horned lizard	US: – CA: SSC CVMSHCP: C	Fine sand in desert washes and flats with vegetative cover and ants, generally below 180 meters (600 feet) elevation in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties.	May be active year-round in mild weather, but peak activity occurs in spring, early summer, and fall	Low. Marginally suitable habitat (sandy areas in flats) is present within the study area.
<i>Uma inornata</i> Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	US: FT CA: SE CVMSHCP: C	Fine, loose, windblown sand (dunes), interspersed with hardpan and widely spaced desert shrubs; known only from the Coachella Valley.	April through October (May is peak)	Absent. No suitable habitat (wind-swept sand dune ridges, spring-dampened sandy areas) is present within the study area.

Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Activity Period	Occurrence Probability
Birds				
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrow sites) Burrowing owl	US: – CA: SSC (breeding) CVMSHCP: C	Open country in much of North and South America. Usually occupies ground squirrel burrows in open, dry grasslands, agricultural and range lands, railroad rights-of-way, and margins of highways, golf courses, and airports. Often uses man-made structures, such as earthen berms, cement culverts, cement, asphalt, rock, or wood debris piles. They avoid thick, tall vegetation, brush, and trees, but may occur in areas where brush or tree cover is less than 30 percent.	Year-round	Low. Marginally suitable habitat (ground squirrel burrows) is present within the study area.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> (nesting) Loggerhead shrike	US: – CA: SSC (breeding)	Prefers open habitats with scattered small trees and with fences, utility lines, or other perches. Inhabits open country with short vegetation, pastures, old orchards, cemeteries, golf courses, riparian areas, and open woodlands. Highest density occurs in open-canopied valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, valley foothill riparian, pinyon-juniper, juniper, desert riparian, and Joshua tree habitats. Occurs only rarely in heavily urbanized areas, but often found in open cropland. Found in open country in much of North America.	Year-round	Low. Marginally suitable habitat (perching and nesting vegetation) is present within the study area and is limited to a few individual trees and tall shrubs. The study area is surrounded by development and isolated from large tracks of undeveloped habitat making it less probable that the species would utilize the study area.
<i>Polioptila melanura</i> Black-tailed gnatcatcher	US: – CA: SA	Nests in wooded desert wash habitat containing mesquite, palo verde, ironwood, and acacia. May also occur in areas with salt cedar, especially when adjacent to native wooded desert wash habitat. Also occurs in desert scrub habitat in winter.	Year-round	Absent. Suitable habitat (wooded desert wash) is absent within the study area.

Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Activity Period	Occurrence Probability
Mammals				
<i>Dipodomys merriami collinus</i> Aguanga kangaroo rat	US: - CA: SA	Known only from San Diego and Riverside Counties. Associated with Riversidean sage scrub, chaparral, and non-native grassland. Need sandy loam substrates for digging of burrows.	Spring through fall	Absent. Suitable habitat (Riversidean sage scrub, chaparral, non-native grassland) is absent within the study area.
<i>Perognathus longimembris bangsii</i> Palm Springs pocket mouse	US: – CA: SSC	Primary habitat in the Coachella Valley is dunes and mesquite hummocks associated with honey mesquite (<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> var. <i>torreyana</i>) and to a lesser extent dunes and hummocks associated with creosote (<i>Larrea tridentata</i>) or other vegetation. Its range in the Coachella Valley extends from Joshua Tree National Park southward, west to San Geronio Pass, and south to Borrego Springs and the east side of San Felipe Narrows, in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties. Results of recent morphological and genetic studies indicate that this species also ranges northward at least to Hinkley Valley and Death Valley in San Bernardino County.	Spring through fall	Absent. Suitable habitat (dunes, mesquite/creosote hummocks) is absent within the study area.

LEGEND

US: Federal Classifications

- FE Taxa listed as Endangered.
- FT Taxa listed as Threatened.

CA: State Classifications

- SE Taxa State-listed as Endangered.
- SSC California Species of Special Concern. Refers to animals with vulnerable or seriously declining populations.
- SA Special Animal. Refers to any other animal monitored by the Natural Diversity Data Base, regardless of its legal or protection status.
- 1B California Rare Plant Rank 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
- 2B California Rare Plant Rank 2B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

CVMSHCP: Coachella Valley MSHCP Status

- C Species is adequately conserved under the CVMSHCP.