

**Biological Technical Report  
for the  
12.46-Acre the Residences at Alta Vista  
Development Project**

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**San Bernardino County, California**

**Prepared For:**

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNPSEI	California Native Plant Society's Electronic Inventory
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
ECORP	ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
ITP	Incidental Take Permit
LAPM	Los Angeles pocket mouse
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mph	miles per hour
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OHWM	Ordinary High-Water Mark
Procedures	State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State
Project	12.46-Acre the Residences at Alta Vista Development Project
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAA	Streambed Alteration Agreement
SBKR	San Bernardino kangaroo rat
SSC	Species of Special Concern
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	U.S. Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) conducted a biological reconnaissance survey for the Proposed 12.46-Acre the Residences at Alta Vista Development Project (Project) at an approximately 12.46-acre property (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 1210-371-14 and 1210-371-16) in the City of Highland, San Bernardino County, California (Project Site; Figure 1). ECORP conducted surveys to identify any potential biological resources that could be affected by the Proposed Project pursuant to the terms of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and for the purposes of identifying any biological constraints that would affect the proposed site plan for the Project. The Project will be subject to county, state, and federal regulations regarding compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), California ESA, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations, California State Water Resources Control Board for state waters, and California Fish and Game Code.

### **1.1 Project Description and Location**

The Project proposes the construction of 113 detached single-family homes, 293 parking spaces, comprised of 226 garage spaces and an additional 67 uncovered guest spaces distributed throughout the project, two storm water detention basins, two open space areas, and associated utilities. The Project will also include a proposed offsite 48-inch reinforced concrete pipe storm drain that will be constructed within Greenspot road and will connect to an existing box culvert approximately 2,000 linear feet west of the Project Site. The Project Site consists of approximately 12.46 acres of property located in Section 1 of Township 1 South, Range 3 West, San Bernardino Principal Meridian as depicted on the Redlands, California, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The Project Site consists of Assessor Parcel Numbers 1210-371-14 and 1210-371-16. The Project Site is located approximately 2.65 miles east of State Route 210, along Alta Vista, immediately north of Greenspot Road and south of Santa Ana Canyon Road in the City of Highland, California. The elevation of the Project Site ranges from approximately 1440 to 1470 feet above mean seal level (Figure 2).

## **2.0 FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS**

This biological reconnaissance survey was conducted to identify potential biological resource constraints and ensure compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding listed, protected, and special-status species and resources. The regulations are detailed below.

### **2.1 Federal Regulations**

#### **2.1.1 The Federal Endangered Species Act**

The federal ESA protects plants and animals that are listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct" (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.3). For plants, this statute governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any



Location: N:\2023\2023-095 Diversified Pacific - Highland Project\MAPS\Location\_Vicinity.aprx - DPHP\_Vicinity (trollini - 9/14/2023)

Map Date: 9/14/2023  
Sources: ESRI

**Figure 1. Project Vicinity**



**Figure 2. Project Location**

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endangered plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 U.S. Code [USC] 1538).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a listed (or proposed) species (including plants) or its critical habitat. Through consultation and the issuance of a biological opinion, the USFWS may issue an incidental take statement allowing take of the species that is incidental to an otherwise authorized activity provided the activity will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Section 10 of the ESA provides for issuance of Incidental Take Permits (ITP) where no other federal actions are necessary provided a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is developed.

### **2.1.2 National Environmental Policy Act**

Signed into law on January 1, 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to analyze the environmental impacts related to their proposed actions prior to making and implementing decisions or actions. This framework for evaluation of environmental and associated economic and social effects of proposed actions, described in 42 USC 4321, also provides the public opportunity to review and comment. Actions that are covered by NEPA include decision-making related to publicly owned facilities such as highways, permit applications, and federal land management.

### **2.1.3 Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

The MBTA implements international treaties between the U.S. and other nations devised to protect migratory birds, any of their parts, eggs, and nests from activities including hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. As authorized by the MBTA, the USFWS issues permits to qualified applicants for the following types of activities: falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (rehabilitation, education, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), take of depredating birds, taxidermy, and waterfowl sale and disposal. The regulations governing migratory bird permits can be found in 50 CFR Part 13 General Permit Procedures and 50 CFR Part 21 Migratory Bird Permits.

### **2.1.4 Federal Clean Water Act**

Under Section 404 of the federal CWA, potential Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, may be regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The limit of USACE jurisdiction for non-tidal watercourses (without adjacent wetlands) is defined in 33 CFR 328.4(c)(1) as the *Ordinary High-Water Mark* (OHWM).

The OHWM is defined as the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as 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. The upstream limits of other waters are defined as the point where the OHWM is no longer perceptible.

Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. are delineated in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'" rule, published in the Federal Register in 2022 and which became final on January 18, 2023. This rule, set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and USACE, was consistent with the



pre-2015 regulatory definition as all waters that are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate commerce, including all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. This definition also includes all interstate waters, including interstate wetlands, interstate lakes, rivers, streams (including all intermittent and ephemeral streams), mudflats, sand flats, sloughs, and prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds where the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce. Under this rule, Waters of the U.S. do not include prior converted cropland.

The definition of Waters of the U.S. in accordance with this rule (40 CFR 230.3[s]), is summarized below.

1. All waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
2. All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters: (i) Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or (ii) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or (iii) Which are used or could be used for industrial purpose by industries in interstate commerce;
4. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as Waters of the U.S. under the definition;
5. Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (s)(1)-(4) of this section;
6. The territorial sea; and
7. Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (s)(1) through (6) of this section; waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not Waters of the U.S.

On May 25, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court adopted a narrower definition of Waters of the U.S. in the case *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*. Under the majority opinion, Waters of the U.S. refers to “geographical features that are described in ordinary parlance as ‘streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes’ and to adjacent wetlands that are ‘indistinguishable’ from those bodies of water due to a continuous surface connection.” On August 29, 2023, the agencies issued a final rule to amend the final “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’” rule to conform the definition of “Waters of the United States” to the U.S. Supreme Court’s May 25, 2023, decision in the case of *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*.

Parts of the January 2023 Rule are invalid under the U.S. Supreme Court’s interpretation of the CWA in the *Sackett* decision. Therefore, the agencies have amended key aspects of the regulatory text to conform to the Court’s decision. Key changes under the amendment include:

- Definition of “adjacent” is now “having a continuous surface connection;”
- Only tributaries that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water (or tributaries with a continuous surface connection to those) are considered jurisdictional;
- Interstate wetlands are no longer jurisdictional just by virtue of being interstate; and
- Significant nexus test is eliminated.

Where areas jurisdictional to the USACE are present, and will be impacted by a project, the project proponent must usually apply for permitting with the agency, which generally consists of the submittal of a Pre-construction Notification under Section 404 of the CWA. As of the writing of this report, we do not know the details of how the individual USACE offices will implement the conforming rule for permitting purposes.

## **2.2 State and Local Regulations**

### **2.2.1 California Endangered Species Act**

The California ESA generally parallels the main provisions of the ESA but, unlike its federal counterpart, the California ESA applies the take prohibitions to species proposed for listing (called “candidates” by the state). Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the taking, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or in the regulations. Take is defined in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.” The California ESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects. State lead agencies are required to consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to ensure that any action they undertake is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in destruction or adverse modification of essential habitat.

### **2.2.2 Fully Protected Species**

The State of California first began to designate species as *fully protected* prior to the creation of the federal and California ESAs. Lists of fully protected species were initially developed to provide protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction, and included fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Most fully protected species have since been listed as threatened or endangered under federal or California ESAs. The regulations that implement the Fully Protected Species Statute (California Fish and Game Code § 4700) provide that fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time. Furthermore, CDFW prohibits any state agency from issuing ITPs for fully protected species, except for necessary scientific research.

### **2.2.3 Native Plant Protection Act**

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 (California Fish and Game Code §§ 1900-1913) was created with the intent to “*preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State.*” The NPPA is administered by CDFW. The California Fish and Game Commission has the authority to designate

native plants as “endangered” or “rare” and to protect endangered and rare plants from take. The California ESA of 1984 (California Fish and Game Code § 2050-2116) provided further protection for rare and endangered plant species, but the NPPA remains part of the California Fish and Game Code.

## **2.2.4 California Fish and Game Code**

### **2.2.4.1 Streambed Alteration Agreement**

Pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) application must be submitted for “any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake” (CDFW 2021). In Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 1.72, the CDFW defines a “stream” (including creeks and rivers) as “a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation.”

The CDFW’s jurisdiction includes drainages with a definable bed, bank, or channel with the jurisdictional limit being the top-of-bank. It also includes areas that support intermittent, perennial, or subsurface flows; supports fish or other aquatic life; or supports riparian or hydrophytic vegetation. It also includes areas that have a hydrologic source.

The CDFW will determine if the proposed actions will result in diversion, obstruction, or change of the natural flow, bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake that supports fish or wildlife. The CDFW will submit an SAA that includes measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources; this SAA is the final proposal agreed upon by the CDFW and the applicant.

### **2.2.4.2 Migratory Birds**

The CDFW enforces the protection of nongame native birds in §§ 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Fish and Game Code. Section 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the possession or take of birds listed under the MBTA. These sections mandate the protection of California nongame native birds’ nests and also make it unlawful to take these birds. All raptor species are also protected from “take” pursuant to California Fish and Game Code § 3503.5 and are also protected at the federal level by the MBTA of 1918 (USFWS 1918).

## **2.2.5 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act**

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires “any person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect the waters of the State to file a report of discharge” with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) through State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (Procedures; CCR, Title 23, § 3855). “Waters of the State” is defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state (California Water Code § 13050[e]). Pollution is defined as an alteration of the quality of the Waters of the State by waste to a degree that unreasonably affects its beneficial uses (California Water Code § 13050) and includes filling in Waters of the State. Note that CCR, Title 23, § 3855

applies only to individual water quality certifications, but the new Procedures extend the application of § 3855 to individual waste discharge requirements for discharges of dredged or fill material to Waters of the State and waivers thereof.

Regardless, if a CWA Section 404 permit is not required for a project, a permit for impacts to Waters of the State may still be required under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. To determine whether a project should be regulated pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the RWQCB considers whether project activities could impact the quality of Waters of the State.

### **2.2.6 California Environmental Quality Act Significance Criteria**

Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines encourages local agencies to develop and publish the thresholds the agency uses in determining the significance of environmental effects caused by projects under its review. However, agencies may also rely upon the guidance provided by the CEQA checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Appendix G provides examples of impacts that would normally be considered significant. Based on these examples, impacts to biological resources would normally be considered significant if a project would:

- 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 CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS;
- 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;
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; and
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP.

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. Substantial impacts would be those that would diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, state, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant according to CEQA. The reason for this is that although the impacts would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish, or result in the permanent loss of an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

## 3.0 METHODS

### 3.1 Literature Review

Prior to conducting the biological reconnaissance survey, ECORP biologists performed a literature review using the CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2024a) and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS') Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI; CNPS 2024) to determine the special-status plant and wildlife species that have been documented near the Project Site. ECORP searched CNDDDB and CNPSEI records within the Project Site boundaries as depicted on the USGS 7.5-minute Redlands, California topographic quadrangle, plus the surrounding seven topographic quadrangles that contained similar habitats, including, El Casco, Harrison Mountain, Riverside East, San Bernardino North, San Bernardino South, Sunnymead, and Yucaipa. The Keller Peak topographic quadrangle was excluded from analysis because it is entirely in the San Bernardino Mountains and is not representative of the habitat on the Project Site. The CNDDDB and CNPSEI contain records of reported occurrences of federally and/or state-listed endangered, threatened, proposed endangered or threatened species, CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC), or other special-status species or habitat that may occur within or near the Project. Additional information was gathered from the following sources and includes, but is not limited to:

- *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CDFW 2024b);
- *Special Animals List* (CDFW 2024c);
- *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012);
- *The Manual of California Vegetation*, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009);
- Countywide – All Biotic Resources Overlay Map (County of San Bernardino 2012); and
- various online websites (e.g., Calflora 2024).

Using this information and observations in the field, a list of special-status plant and animal species that have the potential to occur on or near the Project Site was generated. For the purposes of this assessment, special-status species are defined as plants or animals that:

- have been designated as either rare, threatened, or endangered by CDFW, CNPS, or the USFWS, or are protected under either the federal ESA or California ESA;
- are candidate species being considered or proposed for listing under these same acts;
- are fully protected by the California Fish and Game Code, §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, or 5515; or
- are of expressed concern to resource and regulatory agencies or local jurisdictions.

Special-status species reported for the region in the literature review or for which suitable habitat occurs on the site were assessed for their potential to occur within the Project Site based on the following guidelines:

- *Present*: The species was observed onsite during a site visit or focused survey.

- *High*: Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project Site and a known occurrence has recently been recorded (within the last 20 years) within five miles of the area.
- *Moderate*: Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project Site and a documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within five miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project Site; or a recently documented observation occurs within five miles of the area and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs in the Project Site.
- *Low*: Limited or marginal habitat for the species occurs within the Project Site and a recently documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within five miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project Site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site, but no records or only historic records were found within the database search.
- *Presumed Absent*: Species was not observed during a site visit or focused surveys conducted in accordance with protocol guidelines at an appropriate time for identification; habitat (including soils and elevation factors) does not exist on site; or the known geographic range of the species does not include the Project Site.

Note that location information on some special-status species may be of questionable accuracy or unavailable. Therefore, for survey purposes, the environmental factors associated with a species' occurrence requirements may be considered sufficient reason to give a species a positive potential for occurrence. In addition, just because a record of a species does not exist in the databases does not mean it does not occur. In many cases, records may not be present in the databases because an area has not been surveyed for that species.

A review of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2024a) Web Soil Survey, NRCS Hydric Soils List (NRCS 2024b), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI; USFWS 2024a), and the corresponding USGS topographic maps was also conducted to determine if there were any blue line streams or drainages present on the Project Site that potentially fall under the jurisdiction of either federal or state agencies.

## **3.2 Field Surveys**

### **3.2.1 Biological Reconnaissance Survey**

The biological reconnaissance surveys were conducted by walking the entire Project Site and a 500-foot buffer, where accessible, to determine the vegetation communities and wildlife habitats present on and adjacent to the site. Areas that were not accessible by foot were scanned using binoculars for suitable habitat. The biologists documented the plant and animal species present on the Project Site, and the location and condition of the Project Site were assessed for the potential to provide habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species, with a special focus on San Bernardino kangaroo rat (SBKR; *Dipodomys merriami parvus*). Data were recorded on a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, field notebooks, or maps. Photographs were also taken during the survey to provide visual representation of the conditions

within the Project Site. The Project Site was also examined to assess its potential to facilitate wildlife movement or function as a movement corridor for wildlife moving throughout the region. In addition, the biologists documented the vegetation communities present on the Project Site.

Plant and wildlife species, including any special-status species that were observed during the survey, were recorded. Plant nomenclature follows that of *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012). Wildlife nomenclature follows Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (2017), *Checklist of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2020), and the *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico* (Bradley et al. 2014).

In instances where a special-status species was observed, the date, species, location and habitat, and GPS coordinates were recorded. The locations of special-status species observations were recorded using a handheld GPS in North American Datum 1983, Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates, Zone 11S.

## **4.0 RESULTS**

Summarized below are the results of the literature review and field surveys, including site characteristics, vegetation communities, wildlife, special-status species, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors).

### **4.1 Literature Review**

#### **4.1.1 Special-Status Plants and Wildlife**

The literature review and database searches identified 32 special-status plant species records and 48 special-status wildlife species that could occur on and/or near the Project Site. A list was generated from the results of the literature review and the Project Site was evaluated for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant or wildlife species on the list. The Project Site is located within the San Bernardino County biotic overlays for burrowing owl, California gnatcatcher, and San Bernardino kangaroo rat (County of San Bernardino 2012).

#### **4.1.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Designated Critical Habitat**

The Project Site overlaps USFWS-designated critical habitat for San Bernardino kangaroo rat (USFWS 2024b). Although the Project Site is located within designated critical habitat for SBKR, critical habitat designations do not affect activities by private landowners if there is no federal “nexus”—that is, no federal funding or permits are required to carry out the activity. However, activities that involve a federal permit, license, or funding, and are likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat will be required to consult with the USFWS to determine if a “take” authorization is required. Under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, all federal agencies are required to use their authorities to help conserve imperiled species. Currently, no federal nexus has been identified for the Project (e.g., no federal funding or permits are required to develop the property), thus a “take” permit is not currently required for destroying or adversely modifying designated critical habitat.

### 4.1.3 Preliminary Aquatic Resources Delineation Literature Review

The Project Site itself does not include any state- or federally protected wetlands or Waters of the U.S. The desktop review of the NWI and the NRCS Web Soil Survey Map showed several mapped aquatic features outside of the Project boundary in the 500-foot buffer, including Plunge Creek, located adjacent to the Project Site along the southeastern border (NRCS 2024a; USFWS 2024b). The NWI mapping designation for Plunge Creek is R5UBF, which indicates that it is a riverine, perennial streambed that is semi-permanently flooded and has an unconsolidated substrate. Recent aerial photographs show evidence that aquatic features are likely present in the locations mapped by NWI, outside of the Project Site. Although a desktop delineation was performed, no formal delineation of aquatic resources was conducted in association with the biological surveys.

## 4.2 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

The biological reconnaissance surveys were conducted on July 1, 2023, and October 23, 2024, by ECORP senior wildlife biologist Phillip Wasz. Summarized below are the results of the biological reconnaissance survey including site characteristics, plant communities, wildlife, special-status species, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors). Weather conditions during the survey are summarized in Table 1.

<b>Table 1. Weather Conditions during the Survey</b>									
<b>Date</b>	<b>Surveyors</b>	<b>Time</b>		<b>Temperature (°F)</b>		<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>		<b>Wind Speed (mph)</b>	
		<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>
7/1/23	Phillip Wasz	0900	1400	79	99	20	15	0	5
10/23/24	Phillip Wasz	1000	1400	82	92	10	10	0	5

Notes: °F = Degrees Fahrenheit; mph = Miles per Hour

### 4.2.1 Property Characteristics

The Project Site consists of two adjacent parcels which are surrounded by roadways, residential developments, and open undeveloped land. The Project Site is located within an alluvial valley area of the San Bernardino Mountains, upstream of the confluence of Plunge Creek and the Santa Ana River. Soil types within the Project Site consist of Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes; Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes; Psamments, Fluvents, and frequently flooded soils; Soboba gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 9 percent slopes; and Soboba stony loamy sand, 2 to 9 percent slopes (NRCS 2024a). The Project Site is located north of Greenspot Road and is detached from the Santa Ana River floodplain and has been disconnected from periodic flooding and scouring, typical of an alluvial area, due to flood control improvements in the area. Representative photographs of the Project Site are presented in Appendix A.



## **4.2.2 Vegetation Communities**

The Project Site contained two vegetation communities and three land cover types, including scale broom scrub (*Lepidospartum squamatum* shrubland alliance), wild oats and annual brome grasslands (*Avena* spp. – *Bromus* spp. herbaceous semi-natural alliance), fallow agriculture, developed land, disturbed land, and disturbed land (Figure 3). The Project Site contained large areas of disturbed and developed land, and fallow agriculture, which typically do not provide suitable habitat for the special-status species that could occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. However, the Project Site did contain a large patch of scale broom scrub that could provide habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species.

### **4.2.2.1 Scale Broom Scrub**

Scale broom scrub is characterized by scale broom as a dominant or codominant with cheese bush (*Ambrosia salsola*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California cholla (*Cylindropuntia californica*), Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), and/or California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) in an open to continuous shrub layer and variable or grassy herbaceous layer. It is found in intermittently or rarely flooded, low-gradient alluvial deposits along streams, washes, and fans, at elevations ranging from 164 to 4,921 feet (50 to 1,500 meters) above mean sea level (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Project Site, scale broom scrub was dominated by scale broom and California buckwheat but was also degraded by heavy infestations of nonnative plants such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), mustard species (*Brassica* spp.), foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis*), and redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*). Scale broom scrub was documented throughout most of the central portion of the Project Site (Figure 3). Approximately 4.98 acres of scale broom scrub habitat were mapped within the Project Site.

### **4.2.2.2 Wild Oats and Annual Brome Grasslands**

Wild oats and annual brome grasslands are described as having wild oats and brome species as the dominant or co-dominant species with other nonnatives in the herbaceous layer. This vegetation community is typically composed of annual grasses which originated in the Mediterranean region, which is climatically like southern California, making it easy for them to thrive. Characteristic species include wild oats, foxtail chess, cheatgrass, and ripgut brome. This vegetation community can occur in all topographic settings but is often associated with abandoned fields, eroded washes, overgrazed rangeland, road verges, foothills, waste places, and lower montane slopes. Associated plant species within this community on the Project Site included wild oat, foxtail chess, mustard, and cheatgrass in the north central portion of the Project Site (Figure 3). Approximately 2.41 acres of Wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat were mapped within the Project Site.



Figure 3. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

#### **4.2.2.3 Fallow Agriculture**

Areas designated as fallow agriculture have previously contained agriculture but are no longer actively being farmed and contain either escaped cultivars or nonnative species. Fallow agriculture is not a vegetation community classification, but rather a land use type that is not restricted to a known elevation. Within the Project Site, fallow agriculture usually consisted of recently disced areas that contained emergent nonnative grasses and forbs, such as cheatgrass, ripgut brome, and doveweed (*Croton setiger*). Fallow agriculture was documented along the western border of the Project Site (Figure 3). Approximately 1.17 acres of fallow agriculture were mapped within the Project Site.

#### **4.2.2.4 Disturbed**

The disturbed classification includes areas where the native vegetation community has been heavily influenced by human actions, such as grading, trash dumping, and off-road use, but lacks development. Disturbed is not a vegetation classification, but rather a land cover type and is not typically restricted to a known elevation. Disturbed areas located throughout the Project Site included an area previously used for storing agricultural equipment along the northwest border of the Project Site and a recently graded area south and east of Alta Vista. In areas classified as disturbed, vegetation was absent or sparse and consisted primarily of nonnative species, such as red brome, redstem filaree, and Mediterranean grass. Approximately 3.93 acres of disturbed land cover were mapped within the Project Site.

#### **4.2.2.5 Developed**

Areas designated as developed will have infrastructure present and any vegetation in the immediate surroundings represents ornamental landscaping. Developed is not a vegetation classification, but rather a land cover type and is not restricted to a known elevation. The developed area within the Project Site was associated with the roadway (Alta Vista). Approximately 1.01 acres of developed land cover were mapped within the Project Site. These areas consisted of Alta Vista and Greenspot Road.

### **4.2.3 Plants**

Plant species observed on the Project Site were generally characteristic of scale broom scrub and wild oats and annual brome grasslands. Common plants identified on the Project Site included ripgut grass, common mediterranean grass, California buckwheat, scalebroom, and brittlebush. A full list of plant species observed on the Project Site is included in Appendix B.

### **4.2.4 Wildlife**

Wildlife species observed on the Project Site were generally characteristic of scale broom scrub and wild oats and annual brome grasslands and disturbed areas. Some of the wildlife species present on the Project Site at the time of the survey included side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). A full list of wildlife species observed on and immediately adjacent to the Project Site is included in Appendix C.

#### 4.2.5 Potential for Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species to Occur on the Project Site

The literature review and database searches identified 32 special-status plant species records and 48 special-status wildlife species that could occur on and/or near the Project Site. The Project Site contained large areas of disturbed and developed land and fallow agriculture, which typically do not provide suitable habitat for the special-status species that could occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. However, the Project Site did contain a large patch of scale broom scrub that could provide habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species.

##### 4.2.5.1 Special-Status Plants

There were 32 special-status plant species that appeared in the literature review and database searches that could occur on and/or near the Project Site (CDFW 2024a; CNPS 2024). A list was generated from the results of the literature review and the Project was evaluated for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant species on the list. Descriptions of the CNPS California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) designations can be found in Table 2. A Potential for Occurrence table outlining each plant species and their designations can be found in Appendix D.

<b>Table 2. California Rare Plant Rank Status Designations</b>	
<b>List Designation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But Common Elsewhere
2B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere
3	Plants about which more information is needed; a review list
4	Plants of limited distribution; a watch list
<b>List .1, .2 and .3 Extension Meanings</b>	
.1	Seriously threatened in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2	Moderately threatened in California (20 to 80 percent occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
.3	Not very threatened in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Notes: According to the California Native Plant Society (Skinner and Pavlik 1994), plants on Lists 1B and 2 meet definitions for listing as threatened or endangered under Section 1901, Chapter 10, of the California Fish and Game Code (California Department of Fish and Game 1984). This interpretation is inconsistent with other definitions.

#### **4.2.5.2 Plant Species with a High Potential to Occur**

Five species were found to have a high potential to occur on the Project Site. Although none of the species were identified on the Project Site during the biological reconnaissance survey, the site provides suitable habitat (including soils and elevation factors), and recently documented (less than 20 years old) observations occur within five miles of the Project Site. The special-status plant species with a high potential are described below and detailed in Appendix D.

##### **Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*)**

Parry's spineflower is an annual herb with a CRPR status of 1B.1. The species is not a federally or state-listed species. This species is typically found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitat, often in sandy or rocky openings. The scale broom scrub present in the Project Site provides suitable habitat for the species. There are six recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within five miles of the Project Site (Occurrences: 32, 83, 84, 124, 150, 151; CDFW 2024a). The most recent occurrence was recorded 2.1 miles away from the Project in 2018 (Occurrence 151; CDFW 2024a), the closest was recorded 0.6 miles away in 2006 (Occurrence 32; CDFW 2024a). However, a focused protocol-level rare plant survey conducted in 2016 was negative and no rare or special-status plants were detected during the survey (LSA 2016c). Nonetheless, the presence of suitable habitat on the Project Site and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

##### **Slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*)**

Slender-horned spineflower is an annual herb that is endemic to California. This species is both federally and state listed as endangered and has a CRPR status of 1B.1. This species is typically found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats with sandy soils. The scale broom scrub present in the Project Site provides suitable habitat for the species. This species has been documented approximately 1.8 miles southwest (Occurrence 2) in 2021 (CDFW 2024a). However, a focused protocol-level rare plant survey conducted in 2016 was negative and no rare or special-status plants were detected during the survey (LSA 2016c). Nonetheless, the presence of suitable habitat on the Project Site and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

##### **Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*)**

Santa Ana River woollystar is a perennial herb that is endemic to California. This species is both federally and state listed as endangered and has a CRPR status of 1B.1. This species is typically found in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats with sandy or gravelly soils. The scale broom scrub present in the Project Site provides suitable habitat for the species. There are four recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within five miles of the Project Site (Occurrences: 5, 17, 26, 36; CDFW 2024a). The most recent occurrence was recorded 0.3 miles away from the Project in 2021 (Occurrence 5; CDFW 2024a), the closest was recorded 0.02 miles away in 2007 (Occurrence 26; CDFW 2024a). However, a focused protocol-level rare plant survey conducted in 2016 was negative and no rare or special-status plants were detected during the

survey (LSA 2016c). Nonetheless, the presence of suitable habitat on the Project Site and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

### **California satintail (*Imperata brevifolia*)**

California satintail is a perennial grasslike herb with a CRPR status of 2B.1. The species is not a federally or state-listed species. This species is typically found in chaparral, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, alkaline meadows and seeps, and riparian scrub habitats with mesic soils. The scale broom scrub present in the Project Site provides suitable habitat for the species. This species has been documented approximately 2.8 miles southeast (Occurrence 7) in 2010 (CDFW 2024a). However, a focused protocol-level rare plant survey conducted in 2016 was negative and no rare or special-status plants were detected during the survey (LSA 2016c). Nonetheless, the presence of suitable habitat on the Project Site and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

### **Salt spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*)**

Salt spring checkerbloom is a perennial herb with a CRPR status of 2B.2. The species is not a federally or state-listed species. This species is typically found in chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, and playa habitats with alkaline or mesic soils. The scale broom scrub present in the Project Site provides suitable habitat for the species. This species has been documented approximately 3.9 miles northwest (Occurrence 23) in 2011 (CDFW 2024a). However, a focused protocol-level rare plant survey conducted in 2016 was negative and no rare or special-status plants were detected during the survey (LSA 2016c). Nonetheless, the presence of suitable habitat on the Project Site and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

#### **4.2.5.3 Plant Species with a Moderate Potential to Occur**

Two species were found to have moderate potential to occur on the Project Site. The site provides marginal or limited amounts of habitat (including soils and elevation factors) and recently documented (less than 20 years old) observations occur within five miles of the Project Site. The special-status plant species with a moderate potential are listed below and detailed in Appendix D.

- Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevini*), federally listed (endangered), state listed (endangered), CRPR 1B.1; and
- White-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*), CRPR 1B.2.

#### **4.2.5.4 Plant Species with a Low Potential to Occur**

The following nine species have a low potential to occur on the Project Site because limited or marginally suitable habitat for the species occurs on site and a known historic documented occurrence (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project Site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with

the species occurs on site, but no records were found in the database search. The special-status plant species with a low potential are listed below and detailed in Appendix D

- Chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*), CRPR 1B.1;
- Jaeger's milk-vetch (*Astragalus pachypus* var. *jaegeri*), CRPR 1B.1;
- Thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), federally listed (threatened), state listed (endangered), CRPR 1B.1;
- Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*), CRPR 1B.1;
- Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*), CRPR 1B.1;
- Parish's desert-thorn (*Lycium parishii*), CRPR 2B.3;
- Parish's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus parishii*), CRPR 1A;
- Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), CRPR 2B.2; and
- San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*), CRPR 1B.2.

#### **4.2.5.5 Plant Species Presumed Absent**

The following sixteen species were presumed absent from the Project Site due to lack of suitable habitat on the Project Site (including elevation, soils, vegetation communities), or because the Project is located outside of the known range for the species:

- Horn's milk-vetch (*Astragalus hornii* var. *hornii*), CRPR 1B.1;
- San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior*), CRPR 1B.1;
- La Panza mariposa-lily (*Calochortus simulans*), CRPR 1B.3;
- Bristly sedge (*Carex comosa*), CRPR 2B.1;
- Hot springs fimbriatylis (*Fimbristylis thermalis*), CRPR 2B.2;
- Los Angeles sunflower (*Helianthus nuttallii* ssp. *parishii*), CRPR 1A;
- Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*), CRPR 1B.1;
- Pringle's monardella (*Monardella pringlei*), CRPR 1A;
- Mud nama (*Nama stenocarpa*), CRPR 2B.2;
- Gambel's water cress (*Nasturtium gambelii*), federally listed (endangered), state listed (threatened), CRPR 1B.1;
- Sonoran maiden fern (*Pelazoneuron puberulum* var. *sonorense*), CRPR 2B.2;
- Brand's star phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), CRPR 1B.1;

- Parish's gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum* var. *parishii*), CRPR 1A;
- Black bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), CRPR 2B.2;
- Prairie wedge grass (*Sphenopholis obtusata*), CRPR 2B.2; and
- Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii* var. *wrightii*), CRPR 2B.1.

#### **4.2.5.6 Special-Status Wildlife**

The literature search documented 48 special-status wildlife species that occur within the vicinity of the Project Site. A list was generated from the results of the literature review and the Project Site was evaluated for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status wildlife species on the list. The Project Site's disturbed nature, proximity to commercial development, and the presence of anthropogenic influences on the site likely preclude many of these species from occurring. A table outlining each wildlife species, their designations, and potential for occurrence on the Project Site can be found in Appendix E.

#### **4.2.5.7 Special-Status Wildlife Species Detected on the Project Site**

##### **San Diego Desert Woodrat**

The San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) is a CDFW SSC (CDFW 2024b). It occupies coastal scrub, sagebrush scrub, and chaparral habitats from northwestern Baja California to San Luis Obispo. Suitable habitat was present on the Project Site and the literature review identified one recent CNDDDB record from 2007 approximately 1.7 miles west of the Project Site. Additionally, this species was captured during the 2016 and 2023 San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping surveys (LSA Associates, Inc. [LSA] 2016a; ECORP 2023). Therefore, this species is considered present on the Project Site.

#### **4.2.5.8 Wildlife Species with a High Potential to Occur**

Three species were found to have a high potential to occur on the Project Site. Although none of the species were identified on the Project Site during the biological reconnaissance survey, the site provides suitable habitat (including soils and elevation factors), and recently documented (less than 20 years old) observations occur within five miles of the Project Site. The special-status wildlife species with a high potential are described below and detailed in Appendix E

##### **California Glossy Snake**

The California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*) is a CDFW SSC (CDFW 2024c). This species commonly occurs in areas with patchy brush and rocks with open areas and loose soil for burrowing and is typically found in desert habitats but also arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, low elevation coastal scrub, and chaparral and other habitats with patchy brush (Zeiner et al. 1990a). Suitable habitat was present on the Project Site and surrounding property in areas with friable soils and small mammal burrows within the scrub, grassland, and disturbed areas. Suitable scale broom scrub habitat, wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat, and loose sandy soils were present on the Project Site and the literature review identified three recent records of this species within five miles of the Project Site. The



presence of suitable habitat and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

### **Red-Diamond Rattlesnake**

The red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), a California SSC, is typically found in arid scrub, woodland, and desert slopes and rocky flat habitats (Zeiner et al. 1990a). Suitable arid habitat occurs within the scale broom scrub vegetation on the Project Site and two recent records occur within five miles of the Project Site. The presence of suitable habitat and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

### **Coastal California Gnatcatcher**

The coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) is federally listed (endangered) and CDFW SSC. This species occurs in coastal bluff scrub, desert scrub, and coastal dune scrub year-round. They generally occur in areas that are less than 1,600 feet (487 meters). Males will select the nest site, and this can be in sagebrush, buckwheat, or other shrubs. Nests shrubs are often located on a slope or within a gully or drainage. Clutch size ranges from 2 eggs to 5 eggs, with a female having 1 brood to 2 broods in a season. The incubation period is 14 days. Suitable habitat for this species was present within the scale broom scrub habitat and two recent species records were identified within five miles of the Project Site. However, focused protocol-level presence/absence survey conducted in 2016 were negative and no gnatcatchers were detected during the survey (LSA 2016b). Nonetheless, the presence of suitable habitat on the Project Site and the documented records of this species within five miles of the Project Site resulted in this species having a high potential to occur.

#### **4.2.5.9 Wildlife Species with a Moderate Potential to Occur**

Two species were found to have moderate potential to occur on the Project Site. Although these species was not present on the Project Site during the biological reconnaissance survey, habitat for the species occurs onsite, and a known occurrence has been reported in the database, but not within five miles of the site; or a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project Site; or a recently documented observation occurs within five miles of the site and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs onsite. The special-status wildlife species with moderate potential are listed below and detailed in Appendix E

### **Crotch Bumble Bee**

The Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) is a candidate species for listing (endangered) under the California ESA and is therefore afforded all the same legal protections as a fully listed species would receive under the California ESA. The Crotch bumble bee occurs in open grassland and scrub habitats ranging from coastal California, east to the Sierra-Cascade crest, and south into Mexico. The flight period for queens in California is from late February to late October, peaking in early April with a second pulse in July. The flight period for workers and males in California is from late March through September, peaking in early July. The species prefers a diet consisting of certain plant species including milkweeds (*Asclepias* sp.), dusty maidens (*Chaenactis* sp.), lupines (*Lupinus* sp.), medics (*Medicago* sp.), phacelias (*Phacelia* sp.),

sages (*Salvia* sp.), clarkias (*Clarkia* sp.), poppies (*Papaver* sp. or *Eschscholzia* sp.), and wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.). The nests of the species are often located underground in abandoned rodent nests or above ground in tufts of grass, old bird nests, rock piles, or cavities in dead trees. Overwintering sites utilized by Crotch bumble bee mated queens include soft, disturbed soils, or under leaf litter or other debris. Suitable habitat was present within the scale broom scrub and rodent burrows for nesting and overwintering are present on the Project Site. Additionally, there were eight recent CNDDDB occurrences identified within the literature review and database searches, but none of the records were within five miles of the Project Site. Due to the presence of suitable habitat for this species and the recent documented records vicinity of the Project Site, but not within five miles, this species has been determined to have a moderate potential to occur on the Project Site.

### **Los Angeles Pocket Mouse**

The Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*; LAPM) is a CDFW SSC that is typically found in areas containing fine sandy soils or sandy loams, which are excellent substrates for burrow excavation by this diminutive animal. Like many heteromyids, LAPM dig burrow systems near the base of shrubs or amidst other vegetation types and position themselves within the burrow as environmental conditions change. LAPM most commonly occur in coastal sage scrub and grassland habitats, but also in alluvial fan sage scrub habitats. Plant species composition varies greatly among LAPM occupied habitat areas but typically encompasses both native and nonnative plants commonly associated with sandy or granular soils, and often in lower elevational alluvial systems. Suitable habitat for this species was present within the scale boom scrub and wild oats and annual brome grassland habitat on the Project Site. The database searches identified three recent records of this species were three recent CNDDDB occurrences identified within the literature review and database searches, but none of the records were within five miles of the Project Site. Additionally, one Los Angeles pocket mouse was captured during 2016 San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping survey, but the species was not captured during 2023 San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping survey (LSA 2016a; ECORP 2023). Due to the presence of suitable habitat for this species and previous presence on the Project Site, this species has been determined to have a moderate potential to occur on the Project Site.

#### **4.2.5.10 Wildlife Species with a Low Potential to Occur**

The following eight species have a low potential to occur on the Project Site because marginally suitable habitat for the species occurs on site and a known occurrence has been reported in the database, but not within five miles of the site; or a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project Site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site, but no records were found in the database search. The special-status wildlife species with a low potential are listed below and detailed in Appendix E.

- San Diego banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus abbotti*), CDFW SSC;
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), CDFW SSC;
- Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*), CDFW SSC;

- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), state candidate for listing (endangered/threatened)
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), CDFW SSC;
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat, federally listed (endangered), state listed (endangered);
- Southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus ramona*), CDFW SSC; and
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), CDFW SSC.

#### **4.2.5.11 Wildlife Species Presumed Absent**

A total of 34 species were presumed absent. These species were not present at the site during the biological reconnaissance survey and the habitat present on the Project Site was not suitable. For some species, there were historic or recent sightings near the site; however, due to the lack of suitable habitat within the Project Site, these species are presumed absent. The species presumed absent are listed below and a table outlining each species, their designations, and potential for occurrence on the Project Site can be found in Appendix E:

- Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), federally listed (endangered);
- Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*), federally listed (endangered);
- Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), federally listed (endangered);
- Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*), federally listed (threatened);
- Arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*), CDFW SSC;
- Steelhead - Southern California Distinct Population Segment (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 10), federally listed (endangered), state candidate for listing (endangered);
- Santa Ana speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus* ssp. 8), CDFW SSC;
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), federally listed (endangered), CDFW SSC;
- Southern mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*), federally listed (endangered), state listed (endangered);
- Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), CDFW SSC;
- Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*), CDFW SSC;
- Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), CDFW SSC;
- Southern rubber boa (*Charina umbratica*), state listed (threatened);
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), CDFW SSC;
- Two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondi*), CDFW SSC;

- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), state listed (threatened), CDFW SSC;
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), CDFW Fully Protected;
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), state listed (threatened).
- Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), federally listed (threatened), state-listed (endangered);
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), CDFW Fully Protected;
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), federally listed (endangered), state listed (endangered);
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) state listed (endangered), CDFW Fully Protected;
- Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), CDFW SSC;
- California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), state listed (threatened), CDFW Fully Protected;
- Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), CDFW SSC;
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), federally listed (endangered), state listed (endangered);
- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), CDFW SSC;
- Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), federally listed (threatened), state listed (threatened);
- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), CDFW SSC;
- San Bernardino flying squirrel (*Glaucomys oregonensis californicus*), CDFW SSC;
- Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), CDFW SSC;
- Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*), CDFW SSC;
- Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*), CDFW SSC; and
- White-eared pocket mouse (*Perognathus alticolus alticolus*), CDFW SSC.

#### 4.2.6 Raptors and Migratory Birds

Potential nesting habitat for migratory birds and raptors protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code was present in the native shrubs and ornamental trees on and adjacent to the Project Site. Suitable nesting habitat for ground-nesting bird species, such as mourning doves, was also present on the Project Site. Therefore, nesting birds could use the Project Site during the nesting bird season (typically February 1 through August 31).

#### **4.2.7 Wildlife Movement Corridors, Linkages, and Significant Ecological Areas**

The concept of habitat corridors addresses the linkage between large blocks of habitat that allow the safe movement of mammals and other wildlife species from one habitat area to another. The definition of a corridor varies, but corridors may include such areas as greenbelts, refuge systems, underpasses, and biogeographic land bridges. In general, a corridor is described as a linear habitat embedded in a dissimilar matrix that connects two or more large blocks of habitat. Wildlife movement corridors are critical for the survivorship of ecological systems for several reasons. Corridors can connect water, food, and cover sources, spatially linking these three resources with wildlife in different areas. In addition, wildlife movement between habitat areas provides for the potential of genetic exchange between wildlife species populations, thereby maintaining genetic variability and adaptability to maximize the success of wildlife responses to changing environmental conditions. This is especially critical for small populations subject to loss of variability from genetic drift and effects of inbreeding. The nature of corridor usage and wildlife movement patterns vary greatly among species.

The Project Site was assessed for its ability to function as a wildlife corridor. The Project Site is surrounded by paved roads and development and portions of the Project Site are disturbed. Although the Project Site is undeveloped, it is surrounded by development to the north, east, and west and isolated from large, contiguous blocks of native habitat. The Project Site is bordered by Santa Ana Canyon Road to the north, Greenspot Road to the south, and Aurantia Park to the west. Alta Vista Road bisects the southeast section of the Project Site. These features isolate the habitat that is present within the Project Site from its surrounding area and provide potential barriers to wildlife movement. Additionally, the lack of consistent vegetative cover within the Project Site, the urban nature of the site, and the high level of disturbance on and in the vicinity of the site would likely deter wildlife from using the Project Site for movement opportunities. Although wildlife could pass through the site while moving about their home range, it would not be considered a movement corridor, linkage, or significant ecological area.

#### **4.2.8 Potential Aquatic Resources**

During the biological reconnaissance surveys, although a formal aquatic resources delineation was not conducted, the biologist noted two upland constructed ditches along the northern border that extend from under Santa Ana Canyon Road within the Project Site that could be considered aquatic resources (Figure 6). Feature 1 is a small approximately 12-inch pipe in the northeast corner of the Project Site and Feature 2 is an approximately 24-inch box culvert located in the northwest corner of the Project Site. The two features were devoid of riparian vegetation, but the characteristics observed within these features suggest that they could convey surface water and run off during periods of high precipitation. Therefore, it was determined that these drainages could be considered an aquatic resource that could be jurisdictional to CDFW, and associated streambeds may be jurisdictional to the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA, CDFW under the California Fish and Game Code, and RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA.

## 5.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS

### 5.1 Special-Status Species

The Project Site consists of two adjacent parcels which are surrounded by roadways, residential developments, and open undeveloped land. The Project Site contained two vegetation communities and three land cover types, including scale broom scrub, wild oats and annual brome grasslands, fallow agriculture, developed land, disturbed land, and disturbed land. The Project Site also contained large areas of disturbed and developed land, and fallow agriculture, which typically do not provide suitable habitat for the special-status species that could occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. The literature review and database searches identified 32 special-status plant species that could occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. Of the 32 special-status plant species, five species (Parry's spineflower, slender-horned spineflower, Santa Ana River woollystar, California satintail, and salt spring checkerbloom) were determined to have a high potential to occur on the Project Site, two species (Nevin's barberry and white-bracted spineflower) were determined to have a moderate potential to occur on the Project Site, and nine species (chaparral sand-verbena, Jaeger's milk-vetch, thread-leaved brodiaea, smooth tarplant, mesa horkelia, Parish's desert-thorn, Parish's bush-mallow, chaparral ragwort, and San Bernardino aster) were determined to have a low potential to occur on the Project Site based on the habitat present and documented species records within five miles of the Project Site. Sixteen species were also presumed absent from the Project Site due to the lack of suitable habitat (including elevation, soils, and vegetation communities) or because the Project is located outside of the known range for the species. A focused protocol-level rare plant survey conducted in 2016 was negative and no special-status plant species were observed (LSA 2016c). Additionally, no special-status or rare plants were identified during the biological survey conducted in 2023 or 2024. Nonetheless, four special-status plant species with potential to occur on the Project Site are federally or state-listed species (slender-horned spineflower, Santa Ana River woollystar, Nevin's barberry, and thread-leaved brodiaea) and any direct impacts associated with Project implementation would be considered significant under CEQA. If special-status plants are present on the Project Site, direct impacts in the form of ground disturbance, vegetation removal, habitat loss, and mortality may occur. Impacts to special-status plants would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2. The Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Project are discussed in Section 6.0.

The literature review and database searches identified 48 special-status wildlife species that could occur in the vicinity of the Project Site, and although no special-status wildlife species were documented during the biological reconnaissance surveys, one special-status species (San Diego desert woodrat) was captured during focused San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping surveys (LSA 2016a; ECORP 2023). Additionally, the Project Site contained suitable habitat for 13 special-status wildlife species with varying levels of potential to occur. Of those 13 species, five species were determined to have a high or moderate potential to occur: California glossy snake, red-diamond rattle snake, coastal California gnatcatcher, crotch bumble bee, and Los Angeles pocket mouse. California glossy snake, red-diamond rattlesnake, and Los Angeles pocket mouse are all CDFW SSC, and if present on the Project Site, these species could be subject to direct impacts through ground disturbance and indirect impacts from construction noise, vibrations, and increased human activity related to the development of the Project Site. However, due to the lack of

high-quality habitat within the Project Site, the site's history of anthropogenic disturbances, and the presence of urban development immediately adjacent to the Project Site, if present on the Project Site, these three species are only expected to occur in low density and Project-related impacts would not be expected to contribute to the overall decline of populations for these species. Therefore, impacts to California glossy snake and red-diamond rattlesnake would not be considered significant under CEQA, and additional surveys and mitigation are not necessary.

Suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher was present within the scale broom scrub vegetation on the Project Site. Focused protocol-level presence/absence surveys conducted in 2016 were negative and no gnatcatchers were detected during the survey (LSA 2016b). Although this species is not expected to occur on the Project Site, if present, this species could be subject to direct impacts through ground disturbance and vegetation removal and indirect impacts from construction noise, vibrations, and increased human activity related to the development of the Project Site. Coastal California gnatcatchers are a federally listed (endangered) species and any direct or indirect impacts to coastal California gnatcatchers associated with Project implementation would be considered significant under CEQA. However, impacts to coastal California would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-5. The Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Project are discussed in Section 6.0.

Crotch bumble bee (candidate species for listing [endangered] under the California ESA) was determined to have a moderate potential to occur on the Project Site based on the presence of marginally suitable habitat and recent species records, but not within five miles of the Project Site. No Crotch bumble bees were observed during the 2023 and 2024 biological surveys. However, if present on the Project Site, this species could be subject to direct impacts through ground disturbance and vegetation removal and indirect impacts from construction noise, vibrations, and increased human activity related to the development of the Project Site. Any direct impacts to Crotch bumble bee associated with Project implementation would be considered significant under CEQA. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-3 will reduce impacts to Crotch bumble bee to a level that is less than significant.

Eight species were determined to have a low potential to occur due the presence of marginally suitable habitat for the species occurring on site and a known occurrence has been reported in the database, but not within five miles of the site; or a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project Site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site, but no records were found in the database search. Of these eight species, two are listed or proposed for listing, including burrowing owl (state candidate for listing [endangered/threatened]) and San Bernardino kangaroo rat (federally listed [endangered], state listed [endangered]). Focused protocol-level surveys conducted for these two species in 2016, and an additional focused protocol-level San Bernardino kangaroo rat survey conducted in 2023 were negative and no burrowing owl or San Bernardino kangaroo rat were observed or detected (LSA 2016a; LSA 2016d; ECORP 2023). Additionally, no burrowing owls or burrowing owl burrows were observed or detected during the 2023 and 2024 biological surveys. Although these species are not expected to occur on the Project Site, if present, they could be subject to direct impacts through ground disturbance and vegetation removal and indirect impacts from construction noise, vibrations, and increased human activity related to the development of

the Project Site, and any direct or indirect impacts to San Bernardino kangaroo rat and/or direct impacts to burrowing owl associated with Project implementation would be considered significant under CEQA. However, impacts to burrowing owl would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-4, BIO-5 and impacts to San Bernardino kangaroo rat would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-6. The Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Project are discussed in Section 6.0.

The remaining 34 special-status wildlife species are presumed absent from occurring on or adjacent to the site due to the lack of suitable habitat; proximity to the surrounding residential, commercial, and industrial development; and the presence of anthropogenic disturbances associated with the commercial and industrial development surrounding the site. No significant impacts to the 34 special-status wildlife species that are presumed absent are anticipated to result from the development of this Project, and additional surveys and mitigation measures are not required at this time.

The trees and large shrubs on the Project Site, as well as the trees immediately adjacent to the Project Site, could provide nesting habitat for nesting birds and raptors protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Furthermore, the Project Site could provide nesting habitat for ground-nesting bird species. If construction of the Proposed Project occurs during the bird breeding season (typically February 1 through August 31), ground-disturbing construction activities could directly affect birds protected by the MBTA and their nests through the removal of habitat on the Project Site, and indirectly through increased noise, vibrations, and increased human activity. However, impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2 and BIO-5.

## **5.2 Sensitive Natural Communities**

The Project Site contained two vegetation communities and three land cover types, including scale broom scrub, wild oats and annual brome grasslands, fallow agriculture, developed land, disturbed land, and disturbed land (Figure 3). The Project Site does not contain any riparian habitat and the removal of the remnant area of scale broom scrub will not be significant if determined to be devoid of listed species, since it is a fragmented habitat area and separated from Santa Ana River and Plunge Creek.

## **5.3 State and Federally Protected Wetlands and Waters of the United States**

The Project Site contains two features that require further investigation. Feature 1 is a small approximately 12-inch pipe in the northeast corner of the Project Site and Feature 2 is an approximately 24-inch box culvert located in the northwest corner of the Project Site. The two features were devoid of riparian vegetation, but the characteristics observed within these features suggest that they could convey surface water and run off during periods of high precipitation. Therefore, these features could be considered aquatic resources that could be jurisdictional to CDFW, and associated streambeds may be jurisdictional to the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA, CDFW under the California Fish and Game Code, and RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA. Therefore, a formal aquatic resources delineation will be conducted and report written under a separate cover.



Impacts to RWQCB jurisdiction and potential CDFW jurisdiction would require coordination and permitting for the Project under Section 401 of the CWA, the Porter Cologne Water Quality Act and Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code. The final decision on whether permits and agreements will be required rests with each of the respective agencies.

## **5.4 Wildlife Corridors and Nursery Sites**

The Project Site is located immediately adjacent to areas containing existing disturbances (e.g., paved roads and residential developments). The Project Site could provide wildlife movement opportunities since it consists of open and unimpeded land. The Site is exposed and does not contain any large drainages that likely support wildlife movement through the area and the site's value as a corridor is lessened by the fact that it borders residential developments to the north and the busy Greenspot Road to the south. The study area is separated from the pending Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan by Greenspot Road. No migratory wildlife corridors or native wildlife nursery sites were identified within the Project Site. No impacts to these resources are expected to occur during the development of the Project Site

## **5.5 Local Policies, Ordinances, and Conservation Plans**

### **5.5.1 Chapter 8.36 Heritage Trees**

In the City ordinance (Ord. 103 § 4, 1990), a "heritage tree" means any [native and non-native or ornamental] live tree, shrub or woody plants in excess of 15 feet in height and having a single trunk circumference of 24 inches or more, as measured four and one-half feet above ground level; or multi-trunk tree(s) having a total circumference of 30 inches or more, measured four and one-half feet from ground level; or a stand of trees, the nature of which makes each dependent upon the others for survival; or any other tree as may be deemed historically or culturally significant by the community development director or designee because of size, condition, location, or aesthetic qualities. No person, firm, or corporation shall remove, relocate or destroy any heritage tree within the city limits, including an applicant for a building permit, without first obtaining a tree removal permit from the community development director or designee or reviewing authority. An application for a tree removal permit shall be filed, together with any required fee as set by the resolution of the city council, with the community development director on forms provided for the purpose.

There are an estimated 25 non-native Peruvian pepper trees on the study area, which may or may not be considered "heritage trees." There is a cluster of multiple trunk native sycamore trees in the agricultural area of the property, which may meet criteria for City "heritage tree." Also, the laurel sumac shrubs are large specimens that may also be considered "heritage trees."

### **5.5.2 San Bernardino Valley-Wide Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan**

The proposed San Bernardino Valley-wide Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) encompasses approximately 500 square miles containing six unlisted species, six State-listed as endangered or threatened species, 13 federally listed as endangered threatened species, and 53 species of special concern. The schedule for completion and adoption of the San Bernardino Valley-wide MSHCP

is uncertain at this time. Completion of the plan is not expected anytime within the near future. The City participated in previous planning efforts, with the intent of being a Local Permittee upon adoption of the plan.

### 5.5.3 Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management and Habitat Conservation Plan

The Project Site is located outside, but adjacent to areas covered by the finalized Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management and HCP for the Upper Santa Ana Wash. This HCP involves an area of approximately 4,365 acres located in the upper Santa Ana River Wash area. The HCP was completed in July 2020 following Federal approval, marking the culmination of a two-decade planning process. The plan facilitates the enhancement of facilities planned for the Wash area. It should be noted that activities related to all utilities belonging to Southern California Edison within the Project footprint and the EBX Foothill Pipeline, also located within the Project footprint, are excluded from the covered activities described in the HCP. The Project Site is separated from the Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan by Greenspot Road.

Covered Species are those species addressed in the finalized HCP for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the applicants have received incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 30 years. These include two federally listed endangered plants (Santa Ana River woollystar and slender-horned spineflower), the federally listed endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat, the federally listed threatened coastal California gnatcatcher, and the cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), which is not currently listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

The Project Site is not located in a species habitat conservation plan and the Proposed Project is not a Covered Activity. No action is necessary for compliance with the proposed Santa Ana River Wash Land Management and Habitat Conservation Plan.

## 6.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are recommended prior to Project implementation:

**BIO-1 Pre-construction Special-Status Plant Surveys.** Prior to Project implementation a protocol-level pre-construction plant survey shall be conducted for the 16 special-status plant species that have varying levels of potential to occur on the Project Site, including Parry's spineflower, slender-horned spineflower, Santa Ana River woollystar, California satintail, salt spring checkerbloom, Nevin's Barberry, and thread-leaved brodiaea. The protocol-level survey shall be conducted at the appropriate time of year when plants will both be evident and identifiable (usually, during flowering or fruiting), the season or the year prior to the start of ground-breaking Project activities. The survey should be conducted by a qualified botanist or biologist experienced with surveying for and identifying these flora. The surveys should be conducted in consideration of the USFWS *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Plants* (USFWS 1996), *General Rare Plant Survey Guidelines* (Cypher 2002), *CDFW's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018), and the CNPS's *Botanical Survey Guidelines* (CNPS 2001). If no

federally or state-listed or CRPR List 1 or 2 plant species are identified during the survey, Project Site preparation and construction activities may begin, and no further action is necessary.

If CRPR List 1 or 2 plant species or any federally or state-listed plant species are observed on the Project Site during the survey, then a qualified botanist or biologist shall establish a non-disturbance buffer around the location(s) of the individuals or population. The size of the non-disturbance buffer shall be determined by the qualified botanist or biologist based on location of special-status species and expected construction activities. If one or more CRPR List 1 or 2 plant species or any state or federally listed plant species are found on the Project Site and avoidance of the location(s) is not feasible during Project construction, then the qualified biologist and the Project Proponent shall coordinate with CDFW and/or USFWS to determine if additional mitigation measures are necessary. Mitigation measures could include, but are not limited to, additional biological monitoring, seasonal work avoidance, seed collection, or transplanting.

**BIO-2 Biological Monitoring.** A qualified biologist shall be present to monitor all initial ground-disturbing and vegetation-clearing activities conducted for the Project. During each monitoring day, the biological monitor shall perform clearance survey “sweeps” at the start of each workday that vegetation clearing takes place to minimize impacts on special-status species with potential to occur. The monitor will be responsible for ensuring that impacts to special-status species, nesting birds, and active nests will be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Biological monitoring shall take place until the Project Site has been completely cleared of any vegetation. If an active nest is identified, the biological monitor shall establish an appropriate disturbance limit buffer around the nest using flagging or staking. Construction activities shall not occur within any disturbance limit buffer zones until the nest is deemed no longer active by the biologist. If special-status wildlife species are detected during biological monitoring activities, then consultation with the USFWS and/or CDFW shall be conducted, and a mitigation plan shall be developed to avoid and offset impacts to these species. Mitigation measures may consist of work restrictions and/or additional biological monitoring activities after ground-disturbing activities are complete.

**BIO-3 Pre-construction Crotch Bumble Bee Survey.** If the Crotch bumble bee is no longer a Candidate or formally Listed species under the California ESA at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures are proposed for the species.

If the Crotch bumble bee is legally protected under the California ESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur, it is recommended pre-construction surveys be conducted in accordance with the established survey protocol provided by CDFW. If no such protocol is available and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the Crotch bumble bee flight season (February 16 through October 31), then it is recommended a minimum of two Crotch bumble bee pre-construction surveys are conducted by a qualified biologist experienced in identifying the species prior to ground disturbing activities (including vegetation and tree removal). The

surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days and three (3) days prior to ground-disturbing activities and vegetation clearing activities that are to occur during the flight season.

Should vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities be scheduled to begin during the overwintering season (November 1 to February 15), when Crotch bumble bee are not detectable aboveground, then four (4) focused surveys shall be conducted at least three (3) weeks apart during the peak flight season (late March through August) immediately prior to start of construction.

If Crotch bumble bee is determined to occur within the Project Site at any time, coordination with CDFW shall be required prior to the initiation of Project activities.

**BIO-4 Pre-construction Burrowing Owl Surveys.** Pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls shall be conducted. Prior to ground disturbing activities, a qualified wildlife biologist (i.e., a wildlife biologist with previous burrowing owl survey experience) shall conduct pre-construction surveys of the Project Site, plus a 500-foot buffer (where access is permissible and suitable habitat is present), to locate active breeding or wintering burrowing owls and burrowing owl burrows between 30 and 14 days prior to construction. The survey methodology shall be consistent with the methods outlined in the *CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game 2012). Additionally, a qualified biologist shall conduct a second pre-construction survey of the Project Site plus an approximately 500-foot buffer no more than 24 hours prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities associated with construction to identify any additional burrowing owls or burrows necessitating avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures.

If no burrowing owls or active burrowing owl burrows (e.g., with sign present) are observed during the survey, Project Site preparation and construction activities may begin, and no further action is necessary.

If burrowing owl(s) or suitable burrowing owl burrows with sign (e.g., whitewash, pellets, feathers, prey remains) are identified on the Project Site during the surveys, these features must be completely avoided, and the qualified biologist and Project proponent shall coordinate with CDFW prior to preparing a Burrowing Owl Plan to determine the most appropriate avoidance measures. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, minimization, and monitoring actions. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites, acres of burrowing owl habitat that will be impacted, details of site monitoring, and details on proposed buffers and other avoidance measures if avoidance is proposed. If impacts to occupied burrowing owl habitat or burrow cannot be avoided, the Burrowing Owl Plan shall also describe relocation actions that will be implemented. Proposed implementation of burrow exclusion and closure should only be considered as a last resort, after all other options have been evaluated as exclusion is not in itself an avoidance, minimization, or mitigation method and has the possibility to result in take. If impacts to occupied burrows cannot be avoided, information shall be provided

regarding adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls along with proposed relocation actions. The Permittee shall implement the Burrowing Owl Plan following CDFW review and approval.

If ground-disturbing activities occur but the Project Site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted as described above. If a burrowing owl is found, the same coordination described above shall be necessary.

**BIO-5 Pre-construction Nesting Bird Survey.** To lessen impacts to nesting birds and raptors, it is recommended that vegetation and tree removal be conducted between September 1 and January 31, outside of the typical nesting period for birds protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. If vegetation or tree removal, or initial ground disturbing Project activities are planned to occur during the nesting season (typically February through August), then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be performed no more than three days prior to the start of construction to determine whether the site is being used for nesting. This will avoid violations of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513. The pre-construction nesting bird survey shall include the Project impact area and adjacent areas where Project activities have the potential to cause nest failure. The survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist experienced in: identifying local and migratory bird species of special concern; conducting bird surveys using appropriate survey methodology; nesting surveying techniques, recognizing breeding and nesting behaviors, locating nests and breeding territories, and identifying nesting stages and nest success; determining/establishing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures; and monitoring the efficacy of implemented avoidance and minimization measures.

The pre-construction survey shall be conducted at the appropriate time of day, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of Project activities. The surveys shall encompass all suitable areas including trees, shrubs, bare ground, burrows, cavities, and structures. Survey duration should take into consideration the size of the Project Site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and it shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate.

If no nesting birds are observed during the survey, Project Site preparation and construction activities may begin. If active nests are found, they shall be flagged and a qualified biologist shall establish suitable buffers around the nest (generally a minimum of 200 feet up to 500 feet for raptors and a minimum of 50 feet up to 300 feet for passerine species, with specific buffer widths to be determined by a qualified biologist. The buffer around the nest shall be delineated and flagged, and no construction activity shall occur within the buffer area until a qualified biologist determines the nestlings have fledged and/or the nest is no longer active, or the nest has failed. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nest at the onset of Project activities, and at the onset of any changes in such Project activities (e.g., increase in number or type of equipment, change in equipment usage, etc.) to determine the efficacy of the buffer. If the qualified biologist determines that such Project activities may be causing an

adverse reaction, the qualified biologist shall adjust the buffer accordingly or implement alternative avoidance and minimization measures, such as redirecting or rescheduling construction or erecting sound barriers. All work within these buffers will be halted until the nesting effort is finished (i.e., the juveniles are surviving independent from the nest) or failed. The qualified biologist will review and verify compliance with these nesting avoidance buffers and will verify the nesting effort has finished. Work can resume within these avoidance areas when no other active nests are found.

**BIO-6 Pre-construction San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat Survey.** Within two years prior to the start of Project activities, a biologist in possession of a Federal 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit and CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit and Memorandum of Understanding shall perform SBKR trapping surveys in accordance with the protocols outlined by USFWS and in the biologist's permit. The survey shall consist of five consecutive nights of trapping, when the animal is active above ground and when the overnight temperatures are 50 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, while avoiding periods of overnight precipitation. The traps shall be spaced approximately 10 meters apart and set in habitats most likely to yield SBKR, to confirm presence/absence of the species.

If San Bernardino kangaroo rat is found on the Project Site and avoidance of the location(s) is not feasible then coordination with CDFW and USFWS shall occur prior to the initiation of Project activities.

## 6.1 Additional Recommendations

The following best management practices are not mitigation measures pursuant to CEQA but are recommended to further reduce impacts to species that have potential to occur on the property:

- Confine all work activities to a predetermined work area.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during the construction phase of the Project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals.
- Wildlife are often attracted to burrow- or den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipes and become trapped or injured. To prevent wildlife use of these structures, all construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater should be capped while stored onsite.
- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from the construction or Project Site.
- Use of rodenticides and herbicides on the Project Site should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of wildlife, and the depletion of prey populations on

which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other state and federal legislation. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because it has a proven lower risk to predatory wildlife.

## **7.0 CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Field work conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the Project applicant or the applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the Project.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_



DATE: 1/21/2025

Phillip Wasz  
Senior Wildlife Biologist  
ECORP Consulting, Inc.

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## **APPENDIX A**

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### Representative Site Photographs



**Photo 1: Intersection of Alta Vista and Greenspot Road, looking west along southern border of Project Site**



**Photo 2: Middle of Project Site, looking north into scale broom scrub habitat adjacent to Alta Vista**



**Photo 3: Disturbed land south and east of Alta Vista**



**Photo 4: Middle of northern border, looking southwest into wild oats and annual brome grassland habitat.**





**Photo 5: Representative photo of fallow agriculture , along the western border, looking east.**



**Photo 6: Potential jurisdictional aquatic resource, northeast corner of the Project Site, south of Santa Ana Canyon Rd.**



**Photo 7: Potential jurisdictional aquatic resource, northwest corner of the Project Site, south of Santa Ana Canyon Rd.**



**Photo 8: Downstream view of the potential resource in Photo 7, looking south from Santa Ana Canyon Rd.**



**APPENDIX B**

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Plant Species Observed

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>	
<b>CUPRESSACEAE</b>	<b>CYPRESS FAMILY</b>
<i>Juniperus californica</i>	California juniper
<b>ANGIOSPERMS (DICOTYLEDONS)</b>	
<b>ADOXACEAE</b>	<b>ELDERBERRY FAMILY</b>
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue elderberry
<b>AMARANTHACEAE</b>	<b>PIGWEEED FAMILY</b>
<i>Salsola tragus*</i>	Russian thistle
<b>ANACARDIACEAE</b>	<b>SUMAC FAMILY</b>
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	Laurel sumac
<i>Schinus molle*</i>	Peruvian pepper tree
<b>ASTERACEAE</b>	<b>SUNFLOWER FAMILY</b>
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush
<i>Centaurea melitensis*</i>	Tocalote
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	Telegraph weed
<i>Lepidospartum squamatum</i>	Scale broom
<b>BORAGINACEAE</b>	<b>BORAGE FAMILY</b>
<i>Amsinckia intermedia</i>	Common fiddleneck
<i>Eriodictyon angustifolium</i>	Yerba Santa
<b>BRASSICACEAE</b>	<b>MUSTARD FAMILY</b>
<i>Brassica nigra*</i>	black mustard
<i>Hirschfeldia incana*</i>	shortpod mustard
<b>CACTACEAE</b>	<b>CACTUS FAMILY</b>
<i>Cylindropuntia californica</i>	California cholla
<i>Opuntia littoralis</i>	Coast prickly pear
<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b>	<b>SPURGE FAMILY</b>
<i>Croton californicus</i>	California croton
<i>Croton setiger</i>	turkey mullein
<b>FABACEAE</b>	<b>PEA AND LEGUME FAMILY</b>
<i>Acemison glaber</i>	Deerweed
<b>GERANIACEAE</b>	<b>GERANIUM FAMILY</b>
<i>Erodium cicutarium*</i>	
<b>PLATANACEAE</b>	<b>SYCAMORE FAMILY</b>
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California sycamore
<b>OLEACEAE</b>	<b>OLIVE FAMILY</b>
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	ash
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>	velvet ash
<i>Olea europaea*</i>	olive
<b>POLYGONACEAE</b>	<b>BUCKWHEAT FAMILY</b>
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat



<i>Eriogonum gracile</i>	Slender buckwheat
<b>ROSACEAE</b>	<b>ROSE FAMILY</b>
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise
<b>SOLANACEAE</b>	<b>ROSE FAMILY</b>
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimsonweed
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> *	Tree tobacco
<b>XYGOPHYLLACEAE</b>	<b>CALTROP FAMILY</b>
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncture vine
<b>ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTYLEDONS)</b>	
<b>POACEAE</b>	<b>GRASS FAMILY</b>
<i>Avena barbata</i> *	slender oat
<i>Avena fatua</i> *	wild oat
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	bromegrass
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> *	foxtail chess
<i>Bromus rubens</i> *	red brome
<i>Bromus tectorum</i> *	Cheatgrass
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
<i>Hordeum murinum</i> *	foxtail barley
<i>Schismus barbatus</i> *	Common Mediterranean grass

\*Nonnative species

## **APPENDIX C**

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Wildlife Species Observed

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>REPTILIA</b>	<b>REPTILES</b>
<b>IGUANIDAE</b>	<b>AMERICAN ARBOREAL LIZARDS, CHUCKWALLAS, and IGUANAS</b>
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	side-blotched lizard
<b>AVES</b>	<b>BIRDS</b>
<b>ALAUDIDAE</b>	<b>LARKS</b>
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	horned Lark
<b>ACCIPITRIDAE VIGORS</b>	<b>EAGLES AND HAWKS</b>
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed Hawk
<b>CATHARTIDAE</b>	<b>AMERICAN VULTURES</b>
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture
<b>COLUMBIDAE</b>	<b>DOVES AND PIGEONS</b>
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning Dove
<b>CORVIDAE</b>	<b>CROWS, JAYS, and MAGPIES</b>
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	California scrub-jay
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven
<b>FALCONIDAE</b>	<b>FALCONS</b>
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel
<b>FRINGILLIDAE</b>	<b>FINCHES</b>
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch
<b>MIMIDAE</b>	<b>MOCKINGBIRDS</b>
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern Mockingbird
<b>PASSERELLIDAE</b>	<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS, AMERICAN SPARROWS, and TOWHEES</b>
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee
<b>TROCHILIDAE</b>	<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<b>TYRANNIDAE</b>	<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's Phoebe
<b>TYTONIDAE</b>	<b>BARN-OWLS</b>
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	western kingbird
<b>MAMMALIA</b>	<b>MAMMALS</b>
<b>CANIDAE</b>	<b>DOGS</b>
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote (scat)
<b>SCIURIDAE</b>	<b>SQUIRRELS</b>
<i>Ostospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California Ground Squirrel
<b>LEPORIDAE</b>	<b>RABBITS and HARES</b>
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail

\* Nonnative species

Special-Status Plant Species Potential for Occurrence

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Bloom Period & Elevation (feet)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1			
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> chaparral sand- verbena	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	(Jan) Mar- Sep 245-5250	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert habitats. Often found in sandy soil.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and sandy soils are present on the Project site; however, no records occur in the vicinity of the site.
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i> Horn's milk-vetch	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	May-Oct 195-2790	Occurs in meadows and seeps and playas. Often found along lake margins in alkaline soils.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One historical record (Occ #1) from 1900 occurs 6.9 miles south of the site; however, the site lacks meadows, seeps, playas, or lake margins.
<i>Astragalus pachypus</i> var. <i>jaegeri</i> Jaeger's milk-vetch	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	Dec-Jun 1200-3200	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the Project site; however, no records occur in the vicinity of the site.
<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i> San Jacinto Valley crownscale	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	END none 1B.1	Apr-Aug 455-1640	Occurs in playas, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools. Often found in alkaline soils.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Marginally suitable wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat is present on the Project site; however, the site lacks alkaline soils and no records occur within 5 miles of the site. The closest records occur approximately 15 miles west of the site.
<i>Berberis nevinii</i> Nevin's Barberry	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	END END 1B.1	(Feb)Mar- Jun 230-2705	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodlands, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub habitats. Often found in sandy or gravelly areas.	<b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and sandy soils are present on the Project site; however, no records occur within 5 miles of the site. One recent and four historical CNDDDB records occur more than 5 miles from the site.
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> thread-leaved brodiaea	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	THR END 1B.1	Mar-Jun 80-3675	Occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools, and in openings of chaparral. Often found in clay soils.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub is present on the Project site; however, the site lacks clay soils and no records occur within 5 miles. Two recent records (Occ #7, #8) from 2005 occur approximately 8 miles southeast of the site.
<i>Calochortus simulans</i> La Panza mariposa-lily	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.3	Apr-Jun 1065-3775	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Often found in granitic and sometimes serpentine soils.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Marginally suitable wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat is present on the Project site; however, the site lacks granitic and serpentine soils and no records occur in the vicinity of the site.
<i>Carex comosa</i> Bristly sedge	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.1	May-Sept 0-2050	Occurs in coastal prairie, along lake margins in marshes and swamps, and valley and foothill grassland.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Marginally suitable wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat is present on the Project site; however, no records occur within 5 miles of the site. One historical record (Occ #1) from 1884 occurs approximately 8 miles south of the site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Bloom Period & Elevation (feet)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1			
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i> smooth tarplant	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	Apr-Sep 0-2100	Occurs in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodlands, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Often found in alkaline soil.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Eight recent records occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles. Marginally suitable wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat is present on the Project site; however, the site lacks alkaline soils.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Parry's spineflower	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	Apr-Jun 900-4005	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitat. Often found in sandy or rocky openings.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and sandy soils are present on the Project site and 6 recent records occur within 5 miles of the Project site.
<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i> white-bracted spineflower	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.2	Apr-Jun 985-3935	Occurs in coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats. Often found in gravelly and sandy soils.	<b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and sandy soils are present on the Project site and one recent record (Occ # 34) was identified approximately 5.3 miles north of the site.
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> slender-horned spineflower	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	END END 1B.1	Apr-Jun 655-2495	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats. Often found in sandy soil.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and sandy soils are present on the Project site and one recent record (Occ #2) from 2021 occurs approximately 1.8 miles southwest of the site.
<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i> Santa Ana River woollystar	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	END END 1B.1	Apr-Sep 300-2000	Occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Often found in areas of sandy or gravelly soils.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and sandy soils are present on the Project site and four recent records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Fimbristylis thermalis</i> hot springs fimbristylis	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.2	Jul-Sep 360-4395	Occurs in alkaline meadows and seeps near hot springs.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ #1) from 2005 occurs approximately 8 miles southeast of the site; however, the Project site lacks alkaline meadows and seeps.
<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i> Los Angeles sunflower	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1A	Aug-Oct 10-1675	Occurs in coastal salt and freshwater marshes and swamps. Last seen in 1937.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One historical record (Occ #5) from 1937 occurs approximately 8 miles south of the site; however, no suitable coastal salt and freshwater marshes and/or swamps habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> mesa horkelia	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	Feb-Sep 230-2660	Occurs in maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Often found in sandy or gravelly soils.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and sandy soils are present on the Project site; however, no records occur within 5 miles of the site. One historical record (Occ #7) from 1888 occurs approximately 11 miles south of the site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Bloom Period & Elevation (feet)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.1			
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i> California satintail	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.1	Sep-May 0-3985	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, alkaline meadows and seeps, and riparian scrub habitats. Often found in mesic soils.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and mesic soils are present on the Project site and one recent record (Occ # 7) occurs within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	Feb-Jun 5-4005	Occurs in coastal salt marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although 6 recent records occur in the vicinity of the site, no records occur within 5 miles and no suitable marsh, swamp, playa, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project site.
<i>Lycium parishii</i> Parish's desert-thorn	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.3	Mar-Apr 445-3280	Occurs in coastal scrub and Sonoran desert scrub.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles of the site. One historical record (Occ #4) from 1885 occurs approximately 7 miles southeast of the site.
<i>Malacothamnus parishii</i> Parish's bush-mallow	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1A	Jun-Jul 1000-1495	Occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the site and one historic occurrence (Occ #2) was documented in 1895 within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Monardella pringlei</i> Pringle's monardella	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1A	May-Jun 985-1310	Occurs in coastal scrub.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the Project site; however, the site is outside of the elevational range for the species and no records occur within 5 miles of the site. One historic record (Occ #2) from 1941 occurs approximately 11 miles south of the site.
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i> mud nama	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.2	Jan-July 15-1640	Typically occurs in marsh, swamp, lake margin, or riverbank habitat.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ #11) from 2010 occurs approximately 17 miles west of the site; however, the Project site lacks suitable marsh, swamp, lake, or riverbank habitat.
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i> Gambel's water cress	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	END THR 1B.1	Apr-Oct 15-1085	Occurs in brackish and freshwater marshes and swamps.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One historical record (Occ #4) from 1935 occurs approximately 7.4 miles south of the site; however, the Project site lacks suitable marsh and swamp habitat.
<i>Pelazoneuron puberulum</i> var. <i>sonorense</i> Sonoran maiden fern	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.2	Jan-Sep 165-2000	Occurs in meadows and seeps.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ #13) from 2009 occurs approximately 5.8 miles southeast of the site; however, the Project site lacks suitable meadow and seep habitat.
<i>Phacelia stellaris</i> Brand's star phacelia	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.1	Mar-Jun 5-1310	Occurs in coastal dunes and coastal scrub.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the Project site; however, the site is outside of the elevational range for the species and no records occur in the vicinity of the site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Bloom Period & Elevation (feet)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1A			
<i>Ribes divaricatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i> Parish's gooseberry	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1A	Feb-Apr 215-985	Occurs within riparian woodland.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One historic record (Occ #5) from 1917 occurs approximately 4.9 miles south of the site; however, no suitable riparian woodland habitat is present within the Project site.
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i> Black bog-rush	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.2	Aug-Sept 490-6560	Occurs in marshes and swamps, often alkaline.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ #1) from 2005 occurs approximately 8 miles southeast of the site; however, no suitable marsh or swamp habitat occurs on the Project site.
<i>Senecio aphanactis</i> chaparral ragwort	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.2	Jan-Apr (May) 50-2625	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats. Sometimes found in alkaline soils.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the Project site; however, the site lacks alkaline soils and no records occur within 5 miles. One recent record (Occ #52) and one historical record (Occ #84) occur more than 5 miles from the site.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i> salt spring checkerbloom	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.2	Mar-Jun 50-5020	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, and playas. Often found in alkaline and mesic soils.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and mesic soils are present on the Project site and one recent record (Occ # 23) occurs within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Sphenopholis obtusata</i> prairie wedge grass	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.2	April-July 985-6560	Occurs in cismontane woodland and meadows and seeps. Often found in mesic soils.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Two historical records (Occ #11, #12) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles. Additionally, the Project site lacks suitable woodland, meadow, and/or seep habitat.
<i>Symphotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 1B.2	Jul-Nov 5-6695	Occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Often found in areas near ditches, streams, and springs.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the Project site; however, no records occur within 5 miles. Three historic records occur more than 5 miles from the site.
<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> Wright's trichocoronis	Fed: Ca: CRPR:	none none 2B.1	May-Sep 15-1425	Occurs in marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps, riparian forest, and vernal pools.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One historic record (Occ #4) from 1937 occurs approximately 15 miles west of the site; however, no suitable meadow and/or seep habitat is present on the Project site.



<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Status	Bloom Period & Elevation (feet)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<u>Federal Designations:</u> (Federal Endangered Species Act, USFWS) <b>END:</b> federally listed, endangered <b>THR:</b> federally listed, threatened	<u>State designations:</u> (California Endangered Species Act, CDFW) <b>END:</b> state-listed, endangered <b>THR:</b> state-listed, threatened	<u>CRPR Ranking:</u> 1A: Extirpated or extinct in California and elsewhere 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere 2B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere <u>CRPR Threat Code:</u> 0.1: Seriously threatened in California 0.2: Fairly threatened in California 0.3: Not very threatened in California	Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) & California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CRPREI) Redlands, El Casco, Harrison Mountain, Riverside East, San Bernardino North, San Bernardino South, Sunnymead, and Yucaipa 7.5-minute quads.	

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>			
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch's bumble bee	Fed: CA:	none CAN	Occurs in grasslands and shrublands. Nests and overwinters underground, often in abandoned rodent dens, but also rock piles, thatch, fallen logs, and brush piles. Generalist forager but reported food plants include <i>Asclepias</i> , <i>Chaenactis</i> , <i>Lupinus</i> , <i>Medicago</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , and <i>Salvia</i> .
<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i> Quino checkerspot butterfly	Fed: CA:	END none	Occurs in chaparral and coastal sage scrublands, containing abundant nectaring resources and the proper host plants: dwarf plantain ( <i>Plantago erecta</i> ), white snapdragon ( <i>Anterrhinum coulterianum</i> ), woolly plantain ( <i>Plantago patagonica</i> ), and Chinese houses ( <i>Collinsia concolor</i> ).
<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis</i> Delhi Sands flower-loving fly	Fed: CA:	END none	Dune habitat, with fine sandy Delhi soils.
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> Riverside fairy shrimp	Fed: CA:	END none	Occurs in vernal pools, tectonic swales, and earth slump basins in Riverside County.
<b>FISH</b>			
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i> Santa Ana sucker	Fed: CA:	THR SSC	Occurs in pools and runs of creeks and small to medium rivers with cool, shallow, clear, and unpolluted water.
<i>Gila orcutti</i> arroyo chub	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in creeks, streams, and rivers with areas of slow-moving water with sand or mud bottoms. Ranges from San Diego to San Luis Obispo County.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10 steelhead - southern California DPS	Fed: CA:	END CAN	Typically occurs in slow water streams or rivers.
<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> ssp. 8 Santa Ana speckled dace	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Permanent flowing creeks and streams with shallow gravel and cobble riffles.
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>			
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	Fed: CA:	THR SSC	Found near water features such as ponds or streams in humid forests, grasslands, coastal scrub, and woodlands.
<i>Rana muscosa</i> southern mountain yellow-legged frog	Fed: CA:	END END	Ponds, streams, lakes, and isolated pools in southern Sierra Nevada Mountains and rocky streams within narrow canyons and the chaparral belt in the southern California mountains.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Spea hammondi</i> Western spadefoot	Fed: CA:	FC SSC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, and alkali flats.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although four recent records (Occ # 458, 459, 464, 467) occur within 5 miles, the Project site lacks suitable aquatic breeding habitat for the species and there is evidence on the site of regular mechanical ground disturbance such as discing that makes the habitat not suitable for western spadefoot.
<b>REPTILES</b>				
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> southern California legless lizard	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Typically occurs in moist warm loose soil with plant cover in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although 6 recent records occur within 5 miles, the site lacks suitable dune, chaparral, woodland, desert scrub, sandy wash, and stream terrace habitat.
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California glossy snake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Typically occurs in scrub or grassland habitat, often with loose or sandy soils.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat, wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat, and loose sandy soils are present on the Project site. Additionally, three recent records (Occ # 98, 99, 100) occur within 5 miles.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Arid habitats including chaparral, woodlands, and dry riparian areas.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although four recent records (Occ # 119, 123, 124, and 125) of this species were observed within 5 miles of the Project site, the site lacks suitable chaparral, woodland, or riparian habitats.
<i>Charina umbratica</i> southern rubber boa	Fed: CA:	None THR	Under rocks, woody debris, or in crevices in conifer or conifer-mixed semi-open forests and woodlands, patchy chaparral/shrublands, and meadows.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although 21 records occur within 5 miles of the site, the records are from the mountains in higher elevations where the species is found. The Project site is outside of the geographic range of the species and the site lacks forest, meadow, chaparral, and woodland habitat.
<i>Coleonyx variegatus abbotti</i> San Diego banded gecko	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in rocky areas in coastal sage scrub and chaparral.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub is present on the Project site; however, no records occur within 5 miles of the site. One recent record (Occ # 6) from 2015 occurs approximately 12.4 miles southwest of the site.
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> red-diamond rattlesnake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Found in coastal chaparral, arid scrub, rocky grassland, oak and pine woodlands, desert mountain slopes and rocky desert flats.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub is present on the Project site and two recent records (Occ # 178 and 188) occur within 5 miles of the Project site.
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	Fed: CA:	FC SSC	Ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, and other water sources with rocky or muddy substrate. Basks on logs, rocks, and exposed banks.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ # 786) from 2016 occurs approximately 8.5 miles west of the site; however, there are no water features present on the Project site.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Open areas of valleys, foothills, and semiarid mountains with sandy soil and low vegetation including chaparral, woodlands, and grasslands.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub and wild oats and annual brome grasslands with sandy soils and low vegetation are present on the Project site. Three records (Occ # 431, 433, and 771) occur within 5 miles of the site; however, they are more than 20 years old and considered historic.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i> coast patch-nosed snake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Coastal scrub and semi-arid brushy areas and chaparral in canyons, rocky hillsides, and plains. Brushy or shrubby vegetation in coastal Southern California. Require small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat and small mammal burrows are present on the Project site; however, no records occur within 5 miles. Two recent records (Occ # 23 and 24) occur more than 5 miles from the site.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occur along aquatic habitats such as pools and creeks usually near chaparral, rocky areas, brushland, oak woodland, and conifer forests and hunts in water. Found from sea to about 7,000 ft elevation.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although 3 recent records (Occ # 92, 154, 160) occur within 5 miles of the site, no aquatic habitat is present on the Project site.
<b>BIRDS</b>				
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird (nesting colony)	Fed: CA:	none THR	Freshwater marshes with dense cattails, bulrushes, sedges, and tule. Forages in open habitat such as cultivated fields and pastures.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although 8 recent records occur in the vicinity of the site, no records occur within 5 miles and there are no freshwater marshes present on or adjacent to the Project site.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle (nesting & wintering)	Fed: CA:	none FP	Open country including prairies, sagebrush, savannah or sparse woodlands, and barren hills or mountainous areas. Nests on rocky cliff edges.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Open areas such as wild oats and annual brome grasslands and fallow agriculture provide marginally suitable foraging habitat for this species; however, no suitable rocky cliff habitat for nesting is present on the Project site and no records occur within 5 miles. One historical record (Occ # 302) from 1980 occurs approximately 9.6 miles northwest of the site.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl (nesting & some wintering sites)	Fed: CA:	none CAN	Open grasslands including prairies, plains, savannah, or vacant lots and airports. Nests in abandoned dirt burrows.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Although no suitable burrowing owl burrows were observed during the biological survey, marginally suitable habitat is present on the site in the low-growing wild oats and annual brome grasslands habitat and friable, sandy loam soils. The literature review revealed one historical record (Occ # 314) of this species within 5 miles of the Project site. Additionally, four focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted in 2016 and no burrowing owls were observed or detected.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none THR	Open pine-oak woodland, savannah, and agricultural fields with scattered trees. Nests in large solitary trees.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable large solitary trees are present on the Project site and no records occur within 5 miles. Two historic records (Occ # 2550 and 2551) occur more than 5 miles from the site.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> Western yellow-billed cuckoo	Fed: CA:	THR END	Occurs in riparian forest habitat. Nests along the broad ( $\geq 5$ hectares) patches of multi-layered riparian woodland, often dominated by willows and cottonwoods of lower flood bottoms of larger river systems.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One historic record (Occ # 79) from 1930 occurs within 5 miles of the site; however, no suitable riparian habitat is present on the Project Site.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none FP	Open habitat in lowlands including savanna, open woodlands, marshes, and agricultural fields. Nests in tall trees within or on the edge of forested areas.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> The Project site and surrounding area lack suitable forest habitat for nesting. Three recent records (Occ # 147, 166, 167) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher	Fed: CA:	END END	Occurs in riparian woodland habitat in Southern California. Nests in densest areas of riparian tree and shrub communities associated with rivers, swamps, and other wetlands, including lakes and reservoirs.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ # 73) and four historical records (Occ # 4, 29, 46, 47) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles and no suitable riparian habitat is present on the Project Site.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> bald eagle	Fed: CA:	DL END/FP	Breeding habitat most commonly includes areas close to coastal areas, bays, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or other bodies of water that reflect the general availability of primary food sources including fish, waterfowl, or seabirds.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ # 354) from 2006 occurs approximately 9.5 miles east of the site; however, the Project site is not in the immediate vicinity of a large body of water sufficient for breeding habitat.
<i>Icteria virens</i> yellow-breasted chat (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Riparian and upland thickets, and dry overgrown pastures. Prefers to nest in dense scrub along streams or at the edges of ponds or swamps.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ # 116) and two historical records (Occ # 96 and 99) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles and the site lacks riparian habitat.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Open country, with scattered shrubs and trees or other perches for hunting; includes agricultural fields, deserts, grasslands, savanna, and chaparral.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> scale broom scrub, wild oats and annual brome grasslands, and fallow agricultural fields present on the Project site provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Three historic records (Occ # 2, 5, 52) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles.
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i> California black rail	Fed: CA:	none THR/FP	Coastal and estuarine saltmarshes especially dominated by pickleweed and matted salt grass. Freshwater marshes with shallow and stable water levels and flat shorelines.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Two historic records (Occ # 62 and 64) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles and no suitable marsh habitat is present on the Project Site.
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	Fed: CA:	THR SSC	Dry coastal slopes, washes, and mesas with areas of low vegetation and coastal sage scrub.	<b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub habitat is present on the Project site and two recent records (Occ # 916 and 917) occur within 5 miles of the Project site. Focused protocol-level coastal California gnatcatcher surveys conducted in 2016 were negative and no gnatcatchers were observed or detected.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in the Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Two recent records (Occ # 101 and 112) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles and no suitable riparian or coniferous forest habitat is present on the Project site.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo (nesting)	Fed: CA:	END END	Riparian woodlands and willow-cottonwood forests particularly with streamside thickets and dense brush.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although 3 recent records (Occ # 570, 571, 574) occur within 5 miles of the site, no suitable riparian woodland or willow-cottonwood forest habitat is present on the Project site.

MAMMALS				
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, desert wash, Mojavean desert scrub, riparian woodland, Sonoran Desert scrub, upper montane coniferous forest, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Commonly found in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Frequently roost in live trees and snags that have holes and cavities, or crevices formed by exfoliating bark.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although the literature review revealed one historical occurrence (Occ # 244) of this species observed in 1929 approximately 3 miles southwest of the Project site, the site lacks rocky areas and trees with holes and cavities for roosting.
<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> San Bernardino kangaroo rat	Fed: CA:	END END	Occurs in alluvial scrub vegetation on sandy loam substrates characteristic of alluvial fans and flood plains.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> A polygon associated with a species record from 2012 (Occ # 92) overlaps with the Project site and six other recent occurrences were identified within 5 miles of the site. Although scale broom scrub is present on the Project site, rocky and compacted soils combined with generally high grass and shrub density on site created conditions that are suboptimal and bordering on unsuitable for this species. Historical disturbances have isolated the Project site from areas of occupied San Bernardino kangaroo rat habitat and no San Bernardino kangaroo rat or sign (e.g., scat, tracks, tail drags, or remains) was observed during 2016 or 2023 trapping surveys.
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> Stephens' kangaroo rat	Fed: CA:	THR THR	Annual grasslands, coastal sage scrub with sparsely spaced vegetation, loose friable soils, and flat or slightly rolling terrain.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> The Project site is outside of the known range for the species.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Roosts high above ground in rock and cliff crevices, shallow caves, and rarely in buildings. Occurs in arid and semiarid regions including rocky canyon habitats.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Four historical records (Occ # 10, 133, 173, 175) occur within 5 miles of the site; however, no suitable rock or cliff habitat is present on the Project site.
<i>Glaucomys oregonensis californicus</i> San Bernardino flying squirrel	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in broadleaved upland forest and lower montane coniferous forest. Requires cavities in trees/snags for nests and water nearby. Known from black oak or white fir dominated woodlands between 5200 - 8500 ft in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto ranges. May be extirpated from San Jacinto range.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> One recent record (Occ # 9) and three historical records (Occ # 1, 6, 7) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, the Project Site is outside of the known geographic range for this species and the site lacks broadleaved forest and montane coniferous forest habitat.
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> western yellow bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Found in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. Roosts in trees, particularly palms. Forages over water and among trees.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> No suitable foraging or roosting habitat is present on the Project site.
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuena</i> lesser long-nosed bat	Fed: CA:	DL SSC	Roosts in caves and mines. Occurs in arid regions including desert grasslands and shrublands. Requires suitable concentration of columnar cacti and agave food sources.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Although one historical record (Occ # 1) from 1993 occurs 7 miles northwest from the Project site, no suitable roosting habitat is present within the vicinity of the site. In addition, the site lacks suitable food sources for this species.

<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Moderate to dense shrub canopies are preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	<b>Present:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub is present on the Project site. One recent record (Occ # 46) from 2007 occurs 1.7 miles west of the site. This species was captured during the 2016 and 2023 San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping surveys.
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Roosts in crevices of outcrops and cliffs, shallow caves, and buildings. Found along rugged canyons, high cliffs, and semiarid rock outcroppings.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> The site lacks suitable rock outcrops, cliffs, buildings, and shallow caves and is not in the vicinity of canyons. The literature review identified one historical record (Occ # 23) within 5 miles from 1985, however, the record indicates the location has an uncertainty of 9.2 miles.
<i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i> southern grasshopper mouse	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Low, semi-open, and open scrub habitats with flat, sandy valley floors. Habitats include coastal and mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub, low sagebrush, and grasslands with interspaced shrubs.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub with interspaced shrubs is present on the Project site. Three historic records (Occ # 29, 30, 35) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles and this species was not captured during 2016 or 2023 San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping surveys.
<i>Perognathus alticolus alticolus</i> white-eared pocket mouse	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Isolated montane areas with ponderosa and Jeffery pine habitats in the San Bernardino mountains.	<b>Presumed Absent:</b> Three historic records (Occ # 7, 8, 9) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles and the site lacks montane areas.
<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i> Los Angeles pocket mouse	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Habitats with sandy and fine soils, including grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and alluvial sage scrub.	<b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub with sandy soils is present on the Project site. One Los Angeles pocket mouse was captured during 2016 San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping survey, but Los Angeles pocket mouse was not captured during 2023 San Bernardino kangaroo rat trapping survey. Three recent records (Occ # 30, 39, 76) occur in the vicinity of the site; however, no records occur within 5 miles.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Open habitats with friable soil such as grasslands, brushlands with sparse ground cover, open chaparral, and sometimes riparian zones.	<b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable scale broom scrub is present on the Project site; however, no records occur within 5 miles of the site. Three historic records (Occ # 204, 305, 306) occur more than 5 miles from the site.

**Federal Designations:**  
(Federal Endangered Species Act, USFWS)  
**END:** Federally-listed, Endangered  
**THR:** Federally-listed, Threatened  
**FC:** Federal Candidate Species  
**DL:** Federally-delisted

**State designations:**  
(California Endangered Species Act, CDFW)  
**END:** State-listed, Endangered  
**THR:** State-listed, Threatened  
**CAN:** State Candidate Species  
**FP:** Fully Protected Species  
**SSC:** California Species of Special Concern

Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) Redlands, El Casco, Harrison Mountain, Riverside East, San Bernardino North, San Bernardino South, Sunnymead, and Yucaipa 7.5-minute quads.