APPENDIX D:
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

MetroWalk Project

Biological Resources Assessment

prepared by

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003

prepared for

BluMax Santa Clarita, LLC
2001 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 401
Santa Monica, California 90403
Contact: Adam Browning

October 2020

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers
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Executive Summary

The proposed MetroWalk project includes developing a mixed-use development on an approximately 20-acre site in the City of Santa Clarita that is previously disturbed but undeveloped. Although no special status species were identified on the site during surveys, a literature review including environmental documentation prepared for development on an adjacent property suggests that several special status wildlife species could potentially be present on the site. These species include the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii),* coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). None of these species are listed as threatened or endangered, but the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has designated all but the California horned lark as Species of Special Concern. The California horned lark is a Watch List species.

During development of the project, the entirety of the project site would be converted to a developed condition, removing all existing habitat from the site. Construction activities would result in potentially significant impacts related to injury or mortality of these special status species, which would be mitigated to a less than significant level through pre-construction surveys, avoidance buffers around birds' nests, and a species capture/relocation program. Habitat loss would not result in a significant impact to these species due to the degraded and fragmented quality of the habitat that would be removed.

The site contains approximately 3.5 acres of big sagebrush scrub, a habitat designated sensitive by CDFW. The entirety of this acreage would be removed by the project. However, due to the limited acreage, and because the habitat is interspersed with non-native species and surrounded by development, the habitat removal is less than significant.

The project site partly overlaps the County-designated Santa Clara River Significant Ecological Area (SEA), though the site is previously disturbed and surrounded by existing development and does not function as part of the river's floodplain or ecosystem. Development of the site would not adversely affect the significant biological resources of the SEA.

No wetlands or waters, wildlife movement routes, or protected trees occur on the site, and the project would not affect these resources. Similarly, the project site is not within the coverage area of a federal, state, local, or regional Habitat Conservation Plan.

1 Introduction

This report documents the findings of a biological resources assessment (BRA) conducted by Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) for the MetroWalk Project (Project). The project is proposed by New Urban West, Inc. (NUWI). The purpose of this report is to document the existing conditions of the Project area and to evaluate the potential for impacts to special status biological resources in support of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process.

Biological resources evaluated in this report include special status natural communities, plants, and wildlife; jurisdictional waters; wildlife movement; and protected trees occurring or having the potential to occur within the Project site. This BRA also incorporates the findings of Rincon's 2019 technical studies conducted for the project, including a Rare Plant Survey and Environmental Constraints Analysis.

1.1 Project Location

The project site (site) is located at Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 2840-004-009 in the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California. The site is approximately 20.4 acres and is depicted within the Mint Canyon 7.5-minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. The Public Land Survey System identifies the site within Township 4N, Range 15W, Section 22, San Bernardino base and meridian (EarthPoint 2020).

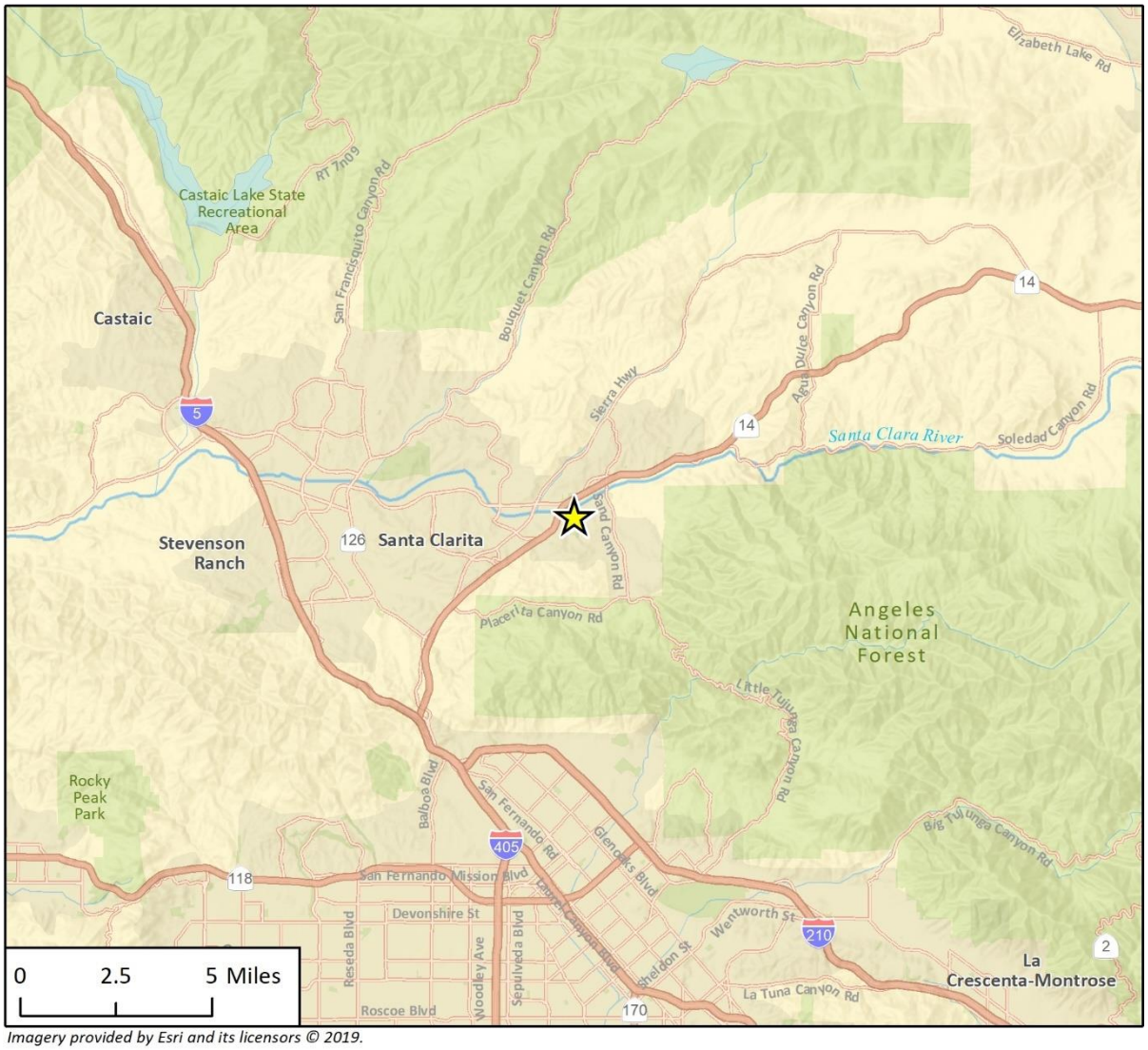
The site can be reached by exiting the Antelope Valley Freeway (State Route 14 , or SR 14) at Via Princessa and turning right (south), proceeding 0.1 mile to Lost Canyon Road, turning left (east) and traveling 1.2 miles to the site, which is east of Lost Canyon Road.

The site lies in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley south of the Santa Clara River. It consists of vacant land immediately south of the Vista Canyon (VC) residential development project, which is currently under construction. The parcel is bounded by the VC project to the north, Lost Canyon Road to the west, and a railway corridor to the south and east. The parcel is shown as Industrial, BP-Business Park, on the City's zoning map. Land uses surrounding the parcel include residential development and the railway. The Santa Clara River is present approximately 500 feet from the northwest corner of the parcel, separated from the parcel by the Vista Canyon project.

1.2 Project Description

The project would involve construction of a mixed-income residential development with a total of 498 units. The project would include 179 multi-family residential units, 169 age-qualified apartments (50 of which would be affordable senior housing units), and 150 three-story townhomes. The project would also provide approximately 147,665 square feet (SF) of parks, clubrooms, pools and landscaped walkways in addition to approximately 63,506 SF of rear yards and private patio decks. In addition, the project would include approximately 902 parking spaces with 631 garage/covered spaces and 271 uncovered/surface parking spaces. Figure 3 presents the project site plan. The proposed development would utilize the project site in its entirety and would require grading of the entire site to a developed condition.

Figure 1 Regional Location Map



Imagery provided by Esri and its licensors © 2019.

Project Location

N

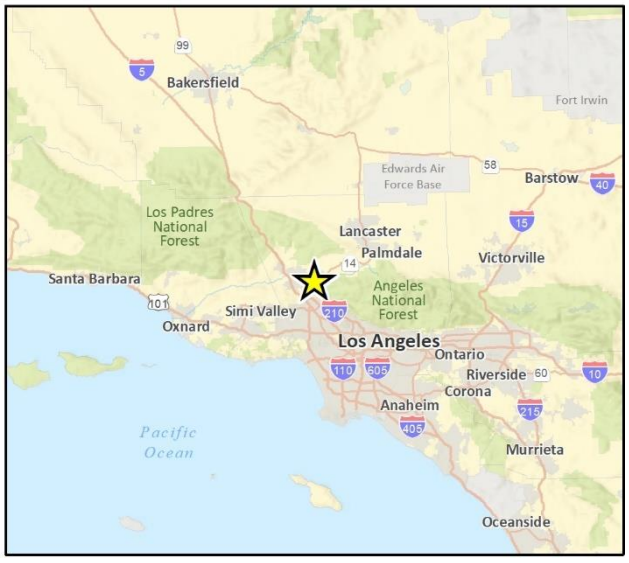


Figure 2 Project Site

Figure 3 Site Plan

Source: Withee Malcom, February 28, 2020

2 Methodology

2.1 Regulatory Overview

Regulated or sensitive resources studied and analyzed herein include special status plant and animal species, nesting birds and raptors, sensitive plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, wildlife movement, and locally protected resources, such as protected trees. Regulatory authority over biological resources is shared by federal, state, and local authorities. Primary authority for regulation of general biological resources lies within the land use control and planning authority of local jurisdictions, in this instance, the City of Santa Clarita.

2.1.1 Definition of Special Status Species

For the purposes of this report, special status species include:

- Species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); species that are under review may be included if there is a reasonable expectation of listing within the life of the project
- Species listed as candidate, threatened, endangered, or rare under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Native Plant Protection Act
- Species designated as Fully Protected, Species of Special Concern, or Watch List by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or California Fish and Game Code
- Plants in Rare Plant Ranks 1 and 2 as defined by the California Native Plant Society
- Species designated as locally important by the City and/or otherwise protected through ordinance or local policy.

2.1.2 Environmental Statutes

For the purpose of this report, the analysis of potential impacts to biological resources was guided by the following statutes:

- **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).** Requires environmental review prior to approval of discretionary projects and requires significant impacts to be mitigated if feasible.
- **Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA).** These laws prohibit the unauthorized take of federally and state-listed threatened and endangered species.
- **Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.** These laws prohibit unauthorized discharges of pollutants, including fill material for construction, into jurisdictional waters of the United States and waters of the State.
- **California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Sections 1600 et seq.** These sections of the CFGC set forth the Lake/ Streambed Alteration Agreement program, through which the CDFW regulates activities that would divert, obstruct, or alter streambeds.
- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and CFGC Section 3503.** These laws prohibit the destruction of birds, including their eggs, nests, and nestlings.

- **City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance.** This ordinance defines protected oak trees within the City, and establishes a process regulating encroachment and removal of protected trees.
- **City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code 17.38.080 – Significant Ecological Area Overlay Zone.** This ordinance establishes a SEA Overlay Zone and requires Conformance Review to ensure that projects in mapped SEA overlays are designed to minimize the intrusion and impacts of development in these areas with sufficient controls to adequately protect the resources.

Further information regarding regulatory background is provided in Appendix A.

2.1.3 Guidelines for Determining CEQA Significance

The City of Santa Clarita is the lead agency for this Project under CEQA. The following threshold criteria, as defined by the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Initial Study Checklist, were used to evaluate potential environmental effects. Based on these criteria, the Project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- *Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*
- *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service.*
- *Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.*
- *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.*
- *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.*

2.2 Literature Review

Rincon conducted a literature review and preliminary desktop analysis of the subject parcel prior to conducting field surveys. One element of the analysis included a review of existing documents prepared for the adjacent Vista Canyon Ranch project. The study area that was analyzed in these documents included APN 2840-004-009. These documents include:

- Biological Assessment for Vista Canyon Ranch (Forde Biological Consultants 2008)
- Biological Resources section of the Vista Canyon Specific Plan (City of Santa Clarita 2011b)
- Biological Resources section of the Vista Canyon Draft EIR (City of Santa Clarita 2010)
- Mitigation measures related to biological resources in the VCP Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (City of Santa Clarita 2011c)

- Conceptual Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Vista Canyon Ranch (Dudek 2009)

Other sources reviewed included:

- Recent and historical aerial imagery of the property and adjacent areas
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; CDFW 2020a) administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- CDFW Biogeographic Information and Observation System (CDFW 2020b)
- CDFW Special Animals List (CDFW 2020c)
- CDFW Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (CDFW 2020d)
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California
- CDFW California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (Zeiner *et al.* 1988, CDFW 2020e)
- USGS Mint Canyon 7.5-minute quadrangle map
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Portal (CHP; USFWS 2020a)
- City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree ordinance (No. 89-10)
- City of Santa Clarita Significant Ecological Areas regulations (Municipal Code Sec. 17.38.080)
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element (City of Santa Clarita 2011a)

The parcel is located in the Mint Canyon USGS quadrangle. The queries of the CNDDB and CNPS database were conducted on a 9-quad basis, and included the Mint Canyon quad and the eight adjacent quads: Warm Springs Mountain, Green Valley, Sleepy Valley, Newhall, Agua Dulce, Oat Mountain, San Fernando, and Sunland. The search area includes portions of the San Gabriel, Santa Susana, and Sierra Pelona Mountains, as well as the western Mojave Desert and other areas that contain habitats (e.g., spring, vernal pool, marsh, swamp, rocky outcrop, chenopod scrub, playa, alkali flat and sink, woodlands, coniferous forest, etc.), soil types and characteristics (e.g., rocky, granitic, clay, gabbro, serpentine, claypan, saline, alkaline), and elevations that are not present at the parcel. Therefore, species that are closely associated with these specific habitat requirements are not expected to occur at the parcel.

The Vista Canyon Ranch project documents, CDFW resources, CNPS inventory, and CHP were reviewed to determine if any special-status plant or wildlife species, or sensitive vegetation communities, are known or have potential to occur at the parcel. Aerial imagery and the USGS quadrangle were reviewed to provide site context and physical characteristics.

2.3 Field Surveys

Rincon Senior Biologist Jon True conducted a reconnaissance-level biological field survey at the subject parcel on May 16, 2019. The field reconnaissance survey was limited to evaluating existing site conditions and the potential presence of sensitive biological resources, including sensitive plant and wildlife species, sensitive plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, protected trees, and habitat for nesting birds. The biologist surveyed the parcel on foot, recorded the biological resources present such as plant and wildlife species, and noted potential biological constraints to development. As noted above, focused special-status species surveys were not conducted during this survey. The extent of the survey was limited to the subject parcel to avoid

trespassing onto adjacent properties; however, the project vicinity is highly developed and no significant biological resources were evident in adjacent areas based on aerial photographs.

Following the initial reconnaissance, Mr. True conducted a focused rare plant field survey of the subject parcel on May 31, 2019. This survey was timed to occur within the blooming period for all target species for which habitat was at least marginally suitable, except perennial species that could be identified at any time of year. The survey was conducted to determine presence or absence of rare plants in general accordance with the CNPS *Botanical Survey Guidelines* (CNPS 2001), *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (CDFW 2009), and *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Plants* (USFWS 2000). Vegetation communities and land cover types were classified and mapped. Supplemental desktop review was performed to characterize the nature and extent of vegetation on and adjacent to the site. The review included an evaluation of recent and historical aerial photographs of the parcel (Google Earth 2019), USGS topographic map, geologic and soil maps, climatic data, and other available background information. Other resources reviewed include the CDFW Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List, (CDFW 2020d), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2020). Information and data from the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH) were also reviewed for certain species (CCH 2019). Appendix C contains a compendium of plant species observed at the parcel. Digital photos were taken and representative site photos are included in Appendix B.

The survey was floristic in nature (i.e., during the survey, all plant species observed were recorded and identified to the lowest taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity), and was conducted using systematic field techniques by walking through the entire survey area to ensure thorough visual and spatial coverage. The survey was conducted during the recognized blooming periods of rare plants that had potential to occur at the parcel (see Appendix D) based on the preliminary species assessment.

A third visit to the project site was conducted by Rincon Senior Biologist Jon True on September 6, 2019, for the purpose of observing big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) plants in flower to determine which of two subspecies was present at the site. Mr. True inspected a representative sample of the individuals looking for morphological indicators as to whether Parish's big sagebrush (*A. t. parishii*) was present.

3 Existing Conditions

3.1 Physical Characteristics

3.1.1 Watershed and Drainage

The project site is in the upper Santa Clara River watershed, and is situated approximately 600 feet south of the active channel of the river. Elevations at the subject parcel range from approximately 1,490 to 1,500 feet above mean sea level. The Santa Clara River is intermittent in this reach, and aerial imagery suggests that the river at this location is characterized by a broad, sparsely vegetated floodplain with braided flow paths that meander through it in response to rain events. The project site is separated from the river channel by the Vista Canyon project, an adjacent urban development currently under construction, and the site does not contain any tributaries to the river or other stream channels.

An excavated basin is present along the northwestern part of the parcel. Associated with the basin, an outlet culvert with a standpipe is located near the northwest corner of the parcel. The purpose of the basin is to detain storm water runoff, with associated debris and silt, from the subject parcel. During high flows silt and sediment drop out into the basin and the standpipe conveys high water via the culvert and a 42-inch storm drain (the City's MTD 1851) north along Lost Canyon Road to a City maintained bio-swale adjacent to the Santa Clara River (northeast corner of roundabout of Lost Canyon and Jakes Way).

No indicators of recent water flow, inundation, or riparian vegetation were evident in the basin during the reconnaissance survey. Vegetation in the basin consisted of weedy non-native ruderal species. The basin was excavated in upland areas and it is not associated with any streambeds, channels, or jurisdictional waters.

3.1.2 Soils

Mapping by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (2020a) indicates that the project site is underlain entirely by Yolo loam in the "2 to 9 percent slopes" category. The Yolo series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in alluvium from mixed rocks. Yolo soils are on alluvial fans and flood plains, and Yolo loam is listed as a hydric soil (NRCS 2020b). Slopes range from 0 to 20 percent, but are typically 0 to 2 percent (NRCS 2020a).

3.2 Vegetation and Other Land Cover

Vegetation across the majority of the parcel consists of weedy non-native ruderal species (approx. 16.8 acres) (Figure 4). Prevalent non-native grass species included common ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp*. rubens*), cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), slender oat (*Avena barbata*), common wild oat (*Avena fatua*), and foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*). Prevalent non-native ruderal forbs included yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus indicus*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*).

One native vegetation community was observed at the parcel - big sagebrush scrub (also known as Great Basin scrub) – covering approximately 3.5 acres. At the parcel, shrub diversity in this

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover Types

community is relatively low and the understory consists primarily of a sparse cover of the non-native grasses and forbs listed above. Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) is dominant in the shrub layer and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) is interspersed in the eastern part of the parcel (not co-dominant). Rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*) are present at low densities. Big sagebrush stands are relatively dense in the eastern part of the parcel; in the western part, stands are smaller and less dense.

A review of recent and historic aerial imagery indicates that the parcel has been subject to regular long-term disturbances such as clearing and mowing, and maintenance of dirt roads. In 1994, the parcel was fully cleared and essentially devoid of vegetation. Between 2002 and 2008, the western part of the parcel was regularly cleared or mowed, but some big sagebrush shrubs appear to have colonized the area. In this part of the parcel, it appears that the shrubs incrementally reestablished in between clearing/mowing cycles, thus alternating between a mowed condition and reestablishment. Since 2002, the big sagebrush in the extreme eastern portion of the parcel does not appear to have been cleared or mowed, although the stands are interrupted by maintained dirt roads. The lack of clearing likely accounts for the more developed nature and higher density of big sagebrush stands in the east in relation to areas in the west.

No trees occur on the project site.

3.3 General Wildlife

The Project site provides habitat suitable for common wildlife species that occur in open habitats in Southern California. The following 14 species of birds were observed during field visits to the site: American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), California towhee (*Melozone crissalis*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), northern rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Two reptile species were also observed: common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). No mammals, fishes, or amphibians were observed.

4 Sensitive Biological Resources

Local, state, and federal agencies regulate special status species and other sensitive biological resources and may require an assessment of their presence or potential presence to be conducted on-site prior to the approval of proposed development on a property. This section discusses sensitive biological resources observed on the project site and evaluates the potential for the project site to support additional sensitive biological resources. Assessments for the potential occurrence of special status species are based upon known ranges, habitat preferences for the species, species occurrence records from the CNDDB, species occurrence records from other sites in the vicinity of the survey area, previous reports for the project site, and the results of surveys of the project site. The potential for each special status species to occur in the study area was evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Not Present.** Habitat on and adjacent to the site is clearly unsuitable for the species requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, substrate, elevation, hydrology, plant community, site history, disturbance regime), and species would have been identifiable on-site if present (e.g., oak trees). Protocol surveys (if conducted) did not detect species.
- **Low Potential.** Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the site is unsuitable or of very poor quality. The species is not likely to be found on the site. Protocol surveys (if conducted) did not detect species.
- **Moderate Potential**. Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is unsuitable. The species has a moderate probability of being found on the site.
- **High Potential.** All of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is highly suitable. The species has a high probability of being found on the site.
- **Present.** Species is observed on the site or has been recorded (e.g., CNDDB, other reports) on the site recently (within the last 5 years).

4.1 Special Status Species

No special status plants or wildlife were observed within the project site, either during the reconnaissance-level survey or during protocol floristic surveys. However, queries of the CNDDB and CNPS databases indicate that special-status species have been documented within the nine-quadrangle area surrounding the project, and some have potential to occur within the site. These species are discussed below.

4.1.1 Special Status Plant Species

The CNDDB and CNPS database reviews indicated the presence for several special-status plant species to occur within the Project site, based on habitat requirements and site characteristics. As described in Section 3 above, a protocol floristic survey was conducted to address this possibility (Rincon 2019b). The protocol floristic survey yielded negative results, indicating that regardless of the presence of suitable habitat on site for some species, rare plants are not present within the project site. In particular, the survey confirmed that the slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus*

ssp. *gracilis*), which was detected on the adjacent Vista Canyon project site during surveys for that project in 2008, is not present.

4.1.2 Special Status Animal Species

The subject parcel contains suitable habitat for a number of sensitive wildlife species. No sensitive species were observed during field survey. However, several special-status species were detected during surveys of the adjacent Vista Canyon project site in 2008, and some of these may occur on the project site. Based on the literature review and field surveys performed, the following special-status wildlife species have moderate or greater potential to occur within the project site. A summary of the evaluations for all species considered is presented in Appendix C.

- **High Potential – San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*).** This species inhabits intermediate canopy stages of shrub habitats and also utilizes edges and transitions between scrub, herbaceous, and tree dominated habitats. The site's big sagebrush scrub habitats are suitable for this species, as is the site's mosaic of herbaceous and scrub habitats, though disturbed. This species was detected on the adjacent Vista Canyon project site in 2008. The San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit is a California Species of Special Concern.
- **Moderate Potential – Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*).** The coastal whiptail is found in deserts and other arid and semi-arid areas where vegetation is sparse. They exhibit a wide tolerance for different soil types, and have been documented in disturbed habitats. As such, there is suitable habitat for the western whiptail at the project site although surveys conducted for the adjacent Vista Canyon project did not detect this species. The coastal whiptail is a California Species of Special Concern.
- **Moderate Potential – Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*).** The coast horned lizard frequents a wide variety of habitats, and is most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. The species requires open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects. Two individuals were detected during surveys for the adjacent Vista Canyon project in 2008. Though the project site is highly disturbed, and provides only marginal habitat, this species may occur if prey abundance is adequate. The coast horned lizard is a California Species of Special Concern.
- **Moderate Potential – California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*).** This species is a generalist inhabiting a variety of herbaceous habitats including short-grass prairies, bald hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, and alkali flats. The big sagebrush scrub on site is not suitable for this species, but the species could utilize the disturbed portions of the site. The species is known to utilize recovering agricultural habitats, and was detected during surveys for the adjacent Vista Canyon project. The California horned lark is a CDFW Watch List species, and therefore considered State Sensitive for purposes of this analysis.

Threatened or Endangered Wildlife Species

No wildlife species are expected to occur at the parcel that are listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the USFWS under the ESA or the CDFW under CESA or the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA). However, given the heightened level of protection these species receive, listed species that have been documented in the project vicinity but are not expected to occur on the project site are described below. (Fully aquatic species are not addressed because habitat is clearly unsuitable).

Coastal California Gnatcatcher (Polioptila Californica; CAGN)

Designated critical habitat for this species is present less than one mile south of the project site. However, if CAGN is in the vicinity it would most likely occupy undeveloped areas to the south of the Fair Oaks residential development where large contiguous intact stands of coastal sage scrub occur. The project site does not contain suitable habitat for CAGN. The site is limited in size and completely surrounded by development, and contains big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) scrub rather than the coastal sage scrub the species prefers. The CAGN is not generally known to occur in big sagebrush dominated scrub. There is some California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*, the primary component of coastal sage scrub) intermittently mixed in the big sagebrush scrub in the eastern part of the parcel, but big sagebrush is dominant and the height and density of the habitat is not conducive to CAGN. In studies conducted for the adjacent Vista Canyon project, CAGN was not observed or detected during protocol surveys or during any other surveys conducted at the property.

Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo Bellii Pusillus; LBVI), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax Trailii Extimus; SWFL), and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus Americanus Occidentalis; YBCU)

These three birds are obligate riparian species and require significant riparian vegetation for nesting. This is particularly true of the SWFL and YBCU, which occupy dense galleries of fully mature willows and other large riparian trees. The LBVI is somewhat more adaptable, breeding in earlier successional stages of riparian scrub and woodland habitats, but it too prefers willows as its nesting substrate. All three of these birds have been documented nesting in the Santa Clara River corridor in the past, but the records are from the perennial portion of the river downstream of the Interstate 5 crossing. The section of the river near the project site is intermittent, and does not support riparian vegetation. Hence, these species are not expected to occur near the site.

California Red-legged Frog (Rana Draytonii; CRLF)

The CRLF breeds in aquatic habitat but can make significant overland movements (up to 2,800 meters) during dispersal. The species is not currently believed to occupy the Santa Clara River mainstem, possibly because the timing of river flows has been significantly altered by discharges of treated wastewater. Because the project site is completely surrounded by development, and because any CRLF migrating near the site would be coming from distant areas rather than from the nearby Santa Clara River, CRLF are not expected to utilize the site.

Arroyo Toad (Anaxyrus californicus)

The arroyo toad breeds in low-gradient sections of slow-moving intermittent or perennial streams with shallow pools, nearby sandbars, and adjacent stream terraces. The species breeds in the quiet margins of these open streams, avoiding sites with deep or swift water, tree canopy cover, or steeply incised banks. Preferred habitat includes sand, fine gravel, or friable soil substrate, with varying amounts of large gravel, cobble, and boulders. Non-breeding individuals are essentially terrestrial, occupying sandy and friable riparian areas such as sand bars, alluvial terraces, and streamside benches that lack vegetation or have low-to-moderate vegetative cover composed predominantly of native trees. Upland habitats used by arroyo toads during both the breeding and non-breeding seasons include alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grassland, and oak woodland (USFWS 2014). The arroyo toad occurs in some tributaries of the Santa Clara River watershed, including Piru Creek and Castaic Creek, and is believed extirpated from San Francisquito

Creek. The species has been documented on the mainstem Santa Clara River approximately six miles upstream of the project site, though recent surveys on the mainstem have been negative (USFWS 2014). The species is not expected to occur on the project site because its occurrence in the adjacent reach of the Santa Clara River is uncertain, and because the site is separated from the river channel by the Vista Canyon development which presents a 600- to 900-foot barrier of graded land and active construction. Further, habitat on the project site is suboptimal because the site is densely vegetated with annual grasses and lacks trees or other significant shade.

4.1.3 Other Protected Species

The subject parcel contains suitable nesting areas for protected native birds, and Rincon encountered three active bird nests in big sagebrush shrubs during the field survey. Protections to birds are provided under the provisions of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC). Under the provisions of the MBTA, it is unlawful "by any means or manner to pursue, hunt, take, capture (or) kill" any migratory birds except as permitted by regulations issued by the USFWS. The term "take" is defined by USFWS regulation to mean to "pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect" any migratory bird or any part, nest or egg of any migratory bird covered by the conventions, or to attempt those activities. In addition, the CFGC extends protection to non-migratory birds identified as resident game birds (Section 3503) and any birds in the orders *Falconiformes* or *Strigiformes* (birds-of-prey) (Section 3503.5).

Approximately five blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), ranging from approximately 6 to 16 feet in height, were observed at the parcel. There is a low potential for raptors to utilize these for nesting.

4.2 Sensitive Plant Communities and Critical Habitats

As illustrated on Figure 4, the majority of the roughly 20-acre parcel contains weedy non-native ruderal vegetation (approx. 16.8 acres). The remainder of the site, approximately 3.5 acres, comprises fragmented stands of big sagebrush scrub, most of which are disturbed.

As noted in the Environmental Impact Report and associated biological studies for the adjacent Vista Canyon project, for the purpose of vegetation classification, big sagebrush at the Vista Canyon project was discussed at the species level, inclusive of two recognized subspecies of *Artemisia tridentata*: *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata* and *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *parishii*. Since herbarium records indicate that the range of the *A. t. parishii* subspecies overlaps that of the *A. t. tridentata* subspecies, both were likely represented on the Vista Canyon project site. Rincon concurs with this assessment and believes based on field inspections that both subspecies may be also present at the project site.

Artemisia tridentata ssp. *parishii* is not itself a rare plant, but a stand of this subspecies is considered a sensitive natural community by CDFW (CDFW Sensitive Natural Communities List; CDFW 2020f), due to its relative rarity across the state. This vegetation community's global rank is G2 and its state rank is S2, indicating that it is imperiled globally and state-wide. Stands of *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata* are not listed as a sensitive natural community by CDFW; the global rank for this community is G5 and its state rank is S5. These are the lowest levels of sensitivity, indicating that the community is secure since it is common, widespread, and abundant.

The two subspecies can be difficult to differentiate, and Rincon conducted an additional visit to the project site on September 6, 2019, when the plants were in flower, for the sole purpose of

determining which subspecies was/were present. During the survey, big sagebrush was in bloom and the shrubs were identifiable to the subspecies level. Based on the survey, it was determined that approximately 50% of big sagebrush individuals possessed characteristics of A*rtemisia tridentata* ssp. *parishi*i. Each stand contained at approximately 50% of this subspecies, so the big sagebrush across the parcel could be classified as stands of *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *parishii*.

Based on the investigations performed, Rincon concluded that approximately 3.5 acres of big sagebrush scrub with at least 50 percent *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *parishii* occur within the site. However, the stands are not made up exclusively of *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *parishii*, and their ecological significance is further diminished by their limited acreage, isolation from intact habitats, and the fact that a significant portion of the stands on site have been disturbed (Figure 4). Considering the composition and condition of the on-site habitat patches, these areas have not been treated as a sensitive natural community for purposes of this analysis.

Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs)

The City of Santa Clarita's Municipal Code (Section 17.38.080) and General Plan include provisions for the protection of designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). SEAs are designated by Los Angeles County, and represent areas where natural communities exhibit unique biological and physical diversity. In general, the purpose of these overlay zones is to minimize the intrusion and impacts of development in SEAs with sufficient controls to adequately protect the resources. Development in a SEA is subject to a SEA conformance review by the approving authority (in this case, the City of Santa Clarita). The conformance review may include specific development standards to control the types of land use, density, building location and size, roadways and other infrastructure, landscape, drainage, and other elements to assure the protection of the critical and important plant and animal habitats of the SEA. The conformance review requires submittal of a biological report by the applicant, and may include mitigation measures as needed to address adverse impacts of the proposed project (Municipal Code Section 17.38.080).

The eastern portion of the project site is within the Santa Clara River SEA, as illustrated on Figure 5. The Santa Clara River SEA encompasses the entire Los Angeles County reach of the Santa Clara River, primarily within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The Santa Clara River SEA covers the length of the river and with the watershed extensions encompasses a wide variety of topographic features and habitat types. The orientation and extent of the SEA also consists of the surface and subsurface hydrology of the Santa Clara River, from its headwater tributaries and watershed basin to the point at which it exits Los Angeles County (City of Santa Clarita 2011a).The limits of the Santa Clara River SEA were mapped by the County, and generally conform to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) designated flood zone boundaries as they appeared at the time the SEA was designated. Since that time, construction began on the adjacent Vista Canyon development, which is currently still under construction. The Vista Canyon development includes flood control improvements preventing river flows from breaching the northern boundary of the Vista Canyon site, approximately 600 feet north of the northern boundary of the project site. As described in detail in the Santa Clara River Corridor Analysis prepared for the adjacent Vista Canyon project (City of Santa Clarita 2010), the designated boundary does not necessarily conform to the boundaries of significant biological resources in the project vicinity. This trend is particularly apparent on the project site, which is separated from the river channel by intervening development, does not contain riparian vegetation, and has been routinely disturbed by agricultural practices in the past.

The portion of the project site within the SEA designation is dominated by ruderal habitat with some patches of big sagebrush scrub. The ruderal vegetation does not provide significant habitat value for native plants or wildlife, and is the result of decades of chronic disturbance. As described above, the on-site big sagebrush occurrence is not a pure occurrence of Parish's big sagebrush scrub, a sensitive plant community, but contains Parish's big sagebrush intermixed with common big sagebrush. The occurrence's biological value is further diminished by its limited size, the presence of ruderal vegetation and invasive weeds surrounding it, and development on all sides of the parcel isolating the occurrence from intact habitat areas.

The design of the Vista Canyon development, which separates the project site from the Santa Clara River channel, ensures that flows remain in the channel and do not escape into, or through, the Vista Canyon site. Thus, the project site is not accessible to high flow events that would otherwise reach the floodplain margins. Similarly, the site is isolated from the river from a habitat standpoint, and most species found in the river corridor are unlikely to be found on the site. Individuals inhabiting the river channel would need to traverse the Vista Canyon development, which has been fully stripped of vegetation and graded, and where homes are in various stages of construction, to reach the site. Further, the site's habitats are generally composed of non-native species characteristic of previously disturbed areas and do not offer optimal habitat for most wildlife. Habitat for aquatic species is completely present from the site.

Considering the information above, it is clear that although a portion of the project site is within the Santa Clara River SEA, the site is distinct from the Santa Clara River hydrologically and ecologically, and also physically separated. The site does not exhibit unique physical or biological diversity.

4.3 Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

The project site does not contain any jurisdictional waters or wetlands. A manmade detention basin occurs in the northwestern corner, but this feature was excavated from dry land and does not exhibit riparian vegetation or regular presence of water. The current basin would be partially filled in as part of future development of the subject parcel, because it would no longer be needed to capture sediment once the site is developed.. No ephemeral or intermittent streams or watercourses that may be considered jurisdictional by federal or state resource agencies occur within the project site.

4.4 Wildlife Movement

Wildlife movement corridors are defined as areas that connect suitable wildlife habitat areas in a region otherwise fragmented by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. Natural features such as canyon drainages, ridgelines, or areas with vegetation cover provide corridors for wildlife travel. Although the Santa Clara River is a major wildlife movement corridor, the subject parcel is completely surrounded by development and has been cut off from the river corridor by the VC Project development. The site is not expected to play an important role in local or regional wildlife movement.

4.5 Resources Protected by Local Policies and Ordinances

4.5.1 Protected Trees

The City defines oak trees as all species of the genus *Quercus*, including, but not limited to, valley oak (*Q. lobata*), California live oak (*Q. agrifolia*), canyon oak (*Q. chrysolepis*), interior live oak (*Q. wislizenii*) and scrub oak, regardless of size. Pursuant to the City's Zoning Code, no person shall cut, prune, remove, relocate, endanger, damage or encroach into the protected zone of any protected oak tree on any public or private property within the City except in accordance with the conditions of a valid oak tree permit issued by the City, in conformance with Municipal Code § 17.23.170 (Oak Tree Permit). The City defines a protected oak tree as any oak meeting the minimum circumference of six inches (approximately two-inch diameter) at four and one-half feet above natural grade (breast height). In order to obtain a permit, an oak tree report is required that includes: diameter, species, health assessment, appraisals of each trees' value according to the International Society's current edition of the "Guide for Plant Appraisal," photographs, and trunk, dripline and protected zone location information. No oaks or other trees occur on the project site, and this ordinance is not expected to apply.

The eastern portion of the site is within the Santa Clara River Significant Ecological Area; this topic is addressed in Section 4.2 above.

4.6 Habitat Conservation Plans

The site is not within the coverage area of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan.

5 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses potential impacts to biological resources that may occur from implementation of the Project.

5.1 Special-Status Species

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As described in Section 4.1 above, five special status wildlife species have at least a moderate chance of occurring within the project site. Potential impacts to these species, and recommended mitigation measures, are described below.

5.1.1 Impacts to the San Diego Black-Tailed Jackrabbit

During construction, the proposed project would remove all existing habitat from the 20.4-acre project site. The black-tailed jackrabbit is a mobile species, and most individuals would be expected to avoid construction equipment. However, in the event that jackrabbits are not able to escape, injury or mortality to individual jackrabbits could occur due to being struck or crushed by vehicles. This impact would be especially acute if mother jackrabbits were injured or killed while tending their young. Absent mitigation, the project's impact on the black-tailed jackrabbit would be potentially significant. This impact would be reduced to a less than significant level by the relocation efforts required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1, during which qualified biologists would survey the site for this species and usher them off-site if encountered. Because the habitat to be removed is largely in a degraded condition, and because habitat for the black-tailed jackrabbit is abundant regionally, loss of habitat would not significantly impact this species. No federally or state listed threatened or endangered species have potential to occur on the site, and the project would not require Incidental Take Permits.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1

Sixty days prior to grading activities, a qualified biologist shall contact and consult with City staff regarding the timing of pre-construction surveys. In any event, within 30 days prior to grading activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within appropriate habitat areas to relocate individual coastal whiptail, coast horned lizard, and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit in order to avoid or minimize take of these sensitive species. Relocation will occur through live capture and release, or in the case of black-tailed jackrabbits, by encouraging the animals to leave the site. Individuals shall be relocated to nearby undisturbed areas with suitable habitat, as identified by the qualified biologist in consultation with City staff. Results of the surveys and relocation efforts shall be provided to the City. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper handling permits, as applicable.

5.1.2 Impacts to the Coastal Whiptail and Coast Horned Lizard

During construction, the proposed project would remove all existing habitat from the 20.4-acre project site. Because coastal whiptails and coast horned lizards are low-mobility species, it is unlikely they would be able to escape injury or mortality during site grading. This impact would be potentially significant absent mitigation, but would be reduced to a less than significant level through the capture and relocation efforts required under Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Because the habitat to be removed is largely in a degraded condition, and because habitat for the coastal whiptail and coast horned lizard is abundant regionally, loss of habitat would not significantly impact these species.

5.1.3 Impacts to the California Horned Lark

During construction, the proposed project would remove all existing habitat from the 20.4-acre project site, including on-site shrubs that provide nesting habitat. If site preparation occurs outside the bird breeding season (typically February 1 through August 31), individuals present would be able to fly and avoid contact with construction equipment. However, if vegetation removal or site preparation occur during the breeding season, birds may be committed to tending nests with eggs or nestlings and unable to avoid contact with equipment. In these cases, the project could lead to mortality of adults, eggs, and nestlings. Additionally, effects such as noise, dust, and human presence during construction could agitate birds and cause nest abandonment even if nests are not directly destroyed. These impacts would be significant, absent mitigation. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would require pre-construction nesting bird surveys to be conducted during the breeding season, along with avoidance of any active nests that are detected and an appropriate buffer. This mitigation measure would reduce impacts to the California horned lark to a less than significant level, and would also serve to ensure compliance with federal and state laws protecting birds' nests. Because the habitat to be removed is largely in a degraded condition, and because habitat for the California Horned Lark is abundant regionally, loss of habitat would not significantly impact these species.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2

Beginning 30 or more days prior to the removal of any suitable nesting habitat that will occur during the bird breeding and nesting season of February 1st through August 31st, the applicant shall arrange for weekly bird surveys to detect the California horned lark or any other nesting bird species protected by the CFGC or MBTA, in the habitats to be removed and any other suitable nesting habitat within 300 feet of the construction work areas. The surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist using industry-accepted survey protocols. The surveys shall continue on a weekly basis, with the last survey being conducted no more than 7 days prior to the initiation of any construction work involving vegetation removal and/or within 300 feet of off-site nesting habitat.

If an active nest is found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest shall be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, and when there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Limits of construction to avoid a nest site shall be established in the field with flagging and stakes or construction fencing. Construction personnel shall be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area. Incursion into the protective buffer shall only occur at the discretion of a qualified biologist, and only if monitoring and other protective measures are implemented to ensure that work activities are not affecting the nest. Results of the surveys, including surveys to locate nests, shall be provided to the City. The results shall include a description of any nests located and measures to be implemented to avoid nest sites.

5.1.4 Impacts to Protected Nesting Birds

As described in Section 4.1, federal and state laws prohibit the destruction of birds and their nests, eggs, and nestlings. If common bird species are nesting on the site, construction activities could inadvertently cause mortality or destruction of the nest, in violation of these laws. While impacts to common avian species do not normally rise to the level of significance under CEQA, such impacts must be avoided to comply with applicable laws. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would ensure this by requiring pre-construction nesting bird surveys for construction activities in the nesting season and installation of an avoidance buffer if nests are encountered.

5.2 Sensitive Plant Communities

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

b) Have a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service.

There is no riparian habitat on the project site. The proposed project would remove all 20.4 acres of existing habitat from the project site, which includes 3.5 acres of big sagebrush scrub dominated by a mixture of Parish's big sagebrush and common big sagebrush. This community is designated as sensitive by CDFW, although the on-site occurrence is ecologically degraded. As described in Section 4.2, approximately 50 percent of the big sagebrush individuals in the on-site stands are Parish's big sagebrush. Thus, the on-site stands do not represent a pure example of this community. In addition, the site has been disked routinely for agricultural purposes and all vegetation on the site currently occurs in a disturbed setting that includes soil disturbance and a prevalence of non-native plant species. Finally, the acreage of this habitat is limited, and occurs in a fragmented configuration interspersed with non-native weedy habitat. Considering this information, the project's impact on big sagebrush scrub would be less than significant.

5.3 Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

The project site does not contain state or federally protected wetlands, and the proposed project would not affect these resources. As described in Section 4.3 above, the project site does contain a manmade detention basin in the northwestern corner. The basin is unvegetated except for sparse non-native grasses and forbs, and did not exhibit signs of prolonged inundation. This feature is not an aquatic resource subject to federal or state agency jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, or California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) sections 1600 *et seq.* for several reasons. The basin is a stormwater control feature, and such features are explicitly excluded from federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction under current US. Army Corps of Engineers and US Environmental Protection Agency regulations (33 CFR 328.3(b)(10)). The basin is not a water of the State subject to the Porter-Cologne Act because it does not exhibit an ordinary high water mark or wetland characteristics. The basin is not a lake or streambed subject to CFGC 1600 *et seq.* because it does not possess a bed, bank, or channel and does not contain riparian vegetation. The

project site does not contain jurisdictional waters or wetlands, and there would be no impact relative to this criterion.

5.4 Wildlife Movement

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites.

In its existing condition the site is surrounded by urban development, and does not serve to connect habitat areas or provide a meaningful conduit by which wildlife could reach the areas necessary for their life history (*e.g.,* areas for feeding, sheltering, finding mates, dispersal). The Santa Clara River is an important regional conduit for wildlife, but is approximately 600 feet from the site at the closest point and separated by an intervening development. Considering this information, development of the site would not result in substantial on-site or off-site effects on wildlife movement, and impacts would be less than significant.

With regard to the loss of nursery sites, the existing ability for the on-site habitat to function as a rearing area for wildlife would be permanently lost as a result of project development. However, the site does not contain rookery trees or other significant features that offer unique or exceptionally high-quality nursery opportunities for wildlife. The site's habitats are common in the region, and its nursery sites (shrubs and the ground surface) equally so. Nevertheless, animals that use the site for the entirety of their life cycles, such as common small mammals, lizards, and invertebrates, if not killed during construction, would be displaced by the project and could perish due to competition or exposure when seeking new habitat. Animals that rely on the site for a portion of their life history, such as nesting birds, would be forced to find alternative nesting sites but would likely be able to do so because of their high mobility. Because the species affected by the project are common, with secure populations substantial regional presence, and because the project would not impact rare or especially valuable nursery habitat, loss of a modest acreage of potential nursery habitat would be less than significant.

5.5 Local Policies and Ordinances

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance

As noted above, there are no trees on the project site. Therefore, the City's oak tree ordinance does not apply.

As described in Section 4.5, a portion of the project site is within the Santa Clara River Significant Ecological Area (SEA) designated by the County and included in the City's Overlay Zone, although no unique biological resources are present. An evaluation of the project's compatibility with SEA resources, guided by language in the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan (Page 31) is presented below.

1. <u>The Project is Compatible with Biological Resources</u>

The project site is routinely disturbed and dominated by ruderal habitat, and does not represent a uniquely diverse or valuable habitat for plants or wildlife. Intact vegetation on the site is limited to patches of scrub that have grown between site maintenance events. Floristic surveys indicated that no threatened, endangered, rare, or sensitive plant species occur on the site. On-site habitats are generally poorly suited for special-status wildlife, aside from those that are broadly adapted. Mitigation measures have been identified to reduce effects on individuals of these species that may be present on the site. The site's habitat is marginal, and the project site is not essential to these species from a regional perspective considering the large acreage of higher-quality habitat available. The loss of on-site big sagebrush scrub is not significant because the on-site occurrence is in a degraded condition and an isolated setting, as described in Section 4.2 above.

While on-site biological resources would be lost during construction of the project, these resources are generally of low quality. As described below, the site's setting is such that development of the site would not adversely affect off-site biological resources.

2. The Project Maintains Watercourses and Water Bodies in a Natural State

The project site does not contain watercourses or water bodies, and would not alter the condition or configuration of any watercourse. The Santa Clara River floodplain is within approximately 600 feet of the site at its closest point, but the site is separated from the river by intervening development and does not receive river flows under any conditions. Site drainage would be designed to comply with requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm/Sewer System (MS4) permit, and would not adversely affect hydrology of the river.

3. The Project Maintains Wildlife Corridors

The project site is surrounded on all sides by development, and does not serve to connect two or more habitat areas. Further, the site does not provide water sources, topographic relief, or other features conducive to wildlife movement. Wildlife in the area undertaking regional movements would be expected to use the Santa Clara River corridor, rather than attempting to travel through developed areas and traversing the site. Developing the site would not interfere with wildlife movement.

4. The Project Preserves Adequate Buffer Areas or Barriers Between Development and Natural Resources

The site is surrounded on all sides by development, and does not abut natural habitat areas. As such, the site does not currently serve as a buffer between any natural area and surrounding development. Development of the site would not affect the extent or adequacy of any natural resource buffer.

5. Where Necessary, Fences or Walls are Provided to Buffer Important Habitat Areas from Development

   The site is surrounded on all sides by development, and does not abut natural habitat areas. Thus, the site does not have the potential to disrupt adjacent biological resources and walls or fences are not needed.

6. The Project Ensures that Roads and Utilities are Designed to Mitigate Impacts to Biological Resources

As described previously, the site is routinely disturbed and contains minimal habitat, and is completely surrounded by development. The proposed project would occupy the entirety of the

site, and resource areas would not remain on-site following completion of the project. Interior and exterior roadways would be bordered on both sides by developed land uses. Roadway lighting and noise would not be expected to disrupt wildlife in this setting. The project would be served by existing utility lines, and interior lines would be buried. Consequently, project roads and utilities would not be incompatible with biological resources.

5.6 Habitat Conservation Plans

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The project site is not within the coverage area of a federal, state, or local habitat conservation plan. Accordingly, there would be no impact relative to this criterion.

6 Limitations, Assumptions, and Use Reliance

This Biological Resources Assessment has been performed in accordance with professionally accepted biological investigation practices conducted at this time and in this geographic area. The biological investigation is limited by the scope of work performed. Except as described herein, protocol surveys for specific biological resources were not performed. The biological surveys are limited also by the environmental conditions present at the time of the surveys. In addition, general biological (or protocol) surveys do not guarantee that the organisms are not present and will not be discovered in the future within the site. In particular, mobile wildlife species could occupy the site on a transient basis, or re-establish populations in the future. Our field studies were based on current industry practices, which change over time and may not be applicable in the future. No other guarantees or warranties, expressed or implied, are provided. The findings and opinions conveyed in this report are based on findings derived from site reconnaissance, jurisdictional areas, review of CNDDB RareFind5, and specified historical and literature sources. Standard data sources relied upon during the completion of this report, such as the CNDDB, may vary with regard to accuracy and completeness. In particular, the CNDDB is compiled from research and observations reported to CDFW that may or may not have been the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Although Rincon believes the data sources are reasonably reliable, Rincon cannot and does not guarantee the authenticity or reliability of the data sources it has used. Additionally, pursuant to our contract, the data sources reviewed included only those that are practically reviewable without the need for extraordinary research and analysis.

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Appendix A

Regulatory Setting

Regulatory Setting

Special-status habitats are vegetation types, associations, or sub-associations that support concentrations of special-status plant or animal species, are of relatively limited distribution, or are of particular value to wildlife.

Listed species are those taxa that are formally listed as endangered or threatened by the federal government (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]), pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or as endangered, threatened, or rare (for plants only) by the State of California (i.e., California Fish and Game Commission), pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act or the California Native Plant Protection Act. Some species are considered rare (but not formally listed) by resource agencies, organizations with biological interests/expertise (e.g., Audubon Society, CNPS, The Wildlife Society), and the scientific community.

The following is a brief summary of the regulatory context under which biological resources are managed at the federal, state, and local levels. A number of federal and state statutes provide a regulatory structure that guides the protection of biological resources. Agencies with the responsibility for protection of biological resources within the project site include:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands and other waters of the United States);
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (waters of the State);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (federally listed species and migratory birds);
- California Department Fish and Wildlife (riparian areas, streambeds, and lakes; state-listed species; Species of Special Concern; nesting birds);

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE, under provisions of Section 404 of the CWA and USACE implementing regulations, has jurisdiction over the placement of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States." On April 21, 2020, the USACE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published the *Navigable Waters Protection Rule to define "Waters of the United States."* This rule, effective on June 22, 2020, defines four categories of jurisdictional waters, documents certain types of waters that are excluded from jurisdiction, and clarifies some regulatory terms. Under the *Navigable Waters Protection Rule*, "waters of the United States" include:

(1) Territorial seas and traditional navigable waters;
(2) Perennial and intermittent tributaries that contribute surface flow to those waters;
(3) Certain Lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters, and;
(4) Wetlands adjacent to jurisdictional waters.

Tributaries are defined as "a river, stream, or similar naturally occurring surface water channel that contributes surface water flow to the territorial seas or traditional navigable waters in a typical year either directly or through one or more tributaries, jurisdictional lakes, ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters, or adjacent wetlands." The tributary category also includes a ditch that "either relocates a tributary, is constructed in a tributary, or is constructed in an adjacent wetland as long as the ditch is perennial or intermittent and contributes surface water flow to a traditional navigable water or territorial sea in a typical year."

Adjacent wetlands are defined as wetlands that:

(i) Abut, meaning to touch at least at one point or side of, a defined Water of the U.S.;

(ii) Are inundated by flooding from a defined Water of the U.S in a typical year;

(iii) Are physically separated from a defined Water of the U.S. by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural features or by artificial dike, barrier or similar artificial structures as long as direct hydrological surface connection to defined Waters of the U.S. are allowed; or,

(iv) Are physically separated from a Water of the U.S. only by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure so long as that structure allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the jurisdictional water in a typical year, such as through a culvert, flood or tide gate, pump or similar artificial structure.

The Navigable Waters Protection Rule states that the following areas not considered to be jurisdictional waters even where they otherwise meet the definitions described above:

(1) Groundwater, including groundwater drained through subsurface drainage systems;

(2) Ephemeral features that flow only in direct response to precipitation including ephemeral streams, swales, gullies, rills and pools;

(3) Diffuse stormwater runoff and directional sheet flow over uplands;

(4) Ditches that are not defined Waters of the U.S. and not constructed in adjacent wetlands subject to certain limitations;

(5) Prior converted cropland;

(6) Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to upland if artificial irrigation ceases;

(7) Artificial lakes and ponds that are not jurisdictional impoundments and that are constructed or excavated in upland or non-jurisdictional waters;

(8) Water-filled depressions constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel;

(9) Stormwater control features constructed or excavated in uplands or in non-jurisdictional water to convey, treat, infiltrate, or stormwater run-off;

(10) Groundwater recharge, water reuse, and wastewater recycling structures constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters; and,

(11) Waste treatment systems.

USACE jurisdictional limits are typically identified by the OHWM or the landward edge of adjacent wetlands (where present). The OHWM is the “line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area” (33 CFR 328.3).

Wetland Waters of the U.S.

The USACE defines wetlands as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions” (33 CFR 328.3). The USACE’s delineation procedures identify wetlands in the field based

on indicators of three wetland parameters: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. The following is a discussion of each of these parameters.

Hydrophytic Vegetation

Hydrophytic vegetation dominates areas where frequency and duration of inundation or soil saturation exerts a controlling influence on the plant species present. Plant species are assigned wetland indicator status according to the probability of their occurring in wetlands. More than fifty percent of the dominant plant species must have a wetland indicator status to meet the hydrophytic vegetation criterion. The USACE published the National Wetland Plant List (Lichvar *et al.* 2016), which separates vascular plants into the following four basic categories based on plant species frequency of occurrence in wetlands:

- **Obligate Wetland (OBL).** Almost always occur in wetlands
- **Facultative Wetland (FACW).** Usually occur in wetlands, but occasionally found in non-wetlands
- **Facultative (FAC).** Occur in wetlands or non-wetlands
- **Facultative Upland (FACU).** Usually occur in non-wetlands, but may occur in wetlands
- **Obligate Upland (UPL).** Almost never occur in wetlands

The USACE considers OBL, FACW and FAC species to be indicators of wetlands. An area is considered to have hydrophytic vegetation when greater than 50 percent of the dominant species in each vegetative stratum (tree, shrub, and herb) fall within these categories. Any species not appearing on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's list is assumed to be an upland species, almost never occurring in wetlands. In addition, an area needs to contain at least 5% vegetative cover to be considered as a vegetated wetland.

Hydric Soils

Hydric soils are saturated or inundated for a sufficient duration during the growing season to develop anaerobic or reducing conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. Field indicators of wetland soils include observations of ponding, inundation, saturation, dark (low chroma) soil colors, bright mottles (concentrations of oxidized minerals such as iron), gleying (indicates reducing conditions by a blue-grey color), or accumulation of organic material. Additional supporting information includes documentation of soil as hydric or reference to wet conditions in the local soils survey, both of which must be verified in the field.

Wetland Hydrology

Wetland hydrology is inundation or soil saturation with a frequency and duration long enough to cause the development of hydric soils and plant communities dominated by hydrophytic vegetation. If direct observation of wetland hydrology is not possible (as in seasonal wetlands), or records of wetland hydrology are not available (such as stream gauges), assessment of wetland hydrology is frequently supported by field indicators, such as water marks, drift lines, sediment deposits, or drainage patterns in wetlands.

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have jurisdiction over "waters of the State," which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.

The SWRCB has not established regulations for field determinations of waters of the state except for wetlands currently. For non-wetland waters, each local RWQCB may delineate boundaries differently based on their interpretations of jurisdiction. The Los Angeles RWQCB, which is the local RWQCB for the project area, generally uses United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) delineation methods and delineates waters of the State to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM).

Wetland waters of the State are defined under the SWRCB's *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State,* which went into effect May 28, 2020.The SWRCB defines an area as wetland if, under normal circumstances:

(i) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both;

(ii) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and

(iii) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.

The SWRCB's *Implementation Guidance for the Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredge and Fill Material to Waters of the State* (2020), states that waters of the U.S. and waters of the State should be delineated using the standard USACE delineation procedures, taking into consideration that the methods shall be modified only to allow for the fact that a lack of vegetation does not preclude an area from meeting the definition of a wetland.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS implements the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 United States Code [USC] Section 703-711) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC Section 668). The USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for implementing the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (16 USC § 153 et seq.). Generally, the USFWS implements the FESA for terrestrial and freshwater species, while the NMFS implements the FESA for marine and anadramous species. Projects that would result in "take" of any federally threatened or endangered species are required to obtain permits from the USFWS or NMFS through either Section 7 (interagency consultation with a federal nexus) or Section 10 (Habitat Conservation Plan) of the FESA, depending on the involvement by the federal government in permitting and/or funding of the project. The permitting process is used to determine if a project would jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and what measures would be required to avoid jeopardizing the species. "Take" under federal definition means to harass, harm (which includes habitat modification), pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Proposed or candidate species do not have the full protection of the FESA; however, the USFWS and NMFS advise project applicants that they could be elevated to listed status at any time.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) derives its authority from the Fish and Game Code of California. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code Section 2050

et. seq.) prohibits take of state listed threatened or endangered. Take under CESA is restricted to direct mortality of a listed species and the law does not prohibit indirect harm by way of habitat modification. Where incidental take would occur during construction or other lawful activities, CESA allows the CDFW to issue an Incidental Take Permit upon finding, among other requirements, that impacts to the species have been minimized and fully mitigated. Species that are candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under CESA receive the same protection as though they were listed during the candidacy period (typically one year).

The CDFW also enforces Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the Fish and Game Code, which prohibits take of species designated as Fully Protected. The CDFW is not allowed to issue an Incidental Take Permit for Fully Protected species; therefore, impacts to these species must be avoided.

California Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 describe unlawful take, possession, or destruction of native birds, nests, and eggs. Section 3503.5 of the Code protects all birds-of-prey and their eggs and nests against take, possession, or destruction of nests or eggs. Section 3513 makes it a state-level office to take any bird in violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. CDFW administers these requirements.

Species of Special Concern (SSC) is a category used by the CDFW for those species which are considered to be indicators of regional habitat changes or are considered to be potential future protected species. Species of Special Concern do not have any special legal status except that which may be afforded by the Fish and Game Code as noted above. The SSC category is intended by the CDFW for use as a management tool to include these species in special consideration when decisions are made concerning the development of natural lands. The CDFW also has authority to administer the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) (Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq.). The NPPA requires the CDFW to establish criteria for determining if a species, subspecies, or variety of native plant is endangered or rare. Effective in 2015, CDFW promulgated regulations (14 CCR 786.9) under the authority of the NPPA, establishing that the CESA's permitting procedures would be applied to plants listed under the NPPA as "Rare." With this change, there is little practical difference for the regulated public between plants listed under CESA and those listed under the NPPA.

Perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and associated riparian vegetation, when present, also fall under the jurisdiction of the CDFW. Section 1600 *et seq*. of the Fish and Game Code (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements) gives the CDFW regulatory authority over activities that divert, obstruct, or alter the channel, bed, or bank of any river, stream or lake.

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Appendix B

Site Photographs

Photograph 1. Overview photo of the parcel from the Lost Canyon Road ramp, facing east.

Photograph 2. Overview photo of the parcel from the northwest corner, facing southeast. The excavated basin and outlet are visible in the center of photo and foreground.

Photograph 3. View of ruderal vegetation in the northeast corner of the parcel, facing west.

Photograph 4. Overview photo of the less disturbed Big sagebrush scrub in the eastern part of the parcel, facing northwest.

Photograph 5. Photo of ruderal vegetation and smaller, sparser, and disturbed stands of Big sagebrush in the central and western portions of the parcel. Photo taken facing west.

Photograph 6. Photo of ruderal vegetation and disturbed Big sagebrush in the western part of the parcel. Photo taken facing east.

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Appendix C

Floral and Faunal Compendium

Plant Species Observed Within the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
Acmispon glaber var. *glaber*	deerweed	*Fabaceae*	–
Ambrosia acanthicarpa	annual bur-sage	*Asteraceae*	–
Ambrosia psilostachya	western ragweed	*Asteraceae*	–
Amsinckia intermedia	common fiddleneck	*Boraginaceae*	–
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	*Asteraceae*	–
Artemisia tridentata	big sagebrush	*Asteraceae*	–
Asclepias fascicularis	narrow-leaf milkweed	*Apocynaceae*	–
*Atriplex semibaccata**	Australian saltbush	*Chenopodiaceae*	–
*Avena barbata**	slender wild oats	*Poaceae*	–
*Avena fatua**	wild oats	*Poaceae*	–
Baccharis pilularis ssp. consanguinea	coyote brush	*Asteraceae*	–
Baccharis salicifolia var. *salicifolia*	mule fat	*Asteraceae*	–
*Brassica tournefortii**	Sahara mustard	*Brassicaceae*	–
*Bromus diandrus**	common ripgut grass	*Poaceae*	–
*Bromus hordeaceus**	soft chess	*Poaceae*	–
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens**	red brome	*Poaceae*	–
*Bromus tectorum**	cheat grass	*Poaceae*	–
*Carduus pycnocephalus**	Italian thistle	*Asteraceae*	–
*Centaurea melitensis**	tocalote	*Asteraceae*	–
Chamaesyce albomarginata	rattlesnake weed	*Euphorbiaceae*	–
*Chenopodium murale**	nettle leaf goosefoot	*Chenopodiaceae*	–
*Cirsium vulgare**	bull thistle	*Asteraceae*	–
Conium maculatum	poison hemlock	*Apiaceae*	–
Corethrogyne filaginifolia	common sand-aster	*Asteraceae*	–
Crassula connata	pygmy weed	*Crassulaceae*	–
Croton setiger	dove weed	*Euphorbiaceae*	–
Cucurbita foetidissima	calabazilla	*Cucurbitaceae*	–
Cuscuta californica var. *californica*	dodder	*Convolvulaceae*	–
Datura wrightii	Jimsonweed	*Solanaceae*	–
Ericameria nauseosa var. *oreophila*	Great Basin rabbitbrush	*Asteraceae*	–
Erigeron canadensis	horseweed	*Asteraceae*	–
Eriodictyon crassifolium	yerba santa	*Hydrophyllaceae*	–
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *foliolosum*	California buckwheat	*Polygonaceae*	–
*Erodium cicutarium**	redstem filaree	*Geraniaceae*	–
*Erodium moschatum**	whitestem filaree	*Geraniaceae*	–

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
*Festuca myuros**	rattail fescue	*Poaceae*	–
Heterotheca grandiflora	telegraph weed	*Asteraceae*	–
*Hirschfeldia incana**	short-pod mustard	*Brassicaceae*	–
*Hordeum murinum**	foxtail barley	*Poaceae*	–
*Hypochaeris glabra**	smooth cat's ear	*Asteraceae*	–
*Lactuca serriola**	prickly lettuce	*Asteraceae*	–
*Lamarckia aurea**	goldentop	*Poaceae*	–
*Logfia gallica**	daggerleaf cottonrose	*Asteraceae*	–
*Lysimachia arvensis**	scarlet pimpernel	*Myrsinaceae*	–
*Malva parviflora**	cheeseweed	*Malvaceae*	–
*Marrubium vulgare**	horehound	*Lamiaceae*	–
*Medicago polymorpha**	burclover	*Fabaceae*	–
*Matricaria discoidea**	pineapple weed	*Asteraceae*	–
*Melilotus indicus**	yellow sweetclover	*Fabaceae*	–
*Nicotiana glauca**	tree tobacco	*Solanaceae*	–
*Plantago lanceolata**	English plantain	*Plantaginaceae*	–
*Raphanus sativa**	wild radish	*Brassicaceae*	–
*Ricinus communis**	castor bean	*Euphorbiaceae*	–
*Salsola tragus**	Russian thistle	*Chenopodiaceae*	–
Salvia mellifera	black sage	*Lamiaceae*	–
Sambucus nigra ssp. *caerulea*	blue elderberry	*Adoxaceae*	–
*Schismus arabicus**	Arabian grass	*Poaceae*	–
*Schismus barbatus**	Mediterranean grass	*Poaceae*	–
*Silybum marianum**	milk thistle	*Asteraceae*	–
*Sisymbrium altissimum**	tumble mustard	*Brassicaceae*	–
*Sisymbrium irio**	London rocket	*Brassicaceae*	–
*Sisymbrium officinale**	hedge mustard	*Brassicaceae*	–
*Sisymbrium orientale**	Eastern rocket	*Brassicaceae*	–
*Sonchus asper**	prickly sow thistle	*Asteraceae*	–
*Sonchus oleraceus**	common sow thistle	*Asteraceae*	–
*Stellaria media**	common chickweed	*Caryophyllaceae*	–
Stipa miliacea var. *miliacea**	smilo grass	*Poaceae*	–
*Urtica urens**	dwarf nettle	*Urticaceae*	–
Verbena lasiostachys var. *lasiostachys*	western vervain	*Verbenaceae*	–

* Non-native species

Animal Species Observed Within the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Native or Introduced
Birds			
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed hawk	–	Native
Callipepla californica	California quail	–	Native
Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird	–	Native
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow	–	Native
Corvus corax	common raven	–	Native
Haemorhous mexicanus	house finch	–	Native
Melospiza melodia	song sparrow	–	Native
Melozone crissalis	California towhee	–	Native
Mimus polyglottos	northern mockingbird	–	Native
Passer domesticus	house sparrow	–	Introduced
Psaltriparus minimus	bushtit	–	Native
Stelgidopteryx serripennis	northern rough-winged swallow	–	Native
Toxostoma redivivum	California thrasher	–	Native
Zenaida macroura	mourning dove	–	Native
Reptiles			
Uta stansburiana	Side-blotched lizard	–	Native

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Appendix D

Special Status Species Evaluation Tables

Special Status Plant Species in the Regional Vicinity of the Project Site

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/ State ESA CRPR G-Rank/ S-Rank	Habitat Preferences/Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination
Plants			
Allium howellii var. *clokeyi* Mt. Pinos onion	–/– 1B.3 G4T2/S2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Great Basin scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland. 1300-1850m. Blooms Apr-Jun.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat. Site is well outside known species elevation range. No known occurrences in watershed. No *Allium* species were observed during the focused survey.
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's milk-vetch	FE/– 1B.1 G2/S2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coast scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Recent burns or disturbed areas; in saline, somewhat alkaline soils high in Ca, Mg, with some K. Soil specialist; requires shallow soils to defeat pocket gophers and open areas, preferably on hilltops, saddles or bowls between hills. 200-650 m. Blooms Jan-Aug.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on marginal and limited habitat present, including lack of preferred specific habitats and soils. No *Astragalus* species were observed during the focused survey.
Berberis nevinii Nevin's barberry	FE/SE 1B.1 G1/S1	Sandy or gravelly soil in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian scrub. On steep, N-facing slopes or in low grade sandy washes. Many historical occurrences have been extirpated. 290-1575 m. Blooms March-July.	**Not Present.** Marginal habitat is present onsite. However, this is a perennial shrub that if present would have been evident and identifiable during the focused field survey, and it was not observed. No *Berberis* species were observed during the survey.
California macrophylla round-leaved filaree	–/– 1B.2 G3?/S3?	Vertic clay and occasionally serpentine soils in open sites, grassland, scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. <1200 m. Blooms Mar-July.	**Not Present.** Soils and preferred habitat not present. No *California* species were observed during the survey.
Calochortus catalinae Catalina mariposa-lily	–/– 4.2 G3G4/S3S4	Valley and foothill grassland, chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland. In heavy soils, open slopes, openings in brush. 15-700 m. Perennial bulbiferous herb. Blooms (Feb)Mar-Jun.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on absence of preferred soils. Not found during focused survey.
Calochortus clavatus var. *clavatus* club-haired mariposa-lily	–/– 4.3 G4T3/S3	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Generally, on serpentine clay, rocky soils. 75-1300m. Blooms May-Jun	**Not Present.** Not expected based on absence of preferred habitat and soils. Not found during focused survey.
Calochortus clavatus var. *gracilis* slender mariposa-lily	–/– 1B.2 G4T2T3/S2S3	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and shaded foothill canyons. Often on grassy slopes within other habitat. 420-760 m. Blooms Mar-June.	**Not Present.** Approx. 150 individuals of slender mariposa lily were observed approximately 600 feet east of the subject parcel, but none were observed during the focused survey. Only 5 individuals of *Calochortus* were observed, all were *C. splendens* (not rare).

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Fed/ State ESA CRPR G-Rank/ S-Rank**	**Habitat Preferences/Requirements**	**Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination**
Calochortus palmeri var. *palmeri* Palmer's mariposa-lily	–/– 1B.2 G4T2T3/S2S3	Meadows, vernally moist places in yellow-pine forest, chaparral. 1200-2200 m. Blooms May-July.	**Not Present.** Suitable habitat is not present at the parcel. Not observed during the focused survey.
Castilleja gleasoni Mt. Gleason paintbrush	–/– 1B.2 G2/S2	Occurs typically in granitic soils in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland. 1160-2170 m. Blooms May-June.	**Not Present.** This is a high elevation species found in granitic soils in the San Gabriel Mountains. Not found at the subject parcel during the focused survey.
Calystegia peirsonii Pierson's morning-glory	–/– 4.2 G4/S4	Chaparral, coastal scrub, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Blooms April-June.	**Not Present.** Species was presumed to be present in the southern part of the adjacent Vista Canyon site since existing plants displayed intermediate characteristics between Peirson's morning glory and south coast morning glory. However, none observed during the focused survey at the subject parcel.
Canbya candida white pygmy-poppy	–/– 4.2 G3G4/S3S4	Gravelly, sandy, granitic soils in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. 600-1460 m. Blooms March-June.	**Not Present.** Suitable habitat is not present at the parcel. Not found during focused survey. No *Canbya* species observed during focused survey.
Centrodmadia parryi ssp. *australis* southern tarplant	–/– 1B.1 G3T2/S2	Occurs in marshes and swamps (margins), valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic), vernal pool margins. Often in disturbed sites near the coast at marsh edges; also, in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass. 0-480 m. Blooms May-Nov.	**Not Present.** Suitable habitat is not present at the parcel. Many historical occurrences extirpated. Not found during focused survey. No *Centrodmadia* species observed during focused survey.
Cercocarpus betuloides var. blancheae island mountain-mahogany	–/– 4.3 G5T4/S4	Occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest and chaparral. 30-600 m. Blooms Feb-May.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on known distribution and lack of suitable habitat. Perennial shrub that if present would have been evident and identifiable during the focused survey. Not found during focused survey. No *Cercocarpus* species observed during survey.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *fernandina* San Fernando Valley spineflower	FC/CE 1B.1 G2T1/S1	Occurs in sandy coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. 150-1220 m. Blooms April-June.	**Not Present.** Once presumed extinct, it was rediscovered in 1999. Most historical habitat is now heavily urbanized. Parcel is well outside known geographic range of the species. Not found during focused survey. No *Chorizanthe* species observed during survey.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi* Parry's spineflower	–/– 1B.1 G3T2/ S2	Sandy or rocky soils, openings in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. 275-1220 m. Blooms April-June.	**Not Present.** Suitable habitat present but it was not found during the focused field survey. No *Chorizanthe* species observed during survey.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/ State ESA CRPR G-Rank/ S-Rank	Habitat Preferences/Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination
Deinandra minthornii Santa Susana tarplant	--/SR 1B.2 G2/S2.2	Occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub on sandstone outcrops and crevices, in shrubland in the southern Western Transverse Ranges (Santa Susana and Santa Monica Mountains). It is commonly associated with Santa Susana sandstone outcrops. It has also been found on rocky outcrops of Conejo volcanics. 210-660 m. Blooms July-Nov.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on known distribution and lack of sandstone and outcrops, crevices. Perennial shrub that if present would have been evident and identifiable during the focused survey. Not found during focused survey. No *Deinandra* species observed during survey.
Deinandra paniculata paniculate tarplant	–/– 4.2 G4/S4	Usually vernally mesic, often sandy areas in open chaparral and woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools, disturbed areas. <1320 m. Blooms (Mar)Apr-Nov(Dec).	**Not Present.** Not expected based on preferred moisture regime. Not found during focused survey. No *Deinandra* species observed during survey.
Delphinium parryi ssp. *purpureum* Mt. Pinos larkspur	–/– 4.3 G4T4/S4	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. 1000-2600 m. Blooms May-Jun.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat, elevations, and known distribution. Not found during focused survey. No *Delphinium* species observed during survey.
Dodecahema leptoceras slender-horned spineflower	FE/SE 1B.1 G1/S1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub (alluvial fan sage scrub). Flood deposited terraces and washes; associates include *Encelia*, *Dalea*, *Lepidospartum*, etc. Sandy soils. 200-765 m. Blooms Jan-July.	**Not Present.** No suitable flood deposited wash/terrace habitat present onsite. Not found during focused survey. No *Dodecahema* species observed during focused survey.
Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. *blochmaniae* Blochman's dudleya	–/– 1B.1 G2T2/S2.1	Occurs on rocky, often clay or serpentine substrates within coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Open, rocky slopes; often in shallow clays over serpentine or in rocky areas with little soil. 5-550 m. Blooms April-June.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred specific habitat and substrates. Not found during focused survey. No *Dudleya* species observed during focused survey.
Dudleya cymosa ssp. *agourensis* Agoura Hills dudleya	FT/– 1B.2 G5T1/S2	Occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland on rocky, volcanic breccia. 200-500 m.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred substrates and known species range. Known only from the western Santa Monica Mtns. Not found during focused survey. No *Dudleya* species observed during focused survey.
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	–/– 1B.2 G2/S2	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland in heavy, often clayey soils or grassy slopes. 15-1000 m.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred soils. Not found during focused survey. No *Dudleya* species observed during focused survey.
Galium grande San Gabriel bedstraw	–/– 1B.2	Cismontane woodland, chaparral, broad-leafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest; open chaparral and low open oak forest on rocky slopes. 525-1500 m. Blooms Jan-July.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on known distribution and lack of preferred habitat and substrate.Not found during focused survey. No *Galium* species observed during focused survey.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/ State ESA CRPR G-Rank/ S-Rank	Habitat Preferences/Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination
Harpagonella palmeri Palmer's grapplinghook	–/– 4.2 G4/S3	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland; clay soil; open grassy areas within shrubland. 20-995 m. Blooms March-May.	**Not Present.** Not found during focused survey. No *Harpagonella* species observed during focused survey.
Helianthus inexpectatus Newhall sunflower	–/– 1B.1 G1/S1	Freshwater, seep, natural spring, marsh and swamp, riparian woodland. 305 m. Blooms Aug-Oct.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat. Not found during focused survey. No *Helianthus* species observed during focused survey.
Heuchera caespitosa urn-flowered alumroot	–/– 4.3 G3/S3	Rocky areas in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forest (montane), upper montane coniferous forest. 1155-2650 m. Blooms May-Aug.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat, elevations, and known distribution. Not found during focused survey. No *Heuchera* species observed during focused survey.
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula* mesa horkelia	–/– 1B.1 G4T1/S1	Dry, sandy, or gravelly soils in coastal (maritime), cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. 70-810 m. Blooms March-July.	**Not Present.** Not found during focused survey. No *Horkelia* species were observed during the survey.
Hulsea vestita ssp. *gabrielensis* San Gabriel Mountains sunflower	–/– 4.3 G5T3/S3	Rocky areas in lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. 1500-2500 m. Blooms May-Jul.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat, elevations, and known distribution. Not observed during focused survey. No *Hulsea* species observed during focused survey.
Hulsea vestita ssp. *parryi* Parry's sunflower	–/– 4.3 G5T4/ S4	Granitic or carbonate, rocky, openings in lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland. 1370-2895 m. Blooms Apr-August.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat, elevations, and known distribution. Not observed during focused survey. No *Hulsea* species observed during focused survey.
Juglans californica Southern California black walnut	–/– 4.2 G4/S4	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland. 50-900 m. Blooms Mar-Aug.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred habitat. Not found during focused survey. No tree species including *Juglans* species were observed during focused survey.
Lepechinia fragrans fragrant pitcher sage	–/– 4.2 G3/S3	Occurs in chaparral between 20-1310 m. Blooms Mar-Oct.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of chaparral habitat. Not observed during the focused survey. No *Lepechinia* species observed during focused survey.
Lepechinia rossi Ross's pitcher sage	–/– 1B.2 G1/S1	Perennial shrub. Chaparral. Soil derived from fine-grained, reddish sedimentary rock. 305-790m. Blooms May-Sep.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred habitat and soils. Not observed during the focused survey. No *Lepechinia* species observed during focused survey.
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri* Coulter's goldfields	–/– 1B.1 G4T2/S2	Coastal salt marshes, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Usually found on alkaline soils in playas, sinks, and grasslands. <1400 m. Blooms April-May.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred habitat and substrates. Not found during focused survey. No *Lasthenia* species observed during survey.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/ State ESA CRPR G-Rank/ S-Rank	Habitat Preferences/Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination
Lilium humboldtii ssp. ocellatum ocellated Humboldt lily	–/– 4.2 G4T4?/ S4?	Openings in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland. 30-800 m. Blooms Mar-Jul(Aug).	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat. Not found during focused survey. No *Lilium* species observed during survey.
Lupinus paynei Payne's bush lupine	–/– 1B.1 G1Q/S1	Sandy areas in coastal scrub, riparian scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Blooms Mar-Apr(May-Jul).	**Not Present.** Perennial shrub that if present would have been evident and identifiable during the focused survey. Not found during focused survey. No *Lupinus* species observed during survey.
Malacothamnus davidsonii Davidson's bush-mallow	–/– 1B.2 G2/S2	Coastal scrub, riparian woodland, chaparral, cismontane woodland. Sandy washes. 150-1525 m. Blooms June-Jan.	**Not Present.** Marginal habitat is present. However, this is a perennial shrub that if present would have been evident and identifiable during the field survey, and it was not observed. No *Malacothamnus* species observed during focused survey.
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. *hypoleuca* white-veined monardella	–/– 1B.3 G4T2T3/S2S3	Occurs on dry slopes in oak woodland, chaparral, cismontane woodland. 50-1525 m. Blooms May-Oct.	**Not Present**. This species is known only from the Santa Monica, Santa Ynez, and Sierra Madre Mtns. Not found during focused survey. No *Monardella* species observed during focused survey.
Navarretia fossalis spreading navarretia	FT/– 1B.1 G1/S1	Vernal pools, chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas. San Diego hardpan and San Diego claypan vernal pools; in swales and vernal pools, often surrounded by other habitat types. 30-665 m. Blooms April-June.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred habitat and substrates. Not found during focused survey. No *Navarretia* species were observed during the focused survey.
Navarretia ojaiensis Ojai navarretia	–/– 1B.1 G1/S1	Clay soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Openings in shrublands or grasslands. 275-620 m. Blooms May-July.	**Not Present.** Marginal habitat is present, but clay soils are absent. Not found during focused survey. No *Navarretia* species observed during focused survey.
Navarretia setiloba Piute Mountains navarretia	–/– 1B.1 G2/S2	Cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Red clay soils, or on gravelly loam. 180-1645 m.	**Not Present.** Preferred habitat not present, clay soils are absent. Not found during focused survey. No *Navarretia* species observed during focused survey.
Nolina cismontana chaparral nolina	–/– 1B.2 G2/S2	Occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub, primarily on sandstone and shale substrates; also known from gabbro. 140-1275 m. Blooms May-July.	**Not Present.** Preferred substrates not present. Perennial shrub that if present would have been evident and identifiable during the field survey, and it was not observed. No *Nolina* species observed during focused survey.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Fed/ State ESA CRPR G-Rank/ S-Rank**	**Habitat Preferences/Requirements**	**Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination**
Opuntia basilaris var. *brachyclada* short-joint beavertail	–/– 1B.2 G5T3/S3	Chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland. Sandy soil or coarse, granitic loam. 425-1800 m. Blooms April-June.	**Not Present.** Preferred habitat not present. Perennial shrub that if present would have been evident and identifiable during the field survey, and it was not observed. No *Opuntia* species observed during focused survey.
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt grass	FE/SE 1B.1 G1/S1	Vernal pools. 10-660 m. Blooms April-August.	**Not Present.** Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. No *Orcuttia* species observed during focused survey.
Phacelia hubbyi Hubby's phacelia	–/– 4.2 G4/S4	Gravelly, rocky, talus substrates in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland below 1000 m. Blooms Apr-July.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred substrates. Not found during focused survey. No *Phacelia* species observed during focused survey.
Phacelia mohavensis Mojave phacelia	–/– 4.3 G4Q/S4	Sandy or gravelly soils in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland. 1400-2500 m. Blooms Apr-Aug.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat. Parcel is well below elevations where species occurs. Not found during focused survey. No *Phacelia* species observed during focused survey.
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum white rabbit-tobacco	–/– 2B.2 G4/S2	Prefers sandy or gravelly benches, dry stream bottoms, canyon bottoms in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland. <2100 m. Blooms (Jul)Aug-Nov(Dec).	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred microhabitats. Not found during focused survey. No *Pseduognaphalim* species were observed during the survey.
Quercus durata var. *gabrielensis* San Gabriel oak	–/– 4.2 G4T3/S3	Occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland. 450-100 m. Blooms Apr-May.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat. Not found during focused survey. No tree species including *Quercus* species were observed during the survey.
Senecio aphanactis chaparral ragwort	–/– 2B.2 G3?/S2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Drying alkaline flats. and dry open rocky areas. 15-800 m. Blooms Feb-May.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of preferred substrates. This species was not observed during the focused survey. No *Senecio* species were observed during the survey.
Streptanthus campestris southern jewelflower	–/– 1B.3 G3/S3	Open, rocky conifer forest, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland chaparral. 900-2300 m. Blooms May-June.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat. Not found during focused survey. No *Streptanthus* species observed during focused survey.
Stylocline masonii Mason's neststraw	–/– 1B.1 G1/S1	Sandy soils in Chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. 100-1200 m. Blooms March-May.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat. Collected only once (1991) since 1971. Not found during focused survey. No *Stylocline* species were observed during the survey.

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Symphyotrichum greatae Greata's aster	–/– 1B.3 G3/S3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, damp places in mesic canyons. 800-1500 m. Blooms June-Oct.	**Not Present.** Not expected based on lack of suitable habitat and moisture regime. Not found during the field survey. No *Symphyotrichum* species observed during survey.

FT = Federally Threatened
FC = Federal Candidate Species
FE = Federally Endangered
SE = State Endangered
ST = State Threatened
SR = State Rare

CRPR (CNPS California Rare Plant Rank)
1A = Presumed Extinct in California
1B = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
2A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But Common Elsewhere
2B = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
3 = Plants needing more information (most are species taxonomically unresolved)
4 = Plants of limited distribution (a watch list)

CRPR Threat Code Extension
.1 = Seriously endangered in California (> 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 = Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
.3 = Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened)

Special Status Animal Species in the Regional Vicinity of the Project Site

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination
Invertebrates			
Bombus crotchii Crotch bumble bee	None/SC G3G4/S1S2	Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Food plant genera include Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia, and Eriogonum.	**Low Potential.** Site vegetation is highly disturbed and suitable food plants are extremely limited.
Branchinecta lynchi vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT/None G3/S3	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	**Not Present.** Vernal pool habitat does not occur on the site.
Danaus plexippus pop. 1 monarch - California overwintering population	None/None G4T2T3/S2S3	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	**Not Present.** The site does not contain trees suitable for overwintering.
Euphydryas editha quino quino checkerspot butterfly	FE/None G5T1T2/S1S2	Sunny openings within chaparral & coastal sage shrublands in parts of Riverside & San Diego counties. Hills and mesas near the coast. Need high densities of food plants *Plantago erecta, P. insularis,* and *Orthocarpus purpurescens*.	**Not Present.** Larval host plants do not occur on the site.
Fishes			
Catostomus santaanae Santa Ana sucker	FT/None G1/S1	Endemic to Los Angeles Basin south coastal streams. Habitat generalists, but prefer sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water, and algae.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present.
Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni unarmored threespine stickleback	FE/SE G5T1/S1 SFP	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small Southern California streams. Cool (<24 C), clear water with abundant vegetation.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present.
Gila orcuttii arroyo chub	None/None G2/S2 SSC	Native to streams from Malibu Creek to San Luis Rey River basin. Introduced into streams in Santa Clara, Ventura, Santa Ynez, Mojave & San Diego river basins. Slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms. Feeds heavily on aquatic vegetation and associated invertebrates.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present.
Rhinichthys osculus ssp. *3* Santa Ana speckled dace	None/None G5T1/S1 SSC	Headwaters of the Santa Ana and San Gabriel rivers. May be extirpated from the Los Angeles River system. Requires permanent flowing streams with summer water temps of 17-20 C. Usually inhabits shallow cobble and gravel riffles.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination
Amphibians			
Anaxyrus californicus arroyo toad	FE/None G2G3/S2S3 SSC	Semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill and desert riparian, desert wash, etc. Rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores; loose, gravelly areas of streams in drier parts of range.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present.
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	Threatened/ None G2G3/S2S3 SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present. The Santa Clara River is within approximately 600 feet of the site, but this reach is intermittent and not suitable for breeding. Residential development sits between the site and the river.
Rana muscosa southern mountain yellow-legged frog	FE/SE G1/S1	Federal listing refers to populations in the San Gabriel, San Jacinto and San Bernardino mountains (southern DPS). Northern DPS was determined to warrant listing as endangered, Apr 2014, effective Jun 30, 2014. Always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 - 4 years to complete their aquatic development.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present.
Spea hammondii western spadefoot	None/None G3/S3 SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	**Not Present.** Vernal pool habitat does not occur on the site.
Taricha torosa Coast Range newt	None/None G4/S4 SSC	Coastal drainages from Mendocino County to San Diego County. Lives in terrestrial habitats & will migrate over 1 km to breed in ponds, reservoirs and slow-moving streams.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present, and the site is surrounded by developed land uses precluding migration.
Reptiles			
Anniella stebbinsi southern California legless lizard	None/None G3/S3 SSC	Generally south of the Transverse Range, extending to northwestern Baja California. Occurs in sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Disjunct populations in the Tehachapi and Piute Mountains in Kern County. Variety of habitats; generally, in moist, loose soil. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	**Low Potential.** The site is highly disturbed, and no trees are present to provide significant shade or leaf litter. Soils are likely too dry for the species.
Arizona elegans occidentalis California glossy snake	None/None G5T2/S2 SSC	Patchily distributed from the eastern portion of San Francisco Bay, southern San Joaquin Valley, and the Coast, Transverse, and Peninsular ranges, south to Baja California. Generalist reported from a range of scrub and grassland habitats, often with loose or sandy soils.	**Low Potential.** The site is highly disturbed, with minimal intact vegetation.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri coastal whiptail	None/None G5T5/S3 SSC	Found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland & riparian areas. Ground may be firm soil, sandy, or rocky.	**Moderate Potential.** This species can occur in disturbed habitats; however, the site is surrounded by developed land uses.

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Emys marmorata western pond turtle	None/None G3G4/S3 SSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present. The Santa Clara River is within approximately 600 feet of the site, but this reach is intermittent and not suitable for the species. Residential development sits between the site and the river.
Phrynosoma blainvillii coast horned lizard	None/None G3G4/S3S4 SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	**Moderate Potential.** The site is highly disturbed, with minimal intact vegetation. No washes are present. Two individuals were detected during surveys for the adjacent Vista Canyon project in 2008.
Thamnophis hammondii two-striped gartersnake	None/None G4/S3S4 SSC	Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation. Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.	**Not Present.** Aquatic habitat is not present. The Santa Clara River is within approximately 600 feet of the site, but this reach is intermittent and not suitable for the species. Residential development sits between the site and the river.
Birds			
Accipiter cooperii Cooper's hawk	None/None G5/S4 SS	Woodland, chiefly of open, interrupted or marginal type. Nest sites mainly in riparian growths of deciduous trees, as in canyon bottoms on river flood-plains; also, live oaks.	**Not Present (nesting).** No suitable nesting trees occur on the site. This highly mobile species could fly over the site or opportunistically forage there.
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	None/ST G2G3/S1S2	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	**Not Present.** Suitable nesting habitat does on or near the site. Site is disturbed and surrounded by development, making foraging unlikely.
Aimophila ruficeps canescens southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	None/None G5T3/S3 SS	Resident in Southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral. Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.	**Low Potential.** The site is disturbed, but limited remaining vegetation could be marginally suitable for this species.
Ammodramus savannarum grasshopper sparrow	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes. Favors native grasslands with a mix of grasses, forbs and scattered shrubs. Loosely colonial when nesting.	**Low Potential.** The site is disturbed, and native grassland species are extremely limited.
Artemisiospiza belli Bell's sage sparrow	None/None G5T2T3/S3 SS	Nests in chaparral dominated by fairly dense stands of chamise. Found in coastal sage scrub in south of range. Nest located on the ground beneath a shrub or in a shrub 6-18 inches above ground. Territories about 50 yds apart.	**Low Potential.** The site is disturbed, but limited remaining vegetation could be marginally suitable for this species.

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Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	None/None G4/S3 SSC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	**Low Potential.** The site is disturbed, and full-coverage plant surveys did not detect the burrows, whitewash, pellets, or other sign of this species on the ground.
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	None/ST G5/S3	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, & agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	**Not Present (nesting).** No suitable nesting trees occur on the site. This highly mobile species could fly over the site or opportunistically forage there.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT/SE G5T2T3/S1	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	**Not Present.** No suitable nesting trees or riparian habitat occur on the site.
Elanus leucurus white-tailed kite	None/None G5/S3S4 SFP	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	**Not Present (nesting).** No suitable nesting trees occur on the site. This highly mobile species could fly over the site or opportunistically forage there.
Empidonax traillii extimus southwestern willow flycatcher	FE/SE G5T2/S1	Mature riparian woodlands in Southern California, typically dominated by dense willow growths.	**Not Present.** No suitable nesting trees or riparian habitat occur on the site.
Eremophila alpestris actia California horned lark	None/None G5T4Q/S4 SS	Coastal regions, chiefly from Sonoma County to San Diego County. Also, main part of San Joaquin Valley and east to foothills. Short-grass prairie, bald hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, alkali flats.	**Moderate Potential.** This species is known to utilize recovering agricultural habitats.
Falco mexicanus prairie falcon	None/None G5/S4 SS	Inhabits dry, open terrain, either level or hilly. Breeding sites located on cliffs. Forages far afield, even to marshlands and ocean shores.	**Not Present (nesting).** No cliffs or other suitable nesting substrate occurs on the site. This highly mobile species could fly over the site or opportunistically forage there.
Lanius ludovicianus loggerhead shrike	None/None G4/S4 SSC	Broken woodlands, savannah, pinyon-juniper, Joshua tree, and riparian woodlands, desert oases, scrub & washes. Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.	**Low Potential.** The site is disturbed, but limited remaining vegetation could be marginally suitable for this disturbance-tolerant species. However, shrike populations have not been present in the Santa Clarita Valley in recent years.

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Polioptila californica californica coastal California gnatcatcher	Threatened/ None G4G5T2Q/S2 SSC	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft in Southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	**Not Present.** The site is disturbed, and remaining on-site vegetation is big sagebrush scrub rather than the coastal sage scrub preferred by this species. The site is also surrounded by development, and lacks topography.
Vireo bellii pusillus least Bell's vireo	FE/SE G5T2/S2	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, Baccharis, mesquite.	**Not Present.** No suitable nesting trees or riparian habitat occur on the site.
Mammals			
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	**Not Present.** No suitable roosting habitat occurs on the site.
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's big-eared bat	None/None G3G4/S2 SSC	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	**Not Present.** No suitable roosting habitat or water sources occur on the site.
Euderma maculatum spotted bat	None/None G4/S3 SSC	Occupies a wide variety of habitats from arid deserts and grasslands through mixed conifer forests. Feeds over water and along washes. Feeds almost entirely on moths. Needs rock crevices in cliffs or caves for roosting.	**Not Present.** No suitable roosting habitat occurs on the site.
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	None/None G5T4/S3S4 SSC	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer & deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	**Not Present.** No suitable roosting habitat occurs on the site.
Lasiurus cinereus hoary bat	None/None G5/S4 SS	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.	**Not Present.** No suitable roosting habitat occurs on the site.
Lepus californicus bennettii San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	None/None G5T3T4/S3S4 SSC	Intermediate canopy stages of shrub habitats & open shrub/herbaceous & tree/herbaceous edges. Coastal sage scrub habitats in Southern California.	**High Potential.** The site is disturbed, but limited remaining vegetation is suitable for this species. Species was detected during surveys for the adjacent Vista Canyon project in 2008.
Macrotus californicus California leaf-nosed bat	None/None G4/S3 SSC	Desert riparian, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, alkali scrub and palm oasis habitats. Needs rocky, rugged terrain with mines or caves for roosting.	**Not Present.** No suitable roosting habitat occurs on the site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Basis for Determination
Neotamias speciosus speciosus lodgepole chipmunk	None/None G4T2T3/S2S3 SS	Summits of isolated Piute, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto mountains. Usually found in open-canopy forests. Habitat is usually lodgepole pine forests in the San Bernardino Mts & chinquapin slopes in the San Jacinto Mts.	**Not Present.** Forested habitats are not present on the site, and the species occurs at higher elevations.
Neotoma lepida intermedia San Diego desert woodrat	None/None G5T3T4/S3S4 SSC	Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	**Low Potential.** The site is disturbed and lacks topography, and limited remaining vegetation is marginal for this species.
Onychomys torridus ramona southern grasshopper mouse	None/None G5T3/S3 SSC	Desert areas, especially scrub habitats with friable soils for digging. Prefers low to moderate shrub cover. Feeds almost exclusively on arthropods, especially scorpions and orthopteran insects.	**Low Potential.** The site is disturbed, and is at the extreme edge of this species' range.
Taxidea taxus American badger	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	**Low Potential.** The site has been chronically disturbed, and is surrounded by development. Full-coverage plant surveys did not detect the distinctive burrows of this species.

Regional Vicinity refers to within a 9-quad search radius of site.

FE = Federally Endangered FT = Federally Threatened FC = Federal Candidate Species FS=Federally Sensitive

SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SC = State Candidate SS=State Sensitive

SSC = CDFW Species of Special Concern SFP = State Fully Protected

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