

Appendix C

Almond Avenue Warehouse Project Biotic Resources Report



ALMOND AVENUE WAREHOUSE PROJECT

BIOTIC RESOURCES REPORT

San Bernardino County, California

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1 SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a biological resource assessment conducted by Rocks Biological Consulting (RBC) for the Almond Avenue Warehouse Project (project) in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California. The 9.50-acre project site is disturbed and dominated by ruderal plant species. The site has no potential to support the federally endangered Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) and low potential to support the state Species of Special Concern burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). The project site does not appear to support waters of the U.S./state, jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), respectively, or streambed and associated riparian/wetland habitat jurisdictional by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Impacts to biological resources will be less than significant with implementation of the suggested mitigation measures outlined in this report.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The 9.50-acre project site (APN 023013131) is located in the City of Fontana, County of San Bernardino, California. The project site is near the northeast corner of Almond Avenue and Whittram Avenue, east of Interstate 15 (I-15), and west of Cherry Avenue. The site is bounded by Almond Avenue to the west, and developed parcels to the north, south, and east (Figure 1). The project is located on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' quadrangle (quad) map Fontana, Township 01S, Range 06W, Section 10.

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the construction of an approximately 185,866-square foot industrial warehouse building with office space located on 9.50 acres within the County of San Bernardino. Access to the site will be off of Almond Avenue. According to the County of San Bernardino's on-line zoning information, the site is zoned Community Industrial (Kimley-Horn And Associates 2020).

2.3 SCOPE OF WORK

This report provides a summary of on-site biological resources and an evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed project in the context of County of San Bernardino Land Use regulations, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; California Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.), and state and federal regulations, such as the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] § 1531 et seq.), Clean Water Act (CWA; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC).

RBC conducted a field study on February 4, 2020, in order to assess the project for biological CEQA requirements, including conducting: (1) general biological surveys; (2) vegetation mapping; (3) habitat assessments for special-status plant and wildlife species; (4) a habitat assessment for Delhi Sands flower-loving fly; (5) a habitat assessment for burrowing owl; and (6) a reconnaissance-level assessment for areas anticipated to be jurisdictional under the Corps pursuant to Section 404

of the CWA, under the RWQCB pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act; Water Code Section 13000 et seq.), and under CDFW pursuant to Section 1602 of the CFGC.

2.4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project site is nearly flat with an elevation of approximately 1,180 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The project site is heavily disturbed and was historically utilized as a truck yard, orchard, and livestock farm (Fidler 2020). Small areas of ruderal vegetation exist along the project boundary. The middle and eastern portions of the project site are largely comprised of gravelly soils. A residential structure and associated ornamental vegetation exist at the northwestern corner of the project site. The project site is bordered by developed lands. Photographs of the project site are presented in Appendix A.

2.5 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Federal, state, and local agencies have established several regulations to protect and conserve biological resources. The descriptions below provide a brief overview of the agency regulations that may be applicable to the project. The final determination as to what types of permits are required will be made by the regulating agencies.

2.5.1 FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal ESA of 1973, as amended, provides for the listing of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals and the designation of critical habitat for such listed species. ESA regulates the “taking” of any endangered fish or wildlife species, per Section 9. As development is proposed, the responsible agency or individual landowner is required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to assess potential impacts on listed species (including plants) or their critical habitat, pursuant to Sections 7 and 10 of the ESA. USFWS is required to determine the extent a project would impact a particular species. If USFWS determines that a project is likely to potentially impact a species, measures to avoid or reduce such impacts must be identified. Following consultation and the issuance of a Biological Opinion, USFWS may issue an incidental take permit, which allows for the take of a species if it is incidental to another authorized activity and will not adversely affect the existence of the species. Section 10 of the ESA provides for issuance of incidental take permits to non-federal parties in conjunction with the development of a habitat conservation plan (HCP); Section 7 of the ESA provides for permitting of projects requiring federal permits.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; 16 U.S.C. § 703 et seq.) implements treaties with several countries on the conservation and protection of migratory birds. The number of bird species covered by the MBTA is extensive and listed at 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 10.13. USFWS enforces the MBTA and prohibits “by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, [or] kill” any migratory bird, or attempt such actions, except as permitted by regulation.

Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899

The Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 (Rivers and Harbors Act; 33 U.S.C. § 401 et seq.) prohibits the discharge of any material into navigable waters of the U.S., or tributaries thereof, without a permit. The act also makes it a misdemeanor to excavate, fill, or alter the course, condition, or capacity of any port, harbor, or channel, or to dam navigable streams without a permit.

Many activities originally covered by the Rivers and Harbors Act are now regulated under the CWA of 1972, discussed below. However, the 1899 act retains relevance and created the structure under which the USACE oversees permitting under CWA Section 404.

Clean Water Act

Pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA, the Corps is authorized to regulate any activity that would result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. (including wetlands), which includes those waters listed in 33 CFR 328.3. The Corps, with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has the principal authority to issue CWA Section 404 permits.

A water quality certification or waiver pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA is required for all Section 404 permitted actions. The RWQCBs, divisions of the State Water Resources Control Board, provide oversight of the 401 permit process in California. The RWQCBs are required to provide “certification that there is reasonable assurance that an activity that may result in the discharge to waters of the United States will not violate water quality standards.” Water Quality Certification must be based on the finding that a proposed discharge will comply with applicable water quality standards.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program regulates discharge of pollutants into surface waters of the U.S. under Section 402 of the CWA. Under the permit program, a project causing substantial impacts on wetlands may require an Individual Permit whereas those projects only minimally affecting wetlands may meet the conditions of one of the existing Nationwide Permits.

2.5.2 STATE REGULATIONS

State of California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act of 1984 (CESA; CFGC § 2050 et seq.), in combination with the California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977 (NPPA; CFGC § 1900 et seq.), regulates the listing and take of plant and animal species designated as endangered, threatened, or rare within the state. California also lists Species of Special Concern based on limited distribution, declining populations, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, recreational, or educational value. The CESA defines an endangered species as “a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease” (CFGC § 2062). The CESA defines a threatened species as “a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile,

or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required by this chapter. Any animal determined by the commission as rare on or before January 1, 1985 is a threatened species” (CFGC § 2067). Candidate species are defined as “a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the commission has formally noticed as being under review by the department for addition to either the list of endangered species or the list of threatened species, or a species for which the commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to either list” (CFGC § 2068). Candidate species may be afforded temporary protection as though they were already listed as threatened or endangered at the discretion of the Fish and Game Commission. Unlike the federal ESA, the CESA does not list invertebrate species.

Article 3, Sections 2080 through 2085 of the CESA address the taking of threatened, endangered, or candidate species by stating “no person shall import into this state, export out of this state, or take, possess, purchase, or sell within this state, any species, or any part or product thereof, that the commission determines to be an endangered species or a threatened species, or attempt any of those acts, except as otherwise provided” (CFGC § 2080). Under Section 86 of the CFGC, “take” is defined as to “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.” Exceptions authorized by the state to allow “take” require permits or memoranda of understanding and can be authorized for endangered species, threatened species, or candidate species for scientific, educational, or management purposes and for take incidental to otherwise lawful activities. Sections 1901 and 1913 of the CFGC provide that notification is required prior to disturbance. CDFW is responsible for assessing development projects for their potential to impact listed species and their habitats. State-listed special-status species are addressed through the issuance of a 2081 permit (Memorandum of Understanding).

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA was established in 1970 as California’s counterpart to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.). CEQA requires state and local agencies to identify significant environmental impacts related to their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, where feasible.

A public agency must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a “project.” A project is an activity undertaken by a public agency or a private activity that must receive some discretionary approval (meaning that the agency has the authority to deny the requested permit or approval) from a government agency that may cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment.

Natural Community Conservation Planning Act

In 1991, the California Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act (CFGC § 2800 et seq.) was approved and the NCCP Coastal Sage Scrub program was initiated in Southern California. California law (CFGC § 2800 et seq.) established the NCCP program “to provide for regional protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife diversity while allowing compatible land use and appropriate development and growth.” The NCCP Act encourages preparation of plans that

address habitat conservation and management on an ecosystem basis rather than one species or habitat at a time.

California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1602

Pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Section 1602 of the CFGC, CDFW regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel or bank of any river, stream or lake that supports fish or wildlife. CDFW has jurisdiction over riparian habitats associated with watercourses. These jurisdictional waters are delineated by the outer edge of riparian vegetation or at the top of the bank of streams or lakes, whichever is wider. CDFW jurisdiction does not extend to tidal areas or isolated resources. A Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration must be submitted to CDFW for any activity that may “substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake” (CFGC § 1602). CDFW reviews the proposed actions and, if necessary, submits (to the applicant) a proposal that includes measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources. The final proposal that CDFW and the applicant mutually agree upon is termed the Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3511, 3513, 3800, 4700, 5050, and 5515

CDFW protects and manages fish, wildlife, and native plant resources within California. The California Fish and Game Commission and/or CDFW are responsible for issuing permits for the take or possession of protected species. The following sections of the CFGC address protected species: Section 3511 (birds), Section 4700 (mammals), Section 5050 (reptiles and amphibians), and Section 5515 (fish). In addition, the protection of birds of prey is provided for in Sections 3503, 3513, and 3800 of the CFGC.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code Section 13000 et seq.) provides for statewide coordination of water quality regulations through establishment of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), which serves as the statewide authority, and nine separate RWQCBs, which oversee water quality on a day-to-day basis.

The SWRCB is the primary agency responsible for protecting water quality in California. As discussed above, the SWRCB regulates discharges to surface waters under the CWA and is responsible for administering the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

Pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the state is given authority to regulate waters of the state, which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters. As such, any person proposing to discharge waste into a water body must first file a Report of Waste Discharge if the discharge could affect the water quality of the water body and Section 404 of the CWA is not applicable. “Waste” is partially defined as any waste substance associated with human habitation, including fill material discharged into water bodies.

2.5.3 REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS

County of San Bernardino Land Use Services, Planning Division

According to the County of San Bernardino's Biotic Resources Overlay Map, the project site is located within the Burrowing Owl Overlay Zone (County of San Bernardino 2012). The burrowing owl is listed as a Species of Special Concern by CDFW.

3 METHODS

RBC biologist Chris Thomson visited the project site on February 4, 2020 to conduct general biological surveys, vegetation mapping, a reconnaissance-level aquatic resource assessment, and habitat assessments for listed and sensitive wildlife species including the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly and burrowing owl. Binoculars (8 x 42) were used to aid in the observation of bird species during the survey. Plants were identified using the Jepson manual (Baldwin et al. 2012) and local botanical knowledge.

3.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE DATABASE REVIEW

RBC queried the CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; CDFW 2020) and the database of threatened/endangered USFWS species for a one-mile radius around the project site (USFWS 2020) (Figure 2), and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Rare Plant Program for the Fontana 7.5' quad and surrounding eight quads (CNPS, Rare Plant Program 2020). The potential for special-status plant species to occur within the project site was refined by considering the habitat affinities of each species, the results of the field habitat assessment and vegetation mapping, and knowledge of local botanical resources.

RBC also queried the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (USDA 2020) for the soils present on the project site (Figure 3) and consulted the County of San Bernardino's Biotic Resources Overlay Map (County of San Bernardino 2012) for biotic resources overlay zones within the project site and biological resources with potential to occur on site.

3.2 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

Based on CNDDB, USFWS, and CNPS database search results and local biological knowledge, habitat assessments were performed for all special-status species with potential to occur on or near the site (Appendix B). This included a focused assessment of the site to support the federally listed endangered Delhi Sands flower-loving fly and the state species of special concern burrowing owl.

Delhi Sands flower-loving fly is most regularly observed in sandy areas composed of Delhi fine sands with sparse cover of native shrubs (USFWS 2008). The primary nectar source for the species is California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) (USFWS 1997). RBC conducted a habitat assessment for Delhi Sands flower-loving fly by surveying for suitable Delhi fine sands and potential Delhi Sands flower-loving fly nectar sources.

Burrowing owl habitat was assessed in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation developed by CDFW dated March 7, 2012 (referred to herein as, the Guidelines).

Suitable burrowing owl habitat can be found in annual and perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation (Zam 1974). Suitable owl habitat may also include trees and shrubs if the canopy covers less than 30 percent of the ground surface. Burrows are the essential component of burrowing owl habitat; both natural and artificial burrows provide protection, shelter, and nests for burrowing owl (Henny and Blus 1981). Burrowing owl typically use burrows made by rodents, such as ground squirrels or badgers, but may also use human-made structures, such as concrete culverts; concrete, asphalt, or wood debris piles; or openings beneath concrete or asphalt pavement. According to the Guidelines, verification of occupied burrowing owl habitat can be achieved through observation of one of the following: at least one burrowing owl, molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, or excrement at or near a burrow entrance.

3.3 VEGETATION MAPPING AND GENERAL PLANT AND WILDLIFE SURVEYS

Vegetation mapping took place directly on a 150-scale (1" = 150') aerial photograph following Holland's Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California (Holland 1986). RBC mapped vegetation on the project site and identified all flora and fauna for inclusion in plant and wildlife lists for the project site.

3.4 INITIAL AQUATIC RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

RBC conducted a reconnaissance-level aquatic resource assessment to identify potential areas that may be considered jurisdictional under the Corps pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA; the RWQCB pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Act; or CDFW pursuant to CFGC §1602. No formal jurisdictional delineation was conducted as part of this effort.

4 RESULTS

4.1 VEGETATION MAPPING AND GENERAL PLANT AND WILDLIFE SURVEY RESULTS

The 9.50-acre project site supports disturbed habitat (5.54 acres), ruderal vegetation (3.42 acres), eucalyptus grove (0.24 acre), developed land (0.23 acre), and ornamental plantings (0.08 acre). The five vegetation communities/land uses that occur within the survey area are detailed below and are depicted on Figure 4. Plant and wildlife species observed during the field survey are presented in Appendix C.

4.1.1 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Developed

Developed land within the project site (0.23 acre) includes a residential building at the northwestern corner of the project site. The developed land surrounding the project site includes Almond Avenue to the west and commercial lots to the north, south, and east.

Disturbed Habitat

Disturbed habitat is typically classified as land on which the native vegetation has been significantly altered by agriculture, construction, or other land-clearing activities, and the species composition and site conditions are not characteristic of the disturbed phase of a plant association (e.g., disturbed chaparral). Disturbed habitat is typically found in vacant lots, along roadsides, within construction staging areas, and in abandoned fields and is sometimes sparsely populated by non-native annual species and perennial broadleaf species. Disturbed habitat (5.54 acres) occurs throughout the project site; on-site disturbed areas are comprised of gravel and contains low vegetation cover.

Eucalyptus Grove

Eucalyptus groves support one or more non-native gum tree species (*Eucalyptus* spp.). This vegetation community often provides nesting habitat for raptors. An established eucalyptus grove exists at the eastern project boundary.

Ornamental

Ornamental plantings are typically classified as areas containing planted ornamental, non-native plant species. One small area of ornamental vegetation is present along Almond Avenue (0.08 acre) and is comprised of one individual ornamental pine (*Pinus* sp.) and two Peruvian pepper trees (*Schinus molle*).

Ruderal

Ruderal areas support primarily non-native vegetation capable of tolerating some form of disturbance and are often the first vegetation community to emerge following disturbance. Ruderal vegetation within the project site occurs along the north, south and western project boundaries (Figure 4). On-site ruderal species include common sowthistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*).

4.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE DATABASE REVIEW RESULTS

Two special-status wildlife species have been reported within one mile of the project site (Figure 2; Appendix B). However, no special-status plant species have been reported in CNDDDB within one mile of the project site. The CNPS electronic inventory search showed six special-status plant species for the Fontana quad.

4.3 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

4.3.1 SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

No special-status plant species have been reported within one mile of the project site in CNDDDB databases. The CNPS electronic inventory search yielded six special-status plant species for the Fontana quad, including bird-foot checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata*), Gambel's water cress (*Nasturtium gambelii*), marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), and slender-petaled thelypodium

(*Thelypodium stenopetalum*). However, none of these species has a moderate or high potential to occur on the site due to lack of suitable habitats and historic site disturbance (Appendix B).

RBC did not observe special-status plant species on the project site during the field survey and no other special-status plants were determined to have a moderate or high potential to occur on the project site due to lack of suitable habitat and high level of historic disturbance on-site (Appendix B). Plant species observed during the field survey are presented in Appendix C.

4.3.2 SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

RBC did not observe any special-status wildlife species on or adjacent to the project site during the field survey. The CNDDDB database results identify one federally listed wildlife species, Delhi Sands flower-loving fly, reported within one mile of the project and show historical occurrences for Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*; CDFW Species of Special Concern) within one mile of the project site (Figure 2).

Habitat assessments were performed for these species as well as other special-status species known from the San Bernardino area (Appendix B). Most species are not likely to occur on-site due to the lack of native habitats and high degree of disturbance on-site; however, one CDFW Watch List species, the California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), has a moderate potential to occur on the project site. A discussion of the site's potential to support special-status wildlife species that have been reported within one mile of the site or that have a potential for on-site occurrence is provided below; an analysis of all special-status wildlife species known from the general area is provided in Appendix B.

Federally Listed Wildlife Species

Delhi Sands-Loving Fly

The project does not have the potential to support Delhi Sands flower-loving fly. On-site sands are mapped as Tujunga gravelly loam sand, and no Delhi fine sands are present on the project site according to the NRCS soils map (Figure 3). The project site has been historically used as a truck yard, orchard, and livestock farm (Fidler 2020), and on-site soils have been vastly disturbed from orchard and livestock activities dating back to at least 1938, based on historic aerial imagery (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC 2020). Based on these conditions, the project site does not have the potential to support Delhi Sands flower-loving fly.

San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat

The CNDDDB database results include a historical occurrence of the federally endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*), approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the project site. This species inhabits alluvial fan sage scrub near rivers and on floodplains of southern San Bernardino County. The site does not occur within an alluvial habitat; therefore, this species has a low potential to occur on site.

State Species of Special Concern and Watch List Species

Burrowing Owl

The project is within the County of San Bernardino's Burrowing Owl Overlay Zone (County of San Bernardino 2012). No burrowing owl individuals, burrowing owl sign, or suitable burrows were observed on the project site. The low-quality habitat is not suitable for nesting due to the hard-packed and gravelly soils present on the project site. Further, California ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) were not detected; the absence of this species reduces the likelihood that burrowing owl will colonize the project site. Based on these conditions, the project site has a low potential to support burrowing owl. However, based on the site's occurrence in a region known for this species and within the County of San Bernardino's Burrowing Owl Overlay Zone; there is a slight potential for future occupancy by this species.

California Horned Lark

California horned lark is a CDFW Watch List species found from coastal deserts and grasslands to alpine dwarf-shrub habitat above tree line and in coniferous or chaparral habitats. It is a common to abundant resident in a variety of open habitats, usually found in habitats where trees and large shrubs are absent. Within southern California, California horned lark nest on the ground in open fields, grasslands, and rangelands. Horned lark forage in areas with low-growing vegetation and feed primarily on grains and other seeds, and shift to mostly insects in the summer months.

RBC did not observe California horned lark during the February 4, 2020 biological survey; however, the species has moderate potential to occur on site based on the ability of the species to utilize disturbed habitats.

Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

Though it has been historically reported in the area, the Los Angeles pocket mouse (CDFW Species of Special Concern) has a low potential for on-site occurrence. This species typically inhabits grasslands, alluvial sage scrub, and coastal sage scrub habitats. The project site is highly disturbed and does not support suitable habitat for Los Angeles pocket mouse; therefore, this species has a very low potential to occur on site.

4.4 POTENTIAL FEDERAL AND STATE JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES

RBC observed a small area supporting two individual Goodding's willows (*Salix gooddingii*) and some standing water at the southern end of the project site (Appendix A – Photo 4). A pipe located near the base of the Goodding's willows, which was presumably installed to provide water for the historic uses of the site as an orchard and livestock ranch, likely accounted for the small amount of standing water (i.e., puddle) observed in this area. A review of historic aerials back to the 1930s further confirmed that the project site, including this small area, has not historically supported a natural aquatic feature (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC 2020).

Furthermore, this area did not exhibit an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) nor did it appear to be connected to or in close proximity to a stream or aquatic resource. Thus, this area would not

qualify as a non-wetland waters of the U.S. absent an OHWM nor would it qualify as an adjacent wetland since it is not “bordering, contiguous, or neighboring” other waters of the U.S. (33 CFR 328.3 [51 Federal Register 41217; 53 Federal Register 20764]). This small area would also not be considered a jurisdictional aquatic resource by CDFW as it is isolated and not associated with or supported by a lake or streambed. Finally, this small area would not be considered a jurisdictional aquatic resource by RWQCB, as it does not meet the definition of a water of the state per the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB’s) newly adopted *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* (the Procedures), which will become effective on May 28, 2020 (SWRCB 2019). Even if this area meets the definition of a “wetland” as defined in the Procedures, this area does not meet the definition of a “waters of the state” as it is not a natural wetland, a wetland created by modification of a surface water of the state, nor an artificial wetland. Specifically, the area does not meet the Procedure’s definition of an artificial wetland, as it is not an area that was approved “as compensatory mitigation for impacts to other waters of the state,” is not “[s]pecifically identified in a water quality control plan as a wetland or other water of the state,” and is not “greater than or equal to one acre in size” and was not constructed for any use listed in the definition provided in the Procedures. Further, although the area may have “resulted from historic human activity” as the water originates from a pipe, based on a review of Google Earth imagery showing that the Goodding’s willows were not present as recently as August 2018 (Google Earth Pro 2019), this small area appears to be subject to ongoing maintenance and does not appear to be “a relatively permanent part of the natural landscape.”

No other areas with depressions, drainage patterns, defined channels, and/or wetland vegetation were observed during the project site visit. As such, the project site does not support areas that could be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, RWQCB, and CDFW based on the results of the reconnaissance-level survey. Please note, however, if the project requires an official determination from the agencies regarding the presence or absence of jurisdictional aquatic resources on the project site, a formal jurisdictional delineation should be submitted to the agencies for concurrence.

5 IMPACTS

Direct impacts refer to any alteration, disturbance, or destruction of biological resources caused by and occurring at the same time and place as the project. Examples include direct losses to native habitats, potential jurisdictional waters, wetlands, and special-status species; the crushing of adult plants, bulbs, or seeds; the diversion of natural surface water flows; injury, death, and/or harassment of listed and/or special-status species; and the destruction of habitats necessary for species breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Indirect impacts may occur later in time or at a place that is farther removed in distance from the project than direct impacts, but indirect impacts are still reasonably foreseeable and attributable to project-related activities. Examples include habitat fragmentation; elevated noise, dust, and lighting levels; changes in hydrology, runoff, and sedimentation; decreased water quality; soil compaction; increased human activity; and the introduction of invasive wildlife (domestic cats and dogs) and plants.

Cumulative impacts are the direct and indirect impacts of a proposed project which, when considered alone, would not be deemed substantial, but when considered in addition to the impacts of related projects in the area, would be considered potentially significant. 'Related projects' refers to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects which would have similar impacts on the proposed project.

CEQA Guidelines Form J thresholds of significance have been used to determine whether project implementation would result in a significant direct, indirect, and/or cumulative impact. These thresholds are based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387). A significant biological resources impact would occur if the project would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by [CDFW] or [USFWS];
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by [CDFW] or [USFWS];
- 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 [HCP], [NCCP], or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

5.1 NATIVE HABITAT IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed project will impact five habitats or land uses as outlined in Table 1. The project will not impact any native vegetation communities, including special-status communities. As noted above, the entire project site is dominated by non-native vegetation communities, including disturbed habitat and non-native, ruderal species. Impacts on non-native vegetation communities or habitats would be less than significant.

Table 1. Potential Project Impacts on Vegetation Communities/Land Uses

Vegetation Community/Land Use (Map Code)	Impacts within Project Boundary (Acres)*
Developed (DEV)	0.23
Disturbed (DIST)	5.54
Eucalyptus Grove (EUC)	0.24

Ornamental (ORN)	0.08
Ruderal (RUD)	3.42
TOTAL	9.50

** Acreages rounded to the hundredths based on raw numbers provided during GIS analysis of the project, which are available upon request.*

5.2 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS IMPACT ANALYSIS

There are no special-status plant species with moderate or high potential to occur on the project site. Given the size of the project site, lack of suitable habitat for special-status plant species, and high level of site disturbance, special-status plant species are not anticipated to occur on site; as such, impacts on special-status plant species would be less than significant.

5.3 SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed project has minimal potential to support special-status wildlife due to a lack of suitable habitat for most species and the high level of historic site disturbance. California horned lark, a CDFW Watch List species, has a moderate potential to occur on site but was not observed on site during the field survey. The project site has a low potential to support burrowing owl; however, the site does occur within the County's Burrowing Owl Overlay Zone and given the location has some potential to support the species in the future. Through compliance with the project-specific mitigation measure in Section 6.1 of this report, project activities will avoid impacts on burrowing owls. Further, compliance with nesting bird regulations outlined in Section 6.2 of this report would avoid direct take of special-status bird species such as the California horned lark, if present and nesting; therefore, impacts on special-status wildlife would be less than significant.

5.4 NESTING BIRD IMPACT ANALYSIS

The project site has the potential to impact active bird nests if vegetation is removed, ground disturbing activities occur, or structures are removed during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). Impacts on nesting birds are prohibited by the MBTA and CFGC. A project-specific measure to avoid project impacts on nesting birds is identified in Section 6.2 of this report. With the implementation of this measure, impacts on nesting birds would be less than significant.

5.5 POTENTIALLY JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES IMPACT ANALYSIS

The project will not impact jurisdictional aquatic resources as such features do not occur on site based on the reconnaissance-level aquatic resource assessment.

5.6 INDIRECT IMPACT ANALYSIS

In the context of biological and aquatic resources, indirect impacts are those effects associated with development activities. Examples of indirect effects include water quality impacts from site drainage into adjacent open space/downstream aquatic resources; lighting effects; noise effects; invasive plant species from landscaping; and effects from human access into adjacent open space,

such as recreational activities (including off-road vehicles and hiking), pets, dumping, etc. Temporary, indirect effects may also occur as a result of construction-related activities.

Since the project occurs within a developed area, does not abut any native habitat, and will comply with stormwater regulations, significant indirect impacts on biological resources would not occur. Additionally, since no potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources occur within the project site, the project will not result in significant indirect impacts on aquatic resources.

5.7 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

Due to the level of disturbance at the project site, the adjacent developed land, and the lack of sensitive biological resources and potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources on-site, the proposed project will not result in significant cumulative impacts on biological or aquatic resources.

6 MITIGATION AND AVOIDANCE MEASURES

The following discussion provides project-specific mitigation/avoidance measures for actual or potential impacts on special-status resources.

6.1 BURROWING OWL

As noted above, burrowing owl or burrowing owl sign were not observed at the project site during the habitat assessment. Although the project is located within a burrowing owl survey area, absence of burrows and burrowing owl sign documented during the habitat assessment reduces the need for protocol surveys. However, due to the presence of suitable habitat on site, pre-construction surveys will be required. To avoid impacts on burrowing owl, the following mitigation measure is recommended:

MM-1: A qualified biologist(s) will conduct a pre-construction presence/absence survey for burrowing owl at least 14 days prior to ground disturbing activities and within 24 hours immediately before ground disturbing activities. If burrowing owl are documented on site, a plan for avoidance or passive exclusion shall be made in coordination with CDFW. If the survey is negative, the project may proceed without further restrictions related to burrowing owls.

6.2 NESTING BIRDS

As noted above, the project site has the potential to support nesting birds in trees, on the ground, or in existing structures. To avoid impacts on nesting birds, the following mitigation measure is recommended:

MM-2: Vegetation clearing, structure removal, and ground disturbing activities should be conducted outside of the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). If these activities occur during the nesting season, a qualified biologist will conduct a nesting bird survey within seven days prior to any disturbance of the site, including tree and shrub removal, diking, demolition activities, and grading. If active nests are identified, the biologist shall establish suitable buffers around the nests depending on the level of activity within the buffer and

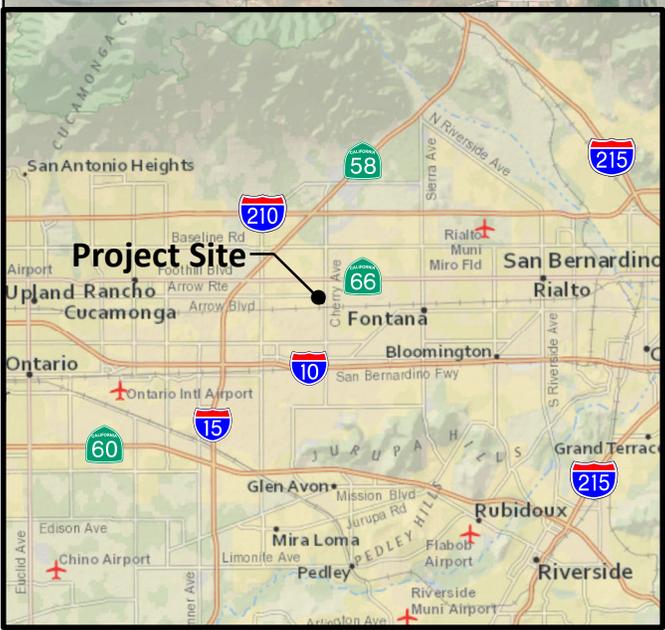
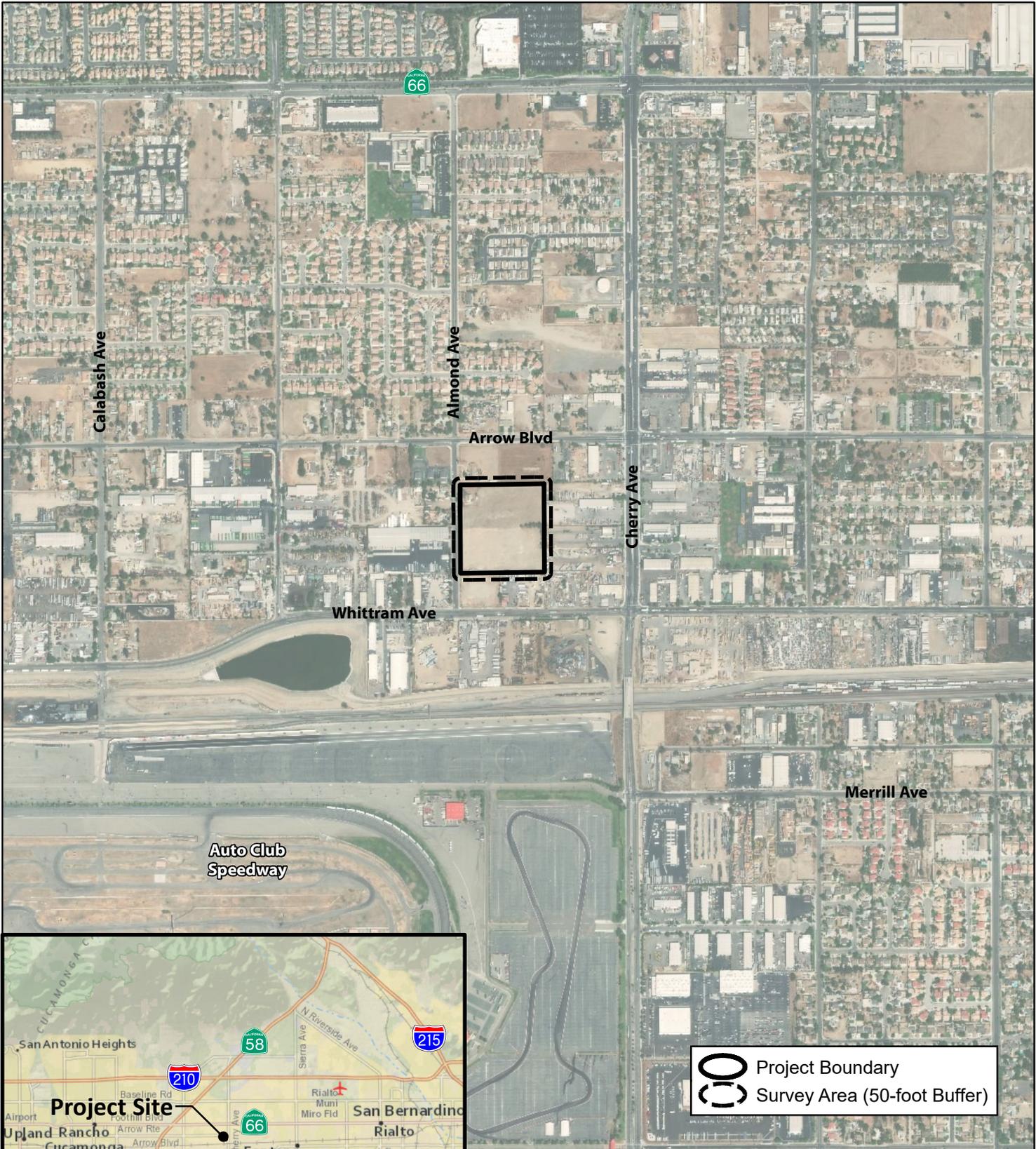
species observed, and the buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. Raptor species will have an avoidance buffer of 500 feet and other bird species will have an avoidance buffer of 300 feet. These buffers may be reduced in consultation with the CDFW. If active nests are not identified, vegetation clearing and ground disturbing activities may commence. If ground disturbing activities are scheduled outside of the nesting season, a nesting bird survey will not be required.

7 CONCLUSION

As outlined above, the proposed project will not result in significant impacts to biological resources with implementation of MM-1 and MM-2 in Section 6. The majority of the project site is disturbed and no special-status plant species, wildlife species, or sensitive habitats were observed within the project boundaries. One special-status wildlife species, California horned lark, has a moderate potential to occur. All federally and state-listed plants and wildlife have no or low potential to occur based on their current distribution, habitat requirements, and lack of suitable habitat within and adjacent to the project site. No burrowing owl, burrowing owl sign, or suitable nesting burrows were observed during the site visit and burrowing owl are not highly likely to occur on the project site; however, the site occurs within the County's Burrowing Owl Overlay Zone. As such, a pre-construction burrowing owl survey should be conducted to document the continued absence of burrowing owl from the project site (see recommended MM-1). Suitable avian nesting habitat is present on site. If ground-disturbing activities or removal of any vegetation is scheduled within the avian nesting season (February 1 to August 31), a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted to ensure there are no impacts on nesting birds (see recommended MM-2). The project site does not appear to support areas that could be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, RWQCB, and CDFW. As previously stated, if the project requires an official determination from the agencies regarding the presence or absence of jurisdictional aquatic resources on the project site, a formal jurisdictional delineation should be submitted to the agencies for concurrence.

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 Project Boundary
 Survey Area (50-foot Buffer)

FIGURE
 1
Project Location
 ALMOND AVENUE WAREHOUSE

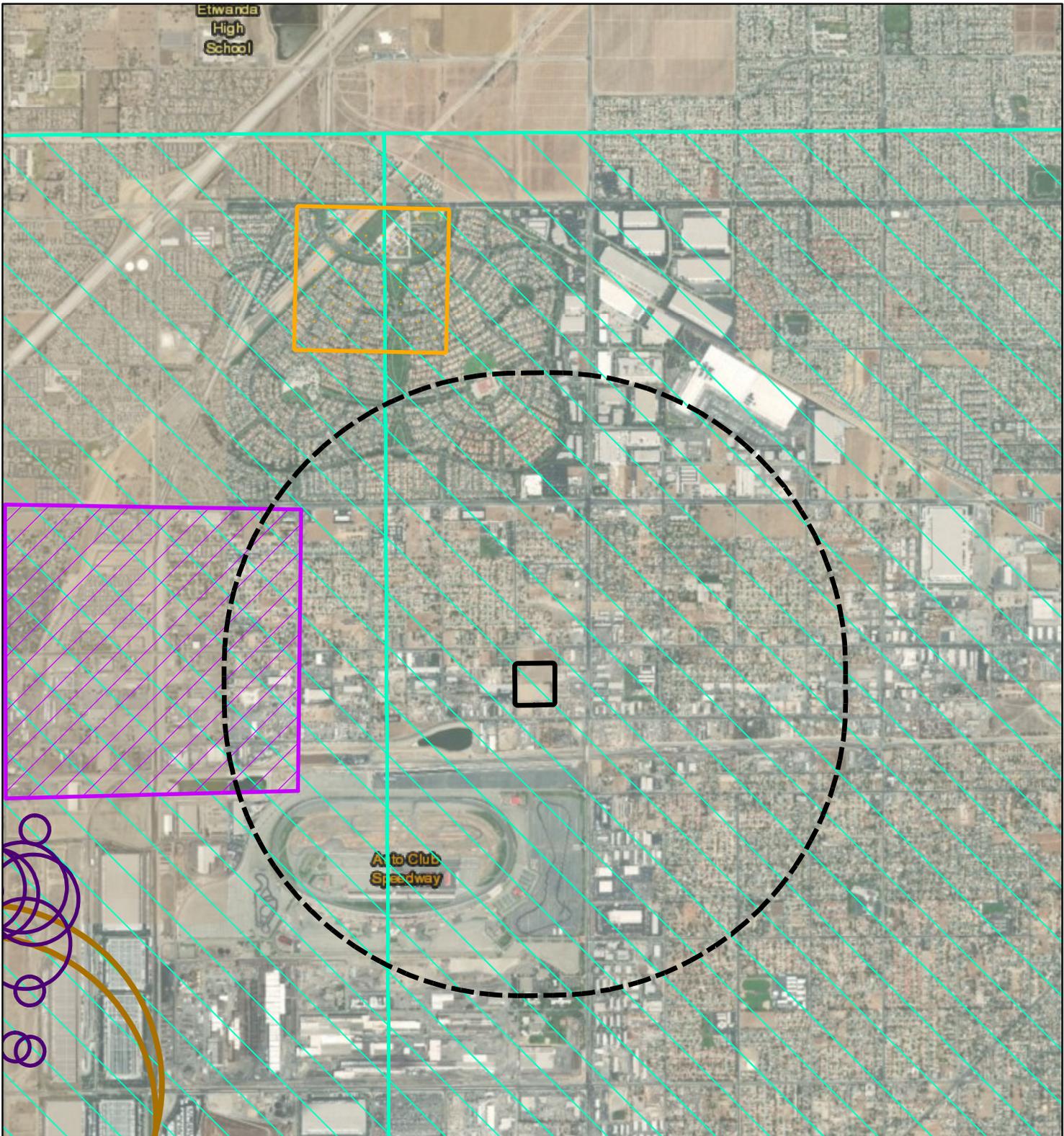


ROCKS
BIOLOGICAL CONSULTING

0 500 1,000 FEET

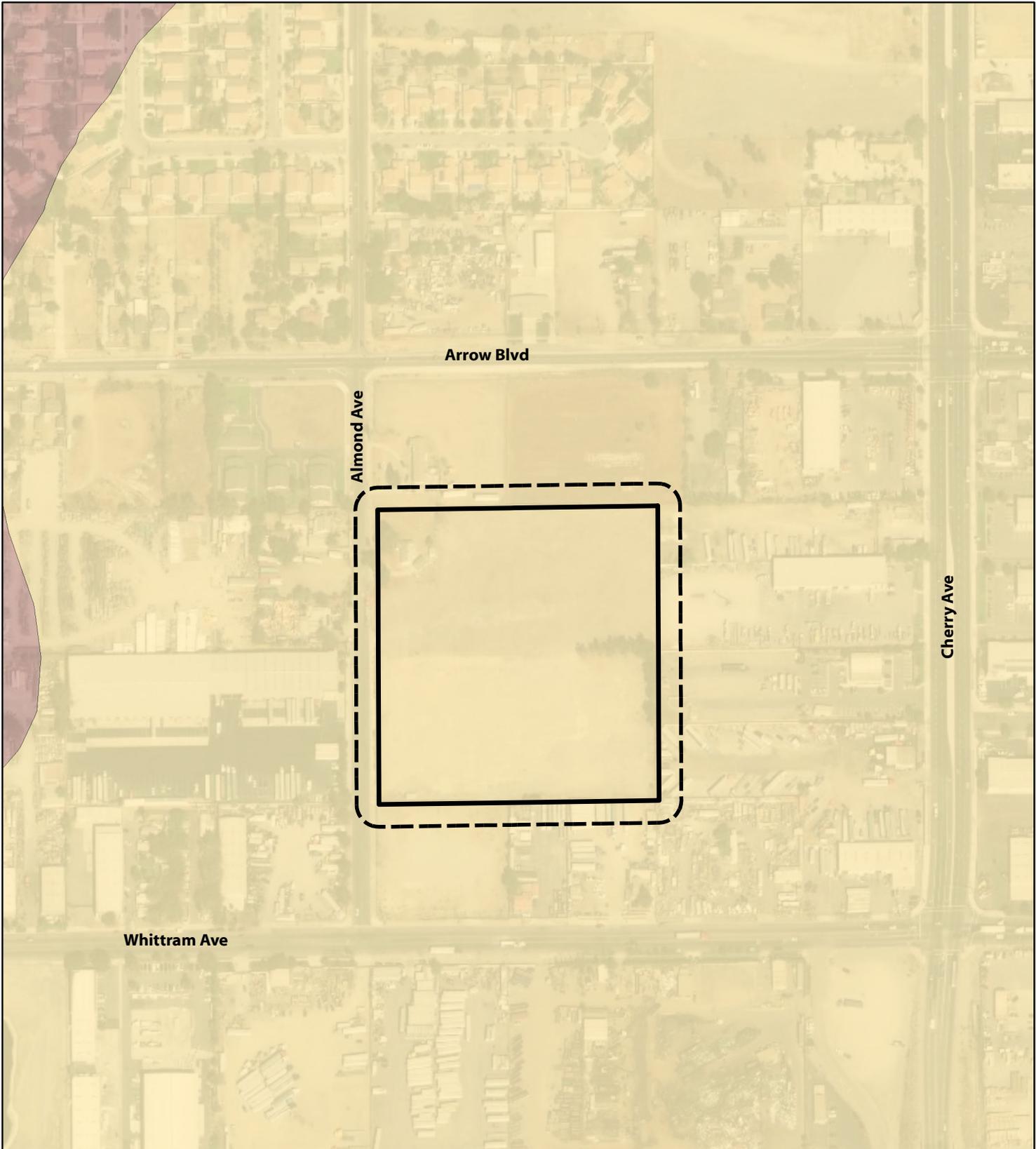


Aerial Photo: Esri 2018
Regional Map: National Geographic 2012



-  Survey Area
-  1-mile Buffer
- USFWS Species**
-  Los Angeles pocket mouse
-  San Bernardino kangaroo rat
- CNDDDB Species**
-  Delhi Sands flower-loving fly
-  Los Angeles pocket mouse
-  San Bernardino kangaroo rat

FIGURE 2	CNDDDB/USFWS ALMOND AVENUE WAREHOUSE
	  <small>Aerial Photo: Esri 2018</small>



 Project Boundary
 Survey Area (50-foot Buffer)
Soils
 Tujunga gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 9 percent slopes
 Tujunga loamy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

FIGURE 3	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Soils Map</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">ALMOND AVENUE WAREHOUSE</p>
	  <small>Aerial Photo: Esri 2018</small>



 Project Boundary
 Survey Area (50-foot Buffer)
Vegetation 
 DEV - Developed
 DIST - Disturbed
 EUC - Eucalyptus Grove
 ORN - Ornamental
 RUD - Ruderal

FIGURE 4	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Biological Resources</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">ALMOND AVENUE WAREHOUSE</p>
 <p>ROCKS BIOLOGICAL CONSULTING</p>	  <p style="font-size: small;">Aerial Photo: Nearmap 2019</p>

Appendix A
Site Photographs
February 4, 2020



Photo 1. View of disturbed land (foreground) and ruderal vegetation (background) from the center of the site, facing north.



Photo 2. View of disturbed land (left) and ruderal vegetation (right) from the southwestern site boundary, facing east.



Photo 3. View of recently disked ruderal vegetation (foreground) and non-native grassland (background) along the eastern site boundary, facing southwest.



Photo 4. View of on-site Goodding's willows (*Salix gooddingii*) and standing water, facing northwest.

Appendix B

Special-Status Plants and Animals with Potential to Occur

Species	Status	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within Project Site
PLANTS			
alkali mariposa lily (<i>Calochortus striatus</i>)	CRPR 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Blooms April-June. Marshes and swamps (often alkaline). Elev. 490-6560 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
alkali marsh aster (<i>Almutaster pauciflorus</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Perennial herb. Blooms June-October. Alkaline meadows and seeps. Elev. 785-2625 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
appressed muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia appressa</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Annual herb. Blooms April-May. Rocky coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elev. 65-5250 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
bird-foot checkerbloom (<i>Sidalcea pedata</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb known from meadows and seeps.	No natural meadows or seeps present on-site.
California alkali grass (<i>Puccinellia simplex</i>)	CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb. Blooms March-May. Alkaline, vernal mesic; sinks, flats, and lake margins in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Elev. 5-3050 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
California satintail (<i>Imperata brevifolia</i>)	CRPR 2B.1	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms September-May. Mesic soils within chaparral, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows and seeps (often alkali), riparian scrub. Elev. 0-3985 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
California sawgrass (<i>Cladium californicum</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms June-September. Meadows and seeps, alkaline or freshwater marshes and swamps. Elev. 195-5250 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
chaparral ragwort (<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Annual herb. Blooms January-April(May). Sometimes alkaline soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Elev. 45-2625 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
chaparral sand-verbena (<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms (Jan)March-September. Sandy soils within chaparral, coastal scrub, desert dunes. Elev. 245-5250 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
Gambel's water cress (<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in marshes and swamps; known in CA from only four occurrences.	None, no marsh or swamp habitat on-site.
Horn's milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms May-October. Lake margins, alkaline soils within meadows and seeps, playas. Elev. 195-2790 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
hot springs fimbristylis (<i>Fimbristylis thermalis</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms July-September. Meadows and seeps (alkaline, near hot springs). Elev. 360-4395 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.

Species	Status	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within Project Site
intermediate mariposa lily (<i>Calochortus weedii</i> var. <i>intermedius</i>)	CRPR 1.B2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Blooms May-July. Rocky, calcareous soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elev. 340-2805 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
knotted rush (<i>Juncus nodosus</i>)	CRPR 2B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms July-September. Meadows and seeps (mesic), marshes and swamps (lake margins). Elev. 95-6495 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
little mouseltail (<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i>)	CRPR 3.1	Annual herb. Blooms March-June. Valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools (alkaline). Elev. 65-2100 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
many-stemmed dudleya (<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i>)	CRPR 1B.2	Perennial herb. Blooms April-July. Often clay soils within chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elev. 45-2590 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
marsh sandwort (<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb that occurs in sandy openings in freshwater or brackish marshes and swamps.	None. No marsh habitat present.
mesa horkelia (<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb. Blooms February-July(September). Sandy or gravelly soils within chaparral (maritime), cismontane woodland, coastal woodland. Elev. 225-2655 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
Nevin's barberry (<i>Berberis nevinii</i>)	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms (February)March-June. Sandy or gravelly soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub. Elev. 225-2705 ft.	None. No chaparral, woodland, or scrub habitat present.
Parish's brittlescale (<i>Atriplex parishii</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms June-October. Alkaline soils in chenopod scrub, playas and vernal pools. Elev. 80-6235 ft.	None. No scrub or vernal pool habitat present.
Parish's bush-mallow (<i>Malacothamnus parishii</i>)	CRPR 1A	Perennial deciduous shrub. Blooms June-July. Chaparral, coastal scrub. Elev. 1000-1495 ft.	None. No chaparral or coastal scrub habitat present.
Parish's desert-thorn (<i>Lycium parishii</i>)	CRPR 2B.3	Perennial shrub. Blooms March-April. Coastal scrub, Sonoran desert scrub. Elev. 440-3280 ft.	None. No coastal or Sonoran desert scrub habitat present.
Parry's spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms April-June. Sandy or rocky soil openings within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elev. 900-4005 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
Pringle's monardella (<i>Monardella pringlei</i>)	CRPR 1A	Annual herb. Blooms May-June. Coastal scrub (sandy). Elev. 980-1310 ft.	None. No coastal scrub habitat present.
prostrate vernal pool navarretia (<i>Navarretia prostrata</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms April-June. Mesic soils within coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland (alkaline), vernal pools. Elev. 5-3970 ft.	None. No vernal pool habitat present.

Species	Status	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within Project Site
refugio manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos refugioensis</i>)	CRPR 1B.2	Perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms December-March (May). Chaparral (sandstone). Elev. 895-2690 ft.	None. No chaparral habitat present.
salt spring checkerbloom (<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Perennial herb. Blooms March-June. Alkaline, mesic soils within chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, playas. Elev. 45-5020 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
Santa Ana River woollystar (<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>)	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb. Blooms April-September. Sandy or gravelly soils within chaparral, coastal scrub (alluvial fan). Elev. 295-2000 ft.	None. No chaparral or coastal scrub habitat present.
singlewhorl burrobrush (<i>Ambrosia monogyra</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Perennial shrub. Blooms August-November. Sandy soils within chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub. Elev. 30-1640 ft.	None. No chaparral or Sonoran desert scrub habitat present.
slender-horned spineflower (<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>)	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms April-June. Sandy soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub (alluvial fan). Elev. 655-2495 ft.	None. No chaparral, woodland, or scrub habitat present.
slender-petaled thelypodium (<i>Thelypodium stenopetalum</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb. Blooms May-September. Known from mesic or alkaline meadows and seeps.	None. No meadows or seeps occur on-site.
smooth tarplant (<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>)	CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms May-September. Alkaline soils within chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elev. 0-2100 ft.	Low. No scrub, seeps, playas or woodlands present, but species is known to inhabit disturbed habitats.
Sonoran maiden fern (<i>Thelypteris puberula</i> var. <i>sonorensis</i>)	CRPR 4.2	Perennial deciduous tree. Blooms March-August. Alluvial soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland. Elev. 160-2955 ft.	None. No chaparral, woodland, or scrub habitat present.
thread-leaved brodiaea (<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>)	FT, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Blooms March-June. Often clay soils within chaparral (openings), cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Elev. 80-3675 ft.	None. No suitable clay soils present.
white rabbit-tobacco (<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i>)	CRPR 2B.2	Perennial herb. Blooms (July)August-November(December). Sandy, gravelly, soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland. Elev. 0-6890 ft.	None. No suitable habitat present.
white-bracted spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i>)	CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb. Blooms April-June. Sandy or gravelly soils within coastal scrub (alluvial fans), Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. Elev. 980-3935 ft.	None. No scrub or woodland habitat present.

Species	Status	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within Project Site
INVERTEBRATES			
Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis</i>)	FE	Found in sandy areas composed of Delhi fine sands, stabilized by sparse native vegetation.	None. Suitable Delhi fine sands habitat and nectar sources are not present.
BIRDS			
burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	SSC	Found in grasslands and open scrub from coast to foothills. Strongly associated with California ground squirrel and other fossorial mammal burrows.	Low. No burrows observed and soils not highly suitable for burrows; however, site is within County burrowing owl overlay zone.
California horned lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>)	WL	Found from coastal deserts and grasslands to alpine dwarf-shrub habitat above treeline. Also seen in coniferous or chaparral habitats.	Moderate. Species known to occupy disturbed, open habitats; however, this species was not observed during field surveys.
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	WL (Nesting)	Typically occurs in oak woodlands but occasionally in willow or eucalyptus woodlands.	Low. Although suitable foraging habitat is not present, suitable nesting habitat is present on site.
loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	SSC (Nesting)	Found within grassland, chaparral, desert, and desert edge scrub, particularly near dense vegetation used for nesting.	Low. Although suitable foraging habitat is present, suitable nesting habitat is not present on site.
MAMMALS			
Los Angeles pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>)	SSC	Found in low elevation grassland, alluvial sage scrub, and coastal sage scrub.	Low. Suitable scrub habitat not present on site.
San Bernardino kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>)	FE, SSC	Primarily found in alluvial fan sage scrub and floodplain habitats containing sandy loam substrate and open vegetative cover.	Low. Site is not on an alluvial fan.
California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) Definitions			
California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)	1A	presumed extirpated in California and rare or extinct elsewhere	
	1B	rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere	
	2A	presumed extirpated in California but more common elsewhere	
	2B	rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere	
	3	plants for which more information needed	
	4	plants of limited distribution	
CRPR Threat Ranks	0.1	Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)	
	0.2	Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)	
	0.3	Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)	
Endangered Species Act (ESA)			
FE: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Federally Endangered Species			
FT: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Federally Threatened Species			
California Endangered Species Act (CESA)			
SE: California Endangered Species Act (CESA) State Endangered Species			

Species	Status	Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within Project Site
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)			
SSC: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern			
WL: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Watch List Species			

Appendix C

Plant and Wildlife Species Observed

Family Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
PLANTS		
Anacardiaceae	Peruvian pepper tree*	<i>Schinus molle</i>
Asteraceae	annual bur-sage	<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>
Asteraceae	common sowthistle*	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
Asteraceae	flax-leaf fleabane*	<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i>
Asteraceae	golden crownbeard*	<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>
Asteraceae	western sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>
Boraginaceae	rigid fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i>
Brassicaceae	London rocket*	<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>
Brassicaceae	short-pod mustard*	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>
Chenopodiaceae	tumbleweed*	<i>Salsola tragus</i>
Cyperaceae	tall flatsedge	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>
Geraniaceae	red-stem filaree/storksbill*	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Lamiaceae	horehound*	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>
Malvaceae	cheeseweed*	<i>Malva parviflora</i>
Myrtaceae	gum tree*	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.
Pinaceae	Italian stone pine*	<i>Pinus pinea</i>
Poaceae	Bermuda grass*	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>
Poaceae	compact brome*	<i>Bromus madritensis</i>
Poaceae	foxtail barley*	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>
Salicaceae	Goodding's willow	<i>Salix gooddingii</i>
Solanaceae	tree tobacco*	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>
BIRDS		
Charadriidae	killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Corvidae	common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Fringillidae	house finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
Icteridae	western meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
Mimidae	northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Parulidae	yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>
Tyrannidae	black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>

* non-native species