

**HABITAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
BURROWING OWL AND SENSITIVE BOTANICAL SPECIES
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA**

±5.54 Acre Property, ±5.54 Acres Surveyed

APN 0293-111-15-0000
Redlands Area, Section 32,
Township 1 South, Range 3 West,
USGS Redlands 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Map

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Report Summary:

No sign of burrowing owl or other special status plant or wildlife species were observed during the habitat assessment and habitat assessment. The site does contain low-quality suitable habitat for burrowing owl. Therefore, a pre-construction survey is warranted based on the presence of California ground squirrel activity and potential burrow sites. Based on historical and ongoing disturbances to the site and the presence of invasive, non-native weedy vegetation, it is unlikely that any sensitive or special status plant species occur on the site. Trees suitable for raptor nesting are present near the site. Breeding/nesting season bird clearance surveys are recommended if construction will begin between January 1 and September 15.

Surveys Conducted By: Guy Bruyera
Surveys Conducted On: June 25, 2016
Report Date: June 28, 2016

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

L&L Environmental, Inc. conducted a biological survey of land planned for use by the Islamic Community Center (ICC) of Redlands, a ±5.54-acre project located in the unincorporated area of San Timoteo Canyon, County of San Bernardino, California (hereafter called Project). The Project has undergone a Development Review Committee examination at the County of San Bernardino.

The proposed Project would consist of three phases. Phase 1 would include a Community Center, Phase II would include a Worship Hall, and Phase III would include a school.

According to the County's Biotic Resources Map, the Project site is within the San Bernardino County Museum Biological Species Database Reflecting Species Habitat of Special Concern. The ICC is planned on lands that are within a flood zone, FEMA Flood Zone X.

The purpose of this survey was to examine the subject property to determine presence/absence of biological resources on the property and determine potential for sensitive species to occur, with a specific focus on western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; BUOW) and special status plant species. L&L evaluated whether vegetation and/or habitat for special status species exists within the Project boundaries or in adjacent area.

The primary vegetation community within the parcel can be characterized as disturbed/non-native grassland/ruderal. Much of the site has been previously altered (cleared) and is now mostly inhabited by low-growing non-native plant species. The most common plants observed at the time of this study (June) were Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*), filaree (*Erodium* species), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

Native shrubs were observed immediately adjacent to the subject parcel in association with a habitat area planted along the bank of the excavated San Timoteo Creek Channel, within a (rail) fenced area. A low relief ditch is present along the entire northern boundary immediately adjacent to the subject parcel on the boundary of a citrus orchard. Non-native, invasive plant species were observed in association with this ditch and included tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), annual bur-weed (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), horseweed (*Conyza* species), and other unidentified non-native grasses. One individual each of mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) were observed at this location.

Based on the level of historical and ongoing disturbances to the site, lack of native species observed on the site, and the presence of invasive non-native weedy vegetation, it is unlikely that any sensitive or special status plant species occur on the site or will in the immediate future. Focused plant surveys are not recommended.

No active raptor nest sites were observed during this study. No trees suitable for nesting are present on the site; however, based on the presence of suitable trees in the immediate area a preconstruction clearance survey is recommended prior to any vegetation or ground disturbing activities if construction will occur within the nesting season (January 1 to September 15).

California ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) are active on the site. BUOW frequently utilize California ground squirrel burrows for nesting purposes. All ground squirrel burrow sites were carefully inspected for sign of BUOW activity, and none was found. No BUOW occupied burrows or evidence of recent burrowing owl signs (pellets, scat, feathers, tracks, etc.) were observed on the site or in the immediately adjacent 150-meter buffer area.

Based on the results of this survey and other information presented in this report, it can be reasonably concluded that BUOW is not currently occupying any portion of the site. In addition, based on disturbances related to residential development activities on the site and the results of a buffer area search indicating absence of BUOW sign or activity in adjacent areas, there is low potential for BUOW to occupy the site in the near future. Therefore, additional focused studies for BUOW are not recommended at this time. However, based upon presence of suitable open areas, California ground squirrel activity, and other information provided in this report, a preconstruction clearance survey (valid for 30 days) is recommended prior to any ground or vegetation clearing activities on the parcel.

1.0) INTRODUCTION

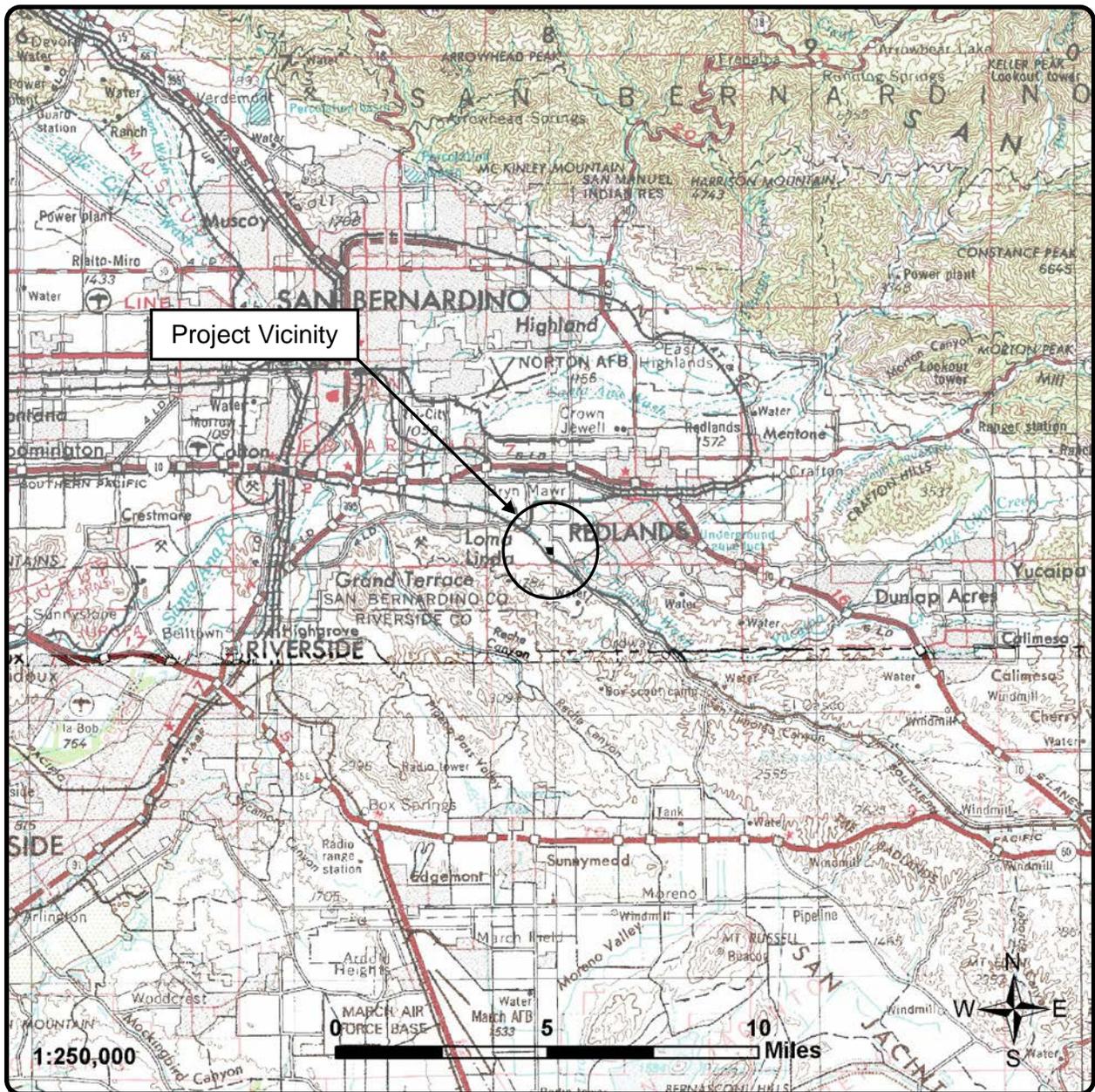
The following report was written by L&L Environmental, Inc. (L&L) for the Islamic Community Center of Redlands. It describes the results of biological surveys, including a habitat assessment for burrowing owl and sensitive botanical species, on lands located within San Bernardino County, CA. The project site consists of APN 0293-111-15-0000 totaling ±5.45 acres.

Our assessment consisted of (1) a records search and literature review, conducted to determine what species of concern are in the project area and proximity to closest documented special status species occurrences and (2) field reconnaissance, intended to identify plants and animals on the property and presence/absence of habitat for special status species.

1.1) Location

The site is located adjacent to San Timoteo Creek near the community of Bryn Mawr, just northwest of the intersection of Nevada Street and Beaumont Avenue, with the boundary of the City of Redlands just east and the City of Loma Linda just west (Figure 1). Specifically, the site is located approximately 1.9 miles south of Interstate 10, 1.52 miles east of Mountain View Avenue, and 0.54 miles west of San Timoteo Canyon Road. The site is situated within Section 32 of Township 1 south, Range 3 west, within the USGS Redlands 7.5' series quadrangle map (Figure 2).

The site is generally bounded as follows: to the west by San Timoteo Creek, with a residential development in the City of Loma Linda beyond; to the north by fallow agricultural lands; to the east by active agricultural lands and the city of Redlands; and to the south by residences, San Timoteo Creek, and agricultural lands, with open habitat and badlands beyond (Figure 3).



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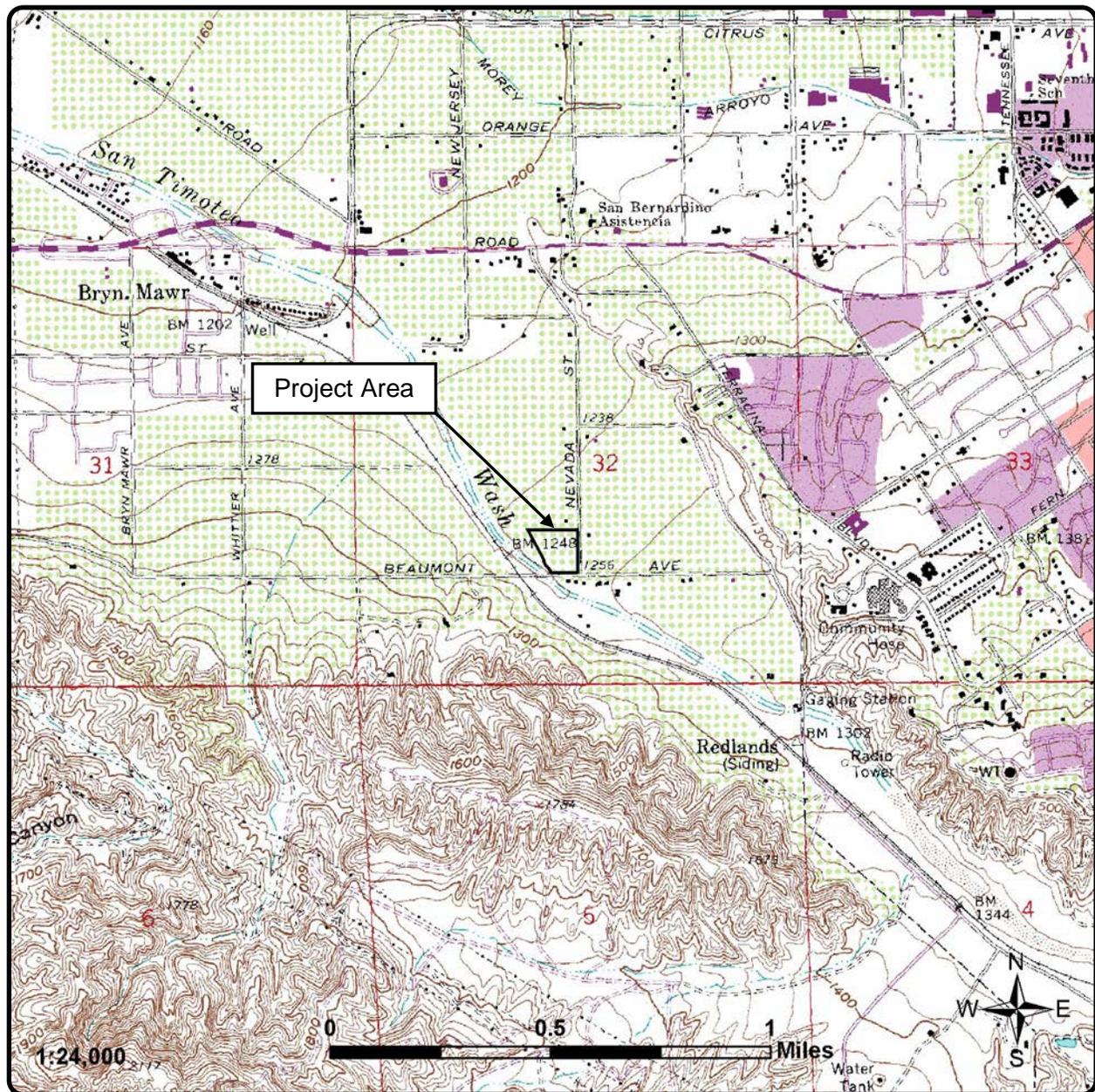
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Figure 1

Project Vicinity Map

Islamic Community Center of Redlands,
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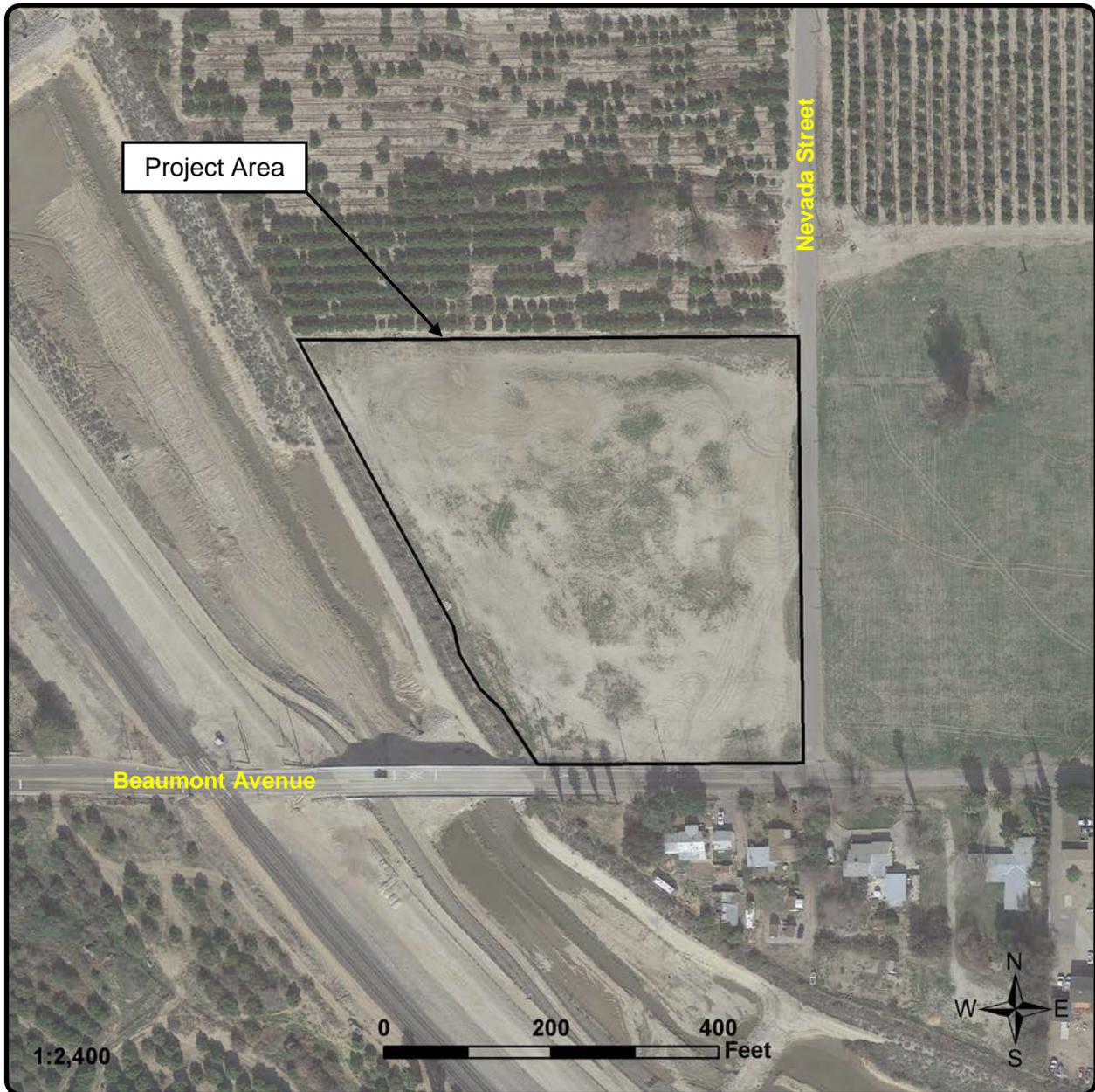
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Figure 2

Project Location Map
(USGS Redlands [1988] quadrangle,
Section 32, Township 1 South, Range 3 West)

Islamic Community Center of Redlands,
County of San Bernardino, California



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Figure 3

Aerial Photograph

(Photo obtained from Google Earth, February 2016)

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County of San Bernardino, California*

1.2) Vegetation and Setting

The primary vegetation community within the parcel can be characterized as disturbed/non-native grassland/ruderal. This highly disturbed site contains low-growing non-native plant species. The most common plants observed at the time of this survey (June) include Mediterranean grass, filaree, and Russian thistle. Disturbance at the site includes off-road vehicle activity and periodic disking and/or mowing. Evidence of recent weed abatement was observed during the field survey.

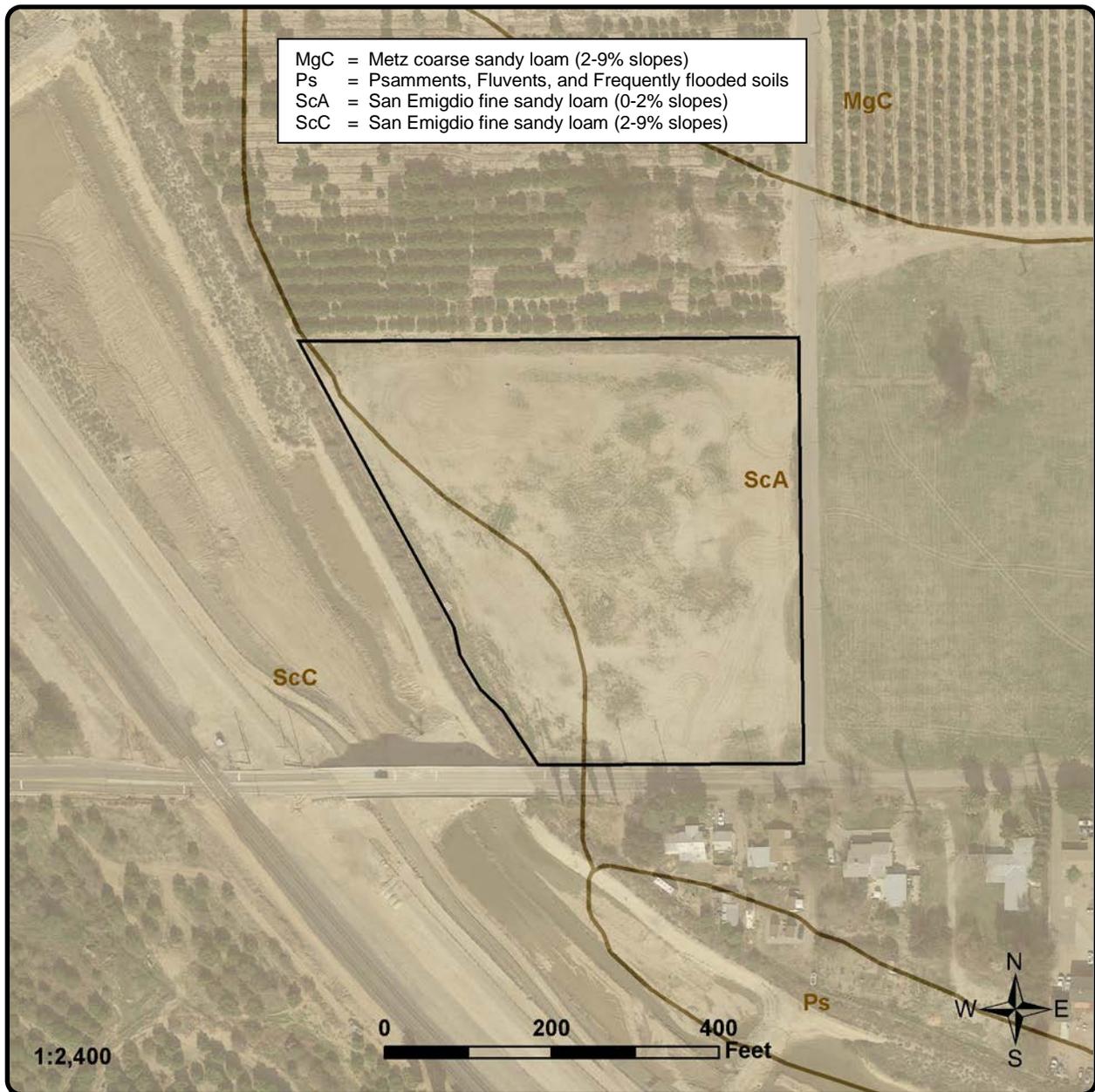
Local climatic conditions in the project area are characterized by hot summers, mild winters, infrequent rainfall, and low humidity. The average annual temperature is 62° F, ranging between 39° to 112° F. The rainy season begins in November and continues through March, with the quantity and frequency of rain varying annually. The average annual rainfall is approximately 4.5 inches with a range of 1.1 to 11.2 inches. Rivers and streams are dry most of the year.

1.3) Soils and Topography

Topographically, the site is relatively flat with a gradual downward trending slope to the northwest. The site is approximately 1,315 feet above mean sea level. Surrounding topographic features in the project vicinity include the excavated San Timoteo Creek Channel, Terrace escarpments, rounded to the rolling hills with shallow to steep canyons, and ridgelines.

Soils on the project site are mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service SSURGO as San Emigdio fine sandy loam (ScA) and San Emigdio fine sandy loam (ScC).

Soils observed on the site are mostly sandy-loam. Clay soils were not observed.



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Figure 4

Soils Map

(Photo obtained from Google Earth, February 2016,
USDA Nat. Res. Cons. Serv. SSURGO Data)

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2.0) REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The following sections contain a discussion of each regulation and the corresponding agency or agencies that may have regulatory jurisdiction associated with the Project.

2.1) Federal Endangered Species Act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), under the auspices of the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 (as amended), manages and protects species listed as endangered or threatened. An endangered species is defined as a species “in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range” while a threatened species is defined as “likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.”

“Take” of listed species is prohibited under Section 9 (a)(1)(B) of the FESA. The term “take” is defined as follows in Section 3 (18) of the FESA: “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, kill, capture or collect or to engage in any such conduct.” Harm is further defined as significant habitat alteration that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavior patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering. The USFWS can issue a permit for “take” of listed species incidental to otherwise lawful activities. Procedures for obtaining a permit for incidental take are identified under Section 7 of the FESA for federal properties or where federal actions are involved and are identified under Section 10 of the FESA for non-federal actions.

2.2) Jurisdictional Determination of Wetlands, “Waters of the U.S.”

Three agencies generally regulate activities within streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California: (1) the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regulates activities under section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA); (2) the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates activities under section 401 of the federal CWA; and (3) the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulates activities within wetlands under Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616.

2.2.1) United States Clean Water Act, Section 404

The ACOE has jurisdiction over “Wetlands” and “Waters of the United States” under Section 404 of the CWA. Permitting is required for activities that will result in the discharge of dredge or fill material into Waters of the United States or adjacent wetlands and associated habitat. By definition, these include all waterways, streams, intermittent streams, and their tributaries that

could be used for interstate commerce. The term “interstate commerce” has been broadly interpreted to include use by migratory waterfowl and out-of-state tourism. In non-tidal waters jurisdictional limits extend to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), which is defined as that line on the shore established by fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear natural line impression on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, and destruction of the surrounding area. The upstream limit of ACOE jurisdiction is that point on the stream where the OHWM is no longer perceptible. Since flow patterns vary drastically from event to event alluvial fans, do not always exhibit an OHWM or other evidence of repeated water flow. That portion of an alluvial fan that experiences sheet flow is not generally regulated as Waters of the United States, however, an inter-braided streambed, evidenced by an OHWM, is within ACOE jurisdiction. Vernal pools and other types of wetlands are also regulated by the ACOE as Waters of the United States.

2.2.2) United States Clean Water Act, Section 401

The RWQCB has jurisdiction over similar “Wetlands” and “Waters of the United States” under Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act under the California Water Code. Permitting is required for activities that will result in a discharge of soils, nutrients, chemicals, detrital materials, or other pollutants into Waters of the United States or adjacent wetlands that will affect the water quality of those bodies and the area watershed.

2.2.3) Fish and Game Code, Section 1600

The CDFW (formerly California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG]), through provisions of the Fish and Game Code (Sections 1600-1616), is empowered to issue agreements (“Streambed Alteration Agreement”) for projects that will adversely affect wildlife habitat associated with any river, stream, or lake edge. Streams and rivers are defined by the presence of a channel bed, banks, and intermittent flow. CDFW regulates wetland areas only to the extent that those wetlands are part of a river, stream, or lake as defined by CDFW.

Determining limits of a wetland is not typically done in obtaining CDFW Agreements because the intent of the 1600 program is to safeguard riparian associated wildlife habitat. Riparian habitat includes willows (*Salix* sp.), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and other vegetation typically associated with the banks of a stream or lake shoreline. In most situations, wetlands associated with a stream or lake will fall within the limits of riparian habitat. Thus, the limits of CDFW jurisdiction based on riparian habitat will automatically include any wetland areas and may include additional areas that do not meet ACOE criteria for soils and/or hydrology (e.g., where

riparian woodland canopy extends beyond the banks of a stream away from frequently saturated soils).

2.3) California Department of Fish and Wildlife

2.3.1) California Endangered Species Act

California Endangered Species Act (CESA) definitions of endangered and threatened species parallel those defined in the FESA. 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, over-exploitation, predation, competition or disease.” Endangered species are in serious danger of becoming extinct and threatened species are likely to become endangered species in the foreseeable future (according to Sections 2062 and 2067, respectively, of the California Fish and Game Code). Candidate species are those under formal review by the CDFW for listing as endangered or threatened (Section 2067). Prior to being considered for protected status, the CDFW designates a species as being of special concern. Species of special concern are those for which the CDFW has information indicating a decline.

2.3.2) Fish and Game Code, Section 1600

Section 1600 allows the CDFW to issue agreements (“Streambed Alteration Agreement”) for projects that will adversely affect wildlife habitat associated with any river, stream, or lake edges. A detailed discussion of Section 1600 under the Fish and Game Code can be found in section 2.2.3 above.

2.3.3) California Natural Diversity Database

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) is a database that ranks the overall condition of sensitive species and vegetation communities on global (throughout its range) and state (within California) levels. Additionally, subspecies and varieties are assigned a ranking for the global condition as well. The ranking is numerical, ranging from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating very few remaining individuals or little remaining habitat and 5 indicating a demonstrably secure to ineradicable population condition. State ranks may also include a threat assessment ranging from 1 (very threatened) to 3 (no current threats known).

2.4) California Native Plant Society

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has cataloged California's rare and endangered plants into lists according to population distributions and viability. The California Rare Plant Ranking System lists are numbered and indicate the following: (1A) presumed extinct in California; (1B) rare, threatened, or endangered throughout their range; (2A) presumed extirpated in California, but more common in other states; (2B) threatened or endangered in California, but more common in other states; (3) more information is needed to establish rarity; and (4) plants of limited distribution in California (i.e., naturally rare in the wild) but whose populations do not appear to be susceptible to threat.

2.5) California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires identification of environmental effects from discretionary projects. Significant effects are to be mitigated by avoidance, minimization, rectification, or compensation whenever possible.

Effects to all state and federally listed species are considered significant under CEQA. In addition to formally listed species, CEQA Section 15380(d) considers effects to species that are demonstrably endangered or rare as important or significant. These definitions can include state-designated species of special concern, federal candidate, and proposed species; CNDDDB tracked species, and California Native Plant Society 1B and 2 plants.

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines specifically addresses biological resources and encompasses a broad range of resources to be considered.

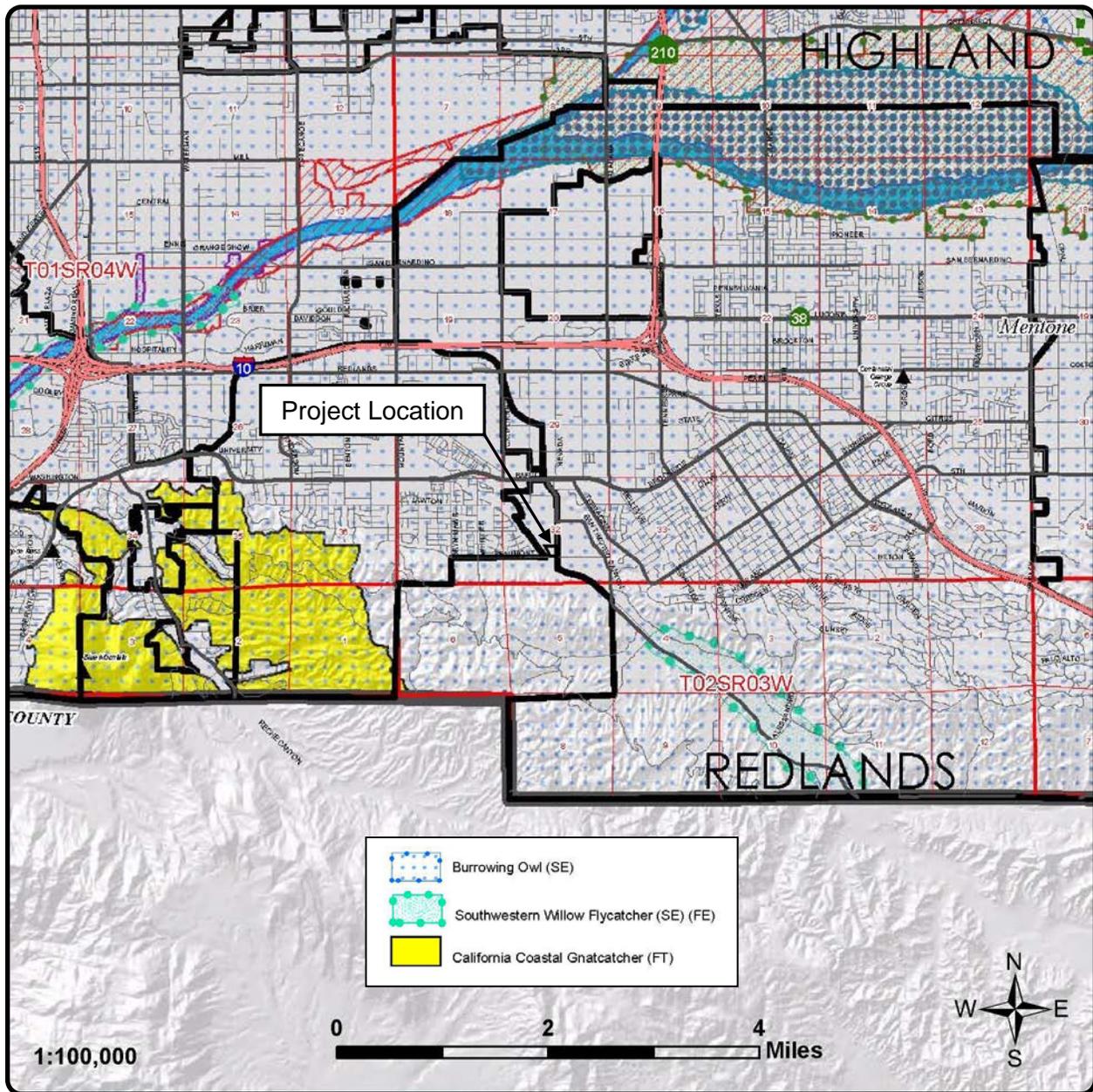
2.6) Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 USC 703-711) is an international treaty that makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 CFR Part 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR 21). Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the CDFG Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests, or eggs. The MBTA requires that project-related disturbance at active nesting territories be reduced or eliminated during critical phases of the nesting cycle (February 1 through August 31). Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (e.g., killing or abandonment of eggs or

young) or loss of habitat upon which the birds depend could be considered “take” and constitute a violation of the MBTA.

2.7) County of San Bernardino, Biotic Resources Overlay Maps

Biotic Resources Overlay Maps (several maps) are published using the street network as base maps because the delineations of the various resources are not intended to be parcel specific. In 2011 the San Bernardino County Museum (SBCM) completed a methodical investigation for the biological mapping to update the Biotic Resources Overlay Maps. These efforts included reviewing approximately 200,000 museum specimen locations, reviewing over a hundred general and focused biological reports conducted countywide, reviewing biological studies undertaken by the SBCM, and evaluating the biological databases of all agencies within San Bernardino County that maintain and update data. These include the Department of Agriculture (U. S. Forest Service), Department of Interior (USFWS, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation), Department of Defense, CDFW, SANBAG, and various water agencies in the County. This report fulfills the requirement for documentation of resources within lands mapped by the Biotic Resource Overlay Map.



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Figure 5
Biotic Resources Overlay Map
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3.0) METHODS AND PERSONNEL

3.1) Literature Review

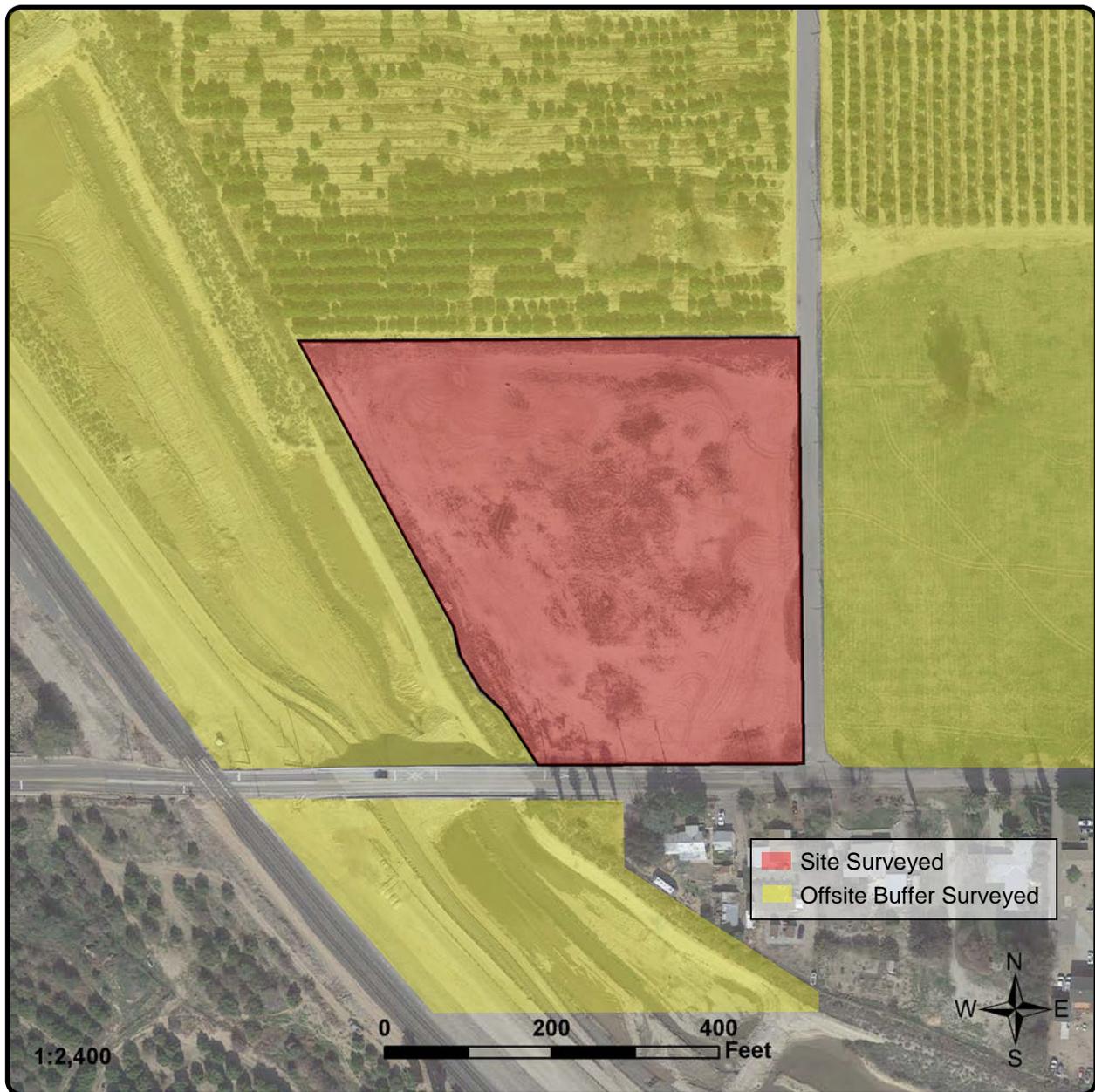
Pertinent literature was reviewed to identify local occurrences and habitat requirements of special status species and communities occurring in the region. The literature reviewed included the County of San Bernardino Biotic Resources Overlay Maps and CNDDDB (CDFW 2016) reports for special status species identified within a 10 mile radius.

Latin names of plants follow *The Jepson Manual* (Hickman 1993). Latin names of animals follow *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Stebbins 1985) for reptiles and amphibians, *California Mammals* (Jameson and Peeters 1988) for mammals, National Audubon Society's *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (2000) for birds, and *American Insects: A Handbook of the Insects of America North of Mexico* (Arnett 2000) for insects.

3.2) Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol as distributed by the California Burrowing Owl Consortium (CBOC 1993) and the October 17, 1995, California Department of Fish and Game staff report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. The assessment was conducted to determine if the site contains habitat capable of supporting BUOW.

Based on the currently accepted survey protocol for BUOW, surveys are best performed during the peak BUOW breeding season, which is generally considered to be from April 15 to July 15 in southern California. This survey was conducted during the peak breeding season for BUOW as defined by the CBOC and CDFW. Protocol guidelines specify that BUOW surveys should be conducted during weather that is conducive to observing owls outside their burrows. Because BUOW is considered mostly crepuscular in its activities by the CBOC and CDFW, these guidelines suggest that surveys be conducted from one hour before sunrise to two hours after (morning) or from two hours before sunset to one hour after (evening).



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Figure 6

Burrowing Owl Survey Area

(Photo obtained from Google Earth, February 2016)

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3.3) Habitat Assessment

The reconnaissance-level survey was conducted on June 25, 2016 and included general coverage of the subject parcel, with special attention focused toward sensitive species or those habitats potentially supporting sensitive flora or fauna. Indicators for wildlife observations included scat, tracks, burrows, nests, calls, and individual animals.

Raptor nests are usually located many feet above the ground surface in moderate to tall trees, which can make identification of active nests difficult (especially early in the nesting season). Ornithologists use a wide variety of techniques to make reasonable determinations of active versus inactive nests. These techniques include (but are not limited to) searches in and around the nest area for signs of recent activity (such as fresh sticks or other foliage), searches around the bases of the trees for droppings, feathers, pellets, or other material related to recent raptor activity, monitoring of nests for movement of young, and extensive monitoring of adult raptor behavior, including nest building, nest guarding, etc.

All observed plant species in identifiable condition were noted, with emphasis on searches for habitat capable of supporting special status species.

Plants of uncertain identity were collected and subsequently identified from keys, descriptions, and illustrations in Abrams (1923, 1944, 1951), Abrams and Ferris (1960), Hickman (1993), and Munz (1974). These procedures provide a general assessment of habitat and vegetation on a site and act as a tool to determine probability of special status species occurring onsite.

All plant and animal species identified during the survey were recorded in field notes and are listed in Appendix A.

4.0) RESULTS

4.1) Literature Review Results

Certain plants and animals have been listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal Endangered Species Acts. Other species have not been formally listed, but declining populations or habitat availability are reasons for concern in regard to their long-term viability. These species are included in lists compiled by resource management agencies or private conservation organizations. In this report, the term “special status species” or “sensitive species” refers to all species included in one or more compendia or formal list of threatened or endangered species. The CNDDDB was examined to determine if special status species have been previously documented onsite.

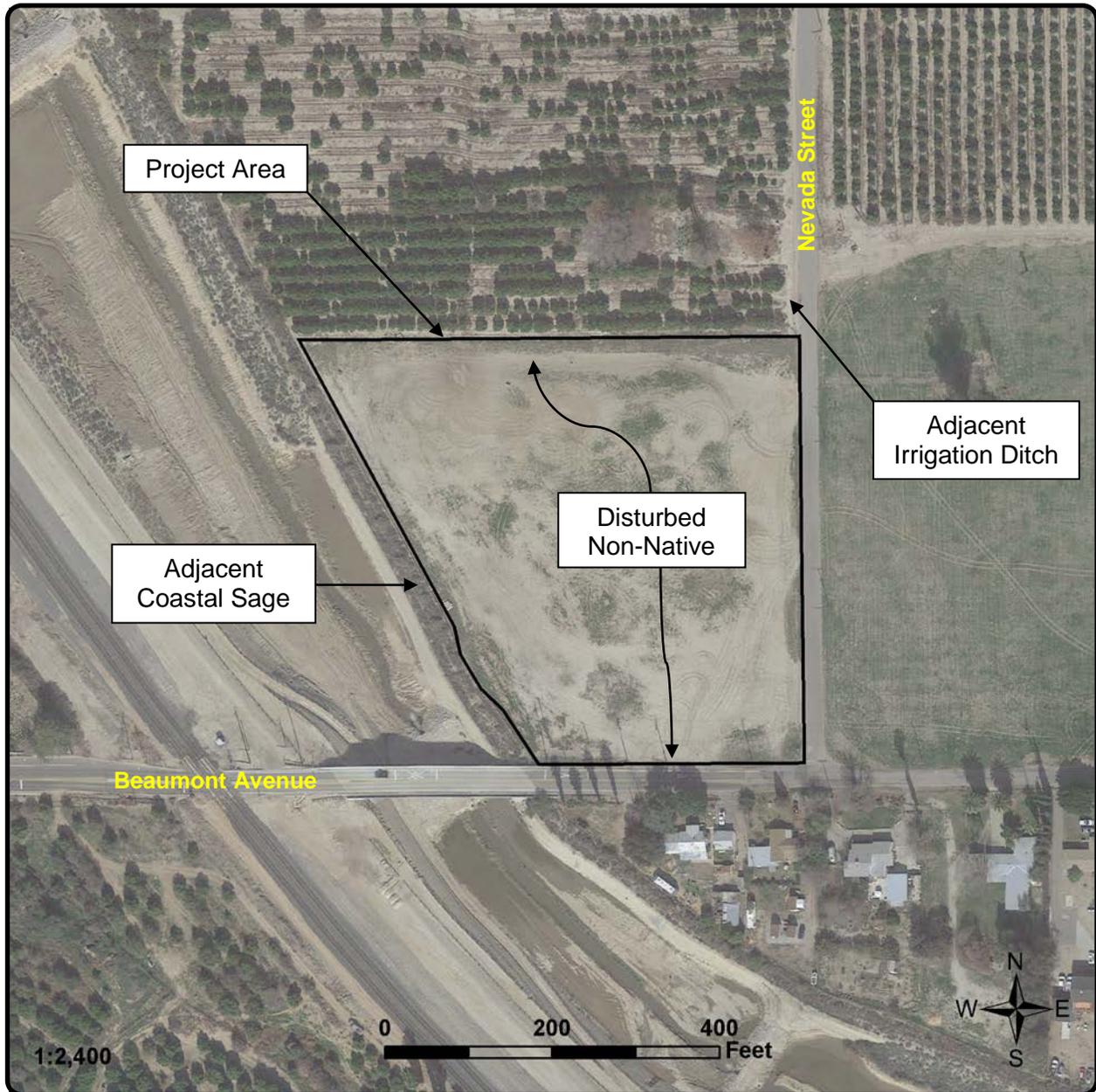
4.2) Field Survey Results

During the survey, the general weather conditions were clear with little wind. Temperatures ranged between 68° and 76° F. The primary vegetation community within the parcel can be characterized as disturbed ruderal habitat (Holland Element Code 11300).

4.3) Plant Species

A total of 30 plant species were detected during the reconnaissance-level survey of the site. No special status plants were observed during the reconnaissance-level survey. A list of all plant species observed during this assessment is presented in Appendix A. This highly disturbed site primarily contains low-growing non-native plant species. The most common plants observed at the time of this survey (June) include Mediterranean grass, filaree, and Russian thistle. Disturbance at the site includes off-road vehicle activity and periodic disking and/or mowing.

Native coastal sage scrub habitat was observed immediately adjacent to the subject parcel along the excavated channel of San Timoteo Creek Channel. A low relief ditch is present along the entire northern boundary immediately adjacent to a citrus orchard. It is not known if this orchard is active or abandoned. Numerous non-native, invasive plant species were found along this ditch and included tree tobacco, annual bur-weed, puncture vine, horseweed, and various weedy non-native grasses. One individual each of mulefat and California buckwheat were also present.



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Figure 7

Habitat Map

(Photo obtained from Google Earth, February 2016)

*Islamic Community Center of Redlands,
County of San Bernardino, California*

Based on historical and ongoing disturbances to the site and the presence of invasive non-native weedy vegetation, it is unlikely that any sensitive or special status plant species occur on the site. Focused plant surveys are generally not required on parcels that do not contain natural vegetation communities

4.4) Wildlife Species

A total of 13 wildlife species were observed during the survey, including 10 bird species, two (2) mammal species, and one (1) reptile species. No amphibians were observed during this survey. No special status / sensitive species or federal or state-listed endangered or threatened species were observed. Common wildlife species observed during the survey included desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), California ground squirrel, and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*). All vertebrate wildlife species observed and identified by Guy Bruyeyea during this study, either by direct observation or by vocalization (for birds), are included in Appendix A.

4.4.1) Birds

No special status bird species were observed during the survey. Common bird species identified during the survey include the common raven (*Corvus corax*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*). A complete list of bird species observed during the survey is included as Appendix A.

Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

Guy Bruyeyea conducted a habitat assessment for BUOW on June 25, 2016 (Table 1). The BUOW field survey was conducted during daylight hours from 0745 to 0900 Pacific Daylight (Savings) Time. Temperatures recorded during the survey ranged from 68° to 76° F with clear skies and a light wind (0-1 mph). The information above is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Burrowing owl habitat assessment survey information.

| Date | Field | Weather | Wind | Biologist | Purpose |
|---------|-----------|----------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|
| June 25 | 0745-0900 | Clear, 68-76°F | 0-1mph | Bruyeyea | Habitat Assessment |

BUOW is a ground-dwelling owl that ranges throughout the western U.S., Canada, and Mexico. It is a small (approximately 9 to 11 inches in height) pale brown owl with white-colored “eyebrows” and throat, yellow eyes, a short stubby tail, and long legs. Males are generally larger and more lightly colored than females.

Based upon presence of relatively flat open areas with low-growing vegetation, close proximity to a fresh water source, and recent records of BUOW within 10 miles of the site, a habitat suitability assessment for BUOW was performed.

California ground squirrels are active on the site. BUOW frequently utilize California ground squirrel burrows for nesting purposes. All ground squirrel burrow sites were carefully inspected for sign of BUOW activity; however, none was found. No BUOW, occupied burrows, or evidence of recent burrowing owl sign (pellets, scat, feathers, tracks, etc.) was observed on the site or in immediately adjacent areas, which included an approximately 150-meter buffer area around the entire site. This may be due to ongoing anthropogenic disturbances on the site and in the general area, which includes vehicular traffic along Nevada Street and Beaumont Avenue, citrus agriculture, and residential developments.

It can be reasonably concluded that BUOW does not currently occupy the subject property; however, potentially suitable nesting and foraging habitat for the species is present. No further focused surveys are warranted; however, a preconstruction clearance survey (valid for 30 days) to determine presence/absence of BUOW on the site prior to any vegetation or ground disturbance is recommended.

Buffer Area

As per the survey protocol, an approximately 150-meter buffer area around the entire site was assessed (where possible) for the presence or absence of BUOW and potential BUOW burrow sites. Buffer areas were walked on foot where accessible, mostly east of the site along Nevada Street and west of the site near a drainage channel. Areas south of the site (south of Beaumont Avenue) in occupied residential areas were surveyed with binoculars only due to potential trespassing concerns. No BUOW or sign indicating BUOW presence was observed in any areas adjacent to the site.

4.4.2) Raptor Nesting

No active raptor nest sites were observed during this study. No trees suitable for nesting are present on the site. However, based upon presence of suitable trees in the immediate area a preconstruction clearance survey is recommended prior to any vegetation or ground disturbing activities if construction will begin within the nesting season (January 1 to September 15).

4.5) Special Status Biological Resources

No special status botanical or wildlife species were observed on the site during this survey.

5.0) IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study was to identify possible biological resources that may be adversely impacted by the proposed project. The specific focus was determination of presence/absence of burrowing owls and/or their habitat and special status plant species on the subject property.

The effects and recommendations identified are based on the literature review, L&L's biological knowledge of species and habitats in the site vicinity, and the biological field survey. The information in this section is intended to serve as a planning tool for making decisions about the future development of the project site.

The subject parcel is highly disturbed as a result of past agricultural activities, ORV use, and weed abatement (i.e., disking).

No special status species were observed on the site during this survey; however, low-quality habitat suitable for BUOW is present and trees suitable for raptor nesting are present in adjacent areas. The presence of this potential habitat is the basis for recommendation of a preconstruction survey (valid for 30 days) for raptors and nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act prior to any site disturbance to begin during the nesting season (January 1 through September 15). If nesting birds (including raptors) are present, avoidance of nest sites will be required (which may include an avoidance buffer of 300 ft. or 500 ft. or greater for raptors and federal or state-listed species) until juvenile birds have fledged and/or an authorized biologist has verified that the nest has become inactive.

5.1) Burrowing Owl

Based on the results of this study and other information presented in this report, it can be reasonably concluded that BUOW is not currently occupying any portion of the site. In addition, based on disturbances and the results of this survey indicating absence of BUOW sign or activity in adjacent areas, BUOW is not expected to occupy the site in the near future. Therefore, additional focused studies for BUOW are not recommended at this time. However, based upon the presence of suitable open areas, California ground squirrel activity, and other information provided in this report, a preconstruction clearance survey (valid for 30 days) will be required prior to ground disturbance on the site.

5.2) Sensitive Botanicals

No special status plant species were observed during the survey. Based on the results of the survey and the highly disturbed nature of the site, it can be reasonably concluded that special status plant species are absent from the subject property.

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APPENDIX A

Plant Species Observations

Plants Observed on the Redlands Nevada St. SBJX-16-517.HA Site (N=30)
Redlands, Riverside County, California
June 2016

The following plant species were identified on-site or in adjacent areas during the general biological inventory described in this report. Plants were identified using keys, descriptions, and illustrations in Abrams (1923-1951,1960), Hickman (1993), Munz (1974), and Parker (1999). Plant taxonomy and nomenclature generally follows Hickman. A single asterisk (*) indicates non-native (alien) plant taxa. An (E) indicates the species was found along the edge of the property.

Scientific Name

Common Name

Agavaceae

Hesperoyucca whipplei

Agave Family

Chaparral Yucca (E)

Anacardiaceae

Malosma laurina

Sumac Family

Laurel Sumac (E)

Asteraceae

Ambrosia acanthicarpa

Artemisia californica

Baccharis salicifolia

Conyza bonariensis

Conyza canadensis

Encelia farinosa

Gnaphalium luteo-album

Heterotheca grandiflora

Isocoma menziesii

Lactuca serriola

Sonchus oleraceus

Sunflower Family

Annual Bur-Weed

California Sagebrush

Mulefat

Flax-leaved Horseweed*

Horseweed

Brittlebush

Everlasting Cudweed

Telegraph Weed

Goldenbush (E)

Prickly-lettuce*

Sow-thistle*

Brassicaceae

Hirschfeldia incana

Sisymbrium irio

Mustard Family

Short-pod Mustard*

London Rocket*

Chenopodiaceae

Atriplex canescens

Atriplex semibaccata

Chenopodium album

Salsola tragus

Goosefoot Family

Four-wing Saltbush (E)

Australian Saltbush*

Lamb's Quarters*

Russian Thistle*

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium

Geranium Family

Red-stemmed Filaree*

Plants (Continued)

Scientific Name

Common Name

Poaceae

Avena barbata
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens*
Bromus tectorum
Cenchrus species (probably *longispinus*)
Schismus barbatus

Grass Family

Slender Wild Oat*
Foxtail Chess*
Cheatgrass*
Unidentified Sandbur*
Mediterranean Grass

Polygonaceae

Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *foliolosum*

Buckwheat Family

California Buckwheat

Rosaceae

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Rose Family

Toyon (E)

Solanaceae

Datura wrightii
Nicotiana glauca

Nightshade Family

Western Jimsonweed
Tree Tobacco*

Zygophyllaceae

Tribulus terrestris

Caltrop Family

Puncture Vine*

Wildlife Species Observations

Wildlife Observed on the Redlands Nevada St. SBJX-16-517.HA Site (N=13)
Redlands, Riverside County, California
June 2016

Scientific Name

Birds (N=10)

Common Name

Columbidae

Columba livia
Zenaida macroura

Pigeon Family

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)
Mourning Dove

Corvidae

Corvus corax clarionensis

Jay and Crow Family

Common Raven

Emberizidae

Pipilo crissalis
Zonotrichia leucophrys

Emberizine Sparrow Family

California Towhee
White-crowned Sparrow

Fringillidae

Carpodacus mexicanus

Finch Family

House Finch

Hirundinidae

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota tachina

Swallow Family

Cliff Swallow

Trochilidae

Calypte anna

Hummingbird Family

Anna's Hummingbird

Tyrannidae

Sayornis nigricans
Sayornis saya

Tyrant Flycatchers

Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe

Mammals (N=2)

Sciuridae

Spermophilus beecheyi

Squirrel Family

CA Ground Squirrel (sign)

Leporidae

Sylvilagus audubonii

Rabbit Family

Desert Cottontail

Reptiles & Amphibians (N=1)

Iguanidae

Uta stansburiana

Iguanid Family

Side-blotched Lizard

APPENDIX B

Certification

Certification: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATE: June 28, 2016 SIGNED:  _____
Leslie Irish, Principal, L&L Environmental, Inc.
909-335-9897

1) Fieldwork Performed By:
Guy Bruyea
Name _____

2) Fieldwork Performed By:

Name _____

3) Fieldwork Performed By:

Name _____

4) Fieldwork Performed By:

Name _____

5) Fieldwork Performed By:

Name _____

6) Fieldwork Performed By:

Name _____

Check here if adding any additional names / signatures below or on other side of page.