# GENERAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

## EAGLE RIDGE MARKET
## P201200304; APN 0315-231-17

## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**(USGS Moonridge, CA Quad.; Township 2 North, Range 2 East, Section 19)**

*Prepared for:*

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**Project No: RCA#2012-86**

**Report Prepared by Randall C. Arnold, Jr.**

**January 27, 2013**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proponent is requesting approval of a proposed project which will include a convenience store and associated parking spaces to be located on a 0.91 acre parcel at the southeast corner of State Highway 38 (Greenspot Blvd.) and State Lane in San Bernardino County (Township 2 North, Range 2 East, Section 19). The site supports a moderately dense forest community dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), with a few pinyon pines (*P. monophylla*) and California juniper (*Juniperus californica*) also scattered throughout the property.

The site was evaluated for the presence of sensitive species, as well as potential habitat for sensitive species, including southern rubber boa (*Charina umbratica*), flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), and California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*). Field surveys were performed at less than optimum time (i.e., January); however, no sensitive wildlife species were observed during the January 17, 2013 surveys. In addition to the three wildlife species above, there are 24-sensitve plant species and two other wildlife species which have been documented in the surrounding region, primarily in association with Baldwin Lake, which is located about two miles to the north. The site, which is only 0.91-acres in size and is located in a developed portion of the Big Bear Lake area, is not expected to support any sensitive species. In addition, no sensitive habitats (i.e., streams, wetlands, etc.) or wildlife corridors were observed, nor were any such habitats noted in adjacent areas.

## 1.0 PROJECT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The proponent is requesting approval of a proposed convenience store with fuel dispensers on a 0.91 acre site at the southeast corner of State Highway 38 (Greenspot Blvd.) and State Lane Drive (The SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 19, Township 2 North, Range 2 West, of the SBM, State of California) located in San Bernardino County. A 4,999 square foot structure would be constructed on the site along with fuel dispensers (4) and associated parking areas (Figure 1). The property is located at an elevation of approximately 6,800 feet (MSL) with a very slight slope to the east (Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4). General biological surveys were conducted on the property on January 17, 2013 during which data on the existing biological conditions was recorded.

Soils consisted of sandy loam with a few gravels and small rocks present. The site is bordered on the west by State Highway 38, on the south and east by existing single family dwellings, and on the north by vacant land (Figure 4). The USGS Moonridge Quadrangle does not show any blueline channels on the site and no channels were observed during the field investigations. No wildlife corridors bisect the property and no sensitive wildlife species were observed during the general biological surveys conducted on January 17, 2012. (Note: January is not the optimum time to conduct survey since some species are in hibernation [i.e., squirrels and snakes]). Weather conditions during the January 17, 2013 survey consisted of winds of 0 to 5 mph, temperatures in the high 20's (°F) to mid-30's (°F) (AM) with 0 to 5 percent cloud coverage.

The site is undisturbed and supports a moderately dense ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) community with some pinyon pines (*P. monophylla*) and California junipers (*Juniperus californica*) also present. A few shrubs were also noted including sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.) and cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), and grasses such as brome (*Bromus* sp.), unidentified grass (*Glyceria* sp. [?]), and panicum grass (*Panicum* sp. [?]), were also observed throughout the site (Figure 3). See Section 4.0 for detailed discussion of the biological resources.

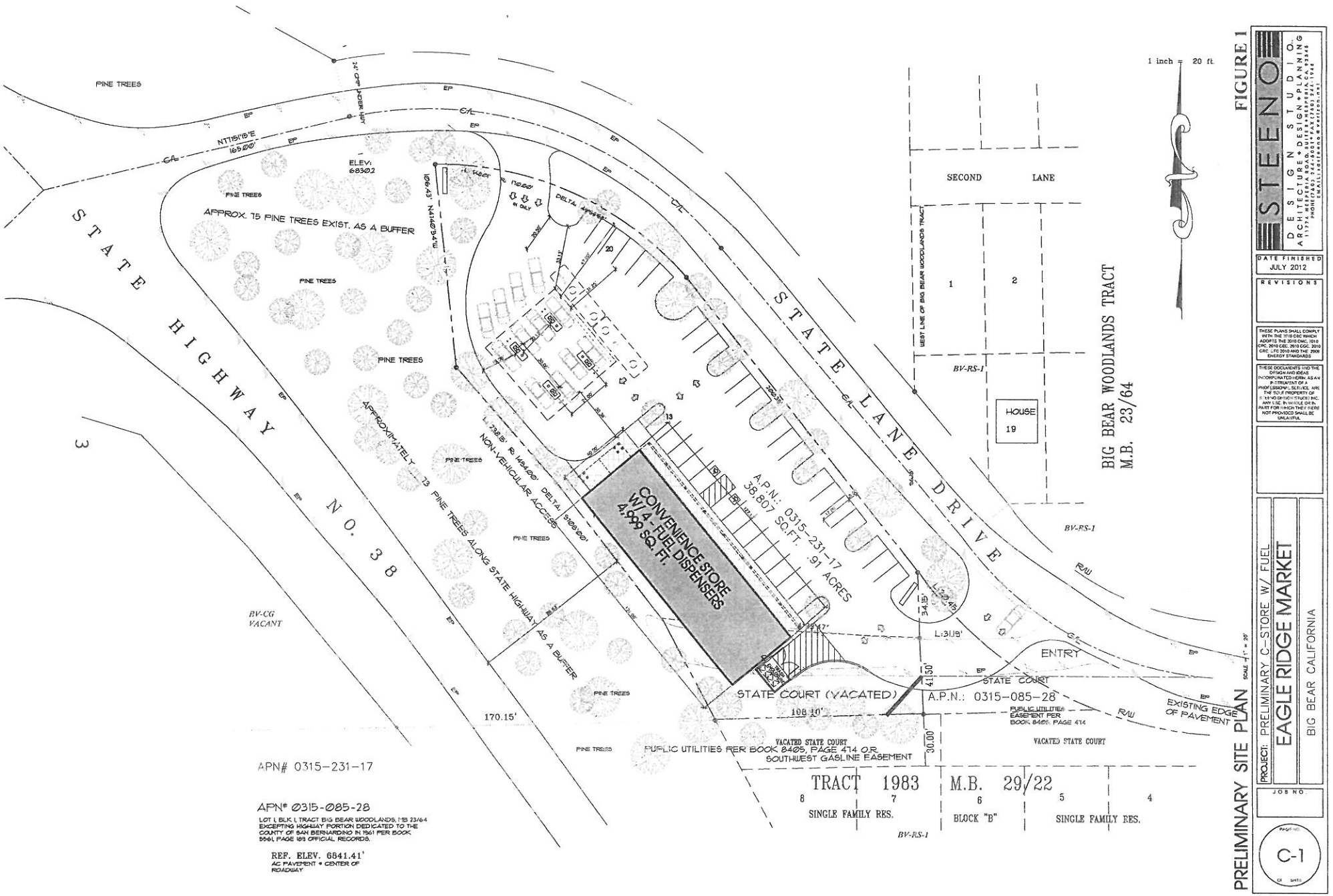



FIGURE 1

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN

STEENO DESIGN STUDIO
ARCHITECTURE • DESIGN • PLANNING
11775 ATWOOD BLVD. #2 ANAHEIM, CA 92804
PHONE (714) 242-8001 FAX (714) 242-1942
EMAIL: steendesign@earthlink.net

DATE FINISHED
JULY 2012

REVISIONS

THESE PLANS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE 2010 CBC WHICH ADOPTS THE 2010 CMC, 2010 CPC, 2010 CEC, 2010 CGC, 2010 CRC, CFC 2010 AND THE 2008 ENERGY STANDARDS

THESE DOCUMENTS AND THE DESIGN AND IDEAS INCORPORATED HEREIN, AS AN INSTRUMENT OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF STEENO DESIGN STUDIO INC. ANY USE IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR WHICH THEY WERE NOT PROVIDED SHALL BE UNLAWFUL

PROJECT: PRELIMINARY C-STORE W/ FUEL
EAGLE RIDGE MARKET
BIG BEAR CALIFORNIA

JOB NO.

C-1

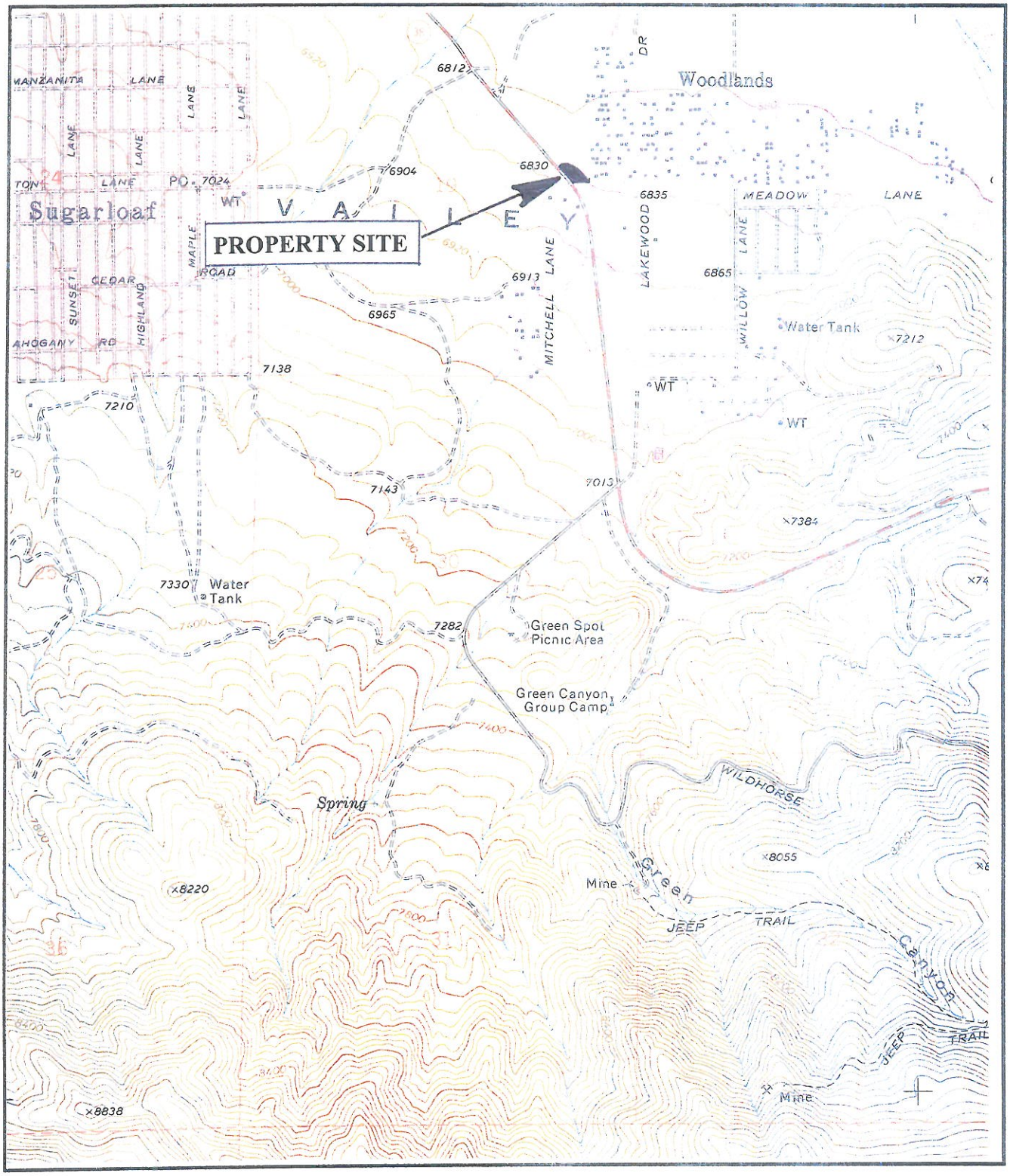
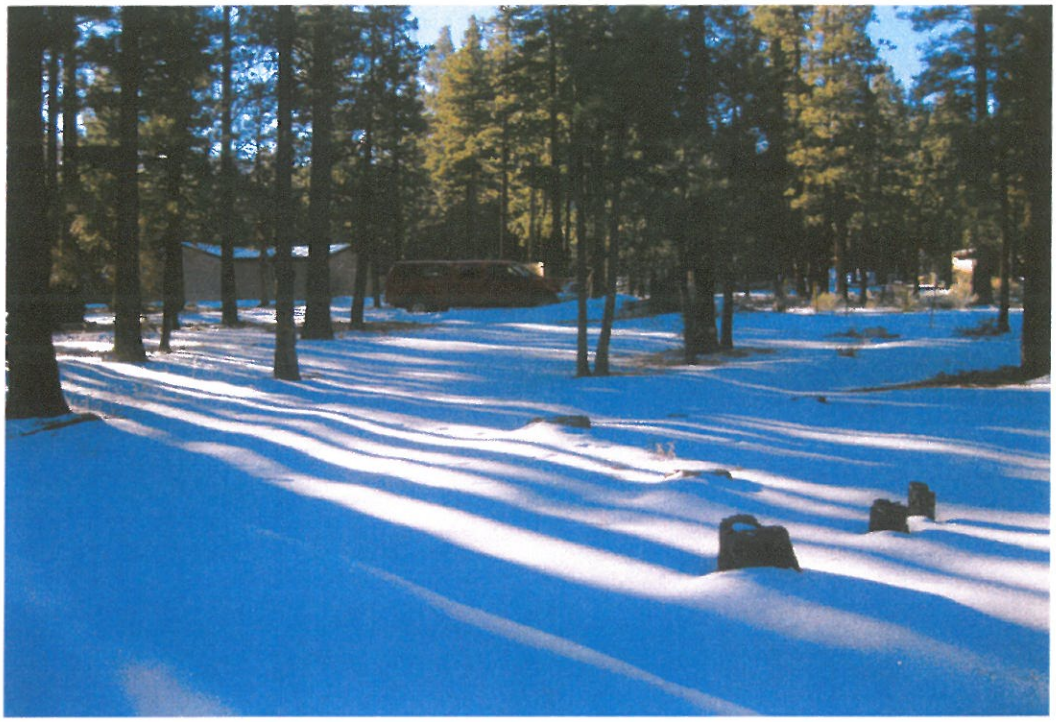



**FIGURE 2**
**PROJECT LOCATION**
**(Eagle Ridge Market; P201200304; APN 0315-231-17)**
**(Source: USGS Moonridge, CA Quadrangle, 1970)**

VIEW FROM NORTHERN BOUNDARY LOOKING SOUTH

VIEW FROM SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LOOKING NORTH

FIGURE 3
Photographs of Site
(Eagle Ridge Market, P201200304)



CENTER OF PROPERTY LOOKING SOUTH

CENTER OF PROPERTY LOOKING NORTH

FIGURE 3, cont.
Photographs of Site
(Eagle Ridge Market, P201200304)

## 2.0 LITERATURE/RECORD REVIEW - SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

As part of the environmental process, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) data sources were reviewed to determine if any listed and/or sensitive species have been documented on the property or in the surrounding area. The Federal Endangered Species Act provides protection for species of fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed by the US Government as threatened or endangered in the U.S., and the Act outlines procedures for Federal agencies to follow when evaluating projects which may jeopardize any listed species. In addition, The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) provides protection to those species which are deemed to be threatened with a significant decline or extinction within California, and the CESA provides CDFG with the responsibility of evaluating projects which may effect sensitive species.

Based on a literature review, a search of USFWS and CDFG data bases, and a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), it was determined that the site is located within the distribution of California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), southern rubber boa (*Charina umbratica*), and flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*). In addition, two other wildlife species (bald eagle [*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*] and unarmored threespine stickleback [*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*]) have been observed in association with Baldwin Lake two miles to the north (CNDDB, 2013) (See "Tables" at back of the report.). There are numerous sensitive habitats located throughout the Big Bear Lake area; consequently, numerous sensitive plants have also been recorded in the region. According to the CNDDB (2013), there are twenty-four sensitive plants within a five mile radius of the property; although, the site is not expected to support any sensitive plants nor are any of the sensitive wildlife species expected to inhabit the 0.91-acre site. Scientific nomenclature for this report is based on the following references: Hickman (1993), Munz (1974), Stebbins (2003), Sibley (2000) and Whitaker (1980). Table 1 (Appendix A) provides a detailed summary of the sensitive species listed above.

Following the data review, general biological surveys were performed on the site on January 17, 2013 during which the biological resources on the site and in the surrounding areas were documented by Randall C. Arnold, Jr. (biologist from RCA Associates, LLC) from 0745 to 1000 hours. As part of the surveys, the project site and the adjoining lands were evaluated for the presence of native habitats which could potentially support populations of sensitive species.

## 3.0 METHODOLOGIES

### General Vegetation and Wildlife

General biological surveys were conducted on January 17, 2013 during which Randall C. Arnold, Jr. from RCA Associates, LLC walked meandering transects (i.e., "transects of opportunity") throughout the site and in adjacent areas (i.e., zone of influence) from 0745 to 1000 hours. During the general surveys, data was collected on the plant species present on the site and in the immediate surrounding area and the wildlife observed. Given the fact that the general surveys were conducted in January, only a few plant species were readily identifiable. Those species that were not identifiable were collected and taken back to the lab for further identification. Birds which use the site and adjacent areas were identified by visual observations and sound; whereas, mammals occurring in the area were identified by scats, tracks, burrows, or direct observations. All plants and animals detected during the field investigations were recorded and are provided in compendium Tables 2 & 3 (Appendix A). During the field investigations the site was also evaluated for the presence of any sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands, streams, etc.) and wildlife corridors.

## 4.0 GENERAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

The site supports a pine forest typical of the area dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with a few California junipers (*Juniperus califonica*) and pinyon pine (*P. monophylla*) also present. Shrubs were limited to a few sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.) and cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.). The only herbaceous species observed included brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and panicum grass (*Panicum* sp.). (Note: Additional herbaceous species may occur on the site; however, the general surveys were conducted in January due to project time constraints when most herbaceous species are not present.)

Ravens (*Corvus corax*) and stellar jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) were the only birds observed during the field investigations and the only mammal sign noted included cottontail tracks (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) throughout the site. As noted above, the site surveys were not conducted during optimum time and other avian and mammals species may be present on the site, particularly during the spring and summer months. Tables 2 and 3 (Appendix A) provide a compendium of the species observed and those species which are common to the area. No distinct wildlife corridors were identified on the site or in the immediate surrounding area, and no breeding activity (i.e., nest building, etc.) was noted. Figure 4 provides an aerial view of the site and the surrounding area.

Figure 4
Biological Resources Map
(Eagle Ridge Market, P201200304)

## 5.0 IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### General Biological Resources

Future development of the site will result in the removal of most, if not all, of the native vegetation present on the 0.91-acre site. Wildlife species will be displaced into adjacent areas with some species, such as small mammals (i.e., chipmunks, etc.), experiencing increased mortality rates. Birds will be able to disperse over larger areas given their mobility and may experience only a slight increase in mortality assuming adjacent areas are not at carrying capacity at the time of displacement. Cumulative impacts are not expected to be significant given the amount of similar vegetation present in adjacent areas and the small size of the property (0.91-acres). No recommendations or mitigations regarding the general biological resources are proposed at this time.

### Sensitive Wildlife Species

No sensitive species were observed during the field investigations and the site is not expected to support any populations of any sensitive species. The property is located within the general region known to support populations of the California spotted owl (species of special concern), southern rubber boa (State threatened), and flying squirrel (species of special concern); however, there are no documented populations within five miles of the site according to the CNDDB (2013). Furthermore, the 0.91-acre site is located in a developed area and is bordered on the east, west, and south by existing single-family dwelling, further reducing the likelihood of any of these three species occurring on the site. As discussed in Section 2.0, there are also two other sensitive species which occur in the general (bald eagle and unarmored stickleback); however, the site does not support suitable habitat for the stickleback (i.e., aquatic). In addition, it is very unlikely that bald eagles would utilize the site for roosting since they typically roost in trees which are near aquatic areas (rivers, lakes, etc.). The nearest aquatic habitat is Baldwin Lake two miles to the north.

There are twenty-four sensitive plants which have been documented in the surrounding region; however, the majority of these species are associated with habitats that are not found on the site (i.e., pinyon-juniper woodlands, meadows, wet meadows, etc.) (See "Tables" at the back of the report.). Those species which do utilize coniferous forest are very unlikely to occur on the property given its small size and its location within an area which has been developed and supports numerous single-family dwellings in adjacent areas.

## 6.0 PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

The proposed project is not expected to have any significant cumulative impacts on the general biological resources occurring on the property or in the surrounding region. In addition, no sensitive species are expected to occur on the site based on the results of the field investigations and the location of the 0.91-acre parcel in an area which has been disturbed due to past development activities. No mitigation measures are proposed at the present time for any sensitive wildlife species; however, if any sensitive wildlife species are observed on the property during future activities, all on-site activities should cease and CDFG and USFWS (as applicable) should be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required for the individual species. CDFG and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the "take" of any sensitive species.

## 7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY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# TABLES

## CNDDB Sensitive Species List

**Table 1 - Federal and State Listed Species and State Species of Special Concern Occurring Within Approximately Five Miles of the Site.**

(Fed; E = Endangered; SSC = Species of special concern; S = Sensitive species; CNDDB = California Natural Diversity Data Base; CNPS: California Native Plant Society)

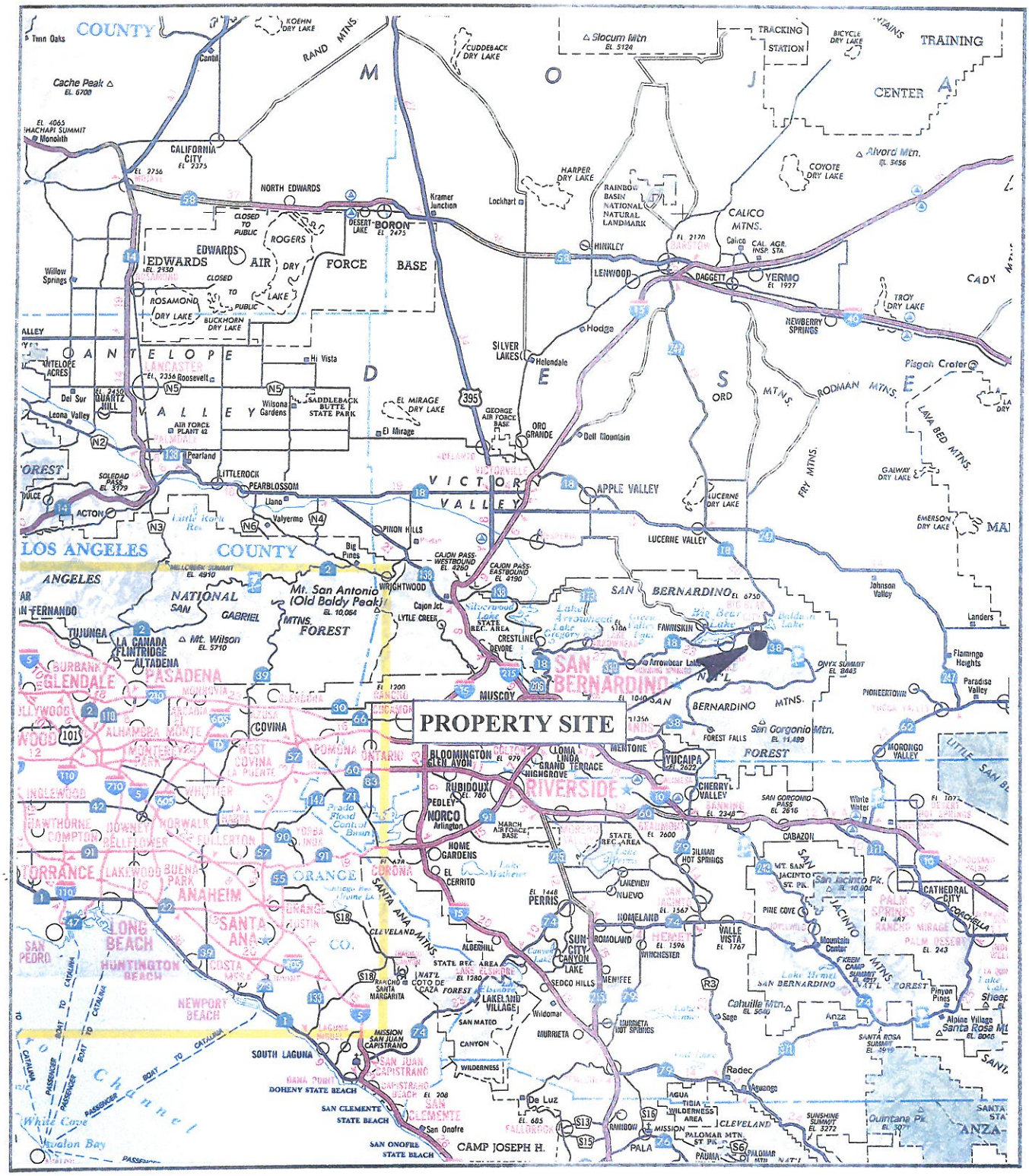
| Name | Listing Status | Habitat Requirements | Presence/Absence | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southern rubber boa (*Charina umbratica*) | Fed: None<br>State: T | Coniferous forest | Site not expected to support any populations of the species due to its small size the absence of any documented populations in surrounding area. | No additional surveys or mitigations proposed. |
| Flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: SSC | Coniferous forest | Site not expected to support populations of the species. | " |
| California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CDFG: SSC | Coniferous forest | None observed during the surveys and site is not expected to support populations of the species. | " |
| Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) | Fed: Delisted<br>State: E | Normally associated with lakes, rivers, and aquatic areas where prey is available. | None observed during the surveys and site is not expected to support any nesting/roosting activities due to small size and absence of aquatic habitats. | " |
| Unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) | Fed: E<br>State: E | Lakes | Site does not support suitable habitat for the species. | " |
| Cushenbury milk-vetch (*Astragalus albens*) | Fed: E<br>State: None<br>CNPS: List 1B.1 | Gravelly soils; pinyon-juniper woodlands | Site not expected to support populations of species. | " |
| San Bernardino milk-vetch (*Astragalus bernardinus*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Stony washes; pinyon-juniper woodlands. | Site not expected to support populations of the species. | " |
| Big Bear Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus var. sierra*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Sagebrush scrub | Site does not support suitable habitat | " |
| Big Bear Valley Woolypod (*Astragalus leucolobus*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Sagebrush scrub | Site does not support suitable habitat. | " |
| Pinyon Rockress (*Boechera dispar*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 2.34 | Pinyon-juniper woodlands. | Site does not support suitable habitat. | " |

**Table 1: continued**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parishis Rockress (*Boechera parishis*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Dry, rocky slopes. | Site does not supports suitable habitat. | No additional surveys or mitigations proposed. |
| Shockley's Rockress (*Boechera Shockleyi*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 2.2 | Pinyon-juniper woodlands. | Site does not support suitable habitat for species. | |
| Palmer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus palmeri var palmeri*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Meadows and moist habitats. | Site does not support suitable habitat for species. | " |
| Ash-gray paintbrush (*Castilleja cinerea*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Coniferous forest. | Site not expected to support populations of the species. | " |
| San Bernardino Mt. owl's clover (*Castilleja lasiorhyncha*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Meadows; yellow-pine forests. | Site does not support suitable habitat for species. | " |
| San Bernardino Mountains dudleya (*Dudlea abramsii ssp. affinis*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Chaparral to pine forests. | Site not expected to support populations of the species. | " |
| Big Bear Valley Sandwort (*Eremogane ursina*) | Fed: T<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Pebble plains; pinyon-juniper woodlands. | Site does not support suitable habitat for species. | " |
| Parish's Daisy (*Erigeron parishii*) | Fed: T<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Joshua tree woodlands. | Site does not support suitable habitat. | " |
| Southern Mountain Buckwheat (*Eriogonum kennedyi var. austromontanum*) | Fed: T<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Gravelly slopes and ridges. | Site does not support suitable habitat for the species. | " |
| Baldwin Lake linanthus (*Linanthus killipii*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Pinyon juniper woodland. | Site not expected to support the species. | " |
| San Bernardino Mtn. monkeyflower (*Mimulus exiguus*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Moist habitats. | Site does not support suitable habitat for the species. | " |
| San Bernardino Ragwort (*Packera bernardina*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Rocky slopes; yellow-pine forests. | Site does not support suitable habitat for species. | " |
| San Bernardino bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*) | Fed: E<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Meadows and grassy slopes. | Site does not support suitable habitat for the species. | " |
| Bear Valley Pyrrocoma (*Pyrrocoma uniflora var. gossypina*) | Fed: E<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Moist alkaline meadows. | Site does not support suitable habitat for the species. | " |
| Bird-fowl checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata*) | Fed: E<br>State: E<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Wet meadows. | Site dos not support suitable habitat for the species. | " |
| San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*) | Fed: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Grasslands; disturbed areas. | Site does not support suitable habitat for species. | " |
| California dandelion (*Taraxacum californicum*) | Fed: E<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Moist meadows. | Site does not support suitable habitat. | " |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Slender-petaled thelypodium (*Thelypodium stenopetalum*) | Fed: E<br>State: E<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Stony slopes. | Site does not support suitable habitat for the species. | No additional surveys or mitigations proposed. |
| Cushenbury Ovalifolium (*Eriogonum ovalifolium var. vineum*) | Fed: E<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Sagebrush scrub; pinyon-juniper woodland. | Site does not support suitable habitat for the species. | " |

# FIGURES




**VICINITY MAP**

**(Eagle Ridge Market; P201200304; APN 0315-231-17)**
**(Source: USGS Moonridge, CA Quadrangle, 1970)**

N

# SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

CENTER OF PROPERTY LOOKING WEST

CENTER OF PROPERTY LOOKING EAST

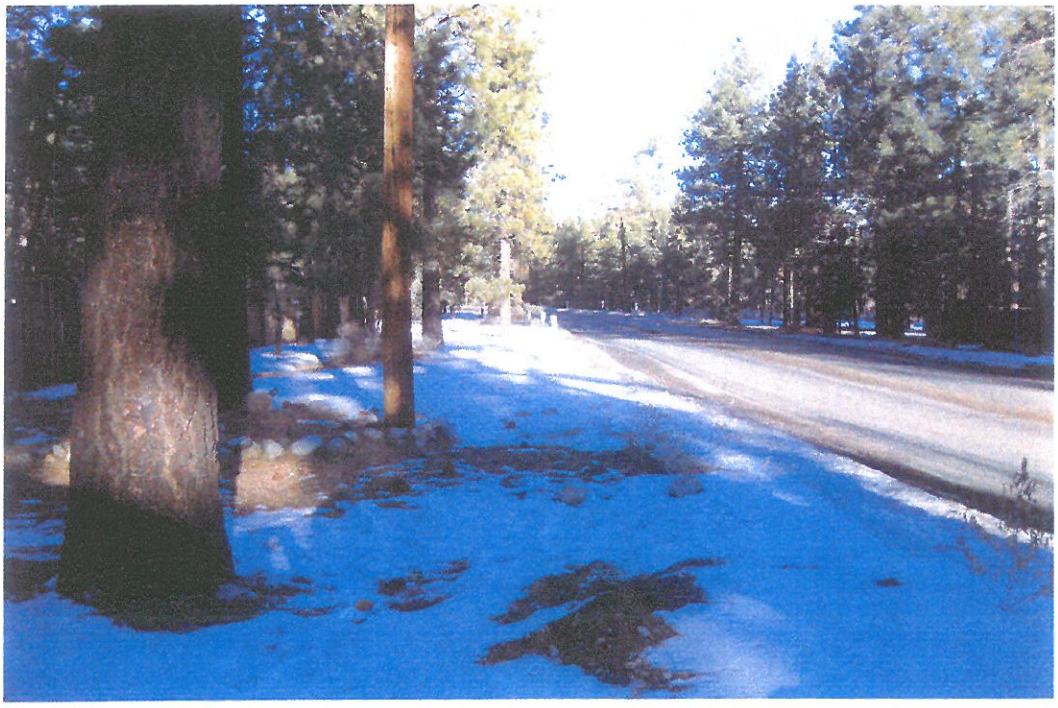
Photographs of Site
(Eagle Ridge Market, P201200304)

VIEW OF SITE FROM SOUTHWEST CORNER

VIEW OF HIGHWAY 38 FROM SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SITE

Photographs of Site
(Eagle Ridge Market, P201200304)

VIEW OF EASTERN BOUNDARY OF SITE FROM STATE LANE ROAD



VIEW OF STATE LANE FROM SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SITE

Photographs of Site
(Eagle Ridge Market, P201200304)

# Appendix A

# Flora and Fauna Compendium Tables

**Table 2 - Plants observed on the site and know to occur in the immediate surrounding area. (Note: The field investigations were conducted in January when most plants are dormant or absent; consequently, only a few species were observed.)**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Ponderosa pine | *Pinus ponderosa* | On-site & off-site |
| California juniper | *Juniperus californica* | " |
| Pinyon pine | *Pinus monophylla* | " |
| Sagebrush | *Artemisia sp.* | " |
| Brome grass | *Bromus sp.* | " |
| Panicum grass | *Panicum sp.* | " |
| Cinquefoil | *Potentilla sp.* | " |

**Table 3 - Wildlife observed on the site and those species expected to occur in surrounding area.**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Common raven | *Corvus corax* | On-site and in the surrounding area. |
| Stellar jay | *Cyanocitta stelleri* | " |
| Cottontail | *Svlvilagus bachmani* | Tracks observed. |
| Merriam's chipmunk | *Eutamias merriami* | May occur in area. |
| California ground squirrel | *Spermophilus beecheyi* | " |
| Coyotes | *Canis latrans* | " |
| Song sparrow | *Melospiza melodia* | |
| Rock dove | *Columba livia* | " |
| Great horned owl | *Bubo virginianus* | " |
| Mountain chickadee | *Poecile gambeli* | " |
| White-breasted nuthatch | *Sitta carolinensis* | " |

Note: The above Tables are not comprehensive lists of every plant or animal species which may occur in the area, but are a list of those common species which were identified on the site during the one-day survey or which are known to occur in the region. It should also be noted, that the surveys were performed in January due to project time constraints.

# 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. Fieldwork conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the project applicant or applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the project.

Date: 1-27-2013 Signed: _____
Report Author

Field Work Performed By: Randall Arnold
Senior Biologist