Lake Elsinore Honda Project

General Biological Resources Assessment

April 25, 2018 | DEA-08

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Report Date:	April 25, 2018
Title:	General Biological Resources Assessment for the Lake Elsinore Honda Project
Project Location:	The approximately 6.96-acre project site is located northeast of Collier Avenue and southeast of Interstate (I)-15 in the City of Lake Elsinore, Riverside County, California. The site is situated on the U.S. Geological survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Lake Elsinore quadrangle map in Section 31, Township 5 South, Range 4 West.
Assessor Parcel Numbers:	The project site comprises three Assessor Parcel Numbers: 377-080-057, 377-080-053 and 377-080-079.
Owner/Applicant:	David Evans and Associates, Inc. 41951 Remington Ave., Suite 220 Temecula, CA 92590
Principal Investigator:	HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. 7578 El Cajon Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91942 (619) 462-1515
Report Summary:	The approximately 6.96-acre project site was surveyed for burrowing owl habitat, riparian/riverine and vernal pool resources, and jurisdictional features. No riparian/riverine, vernal pools, or jurisdictional features were found on-site.
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Lake Elsinore Honda Project is located in the City of Lake Elsinore in Riverside County, California. The purpose of this report is (1) to document the results of a biological resources technical study and (2) analyze the potential impacts of the project pursuant to the requirements of the adopted Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP; Dudek and Associates [Dudek] 2003) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The approximately 6.96-acre project site is located northeast of Collier Avenue and southeast of Interstate (I)-15 in the City of Lake Elsinore (City), Riverside County, California (Figure 1). The site is situated on the U.S. Geological survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Lake Elsinore quadrangle map in Section 31, Township 5 South, Range 4 West (Figure 2).

The site comprises three contiguous parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 377-080-053, -057 and -079), and is bordered by commercial development to the west, undeveloped land to the southeast, and a transportation corridor (I-15) to the northwest (Figure 3).

The property is located within the Elsinore Area Plan of the MSHCP, but is not with a criteria cell or cell group. The nearest criteria cell occurs approximately 0.5 mile to the northwest (Figure 4). The area plan subunits each have specific planning species and biological considerations. These items do not apply to the subject property as it is not within a subunit.

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes construction of an automobile (Honda) dealership on a vacant site. The dealership consists of a single-story building to provide a showroom, sales offices, service and reception areas, a parts department, and a car wash. Additionally, the project includes construction of associated parking lots, site entrances and exits to Collier Ave. Landscaped areas would be located throughout the site and a storm water treatment area (i.e., green-scape bio swale) would be located along the northwestern edge of the site. The project proposes development of the entire property.

2.0 METHODS

Project site evaluation involved a literature review, vegetation mapping, a delineation of jurisdictional wetlands and waters, a preliminary riparian/riverine and Vernal Pool habitat assessment, a burrowing owl habitat assessment, and general habitat assessments of the potential for sensitive species to occur on site. The methods used to evaluate the biological resources present on site are discussed in this section. The plant and animal species detected on site are presented in Appendices A and B, respectively. Appendix C contains site photographs. Appendix D contains definitions of plant and animal species designations used throughout this document.

2.1 NOMENCLATURE AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Nomenclature used in this report generally follows MSHCP conventions. Vegetation community classifications follow Holland (1986) and the MSHCP (Dudek 2003). Latin names of plants follow Baldwin et al. (2012), and common names follow Hickman or the California Native Plant Society (CNPS; 2018). Sensitive plant and animal status is taken from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; 2018a, b, c, and d) and CNPS (2018). Fauna nomenclature follows Emmel and Emmel (1973) for butterflies, Taggart (2014) for amphibians and reptiles, American Ornithologists' Union (2017) for birds, and Baker et al. (2003) for mammals.

2.2 FIELD SURVEYS

2.2.1 Vegetation and Land Cover Mapping

The vegetation and land cover on the project site was mapped by HELIX biologists Talaya Rachels and Thomas Liddicoat on March 8, 2018. Mapping was performed directly in the field and on an aerial photograph (1"=100' scale) map with an overlay of the property boundary and the proposed project site plan. Mapping unit size was approximately 0.1 acre for uplands.

2.2.2 Jurisdictional Delineation

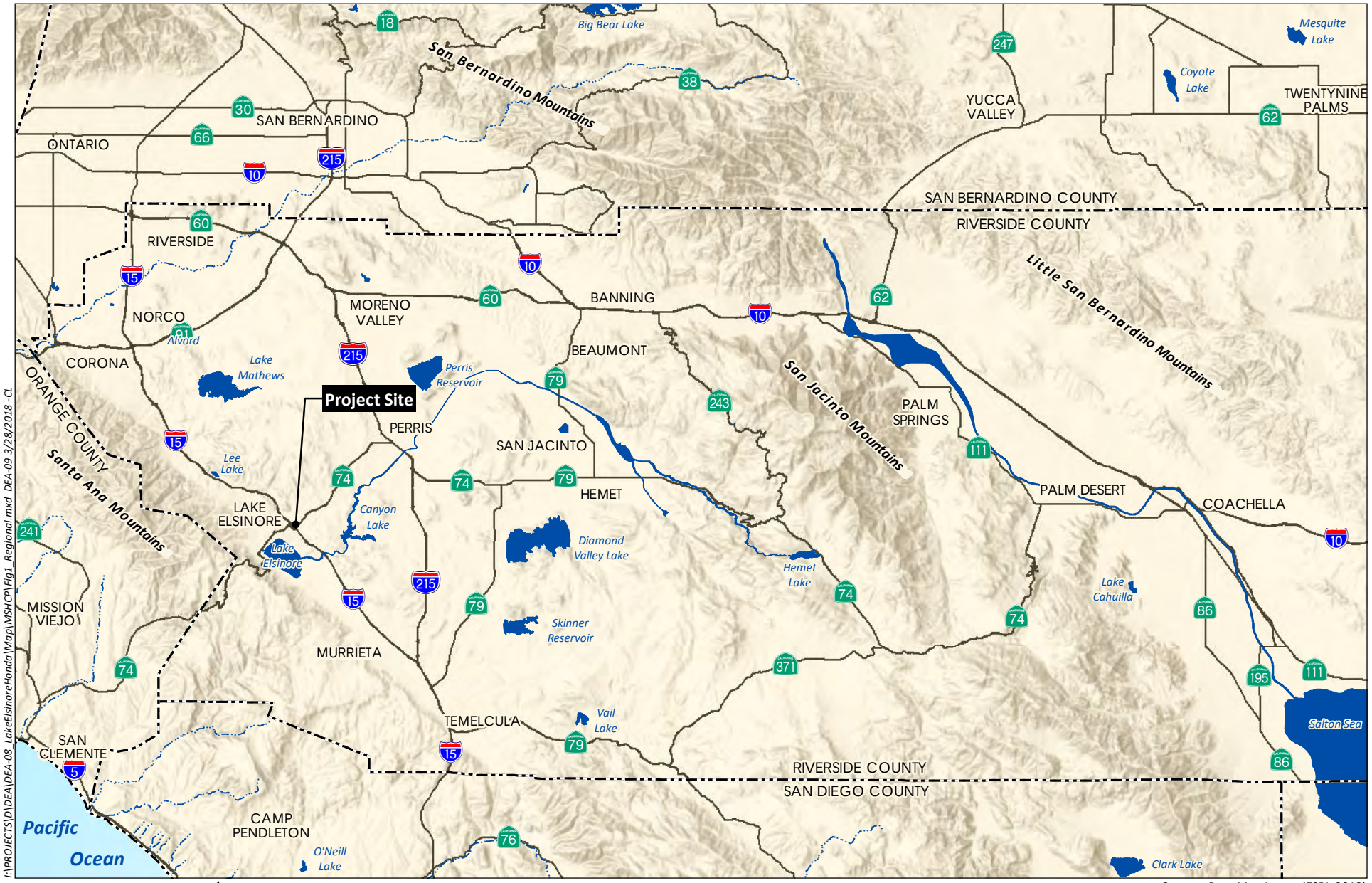
Prior to beginning fieldwork, aerial photographs (historical and current), topographic maps, and National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data were reviewed to determine the location of potential jurisdictional areas that may be located on the project site. The site was traversed on foot and searched for the presence of bed and bank features, an ordinary high water mark (OHWM), riverine drainage patterns, and riparian or wetland vegetation types.

Potential U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) wetland boundaries were determined using the three criteria (i.e., vegetation, hydrology, and soils) established for wetland delineations, as described in the Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and since updated in the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (USACE 2008a). Potential USACE non-wetland boundaries (waters of the U.S.) were determined using methods suggested by the USACE in A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark in the Arid West Region of the Western United States (USACE 2008b). The same methods are used to determine potential Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction in the form of waters of the State.

Potential California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdictional boundaries were determined based on the presence of riparian vegetation or regular surface flow. Streambeds within CDFW jurisdiction were delineated based on the definition of streambed as "a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supporting fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports riparian vegetation" (Title 14, Section 1.72).

2.2.3 Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool Habitat Assessment (MSHCP Section 6.1.2)

The MSHCP defines Riparian/Riverine habitat "as lands which contain Habitat dominated by [trees], shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to or which depend



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Source: Base Map Layers (ESRI, 2013)

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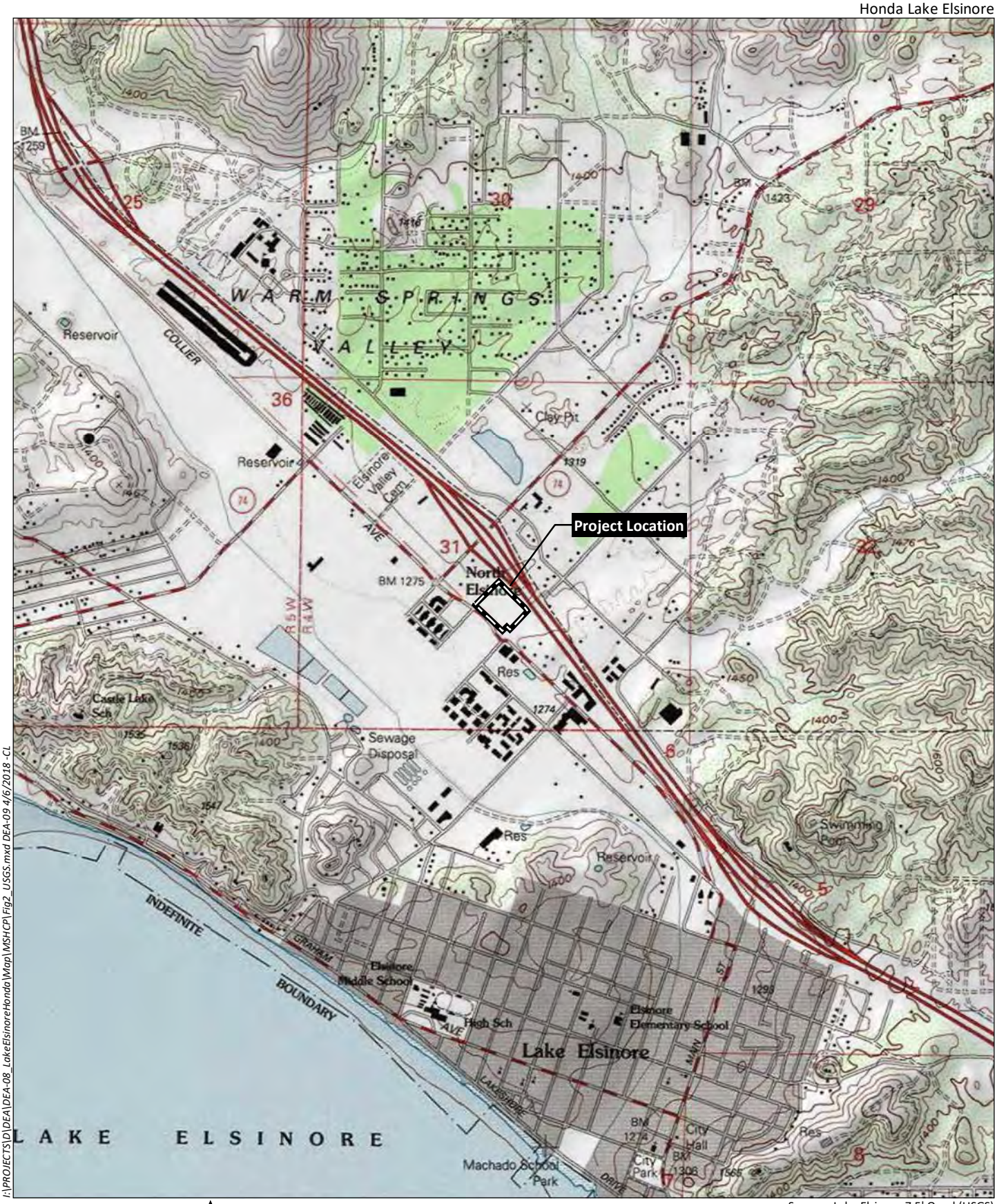
Regional Location

Figure 1



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Source: Lake Elsinore 7.5' Quad (USGS)

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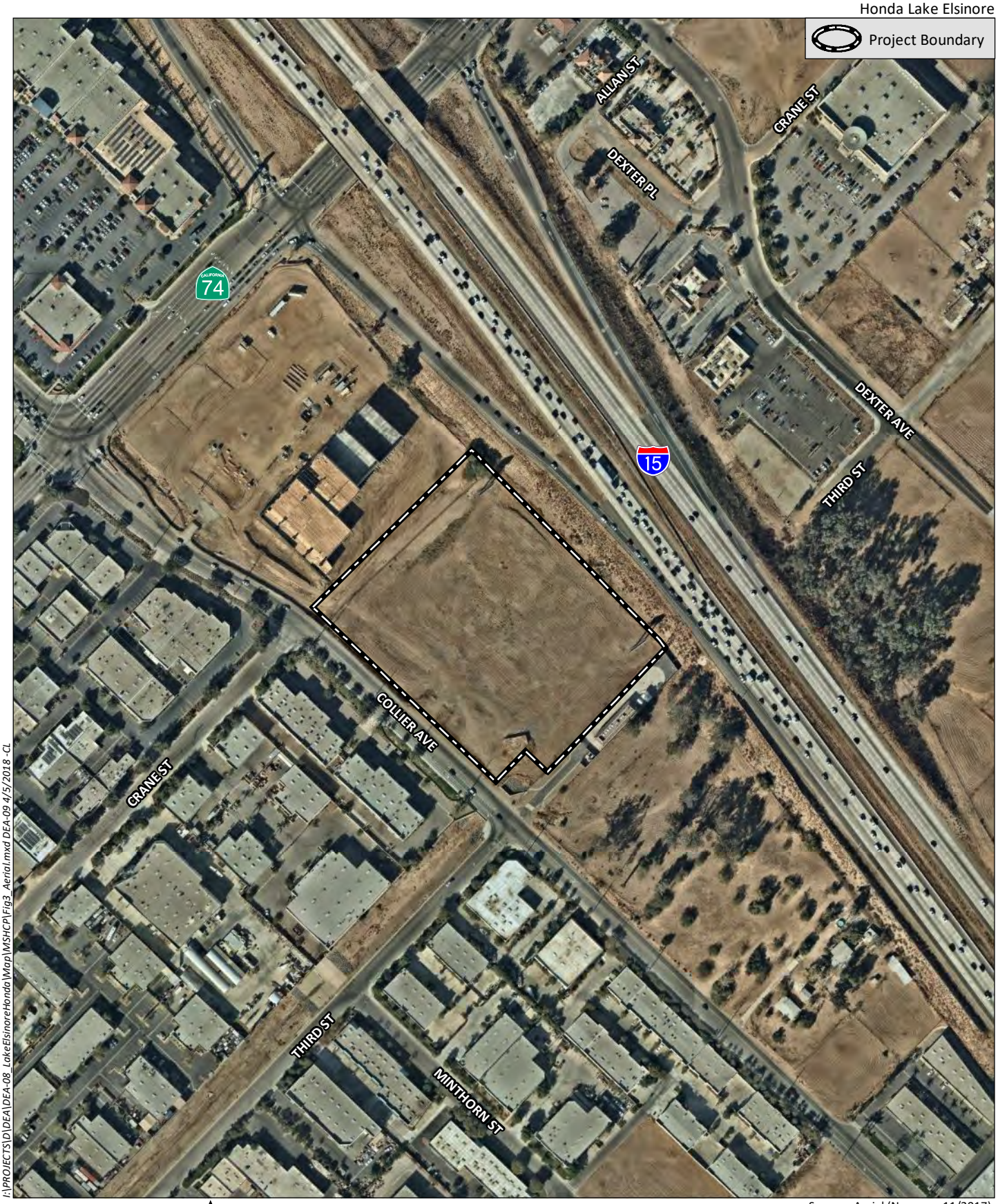
USGS Topography

Figure 2

Honda Lake Elsinore



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Source: Aerial (Nearmap 11/2017).

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Project Vicinity

Figure 3

Source: Aerial (Nearmap 11/2017).

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MSHCP Criteria Map

Figure 4

upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or areas with fresh water flow during all or a portion of the year." The MSHCP defines Vernal Pools as "seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three parameters (soils, vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season" (Dudek 2003).

In accordance with the MSHCP, a Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool habitat assessment was conducted by Ms. Rachels and Mr. Liddicoat during the March 8, 2018 survey. The assessment was conducted concurrently in the field with the jurisdictional delineation and site mapping effort. In similarity to the jurisdictional delineation, topographic maps and satellite photographs of the site were used to aid in the assessment. The on-site evaluation consisted of a directed search for field characteristics indicative of Riparian/Riverine or Vernal Pool habitats. Field indicators include presence of certain plant species, drainage courses, drainage patterns, ponded water, changes in soil character, changes in vegetation character, and deposits of water-borne debris.

Note that the MSHCP states that "areas demonstrating characteristics [of riparian/riverine habitat] which are artificially created are not included in these definitions" of riparian/riverine habitat. The identification of riparian/riverine habitats is based on potential for the habitat to support Riparian/Riverine Covered Species, which are identified in MSHCP Section 6.1.2. These species include least Bell's vireo (LBV; *Vireo bellii pusillus*) and a suite of other animals and plants outlined in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. During the field survey, the site was evaluated for habitat that could support such riparian bird species.

2.2.3.1 Riparian/Riverine Plants

The MSHCP lists 23 sensitive plant species that have potential to occur in Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool habitats. These species are as follows:

- California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*),
- Engelmann oak (Quercus engelmannii),
- Coulter's matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*),
- San Miguel savory (*Clinopodium chandleri*),
- spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*),
- graceful tarplant (*Holocarpha virgata* ssp. *elongata*),
- California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*),
- prostrate navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*),
- San Diego button-celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*),
- Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*),
- thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*),

- Fish's milkwort (*Polygala cornuta* var. *fishiae*),
- lemon lily (*Lilium parryi*),
- San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior*),
- ocellated Humboldt lily (*L. humboldtii ssp. ocellatum*),
- Mojave tarplant (*Deinandra mohavensis*),
- vernal barley (Hordeum intercedens),
- Parish's meadowfoam (*Limnanthes gracilis* var. *parishii*),
- slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*),
- Santa Ana River woolly-star (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*),
- Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*),
- mud nama (*Nama stenocarpum*), and
- smooth tarplant (Centromadia pungens ssp. laevis)

Of these listed species above, three species, San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior)*, slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras),* and smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*) are recorded in the databases as located within two miles of the project site. These species are discussed further in Section 3 herein (Table 1).

2.2.3.2 Riparian Birds

The project site was assessed for habitat that could support sensitive riparian bird species such as: LBV, southwestern willow flycatcher (WIFL; *Empidonax traillii extimus*), and western yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU; *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*).

2.2.3.3 Fairy Shrimp

There are three species of sensitive fairy shrimp that occur in western Riverside County: Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp (*Linderiella santarosae*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*). The property was evaluated for suitable habitat such as vernal pools or ephemeral ponds. Indicators of potential fairy shrimp habitat include but are not limited to mima-mound complexes, depressions, road ruts, algal/biotic crusts, and cracked soils.

2.2.3.4 Fish

The Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) is the only fish shown in the list of MSHCP Riparian/Riverine species. The property was searched for suitable aquatic habitat (i.e., perennial waterways) that could support this species.

2.2.3.5 Amphibians

The MSHCP has three amphibians in the list of Riparian/Riverine species: arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*), and the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). The property was searched for suitable aquatic habitat (i.e., streams, ponds, reservoirs, etc.) that could support these species.

The Riparian/Riverine and vernal pool habitats assessment conducted for the project also included a directed search for the aforementioned species. If any of these species were found present on site, mapping of their location/s and project impact avoidance is required per the MSHCP. If project avoidance is not feasible, then a Determination of Biologically Equivalent Superior Preservation (DBESP) is required to quantify the impacts and establish mitigation for the impacted species.

2.2.4 Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area

The project site is not located within the Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA) prescribed in the MSHCP. Therefore, surveys for NEPSSA species are not required.

2.2.5 Criteria Area Species Survey Area

The project site is not located within a Criteria Area Species Survey Area (CASSA) prescribed in the MSHCP. Therefore, surveys applicable to a CASSA are not required.

2.2.6 Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment

The project site occurs within an area of the MSHCP that requires protocol surveys for the burrowing owl (BUOW; *Athene cunicularia*) if suitable habitat is found to be present. In accordance with the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP (County of Riverside 2006) a Step 1 BUOW assessment was conducted for the project concurrently with the initial general habitats assessment. Furthermore, in order to meet the applicable conditions under Section 6, Volume I of the Western Riverside County MSHCP (County of Riverside 2006), focused surveys (i.e., Step 2) for BUOW should be conducted in accordance with the MSHCP and results of these survey efforts documented in a focused survey report.

2.2.7 Mammal Species Survey Area

The project site is not located within a Mammal Species Survey Area prescribed in the MSHCP. Therefore, surveys for sensitive small mammal species are not required.

3.0 RESULTS

This section addresses the results of research and fieldwork conducted as part of the biological resources technical study, including discussions on the existing conditions and sensitive biological resources that occur or have potential to occur on the project site.

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

The MSHCP lists nine sensitive soil types as occurring within the Plan Area (Dudek 2003). None of the MSHCP sensitive soils occurs on the project site. Two soil types are mapped within the project site: Arbuckle gravelly loam (2 to 9 percent slopes, dry, MLRA 19 and 15 to 25 percent slopes) and Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, (2 to 8 percent slopes; USDA 2013).

3.2 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

No native vegetation communities were identified on site. The project site is comprised of a single land cover type: disturbed land (Figure 5).

3.2.1 Disturbed Land

The entirety of the project site was mapped as disturbed land. According to the MSHCP disturbed lands are grouped together with developed lands and are described as areas that have been disced, cleared, or otherwise altered. Under the MSHCP, developed lands may include roadways, existing buildings, and structures; whereas, disturbed lands typically include ornamental plantings for landscaping, escaped exotics, or ruderal vegetation dominated by non-native, weedy species such as mustard (*Brassica* sp.), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*). Due to the lack of roadways, lack of existing buildings, lack of impervious surfaces, and the predominance of weedy exotic plant species, the site was mapped as disturbed land.

3.3 JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS AND WATERS

The jurisdictional delineation revealed there are no potential jurisdictional wetlands or waters features on the property.

3.4 RIPARIAN/RIVERINE AND VERNAL POOL HABITAT ASSESSMENT

The identification of Riparian/Riverine Areas is based on the potential for onsite habitat to support or contribute to downstream habitat that supports Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas, as identified in MSHCP Section 6.1.2.

Results of the habitat assessment concluded neither Riparian/Riverine nor Vernal Pool habitats exist on site.

3.4.1 Riparian/Riverine Plants

Twenty-three plant species are identified in the MSHCP as potentially occurring in Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool habitats. None of the 23 species occur on the property.

The plant species associated with Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool areas were confirmed to be absent from the site. A number of these species occur in habitats that do not occur on the property (e.g., vernal pools) or have distributions well outside of the property.

None of the 23 MSHCP Riparian/Riverine and Vernal pool plant species were observed on site and none are expected to occur within the project site.

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Source: Aerial (Nearmap 11/2017).

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Vegetation Communities

Figure 5

3.4.2 Riparian Birds

The LBV, WIFL, and YBCU are found in riparian vegetation such as: southern willow scrub, cottonwood forest, mule fat scrub, sycamore alluvial woodland, and arroyo willow riparian forest that typically feature dense cover. The project site does not include any of these vegetation types.

3.4.3 Fairy Shrimp

Vernal pool fairy shrimp occurs throughout the Central Valley and in several disjunct populations in Riverside County. This species exists in vernal pools and other ephemeral basins often located in patches of grassland and agriculture interspersed in Diegan coastal sage scrub and chaparral. Riverside fairy shrimp occurs in Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties, as well as in northern Baja California, Mexico. This species is typically found in deeper vernal pools and other ephemeral basins that hold water for long periods (30 or more days). Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp are strictly limited to the Santa Rosa Plateau.

The site was searched for the presence of vernal pools and vernal pool indicators. Clay soils typically associated with vernal pools are not present on site. No vernal pool or vernal pool indicator species was observed on site.

A few relatively small (i.e., less than 10 square feet) low-lying areas along the eastern portion of the site displayed extremely faint evidence of saturation and surface soil cracking during the field survey conducted on March 8, 2018 (note the survey was within 48 hours following rainfall on site). These low-lying areas are entirely and incidentally man-made as a result of past site grading, discing activities, lack of soil compaction and corresponding site settling; thus, do not constitute vernal pool habitat that would support sensitive vernal pool species. An up-close on site evaluation of these areas suggest they may become saturated/wetted during precipitation events throughout the rainy season, but ponding (i.e., inundation) is not likely due to the lack of depressional topography. Furthermore, a review of historical aerial imagery of the site confirms that ponded areas have not occurred (i.e., naturally or artificially) on site. In conclusion, no vernal pools or vernal pool associated species are expected to occur on site.

3.4.4 Fish

The Santa Ana sucker is restricted to the Santa Ana River watershed with year-round flows. This species generally lives is small shallow streams less than seven meters wide with various current strengths. They require permanent streams with a preferred gravel bottom. They prefer cool, clear water but can tolerate turbid waters. Habitat for this species is not present on site; thus, this species is expected to occur on the project site.

3.4.5 Amphibians

Arroyo toad occur in streams that have breeding pools that are shallow with minimal current. Requirements also include sandy banks with area of minimal vegetative cover. Arroyo toad habitat does not occur on the project site. Mountain yellow-legged frog and California red-legged frog are not known to occur in the project vicinity. The mountain yellow-legged frog occurs in mountain streams and is currently only known within Riverside County in the San Jacinto Mountains. The California red-legged frog is only known within Riverside County on the Santa Rosa Plateau. It requires deep water with

adjacent uplands to move between breeding sites. Habitat for these species does not occur on the project site. None of the MSHCP sensitive amphibian species are expected to occur on the project site.

3.5 NARROW ENDEMIC PLANT SPECIES SURVEY

The project site is not within a NEPSSA survey area.

3.6 CRITERIA AREA PLANT SPECIES SURVEY

The project site is not within a CASSA species survey area.

3.7 BURROWING OWL HABITAT ASSESSMENT

The project site was determined to have low potential to support BUOW. Although burrows with potential to support BUOW were observed in a few scattered locations on site, the overall habitat was poor quality and no BUOW or sign of BUOW were observed during the habitat assessment. With surrounding development and the disturbed nature of the site, it is unlikely that BUOW would occur on site. Nearest CNDDB location is approximately 5 miles south west of the site near the Skylark Airport.

3.8 MAMMAL SPECIES SURVEY

The project site is not within the Mammal Species Survey Area.

3.9 OTHER SENSITIVE SPECIES

A California Natural Diversity Database and USFWS sensitive species quarry within a 2-mile radius of the project site was conducted along with an in-house database search for sensitive plants and animals that have potential to occur in the project vicinity. A list of plant and animal species observed or detected on site during the field survey is included as Appendix A and B, respectively. Below are discussions of the sensitive plants and animals from the database search.

3.9.1 Sensitive Plants

Based on the database searches, a total of 7 sensitive plant species were analyzed for their potential to occur on the site, four of which are federal and/or state listed (Table 1).

Table 1
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitivity Status*	Habitat	Status On Site
Allium munzii	Munz's onion	FE/ST CRPR 1B.1/Covered	Perennial herb (bulb). Grows on clay soils in openings within chaparral, foothill woodland, pinyon juniper woodland, and valley grassland communities. Flowering period: March – May. Elevation: 1,150 to 3,510 feet (350 – 1,070 meters).	**Not Expected.** Appropriate clay soils and vegetation communities not present on site.
Ambrosia pumila	San Diego ambrosia	FE/-- CRPR 1B.1/Covered	Perennial herb (rhizomatous). Occurs in disturbed areas on floodplain terraces and vernal pool margins within chaparral, valley grassland, and coastal sage scrub communities. Flowering: April – October. Elevation: 100 – 2,000 feet (30 – 610 meters).	**Not expected.** Vernal pool habitat not present and property is highly disturbed. This species would have been detected during the field survey.
Atriplex coronata var. *notatior*	San Jacinto Valley crownscale	FE/-- CRPR 1B.1/Covered	Annual herb. Occurs in playas and vernal pools within alkali sink, freshwater wetlands and wetland-riparian. Flowering: March – October. Elevation: 35 – 2,460 feet (10 – 750 meters).	**Not expected.** Suitable wetland habitat or vernal habitat not present on site.

Table 1 (cont.)
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitivity Status*	Habitat	Status On Site
Centromadia pungens ssp. *laevis*	Smooth tarplant	--/-- CRPR 1B.1/Covered	Annual herb. Grows in open, disturbed, poorly drained flats, depressions, and waterway banks and beds within shadscale shrub, alkali sink, and valley grassland communities. Flowers: April – September. Elevation: 165 – 2,885 feet (50 – 880 meters).	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.
Chorizanthe parryi parryi	Parry's spineflower	--/-- CRPR 1B.1/Covered	Annual herb. Occurs in sandy or rocky openings within chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Flowering: April – June. Elevation: 950 – 3,775 feet (290 – 1,150 meters).	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.
Chorizanthe polygonoides longispina	Long-spined spineflower	--/-- CRPR 1B.2/Covered	Annual herb. Occurs on clay soils in meadows within chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and valley grassland communities. Flowering: April – July. Elevation: 360 – 5,280 feet (110 – 1,610 meters).	**Not Expected.** Appropriate clay and meadow habitat not present on site. Property highly disturbed.
Dodecahema leptoceras	Slender-horned spineflower	FE/SE CRPR 1B.1/Covered	Annual herb. Occurs on alluvial-fans within chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities. Flowering: April – June. Elevation: 1,180 – 2,690 feet (360 – 820 meters).	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.

*Refer to Appendix D for an explanation of MSHCP designation and sensitivity status codes

3.9.2 Sensitive Animals

A total of 19 sensitive animal species were analyzed for their potential to occur, none of which were found to be present on site (Table 2).

Table 2
SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitivity Status*	Habitat	Status On Site
INVERTEBRATES				
Euphydrydas editha quino	Quino checkerspot butterfly	FE/--/Covered	Open areas, sparse vegetation, and flowers. Host plants are *Plantago* spp., *Antirrhinum coulterianum*, and *Cordylanthus rigidus.*	**Not expected.** No suitable habitat and host plants not observed on site.
Cicindela senilis frosti	senile tiger beetle	--/SSC	Coastal mud flats, salt marshes, and inland alkali mud flats.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.
VERTEBRATES				
Reptiles and Amphibians				
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	--/SSC	Arid scrub, grasslands, chaparral, and rocky washes/drainages.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.
Aspidoscelis hyperythra	orange-throated whiptail	--/WL	Chaparral, sage scrub, grassland, woodland, and riparian areas.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site. Site is substantially disturbed.
Crotalus ruber	red-diamond rattlesnake	--/SSC	Heavy brush, boulders, can use a variety of habitats; prey density determining factor.	**Low potential.** Site is open, substantially disturbed, and provides limited annual vegetation cover.
Phyrnosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	--/SSC	Grassland, scrub, chaparral, and woodland.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.

Table 2 (cont.)
SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitivity Status*	Habitat	Status On Site
VERTEBRATES (cont.)				
Reptiles and Amphibians (cont.)				
Spea hammondii	western spadefoot	--/SSC/Covered	Grassland, sage scrub, or occasionally chaparral; standing water, puddles, vernal pools, needed for reproduction.	**Not expected.** No standing water or vernal pools occur on site. Site is substantially disturbed open land containing no habitat cover.
Birds				
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	--/WL/Covered	Hillsides, with grassland, sage scrub, or chaparral.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.
Artemisiospiza belli belli	Bell's sage sparrow	--/WL/Covered	Evenly spaced sage scrub or chaparral.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat does not occur on site.

Table 2 (cont.)
SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitivity Status*	Habitat	Status On Site
VERTEBRATES (cont.)				
Birds (cont.)				
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing owl	--/SSC/Covered	Grasslands, fallow agriculture, or areas of sparse perennial cover with burrows (preferably from fossorial mammals)	**Low Potential.** Ground squirrel burrows and squirrel activity on site. However, no perennial cover present as the site is mostly comprised of exotic annual plant species. Site is small and entirely surrounded by existing development. Restricted site size and highly urbanized setting suggest BUOW are unlikely to inhabit the site. Nearest CNDDB location is approximately 5 miles south west of the site near the Skylark Airport.
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus	western snowy plover	FT/SSC	Coastal beaches, sand dune beaches, river mouths, estuaries.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat does not occur on site.
Elanus leucurus	white-tailed kite	--/FP/Covered	Grassland, agriculture with nearby woodland for nesting.	**Not expected.** No trees on site to provide nesting. Site is substantially disturbed and foraging habitat is very limited.

Table 2 (cont.)
SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sensitivity Status*	Habitat	Status On Site
Eremophila alpestris actia	California horned lark	--/WL/Covered	Grassland, agriculture fields, and disturbed fields.	**Present.** A few individuals were observed on site during the field survey.
Icteria virens	yellow-breasted chat	--/SSC/Covered	Wide riparian woodland, dense willow thickets, with well-developed understory.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat not present on site.
Plegadis chihi	white-faced ibis	--/WL/Covered	Shallow marshes, spoils banks, meadows, marshes.	**Not expected**. Suitable habitat not present.
Polioptila californica californica	coastal californica gnatcatcher	FT/SSC/Covered	Mature coastal sage and other scrub varieties.	**Not expected**. Suitable habitat not present.
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	FE/SE/Covered	Dense willow/riparian thickets.	**Not expected**. Suitable habitat not present on site.
Mammals				
Dipodomys stephensi	Stephens' kangaroo rat	FE/ST/Covered	Open grassland scrub areas with sparse perennial cover and loose soil	**Not expected**. Suitable habitat not present on site.
Lepus californicus bennettii	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	--/SSC/Covered	Grassland, agriculture with nearby woodland for nesting.	**Not expected.** Suitable habitat no present on site.

*Please refer to Appendix D for an explanation of MSHCP designation and sensitivity status codes.

4.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT

4.1 FEDERAL

Administered by the USFWS, the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides the legal framework for the listing and protection of species (and their habitats) identified as being endangered or threatened with extinction. Actions that jeopardize endangered or threatened species and the habitats upon which

they rely are considered a "take" under the ESA. Section 9(a) of the ESA defines take as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct." "Harm" and "harass" are further defined in federal regulations and case law to include actions that adversely impair or disrupt a listed species' behavioral patterns.

Sections 4(d), 7, and 10(a) of the federal ESA regulate actions that could jeopardize endangered or threatened species. Section 7 describes a process of federal interagency consultation for use when federal actions may adversely affect listed species. A biological assessment is required for any major construction activity if it may affect listed species. In this case, take can be authorized via a letter of Biological Opinion (BO), issued by the USFWS for non-marine related listed species issues. A Section 7 consultation is required when there is a nexus between federally listed species' use of the site and impacts to USACE jurisdictional areas. Section 10(a) allows the issuance of permits for "incidental" take of endangered or threatened species. The term "incidental" applies if the taking of a listed species is incidental to and not the purpose of an otherwise lawful activity. The MSHCP includes a Section 10(a) permit for this portion of Riverside County, including the City of Elsinore and the subject property.

All migratory bird species that are native to the United States or its territories are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), as amended under the MBTA of 2004 (Federal Register [FR] Doc. 05-5127). This law is generally protective of migratory birds from the direct physical take of the species.

Federal wetland regulation (non-marine issues) is guided by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Rivers and Harbors Act deals primarily with discharges into navigable waters, while the purpose of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of all waters of the U.S. Permitting for projects filling waters of the U.S. (including wetlands and vernal pools) is overseen by the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. Projects may be permitted on an individual basis or may be covered under one of several approved Nationwide Permits. Individual Permits are assessed individually based on the type of action, amount of fill, etc. A CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification, which is administered by the RWQCB, must be issued prior to any 404 Permit. Impacts to waters of the U.S. would result in a need for both a USACE 404 permit and a RWQCB 401 certification.

4.2 STATE

The California ESA is similar to the federal ESA in that it contains a process for listing of species and regulating potential impacts to listed species. Section 2081 of the California ESA authorizes the CDFW to enter into a memorandum of agreement for the take of listed species for scientific, educational, or management purposes. The MSHCP is the regional 2081 for this portion of Riverside County, including the subject property.

State Fully Protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no state licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for collecting these species necessary for scientific research and relocation of the bird species for the protection of livestock (CFG Code Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515).

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) enacted a process by which plants are listed as rare or endangered. The NPPA regulates the collection, transport, and commerce of listed plants.

The California ESA follows the NPPA and covers both plants and animals that are determined to be endangered or threatened with extinction. Plants listed as rare under NPPA were designated threatened under the California ESA.

CFG Code Sections 1600 *et seq*. requires an agreement with CDFW for projects affecting riparian and wetland habitats through the issuance of a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). CFG Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 prohibit the take or possession of birds, their nests, or eggs. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (killing or abandonment of eggs or young) is considered a take. Such a take would also violate federal law protecting migratory birds. Incidental Take Permits are required from the CDFW for projects that may result in the incidental take of species listed by the state as endangered, threatened, or candidate species. The wildlife agencies require that impacts to protected species be minimized to the extent possible and mitigated to a level of insignificance.

The California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act of 1991 is designed to conserve habitat-based natural communities at the ecosystem scale while accommodating compatible land uses in coordination with California ESA. The CDFW is the principal state agency implementing the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program. The Act established a process to allow for comprehensive, long-term, regional, multi-species, and habitat-based planning in a manner that satisfies the requirements of the state and federal ESAs (through a companion regional habitat conservation plan). The NCCP program has provided the framework for innovative efforts by the state, local governments, and private interests to plan for the protection of regional biodiversity and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The NCCP program seek to ensure the long-term conservation of multiple species, while allowing for compatible and appropriate economic activity to proceed. The MSHCP was prepared as part of regional planning pursuant to the NCCP Act.

4.3 WESTERN RIVERSIDE MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The MSHCP is a comprehensive multi-jurisdictional effort that includes Riverside County and multiple cities, including the City of Lake Elsinore in western Riverside County. Rather than address sensitive species on an individual basis, the MSHCP focuses on the conservation of 146 species, proposing a reserve system of approximately 500,000 acres and a mechanism to fund and implement the reserve system (Dudek 2003). Most importantly, the MSHCP allows participating entities to issue take permits for listed species so that individual applicants need not seek their own permits from the USFWS and/or CDFW. The MSHCP was adopted on June 17, 2003, by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. The Incidental Take Permit was issued by both the USFWS and CDFW on June 22, 2004.

As noted above, the project is located within the Elsinore Area Plan of the MSHCP. The property is not within a criteria cell or cell group and, therefore, also not within a subunit of the Elsinore Area Plan. The site is required to show MSHCP compliance through specific habitat assessments, applicable biological surveys, and the provision of an MSHCP compliance analysis.

Additionally, the property is not within a cell and is, therefore, not targeted for conservation that would contribute to the assembly of the MSHCP reserve.

5.0 IMPACTS

This section describes potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the proposed project. Direct impacts immediately alter the affected biological resources such that those resources are eliminated temporarily or permanently. For purposes of this impact analysis direct impact areas are considered 100 percent lost. Indirect impacts consist of secondary effects (i.e., edge effects) of a project including but not limited to: noise, decreased water quality (e.g., through sedimentation, urban contaminants, or fuel release), fugitive dust, colonization of non-native plant species, animal behavioral changes, and night lighting. The magnitude of an indirect impact can be the same as a direct impact; however, the effect usually takes a longer time to become apparent.

According to Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, project impacts to biological resources would be considered significant if they would:

Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW and or USFWS.

- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

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

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

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

5.1 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

The project proposes to directly impact approximately 6.96 acres that consist entirely of disturbed land (Figure 6).

Pursuant to CEQA and the MSHCP, impacts to disturbed lands are not considered significant and do not require mitigation.

5.2 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS AND WETLANDS

No jurisdictional wetlands or waters occur on site; therefore, no impacts would occur.

5.3 MSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

The purpose of this section is to provide an analysis of the project with respect to compliance with biological resources aspects of the MSHCP.

The project was evaluated for consistency with the following MSHCP issue areas:

- MSHCP Reserve Assembly requirements;
- Section 6.1.2 (Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools);
- Section 6.1.3 (Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species);
- Section 6.1.4 (Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface);
- Section 6.3.2 (Additional Survey Needs and Procedures); and
- Section 6.4 (Fuels Management).

The discussions below provide a summary demonstrating how the project is consistent with MSHCP requirements for each of the above-listed issue areas.

5.3.1 MSHCP Reserve Assembly Requirements

The project site is not located within a Cell or Cell Group and does not have target goals for conservation. The project site does not include land conservation requirements to contribute to the MSHCP reserve assembly. No sensitive species were determined to occupy the site that would warrant conservation. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the MSHCP reserve assembly.

5.3.2 MSHCP Section 6.1.2 Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools

Section 6.1.2, Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools, states:

The purpose of the procedures described in this section is to ensure that the biological functions and values of these areas throughout the MSHCP Plan Area are maintained such that Habitat values for species inside the MSHCP Conservation Area are maintained.

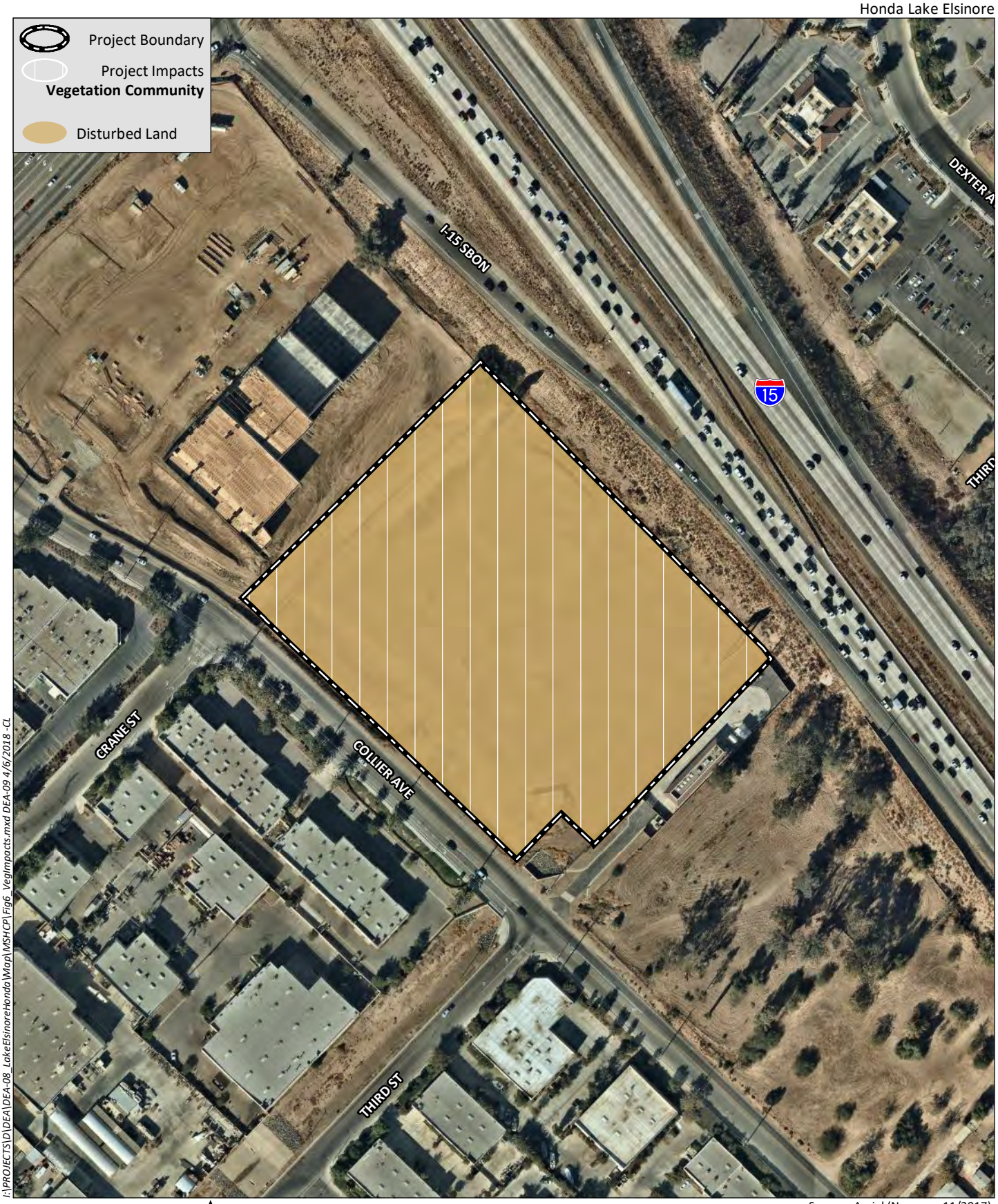
The project site does not support Riparian/Riverine Areas. No vernal pools occur on the property. Therefore, no impacts would occur to Riparian/Riverine Areas or Vernal Pools.

5.3.3 MSHCP Section 6.1.3 Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species

The project is not within a survey area for NEPSSA species. No surveys are required. Nevertheless, no suitable habitat for Narrow Endemic Plant Species occurs on the site and no impacts would occur as a result of the project.

5.3.4 MSHCP Section 6.1.4 Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface

Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP addresses potential indirect impacts to MSHCP Conservation Area lands via the Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (UWIG). The project site does not occur adjacent to an MSHCP Conservation Area. The project is not within or adjacent to a MSHCP criteria cell. The UWIG guidelines are discussed to show how the project will reduce/prevent potential impacts to off-site conservation areas.



Source: Aerial (Nearmap 11/2017).

HELIX Environmental Planning

Vegetation Communities/Impacts

Figure 6

Drainage

Although the project does not directly drain into an MSHCP Conservation Area, storm water flows from the site could ultimately reach a downstream Conservation Area. The project will incorporate measures, including those required through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff discharged to the MSHCP Conservation Area (tributaries to Lake Elsinore) is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions. In particular, measures will be put in place to avoid discharge of untreated surface runoff from the project into the MSHCP Conservation Area. As such, the project proposes to construct two green-scape bio swales on the northwestern portion of the property, which are designed to capture most all on site storm water flows and prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes within the MSHCP Conservation Area.

Toxics

The project does not propose toxic impacts to sensitive species habitats; however, the post-project site uses will include use of chemicals or generation of bio-products such as oil from impervious surfaces and cars that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat, or water quality. Measures such as those employed to address drainage issues above will be implemented to ensure no indirect impacts from toxic substances occur to species or their habitat.

Lighting

The project does not occur close to a conservation area; therefore, this does not apply.

Invasives

The project shall not use invasive plants for erosion control, landscaping, wind rows, or other purposes. The project will comply with the MSHCP and avoid the use of invasive, non-native plants in accordance with MSHCP Table 6.2.

Barriers

The project site is not anticipated to directly abut MSHCP Conservation Area, therefore, this does not apply.

Grading/Land Development

The project site is not anticipated to directly abut MSHCP Conservation Area, therefore, this does not apply.

5.3.5 MSHCP Section 6.3.2 Additional Survey Needs and Procedures

Burrowing Owl

The MSHCP requires a habitat assessment and survey if burrowing habitat occurs on site. The project site was determined to have low potential for BUOW due to the lack of perennial vegetation cover, the heavily urbanized setting of the site (surrounded by development), restricted site size, disturbed

character, and high amount of ground squirrel activity. Additionally, the nearest CNDDB record of BUOW is approximately 5 miles to the south west near the Skylark Airport. Although the habitat on site is of low quality and presence of BUOW inhabiting the site is low, focused protocol BUOW surveys should be conducted in accordance with the MSHCP (See Section 2.2.6 herein). Pre-construction take avoidance surveys shall be proposed in accordance with MSHCP requirements.

Least Bell's Vireo

The MSHCP requires that LBV surveys be conducted on project sites that include riparian habitat with potential to support the species. The project site does not support riparian habitat with potential to support the species. Therefore, no impacts to LBV would occur as a result of the project. Similarly, no suitable habitat for SWFL and YBCU occur on site and no impacts would occur to these riparian-associated species.

Small Mammals

If the project site is located within the Mammal Species Survey Area (MSSA) for the MSHCP, focused surveys for the three sensitive MSHCP small mammal species are required on project sites that include suitable habitat with potential to support the species. The project site does not occur in the MSHCP MSSA and the site does not provide suitable habitat for sensitive MSHCP mammal species. Therefore, no impacts would occur to sensitive small mammals.

5.3.6 MSHCP Section 6.4 Fuels Management

Due to the lack of surrounding open space vegetation and the fact the site is an "in-fill" project surrounded by existing development, a fuel modification zone is not incorporated as part of the proposed project. Additionally, the proposed project impact limits will not extend into undeveloped land adjacent to the project that has potential to support sensitive species. The proposed project is consistent with Section 6.4 of the MSHCP.

5.4 NESTING BIRDS

Development of the proposed project could disturb or destroy active migratory bird nests including eggs and young. Disturbance to or destruction of migratory bird eggs, young, or adults is in violation of the MBTA and is, therefore, considered to be a potentially significant impact.

6.0 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Proposed mitigation measures listed below shall reduce potential project significant impacts to a level below significant.

6.1 SENSITIVE SPECIES

6.1.1. Burrowing Owl

To ensure the project does not result in direct impacts to BUOWs potentially occurring on site, MSHCP Step II focused surveys and Step III a pre-construction survey should be conducted in accordance with mitigation measure BIO 1.

BIO 1: Focused Survey, Pre-Construction Survey, and Avoidance. Prior to receiving a final grading permit, the project applicant shall conduct a focused survey for BUOW in accordance with the MSHCP provisions (County of Riverside 2006). Additionally, within 30 days prior to initiating ground-disturbance activities, the project applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to complete a pre-construction take avoidance survey in accordance with the MSHCP. If the take avoidance survey is negative and BUOWs are confirmed to be absent, then ground-disturbing activities shall be allowed to commence, and no further mitigation would be required.

If the surveys are positive and BUOWs are confirmed to be present on site, the project applicant shall consult with the CDFW and prepare and implement a project-specific BUOW mitigation plan. The plan shall be reviewed and approved by the CDFW. To avoid take, any impacted individuals shall be relocated outside of the impact area by a qualified biologist using passive or active methodologies approved by CDFW. The project applicant shall further mitigate BUOW-occupied habitat in accordance with the MSHCP.

6.1.2 Nesting Birds

Implementation of mitigation measure BIO 2 would ensure that potential impacts to birds protected under the MBTA and CFG Code are avoided during project construction.

BIO 2: **Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey and Avoidance**. Vegetation clearing should be conducted outside the nesting season, which is generally defined as February 15 to August 31. If vegetation clearing must take place during the nesting season, a qualified biologist shall perform a pre-construction survey for nesting birds no more than seven days prior to vegetation impacts.

If active bird nests are confirmed to be present during the pre-construction survey, temporary avoidance of the nests shall be required until a qualified biologist has verified that the young have fledged, or the nest has otherwise become inactive.

6.2 NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES RESTRICTIONS

In accordance with the MSHCP, no species on List 6.2 of the MSHCP shall be utilized on the site (including any hydroseed mix used for interim erosion control) for consistency with Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP.

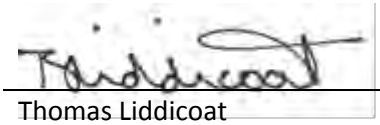
6.3 MSHCP MITIGATION FEE

As mentioned above, the project is subject to the MSHCP fee. The applicant shall pay MSHCP Local Development Mitigation fees as determined by the City. The fee schedule is adjusted annually by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and was recently adjusted. When multiple

uses are proposed, the commercial per acre fee is used. The current fee is $6,914 per acre for industrial or commercial uses (Regional Conservation Authority 2017).

7.0 CERTIFICATION/QUALIFICATION

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: April 25, 2018 SIGNED: 

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Appendix A

Plant Species Observed

Appendix A
Plant Species Observed

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
Angiosperms–Dicots		
Amaranthaceae	*Amaranthus albus*	pigweed amaranth
Asteraceae	*Ambrosia psilostachya*	western ragweed
	Carduus pycnocephalus	Italian thistle
	Centaurea melitensis	tocalote
	Helianthus annuus	common sunflower
	Pectocarya peniillata	winged comb seed
Brassicaceae	*Brassica nigra*	black mustard
	Descurainia pinnata	western tansy mustard
	Hirschfeldia incana	field mustard
Convulvulaceae	*Datura wrightii*	jimsonweed
Euphorbiaceae	*Euphorbia albomarginata*	rattlesnake sandmat
	Croton setiger	dove weed
Fabaceae	*Melilotus indica*	Indian sweet clover
Geraniaceae	*Erodium cicutarium*	red-stem filaree
Polygonaceae	*Rumex crispus*	curly dock
Angiosperms–Monocots		
Poaceae	*Hordeum murinum*	foxtail barley

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Appendix B

Animal Species Observed or Detected

Appendix B
Animal Species Observed or Detected

Taxon		Scientific Name†	Common Name
Order	**Family**		
INVERTEBRATES			
Hymenoptera	Formicidae	*Linepithema humile*	Argentine ant
VERTEBRATES			
Birds			
Apodiformes	Trochilidae	*Calypte anna*	Anna's hummingbird
	Alaudidae	*Eremophila alpestris*	horned lark
	Corvidae	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	American crow
		Corvus corax	common raven
	Emberizidae	*Aeronautes saxatalis*	white-crowned sparrow
		Melospiza melodia	song sparrow
	Fringillidae	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	house finch
		Spinus psaltria	lesser goldfinch
	Parulidae	*Setophaga coronata*	yellow-rumped warbler
	Passerellidae	*Melospiza melodia*	song sparrow
	Passeridae	*Passer domesticus*	house sparrow
	Tyrannidae	*Sayornis nigricans*	black Phoebe
Mammals			
Lagomorpha	Leporidae	*Sylvilagus audubonii*	desert cottontail
Rodentia	Sciuridae	*Spermophilus beecheyi*	California ground squirrel

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Appendix C

Site Photographs

Photo 1. Looking north across disturbed land on site, facing adjacent development.

Photo 2. Looking northeast along southeast limit of site.

Photo 3. Looking southwest across site, facing Collier Avenue.

Photo 4. Looking west across site, facing Collier Avenue and Crane Street.

Photo 5. Looking northwest across site, facing adjacent development.

Photo 6. Looking northeast across disturbed land on site.

Appendix D

Explanation of Status Codes for Plant and Animal Species

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)

BCC Birds of Conservation Concern
FE Federally listed endangered
FT Federally listed threatened

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW)

SE State listed endangered
ST State listed threatened
SSC State species of special concern
WL Watch List
FP Fully Protected

MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (MSHCP) COVERED

MSHCP Covered indicates that the species is part of a proposed list of species (146 total) considered at this time to be adequately conserved by the Western Riverside MSHCP, provided that participants meet all conditions listed in the Final MSHCP.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Codes

Lists

1A = Presumed extinct.

1B = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. Eligible for state listing.

2 = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere. Eligible for state listing.

3 = Distribution, endangerment, ecology, and/or taxonomic information needed. Some eligible for state listing.

4 = A watch list for species of limited distribution. Needs monitoring for changes in population status. Few (if any) eligible for state listing.

List/Threat Code Extensions

.1 = Seriously endangered in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)

.2 = Fairly endangered in California (20 to 80 percent occurrences threatened)

.3 = Not very endangered in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened, or no current threats known)

A CA Endemic entry corresponds to those taxa that only occur in California.

All List 1A (presumed extinct in California) and some List 3 (need more information; a review list) plants lacking threat information receive no threat code extension. Threat Code guidelines represent only a starting point in threat level assessment. Other factors, such as habitat vulnerability and specificity, distribution, and condition of occurrences are considered in setting the Threat Code.

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