APPENDIX C
Biological Resources Technical Report

LAKE ELSINORE WALMART PROJECT

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Prepared for
City of Lake Elsinore

March 2014

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LAKE ELSINORE WALMART PROJECT
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1. Introduction

This report has been prepared to document biological resources that could be affected within the limits of project. This report describes the environmental setting of the project area, including plant communities, habitats, and sensitive biological resources determined to be present, as well as those that have a potential to be present; and the applicable regulatory framework. Impacts to sensitive biological resources are categorized based on biological resource issues that are required to be analyzed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), including sensitive plants, wildlife, and natural communities, wetland resources, local policies and ordinances, and wildlife movement corridors.

2. Project Description

The proposed project would construct and operate a retail center providing a Walmart anchor store and three freestanding retail tenants on an undeveloped 17.66-acre site that is zoned for General Commercial (C-2) and Commercial Mixed Use (CMU). The proposed retail anchor Walmart store would be 154,487 square feet (sq ft); and two different options are being considered for the outer lot planned for the northwestern corner of the project site, at the intersections of Central Avenue and Cambern Avenue. Option A would provide for a gas station with 16 fueling stations, an approximately 3,100 sq ft convenience store, and a drive-through car wash. Option B would include approximately 9,200 sq ft of retail and/or restaurant space situated within two buildings. The remaining two outer lots would be improved with drive-through restaurants of approximately 3,700 sq ft and 3,100 sq ft.

3. Methodology

3.1 Literature and Database Review

Preliminary investigations were conducted by ESA and included a review of aerial photographs, United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps, and literature and database searches that included a review of the MSHCP (RCIP 2004).

Databases queried included the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

(CDFW)[1] California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). These databases were queried for special-status species records in the Lake Elsinore USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. "Special-status" species are defined as plants and animals that are legally protected by regulations and are categorized as follows:

- Plants or animals covered by the MSHCP,
- Plants or animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA (50 Code of Federal regulations [CFR] 17.12 [listed plants], 17.11 [listed animals];
- Plants or animals that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA (61 FR 40, February 28, 1996);
- Plants or animals listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the CESA (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 670.5);
- Plants listed as rare or endangered under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.);
- Plants that meet the definitions of rare and endangered under CEQA (state CEQA Guidelines, Section 15380);
- Plants considered by the CNPS to be "rare, threatened or endangered in California" (Lists 1A, 1B, and 2 in CNPS Inventory 2014);
- Plants listed by CNPS as plants about which more information is needed to determine their status and plants of limited distribution (Lists 3 and 4 in CNPS 2014), which may be included as special-status species on the basis of local significance or recent biological information; and
- Animals fully protected in California (California Fish and Game Code, Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], and 5050 [reptiles and amphibians]).

The MSHCP Online Conservation Report Generator and Riverside County Land Information System (RCLIS) databases were queried to determine the specific requirements for compliance with the policies of the MSHCP as described in Volume 1, Chapter 6 Implementation Structure (RCIP 2004), i.e. Reserve Assembly (6.1.1); Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pools (6.1.2); Narrow Endemic Plants (6.1.3); Urban/Wildlands Interface (6.1.4); and Additional Survey Needs (6.2.3).

From these queries a list of target special-status species was developed for the project area. Target special-status species were defined as having a geographic range and habitat similar to those found within the project area and thus have potential to occur on the project site.

USGS topographic maps, current and historical aerial photographs, and other data (including digital images derived from aerial photography with orthographic projection properties) were used in conjunction with ESA's in-house geographic information system (GIS) database as a base layer to identify soils, topography, previously mapped vegetation communities, previously recorded locations of sensitive plant and animal species, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[1] The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) changed its name on January 1, 2013 to The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In this document, references to literature published by CDFW prior to Jan. 1, 2013 are cited as 'CDFG'. The agency is otherwise referred to by its new name, CDFW.

(USFWS)-designated critical habitat boundaries. After reviewing the available background data, ESA conducted a general biological habitat assessment (described below).

3.2 General Biological Resource Surveys

A general biological reconnaissance survey was conducted by ESA biologists on January 10, 2014, within the limits of the project site plus a 500-foot buffer (Study Area). The survey was conducted to identify potential environmental and regulatory constraints associated with development of the proposed project, and included walking belt transects spaced ten meters apart throughout the Study Area. Special attention was paid to identifying any habitats potentially supporting sensitive flora or fauna that would be essential to efficiently implementing the terms and conditions of the MSHCP, CEQA, and water/wetland features potentially subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CDFW, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Aerial photography and Geographic Positioning System (GPS) technology was used to accurately locate and survey the Study Area. General plant communities were preliminarily mapped directly on the aerial photographs using visible landmarks in the field (as described below). Representative photographs of the natural resources observed within the Study Area were also taken during the field survey.

3.3 Plant Community/Habitat Classification and Mapping

ESA biologists characterized and mapped plant communities within the Study Area in January 2014. Onsite plant communities were mapped by ESA in order to assess the current site conditions and evaluate the potential for special-status plants and wildlife to utilize the Study Area. Mapping was conducted with the aid of aerial photographs and GPS technology using the MSHCP Uncollapsed Vegetation classification system (MSHCP 2004, *Table 2-1 - Summary of Collapsed and Uncollapsed Vegetation Communities Classifications*). All plants observed during the reconnaissance survey were either identified in the field or a sample was collected and later identified with the aid of taxonomic keys. Plant taxonomy follows Hickman (1993), as updated in Baldwin, et al. (2012).

3.4 General Wildlife Inventory

A general wildlife inventory was conducted during the January 2014 reconnaissance survey; however, no focused wildlife surveys were conducted at that time. Wildlife identified during the reconnaissance surveys by sight, call, tracks, nests, scat, remains, or other sign were recorded in field notes. All wildlife was identified in the field with the aid of binoculars and taxonomic keys (if applicable). Vertebrate taxonomy followed in this report is according to Stebbins (1985) for amphibians and reptiles, the American Ornithologists' Union (1983, and supplemental) for birds, and Jones et al. (1997) for mammals.

3.5 Jurisdictional Assessment

To identify potential jurisdiction resource areas, ESA conducted a review of available background information pertaining to the project layout and geography prior to conducting reconnaissance survey. Site maps were generated on aerial photographs and potentially jurisdictional features were highlighted in ArcGIS to assist in field verification. The project area

was assessed for potentially jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the U.S./state based on the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, stream geomorphology, ordinary high water mark (OHWM), connectivity to traditionally navigable waters, and other appropriate hydrologic indicators. ESA biologists conducted a site visit on January 10, 2014, to evaluate potentially jurisdictional features within the Study Area. The jurisdictional analysis was conducted consistent with *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory, 1987). The definition of growing season and the basis of determining and recording indicators for hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology was based on the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0)*, as well as the *Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States* (USACE, 2008a; USACE, 2008b). The 1987 USACE Manual, Arid West Supplement, and Field Guide to the OHWM were used for the analysis and evaluation of any normal circumstances, atypical situations, and problem areas, as needed. No pits for hydric soils were excavated onsite because no hydrophytic vegetation was found onsite. It was concluded in the field, based on the absence of hydrophytic vegetation, that no federal wetlands occur onsite and the need for hydric soils analysis was not necessary (as discussed in Section 4.3). The limits of potential jurisdictional features were recorded in the field with a hand-held Trimble™ GeoXH GPS with sub-foot accuracy.

Areas of CDFW jurisdiction pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Section 1600 of the Fish and Game Code refer to streambed and bank, and associated riparian habitats. Any areas mapped as USACE-jurisdictional would also be considered under the jurisdiction of CDFW.

3.6 Regional Connectivity/Wildlife Habitat Linkages

The analysis of wildlife habitat linkages associated with the Study Area is based on information compiled from literature, including MSHCP-mapped habitat linkages (*Figure 3-2, Schematic Cores and Linkages Map* in the MSHCP [2004]); analysis of aerial photographs; and direct observations (including sign, tracks and physical movement barriers, including recent development) made in the field during the reconnaissance survey. This information was crucial to assessing the relationship of the project site to large open space areas in the immediate vicinity. The discussions in this report are intended to focus on wildlife movement associated with the property and the immediate vicinity.

4. Environmental Setting

4.1 Regional Setting

The proposed project is located in a moderately developed portion of the City of Lake Elsinore in western Riverside County within the San Jacinto Valley watershed. Regional geographic features around the area include Lake Elsinore and the Cleveland National Forest to the south and west, Canyon Lake to the east, and scattered pockets of development in all directions.

Climate

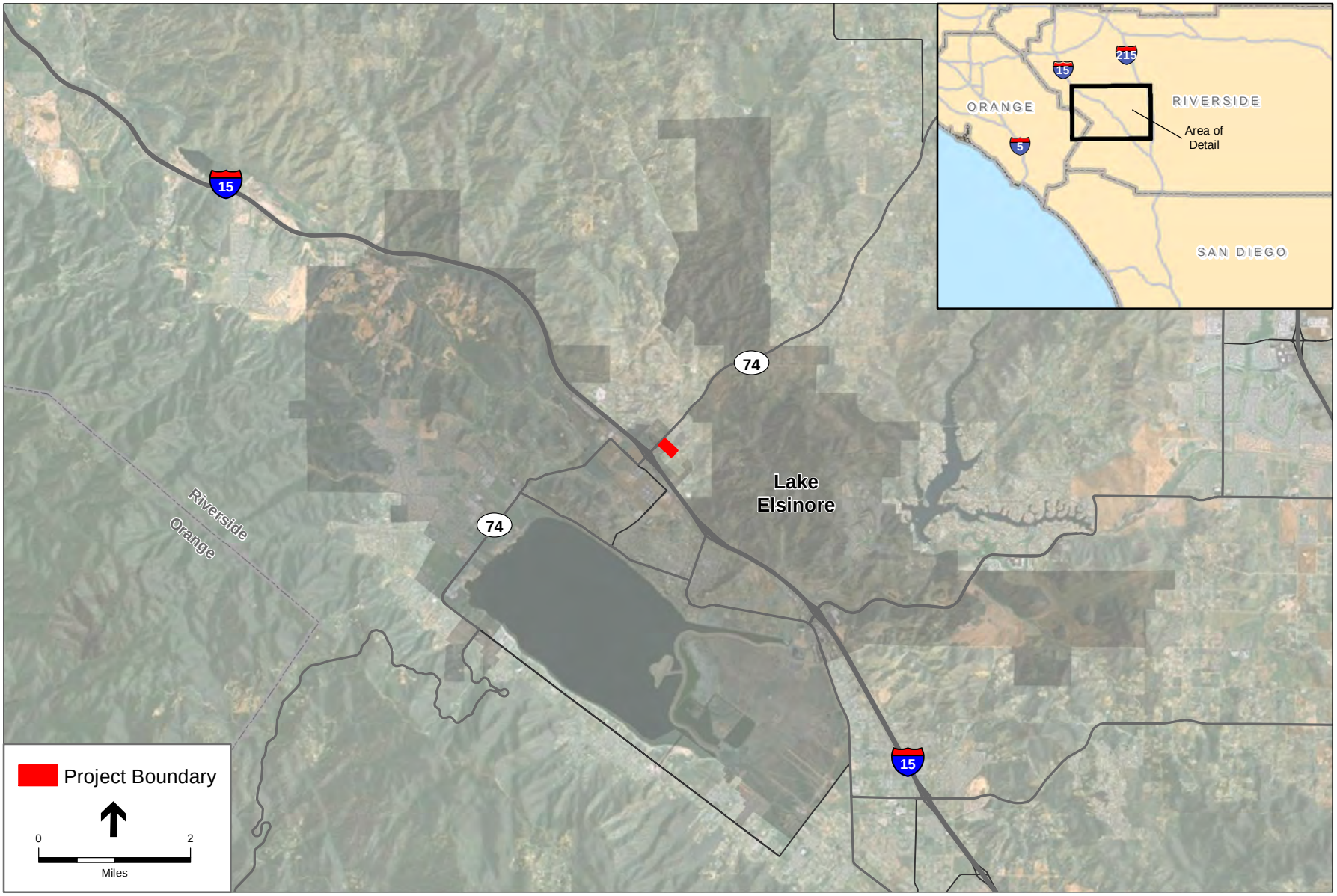
The general region lies in the semi-permanent high-pressure zone of the eastern Pacific, resulting in a mild climate tempered by cool sea breezes with light average wind speeds. The usually mild climate is interrupted occasionally by periods of extremely hot weather, winter storms, or Santa Ana winds. The project site is in a climatic zone characterized as dry summer subtropical or Mediterranean. The project site is located in the interior valleys of Southern California where the climate is only slightly influenced by the ocean, and the temperature swing over the year is more extreme, with hotter summers and colder winters than the coastal climates to its west.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Vegetation communities typically found within the region include a mosaic of xeric habitats such as sage scrub, grassland, and chaparral with the occasional riparian or woodland habitat associated with riverine features and/or the fringes of larger bodies of water. Habitats throughout the region are known to support a wide variety of common plants and wildlife as well as many special-status species protected by federal, state and local policies.

4.2 Local Setting

The project is located within Township 5S, Range 4W, Section 31 of the USGS Lake Elsinore 7.5-minute topographic map within a moderately urbanized portion of the City of Lake Elsinore just southeast of Highway 74 and northeast of Interstate 15 (Figures 1 and 2). The project includes Assessor's parcel numbers (APNs) 377-030-015, 377-030-076, 377-090-009, 377-090-029, 377-090-030, 377-090-031, and 377-090-032. Elevation in the project area ranges from approximately 1,300 feet (396 meters) above mean sea level (amsl) in the south to approximately 1,320 feet (402 meters) amsl in the north (Google Earth, 2014).



SOURCE: ESRI

Lake Elsinore Walmart EIR Bio Tech Report . D130767

Figure 1

Regional Location Map

SOURCE: ESRI

Lake Elsinore Walmart EIR Bio Tech Report . D130767

Figure 2

Project Location Map

Soils and Vernal Pools

The Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) of the project site identified two soil series mapped within the boundary of the Site: Arbuckle and Garretson (Table 1). The extent and locations of these soils on the project site can be seen in Figure 3. Although these soil types are not typically associated with vernal pool complexes, the project site was assessed for the potential to support vernal pools. The biological surveys did not reveal the presence of vernal pool indicators (i.e., depressions, cracking of surface soils, or other evidence of pooling or ponding). An analysis of historical aerials (Google Earth 2014) showed that the project site is maintained through ongoing disking, tilling and mowing, thus aerating the soils to allow percolation of stormwater. The well-drained, aerated soils in combination with the absence of clay lenses or other restrictive layers make the potential for vernal pool resources low. The soil series onsite are not included in the MSHCP sensitive soil types (MSHCP 2004, *Figure 2-4*) and are not considered hydric per the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National List of Hydric Soils (USDA, 2012).

TABLE 1
SOIL SERIES ONSITE[1]

Series	Code	Description
Arbuckle	AIC	Arbuckle gravelly loam 2 to 8 percent slopes
	AID	Arbuckle gravelly loam 8 to 15 percent slopes
Garretson	GdC	Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes

1 All nomenclature follows standards outlined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Official Soils Series Descriptions

Arbuckle: Soils in this series are very deep, well drained and formed in alluvial materials from mainly conglomerate and meta-sedimentary rocks. Typically found in association with annual grasses and forbs either alone or as an understory with open to dense oak woodlands. These soils are also used for row crops and pasture.

Garretson: Soils in this series are well drained with slow to medium runoff and moderate permeability. Typically found in association with naturalized vegetation in untilled areas such as annual grasses and forbs, or native vegetation such as chamise, scattered oak trees, and shrubs. It's widely used for the production of deciduous fruit, citrus fruit, avocados, irrigated field crops, alfalfa, and for homesites.

Plant Communities and Habitats

As defined by Table 2-1 in the MSHCP, two dominant plant communities occur within the Study Area: non-native grassland and eucalyptus grove. Also found within the Study Area are areas disturbed by heavy amounts of anthropogenic activities. Descriptions of each community found within the Study Area are discussed below. Figure 4 illustrates all onsite plant communities.

SOURCE: ESRI, Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO)

Figure 3
Soils Map

SOURCE: ESRI, ESA 2014

Figure 4
Existing Biological Resources Map

Non-Native Grassland

Non-native grassland within the Study Area is highly disturbed and generally dominated by invasive, non-native annual herbaceous species, including tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and several brome species (*Bromus* spp.). This habitat also contains scattered remnant patches of native scrub and herbaceous species including common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), common sandaster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and goldenbush (*Ericameria* sp.). A total of 9.7 acres of non-native grassland occur within the project site. A complete list of plant species observed onsite is included in Appendix A. Representative photographs of this plant community are included in Appendix C.

Eucalyptus Grove

The eucalyptus grove within the Study Area is co-dominated by red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), and has little to no shrub or herbaceous understory. The few herbaceous species found beneath the eucalyptus canopy include pretty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and several species of brome. A total of 2.8 acres of eucalyptus grove occur within the project site. A complete list of plant species observed onsite is included in Appendix A. Representative photographs of this plant community are included in Appendix C.

Disturbed Areas

Disturbed areas generally include lands on which the native vegetation has been significantly altered or removed by human activities. Within the Study Area disturbed habitat includes graded patches of bare ground, sparsely vegetated footpaths, unpaved access roads, margins surrounding development, and the recently removed residential dwellings and gavel groundcover on the southern half of the project site. Plant species are sparse in these areas, what exists are similar species found in the non-native grassland and eucalyptus grove communities described above. A total of 5.1 acres of disturbed areas occur within the project site. Representative photographs of the disturbed areas are included in Appendix C.

Common Wildlife

The Study Area supports a variety of common wildlife species typically found within the urban environments and xeric scrub/grassland habitats of western Riverside County. Common wildlife detected or observed during the reconnaissance surveys included avian species such as turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*); and mammals such as California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). Two large stick nests were observed within the eucalyptus grove onsite (Figure 4 and Appendix C). Neither nest was occupied as the biological reconnaissance survey was conducted outside of the avian nesting season (February 1 – September 1); however, there is potential that raptors protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code could utilize the nest during the nesting season as raptors exhibit nest fidelity. A complete list of all wildlife species detected or observed within the Study Area can be found in Appendix B.

Sensitive Natural Communities

Sensitive natural communities include riparian habitat or other communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or designated by the CDFW and USFWS. Of the plant communities in the Study Area - non-native grassland, eucalyptus grove, and disturbed - none are considered sensitive and are not specifically designated protection under federal, state, local or regional plans.

Special-Status Species

Based on the literature/database review and habitat suitability determined by the subsequent reconnaissance survey/mapping described in Section 3, several special-status species, as described in the following subsections have the potential to occur in the Study Area. The CNDDB recorded occurrences for special-status plants and wildlife within 2.5 miles of the project site, along with additional USFWS data, are depicted in Figure 5.

The "Potential for Occurrence" category referenced in Tables 2 and 3 of the following sections is defined as follows:

- **Not Expected:** The project site and/or immediate vicinity do not support suitable habitat for a particular species, and therefore the project is unlikely to impact this species.
- **Low Potential:** The project site and/or immediate vicinity only provide limited habitat for a particular species and impacts to this species from the project are unlikely. In addition, the known range for a particular species may be outside of the immediate vicinity.
- **Moderate Potential:** The project site and/or immediate vicinity provide suitable habitat for a particular species, and the project may impact this species. Mitigation will likely avoid potential impacts.
- **High Potential:** The project site and/or immediate vicinity provide ideal habitat conditions for a particular species and/or known populations occur in the project area and/or immediate vicinity. The project may impact this species. Mitigation will likely avoid potential impacts.
- **Present:** The species was observed within the project site and/or immediate vicinity during relevant biological surveys.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- coastal California gnatcatcher *(Polioptila californica californica)*
- least Bell's vireo *(Vireo bellii pusillus)*
- quino checkerspot butterfly *(Euphydryas editha quino)*
- Stephens' kangaroo rat *(Dipodomys stephensi)*

California Natural Diversity Database

1. Bell's sage sparrow *(Artemisiospiza belli belli)*
2. California horned lark *(Eremophila alpestris actia)*
3. Cooper's hawk *(Accipiter cooperii)*
4. Coulter's goldfields *(Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri)*
5. Munz's onion *(Allium munzii)*
6. Parry's spineflower *(Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi)*
7. San Diego ambrosia *(Ambrosia pumila)*
8. San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit *(Lepus californicus bennettii)*
9. San Jacinto Valley crownscale *(Atriplex coronata var. notatior)*
10. Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest *(Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest)*
11. Stephens' kangaroo rat *(Dipodomys stephensi)*
12. coast horned lizard *(Phrynosoma blainvillii)*
13. coastal California gnatcatcher *(Polioptila californica californica)*
14. least Bell's vireo *(Vireo bellii pusillus)*
15. long-spined spineflower *(Chorizanthe polygonoides var. longispina)*
16. orangethroat whiptail *(Aspidoscelis hyperythra)*
17. quino checkerspot butterfly *(Euphydryas editha quino)*
18. red-diamond rattlesnake *(Crotalus ruber)*
19. rosy boa *(Charina trivirgata)*
20. round-leaved filaree *(California macrophylla)*
21. senile tiger beetle *(Cicindela senilis frosti)*
22. slender-horned spineflower *(Dodecahema leptoceras)*
23. smooth tarplant *(Centromadia pungens ssp. laevis)*
24. southern California rufous-crowned sparrow *(Aimophila ruficeps canescens)*
25. western spadefoot *(Spea hammondii)*
26. white-tailed kite *(Elanus leucurus)*

Project Boundary
2.5 Mile Search Radius

0 3,500
Feet

SOURCE: ESRI, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Figure 5
Special-Status Species Occurrences Map

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Special-Status Plants

Of the 25 special-status plant species that have been historically recorded within the vicinity of the project, 11 have a low potential to occur based on species distribution and habitat types found within the project area (i.e., disturbed non-native grassland and eucalyptus grove). The project site is not anticipated to support these species as it is routinely mowed, disked, maintained and highly disturbed; however it should be noted that the biological reconnaissance survey was conducted at the time of year when some plants would be undetectable. Nonetheless, while 11 species have a low potential to occur, no additional surveys or mitigation are required (MSHCP Sections 6.1.3 and 6.3.2 [RCIP 2004]) as these species are adequately conserved by the MSHCP. Fourteen are not expected to occur on the project site based on a lack of suitable habitat, or the fact that the project site is located outside of the known geographic and elevation range of the species. Table 2 provides a summary of these results.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/ CDFW/ CNPS)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Project Site
Allium munzii Munz' onion	NE/FE/ST/1B.1	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, pinyon-juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland, usually in heavy clay soils between elevations of 300-1,035 meters (m).	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Ambrosia pumila San Diego ambrosia	NE/FE/--/1B.1	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland in alkali sandy loam or clay soils. Persist where disturbance has been superficial, sometimes near margins 20 – 415 m in elevation.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Atriplex coronata var*. notatior* San Jacinto Valley crownscale	CA/FE/--/1B.1	Found in playas, chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Prefers dry, alkali flats in the San Jacinto River Valley at elevations of 400-500 m.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Brodiaea filifolia Thread-leaved brodiaea	CA/FT/SE/1B.1	Found in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Usually associated with annual grassland and vernal pools often surrounded by shrubland habitats. Clay soils and at elevations of 25-860 m.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
California macrophylla round-leaved filaree	CA/--/--/1B.1	Found in clay soils and associated with cismontane woodlands and valley-foothill grasslands 15 – 1,200 m in elevation.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/ CDFW/ CNPS)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Project Site
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa lily	AC/--/--/4.2	Found in coastal scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grasslands, cismontane woodlands and lower montane coniferous forests; occurs on rocky or sandy sites, usually of alluvial or granitic material; common after fire 100 – 1,700m in elevation	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Carex buxbaumii Buxbaum's sedge	--/--/--/4.2	Found in bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, and marshes and swamps at elevations from 3 – 3,300 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Caulanthus simulans Payson's jewel-flower	AC/--/--/4.2	Found in chaparral and coastal scrub in sandy and granitic soils at elevations from 90-2200 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Centromadia pungens ssp. *laevis* Smooth tarplant	CA/--/--/1B.1	Associated with valley and foothill grasslands, chenopod scrub, meadows, playas and riparian woodlands 0-640m in elevation.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Chorizanthe leptotheca Peninsular spineflower	AC/--/--/4.2	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest at elevations from 300 – 1,900 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi* Parry's spineflower	AC/--/--/3.2	Found in coastal scrub and chaparral, sometimes on the interface of two vegetation types. Associated with dry, sandy soils, dry slopes and flats. 275-1,220m in elevation.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Chorizanthe polygonoides var. *longispina* Long-spined spineflower	AC/--/--/1B.2	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows, valley and foothill grassland in gabbroic clay soils 30-1,530m in elevation.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Convolvulus simulans Small-flowered morning-glory	AC/--/--/4.2	Found in clay, serpentine seeps in chaparral (openings), coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland at elevations from 30 – 700 m.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Deinandra paniculata Paniculate tarplant	--/--/--/4.2	Found in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Usually in vernally mesic, sometimes sandy soils at elevations from 25 – 940 m.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/ CDFW/ CNPS)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Project Site
Dodecahema leptoceras Slender-horned spineflower	NE/FE/SE/1B.1	Sandy soils of alluvial origin in chaparral, cismontane woodland, alluvial fan coastal scrub maintained by infrequent flooding 200-760m in elevation.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	NE/--/--/1B.2	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub and valley and foothill grasslands. Microhabitat includes clayey soils and grassy slopes. 15-790m in elevation.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Harpagonella palmeri Palmer's grapplinghook	AC/--/--/4.2	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland from 20 – 955 m in elevation.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Juglans californica Southern California black walnut	AC/--/--/4.2	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub in alluvial soils from 50 – 900 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri* Coulter's goldfields	CA/--/--/1B.1	Associated with coastal salt marshes, playas, valley foothills and grasslands, and vernal pools, 1-1,220m in elevation.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite; the habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No focused botanical surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Lepechinia cardiophylla heart-leaved pitcher sage	CA/--/--/1B.2	Associated with closed-cone coniferous forests, chaparral and cismontane woodland at elevations between 520 and 1,370 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Myosurus minimus ssp. *apus* Little mousetail	CA/--/--/3.1	Found in vernal pools and alkaline soils at elevations of 20-640 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt grass	NE/FE/SE/1B.1	Associated with vernal pools at elevations of 15-660 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Romneya coulteri Coulter's matilija poppy	AC/--/--/4.2	Found in chaparral and coastal scrub; often in burns. From 20 – 1,200 m in elevation.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Tortula californica California screw-moss	--/--/--/1B.2	Found in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Grows on sandy soils at elevations of 10-1460 m.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Viguiera laciniata San Diego County viguiera	--/--/--/4.2	Found in chaparral and coastal scrub from 60 – 750 m in elevation.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat

TABLE 2
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/ CDFW/ CNPS)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Project Site

Explanation of Table 2 Codes, and Summary of Information Sources:

Primary Sources: California Native Plant Society (2014), Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online 8th edition, www.cnps.org); CNDDB (2014), Data Base Record Search for Information on Threatened, Endangered, Rare, or Otherwise Sensitive Species and Communities within 2.5 miles; USFWS Species Occurrence Data within 2.5 miles (USFWS 2014a); MSHCP (2004) Table 2-2; MSHCP Conservation Report Generator.

Protection Status Criteria:

Western Riverside County MSHCP
CA = Criteria Area Plant Species under the MSHCP - additional focused surveys may be required if directed to do so by the Conservation Report Generator *and* suitable habitat exists onsite
NE = Narrow Endemic Plant Species under the MSHCP - additional focused surveys may be required if directed to do so by the Conservation Report Generator and suitable habitat exists onsite
AC = Species Adequately Conserved under the MSHCP (subject to the terms and conditions in the MSHCP [Table 2-2])

Federal Status
FE – federally listed as endangered

State of California
SE – State-listed as endangered
ST – State-listed as threatened

California Native Plant Society (CNPS): California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)
CRPR 1B – plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, and elsewhere
CRPR 3 – plants for which more information is needed and is undergoing review for CRPR listing
CRPR 4 - plants of limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California
.1 – Seriously endangered in California
.2 – Fairly endangered in California

Special-Status Wildlife

As listed in Table 3, three special-status wildlife species were determined to have a moderate potential to occur within the Study Area: Quino checkerspot butterfly (QCB; *Euphydryas editha quino*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Additionally, seven special-status species have been determined to have a low potential to occur and eight special-status species are not expected to occur within the project area due to lack of suitable habitat or because the site is well outside of the species' known geographical range.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/CDFW)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Study Area
Crustaceans			
Streptocephalus woottoni Riverside fairy shrimp	WS/FE/--	Endemic to western Riverside, Orange and San Diego Counties in areas of tectonic swales/earth slump basins in grassland and coastal sage scrub. Inhabit seasonally astatic pools filled by winter/spring rains. Hatch in warm water later in the season.	Low Potential. No evidence of pooling or ponding was observed during the biological surveys and soil survey data did not reveal the presence of clay lenses or other typical vernal pool soils.
Arthropods			
Cicindela senilis frosti Tiger beetle	--/--/--	Found along mudflats and beaches in southern California.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat

TABLE 3
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/CDFW)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Study Area
Euphydryas editha quino Quino checkerspot butterfly	AC/FE/--	Found in sunny openings within grassland, chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Requires high densities of host/food plants which include: California plantain (*Plantago erecta),* woolly plantain (*P. insularis*), Coulter's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum coulterianum)*, Chinese houses (*Collinsia concolor*), and owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*).	Low Potential. The site is highly disturbed due to previous grading and ongoing weed abatement activities that has removed most of the vegetation on the site. No suitable host plants or areas for "hill-topping" occur on the site. Additionally, no focused surveys are required per the MSHCP as the species is adequately conserved.
Amphibians			
Spea hammondii Western spadefoot	AC/--/SC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Rainpools or shallow temporary pools, which do not contain bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Reptiles			
Aspidoscelis hyperythra Orange-throated whiptail	AC/--/SC	Inhabits low-elevation coastal scrub, chaparral and valley-foothill hardwood habitats, prefers washes and other sandy areas with patches of brush and rocks.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite. The habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No additional surveys are required as the species is adequately conserved under the MSHCP.
Charina trivirgata Rosy boa	--/--/--	Found in desert and chaparral, from the coast to the Mojave and Colorado deserts, prefers moderate to dense vegetation and rocky cover.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Crotalus ruber ruber Northern red-diamond rattlesnake	AC/--/SC	Found in chaparral, woodland, grassland and desert areas. Occurs in rocky, dense vegetation, requires rodent burrows, cracks in rocks or surface cover objects.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite. The habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No additional surveys are required as the species is adequately conserved under the MSHCP.
Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii Coast horned lizard	AC/--/SC	Found in chaparral, coastal sage scrub grassland, and wash habitats. Sandy, rocky or gravelly soils; friable soils.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite. The habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No additional surveys are required as the species is adequately conserved under the MSHCP.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/CDFW)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Study Area
Birds			
Accipiter cooperii Cooper's hawk	AC/--/SC	Found in riparian areas, and open woodlands, chiefly of open, interrupted or marginal type. Nests in riparian growths of deciduous trees and live oak woodlands.	Moderate Potential. Suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present onsite but is limited to the eucalyptus grove and non-native grassland onsite (respectively). These habitats are highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No additional surveys are required as the species is adequately conserved under the MSHCP.
Aimophila ruficeps canescens Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	AC/--/SC	Found in coastal sage scrub and sparse, mixed chaparral, frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Amphispiza belli belli Bell's sage sparrow	AC/--/--	Nests in chaparral dominated by fairly dense strands of chamise. Found in coastal sage scrub.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Athene cunicularia Burrowing owl	AS/--/SC	Found in a variety of habitats that contain small mammal burrows, including open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, agricultural, rangelands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low- growing vegetation.	Moderate Potential. Suitable habitat exists within the non-native grassland onsite and small mammal burrows are highly abundant onsite (Appendix C); however, the project site does not occur within a predetermined survey area for burrowing owl and no further surveys are required per the MSHCP.
Elanus leucurus White-tailed kite	AC/--/SFP	Nests near wet meadows and open grasslands, dense oak, willow or other tree stands.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Eremophila alpestris actia California horned lark	AC/--/WL	Found in short-grass prairie, "bald" hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields and alkali flats.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite. The habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No additional surveys are required as the species is adequately conserved under the MSHCP.
Polioptila californica californica Coastal California gnatcatcher	AC/FT/SC	Coastal sage scrub habitat in arid washes, on mesas or on slopes of coastal hills. Permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat
Vireo bellii pusillus Least Bell's vireo	WS/FE/SE	Low riparian vegetation near vicinity of water or dry river bottoms, below 2000 ft. Nests are placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, baccharis or mesquite.	Not Expected. The project site does not support suitable habitat

TABLE 3
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Species	Listing Status (MSHCP/USFWS/CDFW)	General Habitat	Potential for Species Occurrence within the Study Area
Mammals			
Dipodomys stephensi Stephens' kangaroo rat	AC/FE/ST	Primarily found in annual and perennial grasslands, also occurs in coastal scrub and sagebrush with sparse canopy cover.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite. The habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No additional surveys are required as the species is adequately conserved under the MSHCP (project is within SKR fee area).
Lepus californicus bennettii San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	AC/--/SC	Associated with open grassland and brushland, and coastal sage scrub habitats in southern California.	Low Potential. Suitable habitat is limited within the non-native grassland onsite. The habitat is highly disturbed and the species was not observed during the biological surveys. No additional surveys are required as the species is adequately conserved under the MSHCP.

Explanation of Table 3 Codes, and Summary of Information Sources:
Primary Sources*:* CNDDB (2014), Data Base Record Search for Information on Threatened, Endangered, Rare, or Otherwise Sensitive Species and Communities within 2.5 miles; USFWS Species Occurrence Data within 2.5 miles (USFWS 2014a); MSHCP (2004) Table 2-2.

Protection Status Criteria:

Western Riverside County MSHCP

WS = Wetland Species under the MSHCP – additional surveys may be required as part of wetlands mapping per the MSHCP
AS = Additional surveys may be required for these species within locations shown on survey maps as described in *Section 6.3.2* of the MSHCP.
AC = Adequately Conserved Species under the MSHCP (subject to the terms and conditions in the MSHCP [Table 2-2 footnote 'e'])

Federal Status
FE – Federally listed as endangered
FT – Federally listed as threatened

State of California
SE – State-listed as endangered
ST – State-listed as threatened
SFP – Fully protected species
SC – State Species of Special Concern
WL – Watch List

Wildlife species that are present, or have a moderate to high potential to occur within the Study Area are discussed in detail below.

Quino Checkerspot Butterfly

The QCB is a member of the brush-footed butterfly family (Nymphalidae) that utilizes plants in the Plantaginaceae and Orobanchaceae families for larval food. Historically, the QCB has been found in Los Angeles, Orange, western Riverside, southwestern San Bernardino, and San Diego counties in addition to northern Baja California, Mexico. The QCB is associated with a variety of habitats that include clay soil meadows, grassland, coastal sage scrub, chamise chaparral, red shank chaparral, juniper woodland and semi-desert (Ballmer et al. 2000). It ranges in elevation from sea level up to 5,000 feet. Despite association with a wide range of habitat types,

distribution of this species is restricted to areas that support larval host plants. The primary host plant for QCB is California plantain (*Plantago erecta)*. Other host plants include woolly plantain (*Plantago patagonica)*, Coulter's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum coulterianum)*, and Chinese houses (*Collinsia concolor*; Pratt 2010). Owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), and rigid bird's beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus*) are considered secondary hosts (USFWS, 2002). Hatching occurs from eggs usually laid on the host plant itself, then the early larvae feed and will enter a physiological dormancy known as diapause during periods of poor host plant conditions. During these periods, they often rest under vegetation and rocks. If adverse conditions occur, the larvae may reenter diapause multiple times, emerging after fall or winter rains. Generally the flight season for the QCB occurs from late February through April, with peak activity typically occurring in March and April. The project site is not anticipated to support QCB as it is routinely mowed, disked, maintained, highly disturbed, and lacks suitable habitat such as vegetation community associations and open areas for "hill-topping"; however, the biological reconnaissance survey was conducted at the time of year when host plants would be undetectable. Although the presence/absence of host plants could not be determined during the reconnaissance survey, the lack of suitable habitat, relatively flat topography and existing disturbances reduces the potential for this species to occur on the project site.; Additionally, no focused surveys or mitigation are required as the species is adequately conserved by the MSHCP.

Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's hawk is a CDFW Species of Special Concern, and is also afforded protection through Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 and the federal MBTA. Cooper's hawk is a breeding and foraging resident throughout most of the wooded portions of California. Its preferred nesting habitat is characterized by dense stands of coast live oak, riparian or other forest habitat near water. No Cooper's hawks were observed within the Study Area; however, there is potential for the species to nest on or near the project site within the eucalyptus groves and appropriate measures should be taken to avoid impacts to the species in accordance with Fish and Game Code and the MBTA.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl is a CDFW Species of Special Concern, and is also afforded protection through Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 and the MBTA. Burrowing owl is also a species for which focused surveys may be required within locations shown on survey maps as described in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP; however, the project site is not within a predetermined survey area for burrowing owl, therefore no focused surveys are required.

Suitable habitats for the burrowing owl include non-native annual grassland, shrub lands and agricultural use areas which contain burrows made by mammals such as ground squirrels or badgers. Burrowing owls can also be found in openings of man-made structures such as culvert pipes. Suitable habitat occurs onsite within the non-native grassland where small mammal burrows are highly abundant (Appendix C). While no owls or their sign (feathers, white wash, pellets, etc.) were observed during the biological survey, and the project site does not occur within a predetermined survey area for burrowing owl per the MSHCP, there is potential for the species to occupy the site prior to construction and appropriate measures should be taken to avoid impacts to the species in accordance with Fish and Game Code and the MBTA.

4.3 Jurisdictional Resources

Two ephemeral drainage features enter the project site from the east and terminate onsite within the eucalyptus grove to the south (Figure 6). Drainage 1 is completely isolated and, based on field indicators such as surface scouring and sediment deposits, seems to originate from road runoff along Cambern Avenue. This feature is erosional and does not support riparian vegetation. Drainage 2 contains a defined bed and bank and appears to be hydrologically connected upstream to a USGS blue-line stream (Figure 6). This feature does not support riparian vegetation and does not connect to any *downstream* riverine feature or riparian habitat. Representative photographs of these features are included in Appendix C.

All features have been analyzed for their potential to fall under the jurisdiction of USACE, RWQCB, CDFW and the Riverside County MSHCP (Section 6.1.2) (MSHCP 2004). The following section provides an analysis and discussion of the jurisdictional delineation onsite.

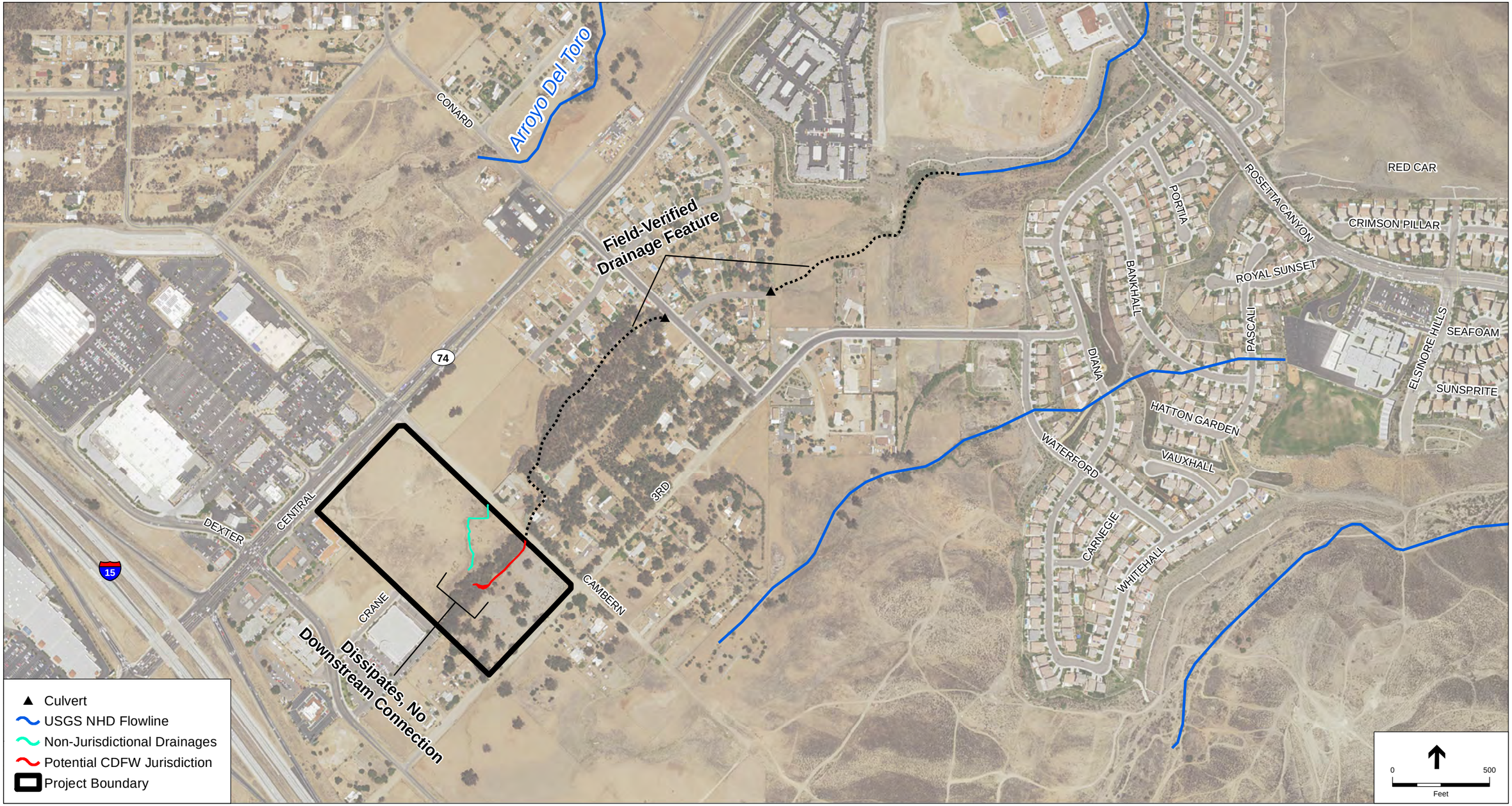
USACE Jurisdiction

Federal Wetlands

The following analyses included the notation of the three-parameter test administered to determine the presence of wetlands as defined by USACE - wetland hydrology, dominance (>50% cover) of wetland plant species (hydrophytic plants), and wetland indicator soil series (hydric soils). Photos from the delineation are included in Appendix C.

Obvious hydrologic indicators were noted within both drainage features onsite. Primary indicators included sediment deposits (non-riverine), while secondary indicators included drainage patterns within an ordinary high water mark (OHWM). No hydrophytic vegetation was found onsite; therefore, neither feature passed the wetland plant species dominance test for federal wetlands. Soils within the immediate vicinity of the drainage features are mapped as Arbuckle and Garretson soils mapping units (Figure 3); neither of which is considered hydric by USDA standards. As discussed in Section 3.5, no soil pits were dug in the field as no hydrophytic vegetation was observed onsite indicating the potential presence of federal wetlands.

None of the drainages exhibited all three parameters; therefore no federal wetlands as defined by USACE are present onsite.



SOURCE: ESRI, USGS National Hydrology Dataset (NHD), ESA 2014

Figure 6
Jurisdictional Delineation Results

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Non-Wetland Waters of the U.S.

No drainages onsite were determined to be non-wetland waters of the U.S. due to the absence of a *downstream* nexus to Traditional Navigable Waters.

CDFW Jurisdiction

CDFW typically has jurisdiction over the bed and banks of a stream or drainage. The OHWM identified by the USACE typically satisfies the definition of a streambed; however, CDFW jurisdiction also extends beyond the streambed to include the associated banks and any adjacent riparian vegetation.

Drainage 1 is purely erosional, contains no riparian vegetation, and is isolated; therefore, is not anticipated to be under the jurisdictional of CDFW. Drainage 2 does not contain riparian vegetation, but does contain a defined bed and bank that is connected upstream to a USGS blue-line stream (Figure 6). To that end, 0.04 acre of potential CDFW-jurisdictional unvegetated streambed was mapped onsite. In addition, there were three other isolated features identified onsite that are considered erosional, and contain no riparian vegetation; therefore, they are not anticipated to be under the jurisdictional of CDFW.

RWQCB Jurisdiction

Because no federal jurisdiction occurs onsite, the RWQCB will not require a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. However, under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, waters of the state (including surface and subsurface waters) fall under the jurisdiction of the appropriate RWQCB. Projects that affect wetlands or waters of the state must meet waste discharge requirements of the RWQCB; therefore, a report of waste discharge pursuant to California Water Code Section 13260 may be required by the RWQCB.

County MSHCP Section 6.1.2 Jurisdiction – Riparian/Riverine Resources and Vernal Pools

According to the *Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Permittee Implementation Guidance Manual* (2007), riparian/riverine resources can include:

- Areas containing **riparian vegetation**;
- **Riverine areas** (streams) that do not contain riparian vegetation, but that have water flow for all or a portion of the year, and contain biological functions and values that contribute to downstream habitat values for covered species inside the MSHCP Conservation Area.

The drainage feature (Drainage 1) found on the project site and erosional features onsite do not contain riparian vegetation, nor do they contain biological functions and values that contribute to *downstream* habitat for species inside the MSHCP Conservation Area (i.e., the MSHCP Criteria Area [Figure 8]). Therefore, no riparian/riverine resources, as defined by Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, occur onsite.

The project site was also analyzed for its potential to support vernal pools during the biological surveys. The soil types identified in Figure 3 are not typically associated with vernal pool

complexes. Furthermore, no vernal pools, vernal pools indicator plant or animal species, or evidence of ponding (i.e., surface soil cracks, unvegetated depressions, etc.) were detected onsite.

4.4 Wildlife Movement and Habitat Linkages

Wildlife habitat linkages are areas which link otherwise isolated blocks of habitat to allow wide-ranging animals to travel, genetic exchange to occur and to allow plants and animals to move in response to environmental changes and natural disasters. Wildlife habitat linkages also allow populations of threatened species to be replenished from other areas via the metapopulation theory (Hilty et al. 2006).

Wildlife habitat linkages mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation by (1) allowing animals to move between remaining habitats, which allows depleted populations to be replenished and promotes genetic diversity; (2) providing escape routes from natural disasters, predators, and human disturbances, thus reducing the risk that catastrophic events (such as fires or disease) will result in population or local species extinction; and (3) serving as travel routes for individual animals as they move within their home ranges in search of food, water, mates, and other needs (Noss 1983, Fahrig and Merriam 1985, Simberloff and Cox 1987, Harris and Gallagher 1989).

Wildlife linkages are landscape features that connect and link habitat patches or habitat cores with each other. They serve a similar purpose in that they are areas that allow for animal movement, but they may not have all the resources a particular species needs to complete its life cycle.

According to the MSHCP (Figure 3-2: Schematic Cores and Linkages Map) there are no documented terrestrial migration corridors in the vicinity of the project site. Furthermore, the project site is within a moderately developed portion of the City of Lake Elsinore and it is not anticipated that the site is used for migration, movement or dispersal of wildlife.

4.5 USFWS Critical Habitat

Under the FESA, to the extent prudent and determinable, the USFWS is required to designate critical habitat for endangered and threatened species (16 U.S.C. § 1533 (a)(3)). Critical habitat is defined as areas of land, water, and air space containing the physical and biological features essential for the survival and recovery of endangered and threatened species. Designated critical habitat includes sites for breeding and rearing, movement or migration, feeding, roosting, cover, and shelter.

Designated critical habitats require special management and protection of existing resources, including water quality and quantity, host animals and plants, food availability, pollinators, sunlight, and specific soil types. Critical habitat designation delineates all suitable habitat, occupied or not, essential to the survival and recovery of the species.

The project site does not occur within any USFWS-designated critical habitats. The nearest critical habitat occurs approximately 0.5 mile east of the project site for the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) (USFWS, 2014b) (Figure 7).

4.6 Riverside County MSHCP Compliance

The purpose of this discussion is to provide an analysis of the proposed project with respect to compliance with biological aspects of the Western Riverside County MSHCP. Specifically, this analysis evaluates the proposed project with respect to the project's compliance with MSHCP Reserve Assembly Requirements (Section 6.1.1); Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (Section 6.1.2); Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species (Section 6.1.3); Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface (Section 6.1.4), and Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (Section 6.3.2).

Section 6.1.1 - Project Relationship to Reserve Assembly

The entire project is located within the Elsinore Area Plan of the MSHCP. No part of the project site occurs within a Criteria Cell proposed for conservation under the MSHCP; therefore, the project is not subject to the Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) or Joint Project Review processes, and thus the project is consistent with the Reserve Assembly requirements of the MSHCP (Figure 8).

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

The project site does not contain areas defined by the MSHCP as riparian/riverine, nor does the project site support vernal pools or vernal pool-associated species; therefore, the project is consistent with the riparian/riverine and vernal pool requirements of the MSHCP.

Section 6.1.3 - Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species

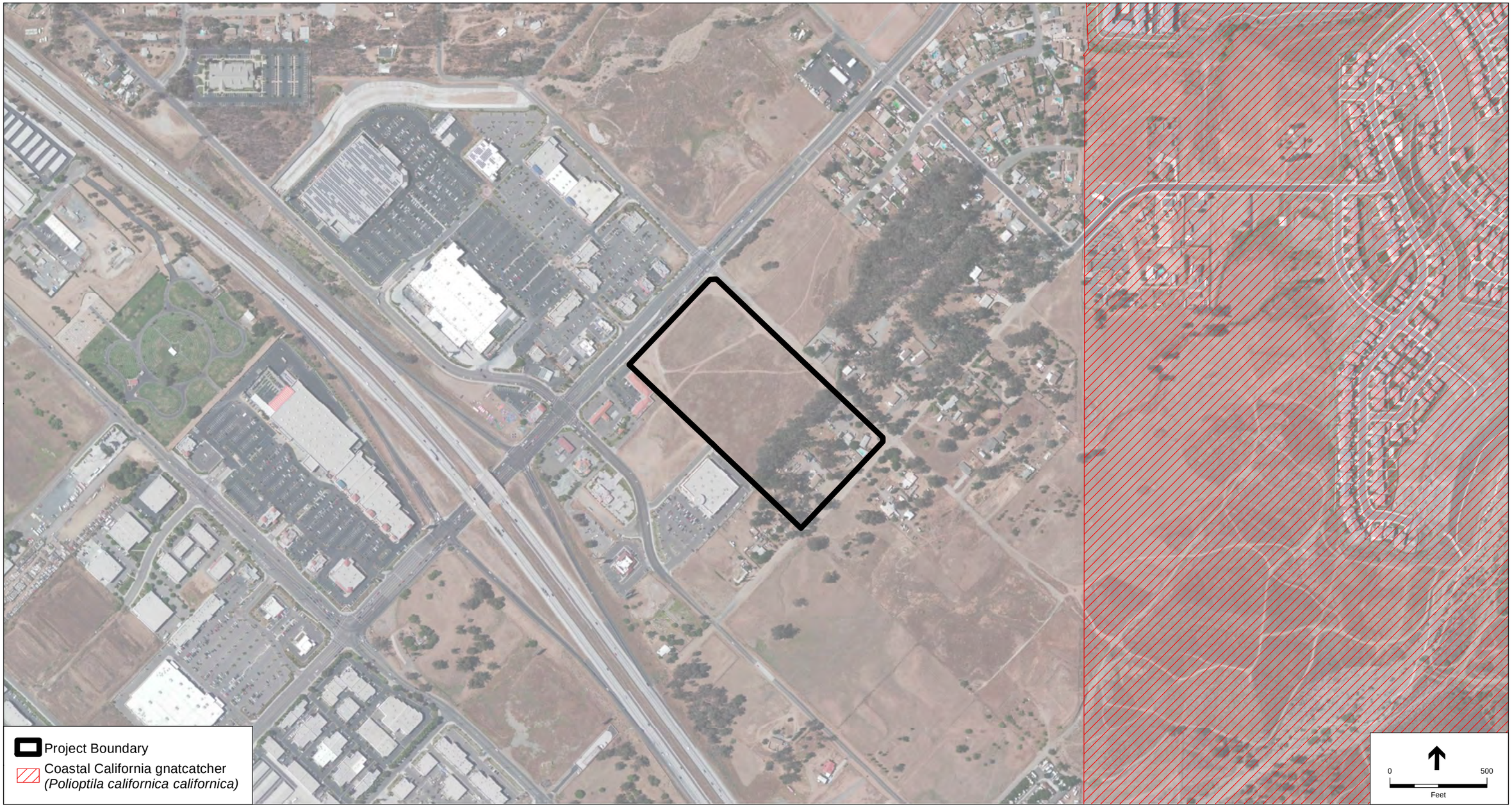
The project site is not located within the MSHCP Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA); therefore, focused plant surveys were not conducted for species identified under *Section 6.1.3* of the MSHCP. No surveys are required and the project is consistent with the Narrow Endemic Plant Species requirements of the MSHCP.

Section 6.1.4 - Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildland Interface

The MSHCP Urban/Wildland Interface Guidelines are intended to address indirect effects associated with locating development in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area. The project site does not occur within the MSHCP Criteria Area and is not located adjacent to any Criteria Cell describing areas of conservation. The project is not expected to result in significant indirect impacts to special-status biological resources. Implementation of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Appendix C of the MSHCP would ensure that the project is in compliance with the MSHCP.

Section 6.3.2 - Additional Survey Needs and Procedures

The project site is not located within the MSHCP Additional Survey Areas for Amphibians, Burrowing Owl, Criteria Area Species, Mammals, or Special Linkage Areas. No surveys are required and the project is consistent with the Additional Survey Needs and Procedures of the MSHCP.



SOURCE: ESRI, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat

Figure 7

USFWS Designated Critical Habitat for California Gnatcatcher

SOURCE: ESRI, Riverside County GIS

Figure 8
MSHCP Criteria Area Map

Conclusion of MSHCP Consistency

As outlined above, the proposed project will be compliant with the biological requirements of the MSHCP with adherence to the BMPs in Appendix C of the MSHCP. No additional mitigation measures are required for compliance with the MSHCP thus; impacts with respect to MSHCP consistency would be less than significant.

5. Regulatory Framework

The following provides a general description of the applicable regulatory requirements for the Project, including federal, state, and local policies and guidelines.

5.1 Federal

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The MBTA of 1918, as amended, is designed to protect birds that migrate and cross state lines to provide management of migratory birds at a federal level. The MBTA prohibits the kill or transport of native migratory birds, or any part, nest, or egg of such bird unless allowed by another regulation adopted in accordance with the MBTA.

Federal Endangered Species Act

The FESA was established to protect wildlife species and habitats from extinction and diminishment. The FESA is administered by the USFWS and applies to federally listed species and habitat occupied by the federally listed species. FESA Section 9 forbids acts that directly or indirectly harm listed species. Specifically, Section 9 identifies prohibited acts related to endangered species, and all persons, including federal, state, and local governments, from taking listed fish and wildlife species, except as specified under the provisions for exceptions (16 U.S.C. 1539). The term ‘take’ is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such activity (16 U.S.C. 1532[18]).

Clean Water Act

In 1948, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The Act was later amended in 1972 and became known as the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the U.S. The act specifies a variety of regulatory and nonregulatory tools to sharply reduce direct pollutant discharges into waterways, finance municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and manage polluted runoff.

- Sections 303 and 304 provide for water quality standards, criteria, and guidelines.
- Section 401 requires every applicant for a federal permit or license for any activity that may result in a discharge to a water body to obtain a water quality certification that the proposed activity will comply with applicable water quality standards. Under Section 401 of the CWA, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) must certify that actions receiving authorization under Section 404 of the CWA also meet state water quality standards.

- Section 402 regulates point- and nonpoint-source discharges to surface waters through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. In California, the SWRCB oversees the NPDES program, which is administered by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The NPDES program provides for both general permits (those that cover a number of similar or related activities) and individual permits. Anti-backsliding requirements provided for under CWA Sections 402(o)(2) and 303(d)(4) prohibit slackening of discharge requirements and regulations under revised NPDES permits. With isolated/limited exceptions, these regulations require effluent limitations in a reissued permit to be at least as stringent as those contained in the previous permit.
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the U.S., including some wetlands. Activities in waters of the U.S. that are regulated under this program include fills for development, water resource projects (e.g., dams and levees), infrastructure development (e.g., highways and airports), and conversion of wetlands to uplands for farming and forestry. This program is administered by the USACE.

5.2 State

CEQA Guidelines Section 15380

Although threatened and endangered species are protected by specific federal and state statutes, *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15380(b) provides that a species not listed on the federal or state list of protected species may be considered rare or endangered if the species can be shown to meet certain specified criteria. These criteria have been modeled after the definition in FESA and the section of the California Fish and Game Code dealing with rare or endangered plants or animals. This section was included in CEQA primarily to deal with situations in which a public agency is reviewing a project that may have a significant effect on, for example, a candidate species that has not been listed by either USFWS or CDFW. Thus, CEQA provides an agency with the ability to protect a species from the potential impacts of a project until the respective government agencies have an opportunity to designate the species as protected, if warranted. CEQA also calls for the protection of other locally or regionally significant resources, including natural communities. Although natural communities do not at present have legal protection of any kind, CEQA calls for an assessment of whether any such resources would be affected, and requires findings of significance if there would be substantial losses. Natural communities listed by CNDDB as sensitive are considered by CDFW to be significant resources and fall under the *CEQA Guidelines* for addressing impacts. Local planning documents such as general plans often identify these resources as well.

California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is similar in many ways to the FESA. CESA is administered by the CDFW. CESA provides a process for CDFW to list species as threatened or endangered in response to a citizen petition or by its own initiative (Fish and Game Code § 2070 et seq.). Section 2080 of CESA prohibits the take of species listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to the Act (Fish and Game Code § 2080). Section 2081 allows CDFW to authorize take prohibited under Section 2080 provided that: (1) the taking is incidental to an otherwise lawful

activity; (2) the taking will be minimized and fully mitigated; (3) the applicant ensures adequate funding for minimization and mitigation; and (4) the authorization will not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species (Fish and Game Code § 2081).

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

Under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, waters of the state fall under the jurisdiction of the appropriate RWQCB. Under the act, the RWQCB must prepare and periodically update water quality control basin plans. Each basin plan sets forth water quality standards for surface water and groundwater, as well as actions to control nonpoint and point sources of pollution to achieve and maintain these standards. Projects that affect wetlands or waters must meet waste discharge requirements of the RWQCB, which may be issued in addition to a water quality certification or waiver under Section 401 of the CWA. A report of waste discharge pursuant to California Water Code Section 13260 may be required by the RWQCB.

California Department of Fish and Game Code

The California Fish and Game Code regulates the taking of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, as well as natural resources such as wetlands and waters of the state. It includes the CESA (Sections 2050-2115) and Streambed Alteration Agreement regulations (Sections 1600-1616), as well as provisions for legal hunting and fishing, and tribal agreements involving the take of native wildlife. Any project impact to state-listed species within or adjacent to a project site would require a permit under CESA. Also, if a project proposes to alter a state-defined wetland, then a Streambed Alteration Agreement would be required from CDFW.

California Native Plant Protection Act

The California Native Plant Protection Act (CNPPA) of 1977 (Fish and Game Code Sections 1900–1913) is intended to preserve, protect, and enhance endangered or rare native plants in California and gives the CDFW authority to designate state endangered, threatened, and rare plants and provides specific protection measures for identified populations. The Act also directs the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt regulations governing taking, possessing, propagation, and sale of any endangered or rare native plant.

Vascular plants listed as rare or endangered by the California Native Plant Society (2011), but which have no designated status or protection under federal or state endangered species legislation, are defined as follows:

- Rank 1A: Plants Believed Extinct.
- Rank 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.
- Rank 2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere.
- Rank 3: Plants About Which More Information is Needed - A Review List.
- Rank 4: Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List.

Natural Community Conservation Planning Program

The Natural Community Conservation Program (NCCP) Act, Sections 2800-2840 of the state Fish and Game Code, authorized the preparation of NCCPs to protect natural communities and species while allowing a reasonable amount of economic development. The MSHCP, adopted by the County of Riverside on June 17, 2003, serves as a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant to the NCCP Act and pursuant to Section 10 (a)(1)(B) of the FESA.

5.3 Local

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The project site lies within the Western Riverside County MSHCP. The MSHCP involves the assembly and management of a 500,000-acre Conservation Area for the conservation of natural habitats and their constituent wildlife populations. The MSHCP was developed to serve as a HCP pursuant to the Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act and Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the FESA. It encompasses 1.26 million acres and includes all unincorporated Riverside County land west of the crest of the San Jacinto Mountains to the Orange County line as well as jurisdictional areas of the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Norco, Corona, Riverside, Moreno Valley, Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Perris, Hemet, and San Jacinto. The overarching purpose of the plan is to balance development and economic interests with species and lands conservation goals. The MSHCP permits development of lands and take of species "in exchange for the assembly and management of a coordinated MSHCP Conservation Area" (Riverside County, 2004).

The approval of the MSHCP and the Implementing Agreement (IA) by the USFWS and the CDFW allows signatories of the IA to issue "take" authorizations for the 146 species covered by the MSHCP (termed "covered species"), including state and federally listed species, as well as other identified sensitive species. The "take" authorization includes impacts to the habitats of the covered species. The MSHCP requires any new development to pay fees to support the financing for the MSHCP. The fees are intended to meet mitigation requirements for CEQA, FESA and CESA. The MSHCP is further broken down into core areas and linkages, which are the focus of reserve and preservation actions. The project is not located within any of the identified core or special linkage areas.

City of Lake Elsinore - City Ordinance No. 1044

The City [Lake Elsinore] has in place a palm tree preservation program. The purpose of the program is for the protection of the City's plant life heritage for the benefit of all citizens in Lake Elsinore. The City recognizes the value of significant palm trees within the City of Lake Elsinore as natural aesthetic resources, which help define the history and character of the City. All residents who wish to remove a palm tree that exceeds five feet in height measured from the ground at the base of the trunk to the base of the crown must obtain a palm tree removal permit prior to removal of the tree.

6. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

A number of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources could occur as a result of implementation of the project. Under the stipulations of CEQA, potential impacts to biological resources could be considered significant if actions associated with the project:

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

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

c) 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.

d) 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.

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

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The following discussion describes the project's potential to impact biological resources that may occur as a result of construction and operation of the project. Potential impacts to biological resources are separated into those likely to occur from construction (both short and long-term impacts) and those that may occur as a result of project operation.

Impact BIO-1: Implementation of the proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

Vegetation Communities and Habitat

Direct impacts as a result of construction activities associated with the project would include the permanent removal of vegetation communities that may be utilized as habitat for both common and rare wildlife. Indirect impacts associated with construction of the project include fugitive dust and increased noise levels due to heavy equipment operations occurring in these areas. Indirect impacts to habitat could include alterations to existing topographical and hydrological conditions, increased erosion and sediment transport, and the establishment of non-native and invasive weeds. Operational impacts include disturbances associated with increased human presence.

The current project design is anticipating 100 percent permanent impacts to all 17.6 acres of the project site. Common plant and wildlife species would be impacted by the project through the

direct, permanent removal of 9.7 acres of non-native grassland, 2.8 acres of eucalyptus grove, and 5.1 acres of disturbed habitat. The plant communities found within the proposed project are highly disturbed and widespread throughout the region. The project site was not found to support special-status species at the time of the biological surveys; therefore, the permanent removal of 17.6 acres of disturbed vegetation would be considered less than significant.

No impacts to plant communities and habitats would occur during the operational phase of the project.

Special-Status Plants

No special-status plants were observed during the biological surveys. While the potential for species to occur is low, it should be noted that the biological reconnaissance survey was conducted at a time of year when special-status plants would be undetectable (January); however, according to Sections 6.1.3 and 6.3.2 of the MSHCP (RCIP 2004), the project site does not fall within a predetermined survey area for special-status plants. Therefore, these species are adequately conserved by the MSHCP Reserve design. Based on the low potential for occurrence and the coverage under the MSHCP, impacts to special-status plants would be less than significant. Furthermore, as all operation-related activities are proposed to occur on previously disturbed areas, no impacts to special-status plants species are anticipated to occur during operation-related activities.

Special-Status Wildlife

Activities associated with construction of the project may potentially impact avian species such as nesting raptors, passerines, and other special-status bird species, including Cooper's hawk and burrowing owl. Construction activities could result in the direct loss of active nests of both common and special-status bird species (including raptors) or the abandonment of active nests as a result of noises and/or vibrations generated by temporary construction activities. The MTBA and the California Fish and Game Code (3503 and 3503.5) consider the loss of active nests (nests with eggs or young) of all native bird species as unlawful. Consequently, the loss or abandonment of nests of bird species as a result of construction-related activities would be considered a significant impact and would conflict with state and federal laws. Impacts to nesting birds are potentially significant, but can be prevented via pre-construction surveys and associated avoidance measures, as described in Mitigation Measures MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-3.

As all operation-related activities are proposed to occur on previously disturbed areas, no impacts to special-status wildlife species are anticipated to occur during operation-related activities.

Critical Habitat

The proposed project will not occur within critical habitat, including that of the coastal California gnatcatcher. No impacts to designated critical habitat would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Impact Determination: Potentially significant for nesting birds and raptors; less than significant after mitigation.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-1: The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be adhered to, and include those applicable measures described in Appendix C of the MSHCP:

- Prior to the issuance of grading or building permits, a qualified biologist (approved by the City of Lake Elsinore) shall be retained to oversee compliance with protection measures for nesting birds and raptors and potentially jurisdictional resources.
- The project biologist or designated representative shall be onsite during initial ground-disturbing activities, including vegetation removal, tree removal and grading to ensure that nesting birds and raptors and potentially jurisdictional resources identified during the biological survey are not impacted.
- Trash and food items shall be contained in closed containers and removed daily to reduce the attractiveness to opportunistic predators such as common ravens, coyotes, and feral dogs.
- Workers shall be prohibited from bringing pets and firearms to the project site and from feeding wildlife.
- Intentional killing or collection of any plant or wildlife species shall be prohibited.

MM BIO-2: Prior to the commencement of construction activities, project proponent shall adhere to the following.

- A qualified biologist (i.e., a biologist approved by the City of Lake Elsinore with previous burrowing owl survey experience) shall conduct a pre-construction clearance survey (regardless of the time of year) of the permanent and temporary impact areas to locate active breeding or wintering burrowing owl burrows no more than 14 days prior to ground-disturbing activities (i.e., vegetation clearance, tree removal, grading, tilling). The survey methodology shall be consistent with the methods outlined in the MSHCP and shall consist of walking parallel transects 7 to 20 meters apart, adjusting for vegetation height and density as needed, and noting any potential burrows with fresh burrowing owl sign or presence of burrowing owls. In the unlikely event that a burrowing owl is detected or observed during the preconstruction clearance survey, appropriate measures shall be implemented as described in Appendix E of the MSHCP to ensure impacts are avoided or reduced to less than significant levels.

MM BIO-3: If construction is scheduled to commence during the avian non-nesting season (September 1 to January 31), no preconstruction surveys or additional measures are required for nesting birds (other than burrowing owl – see MM BIO-2). Should construction activities occur within the avian nesting season (February 1 – August 31), the following measures shall be implemented:

- To avoid impacts to nesting birds in the project area for construction activities that are initiated during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys of all potential nesting habitat within the project site plus a 500-foot buffer. Potential nesting habitat includes shrubs, trees, and

structures as well as open areas suitable for ground nesting species. Surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to construction activities. Surveys need not be conducted for the entire project site at one time; they may be phased so that surveys occur shortly before a portion of the site is disturbed. The surveying biologist must be qualified to determine the status and stage of nesting by migratory birds and all locally breeding raptor species without causing intrusive disturbance. If active nests are found, a suitable buffer (e.g. 200-300 feet for common raptors and 30-50 feet for passerines) shall be established around active nests and no construction within the buffer shall be allowed until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active (e.g. the nestlings have fledged and are no longer reliant on the nest). Encroachment into the buffer may occur at the discretion of a qualified biologist.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact BIO-2: Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

Sensitive natural communities include riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or designated by the CDFW and USFWS. A total of 0.04 acre of potentially CDFW-jurisdictional unvegetated streambed (as defined by Fish and Game Code Section 1602) exists within the project site, and would be impacted by project activities. Due to the small size of impact and the fact that the channel does not exhibit any important functions and services to wildlife or habitat other than ephemeral water conveyance, the impact to this channel would be considered less than significant. However, changes to this channel are subject to review and approvals by the CDFW after submittal of a Streambed Alteration Notification. Upon receipt and review of this notification, the agency may decide that no permits are required. Should CDFW confirm jurisdiction over the onsite feature, an application for a CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code may be necessary. Permit applications will include the narrative description of the onsite feature and submittal of engineering drawings to illustrate and detail the replacement of lost and regained functions and services. Compliance with CDFW's Streambed Alteration Program would reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

Impact Determination: Less than significant

Impact BIO-3: Would the project 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.

The project site does not contain any federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and impacts related to wetlands would not occur from implementation of the proposed project. However, the RWQCB regulates wetlands and waters of the state under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and may require a report of waste discharge pursuant to California Water Code Section 13260 for any discharge that could affect the quality of waters

of the state, such as the drainage feature (Drainage 1) mapped onsite. Compliance with the waste discharge requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

Impact Determination: No impact

Impact BIO-4: Would the project 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.

According to the MSHCP (*Figure 3-2: Schematic Cores and Linkages Map*) there are no documented terrestrial migration corridors in the vicinity of the project site. Furthermore, the project site is within a moderately developed portion of the City of Lake Elsinore and it is not anticipated that the site is used for migration, movement or dispersal of wildlife. Project construction and operation would remove some foraging habitat for common reptile, avian and mammal species, including the eucalyptus grove and non-native grassland onsite; however, these habitat types are wide-spread throughout the region and development of the project site is not anticipated to further impede wildlife movement in an already constrained environment.

Impact Determination: No impact

Impact BIO-5: Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

The City of Lake Elsinore has a palm tree preservation program in place. The purpose of the program is for the protection of the City's plant life heritage for the benefit of all citizens in Lake Elsinore. The City recognizes the value of significant palm trees within the City of Lake Elsinore as natural aesthetic resources, which help define the history and character of the City. All residents who wish to remove a palm tree that exceeds five feet in height measured from the ground at the base of the trunk to the base of the crown must obtain a palm tree removal permit prior to removal of the tree. No palm trees occur within the project limits and no other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources apply to the project; therefore no impacts to local policies or ordinances are anticipated to occur.

Impact Determination: No impact

Impact BIO-6: Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The project site falls within the boundaries of the MSHCP. As discussed in Section 4.6, the proposed project is anticipated to be compliance with biological aspects of the Western Riverside County MSHCP; specifically, with respect to the MSHCP Reserve Assembly Requirements (Section 6.1.1); Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (Section 6.1.2); Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species (Section 6.1.3); Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface (Section 6.1.4), and Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (Section 6.3.2).

As described in Section 4.6, the proposed project will be compliant with the biological requirements of the MSHCP with adherence to the BMPs in Appendix C of the MSHCP, as included in Mitigation Measure Bio-1. No additional mitigation measures are required for compliance with the MSHCP thus; impacts with respect to MSHCP consistency would be less than significant.

Impact Determination: Less than significant

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APPENDIX A
Plant Species Compendium

Appendix A - Plant Species Compendium

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status
EUDICOTS		
Asteraceae - Sunflower family		
* *Centaurea melitensis*	Tocalote	
Corethrogyne filaginifolia	Common sand aster	
Ericameria sp.	Goldenbush	
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph weed	
Boraginaceae - Borage family		
Amsinckia menziesii	Common fiddleneck	
Brassicaceae - Mustard family		
* *Hirschfeldia incana*	Shortpod mustard	
Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot family		
* *Salsola tragus*	Russian thistle	
Euphorbiaceae - Spurge family		
* *Euphorbia peplus*	Petty spurge	
Geraniaceae - Geranium family		
* *Erodium cicutarium*	Redstem filaree	
Lamiaceae - Mint family		
* *Marrubium vulgare*	Horehound	
Myrtaceae - Myrtle family		
* *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*	Red gum	
* *Eucalyptus globulus*	Blue gum	
Polygonaceae - Buckwheat family		
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California buckwheat	
* *Rumex crispus*	Curly dock	
Solanaceae - Nightshade family		
Datura wrightii	Jimsonweed	
* *Nicotiana glauca*	Tree tobacco	
Urticaceae - Nettle family		
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	
MONOCOTS		
Poaceae - Grass family		
* *Bromus diandrus*	Ripgut grass	
* *Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*	Red brome	
* *Hordeum murinum*	Wall barley	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status

Legend

*= Non-native or invasive species

Special Status:

Federal:
FE = Endangered
FT = Threatened

State:
SE = Endangered
ST =Threatened

CRPR – California Rare Plant Rank
1A. Presumed extinct in California
1B. Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere
2. Rare or Endangered in California, more common elsewhere
3. Plants for which we need more information - Review list
4. Plants of limited distribution - Watch list

Threat Ranks
.1 - Seriously endangered in California
.2 – Fairly endangered in California

APPENDIX B
Wildlife Species Compendium

Appendix B - Wildlife Species Compendium

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status
VERTEBRATES		
Birds		
Cathartes aura	Turkey Vulture	
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed Hawk	
Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove	
Picoides nuttallii	Nuttall's Woodpecker	
Sayornis nigricans	Black Phoebe	
Tyrannus verticalis	Western Kingbird	
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow	
Psaltriparus minimus	Bushtit	
Dendroica coronata	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Carpodacus mexicanus	House Finch	
Carduelis tristis	American Goldfinch	
Mammals		
Sylvilagus audubonii	Desert Cottontail	
Spermophilus beecheyi	California Ground Squirrel	

Legend

*= Non-native or invasive species

Special Status:

Federal:
FE = Endangered
FT = Threatened

State:
SE = Endangered
ST =Threatened
CSC = California Species of Special Concern
CFP = California Fully Protected Species

APPENDIX C

Photographic Log

Photo 1. Photo depicts the disturbed non-native grassland onsite. Photo taken from the center of the northern edge, facing northwest.

Photo 2. Photo depicts the eucalyptus grove onsite. Photo taken from the center of the site, facing northeast.

Photo 3. Photo depicts the eucalyptus grove onsite. Photo taken from the center of the site, within the grove, facing southwest.

Photo 4. Photo depicts the disturbed habitat onsite. Note the gravel covering the ground. Photo taken from the center of the southern edge, facing east.

Photo 5. Photo depicts the small mammal burrows onsite. Photo taken from the center of the site, facing northwest.

Photo 6. Photo depicts the beginning of the potentially jurisdictional (CDFW) drainage as it enters the project site. Note the upstream connection across Cambern Avenue (red arrow). Photo taken from the center of the northern edge of site, facing northeast.

Photo 7. Photo depicts the downstream stretch of the potentially jurisdictional (CDFW) drainage after it enters the project site. Photo taken from the center of the northern edge of site, facing southwest.

Photo 8. Photo depicts the downstream stretch of the potentially jurisdictional (CDFW) drainage as it channelizes, and then dissipates into the eucalyptus grove (next photo). Photo taken from the center of the site, facing west.

Photo 9. Photo depicts the downstream stretch of the potentially jurisdictional (CDFW) drainage as it dissipates into the eucalyptus grove. Photo taken from the center of the site, facing east.

Photo 10. Photo depicts the area downstream of the potentially jurisdictional (CDFW) drainage after it dissipates into the eucalyptus grove. Photo taken from the center of the site, facing southwest.

Photo 11. Photo depicts the isolated erosional feature that originates from road runoff at Cambern Avenue and dissipates into the eucalyptus grove. Photo taken from the center of the site, facing north.