5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

2. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) analyzes the Modified Project's potential impacts to biological resources, including jurisdictional waters. This section focuses on the incremental change in impacts to biological resources associated with the Modified Project as compared to impacts disclosed in the State-certified EIR for the 2017 Project.[1]

The Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas were analyzed in the State-certified Draft EIR as part of Alternative 2 (the initially Proposed Project), and in the State-certified Final EIR as part of the Draft Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (Draft LEDPA), which included additional environmental protections compared to Alternative 2 in portions of the project outside of the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas. The final project approved by CDFW (*i.e.*, the 2017 Project) was based on the Draft LEDPA, with further enhancements to minimize biological impacts, but did not change the development facilitated within the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas. The State-certified EIR described significant and unavoidable impacts to spineflower, southwestern pond turtle, and San Emigdio blue butterfly from the overall development associated with Alternative 2; however, with the additional environmental protections in the Draft LEDPA alternative and final 2017 Project, CDFW determined that all impacts to biological resources were reduced to less than significant levels with mitigation.[2]

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[1] *The State-certified EIR did not identify any significant and unavoidable effects to biological resources associated with the 2017 Project. Therefore, this section focuses on whether the incremental changes associated with the Modified Project would result in any new significant effect to such resources that was not identified in the State-certified EIR.*

[2] *Specifically, CDFW prepared the State-certified EIR as part of a joint EIS/EIR in 2010 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Draft State-certified EIR analyzed a range of alternatives, including the No Project alternative (Alternative 1) and six project alternatives (Alternatives 2-7). Alternative 2 was the Proposed Project and had the most impacts, with Alternatives 3-7 including varying levels of project impact reduction. The Final State-certified EIR analyzed two additional alternatives, including the Draft LEDPA, which formed the basis for the final CDFW-approved project. The Draft LEDPA included additional environmental protections compared to Alternative 2 (Proposed Project) outside of the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas to reduce impacts to biological resources and other topic areas, but these changes did not affect the development facilitated in the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas. In*

(Footnote continued on next page)

As discussed in Section 3.0, Project Description, the Modified Project includes design changes to increase protections for biological resources as compared to the 2017 Project. In particular:

- Within the Entrada South Planning Area, significant portions of Unnamed Drainage 2—from the storm drain outlet at the southern Entrada South boundary to Magic Mountain Parkway—would be enhanced and restored as a natural, open, vegetated drainage channel with grade control structures that would generally retain the look and feel of a natural drainage. Although portions of the stream would be temporarily impacted during construction, they would be revegetated after construction pursuant to the Modified Project design. Compared to the 2017 Project, this environmentally beneficial modification would reduce permanent impacts to biological resources and jurisdictional waters, conserve additional habitat for wildlife and natural plant communities, and increase open space within the developed portions of the Project Site.

- Within the Valencia Commerce Center (VCC) Planning Area, the Modified Project would reduce permanent impacts to jurisdictional streams and associated vegetation communities, particularly in Hasley Creek. Although some such areas would be temporarily impacted during construction, they would be restored and revegetated after construction based on the Modified Project design. Compared to the 2017 Project, this environmentally beneficial modification would result in increased open space and habitat for wildlife and plant communities, and restored drainage areas.

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particular, the Draft LEDPA, and thus the final 2017 Project, included enhancements to reduce impacts to special-status species and their habitat, including impacts to spineflower, southwestern pond turtle, and San Emigdio blue butterfly, which would have been significant and unavoidable under Alternative 2. Under the Draft LEDPA and final 2017 Project, those impacts are less than significant with mitigation. (Final EIR, pp. 5.0-61, 5.0-63; 2010 CDFW CEQA Findings of Fact, pp. 37-55 and 194-195 [describing findings for each impact threshold, with the relevant findings on pp. 42 (species habitat), 47 (individuals), 51 (secondary impacts) and 194 (cumulative impacts)]. See also CEQA Findings, p. 209 [listing the project's significant and unavoidable impacts, which did not include biological resources].) The environmental enhancements that reduced impacts to spineflower, southwestern pond turtle, and San Emigdio blue butterfly to less than significant were located outside of the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas, summarized as follows: (i) spineflower impacts were reduced to less than significant by reducing impacts to spineflower-occupied habitat and increasing the total acreage of the spineflower preserves from 167 acres to 247 acres by expanding the Spring preserve and Magic Mountain preserve, which are outside of Entrada South and VCC (Final EIR, p. 5.0-61; 2010 CDFW CEQA Findings, pp. 166, 190); (ii) southwestern pond turtle impacts were reduced to less than significant by eliminating the Potrero Canyon Road Bridge, located outside of Entrada South and VCC, which would have caused a significant impact due to loss of turtle habitat in Potrero Canyon and in the River corridor (Final EIR, p. 5.0-63; CEQA Findings, p. 166); and (iii) San Emigdio blue butterfly impacts were reduced to less than significant by reducing impacts to avoid fragmentation of the San Emigdio blue butterfly colony in Potrero Canyon (outside of Entrada South and VCC), which is the only colony of the species within the RMDP/SCP area (Final EIR, p. 5.0-63; CEQA Findings, p. 166; Final EIR 4.5-1360, 5.0-63).

This SEIR review incorporates, and takes into account, the analysis and mitigation measures related to biological resources in the State-certified EIR. The State-certified EIR provided a comprehensive assessment of biological impacts, including effects on land cover types and natural vegetation communities, common wildlife species, special status species, and wildlife movement. To address the long-term nature of the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan (RMDP/SCP) and the potential for site conditions and resources to exhibit natural variability over time, the State-certified EIR conservatively assumed that sensitive resources documented to occur on site, or with known potential to occur on site, could be present and may be impacted during authorized development activities.

The State-certified EIR included a comprehensive framework of mitigation measures to address biological impacts by requiring, among other things, assessments prior to development activities (e.g., pre-construction surveys), avoidance and minimization measures where resources could be present (e.g., construction buffers), and/or compensatory mitigation requirements where applicable. These mitigation measures were designed to account for the natural variability of habitat conditions over time, including changes in the presence or extent of habitat conditions. Thus, changes in the presence of habitat, plants, or wildlife species that are consistent with the information or assumptions in the State-certified EIR do not constitute significant new information and are addressed by the existing mitigation measures in the State-certified EIR. All applicable mitigation measures from the State-certified EIR are also imposed on the Modified Project.

This section first describes any relevant changes in the environmental setting and regulatory setting of the project beyond the scope of the analysis completed for the State-certified EIR, such as changes in the presence of suitable habitat for sensitive wildlife species, or of jurisdictional waters, within the Project Site. It then evaluates whether those changes, in combination with the minor changes and refinements to the 2017 Project that are reflected in the Modified Project, alter the project's effects to biological resources to such an extent that the Modified Project could result in new significant effects compared to the effects analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

To support this analysis, Dudek and Rincon Consultants have prepared technical reports that summarize the most recent information regarding biological resources present on the Project Site and evaluate the potential for the Modified Project to cause new significant impacts to those resources. Dudek prepared the following two reports addressing vegetation communities, wildlife habitat, and sensitive plant and wildlife species:

- Entrada South Project Supplemental Biological Resources Technical Report, August 2024 (Entrada South Bio Report);

- Valencia Commerce Center Project Supplemental Biological Resources Technical Report, August 2024 (VCC Bio Report).

Rincon Consultants prepared the following two reports addressing jurisdictional waters:

- Entrada South Development Project Jurisdictional Waters Technical Report, October 2023 (Entrada South Waters Report);
- Valencia Commerce Center Development Project Jurisdictional Waters Technical Report, August 2024 (VCC Waters Report).

These technical reports are included as **Appendices 5.2a** through **5.2d** of this SEIR, respectively.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

a. Regulatory Setting

The regulatory setting and permitting processes described in the State-certified EIR for the 2017 Project remain generally applicable to the Modified Project, with the following updates and clarifications. An overview of the regulatory setting is provided in **Table 5.2-1**, Biological Resources Regulatory Overview, beginning on page 5.2-5 and a detailed discussion is provided below.

(1) Federal Laws

As described in the State-certified EIR for the 2017 Project, applicable federal laws and regulations include the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended (CWA), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.[3] These laws continue to apply, with the clarifications below.

[3] *Because the State-certified EIR was prepared pursuant to both CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the State-certified EIR also discussed NEPA. NEPA does not apply to the County's preparation of this SEIR. However, any federal action taken with regard to the Modified Project must comply with NEPA to the extent it applies.*

Table 5.2-1
Biological Resources Regulatory Overview

Issue Area and Relevant Legislation	Applicable Agency
Federal Laws	
Clean Water Act Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to issue permits regulating the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the "navigable waters at specified disposal sites." CWA Section 502 further defines "navigable waters" as "waters of the United States, including territorial seas." Waters of the United States are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 33, Section 328.3, to include, subject to certain exclusions: traditional navigable waters (*i.e.*, waters used or susceptible for use in interstate commerce, tidal waters, the territorial seas, and interstate waters); impoundments of most waters of the United States; tributaries of the foregoing waters that are "relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing;" wetlands adjacent to the foregoing waters; and intrastate waters not otherwise identified, which are relatively permanent waters and have a "continuous surface connection" to traditional navigable waters or to a jurisdictional tributary.[4]	Corps
Endangered Species Act The federal ESA and the implementing regulations include provisions for the protection and management of federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals and their designated critical habitats by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.[5,6] The federal ESA also requires USFWS and/or NOAA Fisheries to make determinations on whether any species should be listed as an endangered or threatened species and to designate critical habitat for endangered and threatened species; requires the preparation of recovery plans for the conservation and survival of an endangered or threatened species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of the species; and requires federal agencies to formally consult with USFWS and/or NOAA Fisheries and obtain a biological opinion prior to carrying out any federal program or agency action that may adversely affect threatened or endangered species or may adversely modify designated critical habitat.[7] ESA Section 3 defines critical habitat for endangered and threatened species as follows: (i) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species,	USFWS, NOAA

[4] *Revised 88 FR 61968 (Sept. 8, 2023). As of October 2023, this regulation, 33 CFR Section 328.3, and the definitions contained therein, are the subject of pending litigation and have been preliminarily enjoined in some states, not including California. Nonetheless, the current regulatory definition of waters of the United States provides the best available information on the Corps' and USEPA's view of their regulatory jurisdiction under the CWA and is referenced here for that purpose.*

[5] *16 United States Code (USC) 1531–1544. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.*

[6] *50 CFR 17.1–17.108. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.*

[7] *16 USC 1531–1544. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.*

Table 5.2-1 (Continued)
Biological Resources Regulatory Overview

Issue Area and Relevant Legislation	Applicable Agency
at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of § 1533 of this title, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of § 1533 of this title, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.[8]	
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act provides authority for the USFWS to evaluate impacts to fish and wildlife from proposed water resource development projects.[9] Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Section 2 requires federal agencies to consult with the USFWS when the waters or channel of a stream or other body of water are proposed to be modified pursuant to a federal permit or license.[10] Applicability depends on federal jurisdiction over some aspect of the Project, and the consultation is undertaken with a view toward conservation of wildlife resources by preventing loss of and damage to such resources.	USFWS, Corps
Migratory Bird Treaty Act The Migratory Bird Treaty Act includes provisions for the protection of migratory birds and prohibits the non-permitted take of most migratory birds, eggs, and nests.[11] More specifically, the act prohibits the taking, killing, possessing, transporting, and importing of migratory birds, parts of migratory birds, and their eggs and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. The act defines "take" as "to pursue, hunt, capture, collect, kill or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect or kill, unless the context otherwise requires." Most birds are considered migratory under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.	USFWS
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act In addition to the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act includes specific protection for bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*).[12]	USFWS
State Laws	
Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616 California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Section 1602 (Chapter 6, Fish and Wildlife Protection and Conservation) states that it is unlawful for any person to "substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change	CDFW

[8] *16 USC 1532(5)(A). Definitions.*

[9] *16 USC 661–668ss. Protection and Conservation of Wildlife.*

[10] *16 USC 662. Impounding, Diverting, or Controlling of Waters.*

[11] *16 USC 703–711. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.*

[12] *16 USC 668–669d. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.*

Table 5.2-1 (Continued)
Biological Resources Regulatory Overview

Issue Area and Relevant Legislation	Applicable Agency
or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake" without first notifying CDFW of that activity. Thereafter, if CDFW determines and informs the entity that the activity will not substantially adversely affect any existing fish or wildlife resources, the entity may commence the activity. If, however, CDFW determines that the activity may substantially adversely affect an existing fish or wildlife resource, the entity may be required to obtain from CDFW a Streambed Alteration Agreement, which will include reasonable measures necessary to protect the affected resource(s), before the entity may conduct the activity or activities described in the notification.[13]	
California Fully Protected Species CFGC Sections 3511, 4700, 5056, and 5515 designate certain wildlife species as "fully protected." Under the CFGC, it is illegal to "take" or possess any fully protected species except after authorization by CDFW, which is available only under very narrow circumstances for certain types of activities, including scientific research and certain infrastructure and energy projects identified by the Legislature.	CDFW
California Endangered Species Act CESA is intended to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance species designated as endangered or threatened and their habitat.[14] The California Fish and Game Commission, a constitutionally established commission distinct from CDFW, has exclusive statutory authority under CESA to designate species as endangered or threatened.[15,16,17] CESA directs all state agencies, boards, and commissions to seek to conserve endangered and threatened species and to utilize their authority in furtherance of that policy.[18] CESA also emphasizes, consistent with its goal to conserve species, the policy of the State of California to acquire lands for habitat for endangered and threatened species.[19] Finally, CESA indicates that state agencies should not approve projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of those species if there are reasonable and prudent alternatives	California Fish & Game Commission

[13] *CFGC, Section 1602. Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.*

[14] *CFGC, Sections 2050–2115.5. California Endangered Species Act.*

[15] *Note that although CDFG has changed its name to CDFW, both the California Fish and Game Commission and the California Fish and Game Code have retained their original names.*

[16] *California Constitution, article IV, Section 20, subdivision (b).*

[17] *CFGC, Section 2070. Listing of Endangered Species.*

[18] *CFGC, Sections 2050–2115.5. California Endangered Species Act, Section 2055.*

[19] *Ibid., Section 2052.*

Table 5.2-1 (Continued)
Biological Resources Regulatory Overview

Issue Area and Relevant Legislation	Applicable Agency
available, consistent with conserving the species or its habitat that would prevent jeopardy.[20] Species designated as endangered, threatened, or as candidates for listing or delisting under CESA are subject to what is commonly known as CESA's "take" prohibition. In general, this prohibition provides that no person shall import into the State, export out of the State, or take, possess, purchase, or sell within the State (or attempt to do any of those acts) any species, or any part or product thereof, designated by the Fish and Game Commission as protected under CESA, except as otherwise provided by law.[21,22] The CFGC defines "take" to mean "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill," or an attempt to do any such act, and violations of CESA's take prohibition are criminal misdemeanors under state law.[23]	
Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act was enacted in 1969 and authorized the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards to regulate water quality in California.[24] As relevant here, the Act requires any person proposing to discharge waste to waters of the State, including the discharge of fill material, to file a report of waste discharge with the appropriate regional board.[25] The regional board is authorized to issue waste discharge requirements (WDRs) to regulate the proposed discharge for the protection of water quality and beneficial uses.[26] The California Water Code defines "waters of the State" broadly, to include "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state."[27]	SWRCB
State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State In 2019, the SWRCB adopted the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (Discharge Procedures), which include a wetland definition, criteria for determining whether wetlands are waters of the State, wetland delineation procedures, and procedures that apply to the review and approval of applications for both	SWRCB

[20] *Ibid., Section 2052.1.*

[21] *CFGC, Sections 2050–2115.5. California Endangered Species Act, Sections 2080–2085, Taking, Importation, Exportation, or Sale.*

[22] *14 CCR 670.2(i)(1)(B)1. California Fish and Game Commission Endangered and Rare Plant List.*

[23] *CFGC, Section 86, Definition of "Take," and Section 12000, Definition of violations of code as a misdemeanor. See also Department of Fish and Game v. Anderson–Cottonwood Irrigation District, (1992) 8 Cal.App.4th 1554.*

[24] *California Water Code (CWC) Division 7. Porter-Cologne Act.*

[25] *CWC Section 13260.*

[26] *CWC Section 13263.*

[27] *CWC Section 13050(e).*

Table 5.2-1 (Continued)
Biological Resources Regulatory Overview

Issue Area and Relevant Legislation	Applicable Agency
water quality certification under CWA Section 401 and WDRs under the Porter-Cologne Act. Among other things, the Discharge Procedures require the applicant to demonstrate that it has followed the sequence of avoidance, minimization and mitigation for impacts to waters of the State, that impacts of the discharge will not result in a net loss of aquatic resources, and that the discharge will not violate water quality standards or cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the State. The Discharge Procedures also include mitigation requirements and, in most cases, require the water boards to conduct or review an alternatives analysis to ensure that any permitted discharge represents the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.[28] The Discharge Procedures took effect on May 28, 2020, for applications submitted after that date.[29]	
County Regulations	
County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance The County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance (CLAOTO), codified at Los Angeles County Code Chapter 22.56, Part 16, prohibits damaging or removing oak trees with trunks that are at least eight inches in diameter (or that have two trunks totaling at least 12 inches in diameter) as measured 4.5 feet above natural ground.[30] A heritage oak, as defined by CLAOTO, is any oak tree measuring 36 inches or more in diameter as measured 4.5 feet above natural ground, or any oak of 36 inches or less in diameter having a significant historical or cultural importance to the community. CLAOTO requires that all potential impacts to oak trees regulated by this ordinance be preceded by an application to the County that includes a detailed oak tree report. Mitigation for impacts to oak trees is usually required as a condition of an Oak Tree Permit issued by the County.	Department of Regional Planning

Source: Eyestone Environmental, 2024.

[28] *Discharge Procedures, Section IV.B.*

[29] *Discharge Procedures. Section IV.*

[30] *County of Los Angeles. 1988. Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 22.56, Part 19. County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance.*

(a) Clean Water Act

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to issue permits regulating the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the "navigable waters at specified disposal sites." CWA Section 502 further defines "navigable waters" as "waters of the United States, including territorial seas." Waters of the United States are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 33, Section 328.3, to include, subject to certain exclusions: traditional navigable waters (*i.e.*, waters used or susceptible for use in interstate commerce, tidal waters, the territorial seas, and interstate waters); impoundments of most waters of the United States; tributaries of the foregoing waters that are "relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing;" wetlands adjacent to the foregoing waters; and intrastate waters not otherwise identified, which are relatively permanent waters and have a "continuous surface connection" to traditional navigable waters or to a jurisdictional tributary.[31]

Section 401 of the CWA requires an applicant requesting a federal permit (including a Section 404 permit) for an activity that may result in any discharge into navigable waters to provide state certification that the proposed activity will not violate state and federal water quality standards. In California, the regional water quality control boards are responsible for issuing water quality certification for most projects.

In addition to the above regulations on discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, CWA Section 404 extends additional protection to certain rare and/or sensitive "special aquatic sites," in particular wetlands.[32]

The Corps issued a permit under section 404 of the CWA for the RMDP component of the RMDP/SCP (the RMDP 404 Permit), authorizing discharge of fill to waters of the United States located within the RMDP boundary. The RMDP 404 Permit does not authorize activities within that majority of the Project Site that lies outside the RMDP boundary. As part of the Modified Project, the Applicant has requested Corps authorization under CWA section 404 for discharge of fill to waters of the United States located within the Entrada South Planning Area and will request that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) grant water quality certification for the requested fill activities

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[31] *Revised 88 FR 61968 (Sept. 8, 2023). As of October 2023, this regulation, 33 CFR Section 328.3, and the definitions contained therein, are the subject of pending litigation and have been preliminarily enjoined in some states, not including California. Nonetheless, the current regulatory definition of waters of the United States provides the best available information on the Corps' and USEPA's view of their regulatory jurisdiction under the CWA and is referenced here for that purpose.*

[32] *40 CFR 230.40–230.45. Potential Impacts on Special Aquatic Sites.*

under CWA Section 401. The Applicant will also request authorization under CWA Sections 401 and 404 as required for discharge of fill to waters of the United States within the VCC Planning Area.

(b) Endangered Species Act

The federal ESA and the implementing regulations include provisions for the protection and management of federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals and their designated critical habitats by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.[33,34] ESA Section 4 requires USFWS and/or NOAA Fisheries to make determinations on whether any species should be listed as an endangered or threatened species and to designate critical habitat for endangered and threatened species.[35] ESA Section 3 defines critical habitat for endangered and threatened species as follows:

> (i) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of § 1533 of this title, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) which may require special management considerations or protection; and
>
> (ii) specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of § 1533 of this title, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.[36]

ESA Section 4 also requires the preparation of recovery plans for the conservation and survival of an endangered or threatened species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of the species. Recovery plans include: a description of site-specific management actions necessary to achieve the goal(s) for conservation and survival of the species; objective measurable criteria which, if met, would result in a determination of removing the species from the endangered or threatened species list; and

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[33] *16 United States Code (USC) 1531–1544. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.*

[34] *50 CFR 17.1–17.108. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.*

[35] *16 USC 1531–1544. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.*

[36] *16 USC 1532(5)(A). Definitions.*

estimates of the time required and cost to carry out the measures needed to achieve the plan's goal(s) and to achieve the immediate steps to the goal(s).[37]

ESA Section 7 requires federal agencies to formally consult with USFWS and/or NOAA Fisheries and obtain a biological opinion prior to carrying out any federal program or agency action that may adversely affect threatened or endangered species or may adversely modify designated critical habitat. The formal Section 7 consultation and biological opinion process includes an evaluation of whether a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the "destruction or adverse modification" of critical habitat and requires the identification of reasonable and prudent measures to minimize the impact of incidental taking, if authorized.[38]

The USFWS provided a biological opinion on the Corps' issuance of the RMDP 404 Permit, under section 7 of the ESA, exempting take of certain ESA-listed species within the RMDP area. That biological opinion does not cover activities within the Project Site except for RMDP-related activities within the portion of the Entrada South Planning Area located within the RMDP boundary.

The Corps initiated consultation with the USFWS under ESA section 7, as described below, regarding its issuance of the requested CWA Section 404 permit for the Modified Project within the Entrada South Planning Area. The USFWS issued its biological opinion on June 24, 2020, addressing potential impacts of the Modified Project to the California condor and coastal California gnatcatcher. Other species addressed in the biological opinion for the RMDP are not expected to be affected by the Modified Project within the Entrada South Planning Area.

The Applicant expects that the Corps will consult with the USFWS under ESA Section 7 if needed to ensure that its authorization of fill activities associated with the Modified Project within the VCC Planning Area does not jeopardize the continued existence of any ESA-listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat for such species. Federally listed species that have been documented to occur in the vicinity of the VCC Planning Area, or for which critical habitat has been designated within the VCC Planning Area, include unarmored three-spine stickleback, arroyo toad, California condor, coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and yellow-billed cuckoo.

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[37] *16 USC 1533. Determination of Endangered Species and Threatened Species.*

[38] *16 USC 1536. Interagency Cooperation.*

The federal listing status under the ESA of certain species with potential to occur within the Project Site has changed compared to that described in the State-certified EIR. These changes are described in section 2.b.(6), below.

(c) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act provides authority for the USFWS to evaluate impacts to fish and wildlife from proposed water resource development projects.[39] Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Section 2 requires federal agencies to consult with the USFWS when the waters or channel of a stream or other body of water are proposed to be modified pursuant to a federal permit or license.[40] Applicability depends on federal jurisdiction over some aspect of the Project, and the consultation is undertaken with a view toward conservation of wildlife resources by preventing loss of and damage to such resources. With regard to the proposed Project, the Corps will comply with these requirements in coordination with the USFWS.

(d) Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act includes provisions for the protection of migratory birds and prohibits the non-permitted take of most migratory birds, eggs, and nests.[41] More specifically, the act prohibits the taking, killing, possessing, transporting, and importing of migratory birds, parts of migratory birds, and their eggs and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. The act defines "take" as "to pursue, hunt, capture, collect, kill or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect or kill, unless the context otherwise requires." Most birds are considered migratory under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

(e) Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

In addition to the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act includes specific protection for bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*).[42]

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[39] *16 USC 661–668ss. Protection and Conservation of Wildlife.*

[40] *16 USC 662. Impounding, Diverting, or Controlling of Waters.*

[41] *16 USC 703–711. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.*

[42] *16 USC 668–669d. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.*

(2) State Laws

Applicable state laws and regulations include California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Sections 1600-1616; CFGC Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 pertaining to fully protected species; the California Endangered Species Act (CFGC Sections 2050 *et seq.*, CESA); the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code Division 7); the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State; the Native Plant Protection Act of 1977 (CFGC Sections 1900 *et seq*.); and Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21083.4 (oak woodlands conservation). These laws continue to apply as described in the State-certified EIR, with the clarifications below.

(a) Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616

CFGC Section 1602 (Chapter 6, Fish and Wildlife Protection and Conservation) states that it is unlawful for any person to "substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake" without first notifying CDFW of that activity. Thereafter, if CDFW determines and informs the entity that the activity will not substantially adversely affect any existing fish or wildlife resources, the entity may commence the activity. If, however, CDFW determines that the activity may substantially adversely affect an existing fish or wildlife resource, the entity may be required to obtain from CDFW a Streambed Alteration Agreement, which will include reasonable measures necessary to protect the affected resource(s), before the entity may conduct the activity or activities described in the notification.[43]

Streambed Alteration Agreements are typically required for activities such as excavation or placement of fill within a stream channel, vegetation clearing, installation (and sometimes operation) of structures that divert the flow of water, installation of culverts and bridge supports, cofferdams for construction dewatering, and bank reinforcement. "Streams," "rivers," and "lakes" are not defined in California Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. (Section 1600), and CDFW has not defined those terms in its regulations. However, generally speaking, the California Fish and Game Commission has defined a stream or river in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 1.72, as:

> *[A] body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes*

[43] *CFGC, Section 1602. Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.*

watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation.

Further, CDFW interprets "streambed" to encompass all portions of the bed, banks, and channel of any stream, including intermittent and ephemeral streams, extending laterally to the upland edge of riparian vegetation. In the case of watercourses with vegetated floodplains, such as the Santa Clara River, this interpretation often results in an asserted jurisdictional area that is much wider than the active channel of the stream. The upstream limit of CDFW's asserted jurisdiction is the point upstream of which there is no evidence of a defined bed and bank, and riparian vegetation is not present.

Although Section 1600 does not specifically contain provisions regulating activities that would impact wetlands, isolated areas containing riparian vegetation, or wetland hydrology, such activities are considered by CDFW to be subject to the Streambed Alteration Agreement program. However, there is no CFGC analogue to the "special aquatic site" concept found in the CWA.

In 2010, CDFW issued a Master Streambed Alteration Agreement (MSAA) authorizing impacts to streambeds within the RMDP area. The MSAA does not authorize impacts to streambeds within the Project Site outside of the RMDP area. The Applicant will be required to obtain one or more streambed alteration agreements from CDFW to authorize the Modified Project's impacts to streambeds within the Project Site.

(b) California Fully Protected Species

CFGC Sections 3511, 4700, 5056, and 5515 designate certain wildlife species as "fully protected." Under the CFGC, it is illegal to "take" or possess any fully protected species except after authorization by CDFW, which is available only under very narrow circumstances for certain types of activities, including scientific research and certain infrastructure and energy projects identified by the Legislature. Fully protected species are designated by statute and include the California condor and unarmored threespine stickleback, which have been documented in the vicinity of the VCC Planning Area.

(c) California Endangered Species Act

CESA is intended to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance species designated as endangered or threatened and their habitat.[44] The California Fish and Game Commission, a constitutionally established commission distinct from CDFW, has exclusive statutory

[44] *CFGC, Sections 2050–2115.5. California Endangered Species Act.*

authority under CESA to designate species as endangered or threatened.[45,46,47] Animal species designated as endangered or threatened under CESA are listed in California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Section 670.5. Plant species designated as endangered or threatened under CESA, or designated as a rare plant species under the California Native Plant Protection Act, are listed in CCR, Title 14, Section 670.2.[48]

CESA directs all state agencies, boards, and commissions to seek to conserve endangered and threatened species and to utilize their authority in furtherance of that policy.[49] For purposes of CESA, "conserve," "conserving," and "conservation" mean to use, and the use of, all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the species protections provided by CESA are no longer necessary. These methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, all activities associated with scientific resources management, such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition, restoration and maintenance, propagation, live trapping, and transplantation, and, in the extraordinary case where population pressures within a given ecosystem cannot be otherwise relieved, may include regulated taking.[50] CESA also emphasizes, consistent with its goal to conserve species, the policy of the State of California to acquire lands for habitat for endangered and threatened species.[51] Finally, CESA indicates that state agencies should not approve projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of those species if there are reasonable and prudent alternatives available, consistent with conserving the species or its habitat that would prevent jeopardy.[52]

With respect to lands under private ownership, CESA underscores that the cooperation of owners of land identified as habitat for endangered or threatened species is essential for the conservation of those species and that it is the policy of the State of California to foster and encourage that cooperation in furtherance of CESA's conservation

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[45] *Note that although CDFG has changed its name to CDFW, both the California Fish and Game Commission and the California Fish and Game Code have retained their original names.*

[46] *California Constitution, article IV, Section 20, subdivision (b).*

[47] *CFGC, Section 2070. Listing of Endangered Species.*

[48] *CFGC, Section 1900–1913. California Native Plant Protection Act.*

[49] *CFGC, Sections 2050–2115.5. California Endangered Species Act, Section 2055.*

[50] *Ibid., Section 2061.*

[51] *Ibid., Section 2052.*

[52] *Ibid., Section 2052.1.*

goals.[53] To the extent that CESA requires a person to provide mitigation measures or alternatives to address a particular impact on a designated endangered, threatened, or candidate species, the Fish and Game Code provides that any required measures or alternatives shall be roughly proportional in extent to any impact on those species caused by that person. Likewise, where various measures or alternatives are available to meet this requirement, CESA directs that those measures or alternatives shall maintain the person's objectives to the greatest extent possible.[54] To that same end, CESA directs CDFW to work with project proponents to develop reasonable and prudent alternatives, consistent with CESA's conservation goals, while at the same time maintaining the project purpose to the greatest extent possible.[55,56]

Species designated as endangered, threatened, or as candidates for listing or delisting under CESA are subject to what is commonly known as CESA's "take" prohibition. In general, this prohibition provides that no person shall import into the State, export out of the State, or take, possess, purchase, or sell within the State (or attempt to do any of those acts) any species, or any part or product thereof, designated by the Fish and Game Commission as protected under CESA, except as otherwise provided by law.[57,58] The CFGC defines "take" to mean "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill," or an attempt to do any such act, and violations of CESA's take prohibition are criminal misdemeanors under state law.[59]

CDFW has approved the SCP component of the RMDP/SCP and issued an incidental take permit (SCP ITP) under the CESA that authorizes take of spineflower within the SCP area, including the Project Site. Therefore, the Applicant is not requesting an incidental take permit for spineflower but will continue to implement the SCP as approved by CDFW and will comply with the terms and conditions of the SCP ITP.

CDFW issued a multi-species incidental take permit for RMDP activities under the CESA, but that permit does not authorize take of state-listed species within the Project Site,

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[53] *Ibid., Section 2056.*

[54] *Ibid., Section 2052.1.*

[55] *Ibid., Section 2053.*

[56] *14 CCR 783.2(b). Incidental Take Permit Applications (information requirements).*

[57] *CFGC, Sections 2050–2115.5. California Endangered Species Act, Sections 2080–2085, Taking, Importation, Exportation, or Sale.*

[58] *14 CCR 670.2(i)(1)(B)1. California Fish and Game Commission Endangered and Rare Plant List.*

[59] *CFGC, Section 86, Definition of "Take," and Section 12000, Definition of violations of code as a misdemeanor. See also Department of Fish and Game v. Anderson–Cottonwood Irrigation District, (1992) 8 Cal.App.4th 1554.*

except for the portion of the Entrada South Planning Area within the RMDP boundary. The Modified Project is not expected to result in take, as defined under the CESA, of any CESA-listed species or CESA candidate species other than spineflower. If take of CESA-protected species is expected, the Applicant will apply to CDFW for incidental take authorization under the CESA.

The state listing status under the CESA of certain species with potential to occur within the Project Site has changed compared to that described in the State-certified EIR. These changes are described in section 2.b.(6), below.

(d) Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act was enacted in 1969 and authorized the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards to regulate water quality in California.[60] As relevant here, the Act requires any person proposing to discharge waste to waters of the State, including the discharge of fill material, to file a report of waste discharge with the appropriate regional board.[61] The regional board is authorized to issue waste discharge requirements (WDRs) to regulate the proposed discharge for the protection of water quality and beneficial uses.[62] The California Water Code defines "waters of the State" broadly, to include "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state."[63]

As noted above, the regional boards also have authority to issue CWA Section 401 water quality certification for most projects in California. Although the Porter-Cologne Act vests the water boards with independent, state-law authority to regulate discharges to waters, for projects that require water quality certification, the water boards typically do not issue both a certification and separate WDRs. Instead, the regional board issues water quality certification, and authorization under the Porter-Cologne Act is provided through statewide WDRs that require compliance (under authority of state law) with all conditions of the certification order.[64]

The Applicant expects to request certification for Modified Project activities resulting in fill of waters of the United States within the Entrada South Planning Area and the VCC

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[60] *California Water Code (CWC) Division 7. Porter-Cologne Act.*

[61] *CWC Section 13260.*

[62] *CWC Section 13263.*

[63] *CWC Section 13050(e).*

[64] *SWRCB, Water Quality Order No. 2003 - 0017 – DWQ.*

Planning Area. Assuming it grants water quality certification, the LARWQCB is not expected to exercise its authority to issue separate WDRs for Modified Project activities requiring the discharge of fill to aquatic resources.

(e) State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State

In 2019, the SWRCB adopted the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (Discharge Procedures), which include a wetland definition, criteria for determining whether wetlands are waters of the State, wetland delineation procedures, and procedures that apply to the review and approval of applications for both water quality certification under CWA Section 401 and WDRs under the Porter-Cologne Act. Among other things, the Discharge Procedures require the applicant to demonstrate that it has followed the sequence of avoidance, minimization and mitigation for impacts to waters of the State, that impacts of the discharge will not result in a net loss of aquatic resources, and that the discharge will not violate water quality standards or cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the State. The Discharge Procedures also include mitigation requirements and, in most cases, require the water boards to conduct or review an alternatives analysis to ensure that any permitted discharge represents the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.[65] The Discharge Procedures took effect on May 28, 2020, for applications submitted after that date.[66]

The LARWQCB will be responsible for applying the Discharge Procedures to any application for water quality certification (or WDRs, if applicable) submitted for Modified Project activities.

(3) County Regulations

(a) General Plan

The Los Angeles County General Plan directs future growth and development in the County's unincorporated areas and establishes goals, policies, and objectives that pertain to the entire County. The current General Plan, adopted in 2015, includes a Conservation and Natural Resources Element that includes a section on biological resources and addresses regional habitat linkages, forests, coastal zones, woodlands, SEAs, and riparian habitats, streambeds, and wetlands. Relevant policies address the conservation and enhancement of natural habitats and biological resources; conservation and sustainable

[65] *Discharge Procedures, Section IV.B.*

[66] *Discharge Procedures. Section IV.*

management of forests and woodlands; development within SEAs; and the restoration of significant riparian resources. With respect to SEAs, the General Plan incorporates elements of the County's SEA Ordinance, Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances 22.102, which is intended to preserve biodiversity within the County and promote resilience of preserved habitats, while improving quality of life for County residents and preserving property rights within SEAs.

(b) Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012

The Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012 (Area Plan) serves as a long-term guide for development in the Santa Clarita Valley (Valley) Planning Area over a 20-year planning period. The Area Plan ensures consistency between the General Plans of the County and the City of Santa Clarita (City) in order to achieve common goals and encourages the coordination of land use plans with public services and other departments or agencies. The Area Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element includes policies regarding habitat preservation, the use of site-appropriate native or adapted plant materials, maintaining wildlife corridors, and the protection of wetlands, heritage oak trees, and biological resources in SEAs.

(c) County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance

The County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance (CLAOTO), codified at Los Angeles County Code Chapter 22.56, Part 16, prohibits damaging or removing oak trees with trunks that are at least eight inches in diameter (or that have two trunks totaling at least 12 inches in diameter) as measured 4.5 feet above natural ground.[67] A heritage oak, as defined by CLAOTO, is any oak tree measuring 36 inches or more in diameter as measured 4.5 feet above natural ground, or any oak of 36 inches or less in diameter having a significant historical or cultural importance to the community. CLAOTO requires that all potential impacts to oak trees regulated by this ordinance be preceded by an application to the County that includes a detailed oak tree report. Mitigation for impacts to oak trees is usually required as a condition of an Oak Tree Permit issued by the County.

b. Existing Conditions

This section summarizes the biological resources present within the Project Site. The Entrada South Planning Area and the VCC Planning Area are described separately.

[67] *County of Los Angeles. 1988. Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 22.56, Part 19. County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance.*

(1) Project Site

The Project Site is located within the Santa Clara River basin. The Santa Clara River watershed comprises a total of 1,634 square miles and drains portions of Los Padres National Forest, Angeles National Forest, and the Santa Susana Mountains. The portion of the watershed in which the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas lie is mostly east of the Ventura/Los Angeles County line and encompasses approximately 640 square miles. The Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas are described separately below.

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

The topography of the Entrada South Planning Area is dominated by several north/south-trending ridges. Site elevations range from approximately 1,100 feet above mean sea level (amsl) in the eastern portion to approximately 1,450 feet amsl on the ridges in the southwestern portion of the Entrada South Planning Area (see **Figure 5.2-1**, Entrada South Topography, on page 5.2-22).

Three unnamed, ephemeral drainages that flow northward are present in the Entrada South Planning Area, known as (from west to east): Unnamed Drainage 1, Unnamed Drainage 2, and Unnamed Drainage 3.[68,69] All of these tributaries exit the Entrada South Planning Area through storm drain systems before eventually discharging to the Santa Clara River (see **Figure 5.2-2**, Entrada South Drainage Patterns, on page 5.2-23).

[68] *These drainages are sometimes also referred to as Unnamed Canyon 1, 2 and 3, respectively.*

[69] *As described in the State-certified EIR, an additional drainage, Magic Mountain Canyon, was located along the western edge of the Entrada South Planning Area, generally following the border with the NRSP. This drainage was within the RMDP permit area and has been entirely filled as authorized by the RMDP permits. The drainage is no longer present and is not addressed further in this SEIR.*

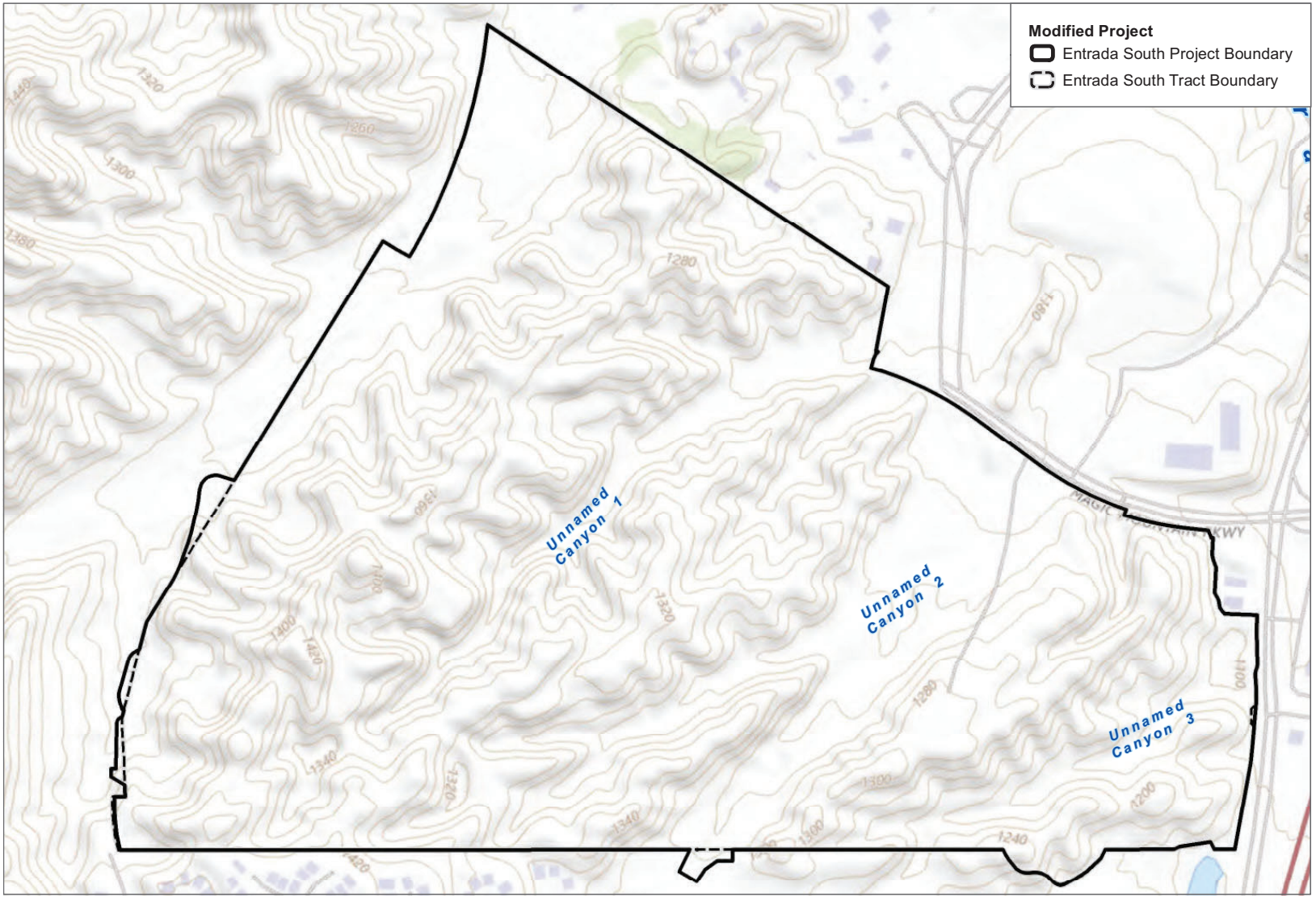

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Figure 5.2-1
Entrada South Topography

Source: Dudek, 2023.

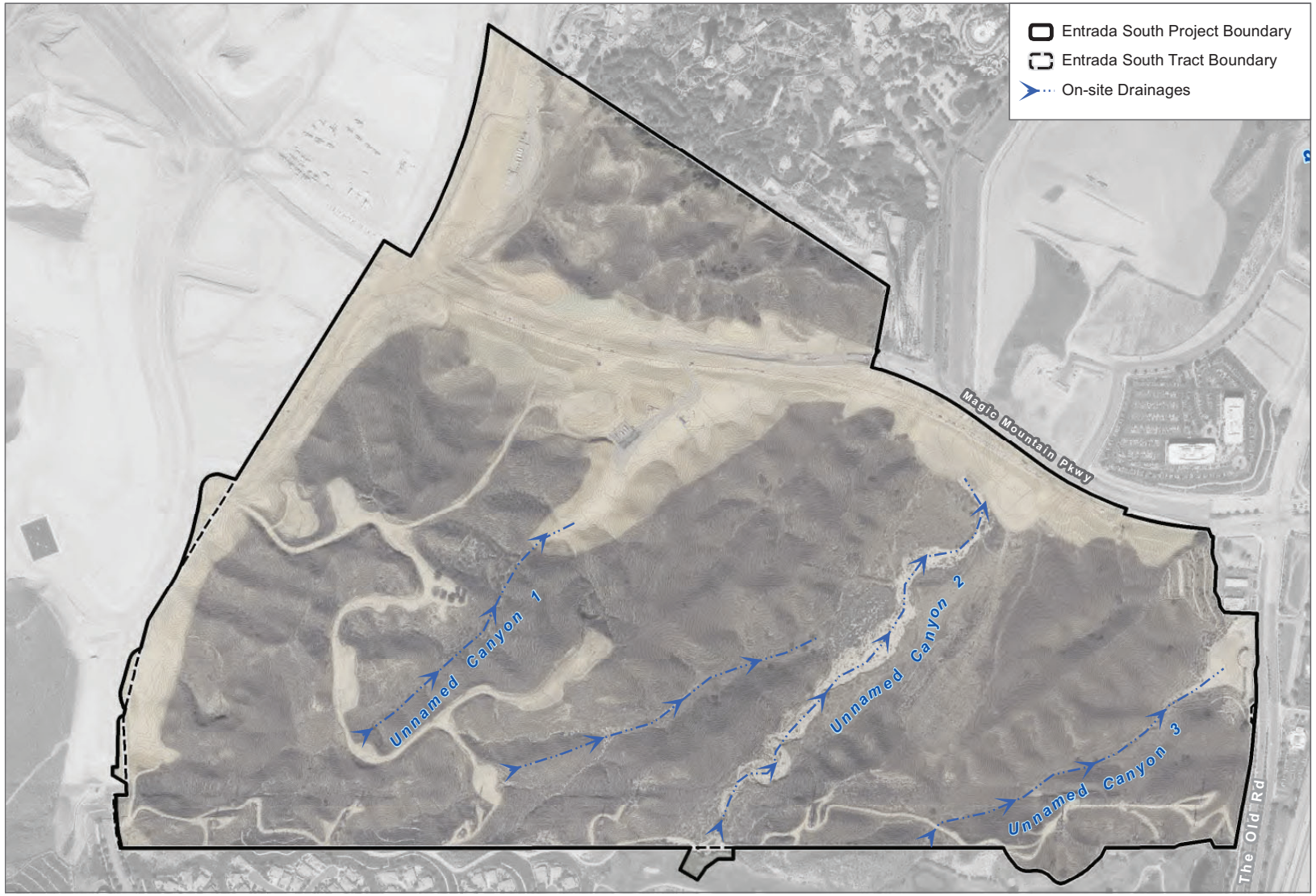

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Figure 5.2-2
Entrada South Drainage Patterns

Source: Dudek, 2023.

(b) VCC Planning Area

The VCC Planning Area lies roughly in the northwest corner of the junction of Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 126 (SR-126), east of Commerce Center Drive and north of the Santa Clara River. The topography of the VCC Planning Area is dominated by north–south-trending ridges that lie north of Castaic Creek, near the confluence with Hasley Creek. Site elevations range from approximately 990 feet amsl in the Castaic Creek bottom to approximately 1,210 feet amsl at the top of the north-central ridge (see **Figure 5.2-3**, VCC Topography, on page 5.2-25).

Two drainages, Castaic Creek and Hasley Creek, run roughly north–south through the VCC Planning Area and join at the southwestern end of the planning area. Castaic Creek and Hasley Creek eventually drain to the Santa Clara River. In addition, two other potentially jurisdictional aquatic features are present on-site: the Live Oak Road Detention Basin, and the Old Road Agricultural Ditch (see **Figure 5.2-4**, VCC Drainage Patterns, on page 5.2-26).

(2) Literature Review and Biological Studies

The State-certified EIR contained the best available biological information about the Project Site, including vegetation mapping and results of special-status plant and wildlife surveys. Additional biological surveys have been conducted within the Project Site since the State-certified EIR was prepared. The results of these additional surveys are collected and evaluated in the two Dudek biological technical reports included as part of **Appendix 5.2** this SEIR.

Specifically, surveys of the Project Site were conducted to verify or update mapping of vegetation communities and land covers documented in prior reports, including comprehensive surveys for special-status plant species conducted in 2012 and in 2019. These surveys are in addition to comprehensive surveys conducted in 2003 and 2004, which were reported in the State-certified EIR. Thus, the Project Site has been comprehensively surveyed for special-status plants on four different occasions (2003, 2004, 2012 and 2019), and all four surveys returned similar results, despite being conducted under varying conditions, including years of below-average and above-average rainfall. Focused surveys for specific plant species were conducted as well, including: :annual surveys for San Fernando Valley spineflower (spineflower; *Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) conducted as part of the SCP; surveys for slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*) in 2015 (within the Entrada South Planning Area only) and 2022 (both Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas); and oak tree surveys, updated most recently in 2021 (VCC Planning Area) and 2022 (Entrada South Planning Area), which also identified Southern California black walnut and mainland cherry trees. Given the number and consistency of survey results, it is very unlikely that additional surveys would identify any previously unreported special-status

SOURCE: USGS National Map

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Figure 5.2-3
VCC Topography

Source: Dudek, 2024.

SOURCE: AECOM

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Figure 5.2-4
VCC Drainage Patterns

Source: Dudek, 2024.

plant species, and the surveys conducted to date accurately indicate the occurrence of special-status plants within the Project Site. In addition, for special-status plant species that have not been the subject of recent focused surveys, Project mitigation measures require either that the number of plants impacted be assessed and mitigated at the time of Project construction (e.g., white rabbit tobacco), or that impacts be assessed and mitigated based on loss of suitable habitat, rather than the number of plants affected. Thus, additional focused surveys for those plants would not enhance the understanding of Project impacts or the ability to mitigate those impacts. Finally, surveys and/or habitat assessments were conducted for specific special-status wildlife species known to occur, or with potential to occur, on the Project Site. Please see Table 1 in the Entrada South Bio Report, and Table 1 in the VCC Bio Report , included as **Appendices 5.2a** and **5.2b** of this SEIR, respectively, for complete lists of these site-specific surveys. Dudek also performed updated literature reviews to identify any new information relevant to the potential effects of the Modified Project on biological resources within the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas; please see the technical reports in **Appendices 5.2a** and **5.2b** of this SEIR for lists of resources consulted.

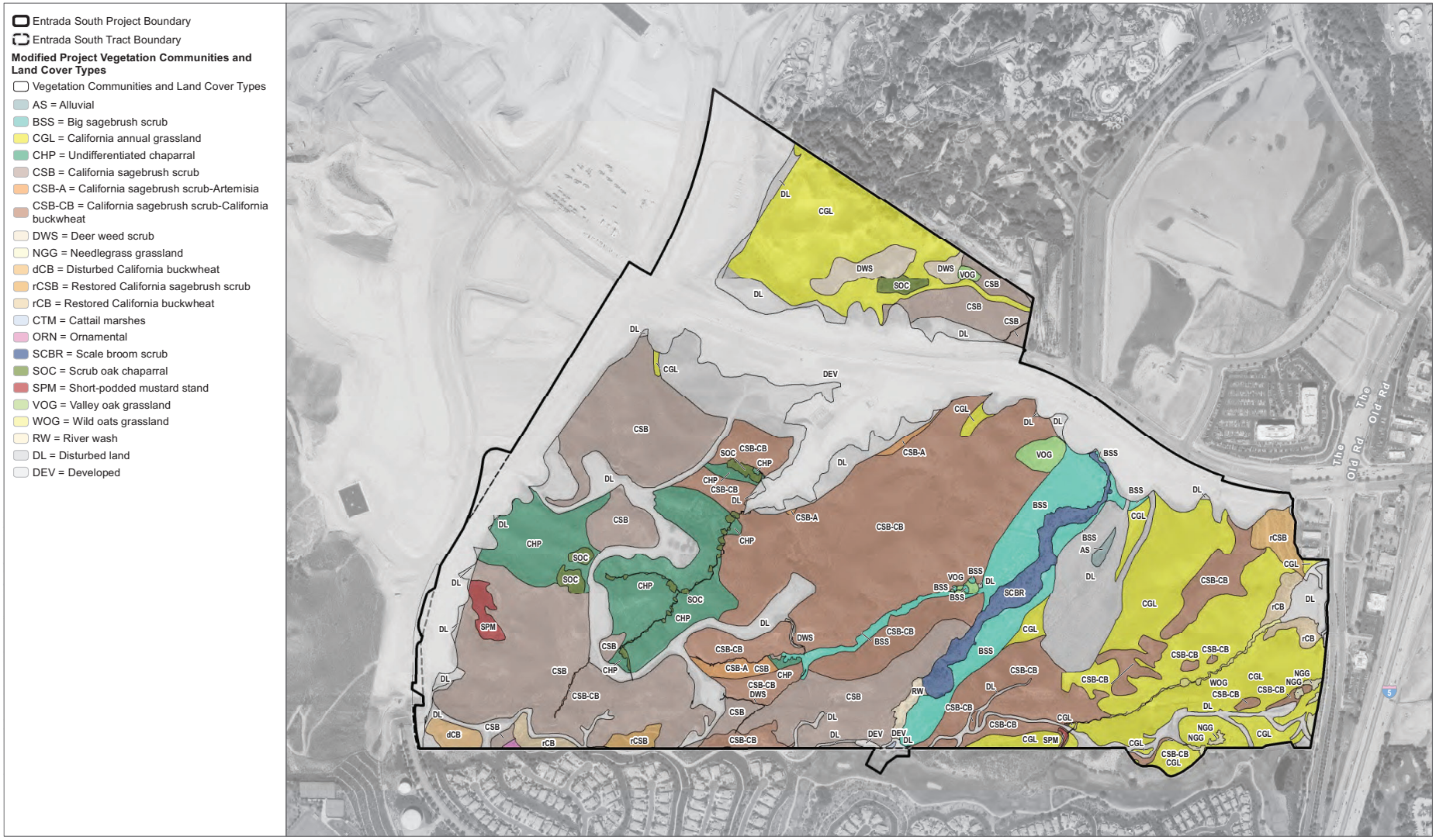
(3) Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

The State-certified EIR included information on vegetation communities and land covers within the Entrada South Planning Area. Dudek conducted additional vegetation mapping in 2019 to determine whether the vegetation communities and land covers had changed substantially. **Figure 5.2-5**, Modified Project Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types—Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-28, shows the current vegetation communities within the Entrada South Planning Area.

Table 5.2-2, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-29, compares the current acreages of vegetation communities and land covers within the Entrada South Planning Area to the information presented in the State-certified EIR. Acreages provided in this comparison reflect both minor changes to the boundary of the Modified Project within the Entrada South Planning Area, and physical changes in the vegetation communities and land cover types within that boundary, since the State-certified EIR was prepared.

Overall, there are currently 7.4 acres more natural vegetation communities and 6.2 acres less man-made land cover types within the Entrada South Planning Area, compared to the communities described in the State-certified EIR. These minor changes are within the normal range of variability over time expected in a natural environment due to factors such as wildfire, land use changes, vegetation colonization and succession, and annual weather conditions such as drought or large storm events that may affect riparian



SOURCE: ESRI 2019; Hunsaker 2019

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Figure 5.2-5
Modified Project Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types–Entrada South Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2023.

Table 5.2-2
Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in Entrada South Planning Area

General Physiognomic and Physical Location	Habitat Types	Floristic Alliance/ Associations Included	State-certified EIR Acreage[a]	Current Acreage[b]	Overall Change in Acreage
Grass and Herb Dominated Communities	Non-Native Grassland Native Grassland Mustard stand	California annual grassland Wild oat grassland Needlegrass grassland Short-podded mustard stand	53.0	60.0	+7.0
Scrub and Chaparral	Coastal Scrub Undifferentiated Chaparral Scrubs Other Chaparral	California sagebrush scrub (including restored) California sagebrush—Artemisia California sagebrush—California buckwheat scrub California buckwheat (including restored and disturbed forms) Deer weed scrub Scrub oak chaparral	175.4	174.2	-1.2
Broad Leafed Upland Tree Dominated	Oak Woodland and Forest	Valley oak/grass	—	1.7	+1.7
Riparian and Bottomland Habitat	Other Riparian/ Wetland	River wash Alluvial scrub Big sagebrush scrub Cattail marshes Scale broom scrub	19.9	19.8	-0.1
Man-Made Land Cover Types		Ornamental Developed land[c] Disturbed land	135.7	129.5	-6.2
Not Mapped[d]			0.4	—	-0.4

[a] *Includes all areas within the footprint of the 2017 Project.*

[b] *Includes all areas within the footprint of the Modified Project, including <1 acre that were not described in the State-certified EIR, composed of developed land.*

[c] *To maintain a consistent basis for comparison, areas currently mapped as "developed land" as a result of construction of the Mission Village Project are classified here as developed land for purposes of the State-certified EIR even if they were mapped as another land cover type in that document. The State-certified EIR assumed that these areas would be developed as a result of RMDP activities prior to implementation of the Entrada South Planning Area.*

[d] *No 2010 vegetation data were available for a small area along the southern boundary of the Entrada South Planning Area as part of the RMDP/SCP EIR/EIS.*

Source: Dudek, 2024.

resources. No new species, and no suitable habitat for special-status species, have been identified on site that were not previously identified in the State-certified EIR. Therefore, the vegetation communities and land cover types remain substantially similar to, and consistent with, those reported in the State-certified EIR.

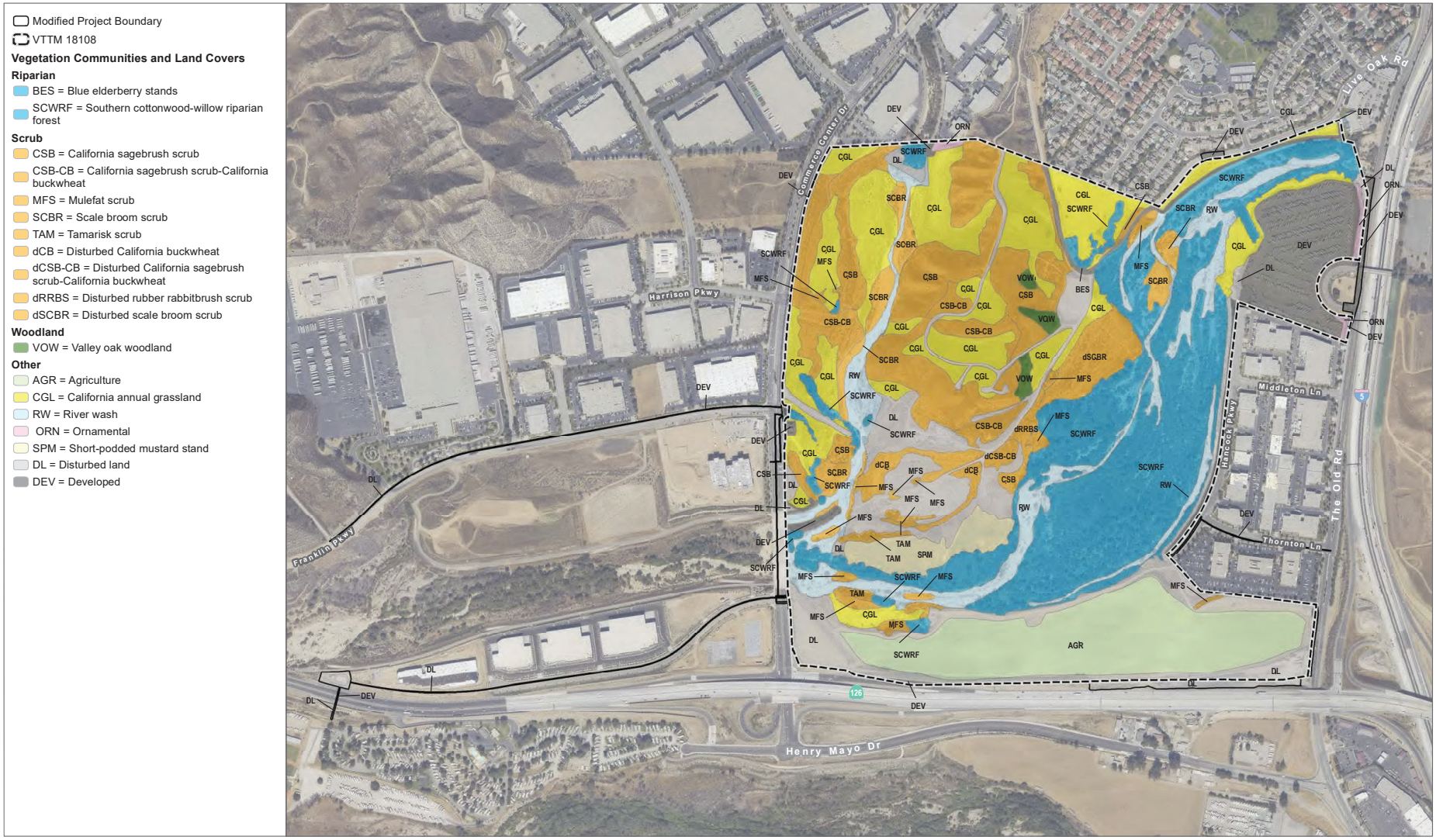
(b) VCC Planning Area

The State-certified EIR included information on vegetation communities and land covers within the VCC Planning Area. Dudek conducted additional vegetation mapping in 2019 to determine whether the vegetation communities and land covers had changed substantially. **Figure 5.2-6**, Modified Project Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types—VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-31, shows the current vegetation communities within the VCC Planning Area.

Table 5.2-3, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-32, compares the current acreages of vegetation communities and land covers within the VCC Planning Area to the information presented in the State-certified EIR. Acreages provided in this comparison reflect both minor changes to the boundary of the Modified Project within the VCC Planning Area, and physical changes in the vegetation communities and land cover types within that boundary, since the State-certified EIR was prepared.

Overall, there are currently 13.3 acres more natural vegetation communities and 0.3 acres more man-made land cover types within the VCC Planning Area, compared to the resources described in the State-certified EIR. This increase is mostly due to the inclusion of the off-site improvement areas and an additional portion of Castaic Creek within the Modified Project footprint, rather than new natural vegetation communities replacing man-made land cover types. In portions of the VCC Planning Area common to both the 2017 Project and the Modified Project, the Modified Project has 2.7 acres less of natural vegetation communities and 5.0 acres more man-made land cover types.

These changes are within the normal range of variability expected in a natural environment due to factors such as wildfire, land use changes, vegetation colonization and succession, and annual weather conditions such as drought or large storm events that may affect riparian resources. No new species, and no suitable habitat for special-status species, have been identified on site that were not previously identified in the State-certified EIR. Therefore, the vegetation communities and land cover types remain substantially similar to, and consistent with, that reported in the State-certified EIR.



SOURCE: ESRI 2019; Hunsaker 2019

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Figure 5.2-6
Modified Project Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types–VCC Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2024.

Table 5.2-3
Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in VCC Planning Area

General Physiognomic and Physical Location	Habitat Types	Floristic Alliance/ Associations Included	State-certified EIR Acreage[a]	Current Acreage[b]	Overall Change in Acreage[c]
Grass and Herb Dominated Communities	Non-Native Grassland Mustard Stand	California annual grassland Short-podded mustard stand	71.1	57.5	-13.6
Scrub and Chaparral	Coastal Scrub	California sagebrush scrub California sagebrush–California buckwheat scrub (including disturbed forms) Disturbed California buckwheat scrub	41.5	49.1	+7.6
Broad Leafed Upland Tree Dominated	Oak Woodland and Forest	Valley oak woodland	—	1.8	+1.8
Riparian and Bottomland Habitat	Other Riparian/ Wetland Low to High Elevation Riparian Scrub Riparian Forest and Woodland	Riverwash Scale broom scrub (including disturbed forms) Herbaceous wetlands Mulefat scrub (including disturbed forms) Blue elderberry stands Tamarisk thickets Disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub Southern cottonwood–willow riparian	102.2	119.7	+17.5
Man-Made Land Cover Types		Agriculture Developed Disturbed land Ornamental	106.4	106.7	+0.3

[a] *Includes all areas within the footprint of the 2017 Project, including 2.4 acres that are not a part of the Modified Project footprint due to tract boundary adjustments, including 0.9 acre of California annual grassland, 0.2 acre of agriculture, and 3.3 acres of disturbed land.*

[b] *Includes all areas within the footprint of the Modified Project, including 15.8 acres that were not described in the State-certified EIR, including 1.8 acres of California annual grassland, 2.5 acres of riverwash, 6.2 acres of southern cottonwood–willow riparian forest, 4.0 acres of developed, and 1.3 acres of disturbed land.*

[c] *Overall change in acreage, subtotals, and totals may not sum precisely due to rounding.*

Source: Dudek, 2024.

(4) General Wildlife

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

The Entrada South Planning Area supports habitat for a high diversity of grassland, shrubland, and woodland wildlife species. Based on the vegetation and land cover types shown in **Table 5.2-2**, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in Entrada South Planning Area, the wildlife habitats within the Entrada South Planning Area remain substantially similar to those analyzed in the State-certified EIR. In addition, common wildlife species observed within the Entrada South Planning Area since 2010 remain similar to those observed prior to that time, as reflected in the results of the surveys summarized in Table 1 of the Entrada South Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2a**. Because habitat conditions for common wildlife species, and observations of common wildlife species, within the Entrada South Planning Area remain substantially similar to those reported in the State-certified EIR, there is no indication of changed circumstances or new information related to the actual or potential presence of such species within the Entrada South Planning Area portion of the Project Site, and the extensive analysis of impacts to common wildlife in Section 4.5.5.2.3.4 of the State-certified EIR remains valid.

(b) VCC Planning Area

The VCC Planning Area supports habitat for a variety of upland and riparian wildlife species. Based on the vegetation and land cover types shown in **Table 5.2-3**, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in VCC Planning Area, the wildlife habitats within the VCC Planning Area remain substantially similar to those analyzed in the State-certified EIR. In addition, common wildlife species observed within the VCC Planning Area since 2010 remain similar to those observed prior to that time, as reflected in the results of the surveys summarized in Table 1 of the VCC Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2b**. Because habitat conditions for common wildlife species, and observations of common wildlife species, within the VCC Planning Area remain substantially similar to those reported in the State-certified EIR, there is no indication of changed circumstances or new information related to the actual or potential presence of such species within the VCC portion of the Project Site, and the extensive analysis of impacts to common wildlife in Section 4.5.5.2.3.4 of the State-certified EIR remains valid.

(5) Special-Status Vegetation Communities

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

The State-certified EIR reported that the following special-status plant species had been observed in the Entrada South Planning Area: San Fernando Valley spineflower (spineflower), slender mariposa lily, Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*), Peirson's morning-glory, Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), and island

mountain-mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides* var. *blancheae*). Mainland cherry has also been recorded in the Entrada South Planning Area. In addition to the species observed, Parish's sagebrush also has potential to occur but has not been documented within the Entrada South Planning Area.

Of those special-status plant species observed on-site, the Coulter's goldfields were likely introduced as part of a hydroseed mix for erosion control and have not been observed since 2006; therefore, this species is not discussed further. As summarized in **Table 5.2-4**, Special Status Plants in Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-35, the remainder of the observed species continue to be present on-site, except for Southern California black walnut and Peirson's morning-glory, and continue to occupy the same, or similar, regulatory status as reported in the State-certified EIR. The differences in number of individuals detected on-site, areal extent, or presence of suitable habitat for these species reflected in Table 5.2.3 are consistent with the normal range of variability expected over time in a natural environment due to various natural factors (e.g., variations in precipitation), as considered in the State-certified EIR analysis and adopted mitigation measures. **Figure 5.2-7**, Special-Status Plants in Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-36, shows the locations of special-status plants recorded in the Entrada South Planning Area to date. Refer to the Entrada South Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2a** for further details.

(b) VCC Planning Area

The State-certified EIR reported that the following special-status plant species had been observed in the VCC Planning Area: San Fernando Valley spineflower (spineflower), slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*), Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*), undescribed everlasting (*Gnaphalium* sp. *nova*), Peirson's morning glory (*Calystegia peirsonii*), and mainland cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*). The undescribed everlasting has since been described as white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*). Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) also has been recorded on-site.

Of those special-status plant species observed on-site, the Coulter's goldfields were likely introduced as part of a hydroseed mix for erosion control and have not been observed since 2006; therefore, this species is not discussed further. The remainder of the observed species continue to be present onsite, and continue to occupy the same, or similar, regulatory status as reported in the State-certified EIR. The differences in number of individuals detected on site, areal extent, or presence of suitable habitat for these species reflected in **Table 5.2-5**, Special Status Plants in VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-37, are consistent with the normal range of variability expected over time in a natural environment due to various natural factors (e.g., variations in precipitation), as considered

Table 5.2-4
Special Status Plants in Entrada South Planning Area

Species Name	Regulatory Status	State-certified EIR Presence	Current Presence
San Fernando Valley spineflower	CESA: Endangered ESA: None[a] CRPR 1B.1	Present; annual population estimates vary from 20–1,183,504[b]	Present; population estimates vary from 790–87,200[b]
Slender mariposa lily	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR 1B.2	Present; annual population estimates vary from 202 to 4,344; cumulative occupied area 33.0 acres	Present; annual population estimates vary from 493–4,567; cumulative occupied area 49.3 acres[c]
Peirson's morning-glory	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR 4.2	Present; not mapped. 228.4 acres suitable habitat	Potentially present; not observed. 234.2 acres suitable habitat
Mainland cherry	CESA: None ESA: None Locally protected by Los Angeles County	Present; not mapped	Present; 5 individuals mapped[d]
Southern California black walnut	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR 4.2	Present; not mapped	Potentially present; not observed
Island mountain-mahogany	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR 4.3	Present; not mapped 21.8 acres suitable habitat	Present; not mapped; 1 individual recorded 23.4 acres suitable habitat
Oak trees	CESA: None ESA: None Some trees protected by CLAOTO	58 trees, including 5 heritage oaks	51 trees, including 2 heritage oaks
Parish's sagebrush	CESA: None ESA: None Considered special-status by Los Angeles County	Not observed; 14.8 acres suitable habitat	Not observed; 13.6 acres suitable habitat

[a] *When the State-certified EIR was prepared, spineflower was a candidate for listing under the ESA. In March 2018, the USFWS found that listing of spineflower was not warranted, taking into account ongoing conservation measures for the species.*

[b] *Spineflower surveys are performed pursuant to the approved SCP. See* ***Appendix 5.2a*** *for details. Population estimates for Current Presence are based on results of surveys conducted after approval of the SCP in 2010.*

[c] *Detection of individuals varies with annual environmental conditions such as rainfall amounts, timing, and extent of browsing by rodents, deer, and rabbits prior to flowering. Cumulative acreage of occupied habitat, by definition, increases when the species is observed in a new location but does not decrease even when the species is no longer observed in a location where it was formerly known.*

[d] *More recent surveys have mapped locations of mainland cherry having a specified minimum diameter and located outside of jurisdictional areas.*

Source: Dudek, 2024.

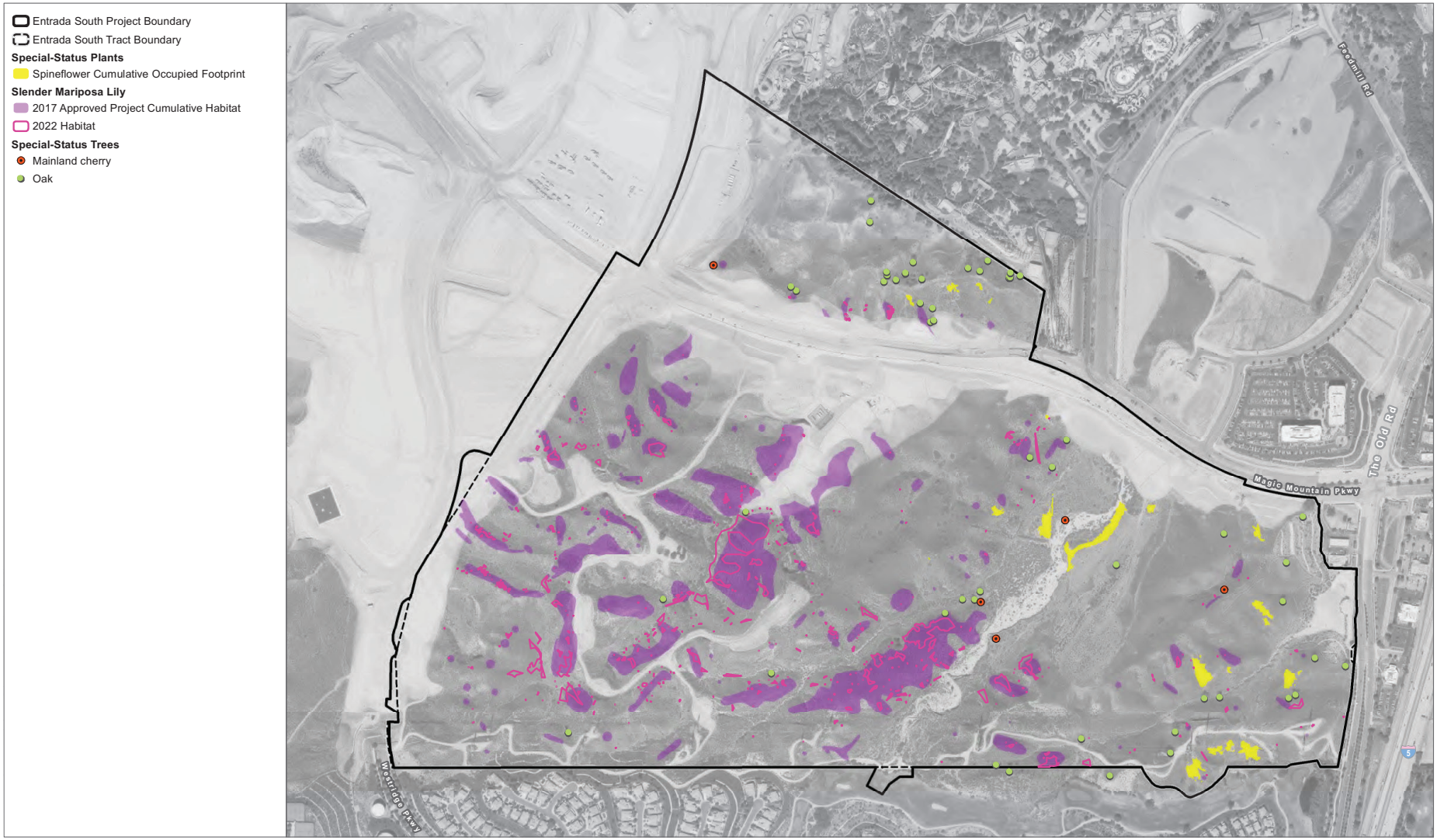

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Figure 5.2-7
Special-Status Plants in Entrada South Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2023.

Table 5.2-5
Special Status Plants in VCC Planning Area

Species Name	Regulatory Status	State-certified EIR Presence	Current Presence
San Fernando Valley spineflower	CESA: Endangered ESA: None[a] CRPR 1B.1	Present; annual population estimates vary from 60–170,181[b]	Present; population estimates vary from 336–21,638[b]
Slender mariposa lily	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR 1B.2	Present; annual population estimates vary from 116 to 977; cumulative occupied area 3.3 acres	Present; annual population estimates vary from 155–1,290; cumulative occupied area 5.0 acres[c]
White rabbit-tobacco (formerly reported as undescribed everlasting [*Gnaphalium* sp. *nova*])	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR List 2B.2	Present; annual population estimates vary from 65 to 350; occupied area 0.7 acre	Present; annual population estimates vary from 3,410 to 9,000; occupied area 3.2 acres[d]
Peirson's morning-glory	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR 4.2	Present; not mapped. 112.6 acres suitable habitat	Present; not mapped. 106.5 acres suitable habitat
Mainland cherry	CESA: None ESA: None Locally protected by Los Angeles County	Present; not mapped	Present; 1 individual mapped[e]
Southern California black walnut	CESA: None ESA: None CRPR 4.2	Present; not mapped	Present; 4 individuals mapped[f]
Oak trees	CESA: None ESA: None Some trees protected by CLAOTO	32 trees, including 1 heritage oak	28 trees, including 1 heritage oak

[a] *When the State-certified EIR was prepared, spineflower was a candidate for listing under the ESA. In March 2018, the USFWS found that listing of spineflower was not warranted, taking into account ongoing conservation measures for the species.*

[b] *Spineflower surveys are performed pursuant to the approved SCP. See* ***Appendix 5.2b*** *for details. Population estimates for Current Presence are based on results of surveys conducted after approval of the SCP in 2010.*

[c] *Detection of individuals varies with annual environmental conditions such as rainfall amounts, timing, and extent of browsing by rodents, deer, and rabbits prior to flowering. Cumulative acreage of occupied habitat, by definition, increases when the species is observed in a new location but does not decrease even when the species is no longer observed in a location where it was formerly known.*

[d] *Current presence reflects comprehensive botanical surveys and expected variation in population abundance and occupied habitat in relation to annual weather conditions and occurrence in a dynamic alluvial riparian system.*

[e] *More recent surveys have mapped locations of mainland cherry having a specified minimum diameter and outside of jurisdictional areas.*

[f] *More recent surveys have mapped locations of southern California black walnut having a specified minimum diameter.*

Source: Dudek, 2024.

in the State-certified EIR analysis and adopted mitigation measures. **Figure 5.2-8**, Special-Status Plants in VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-39, shows the locations of special-status plants recorded in the VCC Planning Area to date.

(6) Special-Status Wildlife

The State-certified EIR discussed a number of special-status wildlife species that were either known to occur, or had the potential to occur, within the Project Site. This section presents updated information regarding such species that meet at least one of the following criteria: (1) the species is state and/or federally listed as threatened or endangered; (2) the species has been listed, proposed for listing, or petitioned for listing as threatened or endangered since its analysis in the State-certified EIR; or (3) updated scientific studies suggest that the species may be more sensitive than it was considered in the State-certified EIR or the species is otherwise considered to have heightened sensitivity. This section also presents information on two wildlife species that were not discussed in the State-certified EIR because they have been elevated in regulatory status since the preparation of that document: California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*) and Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*).

The California glossy snake was designated as a California Species of Special Concern by CDFW in 2016. The California glossy snake occurs primarily in grasslands, fields, coastal scrub, and chaparral. It is largely nocturnal and preys mostly on lizards and small mammals, but also on small birds and other snakes.

The California glossy snake has not been documented within the Project Site. Pitfall surveys for terrestrial reptiles in portions of the Entrada South Planning Area and the adjacent RMDP area did not capture any California glossy snake. However, the snake is known to be present within the vicinity of the Project Site, with one individual observed at an unspecified location within the RMDP/SCP area since 2010. It has the potential to occur in the Project Site within grassland, coastal scrub, and chaparral communities.

Although California glossy snake was not analyzed in the State-certified EIR, the other special-status reptile species analyzed in the State-certified EIR occur in some or all of the habitats potentially occupied by California glossy snake, including San Bernardino ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus modestus*), San Diegan tiger whiptail, coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*), and Blainville's horned lizard. The latter three of these species, like California glossy snake, are California Species of Special Concern. Because the State-certified EIR assumed that these species were likely present in suitable habitats in the Project Site, California glossy snake is similarly assumed to be present in the grassland, coastal scrub, and chaparral communities.

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Figure 5.2-8
Special-Status Plants in VCC Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2024.

The California Fish and Game Commission accepted the Crotch bumble bee as a candidate for listing as endangered under the CESA in June 2019. A legal challenge to the species' candidacy led to a November 2020 ruling by a California Superior Court that insects could not be listed under CESA, but the California Court of Appeal for the Third District overturned this ruling in May 2022, and the California Supreme Court denied review of the decision in September 2022. Therefore, Crotch bumble bee and three other bumble bee species were restored to state candidate status.

Crotch bumble bee is a habitat generalist. In general, the species has the potential to occur in any native vegetation community or non-native grassland supporting suitable nesting microhabitats and floral resources. Because of its short tongue, the Crotch bumble bee is best suited to foraging at open flowers with short corollas. The species nests in microhabitats that include small mammal burrows, bunch grasses with a duff layer, thatch, hollow trees, rock walls, and brush piles. Queens emerge first from hibernation and are active from February to early October. The peak flight period for workers is from March through August. Daughter queens usually leave the nest by September, dispersing to areas with suitable hibernacula resources, and all other individuals die. Little is known about winter hibernacula, but the species is presumed to rely on microhabitats for overwintering similar to those of other bumble bees, including loose, disturbed soil; leaf litter; and other debris.

Prior to 2024, the Crotch bumble bee had not been documented within the Project Site. However, the California Natural Diversity Database included several occurrences of the species within less than 10 miles of the Project Site, including an occurrence 4.2 miles southeast of the Project Site in 2017 and four occurrences 9 miles southwest of the Project Site in 2020. During surveys for Crotch bumble bees in 2024, Crotch bumble bee individuals were observed foraging within the Project Site in both the Entrada South Planning Area and the VCC Planning Area, in areas within or adjacent to coastal scrub vegetation communities.[70] No Crotch bumble bee nests were detected on the Project Site. The species has the potential to occur within native vegetation communities and non-native grassland within the Project Site, depending on the presence of suitable nesting microhabitats and floral resources, with foraging likely limited to areas supporting adequate floral resources that include plant species suitable for feeding by the species.

Although Crotch bumble bee was not analyzed in the State-certified EIR and its life cycle is different from those of other invertebrate species analyzed in the EIR, it likely occupies vegetation communities occupied by several special-status terrestrial vertebrate

[70] *In addition, a single Crotch bumble bee individual was incidentally observed by biologists conducting surveys for California gnatcatcher in June 2024.*

species addressed in the State-Certified EIR. These include a reptile species, Blainville's horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) (classified by some as a subspecies of coast horned lizard [*Phrynosoma coronatum]*), and two bird species, burrowing owl and grasshopper sparrow, all of which are California Species of Special Concern that occupy grasslands and some other relatively open scrub habitats that support potential food plants for Crotch bumble bee. The State-certified EIR assumed that these species were likely present in suitable habitats in the Project Site, and the 2024 survey results confirm that, Crotch bumble bee utilizes these habitats in the Project Site.

Other special-status wildlife species discussed in the State-certified EIR, but not meeting one of the criteria above, are not discussed individually in this SEIR. A list of these species is provided in Appendix C of the Entrada South Bio Report included as part of **Appendix 5.2a** of this SEIR. As discussed for common wildlife species, above, the habitat conditions for these species within the Project Site, and observations of the species from the Project Site and vicinity, have not changed substantially from the information reported in the State-certified EIR. Because their regulatory status also has not changed, there is no indication of changed circumstances or new information related to the actual or potential presence of such species within the Project Site or to the potential for such species to be affected by the Modified Project. Mitigation measures included in the State-certified EIR for these species will continue to apply.

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

(i) Special Status Species

This section discusses the following special-status wildlife species known to occur, or with the potential to occur, within the Entrada South Planning Area and analyzed in the State-certified EIR: western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), California legless lizard (*Anniella* spp.), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), mountain lion, also known as cougar (*Puma concolor*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), and several special-species of bats, including western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), and pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*). All these species continue to occur, or have the potential to occur, within the Entrada South Planning Area, and have the same or similar regulatory status as reported in the State-certified EIR. In some cases, species previously assumed to occur on site have been documented to occur, confirming the assumptions used in the State-certified EIR. Differences in availability of potential habitat for these species under current conditions, compared to the conditions analyzed in the State-certified EIR, are within the range of minor variation expected over time and assumed in the State-certified EIR analysis, as explained in the discussion of vegetation communities in Subsection 2.b.(3)(a) above. In addition to these species, Crotch bumble bee has been documented

within the Entrada South Planning Area, and California glossy snake has the potential to occur within the Entrada South Planning Area and is assumed present, although the species has not been documented there. Based on the presence of suitable habitat, conditions for these species within the Entrada South Planning Area have not changed significantly since the State-certified EIR was prepared.

Table 5.2-6, Special Status Wildlife in Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-43, summarizes the current presence of these wildlife species. No critical habitat for any ESA-listed species occurs within the Entrada South Planning Area. **Figure 5.2-9**, Special-Status Wildlife in Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-45, shows special-status wildlife observed in the Entrada South Planning Area since 2010. Refer to the Entrada South Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2a** for further details.

(ii) Other Species Not Expected to Occur

The State-certified EIR discussed a number of special-status species known to occur within the overall RMDP/SCP area, but which were not expected to occur within the Entrada South Planning Area because of the lack of suitable habitat. These include, among others, the fish species arroyo chub, Santa Ana sucker, southern steelhead and unarmored threespine stickleback, none of which are expected to occur because the Entrada South Planning Area does not support suitable aquatic habitat for any fish species, the amphibian species arroyo toad, the reptile species southwestern pond turtle, and the bird species least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and western yellow-billed cuckoo. A complete list of these species is provided in Appendix C to the Entrada South Bio Report included as **Appendix 5.2a** of this SEIR. Because there is still no suitable habitat for these species within the Entrada South Planning Area, and none of the species is expected to occur within the site, these species are not discussed further.[71]

[71] *The USFWS revised critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, which is federally listed as endangered, on January 3, 2013, to include portions of the RMDP/SCP area (78 FR 343–534). However, the critical habitat designation does not include any part of the Entrada South Planning Area. The western yellow-billed cuckoo was federally listed as threatened on October 3, 2014 (79 FR 59992–60038), after the analysis for the State-certified EIR, but is not expected to occur within the Entrada South Planning Area.*

Table 5.2-6
Special Status Wildlife in Entrada South Planning Area

Species Name	Regulatory Status	State-certified EIR Presence	Current Presence
Western spadefoot	CESA: None ESA: Under review California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Assumed present; ephemeral habitat not quantified	Assumed present; ephemeral habitat not quantified
California legless lizard (formerly known as "silvery legless lizard" [*Anniella pulchra*])	CESA: None ESA: None California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Assumed present; 195.3 acres potentially suitable habitat	Present; 195.8 acres potentially suitable habitat
Coastal California gnatcatcher	CESA: None ESA: Threatened California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Assumed present; 153.6 acres suitable habitat	Assumed present; observed on occasion; 150.8 acres suitable habitat[a]
Tricolored blackbird	CESA: Threatened (as of 2018)[b] ESA: None[c] Federal Bird of Conservation Concern California Species of Special Concern LA County sensitive species	Assumed present; 106.7 acres of potential foraging habitat	Assumed present; 106.6 acres foraging habitat, 0.04 acre potential nesting habitat[d]
Burrowing owl	CESA: Petitioned for listing as threatened or endangered ESA: None Federal Bird of Conservation Concern California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Potentially present; 106.7 acres suitable habitat	Potentially present; 106.6 acres of suitable habitat
Mountain lion	CESA: Candidate (as of 2020)[e] ESA: None	Assumed present; 195.3 acres suitable habitat	Present; 195.8 acres suitable habitat[f]
Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), and pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*))	Special Animals List (Yuma myotis) California Species of Special Concern (others)	Assumed present	Present

Table 5.2-6 (Continued)
Special Status Wildlife in Entrada South Planning Area

Species Name	Regulatory Status	State-certified EIR Presence	Current Presence
California glossy snake	CESA: None ESA: None California Species of Special Concern (as of 2016)	Potentially present within 228.4 acres of grassland, coastal scrub and chaparral communities (not analyzed due to no special status)	Assumed present; 234.2 acres of suitable habitat within grassland, coastal scrub and chaparral communities
Crotch bumble bee	CESA: Candidate ESA: None	Potentially present within 243.7 acres of native vegetation communities and non-native grassland; floral resources and nesting micro-habitat not mapped but likely much less (not analyzed due to no special status)	Present; 253.7 acres of potentially suitable habitat within native vegetation communities and non-native grassland; floral resources and nesting micro-habitat not mapped but likely much less
California condor	CESA: Endangered ESA: Endangered California fully protected species	Potential opportunistic forager	Potential opportunistic forager

[a] *Focused protocol surveys conducted since 2010 have resulted in a single observation of a coastal California gnatcatcher individual in the Entrada South Planning Area, with no evidence of nesting activity. The site does not currently support a population or breeding pairs of the species but is considered to have the potential to support the presence of the species on occasion.*

[b] *The tricolored blackbird was listed as threatened under the CESA on April 19, 2018, after the State-certified EIR was prepared.*

[c] *The tricolored blackbird was petitioned for listing under the ESA, but the USFWS made a determination on August 15, 2019, that listing the species as endangered or threatened was not warranted.*

[d] *The likelihood of tricolored blackbird nesting within the Project Site is considered low due to the small size of the potential nesting area and the availability of larger areas of suitable nesting habitat in the vicinity.*

[e] *The Southern California/Central Coast evolutionarily significant unit of mountain lion was granted candidate status under the CESA on April 21, 2020.*

[f] *The Entrada South Planning Area appears to be used by mountain lion on occasion, based on detections through sign (tracks, scat) in 2012.*

Source: Dudek, 2024.

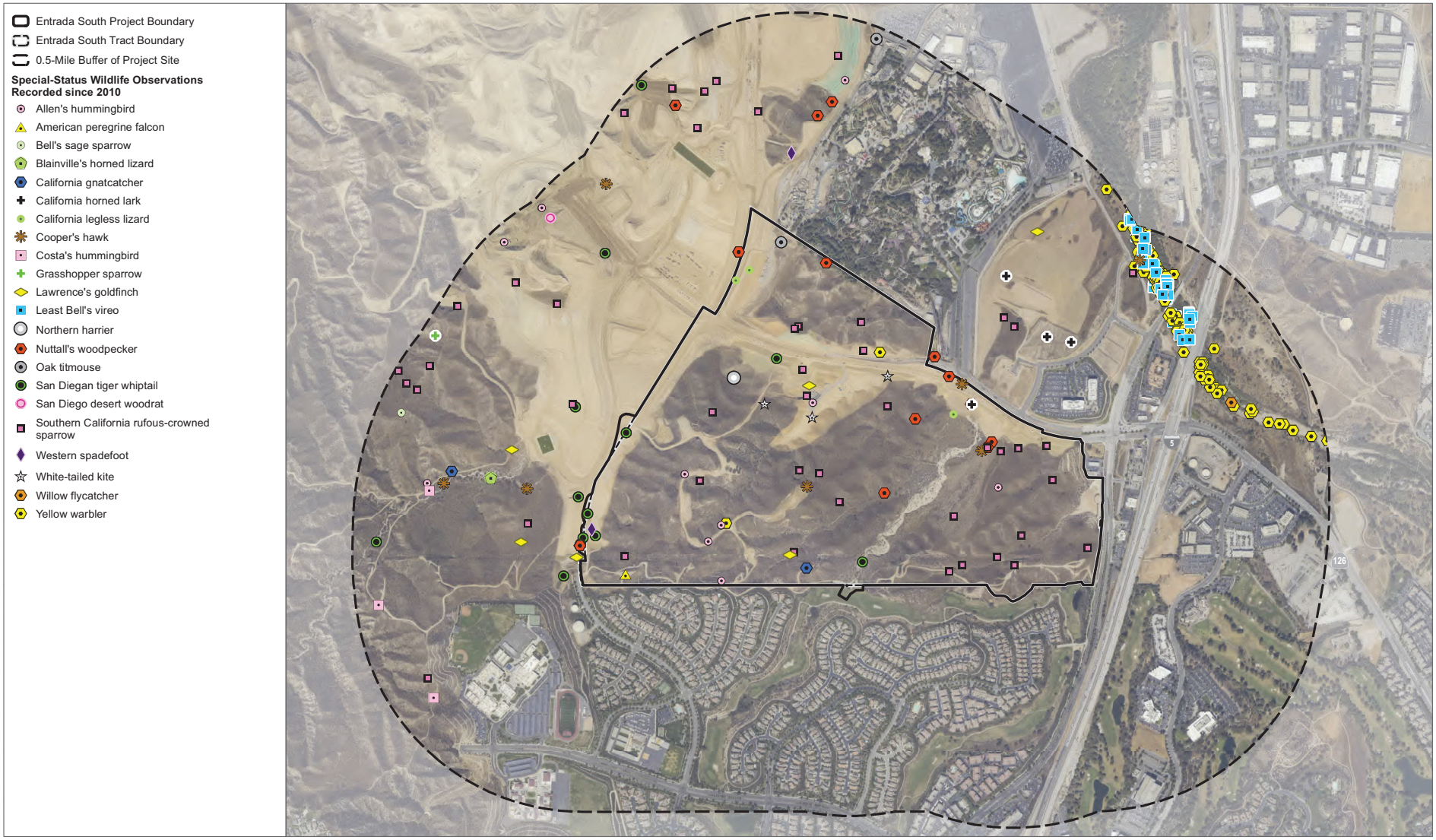

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Figure 5.2-9
Special Status Wildlife in Entrada South Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2024.

(b) VCC Planning Area

(i) Special Status Species

This section discusses the following special-status wildlife species known to occur, or with the potential to occur, within the VCC Planning Area and analyzed in the State-certified EIR: western spadefoot, arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), California legless lizard, coastal California gnatcatcher, tricolored blackbird, mountain lion, arroyo chub, Santa Ana sucker, unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*), southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata pallida*), burrowing owl, least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) and California condor. All these species continue to occur, or have the potential to occur, within the VCC Planning Area, and have the same or similar regulatory status as reported in the State-certified EIR. In some cases, species previously assumed to occur on site have been documented to occur, confirming the assumptions used in the State-certified EIR. Differences in availability of potential habitat for these species under current conditions, compared to the conditions analyzed in the State-certified EIR, are within the range of minor variation expected over time and assumed in the State-certified EIR analysis, as explained in the discussion of vegetation communities in Subsection 2.b.(3)(b), above.

In addition, Crotch bumble bee has been documented within the VCC Planning Area, and California glossy snake has the potential to occur within the VCC Planning Area and is assumed to be present, although the species has not been documented there. Based on the presence of suitable habitat, conditions for these species within the VCC Planning Area likely have not changed significantly since the State-certified EIR was prepared.

Table 5.2-7, Special Status Wildlife in VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-47, summarizes the current presence of these special-status wildlife species. **Figure 5.2-10**, Special-Status Wildlife in VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-50, shows special-status wildlife observed in the VCC Planning Area since 2010. Refer to the VCC Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2b** for further details.

(ii) Other Species Not Expected to Occur

The State-certified EIR discussed a number of special-status species known to occur within the RMDP/SCP area, but which were not expected to occur within the VCC Planning Area because of the lack of suitable habitat, including the fish species southern steelhead. A complete list of these species is provided in Appendix C to the VCC Bio Report included as **Appendix 5.2b** of this SEIR. As there is still no suitable habitat for these species within the VCC Planning Area and none of the species is expected to occur within the site, these species are not discussed further.

Table 5.2-7
Special Status Wildlife in VCC Planning Area

Species Name	Regulatory Status	State-certified EIR Presence	Current Presence
Western spadefoot	CESA: None ESA: Under review California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Assumed present; ephemeral habitat not quantified	Assumed present; ephemeral habitat not quantified
Arroyo toad	CESA: None ESA: Endangered California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[a]	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[a]
California legless lizard (formerly known as "silvery legless lizard" [*Anniella pulchra*])	CESA: None ESA: None California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Assumed present; 142.9 acres potentially suitable habitat	Assumed present; 170.5 acres potentially suitable habitat
Coastal California gnatcatcher	CESA: None ESA: Threatened California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Assumed present; 41.5 acres suitable habitat	Assumed present; 49.1 acres suitable habitat[b]
Tricolored blackbird	CESA: Threatened (as of 2018)[c] ESA: None[d] Federal Bird of Conservation Concern California Species of Special Concern LA County sensitive species	Assumed present; 176.2 acres foraging habitat; 0.9 acre potential nesting habitat	Assumed present; 139.4 acres foraging habitat[e]
Mountain lion	CESA: Candidate (as of 2020)[f] ESA: None	Assumed present; 142.9 acres suitable habitat	Assumed present; 170.5 acres suitable habitat[g]
Arroyo chub	CESA: None ESA: None California Species of Special Concern LA County sensitive species	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[h]	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists; occasionally observed[h]
Santa Ana sucker	CESA: None ESA: Threatened[i] California Species of Special Concern LA County sensitive species	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[h]	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists; occasionally observed[h]
Unarmored threespine stickleback	CESA: Endangered ESA: Endangered California fully protected species LA County sensitive species	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[h]	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[h]
Southwestern pond turtle	CESA: None ESA: Proposed for listing as threatened California Species of Special Concern	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[h]	Potentially present when aquatic habitat exists[h]

Table 5.2-7 (Continued)
Special Status Wildlife in VCC Planning Area

Species Name	Regulatory Status	State-certified EIR Presence	Current Presence
Burrowing owl	CESA: Petitioned for listing as threatened or endangered ESA: None Federal Bird of Conservation Concern California Species of Special Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Potentially present; 175.3 acres suitable habitat	Potentially present; 132.7 acres of suitable habitat
Least Bell's vireo	CESA: Endangered ESA: Endangered California Species of Special Concern LA County sensitive species	Present; 63.9 acres nesting habitat, 0.3 acre foraging habitat	Present; 79.1 acres nesting habitat, 13.0 acres foraging habitat
Southwestern willow flycatcher	CESA: Endangered ESA: Endangered; critical habitat within VCC Planning Area[j] LA County sensitive species	Present (non-breeding); 63.4 acres suitable habitat	Assumed present (non-breeding); 74.1 acres suitable habitat
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	CESA: Endangered ESA: Threatened Federal Bird of Conservation Concern Los Angeles County sensitive species	Potentially present; 63.4 acres suitable habitat	Potentially present; 74.1 acres suitable habitat
California condor	CESA: Endangered ESA: Endangered California fully protected species	Potential opportunistic forager	Potential opportunistic forager
California glossy snake	CESA: None ESA: None California Species of Special Concern (as of 2016)	Potentially present within 112.6 acres of grassland, coastal scrub, and chaparral communities (not analyzed due to no special status)	Assumed present; 106.5 acres of grassland, coastal scrub, and chaparral communities
Crotch bumble bee	CESA: Candidate ESA: None	Potentially present within 177.4 acres of native vegetation communities and non-native grassland; floral resources and nesting micro-habitat not mapped but likely much less (not analyzed due to no special status)	Present; 203.3 acres of potentially suitable habitat within native vegetation communities and non-native grassland; floral resources and nesting micro-habitat not mapped but likely much less

[a] *Due to the limited frequency and duration of aquatic habitat within the VCC Planning Area, the potential presence of arroyo toad would be limited to flow conditions in Castaic Creek, such as following winter or early spring storm events, following winters of unusually high rainfall, or during prolonged regulated dam releases from Castaic Lake, that could temporarily or occasionally establish aquatic habitat.*

[b] *The site does not currently support a population or breeding pairs of the species but is considered to have the potential to support the presence of the species on occasion.*

[c] *The tricolored blackbird was listed as threatened under the CESA on April 19, 2018, after the State-certified EIR was prepared.*

Table 5.2-7 (Continued)
Special Status Wildlife in VCC Planning Area

Species Name	Regulatory Status	State-certified EIR Presence	Current Presence

[d] *The tricolored blackbird was petitioned for listing under the ESA, but the USFWS made a determination on August 15, 2019, that listing the species as endangered or threatened was not warranted.*

[e] *Nesting habitat for the tricolored blackbird is not currently present within the VCC Planning Area but availability of such habitat is variable, and the site is considered to have low to moderate potential to support nesting in the future, similar to conditions described in the State-certified EIR.*

[f] *The Southern California/Central Coast evolutionarily significant unit of mountain lion was granted candidate status under the CESA on April 21, 2020.*

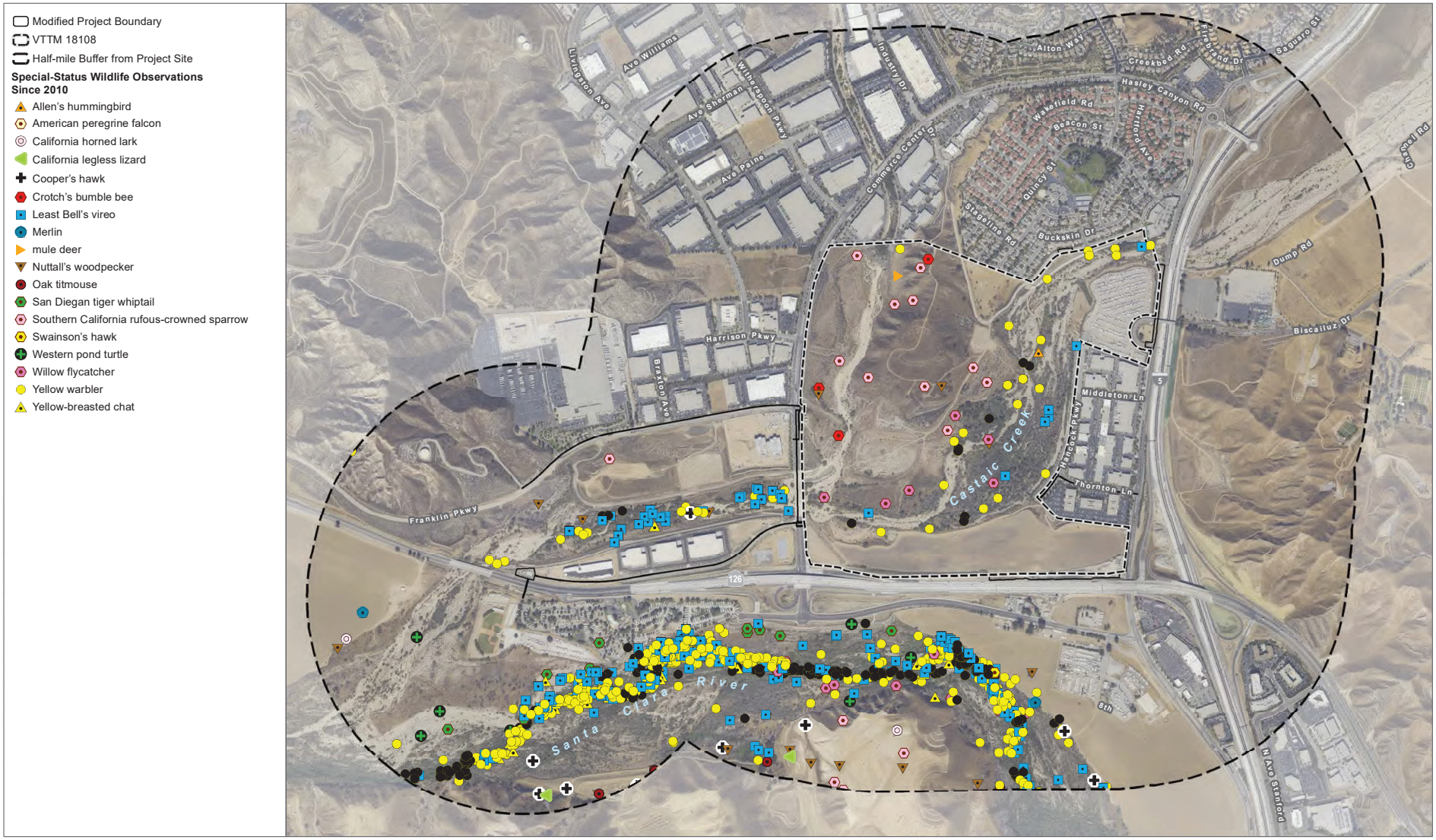
[g] *The VCC Planning Area may be used by mountain lion moving through the area on occasion, but has not been recorded on site and is therefore unlikely to be essential to a mountain lion's home range.*

[h] *Due to the limited aquatic habitat within the VCC Planning Area, the potential presence of special-status fish or aquatic species would be limited to flow conditions in Castaic Creek that support suitable habitat, such as following winter or early spring storm events, during occasional periods of sustained flows such as after winters of high rainfall, or during prolonged regulated dam releases from Castaic Lake.*

[i] *The Santa Ana sucker is a federally listed threatened fish species within its range in the San Gabriel, Santa Ana, and Los Angeles River basins; the species is not ESA-listed elsewhere in its current range, including the Santa Clara River in the vicinity of the VCC Planning Area.*

[j] *Critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher was revised in 2013 to include the portion of the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek within the RMDP/SCP area, including the portion of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area (78 FR 343 [January 3, 2013]).*

Source: Dudek, 2024.



SOURCE: Eagle Aerial Solutions 2018

0 550 1,100 Feet

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Figure 5.2-10
Special Status Wildlife in VCC Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2024.

(7) Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

Wildlife corridors are linear landscape elements that provide for species movement and dispersal between two or more habitats but do not necessarily contain sufficient habitat for all life history requirements of a species, particularly reproduction. The main prerequisite for corridors is that they increase animal movement between habitat patches. This includes larger-scale movement of individuals of more mobile species. Also, while birds may use vegetated parts of these corridors to move across the landscape, they also may fly over any part of the landscape during migration, or even as part of more local movements. Corridors also provide opportunities for "diffusion" by smaller, less mobile species. Diffusion is the gradual movement or expansion of populations (as opposed to individuals) across a landscape over several generations and may be applicable, for instance, to nonmigratory small mammals, reptiles, or birds re-occupying recovering burned sites. Landscape habitat linkages (or simply linkages) are relatively large open space areas that contain natural habitat and provide connection between at least two larger adjacent open spaces that can provide for both diffusion and dispersal of many species.

The State-certified EIR identified Magic Mountain Canyon, which extends south from the Santa Clara River corridor along the west edge of the Entrada South Planning Area, as one of several "tributary corridors" that connect undeveloped uplands with the Santa Clara River and are likely used by most of the high- and moderate-mobility species for movement throughout the RMDP/SCP area. As a result of recent development for the Mission Village Project, which was analyzed in the State-certified EIR, Magic Mountain Canyon likely no longer serves as a corridor for high- and moderate-mobility species that were presumed to use this location. Although this likely reduces the value of the Entrada South Planning Area as wildlife corridor and habitat linkage, this effect is consistent with the analysis presented in the State-certified EIR, which identified the impact to the Magic Mountain corridor resulting from RMDP development. The value of the overall Entrada South Planning Area as a wildlife corridor or habitat linkage is further limited by adjacent development including residential and golf course development to the south; The Old Road, I-5, and the City of Santa Clarita immediately to the east; and the Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park immediately to the north, all of which already existed at the time of the State-certified EIR analysis, as well as development of the RMDP Mission Village Project to the west, which was analyzed in the State-certified EIR. Overall, there are no identified habitat linkages or wildlife corridors within or in the vicinity of the Entrada South Planning Area under current conditions. Because the streams on the Entrada South Planning Area do not support aquatic habitat, this includes habitat linkages or movement corridors for fish species.

In summary, the value of the Entrada South Planning Area as a wildlife corridor or habitat linkage was already limited at the time of the 2017 State-certified EIR analysis. Its value for wildlife movement has been reduced further compared to the existing condition described in the 2017 State-certified EIR because of development associated with the Mission Village Project, which was analyzed in the 2017 State-certified EIR and authorized under the RMDP and SCP permits. Thus, the current condition of the Entrada South Planning Area with respect to wildlife movement value is consistent with the State-certified EIR.

(b) VCC Planning Area

The State-certified EIR identified the Castaic/Hasley Corridor, which extends north from the Santa Clara River corridor through the VCC Planning Area, as one of several "tributary corridors" that connected undeveloped uplands with the Santa Clara River and, under then-existing conditions, allowed for movement of high- and moderate-mobility species such as coyote, mule deer and possibly mountain lion (temporarily moving through site but not as essential habitat), and functioned as live-in habitat for many other species. Those other species may include smaller, in some cases less mobile species, such as reptiles, small mammals, and birds. Birds may also use vegetated parts of these corridors to move across the landscape, but may also fly over any part of the landscape during migration. The State-certified EIR stated that the vicinity of Castaic Creek to the north was becoming increasingly developed but that the corridor would continue to have connectivity value between the Santa Clara River and upland habitats to the northeast. A wildlife camera study of the RMDP/SCP area in 2013–2014, which included eight locations within or adjacent to the VCC Planning Area, confirmed that a variety of wildlife use the Castaic/Hasley Corridor, though, of the high-mobility species expected to potentially use the corridor (coyote, mule deer, and mountain lion), only coyote was recorded. This suggests that increasing development in the vicinity may have limited the use of the corridor by less human-tolerant species, as anticipated in the State-certified EIR. Overall, the value of the VCC Planning Area as a wildlife corridor or habitat linkage has not changed significantly compared to the information presented in the State-certified EIR: the Castaic-Hasley corridor continues to be used by a variety of wildlife species and connects the Santa Clara River to undeveloped habitat outside the VCC Planning Area.

(8) Jurisdictional Waters

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

As reported in the State-certified EIR, the Entrada South Planning Area includes three unnamed drainages subject to Corps jurisdiction pursuant to CWA Section 404, RWQCB jurisdiction pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act, and CDFW jurisdiction pursuant to Sections 1600 *et seq.* of the CFGC. These drainages originate south of the Entrada South

Planning Area and carry flows generally northward, eventually discharging to the Santa Clara River outside of the Project Site. The drainages, from west to east, are referred to as Unnamed Drainage 1, Unnamed Drainage 2, and Unnamed Drainage 3.[72] In addition, a wetland feature is located within a constructed debris basin at the far downstream portion of Unnamed Drainage 3 near the northeastern boundary of the Entrada South Planning Area.

Since preparation of the State-certified EIR, the jurisdictional delineation for the Entrada South Planning Area has been updated to confirm the limits of jurisdictional waters. The Corps approved the updated jurisdictional delineation on June 15, 2020. Please see the Entrada South Waters Report included in **Appendix 5.2c**, for details of the delineation methods and results. The updated delineation identified 3.81 acres of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and 11.66 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds in the Entrada South Planning Area, which represents an increase of 0.86 acres of waters of the United States and 4.77 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds compared to the delineation that the State-certified EIR relied upon (the State-certified EIR did not separately delineate waters of the State). See **Figure 5.2-11**, Entrada South Planning Area Jurisdictional Delineation Overview—Modified Project, on page 5.2-54. These increases are primarily due to widening of the active channels throughout Unnamed Drainage 2 and at the downstream end of Unnamed Drainage 3, resulting from erosion attributed to upstream development in the watershed and extreme weather, and classification of alluvial plain as jurisdictional waters based on CDFW direction. **Table 5.2-8**, Comparison of Jurisdictional Waters in Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-55, summarizes the updates by drainage.

The current condition of each feature is described below.

(i) Unnamed Drainage 1

Unnamed Drainage 1 is comprised of a heavily vegetated, ephemeral channel with several small ephemeral channels that are tributary to the main channel within the Entrada South Planning Area. This feature carries flow northward under Magic Mountain Parkway, through off-site developed areas, and eventually into the Santa Clara River. Flows originate both on-site and to the south of the planning area, and the drainage receives surface flow via two concrete channels from the residential area to the south of the planning area. Unnamed Drainage 1 currently supports 0.22 acre of waters of the United

[72] *As described in the State-certified EIR, an additional drainage, Magic Mountain Canyon, was located along the western edge of the Entrada South Planning Area, generally following the border with the NRSP. This drainage was within the RMDP permit area and has been entirely filled as authorized by the RMDP permits. The drainage is no longer present and is not addressed further in this SEIR.*

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Figure 5.2-11
Entrada South Planning Area Jurisdictional Delineation Overview–Modified Project

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2023.

Table 5.2-8
Comparison of Jurisdictional Waters in Entrada South Planning Area

	Waters of the United States (acres)	CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds (acres)
State-certified EIR		
Unnamed Drainage 1	0.27	0.27
Unnamed Drainage 2	1.88	4.69
Unnamed Drainage 3	0.80	1.93
Total	**2.95**	**6.89**
Updated Jurisdictional Delineation (2019)		
Unnamed Drainage 1	0.22	1.12
Unnamed Drainage 2	2.26	8.78
Unnamed Drainage 2 (Westridge Storm Drain Facility)	0.19	0.2
Unnamed Drainage 3	1.14	1.56
Total	**3.81**	**11.66**

Acreages exclude jurisdictional waters formerly existing within the RMDP area, which have been filled pursuant to the RMDP permits. Small discrepancies within the table are due to rounding.

Waters of the United States are also waters of the State and are a subset of CDFW-jurisdictional Streambeds.

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2023.

States and 1.12 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. Because of its ephemeral flow regime, this drainage does not support aquatic habitat for fish or other aquatic species.

(ii) Unnamed Drainage 2

Unnamed Drainage 2 is the largest drainage within the Entrada South Planning Area. The mainstem of this ephemeral feature flows in a south-north direction, with a tributary branch contributing flow from the southwest. The mainstem originates south of the Entrada South Planning Area, entering through a concrete channel from the adjacent Westridge Golf Course at an outflow structure that is constructed of rip-rap (Westridge Storm Drain Facility). Downstream of the concrete outlet, Unnamed Drainage 2 flows through a large, earthen channel with moderate sinuosity. North of the Entrada South Planning Area, flow is carried into the Santa Clara River via an engineered channel.

Development upstream of the Entrada South Planning Area, combined with extreme weather, appears to have resulted in substantial erosion in Unnamed Drainage 2 within the Entrada South Planning Area since the State-certified EIR was prepared, increasing the

depth, width, and general channel definition of this drainage. Functional assessments indicate that the channel remains in a state of disequilibrium and that erosional processes continue to dominate the sediment dynamics. The area near the confluence of the mainstem and tributary branch, which included only two narrow jurisdictional channels as described in the State-certified EIR, has expanded to include a broader floodplain area that is now subject to CDFW jurisdiction. Unnamed Drainage 2 currently supports 2.26 acres of waters of the United States within the natural channel and 0.19 acres in the Westridge Storm Drain Facility; and 8.87 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds within the natural channel and 0.2 acres in the Westridge Storm Drain Facility. Because of its ephemeral flow regime, this drainage does not support aquatic habitat for fish or other aquatic species.

(iii) Unnamed Drainage 3

Unnamed Drainage 3 is the easternmost of the drainages within the Entrada South Planning Area and conveys flow from the golf course located to the south, northward through additional developed areas and eventually to the Santa Clara River. Within the Entrada South Planning Area, this ephemeral feature is comprised of one main channel exhibiting moderate sinuosity, with a heavily vegetated channel bottom. Unnamed Drainage 3 currently supports 1.14 acres of waters of the United States and 1.56 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds within the Entrada South Planning Area. Because of its ephemeral flow regime, this drainage does not support aquatic habitat for fish or other aquatic species.

Unnamed Drainage 3 Wetland

A potential wetland feature is located within a constructed debris basin at the far downstream end of Unnamed Drainage 3, near the northeastern boundary of the Entrada South Planning Area. The basin receives flow from the adjacent, developed upland areas including concrete erosion control channels located on adjacent hillsides, and has been designed so that water pools in this area during periods of normal flow. Routine maintenance conducted by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District subjects the feature to intensive regular disturbance and has disrupted the basin's wetland functions. The feature currently supports 0.21 acres of wetland waters of the United States. This feature does not support aquatic habitat for fish or other aquatic species.

(b) VCC Planning Area

As reported in the State-certified EIR, the VCC Planning Area includes two drainages subject to Corps jurisdiction pursuant to CWA Section 404 and CDFW jurisdiction pursuant to CFGC Sections 1600 *et seq.* These drainages, Castaic Creek and Hasley Creek, originate north of the VCC Planning Area and carry flows generally southward, eventually discharging to the Santa Clara River outside of the Project Site. The

VCC Planning Area also contains two features not subject to Corps jurisdiction but potentially subject to CDFW jurisdiction: the Live Oak Road detention basin and The Old Road agricultural ditch.

Since preparation of the State-certified EIR, the jurisdictional delineation for the VCC Planning Area has been updated. Please see the VCC Waters Report included in **Appendix 5.2d**, for details of the delineation methods and results. The updated delineation identified 6.41 acres of waters of the United States, 7.38 acres of waters of the State, and 113.22 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds in the VCC Planning Area, which represents a reduction of 77.61 acres of waters of the United States and an increase of 4.90 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds compared to the delineation the State-certified EIR relied upon.[73] See **Figure 5.2-12**, VCC Planning Area Jurisdictional Delineation Overview—Modified Project, on page 5.2-58. The difference in acreage of waters of the United States is due to more accurate delineation of the jurisdictional portions of the Castaic Creek floodplain.

Table 5.2-9, Comparison of Jurisdictional Waters in VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-59, summarizes the updates by drainage.

The subsections below provide additional details regarding each jurisdictional feature identified within the VCC Planning Area.

(i) Castaic Creek

Castaic Creek is an intermittent stream that travels approximately 25 miles from the Sierra Pelona Mountains to its confluence with the Santa Clara River, south of the VCC Planning Area. Since 1973, flows in Castaic Creek have been impounded at Castaic Lake, approximately five miles upstream (northeast) of the VCC Planning Area. As a result, the effective watershed of the reach of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area has been reduced to encompass primarily local runoff. In addition, the lake's presence attenuates large storm flows that would otherwise reach the portion of Castaic Creek within the VCC site; conversely, releases from Castaic Lake sometimes result in flows in this reach of Castaic Creek during otherwise dry months.

Within the VCC Planning Area, Castaic Creek exhibits a single, well-defined channel meandering through a floodplain vegetated primarily with riparian plant communities, which

[73] *Waters of the United States are a subset of waters of the State; i.e., all waters of the United States are also waters of the State. Waters of the State were not delineated separately in the delineation the State-certified EIR relied upon.*

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Figure 5.2-12
VCC Planning Area Jurisdictional Delineation Overview–Modified Project

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2024.

Table 5.2-9
Comparison of Jurisdictional Waters in VCC Planning Area

	Waters of the United States (acres)	Waters of the State (acres)	CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds (acres)
State-certified EIR/2017 Project			
Castaic Creek	78.96	N/A	90.74
Hasley Creek	5.06	N/A	17.42
Total	**84.02**	**N/A**	**108.16**
Updated Jurisdictional Delineation (2024)/Modified Project			
Castaic Creek	3.32	3.32	97.53
Hasley Creek	3.10	4.06	14.45
Live Oak Road Detention Basin	0.00	0.00	0.86
Old Road Agricultural Ditch	0.00	0.00	0.38
Total	**6.41**	**7.38**	**113.22**
Difference in Total Acreage	**-77.61**	**N/A**	**+5.06**

The total acreage and acreage by drainage presented for the 2017 Project are as stated in the State-certified EIR. Small discrepancies within the table are due to rounding.

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2024.

is confined by manmade bank stabilization along portions of the reach. Castaic Creek currently supports 3.32 acres of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and 97.53 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, whereas the State-certified EIR characterized the creek as supporting 79 acres of waters of the United States and 91.6 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. The difference in acreage of waters of the United States is due to the fact that the technical reports supporting the State-certified EIR assumed the entire Castaic Creek floodplain to be waters of the United States, even though Corps regulations define the lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction as the ordinary high water mark (which does not include the floodplain), while the updated jurisdictional delineation more precisely identifies only the active stream channel below the ordinary high water mark as waters of the United States. The increase in CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds is largely due to the western expansion of the VCC Planning Area boundary at the northern end of Castaic Creek to include more of the creek.

The reach of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area only occasionally supports suitable aquatic habitat for aquatic species such as Santa Ana sucker, arroyo chub, unarmored threespine stickleback, and other native fish, for example, following winter or spring rainfall events, after one or more years of exceptionally high winter rainfall, or

following prolonged releases from the Castaic Lake reservoir. These species occur in the Santa Clara River in the vicinity of the Project Site and therefore could occur in Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area during periods when aquatic habitat is temporarily available. Surveys for aquatic species conducted within the VCC Planning Area in 2024, following two winters of above-normal rainfall that led to seasonal flows in Castaic Creek continuing unusually late in the year, resulted in observations of the Santa Ana sucker and arroyo chub, confirming that they may occur when conditions are suitable.

(ii) Hasley Creek

Hasley Creek is an ephemeral stream that flows approximately 2 miles from its headwaters to its confluence with Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area. Within the VCC Planning Area, Hasley Creek exhibits a braided and poorly defined low-flow channel within vertical and deeply incised banks. There is abundant evidence of excessive erosion within the creek, and vegetation within the channel bottom is very sparse.

Hasley Creek currently supports 3.10 acres of waters of the United States, 4.06 acres of waters of the State, and 14.45 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds within the VCC Planning Area, whereas at the time of the State-certified EIR the creek supported 5.06 acres of waters of the United States and 17.42 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. These minor changes are mostly due to channel incision in the northern section of the creek, resulting in a narrower flow path and jurisdictional area. The waters of the State and CDFW-jurisdictional acreages include two deeply incised storm drain outlet features located between Commerce Center Drive and the west side of Hasley Creek that receive stormwater and nuisance flows from adjacent developed uses. These features are not waters of the United States but are considered waters of the State and streambeds subject to CDFW jurisdiction because they exhibit defined beds, banks, and channels, and support riparian vegetation.

Because of its ephemeral flow regime, Hasley Creek does not support aquatic habitat and thus native fish species and other wildlife requiring such habitat are not expected to occur there. Refer to the VCC Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2b** for a detailed discussion.

(iii) Live Oak Road Detention Basin

The Live Oak Road Detention Basin is located in the northeastern portion of the VCC Planning Area, south of an off-site residential community and west of Castaic Creek. The feature is manmade and does not feature an OHWM, so is not considered a water of the United States or water of the State, but because the feature supports riparian vegetation, CDFW may assert jurisdiction over the feature as a streambed. The Live Oak Detention Basin currently supports 0.86 acres of potential CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds

and does not support waters of the United States or waters of the State; it was not delineated as a jurisdictional feature in the State-certified EIR.

(iv) The Old Road Agricultural Ditch

The Old Road Agricultural Ditch is situated in the eastern portion of the VCC Planning Area, at the northern edge of an existing, active agricultural field. It carries agricultural runoff and episodic flows from flushing of a municipal supply water well in a generally east-west direction and eventually enters Castaic Creek. Because the ditch is manmade and does not support a relatively permanent flow of water, it is not a water of the United States or water of the State. However, because the feature exhibits a defined channel and supports riparian vegetation, CDFW may assert jurisdiction over the feature as a streambed. The Old Road Agricultural Ditch currently supports 0.38 acres of potential CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds and does not support waters of the United States or waters of the State. It was not delineated as a jurisdictional feature in the State-certified EIR.

3. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS FOR THE 2017 PROJECT

Section 4.5, Biota, and Section 4.6, Jurisdictional Waters, of the State-certified EIR analyzed impacts to biological resources resulting from development of the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas, including effects on land cover types and natural vegetation communities, common wildlife species, special status species, wildlife movement, and jurisdictional waters.[74]

a. Entrada South Planning Area

The State-certified EIR found that development of the Entrada South Planning Area would result in permanent loss of native vegetation communities and land covers, impacts to wildlife movement and habitat connectivity, and direct and indirect impacts to common wildlife, special-status wildlife and special-status plants. However, the State-certified EIR found that these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the project design features, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

The State-certified EIR also found that development of the Entrada South Planning Area would result in impacts to waters subject to federal and/or state jurisdiction through direct removal, filling, hydrologic interruption, loss of functions or services, or other means,

[74] *The analyses of impacts to biota and jurisdictional waters are combined in a single section in this SEIR, consistent with the County's normal practice.*

and could result in permanent net loss of CDFW-jurisdictional streams or waters of the United States, and that these impacts could be significant absent mitigation. However, the State-certified EIR found that these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the project design features, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

b. VCC Planning Area

The State-certified EIR found that development of the VCC Planning Area would result in permanent loss of native vegetation communities and land covers, impacts to wildlife movement and habitat connectivity, and direct and indirect impacts to common wildlife, special-status wildlife and special-status plants. However, the State-certified EIR found that these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the project design features, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

The State-certified EIR also found that development of the VCC Planning Area would result in impacts to waters subject to state and/or federal jurisdiction through direct removal, filling, hydrologic interruption, loss of functions or services, or other means, and could result in permanent net loss of CDFW-jurisdictional streams or waters of the United States, and that these impacts could be significant absent mitigation. However, the State-certified EIR found that these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the project design features, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

a. Regulatory Compliance Measures

The Project shall comply with the following regulatory requirements, as applicable:

- If Project activities will cause “take” of species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA or the CESA, incidental take authorization shall be obtained from the USFWS and/or the CDFW, as applicable, prior to commencing such activities.
- The Project shall comply with applicable requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- Project activities that impact oak tree resources shall comply with the CLAOTO, including obtaining an oak tree permit under that ordinance, if required, and replacing trees impacted by the Project as required by the ordinance.

- The Project shall employ construction dust control measures that comply with SCAQMD Rule 403d, as amended.

- All necessary CWA Section 404 permits, CWA Section 401 water quality certifications, Porter-Cologne Act waste discharge requirements and CFGC Section 1602 streambed alteration agreements shall be obtained prior to Project activities that discharge fill into waters of the United States, discharge fill or waste into waters of the State, or alter streambeds subject to CDFW jurisdiction. The Project shall comply with all terms and conditions of such authorizations.

b. Project Design Features

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

The following project design feature (PDFs) has been incorporated into the Modified Project's design for the Entrada South Planning Area and will be included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Modified Project to ensure implementation:

ES-PDF-BIO-1: Within six months following completion of development within the Entrada South Planning Area, the Applicant shall offer a conservation easement (as defined in Civil Code Section 815.1) over preserved streambeds and riparian areas within Unnamed Canyon 2 that are subject to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Sections 1602 et seq. to ensure those areas are maintained in an undeveloped, open space condition in perpetuity. The conservation easement shall be offered to a qualified natural lands management organization or other entity qualified to hold conservation easements under Civil Code Section 815.3.

(2) VCC Planning Area

The following PDFs have been incorporated into the Modified Project's design for the VCC Planning Area and will be included in the MMRP for the Modified Project to ensure implementation.

VCC-PDF-BIO-1: Within six months following completion of development within the VCC Planning Area, the Applicant shall offer a conservation easement (as defined in Civil Code Section 815.1) over preserved streambeds and riparian areas within Castaic Creek and Hasley Canyon that are subject to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Sections 1602 et seq. to ensure those areas are maintained in an undeveloped, open space condition in perpetuity. The conservation easement shall be offered to a qualified

natural lands management organization or other entity qualified to hold conservation easements under Civil Code Section 815.3.

VCC-PDF-BIO-2: With respect to any at-grade temporary haul route crossing of Castaic Creek, such crossing shall be installed and removed when the crossing location is outside any wetted portion of Castaic Creek and when there is a clear weather window as predicted by NOAA weather data. A clear weather forecast is defined for this project as a 40 percent or less chance of a 0.1 inch or greater precipitation event within the next 48 hours. Upon removal of any at-grade crossing, the bed and banks of Castaic Creek shall be restored to pre-construction elevations and contours and revegetated with native vegetation cover in accordance with mitigation measure RMDP/SCP-BIO-16.

RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-1: To avoid impacts on the unarmored threespine stickleback, as well as other sensitive fish in the Santa Clara River, no construction activities shall take place in the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River.

(Although the VCC Planning Area does not contain any part of the Santa Clara River, to avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this PDF will also be applied to the wetted channel of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-8: With respect to the temporary haul route bridges, all steel pile supports shall be installed and removed when the column and pile locations are outside of the wetted portion of the Santa Clara River and when there is a clear weather window as predicted by NOAA weather data. A clear weather forecast is defined for this project as a 40 percent or less chance of a 0.1 inch or greater precipitation event within the next 48 hours. Modular bridge decks, and all travel surface materials above the deck, shall be removed from the river prior to November 30 and shall not be installed until after May 1 of each year they are in use, consistent with NOAA weather data.

(Although the VCC Planning Area does not contain any part of the Santa Clara River, to avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this PDF will also be applied to the wetted portion of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area. To reflect hydrologic conditions specific to Castaic Creek, any modular bridge decks and travel surface materials shall not be installed until after April 1 of each year they are in use.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-11: All construction dewatering of seepage water, associated with bank stabilization shall be conducted in a manner that does not create a risk of fish stranding, either through draw down (zone of influence) or by flow discharge creating temporary habitat suitable for unarmored threespine stickleback.

(Although the VCC Planning Area does not contain any part of the Santa Clara River, to avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this PDF will also be applied to bank stabilization construction within Castaic Creek in the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-12: All long-term maintenance of project facilities on the Santa Clara River shall adhere to timing and work zone restrictions, specifically: (1) maintenance activities shall not take place in the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River; (2) maintenance, repair or replacement of bridge structures requiring access to the riverbed shall be restricted to the period from June 1 to September 30; (3) any dewatering necessary during any maintenance activities shall not create a risk of fish stranding, either through draw down (zone of influence) or by flow discharge creating temporary habitat suitable for unarmored threespine stickleback, nor shall it involve direct removal of surface water from, or discharge to, the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River.

(Although the VCC Planning Area does not contain any part of the Santa Clara River, to avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this PDF will also be applied to the wetted channel of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area. However, item (2) is not applicable to the VCC Planning Area, as the Modified Project will not construct any permanent bridge structure across the Santa Clara River or Castaic Creek that would require maintenance, repair, or replacement.)

c. Relevant Project Characteristics

In addition to the specific PDFs listed above, the following information regarding the Modified Project's characteristics is included herein to provide context for the analysis below.

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

The Modified Project would incorporate several refinements to the 2017 Project within the Entrada South Planning Area that would reduce development impacts. These revisions include enhancing and restoring portions of Unnamed Drainage 2, a significant portion of which would have been permanently impacted under the 2017 Project, thereby reducing permanent impacts to certain vegetation communities and waters of the United States and retaining additional on-site open space. Under ES-PDF-BIO-1, jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Canyon 2 would be permanently conserved following completion of Entrada South Planning Area development.

Within the Entrada South Planning Area, Modified Project activities would permanently impact a total of 316.4 acres, compared to 323.8 acres for the 2017 Project, and would temporarily impact 11.2 acres that will be revegetated following project construction, compared to 0 acres for the 2017 Project.[75] Approximately 80.3 acres within the disturbance footprint has already been subject to development activities as part of the Mission Village Project, as described in the State-certified EIR.

(2) VCC Planning Area

The Modified Project would incorporate several refinements to the 2017 Project within the VCC Planning Area that would reduce development impacts, while incorporating habitat creation/enhancement activities that would provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable project impacts. These revisions include limiting fill within jurisdictional waters to bank stabilization required for flood control and public safety purposes, and the identification of specific portions of the Castaic Creek drainage where existing disturbed communities would be restored to riparian habitat for compensatory mitigation purposes. Under VCC-PDF-BIO-1, jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Castaic Creek and Hasley Canyon would be permanently conserved following completion of VCC Planning Area development.

Within the VCC Planning Area, Modified Project activities would permanently impact 189.8 acres, compared to 209.4 acres for the 2017 Project, and would temporarily impact approximately 35.9 acres, compared to 0 acres for the 2017 Project. Temporary impacts associated with the Modified Project would occur as a result of development activities located in areas that are already developed areas or that would be revegetated following construction and retained as undeveloped areas, in the latter case providing long-term benefits to biological resources. In addition to development impacts, the Modified Project would include temporary impacts to 5.4 acres occurring exclusively for the purpose of riparian habitat mitigation that would benefit biological resources.

5. THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and other relevant criteria, the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning has determined that a project would have a potentially significant impact related to biological resources based on the following criteria:

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[75] *Project impact acreages are estimates provided for purposes of analysis. Although these estimates are based on the best available information, reasonable variations are expected to occur based on mapping refinements, seasonal variability, and other factors.*

Threshold 5.2-1: Would the Project 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?

Threshold 5.2-2: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?

Threshold 5.2-3: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) or waters of the United States or California, as defined by § 404 of the federal Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations, California Fish and Game code § 1600, et seq., or the State Policy for Water Quality Control: State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State, through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Threshold 5.2-4: 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?

Threshold 5.2-5: Would the Project convert oak woodlands (as defined by the state, oak woodlands are oak stands with greater than 10% canopy cover with oaks at least 5 inch in diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade) or other unique native woodlands (juniper, Joshua, Southern California black walnut, etc.)?

Threshold 5.2-6: Would the Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36), the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.174, Part 16), the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 102), Specific Plans (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.46), Community Standards Districts (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.300 et seq.), and/or Coastal Resource Areas (L.A. County General Plan, Figure 9.3)?

Threshold 5.2-7: Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan?

As evaluated in the Initial Study (see **Appendix 1** of this SEIR), the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts than the 2017 Project with respect to conflicts with habitat conservation plans, natural community

conservation plans, or other approved state, regional, or local habitat conservation plans per Threshold 5.2-7. Accordingly, the Initial Study analysis concluded no further analysis of this issue is required. Please refer to the Initial Study for discussion related to Threshold 5.2-7.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE MODIFIED PROJECT

a. Methodology

As noted above, this assessment of Modified Project impacts on biological resources is based on the Entrada South Bio Report and VCC Bio Report prepared by Dudek, and the Entrada South Waters Report and VCC Waters Report prepared by Rincon Consultants, Inc., which are provided in **Appendices 5.2c** and **5.2d** of this SEIR (collectively, the Technical Reports). The Technical Reports incorporate the most up-to-date vegetation mapping, plant and wildlife surveys, delineations of jurisdictional waters, and other relevant information regarding biological resources present within the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas.

This assessment incorporates, and takes into account, the analysis and mitigation measures related to biological resources in the State-certified EIR. The State-certified EIR provided a comprehensive assessment of biological impacts, including effects on land cover types and natural vegetation communities, common wildlife species, special status species, and wildlife movement. To address the long-term nature of the RMDP/SCP and the potential for site conditions and resources to exhibit natural variability over time, the State-certified EIR conservatively assumed that sensitive resources documented to occur on site, or with known potential to occur on site, could be present during authorized development activities.

The State-certified EIR included numerous mitigation measures to address biological impacts by requiring, among other things, assessments prior to development activities (e.g., pre-construction surveys), avoidance and minimization measures where resources could be present (e.g., construction buffers), and/or compensatory mitigation requirements where applicable. These mitigation measures were designed to account for the natural variability of habitat conditions over time. Thus, minor changes in the presence of habitat, plants, wildlife species, or jurisdictional waters that are consistent with the information or assumptions in the State-certified EIR are presumed to be adequately addressed by the existing mitigation measures in the State-certified EIR. All applicable mitigation measures from the State-certified EIR are also imposed on the Modified Project.

b. Modified Project Impacts

The Modified Project would result in direct impacts to existing vegetation communities, including special-status plant species, as well as movement opportunities and habitat values for common and special-status wildlife, and could result in direct impacts to wildlife species occurring within the Project Site. The Modified Project also would result in fill of jurisdictional waters within the Project Site for development and authorized post-construction maintenance activities. Project land uses would also indirectly affect wildlife and habitat values, as well as aquatic resource functions and services, within areas not directly impacted by Project activities. The 2017 Project would have all these impacts as well.

As discussed above, the Modified Project includes design changes to reduce permanent impacts to biological resources as compared to the 2017 Project. In particular, under the Modified Project:

- Within the Entrada South Planning Area, portions of Unnamed Drainage 2—from the storm drain outlet at the southern Entrada boundary to Magic Mountain Parkway—would be enhanced and restored as a natural, open, vegetated drainage channel with grade control structures that would retain the look and feel of a natural canyon. This environmentally beneficial modification would reduce permanent impacts to biological resources and waters of the United States and result in increased open space and protection of habitat as compared to the 2017 Project. Under ES-PDF-BIO-1, jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Canyon 2 would be permanently conserved following completion of Entrada South Planning Area development.

- Within the VCC Planning Area, the Modified Project includes additional environmental protections for riparian areas and related biological resources including a reduction in permanent impacts to Hasley Canyon and Castaic Creek. Although some areas would be temporarily impacted during construction, they would be restored and revegetated after construction based on the Modified Project design. This environmentally beneficial modification to the project design would result in increased open space, restored drainage areas, and increased protection of habitat. Under VCC-PDF-BIO-1, jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Hasley Canyon and Castaic Creek would be permanently conserved following completion of VCC Planning Area development.

As detailed below, because neither the presence of biological resources within the Project Site nor the impacts of the Modified Project to those resources has changed significantly, and with implementation of applicable mitigation measures and PDFs, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to biological resources as compared to the 2017 Project analyzed in the

State-certified EIR. This conclusion applies both to special-status resources and to common wildlife species, although impacts to those species are not among the specific significance thresholds utilized by the County and addressed below. As described in Sections 5.2.b.4 and 5.3 above, the presence of common wildlife species, the availability of habitat for those species within the Project Site, and the impacts of the Modified Project to such habitat remain largely unchanged compared to the conditions described in the State-certified EIR, similar to the situation for special-status resources. Thus, the impacts of the Modified Project to common wildlife species do not differ significantly from those of the 2017 Project, and the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to such species.

Threshold 5.2-1: Would the Project 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?

In evaluating impacts to special-status species, the State-certified EIR assumed that species with the potential to occur in the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas, based on suitable habitat conditions and other relevant factors, would be present and would be affected by the 2017 Project. The effects analyzed are a function of the 2017 Project's development footprint and impacts to suitable habitat for the species, and include direct effects such as mortality from construction activities, and indirect effects such as habitat loss and fragmentation.

The State-certified EIR included measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate effects to such species, which were designed to account for natural variability over time in the presence of individuals of special-status species and of their habitat. In general, these measures require mitigation based on the actual amount of individuals or habitat present and impacted at the time of project activities. Taking into account these project design features, avoidance measures and mitigation measures imposed on the project, the State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on special-status species and their habitat within the Entrada South or VCC Planning Area.

As described above in subsection 5.2.b.(5) and 5.2.b.(6)of this SEIR, the current presence and status of special-status plant and wildlife species and their habitat within these areas remain substantially similar to those analyzed in the State-certified EIR. Because the Modified Project's disturbance footprint and land uses also remain substantially the same as the 2017 Project, the Modified Project's impacts on special-status plant and wildlife species and their habitat will remain substantially the same as analyzed in the State-certified EIR, with a reduction in impacts within certain areas, as summarized

further below in **Table 5.2-10**, Vegetation Community Impacts—Modified Project Compared to 2017 Project (Entrada South Planning Area), **Table 5.2-11**, Vegetation Community Impacts—Modified Project Compared to 2017 Project (VCC Planning Area), **Table 5.2-12**, Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area, and **Table 5.2-13**, Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area, on pages 5.2-72, 5.2-74, 5.2-78, and 5.2-87, respectively.

(1) Impacts to Vegetation Communities

Because the analysis of significance criteria is based in large part on the project's impacts to vegetation communities and land covers that may provide habitat for plants and wildlife, the following information is included to inform the discussion of specific significance thresholds below.

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

Table 5.2-10, Vegetation Community Impacts—Modified Project Compared to 2017 Project (Entrada South Planning Area), compares the Modified Project's impacts to vegetation communities within the Entrada South Planning Area to those of the 2017 Project, including impacts to communities that could provide habitat or movement opportunities for common and special-status plant and wildlife species. **Figure 5.2-13**, Project Comparison—Entrada South Planning Area on page 5.2-73, compares the impact footprints of the 2017 Project and Modified Project. Overall, net permanent impacts to natural communities would increase by approximately 0.9 acre under the Modified Project compared to the 2017 Project Impacts to some specific community types vary by a few acres compared to the 2017 Project, largely due to natural changes in land cover, but, overall, these differences are minor. Any additional impacts are fully addressed by existing mitigation measures, which were designed to account for the natural variability of habitat conditions over time. Where relevant, impacts to specific vegetation communities that are considered sensitive, or may provide habitat for special-status plant or wildlife species, are discussed in greater detail under the significance criteria below.

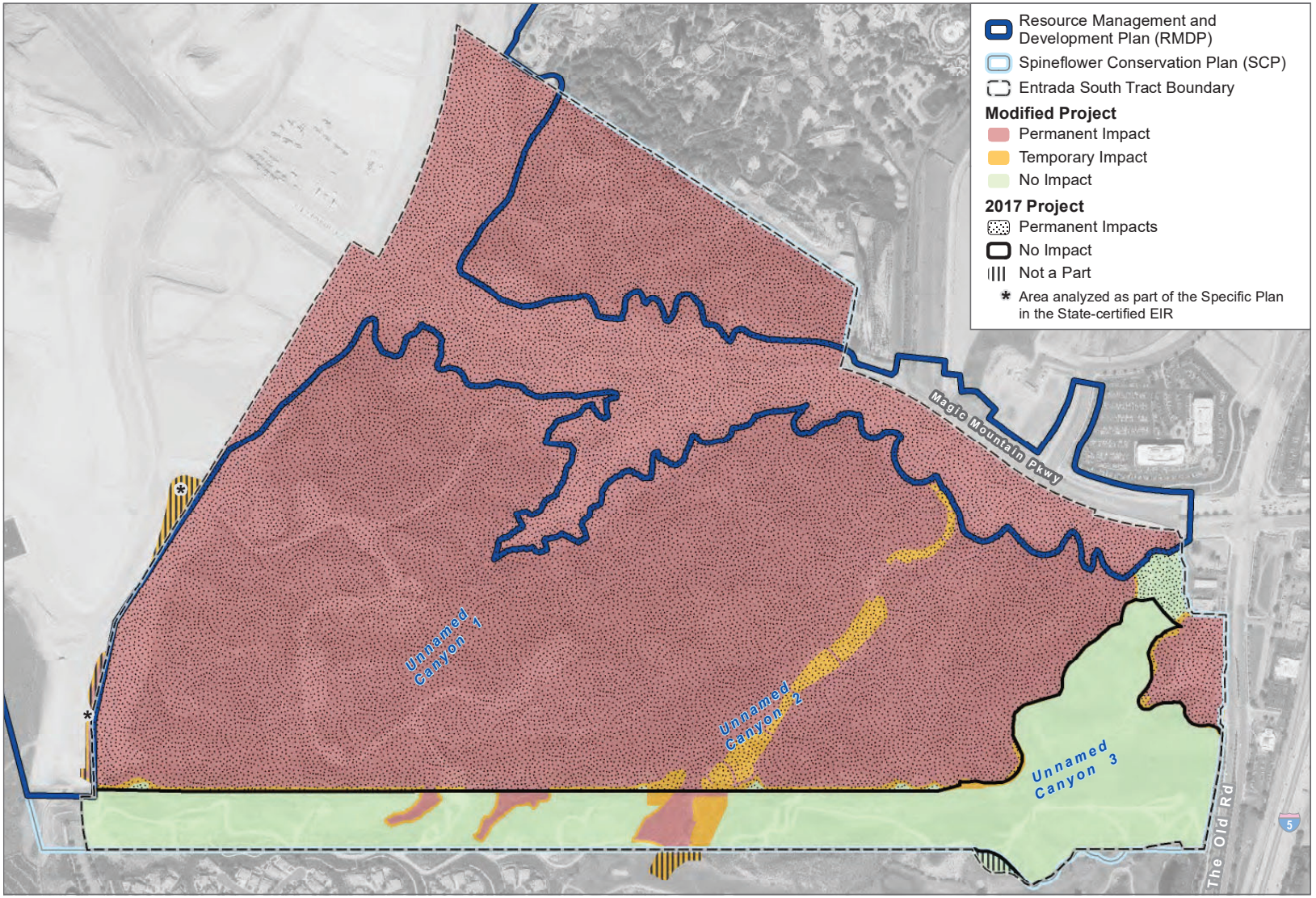
(b) VCC Planning Area

Table 5.2-11, Vegetation Community Impacts—Modified Project Compared to 2017 Project (VCC Planning Area), summarizes the Modified Project's impacts to vegetation communities within the VCC Planning Area, including communities that could provide habitat or movement opportunities for common and special-status plant and wildlife species. **Figure 5.2-14**, Project Comparison—VCC Planning Area on page 5.2-76, compares the impact footprints of the 2017 Project and Modified Project. Overall, net permanent impacts to natural communities would decrease by approximately 21.7 acres under the Modified Project compared to the 2017 Project, reducing impacts to biological

Table 5.2-10
Vegetation Community Impacts—Modified Project Compared to 2017 Project (Entrada South Planning Area)

General Physiognomic and Physical Location	Habitat Types	Floristic Alliance/ Associations	2017 Project Permanent Impacts	Modified Project (acres)		Changes in Permanent Impacts (acres)
				Permanent Impacts	Temporary Impacts	
Grass and Herb Dominated Communities	Non-Native Grassland Native Grassland Mustard stand	California annual grassland Wild oat grassland Needle grass grassland Short-podded mustard stand	26.4	34.6	0.9	+8.3
Scrub and Chaparral	Coastal Scrub Chaparral Scrubs Other Chaparral	California sagebrush scrub (including restored) California sagebrush—*Artemisia* California sagebrush—California buckwheat scrub California buckwheat (including restored and disturbed forms) Deer weed scrub	150.5	145.1	3.5	-5.4
Broad Leafed Upland Tree Dominated	Oak Woodland and Forest	Valley oak grassland	—	1.7	—	+1.7
Riparian and Bottomland Habitat	Other Riparian/ Wetland	River wash Alluvial scrub Big sagebrush scrub Cattail marshes Scale broom scrub	18.0	14.3	4.8	−3.7
Man-Made Land Cover Types		Ornamental Developed land Disturbed land	129.0	120.7	2.0	-8.3
Total			**323.8**	**316.4**	**11.2**	**−7.4**

Source: Dudek, 2024.



SOURCE: Eagle Aerial Solutions 2018, Hunsaker 2022

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Figure 5.2-13
Project Comparison–Entrada South Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2023.

Table 5.2-11
Vegetation Community Impacts—Modified Project Compared to 2017 Project (VCC Planning Area)

General Physiognomic and Physical Location	Habitat Types	Floristic Alliance/ Associations	2017 Project Permanent Impacts	Modified Project (acres)		Changes in Permanent Impacts (acres)	Modified Project Temporary Impacts from Habitat Creation/ Enhancement (Acres)
				Permanent Impacts	Temporary Construction Impacts		
Grass and Herb-Dominated Communities	Non-Native Grassland Mustard Stand	California annual grassland Short-podded mustard stand	64.2	42.0	6.8	−22.2	1.2
Scrub and Chaparral	Coastal Scrub	California sagebrush scrub California sagebrush–California buckwheat scrub (including disturbed forms) Disturbed California buckwheat	37.6	43.7	2.5	+6.1	0.2
Broad Leafed Upland Tree Dominated	Oak Woodland and Forest	Valley oak woodland	—	1.8	—	+1.8	—
Riparian and Bottomland Habitat	Other Riparian/ Wetland Low to High Elevation Riparian Scrub Riparian Forest and Woodland	Riverwash Scale broom scrub (including disturbed forms) Herbaceous wetlands Mulefat scrub (including disturbed forms) Blue elderberry stands Tamarisk thickets Disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub Southern cottonwood–willow riparian	20.7	13.2	14.9	−7.5	3.6

Table 5.2-11 (Continued)
Vegetation Community Impacts—Modified Project Compared to 2017 Project (VCC Planning Area)

General Physiognomic and Physical Location	Habitat Types	Floristic Alliance/ Associations	2017 Project Permanent Impacts	Modified Project (acres)		Changes in Permanent Impacts (acres)	Modified Project Temporary Impacts from Habitat Creation/ Enhancement (Acres)
				Permanent Impacts	Temporary Construction Impacts		
Man-Made Land Cover Types		Agriculture Developed Disturbed land Ornamental	86.9	89.0	11.6	+2.1	0.4
Total			**209.4**	**189.8**	**35.9**	**−19.6**	**5.3**

Source: Dudek, 2024.

SOURCE: Eagle Aerial Solutions 2018

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Figure 5.2-14
Project Comparison–VCC Planning Area

Source: Dudek, 2023.

resources. Impacts to some specific community types would increase by a few acres compared to the 2017 Project, but these differences are minor in the context of the overall project and would be fully addressed by existing mitigation measures, which were designed to account for the natural variability of habitat conditions over time. Where relevant, impacts to specific vegetation communities that are considered sensitive, or may provide habitat for special-status plant or wildlife species, are discussed in greater detail under the significance criteria below.

(2) Impacts to Special Status Species

(a) Entrada South Planning Area

Table 5.2-12, Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area, on page 5.2-78 compares the Modified Project's potential impacts to special-status species and their habitat within the Entrada South Planning Area to those of the 2017 Project. Please see the Entrada South Bio Report provided as part of **Appendix 5.2a**, for more details including a full list of mitigation measures applicable to each species.

Table 5.2-12, Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area, demonstrates that the Modified Project's impacts to special-status species and their habitat within the Entrada South Planning Area will be substantially the same as those of the 2017 Project. Potential impacts to California glossy snake, Crotch bumble bee, and mountain lion are discussed in more detail below due to changes in the regulatory status of those species. Minor increases in impacts to cumulative occupied area for slender Mariposa lily, and suitable habitat for certain other special-status species would be mitigated to less than significant levels within the mitigation framework established by the State-certified EIR, which was designed to accommodate natural variability in habitat conditions and species presence over time. Impacts to special-status wildlife not included in **Table 5.2-12**, Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area, would be substantially the same as analyzed in the State-certified EIR because the Modified Project would not increase impacts to habitat for such species (i.e., the Modified Project would not result in a substantial increase in the acreage of impacts to the vegetation communities that such a species would rely upon) and the occurrence and status of the species has not changed from the State-certified EIR; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to special-status species as analyzed in the State-certified EIR. As a result, the Modified Project would not cause a new significant impact to special-status species or their habitat that was not analyzed in the State-certified EIR. In addition, under ES-PDF-BIO-1 jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Canyon 2 in the Entrada South Planning Area will be permanently conserved following construction, which will benefit special-status species that may occur in or use that area.

Table 5.2-12
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
Plants				
San Fernando Valley Spineflower	As authorized by SCP ITP, all plants located outside of Entrada spineflower preserve (occurrence varies annually)	As authorized by SCP ITP, all plants located outside of Entrada spineflower preserve (occurrence varies annually)	Permanent protection and perpetual management of spineflower preserves; avoidance of indirect impacts to preserves, etc. (Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-9, RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-23 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-39, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-85, and RMDP/SCP-WQ-2)	No: species presence is within expected range of variability accounted for in the State-certified EIR for the 2017 Project; impacts consistent with approved SCP and mitigated to less than significant levels by implementation of the SCP and applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Slender Mariposa Lily	31.2 cumulative occupied acres	46.9 cumulative occupied acres permanent impacts; 0.2 cumulative occupied acres temporary impacts	1:1 habitat replacement/ enhancement (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-25, RMDP/SCP-BIO-40, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72)	No: increase in cumulative occupied acreage is expected and consistent with the State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project and does not indicate increased presence of species; all impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels by replacement of cumulative occupied habitat in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Peirson's Morning-Glory	176.9 acres suitable habitat	179.7 acres permanent impact; 4.4 acres	Preservation of suitable habitat (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-27,	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
		temporary impact to suitable habitat	SP-4.6-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72)	has not been observed on-site since 2005; impacts to suitable habitat substantially unchanged and the applicable Mitigation Measures will continue to be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Mainland Cherry	Present but not mapped; impacts assumed	5 trees	Replacement of trees (Mitigation Measure SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through SP-4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-47a, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-88)	No: impacts to trees assumed under State-certified EIR for the 2017 Project; impacted trees will be replaced in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Southern California Black Walnut	Present but not mapped; impacts assumed	None (trees no longer present)	N/A (replacement required if present at time of project clearing/ground disturbance) (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through SP-4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a,	No: no new impacts associated with the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
			SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-88)	Project
Island Mountain-Mahogany	21.8 acres suitable habitat	23.4 acres suitable habitat	Preservation of suitable habitat (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72)	No: minor variation in impacts due to increased mapping of scrub oak chaparral rather than change in impact area which is consistent with the variability anticipated by the State-certified EIR; impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels by preserving/enhancing suitable habitat in RMDP in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Oak Trees	42 trees (incl. 1 heritage oak)	34 trees (incl. 1 heritage oak)	Oak woodland enhancement/creation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through SP-4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27,	No: impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
			SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-47a, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-62, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-42, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72)	result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Parish's Sagebrush	13.2 acres suitable habitat	11.6 acres permanent impact; 1.3 acres temporary impact to suitable habitat	Habitat restoration/ enhancement (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through SP-4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-47a, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-14, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72.	No: impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Wildlife				
Western spadefoot	Micro-habitat not quantified	Micro-habitat not quantified; assumed similar	Pre-construction surveys; habitat mitigation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27,	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species assumed present but not

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
			SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-53, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-80, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-85)	detected on-site; impacts to potential habitat similar; breeding habitat will be replaced at 2:1 if present and mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
California legless lizard	168.5 acres suitable habitat	161.1 acres permanent impacts; 8.3 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat	Biological monitoring; preservation/enhancement of habitat (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-54, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-80, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-85)	No: impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Coastal California gnatcatcher	128.7 acres suitable habitat	121.7 acres permanent impacts; 3.5 acres temporary	Biological monitoring; habitat mitigation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-56,	No: impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
		impacts to suitable habitat	RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-85)	applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Tricolored blackbird	74.3 acres foraging habitat	75.1 acres permanent impacts, 1.1 acres temporary impacts to foraging habitat; permanent impacts to 0.04 acre nesting habitat	Pre-construction monitoring; biological monitoring; habitat mitigation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-71)	No; consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project; species not detected on-site; impacts to habitat substantially unchanged and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Burrowing owl	74.3 acres suitable habitat	75.1 acres permanent impacts; 1.1 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat	Pre-construction surveys, biological monitoring; habitat preservation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-57, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-71)	No; consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project; species not detected on-site; impacts to habitat substantially unchanged and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
				Project
Mountain lion	168.5 acres suitable habitat	161.1 acres permanent impacts; 8.3 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat	Pre-construction surveys; habitat preservation and enhancement; wildlife movement corridor (Mitigation Measure SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15 RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-60, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-64)	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, which analyzed potential impacts to mountain lions and determined that impacts would be less than significant based on a comprehensive wildlife movement corridor and habitat preservation framework that was approved by CDFW, mountain lion presence has been confirmed on-site; direct impacts to individuals not expected; impacts to habitat reduced compared to State-certified EIR and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
California condor	Not quantified	Not quantified	Habitat preservation; minimization of indirect impacts (Mitigation Measure RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-82)	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project; condor not observed on-site or expected to forage on-site and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
				Project
California glossy snake	176.9 acres suitable habitat	181.5 acres permanent impacts; 4.4 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (see detailed discussion below)	Pre-construction surveys; preservation and enhancement of habitat (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-54, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-85, and ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1)	No; consistent with other special-status reptiles in the State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, pre-construction surveys and relocation will minimize potential direct impacts to individuals; habitat loss will be mitigated to less than significant levels through preservation, enhancement and restoration of habitat within RMDP and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts to the 2017 Project
Crotch bumble bee	190.6 acres suitable habitat	194.1 acres permanent impacts; 8.9 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (see detailed discussion below)	Habitat assessment and pre-construction surveys; preservation and enhancement of habitat (Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22,	No; habitat assessment and pre-construction surveys will minimize the potential for direct impacts to bees; habitat loss will be mitigated to less than significant levels through preservation, enhancement and restoration of habitat within RMDP and the applicable Mitigation

Table 5.2-12 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—Entrada South Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the Entrada South Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-85, RMDP/SCP-BIO-87, RMDP/SCP-WQ-2, and ES-MM-BIO-2)	Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; construction avoidance measures, integrated pest management plan and post-development restrictions will minimize indirect impacts; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project

[a] *Special status species listed here are those expected to occur.*

[b] *See Section 6.2.1 of the Entrada South Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2a** for a complete list of existing mitigation measures that apply to reduce potential impacts to each species in this table to less than significant.*

Source: Dudek, 2024.

(b) VCC Planning Area

Table 5.2-13, Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area, on page 5.2-87 summarizes the Modified Project's potential impacts to special-status species within the VCC Planning Area. Please see the VCC Bio Report provided as part of **Appendix 5.2b**, for more details, including a full list of mitigation measures applicable to each species.

Table 5.2-13
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
Plants				
San Fernando Valley Spineflower	As authorized by SCP ITP, all plants within planning area (occurrence varies annually)	As authorized by SCP ITP, all plants within planning area (occurrence varies annually)	Permanent protection and perpetual management of spineflower preserves; avoidance of indirect impacts to preserves, etc. (Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-9, RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-24 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-26, RMDP/SCP-BIO-35 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-37, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87)	No: species presence is within expected range of variability accounted for in the State-certified EIR for the 2017 Project; impacts consistent with approved SCP and mitigated to less than significant levels by implementation of the SCP and applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Slender Mariposa Lily	2.9 cumulative occupied acres	4.3 cumulative occupied acres	1:1 habitat replacement/ enhancement (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-25, RMDP/SCP-BIO-40, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72)	No: increase in cumulative occupied acreage is expected and consistent with the State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project and does not indicate increased presence of species; all impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels by replacement of cumulative occupied habitat in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Peirson's Morning-Glory	101.8 acres suitable habitat	85.7 acres permanent impacts; 9.3 acres	Preservation of suitable habitat (Mitigation Measures	No; impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
		temporary impacts to suitable habitat (plus 1.4 acres for habitat mitigation)	SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72)	Project and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Mainland Cherry	Present but not mapped; impacts assumed	1 tree	Replacement of trees (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through SP-4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-47a, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-88)	No; Impacts same or reduced compared to State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project (at least 1 tree previously detected); impacts to trees assumed under State-certified EIR; impacted trees will be replaced; and impacts mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Southern California Black Walnut	Present but not mapped; impacts assumed	No trees impacted	Replacement of trees if present at time of Project clearing/ground disturbance (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through SP-4.6-16,	No; impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project (at least 1 tree previously detected); impacts to trees assumed under State-certified EIR; impacted trees will be replaced and impacts

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-88)	mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
White Rabbit-Tobacco (Undescribed Everlasting)	0.2 acre occupied habitat	0.2 acre permanent impacts; 1.5 acres temporary impacts to occupied habitat	Replacement of plants (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through SP-4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, RMDP/SCP-BIO-75, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-76)	No; minor change in impacts reflects variability in species presence consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project; impacted plants will be replaced at a 1:1 ratio and impacts mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Oak Trees	31 trees (no heritage oaks)	26 trees (no heritage oaks)	Oak woodland enhancement/ creation (Mitigation	No; impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR and the applicable

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-47a, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-62, SP-4.6-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-22)	Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Wildlife				
Western spadefoot	Micro-habitat not quantified	Micro-habitat not quantified; assumed similar	Pre-construction surveys; habitat mitigation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-53, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-80, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87)	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species assumed present but not detected on-site; impacts to potential habitat similar; breeding habitat will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio if present and impacts mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Arroyo toad	No critical habitat designated; impacts to potential habitat similar to Modified Project	31.7 acres permanent impact, 26.7 acres temporary impact to critical habitat containing primary constituent elements	Pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring, relocation, nighttime work restrictions, avoidance of aquatic habitat, habitat conservation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63,	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species not detected on site but assumed present; potential direct impacts to individuals will be minimized through surveys, monitoring and relocation; impacts to

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-17, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-80, RMDP/SCP-BIO-87, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1c, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1e, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1k, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3a, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3b, and RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3d through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3f)	habitat will not affect potential aquatic breeding habitat and will affect less than 0.4% of designated critical habitat within the applicable recovery unit; impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
California legless lizard	57.7 acres suitable habitat	58.5 acres permanent impacts; 21.2 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (plus 3.8 acres for habitat mitigation)	Biological monitoring; preservation/ enhancement of habitat (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13,	No; consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species not detected on-site but assumed present; potential direct impacts to individuals will be minimized by surveys, monitoring and relocation; increase in impacts to habitat reflects mapping of additional

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-54, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87)	habitat and is largely limited to temporary impacts that will be restored; impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Coastal California gnatcatcher	37.6 acres suitable habitat	43.8 acres permanent impacts; 2.5 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (plus 0.2 acre for habitat mitigation)	Biological monitoring; habitat mitigation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87)	No: Consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species not detected on-site since 2007; impacts to habitat similar to State-certified EIR and would be mitigated in accordance with applicable Mitigation Measures from the State-certified EIR through preservation, enhancement and/or restoration of suitable habitat; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Tricolored blackbird	150.1 acres foraging habitat	116.7 acres permanent impacts, 11.7 acres temporary impacts to foraging habitat (plus 1.5 acres for habitat mitigation)	Pre-construction monitoring; biological monitoring; habitat mitigation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12,	No; impacts reduced compared to State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts the 2017

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-73)	Project
Mountain lion	58.3 acres suitable habitat	58.5 acres permanent impacts; 21.2 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (plus 3.8 acres for habitat mitigation)	Pre-construction surveys; habitat preservation and enhancement; wildlife movement corridor (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP 4.6-28, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-60, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-64)	No; consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, which analyzed potential impacts to mountain lions and determined that impacts would be less than significant based on a comprehensive wildlife movement corridor and habitat preservation framework that was approved by CDFW, species not detected on-site but assumed present; direct impacts to individuals not expected; overall impacts to habitat substantially unchanged; Modified Project would improve movement opportunities in Hasley Canyon and Castaic Creek compared to State-certified EIR and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
Arroyo Chub	No impacts to suitable habitat	No impacts to suitable habitat	Avoidance of wetted channel and water quality impacts; restoration of impacted riparian resources (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-80, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1k, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3a, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3b, and RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3d through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3f)	No; species expected on site only occasionally due to limited aquatic habitat; no new impacts associated with the Modified Project and applicable Mitigation Measures from the State-Certified will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Santa Ana Sucker	No impacts to suitable habitat	No impacts to suitable habitat	Avoidance of wetted channel and water quality impacts; restoration of impacted riparian resources (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through	No; species expected on site only occasionally due to limited aquatic habitat, and avoidance measures will ensure no direct impacts to species if present, thus no new impacts associated with the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-80, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1c, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1e, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1k, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3a, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3b, and RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3d through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3f)	any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Unarmored Threespine Stickleback	No impacts to suitable habitat	No impacts to suitable habitat	Avoidance of wetted channel and water quality impacts; restoration of impacted riparian resources (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70,	No; species not expected on-site due to limited aquatic habitat; avoidance measures will ensure no direct impacts to species if present, thus no new impacts associated with the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO, 80, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1c, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1e, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1k, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2a through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2f, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3a, RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3b, and RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3d through RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3f)	
South-western pond turtle	Not quantified; no impacts expected due to limited aquatic habitat on site	Not quantified; no impacts expected due to limited aquatic habitat on site	Pre-construction surveys, biological monitoring, construction avoidance, habitat conservation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-50, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73,	No; species not expected on-site due to limited aquatic habitat; avoidance measures will ensure no direct impacts to species if present, thus no new impacts associated with the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			and RMDP/SCP-BIO-80)	
Burrowing owl	149.5 acres suitable habitat	112.5 acres permanent impacts; 10.4 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (plus 0.4 acre for habitat mitigation)	Pre-construction surveys, biological monitoring; habitat preservation (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-57, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-71)	No; consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project species not detected on-site in recent surveys but assumed present; impacts to habitat reduced compared to State-certified EIR, and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Least Bell's Vireo	4.3 acres nesting habitat; 0.3 acres foraging habitat	6.6 acres permanent impacts; 3.4 acres temporary impacts to nesting habitat (plus 0.1 acre for habitat mitigation). 5.5 acres permanent impacts; 2.1 acres temporary impacts to foraging habitat (plus 2.7 acres for habitat mitigation)	Pre-construction surveys; biological monitoring; habitat preservation, enhancement and/or replacement (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, RMDP/SCP-BIO-78, and	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species sporadically present on-site; minor increase in impacts to habitat reflects vegetation succession and not increased impact footprint, and impacts will be mitigated through preservation, restoration and enhancement of suitable habitat under applicable Mitigation Measures from the State-certified EIR; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-87)	
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	3.9 acres suitable habitat. Critical habitat not designated; impacts to suitable habitat similar	4.3 acres permanent impacts; 2.6 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (plus 0.1 acre for habitat mitigation). 2.3 acres permanent, 1.4 acres temporary impacts to critical habitat containing primary constituent elements	Pre-construction surveys; biological monitoring; habitat preservation, enhancement and/or replacement (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, RMDP/SCP-BIO-78, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87)	No: consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species not documented on-site but assumed present; potential impacts to individuals would be minimized through surveys and monitoring; impacts to habitat substantially unchanged from State-certified EIR; impacts to critical habitat affect 0.002% of applicable recovery unit; impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	3.9 acres suitable habitat	4.3 acres permanent impacts; 2.6 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (plus 0.1 acre for habitat mitigation)	Pre-construction surveys; biological monitoring; habitat preservation, enhancement and/or replacement (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52,	No; consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project, species not documented on site but assumed present; potential impacts to individuals would be minimized through surveys and monitoring; impacts to habitat substantially unchanged from State-certified EIR and would avoid 90% of available nesting habitat; impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels in accordance with the applicable Mitigation Measures; therefore, the

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, RMDP/SCP-BIO-78, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87)	Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
California condor	Not quantified	Not quantified	Habitat preservation; minimization of indirect impacts (Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-82)	No; consistent with State-certified EIR's analysis of the 2017 Project; condor not observed on-site or expected to forage on-site, thus no new impacts associated with the Modified Project; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project
California Glossy Snake	101.8 acres suitable habitat	85.7 acres permanent impacts; 9.3 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat (see detailed discussion below)	Pre-construction surveys; preservation and enhancement of habitat (Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-54, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-73,	No; consistent with other special-status reptiles, pre-construction surveys and relocation will minimize potential direct impacts to individuals; habitat loss will be mitigated through preservation, enhancement and restoration of habitat within RMDP under applicable Mitigation Measures from the State-certified EIR; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project

Table 5.2-13 (Continued)
Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area

Species[a]	Impacts of 2017 Project	Impacts of Modified Project	Mitigation Required (see Appendix D of the VCC Bio Report for full description of required Mitigation Measures)[b]	New or Substantially Increased Significant Impact?
			RMDP/SCP-BIO-87, and ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1)	
Crotch bumble bee	106.8 acres suitable habitat	102.8 acres permanent impacts; 18.1 acres temporary impacts to suitable habitat, plus 1.5 acres for habitat mitigation (see detailed discussion below)	Habitat assessment and pre-construction surveys; preservation and enhancement of habitat (Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-73, RMDP/SCP-BIO-87, RMDP/SCP-WQ-2, and VCC-MM-BIO-2)	No; habitat assessment and pre-construction surveys will minimize the potential for direct impacts to bees; habitat loss will be mitigated to less than significant levels through preservation, enhancement and restoration of habitat within RMDP and the applicable Mitigation Measures will be applied to the Modified Project; construction avoidance measures, integrated pest management plan and post-development restrictions will minimize indirect impacts; therefore, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the 2017 Project

[a] *Special status species listed here are those expected to occur.*

[b] *See Section 6.2.1 of the VCC Bio Report included in **Appendix 5.2** for a complete list of existing mitigation measures that apply to reduce potential impacts to each species in this table to less than significant.*

Source: Dudek, 2024.

Table 5.2-13, Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area, demonstrates that the Modified Project's impacts to special-status species and their habitat within the VCC Planning Area will be substantially the same as those of the 2017 Project. Impacts to California glossy snake, Crotch bumble bee, and mountain lion are discussed in more detail below due to changes in the status of those species. Minor increases in impacts to occupied habitat for white-rabbit tobacco, and to suitable habitat for certain

special-status wildlife species, would be mitigated to less than significant levels within the mitigation framework established by the State-certified EIR, which was designed to compensate for accommodate natural variability in habitat conditions and species presence over time. Impacts to special-status wildlife not included in **Table 5.2-13**, Impacts to Special-Status Species—VCC Planning Area, will be substantially the same as analyzed in the State-certified EIR based on the Modified Project's impacts to habitat for such species (i.e., vegetation communities) the potential occurrence and status of the species, all of which remain essentially the same as analyzed in the State-certified EIR. Accordingly, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to these species. In addition, under VCC-PDF-BIO-1, jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Castaic Creek and Hasley Canyon within the VCC Planning Area will be permanently conserved, which will benefit special-status species that may occur in or use those areas. As a result, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to special-status species or their habitat as analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

(3) New Special Status Species

(a) California glossy snake

Project construction would result in direct impacts to suitable habitat for California glossy snake and could directly affect individuals. Similar to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would result in permanent direct impacts to 181.5 acres and temporary direct impacts to 4.4 acres of suitable on-site habitat for California glossy snake in the Entrada South Planning Area, and direct impacts to 85.7 acres and temporary direct impacts to 9.3 acres of suitable on-site habitat for California glossy snake in the VCC Planning Area. Individuals are typically belowground during the daytime, and are relatively slow moving when aboveground. Therefore, they are highly vulnerable to injury and mortality during construction. These impacts would be potentially significant because they would impact suitable habitat on site for an uncommonly occurring species, and individuals could be injured and killed during construction.

Similar to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project also could result in short-term and long-term indirect impacts to California glossy snake such as construction-related dust; human-caused habitat degradation; harassment and collection; predation by pet, stray, and feral cats and dogs; invasive species; use of pesticides; and increased roadkill. Short-term and long-term indirect impacts to California glossy snake would be significant, absent mitigation.

Overall, the Modified Project would have substantially the same impacts on the California glossy snake and its potential habitat as the 2017 Project. Significant direct and indirect impacts to California glossy snake would be reduced to less than significant by the

following Specific Plan and RMDP/SCP mitigation measures, and one measure specific to the Modified Project (ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1). Full text of these mitigation measures can be found in Appendix C of both the Entrada South Bio Report and VCC Bio Report included as **Appendices 5.2a** and **5.2b**, respectively:

- **SP-4.6-63** (restoration of impacted riparian resources at a 1:1 ratio)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-1** (development of a conceptual wetlands mitigation plan)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-2** through **RMDP/SCP-BIO-12** and **RMDP/SCP-BIO-15** and **RMDP/SCP-BIO-16** (wetlands mitigation plan and riparian restoration activities on the Project Site)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-20** (preservation of 1,900 acres of coastal scrub on site and within the High Country SMA/SEA, the Salt Creek area, and other open space areas within lands owned by the Applicant)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-21** (restoration/enhancement of coastal scrub in the High Country SMA/SEA, Salt Creek area, and Santa Clara River SMA/SEA)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-22** (ORMP identifying areas suitable for oak woodland enhancement and creation)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-52** (pre-construction educational meetings, construction-limit staking, and biological monitoring during vegetation clearing and grading activities)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-54** (surveys to capture and relocate special-status reptiles)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-63** (control of pet, stray, and feral cats and dogs in or near open space areas)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-64** (integrated pest management [IPM] plan)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-71** (dust control measures to protect vegetation communities and special-status aquatic wildlife species)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-72** (review of plant palettes and inspection of container plants for use within 200 feet of native vegetation for pests and disease; restrictions on invasive plants and irrigation)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-73** (permanent fencing along trails in the Santa Clara River SMA/SEA)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-85** (prevention of Argentine ant invasion during construction)

- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-87** (quarterly monitoring and control measures for Argentine ants in perpetuity)

- **ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1** (pre-construction surveys for glossy snake)

These mitigation measures would ensure that impacts to suitable habitat for California glossy snake would be mitigated through the preservation and management of large areas of suitable habitat similar to the habitat that would be impacted within the Entrada South and VCC planning areas. This habitat mitigation is planned to occur primarily in the High Country SMA, Salt Creek, and/or River Corridor SMA within the RMDP/SCP area, but may also include conserved areas within the Entrada South and/or the VCC Planning Area where consistent with applicable mitigation measures listed above. In addition, construction avoidance and minimization measures, including pre-construction surveys and relocation efforts, construction monitoring and worker education, and dust control and construction area limits, would reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to California glossy snake individuals and adjacent habitat during construction. Post-construction measures including control of pets, trail signage, homeowner education and restrictions on pesticides and herbicides would reduce potential long-term indirect impacts to individuals and habitat from development.

Based on the foregoing analysis, the Modified Project would cause significant direct and indirect impacts to California glossy snake habitat, and if present, California glossy snake individuals, but such impacts can be reduced to less than significant with application of the mitigation measures recommended herein. This finding is consistent with the significance determination and mitigation findings of the State-certified EIR for impacts to other special-status terrestrial reptile species with similar life histories. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to to the California glossy snake.

(b) Crotch bumble bee

Project construction would result in direct impacts to habitat supporting suitable floral resources and nesting microhabitats for Crotch bumble bee and could directly affect individuals. Similar to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would result in permanent direct impacts to 194.1 acres and temporary direct impacts to 8.9 acres of vegetation communities capable of supporting Crotch bumble bee in the Entrada South Planning Area, and permanent direct impacts to 102.8 acres and temporary direct construction impacts to 18.1 acres in the VCC Planning Area. Temporary impact areas would be restored to communities capable of supporting Crotch bumble bee. The actual area occupied by specific floral resources with potential to support the species is likely much less (as noted earlier in this section, floral resources are not mapped). In addition, nesting microhabitats,

such as small mammal burrows, bunch grasses with a duff layer, thatch, hollow trees, and brush piles, likely occur on site in limited areas.

Although Crotch bumble bees are generally mobile and able to avoid construction equipment when foraging, they are vulnerable around the nest. Young hibernating females (gynes) may also be vulnerable outside the nesting season, although any originating from nests on the Project Site may choose hibernation sites several miles away. Impacts to both habitat and microhabitats that could be used by Crotch bumble bee would be significant absent mitigation, because they would include permanent impacts to habitat and microhabitats for a CESA candidate species. Impacts to nesting Crotch bumble bees, if they occurred, could reduce the species' ability to persist in the Project vicinity. Although Crotch bumble bee individuals were observed within the Project Site in 2024, no nests were detected, and, because the species establishes new colonies and nest sites annually, and the locations of microhabitats that could support nesting may vary from year to year, it is currently unknown whether any Crotch bumble bee nests will be present on the Project Site during ground-disturbing activities for the Modified Project.

Similar to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project also would result in short-term and long-term indirect impacts to Crotch bumble bee habitat, and if present, Crotch bumble bee individuals, particularly including use of pesticides and herbicides; as well as construction-related dust; degradation of habitat by humans, pets and feral cat and dog activity; increased wildfire risk; invasive species, including Argentine ants; and increased risk of vehicle collisions. Short-term and long-term indirect impacts to Crotch bumble bee would be significant, absent mitigation.

Overall, the Modified Project would have substantially the same impacts on the Crotch bumble bee and its potential habitat as the 2017 Project. Significant direct and indirect impacts to Crotch bumble bee would be reduced to less than significant by the following Specific Plan and RMDP/SCP mitigation measures, and one measure specific to the Modified Project (ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2). Full text of these mitigation measures can be found in Appendix C of both the Entrada South Bio Report and VCC Bio Report included as **Appendices 5.2a** and **5.2b**, respectively:

- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-1** (Requirements for riparian/wetland mitigation plans)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-2** (Mitigation ratios for impacts to waters)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-3** (Mitigation site selection)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-4** (Requirements for replacement vegetation)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-5** (Plant spacing for mitigation sites)

- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-6** (Revegetation success criteria)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-7** (Replanting after acts of God)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-8** (Temporary irrigation for mitigation sites)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-9** (Exotic plant control)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-10** (Mitigation credit for exotic plant control)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-12** (Mitigation monitoring reports)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-15** (Replacement of riparian trees)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-16** (Revegetation of temporary impacts)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-20** (preservation of 1,900 acres of coastal scrub on site and within the High Country SMA/SEA, the Salt Creek area, and other open space areas within lands owned by the Applicant)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-22** (ORMP identifying areas suitable for oak woodland enhancement and creation)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-52** (pre-construction educational meetings, construction-limit staking, and biological monitoring during vegetation clearing and grading activities)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-63** (control of pet, stray, and feral cats and dogs in or near open space) (Entrada South Planning Area only)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-64** (IPM plan)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-70** (Construction BMPs for protection of water quality, plant/wildlife species)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-71** (dust control measures to protect vegetation communities and special-status aquatic wildlife species)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-72** (review of plant palettes and inspection of container plants for use within 200 feet of native vegetation for pests and disease; restrictions on invasive plants and irrigation)
- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-73** (permanent fencing along trails in the Santa Clara River SMA/SEA)
- **RMDP-SCP-BIO-85** (Argentine ant controls) (Entrada South Planning Area only)

- **RMDP/SCP-BIO-87** (Argentine ant monitoring)
- **RMDP/SCP-WQ-2** (Landscape and Integrated Pest Management Plan)
- **ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2** (habitat assessment, pre-construction surveys, avoidance of Crotch bumble bee nests and preparation of Crotch bumble bee avoidance and minimization plan if bees are present)

These mitigation measures would ensure that impacts to suitable habitat for Crotch bumble bee would be mitigated through the preservation and management of large areas of suitable habitat similar to the habitat that would be impacted within the Entrada South and VCC planning areas. This habitat mitigation is planned to occur primarily in the High Country SMA, Salt Creek, and/or River Corridor SMA within the RMDP/SCP area, but may also include conserved areas within the Entrada South Planning Area and/or the VCC Planning Area where consistent with applicable mitigation measures listed above. This habitat would provide substantial areas that support floral resources and microhabitats for the species, similar to those found within the vegetation communities on the Project Site that support such resources. Restoration and management in the open space system would improve the availability of habitat for the Crotch bumble bee.

Direct impacts to Crotch bumble bee would be mitigated through new mitigation measures ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2, which requires a habitat assessment if ground-disturbing activities will occur during the colony active period, and pre-construction surveys of suitable habitat identified by the habitat assessment. If any active nests are found, a buffer will be established around the nest so that no construction activities occur within 100 feet of the nest (or other distance as determined by a qualified biologist) for the duration of the nesting season or until the nest is inactive, unless the nest is relocated or removed with CDFW authorization. A Crotch Bumble Bee Avoidance and Minimization Plan would also be prepared for CDFW approval, containing additional site-specific measures to avoid take of Crotch bumble bees. In addition, construction avoidance and minimization measures, including a worker environmental awareness program, construction monitoring, and dust control and construction-area limits, would prevent or reduce inadvertent direct and indirect impacts to Crotch bumble bee adjacent habitat during construction. Although these measures would limit the potential for impacts to individual Crotch bumble bees, take of the species is possible if the species is present when construction activities occur. If the bumble bee remains a candidate for listing or is ultimately listed under CESA, and is found to be present within the Project site during the pre-construction surveys required by mitigation measure ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2 and avoidance of take is not feasible, the Applicant will apply for and obtain an incidental take permit from CDFW authorizing such take in accordance with CESA. Under CFGC Section 2081(a), if CDFW issues an incidental take permit for the Crotch bumble bee (or any other CESA-listed species), the permit must contain conditions ensuring that the impacts of the

authorized taking are “minimized and fully mitigated.” This document only analyzes the environmental significance of any impact to the Crotch bumble bee. The Applicant will be responsible for complying with all applicable CDFW regulations regarding the taking of CESA candidate species.

Post-construction measures including control of pets, trail signage, homeowner education and restrictions on pesticides and herbicides would reduce potential long-term indirect impacts to individuals and habitat from development. RMDP/SCP-BIO-64 is particularly pertinent. RMDP/SCP-BIO-64 requires preparation of an IPM plan that addresses the use of pesticides on site and ensures that BMPs are used to avoid and minimize adverse effects on the natural environment, including vegetation communities and special-status species and their food resources. The IPM plan addresses monitoring to determine when management thresholds have been exceeded and to identify the most appropriate and efficient control method that avoids and minimizes risks to natural resources. For common area landscaping, RMDP/SCP-WQ-2 requires preparation of a Landscape and Integrated Pest Management Plan that addresses application guidelines for integrated pest management. In addition, RMDP/SCP-BIO-87 provides for quarterly monitoring for Argentine ants along the urban–open space interface and control measures for Argentine ants in perpetuity, helping to maintain habitat values within preserved vegetation communities that may support the Crotch bumble bee.

Based on the foregoing analysis, the Modified Project would cause significant direct and indirect impacts to Crotch bumble bee habitat, and if present, Crotch bumble bee individuals, but such impacts can be reduced to less than significant with application of the mitigation measures recommended herein. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to the Crotch bumble bee. Although the State-certified EIR did not specifically analyze impacts to Crotch bumble bee, because the species had no special status at the time, this finding is consistent with the State-certified EIR finding for the insect guild of common wildlife, which included bees (part of the order *Hymenoptera*) and other insect taxa. The State-certified EIR concluded that project implementation would result in direct and indirect impacts to individuals of this guild and their habitat but the impacts would be less than significant.

(c) Mountain Lion

The mountain lion is a highly mobile species that has been designated a candidate for listing under the CESA since the State-certified EIR was prepared. However, the mountain lion was already a regulated species when the State-certified EIR was prepared, and that document analyzed impacts to the mountain lion’s behavior, reproductive viability, survival success and movement, concluding that impacts would be less than significant. As explained below, the impacts of the Modified Project to

mountain lion remain consistent with those of the 2017 Project as analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

The presence of mountain lion and value of the impacted habitat within the Project Site remains consistent with the analysis in the State-certified EIR. The State-certified EIR assumed mountain lion could occur within any part of the RMDP/SCP area. Mountain lion has since been detected by sign within the Entrada South Planning Area. It has not been detected within the VCC Planning Area despite wildlife camera surveys covering the site in 2013–2014, but is still assumed to have the potential to occur there. Neither Planning Area is considered likely to represent a significant part of a mountain lion's home range, due to their limited size, or to be used for denning, because mountain lions typically den in rockier areas with caves or cavities, which are absent from the Project Site. Thus, any use by mountain lion is likely limited to movement (primarily for the VCC Planning Area) or occasional foraging.

The value of the Entrada South Planning Area for wildlife movement was already limited when the State-certified EIR was prepared, due to the presence of adjacent development, and is now further reduced by development within the Magic Mountain Canyon corridor, as described under Significance Threshold 5.2-3, below. The Entrada South Planning Area contains no wildlife corridor or linkage and does not connect any significant habitat patches. The value of the VCC Planning Area for wildlife movement is constrained by development, but the Castaic-Hasley corridor does connect the Santa Clara River with undeveloped habitat to the northeast. Thus, both Planning Areas provide limited opportunity for use by mountain lion, consistent with the State-certified EIR.

Impacts to mountain lion and its habitat within the Project Site would be similar to those analyzed in the State-certified EIR. As analyzed in that document, project construction activities will not result in direct injury or mortality of individual adult mountain lions, because mountain lions are expected to avoid construction activities and because the species is highly mobile. The disturbance of denning mountain lions is very low because the species is unlikely to den within the Project Site. The Modified Project would result in permanent impacts to 161.1 acres and temporary impacts to 8.3 acres of suitable habitat for mountain lion within the Entrada South Planning Area, compared to 168.5 acres of permanent impacts from the 2017 Project. Within the VCC Planning Area, the Modified Project would permanently impact 59.4 acres and temporarily impact 21.7 acres of suitable habitat for mountain lion, compared to 58.8 acres of permanent impacts for the 2017 Project. Thus, impacts to mountain lion habitat would be similar to those of the 2017 Project. Under the Modified Project, ES-PDF-BIO-1 and VCC-PDF-BIO-1 would ensure that habitat within Unnamed Drainage 2 (Entrada South Planning Area) and the

Castaic-Hasley corridor (VCC Planning Area) would remain available for use by any mountain lion that might use the Project Site.

Finally, indirect impacts to mountain lion would be substantially the same as those analyzed in the State-certified EIR and would include nighttime illumination of areas adjacent to open space that could disrupt foraging and movement behavior; increased incidence of vehicle collisions at new and expanded roadways; increased encounters with humans and pet, stray, and feral dogs, which could lead to predation and disease; the use of rodenticides to control small mammals that are prey for mountain lions (e.g., ground squirrels and rabbits), which may reduce the prey populations and possibly cause secondary poisoning; and introduction and invasion of non-native plant species into natural areas, reducing habitat value.

The State-certified EIR found that these impacts would be less than significant with the inclusion of mitigation measures that require pre-construction surveys for denning mountain lions; avoidance of natal dens if present; construction avoidance measures for mountain lion and other wildlife; preservation and enhancement of suitable habitat within the High Country SMA, Salt Creek, and River Corridor SMA; a comprehensive wildlife movement corridor and wildlife crossing program approved by CDFW, which would benefit the mountain lion and other high-mobility wildlife species; and post-construction measures including restrictions on use of pesticides, anti-coagulant rodenticides and nighttime lighting, control of pets, homeowner education, limits on access to conserved habitat, and restrictions on non-native plant species. Measures applicable to the Modified Project that would mitigate potential effects to mountain lion include SP-4.6-26a, SP-2.6-27, SP-4.6-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10 and RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-60, RMDP/SCP-BIO-63 (for the Entrada South Planning Area only), and RMDP/SCP-BIO-64. With these measures, the Modified Project would have substantially the same effects as the 2017 Project on mountain lion behavior, reproductive viability, survival success and movement, all of which would be less than significant.

Overall, taking into account the mitigation measures already applicable to the Modified Project (see Section 5.2.8 of this SEIR) and ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1 (pre-construction surveys for glossy snake) and ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2 (pre-construction surveys and avoidance requirements for Crotch bumble bee), the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts, either directly or via 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.

Threshold 5.2-2: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS?

The State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other special-status natural community within the Entrada South Planning Area or VCC Planning Area, taking into account the PDFs, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures imposed on the project.

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

Within the Entrada South Planning Area, the Modified Project would permanently impact less riparian habitat than analyzed in the State-certified EIR due to environmentally beneficial changes including a revised design for Unnamed Drainage 2 compared to the 2017 Project (see Section 5.2.6 of this SEIR). Avoided jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Drainage 2 would be permanently conserved under ES-PDF-BIO-1. The Modified Project would have an additional 1.7 acres of permanent impacts to valley oak grassland and 1.9 acres of permanent impacts to scale broom scrub not associated with the 2017 Project, while impacts to riparian habitat overall would be reduced by 3.7 acres. These impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels with application of the mitigation measures recommended herein for oak woodlands and for wetland and riparian vegetation communities.

(a) Direct Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters

Table 5.2-14, Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States—Entrada South Planning Area, and **Table 5.2-15**, Direct Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds—Entrada South Planning Area, on pages 5.2-111 and 5.2-112, respectively, compare the Modified Project's impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States and CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, respectively within the Entrada South Planning Area to those of the 2017 Project. **Figure 5.2-15**, Modified Project—Impacts to Waters of the United States (Entrada South Planning Area), and **Figure 5.2-16**, Modified Project—Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds (Entrada South Planning Area), on pages 5.2-113 and 5.2-114, respectively, show the Modified Project's impacts to waters of the United States and CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, respectively. Overall, the Modified Project would result in permanent impacts to 2.26 acres of waters of the United States (which are also waters of the State), a reduction of 0.13 acre compared to the 2017 Project, and permanent impacts to 7.52 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, an increase of 1.97 acres compared to the 2017 Project. Permanent impact acreages include areas that would not be eliminated by development activities but would be subject to ongoing post-construction maintenance activities. The types of resources impacted, the general locations of those resources, and

Table 5.2-14
Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States—Entrada South Planning Area

Feature	Corps Jurisdiction Type	2017 Project	Modified Project		Difference in Impact	
		Permanent Impacts (acres)	Permanent Impacts (ac/linear feet)	Temporary Impacts (ac/linear feet)	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)
Unnamed Drainage 1	Non-Wetland Waters of the United States	0.23	0.21/3,493	<0.01/34	-0.02	+<0.01
Unnamed Drainage 2	Non-Wetland Waters of the United States	1.55	0.92/5,269	1.35/2,412	-0.63	+1.35
Unnamed Drainage 2 (Storm Drain Facility)	Non-Wetland Waters of the United States	N/A	0.18/239	0/0	+0.18	0
Unnamed Drainage 3	Non-Wetland Waters of the United States	0.61	0.74/508	0.01/86	+0.13	+<0.01
	Wetland Waters of the United States	0	0.21/0	0/0	+0.21	0
Total		**2.39**	**2.26/9,529**	**1.36/2,532**	**-0.13**	**+1.36**

ac = acres

The total acreage and acreage by drainage presented for the 2017 Project were calculated using GIS and do not include impacts permitted under the RMDP, as explained in Section 2 of the Entrada South Waters Report. Small discrepancies within the table are due to rounding. Impacted waters of the United States are also waters of the State.

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2023.

Table 5.2-15
Direct Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds—Entrada South Planning Area

Feature	2017 Project	Modified Project		Difference in Impact	
	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Permanent Impacts (acres/linear feet)	Temporary Impacts (acres/linear feet)	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)
Unnamed Drainage 1	0.23	1.1/3,735	0.01/34	+0.87	+<0.01
Unnamed Drainage 2	3.74	5.260/8,598	3.54/2,464	+1.52	+3.54
Unnamed Drainage 2 (Storm Drain Facility)	N/A	0.18/239	0/0	+0.18	0
Unnamed Drainage 3	1.58	0.98/553	0.05/97	-0.6	+0.05
Total	5.55	7.52/13,125	3.6/2,595	+1.97	+3.6

The total acreage and acreage by drainage presented for the 2017 Project were calculated using GIS and do not include impacts permitted under the RMDP, as explained in Section 2 of the Entrada South Waters Report. Small discrepancies within the table are due to rounding.

Source: Rincon Consultants Inc., 2023.

Drainage	Corps Jurisdiction - Modified Project			
	No Impact	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact	Total
	Acres/Linear Feet	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*
Unnamed Drainage-1	<0.01/145	0.21/3,493	<0.01/34	0.22/3,672
Unnamed Drainage-2	-	0.92/5,289	1.35/2,412	2.27/7,701
Unnamed Drainage-2 Storm Drain Facility	-	0.18/239	-	0.18/239
Unnamed Drainage-3	0.18/1,771	0.74/508	0.01/86	0.93/2,365
Unnamed Drainage-3 Wetland	-	0.21	-	0.21
Total	0.19/1,916	2.26/9,529	1.36/2,532	3.81/13,977

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Figure 5.2-15
Modified Project–Impacts to Waters of the United States (Entrada South Planning Area)

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2023.

Drainage	CDFW Jurisdiction - Modified Project			
	No Impact	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact	Total
	Acres/Linear Feet	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*
Unnamed Drainage-1	0.02/145	1.10/3,735	0.01/34	1.12/3,914
Unnamed Drainage-2	-	5.26/8,598	3.54/2,464	8.80/11,062
Unnamed Drainage-2 Storm Drain Facility	-	0.18/239	-	0.18/239
Unnamed Drainage-3	0.53/1,771	0.98/553	0.05/97	1.55/2,421
Total	0.55/1,916	7.52/13,125	3.6/2,595	11.65/17,636

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Figure 5.2-16
Modified Project–Impacts to CDFW Jurisdictional Streambeds (Entrada South Planning Area)

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2023.

the types of functions and services they provide are all consistent with the impacts to jurisdictional waters described in the State-certified EIR.

As shown in **Table 5.2-14**, Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States—Entrada South Planning Area, and **Table 5.2-15**, Direct Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds—Entrada South Planning Area, temporary impacts would increase for both federal and state waters, compared to the 2017 Project, but would be restored following construction and would not have a lasting effect on channel form, function, or vegetation. The increase largely reflects the Modified Project design for Unnamed Drainage 2, under which the majority of that drainage would be temporarily impacted and restored rather than permanently impacted. All impacts would be fully addressed by existing mitigation measures, including compensatory mitigation on-site and/or within other RMDP/SCP areas, consistent with Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10 and RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-16. In addition, under ES-PDF-BIO-1 the avoided and restored jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Drainage 2 would be permanently conserved following completion of project development. The incremental modifications associated with the Modified Project, combined with the changes in jurisdictional waters present in the Entrada South Planning Area, would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts compared to the State-certified EIR. Where relevant, impacts to specific features or jurisdictional resource types are discussed in greater detail below. See the Entrada South Waters Report included as part of **Appendix 5.2c** for additional details.

(i) Unnamed Drainage 1

The Modified Project would convert Unnamed Drainage 1 to an underground storm drain, resulting in permanent impacts to the majority of the drainage, including 0.21 acre of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and 1.1 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. Temporary impacts would occur to less than 0.01 acre of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. These impacts represent a slight reduction in fill of waters of the United States compared to the 2017 Project and an increase in impacts to CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, primarily reflecting changes in the extent of jurisdictional waters due to natural fluctuations in the drainage over time. Overall, the Modified Project design in this drainage, and its impacts to the drainage, have not changed substantially compared to the 2017 Project: the drainage would be converted to underground storm drain as part of project development.

(ii) Unnamed Drainage 2

The Modified Project has been designed to minimize permanent impacts to Unnamed Drainage 2, which is the largest drainage within the Entrada South Planning

Area and provides the greatest aquatic resource functions and services, by installing grade controls to control erosion and conducting restoration within the mainstem of the stream, rather than converting the drainage to an underground storm drain. The Modified Project would permanently impact 0.92 acres of Corps jurisdiction, which are also waters of the State, a reduction of 0.63 acre compared to the 2017 Project, and 5.26 acres of CDFW jurisdiction, an increase of 1.52 acres. The increase in impacts to CDFW jurisdiction reflects an increase in jurisdictional acreage rather than an expansion of the impacted area. The Modified Project also would temporarily impact 1.35 acres of Corps jurisdiction, which are also waters of the State, and 3.54 acres of CDFW jurisdiction as a result of drainage restoration activities include revegetation, removal of exotic plant species, and correction of existing incised banks and channels within Unnamed Drainage 2 that would enhance existing habitat and functions. In addition, the Modified Project would have 0.18 acre of permanent impact to Corps, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdiction within the Westridge Storm Drain Facility located at the upstream end of Unnamed Drainage 2, compared to 0 acres for the 2017 Project.[76] Under ES-PDF-BIO-1, avoided and temporarily impacted jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Drainage 2 would be permanently conserved following completion of project development by placing conservation easements over the areas.

(iii) Unnamed Drainage 3

The Modified Project would impact a portion of the ephemeral stream within Unnamed Drainage 3 and would permanently fill the man-made wetland located within the detention basin at the downstream end of the drainage, resulting in permanent impacts to 0.95 acre of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, including 0.21 acres of wetlands, and 0.98 acre of CDFW-jurisdictional streambed. This represents an increase of 0.13 acre in impacts to non-wetland waters of the United States, largely due to the slight widening of the stream within the downstream end of Unnamed Drainage 3, and an increase of 0.21 acre in impacts to wetland waters of the United States because the man-made wetland was not present when the jurisdictional delineation for the State-certified EIR was prepared. Impacts to CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds would be reduced by 0.6 acre, largely due to the decrease in CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds within the downstream end of Unnamed Drainage 3. The Modified Project development area within this drainage has not changed substantially compared to the 2017 Project. The majority of

[76] *Impacts within the Westridge Storm Drain Facility will occur in an area that was previously impacted in connection with the construction of that Facility, as authorized by permits issued for development of the Westridge project. Because the resources in this area were authorized to be eliminated, and compensatory mitigation was provided by the Westridge project to compensate for that removal, no additional compensatory mitigation will be required or provided for the current Project's impacts to jurisdictional waters within the Westridge Storm Drain Facility.*

Unnamed Drainage 3 is permanently conserved by the recorded conservation instrument covering the Entrada South spineflower preserve.

(b) Indirect Impacts to Waters

As described in the State-certified EIR, the development of the Entrada South Planning Area would have indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters from altered hydrology and water quality (including runoff from urban land uses and pesticide runoff), changes in riparian condition, invasive plant species, altered fire regime (which may directly remove riparian and wetland vegetation), and increased trash and debris. These impacts would be minimized and mitigated to the extent feasible by project design features and mitigation measures, including those listed in **Appendix 5.2c**. The State-certified EIR found that these indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters would be less than significant with application of these mitigation measures.

Because the overall project disturbance footprint, types of construction activities and post-construction land uses associated with the Modified Project within the Entrada South Planning Area have not changed materially from the 2017 Project, and relevant mitigation measures will continue to apply, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to jurisdictional waters as analyzed in the State-certified EIR. See the Entrada South Waters Report included in **Appendix 5.2c**, Section 4.2 for more details.

(2) VCC Planning Area

Within the VCC Planning Area, the Modified Project would permanently impact less riparian habitat than analyzed in the State-certified EIR due to environmentally beneficial changes, including increased avoidance of Hasley Creek and Castaic Creek (see Section 5.2.6 of this SEIR). In addition, jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Drainage 2 would be permanently conserved under ES-PDF-BIO-1. The Modified Project would have 1.8 acres of permanent impacts to valley oak woodland and 3.1 acres of permanent impacts and 4.8 acres of temporary impacts to scale broom scrub that were not identified with the 2017 Project, and permanent impacts to southern cottonwood–willow riparian forest would increase slightly (by 0.4 acres), while permanent impacts to riparian habitat overall would decrease by 7.5 acres. These impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels with application of the mitigation measures recommended herein for oak woodlands and for jurisdictional resources.

(a) Direct Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters

Table 5.2-16, Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States—VCC Planning Area, and **Table 5.2-17**, Direct Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds—VCC Planning Area, on pages 5.2-119 and 5.2-120, respectively, compares the Modified Project's impacts to jurisdictional waters within the VCC Planning Area to those of the 2017 Project. **Figure 5.2-17**, Modified Project—Impacts to Waters of the United States (VCC Planning Area); **Figure 5.2-18**, Modified Project—Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds (VCC Planning Area); and **Figure 5.2-19**, Modified Project—Impacts to Waters of the State (VCC Planning Area), on pages 5.2-121 through 5.2-123, respectively, show the Modified Project's impacts to waters of the United States, waters of the State, and CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, respectively. Overall, the Modified Project would result in permanent impacts to 0.35 acre of waters of the United States, a reduction of 8.65 acres compared to the 2017 Project, permanent impacts to 1.31 acres of waters of the State, and permanent impacts to 12.24 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, a reduction of 11.75 acres compared to the 2017 Project.[77] These reductions are largely due to changes in the proposed design for Hasley Creek. The Modified Project includes channel stabilization and revegetation of the creek, a temporary impact, as opposed to the permanent impact to the entirety of the creek approved under the 2017 Project. Permanent impact acreages include areas that would be subject to ongoing post-construction maintenance activities.

As shown in **Table 5.2-16**, Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States—VCC Planning Area, and **Table 5.2-17**, Direct Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds—VCC Planning Area, temporary Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States—Entrada South Planning Area, impacts would increase for both federal and state waters but would be restored following construction and would not have a lasting effect on channel form, function, or vegetation. The increase also largely reflects the Modified Project design for Hasley Creek, under which the channel would be stabilized and revegetated rather than permanently impacted. All impacts would be fully addressed by existing mitigation measures, including compensatory mitigation on-site and/or within other RMDP/SCP areas, consistent with Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10 RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-16. In addition, under VCC-PDF-BIO-1 the avoided and restored jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within Castaic Creek and Hasley Canyon would be permanently conserved following completion of project development. Overall, impacts to waters would be reduced, and the incremental modifications associated with the Modified Project, combined with the

[77] *Waters of the State were not delineated separately in the delineation the State-certified EIR relied upon. The additional impacts of the Modified Project to waters of the State, compared to waters of the United States, are attributable entirely to the storm drain outfalls tributary to Hasley Creek, which are waters of the State but not waters of the United States.*

Table 5.2-16
Direct Impacts to Waters of the United States—VCC Planning Area

Feature	Corps Jurisdiction Type	2017 Project	Modified Project		Difference in Impact	
		Permanent Impacts (acres)	Permanent Impacts (ac/linear feet)	Temporary Impacts (ac/linear feet)	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)
Castaic Creek	Non-Wetland Waters of the United States	3.98	0.09/335	0.21/1,036	-3.89	+0.22
Hasley Creek	Non-Wetland Waters of the United States	5.02	0.26/243	2.46/2,815	-4.76	+2.46
Live Oak Road Detention Basin	N/A	N/A	0/0	0/0	0	0
Old Road Agricultural Ditch	N/A	N/A	0/0	0/0	0	0
Total		**9**	**0.35/578**	**2.68/3,851**	**-8.65**	**+2.68**

ac = acres

N/A = not applicable

The total acreage presented for the 2017 Project is as stated in the State-certified EIR and the acreages by drainage were calculated using GIS. Small discrepancies within the table are due to rounding.

The Modified Project's impacts to waters of the State would be identical to its impacts to waters of the United States, except for Hasley Creek, where Modified Project impacts to waters of the state would be 1.22 acres due to impacts to the storm drain outlets that are tributary to Hasley Creek. Thus, total Modified Project impacts to waters of the State would be 1.31 acres. Because the State-certified EIR did not separately report impacts to waters of the State, a comparison to the 2017 Project is not provided for this metric.

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2024.

Table 5.2-17
Direct Impacts to CDFW-Jurisdictional Streambeds—VCC Planning Area

Feature	2017 Project	Modified Project		Difference in Impact	
	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Permanent Impacts (acres/linear feet)	Temporary Impacts (acres/linear feet)	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)
Castaic Creek	6.90	7.08/335	4.01/1,036	+0.18	+4.01
Hasley Creek	17.09	4.46/243	7.86/2,815	-12.63	+7.86
Live Oak Road Detention Basin	N/A	0.32/33	0.20/7	+0.32	+0.20
Old Road Agricultural Ditch	N/A	0.38/0	0/0	+0.38	0
Total	24.1	12.24/611	12.07/3,858	-11.75	+12.07

The total acreage presented for the 2017 Project is as stated in the State-certified EIR and the acreages by drainage were calculated using GIS. Small discrepancies within the table are due to rounding.

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2024.

Drainage	Corps Jurisdiction Impacts - Modified Project			
	No Impact	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact	Total
	Acres/Linear Feet	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*
Castaic Creek	3.01 / 5,593	0.09 / 335	0.22 / 1,036	3.31 / 6,964
Hasley Creek	0.37 / 496	0.26 / 243	2.46 / 2,815	3.10 / 3,554
Total	3.38 / 6,089	0.35 / 578	2.68 / 3,851	6.41 /10,518

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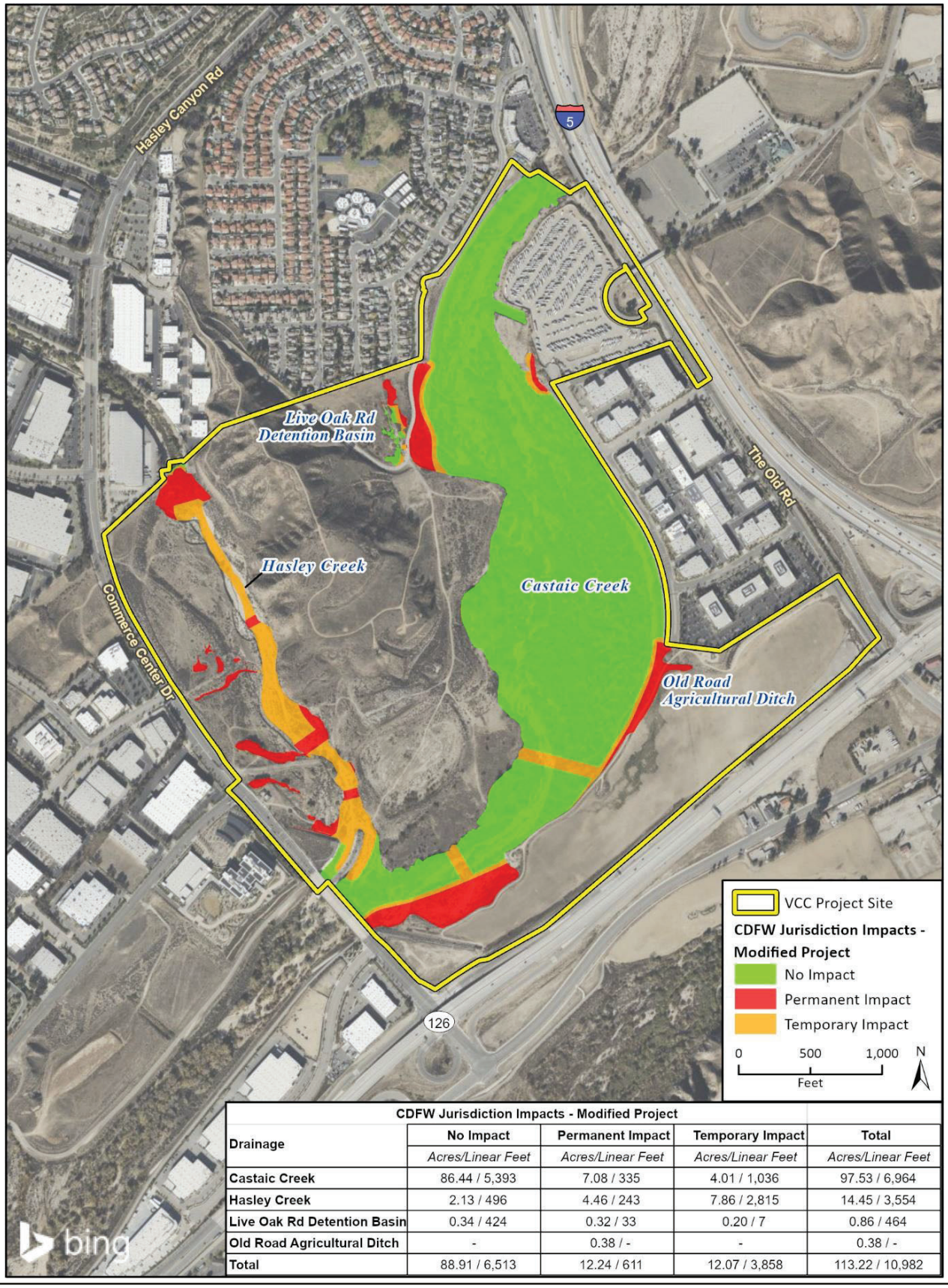
Figure 5.2-17
Modified Project–Impacts to Waters of the United States (VCC Planning Area)

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2024.



CDFW Jurisdiction Impacts - Modified Project				
Drainage	No Impact	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact	Total
	Acres/Linear Feet	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*
Castaic Creek	86.44 / 5,393	7.08 / 335	4.01 / 1,036	97.53 / 6,964
Hasley Creek	2.13 / 496	4.46 / 243	7.86 / 2,815	14.45 / 3,554
Live Oak Rd Detention Basin	0.34 / 424	0.32 / 33	0.20 / 7	0.86 / 464
Old Road Agricultural Ditch	-	0.38 / -	-	0.38 / -
Total	88.91 / 6,513	12.24 / 611	12.07 / 3,858	113.22 / 10,982

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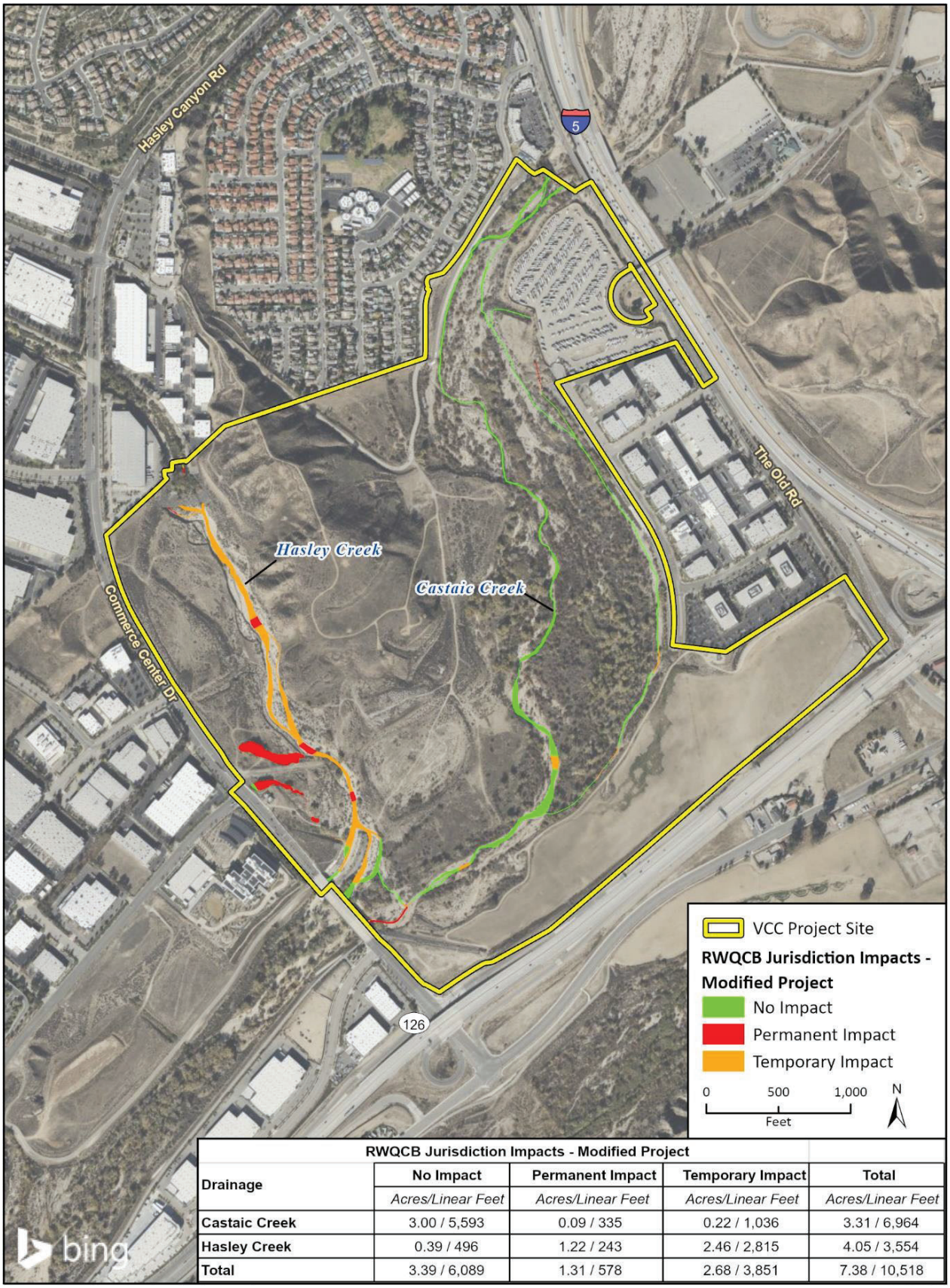
Figure 5.2-18
Modified Project–Impacts to CDFW Jurisdictional Streambeds (VCC Planning Area)

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2024.



RWQCB Jurisdiction Impacts - Modified Project

Drainage	No Impact	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact	Total
	Acres/Linear Feet	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*	*Acres/Linear Feet*
Castaic Creek	3.00 / 5,593	0.09 / 335	0.22 / 1,036	3.31 / 6,964
Hasley Creek	0.39 / 496	1.22 / 243	2.46 / 2,815	4.05 / 3,554
Total	3.39 / 6,089	1.31 / 578	2.68 / 3,851	7.38 / 10,518

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Figure 5.2-19
Modified Project—Impacts to Waters of the State (VCC Planning Area)

Source: Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2024.

changes in jurisdictional waters delineated in the VCC Planning Area, would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts. Where relevant, impacts to specific features or jurisdictional resource types are discussed in greater detail below. See the VCC Waters Report included in **Appendix 5.2d** for additional details.

(i) Castaic Creek

Like the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would avoid permanent impacts to most of the jurisdictional waters delineated within Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area. Of the 3.32 acres of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and 97.53 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds within this drainage, the Modified Project would permanently impact 0.09 acres of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and 7.08 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, compared to 3.98 acres of waters of the United States and waters of the State and 6.90 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds for the 2017 Project. Temporary impacts to waters of the United States would increase by 0.22 acre, and temporary impacts to CDFW jurisdiction would increase by 4.01 acres, which represents a small proportional increase.

The Modified Project design for Castaic Creek includes only minor refinements compared to the 2017 Project, and differences in impacts are due primarily to updates to the jurisdictional delineation for this feature. Impacts would occur primarily for bank stabilization and a road crossing located in areas where development abuts the edges of the creek, such as the agricultural field along the creek's southern boundary and on the western bank in the area where the creek abuts the Live Oak Road Detention Basin. The central portion of the creek and floodplain would not be impacted, and the proposed development would not constrain the floodplain or result in the removal of significant native floodplain vegetation. The impacted areas, situated at the edges of the floodplain, would encounter flows only during high flow events and would not be in the active channel under base flow conditions. Areas that would be subject to routine maintenance, such as exposed armored bank stabilization, are also considered permanently impacted. Compensatory mitigation, where authorized consistent with applicable mitigation measures, also may involve temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters but would result in a net gain in functions and services.

(ii) Hasley Creek

The Modified Project would substantially reduce permanent impacts to Hasley Creek, impacting 0.26 acres of waters of the United States, compared to 5.02 acres for the 2017 Project, 1.22 acres of waters of the State, and 4.46 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds, compared to 17.09 acres for the 2017 Project. These changes reflect the revised design for Hasley Creek under the Modified Project, under which the channel would be stabilized and revegetated (a temporary impact), rather than permanently filled as under

the 2017 Project. Reflecting this change, the Modified Project also would have temporary impacts to 2.46 acres of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and 7.86 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambed that would be permanently impacted under the 2017 Project. Areas that would be subject to routine maintenance, such as culverted creek crossings and armored creek bed and bank stabilization, are considered permanently impacted. Compensatory mitigation, where authorized consistent with applicable mitigation measures, also may involve temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters but would result in a net gain in functions and services.

(iii) Other Features

The Modified Project would permanently impact 0.32 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds and temporarily impact 0.20 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds within the Live Oak Road Detention Basin, which was not delineated as a jurisdictional feature when the State-certified EIR was prepared. The Modified Project would eliminate The Old Road agricultural ditch, permanently impacting 0.38 acre of potentially CDFW-jurisdictional streambed, which also was not delineated as a jurisdictional feature when the State-certified EIR was prepared. Neither feature contains waters of the United States or waters of the State. Mitigation measures imposed under the State-certified EIR and described in Section 5.2.8 of this SEIR, below, would provide compensatory mitigation for these impacts, as well as for the Modified Project's other impacts to jurisdictional waters within the VCC Planning Area, which may occur within the VCC Planning Area and/or within other RMDP/SCP areas, consistent with applicable mitigation measures. Because of the limited extent of these jurisdictional areas and the limited aquatic functions and services they provide, these additional impacts do not represent a substantial change from the impacts to waters analyzed in the State-certified EIR, particularly in light of the Modified Project's reduced permanent impacts to higher-value waters in Castaic Creek and Hasley Creek.

(b) Indirect Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters

As described in the State-certified EIR, the development of the VCC Planning Area would have indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters from altered hydrology and water quality (including runoff from urban land uses and pesticide runoff), changes in riparian condition, invasive plant species, altered fire regime (which may directly remove riparian and wetland vegetation), and increased trash and debris. These impacts would be minimized and mitigated to the extent feasible by project design features and applicable mitigation measures, including those listed in **Appendix 5.2d**. The State-certified EIR found that these indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters would be less than significant with application of these mitigation measures.

Because the overall project disturbance footprint, types of construction activities and post-construction land uses associated with the Modified Project within the VCC planning

area have not changed materially from the 2017 Project, and relevant mitigation measures will continue to apply, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to jurisdictional waters as analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

(3) Conclusion

As described above, the Modified Project would result in impacts to sensitive natural communities, including oak woodlands, riparian habitat, and waters subject to state and federal jurisdiction, that are consistent overall with the impacts of the 2017 Project as described in the State-certified EIR, with reduced permanent impacts to Unnamed Drainage 2 within the Entrada South Planning Area and to Castaic Creek and Hasley Canyon within the VCC Planning Area. The Modified Project would increase temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters in Unnamed Drainage 2 and Hasley Canyon due to the stabilization and revegetation planned for those drainages, which will provide long-term enhancement of functions and services.

The State-certified EIR includes mitigation measures that would apply to these impacts. Mitigation measures applicable to oak woodlands include SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-62, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22 and RMDP/SCP-BIO-42, which would ensure construction avoidance of preserved oak trees and require approval and implementation of Oak Resource Management Plans to provide for creation and/or enhancement of oak woodlands to offset project impacts. Additional mitigation measures would ensure that permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters and riparian habitat would be offset by creating riparian habitats of similar functions and values/services at ratios determined by the biological value of the resources impacted, but no less than 1:1 (see RMDP/SCP-BIO-2). These mitigation measures also require the restoration and revegetation of all temporarily impacted areas, including measures to ensure that functions and services are restored (see BIO-2). Mitigation measures applicable to impacts to jurisdictional waters include SP-4.2-2, SP-4.2-3, SP 4.6-1, SP 4.6-2, SP 4.6-3, SP 4.6-4, SP 4.6-5, SP 4.6-6, SP 4.6-7, SP 4.6-8, SP 4.6-9, SP 4.6-10, SP 4.6-11, SP 4.6-13, SP 4.6-14, SP 4.6-15, SP 4.6-16, SP-4.6-28, SP-4.6-47a, SP-4.6-55, SP-4.6-63, SP-5.0-18, SP-5.0-30, SP-5.0-32, RMDP/SCP-SW-4, RMDP/SCP-SW-6, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO 12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, and, for the VCC Planning Area only, VCC-SW-2 through VCC-SW-4, VCC-4.b-2 through VCC-4.b-4, and VCC-4.c-1 through VCC-4.c-3, as described in Section 5.2.8 of this SEIR.

Taking into account these mitigation measures, and the overall reduction in permanent impacts and long-term benefits to areas that will be temporarily impacted and restored, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to any sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat,

coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS.

Threshold 5.2-3: *Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) or waters of the United States or California, as defined by § 404 of the federal Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations, California Fish and Game code § 1600, et seq., or the State Policy for Water Quality Control: State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State, through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

The State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would not impact wetlands subject to state or federal jurisdiction within the Entrada South Planning Area or the VCC Planning Area as none were identified as present at the time, but the State-certified EIR included mitigation measures, including RMDP/SCP-BIO-2, that require mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional wetlands if identified. Within the Entrada South Planning Area, the State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would have permanent impacts to 2.39 acres of non-wetland waters of the United States and 5.55 acres of streambeds subject to CDFW jurisdiction. Within the Entrada South Planning Area, the Modified Project would have permanent impacts to 0.21 acres of wetland waters of the United States, due to the presence of a new manmade wetland in the debris basin at the downstream end of Unnamed Drainage 3, and 2.05 acres of non-wetland waters of the United States, as well as permanent impacts to 7.52 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. The Modified Project would temporarily impact 1.36 acres of non-wetland waters of the United States and 3.6 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. As described under Threshold 5.2-2 above, applicable mitigation measures included in the State-certified EIR would apply to wetland and non-wetland waters impacts within the Entrada South Planning Area. Accordingly, the permanent removal of 0.21 acres of wetland waters of the United States, 2.05 acres of non-wetland waters of the United States, and 3.6 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds will be mitigated by creating riparian habitats of similar functions and values at various ratios based on the biological value of the lands impacted (see RMDP/SCP-BIO-2). The temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters will be mitigated by on-site restoration and/or creating or enhancing suitable habitats at various ratios based on the duration of the impact and the timing of the mitigation implementation (see RMDP/SCP-BIO-2).

(2) VCC Planning Area

No wetlands subject to state or federal jurisdiction have been delineated within the VCC Planning Area; therefore, no impacts to such wetlands will occur as a result of the Modified Project. The State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would have permanent impacts to 9 acres of non-wetland waters of the United States and 23.99 acres of streambeds subject to CDFW jurisdiction within the VCC Planning Area. The Modified Project would have permanent impacts to 0.35 acre of non-wetland waters of the United States, 1.31 acres of non-wetland waters of the State, and permanent impacts to 12.24 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. The Modified Project would temporarily impact 2.68 acres of waters of the United States, which are also waters of the State, and 12.07 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds. As described under Threshold 5.2-2, above, applicable mitigation measures included in the State-certified EIR would apply to jurisdictional waters impacts within the VCC Planning Area. Accordingly, the permanent removal of 0.35 acres of non-wetland waters of the United States, 1.31 acres of non-wetland waters of the State, and 12.24 acres of CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds will be mitigated by creating riparian habitats of similar functions and values at various ratios based on the biological value of the lands impacted (see RMDP/SCP-BIO-2). The temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters will be mitigated by on-site restoration and/or creating or enhancing suitable habitats at various ratios based on the duration of the impact and the timing of the mitigation implementation (see RMDP/SCP-BIO-2).

(3) Conclusion

Mitigation measures applicable to impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and non-wetland waters include SP 4.2-2, SP 4.2-3, SP 4.6-1, SP 4.6-2, SP 4.6-3, SP 4.6-4, SP 4.6-5, SP 4.6-6, SP 4.6-7, SP 4.6-8, SP 4.6-9, SP 4.6-10, SP 4.6-11, SP 4.6-13, SP 4.6-14, SP 4.6-15, SP 4.6-16, SP 4.6-26a, SP 4.6-28, SP 4.6-43, SP 4.6-47a, SP 4.6-55, SP 4.6-58, SP 4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70, RMDP-SCP-SW-3 (for the Entrada South Planning Area only), RMDP-SCP-SW-4, RMDP-SCP-SW-6, and (for the VCC Planning Area only) VCC-SW-2 through VCC-SW-4, VCC-4.b-2 through VCC-4.b-4, and VCC-4.c-1 through VCC-4.c-3. Taking into account these mitigation measures, which require replacement of impacted wetlands and non-wetland waters at a greater than 1:1 ratio based on both acreage and functions and services, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to jurisdictional wetlands or non-wetland waters as evaluated in the State-certified EIR.

Threshold 5.2-4: 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?

The State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on wildlife movement or nursery sites within the Entrada South Planning Area or the VCC Planning Area, taking into account the PDFs, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures imposed on the project. The Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to wildlife movement or nursery sites evaluated in the State-certified EIR.

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

As described in the State-certified EIR, the value of the Entrada South Planning Area as a wildlife corridor and habitat linkage is limited because of existing, adjacent development including residential and golf course uses, high-speed roadways, urban development, and Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park. In addition, the wildlife movement value of the Entrada South Planning Area has been further reduced since the State-certified EIR was prepared, as a result of authorized development associated with the Mission Village project impacting the Magic Mountain Canyon movement corridor at the western edge of the Entrada South Planning Area. As a result of this development, no identified habitat linkages or wildlife corridors exist within or adjacent to the site, and the site has limited value for wildlife movement due to the presence of development immediately adjacent to the site on all sides (i.e., the site is not situated to serve as a connection between habitat patches). The State-certified EIR concluded that build-out of the Entrada South Planning Area could result in increased incidence of collisions by birds with vehicles and man-made structures, as well as indirect effects related to night-time lighting, which could interfere with bird movement on site or impede the use of nursery sites, but that these impacts would be mitigated to less than significant through mitigation measures including restrictions on night-time lighting and provision of a large, relatively undisturbed open space system providing nesting and foraging habitat away from development areas.

The Modified Project's impact footprint within the Entrada South Planning Area would be slightly reduced when compared to the 2017 Project. Like the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would convert Unnamed Drainage 1 to an underground storm drain, but the Modified Project would stabilize and revegetate most of the mainstem of Unnamed Drainage 2, rather than converting it to underground storm drain as the 2017 Project would have. Although a linear feature, the restored Unnamed Canyon 2 does not have significant wildlife movement value because it does not connect patches of suitable habitat, due to the presence of development both upstream and downstream of the restored reach, including Magic Mountain Parkway to the north and the Westridge development immediately to the south. Nonetheless, streambeds and riparian habitat within Unnamed Canyon 2 would be

permanently conserved under ES-PDF-BIO-1, which would preserve habitat that could provide cover for wildlife to the extent the area is used for movement within the Entrada South Planning Area. Likewise, Unnamed Canyon 3 and the utility corridor within the Entrada South Planning Area have limited wildlife movement value due to the presence of Project development to the north, The Old Road, and existing urban development to the east, the Westridge development to the South, and RMDP development to the west. However, the majority of Unnamed Canyon 3 has been permanently conserved under the conservation instrument covering the Entrada South spineflower preserve, ensuring that habitat within the area remains available for wildlife use.

Like the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would construct roads, residential and commercial development, and associated infrastructure and uses within the developed portions of the Entrada South Planning Area that would present obstacles to movement by wildlife if present, as well as secondary effects that make the area less suitable for wildlife, including increased noise, lighting, human activity, presence of pets and feral cats and dogs, other mid-level predators, and invasive species, and increased potential for collisions of wildlife with vehicles and (for birds) man-made structures. However, the significance of these obstacles is limited in light of the minimal wildlife opportunities the site presents. Also, because the Entrada South Project Site does not support aquatic habitat, the Modified Project would not result in impacts to fish movement. Bird movements would also be subject to less than significant impacts with mitigation. Most bird species are highly mobile and would be able to move through remaining habitats or fly over new development to disperse or migrate through the area. Therefore, the presence of buildings will not serve as a barrier that will make birds unable to reach other, nearby habitats; or sever any connection between populations. Although birds are known to collide with buildings in some cases, causing injury or mortality, most bird collisions with buildings are related to the presence of habitat (especially that including trees) near glass that reflects such habitat (Borden et al. 2010; Kahle et al. 2016; Gelb and Delacretaz 2006, 2009). Remaining and restored habitat around the perimeter of the Entrada South Project Site will be lacking in trees. Preserved areas will include mostly California annual grassland within Unnamed Canyon 3 and mostly coastal scrub communities along the southern Project boundary. Temporary impact areas within Unnamed Canyon 2, currently including most scale broom scrub and big sagebrush scrub, will be restored with similar vegetation following construction. No wooded habitats will occur in these areas. Like the 2017 Project, the Modified Project development may result in some increase in the incidence of bird/building collisions, including for bird species that are associated with grassland and/or scrub habitats. However, these impacts would be consistent with those analyzed in the State-certified EIR and would be mitigated to less than significant through the contribution to the provision of a large, relatively undisturbed open space system providing nesting and foraging habitat away from development areas. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts within the Entrada South Planning Area related to wildlife movement as evaluated in the State-certified EIR.

(2) VCC Planning Area

As described in the State-certified EIR, the vicinity of Castaic Creek north of the VCC Planning Area is becoming increasingly developed, but the Planning Area continues to have connectivity value. The VCC Planning Area includes no identified habitat linkages, but does contain part of the Castaic/Hasley wildlife corridor connecting upland habitats to the northeast of the Project area with the Santa Clara River. The State-certified EIR disclosed that the Castaic/Hasley corridor could potentially allow for movement of high-mobility species including coyote, mule deer, and possibly bobcat and mountain lion. Observations since the State-certified EIR was prepared confirm that this corridor continues to be used by some wildlife species. Use by mountain lion remains possible, though a wildlife study conducted after the State-certified EIR was prepared suggests that more human-tolerant species such as coyote may be more likely to use the corridor, while use by species such as mountain lion may be relatively uncommon, possibly due to increasing human development in the vicinity. The State-certified EIR concluded that build-out of the VCC Planning Area could result in increased incidence of collisions by birds with vehicles and man-made structures, as well as indirect effects related to night-time lighting, which could interfere with bird movement on site or impede the use of nursery sites, but that these impacts would be mitigated to less than significant through mitigation measures including restrictions on night-time lighting and provision of a large, relatively undisturbed open space system providing nesting and foraging habitat away from development areas.

Similar to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would somewhat narrow this corridor. However, the Modified Project's impacts to the corridor would be somewhat reduced because riparian habitat restoration associated with the Modified Project would result in more cover habitat along the corridor compared to the 2017 Project. Under VCC-PDF-BIO-1, jurisdictional streambeds and riparian habitat within the Castaic-Hasley wildlife corridor would be permanently conserved following project development, ensuring that this area remains available for use by wildlife. As under current conditions, aquatic habitat for fish would remain limited to periods when Castaic Creek is flowing, and therefore the Project would not result in long-term or short-term impacts to fish movement. Bird movements would be subject to less than significant effects, with mitigation. Most bird species are highly mobile and would be able to follow remaining habitats or fly over new development to disperse or migrate through the area. Therefore, the presence of buildings will not serve as a barrier that will make birds unable to reach other, nearby habitats, or sever any connection between populations. Although birds are known to collide with buildings in some cases, causing injury or mortality, most bird deaths from building collisions and are related to the presence of habitat (especially that including trees) near glass that reflects such habitat (Borden et al. 2010; Kahle et al. 2016; Gelb and Delacretaz 2006, 2009). Where development will occur near roads and other existing development, building glass would result in little risk of bird collisions. The

principal areas where development will occur near remaining natural habitats or restored habitats are along Hasley Creek and Castaic Creek. Along both Hasley Creek and Castaic Creek, because preserved or restored vegetation will generally be at lower elevation than surrounding structures and glass, the potential for glass to reflect trees and shrubs would be relatively low, which would reduce the potential for birds to fly into glass that is incorporated into buildings. In addition, temporary impact areas in Hasley Creek will be restored with vegetation similar to that removed. Vegetation communities and land covers in these areas currently consist mostly of river wash, coastal scrub communities, scale broom scrub, California annual grassland, and disturbed, instead of forested habitats more likely to be reflected in building glass in nearby developed areas. The generally lower-profile vegetation expected to be restored within Hasley Creek would further reduce the potential for reflections in adjacent buildings giving rise to bird collisions. Like the 2017 Project, the Modified Project development may result in some increase in the incidence of bird-building collisions, including for bird species that are associated with grassland, riparian and/or scrub habitats. However, these impacts would be consistent with those analyzed in the State-certified EIR and would be mitigated to less than significant through the contribution to the provision of a large, relatively undisturbed open space system providing nesting and foraging habitat away from development areas. Thus, the Modified Project's impacts to wildlife movement opportunities would be consistent with those described in the State-certified EIR: The Modified Project would not affect wildlife movement within any identified habitat linkage, including the High Country SMA, Salt Creek, and Santa Clara River SMA areas identified in the State-certified EIR as part of important regional habitat linkages, as described in the State-certified EIR, those regional habitat linkages would remain intact and fully functional and would support landscape-scale connectivity. The Hasley/Castaic corridor also would remain functional.

The State-certified EIR includes mitigation measures that would apply to the Modified Project and would minimize and mitigate direct and indirect impacts to wildlife movement, movement corridors, and nursery sites, including: SP-4.6-1 through 4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through 4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP 4.6 56, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 though RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-21, RMDP/SCP-BIO-41, RMDP/SCP-BIO-43, RMDP/SCP-BIO-45, RMDP/SCP-BIO-48, RMDP/SCP-BIO-49, RMDP/SCP-BIO-50, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-53, RMDP/SCP-BIO-54, RMDP/SCP-BIO-55, RMDP/SCP-BIO-56, RMDP/SCP-BIO-57, RMDP/SCP-BIO-58, RMDP/SCP-BIO-60, RMDP/SCP-BIO-61, RMDP/SCP-BIO-65, RMDP/SCP-BIO-66, RMDP/SCP-BIO-67, RMDP/SCP-BIO-68, RMDP/SCP-BIO-70 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-73 (for the VCC Planning Area only) RMDP/SCP-BIO-82, RMDP/SCP-BIO-83, RMDP/SCP-BIO-84, RMDP/SCP-SW-4, RMDP/SCP-SW-6, and ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1, and for the VCC Planning Area only, VCC-SW-2, VCC-SW-3, VCC-SW-4, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-1a, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-1b, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-1c, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-1e, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-1f, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-1k, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-2a,

RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-2b, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-2c, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-2d, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-2e, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-2f, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-3a, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-3b, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-3d, RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-3d, and RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-3f. Taking into account the mitigation measures already applicable to the Modified Project (see Section 5.2.8 of this SEIR), and the fact that the Modified Project would have slightly reduced impacts to wildlife movement opportunities compared to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to wildlife movement or nursery sites as evaluated in the State-certified EIR.

Threshold 5.2-5: Would the Project convert oak woodlands (as defined by the state, oak woodlands are oak stands with greater than 10% canopy cover with oaks at least 5 inch in diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade) or other unique native woodlands (juniper, Joshua, Southern California black walnut, etc.)?

The State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on oak woodlands, oaks, or Southern California black walnut within the Entrada South Planning Area or the VCC Planning Area, taking into account the PDFs, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures imposed on the project.

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

Within the Entrada South Planning Area, the Modified Project would reduce permanent impacts to vegetation communities overall and would impact fewer individual oak trees, but, due to updates to the oak woodland inventory, would impact an additional 1.7 acres of valley oak grassland compared to the 2017 Project as analyzed in the State-certified EIR. The State-certified EIR requires mitigation for impacts to oak woodlands and individual oaks that would adequately address this additional impact. The Modified Project would not impact any Southern California black walnut trees in the Entrada South Planning Area and, as such, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to Southern California black walnut trees.

(2) VCC Planning Area

Within the VCC Planning Area, the Modified Project overall would reduce permanent impacts to vegetation communities and would impact fewer individual oak trees, but would impact an additional 1.8 acres of valley oak woodland compared to the 2017 Project. The State-certified EIR assumed impacts to this species and requires mitigation for impacts to oak woodlands and individual oaks that would adequately address the additional impacts to oak resources, consistent with the State-certified EIR analysis. The Modified Project would not impact any Southern California black walnut trees in the VCC Planning Area and, as

such, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to oak trees.

(3) Conclusion

Therefore, taking into account the mitigation measures already applicable to the Modified Project (see Section 5.2.8 of this SEIR), the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to oak woodlands or Southern California black as evaluated in the State-certified EIR. Applicable mitigation measures that would reduce or compensate for impacts to oak trees include SP-4.6-1 through 4.6-11, SP-4.6-13 through 4.6-16, SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-27, SP-4.6-43, SP-4.6-48, SP-4.6-62, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 though RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-42, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-72.

Threshold 5.2-6: Would the Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36), the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.174, Part 16), the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 102), Specific Plans (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.46), Community Standards Districts (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.300 et seq.), and/or Coastal Resource Areas (L.A. County General Plan, Figure 9.3)?

The State-certified EIR determined that the 2017 Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on oaks within the Entrada South Planning Area or the VCC Planning Area and would not conflict with any applicable local policy or ordinance protecting biological resources, taking into account the PDFs, avoidance measures, and mitigation measures imposed on the project.

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

Within the Entrada South Planning Area, the Modified Project would reduce permanent impacts to vegetation communities overall and would impact 8 fewer individual oaks compared to the 2017 Project as analyzed in the State-certified EIR, which found that impacts to the species that would be addressed by the required mitigation measures. Impacts to oaks would be mitigated to less than significant levels pursuant to mitigation measure RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, which requires preparation, approval, and implementation of an Oak Resource Management Plan (ORMP) that provides for oak woodland creation and enhancement. RMDP/SCP-BIO-22 also requires replacement of impacted individual oaks consistent with the minimum mitigation criteria set forth in the CLAOTO.

The Modified Project also would not conflict with any requirements of local policies or ordinances related to Wildflower Reserve Areas, SEAs, Specific Plans, Community Standards Districts, or Coastal Resource Areas with respect to the Entrada South Planning Area, as the Entrada South Planning Area is not subject to any such area, district, or plan.

(2) VCC Planning Area

Within the VCC Planning Area, the Modified Project would reduce permanent impacts to vegetation communities overall and would impact five fewer oak trees than the 2017 Project as analyzed in the State-certified EIR, which found that impacts to the species would be addressed by the required mitigation measures. Impacts to oaks would be mitigated to less than significant levels pursuant to mitigation measure RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, which requires preparation, approval and implementation of an ORMP that provides for oak woodland creation and enhancement. RMDP/SCP-BIO-22 also requires replacement of impacted individual oaks consistent with the minimum mitigation criteria set forth in the CLAOTO.

The Modified Project also would not conflict with any requirements of local policies or ordinances related to Wildflower Reserve Areas, SEAs, Specific Plans, Community Standards Districts, or Coastal Resource Areas with respect to the VCC Planning Area, as the VCC Planning Area is not subject to any such area, district, or plan. A portion of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area is located within the current Santa Clara River SEA boundary, but the Modified Project is exempt from the requirements of the County's SEA ordinance pursuant to the grandfathering provisions of Section 22.102.040 of that ordinance. Although the Modified Project is not subject to the SEA ordinance, Appendix E of the VCC Bio Report included as **Appendix 5.2b** of this SEIR provides an analysis demonstrating that the Modified Project activities within the VCC Planning Area are consistent with the SEA ordinance compatibility criteria, for informational purposes.

(3) Conclusion

Taking into account the mitigation measures already applicable to the Modified Project (see Section 5.2.8 of this SEIR), the Modified Project would not conflict with the local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and therefore would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources as analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

7. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

a. Cumulative Impacts to Vegetation Communities, Wildlife Movement, and Special-Status Species

The State-certified EIR assessed cumulative impacts to biological resources from past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects within the Santa Clara River watershed. CDFW determined that, after taking into account project-specific mitigation measures and design modifications incorporated into the 2017 Project, the overall 2017 Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact on biological resources, including vegetation communities and land covers, common wildlife, wildlife habitat linkages, corridors or crossings, or special-status species.[78]

Compared to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would result in incremental reductions in the development footprint within the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas, including reduction of permanent impacts to Unnamed Drainage 2 in the Entrada South Planning Area and to Hasley Creek in the VCC Planning Area. With these changes, impacts to vegetation communities, general wildlife, wildlife movement and special status plant and wildlife species would be similar to, or incrementally less than, those of the 2017 Project, as explained in this SEIR section. As a result, the Modified Project would not increase the contribution to cumulative impacts to any biological resource analyzed in the State-certified EIR, compared to the 2017 Project. The Entrada South Bio Report and VCC Bio Report found in **Appendices 5.2a** and **5.2b**, respectively, include a summary of the Modified Project's impacts to vegetation communities within the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas, in conjunction with other planned and approved projects in the upper Santa Clara River watershed, U. S. Geological Survey hydrologic unit code (HUC) 10, watershed Numbers 2 through 5 (i.e., the study area), which confirms this finding.

The Modified Project's contribution to cumulative impacts on California glossy snake, which was not analyzed in the State-certified EIR, would be consistent with its contribution to cumulative impacts to other special-status wildlife species that use the same habitats, as analyzed in the State-certified EIR. There are approximately 178,517 acres of suitable California glossy snake habitat in the study area, including chaparral, scrub, and grassland. Planned and approved projects in the study area would affect approximately 20,742 acres (12%) in total. The Modified Project's contribution represents 349.6 acres of these impacts, including 245.1 acres in the Entrada South Planning Area and 104.5 acres

[78] *The State-certified EIR found that the overall proposed project (Alternative 2) would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact on coastal scrub vegetation, the San Fernando Valley spineflower, and the San Emigdio blue butterfly. Changes incorporated into the final design of the 2017 Project reduced those impacts to less than significant.*

in the VCC Planning Area, which is approximately 1.7% of the total impacts and less than 0.2% of the total habitat.[79] The Modified Project also would contribute to direct and indirect effects to California glossy snake from Modified Project development, pesticides, herbicides, habitat fragmentation, disruption of essential behaviors, and other effects of urban development. Other planned and approved development in the upper Santa Clara River watershed would also contribute to these effects.

The Modified Project's contribution to loss of habitat for this species and to direct and indirect impacts from development would result in a cumulatively consideration contribution to a significant cumulative impact when combined with other planned and approved projects in the study area, if not mitigated. However, permanent loss of suitable habitat and direct and indirect effects to California glossy snake would be mitigated by measures adopted for the protection of other biological resources that require preservation, enhancement and restoration, and management of suitable habitat for the species, as well as minimization of post-development effects, including Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-26a, SP-4.6-63, RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-52, RMDP/SCP-BIO-54, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, RMDP/SCP-BIO-71, RMDP/SCP-BIO-72, RMDP/SCP-BIO-73 (for the VCC Planning Area only), and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87. A complete list of the Modified Project's applicable mitigation measures is found in Appendix C of both the Entrada South Bio Report and VCC Bio Report included as **Appendices 5.2a** and **5.2b**, respectively, of this SEIR. With these mitigation measures, the Modified Project's potential contribution to cumulative effects on the California glossy snake would be similar to that of other special-status reptile species analyzed in the State-certified EIR and would be less than cumulatively considerable, taking into account the Modified Project's small contribution to habitat impacts, the relatively common nature of the impacted habitat types regionally, and the Modified Project's contribution to conservation and management of suitable habitat on a landscape scale.

The Modified Project's contribution to cumulative impacts on Crotch bumble bee, which was not analyzed in the State-certified EIR, would be consistent with impacts to non-special-status insect species, including bees, and other special-status wildlife species that

[79] *For purposes of this cumulative impacts analysis, vegetation mapping data from the California Gap Analysis Program ("GAP") database is used, as it represents the only available database that covers the entire watershed. Because the GAP data is necessarily less precise than the project-level vegetation mapping conducted for the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas and reported elsewhere in this Section, the impact acreages attributed to the Modified Project in this cumulative impacts discussion differ from those used in the analysis of impacts specific to the Modified Project. However, the GAP data still provides an adequately precise and consistent basis for assessing the Modified Project's potential to make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact.*

use the same habitats, as analyzed in the State-certified EIR, including Blainville's horned lizard, burrowing owl, least Bell's vireo and yellow warbler. There are approximately 366,651 acres of suitable Crotch bumble bee habitat in the study area, including all native vegetation communities and non-native grassland (and excluding developed, cropland, bare, and open water land covers). Planned and approved projects in the study area would affect approximately 22,454 acres (6 percent) in total. The Modified Project would contribute 420.1 acres of these impacts, including 302.4 acres in the Entrada South Planning Area and 117.7 acres in the VCC Planning Area, which represents approximately 1.9 percent of the total impacts and 0.11 percent of the total habitat. The Modified Project also would contribute to direct and indirect effects to Crotch bumble bee from Modified Project development, pesticides, herbicides, habitat fragmentation, disruption of essential behaviors, and greater vulnerability to other effects of urban development including habitat degradation, disturbances by pet, stray, and feral cats and dogs, wildfires, invasive species such as Argentine ants, and increased collisions with vehicles. Other planned and approved development in the upper Santa Clara River watershed would also contribute to these effects.

The Modified Project's contribution to loss of habitat for this species and to direct and indirect impacts from development would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact when combined with other planned and approved projects in the study area, if not mitigated. However, permanent loss of suitable habitat and direct and indirect effects to Crotch bumble bee would be mitigated by measures adopted for the protection of other biological resources that require preservation, enhancement and restoration, and management of suitable habitat for the species, as well as minimization of post-development effects, including Mitigation Measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP-BIO-10, RMDP/SCP-BIO-12, RMDP/SCP-BIO-13, RMDP/SCP-BIO-15, RMDP/SCP-BIO-16, RMDP/SCP-BIO-20, RMDP/SCP-BIO-22, RMDP/SCP-BIO-64, and RMDP/SCP-WQ-2, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-87. A complete list of the Modified Project's applicable mitigation measures is found in Appendix C of both the Entrada South Bio Report and VCC Bio Report included as **Appendices 5.2a** and **5.2b**, respectively, of this SEIR. With these mitigation measures, the Modified Project's potential contribution to cumulative effects on the Crotch bumble bee would be similar to that of other special-status species analyzed in the State-certified EIR and would be less than cumulatively considerable, taking into account the Modified Project's small contribution to habitat impacts, the relatively common nature of the impacted habitat types regionally, and the Modified Project's contribution to conservation and management of suitable habitat on a landscape scale.

Taking into account the Modified Project's mitigation measures, the Modified Project would not result in a new cumulatively considerable contribution to a potential significant

cumulative impact related to vegetation communities, wildlife movement, or special-status species.

Based on the above, the Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe contributions to any cumulative impact compared to the 2017 Project, taking into account the reduced disturbance footprint associated with the Modified Project as summarized in Section 5.2.6 and the continued application of required mitigation measures from the State-certified EIR. Compared to the 2017 Project, the Modified Project would result in incremental reductions in development impacts to sensitive resources within the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas, including reduction of permanent impacts to Unnamed Drainage 2 in the Entrada South Planning Area and to Hasley Creek in the VCC Planning Area. The Modified Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to any new or substantially more severe significant cumulative impacts on biological resources that was not analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

b. Cumulative Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters

The State-certified EIR assessed cumulative impacts to jurisdictional waters from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects within the Santa Clara River watershed. It determined the 2017 Project as a whole would not contribute to any cumulative loss of waters or streams because mitigation measures imposed on the project would ensure the acreage of waters of the United States and CDFW-jurisdictional streambeds created through compensatory mitigation would exceed the acreage of waters permanently impacted and would require restoration of all temporarily impacted waters. Likewise, the 2017 Project would not contribute to any cumulative loss of aquatic functions and services because the required mitigation would ensure the condition of jurisdictional waters within the Modified Project area experienced a net improvement compared to pre-project conditions, as measured through the Hybrid Assessment of Riparian Condition method. In addition, other projects in the watershed would be subject to similar avoidance, minimization and mitigation requirements under the regulatory programs administered by the Corps and CDFW for impacts to jurisdictional waters, which would ensure that those projects also did not contribute to a net loss of aquatic resource area, functions or services. The State-certified EIR therefore found the 2017 Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to any impact on jurisdictional waters, and cumulative impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

As described in this SEIR section, the Modified Project would have impacts to jurisdictional waters in the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas that would be similar to, or less than, those of the 2017 Project overall, and would be subject to applicable mitigation measures from the State-certified EIR that would continue to ensure the Modified Project did not result in a net reduction of jurisdictional waters acreage or functions and services. The Modified Project therefore would not result in a cumulatively considerable

contribution to any new significant or substantially more severe cumulative impacts to jurisdictional waters that was not analyzed in the State-certified EIR.

8. MITIGATION MEASURES

A complete list of mitigation measures to be implemented under the Modified Project is provided in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program in **Appendix 2** of this SEIR. Previously adopted mitigation measures that are not applicable to the Modified Project or that require no further action as part of the Modified Project (generally because the measure has already been completed or would be achieved or exceeded through compliance with current regulatory requirements) are detailed in **Appendix 3** of this SEIR.

a. Previously Approved Mitigation from the State-certified EIR

The following mitigation measures from the State-certified EIR are applicable to the Modified Project to address impacts related to biological resources. These include measures labeled "RMDP/SCP-BIO-XX" and measures labeled "SP-4.6-XX." CDFW adopted the RMDP/SCP-BIO- measures with its approval of the 2017 Project. The County of Los Angeles originally adopted the SP-4.6 measures with its approval of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan (Specific Plan), but CDFW included those measures in the State-certified EIR because the overall RMDP/SCP project analyzed in that document would facilitate development of the Specific Plan.

Because the Modified Project within the Entrada South and VCC Planning Areas is not part of the Specific Plan, some of the SP-4.6- mitigation measures included in the State-certified EIR—particularly those measures that apply specifically to areas within the NRSP—do not apply to the Modified Project. This includes certain measures pertaining to the conservation and management of the High Country SMA, River Corridor SMA, and areas designated as Open Area, all of which are located entirely within the Specific Plan area. Those measures that pertain to the implementation of compensatory mitigation within Specific Plan areas will apply to the Modified Project to the extent it relies on such mitigation to offset biological impacts.

On January 1, 2013, the California Department of Fish and Game was renamed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or CDFW. All references to the California Department of Fish and Game or CDFG in the previously approved mitigation measures below should therefore be considered to be references to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or CDFW.

(1) Entrada South Planning Area

The RMDP/ SCP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) adopted in 2010 used mitigation measures already adopted under the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR as revised (March 1999), as well as a set of additional mitigation measures to minimize impacts to biological resources. The following mitigation measures are those measures from the Specific Plan and the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR that apply to the Entrada South Planning Area. The Specific Plan measures use the format "SP-4.6-XX," whereas the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR measures use the format "RMDP/SCP-BIO-XX." Two additional mitigation measures are also included: (ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1) specific to surveys and relocation of California glossy snake, and ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2, specific to surveys for Crotch bumble bee, neither of which were considered a special-status species at the time of the analysis for the 2017 State-certified EIR.

Note that the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR predated approval of the SCP and associated incidental take permit (ITP) by CDFW. Therefore, many of the spineflower-related mitigation measures adopted under the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR have been fully satisfied and/or superseded by preparation, approval and, in some cases, implementation of the SCP, and do not apply to the Entrada South Planning Area. Those mitigation measures are included in **Appendix 3**, Mitigation Measures Not Applicable to the Modified Project.

(a) Specific Plan Program EIR Biology Mitigation Measures Applicable to the Entrada South Planning Area

SP-4.6-1: The restoration mitigation areas located within the River Corridor SMA shall be in areas that have been disturbed by previous uses or activities. Mitigation shall be conducted only on sites where soils, hydrology, and microclimate conditions are suitable for riparian habitat. First priority will be given to those restorable areas that occur adjacent to existing patches (areas) of native habitat that support sensitive species, particularly Endangered or Threatened species. The goal is to increase habitat patch size and connectivity with other existing habitat patches while restoring habitat values that will benefit sensitive species.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-2: A qualified biologist shall prepare or review revegetation plans. The biologist shall also monitor the restoration effort from its inception through the establishment phase.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-3: Revegetation Plans may be prepared as part of a California Department of Fish and Game 1603 Streambed Alteration Agreement and/or a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, and shall include:

- Input from both the Project proponent and resource agencies to assure that the Project objectives applicable to the River Corridor SMA and the criteria of this RMP are met.
- The identification of restoration/mitigation sites to be used. This effort shall involve an analysis of the suitability of potential sites to support the desired habitat, including a description of the existing conditions at the site(s) and such base line data information deemed necessary by the permitting agency.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-4: The revegetation effort shall involve an analysis of the site conditions such as soils and hydrology so that site preparation needs can be evaluated. The revegetation plan shall include the details and procedures required to prepare the restoration site for planting (*i.e.*, grading, soil preparation, soil stockpiling, soil amendments, *etc.*), including the need for a supplemental irrigation system, if any.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-5: Restoration of riparian habitats within the River Corridor SMA shall use plant species native to the Santa Clara River. Cuttings or seeds of native plants shall be gathered within the River Corridor SMA or purchased from nurseries with local supplies to provide good genetic stock for the replacement habitats. Plant species used in the restoration of riparian habitat shall be listed on the approved project plant palette (Specific Plan Table 2.6-1, Recommended Plant Species for Habitat Restoration in the River Corridor SMA) or as approved by the permitting State and Federal agencies.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-6: The final revegetation plans shall include notes that outline the methods and procedures for the installation of the plant materials. Plant protection measures identified by the project biologist shall be incorporated into the planting design/layout.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-7: The revegetation plan shall include guidelines for the maintenance of the mitigation site during the establishment phase of the plantings. The maintenance program shall contain guidelines for the control of non-native plant species, the maintenance of the irrigation system, and the replacement of plant species.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-8: The revegetation plan shall provide for monitoring to evaluate the growth of the developing habitat. Specific performance goals for the restored habitat shall be defined by qualitative and quantitative characteristics of similar habitats on the River (*e.g.*, density, cover, species composition, structural development). The monitoring effort shall include an evaluation of not only the plant material installed, but the use of the site by wildlife. The length of the monitoring period shall be determined by the permitting state and/or federal agency.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-9: Monitoring reports for the mitigation site shall be reviewed by the permitting State and/or Federal agency.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-10: Contingency plans and appropriate remedial measures shall also be outlined in the revegetation plan.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-11: Habitat enhancement as referred to in this document means the rehabilitation of areas of native habitat that have been moderately disturbed by past activities (*e.g.*, grazing, roads, oil and natural gas operations, *etc.)* or have been invaded by non-native plant species such as giant cane (*Arundo donax*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.).

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-13: To provide guidelines for the installation of supplemental plantings of native species within enhancement areas, a revegetation plan shall be prepared prior to implementation of mitigation (see guidelines for revegetation plans above). These supplemental plantings will be composed of plant species similar to those growing in the existing habitat patch (see Specific Plan Table 2.6-1).

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-14: Not all enhancement areas will necessarily require supplemental plantings of native species. Some areas may support conditions conducive for rapid "natural" reestablishment of native species. The revegetation plan may incorporate means of enhancement to areas of compacted soils, poor soil fertility, trash or flood debris, and roads as a way of enhancing riparian habitat values.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-15: Removal of non-native species such as giant cane (*Arundo donax*), salt cedar or tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), castor bean (*Ricans communis*), if included in a revegetation plan to mitigate impacts, shall be subject to the following standards:

- First priority shall be given to those habitat patches that support or have a high potential for supporting sensitive species, particularly Endangered or Threatened species.
- All non-native species removals shall be conducted according to a resource agency approved exotics removal program.
- Removal of non-native species in patches of native habitat shall be conducted in such a way as to minimize impacts to the existing native riparian plant species.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-16: Mitigation banking activities for riparian habitats will be subject to State and Federal regulations and permits. Mitigation banking for oak resources shall be conducted pursuant to the Oak Resources Replacement Program. Mitigation banking for elderberry scrub shall be subject to approval of plans by the County Forester.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-26a: Two types of habitat restoration may occur in the High Country SMA: (1) riparian revegetation activities principally in Salt Creek Canyon; and (2) oak tree replacement in, or adjacent to, existing oak woodlands and savannahs.

- Mitigation requirements for riparian revegetation activities within the High Country SMA are the same as those for the River Corridor SMA and are set forth in MM SP-4.6-1 through MM SP-4.6-11 and MM SP-4.6-13 through MM SP-4.6-16, above.
- Mitigation requirements for oak tree replacement are set forth in MM SP-4.6-48, below.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-27: Removal of grazing from the High Country SMA except for those grazing activities associated with long-term resource management programs, is a principal means of enhancing habitat values in the creeks, brushland and woodland areas of the SMA. The removal of grazing in the High Country SMA is discussed below under (b) 4. Long Term Management. All enhancement activities for riparian habitat within the High Country SMA shall be governed by the same provisions as set forth for enhancement in the River Corridor SMA. Specific Plan Table 2.6-3 of the Resource Management Plan provides a list of appropriate plant species for use in enhancement areas in the High Country SMA.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-28: Mitigation banking activities for riparian habitats will be subject to State and Federal regulations and permits. Mitigation banking for oak resources, shall be conducted pursuant to the Oak Resource Replacement Program. Mitigation banking for elderberry scrub shall be subject to approval of plans by the County Forester.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-43: Suitable portions of *Open Area* may be used for mitigation of riparian, *oak resources*, or elderberry scrub. Mitigation activities within *Open Area* shall be subject to the following requirements, as applicable.

- River Corridor SMA Mitigation Requirements, including: Mitigation Measures 4.6-1 through 4.6-11 and 4.6-13 through 4.6-16; and
- High Country SMA Mitigation Requirements, including: Mitigation Measures 4.6-27, 4.6-29 through 4.6-42, and
- Mitigation Banking—Mitigation Measure 4.6-16.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-47a: Mitigation Banking will be permitted within the River Corridor SMA, the High Country SMA, and the *Open Area land use designations*, subject to the following requirements:

- Mitigation banking activities for riparian habitats will be subject to State and Federal regulations, and shall be conducted pursuant to the mitigation requirements set forth in Mitigation Measure 4.6-1 through 4.6-15 above.
- Mitigation banking for oak resources shall be conducted pursuant to 4.6-48, below.

- Mitigation banking for elderberry scrub shall be subject to approval of plans by the County Forester.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-48: Standards for the restoration and enhancement of oak resources within the High Country SMA and the Open Area include the following (oak resources include oak trees of the sizes regulated under the County Oak Tree Ordinance, southern California black walnut trees, Mainland cherry trees, and Mainland cherry shrubs):

- To mitigate the impacts to oak resources that may be removed as development occurs in the Specific Plan Area, replacement trees shall be planted in conformance with the oak tree ordinance in effect at that time.
- Oak resource species obtained from the local gene pool shall be used in restoration or enhancement.
- Prior to recordation of construction-level final subdivision maps, an oak resource replacement plan shall be prepared that provides the guidelines for the oak tree planting and/or replanting. The Plan shall be reviewed by the Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning and the County Forester and shall include the following: site selection and preparation, selection of proper species including sizes and planting densities, protection from herbivores, site maintenance, performance standards, remedial actions, and a monitoring program.
- All plans and specifications shall follow County oak tree guidelines, as specified in the County Oak Tree Ordinance.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-55: Prior to development or disturbance within wetlands or other sensitive habitats, permits shall be obtained from pertinent Federal and State agencies and the Specific Plan shall conform to the specific provisions of said permits. Performance criteria shall include that described in Mitigation Measures 4.6-1 through 4.6-16 and 4.6-42 through 4.6-47 for wetlands, and Mitigation Measures 4.6-27, 4.6-28, and 4.6-42 through 4.6-48 for other sensitive habitats.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change except that the requirement for the Specific Plan to conform does not apply.)

SP-4.6-56: All lighting along the perimeter of natural areas shall be downcast luminaries with light patterns directed away from natural areas.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-58: To limit impacts to water quality the Specific Plan shall conform with all provisions of required NPDES permits and water quality permits that would be required by the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change, except that the reference to the Specific Plan does not apply.)

SP-4.6-62: When a map revision or Substantial Conformance determination on any subdivision map or Conditional Use Permit would result in changes to an approved oak tree permit, then the oak tree report for that oak tree permit must be amended for the area of change, and the addendum must be approved by the County Forester prior to issuance of grading permits for the area of the map or CUP being changed.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-63: Riparian resources that are impacted by buildout of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan shall be restored with similar habitat at the rate of one acre replaced for each acre lost.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

(b) RMDP/SCP Final EIS/EIR Biology Mitigation Measures Applicable to the Entrada South Planning Area

RMDP/SCP-BIO-1: Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-16[80] specify requirements for riparian mitigation conducted in the High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and Open Area. The RMDP includes requirements for mitigation of both riparian and upland habitats (such as riparian adjacent big sagebrush scrub), and incorporates these Mitigation Measures (SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-16). A Comprehensive Mitigation Implementation Plan (CMIP) has been developed by Newhall Land that provides an outline of mitigation to offset impacts described in the RMDP. The CMIP demonstrates the feasibility of creating the required mitigation acreage from RMDP project impacts (see RMDP/SCP BIO-2). However, the CMIP does not identify mitigation actions specifically for impacts to waters of the United

[80] *SP-4.6 mitigation measures were previously adopted by the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR (1999, 2003) and the EIS/EIR for the RMDP/SCP (2010).*

States. But since these waters are a subset of CDFG jurisdiction, the necessary Corps mitigation requirements would be met or exceeded.[81]

Detailed riparian/wetland mitigation plans, in accordance with the CMIP, shall be submitted to, and are subject to the approval of, the Corps and CDFG as part of the subnotification letters for individual projects. Individual project submittals shall include applicable CMIP elements, complying with the requirements outlined below. The detailed wetlands mitigation plan shall specify, at a minimum, the following: (1) the location of mitigation sites; (2) site preparation, including grading, soils preparation, irrigation installation, (2a) the quantity (seed or nursery stock) and species of plants to be planted (all species to be native to region); (3) detailed procedures for creating additional vegetation communities; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants; (5) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration area; (6) a list of criteria by which to measure success of the mitigation sites (e.g., percent cover and richness of native species, percent survivorship, establishment of self-sustaining native of plantings, maximum allowable percent of non-native species); (7) measures to exclude unauthorized entry into the creation/enhancement areas; and (8) contingency measures in the event that mitigation efforts are not successful. The detailed wetlands mitigation plans shall also classify the biological value (as "high," "moderate," or "low") of the vegetation communities to be disturbed as defined in these conditions, or may be based on an agency-approved method (e.g., Hybrid Assessment of Riparian Communities (HARC)). The biological value shall be used to determine mitigation replacement ratios required under RMDP/SCP BIO-2 and RMDP/SCP BIO-10. The detailed wetlands mitigation plans shall provide for the 3:1 replacement of any southern California black walnut to be removed from the riparian corridor for individual projects. The plan shall be subject to the approval of CDFG and the Corps and approved prior to the impact to riparian resources. RMDP/SCP BIO-4 describes that the functions and values will be assessed for the riparian areas that will be removed, and RMDP/SCP BIO-2 and RMDP/SCP BIO-10 describe the replacement ratios for the habitats that will be impacted.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: approval of mitigation plans will occur when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject

[81] *For detailed information concerning the Corps compensatory mitigation program for impacts to waters of the United States, please reference Appendix 11.0 of the Section 404(b)1 Alternatives Analysis, included in Appendix F1.0 of the Final EIS/EIR.*

to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-2: The permanent removal of existing habitats in Corps and/or CDFG jurisdictional areas in the Santa Clara River and tributaries shall be replaced by creating habitats of similar functions and values/services (see RMDP/SCP BIO-4 and MM SW-3 of Section 4.6 of the Final EIS/EIR) on the Project Site, or as allowed under RMDP/ SCP BIO-10.

a. Permanent impacts to Corps jurisdiction (which is a subset of CDFG jurisdiction) are to be mitigated by initiating mitigation site creation and/or restoration in advance of impacts, to replace the combined loss of acreage, functions, and services at a minimum 1:1 ratio. Initiation of a Corps mitigation site is defined as: (1) completion of site preparation; (2) installation of temporary irrigation; and (3) seeding and/or planting of the mitigation site. For detailed information, please refer to the Mitigation Plan for Impacts to Waters of the United States included in the Draft 404(b)(1) Alternatives Analysis in Appendix F1.0 of the Final EIS/EIR. The Potrero Canyon CAM creation and restoration site and the Mayo Crossing restoration site (i.e., an existing agricultural field) are considered the initial sites to be implemented prior to Corps jurisdictional impacts by development, thereby establishing upfront mitigation credits. As individual Project components are proposed for construction, consistent with the construction notification, quantities of mitigation acreage required to offset permanent impact acreages shall be calculated and compared to pre-mitigation area credits remaining. A project would not proceed unless adequate mitigation capacity is demonstrated. Temporary impact areas shall be mitigated in place in a manner that restores impacted functions and services as described in the mitigation plan noted above. If upfront compensatory mitigation cannot be achieved, a Corps-approved method would be utilized to determine the additional compensatory mitigation to offset the temporal loss of functions and services not included in the 1:1 mitigation ratio for permanent impacts.

   These measures satisfy the Corps mitigation requirements for impacts to Corps jurisdictional areas. However, impacts to jurisdictional areas (which include all areas subject to Corps and/or CDFG jurisdiction) are also subject to all of the mitigation requirements for impacts to CDFG jurisdiction, including RMDP/ SCP BIO-2b.

b. For permanent and temporary impacts to CDFG jurisdiction, consistent with the subnotification, quantities of mitigation acreage required shall be calculated in accordance with the criteria below:

- If suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria (RMDP/ SCP BIO-6) prior to disturbance at the impact site, the mitigation sites shall replace the permanently impacted habitats in kind at a 1:1 ratio.
- If a suitable mitigation site has not met success criteria prior to disturbance of the impact site, habitat shall be replaced in kind (tributary for tributary impacts, river for river impacts) according to the replacement ratios specified in Table 13. These ratios provide compensatory mitigation for temporal losses of riparian function by considering the existing functional condition of the resources to be impacted, as well as time required for different vegetation types to become established and mature.

Table 13
CDFG Jurisdictional Permanent Impacts Mitigation Ratios
(Ratios Listed by Vegetation Types & Quality)

		(Mitigation Ratio)	(Mitigation Ratio)	(Mitigation Ratio)
Southern Cottonwood–Willow Riparian Forrest	SCWRF	4:1	3:1	2:1
Southern Willow Scrub	SWS	3:1	2.5:1	2:1
Oak Woodland (Coast Live, Valley)	CLOW/VOW	3:1	2.5:1	2:1
Big Sagebrush Scrub	BSS	2.5:1	2:1	1.5:1
Mexican Elderberry Scrub	MES	2.5:1	2:1	1.5:1
Cismontane Alkaline Marsh	CAM	2.5:1	2:1	1.5:1
Coastal and Valley Fresh Water Marsh	CFWM	2:1	1.5:1	1:1
Mulefat Scrub	MFS	2:1	1.5:1	1.25:1
Arrowweed Scrub	AWS	2:1	1.5:1	1:1
California Sagebrush Scrub, and CSB-Dominated Habitats	CSB, CSB-A, -BS, -CB, -CHP, and -PS	2:1	1.5:1	1:1
Herbaceous Wetland	HW	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
River Wash, Emergent Veg.	RW	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
Chaparral, Chamise Chaparral	CHP, CC	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
Coyote Brush Scrub	CYS	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
Eriodictyon Scrub	EDS	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
California Grass Lands	CGL	1:1	1:1	1:1
Agricultural/Disturbed/ Developed	AGR/DL/DEV	1:1	1:1	1:1

* *HIGH reach value indicates a portion of the Santa Clara River or main tributary that scored above 0.79 Total Score using the HARC methods described in*

Table 13
CDFG Jurisdictional Permanent Impacts Mitigation Ratios
(Ratios Listed by Vegetation Types & Quality)

		(Mitigation Ratio)	**(Mitigation Ratio)**	**(Mitigation Ratio)**

Section 4.2, Geomorphology and Riparian Resources, of the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.

** *MEDIUM reach value indicates a portion of the Santa Clara River or main tributary that scored between 0.4 and 0.79 Total Score using the HARC methods described in Section 4.2 of the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.*

*** *LOW reach value indicates a portion of the Santa Clara River or main tributary that scored below 0.4 Total Score using the HARC methods described in Section 4.2 of the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.*

- If a suitable mitigation site has not been initiated within two years following disturbance of the impact site, but is initiated within five years following such disturbance, the permanently impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a replacement ratio equal to the ratio required by Table 13 plus 0.5:1. (For example, if mitigation for impacts to high-quality mulefat scrub were initiated three years after disturbance, the required replacement ratio would be 2.5:1.)
- If a suitable mitigation site has not been initiated within five years following disturbance of the impact site, the permanently impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a replacement ratio equal to the ratio required by Table 13 plus 1:1. (For example, if mitigation for impacts to high-quality mulefat scrub were initiated six years after disturbance, the required replacement ratio would be 3:1.)
- Where temporary impacts to CDFG-jurisdictional areas are proposed, the mitigation acreage required shall be determined based upon the duration of the proposed construction disturbance and the type of vegetation to be impacted. As individual Project components are proposed for construction, consistent with the subnotification process, the quantities of mitigation acreage required for temporary impacts to CDFG jurisdictional areas shall be calculated according to the following criteria:
  - If suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria prior to temporary disturbance at the impact site, the mitigation sites shall replace the temporarily impacted habitats in kind at a 1:1 ratio regardless of the duration of the temporary disturbance.
  - If the duration of temporary disturbance is less than two years, and no suitable mitigation sites have met success

criteria prior to the disturbance, temporarily impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a 1:1 ratio, except for southern cottonwood/willow riparian forest and oak woodland habitats, which shall be replaced in kind at a ratio of 1:1 if low quality, 1.5:1 if medium quality, and 2:1 if high quality.

- If the duration of temporary disturbance is between two and five years, and no suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria prior to the disturbance, temporarily impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a 1.5:1 ratio, except for southern cottonwood/willow riparian forest and oak woodland habitats, which shall be replaced in kind at a ratio of 1:1 if low quality, 1.5:1 if medium quality, and 2:1 if high quality.
- If the duration of temporary disturbance exceeds five years, and no suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria prior to the disturbance, temporarily impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a 2:1 ratio, except for southern cottonwood/willow riparian forest and oak woodland habitats, which shall be replaced in kind at a ratio of 1:1 if low quality, 1.5:1 if medium quality, and 2:1 if high quality.

In lieu of the habitat replacement described above and subject to CDFG approval, removal of invasive, exotic plant species from existing CDFG jurisdictional areas, followed by restoration/revegetation, may also be used to offset impacts. If this method is employed, mitigation shall be credited at an acreage equivalent to the percentage of exotic vegetation present at the restoration site. For example, if a 10-acre jurisdictional area is occupied by 10% exotic species, restoration shall be credited for one acre of impact. If appropriate, as authorized by CDFG, reduced percentage credits may be applied for invasive removal with passive restoration (weeding and documentation of natural recruitment only).

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: mitigation ratios will be applied when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure. Mitigation sites may be located within the Entrada South Planning Area and/or within the larger RMDP/SCP area, subject to the site approval process described in Mitigation Measure BIO-3. Table number corresponds to the numbering in the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-3: Creation of new vegetation communities and restoration of impacted vegetation communities shall occur at suitable sites in or adjacent to jurisdictional areas or in areas where bank stabilization

would occur. Locations where the excavation of uplands for bank protection/stabilization results in creation of new, unvegetated creek bed or other disturbance shall receive the highest level of priority for vegetation community restoration. Restoration sites may occur at locations outside the riverbed where there are appropriate hydrologic conditions to create a self-sustaining riparian vegetation community and where upland and riparian vegetation community values are absent or very low. All sites shall contain suitable hydrological conditions and surrounding land uses to ensure a self-sustaining functioning riparian vegetation community. Candidate restoration sites shall be described in the annual mitigation status report (see RMDP/SCP BIO-12). Sites will be approved when the detailed wetlands mitigation plans are submitted to the Corps and CDFG as part of the subnotification letters submitted for individual projects. Status of the sites will be addressed through agency review of the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form agency review. Each mitigation plan will include acreages, maps and site-specific descriptions of the proposed revegetation site, including analysis of soils, hydrologic suitability, and present and future adjacent land uses.

(This measure applies to the Modified Project with the following exceptions and/or changes: mitigation site approval will occur when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure. The mitigation accounting form referenced in the measure is not required.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-4: Replacement vegetation communities shall be designed to replace the functions and values of the vegetation communities being removed. The replacement vegetation communities shall have similar dominant trees and understory shrubs and herbs (excluding exotic species) to those of the affected vegetation communities (see Table 14 for example of recommended plant species for the River Corridor SMA and tributaries). In addition, the replacement vegetation communities shall be designed to replicate the density and structure of the affected vegetation communities once the replacement vegetation communities have met the mitigation success criteria.

Table 14
Potential Plant Species for Vegetation Community Restoration in the River Corridor SMA and Tributaries

Trees	
red willow	*Salix laevigata*
arroyo willow	*Salix lasiolepis*
Fremont cottonwood	*Populus fremontii*
black cottonwood	*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*

Table 14
Potential Plant Species for Vegetation Community Restoration in the River Corridor SMA and Tributaries

western sycamore	*Platanus racemosa*
Shrubs	
mulefat	*Baccharis salicifolia*
sandbar willow	*Salix exigua*
arrow weed	*Pluchea sericea*
Herbs	
mugwort	*Artemisia douglasiana*
western ragweed	*Ambrosia psilostachya*
cattail	*Typha latifolia*
bulrush	*Scirpus americanus*
prairie bulrush	*Scirpus maritimus*

Note: This is a recommended list. Other species may be found suitable based on site conditions and state and federal permits.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change. Table number corresponds to the numbering in the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-5: Average plant spacing shall be determined based on an analysis of vegetation communities to be replaced. The applicant shall develop plant spacing specifications for all riparian vegetation communities to be restored. Plant spacing specifications shall be reviewed and approved by the Corps and CDFG when restoration plans are submitted to the agencies as part of the subnotification letters submitted to the Corps and CDFG for individual projects or as part of the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: restoration plans will be reviewed and approved when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-6: The revegetation site will be considered "complete" upon meeting all of the following success criteria. In a subnotification letter, the applicant may request modification of success criteria on a project by project basis. Acceptance of such request will be at the discretion of CDFG and the Corps.

1. Regardless of the date of initial planting, any restoration site must have been without active manipulation by irrigation, planting, or seeding for a minimum of three years prior to Agency consideration of successful completion.

2. The percent cover and species richness of native vegetation shall be evaluated based on local reference sites established by CDFG and the Corps for the plant communities in the impacted areas.
3. Native shrubs and trees shall have at least 80% survivorship after two years beyond the beginning of the success evaluation start date. This may include natural recruitment.
4. Non-native species cover will be no more than 5% absolute cover through the term of the restoration.
5. Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus atissimus*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) and any species listed on the California State Agricultural list, or Cal-IPC list of noxious weeds will not be present on the revegetation site as of the date of completion approval.
6. Using the HARC assessment methodology, the compensatory mitigation site shall meet or exceed the baseline functional scores of the impact area in Corps' jurisdictional waters, as described in the Conceptual Mitigation Plan[82] for Waters of the United States.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: modification of success criteria may occur when the Applicant obtain permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure. In addition, the HARC assessment may be replaced by another agency-approved method.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-7: If at any time prior to Agency approval of the restoration area, the site is subject to an act of God (flood, fires, or drought) the applicant shall be responsible for replanting the damaged area. The site will be subject to the same success criteria provided for in RMDP/SCP BIO-6. Should a second act of God occur prior to Agency approval of the restoration area, the applicant shall coordinate with the Agencies and develop an alternative restoration strategy(ies) to meet success requirements. This may include restoration elsewhere in the River Corridor or tributaries.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

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[82] *For detailed information concerning the Corps compensatory mitigation program for impacts to waters of the United States, please reference Appendix 11.0 of the Section 404(b)1 Alternatives Analysis, included in Appendix F1.0 of the Final EIS/EIR.*

RMDP/SCP-BIO-8: Temporary irrigation shall be installed as necessary for plant establishment. Irrigation shall continue as needed until the restoration site becomes self sustaining regarding survivorship and growth. Irrigation shall be terminated in the fall to provide the least stress to plants.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-9: In areas where invasive exotic plant species control is authorized by CDFG in lieu of other riparian habitat mitigation (RMDP/SCP BIO-2), removal areas shall be kept free of exotic plant species for five years after initial treatment. In areas where extensive exotic removal occurs, revegetation with native plants or natural recruitment shall be documented.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-10: The exotics control program may utilize methods and procedures in accordance with the provisions in the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo/Tamarisk Removal Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, dated February 2006, or the applicant may propose alternative methods and procedures for Corps and CDFG review and approval. Exotic plant species control will be credited at an acreage equivalent to the percentage of exotic vegetation at the restoration site. By example: a 10-acre site occupied by 10% exotic species will be credited for one acre of mitigation. The exotic weed control location will be documented on the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form. If "in-lieu fees" are paid, it will be documented on the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form, along with a reporting of the status of exotic vegetation treatment.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-12: An annual monitoring report shall be submitted to the Corps and CDFG by April 1 of each year until satisfaction of success criteria identified in RMDP/SCP BIO-6, and consistent with the requirements of RMDP/SCP BIO-12. This report shall include any required plans for plant spacing, locations of candidate restoration and weed control sites or proposed "in-lieu fees," restoration methods, and vegetation community restoration performance standards. For active vegetation community creation sites, the report shall include the survival, percent cover, and height of planted species; the number by species of plants replaced; an overview of the revegetation effort and its success in meeting performance criteria; the method used to assess these parameters; and photographs. For active exotics control sites, the

report shall include an assessment of weed control; a description of the relative cover of native vegetation, bare areas, and exotic vegetation; an accounting of colonization by native plants; and photographs. The report shall also include the mitigation account form (see RMDP/SCP BIO-11), which outlines account information related to species palnted or exotics control and mitigation credit remaining. The annual mitigation and monitoring report shall document the current functional capacity of the compensatory mitigation site using the HARC assessment methodology, as well as documenting the baseline functional scores of the impact site in jurisdictional waters of the United States.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: The functional assessment of the compensatory mitigation site may use a method other than the HARC assessment methodology, subject to the approval of the Corps and CDFW. The mitigation accounting form required by measure BIO-11 is not required because the Entrada South Planning Area will not utilize the RMDP or the permits issued for the RMDP.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-13 : The mitigation program shall incorporate applicable principles in the interagency Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use, and Operation of Mitigation Banks (60 FR 58605–58614) to the extent feasible and appropriate, particularly the guidance on administration and accounting. Nothing in the Section 404 or Section 2081 Permit or Section 1605 agreement shall preclude the Applicant from selling mitigation credits to other parties wishing to use those permits or that agreement for a project and/or maintenance activity included in the permits/agreement.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-15: All native riparian trees with a three-inch diameter at breast height (dbh) or greater in temporary construction areas shall be replaced using one- or five-gallon container plants, containered trees, or pole cuttings in the temporary construction areas in the winter following the construction disturbance. The mitigation ratios for temporary impacts to vegetation communities are described in RMDP/SCP BIO-2. The growth and survival of the replacement trees shall meet the performance standards specified in RMDP/SCP BIO-6. In addition, the growth and survival of the planted trees shall be monitored until they meet the self sustaining success criteria in accordance with the methods and reporting procedures specified in RMDP/SCP BIO-6, RMDP/SCP BIO-11, and RMDP/SCP BIO-12.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: Mitigation accounting in

accordance with measure BIO-11 is not required because the Entrada South Planning Area will not utilize the RMDP or the permits issued for the RMDP.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-16: Vegetation communities temporarily impacted by the proposed Project shall be revegetated as described in RMDP/SCP BIO-2. Large trunks of removed trees may also remain on site to provide habitat for invertebrates, reptiles, and small mammals or may be anchored on the Project site for erosion control. To facilitate restoration, mulch, or native topsoil (the top six- to 12-inch-deep layer containing organic material), may be salvaged from the work area prior to construction. Following construction, salvaged topsoil shall be returned to the work area and placed in the restoration site. Within one year, the Project biologist will evaluate the progress of restoration activities in the temporary impact areas to determine if natural recruitment has been sufficient for the site to reach performance goals. In the event that native plant recruitment is determined by the Project biologist to be inadequate for successful habitat establishment, the site shall be revegetated in accordance with the methods designed for permanent impacts (i.e., seeding, container plants, and/or a temporary irrigation system may be recommended). This will help ensure the success of mitigation areas. The Applicant shall restore the temporary construction area per the success criteria and ratios described in RMDP/SCP BIO-1, RMDP/SCP BIO-2, and RMDP/ SCP BIO-6. Annual monitoring reports on the status of the recovery or temporarily impacted areas shall be submitted to the Corps and CDFG as part of the annual mitigation status report (RMDP/SCP BIO-11 and RMDP/SCP BIO-12).

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: Mitigation accounting in accordance with measure BIO-11 is not required because the Entrada South Planning Area will not utilize the RMDP or the permits issued for the RMDP.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-20: Approximately 1,900 acres of coastal scrub shall be preserved on The Project Site. The preservation of this vegetation type shall occur on site within the High Country SMA, the Salt Creek area, and the River Corridor SMA within the Specific Plan site. Irrevocable offers of dedication will be provided to CDFG for identified impact offsets in accordance with the Plan (RMDP/SCP BIO-1) using a “rough step” land dedication approach. Some of this habitat is recovering from wildfire and the expectation is that it will recover without active intervention. The functional values of any burned dedicated land areas shall be evaluated annually until such time that conditions are commensurate with the quality of the impacted habitat being mitigated. In the event that the functional value of this burned habitat has not recovered within five years of the dedication due to invasive species, to fire ecology, erosion, drought, or

unforeseen events, then adaptive management pursuant to MM RMDP/SCP BIO-21 will be implemented for coastal scrub restoration.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: Approximately 178.6 acres of coastal scrub shall be preserved on lands identified in the CMIP to offset impacts to coastal scrub associated with the Entrada South Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-21: Supplemental restoration of coastal scrub shall be conducted as an adaptive management measure pursuant to RMDP-SCP BIO-20. Eight areas were identified in the Draft Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Report in the High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and River Corridor SMA (Dudek 2007A) for coastal scrub restoration. In the event that coastal scrub restoration is required pursuant to RMDP-SCP BIO-20, the applicant shall develop a Coastal Scrub Restoration Plan, subject to the approval of CDFG. The plan shall specify, at a minimum, the following: (1) the location of mitigation sites to be selected from suitable mitigation land in the High Country and Salt Creek areas identified in the Feasibility Study; (2) a description of "target" vegetation (native shrubland) to include estimated cover and abundance of native shrubs; (3) site preparation measures to include topsoil treatment, soil decompaction, erosion control, temporary irrigation systems, or other measures as appropriate; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants (e.g., mowing, weeding, raking, herbicide application, or burning); (5) the source of all plant propagules (*e.g.*, seed, potted nursery stock, etc. collected from within five miles of the restoration site), the quantity and species of seed or potted stock of all plants to be introduced or planted into the restoration/ enhancement areas; (6) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration areas, to include at minimum, qualitative annual monitoring for revegetation success and site degradation due to erosion, trespass, or animal damage for a period no less than two years; (7) as needed where sites are near trails or other access points, measures such as fencing, signage, or security patrols to exclude unauthorized entry into the restoration/enhancement areas; and (8) contingency measures such as replanting, weed control, or erosion control to be implemented if habitat improvement/restoration efforts are not successful.

Habitat restoration/enhancement will be judged successful when: (1) percent cover and species richness of native species reach 50% of cover and species richness at reference sites; and (2) the replacement vegetation has persisted at least one summer without irrigation.

Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning. Monitoring reports will describe all restoration/enhancement

measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe vegetation survival or establishment in quantitative terms.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-22: a. Newhall Land shall prepare an Oak Resource Management Plan, to be submitted for approval to CDFG and County of Los Angeles, and implemented upon approval. The Plan shall identify areas suitable for oak woodland enhancement and creation. The Plan shall distinguish between oaks to be planted in compliance with CLAOTO (RMDP/SCP BIO-22b) and the additional measures required by this EIS/EIR (RMDP/SCP BIO-2 for woodlands in jurisdictional streambeds and RMDP/SCP BIO-22c and RMDP/SCP BIO-22d for upland areas).

The Oak Resource Management Plan shall include measures to create or enhance woodlands as follows (1) locations and acreages of mitigation sites where woodland creation or enhancement will occur; (2) a description of proposed cover and number of native trees, shrubs, and grasses per acre to be established. This description shall be based on comparable intact woodlands in the area of impact or elsewhere within the RMDP planning area, consistent with conditions of the proposed mitigation site; (3) site preparation measures to include (as appropriate) topsoil treatment, soil decompaction, erosion control, weed grow/kill cycle, or as otherwise approved by the agencies; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants (e.g., mowing, weeding, raking, herbicide application, or burning); (5) a plant palette listing all species, including sizes, planting densities, or seeding rates, to be based on target vegetation; (6) the source of all plant propagules (e.g., seed, potted nursery stock) and the quantity and species of seed or potted stock of all plants to be introduced or planted into the mitigation areas; (7) temporary irrigation, protection from herbivores, fertilizer, weeding, *etc.*; (8) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration areas to include, at minimum, qualitative annual monitoring for revegetation success and site degradation due to erosion, trespass, or animal damage for a period no less than five years total and no less than two years after removal of irrigation (if any); (9) where sites are near trails or other access points, measures such as fencing, signage, or security patrols to exclude unauthorized entry into the mitigation areas shall be implemented as needed; (10) tree protection standards to be implemented for individual trees or woodlands adjacent to development activity; (11) success criteria as stated in RMDP/SCP BIO-22b and RMDP/SCP BIO-22d; and

(12) contingency measures, such as replanting, erosion control, irrigation system repair, or understory re-seeding, to be implemented if habitat improvement/restoration efforts do not meet the success criteria stated in the plan.

b. To meet the minimum mitigation criteria set forth in CLAOTO, Newhall Land will replace impacted oaks (measuring eight inches in diameter, or greater, or with a combined diameter of 12 inches for multi-stem oaks) at a ratio of 2:1. Additionally, oaks meeting the criteria for classification as a Heritage Tree (defined by CLAOTO as "any oak tree measuring 36 inches or more in diameter") will be replaced at a ratio of 10:1.

   Whether they are planted in dedicated open space areas or developed areas, replacement oak trees planted in conformance with CLAOTO shall adhere to the following standards:

   1. Replacement oak trees shall be exclusively indigenous species, shall be at least a 15-gallon size specimen, and measure at least one inch in diameter one foot above the base, unless otherwise approved by the County Forester.
   2. Replacement trees shall be properly cared for and maintained for a period of two years and replaced by Newhall Land if mortality occurs within that period.
   3. Replacement planting shall be conducted in phases as impacts occur. Alternatively, Newhall Land may choose to plant replacement trees in open space areas prior to realization of Project-related impacts (pre-mitigation). Any pre-mitigation shall adhere to the standards outlined herein.
   4. Following completion of the two-year maintenance period, the County Forester shall provide final authorization that CLAOTO standards have been met.

c. In addition to the CLAOTO requirements (RMDP/SCP BIO-22b), this EIS/EIR requires replacement of oak trees at the ratios in the table below for trees lost or impacted in uplands. These trees are in addition to the CLAOTO requirement described above. These additional trees may also be incorporated into woodland habitat enhancement or creation, as described above.

   Additional replacement ratios are provided in Table 15.

Table 15
Additional RMDP/SCP BIO-22c Oak Tree Replacement Ratios

Trunk Diameter*	Mitigation Ratio
8–35	0.5:1
36+	2.5:1
* *Trunk diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade. Mitigation required for single-stem oaks with a minimum 8-inch diameter and multi-stem oaks with a combined diameter of 12 inches.*	

d. Newhall will mitigate lost oak woodlands occurring on upland sites (i.e., outside CDFG/Corps jurisdictional stream channels) by creating or enhancing oak woodlands in the Salt Creek area and High Country SMA. At minimum, Newhall Land will mitigate woodland habitat at a 1:1 ratio through creation of new oak woodlands. As an alternative, Newhall Land may choose to enhance, improve, and manage existing degraded woodland areas at a minimum 2:1 ratio for lost woodland acreage.

   For woodland enhancement or replacement, dominant species (coast live oak or valley oak) and planting densities will be based on mitigation site suitability. All plant propagules, including acorns or tree cuttings and all seed or potted nursery stock of oaks or other species, shall be collected within a five-mile radius and within 1,000 feet elevation of the restoration site.

   The woodland creation or enhancement sites shall be monitored for oak tree survival and vigor and other habitat values, including species diversity and wildlife use. The replacement or enhancement sites will be considered "complete" upon meeting all of the following success criteria, or as otherwise approved by CDFG. Any replacement oak trees planted in woodlands for conformance with CLAOTO will also be subject to CLAOTO performance criteria (RMDP/SCP BIO-22b).

   General performance standards for woodland creation or enhancement sites include the following:

   1. Regardless of the date of initial woodland creation or enhancement, each site must have been without active manipulation by irrigation, planting, or re-seeding for a minimum of three years prior to evaluation for successful completion.
   2. The percent cover and species richness of restored or enhanced native vegetation shall be evaluated based on target vegetation described in the woodland creation or enhancement plan.
   3. Densities (numbers/acre) of surviving, healthy oak trees shall be within 5% of the plan target density. Cover and species

richness of other native shrubs shall reach 50% of the cover and species richness described for the "target" woodland. Optimal woodland densities and acorn planting quantities, by oak woodland type, are presented in Table 16.

Table 16
Optimal Woodland Densities and Acorn Planting Quantities, by Oak Woodland Type

Woodland Type	Average Existing Woodland Density (trees per acre)	Target Density for Newhall Land (trees per acre)
Coast live oak woodland	22	50
Mixed oak woodland	19	40
Valley oak woodland	16	25

4. Non-native grass cover shall not exceed the "target" woodland non-native grass cover, and other non-native species shall not exceed 10% cover at any time. Any species listed on the California State Agricultural list (CDFA 2009) or Cal-IPC invasive plant inventory (Cal-IPC 2006, 2007) will not be present on the revegetation site at the time that project success is determined.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change. Table number corresponds to the numbering in the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-23: A final Spineflower Conservation Plan (SCP) shall be adopted and implemented after approval by CDFG, including the permanent dedication of preserves (see draft in Appendix 1.0). The proposed spineflower preserve areas shall be offered to CDFG as a permanent conservation easement within one year after issuance of the requested 2081 Permit to ensure long-term protection. The conservation easement shall be to CDFG and contain appropriate funding and restrictions to help ensure that the spineflower preserve lands are protected in perpetuity.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to preserve management and funding requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP for the Entrada preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-24: The spineflower preserves shall be managed by Newhall Land and their preserve manager(s) and/or natural lands management organization(s) (NLMO). Newhall Land shall submit a statement of qualifications for their proposed preserve manager(s)/NLMO(s) for approval by CDFG. Newhall Land will fund in full all implementation of

spineflower preserve management as described in the SCP and all mitigation measures listed in this document.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-25: Disturbed portions (i.e., agricultural lands, disturbed lands, and developed lands) of the spineflower preserves, including buffers, will be restored through revegetation with native plant communities. In summary, areas that have greater than 30% relative cover by weeds will be restored to have relative cover comparable to that of existing occupied spineflower habitat. Habitat restoration and enhancement plans (including restoration plans) for areas within the preserves shall be prepared at the direction of the preserve manager by a qualified biologist and submitted to the County and CDFG for approval prior to implementation. In addition, Cal-IPC List A and B plants that are present within the spineflower preserve will be controlled. Restoration and enhancement efforts within the spineflower preserve areas shall be in conformance with the Spineflower Conservation Plan.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-26: In the event that a spineflower preserve, or buffer, or a portion of a spineflower preserve, or buffer burns in a wildfire or suffers from mass movements (e.g., landslides, slope sloughing, or other geologic events), the spineflower preserve manager and Newhall Land shall promptly review the site and determine what action, if any, should be taken. The primary anticipated post-fire spineflower preserve management activity involves monitoring the site and controlling annual weeds that may invade burned areas following a fire event, especially when such weeds (that were not previously present or not present in similar densities) exceed the 30% maximum threshold (see RMDP/SCP BIO-25). If fire-control lines or other forms of bulldozer damage occur in the spineflower preserves, these areas will be repaired and revegetated to pre-burn conditions or better. An emergency fire response plan will be prepared (in accordance with MM SP-4.6-72) prior to the establishment of the spineflower preserves and approved by CDFG and Los Angeles County Fire Department. The preserve manager will contact the LACFD at least once every five years to review the plan and consult with them on implementation of the plan.

The same methods will be applied to mass-movement, landslide, or slope-sloughing types of events. This measure shall be implemented in conformance with the Spineflower Conservation Plan.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-27: Spineflower preserve temporary fencing shall be shown on construction plans and installed prior to initiating construction clearing and grubbing activities within 500 feet of spineflower preserves, including the buffers. The spineflower preserve manager or a qualified biologist shall monitor fence installation. Clearing for fence installation shall be minimized to what is necessary to install the fence and, where possible, shall leave the roots of native plants in place to allow regrowth. As necessary, native vegetation will be restored and weed management will be performed following fence installation to ensure temporarily cleared native plant areas do not become weed dominated after installation. General Project clearing and grubbing within 500 feet of the fence may commence upon verification by the spineflower preserve manager or the qualified biologist that protective fencing is in place and is adequate. Appropriate BMPs shall be installed at the edge of development manufactured slopes when the spineflower preserve is within 500 feet and down-slope of proposed development.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-28: Construction documents shall indicate that the grading contractor is responsible for protecting spineflower preserves during construction work. The construction documents shall indicate that the contractor is responsible for informing all employees and subcontractors of the environmentally sensitive areas and the proper conduct of work when working near (e.g., within 500 feet) of these areas. The construction documents shall require a pre-construction meeting to perform an "environmental education session" with the grading contractor/contractor's employees, subcontractors, and equipment operators prior to commencing construction work within 500 feet of the spineflower preserves. The environmental education session shall be conducted by the spineflower preserve manager or a qualified biologist and focus on informing workers of the location and sensitivity of the spineflower and the requirements for protecting it. The construction documents shall indicate that the grading contractor shall be responsible for mitigating any impacts to spineflower preserves due to the negligence of the grading contractor/contractor's employees, subcontractors, or equipment operators. If accidental trespass into a spineflower preserve occurs during construction, the violation shall be documented by the preserve manager and immediately reported to CDFG. Follow-up action will be taken in accordance with the Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code, Incidental Take Permit issued by CDFG.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-29: Construction plans shall include necessary design features and construction notes to demonstrate consistency of development in the vicinity of spineflower preserves with the Spineflower Conservation Plan (SCP). In addition to applicable erosion control plans and performance under SCAQMD Rule 403d dust control (SCAQMD 2005), the Project stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall include minimum BMPs. Together, the implementation of these requirements shall ensure that spineflower preserve populations are protected during construction. At a minimum, the following measures/ restrictions shall be incorporated into the SWPPP and noted on construction plans, where appropriate, to avoid impacting spineflower preserves during construction:

- Avoid planting or seeding invasive species in development areas during construction phases;
- Do not use erosion control devices that may contain weeds, such as hay bales, etc., within 200 feet of spineflower preserves or anywhere upstream of spineflower preserves;
- Do not windrow or stockpile soil within 200 feet of spineflower preserve boundaries or anywhere upstream of spineflower preserves;
- Do not locate staging areas, maintenance, or concrete washout areas within 500 feet (unless otherwise authorized by CDFG, and no closer than 200 feet in any instance), where adjacent to or anywhere upstream of spineflower preserves;
- Do not store toxic compounds, including fuel, oil, lubricants, paints, release agents, or any other construction materials that could damage spineflower habitat if spilled near spineflower preserve areas, or anywhere upstream of spineflower preserves, or along spineflower preserve boundaries;
- Provide location and details for any fencing for temporary and permanent access control along preserve boundaries (per RMDP/SCP BIO-31 for temporary fencing and RMDP/SCP BIO-36 for permanent fencing);
- Provide location and details for any dust control fencing along preserve boundaries (per RMDP/SCP BIO-32); and
- Provide location and details for any stormwater run-on controls/ BMPs coming from development area to spineflower preserve (per RMDP/SCP BIO-38 and RMDP/SCP BIO-39).

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-30: The spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist shall review construction plans and specifications, SWPPP, and, where appropriate, erosion control plans and implementation of SCAQMD Rule 403d dust control measures (SCAQMD 2005) prior to construction within 500 feet of spineflower preserves for compliance with the Spineflower Conservation Plan and associated permits and Project-related environmental documents. A copy of the SWPPP and associated monitoring reports will be provided to CDFG.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-31: Spineflower preserves shall be protected prior to clearing and during construction with temporary construction fencing as described in RMDP/SCP BIO-27. Openings shall be included in the fence when located within wildlife corridors and vegetation community connectivity areas to allow for the safe passage of wildlife. The spineflower preserve manager or a qualified biologist shall indicate the location and width of each of these openings. The fencing shall be three-strand non-barbed wire fence or bright orange U.V. stabilized polyethylene construction "snow" fencing, attached to metal T-posts that extend at least four feet above grade or equivalent. Protective fencing shall be maintained in good condition until completion of Project construction. Where construction activities occur within 500 feet of a spineflower preserve, the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist shall review fencing weekly during construction monitoring visits and note any fencing that is in need of repair. Repairs shall be completed within three working days of notification by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-32: Development areas shall have dust control measures implemented and maintained to prevent dust from impacting vegetation within the spineflower preserve areas. Dust control shall be implemented during construction in compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403d (SCAQMD 2005). Where construction activities occur within 100 feet of a spineflower location, chemical dust suppression shall not be utilized. Where determined necessary by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist, a screening fence (i.e., a six-foot high chain link fence with green fabric up to a height of five feet) shall be installed to protect spineflower locations.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-33: The spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist shall perform weekly construction monitoring for all construction activities

within 500 feet of spineflower preserve areas. The spineflower preserve manager's or qualified biologist's construction monitoring tasks shall include reviewing and approving protective fencing, dust control measures, and erosion control devices before construction work begins; conducting a contractor education session at the preconstruction meeting; reviewing the site weekly (minimum) during construction to ensure the fencing, dust control, and BMP measures are in place and functioning correctly and that work is not directly or indirectly impacting spineflower plants; and quarterly monitoring shall be initiated for Argentine ants along the construction–open space interface at sentinel locations where invasions could occur (e.g., where moist microhabitats that attract Argentine ants may be created). A qualified biologist shall determine the monitoring locations. Ant pitfall traps will be placed in these sentinel locations and operated on a quarterly basis to detect invasion by Argentine ants. If Argentine ants are detected during monitoring, direct control measures will be implemented immediately to help prevent the invasion from worsening. These direct controls may include but are not limited to nest/mound insecticide treatment, or available natural control methods being developed. A general reconnaissance of the infested area would also be conducted to identify and correct the possible source of the invasion, such as uncontrolled urban runoff, leaking pipes, or collected water. Each site visit shall be followed up with a summary monitoring report sent electronically to Newhall Land indicating the status of the site. Monthly monitoring reports, as needed, shall be submitted to CDFG and the County of Los Angeles. Monitoring reports shall include remedial recommendations and issue resolution discussions when necessary.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-34: Plant palettes proposed for use on landscaped slopes, street medians, park sites, and other public landscaped and FMZ areas within 200 feet of a spineflower preserve shall be reviewed and approved within 30 days by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist and CDFG to ensure that the proposed landscape plants will not naturalize and require maintenance or cause vegetation community degradation in the spineflower preserve and buffer areas. Container plants to be installed within public areas within 200 feet of the spineflower preserves shall be inspected by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist for the presence of disease, weeds, and pests, including Argentine ants. Plants with pests, weeds, or diseases shall be rejected. In addition, for public areas within 200 feet of spineflower preserves, landscape plants shall not be on the Cal-IPC California Invasive Plant Inventory (most recent version) or on the list of Invasive Ornamental Plants listed in Appendix B of the SCP.

The current Cal-IPC list can be obtained from the Cal-IPC web site (http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php).

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve, except that the current Cal-IPC website is www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-35: All portions of the spineflower preserves shall be closed, with the exception of pre-identified existing dirt roads and utility easements. The pre-identified existing dirt roads and utility easement access roads shall function as access routes for the spineflower preserve manager, spineflower preserve maintenance personnel, utility personnel, and emergency services vehicles only (e.g., police, fire, and medical). No other vehicle or foot traffic, including nature or recreational trails, will be permitted in the preserve, including the buffer. The dirt roads shall be gated and locked at the outside edges of the buffer zone. Signs discouraging unauthorized access shall be posted. The only persons or entities issued gate keys shall be the spineflower preserve managers and their employees, easement holding utility companies, emergency services, Newhall Land, and CDFG.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-36: Fencing shall be installed along the outside edge of the spineflower preserve and buffer areas adjacent to proposed developments, parks, golf courses, or other "active land uses" to prevent unauthorized access. Specific areas that are adequately protected by steep terrain (1.5:1 or steeper) and/or dense vegetation may not require fencing but would require signage. The determination of the need for fencing in these areas shall be subject to the approval of the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist. If monitoring determines that slope and/or vegetation is not effective at deterring unauthorized access, additional fencing may be required by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist. Fencing is not required in areas bordered by large parcels of conserved natural open space areas or the Santa Clara River riparian corridor, as installing fencing in these areas would be unnecessary and damaging to existing vegetation and wildlife corridors.

Fencing must extend a minimum of four feet above grade and include wood-doweled split rail fencing, exterior grade heavy-duty vinyl three-railed fencing, three-strand non-barbed wire, or similar. Fencing installed adjacent to native vegetation communities and natural open space areas will allow for the passage of animals.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-37: Outdoor all-weather signs measuring approximately 12 by 16 inches shall be posted on all spineflower preserve access gates and along spineflower preserve fencing at approximately 800 feet on center, except adjacent to road crossings, where signs will be posted. The placement will take topography into account, emphasizing placement on ridgelines where signs will be visible to emergency fire personnel and others. Signs shall state in English and Spanish that the area is a biological preserve that hosts a state-listed endangered and federal candidate plant species and that trespassing is prohibited (in accordance with MM SP-4.6-68). Signs shall indicate that fuel modification and management work is not allowed within the spineflower preserve (including buffer areas). The signage shall state that people who do not abide by these rules or who damage the protected species will be subject to prosecution, including fines and/or imprisonment. All signage shall include emergency contact information and shall be reviewed and approved by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-38: Storm drain outfalls from proposed development areas shall only be installed uphill from spineflower preserve areas where necessary to retain pre-construction hydrological conditions within the spineflower preserves, sustain existing riparian and wetland vegetation communities, and/or allow for the restoration of currently disturbed areas to native riparian/alluvial vegetation communities. When located in a spineflower preserve area, storm drains must meet the following criteria:

- Storm drains must not impact spineflower either directly or indirectly, and
- Under no circumstances shall storm drains daylight onto steeply sloped areas or other areas that would cause erosion.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-39: Any surface water entering a spineflower preserve area from development areas during construction is required to pass through BMP measures, which will be described in the SWPPP. Storm drain outlets must contain hydrologic controls (e.g., adequate energy dissipaters) to prevent downstream erosion and stream channel down-cutting. Additionally, storm drain outlets must be designed based on pre- and post-construction hydrological studies (in accordance with MM SP-4.6-69). Storm drains and permanent structural BMPs shall be designed by a licensed civil engineer. Requirements of RMDP/SCP BIO-29 and RMDP/SCP BIO-38, where applicable, shall be incorporated into the facility design and shall be

subject to approval by the spineflower manager or qualified biologist. Long-term maintenance of storm drain BMPs will be the responsibility of the designated maintenance entity.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change in regard to the Entrada spineflower preserve.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-40: The Draft RMDP Slender Mariposa Lily Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Dudek 2007c) shall be revised and submitted to CDFG for review and approval prior to ground disturbance to occupied habitat. Upon approval, the plan will be implemented by the applicant or its designee. The revised plan will demonstrate the feasibility of enhancing or restoring slender mariposa lily habitat in selected areas to be managed as natural open space (i.e., the Salt Creek area or High Country SMA, spineflower preserves, or River Corridor SMA) without conflicting with other resource management objectives. Habitat replacement/enhancement will be at a 1:1 ratio (acres restored/ enhanced to acres impacted).

The revised plan will describe habitat improvement/restoration measures to be completed prior to introducing slender mariposa lily. Habitat improvement/ restoration will be based on native occupied slender mariposa lily habitat. The revised plan will specify: (1) the location of mitigation sites (may be selected from among 559 acres of suitable mitigation land in the High Country SMA and Salt Creek area identified in the Draft Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Study (Dudek 2007a); (2) a description of "target" vegetation (native shrubland or grassland) to include estimated cover and abundance of native shrubs and grasses in occupied slender mariposa lily habitat on Newhall Ranch land (either at sites to be destroyed by construction or at sites to be preserved); (3) site preparation measures to include topsoil treatment, soil decompaction, erosion control, temporary irrigation systems, or other measures as appropriate; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants (e.g., mowing, weeding, raking, herbicide application, or burning); (5) the source of all plant propagules (seed, potted nursery stock, *etc.*), the quantity and species of seed or potted stock of all plants to be introduced or planted into the restoration/enhancement areas; (6) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration areas, to include at minimum, qualitative annual monitoring for revegetation success and site degradation due to erosion, trespass, or animal damage for a period no less than two years; (7) as needed where sites are near trails or other access points, measures such as fencing, signage, or security patrols to exclude unauthorized entry into the restoration/ enhancement areas; and (8) contingency measures such as replanting, weed control, or erosion control to be implemented if habitat improvement/restoration efforts are not successful.

Habitat restoration/enhancement will be judged successful when (1) percent cover and species richness of native species reach 50% of their cover and species richness at undisturbed occupied slender mariposa lily habitat at reference sites; and (2) the replacement vegetation has persisted at least one summer without irrigation. At that point slender mariposa lily propagules (seed or bulbs) will be introduced onto the site.

The revised plan will specify methods to collect propagules and introduce slender mariposa lily into these mitigation sites. Introductions will use source material (seeds or bulbs) from no more than 1.0 mile distant, similar slope exposures, and no more than 500 feet elevational difference from the mitigation site, unless otherwise approved by CDFG. Bulbs may be salvaged and transplanted from slender mariposa lily occurrences to be lost; alternately, seed may be collected from protected occurrences, following CDFG-approved seed collection guidelines (i.e., MOU for rare plant seed collection). No bulbs will be translocated into areas within 300 feet of proposed or existing development. Newhall Land or its designee will monitor the reintroduction sites for no fewer than five additional years to estimate slender mariposa lily survivorship (for bulbs) or seedling establishment (for seeded sites).

Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning for slender mariposa lily. Monitoring reports will describe all restoration/enhancement measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe mariposa lily survival or establishment in quantitative terms.

A minimum of 133 acres of slender mariposa lily cumulative occupied area will be conserved and managed in the RMDP and SCP Project boundaries. Of these 133 acres, approximately 103 acres of slender mariposa lily cumulative occupied area will be conserved and managed in the RMDP and SCP Project boundary in the High Country SMA and Salt Creek area, and two acres occur within the River Corridor SMA and/or proposed spineflower preserves. Additional cumulative occupied area will be conserved and managed in the San Martinez Grande Canyon area at a 1:1 ratio (acres conserved and managed to acres impacted) based on impacts to cumulative occupied area within the Entrada South Planning Area, as a means to ensure regional biodiversity of the species. Up to an additional 28 acres of slender mariposa lily cumulative occupied area can be conserved and managed in the San Martinez Grande Canyon area for this purpose.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-41: Thirty days prior to construction activities in grassland, scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riverbank, and agriculture habitats, or other suitable habitat a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for American badger.

If American badgers are present, occupied habitat shall be flagged and ground-disturbing activities avoided within 50 feet of the occupied den. Maternity dens shall be avoided during the pup-rearing season (February 15 through July 1) and a minimum 200 foot buffer established. This buffer may be reduced based on the location of the den upon consultation with CDFG. Maternity dens shall be flagged for avoidance, identified on construction maps, and a qualified biologist shall be present during construction. If avoidance of a non-maternity den is not feasible, badgers shall be relocated either by trapping or by slowly excavating the burrow (either by hand or mechanized equipment under the direct supervision of the biologist, removing no more than four inches at a time) before or after the rearing season (February 15 through July 1). Any relocation of badgers shall occur only after consultation with CDFG. A written report documenting the badger removal shall be provided to CDFG within 30 days of relocation.

Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-42: All oaks that will not be removed that are regulated under CLAOTO with driplines within 50 feet of land clearing (including brush clearing) or areas to be graded shall be enclosed in a temporary fenced zone for the duration of the clearing or grading activities. Fencing shall extend to the root protection zone (i.e., the area at least 15 feet from the trunk or five feet beyond the drip line, whichever distance is greater). No parking or storage of equipment, solvents, or chemicals that could adversely affect the trees shall be allowed within 25 feet of the trunk at any time. Removal of the fence shall occur only after the Project arborist or qualified biologist confirms the health of preserved trees.

(This mitigation measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-49: Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from construction activities shall not be allowed to enter a flowing stream or

be placed in locations that may be subject to normal storm flows during periods when storm flows can reasonably be expected to occur.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-52: Prior to grading and construction activities, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) for all construction/contractor personnel. A list of construction personnel who have completed training prior to the start of construction shall be maintained on site and this list shall be updated as required when new personnel start work. No construction worker may work in the field for more than five days without participating in the WEAP. Night work and use of lights on equipment shall not be allowed unless CDFG approves of the night work and use of lights. Lighting shall not be used where threatened or endangered species occur. Lights shall be directed from natural areas and remain 200 feet away from natural areas unless otherwise approved by CDFG. The qualified biologist shall provide ongoing guidance to construction personnel and contractors to ensure compliance with environmental/permit regulations and mitigation measures. The qualified biologist shall perform the following:

- Provide training materials and briefings to all personnel working on site. The material shall include but not be limited to the identification and status of plant and wildlife species, significant natural plant community habitats (e.g., riparian), fire protection measures, and review of mitigation requirements.
- A discussion of the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, other state or federal permit requirements and the legal consequences of non-compliance with these acts;
- Attend the pre-construction meeting to ensure that timing/location of construction activities do not conflict with other mitigation requirements (e.g., seasonal surveys for nesting birds, pre-construction surveys, or relocation efforts);
- Conduct meetings with the contractor and other key construction personnel describing the importance of restricting work to designated areas. Maps showing the location of special-status wildlife or populations of rare plants, exclusion areas, or other construction limitations (e.g., limitations on nighttime work) will be provided to the environmental monitors and construction crews prior to ground disturbance. This applies to preconstruction activities, such as site surveying and staking, natural resources surveying or reconnaissance, establishment of water quality BMPs, and geotechnical or hydrological investigations;

- Discuss procedures for minimizing harm to or harassment of wildlife encountered during construction and provide a contact person in the event of the discovery of dead or injured wildlife;
- Review/designate the construction area in the field with the contractor in accordance with the final grading plan;
- Ensure that haul roads, access roads, and on-site staging and storage areas are sited within grading areas to minimize degradation of vegetation communities adjacent to these areas (if activities outside these limits are necessary, they shall be evaluated by the biologist to ensure that no special-status species habitats will be affected);
- Conduct a field review of the staking (to be set by the surveyor) designating the limits of all construction activity;
- Flag or temporarily fence any construction activity areas immediately adjacent to riparian areas;
- Ensure and document that required pre-construction surveys and/or relocation efforts have been implemented;
- To reduce the potential for the spread of exotic invasive invertebrates (e.g., New Zealand mud snails) and weeds (including weed seeds) during Project clearing and construction, all heavy equipment proposed for use on the Project site shall be verified cleaned (including wheels, tracks, undercarriages, and bumpers, as applicable) before delivery to the Project site. Equipment must be documented as exotic invasive invertebrate (e.g., mud snail) and weed free upon delivery to the Project site initial staging area, including: (1) vegetation clearing equipment (skid steer loaders, loaders, dozers, backhoes, excavators, chippers, grinders, and any hauling equipment, such as off-road haul trucks, flat bed, or other vehicles); (2) earth-moving equipment (scrapers, dozers, excavators, loaders, motor-graders, compactors, backhoes, off-road water trucks, and off-road haul trucks); and (3) all Project-associated vehicles (including personal vehicles) that, upon inspection by the monitoring biologist, are deemed to present a risk for spreading exotic invasive invertebrates (e.g., mud snails) or weeds. Equipment shall be cleaned at existing construction yards or at a wash station. The biological monitor shall document that all construction equipment (as described above) has been cleaned prior to working within the Project work site. Any equipment/ vehicles determined to not be free of exotic invasive invertebrates (e.g., mud snails) and weeds shall immediately be sent back to the originating construction yard for washing, or wash station where rinse water is collected and disposed of in either a sanitary sewer or other legal point of disposal. Equipment/vehicles moved from

the site must be inspected, and re-washed as necessary, prior to re-engaging in construction activities in the Project work area. A written daily log shall be kept for all vehicle/equipment washing that states the date, time, location, type of equipment washed, methods used, and location of work;

- Be present during initial vegetation clearing and grading; and
- Submit to CDFG an immediate report (within 72 hours) of any conflicts or errors resulting in impacts to special-status biological resources.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-53: Prior to the issuance of a grading permit for ground disturbance, construction, or site preparation activities, the applicant shall retain the services of a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys for western spadefoot toad within all portions of the Project site containing suitable breeding habitat. Surveys shall be conducted during a time of year when the species could be detected (e.g., the presence of rain pools). If western spadefoot toad is identified on the Project site, the following measures will be implemented.

1. Under the direct supervision of the qualified biologist, western spadefoot toad habitat shall be created within suitable natural sites on the Specific Plan site outside the proposed development envelope. The amount of occupied breeding habitat to be impacted by the Project shall be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. The actual relocation site design and location shall be approved by CDFG. The location shall be in suitable habitat as far away as feasible from any of the homes and roads to be built. The relocation ponds shall be designed such that they only support standing water for several weeks following seasonal rains in order that aquatic predators (e.g., fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish) cannot become established. Terrestrial habitat surrounding the proposed relocation site shall be as similar in type, aspect, and density to the location of the existing ponds as feasible. No site preparation or construction activities shall be permitted in the vicinity of the currently occupied ponds until the design and construction of the pool habitat in preserved areas of the site has been completed and all western spadefoot toad adults, tadpoles, and egg masses detected are moved to the created pool habitat.
2. Based on appropriate rainfall and temperatures, generally between the months of February and April, the biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys in all appropriate vegetation communities within the development envelope. Surveys will include evaluation of

all previously documented occupied areas and a reconnaissance-level survey of the remaining natural areas of the site. All western spadefoot adults, tadpoles, and egg masses encountered shall be collected and released in the identified/created relocation ponds described above.

3. The qualified biologist shall monitor the relocation site for five years, involving annual monitoring during and immediately following peak breeding season such that surveys can be conducted for adults as well as for egg masses and larval and post-larval toads. Further, survey data will be provided to CDFG by the monitoring biologist following each monitoring period and a written report summarizing the monitoring results will be provided to CDFG at the end of the monitoring effort. Success criteria for the monitoring program shall include verifiable evidence of toad reproduction at the relocation site.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: replacement habitat also may be created within areas of the Entrada South Planning Area Site not subject to development, where approved by CDFW.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-54: Prior to construction the applicant shall develop a relocation plan for coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, rosy boa, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and coast patch-nosed snake. The Plan shall include but not be limited to the timing and location of the surveys that would be conducted for each species; identify the locations where more intensive efforts should be conducted; identify the habitat and conditions in the proposed relocation site(s); the methods that would be utilized for trapping and relocating the individual species; and provide for the documentation/ recordation of the species and number of the animals relocated. The Plan shall be submitted to CDFG for approval 60 days prior to any ground disturbing activities within potentially occupied habitat.

The Plan shall include the specific survey and relocation efforts that would occur for construction activities that occur both during the activity period of the special status species (generally March to November) and for periods when the species may be present in the work area but difficult to detect due to weather conditions (generally December through February). Thirty days prior to construction activities in coastal scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian habitats, or other areas supporting these species qualified biologists shall conduct surveys to capture and relocate individual coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, rosy boa, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and coast patch-nosed snake in order to avoid or minimize take of these special-status species. The plan shall require a minimum of three (3) surveys conducted during the time of

year/day when each species is most likely to be observed. Individuals shall be relocated to nearby undisturbed areas with suitable habitat. If construction is scheduled to occur during the low activity period (generally December through February) the surveys shall be conducted prior to this period if possible and exclusion fencing shall be placed to limit the potential for re-colonization of the site prior to construction. The qualified biologist will be present during ground-disturbing activities immediately adjacent to or within habitat that supports populations of these species. Clearance surveys for special-status reptiles shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the initiation of construction each day.

Results of the surveys and relocation efforts shall be provided to CDFG in the annual mitigation status report. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change. Note that coast horned lizard and coastal western whiptail are referred to as Blainville's horned lizard *and* San Diegan tiger whiptail*, respectively, in this document.)*

RMDP/SCP-BIO-55: a. As a supplement to RMDP/SCP BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP BIO-16, additional habitat mitigation through replacement or enhancement of nesting/foraging habitat for least Bell's vireo will be provided for certain key habitat zones at higher ratios (identified as "key population areas" in Figure 4.5-86, Alternative 2 Impacts to Least Bell's Vireo Habitat, in the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR). Southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood–willow riparian, arrow weed scrub, mulefat scrub, and Mexican elderberry scrub and woodland that provide nesting/foraging habitat for least Bell's vireo in "key population areas" shall be replaced or enhanced. All permanent loss to nesting/foraging habitat in key population areas shall be mitigated at a 5:1 ratio unless otherwise authorized by CDFG or USFWS. Temporary habitat loss of foraging/nesting habitat in key population areas shall be mitigated at a 2:1 ratio. The requirements for replacing habitat by either creating new habitat or removing exotic species from existing habitat shall follow the procedures outlined in RMDP/SCP BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP BIO-16. To replace the lost functions of habitat located adjacent to the Santa Clara River due to noise impacts, all nesting/foraging habitat within the 60 dBA sound contour (associated with development site roadway improvements) shall be considered degraded. Nesting/foraging habitat within this area shall be mitigated at a ratio of 2:1.

b. The loss of documented occupied nesting habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher shall be mitigated. If the coastal California gnatcatcher is identified nesting on-site, the Applicant will acquire or

preserve nesting coastal California gnatcatcher habitat at a 3:1 ratio for impacts to documented occupied habitat, or by the ratio specified in RMDP/SCP BIO-2, whichever is greater. Mitigation acquisition shall occur at an agreed-upon location as approved by the USFWS upon consultation. The Applicant shall enter into a binding legal agreement regarding the preservation of occupied habitat describing the terms of the acquisition, enhancement, and management of those lands.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-56: Within 30 days of ground-disturbing activities associated with construction or grading that would occur during the nesting/breeding season of native bird species potentially nesting on the site (typically March through August in the Project region, or as determined by a qualified biologist), the applicant shall have weekly surveys conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active nests of bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the disturbance zone or within 300 feet (500 feet for raptors) of the disturbance zone. Pre-construction surveys shall include nighttime surveys to identify active rookery sites. The surveys shall continue on a weekly basis, with the last survey being conducted no more than seven days prior to initiation of disturbance work. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed, then additional pre-disturbance surveys shall be conducted such that no more than seven days will have elapsed between the survey and ground-disturbing activities.

If active nests are found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist in consultation with CDFG, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. In the event that golden eagles establish an active nest in the River Corridor SMA, the buffers will be established in consultation with CDFG. Potential golden eagle nesting will be reported to CDFG within 24 hours. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest shall be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to these nests occur. Results of the surveys shall be provided to CDFG in the annual mitigation status report.

For listed riparian songbirds (least Bell’s vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo) USFWS protocol surveys shall be

conducted. If active nests are found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist in consultation with CDFG and USFWS, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. If no active nests are observed, construction may proceed. If active nests are found, work may proceed provided that construction activity is located at least 300 feet from active nests (or as authorized through the context of the Biological Opinion and 2081b Incidental Take Permit). This buffer may be adjusted provided noise levels do not exceed 60 dBA hourly L_{eq} at the edge of the nest site as determined by a qualified biologist in coordination with a qualified acoustician.

If the noise meets or exceeds the 60 dBA L_{eq} threshold, or if the biologist determines that the construction activities are disturbing nesting activities, the biologist shall have the authority to halt the construction and shall devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance in the vicinity. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nest site and the construction activities, and working in other areas until the young have fledged. If noise levels still exceed 60 dBA L_{eq} hourly at the edge of nesting territories and/or a no-construction buffer cannot be maintained, construction shall be deferred in that area until the nestlings have fledged. All active nests shall be monitored on a weekly basis until the nestlings fledge. The qualified biologist shall be responsible for documenting the results of the surveys and the ongoing monitoring and for reporting these results to CDFG and USFWS.

For coastal California gnatcatcher, the applicant shall conduct USFWS protocol surveys in suitable habitat within the Project area and all areas within 500 feet of access or construction-related disturbance areas. Suitable habitats, according to the protocol, include “coastal sage scrub, alluvial fan, chaparral, or intermixed or adjacent areas of grassland and riparian habitats.” A permitted biologist shall perform these surveys according to the USFWS’ (1997a) Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines. If a territory or nest is confirmed, the USFWS and CDFG shall be notified immediately. If present, a 500-foot disturbance-free buffer shall be established and demarcated by fencing or flagging. No Project activities may occur in these areas unless otherwise authorized by USFWS and CDFG. Construction activities in suitable gnatcatcher habitat will be monitored by a full-time qualified biologist. The monitoring shall be of a sufficient intensity to ensure that the biologist could detect the presence of a bird in the construction area.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-57: Thirty days prior to construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct CDFG protocol surveys to determine whether the western burrowing owl is present at the site. The surveys shall consist of three site visits and shall be conducted in areas dominated by field crops, disturbed habitat, grasslands, and along levee locations, or if such habitats occur within 500 feet of a construction zone. If located, occupied burrows shall not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31) unless a qualified biologist approved by CDFG verifies through non-invasive methods that either the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation or that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. If the burrowing owl is detected but nesting is not occurring, construction work can proceed after any owls have been evacuated from the site using CDFG-approved burrow closure procedures and after alternative nest sites have been provided in accordance with the CDFG Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (10-17-95).

Unless otherwise authorized by CDFG, a 500-foot buffer, within which no activity will be permissible, will be maintained between Project activities and nesting burrowing owls during the nesting season. This protected area will remain in effect until August 31 or at CDFG's discretion and based upon monitoring evidence, until the young owls are foraging independently.

Results of the surveys and relocation efforts shall be provided to CDFG in the annual mitigation status report.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-58: Thirty days prior to construction activities in grassland, scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riverbank, and agriculture habitats, or other suitable habitat a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit and San Diego desert woodrat.

If San Diego black-tailed jackrabbits are present, non-breeding rabbits shall be flushed from areas to be disturbed. Dens, depressions, nests, or burrows occupied by pups shall be flagged and ground-disturbing activities avoided within a minimum of 200 feet during the pup-rearing season (February 15 through July 1). This buffer may be reduced based on the location of the den upon consultation with CDFG. Occupied maternity dens, depressions, nests, or burrows shall be flagged for avoidance, and a biological monitor shall be present during construction. If unattended young are discovered, they shall be relocated to suitable habitat by a qualified biologist. The applicant shall document all San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit identified,

avoided, or moved and provide a written report to CDFG within 72 hours. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

If active San Diego desert woodrat nests (stick houses) are identified within the disturbance zone or within 100 feet of the disturbance zone, a fence shall be erected around the nest site adequate to provide the woodrat sufficient foraging habitat at the discretion of the qualified biologist in consultation with CDFG. Clearing and construction within the fenced area will be postponed or halted until young have left the nest. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when disturbance activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to these nests will occur. If avoidance is not possible, the applicant will take the following sequential steps: (1) all understory vegetation will be cleared in the area immediately surrounding active nests followed by a period of one night without further disturbance to allow woodrats to vacate the nest, (2) each occupied nest will then be disturbed by a qualified wildlife biologist until all woodrats leave the nest and seek refuge off site, and (3) the nest sticks shall be removed from the Project site and piled at the base of a nearby hardwood tree (preferably a coast live oak or California walnut). Relocated nests shall not be spaced closer than 100 feet apart, unless a qualified wildlife biologist has determined that a specific habitat can support a higher density of nests. The applicant shall document all woodrat nests moved and provide a written report to CDFG.

All woodrat relocation shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in possession of a scientific collecting permit.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-60: Thirty days prior to construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for mountain lion natal dens. The survey area shall include the construction footprint and the area within 2,000 feet of the Project disturbance boundaries. Should an active natal den be located, the applicant shall cease work within 2000 feet and inform CDFG with 24 hours. No construction activities shall occur in the 2000 foot buffer until a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFG establishes an appropriate setback from the den that would not adversely affect the successful rearing of the cubs. No construction activities or human intrusion shall occur within the established setback until the cubs have been successfully reared or the cats have left the area.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-61: No earlier than 30 days prior to the commencement of construction activities, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active roosts of bats are present on or within 300 feet of the Project disturbance boundaries. Should an active maternity roost be identified (in California, the breeding season of native bat species is generally from April 1 through August 31), the roost shall not be disturbed and construction within 300 feet shall be postponed or halted, until the roost is vacated and juveniles have fledged. Surveys shall include rocky outcrops, caves, structures, and large trees (particularly trees 12 inches in diameter or greater at 4.5 feet above grade with loose bark or other cavities). Trees and rocky outcrops shall be surveyed by a qualified bat biologist (i.e., a biologist holding a CDFG collection permit and a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG allowing the biologist to handle bats). If active maternity roosts or hibernacula are found, the rock outcrop or tree occupied by the roost shall be avoided (i.e., not removed) by the Project. If avoidance of the maternity roost must occur, the bat biologist shall survey (through the use of radio telemetry or other CDFG approved methods) for nearby alternative maternity colony sites. If the bat biologist determines in consultation with and with the approval of CDFG that there are alternative roost sites used by the maternity colony and young are not present then no further action is required.

If a maternity roost will be impacted by the Project, and no alternative maternity roosts are in use near the site, substitute roosting habitat for the maternity colony shall be provided on, or in close proximity to, the Project site no less than three months prior to the eviction of the colony. Large concrete walls (e.g., on bridges) on south or southwestern slopes that are retrofitted with slots and cavities are an example of structures that may provide alternative potential roosting habitat appropriate for maternity colonies. Alternative roost sites must be of comparable size and proximal in location to the impacted colony. CDFG shall also be notified of any hibernacula or active nurseries within the construction zone.

If non-breeding bat hibernacula are found in trees scheduled to be removed or in crevices in rock outcrops within the grading footprint, the individuals shall be safely evicted, under the direction of a qualified bat biologist, by opening the roosting area to allow airflow through the cavity or other means determined appropriate by the bat biologist (e.g., installation of one-way doors). In situations requiring one-way doors, a minimum of one week shall pass after doors are installed and temperatures should be sufficiently warm for bats to exit the roost because bats do not typically leave their roost daily during winter months in southern coastal California. This action should allow all bats to leave during the course of one week. Roosts that need to be

removed in situations where the use of one-way doors is not necessary in the judgment of the qualified bat biologist in consultation with CDFG shall first be disturbed by various means at the direction of the bat biologist at dusk to allow bats to escape during the darker hours, and the roost tree shall be removed or the grading shall occur the next day (i.e., there shall be no less or more than one night between initial disturbance and the grading or tree removal). These actions should allow bats to leave during nighttime hours, thus increasing their chance of finding new roosts with a minimum of potential predation during daylight.

If an active maternity roost is located on the Project site, and alternative roosting habitat is available, the demolition of the roost site must commence before maternity colonies form (i.e., prior to March 1) or after young are flying (i.e., after July 31) using the exclusion techniques described above.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-63: Each tract map Home Owners' Association shall supply educational information to future residents regarding pets, wildlife, and open space areas. The material shall discuss the presence of native animals (e.g., coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion), indicate that those native animals could prey on pets, indicate that no actions shall be taken against native animals should they prey on pets allowed outdoors, and indicate that pets must be leashed while using the designated trail system and/or in any areas within or adjacent to open space. Control of stray and feral cats and dogs will be conducted in open space areas on an as-needed basis by the NLMO(s) or the Newhall Ranch *joint powers authority* (JPA) managing the River Corridor SMA, High Country SMA, or Salt Creek area or by the HOAs managing the Open Areas. Feral cats and dogs may be trapped and deposited with the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Control.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-64: An integrated pest management (IPM) plan that addresses the use of pesticides (including rodenticides and insecticides) on site will be prepared prior to the issuance of building permits for the initial tract map. The IPM will implement appropriate Best Management Practices to avoid and minimize adverse effects on the natural environment, including vegetation communities, special-status species, species without special status, and associated habitats, including prey and food resources (e.g., insects, small mammals, seeds). Potential management practices include cultural (e.g., planting pest-free stock plants), mechanical (e.g., weeding, trapping), and biological controls

(e.g., natural predators or competitors of pest species, insect growth regulators, natural pheromones, or biopesticides), and the judicious use of chemical controls, as appropriate (e.g., targeted spraying versus broadcast applications). The IPM will establish management thresholds (i.e., not all incidences of a pest require management); prescribe monitoring to determine when management thresholds have been exceeded; and identify the most appropriate and efficient control method that avoids and minimizes risks to natural resources. Preparation of the CC&Rs for each tract map shall include language that prohibits the use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the Project site.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-68: Any common or special-status species bat day roost sites found by a qualified biologist during pre-construction surveys conducted per RMDP/SCP BIO-61, to be directly (within project disturbance footprint) or indirectly (within 300 feet of project disturbance footprint) impacted are to be mitigated with creation of artificial roost sites. The Project applicant shall establish (an) alternative roost site(s) within suitable preserved open space located at an adequate distance from sources of human disturbance.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-70: Construction plans shall include necessary design features and construction notes to ensure protection of vegetation communities and special-status plant and aquatic wildlife species adjacent to construction. In addition to applicable erosion control plans and performance under SCAQMD Rule 403d dust control (SCAQMD 2005), the Project stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall include the following minimum BMPs. Together, the implementation of these requirements shall ensure protection of adjacent habitats and wildlife species during construction. At a minimum, the following measures/restrictions shall be incorporated into the SWPPP, and noted on construction plans where appropriate, to avoid impacting special-status species during construction:

- Avoid planting or seeding invasive species in development areas within 200 feet of native vegetation communities.
- Provide location and details for any dust control fencing along Project boundaries (RMDP/SCP BIO-71).
- Vehicles shall not be driven or equipment operated in areas of ponded or flowing water, or where wetland vegetation, riparian vegetation, or aquatic organisms may be destroyed, except as otherwise provided for in the 404 Permit or 1603 Agreement.

- Silt settling basins installed during the construction process shall be located away from areas of ponded or flowing water to prevent discolored, silt-bearing water from reaching areas of ponded or flowing water during normal flow regimes.
- If a stream channel has been altered during the construction and/or maintenance operations, its low flow channel shall be returned as nearly as practical to pre-Project topographic conditions without creating a possible future bank erosion problem or a flat, wide channel or sluice-like area. The gradient of the streambed shall be returned to pre-Project grade, to the extent practical, unless it represents a wetland restoration area.
- Temporary structures and associated materials not designed to withstand high seasonal flows shall be removed to areas above the high water mark before such flows occur.
- Staging/storage areas for construction equipment and materials shall be located outside of the ordinary high water mark.
- Any equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated within or adjacent to the stream shall be checked and maintained daily, to prevent leaks of materials that could be deleterious to aquatic life if introduced to water.
- Stationary equipment such as motors, pumps, generators, and welders which may be located within the riverbed construction zone shall be positioned over drip pans. No fuel storage tanks shall be allowed in the riverbed.
- No debris, bark, slash sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete or washing thereof, oil, petroleum products, or other organic material from any construction, or associated activity of whatever nature, shall be allowed to enter into, or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into, watercourses included in the permit. When construction operations are completed, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area.
- No equipment maintenance shall be done within or near any stream where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas with stream flow.
- The operator shall install and use fully covered trash receptacles to contain all food, food scraps, food wrappers, beverage containers, and other miscellaneous trash.
- The operator shall not permit pets on or adjacent to the construction site.
- No guns or other weapons are allowed on the construction site during construction, with the exception of the security personnel

and only for security functions. No hunting shall be authorized/ permitted during construction.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-71: Development areas shall have dust control measures implemented and maintained to prevent dust from impacting vegetation communities and special-status plant and aquatic wildlife species. Dust control shall comply with SCAQMD Rule 403d (SCAQMD 2005). Where construction activities occur within 100 feet of known special-status plant species locations, chemical dust suppression shall not be utilized. Where determined necessary by a qualified biologist, a screening fence (i.e., a six-foot-high chain link fence with green fabric up to a height of five feet) shall be installed to protect special-status species locations. See RMDP/SCP BIO-32 for dust control requirements related to spineflower preserves.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-72: Plant palettes proposed for use on landscaped slopes, street medians, park sites, and other public landscaped and FMZ areas within 200 feet of native vegetation communities shall be reviewed by a qualified restoration specialist to ensure that the proposed landscape plants will not naturalize and require maintenance or cause vegetation community degradation in the open space areas (River Corridor SMA, High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and natural portions of the Open Area). Container plants to be installed within public areas within 200 feet of the open space areas shall be inspected by a qualified restoration specialist for the presence of disease, weeds, and pests, including Argentine ants. Plants with pests, weeds, or diseases shall be rejected. In addition, landscape plants within 200 feet of native vegetation communities shall not be on the Cal-IPC California Invasive Plant Inventory (most recent version) or on the list of Invasive Ornamental Plants listed in Appendix B of the SCP. The current Cal-IPC list can be obtained from the Cal-IPC web site (http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php). Landscape plans will include a plant palette composed of native or non-native, non-invasive species that do not require high irrigation rates. Except as required for fuel modification, irrigation of perimeter landscaping shall be limited to temporary irrigation (i.e., until plants become established).

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change, except that the current Cal-IPC website is https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-78: A cowbird trapping program shall be implemented once vegetation clearing begins and maintained throughout the construction,

maintenance, and monitoring period of the riparian restoration sites. A minimum of five traps shall be utilized, with at least one trap adjacent to the project site and one or two traps located at feeding areas or other CDFG-approved location. The trapping contractor may consult with CDFG to request modification of the trap location(s). CDFG must approve any relocation of the traps. Traps will be maintained beginning each year on April 1 and concluding on/or about November 1 (may conclude earlier, depending upon weather conditions and results of capture). The trapping contractor may also consult CDFG on a modified, CDFG-approved trapping schedule modification. The applicant shall follow CDFG and USFWS protocol. In the event that trapping is terminated after the first few years, subsequent phases of the RMDP development will require initiation of trapping surveys to determine whether re-establishment of the trapping program is necessary.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-80: The Project applicant will retain a qualified biologist to develop an Exotic Wildlife Species Control Plan and implement a control program for bullfrog, African clawed frog, and crayfish. The program will require the control of these species during construction within the River corridor and modified tributaries (bridges, diversions, bank stabilization, drop structures). The Plan shall include a description of the species targeted for eradication, the methods of harvest that will be employed, the disposal methods, and the measures that would be employed to avoid impacts to sensitive wildlife (e.g., stickleback, arroyo toad, nesting birds) during removal activities (i.e., timing, avoidance of specific areas). Annual monitoring shall occur for the first five years after construction of Project facilities. After five years, bi-annual monitoring shall occur in perpetuity to determine if additional control is necessary. The Project applicant will fund an endowment, approved by CDFG, for monitoring in perpetuity. Monitoring will be conducted within sentinel locations along the River Corridor SMA and where the Project provides potential habitat for these species (e.g., future ponds and water features). Control shall be conducted within Project facilities where monitoring results indicate that exotic species have colonized an area.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change with respect to modified tributaries or other potential habitat for the identified species within the Entrada South Planning Area Site.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-82: a. All surfaces on new antennae and phone/utility towers shall be designed and operated with anti-perching devices in conformance with APLIC standards to deter California condors and other raptors from perching. During construction the area shall be

kept clean of debris, such as cable, trash, and construction materials. The Applicant shall collect all microtrash and litter (anything shiny, such as broken glass), vehicle fluids, and food waste from the Project area on a daily basis. Workers will be trained on the issue of microtrash: what constitutes microtrash, its potential effects on California condors, and how to avoid the deposition of microtrash.

b. The Applicant shall retain a qualified biologist with knowledge of California condors to monitor construction activities within the Project area. The resumes of the proposed biologist(s) will be provided to CDFG for concurrence. This biologist(s) will be referred to as the authorized biologist hereafter. During clearing and grubbing of construction areas, the qualified biologist shall be present at all times. During mass grading, construction sites shall be monitored on a daily basis. The authorized biologist will have the authority to stop all activities until appropriate corrective measures have been completed. If condors are observed landing in the Project area, the Applicant shall avoid further construction within 500 feet of the sighting until the animals have left the area, or as otherwise authorized by CDFW and USFWS. All condor sightings in the Project area will be reported to CDFW and USFWS within 24 hours of the sighting. Should condors be found roosting within 0.5 mile of the construction area, no construction activity shall occur between 1 hour before sunset to 1 hour after sunrise, or until the condors leave the area, or as otherwise directed by USFWS. Should condors be found nesting within 1.5 miles of the construction area, no construction activity will occur until further authorization occurs from CDFW and USFWS.

c. To further protect California condor potentially foraging in the Project area over the long term from negative interactions with humans and/or artificial structures, the Applicant or the JPA or the NLMO shall remove dead cattle that are found or reported within 1,000 feet of a residential or commercial development boundary. Dead cattle shall be relocated to a predetermined location within the High Country SMA/SEA or Salt Creek area. The locations where carcasses shall be placed shall be a minimum of 1,000 feet from a development area boundary. Appropriate locations for transfer of carcasses include open grasslands and oak/grassland areas where condors can readily detect carcasses and easily land and take off without encountering physical obstacles such as powerlines and other utility structures. The proposed locations would be selected and approved by the CDFG and USFWS. Pursuant to this measure, a telephone number for reporting dead cattle shall be provided and actively maintained. Any cattle

carcasses transferred to the relocation areas shall be reported to the USFWS Condor group.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-84: Bridge and culvert designs, where practicable, shall provide roosting habitat for bats. A qualified biologist shall work with the Project engineer in identifying and incorporating structures into the design that provide suitable roosting habitat for bat species occurring in the Project area. The final design of the roosting structures would be chosen in consultation with CDFG.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-85: To preclude the invasion of Argentine ants into the spineflower preserves and their associated buffers, controls will be implemented using an integrated pest management (IPM) approach in accordance with the approved SCP. The controls include the following.

1. Providing “dry zones” between urban development and spineflower populations, where typical soil moistures are maintained at levels below about 10% soil saturation, which will deter the establishment of nesting colonies of ants; and providing dry zone buffers of sufficient width to reduce the potential for Argentine ant activity within core habitat areas.
2. Where feasible, and/or appropriate, dry areas such as parking lots and roadways shall be built next to preserve boundaries. These will be designed to slope away from the preserve to avoid runoff entering the preserve.
3. Pedestrian pathways placed next to preserves shall consist of decomposed granite or other gravel to minimize the holding of moisture, thereby preventing establishment of suitable habitat for Argentine ant colonies.
4. Ensuring that landscape container plants installed within 200 feet of spineflower preserves are ant free prior to installation, to reduce the chance of colonies establishing in areas close to the preserves.
5. Maintaining natural hydrological conditions in the spineflower preserves, including the buffers, through project design features for roadways, French drains, irrigation systems, underground utilities, drainage pipes and fencing, storm drains, and any other BMP measures that apply to surface water entering the preserve areas.
6. Using drought-resistant plants in FMZs and minimizing irrigation to the extent feasible.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-87: Upon initiating landscaping within a development area, quarterly monitoring shall be initiated for Argentine ants along the urban–open space interface at sentinel locations where invasions could occur (e.g., where moist microhabitats that attract Argentine ants may be created). A qualified biologist shall determine the monitoring locations. Ant pitfall traps will be placed in these sentinel locations and operated on a quarterly basis to detect invasion by Argentine ants. If Argentine ants are detected during monitoring, direct control measures will be implemented immediately to help prevent the invasion from worsening. These direct controls may include but are not limited to nest/mound insecticide treatment, or available natural control methods being developed. A general reconnaissance of the infested area would also be conducted to identify and correct the possible source of the invasion, such as uncontrolled urban runoff, leaking pipes, or collected water. Monitoring and control of Argentine ants would occur in perpetuity. The Project applicant will fund an endowment, approved by CDFG, for monitoring in perpetuity.

(*This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-88: Any southern California black walnut and mainland cherry trees or shrubs outside riparian areas greater than one inch dbh shall be replaced in the ratio of at least 2:1. Multi-trunk trees/shrub dbh shall be calculated based on combined trunk dbh. Mitigation shall be deemed complete when each replacement tree attains at least one inch in diameter one foot above the base.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-SW-3: The applicant shall create or expand Corps jurisdictional wetlands on site, so that the acreage of wetlands on site would exceed the acreage that existed prior to Project implementation. In order to ensure that created wetlands persist in the long-term, wetlands shall be constructed in locations where suitable hydrology can be created by using existing streamflow, without the need for artificial water sources. New or expanded wetland areas shall be created in one or more of the following locations:

The Salt Creek drainage within the High Country SMA or the Salt Creek area in Ventura County. This area is the first priority for creation of mitigation wetlands, as the entire watershed would be preserved in perpetuity. The lower reach of this drainage supports year-round surface flows, and the presence of an existing, high-quality wetland shows that the topographic and hydrologic conditions are suitable for

the persistence of wetlands. Approximately 23.3 acres of new wetlands would be created in the Salt Creek drainage, unless it is determined that a lesser acreage would be sufficient to ensure that the project does not result in a net loss of federally protected wetlands.

Lower or middle Potrero Canyon. These reaches support intermittent to perennial surface flows, and the broad, flat Potrero canyon bottom provides opportunities for expanded wetlands acreage though the creation of palustrine fringe wetlands. In the event that the proposed creation of 23.3 acres of wetlands in the Salt Creek watershed is insufficient to ensure that the proposed project does not result in a net loss of wetlands, any remaining mitigation acreage would be provided in these two locations.

Although the river supports substantial surface flows, with the exception of the conversion of portions of the existing agricultural fields to wetlands outside of the active channel area (above the ordinary high water mark), the creation of mitigation wetlands along the Santa Clara River mainstem is not proposed due to the extreme scouring that occurs within the mainstem at relatively frequent intervals. The geomorphic character of the river is derived from large flood events that move large amounts of sediment, scour vegetation, and reshape the active channel. Because of this, it is uncertain whether mitigation wetlands created along the river mainstem within the active channel would persist in the long run. However, existing agricultural fields along the Santa Clara River mainstem above the OHWM, Salt Creek, and Potrero Canyon locations offer ample opportunities to create the wetlands acreage necessary to mitigate the Project's impacts on federally protected wetlands. This mitigation measure would result in short-term adverse impacts associated with wetland creation, including construction-related noise, emissions from equipment; and loss of upland habitats in areas where wetlands creation is proposed.

(*This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change, except that the mitigation acreage requirements in the measure do not apply, as they indicate the minimum acreage required to compensate for wetlands impacts of the RMDP, which is not part of the current Project*.)

RMDP/SCP-SW-4: All areas where temporary construction impacts affect Corps or CDFG jurisdictional areas (generally, these are areas where impacts would occur due to the construction of Project facilities, but that are outside the permanent footprint of the actual facility), shall be revegetated with appropriate native vegetation after completion of construction in the area. A revegetation plan shall be prepared and implemented in accordance with the terms set forth in mitigation measures SP-4.6-1 though SP-4.6-15 and SP-4.6-63.

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change. Note that the process for verifying that revegetation plans comply with the terms set forth in measures SP-4.6-1 though SP-4.6-15 and SP-4.6-63 is implemented through measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-1, RMDP/SCP-BIO-3, and RMDP/SCP-BIO-12.)

RMDP/SCP-SW-6: **T**o the extent that on-site mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional tributary drainages is insufficient to meet the mitigation ratios required by revised Mitigation Measure BIO-2, then the remaining mitigation obligation shall be met at off-site properties within the Santa Clara River watershed, via use of one or more of the following mitigation approaches (at applicant's option): (a) creation of additional jurisdictional acreage in tributaries to the Santa Clara River occurring off site such that the mitigation site has an equal or greater value than the impacted site; (b) preservation of property containing jurisdictional tributaries to the Santa Clara River having an equal or greater value than the impacted site via a conservation easement or analogous method; or (c) habitat enhancement activities in jurisdictional tributaries for the necessary acreage (*e.g.*, exotic species removal under the terms and conditions specified in Mitigation Measures BIO-9 and BIO-10).

(This measure applies to the Entrada South Planning Area without change.)

(c) Additional Biology Mitigation Measure Specific to the Modified Project

ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1: Prior to construction, the Applicant shall develop a relocation plan for California glossy snake, to be incorporated into the relocation plan developed for other special-status reptile species, according to requirements in RMDP/SCP-BIO-54.

ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2: Should Project ground-disturbing activities be scheduled to occur during the Crotch bumble bee colony active period, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment to identify areas containing suitable habitat for Crotch bumble bee. The qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for Crotch bumble bee in the areas identified, using a methodology (including number and timing of surveys) accepted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

If Crotch bumble bee are not detected, no further measures are required. A qualified biologist shall be present during ground-disturbing Project activities that occur during the Crotch bumble bee colony active period.

If Crotch bumble bee are detected:

1. Ground-disturbing activities shall be prohibited within 100 feet of any known, occupied Crotch bumble bee nest, or as determined by a qualified biologist through evaluation of topographic features or distribution of floral resources. The prohibition will continue for the duration of the Crotch bumble bee colony active period, unless the nest is determined to be inactive by a qualified biologist or is relocated or removed with CDFW authorization.
2. The Project proponent shall prepare a Crotch Bumble Bee Avoidance and Minimization Plan for review and approval by CDFW, which shall include additional, site-specific measures to avoid take of Crotch bumble bee during Project ground-disturbing activities during the colony active period.
3. If the Crotch bumble bee remains a candidate for listing, or has been listed, as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act ("CESA"), and Project activities will cause "take" of Crotch bumble bee, as that term is defined for purposes of the CESA, the Project proponent shall obtain authorization for such take pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081 or any other applicable provision of law providing such authorization.

(2) VCC Planning Area

The RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR adopted in 2010 used mitigation measures already adopted under the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR as revised (March 1999), as well as a set of additional mitigation measures to minimize impacts to biological resources. The following mitigation measures are those measures from the Specific Plan and the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR that apply to the VCC Planning Area. The Specific Plan measures use the format SP-4.6-XX, whereas the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR measures use the format RMDP/SCP-BIO-XX. The State-certified EIR also added several PDFs and mitigation measures in 2017 to address unarmored threespine stickleback ("stickleback"; *Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*), some of which apply to Modified Project activities within Castaic Creek. Those PDFs use the format RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-XX, and the additional stickleback mitigation measures use the format RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-XX. An additional PDF (VCC-PDF-BIO-1) is included to address potential impacts to stickleback from any temporary haul route crossing of Castaic Creek. Two additional mitigation measures are included: ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1, specific to surveys and relocation of California glossy snake, and ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2, specific to surveys for Crotch bumble bee, neither of which was considered a special-status species at the time of the analysis for the State-certified EIR. Finally, several mitigation measures previously adopted by the County for the larger Valencia Commerce Center development area, of which the current VCC Planning Area is a part, are included. These measures use the format VCC-4.X-Y.

Note that the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR predated approval of the SCP and associated incidental take permit (ITP) by CDFW. Therefore, many of the spineflower-related mitigation measures adopted under the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR have been fully satisfied and/or superseded by preparation, approval and, in some cases, implementation of the SCP and do not apply to the VCC Planning Area.

(a) Specific Plan Program EIR Biology and Waters Mitigation Measures Applicable to the VCC Planning Area

SP-4.6-1: The restoration mitigation areas located within the River Corridor SMA shall be in areas that have been disturbed by previous uses or activities. Mitigation shall be conducted only on sites where soils, hydrology, and microclimate conditions are suitable for riparian habitat. First priority will be given to those restorable areas that occur adjacent to existing patches (areas) of native habitat that support sensitive species, particularly Endangered or Threatened species. The goal is to increase habitat patch size and connectivity with other existing habitat patches while restoring habitat values that will benefit sensitive species.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-2: A qualified biologist shall prepare or review revegetation plans. The biologist shall also monitor the restoration effort from its inception through the establishment phase.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-3: Revegetation Plans may be prepared as part of a California Department of Fish and Game 1603 Streambed Alteration Agreement and/or a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, and shall include:

- Input from both the Project proponent and resource agencies to assure that the Project objectives applicable to the River Corridor SMA and the criteria of this RMP are met.
- The identification of restoration/mitigation sites to be used. This effort shall involve an analysis of the suitability of potential sites to support the desired habitat, including a description of the existing conditions at the site(s) and such base line data information deemed necessary by the permitting agency.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-4: The revegetation effort shall involve an analysis of the site conditions such as soils and hydrology so that site preparation needs can be evaluated. The revegetation plan shall include the details and procedures required to prepare the restoration site for planting (*i.e.*, grading, soil preparation, soil stockpiling, soil amendments, *etc.*), including the need for a supplemental irrigation system, if any.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-5: Restoration of riparian habitats within the River Corridor SMA shall use plant species native to the Santa Clara River. Cuttings or seeds of native plants shall be gathered within the River Corridor SMA or purchased from nurseries with local supplies to provide good genetic stock for the replacement habitats. Plant species used in the restoration of riparian habitat shall be listed on the approved project plant palette (Specific Plan Table 2.6-1, Recommended Plant Species for Habitat Restoration in the River Corridor SMA) or as approved by the permitting State and Federal agencies.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-6: The final revegetation plans shall include notes that outline the methods and procedures for the installation of the plant materials. Plant protection measures identified by the project biologist shall be incorporated into the planting design/layout.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-7: The revegetation plan shall include guidelines for the maintenance of the mitigation site during the establishment phase of the plantings. The maintenance program shall contain guidelines for the control of non-native plant species, the maintenance of the irrigation system, and the replacement of plant species.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-8: The revegetation plan shall provide for monitoring to evaluate the growth of the developing habitat. Specific performance goals for the restored habitat shall be defined by qualitative and quantitative characteristics of similar habitats on the River (*e.g.*, density, cover, species composition, structural development). The monitoring effort shall include an evaluation of not only the plant material installed, but the use of the site by wildlife. The length of the monitoring period shall be determined by the permitting state and/or federal agency.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-9: Monitoring reports for the mitigation site shall be reviewed by the permitting State and/or Federal agency.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-10: Contingency plans and appropriate remedial measures shall also be outlined in the revegetation plan.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-11: Habitat enhancement as referred to in this document means the rehabilitation of areas of native habitat that have been moderately disturbed by past activities (*e.g.*, grazing, roads, oil and natural gas

operations, *etc.)* or have been invaded by non-native plant species such as giant cane (*Arundo donax*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.).

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-13: To provide guidelines for the installation of supplemental plantings of native species within enhancement areas, a revegetation plan shall be prepared prior to implementation of mitigation (see guidelines for revegetation plans above). These supplemental plantings will be composed of plant species similar to those growing in the existing habitat patch (see Specific Plan Table 2.6-1).

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-14: Not all enhancement areas will necessarily require supplemental plantings of native species. Some areas may support conditions conducive for rapid "natural" reestablishment of native species. The revegetation plan may incorporate means of enhancement to areas of compacted soils, poor soil fertility, trash or flood debris, and roads as a way of enhancing riparian habitat values.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-15: Removal of non-native species such as giant cane (*Arundo donax*), salt cedar or tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), if included in a revegetation plan to mitigate impacts, shall be subject to the following standards:

- First priority shall be given to those habitat patches that support or have a high potential for supporting sensitive species, particularly Endangered or Threatened species.
- All non-native species removals shall be conducted according to a resource agency approved exotics removal program.
- Removal of non-native species in patches of native habitat shall be conducted in such a way as to minimize impacts to the existing native riparian plant species.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-16: Mitigation banking activities for riparian habitats will be subject to State and Federal regulations and permits. Mitigation banking for oak resources shall be conducted pursuant to the Oak Resources Replacement Program. Mitigation banking for elderberry scrub shall be subject to approval of plans by the County Forester.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-26a: Two types of habitat restoration may occur in the High Country SMA: (1) riparian revegetation activities principally in Salt Creek Canyon; and (2) oak tree replacement in, or adjacent to, existing oak woodlands and savannahs.

- Mitigation requirements for riparian revegetation activities within the High Country SMA are the same as those for the River Corridor SMA and are set forth in MM SP-4.6-1 through MM SP-4.6-11 and MM SP-4.6-13 through MM SP-4.6-16, above.
- Mitigation requirements for oak tree replacement are set forth in MM SP-4.6-48, below.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-27: Removal of grazing from the High Country SMA except for those grazing activities associated with long-term resource management programs, is a principal means of enhancing habitat values in the creeks, brushland and woodland areas of the SMA. The removal of grazing in the High Country SMA is discussed below under (b) 4. Long Term Management. All enhancement activities for riparian habitat within the High Country SMA shall be governed by the same provisions as set forth for enhancement in the River Corridor SMA. Specific Plan Table 2.6-3 of the Resource Management Plan provides a list of appropriate plant species for use in enhancement areas in the High Country SMA.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-28: Mitigation banking activities for riparian habitats will be subject to State and Federal regulations and permits. Mitigation banking for oak resources, shall be conducted pursuant to the Oak Resource Replacement Program. Mitigation banking for elderberry scrub shall be subject to approval of plans by the County Forester.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-43: Suitable portions of *Open Area* may be used for mitigation of riparian, *oak resources*, or elderberry scrub. Mitigation activities within *Open Area* shall be subject to the following requirements, as applicable.

- River Corridor SMA Mitigation Requirements, including: Mitigation Measures 4.6-1 through 4.6-11 and 4.6-13 through 4.6-16; and
- High Country SMA Mitigation Requirements, including: Mitigation Measures 4.6-27, 4.6-29 through 4.6-42, and
- Mitigation Banking—Mitigation Measure 4.6-16.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-47a: Mitigation Banking will be permitted within the River Corridor SMA, the High Country SMA, and the *Open Area land use designations*, subject to the following requirements:

- Mitigation banking activities for riparian habitats will be subject to State and Federal regulations, and shall be conducted pursuant to

the mitigation requirements set forth in Mitigation Measure 4.6-1 through 4.6-15 above.

- Mitigation banking for oak resources shall be conducted pursuant to 4.6-48, below.
- Mitigation banking for elderberry scrub shall be subject to approval of plans by the County Forester

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-48: Standards for the restoration and enhancement of oak resources within the High Country SMA and the Open Area include the following (oak resources include oak trees of the sizes regulated under the County Oak Tree Ordinance, southern California black walnut trees, Mainland cherry trees, and Mainland cherry shrubs):

- To mitigate the impacts to oak resources that may be removed as development occurs in the Specific Plan Area, replacement trees shall be planted in conformance with the oak tree ordinance in effect at that time.
- Oak resource species obtained from the local gene pool shall be used in restoration or enhancement.
- Prior to recordation of construction-level final subdivision maps, an oak resource replacement plan shall be prepared that provides the guidelines for the oak tree planting and/or replanting. The Plan shall be reviewed by the Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning and the County Forester and shall include the following: site selection and preparation, selection of proper species including sizes and planting densities, protection from herbivores, site maintenance, performance standards, remedial actions, and a monitoring program.
- All plans and specifications shall follow County oak tree guidelines, as specified in the County Oak Tree Ordinance.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-55: Prior to development or disturbance within wetlands or other sensitive habitats, permits shall be obtained from pertinent Federal and State agencies and the Specific Plan shall conform to the specific provisions of said permits. Performance criteria shall include that described in Mitigation Measures 4.6-1 through 4.6-16 and 4.6-42 through 4.6-47 for wetlands, and Mitigation Measures 4.6-27, 4.6-28, and 4.6-42 through 4.6-48 for other sensitive habitats.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change except that the requirement for the Specific Plan to conform does not apply.)

SP-4.6-56: All lighting along the perimeter of natural areas shall be downcast luminaries with light patterns directed away from natural areas.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-58: To limit impacts to water quality the Specific Plan shall conform with all provisions of required NPDES permits and water quality permits that would be required by the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change, except that the reference to the Specific Plan does not apply.)

SP-4.6-62: When a map revision or Substantial Conformance determination on any subdivision map or Conditional Use Permit would result in changes to an approved oak tree permit, then the oak tree report for that oak tree permit must be amended for the area of change, and the addendum must be approved by the County Forester prior to issuance of grading permits for the area of the map or CUP being changed.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

SP-4.6-63: Riparian resources that are impacted by buildout of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan shall be restored with similar habitat at the rate of one acre replaced for each acre lost.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

(b) RMDP/SCP Final EIS/EIR Biology Mitigation Measures Applicable to the VCC Planning Area

RMDP/SCP-BIO-1: Mitigation Measures SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-16[83] specify requirements for riparian mitigation conducted in the High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and Open Area. The RMDP includes requirements for mitigation of both riparian and upland habitats (such as riparian adjacent big sagebrush scrub), and incorporates these Mitigation Measures (SP-4.6-1 through SP-4.6-16). A Comprehensive Mitigation Implementation Plan (CMIP) has been developed by Newhall Land that provides an outline of mitigation to offset impacts described in the RMDP. The CMIP demonstrates the feasibility of creating the required mitigation acreage from RMDP project impacts (see RMDP/SCP BIO-2). However, the CMIP does not identify mitigation actions specifically for impacts to waters of the United

[83] *SP-4.6 mitigation measures were previously adopted by the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR (1999, 2003) and the EIS/EIR for the RMDP/SCP (2010).*

States. But since these waters are a subset of CDFG jurisdiction, the necessary Corps mitigation requirements would be met or exceeded.[84]

Detailed riparian/wetland mitigation plans, in accordance with the CMIP, shall be submitted to, and are subject to the approval of, the Corps and CDFG as part of the subnotification letters for individual projects. Individual project submittals shall include applicable CMIP elements, complying with the requirements outlined below. The detailed wetlands mitigation plan shall specify, at a minimum, the following: (1) the location of mitigation sites; (2) site preparation, including grading, soils preparation, irrigation installation, (2a) the quantity (seed or nursery stock) and species of plants to be planted (all species to be native to region); (3) detailed procedures for creating additional vegetation communities; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants; (5) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration area; (6) a list of criteria by which to measure success of the mitigation sites (e.g., percent cover and richness of native species, percent survivorship, establishment of self-sustaining native of plantings, maximum allowable percent of non-native species); (7) measures to exclude unauthorized entry into the creation/enhancement areas; and (8) contingency measures in the event that mitigation efforts are not successful. The detailed wetlands mitigation plans shall also classify the biological value (as "high," "moderate," or "low") of the vegetation communities to be disturbed as defined in these conditions, or may be based on an agency-approved method (e.g., Hybrid Assessment of Riparian Communities (HARC)). The biological value shall be used to determine mitigation replacement ratios required under RMDP/SCP BIO-2 and RMDP/SCP BIO-10. The detailed wetlands mitigation plans shall provide for the 3:1 replacement of any southern California black walnut to be removed from the riparian corridor for individual projects. The plan shall be subject to the approval of CDFG and the Corps and approved prior to the impact to riparian resources. RMDP/SCP BIO-4 describes that the functions and values will be assessed for the riparian areas that will be removed, and RMDP/SCP BIO-2 and RMDP/SCP BIO-10 describe the replacement ratios for the habitats that will be impacted.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: approval of mitigation plans will occur when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure.)

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[84] *For detailed information concerning the Corps compensatory mitigation program for impacts to waters of the United States, please reference Appendix 11.0 of the Section 404(b)1 Alternatives Analysis, included in Appendix F1.0 of the Final EIS/EIR.*

RMDP/SCP-BIO-2: The permanent removal of existing habitats in Corps and/or CDFG jurisdictional areas in the Santa Clara River and tributaries shall be replaced by creating habitats of similar functions and values/services (see RMDP/SCP BIO-4 and MM SW-3 of Section 4.6 of the Final EIS/EIR) on the Project Site, or as allowed under RMDP/SCP BIO-10.

a. Permanent impacts to Corps jurisdiction (which is a subset of CDFG jurisdiction) are to be mitigated by initiating mitigation site creation and/or restoration in advance of impacts, to replace the combined loss of acreage, functions, and services at a minimum 1:1 ratio. Initiation of a Corps mitigation site is defined as: (1) completion of site preparation; (2) installation of temporary irrigation; and (3) seeding and/or planting of the mitigation site. For detailed information, please refer to the Mitigation Plan for Impacts to Waters of the United States included in the Draft 404(b)(1) Alternatives Analysis in Appendix F1.0 of the Final EIS/EIR. The Potrero Canyon CAM creation and restoration site and the Mayo Crossing restoration site (i.e., an existing agricultural field) are considered the initial sites to be implemented prior to Corps jurisdictional impacts by development, thereby establishing upfront mitigation credits. As individual Project components are proposed for construction, consistent with the construction notification, quantities of mitigation acreage required to offset permanent impact acreages shall be calculated and compared to pre-mitigation area credits remaining. A project would not proceed unless adequate mitigation capacity is demonstrated. Temporary impact areas shall be mitigated in place in a manner that restores impacted functions and services as described in the mitigation plan noted above. If upfront compensatory mitigation cannot be achieved, a Corps-approved method would be utilized to determine the additional compensatory mitigation to offset the temporal loss of functions and services not included in the 1:1 mitigation ratio for permanent impacts.

   These measures satisfy the Corps mitigation requirements for impacts to Corps jurisdictional areas. However, impacts to jurisdictional areas (which include all areas subject to Corps and/or CDFG jurisdiction) are also subject to all of the mitigation requirements for impacts to CDFG jurisdiction, including RMDP/SCP BIO-2b.

b. For permanent and temporary impacts to CDFG jurisdiction, consistent with the subnotification, quantities of mitigation acreage required shall be calculated in accordance with the criteria below:

   - If suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria (RMDP/SCP BIO-6) prior to disturbance at the impact site, the

mitigation sites shall replace the permanently impacted habitats in kind at a 1:1 ratio.

- If a suitable mitigation site has not met success criteria prior to disturbance of the impact site, habitat shall be replaced in kind (tributary for tributary impacts, river for river impacts) according to the replacement ratios specified in Table 13. These ratios provide compensatory mitigation for temporal losses of riparian function by considering the existing functional condition of the resources to be impacted, as well as time required for different vegetation types to become established and mature.

Table 13
CDFG Jurisdictional Permanent Impacts Mitigation Ratios
(Ratios Listed by Vegetation Types & Quality)

		(Mitigation Ratio)	(Mitigation Ratio)	(Mitigation Ratio)
Southern Cottonwood–Willow Riparian Forrest	SCWRF	4:1	3:1	2:1
Southern Willow Scrub	SWS	3:1	2.5:1	2:1
Oak Woodland (Coast Live, Valley)	CLOW/VOW	3:1	2.5:1	2:1
Big Sagebrush Scrub	BSS	2.5:1	2:1	1.5:1
Mexican Elderberry Scrub	MES	2.5:1	2:1	1.5:1
Cismontane Alkaline Marsh	CAM	2.5:1	2:1	1.5:1
Coastal and Valley Fresh Water Marsh	CFWM	2:1	1.5:1	1:1
Mulefat Scrub	MFS	2:1	1.5:1	1.25:1
Arrowweed Scrub	AWS	2:1	1.5:1	1:1
California Sagebrush Scrub, and CSB-Dominated Habitats	CSB, CSB-A, -BS, -CB, -CHP, and -PS	2:1	1.5:1	1:1
Herbaceous Wetland	HW	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
River Wash, Emergent Veg.	RW	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
Chaparral, Chamise Chaparral	CHP, CC	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
Coyote Brush Scrub	CYS	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
Eriodictyon Scrub	EDS	1.5:1	1.25:1	1:1
California Grass Lands	CGL	1:1	1:1	1:1
Agricultural/Disturbed/ Developed	AGR/DL/DEV	1:1	1:1	1:1

Table 13
CDFG Jurisdictional Permanent Impacts Mitigation Ratios
(Ratios Listed by Vegetation Types & Quality)

		(Mitigation Ratio)	(Mitigation Ratio)	(Mitigation Ratio)

* *HIGH reach value indicates a portion of the Santa Clara River or main tributary that scored above 0.79 Total Score using the HARC methods described in Section 4.2, Geomorphology and Riparian Resources, of the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.*

** *MEDIUM reach value indicates a portion of the Santa Clara River or main tributary that scored between 0.4 and 0.79 Total Score using the HARC methods described in Section 4.2 of the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.*

*** *LOW reach value indicates a portion of the Santa Clara River or main tributary that scored below 0.4 Total Score using the HARC methods described in Section 4.2 of the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.*

- If a suitable mitigation site has not been initiated within two years following disturbance of the impact site, but is initiated within five years following such disturbance, the permanently impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a replacement ratio equal to the ratio required by Table 13 plus 0.5:1. (For example, if mitigation for impacts to high-quality mulefat scrub were initiated three years after disturbance, the required replacement ratio would be 2.5:1.)
- If a suitable mitigation site has not been initiated within five years following disturbance of the impact site, the permanently impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a replacement ratio equal to the ratio required by Table 13 plus 1:1. (For example, if mitigation for impacts to high-quality mulefat scrub were initiated six years after disturbance, the required replacement ratio would be 3:1.)
- Where temporary impacts to CDFG-jurisdictional areas are proposed, the mitigation acreage required shall be determined based upon the duration of the proposed construction disturbance and the type of vegetation to be impacted. As individual Project components are proposed for construction, consistent with the subnotification process, the quantities of mitigation acreage required for temporary impacts to CDFG jurisdictional areas shall be calculated according to the following criteria:
- If suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria prior to temporary disturbance at the impact site, the mitigation sites shall replace the temporarily impacted habitats in kind at a 1:1 ratio regardless of the duration of the temporary disturbance.

- If the duration of temporary disturbance is less than two years, and no suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria prior to the disturbance, temporarily impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a 1:1 ratio, except for southern cottonwood/willow riparian forest and oak woodland habitats, which shall be replaced in kind at a ratio of 1:1 if low quality, 1.5:1 if medium quality, and 2:1 if high quality.
- If the duration of temporary disturbance is between two and five years, and no suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria prior to the disturbance, temporarily impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a 1.5:1 ratio, except for southern cottonwood/willow riparian forest and oak woodland habitats, which shall be replaced in kind at a ratio of 1:1 if low quality, 1.5:1 if medium quality, and 2:1 if high quality.
- If the duration of temporary disturbance exceeds five years, and no suitable mitigation sites have met success criteria prior to the disturbance, temporarily impacted habitats shall be replaced in kind at a 2:1 ratio, except for southern cottonwood/willow riparian forest and oak woodland habitats, which shall be replaced in kind at a ratio of 1:1 if low quality, 1.5:1 if medium quality, and 2:1 if high quality.

In lieu of the habitat replacement described above and subject to CDFG approval, removal of invasive, exotic plant species from existing CDFG jurisdictional areas, followed by restoration/revegetation, may also be used to offset impacts. If this method is employed, mitigation shall be credited at an acreage equivalent to the percentage of exotic vegetation present at the restoration site. For example, if a 10-acre jurisdictional area is occupied by 10% exotic species, restoration shall be credited for one acre of impact. If appropriate, as authorized by CDFG, reduced percentage credits may be applied for invasive removal with passive restoration (weeding and documentation of natural recruitment only).

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: mitigation ratios will be applied when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure. Mitigation sites may be located within the VCC Planning Area and/or within the larger RMDP/SCP area, subject to the site approval process described in Mitigation Measure RMDP/SCP-BIO-3. Table number corresponds to the numbering in the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-3: Creation of new vegetation communities and restoration of impacted vegetation communities shall occur at suitable sites in or adjacent to jurisdictional areas or in areas where bank stabilization

would occur. Locations where the excavation of uplands for bank protection/stabilization results in creation of new, unvegetated creek bed or other disturbance shall receive the highest level of priority for vegetation community restoration. Restoration sites may occur at locations outside the riverbed where there are appropriate hydrologic conditions to create a self-sustaining riparian vegetation community and where upland and riparian vegetation community values are absent or very low. All sites shall contain suitable hydrological conditions and surrounding land uses to ensure a self-sustaining functioning riparian vegetation community. Candidate restoration sites shall be described in the annual mitigation status report (see RMDP/SCP BIO-12). Sites will be approved when the detailed wetlands mitigation plans are submitted to the Corps and CDFG as part of the subnotification letters submitted for individual projects. Status of the sites will be addressed through agency review of the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form agency review. Each mitigation plan will include acreages, maps and site-specific descriptions of the proposed revegetation site, including analysis of soils, hydrologic suitability, and present and future adjacent land uses.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: mitigation site approval will occur when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure. The mitigation accounting form referenced in the measure is not required.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-4: Replacement vegetation communities shall be designed to replace the functions and values of the vegetation communities being removed. The replacement vegetation communities shall have similar dominant trees and understory shrubs and herbs (excluding exotic species) to those of the affected vegetation communities (see Table 14 for example of recommended plant species for the River Corridor SMA and tributaries). In addition, the replacement vegetation communities shall be designed to replicate the density and structure of the affected vegetation communities once the replacement vegetation communities have met the mitigation success criteria.

Table 14
Potential Plant Species for Vegetation Community Restoration in the River Corridor SMA and Tributaries

Trees	
red willow	*Salix laevigata*
arroyo willow	*Salix lasiolepis*
Fremont cottonwood	*Populus fremontii*
black cottonwood	*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*
western sycamore	*Platanus racemosa*
Shrubs	
mulefat	*Baccharis salicifolia*
sandbar willow	*Salix exigua*
arrow weed	*Pluchea sericea*
Herbs	
mugwort	*Artemisia douglasiana*
western ragweed	*Ambrosia psilostachya*
cattail	*Typha latifolia*
bulrush	*Scirpus americanus*
prairie bulrush	*Scirpus maritimus*

Note: This is a recommended list. Other species may be found suitable based on site conditions and state and federal permits.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change. Table number corresponds to the numbering in the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-5: Average plant spacing shall be determined based on an analysis of vegetation communities to be replaced. The applicant shall develop plant spacing specifications for all riparian vegetation communities to be restored. Plant spacing specifications shall be reviewed and approved by the Corps and CDFG when restoration plans are submitted to the agencies as part of the subnotification letters submitted to the Corps and CDFG for individual projects or as part of the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: restoration plans will be reviewed and approved when the Applicant obtains permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-6: The revegetation site will be considered "complete" upon meeting all of the following success criteria. In a subnotification letter, the applicant may request modification of success criteria on a project

by project basis. Acceptance of such request will be at the discretion of CDFG and the Corps.

1. Regardless of the date of initial planting, any restoration site must have been without active manipulation by irrigation, planting, or seeding for a minimum of three years prior to Agency consideration of successful completion.
2. The percent cover and species richness of native vegetation shall be evaluated based on local reference sites established by CDFG and the Corps for the plant communities in the impacted areas.
3. Native shrubs and trees shall have at least 80% survivorship after two years beyond the beginning of the success evaluation start date. This may include natural recruitment.
4. Non-native species cover will be no more than 5% absolute cover through the term of the restoration.
5. Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissimus*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) and any species listed on the California State Agricultural list, or Cal-IPC list of noxious weeds will not be present on the revegetation site as of the date of completion approval.
6. Using the HARC assessment methodology, the compensatory mitigation site shall meet or exceed the baseline functional scores of the impact area in Corps' jurisdictional waters, as described in the Conceptual Mitigation Plan for Waters of the United States.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: modification of success criteria may occur when the Applicant obtain permits for impacts to waters subject to Corps and/or CDFW jurisdiction, in lieu of the subnotification process referenced in the measure. In addition, the HARC assessment may be replaced by another agency-approved method.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-7: If at any time prior to Agency approval of the restoration area, the site is subject to an act of God (flood, fires, or drought) the applicant shall be responsible for replanting the damaged area. The site will be subject to the same success criteria provided for in RMDP/ SCP BIO-6. Should a second act of God occur prior to Agency approval of the restoration area, the applicant shall coordinate with the Agencies and develop an alternative restoration strategy(ies) to meet success requirements. This may include restoration elsewhere in the River Corridor or tributaries.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-8: Temporary irrigation shall be installed as necessary for plant establishment. Irrigation shall continue as needed until the restoration site becomes self sustaining regarding survivorship and growth. Irrigation shall be terminated in the fall to provide the least stress to plants.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-9: In areas where invasive exotic plant species control is authorized by CDFG in lieu of other riparian habitat mitigation (RMDP/SCP BIO-2), removal areas shall be kept free of exotic plant species for five years after initial treatment. In areas where extensive exotic removal occurs, revegetation with native plants or natural recruitment shall be documented.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-10: The exotics control program may utilize methods and procedures in accordance with the provisions in the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Arundo/Tamarisk Removal Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, dated February 2006, or the applicant may propose alternative methods and procedures for Corps and CDFG review and approval. Exotic plant species control will be credited at an acreage equivalent to the percentage of exotic vegetation at the restoration site. By example: a 10-acre site occupied by 10% exotic species will be credited for one acre of mitigation. The exotic weed control location will be documented on the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form. If "in-lieu fees" are paid, it will be documented on the annual mitigation status report and mitigation accounting form, along with a reporting of the status of exotic vegetation treatment.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-12: An annual monitoring report shall be submitted to the Corps and CDFG by April 1 of each year until satisfaction of success criteria identified in RMDP/SCP BIO-6, and consistent with the requirements of RMDP/SCP BIO-12. This report shall include any required plans for plant spacing, locations of candidate restoration and weed control sites or proposed "in-lieu fees," restoration methods, and vegetation community restoration performance standards. For active vegetation community creation sites, the report shall include the survival, percent cover, and height of planted species; the number by species of plants replaced; an overview of the revegetation effort and its success in meeting performance criteria; the method used to assess these parameters; and photographs. For active exotics control sites, the

report shall include an assessment of weed control; a description of the relative cover of native vegetation, bare areas, and exotic vegetation; an accounting of colonization by native plants; and photographs. The report shall also include the mitigation account form (see RMDP/SCP BIO-11), which outlines account information related to species palnted or exotics control and mitigation credit remaining. The annual mitigation and monitoring report shall document the current functional capacity of the compensatory mitigation site using the HARC assessment methodology, as well as documenting the baseline functional scores of the impact site in jurisdictional waters of the United States.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: The functional assessment of the compensatory mitigation site may use a method other than the HARC assessment methodology, subject to the approval of the Corps and CDFW. The mitigation accounting form required by measure BIO-11 is not required because the VCC Planning Area will not utilize the RMDP or the permits issued for the RMDP.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-13: The mitigation program shall incorporate applicable principles in the interagency Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use, and Operation of Mitigation Banks (60 FR 58605–58614) to the extent feasible and appropriate, particularly the guidance on administration and accounting. Nothing in the Section 404 or Section 2081 Permit or Section 1605 agreement shall preclude the Applicant from selling mitigation credits to other parties wishing to use those permits or that agreement for a project and/or maintenance activity included in the permits/agreement.

(This applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-15: All native riparian trees with a three-inch diameter at breast height (dbh) or greater in temporary construction areas shall be replaced using one- or five-gallon container plants, containered trees, or pole cuttings in the temporary construction areas in the winter following the construction disturbance. The mitigation ratios for temporary impacts to vegetation communities are described in RMDP/SCP BIO-2. The growth and survival of the replacement trees shall meet the performance standards specified in RMDP/SCP BIO-6. In addition, the growth and survival of the planted trees shall be monitored until they meet the self sustaining success criteria in accordance with the methods and reporting procedures specified in RMDP/SCP BIO-6, RMDP/SCP BIO-11, and RMDP/SCP BIO-12.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: Reporting in accordance with RMDP/SCP-BIO-11 is not required, because the VCC Planning Area will not utilize the RMDP or the permits issued for the RMDP.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-16: Vegetation communities temporarily impacted by the proposed Project shall be revegetated as described in RMDP/SCP BIO-2. Large trunks of removed trees may also remain on site to provide habitat for invertebrates, reptiles, and small mammals or may be anchored on the Project site for erosion control. To facilitate restoration, mulch, or native topsoil (the top six- to 12-inch-deep layer containing organic material), may be salvaged from the work area prior to construction. Following construction, salvaged topsoil shall be returned to the work area and placed in the restoration site. Within one year, the Project biologist will evaluate the progress of restoration activities in the temporary impact areas to determine if natural recruitment has been sufficient for the site to reach performance goals. In the event that native plant recruitment is determined by the Project biologist to be inadequate for successful habitat establishment, the site shall be revegetated in accordance with the methods designed for permanent impacts (i.e., seeding, container plants, and/or a temporary irrigation system may be recommended). This will help ensure the success of mitigation areas. The Applicant shall restore the temporary construction area per the success criteria and ratios described in RMDP/SCP BIO-1, RMDP/SCP BIO-2, and RMDP/SCP BIO-6. Annual monitoring reports on the status of the recovery or temporarily impacted areas shall be submitted to the Corps and CDFG as part of the annual mitigation status report (RMDP/SCP BIO-11 and RMDP/ SCP BIO-12).

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions and/or changes: Reporting in accordance with RMDP/SCP-BIO-11 is not required, because the VCC Planning Area will not utilize the RMDP or the permits issued for the RMDP.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-17: Focused surveys for arroyo toad shall be conducted. Prior to initiating construction for the installation of bridges, storm drain outlets, utility lines, bank protection, trails, and/or other construction activities, all construction sites and access roads within the riverbed as well as all riverbed areas within 1,000 feet of construction sites and access roads shall be surveyed at the appropriate season for arroyo toad. The applicant shall contract with a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for arroyo toad. If detected in or adjacent to the Project area, no work will be authorized within 500 feet of occupied habitat until the applicant provides concurrence from the USFWS to CDFG and the Corps. The applicant shall implement measures required by the USFWS Biological Opinion that either supplement or supersede these measures. If arroyo toads are determined to be present, the applicant shall develop and implement a monitoring plan that includes the following measures in consultation with the USFWS and CDFG:

1. The applicant shall retain a qualified biologist with demonstrated expertise with arroyo toads to monitor all construction activities in potential arroyo toad habitat and assist the applicant in the implementation of the monitoring program. This person will be approved by the USFWS prior to the onset of ground-disturbing activities. This biologist will be referred to as the authorized biologist hereafter. The authorized biologist will be present during all activities immediately adjacent to or within habitat that supports populations of arroyo toad.
2. Prior to the onset of construction activities, the applicant shall provide all personnel who will be present on work areas within or adjacent to the Project area the following information:
    a. A detailed description of the arroyo toad, including color photographs;
    b. The protection the arroyo toad receives under the Endangered Species Act and possible legal action that may be incurred for violation of the Act;
    c. The protective measures being implemented to conserve the arroyo toad and other species during construction activities associated with the proposed Project; and
    d. A point of contact if arroyo toads are observed.
3. All trash that may attract predators of the arroyo toad will be removed from work sites or completely secured at the end of each work day.
4. Prior to the onset of any construction activities, the applicant shall meet on site with staff from the USFWS and the authorized biologist. The applicant shall provide information on the general location of construction activities within habitat of the arroyo toad and the actions taken to reduce impacts to this species. Because arroyo toads may occur in various locations during different seasons of the year, the applicant, USFWS, and authorized biologists will, at this preliminary meeting, determine the seasons when specific construction activities would have the least adverse effect on arroyo toads. The goal of this effort is to reduce the level of mortality of arroyo toads during construction. The parties realize that, if arroyo toads are present, complete prevention of all mortality is likely not possible because some arroyo toads may occur anywhere within suitable habitat during any given season; the detection of every individual over large areas is impossible because of the small size, fossorial habits, and cryptic coloration of the arroyo toad.

5. Where construction can occur in habitat where arroyo toads are widely distributed, work areas will be fenced in a manner that prevents equipment and vehicles from straying from the designated work area into adjacent habitat. The authorized biologist will assist in determining the boundaries of the area to be fenced in consultation with the USFWS/CDFG. All workers will be advised that equipment and vehicles must remain within the fenced work areas.
6. The authorized biologist will direct the installation of the fence and conduct a minimum of three nocturnal surveys to move any arroyo toads from within the fenced area to suitable habitat outside of the fence. If arroyo toads are observed on the final survey or during subsequent checks, the authorized biologist will conduct additional nocturnal surveys if he or she determines that they are necessary in concurrence with the USFWS/CDFG.
7. Fencing to exclude arroyo toads will be at least 24 inches in height.
8. The type of fencing must be approved by the authorized biologist and the USFWS/CDFG.
9. Construction activities that may occur immediately adjacent to breeding pools or other areas where large numbers of arroyo toads may congregate will be conducted during times of the year (fall/winter) when individuals have dispersed from these areas. The authorized biologist will assist the applicant in scheduling its work activities accordingly.
10. If arroyo toads are found within an area that has been fenced to exclude arroyo toads, activities will cease until the authorized biologist moves the arroyo toads.
11. If arroyo toads are found in a construction area where fencing was deemed unnecessary, work will cease until the authorized biologist moves the arroyo toads. The authorized biologist in consultation with USFWS/CDFG will then determine whether additional surveys or fencing are needed. Work may resume while this determination is being made, if deemed appropriate by the authorized biologist and USFWS.
12. Any arroyo toads found during clearance surveys or otherwise removed from work areas will be placed in nearby suitable, undisturbed habitat. The authorized biologist will determine the best location for their release, based on the condition of the vegetation, soil, and other habitat features and the proximity to human activities. Clearance surveys shall occur on a daily basis in the work area.

13. The authorized biologist will have the authority to stop all activities until appropriate corrective measures have been completed.
14. Staging areas for all construction activities will be located on previously disturbed upland areas designated for this purpose. All staging areas will be fenced within potential toad habitat.
15. To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the authorized biologist or his or her assistants, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF 2009) will be followed at all times.
16. Drift fence/pitfall trap surveys will be implemented in toad sensitive areas prior to construction in an effort to reduce potential mortality to this species. Prior to any construction activities in the Project area, silt fence shall be installed completely around the proposed work area and a qualified biologist should conduct a preconstruction/clearance survey of the work area for arroyo toads. Any toads found in the work area should be relocated to suitable habitat. The silt fence shall be maintained for the duration of the work activity.
17. The applicant shall restrict work to daylight hours, except during an emergency, in order to avoid nighttime activities when arroyo toads may be present on the access road. Traffic speed should be maintained at 15 mph or less in the work area.

(As written, this measure applies to the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To protect resources that may have the potential to occur within Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this measure also applies to VCC Planning Area activities within Castaic Creek, with the following exceptions and/or changes: The USFWS Biological Opinion for the RMDP does not apply to the VCC Planning Area, but if the USFWS issues a biological opinion or other approval for the VCC Planning Area that addresses arroyo toad, the applicant shall implement any measures from such biological opinion or approval that either supplement or supersede this measure.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-18: Conduct focused surveys for California red-legged frogs. Prior to initiating construction for the installation of bridges, storm drain outlets, utility lines, bank protection, trails, and/or other construction activities, all construction sites and access roads within the riverbed as well as all riverbed areas within 1,000 feet of construction sites and access roads shall be surveyed at the appropriate season for California red-legged frogs. The Applicant shall contract with a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for California red-legged frogs. If detected in or adjacent to the Project area, no work will be authorized within 500 feet of occupied habitat until the Applicant provides concurrence from the USFWS to CDFG and Corps. If

present, the Applicant shall implement measures required by the USFWS Biological Opinion for California red-legged frog that either supplement or supersede these measures. If present, the Applicant shall develop and implement a monitoring plan that includes the following measures in consultation with the USFWS and CDFG:

1. The Applicant shall retain a qualified biologist with demonstrated expertise with California red-legged frogs to monitor all construction activities in potential red-legged frog habitat and assist the Applicant in the implementation of the monitoring program. This person will be approved by the USFWS prior to the onset of ground-disturbing activities. This biologist will be referred to as the authorized biologist hereafter. The authorized biologist will be present during all activities immediately adjacent to or within habitat that supports populations of California red-legged frogs.
2. Prior to the onset of construction activities, the Applicant shall provide all personnel who will be present on work areas within or adjacent to the Project area the following information:
    a. A detailed description of the California red-legged frogs, including color photographs;
    b. The protection the California red-legged frog receives under the Endangered Species Act and possible legal action that may be incurred for violation of the Act;
    c. The protective measures being implemented to conserve the California red-legged frogs and other species during construction activities associated with the proposed Project; and
    d. A point of contact if California red-legged frogs are observed.
3. All trash that may attract predators of the California red-legged frogs will be removed from work sites or completely secured at the end of each work day.
4. Prior to the onset of any construction activities, the Applicant shall meet on-site with staff from the USFWS and the authorized biologist. The Applicant shall provide information on the general location of construction activities within habitat of the California red-legged frogs and the actions taken to reduce impacts to this species. Because California red-legged frogs may occur in various locations during different seasons of the year, the Applicant, USFWS, and authorized biologist will, at this preliminary meeting, determine the seasons when specific construction activities would have the least adverse effect on California red-legged frogs. The goal of this effort is to reduce the level of mortality of California red-legged frogs during construction.

5. Work areas will be fenced in a manner that prevents equipment and vehicles from straying from the designated work area into adjacent habitat. The authorized biologist will assist in determining the boundaries of the area to be fenced in consultation with the USFWS/CDFG. All workers will be advised that equipment and vehicles must remain within the fenced work areas.
6. The authorized biologist will direct the installation of the fence and conduct a minimum of three nocturnal surveys to move any California red-legged frogs from within the fenced area to suitable habitat outside of the fence. If California red-legged frogs are observed on the final survey or during subsequent checks, the authorized biologist will conduct additional nocturnal surveys if he or she determines that they are necessary in concurrence with the USFWS/CDFG.
7. Fencing to exclude California red-legged frogs will be at least 24 inches in height.
8. The type of fencing must be approved by the authorized biologist and the USFWS/CDFG.
9. Construction activities that may occur immediately adjacent to breeding pools or other areas where large numbers of California red-legged frogs may congregate will be conducted during times of the year (fall/winter) when individuals have dispersed from these areas. The authorized biologist will assist the Applicant in scheduling its work activities accordingly.
10. If California red-legged frogs are found within an area that has been fenced to exclude California red-legged frogs, activities will cease until the authorized biologist moves the California red-legged frog(s).
11. If California red-legged frogs are found in a construction area where fencing was deemed unnecessary, work will cease until the authorized biologist moves the California red-legged frogs. The authorized biologist in consultation with USFWS/CDFG will then determine whether additional surveys or fencing are needed. Work may resume while this determination is being made, if deemed appropriate by the authorized biologist and USFWS.
12. Any California red-legged frogs found during clearance surveys or otherwise removed from work areas will be placed in nearby suitable, undisturbed habitat. The authorized biologist will determine the best location for their release, based on the condition of the vegetation, access to deep perennial pools, soil, and other habitat features and the proximity to human activities. Clearance surveys shall occur on a daily basis in the work area.

13. The authorized biologist will have the authority to stop all activities until appropriate corrective measures have been completed.
14. Staging areas for all construction activities will be located on previously disturbed upland areas, if possible, designated for this purpose. All staging areas will be fenced.

To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the authorized biologist or his or her assistants, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF 2009) will be followed at all times.

(As written, this measure applies to the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To protect resources that may have the potential to occur within Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this measure also applies to VCC Planning Area activities within Castaic Creek, with the following exceptions and/or changes: The USFWS Biological Opinion for the RMDP does not apply to the VCC Planning Area, but if the USFWS issues a biological opinion or other approval for the VCC Planning Area that addresses California red-legged frog, the applicant shall implement any measures from such biological opinion or approval that either supplement or supersede this measure.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-20: Approximately 1,900 acres of coastal scrub shall be preserved on The Project Site. The preservation of this vegetation type shall occur on site within the High Country SMA, the Salt Creek area, and the River Corridor SMA within the Specific Plan site. Irrevocable offers of dedication will be provided to CDFG for identified impact offsets in accordance with the Plan (RMDP/SCP BIO-1) using a "rough step" land dedication approach. Some of this habitat is recovering from wildfire and the expectation is that it will recover without active intervention. The functional values of any burned dedicated land areas shall be evaluated annually until such time that conditions are commensurate with the quality of the impacted habitat being mitigated. In the event that the functional value of this burned habitat has not recovered within five years of the dedication due to invasive species, to fire ecology, erosion, drought, or unforeseen events, then adaptive management pursuant to MM RMDP/SCP BIO-21 will be implemented for coastal scrub restoration.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area, with the following exceptions and/or changes: Approximately 66.5 acres of coastal scrub shall be preserved on lands identified in the CMIP to offset impacts to coastal scrub associated with the VCC Planning Area. The preserved lands may include areas of the VCC Planning Area not subject to development, if identified in the CMIP as appropriate.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-21: Supplemental restoration of coastal scrub shall be conducted as an adaptive management measure pursuant to ES 5.4-16/RMDP-SCP BIO-20. Eight areas were identified in the Draft Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Report in the High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and River Corridor SMA (Dudek 2007A) for coastal scrub restoration. In the event that coastal scrub restoration is required pursuant to ES 5.4-16/RMDP-SCP BIO-20, the applicant shall develop a Coastal Scrub Restoration Plan, subject to the approval of CDFG. The plan shall specify, at a minimum, the following: (1) the location of mitigation sites to be selected from suitable mitigation land in the High Country and Salt Creek areas identified in the Feasibility Study; (2) a description of "target" vegetation (native shrubland) to include estimated cover and abundance of native shrubs; (3) site preparation measures to include topsoil treatment, soil decompaction, erosion control, temporary irrigation systems, or other measures as appropriate; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants (e.g., mowing, weeding, raking, herbicide application, or burning); (5) the source of all plant propagules (*e.g.*, seed, potted nursery stock, etc. collected from within five miles of the restoration site), the quantity and species of seed or potted stock of all plants to be introduced or planted into the restoration/enhancement areas; (6) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration areas, to include at minimum, qualitative annual monitoring for revegetation success and site degradation due to erosion, trespass, or animal damage for a period no less than two years; (7) as needed where sites are near trails or other access points, measures such as fencing, signage, or security patrols to exclude unauthorized entry into the restoration/enhancement areas; and (8) contingency measures such as replanting, weed control, or erosion control to be implemented if habitat improvement/restoration efforts are not successful.

Habitat restoration/enhancement will be judged successful when: (1) percent cover and species richness of native species reach 50% of cover and species richness at reference sites; and (2) the replacement vegetation has persisted at least one summer without irrigation.

Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning. Monitoring reports will describe all restoration/ enhancement measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe vegetation survival or establishment in quantitative terms.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-22: a. Newhall Land shall prepare an Oak Resource Management Plan, to be submitted for approval to CDFG and

County of Los Angeles, and implemented upon approval. The Plan shall identify areas suitable for oak woodland enhancement and creation. The Plan shall distinguish between oaks to be planted in compliance with CLAOTO (RMDP/SCP BIO-22b) and the additional measures required by this EIS/EIR (RMDP/SCP BIO-2 for woodlands in jurisdictional streambeds and RMDP/SCP BIO-22c and RMDP/SCP BIO-22d for upland areas).

The Oak Resource Management Plan shall include measures to create or enhance woodlands as follows: (1) locations and acreages of mitigation sites where woodland creation or enhancement will occur; (2) a description of proposed cover and number of native trees, shrubs, and grasses per acre to be established. This description shall be based on comparable intact woodlands in the area of impact or elsewhere within the RMDP planning area, consistent with conditions of the proposed mitigation site; (3) site preparation measures to include (as appropriate) topsoil treatment, soil decompaction, erosion control, weed grow/kill cycle, or as otherwise approved by the agencies; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants (e.g., mowing, weeding, raking, herbicide application, or burning); (5) a plant palette listing all species, including sizes, planting densities, or seeding rates, to be based on target vegetation; (6) the source of all plant propagules (e.g., seed, potted nursery stock) and the quantity and species of seed or potted stock of all plants to be introduced or planted into the mitigation areas; (7) temporary irrigation, protection from herbivores, fertilizer, weeding, *etc.*; (8) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration areas to include, at minimum, qualitative annual monitoring for revegetation success and site degradation due to erosion, trespass, or animal damage for a period no less than five years total and no less than two years after removal of irrigation (if any); (9) where sites are near trails or other access points, measures such as fencing, signage, or security patrols to exclude unauthorized entry into the mitigation areas shall be implemented as needed; (10) tree protection standards to be implemented for individual trees or woodlands adjacent to development activity; (11) success criteria as stated in RMDP/SCP BIO-22b and RMDP/SCP BIO-22d; and (12) contingency measures, such as replanting, erosion control, irrigation system repair, or understory re-seeding, to be implemented if habitat improvement/restoration efforts do not meet the success criteria stated in the plan.

b. To meet the minimum mitigation criteria set forth in CLAOTO, Newhall Land will replace impacted oaks (measuring eight inches in diameter, or greater, or with a combined diameter of 12 inches for multi-stem oaks) at a ratio of 2:1. Additionally, oaks meeting the

criteria for classification as a Heritage Tree (defined by CLAOTO as "any oak tree measuring 36 inches or more in diameter") will be replaced at a ratio of 10:1.

Whether they are planted in dedicated open space areas or developed areas, replacement oak trees planted in conformance with CLAOTO shall adhere to the following standards:

1. Replacement oak trees shall be exclusively indigenous species, shall be at least a 15-gallon size specimen, and measure at least one inch in diameter one foot above the base, unless otherwise approved by the County Forester.
2. Replacement trees shall be properly cared for and maintained for a period of two years and replaced by Newhall Land if mortality occurs within that period.
3. Replacement planting shall be conducted in phases as impacts occur. Alternatively, Newhall Land may choose to plant replacement trees in open space areas prior to realization of Project-related impacts (pre-mitigation). Any pre-mitigation shall adhere to the standards outlined herein.
4. Following completion of the two-year maintenance period, the County Forester shall provide final authorization that CLAOTO standards have been met.

c. In addition to the CLAOTO requirements (RMDP/SCP BIO-22b), this EIS/EIR requires replacement of oak trees at the ratios in the table below for trees lost or impacted in uplands. These trees are in addition to the CLAOTO requirement described above. These additional trees may also be incorporated into woodland habitat enhancement or creation, as described above.

Additional replacement ratios are provided in Table 15.

Table 15
Additional RMDP/SCP BIO-22c Oak Tree Replacement Ratios

Trunk Diameter*	Mitigation Ratio
8–35	0.5:1
36 +	2.5:1
* *Trunk diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade. Mitigation required for single-stem oaks with a minimum 8-inch diameter and multi-stem oaks with a combined diameter of 12 inches.*	

d. Newhall will mitigate lost oak woodlands occurring on upland sites (i.e., outside CDFG/Corps jurisdictional stream channels) by creating or enhancing oak woodlands in the Salt Creek area and High Country SMA. At minimum, Newhall Land will mitigate woodland habitat at a 1:1 ratio through creation of new oak

woodlands. As an alternative, Newhall Land may choose to enhance, improve, and manage existing degraded woodland areas at a minimum 2:1 ratio for lost woodland acreage.

For woodland enhancement or replacement, dominant species (coast live oak or valley oak) and planting densities will be based on mitigation site suitability. All plant propagules, including acorns or tree cuttings and all seed or potted nursery stock of oaks or other species, shall be collected within a five-mile radius and within 1,000 feet elevation of the restoration site.

The woodland creation or enhancement sites shall be monitored for oak tree survival and vigor and other habitat values, including species diversity and wildlife use. The replacement or enhancement sites will be considered "complete" upon meeting all of the following success criteria, or as otherwise approved by CDFG. Any replacement oak trees planted in woodlands for conformance with CLAOTO will also be subject to CLAOTO performance criteria (RMDP/SCP BIO-22b).

General performance standards for woodland creation or enhancement sites include the following:

1. Regardless of the date of initial woodland creation or enhancement, each site must have been without active manipulation by irrigation, planting, or re-seeding for a minimum of three years prior to evaluation for successful completion.
2. The percent cover and species richness of restored or enhanced native vegetation shall be evaluated based on target vegetation described in the woodland creation or enhancement plan.
3. Densities (numbers/acre) of surviving, healthy oak trees shall be within 5% of the plan target density. Cover and species richness of other native shrubs shall reach 50% of the cover and species richness described for the "target" woodland. Optimal woodland densities and acorn planting quantities, by oak woodland type, are presented in Table 16.

Table 16
Optimal Woodland Densities and Acorn Planting Quantities, by Oak Woodland Type

Woodland Type	Average Existing Woodland Density (trees per acre)	Target Density for Newhall Land (trees per acre)
Coast live oak woodland	22	50
Mixed oak woodland	19	40
Valley oak woodland	16	25

4. Non-native grass cover shall not exceed the "target" woodland non-native grass cover, and other non-native species shall not exceed 10% cover at any time. Any species listed on the California State Agricultural list (CDFA 2009) or Cal-IPC invasive plant inventory (Cal-IPC 2006, 2007) will not be present on the revegetation site at the time that project success is determined.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change. Table numbers correspond to the numbering in the RMDP/ SCP EIS/EIR.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-23: A final Spineflower Conservation Plan (SCP) shall be adopted and implemented after approval by CDFG, including the permanent dedication of preserves (see draft in Appendix 1.0). The proposed spineflower preserve areas shall be offered to CDFG as a permanent conservation easement within one year after issuance of the requested 2081 Permit to ensure long-term protection. The conservation easement shall be to CDFG and contain appropriate funding and restrictions to help ensure that the spineflower preserve lands are protected in perpetuity.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change in regard to preserve management and funding requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP that are associated with take of spineflower within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-24: The spineflower preserves shall be managed by Newhall Land and their preserve manager(s) and/or natural lands management organization(s) (NLMO). Newhall Land shall submit a statement of qualifications for their proposed preserve manager(s)/NLMO(s) for approval by CDFG. Newhall Land will fund in full all implementation of spineflower preserve management as described in the SCP and all mitigation measures listed in this document.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area in regard to preserve management and funding requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP that are associated with take of spineflower within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-25: Disturbed portions (i.e., agricultural lands, disturbed lands, and developed lands) of the spineflower preserves, including buffers, will be restored through revegetation with native plant communities. In summary, areas that have greater than 30% relative cover by weeds will be restored to have relative cover comparable to that of existing occupied spineflower habitat. Habitat restoration and enhancement plans (including restoration plans) for areas within the preserves shall be prepared at the direction of the preserve manager by a qualified biologist and submitted to the County and CDFG for approval prior to implementation. In addition, Cal-IPC List A and B plants that are

present within the spineflower preserve will be controlled. Restoration and enhancement efforts within the spineflower preserve areas shall be in conformance with the Spineflower Conservtion Plan.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area in regard to preserve management and funding requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP that are associated with take of spineflower within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-26: In the event that a spineflower preserve, or buffer, or a portion of a spineflower preserve, or buffer burns in a wildfire or suffers from mass movements (e.g., landslides, slope sloughing, or other geologic events), the spineflower preserve manager and Newhall Land shall promptly review the site and determine what action, if any, should be taken. The primary anticipated post-fire spineflower preserve management activity involves monitoring the site and controlling annual weeds that may invade burned areas following a fire event, especially when such weeds (that were not previously present or not present in similar densities) exceed the 30% maximum threshold (see RMDP/SCP BIO-25). If fire-control lines or other forms of bulldozer damage occur in the spineflower preserves, these areas will be repaired and revegetated to pre-burn conditions or better. An emergency fire response plan will be prepared (in accordance with MM SP-4.6-72) prior to the establishment of the spineflower preserves and approved by CDFG and Los Angeles County Fire Department. The preserve manager will contact the LACFD at least once every five years to review the plan and consult with them on implementation of the plan.

The same methods will be applied to mass-movement, landslide, or slope-sloughing types of events. This measure shall be implemented in conformance with the Spineflower Conservation Plan.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area in regard to preserve management and funding requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP that are associated with take of spineflower within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-35: All portions of the spineflower preserves shall be closed, with the exception of pre-identified existing dirt roads and utility easements. The pre-identified existing dirt roads and utility easement access roads shall function as access routes for the spineflower preserve manager, spineflower preserve maintenance personnel, utility personnel, and emergency services vehicles only (e.g., police, fire, and medical). No other vehicle or foot traffic, including nature or recreational trails, will be permitted in the preserve, including the buffer. The dirt roads shall be gated and locked at the outside edges of the buffer zone. Signs discouraging unauthorized access shall be posted. The only persons or entities issued gate keys shall be the spineflower preserve

managers and their employees, easement holding utility companies, emergency services, Newhall Land, and CDFG.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area in regard to preserve management requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP that are associated with take of spineflower within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-36: Fencing shall be installed along the outside edge of the spineflower preserve and buffer areas adjacent to proposed developments, parks, golf courses, or other "active land uses" to prevent unauthorized access. Specific areas that are adequately protected by steep terrain (1.5:1 or steeper) and/or dense vegetation may not require fencing but would require signage. The determination of the need for fencing in these areas shall be subject to the approval of the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist. If monitoring determines that slope and/or vegetation is not effective at deterring unauthorized access, additional fencing may be required by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist. Fencing is not required in areas bordered by large parcels of conserved natural open space areas or the Santa Clara River riparian corridor, as installing fencing in these areas would be unnecessary and damaging to existing vegetation and wildlife corridors.

Fencing must extend a minimum of four feet above grade and include wood-doweled split rail fencing, exterior grade heavy-duty vinyl three-railed fencing, three-strand non-barbed wire, or similar. Fencing installed adjacent to native vegetation communities and natural open space areas will allow for the passage of animals.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area in regard to preserve management requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP that are associated with take of spineflower within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-37: Outdoor all-weather signs measuring approximately 12 by 16 inches shall be posted on all spineflower preserve access gates and along spineflower preserve fencing at approximately 800 feet on center, except adjacent to road crossings, where signs will be posted. The placement will take topography into account, emphasizing placement on ridgelines where signs will be visible to emergency fire personnel and others. Signs shall state in English and Spanish that the area is a biological preserve that hosts a state-listed endangered and federal candidate plant species and that trespassing is prohibited (in accordance MM SP-4.6-68). Signs shall indicate that fuel modification and management work is not allowed within the spineflower preserve (including buffer areas). The signage shall state that people who do not abide by these rules or who damage the protected species will be subject to prosecution, including fines and/or

imprisonment. All signage shall include emergency contact information and shall be reviewed and approved by the spineflower preserve manager or qualified biologist.

(This mitigation measure applies to the VCC Planning Area in regard to preserve management requirements of the approved SCP and spineflower ITP that are associated with take of spineflower within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-40: The Draft RMDP Slender Mariposa Lily Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Dudek 2007c) shall be revised and submitted to CDFG for review and approval prior to ground disturbance to occupied habitat. Upon approval, the plan will be implemented by the applicant or its designee. The revised plan will demonstrate the feasibility of enhancing or restoring slender mariposa lily habitat in selected areas to be managed as natural open space (i.e., the Salt Creek area or High Country SMA, spineflower preserves, or River Corridor SMA) without conflicting with other resource management objectives. Habitat replacement/enhancement will be at a 1:1 ratio (acres restored/ enhanced to acres impacted).

The revised plan will describe habitat improvement/restoration measures to be completed prior to introducing slender mariposa lily. Habitat improvement/ restoration will be based on native occupied slender mariposa lily habitat. The revised plan will specify: (1) the location of mitigation sites (may be selected from among 559 acres of suitable mitigation land in the High Country SMA and Salt Creek area identified in the Draft Newhall Ranch Mitigation Feasibility Study (Dudek 2007a); (2) a description of "target" vegetation (native shrubland or grassland) to include estimated cover and abundance of native shrubs and grasses in occupied slender mariposa lily habitat on Newhall Ranch land (either at sites to be destroyed by construction or at sites to be preserved); (3) site preparation measures to include topsoil treatment, soil decompaction, erosion control, temporary irrigation systems, or other measures as appropriate; (4) methods for the removal of non-native plants (e.g., mowing, weeding, raking, herbicide application, or burning); (5) the source of all plant propagules (seed, potted nursery stock, *etc.*), the quantity and species of seed or potted stock of all plants to be introduced or planted into the restoration/enhancement areas; (6) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the enhancement/restoration areas, to include at minimum, qualitative annual monitoring for revegetation success and site degradation due to erosion, trespass, or animal damage for a period no less than two years; (7) as needed where sites are near trails or other access points, measures such as fencing, signage, or security patrols to exclude unauthorized entry into the restoration/ enhancement areas; and (8) contingency measures such as

replanting, weed control, or erosion control to be implemented if habitat improvement/restoration efforts are not successful.

Habitat restoration/enhancement will be judged successful when (1) percent cover and species richness of native species reach 50% of their cover and species richness at undisturbed occupied slender mariposa lily habitat at reference sites; and (2) the replacement vegetation has persisted at least one summer without irrigation. At that point slender mariposa lily propagules (seed or bulbs) will be introduced onto the site.

The revised plan will specify methods to collect propagules and introduce slender mariposa lily into these mitigation sites. Introductions will use source material (seeds or bulbs) from no more than 1.0 mile distant, similar slope exposures, and no more than 500 feet elevational difference from the mitigation site, unless otherwise approved by CDFG. Bulbs may be salvaged and transplanted from slender mariposa lily occurrences to be lost; alternately, seed may be collected from protected occurrences, following CDFG-approved seed collection guidelines (i.e., MOU for rare plant seed collection). No bulbs will be translocated into areas within 300 feet of proposed or existing development. Newhall Land or its designee will monitor the reintroduction sites for no fewer than five additional years to estimate slender mariposa lily survivorship (for bulbs) or seedling establishment (for seeded sites).

Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning for slender mariposa lily. Monitoring reports will describe all restoration/enhancement measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe mariposa lily survival or establishment in quantitative terms.

A minimum of 133 acres of slender mariposa lily cumulative occupied area will be conserved and managed in the RMDP and SCP Project boundaries. Of these 133 acres, approximately 103 acres of slender mariposa lily cumulative occupied area will be conserved and managed in the RMDP and SCP Project boundary in the High Country SMA and Salt Creek area, and two acres occur within the River Corridor SMA and/or proposed spineflower preserves. Additional cumulative occupied area will be conserved and managed in the San Martinez Grande Canyon area at a 1:1 ratio (acres conserved and managed to acres impacted) based on impacts to cumulative occupied area within the Entrada planning area, as a means to ensure regional biodiversity of the species. Up to an

additional 28 acres of slender mariposa lily cumulative occupied area can be conserved and managed in the San Martinez Grande Canyon area for this purpose., as a means to ensure regional biodiversity of the species.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-41: Thirty days prior to construction activities in grassland, scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riverbank, and agriculture habitats, or other suitable habitat a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for American badger.

If American badgers are present, occupied habitat shall be flagged and ground-disturbing activities avoided within 50 feet of the occupied den. Maternity dens shall be avoided during the pup-rearing season (February 15 through July 1) and a minimum 200 foot buffer established. This buffer may be reduced based on the location of the den upon consultation with CDFG. Maternity dens shall be flagged for avoidance, identified on construction maps, and a qualified biologist shall be present during construction. If avoidance of a non-maternity den is not feasible, badgers shall be relocated either by trapping or by slowly excavating the burrow (either by hand or mechanized equipment under the direct supervision of the biologist, removing no more that four inches at a time) before or after the rearing season (February 15 through July 1). Any relocation of badgers shall occur only after consultation with CDFG. A written report documenting the badger removal shall be provided to CDFG within 30 days of relocation.

Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-42: All oaks that will not be removed that are regulated under CLAOTO with driplines within 50 feet of land clearing (including brush clearing) or areas to be graded shall be enclosed in a temporary fenced zone for the duration of the clearing or grading activities. Fencing shall extend to the root protection zone (i.e., the area at least 15 feet from the trunk or five feet beyond the drip line, whichever distance is greater). No parking or storage of equipment, solvents, or chemicals that could adversely affect the trees shall be allowed within 25 feet of the trunk at any time. Removal of the fence shall occur only after the Project arborist or qualified biologist confirms the health of preserved trees.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-43: Prior to initiating construction for the installation of bridges, storm drain outlets, utility lines, bank protection, trails, and/or other construction activities that result in any disturbance to the banks or wetted channel, aquatic habitats within construction sites and access roads, as well as all aquatic habitats within 300 feet of construction sites and access roads, shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist for the presence of the unarmored threespine stickleback, arroyo chub, and Santa Ana sucker. The Corps and CDFG shall be notified at least 14 days prior to the survey and shall have the option of attending. The biologist shall file a written report of the survey with both agencies within 14 days of the survey and no later than 10 days prior to any construction work in the riverbed. If there is evidence that fish spawn has occurred in the survey area, then surveys shall cease unless otherwise authorized by USFWS. If surveys determine that gravid fish are present, that spawning has recently occurred, or that juvenile fish are present in the proposed construction areas, all activities within aquatic habitat will be suspended. Construction within aquatic habitats shall only occur when it is determined that juvenile fish are not present within the Project area.

(As written, this mitigation measure applies to the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To avoid potential impacts to the identified fish species that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area. However, to the extent this measure conflicts with PDFs RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF 3-1, RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF 3-8, RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-11, VCC-PDF-BIO-2, or applicable requirements of mitigation measures RMDP/SCP-AEA-MM-3-1 through RMDP/SCP-AEA-MM-3-3, or with requirements imposed on the VCC Planning Area by CDFW or any other regulatory agency with jurisdiction over the VCC Planning Area, the latter shall control over this measure.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-45: a. Stream diversion bypass channels:

Stream diversion bypass channels will be constructed when the active wetted channel is within the work zone. Diversion bypass channels will be built in accordance with MM RMDP/SCP BIO-44 and in consultation with CDFG/USFWS. Equipment shall not be operated in areas of ponded or flowing water unless authorized by CDFG/USFWS.

The diversion channel shall be of a width and depth comparable to the natural river channel. In all cases where flowing water is diverted from a segment of the stream channel, the bypass channel will be constructed prior to the diversion of the active stream. The bypass channel will be constructed prior to diverting the stream, beginning in the downstream area and continuing in an upstream

direction. Where feasible and in consultation with CDFG/USFWS, the configuration of the diversion channel will be curved (sinuous) with multiple sets of obstructions (i.e., boulders, large logs, or other CDFG/USFWS-approved materials) placed in the channel at the point of each curve (i.e., on alternating sides of the channel). If emergent aquatic vegetation is present in the original channel, the applicant will transplant suitable vegetation into the diversion channel and on the banks prior to or at the time of the water diversion. A qualified restoration ecologist will supervise the construction of the diversion channels on site. The integrity of the channel and diversion shall be maintained throughout the intended diversion period. Channel bank or barrier construction shall be adequate to prevent seepage into or from the work area.

Construction of diversion channels shall not occur if surveys determine that gravid fish are present, spawning has recently occurred, or juvenile fish are present in the proposed construction areas.

At the conclusion of the diversion, either at the commencement of the winter season, or the completion of construction, the applicant will coordinate with CDFG/USFWS to determine if the diversion should be left in place or the stream returned to the original channel. If CDFG/USFWS determine the stream should be diverted to the original channel, the original channel will be modified prior to re-diversion (i.e., while dry) to construct curves (sinuosity) into that channel, including the placement of obstructions (i.e., boulders, large logs, or other CDFG/USFWS-approved materials). The original channel will be replanted with emergent vegetation as the diversion channel was planted. If the diversion channel is abandoned, the boulders will remain in place.

b. Dewatering:

Construction dewatering in close proximity to stream flow shall implement the following:

- Assess local stream and groundwater conditions, including flow depths, groundwater elevations, and anticipated dewatering cone of influence (radius of draw down).
- Assess surface water elevations upstream, adjacent to, and downstream of the extraction points, to assess any critical flow regimes susceptible to excessive draw down and therefore fish stranding issues.
- Assess surface water elevations downstream of the discharge locations (if discharge is proposed to the flowing stream) to assess any flow regimes and overbank areas that may be susceptible to flooding and therefore fish stranding at the

cessation of discharge. Discharge locations shall also be assessed for potential channel bed erosion from dewatering discharge, and appropriate BMPs must be implemented to prevent excessive erosion or turbidity in the discharge.

- The information above shall be summarized and provided in a plan approved by CDFG and Corps.
- Fish shall be excluded from any artificial flowing channels from dewatering discharge. Methods to ensure separation may include, but are not limited to: block netting at the confluence; creation of a physical drop greater than four inches at the confluence; or maintaining a velocity range unsuitable for fish passage, such as a berm at the confluence with small diameter pipes for discharge.

(As written, this mitigation measure applies to the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To avoid potential impacts to special-status fish species that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area. However, to the extent this measure conflicts with PDFs RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-1, RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-8, RMDP/SCP-AEA-PDF-3-11, VCC-PDF-BIO-2, or applicable requirements of mitigation measures RMDP/SCP-AEA-MM-3-1 through RMDP/SCP-AEA-MM-3-3, or with requirements imposed on the VCC Planning Area by CDFW or any other regulatory agency with jurisdiction over the VCC Planning Area, the latter shall control over this measure.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-48: Installation of bridges, culverts, or other structures shall not impair the movement of fish and aquatic life. Bottoms of temporary culverts shall be placed at or below channel grade. Bottoms of permanent culverts shall be placed below channel grade. Culvert crossings shall include provisions for a low flow channel where velocities are less than two feet per second to allow fish passage.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-49: Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from construction activities shall not be allowed to enter a flowing stream or be placed in locations that may be subject to normal storm flows during periods when storm flows can reasonably be expected to occur.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-50: Prior to initiating construction for the installation of bridges, storm drain outlets, utility lines, bank protection, trails, and/or other construction activities, all construction sites and access roads within the riverbed as well as all riverbed areas within 500 feet of construction sites and access roads shall be surveyed at the appropriate season for

southwestern pond turtle. Focused surveys shall consist of a minimum of four daytime surveys, to be completed between April 1 and June 1. The survey schedule may be adjusted in consultation with CDFG to reflect the existing weather or stream conditions. The applicant shall develop a Plan to address the relocation of southwestern pond turtle. The Plan shall include but not be limited to the timing and location of the surveys that would be conducted for this species; identify the locations where more intensive efforts should be conducted; identify the habitat and conditions in the proposed relocation site(s); the methods that would be utilized for trapping and relocating individuals; and provide for the documentation/ recordation of the numbers of animals relocated. The Plan shall be submitted to CDFG for approval 60 days prior to any ground-disturbing activities within potentially occupied habitat.

If southwestern pond turtles are detected in or adjacent to the Project, nesting surveys shall be conducted. Focused surveys for evidence of southwestern pond turtle nesting shall be conducted in, or adjacent to, the Project when suitable nesting habitat exists within 1,300 feet of occupied habitat in an area where Project-related ground disturbance will occur (e.g., development, ground disturbance). If both of those conditions are met, a qualified biologist shall conduct focused, systematic surveys for southwestern pond turtle nesting sites. The survey area shall include all suitable nesting habitat within 1,300 feet of occupied habitat in which Project-related ground disturbance will occur. This area may be adjusted based on the existing topographical features on a case-by-case basis with the approval of CDFG. Surveys will entail searching for evidence of pond turtle nesting, including remnant eggshell fragments, which may be found on the ground following nest depredation.

If a southwestern pond turtle nesting area would be adversely impacted by construction activities, the applicant shall avoid the nesting area. If avoidance of the nesting area is determined to be infeasible, the authorized biologist shall coordinate with CDFG to identify if it is possible to relocate the pond turtles. Eggs or hatchlings shall not be moved without written authorization from CDFG.

The qualified biologist shall be present during all activities immediately adjacent to or within habitat that supports populations of southwestern pond turtle. Clearance surveys for pond turtles shall be conducted within 500 feet of potential habitat by the authorized biologist prior to the initiation of construction each day. The resume of the proposed biologist will be provided to CDFG for approval prior to conducting the surveys.

(*As written, this mitigation measure applies to the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To avoid potential*

impacts to southwestern pond turtle that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-52: Prior to grading and construction activities, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) for all construction/contractor personnel. A list of construction personnel who have completed training prior to the start of construction shall be maintained on site and this list shall be updated as required when new personnel start work. No construction worker may work in the field for more than five days without participating in the WEAP. Night work and use of lights on equipment shall not be allowed unless CDFG approves of the night work and use of lights. Lighting shall not be used where threatened or endangered species occur. Lights shall be directed from natural areas and remain 200 feet away from natural areas unless otherwise approved by CDFG. The qualified biologist shall provide ongoing guidance to construction personnel and contractors to ensure compliance with environmental/permit regulations and mitigation measures. The qualified biologist shall perform the following:

- Provide training materials and briefings to all personnel working on site. The material shall include but not be limited to the identification and status of plant and wildlife species, significant natural plant community habitats (e.g., riparian), fire protection measures, and review of mitigation requirements.
- A discussion of the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, other state or federal permit requirements and the legal consequences of non-compliance with these acts;
- Attend the pre-construction meeting to ensure that timing/location of construction activities do not conflict with other mitigation requirements (e.g., seasonal surveys for nesting birds, pre-construction surveys, or relocation efforts);
- Conduct meetings with the contractor and other key construction personnel describing the importance of restricting work to designated areas. Maps showing the location of special-status wildlife or populations of rare plants, exclusion areas, or other construction limitations (e.g., limitations on nighttime work) will be provided to the environmental monitors and construction crews prior to ground disturbance. This applies to preconstruction activities, such as site surveying and staking, natural resources surveying or reconnaissance, establishment of water quality BMPs, and geotechnical or hydrological investigations;

- Discuss procedures for minimizing harm to or harassment of wildlife encountered during construction and provide a contact person in the event of the discovery of dead or injured wildlife;
- Review/designate the construction area in the field with the contractor in accordance with the final grading plan;
- Ensure that haul roads, access roads, and on-site staging and storage areas are sited within grading areas to minimize degradation of vegetation communities adjacent to these areas (if activities outside these limits are necessary, they shall be evaluated by the biologist to ensure that no special-status species habitats will be affected);
- Conduct a field review of the staking (to be set by the surveyor) designating the limits of all construction activity;
- Flag or temporarily fence any construction activity areas immediately adjacent to riparian areas;
- Ensure and document that required pre-construction surveys and/or relocation efforts have been implemented;
- To reduce the potential for the spread of exotic invasive invertebrates (e.g. New Zealand mud snails) and weeds (including weed seeds) during Project clearing and construction, all heavy equipment proposed for use on the Project site shall be verified cleaned (including wheels, tracks, undercarriages, and bumpers, as applicable) before delivery to the Project site. Equipment must be documented as exotic invasive invertebrate (e.g. mud snail) and weed free upon delivery to the Project site initial staging area, including: (1) vegetation clearing equipment (skid steer loaders, loaders, dozers, backhoes, excavators, chippers, grinders, and any hauling equipment, such as off-road haul trucks, flat bed, or other vehicles); (2) earth-moving equipment (scrapers, dozers, excavators, loaders, motor-graders, compactors, backhoes, off-road water trucks, and off-road haul trucks); and (3) all Project-associated vehicles (including personal vehicles) that, upon inspection by the monitoring biologist, are deemed to present a risk for spreading exotic invasive invertebrates (e.g. mud snails) or weeds. Equipment shall be cleaned at existing construction yards or at a wash station. The biological monitor shall document that all construction equipment (as described above) has been cleaned prior to working within the Project work site. Any equipment/vehicles determined to not be free of exotic invasive invertebrates (e.g. mud snails) and weeds shall immediately be sent back to the originating construction yard for washing, or wash station where rinse water is collected and disposed of in either a sanitary sewer or other legal point of disposal. Equipment/vehicles

moved from the site must be inspected, and re-washed as necessary, prior to re-engaging in construction activities in the Project work area. A written daily log shall be kept for all vehicle/equipment washing that states the date, time, location, type of equipment washed, methods used, and location of work;

- Be present during initial vegetation clearing and grading; and
- Submit to CDFG an immediate report (within 72 hours) of any conflicts or errors resulting in impacts to special-status biological resources.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-53: Prior to the issuance of a grading permit for ground disturbance, construction, or site preparation activities, the applicant shall retain the services of a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys for western spadefoot toad within all portions of the Project site containing suitable breeding habitat. Surveys shall be conducted during a time of year when the species could be detected (e.g., the presence of rain pools). If western spadefoot toad is identified on the Project site, the following measures will be implemented.

1. Under the direct supervision of the qualified biologist, western spadefoot toad habitat shall be created within suitable natural sites on the Specific Plan site outside the proposed development envelope. The amount of occupied breeding habitat to be impacted by the Project shall be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. The actual relocation site design and location shall be approved by CDFG. The location shall be in suitable habitat as far away as feasible from any of the homes and roads to be built. The relocation ponds shall be designed such that they only support standing water for several weeks following seasonal rains in order that aquatic predators (e.g., fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish) cannot become established. Terrestrial habitat surrounding the proposed relocation site shall be as similar in type, aspect, and density to the location of the existing ponds as feasible. No site preparation or construction activities shall be permitted in the vicinity of the currently occupied ponds until the design and construction of the pool habitat in preserved areas of the site has been completed and all western spadefoot toad adults, tadpoles, and egg masses detected are moved to the created pool habitat.
2. Based on appropriate rainfall and temperatures, generally between the months of February and April, the biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys in all appropriate vegetation communities within the development envelope. Surveys will include evaluation of all previously documented occupied areas and a reconnaissance-

level survey of the remaining natural areas of the site. All western spadefoot adults, tadpoles, and egg masses encountered shall be collected and released in the identified/created relocation ponds described above.

3. The qualified biologist shall monitor the relocation site for five years, involving annual monitoring during and immediately following peak breeding season such that surveys can be conducted for adults as well as for egg masses and larval and post-larval toads. Further, survey data will be provided to CDFG by the monitoring biologist following each monitoring period and a written report summarizing the monitoring results will be provided to CDFG at the end of the monitoring effort. Success criteria for the monitoring program shall include verifiable evidence of toad reproduction at the relocation site.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area with the following exceptions or changes: replacement habitat also may be created within areas of the VCC Planning Area not subject to development, where approved by CDFW.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-54: Prior to construction the applicant shall develop a relocation plan for coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, rosy boa, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and coast patch-nosed snake. The Plan shall include but not be limited to the timing and location of the surveys that would be conducted for each species; identify the locations where more intensive efforts should be conducted; identify the habitat and conditions in the proposed relocation site(s); the methods that would be utilized for trapping and relocating the individual species; and provide for the documentation/recordation of the species and number of the animals relocated. The Plan shall be submitted to CDFG for approval 60 days prior to any ground disturbing activities within potentially occupied habitat.

The Plan shall include the specific survey and relocation efforts that would occur for construction activities that occur both during the activity period of the special status species (generally March to November) and for periods when the species may be present in the work area but difficult to detect due to weather conditions (generally December through February). Thirty days prior to construction activities in coastal scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian habitats, or other areas supporting these species qualified biologists shall conduct surveys to capture and relocate individual coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, coastal western whiptail, rosy boa, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and coast patch-nosed snake in order to avoid or minimize take of these special-status species. The plan shall require a minimum of three (3) surveys conducted during the time of year/day when each species is most likely to be observed. Individuals

shall be relocated to nearby undisturbed areas with suitable habitat. If construction is scheduled to occur during the low activity period (generally December through February) the surveys shall be conducted prior to this period if possible and exclusion fencing shall be placed to limit the potential for re-colonization of the site prior to construction. The qualified biologist will be present during ground-disturbing activities immediately adjacent to or within habitat that supports populations of these species. Clearance surveys for special-status reptiles shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the initiation of construction each day.

Results of the surveys and relocation efforts shall be provided to CDFG in the annual mitigation status report. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change. Note that coast horned lizard and coastal western whiptail are referred to as Blainville's horned lizard and San Diegan tiger whiptail, respectively, in this document.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-55: a. As a supplement to RMDP/SCP BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP BIO-16, additional habitat mitigation through replacement or enhancement of nesting/foraging habitat for least Bell's vireo will be provided for certain key habitat zones at higher ratios (identified as "key population areas" in Figure 4.5-86, Alternative 2 Impacts to Least Bell's Vireo Habitat, in the RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR). Southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood–willow riparian, arrow weed scrub, mulefat scrub, and Mexican elderberry scrub and woodland that provide nesting/foraging habitat for least Bell's vireo in "key population areas" shall be replaced or enhanced. All permanent loss to nesting/foraging habitat in key population areas shall be mitigated at a 5:1 ratio unless otherwise authorized by CDFG or USFWS. Temporary habitat loss of foraging/nesting habitat in key population areas shall be mitigated at a 2:1 ratio. The requirements for replacing habitat by either creating new habitat or removing exotic species from existing habitat shall follow the procedures outlined in RMDP/SCP BIO-1 through RMDP/SCP BIO-16. To replace the lost functions of habitat located adjacent to the Santa Clara River due to noise impacts, all nesting/foraging habitat within the 60 dBA sound contour (associated with development site roadway improvements) shall be considered degraded. Nesting/foraging habitat within this area shall be mitigated at a ratio of 2:1.

b. The loss of documented occupied nesting habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher shall be mitigated. If the coastal California gnatcatcher is identified nesting on-site, the Applicant will acquire

or preserve nesting coastal California gnatcatcher habitat at a 3:1 ratio for impacts to documented occupied habitat, or by the ratio specified in RMDP/SCP BIO-2, whichever is greater. Mitigation acquisition shall occur at an agreed-upon location as approved by the USFWS upon consultation. The Applicant shall enter into a binding legal agreement regarding the preservation of occupied habitat describing the terms of the acquisition, enhancement, and management of those lands.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-56: Within 30 days of ground-disturbing activities associated with construction or grading that would occur during the nesting/breeding season of native bird species potentially nesting on the site (typically March through August in the Project region, or as determined by a qualified biologist), the applicant shall have weekly surveys conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active nests of bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the disturbance zone or within 300 feet (500 feet for raptors) of the disturbance zone. Pre-construction surveys shall include nighttime surveys to identify active rookery sites. The surveys shall continue on a weekly basis, with the last survey being conducted no more than seven days prior to initiation of disturbance work. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed, then additional pre-disturbance surveys shall be conducted such that no more than seven days will have elapsed between the survey and ground-disturbing activities.

If active nests are found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist in consultation with CDFG, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. In the event that golden eagles establish an active nest in the River Corridor SMA, the buffers will be established in consultation with CDFG. Potential golden eagle nesting will be reported to CDFG within 24 hours. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest shall be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to these nests occur. Results of the surveys shall be provided to CDFG in the annual mitigation status report.

For listed riparian songbirds (least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo) USFWS protocol surveys shall be conducted. If active nests are found, clearing and construction within

300 feet of the nest shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist in consultation with CDFG and USFWS, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. If no active nests are observed, construction may proceed. If active nests are found, work may proceed provided that construction activity is located at least 300 feet from active nests (or as authorized through the context of the Biological Opinion and 2081b Incidental Take Permit). This buffer may be adjusted provided noise levels do not exceed 60 dBA hourly L_{eq} at the edge of the nest site as determined by a qualified biologist in coordination with a qualified acoustician.

If the noise meets or exceeds the 60 dBA L_{eq} threshold, or if the biologist determines that the construction activities are disturbing nesting activities, the biologist shall have the authority to halt the construction and shall devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance in the vicinity. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nest site and the construction activities, and working in other areas until the young have fledged. If noise levels still exceed 60 dBA L_{eq} hourly at the edge of nesting territories and/or a no-construction buffer cannot be maintained, construction shall be deferred in that area until the nestlings have fledged. All active nests shall be monitored on a weekly basis until the nestlings fledge. The qualified biologist shall be responsible for documenting the results of the surveys and the ongoing monitoring and for reporting these results to CDFG and USFWS.

For coastal California gnatcatcher, the applicant shall conduct USFWS protocol surveys in suitable habitat within the Project area and all areas within 500 feet of access or construction-related disturbance areas. Suitable habitats, according to the protocol, include “coastal sage scrub, alluvial fan, chaparral, or intermixed or adjacent areas of grassland and riparian habitats.” A permitted biologist shall perform these surveys according to the USFWS’ (1997a) Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines. If a territory or nest is confirmed, the USFWS and CDFG shall be notified immediately. If present, a 500-foot disturbance-free buffer shall be established and demarcated by fencing or flagging. No Project activities may occur in these areas unless otherwise authorized by USFWS and CDFG. Construction activities in suitable gnatcatcher habitat will be monitored by a full-time qualified biologist. The monitoring shall be of a sufficient intensity to ensure that the biologist could detect the presence of a bird in the construction area.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-57: Thirty days prior to construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct CDFG protocol surveys to determine whether the western burrowing owl is present at the site. The surveys shall consist of three site visits and shall be conducted in areas dominated by field crops, disturbed habitat, grasslands, and along levee locations, or if such habitats occur within 500 feet of a construction zone. If located, occupied burrows shall not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31) unless a qualified biologist approved by CDFG verifies through non-invasive methods that either the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation or that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. If the burrowing owl is detected but nesting is not occurring, construction work can proceed after any owls have been evacuated from the site using CDFG-approved burrow closure procedures and after alternative nest sites have been provided in accordance with the CDFG Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (10-17-95).

Unless otherwise authorized by CDFG, a 500-foot buffer, within which no activity will be permissible, will be maintained between Project activities and nesting burrowing owls during the nesting season. This protected area will remain in effect until August 31 or at CDFG's discretion and based upon monitoring evidence, until the young owls are foraging independently.

Results of the surveys and relocation efforts shall be provided to CDFG in the annual mitigation status report.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-58: Thirty days prior to construction activities in grassland, scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riverbank, and agriculture habitats, or other suitable habitat a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit and San Diego desert woodrat.

If San Diego black-tailed jackrabbits are present, non-breeding rabbits shall be flushed from areas to be disturbed. Dens, depressions, nests, or burrows occupied by pups shall be flagged and ground-disturbing activities avoided within a minimum of 200 feet during the pup-rearing season (February 15 through July 1). This buffer may be reduced based on the location of the den upon consultation with CDFG. Occupied maternity dens, depressions, nests, or burrows shall be flagged for avoidance, and a biological monitor shall be present during construction. If unattended young are discovered, they shall be relocated to suitable habitat by a qualified biologist. The applicant shall document all San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit identified, avoided, or moved and provide a written report to CDFG within

72 hours. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

If active San Diego desert woodrat nests (stick houses) are identified within the disturbance zone or within 100 feet of the disturbance zone, a fence shall be erected around the nest site adequate to provide the woodrat sufficient foraging habitat at the discretion of the qualified biologist in consultation with CDFG. Clearing and construction within the fenced area will be postponed or halted until young have left the nest. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when disturbance activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to these nests will occur. If avoidance is not possible, the applicant will take the following sequential steps: (1) all understory vegetation will be cleared in the area immediately surrounding active nests followed by a period of one night without further disturbance to allow woodrats to vacate the nest, (2) each occupied nest will then be disturbed by a qualified wildlife biologist until all woodrats leave the nest and seek refuge off site, and (3) the nest sticks shall be removed from the Project site and piled at the base of a nearby hardwood tree (preferably a coast live oak or California walnut). Relocated nests shall not be spaced closer than 100 feet apart, unless a qualified wildlife biologist has determined that a specific habitat can support a higher density of nests. The applicant shall document all woodrat nests moved and provide a written report to CDFG.

All woodrat relocation shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in possession of a scientific collecting permit.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-60: Thirty days prior to construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for mountain lion natal dens. The survey area shall include the construction footprint and the area within 2,000 feet of the Project disturbance boundaries. Should an active natal den be located, the applicant shall cease work within 2000 feet and inform CDFG with 24 hours. No construction activities shall occur in the 2000 foot buffer until a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFG establishes an appropriate setback from the den that would not adversely affect the successful rearing of the cubs. No construction activities or human intrusion shall occur within the established setback until the cubs have been successfully reared or the cats have left the area.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-61: No earlier than 30 days prior to the commencement of construction activities, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active roosts of bats are present on

or within 300 feet of the Project disturbance boundaries. Should an active maternity roost be identified (in California, the breeding season of native bat species is generally from April 1 through August 31), the roost shall not be disturbed and construction within 300 feet shall be postponed or halted, until the roost is vacated and juveniles have fledged. Surveys shall include rocky outcrops, caves, structures, and large trees (particularly trees 12 inches in diameter or greater at 4.5 feet above grade with loose bark or other cavities). Trees and rocky outcrops shall be surveyed by a qualified bat biologist (i.e., a biologist holding a CDFG collection permit and a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG allowing the biologist to handle bats). If active maternity roosts or hibernacula are found, the rock outcrop or tree occupied by the roost shall be avoided (i.e., not removed) by the Project. If avoidance of the maternity roost must occur, the bat biologist shall survey (through the use of radio telemetry or other CDFG approved methods) for nearby alternative maternity colony sites. If the bat biologist determines in consultation with and with the approval of CDFG that there are alternative roost sites used by the maternity colony and young are not present then no further action is required.

If a maternity roost will be impacted by the Project, and no alternative maternity roosts are in use near the site, substitute roosting habitat for the maternity colony shall be provided on, or in close proximity to, the Project site no less than three months prior to the eviction of the colony. Large concrete walls (e.g., on bridges) on south or southwestern slopes that are retrofitted with slots and cavities are an example of structures that may provide alternative potential roosting habitat appropriate for maternity colonies. Alternative roost sites must be of comparable size and proximal in location to the impacted colony. CDFG shall also be notified of any hibernacula or active nurseries within the construction zone.

If non-breeding bat hibernacula are found in trees scheduled to be removed or in crevices in rock outcrops within the grading footprint, the individuals shall be safely evicted, under the direction of a qualified bat biologist, by opening the roosting area to allow airflow through the cavity or other means determined appropriate by the bat biologist (e.g., installation of one-way doors). In situations requiring one-way doors, a minimum of one week shall pass after doors are installed and temperatures should be sufficiently warm for bats to exit the roost because bats do not typically leave their roost daily during winter months in southern coastal California. This action should allow all bats to leave during the course of one week. Roosts that need to be removed in situations where the use of one-way doors is not necessary in the judgment of the qualified bat biologist in consultation with CDFG shall first be disturbed by various means at the direction of

the bat biologist at dusk to allow bats to escape during the darker hours, and the roost tree shall be removed or the grading shall occur the next day (i.e., there shall be no less or more than one night between initial disturbance and the grading or tree removal). These actions should allow bats to leave during nighttime hours, thus increasing their chance of finding new roosts with a minimum of potential predation during daylight.

If an active maternity roost is located on the Project site, and alternative roosting habitat is available, the demolition of the roost site must commence before maternity colonies form (i.e., prior to March 1) or after young are flying (i.e., after July 31) using the exclusion techniques described above.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-64: An integrated pest management (IPM) plan that addresses the use of pesticides (including rodenticides and insecticides) on site will be prepared prior to the issuance of building permits for the initial tract map. The IPM will implement appropriate Best Management Practices to avoid and minimize adverse effects on the natural environment, including vegetation communities, special-status species, species without special status, and associated habitats, including prey and food resources (e.g., insects, small mammals, seeds). Potential management practices include cultural (e.g., planting pest-free stock plants), mechanical (e.g., weeding, trapping), and biological controls (e.g., natural predators or competitors of pest species, insect growth regulators, natural pheromones, or biopesticides), and the judicious use of chemical controls, as appropriate (e.g., targeted spraying versus broadcast applications). The IPM will establish management thresholds (i.e., not all incidences of a pest require management); prescribe monitoring to determine when management thresholds have been exceeded; and identify the most appropriate and efficient control method that avoids and minimizes risks to natural resources. Preparation of the CC&Rs for each tract map shall include language that prohibits the use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the Project site.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-65: Pre-construction surveys for San Emigdio blue butterfly shall occur in all areas containing host plants in sufficient density to support this species. A qualified Lepidoptera biologist shall conduct focused surveys at a time of year and during weather conditions when the detection of eggs, larvae, or adults is possible. All occupied habitat shall be mapped and the locations provided to CDFG. Should the removal of quail brush or other documented host plants from occupied San Emigdio blue butterfly habitat in Potrero Canyon or other areas be required, the plants shall be removed when eggs and larvae are not present (i.e., mid-September to March). Removal of quail brush plants

from the documented habitat in Potrero Canyon may only be conducted from April through early September if it is determined by a qualified biologist that eggs and/or larvae are not present on the plants to be removed.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change; note that quail brush and saltbush refer to Atriplex lentiformis and A. canescens, respectively.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-66: The removal of quail brush or other documented host plants from any occupied San Emigdio blue butterfly habitat in Potrero Canyon or other areas shall be replaced at a minimum of a 1.5:1 ratio. The replacement plants shall be planted contiguous to the existing quail brush plants associated with the San Emigdio blue butterfly habitat. The success of the replanting shall be monitored for survival and vigor consistent with survivorship requirements of RMDP/SCP BIO-6 and RMDP/SCP BIO-7.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change; note that quail brush and saltbush refer to Atriplex lentiformis and A. canescens, respectively.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-67: Prior to any construction activities occurring within 200 feet of any occupied San Emigdio blue butterfly habitat in Potrero Canyon or other areas, the boundaries of preserved areas of the habitat shall be clearly marked with flagging. The flagging would serve to identify the boundaries of the habitat to construction personnel and to prevent the inadvertent construction-related loss of quail brush or other host plants associated with the habitat. Construction personnel working in the area shall be informed that the removal of or damage to any flagged quail brush or other host plants located outside the disturbance footprint is prohibited.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change; note that quail brush and saltbush refer to Atriplex lentiformis and A. canescens, respectively.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-68: Any common or special-status species bat day roost sites found by a qualified biologist during pre-construction surveys conducted per RMDP/SCP BIO-61, to be directly (within project disturbance footprint) or indirectly (within 300 feet of project disturbance footprint) impacted are to be mitigated with creation of artificial roost sites. The Project applicant shall establish (an) alternative roost site(s) within suitable preserved open space located at an adequate distance from sources of human disturbance.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-70: Construction plans shall include necessary design features and construction notes to ensure protection of vegetation communities

and special-status plant and aquatic wildlife species adjacent to construction. In addition to applicable erosion control plans and performance under SCAQMD Rule 403d dust control (SCAQMD 2005), the Project stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall include the following minimum BMPs. Together, the implementation of these requirements shall ensure protection of adjacent habitats and wildlife species during construction. At a minimum, the following measures/restrictions shall be incorporated into the SWPPP, and noted on construction plans where appropriate, to avoid impacting special-status species during construction:

- Avoid planting or seeding invasive species in development areas within 200 feet of native vegetation communities.
- Provide location and details for any dust control fencing along Project boundaries (RMDP/SCP BIO-71).
- Vehicles shall not be driven or equipment operated in areas of ponded or flowing water, or where wetland vegetation, riparian vegetation, or aquatic organisms may be destroyed, except as otherwise provided for in the 404 Permit or 1603 Agreement.
- Silt settling basins installed during the construction process shall be located away from areas of ponded or flowing water to prevent discolored, silt-bearing water from reaching areas of ponded or flowing water during normal flow regimes.
- If a stream channel has been altered during the construction and/or maintenance operations, its low flow channel shall be returned as nearly as practical to pre-Project topographic conditions without creating a possible future bank erosion problem or a flat, wide channel or sluice-like area. The gradient of the streambed shall be returned to pre-Project grade, to the extent practical, unless it represents a wetland restoration area.
- Temporary structures and associated materials not designed to withstand high seasonal flows shall be removed to areas above the high water mark before such flows occur.
- Staging/storage areas for construction equipment and materials shall be located outside of the ordinary high water mark.
- Any equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated within or adjacent to the stream shall be checked and maintained daily, to prevent leaks of materials that could be deleterious to aquatic life if introduced to water.
- Stationary equipment such as motors, pumps, generators, and welders which may be located within the riverbed construction zone

shall be positioned over drip pans. No fuel storage tanks shall be allowed in the riverbed.

- No debris, bark, slash sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete or washing thereof, oil, petroleum products, or other organic material from any construction, or associated activity of whatever nature, shall be allowed to enter into, or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into, watercourses included in the permit. When construction operations are completed, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area.
- No equipment maintenance shall be done within or near any stream where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas with stream flow.
- The operator shall install and use fully covered trash receptacles to contain all food, food scraps, food wrappers, beverage containers, and other miscellaneous trash.
- The operator shall not permit pets on or adjacent to the construction site.
- No guns or other weapons are allowed on the construction site during construction, with the exception of the security personnel and only for security functions. No hunting shall be authorized/ permitted during construction.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-71: Development areas shall have dust control measures implemented and maintained to prevent dust from impacting vegetation communities and special-status plant and aquatic wildlife species. Dust control shall comply with SCAQMD Rule 403d (SCAQMD 2005). Where construction activities occur within 100 feet of known special-status plant species locations, chemical dust suppression shall not be utilized. Where determined necessary by a qualified biologist, a screening fence (i.e., a six-foot-high chain link fence with green fabric up to a height of five feet) shall be installed to protect special-status species locations. See RMDP/SCP BIO-32 for dust control requirements related to spineflower preserves.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-72: Plant palettes proposed for use on landscaped slopes, street medians, park sites, and other public landscaped and FMZ areas within 200 feet of native vegetation communities shall be reviewed by a qualified restoration specialist to ensure that the proposed landscape plants will not naturalize and require maintenance or cause vegetation community degradation in the open space areas (River Corridor SMA, High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and natural portions of the Open Area). Container plants to be installed within public areas within 200

feet of the open space areas shall be inspected by a qualified restoration specialist for the presence of disease, weeds, and pests, including Argentine ants. Plants with pests, weeds, or diseases shall be rejected. In addition, landscape plants within 200 feet of native vegetation communities shall not be on the Cal-IPC California Invasive Plant Inventory (most recent version) or on the list of Invasive Ornamental Plants listed in Appendix B of the SCP. The current Cal-IPC list can be obtained from the Cal-IPC web site (http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php). Landscape plans will include a plant palette composed of native or non-native, non-invasive species that do not require high irrigation rates. Except as required for fuel modification, irrigation of perimeter landscaping shall be limited to temporary irrigation (i.e., until plants become established).

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change, except that the current Cal-IPC website is www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-73: Permanent fencing shall be installed along all Santa Clara River SMA/SEA trails adjacent to the Santa Clara River, or other sensitive resources, in order to minimize impacts associated with increased human presence on protected vegetation communities and special-status plant and wildlife species. The fencing will be split rail to avoid inhibiting wildlife movement. Viewing platforms will be located in land covers currently mapped as agriculture, disturbed land, or developed land.

(As written, this mitigation measure applies to the Santa Clara River SMA, which is not within the VCC Planning Area. To minimize impacts to protected vegetation communities and special status plant and wildlife species that may be present in Hasley Canyon and Castaic Creek, the measure will also be applied to require installation of permanent fencing along trails adjacent to those areas within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-75: Focused surveys for the undescribed species of everlasting (a special-status plant species) shall be conducted by a qualified botanist prior to the commencement of grading/construction activities wherever suitable habitat (primarily river terraces) could be affected by direct, indirect, or secondary construction impacts. The surveys shall be conducted no more than one year prior to commencement of construction activities within suitable habitat, and the surveys shall be conducted at a time of year when the plants can be located and identified. Should the species be documented within the Project boundary, avoidance measures shall be implemented to minimize impacts to individual plants wherever feasible. These measures shall include minor adjustments to the boundaries/location of haul routes and other Project features. If, due to Project design constraints,

avoidance of all plants is not possible, then further measures, described in RMDP/SCP BIO-76, shall be implemented to salvage seeds and/or transplant individual plants. All seed collection and/or transplantation methods, as well as the location of the receptor site for seeds/plants (assumed to be within preserved open space areas of Newhall Ranch along the Santa Clara River), shall be coordinated with CDFG prior to impacting known occurrences of the undescribed everlasting.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change. Note that the previously undescribed everlasting species has since been described as white rabbit-tobacco.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-76: For any individual project, or any phase of an individual project, to be located where undescribed everlasting plants may occur (i.e., the sites identified in this EIS/EIR and any new sites discovered by preconstruction surveys, per RMDP/SCP BIO-75, or other future field surveys), Newhall Land shall prepare and implement an Undescribed Everlasting Mitigation and Monitoring Plan prior to the issuance of grading permits.

The Plan shall provide for replacement of individual plants to be removed at a minimum 1:1 ratio, within suitable habitat at a site where no future construction-related disturbance will occur. The plan shall specify the following: (1) the location of the mitigation site in protected/preserved areas within the Specific Plan site; (2) methods for harvesting seeds or salvaging and transplantation of individual plants to be impacted; (3) measures for propagating plants (from seed or cuttings) or transferring living specimens from the salvage site to the introduction site; (4) site preparation procedures for the mitigation site; (5) a schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the mitigation area; (6) the list of criteria and performance standards by which to measure the success of the mitigation site (below); (7) measures to exclude unauthorized entry into the mitigation areas; and (8) contingency measures such as erosion control, replanting, or weeding to implement in the event that mitigation efforts are not successful. The performance standards for the Undescribed Everlasting Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be the following:

a. Within four years after reintroducing the undescribed everlasting to the mitigation site, the extent of occupied acreage and the number of established, reproductive plants will be no smaller than at the site lost for project construction.

b. Non-native species cover will be no more than 5% absolute cover through the term of the restoration.

c. Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), tree of heaven

(*Ailanthus altissimus*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), and any species listed on the California State Agricultural list (CDFA 2009) or Cal-IPC invasive plant inventory (Cal-IPC 2006, 2007) will not be present on the revegetation site as of the date of completion approval.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change. Note that the previously undescribed everlasting species has since been described as white rabbit-tobacco. More recent versions of the California State Agricultural List and Cal-IPC invasive plant inventory will be used.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-78: A cowbird trapping program shall be implemented once vegetation clearing begins and maintained throughout the construction, maintenance, and monitoring period of the riparian restoration sites. A minimum of five traps shall be utilized, with at least one trap adjacent to the project site and one or two traps located at feeding areas or other CDFG-approved location. The trapping contractor may consult with CDFG to request modification of the trap location(s). CDFG must approve any relocation of the traps. Traps will be maintained beginning each year on April 1 and concluding on/or about November 1 (may conclude earlier, depending upon weather conditions and results of capture). The trapping contractor may also consult CDFG on a modified, CDFG-approved trapping schedule modification. The applicant shall follow CDFG and USFWS protocol. In the event that trapping is terminated after the first few years, subsequent phases of the RMDP development will require initiation of trapping surveys to determine whether re-establishment of the trapping program is necessary.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-80: The Project applicant will retain a qualified biologist to develop an Exotic Wildlife Species Control Plan and implement a control program for bullfrog, African clawed frog, and crayfish. The program will require the control of these species during construction within the River corridor and modified tributaries (bridges, diversions, bank stabilization, drop structures). The Plan shall include a description of the species targeted for eradication, the methods of harvest that will be employed, the disposal methods, and the measures that would be employed to avoid impacts to sensitive wildlife (e.g., stickleback, arroyo toad, nesting birds) during removal activities (i.e., timing, avoidance of specific areas). Annual monitoring shall occur for the first five years after construction of Project facilities. After five years, bi-annual monitoring shall occur in perpetuity to determine if additional control is necessary. The Project applicant will fund an endowment, approved by CDFG, for monitoring in perpetuity. Monitoring will be conducted within sentinel locations along the River Corridor SMA and

where the Project provides potential habitat for these species (e.g., future ponds and water features). Control shall be conducted within Project facilities where monitoring results indicate that exotic species have colonized an area.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change with respect to modified tributaries or other potential habitat for the identified species within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-82: a. All surfaces on new antennae and phone/utility towers shall be designed and operated with anti-perching devices in conformance with APLIC standards to deter California condors and other raptors from perching. During construction the area shall be kept clean of debris, such as cable, trash, and construction materials. The Applicant shall collect all microtrash and litter (anything shiny, such as broken glass), vehicle fluids, and food waste from the Project area on a daily basis. Workers will be trained on the issue of microtrash: what constitutes microtrash, its potential effects on California condors, and how to avoid the deposition of microtrash.

b. The Applicant shall retain a qualified biologist with knowledge of California condors to monitor construction activities within the Project area. The resumes of the proposed biologist(s) will be provided to CDFG for concurrence. This biologist(s) will be referred to as the authorized biologist hereafter. During clearing and grubbing of construction areas, the qualified biologist shall be present at all times. During mass grading, construction sites shall be monitored on a daily basis. The authorized biologist will have the authority to stop all activities until appropriate corrective measures have been completed. If condors are observed landing in the Project area, the Applicant shall avoid further construction within 500 feet of the sighting until the animals have left the area, or as otherwise authorized by CDFW and USFWS. All condor sightings in the Project area will be reported to CDFW and USFWS within 24 hours of the sighting. Should condors be found roosting within 0.5 mile of the construction area, no construction activity shall occur between 1 hour before sunset to 1 hour after sunrise, or until the condors leave the area, or as otherwise directed by USFWS. Should condors be found nesting within 1.5 miles of the construction area, no construction activity will occur until further authorization occurs from CDFW and USFWS.

c. To further protect California condor potentially foraging in the Project area over the long term from negative interactions with humans and/or artificial structures, the Applicant or the JPA or the NLMO shall remove dead cattle that are found or reported within 1,000 feet of a residential or commercial development boundary.

Dead cattle shall be relocated to a predetermined location within the High Country SMA/SEA or Salt Creek area. The locations where carcasses shall be placed shall be a minimum of 1,000 feet from a development area boundary. Appropriate locations for transfer of carcasses include open grasslands and oak/grassland areas where condors can readily detect carcasses and easily land and take off without encountering physical obstacles such as powerlines and other utility structures. The proposed locations would be selected and approved by the CDFG and USFWS. Pursuant to this measure, a telephone number for reporting dead cattle shall be provided and actively maintained. Any cattle carcasses transferred to the relocation areas shall be reported to the USFWS Condor group.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-83: Thirty days prior to construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for ringtail. The survey areas all include suitable riparian and woodland habitat (southern coast live oak riparian forest, southern cottonwood–willow riparian forest, southern willow scrub, coast live oak woodland, valley oak woodland, and mixed oak woodland) within the construction disturbance zone and a 300 foot buffer around the construction site. Should the ringtail be observed in the breeding and rearing period of February 1 through August 31, no construction related activities shall occur within 300 feet of the occupied area for the period of February 1 through August 31 or until the ringtail has been determined by a qualified biologist (in consultation with CDFG) to no longer occupy areas within 300 feet of the construction zone and/or that construction activities would not adversely affect the successful rearing of young. If the ringtail is observed within the construction disturbance zone or in the 300 foot buffer around the construction site in the nonbreeding/rearing period of September 1 through January 31, and avoidance is not possible, denning ringtail shall be safely evicted under the direction of a qualified biologist (as determined by a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG). All activities that involve the ringtail shall be documented and reported to CDFG.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-84: Bridge and culvert designs, where practicable, shall provide roosting habitat for bats. A qualified biologist shall work with the Project engineer in identifying and incorporating structures into the design that provide suitable roosting habitat for bat species occurring in the Project area. The final design of the roosting structures would be chosen in consultation with CDFG.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-87: Upon initiating landscaping within a development area, quarterly monitoring shall be initiated for Argentine ants along the urban–open space interface at sentinel locations where invasions could occur (e.g., where moist microhabitats that attract Argentine ants may be created). A qualified biologist shall determine the monitoring locations. Ant pitfall traps will be placed in these sentinel locations and operated on a quarterly basis to detect invasion by Argentine ants. If Argentine ants are detected during monitoring, direct control measures will be implemented immediately to help prevent the invasion from worsening. These direct controls may include but are not limited to nest/mound insecticide treatment, or available natural control methods being developed. A general reconnaissance of the infested area would also be conducted to identify and correct the possible source of the invasion, such as uncontrolled urban runoff, leaking pipes, or collected water. Monitoring and control of Argentine ants would occur in perpetuity. The Project applicant will fund an endowment, approved by CDFG, for monitoring in perpetuity.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-BIO-88: Any southern California black walnut and mainland cherry trees or shrubs outside riparian areas greater than one inch dbh shall be replaced in the ratio of at least 2:1. Multi-trunk trees/shrub dbh shall be calculated based on combined trunk dbh. Mitigation shall be deemed complete when each replacement tree attains at least one inch in diameter one foot above the base.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

RMDP/SCP-SW-4: All areas where temporary construction impacts affect Corps or CDFG jurisdictional areas (generally, these are areas where impacts would occur due to the construction of Project facilities, but that are outside the permanent footprint of the actual facility), shall be revegetated with appropriate native vegetation after completion of construction in the area. A revegetation plan shall be prepared and implemented in accordance with the terms set forth in mitigation measures SP-4.6-1 though SP-4.6-15 and SP-4.6-63.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change. Note that the process for verifying that revegetation plans comply with the terms set forth in measures SP-4.6-1 though SP-4.6-15 and SP-4.6-63 is implemented through measures RMDP/SCP-BIO-1, RMDP/SCP-BIO-3 and RMDP/SCP-BIO-12.)

RMDP/SCP-SW-6: **T**o the extent that on-site mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional tributary drainages is insufficient to meet the mitigation ratios required by revised Mitigation Measure BIO-2, then the remaining mitigation obligation shall be met at off-site properties within the Santa Clara River watershed, via use of one or more of the

following mitigation approaches (at applicant's option): (a) creation of additional jurisdictional acreage in tributaries to the Santa Clara River occurring off site such that the mitigation site has an equal or greater value than the impacted site; (b) preservation of property containing jurisdictional tributaries to the Santa Clara River having an equal or greater value than the impacted site via a conservation easement or analogous method; or (c) habitat enhancement activities in jurisdictional tributaries for the necessary acreage (*e.g.*, exotic species removal under the terms and conditions specified in Mitigation Measures BIO-9 and BIO-10).

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

VCC-SW-2: The Castaic Creek channel will follow the existing bank contours of the creek and will minimize encroachment into the riparian vegetation community, so that there is no net loss of riparian habitat of acreage of Castaic Creek. In order to minimize potential effects on downstream populations of UTS, the channel will be designed so that the pre and post project flow will be approximately the same in volume and velocity.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

VCC-SW-3: Soft bottom channels will be incorporated into the project design to allow for the retention of existing riparian vegetation.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

VCC-SW-4: A vegetation restoration plan will be used to revegetate areas temporarily disturbed by construction in the Creek.

(This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.)

(c) Unarmored Threespine Stickleback Mitigation Measures Incorporated in the 2017 State-certified EIR

The following measures are included in the Errata to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the RMDP/SCP that CDFW adopted in conjunction with its 2017 Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP Project Final Additional Environmental Analysis or, in the case of Mitigation Measure 3-2f, are proposed to extend the mitigation measures from the Final Additional Environmental Analysis to Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area. Note that some of the measures, as written, apply only to the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. However, they are applied to Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area to avoid potential impacts to sensitive aquatic species that could be present within Castaic Creek under certain conditions when aquatic habitat occurs there. These measures are not applied to Hasley Creek within the VCC Planning Area because Hasley Creek does not contain aquatic habitat suitable for such species.

RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-1: The project applicant, or its designated general contractor, shall implement the following measures to avoid contact with the wetted channel, which would avoid affecting unarmored threespine stickleback.

(As written, this mitigation measure applies to the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the wetted channel of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area, except as noted below.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1a: The project applicant, or its designated general contractor, shall implement the PDFs and regulatory measures as incorporated into the project's bridge and bank stabilization designs.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to VCC Planning Area bank stabilization features. The VCC Planning Area will not include any permanent bridge across the Santa Clara River or Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1b: The mandated Worker Environmental Awareness Program (Mitigation Measure BIO-52 from the 2010 Final EIR) shall include a discussion regarding restriction of access to the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River and repercussions if encroachment occurs.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the wetted channel of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1c: Prior to the commencement of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the proposed work locations to confirm that the construction zone is outside the wetted channel of the river and that no work takes place where fish may be affected.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the wetted channel of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1e: A clear weather window, defined for this project as a 40 percent chance or less of 0.10 inches or greater of precipitation in the next 48 hours as forecasted by NOAA, shall be required for the scheduling of any bridge or bank stabilization-related concrete pours. If a bridge or bank stabilization-related concrete pour is in progress, and an un-forecasted rain event occurs, bridge or bank stabilization-related concrete pours shall be suspended.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation

measure also applies to VCC Planning Area activities within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1f: During all storm events (including summer rains), a monitor shall inspect work sites to make sure that site is secure and that flooding does not cause tarps to break or diversion drains to become plugged, potentially allowing construction materials and debris to flow into the river.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the wetted channel of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-1k: To ascertain that water quality is not being affected by bridge and bank stabilization- related concrete pouring activities, the project applicant or its designee shall monitor the water quality at points, upstream, downstream, and immediately adjacent to the ~~bridge~~ construction work zone daily during concrete pouring operations and report the results monthly, or as directed, to CDFW. Key parameters to be monitored include pH and turbidity.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to VCC Planning Area bank stabilization features within Castaic Creek. The VCC Planning Area will not include any permanent bridge across the Santa Clara River or Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-2: The project applicant, or its designated general contractor, shall implement the following measures to avoid unarmored threespine stickleback.

(As written, this mitigation measure applies to activities within the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area temporary haul route within Castaic Creek, except as noted below.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2a: Implement Mitigation Measures 3-1a, 3-1b, and 3-1f.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area temporary haul route within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2b: Prior to the commencement of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the proposed work locations to confirm that the construction zone is outside the wetted channel of the river, that the proposed vibratory pile installation locations are at least 10

feet away from the wetted channel, and that no work takes place where unarmored threespine stickleback may be affected.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area temporary haul route within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2c: Vibratory piles for the temporary haul route bridges shall be installed no closer than 10 feet to the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River, as determined by survey at the time piles are to be installed, and shall only be removed by vibratory methods if the wetted channel is at least 10 feet away.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area temporary haul route within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2d: No construction activities or personnel shall occur near the edge of the wetted channel that would have potential to destabilize low flow channel bank. A set-back from the edge of the top of bank for a horizontal distance that is twice the bank height (2 horizontal: 1 vertical) shall be maintained to prevent collapsing the bank of the low flow channel.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area temporary haul route within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-2e: During temporary haul route bridge construction and demobilization, a qualified biologist shall monitor all activities that are a threat to adjacent natural habitats or nearby species and prevent equipment, personnel, or debris from entering or making contact with the wetted channel of the river.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area temporary haul route within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA-3-3: The project applicant or its designated contractor shall implement the following measures:

(As written, this mitigation measure applies to the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River, which does not exist within the VCC Planning Area. To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area bank stabilization activities within Castaic Creek, except as noted below.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3a: Implement Mitigation Measure 3-1a, 3-1b, 3-1e, 3-1f, and 3-1k.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the VCC Planning Area bank stabilization activities within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3b: Prior to the commencement of bank stabilization construction activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the proposed work locations to confirm that the construction zone is outside the wetted channel of the river, that construction BMPs are installed prior to construction, and that no work takes place where fish may be affected.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to the wetted channel of Castaic Creek within the VCC Planning Area.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3d: Bank stabilization construction locations susceptible to winter flood flows shall be conducted from May 1 through November 30, when winter flood flows do not occur on the Santa Clara River. Other bank stabilization areas not at risk of flood flows shall be constructed year-round.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to VCC Planning Area bank stabilization activities within Castaic Creek. However, timing of construction in areas susceptible to winter flood flows may be adjusted with CDFW and/or USFWS concurrence.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3e: Although a late-spring or early fall flood event is not expected to occur, the project applicant or its designated contractor shall implement Perimeter Best Management Practices, as required under the Environmental Protection Agency's Construction National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which would deflect minor flows (less than 12 inches deep, and less than 8 fps velocities) from entering bank protection construction work zones.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to VCC Planning Area bank stabilization activities within Castaic Creek.)

RMDP/SCP-AEA 3-3f: The project applicant or its designee shall develop a Construction Groundwater Dewatering Plan for those areas (i.e., bank stabilization areas) in close proximity to stream flow and submit to CDFW for approval. The plan shall include the following measures

and be conducted during construction groundwater dewatering activities:

- Operational restriction on dewatering addressed in the 2010 Final EIR require that any dewatering be conducted in a manner that does not affect river flow, and these same restrictions shall be observed going forward. Bank stabilization dewatering shall be implemented in a manner that (1) does not create temporary wetted channel habitat suitable for stickleback; (2) does not diminish existing river flow, and therefore does not result in stranding of unarmored threespine stickleback or other fish; and (3) does not introduce pollutants to surface waters.
- Dewatering activities shall not involve direct removal of surface water from, or discharge to the Santa Clara River. Nor shall such activities result in any draw-down of the river's flow such that fish may become stranded. Any groundwater discharges shall be directed to an appropriate and legal disposal site in an upland area that will not affect the surface elevation of the wetted channel of the Santa Clara River.
- The project applicant or its designee shall assess local stream and groundwater conditions, including flow depths, groundwater elevations, and anticipated dewatering cone of influence (radius of draw down).
- The project applicant or its designee shall monitor daily surface water elevations upstream, adjacent to, and downstream of the extraction points, to assess any critical flow regimes susceptible to excessive draw down before, during, and after groundwater dewatering activities. The designated monitor shall have the authority to halt dewatering activities if water levels decrease in the wetted portion of the Santa Clara River where unarmored threespine stickleback are present. In the event the designated monitor observes an effect on the wetted channel that necessitates halting of dewatering operations, the applicant will be required to consult with CDFW, revise the Construction Groundwater Dewatering Plan as appropriate, and implement whatever additional restrictions may be necessary to preclude impact to the wetted channel (such as limiting the extent of excavation dewatering, implementing other construction methods acceptable to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works such as launch stone, or suspending construction until such time as regional groundwater conditions are more favorable for the construction to proceed).

- The project applicant or its designee shall monitor surface water elevations downstream of the project location to assess any flow regimes and overbank areas that may be susceptible to flooding.
- The project applicant or its designee shall monitor upland discharge locations for potential channel erosion from dewatering discharge, and appropriate BMPs must be implemented to prevent excessive erosion or turbidity in the discharge.
- Monitoring reports shall be summarized and provided to CDFW upon completion of construction activities that required dewatering.

(To avoid potential impacts to stickleback that could be present in portions of Castaic Creek under certain conditions, this mitigation measure also applies to VCC Planning Area bank stabilization activities within Castaic Creek.)

(d) Additional Biology Mitigation Measures Specific to the VCC Planning Area

ES/VCC-MM-BIO-1: Prior to construction, the Applicant shall develop a relocation plan for California glossy snake, to be incorporated into the relocation plan developed for other special-status reptile species, according to requirements in RMDP/SCP BIO-54.

ES/VCC-MM-BIO-2:

Should Project ground-disturbing activities be scheduled to occur during the Crotch bumble bee colony active period, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment to identify areas containing suitable habitat for Crotch bumble bee. The qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for Crotch bumble bee in the areas identified, using a methodology (including number and timing of surveys) accepted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

If Crotch bumble bee are not detected, no further measures are required. A qualified biologist shall be present during ground-disturbing Project activities that occur during the Crotch bumble bee colony active period.

If Crotch bumble bee are detected:

1. Ground-disturbing activities shall be prohibited within 100 feet of any known, occupied Crotch bumble bee nest, or as determined by a qualified biologist through evaluation of topographic features or distribution of floral resources. The prohibition will continue for the duration of the Crotch bumble bee colony active period, unless the nest is determined to be inactive by a qualified biologist or is relocated or removed with CDFW authorization.

2. The Project proponent shall prepare a Crotch Bumble Bee Avoidance and Minimization Plan for review and approval by CDFW, which shall include additional, site-specific measures to avoid take of Crotch bumble bee during Project ground-disturbing activities during the colony active period.
3. If the Crotch bumble bee remains a candidate for listing, or has been listed, as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act ("CESA"), and Project activities will cause "take" of Crotch bumble bee, as that term is defined for purposes of the CESA, the Project proponent shall obtain authorization for such take pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081 or any other applicable provision of law providing such authorization.

(e) Previously Approved Mitigation from the VCC EIR

Mitigation previously adopted by the County for the VCC Planning Area and applicable to the Modified Project include Mitigation Measures VCC-4.a-2, VCC-4.b-2, VCC-4.b-3, VCC-4.b-4, VCC-4.c-1, VCC-4.c-2, and VCC-4.c-3, as set forth below. Where appropriate, italicized parentheticals are used to provide additional information and clarification regarding the implementation of a particular measure's requirements.

VCC-4.a-2: Approximately 375 acres of native coastal sage scrub vegetation will be retained.

(*This measure applies to the Modified Project with the following clarification: the measure requires retention of 375 acres of coastal scrub vegetation within the overall VCC development area approved by the County under the 1990 EIR, including portions that are not part of the Modified Project.*)

VCC-4.b-2: The Castaic Creek channel will follow the existing bank countours of the creek and will minimize encroachment into the riparian vegetation community, so that there is no net loss of acreage of Castaic Creek. A detailed revegetation and restoration plan will be provided for review prior to construction.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

VCC-4.b-3: Soft bottom channels will be incorporated into the project design to allow for the retention of existing riparian vegetation.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

VCC-4.b-4: Castaic Creek will be lined with a bank protection that allows for growth of native herbaceous vegetation. The Army Corps of Engineers has stated a preference for an articulating, concrete, open-cell tile (i.e., Armorflex). The use of Armorflex may not be approved by

the Department of Public Works; therefore, the type of lining actually used may change as a potential issue of safety.

(*This measure applies to the Modified Project with the following qualification: The reference to Armorflex refers to USACE guidance provided in connection with a 1990 USACE permit that has expired and no longer applies to the Modified Project. The type of bank protection used will be consistent with any requirements imposed under any USACE permit obtained for Modified Project activities within the VCC Planning Area.*)

VCC-4.c-1: Channelization will be conducted under the supervision of a qualified biologist to ensure that construction is carried out with minimal siltation and debris flow into the channel; minimal disturbance to the UTS; and avoidance of preserved riparian habitat.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

VCC-4.c-2: Industrial users which may use toxic substances wil be required to provide on-site containment systems to protect downstream habitat.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

VCC-4.c-3: Parking lots shall have a drainage system to divert non-storm flows to an oil and grease trap.

(*This measure applies to the VCC Planning Area without change.*)

9. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Implementation of the mitigation measures listed above would reduce potential impacts associated with the Modified Project for biological resources, including jurisdictional waters, to a less than significant level. The Modified Project would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts or relating to biological resources or jurisdictional waters compared to the 2017 Project analyzed in the State-certified EIR.