APPENDIX 3.4-A **KNE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT**

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

K LINE NORTHERN EXTENSION

Metro

JULY 2024

K LINE NORTHERN EXTENSION TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

Biological Resources Technical Report

Prepared for:

Metro

Los Angeles County
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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
BMP	best management practice
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWC	California Water Code
Division 16	Division 16 Southwestern Maintenance Yard
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
F	Fahrenheit
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
KNE	K Line Northern Extension
LAX	Los Angeles International Airport
LRT	light rail transit
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Metro	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
MSF	Maintenance and Storage Facility
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Project	K Line Northern Extension Project
RSA	Resource Study Area
RTP/SCS	Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
SEM	sequential excavation method
TBMs	tunnel boring machines

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WBWG	Western Bat Working Group

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the K Line Northern Extension Transit Corridor Project (the Project) (Figure 2-1). The Project would provide a northern extension of the Metro light rail transit (LRT) K Line from the Metro E Line (Expo) to the Metro D Line (Purple) and B Line (Red) heavy rail transit lines. The Project would serve as a critical regional connection, linking the South Bay, the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) area, South Los Angeles, Inglewood, and Crenshaw corridor to Mid-City, Central Los Angeles, West Hollywood, and Hollywood, allowing for further connections to points north in the San Fernando Valley via the Metro B Line. The Project would also connect major activity centers and areas of high population and employment density.

1.2 TECHNICAL REPORT SUMMARY

This technical report evaluates the Project's environmental impacts as they relate to biological resources. It describes existing conditions, the current applicable regulatory setting, potential impacts from construction and operation of the alignment alternatives, stations, design option, and maintenance and storage facility (MSF), as well as mitigation measures where applicable. This technical report was conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Sections 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq.), which require state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions, including significant impacts associated with biological resources, and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, when feasible.

The technical report is organized into eight chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction, provides an overview of the Project and a summary of the technical report's contents.
- Chapter 2 – Project Description, provides a description of the Project's alignment alternatives, stations, design option, and MSF. This section also describes the construction approach for the Project.
- Chapter 3 – Regulatory Framework, discusses applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, including plans and policies relevant to Project jurisdictions.
- Chapter 4 – Methodology and Significance Thresholds, describes the analysis methodologies applied for this Project and provides a summary of CEQA significance thresholds adopted by state and local jurisdictions.
- Chapter 5 – Existing Setting, describes the existing conditions as relevant to the Project's alignment alternatives, stations, design option, and MSF.
- Chapter 6 – Impacts and Mitigation Measures, discusses the impact analyses conducted for the Project's alignment alternatives, stations, design option, and MSF, and discusses applicable mitigation measures. It also discusses any project measures that would be implemented as part of design and construction of the Project.

- Chapter 7 – Cumulative Impacts, discusses the cumulative impacts for the Project's alignment alternatives, stations, design option, and MSF.
- Chapter 8 – References, lists the references used to prepare this technical report.

CHAPTER 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section provides information pertinent to the components of the Project as evaluated in the technical report. The Project components for evaluation in this technical report include three light rail alignment alternatives with stations, one design option, and one MSF.

2.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES

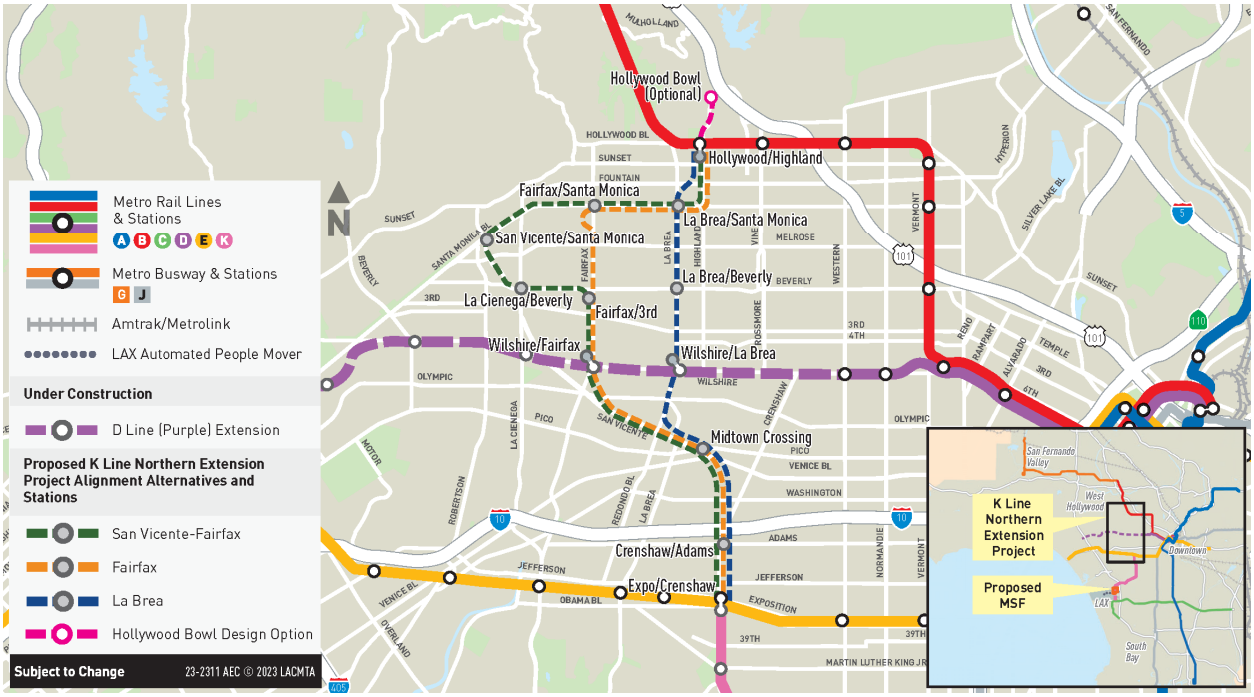
As shown in Figure 2-1, each of the three alignment alternatives would provide a northern extension of the Metro K Line from its current terminus at the Expo/Crenshaw Station to the Metro B Line Hollywood/Highland Station. All three alignment alternatives would operate entirely underground in parallel twin-bore tunnels with some station elements at the surface, including the station entrance and ventilation structures. Due to the project length and pending funding availability, the alignment alternatives would be constructed sequentially in sections.

The alignment alternatives are as follows:

- Alignment Alternative 1: San Vicente–Fairfax. This alignment alternative would travel north from the existing Metro K Line Expo/Crenshaw Station before heading northwest under San Vicente Boulevard, with a connection to the future Metro D Line Wilshire/Fairfax Station. It would continue north under Fairfax Avenue before turning west under Beverly Boulevard to rejoin San Vicente Boulevard. The alignment would then turn east under Santa Monica Boulevard, and then turn north just east of La Brea Avenue to follow Highland Avenue north to connect to the Metro B Line at the Hollywood/Highland Station.
- Alignment Alternative 2: Fairfax. This alignment alternative would travel north from the existing Metro K Line Expo/Crenshaw Station before heading northwest under San Vicente Boulevard and north under Fairfax Avenue, where it would connect with the future Metro D Line Wilshire/Fairfax Station. It would continue north under Fairfax Avenue and turn east under Santa Monica Boulevard. The alignment would then turn north just east of La Brea Avenue to follow Highland Avenue north to connect to the Metro B Line at the Hollywood/Highland Station.
- Alignment Alternative 3: La Brea. This alignment alternative would travel north from the existing Metro K Line Expo/Crenshaw Station before heading northwest under San Vicente Boulevard and north under La Brea Avenue, where it would connect with the future Metro D Line Wilshire/La Brea Station. From there, it would continue north under La Brea Avenue and turn northeast north of Fountain Avenue to follow Highland Avenue to connect with the Metro B Line at the Hollywood/Highland Station.

Table 2-1 provides a summary of the characteristics of each of the alignment alternatives and Table 2-2 identifies which stations would be constructed under each alignment alternative. In total, 12 station areas are identified, including the option to extend to the Hollywood Bowl.

FIGURE 2-1. K LINE NORTHERN EXTENSION ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES



Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

TABLE 2-1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DESIGN OPTION

PROJECT COMPONENTS	ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES			DESIGN OPTION
	1. SAN VICENTE–FAIRFAX	2. FAIRFAX	3. LA BREA	HOLLYWOOD BOWL EXTENSION
Alignment Length	9.7 miles underground	7.9 miles underground	6.2 miles underground	+ 0.8 mile underground
Stations	9 underground	7 underground	6 underground	+1 underground
Travel time from Expo/Crenshaw to Hollywood/Highland Stations	19 minutes	15 minutes	12 minutes	+2 minutes (from Hollywood/Highland)

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

TABLE 2-2. STATIONS BY ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE

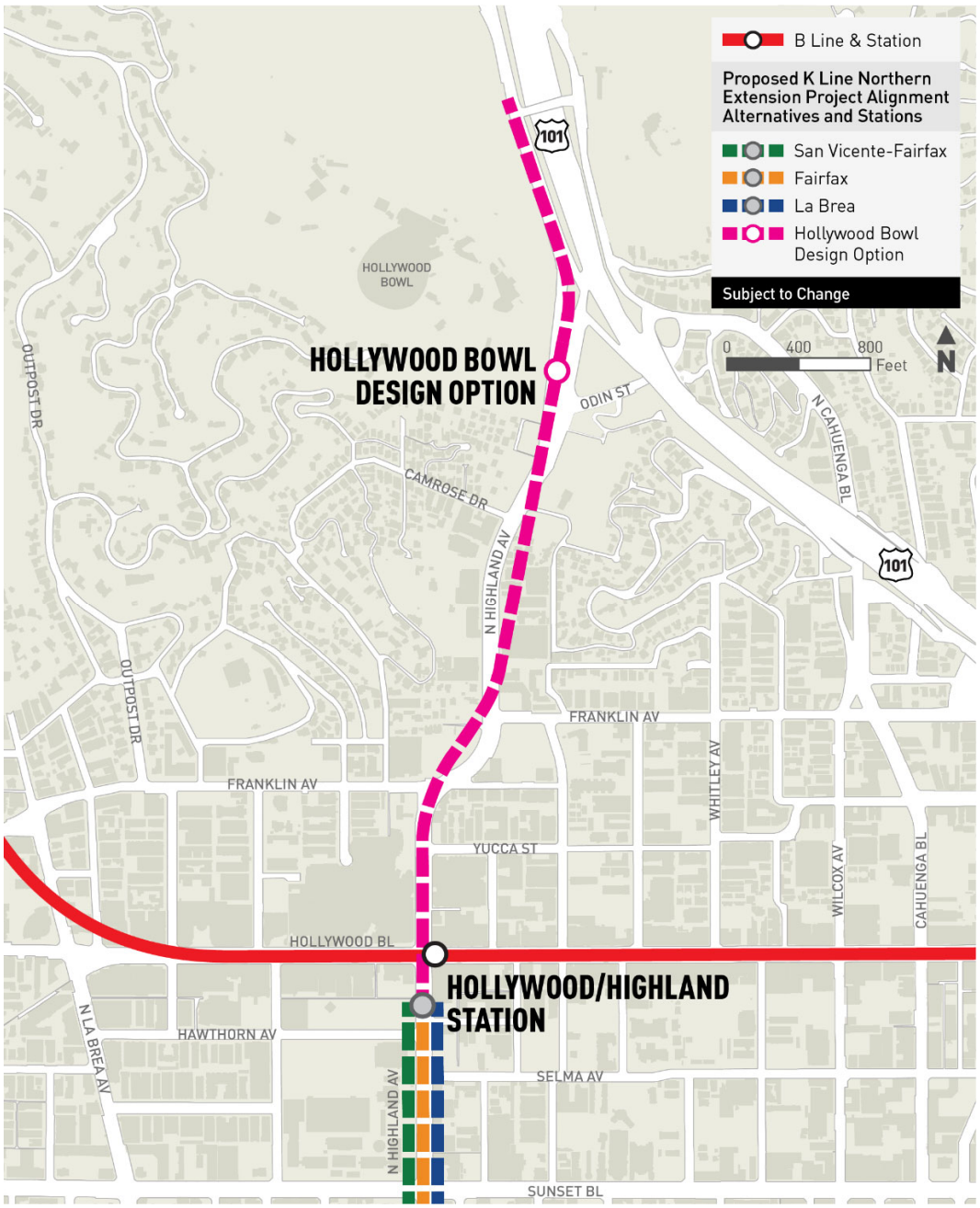
STATION	SAN VICENTE–FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	LA BREA
Crenshaw/Adams (City of Los Angeles)	●	●	●
Midtown Crossing (City of Los Angeles)	●	●	●
Wilshire/Fairfax (City of Los Angeles)	●	●	
Fairfax/3rd (City of Los Angeles)	●	●	
La Cienega/Beverly (City of Los Angeles)	●		
San Vicente/Santa Monica (City of West Hollywood)	●		
Fairfax/Santa Monica (City of West Hollywood)	●	●	
La Brea/Santa Monica (City of West Hollywood)	●	●	●
Hollywood/Highland (City of Los Angeles)	●	●	●
Wilshire/La Brea (City of Los Angeles)			●
La Brea/Beverly (City of Los Angeles)			●
Hollywood Bowl (City of Los Angeles)	●	●	●

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

2.2 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

For every alignment alternative, there is one design option under consideration. The Hollywood Bowl Design Option includes an alternate terminus station at the Hollywood Bowl, north of the proposed Hollywood/Highland Station, as shown in Figure 2-2.

FIGURE 2-2. HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION



Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

2.3 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

An MSF would be constructed that would expand the Division 16 Maintenance Yard (Division 16), the existing MSF for the Metro K Line near LAX, as shown in Figure 2-3. The MSF would provide equipment and facilities to accommodate daily servicing and cleaning, inspection and repairs, and storage of light rail vehicles that are not in service. The MSF would be the primary physical employment center for rail operation employees, including train operators, maintenance workers, supervisors, administrators, security personnel, and other roles. If the Project is opened in sections, operation of the extended K Line from the Expo/Crenshaw Station to the Metro D Line could be accommodated within the existing Division 16 site with four new storage tracks.

FIGURE 2-3. MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

2.4 CONSTRUCTION APPROACH

The Project would be constructed in sections that would be built sequentially, depending on available funding. The development of the Project would employ conventional construction methods, techniques, and equipment similar to other Metro projects that require underground tunneling. Detailed information on construction techniques can be found in the KNE Construction Approach Report.. Major construction activities for the Project include surveys and preconstruction, which consist of local business surveys, building and utility assessments, and site preparations; right-of-way acquisition; tunnel construction, including tunnel boring machine (TBM) excavation and segmental lining and installation; utility relocation and installation work; station, crossover, and connection box construction; MSF construction, including site grading, maintenance building construction, and storage and access track construction; street restorations, including paving and sidewalks; ventilation and emergency egress construction; systems installation and facilities, including trackbed, rail, overhead contact system, conduit, electrical substation, and communications and signaling construction; and construction of other ancillary facilities.

The tunnels would be bored with TBMs, and the stations and track crossover boxes would be constructed via cut-and-cover methods, which entail excavating down from the ground surface and stabilizing the ground with an excavation support, then placing temporary decking surfaces above the excavation and conducting all excavation inside the supported area. The tunnel and station associated with the Hollywood Bowl Design Option would be constructed by sequential excavation method (SEM), which entails conventional mining techniques and equipment for hard rock excavation, which would reduce surface impacts.

Construction staging areas have been identified at each of the station locations, which are described and illustrated in Appendix A of the KNE Construction Approach Report. In order to construct a station, a minimum of one to two acres of construction staging sites would be needed for the duration of the station construction period. A larger construction staging site of three to four acres would be required if the site is also used to launch the TBMs and support tunneling activities. The TBM launch sites have been identified at the Midtown Crossing, San Vicente/Santa Monica, and La Brea/Santa Monica Stations. Temporary street, lane, sidewalk and bike lane closures as well as street reconfigurations will be part of construction activities. Construction and operational impacts on biological resources are identified and discussed in this technical report.

CHAPTER 3 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Rules and regulations have been established by federal, state, and local agencies to help protect and conserve biological resources. The descriptions below provide an overview of agency regulations that may be applicable to the Project. The final determination of whether permits are required is made by the regulating agencies.

3.1 FEDERAL REGULATIONS

3.1.1 FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (FESA, 16 United States Code [USC] 153 et seq.) provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems (USC Title 16, Chapter 35, Sections 1531–1544). The FESA prohibits the "take" of threatened and endangered species except under certain circumstances and only with authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through a permit under Section 4(d), 7 or 10(a) of the FESA. "Take" under the FESA is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct."

Section 7 of FESA requires all federal agencies to use their authorities to conserve endangered and threatened species in consultation with USFWS. This is a "proactive conservation mandate" identified in Section 7(a)(1) of FESA. Section 7(a)(2) directs all federal agencies to ensure that the actions they authorize, fund, or carry out do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

Formal consultation under Section 7 of the FESA would be required if the Project had the potential to affect a federally listed species that has been detected within or adjacent to the resource study area (RSA). No federally listed species are expected to occur within the RSA; therefore, consultation with the USFWS is not anticipated to be necessary.

3.1.2 MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), as amended in 1972 (16 USC 703–711), makes it unlawful, unless permitted by regulations, to "pursue; hunt; take; capture; kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess; offer for sale; sell; offer to purchase; purchase; deliver for shipment; ship; cause to be shipped; deliver for transportation; transport; cause to be transported; carry or cause to be carried by any means whatever; receive for shipment, transportation, or carriage; or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird…for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird" (16 USC 703). Congress passed the MBTA to prohibit the kill or transport of native migratory birds, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird unless allowed by another regulation adopted in accordance with the MBTA (USC Title 16, Chapter 7, Subchapter II, Sections 703–712).

No permit is issued under the MBTA; however, the Project would employ measures outlined in Chapter 6.2 that would avoid or minimize impacts on protected migratory birds.

3.1.3 BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLE PROTECTION ACT

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668) provides for the protection of bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden (*Aquila chrysaetos*) eagles by prohibiting, except under certain specified conditions, the taking, possession, and commerce of these two eagle species. The 1972 amendments increased penalties for violating provisions of the Act and strengthened other enforcement measures. A 1978 amendment authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit the taking of golden eagle nests that interfere with resource development or recovery operations. A 1994 Memorandum (59 Code of Federal Regulations 22953, April 29, 1994) from President William J. Clinton to the heads of executive agencies and departments sets out the policy concerning collection and distribution of eagle feathers for Native American religious purposes.

There are no known bald or golden eagle nests within the RSA or nearby vicinity, and neither species is expected to occur within the RSA due it lacks suitable nesting and foraging habitat.

3.1.4 CLEAN WATER ACT

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional Waters of the United States, which include those waters listed in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 328.3 (Definitions) (USC Title 33, Chapter 26, Sections 101–607). Section 401 of the CWA requires a water quality certification from the state for all permits issued by the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is the state agency in charge of issuing a CWA Section 401 water quality certification or waiver.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USACE announced a final rule founded upon the pre-2015 definition of "Waters of the United States," the revised definition of "Waters of the United States" (USACE and EPA 2023) as regulated under Section 404 of the CWA. The new rule, which became effective on January 18, 2023, streamlines the definition so that it includes simple categories of jurisdictional waters, provides clear exclusions for water features that traditionally have not been regulated, and defines terms in the regulatory text that were previously undefined in statute. The 2023 ruling regulates the nation's navigable waters and the core tributary systems that provide perennial or intermittent flow into them.

The 2023 ruling recognizes five categories of waters that are considered jurisdictional waters of the U.S. These categories include (a)(1) territorial seas and waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; (a)(2) impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the U.S; (a)(3) tributaries; (a)(4) lake and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters; and (a)(5) adjacent wetlands and additional waters such as certain local lakes, streams, wetlands, etc.

The previous ruling, the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, also specifically identifies features that are considered non-jurisdictional. Examples include (b)(2) groundwater; (b)(3) ephemeral features that flow only in direct response to precipitation, including ephemeral streams, swales, gullies, rills, and pools; (b)(5) ditches that are not traditional navigable waters, tributaries, or that are

not constructed in adjacent wetlands (subject to certain limitations); (b)(8) artificial lakes and ponds that are not jurisdictional impoundments and that are constructed or excavated in upland or non-jurisdictional waters, so long as those artificial lakes and ponds are not impoundments of jurisdictional waters that meet the conditions of paragraph (c)(6). No jurisdictional Waters of the United States occur in the RSA.

3.2 STATE REGULATIONS

3.2.1 CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA, California Fish and Game Code [CFGC], Section 2050 et seq.) and Section 2081 of the CFGC, require an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for projects that could result in the "take" of a State-listed threatened or endangered species. Wildlife "take" is defined by CDFW as "to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." Protection extends to the animals, dead or alive, and all their body parts. Section 2081 of CESA allows CDFW to issue an Incidental Take Permit for state-listed threatened or endangered species, should the Project have the potential to "take" a state-listed species that has been detected within or adjacent to the Project. Certain criteria are required under CESA prior to the issuance of such a permit, including the requirement that impacts of the take are minimized and fully mitigated.

No state-listed species have been historically or recently detected within the RSA; therefore, no CDFW-authorized Incidental Take Permit is necessary for the Project.

3.2.2 CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME CODE

The CFGC regulates the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, as well as impacts to natural resources such as wetlands and waters of the state. It includes CESA (Sections 2050–2115) and Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement regulations (Section 1600 et seq.).

No streambed or riparian habitats occur within the RSA; therefore, preparation and submittal of a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement notification to CDFW is not required.

3.2.3 PORTER-COLOGNE WATER QUALITY CONTROL ACT

Under Section 13000 et seq., of the Porter-Cologne Act, RWQCB is the agency that regulates discharges of waste and fill material within any region that could affect waters of the state (California Water Code [CWC] 13260[a]), including wetlands and isolated waters as defined by CWC Section 13050(e).

A Water Discharge Requirement under the Porter-Cologne Act is not anticipated because no discharge of waste and/or fill materials would occur within the RSA.

3.2.4 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA[1] requires that biological resources be considered when assessing the environmental impacts resulting from proposed actions. CEQA does not specifically define what constitutes an "adverse effect" on a biological resource. Instead, lead agencies are charged with determining what specifically should be considered an impact. This report has been prepared for Project compliance with CEQA.

3.3 LOCAL REGULATIONS

3.3.1 SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREA PROGRAM

Los Angeles County first began to inventory biotic resources and identify important areas of biological diversity in the 1970s. Today, the primary mechanism used by the county to conserve biological diversity is a planning overlay called Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) designated in the County's General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element. SEAs are ecologically important land and water systems that support valuable habitat for plants and animals, often integral to the preservation of rare, threatened, or endangered species and the conservation of biological diversity in Los Angeles County. While SEAs are not preserves, they are areas where Los Angeles County deems it important to facilitate a balance between development and resource conservation.

Together, the General Plan overlays and a SEA conditional use permit process are referred to as the SEA Program. The SEA Program, through goals and policies of the General Plan and the SEA ordinance (Title 22 Zoning Regulations, Section 22.56.215), help guide development within SEAs. The SEA ordinance establishes the permitting, design standards, and review process for development within SEAs, and permits are reviewed by the SEA Technical Advisory Committee. Development activities in the SEAs are reviewed closely in order to conserve water and biological resources such as streams, oak woodlands, and threatened or endangered species and their habitat.

No SEAs occur within the RSA; however, the RSA lies approximately 2.8 miles west from the Griffith Park SEA. The Griffith Park SEA occurs outside the RSA, and the Project is not anticipated to affect resources within this SEA; as a result, the SEA Program would not be applicable to the Project.

3.3.2 CITY OF LOS ANGELES NATIVE TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

In response to its declining oak tree population, the City of Los Angeles enacted an oak tree protection ordinance in 1982. To further slow the decline of native trees, the city amended the two City Municipal Code sections pertaining to oak trees in April 2006 to include Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) (Section 17.02 of City Municipal Code). The amended City Municipal Code sections additionally included that native trees must be 4 inches or greater in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground (i.e., diameter at breast height) to be considered protected. The Board of Public Works must issue a permit before any alterations to protected trees are made that could cause them to be

[1] California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et seq.

damaged, relocated, or removed. Pruning also requires a permit and must be consistent with the pruning standards set forth by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Native trees may be found within the RSA; therefore, a permit from the City of Los Angeles may be required if trees need to be trimmed, relocated, or removed.

3.3.3 CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD STREET TREES AND OTHER PLANTS PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Per City of West Hollywood municipal ordinance (Section 11.36.010 of City Municipal Code), it is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation (other than the City, or persons acting under the City's authority) to plant, trim, prune, cut, deface, destroy, burn, or remove any shade or ornamental tree, hedge, plant, shrub, or flower growing, or planted to grow, upon any public highway or public property within the City of West Hollywood without a permit.

Many of the streets, residential areas, and commercial areas of West Hollywood within the RSA are lined with ornamental trees, shrubs, and plants; therefore, a permit from the City of West Hollywood would be required if such an entity is removed, trimmed, pruned, cut, defaced, destroyed, or burned.

3.3.4 LOS ANGELES METRO TREE POLICY

Per the Metro Tree Policy, it is the responsibility of Metro to protect trees affected by Metro-associated construction projects, including a sustainable and robust tree replacement and establishment program for when tree removals are unavoidable. Metro will plan and design new construction or additions so that large trees and other significant site features, such as vistas and views, are preserved. Prior to the initiation of construction, Metro will prepare a tree protection plan identifying Tree Protection Zones for all trees designated for retention. Large trees and other significant site features will be protected from immediate damage that could occur during construction and from delayed damage associated with construction-related activities such as loss of root area due to compaction of the soil by heavy machinery. A mitigation plan will be prepared for any damaged or removed trees in consultation with a certified arborist. Street trees removed by Metro will be replaced with 36-inch box trees at a minimum 2:1 ratio, at or near the location of removal. In addition, Metro will coordinate with the applicable city, as needed, in the event a tree must be affected (i.e., trimmed, pruned, or removed).

3.3.5 HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING

The Project is not within the boundary of an adopted habitat conservation plan (HCP), natural community conservation plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

CHAPTER 4 METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

4.1 METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the Project against thresholds of significance as the basis for determining the level of impacts related to biological resources.

An ecosystem is the interaction between biological resources (e.g., plants, animals, microorganisms) and the physical environment in which they live, all of which function together as a unit. Ecosystems are made up of living organisms, including plants and wildlife and the environment they inhabit. Understanding this relationship between living organisms and their environment is basic to the assessment of impacts on ecosystems and the biological resources they support. The evaluation and summary of the biological resources associated with the Project as presented in this report was primarily based on the following activities:

- An RSA was established for the Project in order evaluate the biological resources present and/or with potential to occur within and immediately surrounding the Project, as further defined in Section 5.2 and displayed on Figure 5-1.
- The evaluation of existing biological resources included (a) special-status species and vegetation communities; (b) wetlands and riparian habitat; and (c) wildlife corridors. For the purpose of this analysis, special-status species are defined as follows:
  - Plant species designated by the California Native Plant Society as "rare, threatened, or endangered in California" (California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 1B and 2B[2]);
  - Wildlife species designated as endangered, threatened, or a candidate for listing under FESA;
  - Wildlife species designated as endangered, threatened, a candidate for listing, or a Species of Special Concern under CESA; and
  - Bat species defined by the Western Bat Working Group [WBWG] as Medium or High Priority Species.
- A search of database inventories, including the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the USFWS online Information for Planning and Consultation environmental review program, was conducted to identify special-status plants and animals with the potential to occur in the RSA. To identify special-status plants and animals with the potential to occur in the RSA, topographic quadrangle maps corresponding with the RSA were included in the CNDDB search. A quadrangle typically refers to a map sheet published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The "7.5-minute" series is the smallest-scale topographic quadrangle map and is also known as a topographic or topo map. The Project is located within the Hollywood,

[2] CRPRs are a ranking system developed by the California Native Plant Society to define and categorize rarity in California flora. The CRPRs range from presumed extinct species (CRPR 1A) to limited distribution/watchlist species (CRPR 4).

Beverly Hills, and Venice 7.5-minute quadrangles, all of which were included in the CNDDB and USFWS records search.

- A desktop review was conducted in December of 2022 using web-based aerial map layers of parks and other public open spaces within the RSA. This work included using Google Earth (2022) to compare past and current biological conditions. Historical imagery available on Google Earth that was used for a comparison exercise of biological conditions dates back to 1985. This effort also included web-based research and the review of reports and local planning documents relevant to the RSA (such as watershed plans and city and county general plans).
- Visual surveys were conducted in May 2023, by method of a windshield survey (from a vehicle) and pedestrian survey (surveying on foot). Surveys consisted of visual observation and selected photographic documentation within the RSA, focusing specifically on any areas with potential for biological resources. Biological resources, if present, were noted, including an inventory of street trees in areas associated with aboveground impacts. Photographic documentation is included as Appendix D, and a summary table of street trees is included as Appendix E.

4.1.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

A search of relevant online databases for regional special-status biological resources in the vicinity of the RSA was conducted in 2022. The RSA occurs in the western portion of the USGS Hollywood quadrangle, the northeastern portion of the USGS Beverly Hills quadrangle, and the Venice quadrangle. A search of these three quadrangles was conducted of the CDFW's CNDDB (CNDDB 2022 and 2023). The USFWS online Information for Planning and Consultation environmental review program was also queried for federally listed species, special-status natural communities, and protected areas known in the RSA (USFWS 2022a). Additionally, the USGS National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2022) and USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2022b) were queried to identify potentially jurisdictional wetland or other waters that may coincide with the RSA.

General biological surveys have been conducted for a variety of species for previous Metro projects in the Los Angeles region, the results of which are presented in various Metro technical reports and EIR documents. These biological surveys were reviewed for information on biological resources in the region.

4.1.2 FIELD SURVEY

Construction related to implementation of the Project will result in predominantly underground (i.e., subsurface) disturbance, which is not anticipated to result in an impact to biological resources within the RSA. Areas identified as locations of surface disturbance, including aboveground station elements, the MSF site, construction staging areas, etc., were sufficiently evaluated through the windshield survey and pedestrian survey methodologies described above. The largely urban environment, predominantly underground footprint, results of database queries, and readily accessible imagery did not necessitate or warrant additional, more extensive field surveys.

4.2 CEQA SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

In accordance with Appendix G of the 2022 CEQA Guidelines, the Project would have a significant impact related to biological resources if it would:

- Impact BIO-1: 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.
- Impact BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS.
- Impact BIO-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- Impact BIO-4: 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.
- Impact BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Impact BIO-6: Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP.

CHAPTER 5 EXISTING SETTING

5.1 REGIONAL SETTING

The regional setting associated with the Project includes a variety of land uses, including single-family and multifamily residential neighborhoods and dense commercial and retail corridors. The character of communities changes dramatically from the Metro E Line in the south to Hollywood in the north. The southern portion of the Project (south of Wilshire Boulevard) consists of low-rise but fairly dense housing with small-scale commercial uses, while the northern portion of the Project (north of Wilshire Boulevard) is characterized by regional activity centers, dense retail development, hotels, and significant employment centers and tourist attractions, as well as high-density, multifamily residential development. An overview of the Project location is depicted on Figure 2-1. The surrounding land use as it applies specifically to the RSA and existing biological resources is described in Section 5.2.4.

5.2 RESOURCE STUDY AREA

The specialized resource study area identified for biological resources is referred to as the RSA (Figure 5-1 and Figure 5-2). The RSA was defined and delineated based on the proposed physical configuration of the Project's alignment alternatives (San Vicente-Fairfax, Fairfax, and La Brea), the Hollywood Bowl Design Option, and the proposed MSF, as well as on reviews of Project plans, Google Earth imagery, and evaluating potential construction limits. The RSA includes Project features associated with the Project's alignment alternatives and stations, the design option, and the MSF that have potential to result in surface-level disturbance (both permanent and temporary) that could affect the biological resources identified and discussed in Sections 5.2.1 through 5.2.12. The RSA extends 500 feet from the perimeter of each applicable feature to account for potential indirect impacts resulting from Project construction activities and operations. Features defined as "subsurface" (including the underground alignments) are not anticipated to have impacts on biological resources at surface level; therefore, were not included in the RSA nor were they evaluated. The RSA for the entirety of the Project, including the Project's alignment alternatives and stations, the design option, and the MSF, encompasses approximately 740 acres and is further defined below.

FIGURE 5-1. RESOURCE STUDY AREA FOR THE ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DESIGN OPTION

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

FIGURE 5-2. RESOURCE STUDY AREA OF THE MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

5.2.1 ALIGNMENTS AND STATIONS

The RSA associated with each of the three alignment alternatives applies only to those specific features identified that would result in potential surface-level construction. Surface-level construction could include features such as the station entrances, signage, construction staging areas, sidewalk zone of influence, ventilation structures, and other ancillary facilities (emergency egress facilities or emergency exits) proposed for construction. For each of the features resulting in surface construction, the RSA was delineated to include both the physical configuration of the construction footprint and a 500-foot buffer.

The landscape and general regional setting of each alignment and station is fairly uniform throughout the vicinity of the Project as a result of the heavy urbanization described in Section 5.1; therefore, the biological resources and existing conditions discussed in detail in Sections 5.2.4 through 5.2.12 are applicable to the RSA associated with all stations and other ancillary facilities associated with each alignment, unless otherwise specified.

5.2.2 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

For the Hollywood Bowl Design Option, similar to what was described above for the alignments and stations, the RSA associated with it includes only those specific features (including the potential construction staging areas, sidewalk zones of influence, emergency egress shafts and ventilation structures, and station entrances) that would result in surface-level disturbance with potential to affect the biological resources evaluated herein. For each of the Project features, the RSA was delineated to include both the physical configuration of the construction footprint and a 500-foot buffer. Any underground (i.e., subsurface) features associated with the design option are exempted, as earlier noted.

The existing conditions associated with the Hollywood Bowl Design Option are consistent with the regional setting, as described in Section 5.1. The construction footprint generally overlaps with existing roadways and areas of development and/or disturbance; however, there is a naturally vegetated hillslope that is less vegetated within the northwestern-most portion of the construction footprint. The biological resources and existing conditions discussed in detail in Sections 5.2.4 through 5.2.12 are applicable to the design option and associated RSA, unless otherwise specified.

5.2.3 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

For the proposed MSF, the RSA associated with the site applies only to those specific features that would result in surface-level disturbance with potential to affect the biological resources evaluated herein. For each Project feature, the RSA was delineated to include both the physical configuration of the construction footprint and a 500-foot buffer.

The landscape and general regional setting of the MSF is fairly uniform throughout the vicinity of the Project as a result of the commercial development described in Section 5.1; therefore, the biological resources and existing conditions discussed in detail in Sections 5.2.4 through 5.2.12 are applicable to the MSF site and associated RSA, unless otherwise specified.

5.2.4 SURROUNDING LAND USE

The entirety of the RSA is located in a metropolitan setting that consists of a highly urbanized landscape including both commercial and residential communities. The landscape both within the RSA and in the immediate vicinity is also composed of housing developments, high-density residential buildings, commercial and retail buildings, and roads and highways. Development and improvements continue to occur within the RSA and immediate vicinity relating to infrastructure improvement, new housing developments, and commercial development. In general, natural habitats within the RSA are highly fragmented and rare; therefore, potential biological resources are limited to open spaces, community parks, and vacant lots.

5.2.5 TOPOGRAPHY

The RSA includes Los Angeles County areas of South Los Angeles, the LAX area, Mid-City, Central Los Angeles, West Hollywood, and Hollywood. The RSA is located within the Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Venice USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The topography of the RSA ranges between approximately 100 to 580 feet above the average height of the ocean surface or mean sea level. Higher elevations are mainly found at the northern part of the Project near the Hollywood Bowl and Hollywood Hills, while the lower elevations occur at the southern and central portions of the Project.

5.2.6 CLIMATE

Average precipitation for the City of Los Angeles and the City of West Hollywood is approximately 18.63 inches per year. The wettest month for the two cities is February, which averages 5.07 inches, and the driest month is July, which averages zero inches. The average annual low temperature for both cities is approximately 56 degrees Fahrenheit (F) and is lowest in December through March, and the average annual high temperature is approximately 72 degrees F and is highest in August with temperatures that can reach over 100 degrees. The climate is generally categorized as Köppen Csa Mediterranean, which is characterized by hot, dry summers, and mild to warm winters, with increased precipitation (CDFW 2021).

5.2.7 SOILS

A number of different soil types are present within the RSA and serve as a reservoir for water and nutrients essential for the success of biological resources such as plants and wildlife. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soils Report for Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part, there are 10 soil types within the RSA (USDA NRCS 2022):

- Osito-Kawenga association, 20 to 65 percent slopes
- Urban land-Anthraltic Xerothents, loamy substratum-Grommet complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Urban land-Azuvina-Montebello complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Urban land-Ballona-Typic Xerorthents, fine substratum complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Urban land-Biscailuz-Pico complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes

- Urban land-Grommet-Ballona, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Urban land-Palmview-Tujunga, gravelly complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Urban land-Thums-Pierview complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Urban land-Xerothents, landscaped complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Urban land-Windfetch-typic Haplozerolls complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes

5.2.8 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND COVER CLASSES

Vegetation communities found within the majority of the RSA consist largely of ornamental trees, grasses, and shrubs (Figure 5-3). A fragmented area of natural vegetated habitat identified as disturbed buckwheat scrub is located in the northernmost portion of the RSA near the Hollywood Bowl Design Option (Figure 5-4). This area occurs adjacent to the station box/crossover and overlaps with the associated construction staging area. A description of the vegetation community cover classes identified during the desktop analysis is provided below based on *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (Sawyer et al. 2009). A series of representative photos can be found in Appendix D.

5.2.8.1 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

This category includes vegetated areas with species generally native to California:

- Ornamental: Areas classified as ornamental landscape are generally associated with developed areas where there are significant landscape plantings of non-native and/or native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species that originate from a plant nursery (Figure 5-3). The dominant species typically observed include oleander (*Nerium oleander*), eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.), and Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*).
- Disturbed buckwheat scrub: This vegetation community is dominated by species indicative of buckwheat scrub with plant species such as California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*), coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) (Figure 5-4). Numerous non-native plant species, including brome grasses (*Bromus* ssp.), are also found within the vegetation community.

FIGURE 5-3. EXAMPLE OF ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPING VEGETATION COMMUNITY OBSERVED ON NORTH LA BREA AVENUE, CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

FIGURE 5-4. EXAMPLE OF DISTURBED BUCKWHEAT SCRUB VEGETATION COMMUNITY, LOCATED IN THE NORTHERNMOST PORTION OF THE RSA NEAR THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL, CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

5.2.8.2 COVER CLASSES

This category includes non-vegetated or sparsely vegetated areas with species generally not native to California:

- Developed: The developed cover class consists of areas of paved roads, residential areas, industrial buildings, commercial developments, bridges, and other structures that contain no vegetation or some ornamental landscaping. The RSA is mainly composed of this cover class (Figure 5-5).
- Unvegetated: Unvegetated cover class consists of vacant lots with little to no vegetation caused by human disturbance (Figure 5-6).

FIGURE 5-5. EXAMPLE OF DEVELOPED COVER CLASS ON NORTH HIGHLAND AVENUE, CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

FIGURE 5-6. EXAMPLE OF UNVEGETATED COVER CLASS OBSERVED ON ARBOR VITAE STREET, CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

5.2.9 SPECIAL-STATUS NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Special-status natural communities are those that are designated as rare in the region by CDFW, support special-status plant or wildlife species, or receive regulatory protection (i.e., Section 404 of the CWA and/or Sections 1600 et seq. of the CFGC). A CNDDB search of the full USGS quadrangles in which the RSA occurs generated three special-status natural communities: California Walnut Woodland, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian, and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland. However, no special-status natural communities were found in the RSA.

5.2.10 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES

Wildlife and plant species occurring more commonly within the RSA are likely to be those that are tolerant of anthropogenic disturbances and therefore adapted to surviving in an urban environment. As previously noted, special-status plant and wildlife species (Appendix C) evaluated as part of this biological analysis are defined as follows:

- Plant species designated by the California Native Plant Society as “rare, threatened, or endangered in California” (CRPR 1B and 2B);
- Wildlife species designated as endangered, threatened, or a candidate for listing under FESA;
- Wildlife species designated as endangered, threatened, a candidate for listing, or a Species of Special Concern under CESA; and
- Bat species defined by the WBWG as Medium or High Priority Species.

In total, 31 special-status plant species and 30 special-status wildlife species were generated from the database queries associated with historic detections and occurrences within the three 7.5-minute quadrangles corresponding with the RSA (Figure 5-7 and Appendix C). Of the 61 special-status species, 12 species overlap with the RSA; however, the majority of the species were determined to have no potential to occur due to lack or absence of suitable habitat currently present within the RSA and because the largely urbanized and developed nature of the RSA results in unfavorable conditions for foraging and breeding. No special-status species detections overlap with the MSF RSA.

FIGURE 5-7. SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITHIN THE RSA

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

One special-status bat species, the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*; WBWG Medium Priority Species), was determined to have a low potential to occur in the RSA. This species is migratory and has low potential to occur as a potential flyover; however, it is not expected to roost (including both solitary and maternity roosts) or forage consistently within the RSA due to a limited suitable resources. This species roosts in dense foliage associated with medium to large trees situated in open or mosaic habitat, none of which occurs naturally within the RSA. There are, however, a number of ornamental trees that could be utilized for potential roosting. The only CNDDB occurrence of a hoary bat within the RSA is from 1928, and this area is now highly developed.

In addition to the hoary bat, numerous avian species protected under both the MBTA (16 USC Section 703 et seq.) and CFGC have potential to occur within the RSA. Portions of the RSA provide both suitable breeding, foraging, and roosting habitat in the form of trees, vegetation, and man-made structures.

5.2.11 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND MOVEMENT

A migration or wildlife corridor is an area of habitat that connects two or more patches of habitat that would otherwise be isolated from each other. Wildlife corridors are typically adjacent to urban areas. A functional wildlife corridor allows for ease of movement between habitat patches and is important in preventing habitat fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation is typically caused by human development and can lead to a decrease in biodiversity and ecosystem functionality.

The landscape within the RSA consists of commercial, residential, industrial, and governmental properties. According to the CDFW Biogeographic Information and Observation System, there are no formally designated Essential Connectivity Areas within the RSA; however, there is a Natural Landscape Block, designated as such due to the presence of protected natural lands. This Natural Landscape Block is northeast of the RSA, within Griffith Park, and extends southwest, crossing the Hollywood Freeway and into the Hollywood Bowl Design Option; it provides connectivity between natural landscapes associated with the Hollywood Reservoir and Runyon Canyon Park located in the Hollywood Hills. The second closest natural area is Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, located approximately 1.3 miles from the southernmost portion of the RSA. While most of the RSA is within a developed area, the Natural Landscape Block that overlaps with the Hollywood Bowl Station has potential to be used by wildlife during migration and dispersal events; however, the existing Hollywood Freeway, additional surface streets, and scattered residential neighborhoods likely act as restrictive barriers and general deterrent to wildlife movement.

5.2.12 JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

Based on USFWS National Wetland Inventory Web Mapper and Google Earth imagery, there are no jurisdictional resources within the RSA; however, there are three jurisdictional resources in the surrounding area. The Los Angeles River is located approximately four miles east of the northernmost portion of the RSA and seven miles from the southernmost portion of the RSA. The Hollywood Reservoir, a large constructed water supply and storage lake, occurs one-half-mile to the northwest of the northernmost portion of the RSA. The Ballona Creek Ecological Reserve is an 8.8-mile watershed

that flows through southwestern Los Angeles and drains into the Santa Monica Bay; it is located approximately four miles northwest of the MSF RSA. None of these jurisdictional resources occur within an RSA, and they would not be affected by the Project.

CHAPTER 6 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

6.1 IMPACT ANALYSIS

This section presents the evaluation of impacts related to biological resources, as well as the corresponding mitigation measures, where applicable. Both construction and operational impacts are evaluated. The impact discussions and conclusions relate to all construction that takes place aboveground and to operations. There is no potential for impact on biological resources related to the subsurface Project segments of the three alignment alternatives or the design option. Table 6-1 in Section 6.1.8 provides a summary of the impact conclusions.

Project measures are design features, best management practices, or other commitments that Metro will implement as part of all alignment alternatives and station, the design option, and the MSF to reduce or avoid environmental effects associated with the Project. Project measures are not the same as mitigation measures, which are used to reduce an environmental impact's significance level. Where applicable, project measures are identified here as part of the evaluation of environmental impacts in this chapter.

6.1.1 PROJECT MEASURE PM BIO-1: CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To ensure biological resources are generally protected during construction and operation of the Project, the following best management practices (BMPs) are recommended as project measures:

1. Project limits shall be clearly delineated with fencing or other boundary markers prior to the start of Project construction or operational activities, as applicable. Workers shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and materials to the designated Project limits and staging areas. The boundaries of the access roads will be clearly delineated so that activities do not extend beyond the authorized limits of road repairs.
2. During Project construction and operation, the Project limits shall be kept as clean of debris as possible to avoid attracting wildlife. All food-related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and removed daily from the work zone.
3. Smoking will be prohibited in all areas except for clearly defined disturbed/developed areas where the potential to start a fire is minimal.
4. No pets, outside of approved service animals, will be permitted within the area of construction or operational activities.
5. During Project construction and operation, a minimal amount of watering will be used for dust control. Water trucks will ensure that water is not running off roads and other surfaces into the environment.

6. Fueling of vehicles and equipment will be conducted only in authorized locations such as staging/laydown areas and will use secondary containment to prevent releases of fuel into the environment that could contaminate and/or degrade biological resources.
7. Spill kits will be kept readily available in Project vehicles/equipment.

6.1.2 IMPACT BIO-1: IMPACT ON CANDIDATE, SENSITIVE, OR SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Impact BIO-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?

6.1.2.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on biological resources, including FESA- and CESA-listed species, anticipated during construction activities and operational activities.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds protected under the MBTA (hereafter referred to as "migratory nesting birds") have the potential to occur in the RSA. Construction activities (such as permanent vegetation removal resulting in a loss of breeding and/or foraging habitat and prolonged heavy equipment operation resulting in noise, dust, and vibration disturbances) associated with the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative could therefore have an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on nesting birds. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for a substantial adverse effect on migratory nesting birds, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1, discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds could occur in the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory nesting birds. Therefore, the KNE San Vicente–Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.2.2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on biological resources, including FESA- and CESA-listed species, anticipated during construction activities and operational activities.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds have the potential to occur in the RSA. Construction activities (such as permanent vegetation removal resulting in a loss of breeding and/or foraging habitat and prolonged heavy equipment operation resulting in noise, dust, and vibration disturbances) associated with the Fairfax Alignment Alternative could therefore have an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on migratory nesting birds. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for a substantial adverse effect on these species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds could occur in the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory nesting birds. Therefore, the Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.2.3 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on biological resources, including FESA- and CESA-listed species, anticipated during construction activities and operational activities.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds have the potential to occur in the RSA. Construction activities (such as permanent vegetation removal resulting in a loss of breeding and/or foraging habitat and prolonged heavy equipment operation resulting in noise, dust, and vibration disturbances) associated with the La Brea Alignment Alternative could therefore have an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on migratory nesting birds. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for a substantial adverse effect on these species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds could occur in the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on

migratory nesting birds. Therefore, the La Brea Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.2.4 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on biological resources, including FESA- and CESA-listed species, anticipated during construction activities and operational activities of the Hollywood Bowl Design Option.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds have the potential to occur in the RSA. Construction activities (such as permanent vegetation removal resulting in a loss of breeding and/or foraging habitat and prolonged heavy equipment operation resulting in noise, dust, and vibration disturbances) associated with the design option could therefore have an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on migratory nesting birds. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for a substantial adverse effect on these species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds could occur in the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory nesting birds. Therefore, the Hollywood Bowl Design Option would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.2.5 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on biological resources, including FESA- and CESA-listed species, anticipated during construction and operational activities of the proposed MSF.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds have the potential to occur in the RSA. Construction activities (such as permanent vegetation removal resulting in a loss of breeding and/or foraging habitat and prolonged heavy equipment operation resulting in noise, dust, and vibration disturbances) associated with the MSF could therefore have an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on migratory nesting birds. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for a substantial adverse effect on these species, which would be considered a significant

impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. Based on habitat requirements and a desktop analysis, migratory nesting birds could occur in the MSF RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory nesting birds. Therefore, the MSF would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.3 IMPACT BIO-2: IMPACT ON RIPARIAN OR OTHER SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY

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

6.1.3.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities anticipated during construction activities and operational activities of the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Although there is riparian habitat associated with the Los Angeles River, it is approximately four miles from the northernmost portion of the RSA and seven miles from the southernmost portion of the RSA and would therefore not be affected by the Project. Therefore, construction of the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have no impact on riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA; therefore, operation of the alignment alternative would have no impact on riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities.

6.1.3.2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities anticipated during construction activities and operational activities of the Fairfax Alignment Alternative.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Although there is riparian habitat associated with the Los Angeles River, it is

approximately four miles from the northernmost portion of the RSA and seven miles from the southernmost portion of the RSA, and it would not be affected by the Fairfax Alignment Alternative. Therefore, construction of the Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have no impact on riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA; therefore, operation of the alignment alternative would have no impact on riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities.

6.1.3.3 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities anticipated during construction activities and operational activities of the La Brea Alignment Alternative.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA. Although there is riparian habitat associated with the Los Angeles River, it is approximately four miles from the northernmost portion of the RSA and seven miles from the southernmost portion of the RSA, and it would not be affected by the La Brea Alignment Alternative. Therefore, construction of the La Brea Alignment Alternative would have no impact on riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA; therefore, operation of the alignment alternative would have no impact on riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities.

6.1.3.4 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

The analysis below addresses potential impacts on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities anticipated during construction activities and operational activities of the Project Hollywood Bowl Design Option.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA. Although there is riparian habitat associated with the Los Angeles River, it is approximately four miles east of the RSA and it would not be affected by the design option. Therefore, construction of the Hollywood Bowl Design Option would have no impact on riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA; therefore, operation of the design option would have no impact on riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities.

6.1.3.5 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the MSF RSA. Although there is riparian habitat associated with the Los Angeles River, it is approximately 12 miles east of the MSF RSA and would not be affected by construction of the MSF. Therefore, construction of the MSF would have no impact on riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no riparian or sensitive natural communities within the MSF RSA; therefore, operation of the MSF would have no impact on riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities.

6.1.4 IMPACT BIO-3: IMPACT ON WETLANDS

Impact BIO-3: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

6.1.4.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no state or federally protected wetlands within the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Therefore, there would be no impact on wetlands related to construction or operation of the alignment alternative.

6.1.4.2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no state or federally protected wetlands within the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Therefore, there would be no impact on wetlands related to construction or operation of the alignment alternative.

6.1.4.3 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no state or federally protected wetlands within the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA. Therefore, there would be no impact on wetlands related to construction or operation of the alignment alternative.

6.1.4.4 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no state or federally protected wetlands within the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA. Therefore, there would be no impact on wetlands related construction or operation of the design option.

6.1.4.5 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no state or federally protected wetlands within the MSF RSA. The Ballona Creek Ecological Reserve is approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the RSA; however, the reserve is far enough in distance that no impacts are anticipated to the reserve as a result of construction and operation of the MSF. Therefore, there would be no impact on wetlands related to construction or operation of the proposed MSF.

6.1.5 IMPACT BIO-4: INTERFERE WITH MOVEMENT OF NATIVE RESIDENT OR MIGRATORY FISH OR WILDLIFE SPECIES

Impact BIO-4: Would the Project interfere substantially with the movement of 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?

6.1.5.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. Construction activities (such as vegetation removal resulting in a loss of foraging, resting, or sheltering habitat used during migration events) associated with the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative could therefore interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for the Project to substantially effect migratory avian species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation

measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory birds. Therefore, the San Vicente–Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.5.2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. Construction activities (such as vegetation removal resulting in a loss of foraging, resting, or sheltering habitat used during migration events) associated with the Fairfax Alignment Alternative could therefore interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for the Project to substantially effect migratory avian species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory birds. Therefore, the Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.5.3 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. Construction activities (such as vegetation removal resulting in a loss of foraging, resting, or sheltering habitat used during migration events) associated with the La Brea

Alignment Alternative could therefore interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for the Project to substantially effect migratory avian species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory birds. Therefore, the La Brea Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation

6.1.5.4 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA. There is a CDFW designated Natural Landscape Block located within the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA; however, the construction of the Hollywood Bowl Design Option is not anticipated to affect its overall function. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. Construction activities (such as vegetation removal resulting in a loss of foraging, resting, or sheltering habitat used during migration events) associated with the design option could therefore interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for the Project to substantially effect migratory avian species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory birds. Therefore, the Hollywood Bowl Design Option would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.5.5 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the MSF RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. Construction activities (such as vegetation removal resulting in a loss of foraging, resting, or sheltering habitat used during migration events) associated with the MSF could therefore interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species. Project measure PM BIO-1 would include construction BMPs, such as clearly delineating the Project limits, to avoid or reduce the level of impacts. However, even with implementation of these BMPs, there is the potential for the Project to substantially effect migratory avian species, which would be considered a significant impact. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to further reduce construction-related impacts to migratory nesting birds.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There are no native resident or migratory fish with established native resident corridors or migration routes present within the MSF RSA. Migratory nesting birds could occur within the RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no effect on migratory birds. Therefore, the MSF would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.6 IMPACT BIO-5: CONFLICT WITH LOCAL POLICIES OR ORDINANCES PROTECTING BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

6.1.6.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX

There are two local ordinances or policies protecting biological resources in the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA: the City of Los Angeles Native Tree Ordinance and the City of West Hollywood Street Trees and Other Plants Protection Ordinance. No other ordinances or policies related to biological resources were identified.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There is potential for a significant impact related to tree and vegetation removal within the City of Los Angeles and the City of West Hollywood. Each city's tree-protection ordinance would require coordination, a tree inventory survey, and permits related to potential impacts to native and/or ornamental trees along city streets. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-2, discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to reduce construction-related impacts of the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no conflict with local policies or ordinances. Therefore, the San Vicente–Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.6.2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX

There are two local ordinances or policies protecting biological resources in the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA: the City of Los Angeles Native Tree Ordinance and the City of West Hollywood Street Trees and Other Plants Protection Ordinance. No other ordinances or policies related to biological resources were identified.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There is potential for a significant impact related to tree and vegetation removal within the City of Los Angeles and the City of West Hollywood. Each city's tree-protection ordinance would require coordination, a tree inventory survey, and permits related to potential impacts to native and/or ornamental trees along city streets. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-2, discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to reduce construction-related impacts of the Fairfax Alignment Alternative.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no conflict with local policies or ordinances. Therefore, the Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.6.3 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA

There are two local ordinances or policies protecting biological resources in the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA: the City of Los Angeles Native Tree Ordinance and the City of West Hollywood Street Trees and Other Plants Protection Ordinance. No other ordinances or policies related to biological resources were identified.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There is potential for a significant impact related to tree and vegetation removal within the City of Los Angeles and the City of West Hollywood. Each city's tree-protection ordinance would require coordination, a tree inventory survey, and permits related to potential impacts to native and/or ornamental trees along city streets. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-2, discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to reduce construction-related impacts of the La Brea Alignment Alternative.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no conflict with local policies or ordinances. Therefore, the La Brea Alignment Alternative would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.6.4 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

There is one local ordinance or policy protecting biological resources in the Hollywood Bowl Design Option RSA: the City of Los Angeles Native Tree Ordinance.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. There is potential for a significant impact related to tree and vegetation removal within the City of Los Angeles. The City's tree-protection ordinance would require coordination, a tree inventory survey, and permits related to potential impacts to native and/or ornamental trees along city streets. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-2, discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to reduce construction-related impacts of the Hollywood Bowl Design Option.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no conflict with local policies or ordinances. Therefore, the Hollywood Bowl Design Option would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.6.5 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

There is one local ordinance or policy protecting biological resources in the MSF RSA: the City of Los Angeles Native Tree Ordinance.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Significant Impact. The City of Los Angeles Native Tree Ordinance is the only ordinance or local policy protecting biological resources in the MSF RSA. There is potential for a significant impact related to tree and vegetation removal within the City of Los Angeles. The city's tree-protection ordinance would require coordination, a tree inventory survey, and permits related to potential impacts to native and/or ornamental trees along city streets. Therefore, mitigation measure MM BIO-2, discussed in Section 6.2, is recommended to reduce construction-related impacts of the proposed MSF.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Less than Significant Impact. The City of Los Angeles Native Tree Ordinance is the only ordinance or local policy protecting biological resources in the MSF RSA. There would be little to no tree and vegetation removal expected during operational activities. As a result, there would be no conflict with local policies or ordinances. Therefore, the MSF would have a less than significant impact during operation.

6.1.7 IMPACT BIO-6: CONFLICT WITH PROVISIONS OF A HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN OR NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN

Impact BIO-6: Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP?

6.1.7.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no adopted HCP, NCCP, or HCP or other approved HCPs that occur within the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Therefore, the construction and operation of the San Vicente-Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have no impact on adopted HCPs or NCCPs.

6.1.7.2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no adopted HCP, NCCP, or HCP or other approved HCPs that occur within the Fairfax Alignment Alternative RSA. Therefore, the construction and operation of the Fairfax Alignment Alternative would have no impact on adopted HCPs or NCCPs.

6.1.7.3 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no adopted HCP, NCCP, or HCP or other approved HCPs that occur within the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA. Therefore, the construction and operation of the La Brea Alignment Alternative would have no impact on adopted HCPs or NCCPs.

6.1.7.4 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no adopted HCP, NCCP, or HCP or other approved HCPs that occur within the La Brea Alignment Alternative RSA. Therefore, the construction and operation of the Hollywood Bowl Design Option would have no impact on adopted HCPs or NCCPs.

6.1.7.5 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

No Impact. There are no adopted HCP, NCCP, or HCP or other approved HCPs that occur within the RSA. Therefore, the construction and operation of the MSF would have no impact on adopted HCPs or NCCPs.

6.1.8 SUMMARY OF IMPACT CONCLUSIONS

Table 6-1 provides a summary of the impact conclusions discussed in this section.

TABLE 6-1. IMPACT CONCLUSION SUMMARY TABLE

IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD	IMPACT CONCLUSION				
	ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX	ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX	ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA	HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION	MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY
Impact BIO-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?	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact
Impact BIO-2: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact
Impact BIO-3: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact

IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD	IMPACT CONCLUSION				
	ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1: SAN VICENTE-FAIRFAX	ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2: FAIRFAX	ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 3: LA BREA	HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION	MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY
Impact BIO-4: Would the Project interfere substantially with the movement of 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?	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact
Impact BIO-5: Would the Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact	Construction: Significant Impact Operations: Less than Significant Impact
Impact BIO-6: Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP?	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact	Construction: No Impact Operations: No Impact

Source: Connect Los Angeles Partners 2023

6.2 MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are provided to reduce the significant project impacts identified in Section 6.1 to less than significant levels.

6.2.1 MITIGATION MEASURE MM BIO-1: AVOID AND MINIMIZE PROJECT-RELATED IMPACTS TO MIGRATORY NESTING BIRDS.

The clearance of any vegetation shall occur outside of the nesting bird season (nesting bird season is generally defined as January 15 through September 15). If vegetation removal outside this time period is not feasible, the following additional measures shall be employed to avoid and minimize impacts to special-status bird species and migratory nesting birds protected under the MBTA and CFGC:

- A nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a Qualified Biologist within three days (72 hours) prior to the start of vegetation removal activities associated with construction or operation activities to determine whether active nests are present within or directly adjacent to the construction zone. All nests found shall be recorded. If Project activities are delayed past the 72 hours, then another nesting bird survey should be completed within 24 hours.
- If Project activities must occur within a nest avoidance zone, then a buffer shall be established around each active nest. A 150-foot-radius buffer for nesting birds and a 300-foot-radius buffer for raptor nests will be implemented. The Qualified Biologist may adjust the buffer distance based on construction activities occurring within the vicinity of the bird nest and the bird's tolerance to the construction activities. A Qualified Biologist shall monitor each nest on a biweekly basis, and Project activities shall be postponed until the Qualified Biologist determines that the nest is no longer active (either by fledgling or failing naturally). If a bird nests while active construction is in progress, it is assumed that the bird is tolerant of that level of disturbance and Project activities will not be postponed unless the individual is later observed in a distressed state by the Qualified Biologist during the biweekly checks. If a nest is adjacent to an access road where no Project activities are being conducted, vehicles can drive past the nest without stopping or parking.
- If the recommended nest avoidance buffer is not feasible, a buffer reduction is possible, taking into consideration the location of work and type of activity, distance of nest from work area, surrounding vegetation and line-of-sight between the nest and work areas, tolerance of species to disturbance, and observations of the nesting bird's reaction to Project activities. If a Qualified Biologist determines nesting activities may fail as a result of work activities, all Project work would cease within the recommended no-disturbance buffer (defined as a 150-foot radius for nesting birds and 300-foot radius for raptors) until a Qualified Biologist determines the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site.
- Buffers will be delineated on-site by the Qualified Biologist for easy identification by Project staff. Project staff will be informed by the Qualified Biologist of any active nests to ensure Project activities do not cause disturbance. Project staff will be updated weekly of nest status and when avoidance buffers are no longer necessary.
- If night-time lighting is determined to be necessary, it will be shielded and directed away from adjacent native habitats.

- A summary of nesting bird surveys, monitoring efforts, and any no-disturbance buffers that were installed shall be documented by the Qualified Biologist at the conclusion of each nesting season.

6.2.2 MITIGATION MEASURE MM BIO-2: AVOID AND MINIMIZE PROJECT-RELATED IMPACTS TO PROTECTED TREES.

- Prior to beginning work, a Consulting Arborist shall conduct a tree survey to identify protected trees that fall within the Project's impact zones. Protected trees must be four inches or greater in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground (i.e., diameter at breast height) to be considered protected in the City of Los Angeles and City of West Hollywood.
- A Consulting Arborist will determine if there are trees present that require additional protection in accordance with state, federal, and local laws and ordinances.
- A permit with the City of Los Angeles and/or the City of West Hollywood is required if a native or protected tree or shrub is within the city boundaries and will be affected by construction or operational activities of the Project.
- Prior to construction and in accordance with the Metro Tree Policy, a tree protection plan will be prepared identifying Tree Protection Zones for all trees designated for retention. A Tree Protection Zone shall be established by erecting temporary fences in an environmentally sensitive manner to protect trees that are determined to require preservation. Fence installation in an "environmentally sensitive manner" includes avoiding encroachment on the surrounding habitat and vegetation during construction of the fence. Fences are to remain until all site work has been completed so that large trees and other significant site features will be protected from immediate damage that could occur during construction and from delayed damage associated with construction-related activities such as loss of root area due to compaction of the soil by heavy machinery. No construction-related materials shall be stored or staged within the fenced Tree Protection Zones.
- In accordance with the Metro Tree Policy, a mitigation plan will be prepared for any damaged or removed trees in consultation with a certified arborist. Street trees removed by Metro will be replaced with 36-inch box trees at a minimum 2:1 ratio, at or near the location of removal.

6.2.3 IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Less than Significant. MM BIO-1 would be implemented to mitigate the potential significant construction impacts identified in Section 6.1 under Impact BIO-1 and Impact BIO-4 for all alignment alternatives and stations, the design option, and the MSF. MM BIO-2 would be implemented to mitigate the potential significant construction impacts identified under Impact BIO-5 for all alignment alternatives and stations, the design option, and the MSF. Implementation of the mitigation measures will mitigate these biological resources impacts to a less than significant level.

CHAPTER 7 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Under the state CEQA Guidelines, cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual impacts that, when considered together, are considerable or would compound and increase other environmental impacts (Section 15355). These cumulative impacts must be discussed in an EIR when the project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable" (Section 15130). "Cumulatively considerable" is defined as when the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects (Section 15065(a)(3)).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1) includes two methodology approaches for assessing cumulative impacts. One approach is a "list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)(A)). The other approach is a "summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional, or statewide plan, or related document, that describes or evaluates conditions contributing to the cumulative effect" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15030 (b)(1)(B)). For the purposes of this analysis, the latter approach is used due to the long Project implementation time. The forecasted Project completion timeframe is in the mid- to late-2040s based on Metro Measure M funding. Due to the long-term nature of the Project's implementation, a list of land use and transportation projects is insufficient for the cumulative analysis since the currently known projects would be completed and operational by the Project's forecasted completion. In addition, it is highly likely many additional projects will be proposed and constructed between now and project implementation in 20 years; therefore, any project list developed now would be incomplete and incorrect.

The SCAG 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Plan is the adopted long-range forecast for population, households, and employment within the six-county Southern California region, which includes all Project elements. The Project is also included in the SCAG 2020 RTP/SCS Plan, as well as Metro's 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan. The RTP/SCS was adopted in 2020 and proposes land use and transportation strategies to improve mobility options and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern (SCAG 2020). SCAG worked in close coordination with decision-makers and the public across multiple jurisdictions throughout the SCAG region to create the plan. The population, household, and employment growth projections from this plan are used to assess regional growth and its cumulative impact within the vicinity of the Project.

For the cumulative analysis, the RSA is defined as a half-mile radius from the stations, the design option, and the MSF. The half-mile radius is used for all resources to ensure consistency in evaluating cumulative effects. Table 7-1 shows the projected net growth in population, households, and employment between 2019 and 2045 for a half-mile radius from all Project stations, the design option, and the MSF. The data in the table were calculated by merging the SCAG 2020 RTP/SCS growth projections with the SCAG Tier 2 Transportation Analysis Zone boundaries for Los Angeles County, then assessed for a half-mile radius around the stations, the design option, and the MSF. The data show the projected growth from transportation and development projects, as well as associated infrastructure, that when combined with the Project's construction and operation, could result in cumulative effects.

TABLE 7-1. SCAG PROJECTED PERCENT GROWTH FOR HALF-MILE BUFFER AREAS, 2019-2045

HALF-MILE BUFFER AREA	POPULATION % GROWTH	HOUSEHOLD % GROWTH	EMPLOYMENT % GROWTH
STATIONS			
Expo/Crenshaw	46.0	65.9	26.4
Crenshaw/Adams	35.6	56.3	19.6
Midtown Crossing	20.2	33.1	21.1
Wilshire/Fairfax	19.8	21.2	6.2
Fairfax/3rd	21.9	23.1	6.5
La Cienega/Beverly	30.7	31.3	6.1
San Vicente/Santa Monica	11.5	11.4	46.2
Fairfax/Santa Monica	7.2	7.7	49.5
La Brea/Santa Monica	16.0	17.2	42.6
Hollywood/Highland	16.2	15.0	3.0
Wilshire/La Brea	22.8	24.3	9.4
La Brea/Beverly	17.9	24.5	14.5
DESIGN OPTION			
Hollywood Bowl Design Option	30.4	29.0	17.4
MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY			
MSF	14.0	15.9	9.9

Source: SCAG 2020 RTP/SCS Growth Forecast
Note: MSF = maintenance and storage facility

7.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

There is an existing cumulative impact in the RSA related to biological resources. The cumulative setting for MBTA-protected bird and special-status bat species is considered nesting and foraging habitat in trees within the RSA. Existing and continuing development contributes to cumulative impacts on migratory nesting bird species. Nesting and roosting substrate removal due to current and future development in the vicinity of the Project is the biggest threat to bird species (USFWS 2023 and Miner et al. 2005). Cumulative impacts, such as removal of protected trees protected under local ordinances and laws, have the potential to occur within the RSA. In addition, removal and/or trimming of existing trees resulting from existing and continuing development contributes to cumulative impacts on tree communities within the region. The Project, combined with projections contained in an adopted local, regional, or statewide plan, or related document, could contribute to this existing cumulative impact.

The sections below identify any potential contributions to this cumulative impact by the Project alignment alternatives and stations, the design option, and/or the MSF.

7.2.1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES AND STATIONS

Construction and operation of any of the Project alignment alternatives and stations could result in significant impacts to migratory nesting birds and protected native and/or ornamental trees. However, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 would mitigate significant impacts to migratory nesting birds during construction activities by ensuring compliance with the MBTA and CFGC (Sections 2126, 3503, 3513, and 3800). Mitigation measure MM BIO-2 would mitigate significant impacts on locally protected native and/or ornamental trees during construction activities by ensuring the protection of native and ornamental protected trees. Impacts to migratory nesting birds and protected native and/or ornamental trees would not be significant with implementation of these mitigation measures. Therefore, Project construction and operational activities associated with the alignment alternatives and stations would not contribute to the existing cumulative impact in a meaningful way.

7.2.2 HOLLYWOOD BOWL DESIGN OPTION

Construction and operation of the Hollywood Bowl Design Option could result in impacts to migratory nesting birds and protected native and/or ornamental trees species. However, mitigation measure MM BIO-1 would mitigate significant impacts to migratory nesting birds during construction activities by ensuring compliance with the MBTA and CFGC (Sections 2126, 3503, 3513, and 3800). Mitigation measure MM BIO-2 would mitigate significant impacts to locally protected native and/or ornamental trees during construction activities by ensuring the protection of native and ornamental protected trees. Impacts to migratory nesting birds and protected native and/or ornamental trees would not be significant with implementation of mitigation measures. Therefore, Project construction and operational activities associated with the Hollywood Bowl Design Option would not contribute to the existing cumulative impact in a meaningful way.

7.2.3 MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY

The construction and operation of the proposed MSF could result in impacts to migratory nesting birds and protected native and/or ornamental trees species. Mitigation measure MM BIO-1 would mitigate impacts to migratory nesting birds during construction activities by ensuring compliance with the MBTA and CFGC (Sections 2126, 3503, 3513, and 3800). Mitigation measure MM BIO-2 would mitigate significant impacts on locally protected native and/or ornamental trees during construction and operational activities by ensuring the protection of native and ornamental protected trees. Impacts to migratory nesting birds and protected native and/or ornamental trees would not be significant with implementation of mitigation measures. Therefore, Project construction and operational activities of the MSF would not contribute to the existing cumulative impact in a meaningful way.

7.3 CUMULATIVE MITIGATION MEASURES

The Project's effects on biological resources for the alignment alternatives and stations, design option, and MSF would not be cumulatively considerable. Therefore, no mitigation is required under CEQA.

CHAPTER 8 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX C **SPECIAL-STATUS POTENTIAL TO OCCUR TABLE**

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR TABLE

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS						
Arenaria paludicola	Marsh Sandwort	FE	SE	1B.1	Freshwater marsh, mashes, swamps, and wetlands. Blooms from May to August at elevations from 10-560 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Astragalus brauntonii	Braunton's milk-vetch	FE	-	1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland, limestone, coastal scrub and chaparral. Found in recent burns or disturbed areas, usually sandstone with carbonate layers. Blooms January to August at elevations from 15-2,100 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. *lanosissimus*	Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	FE	SE	1B.1	Marshes and swamps, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Within reach of high tide or protected by barrier beaches, more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs. Blooms from April to May at elevations ranging from 3-196 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Astragalus tener var. *titi*	Coastal dunes milk-vetch	FE	SE	1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie. Moist, sandy depressions of bluffs or dunes along and near the Pacific Ocean; one site on a clay terrace. Blooms from March to May at elevations ranging from 0-165 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Atriplex coulteri	Coulter's saltbush	-	-	1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley, and foothill grassland. Ocean bluffs, ridgetops, as well as alkaline low places. Alkaline or clay soils. Blooms from March to October at elevations ranging from 5-1,550 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Atriplex pacifica	South Coast saltscale	-	-	1B.2	Coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, playas, and coastal dunes. Blooms from March to October at elevations ranging from 0-460 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Atriplex parishii	Parish's brittlescale	-	-	1B.1	Chenopod scrub, Playas, Vernal pools. Alkaline. Blooms from June to October at elevations ranging from 80-6,235 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii*	Davidson's saltscale	-	-	1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Alkaline soil. Blooms from April to October at elevations ranging from 30-655 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Berberis nevinii	Nevin's barberry	FE	SE	1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub. Found in gravelly or sandy micro habitats. Blooms from February (March) - June at elevations ranging from 230-2,750 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Calystegia felix	Lucky morning-glory	-	-	1B.1	Meadows and seeps, riparian scrub. Blooms from March – September at elevations ranging from 100 – 705 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (dunes) is present in the RSA.
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis*	Southern tarplant	-	-	1B.1	Marshes and swamps (margins), valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Often in disturbed sites near the coast at marsh edges; also, in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass. Sometimes on vernal pool margins. Blooms from May to November at elevations ranging from 0-1,575 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Chaenactis glabriuscula var. *orcuttiana*	Orcutt's pincushion	-	-	1B.1	Found in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. Prefers sandy sites. Blooms from January to August at elevations ranging from 6-262 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Chenopodium littoreum	Coastal goosefoot	-	-	1B.2	Found in coastal dunes. Generally, on sandy soils and on dunes. Blooms from May to October at elevations ranging from 10-120 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *maritimum*	Salt marsh bird's-beak	FE	SE	1B.2	Marshes and swamps, coastal dunes. Limited to the higher zones of salt marsh habitat. Blooms from May to October at elevations ranging from 0-100 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Chorizanthe parryi var. Fernandina	San Fernando Valley spineflower	-	SE	1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Prefers sandy soils. Blooms from March to May at elevations of 45-3,330 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Dithyrea maritima	Beach spectaclepod	-	ST	1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Sea shores, sand dunes, and sandy places near the shore. Blooms from March to May at elevations ranging from 5-165 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Dudleya multicaulis	Many-stemmed dudleya	-	-	1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Often in clay soils. Blooms from April to July at elevations ranging from 45-2,590 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Eryngium aristulatum var. parishii	San Diego button-celery	FE	SE	1B.1	Vernal pools, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. San Diego mesa hardpan and claypan vernal pools and southern interior basalt flow vernal pools; usually surrounded by scrub. Blooms from April to June at elevations ranging from 49-2,880 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Helianthus nuttallii ssp. parishii	Los Angeles sunflower	-	-	1A	Marshes and swamps (coastal salt and freshwater). Blooms from August to October at elevations ranging from 35 – 5005 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (dunes) is present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula*	Mesa horkelia	-	-	1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy or gravelly sites. Blooms from February to July at elevations ranging from 225-2,655 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri*	Coulter's goldfields	-	-	1B.1	Coastal salt marshes, playas, vernal pools. Usually found on alkaline soils in playas, sinks, and grasslands. Blooms from February to June at elevations ranging from 0-4,005 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Nama stenocarpa	Mud nama	-	-	2B.2	Found in marshes and swamps. Blooms from January to July at elevations ranging from 15-164 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Nasturtium gambelii	Gambel's water cress	FE	ST	1B.1	Marshes and swamps. Blooms from April to October at elevations ranging from 15 to 1,085 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA. CNDDB occurrence from the late 1800's and early 1900's places the species near Station 1- Crenshaw Adams-CC Alignment, but the area has been highly developed, therefore the species is assumed extirpated.
Navarretia prostrata	Prostrate vernal pool navarretia	-	-	1B.2	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools, meadows, and seeps. Alkaline soils in grassland, or in vernal pools. Mesic, alkaline sites. Blooms from April to July at elevations ranging from 5-3,970 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Phacelia stellaris	Brand's star phacelia	-	-	1B.1	Coastal scrub, coastal dunes. Found in open areas. Blooms from March to June at elevations ranging from 9-1,213 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Potentilla multijuga	Ballona cinquefoil	-	-	1A	Found in brackish meadows and seeps. Blooms from June to August at elevations ranging from 0-6 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum	White rabbit-tobacco	-	-	2B.2	Riparian woodland, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, chaparral. Blooms from August (July) to November (December) at elevations ranging from zero to 6,890 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (dunes) is present in the RSA.
Quercus dumosa	Nuttall's scrub oak	-	-	1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub. Blooms from February to April at elevations ranging from 50 to 1,310 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (dunes) is present in the RSA.
Sidalcea neomexicana	Salt spring checkerbloom	-	-	2B.2	Playas, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub. Blooms from March to June at elevations ranging from 50 to 5,020 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (dunes) is present in the RSA.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum	San Bernardino aster	-	-	1B.2	Meadows and seeps, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps, valley, and foothill grassland. Vernally mesic grassland or near ditches, streams, and springs; disturbed areas. Blooms from July to November at elevations ranging from 5-6,695 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Symphyotrichum greatae	Greata's aster	-	-	1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, broadleafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland. Blooms from June to October at elevations ranging from 985 to 6,595 feet.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (dunes) is present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE						
Bombus crotchii	Crotch's bumble bee	-	SCE	-	Food plant genera include *Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia,* and *Eriogonum*. Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico.	**No potential to occur;** there is no suitable native habitat in or near the RSA.
Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1	Monarch butterfly – California overwintering population	FC	-	-	Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino County to Baja California, Mexico.	**No potential to occur;** there is no suitable habitat in or near the RSA.
Euphilotes battoides allyni	El Segundo blue butterfly	FE	-	-	Restricted to remnant coastal dune habitat in Southern California. Host plant is *Eriogonum parvifolium*; larvae feed only on the flowers and seeds; used by adults as major nectar source.	**No potential to occur;** there is no suitable habitat in or near the RSA.
Streptocephalus woottoni	Riverside fairy shrimp	FE	-	-	Endemic to Western Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties in areas of tectonic swales/earth slump basins in grassland and coastal sage scrub. Inhabit seasonally astatic pools filled by winter/spring rains. Hatch in warm water later in the season.	**No potential to occur;** there is no suitable habitat in or near the RSA.
Anniella stebbinsi	Southern California legless lizard	-	-	SSC	Generally, south of the Transverse Range, extending to northwestern Baja California. Occurs in sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Disjunct populations in the Tehachapi and Piute Mountains in Kern County. Variety of habitats; generally, in moist, loose soil. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	**No potential to occur;** there is no suitable habitat in or near the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	Coastal whiptail	-	-	SSC	Found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland and riparian areas. Ground may be firm soil, sandy, or rocky.	**No potential to occur;** there is no suitable habitat for the species in or near the RSA.
Emys marmorata	Western pond turtle	-	-	SSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	Coast horned lizard	-	-	SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	**No potential to occur;** a 1953 CNDDB record of the species occurs within 291 feet east of the Wilshire/Fairfax-North DO option. However no suitable habitat for the species occurs within the RSA and the record is a fossil record discovered in the La Brea Tar Pits.
Spea hammondii	Western spadefoot toad	-	-	SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying. Found throughout the Central Valley, adjacent foothills, and in the Coast Ranges.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable aquatic breeding habitat (vernal pools) present in the RSA.
Aimophila ruficeps	Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	-	-	WL	Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches. Resident in Southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral.	**No potential to occur;** there is no suitable nesting habitat (e.g., emergent marsh, riparian, or blackberry/thistle thickets) present in or within the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing owl	-	-	SSC	For nesting and foraging requires grasslands, agricultural fields, and low scrub habitats, especially where ground squirrel burrows are present; occasionally inhabit artificial structures and small patches of disturbed habitat. Broadly distributed in western North America; year-round resident throughout much of California.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's hawk	-	ST	-	Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations. Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Charadrius nivosus nivosus	Western snowy plover	FT	-	-	Found primarily in open, sandy areas adjacent to water including ocean beaches and barrier islands. May also be found on barren shores of saline lakes inland. Ranges from Western United States to South America.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Coturnicops noveboracensis	Yellow rail	-	-	SSC	Summer resident in eastern Sierra Nevada in Mono County. Freshwater marshlands.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE	SE	-	Found in riparian woodlands in Southern California.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (marsh) present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California black rail	-	ST	FP	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (marsh) present in the RSA.
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi	Belding's savannah sparrow	-	SE	-	Inhabits coastal salt marshes, from Santa Barbara south through San Diego County. Nests in Salicornia on and about margins of tidal flats.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Pelecanus occidentalis californicus	California brown pelican	-	-	FP	Colonial nester on coastal islands just outside the surf line. Nests on coastal islands of small to moderate size which afford immunity from attack by ground-dwelling predators. Roosts communally.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Polioptila californica californica	Coastal California gnatcatcher	FT	-	SSC	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft. in Southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Sternula antillarum browni	California least tern	FE	SE	FP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas.	

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Vireo bellii pusillus	Least Bell's vireo	FE	SE	-	Riparian habitat along rivers and streams; generally early-mid successional riparian scrub/forest that is structurally diverse. In willows and other low, dense valley foothill riparian habitat and lower portions of canyons. Rare, local, summer resident in California below about 2,000 ft.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (riparian) present in the RSA. There is a CNDDB historical record from 1893 where eggs were collected in the vicinity of the Hollywood/Highland Station, however much of the area has now been developed.
Antrozous pallidus	Pallid bat	-	-	SSC, WBWG-H[6]	Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites. Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Eumops perotis californicus	Western mastiff bat	-	-	SSC, WBWG-H[6]	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer & deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Lasionycteris noctivagans	Silver-haired bat	-	-	WBWG-M[6]	Primarily a coastal and montane forest dweller, feeding over streams, ponds & open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark, abandoned woodpecker holes, and rarely under rocks. Needs drinking water.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Lasiurus cinereus	Hoary bat	-	-	WBWG-M[6]	Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water. Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding.	**Low potential to occur;** A CNDDB record from 1928 where a specimen was collected intersects the project at the La Brea Santa Monica station, however much of this area is now highly developed and the species may be found as an incidental flyover.
Microtus californicus stephensi	South coast marsh vole	-	-	SSC	Found in tidal marshes in Los Angeles, Orange and southern Ventura counties.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Nyctinomops macrotis	big free-tailed bat	-	-	SSC, WBWG-M[6]	Low-lying arid areas in Southern California. Need high cliffs or rocky outcrops for roosting sites. Feeds principally on large moths.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Perognathus longimembris pacificus	Pacific pocket mouse	FE	-	SCC	Inhabits the narrow coastal plains from the Mexican border north to El Segundo, Los Angeles County. Seems to prefer soils of fine alluvial sands near the ocean, but much remains to be learned.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.
Sorex ornatus salicornicus	Southern California saltmarsh shrew	-	-	SSC	Coastal marshes in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties. Requires dense vegetation and woody debris for cover.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA.

SPECIES: SCIENTIFIC NAME	SPECIES: COMMON NAME	STATUS: FEDERAL[1]	STATUS: STATE[2]	STATUS: CDFW[3] OR CRPR[4]	HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE[5]
Taxidea taxus	American badger	-	-	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs enough food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows. Uncommon, permanent resident found throughout most of the state.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present in the RSA. One CNDDB occurrence from 2005 places the species near the Midtown Crossing station associated with Design Option 1, however the area has been highly developed.

Notes:
Quad Search: West Hollywood, Venice, and Beverly Hills (USGS 2018a-i).
Listing Status:
[1] Federal Endangered Species Act:
FE = endangered
FT = threatened
FC = candidate
FD = delisted
– = no status
[2] State Endangered Species Act:
SE = endangered
SCE = candidate endangered
ST = threatened
SCT = candidate threatened
SD = delisted
SR = rare
– = no status
[3] California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):
SSC = species of special concern
FP = fully protected
WL = watch listed
– = no status
[4] California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) (CNPS 2022):
1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere.
1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California but common elsewhere.
2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere

In addition, ranks at each level also include a threat rank and are determined as follows:
0.1-Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2-Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
0.3-Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

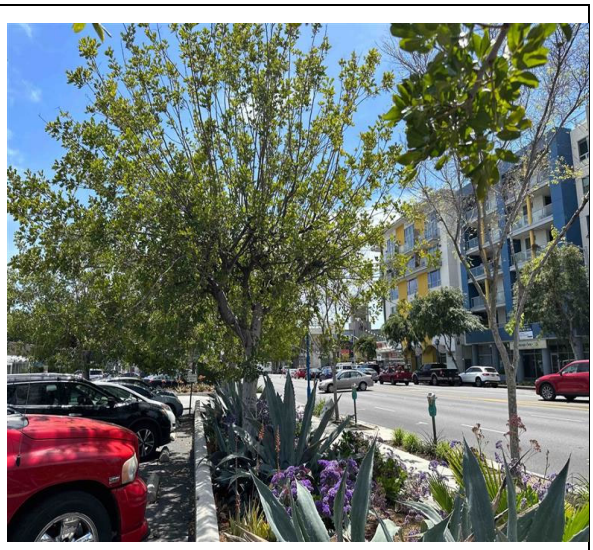
[5] **Potential for Occurrence:**
No Potential to Occur: The study area is outside the species' range or suitable habitat for the species is absent from the study area and adjacent areas.
Low Potential to Occur: Habitat for the species is marginal, and no occurrences of the species have been recorded within three miles of the study area.
Medium Potential to Occur: The study area is within the species' range, suitable habitat for the species is present, and recorded occurrences of the species are generally present in the vicinity.
High Potential to Occur: The study area is within the species' range, suitable habitat for the species is present, and the species has been recorded from within the project site.

[6] **Western Bat Working Group (WBWG):** The WBWG is composed of agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in bat research, management, and conservation from 13 western states and provinces. Species are ranked as High, Medium, or Low Priority in each of 10 regions in western North America. The CNDDB tracks bat species that are at least High-Medium Priority in California (CDFW 2023).

Sources: CNPS 2022a and 2022b; CDFW 2022 and 2023; and USFWS 2022a. Compiled by Connect Los Angeles Partners in December of 2022 and February of 2023.

APPENDIX D **REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION OF TREES**

Photograph 1
Chinese elms and Tuckeroos on N La Brea Ave, West Hollywood



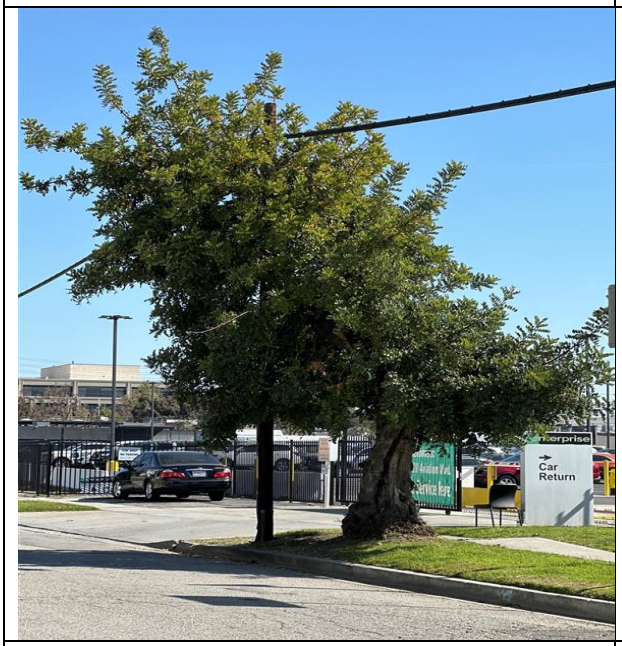
Photograph 2
Chinese elms and Tuckeroos on N La Brea Ave, West Hollywood

Photograph 3
Indian Banyans on S La Brea Ave, West Hollywood

Photograph 4
Mexican Fan Palms on N Highland Ave, Hollywood

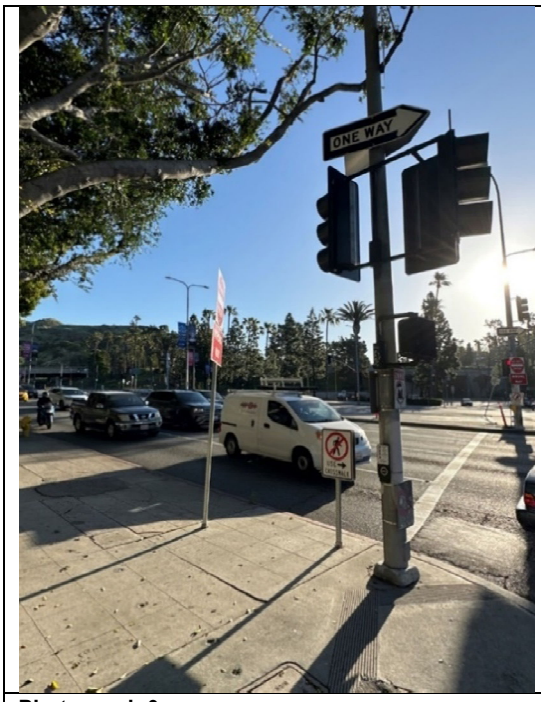
Photograph 5
Indian Banyans on S La Brea Ave, West Hollywood

Photograph 6
Indian Banyan and Mexican Fan Palm on S Fairfax Ave (near the Grove), Los Angeles

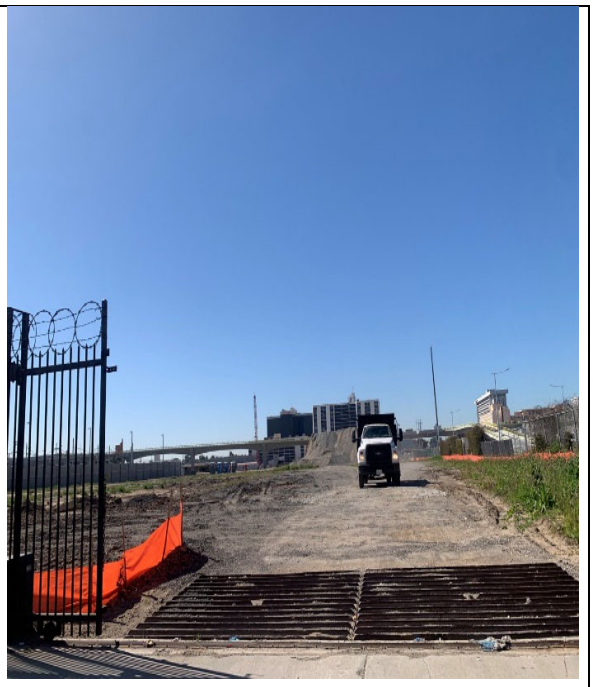


Photograph 7
Carob trees on Bellanca Ave, Los Angeles

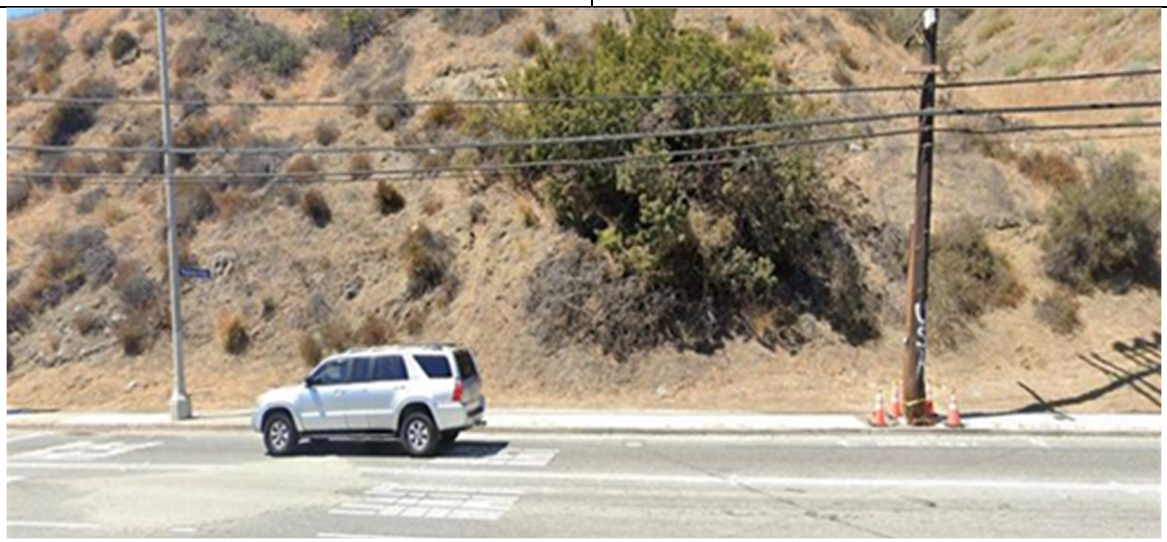
Photograph 8
Tuckeroos on N La Brea Ave, West Hollywood



Photograph 9
Canary Island Pine and Mexican Fan Palm at N Highland Ave and Odin St in Los Angeles (near Hollywood Bowl)



Photograph 10
No-access area with all vegetation cleared on Arbor Vitae St, Los Angeles



Photograph 11
West-facing view of vegetation along Cahuenga Blvd, Los Angeles (north of the proposed Hollywood Bowl station)

APPENDIX E **TREES LOCATED IN METRO RIGHT-OF-WAY WITH POTENTIAL FOR TRIMMING OR REMOVAL**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NUMBER OF TREES IN METRO RIGHT-OF-WAY
Bailey acacia	*Acacia baileyana*	1
Weeping bottle brush	*Melaleuca viminalis (Callistemon viminalis)*	2
Brazilian pepper tree	*Schinus terebinthifoliu*	6
Canary Island date palm	*Phoenix canariensis*	50
Canary Island pine	*Pinus canariensis*	18
Carob tree	*Ceratonia siliqua*	5
Ceiba tree	*Ceiba* sp.	7
Mandela plum	*Harpephyllum caffrum*	2
Chinese elm	*Ulmus parvifolia*	107
Eucalyptus sp.	*Eucalyptus* sp.	3
Indian banyan	*Ficus benghalensis*	66
Indian mango	*Mangifera indica*	1
Jacaranda	*Jacaranda mimosifolia*	21
Juniper tree	*Juniperus* sp.	2
King palms	*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*	118
London plane sycamore	*Platanus x hispanica*	3
Evergreen magnolia	*Magnolia grandiflora*	24
Mexican fan palm	*Washingtonia robusta*	105
Purple orchid tree	Bauhinia variegata	1
Desert Museum palo verde	*Parkinsonia* x 'Desert Museum'	3
Catalina Cherry	*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*	2
Peruvian pepper tree	*Schinus molle*	4
African fern pine	*Afrocarpos falcatus* (*Podocarpus gracilior*)	17
Red gum eucalyptus	*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*	3

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NUMBER OF TREES IN METRO RIGHT-OF-WAY
Red iron bark eucalyptus	*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*	7
Marina strawberry tree	*Arbutus* 'Marina'	36
Tuckeroo	*Cupaniopsis* sp.	9
Western sycamore	*Platanus racemosa*	2
Unknown evergreen	-	1
Unknown tree	-	5
	Total Count	**631**

Note: All trees were non-native species except for Western sycamore. The data in the table is focused on woody plants (trees) that have potential to be affected by construction in aboveground impact areas. Trees growing immediately adjacent to the edge of the Metro right-of-way were included and counted if their canopy was within the alignment.