Appendix B
Biological Report

DRAFT DILLON ROAD DESERT RV STORAGE SITE PROJECT
Assessor's Parcel Numbers 657-220-003 and 657-220-023

Biological Resources Assessment & Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Compliance Report

CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:
Terra Nova Planning and Research, Inc.
42635 Melanie Place, Suite 101
Palm Desert, CA 92211
Tel: (760) 341-4800
FAX: (760) 341-4455
Contact: Nicole Criste
E-mail: ncriste@terranovaplanning.com

Prepared by:
Wood Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.
1845 Chicago Avenue, Suite D
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 369-8060
Wood Job #322520135

Principal Field Investigator:
Nathan Moorhatch

Report Author:
Nathan Moorhatch

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the request of Terra Nova Planning & Research (Terra Nova), this biological resource assessment report (BRAR) was prepared by WSP Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (WSP) for the proposed Dillon Road Desert RV Storage Facility Project (project site/project), located in the city of Desert Hot Springs, California. Information contained herein is intended to be used for compliance with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as federal and California Endangered Species Acts.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION / DESCRIPTION

Terra Nova is preparing the Specific Plan for a residential vehicle storage facility on APN 657-220-003 and an upgrade to the façade of the existing storage facility on the adjoining APN 657-220-023. Taken together the acreage of the two parcels is approximately 9.37-acres, although only APN 657-220-003 is undeveloped, -023 is already fully developed and does not support any biological resources. The project site is located on the south side of Dillon Road and is located west of Palm Drive, east of the dirt extension of Atlantic Avenue, and north of 18th Avenue, in the city of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California (Appendix A – Figure 1). The project site includes two separate Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 657-220-003 (4.69-acres) and 657-220-023 (4.68-acres). Specifically, the project site is located within the southwest ¼ of Section 7, Township 3 South; Range 5 East as shown on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Desert Hot Springs*, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Appendix A – Figure 2). The geographic coordinates near the approximate center of the project area are 33°55'26.54" north latitude and 116°30'25.87" west longitude. The elevation of the project site ranges from approximately 815 to 830 feet above mean sea level.

3.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

3.1 Federal

Endangered Species Act (ESA) – The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service are the designated federal agencies accountable for administering the ESA. The ESA defines species as "endangered" or "threatened" and provides regulatory protection at the federal level.

- Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the "take" of listed (i.e., endangered or threatened) species. The ESA's definition of take is "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct." Recognizing that take cannot always be avoided, Section 10(a) includes provisions for take that is incidental to, but not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Specifically, Section 10(a) (1) (A) permits (authorized take permits) are issued for scientific purposes. Section 10(a) (1) (B) permits (incidental take permits) are issued for the incidental take of listed species that does not jeopardize the species.
- Section 7 (a) (2) requires federal agencies to evaluate the proposed project with respect to listed or proposed listed, species and their respective critical habitat (if applicable). Federal agencies must employ programs for the conservation of listed species and are prohibited from authorizing, funding, or carrying out any action that would jeopardize a listed species or destroy or modify its "critical habitat."

As defined by the ESA, "individuals, organizations, states, local governments, and other non-federal entities are affected by the designation of critical habitat only if their actions occur on federal lands, require a federal permit, license, or other authorization, or involve federal funding.

Section 10(a) of the ESA authorizes the issuance of incidental take permits and establishes standards for the content of habitat conservation plans (see Section 3.3 below).

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) – Treaties signed by the U.S., Great Britain, Mexico, Japan, and the countries of the former Soviet Union make it unlawful to pursue, capture, kill, and/or possess, or attempt to engage in any such conduct to any migratory bird, nest, egg or parts thereof listed in the document. As with the ESA, the MBTA also allows the Secretary of the Interior to grant permits for the incidental take of these protected migratory bird species.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – If portions of a proposed project could fall under the jurisdiction of a federal agency (i.e., U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) they are subject to environmental review pursuant to NEPA. NEPA establishes certain criteria that must be adhered to for any project that is “financed, assisted, conducted or approved” by a federal agency. The federal lead agency is required to “determine whether the proposed action will significantly affect the quality of the human environment.”

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act – This section of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into “waters of the United States.” The USACE has created a series of nationwide permits that authorize certain activities within waters of the U.S. provided that the proposed activity does not exceed the impact threshold of 0.5 acre for nationwide permits, takes steps to avoid impacts to wetlands and other designated U.S. waters where practicable, minimizes potential impacts to wetlands, and provides compensation for any remaining, unavoidable impacts through activities to restore or create wetlands. For projects that exceed the threshold for nationwide permits, individual permits under Section 404 can be issued. An inspection of the project site to determine presence or absence of potential jurisdictional wetlands and waters was conducted during the assessment for this project, none were found.

3.2 State

California Endangered Species Act (CESA) – This legislation is similar to the federal ESA, but it is administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW – formerly Department of Fish and Game). The CDFW is authorized to enter into “memoranda of understanding” with individuals, public agencies, and other institutions to import, export, take, or possess state-listed species for scientific, educational, or management purposes. CESA prohibits the take of state-listed species except as otherwise provided in state law. Unlike the federal ESA, the CESA applies the take prohibitions to species currently petitioned for state-listing status (candidate species). State lead agencies are required to consult with CDFW to ensure that actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any state-listed species or result in the destruction or degradation of occupied habitat.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – The basic goal of CEQA is to maintain a high-quality environment now and in the future. The specific goals are for California's public agencies to:

1) identify the significant environmental effects of their actions; and, either
2) avoid those significant environmental effects, where feasible; or
3) mitigate those significant environmental effects, where feasible.

CEQA applies to "projects" proposed to be undertaken or requiring approval by state and local government agencies. Projects are activities that have the potential to have a physical impact on the environment and may include the enactment of zoning ordinances, the issuance of conditional use permits and the approval of tentative subdivision maps. Where a project requires approvals

from more than one public agency, CEQA requires one of these public agencies to serve as the "lead agency."

A "lead agency" must complete the environmental review process required by CEQA. The most basic steps of the environmental review process are to:

4) Determine if the activity is a "project" subject to CEQA.
5) Determine if the "project" is exempt from CEQA.
6) Perform an Initial Study to identify the environmental impacts of the project and determine whether the identified impacts are "significant". Based on its findings of "significance", the lead agency prepares one of the following environmental review documents:
    a) Negative Declaration if it finds no "significant" impacts.
    b) Mitigated Negative Declaration if it finds "significant" impacts but revises the project to avoid or mitigate those significant impacts.
    c) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) if it finds "significant" impacts.

While there is no ironclad definition of "significance", Article 5 of the State CEQA Guidelines (California Natural Resources Agency 2014) provides criteria to lead agencies in determining whether a project may have significant effects.

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) – The NPPA includes measures to preserve, protect, and enhance rare and endangered native plant species. Definitions for “rare and endangered” are different from those contained in CESA. However, the list of species afforded protection in accordance with the NPPA includes those listed as rare and endangered under CESA. NPPA provides limitations on take as follows: “no person will import into this state, or take, possess, or sell within this state” any rare or endangered native plants, except in accordance with the provisions outlined in the act. If a landowner is notified by CDFW, pursuant to section 1903.5 that a rare or endangered plant is growing on their property, the landowner shall notify CDFW at least 10 days prior to the changing of land uses to allow CDFW to salvage the plants.

Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program – A NCCP, which is managed by the CDFW, is intended to conserve multiple species and their associated habitats, while also providing for compatible use of private lands. Through local planning, the NCCP planning process is designed to provide protection for wildlife and natural habitats before the environment becomes so fragmented or degraded by development that species listing are required under CESA. Instead of conserving small, often isolated “islands” of habitat for just one listed species, agencies, local jurisdictions, and/or other interested parties have an opportunity through the NCCP to work cooperatively to develop plans that consider broad areas of land for conservation that would provide habitat for many species. Partners enroll in the programs, and by mutual consent, areas considered to have high conservation priorities or values are set aside and protected from development. Partners may also agree to study, monitor, and develop management plans for these high value “reserve” areas. The NCCP provides an avenue for fostering economic growth by allowing approved development in areas with lower conservation value. The project site is in a combined Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) / NCCP, see Section 3.3.

Sections 1600-1603 of the State Fish and Game Code – The California Fish and Game (Wildlife) Code, pursuant to Sections 1600 through 1603, regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake that supports fish or wildlife resources. Under state code, CDFW jurisdiction is assessed in the field based on one, or a combination, of the following criteria:

7) At minimum, intermittent, and seasonal flow through a bed or channel with banks and that also supports fish or other aquatic life.

8) A watercourse having a surface or subsurface flow regime that supports or that has supported riparian vegetation.
9) Hydrogeomorphically distinct top-of-embankment to top-of-embankment limits.
10) Outer ground cover and canopy extents of, typically, riparian associated vegetation species that would be sustained by surface and/or subsurface waters of the watercourse.

The CDFW requires that public and private interests apply for a "Streambed Alteration Agreement" for any project that may impact a streambed or wetland. The CDFW has maintained a "no net loss" policy regarding impacts to streams and waterways and requires replacement of lost habitats on at least a 1:1 ratio.

Section 2081 of the State Fish and Game Code – Under Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code, the CDFW authorizes individuals or public agencies to import, export, take, or possess state endangered, threatened, or candidate species in California through permits or memoranda of understanding. These acts, which are otherwise prohibited, may be authorized through permits or "memoranda of understanding" if (1) the take is incidental to otherwise lawful activities, (2) impacts of the take are minimized and fully mitigated, (3) the permit is consistent with regulations adopted in accordance with any recovery plan for the species in question, and (4) the applicant ensures suitable funding to implement the measures required by the CDFW. The CDFW shall make this determination based on the best scientific information reasonably available and shall include consideration of the species' capability to survive and reproduce.

Section 3505.5 of the State Fish and Game Code – This section makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey, e.g.: owls, hawks, eagles, etc.) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any bird-of-prey.

Clean Water Act – The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates activities pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 401 of the CWA specifies that certification from the State is required for any applicant requesting a federal license or permit to conduct any activity including, but not limited to, the construction or operation of facilities that may result in any discharge into navigable waters. Through the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the RWQCB asserts jurisdiction over Waters of the State of California (WSC) which is generally the same as WUS but may also include isolated waterbodies. The Porter Cologne Act defines WSC as "surface water or ground water, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state".

3.3 Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Finalized in October 2008, and amended in 2016, the CVMSHCP is a comprehensive regional plan that addresses the conservation needs of 27 species of native flora and fauna and 24 natural vegetation communities occurring throughout the Coachella Valley region of western Riverside County, California. Permits for the CVMSHCP were issued by the CDFW on September 9, 2008 and by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on October 1, 2008 (TE104604-0). Managed by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC), CVMSHCP participants include Riverside County, the Cities of Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, as well as the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Mission Springs Water District and the California Department of Transportation (CVAG 2008, 2016).

The CVMSHCP serves two primary purposes: Balancing environmental protection and economic development objectives in the CVMSHCP planning area and simplifying compliance with endangered species related laws. The CVMSHCP accomplishes this by conserving unfragmented habitat to permanently protect and secure viable populations of the covered 27

species within the planning area. The covered species include those plants and animals that are either currently listed as threatened or endangered, are proposed for listing, or are believed by an appointed Scientific Advisory Committee, USFWS and CDFW, to have a high probability of being proposed for listing in the future if not conserved by the CVMSHCP. The goal of the CVMSHCP is to meet the requirements of the ESA and CESA, while at the same time allowing for the economic growth (land development) within the plan area without significant delay or hidden costs. Under the CVMSHCP, land development/mitigation fees are collected from all new development projects occurring in the plan area. The purpose of this fee is to support the assembly of a preserve system for the covered species and natural vegetation communities within areas identified as having high conservation value (CVAG 2008).

4.0 METHODS

4.1 Literature Review

In preparation for the field surveys, a literature search was conducted to identify special status biological resources known from the vicinity of the project site. In the context of this report, and for the purpose of this assessment, vicinity is defined as areas within a 5-mile radius of the project site.

The literature search included a review of the following documents:

- California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) RareFind 5 (CDFW 2022a)
- Special Animals List (CDFW 2022)
- California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2022a)
- CVMSHCP (CVAG 2008)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). 2019. Web Soil Survey
- USGS 7.5' *Desert Hot Springs, West Seven Palms Valley, and Palm Springs, Calif.* quadrangles (USGS 1972 - 2015)

Scientific nomenclature for this document follows standard reference sources: For plant communities, CVMSHCP (CVAG 2008), Sawyer et. al (2009), and/or Holland (1986); for flora, Jepson eFlora (2022) and the USDA NRCS PLANTS Database (2022); for amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, CDFW (2016); and for birds, California Bird Records Committee (2022).

4.2 Field Assessment

The field assessment was conducted on 28 October 2022 between 11:23 and 13:42 by Wood Senior Wildlife Biologist Nathan Moorhatch. The sky was clear (0% clouds), with low to moderate wind (0 - 9 mph), and warm temperatures (77°F to 81°F). On-site suitable habitat was assessed based on the presence of constituent habitat elements (e.g., soils, vegetation, and topography) characteristic of the potentially occurring special status biological resources determined by the literature review. The entire site was assessed on foot to record pertinent field data and current site conditions. Adjacent undeveloped areas within an approximate 150-meter (~500-foot) buffer zone that were unfenced and unsigned (i.e., not posted with "No Trespassing" and/or "Private Property") were also assessed for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). This area was limited to vacant land located south of the project site. The site is surrounded by the existing Mariscal Cactus and Succulent Plant Nursery on its western side, by the existing Desert Self Storage facility (which is part of this project) on the east side, and by Dillon Road on the north side (see Figure 3 in Appendix A). Inaccessible areas were scanned for burrowing owl habitat and sign (i.e., burrows & perches with whitewash) with binoculars. All on-site flora and fauna observed or

otherwise detected (e.g., vocalizations, presence of scat, tracks, and/or bones) during the assessment were recorded in field notes and are included in Appendix B. General weather and site conditions were also recorded at the beginning and end of the survey. Temperatures and wind speeds were recorded with a handheld Kestrel 2000 anemometer. Percent cloud cover was visually estimated.

5.0 RESULTS

The proposed project site is surrounded by development on to the immediate east and west; and is bordered by the paved Dillon Road on the north. South of the project site is open, undeveloped land. The entire project site appears to have been routinely disturbed and has a mixture of barren, disturbed land with areas that have a sparse growth of plants concentrated mainly on the southern 2/3 of APN 657-220-003 (the adjoining 657-220-023 is already developed as a Storage Facility). No drainage features occur within the project site. Representative site photos are included in Appendix C.

5.1 Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The entire project is located within the CVMSHCP fee area but is not within a conservation area. The southwestern corner of the project site is located immediately adjacent to the Willow Hole Conservation Area, and the southern edge of the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area is located on the north side of Dillon Road across from the project site (Figure 6, Appendix A).

5.2 Weather Conditions

Weather conditions during the field assessment were sunny and warm. Skies were clear (0% cloud cover). Temperatures ranged from 77 to 81 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds were calm to moderate with wind speeds measured between 0 to 9 miles per hour.

5.3 Topography and Soils

The proposed project alignment is relatively flat. Only one soil type is mapped on the project site: 1) Myoma fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes (MaB) (USDA, NRCS. 2019) (Appendix A - Figure 4).

Myoma series consists of somewhat excessively drained soils that formed in recent alluvium with slopes ranging from 0 to 15 percent. Elevations typically are between 200 feet below sea level to 1,800 feet above sea level. Myoma soils were historically, and still are used for truck crops, citrus, grapes, alfalfa hay, dates, and homesites (USDA, NRCS. 2019).

The field assessment confirmed that on-site soils and substrates are typical of this area and consistent with the soil survey. Much of the area on and adjacent to the project site has been heavily altered for commercial development, road right-of-way maintenance, and the construction and maintenance of Dillon Road.

The site does not contain springs, seeps, or other wet areas. It also lacks active sand dunes, drifts, rock outcrops, significant rocky areas, and clay lenses.

5.4 Vegetation

The majority of the project site is disturbed with areas of cleared, bare ground, a cement pad indicating the former presence of a structure, and fairly extensive trash dumping throughout the undeveloped 657-220-003. Some elements of native vegetation that are common components of the *Larrea tridentata – Ambrosia Dumosa* Shrubland Alliance (Creosote bush – white bursage scrub) Shrubland Alliance are present. These native species are present sparsely throughout the undeveloped parcel (less so on the northern third of -003), and around the edges of 657-220-023. There are several large Athel saltcedar (*Tamarix aphylla*) in a row on-site facing Dillon Road.

A total of 18 plant species were identified across the project site during the assessment (Appendix B). These included a mixture of native and nonnative and/or weedy species. Of the 18 species observed, five were nonnative species (28%). Plant species identified within the project site include four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), California croton (*Croton californicus*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Saharan mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), sandpaper plant (*Petalonyx thruberi*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), and Emory's indigo bush (*Psorothamnus emoryi*).

5.5 Wildlife

Vertebrate wildlife directly observed and/or detected otherwise (e.g., scat, bones, tracks, feathers, burrows, etc.) during the assessment was not diverse or abundant, limited to just seven species, most of which are common to the region (Appendix B). The low number of species observed may be attributable to the small size and disturbed nature of the survey area, and relatively brief period of time spent on the site. Wildlife observed or detected included two reptiles, three birds and two mammals: side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), Great Basin whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris tigris*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata* – wintering at this time of year), coyote (*Canis latrans* – scat) and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus* – (heard just offsite to the south). The number of species detected does not represent the total number of species that may occur on the project site. Brief, one visit assessments are limited by the seasonal timing and short duration of the survey period as well as the nocturnal, fossorial and/or migratory habits of many animals. The disturbed condition of the project site reduces the potential for use by most special status species, as many of these require higher quality and/or more extensive areas of natural habitats. Some are habitat specialists requiring aeolian deposits, which are not currently present on the project site. No actively nesting birds were detected on or adjacent to the site during the assessment. No old, inactive bird nests were observed on or adjacent to the site.

5.6 Special Status Biological Resources

Some plant and/or animal taxa are designated as having special status due to declining populations, limited geographic distributions and/or vulnerability to climate change, habitat loss and/or fragmentation. Some have been listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS or by the CDFW and are protected by the federal and state ESAs. Others have been identified, and are managed as sensitive by the USFWS, CDFW, or by private conservation organizations, including the CNPS, but have not been formally listed as threatened or endangered. Impacts to such species can still be considered significant under the CEQA, if not avoided, minimized and/or mitigated by specific project design and implementation.

The literature review and field visit resulted in a list of 63 special status biological resources which occur or potentially occur on the project site and greater project vicinity (4 to 5-mile radius). Tables 1-3 provide a summary of these resources, their current conservation status, habitat associations and potential to occur on the project site. No special status species were observed on-site during the assessment (Appendix B), but Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel was heard just south of the site.

Table 1. Special Status Plants

Species	Protective Status	Habitat	Flowering Period	Occurrence Probability
Abronia villosa var. aurita Chaparral sand-verbena	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.1 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Chaparral, coastal scrub, desert dunes; found in sandy areas. 225 to 4,800 feet.	(January) March - September	**Absent** Habitat lacking.
Acmispon haydonii pygmy lotus	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.3 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Rocky areas in Sonoran desert scrub and pinyon-juniper woodland between 1,700 and 4,000 feet elevation.	Jan - June	**Absent** Habitat not present, site is below elevation range of species.
Almutaster pauciflorus alkali marsh aster	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.2 State Rank: S1S2 CVMSHCP: No	Alkaline meadows and seeps between 780 and 2,625 feet elevation	June - October	**Absent** Habitat not present
Ambrosia monogyra singlewhorl burrobush	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Usually on sandy soils in desert washes, floodplains, arroyos, etc., below 1,640 feet in Calfornia.	August - November	**Absent** Habitat is disturbed and poor quality, nearest CNDDB record is from 1919-1922.
Astragalus hornii var. *hornii* Horn's milk-vetch	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.1 State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: No	Wet areas such as lake edges, meadows, seeps, and alkaline sites, between 195 and 2,790 feet elevation	May - October	**Absent** Habitat not present.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae Coachella Valley milk-vetch	F: END C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: Yes	Annual/Perennial herb found in sandy flats, washes, alluvial fans, sand field, dunes and dune edges, at 130 to 2,150 feet, a CA endemic.	February - May	**Absent - Low** Habitat is marginal and of poor quality. 1994 CNDDB record from same Section as project site, now converted to a golf course.
Astragalus tricarinatus Triple-ribbed milk-vetch	F: END C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes	Gravelly to sandy habitats in Joshua tree woodland and Sonoran desert scrub between 1,475 – 3,905 feet. Mainly found along the ecotone between the Mojave and Colorado deserts in the San Bndo. and little San Bndo. Mtns. area.	February - May	**Absent** Habitat not present, site is below known elevational range of species. Also outside known range of species.
Atriplex parishii Parish's brittlescale	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.1 State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: No	Alkaline soils associated with vernal pools, playas, and chenopod scrub, between 80 and 6,235 feet.	June - October	**Absent** No habitat on-site.

Species	Protective Status	Habitat	Flowering Period	Occurrence Probability
Ayenia compacta California ayenia	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.3 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Found on rocky slopes, in canyons, and gravelly/sandy washes between 490 and 3,595 feet elevation.	March - April	**Absent** No habitat on-site.
Caulanthus simulans Payson's jewelflower	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 4.2 State Rank: S4 CVMSHCP: No	Granitic/sandy substrates, often in recently burned areas, or dynamic habitats like streambeds, also rocky, steep slopes. Between 300 and 7,200 feet elevation	February - June	**Absent** No habitat on-site, site likely not in geographic range of species. Nearest CNDDB record is from 1903.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi* Parry's spineflower	F: ND, BLM: sensitive C: ND CNPS List: 1B.1 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Sandy or rocky openings in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland between 900 – 4,005 feet	April - June	**Absent** No habitat on-site, site is both below elevation range and likely not in geographic range of species.
Chorizanthe xanti var. *leucotheca* white-bracted spineflower	F: ND, BLM: sensitive C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Sandy to gravelly places in saltbush scrub, pinyon-juniper, and pine-oak woodlands between 985 and 3935 feet in elevation	April - June	**Absent** No habitat on-site, site is both below elevation range and likely not in geographic range of species.
Dodecahema leptoceras slender-horned spineflower	F: END C: END CNPS List: 1B.1 State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: No	Flood terraces and washes in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and alluvial fan sage scrub, between 655 – 2,495 feet elevation.	April - June	**Absent** No habitat on-site, site is not in known geographic range of species.
Eriastrum harwoodii Harwood's eriastrum	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: No	Sandy soils (desert dunes), most of this species range appears to be well to the east of the site and Coachella Valley 410 – 3,000 feet	March - June	**Absent** Habitat not present.
Euphorbia arizonica Arizona spurge	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.3 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Found on gravelly slopes and rocky hillsides between 165 and 985 feet elevation.	March - April	**Absent** Habitat not present.
Euphorbia misera Cliff spurge	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Rocky areas (such as cliffs/benches) in coastal scrubs, Mojavean desert scrub (Whitewater population: thought to be relicts that may be extirpated now).	December - August	**Absent** Habitat not present. In general project vicinity only known from Whitewater Canyon, likely extirpated there now.

Species	Protective Status	Habitat	Flowering Period	Occurrence Probability
Heuchera hirsutissima shaggy-haired alumroot	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.3 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Rocky (granitic) areas in subalpine and upper montane coniferous forest between 4,985 and 11,485 feet in elevation.	(May) - July	**Absent** Habitat not present, site is well below elevation range of species
Imperata brevifolia California satintail	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.1 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Mesic (wet) habitats such as meadows and seeps (often alkali) within chaparral, coastal scrub, desert scrub, and riparian scrub between 0 and 3,985 feet.	Sept. - May	**Absent** No habitat on-site
Lilium parryi lemon lily	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Mesic (wet) areas in meadows and seeps, lower and upper montane coniferous forest, and riparian forest between 4,005 and 9,005 feet elevation.	July - August	**Absent** No habitat on-site, site also far below elevational range of species.
Linanthus jaegeri San Jacinto linanthus	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Dry rocky granitic outcrops, sheer (almost vertical) slopes in subalpine/ upper montane coniferous forest between 7,200 and 10,005 feet elevation.	July - September	**Absent** No habitat on-site, site also far below elevational range of species. Also not in geographic range of species.
Linanthus maculatus ssp. *maculatus* Little San Bernardino Mtns. linanthus	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes	A California endemic that is known mainly from sandy areas near the Little San Bernardino Mtns., Joshua Tree N.P., and the northern end of the Coachella Valley between 460 and 4,005 feet in elevation. Often quartz sands in washes or bajadas.	March - May	**Absent** No habitat on-site. Closest CNDDB record is ~1.75 NW of the site.
Mentzelia tricuspis spiny-hair blazing star	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.1 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Sandy to gravelly slopes and washes in Mojavean desert scrub habitats, 490 – 4,200 feet.	Mar – May	**Absent** No habitat on-site, CNDDB record is from 1876…mapped as “best guess” over 7 miles west of site.
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis* slender cottonheads	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Sandy areas in coastal and desert areas, saltbush scrub, creosote bush scrub, and coastal grasslands between 165 and 1,310 feet elevation	(March) - May	**Absent** No habitat on-site. Closest CNDDB record is from 1948 and is approximately 6 miles W/SW of the project site.

Species	Protective Status	Habitat	Flowering Period	Occurrence Probability
Saltugilia latimeri Latimer's woodland-gilia	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Grows on areas of coarse sand to rocky soils on dry desert slopes, chaparral, and pinyon-juniper woodland between 1,310 and 6,235 feet in elevation.	March - June	**Absent** No habitat on-site, site also below elevation range of species.
Selaginella eremophila desert spike-moss	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.2 State Rank: S2S3 CVMSHCP: No	Often found growing in rock crevices or on rocks (also the ground) on rocky slopes between 655 and 4,250 feet in elevation in desert and desert edge areas.	(May) June – (July) doesn't truly "bloom", but produce antheridia	**Absent** No habitat on-site.
Stemodia durantifolia purple stemodia	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.1 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Wet or moist sandy areas in riparian habitats (within surrounding Sonoran desert scrub) between 590 and 1,000 feet elevation.	(Jan)April - December	**Absent** No habitat on-site.
Streptanthus campestris southern jewelflower	F: ND, BLM: sensitve C: ND CNPS List: 1B.3 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Rocky areas in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper forest between 2,900 and 7,550 feet elevation.	April - July	**Absent** No habitat present, site is below elevation and geographic range of species.
Thelypteris (Pelazoneuron) puberula var. *sonorensis*	F: ND C: ND CNPS List: 2B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	Moist areas (shaded preferable) along streams and seepage areas in desert canyons between 165 and 2,000 feet in elevation.	Jan. – Sept.	**Absent** No habitat present.
Xylorhiza cognata Mecca-aster	F: ND, BLM sensitive C: ND CNPS List: 1B.2 State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes	Grows on sandstone and clay substrates on steep canyon slopes between 65 and 1,000 feet elevation.	Jan - June	**Absent** No habitat on-site. Outside species' range.

Table 2. Special Status Vegetation Communities

Community	Protective Status (F=Federal, C=California)	Occurrence Probability
Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland	F: ND C: ND State rank: S3.2 CVMSHCP: No	**Absent** No native palms on-site.
Mesquite Bosque	F: ND C: ND State rank: S2.1 CVMSHCP: No	**Absent** Not present on-site.
Southern Riparian Forest	F: ND C: ND State rank: S3.2 CVMSHCP: No	**Absent** Not present on-site.

Table 3. Special Status Wildlife

Species	Protective Status (F=Federal, C=California)	Habitat	Occurrence Probability
Invertebrates			
Bombus crotchii Crotch bumble bee	F: ND C: ND State Rank: S1S2 CVMSHCP: No	Mainly coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade Crest, then south into Mexico. Needs sufficient nectar sources, most desert records are no longer valid.	**Absent** Habitat not present, nectar sources also lacking.
Calileptoneta oasa Andreas Canyon leptonetid spider	F: ND C: ND State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: No	Known only from the type locality in Andreas Canyon, Palm Springs	**Absent** Site is not located within range of species. Habitat not present on-site.
Danaus plexippus Monarch Butterfly	F: C C: CSC State Rank: S2S3 CVMSHCP: No	Can be found in a variety of areas where milkweed and flowering plants are present; milkweeds are necessary for breeding	**Absent** No milkweed present on-site. Insufficient nectar sources on-site.
Dinacoma caseyi Casey's June beetle	F: END C: ND State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: No	Only known from a small area of southern Palm Springs (Palm Canyon Wash area).	**Absent** Site is not located within range of species.
Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket	F: ND C: ND State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes	Found in a small segment of sand dunes in the Coachella Valley, from the pass down to the Palm Springs.	**Absent** Habitat lacking, site is east of known range of this insect.
Amphibians			
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	F: THR C: SSC State Rank: S2S3 CVMSHCP: No	This species requires permanent to semi-permanent ponds and stream pools (including for reproduction and tadpole development).	**Absent** No habitat on or adjacent to site, species not present on floor of Coachella Valley (historically or currently)

Species	Protective Status (F=Federal, C=California)	Habitat	Occurrence Probability
Rana muscosa southern mountain yellow-legged frog	F: END C: END State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: No	This species usually remains within a few feet of the stream pools and ponded areas it requires. Tadpoles may take 2-4 years to complete development.	**Absent** No habitat on or adjacent to site, species not present on floor of Coachella Valley (historically or currently)
Reptiles			
Gopherus agassizii Desert tortoise	F: THR C: THR State Rank: S2S3 CVMSHCP: Yes	Found in desert environments with high plant diversity, digs burrows in the substate. Not found in areas of high human modification and development.	**Absent** Habitat lacking, site too disturbed and degraded to support this species. No tortoise sign seen on or adjacent to site during survey. Closest CNDDB record is from Long Canyon ~ 5 miles NE of the site.
Phrynosoma blainvillii coast horned lizard	F: ND C: SSC State Rank: S4 CVMSHCP: No	Although found in a wide variety of habitats, is most common in lowlands often near sandy washes with scattered low bushes (cismontane – not desert). The desert horned lizard (*P. platyrhinos*) is the expected horned lizard in the site vicinity.	**Absent** Site is east of species' range. 1967 CNDDB record is from one mile up Whitewater Canyon.
Phrynosoma mcallii Flat-tailed horned lizard	F: ND C: CSC State rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes	Fine sand in desert washes and flats with vegetative cover and ants, generally below 600 feet elevation in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties.	**Absent** Habitat lacking, soils on site have been subjected to compaction and levelling in the past.
Uma inornata Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	F: THR C: END State rank: S1 CVMSHCP: Yes	Sandy areas of the Coachella Valley (dunes and sand field habitats).	**Absent** Habitat not present, soils on site isolated from sand sources, and too degraded/compacted to support this species. A CNDDB record from 0.60 miles NE of the site is from 1975, appears to be the intersection of Palm Drive and Camino Aventura now.
Crotalus ruber red-diamond rattlesnake	F: ND C: SSC State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Favors rocky areas with dense vegetation in chaparral, woodlands, grasslands, and desert habitats.	**Absent** Habitat not present, in the Coachella Valley this species is much more common closer to the toe of slope of the San Jacintos and Santa Rosa Mtns.

Species	Protective Status (F=Federal, C=California)	Habitat	Occurrence Probability
Birds (*birds covered by the CVMSHCP still cannot be directly impacted while nesting or in burrows)			
Aimophila ruficeps canescens southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	F: MBTA C: WL State: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Usually found on rocky slopes vegetated with coastal sage scrub and/or chaparral.	**Nesting: Absent** No suitable nesting habitat **Foraging: Absent** Not expected on desert valley floor. Usually found on rocky slopes in coastal sage scrub or chaparral communities.
Aquila chrysaetos golden eagle	F: MBTA, BLM Sensitive C: WL, Fully Protected State: S3 CVMSHCP: No	Golden eagles occupy the mountains and coastal areas of southern California and often nest in chaparral and oak woodland/savanna habitats and grassland amongst low rolling hill typified by diverse vegetation. Not common in true desert areas.	**Nesting: Absent** Nesting habitat not present (cliffs, canyons, mountain slopes) **Foraging: Low - Absent** Not common in developed areas, usually requires large, open areas (not residential/commercial development)
Athene cunicularia Burrowing Owl	F: MBTA, BCC C: SSC State: S3 CVMSHCP: Yes	Occupies open, dry grasslands, scrub habitats, agricultural, railroad rights-of-way, and margins of highways, golf courses, and airports. Utilizes ground squirrel burrows and man-made structures, such as earthen berms, cement culverts, cement, asphalt, and debris piles for nesting and shelter.	**Nesting: Absent** No suitable burrows present **Foraging: Low** Foraging habitat present, but no burrowing owl sign seen on site, however dispersing birds could utilize the site in the future. Closest CNDDB record is ~0.36 miles SW of the site. Multiple CNDDB records within 2 miles of the site.
Cypseloides niger black swift	F: ND, BCC C: SSC State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No	In our area San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. Breeds in small colonies usually roosting behind or near waterfalls in deep canyons. Can forage long distances.	**Nesting: Absent** No suitable nesting habitat **Foraging: Absent** Not expected on desert valley floor.
Empidonax traillii extimus Southwestern willow flycatcher	F: END C: END State: S1 CVMSHCP: Yes	Nests in large areas of riparian forests and woodlands	**Nesting: Absent** No suitable nesting habitat **Foraging: Absent** No suitable foraging habitat on-site.
Falco mexicanus Prairie falcon	F: ND C: WL State: S4 CVMSHCP: No	Another raptor that favors dry, open terrain for foraging, although smaller open areas adjacent to human development are not as commonly used. Usually nests on cliff ledges.	**Nesting: Absent** No suitable nesting habitat **Foraging: Low** Low quality foraging habitat on-site, not likely to occur except if moving through the area (rare).

Species	Protective Status (F=Federal, C=California)	Habitat	Occurrence Probability
Polioptila melanura Black-tailed gnatcatcher	F: ND C: WL State rank: S3S4 CVMSHCP: No	Nests in wooded desert wash habitat containing mesquite, palo verde, ironwood, and acacia. May also occur in areas with salt cedar, especially when adjacent to native wooded desert wash habitat. Also occurs in desert scrub habitat in winter.	**Nesting: Absent** No suitable habitat present **Foraging: Low** Site is highly disturbed and lacks large shrubs for foraging.
Toxostoma crissale Crissal thrasher	F: ND C: SSC State rank: S3 CVMSHCP: Yes*	Dense thickets of shrubs or low trees in desert riparian and desert wash habitats. Southeastern California to Texas and northern Mexico.	**Nesting: Absent** No nesting habitat present **Foraging: Absent** Same as above, very little suitable vegetation on site.
Toxostoma lecontei LeConte's thrasher	F: BCC C: SSC State rank: S3 CVMSHCP: Yes	Resident of open desert wash, scrub, alkali scrub, succulent scrub habitats, nests in dense spiny shrubs and cacti in washes, usually within 2-8 feet of the ground.	**Nesting: Absent** No habitat present. **Foraging: Absent** Same as above.
Vireo bellii pusillus Least Bell's vireo	F: END C: END State rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes*	Riparian woodland habitats along the riverine systems of Southern California	**Nesting: Absent** No suitable nesting habitat **Foraging: Absent** No suitable foraging habitat.
Mammals			
Chaeotodipus fallax pallidus pallid San Diego pocket mouse	F: ND C: SSC State rank: S3S4 CVMSHCP: No	Usually in desert border areas in desert wash, scrub, and pinyon-juniper communities. Often in sandy areas with associated rocks or coarse gravel.	**Absent** No suitable habitat on project site. Most of the CNDDB records for this species are from well west of the site near the "toe-of-slope" of the mountains.
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's big-eared bat	F: ND C: SSC State rank: S2 CVMSHCP: No WBWG: H	Occurs in a wide variety of habitats, but most common in mesic areas. Roosts in the open (walls and ceilings) in caves or enclosed structures, often solitary. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	**Absent** No suitable roosting habitat on project site, site is generally poor-quality foraging habitat. CNDDB record is from 1915 (near Whitewater).
Lasiurus xanthinus Western yellow bat	F: ND C: SSC State rank: S3 CVMSHCP: Yes WBWG: H	Found in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis. Roosts in trees, particularly palms. Forages over water and among trees.	**Low** Very low-quality habitat on project site, there is one small palm on site that still has a skirt.
Neotoma lepida intermedia San Diego desert woodrat	F: ND C: SSC State rank: S3S4 CVMSHCP: No	Prefers habitats with moderate to dense canopy cover, especially with rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes. Usually in coastal sage scrub.	**Absent** No suitable habitat on project site.

Species	Protective Status (F=Federal, C=California)	Habitat	Occurrence Probability
Nyctinomops femorosaccus pocketed free-tailed bat	F: ND C: SSC State rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No WBWG: M	Colonial and roosts primarily in crevices of rugged cliffs, high rocky outcrops and slopes. It has been found in a variety of plant associations, including desert shrub and pine-oak forests. The species may also roost in buildings, caves, and (rarely) under roof tiles.	**Absent** No suitable habitat on project site.
Nyctinomops macrotis big free-tailed bat	F: ND C: SSC State rank: S3 CVMSHCP: No WBWG: M	Low-lying arid habitats with high cliffs or rocky outcrops for roosting sites.	**Absent** No suitable habitat on project site.
Ovis canadensis nelson pop.2 Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	F: END C: THR, Fully Protected State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes	Eastern slopes of the Peninsular Ranges below 4,600 ft. Steep-walled canyons and ridges divided by rocky or sandy washes with access to water.	**Absent** No suitable habitat on project site, site is on the valley floor. Surrounded by low-density residential and commercial development to the north, east, and west.
Perognathus longimembris bangsi Palm Springs pocket mouse	F: BLM Sensitive C: SSC State Rank: S1 CVMSHCP: Yes	Sonoran Desert habitats (desert riparian, wash, and scrub) with level to gently sloping topography, sparse to moderate vegetative cover, and loosely packed or sandy soils.	**Low** Habitat marginal and degraded.
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus Coachella Valley (Palm Springs) round-tailed ground squirrel	F: ND C: SSC State Rank: S2 CVMSHCP: Yes	Prefers open, flat, grassy areas in fine-textured, sandy soil in desert succulent scrub, desert wash, desert scrub, alkali scrub, & levees.	**Occurs** Heard immediately adjacent to site in undeveloped habitat to the south.

Definitions of occurrence probability:

Occurs: Observed on the site by Wood personnel or recorded on-site by other qualified biologists.
High: Observed in similar habitat in region by qualified biologists, or habitat on the site is a type often utilized by the species and the site is within the known range of the species.
Moderate: Reported sightings in surrounding region, or site is within the known range of the species and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used by the species.
Low: Site is within the known range of the species but habitat on the site is rarely used by the species.
Absent: A focused study failed to detect the species, or no suitable habitat is present.

Definitions of status designations and occurrence probabilities.

Federal designations: (federal Endangered Species Act, US Fish and Wildlife Service):

END: Federally listed, Endangered.
THR: Federally listed, Threatened.
BCC: Bird of Conservation Concern
C: Candidate for Federal listing
ND: Not designated.

State designations: (California Endangered Species Act, California Dept. of Fish and Game)

END: State listed, Endangered.
THR: State listed, Threatened.
RARE: State listed as Rare (Listed "Rare" animals have been re-designated as Threatened, but Rare plants have retained the Rare designation.)
CSC: California Special Concern Species.
WL: Watch List Species.
ND: Not designated.

CDFW CNDDB rankings: Animals

S1 = Extremely endangered: <6 viable occurrences or <1,000 individuals, or < 2,000 acres of occupied habitat
S2 = Endangered: about 6-20 viable occurrences or 1,000 - 3,000 individuals, or 2,000 to 10,000 acres of occupied habitat
S3 = Restricted range, rare: about 21-100 viable occurrences, or 3,000 – 10,000 individuals, or 10,000 – 50,000 acres of occupied habitat
S4 = Apparently secure; some factors exist to cause some concern such as narrow habitat or continuing threats
S5 = Demonstrably secure; commonly found throughout its historic range
SH = all sites are historical, this species may be extinct, further field work is needed

CDFW CNDDB rankings: Plants and Vegetation Communities

S1 = Less than 6 viable occurrences OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres
S1.1 = very threatened
S1.2 = threatened
S1.3 = no current threats known
S2 = 6-20 viable occurrences OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres
S2.1 = very threatened
S2.2 = threatened
S2.3 = no current threats known
S3 = 21-80 viable occurrences or 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres
S3.1 = very threatened
S3.2 = threatened
S3.3 = no current threats known
S4 = Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3, but factors exist to cause some concern. i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat.
S5 = Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) designations:
California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) Note: According to the CNPS (http://www.cnps.org/programs/Rare_Plant/inventory/names.htm), ALL plants on Lists 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B meet definitions for state listing as threatened or endangered under Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code. Certain plants on Lists 3 and 4 do as well.
The CDFW (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/nat_plnt_consv.shtml) states that plants on Lists 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B of the CNPS Inventory consist of plants that may qualify for listing, and recommends they be addressed in CEQA projects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15380). However, a plant need not be in the Inventory to be considered a rare, threatened, or endangered species under CEQA. In addition, CDFW recommends, and local governments may require, protection of plants which are regionally significant, such as locally rare species, disjunct populations of more common plants, or plants on the CNPS Lists 3 and 4.
List 1A: Plants presumed extinct in California.
List 1B: Plants rare and endangered in California and throughout their range.
List 2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere.
List 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
List 3: Plants for which more information is needed.
List 4: Plants of limited distribution; a "watch list."
CA Endemic: Taxa that occur only in California
CNPS Threat Code:
.1 - Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 – Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
.3 – Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened, or no current threats known)
Note: All List 1A (presumed extinct in California) and some List 3 (need more information- a review list) plants lacking any threat information receive no threat code extension. Also, these Threat Code guidelines represent a starting point in the assessment of threat level. Other factors, such as habitat vulnerability and specificity, distribution, and condition of occurrences, are also considered in setting the Threat Code.

Western Bat Working Group (WBWG) designations:
The Western Bat Working Group is comprised of agencies, organizations and individuals interested in bat research, management and conservation from the 13 western states and provinces. Its goals are (1) to facilitate communication among interested parties and reduce risks of species decline or extinction; (2) to provide a mechanism by which current information on bat ecology, distribution and research techniques can be readily accessed; and (3) to develop a forum to discuss conservation strategies, provide technical assistance and encourage education programs.
H: High: Species which are imperiled or are at high risk of imperilment based on available information on distribution, status, ecology and known threats.
M: Medium: Species which warrant a medium level of concern and need closer evaluation, more research, and conservation actions of both the species and possible threats. A lack of meaningful information is a major obstacle in adequately assessing these species' status and should be considered a threat.
L: Low: Species for which most of the existing data support stable populations, and for which the potential for major changes in status in the near future is considered unlikely. There may be localized concerns, but the overall status of the species is believed to be secure. Conservation actions would still apply for these bats, but limited resources are best used on High and Medium status species.
P: Periphery: This designation indicates a species on the edge of its range, for which no other designation has been determined.

CVMSHCP designations
Yes: Conserved by the CVMSHCP
No: Not Specifically Conserved by the CVMSHCP
C: Considered, but not included in the CVMSHCP

5.7 Discussion of the Special-status Species Tables

Only one of the 29 sensitive plant species known from the greater project vicinity (based on CNDDB records within a five-mile radius of the project site) are expected to have any occurrence probability on the site. Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae*) would have a low probability of occurring on the site due to the degraded nature of the site and low-quality habitat present. There is a 2004 CNDDB record (submitted by the author of this report) less than a half mile southwest of this project site near the northwest corner of the Desert Dunes Golf Course. The project site is adjacent to the CVMSHCP Willow Hole Conservation Area at its southwest corner. Coachella Valley milk-vetch is listed as one of the "Biological resource values" for this Conservation Area, and one of the conservation objectives for this area is to "Conserve at least 863 acres in the Desert Hot Springs portion of the area" for Coachella Valley milk-vetch. It should be noted that no dead or dried remains of milk-vetch that had germinated earlier this year were present on the site during the survey. Coachella Valley milk-vetch is a covered species under the CVMSHCP and payment of the required CVMSHCP development fee will mitigate any potential impacts to this species.

Many of the remaining 28 plants listed in Table 1 are known from the mountain ranges that flank the southern and western edges of the Coachella Valley and occur in completely different habitats and elevations that do not exist on the valley floor. The remaining species are not expected on the site due to a lack of habitat. The northern 1/3 of the site has been extensively disturbed (cleared) and consists of mainly barren ground with some trash deposition, an old cement pad (for a building or structure that is now gone) and does not support a native plant community. The remaining 2/3 of the site is less disturbed but has still endured moderate to heavy disturbance (please see photographs in Appendix C). Only 18 plant species were observed on the site, and five of these (28%) are nonnative, introduced species. Most of these species are common components of the *Larrea tridentata – Ambrosia Dumosa* Shrubland Alliance (Creosote bush – white bursage scrub). However, this Alliance is not fully developed on this site due to varying amounts of human disturbance and modification. Please refer to Table 1 for details regarding potential presence/absence of sensitive plant species on the site. Similarly, none of the three sensitive habitats known from the general project vicinity (listed in Table 2) are present on the site.

Of the 31 sensitive wildlife species listed in Table 3 as potentially occurring in the project vicinity only five (5) are thought to have potential (low) to forage over the project site or in the immediate area, with one sensitive wildlife species detected immediately adjacent to the site. Four of the species are birds and include: golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). It should be noted that these species are expected to have a low to very low probability of foraging occasionally over or around the site, none are expected to nest on or adjacent to the project site due to a lack of suitable habitat. No burrows or appropriate manmade structures capable of supporting burrowing owls were observed on the site. No burrowing owls or their sign were observed on the site. There is a low probability that western yellow bat could forage over the site and could potentially roost in some of the remnant landscape palms remaining on the site, although these palms are small and in poor condition. A single Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*) was heard during the survey immediately south of the site on undeveloped land. As discussed previously, the site has been moderately to extensively disturbed/altered and does not support the appropriate natural habitats required by the majority of the sensitive wildlife species presented in Table 3. Additionally, many of these species occur in habitats that are not present on or adjacent to site (for example no riparian habitat for least Bell's vireo or other riparian-obligate species). In short, this is a relatively small (~4.69-

acre), disturbed parcel that has little potential to support both common and sensitive wildlife and plant species. The second parcel (APN 657-220-023) has already been developed as a Storage Facility and has no natural habitat. Please see Appendix C Site Photographs for a representation of conditions present on the site at the time of this survey.

5.7.1 CVMSHCP Covered Species

Seventeen (17) of the species presented in Tables 1 – 3 are conserved under the CVMSHCP: Coachella Valley milk-vetch, triple-ribbed milk-vetch, Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus, Mecca aster, Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket, desert tortoise, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, flat-tailed lizard, burrowing owl, crissal thrasher, Le Contes' thrasher, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow bat, Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel, Peninsular bighorn sheep (DPS), and Palm Springs pocket mouse. Participation in the CVMSHCP, payment of the CVMSHCP development/mitigation fee and participation in the plan will fully mitigate project related impacts (although none are anticipated due to lack of presence) to these species. It should be remembered that apart from burrowing owl, Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (heard just offsite to the south), and Coachella Valley milk-vetch, none of these species are expected to occur on or adjacent to the site. Burrowing owls have a very low potential to forage on or adjacent to the site but are not expected to permanently occupy the project site. Similarly, Coachella Valley milk-vetch is also expected to a very low potential to occur on the project site. As mentioned above, a single Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel was heard south of the site on undeveloped land. The small and declining palms that appear to be remnant landscape specimens are not likely to provide suitable roosting habitat for western yellow bat.

Suitable nesting habitat for burrowing owl was not observed on the site, and no burrows or burrow surrogates suitable for burrowing owl use were observed within the survey area. No burrowing owls or their sign were observed on the site. For these reasons, burrowing owl is currently not considered to be present on the project site.

5.7.2 Potentially Occurring Species Covered in the USFWS IPAC Report

Eight special status species are presented in the USFWS IPAC report generated specifically for the project location. All eight species are included in and addressed in Tables 1-3 of this document. These include Coachella Valley milk-vetch, triple-ribbed milk-vetch, monarch butterfly, desert tortoise, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and Peninsular bighorn sheep.

Seven of these sensitive species are not expected on the project site due to the lack of appropriate habitat (including food plant in the case of the Monarch butterfly) and the overall degraded/disturbed nature of the site.

Monarch butterfly are known to occur in the area but the project site did not have any of the larval host plants (milkweed species). This species is not listed as threatened or endangered by any of the resource agencies. It is, however, a recent Candidate Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

No riparian habitat is present on or adjacent to the project site to support least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher. No habitat exists on site for desert tortoise, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, Peninsular bighorn sheep or triple-ribbed milk-vetch. Coachella Valley milk-vetch has a low probability of occurring on the project site due to the level of disturbance and poor habitat quality. Should project-related disturbance be conducted during the native bird nesting

season (1 February through 31 August), a nesting bird clearance survey is recommended to ensure that implementation of the proposed project does not impact nesting birds and complies with the MBTA.

6.0 DISCUSSION

The proposed project includes the development of all 4.69 acres of APN 657-220-003 as an RV Storage facility. APN 657-220-023 has already been developed as Storage Facility. While the site is surrounded by development on the north, east, and west sides, it is adjacent to undeveloped land on its southern edge. The project site does not contain any United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, or CDFW jurisdictional waters. The project site is not within any CVMSHCP Conservation Areas, but is adjacent to the Willow Hole Conservation Area, and across the street from the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area. The CVMSHCP has Land Use Adjacency Guidelines that are intended to avoid or minimize indirect effects from Development adjacent to or within the Conservation Areas. Adjacent means sharing a common boundary with any parcel in a Conservation Area. Such indirect effects are commonly referred to as edge effects, and may include noise, lighting, drainage, intrusion of people, and the introduction of non-native plants and non-native predators such as dogs and cats. A description of these guidelines are:

- Drainage: Proposed Development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area shall incorporate plans to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff discharged to the adjacent Conservation Area is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions.
- Toxics: Land uses proposed adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that use chemicals or generate bioproducts such as manure that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife and plant species, Habitat, or water quality shall incorporate measures to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in any discharge to the adjacent Conservation Area.
- Lighting: For proposed Development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area, lighting shall be shielded and directed toward the developed area. Landscape shielding or other appropriate methods shall be incorporated in project designs to minimize the effects of lighting adjacent to or within the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.
- Noise: Proposed Development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that generates noise in excess of 75 dBA Leq hourly shall incorporate setbacks, berms, or walls, as appropriate, to minimize the effects of noise on the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.
- Invasives: Invasive, non-native plant species shall not be incorporated in the landscape for land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area. Landscape treatments within or adjacent to a Conservation Area shall incorporate native plant materials to the maximum extent Feasible; recommended native species are listed in Appendix D of this document.
- Barriers: Land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers in individual project designs to minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass, or dumping in a Conservation Area. Such barriers may include native landscaping, rocks/boulders, fencing, walls and/or signage.
- Grading/Land Development: Manufactured slopes associated with site Development shall not extend into adjacent land in a Conservation Area.

Implementation of the proposed project is expected to permanently disturb all areas within the project site, which in turn may potentially result in direct or indirect disturbance to the biological resources, sensitive and otherwise, occurring, or potentially occurring on- and/or adjacent to the site. Payment of the required CVMSHCP development fee will mitigate any impacts to species covered under the plan. To prevent impacts to potentially nesting native birds protected by the MBTA and state fish and game code, the following measures should be taken:

6.1 Protection of Nesting Birds

Special status bird species covered by the CVMSHCP as well as a variety of common bird species that are excluded from coverage under the plan are all still protected by the MBTA and the state Fish and Game Code. This includes virtually all native migratory and resident bird species. Avoidance of impacts to these birds is a requirement of the federal permit issued for the CVMSHCP. To avoid impacting nesting birds both within and outside conservation areas, either avoidance of project-related disturbance during the nesting season (1 February through 31 August) or nesting bird surveys conducted by a qualified ornithologist or biologist immediately prior to on-site disturbance during the nesting season would be required. If nesting birds are found, no work would be permitted near the nest until young have fledged. There is no established protocol for nest avoidance, however, when consulted the CDFW generally recommends avoidance buffers of about 500 feet for birds-of-prey and species listed as threatened or endangered, and 100–300 feet for unlisted songbirds.

6.2 Burrowing Owl

As noted above, no burrowing owls or their sign were observed on the site. Burrowing owls often occupy barren, open sites similar to the project site. This species nests and roosts underground so is uniquely vulnerable to ground disturbing activities. No burrows or “burrow surrogates” such as small culverts or abandoned concrete pipe sections suitable for use by burrowing owls were found on the site during the survey. Since burrowing owls can disperse from nearby occupied areas, a preconstruction survey following CDFG (2012) guidelines must be conducted prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities. Unless avoidable, all burrowing owls present must be relocated prior to any ground disturbing activities. If burrowing owls remain on-site, a Burrowing Owl Relocation and Management Plan will be prepared to describe and outline how the burrowing owl will be actively or passively relocated per CDFW guidelines. Relocation will require prior permission from the CDFW, at a minimum. Since the burrowing owl is a covered species under the CVMSHCP, additional mitigation/conservation measures will not be required.

7.0 CONCLUSION

With the implementation of the recommendations above, impacts to special status biological resources are anticipated to be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated in accordance with the CVMSHCP and other resource agency requirements.

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USGS 7.5' *Desert Hot Springs, West Seven Palms Valley, and Palm Springs, Calif.* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (USGS 1972 - 2015)

APPENDIX A

FIGURES

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c)

Path: \\sdg1-fs1\gis\3554_NaturalResources\TerraNova_DesertRVStorage_322520135\MXD\ReportFigures\Fig1_ProjectLocation.mxd, amanda.trujillo 11/2/2022

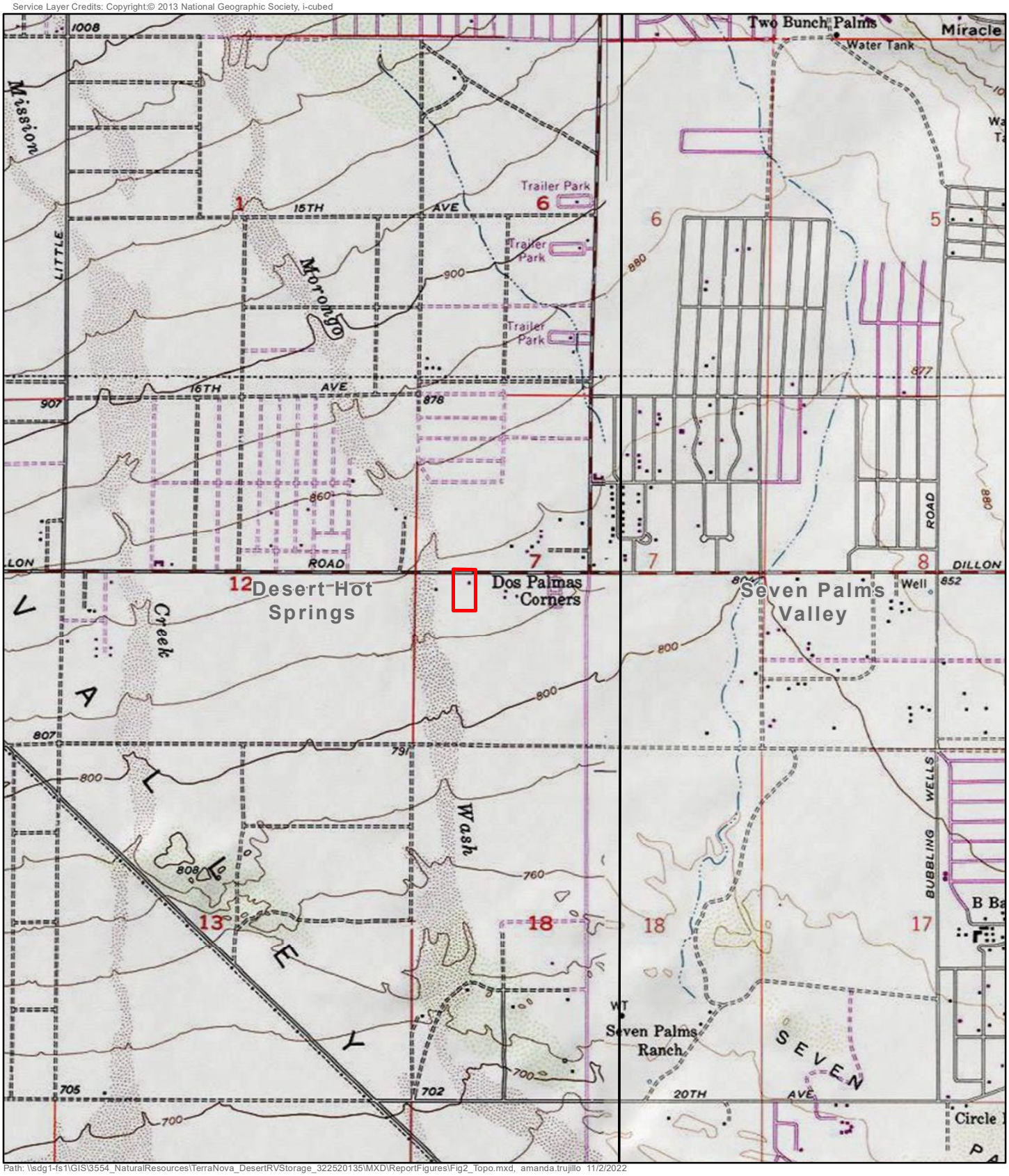
1 inch = 1 miles
0 0.5 1 Miles

Project Boundary

FIGURE 1

Project Location
Desert RV Storage Site Project
Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, CA

Service Layer Credits: Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed



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1 inch = 2,000 feet
0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Project Boundary

FIGURE 2

USGS 7.5' Topo Quad: Desert Hot Springs
Desert RV Storage Site Project
Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, CA

Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Path: \\sdg1-fs1\GIS\3554_NaturalResources\TerraNova_DesertRVStorage_322520135\MXD\ReportFigures\Fig3_SiteVicinity.mxd, amanda.trujillo 11/2/2022

1 inch = 200 feet

0 100 200 Feet

Project Boundary

FIGURE 3

Site Vicinity
Desert RV Storage Site Project
Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, CA

Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Path: \\sdg1-fs1\GIS\3554_NaturalResources\TerraNova_DesertRVStorage_322520135\MXD\ReportFigures\Fig4_Soils.mxd, amanda.trujillo 11/2/2022

1 inch = 200 feet

0 100 200 Feet

wsp

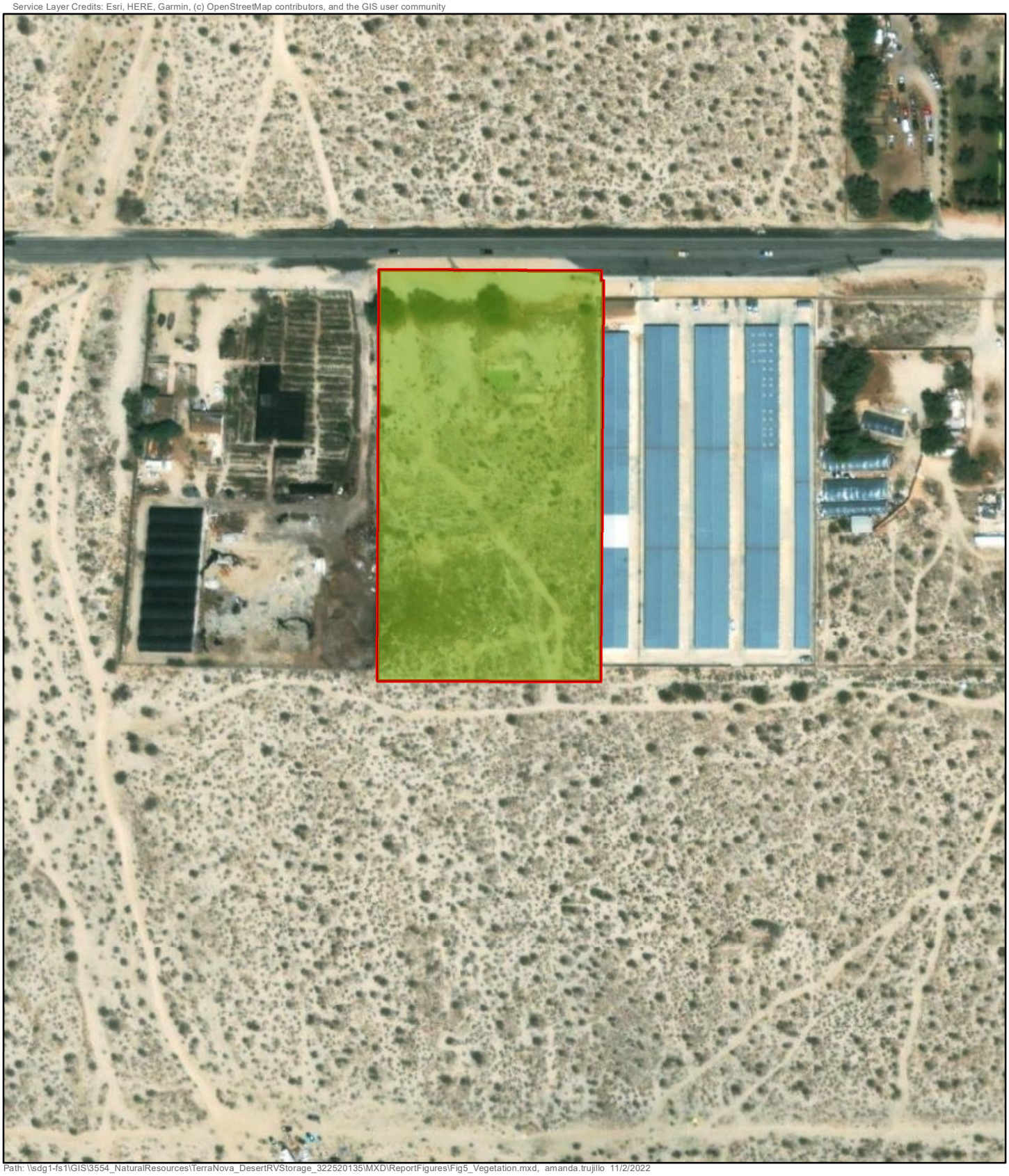
Project Boundary

MaB - Myoma fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

FIGURE 4

Soils
Desert RV Storage Site Project
Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, CA

Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community



Path: \\sdg1-fs1\GIS\3554_NaturalResources\TerraNova_DesertRVStorage_322520135\MXD\ReportFigures\Fig5_Vegetation.mxd, amanda.trujillo 11/2/2022

1 inch = 200 feet

0 100 200 Feet

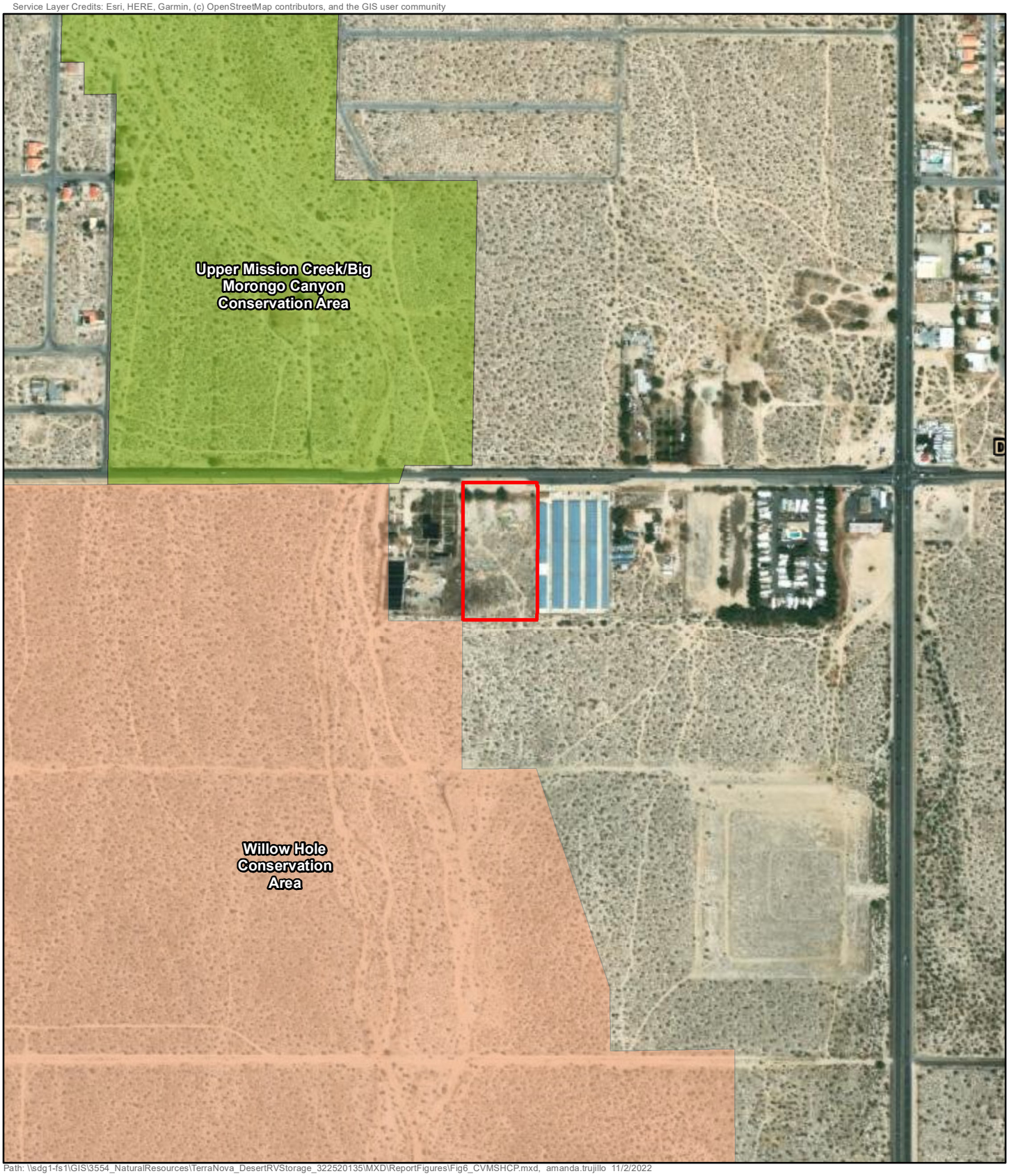
Project Boundary

Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub-Disturbed

FIGURE 5

Vegetation
Desert RV Storage Site Project
Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, CA

Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community



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1 inch = 600 feet
0 300 600 Feet

Project Boundary

Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area

Willow Hole Conservation Area

FIGURE 6

CVMSHCP
Desert RV Storage Site Project
Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, CA

APPENDIX B

PLANTS AND VERTEBRATE WILDLIFE OBSERVED ON THE DESERT RV STORAGE SITE PROJECT

Plants Observed or Detected
Dillon Road Desert RV Storage Site Project, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California

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ANGIOSPERMAE **DICOTYLEDONEAE**	**DICOT FLOWERING PLANTS**
Asteraceae	**Sunflower Family**
Ambrosia dumosa	white bur-sage
Ambrosia salsola	cheesebush
Dicoria canescens	desert twinbugs
Encelia farinosa	brittlebush
Brassicaceae	**Mustard family**
**Brassica tournefortii*	Saharan mustard
Chenopodiaceae	**Goosefoot Family**
Atriplex canescens	four-wing saltbush
**Salsola tragus*	Russian thistle
Ehretiaceae	**Ehretia Family**
Tiquilia plicata	fan-leaved tiquilia
Euphorbiaceae	**Spurge Family**
Croton californicus	California croton
Euphorbia polycarpa	small-seed sandmat
Fabaceae	**Legume Family**
Psorothamnus arborescens var. *simplicifolius*	honey mesquite
Psorothamnus emoryi	Emory's indigo bush
Loasaceae	**Loasa Family**
Petalonyx thurberi	sandpaper plant
Tamaricaceae	**Tamarisk Family**
**Tamarix aphylla*	Athel saltcedar
Zygophyllaceae	**Caltrop Family**
Larrea tridentata	creosote bush
MONOCOT ANGIOSPERMS	
Arecaceae	**Palm Family**
Washingtonia filifera (planted)	California fan palm
**Washingtonia robusta* (planted)	Mexican fan palm
Poaceae	**Grass Family**
**Schismus* sp.	Mediterranean grass (dead remains)

* - denotes a non-native species

Wildlife Observed
Dillon Road Desert RV Storage Site Project, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California

CHORDATES	**CHORDATA**
REPTILES	**REPTILIA**
Horned, Spiny Lizards and Allies western side-blotched lizard	**Phrynosomatidae** *Uta stansburiana elegans*
Whiptails, Racerunners and Allies Great Basin whiptail	**Teiidae** *Aspidoscelis tigris tigris*
BIRDS	**AVES**
Pigeons and Doves mourning dove	**Columbidae** *Zenaida macroura*
Jays, Magpies, and Crows common raven	**Corvidae** *Corvus corax*
New World Warblers Yellow-rumped warbler (wintering)	**Parulidae** *Setophaga coronata*
MAMMALS	**MAMMALIA**
Squirrels, marmots and Allies Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	**Sciuridae** *Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*
Coyotes, foxes and allies Coyote (scat)	**Canidae** *Canis latrans*

* - non-native species

APPENDIX C

SITE PHOTOS

Photo 1. View from Dillon Road looking south, showing current entrance to site (APN 657-220-003).

Photo 2. Looking southeast from the entrance over the site, note significant trash dumping (APN 657-220-003). Dying landscape palms in background.

Photo 3. Trash dumping along the western edge of the site (APN 657-220-003).

Photo 4. Trash/debris deposition mid-site on (APN 657-220-003).

Photo 5. View from the southwest corner of 657-220-003 looking east across southern edge of site.

Photo 6. Looking south over 657-220-003 from “entrance”, showing bare ground on northern portion of the parcel.

Photo 7. Undeveloped land south of 657-220-003.

Photo 8. Potential homeless area on lands south of 657-220-003.

Photo 9. View from northeast edge of 657-220-003 looking southwest over the site.

Photo 10. View from northeast corner looking west across 657-220-003.

Photo 11. View from southeast corner of 657-220-003 looking north along the western edge of 657-220-023.

Photo 12. Looking east across the southern edge of 657-220-023.

Photo 13. Looking north along eastern edge of existing storage facility on 657-220-023.

Photo 14. Another view of the northern portion of 657-220-003, showing Mariscal Nursery that borders the site on the west.

APPENDIX D

CVMSHCP Table 4-112:
Coachella Valley Native Plants Recommended for Landscaping

Coachella Valley Native Plants Recommended for Landscaping

BOTANICAL NAME	**COMMON NAME**
Trees	
Washingtonia filifera	California fan palm
Cercidium floridum	blue palo verde
Chilopsis linearis	desert willow
Olneya tesota	ironwood tree
Prosopis glandulosa var. *torreyana*	honey mesquite
Shrubs	
Acacia greggii	cat's claw acacia
Ambrosia dumosa	burro bush
Atriplex canescens	four wing saltbush
Atriplex lentiformis	quailbush
Atriplex polycarpa	cattle spinach
Baccharis sergiloides	squaw water-weed
Bebia juncea	sweet bush
Cassia (Senna) covesii	desert senna
Condalia parryi	crucilllo
Crossosoma bigelovii	crossosoma
Dalea emoryi	dye weed
Dalea (Psorothamnus) schottii	indigo bush
Datura meteloides	jimson weed
Encelia farinosa	brittle bush
Ephedra aspera	Mormon tea
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California buckwheat
Eriogonum wrightii membranaceum	Wright's buckwheat
Fagonia laevis	no common name
Gutierrezia sarothrae	matchweed
Haplopappus acradenius	goldenbush
Hibiscus denudatus	desert hibiscus
Hoffmannseggia microphylla	rush pea
Hymenoclea salsola	cheesebush
Hyptis emoryi	desert lavender
Isomeris arborea	bladder pod
Juniperus californica	California juniper
Krameria grayi	ratany
Krameria parvifolia	little-leaved ratany
Larrea tridentata	creosote bush
Lotus rigidus	desert rock pea
Lycium andersonii	box thorn
Petalonyx linearis	long-leaved sandpaper plant
Petalonyx thurberi	sandpaper plant
Peucephyllum schottii	pygmy cedar
Prunus fremontii	desert apricot
Rhus ovata	sugar-bush
Salazaria mexicana	paper-bag bush
Salvia apiana	white sage
Salvia eremostachya	Santa Rosa sage

Salvia vaseyi	wand sage
Simmondsia chinensis	jojoba
Sphaeralcia ambigua	globemallow (desert mallow)
Sphaeralcia ambigua rosacea	apricot mallow
Trixis californica	trixis
Zauschneria californica	California fuchsia

Groundcovers

Mirabilis bigelovii	wishbone bush (four o'clock)
Mirabilis tenuiloba	white four o'clock (thin-lobed)

Vines

Vitis girdiana	desert grape

Accent

Muhlenbergia rigens	deer grass

Herbaceous Perennials

Adiantum capillus-veneris	maiden-hair fern
Carex alma	sedge
Dalea parryi	Parry dalea
Eleocharis montevidensis	spike rush
Equisetum laevigatum	horsetail
Juncus bufonis	toad rush
Juncus effuses	juncus
Juncus macrophyllus	juncus
Juncus mexicanus	Mexican rush
Juncus xiphioides	juncus
Notholaena parryi	Parry cloak fern
Pallaea mucronata	bird-foot fern

Cacti and Succulents

Agave deserti	desert agave
Asclepias albicans	desert milkweed (buggy-whip)
Asclepias subulata	ajamete
Dudleya arizonica	live-forever
Dudleya saxosa	rock dudleya
Echinocereus engelmannii	calico hedgehog cactus
Ferocactus acanthodes	barrel cactus
Fouquieria splendens	ocotillo
Mamillaria dioica	nipple cactus
Mamillaria tetrancistra	corkseed cactus
Nolina parryi	Parry nolina
Opuntia acanthocarpa	stag-horn or deer-horn cholla
Opuntia bigelovii	teddy bear or jumping cholla
Opuntia basilaris	beavertail cactus
Opuntia echinocarpa	silver or golden cholla
Opuntia ramosissima	pencil cholla, darning needle cholla
Yucca schidigera	Mojave yucca, Spanish dagger
Yucca whipplei	Our Lord's candle

APPENDIX E

Prohibited Invasive Ornamental Plants

Prohibited Invasive Ornamental Plants

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Acacia spp. (all species except A. greggii)	(all species except native catclaw acacia)
Arundo donax	giant reed or arundo grass
Atriplex semibaccata	Australian saltbush
Avena barbata	slender wild oat
Avena fatua	wild oat
Brassica tournefortii	African or Saharan mustard
Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens	red brome
Bromus tectorum	cheat grass or downy brome
Cortaderia jubata [syn.C. atacamensis]	jubata grass or Andean pampas grass
Cortaderia dioica [syn. C. selloana]	pampas grass
Descurainia sophia	tansy mustard
Eichhornia crassipes	water hyacinth
Elaegnus angustifolia	Russian olive
Foeniculum vulgare	sweet fennel
Hirschfeldia incana	Mediterranean or short-pod mustard
Lepidium latifolium	perennial pepperweed
Lolium multiflorum	Italian ryegrass
Nerium oleander	oleander
Nicotiana glauca	tree tobacco
Oenothera berlandieri	Mexican evening primrose
Olea europea	European olive tree
Parkinsonia aculeata	Mexican palo verde
Pennisetum clandestinum	Kikuyu grass
Pennisetum setaceum	fountain grass
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island date palm
Phoenix dactylifera	date palm
Ricinus communis	castorbean
Salsola tragus	Russian thistle
Schinus mole	Peruvian pepper tree
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian pepper tree
Schismus arabicus	Mediterranean grass
Schismus barbatus	Saharan grass, Abu Mashi
Stipa capensis	no common name
Tamarix spp. (all species)	tamarisk or salt cedar
Taeniatherum caput-medusae	Medusa-head
Tribulus terrestris	puncturevine
Vinca major	periwinkle
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican fan palm
Yucca gloriosa	Spanish dagger

Sources: California Exotic Pest Plant Council, United States Department of Agriculture-Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, California Native Plant Society, Fremontia Vol. 26 No. 4, October 1998, The Jepson Manual; Higher Plants of California, and County of San Diego Department of Agriculture.

APPENDIX F

USFWS IPAC Report

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385
Phone: (760) 431-9440 Fax: (760) 431-5901

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2023-0013280
Project Name: Desert RV Storage Site

November 07, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A biological assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a biological assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a biological assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Consultation website at:

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/faq.html

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

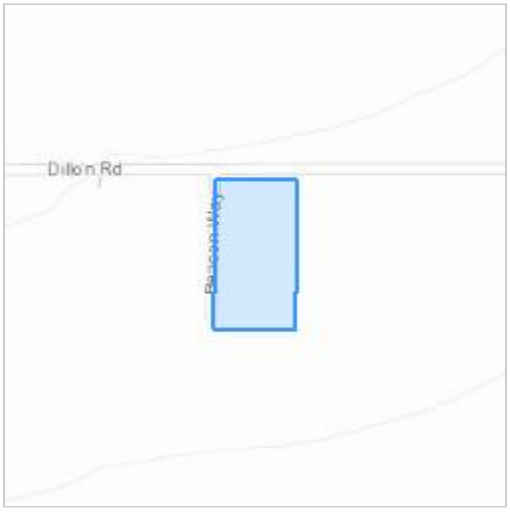
This species list is provided by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385
(760) 431-9440

Project Summary

Project Code: 2023-0013280
Project Name: Desert RV Storage Site
Project Type: Commercial Development
Project Description: Approx. 4.70-acres, site is moderately to greatly disturbed. Disturbed creosote bush scrub elements present. Located between a Plant Nursery and an existing storage facility.
Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@33.9240102,-116.50773256086016,14z



Counties: Riverside County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 8 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Peninsular Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis nelsoni* Population: Peninsular CA pop. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4970	Endangered

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard *Uma inornata* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2069	Threatened
Desert Tortoise *Gopherus agassizii* Population: Wherever found, except AZ south and east of Colorado R., and Mexico There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4481	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Coachella Valley Milk-vetch *Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7426	Endangered
Triple-ribbed Milk-vetch *Astragalus tricarinatus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3370	Endangered

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency:	WSP Environment and Infrastructure
Name:	Nathan Moorhatch
Address:	1845 Chicago Avenue
Address Line 2:	Suite D
City:	Riverside
State:	CA
Zip:	92507
Email	nathan.moorhatch@woodplc.com
Phone:	7144238559