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June 10, 2022
Project No: 22-12524

Zerina Vila, Contracts Administrator
Coachella Valley Engineers
7793 Las Montanas Road, Suite 101
Palm Desert, California 92211
Via email: Zvila@cve.net

Subject: Biological Resources Assessment Memorandum and Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Analysis for the Jordan Outreach Ministries Project Thermal, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Vila,

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) is pleased to submit this Biological Resources Assessment Memorandum and Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) Consistency Analysis to support the Jordan Outreach Ministries project. The assessment was completed to document existing site conditions and determine potential impacts to special-status biological resources as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CVMSHCP.

Project Description and Location

The project is located on the southwest corner of the Avenue 54 and Van Buren Street intersection in the community of Thermal, Riverside County, California. Jordan Outreach Ministries plans to develop an approximately 10-acre site on one (1) parcel: Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 780-330-004, which is depicted on Township 6 South, Range 7 East, Section 13 of the *Indio,* California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, San Bernadino Baseline and Meridian (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The project is within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP and not within any Conservation Areas (Figure 3 Project Vicinity to CVMSHCP Conservation Areas.

The project site is vacant and disturbed, historically identified as agriculture. Sparse shrubs along with annual and perennial grasses, weeds, with salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) and several saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.) shrubs were observed throughout the project site but are mainly concentrated along the west and south portions. Overall, the site is open and barren with a history of disturbance. Elevation onsite ranges from approximately 73 to 78 feet (22 to 23 meters) below sea level. Surrounding land uses include the Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel to the east, agriculture to the north, west, and south, as well as the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians Reservation to the east. The project site is surrounded by metal fencing, including a barbed wire fence on the north and east sides, where the study area can be accessed by a locked gate. For the purposes of this report, the study area is defined as the work area plus a 300-foot buffer.

Methodology

Regulatory Overview

Regulated or special-status resources studied and analyzed herein include special-status plant and wildlife species, nesting birds and raptors, sensitive plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, wildlife movement, and locally protected resources, such as protected trees. For the purpose of this report, potential impacts to biological resources were analyzed based on the following statutes:

Federal

- Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

State

- California Environmental Quality Act
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

Local

- Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan
- Riverside County Oak Tree Management Guidelines

Literature Review

Prior to conducting the biological field survey, Rincon reviewed the parcel (provided by the client), aerial photographs, and previous historical land use of the project site. Queries of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (2022a, 2022b) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (2022) were conducted to obtain comprehensive information regarding state and federally listed species, as well as other special-status species considered to have potential to occur within a 5-mile radius of the project site. For CNPS query purposes, a nine-quadrangle search area centered on the project site was used, Species with elevation ranges exceeding that of the project site were excluded, and plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 3 and 4 were excluded. In addition, information regarding regionally occurring special-status biological resources and geology related to the site was reviewed using from the following sources:

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2022a)
- Biogeographic Information and Observation System (CDFW 2022b)
- Special Animals List (CDFW 2022c)

- Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (CDFW 2022d)
- National Hydrography Dataset (United States Geological Survey 2022b)
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory Mapper (USFWS 2022c)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Web Soil Survey (USDA NRCS 2022)
- Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Field Survey

A field reconnaissance survey was conducted by Rincon Biologist Jacob Hargis on May 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. to document the existing site conditions and evaluate the potential for presence of sensitive biological resources, including special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive plant communities, potential jurisdictional waters, wildlife corridors and nursery sites, and locally protected resources. Weather conditions during the survey included temperatures of 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, southeast winds (10 to 12 miles per hour) with sunny and clear skies. The survey consisted of walking meandering transects throughout the study area, where accessible. The biologists visually scanned for special-status species (or sign thereof) and habitats suitable for these species. Binoculars were used to scan those areas otherwise inaccessible by foot, including the buffer area and to scan shrubs for the presence of nests.

The habitat requirements for each regionally occurring special-status species were assessed and compared to the type and quality of the habitats observed within the study area during the site visit. Vegetation communities observed onsite were mapped on a site-specific aerial photograph. All accessible portions of the study area were covered on foot. Vegetation was generally classified using the systems provided in *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (Sawyer et al. 2009) as necessary to reflect the existing site conditions. The survey was conducted to make an initial determination regarding the presence or absence of terrestrial biological resources, including plants, birds, and other wildlife.

The assessment of special-status species in this report is based on the results of the site visit and literature review and is intended to assess habitat suitability for the proposed project to impact special-status species within the study area only. Definitive surveys to confirm the presence or absence of special-status species were not performed and are not included in this analysis. The findings and opinions conveyed in this report are based exclusively on the methodology described above.

Existing Conditions

Soils

Soil series within the study area historically are found throughout Coachella Valley's agricultural areas, which consist of deep, well drained soils located on alluvial fans and floodplains with slopes ranging from 0 to 3 percent. Soils onsite appear to have retained their historical quality, but there has likely been human-caused disturbance from activities in recent years. Soils are sandy and loose throughout the site and compacted around the perimeters and near the access gate to the east. The two soil types in the study area as mapped by the USDA NRCS are depicted on Figure 4.

Gilman Fine Sandy Loam, Wet, 0 to 2 Percent Slopes (GcA)

Gilman soils are characterized by layers of fine sandy loam, silt loam and loamy sand that are formed in stratified stream alluvium. They are found on floodplains and alluvial fans. This soil dominates (>50 percent) in Coachella (USDA NRCS 2022).

Indio Fine Sandy Loam, Wet (Ir)

The Indio series consists of very deep, well or moderately well drained soils formed in alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. Indio soils are on alluvial fans, lacustrine basins, and floodplains (USDA NRCS 2022).

Vegetation and Land Cover

The entire project site is a disturbed property previously used as agriculture, void of much vegetation and has been previously cleared. Any tall shrubs or trees which may have previously been present have now been removed. Overall, the project site is disturbed due to human activity. Vehicle and mechanical tracks are visible indicating relatively recent disturbance. Anthropomorphic debris including concrete rubble, piping, trash, and old cut vegetation were observed. A concrete pad has been partially constructed in the southern portion of the study area, along with a concrete platform that includes staged materials and a large container set up in the southeast. An old concrete irrigation canal with partially dug up pipes was observed in the southwest corner. Historic aerial imagery on Google Earth (2021) Imagery shows scattered shrubs and palms growing within the study area and confirmed disturbance on this parcel between February 2018 to December 2019, during which that time the entire project site was cleared of vegetation. Little vegetation has grown back, resulting in the site being barren ground with weedy annuals and perennials observed along the western and southern fence line with dispersed saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata)* around the study area. Ornamental shrubs (*firethorn sp.*) were observed growing on the western and southern fences bordering a date palm farm to the west, and other agriculture to the south. Weedy, non-native species observed included Palmer's amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*), London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola),* harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica)*, cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), date palm sprouts (*Phoenix* sp.*),* goose foot (*Chenopodium* sp.), brome (*Bromus* sp.*),* oat (*Avena* sp.*), tamarisk (Tamarix* sp.), mustard (*Brassica* sp.), purple nutsedge (*Cyperus rotundus*), white sweetclover (*Melilotus albus*), flax-leaved horse weed (*Erigeron bonariensis*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), bur clover (*Medicago* sp.). Two native species, big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*) and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) were observed during the reconnaissance survey along the central and western portions, and in the southwestern corner of the study area. No sensitive plant communities are present on the project site. Overall, the project site has been designated as Disturbed Habitat/Agricultural. Attachment 1, *Site Photographs,* and Figure 5 depict vegetation communities/landcover types.

General Wildlife

The project site provides limited habitat for wildlife species due to the disturbed, open, and limited shrub cover but could potentially provide habitat for common wildlife species, such as lizards and nesting birds protected under the CFGC § 3503 and the MBTA. Bird species observed onsite during the survey included house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*). A great-horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) carcass was discovered along the western

fence line. Invertebrate species observed included a gray hairstreak butterfly (*Strymon melinus*) and dragonflies (*Odonata* sp.) The only reptile species observed onsite was the great basin whiptail lizard (*Aspidoscelis tigris tigris*). Limited small mammal burrows were observed in the southwest corner of the study area, which were small and could have been previously used by voles or lizards. No evidence of any large burrows, or of other burrowing mammals were observed. Bird species observed in the 300-foot buffer included red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis)* and common raven (*Corvus corax*). One deceased vole (*Microtus* sp.) was found but no other mammal sign was observed. Domestic mammals including horse and cattle were also observed within the buffer zone on adjacent properties.

Impact Analysis

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are those plants and wildlife listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the USFWS under the federal ESA, those considered "Species of Concern" by the USFWS, those listed or candidates for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the CDFW under the CESA, wildlife designated as "Fully Protected" by the CFGC, wildlife listed as "Species of Special Concern" (SSC) by the CDFW, and CDFW Special Plants, specifically those with CRPR of 1B, 2, and 3 in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

Furthermore, biological resources are ranked globally (G) and statewide (S) 1 through 5 (more critical to less critical with those ranked as G or S 1 through 3 being considered as sensitive).

Local, state, and federal agencies regulate special-status species and may require an assessment of their presence or potential presence to be conducted onsite prior to the approval of proposed development on a property. A list of special-status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur onsite was developed based on a review of a 5-mile search of the CNDDB (CDFW 2022b) and a nine-quadrangle search of the CNPS' Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2022) and can be found in Attachment 2.

Pursuant to Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines,* the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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

The CNDDB/CNPS query results include 31 special-status plant species within 5 miles (for CNDDB) and nine-quadrangle search area (for CNPS) of the study area. Special-status plant species typically have specialized habitat requirements, including plant community types, soils, and elevational ranges. Of the 31 species, none are expected to occur onsite based on the site's location and clear lack of suitable habitat (e.g., mountains, desert, elevational ranges). No special-status plant species were observed during the site reconnaissance survey, nor do any special-status plant species have any potential to occur onsite given the high disturbance, lack of suitable habitat, and elevation requirements that are not met by the study area. As such, impacts to special-status plant species are not expected to occur as a result of project implementation.

The CNDDB query results include 17 special-status wildlife species within 5 miles of the study area. The potential for special-status wildlife species to occur on the site was assessed based on known

distribution, habitat requirements, and existing site conditions. Of the 17 special-status wildlife species, none were observed onsite. Two species have a low potential to occur onsite: burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; CVMSCHP, CDFW SSC) and foraging prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus;* CDFW Watch List). No special-status species have a moderate or high potential to occur onsite due to the lack of suitable habitat (Attachment 2).

Ornamental shrubs growing along the fence lines and patches of weedy vegetation within the study area, as well as palm trees on adjacent properties within the 300-foot buffer could provide suitable nesting habitat for common avian species that were observed during the reconnaissance survey. Bird nests and eggs are protected under the CFGC Section 3503 and the MBTA. Common species such as mourning dove, northern mockingbird, swallows (*Hirundinidae* sp.) and house finches have a potential to nest in ornamental vegetation, palm trees, or man-made structures. Direct impacts (e.g., injury or mortality) to nesting birds or indirect impacts (e.g., noise, dust) that disrupt nesting behavior and reproductive success would be significant. Implementation of recommended pre-construction nesting bird surveys (discussed below in *Recommended Actions*) would reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

Sensitive Plant Communities

Pursuant to Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines,* the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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

The entire study area is comprised of open habitat, with weedy non-native species such as Palmer's amaranth, and Bermuda grass. The site appears to have been frequently subject to human activity, including disking and/or clearing, and has resulted in very limited native plant species present. No sensitive plant communities are present within the study area. Therefore, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities.

Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waterways

Pursuant to Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines,* the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

No potentially jurisdictional drainage features are present on the project site. Remnants of an old concrete irrigation canal was identified in the southwest corner of the site, with some stagnant water observed at the bottom. Concrete piping material was partially dug up, and the remaining intact structure is a vertical concrete cylinder seven to eight feet tall (Figure 5). It is likely this was previously used as an irrigation water storage structure. Rincon preliminary concluded this feature is not jurisdictional. Desktop analysis using the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping database shows no waters, wetlands, or historical wetland data within the study area. No riparian vegetation, water channels, or ponding water was observed during the reconnaissance survey. Indirect impacts from potential stormwater runoff, dust, or spills of hazardous materials during or after construction, would be less than significant as a result of the project's required compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System Construction General Permit and preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevent Plan and best management practices. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.

Wildlife Movement

Pursuant to Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines,* the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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

The project site is located west of Highway 111, at the intersection of Avenue 54 and Van Buren Street. It is surrounded by agricultural fields to the north, west, and south, and adjacent to the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Reservation, where a casino and solar project is across the road southeast of the project site. The site is not within any mapped or known California Essential Habitat Connectivity area. The site is located adjacent to active roads, irrigated agriculture, and development. Given the isolated nature of the site from natural habitat areas and/or vegetated corridors it does not presently provide opportunities for wildlife movement and habitat connectivity. For these reasons, impacts to wildlife movement would be considered less than significant.

Local Policies and Ordinances

Pursuant to Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines,* the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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

The Riverside County Oak Tree Management Guidelines intended to address the treatment of oak woodlands in areas where zoning and/or general plan density restrictions will allow the effective use of clustering. These guidelines require a qualified biologist to identify, assess, and evaluate potential impacts to any oak woodland vegetation prior to proposed development. The field reconnaissance survey results indicate this site does not support an oak woodland community. No oak trees were observed. Therefore, development of this site would not conflict with this guideline, and no impact is expected.

Adopted or Approved Plans

Pursuant to Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines,* the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Conservation Community Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The project is located within the CVMSHCP but is not located within a Conservation Area. As a result, proposed activities at the project site would avoid direct impacts to the CVMSHCP Conservation Areas and would not conflict with the CVMSHCP Conservation Objectives. Species that are protected by the CVMSHCP include arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*), Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket (*Stenopelmatus*

cahuilaensis), Coachella Valley giant sand-treader cricket (*Macrobaenetes valgum),* Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), crissal thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*), desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassiizii*), flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus*), mecca aster (*Xylorhiza cognata*), orocopia sage (*Salvia greatae*), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*), peninsular bighorn sheep distinct population segment (DPS) (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni* pop. 2), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*), triple-ribbed milk-vetch (*Atragalus tricarinatus*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), yellow breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*), and Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*).

Of these species, burrowing owl and prairie falcon have a low potential to forage onsite. The study area is disturbed, mostly barren with very limited vegetation, and thus the quality of the site for foraging is considered to be low. The site does not provide suitable nesting habitat for these avian species due to a lack of the required nesting structures. No evidence of burrowing mammals or suitable burrows for burrowing owls were observed within the study area during the reconnaissance survey. There were no suitable anthropogenic materials such as culverts, cracks in concrete structures, or any other potentially suitable debris piles that could provide habitat for burrowing animals. Due to the lack of CNDDB records within the vicinity of the proposed project, and low quality, limited suitable habitat within and surrounding the study area, the likelihood that burrowing owls will occur on site is very low. Cliffs, bluffs, or other elevated structures that could be utilized by prairie falcons for nesting are absent from the site. Nonetheless, foraging from these species could occasionally occur onsite, within the 300-foot buffer, or on adjacent properties. None of the CVMSHCP covered species were detected during the reconnaissance survey, but pre-construction nesting bird surveys (see BIO-1 below) would detect them should they move onsite and are recommended for compliance with MBTA and CFGC.

Recommended Actions

BIO-1 Nesting Bird Surveys

The following mitigation measure, and compliance with MBTA and CFGC requirements, would be required to reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

To avoid disturbance of nesting and special-status birds, including raptorial species protected by the MBTA and CFGC, activities related to the project, including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside of the bird breeding season (February 1 through August 30). If construction must begin within the breeding season, then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than three (3) days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and vegetation-removal activities. The nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted within the project site, plus a 300-foot buffer (500-foot for raptors), on foot, and within inaccessible areas (i.e., private lands) afar using binoculars to the extent practical. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in southern California desert communities. If nests are found, an avoidance buffer (which is dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be

notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground-disturbing activities shall occur within this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

Conclusion

Based on the field reconnaissance survey, database and literature searches, and overall assessment, the proposed project site development is not likely to impact sensitive biological resources if the mitigation measure recommended above is incorporated. No sensitive wildlife or plant species were found during the site survey and are not likely to occur. The burrowing owl and prairie falcon mentioned above have a low potential to forage onsite. Foraging from these species could occasionally occur onsite, within the 300-foot buffer, or on adjacent properties. Rincon recommends incorporating the BIO-1 mitigation measure and ensure compliance with MBTA and CFGC requirements, which would detect these species should they move onsite. Overall, due to the lack of native vegetation, historical uses, and resulting disturbed habitat, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive natural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important project. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Jacob Hargis
Associate Biologist

Angie Harbin
Director of Natural Resources

Attachments

Attachment 1 Site Photographs

Attachment 2 CNDDB/CNPS Query Results and Special-Status Species Occurrence Potentials

References

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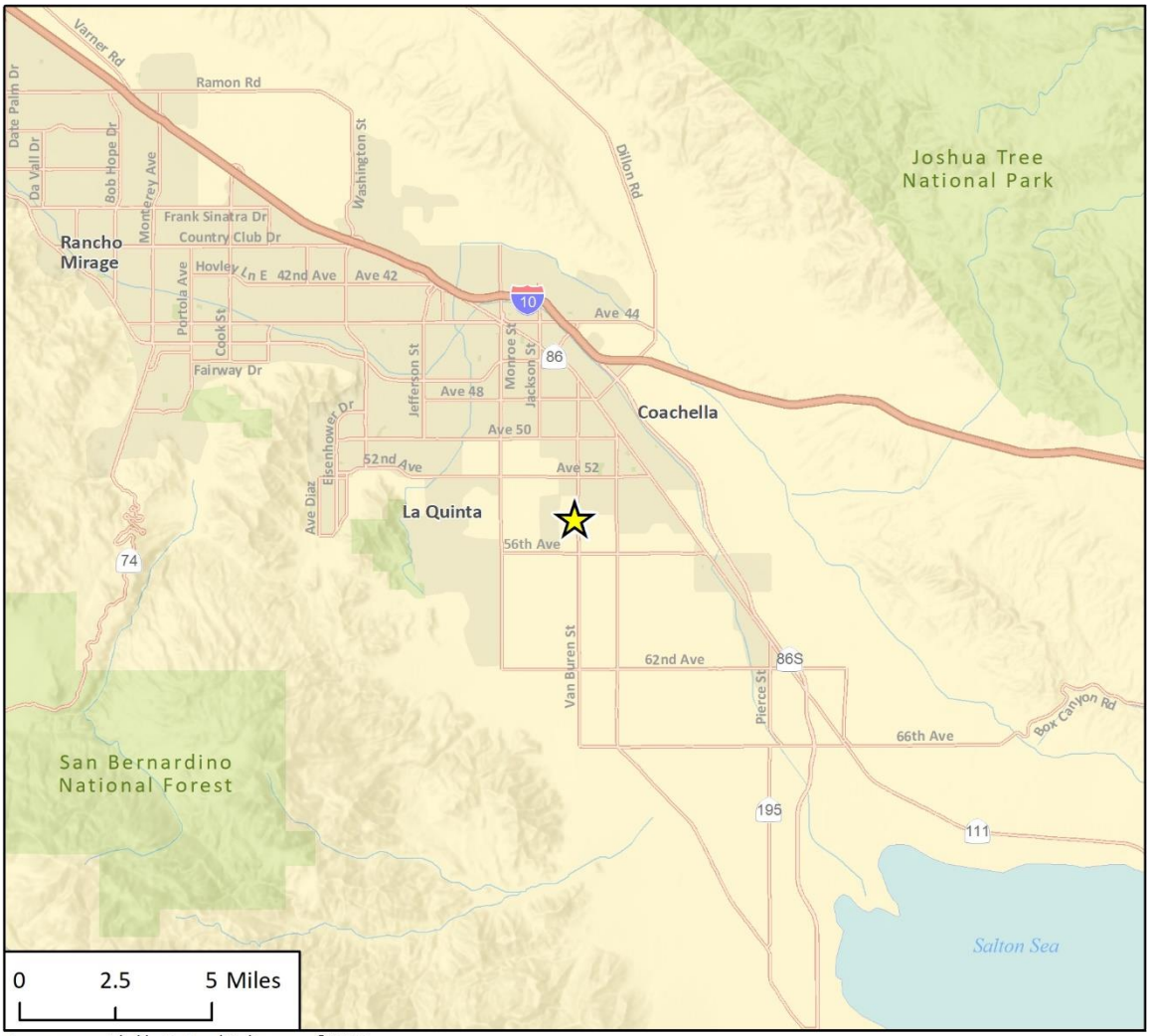
Figure 1 Regional Location



Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2022.

Project Location

N

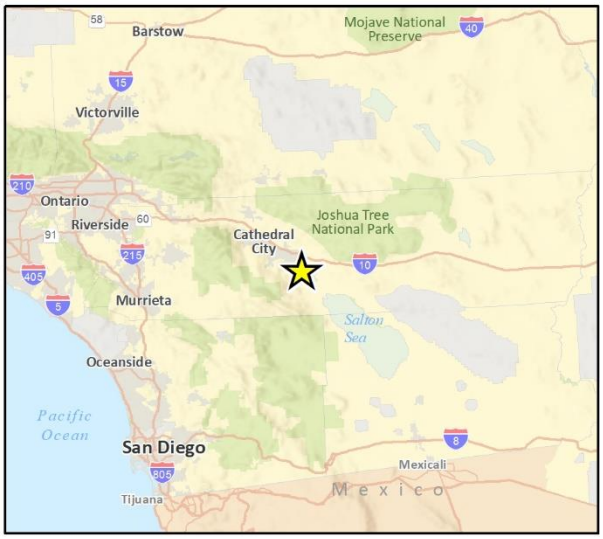


Figure 2 Project Location

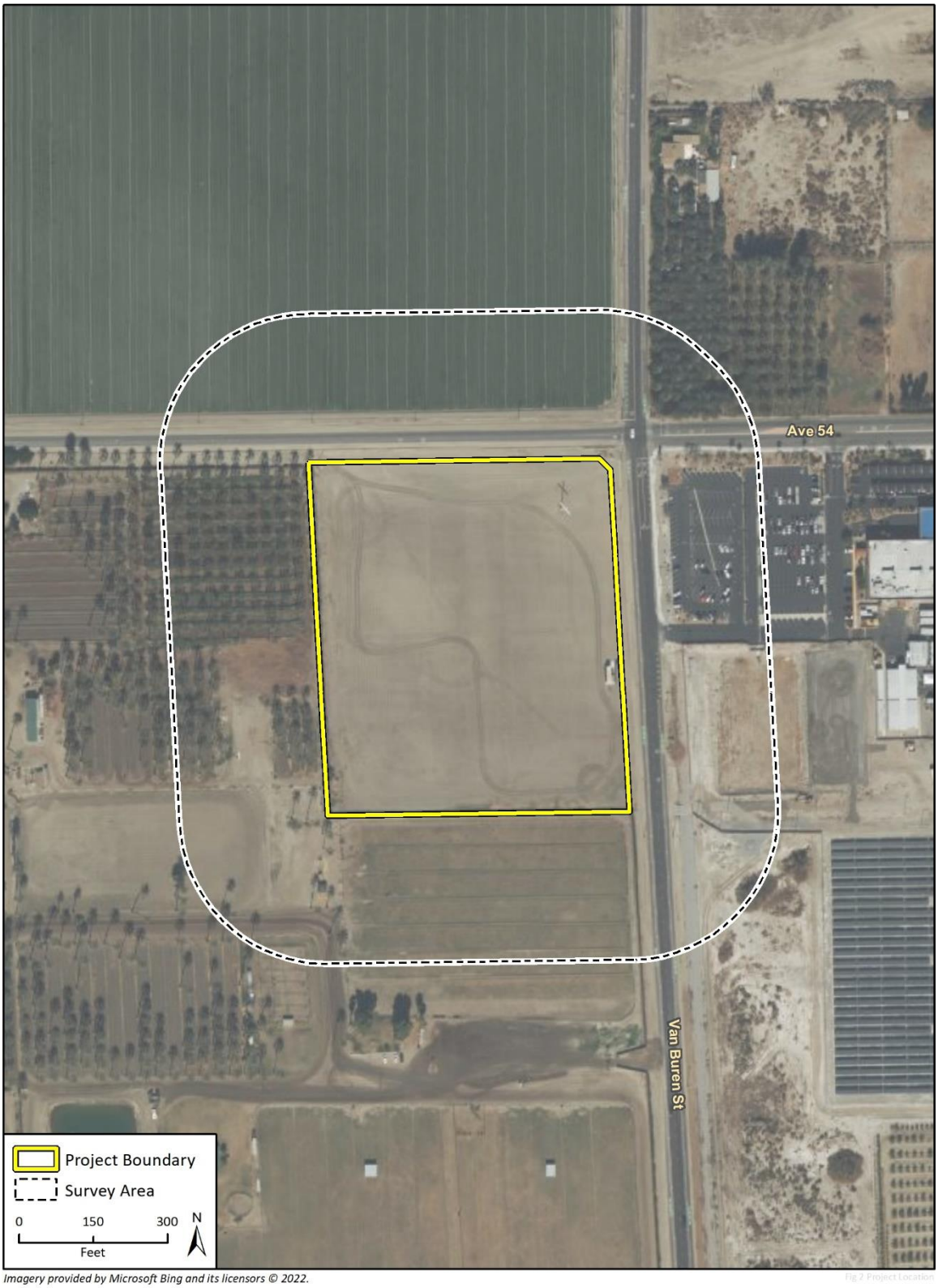


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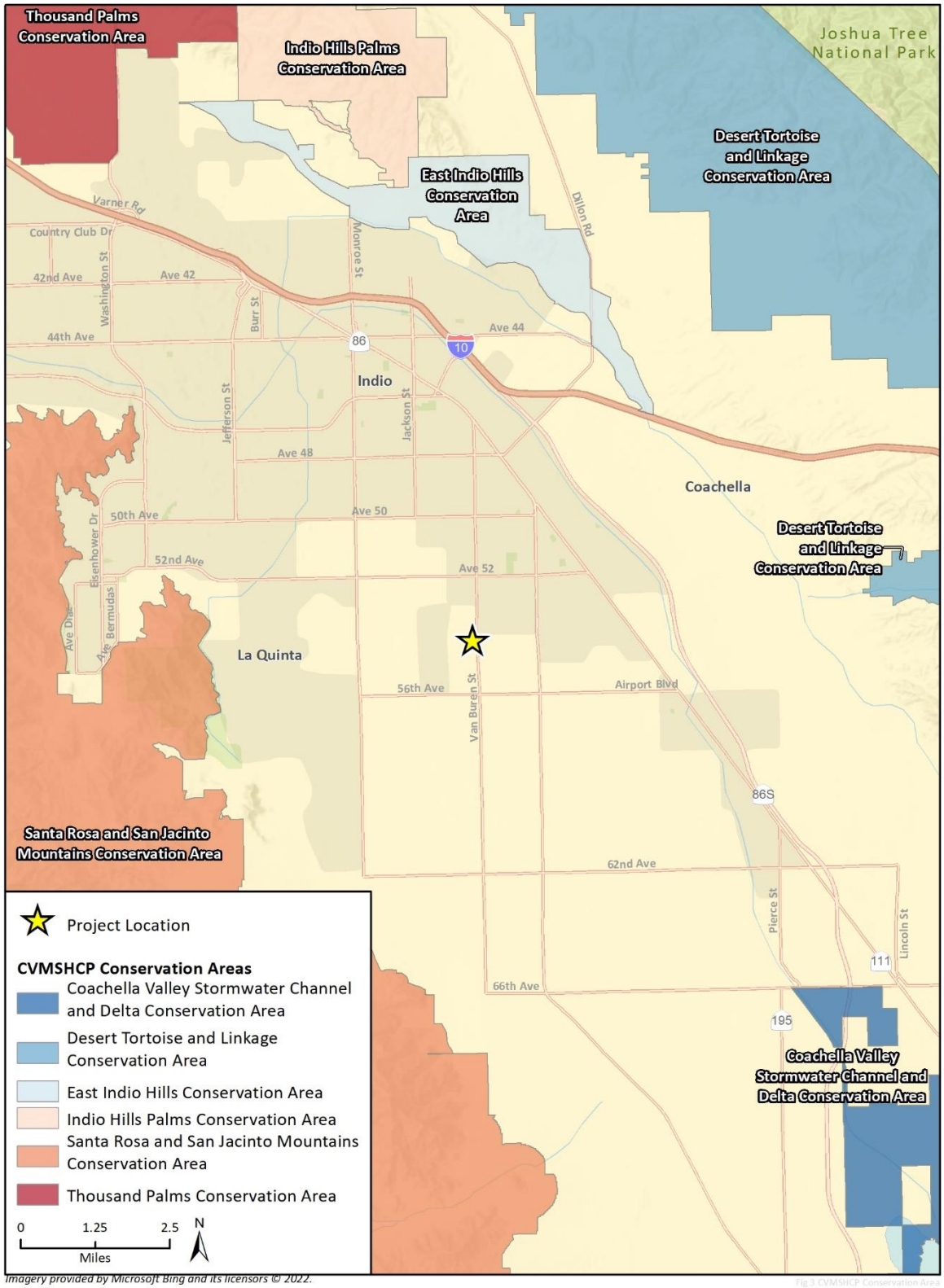
Figure 3 Project Vicinity to CVMSHCP Conservation Areas



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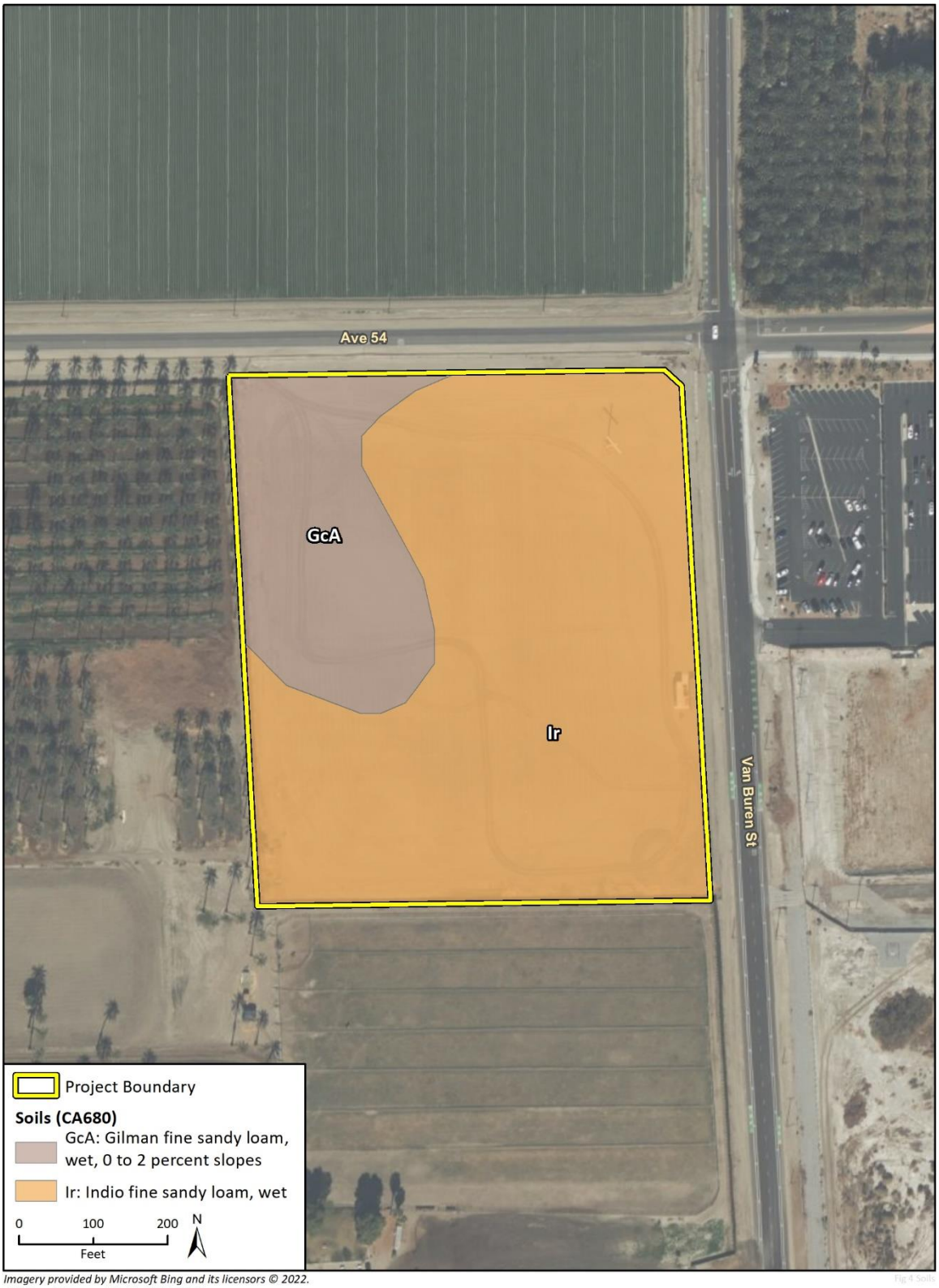
Additional data provided by CVMSHCP, 2021.

Figure 4 Soils (USDA NRCS 2021)



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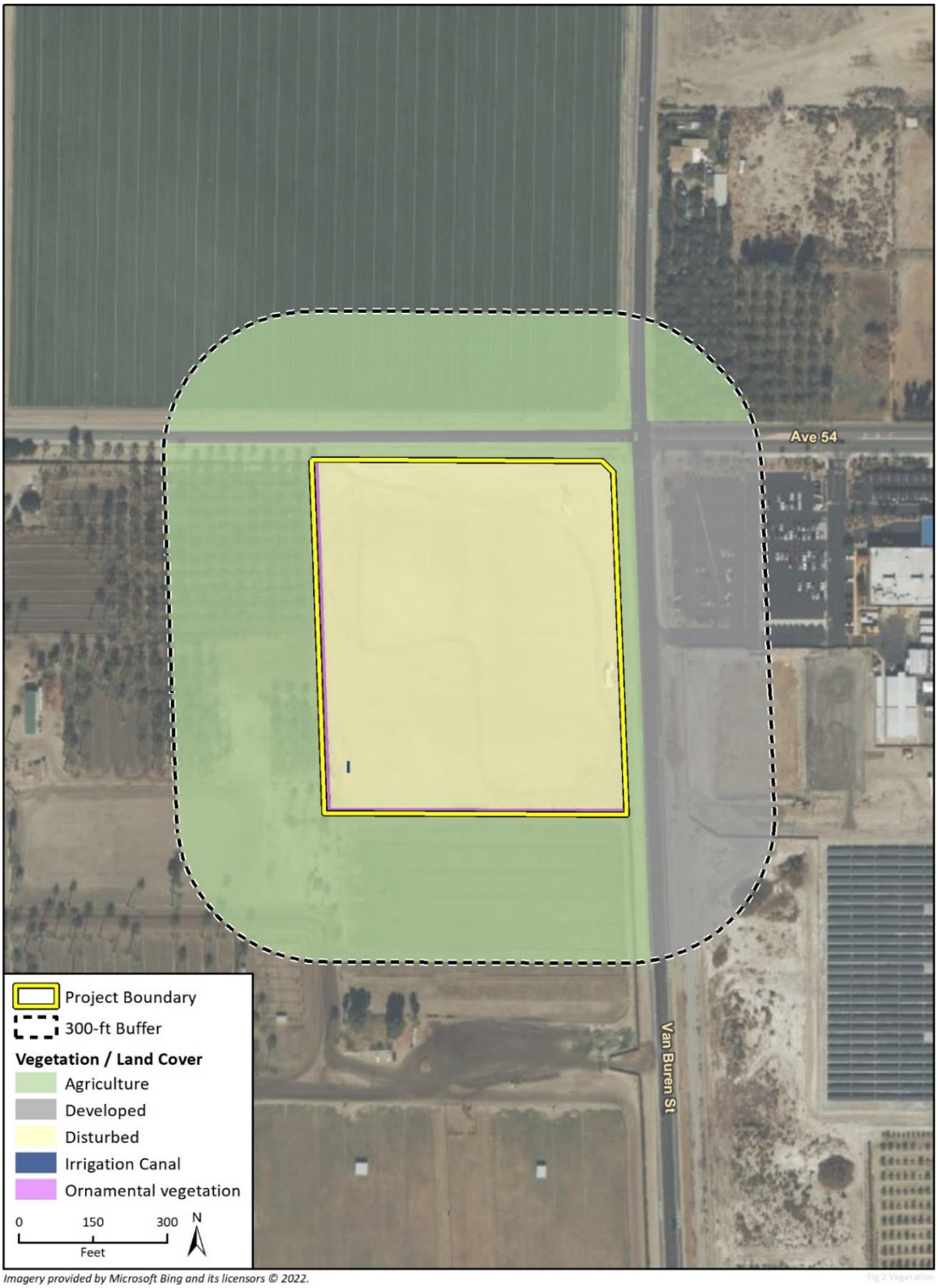
Additional data provided by USDA, 2022.

Figure 5 Vegetation Communities and Landcover



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Attachment 1

Site Photographs

Photograph 1. View of access gate and site from Van Buren Street, facing west.

Photograph 2. View of north side of site and Avenue 54, facing west.

Photograph 3. Showing eastern portion of site, facing south.

Photograph 4. View of western portion of site showing ornamental shrubs on fence, disturbed and open habitat, facing southwest.

Photograph 5. View of old irrigation cement canal structure in the southwestern corner of site.

Photograph 6. View of southwest corner of site with saltbush shrub, irrigation canal and debris, and patches of vegetation.

Photograph 7. View of concrete foundation, facing south.

Photograph 8. View of project site from the southwest corner.

Photograph 9. View of southeast portion of project site showing barbed wire fence along Van Buren Street, facing north.

Photograph 10. View of project site showing open, disturbed habitat with sparse vegetation, facing northwest.

Photograph 11. View of garbage container, concrete platform, and various objects, facing north.

Photograph 12. View of northern portion project site from center, facing north.

Photograph 13. View of western portion of project site from center, showing open and disturbed habitat, facing west.

Photograph 14. View of southern portion of project site from center, showing open and disturbed habitat, facing west.

Photograph 15. View of second access gate and adjacent date farm property in the northwest corner of project site, facing south.

Photograph 16. View of northeast corner of project site at the intersection of Van Buren Street and Avenue 54, facing south.

Attachment 2

CNDDB/CNPS Query Results and Special-Status Species Occurrence Potentials

CNDDB/CNPS Query Results and Special-Status Species Occurrence Potentials

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/Observations
Plants and Lichens				
Abronia villosa var. *aurita* chaparral sand-verbena	None/None G5T2?/S2 1B.1	Annual herb. Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub. Sandy areas of the south Coast and Sonoran Desert Floristic Provinces. 75-1600 m. Blooms (Jan) Mar-Sep	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Ambrosia monogyra singlewhorl burrobrush	None/None G5/S2 2B.2	Chaparral, Sonoran Desert scrub. sandy. 10-500 m. perennial shrub. Blooms Aug-Nov	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus bernardinus San Bernardino milk-vetch	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodland, Pinyon and juniper woodland. Often granitic or carbonate. 900-2000 m. Blooms Apr-Jun	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *coachellae* Coachella Valley milk-vetch	FE/None G5T1/S1 1B.2	Desert dunes, Sonoran Desert scrub (sandy). annual/perennial herb. 40-655 m. Blooms Feb-May	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus preussii var. *laxiflorus* Lancaster milk-vetch	None/None G4T2/S1 1B.1	Chenopod scrub. perennial herb. 700-700 m. Blooms Mar-May	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus sabulonum gravel milk-vetch	None/None G4G5/S2 2B.2	Desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub. Usually sandy, sometimes gravelly. Flats, washes, and roadsides, found in gravelly/course sandy soils. 60-930 m. annual/ perennial herb. Blooms Feb-Jun	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The sites suitable habitat is low due to historical disturbance from agriculture. Only known CNDDB occurrence in Indio within a 5-mile radius was recorded in 1891 with no exact known location.
Astragalus tricarinatus triple-ribbed milk-vetch	FE/None G2/S2 1B.2	Joshua tree woodland, Sonoran Desert scrub. sandy or gravelly. 450-1190 m. perennial herb. Blooms Feb-May	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Ayenia compacta California ayenia	None/None G4/S3 2B.3	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub. rocky. 150 – 1095 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Apr	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Bursera microphylla little-leaf elephant tree	None/None G4/S2 2B.3	Sonoran Desert scrub (rocky). 200 - 700 m. perennial deciduous tree. Blooms Jun-Jul	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.

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Ditaxis claryana glandular ditaxis	None/None G3G4/S2 2B.2	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub. sandy. 0 - 465 m. perennial herb. Blooms Oct, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Ditaxis serrata var. *californica* California ditaxis	None/None G5T3T4/S2? 3.2	Sonoran Desert scrub. 30 - 1000 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Dec	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Eremothera boothii ssp. *boothii* Booth's evening-primrose	None/None G5T4/S3 2B.3	Joshua tree woodland, Pinyon and juniper woodland. 815 - 2400 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Sep	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Eriastrum harwoodii Harwood's eriastrum	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Desert dunes. 125 - 915 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Jun	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Euphorbia abramsiana Abrams' spurge	None/None G4/S2 2B.2	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub. sandy. 5 - 1310 m. annual herb. Blooms (Aug) Sep-Nov	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Euphorbia arizonica Arizona spurge	None/None G5/S3 2B.3	Perennial herb. Sonoran Desert scrub. Sandy soils. 50-300 m. Blooms Mar-Apr.	Species is not expected to occur onsite	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Euphorbia platysperma flat-seeded spurge	None/None G3/S1 1B.2	Annual herb. Desert dunes, Sonoran Desert scrub. Sandy places or shifting dunes. Possibly a waif in California; more common in Arizona and Mexico. 65-100 m. Blooms Feb-Sep.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Funastrum crispum wavyleaf twinevine	None/None G4/S1 2B.2	Chaparral, Pinyon and juniper woodland. 1165 - 1840 m. perennial herb. Blooms May-Aug	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Jaffueliobryum raui Rau's jaffueliobryum moss	None/None G4?/S2? 2B.3	Alpine dwarf scrub, Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub. Dry openings, rock crevices, carbonate. 490 - 2100 m. moss.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Leptosiphon floribundus ssp. *hallii* Santa Rosa Mountains leptosiphon	None/None G4T1T2/S1S2 1B.3	Pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran Desert scrub. 1000 - 2000 m. perennial herb. Blooms May-Jul (Nov)	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.

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Marina orcuttii var. *orcuttii* California marina	None/None G2G3T1T2/S2? 1B.3	Chaparral, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran Desert scrub. rocky. 1050 - 1160 m. perennial herb. Blooms May-Oct	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Matelea parvifolia spear-leaf matelea	None/None G5/S3 2B.3	Perennial herb. Mojavean desert scrub, sonoran desert scrub. Dry rocky ledges and slopes. 440-1095 m. Blooms Mar-May (Jul).	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis* slender cottonheads	None/None G3G4T3?/S2 2B.2	Coastal dunes, Desert dunes, Sonoran Desert scrub. In dunes or sand. 50 - 400 m. annual herb. Blooms (Mar) Apr-May	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The dune habitat this species requires does not occur onsite and this species was not observed onsite.
Petalonyx linearis narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	None/None G4/S3? 2B.3	Perennial shrub. Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub. Sandy or rocky canyons. 25-1115 m. Blooms (Jan-Feb) Mar-May (Jun-Dec).	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Phaseolus filiformis slender-stem bean	None/None G5/S1 2B.1	Annual herb. Sonoran Desert scrub. Gravelly washes bordered by creosote bush-dominated rocky slopes. 125-125 m. Blooms Apr.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Pseudorontium cyathiferum Deep Canyon snapdragon	None/None G4G5/S1 2B.3	Sonoran Desert scrub (rocky). 0 - 800 m. annual herb. Blooms Feb-Apr	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	This species is not expected to occur onsite due to the isolated bioregional distribution where it has been recorded in Deep Canyon. General habitat and micro habitat requirements for this species are not found on site.
Saltugilia latimeri Latimer's woodland-gilia	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland. rocky or sandy, often granitic, sometimes washes. 400 - 1900 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Jun	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Selaginella eremophila desert spike-moss	None/None G4/S2S3 2B.2	Chaparral, Sonoran Desert scrub (gravelly or rocky). 200 - 1295 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms (May) Jun (Jul)	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.

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Senna covesii Coves' cassia	None/None G5/S3 2B.2	Sonoran Desert scrub. Dry, sandy desert washes and slopes. 225 - 1295 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Jun (Aug)	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Stemodia durantifolia purple stemodia	None/None G5/S2 2B.1	Sonoran Desert scrub (often mesic, sandy). 180 - 300 m. perennial herb. Blooms (Jan) Apr-Dec	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Wislizenia refracta ssp. *refracta* jackass-clover	None/None G5T5?/S1 2B.2	Desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, Playas, Sonoran Desert scrub. 600 - 800 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Nov	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Xylorhiza cognata Mecca-aster	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Perennial herb. Sonoran Desert scrub. Steep canyon slopes, in sandstone and clay. 20 -400m. Blooms Jan-Jun.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	Sonoran Desert Scrub habitat this species requires does not occur onsite and this species was not observed onsite.
Invertebrates				
Euparagia unidentata Algodones euparagia	None/None G1G2/S1S2	Endemic to the Algodones Dunes in Imperial County.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	Dune habitat does not occur onsite.
Macrobaenetes valgum Coachella giant sand treader cricket	None/None G1G2/S1S2	Sand dune ridges in the vicinity of Coachella Valley. Found in active dunes and ephemeral sand fields. Population size regulated by amount of annual rainfall. Some spots favor permanent habitation where springs dampen sand.	Species in not expected to occur onsite.	Suitable habitat is not present in the study area.
Amphibians				
Batrachoseps major aridus desert slender salamander	FE/SE G4T1/S1	Known only from Hidden Palm Canyon and Guadalupe Creek, Riverside County. Found in barren, palm oasis, desert wash, and desert scrub. Occurs under limestone sheets, rocks, and talus, usually at the base of damp, shaded, north and west-facing walls.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated habitat is not present in the study area.

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Reptiles				
Phrynosoma mcallii flat-tailed horned lizard	None/None G3/S2 SSC	Restricted to desert washes and desert flats in central Riverside, eastern San Diego, and Imperial counties. Requires fine sand, vegetative cover and ants.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated habitat is not present in the study area due to lack of vegetation, disturbed soils, and prey availability.
Uma inornata Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	FT/SE G1Q/S1	Limited to sandy areas in the Coachella Valley, Riverside County. Requires fine, loose, windblown sand (for burrowing), interspersed with hardpan and widely-spaced desert shrubs.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	25 historical occurrences of species found within a 5-mile radius, including one recording <1 mile from site (1969-1975; 1984). Suitable habitat is not present onsite due to the lack of aeolian or blowsand soils, hardpan and widely spaced desert shrubs.
Birds				
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	None/None G4/S3 SSC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*).	Potential to occur is low.	The species' associated nesting and foraging habitat is not present. Potential for foraging or nesting on adjacent land. No suitable burrows were identified during the survey.
Falco mexicanus prairie falcon	None/None G5/S4 WL	Inhabits dry, open terrain, either level or hilly. Breeding sites located on cliffs. Forages far afield, even to marshlands and ocean shores.	Potential to occur is low.	Foraging habitat occurs within 300-foot buffer, but suitable habitat within study area is limited due to lack of shrubs and small mammals. However passerine species are present around the study area. Nesting habitat is not present.
Polioptila melanura black-tailed gnatcatcher	None/None G5/S3S4 WL	Primarily inhabits wooded desert wash habitats; also occurs in desert scrub habitat, especially in winter. Nests in desert washes containing mesquite (*Prosopis* species), palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), acacia (*Acacia* species); absent from areas where salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) introduced.	Species not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated habitat is not present in the study area.

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Pyrocephalus rubinus vermilion flycatcher	None/None G5/S2S3 SSC	During nesting, inhabits desert riparian adjacent to irrigated fields, irrigation ditches, pastures, and other open, mesic areas. Nest in cottonwood (*Populus* species), willow (*Salix* species), mesquite, and other large desert riparian trees.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	Suitable nesting trees for this species do not occur onsite. Desert riparian habitat does not occur onsite.
Toxostoma crissale Crissal thrasher	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Resident of southeastern deserts in desert riparian and desert wash habitats. Nests in dense vegetation along streams/washes; mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa)*, screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*), ironwood, catclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), acacia, arrow weed (*Pluchea sericea*), willow.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated nesting and foraging habitat is not present in the study area.
Toxostoma lecontei Le Conte's thrasher	None/None G4/S3 SSC	Desert resident; primarily of open desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and desert succulent scrub habitats. Commonly nests in a dense, spiny shrub or densely branched cactus in desert wash habitat, usually 2-8 feet above ground.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated nesting and foraging habitat is not present in the study area.
Mammals				
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	None/None G5T4/S3S4 SSC	Occurs in open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including coniferous and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces and caves, and buildings. Roosts typically occur high above ground.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated roosting habitat is not present in the study area.
Lasiurus xanthinus western yellow bat	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Found in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, palm oasis habitats, and urban or suburban areas. Roosts in trees, often between palm fronds.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated roosting habitat is not present in the study area. Suitable foraging/roosting could occur in adjacent properties where there is palm trees and available food resources.

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Nyctinomops femorosaccus pocketed free-tailed bat	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Variety of arid areas in Southern California; pine-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, palm oasis, desert wash, desert riparian, etc. Rocky areas with high cliffs.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	The species' associated roosting habitat is not present in the study area.
Perognathus longimembris bangsi Palm Springs pocket mouse	None/None G5T2/S2 SSC	Desert riparian, desert scrub, desert wash and sagebrush habitats. Most common in creosote-dominated desert scrub. Rarely found on rocky sites or in saltbush communities. Occurs in all canopy coverage classes.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	Suitable habitat is not present in the study area. Small mammal burrows were not detected during the field survey.
Taxidea taxus *American badger*	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	No diagnostic sign of the species (e.g., burrows or digs) were identified in the study area.
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	None/None G5T2Q/S2 SSC	Restricted to the Coachella Valley. Prefers desert succulent scrub, desert wash, desert scrub, alkali scrub, and levees. Prefers open, flat, grassy areas in fine-textured, sandy soil. Density correlated with winter rainfall.	Species is not expected to occur onsite.	Site lacks suitable habitat with little to no vegetation cover. Small mammal burrows were not detected during the field survey and the site has been previously disturbed.