

June 13, 2022

JN 180074

HIGHPOINTE COMMUNITIES, INC.Attn: *Ross Yamaguchi*

530 Technology, Suite 100

Irvine, California 92618

SUBJECT: Results of a Biological Resources Assessment for the proposed Canyon Ranch – Redlands Project – City of Redlands, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Yamaguchi:

Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) is pleased to submit this report to Highpointe Communities, Inc., documenting the results of a biological resources assessment for the proposed Canyon Ranch – Redlands Project (project or project site) located in the City of Redlands, San Bernardino County, California. Michael Baker conducted a thorough literature review and a field survey to confirm existing site conditions and assess the potential for special-status¹ plant and wildlife species that have been documented or that are likely to occur on or within the immediate vicinity of the project site. Specifically, this report provides a detailed assessment of the suitability of the on-site habitat to support special-status plant and wildlife species that were identified in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database RareFind 5 (CNDDDB; CDFW 2021a), the CNDDDB Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS; CDFW 2021b), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CIRP; CNPS 2021), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation Project Planning Tool (IPaC; USFWS 2021a), and other databases as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site.

Project Location

The project site is generally located north of the Riverside County border, east of Interstate 215, and south of Interstate 10 in the City of Redlands, San Bernardino County, California (refer to Figure 1, *Regional and Project Vicinity*). The project site is depicted in Section 32 of Township 1 South, Range 3 West, on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) *Redlands, California* 7.5-minute quadrangle (USGS 1988). Specifically, the project site is located to the north and east of San Timoteo Canyon Road, south of Barton Road and west of Terracina Boulevard (refer to Figure 2, *Project Site*).

¹ As used in this report, "special-status" refers to plant and wildlife species that are federally-/State-listed, proposed, or candidates; plant species that have been designated a California Rare Plant Rank species by the California Native Plant Society; wildlife species that are designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as Fully Protected, Species of Special Concern, or Watch List species; and State/locally rare vegetation communities.

Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction of twenty-seven 20,000 square foot residential lots (2.2 development units per acre) on vacant, undeveloped lands in the City of Redlands (refer to Figure 3, *Project Depiction*). In addition to the residential lots, the proposed project includes construction of public utilities and roadway improvements to San Timoteo Canyon Road.

Methodology

Literature Review

Michael Baker conducted thorough literature reviews and records searches to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur on or within the general vicinity of the project site. Previous special-status plant and wildlife species occurrence records within the USGS *Redlands, Riverside East, San Bernardino South, and Sunnymead, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles were determined through a query of the CNDDDB (CDFW 2021a), BIOS (CDFW 2021b), CIRP (CNPS 2021), and IPaC(USFWS 2021a).

Current conservation status of species was verified through lists and resources provided by the CDFW, specifically the *Special Animals List* (CNDDDB 2021a), *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List* (CNDDDB 2021b), *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CNDDDB 2021c), and *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California* (CNDDDB 2021d). In addition, Michael Baker reviewed previously prepared reports, survey results, and literature, as available, detailing the biological resources previously observed on or within the vicinity of the project site to gain an understanding of existing site conditions, confirm previous species observations, and note the extent of any disturbances that have occurred within the project site that would otherwise limit the distribution of special-status biological resources. Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status species, as well as the following resources:

- *Biological Constraints Analysis for the Proposed Canyon Ranch Conceptual Site Plan, Redlands and Loma Linda, San Bernardino County, California* (Origin Biological 2020)
- *City of Redlands General Plan 2035* (City of Redlands 2017)
- Google Earth Pro Historical Aerial Imagery from 1985 to 2021 (Google, Inc. 2021)
- *San Bernardino County Countywide Policy Plan* (County of San Bernardino 2020)
- *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG] 2012)
- *Custom Soil Resource Report for San Bernardino County Southwestern Part, California* (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2021)
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper and Environmental Conservation Online System (USFWS 2021b)

Habitat Assessment/Field Survey

Michael Baker biologists Ryan Winkleman and Tom Millington conducted a habitat assessment/field survey on March 31, 2021 to confirm existing site conditions within the project site. Vegetation communities occurring within the project site were mapped on an aerial photograph and classified in accordance with the vegetation descriptions provided in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al.

2009) and cross referenced with the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986) for the purposes of evaluating the presence or absence of special-status vegetation communities identified in the CNDDDB records search, which uses the Holland vegetation classification system. In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, condition of on-site vegetation communities, and the presence of potentially regulated jurisdictional features (e.g., streams, flood control channels) were noted. Michael Baker used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) ArcView software to digitize the mapped vegetation communities and then transferred these data onto an aerial photograph to further document existing conditions and quantify the acreage of each vegetation community. Refer to Table 1 below for a summary of the survey dates, timing, surveyors, and weather conditions.

Table 1: Survey Date, Time, Surveyors, and Weather Conditions

Date	Time (start / finish)	Surveyors*	Weather Conditions	
			Temperature (°F) (start / finish)	Wind Speed (mph) (start / finish)
March 31, 2021	0709 / 1000	RW, TM	53 cloudy / 72 cloudy	3 – 8
*RW = Ryan Winkleman, TM = Tom Millington				

All plant and wildlife species observed, as well as dominant plant species within each vegetation community, were recorded. Plant species observed during the habitat assessment/field survey were identified by visual characteristics and morphology in the field while unusual and less familiar plant species were photographed and identified later using taxonomic guides. Plant nomenclature used in this report follows the *Jepson eFlora* (Jepson Flora Project 2018) and scientific names are provided immediately following common names of plant species (first reference only). Wildlife detections were made through aural and visual detection, as well as observation of sign including scat, trails, tracks, burrows, and nests. Field guides used to assist with identification of wildlife species during the habitat assessment included *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2014), *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Stebbins 2003), *Bats of the United States and Canada* (Harvey et al. 2011), and *A Field Guide to Mammals of North America* (Reid 2006). Although common names of wildlife species are well standardized, scientific names are provided immediately following common names of wildlife species in this report (first reference only). To the extent possible, nomenclature of birds follows the most recent annual supplement of the American Ornithological Society’s *Checklist of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2020), nomenclature of amphibians and reptiles follows *Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding* (Crother 2017), and nomenclature for mammals follows the *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico* (Bradley et al. 2014).

Existing Site Conditions

According to the *Custom Soil Resource Report for San Bernardino County Southwestern Part, California* (USDA 2021), the project site is underlain by the following soil units: Metz coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes (MgC) and Saugus sandy loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes (ShF) (refer to Figure 4, *USDA Soils*). After a review of Google Earth Pro historic aerial imagery from 1994 through 2021 (Google, Inc. 2021) and results from the field survey, it was determined that the project site is primarily composed of

undeveloped, disturbed habitat which consists of heavily disturbed/compacted soils. Historic aerial imagery from 1994 through 2020 (Google, Inc. 2021) shows that citrus groves encompassed the project site from 1994 to 2005; these citrus groves appear to have been removed sometime after 2005. Further, routine weed abatement activities (i.e., disking, tilling) throughout the project site have eliminated any natural vegetation communities. Mixed-use areas surround the project site; residential land uses abut the project site to the north, east and south, and vacant, disturbed land formerly used as a palm farm is located to the west. The project site slopes towards the north and ranges in elevation from approximately 1,229 to 1,259 feet above mean sea level. Refer to Attachment B for representative photographs of the project site taken during the field survey.

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Natural habitats within the project site have been eliminated due to past agricultural operations as well as routine weed abatement activities (i.e., disking, tilling), resulting in heavily disturbed and compacted surface soils throughout. As such, native vegetation communities do not occur, and the project site is instead primarily composed of disturbed habitat that is dominated by ruderal/weedy, low-growing plant species. In addition, developed areas (i.e., San Timoteo Canyon Road, Nevada Street) were also observed within the project site. These vegetation community/land cover types are depicted on Figure 5, *Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses*, and described in further detail below. Additionally, refer to Attachment C for a complete list of plant species observed within the project site during the field survey. Table 2 below provides the acreages of each vegetation community/land use on-site, with each discussed in detail below.

Table 2: Vegetation Communities and Land Uses within the Project Site

Vegetation Community/Land Use	Acreage
Disturbed Habitat	19.67
Developed	0.26
TOTAL*	19.93

*Total may not equal to sum due to rounding.

Disturbed Habitat

Disturbed habitat areas comprise approximately 19.67 acres of the project site. These areas have been physically disturbed by anthropogenic activities (e.g., past agricultural operations, routine weed abatement activities [i.e., disking, tilling]) and are no longer recognized as a native vegetation community but continue to hold a soil substrate. Surface soils within these areas are heavily disturbed, eroded, and compacted. Vegetation that is present primarily consists of ruderal/weedy plant species including pigweed amaranth (*Amaranthus albus*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), coastal heron’s bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), short podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), bicolored lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*). Scattered ornamental/non-native trees were also observed including orange tree (*Citrus sinensis*), tangerine (*Citrus tangerina*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*), date palm (*Phoenix* sp.), and Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*).

Developed

Developed areas comprise approximately 0.26 acre of the project site and consist of paved areas (i.e., San Timoteo Canyon Road, Nevada Street) that have been constructed upon or physically altered to a degree that natural soil substrates and native vegetation are no longer supported.

Wildlife

Natural vegetation communities provide foraging habitat, nesting/denning sites, and shelter from adverse weather or predation. This section provides a general discussion of common wildlife species that were detected by Michael Baker during the field survey or that are expected to occur based on existing site conditions. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather conditions in which the field survey was conducted. Refer to Attachment C for a complete list of wildlife species observed within the project site during the field survey.

Fish

No fish or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) that would support populations of fish were observed during the field survey. Therefore, no fish are expected to occur within the project site.

Amphibians

No amphibians or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) that would provide suitable breeding habitat for amphibians were observed during the field survey. Therefore, no amphibian species are expected to occur within the project site.

Reptiles

No reptiles were observed during the field survey. Since the project site is primarily disturbed, it is expected to provide suitable habitat for a limited number of reptilian species that are acclimated to edge or urban environments. Reptilian species that may be present within the project site include Great Basin whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris tigris*), woodland alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata webbii*), San Diego gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer annectens*), and western side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*).

Birds

A total of 40 bird species were detected during the field survey. Some of the more commonly detected bird species included rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), white-throated swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). In addition, Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*; a State Watch List [WL] species) and Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*; a State Threatened [ST] species) were also observed outside of the project site limits. Please refer to Attachment C for a complete list of bird species observed during the field survey.

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGF)². To maintain compliance with the MBTA and CFGF, clearance surveys are typically required prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities to avoid direct or indirect impacts to active bird nests and/or nesting birds. Consequently, if an active bird nest is destroyed or if project activities result in indirect impacts (e.g., nest abandonment, loss of reproductive effort) to nesting birds, it is considered “take” and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. Due to the routine weed abatement activities and general lack of mature vegetation, the project site provides limited nesting habitat for most year-round and seasonal avian residents other than those that nest on the open ground (e.g., killdeer [*Charadrius vociferus*]). However, there is intact Riversidean sage scrub habitat outside of and immediately to the east of the project site that still provides adequate nesting habitat for species that nest in shrubs.

Mammals

The project site provides marginal habitat for a limited number of mammalian species adapted to living in edge or urban environments. Coyote (*Canis latrans*) and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) were the only mammals observed during the field survey. Common mammalian species that may occur within the project site include domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), racoon (*Procyon lotor*), and California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*). Bats occur throughout most of southern California and may use the project site and surrounding area as foraging and roosting (e.g., within hollow tree trunks/limbs, underneath tree foliage). Common bat species that may occur within the project site include Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) and big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*). Roosting habitat is limited since most of the project site is disturbed; however, the few date and Mexican fan palm trees located within the project site could still provide roosting habitat for bat species that typically roost in hollow tree trunks/limbs or underneath foliage. Bat species that prefer to roost in mines, caves, rock outcrops, deep rock crevices, and old buildings would not be expected to occur as these features are absent from the project site.

Migratory Corridors and Linkages

Wildlife corridors and linkages are key features for wildlife movement between habitat patches. Wildlife corridors are generally defined as those areas that provide opportunities for individuals or local populations to conduct seasonal migrations, permanent dispersals, or daily commutes, while linkages generally refer to broader areas that provide movement opportunities for multiple keystone/focal species or allow for propagation of ecological processes (e.g., for movement of pollinators), often between areas of conserved land.

San Timoteo Creek is identified as a wildlife corridor/linkage in the *San Bernardino County Countywide Plan* (San Bernardino County 2020). San Timoteo Creek is recognized as a wildlife corridor linking sensitive wildlife species, including migratory bird species, to the Badlands, the San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Mountains, the Lake Perris State Recreation Area, and to Box Springs Mountain Park area (LSA Associates, Inc. and HDR 2009). San Timoteo Creek is a tributary to the Santa Ana River that originates in

² Section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by the California Fish and Game Code or any regulation made pursuant thereto; Section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey); and Section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird except as provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 703 *et seq.*).

the San Bernardino Mountains and receives flows from Noble Creek, Little San Gorgonio Creek, and Yucaipa Creek. San Timoteo Creek used to flow intermittently, however, it now flows year round due to runoff from surrounding agriculture and secondary treatment discharge from a water treatment plant in the City of Yucaipa.

The portion of San Timoteo Creek and its floodplain located approximately 0.25 miles west of the project site has been modified for flood control and is routinely maintained by the County of San Bernardino through vegetation and soil removal. These activities have prevented the creek channel from becoming a naturally vegetated area which would be expected to provide viable riparian habitat for sensitive species. The current state of San Timoteo Creek is a poor wildlife corridor due to the lack of adequate vegetative cover for foraging, nesting, and movement through the area. However, in a cooperative effort from the City of Loma Linda, City of Redlands, and the County of San Bernardino, this segment of San Timoteo Creek was actively restored with riparian habitat in the floodplain and sage scrub on the slopes as a part of the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project (City of Loma Linda 2007). As these restored habitat areas grow over time, the segment of San Timoteo Creek and its floodplain located within the western portion of the project site would be expected to support robust riparian and sage scrub vegetation that would provide foraging, nesting, and movement opportunities for wildlife. The proposed project site is separated from San Timoteo Creek by Nevada Street and property that has been historically used in agriculture. There are no structures, lighting, or construction within 1,000 feet of the corridor. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to result in impacts to wildlife movement within the Creek.

The project site is not located within or adjacent to any other wildlife corridors, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, reserves, or preserves. The project site is surrounded by a mixture of developed and undeveloped land on all sides. The surrounding residential land uses and existing roadways have fragmented the connection between the project site and surrounding naturally occurring vegetation communities. The disturbed and developed landscape of the project site and absence of native vegetation for cover most likely precludes the movement of wildlife through the project site. In addition, wildlife movement into or out of the project site is likely reduced by the presence of surrounding high-traffic roadways (i.e., San Timoteo Canyon Road, Nevada Street, Barton Road, Terracina Boulevard, Beaumont Avenue) and existing residential developments. Further, elevated noise levels, vehicle traffic, lighting, and human presence associated with the surrounding residential developments and roadways decrease the suitability of the project site to be used as a wildlife movement corridor or linkage.

State and Federal Jurisdictional Resources

There are three agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredged or fill material into “waters of the U.S.” pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates discharges to surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and Section 13263 of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and associated vegetation communities under Section 1600 *et seq.* of the CFGC.

No jurisdictional drainage or potential wetland features were observed within the boundaries of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts to USACE, RWQCB, or CDFW jurisdictional areas and regulatory approvals would not be required.

Special-Status Biological Resources

The CNDDDB (CDFW 2021a), BIOS (CDFW 2021b), CIRP (CNPS 2021), and IPaC (USFWS 2021a) were queried for reported locations of special-status plant and wildlife species as well as special-status natural vegetation communities in the USGS *Redlands*, *Riverside East*, *San Bernardino South*, and *Sunnymead*, *California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. The field survey was conducted to assess the conditions of the habitat(s) within the boundaries of the project site to determine if the existing vegetation communities, at the time of the field survey, have the potential to provide suitable habitat(s) for special-status plant and wildlife species. Additionally, the potentials for special-status species to occur within the project site were determined based on the reported occurrence locations in the CNDDDB, BIOS, and CIRP and the following criteria:

- **Present:** the species was observed or detected within the project site during the field survey.
- **High:** Occurrence records (within 20 years) indicate that the species has been known to occur on or within 1 mile of the project site and the site is within the normal expected range of this species. Intact, suitable habitat preferred by this species occurs within the project site and/or there is viable landscape connectivity to a local known extant population(s) or sighting(s).
- **Moderate:** Occurrence records (within 20 years) indicate that the species has been known to occur within 1 mile of the project site and the site is within the normal expected range of this species. There is suitable habitat within the project site, but the site is ecologically isolated from any local known extant populations or sightings.
- **Low:** Occurrence records (within 20 years) indicate that the species has been known to occur within 5 miles of the project site, but the site is outside of the normal expected range of the species and/or there is poor quality or marginal habitat within the project site.
- **Not Expected:** There are no occurrence records of the species occurring within 5 miles of the project site, there is no suitable habitat within the project site, and/or the project site is outside of the normal expected range for the species.

The CNDDDB, BIOS, CIRP, and IPaC identified 42 special-status plant species and 77 special-status wildlife species as occurring within the USGS *Redlands*, *Riverside East*, *San Bernardino South*, and *Sunnymead*, *California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. In addition, six special-status vegetation communities were identified. Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the project site based on specific habitat requirements, availability/quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions of species/populations. Special-status biological resources identified during the literature review as having the potential to occur within the vicinity of the project site are presented in *Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources*, provided in Attachment D. Additionally, refer to Attachment E for the Official Species List obtained from the IPaC (USFWS 2021a).

Special-Status Plants

A total of 42 special-status plant species have been recorded in the USGS *Redlands*, *Riverside East*, *San Bernardino South*, and *Sunnymead*, *California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDDB, BIOS, CIRP, and IPaC (refer to Attachments D and E). However, no special-status plant species were observed within the project site during the field survey. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that all of the special-status

plant species identified by the CNDDDB, BIOS, CIRP, and IPaC either have a low potential or are not expected to occur within the project site.

Special-Status Wildlife

A total of 77 special-status wildlife species have been recorded in the USGS *Redlands, Riverside East, San Bernardino South, and Sunnymead, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDDB, BIO, and IPaC (refer to Attachments D and E). Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, occurrence records, known distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that the project site has a high potential to support sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*; a State WL species), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia* [BUOW]; a State Species of Special Concern [SSC]), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*; a State WL species), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*; a State SSC), and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*; a State SSC); and a moderate potential to support Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*; a State SSC). All remaining special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDDB, BIOS, and IPaC either have a low potential or are not expected to occur within the project site.

A single Cooper's hawk was observed carrying nesting material to a large ornamental tree in a residential yard located directly across San Timoteo Canyon Road, outside the project site limits, and is expected to be present year-round utilizing the project site for foraging opportunities. In addition, a single Swainson's hawk was observed roosting in a Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) located to the southwest of the Bermudez Street/New Jersey Street intersection and was later observed foraging over the vacant parcel located to the west of the project site. This species is not expected to nest within the project site, which is out of the typical nesting range of this species; however, the project site potentially provides foraging habitat during migration for this species (typically March to May and September to October). Due to regional significance, the potential occurrence of BUOW is described in further detail below.

Burrowing Owl

BUOW is currently listed as a State SSC. It is a grassland specialist distributed throughout western North America where it occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. BUOWs use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with well-drained, level to gently sloping areas characterized by sparse vegetation and bare ground (Haug and Didiuk, 1993; Dechant et al. 1999). BUOWs are dependent upon the presence of burrowing mammals (e.g., California ground squirrels, coyotes, American badger [*Taxidea taxus*]) whose burrows are used for roosting and nesting. The presence or absence of mammal burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence or absence of BUOWs. Where mammal burrows are scarce, BUOWs have been found occupying man-made cavities, such as buried and non-functioning drain pipes, stand-pipes, and dry culverts. BUOWs may also burrow beneath rocks and debris or large, heavy objects such as abandoned cars, concrete blocks, or concrete pads. They also require open vegetation allowing open line-of-sight of the surrounding habitat to forage as well as watch for predators.

According to the CNDDDB, there are 10 occurrence records for BUOW within the USGS *Redlands, Riverside East, San Bernardino South, and Sunnymead, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. The closest, extant occurrence (Occurrence Number 314) was recorded in 1983, approximately 4 miles north of the survey project site; an undetermined number of owls were observed utilizing a burrow site at the east end of the main runway at the San Bernardino International Airport (CDFW 2021a). In addition, according to

eBird records, one (1) BUOW was observed along San Timoteo Creek in 2021 within the vacant property located to the west of the project site (eBird 2021).

No BUOWs or sign (i.e., pellets, white wash, feathers, or prey remains) were observed during the field survey. Disturbed habitat within the project site provides suitable foraging habitat and line of site opportunities for BUOW. In addition, the project site contains suitable burrows (> 4 inches in diameter) capable of providing roosting and nesting opportunities for BUOW. Based on occurrence records in the CNDDDB and eBird, the project site is located within an area that is or was previously known to be occupied by BUOW and likely provides suitable nesting and foraging habitat. As such, Michael Baker determined that BUOW has a high potential to occur within the project site.

Special-Status Vegetation Communities

Six special-status vegetation communities have been reported in the USGS *Redlands, Riverside East, San Bernardino South, and Sunnymead, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDDB: Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Riparian Scrub, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland, and Valley Needlegrass Grassland. None of the special-status vegetation communities identified by the CNDDDB were observed within the project site during the field survey.

Critical Habitat

Under the definition used by the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), designated “Critical Habitat” refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species that were occupied at the time it was listed that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species and that may require special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether the species is still extant in the area. Areas that were not known to be occupied at the time a species was listed can also be designated Critical Habitat if they contain one or more of the physical or biological features that are essential to that species’ conservation and if the other areas that are occupied are inadequate to ensure the species’ recovery. If a project may result in take or adverse modification to a species’ designated Critical Habitat and the project has a federal nexus, the project proponent may be required to provide suitable mitigation. Projects with a federal nexus may include projects that occur on federal lands, require federal permits (e.g., CWA Section 404 permit), or receive any federal oversight or funding. If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing funds or permits would be required to consult with the USFWS under the FESA. The project site is not located within designated Critical Habitat for any federally listed species (refer to Figure 6, *Critical Habitat*).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Natural habitats within the project site have been eliminated due to past agricultural operations as well as routine weed abatement activities (i.e., disking, tilling), resulting in heavily disturbed and compacted surface soils throughout. As such, native vegetation communities do not occur, and the project site is instead primarily composed of disturbed habitat that is dominated by ruderal/weedy, low-growing plant species. No special-status plant species were observed within the project site during the field survey and based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that all special-status plant species identified by the CNDDDB, BIOS, CIRP, and IPaC either have a low potential or are not expected to occur within the project site.

A single Cooper's hawk was observed carrying nesting material to a large ornamental tree in a residential yard located directly across San Timoteo Canyon Road, outside the project site limits, and is expected to be present year-round utilizing the project site for foraging opportunities. In addition, a single Swainson's hawk was observed roosting in a Peruvian pepper tree located to the southwest of the Bernudez Street/New Jersey Street intersection and was later observed foraging over the vacant parcel located to the west of the project site. This species is not expected to nest within the project site, which is out of the typical nesting range of this species; however, the project site potentially provides foraging habitat during migration for this species (typically March to May and September to October). Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, occurrence records, known distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that the project site has a high potential to support sharp-shinned hawk (a State WL species), BUOW (a State SSC), California horned lark (a State WL species), loggerhead shrike (a State SSC), and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (a State SSC); and a moderate potential to support Vaux's swift (a State SSC). All remaining special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDDB, BIOS, and IPaC either have a low potential or are not expected to occur within the project site.

In order to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to biological resources, it is recommended that the following Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM) be implemented:

AMM BIO-1: Prior to initiating project activities, a qualified biologist shall prepare and present a Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training for all contractors, subcontractors, and workers expected to be on-site throughout the entire construction period. The Workers Environmental Awareness Program shall include a brief review of any special-status species (e.g., Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, California horned lark, loggerhead shrike, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit), including habitat requirements and where they might be found, and other sensitive biological resources that could occur in and adjacent to the project site. The Workers Environmental Awareness Program shall also include a summary of the biological mitigation measures listed in the project's approved Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, as well as applicable conditions and provisions of any associated environmental permits, including but not limited to pre-construction biological surveys, installation of perimeter sediment and erosion control best management practices, and any recurrent nesting bird surveys (as needed).

AMM BIO-2: If project-related activities are to be initiated during the nesting season (January 1 to August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than three (3) days prior to the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities. The qualified biologist shall survey all suitable nesting habitat within the project impact area, and areas within a biologically defensible buffer zone surrounding the project impact area. If no active bird nests are detected during the clearance survey, project activities may begin, and no additional avoidance and minimization measures shall be required. If an active bird nest is found, the species shall be identified, and a "no-disturbance" buffer shall be established around the active nest. The size of the "no-disturbance" buffer shall be increased or decreased based on the judgement of the qualified biologist and level of activity and sensitivity of the species. The qualified biologist shall periodically monitor any active

bird nests to determine if project-related activities occurring outside the “no-disturbance” buffer disturb the birds and if the buffer shall be increased. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, project activities within the “no-disturbance” buffer may occur following an additional survey by the qualified biologist to search for any new bird nests in the restricted area.

AMM BIO-3: Due to the presence of suitable habitat, focused burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the initiation of project activities. In accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game 2012), four (4) separate surveys shall be conducted during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31). The surveys shall be conducted three weeks apart between April 15 and July 15, with at least one survey occurring between February 15 and April 15 and one survey after June 15. The focused surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with the methods and guidelines presented in the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game 2012) and cover all suitable habitat within the project impact area, including areas containing suitable habitat within a 500-foot buffer (as accessible). Following completion of the focused surveys, the qualified biologist shall prepare a final report documenting the methods and results of the survey and submit to the City of Redlands prior to initiating project activities.

AMM BIO-4: Two pre-construction clearance surveys shall be conducted 14 to 30 days and 24 hours prior to any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to confirm the presence/absence of burrowing owls and ensure impacts to occupied burrows do not occur. The clearance surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with the methods and guidelines presented in the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game 2012) and cover all suitable habitat within the project impact area, including areas containing suitable habitat within a 500-foot buffer (as accessible). Following completion of the final clearance survey, the qualified biologist shall prepare a final report documenting the methods and results of the survey and submit to the City of Redlands prior to initiating project activities. If no burrowing owls or occupied burrows are detected, project activities may begin, and no additional avoidance and minimization measures would be required. If an occupied burrow is found within the project impact area during pre-construction clearance surveys, a burrowing owl exclusion plan shall be prepared and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for approval prior to initiating project activities that includes proposed mitigation for direct and permanent impacts to nesting, occupied and satellite burrows and/or suitable habitat such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows and burrowing owls impacted are replaced in accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game 2012). If an occupied burrow is found within adjacent habitat that may be indirectly impacted by project activities, a “no disturbance” buffer shall be established around the burrow following the distances recommended in the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game 2012). The

qualified biologist shall continue to monitor the burrow, adjust the “no disturbance” buffer area (as needed), and shall have the authority to stop construction activities to prevent take.

AMM BIO-5: No more than 30 days prior to construction, a qualified bat biologist shall perform a clearance survey within all suitable structures and vegetation within the project impact area. If bat roosts are found within the project impact area, the qualified bat biologist shall identify the bats to the species level and evaluate the colony to determine its size and significance. If any structures house an active maternity colony of bats, construction activities shall not occur during the recognized bat breeding season (March 1 to October 1). Any proposed work in areas with no suitable roosting or foraging habitat shall not require a bat survey. If a bat roost is present within the vicinity of a proposed project impact area that does not need to be removed, a qualified bat biologist shall establish a species-specific “no-disturbance” buffer that must be maintained throughout the duration of the project. If a maternity roost is identified, a “no-disturbance” buffer shall be established and maintained until a qualified bat biologist determines that the roost is no longer active.

If bat roosts are found to be present and project activities must occur during non-daylight hours or during the bat breeding season (March 1 to October 1), a qualified bat biologist shall establish monitoring measures, including frequency and duration, based on species, individual behavior, and type of construction activities. Night lighting shall be used only within the portion of the project actively being worked on and focused directly on the work area. This measure would minimize visual disturbance and allow bats to continue to utilize the remainder of the area for foraging and night roosting. If bats are showing signs of distress, project activities shall be modified to prevent bats from abandoning their roost or altering their feeding behavior. At any time, the qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt work if there are any signs of distress or disturbance that may lead to roost abandonment. Work shall not resume until corrective measures have been taken or it is determined that continued activity would not adversely affect roost success. Any roosting habitat loss shall be sequenced, and roosting habitat shall be restored or replaced in-kind and on-site to prevent temporal or permanent loss based on the bat species roosting requirements.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (949) 246-7004 or tommillington@mbakerintl.com or Ashley Spencer at (949) 472-3454 or ashley.spencer@mbakerintl.com should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Tom Millington
Senior Biologist
Natural Resources and Regulatory Permitting



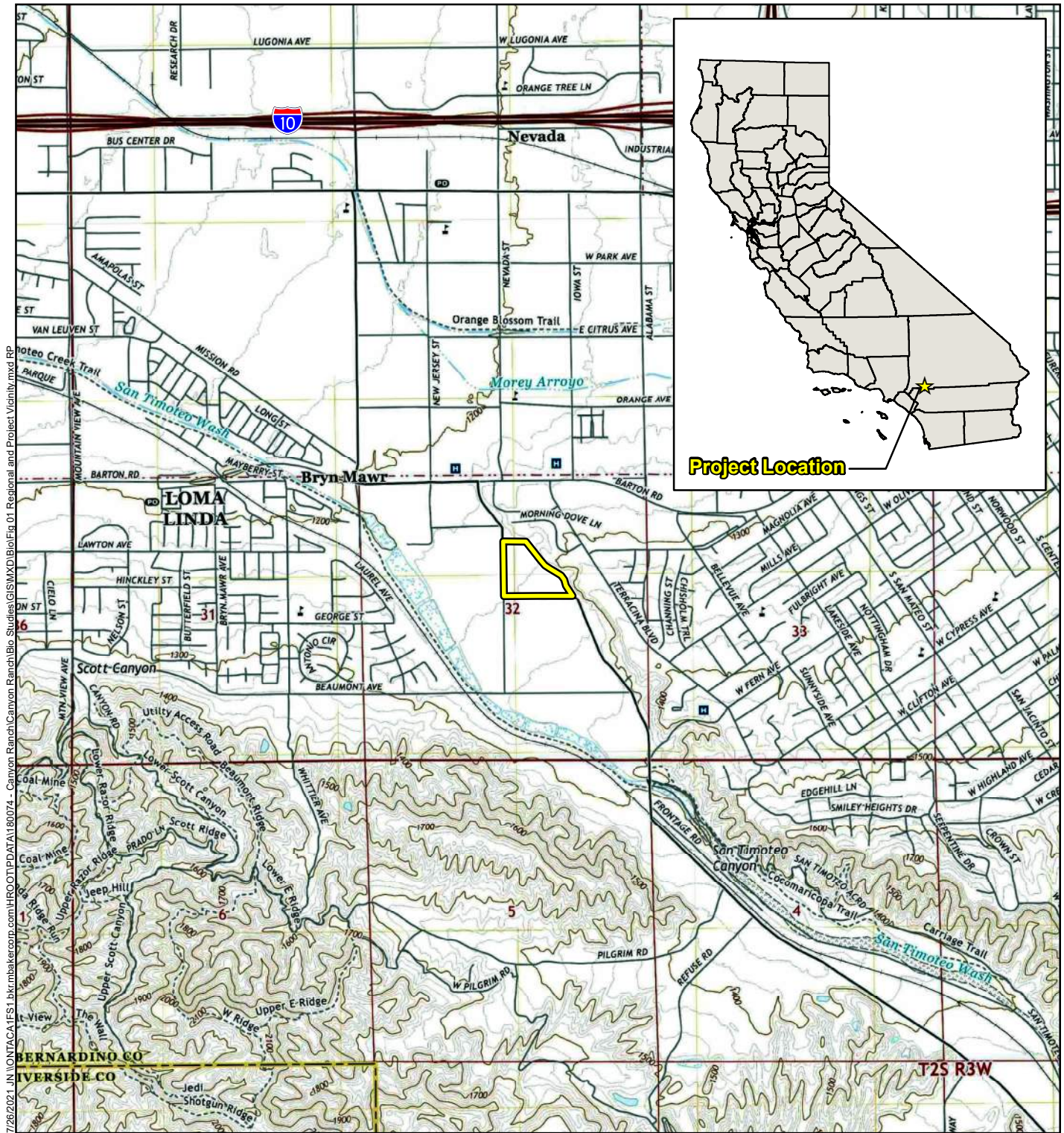
Ashley Spencer
Biologist
Natural Resources and Regulatory Permitting

Attachments:

- A. Project Figures*
- B. Site Photographs*
- C. Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List*
- D. Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources*
- E. IPaC Official Species List*
- F. References*


Attachment A

Project Figures

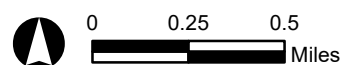


7/26/2021, I:\VONTACAFES1\bkmbaker\comp\HRCOOT\DATA\180074 - Canyon Ranch\Canyon Ranch\Bio Studies\GIS\MXD\Bio\Fig_01_Regional_and_Project_Vicinity.mxd,RP

Legend

 Project Site

CANYON RANCH – REDLANDS
 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT
Regional and Project Vicinity





Source: USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: Redlands and San Bernardino, California (2018)



Figure 1



7/26/2021 J:\MONTACA\FES1.bkr.mbakercorp.com\HROOT\PDATA\180074 - Canyon Ranch\Canyon Ranch\Bio Studies\GIS\MXD\Bio\Fig_02 Project_Site.mxd RP

Legend

-  Project Site
-  City Boundaries
-  Reference Point

Source: Esri, 2020

CANYON RANCH – REDLANDS
 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT
Project Site

Figure 2

34.045717
-117.213183

Terracha Blvd

Morning Dove Ln

CITY OF REDLANDS

San Timoteo Canyon Rd

Nevada St



8/13/2021 \\NONTACAFES1.bkr.mbakercorp.com\HROOT\DATA\180074 - Canyon Ranch\Canyon Ranch\Bio Studies\GIS\MXD\Bio\Fig_03 Project Depiction.mxd RP

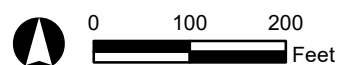
34.041867
-117.217433

EASEMENT	NATURE
ITEM 13	AN EASEMENT FOR POLE LINES AND INCIDENTAL PURPOSES, RECORDED NOVEMBER 28, 1980 AS BOOK 5052, PAGE 99 SF. OFFICIAL RECORDS, IN FAVOR OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Edison COMPANY, A CORPORATION AFFECTS: PARCEL 3.

EXISTING	PROPOSED
CURRENT USE: AGN #	NUMBER OF LOTS: 27
ZONING DESIGNATION: GENERAL PLAN 2035 DESIGNATION:	SITE AREA: 21.6 AC
	PROPOSED DENSITY: 2.2 (U)/AC
	RESIDENTIAL & STREET ACRES: 19.6 AC (90.7%)
	IDENTIFICATION BASIN ACRES (LOT A): 6.4 AC (1.9%)
	UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE ACRES (LOT B): 1.6 AC (7.4%)
	LOT SIZES: 20,000 MIN
	LOT DIMENSIONS: 100 FT X 200 FT MIN
	STAIRS:

LEGEND	
TRACT BOUNDARY	---
PR. RIGHT-OF-WAY	---
PR. LOT LINE	---
CITY BOUNDARY	---
EX. POINT FILE (APPROXIMATE LOCATION)	✱

- Legend**
-  Project Site
 -  Reference Point



Source: Esri, 2020, Proactive Engineering Consultants, 2021






CANYON RANCH – REDLANDS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT
Project Depiction



Figure 3



7/26/2021 J:\ONTACAFES1\bkmbaker\comp\HROOT\PDATA\180074 - Canyon Ranch\Canyon Ranch\Bio Studies\GIS\MXD\Bio\Fig_04_USDA Soils.mxd RP

Legend

	Project Site		MgC Metz coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes
	City Boundaries		ShF Saugus sandy loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes
	Reference Point		

Source: Esri, 2020, USDA, 2019






CANYON RANCH – REDLANDS
 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT
USDA Soils



Figure 4



7/26/2021 J:\MONTACAFES1\bkmbaker\comp\HROOT\PDATA\180074 - Canyon Ranch\Canyon Ranch\Bio Studies\GIS\MXD\Bio\Fig_05_Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses.mxd RP

Legend

	Project Site		Disturbed Habitat (19.67 acres)
	City Boundaries		Developed (0.26 acre)
	Reference Point		

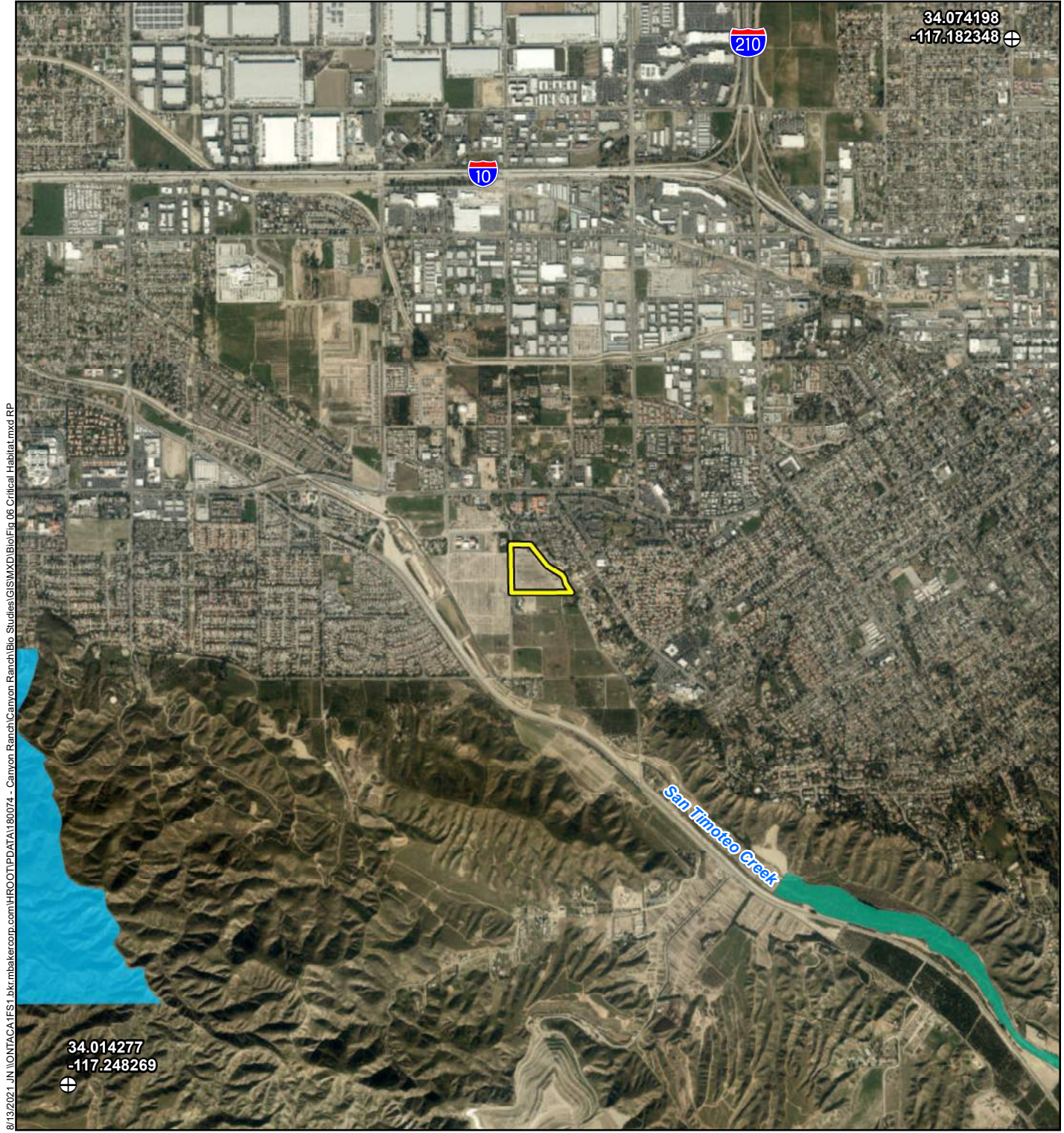



Source: Esri, 2020

CANYON RANCH – REDLANDS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT





Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses


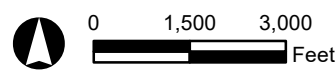
Figure 5



8/13/2021 J:\ONTACAT\ES1_bkr.mbakercorp.com\HROOT\PDAT\180074 - Canyon Ranch\Canyon Ranch\Bio Studies\GIS\MXD\Bio\Fig_06 Critical Habitat.mxd RP

Legend

	Project Site		Coastal California Gnatcatcher <i>(Polioptila californica californica)</i>
	Reference Point		Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>(Empidonax traillii extimus)</i>

Source: Esri, 2020, USFWS, 2021

CANYON RANCH – REDLANDS
 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT
Critical Habitat

Figure 6

Attachment B

Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Standing in the southwest corner of the project site, facing north.



Photograph 2: Standing at the southern end of the project site, facing north.



Photograph 3: Standing in the southeast corner of the project site, facing west.



Photograph 4: Standing in the southeast corner of the project site, facing northwest.



Photograph 5: Standing at the eastern end of the project site, facing southwest.



Photograph 6: Standing in the northeast corner of the project site, facing west.



Photograph 7: Standing in the northeast corner of the project site, facing southeast.



Photograph 8: Standing in the northeast corner of the project site, facing southwest.

Attachment C

Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

Table C-1: Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

<i>Scientific Name*</i>	Common Name	Cal-IPC Rating**	Special-Status Rank***
Plants			
<i>Amaranthus albus*</i>	pigweed amaranth		
<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	annual bursage		
<i>Amsinckia intermedia</i>	common fiddleneck		
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	California mugwort		
<i>Avena fatua*</i>	wild oats	Moderate	
<i>Bromus diandrus*</i>	ripgut brome	Moderate	
<i>Centaurea melitensis*</i>	Maltese star thistle	Moderate	
<i>Chenopodium album*</i>	lamb's quarters		
<i>Chenopodium californicum</i>	California goosefoot		
<i>Citrus japonica*</i>	kumquat		
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	orange tree		
<i>Citrus tangerina</i>	tangerine		
<i>Croton californicus</i>	California croton		
<i>Cupressus sempervirens*</i>	Italian cypress		
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	jimsonweed		
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	western tansy mustard		
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	Canada horseweed		
<i>Erodium cicutarium*</i>	coastal heron's bill	Limited	
<i>Ficus carica*</i>	common fig	Moderate	
<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>	ash		
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	Chinese parsley		
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	telegraph weed		
<i>Hirschfeldia incana*</i>	short podded mustard	Moderate	
<i>Hordeum murinum*</i>	farmer's foxtail	Moderate	
<i>Lactuca serriola*</i>	prickly lettuce		
<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	bicolored lupine		
<i>Malva parviflora*</i>	cheeseweed mallow		
<i>Marrubium vulgare*</i>	white horehound	Limited	
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	pineapple weed		
<i>Melilotus indicus *</i>	annual yellow sweetclover		
<i>Nicotiana glauca*</i>	tree tobacco	Moderate	
<i>Olea europaea*</i>	olive	Limited	
<i>Oncosiphon pilulifer*</i>	stinknet	High	
<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>	blue paloverde		
<i>Persicaria maculosa*</i>	spotted ladysthumb		
<i>Phoenix sp.*</i>	date palm		
<i>Ricinus communis*</i>	castorbean	Limited	
<i>Rumex crispus*</i>	curly dock	Limited	
<i>Salsola tragus *</i>	Russian thistle	Limited	

Table C-1: Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

<i>Scientific Name*</i>	Common Name	Cal-IPC Rating**	Special-Status Rank***
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	black elderberry		
<i>Schinus molle*</i>	Peruvian pepper tree	Limited	
<i>Schismus barbatus*</i>	common Mediterranean grass	Limited	
<i>Sisymbrium irio*</i>	London rocket	Moderate	
<i>Sonchus oleraceus*</i>	common sow thistle		
<i>Urtica urens*</i>	dwarf nettle		
<i>Washingtonia robusta*</i>	Mexican fan palm	Moderate	
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	cocklebur		
Birds			
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk		WL
<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift		
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard		
<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	American pipit		
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	California scrub-jay		
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk		
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	red-shouldered hawk		
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk		ST
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird		
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	killdeer		
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	lark sparrow		
<i>Columba livia*</i>	rock pigeon		
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow		
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel		
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	common yellowthroat		
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch		
<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	acorn woodpecker		
<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Lincoln's sparrow		
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	song sparrow		
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee		
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird		
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	cliff swallow		
<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	blue-gray gnatcatcher		
<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	bushtit		
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe		
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's Phoebe		
<i>Setophaga coronata auduboni</i>	yellow-rumped warbler		
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i>	Lawrence's goldfinch		
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch		
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	chipping sparrow		
<i>Streptopelia decaocto*</i>	Eurasian collared-dove		

Table C-1: Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

<i>Scientific Name*</i>	Common Name	Cal-IPC Rating**	Special-Status Rank***
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	western meadowlark		
<i>Sturnus vulgaris*</i>	European starling		
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren		
<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	greater yellowlegs		
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	western kingbird		
<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird		
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove		
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii</i>	white-crowned sparrow		
Mammals			
<i>Canis latrans</i>	coyote		
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail		

* **Non-native species**

** **California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Ratings**

- High** These species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Most are widely distributed ecologically.
- Moderate** These species have substantial and apparent—but generally not severe—ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal, though establishment is generally dependent upon ecological disturbance. Ecological amplitude and distribution may range from limited to widespread.
- Limited** These species are invasive, but their ecological impacts are minor on a statewide level or there was not enough information to justify a higher score. Their reproductive biology and other attributes result in low to moderate rates of invasiveness. Ecological amplitude and distribution are generally limited, but these species may be locally persistent and problematic.

*** **Special-Status Rank**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

- ST** Threatened – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required under the California Endangered Species Act.
- WL** Watch List - taxa that were previously designated as “Species of Special Concern” but no longer merit that status, or which do not yet meet SSC criteria, but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status.

Attachment D

Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES				
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	WL G5 S4	Yearlong resident of California. Generally, found in forested areas up to 3,000 feet above mean sea level (amsl) in elevation, especially near edges and rivers. Prefers hardwood stands and mature forests but can be found in urban and suburban areas where there are tall trees (25 to 50 feet high) for nesting. Prefers pines (<i>Pinus</i> spp.), oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.), Douglas firs (<i>Pseudotsuga</i> spp.), beeches (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), spruces (<i>Picea</i> spp.) for nesting. Common in open areas during nesting season.	Yes	Present (Foraging): This species was observed outside the project site limits building a nest in a large tree in a residential yard located directly across San Timoteo Canyon Road and could potentially forage across the project site. This species is not expected to nest within the project site due to the lack of hardwood stands.
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> northern goshawk	SSC G5 S3	Year-round resident throughout all or most of the California range, though in winter some individuals remain on or close to breeding territories while others migrate short distances to winter elsewhere. Nest in mature and old-growth forest stands over much of their California range. Suitable stands occur in Pacific ponderosa, Jeffrey, and Lodgepole pine, mixed conifer, white and California red fir, Douglas-fir, mixed Redwood–Douglas-fir–hardwood, and (rarely) pinyon-juniper, as well as in mature Quaking Aspen stands within aspen–shrub steppe vegetation east of the Cascade-Sierra axis. Forage in mature and old-growth forests that have relatively dense canopies and meadow edges and open sagebrush.	No	Not Expected: This species is not expected to occur within the project site, as it does not occur in southern California.
<i>Accipiter striatus</i> sharp-shinned hawk	WL G5 S4	Winter resident of southern California. Found in pine, fir (<i>Abies</i> spp.), and aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) forests. They can be found hunting in forest interior and edges from sea level to near alpine areas. Can also be found in rural, suburban and agricultural areas, where they often hunt at bird feeders. This species does not breed in California.	No	High (Foraging): This species does not breed in California but is widespread during winter and may forage throughout the project site.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	ST SSC G2G3 S1S2	Range is limited to the coastal areas of the Pacific coast of North America, from Northern California to upper Baja California. Can be found in a wide variety of habitat including annual grasslands, wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands, agricultural fields, cattle feedlots, and dairies. Occasionally forage in riparian scrub habitats along marsh borders. Basic habitat requirements for breeding include open accessible water, freshwater marsh dominated by cattails (<i>Typha</i> spp.), willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.), and bulrushes (<i>Schoenoplectus</i> spp.), and either flooded or thorny/spiny vegetation and suitable foraging space providing adequate insect prey.	No	Not Expected: Suitable nesting and foraging habitats consisting of annual grasslands, seasonal wetlands, freshwater marsh, and open accessible water are not present within the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	WL G5T3 S3	Yearlong resident that is typically found between 3,000 and 6,000 feet amsl. Breed in sparsely vegetated scrubland on hillsides and canyons. Prefers coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>), but they can also be found breeding in coastal bluff scrub, low-growing serpentine chaparral, and along the edges of tall chaparral habitats.	No	Low (Foraging): The brittle bush scrub habitat located along and outside the northern and eastern boundaries of the project site provides marginal foraging and nesting habitat for this species. Due to the project sites proximity to the marginal habitat, the species could forage across the project site but is not expected to nest within the project site due to the lack of suitable habitat.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> grasshopper sparrow	SSC G5 S3	Yearlong resident along the coast of southern California. Occurs in grassland, upland meadow, pasture, hayfield, and old field habitats. Optimal habitat contains short- to medium-height bunch grasses interspersed with patches of bare ground, a shallow litter layer, scattered forbs, and few shrubs. May inhabit thickets, weedy lawns, vegetated landfills, fence rows, open fields, or grasslands.	No	Not Expected: Grassland habitats preferred by this species for foraging and nesting are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site (CDFW 2021a).
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> southern California legless lizard	SSC G3 S3	Locally abundant specimens are found in coastal sand dunes and a variety of interior habitats, including sandy washes and alluvial fans. A large protected population persists in the remnant of the once extensive El Segundo Dunes at Los Angeles International Airport.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats consisting of coastal sand dunes, sandy wash and alluvial fans are not present within the project site. The project site primarily consists of disturbed habitat due to past agricultural operations and continual weed abatement activities resulting in heavily disturbed and compacted surface soils.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	SSC G5 S3	Locally common species locally common in the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts (specifically Sonoran life zone) and grasslands throughout the western U.S. Also occurs in shrublands, woodlands, and forests from sea level to 8,000 ft amsl. Prefers rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices for roosting with access to open habitats for foraging. May also roost in caves, mines, bridges, barns, porches, and bat boxes, and even on the ground under burlap sacks, stone piles, rags, baseboards, and rocks.	No	Low (Foraging): The project site provides marginal foraging habitat for this species. This species is not expected to roost within the project site due to the lack of rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	FP WL G5 S3	Yearlong resident of California. Occupies nearly all terrestrial habitats of the western states except densely forested areas. Favors secluded cliffs with overhanging ledges and large trees for nesting and cover. Hilly or mountainous country where takeoff and soaring are supported by updrafts is generally preferred to flat habitats. Deeply cut canyons rising to open mountain slopes and crags are ideal habitat.	No	Not Expected: This species is not expected to nest within the project site due to the lack of hilly and mountainous terrain preferred by this species for nesting. Further, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site (CDFW 2021a).

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special-Status Rank*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California glossy snake	SSC G5T2 S2	Inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, and chaparral habitats. Appears to prefer microhabitats of open areas and areas with soil loose enough for easy burrowing.	No	Low: The project site provides marginal habitat for this species.
<i>Artemisospiza belli belli</i> Bell's sage sparrow	WL G5T2T3 S3	This species has a wide, but sparse distribution in western Riverside County, specifically within the "Riverside lowlands, San Jacinto Foothills, Santa Ana Mountains, and Desert Transition Bioregions. Yearlong resident on the coastal side of southern California mountains. Breeds in coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats from February to August. They require semi-open habitats with evenly spaced shrubs one to two meters high. Occurs in chaparral dominated by fairly dense stands of chamise (<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>).	No	Low (Foraging): The brittle bush scrub habitat located along and outside the northern and eastern boundaries of the project site provides marginal foraging and nesting habitat for this species. Due to the project sites proximity to the marginal habitat, the species could forage across the project site but is not expected to nest within the project site due to the lack of suitable habitat.
<i>Asio flammeus</i> short-eared owl	SSC G5 S3	Breeds over much of northern North America and is a year-round resident in certain areas within California. The breeding range of the short-eared owl retracts dramatically in drought conditions and during prey reductions. Nesting short-eared owls require open country that supports concentrations of microtine rodents and herbaceous cover sufficient to conceal their ground nests from predators. Suitable habitats may include salt- and freshwater marshes, irrigated alfalfa or grain fields, and ungrazed grasslands and old pastures.	No	Not Expected: This species is not expected due to the lack of suitable habitat. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site (CDFW 2021a).
<i>Asio otus</i> long-eared owl	SSC G5 S3?	Nests in conifer, oak, riparian, pinyon-juniper, and desert woodlands that are either open or are adjacent to grasslands, meadows, or shrublands. Key habitat components are some dense cover for nesting and roosting, suitable nest platforms, and open foraging areas.	No	Not Expected: This species is not expected due to the lack of suitable habitat. In addition, there are no occurrence records for this species within 5.0 miles of the project site (CDFW 2021a).
<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i> orange-throated whiptail	WL G5 S2S3	Uncommon to fairly common over much of its range in Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties. Also occurs in southwestern San Bernardino County near Colton. Semi-arid brushy areas typically with loose soil and rocks, including washes, streambanks, rocky hillsides, and coastal chaparral.	No	Low: The project site provides marginal habitat for this species along its eastern edge.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	SSC G5T5 S3	This subspecies is found in coastal southern California, mostly west of the Peninsular Ranges and south of the Transverse Ranges, and north into Ventura County. Ranges south into Baja California. Found in a variety of ecosystems, primarily hot and dry open areas with sparse vegetation in chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas. Associated with rocky areas with little vegetation or sunny microhabitats within shrub or grassland associations.	No	Low: The project site provides marginal habitat for this species along its eastern edge.