



**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL
REPORT**

70th Street W and Avenue L Residential
Development Project
City of Lancaster, County of Los Angeles

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Acronyms / Abbreviations

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BRTR	Biological Resources Technical Report
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
City	City of Lancaster
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
DCH	Designated Critical Habitat
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FGC	Fish and Game Code
FR	Federal Register
GPS	global positioning system
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCVII	second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
Project	70 th Street W and Avenue L Residential Development
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
SSC	Species of Special Concern
Stantec	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey



1 Introduction

This Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR) is intended to document the biological resources that are associated with the proposed 70th Street West and Avenue L Residential Development Project (Project) located in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California (see Appendix A – Figure 1 - Project Location). The survey conducted and discussions presented within this BRTR are intended to support planning and regulatory agency permitting and associated documentation.

Surveys were conducted on August 24, 2023, by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) biologists within accessible portions of the proposed Project site plus an additional 300-foot buffer zone. This approximately 18.07-acre area is defined as the Biological Study Area (BSA) (refer to Appendix A - Figure 2 - Biological Study Area). This BRTR describes the existing environmental conditions that occur within the BSA and the region and evaluates the potential for biological resources to occur, based on the local conditions with an emphasis on special-status plant and wildlife species, wildlife corridors, and special-status/sensitive natural communities.

1.1 Project Location

The Project is located in an undeveloped parcel of land at the corner of West Avenue L and 70th Street West in the City of Lancaster (City), California and is approximately 5.5 miles west of Highway 14. The BSA is situated in Section 34, Township 7 North, Range 13 West of the United States (U.S.) Geographical Survey (USGS) Lancaster West, California, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Residential developments are located east, west, and south of the BSA and undeveloped land is located north of the BSA. The topography of the Project site is relatively flat. The elevation ranges from approximately 2,440 meters to 2,500 meters.

1.2 Project Description

The Project would include development of an 18.07-acre area into a residential development with 56 single-family homes located at the southwestern corner of 70th Street West and Avenue L in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

2 Methods

This biological resource assessment of the BSA included but was not limited to a literature review, reconnaissance-level survey, habitat assessment, and vegetation mapping. Prior to the survey, a preliminary literature review of readily available resources was performed. The field assessment included a non-protocol survey for plants, wildlife, and other biological resources and was intended to detect the presence of special-status plant and wildlife species, including nesting birds, where possible. The survey was conducted on foot within the BSA where accessible based on terrain and vegetative cover.



2.1 Literature Review

A focused literature search of the BSA was conducted prior to the field survey. The BSA is located within the USGS Lancaster West quadrangle. A search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted for the BSA and a surrounding ten-mile buffer area to determine special-status plants, wildlife, and vegetation communities that have been documented within this area (CDFW 2023a). The most recent CNDDDB list of special status plants, animals, and their potential to occur within the BSA is included in Section 5. The database included portions of the following quadrangles surrounding the BSA:

- Lancaster East
- Palmdale
- Sleepy Valley
- Lake Hughes
- Rosamond
- Ritter Ridge
- Little Buttes
- Del Sur
- Green Valley
- Rosamond Lake

Additional data regarding the potential occurrence of special status species and policies relating to these special status natural resources were gathered from the following sources:

- CDFW California's Wildlife Life History and Range (CDFW 2023b);
- Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] 2023a); and
- NatureServe Explorer (NatureServe 2023).

2.2 Biological Surveys and Habitat Assessment

The methods for the general and focused wildlife surveys, rare plant surveys, and vegetation mapping are described in the following sections.

2.2.1 SITE RECONNAISSANCE AND WILDLIFE SURVEYS

A reconnaissance biological survey, habitat assessment, and rare plant survey were conducted during daylight hours on August 24, 2023, by Stantec biologists Hannah Hart and Cassandra Dubois. The primary goals of the reconnaissance survey were to identify and assess the suitability of habitat for special status plant and wildlife species and to document an inventory of plant and wildlife species within the BSA. The BSA was surveyed on foot walking meandering transects throughout the BSA. Plants were identified based on professional knowledge and experience and/or by using keys, descriptions, and illustrations in the Jepson Flora Project (2023). Wildlife species were identified and recorded by sight, sound, or their sign. Some wildlife species may have been difficult to detect due to the elusive nature, cryptic morphology, or nocturnal behavior of some wildlife. No protocol wildlife surveys were conducted.



2.2.2 VEGETATION MAPPING

Vegetation descriptions and nomenclature are based on the second edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation (MCVII)* (Sawyer et al. 2009), where applicable, and have been defined to the alliance level. Vegetation maps were prepared by recording tentative vegetation type boundaries over recent aerial photograph base maps using a sub-meter-accurate Arrow global positioning system (GPS) unit paired with Samsung Galaxy tablet loaded with FieldMaps for ArcGIS™. Mapping was further refined in the office using Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. ArcGIS (version 10.7) with aerial photograph base maps with an accuracy of one foot. Most boundaries shown on the maps are accurate within approximately three feet; however, boundaries between some vegetation types are less precise due to difficulties in interpreting aerial imagery and accessing stands of vegetation.

To support the vegetation mapping presented in this BRTR, Stantec conducted a reconnaissance-level field survey. Stantec used this data to produce a vegetation community and land cover map for the BSA.

Vegetation communities can overlap in many characteristics and over time may shift from one community type to another. All vegetation maps and descriptions are subject to variability for the following reasons:

- In some cases, vegetation boundaries result from distinct events, such as wildfire or flooding, but vegetation types usually tend to intergrade on the landscape, without precise boundaries between them. Even distinct boundaries caused by fire or flood can be disguised after years of post-disturbance succession. Mapped boundaries represent best professional judgment, but usually should not be interpreted as literal delineations between sharply defined vegetation types.
- Natural vegetation tends to exist in generally recognizable types, but also may vary over time and geographic region. Written descriptions cannot reflect all local or regional variation. Many (perhaps most) stands of natural vegetation do not strictly fit into any named type. Therefore, a mapped unit is given the best name available in the classification system being used, but this name does not imply that the vegetation unambiguously matches written descriptions.
- Vegetation tends to be patchy. Small patches of one named type are often included within larger stands mapped as units of another type. For the BSA, the minimum mapping unit was approximately three feet and smaller inclusions are described in the text, where applicable, but are not visible on the maps.
- Habitats within the BSA were evaluated for their potential to support special status species based on species habitat requirements in literature and the professional knowledge and experience of Stantec's biologists. More details regarding habitat assessments are provided in Section 5.



3 Regulatory Environment

3.1 Federal Regulations

3.1.1 FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) provisions protect federally listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats from unlawful “take” and ensure that federal actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of Designated Critical Habitat (DCH). Under FESA, take is defined as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any of the specifically enumerated conduct.” The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulations define harm to mean “an act which actually kills or injures wildlife.” Such an act “may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering” (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Section 17.3).

DCH is defined in FESA Section 3(5)(A) as “(i) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species on which are found those physical or biological features: (I) essential to the conservation of the species; (II) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species upon a determination by the Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary of the Interior that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.” The effects analyses for DCH must consider the role of the critical habitat in both the continued survival and the eventual recovery (i.e., the conservation) of the species in question, consistent with the recent Ninth Circuit judicial opinion, *Gifford Pinchot Task Force v. USFWS*.

Activities that may result in “take” of individuals are regulated by USFWS. USFWS produced an updated list of candidate species December 6, 2007 (72 Federal Register [FR] 69034). Candidate species are not afforded any legal protection under FESA; however, candidate species typically receive special attention from federal and state agencies during the environmental review process.

3.1.2 MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 United States Code [USC] 703-711) makes it unlawful to possess, buy, sell, purchase, barter or take any migratory bird listed in Title 50 of CFR Part 10. “Take” is defined as possession or destruction of migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. Disturbances that cause nest abandonment or loss of reproductive effort or the loss of habitats upon which these birds depend may be a violation of the MBTA. The MBTA prohibits killing, possessing, or trading in migratory birds except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The MBTA encompasses whole birds, parts of birds, bird nests, and eggs.



3.1.3 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires all federal agencies to examine the environmental impacts of their actions, incorporate environmental information, and use public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions. Federal agencies must integrate NEPA into other planning requirements and prepare appropriate NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision-making. NEPA requires Federal agencies to review and comment on Federal agency environmental plans and documents when the agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impacts involved (42 USC 4321- 4327; 40 CFR 1500-1508). These guidelines establish an overall federal process for the environmental evaluation of projects.

3.2 State Regulations

3.2.1 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) establishes state policy to prevent significant and avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures. CEQA applies to actions directly undertaken, financed, or permitted by state lead agencies. Regulations for implementation are found in the CEQA Guidelines published by the California Natural Resources Agency. These guidelines establish an overall state of California process for the environmental evaluation of projects.

3.2.2 CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Provisions of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) protect state-listed threatened and endangered species. The CDFW regulates activities that may result in take of individuals (i.e., take is defined as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill”). Habitat degradation or modification is not expressly included in the definition of take under the California Fish and Game Code (FGC). Additionally, the FGC contains lists of vertebrate species designated as “fully protected” (FGC Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], 5050 [reptiles and amphibians], and 5515 [fish]). Such species may not be taken or possessed.

In addition to federal and State-listed species, the CDFW also has produced a list of Species of Special Concern (SSC) to serve as a “watch list.” Species on this list are of limited distribution or the extent of their habitats has been reduced substantially, such that threat to their populations may be imminent. SSC may receive special attention during environmental review, but they do not have statutory protection.

Birds of prey are protected in California under the FGC. FGC Section 3503.5 states that it is “unlawful to ‘take’, possess, or destroy any birds of prey (in the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes) or to ‘take’, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this Code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.” Construction disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered take by the CDFW. Under Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the FGC, activities that would result in the taking, possessing, or destroying



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of any birds-of-prey, taking, or possessing of any migratory nongame bird as designated in the MBTA, or the taking, possessing, or needlessly destroying of the nest or eggs of any raptors or non-game birds protected by the MBTA, or the taking of any non-game bird pursuant to FGC Section 3800 are prohibited.

3.2.3 NATIVE PLANT PROTECTION ACT

Under FGC Sections 1900 to 1913, the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) requires all state agencies to use their authority to carry out programs to conserve endangered and rare native plants. Provisions of NPPA prohibit the taking of listed plants from the wild and require notification of the CDFW at least 10 days in advance of any change in land use. This allows CDFW to salvage listed plant species that would otherwise be destroyed. A Project applicant is required to conduct botanical inventories and consult with CDFW during project planning to comply with the provisions of the NPPA and sections of CEQA that apply to rare or endangered plants.

3.3 Local Regulations

3.3.1 CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RARE PLANT PROGRAM

The mission of the CNPS Rare Plant Program is to develop current, accurate information on the distribution, ecology, and conservation status of California's rare and endangered plants and to use this information to promote science-based plant conservation in California. Once a species has been identified as being of potential conservation concern, it is put through an extensive review process. Once a species has gone through the review process, information on all aspects of the species (e.g., listing status, habitat, distribution, threats, etc.) is entered into the online CNPS Rare Plant Inventory and given a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR). The Rare Plant Program currently recognizes more than 1,600 plant taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties) as rare or endangered in California (CNPS 2023a).

Vascular plants listed as rare or endangered by the CNPS, but which might not have a designated status under state endangered species legislation, are defined by the following CRPRs:

- CRPR 1A: Plants considered by the CNPS to be extinct in California
- CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
- CRPR 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere
- CRPR 3: Plants about which we need more information – a review list
- CRPR 4: Plants of limited distribution – a watch list

In addition to the CRPR designations above, the CNPS adds a Threat Rank as an extension added onto the CRPR and designates the level of endangerment by a 0.1 to 0.3 ranking, with 0.1 being the most endangered and 0.3 being the least endangered and are described as follows:

- 0.1: Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)
- 0.2: Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)



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- 0.3: Not very threatened in California (low degree or immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

3.3.2 NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS OF THE CALIFORNIA DESERT - CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA

In 1976, Congress designated a 25-million-acre area of desert lands in Southern California as the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. In 2009, Congress, passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, which instructed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to include lands managed for conservation within the CDCA as part of the National Conservation Lands. National Conservation Lands of the California Desert are closed to all energy development (BLM 2023a).

3.3.2.1 West Mojave Plan

The West Mojave Plan includes the West Mojave Desert area including 9.3 million acres in Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties: 3.3 million acres of public lands administered by BLM, 3.0 million acres of private lands, 102,000 acres administered by the State of California, and military lands administered by the Department of Defense.

3.3.3 CITY OF LANCASTER GENERAL PLAN 2030

The Plan for the Natural Environment component of the City of Lancaster General Plan provides a management program that was created to aid in balancing demands for new urban and rural development within Lancaster, with the desire to protect natural resources and retain the open character of the General Plan study area (City of Lancaster 2009). The Plan for the Natural Environment component includes goals, objectives, policies, and actions pertaining to water resources and biological resources (BLM 2023b).

3.3.3.1 Water Resources

The City has adopted a Water Conservation Program. The goal of this program is to reduce water consumption in the City of Lancaster by providing and maintaining public awareness of water issues; increasing efficiency of water use for City facilities; and implementing standards to ensure water conservation in commercial, industrial, and residential development.

The following objectives, policies, and actions pertain to the Proposed Project.

- Objective 3.1: Protect, maintain, and replenish groundwater supplies to meet present and future urban and rural needs.
 - Policy 3.1.1: Ensure that development does not adversely affect the groundwater basin.
 - Action 3.1.1(a): Work with the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County to require that all development projects within the City and its sphere of influence



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comply with water quality discharge permit requirements established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

- Action 3.1.1(b): Through the development review process, evaluate proposals under CEQA to identify potential negative impacts on existing watershed areas, and to ensure inclusion of appropriate mitigation measures.
- Action 3.1.1 (d): To ensure that the potential effect on the groundwater basin from proposed land use changes is appropriately evaluated, the applicants for all general plan and zoning ordinance amendments shall provide a factual statement of: current water demand, proposed water demand, potential conservation, and water from new sources.

3.3.3.2 Biological Resources

In 2006, the City amended the Municipal Code to establish a biological impact fee on all new development projects on vacant land in order to address the cumulative impacts in biological resources.

The following objectives, policies, and actions pertain to the Proposed Project.

- Objective 3.4: Identify, preserve, and maintain important biological systems within the Lancaster sphere of influence, and educate the general public about these resources, which include the Joshua Tree - California Juniper Woodlands, areas that support endangered or sensitive species, and other natural areas of regional significance.
 - Policy 3.4.1: Ensure the comprehensive management of programs for significant biological resources that remain within the Lancaster sphere of influence.
 - Action 3.4.1 (a): Cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies in developing the West Mojave multi-species habitat conservation plan.
 - Action 3.4.1 (b): Through the West Mojave Plan, initiate areawide studies to identify sensitive plants and animals within the study area.
 - Action 3.4.1 (c): In consultation with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies, develop a comprehensive management program for significant biological resources.

3.3.4 SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS

Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) are officially designated areas within Los Angeles County with irreplaceable biological resources. The SEA Program objective is to conserve genetic and physical diversity within Los Angeles County by designating biological resource areas that can sustain themselves into the future. The SEA Program, through goals and policies of the General Plan and the SEA ordinance (Title 22 zoning regulations) help guide development within SEAs. The General Plan goals and policies are intended to ensure that privately held lands within the SEAs retain the right of reasonable use, while



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avoiding activities and developments that are incompatible with the ability of SEAs to thrive in the long term (Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning 2006). There are no SEAs within the BSA or directly surrounding; however, the San Andreas SEA is approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the BSA.

4 Existing Conditions

4.1 Setting

The BSA is located within the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California. The land to the north consists of undeveloped land and to the east, west, and south are residential developments (single-family homes). The topography of the BSA is relatively flat. The elevation ranges from approximately 2,440 meters to 2,500 meters. The BSA is comprised mainly of annual grasslands.

4.2 Soils

Soil characterization is an important component of any analysis for biological resources because soil often plays a pivotal role in the habitat requirements of a variety of special status plant and wildlife species. It is not uncommon for soil composition and/or texture to define exclusive habitat qualities for many of these species. Several special status plants require unique soil characteristics to set seed, germinate, and grow. Additionally, many special status reptiles and mammals require suitable soil qualities, such as texture and friability, to construct and maintain adequate burrows. Table 1 lists the soils occurring in the BSA based on Natural Resources Conservation Service data (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2023). A Soils Map is included in Appendix A - Figure 3.

Table 1. Historic Soil Units Occurring within the BSA

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Description	Area within BSA (acres)
GsC	Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes	A well-drained non-hydric soil associated with alluvial fans and terraces at elevations between 2,600 and 4,200 feet; low runoff; soil profile consists of sandy loam to stratified loamy sand to coarse sandy loam; parent material consists of alluvium derived from granite; minor components include Hanford, Ramona, and two unnamed.	12.21
HbC	Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes	A well-drained non-hydric soil associated with alluvial fans at elevations between 2,600 and 4,200 feet; low runoff; soil profile consists of coarse sandy loam to sandy loam to gravelly loamy coarse sand; parent material consists of alluvium derived from granite; minor components include Greenfield, Ramona, and one unnamed.	38.48
Total			50.69

Source: USDA 2023.



4.3 Aquatic Resources

The National Wetlands Inventory has mapped a freshwater pond in the northwestern corner of the BSA and the imagery is dated from 1987 (USFWS 2023); however, this feature is no longer present based on the results of the biological survey (Appendix B - Photographic Log). Multiple erosional features were observed within the BSA during the biological survey; however, these features did not have any indication of regular channelization, bed and bank, or evidence of a basin. Therefore, it was determined there are no potential jurisdictional wetlands or waters within the BSA.

4.4 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

As defined in Manual of California Vegetation II (MCVII) (Sawyer et al. 2009), a vegetation alliance is “a category of vegetation classification which describes repeating patterns of plants across a landscape. Each alliance is defined by plant species composition and reflects the effects of local climate, soil, water, disturbance, and other environmental factors.” Generally, Stantec’s mapping and description of plant communities follows the classification system described in MCVII. The MCVII is generally limited to communities that are native to or naturalized within California; however, in addition to these communities, disturbed habitat occurs within the BSA that is not defined in MCVII. Therefore, land cover types assigned to these types of habitats are descriptive in nature and are not specifically referenced in the MCVII.

A list of vegetation communities and acreages in the BSA are included in Table 2. As with any annual vegetation, the cover and abundance of annual species may vary year to year depending on several factors including the amount and timing of precipitation (Sawyer et. al 2009). The botanical nomenclature within this report follows the Jepson Herbarium online database, eFlora (Jepson Flora Project 2023). Plant species documented during the reconnaissance survey are provided in Section 4.5.

Table 2. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in the BSA

Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Types	BSA (acres)
Vegetation Communities	
Annual Grassland - (<i>Bromus tectorum</i> - <i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i> Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance & <i>Amsinckia</i> <i>[menziesii, tessellata]</i> - <i>Phacelia</i> spp. Herbaceous Alliance [Fiddleneck – Phacelia Fields])	26.60
<i>Tamarix</i> spp. Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance (Tamarisk thickets)	0.06
Land Cover Types	
Disturbed/Developed	24.03
Total	50.69



4.4.1 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

4.4.1.1 Annual Grassland

Two MCVII classifications make up the annual grassland community, *Bromus tectorum* - *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance (Cheatgrass-medusa head grassland) and *Amsinckia (menziesii, tessellata)* - *Phacelia* spp. Herbaceous Alliance (Fiddleneck – Phacelia Fields). The two classifications are described below.

Approximately 26.06 acres of this vegetation community occurs throughout the center of the BSA (Appendix A – Figure 4 - Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types).

4.4.1.1.1 *Bromus tectorum* – *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance (Cheatgrass-medusa head grassland)

This classification is co-dominated by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), medusa head grass (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), and/or Ventenata grass (*Ventenata dubia*) with other non-natives in the herbaceous layer. Emergent shrubs may be present at low cover. This classification is found in abandoned fields, eroded areas, road verges, waste places, foothills, and lower montane slopes (CNPS 2023b).

4.4.1.1.2 *Amsinckia (menziesii, tessellata)* – *Phacelia* spp. Herbaceous Alliance (Fiddleneck – Phacelia Fields)

This classification is co-dominated by small-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), bristly fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*), and/or phacelia (*Phacelia* spp.) or other fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* spp.) in the herbaceous layer including but not limited to oats (*Avena* spp.), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), common tarweed (*Centromadia pungens*), turkey-mullein (*Croton setiger*), filaree (*Erodium* spp.), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), and common goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*). Emergent shrubs may be present at low cover, including chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), coastal sage brush (*Artemisia californica*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), or silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*). This classification is found in upland slopes, broad valleys, ocean bluffs, grazed or recently burned hills, and fallow fields (CNPS 2023c).

4.4.1.2 *Tamarix* spp. Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance (Tamarisk thickets)

This classification is dominated by tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) in the shrub canopy. In general, emergent trees may be present at low cover, including Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) or willow species (*Salix* sp.). This classification is often found within arroyo margins, lake margins, ditches, washes, rivers, and other watercourses (CNPS 2023d).

Within the BSA, this community occurs within the northwestern corner along 70th Street West. It appears that the trees were planted for ornamental purposes along the road. Approximately 24.03 acres of this community occurs in the BSA (Appendix A – Figure 4).



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4.4.2 LAND COVER TYPES

4.4.2.1 Disturbed/Developed

This land cover type includes areas that have been graded or paved and are developed with urban infrastructure. These areas are generally periodically maintained for weed control, precluding any significant growth of non-ornamental species, but may be sparsely interspersed with ruderal pioneer plant species that readily colonize open disturbed soil such as along disturbed areas or roadsides.

Within the BSA, this land cover type includes the active construction site, residential developments, paved roads, and dirt roads. Approximately 24.03 acres of this land cover type occurs in the BSA (Appendix A – Figure 4).

4.5 Plants Species Observed

This section describes the plants observed during the biological resources survey performed on June 7, 2023, and the reconnaissance-level survey performed on August 24, 2023, and those species expected to occur within the BSA based on habitat characteristics and species known to occur in the region.

The BSA was assessed for both common and special-status vascular plants. The surveys resulted in the documentation of 17 native and 11 non-native species, of which 6 are considered invasive under the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). Invasive plants are ranked in the following three threat rating levels as defined by the Cal-IPC (Cal-IPC 2022).

- **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.

Table 3 presents a list of all plant species observed within the BSA, their native/non-native status, and their Cal-IPC ranking, if applicable.



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Table 3. Plant Species Observed in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native/Non-native ¹
<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	flatspine bursage	native
<i>Amsinckia sp.</i>	fiddleneck	native
<i>Bromus rubens</i>	red brome	non-native high ²
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	cheatgrass	non-native high ²
<i>Chenopodium sp.</i>	goosefoot	native
<i>Corethrogyne filaginifolia</i>	common sandaster	native
<i>Croton setiger</i>	turkey mullein	native
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	sacred datura	native
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	rubber rabbitbrush	native
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	horseweed	native
<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>	skeletonweed	native
<i>Eriogonum elongatum</i>	longstem buckwheat	native
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	native
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	redstem stork's-bill	non-native limited ²
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	native
<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i>	whitemargin sandmat	native
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly lettuce	non-native
<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	miniature lupine	native
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	pistachio	non-native
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	prostrate knotweed	non-native
<i>Salsola kali</i>	saltwort	non-native
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	prickly Russian thistle	non-native limited ²
<i>Schismus barbatus</i>	common Mediterranean grass	non-native limited ²
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	tall tumbled mustard	non-native
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>	wire lettuce	native
<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	athel tamarisk	non-native limited ²
<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	vinegar weed	native
<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>	silverpuffs	native
Notes:		
¹ Native/Non-native = Native species are those that occur naturally in an area, per Jepson Flora Project 2023.		
² Cal-IPC = Identified in the California Invasive Plant Council Inventory of Invasive Plants (Cal-IPC 2023).		

4.6 Wildlife Species Observed

This section describes the common wildlife observed during the biological resources survey performed on June 7, 2023, and the reconnaissance-level survey performed on August 24, 2023, and those species



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expected to occur within the BSA based on habitat characteristics and species known to occur in the region. All wildlife species observed within the BSA are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Wildlife Species Observed in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name
Terrestrial Invertebrates	
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	western honeybee
<i>Brephidium exilis</i>	western pygmy blue butterfly
<i>Eleodes sp.</i>	desert stink beetle
family <i>Acrididae</i>	grasshopper
family <i>Anisoptera</i>	dragonfly
family <i>Mutillidae</i>	velvet ant
<i>Pogonomyrmex sp.</i>	harvester ant
<i>Pontia protodice</i>	checkered white butterfly
Birds	
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture
<i>Columba livia</i>	rock dove
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	western meadowlark
Reptiles	
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	common side-blotched lizard
Mammals	
<i>Canis latrans</i>	coyote

4.6.1 TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

A focused insect survey was not performed within the BSA; however, a variety of common insects are known to occur in the area. Habitat conditions in the BSA provide a suite of microhabitat conditions for a wide variety of terrestrial insects and other invertebrates. As in all ecological systems, invertebrates in the BSA play a crucial role in a number of biological processes. They serve as the primary or secondary food source for a variety of bird, reptile, and mammal predators; they provide important pollination vectors for numerous plant species; they act as efficient components in controlling pest populations; and they support the naturally occurring maintenance of an area by consuming detritus and contributing to necessary soil nutrients. The reconnaissance survey of the BSA detected a wide variety of common and non-native invertebrates. Some of the orders identified in the BSAs included beetles (*Coleoptera*), bees and ants (*Hymenoptera*), and dragonflies (*Odonata*).

4.6.2 FISH

There is no suitable aquatic habitat within the BSA for fish species.



4.6.3 AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians often require a source of standing or flowing water to complete their life cycle. However, some terrestrial species can survive in drier areas by remaining in moist environments or by burrowing into the soil. Downed logs, bark, and other woody material in various stages of decay (often referred to as coarse woody debris), likely provide shelter and feeding sites for a variety of wildlife, including amphibians and reptiles (Maser and Trappe, 1984; Aubry et al., 1988). These species are highly cryptic and often difficult to detect. Amphibians require aquatic habitats for all or part of their life cycle, which is present within the BSA. There was no suitable aquatic habitat within the BSA to support amphibians.

4.6.4 REPTILES

The number and type of reptile species that may occur at a given site is related to several biotic and abiotic features. These include the diversity of plant communities, substrate, soil type, and presence of refugia such as rock piles, boulders, and native debris. Weather conditions were not favorable during the survey for reptile activity.

Many reptile species, even if present, are difficult to detect because they are cryptic and their life history characteristics (e.g., foraging, thermoregulatory behavior, fossorial nature, camouflage etc.) limit their ability to be observed during most surveys. Further, many species are only active within relatively narrow thermal limits, avoiding both cold and hot conditions, and most take refuge in microhabitats that are not directly visible to the casual observer, such as rodent burrows, in crevices, under rocks and boards, and in dense vegetation where they are protected from unsuitable environmental conditions and predators (United States Army Corps of Engineers and CDFG, 2010). The common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) was observed during the August 2023 survey.

4.6.5 BIRDS

Birds were identified by sight and sound and were observed throughout the BSA. Six bird species were observed and identified during the August 2023 survey and are listed in Table 4. Small mammal burrows were observed and could have potential to support burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*).

4.6.6 MAMMALS

Generally, the distribution of mammals on a given site is associated with the presence of factors such as access to perennial water, topographical and structural components (e.g., rock piles, vegetation) that provide cover and support prey base, and the presence of suitable soils for fossorial mammals (e.g., sandy areas). A coyote was observed during the June 7, 2023 survey. Small burrows that could provide habitat for small mammals were also observed during the surveys.



5 Special-Status Biological Resources

The background information presented above combined with habitat assessments performed during the survey was used to evaluate special-status natural communities and special-status plant and animal taxa that either occur or may have the potential to occur within the BSA and adjacent habitats. For the purposes of this BRTR, special-status species are defined as plants or animals that:

- Have been designated as either rare, threatened, or endangered by CDFW or the USFWS, and are protected under either the CESA or FESA
- Are candidate species being considered or proposed for listing under CESA or FESA
- Are recognized as SSC by the CDFW
- Are ranked by CNPS as CRPR 1, 2, 3, or 4 plant species
- Are fully protected by the FGC, Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, or 5515
- Are of expressed concern to resource/regulatory agencies, or local jurisdictions

5.1 Special-Status Natural Communities

Special-status natural communities are defined by CDFW (2009) as, "...communities that are of limited distribution statewide or within a county or region and are often vulnerable to environmental effects of projects." All vegetation within the state is ranked with an "S" rank; however, only those that are of special concern (S1-S3 rank) are evaluated under CEQA. No such community occurs within the BSA.

The 10-mile CNDDDB records search indicates there are seven sensitive natural communities within ten miles of the BSA: Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest ranked S4, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest ranked S3.2, Southern Riparian Scrub ranked S3.2, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland ranked S4, Southern Willow Scrub ranked S2.1, Valley Needlegrass Grassland ranked S3.1, and Wildflower Field ranked S2.2. The occurrences were between 3 miles and 10 miles from the BSA and were observed between 1978 and 1988. None of these sensitive communities were observed within the BSA.

5.2 Designated Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is a term defined in FESA, as specific geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may also include areas that are not currently occupied by the species but will be needed for its recovery. The Department of the Interior agencies, including the USFWS (for terrestrial and most freshwater species), designate critical habitat areas and activities that could adversely affect critical habitat may require consultation with these agencies. The USFWS may review project information to evaluate whether an action will result in adverse modification to critical habitat, which would be the



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alteration of a habitat in a manner that reduces the value of the critical habitat. An adverse modification diminishes the value of the critical habitat both in terms of survival and recovery of a listed species. An evaluation of a project's effects on critical habitat requires focus on critical habitat primary constituent elements, which are elements of physical or biological features that, when laid out in the appropriate quantity and spatial arrangement to provide for a species' life-history processes, are essential to the conservation of the species.

The BSA is not located within federally designated critical habitat and there is no designated critical habitat within 10 miles of the BSA. The nearest critical habitat to the BSA is for the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) which occurs approximately 23 miles northeast of the BSA.

5.3 Special-Status Plant Species

Table 5 presents a list of special-status plants, including federally and state-listed species and CRPR 1-4 species that are known to occur within 10 miles of the BSA or within the USGS quadrangles including and surrounding the BSA. Appendix A - Figure 5 (10 Mile CNDDDB) provides a depiction of previously reported species locations

Record searches of the CNDDDB, the CNPS Online Inventory, and the Consortium of California Herbaria were performed for special-status plant taxa. Each of the taxa identified in the record searches was assessed for their potential to occur within the BSA based on the following criteria:

- **Present:** Taxa were observed within the BSA during recent botanical surveys or population has been acknowledged by CDFW, USFWS, or local experts.
- **High:** Both a documented recent record (within 10 years) exists of the taxa within the BSA or immediate vicinity (approximately 5 miles) and the environmental conditions (including soil type) associated with taxa presence occur within the BSA.
- **Moderate:** Both a documented recent record (within 10 years) exists of the taxa within the BSA or the immediate vicinity (approximately 5 miles) and the environmental conditions associated with taxa presence are marginal or limited within the BSA, or the BSA is located within the known current distribution of the taxa and the environmental conditions (including soil type) associated with taxa presence occur within the BSA.
- **Low:** A historical record (over 10 years) exists of the taxa within the BSA or general vicinity (approximately 10 miles), and the environmental conditions (including soil type) associated with taxa presence are marginal or limited within the BSA.
- **Not Likely to Occur:** The environmental conditions associated with taxa presence do not occur within the BSA.



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Table 5. Special Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential Occurrence within the BSA

Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Blooming Period	Potential to Occur
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i> Horn's milk-vetch	S1, 1B.1	Lake margins, salty flats, meadows and seeps, playas; alkaline soils; 60-300 meters (m).	May-Sept	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 9 miles southeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1929.
<i>Astragalus preussii</i> var. <i>laxiflorus</i> Lancaster milk-vetch	S1, 1B.1	Found in chenopod scrub; 700 m.	Mar-May	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles east of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1902.
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> slender mariposa-lily	S2S3, 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb; occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands; 320-1,000 m.	Mar-Jun (Nov)	Low: marginal suitable habitat conditions are present within the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 2.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2010. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles southwest of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2018.
<i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i> Palmer's mariposa-lily	S2, 1B.2	Meadows and seeps, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. Vernal moist places in yellow-pine forest, chaparral; 710 – 2,390 m.	Apr-Jul	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 4 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1989.
<i>Calochortus striatus</i> alkali mariposa-lily	S2S3, 1B.1	Chaparral, chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows, seeps in alkaline and mesic areas; 70 – 1,595.	Apr-Jun	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1988. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles north of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2017.



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Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Blooming Period	Potential to Occur
<i>Calystegia peirsonii</i> Peirson's morning-glory	S4, 4.2	Chaparral, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grasslands; 30 – 1,500m.	Apr-Jun	Low: marginal suitable habitat conditions are present within the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 4.5 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1982. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 9.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1982.
<i>Canbya candida</i> white pygmy-poppy	S3S4, 4.2	Joshua Tree woodland, Mojave Desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland; granitic, gravelly and sandy substrate; 600-1,460 m.	Mar-Jun	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles east of the BSA; this occurrence has no date.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i> San Fernando Valley spineflower	SE, S1, 1B.1	Annual herb; occurs in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland; 150-1,220 m.	Apr-Jul	Low: marginal suitable habitat conditions are present within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 7.5 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1990s.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Parry's spineflower	S2, 1B.1	Sandy or rocky, openings in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland, 275 to 1,220 m.	Apr-Jun	Low: marginal suitable habitat conditions are present within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles east of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1896.
<i>Cryptantha clokeyi</i> Clokey's cryptantha	S3, 1B.2	Mojavean desert scrub; 725 – 1,365 m.	April	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8 miles northwest of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2003.
<i>Eriastrum rosamondense</i> Rosamond eriastrum	S1?, 1B.1	Openings in chenopod scrub and edges of vernal pools; alkaline and sandy areas; 700 – 1,175 m.	Apr-May (Jun-Jul)	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles north of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2005.



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Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Blooming Period	Potential to Occur
				The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles north of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2010.
<i>Loeflingia squarrosa</i> var. <i>artemisiarum</i> sagebrush loeflingia	S2, 2B.2	Desert dunes, great basin scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub; sandy areas; 700-1,615 m.	Apr-May	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 8 miles north of the BSA; this occurrence has no date. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles east of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2005.
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i> short-joint beavertail	S3, 1B.2	Found in chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodlands between 425 – 1,800 m in elevation.	Apr-Jun (Aug)	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 2.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2010. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles southwest of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2018.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i> salt spring checkerbloom	S2, 2B.2	Playas, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub; alkali springs and marshes; 15 - 1,530 m.	Mar-Jun	Not likely to occur: no suitable habitat conditions are present within BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 7.5 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1931.

Sources: CNDDDB 2023, CNPS 2023



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Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Blooming Period	Potential to Occur
<u>Federal Designation</u> FE = Federally Endangered FT = Federally Threatened FC = Federal Candidate Species for Listing <u>State Designation</u> SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SR = State Rare S1 = Critically Imperiled S2 = Imperiled S3 = Vulnerable S4 = Apparently Secure S5 = Secure		<u>California Rare Plant Rank</u> 1A Plants considered by the CNPS to be extinct in California. 1B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. 2B Plants presumed extinct in California but more common elsewhere. 3 Review List: Plants about which more information is needed. 4 Plants of limited distribution – a watch list. .1 Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat). .2 Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat). .3 Not very threatened in California (low degree/ immediacy of threat or no current threats known).		



5.4 Special-Status Wildlife Species

The CNDDDB was queried for occurrences of special-status wildlife taxa within the USGS topographical quadrangles in which the BSA occurs and the surrounding quadrangles, as discussed in Section 2.0. Table 6 summarizes the special-status wildlife taxa known to occur regionally and their potential for occurrence in the BSA. Appendix A - Figure 5 provides a depiction of previously reported species locations. Each of the taxa identified in the database reviews/searches were assessed for its potential to occur within the BSA based on the following criteria:

- **Present:** Taxa (or sign) were observed in the BSA or in the same watershed (aquatic taxa only) during the most recent surveys, or a population has been acknowledged by CDFW, USFWS, or local experts.
- **High:** Habitat (including soils) for the taxa occurs onsite, and a known occurrence occurs within the BSA or adjacent areas (within 5 miles of the BSA) within the past 20 years; however, these taxa were not detected during the most recent surveys.
- **Moderate:** Habitat (including soils) for the taxa occurs onsite, and a known regional record occurs within the database search, but not within 5 miles of the BSA or within the past 20 years; or a known occurrence occurs within 5 miles of the BSA and within the past 20 years and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs onsite; or the taxa's range includes the geographic area and suitable habitat exists.
- **Low:** Limited habitat for the taxa occurs within the BSA and no known occurrences were found within the database search and the taxa's range includes the geographic area.
- **Not Likely to Occur:** The environmental conditions associated with taxa presence do not occur within the BSA.



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Table 6. Special Status Wildlife Species Evaluated for Potential Occurrence within the BSA

Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
Invertebrates			
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	SC, S2	Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Food plant genera include <i>Antirrhinum</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , <i>Clarkia</i> , <i>Dendromecon</i> , <i>Eschscholzia</i> , and <i>Eriogonum</i> .	Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1971. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 9 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2019.
Crustaceans			
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT, S3, SA	Limited to vernal pools in Oregon and California.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2020.
Mollusks			
<i>Helminthoglypta fontiphila</i> Soledad shoulderband	S1, SA	Endemic to Los Angeles County near Soledad Canyon.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the BSA; this occurrence has no date. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1949.
Amphibians			



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Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
<p><i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog</p>	<p>FT, S2S3, SSC</p>	<p>Ranges from southern Mendocino County to northwestern Baja California. Live in fresh and shallow waters or in herbaceous wetlands. Typically, in or near quiet permanent water sources such as streams, ponds, or lakes. In summer months, they move to mammal burrows, leaf litter, or other moist sites.</p>	<p>Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 3.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1995.</p>
<p>Reptiles</p>			
<p><i>Anniella pulchra</i> Northern California legless lizard</p>	<p>S2S3, SSC</p>	<p>Occurs in areas with arid scrub, gravelly washes, and grasslands, with sandy or loose organic soil or where there is plenty of leaf litter and some moisture content and vegetative cover.</p>	<p>Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 2 miles north of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1988.</p> <p>The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 7 miles north of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2018.</p>
<p><i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle</p>	<p>S3, SSC</p>	<p>Ranges from western Washington to central California. Elevations up to 6,000ft. Habitat varies from shallow water, herbaceous wetlands, medium rivers, and creeks to sand dunes.</p>	<p>Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 3.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1999.</p>
<p><i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard</p>	<p>S4, SSC</p>	<p>Range extends from northern California to northwestern Baja California. Habitat includes shrubland/chaparral, grassland, and mixed woodlands. Found in areas with sandy soils, ant colonies, and scattered native shrubs. Individuals bury in loose soil and nest in the soil or in a burrow.</p>	<p>Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 1.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2007.</p> <p>The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 9.5 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2016.</p>



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Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped garter snake	S3S4, SSC	Occupies coastal California from Monterey County to southern Baja California. Elevations range from sea level to 2,450m. Habitat consists of riparian areas and in or near permanent fresh water. Can also be found in rocky beds, mountain slopes and desert oases.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 3.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1999.
Birds			
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	S4, WL	Found in dense stands of live oak, riparian deciduous, or other forest habitats. Nesting and foraging most often occur near open water or riparian vegetation. Breeds in southern Sierra Nevada foothills, New York Mountains., Owens Valley, and other local areas in southern California	Nesting – Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. Foraging – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 9 miles east of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1921.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	ST, S2, SSC, BCC	Highly colonial species, most numerous in the Central Valley and vicinity, and largely endemic to California. Breeds near freshwater, preferably in emergent wetland with tall, dense cattails or tules, but also in thickets of willow, blackberry, wild rose, and tall herbs. Forages in grassland and cropland habitats with insect prey within a few kilometers of the colony.	Nesting – Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. Foraging – Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 1 mile east of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2011. The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 3.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2014.



**Biological Resources Technical Report
5 Special-Status Biological Resources**

Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	S4, WL	Habitat includes moderate to steep, dry, rocky, south-, west-, or east-facing slopes vegetated with low scattered scrub cover interspersed with patches of grasses and forbs or rock outcrops. This sparrow often occurs in coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>) but also may occur in coastal bluff scrub, low chaparral on serpentine outcrops, sparse chaparral recovering from a burn, and edges of tall chaparral. Nests are on the ground at the base of rocks, grass tufts, or saplings, or may be 0.3-1 meters above ground in the branches of shrubs or trees.	<p>Nesting – Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2005.</p> <p>The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 7.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2005.</p>
<i>Artemisiospiza belli belli</i> Bell's sparrow	S3, WL	Occurs in coastal sage and chaparral of California and northwestern Baja California.	<p>Nesting – Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 4.5 miles south of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2005.</p>
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	S2, SSC, BCC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Owls are found in microhabitats highly altered by humans, including flood risk management and irrigation basins, dikes, banks, abandoned fields surrounded by agriculture, and road cuts and margins. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	<p>Nesting – High. Suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – High. Suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 1 mile north of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2006.</p> <p>The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 4 miles northeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2013.</p>



**Biological Resources Technical Report
5 Special-Status Biological Resources**

Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
<i>Buteo regalis</i> ferruginous hawk	S3S4, WL	Open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and fringes of pinyon and juniper habitats. Eats mostly lagomorphs, ground squirrels, and mice. No breeding records from California. Nests in foothills or prairies; on low cliffs, buttes, cut banks, shrubs, trees, or in other elevated structures, natural or human-made.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest recorded occurrence is approximately 1 mile west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2011.</p> <p>The most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles northwest of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2011.</p>
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	ST, S4	Found in open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the Central Valley.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2016.</p>
<i>Charadrius montanus</i> mountain plover	S2, SSC, BCC	Winter resident from September through March. Found on short grasslands and plowed fields of the Central Valley from Sutter and Yuba counties. Also found in foothill valleys west of San Joaquin Valley, Imperial Valley, plowed fields of Los Angeles and western San Bernardino counties, and along the central Colorado river valley. Does not nest in California.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 5.5 miles northwest of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2011.</p>



**Biological Resources Technical Report
5 Special-Status Biological Resources**

Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> northern harrier	S3, SSC, BCC	Frequents meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, desert sinks, fresh and saltwater emergent wetlands; seldom found in wooded areas. Breeds from sea level to 1,700 m in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada, and up to 800 m in northeastern California. Mostly nests in emergent wetland or along rivers or lakes, but may nest in grasslands, grain fields, or on sagebrush flats several miles from water.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 9.5 miles north of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2011.</p>
<i>Falco columbarius</i> merlin	S3S4, WL	Frequents coastlines, open grasslands, savannahs, woodlands, lakes, wetlands, edges, and early successional stages. Occurs in most of the western half of the state below 1,500 m. Does not breed in California, breeds in Alaska and Canada.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most Recently recorded occurrence is approximately 7 miles northeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2010.</p>
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> bald eagle	SE, S3, FP	Frequents coasts, rivers, and large lakes; during migration found in open country. Largest numbers in California occur at Big Bear Lake, Cachuma Lake, Lake Mathews, Nacimiento Reservoir, San Antonio Reservoir, and along the Colorado River. Roosts communally in winter in dense, sheltered, remote conifer stands. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branchwork, especially ponderosa pine.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2009.</p>
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	S4, SSC	A common resident and winter visitor in lowlands and foothills throughout California. Prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. Highest density occurs in open-canopied valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, valley foothill riparian, pinyon-juniper, juniper, desert riparian, and Joshua tree habitats. Builds nest on stable branch in densely foliated shrub or tree, usually well-concealed.	<p>Nesting – Low. Limited suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Low. Limited suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 7.5 miles east of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2008.</p>



**Biological Resources Technical Report
5 Special-Status Biological Resources**

Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i> Le Conte's thrasher	S3, SSC, BCC	Found in low, sandy, open deserts. Over most of their range, saltbush, shadscale, cholla cactus, creosote, yucca, mesquite, and ocotillo are common plants, but they are usually sparsely distributed in these mostly flat or rolling landscapes. Nest within cholla cactus or thorny desert shrub, often in a shady spot such as the edge of a dry streambed, about 3 feet above the ground.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Low. Limited suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles southeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1920.</p>
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	FE, SE, S3	Summer resident of southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 feet. Often inhabits structurally diverse woodlands along watercourses including cottonwood-willow and oak woodlands and mulefat scrub. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, mulefat, or mesquite.	<p>Nesting – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>Foraging – Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6 miles northeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 2006.</p>
Mammals			
<i>Neotamias speciosus speciosus</i> lodgepole chipmunk	S2, SA	Occurs in open canopy lodgepole pine habitat in the Sierra Nevada from Lassen County to Tulare County.	<p>Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1974.</p>
<i>Perognathus alticola inexpectatus</i> Tehachapi pocket mouse	S1S2, SSC	Occurs in arid annual grassland and desert shrub communities, but also found in fallow grain field and in Russian thistle. Forages on open ground and under shrubs.	<p>Moderate. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.</p> <p>The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 7.5 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1981.</p>



**Biological Resources Technical Report
5 Special-Status Biological Resources**

Scientific Name & Common Name	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Potential to Occur
<i>Perognathus inornatus</i> San Joaquin pocket mouse	S2S3, SA	Occurs in dry, open grasslands or scrub areas on fine-textured soils between 350 and 600 m in the Central and Salinas valleys.	Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 8.5 miles southeast of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1931.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	S3, SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats. Young are born in burrows dug in relatively dry, often sandy, soil, usually in areas with sparse overstory cover.	Low. Limited suitable habitat occurs within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 10 miles west of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1904.
<i>Xerospermophilus mohavensis</i> Mohave ground squirrel	ST, S2	Restricted to the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, and Inyo counties. Optimal habitats are open desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree, and annual grasslands. Nests are built in the burrow system.	Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat does not occur within the BSA. The nearest and most recently recorded occurrence is approximately 6.5 miles east of the BSA; this occurrence was recorded in 1984.
Sources: CNDDB 2023b, Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2023, National Audubon Society 2023, California Herps 2023.			
Federal Rankings: FE = Federally Endangered FT = Federally Threatened FC = Federal Candidate for Listing Migratory Bird Treaty Act: BCC = Birds of Conservation Concern		State Rankings: FP = Fully Protected SE= State Endangered ST = State Threatened SC = State Candidate for Listing SSC = Species of Special Concern SA = CDFW Special Animal WL = CDFW Watch List S1 = Critically Imperiled S2 = Imperiled S3 = Vulnerable S4 = Apparently Secure	



6 Wildlife Corridors and Special Linkages

Linkages and corridors facilitate regional animal movement and are generally centered in or around waterways, riparian corridors, flood control channels, contiguous habitat, and upland habitat. Drainages generally serve as movement corridors because wildlife can move easily through these areas, and fresh water is available. Movement is essential to wildlife survival, whether it be the day-to-day movements of individuals seeking food, shelter, or mates, dispersal of offspring to find new homes, or seasonal migration to find favorable conditions. Movement is essential for gene flow, for recolonizing unoccupied habitat after a local population goes extinct, and for species to shift their geographic range in response to global climate change. Disruption of these natural movement patterns by roads, development, or other impediments can alter these essential ecosystem functions and lead to losses of species and critical environmental services.

Corridors also offer wildlife unobstructed terrain for foraging and for dispersal of young individuals. In general, the following corridor functions can be utilized when evaluating impacts to wildlife movement corridors:

- Movement corridors are physical connections that allow wildlife to move between patches of suitable habitat. Simberloff et al. (1992) and Beier and Loe (1992) correctly state that for most species, we do not know what corridor traits (length, width, adjacent land use, etc.) are required for a corridor to be useful. But, as Beier and Loe (1992) also note, the critical features of a movement corridor may not be its physical traits but rather how well a particular piece of land fulfills several functions, including allowing dispersal, plant propagation, genetic interchange, and recolonization following local extirpation.
- Dispersal corridors are relatively narrow, linear landscape features embedded in a dissimilar matrix that link two or more areas of suitable habitat that would otherwise be fragmented and isolated from one another by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human-altered environments. Corridors of habitat are essential to the local and regional population dynamics of a species because they provide physical links for genetic exchange and allow animals to access alternative territories as dictated by fluctuating population densities.
- Habitat linkages are broader connections between two or more habitat areas. This term is commonly used as a synonym for a wildlife corridor (Meffe and Carroll 1997). Habitat linkages may themselves serve as source areas for food, water, and cover, particularly for small- and medium-size animals.
- Travel routes are usually landscape features, such as ridgelines, drainages, canyons, or riparian corridors, within larger natural habitat areas that are frequently used by animals to facilitate movement and provide access to water, food, cover, den sites, and other necessary resources. A travel route is generally preferred by a species because it provides the least amount of topographic resistance in moving from one area to another yet still provides adequate food, water, or cover (Meffe and Carroll 1997).



Biological Resources Technical Report

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

- Wildlife crossings are small, narrow areas of limited extent that allow wildlife to bypass an obstacle or barrier. Crossings typically are human-made and include culverts, underpasses, drainage pipes, bridges, tunnels to provide access past roads, highways, pipelines, or other physical obstacles. Wildlife crossings often represent “choke points” along a movement corridor because useable habitat is physically constricted at the crossing by human-induced changes to the surrounding areas (Meffe and Carroll 1997).

6.1 Wildlife Movement in the BSA

Wildlife likely use habitat within the BSA on a regular basis during normal foraging and migration activities. The CDFW maintains GIS data for “Missing Linkages” (i.e., wildlife corridors) derived from the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, which is the best available information on important areas needed for maintaining connectivity between large blocks of land for wildlife corridor purposes. Essential Connectivity Areas are intended to be a broad scale representation of areas that provide essential connectivity. The BSA falls within the region of the “San Gabriels – Tehachapi” Missing Linkage area recognized as a general wildlife corridor between the Tehachapi Mountains to the north and the San Gabriel Mountains to the south (CDFW 2023c).

Linkages and corridors facilitate regional animal movement and are generally centered within waterways, riparian corridors, flood control channels, contiguous habitat, and upland habitat. Drainages generally serve as movement corridors because wildlife can move easily through these areas, and fresh water is available. Movement is essential to wildlife survival, whether it be the day-to-day movements of individuals seeking food, shelter, or mates, dispersal of offspring to find new homes, or seasonal migration to find favorable conditions. Movement is essential for gene flow, for recolonizing unoccupied habitat after a local population goes extinct, and for species to shift their geographic range in response to global climate change. Disruption of these natural movement patterns by roads, development, or other impediments can alter these essential ecosystem functions and lead to losses of species and critical environmental services.

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

A reconnaissance survey conducted in the BSA did not result in any observations of special-status species or sensitive habitats; however, annual grassland habitat onsite could have a low potential to support various special-status plant and wildlife species. Stantec has provided the following recommendations based on our knowledge of current regulatory agency standards and survey protocols:

- 1) Based on habitat requirements, there is suitable annual grassland habitat onsite for slender mariposa lily, Peirson’s morning-glory, San Fernando Valley spineflower, and Parry’s spineflower, each of which are rare plant species as recognized by the CNPS. It is recommended that at least one year prior to construction, appropriately timed floristic botanical surveys be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if these plant species occur within the BSA. Surveys should be conducted per the protocols of USFWS (2000) and CDFW (2018).



Biological Resources Technical Report

8 References

- 2) Based on habitat and foraging requirements, there is suitable habitat onsite for tricolored blackbird, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, mountain plover, northern harrier, merlin, loggerhead shrike, Le Conte's thrasher, and other common and migratory birds. It is recommended that a nesting bird survey is conducted prior to the start of construction if construction is to take place within nesting bird season (February 15 to August 30).
- 3) Crotch bumble bee is a State Candidate species that will continue to have protection under CESA unless the California Fish and Game Commission votes to remove the species from candidacy. Because the proposed Project occurs within the range of the species, and there are suitable buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.) food plants onsite, it is recommended that at least one year prior to construction, a qualified biologist conduct a survey within the Project footprint and a 100-foot buffer zone following the CDFW *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (CDFW 2023d).
- 4) Burrowing owl is a California SSC that was determined to have suitable habitat onsite; there is also a nearby CNDDDB occurrence record for the species approximately 1 mile north of the BSA. It is recommended that at least one year prior to construction, a qualified biologist conduct surveys for burrowing owl following the California Burrowing Owl Consortium *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993).

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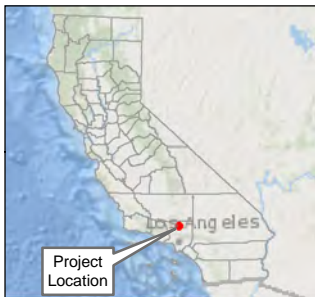
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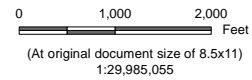


Appendix A Figures





 Project Location



Project Location Prepared by DL on 2023-08-30
 City of Lancaster, TR by SET on 2023-08-30
 Los Angeles County, California IR by JV on 2023-08-30

Client/Project 185806035
 KB Home

Lancaster 70th St. W.
 Biological Resources Technical Report

Figure No.
 1

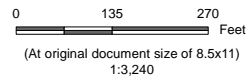
Title
Project Location

Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
 2. Data Sources: Stantec 2023.Parcel from LA County 2022.
 3. Background: Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, Garmin, HERE, Geonames.org, and other contributors
 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

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- Biological Study Area
- Project Boundary



Project Location City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
 Prepared by DL on 2023-08-30
 TR by SET on 2023-08-30
 IR by JV on 2023-08-30

Client/Project KB Home
 Lancaster 70th St. W.
 Biological Resources Technical Reports
 185806035

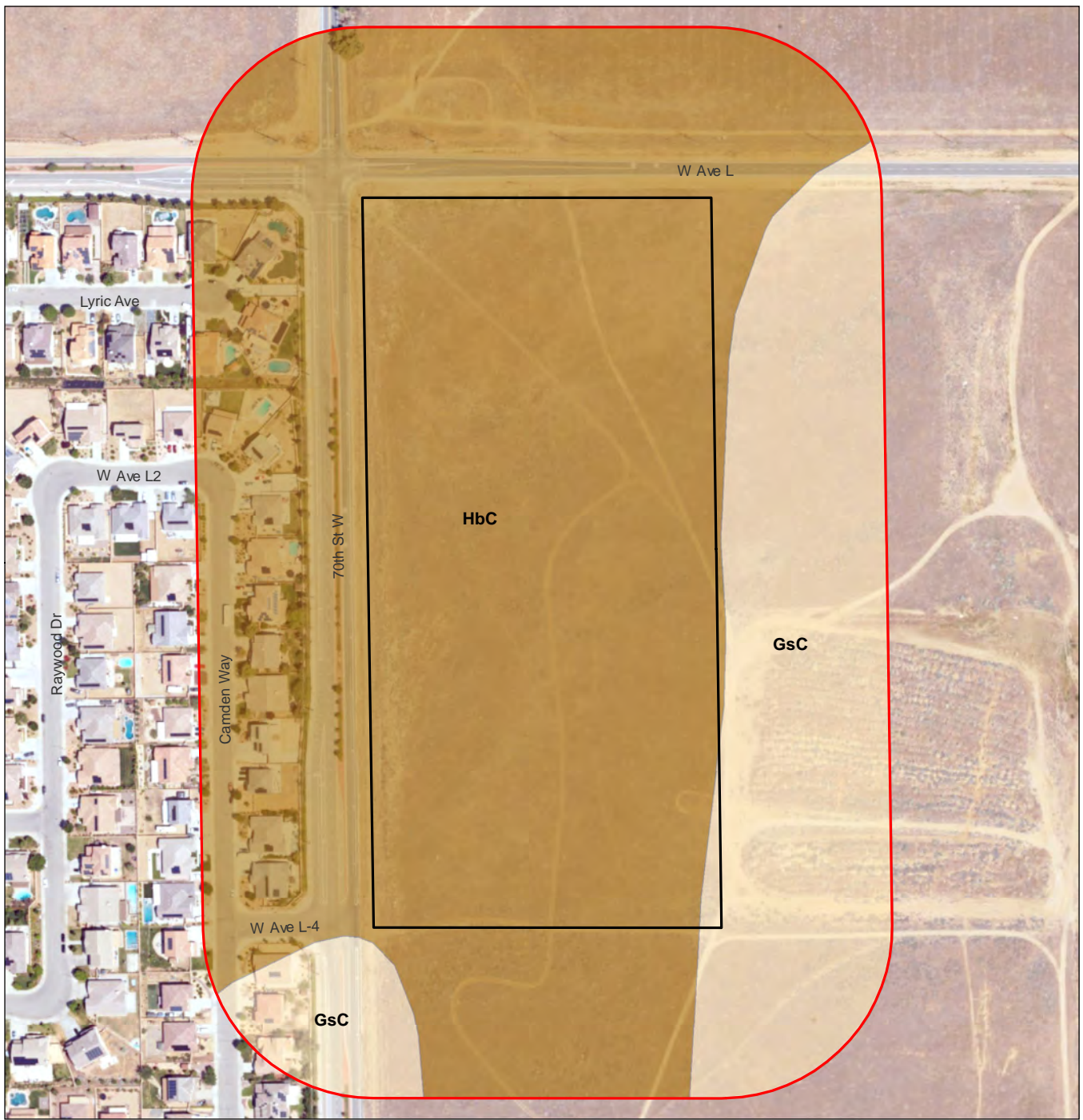
Figure No. 2

Title
Biological Study Area

- Notes**
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 2. Data Sources: Stantec 2023.Parcel from LA County 2022.
 3. Background:

V:\185806035_KBHome_AvenueL_70thSt_W03_data\gis_cad\gis\BRTR_Figure2_BSA_20230830.mxd Revised: 2023-09-07 By: Dalaw

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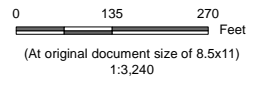
Biological Study Area

Project Boundary

Soils Map Unit Symbol

- GsC; Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- HbC; Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes

- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
 2. Data Sources: Stantec 2023.Parcel from LA County 2022. Soils Data from NRCS 2023.
 3. Background: California 60cm NAIP 2022.



Project Location City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
 Prepared by DL on 2023-08-30
 TR by SET on 2023-08-30
 IR by JV on 2023-08-30

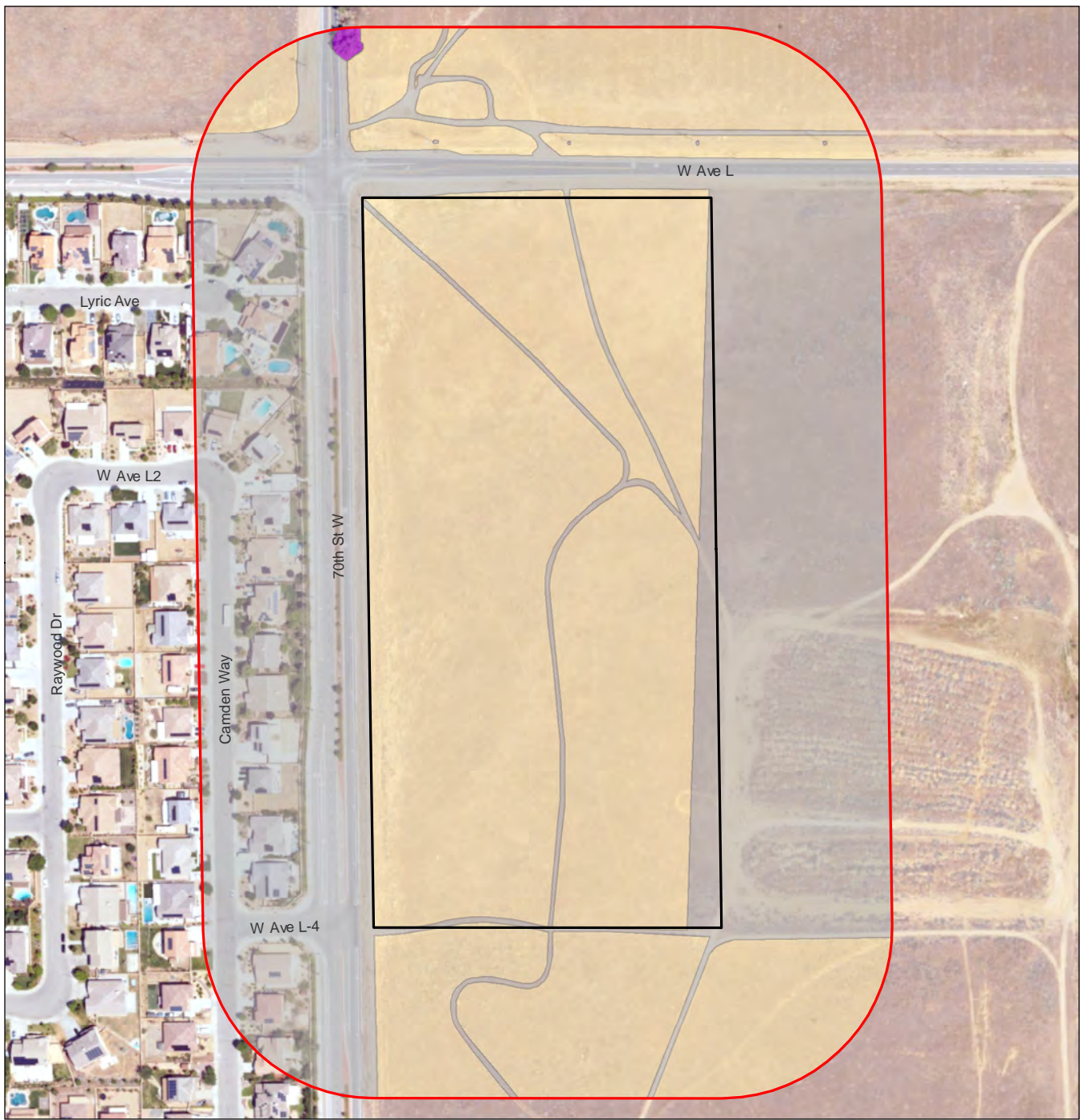
Client/Project Lancaster 70th St. W.
 KB Home
 Biological Resources Technical Reports
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Figure No. 3

Title Soils

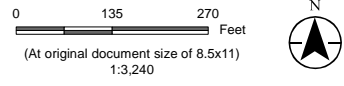
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- Biological Study Area
 - Project Boundary
- Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types**
- Annual Grassland
 - Disturbed/Developed
 - Tamarix spp. Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance (Tamarisk thickets)

Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
 2. Data Sources: Stantec 2023.Parcel from LA County 2022.
 3. Background:



Project Location City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California
 Prepared by DL on 2023-08-30
 TR by SET on 2023-08-30
 IR by JV on 2023-08-30

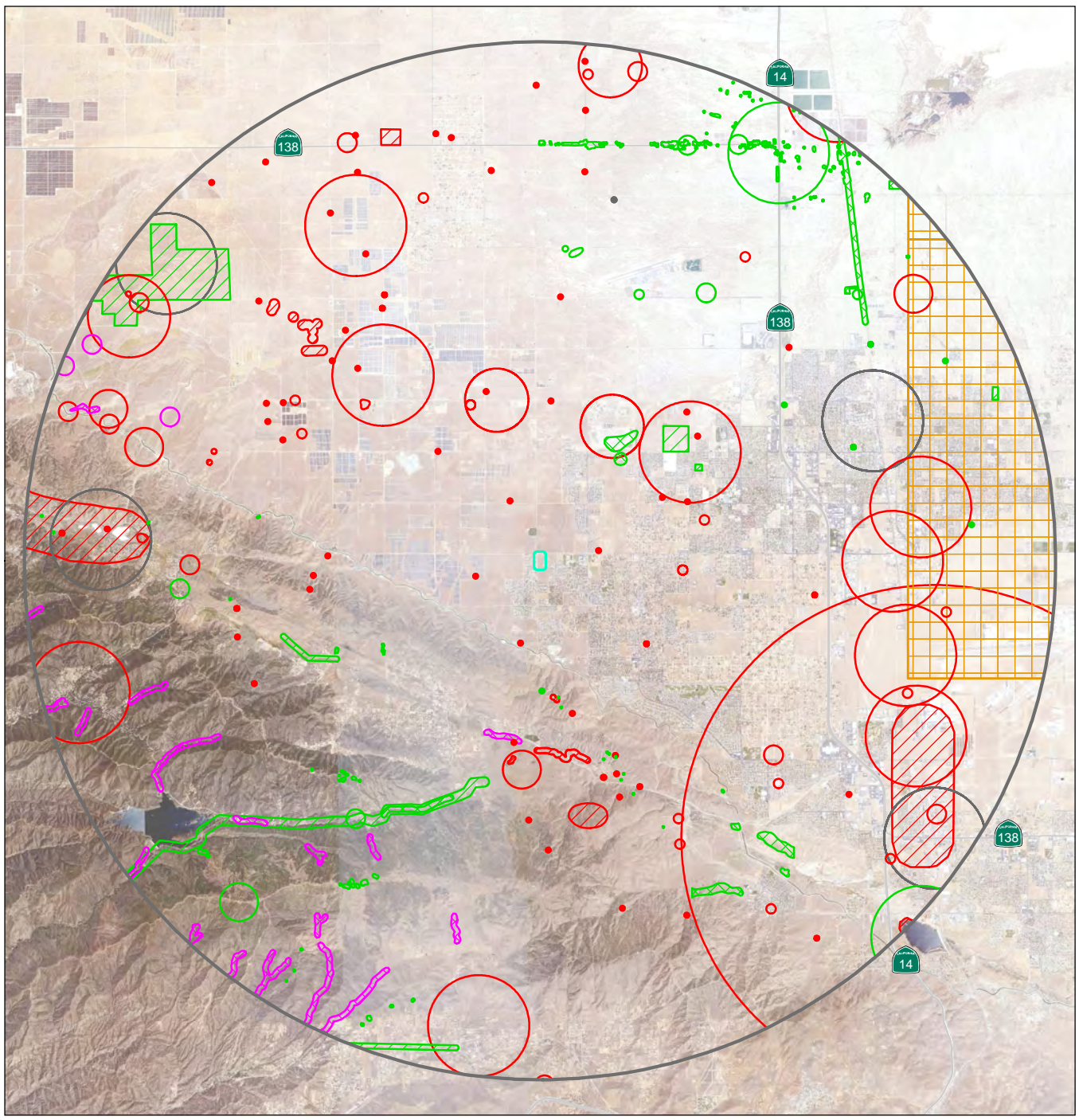
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Figure No. 4
Title
Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

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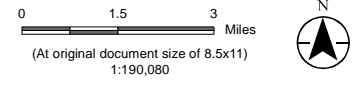
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- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Biological Study Area | Animal (circular) |
| 10 Mile Search Radius | Terrestrial Comm. (specific) |
| CNDDB | Terrestrial Comm. (circular) |
| Plant (80m) | Multiple (80m) |
| Plant (specific) | Multiple (circular) |
| Plant (non-specific) | Sensitive EO's (Commercial only) |
| Plant (circular) | |
| Animal (80m) | |
| Animal (specific) | |
| Animal (non-specific) | |

Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
 2. Data Sources: Stantec 2023.Parcel from LA County 2022. CNDDDB Data from CDFW 2022.
 3. Background: California 60cm NAIP 2022.



Project Location
 City of Lancaster,
 Los Angeles County, California

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Figure No.
 5

Title
10 Mile CNDDB

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Appendix B Photographic Log



STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Client: KB Homes

Job Number: 185806035

Site Name: 70th Street W and Avenue L
Residential Development Project

Photographer: H. Hart and C. Dubois

Photo 1: August 24, 2023



View facing south into the BSA from Avenue L.

Photo 2: August 24, 2023



View facing west along Avenue L towards 70st Street West.

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Client: KB Homes

Job Number: 185806035

Site Name: 70th Street W and Avenue L
Residential Development Project

Photographer: H. Hart and C. Dubois

Photo 3: August 24, 2023



View facing north along 70th Street West towards Avenue L.

Photo 4: June 7, 2023



View facing east from the center of the BSA.

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Client: KB Homes

Job Number: 185806035

Site Name: 70th Street W and Avenue L
Residential Development Project

Photographer: H. Hart and C. Dubois

Photo 5: June 7, 2023



View facing north from the center of the BSA.

Photo 6: August 24, 2023



View facing south of berms with small mammal burrows.

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Client: KB Homes

Job Number: 185806035

Site Name: 70th Street W and Avenue L
Residential Development Project

Photographer: H. Hart and C. Dubois

Photo 7: August 24, 2023



Small mammal burrow in berm.

Photo 8: August 24, 2023



Broken pipe with open ends; good habitat for small mammals, birds, and reptiles.

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Client: KB Homes

Job Number: 185806035

Site Name: 70th Street W and Avenue L
Residential Development Project

Photographer: H. Hart and C. Dubois

Photo 9: August 24, 2023



Roadside wash facing north along 70th Street West.

Photo 10: August 24, 2023



Erosional feature within BSA facing west.