Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

We Make a Difference

June 20, 2023 JN 195056

CITY OF WHITTIER
Attn: *Raul Flore*
Department of Public Works
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

SUBJECT: Results of a Biological Resources Assessment for the proposed Parnell Park Renovation Project – City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Flore:

Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) is pleased to submit this report to the City of Whittier documenting the results of a biological resources assessment for the proposed Parnell Park Renovation Project (project or project site) located in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. Michael Baker conducted a thorough literature review and a field survey to confirm existing site conditions and assess the potential for special-status[1] plant and wildlife species that have been documented or that are likely to occur on or within 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 (CNDDB; CDFW 2023a), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CIRP; CNPS 2023), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation Project Planning Tool (IPaC; USFWS 2023a), and other databases as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site.

Project Location

The project site is generally located north of State Route 90 (SR-90), west of SR-39, south of SR-72, and east of Interstate 605 (I-605) in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California (refer to Figure 1, *Regional and Project Vicinity*, in Attachment A). The project site is depicted in an un-sectioned area of Township 3 South, Range 11 West, on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) *Whittier, California* 7.5-minute quadrangle. Specifically, the project site is located north of Mulberry Drive, west of Scott Avenue, south of Lambert Road, and east of Hester Avenue (refer to Figure 2, *Project Site*, in Attachment A).

[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.

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Project Description

The project proposes to renovate the existing 11.9-acre park located at 15390 Lambert Road, in the City of Whittier (City), County of Los Angeles. Project improvements would include the construction of new sports fields and an ADA-compliant playground with a splash pad, updated restrooms, new fitness equipment, picnic pavilions and lawns, upgraded pedestrian paths, lighting, landscaping and irrigation, and parking and circulation improvements. The existing on-site Community and Senior Center would remain as is. The proposed renovation would revitalize the park, meeting current ADA and safety standards, and advance General Plan goals and policies of providing urban recreation, open spaces, and facilities that encourage active living, health, and wellness for all residents.

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 *Whittier* and *La Habra, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles were determined through a query of the CNDDB (CDFW 2023a) and CIRP (CNPS 2023), and of IPaC (USFWS 2023a) for the project region. These two quadrangles were chosen because the project site is located along the eastern perimeter of the *Whittier* quadrangle and is just directly west of the *La Habra* quadrangle.

Current conservation status of species was verified through lists and resources provided by the CDFW, specifically the *Special Animals List* (CDFW 2023b), *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List* (CDFW 2023c), *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CDFW 2023d), and *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California* (CDFW 2023e). 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:

- Google Earth Pro Historical Aerial Imagery from 1994 to 2022 (Google Inc. 2023)
- Species Accounts provided by Birds of the World (Billerman et. al 2020)
- *Custom Soil Resource Report for Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part* (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2023)
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper and Environmental Conservation Online System (USFWS 2023b)

Habitat Assessment/Field Survey

Michael Baker biologist Ryan Winkleman conducted a habitat assessment/field survey on May 4, 2023 to confirm existing site conditions within the project site[2]. Vegetation communities occurring within the

[2] For this project a survey buffer was not incorporated. All findings and conclusions relate specifically to the boundaries of the project site alone.

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 CNDDB 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 within the project site. 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 date, timing, surveyors, and weather conditions.

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

Date	Time (start / finish)	Surveyor	Weather Conditions	
			Temperature (°F) (start / finish)	Wind Speed (mph) (start / finish)
May 4, 2023	1105 / 1225	Ryan Winkleman	61F, entirely cloudy / 70F, mostly cloudy	0 – 3 / 0 – 3

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 2023) 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. 2022), 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 Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part* (USDA 2023), the project site is underlain by the following soil units: Urban land-Thums-Pierview complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes (1134) and Urban land-Sorrento-Arbolado complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes (1136). The project site consists of an existing City park with associated children's playground, basketball court, petting zoo, and community/senior center. The northern, eastern, and southern edges of the project

site are primarily composed of paved parking lots, with the petting zoo and community/senior center located adjacent to the northern parking lot and the bulk of the project site composed of manicured lawns. Topographically, the project site is generally flat, gently sloping downwards to the southwest and ranging from approximately 215 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to approximately 205 feet amsl. Refer to Attachment B for representative photographs of the project site taken during the field survey.

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

No natural vegetation communities were observed within the boundaries of the project site during the field survey. Ornamental/landscaped areas, disturbed habitat, and developed areas were all mapped as other land cover types within the project site, as depicted on Figure 3, *Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses*, in Attachment A 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.

Ornamental/Landscaped

Approximately 8.09 acres of ornamental/landscaped vegetation was mapped throughout the entire project site. This primarily includes the main park as well as landscaping around the perimeter of the parking lots and buildings. The ornamental plantings showcase a variety of different species; some of the more commonly occurring species observed include privet (*Ligustrum* sp.), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*), and Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*).

Disturbed Habitat

Disturbed habitat comprises approximately 0.17 acre of the project site and is confined to a single picnic-type area in the southeast quadrant of the park. This area is earthen with only a few planted trees such as sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).

Developed

Developed areas comprise approximately 3.73 acres of the project site and consist of paved areas such as the various parking lots around the northern, eastern, and southern edges of the project site; recreational areas like the playground and basketball court; and buildings and facilities like the Parnell Park Community and Senior Center and the petting zoo. Generally speaking, developed areas 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. This 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. A total of twenty-seven (27) wildlife species were observed during the May 4, 2023 field survey. All but one of these species were birds, with the only non-bird being a fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*). The most commonly-occurring species detected during the survey were Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), European starling

(*Sturnus vulgaris*), and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*). Refer to Attachment C for a complete list of wildlife species observed within the project site during the field survey.

A small cement ditch on the western edge of the project site drains urban, street, and parking lot runoff into the gutter at Lindhall Way but has no natural water flow. All water flow into this feature is entirely from surface runoff. The project site has such little capacity for water flow that after the region experienced approximately 0.5 inch of rainfall the morning of May 4, 2023, much of the park held large pools of standing water (enough to attract mallards [*Anas platyrhynchos*]) and the small ditch on the western edge had overflowed and flooded the surrounding area on the day of the survey. Because there is no natural water flow or drainage through the project site and no other bodies of water on-site and the project is in the middle of an urbanized area, fish and amphibians would not be expected to occur. Reptiles that are acclimated to urban habitats may be present, primarily western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). Common mammalian species that may occur within the project site and surrounding area include California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and racoon (*Procyon lotor*). None of these species were detected during Michael Baker's field survey.

Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918[3] and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)[4]. To maintain compliance with the MBTA and CFGC, 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. The project site provides abundant nesting habitat for many year-round and seasonal avian residents. However, no active nests or birds displaying overt nesting behavior were observed during the field survey.

Migratory Corridors and Linkages

Wildlife corridors and linkages are key features for wildlife movement between habitat patches that provide suitable cover, foraging, breeding, or other habitat for wildlife. 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.

The project site is located in an urbanized area in the City of Whittier surrounded almost entirely by residential developments, with additional religious and educational facilities in the immediate area. A railroad right-of-way is located to the north between Lambert Avenue and a residential community, and a

[3] The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Refer to: https://www.fws.gov/law/migratory-bird-treaty-act-1918

[4] 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.*).

flood control channel (Leffingwell Creek) is located to the east and south of the project site. Although Leffingwell Creek may provide marginal local migration habitat for large mammals (primarily coyotes [*Canis latrans*]), the project site does not include any migration corridors or linkages and there are no open space areas in the immediate vicinity that may provide value as a habitat patch.

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. There are no jurisdictional or potentially jurisdictional features located within the project site.

Special-Status Biological Resources

The CNDDB (CDFW 2023a), CIRP (CNPS 2023), and IPaC (USFWS 2023a) were queried for reported locations of special-status plant and wildlife species as well as special-status natural vegetation communities in the USGS *Whittier* and *La Habra, 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 CNDDB 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 project 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 CNDDB, CIRP, and IPaC databases identified fourteen (14) special-status plant species and seventeen (17) special-status wildlife species as occurring within the USGS *Whittier* and *La Habra, California* 7.5-

minute quadrangles. In addition, one (1) special-status vegetation community was 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 are presented in Attachment D.

Special-Status Plants

A total of fourteen (14) special-status plant species have been recorded in the USGS *Whittier* and *La Habra, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDB and CIRP, and by IPaC for the project region (refer to Attachment D). No special-status plant species were identified within the project site during the May 2023 field survey. The project site consists of an urban park completely surrounded by development. On-site habitats are paved or vegetated with manicured landscaping, with no mechanisms for rare plants to establish either on the project site or in the surrounding area due to lack of any suitable habitat. As such, Michael Baker determined that all of the special-status plant species identified by the CNDDB, CIRP, and IPaC databases are not expected to occur within the project site.

Special-Status Wildlife

A total of seventeen (17) special-status wildlife species have been recorded in the USGS *Whittier* and *La Habra, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDB and by IPaC for the project region (refer to Attachment D). No special-status wildlife species were detected within the project site during the May 2023 field survey. 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 all of the special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDB and IPaC databases are not expected to occur within the project site.

Special-Status Vegetation Communities

One (1) special-status vegetation community has been reported in the USGS *Whittier* and *La Habra, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDB: California Walnut Woodland. This special-status vegetation community was not observed in the project site during the field survey, and no other special-status vegetation communities as defined by CDFW in the California Natural Community List (CDFW 2022) were observed within the project site.

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.

Local Policies and Ordinances

City of Whittier Tree Ordinance

The City of Whittier's Tree Ordinance is described in Chapter 12.40, Trees and Shrubs, of the Whittier Municipal Code. Under this chapter, no person shall cut, trim, prune, plant, remove, injure, or interfere with any tree, shrub or plant upon any street, park, alley or public place of the City without a permit from the Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department or his or her authorized designee. The Director is authorized to grant such permission in his or her discretion, but no such permit shall be valid for a period longer than thirty (30) days after its date of issuance. Because this project is proposed by the City of Whittier, it is assumed that the City would approve any pruning or removal of trees within Parnell Park.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No natural vegetation communities were observed within the boundaries of the project site during the field survey, but ornamental areas, disturbed habitat, and developed areas were mapped as other land cover types within the project site.

No special-status plant species were identified within the project site during the May 2023 field survey. Nearly all of the vegetation within the project site is ornamental and non-native, intentionally planted as landscaping for the park and associated facilities. Because the project site is an existing and long-standing City park with extensive ornamental vegetation and no natural vegetation or habitats anywhere in the surrounding area, Michael Baker determined that all of the special-status plant species identified by the CNDDB, CIRP, and IPaC databases are not expected to occur within the project site.

No special-status wildlife species were detected within the project site during the May 2023 field survey. 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 all special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDB and IPaC databases are not expected to occur within the project site.

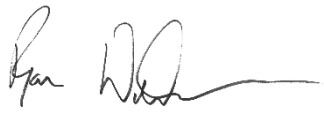
In order to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to biological resources, it is recommended that the following Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM) be implemented:

AMM BIO-1: 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (949) 533-0918 or ryan.winkleman@mbakerintl.com should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



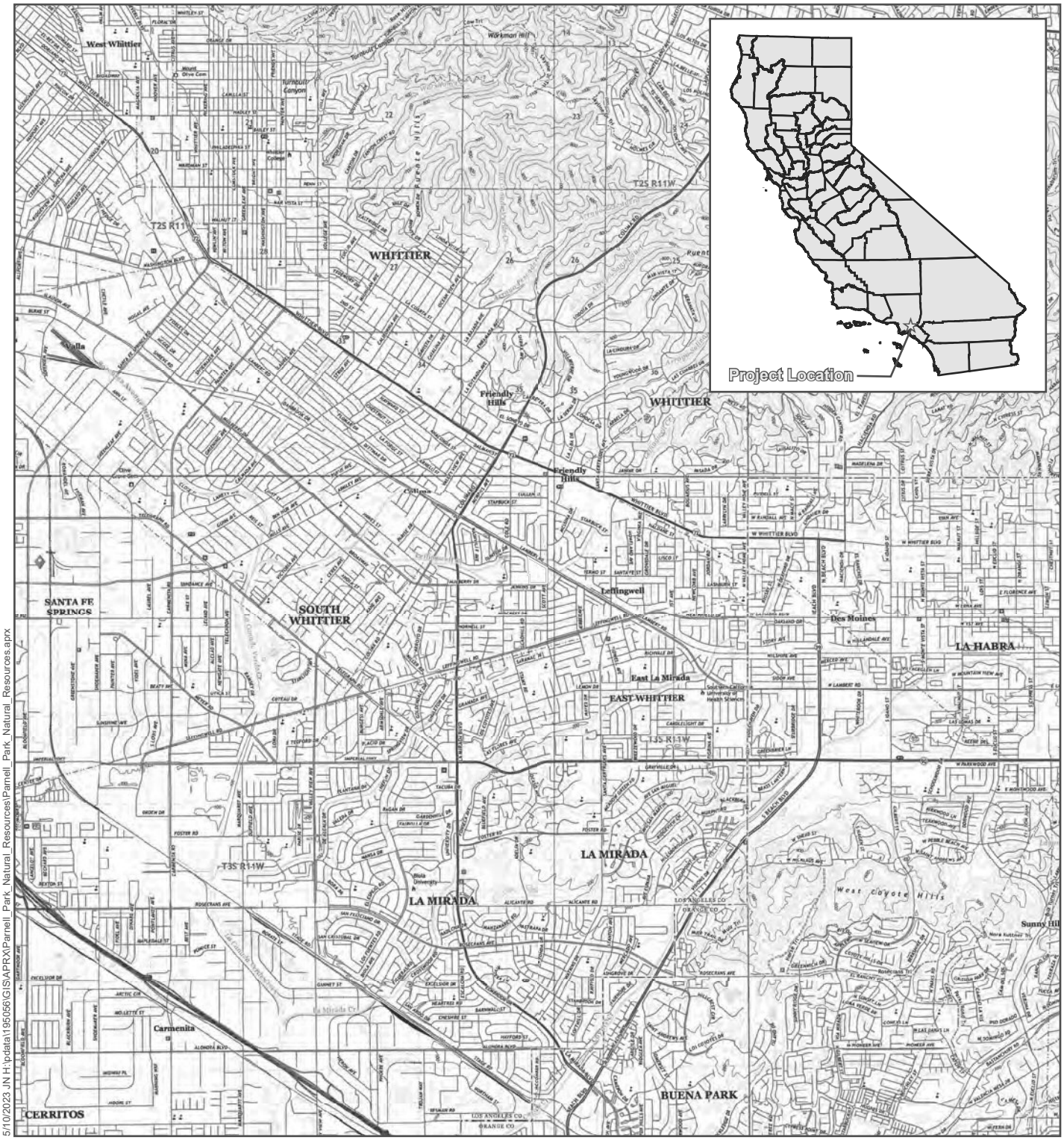
Ryan Winkleman
Senior Biologist
Natural Resources and Regulatory Permitting

Attachments:

A. *Project Figures*
B. *Site Photographs*
C. *Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List*
D. *Literature Review Results*
E. *References*

Attachment A

Project Figures



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Legend

Project Site

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0 0.5 1 Miles

PARNELL PARK RENOVATION PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Regional and Project Vicinity

Source: USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: *Whittier, California (2021) and La Habra, California (2022)*

Figure 1

5/11/2023 JN H:\pdata\195056\GIS\APRX\Parnell_Park_Natural_Resources\Parnell_Park_Natural_Resources.aprx

Legend

- Project Site
- Photograph Point and Direction
- Reference Point

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0 75 150 Feet

Source: NAIP (2020)

PARNELL PARK RENOVATION PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Project Site

Figure 2

5/11/2023 JN H:\pdata\195056\GIS\APRX\Parnell_Park_Natural_Resources\Parnell_Park_Natural_Resources.aprx

Legend

- Project Site
- Reference Point

Vegetation Communities and Land Uses

- Ornamental/Landscaped (8.09 acres)
- Disturbed (0.17 acres)
- Developed (3.73 acres)

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0 75 150 Feet

Source: NAIP (2020)

PARNELL PARK RENOVATION PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses

Figure 3

Attachment B

Site Photographs

Photograph 1: West-facing view from the eastern side of the park.

Photograph 2: North-facing view from the southeast corner of the project site, standing in the southeastern parking lot.

Photograph 3: North-facing view from the southwestern parking lot, with a eucalyptus stand in the background.

Photograph 4: East-facing view from the southwestern parking lot.

Photograph 5: Northeast-facing view from the southwest corner of the project site.

Photograph 6: Northwest-facing view from the western center of the project site facing into a large open playing field in the northwestern corner of the park.

Photograph 7: East-facing view from the western edge of the project site, facing into a large open playing field in the northwestern corner of the park.

Photograph 8: South-facing view from the northwest corner of the project site, facing into a large open playing field in the northwestern corner of the park.

Photograph 9: Southwest-facing view of the Parnell Park Community and Senior Center located in the northwest corner of the project site.

Photograph 10: Southeast-facing view across the northern parking lot from the northwestern corner of the project site.

Photograph 11: South-facing view of the basketball courts in the eastern portion of the park.

Photograph 12: East-facing view of the playground in the center of the project site.

Attachment C

Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

Table C-1: Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

*Scientific Name**	Common Name	Cal-IPC Rating**	Special-Status Rank***
Plants			
*Acer palmatum**	Japanese maple		
Agave sp.*	century plant		
Alnus rhombifolia	white alder		
*Arbutus unedo**	strawberry tree		
*Berberis thunbergia**	Japanese barberry		
Bougainvillea sp.*	bougainvillea		
Brachychiton sp.*	bottletree		
*Brunfelisa uniflora**	manacá		
*Cedrus deodara**	deodar cedar		
*Ceiba speciosa**	floss silk tree		
Chionanthus sp.*	fringetree		
*Clytostoma callistegioides**	Argentine trumpet vine		
*Cupressus cashmeriana**	Kashmir cypress		
*Cycas revoluta**	sago palm		
*Dietes iridioides**	fortnight lily		
Eucalyptus sp.*	eucalyptus	Watch - Limited	
Ficus sp.*	fig		
Fraxinus sp.	ash		
Hedera sp.*	ivy	High	
*Jacaranda mimosifolia**	jacaranda		
*Lactuca serriola**	prickly lettuce		
Lagerstroemia sp.*	crape myrtle		
Ligustrum sp.*	privet		
*Liquidambar styraciflua**	sweetgum		
*Lonicera japonica**	Japanese honeysuckle		
*Magnolia grandiflora**	southern magnolia		
*Melaleuca quinquenervia**	punk tree		
*Nandina domestica**	heavenly bamboo		
*Nerium oleander**	oleander		
*Pennisetum setaceum**	fountaingrass	Moderate	
Pinus sp.	pine		
Pittosporum sp.*	pittosporum		
*Pittosporum tobira**	Japanese cheesewood		
Platanus racemosa	California sycamore		
*Quercus ilex**	holly oak		
*Rhaphiolepis indica**	Indian hawthorn		
*Schinus molle**	Peruvian pepper	Limited	
Strelitzia sp.*	bird of paradise		
*Tipuana tipu**	tipu tree		
*Trachelospermum jasminoides**	star jasmine		

Table C-1: Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

*Scientific Name**	Common Name	Cal-IPC Rating**	Special-Status Rank***
Vinca sp.*	periwinkle		
*Washingtonia robusta**	Mexican fan palm	Moderate	
Birds			
Anas platyrhynchos	mallard		
Buteo lineatus	red-shouldered hawk		
Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird		
Cardellina pusilla	Wilson's warbler		
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow		
Corvus corax	common raven		
Empidonax difficilis/occidentalis	Pacific-slope/Cordilleran flycatcher		
Haemorhous mexicanus	house finch		
Hirundo rustica	barn swallow		
Icterus cucullatus	hooded oriole		
Melozone crissalis	California towhee		
Mimus polyglottos	northern mockingbird		
*Passer domesticus**	house sparrow		
Pheucticus melanocephalus	black-headed grosbeak		
Piranga ludoviciana	western tanager		
Psaltriparus minimus	bushtit		
Sayornis nigricans	black phoebe		
Sayornis saya	Say's phoebe		
Selasphorus sasin/rufus	Allen's/rufous hummingbird		
Sialia mexicana	western bluebird		
Spinus psaltria	lesser goldfinch		
Stelgidopteryx serripennis	northern rough-winged swallow		
*Sturnus vulgaris**	European starling		
Tyrannus vociferans	Cassin's kingbird		
Zenaida macroura	mourning dove		
*Zosterops simplex**	Swinhoe's white-eye		
Mammals			
*Sciurus niger**	fox squirrel		

* **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.

Watch — These species have been assessed as posing a high risk of becoming invasive in the future in California.

Attachment D

Literature Review Results

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Whittier (3311881) OR La Habra (3311788))
 AND Taxonomic Group IS (Fish OR Amphibians OR Reptiles OR Birds OR Mammals OR Mollusks OR Arachnids OR Crustaceans OR Insects)

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Aimophila ruficeps canescens southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T3	S3	WL
Ammodramus savannarum grasshopper sparrow	ABPBXA0020	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri coastal whiptail	ARACJ02143	None	None	G5T5	S3	SSC
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Bombus crotchii Crotch bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	Candidate Endangered	G2	S2	
Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis coastal cactus wren	ABPBG02095	None	None	G5T3Q	S2	SSC
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	ABNRB02022	Threatened	Endangered	G5T2T3	S1	
Emys marmorata western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
Glyptostoma gabrielense San Gabriel chestnut	IMGASB1010	None	None	G2	S3	
Icteria virens yellow-breasted chat	ABPBX24010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Nyctinomops femorosaccus pocketed free-tailed bat	AMACD04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Polioptila californica californica coastal California gnatcatcher	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G4G5T3Q	S2	SSC
Riparia riparia bank swallow	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
Spea hammondii western spadefoot	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC
Taxidea taxus American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Vireo bellii pusillus least Bell's vireo	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S3	

Record Count: 17

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Whittier (3311881) OR La Habra (3311788))
 AND Taxonomic Group IS (Ferns OR Gymnosperms OR Monocots OR Dicots OR Lichens OR Bryophytes)

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Atriplex parishii Parish's brittlescale	PDCHE041D0	None	None	G1G2	S1	1B.1
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D150	None	None	G4	S4	4.2
Calochortus weedii var. intermedius intermediate mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D1J1	None	None	G3G4T3	S3	1B.2
Calystegia felix lucky morning-glory	PDCON040P0	None	None	G1Q	S1	1B.1
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	PDCRA040H0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri Coulter's goldfields	PDAST5L0A1	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1
Navarretia prostrata prostrate vernal pool navarretia	PDPLM0C0Q0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt grass	PMPOA4G010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino aster	PDASTE80C0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2

Record Count: 9

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Whittier (3311881) OR La Habra (3311788))
 AND Taxonomic Group IS (Dune OR Scrub OR Herbaceous OR Marsh OR Riparian OR Woodland OR Forest OR Alpine OR Inland Waters OR Marine OR Estuarine OR Riverine OR Palustrine)

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
California Walnut Woodland	CTT71210CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
California Walnut Woodland						

Record Count: 1

California Native Plant Society

Search Results

14 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: Quad is one of [**3311881:3311788**]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	CA ENDEMIC	DATE ADDED	PHOTO
Atriplex parishii	Parish's brittlescale	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	Jun-Oct	None	None	G1G2	S1	1B.1		1988-01-01	No Photo Available
Calochortus catalinae	Catalina mariposa lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	(Feb)Mar-Jun	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	4.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	May-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Calochortus weedii var. *intermedius*	intermediate mariposa-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	May-Jul	None	None	G3G4T3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Calystegia felix	lucky morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual rhizomatous herb	Mar-Sep	None	None	G1Q	S1	1B.1	Yes	2014-07-16	No Photo Available
Convolvulus simulans	small-flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2		1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Dudleya multicaulis	many-stemmed dudleya	Crassulaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Juglans californica	Southern California black walnut	Juglandaceae	perennial deciduous tree	Mar-Aug	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2020 Zoya Akulova
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri*	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Jun	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1		1994-01-01	 © 2013 Keir Morse
Navarretia prostrata	prostrate vernal pool navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	2001-01-01	No Photo Available
Orcuttia californica	California Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1		1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Phacelia ramosissima var. *austrolitoralis*	south coast branching phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae	perennial herb	Mar-Aug	None	None	G5?T3Q	S3	3.2		2007-05-17	No Photo Available
Quercus engelmannii	Engelmann oak	Fagaceae	perennial deciduous tree	Mar-Jun	None	None	G3	S3	4.2		1988-01-01	No Photo Available
Symphyotrichum defoliatum	San Bernardino aster	Asteraceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jul-Nov	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	2004-01-01	No Photo Available

Showing 1 to 14 of 14 entries

Suggested Citation:

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2023. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9.5). Website https://www.rareplants.cnps.org [accessed 1 May 2023].

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Los Angeles County, California

Local office

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

(760) 431-9440
(760) 431-5901

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS

Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Allen's Hummingbird Selasphorus sasin This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9637	Breeds Feb 1 to Jul 15

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Belding's Savannah Sparrow Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 15
Black-chinned Sparrow Spizella atrogularis This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9447	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 31
Bullock's Oriole Icterus bullockii This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 21 to Jul 25
California Gull Larus californicus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31
California Thrasher Toxostoma redivivum This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jan 1 to Jul 31
Common Yellowthroat Geothlypis trichas sinuosa This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2084	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Lawrence's Goldfinch Carduelis lawrencei This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464	Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20
Nuttall's Woodpecker Picoides nuttallii This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9410	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20
Oak Titmouse Baeolophus inornatus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656	Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15
Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
Western Grebe aechmophorus occidentalis This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31

Wrentit Chamaea fasciata — Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (▪)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season ( )

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

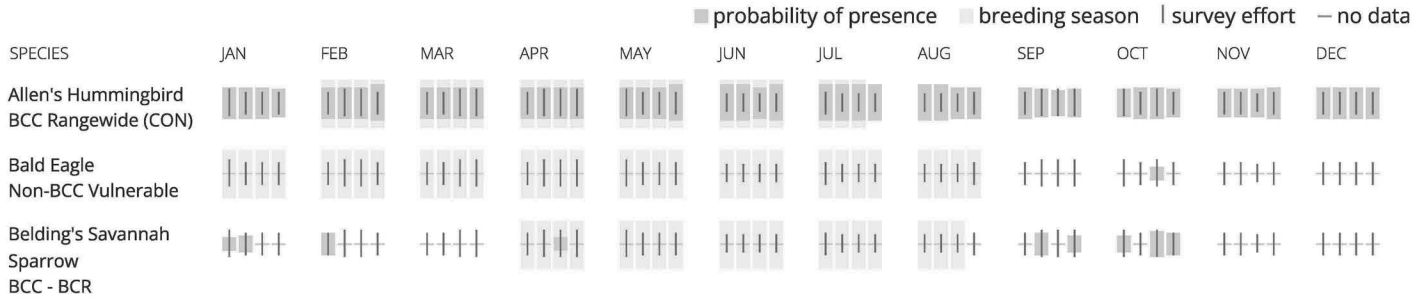
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

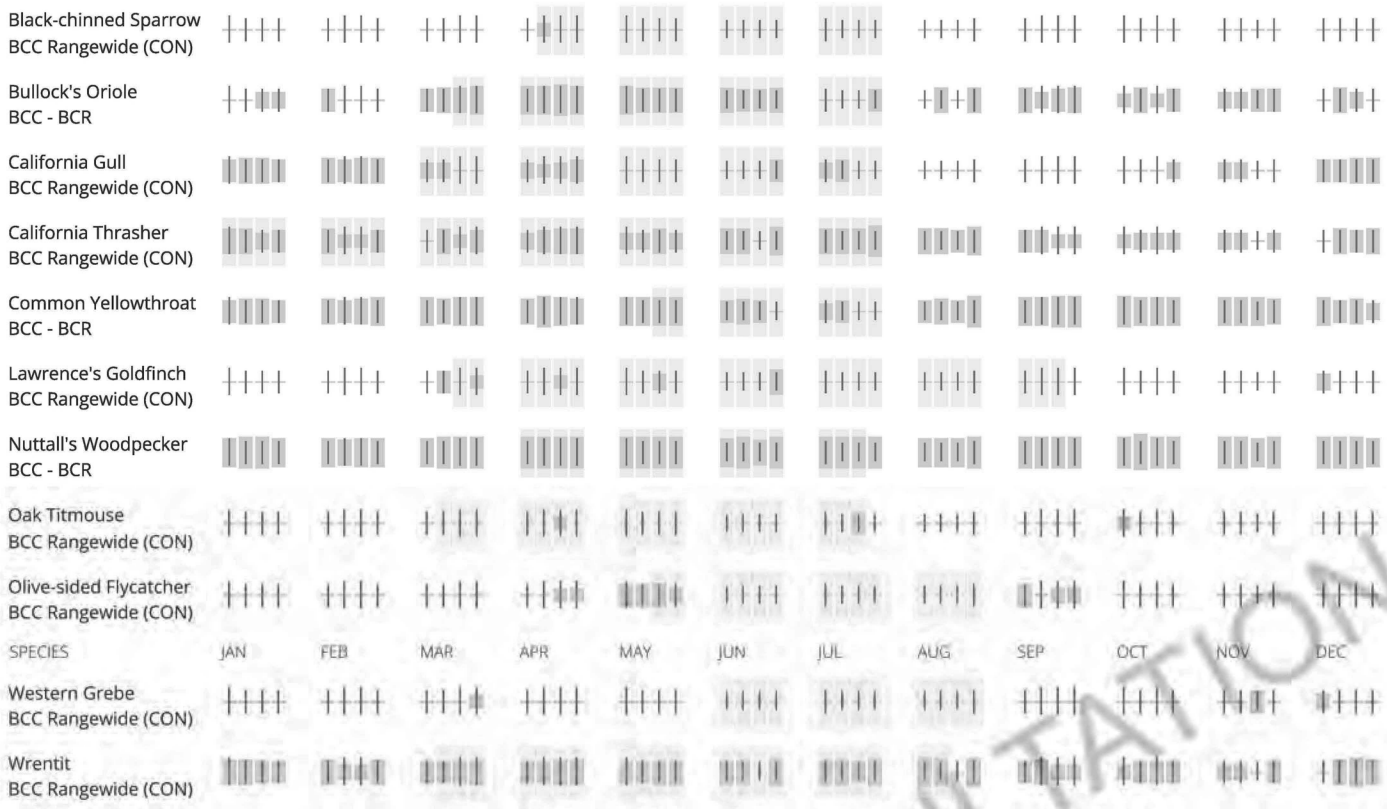
No Data (–)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area,

there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Wetland information is not available at this time

This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the NWI map to view wetlands at this location.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Attachment E

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