Biological Assessment

Fire Station 41

County of San Bernardino

Yucca Valley, CA

March 17, 2025

Terracon

Nationwide
Terracon.com

- Facilities
- Environmental
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March 17, 2025

San Bernardino County
Project & Facilities Management Department
620 East Street
San Bernardino, California 92415

Attn: Mr. Beville Lloyd
P: (909) 361-7215
E: Beville.Lloyd@pfm.sbcounty.gov

RE: Biological Assessment Report
Proposed Fire Station 41
7238 Joshua Lane
Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County, California
Terracon Project No. CB237020

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Terracon) is pleased to submit the enclosed Biological Assessment Report for the above referenced project. The following report details our findings and presents an opinion regarding the potential impact to biological resources on the site. Please feel free to contact us at 925-285-9740 or at cailan.patel@terracon.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Terracon

Cailan Patel
Senior Staff Biologist

Kayti Christianson
Authorized Project Reviewer
Senior Ecologist

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Executive Summary

The Project Site is comprised of two (2) parcels, Accessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 05917104 and 05916208. The total acreage for the site is 1.72 acres located in the Town of Yucca Valley on parcels owned by San Bernardino County. For the purposes of this Biological Assessment (BA), the Project Site (Study Area), including a 50-foot survey buffer is approximately 2.57 acres. The Study Area is located at 7238 Joshua Lane, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County, California. The Proponent of the Project and Lead Agency is San Bernardino County. The Study Area is within the incorporated Town of Yucca Valley General Plan with the development code of Mixed Use and is currently designated with the zoning of Mixed Use Commercial (C-MU).

The County of San Bernardino Facilities and Project Management Department proposes to develop a New Fire Station #41 at 7238 Joshua Lane, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County, California by constructing a new 13,230 SF station and new associated facilities (Project). The new fire station will house 5 personnel, 1 engine, and 1 paramedic truck. The new fire station will be part of the District's Division 4, which will serve the unincorporated area adjacent to the Town of Yucca Valley, and the contract cities of Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms.

Improvements to the site would include new security fencing, a hose house, hose rack, generator, fuel tank, trash enclosure, new access road, landscaping, and hardscaping. Parking will consist of thirteen (13) parking spots. Ingress and egress to the project site will be via Twentynine Palms Outer Highway and Joshua Lane through two driveways: the southern driveway will be the primary entrance and exit for the emergency vehicles, while the northern driveway will serve as the public entrance and exit.

Suitable habitat was identified within the Study Area for Federally-listed and State-listed special status species as well as migratory birds. Terracon's resulting recommendations include conducting take avoidance surveys for burrowing owl and desert tortoise, take avoidance special-status wildlife species surveys, take avoidance vegetation surveys, and take avoidance nesting bird surveys. Additionally, Terracon recommends implementing a Worker Environmental Awareness Program and having a biological monitor on-site during Project-related activities. The Project would also be required to obtain an Incidental Take Permit and pay mitigation fees for Joshua trees requiring removal of transplantation as a result of Project activities.

By implementing the recommendations, requirements, and guidelines outlined in this BA, impacts to special-status species and Joshua trees are expected to be mitigated to levels considered less than significant.

1. Introduction

The Study Area is comprised of two (2) parcels, Accessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 05917104 and 05916208. The total acreage for the Study Area including a 50-foot buffer is 2.57 acres located in the Town of Yucca Valley on parcels owned by San Bernardino County. The Study Area is located at 7238 Joshua Lane, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County, California. The Proponent of the Project and Lead Agency is San Bernardino County. The Study Area is within the incorporated Town of Yucca Valley General Plan with the development code of Mixed Use and is currently designated with the zoning of Mixed Use Commercial (C-MU).

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2. Report Objectives

Land development can have adverse effects on the habitats and individuals of sensitive plant and wildlife species. In such instances, regulatory bodies at the state and federal levels, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as local policies and ordinances in the County of San Bernardino, may oversee and regulate site development. This report focuses on several key aspects:

1. **Sensitive Biological Resources**: It examines the presence of sensitive biological resources within the proposed Fire Station 41 Study Area.

2. **Regulatory Framework**: It discusses the federal, state, and local laws that govern these resources.

3. **Mitigation Measures**: It explores potential mitigation measures necessary to minimize anticipated impacts and comply with state and federal permit requirements, as well as CEQA mandates.

The specific objectives of this report are to:

- Compile and summarize site-specific information related to existing biological resources, utilizing literature reviews, species databases, and field surveys conducted by Terracon across the entire Study Area.

- Infer the potential presence of other biological resources on-site based on habitat suitability and proximity to known species ranges.
- Outline relevant state and federal natural resources protection laws pertinent to the Project's development within the Study Area.
- Assess and discuss project impacts on biological resources within the Study Area, aligning with CEQA and other relevant laws.
- Recommend avoidance and mitigation measures to minimize impacts to a level deemed less than significant under CEQA standards, consistent with resources agency guidelines for affected biological resources.

3. Methodology

Biological conditions were evaluated by confirming applicable regulations, policies, and standards; reviewing biological literature and querying available databases pertinent to the Study Area and vicinity (9 topographic quadrangles for CDFW's CNDDB and CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants); and conducting a reconnaissance-level biological field survey of the Study Area. This assessment provides existing biological conditions of the Study Area at the time of the literature review and reconnaissance survey. The methods employed are described in detail below. The findings and opinions conveyed in this report are based on this methodology.

3.1 Literature Review

Terracon reviewed readily available literature and database resources to identify potential threatened and endangered species within the Study Area. A desktop review for historical aerial photographs, historic topographic maps, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps, soil data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) maps, publicly available light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data, plant and wildlife species data through California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records, California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information, Planning and Conservation (IPaC) service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries species Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Study Area quadrangles and other related data applicable based on availability. The preliminary database review assisted Terracon in identifying potential aquatic resources within the Study Area, as well as the potential for threatened/endangered species habitat.

Additionally, Terracon reviewed applicable Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan that the site may be subject to jurisdiction under. No HCPs or NCCPs were identified as applicable to the Study Area. However, the Study Area is located within the boundaries of the West Mojave Plan (WMP); a large-scale habitat conservation and land management plan developed to project sensitive species and their habitats across the western Mojave Desert Region in California. The plan covers 9.4 million

acres of desert lands in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Inyo, and Kern Counties. It was developed primarily by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, including counties, cities, and conservation organizations. Through the WMP, the County of San Bernardino has integrated conservation measures into its land-use planning and permitting processes for projects within the plan area. This partnership allows the county to streamline environmental compliance for projects in accordance with the plan's goals, ensuring both habitat conservation and responsible development. Therefore, this assessment is informed by the County of San Bernardino land-use planning, permitting, and General Plan processes.

3.2 Field Reconnaissance Survey

A field reconnaissance survey was conducted by Terracon biologists, Cailan Patel and Chelsea Robbins on October 15, 2024. These surveys involved observations regarding suitability of habitat or other visual evidence of the federally or state-listed species during a pedestrian survey. Note that this task is to identify if habitat preferred by a threatened and endangered species is present within the Study Area; it is not substitute for a protocol-level survey for specific species, which may be necessary if suitable habitat is determined to be present. GPS data was collected using a Trimble Juno T41, capable of sub-meter accuracy. GPS positions were processed and corrected to analyze data using ArcGIS.

The reconnaissance surveys consisted primarily of pedestrian transects; 10-meter wide parallel transects were conducted to adequately assess the Study Area for vegetation communities and burrows of special-status species. Survey transect methodology was based on *Preparing for any Action That May Occur Within the Range of the Mojave Desert Tortoise (Gopherus agassizii)* (USFWS 2018) and burrowing owl survey protocol described in *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, 2012).

Representative photographs were taken to document vegetation communities, evidence of species or their habitat, or other notable biological resources observations. Photographs as well as a photo reference map are provided in **Appendix B** and **Exhibit 10**, respectively.

Additionally, Terracon staff conducted a census of Western Joshua trees *(Yucca brevifolia)* within the Study Area in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Fish and Game Code section 1927.3, subdivision (a)(1) of the CDFW. The census area includes the Study Area plus an additional 50-foot buffer around the Study Area. Joshua trees situated within the demarcated census area were mapped and data were collected and recorded for each individual included in **Exhibit 11**. The census data table includes information regarding a unique identifier for each tree and a corresponding map, GPS locations for each tree, the height and class of each tree, indication of a mature or non-mature tree and if it is flowering or not. The table also includes if the impact to the tree is categorized as removal, trim, relocation, other, or none.

3.3 Western Joshua Tree Census

A western Joshua tree (WJT) census was conducted by Terracon biologists, Cailan Patel and Chelsea Robbins on October 15, 2024. The census was conducted according to the *Census Instructions* in Fish and Game Code section 1927.3, subdivision (a)(1). The entire Study Area and a 50-foot buffer was systematically searched using 10-meter wide parallel survey transects. This area was searched for

visible trees and sprouts that may be underneath shrubs or other existing vegetation. Each WJT (including dead trees) observed within this area was measured using a tape measure. GPS locations of each tree were collected using a Trimble Juno T41, capable of sub-meter accuracy. Photographs of each tree were taken, and trees were flagged in each photo. Mature trees were identified as trees which have produced flowers/fruits in the past. A WJT Census Data Sheet was also filled out with unique identifiers, GPS locations, size classes, actual height, and maturity of each tree as well as whether the tree is dead or alive and how the tree will be impacted by the project. A map was created using GIS showing each tree included in the census.

4. Existing Conditions

Terracon reviewed the desktop resources to gain understanding of the Study Area and to preliminarily evaluate the presence of potential habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species.

4.1 Topography

The Study Area is in Yucca Valley, California. The United States Geologic Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Topographic Map of the subject site, Yucca Valley North, Yucca Valley South, and Joshua Tree South, California, was reviewed to identify potential Waters of the U.S. or other topographic features within and surrounding the Study Area. The Study Area is located at an elevation of approximately 3,270 feet. Based on this map, the Study Area does not appear to contain aquatic features. See **Exhibit 2** for the topographic map.

4.2 Hydrology

Hydrology of the Study Area and vicinity was evaluated through review of topographic maps, aerial photos, the National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2024), and the National Wetland Inventory (USFWS 2024), in conjunction with field survey data.

The Study Area is located within the Upper Water Canyon Watershed, Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 181001001602 (EPA 2024). Further, it is located within the Warren Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin Number 7-021) (CDWR 2024).

Terracon reviewed National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data for the Study Area to identify potential wetland areas. Based on the NWI dataset, the Study Area does not appear to contain any wetland features. The nearest features in the vicinity include riverine features approximately 2,000 feet to the north, 500 feet to the southeast, and 3,000 feet to the west of the Study Area. See **Exhibit 3** for the NWI map.

Terracon reviewed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). According to the FIRM panel, the Study Area falls within an area of minimal flood hazard. The nearest mapped floodplain units are a regulatory floodway approximately 2,000 feet to the north, and 100-year floodplain approximately 1,000 feet to the southeast and 3,000 feet to the west. The FEMA Floodplain Map for the Study Area is included as **Exhibit 5**.

4.3 Soils

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has mapped and inventoried soils at both landscape (course) and detailed (fine) scales. These data are catalogued in previously published soil surveys, the Soil Survey Geographic Database, and the U.S. General Soil Map. These can be accessed through the Web Soil Survey Application (USDA NRCS 2024).

The Study Area is covered by the *Mojave Desert Area, West Central Part, California* (CA698). The Study Area was not included in the USDA NRCS soil study and there is no digital soil data available. The soils map is provided as **Exhibit 4**.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils as soils that in their undrained condition, are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation (59 Federal Register 16835). Soils that are sufficiently wet to support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation due to artificial measures are included in the concept of hydric soils on the list "Hydric Soils of the United States" (National List) (USDA NRCS 2024). Soils are identified for inclusion on the list based on specific criteria established by law (67 Federal Register 58756). The National List is a compilation of all map units with either a major or minor component that is at least in part hydric. …Because the list includes both major and minor (small) percentages for map units, in some cases most of the map unit may not be hydric… Some components may be phases of soil series that have a range of characteristics… therefore, only a portion of that component's concept (or range in characteristics) may in fact be hydric. The list is useful in identifying map units that may contain hydric soils."

Although there is no available soils data, the soils observed during the Study Area were primarily sandy soils and are not likely to be considered hydric.

4.4 Climate

The Study Area has an arid climate, characteristic of the California high desert. A nearby weather station in Joshua Tree, California (Joshua Tree, California Weather Station 044405) has recorded weather conditions since 1959 (Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) 2024). Average high temperatures range from 58.2 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in December to 101.1°F in July, while average low temperatures range from 35.8°F in December to 70.8°F in July.

Climate data for this weather station indicates that average annual rainfall in the vicinity is approximately 4.69 inches and average annual snowfall is approximately 2 inches (WRCC 2024).

4.5 Surrounding Land Uses

The Study Area is owned by San Bernardino County and is exempt from zoning assessment. The parcel is described as commercial, vacant land (San Bernardino County 2024). Primary uses immediately surrounding the Study Area include retail store, commercial to the north, vacant land, public facilities to the west, and vacant land, commercial to the east.

4.6 Special-status Plants

Based on the database review of IPaC, CNDDB, and CNPS, Terracon identified 4 special-status plant species that required evaluation for potential to occur in the Study Area. These species include Coachella valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), triple-ribbed milk-vetch (*Astagalus tricarinatus*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), and Parish's daisy (*Erigeron parishii*). These species and their habitats are listed in **Table 1** below.

4.7 Special-status Wildlife

Based on the database review of IPaC and CNDDB, Terracon identified 6 special-status wildlife species (threatened, endangered, or candidate threatened/endangered), 17 California Species of Special Concern or Fully Protected species, and 8 migratory bird species that required evaluation for potential to occur in the Study Area.

The special-status species include monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelson*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Coachella Valley fringed-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).

The California species listed as Species of Special Concern or Fully Protected that required evaluation Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*), desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelson*), american badger (*Taxidea taxus*), Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*), red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), coast horned lizard (*Phyrnosoma blainvillii*), flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), vermillion flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*), yellow warbler (*Toxostoma lecontei*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

The migratory bird species that required evaluation include the American avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Lawrence's goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), and pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*).

These species and their habitats are listed in **Table 1** and **Table 2** below.

Table 1.

Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within the Study Area					
Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***Status Fed/CA/ other***	***Habitat and Seasonal Distribution in California***	***Habitat Present/ Absent***	***Likelihood of Occurrence Within the Study Area***
Invertebrates					
Monarch Butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	FC/--/--	Grasslands and milkweed plants. Low incidence in California during winter. Critically important wintering areas in Coastal California.	HP	**Low:** Study Area is located within migratory path and monarch butterfly may be present during migration.
Crotch's Bumble Bee	*Bombus crotchii*	--/SC/--	Found between San Diego and Redding, California in open grasslands, shrublands, chaparral, including desert margins including Joshua tree woodland and creosote scrub, and semi-urban settings.	A	**Not Expected:** Study Area within range of species, however, typical food plant species were not obesrved within Study Area.
Plants					
Coachella Valley Milk-vetch	*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*	FE/--/1B.2	Found in desert dunes and Sonoran desert scrub Blooms: February to May	A	**Not Expected:** Study Area outside of known range of species and suitable habitat is not present.

Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within the Study Area					
Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***Status Fed/CA/ other***	***Habitat and Seasonal Distribution in California***	***Habitat Present/ Absent***	***Likelihood of Occurrence Within the Study Area***
Triple-ribbed Milk-vetch	*Astragalus tricarinatus*	FE/--/1B.2	Found in desert washes, Joshua tree woodland, and Sonoran desert scrub Blooms: February to mid-April	A	**Not Expected:** Sparsely vegetated Joshua tree woodland present in Study Area may provide marginal habitat. However, Study Area outside of known range of species.
Slender-horned Spineflower	*Dodecahema leptoceras*	FE/SE/1B.1	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Blooms: April to May	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not observed within Study Area.
Parish's Daisy	*Erigeron parishii*	FT/--/1B.1	Found on limestone in Mojavean desert scrub and pinyon and juniper woodlands. Blooms: May to August	HP	**Low:** Study Area within known range of species. Sparsely vegetated Joshua tree woodland present in Study Area may provide marginal habitat.
Mammals					
Peninsular Bighorn Sheep	*Ovis canadensis nelsoni* pop. 2	FE/ST/FP	Found on desert slopes in alpine dwarf scrub, chaparral, chenopod scrub, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, montane dwarf scrub, pinyon and juniper woodlands, riparian woodlands, and Sonoran desert scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.

Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within the Study Area					
Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***Status Fed/CA/ other***	***Habitat and Seasonal Distribution in California***	***Habitat Present/ Absent***	***Likelihood of Occurrence Within the Study Area***
Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	--/--/SSC, BLMS	Found in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, chenopod scrub, Great Basin grasslands and scrub, Joshua tree woodland, lower montante coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, Mojavean desrt scrub, riparian forests and woodlands, Sonoran desert scrub and thorn woodlands, upper montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grasslands almost always near caves or other roosting areas.	A	**Not Expected:** Potential foraging habitat present, however roosting habitat absent within Study Area.
Western Yellow Bat	*Lasiurus xanthinus*	--/--/SSC	Found in desert washes, often roosting in the skirt of dead fronds in both natuve and non-native palm trees.	HP	**Low:** *Washingtonia* species present in Study Area may provide suitable roosting habitat.
Pallid Bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	--/--/SSC	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, desert washes, Great Basin grasslands and scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, riparian woodlands, Sonoran desert scrub, upper montane coniferous forests, and valley and foothill grasslands.	HP	**Low:** *Washingtonia* species present in Study Area may provide suitable roosting habitat.
San Diego Desert Woodrat	*Neotoma lepida intermedia*	--/--/SSC	Found in coastal scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.

Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within the Study Area					
Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***Status Fed/CA/ other***	***Habitat and Seasonal Distribution in California***	***Habitat Present/ Absent***	***Likelihood of Occurrence Within the Study Area***
Palm Springs Pocket Mouse	*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*	--/--/SSC, BLMS	Found in desert washes and Sonoran desert scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Palm Springs Round-tailed Ground Squirrel	*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*	--/--/SSC, BLMS	Found in chenopod scrub and Sonoran desert scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Study Area outside of known range of species.
Desert Bighorn Sheep	*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*	--/--/FP, BLMS	Found in alpine dwarf scrub, chaparral, chenopod scrub, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, montane dwarf scrub, pinyon and juniper woodlands, riparian woodlands, and Sonoran desert scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
American Badger	*Taxidea taxus*	--/--/SSC	Found in grasslands, deserts, shrubsteppe, dry forests, parklands, and agriculturla areas.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Reptiles					
Desert Tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*	FT/ST/--	Found in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub.	HP	**Low:** Sparsely vegetated Joshua tree woodland present within Study Area may provide suitable habitat.

Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within the Study Area					
Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***Status Fed/CA/ other***	***Habitat and Seasonal Distribution in California***	***Habitat Present/ Absent***	***Likelihood of Occurrence Within the Study Area***
Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard	*Uma inornata*	FT/SE/--	Found in desert dunes and desert washes.	A	**Not Expected:** Study Area outside of known range of species.
Southern California Legless Lizard	*Anniella stebbinsi*	--/--/SSC	Found in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Red-diamond Rattlesnake	*Crotalus ruber*	--/--/SSC	Found in chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Coast Horned Lizard	*Phyrnosoma blainvillii*	--/--/SSC, BLMS	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodlands, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, desert washes, pinyon and juniper woodlands, riparian scrub and woodlands, and valley and foothill grasslands.	A	**Not Expected:** Study Area outside of current known range of species.
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard	*Phrynosoma mcallii*	--/--/SSC, BLMS	Found in desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub.	A	**Not Expected:** Study Area outside of current known range of species.
Birds					
Long-eared Owl	*Asio otus*	--/--/SSC	Found in cismontane woodlands, Great Basin scrub, riparian forests and woodlands, and upper montane coniferous forests.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.

Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within the Study Area					
Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***Status Fed/CA/ other***	***Habitat and Seasonal Distribution in California***	***Habitat Present/ Absent***	***Likelihood of Occurrence Within the Study Area***
Vermillion Flycatcher	*Pyrocephalus rubinus*	--/--/SSC	Found in marshes and swamps, riparian forests, riparian scrub, riparian woodlands, and wetlands.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Yellow-breasted Chat	*Icteria virens*	--/--/SSC	Found in riparian forests, scrub, and woodlands.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*	--/--/SSC	Found in riparian forests.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Yellow Warbler	*Setophaga petechia*	--/--/SSC	Found in riparian forests, scrub, and woodlands.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.
Le Conte's Thrasher	*Toxostoma lecontei*	--/--/SSC, BLMS	Found in riparian forests, riparian scrub, and woodlands.	A	**Not Expected:** Vegetatation within Study Area not expected to support nesting.
Least Bell's Vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	FE/SE/--	Found in riparian forests, riparian scrub, and riparian woodlands.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.

Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring within the Study Area					
Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***Status Fed/CA/ other***	***Habitat and Seasonal Distribution in California***	***Habitat Present/ Absent***	***Likelihood of Occurrence Within the Study Area***
Burrowing Owl	*Athene cunicularia*	--/--/SSC, BLMS	Found in wide-open, sparsely vegetated areas like praries, deserts, grasslands, and agricultural fields.	HP	**Low:** Sparsely vegetated Joshua tree woodland containing mammal burrows present in Study Area may provide suitable habitat.
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	--/--/ FP, BLMS	Found in broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodlands, coastal praries, Great Basin grasslands and scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodlands, upper montane coniferous forests, and valley and foothill grasslands.	A	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat not present in Study Area.

SOURCE:

- CDFW Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), October 2024 for the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute Yucca Valley North quadrangle and eight surrounding quadrangles, and Riverside County.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS), October 2024 for the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute Yucca Valley North quadrangle and eight surrounding quadrangles.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), October 2024 for San Bernardino County and Project Area coordinates.

a. Status:

Federal

FE	Federally listed as Endangered
FT	Federally listed as Threatened
FPD	Federally Proposed for Delisting
FC	Federal Candidate
PE	Proposed Endangered
S	Federally Sensitive
SC	National Marine Fisheries Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Species of Concern. Species of Concern status does not carry any procedural or substantive protections under the ESA.

State

SE	State-listed as Endangered
ST	State-listed as Threatened
SPD	State-Proposed for Delisting
S	State Sensitive
SR	State Rare
SC	State Candidate
PE	Proposed Endangered
WL	Watch List
SSC	California Department of Fish and Game designated "Species of Special Concern"

Other

CH	Critical Habitat
FP	California Department of Fish and Game designated "Fully Protected"– Permit required for "take"
CWL	California Department of Fish and Game designated "California Watch List"
SLC	California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Ranking Species of Local Concern
1B	California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Ranking. Defined as plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
2	California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Ranking. Defined as plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
3	California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Ranking. Plants About Which More Information is Needed - A Review List.
BLMS	Bureau of Land Management Sensitive

Recent modifications to the CNPS Ranking System include the addition of a new Threat Code extension to listed species (e.g., List 1B.1, List 2.2 etc.). A Threat Code extension of x.1 signifies that a species is seriously endangered in California; x.2 is fairly endangered in California; and x.3 is not very endangered in California.

b. Likelihood of occurrence evaluations:

A rating of **"High"** indicates that all of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is highly suitable. The species has a high potential of being found on the site.

A rating of **"Moderate"** indicates that some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is unsuitable. The species has a moderate potential of being found on the site.

A rating of **"Low"** indicates that few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the site is unsuitable or of very poor quality. The species is not likely to be found on the site.

A rating of "**Present"** indicates that the species is observed on the site or has been recorded (e.g., CNDDB, other reports) on the site recently (within the last 5 years).

A rating of "**Not Expected"** indicates that habitat on and adjacent to the site is clearly unsuitable for the species requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, substrate, elevation, hydrology, plant community, site history, disturbance regime). The species is not expected to be found on the site.

4.8 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) decrees that migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) are federally protected. The MBTA is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States commitment to four international conventions (with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia) for the protection of a shared migratory bird resource. Each of the conventions protect selected species of birds that are common to these countries (i.e., they occur in these countries at some point during their annual life cycle). Certain birds are protected under the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Activities that result in a take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless permitted and authorized by the USFWS.

Based on the IPaC and CNDDB database review, Terracon identified the following migratory Bird of Conservation Concern that may require evaluation for potential to occur in the Study Area. The species are listed in **Table 2** below.

Table 2. Migratory Birds with Potential of Presence in Study Area

Species Name	Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC)	Seasonal Occurrence in Study Area
American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)	Yes	Breeds Apr 21 to Aug 10
California Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*)	Yes	Breeds Jan 1 to Jun 31
Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*)	Yes	Breeds Jan 15 to Jun 10
Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)	No	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*)	Yes	Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20
Le Conte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*)	Yes	Breeds Feb 15 to Jun 20
Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)	Yes	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)	Yes	Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15

Based on a review of readily available documentation for the Study Area including the IPaC report, CNDDB query, and aerial imagery, it appears that the Study Area contains suitable habitat for the above-mentioned migratory birds of concern.

5. Biological Survey Results

The following section describes the observations and results of the field reconnaissance surveys conducted by Terracon biologists.

5.1 Vegetation

Terracon biologists mapped one natural vegetation communities within the Study Area: Joshua Tree Woodland (*Yucca brevifolia* Woodland Alliance) (CNPS 2024). The Joshua tree woodland community consists primarily of *Yucca brevifolia* within the tree canopy of the Study Area. The habitat provided by this vegetation community within the Study Area is marginal. The Study Area is heavily disturbed, appearing to have vehicular traffic, and is very sparsely vegetated. A brief description of this natural community and other areas present in the Study Area are provided below.

Vegetation observed within the Study Area consisted primarily of desert scrub species and non-native species. Species observed include but are not limited to Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), flatspine bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), California evening primrose (*Oenothera avita*), blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*), prickly Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), brome grasss (*Bromus* sp.), bird of paradise (*Caesalpinia gilliesii*), phlox (*Eriastrum* sp.), prostrate knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), spotted spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*), bindii (*Tribulus terrestris*), compact brome (*Bromus madritensis*), desert baccharis (*Baccharis sergiloides*), hone mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Texas sage (*Leuchophyllum frutescens*), California fan palm (*Washingtonia californica*), sacred datura (*Datura wrightii*), London rocket (*Sysimbrium irio*), and oleander (*Nerium oleander*).

Joshua Tree Woodland – *Yucca brevifolia* Woodland Alliance

This community is defined as having *Yucca brevifolia* as an emergent small tree over a shrub or grass layer with *Ambrosia dumosa, Ambrosia salsola, Artemisia tridentata, Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus, Coleogyne ramosissima, Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa, Ephedra nevadensis, Eriogonum fasciculatum, Gutierrezia microcephala, Krascheninnikovia lanata, Larrea tridentata, Lycium andersonii, Yucca baccata, and Yucca shidigera*. Other trees may be present at low cover, including *Juniperus californica, Juniperus osteosperma,* or P*inus monophylla*.

Membership rules for this community may include *Yucca brevifolia* evenly distributed at ≥1% cover, *Juniperus* and/or *Pinus* spp. <1% absolute cover in the tree canopy (CNPS 2024). Additionally, *Yucca brevifolia* trees <14 meters; with canopy open to intermittent. Shrub layer is open to intermittent, and herbaceous layer is open to intermittent with perennial grasses and seasonal annuals. Habitats within this vegetation community include gentle alluvial fans, ridges, and gentle to moderate slopes. Soils are coarse sands, very fine silts, gravel, or sandy loams.

It should be noted that the majority of the Study Area is entirely comprised of the Joshua tree woodland vegetation community. However, the Study Area is sparsely vegetated and appears to be disturbed by urban activity, including tire marks, showing vehicular traffic may be present. The habitat provided within the Study Area is marginal.

5.2 General Wildlife

The Joshua tree woodland vegetation community and surrounding areas of the Study Area have the potential to support a variety of wildlife. Wildlife species observed included mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) and common raven (*Corvus corax*). Small mammal and reptile burrows were observed throughout the Study Area. Many of these burrows appeared to be inactive and no burrowing

mammals were observed during the Study Area visit. Observed biological resources are displayed in **Exhibit 7**.

5.3 Sensitive Biological Resources

Local, State, and Federal agencies regulate special-status species and require an assessment of their presence or potential presence to be conducted on-site prior to the approval of any proposed activity on a property. This section discusses biological resources observed in the Study Area and evaluates the potential for the Study Area to support other sensitive biological resources. Assessments for the potential occurrence of special-status species are based upon known ranges, habitat preferences for the species, and species occurrence records from the CNDDB. The potential for each special-status species to occur in the Study Area was evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Not Expected.** Habitat on and adjacent to the site is clearly unsuitable for the species requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, substrate, elevation, hydrology, plant community, site history, disturbance regime). The species is not expected to be found on the site.
- **Low Potential.** Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the site is unsuitable or of very poor quality. The species is not likely to be found on the site.
- **Moderate Potential.** Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is unsuitable. The species has a moderate potential of being found on the site.
- **High Potential.** All of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is highly suitable. The species has a high potential of being found on the site.
- **Present.** Species is observed on the site or has been recorded (e.g., CNDDB, other reports) on the site recently (within the last 5 years).

Appendices C and D provide the complete list of all special-status resources with records for IPaC query and within a 9-quad CNDDB query for the Study Area respectively.

5.3.1 Special-Status Wildlife Species

Terracon evaluated 26 special-status wildlife species for their potential to occur within the Study Area. Species are considered to have special status based on a State and/or Federal listing, or because they are considered a California Species of Special Concern (SSC) or Fully Protected (FP). Referenced occurrence data is displayed in **Exhibit 9a** and **9b.**

Monarch Butterfly

The Study Area is located in the migratory path of the monarch butterfly, however, no *Asclepias* species were observed within the Study Area, and will likely not make use of the Study Area to breed. The Study Area contains a variety of flowering plant species that may provide a nectar food source for this species during its migration. Therefore, if present, the monarch butterfly it would likely be for a

short period of time (Reppert & Roode 2018). The monarch butterfly has a low potential to occur within the Study Area.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

Crotch's bumble bee has been reported through the CNDDB and there is one recorded occurrence approximately 4.1 miles to the southeast of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 419, 2019). The Study Area contains native desert woodland and scrub vegetation, specifically Joshua tree woodland within the Mojave Desert, which provides suitable habitat for this species of bee (Hatfield and Jepsen 2021). However, the typical food-plant species for this bee include *Asclepias, Chaenactis, Medicago, Phacelia, Salvia, Clarkia, Eriogonum, Lupinus, Papaver,* etc. (IUCN 2024 & LPF 2013). None of these food plant species were observed within the Study Area, and therefore, Crotch's bumble bee is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Desert Bighorn Sheep and Peninsular Bighorn Sheep

Regarding the desert bighorn sheep and the peninsular bighorn sheep population, these species are known to use desert habitats with higher elevations and slopes but are also known to make use of urban environments with gentler slopes (Rubin et al. 2002). There is one CNDDB occurrence of desert bighorn sheep approximately 16.7 miles to the southeast of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 14, 1986) and one occurrence of peninsular bighorn sheep approximately 21.6 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 7, 1986). The Study Area contains native desert woodland and scrub vegetation which may provide suitable foraging habitat for these species. However, the Study Area is surrounded by urban development and roads, including highways, and these bighorn sheep species are known to avoid road corridors, but have been observed in close proximity to roads (Papouchis 2001). As there are no recent records in proximity to the Study Area and the surrounding urban development, the desert bighorn sheep and peninsular bighorn sheep are not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Townsend's big-eared bat is associated with areas containing caves and cave-analogs for roosting habitat, and beyond this roosting habitat requirement, are found foraging in a wide range of dry upland habitat types throughout the western United States (Gruver & Keinath 2006). The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence of this species approximately 19 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 288, 1915). The Study Area does not contain suitable roosting habitat for this species, and although there is a possibility of this bat foraging within the Study Area, it is likely to be for very short periods of time at night. Therefore, the Townsend's big-eared bat is not expected to occur within the Study Area in a manner that impacts will occur to the species.

Western Yellow Bat

The western yellow bat is uncommon in California, known to occur only in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties south to the Mexican border (Harris 2008). This species has been recorded below 2,000 feet in elevation in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. This species roosts in trees and under palm trees and feeding near palm oases and riparian habitats. The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence approximately 1.1 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 42, 1985). the Study Area contains California fan palms, which have a low

potential to support roosting western yellow bats. Therefore, the western yellow bat has a low potential to occur within the Study Area.

Pallid Bat

The pallid bat occupies a wide range of habitats including grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests, and most commonly found in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting (Harris 1998). Roosting habitat for this species typically consists of caves, crevices, mines, hollow trees, and buildings, however, trees with exfoliating bark, cracks, and other crevices, along with palm trees have been known to be used as roosting habitat (Byrnes 2018). The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence of this species approximately 10.5 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 241, 1939). Although there are no recent occurrences of this species within proximity, the Study Area contains California fan palms, which have a low potential to support roosting pallid bats. Additionally, the desert scrub vegetation within the Study Area may provide suitable foraging habitat. Therefore, the pallid bat has a low potential to occur within the Study Area.

San Diego Desert Woodrat

The San Diego desert woodrat occupies sagebrush scrub and chaparral habitats (Ingles 1965). Since 1996, this species is known to occur in 12 of 16 coastal sage scrub sites within Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties in California (Chase et al. 2000). The CNDDB contains multiple occurrences between 12 and 19 miles to the southwest and southeast of the Study Area, however, these occurrences were recorded between 1993 and 1995. The Study Area is sparsely vegetated with Joshua tree woodland and native and non-native desert scrub species, which likely does not provide suitable habitat for this species of woodrat. Therefore, the San Diego desert woodrat is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Palm Springs Pocket Mouse

The Palm Springs pocket mouse occurs in areas with flat to gentle slopes, sparse to moderate vegetation cover, and loosely packed or sandy soils (Dodd 1996). Historically, this species occurred throughout the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, California, but is now known to occur in the lower Sonoran life zone from the San Gorgonio Pass area east to the Little San Bernardino Mountains and south along the eastern edge of the Peninsular Ranges to Borrego Valley and the east side of the San Felipe Narrows (Hall 1981). The most prominent threats to this species result from development, including grading, soil disturbance, and removal of vegetation (SCBD 2006). The CNDDB contains multiple recorded occurrences between 12 miles and 17.2 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 9, 1993; No. 4, 1999; No. 20, 2017; No. 21, 2012; and No. 22, 2017). Based on known modeled habitat, the Study Area is outside of the known range of this species, with the nearest modeled habitat approximately 5.4 miles to the northwest of the Study Area (CBI 2014). Additionally, the Study Area is very sparsely vegetated and appears to be disturbed and surrounded by urban development. Therefore, the Palm Springs pocket mouse is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Palm Springs Round-tailed Squirrel

The Palm Springs round-tailed squirrel is confined to the floor of the Coachella Valley, Riverside County, California (Ball et al. 2005). This species occupies habitat where hummocks of sand accumulate at the base of large shrubs, providing burrow sites and adequate cover (Grinnell and

Dixon 1918). Additionally, this species may occur in areas of coarse sands typically associated with desert washes (Williams 1986). The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence approximately 20.4 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 1, 1940). The Study Area is located in Yucca Valley, California, approximately 40 miles to the northwest of Coachella Valley, this species' known range. Due to the absence of recent occurrences and the Study Area lying outside of the known range of the species, the Palm Springs round-tailed squirrel is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

American Badger

The American badger typically occupies dry, open grasslands, fields and pastures from high alpine meadows to below sea level in Death Valley, California (Long 1999). This species requires soils that allow the excavation of den sites and support burrowing prey species, such as ground squirrels. The CNDDB contains one occurrence of this species approximately 11.7 miles to the west of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 270, 1949). The Study Area contains sandy soil and many small mammal and reptile burrows, however, a majority of these burrows appear to be inactive, likely as the habitat within the site appears heavily disturbed and impacted by surrounding urban development. Due to the absence of recent occurrences and the quality of habitat within the Study Area, the American badger is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Desert Tortoise

The desert tortoise is found in the Mojave and Colorado-Sonoran Desert in creosote scrub, cactus scrub, shadscale scrub, Joshua tree woodlands, Sonoran Desert Scrub, seaside scrub thornbush, and Sinaloan deciduous forest plant communities (Grover & DeFalco 1995). This species uses burrows for shelter against extreme temperatures in dry, gravelly soil beneath creosote bushes or other large desert scrub shrubs (CDPR 2024). The Study Area contains Joshua tree woodland and contains small burrows throughout. The vegetation and burrows within the Study Area are appropriate habitat for this species. The CNDDB contains multiple occurrences of desert tortoise approximately 2.3 miles and 3.5 miles to the northwest and 3 miles and 4.3 miles to the east (Occurrence No. 84, 1994; No. 83, 1988; No. 981, 2018; and 251, 2008; respectively). Two of these occurrences are relatively recent and the Study Area may provide marginal habitat for this species, and therefore, the desert tortoise has a low potential to occur within the Study Area.

Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard

The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard occupies sparsely vegetated, windblown sand deposits that accumulate in drainages across the Coachella Valley (CBD 2024). This species is restricted to the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, California. Historically, this species' range encompassed nearly 171,000 acres and by the 1990s, approximately 75 percent of habitat had been lost due to urban development (CBD 2024). The CNDDB contains multiple recorded occurrences between 12.1 miles and 20 miles to the southwest of the Study Area within the Coachella Valley. Due to the distance of the Study Area from the known range of this species, the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Southern California Legless Lizard

The Southern California legless lizard is found in a broad range of habitats including coastal sand dunes and a variety of inland habitats including sandy washes and alluvial fans (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012). This species occurs in warm, loose soils with adequate plant cover, as moisture is

essential (Papenfuss and Parham 2013). Leaf litter under trees and shrubs in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather often indicate suitable habitat. The CNDDB contains 5 recorded occurrences of this species approximately between 3.7 and 9 miles to the southeast and 10.5 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 116, 1970; No. 393, 2018; No. 418, 2006; No. 419, 2021; and No. 117, 2022). The Study Area contains Joshua tree woodland with sparse vegetation cover and course, sandy soils and little to no leaf litter, which does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Therefore, the Southern California legless lizard is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Red-diamond Rattlesnake

The red-diamond rattlesnake occurs in chaparral, woodland, and arid desert habitats in rocky areas and dense vegetation (Marlow 1999). This species is distributed along coastal San Diego County and north through western Riverside County into southernmost San Bernardino County. The CNDDB contains multiple recorded occurrences of this species between approximately 6.9 miles to the south and 13.2 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 50, unknown date; No. 107, 2008; 39, unknown date; and No. 176, 2010). The Study Area is sparsely vegetated with course, sandy soils and does not provide the dense vegetation or rocky areas that this species requires. Therefore, the red-diamond rattlesnake is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Coast Horned Lizard

The coast horned lizard inhabits open areas with sandy soils and low-growing vegetation in valleys, foothills, and semi-arid mountains in a wide range of habitats including grasslands, coniferous forests, and chaparral with open areas (Stebbins 1972). This species is often found feeding near ant hills in open, sandy areas in valleys foothills, and semi-arid mountains (NPS 2022). The CNDDB contains multiple recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the Study Area approximately 0.8 miles to the northeast, 4.8 miles to the southeast, 4 miles to the southwest, and 8.2 miles to the northwest (Occurrence No. 95, 189X; No. 48, 1950; No. 259, 1964; No. 781, 1949). There are, however, no recent recorded occurrences of this species within the vicinity of the Study Area. Additionally, the range of this species is extremely fragmented due to land alteration causing the destruction of appropriate habitat (Brattstrom 2013). Therefore, the coast horned lizard is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Flat-tailed Horned Lizard

The flat-tailed horned lizard is known to occur in areas of creosote bush scrub and is found in desert scrub, washes, succulent scrub, and alkali scrub habitats (Turner and Medica 1982). This species is restricted to areas of fine sand and sparse vegetation in desert washes and desert flats in Riverside, eastern San Diego, and Imperial Counties (Marlow 2000). The CNDDB contains 2 recorded occurrences of this species approximately 17.7 miles and 19.1 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 260, 1994 and 25, 1997). Although occurrences exist within the vicinity of the Study Area, they are not recent and are farther than 5 miles away. The known range does not extend into southern San Bernardino County (Flaxington 2021). Therefore, the flat-tailed horned lizard is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Long-eared Owl

The long-eared owl is primarily found in woodlands and conifer groves with dense tree cover for roosting and nesting in proximity to open areas such as meadows for foraging. This species occupies forests with meadows, conifer or deciduous forests near prairies, and desert groves nearby streams (Audubon 2024). Additionally, the long-eared owl is known to avoid unbroken forest. The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence within the vicinity of the Study Area approximately 10.1 miles to the southeast of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 12, 1975). The Study Area does not contain forest habitats and therefore, the long-eared owl is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Vermillion Flycatcher

The vermillion flycatcher occurs in cottonwood, willow, mesquite, and other vegetation in desert riparian habitats adjacent to irrigated fields, ditches, pastures, and other open mesic areas in isolated patches throughout southern California (Gaines 2008). Nesting and roosting sites along with general cover are afforded by trees and large shrubs where riparian thickets border open, mesic habitats (Myers 2008). The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence approximately 10.15 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 15, 1977). The Study Area does not contain riparian vegetation or proximity to open mesic habitat needed to support this species. Therefore, the vermillion flycatcher is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Yellow-breasted Chat

The yellow-breasted chat requires riparian thickets of willow and other riparian brush species near watercourses for nesting, foraging, and cover (Green 2005). This species is an uncommon resident and migrant in Coastal California, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, and east of the Sierra Nevada in desert riparian habitats (Garret and Dunn 1981). The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence approximately 10.2 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 39, 1977). The Study Area does not contain riparian vegetation or proximity to a watercourse needed to support this species. Therefore, the yellow-breasted chat is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Summer Tanager

The summer tanager occupies desert riparian habitats vegetated by cottonwood and willow species (Dobkin 2008). This species makes use of these riparian species along rivers and streams for nesting, foraging, and cover. The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence within the vicinity of the Study Area approximately 10.1 miles northeast (Occurrence No. 15, 1986). This occurrence is in close proximity of the Mojave River, which likely contains the riparian vegetation required to support this species. The Study Area does not contain riparian vegetation to support this species, and therefore, the summer tanager is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Yellow Warbler

The yellow warbler is typically found in deciduous riparian habitats containing cottonwood, willow, and alder species and other riparian shrub and tree species typically with low, open canopy riparian woodlands (Green 2005a). This species breeds in deciduous riparian habitats in the summer and also in montane shrubbery in open coniferforests (Gaines 1977). The CNDDB contains 3 recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the Study Area approximately 4.8 miles to the south, and 10.1 miles and 10.5 miles to the southwest (Occurrence No. 48, 1950, No. 60, 1977, and No. 30, 1970). The

Study Area does not contain riparian vegetation to support this species, and therefore, the yellow warbler is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Le Conte's Thrasher

Le Conte's thrasher is known to occur primarily in desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, open desert wash, and desert succulent scrub habitats (Dobkin and Granholm 2005). This species most commonly nests in dense spiny shrub or cactus species and frequents desert washes and flats vegetated with shrubs and large, open areas of sandy desert scrub habitat. These habitats typically consist of species of saltbush or shadscale and/or cholla cactus and this species rarely occurs in habitats consisting entirely of creosote bush (Sheppard 1996). This species can be found in habitats with isolated Joshua trees or ocotillo. Nests are found in shaded areas with thick, dense, thorny desert shrubs or small trees or cholla cactus (Harrison 1978). The Study Area does not contain the typical vegetation needed to support this species, aside from Joshua trees. Additionally, the vegetation within the Study Area is sparse and will not likely support nesting for this species. The CNDDB contains multiple recorded occurrences between 4.7 and 10.4 miles to the northeast and between 3.4 and 5.2 miles to the northwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 247, 2010; No. 248, 2010; No. 249, 2010; No. 139, 1986; No. 177, 1991; No. 146, 1988; and No. 250, 2010). Although there is a low potential for this species to be present within the Study Area, the vegetation is not likely to support nesting and if present, it will likely be for short periods of time. Therefore, Le Conte's thrasher is not likely to occur for a long enough period of time in which impacts would occur to the species.

Least Bell's Vireo

The least Bell's vireo typically breeds in willow-dominated riparian woodlands, foraging in nearby mulefat scrub, oak woodlands, and chaparral. (USFWS 2024). In the deserts of Southern California, this species is primarily found in mesquite thickets. The CNDDB contains three recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the Study Area between approximately 6.9 miles and 14.2 miles to the southwest (Occurrence No. 14, 1973; No. 13, 1986; and No. 338, 2004). These occurrences are in proximity to the Mojave River, which are in areas that likely contain the riparian vegetation needed to support this species. The Study Area does not contain the riparian vegetation and nearby foraging habitat needed to support this species, and therefore, least Bell's Vireo is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl is found in open, dry grassland and desert habitats and occasionally in grass, forb, and open shrub stages of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitats (Polite 1999). This species typically nests in old burrows of ground squirrels or other small mammals, occasionally digging their own burrows if softer soils are present. Artificial structures such as pipes, culverts, and nest boxes are known to be used for nesting in areas where burrows are scarce (Robertson 1929). The CNDDB contains 4 recorded occurrences between 7.5 and 7.8 miles to the northeast of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 965, 2005; No. 966, 2005; No. 967, 2005; No. 968, 2005). The Study Area contains multiple burrows, some of which may be large enough to support nesting burrowing owls. Therefore, the burrowing owl has a low potential to occur within the Study Area.

Golden Eagle

The golden eagle typically occurs in rolling foothills, mountainous areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert habitats (Polite and Pratt 1998). This species typically nests on cliffs and in large trees in open areas, most commonly in rugged, open habitats with canyons and long, steep slopes. The CNDDB contains one recorded occurrence approximately 19.7 miles to the southwest of the Study Area (Occurrence No. 267, 1980). The Study Area does not contain large trees or platforms suitable for nesting to occur, and therefore, the golden eagle is not expected to occur within the Study Area.

Migratory Birds

The Study Area contains foraging habitat for a variety of native avian species common to the region. Additionally, vegetation present within the vicinity of the Study Area may provide suitable nesting habitat. No nests were observed at the time of the site visit. Nesting native bird species are protected by the MBTA. The nesting season generally extends from January through September in the region for the migratory birds of conservation concern listed in **Table 2**, above.

5.3.2 Sensitive Plant Communities, Critical Habitats, and Habitat Connectivity

Based on the database review of IPaC, CNDDB, and CNPS, Terracon identified 4 special status and protected plant species that required evaluation for potential to occur in the Study Area. These species include Coachella valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), triple-ribbed milk-vetch (*Astagalus tricainatus*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), and Parish's daisy (*Erigeron parishii*).

Table 1 lists the 4 special-status plant species that have the potential to occur within the Study Area. Of these, 2 are considered as not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. These species include the Coachella Valley milkvetch and slender-horned spineflower.

The triple-ribbed milk-vetch is found in Joshua tree woodland and Sonoran Desert scrub communities, including creosote bush scrub (CPC 2020). The CNDDB contains multiple recorded occurrences of the triple-ribbed milkvetch within 6.3 miles and 15.1 miles to the southwest, south, and southeast of the Study Area. Further, Parish's daisy is found in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper habitats (CPC 2021). The CNDDB contains two recorded occurrences of Parish's daisy within 2.8 miles and 3.5 miles to the northwest of the Study Area. The triple-ribbed milk-vetch is distributed in the northwest corner of the Coachella Valley in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in California and the Study Area is outside of this range (CPC 2020). Therefore, the triple-ribbed milk-vetch is not expected to occur within the Study Area. Parish's daisy is endemic to southern California and is currently only known to occur within San Bernardino County, with a range of 64 kilometers long, the Study Area occurring within this range (CPC 2021 and CBI 2013). Although the Study Area contains appropriate habitat for this species, the habitat present is marginal, disturbed, and surrounded by urban development, and therefore, Parish's daisy has a low potential to occur within the Study Area.

Federally-designated critical habitat for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch was identified approximately 12.2 miles to the southwest of the Study Area. Additionally, the nearest Federally-designated critical habitat for Cushenbury buckwheat was identified approximately 16.4 miles northwest of the Study Area and approximately 16.1 miles northwest for Parish's daisy. The Study Area, however, does not contain any Federally-designated critical habitat for the species discussed in this assessment. The Critical Habitat Map is displayed as **Exhibit 6**.

The Study Area is not located in a California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) area. The nearest CEHC area to the Study Area is approximately 4 miles to the west. The CEHC Map is displayed as **Exhibit 8**.

4.3.3 Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

Within the arid and semi-arid western United States limited precipitation restricts wetland and riparian resources to 1-5% of the land surface, a relatively low proportion compared to other systems globally; the proportion of wetland resources is approximately <4.6% in extremely arid areas such as the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts, decreased from the approximately 30% coverage that was estimated to be present in the 1850s (USACE 2008).

During the survey, a plant species list (provided in **Section 5.1**) was compiled to determine the wetland plant indicator status of the species present within the Study Area. The majority of the dominant species present throughout the Study Area have an indicator status of either *Upland* or *Facultative Upland*. Hydrology indicators were not observed within the Study Area. The soils present within the Study Area are primarily coarse sand and are not likely to pond or flood.

The NWI database did not identify any aquatic features within the Study Area. Additionally, the Study Area was identified in a FEMA-designated *Area of Minimal Flood Hazard*.

The Study Area does not appear to have a relatively-permanent surface water connection to a navigable water, and therefore, is not likely to contain Federally-jurisdictional waters or wetland features.

6. Regulatory Setting

Special-status habitats and vegetation types, associations, or sub-associations that support concentrations of special-status plant or animal species, are of relatively limited distribution, or are of particular value to wildlife.

Listed species are those that are formally listed as threatened or endangered by the federal government (USFWS) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or as threatened, endangered, or rare by the State of California under the California Endangered Species Act or California Native Plant Protection Act. Some species are considered rare (but not formally listed) by resource agencies, organizations with biological interests/expertise (e.g., Audubon Society, CNPS, The Wildlife Society), and the scientific community.

The following is a brief summary of the regulatory context under which biological resources are managed at the federal, state, and local levels. A number of federal and state statuses provide a regulatory structure that guides the protection of biological resources. Agencies with the responsibility for protection of biological resources within the Study Area include:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands and other waters of the United States)
- Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (waters of the State)

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (federally listed species and migratory birds)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (riparian areas, streambeds and lakes; state-listed species; Species of Special Concern; nesting birds)
- County of San Bernardino General Plan

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has authority to regulated activities that could discharge fill of material into wetlands or other "waters of the United States." Perennial and intermittent creeks are considered waters of the United States (WOTUS) if they are hydrologically connected to other jurisdictional waters (typically a navigable water). The USACE also implements the federal policy embodied in Executive Order 11990, which is intended to result in no net loss of wetland value or acres. In achieving the goals of the Clean Water Act, the USACE seeks to avoid adverse impacts and offset unavoidable adverse impacts on existing aquatic resources. Any fill of wetland that are hydrologically connected to jurisdictional waters would require a permit from the USACE prior to the start of work. Typically, when a project involves impacts to waters of the United States, the goal of no net loss of wetland acres or values is met through avoidance and minimization to the extent practicable, followed by compensatory mitigation involving creation or enhancement of similar habitats.

Regional Water Quality Board

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have jurisdiction over "waters of the State," pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State. The SWRCB has issued general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) regarding discharges to "isolated" waters of the State (Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction). The RWQCB administers actions under this general order for isolated waters not subject to federal jurisdiction and is also responsible for the issuance of water quality certifications pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for waters subject to federal jurisdiction.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for implementing the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (16 United States Code [USC] § 153 et seq.). Generally, the USFWS implements the FESA for terrestrial and freshwater species, while the NMFS implements the FESA for marine and anadromous species. Projects that would result in "take" of any federally threatened or endangered species are required to obtain permits from the USFWS or NMFS through either Section 7 (interagency consultation with a federal nexus) or Section 10 (Habitat Conservation Plan) of the FESA, depending on the involvement by the federal government in permitting and/or funding of the project. The permitting process is used to determine if a project would jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and what measures would be required to avoid jeopardizing the species. "Take" under federal definition means to harass, harm (which includes habitat modification), pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Proposed or candidate species do not have the full protection of the FESA; however, the

USFWS and NMFS advise project applicants that they could be elevated to listed status at any time. Additionally, the USFWS implements the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC Section 703-711) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC Section 668).

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) derives its authority from the Fish and Game Code of California. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et. seq.) prohibits take of state listed threatened or endangered species. Take under CESA is restricted to direct mortality of a listed species and the law does not prohibit indirect harm by way of habitat modification. Where incidental take would occur during construction or other lawful activities, CESA allows the CDFW to issue and Incidental Take Permit upon finding, among other requirements, that impacts to the species have been minimized and fully mitigated.

The CDFW also enforces Sections 3511, 4700, 5050 and 5515 of the Fish and Game Code, which prohibits take of species designated as Fully Protected. The CDFW is not allowed to issue an Incidental Take Permit for Fully Protected Species; therefore, impacts to these species must be avoided.

California Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 describe unlawful take, possession or destruction of native birds, nests and eggs. Section 3503.5 of the Code protects all birds-of-prey and their eggs and nests against take, possession, or destruction of nests or eggs. Section 3513 makes it a state-level office to take any bird in violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. CDFW administers these requirements.

Species of Special Concern (SSC) is a category used by the CDFW for those species which are considered to be indicators of regional habitat changes or are considered to be potential future protected species. SSC do not have any special legal status except that which may be afforded by the Fish and Game Code as noted above. The SSC category is indented by the CDFW for use as a management tool to include these species in special consideration when decisions are made concerning the development of natural lands. The CDFW also has authority to administer the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) (Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et. seq.). The NPPA requires the CDFW to establish criteria for determining if a species, subspecies, or variety of native plant is endangered or rate. Effective in 2015, CDFW promulgated regulations (14 CCR 786.9) under the authority of the NPPA, establishing that the CESA's permitting procedures would be applied to plants listed under the NPPA as "Rare." With this change, there is little practicable difference for the regulated public between plants listed under CESA and those listed under the NPPA.

Perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and associated riparian vegetation, when present, also fall under the jurisdiction of CDFW. Section 1600 et. seq. of the Fish and Game Code (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements) gives the CDFW regulatory authority over activities that divert, obstruct, or alter the channel, bed or bank of any river, stream, or lake.

San Bernadino Countywide General Plan

The San Bernadino County General Plan (General Plan) identifies the Federal, State, and local statutes, ordinances, or policies that govern the conservation of biological resources that must be considered by San Bernadino County during the decision-making process for any project that could impact biological resources. The San Bernadino County Resource Management Division 8, Chapter 88.01, provides regulations and guidelines for the management of plant resources in the

unincorporated areas of the County on property or combinations of property under private or public ownership. Applicable County codes are as follows:

§ 82.11.020 Biotic Resources (BR) Overlay – Location Requirements

The BR Overlay shall be applied to areas that have been identified by a County, State, or Federal agency as habitat for species of unique, rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals or their habitats listed in the General Plan. The overlay applies to policy areas on the Open Space Overlay.

§ 88.01.050 Native Tree or Plant Removal Permits

- (a) *When Tree or Plant Removal Permit Required*. A Tree or Plant Removal Permit shall be required for the removal of a regulated tree or plant as identified in this chapter.
- (f)(3)(A) Joshua trees that are proposed to be removed will be transplanted or stockpiled for future use wherever possible.

§ 88.01.060 Desert Native Plant Protection

- (c) *Regulated Desert Native Plants*. The following desert native plants or any part of them, except the fruit, shall not be removed except under a Tree or Plant Removal permit in compliance with *§ 88.01.050* (Tree or Plant Removal Permits). In all cases the botanical names shall govern the interpretation of this Section.
- (1) The following desert native plants with stems two inches or greater in diameter or six feet or greater in height:
    - (A) *Dalea spinosa* (smoketree)
    - (B) All species of the genus *Prosopis* (mesquites)
- (2) All species of the family Agavaceae (century plants, Nolinas, Yuccas)
- (3) Creosote Rings, ten feet or greater in diameter
- (4) All Joshua trees
- (5) Any part of any of the following species, whether living or dead:
    - (A) *Olneya tesota* (desert ironwood).
    - (B) All species of *Prosopis* (mesquites).
    - (C) All species of the genus *Cercidium* (palos verdes)

7. Limitations, Assumptions, and Use Reliance

This Biological Resources Assessment has been performed in accordance with professionally accepted biological investigation practices conducted at this time in the geographic area. The biological investigation is limited by the scope of work performed. Reconnaissance biological surveys for certain

taxa may have been conducted as part of this assessment but were not performed during any particular blooming period, nesting period, or particular part of the season or day when positive identification would be expected if present, and therefore cannot be considered definitive. The biological surveys are limited also by the environmental conditions present at the time of the surveys. In general, biological surveys do not guarantee that the organisms are not present and will not be discovered in the future within the Study Area. No other guarantees or warranties, expressed or implied, are provided. The findings and opinions conveyed in this report are based on findings derived from site surveys, jurisdictional area, review of CNDDB, and specified historical and literature sources. Although Terracon believes the data sources are reasonably reliable, Terracon cannot and does not guarantee the authenticity or reliability of the data sources it has used. Additionally, pursuant to our contract, aquatic resources were not delineated as part of this assessment.

8. Impacts and Recommendations

Implementation of the proposed Project within the Study Area has the potential to affect various special-status species and other biological resources. The following sections provide an analysis of potential Project effects to these resources and recommendations for additional analysis that may be necessary. The final determination of effects of significance and required mitigation measures for the Project will be made by the County of San Bernardino in coordination with USFWS and CDFW and other applicable agencies.

8.1 Impacts to Plants and Wildlife

Criterion: Impacts would be significant if the Project would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

As described above, vegetation within the Study Area is characterized as Joshua tree woodland. During the reconnaissance surveys, the Study Area was observed to provide suitable habitat for one or more special-status species and migratory birds. Direct and indirect impacts to these species from Project activities would be considered ***potentially significant, absent mitigation***. However, through implementation of additional recommended surveys and mitigation measures approved by CDFW and/or USFWS, would reduce potential impacts to a ***less than significant*** level.

7.1.1 Special-Status Plant Species

Suitable habitat within the Study Area and within range of the species was observed for Parish's daisy. The Study Area was assessed to have a low potential for these species to be present.

Vegetation clearing associated with the Project may impact these special-status plant species. Species-specific vegetation surveys for the Parish's daisy should be conducted to determine the presence or absence of these species prior to Project activities. Results of these surveys would determine the potential for impacts and inform the applicability of potential mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

7.1.2 Special-Status Wildlife Species

No special-status wildlife species were observed within the Study Area during the field surveys. However, portions of the Study Area contain suitable habitat for monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*).

Pre-construction surveys for biological resources are recommended prior to project activities. These surveys should be conducted throughout the entire Study Area.

Additionally, no USFWS-designated critical habitat for Federally listed wildlife species is mapped within the Study Area. No critical habitat would be affected by the proposed Project; however, some of the special-status species outlined above, if present on-site during Project activities, could be affected directly or indirectly.

General Take-avoidance Surveys

The Study Area contains potentially suitable habitat for special-status species discussed above. Take avoidance surveys are recommended for special-status species that may be present within the Study Area. Results of these surveys would determine the potential for impacts and inform the applicability of potential mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

Burrowing Owl Impacts

The Study Area contains sparsely-vegetated Joshua tree woodland and burrows throughout, therefore providing suitable burrowing and foraging habitat for the burrowing owl. Take avoidance surveys are recommended for burrowing owls within the Study Area. Results of these surveys would determine the potential for impacts and inform the applicability of potential mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

Desert Tortoise Impacts

The Study Area contains sparsely-vegetated Joshua tree woodland, therefore providing potentially suitable habitat for the desert tortoise. Take avoidance surveys are recommended for desert tortoise within the Study Area. Results of these surveys would determine the potential for impacts and inform the applicability of potential mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

Migratory Bird Impacts

The Study Area contains potentially suitable nesting and foraging habitat for avian species protected under the BGEPA and MBTA. Nesting bird surveys are recommended for migratory birds prior to Project activities. In the event of an observation of an active nest, an appropriate buffer should be established, and a biological monitor may be required by CDFW and/or USFWS.

7.1.3 Avian Impacts

Common bird species were observed within the Study Area and vicinity and potential suitable nesting habitat was observed within the Study Area. These species, during their nesting period, are protected by the MBTA and may nest on site. The Study Area also contains suitable foraging habitat for avian species protected under the BGEPA and MBTA. Project activities have the potential to directly or

indirectly impact nesting birds, therefore nesting bird surveys and protective nest buffers are recommended prior to Project activities.

8.2 Impacts to Existing On-Site Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

Criterion: Impacts would be significant if the Project would have substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

As described above, vegetation within the Study Area is characterized the Joshua tree woodland vegetation community. Therefore, in the event that removal of Joshua trees is necessary for Project activities, the Project would be ***potentially significant, absent mitigation***. Attainment of an Incidental Take Permit for western Joshua tree and payment of CDFW mitigation fees for Joshua tree removal, would bring Project impacts to a ***less than significant*** level.

8.3 Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters and Streambeds

Criterion: Impacts would be significant if the Project would have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetland as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

As described above, the majority of the plant species present within the Study Area have an indicator status of *Facultative Upland* or *Upland* and no hydrology indicators were observed within the Study Area. Additionally, the NWI database does not contain wetland feature within the Study Area. Further, the Study Area is located in a FEMA area of minimal flood hazard. Therefore, the Project would have ***no impact*** on jurisdictional waters and streambeds.

8.4 Impacts to Wildlife Movement

Criterion: Impacts would be significant if the Project would interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

The Study Area is not located in a California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) area (**Exhibit 7**). The nearest CEHC area to the Study Area is approximately 4 miles to the west. Additionally, the Study Area is surrounded by urban development, and therefore the Project would result in ***no impact*** to wildlife movement.

8.5 Consistency With Local Policies and Ordinances

Criterion: Impacts would be significant if the Project would conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

The proposed Project has been designed with consideration for the policies and ordinances of San Bernadino County, and the proposed Project is consistent with these policies and ordinances. However, in some instances, these ordinances may impose additional requirements on the Project. The project assumes that county ordinances outlined in Section 5, above, would be adhered to. In the even that a protected tree or desert native plant is to be removed, the appropriate permit or measure will be acquired or followed. The San Bernardino County Biotic Resources Overlay shows that the Study Area is in a BLM designated area of low desert tortoise population density, however, the Study Area is not located in a Federal, State, or local species-specific Biotic Resources Area. Therefore, the Project would have ***no impact*** regarding consistency with local policies and ordinances.

8.6 Consistency With Habitat Conservation Plans

Criterion: Impacts would be significant if the Project would conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The Study Area is located within the West Mojave Plan (WMP) area. The Study Area occurs on land owned and managed by the County of San Bernardino. Through the WMP, the County of San Bernardino has integrated conservation measures into its land-use planning and permitting processes for projects within the plan area. This partnership allows the county to streamline environmental compliance for projects in accordance with the plan's goals, ensuring both habitat conservation and responsible development. Therefore, the Project will be in compliance with the local policies and ordinances described in Section 8.5 above and will subsequently be in compliance with the WMP and the Project would have ***no impact***.

8.7 Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Avoidance and minimization measures described below may offset potentially significant impacts on biological resources. The lead agency, in coordination with USFWS and CDFW, will ultimately determine the level of minimization measures required for the Project. Below are some recommendations for consideration in consultation with the appropriate agencies.

Take-avoidance Surveys

Prior to Project activities, a qualified biologist will conduct focused surveys for potential special-status species discussed in the Biological Assessment (Terracon 2024). In the event of an observation or signs of a special-status species are detected, including but not limited to monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), the biologist will halt all project activities and the appropriate agency (CDFW, USFWS, County of San Bernardino, etc.) shall be contacted to formulate a strategy for avoidance.

The results of these surveys, including graphical representations pinpointing the locations of detected special-status species or their sign, along with documentation detailing avoidance measures implemented, must be submitted to the USFWS and CDFW within 14 days following the conclusion of the take-avoidance surveys or construction monitoring. This submission serves as evidence of

compliance with pertinent federal and state regulations pertaining to the protection of special-status species.

Take Avoidance Vegetation Surveys

Prior to Project activities, a qualified biologist will conduct focused vegetation surveys for Parish's daisy. Survey techniques will include pedestrian transect surveys spaced approximately 30 feet apart within areas of suitable habitat in the Project impact areas and a 100-foot buffer. Survey techniques will be consistent with the accepted methodologies outlined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2018), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2000), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2000) (References found in [Terracon 2024]).

Take Avoidance Nesting Bird Surveys and Avoidance

Within 5 days prior to the commencement of vegetation clearing or ground disturbing activities during the nesting season (typically January through September, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist based on local observations), a qualified biologist will determine the presence of active nests belonging to species protected under the MBTA and BGEPA within or in proximity to the planned disturbance area, extending 100 feet (or 300 feet for raptors) from the disturbance zone.

These nest surveys must be carried out no more than five days before the initiation of disturbance work. In cases where ground disturbance activities are delayed, additional pre-disturbance must be conducted to ensure that no more than seven days have passed between the survey and the onset of ground disturbance activities.

If active nests are identified, disturbance activities within 100 feet of the nest (or lesser distance if approved by USFWS) must be postponed or halted until the nest is vacated and the juveniles have successfully fledged, as determined by the biologist. To establish avoidance buffers in the field, highly visible construction fencing, or flagging must be used, and on-site personnel must be educated about the sensitivity of these nest areas. During periods when Project activities are scheduled to occur near active nests, a qualified biologist must be present as a biological monitor to ensure that inadvertent impacts on these nests are prevented.

Take Avoidance Burrowing Owl Surveys

Within 14 days preceding vegetation clearing or ground disturbing activities, a qualified biologist will conduct comprehensive surveys for signs of occupancy by the burrowing owl. These surveys must encompass the entire area designated for disturbance and should involve the biologist walking along parallel transects. The focus of these surveys is to identify evidence of live owls or indications of their presence, which may include feathers, burrows, pellets, tracks, and scat.

If signs suggesting the presence of the burrowing are detected, vegetation clearing, and ground disturbing activities will be prohibited in the area where the signs were found. Instead, CDFW shall be contacted to formulate a strategy for avoidance.

The results of these surveys, including graphical representations pinpointing the locations of burrowing owl sign, along with documentation detailing avoidance measures implemented, must be submitted to CDFW within 14 days following the conclusion of the pre-construction surveys or construction monitoring. This submission serves as evidence of compliance with pertinent state regulations pertaining to the protection of the burrowing owl.

Take Avoidance Desert Tortoise Surveys

Within 14 days preceding vegetation clearing or ground disturbing activities, a qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for signs of occupancy by the desert tortoise. These surveys must encompass the entire area designated for disturbance and should involve the biologist walking along parallel transects spaced no more than 10 meters apart. The focus of these surveys is to identify evidence of live tortoises or indications of their presence, which may include carcasses, burrows, palates, tracks, and scat.

If signs suggesting the presence of the desert tortoise are detected, vegetation clearing and ground disturbing activities will be prohibited in the area where the signs were found. Instead, the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted to formulate a strategy for avoidance or to seek authorization for incidental take of the desert tortoise.

The results of these surveys, including graphical representations pinpointing the locations of detected tortoise sign, along with documentation detailing avoidance measures implemented, must be submitted to the USFWS and CDFW within 14 days following the conclusion of the pre-construction surveys or construction monitoring. This submission serves as evidence of compliance with pertinent federal and state regulations pertaining to the protection of the desert tortoise.

Exclusion Fencing for Vegetation

In the event of an observation of Parish's daisy, individuals identified will be protected behind exclusion fencing. For impacts regarding individual plants, the affected plants will be relocated under supervision of a qualified biologist. Coordination with CDFW and USFWS will occur before the implementation of these measures.

Worker Environmental Awareness Program

Prior to project ground disturbing construction activities or vegetation clearance, a qualified biologist will initiate a biological training program, Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP), designed to educate on-site workers about four (4) critical environmental concerns associated with the Project. This training will be mandatory for on-site personnel involved in ground disturbing/demolition or vegetation clearance. It will be administered on the first day of work, before Project activities commence. This training will place particular emphasis on educating participants about the protected species that may potentially be present within the Project Site, including, but not limited to monarch butterfly, desert tortoise, burrowing owl, and Parish's daisy.

The program will include the following elements:

- A presentation, either developed by a qualified biologist or in consultation with one, which will address the sensitive biological resources that may be present within the Project Site. It will also elucidate the rationale behind safeguarding these resources and the consequences of non-compliance.
- Brochures or booklets that contain written descriptions, photographs of protected species, and a comprehensive list of site rules related to the protection of biological resources. These materials will be distributed to all participants in the EAT.

- Contact information for the project's biological monitor, along with clear instructions for participants to contact the monitor with inquiries concerning the EAT presentation or booklets.
- An acknowledgement form that each worker is required to sign, confirming their receipt of EAT training and their commitment to adherer to the rules aimed at preserving biological resources.

The County of San Bernardino will bear the responsibility for ensuring all on-site personnel receive the appropriate training throughout the entire Project. A training log will be maintained within the Project Site and signed by on-site personnel immediately after training to document compliance with this requirement.

Biological Monitor

In the event of an observation of a special-status species within the Study Area, a qualified biologist will be designated as the biological monitor. This monitor is required to be on-site at all times during activities involving vegetation clearance or ground disturbance. Their primary responsibility is to observe and educate construction teams so that potential impacts to biological resources are either avoided or minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Once the Project approaches a phase where it is determined by the biological monitor that biological resources are no longer present, as determined by their expertise, they may request a reduction or discontinuation of biological monitoring in that specific area.

The biological monitor is vested with the authority to halt specific Project activities if they suspect violations of avoidance or minimization measures or if there are concerns about compliance with local, state, or federal laws. This authority is essential for the protection of biological resources and adherence to regulatory requirements.

8.8 Mitigation Measures

Western Joshua Tree

Western Joshua trees are present within the Study Area and would require removal as a result of the Project. Removal of this species will require mitigation and CDFW and USFWS should be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures.

Regarding the WJTCA, the Project is located in an area that is subject to standard western Joshua tree removal fees. The WJTCA mitigation fees for the Project are classified into three categories based upon the height of the western Joshua tree as follows:

- Trees 5 meters (16.4 feet) or greater - $2,500
- Trees 1 meter (3.28 feet) or greater but less than 5 meters - $500
- Trees less than 1 meter - $340

General

If additional sensitive species are observed during pre-construction surveys, CDFW and USFWS (as applicable) shall be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required for the individual species. CDFW and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the "take" of a sensitive species and can approve the implementation of applicable mitigation measures.

9. Closing

Terracon appreciates the opportunity to submit this report to the County of San Bernardino. If you have questions or concerns regarding this assessment, please contact Cailan Patel by phone at 925-285-9740, or via email, at cailan.patel@terracon.com.

10. References

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Appendix A – Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – Site Diagram

Exhibit 2 – Topographic Map

Exhibit 3 – National Wetlands Inventory Map

Exhibit 4 – NRCS Soil Survey Map

Exhibit 5 – FEMA Floodplain Map

Exhibit 6 – CNDDB Critical Habitat Map

Exhibit 7 – Biological Resource Map

Exhibit 8 – California Essential Habitat Connectivity Map

Exhibit 9a & 9b – CNDDB Occurrence Map

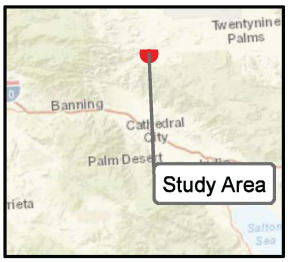
Exhibit 10 – Photo Reference Map

Exhibit 11 – Joshua Tree Census Map



Legend

Study Area (1.72 ac)



0 100 200 400 Feet

1:2,400 1 inch equals 200 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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SITE DIAGRAM

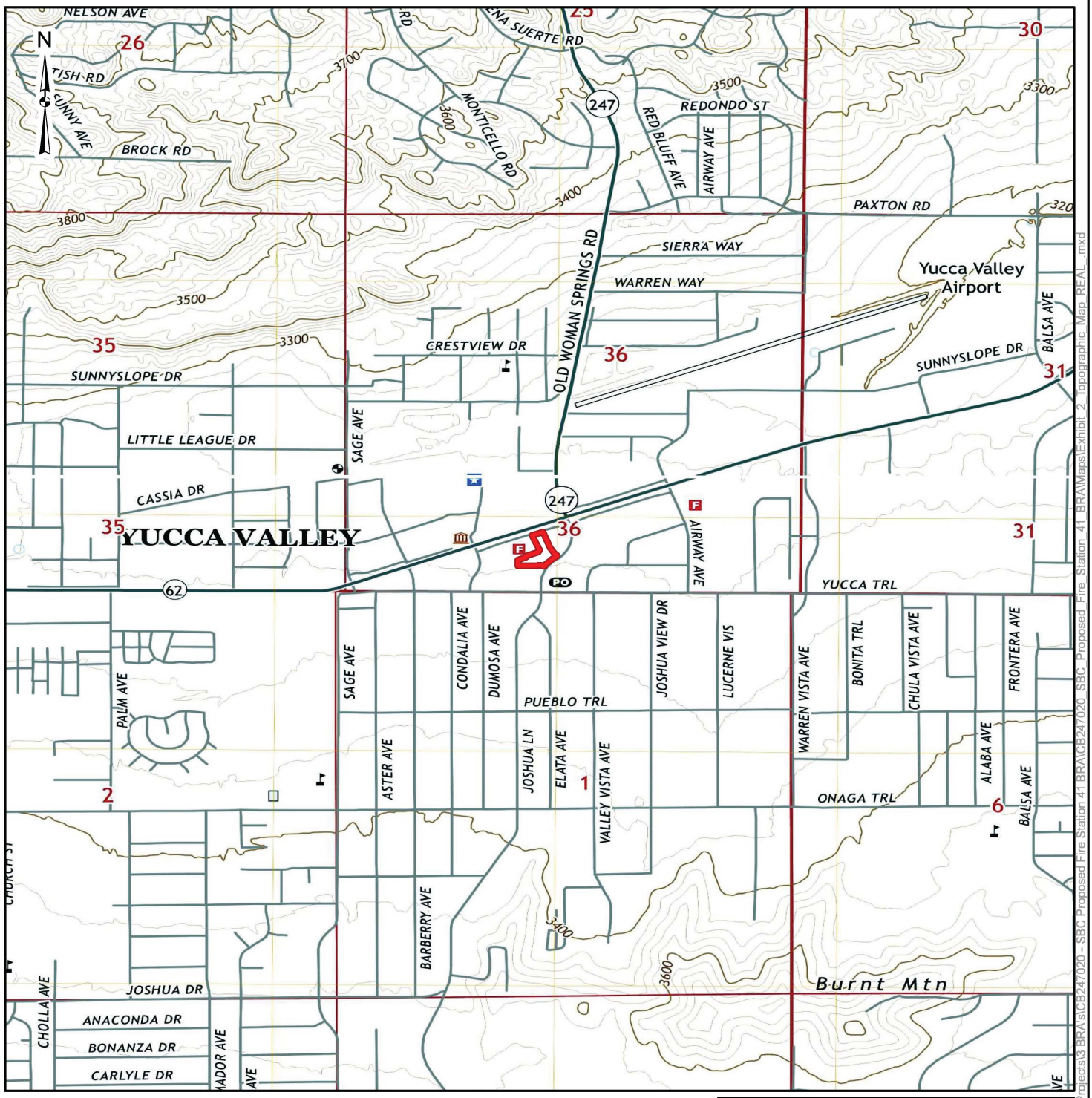
Biological Assessment Report

Proposed Fire Station 41
Yucca Valley, CA

Exhibit

1

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Legend

Study Area (1.72 ac)

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

1:24,000 1 inch equals 2,000 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap
Yucca Valley North, Yucca Valley South, and Joshua Tree South, CA, 7.5-minute Series Quadrangle Map (2021)

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

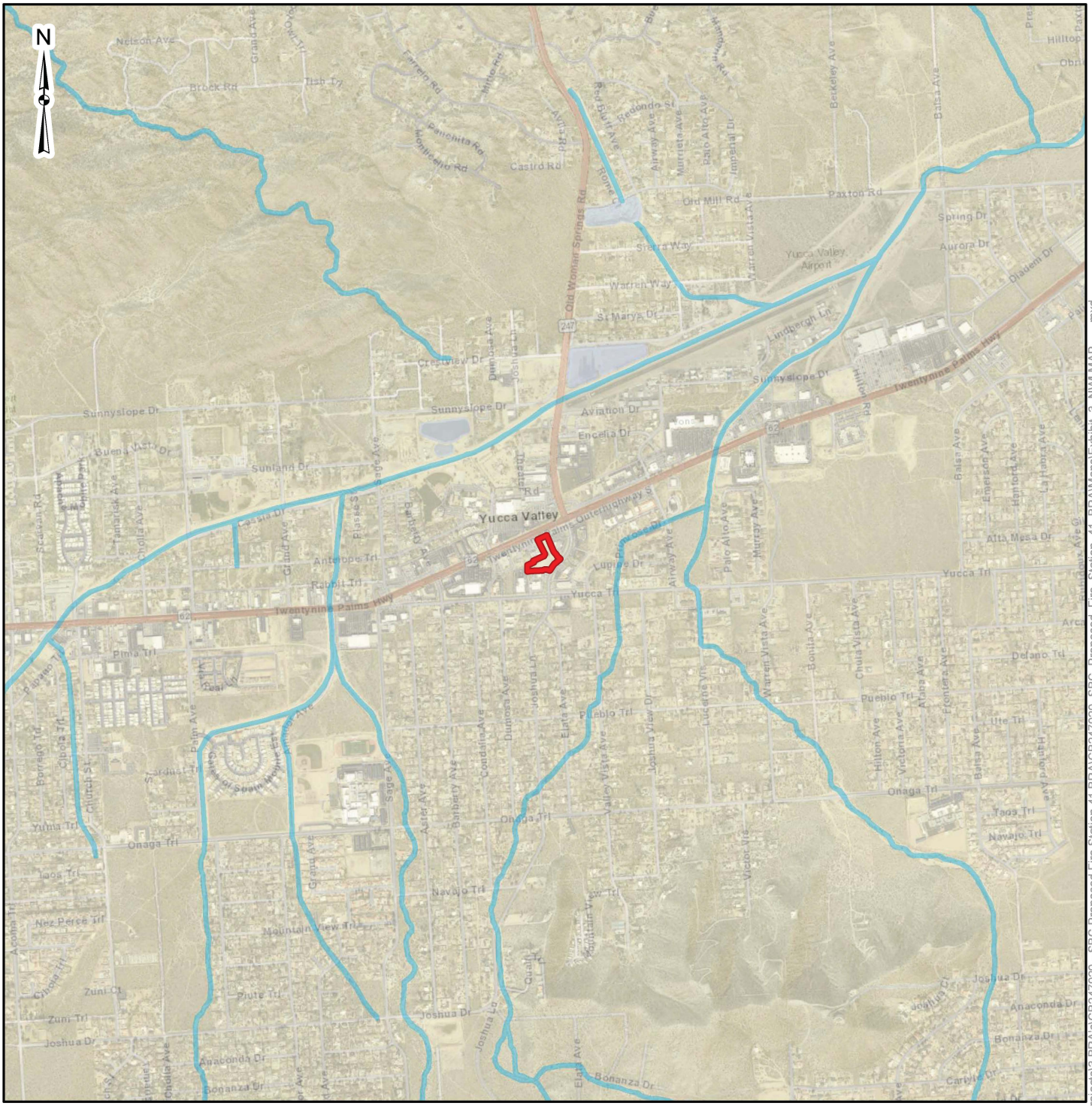
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Proposed Fire Station 41
Yucca Valley, CA

Exhibit

2

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Legend

- Study Area (1.72 ac)

Wetland Units (NWI 2024)

- Freshwater Pond
- Riverine

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

1:24,000 1 inch equals 2,000 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap
National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS, 2024)

Project No.:	CB247020
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Reviewed By:	JHW

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NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP

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Proposed Fire Station 41
Yucca Valley, CA

Exhibit

3

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Legend

Study Area (1.72 ac)

Soil Map Units (NRCS 2024)

No digital data available (NOTCOM)

0 40 80 160 Feet

1:960 1 inch equals 80 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap
NRCS Soil Survey (USDA, 2024)

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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NRCS SOIL SURVEY MAP

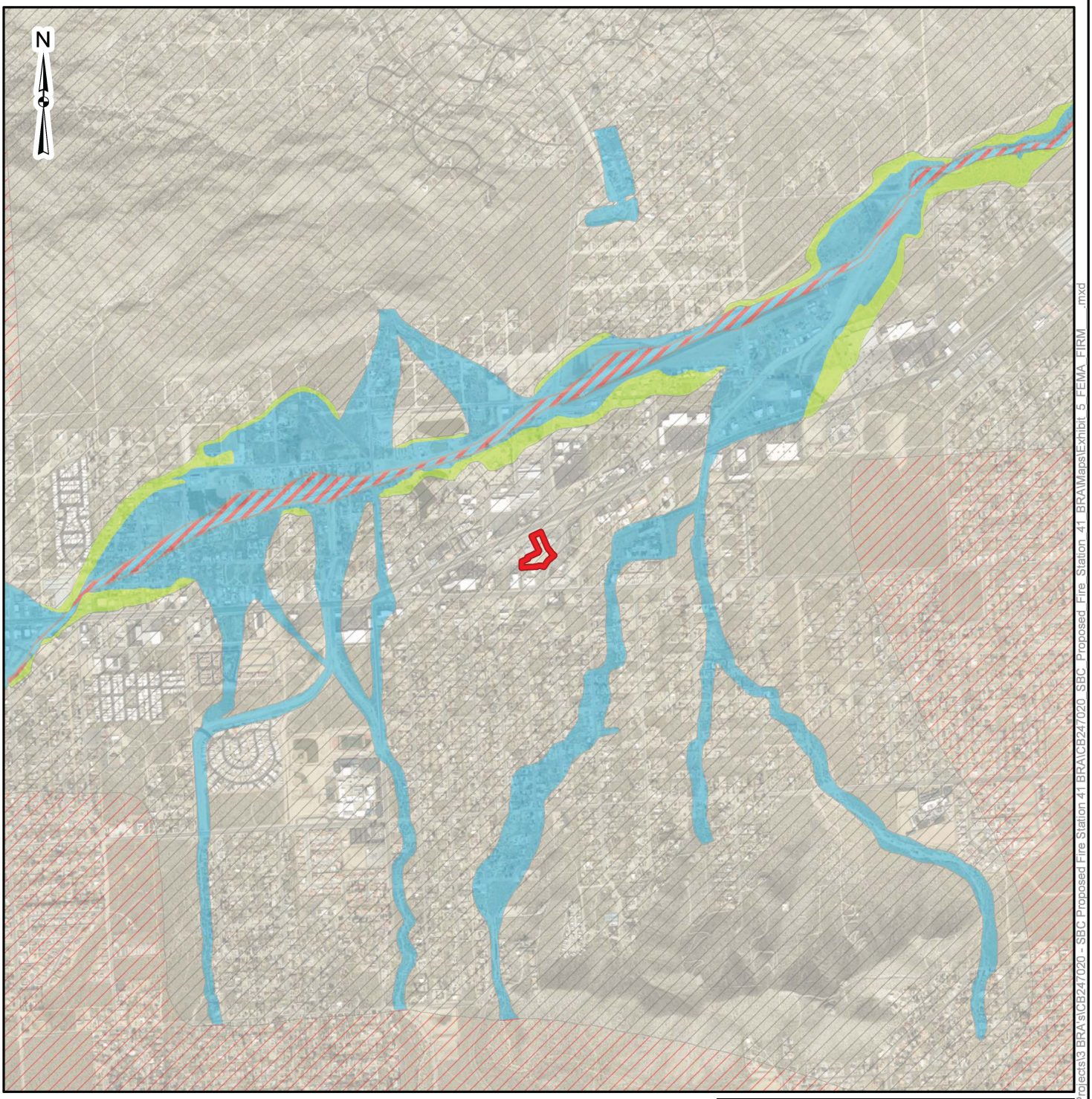
Biological Assessment Report

Proposed Fire Station 41
Yucca Valley, CA

Exhibit

4

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Legend

- Study Area (1.72 ac)

Floodplain Units (FEMA 2024)

- 100-year floodplain
- Regulatory floodway
- Area of undetermined flood risk
- 500-year floodplain
- Area of Minimal flood hazard

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

1:24,000 1 inch equals 2,000 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, World Topographic Map
FEMA FIRM - (FEMA, 2024)

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAP

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Exhibit

5

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Legend

- Study Area (1.72 ac)

Critical Habitat (USFWS 2024)

- Coachella Valley milk-vetch
- Cushenbury buckwheat
- Parish's daisy

0 2 4 8 Miles

1:253,440 1 inch equals 4 miles

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2024)

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
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USFWS CRITICAL HABITAT MAP

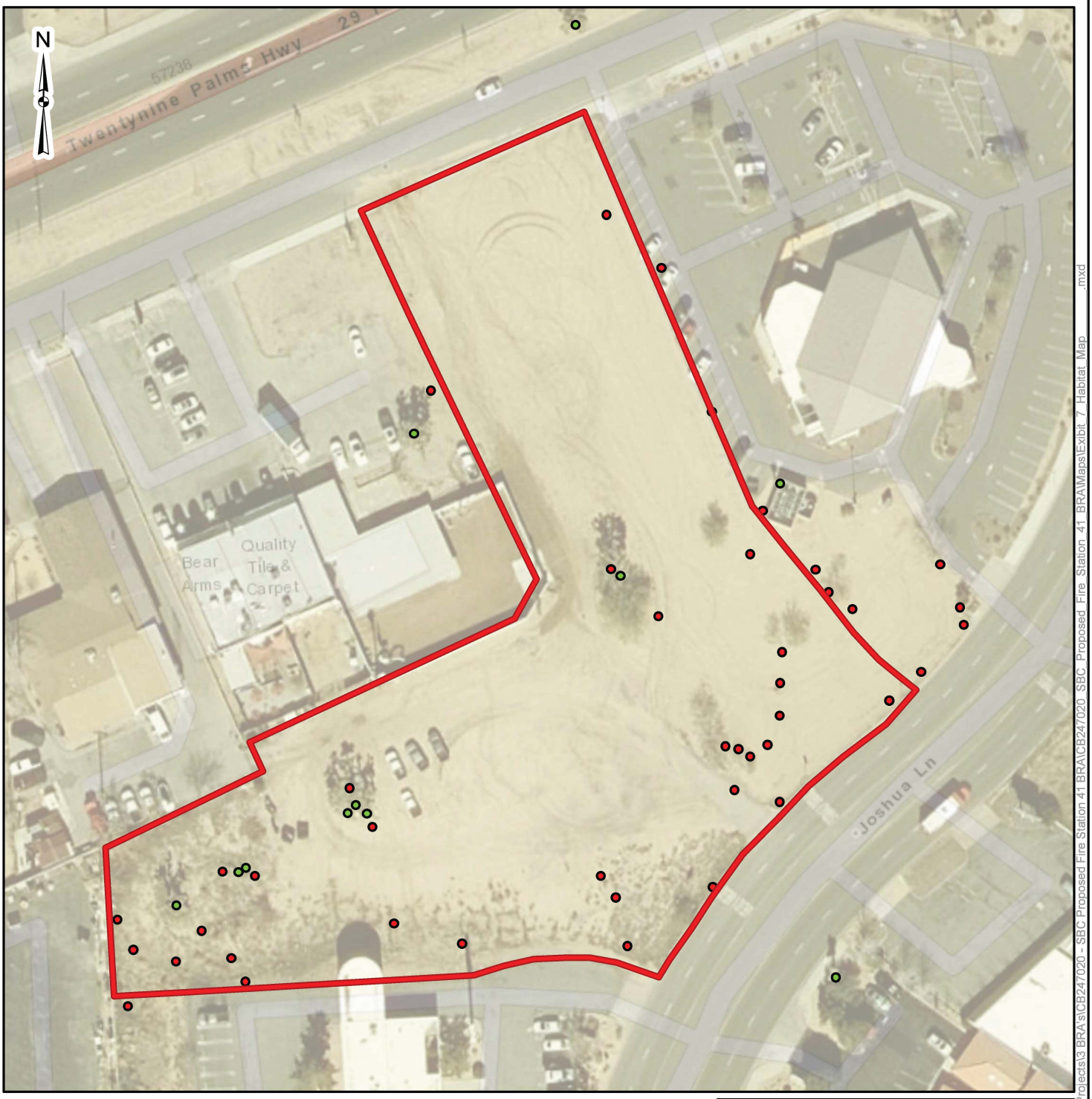
Biological Assessment Report

Proposed Fire Station 41
Yucca Valley, CA

Exhibit

6

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Legend

- Study Area (1.72 ac)
- Small burrow complex
- Joshua tree

0 80 160 Feet

1:960 1 inch equals 80 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap

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Date:	Jan 2025
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MAP

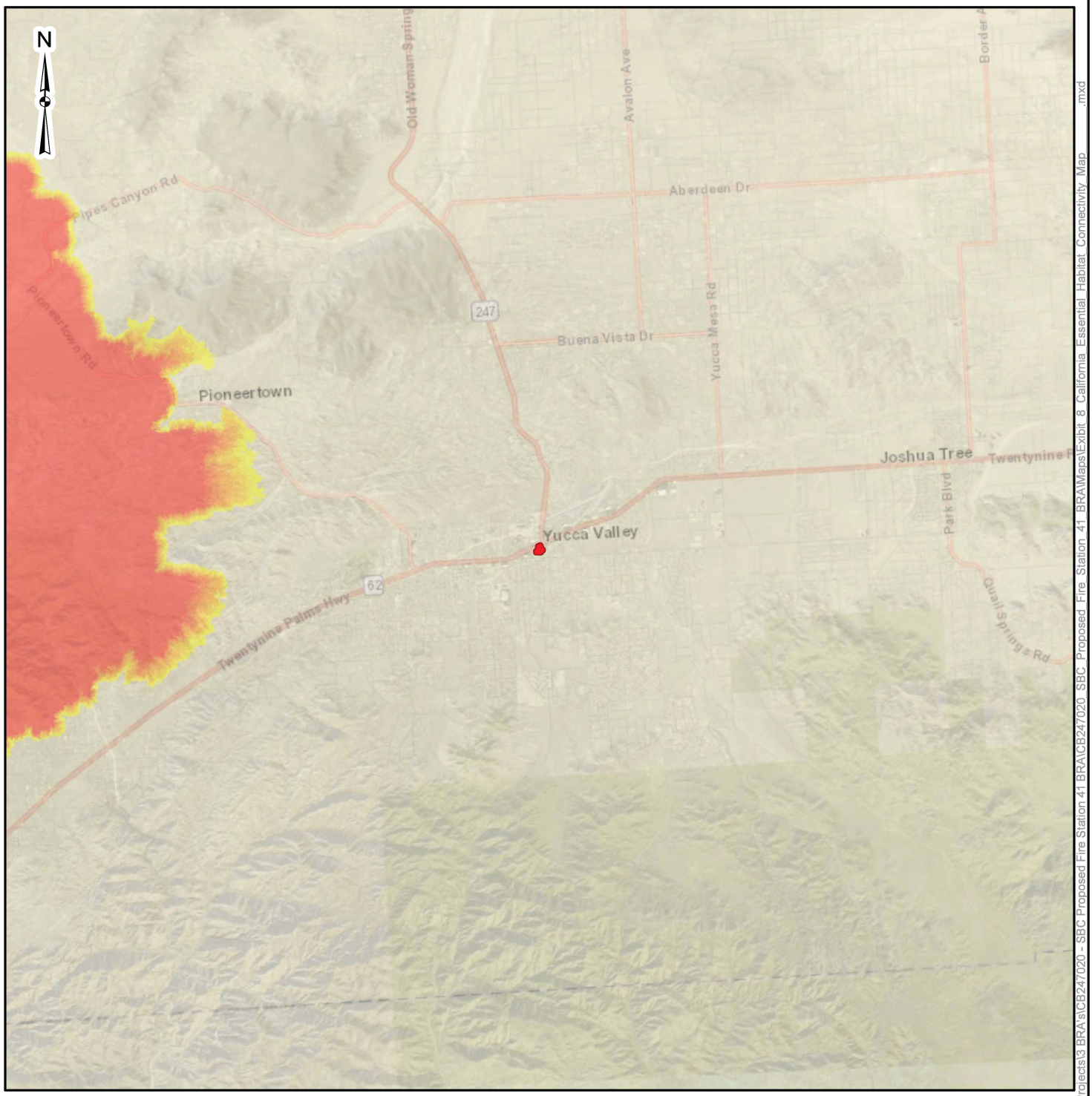
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Exhibit

7

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Legend

Study Area (1.72 ac)

Habitat Connectivity (CDFW 2024)

- Low Connectivity
- High Connectivity

0 1 2 4 Miles

1:126,720 1 inch equals 2 miles

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap
California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2024

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CALIFORNIA ESSENTIAL HABITAT CONNECTIVITY MAP

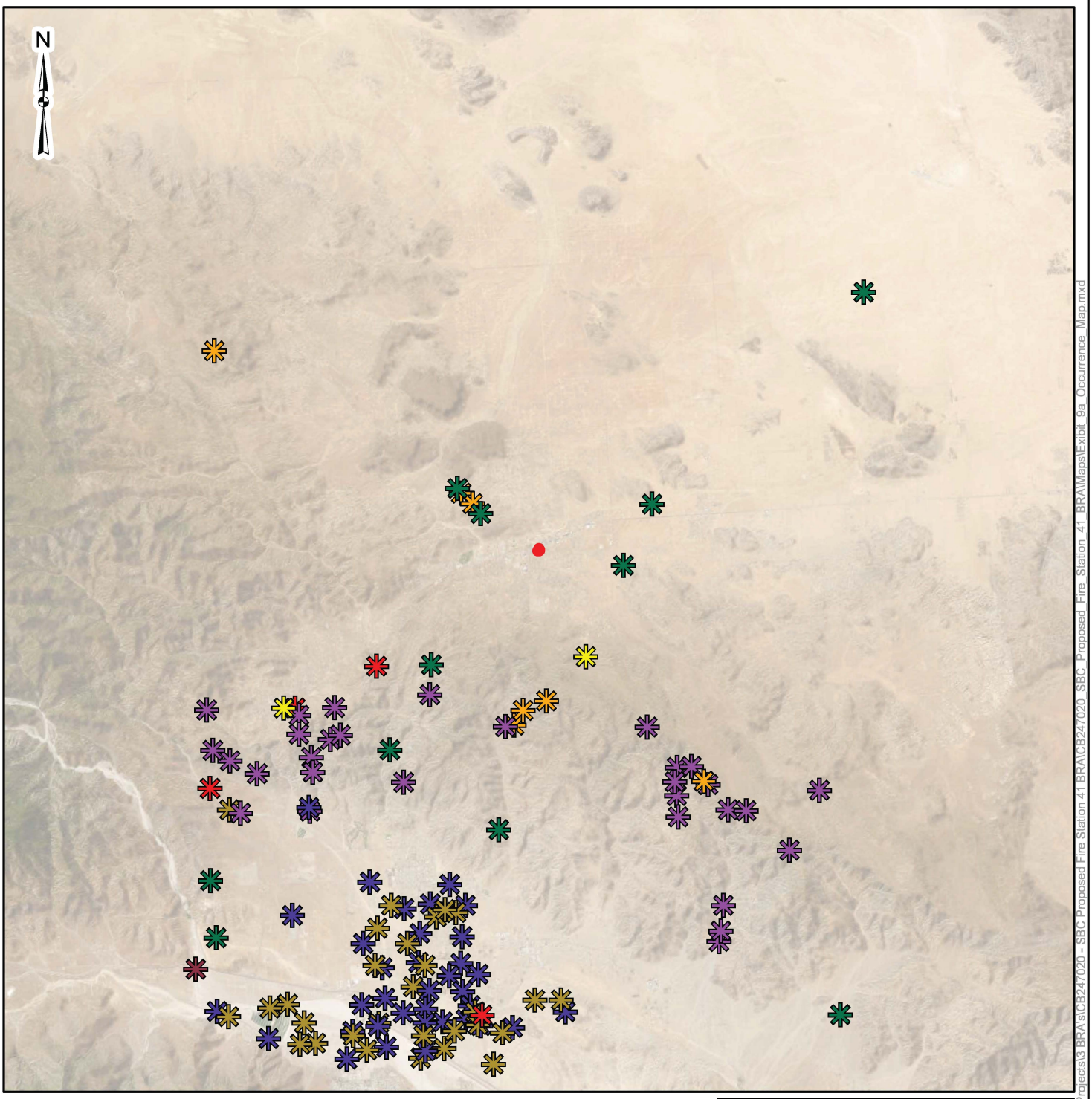
Biological Assessment Report

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Exhibit

8

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Legend

- Study Area (1.72 ac)

CNDDB Occurrences (CDFW 2024)

- Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard
- Coachella Valley milk-vetch
- Crotch's bumble bee
- Parish's daisy
- Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS
- Desert tortoise
- Least Bell's vireo
- Slender-horned spineflower
- Triple-ribbed milk-vetch

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

1:316,800 1 inch equals 5 miles

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap
CNDDB (CDFW 2024)

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
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CNDDB OCCURRENCE MAP

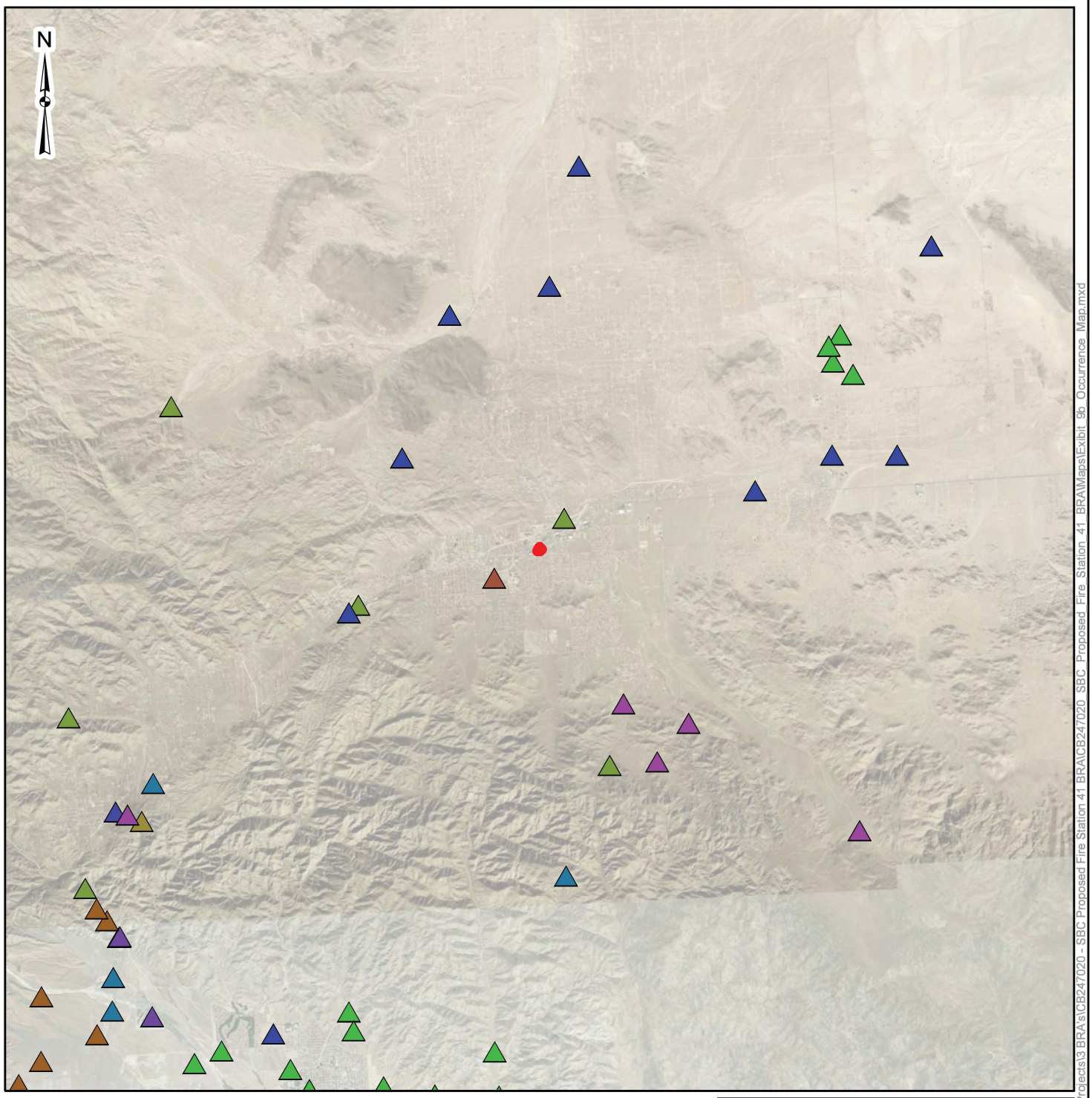
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Exhibit

9a

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Legend

- Study Area (1.72 ac)

CNDDB Occurrences (CDFW 2024)

- Le Conte's thrasher
- Palm Springs pocket mouse
- San Diego desert woodrat
- Southern California legless lizard
- Burrowing owl
- Coast horned lizard
- Long-eared owl
- Pallid bat
- Red-diamond rattlesnake
- Summer tanager
- Vermilion flycatcher
- Western yellow bat
- Yellow warbler
- Yellow-breasted chat

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

1:190,080 1 inch equals 3 miles

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap
CNDDB (CDFW 2024)

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Nov 2024
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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CNDDB OCCURRENCE MAP

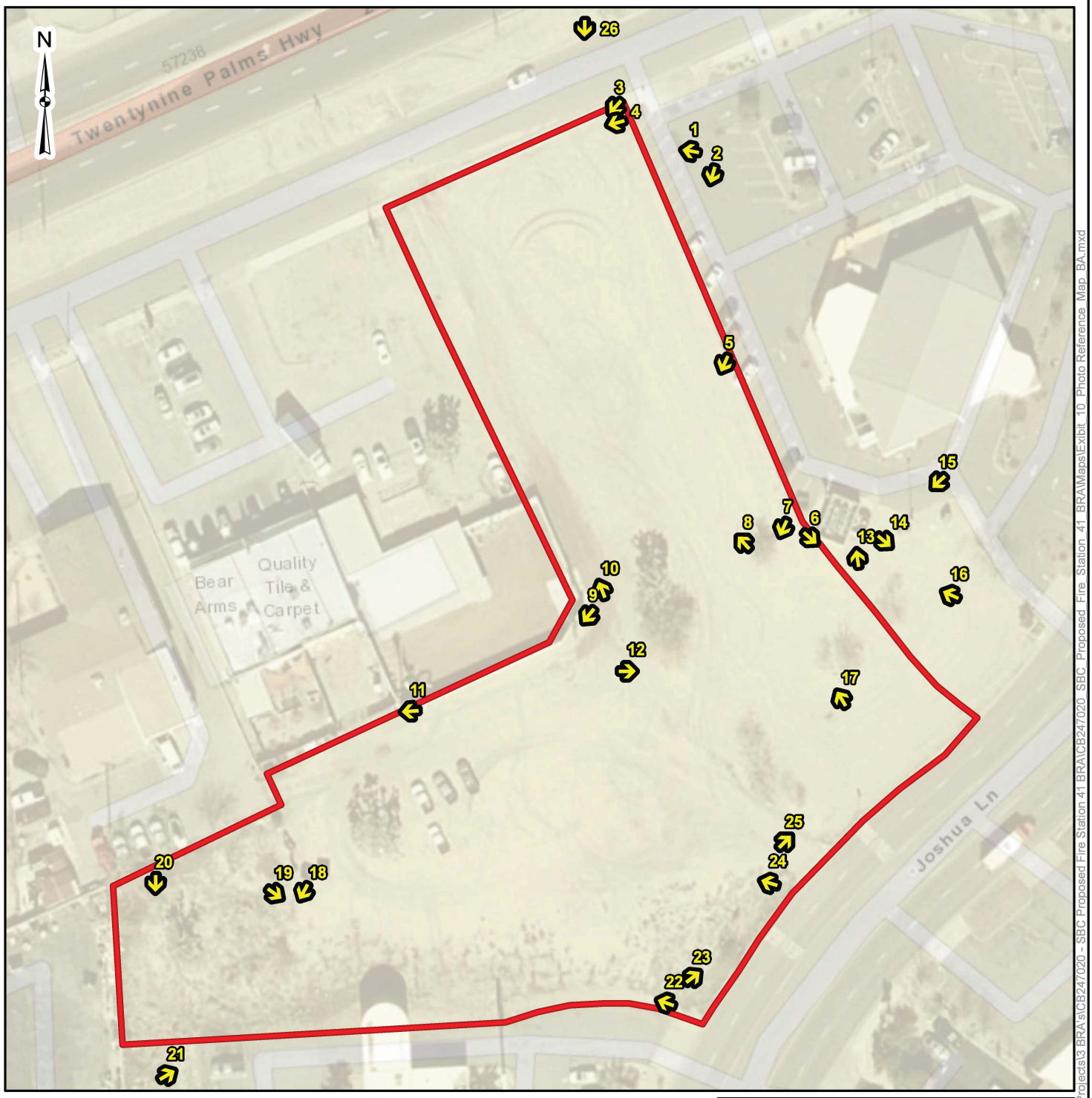
Biological Assessment Report

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Exhibit

9b

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Legend

Study Area (1.72 ac)

Photo Location

0 40 80 160 Feet

1:900 1 inch equals 75 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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PHOTO REFERENCE MAP

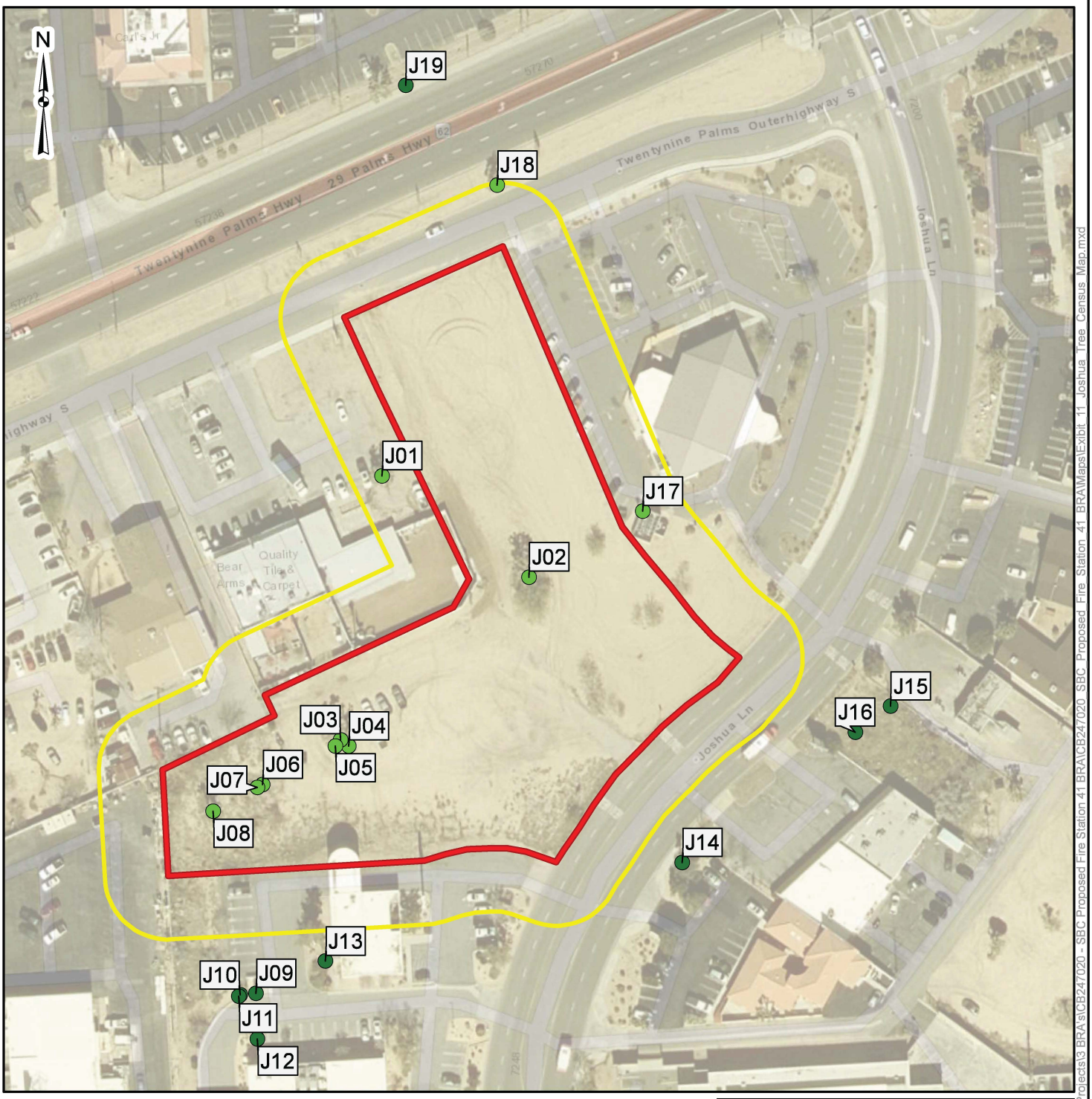
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Proposed Fire Station 41
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Exhibit

10

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Legend

- Study Area (1.72 ac)
- 50-foot buffer
- Joshua tree (within 50-foot buffer)
- Joshua tree (outside of 50-foot buffer)

0 112.5 225 Feet

1:1,350 1 inch equals 112.5 feet

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Jan 2025
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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JOSHUA TREE CENSUS MAP

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Yucca Valley, CA

Exhibit

11

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Appendix B – Photo Log

Photo 1	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of northeastern corner of Study Area from adjacent parcel to northeast	
Photo 2	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of northern portion of Study Area from adjacent parcel to northeast	

Photo 3	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of northern portion of Study Area facing southwest	
Photo 4	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View along northern boundary of Study Area	

Photo 5	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of northcentral portion of Study Area and Joshua tree facing southwest	
Photo 6	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of southeastern portion of Study Area	

Photo 7	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of southcentral portion of Study Area	
Photo 8	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of northern portion of Study Area from central portion of Study Area	

Photo 9	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of southwestern portion of Study Area	
Photo 10	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of northern portion of Study Area along northwestern boundary	

Photo 11	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View along southwestern boundary of Study Area	
Photo 12	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of central portion of Study Area	

Photo 13	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of adjacent parcel to the northeast	
Photo 14	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of southeastern corner of Study Area	

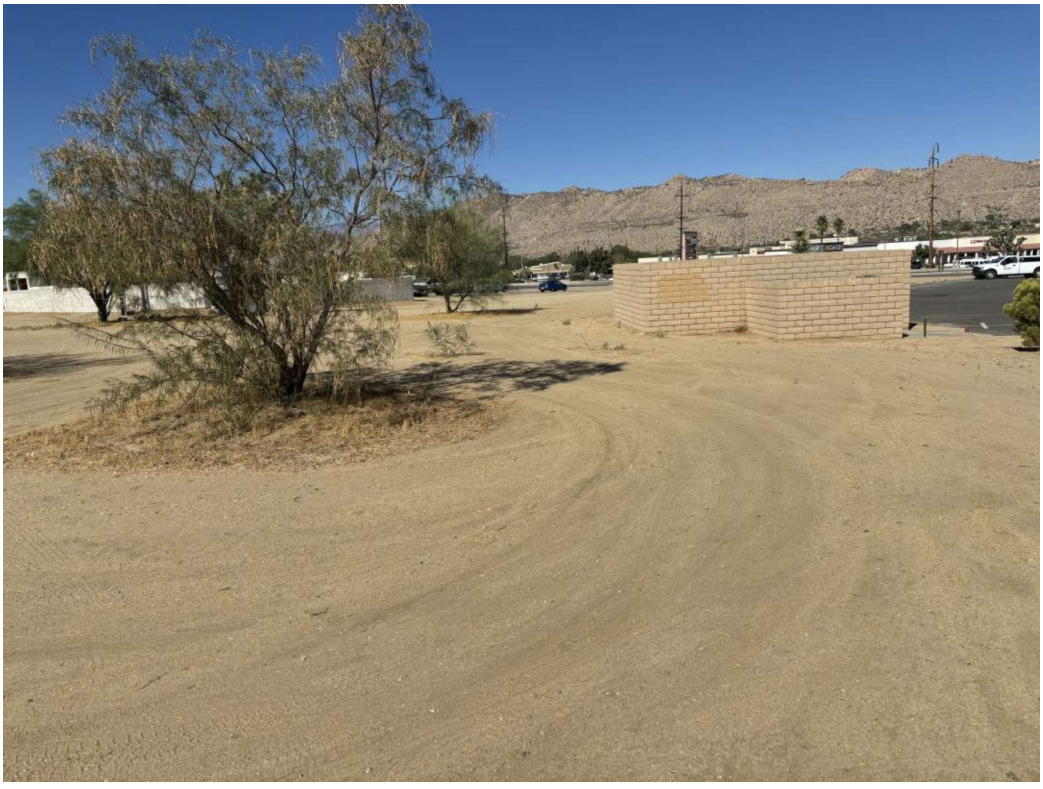
Photo 15 Date: October 15, 2024 Description: View of southeastern corner of Study Area from adjacent parcel to northeast	
Photo 16 Date: October 15, 2024 Description: View of southeastern corner of Study Area facing northwest	

Photo 17	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of Study Area and Joshua tree from south facing north	
Photo 18	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of southwestern corner of Study Area facing southwest	

Photo 19	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of southwestern corner of Study Area facing southeast	
Photo 20	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View along southwestern boundary of Study Area	

Photo 21	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of adjacent parcel to south of Study Area	
Photo 22	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of along southern boundary of Study Area facing west	

Photo 23	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View along southern boundary of Study Area facing northeast	
Photo 24	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of southern portion of Study Area facing northwest	

Photo 25	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View along southern boundary of Study Area facing northeast	
Photo 26	
Date: October 15, 2024	
Description: View of northern portion of Study Area from across adjacent road to north	

Appendix C – IpaC Letter Report

IPaC **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

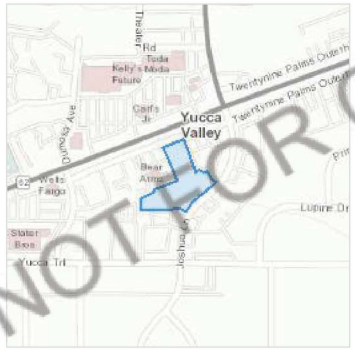
This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list 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.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Location

San Bernardino 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.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

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
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

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Desert Tortoise Gopherus agassizii There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4481	Threatened

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

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS

Parish's Daisy Erigeron parishii Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8446	Threatened

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.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Bald & Golden Eagles

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

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- 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
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity

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

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos 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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

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 "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "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.

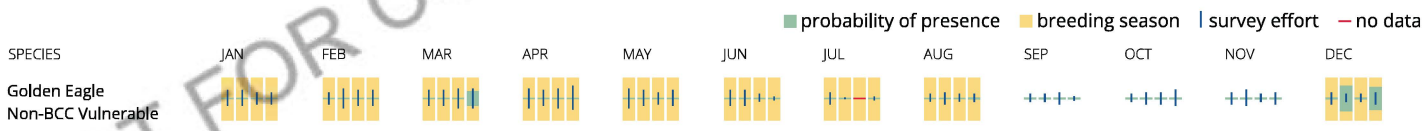
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

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.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION



What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence 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). To see 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 of bald and golden eagles 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 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. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

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[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

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:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management

- 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
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

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, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Avocet Recurvirostra americana This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Apr 21 to Aug 10
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
Costa's Hummingbird Calypte costae 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/9470	Breeds Jan 15 to Jun 10
Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos 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. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Lawrence's Goldfinch Spinus 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
Leconte''s Thrasher Toxostoma lecontei This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8969	Breeds Feb 15 to Jun 20
Long-eared Owl asio otus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3631	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Pinyon Jay Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420	Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15

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 "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "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.

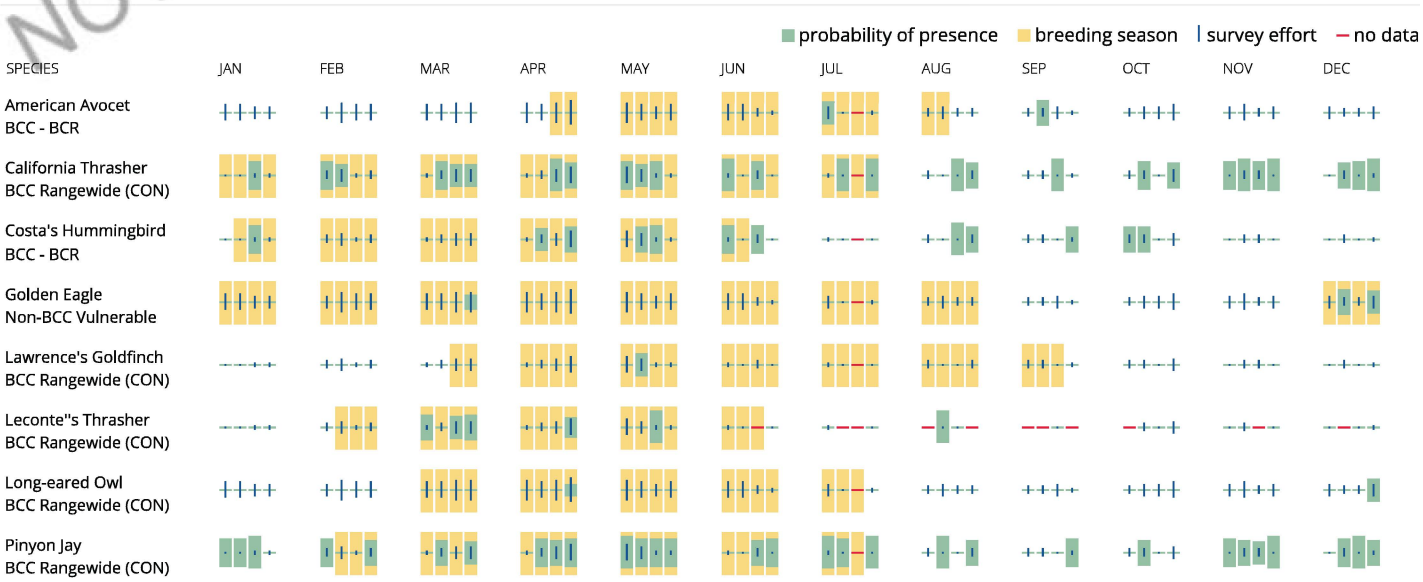
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

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.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION



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.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

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.

This location did not intersect any wetlands mapped by NWI.

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

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.

Appendix D – CNDDB Query

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE **RareFind**

Query Summary:
Quad IS (Yucca Valley North (3411624) OR Yucca Valley South (3411614) OR Joshua Tree North (3411623) OR Joshua Tree South (3411613) OR East Deception Canyon (3311683) OR Seven Palms Valley (3311684) OR Desert Hot Springs (3311685) OR Morongo Valley (3411615) OR Rimrock (3411625))
AND Taxonomic Group IS (Fish OR Amphibians OR Reptiles OR Birds OR Mammals OR Mollusks OR Arachnids OR Crustaceans OR Insects OR Ferns OR Gymnosperms OR Monocots OR Dicots OR Lichens OR Bryophytes)
AND Other Status CONTAINS (CDFW_FP-Fully Protected OR CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern)

Print Close

CNDDB Element Query Results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	Element Code	Total Occs	Returned Occs	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	CA Rare Plant Rank	Other Status	Habitats
Anniella stebbinsi	Southern California legless lizard	Reptiles	ARACC01060	427	5	None	None	G3	S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, USFS_S-Sensitive	Broadleaved upland forest, Chaparral, Coastal dunes, Coastal scrub
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	Mammals	AMACC10010	424	1	None	None	G4	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern, USFS_S-Sensitive	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Desert wash, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Riparian woodland, Sonoran desert scrub, Upper montane coniferous forest, Valley & foothill grassland
Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	Birds	ABNKC22010	332	1	None	None	G5	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDF_S-Sensitive, CDFW_FP-Fully Protected, CDFW_WL-Watch List, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Broadleaved upland forest, Cismontane woodland, Coastal prairie, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinon & juniper woodlands, Upper montane coniferous forest, Valley & foothill grassland
Asio otus	long-eared owl	Birds	ABNSB13010	56	1	None	None	G5	S3?	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern, USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Cismontane woodland, Great Basin scrub, Riparian forest, Riparian woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	Birds	ABNSB10010	2057	38	None	None	G4	S2	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special	Coastal prairie, Coastal scrub, Great Basin grassland,

											Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern, USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub, Valley & foothill grassland
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	Mammals	AMACC08010	635	1	None	None	G4	S2	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern, USFS_S-Sensitive	Broadleaved upland forest, Chaparral, Chenopod scrub, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadow & seep, Mojavean desert scrub, Riparian forest, Riparian woodland, Sonoran desert scrub, Sonoran thorn woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest, Valley & foothill grassland
Crotalus ruber	red-diamond rattlesnake	Reptiles	ARADE02090	192	6	None	None	G4	S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern, USFS_S-Sensitive	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub
Icteria virens	yellow-breasted chat	Birds	ABPBX24010	101	1	None	None	G5	S4	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Riparian forest, Riparian scrub, Riparian woodland
Lasiurus xanthinus	western yellow bat	Mammals	AMACC05070	58	1	None	None	G4G5	S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Desert wash
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	Mammals	AMAFF08041	132	20	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Coastal scrub
Ovis canadensis nelsoni	desert bighorn sheep	Mammals	AMALE04013	46	1	None	None	G4T3	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_FP-Fully Protected, USFS_S-Sensitive	Alpine, Alpine dwarf scrub, Chaparral, Chenopod scrub, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Montane dwarf scrub, Pinon & juniper woodlands, Riparian woodland, Sonoran desert scrub

Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2	Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	Mammals	AMALE04012	7	1	Endangered	Threatened	G4T3Q	S2	null	CDFW_FP-Fully Protected	Alpine, Alpine dwarf scrub, Chaparral, Chenopod scrub, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Montane dwarf scrub, Pinon & juniper woodlands, Riparian woodland, Sonoran desert scrub
Perognathus longimembris bangsi	Palm Springs pocket mouse	Mammals	AMAFD01043	30	5	None	None	G5T2	S1	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Desert wash, Sonoran desert scrub
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	Reptiles	ARACF12100	841	7	None	None	G4	S4	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal bluff scrub, Coastal scrub, Desert wash, Pinon & juniper woodlands, Riparian scrub, Riparian woodland, Valley & foothill grassland
Phrynosoma mcallii	flat-tailed horned lizard	Reptiles	ARACF12040	340	2	None	None	G3	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_NT-Near Threatened	Desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub
Piranga rubra	summer tanager	Birds	ABPBX45030	21	1	None	None	G5	S1	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Riparian forest
Pyrocephalus rubinus	vermilion flycatcher	Birds	ABPAE36010	25	1	None	None	G5	S2S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Marsh & swamp, Riparian forest, Riparian scrub, Riparian woodland, Wetland
Setophaga petechia	yellow warbler	Birds	ABPBX03010	78	3	None	None	G5	S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Riparian forest, Riparian scrub, Riparian woodland
Taxidea taxus	American badger	Mammals	AMAJF04010	647	1	None	None	G5	S3	null	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Alkali marsh, Alkali playa, Alpine, Alpine dwarf scrub, Bog & fen, Brackish marsh, Broadleaved upland forest, Chaparral, Chenopod scrub, Cismontane woodland, Closed-cone

												coniferous forest, Coastal bluff scrub, Coastal dunes, Coastal prairie, Coastal scrub, Desert dunes, Desert wash, Freshwater marsh, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Interior dunes, Ione formation, Joshua tree woodland, Limestone, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marsh & swamp, Meadow & seep, Mojavean desert scrub, Montane dwarf scrub, North coast coniferous forest, Oldgrowth, Pavement plain, Redwood, Riparian forest, Riparian scrub, Riparian woodland, Salt marsh, Sonoran desert scrub, Sonoran thorn woodland, Ultramafic, Upper montane coniferous forest, Upper Sonoran scrub, Valley & foothill grassland
Toxostoma lecontei	Le Conte's thrasher	Birds	ABPBK06100	239	12	None	None	G4	S3	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_LC-Least Concern, USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Desert wash, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus	Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	Mammals	AMAFB05161	11	1	None	None	G5T2	S2	null	BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Chenopod scrub, Sonoran desert scrub

Appendix E – EFH Mapper Report

EFH Mapper Report

EFH Data Notice

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is defined by textual descriptions contained in the fishery management plans developed by the regional fishery management councils. In most cases mapping data can not fully represent the complexity of the habitats that make up EFH. This report should be used for general interest queries only and should not be interpreted as a definitive evaluation of EFH at this location. A location-specific evaluation of EFH for any official purposes must be performed by a regional expert. Please refer to the following links for the appropriate regional resources.

Query Results

Degrees, Minutes, Seconds: Latitude = 34° 7' 19" N, Longitude = 117° 35' 6" W
Decimal Degrees: Latitude = 34.122, Longitude = -116.415

The query location intersects with spatial data representing EFH and/or HAPCs for the following species/management units.

EFH

No additional Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) were identified at the report location.

Pacific Salmon EFH

No Pacific Salmon Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) were identified at the report location.

Atlantic Salmon

No Atlantic Salmon were identified at the report location.

HAPCs

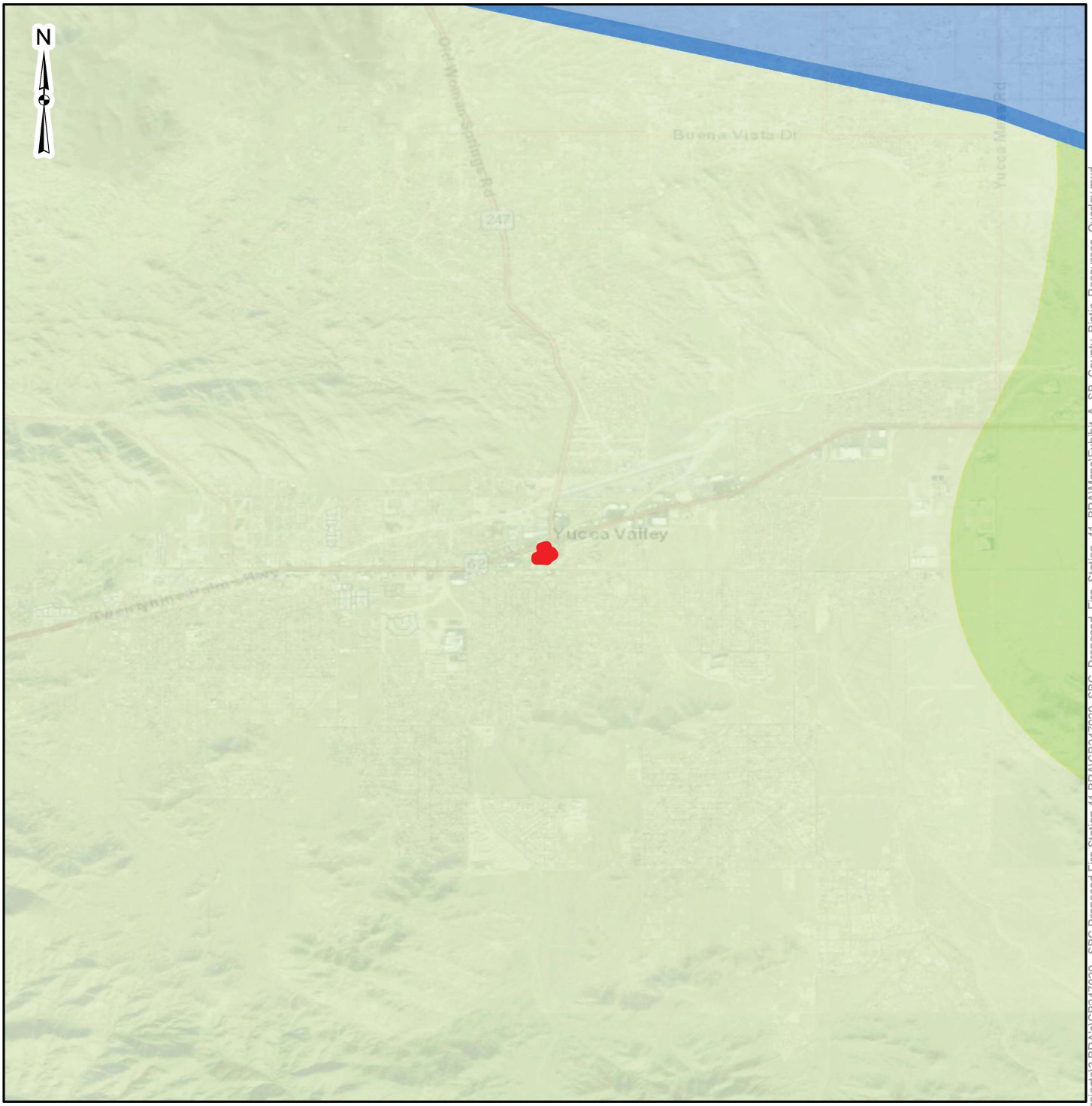
No Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) were identified at the report location.

EFH Areas Protected from Fishing

No EFH Areas Protected from Fishing (EFHA) were identified at the report location.

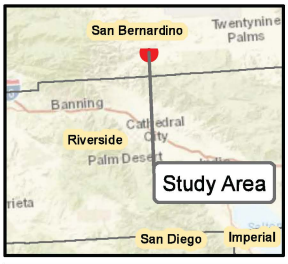
Appendix F – San Bernardino County Biotic Resources Overlay Map

Exhibit A – Biotic Resources Overlay Map



Legend

- Study Area **(1.72 ac)**
- Burrowing Owl (SE)
- Desert Tortoise - Medium Population — *Desert Tortoise-Medium Population Source: Bureau of Land Management*
- Desert Tortoise - Sparse Population — *Desert Tortoise-Sparce Population Source: Bureau of Land Management*



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

1:63,360 1 inch equals 1 miles

DATA SOURCES:
ESRI WMS - World Aerial Imagery, OpenStreetMap

Project No.:	CB247020
Date:	Nov 2024
Drawn By:	CNP
Reviewed By:	JHW

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BIOTIC RESOURCES OVERLAY MAP

Biological Resources Assessment Report

Proposed Fire Station 41
Yucca Valley, CA

Exhibit

A

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