



Appendix C-1

Biological Resources Assessment



**230TH STREET SOLAR PROJECT, BIOLOGICAL
RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 2023, UPDATED OCTOBER 2024

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PROJECT FOR WHICH THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED.**

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**230th Street Solar Project
Biological Resources Assessment
Los Angeles County, California**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Background and Project Description	2
1.2 Objectives	2
1.3 Project Location	2
2 REGULATORY SETTING	3
2.1 Federal	3
2.2 State	4
2.3 Local	6
3 METHODS	7
3.1 Desktop Review	7
3.2 Definition of Special-Status Species	8
3.2.1 Special-Status Wildlife Species	8
3.2.2 Special-Status Plant Species	8
3.3 Field Survey	9
4 RESULTS	9
4.1 Biological Setting	9
4.2 Existing Habitats	9
4.2.1 Soils	9
4.2.2 Vegetation Communities	10
4.3 Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential To Occur in the Project Area	11
4.3.1 Special-Status Wildlife Species	12
4.3.2 Special-Status Plant Species	13
4.4 Critical Habitat	13
4.5 Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources	13
4.6 Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages	14
4.7 Common Wildlife Species	14
5 RECOMMENDATIONS	14
6 REFERENCES CITED	17

FIGURES

- 1 Regional/Vicinity
- 2 Project Area
- 3 Vegetation Communities
- 4 Photographs

APPENDICES

- A Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California
- B Special-Status Plant Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

230TH STREET SOLAR PROJECT

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

The proposed 230th Street Solar Project (Project) is located in a generally undeveloped area of Los Angeles County, approximately two miles east of the agricultural settlement of Neenach, California (Figure 1). In January of 2023, Kleinfelder biologist Bryan Nelson performed a desktop review of the Project vicinity and Kleinfelder biologist Ryan Hilgris conducted a field verification survey of the Project Area (Figure 2). The intent of the field verification survey was to identify and characterize existing on-site biological resources, to the extent possible, and determine the potential for special-status species and/or sensitive habitats (as defined by state and federal resource agencies) to occur on the site.

The field survey focused on the approximately 31-acre Project Area and a 50-foot buffer. Based on the results of the desktop review and field verification survey, four special-status wildlife species have a moderate potential to occur in the Project Area; however, no special-status plant species are expected to occur. No potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S. or state were observed within or adjacent to the Project Area during the field survey.

This report serves to document the methods and results of the January 2023 biological field survey, provides updates and clarification based on LA County comments on the report, describes potential biological resource constraints associated with construction of a solar facility at the site, and provides recommendations to address these constraints.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 230th Street Solar Project is a small-scale, ground-mounted utility-scale solar energy plus battery energy storage facility located on approximately 31 acres of an approximately 39-acre parcel (APN 3278-025-001). The parcel is located east of the community of Neenach in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is primarily undeveloped open space, apart from a residence in the southwestern corner of the parcel. RPCA Solar 12, LLC has entered into a long-term lease agreement with the property owners, Amilcar Ruben Badano and Debbie Badano, to facilitate the development and long-term operation of the Project.

The Project will generate a total of up to 4.99 megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC) (7.5 MW direct current [DC]) of clean, reliable solar energy when complete. The Project will interconnect to Southern California Edison's (SCE) pre-existing electrical distribution system located adjacent to the site. The power generated from this facility will be sold to SCE through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Additionally, the Project will be equipped with energy storage technology that will allow onsite renewable energy generation to be stored and dispatched onto the grid when needed.

The Project will utilize approximately 13,851 solar modules and 40 string inverters to convert the sun's energy into usable, AC power. Single-axis tracking technology will be utilized to allow the modules to efficiently track the sun throughout the day and maximize the efficiency of solar collection. The modules will be mounted on a steel racking system, which will be anchored into the ground using driven steel piers 8-12 feet below the ground surface. The overall height of the array will be no more than 15-feet tall. The Project is designed to comply with the development standards of the Los Angeles County Renewable Energy Ordinance, discussed in Section 2.3 below.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate the Project Area to assess the potential for special-status plant and wildlife species and sensitive natural communities to occur, and the potential effects to these biological resources due to construction and operation of the Project. This assessment provides the methods and results of the field survey, including vegetation communities and land cover types present within the Project Area, special-status plant and wildlife species detected or with potential to occur within the Project Area, the presence of wildlife movement corridors or federally designated Critical Habitat within or adjacent to the Project Area, and any additional focused surveys necessary to further evaluate potential effects to biological resources that could occur within the Project Area. Recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to these resources are provided in Section 5 of this document.

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION

The approximately 31-acre Project Area is located 0.25 mile north of California State Route 138, and on the east side of 230th Street West (Figure 2). The Project Area is situated at an elevation of approximately 2,820 feet above mean sea level and adjacent land uses in the vicinity of the Project Area are primarily undeveloped, although some rural residences occur sporadically in the Project vicinity, and there are several small to large-scale solar installations north and east of the Project Area.

The Project Area is situated within Township 20 North, Range 16 West, Section 13 of the Neenach School 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles. The corresponding latitude and longitude at the approximate center of the site is 34°46'48.87" north latitude and 118°32'04.69" west longitude.

2 REGULATORY SETTING

2.1 FEDERAL

Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) prohibits the taking, possession, sale, or transport of endangered species. Pursuant to the requirements of FESA, a federal agency reviewing a proposed action within its jurisdiction must determine whether any federally listed threatened or endangered species could be present and determine the extent of effects to such species due to the proposed action. In addition, federal agencies are required to determine whether a proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species listed or proposed to be listed under FESA, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat designated for such species (16 U.S. Code [USC] 1536[3], [4]). Projects that would result in “take” of any federally listed threatened or endangered species are required to obtain authorization from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through either Section 7 (interagency consultation) or Section 10(a) (incidental take permit) of FESA, depending on whether the federal government is involved in permitting or funding the project.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) regulates or prohibits taking, killing, possession of, or harm to migratory bird species listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 10.13. The MBTA is an international treaty for the conservation and management of bird species that migrate through more than one country and is enforced in the United States by the USFWS. Hunting of specific migratory game birds is permitted under the regulations listed in Title 50 CFR 20. The MBTA was amended in 1972 to include protection for migratory birds of prey (raptors).

Federal Clean Water Act

Section 404

The objective of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Under Section 404 of the CWA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has the authority to regulate activities that could discharge fill or dredge material or otherwise adversely modify wetlands or other waters of the United States. The ACOE implements the federal policy embodied in Executive Order 11990, which, when implemented, is intended to result in no net loss of wetland values or function.

Section 401

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has authority over wetlands through Section 401 of the CWA, as well as the Porter-Cologne Act, California Code of Regulations Section 3831(k), and California Wetlands Conservation Policy. The CWA requires that an applicant for a Section 404 permit (to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States) first obtain certification from the appropriate state agency stating that the fill is consistent with the State's water quality standards and criteria. In California, the authority to either grant certification or waive the

requirement for permits is delegated by the SWRCB to the nine regional boards. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has authority for Section 401 compliance in the Project Area. A request for certification is submitted to the regional board at the same time that an application is filed with the ACOE.

2.2 STATE

California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

Under the CESA, the California Fish and Wildlife Commission (CFWC) has the responsibility of maintaining a list of threatened species and endangered species. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) also maintains lists of species of special concern. A Species of Special Concern (SSC) is a species, subspecies, or distinct population of an animal native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following (not necessarily mutually exclusive) criteria:

- is extirpated from the State or, in the case of birds, in its primary seasonal or breeding role;
- is listed as Federally listed, but not State-listed, as threatened or endangered;
- meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed;
- is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (nonscyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status;
- has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for State threatened or endangered status.

CESA prohibits the take of state-listed animals and plants in most cases, but CDFW may issue incidental take permits under special conditions. Pursuant to the requirements of CESA, a state agency reviewing a project within its jurisdiction must determine whether any state-listed endangered or threatened species could be present on the property and determine whether the project would have a potentially significant impact on such species.

California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3511, 3513, 4150

Fish and Game Code Section 3503 states that it is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nests or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 protects all birds-of-prey (raptors) and their eggs and nests. Section 3511 states fully protected birds or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed at any time. Section 3513 states that it is unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird as designated in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. All nongame mammals, including bats, are protected by California Fish and Game Code 4150.

California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616

Under Sections 1600-1616 of the California Fish and Game Code, the CDFW regulates activities that would alter the flow, bed, channel, or bank of streams and lakes. The limits of CDFW's jurisdiction are defined in the code as the "... bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the department in which there is at any time an existing fish or wildlife resource or from which these resources derive benefit ..." (Section 1601). In practice, the CDFW usually

marks its jurisdictional limit at the top of the stream or bank, or at the outer edge of the riparian vegetation, whichever is wider.

CDFW Wetlands Protection Regulations

CDFW derives its authority to oversee activities that affect wetlands from state legislation. This authority includes Sections 1600-1616 of the California Fish and Game Code (CFG; lake and streambed alteration agreements), CESA (protection of state listed species and their habitats - which could include wetlands), and the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act of 1976 (states a need for an affirmative and sustained public policy program directed at wetlands preservation, restoration, and enhancement). In general, the CDFW asserts authority over wetlands within the state either through review and comment on ACOE Section 404 permits, review and comment on CEQA documents, preservation of state listed species, or through stream and lakebed alteration agreements.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act established the SWRCB and each RWQCB as the principal state agencies responsible for the protection of water quality in California. As noted above, the RWQCB has regulatory authority over the Project Area. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act provides that, "All discharges of waste into the waters of the State are privileges, not rights." Waters of the State are defined in Section 13050(e) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act as "...any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state." All dischargers are subject to regulation under the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, including both point and nonpoint source dischargers. The RWQCB has the authority to implement water quality protection standards through the issuance of permits for discharges to waters at locations within its jurisdiction. As noted above, the RWQCB is the appointed authority for Section 401 compliance in the Project Area.

California Environmental Quality Act

Although threatened and endangered species are protected by specific federal and state statutes, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15380(b) provides that a species not listed on the federal or state list of protected species may be considered rare or endangered if the species can be shown to meet certain criteria. These criteria have been modeled after the definition in FESA and the section of the California Fish and Game Code dealing with rare or endangered plants and animals and allows a public agency to undertake a review to determine if a significant effect on a species that has not yet been listed by either the USFWS or CDFW (i.e., species of concern) would occur. Whether a species is rare, threatened, or endangered can be legally significant because, under CEQA Guidelines Section 15065, an agency must find an impact to be significant if a project would "substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species." Thus, CEQA provides an agency with the ability to protect a species from a project's potential impacts until the respective government agencies have an opportunity to designate the species as protected, if warranted.

2.3 LOCAL

Los Angeles County General Plan

Chapter 9 of the Los Angeles County General Plan (Plan) discusses the Conservation and Natural Resource Element of the Plan with the goal of guiding the long-term conservation of natural resources and preservation of available open space areas. Section 3 discusses Biological Resources, which include regional habitat linkages, forests, coastal zones, riparian habitats, streambeds and wetlands, woodlands, chaparral, desert shrubland, alpine habitats, Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs), and Coastal Resource Areas (CRAs). The General Plan works to protect and enhance these resources and ensure that the legacy of the unique biotic diversity is passed on to future generations (LACGP 2022).

Los Angeles County Code Title 22 Planning and Zoning – Renewable Energy Ordinance

Section 22.140.510 of the Los Angeles County Code establishes standards, conditions, and procedures that facilitate renewable energy systems, including utility-scale solar energy facilities such as the Project, in a manner that is intended to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and minimizes significant impacts to the environment. Subsection Section 22.140.510(E)(3) establishes development standards for utility-scale solar energy facilities, including requirements for fencing, height, setbacks, standards for facilities on significant ridgelines, and landscaped buffers. To approve a Conditional Use Permit for a ground-mounted utility-scale solar energy facility, the County must make findings relating to biological resources (in addition to other specified findings), including:

- The project is sited and designed and will be constructed in such a way to minimize significant impacts to the environment, including impacts to birds and bats, through appropriate measures including minimizing proximity to perch sites such as transmission lines and towers;
- The project is sited in such a way to minimize site disturbance, such as grading, brush clearance, and other forms of earthwork;
- The proposed vegetation sufficiently provides ground cover to the satisfaction of a County biologist; and
- The proposed vegetation sufficiently provides such buffer and ground cover in a timely manner to the satisfaction of a County biologist.

(Section 20.140.510(E)(5)). The ordinance also requires compliance with specific conditions of approval that are relevant to protection of biological resources, including measures that address landscaping, soil erosion, hydrology, grading, vegetation removal, and water quality protection. (Section 20.140.510(E)(6)).

Antelope Valley Area Plan

The Antelope Valley Area Plan (Area Plan) is a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan. The purpose of the Area Plan is to achieve the community's shared vision of the future through the development of

specific goals, policies, land use and zoning maps, and other planning instruments. As a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan, the Antelope Valley Area Plan refines the countywide goals and policies in the General Plan by addressing specific issues relevant to the Antelope Valley, such as community maintenance and appearance, and provides more specific guidance on elements already found in the General Plan. The General Plan provides guidance on all issues not covered in the Area Plan. Through the planning and visioning process, the County identified issues of Valley wide significance that, it determined, were best addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. In anticipation of future growth, the planning effort focused on ways to manage this growth and addressed the need for balance on the following issues:

1. Preservation and enhancement of each unique town's rural character, allowing for continued growth and development without compromising the rural lifestyle;
2. Preservation of open space around existing towns, in order to preserve hillside areas and significant ridgelines, conserve biological resources, provide opportunities for recreation, and make more efficient use of existing infrastructure in the core areas;
3. Planning for integrated circulation systems, including bikeways, walkways, and multi-purpose trails;
4. Conservation of significant resources, including agricultural lands, mineral resources, water supply, and scenic areas;
5. Preservation of public health, safety, and welfare, through identification of natural and environmental hazards, including noise, seismic, fire, and airborne emissions, and designation of land uses in an appropriate manner to mitigate these impacts; and
6. Coordination on enhancing public and community services such as law enforcement, fire protection, and parks

The Conservation and Open Space Element provides Goals and Policies to protect the Antelope Valley's environmentally significant undisturbed natural spaces, make use of natural resources, and provide open space areas for recreation and enjoyment. This Element identifies the resources and open spaces which may be developed, and gives guidance as to how sustainable development can be conducted in the future. In addition, this Element identifies areas which ought to be preserved from development, or are unsuitable for development due to hazards.

3 METHODS

3.1 DESKTOP REVIEW

Special-status plant and wildlife species present or potentially present within or adjacent to the Project Area were initially identified through a desktop literature review using the following sources: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Trust Resource Report (USFWS 2024a); CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2024a); the Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species List (Part I; Los Angeles Audubon 2009) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants (CNPS 2024). Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil

Survey (WSS) was queried to determine soil types that exist within the boundary of the Project Area (USDA 2023), along with the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project (CDFW 2023b), and the USFWS National Wetland Inventory (USFWS 2023b) Wetland Mapper tool. The CNDDDB and CNPS database searches included the 7.5-minute USGS Neenach School quadrangle and eight surrounding quadrangles. The IPaC search included the Project Area and a two-mile buffer surrounding the Project Area. Following a review of these resources, Kleinfelder also reviewed relevant life history information on those species documented as occurring in the region, including habitat type, soils, and elevation preferences.

The Los Angeles County Sensitive Bird Species List (SBSL) has not been updated since 2009; therefore, the current status and distribution of these species is unknown. However, species listed in Part I of the SBSL that may occur in the habitats present in the Project Area were evaluated and included in the analysis by request of the LA County Planning Department. These species are not listed under the federal or state Endangered Species Acts nor are they listed as California species of special concern or fully protected species, rather they are considered species that are locally important in LA County and are protected under the federal MBTA and Section 3503.5 of the CFGC.

3.2 DEFINITION OF SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Special-status plant and wildlife species with state and/or federal protections as described under FESA or CESA in Section 2 above are specifically defined below.

3.2.1 SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

Special-status wildlife species include taxa designated as follows:

- Threatened, endangered, or candidate for listing under the FESA;
- Threatened, endangered, or rare under the CESA;
- CDFW species of special concern or fully protected species;
- Additionally, desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*) may not be taken at any time under Title 14, Section 460 of the California Code of Regulations.

3.2.2 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES

Special-status plant species include taxa designated as follows:

- Threatened, endangered, or candidate for listing under the FESA;
- Threatened, endangered, or rare under the CESA;
- Species with California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPRs) as described below (CNPS 2024):
 - 1A – Plants presumed extinct in California
 - 1B – Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
 - 2 – Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
 - 4 – Plants of limited distribution, a watch list

3.3 FIELD SURVEY

A general biological field survey was performed by Kleinfelder biologist Ryan Hilgris on January 17, 2023, to evaluate botanical and wildlife resources within the Project and buffer area, including habitat suitability for special-status species.

The survey consisted of walking throughout the Project Area to map and characterize vegetation communities and land cover types, collect data on the relative quality of, and potential for existing habitats to support the special-status species identified during the preliminary database and resources review discussed previously, and to identify any other sensitive biological resources present or potentially present within the site. An aerial photograph (Google Earth 2023) and georeferenced mobile map with an overlay of the survey area boundary was utilized to map vegetation communities and record any special-status or sensitive biological resources while in the field. Protocol-level surveys for special-status plant and wildlife species were not conducted during this time. However, any incidental observations of such species were documented during the field survey. The buffer area was scanned with and without binoculars to distinguish any obvious differences between the Project Area and adjacent habitat.

Kleinfelder conducted a constraints-level analysis for potentially jurisdictional wetlands and waters based on current and historic aerial photography signatures and field observations. The analysis was based on criteria provided by the following agencies:

- Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, under the jurisdiction of the ACOE, pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA.
- Wetlands and Waters of the State under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act).
- Rivers, streams, or lakes under the jurisdiction of CDFW, pursuant to Section 1602 of the CFGC.

4 RESULTS

4.1 BIOLOGICAL SETTING

The biological setting surrounding the Project Area is primarily undeveloped desert habitat in relatively close proximity to some rural residences and solar development in the vicinity of the Project Area. Results of the field survey are described in detail below.

4.2 EXISTING HABITATS

4.2.1 SOILS

According to the NRCS (USDA 2023), one soil type, Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes, has been mapped within the Project Area. Greenfield sandy loam is a well-drained soil found on alluvial fans and terraces, derived from granite.

4.2.2 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Using the classifications described in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (MCV; Sawyer Keeler-Wolf 2009), two vegetation communities, rubber rabbitbrush scrub (*Ericameria nauseosa* Shrubland Alliance) and inactive agriculture/ruderal, were mapped during the field survey (Figure 3).

***Ericameria nauseosa* Shrubland Alliance (rubber rabbitbrush scrub) (15.71 acres).** In intact natural stands of this vegetation type, rubber rabbitbrush is dominant or co-dominant in this vegetation community and may coexist with big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), yellow rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), *Ephedra* spp., California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California broomsage (*Lepidospartum squamatum*) and bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*). In the Project Area, rubber rabbitbrush was the dominant shrub and appeared dense in most of the community as a whole, while patchy on the margins where it seemed to have recently recolonized portions of the site after agricultural use was discontinued. Other characteristic native shrub species were lacking in this area (Figure 3).

Inactive Agriculture/Ruderal (no MCV classification) (15.29 acres). The Project Area was in active agriculture until approximately 2011 or 2012 and appears to have remained fallow since then. As such, weedy species like *Erodium* sp., *Plantago* sp. and mustard (*Brassica* sp.) have colonized the site (Figure 3, Figure 4). Some annual grasses were also observed during the field survey, although they were not identifiable due to the time of year the survey was performed. Several small mammal burrows were scattered throughout this vegetation community; however, most were 2-3 inches in diameter and therefore suggest use by rodents such as pocket gophers (*Thomomys* sp.). Only a handful of burrows were suitably sized to be associated with California ground squirrels, although no ground squirrels were observed during the field survey (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*).

A row of juniper trees was planted along the western boundary of the site sometime between the mid-1980's and mid-1990's (Google Earth 2023). Chapter 9 of the LA County General Plan describes juniper woodland as an important habitat feature that supports multiple wildlife species in a concentrated area (LACGP 2022). However, this row of trees does not fall into the category of juniper woodland as described in the Plan, as it is not a natural aggregation of trees and does not therefore provide the benefits that a true woodland would. This is due to the linear configuration of the trees directly adjacent to a road and the fact that approximately half of the trees were dead at the time the field survey was performed. This row of trees was likely planted to serve as a wind screen for agricultural uses on the subject parcel, and at present provides little habitat value to wildlife. In addition, the Project will be constructed east of the row of junipers, and likely only one to three of the planted trees would need to be removed to support construction of the access road into the Project Area.

Plant species identified during the field survey are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Plant Species Observed During the Field Survey

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Sahara mustard
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	rubber rabbitbrush
<i>Erodium</i> sp.	stork's bill
<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	juniper
<i>Plantago</i> sp.	plantain
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine

4.3 SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN THE PROJECT AREA

Special-status plant and wildlife species are discussed below in terms of CEQA thresholds of significance. A threshold of significance for a given environmental impact defines the level of effect above which the Lead Agency will normally consider impacts to be significant, and below which it will normally consider impacts to be less than significant. Lead Agencies are responsible for establishing the thresholds of significance for all documents they prepare. They can rely on several sources, including: Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines; CEQA's mandatory findings of significance (State CEQA Guidelines § 15065); thresholds established by regulatory agencies; thresholds provided in General Plans or other local planning documents; or thresholds established by other agencies (CEQA 2020).

A list of special-status wildlife species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area is included in Appendix A, and a list of special-status plant species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area is included in Appendix B. Together, Appendix A and Appendix B, and specifically the column evaluating the "Potential to Occur within the Project Area" can be used by the Lead Agency to assess whether the construction and operation of the proposed project may have a potentially significant impact on biological resources. Definitions regarding potential for species occurrence for this assessment are as follows:

- Not expected to occur – Habitat within and adjacent to the Project Area is lacking for the species' life history requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, range, elevation, hydrology, vegetation community, site history, and/or disturbance regime). There are no documented occurrences of the species in the larger vicinity of the Project Area.
- Low – Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the Project Area is unsuitable or of poor quality. Because of this, the species is highly unlikely to be found within the Project Area. Any documented occurrences of the species are likely further than possible for the species to disperse to the site, the date of the occurrence is several decades old, or the vicinity of the Project Area has been developed in a manner that likely precludes the species from presently occurring.
- Moderate – Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the Project Area is unsuitable. There are recently documented occurrences in the near vicinity of the Project Area; therefore, the species has a moderate probability of utilizing the site.
- High – All of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the Project Area is highly suitable. There are documented occurrences of the species on or immediately adjacent to the Project Area; therefore, the species has a high probability of utilizing the Project Area.
- Present – Species was observed within the Project Area during field surveys or has been recorded (i.e., CNDDB, or other source) within the Project Area recently.

Based on these definitions, there would be no impact or less than significant impacts to species that are not expected to occur or that have a low potential to occur in the Project Area. As such, these species are removed from further consideration and recommendations to avoid impacts to these species are not included in Section 5 of this document. Species with a moderate or greater potential to occur are discussed in Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 below, and recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to these species are provided in Section 5 of this document.

4.3.1 SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

Results of the CNDDDB and IPaC searches returned 25 special-status wildlife species known to occur within the two-mile/nine quad search radius of the Project area (CDFW 2024a; USFWS 2024a). Of these, four have a moderate potential to occur. The remaining 21 special-status wildlife species are not expected to occur or have a low potential to occur within the Project area due to a lack of suitable habitat, or the site is outside of the species' known range. As such, these 21 species were removed from further consideration. The four species with a moderate potential to occur are described in more detail below.

Burrowing owl utilizes abandoned ground squirrel and sometimes mesocarnivore burrows in open habitats, grasslands, and disturbed areas with short, sparse vegetation, typically on levees, mounds, or areas where there are unobstructed views of possible predators such as raptors or foxes. Prey items include insects, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. There is suitable habitat for this species within the inactive/ruderal portions of the Project Area, as the lower density of vegetation allows for unobstructed views of possible predators, and the few ground squirrel burrows observed on the site may support burrowing owl; however, this species is not likely to occur in the dense rabbitbrush scrub on the site as these areas would obstruct views of possible predators. There is a cluster of three occurrences of burrowing owl approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Project Area from 2010; however, no burrowing owls or sign of burrowing owl (e.g., whitewash, feathers, pellets) were observed on the site during the field survey. Protocol surveys were not completed during the general biological field survey.

Loggerhead shrike is a year-round resident in most areas of California that contain grasslands, open areas, orchards, and areas with scattered trees. It feeds on small vertebrates and invertebrates and impales prey on thorns or barbed wire. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area, and there are several documented occurrences of this species within six miles of the site. LA County noted an anecdotal observation of this species during a site visit in July 2024.

Mountain plover occurs in flat open plains, not mountains. Of all the shorebirds, mountain plover is the most disconnected from the shore, generally living miles from water in areas of very short grass, including semi-arid plains, grasslands, and plateaus. In some areas, it nests mainly on bare ground found in large prairie-dog towns. Winter habitats include desert flats and plowed fields. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area, and there are several documented occurrences of this species within six miles of the site.

Swainson's hawk spends the breeding season in the Central Valley of California and is commonly found in agricultural areas or open grasslands containing solitary trees for nesting. Its diet consists of insects, small mammals and reptiles. There is suitable foraging habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area; however, suitable nest trees for this species are sparse in the vicinity of the Project area. There is one recently documented (2020) occurrence of this species approximately two miles northeast of the site; however, the majority of documented occurrences of this species are clustered around the valley surrounding Lancaster and Palmdale 20 miles east of the Project Area. There are no documented occurrences of this species within 20 miles north, south, or west of the Project Area.

LA County Special Bird Species List

An additional seven bird species listed on Part I of the LA County SBSL have a moderate potential to occur, including ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), mountain bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and

western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). These species are not listed under the federal or state Endangered Species Acts nor are they listed as California species of special concern or fully protected species, rather they are protected under the federal MBTA and Section 3503.5 of the CFGC.

Species With a Low Potential to Occur

There are two species with a low potential to occur on the site that the County specifically asked to be addressed in this assessment. There is low-quality habitat for American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), a California species of special concern, and desert kit fox in the Project Area. No burrows of suitable size to support these species were observed during the field survey. There are only two documented occurrences of American badger within eight miles of the Project Area; one has no date or owner information, and the other is from 1906. Occurrence records for desert kit fox are not kept by the CNDDDB or IPaC, as this species is not listed under FESA or CESA; however, desert kit fox is protected by Title 14, Section 460 of the California Code of Regulations (furbearing mammals); therefore, preconstruction surveys are included in the recommendations section of this document to ensure compliance with the Code.

A list of special-status wildlife species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area is included in Appendix A.

4.3.2 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES

Results of the IPaC, CNDDDB, and CNPS searches identified 44 special-status plant species known to occur within the two-mile/nine quad search radius of the Project area (CNPS 2023). None of these 44 species are expected to occur within the Project Area due to a lack of suitable habitat, history of agricultural site disturbance, or the site is outside of the species' known range. As such, these 44 species were removed from further consideration and are not discussed further in this document.

A list of plant species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area is included in Appendix B.

4.4 CRITICAL HABITAT

Critical habitat is a term defined and used in the federal Endangered Species Act to specify geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species, and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may also include areas that are not currently occupied by the species but will be needed for its recovery.

The Project Area is not within critical habitat limits for any federally listed wildlife or plant species; however, critical habitat for California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) has been mapped approximately eleven miles north of the Project Area.

4.5 POTENTIALLY JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES

The NWI depicts an intermittent riverine feature that is mapped outside of the northwest corner of the Project Area; however, no wetland indicators (e.g., visible OHWM, bed and bank, soil surface cracks, hydrology, or hydrophytic vegetation) were observed in the vicinity of this feature or in any other part of the Project Area during the field survey,

which was performed during the wet season. This feature is likely no longer present due to modification of the landscape during the last several decades of agricultural practices.

4.6 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND HABITAT LINKAGES

Wildlife corridors are linear features that connect large patches of natural open space and provide avenues for the migration of animals. Habitat linkages are small patches that join larger blocks of habitat and help reduce the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation; they may be continuous habitat or discrete habitat islands that function as stepping-stones for wildlife dispersal.

The Project Area is not recognized as an important wildlife corridor by any regional or state agency or jurisdiction and is not considered critical to the ecological functioning of adjoining open space areas (CDFW 2023b). It likely supports local movement patterns and provides food and cover resources for common wildlife species. Temporary effects due to noise and increased human activity during project activities would not interfere with these local movement patterns over time or affect the ability of these species to forage or reproduce.

The eight-foot perimeter fence would be installed at the onset of construction to establish the outer boundaries of the Project Site. Site preparation would consist of clearing the existing vegetation in those areas on the Project Site where construction would be undertaken, grading, and establishing temporary staging area (including stockpile and laydown areas) as necessary. Selected vegetation would be removed to accommodate the construction of the array and its appurtenances, as well as to prevent shading on the array during operation. Any vegetation taller than two feet (e.g., the height of the solar modules above grade) or expected to exceed two feet in height would be removed. Grass and groundcover may remain between rows and under the solar modules. All cleared vegetation would be chipped or spread on-site or disposed of responsibly.

4.7 COMMON WILDLIFE SPECIES

Several common wildlife species or their sign were observed during the field survey, including white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), mountain bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), and red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Small mammal burrows were present throughout the site. Common wildlife species adapted to life in proximity to human activity like coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are likely to move through the Project Area on a regular basis to find food and cover. Several common native and non-native bird species are likely to use the Project Area and adjacent habitat for nesting and/or foraging (Figure 4).

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

This section addresses potential constraints to approval of the proposed Project due to the presence of sensitive biological resources and potential impacts to those resources that could result from Project activities. Recommendations to address potential biological resource constraints are described below.

BIO-1: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey. All native birds in California are protected by the federal MBTA, and Section 3503.5 of the CFGC specifically protects raptors. Ground disturbance, noise, or removal of vegetation that would result in destruction of active bird nests or disruption of breeding/nesting activity could be a violation of the MBTA and the CFGC as well as a significant impact under CEQA.

Kleinfelder recommends a nesting bird survey be performed by a qualified biologist approved by LA County no earlier than two weeks prior to any construction during the nesting season (February 1 – August 31) to determine if any native birds are nesting on or near the site (including a 250-foot buffer for raptors and a 0.25-mile buffer for SWHA, where accessible). If any active nests are observed during surveys, a suitable avoidance buffer from the nests should be determined by the qualified biologist based on species, location, and extent and type of planned construction activity. These nests would be avoided until the chicks have fledged and the nests are no longer active, as determined by the qualified biologist. Kleinfelder also recommends removing any suitable nesting habitat (i.e., trees and vegetation) outside of the bird breeding season to avoid impacts to nesting birds. A memo will be prepared at the conclusion of surveys to be submitted to LA County. The memo will include graphics and figures as necessary to support the results of the survey.

BIO-2: Trash Receptacles. Impacts to special-status species due to increased presence of predators associated with construction activities could be considered a significant impact in the context of CEQA. All trash and waste items generated by construction or crew activities should be properly contained in a covered and locked trash receptacle and/or removed from the Project site daily. This includes biodegradable items, such as apple cores and banana peels, that attract predators such as raccoons and American crows that could prey upon sensitive wildlife species

BIO-3: Common and Special-Status Wildlife Awareness. All Project personnel will visually check for animals in any pipes, culverts, or other open-ended materials and equipment stored on site for one or more overnight periods prior to moving, burying, or capping to ensure that no animals are present within the materials and equipment. To prevent accidental entrapment of wildlife during construction, all excavated holes, ditches, or trenches greater than six (6) inches deep will be covered at the end of each workday by suitable materials that cannot be displaced or escape ramps will be placed in excavations. After opening and before filling, such holes, ditches, and trenches will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. To prevent wildlife entrapment during construction, BMPs (e.g., straw wattles, etc.) will not contain monofilament netting.

All security fencing installed around the Project Site shall meet the standards set forth in Section 20.140.510(E)(3)(c) of the County Code, including the requirement that perimeter fencing shall incorporate small animal permeable design. The bottom of the fence fabric shall be knuckled (wrapped back to form a smooth edge) to protect wildlife that pass under the fence. Larger species will be able to move freely in all directions around the fence, and to prevent bat and raptor entrapment, no barbed wire will be installed around the top of the fence. Fences shall be monitored quarterly to ensure that any damage or vandalism is quickly repaired.

BIO-4: Worker Environmental Awareness Training. A qualified biologist will conduct an environmental education program, approved by LA County, for all persons working on the Project prior to the onset of construction. A discussion of the biology and general behavior of any sensitive species which may be in the area, how they may be encountered within the work area, and procedures to follow when they are encountered will be included in the training. Special-status species, including legal protection, penalties for violations, and Project-specific protective measures will also be discussed. Interpretation shall be provided for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided for any new workers prior to on-site Project activity. Copies of the training will be maintained at the worksite with the Project supervisor, and a handout containing this information will be distributed for workers to carry on-site. Upon completion of the program, employees shall sign an attendance log stating they attended the program and understand all protective measures.

BIO-5: Desert Kit Fox and American Badger. During protocol-level burrowing owl surveys and within 72 hours prior to the onset of construction, a survey will be performed by a qualified biologist to determine the presence of potential desert kit fox and American badger burrows. If any suitable burrows are detected, remote camera stations will be set up for a period of three nights to determine occupancy. If the burrows are occupied by American badger or desert kit fox, avoidance buffers of 50 feet would be implemented until the burrows are no longer occupied, as determined by the qualified biologist. If no suitable burrows are detected, or no American badgers or desert kit foxes are detected during remote camera monitoring, no further mitigation would be required.

BIO 6: Burrowing Owl Avoidance. A qualified biologist should conduct surveys following the California Burrowing Owl Consortium's (CBOC) *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (CBOC 1993) and the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012) during the survey season immediately prior to construction to assess the presence of burrowing owl on or adjacent to the site. Should an active burrowing owl nest be detected, no-disturbance buffers should be implemented prior to and during any ground-disturbing activities, as outlined in the "*Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation*" (CDFG 2012). Impacts to occupied nest burrows should be avoided in accordance with the following table unless a qualified biologist verifies through non-invasive methods that either: 1) the birds have not begun egg laying and incubation; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. In that case, construction activities would be allowed to continue upon verification that owls are not utilizing the burrow at the time of ground disturbance.

Location	Time of Year	Level of Disturbance		
		Low	Medium	High
Nesting sites	April 1-Aug 15	200 m*	500 m	500 m
Nesting sites	Aug 16-Oct 15	200 m	200 m	500 m
Nesting sites	Oct 16-Mar 31	50 m	100 m	500 m

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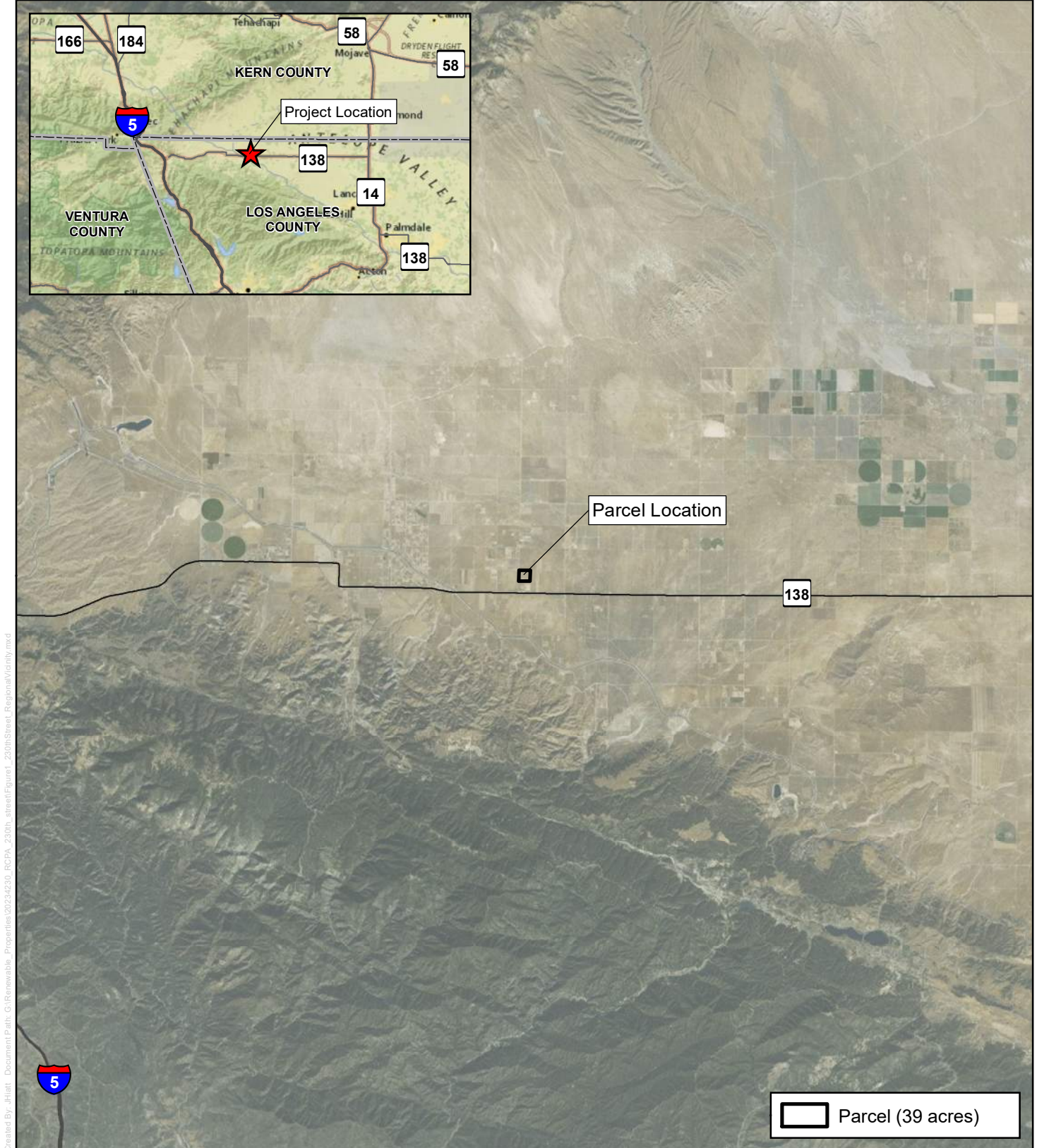
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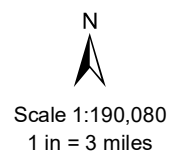
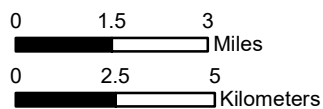
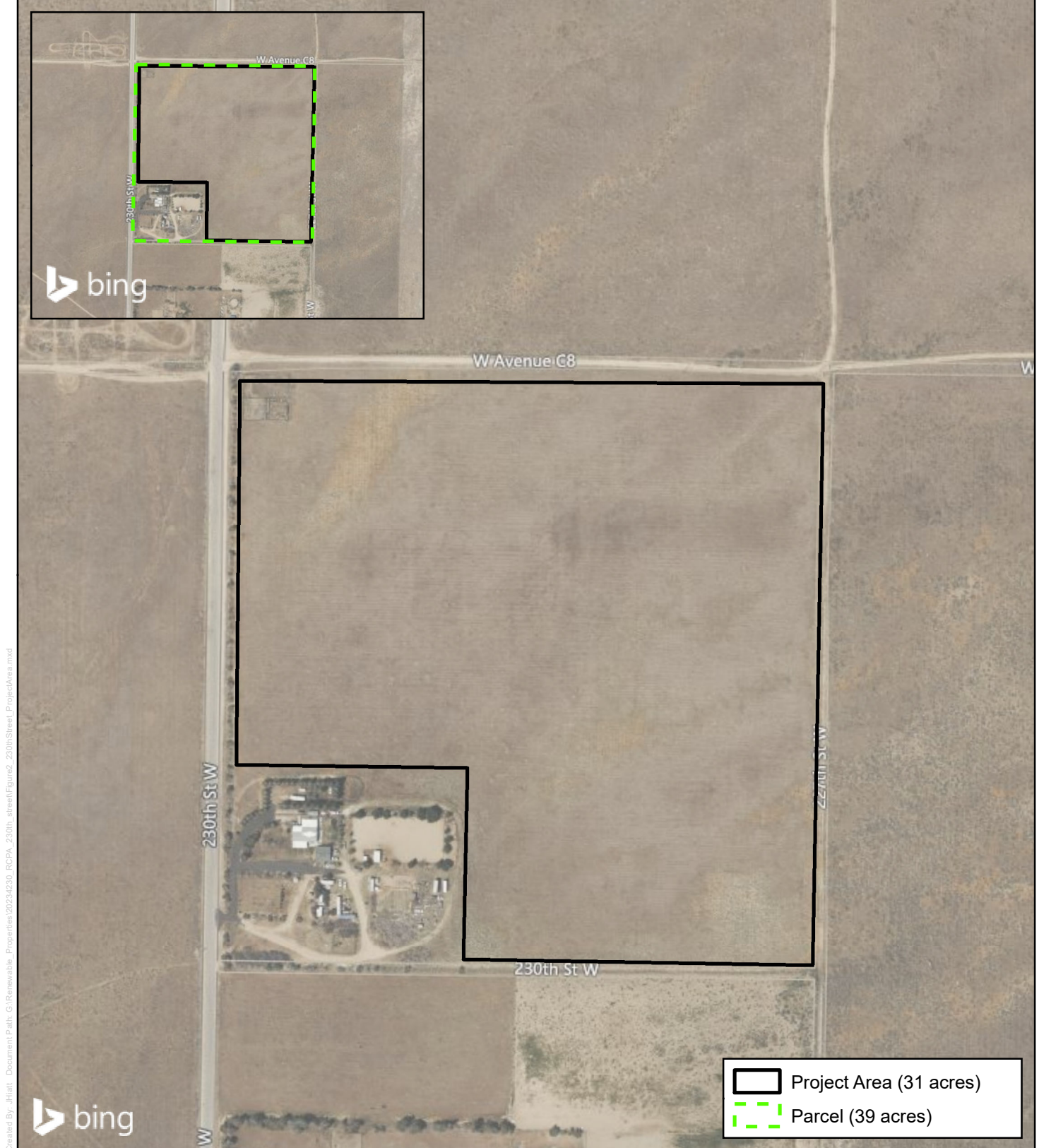
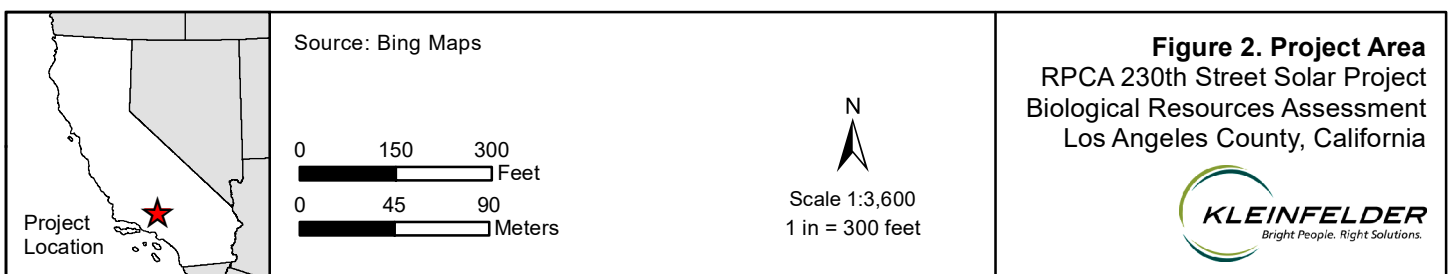


Figure 1. Regional Vicinity
RPCA 230th Street Solar Project
Biological Resources Assessment
Los Angeles County, California





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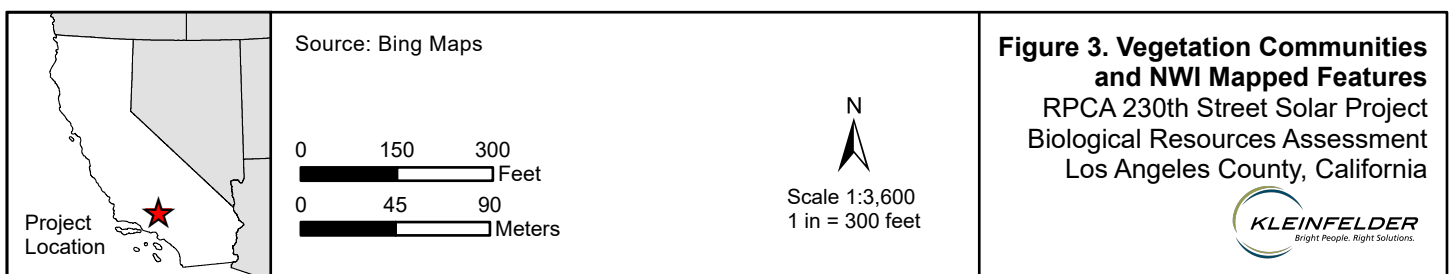
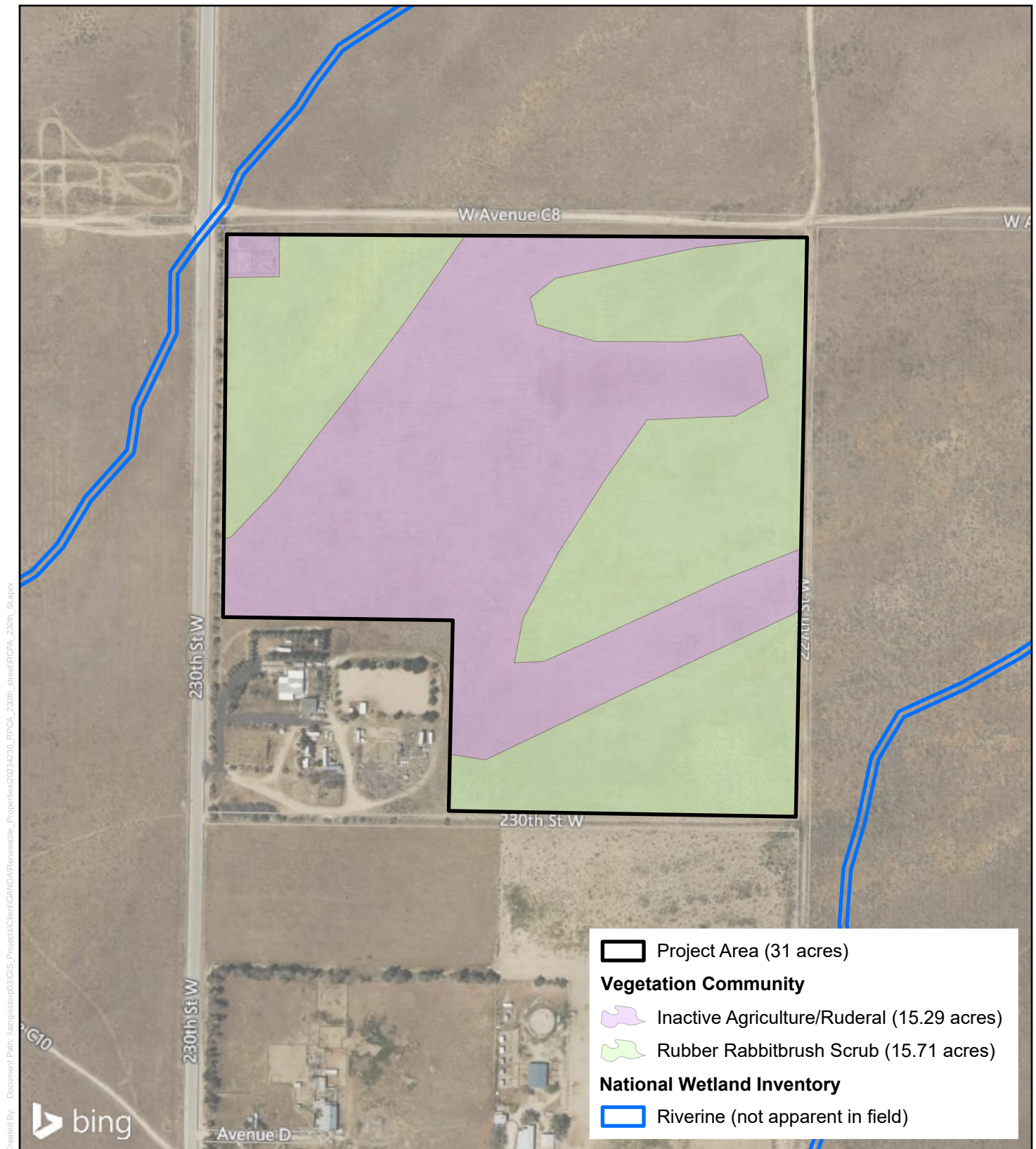




Photo 1: Example of California ground squirrel burrows in the project area.



Photo 2: Looking north across the project area from the residence in the southwest corner of the parcel.



Photo 3: Looking northwest through the project area from the southeast corner.

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Figure 4. Photos Page 1 of 3
RPCA 230th Street Solar Project
Biological Resources Assessment
Los Angeles County, California



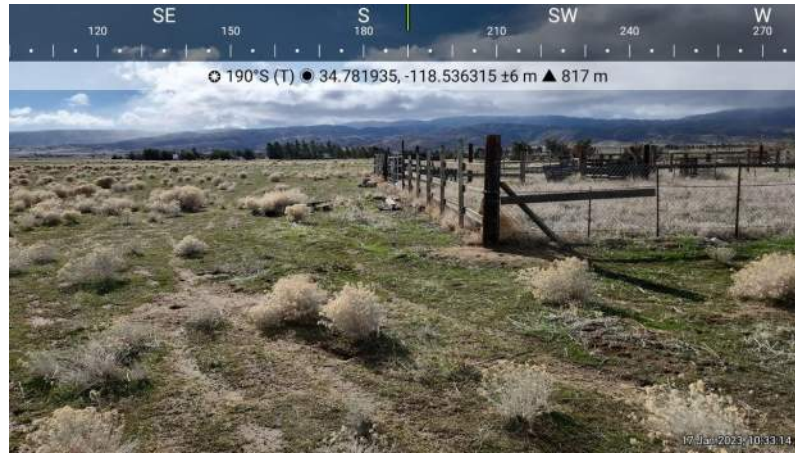


Photo 4: Looking south along the western boundary of the project area from the northwestern corner.

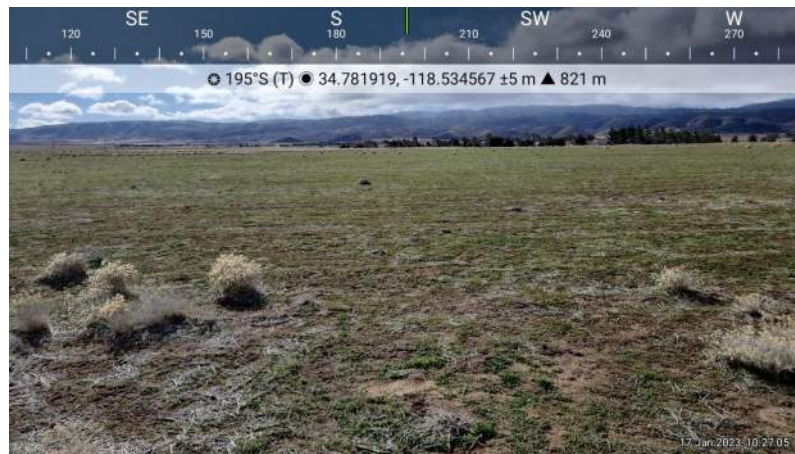


Photo 5: Looking south through the center of the site from the northern boundary.



Photo 6: Looking southeast at the project area from 230th Street.



Figure 4. Photos Page 2 of 3
RPCA 230th Street Solar Project
Biological Resources Assessment
Los Angeles County, California





Photo 7: Looking southwest through the project area from the northeast corner.



Photo 8: Looking west through the center of the site from the eastern boundary.

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Figure 4. Photos Page 3 of 3
RPCA 230th Street Solar Project
Biological Resources Assessment
Los Angeles County, California



APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
Invertebrates				
monarch – California overwintering population	<i>Danaus plexippus</i> (pop. 1)	Candidate Threatened/None	Monarch adults make massive, multi-generation migrations from August-October, flying south thousands of miles to hibernate along the California coast and in central Mexico. Monarchs stop to feed on flower nectar and to roost together at night. During warm winter days, the butterflies may take moisture and flower nectar. Most mating happens before they journey north in the spring, when females lay single eggs along the way under host plant leaves (<i>Asclepias</i> sp.); caterpillars eat flowers and leaves. Overwintering sites along the California coast are important for conservation of this species.	Low potential to occur. Suitable host plants for this species were not observed within or adjacent to the Project Area, and there are no known winter roosts in the vicinity of the Project Area.
crotch bumblebee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	None/Candidate Endangered	Crotch bumble bee was historically common throughout much of the southern two-thirds of California, but now appears to be absent from most of the state. Most bumble bees are primitively eusocial insects that live in colonies composed of a queen, workers, and, near the end of the season, reproductive members of the colony (new queens, or gynes, and males). Habitat requirements include availability of suitable colony nesting sites, floral resources to obtain nectar and pollen throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for queens.	Low potential to occur. Low quality habitat for this species is present within and adjacent to the Project Area.
Amphibians and Reptiles				
California legless lizard	<i>Anniella pulchra</i>	None/SSC	The California legless lizard is common in the Coast Ranges from Contra Costa County south to the Mexican border, but only occurs sporadically throughout the rest of its range, which includes the San Joaquin Valley to the west slope of the southern Sierra, the Tehachapi Mountains west of the desert and in the mountains of southern California. California legless lizard is a burrowing species associated with sandy or loose loamy soils and it lives mostly underground. The California legless lizard also needs moisture to survive, so it favors moist, warm, loose soil with some plant cover.	Low potential to occur. Although there is some low-quality habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area, the nearest documented occurrence is over 12 miles east of the site.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	None/SSC	Coast horned lizard inhabits open areas with sandy soils and low vegetation in valleys, foothills and semiarid mountains. It is found in grasslands, coniferous forests, woodlands, and chaparral with open areas and patches of loose soil, often in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered shrubs and along dirt roads. Commonly observed near ant hills feeding on ants.	Low potential to occur. Although there is some low-quality habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area, the nearest current documented occurrence is over 10 miles southeast of the site.
coastal whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	None/SSC	This subspecies is found in coastal southern California, mostly west of the Peninsular Ranges and south of the Transverse Ranges, and north into Ventura County. Coastal whiptail occurs in a variety of ecosystems, primarily in hot and dry open areas with sparse foliage, including chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	Threatened/Threatened	Desert tortoise occurs in arid and semi-arid habitats in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, including sandy or gravelly locations along riverbanks, washes, sandy dunes, canyon bottoms, desert oases, rocky hillsides, creosote flats and hillsides. It spends most of its life in underground burrows dug to escape the desert heat.	Low potential to occur. Although some low-quality habitat for this species is present within and adjacent to the Project Area, the nearest documented occurrence of this species is approximately 50 miles northeast of the site, where USFWS critical habitat has been mapped.
foothill yellow-legged frog – south coast DPS	<i>Rana boylei</i> pop.6	None/SSC	Foothill yellow-legged frog frequently inhabits streams and rivers with rocky substrate and open, sunny banks, in forest, chaparral, and woodland habitat. Sometimes found in isolated pools, vegetated backwaters, and deep, shaded, spring-fed pools.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
southern rubber boa	<i>Charina umbratica</i>	None/Threatened	Southern rubber boa inhabits oak-conifer and mixed-conifer forests at elevations between roughly 5,000 to 8,200 feet where rocks and logs or other debris provide shelter. Often found under logs, boards, and other debris, and sometimes on roads at dusk.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
Tehachapi slender salamander	<i>Batrachoseps stebbinsi</i>	None/Threatened	The Tehachapi slender salamander inhabits north-facing moist canyons and ravines in oak and mixed woodlands in arid to semi-arid locations. Found under rocks, logs, bark, and other debris in moist areas, especially in areas with a lot of leaf-litter, often near talus slopes.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
two-striped gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	None/SSC	The two-striped gartersnake is among the most aquatic of the gartersnakes. It is generally found near water sources, including pools, creeks, cattle tanks, and other aquatic features, often in rocky areas. This species is commonly associated with oak woodland, willow, coastal sage scrub, scrub oak, sparse pine, chaparral, and brushland.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
western pond turtle	<i>Emys marmorata</i>	None/SSC	Western pond turtles use both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. They are found in permanent or nearly permanent rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands, creeks, reservoirs, agricultural ditches, estuaries, and brackish waters. Western pond turtles prefer areas that provide cover from predators, such as vegetation and algae, as well as basking sites for thermoregulation. Adults tend to favor deeper, slow-moving water, whereas hatchlings search for slow and shallow water that is slightly warmer. Terrestrial habitats are used for wintering and egg-laying and usually consist of burrows in leaves and soil. Western pond turtles are known to nest up to 325 feet from suitable aquatic habitat. They are rarely found at elevations above 4,950 feet.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
Birds				
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Delisted, BGEPA/ Endangered, FP	Bald eagles live near large bodies of open water such as lakes, marshes, estuaries, seacoasts and rivers where fish are abundant. They usually nest within one mile of water in tall trees with open branchwork bordering lakes or large rivers.	Not expected to occur. No suitable nesting or foraging habitat is present for this species within several miles of the Project Area.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	None/SSC	Burrowing owl utilizes abandoned ground squirrel burrows in open habitats, grasslands, and disturbed areas, typically on levees, mounds or areas where there are unobstructed views of possible predators such as raptors or foxes. Prey items include insects, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within the inactive/ruderal portions of the Project Area, and the few ground squirrel burrows observed on the site may support burrowing owl; however, this species is not likely to occur in the dense rabbitbrush scrub on the site as these areas would obstruct views of possible predators. There is a cluster of three occurrences of burrowing owl approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Project Area from 2010; however, no burrowing owls or sign of burrowing owl (e.g., whitewash, feathers, pellets) were observed on the site during the field survey.
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Endangered/ Endangered, FP	California condor nests in rock formations, deep caves, and occasionally in cavities in giant sequoia trees (<i>Sequoiadendron giganteus</i>). It forages in relatively open habitats where large animal carcasses can be detected.	Low potential to occur. Although this species could potentially forage in the Project Area, the nearest suitable nesting habitat is approximately five miles north and south of the site.
ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	None/None, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	Common in the winter in California, ferruginous hawk inhabits plains and prairies. Found during all seasons in very open and dry country, it can be found in dry grassland, sagebrush plains, saltbush and greasewood flats, rangeland, desert. In winter, it can also be found in agricultural country, including over plowed fields.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area.
golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	BGEPA/FP	Golden eagle is found in open country, including mountains, foothills, and plains. In the west, they are found over prairie, rangeland, or desert. They are very wide-ranging in winter, and more restricted to areas with good nest sites in summer, which consist of cliff ledges or large trees.	Low potential to occur. Although this species could potentially forage in the Project Area, the nearest suitable nesting habitat is approximately five miles north and south of the site, and the nearest documented nesting occurrence is approximately 15 miles west of the site.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
greater roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	None/None, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	Greater roadrunner inhabits deserts and open country with scattered brush. It is most common in the Sonoran Desert and in areas with a mix of open ground and dense low cover. At the limits of its range, it is found in dry grassland, forest edges, and limestone hills with scattered juniper. This species walks and runs on the ground, flying only when necessary.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area.
Le Conte's thrasher	<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	None/SSC	Le Conte's thrasher inhabits low, sandy, open deserts that are home to few other bird species. Over most of their range, saltbush, shadscale, cholla cactus, creosote, yucca, mesquite, and ocotillo are commonly found, but they are usually sparsely distributed in these mostly flat or rolling landscapes. Le Conte's thrashers generally do not inhabit steep-sided canyons, preferring small arroyos, open flats, or dunes. Rainfall and flowing streams are rare in these deserts, and air temperatures are among the highest recorded on earth.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	None/SSC	Loggerhead shrike is a year-round resident in most areas of California that contain grasslands, open areas, orchards, and areas with scattered trees. It feeds on small vertebrates and invertebrates and impales prey on thorns or barbed wire.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area, and there are several documented occurrences of this species within six miles of the site. LA County noted an anecdotal observation of this species during a site visit in July 2024.
long-eared owl (wintering)	<i>Asio otus</i>	None/SSC, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	Long-eared owl resides in woodlands and conifer groves that contain dense trees for nesting and roosting, and open country for hunting. It generally avoids unbroken forest. It does not build nests, instead it uses abandoned nests built by other birds, such as crows, ravens, magpies, and various hawk species. It forages over fields or in open woods.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
mountain bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	None/None, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	Mountain bluebird is found in open country with some trees; in winter, it is also found in treeless terrain. Breeding habitat is not always restricted to mountains; it is also found in lowland prairies and sagebrush flats, as well as alpine zones above the treeline. In winter, it is most common in pinyon-juniper woods, but also in open grassland, desert, farmland, and barren plowed fields.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	None/SSC	Mountain plover occurs in flat open plains, not mountains. Of all of the shorebirds, mountain plover is the most disconnected from the shore, generally living miles from water in areas of very short grass, including semi-arid plains, grasslands, and plateaus. In some areas, it nests mainly on bare ground found in large prairie-dog towns. Winter habitats include desert flats and plowed fields.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area, and there are several documented occurrences of this species within six miles of the site.
prairie falcon (breeding)	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	None/None, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	Prairie falcon inhabits open hills, plains, prairies, and deserts. It is typically found in fairly dry, open country, including grassland and desert. It can also be found in open country above the treeline in the high mountains. In winter, it is often found in farmland and around lakes and reservoirs, and may regularly winter in some western cities. It avoids forested country.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area.
purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	None/SSC	Purple martin occurs in towns, farms, and semi-open country near water. In the west it also inhabits mountain forests and saguaro desert. It nests in cavities of trees, usually in colonies, and forages for flying insects.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	None/None, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	The short-eared owl lives in open terrain, such as prairies and marshes. It is often active during daylight, especially in the evening. It nests in tundra, inland and coastal prairies, extensive marshes, and farmland. In the winter, it is also found in stubble fields, small meadows, coastal dunes, and shrubby areas.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	None/Threatened	Swainson's hawk spends the breeding season in the Central Valley of California and is commonly found in agricultural areas or open grasslands containing solitary trees for nesting. Its diet consists of insects, small mammals and reptiles.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable foraging habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area; however, suitable nest trees for this species are sparse in the vicinity of the Project area. There is one recently documented (2020) occurrence of this species approximately two miles northeast of the site; however, the majority of documented occurrences of this species are clustered around the valley surrounding Lancaster and Palmdale 20 miles east of the Project Area. There are no documented occurrences of this species within 20 miles north, south, or west of the Project Area.
tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	None/Threatened, SSC	Tricolored blackbird is a colonial species found almost exclusively in California. It utilizes wetlands, marshes and agricultural grain fields for foraging and nesting. The tricolored blackbird population has declined significantly in recent years due to habitat loss and harvest of grain fields before young have fledged.	Not expected to occur. Although there are historical documented occurrences less than 3 miles from the Project Area at Holiday Lake, there have not been any documented occurrences at the lake since 2016, and suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
turkey vulture (breeding)	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	None/None, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	Turkey vultures are widespread and common in California over open country, woods, deserts, and foothills. They are most common over open or semi-open country, especially within a few miles of rocky or wooded areas providing secure nesting sites and carrion for foraging. It generally avoids densely forested regions.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable foraging habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area.
western meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	None/None, LA County Sensitive Bird Species List	Western meadowlark is a common species in California that inhabits grasslands, cultivated fields and pastures, meadows, and prairies. It mostly breeds in natural grasslands, abandoned weedy fields, rangelands, and sometimes on cultivated land. In winter, it is often found in stubble fields and other farmland.	Moderate potential to occur. There is suitable habitat for this species within and adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status ¹	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur in the Project Area ²
Mammals				
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	None/SSC	American badger is most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and grassland habitats with friable soils. It digs burrows for cover and will reuse burrows occasionally, but may also dig new burrows each night in the summer. The diet consists of rodents, small mammals, reptiles, insects, birds and carrion.	Low potential to occur. Although low-quality habitat for this species may be present within or adjacent to the Project Area, there are only two documented occurrences of this species within 8 miles of the Project Area; one has no date or owner information and the other is from 1906.
Tehachapi pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus alticola inexpectatus</i>	None/SSC	The Tehachapi pocket mouse has been found in small numbers in annual grasslands, pinyon-juniper woodland, Joshua tree woodland, Jeffrey pine forest, and sagebrush and rabbitbrush scrub at elevations between 3,500 – 6,000 ft.	Low potential to occur. Although there is some low-quality habitat for this species within the Project Area, there are no recently documented occurrences of this species within 10 miles of the site.
Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	None/SSC	Townsend's big-eared bat is found throughout most of western North America where it hibernates and roosts in caves and mines near entrances, or cave like structures such as buildings or under decks. It forages in forested habitats, along open edges.	Not expected to occur. Suitable roosting and foraging habitat for this species is not present in the vicinity of the Project Area.
desert kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis arsipus</i>	None/None; CDFG Code, Title 14, Section 460	The desert kit fox is an inhabitant of the Mojave and Colorado deserts in California. It primarily inhabits sparsely vegetated scrub habitats and native or annual grasslands with abundant rodent populations, such as alkali sink scrub, saltbush scrub, and chenopod scrub, although oak woodlands, vernal pools, alkali meadows and playas also provide habitat. Kit foxes are almost entirely nocturnal, and daytime activity is confined to the vicinity of the den.	Low potential to occur. Although low-quality habitat may be present in the Project Area, no appropriately sized burrows were observed during the field survey and the Project Area is in the extreme western edge of the species' known range.

¹Status Legend:

SSC: Species of Special Concern (CDFW)

FP: Fully Protected (CDFW)

2 Definitions Regarding Potential for Occurrence

- Not expected to occur – Habitat within and adjacent to the Project Area is lacking for the species' life history requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, range, elevation, hydrology, vegetation community, site history, and/or disturbance regime). There are no documented occurrences of the species in the larger vicinity of the Project Area.
- Low – Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the Project Area is unsuitable or of poor quality. Because of this, the species is highly unlikely to be found within the Project Area. Any documented occurrences of the species are likely further than possible for the species to occur on the site, the date of the occurrence is several decades old, or the vicinity of the Project Area has been developed in a manner that likely precludes the species from presently occurring.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

- Moderate – Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the Project Area is unsuitable. There are recently documented occurrences in the near vicinity of the Project Area; therefore, the species has a moderate probability of utilizing the site.
- High – All of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the Project Area is highly suitable. There are documented occurrences of the species on or immediately adjacent to the Project Area; therefore, the species has a high probability of utilizing the Project Area.
- Present – Species was observed within the Project Area during field surveys or has been recorded (i.e., CNDDDB, or other source) within the Project Area recently.

APPENDIX A

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Sources:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2024. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Rarefind, Version 5 (Commercial Subscription). Accessed August 2024. Sacramento, California. Website <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx#>.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2024. Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). The Environmental Conservation Online System. Accessed August 2024. Sacramento, California. Website <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>.

APPENDIX B

Special-Status Plant Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the RPCA 230th Street Solar Project in Los Angeles County, California

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State, CRPR) ¹	Life Form, Primary Habitat Associations, Elevation Range (feet), Blooming Period	Potential to Occur ²
<i>Allium howellii</i> var. <i>clokeyi</i>	Mt. Pinos onion	None/None, CRPR 1B.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb found in Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and meadows and seeps (edges). Elevation 4,265-6,070 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.
<i>Androsace elongata</i> ssp. <i>acuta</i>	California androsace	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Annual herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 490-4,280 feet. Blooms Mar-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	slender mariposa-lily	None/None, CRPR 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland (shaded foothill canyons; often on grassy slopes within other habitats). Elevation 1,045-3,280 feet. Blooms Mar-Jun (Nov).	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i>	Palmer's mariposa-lily	None/None, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial bulbiferous herb found in meadows and seeps, chaparral, and lower montane coniferous forest. Occurs in vernal moist places in yellow-pine forest and chaparral. Elevation 2,325-7,840 feet. Blooms Apr-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Calystegia peirsonii</i>	Peirson's morning-glory	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in chaparral, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 100-4,920 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Castilleja gleasoni</i>	Mt. Gleason paintbrush	None/Rare, CRPR 1B.2	Perennial herb (hemiparasitic) found in lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, and pinyon and juniper woodland (open flats or slopes in granitic soil). Restricted to the San Gabriel Mountains. Elevation 3,805-7,120 feet. Blooms May-Jun (Sep).	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.

APPENDIX B (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State, CRPR) ¹	Life Form, Primary Habitat Associations, Elevation Range (feet), Blooming Period	Potential to Occur ²
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	San Fernando Valley spineflower	None/None, CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb found in coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland (sandy soils). Elevation 490-4,005 feet. Blooms Apr-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Chorizanthe spinosa</i>	Mojave spineflower	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Annual herb found in chenopod scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub (playas, sometimes alkaline). Elevation 20-4,265 feet. Blooms Mar-Jul.	Low potential to occur. Although suitable habitat for this species may be present within or adjacent to the Project Area, there are no CNDDDB documented occurrences of this species in LA County. All previous occurrences noted in California are in the eastern portion of LA County.
<i>Clinopodium mimuloides</i>	monkey-flower savory	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Perennial herb found in chaparral, North Coast coniferous forest (mesic, streambanks). Elevation 1,000-5,905 feet. Blooms Jun-Oct.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Cryptantha clokeyi</i>	Clokey's cryptantha	None/None, CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb found in Mojavean desert scrub. Elevation 2,380-4,480 feet. Blooms in Apr.	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat for this species is present within the Project Area though occurrence is unlikely due to the history of agricultural disturbance.
<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>purpureum</i>	Mt. Pinos larkspur	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Perennial herb found in chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevation 3,280-8,530 feet. Blooms May-Jun.	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat for this species is present within the Project Area though occurrence is unlikely due to the history of agricultural disturbance. Outside of known elevation range.
<i>Diplacus pictus</i>	calico monkeyflower	None/Endangered, CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb found in broadleaved upland forest and cismontane woodland within granitic, disturbed areas. Elevation 325-4,690 feet. Blooms Mar-May.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Dudleya abramsii</i> ssp. <i>calicicola</i>	limestone dudleya	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Perennial herb found in chaparral, pinyon and juniper woodland (carbonate). Elevation 1,640-8,530 feet. Blooms Apr-Aug.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX B (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State, CRPR) ¹	Life Form, Primary Habitat Associations, Elevation Range (feet), Blooming Period	Potential to Occur ²
<i>Eriastrum hooveri</i>	Hoover's eriastrum	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Annual herb found in chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland (sometimes gravelly). Elevation 165-3,000 feet. Blooms Mar-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Eriogonum callistum</i>	Tehachapi buckwheat	None/None, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb found in chaparral (openings, rocky, limestone). Elevation 4,590-5,675 feet. Blooms May-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i> var. <i>hallii</i>	Fort Tejon woolly sunflower	None/None, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb found in chaparral and cismontane woodland, often on slopes in loamy soils. Elevation 3,490-4,920 feet. Blooms May-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.
<i>Eschscholzia lemmonii</i> ssp. <i>kernensis</i>	Tejon poppy	None/None, CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb found in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 520-3,280 feet. Blooms (Feb)Mar-May.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Species not known to occur in Los Angeles County.
<i>Frasera neglecta</i>	pine green-gentian	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Perennial herb found in lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation 4,595-8,205 feet. Blooms May-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.
<i>Fritillaria pinetorum</i>	pine fritillary	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb found in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest (sometimes granitic, metamorphic). Elevation 5,695-10,825 feet. Blooms May-Jul (Sep).	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.
<i>Gilia interior</i>	inland gilia	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Annual herb found in cismontane woodland, Joshua tree "woodland", lower montane coniferous forest (rocky). Elevation 2,295-5,580 feet. Blooms Mar-May.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Gilia latiflora</i> ssp. <i>cuyamensis</i>	Cuyama gilia	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Annual herb found in pinyon and juniper woodland (sandy). Elevation 1,950-6,560 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX B (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State, CRPR) ¹	Life Form, Primary Habitat Associations, Elevation Range (feet), Blooming Period	Potential to Occur ²
<i>Githopsis tenella</i>	delicate bluecup	None/None, CRPR 1B.3	Annual herb found in chaparral and cismontane woodland (mesic sites, sometimes serpentinite). Elevation 1,065-6,235 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Goodmania luteola</i>	golden goodmania	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Annual herb found in Mojavean desert scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, valley and foothill grassland (usually wetlands, sometimes clay, alkaline). Elevation 65-7,220 feet. Blooms Apr-Aug.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. There are no CNDDB documented occurrences of this species in LA County.
<i>Leptosiphon serrulatus</i>	Madera leptosiphon	Endangered/None, CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb found in cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest (dry slopes, often on decomposed granite in woodland). Elevation 980-4,265 feet. Blooms Apr-May.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Lessingia tenuis</i>	spring lessingia	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Annual herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest (openings). Elevation 985-7,055 feet. Blooms May-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i>	ocellated Humboldt lily	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland (openings). Elevation 100-5,905 feet. Blooms Mar-Jul (Aug).	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Lupinus elatus</i>	silky lupine	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Perennial herb found in lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Elevation 920-9,845 feet. Blooms Jun-Aug.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Lupinus peirsonii</i>	Peirson's lupine	None/None, CRPR 1B.3	Perennial herb found in Joshua tree woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest (decomposed granite slide and talus, on slopes and ridges). Elevation 3,280-8,200 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX B (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State, CRPR) ¹	Life Form, Primary Habitat Associations, Elevation Range (feet), Blooming Period	Potential to Occur ²
<i>Microseris sylvatica</i>	sylvan microseris	None/None, CRPR 4.2	Perennial herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland (rarely serpentine). Elevation 150-4,920 feet. Blooms Mar-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Monardella linoides</i> ssp. <i>anemonoides</i>	southern Sierra monardella	None/None, CRPR 1B.3	Perennial herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation 2,200-8,040 feet. Blooms Jun-Aug.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Monardella linoides</i> ssp. <i>oblonga</i>	Tehachapi monardella	None/None, CRPR 1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland. On dry slopes of yellow pine forest, occurs in decomposed granitic soils; also in roadside disturbed areas. Elevation 2,950-8,105 feet. Blooms (may)Jun-Aug.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Occurrence unlikely due to history of agricultural disturbance.
<i>Muhlenbergia utilis</i>	aparejo grass	None/None, CRPR 2B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in chaparral, and cismontane woodland (coastal, sometimes alkaline, sometimes serpentine soils). Elevation 80-7,630 feet. Blooms Mar-Oct.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	Threatened/None, CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb found in chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater), playas, and vernal pools. Elevation 95-2,150 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Nemophila parviflora</i> var. <i>quercifolia</i>	oak-leaved nemophila	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Annual herb found in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation 2,295- 7,220 feet. Blooms May-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i>	short-joint beavertail	None/Threatened, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial stem found in chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland (sandy soil or gravelly granitic loam). Elevation 1,390-5,905 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun (Aug).	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX B (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State, CRPR) ¹	Life Form, Primary Habitat Associations, Elevation Range (feet), Blooming Period	Potential to Occur ²
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>treleasei</i>	Bakersfield cactus	Endangered/ Endangered, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial stem found in chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 390-4,755 feet. Blooms Apr-May.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Species not observed.
<i>Perideridia pringlei</i>	adobe yampah	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Perennial herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland (often clay, serpentine). Elevation 985-5,905 feet. Blooms Apr-Jun (Jul).	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Physaria ludoviciana</i>	silver bladderpod	None/None, CRPR 2B.2	Perennial herb found in Great Basin scrub. Elevation 6,985-6,990 feet. Blooms May-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.
<i>Plagiobothrys torreyi</i> var. <i>perplexans</i>	chaparral popcornflower	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Annual herb found in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest (igneous soils, burned areas). Elevation 3,500-9,000 feet. Blooms Apr-Sep.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Outside known elevation range.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	salt spring checkerbloom	None/None, CRPR 2B.2	Perennial herb found in playas, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, alkali springs and marshes. Elevation 45-5,020 feet. Blooms Mar-Jun.	Not expected to occur. Suitable wetland habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i>	southern jewelflower	None/None, CRPR 1B.3	Perennial herb found in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland (open, rocky areas). Elevation 2,950-7,545 feet. Blooms (Apr) May-Jul.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Streptanthus medeirosii</i>	Tejon jewelflower	None/None, CRPR 1B.1	Perennial herb found in cismontane woodland (carbonate and granitic soils). Elevation 4,460-6,170 feet. Blooms Jun-Sep.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.
<i>Symphyotrichum greatae</i>	Greata's aster	None/None, CRPR 1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland. Elevation 980-6,595 feet. Blooms Jun-Oct.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.

APPENDIX B (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State, CRPR) ¹	Life Form, Primary Habitat Associations, Elevation Range (feet), Blooming Period	Potential to Occur ²
<i>Syntrichopappus lemmonii</i>	Lemmon's syntrichopappus	None/None, CRPR 4.3	Annual herb found in chaparral, Joshua tree "woodland", pinyon and juniper woodland (sometimes gravelly, sandy). Blooms Apr-May (Jun). Elevation 1,640-6,000 feet.	Not expected to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is not present within or adjacent to the Project Area.

¹ Status Legend:

CRPR 1A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere

CRPR 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

CRPR 2A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But More Common Elsewhere

CRPR 2B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere

² Definitions Regarding Potential for Occurrence

- Not expected to occur – Habitat within and adjacent to the Project Area is lacking for the species' life history requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, range, elevation, hydrology, vegetation community, site history, and/or disturbance regime). There are no documented occurrences of the species in the larger vicinity of the Project Area.
- Low – Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the Project Area is unsuitable or of poor quality. Because of this, the species is highly unlikely to be found within the Project Area. Any documented occurrences of the species are likely further than possible for the species to occur on the site, the date of the occurrence is several decades old, or the vicinity of the Project Area has been developed in a manner that likely precludes the species from presently occurring.
- Moderate – Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the Project Area is unsuitable. There are recently documented occurrences in the near vicinity of the Project Area; therefore, the species has a moderate probability of utilizing the site.
- High – All of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the Project Area is highly suitable. There are documented occurrences of the species on or immediately adjacent to the Project Area; therefore, the species has a high probability of utilizing the Project Area.
- Present – Species was observed within the Project Area during field surveys or has been recorded (i.e., CNDDDB, or other source) within the Project Area recently..

Sources:

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2024. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-02). California Native Plant Society. Sacramento, CA. Accessed August 2024.

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