

APPENDIX B

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT



April 2, 2025

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SUBJECT: Biological Resources Assessment for the Proposed Project Located within Assessors Parcel Number 3125-009-908 Located in the City of Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California

Introduction

This report contains the findings of Endemic Environmental Services' (EES) Biological Resources Assessment for the proposed project located within Assessors Parcel Number 3125-009-908 (project site, site) located in the City of Lancaster, County of Los Angeles, California. The field investigation was conducted by biologists Jacob H. Lloyd Davies and Kathya Argueta on March 20, 2025, to document existing conditions and assess the potential for special-status plant and wildlife species to occur within the proposed project site that could pose a constraint to implementation of the proposed project. Special attention was given to the suitability of the on-site habitat to support western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), and other special-status species identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and other electronic databases as potentially occurring on or within the general vicinity of the project site. In addition, the report also addresses resources protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (FGC), federal Clean Water Act (CWA) regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) respectively, and Section 1602 of the FGC administered by CDFW.

Project Location

The project site is generally located north of the San Gabriel Mountains, east of Interstate 5, west of State Route 14, and south of State Route 58 in the City of Lancaster, County of Los Angeles, California (Exhibit 1, Project Site Regional Location). The site is depicted on the Lancaster West quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map within Section 28 of Township 7 North, Range 12 West. Specifically, the project site is located within APN 3125-009-908 (Exhibit 2, Project Site Local Vicinity).

Project Description

The project proposes the development of a 228-unit apartment complex on approximately 10.85 acres.

Methodology

A literature review was conducted to determine the potential for special-status biological resources to occur on or within the general vicinity of the project site. In addition to the literature review, a general habitat assessment was conducted during an in-person field investigation, where EES documented

existing conditions present within the site to determine the potential of the site to support special-status biological resources.

Literature Review

A literature review and records search was conducted for special-status biological resources that could potentially occur within or in the vicinity of the project site. Previously recorded occurrences of special-status plant and wildlife species and their proximity to the site were determined through a query of the California Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Rarefind 5, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, Calflora Database, compendia of special-status species published by CDFW and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species listings.

All available reports, survey results, and literature detailing the biological resources previously observed on or within the vicinity of the project site were reviewed to understand existing site conditions and note the extent of any disturbances that have occurred on the project site that would otherwise limit the distribution of special-status biological resources. Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status and non-special-status biological resources, as well as the following resources:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Program “My Waters” data layers
- Google Earth Pro historic aerial imagery (1985-2024);
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey;
- USFWS Critical Habitat designations for Threatened and Endangered Species;
- USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI);

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring on the project site. The CNDDDB database was used, in conjunction with ArcGIS software, to locate the nearest recorded occurrences of special-status species and determine the distance from the project.

Field Investigation

Following the literature review, EES biologists Jacob H. Lloyd Davies and Kathya Argueta evaluated the conditions and habitat within the project site on March 20, 2025. Plant community composition was determined during meandering transects through available plant communities and land cover types and along community boundaries. In addition, aerial photographs were reviewed to identify potential natural corridors and linkages that have the potential to support wildlife movement through the area. Special attention was paid to notable features identified during the review of aerial photographs.

Soil Series Assessment

On-site and adjoining soils were researched prior to the field survey using the USDA NRCS Soil Survey for the Antelope Valley Area, California. In addition, a review of the local geological conditions and historical aerial photographs was conducted to assess the ecological changes that the project site has undergone.

Plant Communities

Plant communities were mapped using 7.5-minute USGS topographic base maps and aerial photography. The plant communities were delineated on an aerial photograph and then digitized into GIS Arcview. The Arcview application was used to compute the area of each plant community in acres.

Plants

Common plant species observed during the field survey were identified by visual characteristics and morphology in the field and recorded in a field notebook. Unusual and less-familiar plants were photographed in the field and identified in the laboratory using taxonomic guides. Taxonomic nomenclature used in this study follows the 2012 Jepson Manual (Hickman 2012). In this report, scientific names are provided immediately following common names of plant species (first reference only).

Wildlife

Wildlife species detected during field surveys by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other sign were recorded during surveys in a field notebook. Field guides were used to assist with identification of wildlife species during the survey included The Sibley Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America (Sibley 2003), A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians (Stebbins 2003), and A Field Guide to Mammals of North America (Reid 2006). Although common names of wildlife species are fairly well standardized, scientific names are provided immediately following common names in the first reference only.

Potential Jurisdictional Features

Aerial photography was reviewed prior to conducting a field investigation in order to locate and inspect any potential natural drainage features, ponded areas, or water bodies that may fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), or CDFW. In general, surface drainage features indicated as blue-line streams on USGS maps that are observed or expected to exhibit evidence of flow are considered potential riparian/riverine habitat and are also subject to state and federal regulatory jurisdiction. In addition, EES reviewed jurisdictional waters information by examining historical aerial photographs to gain an understanding of the impact of land-use on natural drainage patterns in the area. The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Program “My Waters” data layers were also reviewed to determine whether any hydrologic features and wetland areas have been documented on or within the vicinity of the project site.

Results and Discussion

Topography and Soils

The project site is located at an approximate elevation of 2,400 to 2,415 feet above mean sea level. On-site topography is generally flat with minor sloping to the east and west. Based on the NRCS USDA Web Soil Survey, the site is underlain by Rosamond fine sandy loam and Sunrise sandy loam (shallow). Refer to Exhibit 3, Soils. Soils on-site have been mechanically disturbed and compacted by historic land uses, illegal dumping, and encampments of unhoused individuals.

Existing Conditions

The project site occurs in a primarily developed portion of the City of Lancaster. Adjacent land use is dominated by existing development, with limited undeveloped spaces present. The site is bounded to the

north by undeveloped land; to the east by State Route 14 with commercial development beyond; to the west by 15th Street West with high-density residential development beyond; and to the south by undeveloped land and a paved parking lot facility. In addition, adjacent undeveloped land to the north supports several encampments of unhoused individuals.

Vegetation

Due to historic land use and current partially disturbed conditions, no undisturbed natural plant communities are present within or adjacent to the project site. The site supports one (1) plant community, degraded Mojavean desert scrub; in addition, the site supports one land cover type that would be classified as disturbed. Refer to Exhibit 4, Vegetation Communities/Landcovers.

Degraded Mojavean Desert Scrub

Portions of the site along the western boundary support degraded Mojavean desert scrub, dominated by alternative monocultures of rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), hoary saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). Vegetative coverage is often dense to sometimes sparse, and open areas between shrubs are typically dominated by non-native/invasive weedy species or are barren. Other mostly non-native plant species observed in the degraded Mojavean desert scrub plant community include shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Arabian schismus (*Schismus arabicus*), Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), hairy-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), and peach thorn (*Lycium cooperi*).

Disturbed

The central and eastern portions of the project site support disturbed land, where historic land uses and ongoing disturbance prevent the establishment of a plant community. Within the project site, this land cover type is dominated by non-native/invasive plant species such as shortpod mustard, bromes, Arabian schismus, Russian thistle, and red-stemmed filaree. Native shrubs are generally absent, but hummocks persist where shrubs occurred historically.

Wildlife

Plant communities and land cover types provide foraging habitat, nesting/denning sites, and refuge from inclement weather or predation. This section provides a discussion of those wildlife species that were observed or are expected to occur within the project site. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather conditions in which the field survey was conducted. Wildlife detections were based on calls, songs, scat, tracks, burrows, and direct observation.

Amphibians

No amphibians or features that would provide suitable long-term habitat for amphibians were observed within the project site. Therefore, no amphibians are expected to occur and all are presumed absent.

Birds

The project site and surrounding area provide suitable foraging and nesting habitat for avian species adapted to routine anthropogenic disturbance. Avian species detected during the field survey include common raven (*Corvus corax*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), house finch (*Haemorrhous*

mexicanus), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), and Eurasian starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Mammals

The project site and surrounding area provide suitable foraging and limited cover habitat for local mammalian species adapted to routine anthropogenic disturbance and disturbed/developed environments. Mammalian species detected during the field investigation include pocket gophers (*Thomomys bottae*), kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys spp.*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

Fish

No fish or features that would provide suitable habitat for fish were observed within or adjacent to the project site. Therefore, no fish are expected to occur and all are presumed absent.

Reptiles

The project site and surrounding area provide limited foraging and cover habitat for local reptilian species adapted to routine anthropogenic disturbance. No reptiles were observed during the field investigation. Common reptilian species that could be expected to occur on-site include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*).

Nesting Birds and Raptors

No active avian nests or birds exhibiting nesting behavior were observed within or immediately adjacent to the project site during the field investigation, which was conducted during the nesting bird breeding season. It should be noted that a pair of common ravens was observed building a nest in an ornamental tree approximately 530 feet to the southwest, and several pairs of Eurasian starlings were observed exhibiting nesting behaviors in ornamental trees directly across 15th Street West from the western boundary of the site. While highly disturbed, the project site and surrounding area provides limited nesting opportunities for local avian species that are adapted to routine anthropogenic disturbance and disturbed/developed conditions.

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513 prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). If construction occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction.

Migratory Corridors and Linkages

Habitat linkages provide connections between larger habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species yet still inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are features that allow for the dispersal,

seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging of a variety of wildlife species. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

The site has not been identified as occurring in a recognized wildlife corridor or linkage. The proposed project will be confined to existing areas that have been heavily disturbed or developed and are isolated from regional wildlife corridors and linkages. In addition, there are no riparian corridors, creeks, or useful patches of steppingstone habitat (natural areas) within or connecting the site to a recognized wildlife corridor or linkage. As such, the project site is not expected to contribute to local wildlife movement opportunities and no impacts to wildlife corridors or linkages will occur from project implementation.

Jurisdictional Areas

Three key agencies regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The Corps Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredge or fill materials into “waters of the United States” pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and bank under Fish and Wildlife Code Sections 1600 et seq., and the Regional Board regulates discharges into surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

The USFWS NWI and the USGS National Hydrography Dataset were reviewed to determine if any blueline streams or riverine resources have been documented on the project site. Based on this review, one Riverine resource was mapped as traversing the western portion of the site, roughly parallel to the western boundary. This feature is not represented by a blueline stream and was mapped by the NWI using digital imagery from 2012. During the field investigation, a flood-control channel was observed off-site to the south, directing surface flows northward towards the southern boundary of the project site. Flows enter the site along a braided channel and generally infiltrate on-site or in adjacent areas. On-site portions of the drainage are ephemeral in nature and only convey flows during and briefly after rain events. Surface water was present during the field investigation, but this was due exclusively to a storm passing through the area in the days prior. No riparian vegetation or hydrological indicators suggesting an Ordinary High Water Mark were present. It should be noted that the majority of the drainage occurred along established walking paths associated with the unhoused encampment to the north of the site.

Since the feature is not considered a relatively permanent, standing, or continuously flowing body of water, it will not qualify as Waters of the United States under the regulatory authority of the Corps. Further, due to flows primarily being contained to the site and adjacent areas until infiltration, the feature is not expected to qualify as Waters of the State. However, this is ultimately up to the discretion of the Regional Board and CDFW, and further consultation with these agencies may be required.

Special-Status Biological Resources

The CNDDDB Rarefind 5 and CNPS were queried for reported locations of special-status plant and wildlife species as well as special-status natural plant communities mapped in the Lancaster West quadrangle. The habitat assessment evaluated the conditions of the habitat(s) within the boundaries of the project site to determine if the existing plant communities, at the time of the survey, have the potential to provide suitable habitat(s) for special-status plant and wildlife species.

The literature search identified twelve special-status plant species and eighteen special-status wildlife species as having been mapped within the Lancaster West quadrangle. No special-status plant communities were identified as having the potential to occur. Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the project site based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. Species documented as occurring in the vicinity of the project site are presented in Exhibit 5, Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources.

Special-Status Plant Species

According to the CNDDDB, twelve special-status plant species have been mapped as occurring within the Lancaster West quadrangle. No special-status plant species were observed during the field investigation. Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of on-site habitats, it was determined that the project site does not have the potential to support some special-status plant species known to occur in the area and all are presumed to be absent.

It should be noted that no western Joshua trees were observed within or adjacent to the site during the field investigation.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

According to the CNDDDB, eighteen special-status wildlife species have been mapped within the Lancaster West quadrangle. One special-status wildlife species was observed in the surrounding area during the field investigation: Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of on-site habitats, it was determined that the project site has a low potential to California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*). It was further determined that the site does not have the potential to support the remainder of special-status wildlife species known to occur in the area and all are presumed to be absent.

California horned lark is neither federally or state listed as endangered or threatened. In order to ensure impacts to special-status avian species do not occur from implementation of the proposed project, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey is recommended to be conducted prior to ground disturbance. With the implementation of the pre-construction clearance survey, impacts to special-status species will be less than significant and no mitigation will be required.

Due to regional significance and listing status, the potential occurrence of burrowing owl is discussed in further detail below.

Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl was designated as a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act on October 10, 2024. As a candidate for listing under CESA, the species is temporarily afforded the same protections as a state-listed endangered or threatened species. This species is a grassland specialist that occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. Burrowing owls use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with well-drained, level to gently sloping areas characterized by sparse vegetation and bare ground. Burrowing owls are dependent upon the presence of burrowing mammals such as ground squirrels, whose burrows are used for roosting and nesting. The presence or absence of colonial mammal burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence or absence of burrowing owls. Where mammal burrows are scarce, burrowing owls

have been found occupying man-made cavities such as exposed pipes, inactive culverts, and rubble piles. This species requires open vegetation that allows for line-of-sight observation of the surrounding habitat to forage as well as watch for predators.

The project site is vegetated with a variety of low-growing plant species that allows line-of-sight observation favored by burrowing owl. However, no suitable burrows were observed on-site or within adjacent areas during the field investigation. Further, the site is surrounded by tall light poles that provide suitable perching opportunities for large raptors such as red-tailed hawk, which was observed on-site, that prey on burrowing owls. In addition, the project site regularly supports foot traffic associated with unhoused encampments in adjacent areas, and routine human presence generally discourages burrowing owls from establishing. Therefore, burrowing owl is presumed absent from the site and is not expected to occur.

Out of an abundance of caution, a pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey may be conducted concurrently with the pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey recommended previously. With the implementation of the pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey, no impacts to burrowing owl will occur and no mitigation will be required.

Special-status Plant Communities

No special-status plant communities were identified as having potential to occur in the vicinity of the project site and none were observed during the field investigation. Therefore, no impacts to special-status plant communities will occur from project implementation.

Critical Habitat

Under the federal Endangered Species Act, “Critical Habitat” is designated at the time of listing of a species or within one year of listing. Critical Habitat refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species at the time it is listed that include the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species. Maintenance of these physical and biological features requires special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether individuals or the species are present or not. All federal agencies are required to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding activities they authorize, fund, or permit which may affect a federally listed species or its designated Critical Habitat. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure that projects will not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species or adversely modify or destroy its designated Critical Habitat. The designation of Critical Habitat does not affect private landowners, unless a project they are proposing is on federal lands, uses federal funds, or requires federal authorization or permits (e.g., funding from the Federal Highways Administration or a CWA Permit from the Corps). If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing the funding or permit would consult with the USFWS.

The project site is mapped as not occurring within designated Critical Habitat for all of the special-status species. Therefore, consultation with the USFWS will not be required.

Recommendations

Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513 prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). In order to protect migratory bird species, a nesting bird clearance survey should be conducted prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities that may disrupt the birds during the nesting season.

If construction occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a brief letter report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur. If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities should stay outside of a no-disturbance buffer. The size of the no-disturbance buffer will be determined by the wildlife biologist and will depend on the level of noise and/or surrounding anthropogenic disturbances, line of sight between the nest and the construction activity, type and duration of construction activity, ambient noise, species habituation, and topographical barriers. These factors will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when developing buffer distances. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest will be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers; and construction personnel will be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. A biological monitor should be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and to monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.

California Endangered Species Act and Burrowing Owl

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) declares that "all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation, will be protected or preserved." As a candidate for listing under CESA, the species is temporarily afforded the same protections as a state-listed endangered or threatened species. The review of scientific literature is conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In order to protect burrowing owls, a burrowing owl clearance survey should be conducted prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities that may disrupt the owls during the nesting season. If construction occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction clearance survey for burrowing owls should be conducted 30 days prior to ground disturbance. The timing of nesting activities may vary with latitude and climatic conditions. If possible, the nesting season survey should be conducted during the peak of the breeding season, between April 15 and July 15. If owls have been documented in the last three years this will prompt breeding season surveys. A survey for burrows and owls should be conducted by walking through suitable habitat over the entire project site and in areas within 150 meters (approx 500 ft.) of the project impact zone. This 150-meter buffer zone is included to account for adjacent burrows and foraging habitat outside the project area and impacts from factors such as noise and vibration due to heavy equipment which could impact resources outside the project area. Pedestrian survey

transects should be spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines should be no more than 30 meters (approx. 100 ft.), and should be reduced to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility. To efficiently survey projects larger than 100 acres, it is recommended that two or more surveyors conduct concurrent surveys. Surveyors should maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters (approx. 160 ft.) from any owls or occupied burrows. It is important to minimize disturbance near occupied burrows during all seasons

Please do not hesitate to contact Brian Mayerle at bmayerle@endemicenvironmental.net or Jacob H. Lloyd Davies at jlloyddavies@endemicenvironmental.net should you have any questions regarding this report.

Regards,

Brian Mayerle

Brian Mayerle
Senior Biologist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Lloyd Davies', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jacob H. Lloyd Davies
Environmental Planner

Site Photographs



Photo 1: From the southwest corner of the project site looking east along the southern boundary.



Photo 2: From the southwest corner of the project site looking north along the western boundary.



Photo 3: From the northwest corner of the project site looking south along the western boundary.



Photo 4: From the northwest corner of the project site looking east along the northern boundary.



Photo 5: From the northeast corner of the project site looking west along the northern boundary.



Photo 6: From the northeast corner of the project site looking south along the eastern boundary.



Photo 7: From the southeast corner of the project site looking north along the eastern boundary.



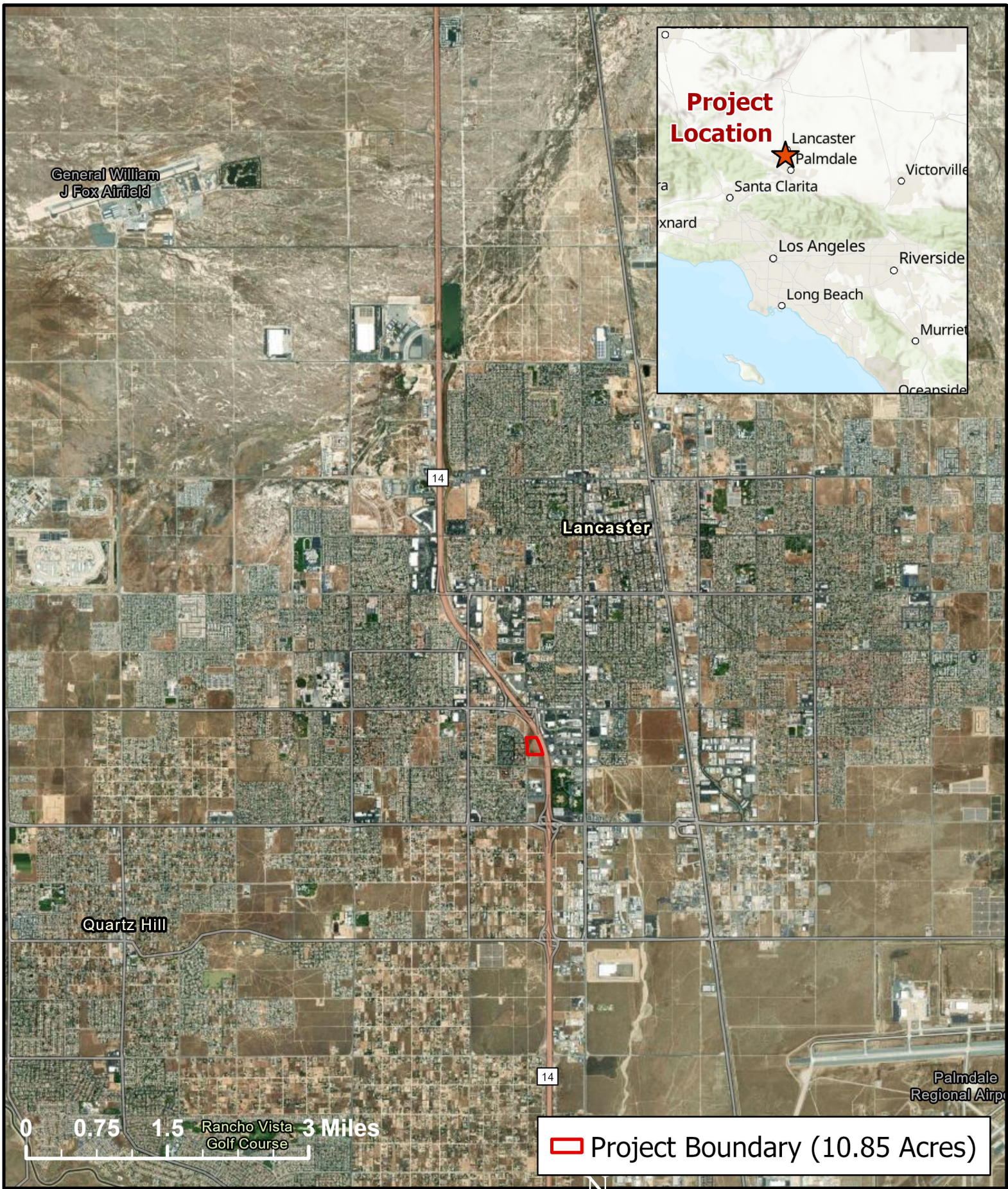
Photo 8: From the southwest corner of the project site looking west along the southern boundary.



Photo 9: The on-site drainage feature does not bear indicators of an ordinary high water mark or support riparian vegetation.



Photo 10: The on-site drainage feature does not bear indicators of an ordinary high water mark or support riparian vegetation.



**15th Street West
Affordable Housing Project**
Exhibit 1 Project Location and Vicinity



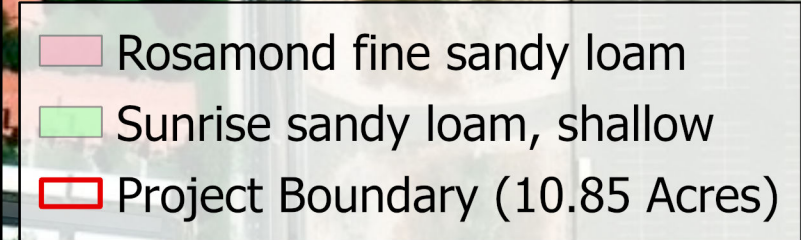


Exhibit 3 Soil Map



15th Street West Affordable Housing Project

Exhibit 4 Vegetation Communities



Special-status Wildlife Species			
Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	Fed: CA:	None THR; SSC	Range is limited to the coastal areas of the Pacific coast of North America, from Northern California to upper Baja California. Can be found in a wide variety of habitat including annual grasslands, wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands, agricultural fields, cattle feedlots, and dairies. Occasionally forage in riparian scrub habitats along marsh borders. Basic habitat requirements for breeding include open accessible water, protected nesting substrate (freshwater marsh dominated by cattails, willows, and bulrushes), and either flooded or thorny or spiny vegetation and suitable foraging space providing adequate insect prey.
<i>Anniella pulchra</i> Northern California legless lizard	Fed: CA:	None None; SSC	Occurs primarily in areas with sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation of beaches, chaparral, or pine-oak woodland; or near sycamores, oaks, or cottonwoods that grow on stream terraces. Often found under or in the close vicinity of logs, rocks, old boards, and the compacted debris of woodrat nests.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	Fed: CA:	None CE; SSC	Prefers habitat with short, sparse vegetation with few shrubs and well-drained soils in grassland, shrub steppe, and desert habitats. Primarily a grassland species, but it persists and even thrives in some landscapes highly altered by human activity. Occurs in open, annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. The overriding characteristics of suitable habitat appear to be burrows for roosting and nesting and relatively short vegetation with only sparse shrubs and taller vegetation.
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch's bumble bee	Fed: CA:	None CE	Colonial species that lives almost exclusively from coastal California east towards the Sierra-Cascade Crest and can be found uncommonly in western Nevada and south through Baja California. Inhabits grassland and scrub habitats in hotter and drier climates than most other bumblebee species and is only capable of tolerating a narrow range of climatic conditions. This species usually nests underground, often in abandoned rodent dens.
<i>Buteo regalis</i> ferruginous hawk	Fed: CA:	None None; WL	Occurs primarily in open grasslands and fields, but may be found in sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills, or along the edges of pinyon-juniper woodland. Feeds primarily on small mammals and typically found in agricultural or open fields.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainsons hawk	Fed: CA:	None THR	Typical habitat is open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the Central Valley. Forages in adjacent grassland or suitable grain or alfalfa fields or livestock pastures.
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i> coastal cactus wren	Fed: CA:	None None; SSC	Found in arid and semi-arid habitats with a high occurrence of cactus and spiny trees. Nests almost exclusively in prickly pear and cholla cactus.
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> California horned lark	Fed: CA:	None None; WL	Generally found in shortgrass prairies, grasslands, disturbed fields, or similar habitat types along the coast or in deserts. Trees and shrubs are usually scarce or absent. Generally rare in montane, coniferous, or chaparral habitats. Forms large flocks outside of the breeding season. Nests in hollows/scrapes on ground near hummocks or other raised earthen features.
			Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
			Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
			Presumed Absent No suitable burrows are present, routine human disturbance likely precludes establishment
			Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
			Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
			Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
			Low Limited habitat is present

<i>Falco columbarius</i> merlin	Fed: CA:	None None; WL	Nest in forested openings, edges, and along rivers across northern North America. Found in open forests, grasslands, and especially coastal areas with flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Helminthoglypta fontiphila</i> Soledad shoulderband	Fed: CA:	None None	Known only from Los Angeles County from Little Rock Creek Canyon on the north flank of the San Gabriel Mountains and Soledad Canyon near Acton. Preferred habitat includes coastal sage scrub and chaparral. The type locality is in Soledad Canyon, the headwaters of the Santa Clara River, hence its common name.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	Fed: CA:	None None; SSC	Prefers open habitats with bare ground, scattered shrubs, and areas with low or sparse herbaceous cover including open-canopied valley foothill hardwood, riparian, pinyon-juniper, desert riparian, creosote bush scrub, and Joshua tree woodland. Requires suitable perches including trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	Fed: CA:	None None	Found in diverse habitats, but primarily is found in arid regions supporting shortgrass habitats. Openness of open scrub habitat is preferred over dense chaparral.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Myotis velifer</i> cave myotis	Fed: CA:	None None; SSC	Roosts in caves, mines, and buildings. Foraging activity covers a broader range than other Myotis species.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> black-crowned night heron	Fed: CA:	None None	Fairly common, yearlong resident in lowlands and foothills throughout most of California, including the Salton Sea and Colorado River areas, and very common locally in large nesting colonies. Feeds along the margins of lacustrine, large riverine, and fresh and saline emergent habitats and rarely, on kelp beds in marine sub tidal habitats. Nests and roosts in dense-foliaged trees and dense emergent wetlands.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: CA:	None None; SSC	Found in a wide variety of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland and coniferous forest. In inland areas, this species is restricted to areas with pockets of open microhabitat, created by disturbance (i.e. fire, floods, roads, grazing, fire breaks). The key elements of such habitats are loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction; an abundance of native ants or other insects; and open areas with limited overstory for basking and low, but relatively dense shrubs for refuge.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: CA:	None None; SSC	Primarily occupy grasslands, parklands, farms, tallgrass and shortgrass prairies, meadows, shrub-steppe communities and other treeless areas with sandy loam soils where it can dig more easily for its prey. Occasionally found in open chaparral (with less than 50% plant cover) and riparian zones.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bells vireo	Fed: CA:	END END	Primarily occupy Riverine riparian habitat that typically feature dense cover within 1 -2 meters of the ground and a dense, stratified canopy. Typically it is associated with southern willow scrub, cottonwood-willow forest, mule fat scrub, sycamore alluvial woodlands, coast live oak riparian forest, arroyo willow riparian forest, or mesquite in desert localities. It uses habitat which is limited to the immediate vicinity of water courses, 2,000 feet elevation in the interior.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Xerospermophilus mohavensis</i> Mohave ground squirrel	Fed: CA:	None THR	Restricted to the Mojave Desert in open desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, annual grassland, and Joshua tree woodland. Prefers sandy to gravelly soils and tends to avoid rocky areas. Occurs sympatrically with the white-tailed antelope squirrel.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present

Special-status Plant Species				
<i>Astragalus preussii</i> var. <i>laxiflorus</i> Lancaster milk-vetch	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Chenopod scrub; Elevation range: 2295 to 2295 feet; Blooming period: Mar-May.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Calochortus striatus</i> alkali mariposa-lily	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Alkaline, Mesic; Chaparral, Chenopod scrub, Meadows and seeps, Mojavean desert scrub; Elevation range: 230 to 5235 feet; Blooming period: Apr-Jun.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Calystegia peirsonii</i> Peirsons morning-glory	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Chaparral, Chenopod scrub, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland; Elevation range: 100 to 4920 feet; Blooming period: Apr-Jun.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Canbya candida</i> white pygmy-poppy	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Granitic, Gravelly, Sandy; Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; Elevation range: 1970 to 4790 feet; Blooming period: Mar-Jun.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Castilleja plagiotoma</i> Mojave paintbrush	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.3	Great Basin scrub (alluvial), Joshua tree "woodland", Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland; Elevation range: 985 to 8205 feet; Blooming period: Apr-Jun.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Parrys spineflower	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Openings, Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes); Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland; Elevation range: 900 to 4005 feet; Blooming period: Apr-Jun.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Chorizanthe spinosa</i> Mojave spineflower	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Alkaline (sometimes); Chenopod scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, Playas; Elevation range: 20 to 4265 feet; Blooming period: Mar-Jul.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Eriastrum rosamondense</i> Rosamond eriastrum	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Alkaline, Sandy (often); Chenopod scrub (openings), Vernal pools (edges); Elevation range: 2295 to 3855 feet; Blooming period: Apr-May(Jun-Jul).	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Goodmania luteola</i> golden goodmania	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Alkaline (sometimes), Clay (sometimes); Meadows and seeps, Mojavean desert scrub, Playas, Valley and foothill grassland; Elevation range: 65 to 7220 feet; Blooming period: Apr-Aug.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Monardella exilis</i> Mojave monardella	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Sandy; Chenopod scrub, Desert dunes, Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; Elevation range: 1970 to 6725 feet; Blooming period: Apr-Sep.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present

<i>Muilla coronata</i> crowned muilla	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Chenopod scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; Elevation range: 2200 to 6430 feet; Blooming period: Mar-Apr(May).	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present
<i>Yucca brevifolia</i> western Joshua tree	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None CT CBR	Occurs in a variety of arid habitats within the Mojave Desert. Found at elevations ranging from 1,600 to 6,600 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	Presumed Absent No suitable habitat is present

<u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Fed)</u> END: Endangered THR: Threatened PT: Proposed Threatened C: Candidate	<u>California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA)</u> END: Endangered THR: Threatened CE/CT: Candidate Endangered/Threatened FP: Fully Protected SSC: Species of Special Concern WL: Watch List	<u>California Native Plant Society</u> California Rare Plant Ranks 1A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere 1B: Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere 2B: Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California; More Common Elsewhere 4: Limited Distribution (Watch List) Threat Ranks 0.1: Seriously threatened in California 0.2: Moderately threatened in California 0.3: Not very threatened in California
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