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Baseline Biological Resources Technical Report

Cabazon Infrastructure Plan and Cabazon Community Plan Project

Cabazon, California

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

3DHP ..... 3D National Hydrography Program
BIOS..... Biogeographic Information System
BMP..... best management practice
BSA ..... biological study area
CAL FIRE ..... California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CCC..... California Coastal Commission
CDFW ..... California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA ..... California Environmental Quality Act
CESA ..... California Endangered Species Act
CFGC..... California Fish and Game Code
CIP ..... Cabazon Infrastructure Plan
CNDDB..... California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS..... California Native Plant Society
County..... County of Riverside
CRPR..... California Rare Plant Rank
CVAG ..... Coachella Valley Association of Governments
CVCC..... Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
CVJC..... Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket
CV-MSHCP ..... Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
CVMV ..... Coachella Valley milkvetch
CWA..... Clean Water Act
CWHR ..... California Wildlife Habitat Relationships
DBESP ..... Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation
ESA ..... Endangered Species Act
FEMA..... Federal Emergency Management Agency
FRAP ..... Fire and Resource Assessment Program
ft..... feet
General Plan..... County of Riverside General Plan
GIS ..... geographic information system
HANS ..... Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy
HCP..... Habitat Conservation Plan
I-10 ..... Interstate 10
IPaC ..... Information for Planning and Consultation
LAPM..... Los Angeles pocket mouse
NCCP..... Natural Community Conservation Plan
NCCPA..... Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
NEPA..... National Environmental Policy Act

NEPS ..... narrow endemic plant species
NPPA..... Native Plant Protection Act
PBS ..... Peninsular bighorn sheep
PEIR ..... Programmatic Environmental Impact Report
PQP..... Public/Quasi-Public
proposed project.... Cabazon Infrastructure Plan and Cabazon Community Plan
PSPM ..... Palm Springs pocket mouse
RCA..... Regional Conservation Authority
Reservation ..... Morongo Indian Reservation
ROW ..... right-of-way
RWQCB..... Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tribe ..... Morongo Band of Mission Indians
USACE..... US Army Corps of Engineers
USDA ..... US Department of Agriculture
USEPA ..... US Environmental Protection Agency
USGS..... US Geological Survey
WR-MSHCP..... Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
WWTP ..... wastewater treatment plant

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The County of Riverside (County) is undertaking a comprehensive Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) providing a program-level environmental analysis of the Cabazon Infrastructure Plan and Cabazon Community Plan (proposed project). The Cabazon Infrastructure Plan (CIP) aims to promote the future growth of the region's housing, industrial, and commercial sectors by evaluating the necessary infrastructure for their expansion in the Cabazon area, assessing feasibility for implementation, and analyzing the environmental impacts of potential projects to promote streamlined development. The Cabazon Community Plan establishes a long-term land use vision for the area, identifying land use changes, new policies, ordinance updates, and design guidelines to support anticipated growth, including the possibility of accommodating up to 25,000 new housing units over the next 30 years. The PEIR is intended to facilitate streamlined environmental review and permit processing for future individual CIP and subsequent area buildout projects by providing a comprehensive program-level assessment of potential environmental impacts. This Baseline Biological Resources Technical Report provides an overview of the proposed project and documents existing biological and aquatic resource conditions to inform the PEIR's program-level biological resources analysis.

1.1 Background and Purpose

The purpose of this biological resources technical report is to support the PEIR by summarizing the existing conditions of natural resources with a focus on special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive habitats, and locally significant biological resources. The report synthesizes existing data, literature, and the results of desktop analyses to identify biological constraints and inform the development of mitigation strategies in the PEIR. These strategies are intended to streamline future environmental review and permitting for individual CIP and development projects, ensuring compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other applicable regulations, while protecting the Cabazon Community Plan's valuable natural resources.

1.2 Scope of Analysis and Methods

1.2.1 Project Location

The proposed project is located in the northwestern portion of Riverside County, immediately east of the city of Banning (Attachment A, Figure 1). Regionally, the proposed project is accessible from Interstate 10 (I-10), which bisects the area in an east-west direction and provides access at Malki Road, Morongo Trail, and Main Street. The Union Pacific rail line also bisects the proposed project and runs generally parallel to I-10. For purposes of this biological resources analysis, the biological study area (BSA) is the same as the area encompassing the proposed project. The BSA encompasses 7,769 acres and is bounded by the Morongo Indian Reservation to the north, unincorporated areas of Riverside County to the north and south, the cities of Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs to the east, and the city of Banning to the west (Attachment A, Figure 2).

The BSA is in the Cabazon and Whitewater US Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps (Attachment A, Figure 2). The BSA spans portions of Township 3 South Range 1 East (T3S R1E) Section 13, and Township 3 South Range 2 East (T3S R2E) Sections 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

The BSA is entirely within the County of Riverside General Plan (General Plan) Pass Area Plan. Specifically, the BSA is located within the Cabazon Policy Area of the Pass Area Plan. The BSA also is within the boundaries of two adopted habitat conservation plans: Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CV-MSHCP) and Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WR-MSHCP). The majority of the BSA is in the CV-MSHCP, which includes portions of the Cabazon Conservation Area and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area. The western portion of the BSA is in the WR-MSHCP, which includes portions of a Special Linkage Area (Attachment A, Figure 6). The BSA is also within the MSHCP-designated survey areas for burrowing owl, narrow endemic plant species, and mammals (Attachment A, Figure 7a).

In total, the BSA is located within 6,828 acres of the CV-MSHCP, 760 acres of the WR-MSHCP, and 181 acres of Tribal Land (Morongo Band of Mission Indians).

1.2.2 Project Overview

1.2.2.1 Cabazon Community Plan

The Cabazon Community Plan (GPA No. 1206) would address the vision for the community's character/placemaking, land use, access and circulation, infrastructure and public services, design standards, and land use regulations and development standards. The Cabazon Community Plan Land Use Map proposes the following types of land uses: Commercial Retail, High Density Residential, Highest Density Residential, Low Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, Very Low Density Residential, Rural Residential, Rural Desert, Rural Mountainous, Mixed-Use Area, Heavy Industrial, Light Industrial, Public Facilities, and Open Space – Conservation.

Overall, the proposed general plan amendment (GPA No. 01206) would amend the Riverside County General Plan by:

1. Amending the Pass Area Plan to update textual and graphic references to the Cabazon Policy Area to reflect changes proposed by the Cabazon Community Plan.

2. Revising land use designations within the proposed Cabazon Community Plan Area of the Pass Area Plan, including Foundation Component amendments. Approximately 64 parcels totaling about 7,761 acres would require Foundation Component Amendments that include changes from the Rural and Rural Community components to the Community Development component. Consistency zoning changes would occur in the future as a result of the revised land use designations proposed as part of the project, and are analyzed as part of this PEIR.

3. Amending Tables LU-1 (Unincorporated Riverside County Cumulative Acreage Summary), LU-2 (Unincorporated Riverside County Buildout Capacity Summary), and LU-5 (Population per Square Mile), as well as Figure LU-1 (Riverside County General Plan Land Use Foundation Components) in Chapter 3 Land Use Element of the Riverside County General Plan.

The Cabazon Community Plan proposes planning policies and direction to guide change, promote quality development, and implement the community's vision for the area. The project includes amended General Plan Land Use and Circulation Elements, Design Guidelines, and administrative and implementation programs to encourage high-quality development within the community by addressing the following topics:

- Placemaking

- Land use
- Access and circulation
- Infrastructure and public services
- Development and design standards
- Administration and implementation

1.2.2.2 Cabazon Infrastructure Plan Overview

The CIP (ZR6234) includes numerous projects related to public infrastructure and facilities that the Community proposes to undertake over the next 30 years in order to support anticipated land use changes associated with implementation of the Cabazon Community Plan. The CIP projects covered under this PEIR have been divided into the following categories:

- Domestic Water Supply and Distribution
- Wastewater Collection and Treatment
- Flood Control and Drainage Systems
- Electric Power Supply
- Natural Gas Distribution
- Telecommunications and Broadband Services
- Roadway Right-of-Way

1.2.3 Biological Resources of Concern

For the purposes of this report, biological resources of concern include special-status and other sensitive resources that may occur within the BSA and its vicinity. These categories encompass the biological resources that are the focus of this baseline conditions report. These resources are defined as follows:

- **Sensitive Natural Communities.** Vegetation types or habitat areas recognized as rare or declining by state or federal agencies, or otherwise considered sensitive due to their ecological value, limited distribution, or vulnerability to disturbance.
- **Special-Status Plant Species.** Plant species that are listed as threatened, endangered, or rare under the federal or California Endangered Species Acts; candidates for listing; or otherwise recognized as sensitive by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR).
- **Special-Status Wildlife Species.** Wildlife species that are listed as threatened, endangered, or special concern under federal or state law; candidates for listing; or otherwise recognized as sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- **Regulated Aquatic Resources.** Wetlands, streams, and other aquatic features regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CDFW, and Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). These resources are subject to permitting and protection under federal Clean Water Act Sections (CWA) 404 and 401, and California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Section 1600 et seq.

- **Locally Designated Resources.** Areas designated as part of the CV-MSHCP (Cabazon Conservation Area and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area) and WR-MSHCP, as well as key biological resources protected by The Pass Area Plan local policies within the General Plan.

The following sections provide an overview of the regulatory setting and the occurrence, distribution, and ecological context of these resources within the BSA.

1.2.4 Literature and Database Review

The literature and database review served to document the natural resources known to occur or with the potential to occur within the BSA. To establish a comprehensive baseline of biological resources, the review focused on the natural resources within the project limits but also included the surrounding region. This regional approach ensured that the analysis captured resources that may be affected by project activities, which could expand into the Community Plan Boundary over time, or that have suitable habitat but have not been recorded within the project limits. The review included searches of federal, state, and local databases, published scientific literature, technical reports, relevant planning documents, and GIS datasets. The primary objectives of the literature review and database searches were to:

- Identify special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive natural communities, and other regulated biological resources known to occur or with the potential to occur within the BSA;
- Document the locations and habitat associations of these resources based on existing records;
- Evaluate the presence of designated critical habitat, conservation areas, wildlife corridors and linkages, and environmentally sensitive overlay zones;
- Inform the development of a program-level biological constraints map and mitigation strategy for future CIP and development projects.

The review included the following sources organized by natural resource category:

- **Special-status plants and wildlife:** CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2026a, 2026b, 2026c), the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory (CNPS 2026), and the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool (USFWS 2026a). Searches were conducted for the USGS 7.5-minute Cabazon and Whitewater quadrangle maps and seven surrounding quadrangles (Forest Falls, San Gorgonio Mountain, Catclaw Flat, Beaumont, San Jacinto, Lake Fulmor, and San Jacinto Peak). Other relevant sources included the General Plan, The Pass Area Plan (County of Riverside 2021), CV-MSHCP (CVAG 2007), WR-MSHCP (County of Riverside 2006), Calflora (2026), eBird (n.d.), and iNaturalist (n.d.).
- **Vegetation communities and land cover types:** CV-MSHCP (CVAG 2007); California Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2025).
- **Wildlife corridors and linkages:** CDFW Biogeographic Information System (BIOS) (CDFW 2026), County of Riverside General Plan (County of Riverside 2021), CV-MSHCP (CVAG 2007), California Wildlife Crossings Database (Wildlands Network, 2026)
- **Watersheds and aquatic resources:** National Wetlands Inventory (NWI; USFWS 2026b), US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) WATERS GeoViewer (USEPA 2026), and USGS 3D National Hydrography Program (3DHP; USGS 2026).

All resources consulted are listed in Section 6.0, References.

1.2.5 Desktop Analysis

Using the results of the literature and database review, a desktop analysis was conducted to characterize existing biological resources within the BSA. The analysis focused on synthesizing information from a variety of federal, state, regional, and local databases, as well as published literature and technical reports, to identify the locations of special-status species, sensitive habitats, and other regulated biological resources potentially present in the program area. No field surveys or ground-truthing were performed as part of this assessment.

Spatial data layers were compiled and reviewed using GIS software to evaluate the distribution of documented occurrences of special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive natural communities, designated critical habitat, wetlands, and conservation areas. The desktop analysis included the following steps:

1. **Compilation of spatial data:** Downloading and organizing GIS layers and database records for special-status species, sensitive habitats, critical habitat, wetlands, and conservation areas within the program area and vicinity.
2. **Review of mapped occurrences:** Overlaying documented species and habitat locations on base maps of the Cabazon Community Plan and vicinity to identify areas of biological sensitivity and potential constraints to CIP and development project implementation.
3. **Assessment of habitat suitability:** Evaluating land cover, vegetation types, hydrology, and proximity to known occurrences to infer the potential for undocumented resources within the BSA.
4. **Identification of regulatory overlays:** Mapping environmentally sensitive overlay zones, conservation easements, and other regulatory designations relevant to biological resource protection.
5. **Synthesis of findings:** Summarizing the distribution and types of biological resources identified through the desktop analysis to inform the development of a program-level biological constraints map and mitigation strategy.

All data sources and mapping tools used in the desktop analysis are listed in Section 6.0, References. The results of the desktop analysis are presented in the following sections, including tables and maps of documented and potential biological resources within the BSA.

1.2.5.1 Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

Vegetation community and land cover information for the BSA was developed using a hierarchical data approach that prioritizes regionally adopted, conservation plan–specific datasets and supplements them with statewide vegetation mapping where appropriate. A single data source that provides complete coverage of the BSA is not available. The primary data source for identifying and characterizing natural communities was the CV-MSHCP Natural Communities GIS dataset. The CV-MSHCP mapping was prepared to support habitat conservation planning and impact assessment within the Coachella Valley region and reflects vegetation classifications, spatial resolution, and mapping assumptions tailored to local ecological conditions and regulatory implementation. As such, this dataset provides the most geographically relevant and policy-consistent baseline for evaluating biological resources within the **BSA**.

Another key data source for identifying and characterizing natural communities in the western portion of the BSA was the WR-MSHCP Natural Communities GIS dataset. Classification of vegetation communities and other land uses in this dataset was based on the "Vegetation 2012" layer provided in the RCA MSHCP Information Map (RCA 2026) and follows descriptions provided in the final MSHCP, Volume I: The Plan (County of Riverside 2003).

To supplement the CV-MSHCP and WR-MSHCP mapping and provide broader landscape context, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) California Vegetation dataset was also reviewed. The FRAP dataset represents a statewide, multi-source vegetation layer compiled using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) classification system and is commonly used for regional-level analyses, cumulative impact evaluation, and cross-jurisdictional comparisons. While the FRAP dataset offers comprehensive statewide coverage, it is coarser in spatial resolution and not specific to local conservation planning boundaries. FRAP data were used in a supporting role to corroborate general vegetation patterns and ensure consistency with statewide vegetation classifications. Where overlaps or differences between datasets occurred, the CV-MSHCP mapping was given precedence due to its regional specificity and relevance to conservation planning in the Coachella Valley.

1.2.5.2 Special-Status Species

The potential for special-status species to occur was evaluated based on each species' known geographic distribution and elevation range; species-specific habitat requirements (e.g., vegetation communities/land covers, soils, hydrology, slope/aspect, and other requirements); life history traits (e.g., disturbance tolerance); current and historical records; and Michael Baker biologists' expertise, knowledge, and best professional judgement. The potential to occur categories used in this analysis are defined as follows:

- **Expected:** The BSA is within the known geographic distribution and elevation range of the species; suitable habitat (considering vegetation, soils, and other factors) is present; and there is viable landscape connectivity to a local, known extant population(s) or sighting(s).
- **Moderate:** The BSA is within the known geographic distribution and elevation range of the species; however, habitat within the BSA (considering vegetation, soils, and other factors) is marginal or limited and landscape connectivity to a local, known, extant population or detection is compromised or nonexistent.
- **Not Expected:** The species is not expected to occur within the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat; the location of the BSA is outside of the species' elevation range or known geographic distribution; or there is no connectivity to known, extant populations.

1.2.6 Biological Resources Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis was conducted to classify areas within the BSA into low, moderate, and high biological sensitivity based on the presence or potential occurrence of sensitive biological resources. This analysis relied exclusively on desktop data sources identified in Section 1.2.3 and did not include field verification or ground-truthing.

Step 1: Data Compilation

Spatial datasets for special-status species, sensitive habitats, critical habitat, wetlands, wildlife corridors, and other regulated resources were compiled from federal, state, regional, and local sources (e.g., CNDDB,

CNPS, USFWS IPaC, CV-MSHCP, NWI, and 3DHP). These layers were organized in a GIS environment for spatial analysis.

Step 2: Define Sensitivity Categories

- **High Sensitivity**: Areas supporting federally or state-listed plant or wildlife species, USFWS designated critical habitat, CDFW sensitive natural communities, USGS 3DHP streams, USFWS NWI wetland areas, and WR-MSHCP Survey Areas (burrowing owl, narrow endemic plant species (NEPS), and mammals).
- **Moderate Sensitivity**: Indian Reservation land, CV-MSHCP Conservation Areas, CV-MSHCP Essential Ecological Processes & Biological Corridors and Linkages (sand source, sand transport, and corridors/linkages), CV-MSHCP Essential Habitat (Peninsular bighorn sheep), and remaining natural vegetation communities on the north-facing slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains to the south of the BSA.
- **Low Sensitivity**: All other areas of the BSA (e.g., developed or otherwise disturbed areas) with minimal biological resource value.

Step 3: Apply Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity categories were assigned qualitatively based on:

- **Regulatory status**: Federal or state listing, critical habitat designation.
- **Ecological rarity and function**: Habitat types with limited distribution or high ecological value (e.g., wetlands, riparian corridors, sand transport).
- **Vulnerability to disturbance**: Resources highly susceptible to project-related impacts such as grading, vegetation removal, or hydrologic alteration.
- **Potential for occurrence**: Based on special-status plant and animal species' habitat suitability and the program area's proximity to documented occurrences.

Certain natural resources were automatically classified as high sensitivity, including habitats supporting federally or state-listed species, and wetlands and riparian areas. Other areas, such as developed parcels or urban landscapes with isolated trees that could support nesting birds, were classified as low sensitivity, unless additional sensitive features were present.

Step 4: Conduct GIS Overlay Analysis

Spatial layers were overlaid to identify areas where sensitive resources occur or are likely to occur. The sensitivity map was developed as a categorical layer, assigning each area to a single sensitivity category based on the highest sensitivity resource present. The GIS overlay analysis included the following sequential steps:

- Sensitivity polygons were separated into high, moderate, and low categories and converted to raster format using a 50-meter cell size to support spatial analysis of overlap. The 50-meter cell size was selected to provide an appropriate balance between spatial detail and generalization for a regional scale.
- The Focal Statistics tool (SUM value) was applied to each sensitivity raster using a 150- to 200-meter circular neighborhood to emphasize areas where polygons of the same sensitivity overlap.

This circular neighborhood was used to represent a reasonable spatial influence of distance at a regional scale and ensures equal influence in all directions.

- The resulting rasters were normalized (normalization meaning those rasters were rescaled to a common range [0–1] so that overlap intensity is expressed consistently within each sensitivity category and no category appears stronger simply because it had larger raw values) and combined into a single output raster using conditional logic that enforces sensitivity hierarchy (High overrides Moderate and Low; Moderate overrides Low) while preserving overlap intensity within each category.
- The final raster was symbolized using classified symbology, with red (high), orange (moderate), and yellow (low) color ramps, where darker shades indicate areas of greater overlap within the same sensitivity class.

Step 5: Map Development

The resulting sensitivity map was generated in GIS and used to inform the program-level biological constraints map and mitigation strategy for future projects.

2.0 REGULATORY SETTING

Implementation of the CIP and Cabazon Community Plan is subject to a comprehensive framework of federal, state, and local laws and policies designed to protect natural resources and regulate development activities. This section summarizes the key regulatory requirements applicable to CIP and development projects within the Cabazon Community Plan. Compliance with these regulations ensures that CIP and development projects are planned and implemented in a manner that avoids, minimizes, or otherwise mitigates impacts on sensitive habitats, special-status species, and other protected natural resources.

2.1 Federal

2.1.1 Endangered Species Act (16 United States Code [USC] § 1531 et seq.)

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides the legal framework for the listing and protection of species (and their habitats) identified as being endangered or threatened with extinction. Actions that jeopardize endangered or threatened species and the habitats upon which they rely are considered a "take" under the ESA. Take of a federally listed threatened or endangered species is prohibited without a special permit. The ESA allows for take of a threatened or endangered species incidental to development activities once a habitat conservation plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the USFWS and an incidental take permit has been issued. The ESA also allows for the take of threatened or endangered species after consultation has deemed that development activities will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Consultation may occur through Section 7 of the ESA when a federal permit is required, such as a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, or through Section 10 of the ESA when there is no federal nexus.

2.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC §§ 703-712)

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act implements international treaties between the United States and other nations devised to protect migratory birds, their parts, eggs, and nests from activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. The State of California has incorporated the protection of birds, including birds of prey, in California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3513, and 3800. These laws prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests, and eggs, and align with federal protections for migratory birds.

2.1.3 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC §§ 668-668(d); 50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 22)

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, enacted in 1940 and amended several times since, aims to protect bald and golden eagles by prohibiting the taking of these birds, including their parts, nests, or eggs, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior. The term "taking" encompasses actions such as pursuing, shooting, poisoning, wounding, killing, capturing, trapping, collecting, molesting, or disturbing the eagles. The act is administered by the USFWS, which issues permits for activities that might affect these protected birds.

2.1.4 Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1251 et seq.)

Section 401 of the federal CWA requires any applicant for a federal license or permit that is conducting any activity that may result in a discharge of a pollutant into waters of the United States to obtain a

certification that the discharge will comply with the applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The appropriate RWQCB regulates Section 401 requirements.

CWA Section 404 prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States without a permit from the USACE. The USACE and the USEPA administer the CWA. In addition to streams with a defined bed and bank, the definition of waters of the United States includes wetland areas "that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 CFR 328.3 7b). The lateral extent of non-tidal waters is determined by delineating the ordinary high-water mark (33 CFR Section 328.4[c][1]).

Substantial impacts to jurisdictional wetlands may require an individual permit. Small-scale projects may require a nationwide permit, which typically has an expedited process compared to the individual permit process. Mitigation of wetland impacts is required as a condition of the CWA Section 404 permit and may include on-site preservation, restoration, and/or enhancement and/or off-site restoration or enhancement. The characteristics of restored or enhanced wetlands must be equal to or better than those of the affected wetlands to achieve no net loss of wetlands.

2.1.5 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC §§ 661-666)

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, enacted in 1934, is designed to ensure that wildlife conservation is considered in water resource development projects. This act directs the USFWS to investigate and report on proposed federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act requires federal agencies to consult with the USFWS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries before undertaking or authorizing projects that control or modify any body of water.

2.1.6 Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species

Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species, signed on February 3, 1999, establishes federal policy for the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species that threaten native ecosystems, agriculture, and public health. The order defines invasive species as non-native organisms whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. It mandates that federal agencies identify actions that may affect invasive species and implement measures to avoid or mitigate their spread. The order also created the National Invasive Species Council, tasked with coordinating interagency efforts, developing a national management plan, and promoting research, education, and international cooperation. Agencies are required to use science-based approaches and collaborate with state, tribal, and local governments to address invasive species impacts. Executive Order 13112 was later amended by Executive Order 13751 in 2016 to strengthen coordination and expand the scope of federal response.

2.1.7 Tribal Sovereignty

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians (Tribe) is a federally recognized sovereign Nation exercising inherent authority over land and natural resources within the Morongo Indian Reservation (Reservation). The Cabazon Community Plan area includes tribal trust lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation. Regulatory jurisdiction on tribal lands rests with the Tribe and the federal government, not the State of California or County of Riverside, unless the Tribe has expressly consented or federal law provides otherwise. Matters

concerning the use of the Reservation's trust lands are subject to approval by the Morongo Band's General Membership, which consists of all enrolled adult voting members. With limited exceptions, the Tribe does not release its internal ordinances and other laws to the public. As a result, impacts to biological resources on Reservation lands cannot be mitigated or relied upon for CEQA impact reduction unless federal or tribal environmental processes impose enforceable measures.

2.2 State

2.2.1 Public Resources Code §§ 21000–21189 – CEQA

CEQA requires public agencies to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects before approval. For a programmatic analysis such as the proposed project, CEQA review considers biological resources that may be affected by future implementation of the proposed project, including special-status species, sensitive natural communities, wetlands and other waters, wildlife movement, and habitat conservation plan consistency. If significant impacts to biological resources are identified, CEQA requires feasible mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for those effects. The CEQA process also promotes transparency, public participation, and interagency coordination to support informed environmental decision-making. At the program level, the PEIR provides a framework for subsequent project-specific environmental review and helps identify the types of biological resource protections, surveys, and mitigation measures that may be required as future implementing projects are proposed.

2.2.2 California Fish & Game Code §§ 2050–2116 – California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

CESA establishes a legal framework for the conservation of species at risk of extinction within California. It plays a critical role in integrating biodiversity conservation into California's land use and infrastructure planning. Administered by the CDFW, CESA prohibits the unauthorized "take" of any species listed as endangered, threatened, or candidates for listing, where "take" includes actions such as hunting, capturing, killing, or harming. CESA mandates the use of the best available scientific information in listing decisions and requires the California Fish and Game Commission to evaluate petitions for listing through a formal process that includes public input and peer-reviewed status reports. Once a species is listed or designated as a candidate, it receives full legal protection under CESA. CESA also requires state and local agencies to consult with the CDFW during project planning to identify and mitigate potential impacts to listed species and their habitats. Unlike its federal counterpart, CESA does not include provisions for incidental take permits for listed plants, making its protections more stringent in certain contexts. For state-listed plants, CESA protections differ than those for animals. While CESA prohibits take of listed plants, enforcement is limited to state-owned lands or projects requiring state approval or permits. In these cases, the CDFW may require mitigation or other protective measures to avoid or minimize impacts to listed plant species to ensure compliance with CESA and the Native Plant Protection Act.

2.2.3 California Fish and Game Code § 1600 et seq. – Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

California Fish and Game Code Section 1602 requires any person, public utility, or state or local governmental agency to notify the CDFW prior to initiating any activity that would: (1) substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; (2) substantially change or remove material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or (3) deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other

material into any river, stream, or lake. The state definition of "lakes, rivers, and streams" includes all rivers or streams that flow at least periodically or permanently through a well-defined bed or channel with banks that support fish or other aquatic life, and watercourses with surface or subsurface flows that support or have supported riparian vegetation.

2.2.4 California Fish and Game Code §§ 3503, 3503.5, 3513 – Nesting Birds and Birds of Prey

California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 collectively provide legal protection for nesting birds and birds of prey in California. Section 3503 prohibits the taking, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird, while Section 3503.5 specifically protects birds of prey (orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes), making it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy these species or their nests and eggs except as otherwise authorized. Section 3513 aligns with the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act by prohibiting the take or possession of any migratory non-game bird as designated under federal law. These provisions are routinely addressed in CEQA biological assessments to ensure that project activities avoid impacts on nesting birds and comply with both state and federal wildlife protections.

2.2.5 California Fish and Game Code § 3511, § 4700, § 5050, § 5515 – Fully Protected Species

The Fully Protected Species provisions of the CFGC—codified in Sections 3511 (birds), 4700 (mammals), 5050 (reptiles and amphibians), and 5515 (fish)—represent California's most stringent wildlife protections, predating the CESA. These statutes prohibit the "take" or possession of listed species under most circumstances, including for scientific, educational, or incidental purposes, unless explicitly authorized by the legislature or under narrowly defined exceptions. The CDFW administers these protections and maintains species lists that include taxa such as light-footed Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus levipes*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), and tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*). Unlike CESA, which allows for incidental take permits of wildlife, the Fully Protected Species designation generally bars such allowances, although recent amendments permit limited exceptions for specific infrastructure projects (e.g., water, transportation, renewable energy) subject to public notification and CDFW approval. These provisions ensure that species deemed most vulnerable to extinction receive the highest level of legal protection in California's conservation framework.

2.2.6 California Fish & Game Code §§ 1900–1913 – Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA)

The NPPA establishes a legal framework for the conservation of native plant species that are rare, endangered, or threatened within California. Enacted in 1977, the NPPA mandates the CDFW to identify and list protected native plants, regulate their collection and removal, and enforce penalties for unauthorized disturbance. The NPPA applies to both public and private lands and requires landowners and developers to obtain permits before impacting listed species. It also authorizes the CDFW to enter into agreements with federal agencies, local governments, and private entities to facilitate habitat protection and restoration. The NPPA complements broader environmental statutes such as CEQA by integrating plant conservation into land use planning and project review processes.

2.2.7 California Fish & Game Code §§ 2800–2835 – Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA)

The NCCPA provides a statutory framework for ecosystem-based conservation planning aimed at protecting biodiversity while accommodating compatible land use and development. Unlike traditional species-by-species approaches, the NCCPA promotes the preservation of entire natural communities and their ecological functions through large-scale, multi-stakeholder planning efforts. Administered by the CDFW, the NCCPA authorizes the development of natural community conservation plans (NCCPs), which identify habitat conservation strategies for multiple species, including those not yet listed as threatened or endangered. NCCPs must meet rigorous scientific and public participation standards and are subject to approval by the CDFW. Once approved, these plans offer regulatory assurances to participating landowners and agencies under CESA, streamlining permitting processes while ensuring long-term habitat protection. Notably, the Community Plan Area occurs within the boundaries of the WR-MSHCP and CV-MSHCP; The CIP and future development projects accommodated by the Cabazon Community Plan will be required to be consistent with the approved NCCP/habitat conservation plans.

2.2.8 California Water Code Division 7, §13000 et seq. – Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act defines waters of the state as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state. The RWQCBs regulate discharges to all waters of the state with particular responsibility for isolated wetlands, ephemeral streams, and headwaters. These water bodies have high resource value, are vulnerable to filling, and may not be regulated under federal law. The RWQCBs implement the Water Quality Certification Program under CWA Section 401 and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, requiring certification for projects needing federal permits (e.g., under CWA Section 404). Projects that do not require federal permits but may discharge to waters of the state are regulated through waste discharge requirements issued under state authority. For projects in the BSA, the Colorado River RWQCB (Region 7) oversees compliance.

2.2.9 California Wetlands Policy

The California Wetlands Policy is a state-led initiative designed to protect, restore, and enhance wetland ecosystems through a coordinated regulatory and planning framework. Anchored by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the California Wetlands Policy is implemented primarily by the State Water Resources Control Board and RWQCBs, with support from agencies such as CDFW. In response to evolving federal standards, particularly reductions in Clean Water Act protections, the State of California adopted Resolution No. 2008-0026, initiating the development of a comprehensive Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy. This policy establishes standardized definitions, delineation procedures, and permitting requirements for dredge-and-fill activities affecting wetlands. It also integrates monitoring, restoration, and mitigation strategies to ensure no net loss of wetland acreage or function. The policy is further supported by the California Wetland Program Plan, which outlines strategic goals for interagency coordination, public engagement, and adaptive management to safeguard the ecological integrity of California's wetland resources.

2.3 Local

2.3.1 County of Riverside General Plan (General Plan)

The General Plan covers Riverside County's entire unincorporated portion and is augmented by 19 more detailed Area Plans covering Riverside County's territory, with the exception of the undeveloped desert areas and the March Air Joint Reserve Base.

The General Plan includes policies aimed at the protection and maintenance of biological resources. Relevant local policies considered in the biological resources analysis and project consistency review are listed below.

Land Use Element

LU 9.2: Require that development protect environmental resources by compliance with the Multipurpose Open Space Element of the General Plan and Federal and State regulations such as California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.

LU 9.4: Allow development clustering and/or density transfers in order to preserve open space, natural resources, cultural resources, and biologically sensitive resources. Wherever possible, development on parcels containing 100-year floodplains, blueline streams and other higher-order watercourses, and areas of steep slopes adjacent to them shall be clustered to keep development out of watercourse and adjacent steep slope areas, and to be compatible with other nearby land uses.

LU 19.1: Where appropriate, use any adopted Density Transfer Program to help implement Rural Village Overlay Study Areas and the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Program.

LU 26.3: Ensure that development does not adversely impact the open space and rural character of the surrounding area.

Circulation Element

C 20.9: Incorporate specific requirements of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan into transportation plans and development proposals.

Multipurpose Open Space Element

OS 6.1: During the development review process, ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act's Section 404 in terms of wetlands mitigation policies and policies concerning fill material in jurisdictional wetlands.

OS 6.2: Preserve buffer zones around wetlands where feasible and biologically appropriate.

OS 9.3: Maintain and conserve superior examples of native trees, natural vegetation, stands of established trees and other features for ecosystem, aesthetic, and water conservation purposes.

OS 9.4: Conserve the oak tree resources in the county.

OS 18.1: Preserve multi-species habitat resources in the County of Riverside through the enforcement of the provisions of applicable MSHCP's.

2.3.1.1 The Pass Area Plan

The Pass Area Plan derives its name from its location—the San Gorgonio Pass Area—which is a distinctive geographical area between the Coachella, San Jacinto, and Moreno Valleys bordered by the San Bernardino Mountains to the north and the San Jacinto Mountains to the south. The Pass Area Plan is an extension of the General Plan and Riverside County Vision, which serve as the long-term blueprint the manage rapid urbanization without destroying the region's unique natural heritage. There are six policy areas and two overlays that have been designated within The Pass Area Plan. The entirety of the BSA is located within the Cabazon Policy Area. For the overlays, the Community Center Overlay covers approximately three square miles of the BSA, generally southerly of I-10 between Apache Trail on the west and Elm Street on the east. The Community Center Overlay allows for the development of the Community Center land use designation (5-40 dwelling units/acre; 0.10-0.3 Floor Area Ratio) which includes the combination of small-lot single-family residences, multi-family residences, commercial retail, office, business park uses, civic uses, transit facilities, and recreational open space within a unified planned development area.

2.3.2 Riverside County Oak Tree Management Guidelines

In March 1993, Riverside County issued Oak Tree Management Guidelines to address the treatment of oak woodlands in areas where zoning and/or General Plan density restrictions allow the effective use of clustering. The Oak Tree Management Guidelines are generally considered to be the most effective where minimum lot sizes are 2.5 acres or larger, or where oak woodlands are concentrated in a relatively small portion of a project site. The guidelines include recommendations for oak inventories, quantification of impacts from the proposed development, and identification of mitigation measures.

2.3.3 Riverside County Ordinances

The following Riverside County ordinances contain regulations and policies that would reduce impacts on biological resources within Riverside County:

- Ordinance No. 663: *Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Mitigation Fee*
- Ordinance No. 810: *Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Mitigation Fee*
- Ordinance No. 875: *Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Mitigation Fee*

Table 1 summarizes the natural resource protections of these ordinances.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF ORDINANCES PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

Ordinance/ Resolution	Summary
663- *Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Mitigation Fee*	The purpose of this ordinance is to finance the preparation, development, and implementation of the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), including the acquisition of habitat reserve sites, and the application for a Section 10(a) permit under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. The ordinance

TABLE 1, CONTINUED

Ordinance/ Resolution	Summary
	provides a method for mitigation of impacts to SKR caused by the loss of its habitat due to development.
810- *Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Mitigation Fee*	This ordinance requires a mitigation fee to be paid by the applicant for residential, commercial, and industrial development to fund WR-MSCHP implementation.
875- *Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Mitigation Fee*	This ordinance requires a mitigation fee to be paid by the applicant for residential, commercial, and industrial development to fund CV-MSHCP implementation.

All CIP and Cabazon Community Plan activities must comply with these County ordinances, which serve as the primary regulatory framework for project review, environmental protection, and land use authorizations within Cabazon.

2.3.4 Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The CV-MSHCP is a regional, multi-jurisdictional conservation program that encompasses the Coachella Valley and surrounding areas in Riverside County. The CV-MSHCP was adopted in 2008 and is administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC). The CV-MSHCP covers 27 species and addresses biological diversity within approximately 1.2 million acres, including desert ecosystems, sand dune systems, and riparian habitats. The CV-MSHCP is designed to protect federally and state-listed species and conserve approximately 240,000 acres of native habitat through the establishment of the CV-MSHCP Reserve System.

The CV-MSHCP serves as both a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the federal Endangered Species Act and an NCCP under California law. The USFWS and CDFW have granted “Take Authorization” for otherwise lawful activities in exchange for the assembly and management of coordinated CV-MSHCP Conservation Areas for the 27 “covered species,” which include species such as the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, Coachella Valley milkvetch, and Palm Springs pocket mouse.

The goal of the CV-MSHCP is to establish a Reserve System exceeding 240,000 acres, including land already in public or quasi-public ownership and additional lands targeted for acquisition. The CV-MSHCP identifies 21 Conservation Areas, each with specific conservation objectives and management guidelines. Projects located within or adjacent to these Conservation Areas are subject to the Joint Project Review process, where the CVCC evaluates consistency with the CV-MSHCP’s biological requirements. In addition, projects must implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce indirect impacts such as lighting, noise, and invasive species.

Portions of the BSA overlap the Cabazon Conservation Area, which is one of the designated Conservation Areas under the CV-MSHCP. The Cabazon Conservation Area does not provide Core Habitat for any Covered Species. However, the Cabazon Conservation Area Essential Habitat for Peninsular bighorn sheep and provides Other Conserved Habitat for Coachella Valley milkvetch, Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket, desert tortoise, burrowing owl, gray vireo, least Bell's vireo, Le Conte’s thrasher, southwestern willow flycatcher, summer tanager, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel, Peninsular bighorn sheep, and Palm Springs pocket mouse. Development within or adjacent to

the Cabazon Conservation Area requires careful consideration of biological resources and adherence to CV-MSHCP guidelines, including avoidance and minimization measures to protect habitat integrity. The Cabazon Conservation Area plays a critical role in maintaining connectivity between conservation lands and preserving ecological functions in the western Coachella Valley.

2.3.5 Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The WR-MSHCP is a regional, multi-jurisdictional conservation program that encompasses western Riverside County. The WR-MSHCP was adopted in 2003–2004 and is administered by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), a Joint Powers Authority responsible for implementation, land acquisition, and long-term reserve management. The WR-MSHCP covers approximately 1.26 million acres and addresses biological diversity across a range of ecosystems, including coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grassland, riparian and riverine habitats, vernal pools, and desert transition environments. The WR-MSHCP is designed to protect federally and state-listed species while accommodating planned growth through a Reserve System that is coordinated at a landscape scale.

Similar to the CV-MSHCP, the WR-MSHCP serves as an HCP/NCCP with Take Authorization issued to the participating permittees (including Riverside County and multiple cities) for otherwise lawful activities in exchange for contributions to the assembly and management of a coordinated conservation reserve. The WR-MSHCP provides coverage for 146 plant and wildlife species, including federally and state-listed species such as the coastal California gnatcatcher and Stephens' kangaroo rat, as well as additional sensitive species adequately conserved under the WR-MSHCP.

The goal of the WR-MSHCP is to establish a Reserve System exceeding 500,000 acres, consisting of approximately 347,000 acres of existing Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) lands and approximately 153,000 acres of Additional Reserve Lands to be assembled from private ownership over time. The WR-MSHCP organizes conservation objectives geographically through Area Plans, subunits, and criteria cells, rather than fixed preserve boundaries, allowing flexibility while ensuring long-term conservation outcomes. Projects proposed within the WR-MSHCP Criteria Area are evaluated for consistency with the WR-MSHCP's reserve assembly requirements through processes such as the Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) and, where applicable, Joint Project Review conducted by the RCA and Wildlife Agencies.

The BSA is located within the Pass Area Plan, one of the geographic planning units of the MSHCP. The Pass Area Plan encompasses the San Gorgonio Pass region and functions as an important biological transition and movement area between coastal, inland, and desert ecosystems. Within the Pass Area Plan, the WR-MSHCP identifies conservation priorities related to riparian and riverine resources, wildlife movement linkages, sensitive species survey areas, and Urban/Wildlands Interface considerations. Development within the Pass Area Plan requires careful evaluation of biological resources and compliance with applicable WR-MSHCP policies, including habitat avoidance, minimization of indirect impacts, and implementation of species-specific survey requirements where suitable habitat is present.

The WR-MSHCP provides a comprehensive framework to balance long-term conservation of biological resources with future development while streamlining environmental review and permitting for covered activities in western Riverside County.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The unincorporated community of Cabazon is shaped by its desert-influenced climate and its position within the San Gorgonio Pass, a transitional landscape between the Inland Empire and the Coachella Valley. Although Cabazon contains a mix of residential, commercial, and light industrial development, large portions of the surrounding area remain characterized by open desert, rugged foothills, and wind-exposed alluvial plains. These undeveloped lands form part of broader regional conservation planning efforts and support habitat types such as desert scrub, chaparral, and riparian corridors associated with intermittent washes. While the community itself is modest in size, nearby natural features including the San Jacinto Mountains to the south and the expansive desert ecosystems stretching eastward provide ecologically significant open space that supports diverse plant and wildlife species adapted to arid conditions. Together, these natural areas contribute substantially to Cabazon's biological diversity and its value as a gateway to the desert and mountain environments of Riverside County.

3.1 Climate

Cabazon experiences an arid desert climate shaped by its location within the San Gorgonio Pass, where hot, dry summers and mild winters are typical. Summer temperatures frequently rise well above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, with periods that exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and rainfall is extremely limited during these months. Winters are cooler but generally mild, with daytime temperatures often in the 60s and nighttime lows occasionally dipping into the 40s. Most precipitation occurs between December and March, though annual rainfall totals remain low compared to coastal regions. Because Cabazon sits at the convergence of coastal, mountain, and desert airflows, the area is also known for strong, persistent winds that influence local weather patterns.

3.2 Topography and Soils

Cabazon is characterized by a desert-influenced topography shaped by its position within the San Gorgonio Pass, where broad alluvial plains, rugged foothills, and steep mountain slopes converge. Elevations range from 1,275 feet (ft) at the southeast corner within the San Gorgonio River to a maximum of 4,000 feet above sea level at the southern edge of the boundary with the Cleveland National Forest, reflecting the dramatic relief of the San Gorgonio Pass. The landscape is dominated by alluvial fans, wind-scoured terraces, and rocky bajadas formed by long-term erosion from the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. Local soils are primarily sandy, gravelly, and well-drained, typical of alluvial deposits in arid environments, with pockets of coarse, cobbly material where mountain runoff has deposited larger sediments (NRCS 2026). These soils support desert scrub vegetation and are highly susceptible to wind erosion due to the region's persistent, high-velocity winds.

The 18 US Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil series (and specific soil mapping units) present throughout the Cabazon region range from shallow granitic upland soils to deep sandy alluvial fan deposits, each creating distinct habitat conditions that influence where sensitive biological resources occur and which project-level regulatory requirements apply under CEQA and the two MSHCPs. Strong, direct associations exist where species have strict substrate requirements. The Coachella Valley milkvetch thrives specifically on windblown sand deposits (Riverwash, Gorgonio, and Tujunga soils in deposition zones). The Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket requires sandy substrates and moisture regimes, with habitat concentrated along the Whitewater River and San Gorgonio washes from Palm Springs westward. The

Palm Springs pocket mouse occupies fine sandy soils on fans and dune margins. For these species, the soil series is often a reliable predictor of potential habitat.

The CV-MSHCP identifies the protection of sand source areas and sand transport systems as an Essential Ecological Process critical to the conservation of multiple Covered Species. In the San Gorgonio Pass Area, the San Gorgonio River wash (mapped as Riverwash) and adjacent alluvial fan deposits (Gorgonio, Soboba, Tujunga soils) serve as the primary fluvial sources of sand that is subsequently transported by aeolian (wind) processes into dune systems of the western Coachella Valley. Future projects proposed on Gorgonio, Soboba, Tujunga, or Riverwash soils within the CV-MSHCP boundary should demonstrate that they will not impede fluvial or aeolian sand transport. This may require site-specific sand-transport modeling, setbacks from active channels, or engineered sand-passage features as conditions of CV-MSHCP consistency and CEQA mitigation.

Table 2 summarizes and Figure 4 illustrates the soil series within the BSA and identifies the key soil series that have biological significance.

TABLE 2. SOIL SERIES IN THE BSA

Soil Series Name	Soil Mapping Units (Symbol)	Biological Significance	Key Soil Series?	Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Cieneba	CkD2, CkF2	Generally limited	No	1,866.52	24.02%
Crafton	CsF2	Generally limited	No	4.93	0.06%
Gorgonio	**GhC, GlC, GmD, GnD**	**LAPM, CVMV, CVJC, PSPM; Sand transport**	**Yes**	**1,954.59**	**25.15%**
Grangeville	GtD	Generally limited	No	1.04	0.01%
Gravel pits	GP	Generally limited	No	1.02	0.01%
Greenfield	GyC2, GyD2, GyE2	Generally limited	No	15.68	0.20%
Hanford	**HaC, HcA, HcC, HcD2, HdD2, HgA**	**LAPM; NEPS**	**Yes**	**1,487.93**	**19.15%**
Made Land	Ma	Generally limited	No	23.73	0.31%
Ramona	RaB2, RaD2, RaD3, RaE3, RdE3	Generally limited	No	60.03	0.77%
Riverwash	**RsC**	**Waters/wetlands; LAPM, CVMV, CVJC, PSPM; Sand transport**	**Yes**	**442.35**	**5.69%**
Rockland	**RtF**	**PBS**	**Yes**	**700.70**	**9.02%**
Soboba	**SrE, SsD**	**Sand transport**	**Yes**	**635.34**	**8.18%**
Terrace Escarpments	TeG	Generally limited	No	98.02	1.26%
Tollhouse	TfF2	Generally limited	No	0.89	0.01%
Trigo	DnE, DpG	Generally limited	No	39.12	0.50%
Tujunga	**TuB, TvC, TwC**	**LAPM, CVMV, CVJC, PSPM; Sand transport**	**Yes**	**385.02**	**4.95%**
Visalia	VlC2	Generally limited	No	3.12	0.04%
Vista	VsD2, VsF2, VtF2	Generally limited	No	50.38	0.65%
TOTAL				**7,770.41**	**100.00%**

Biological Significance:
CVMV=Coachella Valley milkvetch; CVJC=Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket; LAPM=Los Angeles pocket mouse; PSPM=Palm Springs pocket mouse; PBS=Peninsular bighorn sheep

TABLE 2, CONTINUED

Note: Acreage values have been rounded; therefore, individual totals may not precisely equal overall totals in PEIR Project Description

3.3 Watersheds and Hydrology

Cabazon is primarily influenced by the Whitewater River Watershed and the San Gorgonio River sub-watershed, both of which shape local hydrology through episodic stormwater flows, alluvial drainage patterns, and the region's arid climate. The Whitewater River Watershed encompasses much of the Coachella Valley and portions of the San Gorgonio Pass, extending from the high elevations of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains and ultimately draining southeast toward the Salton Sea. Within this system, the San Gorgonio River, an intermittent drainage feature, flows west to east through the Cabazon area, carrying runoff during winter storms and periods of rapid snowmelt.

3.3.1 Surface Water

Surface water features in Cabazon consist primarily of intermittent and ephemeral desert drainages, including portions of the San Gorgonio River and several unnamed washes that convey stormwater from the surrounding mountains. The San Gorgonio River flows only during significant rainfall or snowmelt events and serves as a major drainage pathway through the San Gorgonio Pass before joining the Whitewater River system downstream. The San Gorgonio River and unnamed washes do not support perennial flow, but they play an important role in transporting stormwater, sediment, and debris across the region's alluvial fans. Pollutant stressors commonly associated with these desert waterways include sediment, trash and debris, nutrients, and bacteria, typically originating from roadside litter, illegal dumping, animal waste, and erosion of disturbed soils.

Cabazon's surface waters ultimately drain into the Whitewater River, which continues southeast through the Coachella Valley and eventually discharges into the Salton Sea, the terminal basin for the region's watershed. Runoff is conveyed through a combination of natural washes, culverts, and unlined channels that direct flows toward these ephemeral waterways. Surface waters in this area are under the jurisdiction of the Colorado River RWQCB (Region 7), which establishes water quality objectives, monitoring requirements, and regulatory standards to protect beneficial uses such as groundwater recharge, wildlife movement, and flood management. Effective stormwater management, erosion control, and low impact development practices are important for reducing pollutant loads, particularly sediment, trash, nutrients, and bacteria, and for maintaining the functional integrity of Cabazon's desert receiving-water systems.

Surface waters in the BSA are also subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW (Region 6), which regulate activities that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of rivers, streams, or lakes; alter the bed, channel, or bank of a watercourse; or deposit material into these features. The Lake and Streambed Alteration Program provides protection for both perennial and intermittent waterways, including desert washes such as the San Gorgonio River and its tributaries, which function as important hydrologic and ecological systems within the region. These regulatory protections are essential for maintaining channel stability, supporting habitat functions, and preserving the ecological integrity of desert wash systems within the BSA.

3.3.2 Groundwater

Groundwater is a primary water source for Cabazon, supplied from the alluvial aquifers of the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin. The Cabazon Water District pumps groundwater from this subbasin, which is recharged by runoff from the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains and by intermittent flows in the San Gorgonio River. The subbasin's coarse alluvial soils, composed of sand, gravel, and cobbles allow for effective infiltration but make groundwater levels sensitive to seasonal recharge and long-term extraction.

Water quality is generally suitable for municipal use, though it is monitored for naturally occurring minerals and common desert-basin constituents such as nitrates and total dissolved solids. Groundwater, therefore, plays a central role in meeting Cabazon's potable water needs.

3.4 Historic Disturbances

Cabazon, an unincorporated community at the western edge of the Coachella Valley, has long been shaped by environmental elements tied to its position at the base of the San Jacinto Mountains and within the powerful San Gorgonio Pass wind corridor. The area sits on active alluvial fan systems where intense winter storms can trigger flash flooding, debris-laden flows, and erosion that damage roadways, culverts, and local infrastructure. These risks are heightened following wildfires in the surrounding foothills when loose sediment and steep slopes increase the likelihood of post-fire debris flows. In addition, Cabazon experiences some of the strongest winds in Southern California, contributing to blowing-sand hazards, structural damage, and periodic travel disruptions along I-10.

Cabazon is also influenced by regional seismic activity due to its proximity to the San Andreas Fault system, which can generate strong ground shaking, rockfall, and localized slope failures. While the community's hazard history is less extensively documented than that of incorporated cities, recurring impacts from flooding, windstorms, and wildfire-related debris flows are reflected in Riverside County's disaster records. As part of the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Cabazon benefits from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs that support disaster recovery and pre-disaster mitigation. Ongoing updates to flood mapping, wildfire-risk assessments, and land-use planning continue to guide the community's efforts to reduce vulnerability and strengthen long-term resilience.

3.5 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Vegetation communities and land cover types mapped within the Cabazon Community Plan are listed, with total acreage and percentage of the area's jurisdiction, in Table 3. This list of vegetation communities and land covers was obtained from the CV-MSHCP, WR-MSHCP, and FRAP databases online. The list is provided in order by dominance type, then broken down further into specific habitat types. General descriptions of these communities and land cover types follow Table 3 and are taken directly from CV-MSHCP, WR-MSHCP, and FRAP. A map of vegetation communities and land cover types is included in Attachment A as Figure 5, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types.

TABLE 3. VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND LAND COVER TYPES

Vegetation Community/ Land Cover	CV-MSHCP Plan Area (acres)	WR-MSHCP Plan Area (acres)	Other (acres)	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Tree-Dominated Habitats					
Desert riparian	-	-	0.35	0.35	<0.01%
Riparian scrub, woodland, forest	-	0.57	-	0.57	0.01%
Subtotal	***-***	***0.57***	***0.35***	***0.92***	***0.01%***
Shrub-Dominated Habitats					
Alkali desert scrub	-	-	11.05	11.05	0.14%

TABLE 2, CONTINUED

Vegetation Community/ Land Cover	CV-MSHCP Plan Area (acres)	WR-MSHCP Plan Area (acres)	Other (acres)	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Chamise-redshank chaparral	-	-	274.54	274.54	3.53%
Coastal scrub	-	100.62	104.70	205.33	1.35%
Desert scrub	-	576.23	1,090.90	1,667.13	21.46%
Desert wash	-	-	739.59	739.59	9.52%
Mixed chaparral	-	-	531.19	531.19	6.84%
Semi-desert chaparral	494.16	-	-	494.16	6.36%
Sonoran creosote bush scrub	2,208.40	-	-	2,208.40	28.42%
Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub	-	0.16	11.05	0.16	<0.01%
Subtotal	***2,702.56***	***677.02***	***2,751.97***	***6,131.55***	***78.91%***
Herbaceous-Dominated Habitats					
Annual Grassland	-	71.94	687.20	759.15	9.77%
Subtotal	***-***	***71.94***	***687.20***	***759.15***	***9.77%***
Agricultural and Developed Habitats					
Cropland	-	-	13.53	13.53	0.17%
Urban	-	-	849.87	849.87	10.94%
Developed/Disturbed Land	-	10.58	-	10.58	0.14%
Subtotal	***-***	***10.58***	***873.98***	***873.98***	***11.25%***
Non-Vegetated Habitats					
Barren	-	-	4.65	4.65	0.06%
Subtotal	***-***	***-***	***4.65***	***4.65***	***0.06%***
TOTAL	**2,702.56**	**760.11**	**4,307.57**	**7,770.24**	**100.00%**

Note: Acreage values have been rounded; therefore, individual totals may not precisely equal overall totals in PEIR Project Description

3.5.1 Tree-Dominated Habitats

3.5.1.1 Desert Riparian

Desert riparian vegetation occurs along active and intermittent drainages descending from the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. The community is characterized by open to moderately closed canopies of Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and occasional California fan palm (Washingtonia filifera) where groundwater is shallow.

The shrub layer typically includes mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), shrubby willows, and localized mesquite (*Prosopis spp*.) on deeper alluvium. Herbaceous cover is generally sparse,

with saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), rushes (Family Juncaceae), and other hydrophytic species present in areas with prolonged soil moisture.

This vegetation type is associated with seasonal flows, shallow groundwater, and periodic flood-scour, and is found along major washes such as San Gorgonio River, Smith Creek, and Millard Canyon. Desert Riparian habitat provides important cover, foraging habitat, and movement corridors for wildlife within the otherwise arid alluvial fan landscape.

3.5.1.2 Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest (Valley Foothill Riparian)

This vegetation occurs along perennial and intermittent streams at the base of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains, where cooler mountain runoff and deeper alluvial soils support broad-leafed, mesic woodland structure. The community is characterized by moderately tall, closed to semi-closed canopies dominated by western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), Fremont cottonwood, and willow species (*Salix spp*.).

The understory commonly includes mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), California wild grape (*Vitis girdiana*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) where shade and moisture are sufficient. Herbaceous cover varies but may include rushes, sedges, and other hydrophytic species in persistently moist microsites.

3.5.2 Shrub-Dominated Habitats

3.5.2.1 Alkali Desert Scrub

Alkali desert scrub occurs on alkaline or saline soils at lower to middle elevations and is dominated by chenopod shrubs adapted to drought and high soil salinity. The xerophytic phase forms open stands of low, gray, spiny shrubs on drier alkaline soils, including species such as shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) and fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*). The halophytic phase consists of more closely spaced, often succulent subshrubs tolerant of periodic flooding and high osmotic stress, including quailbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), iodinebush (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*), and seepweed (*Suaeda* spp.).

Alkali desert scrub integrates with desert scrub, desert wash, barren salt flats, and Joshua Tree Woodland, with occasional inclusions of desert riparian vegetation along drainage channels. Although structurally open, these salt-tolerant shrublands provide important foraging habitat, cover, and movement corridors for desert wildlife and contribute to the ecological diversity of the San Gorgonio Pass landscape.

3.5.2.2 Chamise-Redshank Chaparral

Chamise–redshank chaparral forms dense, fire-adapted shrublands dominated by chamise *(Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and redshank *(Adenostoma sparsifolium*). Fire occurs regularly in this community and strongly shapes its structure. Mature stands are typically single-layered with little herbaceous ground cover and few, if any, overstory trees. Shrub canopies often overlap to form nearly impenetrable thickets. Chamise stands generally reach 1–2 meters (3–7 ft) in height but may grow to 3 meters, while redshank stands are taller, averaging 2–4 meters (7–13 ft) and occasionally reaching 6 meters (20 ft). Redshank stands tend to be more open than chamise and may support sparse herbaceous vegetation between shrubs.

This chaparral type typically occupies foothill slopes and alluvial fans along the San Jacinto Mountains, where it forms transitions with mixed chaparral, coastal scrub, and, on desert-facing exposures, Desert Succulent Scrub or Pinyon–Juniper woodlands. Boundaries with adjacent vegetation types often depend

on fire history, with more frequent burns favoring chamise dominance. These dense shrublands provide important cover and foraging habitat for wildlife adapted to chaparral environments and contribute to the ecological diversity of the San Gorgonio Pass region.

3.5.2.3 Coastal Scrub

Coastal scrub consists of low to moderate-sized shrubs with mesophytic leaves, flexible branches, and semi-woody stems arising from a woody base. These shrubs typically form a single layer up to about 2 meters (7 ft) tall, with canopy cover often approaching 100 percent in mature stands. The shallow root systems and open branching structure allow enough light to support a modest herbaceous understory. Inland expressions of this community often referred to as southern sage scrub occur on drier slopes and alluvial fans and are commonly dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*).

Coastal scrub forms a mosaic with adjacent chamise–redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, and annual grassland, with boundaries influenced by slope, aspect, and fire history. Although less structurally dense than chaparral, coastal scrub supports a vertebrate community comparable to surrounding habitats and provides important foraging and nesting opportunities for species adapted to open shrublands. Southern sage scrub variants are particularly important for sensitive wildlife, including the federally listed coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), which relies on these shrublands for breeding and foraging.

3.5.2.4 Desert Scrub

Desert scrub is characterized by open, widely spaced shrubs typically 1.5 to 6.5 ft tall, with canopy cover usually well below 50 percent and substantial bare ground between plants. Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) is often the visually dominant species, along with common associates such as catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*), desert agave (*Agave deserti*), burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), white bursage (*Ambrosia salsola*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), cholla (*Cylindropuntia spp*.), beavertail pricklypear (*Opuntia basilaris*), Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*), and desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*). Seasonal forbs and grasses, including triangle evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoides*) and galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*), appear following winter rains.

Desert scrub occupies alluvial fans, bajadas, and lower foothill slopes, forming broad transitions with desert wash, desert succulent scrub, and alkali scrub. These open shrublands support a variety of wildlife adapted to arid conditions, including desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), pocket mice (*Perognathus*/*Chaetodipus* sp.), kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys* sp.), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). Seasonal water and spring herbaceous growth provide important foraging opportunities, making desert scrub a key habitat across the San Gorgonio Pass landscape.

3.5.2.5 Desert Wash

Desert wash habitats occur along intermittent drainages and adjacent alluvial deposits, supporting taller and denser shrubs than the surrounding desert scrub. Vegetation height is generally under 5 meters (16 ft), though some mesquite (*Prosopis spp.)* stands may reach 9 meters (30 ft). Common canopy species include blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*), littleleaf palo verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*), desert ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), smoketree (*Psorothamnus spinosus*), catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa, P. pubescens*), screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*), and tamarisk (*Tamarix spp*.). Subcanopy and ground layers often include desert broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*),

arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), Anderson's wolfberry (*Lycium andersonii*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), bursage (*Ambrosia* spp.), and various cacti and forbs.

Desert washes form important linear corridors across bajadas and alluvial fans, providing more moisture, shade, and structural complexity than adjacent habitats. These washes support higher bird diversity and abundance than most desert communities and offer essential food and cover for reptiles, small mammals, and predators such as kit fox and bobcat. Their dense shrub structure and periodic water availability make desert washes key wildlife habitats.

3.5.2.6 Mixed Chaparral

Mixed chaparral in the Cabazon region forms dense, evergreen shrublands dominated by stiff, thick-leaved shrubs that vary in height and cover depending on fire history, slope, and soil conditions. Mature stands often exceed 80 percent shrub cover and reach 1–4 meters (3–13 ft) in height, forming nearly impenetrable thickets. Common species include scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), chaparral oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*), along with chamise, birchleaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon* spp.), and hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*).

Mixed chaparral typically occupies foothill slopes along the San Jacinto Mountains, forming transitions with chamise–redshank chaparral, coastal scrub, and montane chaparral. Many cismontane species also occur on desert-facing slopes, including bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) and several ceanothus species. Although no wildlife species are restricted to mixed chaparral, its dense shrub structure provides important cover and foraging habitat for birds, small mammals, and predators. Fire plays a major role in shaping stand structure and species composition across this community.

3.5.2.7 Semi-desert chaparral

Semi-desert chaparral forms open to moderately dense shrublands dominated by drought-tolerant evergreen and semi-evergreen shrubs on rocky slopes and desert-facing exposures. Stands typically reach 1–3 meters (3–10 ft) in height and are less continuous than cismontane chaparral. Common species include bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), desert ceanothus (*Ceanothus greggii*), birchleaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), and chaparral whitethorn (*Ceanothus leucodermis*), with chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), and Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) often present.

Semi-desert chaparral forms transitions with mixed chaparral, chamise–redshank chaparral, and desert scrub along the lower slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains. These shrublands provide important cover and foraging habitat for wildlife adapted to both chaparral and desert environments, including small mammals, reptiles, and a variety of birds. Fire plays a major role in shaping stand structure, with many species resprouting or regenerating after burns.

3.5.2.8 Sonoran creosote bush scrub

Sonoran creosote bush scrub forms open shrublands dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*). These communities occur on rocky slopes, upper bajadas, and alluvial fans with well-drained, gravelly, or desert-pavement soils. Shrubs are generally under 10 feet tall and widely spaced, with a sparse herbaceous layer that appears mainly after winter rains. Common associates include desert agave (*Agave deserti*), burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*),

teddybear cholla (*Cylindropuntia bigelovii*), beavertail pricklypear (*Opuntia basilaris*), desert senna (*Senna armata*), and ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*).

Sonoran creosote bush scrub typically occupies the hottest, driest lower slopes and fans of desert mountain ranges, transitioning into desert scrub, desert wash, and semi-desert chaparral upslope. Creosote bush provides long-term structural stability, while brittlebush responds quickly to rainfall and disturbance. These open shrublands support a variety of desert wildlife by providing foraging habitat, cover, and movement corridors across arid landscapes. Fire is infrequent, and recovery is slow, with brittlebush often re-establishing before creosote bush returns.

3.5.2.9 Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub

Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub is a regionally distinctive vegetation community associated with active and relict alluvial fan systems in western Riverside County. This community occurs on sandy, well-drained alluvial soils shaped by episodic flooding, sediment deposition, and lateral channel migration. Vegetative cover is typically sparse to moderate, reflecting the dynamic disturbance regime that maintains habitat structure and inhibits the development of dense shrub canopies. The shrub layer is commonly dominated by coastal sage scrub and desert-transition species adapted to alluvial processes. Typical dominant and characteristic plant species include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), scale broom (*Lepidospartum squamatum*), chaparral broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*), and Mormon tea (*Ephedra californica*). Open intershrub spaces often support native annual forbs and grasses during favorable rainfall years and provide exposed sandy substrates essential to the ecological function of the community.

Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub is recognized by the WR-MSHCP as a sensitive natural community due to its limited distribution, reliance on geomorphic processes, and importance as habitat for several covered species. The community provides foraging, dispersal, and breeding habitat for wildlife species adapted to open scrub and sandy substrates and is frequently associated with wildlife movement corridors along washes and floodplains.

3.5.3 Herbaceous-Dominated Habitats

3.5.3.1 Annual Grassland

Annual grasslands are open herbaceous communities dominated by non-native annual grasses and forbs whose structure shifts with rainfall and grazing. Vegetation germinates after fall rains, grows slowly through winter, and rapidly increases in spring before drying to standing dead material in summer. Dominant grasses include wild oats (*Avena spp*.), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), wild barley (*Hordeum murinum*), and foxtail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*). Common forbs include broadleaf filaree (*Erodium botrys*), redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), turkey mullein (*Croton setigerus*), clovers (*Trifolium spp*.), bur clover (*Medicago polymorpha*), and popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys spp*.), with perennial grasses such as purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) occurring in less-disturbed sites.

Annual grasslands support a wide range of wildlife that use these areas for foraging and movement. Typical species include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), and western meadowlark (Sturnella neglecta). Raptors such as northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) frequently hunt over these grasslands, which also provide important seasonal habitat for many small mammals and birds.

3.5.4 Agricultural and Developed Habitats

3.5.4.1 Cropland

Cropland habitats consist of intensively managed agricultural fields supporting a wide variety of annual and perennial crops. Vegetation structure varies widely, from tall crops such as field corn (*Zea mays*) to low-growing crops like strawberries (*Fragaria × ananassa*). Many crops are planted in rows, while others—such as alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and small grains like rice (*Oryza sativa*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), and wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)—form dense stands with near-complete canopy cover. Most croplands support annual crops planted in spring and harvested in summer or fall, though perennial crops such as alfalfa, asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*), artichokes (*Cynara scolymus*), and strawberries are also common. Crop rotation is widely used to maintain soil fertility and productivity.

Croplands provide foraging habitat for a variety of wildlife, though overall species richness is reduced compared to natural habitats. Mammals such as black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) and California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) may feed in crop fields, sometimes causing depredation issues. Birds such as mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) and raptors, including American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) and northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius)*, use croplands for hunting or foraging. After harvest, waste grain provides important food resources for waterfowl and other species. Flooded croplands can temporarily function as freshwater wetlands, supporting shorebirds, wading birds, and gulls.

3.5.4.2 Urban

Urban habitats contain a mosaic of planted vegetation types, including tree groves, street tree strips, shade tree–lawn areas, lawns, and shrub cover. Tree groves in parks and greenbelts form continuous canopies that vary in height and spacing depending on species and planting design. Street tree strips may have continuous or broken canopies, usually over grass or other ground covers. Shade tree lawn areas resemble savannas with scattered trees over irrigated turf, while lawns form uniform, closely maintained grass cover with high productivity due to irrigation and fertilization. Shrub cover, including hedges, varies widely in height and density depending on species and maintenance.

Urban areas form a gradient from dense downtown cores to residential neighborhoods and suburbs, with increasing vegetation cover and wildlife diversity outward. Inner urban zones support low diversity dominated by rock dove (*Columba livia*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), and European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Residential areas with shade trees, gardens, and hedges support species such as scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), along with mammals like raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). Suburban areas adjacent to natural vegetation support higher numbers of native species, including California quail (*Callipepla californica*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*).

3.5.4.3 Developed/Disturbed Land

Developed/Disturbed Land consists of areas that have been substantially altered by past or ongoing human activities and no longer support native vegetation assemblages. These areas typically include paved roadways, developed structures, graded pads, parking areas, active or abandoned agricultural fields, utility corridors, landscaped areas dominated by non-native ornamental species, and ruderal habitats characterized by sparse, weedy vegetation. Vegetative cover, where present, is generally discontinuous and dominated by non-native annual grasses and forbs. Soil profiles are often compacted, imported, or otherwise disturbed, resulting in limited ecological function and low habitat value for native wildlife or

plant species. Within the context of the WR-MSHCP, Developed/Disturbed Land is not considered native habitat and does not provide meaningful biological functions for covered species, although it may be adjacent to or intersect movement corridors or other biologically sensitive areas depending on site context.

3.5.5 Non-Vegetated Habitats

3.5.5.1 Barren

Barren habitats are defined by the near-absence of vegetation, with less than two percent total herbaceous or non-wildland plant cover and less than ten percent tree or shrub cover. These areas occur in many environments, including rocky intertidal outcrops, open sandy beaches, mudflats, vertical riverbanks, canyon walls, sparsely vegetated desert surfaces, alpine talus slopes, glacial moraines, and permanently snow- or ice-covered terrain. Urban areas dominated by pavement or buildings may also be classified as barren when vegetation cover remains below threshold levels. In these habitats, the physical structure of the substrate rock, sand, gravel, or bare soil provides the primary ecological features.

Because vegetation is minimal, wildlife use of barren habitats depends heavily on substrate structure. Rock ledges support nesting by cormorants and many hawks and falcons, while open sandy or gravelly ground is used by plovers, stilts, avocets, gulls, terns, nighthawks, and poorwills for scrape nests. Bank swallows excavate burrows in vertical, friable cliffs along rivers, and rocky canyon walls above open water provide key foraging habitat for bats. In deserts, open sandy soils are essential for burrowing and egg-laying by horned lizards and fringe-toed lizards. Alpine talus slopes provide cover for mammals such as pika and marmot. Despite low plant cover, barren habitats support specialized wildlife adapted to exposed, structurally simple environments.

4.0 SPECIAL-STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The BSA is characterized by a unique assemblage of vegetation communities and land cover types, plants, wildlife, aquatic resources, and other unique features.

4.1 Sensitive Natural Communities

Sensitive natural communities are vegetation communities or habitat types that are recognized for their ecological importance, restricted distribution, or regulatory significance under state and regional conservation programs. For the proposed project, sensitive natural communities are identified consistent with the terminology and definitions used by the County of Riverside General Plan Environmental Impact Report, CV-MSHCP, WR-MSHCP, and the CDFW, including natural communities tracked in the CNDDB.

Under CDFW guidance, certain natural communities are considered sensitive natural communities due to rarity, high ecological value, or vulnerability to disturbance and are tracked in the CNDDB. Similarly, the CV-MSHCP and WR-MSHCP identify habitat types that are considered biologically important to covered species, wildlife movement, and the maintenance of ecological processes. These plans establish specific conservation, avoidance, and mitigation requirements for sensitive habitats within their respective plan areas. Identification of sensitive natural communities in this report is intended to inform future project-level planning, environmental review, and regulatory compliance under CEQA and the applicable MSHCPs.

Sensitive natural communities known or reasonably expected to occur within the BSA are shown on Attachment A, Figure 5 and summarized in Table 4.

TABLE 4. SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE BSA

Natural Community	CDFW CNDDB Sensitive Natural Community	CV-MSHCP Sensitive Habitat	WR-MSHCP Sensitive Habitat	Total Acres
Desert Riparian	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.35
Riparian Scrub, Riparian Woodland, Forest	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.57
Alkali Desert Scrub	Yes	Context-dependent	Yes	11.05
Coastal Sage Scrub	Yes	No (generally)	Yes	205.33
Desert Wash	Yes	Yes	Yes	739.59
Semi-Desert Chaparral	Yes	Context-dependent	Yes	494.16
Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub	Yes	Yes	No	2,208.40
Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	Yes	No	Yes	0.16

4.1.1 Regulatory Context and Applicability

Under CDFW and CNDDB guidance, natural communities such as riparian and riparian-riverine habitats, desert washes, alkali desert scrub, semi-desert chaparral, Sonoran creosote bush scrub, and Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub are considered sensitive natural communities due to their ecological function, restricted distribution, or association with special-status species. These communities typically warrant focused consideration during CEQA reviews when present.

Within the WR-MSHCP, habitat sensitivity is determined primarily by habitat value to covered species and consistency with the WR-MSHCP's reserve design. Riparian/Riverine habitat, Desert Wash, Coastal Sage Scrub (where associated with covered species), and Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub are treated as sensitive habitats under the WR-MSHCP and are subject to specific requirements related to impact analysis, avoidance, mitigation, and, where applicable, reserve assembly or Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) evaluation. Other vegetation communities, such as mixed chaparral, chamise–redshank chaparral, general desert scrub, and annual grassland, are not classified as sensitive under the WR-MSHCP unless they function as habitat for covered species or occur within designated Conservation Areas.

The CV-MSHCP places particular emphasis on desert ecosystems and hydrologic and aeolian processes associated with washes, alluvial features, and sand-dependent habitats. Under the CV-MSHCP, desert riparian habitat, desert washes, alkali desert scrub, semi-desert chaparral, and Sonoran creosote bush scrub are considered sensitive habitats due to their importance for covered species and regional ecological function. Vegetation communities dominated by nonnative annual species or characterized as annual grassland are not considered sensitive under the CV-MSHCP.

4.1.2 Program-Level Application

Identification and mapping of sensitive natural communities at the program level (Attachment A, Figure 5) provide a framework for future, project-specific biological evaluations within the BSA. Individual future projects implemented under the proposed project will require site-specific biological assessment to determine the presence, extent, and regulatory implications of sensitive natural communities, consistent with CEQA, CDFW guidance, and the applicable provisions of the CV-MSHCP and WR-MSHCP.

4.2 Special-Status Plants

Based on the results of the literature review and records search, a total of 103 special-status plant species were evaluated for their potential to occur in the BSA (Attachment B). Of these, 18 special-status plants are expected or have at least a moderate potential to occur due to the presence of known locations within the BSA. Table 3 lists these species alphabetically by scientific name, along with their potential to occur.

TABLE 5. SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS EXPECTED OR WITH MODERATE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN THE BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Potential
Abronia villosa var. *aurita*	chaparral sand-verbena	Moderate
Allium munzii	Munz's onion	Moderate
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *coachellae*	Coachella Valley milk-vetch	Moderate
Astragalus pachypus var. *jaegeri*	Jaeger's milk-vetch	Moderate
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa-lily	Moderate
Caulanthus simulans	Payson's jewelflower	Moderate
Chorizanthe leptotheca	Peninsular spineflower	Moderate
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's spineflower	Expected
Chorizanthe xanti var. *leucotheca*	white-bracted spineflower	Expected
Deinandra mohavensis	Mojave tarplant	Moderate
Galium angustifolium ssp. *gracillimum*	slender bedstraw	Moderate
Imperata brevifolia	California satintail	Moderate
Juglans californica	Southern California black walnut	Expected
Penstemon pseudospectabilis ssp. *pseudospectabilis*	desert beardtongue	Moderate
Petalonyx linearis	narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	Moderate
Saltugilia latimeri	Latimer's woodland-gilia	Moderate
Selaginella eremophila	desert spike-moss	Moderate
Symphyotrichum defoliatum	San Bernardino aster	Moderate

The remaining 85 species are not expected to occur due to the lack of suitable habitat, the BSA's location outside of the species' known range, and/or the historical rank of known records in the region.

4.3 Special-Status Wildlife

Based on the results of the literature review and records search, a total of 64 special-status wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the BSA (Attachment B). Of these, 28 species are expected or have at least a moderate potential to occur due to the presence of suitable habitat or documented locations within the BSA. Table 5 lists these species alphabetically by scientific name within their taxonomic groups, along with their potential to occur.

TABLE 6. SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE EXPECTED OR MODERATE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN THE BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Potential to Occur
Birds		
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	Moderate
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	Expected
Buteo regalis	ferruginous hawk	Moderate
Falco mexicanus	prairie falcon	Expected
Lanius ludovicianus	loggerhead shrike	Moderate
Polioptila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	Expected
Setophaga petechia	yellow warbler	Expected
Toxostoma lecontei	Le Conte's thrasher	Moderate
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	Expected
Invertebrates		
Bombus crotchii	Crotch's bumble bee	Expected
Macrobaenetes valgum	Coachella giant sand treader cricket	Moderate
Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis	Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket	Moderate
Mammals		
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	Moderate
Chaetodipus fallax pallidus	pallid San Diego pocket mouse	Expected
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	Moderate
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	Expected
Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2	Peninsular bighorn sheep	Expected
Perognathus longimembris bangsi	Palm Springs pocket mouse	Expected
Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	Expected
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus	Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	Expected
Reptiles		
Anniella stebbinsi	Southern California legless lizard	Expected
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	Expected
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	coastal whiptail	Moderate
Charina umbratica	southern rubber boa	Moderate
Crotalus ruber	red-diamond rattlesnake	Moderate
Gopherus agassizii	desert tortoise	Expected
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	Moderate
Uma inornata	Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	Moderate

The remaining 36 species are not expected to occur due to the lack of suitable habitat or the BSA's location outside of the species known range.

4.4 Critical Habitat

Under the ESA, Critical Habitat may be established for species listed as threatened or endangered. Critical Habitat refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species that were occupied at the time it was listed that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species and that may require special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether the species is still extant in the area. Areas that were not known to be occupied at the time a species was listed can also be designated Critical Habitat if they contain one or more of the physical or biological features that are essential to that species' conservation and if the other areas that are occupied are inadequate to ensure the species' recovery.

In the event that a project may result in take or adverse modification to a listed species' designated Critical Habitat, a project proponent may be required to engage in suitable mitigation. However, consultation for impacts to Critical Habitat is only required when a project has a federal nexus. This may include projects that occur on federal lands, require federal permits (e.g., CWA Section 404 permit), or receive any federal oversight or funding. If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing funds or permits would be required to consult with the USFWS under the ESA.

Critical habitat for Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae;* federal endangered*,* CRPR 1B.2, CV-MSHCP covered) occurs at four locations within or directly adjacent to the BSA, mainly within portions of the San Gorgonio River (USFWS 2013; Attachment A: Figure 8, USFWS Critical Habitat). The recovery plan for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch recognizes the San Gorgonio River as a viable occurrence distributions habitat. The recovery plan emphasizes protecting remaining habitat and avoiding future habitat loss, which has always been the primary threat to the Coachella Valley milk-vetch (USFWS 2023).

4.5 Wetlands and Other Aquatic Resources

One primary aquatic resource occurs within the Cabazon region: the San Gorgonio River, which traverses the BSA (Attachment A: Figure 9, Aquatic Resources). Wetland and aquatic features in this portion of the San Gorgonio Pass are limited in extent but provide important ecological and hydrologic functions within the arid desert landscape. The San Gorgonio River is an intermittent desert wash that conveys flows only during storm events and periods of elevated runoff. For most of the year, the channel remains dry; however, episodic surface flows and shallow subsurface moisture support localized wetland and riparian elements along portions of the corridor.

The hydrology of the San Gorgonio River is influenced by several tributary drainages originating on the steep southern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains. These tributary washes, including unnamed alluvial drainages and smaller ephemeral channels, deliver stormwater, sediment, and coarse alluvium to the mainstem river during high-intensity precipitation events. This network of converging drainages contributes to the river's flash flow regime, rapid infiltration rates, and the formation of broad alluvial fan surfaces characteristic of the Cabazon area.

Although wetlands in the region are generally small, discontinuous, and seasonally supported, they perform important ecological functions within an otherwise dry environment. Localized patches of

emergent vegetation and riparian scrub provide wildlife movement corridors, seasonal foraging habitat, and limited breeding opportunities for species adapted to intermittent water availability. The San Gorgonio River corridor also contributes to flood attenuation, sediment transport, and groundwater recharge.

4.6 Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

Wildlife corridors and habitat linkages facilitate the movement of wildlife between large habitat blocks, supporting dispersal, foraging, seasonal movement, and genetic exchange necessary to maintain viable wildlife populations. Although corridor definitions vary, they generally include linear or landscape-scale features embedded within a developed or disturbed matrix that permit movement between otherwise fragmented habitat areas. Such features may include washes, drainage corridors, open space lands, and other undeveloped areas that collectively maintain landscape permeability. Wildlife movement and habitat connectivity are critical for maintaining viable populations of native species, allowing for gene flow, dispersal, foraging, and adaptation to environmental changes.

The BSA is located within the San Gorgonio Pass, a region recognized in both the CV-MSHCP and the WR-MSHCP as an important regional movement and transition zone between the Coachella Valley desert ecosystems to the east and inland valleys and mountain systems to the west. The remaining undeveloped lands, drainage features, and open space areas in this constrained landscape play an important role in maintaining regional wildlife movement and habitat connectivity across Southern California. The narrowing of the landscape between the San Bernardino Mountains and the Little San Bernardino Mountains makes the San Gorgonio Pass one of the few low-elevation pathways available for east–west dispersal, gene flow, and seasonal movement for desert-adapted and wide-ranging species.

Wildlife movement in and around Cabazon is supported primarily through a network of ephemeral washes, alluvial features, and undeveloped open space lands rather than through singular, formally designated corridors. The CV-MSHCP identifies washes and associated alluvial landforms as essential linkage elements that provide both habitat value and functional movement routes across developed and disturbed landscapes. Local features such as the San Gorgonio River, Smith Creek, and their tributary washes contribute to landscape permeability by supporting vegetation structure, microhabitat diversity, and relatively unobstructed travel routes that connect higher-elevation habitats with the Coachella Valley floor. Although surface flows are ephemeral, these channels remain important ecological connectors at a regional scale. The CV-MSHCP Pass Area Plan further emphasizes the importance of maintaining open space and natural drainage systems to preserve wildlife movement through land use planning. Open Space–Conservation and Open Space–Rural designations in the Cabazon Policy Area are intended, in part, to protect sensitive biological resources and to reduce fragmentation in areas that support wildlife dispersal. These lands, along with relatively undeveloped parcels adjacent to tribal and federally managed lands, function as linkage habitat even where they are not formally conserved, helping to maintain continuity between larger habitat blocks and regional reserve systems.

Major transportation and infrastructure corridors, including I-10, the Union Pacific rail line, and arterial roadways, represent existing constraints on wildlife movement in the Cabazon area. The CV-MSHCP identifies such linear features as key fragmentation and mortality risk factors within the San Gorgonio Pass and notes that remaining undeveloped lands and wash crossings become increasingly important where movement opportunities are limited. Incremental development within the Cabazon area has the potential to further narrow or redirect wildlife movement routes if not carefully planned, underscoring the importance of recognizing and retaining functional linkage areas at the program level.

The WR-MSHCP established a Reserve System consisting of core areas, linkages, and constrained linkages intended to maintain wildlife movement, dispersal, and genetic connectivity at a landscape scale. These features are not site-specific corridors, but broad planning designations that guide land use decisions and conservation priorities. The WR-MSHCP describes wildlife movement in and adjacent to the BSA as primarily associated with valley floor landscapes and wash systems that traverse the Pass Area Plan area and provide east–west and north–south connectivity. Due to the presence of major transportation infrastructure and existing development, these connections are generally characterized in the WR-MSHCP as constrained linkages, reflecting limited opportunities for alternative movement routes. The WR-MSHCP's Pass Area Plan emphasizes the importance of maintaining continuity along these linkage areas to support wide-ranging species, including medium- and large-sized mammals, as well as smaller terrestrial species associated with desert scrub, chaparral, and riparian or wash-associated habitats. The WR-MSHCP recognizes that, within the Pass Area Plan area, preserving linkage functionality is particularly important because incremental losses or additional barriers could substantially reduce regional connectivity.

Both the CV-MSHCP and WR-MSHCP emphasize the importance of retaining open space, natural drainage systems, and landscape continuity within the Pass Area to avoid further fragmentation that could substantially reduce regional wildlife movement. Open Space–Conservation and Open Space–Rural land use designations within the Cabazon area are intended, in part, to preserve sensitive biological resources and minimize disruption to movement pathways that link larger habitat blocks and regional reserve systems.

At the program level, the identification of Pass Area Plan linkages provides a planning framework to inform future project-specific biological evaluations conducted under the proposed project. Subsequent implementing projects may be required to assess consistency with MSHCP linkage objectives and evaluate whether proposed development could interfere with the movement functions of identified linkages or constrained linkages. These evaluations would be conducted through project-specific habitat assessments, MSHCP consistency determinations, and, where applicable, additional MSHCP review processes.

Wildlife corridors and habitat linkages associated with the Pass Area Plan that may occur within or adjacent to the BSA are depicted on Attachment A, Figure 6.

4.7 Coachella Valley MSHCP

The CV-MSHCP established a Reserve System composed of defined Conservation Areas that function collectively to maintain biological diversity, ecological processes, and wildlife connectivity across the desert landscape. Within and adjacent to the BSA, the Cabazon Conservation Area and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area are of particular relevance due to their role in sand-dependent ecological processes, wildlife movement, and essential habitat for special-status species, including the Peninsular bighorn sheep.

The locations of CV-MSHCP Conservation Areas and associated ecological features within and adjacent to the BSA are shown in Attachment A, Figures 6, 7a, and 7b.

4.7.1 Cabazon Conservation Area

The Cabazon Conservation Area encompasses low-elevation desert habitats within the western Coachella Valley, including portions of the San Gorgonio Pass. This conservation area functions as a critical ecological

transition zone between upland mountain habitats and valley floor desert systems, supporting both regional wildlife movement and dynamic geomorphic processes. The BSA overlaps approximately 3,226 acres of the Cabazon Conservation Area.

4.7.1.1 Sand Source and Sand Transport

The Cabazon Conservation Area plays an important role in regional sand supply and transport, which are foundational processes under the CV-MSHCP. Sand originating from upland drainages and alluvial fans within and adjacent to the San Gorgonio Pass is transported downslope through wash systems and wind-driven (aeolian) processes. These sand movement pathways contribute to the formation and maintenance of sand-dependent habitats downstream. Sand source areas, transport corridors, and depositional zones associated with the Cabazon Conservation Area are illustrated on Attachment A, Figure 6.

4.7.1.2 Species Habitat Models

The CV-MSHCP incorporates species habitat models to identify areas that support covered species based on factors such as landform, vegetation, elevation, and proximity to ecological processes. Within the Cabazon Conservation Area, habitat models highlight the importance of wash systems, alluvial landforms, and open desert scrub habitats that provide for movement, foraging, and dispersal of covered species. Habitat models that overlap with the BSA within this conservation area include two bird species (LeConte's thrasher [*Toxostoma lecontei*] and gray vireo [*Vireo vicinior*]), three mammal species (Palm Springs pocket mouse [*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*], Peninsular bighorn sheep [*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*], and Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel [*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*]), one invertebrate (Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket [*Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis*]), one reptile species (Desert tortoise [*Gopherus agassizii*]), and one plant species (Coachella Valley milkvetch [*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*]).

These modeled habitat areas inform reserve design and guide evaluation of future development to ensure conservation objectives are maintained (see Attachment A, Figures 7a and 7b).

- **LeConte's thrasher.** Modeled habitat for LeConte's thrasher consists of broad expanses of open desert scrub and stabilized sandy substrates with sparse shrub cover. These areas provide suitable foraging conditions and nesting opportunities, particularly where development is limited and vegetation structure remains open.
- **Gray vireo.** Modeled habitat is associated with open desert scrub and transitional shrub communities that provide nesting substrates and foraging opportunities. Within the Cabazon Conservation Area, habitat models identify suitable conditions primarily in areas with minimal disturbance and connectivity to foothill and wash margins.
- **Coachella Valley milkvetch.** The CV-MSHCP identifies modeled habitat (classified as Other Conserved Habitat) for Coachella Valley milkvetch within portions of the Cabazon Conservation Area, associated with sandy, well-drained soils on alluvial landforms. These habitats depend on intact sand transport processes and minimal surface disturbance.
- **Palm Springs pocket mouse.** Modeled habitat within the Cabazon Conservation Area focuses on aeolian and fluvial sand fields and sandy alluvium that provide suitable burrowing and foraging conditions. Habitat connectivity across washes and open desert is a key consideration for maintaining population viability.

- **Peninsular bighorn sheep.** Although the Cabazon Conservation Area does not support core habitat for bighorn sheep, the CV-MSHCP identifies Essential Habitat and movement areas within this Conservation Area that facilitate low-elevation movement, foraging, and connectivity between upland mountain habitats. Maintenance of unobstructed movement corridors is a CV-MSHCP priority.
- **Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel.** Modeled habitat occurs in open desert scrub, washes, and sandy flats, where soils are suitable for burrowing and surface activity. Within the Cabazon Conservation Area, these habitats are closely tied to wash systems and adjacent undeveloped lands.
- **Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket.** The CV-MSHCP identifies modeled or predicted habitat associated with sand-rich alluvial and aeolian landforms, though detection is inherently difficult due to the species' fossorial behavior. Habitat suitability is strongly dependent on sand availability and low soil compaction.
- **Desert tortoise.** Modeled habitat within the Cabazon Conservation Area includes open desert scrub and wash-adjacent areas that provide suitable burrowing soils and forage. Connectivity between upland and valley floor habitats remains important for seasonal movement and population resilience.

4.7.2 Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area encompasses extensive upland habitats forming the mountainous backdrop to the Coachella Valley. This conservation area represents a core component of the CV-MSHCP Reserve System and serves as one of the primary strongholds for desert mountain species. The BSA overlaps approximately 498 acres of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area.

4.7.2.1 Species Models

CV-MSHCP habitat modeling identifies the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains as supporting high-value habitat for multiple covered species due to elevation gradients, vegetation diversity, and reduced disturbance. Modeled habitat emphasizes the importance of intact upland areas and connectivity to lower-elevation habitats, reinforcing the role of this conservation area as a source of individuals and genetic diversity for surrounding desert ecosystems. Habitat models that overlap with the BSA within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area include the same species identified above for the Cabazon Conservation Area.

- **LeConte's thrasher.** Modeled habitat within this conservation area is limited to lower-elevation slopes and foothill desert scrub, primarily where vegetation remains open and disturbance levels are low. These areas complement broader valley floor habitats by supporting dispersal and movement.
- **Gray vireo.** Habitat models identify suitable habitat in open shrublands and transitional desert scrub communities along lower elevations and canyon margins, where nesting substrates and prey availability are sufficient.
- **Coachella Valley milkvetch.** The CV-MSHCP identifies limited modeled habitat (Other Conserved Habitat) within portions of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, primarily at lower elevations where sandy soils and appropriate disturbance regimes occur.

- **Palm Springs pocket mouse.** Modeled habitat is largely associated with down-slope sand deposition zones and sandy alluvial features connected to mountain drainages. Preservation of sand sources and transport processes from upland areas is essential to maintaining these habitats.
- **Peninsular bighorn sheep – Core Essential Habitat.** This conservation area contains core essential habitat for Peninsular bighorn sheep, including lambing areas, escape terrain, and primary foraging habitat. Steep, rocky terrain with adjacent open areas provides the structural and ecological conditions required for the species' life history needs. The CV-MSHCP identifies the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area as critical to the long-term conservation of the species, with an emphasis on maintaining unobstructed movement between mountain habitat and adjacent low-elevation areas, including those within the Cabazon Conservation Area. Preservation of these connections supports seasonal movement, genetic exchange, and population resilience.
- **Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel.** Modeled habitat within this conservation area occurs primarily in lower-elevation desert scrub and alluvial margins, where suitable soils and vegetation structure are present. These habitats function in concert with valley floor populations.
- **Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket.** Predicted habitat within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area is associated with sandy alluvial and aeolian deposits at lower elevations, recognizing the species' reliance on friable soils and subsurface conditions.
- **Desert tortoise.** Modeled habitat occurs primarily in lower-elevation desert scrub and foothill habitats with suitable soils for burrowing and access to forage. These areas contribute to regional connectivity and support dispersal between mountain and valley floor environments.

4.7.2.2 Mapped Habitat Disturbance Areas

For most CV-MSHCP Conservation Areas, conservation objectives are achieved through protection of habitat extent, sand source and transport processes, linkage functions, and species habitat models, with disturbance evaluated project-by-project using avoidance, minimization, and mitigation standards. However, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area contains non-substitutable, topographically constrained core habitat where incremental disturbance could directly compromise bighorn sheep population viability. As a result, the CV-MSHCP delineates Habitat Disturbance Areas in advance, as illustrated on CV-MSHCP Plan Maps (Figures 4-26e(1) through 4-26e(4)), to clearly define where development may occur and where disturbance is prohibited or severely limited. Habitat Disturbance Area (Zone 1) overlaps with the BSA, which includes Peninsular big-horn sheep (PBS) Recovery Zone 1 and a Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) Mapping Unit.

For the PBS Recovery Zone 1, the mountain setting provides limited flexibility for offsetting impacts elsewhere, because essential bighorn sheep habitat is tightly linked to specific terrain features (e.g., steep escape terrain, lambing areas, and movement corridors) that cannot be replicated through mitigation or sand-process preservation alone. The mapped Habitat Disturbance Areas therefore function as a preventive conservation tool, ensuring that land-use decisions do not erode the structural integrity, connectivity, or behavioral suitability of bighorn sheep habitat over time.

The HANS Mapping Unit represents a designated planning unit used by the CV-MSHCP to guide conservation decision-making in areas where direct conservation acreage targets, habitat functions, and essential ecological processes must be evaluated collectively. HANS Mapping Units are not individual project boundaries or mitigation parcels; rather, they are geographically defined analytical units intended

to support consistent, landscape-scale conservation outcomes. The HANS Mapping Unit shown on CV-MSHCP Figure 4-26e(1) encompasses portions of low-elevation desert landscape and associated wash and alluvial features that contribute to regional sand transport dynamics and wildlife movement. These areas are closely tied to the functioning of adjacent Conservation Areas, particularly where fluvial and aeolian processes support downstream sand-dependent habitats and species. As such, development within this HANS Mapping Unit is evaluated not only for direct habitat impacts, but also for potential effects on sediment supply, movement corridors, and landscape connectivity.

Designation of an area within a HANS Mapping Unit does not automatically require land acquisition or dedication. Instead, it triggers a case-by-case evaluation to determine whether proposed projects can be conditioned, redesigned, or offset in a manner that preserves the long-term conservation value and functional role of the unit. This approach provides flexibility while ensuring that cumulative impacts do not undermine CV-MSHCP Conservation Area objectives or Essential Ecological Processes.

4.8 Western Riverside MSHCP

Similar to the CV-MSHCP, the WR-MSHCP is a regional HCP/NCCP that governs biological resource conservation and development within western Riverside County. The WR-MSHCP established a Reserve System and a regulatory framework for evaluating impacts on biological resources, including sensitive habitats, covered species, wildlife movement, and ecological processes. The BSA is located within the Pass Area Plan of the WR-MSHCP, which encompasses the San Gorgonio Pass region and functions as a critical transition and movement area between coastal, inland, and desert ecosystems. Under the WR-MSHCP, the Pass Area Plan is further defined by conservation objectives, survey requirements, and land-use guidelines that apply to projects proposed within or adjacent to areas of biological importance. These requirements are summarized below. Relevant WR-MSHCP features are depicted on Attachment A, Figure 6, with additional ecological context shown on Figures 7a and 7b.

4.8.1 The Pass Area Plan

The BSA is in The Pass Area Plan but not within a Subunit, Cell Group, or Criteria Cell. Additionally, there are no applicable Cores, Linkages, Constrained Linkages, or Noncontiguous Habitat Blocks that coincide with the BSA. However, the BSA is within a Special Linkage Area, which was established to contribute to assembly of a portion of the San Gorgonio River/San Bernardino-San Jacinto Mountains Linkage. The San Gorgonio River/San Bernardino-San Jacinto Mountains Linkage includes locations within and outside the WR-MSHCP Plan Area. Features of the entire linkage area are described in *Missing Linkages: Restoring Connectivity to the California Landscape* (Penrod, et al 2001).

Future projects that occur in The Pass Area Plan will require tribal coordination regarding American Indian Lands and will be required to apply CEQA review with necessary mitigation measures as appropriate. CEQA documentation prepared for projects within this Special Linkage Area will be forwarded to the RCA and the Wildlife Agencies (i.e., USFWS and CDFW) for informational purposes to provide for WR-MSHCP coordination regarding this area.

4.8.1.1 Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pools (WR-MSHCP Section 6.1.2)

WR-MSHCP Section 6.1.2 provides for protection of riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools. Where these areas cannot be protected in place, procedures must be followed that are meant to ensure that the biological functions and values of these areas are maintained for the benefit of covered plant and animal species.

- **Riparian/riverine.** Riparian/riverine areas are defined as habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to or depend upon soil moisture from a nearby freshwater source, or areas with freshwater flow during all or a portion of the year.
- **Vernal pools.** Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas and display all three wetland parameters (hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season. Obligate hydrophytes and facultative wetland plant species are normally dominant during the wetter portion of the growing season, while upland species (annuals) may be dominant during the drier portion of the growing season. The determination that an area exhibits vernal pool characteristics, and the definition of the watershed supporting vernal pool hydrology, must be made on a case-by-case basis. Such determinations should consider the length of the time the area exhibits upland and wetland characteristics and the manner in which the area fits into the overall ecological system as a wetland. Evidence concerning the persistence of an area's wetness can be obtained from its history, vegetation, soils, and drainage characteristics, uses to which it has been subjected, and weather and hydrological records.
- **Fairy shrimp.** For Riverside, vernal pool and Santa Rosa fairy shrimp, mapping of stock ponds, ephemeral pools, and other features shall also be undertaken as determined appropriate by a qualified biologist.

As discussed previously, the BSA supports aquatic features that may be considered riparian/riverine habitat as defined in the WR-MSHCP (Attachment A, Figure 9). However, vernal pools and vernal pool indicator species are not known from the area.

An assessment of the presence of riparian/riverine areas must be conducted on a project-by-project basis. If observed, the locations should be mapped and described for their function and value as habitat for covered species listed in WR-MSHCP Section 6.1.2. If riparian habitat is present that is suitable for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), or western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), then focused surveys for these bird species should be conducted according to USFWS established protocols. If vernal pools or other potential fairy shrimp habitat is present, focused fairy shrimp surveys should be conducted according to USFWS established protocols.

If riparian/riverine areas, vernal pools, or other fairy shrimp habitat are present and avoidance is not possible, then a DBESP must be conducted and documented in a DBESP report. For projects outside of a criteria cell, the DBESP report must be reviewed and approved by the Wildlife Agencies. For projects within a criteria cell, the report must undergo Joint Project Review by RCA and the Wildlife Agencies.

4.8.1.2 Narrow Endemic Plant Species (WR-MSHCP Section 6.1.3)

Portions of the BSA are within the Narrow Endemic Plant Species (NEPS) survey area for Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*) and many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) (Attachment A, Figure 5). Future projects that fall within the NEPS survey area would require a habitat assessment for all six species followed by focused surveys if suitable habitat is present. Focused surveys must be conducted by a qualified biologist during the appropriate blooming period for each target species and according to established botanical survey guidelines.

If NEPS populations are found during focused surveys within a criteria cell, then at least 90 percent of the property that provides for the long-term conservation of the species shall be avoided or a DBESP prepared to demonstrate that although the proposed project would exceed the 10 percent impact threshold, with proposed design and compensation measures, it would result in an overall WR-MSHCP Conservation Area design and configuration biologically equivalent or superior to that which would occur under a project alternative within the impact threshold without these measures.

4.8.1.3 Urban/Wildlands Interface (WR-MSHCP Section 6.1.4)

WR-MSHCP Section 6.1.4 addresses indirect effects associated with development that may occur adjacent to the WR-MSHCP Conservation Area. Such development would result in edge effects that impact biological resources within the Conservation Area in various ways and to varying degrees.

Since the BSA overlaps with WR-MSHCP Conservation Area (i.e., Criteria Cell 0), any projects that occur within the Conservation Area must follow established guidelines to minimize edge effects. These guidelines include the following topics: drainage, toxics, lighting, noise, invasives, barriers, and grading/land development.

4.8.1.4 Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (WR-MSHCP Section 6.3.2)

Burrowing Owl

The entire portion of the BSA in the WR-MSHCP occurs within the WR-MSHCP-designated burrowing owl survey area as shown in Attachment A, Figure 7a. Surveys for burrowing owls would be necessary as assessed on a project-by-project basis. If a proposed project is within the burrowing owl survey area, a series of survey and reporting protocols must be followed according to the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the 2006 Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area* (Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions; RCA 2006). The first step involves a habitat assessment conducted by a qualified biologist. This assessment evaluates the presence of suitable burrowing owl habitat, which typically includes open grasslands, agricultural fields, and areas with low-growing vegetation or existing burrows. The assessment must encompass the project site and a 150-meter (500-foot) buffer zone. If suitable habitat is identified, then focused surveys are required as outlined in Step II of the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions.

Focused surveys in Step II are conducted in two parts. The first part is a focused burrow survey, which involves a systematic pedestrian search of the site and buffer area to locate potential burrows and signs of owl activity. The second part consists of focused burrowing owl surveys, which are conducted during the species' breeding season (March 1 through August 31). These surveys require a minimum of four site visits under appropriate weather conditions to detect the presence of owls and document their behavior and habitat use.

If burrows or suitable habitat is found during the habitat assessment, then a pre-construction survey must be conducted within 30 days prior to any ground-disturbing activities, regardless of whether owls were observed during the breeding season surveys (if conducted).

All survey efforts and findings must be documented in a comprehensive report submitted to the Riverside County Environmental Programs Department and the RCA Monitoring Program Administrator. The report must include detailed methods, maps, photographs, and results of the surveys.

If burrowing owl populations are found during focused surveys, then at least 90 percent of those portions of the property that provide for long-term conservation value of burrowing owl shall be avoided or a DBESP

prepared to demonstrate that although the proposed project would exceed the 10 percent impact threshold, with proposed design and compensation measures, it would result in an overall MSHCP Conservation Area design and configuration biologically equivalent or superior to that which would occur under a project alternative within the impact threshold without these measures.

Mammals

The northern portion of the BSA in the WR-MSHCP occurs within the WR-MSHCP-designated mammals species survey area for Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*), as shown in Attachment A, Figure 7a. Future projects that fall within the mammal species survey area would require a habitat assessment for Los Angeles pocket mouse followed by focused surveys if suitable habitat is present. Focused surveys must be conducted by a qualified biologist according to established survey guidelines.

If Los Angeles pocket mouse populations are found during focused surveys, then at least 90 percent of those portions of the property that provide for long-term conservation value of Los Angeles pocket mouse shall be avoided or a DBESP prepared to demonstrate that although the proposed project would exceed the 10 percent impact threshold, with proposed design and compensation measures, it would result in an overall WR-MSHCP Conservation Area design and configuration biologically equivalent or superior to that which would occur under a project alternative within the impact threshold without these measures.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOLS AND PROTECTIONS

This section describes the environmental protocols and protections for biological resources that must be considered to ensure that all CIP and development projects are evaluated for potential impacts to biological resources, consistent with CEQA, CV-MSHCP, WR-MSHCP, and municipal ordinances.

This information is intended to be used within the PEIR impact analyses and future project-specific evaluations.

5.1 Summary of Biological Resource Protections

Table 7 summarizes key environmental protections for biological resources that primarily align with the significance thresholds for biological resources provided in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G environmental checklist. The table also includes specific ordinances and review protocols relevant to project compliance and environmental review within the BSA.

TABLE 7. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTIONS

Resource	Summary	Source
Special-Status Species	Any plant or wildlife species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service.	CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IV(a)
Riparian and Sensitive Natural Communities	Riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service. Also includes Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas.	CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IV(b)
State and Federal Wetlands	Any state or federally protected wetlands (including marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.).	CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IV(c)
Wildlife Movement/Corridors	Any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or native wildlife nursery sites.	CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IV(d)
Local Policies/Ordinances	Any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance, such as the below:	CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IV(e)
Habitat Conservation Plan Area	Adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.	CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IV(f)
Local Policies/Ordinances	GP Land Use Element: Comply with the Multipurpose Open Space Element of the General Plan and Federal and State regulations; allow development clustering and/or density transfers for development in 100-year floodplains, streams, and adjacent areas of steep slopes; ensure that development does not adversely impact the open space and rural character of the surrounding area.	GP LU 9.2, 9.4, 19.1, 26.3

TABLE 7, CONTINUED

Resource	Summary	Source
Local Policies/Ordinances	GP Circulation Element: Incorporate WRMSHCP and CVMSHCP requirements into transportation plans and development proposals.	GP C 20.9
Local Policies/Ordinances	Multipurpose Open Space Element: Ensure compliance with the CWA regarding wetlands mitigation policies; preserve buffer zones around wetlands where feasible and biologically appropriate; maintain and conserve superior examples of native trees, natural vegetation, stands of established trees and other features for ecosystem, aesthetic and water conservation purposes; conserve oak tree resources; preserve multi-species habitat resources through enforcement of WRMSHCP and CVMSHCP.	GP OS 6.1, 6.2, 9.3, 9.4, and 18.1
Local Policies/Ordinances	Riverside County Oak Tree Management Guidelines: Addresses the treatment of oak woodlands in areas where zoning and/or general plan density restrictions allow the effective use of clustering.	Oak Tree Management Guidelines
Tribal Lands Resource Conservation	Resource Conservation Program: Manage natural and biological resources through conservation plans and resource management strategies including invasive species removal, erosion control, species identification, habitat enhancement, and biological assessments.	Morongo Environmental Protection Department

5.2 Biological Resources Sensitivity Zones

A biological resources sensitivity zone map (Attachment A, Figure 10) was developed as an effective tool for identifying areas that have potential resources that require protection. In general, sensitivity maps have the following broad characteristics:

- They are used to identify ecological communities sensitive to a specific influence or activity.
- They inform strategic planning decisions during the initial site selection phase of the development process at a landscape scale.
- They use GIS to collate, analyze, and display spatial and geographic data.
- They employ spatial biodiversity data relating to species and/or sites to display overlapping resources.

The biological resources sensitivity zone map is intended to guide the initial screening of projects for potential biological resource concerns and is based on regulatory status, ecological rarity, and potential for sensitive resources. While the map provides a landscape-scale overview, it does not replace the need for site-specific biological assessments, which may be required for individual projects depending on their location and scope.

5.2.1 High Sensitivity Zone

These areas contain the highest concentration of sensitive biological resources, such as wetlands, riparian habitats, rare vegetation communities, known occurrences of special-status species, and conservation areas. High Sensitivity Zones often overlap with regulatory overlays and may include aquatic resources,

critical habitat, wildlife corridors, specific species survey areas (WR-MSHCP), or protected tree species (e.g., Oak Tree Management Guidelines and Best Management Practices adopted by Riverside County).

- **Project Review**: Projects within High Sensitivity Zones require the most rigorous biological review, which could include detailed site-specific surveys, early coordination with regulatory agencies, and robust avoidance and mitigation measures.
- **Standard Measures**: Enhanced protocols for aquatic resource and habitat protection, species surveys, and mitigation are typically required.

5.2.2 Moderate Sensitivity Zone

The Moderate Sensitivity Zone includes Indian Reservation land, WR-MSHCP habitat management units and special linkage areas, CV-MSHCP Conservation Areas, CV-MSHCP Essential Ecological Processes & Biological Corridors and Linkages (sand source, sand transport, and corridors/linkages), CV-MSHCP Essential Habitat (Peninsular bighorn sheep), and remaining natural vegetation communities on the north-facing slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains to the south of the CV-MSHCP boundary. Its primary purpose is to provide an added layer of protection for the most sensitive biological resources by minimizing indirect impacts from adjacent development or activities. This buffer helps to maintain ecological integrity, reduce edge effects, and support habitat connectivity adjacent to high-value areas.

- **Project Review**: Projects within the Moderate Sensitivity Zone require focused biological review to ensure that activities do not adversely affect the adjacent High Sensitivity Zone.
- **Standard Measures**: Measures include construction best management practices (BMPs), seasonal restrictions, and targeted surveys for species that may utilize buffer areas. Avoidance and minimization measures are prioritized, and mitigation requirements may be tailored to address potential indirect impacts to the High Sensitivity Zone.

5.2.3 Low Sensitivity Zone

The Low Sensitivity Zone is generally characterized by developed or disturbed areas with limited biological resource value, such as urbanized parcels, maintained landscapes, or areas lacking native vegetation. Due to the presence of the Moderate Sensitivity Zone buffer, these areas are not expected to overlap with High Sensitivity Zones. While these areas generally have limited habitat value, they may still contain biological resources that could support nesting birds and listed species that may occur in developed areas (e.g., monarch butterfly or Crotch's bumble bee).

- **Project Review**: Projects in Low Sensitivity Zones require basic biological screening to confirm the absence of sensitive resources and to identify any features (e.g., trees, landscaping) that may provide habitat for protected species.
- **Standard Measures**: Standard BMPs and compliance with municipal ordinances (e.g., tree protection, nesting bird surveys) are typically sufficient, but additional measures may be required if protected resources are identified during project-specific review.

5.2.4 Biological Resources Sensitivity Zone Map

The Biological Resources Sensitivity Zones map is intended to serve as an early planning tool for projects, helping to identify areas where biological resources may require special consideration. While the map provides valuable guidance for initial project siting and review, it does not replace the need for site-specific biological assessments, which remain essential for confirming the presence and extent (or absence) of

sensitive resources. The level of biological review, avoidance, and mitigation measures required for a given project will be determined by the sensitivity zone in which it is located, with the most stringent requirements applied to projects in High Sensitivity Zones and progressively less intensive measures in Moderate and Low Sensitivity Zones.

To further support the application of the Biological Resources Sensitivity Zones map, Table 8 provides a summary of key requirements, survey needs, and avoidance/minimization or mitigation actions associated with common project locations and resource triggers within the BSA. This matrix outlines how regional conservation objectives and local policies interact with the sensitivity zones to determine the level of biological review and regulatory compliance required for CIP and development projects. For example, projects located within High Sensitivity Zones will likely be subject to more rigorous assessment and mitigation requirements, including field surveys, avoidance measures, and possibly agency consultation. In contrast, projects in Moderate or Low Sensitivity Zones may require less intensive review, focusing on desktop assessments and standard BMPs. The evaluation matrix is intended to identify the appropriate protocols and protections for each CIP and development project, ensuring that biological resources are adequately considered throughout the planning and environmental review process. As impacts and mitigation are addressed programmatically in the PEIR, this technical report and accompanying matrix provide the foundational background for future project-specific evaluations and compliance with applicable environmental regulations.

TABLE 8. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE EVALUATION MATRIX

Project Location/ Resource Trigger	Regulation or Ordinance	Key Requirements/Actions	Survey/Assessment Required?	Mitigation/Permit Needed?
All projects (entire BSA)	CEQA, Screening Process	Initial desktop review; biological resources sensitivity zone check; CV-MSHCP protected resource check; determine need for field surveys and technical review	Desktop assessment: field survey if indicated	Yes, if significant impacts identified
Within High or Moderate Sensitivity Zone	General Plan	Avoid/minimize impacts; consult with resource agencies; implement mitigation as needed	Special-status species/habitat survey	Yes, if impacts cannot be avoided; agency consultation
Within CV-MSHCP	CV-MSHCP	Demonstrate consistency with CV-MSHCP policies; may require Joint Project Review (i.e., within a Conservation Area)	Biological resource assessment; consistency analysis	Yes, if impacts cannot be avoided; mitigation plan required
Within WR-MSHCP	WR-MSHCP	Demonstrate consistency with WR-MSHCP policies; may require a DBESP; requires Joint Project Review (i.e., within a Criteria Cell)	Biological resource assessment; consistency analysis	Yes, if impacts cannot be avoided; mitigation plan required
Within/adjacent to aquatic resources	CWA, CFGC	Avoid impacts to wetlands, riparian, and sensitive upland habitats; comply with BMPs; maintain natural hydrology	Wetland delineation; special-status species survey	Yes, may require mitigation and/or CWA/CFGC authorization
Removal or alteration of oak tree woodlands	Riverside County Ordinance No. 559 – Oak Preservation	Significant oak woodland areas: biologist report required; permit for removal of living native tree on a parcel larger than 0.5 acres in the unincorporated area of Riverside County, above 5,000 feet elevation	Tree impact assessment by biologist	Yes, mitigation program required for incorporation into the project's conditions of approval
Within Tribal Lands	NEPA, CWA, ESA	Demonstrate avoidance and minimization of impacts; limit uses to those compatible with conservation	Biological resource desktop assessment conducted or directed by Morongo Environmental Protection Department; field survey if special-status species likely	Yes, permit conditions, lease conditions, or tribal approval requirements; if impacts cannot be avoided mitigation plan required

6.0 REFERENCES

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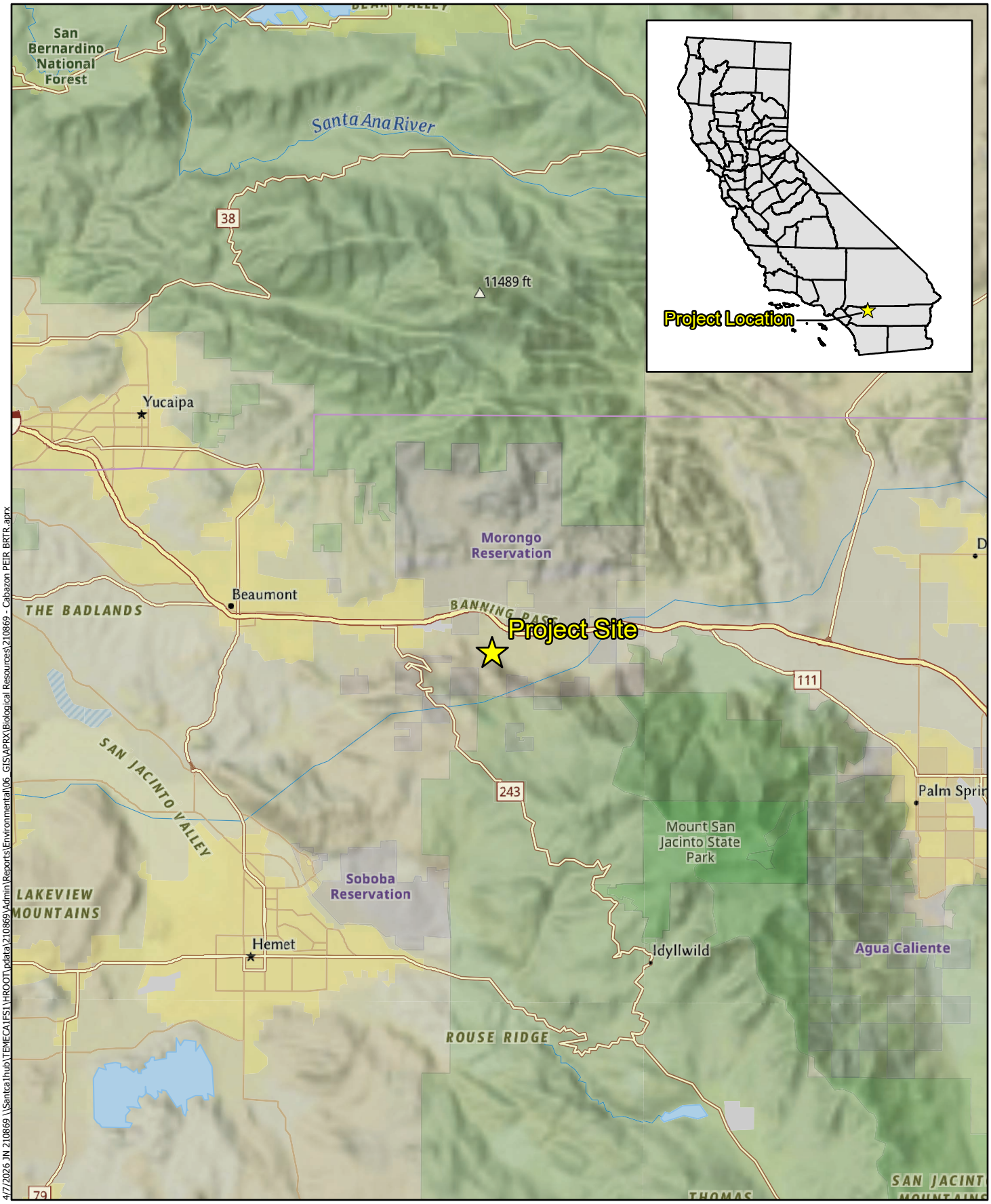
ATTACHMENT A
FIGURES



CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

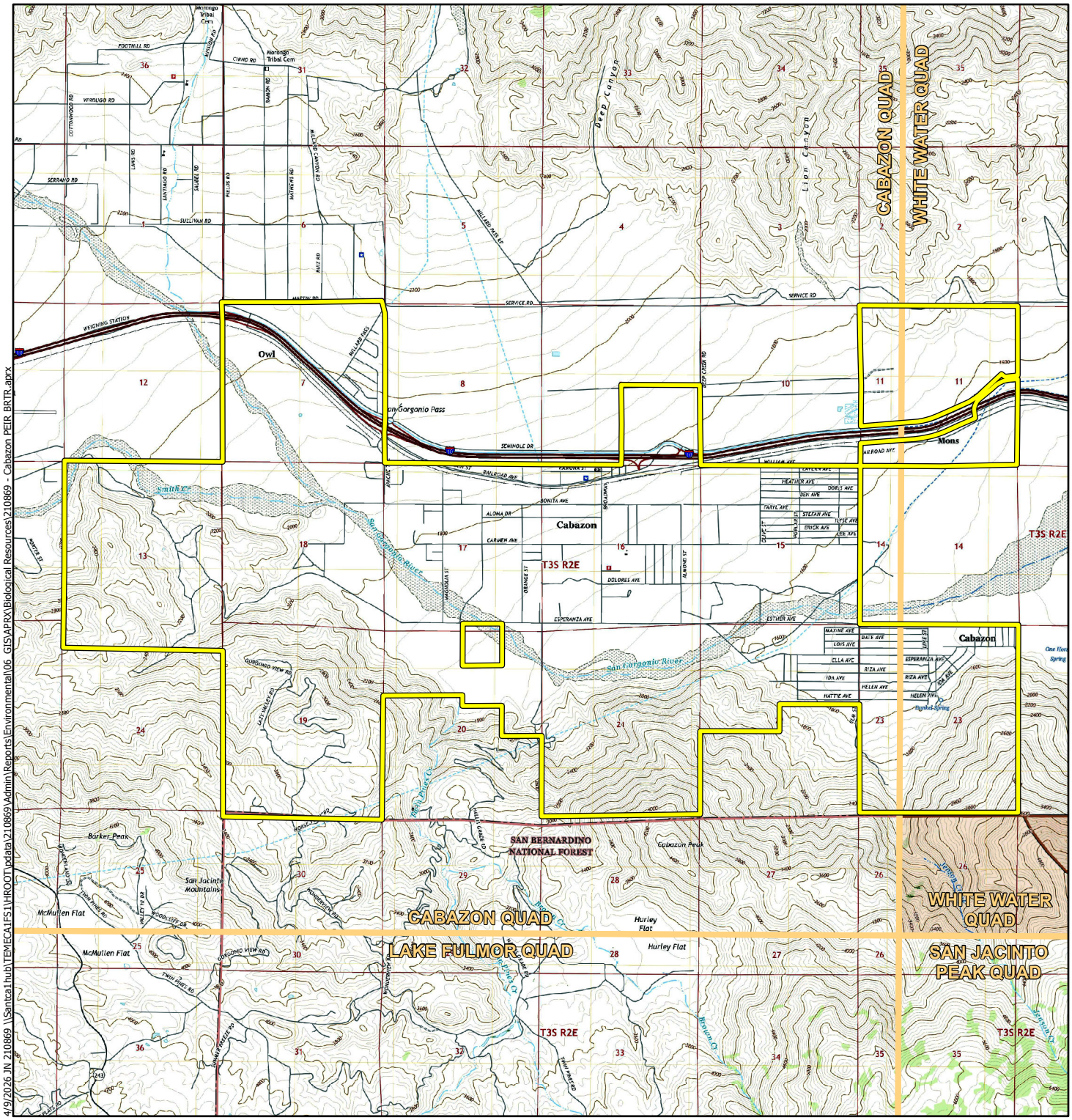
Regional Vicinity

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 2.5 5 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, National Geographic World Map: *Cabazon, California*

Figure 1



Legend

Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

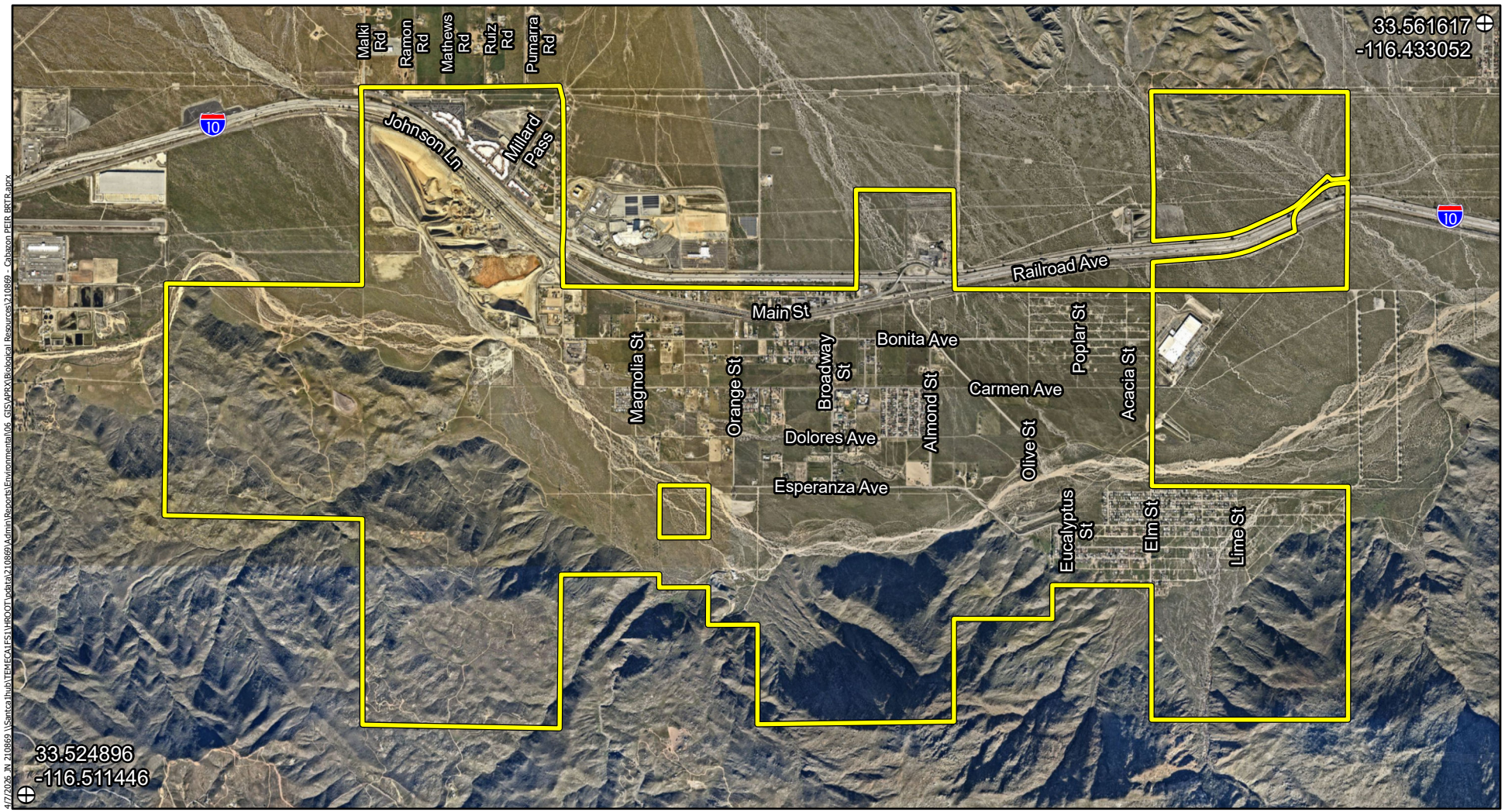
Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Program Vicinity

Source: USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: *Cabazon (2021), White Water (2023), Lake Fulmor (2021), San Jacinto Peak (2021), California*

Figure 2



Legend

⊕ Reference Point

Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

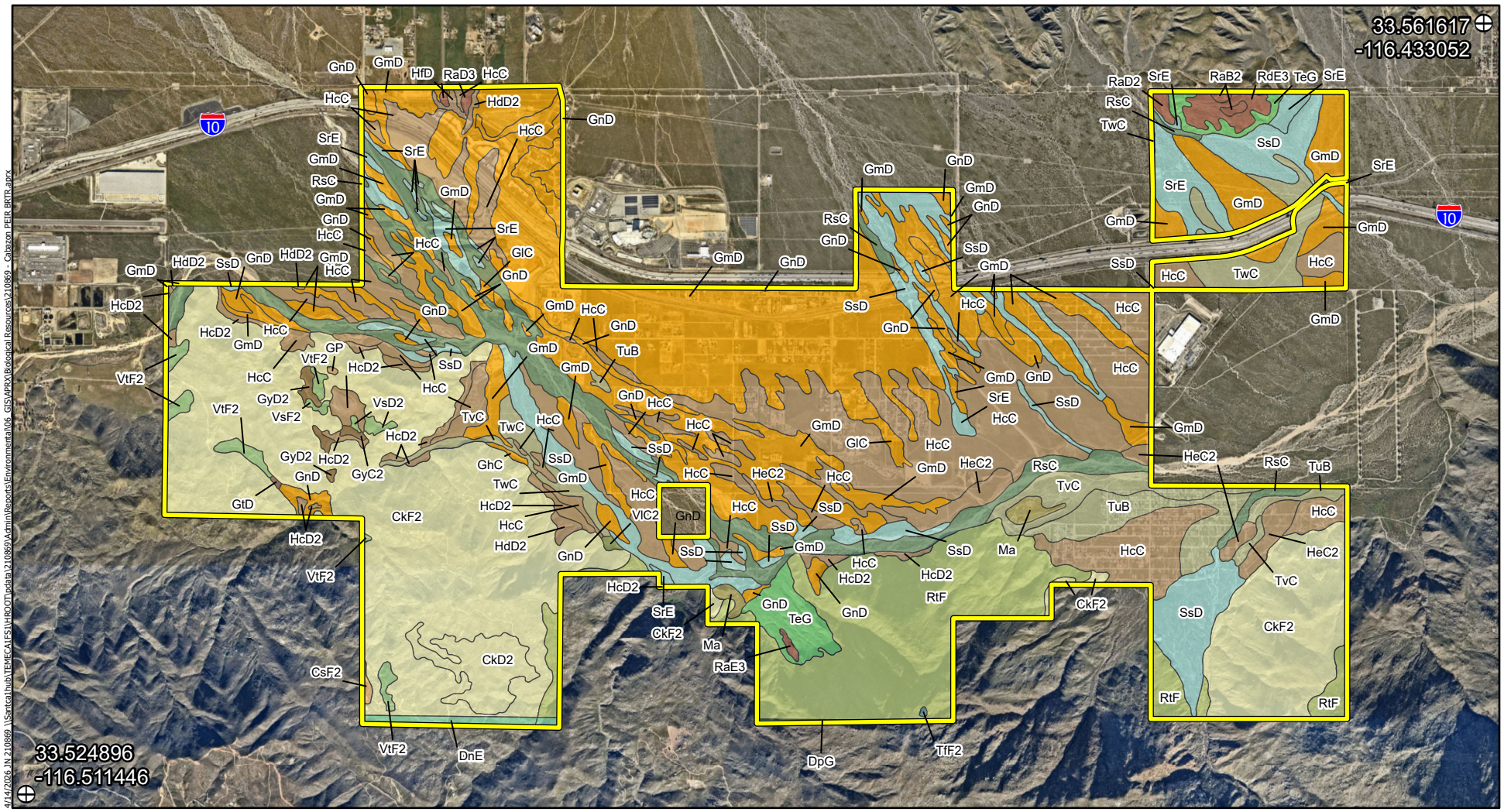
Program Location

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Riverside County, 2026 Nearmap Imagery

Figure 3



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

Component Name

- Cieneba
- Crafton
- Gorgonio
- Grangeville
- Gravel Pits
- Greenfield
- Hanford
- Made Land
- Ramona
- Riverwash
- Rockland
- Soboba
- Terrace Escarpments
- Tollhouse
- Trigo
- Tujunga
- Visalia
- Vista

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

USDA Soils

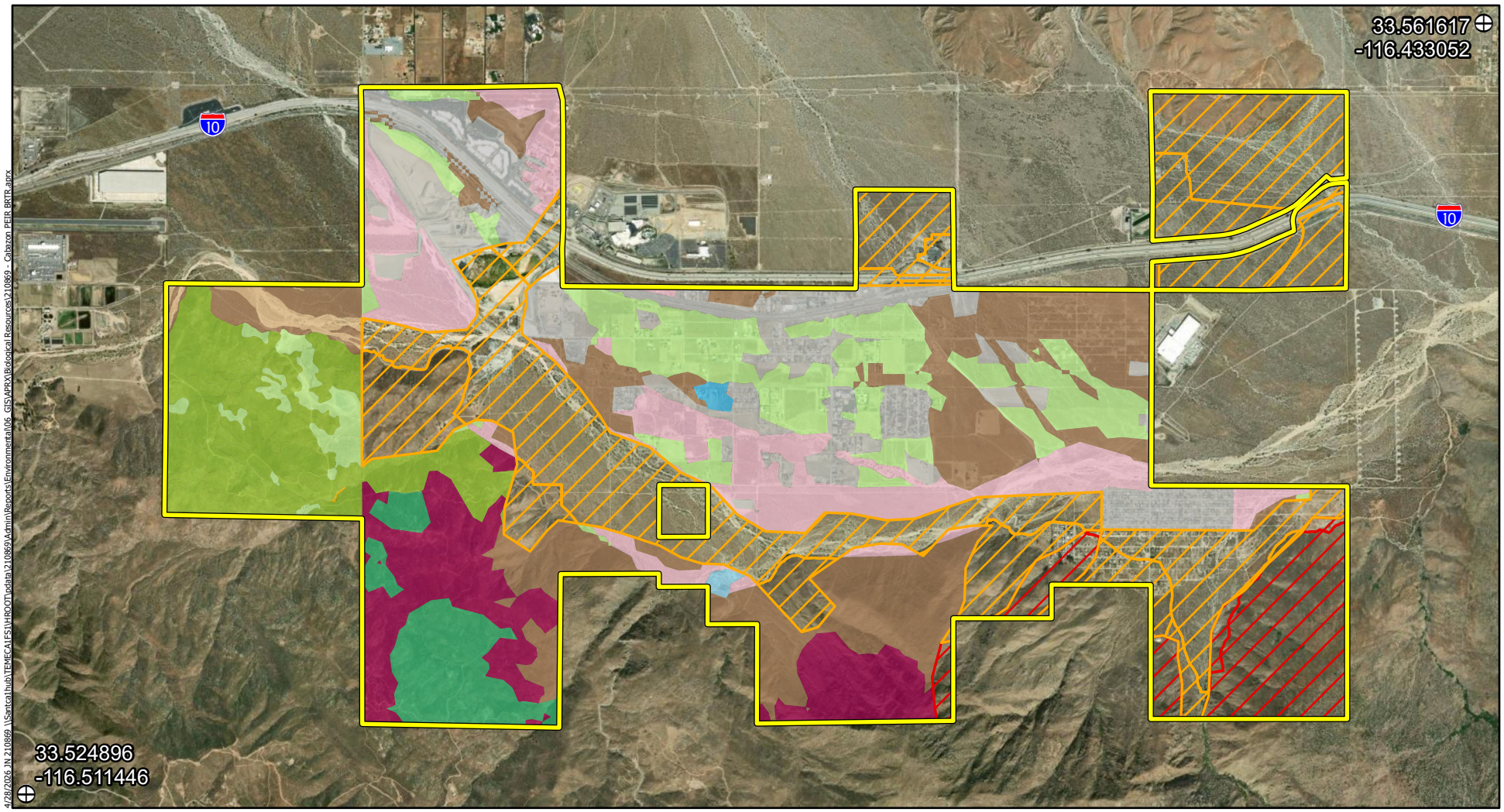
Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, USDA, Riverside County, 2026 Nearmap Imagery

Figure 4

4/14/2026 JN 210869 \\Santa1hub\TEMECA1FS1\HROOT\pdata\210869\Admin\Reports\Environmental\06_GIS\APRX\Biological Resources\210869 – Cabazon PEIR BRTR.aprx



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Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CVMSHCP Natural Communities
- Semi-desert chaparral
- Sonoran creosote bush scrub

WRMSHCP Natural Communities
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Desert Scrub
- Developed/Disturbed Land
- Grassland
- Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest
- Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub

CALFIRE (FRAP) Vegetation
- Alkali Desert Scrub
- Annual Grassland
- Barren
- Chamise-Redshank Chaparral
- Coastal Scrub
- Cropland
- Desert Riparian
- Desert Scrub
- Desert Wash
- Mixed Chaparral
- Urban

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

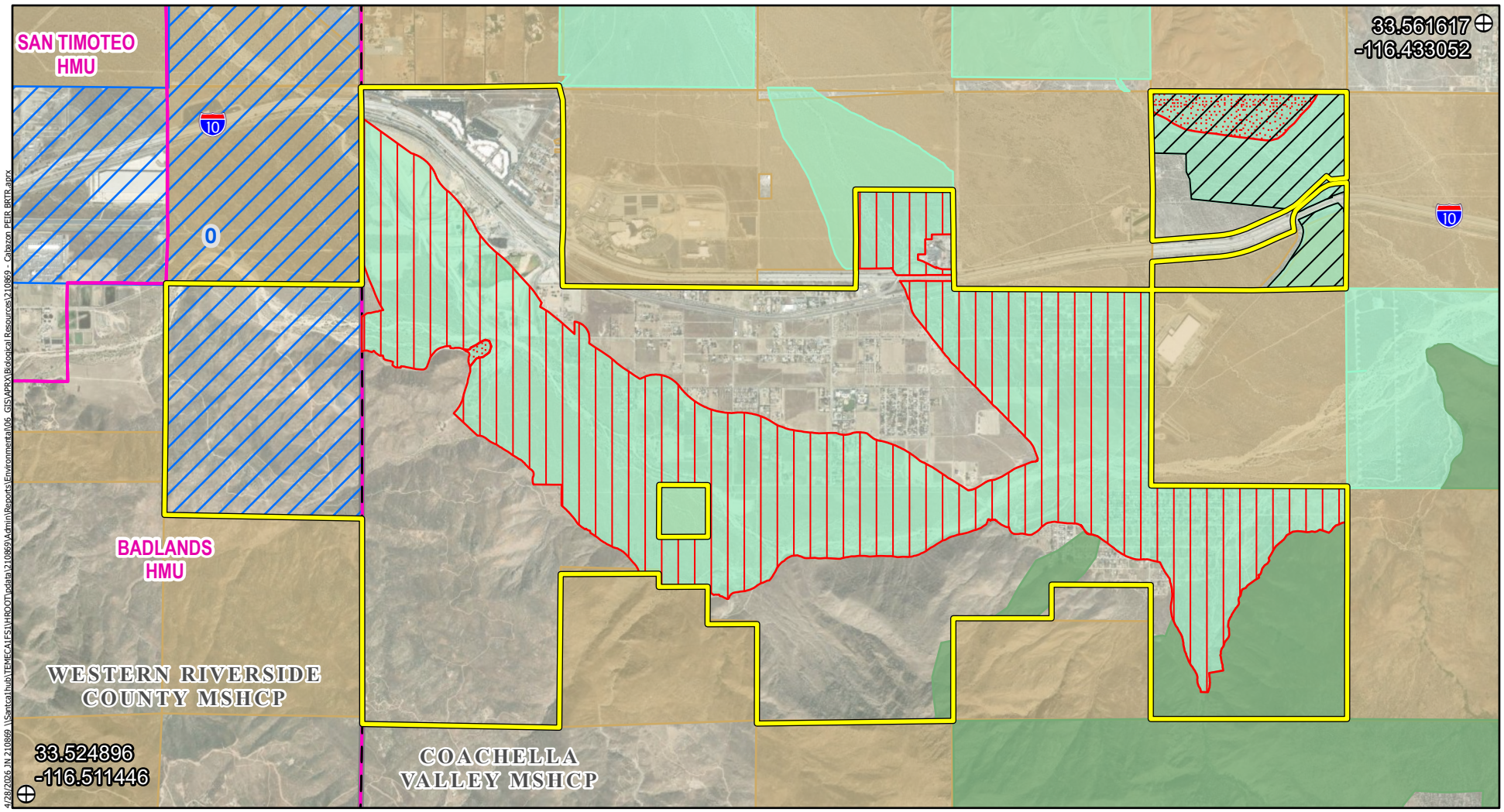
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CALFIRE-FRAP, CVMSHCP, WRCRCA, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Figure 5



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary
- MSHCP Boundaries
- Tribal/Indian Reservations

CVMSHCP Essential Ecological Processes & Biological Corridors

- Linkages and Biological Corridors
- Sand Source
- Sand Transport

CVMSHCP Conservation Areas

- Cabazon Conservation Area
- Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area

- WRMSHCP Habitat Management Units
- WRMSHCP Special Linkage Area

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

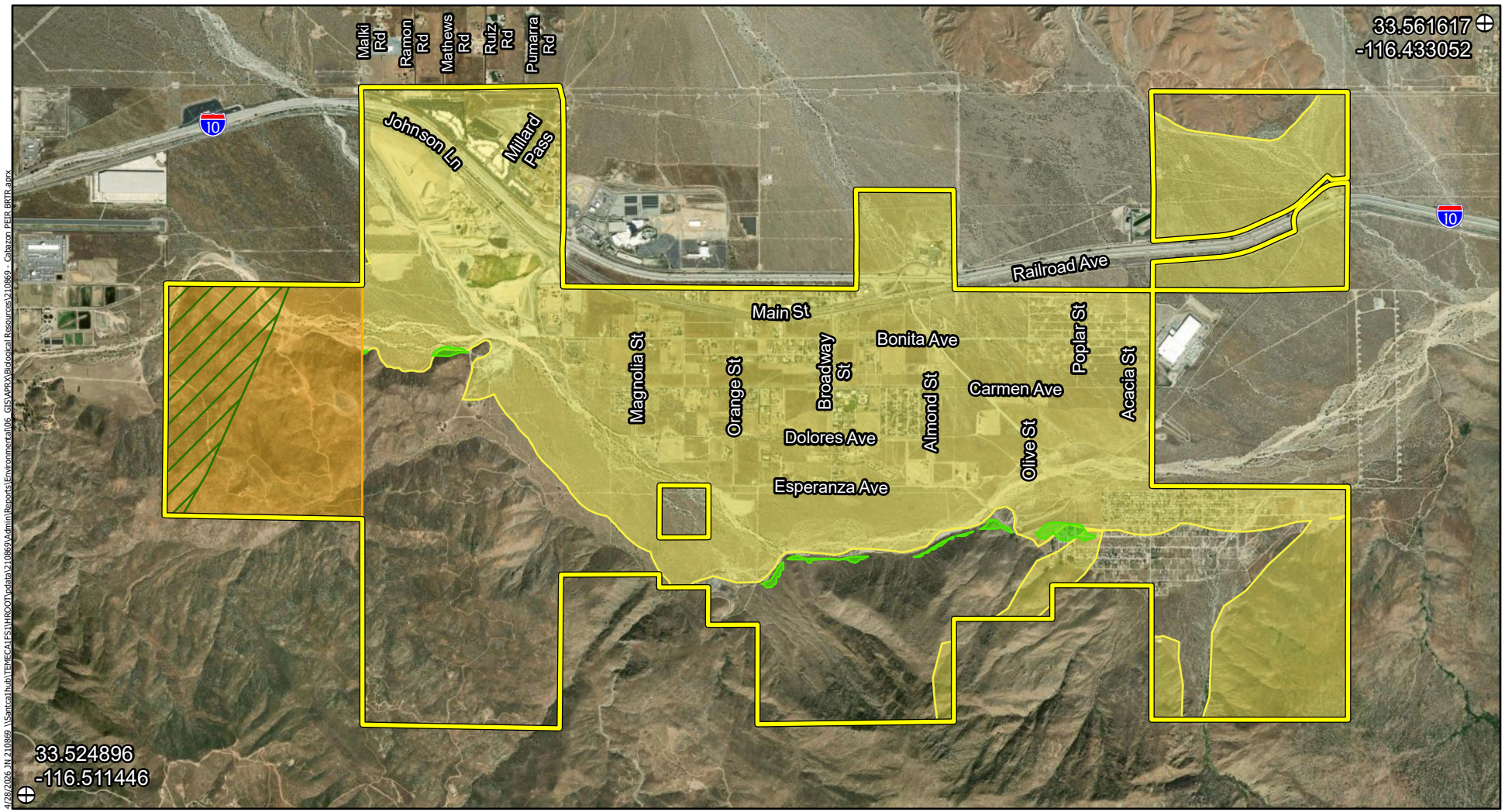
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVMSHCP, WRCRCA, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

MSHCP Conservation Areas and Resources

Figure 6



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CVMSHCP Habitat Models

Birds
- LeConte's thrasher & Gray vireo

Plants
- Coachella Valley milkvetch

WRMSHCP Survey Areas
- Narrow Endemic Plants
- Burrowing Owls

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

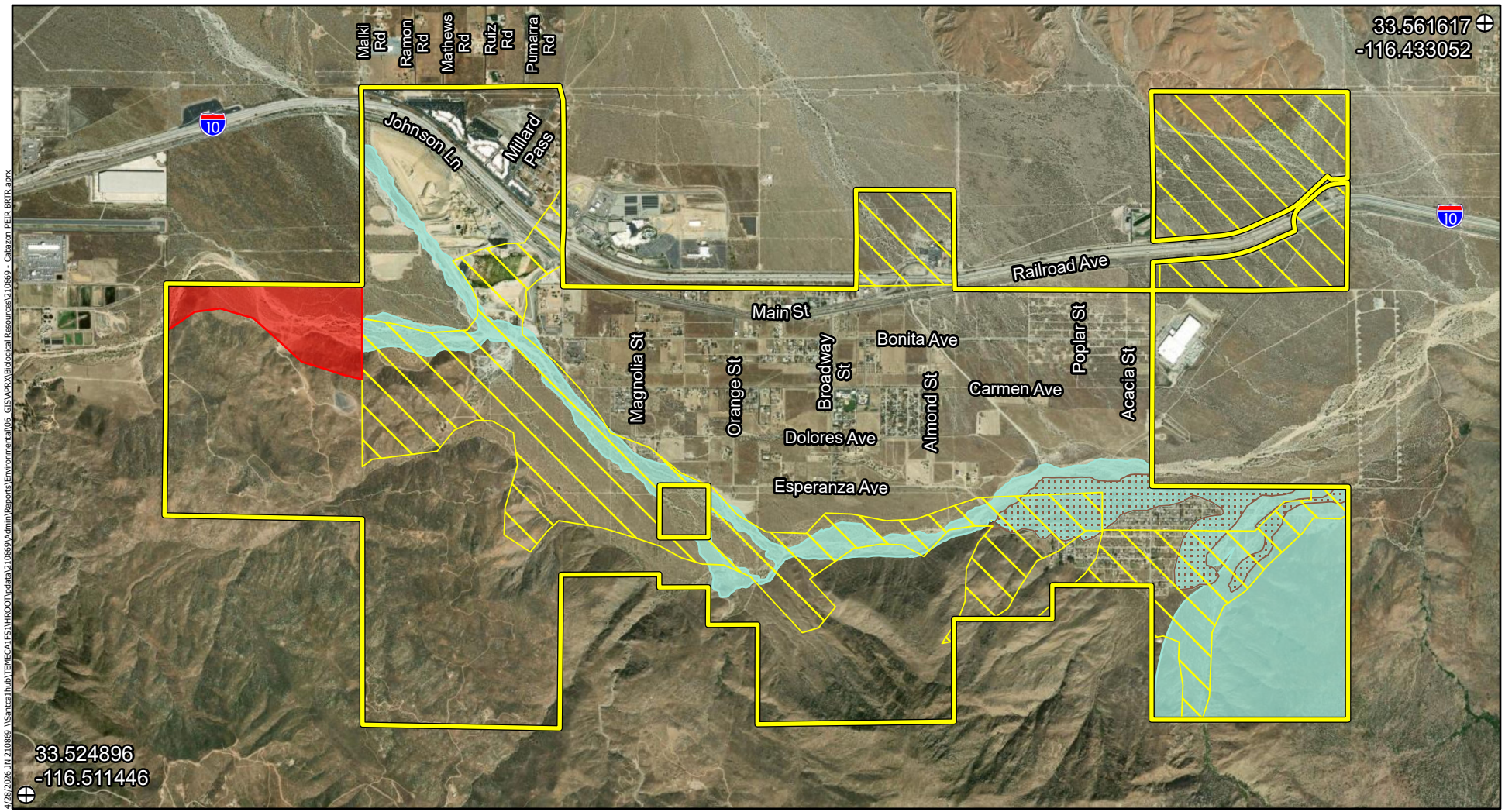
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVAG 2026, WRCRCA, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Species Habitat Models and Survey Areas

Figure 7a



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CVMSHCP Habitat Models

Mammals

- Palm Springs pocket mouse, Peninsular bighorn sheep & Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel

Invertebrates

- Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket

Reptiles

- Desert tortoise

WRMSHCP Survey Areas

- Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

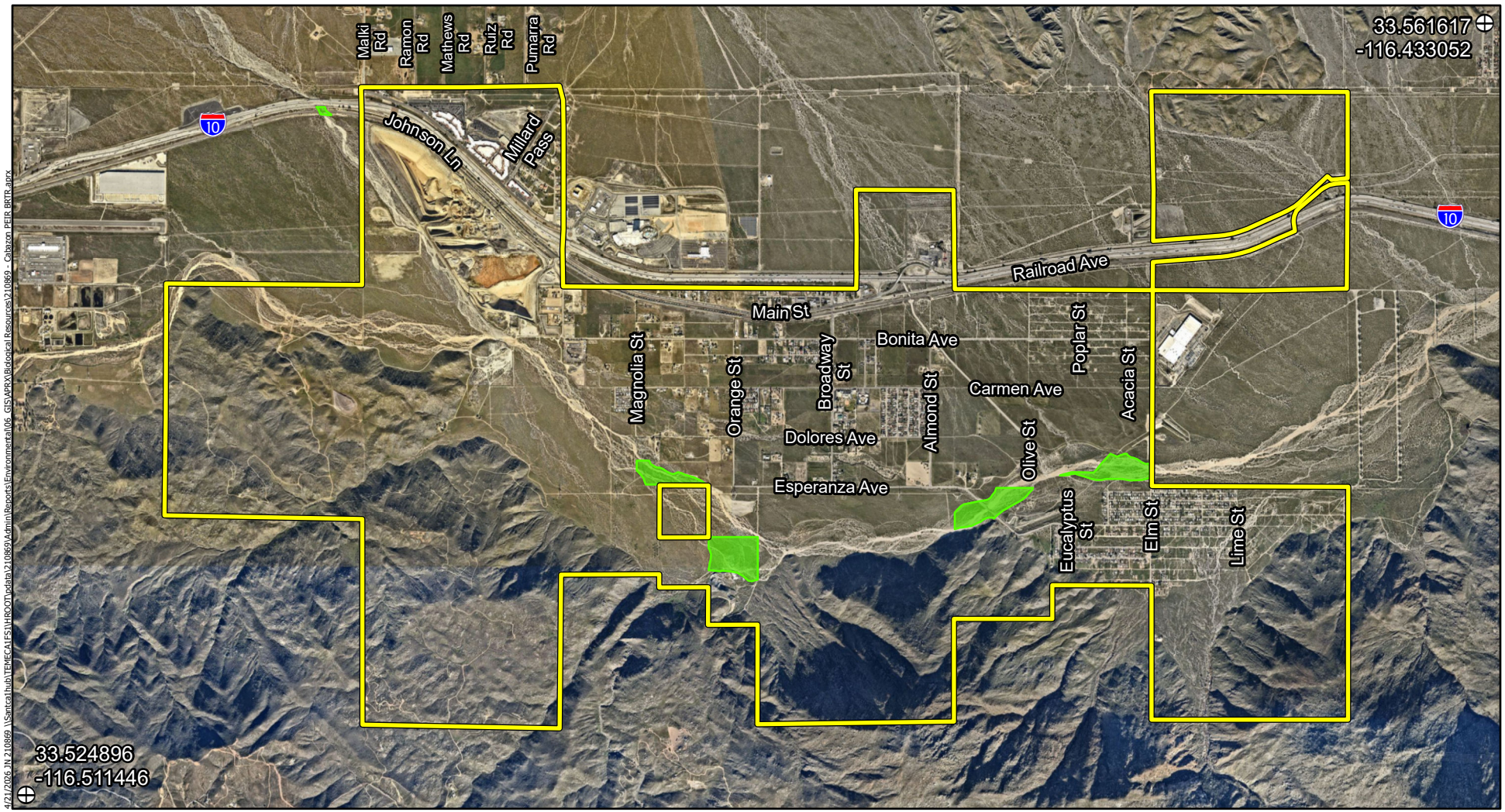
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVAG 2026, WRCRCA, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Species Habitat Models and Survey Areas

Figure 7b



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary
- Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae*)

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

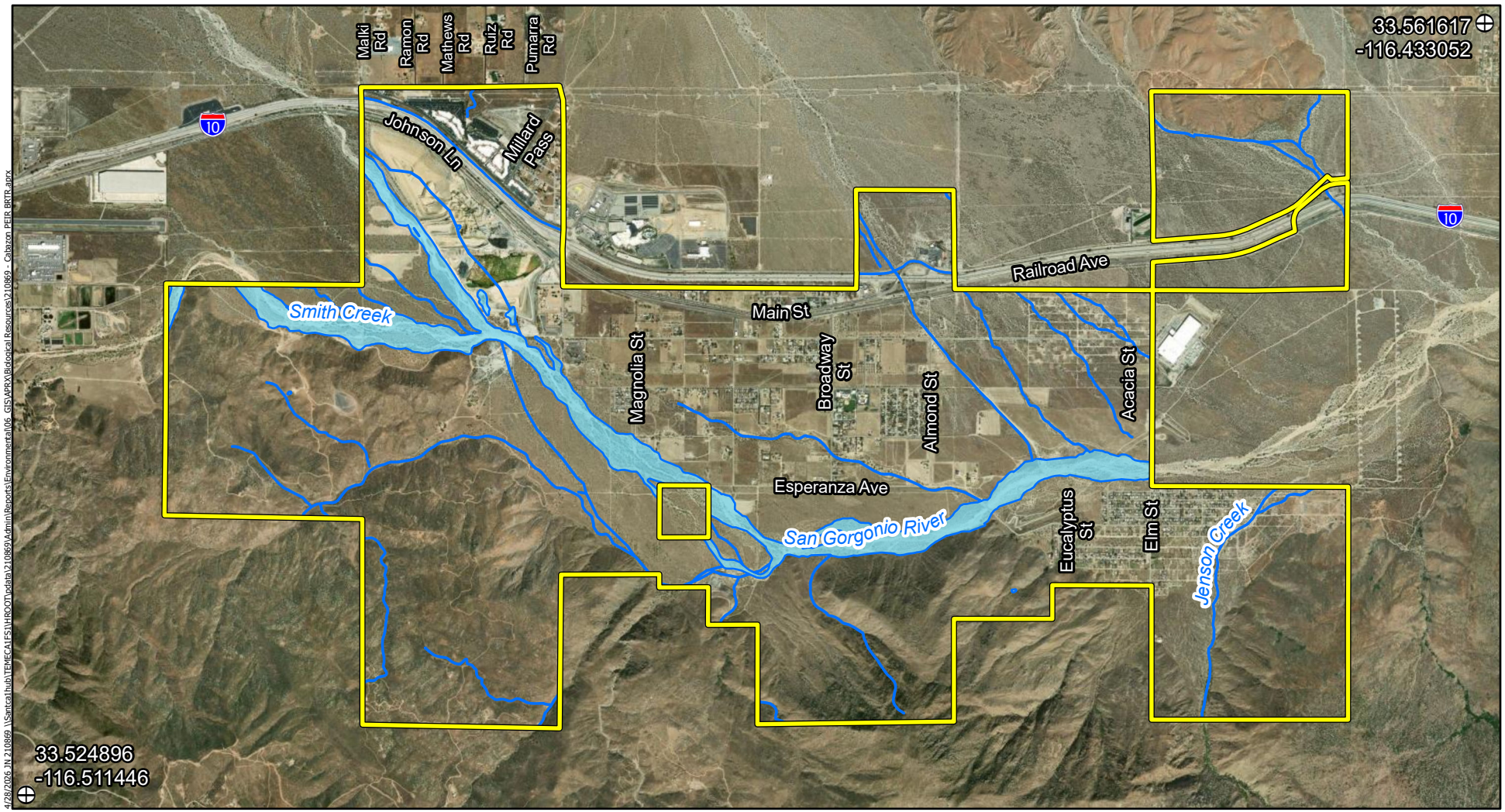
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, USFWS, Riverside County, 2026 Nearmap Imagery

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

USFWS Critical Habitat

Figure 8



Legend

- Reference Point
- Aquatic Resources
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

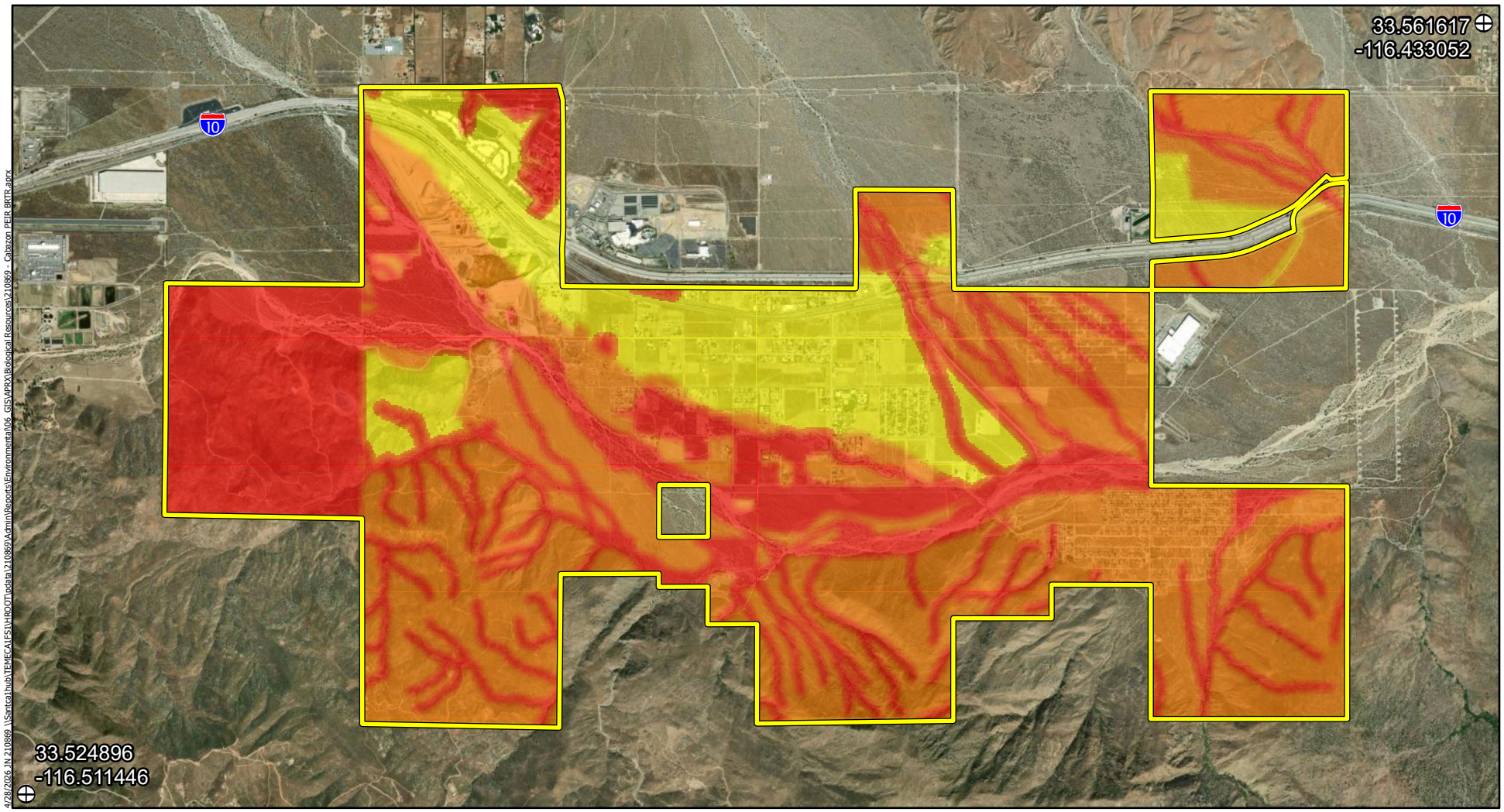
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, USFWS, USGS, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Aquatic Resources

Figure 9



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Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

Sensitivity Zones

- High
- Moderate
- Low

0 0.5 1 Miles

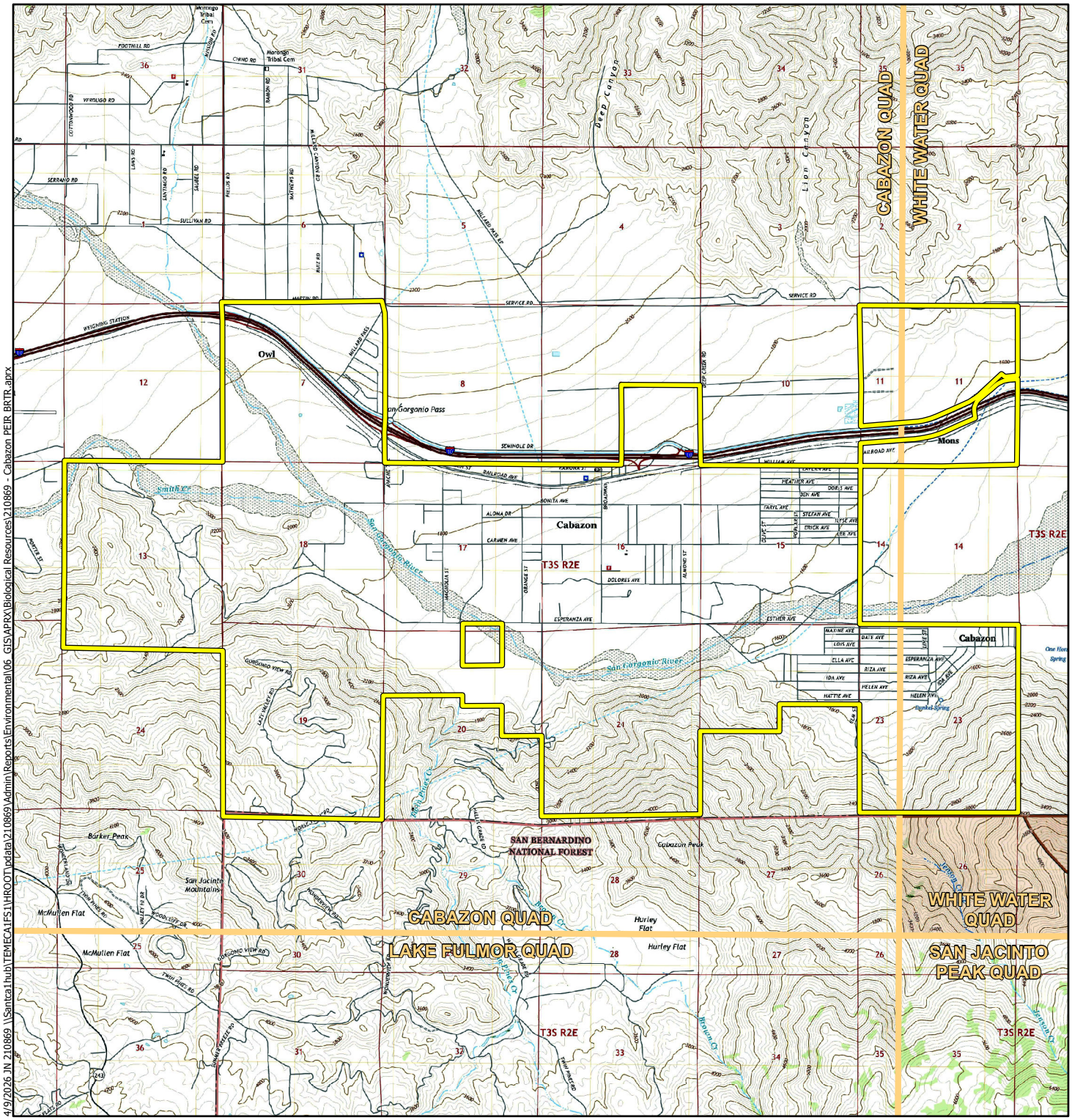
Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVAG 2026, CALFIRE-FRAP, CVMSHCP, WRCRCA, USGS, USFWS, Riverside County

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Biological Resources Sensitivity Zones

Figure 10



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Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

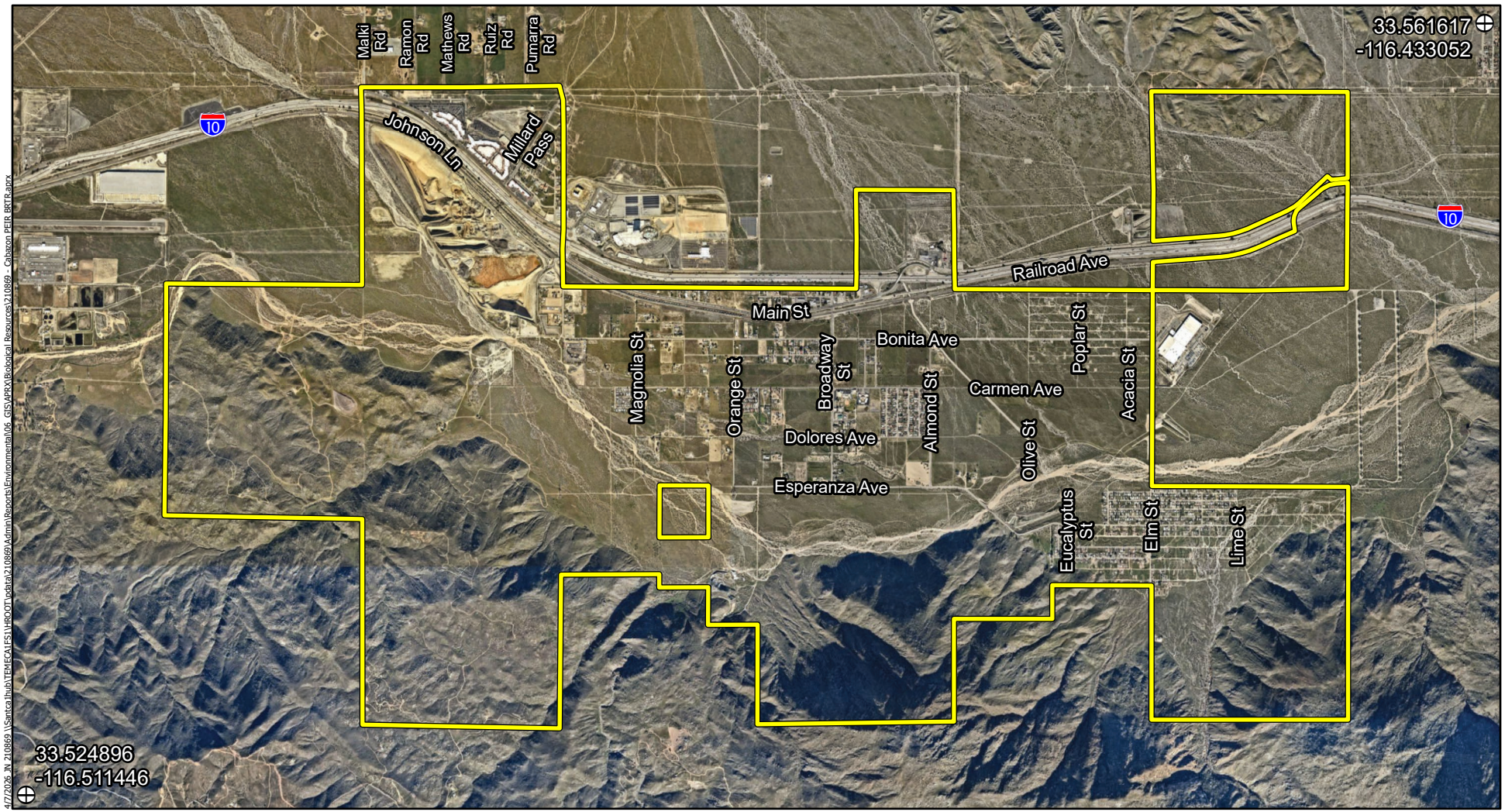
Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Program Vicinity

Source: USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: *Cabazon (2021), White Water (2023), Lake Fulmor (2021), San Jacinto Peak (2021), California*

Figure 2



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

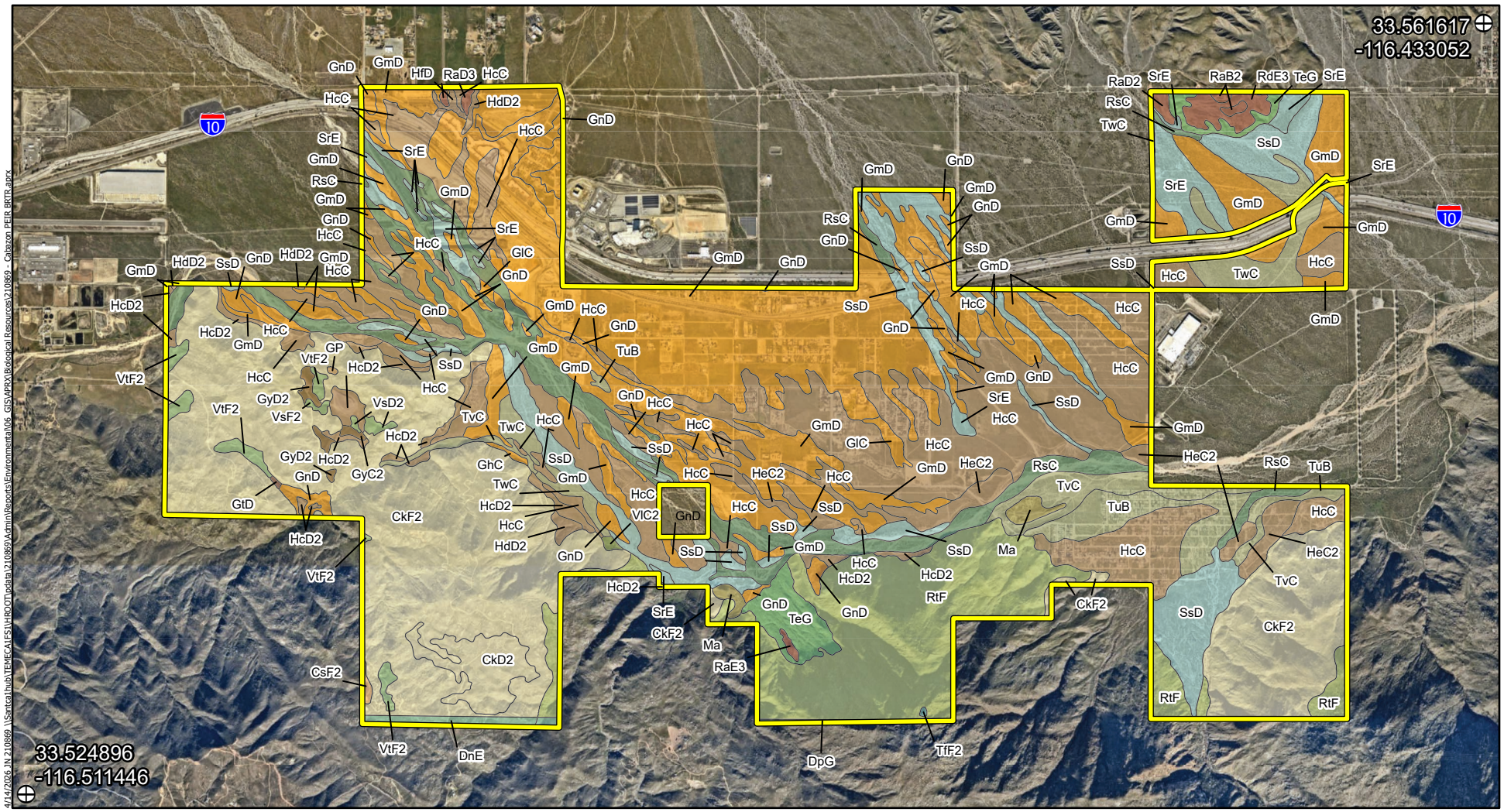
Program Location

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, Riverside County, 2026 Nearmap Imagery

Figure 3



Legend

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Component Name

- Cieneba
- Crafton
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- Grangeville
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- Greenfield
- Hanford
- Made Land
- Ramona
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- Rockland
- Soboba
- Terrace Escarpments
- Tollhouse
- Trigo
- Tujunga
- Visalia
- Vista

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

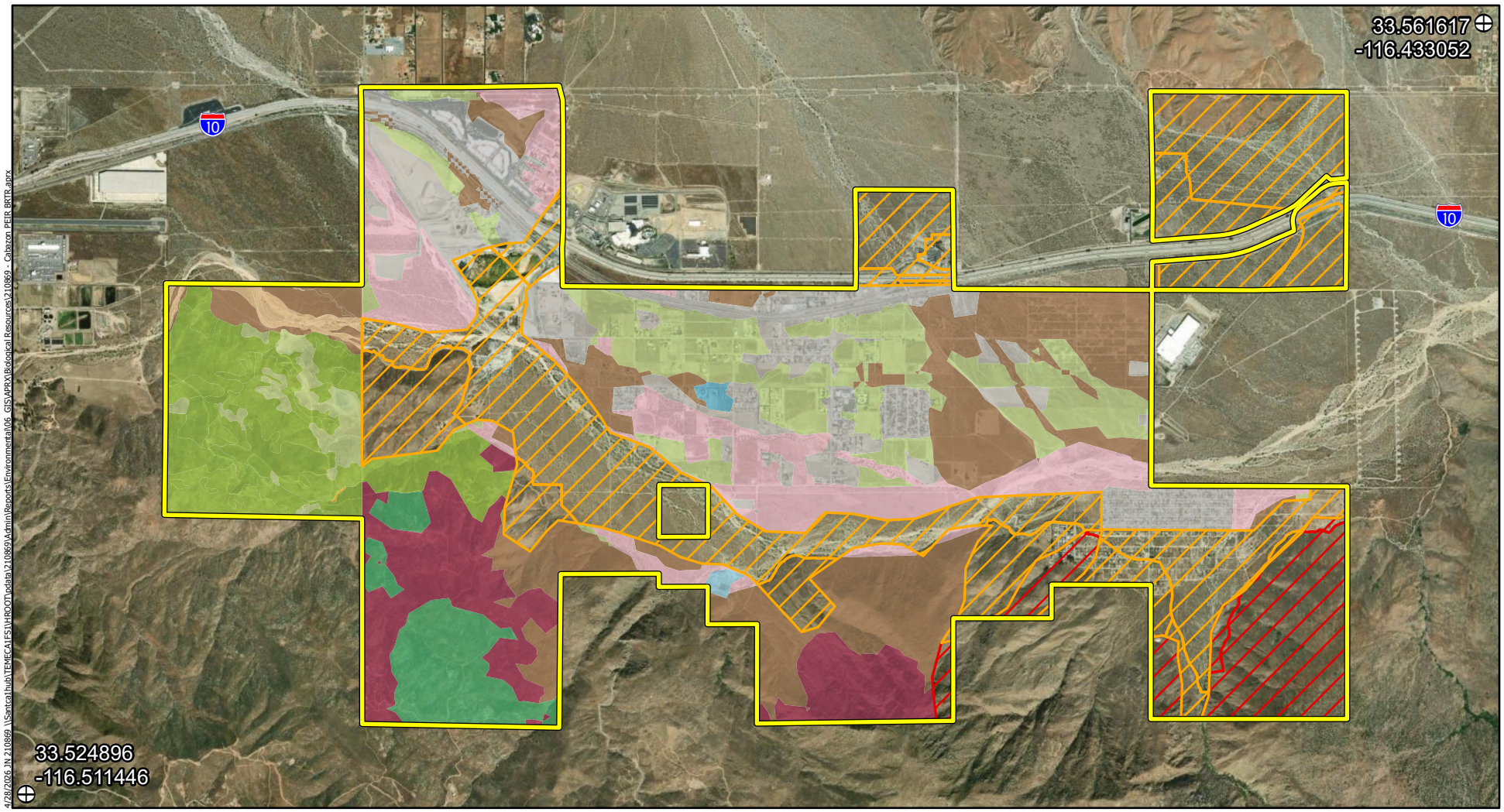
USDA Soils

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, USDA, Riverside County, 2026 Nearmap Imagery

Figure 4



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Legend

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- Desert Wash
- Mixed Chaparral
- Urban

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

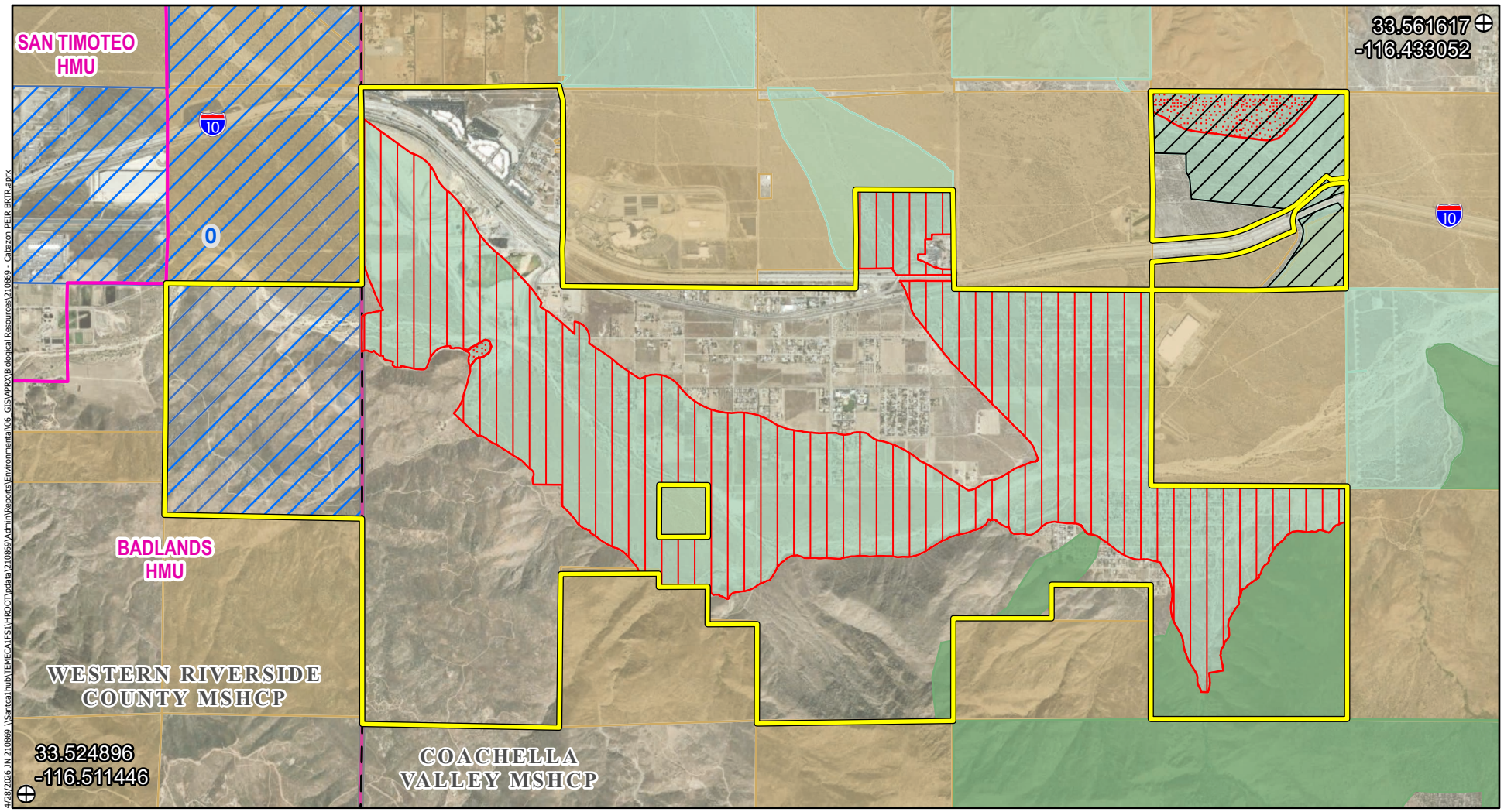
Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CALFIRE-FRAP, CVMSHCP, WRCRCA, Riverside County

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Figure 5



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- Sand Transport

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- Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area

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- WRMSHCP Special Linkage Area

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

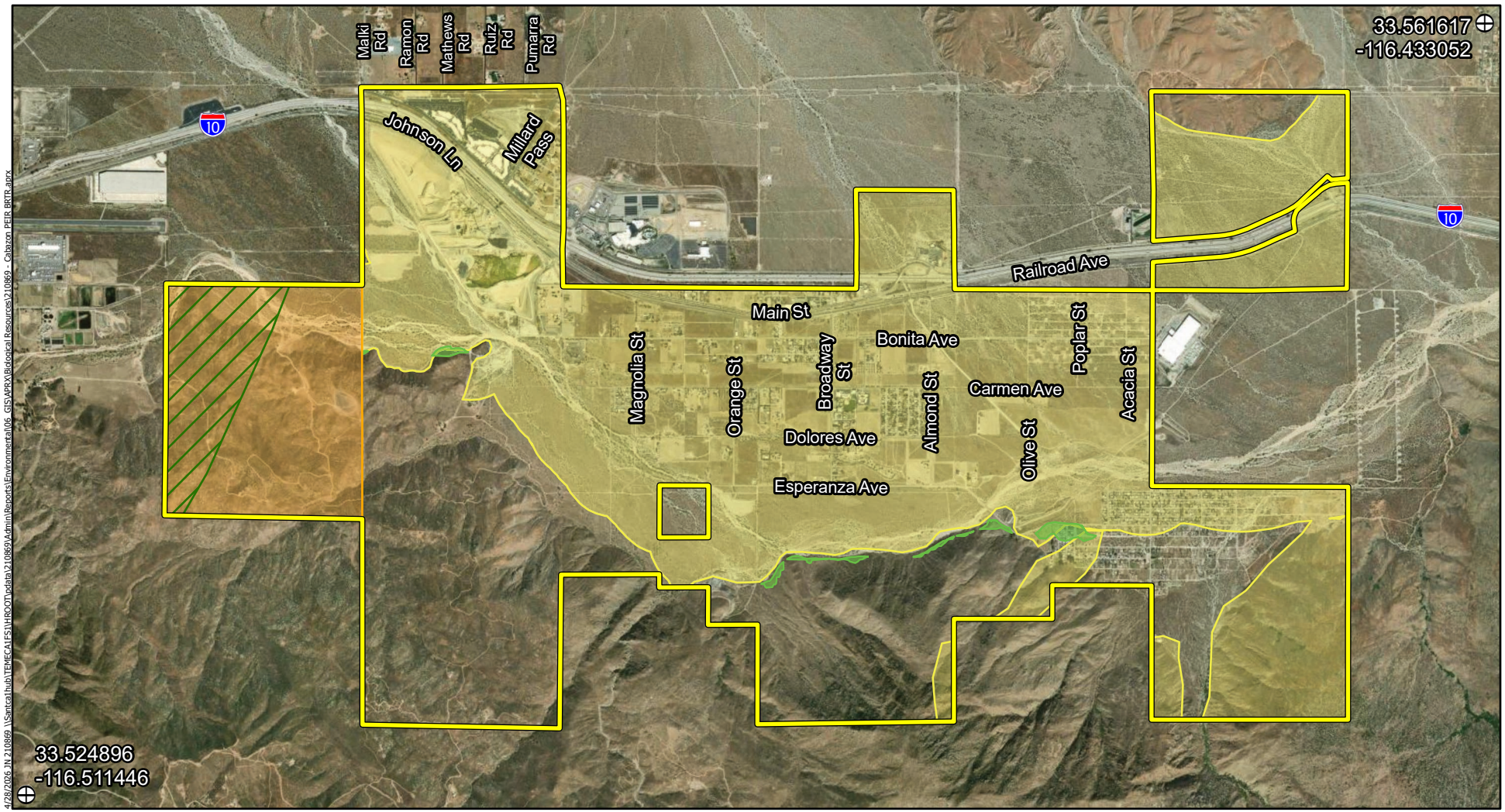
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVMSHCP, WRCRCA, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

MSHCP Conservation Areas and Resources

Figure 6



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CVMSHCP Habitat Models

Birds
- LeConte's thrasher & Gray vireo

Plants
- Coachella Valley milkvetch

WRMSHCP Survey Areas
- Narrow Endemic Plants
- Burrowing Owls

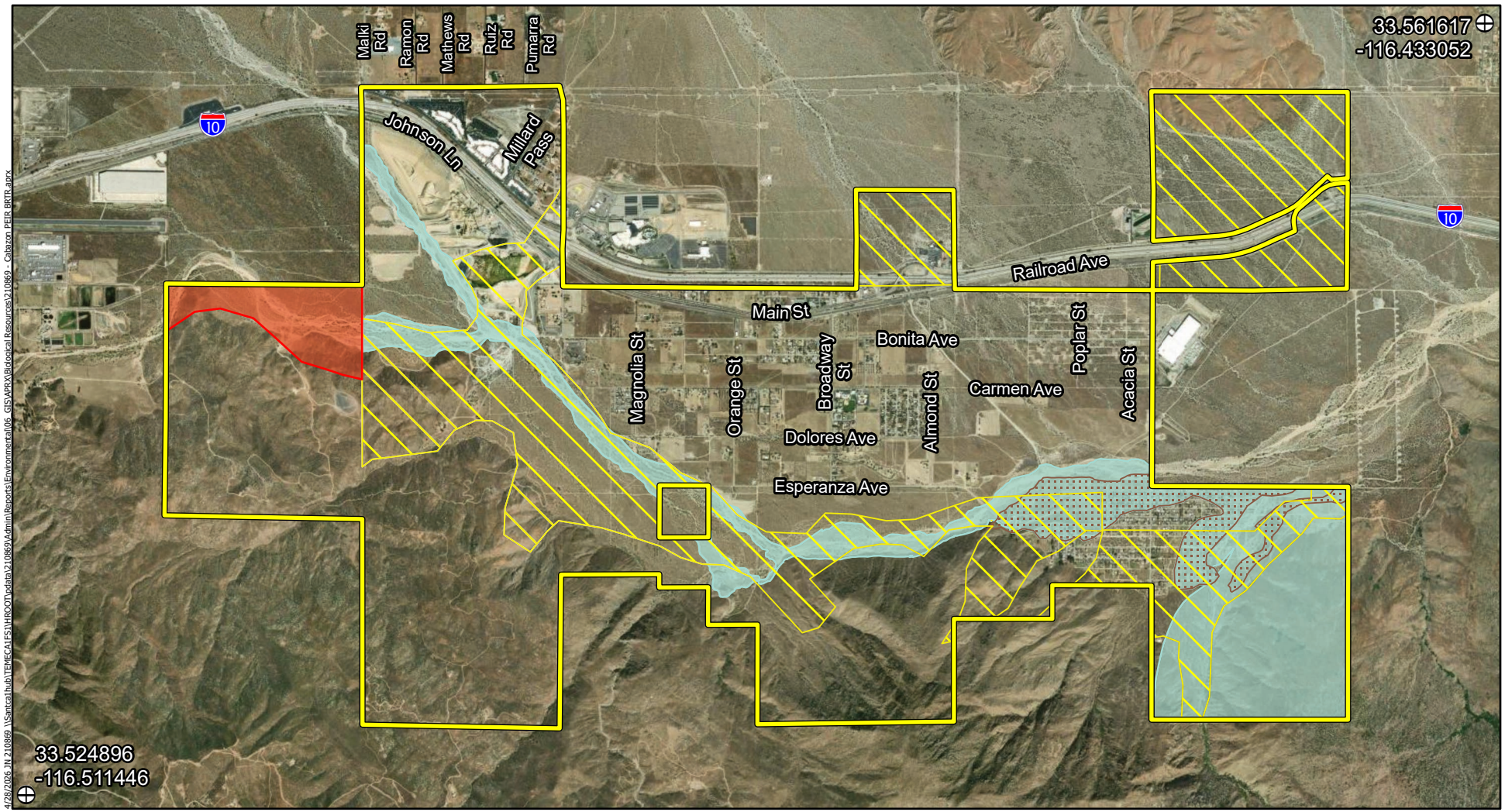
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVAG 2026, WRCRCA, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Species Habitat Models and Survey Areas

Figure 7a



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Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

CVMSHCP Habitat Models

Mammals

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Invertebrates

- Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket

Reptiles

- Desert tortoise

WRMSHCP Survey Areas

- Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

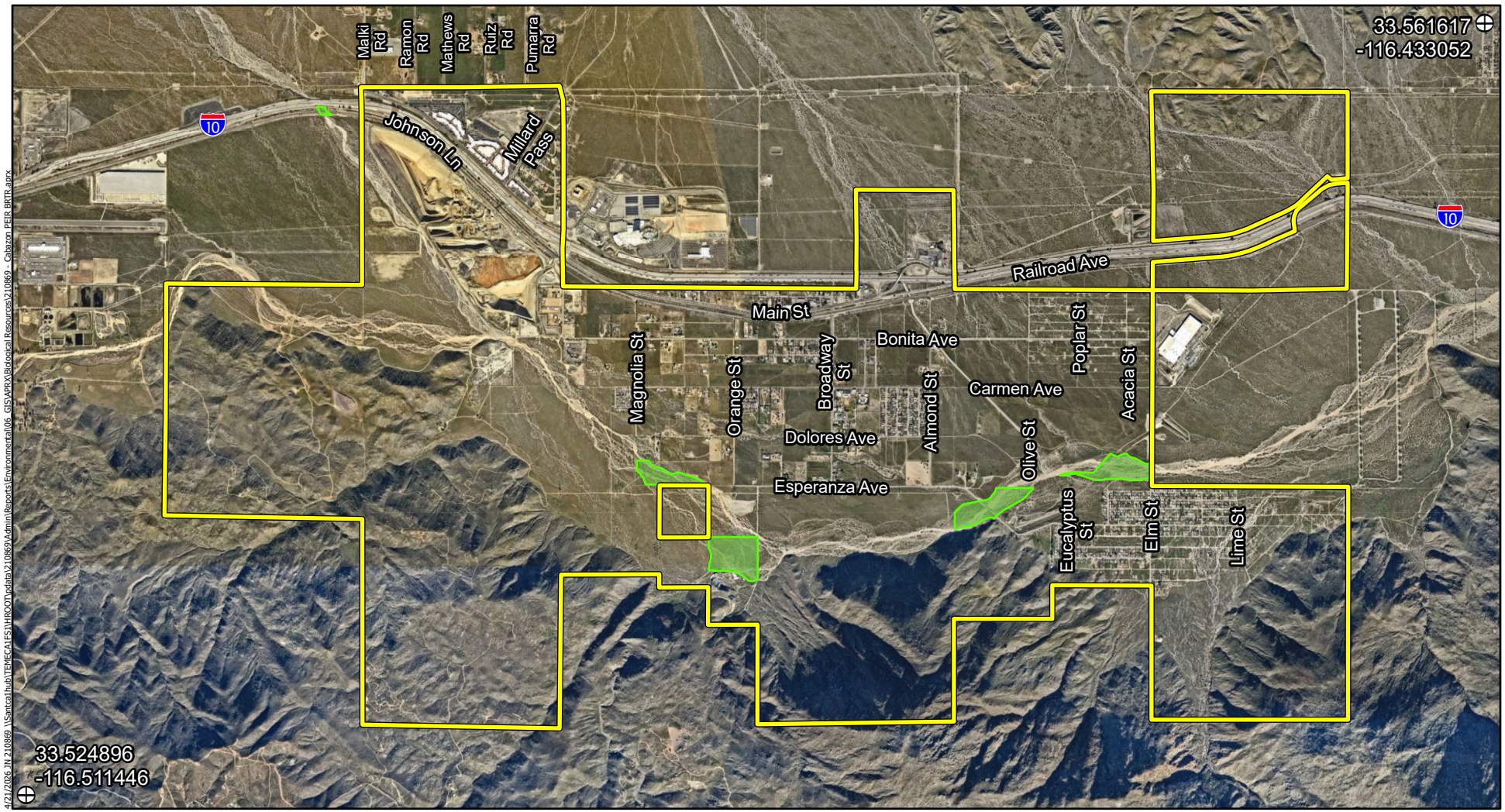
0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVAG 2026, WRCRCA, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Species Habitat Models and Survey Areas

Figure 7b



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary
- Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae*)

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

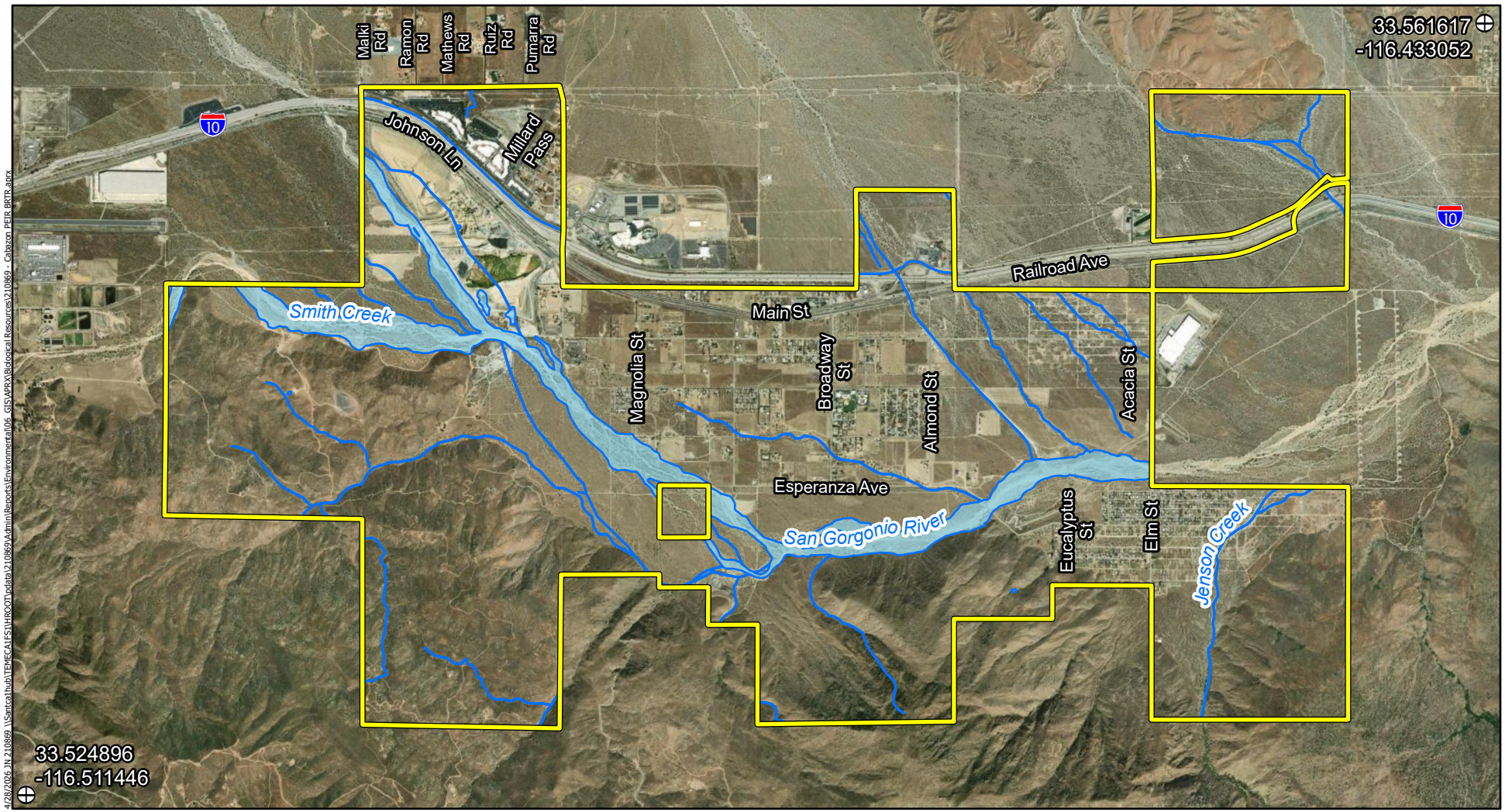
USFWS Critical Habitat

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, USFWS, Riverside County, 2026 Nearmap Imagery

Figure 8



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary
- Aquatic Resources

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, USFWS, USGS, Riverside County

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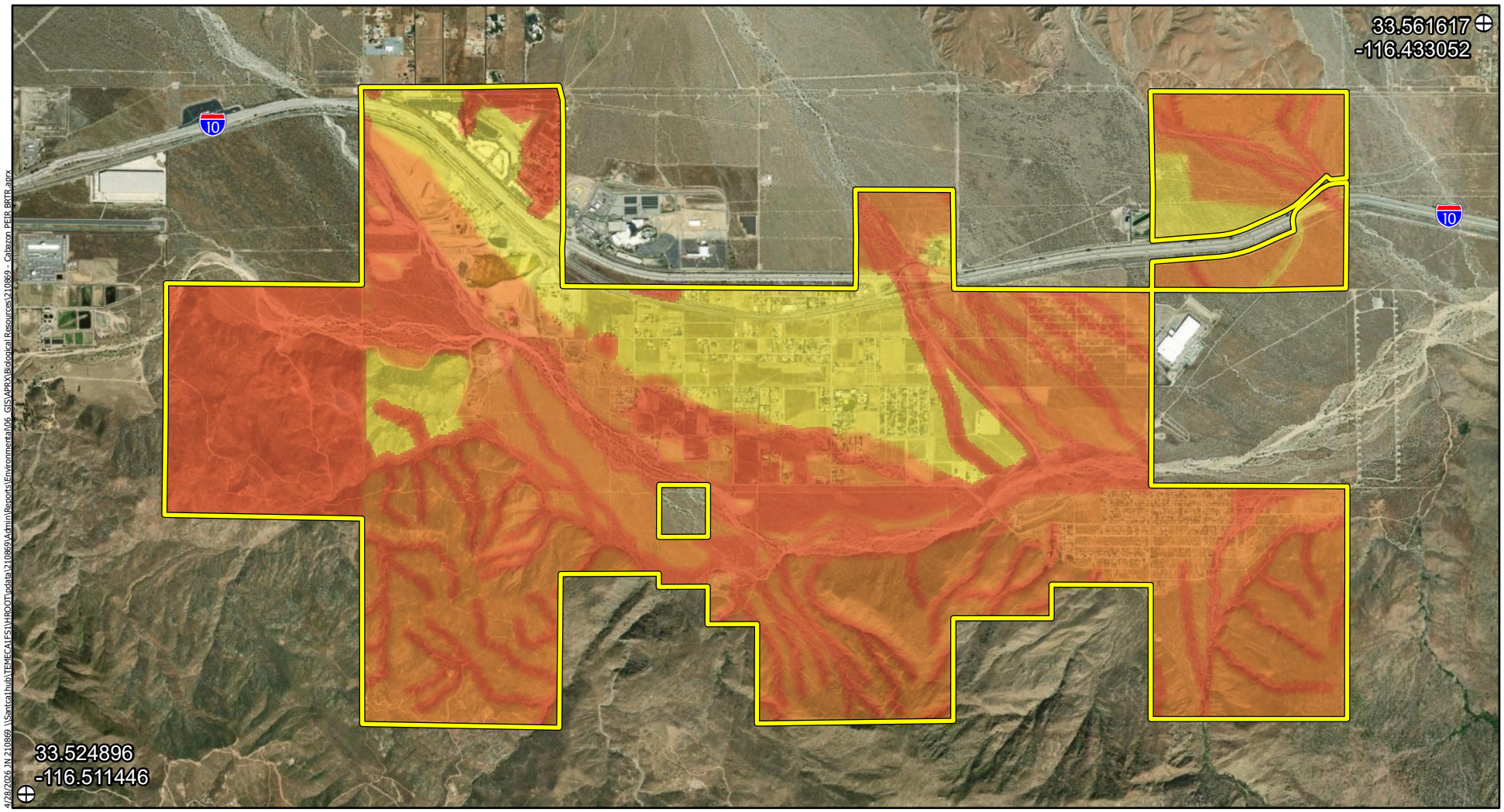
CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Aquatic Resources

Figure 9



Legend

- Reference Point
- Cabazon Community Plan Boundary

Sensitivity Zones

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, CVAG 2026, CALFIRE-FRAP, CVMSHCP, WRCRCA, USGS, USFWS, Riverside County

CABAZON INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND CABAZON COMMUNITY PLAN PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Biological Resources Sensitivity Zones

Figure 10

ATTACHMENT B

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR TABLES

TABLE B-1. SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Abronia villosa var. *aurita*	chaparral sand-verbena	None / None / 1B.1 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Desert dunes; Sandy/annual herb/(Jan)Mar–Sep/245–5250	Moderate. Suitable habitat may be present in the BSA, although no observations have been recorded within a 5-mile radius.
Allium marvinii	Yucaipa onion	None / None / 1B.2 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-NEPS	Chaparral (clay, openings)/perennial bulbiferous herb/Apr–May/2495–3495	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Allium munzii	Munz's onion	FE / ST / 1B.1 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-NEPS	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Valley and foothill grassland; Clay, Mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/Mar–May/975–3510	Moderate. Suitable habitat may be present in the BSA, although no observations have been recorded within a 5-mile radius.
Antennaria marginata	white-margined everlasting	None / None / 2B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest/perennial stoloniferous herb/May–Aug/6955–11000	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Aphyllon epigalium ssp. *notocalifornicum*	Southern California galium broomrape	None / None / 1B.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Riparian forest/annual/perennial herb (parasitic)/June(July)/3935–5035	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Arenaria lanuginosa var. *saxosa*	rock sandwort	None / None / 2B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Mesic, Sandy/perennial herb/July–Aug/4775–8530	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Astragalus hornii var. *hornii*	Horn's milk-vetch	None / None / 1B.1 / BLM-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Meadows and seeps, Playas; Alkaline, Lake Margins/annual herb/May–Oct/195–2790	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *borreganus*	Borrego milk-vetch	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Sandy/annual herb/Feb–May/100–2935	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *coachellae*	Coachella Valley milk-vetch	FE / None / 1B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-Covered; WRMSHCP-None	Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub (sandy)/annual/perennial herb/Feb–May/130–2150	Moderate. CVMSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. However, the species has not been documented within the area.
Astragalus pachypus var. *jaegeri*	Jaeger's milk-vetch	None / None / 1B.1 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland; Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/perennial shrub/Dec–June/1200–3200	Moderate. Suitable habitat is present in the BSA. One CNPS Inventory record is documented to the west of the BSA near Banning.
Astragalus tricarinatus	triple-ribbed milk-vetch	FE / None / 1B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-Covered; WRMSHCP-None	Joshua tree "woodland", Sonoran desert scrub; Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/perennial herb/Feb–May/1475–3905	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. Approximately one acre of CVMSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area (Agua Alta Canyon/Martinez Canyon). Species is endemic to northwestern Coachella Valley drainages, not the Cabazon area.
Boechera johnstonii	Johnston's rockcress	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-NEPS	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest; Clay/perennial herb/Feb–June/4430–7055	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Boechera parishii	Parish's rockcress	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Pebble (Pavement) plain, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest; Carbonate (sometimes), Rocky/perennial herb/Apr–May/5805–9810	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Boechera peirsonii	San Bernardino rockcress	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Subalpine coniferous forest (rocky)/perennial herb/Mar–Aug/8860–10500	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Botrychium crenulatum	scalloped moonwort	None / None / 2B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Bogs and fens, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps (freshwater), Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Sep/4160–10760	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Calochortus palmeri var. *munzii*	San Jacinto mariposa-lily	None / None / 1B.2 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-NEPS	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps/perennial bulbiferous herb/Apr–July/2805–7220	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Calochortus palmeri var. *palmeri*	Palmer's mariposa-lily	None / None / 1B.2 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps; Mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/Apr–July/2330–7840	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa-lily	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland; Granitic, Rocky/perennial bulbiferous herb/May–July/330–5580	Moderate. Three CNDDB occurrences to the west of the BSA and within a 5-mile radius are documented in 1989, 1998, and 2008.
Carex occidentalis	western sedge	None / None / 2B.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/5395–10285	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Castilleja lasiorhyncha	San Bernardino Mountains owl's-clover	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Meadows and seeps, Pebble (Pavement) plain, Riparian woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest; Mesic/annual herb (hemiparasitic)/May–Aug/4265–7840	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Castilleja montigena	Heckard's paintbrush	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest/perennial herb (hemiparasitic)/May–Aug/6400–9185	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Caulanthus simulans	Payson's jewelflower	None / None / 4.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Coastal scrub; Granitic, Sandy/annual herb/(Feb)Mar–May(June)/295–7220	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat (chaparral and coastal scrub) and sandy/granitic soils. A couple CNPS Inventory records from 2019 are documented to the west of the BSA.
Centromadia pungens ssp. *laevis*	smooth tarplant	None / None / 1B.1 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-CAPS	Chenopod scrub, Meadows and seeps, Playas, Riparian woodland, Valley and foothill grassland; Alkaline/annual herb/Apr–Sep/0–2100	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Chaenactis parishii	Parish's chaenactis	None / None / 1B.3 / BLM-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral (rocky)/perennial herb/May–July/4265–8205	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Chorizanthe leptotheca	Peninsular spineflower	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest; Granitic/annual herb/May–Aug/985–6235	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat (chaparral and coastal scrub) and sandy/rocky soils. CNDDB occurrences from the region in 2005 and 2015.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's spineflower	None / None / 1B.1 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland; Openings, Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/annual herb/Apr–June/900–4005	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (chaparral, woodland, and coastal scrub). CNDDB occurrences in 2005 and many in 2015.
Chorizanthe xanti var. *leucotheca*	white-bracted spineflower	None / None / 1B.2 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Coastal scrub (alluvial fans), Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/annual herb/Apr–June/985–3935	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (coastal scrub) and sandy/gravelly soils. CNDDB occurrences from 2003, 2009, 2010, 2017, and 2018.
Deinandra mohavensis	Mojave tarplant	None / SE / 1B.3 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Riparian scrub; Mesic/annual herb/(Jan–May) June–Oct/2100–5250	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat (chaparral and coastal scrub) and sandy/rocky soils. CNDDB occurrences from the region in 2003 and 2004.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Deinandra paniculata	paniculate tarplant	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools; Sandy (sometimes), Vernally Mesic (usually)/annual herb/(Mar)Apr–Nov/80–3085	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Delphinium parishii ssp. *subglobosum*	Colorado Desert larkspur	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran desert scrub/perennial herb/Mar–June/1970–5905	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Delphinium parryi ssp. *purpureum*	Mt. Pinos larkspur	None / None / 4.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland/perennial herb/May–June/3280–8530	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Diplacus johnstonii	Johnston's monkeyflower	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest (disturbed areas, gravelly, roadsides, rocky, scree)/annual herb/May–Aug/3200–9580	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Dodecahema leptoceras	slender-horned spineflower	FE / SE / 1B.1 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-NEPS	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub (alluvial fans); Sandy/annual herb/Apr–June/655–2495	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Draba saxosa	Southern California rock draba	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Rocky/perennial herb/June–Sep/8005–11810	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Dudleya multicaulis	many-stemmed dudleya	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-NEPS	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland; Clay (often)/perennial herb/Apr–July/50–2590	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Eriastrum densifolium ssp. *sanctorum*	Santa Ana River woollystar	FE / SE / 1B.1 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Coastal scrub (alluvial fans); Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/perennial herb/Apr–Sep/300–2000	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Erigeron breweri var. *jacinteus*	San Jacinto Mountains daisy	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Rocky/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Sep/8860–9515	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Eriogonum kennedyi var. *alpigenum*	southern alpine buckwheat	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest; Granitic, Gravelly/perennial herb/July–Sep/8530–11485	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Eriogonum umbellatum var. *minus*	alpine sulfur-flowered buckwheat	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Gravelly/perennial herb/June–Sep/5905–10065	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Eriophyllum lanatum var. *obovatum*	southern Sierra woolly sunflower	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Loam, Sandy/perennial herb/June–July/3655–8205	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Erythranthe diffusa	Palomar monkeyflower	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest; Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/annual herb/Apr–June/4005–6005	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Eschscholzia androuxii	Joshua Tree poppy	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub; Flats, Gravelly, Rocky, Sandy, Slopes, Washes/annual herb/Feb–May(June)/1920–5530	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Euphorbia misera	cliff spurge	None / None / 2B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Coastal bluff scrub, Coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub; Rocky/perennial shrub/(Oct)Dec–Aug/35–1640	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Galium angustifolium ssp. *gabrielense*	San Antonio Canyon bedstraw	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/perennial herb/Apr–Aug/3935–8695	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Galium angustifolium ssp. *gracillimum*	slender bedstraw	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Joshua tree "woodland", Sonoran desert scrub; Granitic, Rocky/perennial herb/Apr–June(July)/425–5085	Moderate. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. One CNPS Inventory record from 2019 is documented to the east of the BSA near the Whitewater River.
Galium angustifolium ssp. *jacinticum*	San Jacinto Mountains bedstraw	None / None / 1B.3 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-NEPS	Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/June–Aug/4430–6890	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Galium californicum ssp. *primum*	Alvin Meadow bedstraw	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Sandy/perennial herb/May–July/4430–5580	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Galium jepsonii	Jepson's bedstraw	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Gravelly (sometimes), Rocky (sometimes)/perennial rhizomatous herb/July–Aug/5055–8205	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Galium johnstonii	Johnston's bedstraw	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Riparian woodland/perennial herb/June–July/4005–7545	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Gilia leptantha ssp. *leptantha*	San Bernardino gilia	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest (gravelly, sandy)/annual herb/June–Aug/4920–8400	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Heuchera hirsutissima	shaggy-haired alumroot	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Rocky/perennial rhizomatous herb/(May)June–July/4985–11485	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Heuchera parishii	Parish's alumroot	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Lower montane coniferous forest, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Carbonate (sometimes), Rocky/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/4920–12470	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula*	mesa horkelia	None / None / 1B.1 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral (maritime), Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub; Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/perennial herb/Feb–July(Sep)/230–2660	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Hulsea vestita ssp. *callicarpha*	beautiful hulsea	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Gravelly (sometimes), Rocky (sometimes)/perennial herb/May–Oct/3000–10005	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Hulsea vestita ssp. *parryi*	Parry's sunflower	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest; Carbonate (sometimes), Granitic (sometimes), Openings, Rocky/perennial herb/Apr–Aug/4495–9500	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Hulsea vestita ssp. *pygmaea*	pygmy hulsea	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest; Granitic, Gravelly/perennial herb/June–Oct/9300–12795	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Imperata brevifolia	California satintail	None / None / 2B.1 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Meadows and seeps (often alkali), Mojavean desert scrub, Riparian scrub; Mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/Sep–May/0–3985	Moderate. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. One CNPS Inventory record from 1949 is documented to the east of the BSA along I-10.
Ivesia argyrocoma var. *argyrocoma*	silver-haired ivesia	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Meadows and seeps (alkaline), Pebble (Pavement) plain, Upper montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/June–Aug/4800–9710	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Ivesia callida	Tahquitz ivesia	None / SR / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Upper montane coniferous forest (granitic, rocky)/perennial herb/July–Sep/7905–8040	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Juglans californica	Southern California black walnut	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Riparian woodland/perennial deciduous tree/Mar–Aug/165–2955	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (chaparral, woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian). Two CNPS Inventory records of this species occur in the southern portion of the BSA from 2003 and 2012.
Juncus duranii	Duran's rush	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest; Mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/July–Aug/5800–9200	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Keckiella rothrockii var. *jacintensis*	San Jacinto Mountains keckiella	None / None / 1B.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Upper montane coniferous forest; Granitic/perennial shrub/(June)July–Aug(Sep)/7300–9825	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Lilium humboldtii ssp. *ocellatum*	ocellated Humboldt lily	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Riparian woodland; Openings/perennial bulbiferous herb/Mar–July(Aug)/100–5905	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Lilium parryi	lemon lily	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Riparian forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/July–Aug/4005–9005	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Linanthus jaegeri	San Jacinto linanthus	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Rocky/perennial herb/July–Sep/7200–10005	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Linanthus maculatus ssp. *maculatus*	Little San Bernardino Mtns. linanthus	None / None / 1B.2 / BLM-S	CVMSHCP-Covered; WRMSHCP-None	Desert dunes, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Sandy/annual herb/Mar–May/460–4005	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. This species is restricted to the northwestern portion the CVMSHCP Plan Area (Desert Hot Springs to Mission Creek area).
Lycium torreyi	Torrey's box-thorn	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Rocky, Sandy, Streambanks, Washes/perennial shrub/(Jan–Feb)Mar–June(Sep–Nov)/-165–4005	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Malaxis monophyllos var. *brachypoda*	white bog adder's-mouth	None / None / 2B.1 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest; Mesic/perennial bulbiferous herb/June–Aug/7220–9000	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Meesia triquetra	three-ranked hump moss	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest (mesic)/moss/July/4265–9690	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Meesia uliginosa	broad-nerved hump moss	None / None / 2B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest/moss/July–Oct/3970–9200	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Mentzelia tricuspis	spiny-hair blazing star	None / None / 2B.1 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Mojavean desert scrub; Gravelly, Sandy, Slopes, Washes/annual herb/Mar–May/490–4200	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Monardella macrantha ssp. *hallii*	Hall's monardella	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Oct/2395–7200	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Monardella nana ssp. *leptosiphon*	San Felipe monardella	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–July/3935–6085	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Muhlenbergia californica	California muhly	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps; Mesic, Seeps, Streambanks/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Sep/330–6560	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis*	slender cottonheads	None / None / 2B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Coastal dunes, Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub/annual herb/(Mar)Apr–May/-165–1310	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Oreonana vestita	woolly mountain-parsley	None / None / 1B.3 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Gravelly (sometimes), Talus (sometimes)/perennial herb/Mar–Sep/5300–11485	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Oxytropis oreophila var. *oreophila*	rock-loving oxytrope	None / None / 2B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest; Gravelly (sometimes), Rocky (sometimes)/perennial herb/June–Sep/11155–12470	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Packera ionophylla	Tehachapi ragwort	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Rocky/perennial herb/June–July/4920–8860	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Parnassia cirrata var. *cirrata*	San Bernardino grass-of-Parnassus	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest; Mesic, Streambanks/perennial herb/Aug–Sep/4100–8005	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Penstemon pseudospectabilis ssp. *pseudospectabilis*	desert beardtongue	None / None / 2B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (often), Washes (often)/perennial herb/Jan–May/260–6350	Moderate. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. One CNPS Inventory record from 2019 is documented to the east of the BSA near the Whitewater River.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Petalonyx linearis	narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	None / None / 2B.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/perennial shrub/(Jan–Feb)Mar–May(June–Dec)/-80–3660	Moderate. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. One CNPS Inventory record is documented within the BSA.
Potentilla rimicola	cliff cinquefoil	None / None / 2B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Rocky/perennial herb/July–Sep/7875–9185	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum	white rabbit-tobacco	None / None / 2B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Riparian woodland; Gravelly, Sandy/perennial herb/(July)Aug–Nov(Dec)/0–6890	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Quercus engelmannii	Engelmann oak	None / None / 4.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Riparian woodland, Valley and foothill grassland/perennial deciduous tree/Mar–June/165–4265	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Saltugilia latimeri	Latimer's woodland-gilia	None / None / 1B.2 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; Granitic (often), Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes), Washes (sometimes)/annual herb/Mar–June/1310–6235	Moderate. One CNPS Inventory record of this species is documented within the San Gorgonio River wash near the southeastern portion of the BSA from 2015.
Salvia greatae	Orocopia sage	None / None / 1B.3 / BLM-S	CVMSHCP-Covered; WRMSHCP-None	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub/perennial evergreen shrub/Mar–Apr/-130–2705	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Sedum niveum	Davidson's stonecrop	None / None / 4.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Rocky/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/6810–9845	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Selaginella asprella	bluish spike-moss	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; Granitic, Rocky/perennial rhizomatous herb/July/5250–8860	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Selaginella eremophila	desert spike-moss	None / None / 2B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub (gravelly, rocky)/perennial rhizomatous herb/(May)June(July)/655–4250	Moderate. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. One CNPS Inventory record from 2019 is documented to the east of the BSA near the Whitewater River.
Senecio astephanus	San Gabriel ragwort	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub; Rocky, Slopes/perennial herb/May–July/1310–4920	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Sidalcea hickmanii ssp. *parishii*	Parish's checkerbloom	None / SR / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/(May)June–Aug/3280–8200	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Sidalcea malviflora ssp. *dolosa*	Bear Valley checkerbloom	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest (meadows, seeps), Meadows and seeps, Riparian woodland, Upper montane coniferous forest (meadows, seeps)/perennial herb/May–Aug/4905–8810	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range.
Sidalcea neomexicana	salt spring checkerbloom	None / None / 2B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, Playas; Alkaline, Mesic/perennial herb/Mar–June/50–5020	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Sidotheca caryophylloides	chickweed oxytheca	None / None / 4.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-Covered	Lower montane coniferous forest (sandy)/annual herb/July–Sep(Oct)/3655–8530	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Sidotheca emarginata	white-margined oxytheca	None / None / 1B.3 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland/annual herb/(Feb)Apr–July(Aug)/3935–8205	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Silene krantzii	Krantz's catchfly	None / None / 1B.2 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Alpine dwarf scrub; Gravelly (usually), Rocky (sometimes), Sandy (usually)/perennial herb/Apr–Sep/10615–11515	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Streptanthus bernardinus	Laguna Mountains jewelflower	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest/perennial herb/May–Aug/2200–8205	Moderate. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. One CNDDB record is documented to the north of the BSA.
Streptanthus campestris	southern jewelflower	None / None / 1B.3 / BLM-S, USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland; Rocky/perennial herb/(Apr)May–July/2955–7545	Not Expected. Limited suitable habitat is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum	San Bernardino aster	None / None / 1B.2 / USFS-S	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps, Meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic); Streambanks/perennial rhizomatous herb/July–Nov/5–6695	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. One CNPS Inventory record occurs in the BSA near Ruiz Road.
Syntrichopappus lemmonii	Lemmon's syntrichopappus	None / None / 4.3 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Chaparral, Joshua tree "woodland", Pinyon and juniper woodland; Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)/annual herb/Apr–May(June)/1640–6005	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat. There are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Taraxacum californicum	California dandelion	FE / None / 1B.1 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Meadows and seeps (mesic)/perennial herb/May–Aug/5315–9185	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.
Trichostema austromontanum ssp. *compactum*	Hidden Lake bluecurls	FD / None / 1B.1 / None	CVMSHCP-None; WRMSHCP-None	Upper montane coniferous forest (seasonally submerged lake margins)/annual herb/July–Sep/7875–8795	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and there is no suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal / State / CRPR / Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in BSA
Xylorhiza cognata	Mecca-aster	None / None / 1B.2 / BLM-S	CVMSHCP-Covered; WRMSHCP-None	Sonoran desert scrub/perennial herb/Jan–June/65–1310	Not Expected. There is no suitable habitat present and there are no CNDDB or CNPS Inventory records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Status Legend:

Federal

FC: Federal candidate species (former Category 1 candidates)
FD: Delisted
FE: Federally listed as endangered
FT: Federally listed as threatened
FPE: Federally proposed for listing as endangered
FPT: Federally proposed for listing as threatened
None: No federal listing

State

SE: State listed as endangered
ST: State listed as threatened
SR: State rare
SCE: State candidate for listing as endangered
SCT: State candidate for listing as threatened
None: No state listing
SDL: State delisting

Other

BLM-S: Bureau of Land Management Sensitive
USFS-S: US Forest Service Sensitive

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

CBR: Considered but rejected
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 common elsewhere
CRPR 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
CRPR 3: Review List: Plants about which more information is needed
CRPR 4: Watch List: Plants of limited distribution
.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 Moderately threatened in California (20–80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
.3 Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

MSHCP Protections:

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP)

CVMSHCP-Covered: Species afforded incidental take coverage under CVMSHCP
CVMSHCP-None: Species not afforded incidental take coverage under CVMSHCP

Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP)

WRMSHCP-CAPS: Criteria Area Plant Species afforded incidental take coverage under WRMSHCP
WRMSHCP-NEPS: Narrow Endemic Plant Species afforded incidental take coverage under WRMSHCP
WRMSHCP-Covered: Species afforded incidental take coverage under WRMSHCP
WRMSHCP-None: Species not afforded incidental take coverage under WRMSHCP

TABLE B-2. SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Amphibians					
Ensatina eschscholtzii klauberi	large-blotched salamander	None / None / USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Moist and shaded evergreen and deciduous woodlands; Found in conifer and woodland associations.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat (evergreen and deciduous woodland) and there are no CNDDB records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Aquatic | Artificial flowing waters | Artificial standing waters | Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Riparian forest | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland | Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters | Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters | South coast flow; Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Rana muscosa	southern mountain yellow-legged frog	FE / SE / USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Aquatic; Disjunct populations known from southern Sierras (northern DPS) and San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mtns (southern DPS). Found at 1,000 to 12,000 ft in lakes and creeks that stem from springs and snowmelt. May overwinter under frozen lakes.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB record for this species from 2003 occurs southeast of the BSA.
Spea hammondii	western spadefoot	FPT / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Cismontane woodland | Coastal scrub | Valley & foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland; Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Birds					
Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	None / ST / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Swamp | Wetland; Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat (freshwater marsh) and there are no CNDDB records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Chaparral | Coastal scrub; Resident in Southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat (chaparral and coastal scrub). There are several CNDDB records of this species to the west of the BSA in the northern portion of Banning from 2017.
Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-FP	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Broadleaved upland forest | Cismontane woodland | Coastal prairie | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Lower montane coniferous forest | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Upper montane coniferous forest | Valley & foothill grassland; Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable nesting habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	None / SCE / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Mojavean desert scrub | Sonoran desert scrub | Valley & foothill grassland; Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation.	Expected. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) within the Cabazon Conservation Area. One CNDDB record of an Individual is documented from 2015 approximately 0.4 miles northeast of Elm St at Carmen Ave & 1.7 miles SE of I-10 at Main St in Cabazon, San Gorgonio Pass.
Buteo regalis	ferruginous hawk	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Valley & foothill grassland; Open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and fringes of pinyon and juniper habitats.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB record of an individual is documented from 2016 immediately to the west of the BSA on the Morongo Reservation.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT / SE / BLM-S, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Riparian forest; Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat and there are no CDNNDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Cypseloides niger	black swift	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Nests in moist crevices, caves, and cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls in deep canyons; forages over a wide range of habitats; Coastal belt of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties; central and southern Sierra Nevada; San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat and there are no CDNNDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Empidonax traillii extimus	southwestern willow flycatcher	FE / SE / None	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Riparian woodlands in Southern California.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat and there are no CDNNDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Falco mexicanus	prairie falcon	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Mojavean desert scrub | Sonoran desert scrub | Valley & foothill grassland; Inhabits dry, open terrain, either level or hilly.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. Several CNDDB occurrences for this species are documented east of the BSA between 1977 and 1983.
Icteria virens	yellow-breasted chat	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Riparian forest | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland; Summer resident; inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat and there are no CDNNDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Lanius ludovicianus	loggerhead shrike	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Broadleaved upland forest | Desert wash | Joshua tree woodland | Mojavean desert scrub | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Riparian woodland | Sonoran desert scrub; Broken woodlands, savannah, pinyon-juniper, Joshua tree, and riparian woodlands, desert oases, scrub and washes.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat (upland forest, desert wash, riparian). One CNDDB record for this species is documented approximately 5 miles southeast of the BSA from 2010.
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California black rail	None / ST / BLM-S, CDFW-FP	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Brackish marsh | Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Salt marsh | Wetland; Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Piranga rubra	summer tanager	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Riparian forest; Summer resident of desert riparian along lower Colorado River, and locally elsewhere in California deserts.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Polioptila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal scrub; Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft in Southern California.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (coastal scrub). Three CNDDB occurrences of this species are documented in the southern portion of the BSA from 2012 (near San Gorgonio River (wash).
Progne subis	purple martin	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Broadleaved upland forest | Lower montane coniferous forest; Inhabits woodlands, low elevation coniferous forest of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and Monterey pine.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Psiloscops flammeolus	flammulated owl	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Lower montane coniferous forest | Subalpine coniferous forest; Need montane forests with some understory brush for breeding.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Rallus obsoletus yumanensis	Yuma Ridgway's rail	FE / ST / CDFW-FP	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Freshwater marsh | Marsh & swamp | Wetland; Nests in freshwater marshes along the Colorado River and along the south and east ends of the Salton Sea.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Setophaga petechia	yellow warbler	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Riparian forest | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland; Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. Two CNDDB records of this species are documented in the northern portion of Banning (2016) and the Whitewater River near Cecil Dr (1987).
Toxostoma crissale	Crissal thrasher	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Riparian woodland; Resident of southeastern deserts in desert riparian and desert wash habitats.	Not Expected. The BSA is outside of this species range and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Toxostoma lecontei	Le Conte's thrasher	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert wash | Mojavean desert scrub | Sonoran desert scrub; Desert resident; primarily of open desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and desert succulent scrub habitats.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. However, there are no CNDDB records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	FE / SE / None	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Riparian forest | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland; Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Breeding Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. There are nine CNDDB records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA from 1908 through 2016.
Vireo vicinior	gray vireo	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Chaparral; Dry chaparral; west of desert, in chamise-dominated habitat; mountains of Mojave Desert, associated with juniper and Artemisia.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Invertebrates					
Bombus caliginosus	obscure bumble bee	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Coastal areas from Santa Barbara County north to Washington state.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species.
Bombus crotchii	Crotch's bumble bee	None / SCE / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Open grassland and scrub communities supporting suitable floral resources. ; Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (grassland and scrub) for this species. There are seven CNDDB records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA from 1952 through 2020.
Bombus pensylvanicus	American bumble bee	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Coastal prairie | Great Basin grassland | Valley & foothill grassland	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Dinacoma caseyi	Casey's June beetle	FE / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert wash | Mojavean desert scrub; Found only in two populations in a small area of southern Palm Springs.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA. This species distribution is limited to a small area of southern Palm Springs.
Halictus harmonius	haromonius halictid bee	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Known only from the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, possibly also the San Jacinto Mountains; Known only from the foothills of the San Bernardino Mts., possibly also the San Jacinto Mts.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Macrobaenetes valgum	Coachella giant sand treader cricket	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert dunes; Known from the sand dune ridges in the vicinity of Coachella Valley.	Moderate. The BSA supports limited suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area. One CNDDB record of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA near the Highway 111 and Tipton Road intersection is documented from 1952.
Palaeoxenus dohrni	Dohrn's elegant eucnemid beetle	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Endemic to southern California; inhabits remote mountainous forests supporting incense cedar, ponderosa pine, and sugar pine.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis	Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert dunes; Inhabits a small segment of the sand and dune areas of the Coachella Valley, in the vicinity of Palm Springs.	Moderate. The BSA supports limited suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. One CNDDB record of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA near the San Gorgonio river wash, on the southwest side of Cabazon between Westward Ave and Orange St from 2009. Also documented approximately 0.75 mile northwest of Elm Street at Bonita Ave, south of I-10 in Cabazon.
Texella deserticola	Whitewater Canyon harvestman	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Chaparral; Known only from the type locality, Whitewater Canyon, Riverside County.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB record of this species is near the Whitewater River at the terminus of Cecil Drive (1979).
Mammals					
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Chaparral | Coastal scrub | Desert wash | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Mojavean desert scrub | Riparian woodland | Sonoran desert scrub | Upper montane coniferous forest | Valley & foothill grassland; Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB record of this species is near the I-10 (1964).
Callospermophilus lateralis bernardinus	San Bernardino golden-mantled ground squirrel	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Open forests with a mix of trees, brush, and open ground.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Chaetodipus fallax fallax	flannelmouth sucker	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Chaparral | Coastal scrub; Coastal scrub, chaparral, grasslands, sagebrush, etc. in western San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles Counties, inclusive of Orange County.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Chaetodipus fallax pallidus	pallid San Diego pocket mouse	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert wash | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Sonoran desert scrub; Desert border areas of San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties in desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, pinyon-juniper, etc.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (desert wash) for this species. There are seven CNDDB records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA from 1938 through 2020.
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Broadleaved upland forest | Chaparral | Chenopod scrub | Great Basin grassland | Great Basin scrub | Joshua tree woodland | Lower montane coniferous forest | Meadow & seep | Mojavean desert scrub | Riparian forest | Riparian woodland | Sonoran desert scrub; Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat (chaparral, scrub, and grassland) for this species. There are two CNDDB records of this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA from 1915.
Dipodomys merriami parvus	San Bernardino kangaroo rat	FE / SE / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Coastal scrub; Alluvial scrub vegetation on sandy loam substrates characteristic of alluvial fans and flood plains.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Dipodomys stephensi	Stephens' kangaroo rat	FT / ST / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Coastal scrub | Valley & foothill grassland; Primarily annual and perennial grasslands, but also occurs in coastal scrub and sagebrush with sparse canopy cover.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Glaucomys oregonensis californicus	San Bernardino flying squirrel	None / None / CDFW-SSC, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Broadleaved upland forest | Lower montane coniferous forest; Known from black oak or white fir dominated woodlands between 5200 - 8500 ft in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto ranges. May be extirpated from San Jacinto range.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Lasiurus xanthinus	western yellow bat	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert wash; Found in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats.	Not Expected. There is limited suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Neotamias speciosus speciosus	lodgepole chipmunk	None / None / None	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Chaparral | Upper montane coniferous forest; Summits of isolated Piute, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto mountains. Usually found in open-canopy forests.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Coastal scrub; Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (coastal scrub) for this species. CNDDB records document multiple trapped & released during surveys in 2012 and 2017 in Banning, west of Cabazon and within the CCP.
Onychomys torridus ramona	southern grasshopper mouse	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Chenopod scrub; Desert areas, especially scrub habitats with friable soils for digging. Prefers low to moderate shrub cover.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat for this species and there are no CNDDB records within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2	Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	FE / ST / CDFW-FP	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Alpine | Alpine dwarf scrub | Chaparral | Chenopod scrub | Great Basin scrub | Mojavean desert scrub | Montane dwarf scrub | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Riparian woodland | Sonoran desert scrub; Eastern slopes of the Peninsular Ranges below 4,600 ft elevation. This DPS of the subspecies inhabits the Peninsular Ranges in southern California from the San Jacinto Mountains south to the US-Mexico International Border.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Essential Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. One CNDDB record of this species is documented in the mountains between Windy Point and the City of Palm Springs from 1986.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Perognathus longimembris bangsi	Palm Springs pocket mouse	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert wash | Sonoran desert scrub; Desert riparian, desert scrub, desert wash and sagebrush habitats. Most common in creosote-dominated desert scrub.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. Five CNDDB records of this species are documented within a 5-mile buffer to the east of the BSA (2017).
Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Coastal scrub; Lower elevation grasslands and coastal sage communities in and around the Los Angeles Basin.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat (coastal scrub) for this species. A total of 21 CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius of the BSA from 1908 through 2017.
Taxidea taxus	American badger	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Alkali marsh | Alkali playa | Alpine | Alpine dwarf scrub | Bog & fen | Brackish marsh | Broadleaved upland forest | Chaparral | Chenopod scrub | Cismontane woodland | Closed-cone coniferous forest | Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal dunes | Coastal prairie; Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.	Not Expected. There is limited suitable habitat for this species. The only CNDDB record is located approximately 4 miles to the west of the BSA in Banning from 1908.
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus	Palm Springs (Coachella Valley) round-tailed ground squirrel	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Chenopod scrub | Sonoran desert scrub; Restricted to the Coachella Valley. Prefers desert succulent scrub, desert wash, desert scrub, alkali scrub, and levees.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon Conservation Area. One CNDDB record of this species are documented within a 5-mile buffer of the BSA (1938).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Reptiles					
Anniella stebbinsi	Southern California legless lizard	None / None / CDFW-SSC, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Broadleaved upland forest | Chaparral | Coastal dunes | Coastal scrub; Generally south of the Transverse Range, extending to northwestern Baja California. Occurs in sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Disjunct populations in the Tehachapi and Piute Mountains in Kern County.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. Eight CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius of the BSA. Found throughout project area. Individuals photographed in 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 & 2018.
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, chaparral, open areas with loose soil; Patchily distributed from the eastern portion of San Francisco Bay, southern San Joaquin Valley, and the Coast, Transverse, and Peninsular ranges, south to Baja California.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. Eight CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius of the BSA. Individuals found by road at night and photographed in 2009, 2014, and 2015 along Railroad Ave (Main St about 0.5 mile east of Cabazon P.O (Broadway). This species has been historically present along the main roadway in Cabazon.
Aspidoscelis hyperythra	orange-throated whiptail	None / None / USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Coastal scrub; Inhabits low-elevation coastal scrub, chaparral, and valley-foothill hardwood habitats.	Not Expected. Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat and no CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	coastal whiptail	None / None / CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Hot and dry areas with sparse foliage, including chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas.; Found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland and riparian areas.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. Two CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius of the BSA. Individuals located in next City over (Banning) in 2015 & 2016.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Charina umbratica	southern rubber boa	None / ST / USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Meadow & seep | Riparian forest | Riparian woodland | Upper montane coniferous forest | Wetland; Found in a variety of montane forest habitats. Previously considered morphologically intermediate, recent (2022) genomic analysis clarifies individuals from Mt Pinos, Tehachapi Mts, and southern Sierra Nevada are southern rubber boa.	Moderate. The BSA supports limited suitable habitat for this species. Several CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius to the north and south of the BSA.
Crotalus ruber	red-diamond rattlesnake	None / None / CDFW-SSC, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Chaparral | Mojavean desert scrub | Sonoran desert scrub; Chaparral, woodland, grassland, and desert areas from coastal San Diego County to the eastern slopes of the mountains.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. Four CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius of the BSA from 1961 to 2015.
Gopherus agassizii	desert tortoise	FT / ST / None	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Joshua tree woodland | Mojavean desert scrub | Sonoran desert scrub; Most common in desert scrub, desert wash, and Joshua tree habitats; occurs in almost every desert habitat.	Expected. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. One CNDDB record of this species is recorded within a 5-mile radius to the east of the BSA (2003).
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-Covered	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal scrub | Desert wash | Pinon & juniper woodlands | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland | Valley & foothill grassland; Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	Moderate. The BSA supports suitable habitat for this species. Five CNDDB occurrences of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius of the BSA from 1908 to 2005.
Phrynosoma mcallii	flat-tailed horned lizard	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert dunes | Mojavean desert scrub | Sonoran desert scrub; Restricted to desert washes and desert flats in central Riverside, eastern San Diego, and Imperial counties.	Not expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat and there are no CNDDB records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State/Other)	MSHCP Protection	Habitats	Potential to Occur in BSA
Thamnophis hammondii	two-striped gartersnake	None / None / BLM-S, CDFW-SSC, USFS-S	CV-MSHCP-None; WR-MSHCP-None	Marsh & swamp | Riparian scrub | Riparian woodland | Wetland; Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation.	Not Expected. The BSA does not support suitable habitat and there are no CNDDB records for this species within a 5-mile radius of the BSA.
Uma inornata	Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	FT / SE / None	CV-MSHCP-Covered; WR-MSHCP-None	Desert dunes | Desert wash; Limited to sandy areas in the Coachella Valley, Riverside County.	Moderate. The BSA supports limited suitable habitat for this species. CV-MSHCP modeled habitat (designated as Other Conserved Habitat) occurs within the Cabazon and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas. Five CNDDB records of this species are recorded within a 5-mile radius to the east of the BSA (1968 to 2004).

Status Legend:

Federal

FC: Federal candidate species (former Category 1 candidates)
FD: Delisted
FE: Federally listed as endangered
FT: Federally listed as threatened
FPE: Federally proposed for listing as endangered
FPT: Federally proposed for listing as threatened
None: No federal listing

State

SE: State listed as endangered
ST: State listed as threatened
SR: State rare
SCE: State candidate for listing as endangered
SCT: State candidate for listing as threatened
None: No state listing
SDL: State delisting

Other

BLM-S: Bureau of Land Management Sensitive
CDFW-FP: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully Protected
CDFW-SSC: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern
USFS-S: US Forest Service Sensitive

MSHCP Protections:

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CV-MSHCP)

CV-MSHCP-Covered: Species afforded incidental take coverage under CV-MSHCP
CV-MSHCP-None: Species not afforded incidental take coverage under CV-MSHCP

Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WR-MSHCP)

WR-MSHCP-Covered: Species afforded incidental take coverage under WR-MSHCP
WR-MSHCP-None: Species not afforded incidental take coverage under WR-MSHCP