APPENDIX B

Biological Resources Technical Report

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Biological Resources Technical Report

Granada Trunk Line Replacement Project

Los Angeles, California

September 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) proposes to replace the existing Granada Trunk Line (GTL), which is a potable water trunk line located in the Porter Ranch and Granada Hills neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles (City). The Granada Trunk Line Replacement Project (proposed project) would include the replacement of approximately 26,411 feet of the GTL primarily within Rinaldi Street in two sections, or units. Unit 1 would consist of an approximately 13,228-foot portion of the GTL extending from Balboa Boulevard to Yolanda Avenue. Unit 2 would consist of an approximately 13,183 foot portion of the GTL extending from Yolanda Avenue to LADWP's De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station. The entirety of the trunk line would be replaced with 48-inch-diameter piping. The proposed project will take place entirely within the City.

This report contains the findings of Michael Baker International's biological resources assessment for the proposed project. A Michael Baker biologist conducted a field survey along the alignment on August 26, 2025. The field survey was conducted to characterize existing site conditions and assess the potential for special-status biological resources[1] to occur within the project site, defined as the area within which all project-related disturbances would occur that could pose a constraint to implementation of the proposed project. Special attention was given to assessing the suitability of the habitat within the project site and its potential to support special-status biological resources that were identified as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site during reviews of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2025a), the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (Rare Plant Inventory [RPI]) (CNPS 2025), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) environmental planning tool (USFWS 2025a).

The submittal of this report is intended to provide an evaluation of biological resources pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. In addition, LADWP is currently pursuing funding through the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) for the proposed project. Per requirements of the SRF Environmental Package application, a biological resources assessment prepared in support of the project is required. Therefore, this report has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and the requirements of the SRF application.

[1] As used in this report, "special-status" refers to species that are either federally/State-listed, proposed, or candidates; species that have been designated a California Rare Plant Rank by the California Native Plant Society; species designated as Fully Protected, Species of Special Concern, or Watch List by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; or State/locally rare vegetation communities.

1.2 Project Site Location

The proposed project alignment is located within the Granada Hills – Knollwood and Chatsworth – Porter Ranch community plan areas, specifically within the Granada Hills and Porter Ranch neighborhoods, within the City. The alignment stretches across the lower portion of the US Geological Survey's (USGS) *Oat Mountain, California* 7.5-minute quadrangle map, extending along Rinaldi Street, within the public right-of-way (ROW), from Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills to approximately 500 feet east of De Soto Avenue, at the De Soto Reservoir, in Porter Ranch. Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed project in a regional context and Figure 2 shows the proposed project alignment.

1.3 Project Description

1.3.1 Background

The existing GTL consists of approximately 30,000 feet of concrete, riveted-steel, and welded-steel pipe that is 48 inches in diameter. The existing GTL Unit 1B was installed in 1955, and Unit 2 was installed in 1957.[2]The existing GTL begins at the Van Norman Reservoir Complex and terminates at the De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station. The trunk line extends south from the Van Norman Reservoir Complex along Balboa Boulevard and extends westward to the Balboa Regulator Station at the intersection of Rinaldi Street and Balboa Boulevard. The primary function of the GTL is to transmit water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant at the Van Norman Reservoir Complex to the De Soto Reservoir to service the West Valley region of the City. The GTL also transmits water supplies purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to the West Valley service area.

The existing GTL is aging, lacks seismic resiliency, and has had historical leaks due to the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. Additionally, the existing GTL alignment is located within unpaved areas generally parallel to State Route 118 (SR 118), with some portions of the alignment traversing under the existing freeway ROW. The existing GTL alignment is difficult to access for maintenance and repair purposes. As such, the proposed replacement of the GTL would result in the abandonment of the existing trunk line in place and subsequent realignment of GTL to the ROW on Rinaldi Street. Realigning the GTL to Rinaldi Street would allow for greater operational flexibility to service the West Valley and allow for more efficient construction to reduce interruptions along the existing alignment.

1.3.2 Description of Proposed Project

LADWP proposes to replace Units 1 and 2 of the GTL to increase safety and reliability; to allow for greater operational flexibility for the West Valley area of the City and the De Soto Reservoir; and to convey future local water supplies while reducing dependence on imported water. The proposed project would include the replacement of an approximately 13,228-foot portion of the GTL within the Rinaldi Street ROW between Balboa Boulevard and Yolanda Avenue (Unit 1), and an approximately 13,183-foot portion of the

2 The existing unit numbering is different from the proposed nomenclature for the replacement.

GTL between Yolanda Avenue and the De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station (Unit 2), with a new 48-inch diameter Earthquake Resistant Ductile Iron Pipe. The replacement pipe would be installed within the Rinaldi Street ROW, generally parallel to the existing trunk line approximately 900 feet north of the existing alignment. At its eastern terminus, the GTL would tie into the existing GTL at Balboa Avenue and Rinaldi Street. At its western terminus, the proposed GTL replacement would tie into the existing De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station, located near the intersection of De Soto Avenue and Rinaldi.

Rinaldi Street has light to heavy traffic throughout the alignment, with two lanes of traffic in the eastern and western directions and turning and parking lanes. The majority of traffic on Rinaldi Street is located around the Porter Ranch Town Center commercial shopping area, located at SR 118. The trunk line would be installed using the pipe jacking method to cross major intersections, which involves installing the pipeline at greater depths from a launching pit to a receiving pit, thus avoiding surface disruption between the pits. In addition, appurtenant structures that would be required for pipeline operation and maintenance, including isolation valves, blow-off valves, combination air and vacuum valves, and manholes, would be installed along the proposed alignment.

Construction of the proposed project would occur along the existing public ROW of Rinaldi Street using the open-trench and pipe-jacking/tunneling methods. Open trenching would be utilized for pipeline installation along the majority of the alignment, approximately 23,811 linear feet. Pipe jacking/tunneling installation would be used at four major intersections along the alignment, including at Porter Ranch Drive, Corbin Avenue, Tampa Avenue, and Reseda Boulevard, comprising approximately 2,600 linear feet of pipe installation. Pipe jacking/tunneling would also be used to cross under SR 118. Both open trench pipe installations and pipe jacking installations would occur concurrently over approximately 120 months. The general process for both open-trench construction and pipe jacking/tunneling consists of utility clearance, site preparation, excavation, shoring, pipe installation, backfilling, and work site street restoration. Construction would require on-site and off-site staging areas for temporary storage of supplies, materials and equipment.

Construction of Unit 1 of the proposed project is anticipated to commence in July 2028 and conclude in July 2036. Construction of Unit 2 of the proposed project would be anticipated to commence in September 2030 and conclude in March 2038.

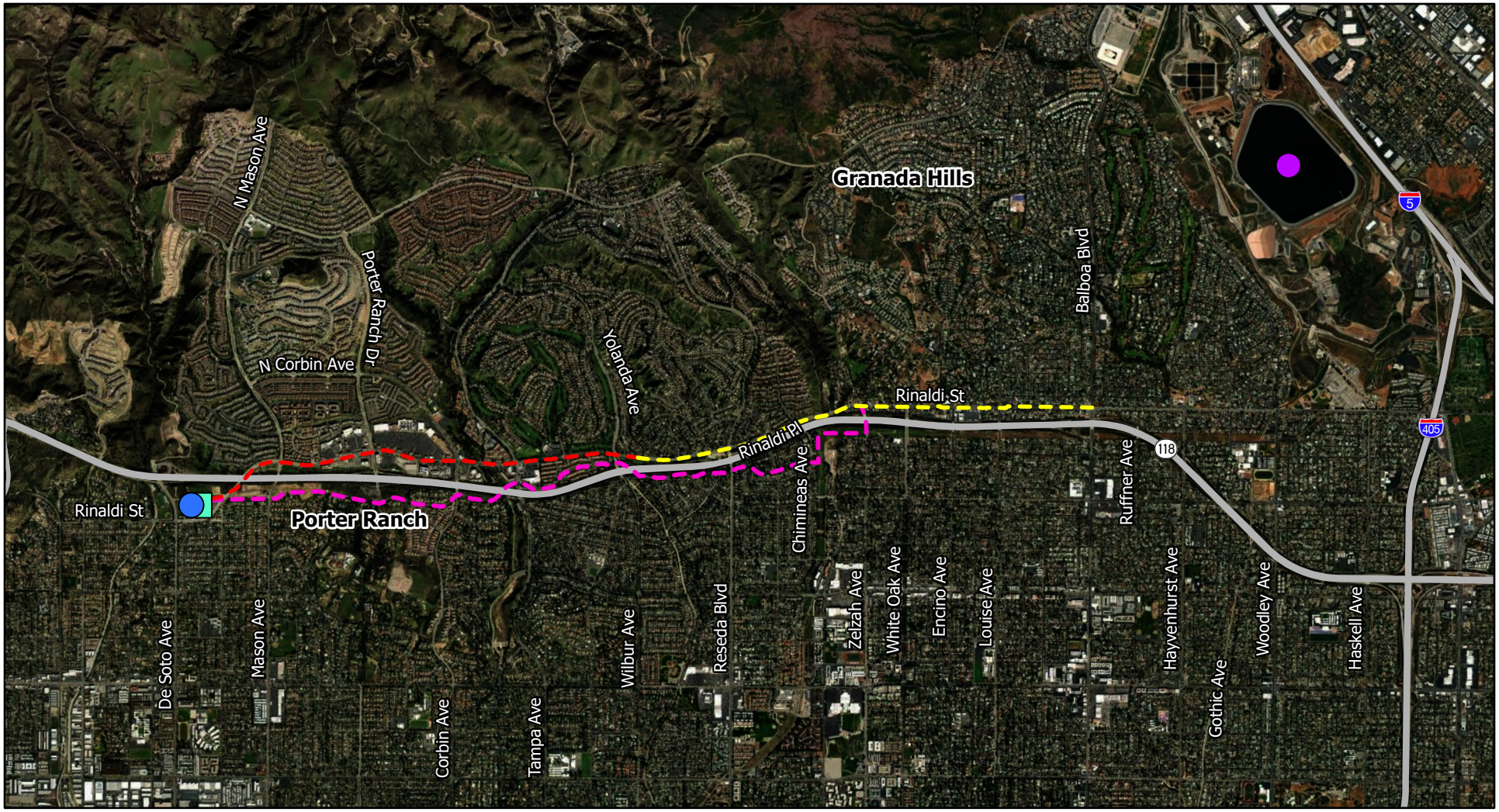


Source: ArcGIS Online, 2018

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Regional Vicinity Map

Figure 1



Legend

- Van Norman Reservoir (existing)
- De Soto Reservoir (existing)
- De Soto Pump Station (existing)
- Proposed Unit 1: 13,228 feet From Balboa Blvd. to Yolanda Ave. on Rinaldi St.
- Proposed Unit 2: 13,183 feet From Yolanda Ave. to De Soto Reservoir RS on Rinaldi St.
- Existing Granada Trunk Line - to be abandoned in place

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0 0.5 1 Miles

Source: Esri, ArcGIS Online, County of Los Angeles

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Project Location Map

Figure 2

2.0 REGULATORY SETTING

2.1 State and/or Federally Listed Plants or Wildlife

2.1.1 State of California Endangered Species Act

In addition to federal laws, the State of California has its own California Endangered Species Act (CESA), enforced by the CDFW. The CESA program maintains a separate listing of species beyond the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), although the provisions of each act are similar.

State-listed threatened and endangered species are protected under provisions of CESA. Activities that may result in "take" of individuals (defined in CESA as to "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") are regulated by the CDFW. Habitat degradation or modification is not included in the definition of "take" under CESA. Nonetheless, the CDFW has interpreted "take" to include the destruction of nesting, denning, or foraging habitat necessary to maintain a viable breeding population of protected species.

The State of California considers an endangered species as one whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy. A threatened species is considered as one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it is likely to become an endangered species in the near future in the absence of special protection or management. A rare species is one that is considered present in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. State threatened and endangered species are fully protected against take, as defined above.

The CDFW has also produced a species of special concern list to serve as a species watch list. Species on this list are either of limited distribution or their habitats have been reduced substantially, such that a threat to their populations may be imminent. Species of special concern may receive special attention during environmental review, but they do not have formal statutory protection.

2.1.2 California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513)

The CDFW administers the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC). There are particular sections of the CFGC that are applicable to natural resource management. For example, Section 3503 makes it unlawful to destroy any birds' nest or any birds' eggs that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Further, any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey), such as hawks, eagles, and owls, are protected under Section 3503.5, which makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy their nest or eggs. A consultation with the CDFW may be required prior to the removal of any bird of prey nest that may occur in the project site. Section 3511 lists fully protected bird species, where the CDFW is unable to authorize the issuance of permits or licenses to take these species. Pertinent species that are state fully protected include golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*). In addition,

Section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird as designated in the MBTA or any part of such migratory nongame bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the MBTA.

2.1.3 Native Plant Protection Act

Sections 1900–1913 of the CFGC were developed to preserve, protect, and enhance rare and endangered plants in the State of California. The act requires all state agencies to use their authority to carry out programs to conserve endangered and rare native plants. Provisions of the Native Plant Protection Act prohibit the taking of listed plants from the wild and require notification of the CDFW at least 10 days in advance of any change in land use which would adversely impact listed plants. This allows the CDFW to salvage listed plant species that would otherwise be destroyed.

2.1.4 Federal Endangered Species Act

As defined within the federal ESA of 1973, an endangered species is any animal or plant listed by regulation as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its geographical range. A threatened species is any animal or plant that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its geographical range. Without a special permit, federal law prohibits the "take" of any individuals or habitat of federally listed species. Under Section 9 of the ESA, take is defined as to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct." The term "harm" has been clarified to include "any act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife and emphasizes that such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation that significantly impairs essential behavioral patterns of fish or wildlife." ESA enforcement is administered by the USFWS.

Under the ESA definition, "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 as Critical Habitat if they contain one or more of the physical or biological features that are essential to that species' conservation and if the occupied areas are inadequate to ensure the species' recovery. If a project may result in take or adverse modification to a species' designated Critical Habitat and the project has a federal nexus, the project proponent may be required to provide suitable mitigation. Projects with a federal nexus may include projects that occur on federal lands, require federal permits [e.g., Clean Water Act 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.

Whenever federal agencies authorize, fund, or carry out actions that may adversely modify or destroy Critical Habitat, they must consult with the USFWS under Section 7 of the federal ESA. The designation of Critical Habitat does not affect private landowners, unless a project they are proposing uses federal funds, or requires federal authorization or permits (i.e., funding from the Federal Highway Administration or a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers [Corps]).

2.1.5 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Pursuant to the MBTA (16 U.S. Code 703) of 1918, as amended in 1972, federal law prohibits the taking of migratory birds or their nests or eggs (16 U.S. Code 703; 50 Code of Federal Regulations 10, 21). The statute states:

> "Unless and except as permitted by regulations made as hereinafter provided in this subchapter, it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill…any migratory bird, any part, nest, or egg of any such bird...included in the terms of the [Migratory Bird] conventions…"

The MBTA covers the taking of any nests or eggs of migratory birds, except as allowed by permit pursuant to 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21. Disturbances causing nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (i.e., killing or abandonment of eggs or young) may also be considered a "take." This regulation seeks to protect migratory birds and active nests.

In 1972, the MBTA was amended to include protection for migratory birds of prey (e.g., raptors). Six families of raptors occurring in North America were included in the amendment: Accipitridae (kites, hawks, and eagles); Cathartidae (New World vultures); Falconidae (falcons and caracaras); Pandionidae (ospreys); Strigidae (typical owls); and Tytonidae (barn owls). The provisions of the 1972 amendment to the MBTA protects all species and subspecies of the families listed above. The MBTA protects over 800 species including geese, ducks, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, and many relatively common species.

2.2 Jurisdictional Waters of the United States/State, Including Wetlands

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within inland lakes, streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The Corps regulates activities that result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. (WoUS), including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the state agencies, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) regulates discharges to waters of the State, including wetlands, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Section 13263 of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State; and, the CDFW regulates alterations to lakes, streambeds, and riparian habitats pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. of the CFGC.

2.3 California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA provides for the protection of the environment within the State of California by establishing state policy to prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures for projects. It applies to actions directly undertaken, financed, or permitted by state lead agencies. If a project is determined to be subject to CEQA, the lead agency will be required to conduct an initial study; if the initial study determines that the project may have significant impacts on the environment, the lead agency will subsequently be required to prepare an environmental impact report. A finding of non-significant effects will require either a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration instead of an environmental impact report.

Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines independently defines “endangered” species as those whose survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy, while “rare” species are defined as those who are in such low numbers that they could become endangered if their environment worsens.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 Regional Context

The project site is located in the northern portion of the urbanized San Fernando Valley. Its alignment along Rinaldi Street lies just north of and runs parallel to State Route 118. The Santa Susana Mountains lie approximately 2 miles north of the alignment. The topography of the alignment is generally flat with some gentle slopes. The alignment is at an elevation of approximately 1,120 feet above mean sea level (amsl) at the western terminus, at the De Soto Reservoir facility, rises to approximately 1,200 feet at the Porter Ranch Towne Center, and drops to approximately 1,050 feet at the eastern terminus (Rinaldi Street and Balboa Boulevard).

3.2 Soils

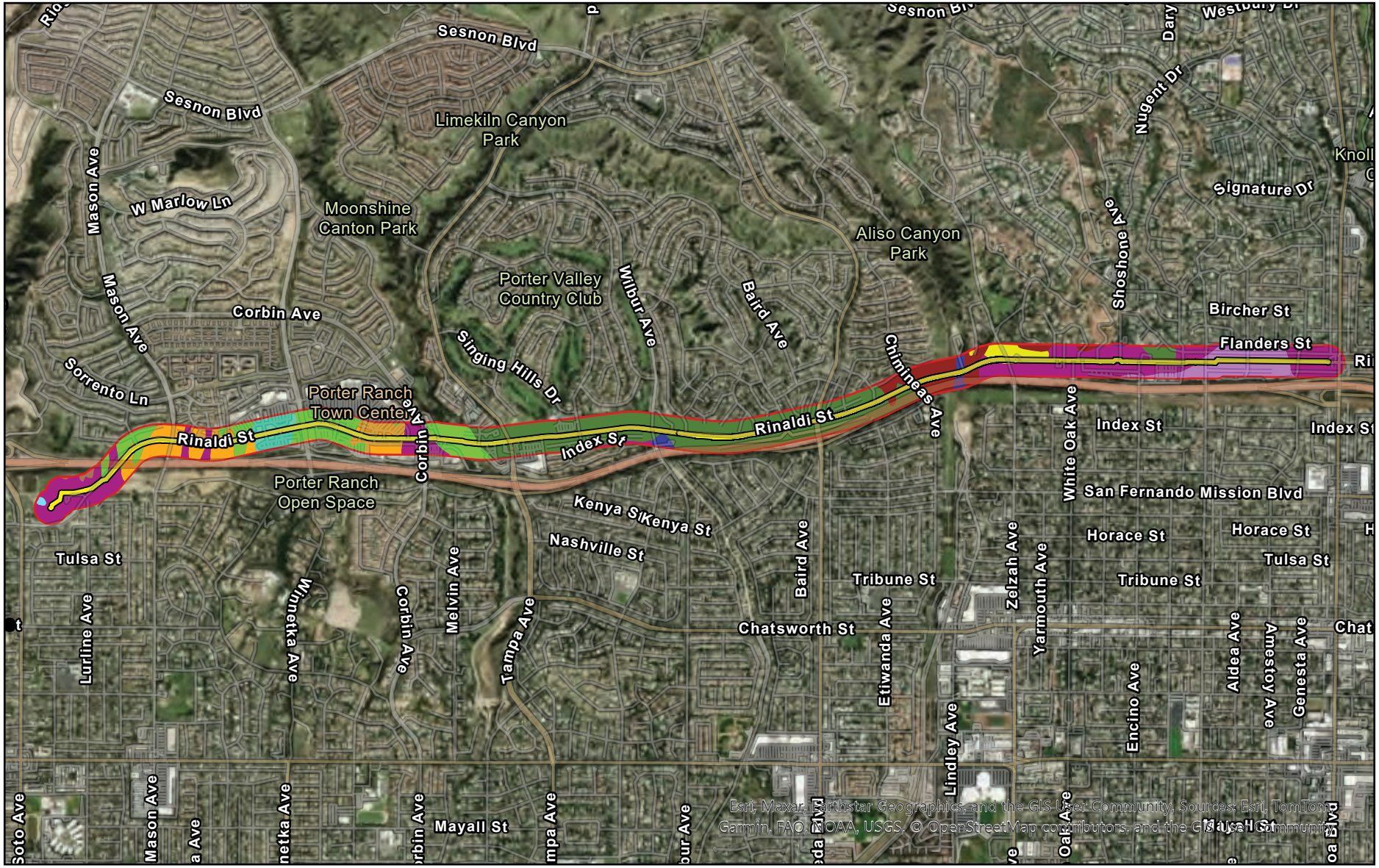
According to US Department of Agriculture [USDA] mapping (USDA 2025), the project is underlain by 10 soil map units. Most of the project site consists of Xerorthents-Urban land-Balcom complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes, and other Urban Land soil types. (refer to Figure 3: *USDA Soils*). Project activities will occur primarily within the pave of Rinaldi Street and coincide with subbase material and soil layers that were likely disturbed and compacted during construction of the roadway.

3.3 Land Uses

The alignment consists primarily of paved Rinaldi Street, with a short stretch of the alignment at the western terminus following an unpaved access road to the De Soto Reservoir facility. The surrounding land uses consist primarily of residential developments. Commercial development, centered at the Porter Ranch Town Center and at the intersection of major roadways along the alignment, children and adult educational facilities, and church facilities were also common. Two City parks, Limekiln Canyon Park and Aliso Canyon Park, occur as open space areas along the alignment and contain native vegetation. A golf course at the Porter Ranch Country Club along the alignment represent open space areas. The nearest undeveloped lands and occur approximately 2 miles to the north, in the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains. Site photographs are included in Appendix A.

3.4 Watersheds and Hydrology

The project is located in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed (HUC 18070105), approximately 5-6 miles north of the Los Angeles River. The project alignment falls within the Limekiln Canyon Wash (HUC 180701050203) and Aliso Canyon Wash (HUC 180701050204) subwatersheds. Both are conveyed in concrete box culverts under Rinaldi Street. Limekiln Canyon Wash is tributary to Aliso Canyon Wash, which drains further south into the Los Angeles River.



Legend

- Project Site
- 300-ft Survey Buffer
- Balcom silty clay loam, 9 to 15 percent slopes
- Balcom silty clay loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes, MLRA 20
- Balcom silty clay loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, MLRA 20
- Chualar-Urban lad complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Coejo-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, MLRA 19
- Conejo-Urban land complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Mocho-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- San Emigdio-Urban land complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Soper gravelly sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes
- Xerorthents-Urban land-Balcom complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes
- Water

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0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Source: Nearmap (09/2023)

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

USDA Soils

Figure 3

4.0 METHODS

Michael Baker conducted a thorough literature review and records search to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur on or within the general vicinity of the project site. Subsequently, a general field survey/habitat assessment was conducted to document existing conditions and determine the potential for special-status plant and wildlife species to occur within the project site. No focused surveys for special-status species were conducted.

4.1 Literature Review

Prior to conducting the field survey, literature reviews and records searches were conducted for special-status biological resources potentially occurring on or within the vicinity of the project site. Previous special-status plant and wildlife species occurrence records within the USGS *Oat Mountain, Val Verde, Newhall, Mint Canyon, Santa Susana, San Fernando, Calabasas,* and *Canoga Park, California* 7.5-minute quadrangle maps were determined through a query of the CNDDB (CDFW 2025a) and the RPI (CNPS 2025). Further, a formal species list from USFWS was requested and received via IPaC (USFWS 2025a). Current conservation status of species was verified through lists and resources provided by the CDFW, specifically the *Special Animals List* (CNDDB 2025b), *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CNDDB 2025d), *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List* (CNDDB 2025c), and *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California* (CNDDB 2025e). Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status and common biological resources.

On-site and adjoining soils were identified prior to conducting the field survey using the USDA's *Custom Soil Resource Report for Antelope Valley Area, California* (USDA 2024a). In addition, local geological conditions and historical aerial imagery (Google, Inc 2025) were reviewed to assess the ecological changes and disturbances that may have occurred within the project site. Aerial photography was reviewed prior to the field survey to locate potential natural corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area. The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the existing biological resources and evaluate the ability of the project site to support special-status biological resources. Additional occurrence records of those species that have been documented on or within the vicinity of the project site were derived from database queries including the Calflora database (Calflora 2025) and eBird (2025). Refer to Section 8 for a complete list of technical references that were reviewed by Michael Baker.

4.2 Field Investigations

Michael Baker biologist Arthur Popp conducted a field survey on August 26, 2025, to document the extent and conditions of the vegetation communities occurring within the boundaries of the project site.

Additionally, a 300-foot survey buffer around the alignment, combined, the Biological Study Area (BSA) was assessed for this report (see Figures 4.1 and 4.1 *Project Site and BSA Map*). A buffer was included in the analysis to capture potential indirect effects to biological resources from implementation of the project. Indirect effects could include elevated noise and dust levels, soil compaction, and increased human activity. Vegetation communities and land cover types preliminarily identified on aerial photographs during the literature review were verified in the field by driving and walking along the alignment. Dominant ornamental plants observed in the urban landscape and all wildlife species observed during the field survey were recorded.

In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, the overall condition of on-site vegetation, and the presence of potentially regulated jurisdictional features (e.g., streams, flood control channels) were noted. Table 1 summarizes the field survey.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF SURVEYS AND SURVEY CONDITIONS

Date	Survey Type	Surveyors	Survey Time (start-end)	Weather Conditions (start-end)
August 26, 2025	Habitat Assessment	Arthur Popp	0830–1300	76°F, 30% cc, 0-1 mph 85°F, 0% cc, 0-2 mph

Weather Conditions: Temperature (F - Fahrenheit), Skies (cc – cloud cover), Wind (mph – miles per hour)

4.2.1 Vegetation Community and Land Cover Mapping

A general absence of natural vegetation communities was identified during the literature review. As a result, any such habitats observed in the BSA during the field survey were mapped. Developed and disturbed land cover types dominate the BSA and were not specifically mapped. Native vegetation communities occurring within the project site were classified in accordance with vegetation descriptions provided in the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, and Evens 2009).

4.2.2 General Plant and Wildlife Inventory

Dominant plant species observed during the field survey were identified and recorded. Due to the large amount of ornamental plants occurring in urbanized landscapes of the BSA, a complete list of plant species observed was not generated. Wildlife species detected during the field survey by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other types of signs were recorded.

4.2.3 Special-Status/Regulated Resources

Special-status resources typically require a more in-depth analysis to determine whether a species has the potential to occur within the project site and/or BSA, and what any potential impacts to that species may

be. If a special-status species is determined to have a moderate potential to occur or is expected to occur, additional surveys and/or coordination with the appropriate resource agencies (CDFW, USFWS, etc.) may be required. This determination is done after surveying the BSA and identifying all biological resources, and using the literature review results to determine if a species has the potential to occur within the BSA based on the existing conditions and known occurrences of a species in the area.

4.2.4 Special-Status Plant Surveys

Special-status plant species surveys are typically done on project sites that have the potential to impact State and/or federal listed plant species, or species on the CNPS lists with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1A, 1B, 2B, 3, and 4 ranking. CRPR 1A consists of plant species that are presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere; CRPR 1B consists of plant that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; and CRPR 2 consists of plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere. Plants with a CRPR 3 rank require more information to determine their status, while plants with a CRPR 4 rank are determined to have a limited distribution. Based on the results of the literature review and the field survey and a review of specific habitat requirements, occurrence records, and known distributions of the special-status plant species identified in the literature review, Michael Baker determined that the BSA is not expected to support special-status plant species. In particular, the project footprint, which will coincide with paved and unpaved roadways, is not suitable for special-status plant species. No field surveys focused on the presence/absence of special-status plants was conducted, or is warranted.

4.2.5 Special-Status Wildlife Surveys

As with special-status plant species, some special-status wildlife species require focused surveys to determine if a species is present or absent from the project site. No special-status wildlife species were observed during the field survey. Based on the results of the literature review and the field surveys, and a review of specific habitat requirements, occurrence records, and known distributions of the special-status wildlife species identified in the literature review, Michael Baker determined that the project site has a moderate potential to support Cooper's hawk (*Accipter cooperii*), designated by CDFW as a Watch List species. However, this species does not require focused surveys to be conducted; therefore, no special-status wildlife species surveys were conducted for this project.

4.2.6 Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources

Two potentially jurisdictional aquatic features were identified within the BSA during reviews of topographic mapping, aerial photography, and during a review of the online National Wetlands Inventory Mapper (NWI; USFWS 2025b), including Aliso Canyon Wash and Limekiln Canyon Wash. During the field survey, it was observed that both features transect the project's alignment via concrete box culverts that are located well below the elevation of Rinaldi Street. Open trench construction of the trunk line will occur

within fill material beneath Rinaldi Street and not coincide with the culverts that convey these washes beneath the roadway. No other aquatic features were identified within the BSA during the field survey.

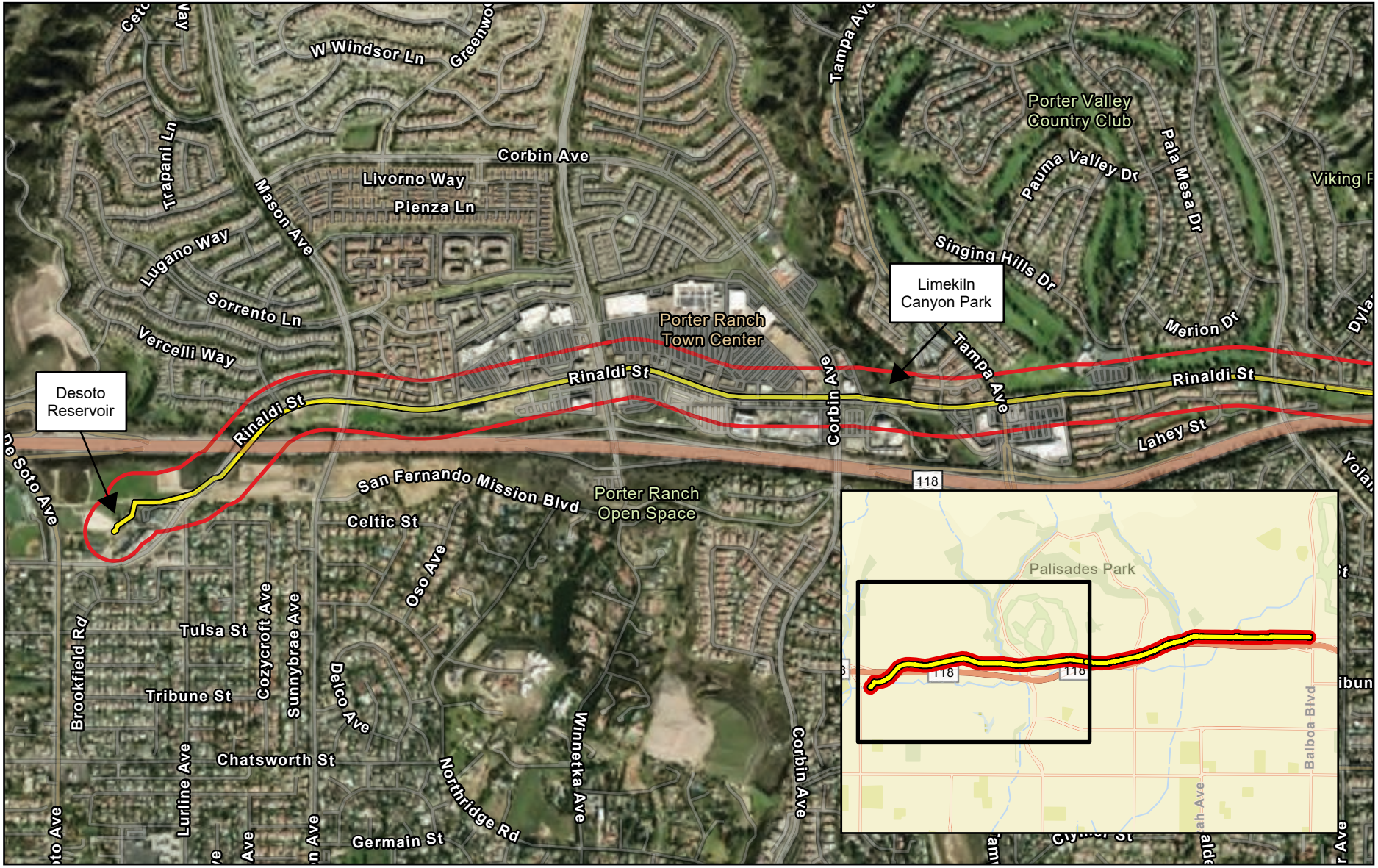
4.2.7 Survey Limitations

The survey was conducted from public ROW. No access into residential properties occurring in the adjacent BSA was conducted; however, existing conditions were noted from the ROW. Some time was spent documenting existing conditions at the City's Limekiln Canyon Park and Aliso Canyon Park. Portions of these parks are captured in the BSA and represent the primary "open space" areas along the alignment. No specific survey limitations are identified for the purposes of this general biological resource investigation.

4.2.8 Regional Connectivity/Wildlife Movement Corridor Assessment

The discussion and analysis of wildlife movement corridors in this report are intended to focus on wildlife movement associated with the project site and its immediate vicinity and based on information compiled from review of aerial photographs and topographic maps and direct observations made in the field. CDFW's Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity Viewer (CDFW 2025f) was also reviewed to evaluate the project site and surrounding area's potential to support wildlife movement.

Results of the literature review and field survey were used to draw conclusions about the wildlife potentially utilizing the project site and vicinity, and any connections and habitat linkages between the BSA and large open space areas in the immediate vicinity (i.e., Santa Susana Mountains). The focus is to determine if project implementation would alter current land uses within the BSA that will have significant impacts on the regional movement of wildlife.



Legend

- Project Site
- 300-ft Survey Buffer

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Source: Nearmap (09/2023)

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Project Site and BSA

Figure 4.1



Legend

Project Site

300-ft Survey Buffer

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Source: Nearmap (09/2023)

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Project Site and BSA

Figure 4.2

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Plant Diversity, Land Cover Types and Vegetation Communities

This section provides a general discussion of the plant species and land cover types and vegetation communities that were observed during the field survey. The BSA consists primarily of developed lands that include ornamental plant species typically found in the City's landscapes. Residential parcels, commercial properties, schools, and churches have well-maintained landscapes that include mature trees with understories of ornamental shrubs, herbaceous ground cover, and lawn. Only a few pockets of native vegetation communities occur within the BSA, primarily within two City parks along the project alignment and as planted/landscaped communities within the public road ROW.

Most project construction would occur within the Rinaldi Street ROW, which includes street trees and a few landscaped medians in the vicinity of the Porter Ranch Towne Center. The project footprint; however, coincides with the paved portion of the roadway, where vegetation is absent. At the project's western terminus, the alignment follows an unpaved access road to the De Soto Reservoir facility, crossing disturbed habitat.

5.1.1 Developed

The BSA has been extensively urbanized and consists primarily of developed land cover, including roadways, sidewalks, and residential and commercial buildings. Typical ornamental landscapes in these areas consist of a mix of native and non-native trees, shrubs, and ground cover, and are mostly well-maintained. No native vegetation communities occur within developed areas. While native plant species were observed in the BSA, they include primarily individual or small groups in landscaped areas. Although non-native ornamental shrubs and herbaceous ground cover have been planted in raised medians within the roadway, no other project activities are anticipated to avoid these medians.

Tree species observed in the landscapes of developed areas in the BSA and include species recognized as common throughout the City (LMU, unknown date). Non-native Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*), Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle*), Shamel ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*), queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*), crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), and lemon-scented eucalyptus (*Corymbia citriodora*) were typically noted, although a wide variety of other non-native trees are present. Native trees observed included coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) on residential parcels, and on school and church parcels. Of note, toyon (*Heteromles arbutifolia*) was observed in the public ROW along landscaped slopes between Rinaldi Street and SR-118. Native oak species, western sycamore, and toyon are protected under the City's *Native Tree Protection Ordinance*. Shrub and ground

cover species observed throughout the BSA were typical of urbanized City landscapes and consisted primarily of non-native species.

5.1.2 Disturbed

Disturbed areas include those where the soil surface has not been covered by permanent surfaces or structures (i.e., roads, sidewalks, buildings) and consist of bare ground, little to no vegetation, or of non-native and ruderal vegetation. Vegetation on disturbed parcels in the BSA show indications of vegetation maintenance, grading, or other soil disturbances that limit the establishment of vegetative communities.

At the western terminus of the project where the alignment transitions off of Rinalidi Street and angles west and south to the De Soto Reservoir, the project footprint coincides with an unpaved access road leading to the reservoir facility that is generally surrounded by disturbed and developed areas. Adjacent disturbed areas include a covering of black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), and brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.), which appears regularly maintained along the alignment of the unpaved access road.

Two larger disturbed areas occur at the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection of Rinaldi Street and Mason Avenue, where it appears these sites have been prepared for future development. During the time of the field survey, vegetation covering the disturbed site was cut low to the ground and was dried out; however, remnants of ruderal weedy plant species were evident. No other significant disturbed areas were identified in the BSA.

5.1.3 Native Scrub Communities

Small communities of California buckwheat scrub and California sage scrub were identified within the BSA, but outside of the project footprint.

At the west terminus of the project, California buckwheat scrub (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance) and California sage scrub (*Artemisia californica* Shrubland Alliance), and a mix of these communities occur within the BSA. Other occasional native species, including lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) and saplings of oak (*Quercus* spp.) trees were observed in these areas. These scrub communities are established on engineered slopes and adjacent areas that fall within the public ROW where Rinaldi Street is conveyed over SR-118 (Figure 5.1 *West Terminus Native Vegetation Communities*). These communities d were likely planted as landscaping within the public ROW and are isolated from naturally vegetation communities by surrounding development.

At Limekiln Canyon Park, a disturbed and remanent community of California sage scrub occurs within the BSA (Figure 5.2 Limekiln Canyon Park *Native Vegetation Communities*). This community includes non-native black mustard and brome grass species established between individual sage shrubs and exhibits signs of human disturbances in the form of informal footpaths and litter. This community is adjacent to

riparian habitat associated with Limekiln Canyon Wash and disturbed land cover types that comprise the remainder of the park within the BSA.

At Aliso Canyon Park, a California sage scrub community occurs on steep slopes that drop from the elevation of Rinaldi Street down into the park property (Figure 5.3 *Aliso Canyon Park Native Vegetation Communities*). This community was likely planted to provide slope stability and does not represent a naturally occurring scrub community. It lies adjacent to riparian habitat associated with Aliso Canyon Wash at the canyon bottom, and to developed and disturbed land cover types that comprise the remainder of the park within the BSA.

5.1.4 Native Riparian Communities

Riparian communities dominated by red willow (*Salix gooddingii-Salix laevigata* Forest and Woodland Alliance) and other native riparian tree species occur within the BSA at the two City parks along the alignment. At Limekiln Canyon Park (Figure 5.2), red willow (*Salix laevigata*) and western sycamore trees dominate the riparian canopy. At Aliso Canyon Park (Figure 5.3), the riparian canopy includes Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremonti*) and sycamore , with occasional other native and non-native trees present, with an often dense understory of mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*).



Legend

- Project Site
- 300-ft Survey Buffer
- Californina Sage & Buckwheat Scrub
- California Buckwheat Scrub

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 300 600 Feet

Source: Nearmap (09/2023)

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Western Terminus Native Vegetation Communities

Figure 5.1



Legend

- Project Site
- 300-ft Survey Buffer
- Limekiln Canyon Park
- California Sage Scrub
- Red Willow Riparian Forest

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 300 600 Feet

Source: Nearmap (09/2023)

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Limekiln Canyon Park Native Vegetation Communities

Figure 5.2



Legend

- Project Site
- 300-ft Survey Buffer
- Aliso Canyon Park
- California Sage Scrub
- Red Willow Riparian Forest

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 300 600 Feet

Source: Nearmap (09/2023)

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Aliso Canyon Park Native Vegetation Communities

Figure 5.3

5.2 Wildlife Diversity

This section provides a general discussion of those wildlife species that were observed during the field survey or that are expected to occur based on existing urbanized conditions. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather conditions during which the field survey was conducted. Wildlife detections were based on calls, songs, scat, tracks, burrows, and direct observation. Special-status wildlife species occurring or potentially occurring are discussed further in Section 5.3.2.

5.2.1 Amphibians

The potential presence of amphibians varies greatly between habitats within the BSA. Terrestrial species may or may not require standing water for reproduction. Terrestrial species avoid desiccation by burrowing underground; within crevices in trees, rocks, and logs; and under stones and surface litter during the day and dry seasons. Aquatic amphibians are dependent on standing or flowing water for reproduction. Such habitats include freshwater marshes and open water (reservoirs, permanent and temporary pools and ponds, and perennial streams). Many aquatic amphibians will use temporary pools as nesting sites. The BSA has the potential to support amphibians that do not require a permanent water source. No amphibian species were observed during the field survey and standing or flowing water required for amphibian reproduction is absent from the project footprint. While Limekiln Canyon Wash and Aliso Canyon Wash occur in the BSA and likely support some amphibians, these wash features lie well below the elevation of where project activities will occur on Rinaldi Street. As a result, amphibian species are not expected to occur within the project footprint.

5.2.2 Reptiles

One reptile species, western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), typical of urbanized environments was observed within the project site. Other lizard species, including southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*) and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), and western skink (*Plestiodon skiltonianus*), may also occur within the BSA. Other reptile species, such as snakes and turtles are generally not expected within the urbanized BSA.

5.2.3 Mammals

Mammals observed within the BSA included western gray squirrel (Sciurus griseus) and desert rabbit (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). These species, along with coyote scat (*Canis latrans*), were observed within the City parks along the alignment. Wildlife species common in urban environments such as racoon, skunks, and opossums could also be expected in the BSA. Additionally, burrows appearing to exhibit past use by California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) were observed within disturbed habitat at the west terminus of the project; however, no individuals of ground squirrel were observed and burrows did not exhibit sign of recent use.

Large trees in the BSA may provide suitable roosting habitat for individual or small groups of bats. Additionally, concrete box culverts such as those that convey Limekiln Canyon Wash and Aliso Canyon Wash under Rinaldi Avenue may provide suitable bat roosting habitat. Access into these culverts was not conducted. Project activities would occur within the Rinaldi Street ROW, which lies 20-30 feet above box culverts at both City parks. Potentially suitable colonial roosting sites, such as caves and large unoccupied structures are absent from the BSA.

5.2.4 Birds

Bird activity was generally low during the field survey, which was conducted during late August, when temperatures are typically high in the San Fernando Valley, and bird activity is suppressed. Only a few bird species were observed during the field survey, including California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*).

Burrows potential suitable for burrowing owl (*Athene curcularia*, Candidate for listing as Endangered under CESA) were observed in disturbed habitat near the western terminus of the project alignment and appear to have previously been occupied by California ground squirrels. Approximately a half dozen burrows were detected and closely examined for any sign of borrowing owl (i.e., owl pellets, prey carcasses). No borrowing owl, sign of the species, or any ground squirrel, were observed. These burrows occur in an area where non-native grasses and other herbaceous vegetation has been maintained close to the ground surface.

While the field survey was conducted during the nesting bird season (generally February 1 through August 31), no active nests were observed and bird nesting is typically completed for the season at the time this survey was conducted. However, as presented in Section 5.1 of this report, ornamental plant species in landscaped settings, in particular mature trees, are abundant in the BSA and provide suitable nesting habitat for birds. Nesting birds are protected from "take" pursuant to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)[3] and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)[4]. To maintain compliance with the MBTA and CFGC, clearance surveys are typically required prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities to avoid direct or indirect impacts to active bird nests and/or nesting birds. If an active bird nest is destroyed or if project activities result in indirect impacts leading to abandonment of the nest by the adults or otherwise loss of nestlings, it is considered take and would result in a significant impact.

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

[4] Section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by the California Fish and Game Code or any regulation made pursuant thereto; Section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey); and Section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird except as provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 703 *et seq.*).

5.3 Special-Status/Regulated Resources

A total of forty-five (45) special-status plant species, fifty-three (53) special-status wildlife species, and thirteen (13) natural vegetation communities considered sensitive by CDFW were identified during queries of the CNDDB (CDFW 2025a), RPI (CNPS 2025), and IPaC (USFWS 2025a). Results of these database searches are provided as Appendices B, C, and D, respectively. The potential for these resources to occur in the BSA 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); and Michael Baker biologists' expertise, knowledge, and best professional judgement. Current and historic records of species identified during the literature review were also considered during the analysis; however, a species' potential to occur determination was not solely based on the age or location of these previously documented records. The potential to occur categories used in this analysis are defined as follows:

Present: The species was observed or detected within the study area during general or focused/protocol surveys.

Expected: The study area 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 study area is within the known geographic distribution and elevation range of the species; however, habitat within the study area (considering vegetation, soils, and other factors) is marginal or limited and landscape connectivity to a local, known, extant population or detection is compromised or non-existent.

Not Expected: The species is not expected to occur within the study area due to the lack of suitable habitat, the location of the study area is outside of the species' elevation range or known geographic distribution, or there is no connectivity to known, extant populations.

Absent: The species was not detected during focused or agency-approved protocol surveys.

5.3.1 Special-Status Plant Species

No special-status plant species were identified during the field survey. Based on results of the field survey, existing developed and disturbed conditions along the project alignment do not provide the specific habitat requirements for special-status plants, and such species are not expected to occur within the BSA. While small areas of native scrub and riparian habitats potentially suitable for such species occur within the two City parks along the alignment, no CNDDB records of special-status plants coincide with these areas or the overall BSA and project activities would not impact these habitats. Additionally, no records of special-status plants were identified during an online review of rare plant mapping for the project area by

Calflora (2025). Federal and/or State listed plant species identified during the literature review are presented in the table below. No effect on these species is expected during project implementation. Refer to results of the CNDDB (Appendix B), RPI (Appendix C), and IPaC (Appendix D) reviews for the special-status plant species identified from the region.

TABLE 2. FEDERAL AND/OR STATE LISTED PLANT SPECIES KNOWN FROM THE REGION.

Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS/CDFW Listing*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Potential to Occur in BSA
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's milk-vetch	E / -	Perennial herb. Occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Prefers recent burns or disturbed areas, in stiff gravelly clay soils overlying granite or limestone. Occurs between 10-2,100 feet. Blooms January-August.	**Not Expected.** Potentially suitable habitat for this species is absent.
Berberis nevinii Nevin's barberry	E / E	Perennial evergreen shrub. Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub habitats. Prefers steep, north-facing slopes or low-grade sandy washes. Occurs between 900-2,710 feet. Blooms March–June.	**Not Expected.** Potentially suitable habitat for this species is absent and the BSA occurs outside the known elevation range for this species.
Chorizanthe parryi var. Fernandina San Fernando Valley spineflower	- / E	Annual herb. Found in coastal dunes and coastal salt marshes and swamps. Occurs between 490-4,005 feet. Blooms April-July.	**Not Expected.** Potentially suitable habitat for this species is absent and the BSA occurs outside the known elevation range for this species.
Dodecahema leptoceras slender-horned spineflower	E / E	Annual herb. Prefers sandy sites in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and alluvial fans of coastal scrub habitats. Occurs between 655-2,495 feet. Blooms April-June.	**Not Expected.** Potentially suitable habitat for this species is absent and the BSA occurs outside the known elevation range for this species.
Nasturtium gambelii Gambel's water cress	E / T	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Found in freshwater or brackish marshes and swamps. Occurs between 15-1,080 feet. Blooms April-October.	**Not Expected.** Potentially suitable habitat for this species is absent.
Navarretia fossalis spreading navarretia	E / -	Annual herb. Found in chenopod scrub, shallow freshwater marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Occurs between 100-2,165 feet. Blooms April-june.	**Not Expected.** Potentially suitable habitat for this species is absent.
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt grass	E / -	Annual herb. Found in vernal pool habitat. Occurs between 50-2,165 feet. Blooms April-August.	**Not Expected.** Potentially suitable habitat for this species is absent.

***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

E Endangered – any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Species that is listed as Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

T Threatened – any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Species that is listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

- E Endangered – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant listed under the California Endangered Species Act which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease.
- T Threatened – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant listed under the California Endangered Species Act that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required under the California Endangered Species Act.

5.3.2 Special-Status Wildlife Species

No special-status wildlife species were identified during the field survey. Based on the results of the literature review and field survey, existing developed and disturbed conditions along the project alignment generally do not provide the specific habitat requirements for most special-status wildlife.

One special-status wildlife species, Cooper's hawk (*Accipter cooperii*; CDFW Watch List [WL] species) was determined to have moderate potential to occur in the BSA. Mature trees within the BSA provide potentially suitable nesting habitat for this special-status raptor species and it is known to successfully nest throughout urban environments within the Los Angeles Basin and has regularly been documented during annual surveys in the southern portion of the San Fernando Valley and further in Griffith Park and the Glendale-Burbank area (FoGP 2025).

All remaining special-status wildlife species identified during the literature review are not expected to occur within project footprint based on existing site conditions and a review of specific habitat requirements, occurrence records, and known distributions. While small areas of native scrub and riparian habitats potentially suitable for special-status wildlife occur within the BSA at the two City parks along the alignment, no CNDDB records of special-status wildlife coincide with these areas and project activities would not impact these habitats. Further, a review of online data provided in eBird (2025) for bird observations made at the two City parks, indicates that no federal and/or State listed bird species have been recorded at those locations.

During close examination of potentially suitable burrows for burrowing owl found in disturbed habitat near the western terminus, no individuals or sign of the species were detected. These burrows are located within an area along the unpaved access road where vegetation has been maintained close to the ground. Based on a review of CNDDB records, this species is not currently known from the project vicinity and is not expected to occur within the BSA.

Federal and/or State listed species identified during the literature review from the project region are presented in the table below. No effect on these species is expected during project implementation. Refer to results of the CNDDB (Appendix B) and IPaC (Appendix D) reviews for all special-status wildlife species identified from the region.

TABLE 3. FEDERAL AND/OR STATE LISTED WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN FROM THE REGION.

Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS/CDFW Listing*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Potential to Occur in BSA
Actinemys pallida southwestern pond turtle	PT / -	Requires permanent/perennial waterbodies with substrates suitable for basking.	**Not Expected:** Suitable water bodies preferred by this species are not present within the BSA.
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	- / T	Range is limited to the coastal areas of the Pacific coast of North America, from Northern California to upper Baja California. Can be found in a wide variety of habitat including annual grasslands, wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands, agricultural fields, cattle feedlots, and dairies. Occasionally forages in riparian scrub habitats along marsh borders. Basic habitat requirements for breeding include open accessible water, protected nesting substrate freshwater marsh dominated by cattails (*Typha* spp.), willows (*Salix* spp.), and bulrushes (*Schoenoplectus* spp.), and either flooded or thorny/spiny vegetation and suitable foraging space providing adequate insect prey.	**Not Expected:** Suitable foraging and nesting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
Anaxyrus californicus arroyo toad	E / -	Occurs in semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill grasslands, desert riparian, desert washes, and oak woodlands. Breeding habitat consists of shallow streams with a mixture of sandy and gravelly substrate and sandy terraces. Generally, requires mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and willow (*Salix* spp.) in the streambed for vegetative canopy for breeding areas and forages for insects primarily under oak (*Quercus* spp.), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) trees. Occurs at elevations from near sea level to about 4,600 feet amsl.	**Not Expected:** While **s**uitable stream habitats preferred by this species are present at canyon washes within the BSA, they do not provide the flow regimes required by this species and this species has not been recorded from these canyon washes.
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	- / CE	Inhabits open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, California ground squirrel.	**Not Expected:** Disturbed habitat with low-growing vegetation and California ground squirrel burrows were identified near the western terminus of the project. Close examination of these burrows did not reveal any sign of burrowing owl and this species has not been recorded in the CNDDB from within 25 miles of the BSA.
Bombus crotchii Crotch's bumble bee	- / CE	Found from coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Primarily occurs in California, including the Mediterranean region, Pacific coast, western desert, great valley, and adjacent foothills through most of southwestern California. Has also been recorded in Baja California, Baja California Sur, and in southwest Nevada. Inhabits open grassland and scrub habitats. Primarily nests underground. Food plant genera include *Antirrhinum*, *Phacelia*, *Clarkia*, *Dendromecon*, *Eschscholzia*, and *Eriogonum*.	**Not Expected:** No suitable nesting or foraging habitat is available in the project footprint, and while limited native vegetation communities are present in the BSA, the overall urbanized environment is not suitable for this species. The nearest occurrence of this species was recorded approximately 4 miles south of the BSA 60+ plus years ago. Further CNDDB records identified during the database review are from undeveloped foothill/mountainous areas 10+ miles from the BSA.

Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS/CDFW Listing*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Potential to Occur in BSA
Branchinecta lynchi vernal pool fairy shrimp	T / -	Endemic to California and only found in vernal pools. Vernal pool habitats form in depressions above an impervious substrate layer, or claypan/duripan. This species does not occur in riverine, marine, or other permanent bodies of water. When the temporary pools dry, offspring persist in suspended development as desiccation-resistant embryos (commonly called cysts) in the pool substrate until the return of winter rains and appropriate temperatures allow some of the cysts to hatch.	**Not Expected:** Suitable vernal pool habitat preferred by this species is not present within the BSA.
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	- / T	Typical habitat is open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the Central Valley. Forages in adjacent grassland or suitable grain or alfalfa fields or livestock pastures.	**Not Expected:** The BSA does not provide suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species and while two CNDDB records of this species occur within one mile of the BSA, these records are 100+ years old. Further, this species has not been recorded during annual raptor surveys conducted since 2017 across southern portions of the San Fernando Valley Basin (Cooper et al 2017-2025).
Catostomus santaanae Santa Ana sucker	T / -	Occur in the watersheds draining the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. Streams that Santa Ana sucker inhabit are generally perennial streams with water ranging in depth from a few inches to several feet and with currents ranging from slight to swift.	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat preferred by this species is not present within the BSA. Canyon washes occurring within the BSA do not provide the perennial water regime required by this species.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	T / E	Uncommon summer resident where its breeding distribution is restricted to isolated sites in the Sacramento, Armargosa, Kern, Santa Ana, and Colorado River valleys. The species requires large patches of multi-layered riparian forest, with cottonwoods and willows. The presence of standing or flowing surface water under the riparian canopy is also preferred. Mesquite (Prosopis spp.) groves may also be used, but usually only when cottonwood-willow habitat is unavailable.	**Not Expected:** While suitable foraging and nesting habitats preferred by this species are present within the BSA along canyon washes, this species is not known to occur within the urbanized San Fernando Valley. One CNDDB record of this species, from 100+ years ago, was identified during the database review.
Danaus plexippus monarch butterfly	PT / -	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts are located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	**Not Expected (overwintering):** Suitable habitat preferred by this species is not present within the BSA and no CNDDB records or overwintering populations identified by the Xerces Society (2025) coincide or occur near the BSA.
Euphydryas editha quino quino checkerspot butterfly	E / -	Prefers sunny openings within chaparral and coastal sage shrublands in parts of Riverside and San Diego counties.	**Not Expected:** While limited areas of coastal sage shrubland occur within the BSA at the two City parks, these habitats are limited in size and receive regular human disturbances. This species is not known to occur within the San Fernando Valley and the one CNDDB record identified during the database review is 100+ years old.

Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS/CDFW Listing*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Potential to Occur in BSA
Empidonax traillii extimus southwestern willow flycatcher	E / E	Uncommon summer resident in Southern California primarily found in lower elevation riparian habitats occurring along streams or in meadows. The structure of suitable breeding habitat typically consists of a dense mid-story and understory and can also include a dense canopy. Nest sites are generally located near surface water or saturated soils. The presence of surface water, swampy conditions, standing or flowing water under the riparian canopy are preferred.	**Not Expected:** While vegetation suitable for foraging and nesting by this species is present within the BSA along canyon washes, surface waters are ephemeral, and this species is not known to occur within the urbanized San Fernando Valley. One CNDDB record of this species, from 100+ years ago, was identified during the database review.
Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni unarmored threespine stickleback	E / E	Small, scaleless freshwater fish of up to 2 inches in length inhabiting slow-moving reaches or quiet-water microhabitats in streams and rivers. Restricted to three areas: the upper Santa Clara River and its tributaries in Los Angeles County, San Antonio Creek on Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County, and the Shay Creek vicinity (Shay Pond, Sugarloaf Pond, Juniper Springs, Motorcycle Pond, Shay Creek, Wiebe Pond, and Baldwin Lake) in San Bernardino County. Favorable habitats are shaded by dense and abundant vegetation. In open reaches, algal mats or barriers (e.g., sand bars, floating vegetation, low-flow road crossings) provide refuge.	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat preferred by this species is not present within the project site. Canyon washes occurring within the BSA are not suitable for this species.
Polioptila californica coastal California gnatcatcher	T / -	Yearlong resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush. This species generally occurs below 750 feet amsl in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet amsl inland. Ranges from Ventura County, south to San Diego County and northern Baja California and it is less common in sage scrub with a high percentage of tall shrubs. Prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation.	**Not Expected:** While native sage scrub communities occur within the BSA, they are limited in size, receive regular human disturbances, and are not suitable for this species.
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	T / -	The species historically occurred in the San Gabriel Wilderness Area of the Angeles National Forest; there were no post-1970 observations in this area or nearby parts of the Angeles National Forest. In 1999, a population (estimated between 15 and 25 adults) was located on the Angeles National Forest in the San Francisquito drainage. Breeding sites are in a variety of aquatic habitats including streams, deep pools, backwaters within streams and creeks, ponds, marshes, sag ponds, dune ponds, lagoons, and artificial impoundments (i.e., stock ponds). Breeding adults are often associated with deep (greater than 2 feet) still or slow-moving water and dense shrubby riparian or emergent vegetation.	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat preferred by the species is not present within the BSA. Canyon washes do not provide the flow regimes required by this species.

Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS/CDFW Listing*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Potential to Occur in BSA
Rana muscosa southern mountain yellow-legged frog	E / E	Isolated populations are also known from the mountains of Los Angeles County. Occurs in streams flowing through a variety of vegetation types, including valley-foothill hardwood, valley-foothill hardwood-conifer, valley-foothill riparian, yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), mixed conifer, mixed chaparral, and wet meadows. Rarely occurs in areas with greater than 90 percent canopy closure. Breeding and rearing habitat is generally located in gently flowing, low-gradient stream sections with variable substrates predominated by cobble and boulder.	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat preferred by the species is not present within the BSA. Canyon washes do not provide the flow regimes required by this species.
Rhinichthys Gabrielino Santa Ana speckled dace	PT / -		**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat preferred by the species is not present within the BSA. Canyon washes do not provide the flow regimes required by this species.
Riparia riparia bank swallow	- / T		
Spea hammondii western spadefoot	PF / -	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Rain pools that do not contain American bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*), predatory fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding. Estivates in upland habitats adjacent to potential breeding sites in burrows approximating 3 feet in depth.	**Not Expected:** Suitable habitat preferred by the species is not present within the BSA. Canyon washes do not provide the flow regimes required by this species.
Streptocephalus woottoni Riverside fairy shrimp	E / -	Restricted to deep seasonal vernal pools, vernal pool like ephemeral ponds, and stock ponds and other human modified depressions. Basins that support Riverside fairy shrimp are typically dry a portion of the year, but usually are filled by late fall, winter, or spring rains, and may persist through May. Endemic to western Riverside, Orange, and San Diego Counties in tectonic swales/earth slump basins in grassland and coastal sage scrub. In Riverside County, the species been found in pools formed over the following soils: Murrieta stony clay loams, Las Posas series, Wyman clay loam, and Willows soils. All known habitat lies within annual grasslands, which may be interspersed through chaparral or coastal sage scrub vegetation.	**Not Expected:** Vernal pool habitat required by the species is not present within the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS/CDFW Listing*	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Potential to Occur in BSA
Vireo bellii pusillus least Bell's vireo	E / E	Summer resident in Southern California. Breeding habitat generally consists of dense, low, shrubby vegetation in riparian areas, and mesquite brushlands, often near water in arid regions. Early successional cottonwood-willow riparian groves are preferred for nesting. The most critical structural component of nesting habitat in California is a dense shrub layer that is 2 to 10 feet (0.6 to 3.0 meters) aboveground. The presence of water, including ponded surface water or moist soil conditions, may also be a key component for nesting habitat.	**Not Expected:** While vegetation suitable for foraging and nesting by this species is present within the BSA along canyon washes, surface waters are ephemeral, and this species is not known to occur within the urbanized San Fernando Valley.

***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

E Endangered – any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Species that is listed as Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

T Threatened – any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Species that is listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

E Endangered – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant listed under the California Endangered Species Act which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease.

T Threatened – any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant listed under the California Endangered Species Act that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required under the California Endangered Species Act.

SCE State Candidate for listing as Endangered - The classification is provided to a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the Fish and Game Commission has formally noticed as being under review by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for addition to the list of State endangered species, or a species for which the commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to the California Endangered Species Act.

5.3.3 Sensitive Natural Communities

The project footprint consists of developed and disturbed land cover types and no sensitive natural communities coincide with the project footprint. However, red willow-dominated riparian forest habitats (*Salix gooddingii-Salix laevigata* Forest and Woodland Alliance) located within the BSA at the two City parks are considered sensitive by CDFW (2025g). These riparian habitats are contiguous with willow-dominated riparian habitats recorded in the CNDDB in areas upstream of the BSA along both Limekiln Canyon Wash and Aliso Canyon Wash. Riparian habitats in the BSA represent the downstream extent of such habitat along these canyon washes, as they are transected by engineered slopes and fill material placed across the canyons for Rinaldi Street. Little to no native riparian communities exist along these canyon washes south of the BSA, although some was mapped during the field survey along Limekiln Canyon Wash south of Rinaldi Street. Refer to results of the CNDDB (Appendix B) review for the sensitive natural communities identified from the region.

5.3.4 Critical Habitat

No USFWS designated Critical Habitat coincides with the BSA. The nearest Critical Habitat is for coastal California gnatcatcher (FT), a portion of which occurs approximately 0.4 miles northwest of the BSA and coincides with undeveloped areas of the Santa Susana Mountains to the north and west of the BSA (refer to Figure 6: *Sensitive Lands*).

5.3.5 Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources

As described in Section 4.2.6 of this report, two aquatic features were identified within the BSA during the literature review and were observed during the field survey, including Limekiln Canyon Wash and Aliso Canyon Wash. These wash features are conveyed under Rinaldi Street, upon which project activities would occur, in concrete box channels that are located well below the elevation of the road and would not be impacted during project activities.

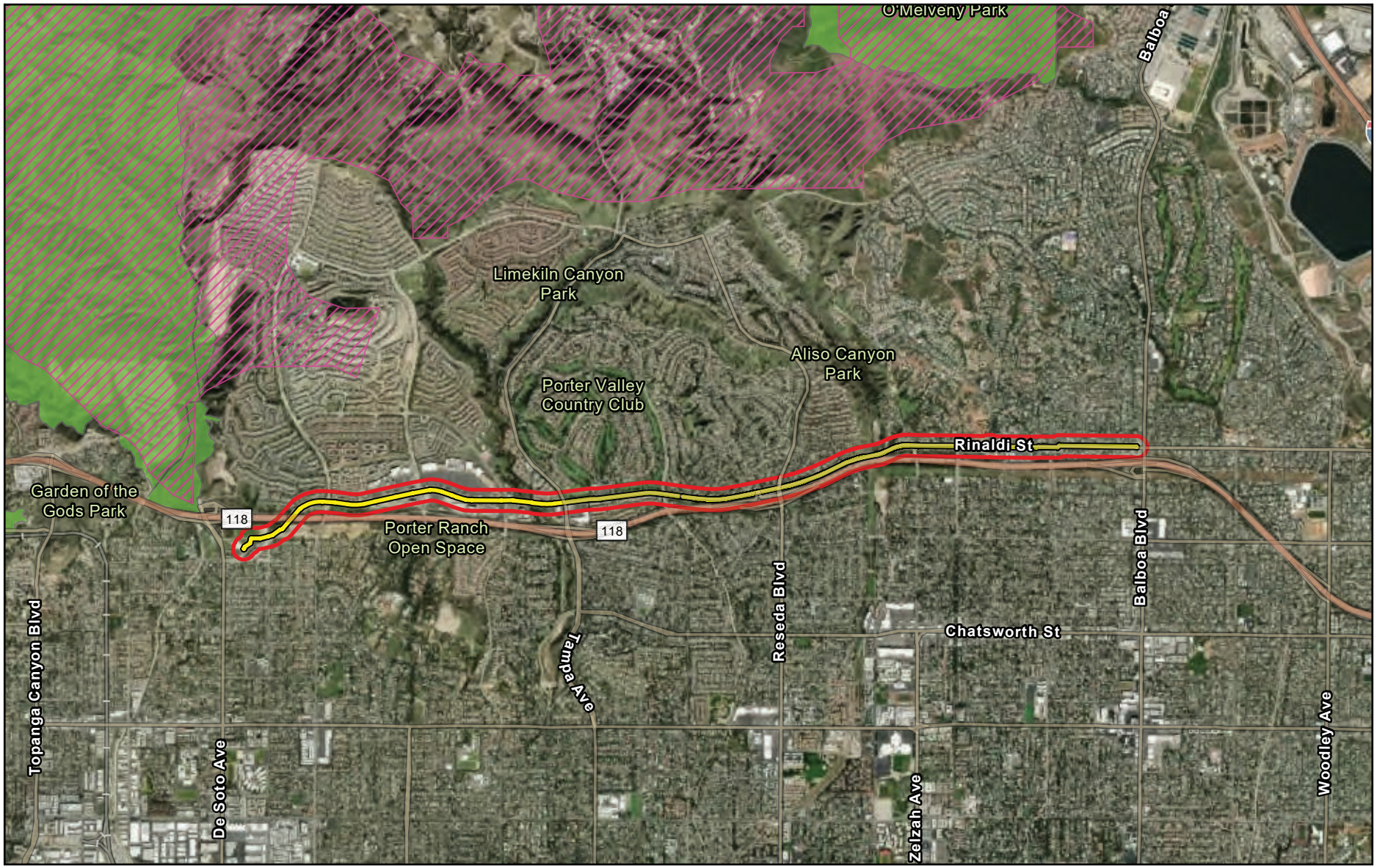
5.4 Wildlife Movement Corridors and Habitat Linkages

In an urban context, a wildlife migration corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width and buffer to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments, or between a habitat fragment and some vital resource that encourages population growth and diversity. Habitat fragments are isolated patches of habitat separated by otherwise foreign or inhospitable areas, such as by urbanized areas or roadways. Habitat fragments can isolate species populations by limiting migration, foraging, and breeding opportunities. Isolation of populations can have many harmful impacts and may contribute significantly to local species extinction.

The BSA consists primarily of developed and disturbed land cover types that generally do not facilitate or support significant wildlife movement. Riparian habitats occurring in the BSA in Limekiln Canyon Park and Aliso Canyon Park extend further north out of the BSA and connect to natural open space areas in the Santa Susana Mountains, providing food, cover, rest, breeding, and movement opportunities for localized wildlife species. However, wildlife movement via riparian habitat into areas south of the BSA is restricted by Rinaldi Street and the roadway serves as the southern/downstream boundary of riparian habitats within Limekiln and Aliso Canyons. Due to the overwhelmingly urbanized nature of the BSA, the project site does not occur within or serve as a recognized/established regional wildlife corridor. Further, the BSA is mapped as having Limited Connectivity Opportunities in CDFW's Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity Viewer (CDFW 2025f), reflecting the project area's limited potential to support significant wildlife movement.

5.5 Regional Resource Planning Context

The BSA is not located within any the boundary of any approved natural community conservation plan (NCCP) or habitat conservation plan (HCP) documents. In addition, the BSA is not located within any Significant Ecological Areas designated within Los Angeles County (refer to Figure 6).



Legend

Project Site

300-ft Survey Buffer

LA County Significant Ecological Areas

Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEA

USFWS Critical Habitat

Coastal California gnatcatcher

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Source: Nearmap (09/2023)

GRANADA TRUNK LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Sensitive Lands

Figure 6

6.0 PROJECT IMPACTS

6.1 Definition of Impacts

6.1.1 Project Description

The proposed project includes installation of a new water supply trunk line via open trench construction and pipe jacking/tunneling primarily within the paved footprint of Rinaldi Street, with a short reach through disturbed habitat on an unpaved maintenance access road at the western terminus of the project alignment. Open-trench excavation is a construction method typically used to install pipelines and their appurtenances. In general, the process consists of site preparation, excavation and shoring, pipe installation and backfilling, and work site restoration. Construction typically occurs within an approximately 800- to 1,000-foot work area, within traffic lanes.

Pipe jacking, which is a form of tunneling, would be used to reduce traffic disruptions at busy intersections and to extend underneath features along the alignment that are not suitable for open-trench construction. Tunneling would occur at Porter Ranch Drive, Corbin Avenue, Tampa Avenue, Reseda Boulevard, and under SR 118 to reduce disruptions to local traffic. Some surface disruption would still occur, since jacking and receiving pits would be used and excavation would occur along the project alignment. Pipe jacking involves a horizontal auger boring machine that is advanced in a tunnel bore to remove material ahead of or inside the jacking pipe. Powerful hydraulic jacks are used to push a steel jacking pipe from a launch (jacking) pit to a receiving pit. As the tunneling machine is driven forward, a jacking pipe is added into the pipe string. The main phases for pipe jacking are site preparation, excavation, shoring, casing pipe installation, pipe installation, pressure testing, disinfection, and work site restoration.

6.1.2 Direct Impacts

Direct permanent impacts typically refer to 100 percent permanent loss of a biological resource. It is also often referred to as the “project footprint” and refers to the area where vegetation clearing, grubbing, and mass grading occurs. It may include brush management zones or fuel modification zones. Essentially, wherever the existing vegetation or land cover would be permanently affected, it is considered to be a permanent direct impact.

Direct temporary impacts typically refer to short-term removal of a biological resource where the resource is expected to fully recover its function upon completion of the project. Areas subject to temporary disturbance may include slope remediation sites, construction access roads, staging areas, stockpiles, mowing, and dredging. Such sites would not have permanent structures.

6.1.3 Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts are reasonably foreseeable effects caused by project implementation on remaining or adjacent biological resources outside the direct construction disturbance zone. Indirect impacts may affect areas within the defined project area but outside the construction disturbance zone, including open space and areas outside the project area, such as downstream effects. Indirect impacts include short-term effects immediately related to construction activities and long-term or chronic effects related to the human occupation of developed areas (i.e., development-related long-term effects). In most cases, indirect effects are not quantified, but in some cases, quantification might be included, such as total dissolved solids released to downstream areas or using a noise contour to quantify indirect impacts to nesting birds.

6.2 Impacts to Land Cover Types and Vegetation Communities

All project impacts would occur within developed and disturbed land cover types. No impacts on any natural vegetation communities would occur. While native riparian and scrub habitats occur within small areas of the BSA at the two City parks along the alignment, they fall outside the footprint of open trench and pipe jacking activities and would not be impacted. Similarly, native scrub habitat occurs near the western terminus, generally on engineered slopes within the ROW of Rinaldi Street and SR-118, and has most likely been planted as part of a formal planting effort of the ROW. At this location, pipe jacking will occur to install the trunk line beneath SR-118. While direct impacts to these isolated scrub habitats are not anticipated, should launching or receiving pits coincide with these habitats, direct or indirect impacts could occur. However, these isolated communities are not contiguous with naturally occurring scrub habitats and are not expected to support any special-status species. As a result, significant impacts to any vegetation community or land cover type are not anticipated.

6.3 Impacts to Special-Status Plant Species

6.3.1 Direct Impacts

Permanent direct impacts to special-status plant species could occur during construction by running over, trampling, or otherwise causing the loss of such individuals. Potentially suitable habitat for special-status plants does not occur along the project alignment and as described in Section 5.3.1 above, such species are not expected to occur. While native riparian and scrub habitats occur within the BSA at two City parks along the project alignment, construction activities are restricted to the road ROW through these areas and would not encroach into the park properties. As a result, direct permanent impacts to special-status plant species are not expected.

6.3.2 Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts to special-status plants may be short-term construction-related impacts or long-term development-related impacts. These impacts could include the accumulation of construction-related dust on plants, which may affect their ability to photosynthesize, or the alteration of waterways that may affect plant species that require a source of surface or groundwater to survive. In addition, the introduction of invasive species, pollutants, or hazardous materials may occur during construction and have an indirect impact on any special-status plant species that may be near any active construction zone. However, with implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which will include Best Management Practices (BMP) to control erosion and sedimentation, and Rule 403 dust control measures required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, indirect impacts to special-status plant species are not expected.

6.4 Impacts to Special-Status Wildlife Species

6.4.1 Direct Impacts

Permanent direct impacts to special-status wildlife species could occur during construction by running over, trampling, or otherwise causing the loss of such individuals. Habitat potentially suitable for special-status wildlife does not occur within the project footprint and as described in Section 5.3.2 above, only one special-status wildlife species, Cooper's hawk, a CDFW WL species, has moderate potential to occur within the BSA. However, most birds are mobile and can escape direct injury or mortality by fleeing from a construction site and no tree above ground structure removal is anticipated under the project, avoiding direct impacts to active nests, as well as any individual or small groups of bats that may potentially utilize mature trees in the BSA. Additionally, while native riparian and scrub habitats occur within the BSA at the two City parks along the project alignment that provide suitable habitat for nesting birds and roosting bats, construction activities are restricted to the road ROW and would not encroach into the park properties. Direct permanent impacts to special-status wildlife species are not expected.

6.4.2 Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts to special-status wildlife species could occur during implementation of the proposed project. These impacts include construction noise that may temporarily affect a bird attempting to nest in the area, or one with an active nest. Construction-related noise has been documented to cause birds to abandon their nests and young and ultimately have an impact on that species' survival. Ground vibration from construction and the general presence of humans can further impact wildlife species, displacing them from areas where cover habitat and resources for their survival may exist, potentially leading to the loss of such individuals.

As previously presented, nesting birds are protected pursuant to the federal MBTA of 1918 and the CFGC. To maintain compliance with the MBTA and CFGC, clearance surveys are typically required during the

breeding season (generally February 1 to August 31 but as early as January 1 for raptors) prior to any project activities to avoid direct and indirect impacts to active bird nests and/or nesting birds. Consequently, if an active bird nest is destroyed or if project activities result in indirect impacts to nesting birds (e.g., nest abandonment, loss of reproductive effort), it is considered "take" and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. Although no nests were observed during the field survey, vegetation within the BSA provides suitable nesting opportunities for a variety of bird species, and project activities during the breeding season are considered a potentially significant impact. Measure **BIO-1** provided in Section 7 below would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds and any special-status bird species to a less than significant level.

6.5 Impacts to Sensitive Natural Communities

6.5.1 Direct Impacts

Permanent direct impacts to sensitive natural vegetation communities could occur during construction by running over, trampling, or otherwise causing the loss of such communities. Sensitive riparian habitats occur within the BSA at the two City parks along the project alignment; however, project activities would not coincide with these habitats. As a result, direct permanent impacts to any sensitive natural communities, including riparian habitats, are not expected.

6.5.2 Indirect Impacts

Similar to special-status plant species, indirect impacts to sensitive natural communities could include the accumulation of construction-related dust on plants, which may affect their ability to photosynthesize, or the alteration of waterways that may affect plant species that require a source of surface or groundwater to survive. In addition, the introduction of invasive species, pollutants, or hazardous materials may occur during construction and have an indirect impact on any sensitive natural community near any active construction zone. Sensitive riparian habitats within the BSA at the two City parks could potentially experience indirect impacts; however, with implementation of a SWPPP to control erosion and sedimentation and Rule 403 measures to control fugitive dust, indirect impacts to sensitive natural communities are not expected.

6.6 Impacts to Critical Habitat

No USFWS designated Critical Habitat coincides with the BSA. As a result, impacts to Critical Habitat would not occur and no further discussion is warranted.

6.7 Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters/Wetlands

While Limekiln Canyon Wash and Aliso Canyon Wash occur within the BSA and likely fall under State and/or federal agency jurisdiction, impacts to these features are not expected. Both washes are conveyed

beneath Rinaldi Street in box culverts that are located well below the elevation of the roadway, which was constructed on fill material placed across these canyons. Open trench construction along Rinaldi Street would not result in direct impacts to these features. Indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters would be avoided with implementation of erosion and sediment BMP included in a SWPPP prepared for the project. As a result, impacts to jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, are not expected.

6.8 Impacts to Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Connectivity

The BSA is not recognized as a formal wildlife movement corridor and its urbanized environment doe not support significant wildlife movement. Localized wildlife populations may utilize cover habitat and resources provided by native vegetation communities occurring within the BSA at the two City parks along the alignment, however, no impacts to these habitats would occur, and as a result, the potential value and function of these communities to support localized wildlife movement would not be impacted. As a result, no significant impacts to wildlife movement corridors or habitat connectivity are anticipated. Further, the urbanized BSA does not provide suitable habitat to support a significant wildlife nursery site and none was identified during the literature review and as a result significant impacts to a wildlife nursery site are not expected.

6.9 Conflicts with Regional Resource Planning

The project site is not located within any NCCP, HCP, associated subarea plan, Significant Ecological Areas of Los Angeles County, or any other regional resources planning effort. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to conflict or impact any regional resource planning effort.

6.10 Conflicts with Local Policies or Ordinances

Native tree species protected under the City's Native Tree Protection Ordinance (Ordinance No. 177404) include oak trees indigenous to California but excluding scrub oak (*Q. dumosa*); southern California black walnut; western sycamore; and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) (Section 17.02 of City Municipal Code). In December 2020, the City added two native shrub species, blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Pursuant to the ordinance, native trees that were planted or grown as part of a tree planting program are not "Protected Trees." Trees and shrubs must be four inches or greater in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground to be considered protected. The City's Board of Public Works (Public Works) must issue a permit before any alterations to protected trees are made that could cause them to be damaged, relocated or removed. Pruning also requires a permit and must comply with the pruning standards set forth by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in a manner that does not cause permanent damage or adversely affect the health of the trees. Per the ordinance, the tree removal permit may require replanting of native trees within the project area or at another location within the City to mitigate for the removal of these trees. The ordinance requires

replacement of protected trees, with the size and number of replacement trees approximating the value of the tree or shrub to be replaced.

Coast live oak, sycamore, and toyon were observed within the BSA during the field survey; however, no ordinance-protected species were observed within the project footprint and project activities are not expected to result in removal or trimming of any protected trees. As a result, a tree removal permit and mitigation for impacts to such species is not expected. In the event it is later determined that such species would be impacted by project activities, LADWP would comply with the City's native tree protection ordinance and obtain the required approvals prior to any impacts to such species.

7.0 MITIGATION

With the potential for nesting birds protected under the MBTA and CFGC, including Cooper's hawk, to occur in native and ornamental vegetation occurring within the BSA, implementation of Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-1 presented below would reduce potential significant impacts to nesting birds that may occur in the BSA.

BIO-1: Construction shall, if possible, occur outside of the nesting bird season (generally February 1 to August 31 but as early as January 1 for raptors). If construction outside this time period is not feasible, the following measures shall be employed to avoid and minimize impacts to nesting birds protected under the MBTA and CFGC:

A pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 3 days (72 hours) prior to the start of project activities within an active construction zone along the alignment to determine whether active nests are present within or directly adjacent to the project site. Following completion of the survey, a brief memo report shall be prepared to document the location of all nests found (if any), their status (i.e. eggs or hatchlings present), existing biological conditions of the project area, and the bird species detected during the survey. If an active nest is found, recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to the nest, such as those presented below, shall be included as appropriate.

A no-work (or reduced work) buffer shall be established around any active passerine bird nest and around any active raptor nest. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nest on a weekly basis, and project activities within 300 feet of an active nest of any passerine bird or within 500 feet of an active nest of any raptor, shall be evaluated for potential impacts to the active nest.[5] Monitoring shall occur until the nest is no longer active. The buffers may be adjusted (including increases or reductions to the buffer) by the qualified biologist on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the location, type, duration and timing, and severity of work, distance of nest from project activities, surrounding vegetation and line-of-sight between the nest and work areas, and the species' site-specific level of habituation to the disturbance. If the qualified biologist determines nesting activities may fail as a result of project activities, the biologist shall immediately inform the resident engineer and construction supervisor and all project activities shall cease within the

5 Such measures have been modified on many projects to take into account the existing condition. For example, a nest in a tree along a major boulevard would not require a 300-foot buffer from construction because the existing condition is already noisy and dusty. Monitoring of the nest aids in determining if a buffer or other measures are required. In addition, this should only apply if work is initiated during nesting season.

recommended no-disturbance buffer until the biologist determines the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site.

Avoidance buffers around active nests shall be delineated on site with bright flagging or other means, for easy identification by project personnel. The resident engineer and construction supervisor will be notified of the nest and the buffer limits to ensure it is maintained.

In the unlikely event that a State and/or federally listed bird species or Candidate for listing is detected, the buffer shall not be reduced and CDFW and/or USFWS shall be notified immediately to coordinate any further measures to avoid impacts to a listed species or the need for an Incidental Take Permit.

With implementation of this mitigation measure, potentially significant impacts to nesting birds and special-status bird species would be reduced to less than significant because the measure will identify any potential active nest or special-status bird in the project vicinity that may be impacted by construction and develop a plan to mitigate impacts or avoid those species if present.

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APPENDIX A
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



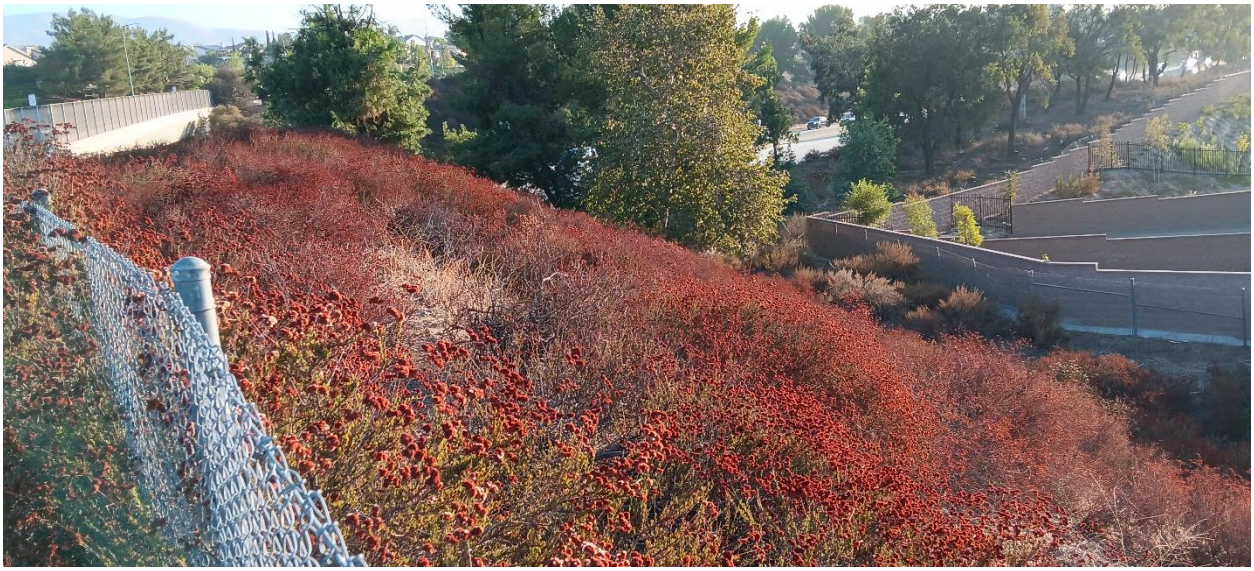
Photograph 1: South-southwest facing view of the proposed project alignment along an unpaved road and disturbed habitat from the DeSoto Reservoir (visible in upper right of photo) through the reservoir facility.



Photograph 2: East-facing view of the proposed project alignment outside of the Desoto Reservoir facility along an unpaved road to Rinaldi Street (in background).



Photograph 3: Northwest-facing view of California sage scrub habitat in the BSA along the west side of Rinaldi Street south of its crossing over SR-118.



Photograph 4: Northeast-facing view of buckwheat sage scrub habitat in the BSA along the east side of Rinaldi Street south of its crossing over SR-118.



Photograph 5: West-facing view of the proposed alignment in Rinaldi Street (at right), with large disturbed areas of the BSA at left, near the intersection of Rinaldi Street and Mason Road.



Photograph 6: East-facing view of the proposed alignment in Rinaldi street, with vegetated medians in vicinity of Porter Ranch Towne Center.



Photograph 7: West-facing view of the proposed alignment in Rinaldi Street through the Porter Ranch Town Center.



Photograph 8: North-facing view from Renaldi Street of California sage scrub habitat within the BSA in Limekiln Canyon Park



Photograph 9: North-facing view from Rinaldi Street of riparian habitat and the Limekiln Canyon Wash channel in Limekiln Canyon Park.



Photograph 10: East-facing view of the proposed alignment in Rinaldi Street at intersection with Wilbur Street in Porter Ranch.



Photograph 11: East-facing view of the proposed alignment in Rinaldi Street at intersection with Etiwanda Street in Porter Ranch.



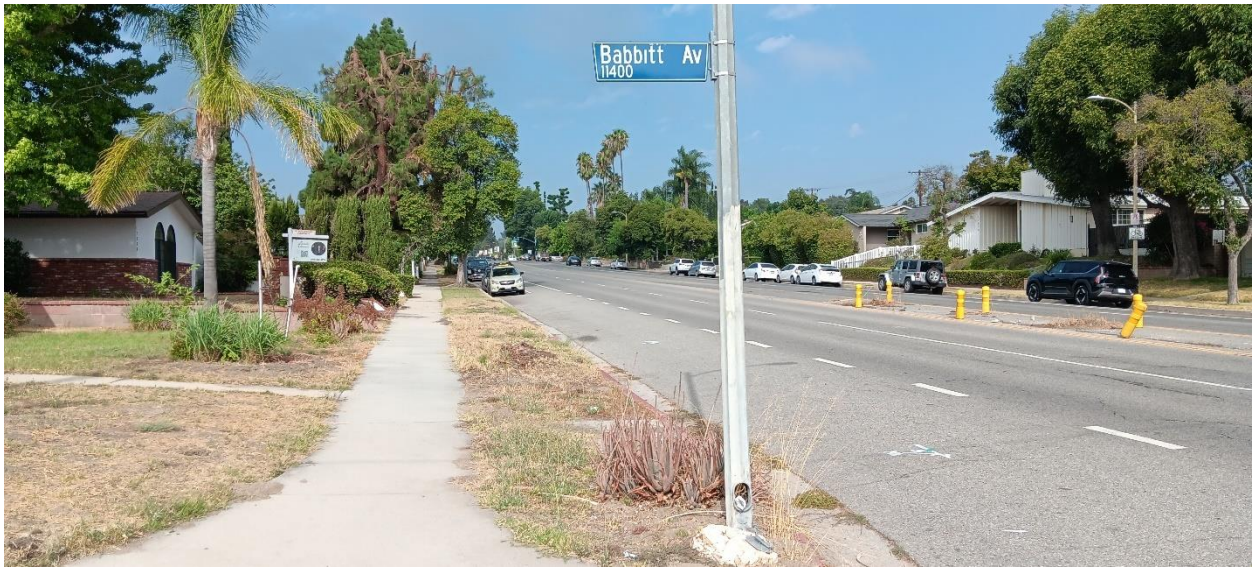
Photograph 12: West-facing view of California sage scrub habitat within the BSA in Aliso Canyon Park, with Rinaldi Street at top left and riparian habitat along Aliso Canyon Wash at right.



Photograph 13: North-facing view of riparian habitat along Aliso Canyon Wash within the BSA in Aliso Canyon Park.



Photograph 14: West-facing view of proposed alignment in Rinaldi Street at intersection with Shoshone Avenue in Granada Hills.



Photograph 15: West-facing view of proposed alignment in Rinaldi Street intersection with Babbitt Avenue in Granada Hills.



Photograph 16: West-facing view of the eastern terminus of the proposed alignment at intersection of Rinaldi Street and Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills.

APPENDIX B

CNDDB REVIEW RESULTS

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Van Nuys (3411824) OR Oat Mountain (3411835) OR Val Verde (3411846) OR Newhall (3411845) OR Mint Canyon (3411844) OR Santa Susana (3411836) OR San Fernando (3411834) OR Calabasas (3411826) OR Canoga Park (3411825))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Accipiter cooperii Cooper's hawk	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S4	WL
Actinemys pallida southwestern pond turtle	ARAAD02032	Proposed Threatened	None	G2G3	SNR	SSC
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC
Aimophila ruficeps canescens southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T3	S4	WL
Ammodramus savannarum grasshopper sparrow	ABPBXA0020	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Anaxyrus californicus arroyo toad	AAABB01230	Endangered	None	G1G2	S2	SSC
Anniella spp. California legless lizard	ARACC01070	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Aquila chrysaetos golden eagle	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
Arizona elegans occidentalis California glossy snake	ARADB01017	None	None	G5T2	S2	SSC
Artemisiospiza belli belli Bell's sparrow	ABPBX97021	None	None	G5T2T3	S3	WL
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri coastal whiptail	ARACJ02143	None	None	G5T5	S3	SSC
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's milk-vetch	PDFAB0F1G0	Endangered	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	Candidate Endangered	G4	S2	SSC
Berberis nevinii Nevin's barberry	PDBER060A0	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Bombus crotchii Crotch's bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	Candidate Endangered	G2	S2	
Bombus pensylvanicus American bumble bee	IIHYM24260	None	None	G3G4	S2	
Branchinecta lynchi vernal pool fairy shrimp	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S4	
California Walnut Woodland California Walnut Woodland	CTT71210CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
Calochortus clavatus var. gracilis slender mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D096	None	None	G4T2T3	S2S3	1B.2
Calochortus fimbriatus late-flowered mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D1J2	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
Calochortus palmeri var. palmeri Palmer's mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D122	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D150	None	None	G4	S4	4.2
Calystegia peirsonii Peirson's morning-glory	PDCON040A0	None	None	G4	S4	4.2
Catostomus santaanae Santa Ana sucker	AFCJC02190	Threatened	None	G1	S1	SSC
Chorizanthe parryi var. fernandina San Fernando Valley spineflower	PDPGN040J1	None	Endangered	G3T1	S1	1B.1
Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi Parry's spineflower	PDPGN040J2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
Cismontane Alkali Marsh Cismontane Alkali Marsh	CTT52310CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	ABNRB02022	Threatened	Endangered	G5T2T3	S1	
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's big-eared bat	AMACC08010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1 monarch - California overwintering population	IILEPP2012	Proposed Threatened	None	G4T1T2Q	S2	
Deinandra minthornii Santa Susana tarplant	PDAST4R0J0	None	Rare	G2	S2	1B.2
Dodecahema leptoceras slender-horned spineflower	PDPGN0V010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. blochmaniae Blochman's dudleya	PDCRA04051	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	PDCRA040H0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Elanus leucurus white-tailed kite	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3S4	FP
Eremophila alpestris actia California horned lark	ABPAT02011	None	None	G5T4Q	S4	WL
Euderma maculatum spotted bat	AMACC07010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
Euphydryas editha quino quino checkerspot butterfly	IILEPK405L	Endangered	None	G4G5T1T2	S1S2	
Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni unarmored threespine stickleback	AFCPA03011	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1	S1	FP
Gila orcuttii arroyo chub	AFCJB13120	None	None	G1	S2	SSC
Gonidea angulata western ridged mussel	IMBIV19010	None	None	G3	S2	
Harpagonella palmeri Palmer's grapplinghook	PDBOR0H010	None	None	G4	S3	4.2
Helianthus inexpectatus Newhall sunflower	PDAST4N250	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
Helminthoglypta fontiphila Soledad shoulderband	IMGASC2250	None	None	G1	S1	
Helminthoglypta traskii pacoimensis Pacoima shoulderband	IMGASC2472	None	None	G1G2T1	S1	
Horkelia cuneata var. puberula mesa horkelia	PDROS0W045	None	None	G4T1	S1	1B.1
Icteria virens yellow-breasted chat	ABPBX24010	None	None	G5	S4	SSC
Lanius ludovicianus loggerhead shrike	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
Lasionycteris noctivagans silver-haired bat	AMACC02010	None	None	G4	S3S4	
Lasiurus cinereus hoary bat	AMACC05032	None	None	G3G4	S4	
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri Coulter's goldfields	PDAST5L0A1	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1
Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii Robinson's pepper-grass	PDBRA1M114	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3
Lepus californicus bennettii San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	AMAEB03051	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	
Lupinus paynei Payne's bush lupine	PDFAB2B580	None	None	G1Q	S1	1B.1
Macrotus californicus California leaf-nosed bat	AMACB01010	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
Mainland Cherry Forest Mainland Cherry Forest	CTT81820CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Malacothamnus davidsonii Davidson's bushmallow	PDMAL0Q0V0	None	None	GNR	S2	1B.2

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. hypoleuca white-veined monardella	PDLAM180A5	None	None	G4T3	S3	1B.3
Navarretia fossalis spreading navarretia	PDPLM0C080	Threatened	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Navarretia ojaiensis Ojai navarretia	PDPLM0C130	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Navarretia setiloba Piute Mountains navarretia	PDPLM0C0S0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Neotoma lepida intermedia San Diego desert woodrat	AMAFF08041	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
Nolina cismontana chaparral nolina	PMAGA080E0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Onychomys torridus ramona southern grasshopper mouse	AMAFF06022	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
Opuntia basilaris var. brachyclada short-joint beavertail	PDCAC0D053	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt grass	PMPOA4G010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Perognathus longimembris brevinasus Los Angeles pocket mouse	AMAFD01041	None	None	G5T2	S1S2	SSC
Phrynosoma blainvillii coast horned lizard	ARACF12100	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
Polioptila californica californica coastal California gnatcatcher	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G4G5T3Q	S2	SSC
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum white rabbit-tobacco	PDAST440C0	None	None	G4	S2	2B.2
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
Rana muscosa southern mountain yellow-legged frog	AAABH01330	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S2	WL
Rhinichthys gabrielino Santa Ana speckled dace	AFCJB3705K	Proposed Threatened	None	G5T1	S1	SSC
Riparia riparia bank swallow	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	CTT32720CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Sagittaria sanfordii Sanford's arrowhead	PMALI040Q0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Schoenoplectiella saximontana Rocky Mountain bulrush	PMCYP0Q1D0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.1
Senecio aphanactis chaparral ragwort	PDAST8H060	None	None	G3	S2	1B.2

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Setophaga petechia yellow warbler	ABPBX03010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Socalchemmis gertschi Gertsch's socalchemmis spider	ILARAU7010	None	None	G1	S1	
Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream	CARE2320CA	None	None	GNR	SNR	
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	CTT61310CA	None	None	G4	S4	
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest	CTT61330CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
Southern Mixed Riparian Forest Southern Mixed Riparian Forest	CTT61340CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
Southern Riparian Scrub Southern Riparian Scrub	CTT63300CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	CTT62400CA	None	None	G4	S4	
Southern Willow Scrub Southern Willow Scrub	CTT63320CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
Spea hammondii western spadefoot	AAABF02020	Proposed Threatened	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC
Symphyotrichum greatae Greata's aster	PDASTE80U0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.3
Taricha torosa Coast Range newt	AAAAF02032	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
Taxidea taxus American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Thamnophis hammondii two-striped gartersnake	ARADB36160	None	None	G4	S3S4	SSC
Thamnophis sirtalis pop. 1 south coast gartersnake	ARADB3613F	None	None	G5T1T2	S1S2	SSC
Valley Needlegrass Grassland Valley Needlegrass Grassland	CTT42110CA	None	None	G3	S3.1	
Valley Oak Woodland Valley Oak Woodland	CTT71130CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
Vireo bellii pusillus least Bell's vireo	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S3	

Record Count: 99

APPENDIX C

RPI REVIEW RESULTS

CNPS Rare Plant Inventory

Search Results

43 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: , 9-Quad include [3411834:3411836:3411835:3411846:3411845:3411844:3411825:3411826:3411824]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	CA ENDEMIC	DATE ADDED	PHOTO
Astragalus brauntonii	Braunton's milk-vetch	Fabaceae	perennial herb	Jan-Aug	FE	None	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2009 Thomas Stoughton
Berberis nevinii	Nevin's barberry	Berberidaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	(Feb)Mar-Jun	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1980-01-01	No Photo Available
Calandrinia breweri	Brewer's calandrinia	Montiaceae	annual herb	(Jan)Mar-Jun	None	None	G4	S4	4.2		1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Calochortus clavatus var. *clavatus*	club-haired mariposa lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	(Mar)May-Jun	None	None	G4T3	S3	4.3	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2011 Chris Winchell
Calochortus clavatus var. *gracilis*	slender mariposa-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-Jun(Nov)	None	None	G4T2T3	S2S3	1B.2	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2012 Anuja Parikh and Nathan Gale
Calochortus fimbriatus	late-flowered mariposa-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Jun-Aug	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available

Calochortus palmeri var. *palmeri*	Palmer's mariposa-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2017 Aaron Schusteff
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	May-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2010 Aaron Schusteff
Calystegia peirsonii	Peirson's morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Canbya candida	white pygmy-poppy	Papaveraceae	annual herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	4.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Cercocarpus betuloides var. *blancheae*	island mountain-mahogany	Rosaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	Feb-May	None	None	G5T4	S4	4.3	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Chorizanthe parryi var. *fernandina*	San Fernando Valley spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jul	None	CE	G3T1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2012 Keir Morse
Convolvulus simulans	small-flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2		1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Deinandra minthornii	Santa Susana tarplant	Asteraceae	perennial deciduous shrub	Jul-Nov	None	CR	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Deinandra paniculata	paniculate tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	(Mar)Apr-Nov	None	None	G4	S4	4.2		2001-01-01	No Photo Available
Delphinium parryi ssp. *purpureum*	Mt. Pinos larkspur	Ranunculaceae	perennial herb	May-Jun	None	None	G4T4	S4	4.3	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Dodecahema leptoceras	slender-horned spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1980-01-01	No Photo Available

Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. *blochmaniae*	Blochman's dudleya	Crassulaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1		1974-01-01	 © 2011 Aaron E. Sims
Dudleya multicaulis	many-stemmed dudleya	Crassulaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Harpagonella palmeri	Palmer's grapplinghook	Boraginaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4	S3	4.2		1980-01-01	 © 2015 Keir Morse
Helianthus inexpectatus	Newhall sunflower	Asteraceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Aug-Oct	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	2010-08-16	 © 2012 Anuja Parikh and Nathan Gale
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula*	mesa horkelia	Rosaceae	perennial herb	Feb-Jul(Sep)	None	None	G4T1	S1	1B.1	Yes	2001-01-01	 © 2008 Tony Morosco
Juglans californica	Southern California black walnut	Juglandaceae	perennial deciduous tree	Mar-Aug	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2020 Zoya Akulova
Juncus acutus ssp. *leopoldii*	southwestern spiny rush	Juncaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	(Mar)May-Jun	None	None	G5T5	S4	4.2		1988-01-01	 © 2019 Belinda Lo
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri*	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Jun	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1		1994-01-01	 © 2013 Keir Morse
Lepidium virginicum var. *robinsonii*	Robinson's pepper-grass	Brassicaceae	annual herb	Jan-Jul	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3		1994-01-01	 © 2015 Keir Morse

Lilium humboldtii ssp. *ocellatum*	ocellated Humboldt lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-Jul(Aug)	None	None	G4T4?	S4?	4.2	Yes	1980-01-01	 © 2008 Thomas Stoughton
Lupinus paynei	Payne's bush lupine	Fabaceae	perennial shrub	Mar-Apr(May-Jul)	None	None	G1Q	S1	1B.1	Yes	2017-04-03	No Photo Available
Malacothamnus davidsonii	Davidson's bushmallow	Malvaceae	perennial deciduous shrub	Jun-Jan	None	None	GNR	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2016 Keir Morse
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. *hypoleuca*	white-veined monardella	Lamiaceae	perennial herb	(Apr)May-Aug(Sep-Dec)	None	None	G4T3	S3	1B.3	Yes	2013-01-03	No Photo Available
Navarretia fossalis	spreading navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	FT	None	G2	S2	1B.1		1980-01-01	No Photo Available
Navarretia ojaiensis	Ojai navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	May-Jul	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes	2008-05-15	 © Anuja Parikh and Nathan Gale
Navarretia setiloba	Piute Mountains navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Nolina cismontana	chaparral nolina	Ruscaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	(Mar)May-Jul	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2	Yes	2001-01-01	 © 2005 Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Opuntia basilaris var. *brachyclada*	short-joint beavertail	Cactaceae	perennial stem	Apr-Jun(Aug)	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1980-01-01	No Photo Available

Orcuttia californica	California Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1		1974-01-01	 © Anuja Parikh and Nathan Gale
Phacelia mohavensis	Mojave phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	None	None	G4Q	S4	4.3	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum	white rabbit-tobacco	Asteraceae	perennial herb	(Jul)Aug-Nov(Dec)	None	None	G4	S2	2B.2		2006-11-03	 © Anuja Parikh and Nathan Gale
Sagittaria sanfordii	Sanford's arrowhead	Alismataceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (emergent)	May-Oct(Nov)	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1984-01-01	 ©2013 Debra L. Cook
Schoenoplectiella saximontana	Rocky Mountain bulrush	Cyperaceae	annual rhizomatous herb	(Mar-May)Jun-Sep(Oct)	None	None	G5	S2	2B.1		2024-04-11	 Steve Matson
Senecio aphanactis	chaparral ragwort	Asteraceae	annual herb	Jan-Apr(May)	None	None	G3	S2	1B.2		1994-01-01	 Neal Kramer
Symphyotrichum greatae	Greata's aster	Asteraceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Oct	None	None	G2	S2	1B.3	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2006 Michael Charters

Showing 1 to 43 of 43 entries

Go to top

Suggested Citation:
California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2025. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9.5.1). Website https://www.rareplants.cnps.org [accessed 21 August 2025].
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APPENDIX D
IPAC SPECIES LIST

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958
Email Address: FW8VenturaSection7@FWS.Gov
https://www.fws.gov/Ventura

In Reply Refer To: 08/21/2025 20:36:41 UTC
Project Code: 2025-0139440
Project Name: Granada Trunk Line Replacement Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve

conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having

similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
(805) 644-1766

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0139440
Project Name: Granada Trunk Line Replacement Project
Project Type: Water Supply Pipeline - New Constr - Below Ground
Project Description: The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) proposes to replace the existing Granada Trunk Line (GTL), a potable water trunk line located in the Porter Ranch and Granada Hills neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles (City). The Granada Trunk Line Replacement Project (proposed project) would include the replacement of approximately 26,411 feet of the GTL primarily within Rinaldi Street in two sections, or units. Unit 1 would consist of an approximately 13,228-foot portion of the GTL extending from Balboa Boulevard to Yolanda Avenue. Unit 2 would consist of an approximately 13,183-foot portion of the GTL extending from Yolanda Avenue to LADWP's De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station. The entirety of the trunk line would be replaced with 48-inch-diameter piping. The proposed project will take place entirely within the City of Los Angeles. In addition to replacement of the GTL, the proposed project would also replace manholes, isolation valves, blow-off valves, and combination air/vacuum valves along the trunk line.

The existing GTL is aging, deteriorating, and lacks seismic resiliency. As such, LADWP proposes to replace Units 1 and 2 of the GTL to increase safety and reliability; to allow for greater operational flexibility for the West Valley area of the City and the De Soto Reservoir; and to convey future local water supplies while reducing dependence on imported water.

The proposed project would include the replacement of an approximately 13,228-foot portion of the GTL within the Rinaldi Street ROW between Balboa Boulevard and Yolanda Avenue (Unit 1), and an approximately 13,183-foot portion of the GTL between Yolanda Avenue and the De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station (Unit 2), with a new 48-inch diameter Earthquake Resistant Ductile Iron Pipe. The replacement pipe would be installed within the Rinaldi Street ROW, generally parallel to the existing trunk line approximately 900 feet north of the existing alignment. At its eastern terminus, the GTL would tie into the existing GTL at Balboa Avenue and Rinaldi Street. At its western terminus, the proposed GTL replacement would tie into the existing De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station, located near the intersection of De Soto Avenue and Rinaldi. The existing GTL would be abandoned in place.

The trunk line would be installed using the pipe jacking method to cross major intersections, which involves installing the pipeline at greater depths from a launching pit to a receiving pit, thus avoiding surface disruption between the pits. In addition, appurtenant structures that would

be required for pipeline operation and maintenance, including isolation valves, blow-off valves, combination air and vacuum valves, and manholes, would be installed along the proposed alignment.

Construction of Unit 1 of the proposed project is anticipated to commence in July 2028 and conclude in July 2036. Construction of Unit 2 of the proposed project would be anticipated to commence in September 2030 and conclude in March 2038. The open trench construction would progress along the alignment at a rate of approximately 40 linear feet of pipeline installation per day, with a maximum of 500 feet of open trench along the roadway at any time. Pipe jacking would progress along the pipe jacking locations at a rate of approximately 9 to 10 linear feet per day after the pits are constructed. As discussed, the existing trunk line would be abandoned and left in place; however, it would remain in service during construction. As such, interruptions in water service would not occur during the construction process.

Potential off-site staging areas may be used during construction; however, staging areas would be located adjacent or in close proximity to the proposed project alignment and would be utilized solely to store construction equipment and materials.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@34.27527405,-118.54288097936663,14z



Counties: Los Angeles County, California

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered
Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* Population: Western U.S. DPS There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Southwestern Pond Turtle *Actinemys pallida* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4768	Proposed Threatened

AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Western Spadefoot *Spea hammondii* Population: Southern DPS No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp *Streptocephalus woottoni* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Braunton's Milk-vetch *Astragalus brauntonii* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5674	Endangered
California Orcutt Grass *Orcuttia californica* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Gambel's Watercress *Rorippa gambellii* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4201	Endangered
Nevin's Barberry *Berberis nevinii* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8025	Endangered
Slender-horned Spineflower *Dodecahema leptoceras* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4007	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia *Navarretia fossalis* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency:	Private Entity
Name:	Arthur Popp
Address:	5 Hutton Centre Drive
Address Line 2:	Suite 500
City:	Santa Ana
State:	CA
Zip:	92707
Email	arthur.popp@mbakerintl.com
Phone:	9498553646

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency:	Los Angeles city
Name:	James Howe
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