APPENDIX 2

Biological Resources Assessment

Mission Springs Water District
Areas A, D-3 G, H, I, J-2, K and I-10 Area Sewer Improvements Project

Biological Resources Assessment

Version 2

January 2026

Tom Dodson & Associates

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Appendix A. Special-Status Species and Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Area

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Executive Summary

Tom Dodson and Associates to conduct a Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) for the Mission Springs Water District's (MSWD) proposed Areas A, D-3,G, H, I, J-2, K, and I-10 Sewer Improvements Project (Project) located in Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California. The BRA includes a desktop and field biological resources survey, aquatic resources survey, and land use consistency analysis for the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The Project Area includes Areas A, G, H, I, J-2, and K totaling 822 acres. The Project would consist of installing sewer pipeline to eliminate septic tanks that threaten contamination of groundwater supplies by expanding MSWD's wastewater collection system.

In May of 2025, biologists conducted a biological resources assessment survey to assess potential sensitive biological resources at the Project site. Results of the biological resources assessment provide baseline information to MSWD, City and/or County planning officials, and federal and state regulatory agencies. It also assesses the likelihood of the Project to cause adverse effects on sensitive biological resources and to identify mitigation measures. The field survey found no state or federally listed species within the Project Area.

Due to the environmental conditions on site and adjacent disturbances, the Project Area does not contain suitable habitat to support special status plant or wildlife species that have been documented in the Project vicinity (within approximately 3 miles), except for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Burrowing owl could occur within the Project Area due to the proximity of documented occurrences and the species' ability to tolerate human disturbance. Field survey results for burrowing owl were negative, with very few potentially suitable burrows observed. Their potential to occur within the Project Area is low also due to limited marginal habitat as a result of development and habitat fragmentation. Provided that Project activities are restricted to the existing paved roadways, potential impacts to burrowing owls can be avoided through implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures provided below for nesting birds.

biologists also assessed the Project Area for the potential presence of state and/or federal aquatic resources. The delineation assessment was conducted in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers *Wetlands Delineation Manual, Jurisdictional Determination Form Instructional Guidebook, Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* and the Environmental Protection Agency and the current Waters of the United States Conforming Rule *(effective September 8, 2023)*. Little Morongo Creek crosses Augusta Avenue, which is within the Project's disturbance footprint, at an at-grade 'Arizona' stream crossing subject to Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Clean Water Act under Section 401 and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Therefore, the Project may impact RWQCB/CDFW jurisdictional waters of the State and require permits if impacted. No other wetland or non-wetland jurisdictional waters were observed within the Project Area. Because aquatic resources in and near the site have low streamflow durations, they are ephemeral and therefore by regulation not federal waters of the United States. Therefore, no Section 404 permit would be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Project site falls entirely within the CVMSHCP area and the MSWD, and City of Desert Hot Springs are both signatories to the CVMSHCP. Therefore, this assessment also includes a Land Use Consistency analysis to assess consistency with the Conservation Goals and Objectives of the CVMSHCP.

This report describes resources, provides an aquatic resource delineation map, identifies state and/or federally listed species with potential to occur and presents representative site photographs.

The delineation results and conclusions presented in this report are considered preliminary and valid under current regulatory context. Additionally, according to protocol and standard practices, the results of the biological resources assessment surveys will remain valid for the period of one year, or until May 2026, after which time, if the site has not been disturbed in the interim, another survey may be required to determine the persisting absence of special status species and to verify environmental conditions on site. Regardless of survey results and conclusions given herein, if any state or federally listed species are found on site during Project-related work activities, all activities likely to affect the animal(s) should cease immediately and regulatory agencies should be contacted to determine appropriate management actions.

1. Introduction

MSWD provides water and sewer services to the communities of Desert Hot Springs, West Garnet, North Palm Springs, and various portions of unincorporated Riverside County. MSWD, as the Lead Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is proposing to install linear sewer pipeline within Areas A, G, H, I, J-2, K , and I-10 (Project Area)(**Figures 1, 2, 3a-h**) to eliminate septic tanks that threaten contamination of groundwater supplies, expanding MSWD's wastewater collection system. This would also protect hot mineral water, which is the economic basis of the community's spa industry.

Tom Dodson and Associates (TDA) has prepared this Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) report for the District's proposed Project Area Sewer Improvements Project. The BRA fieldwork was conducted by biologists Aaron Newton and Ayoola Folarin in May 2025, and Deanna Cummings in January 2026. The purpose of the BRA survey was to address potential effects of the Project on designated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitats and/or any species currently listed or formally proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), as well as any species otherwise designated as sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and/or the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

The Project Area was assessed for sensitive species known to occur locally. Attention was focused on those state and/or federally listed as threatened or endangered species and California Fully Protected species that have been documented in the vicinity of the Project Area, whose habitat requirements are present within or adjacent to the Project Area. Results of the habitat assessment are intended to provide sufficient baseline information to the Project Proponent (MSWD), City and/or County planning officials, and federal and state regulatory agencies. It also assesses the likelihood of the Project in causing adverse effects on sensitive biological resources and to identify mitigation measures. The field survey found no state or federally listed species within the Project Area.

In addition to the BRA survey, Project Area for the presence of state and/or federal jurisdictional waters potentially subject to regulation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA and Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and CDFW under Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code.

Finally, the Project site falls entirely within the CVMSHCP area. The MSWD and City of Desert Hot Springs are both signatories to the CVMSHCP. Therefore, a Land Use Consistency analysis to assess whether the Project's consistency with the Conservation Goals and Objectives of the CVMSHCP was completed.

1.1. Project Description

MSWD proposes to construct new sewer pipeline that would be 8-inch in diameter within Sub Areas A, G, H, I, J-2, K, and I-10 and of the District's service area, within an area of approximately 822- acres. The Project will utilize open cut trenching and jack and bore techniques. The trench width will be 3 feet maximum with a maximum of 5 feet at the top for pavement cutting. The depth to the invert of the pipe will be approximately 8 feet deep in the open cut trench areas. Therefore, it is anticipated that installation of 30,000 LF of sewer line will occur over approximately 125 days of construction over a period of about 6 months. The final activity associated with the sewer installation is repaving of roads disturbed by the construction, anticipated to occur over a 20-day period. Equipment and crews consist of the following:

- 1 Excavator
- 1 Backhoe
- 1 Paver
- 1 Roller
- 1 Water truck

- Traffic Control Signage and Devices
- 10 Dump/delivery trucks (80 miles round trip distance)
- Employees (11 members per team)

1.2. Location

The proposed Project is in the City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California, in Section 32 of Township 2 south, Range 5 east, Section 33 of Township 2 south, Range 5 east, Section 23 of Township 2 south, Range 4 east, San Bernardino Base Meridian (**Figure 1**). The Project Area is depicted on the *Desert Hot Springs* and *Seven Palms Valley* U. S. Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-Minute Series Quadrangle maps.

Generally, the Project Area is located approximately 5 miles north of the Interstate 10 (I-10) Exit 123 (Palm Drive, Gene Autry Trail) (**Figure 2**) and includes Area A, G, H, I, J-2, and K:

Area A (33.980617°, -116.535837°) is the western and northern most Project Area and is generally confined to the Mission Lakes Country Club and surrounding residential community. Area A is bound by Mission Lakes Blvd to the south, Little Morongo Road to the east, Augusta and Annadale Avenue to the north, and Clubhouse Blvd and Doral Drive to the west.

Area D-3 (33.973500°, -116.503176°) is generally bound by 12th Street to the south, Palm Drive to the east,Mission Lakes Blvd to the north, and Santa Cruz Road to the west.

Area G (33.958551°, -116.487940°) is generally bound by Hacienda Avenue to the south, Miricale Hill Road to the east, Pierson Blvd to the north, and Verbena Drive to the west.

Area H (33.951777°, -116.482087°) is generally bound by Desert View Avenue to the north; Hidalgo Street and Yerxa Road to the east; Reposo Way, Maui Way, and Miricle Hill Road to the west; and a mostly undeveloped parcel to the south.

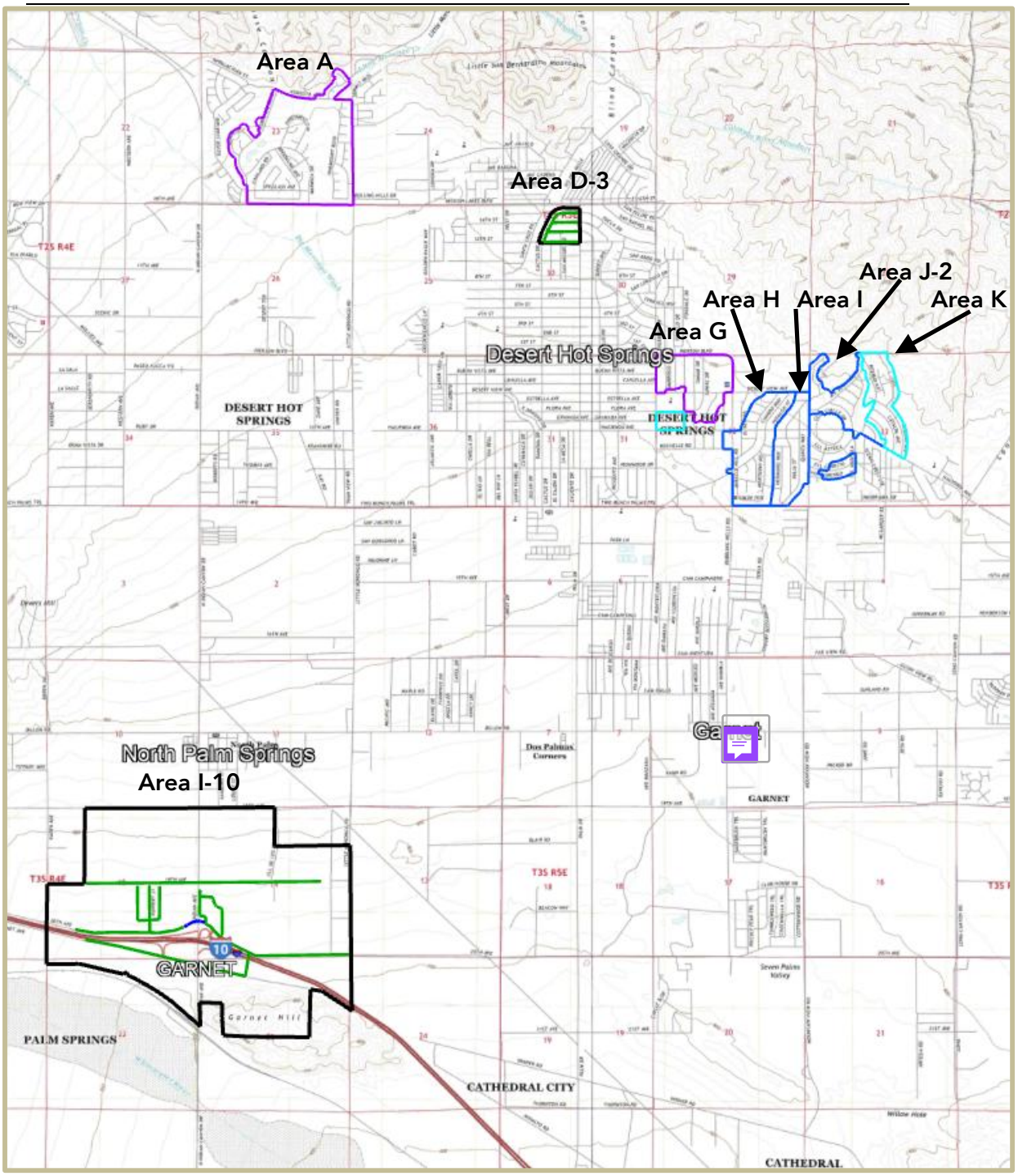
Area I (33.952077°, -116.477212°) is generally bound by Mountain View Road to the east, Desert View Avenue to the north, and Hidalgo Street and Yerxa Road to the west.

Area J-2 (33.956399°, -116.471114°) is generally bound by undeveloped land to the north, Acacia Avenue and Redbud Road to the east, Hacienda Avenue to the south, and Redbud Road to the west.

Area K (33.956838°, -116.466614°) is the eastern most area and is bound by undeveloped land to the north, Acacia Avenue and Redbud Road to the west, Hacienda Avenue to the south, and Deodar Avenue and Skyline Drive to the east.

Area I-10 (33.907404°, -116.546882°) is the southen most area and is bound by undeveloped and developing lands to the north, Karen Drive to the west, the UPRR Railroad Right of Way to the south, and Deodar Avenue and Little Mountain Road to the east.

Figure 1
Regional Location



SOURCE: Google Earth/US Topo

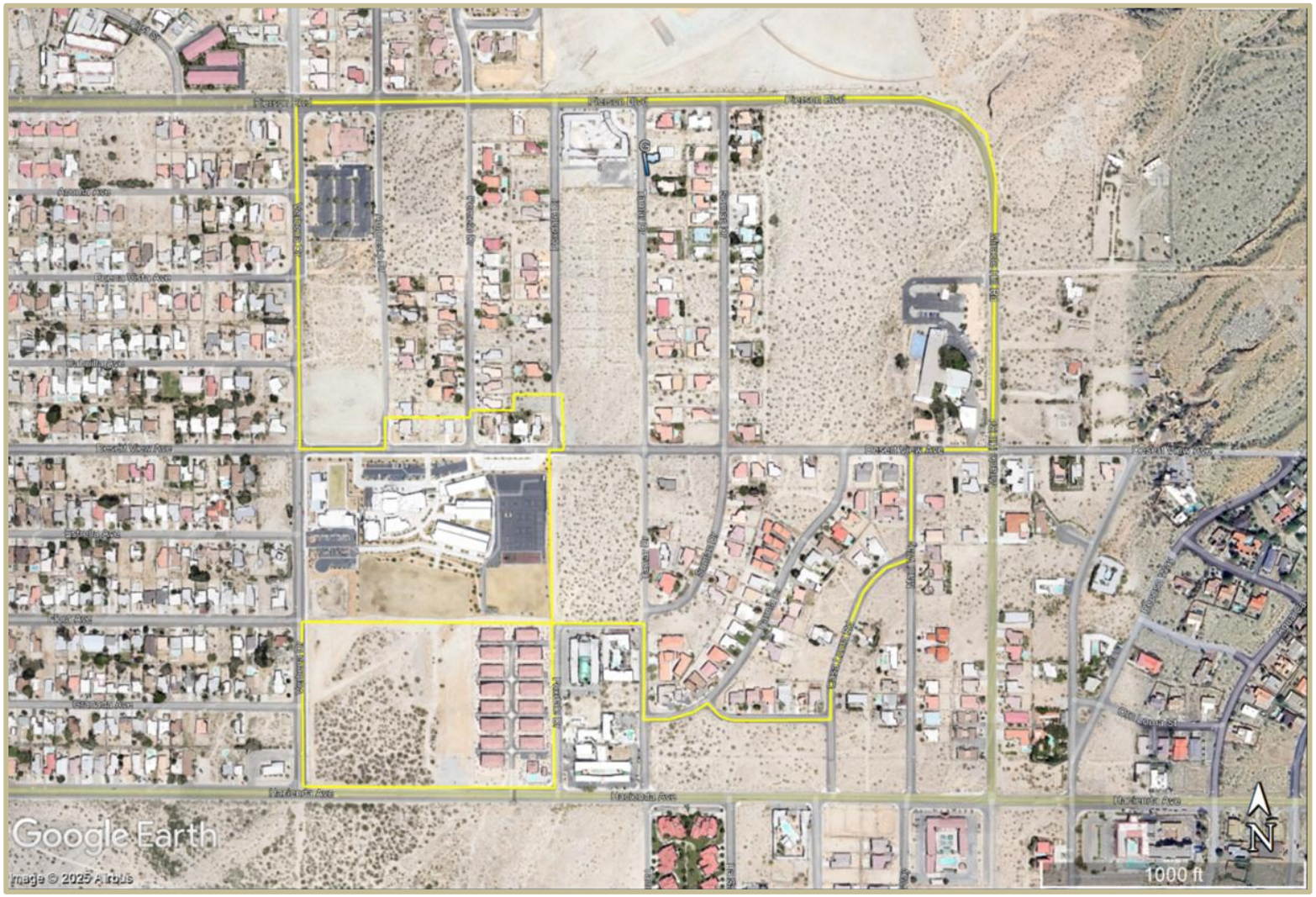
Figure 2
Topographic Map
of Project Areas

SOURCE: Google Earth

Figure 3a.
Area A Sewer Improvements

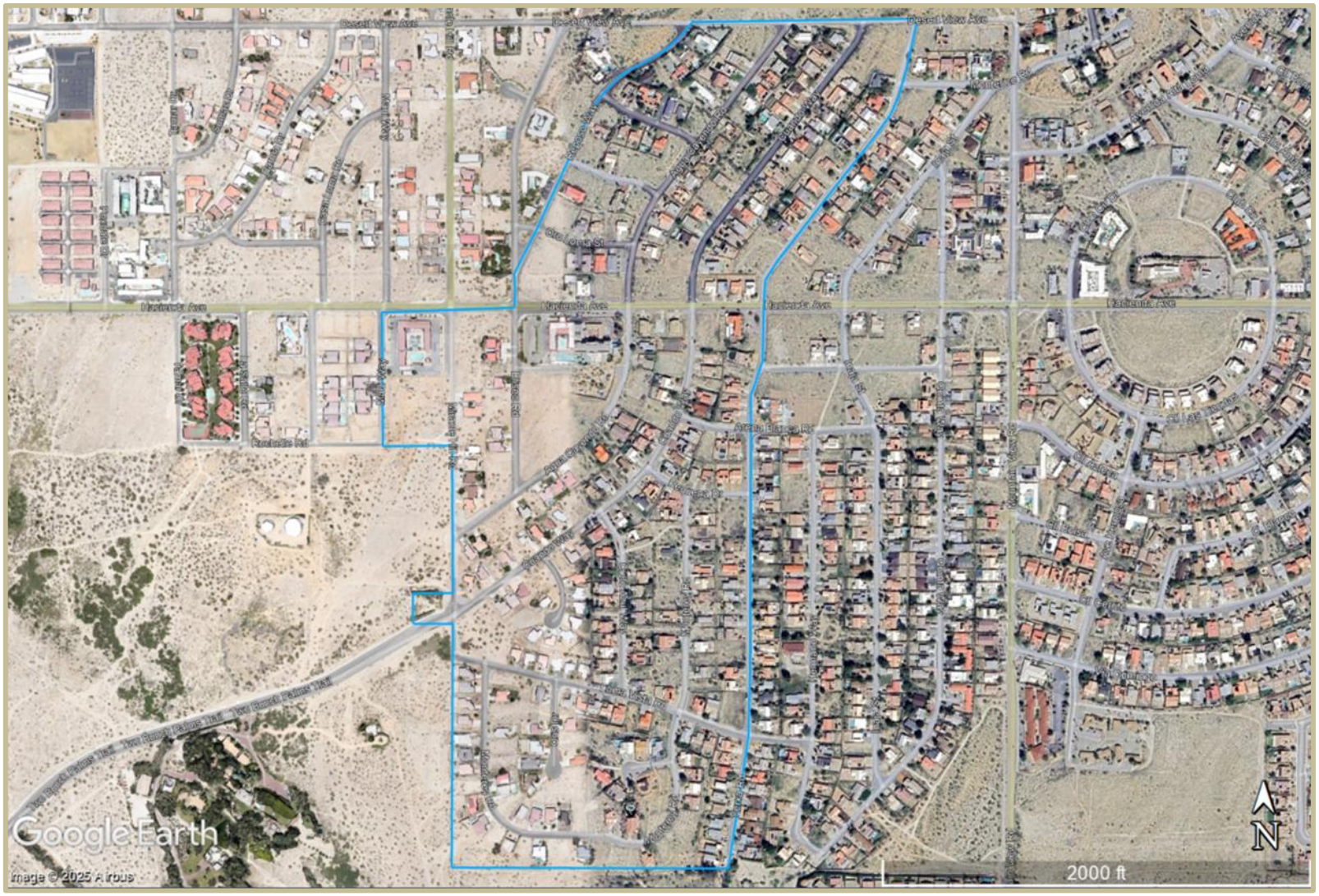
SOURCE: Spicer Consulting Group & MSWD

Figure 3b
Area D-3 Sewer Improvements



SOURCE: Google Earth

Figure 3c.
Area G Sewer Improvements



SOURCE: Google Earth

Figure 3d.
Area H Sewer Improvements

SOURCE: Google Earth

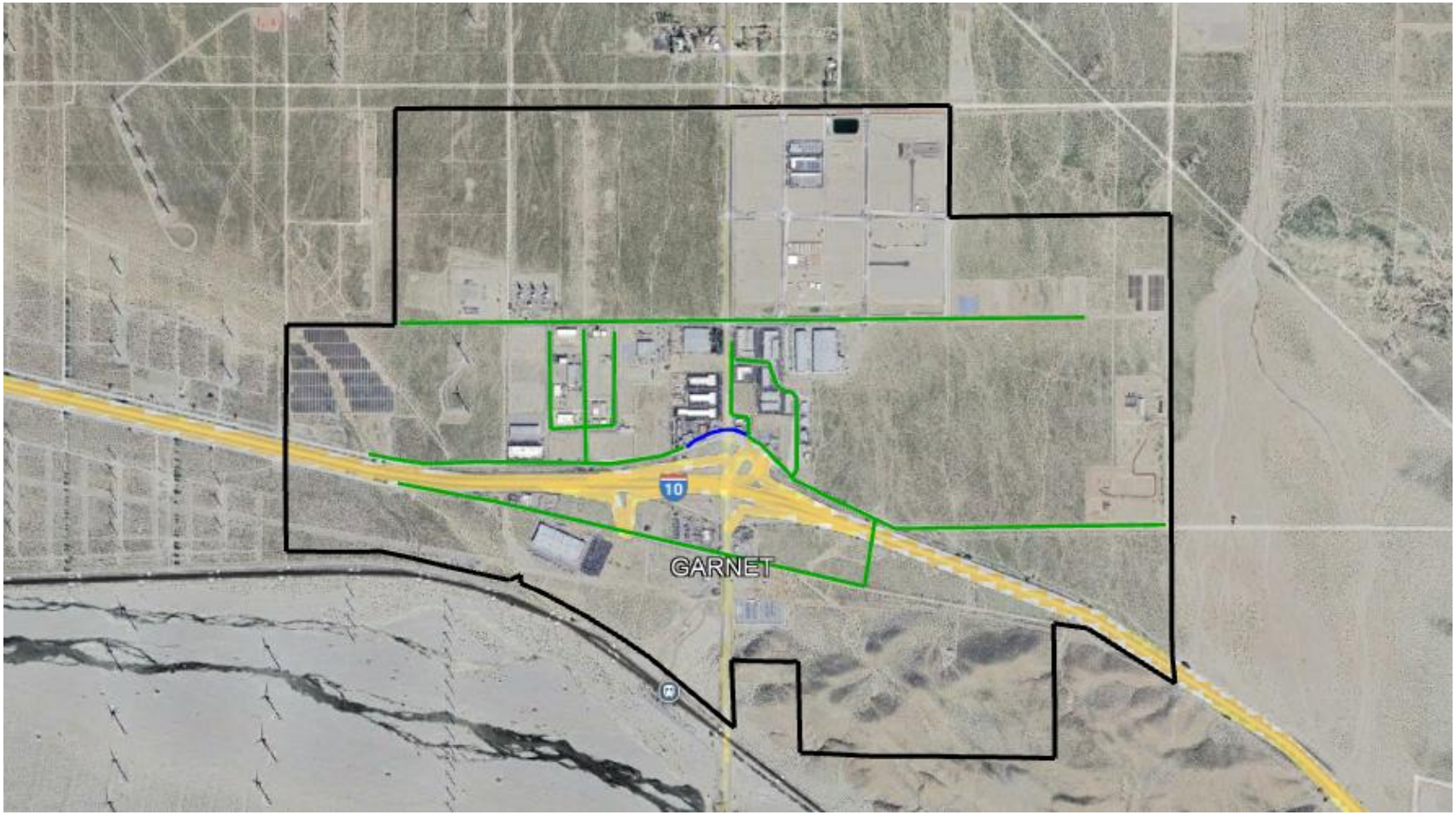
Figure 3e.
Area I Sewer Improvements

SOURCE: Google Earth

Figure 3f.
Area J-2 Sewer Improvements

SOURCE: Google Earth

Figure 3g.
Area K Sewer Improvements



SOURCE: Google Earth

Figure 3h.
Area I-10 Sewer Improvements

Area D-3 Sewer Improvements

1.3. Environmental Setting

The Project Area is situated in the geographically based ecological classification known as the Upper Coachella Valley and Hills of the Sonoran Basin and Range in southern California (Griffith et al. 2016). The goal of regional ecological classifications is to reduce variability based on spatial covariance in climate, geology, topography, climax vegetation, hydrology, and soils. The Upper Coachella Valley and Hills ecoregion is a transitional desert region with some affinities to the Mojave Basin and Range ecoregion to the north and is surrounded by mountains, except to the south where it descends toward the agricultural lands and the Salton Sea (Griffith et al. 2016).

The Desert Hot Springs area is situated in the northwestern end of the Coachella Valley and is bordered on the north and northeast by the Little San Bernardino Mountains, on the east/southeast by the Seven Palms Valley and Edom Hills and on the west by the San Bernardino Mountain foothills. The topography of the Project Area consists of an urban landscape that slopes downward from northeast to southwest, built over naturally occurring alluvial fans and bajadas. The elevation of the Project Area ranges from approximately 1,055 feet above mean sea level (amsl) near the southern limits of the Project Area to 1,520 feet amsl near the northeastern-most limits.

The Project Area is within a hot desert climate (BWh), characterized by year-round high temperatures, low humidity, and considerable variation in the occurrence, intensity, and distribution of precipitation. Average annual maximum temperatures within the Project Area peak at 108.5 degrees Fahrenheit (° F) in July and fall to an average annual minimum temperature of 37° F in December and January (Palm Springs Airport temperature data average over 27 years, 1998-2025; NOAA 2025). Average total annual precipitation is approximately 3.73 inches and reaches a peak in January (0.87 inches) (Palm Springs Airport precipitation data average over 27 years, 1998-2025; NOAA 2025). Precipitation is lowest in the month of June (0.00 inches average (NOAA 2025)).

Hydrologically, the eastern portions of the Project Area are situated within the Miracle Hill Hydrologic Sub-Area (HSA 719.43) and the western portions are within the Mission Creek Hydrologic Sub-Area (HSA 719.42). The Miracle Hill and Mission Creek HSAs comprise 44,525-acre and 73,871-acre drainage areas respectively; both within the larger Whitewater River Watershed (HUC 18100201). The Whitewater River is the major hydrogeomorphic feature within the Whitewater River Watershed and is one of the main tributaries to the Salton Sea. The nearest tributary to the Whitewater River is Morongo Wash, which is southwest-adjacent to Area A at its closest point to the Project Area.

Soils within the Project Area are comprised mostly of Carsitas Series soils including Carsitas gravelly sand, 0 to 9 percent slopes, Carsitas gravelly sand, 9 to 30 percent slopes, Carsitas cobbly sand, 2 to 9 percent slopes and Carsitas fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes (USDA 2025). Carsitas family soils consist of gravelly sand that is comprised of gravelly alluvium derived from granite. This soil type is excessively drained, with a low to very low runoff class and does not have a hydric soil rating.

The Project is also located within the City of Palm Springs and Unincorporated Riverside County. Here is what I suggest this paragraph reads as:

The City of Desert Hot Springs is a desert community situated north of the City of Palms Springs, along the southern foothills of the Little San Bernardino Mountains, which consists of a mix of urban landscapes and undeveloped desert scrub habitats. The project area is entirely within a disturbed environment, with only minor areas of the project footprint containing native desert species (such as any areas outside of road ROW). The mix of land uses that occur within the project area includes nearly all of the land uses that could be found within the City of Desert Hot Springs; and further, within the City of Palm Springs, the land use is generally Industrial (IND) in nature, with some areas designated for Open Space Desert (OS-D), and a small area designated for Medium Density Residential (MDR). Within Unincorporated Riverside County, the predominant land uses are Medium Density Residential, Commercial Retail, Open Space Recreation, Conservation, and Medium High Density Residential. Within all “lettered” Sub Areas, the predominant land uses are residential in nature. Habitat within the surrounding undeveloped areas consist mostly of Creosote bush scrub (Larrea tridentata) Shrubland Alliance plant communities.

2. Assessment Methodology

2.1. Biological Resources Assessment

Data regarding biological resources in the Project vicinity were obtained through literature review, desktop evaluation and field investigation. Prior to performing the field survey, available databases, and documentation relevant to the Project Area were reviewed for documented occurrences of sensitive species that could potentially occur in the Project vicinity. The USFWS designated Critical Habitat online mapper, USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC), and the most recent versions of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Inventory were searched for sensitive species data in the *Joshua Tree South, Myoma, East Deception Canyon, Seven Palms Valley, Morongo Valley, Desert Hot Springs, Yucca Valley South, Cathedral City* and *Palm Springs* USGS 7.5-Minute Series Quadrangles. These databases contain records of reported occurrences of state and federally listed species or otherwise sensitive species and habitats that may occurwithin the vicinity of the Project site and the surrounding quadrangles. The potential for occurrence of all CNDDB sensitive species is documented (**Appendix A**, *Special-Status Species and Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Area*). Other available technical information on the biological resources of the area was also reviewed including previous surveys and recent findings.

2.2. Biological Resources Assessment Field Survey

Biologists Aaron Newton and Ayoola Folarin conducted a biological resources field survey of the Project Area on May 28 and 29, 2025, and January 2026. The field survey area encompassed the entire proposed Project Area and consisted of a pedestrian survey of the proposed Project footprint, as well as the immediate surrounding area where feasible and appropriate (i.e. no adjacent private properties were accessed). Wildlife species were detected by either sight, calls, tracks, scat, and/or other sign. In addition to species observed, expected wildlife usage of the site was assessed based on known habitat preferences of regional wildlife species and data about their relative distributions in the area. The focus of the faunal species survey was to identify potential suitable habitat for special status wildlife that may occur within the Project or its vicinity.

2.3. Aquatic Resources Delineation

- On May 28 and 29, 2025, Aaron Newton and Ayoola Folarin also evaluated the Project Area for the presence of aquatic resources and potentially jurisdictional waters, i.e. Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), as regulated by the USACE and RWQCB, and/or jurisdictional streambed and associated riparian habitat as regulated by the CDFW. Prior to the field visit, aerial images of the Project Area were viewed and compared with the surrounding USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle maps to identify drainage features within the survey area as indicated from topographic changes, blue-line features, or visible drainage patterns. The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Program “My Waters” Google Earth Pro data layers were also reviewed to review whether any hydrologic features and wetland areas had been documented within the vicinity of the site. Similarly, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) “Web Soil Survey” was reviewed for soil types found within the Project Area to identify the soil series in the area and to check these soils to determine whether they are regionally identified as hydric soils. Upstream and downstream connectivity of waterways (if present) were reviewed on Google Earth Pro aerial imagery and topographic maps to understand the site in context of the watershed. The lateral extent of potential WOUS was measured at the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in accordance with regulations set forth in 33 CFR part 328 and the current Waters of the United States Conforming Rule (effective September 8, 2023) as well as the following USACE guidance and policies: USACE – Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1 (on-line edition), January 1987 - Final Report.
- USACE – A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States (A Delineation Manual), August 2008.
- USACE – National Ordinary High Water Mark Field Delineation Manual for Rivers and Streams: Final Version. January 2025.

- USACE – Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0), September 2008.

To be considered a *jurisdictional adjacent wetland* under the federal CWA an area must possess three (3) wetland characteristics: a dominance of hydrophytic *vegetation*, hydric *soils*, and wetland *hydrology*.

- *Hydrophytic vegetation*: Hydrophytic vegetation is plant life that grows, and is typically adapted for life, in permanently or periodically saturated soils. The hydrophytic vegetation criterion is met if more than 50 percent of the dominant plant species from all strata (tree, shrub, and herb layers) is hydrophytic. Hydrophytic species are those included on the National Wetland Plant List for the Arid West Region (USACE 2022). Each species on the lists is rated with a wetland indicator category, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Wetland Indicator Vegetation Categories

Category	Probability
Obligate Wetland (OBL)	Almost always occur in wetlands (estimated probability >99%)
Facultative Wetland (FACW)	Usually occur in wetlands (estimated probability 67 to 99%)
Facultative (FAC)	Equally likely to occur in wetlands and non-wetlands (estimated probability 34 to 66%)
Facultative Upland (FACU)	Usually occur in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67 to 99%)
Obligate Upland (UPL)	Almost always occur in non-wetlands (estimated probability >99%)

- *Hydric Soil*: Soil maps from the USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey (USDA 2025) were reviewed for soil types found within the Project Area. Hydric soils are saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. There are several indirect indicators that may signify the presence of hydric soils including hydrogen sulfide generation, the presence of iron and manganese concretions, certain soil colors, gleying, and the presence of mottling. Generally, hydric soils are dark in color or may be gleyed (bluish, greenish, or grayish), resulting from soil development under anoxic (without oxygen) conditions. Bright mottles within an otherwise dark soil matrix indicate periodic saturation with intervening periods of soil aeration. Hydric indicators are particularly difficult to observe in sandy soils, which are often recently deposited soils of flood plains (entisols) and usually lack sufficient fines (clay and silt) and organic material to allow use of soil color as a reliable indicator of hydric conditions. Hydric soil indicators in sandy soils include accumulations of organic matter in the surface horizon, vertical streaking of subsurface horizons by organic matter, and organic pans.

  The hydric soil criterion is satisfied at a location if soils in the area can be inferred or observed to have a high groundwater table, if there is evidence of prolonged soil saturation, or if there are any indicators suggesting a long-term reducing environment in the upper part of the soil profile. Reducing conditions are most easily assessed using soil color. Soil colors are evaluated using the Munsell Soil Color Charts (Munsell 2000). Soil pits are dug (when necessary) to an approximate depth of 16-20 inches to evaluate soil profiles for indications of anaerobic and redoximorphic (hydric) conditions in the subsurface.

- *Wetland Hydrology*: The wetland hydrology criterion is satisfied at a location based upon conclusions inferred from field observations that indicate an area has a high probability of being inundated or saturated (flooded, ponded, or tidally influenced) long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the surface soil environment, especially the root zone (USACE 1987 and USACE 2008).

Evaluation of CDFW jurisdiction followed guidance in the California Fish and Game Code and *A Review of Stream Processes and Forms in Dryland Watersheds* (CDFW, 2010). Specifically, CDFW jurisdiction would occur where a stream has a definite course showing evidence of where waters rise and to the extent of associated riparian vegetation.

3. Results

3.1. Existing Biological and Physical Conditions

The Project Area consists of the approximately 822-acre area that encompasses the entire extent of the proposed temporary footprints of the new sewer lines, which includes all anticipated construction ground disturbance and physical location of new sewer line. Existing disturbances within the immediate Project Area are primarily associated with residential development and paved roadways. Habitat within the Project Area is disturbed and highly fragmented. Land cover within Project Area consists of residential development, and surrounding land cover consists of a mix of development and undeveloped scrub habitats.

The proposed impact area is completely disturbed, consisting of paved streets (**Appendix B**, Site *Photos and Photo-point Map*). Because there are no undisturbed habitat within the Project Area, the only species expected to occur are those adapted to urban environments. This list of the most common species observed in the Project Area reflects these disturbance characteristics:

- greater roadrunner (Geococcyx californianus)
- Gambel's quail (Callipepla gambelii)
- rock pigeon (*Columba livia*)
- common raven (*Corvus corax*)
- house finch (Haemorhous mexicanus)
- northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)
- house sparrow (Passer domesticus)
- great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)
- Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
- mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
- Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*)
- Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)
- white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
- western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)
- desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

3.2. Special Status Species and Habitats

According to the CNDDB, CNPS, and other relevant literature and databases, 95 sensitive species (57 plant species, 38 animal species) have been documented in the surrounding nine quad search within the surrounding Project Area (*Joshua Tree South, Myoma, East Deception Canyon, Seven Palms Valley, Morongo Valley, Desert Hot Springs, Yucca Valley South, Cathedral City* and *Palm Springs)* USGS 7.5-Minute Series Quadrangles. This list of sensitive species and habitats includes any state and/or federally listed threatened or endangered species, California Fully Protected species, CDFW designated Species of Special Concern (SSC), and otherwise Special Animals. "Special Animals" is a general term that refers to all the taxa the CNDDB is interested in tracking, regardless of their legal or protection status. This list is also referred to as the list of "species at risk" or "special status species." The CDFW considers the taxa on this list to be those of greatest conservation need.

Of the 16 state and/or federally listed (or state candidate) species documented within the Joshua Tree South, Myoma, East Deception Canyon, Seven Palms Valley, Morongo Valley, Desert Hot Springs, Yucca Valley South, Cathedral City and Palm Springs quads, the following six state and/or federally listed (or state candidate) species have been documented in the Project vicinity (within approximately 3 miles):

- Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae;* FE)

- Triple-ribbed milk-vetch (*Astragalus tricarinatus;* FE)
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia* [BUOW]; SCE)
- Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii;* FT, CT)
- Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata;* FT, CE)
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus;* FE, CE)

However, the Project Area consists entirely of residential development and the habitat requirements for these species are absent from the proposed impact area. The habitat within the undeveloped portions of the Project Area is disturbed and highly fragmented, and the aeolian sand dune habitat that Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and Coachella Valley milk-vetch require are absent from the Project Area and immediate vicinity, as well as the rocky slopes required for triple-ribbed milk-vetch. The Project Area is not suitable to support Mojave desert tortoise (due to disturbance and habitat fragmentation) or least Bell's vireo (due to absence of riparian habitat) and these species are not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.

BUOW have been documented adjacent to Areas A, G, K,. I-10. BUOW tolerate some degree of human disturbance. However, there is little suitable BUOW habitat within or adjacent the Project Area, due to development and habitat fragmentation. Additionally, few fossorial mammal burrows were detected during the reconnaissance survey; BUOW do not create their own burrows and therefore require mammal burrows, and no BUOWs or BUOW sign was detected during the survey. BUOW may occur within the Project Area due to the proximity of documented occurrences and the species' ability to tolerate human disturbance, but their potential to occur within the Project Area is low.

3.2.1 Special Status Species

No state and/or federally listed threatened or endangered species, or other sensitive species were observed within the Project Area during the reconnaissance-level field survey and due to the environmental conditions within and adjacent the proposed Project footprint, none are expected to occur with the exception of BUOW, which has a low potential to occur within the Project Area. An analysis of the likelihood and potential for occurrence of all CNDDB sensitive species is documented (**Appendix A**, *Special-Status Species and Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Area*). The analysis considers species' range as well as documentation within the vicinity of the Project Area. It also includes the habitat requirements for each species and the potential for their occurrence on site, based on required habitat elements and range relative to the current site conditions.

3.2.2 Special Status Habitats

The Project Area does not contain any sensitive habitats or USFWS designated Critical Habitat for any federally listed species. However, the nearest Critical Habitat unit is adjacent to Area A. This Critical Habitat unit is part of the Mission Creek Morongo Wash System (Unit 3) for the federally listed endangered Coachella Valley milk-vetch. However, no portion of the Project Area is within Critical Habitat or sensitive habitat. Therefore, the Project will not result in any loss or adverse modification of USFWS designated Critical Habitat, or any other special status habitats.

3.3. Jurisdictional Delineation

The Project Area is within two Hydrologic Sub-Areas: Miracle Hill (HSA 719.43) and Mission Creek (HSA 719.42). The Miracle Hill HSA comprises a 44,525-acre drainage area and Mission Creek comprises a 73,871-acre drainage area; both HSAs are within the larger Whitewater River Watershed (HUC 18100201). This watershed is primarily within Riverside County, with a small portion in San Bernardino County. The Whitewater River Watershed is bound on the north by the Santa Ana and Southern Mojave Watersheds, on the southeast by the Salton Sea Watershed, on the southwest by the San Felipe Creek and Santa Margarita Watersheds, and on the west by the San Jacinto Watershed. The Whitewater River Watershed encompasses a portion of the San Bernardino and Little San Bernardino Mountains to the north and the San Jacinto Mountains to the south and is approximately 1,500 square miles in area. The Whitewater River is the major hydrogeomorphic feature within the Whitewater River Watershed. The nearest tributary to the Whitewater River is Big Morongo Wash just west of Area A and Little Morongo Creek which travels through Area A as a highly altered swale entering and exiting a golf course.

The swale feature includes indicators of hydrology, including sedimentation and flow patterns with a weak ordinary high water mark upstream and downstream of the paved road, along with flow pattern indications on the paved road, the feature has the potential to be a waters of the State regulated under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Because the paved road previously impacted the feature, any impacts to the swale across the paved road would result in no loss of functions and would not result in a discharge of fill material. As a result, impacts to the paved road would only require implementation of best management practices to avoid discharges of fill to nearby upstream and downstream portions of the swale.

3.2.3 Waters of the United States

The USACE has authority to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material in WOTUS under Section 404 of the CWA. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USACE 'Waters of the United States,' Conforming Rule is defined generally as territorial seas, interstate waters, tributaries that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of waters, wetlands adjacent to regulated waters, and intrastate lakes and ponds. The Conforming Rule specifically excludes from the definition of WOTUS:

1) Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons, designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act;
2) Prior converted cropland designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The exclusion would cease upon a change of use, which means that the area is no longer available for the production of agricultural commodities. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other Federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with EPA;
3) Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only dry land and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water;
4) Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to dry land if the irrigation ceased;
5) Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing;
6) Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons;
7) Waterfilled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel unless and until the construction or excavation operation is abandoned and the resulting body of water meets the definition of waters of the United States; and
8) Swales and erosional features (*e.g.,* gullies, small washes) characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow.

Areas meeting all three wetland parameters (i.e. hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetland hydrology) and are adjacent to other jurisdictional waters would be designated as USACE wetlands. As described in the EPA/USACE 'Memorandum To The Field Between The U.S. Department Of The Army, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers And The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning The Proper Implementation Of "Continuous Surface Connection" Under The Definition Of "Waters Of The United States" Under The Clean Water Act' (dated March 12, 2025) an adjacent wetland is where there is a 'continuous surface connection to a requisite covered water making it difficult to determine where the water ends and wetland begins.'

There are no wetland or non-wetland WOTUS within the Project Area. Because all aquatic resources have ephemeral flow durations, none are relatively permanent waters and therefore are not federal WOTUS. Therefore, the Project will not result in any permanent or temporary impacts to WOTUS.

3.2.4 State Lake/Streambed

Little Morongo Creek is an ephemeral drainage that originates in the hills north of the Project Area. The creek runs southwest into a wide concrete-sided channel just north of Area A, and crosses Augusta Avenue into the north side of Area A via a concrete Arizona crossing during high flows. Once within Area A, the creek enters an area of mowed lawn with concrete walls along the margins for a short distance before entering the golf course. Project-related ground disturbance is proposed for Augusta Avenue. A second Arizona crossing on the southern side of Area A

conveys high flows out of the Project Area and across Mission Lakes Boulevard into the existing continuation of Little Morongo Creek; no Project-related ground disturbance is proposed for Mission Lakes Boulevard, so the Arizona crossing at the south end of Area A will not be impacted by the Project.

The at-grade 'Arizona' stream crossing of Little Morongo Creek at Augusta Avenue, subject to RWQCB Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code regulated by CDFW.

3.4. Land Use Designations

3.2.5 Coachella Valley MSHCP

The County of Riverside developed the CVMSHCP to enhance and maintain biological diversity and ecosystem processes while allowing future economic growth. The CVMSHCP sets Conservation Goals and Objectives to ensure the conservation of the Covered Species and conserved natural communities in the MSHCP Reserve System. In addition to setting Conservation Goals and Objectives for the Covered Species and conserved natural communities, the MSHCP has designated Core Habitat, Other Conserved Habitat, Essential Ecological Processes, and Biological Corridors and Linkages. The CVMSHCP area is divided into Conservation Areas based on a combination of ecological and jurisdictional factors. The CVMSHCP is intended to satisfy the legal requirements to authorize the "take" of species covered under the Plan during otherwise lawful activities, by providing for the conservation of the Covered Species.

The Project Area is outside any CVMSHCP Conservation Areas, the nearest Conservation Area is along the southern border of Area A and the northern border of Area K (Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area (**Figure 4a**). Additionally, The Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area boarder the easter side of the 1-10 Area. Although none of theI-10 Area propose disturbance areas occur with a conservation area, the portion of the I-10 Area that is south of I-10 is within the Santa Rosa and Saj Jacinto Conservation Area.

the Project as described, would be consistent with the Conservation Goals and Objectives set forth in the CVMSHCP, and no conservation lands or avoidance measures are expected to be required. However, the project is within the CVMSHCP boundary. Although the project site is not within any Conservation Areas and will not impact any Essential Ecological Processes or Biological Corridors and Linkages, the project site is adjacent (west of) the two Conservation Areaa. Therefore, the project will need to conform with the Guidelines for projects that are adjacent CVMSHCP Conservation Areas. Section 4.5 of the CVMSHCP identifies guidelines to avoid or minimize indirect effects from development sharing a common boundary with Conservation Areas. These Guidelines are designed to minimize the edge effects, and shall be implemented where applicable:

4.5.1 Drainage

Proposed Development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area shall incorporate plans to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff discharged to the adjacent Conservation Area is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions. Stormwater systems shall be designed to prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes within the adjacent Conservation Area.

4.5.2 Toxics

Land uses proposed adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that use chemicals or generate bioproducts such as manure that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife and plant species, Habitat, or water quality shall incorporate measures to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in any discharge to the adjacent Conservation Area.

4.5.3 Lighting

For proposed Development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area, lighting shall be shielded and directed toward the developed area. Landscape shielding or other appropriate methods shall be incorporated in project designs to minimize the effects of lighting adjacent to or within the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.

4.5.4 Noise

Proposed Development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that generatesnoise in excess of 75 dBA Leq hourly shall incorporate setbacks, berms, or walls, as appropriate, to minimize the effects of noise on the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.

4.5.5 Invasives

Invasive, non-native plant species shall not be incorporated in the landscape for land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area. Landscape treatments within or adjacent to a Conservation Area shall incorporate native plant materials to the maximum extent Feasible; recommended native species are listed in Table 4-112. The plants listed in Table 4-113 shall not be used within or adjacent to a Conservation Area. This list may be amended from time to time through a Minor Amendment with Wildlife Agency Concurrence

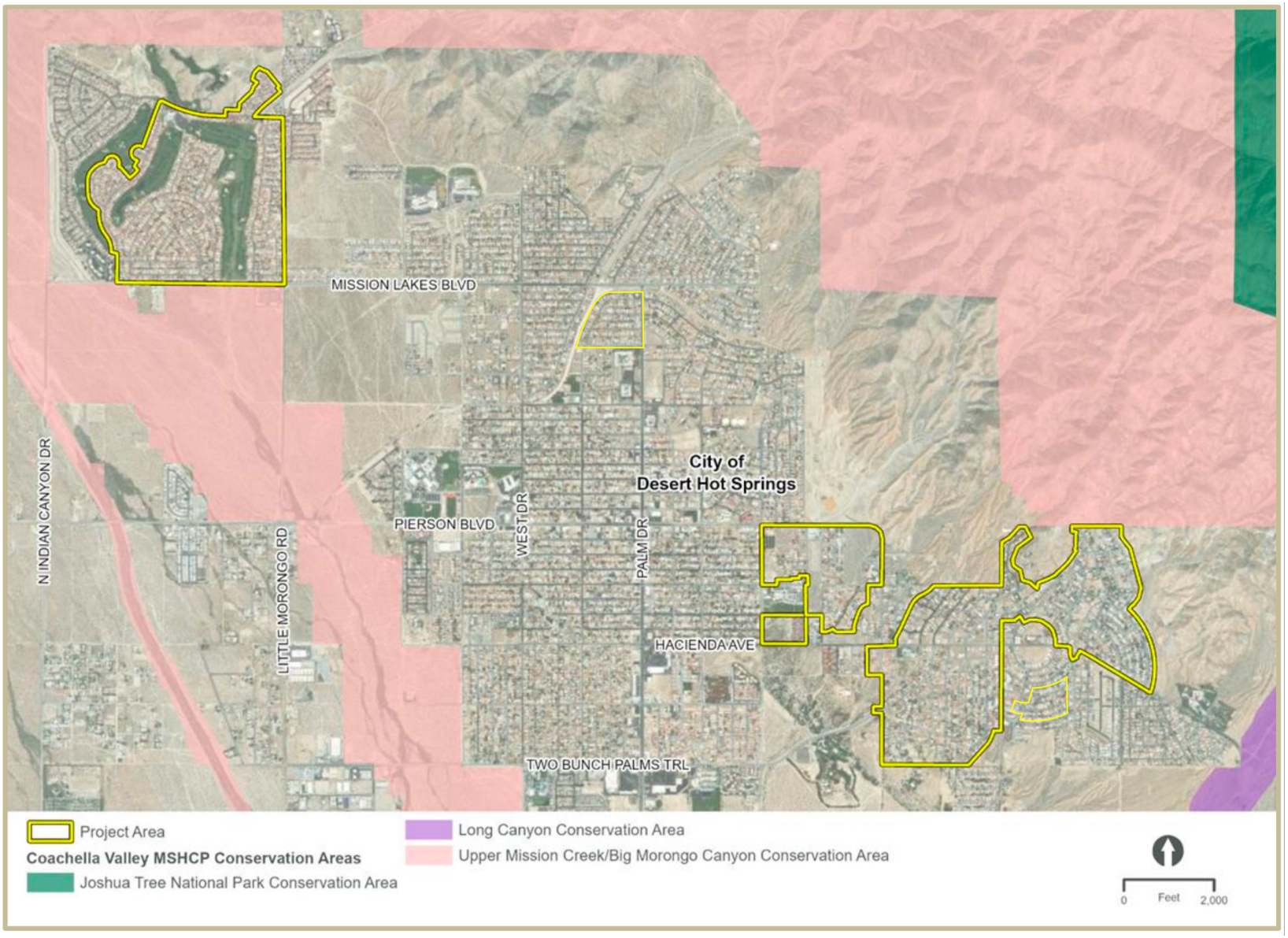


Figure 4a.
CVMSHCP Conservation Areas
MSWD Project Area Sewer Improvements Project

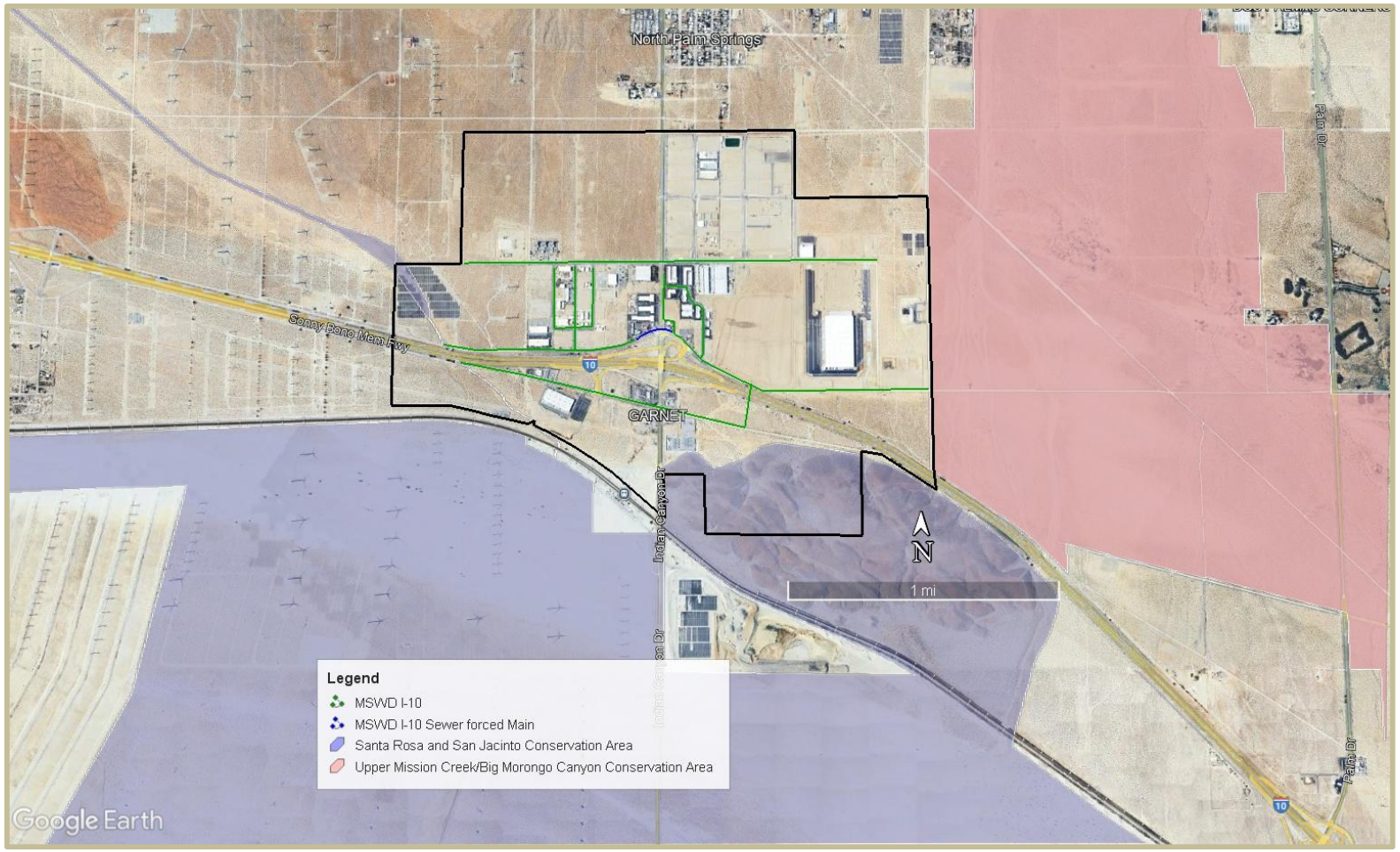


Figure 4b.
CVMSHCP Conservation Areas
MSWD Project Area Sewer Improvements Project

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1. Sensitive Biological Resources

No sensitive species were observed within the Project Area during the field survey and due to the environmental conditions on site, none are expected to occur except BUOW, which has a low potential to occur. The Project Area is completely disturbed, consisting of paved streets and previously graded, compact, and otherwise disturbed bare ground (see attached Site Photos). Existing disturbances within the immediate Project Area are primarily associated with residential development and paved roadways, and habitat within the Project Area is highly fragmented. Due to the environmental conditions on site and the adjacent disturbances, the Project Area is likely not suitable to support most of the special status plant and wildlife species that have been documented in the Project vicinity (within approximately 3 miles), including the federally listed as endangered Coachella Valley milk-vetch, the federally listed as endangered triple-ribbed milk-vetch, the state and federally listed as threatened Mojave desert tortoise, the state listed as endangered and federally listed as threatened Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, and the state and federally listed as endangered least Bell's vireo.

The CESA candidate for listing, endangered BUOW, has the potential to occur within the Project Area due to the proximity of documented occurrences and the species' ability to tolerate some degree of human disturbance; however the potential for occurrence is low due to habitat fragmentation and scarcity of burrows. No BUOW or BUOW signs were observed during the survey. Provided Project activities are restricted to the existing paved roadways, impacts to BUOW can be avoided through implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures provided below for nesting birds.

The Project Area does not contain any USFWS designated Critical Habitat for any federally listed species, therefore, the Project will not result in any loss or adverse modification of Critical Habitat. Additionally, the Project will not impact any CVMSHCP Conservation Areas. The Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Mojave desert tortoise, Peninsular bighorn sheep, burrowing owl, least Bell's vireo, southwester willow flycatcher and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard are all CVMSHCP Covered Species (CVAG 2007). The CVMSHCP provides "take" authorization for Covered Species during otherwise lawful activities, by providing for the conservation of the Covered Species. The District and the City of Desert Hot Springs are both signatories to the CVMSHCP. Since the Coachella Valley milk-vetch, triple-ribbed milk-vetch, Mojave desert tortoise, Peninsular bighorn sheep, southwester willow flycatcher, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, least Bell's vireo, and BUOW are all Covered Species under the CVMSHCP and the Project will not impact any MSHCP Conservation Areas or USFWS designated Critical Habitat for Coachella Valley milk-vetch, "take" authorization is provided for any potential Project-related impacts to these species that may occur.

3.2.6 Nesting Birds

Habitat within the Project Area includes suitable to support nesting birds, including both vegetation and man-made structures. Most native bird species are protected from unlawful take by the MBTA (**Appendix C,** *Regulatory Framework*). In December 2017, the Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a memorandum concluding that the MBTA's prohibitions on take apply "[…] only to affirmative actions that have as their purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs" (DOI 2017). Then in April 2018, the USFWS issued a guidance memorandum that further clarified that the take of migratory birds or their active nests (i.e., with eggs or young) that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity does not constitute a violation of the MBTA (USFWS 2018).

However, the State of California provides additional protection for native bird species and their nests in the California Fish and Game Code**.** Bird nesting protections in the California Fish and Game Code include the following (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513 and 3800):

- Section 3503 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird.
- Section 3503.5 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of any nests, eggs, or birds in the orders Falconiformes (new world vultures, hawks, eagles, ospreys, and falcons, among others), and Strigiformes (owls).

- Section 3511 prohibits the take or possession of Fully Protected birds.
- Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory nongame bird or part thereof, as designated in the MBTA. To avoid violation of the take provisions, it is generally required that Project-related disturbance at active nesting territories be reduced or eliminated during the nesting cycle.
- Section 3800 prohibits the take of any non-game bird (i.e., bird that is naturally occurring in California that is not a gamebird, migratory game bird, or fully protected bird).

In general, impacts to all bird species (common and special status) can be avoided by conducting work outside of the nesting season, which is generally February 1st through August 31st. However, if all work cannot be conducted outside of nesting season, the following is recommended:

- To avoid impacts to nesting birds (common and special status) during the nesting season, a qualified avian biologist should conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys prior to Project-related disturbance to suitable nesting areas to identify any active nests. If no active nests are found, no further action would be required. If an active nest is found, the biologist should set appropriate no-work buffers around the nest which would be based upon the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, nesting stage and expected types, intensity and duration of disturbance. The nest(s) and buffer zones should be field checked weekly by a qualified biological monitor. The approved no-work buffer zone should be clearly marked in the field, within which no disturbance activity should commence until the qualified biologist has determined the young birds have successfully fledged and the nest is inactive.

4.2. Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources

In addition to the BRA survey, the project areas was for the presence of any state and/or federal jurisdictional waters. The result of the jurisdictional waters assessment is that there are no wetland or non-wetland WOTUS or waters of the State potentially subject to regulation by the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. However, as discussed in Section 3.3 above, Little Morongo Creek crosses Augusta Avenue, which is within the Project's disturbance footprint, at an Arizona crossing that may fall under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA and/or Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, or the CDFW under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code. Therefore, the Project may impact RWQCB/CDFW jurisdictional waters and state jurisdictional waters permitting may be required.

4.3. Land Use Designations

The Project is within the CVMSHCP boundary but is outside any CVMSHCP Conservation Areas. The nearest Conservation Areas is the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area, which is north-adjacent to Area K and south-adjacent to Area A and south and east from Area I-10 (**Figures 4a and 4b**). The Project Proponent should be prepared to pay the MSHCP fees and restrict all Project related impacts to existing right-of-way and/or other areas outside of the Conservation Areas. Additionally, in areas adjacent to CVMSHCP Conservation Areas, the Project Proponent should evaluate the Proposed Project's potential for edge effects in accordance with the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines outlined in Sectiuon 4.5 of the Final Major Amendment to the CVMSHCP – August 2016.

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Appendix A.
Special-Status Species and Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Area

Special Status Species Occurrence Potential Analysis

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Abronia villosa var. aurita	Chaparral sand verbena	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Annual herb. Sandy soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert dunes. Found at 75 to 1,600 meters (246 to 5,249 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through September.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Acmispon haydonii	Pygmy lotus	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in rocky Sonoran desert scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland from 520 to 1200 meters (1705 to 3935 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through June.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Allium atrorubens var. cristatum	Inyo onion	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Occurs in sometimes rocky or sandy Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland from 1200 to 2560 meters (3935 to 8400 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through June.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Allium parishii	Parish's onion	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Occurs in rocky Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland from 900 to 1735 meters (2955 to 5695 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through May.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Almutaster pauciflorus	Alkali marsh aster	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in alkaline meadows and seeps from 240 to 800 meters (785 to 2625 feet) above MSL. Blooms June through October.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Aloysia wrightii	Wright's beebrush	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial evergreen shrub. Occurs in rocky, often carbonate Josua tree "woodland" and pinyon and juniper woodland from 900 to 1600 meters (2955 to 5250 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through October.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Ambrosia monogyra	Singlewhorl burrobrush	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Perennial shrub. Occurs in sandy chaparral and Sonoran desert scrub from 10 to 500 meters (35 to 1640 feet) above MSL. Blooms August through November.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Anniella stebbinsi	Southern California legless lizard	US: None CA: SSC	Found in moist, warm, loose soil in sparsely vegetated coastal sand dunes, sandy washes, alluvial fans, chaparral, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather often indicate suitable habitat. Often can be found under surface objects such as rocks, boards, driftwood, and logs.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Antrozous pallidus	Pallid bat	US: None CA: SSC	Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Day roosts in caves, crevices, rocky outcrops, tree hollows or crevices, mines and occasionally buildings, culverts, and bridges. Night roosts may include more open sites, such as porches and open buildings. Occurs in grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forest in western North America. Active year-round, nocturnal.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	US: None CA: FP	Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage- juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also, large trees in open areas.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and there are no suitable nesting sites for this species within the Project Area.
Asio otus	Long-eared owl	US: None CA: SSC	Species known to be widespread and a winter migrant of the Central Valley, the western Sierra Nevada foothills, and along the California coastline. Requires dense stands of vegetation including various grasses and brush, as well as ditches, and wetlands for resting and roosting. Species known to nest on dry ground concealed in vegetation.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Astragalus bernardinus	San Bernardino milk-vetch	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Perennial herb. Often in granitic or carbonate soils in Joshua tree woodland and Pinyon and juniper woodland from 900 to 2,000 meters (2,955 to 6,560 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through June.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Astragalus hornii var. hornii	Horn's milk-vetch	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Annual herb. Occurs in meadows and seeps and playas from 60 to 850 meters (195 to 2,790 feet) above MSL. Blooms May through October.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae	Coachella Valley milk-vetch	US: FE CA None: CNPS: 1B.2	Annual/perennial herb. Occurs in desert dunes and sandy Sonoran desert scrub from 40 to 655 meters (130 to 2,150 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through May	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Astragalus tricarinatus	triple-ribbed milk- vetch	US: FE CA None: CNPS: 1B.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in Joshua tree woodland, Sonoran desert scrub. Hot, rocky slopes in canyons and along edge of boulder-strewn desert washes, with *Larrea* and *Encelia* from 450 to 1190 meters (1475 to 3905 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through May.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	US: None CA: SCE	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	**Low Potential**: This species is able to tolerate some human disturbance/development and there are multiple documented occurrences of the species adjacent to the Project Area, however habitat is fragmented, and only a few mammal burrows were observed during the survey.
Atriplex parishii	Parish's brittlescale	US: FE CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Annual herb. Occurs in alkaline chenopod scrub, playas and vernal pools from 25 to 1900 meters (80 to 6235 feet) above MSL. Blooms June through October.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Ayenia compacta	California ayenia	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in rocky soils in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub habitats from 150 to 1,095 meters (490 to 3,595 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through April.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Boechera dispar	Pinyon rockcress	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in granitic, gravelly Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland from 1200 to 2540 meters (3935 to 8335 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through June.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Boechera lincolnensis	Lincoln rockcress	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in carbonate chenopod scrub and Mojavean desert scrub from 1100 to 2705 meters (3610 to 8875 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through May.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Bombus crotchii	Crotch's bumble bee	US: None CA: SCE	Found between San Diego and Redding in a variety of habitats including open grasslands, shrublands, chaparral, desert margins including Joshua tree and creosote scrub, and semi-urban settings. It is near endemic to California, with only a few records from Nevada and Mexico (CDFW 2022). Williams et al. (2014) report plants in the genera *Asclepias*, *Chaenactis*, *Lupinus*, *Medicago*, *Phacelia*, and *Salvia* as example food plants.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Calochortus palmeri var. palmeri	Palmer's mariposa-lily	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Occurs in mesic chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps from 710 to 2390 meters (2330 to 7840 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through July.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Caulanthus simulans	Payson's jewelflower	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Annual herb. Occurs in granitic, sandy, chaparral and coastal scrub from 90 to 2200 meters (295 to 7220 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through June.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi	Parry's spineflower	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Annual herb. Occurs in openings and sometimes rocky and sandy chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland from 275 to 1220 meters (900 to 4005 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through June.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Chorizanthe xanti var. leucotheca	white-bracted spineflower	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Annual herb. Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, coastal scrub (alluvial fans). Sandy or gravelly places. 300 to 1200 m (985 to 3935 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through June.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Cordylanthus eremicus ssp. eremicus	Desert bird's beak	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Annual herb (hemiparasitic). Occurs in Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland from 1000 to 3000 meters (3280 to 9845 feet) above MSL. Blooms July through October.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big- eared bat	US: None CA: SSC	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Crotalus ruber	red-diamond rattlesnake	US: None CA: SSC	Chaparral, woodland, grassland, and desert areas from coastal San Diego County to the eastern slopes of the mountains. Occurs in rocky areas and dense vegetation. Needs rodent burrows, cracks in rocks or surface cover objects.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Cuscuta californica var. apiculata	Pointed dodder	US: None CA: None CNPS: 3	Annual vine (parasitic). Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub from 0 to 500 meters (0 to 1,640 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through August.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Cyprinodon macularius	Desert pupfish	US: FE CA: CE	Springs, seeps, and slow-moving streams, as well as backwaters and sloughs.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Cypseloides niger	Black swift	US: None CA: SSC	Found in open skies over mountains and coastal cliffs. Forages widely over any kind of terrain. Nests on ledges or in crevices in steep cliffs, either along coast or near streams or waterfalls in mountains. Summer resident in parts of California, mostly migrates to and from breeding grounds in British Columbia and Washington.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Danaus Plexippus	Monarch Butterfly	US: PT CA: None	Typically overwinter in groves of eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), or Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) along the California coast. Adult females lay eggs on milkweed species (*Asclepias* spp.). Milkweeds are critical for successful development of the caterpillar into an adult butterfly (Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper 2025).	Not Expected. The site does not contain suitable overwintering or milkweed habitat to support this species.
Dinacoma caseyi	Casey's June beetle	US: FE CA: None	Found in alluvial fans, river wash areas and associated desert wash and desert scrub vegetation.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Dodecahema leptoceras	slender-horned spineflower	US: FE CA: CE CNPS: 1B.1	Annual herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub (alluvial fan sage scrub). Flood deposited terraces and washes; associates include *Encelia, Dalea, Lepidospartum*, etc. Sandy soils. 200 to 765 meters (655 to 2495 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through June.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern willow flycatcher	US: FE CA: CE	Requires extensive, dense riparian areas with willows or tamarisk. Require standing water.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Eremothera boothii ssp. boothii	Booth's evening-primerose	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Annual herb. Occurs in Joshua tree "woodland", Pinyon and juniper woodland habitat from 815 to 2,400 meters (2,675 to 7,875 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through September.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Eriastrum harwoodii	Harwood's eriastrum	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Annual herb. Occurs in desert dunes. Sandy soils from 15 to 1100 meters (410 to 3000 feet) above MSL. Blooming period March through June.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Erigeron parishii	Parish's daisy	US: FT CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Perennial herb. Occurs in usually carbonate and sometime granitic mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland habitat from 800 to 2,000 meters (2,625 to 6,560 feet) above MSL. Blooms May through August.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Eschscholzia androuxii	Joshua Tree poppy	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Annual herb. Occurs in desert washes of Joshua tree "woodland" and Mojavean desert scrub from 585 to 1685 meters (1920 to 5530 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through June.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Euphorbia abramsiana	Abrams' spurge	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Annual herb. Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub from -5 to 1,310 meters (-15 to 4,300 feet) above MSL. Blooms August through November	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Euphorbia arizonica	Arizona spurge	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in sandy Sonoran desert scrub from 50 to 300 meters (165 to 985 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through April.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Euphorbia misera	cliff spurge	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Perennial shrub. Occurs in rocky scrubs in coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub from 10 to 500 meters (35 to 1640 feet) above MSL. Blooms October, December through August.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Euphorbia platysperma	flat-seeded spurge	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Annual herb. Occurs in desert dunes and sandy Sonoran desert scrub from 65 to 100 meters (215 to 330 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through September.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Galium angustifolium ssp. gracillimum	Slender bedstraw	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in granitic or rocky Sonoran desert scrub and Joshua tree "woodland" from 130 to 1,550 meters (425 to 5,085 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through July.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Galium johnstonii	Johnston's bedstraw	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland and riparian woodland from 1220 to 2300 meters (4005 to 7545 feet) above MSL. Blooms June through July.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Gopherus agassizii	desert tortoise	US: FT CA: CT	Most common in desert scrub, desert wash, and Joshua tree habitats; occurs in almost every desert habitat. Require friable soil for burrow and nest construction. Creosote bush habitat with large annual wildflower blooms preferred.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Heuchera hirsutissima	Shaggy-haired alumroot	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs in granitic, rocky subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest from 1520 to 3500 meters (4985 to 11485 feet) above MSL. Blooms May through July.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Horsfordia newberryi	Newberry's velvet-mallow	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial shrub. Occurs in rocky Sonoran desert scrub from 3 to 800 meters (10 to 2,6250 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through December.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Hulsea vestita ssp. callicarpha	Beautiful hulsea	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in granitic, sometimes gravelly and rocky chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest from 915 to 3050 meters (3000 to 10005 feet) above MSL. Blooms May through October.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Hulsea vestita ssp. parryi	Parry's sunflower	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in openings, rocky and sometimes carbonate and granitic upper and lower montane coniferous forest and pinyon and juniper woodlands from 1370 to 2895 meters (4495 to 9500 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through August.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Icteria virens	Yellow-breasted chat	US: None CA: SSC	Riparian thickets of willow, brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in riparian woodland throughout much of western North America. Winters in Central America.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Imperata brevifolia	California satintail	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.1	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs in mesic chaparral, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, riparian scrub, meadows and seeps (often alkali) from 0 to 1215 meters (0 to 3985 feet) above MSL. Blooms September through May.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Johnstonella costata	Ribbed cryptantha	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Annual herb. Occurs in desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub from -60 to 500 meters (-195 to 1,640 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through May	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Johnstonella holoptera	Winged cryptantha	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Annual herb. Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub from 100 to 1,690 meters (330 to 5,545 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through April.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Juncus acutus ssp. leopoldii	Southwestern spiny rush	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs in coastal dunes (mesic), coastal scrub, meadows and seeps (alkaline seeps), marshes and swamps (coastal salt) from 3 to 900 meters (10 to 2,955 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through June.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Juncus cooperi	Cooper's rush	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in meadows and seeps (mesic, alkaline or saline) from -260 to 1,770 meters (-855 to 5,805 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through August.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead shrike	US: None CA: SSC	Inhabits open country with short vegetation and well-spaced shrubs or low trees, particular those with spines or thorns. Frequent agricultural fields, pastures, old orchards, riparian areas, desert scrublands, savannas, prairies, golf courses, and cemeteries.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Lasiurus xanthinus	Western yellow bat	US: None CA: SSC	Arid to dry areas including savannas, secluded woodlands, pasture or croplands, and urban areas.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Lilium parryi	Lemon lily	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Occurs in mesic upper and lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forests, meadows and seeps from 1220 to 2745 meters (4005 to 9005 feet) above MSL. Blooms July through August.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Linanthus jaegeri	San Jacinto linanthus	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in granitic, rocky subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest from 2195 to 3050 meters (7200 to 10005 feet) above MSL. Blooms July through September.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Linanthus maculatus ssp. maculatus	Little San Bernardino Mtns. linanthus	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Annual herb. Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Joshua tree woodland. Sandy places. Usually in light-colored quartz sand; often in wash or bajada from 140 to 1220 meters (460 to 4005 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through May.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Lycium torreyi	Torrey's box-thorn	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Perennial shrub. Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub from -50 to 1,220 meters (-165 to 4,005 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through November.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Mentzelia tricuspis	spiny-hair blazing star	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.1	Annual herb. Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub in Sandy or gravelly slopes and washes from 150 to 1280 meters (490 to 4200 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through May.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Monardella robisonii	Robinson's monardella	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs in pinyon and juniper woodland habitat from 610 to 1,500 meters (2,000 to 4,920 feet) above MSL. Blooms February through October.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Nemacaulis denudata var. gracilis	slender cottonheads	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal dunes, desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub, in dunes or sand from -50 to 400 meters (-165 to 1310 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through May.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	US: None CA: SSC	Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	Pocketed free-tailed bat	US: None CA: SSC	Usually associated with cliffs, rock outcrops, or slopes. May roost in buildings (including roof tiles) or caves. Rare in California, where it is found in Riverside, San Diego, Imperial and possibly Los Angeles Counties. More common in Mexico. Year-round; nocturnal.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Nyctinomops macrotis	Big free-tailed bat	US: None CA: SSC	Rare in California. Roosts in buildings, caves, crevices of high cliffs and rock outcrops and occasionally in holes in trees. Often observed foraging over water sources.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Ovis canadensis nelsoni	desert bighorn sheep	US: None CA: FP	Widely distributed from the White Mountains in Mono County, to the Chocolate Mountains in Imperial County. Open, rocky, steep areas with available water and herbaceous forage.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2	Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	US: FE CA: FT, FP	Eastern slopes of the Peninsular Ranges below 4,600 ft elevation. This DPS of the subspecies inhabits the Peninsular Ranges in southern California from the San Jacinto Mountains south to the US-Mexico International Border. Optimal habitat includes steep walled canyons and ridges bisected by rocky or sandy washes, with available water.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Pelazoneuron puberulum var. sonorense	Sonoran maiden fern	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs in meadows and seeps (seeps, streams) from 50 to 610 meters (165 to 2000 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through September.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Penstemon clevelandii var. connatus	San Jacinto beardtongue	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in rocky chapparal, pinyon and juniper woodland and Sonoran desert scrub from 400 to 1500 meters (1310 to 4920 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through May.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Penstemon clevelandii var. mohavensis	Mojave beardtongue	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in often granitic and rocky Mojavean desert scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland from 925 to 1620 meters (3035 to 5315 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through May.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Perognathus longimembris bangsi	Palm Springs pocket mouse	US: None CA: SSC	Desert riparian, desert scrub, desert wash and sagebrush habitats. Most common in creosote-dominated desert scrub. Rarely found on rocky sites. Occurs in all canopy coverage classes.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Petalonyx linearis	Narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Perennial shrub. Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub from -25 to 1,115 meters (-80 to 3,660 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through December.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	US: None CA: SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Phrynosoma mcallii	flat-tailed horned lizard	US: None CA: SSC	Restricted to desert washes and desert flats in central Riverside, eastern San Diego, and Imperial counties. Critical habitat element is fine sand, into which lizards burrow to avoid temperature extremes; requires vegetative cover and ants.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Piranga rubra	Summer tanager	US: None CA: SSC	Breeds in low-elevation willow and cottonwood woodlands and mesquite and saltcedar stands at higher elevations in the southwest.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Polioptila californica californica	Coastal California gnatcatcher	US: FT CA: SSC	Year-round resident that occurs in coastal sage scrub and valleys up to about 500 meters (1,640 feet).	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Pyrocephalus rubinus	Vermilion flycatcher	US: None CA: SSC	Scrub, desert, cultivated lands, and riparian woodlands.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	US: FT CA: SSC	Ponds/streams in humid forests, woodlands, grasslands, coastal scrub, and streamsides with plant cover in lowlands or foothills. Breeding habitat includes permanent or ephemeral water sources; lakes, ponds, reservoirs, slow streams, marshes, bogs, and swamps. Ephemeral wetland habitats require animal burrows or other moist refuges for estivation when the wetlands are dry. From sea level to 5,000 feet. Occurs along the Coast Ranges from Mendocino County south to northern Baja California, and inland across the northernmost reaches of the Sacramento Valley and locally south through portions of the Sierra Nevada foothills as far south as northern Tulare County.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Rana muscosa	Southern mountain yellow-legged frog	US: FE CA: CE	In Southern California, populations are restricted to perennial streams in ponderosa pine, montane hardwood-conifer, and montane riparian habitats. Isolated populations exist in the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto mountains. Active from March (ice melt) to August. Adults hibernate during winter and some individuals in Southern California aestivate during late summer.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Saltugilia latimeri	Latimer's woodland-gilia	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Annual herb. Occurs in granitic, rocky, sandy, washes in chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats from 400 to 1,900 meters (1,310 to 6,235 feet) above MSL. Blooms March through June.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Selaginella eremophila	desert spike-moss	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs in Sonoran desert scrub, chaparral. Shaded sites, gravelly soils; crevices or among rocks from 200 to 1295 meters (655 to 4250 feet) above MSL. Bloms May through July.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Setophaga petechia	Yellow warbler	US: None CA: SSC	Nests in riparian woodland, more widespread in brushy areas and woodlands during migration. Migrants are widespread and common.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Stemodia durantifolia	Purple stemodia	US: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.1	Perennial herb. Occurs in mesic or sandy soils in Sonoran desert scrub habitat from 180 to 300 meters (590 to 985 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through December.	Not Expected. Site above known elevational range.
Streptanthus campestris	Southern jewelflower	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in rocky chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest and pinyon and juniper woodland habitat from 900 to 2300 meters (2955 to 7545 feet) above MSL. Blooms April through July.	Not Expected. Site below known elevational range.
Taxidea taxus	American badger	US: None CA: SSC	Agricultural land, grassland and other open areas and brush lands with sparse groundcover.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Tetraoccus hallii	Hall's tetracoccus	US: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Perennial deciduous shrub. Occurs in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub from 30 to 1200 meters (100 to 3935 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through May.	Not Expected: The Project footprint is within existing paved roads and previously graded, compact bare ground.
Toxostoma Crissale	Crissal thrasher	US: None CA: SSC	Found in dense, low scrubby vegetation, such as desert and foothill scrub and riparian brush.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status Federal/ State	Habitat	Occurrence Potential
Toxostoma lecontei	Le Conte's thrasher	US: None CA: SSC	Desert resident; primarily of open desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and desert succulent scrub habitats. Commonly nests in a dense, spiny shrub or densely branched cactus in desert wash habitat, usually 2-8 feet above ground.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Uma inornata	Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	US: FT CA: CE	Limited to sandy areas in the Coachella Valley, Riverside County. Requires fine, loose, windblown sand (for burrowing), interspersed with hardpan and widely spaced desert shrubs.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	US: FE CA: CE	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2,000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, Baccharis, mesquite.	Not Expected: The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area.
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus	Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	US: None CA: SSC	Restricted to the Coachella Valley. Prefers desert succulent scrub, desert wash, desert scrub, alkali scrub, and levees. Prefers open, flat, grassy areas in fine-textured, sandy soil. Density correlated with winter rainfall.	The Project Area is within an urban environment and due to existing human disturbances and poor habitat quality, this species not expected to occur within or adjacent the Project Area. Occurrence potential is **low**.
Xylorhiza cognata	Mecca-aster	US: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in Sonoran desert scrub habitat from 20 to 400 meters (65 to 1,310 feet) above MSL. Blooms January through June.	This species has the potential to occur in the area and favors steep canyon slops and washes. Due to the disturbed site and lack of canyon washes, suitable habitat is not likely to occur in the Project Area. Occurrence potential is **low**.

Coding and Terms

E = Endangered **T = Threatened** **C = Candidate** **FP = Fully Protected** **SSC = Species of Special Concern** **R = Rare** **PT = Proposed Threatened**

State Species of Special Concern: An administrative designation given to vertebrate species that appear to be vulnerable to extinction because of declining populations, limited acreages, and/or continuing threats. Raptor and owls are protected under section 3502.5 of the California Fish and Game code: "It is unlawful to take, possess or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes or to take, possess or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird."

State Fully Protected: The classification of Fully Protected was the State's initial effort in the 1960's to identify and provide additional protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction. Lists were created for fish, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Fully Protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for collecting these species for necessary scientific research and relocation of the bird species for the protection of livestock.

Global Rankings (Species or Natural Community Level):

G1 = Critically Imperiled – At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors. G2 = Imperiled – At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.
G3 = Vulnerable – At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors. G4 = Apparently Secure – Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
G5 = Secure – Common; widespread and abundant.

Subspecies Level: Taxa which are subspecies or varieties receive a taxon rank (T-rank**)** attached to their G-rank. Where the G-rank reflects the condition of the entire species, the T-rank reflects the global situation of just the subspecies. For example: the Point Reyes mountain beaver, *Aplodontia rufa* ssp. *phaea* is ranked G5T2. The G-rank refers to the whole species range i.e., *Aplodontia rufa.* The T-rank refers only to the global condition of ssp. *phaea*.

State Ranking:
S1 = Critically Imperiled – Critically imperiled in the State because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations) or because of factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the State.
S2 = Imperiled – Imperiled in the State because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the State.
S3 = Vulnerable – Vulnerable in the State due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation from the State.
S4 = Apparently Secure – Uncommon but not rare in the State; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors. S5 = Secure – Common, widespread, and abundant in the State.

California Rare Plant Rankings (CNPS List):
1A = Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere. 1B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
2A = Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere.
2B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere. 3 = Plants about which more information is needed; a review list.
4 = Plants of limited distribution; a watch list.

Threat Ranks:
.1 = Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 = Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
.3 = Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Appendix B.
Site Photos

Photograph 1. Looking south along the proposed Project alignment from the intersection of Clubhouse Blvd. and Augusta Ave. within Area A.

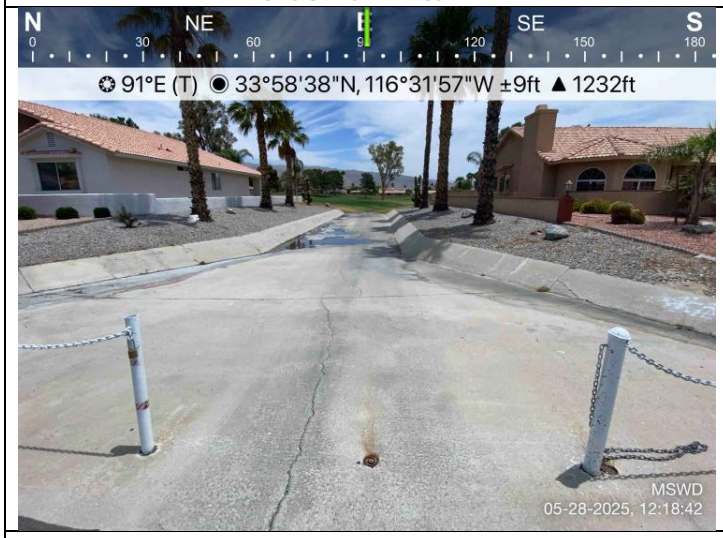
Photograph 2. Looking southeast along the proposed Project alignment on Desert Air Ct. within Area A.

Photograph 3. Photo looking west along the proposed Project alignment at Arizona crossing on Augusta Ave. Flows from Little Morongo Creek entering Area A.

Photograph 4. Looking east along the proposed Project alignment from the intersection of Oakmount Blvd. and Ray Ct. within Area A.

Photograph 5. Looking northeast along the proposed Project alignment from the intersection of Warwick Drive and Pinehurst Circle within Area A.

Photograph 6. Looking northwest along the proposed Project alignment from the intersection of Warwick Drive and Diegel Ct. within Area A.



Photograph 7. Photo looking east along proposed Project alignment of culvert outlet from nearby road runoff at intersection of Warwick Dr. and Spyglass Ave. within Area A.

Photograph 8. Photo looking west along the proposed Project alignment at Arizona crossing on Mission Lakes Blvd. Flows from Little Morongo Creek exiting Area A.

Photograph 9. Looking north along the proposed Project alignment from 19th Avenue within Area I-10.

Photograph 10. Looking southeast along the proposed Project alignment from the intersection of Malone Street and19th within Area I-10.

Photograph 11. 20th Avenue looking East

Photograph 12. Photo looking west on Garnet Avenue along the south side of Area I-10.

Appendix C.
Regulatory Framework

Federal Regulations

Clean Water Act

The purpose of the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." Section 404 of the CWA prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) without a permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The definition of waters of the United States includes rivers, streams, estuaries, territorial seas, ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Wetlands are defined as those areas "that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 328.3 7b). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also has authority over wetlands and may override a USACE permit. Substantial impacts to wetlands may require an individual permit. Projects that only minimally affect wetlands may meet the conditions of one of the existing Nationwide Permits. A Water Quality Certification or waiver pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA is required for Section 404 permit actions; in California this certification or waiver is issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Waters of the United States Conforming Rule

The USACE has authority to permit the discharge of dredged or fill material in WOTUS under Section 404 of the CWA. According to the EPA and the Department of the Army's Waters of the United States Conforming Rule (effective September 8, 2023) WOTUS are defined generally as territorial seas, interstate waters, tributaries that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of waters, wetlands adjacent to regulated waters, and intrastate lakes and ponds. The Conforming Rule specifically excludes from the definition of WOTUS:

1) Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons, designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act;
2) Prior converted cropland designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The exclusion would cease upon a change of use, which means that the area is no longer available for the production of agricultural commodities. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other Federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with EPA;
3) Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only dry land and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water;
4) Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to dry land if the irrigation ceased;
5) Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing;
6) Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons;
7) Waterfilled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel unless and until the construction or excavation operation is abandoned and the resulting body of water meets the definition of waters of the United States; and
8) Swales and erosional features (*e.g.,* gullies, small washes) characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow.

Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 protects plants and wildlife that are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as endangered or threatened. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as any effort to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct" (50 CFR 17.3). However, on April 17, 2025, a final federal regulation was published rescinding the long-standing definition of 'harm' eliminating habitat removal as a cause of harm. Therefore, take no longer includes harm through significant habitat modification or degradation, and instead now requires direct killing or injuring to meet the definition of

take. For plants, this statute governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 United States Code [USC] 1538). Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a listed species (including plants) or its critical habitat. Through consultation and the issuance of a biological opinion, the USFWS may issue an incidental take statement allowing take of the species that is incidental to an otherwise authorized activity, provided the action will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. The ESA specifies that the USFWS designate habitat for a species at the time of its listing in which are found the physical or biological features "essential to the conservation of the species," or which may require "special Management consideration or protection..." (16 USC § 1533[a][3].2; 16 USC § 1532[a]). This designated Critical Habitat is then afforded the same protection under the ESA as individuals of the species itself, requiring issuance of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) prior to any activity that results in "the destruction or adverse modification of habitat determined to be critical" (16 USC § 1536[a][2]).

Interagency Consultation and Biological Assessments

Section 7 of ESA provides a means for authorizing the "take" of threatened or endangered species by federal agencies, and applies to actions that are conducted, permitted, or funded by a federal agency. The statute requires federal agencies to consult with the USFWS or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as appropriate, to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat for these species. If a proposed project "may affect" a listed species or destroy or modify critical habitat, the lead agency is required to prepare a biological assessment evaluating the nature and severity of the potential effect.

Habitat Conservation Plans

Section 10 of the federal ESA requires the acquisition of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the USFWS by non-federal landowners for activities that might incidentally harm (or "take") endangered or threatened wildlife on their land. To obtain a permit, an applicant must develop a Habitat Conservation Plan that is designed to offset any harmful impacts the proposed activity might have on the species.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 661 to 667e et seq.) applies to any federal project where any body of water is impounded, diverted, deepened, or otherwise modified. Project proponents are required to consult with the USFWS and the appropriate state wildlife agency.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (The Eagle Act) (1940), amended in 1962, was originally implemented for the protection of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). In 1962, Congress amended the Eagle Act to cover golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), a move that was partially an attempt to strengthen protection of bald eagles, since the latter were often killed by people mistaking them for golden eagles. This act makes it illegal to import, export, take (molest or disturb), sell, purchase, or barter any bald eagle or golden eagle or part thereof. Disturb is defined as "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available: (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior." The golden eagle, however, is accorded somewhat lighter protection under the Eagle Act than that of the bald eagle.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 implements international treaties between the United States and other nations created to protect migratory birds, any of their parts, eggs, and nests from activities, such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. As authorized by the MBTA, the USFWS issues permits to qualified applicants for the following types of activities: falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (rehabilitation, education, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), take of depredating birds, taxidermy, and waterfowl sale and disposal. The regulations governing migratory bird permits can be found in 50 CFR Part 13 General Permit Procedures and 50 CFR part 21

Migratory Bird Permits. The State of California has incorporated the protection of birds of prey in Sections 3800, 3513, and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code.

Executive Orders (EO)

- *Invasive Species – EO 13112 (1999)*: Issued on February 3, 1999, promotes the prevention and introduction of invasive species and provides for their control and minimizes the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause through the creation of the Invasive Species Council and Invasive Species Management Plan.
- *Migratory Bird – EO 13186 (2001)*: Issued on January 10, 2001, promotes the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats and directs federal agencies to implement the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality—EO 11514 (1970a), issued on March 5, 1970, supports the purpose and policies of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and directs federal agencies to take measures to meet national environmental goals.

Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act (Division E, Title I, Section 143 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, PL 108–447) amends the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 703 to 712) such that nonnative birds or birds that have been introduced by humans to the United States or its territories are excluded from protection under the Act. It defines a native migratory bird as a species present in the United States and its territories as a result of natural biological or ecological processes. This list excluded two additional species commonly observed in the United States, the rock pigeon (*Columba livia*) and domestic goose (*Anser domesticus*).

Birds of Conservation Concern

Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) is a USFWS list of bird species identified to have the highest conservation priority, and with the potential for becoming candidates for listing as federally threatened or endangered. The chief legal authority for BCC is the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (FWCA). Other authorities include the FESA, the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, and the Department of the Interior U.S Code (16 U.S.C. § 701). The 1988 amendment to the FWCA (Public Law 100-653, Title VIII) requires the Secretary of the Interior, through the USFWS, to "identify species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973" (USFWS, 2008a).

State Regulations

California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 through 1606

This section requires that a Streambed Alteration Application be submitted to the CDFW for "any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake." The CDFW reviews the proposed actions and, if necessary, submits to the applicant a proposal for measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources. The final proposal that is mutually agreed upon by the Department and the applicant is the Streambed Alteration Agreement. Often, Projects that require a Streambed Alteration Agreement also require a permit from the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. In these instances, the conditions of the Section 404 permit and the Streambed Alteration Agreement may overlap.

California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Sections 2050 to 2085) establishes the policy of the state to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance threatened or endangered species and their habitats by protecting "all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation." Animal species are listed by the CDFW as threatened or endangered, and plants are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered. However, only those plant species listed as threatened or endangered receive protection under the California ESA.

CESA mandates that state agencies do not approve a Project that would jeopardize the continued existence of these species if reasonable and prudent alternatives are available that would avoid a jeopardy finding. There are no state agency consultation procedures under the California ESA. For Projects that would affect a species that is

federally and State listed, compliance with ESA satisfies the California ESA if the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) determines that the federal incidental take authorization is consistent with the California ESA under Section 2080.1. For Projects that would result in take of a species that is state listed only, the Project sponsor must apply for a take permit, in accordance with Section 2081(b).

Fully Protected Species

Four sections of the California Fish and Game Code list 37 fully protected species (CFGC Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515). These sections prohibit take or possession "at any time" of the species listed, with few exceptions, and state that "no provision of this code or any other law will be construed to authorize the issuance of permits or licenses to 'take' the species," and that no previously issued permits or licenses for take of the species "shall have any force or effect" for authorizing take or possession.

Bird Nesting Protections

Bird nesting protections (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513 and 3800) in the California Fish and Game Code include the following:

- Section 3503 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird.
- Section 3503.5 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of any nests, eggs, or birds in the orders Falconiformes (new world vultures, hawks, eagles, ospreys, and falcons, among others), and Strigiformes (owls).
- Section 3511 prohibits the take or possession of Fully protected birds.
- Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory nongame bird or part thereof, as designated in the MBTA. To avoid violation of the take provisions, it is generally required that Project-related disturbance at active nesting territories be reduced or eliminated during the nesting cycle.

Section 3800 prohibits the take of any non-game bird (i.e., bird that is naturally occurring in California that is not a gamebird, migratory game bird, or fully protected bird).

California Native Plant Protection Act

The California Native Plant Protection Act was enacted in 1977 to preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in California. It gave the California Fish and Game Commission ('Commission') the authority to designate native plants as endangered or rare and authorized the Commission to require permits for collecting, transporting, or selling such plants. Through these permits, CDFW is authorized to prohibit the unauthorized take of CESA-listed plants from the wild and allows CDFW to salvage any rare plants that would otherwise be destroyed (California Fish and Game Code section 1900 et seq).