APPENDIX B

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

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CARLSBAD
CLOVIS
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
EMERYVILLE
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

April 2, 2026

Larry Chiu
LPA
5301 California Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92617

Subject: Biological Resources Report and western Joshua Tree Census for the Victorville Police Department and Civic Park Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (LSA Project No. 20242046)

Dear Mr. Chiu:

LSA has prepared this biological resources report and western Joshua tree census for the Victorville Police Department and Civic Park Project (project). The 9.18-acre project site (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs] 3106-261-15, 3106-261-16, 3106-261-17, and 3106-261-18) is at the northwest corner of Seneca Road and Civic Drive in Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (Figures 1 and 2; all figures are provided in Attachment A). The proposed project includes the construction of a new single-story police station (with associated landscaping, surface parking, and utility improvements) and a city park. The "project site" discussed in this document refers to all areas within the approximately 9.18-acre property where permanent and temporary construction-related ground disturbance would occur. The "study area" refers to the 9.18-acre project site plus a 15-meter (49-foot) buffer area around the site, which is specific to the western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) census.

HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND SPECIES SURVEY METHODS

Literature Review

LSA conducted a literature review to determine the existence or potential occurrence of special-status plant and animal species on or in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Database records for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Victorville, Adelanto, Baldy Mesa, Apple Valley North,* and *Hesperia, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles were searched on January 28, 2025 and re-ran on July 25, 2025, using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) application Rarefind 5.[1] Current and historic aerial photographs were reviewed using Google Earth.[2] The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website was also consulted for critical habitat areas and species that may

[1] California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). n.d. California Natural Diversity Database, Rarefind 5, Version 5.3.0. Website: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB (accessed January 2025).

[2] Google Earth. n.d. Aerial photos of the project site. Website: https://google.com/earth (accessed January 2025).

require consideration.[3] Mapped soil types were determined using the California Soil Resource Lab application SoilWeb Earth.[4]

Field Surveys

LSA botanist and arborist Dr. Stan Spencer conducted a vegetation survey, habitat assessment, and general reconnaissance-level field biological survey of the project site from 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on January 29, 2025. Weather conditions were moderate with clear sky, temperatures ranging from 50 to 56 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), and wind of 1 to 3 miles per hour (mph). Dr. Spencer surveyed the entire study area on foot to document the species present and assess the habitat for sensitive species by walking along transects spaced at approximately 30 feet, which allowed for 100 percent visual coverage. Observations regarding general site conditions, vegetation, potential jurisdictional waters, and suitability of habitat for special-status plants, wildlife, and other biological resources present were recorded. All plant and animal species observed during the field survey were noted, including all cacti and other shrub species that could be identified year round. In addition, observations of all plant species protected under the California Desert Native Plant Act (CDNPA) were documented. CDNPA protects California desert native plants from unlawful harvesting on both public and privately owned lands. It also provides a means to legally harvest and relocate, if possible, desert native plants. It should be noted that many of the species protected by CDNPA are not considered rare or special-status species.

Burrowing Owl Surveys

Dr. Spencer conducted a burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat assessment and burrow survey from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on March 5, 2025. The focused surveys, including a habitat assessment, was conducted according to the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation.*[5] The survey protocol requires four field visits, with the first between February 15 and April 15, followed by three visits between April 15 and July 15.

The survey was conducted by LSA biologists Dr. Spencer, Carla Cervantes, and Andromeda Figueroa by walking transects spaced 50 feet apart and using binoculars. Potential burrows, such as fossorial mammal burrows, as well as other manmade structures (e.g., earthen berms, concrete culverts, concrete, asphalt, rock, or wood debris piles, or openings beneath concrete or asphalt pavement) were examined for owl sign (e.g., feathers, pellets, whitewash, and prey remnants). The surveys were conducted on March 15, April 16, May 14, and June 17, 2025. The methods and results of the burrowing owl surveys are documented in the Burrowing Owl Survey Report in Attachment B.

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3 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). n.d. Information for Planning and Consultation. Website: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/ (accessed January 2025)

4 California Soil Research Lab. n.d. SoilWeb Earth. Website: https://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb-apps/ (accessed January 2025).

5 State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game. 2012. Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. May 7.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Existing and Adjacent Land Use

The project site is in the central part of Victorville, amid a patchwork of dense residential and commercial development and undeveloped areas. Land uses surrounding the project site include commercial uses and single-family residential uses to the north, commercial and retail to the east, institutional uses to the south, and single-family residential uses to the west. The project site is bounded by Civic Drive to the east, Seneca Road to the south, and vacant land directly to the west and north. The project site is primarily vacant, except for various utilities and a concrete enclosure housing a pad-mounted transformer. Historically, approximately 40 percent of the northeastern portion of the project site was graded and occupied from 1976 to 2003 by the former Roy Rogers – Dale Evans Museum, which extended onto the east adjacent site and was subsequently demolished around 2005.[6,7] The remainder of the site has remained ungraded but is disturbed by decades of foot and off-road vehicle traffic, digging by dogs, and homeless encampments.

Elevation, Topography, and Soils

In its existing condition, the site is generally flat with a gradual slope toward the east and northeast. According to the USGS, the elevation near the center of the site is 2,952 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Soils on the site are mapped as Bryman loamy fine sand and Cave loam. Soils observed on the site are compacted from the long history of disturbance and vary from sand to sandy loam.

Vegetation and Wildlife Observed

The site is dominated by two vegetation communities: disturbed creosote bush scrub and disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub (Figure 3). Bare ground is also present along the eastern and southern perimeter of the site.

The disturbed creosote bush scrub is dominated by common creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) with low cover of Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*) and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) as well as nonnatives such as red stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*). This vegetation community is considered disturbed due to the presence of low species diversity and past clearing and presence of foot and off-road vehicle traffic disturbance. Western Joshua trees are also present primarily in the disturbed creosote bush scrub community. The disturbed creosote bush scrub is the dominant vegetation community, accounting for 6.26 acres. Disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub is dominated by rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) with lesser cover of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) along with interspersed nonnative species such as Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.). This vegetation community is located in the north-northeastern portion of the site, accounting for 2.18 acres, and is also considered disturbed due to the presence of anthropogenic activities and intermixed nonnative species. No vegetation was

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6 Spokesman-Review. April 27, 1997. "Museum Preserves Wonderful Years of Roy and Dale, Trigger and Bullet," Spokane, Washington. Website: https://www.spokesman.com/stories/1997/apr/27/museum-preserves-wonderful-years-of-roy-and-dale/, accessed December, 2024.

present in areas identified as bare ground because the area is subject to regular foot and off-road vehicle traffic.

A complete list of plant species identified at the site is included in Table A (all tables provided in Attachment C).

Common raven (*Corvus corax*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) were observed during the site visits. Other common bird, mammal, and reptile species typical of urban environments are also expected to occur.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Wetlands and Other Jurisdictional Waters

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. These waters include wetlands and nonwetland bodies of water that meet specific criteria, including a connection to interstate commerce. The CDFW, under Sections 1600 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code, regulates alterations to lakes, rivers, and streams. A stream is defined by the presence of a channel bed and banks and at least an occasional flow of water. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is responsible for the administration of Section 401 of the CWA through water quality certification of any activity that may result in a discharge to jurisdictional waters of the United States. The RWQCB may also regulate discharges to "waters of the State", including wetlands, under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

There are no drainage features, ponded areas, wetlands, or riparian habitat subject to jurisdiction of the CDFW, USACE, or RWQCB within the study area.

Natural Communities of Concern

There are no sensitive natural communities on the project site.

Special-Status Species

Species in danger of extinction or that may soon be in danger of extinction may be listed as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The USFWS can also designate critical habitat areas that are essential to the conservation of a listed species. In addition to threatened and endangered species, the CDFW maintains lists of plant species considered rare and animal species designated as Species of Special Concern, as well as other species that it considers in need of monitoring.

Threatened and endangered species, plant species considered rare, Species of Special Concern, and other special-status species that have been reported from the general project vicinity are included in attached Table B, along with assessments of habitat suitability on the project site.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats

The results of the literature search indicated the potential occurrence of the following threatened, endangered, fully protected, candidate, or proposed threatened or endangered species in the general project vicinity:

- Western Joshua tree
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)
- Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)
- Southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*)
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)
- Burrowing owl
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
- Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*)
- Mohave ground squirrel (MGS) (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*)

Seven western Joshua trees are located within the study area. Western Joshua trees are protected under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA). Additionally, this species is a candidate for listing as endangered or threatened under the CESA. An incidental take permit (ITP) from CDFW is required for removal of a western Joshua tree. A western Joshua tree census, which is required for obtaining an ITP, is included below. Outside of the presence of western Joshua trees, there are no records of federally/ state listed plant species occurring within the project site. Within the project site boundaries, historic anthropogenic disturbances have greatly altered the natural hydrologic regimes and have either eliminated or greatly impacted the pre-settlement habitats needed to support the plant species identified in the CNDDB and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) queries. As such, the specific habitats, soil substrates or "micro-climates" necessary for plant species to occur currently appear to be absent within the boundaries of the project site. Based on the field surveys coupled with the habitat assessment, no federal- or State-listed plant species are expected to occur within the project site.

Similar to the plant species, the project site has greatly altered, eliminated, or impacted the pre-settlement habitats needed to support most of the federal- or State-listed animal species identified in the CNDDB and USFWS queries. There are no known occurrences of any federal- or State-listed animal species on the project site, and none were observed during the 2025 field surveys. None of the other species listed above are expected to occur on the project site due to lack of suitable habitat within the project site (Table B). The site is not within a designated critical habitat of any species.

Mohave Ground Squirrel

MGS is listed as threatened under CESA and is listed as candidate by FESA. MGS is a rodent endemic to the western Mojave Desert of California that spends a significant part of the year in dormancy in underground burrows (typically from mid-July to mid-February).

An MGS occupancy or use assessment was conducted for the project site by small mammal specialist LSA Associate Biologist Leo Simone. Based on the assessment, the project site is not able to support

MGS occupancy or use due to the isolated and fragmented urban setting. The MGS has been extirpated throughout much of the Victor Valley because of habitat loss and fragmentation. The nearest known MGS core population is in the vicinity of Adelanto. During the past 25 years, five known MGS occurrences have been recorded within 10 miles of the site. The most recent MGS occurrence was in 2011, 6.7 miles northwest of the project site near the California Aqueduct. The area surrounding the 2011 MGS occurrence has since been fragmented by residential and commercial development.

Desert Tortoise

Desert tortoise is federally listed as threatened and occurs in creosote bush scrub, saltbush scrub, and Joshua tree woodland dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa),* cactus (*Opuntia* sp.), saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.), or western Joshua tree, generally below 5,000 feet in elevation. Although tortoises may occur in canyon bottoms and on rocky hillsides in California, they are most often found on level or slightly sloped ground. Desert tortoises can spend up to 95 percent of its life underground. Tortoises typically burrow in areas with firm soil and may remain in their burrows when unfavorable conditions, such as prolonged drought, occur. Burrows are typically found at the bases of shrubs but may occur in the open.

A desert tortoise assessment was conducted for the project site by LSA Dr. Stan Spencer. Based on the assessment, the project site is neither located within designated critical habitat nor in any Desert Wildlife Management Areas proposed for the desert tortoise as identified in the draft West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan. The project site is surrounded by urban development and roads, resulting in the site being fragmented and isolated from documented desert tortoise habitat. Domestic dogs and signs of dog digs were observed on site during the 2025 surveys, thereby making the site unsuitable for desert tortoise. In addition, numerous common ravens (*Corvus corax*)—a known predator of the desert tortoise—were observed on-site. Other factors contributing to unsuitable conditions include the presence of homeless encampments, trash, foot traffic, off-road vehicle activity, and previous grading disturbances. These impacts, combined with the site's isolated and fragmented urban setting, render it unsuitable for desert tortoise occupancy or use.

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl is listed as a State candidate species on October 10, 2024 by the California Fish and Game Commission. Under CESA, candidate species receive the same protection as officially listed species until a final decision is made. Burrowing owl occurs in open habitats with low vegetation throughout the region. This special-status species requires special consideration at proposed construction sites because its habit of nesting underground makes it vulnerable to grading and other project-related soil disturbance.

This and other native nesting bird species are protected by California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5, and by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 United States Code [USC] 703–711). These laws make it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any migratory bird or bird of prey, including burrowing owls. Disturbance of any active bird nest of a species protected by the MBTA during the breeding season, including active owl burrows at any time of year, would be prohibited by law.

A survey for burrows of this species was conducted on March 15, April 16, May 14, and June 17, 2025. Suitable burrows for burrowing owl occupancy were observed within the project site, but no burrowing owl, sign, burrows, or other burrow features potentially occupied by burrowing owl were detected. As stated above, the project site has been affected by off-highway vehicle use, homeless encampments, trash dumping, as well as impacted by domestic dogs, all of which make the project site unsuitable for burrowing owl. Therefore, the burrowing owl is considered absent from the project site at this time. However, burrowing owl is a highly mobile species, and in the unlikely event that burrowing owl occupy the site, a preconstruction survey is recommended for this species as discussed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 below. If burrowing owls are found during the survey, project-specific measures may be required during construction to prevent harm to individuals or occupied burrows of this species to be in compliance with the United States Fish and Game Code or the MBTA.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 Conduct Preconstruction Clearance Surveys for Burrowing Owl.

- A preconstruction clearance survey is required for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) no more than 30 calendar days prior to initiation of project activities. All survey results must be delivered to the City of Victorville. If an active burrowing owl burrow is found within the project site, the applicant must coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to obtain applicable agency approval/direction prior to any ground disturbance activities on the site. Specific avoidance, den excavation, passive relocation, and compensatory mitigation activities shall be performed as required by the CDFW. If no active burrowing owl burrows are identified, project activities may proceed as planned following the preconstruction survey.

Other Non-Listed, Special-Status Species

Besides the species discussed above, the literature search indicated the potential presence of five non-listed, special-status plant species and one special-status animal species in the project vicinity. No non-listed plant species were observed during the field surveys, and there are no records of non-listed plant species occurring within the project site. As discussed in the previous section, the project site is disturbed due to longstanding anthropogenic factors and lacks suitable habitat to support non-listed plant species. Therefore, non-listed plant species are not expected to occur within the project site.

Silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*) was the only plant species protected by the CDNPA observed within the project site. In total, one individual was observed in poor condition and appeared to be partially dead. Due to the presence of a species protected by the CDNPA, a permit application is required as described in Mitigation Measure BIO-2 below.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 California Desert Native Plant Act Permit.

- A permit application under the California Desert Native Plant Act (CDNPA) shall be submitted to and approved by the San Bernardino County Agricultural Commissioner for any unavoidable impacts to silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*) prior to its removal.

As noted in Table B, none of these additional non-listed, special-status animal species are expected to occur on the site due to lack of suitable habitat and longstanding disturbance. One non-listed

animal species, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), has low potential nesting and forage within the project site. Loggerhead shrike is a CDFW Special Species of Concern. It is a resident and winter visitor in lowlands and foothills throughout California and prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. Highest density occurs in open-canopied valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, valley foothill riparian, pinyon-juniper, juniper, desert riparian, and Joshua tree habitats. In the Great Basin, from northern Inyo County, population declines markedly from November through March. Loggerhead shrikes are rare on coastal slopes north of Mendocino County and occur only in winter. Additionally, loggerhead shrikes rarely occur in heavily urbanized areas, but can often be found in open cropland and on the edges of denser habitats.

Loggerhead shrike was not observed during field surveys. However, suitable foraging habitat occurs throughout the entire project site, but is limited due to the lack of perching locations. Suitable nesting habitat is present within the project site, specifically within the western Joshua trees.

Furthermore, suitable habitats for shrub and tree nesting birds are present on site that contain habitat for a variety of tree and ground-nesting birds and other birds that could nest in the herbaceous vegetation. Nesting birds are protected by California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800, and by the MBTA (16 USC 703–711). These laws regulate the take, possession, or destruction of the nest or eggs of any migratory bird or bird of prey. Construction activities that occur during the nesting bird season (typically February 15 through September 15) have potential to result in the direct or indirect take of nesting birds. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3 is recommended to reduce potential impacts to loggerhead shrikes and nesting birds.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 Nesting Bird Surveys and Avoidance.

- Project activities shall avoid being conducted during the nesting bird season (February 15 through September 15), if possible. If unable to do so, prior to construction activities (including vegetation removal), a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 3 days prior to any construction activities. Should nesting birds be found, an exclusionary buffer (depending upon the species) shall be established by the qualified biologist. The buffer shall be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under guidance of the qualified biologist. A qualified biologist will continue to monitor active nests adjacent to active work areas to determine whether exclusionary buffers are sufficient to prevent stress or other negative behavioral changes to nesting birds. Exclusionary buffers may be adjusted at any time by a qualified biologist based on project activities and nesting bird behavior. No construction activities shall be allowed within the exclusionary buffer until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

Local Policies and Ordinances

Chapter 13.33 of the Victorville Municipal Code establishes standards for the preservation and regulated removal of Joshua trees within the city limits. Section 13.33.040 of the Municipal Code states that it is unlawful for any person to cut, damage, destroy, dig up, or harvest any Joshua tree without the prior written consent of the Director of Parks and Recreation or their designee.

Violations of this section are misdemeanors punishable by up to six months in jail and/or a $500 fine.[8]

Plants protected under the CDNPA occur on site and are discussed above. Thus, project implementation would not conflict with any local policies or policies related to biological resources. The project is not subject to any other local policies or ordinances.

JOSHUA TREE CENSUS

A census of western Joshua trees was conducted for the Victorville Police Department and Civic Park Project. Figure 5 provides project site boundary coordinates (datum WGS 84).

The Joshua tree census survey was conducted to comply with the permitting requirements of the WJTCA and CDFW guidelines.

Census Methods

The census was conducted on January 29, 2025, by Stan Spencer, an Associate at LSA, who can be contacted at 951-690-6309 or stanley.spencer@lsa.net. Dr. Spencer has a Ph.D. in botany from Claremont Graduate University (1997) and is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist (WE-9358A). He has conducted arborist studies throughout Southern California since 2003, including Joshua tree inventories in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties as well as Joshua tree relocation monitoring. Dr. Spencer is knowledgeable of Joshua tree ecology and identification, and is experienced in inventorying and assessing Joshua trees for general health and suitability for transplanting.

The study area for the census includes the 9.18-acre project site plus a 15-meter (49-foot) buffer area around the site (Figure 5). The project site was surveyed on foot by walking 30-foot transects. This transect spacing provided for complete visual coverage of Joshua trees of all size classes on the site. As access was not provided to the portion of the buffer area to the west, Dr. Spencer surveyed it from the edge of the project site. Each living or dead Joshua tree in the study area was assigned a unique identification number, tagged (if living), photographed, and mapped using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. Each Joshua tree stem or trunk arising from the ground was considered an individual tree. For each Joshua tree, the arborist recorded size class, maturity, and flowering/ fruiting status.

Census Results

Five Joshua trees (three living and two dead) were found in the study area. There were two additional dead Joshua trees in the buffer area. The collected information for the Joshua trees is provided in Table C. Figure 5 shows the Joshua tree locations. A photograph of each Joshua tree is provided on Figure 6. No Joshua tree seedlings were found in the study area.

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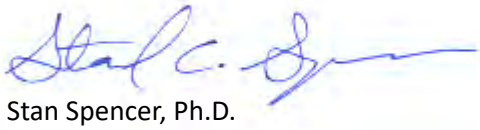
[8] City of Victorville. 2025. Victorville Municipal Code Chapter 13.33, Preservation and Removal of Joshua Trees. October. Website: https://library.municode.com/ca/victorville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT13PUPESAMO_CH13.33PRREJOTR (accessed April 1, 2026).

A WJTCA ITP will be required for removal of the western Joshua trees. This census includes the Joshua tree data, mapping, and photographs required for the permit and should be submitted to CDFW with the permit application. The permit application can be downloaded from CDFW's western Joshua tree ITP web page.[9] A mitigation fee is paid to CDFW prior to permit issuance. The project is in the reduced fee area. Instructions for calculating and paying the mitigation fee are also on this web page. Relocation of one or more of the western Joshua trees will also be required as described on the ITP web page.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (951) 232-4124 or stan.spencer@lsa.net.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.



Stan Spencer, Ph.D.
Associate/Senior Biologist

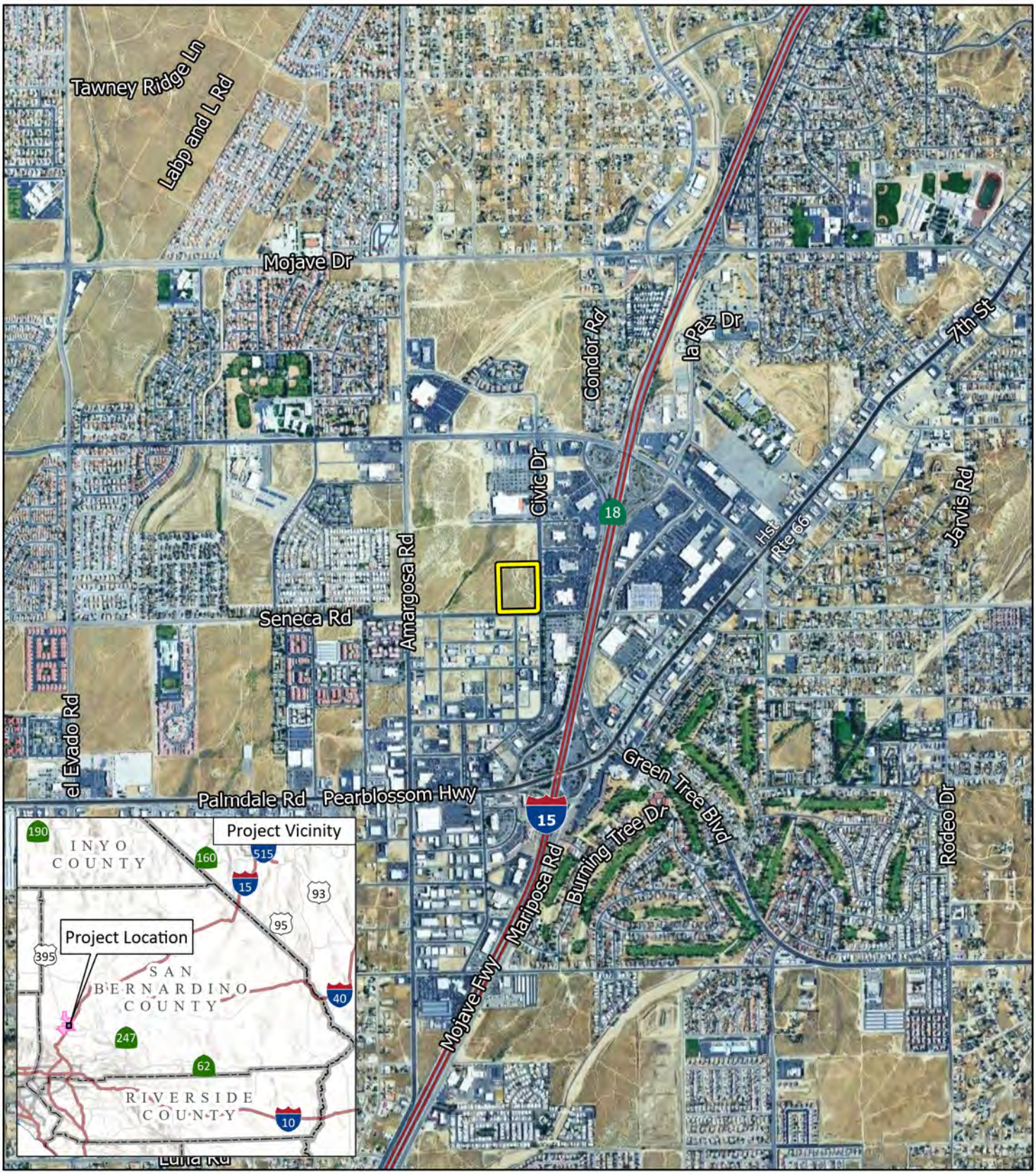
Attachments: A – Figures 1-6
B – Burrowing Owl Survey Report
C – Tables

[9] California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). n.d. Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act Incidental Take Permit. Website: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/WJT/Permitting/WJTCA-ITP (accessed April 2025).

ATTACHMENT A

FIGURES

Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity
Figure 2: Project Area and Photograph Locations
Figure 3: Land Cover
Figure 4: Site Photographs
Figure 5: Joshua Tree Census
Figure 6: Joshua Tree Photographs



LSA

Project Location

City of Victorville

FIGURE 1

0 1000 2000

FEET

SOURCE: Google Maps (2024)

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Project Location and Vicinity

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LSA

Project Location

Photograph Location

FIGURE 2

N

0 60 120
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (7/4/2024)

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Project Area and Photograph Locations

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LSA

Project Location

Land Cover

Bare Ground (0.75 ac)

Disturbed Creosote Bush Scrub (6.26 ac)

Disturbed Rubber Rabbitbrush Scrub (2.18 ac)

0 60 120
FEET

FIGURE 3

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Land Cover

SOURCE: Nearmap (7/4/2024)

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Photo 1: View from northeast corner of project site, showing adjacent land to the north and east.

Photo 2: View from northeast corner of project site, showing bare, compacted ground and disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub in northern portion of site.

Photo 3: View from southwest corner of project site, showing disturbed creosote bush scrub in site interior.

Photo 4: View from southwest corner of project site, showing adjacent land to the west and south.

LSA

FIGURE 4
Page 1 of 2

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Site Photographs

I:\2024\20242046\G\Site_Photos.cdr (4/9/2025)

Photo 5: View from northwest corner of project site, showing adjacent land to the north and west.

Photo 6: View of bare, compacted soil and domestic dog digs on project site.

LSA

FIGURE 4
Page 2 of 2

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Site Photographs

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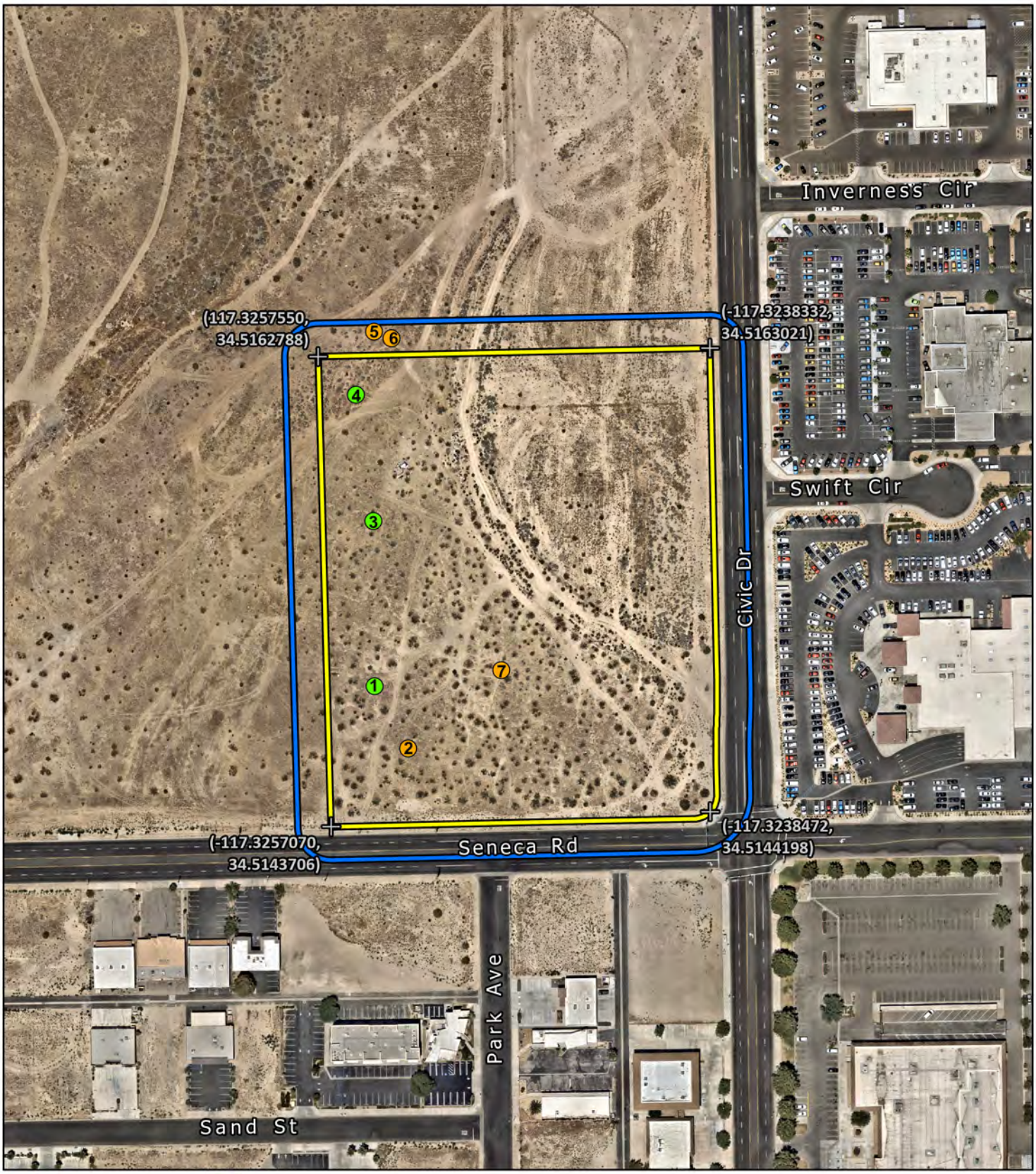

LSA

Project Area
Study Area
Dead Joshua Tree
Live Joshua Tree

0 100 200
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (7/4/2024)

FIGURE 5

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Joshua Tree Census

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Tree 1

Tree 2

Tree 3

Tree 4

LSA

FIGURE 6
Page 1 of 2

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Joshua Tree Photographs

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Off-site Tree 5

Off-site Tree 6

Tree 7

LSA

FIGURE 6

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Joshua Tree Photographs

ATTACHMENT B

BURROWING OWL SURVEY REPORT

CARLSBAD
CLOVIS
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

July 9, 2025

Mr. Larry Chiu
LPA
5301 California Avenue, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92617

Subject: Victorville Police Department and Civic Park Project, Victorville, San Bernardino County, California—Burrowing Owl Survey Results (LSA Project No. 20242046)

Dear Mr. Chiu:

This letter serves to document the results of a focused survey for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) for the Victorville Police Department and Civic Park Project (project). The approximately 9-acre project site (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3106-261-15, 3106-261-16, 3106-261-17, and 3106-261-18) is at the northwest corner of Seneca Road and Civic Drive in Victorville, San Bernardino County, California (see Figure 1; all figures attached).

The survey results were negative for burrowing owl.

BACKGROUND

Burrowing owls are found in open, dry grasslands; agricultural and range lands; desert habitats; and grass, forb, and shrub stages of pinyon and ponderosa pine habitats. They nest in abandoned burrows of ground squirrels or other animals, as well as in pipes, rock and debris piles, and other similar features.

Burrowing owls and their nests and eggs are protected from "take" (meaning destruction, pursuit, possession, etc.) under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 and under Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Fish and Game Code. Activities that cause destruction of active nests, or that cause nest abandonment and subsequent death of eggs or young, may constitute violations of one or both of these laws.

Burrowing owl is a species of special concern and a candidate species listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), as determined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

SURVEY AREA

The project site is in the central part of Victorville amid a patchwork of dense residential and commercial development and undeveloped areas. Land uses surrounding the project site include vacant land to the immediate north, followed by commercial uses and single-family residential, commercial, and retail to the east; institutional uses to the south; and vacant land to the immediate west, followed by single-family residential. The project site is bounded by Civic Drive to the east,

Seneca Road to the south, and vacant land directly to the west and north. The project site is primarily vacant, except for various utilities and a concrete enclosure housing a pad-mounted transformer.

The survey area consists of suitable burrowing owl habitat on the project site and within the 500-foot buffer. The site is relatively flat at an elevation of approximately 2,950 feet above mean sea level (see Figure 2). The soils observed on site are consistent with Bryman loamy fine sand and Cave loam. The dominant plant community on site is best described as disturbed Creosote Bush Scrub. Dominant plant species identified in this community include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), and Mediterranean grass (*Schismus* sp.). Site photographs are included on Figure 3.

METHODS

The survey, including a habitat assessment, was conducted according to the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, May 7, 2012). The survey protocol requires four field visits, with the first between February 15 and April 15, followed by three visits between April 15 and July 15.

The survey was conducted by LSA biologists Stan Spencer, Carla Cervantes, and Andromeda Figueroa by walking transects spaced 50 feet apart, with the aid of binoculars. Potential burrows, such as fossorial mammal burrows, as well as other manmade structures (e.g., earthen berms, concrete culverts, concrete, asphalt, rock, or wood debris piles, or openings beneath concrete or asphalt pavement) were examined for owl sign (e.g., feathers, pellets, whitewash, and prey remnants). Table A provides the survey data for each survey visit.

Table A: Burrowing Owl Survey Dates, Times, and Weather Conditions

Field Visit	Date (2025)	Time (24-Hour)	Weather Conditions		
			Temperature (°F)	Wind (mph)	Cloud Cover (%)
Habitat Assessment and Survey 1	March 5	0800–1000	50–57	1–8	90–95
Survey 2	April 16	0800–0930	52–57	10–12	10–20
Survey 3	May 14	0800–0930	54–59	2–8	0
Survey 4	June 17	0650–0815	70–76	0–3	0

Source: Compiled by LSA (2025).

RESULTS

Wildlife species observed during the survey common raven (*Corvus corax*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*).

Suitable burrows for burrowing owl occupancy were observed within the desert scrubland habitat of the project site and within the 500-foot buffer. The site has been affected by off-highway vehicle

(OHV) use, homeless encampments, and trash dumping. A domestic dog, a potential predator of the burrowing owl, was observed during the March 5 survey.

No burrowing owl, sign, burrows, or other burrow features potentially occupied by burrowing owl were detected during the survey period. Therefore, the burrowing owl is considered absent from the project site at this time.

Please contact me by phone at (909) 871-4235 or by email at andromeda.figueroa@lsa.net with any questions you may have regarding this survey.

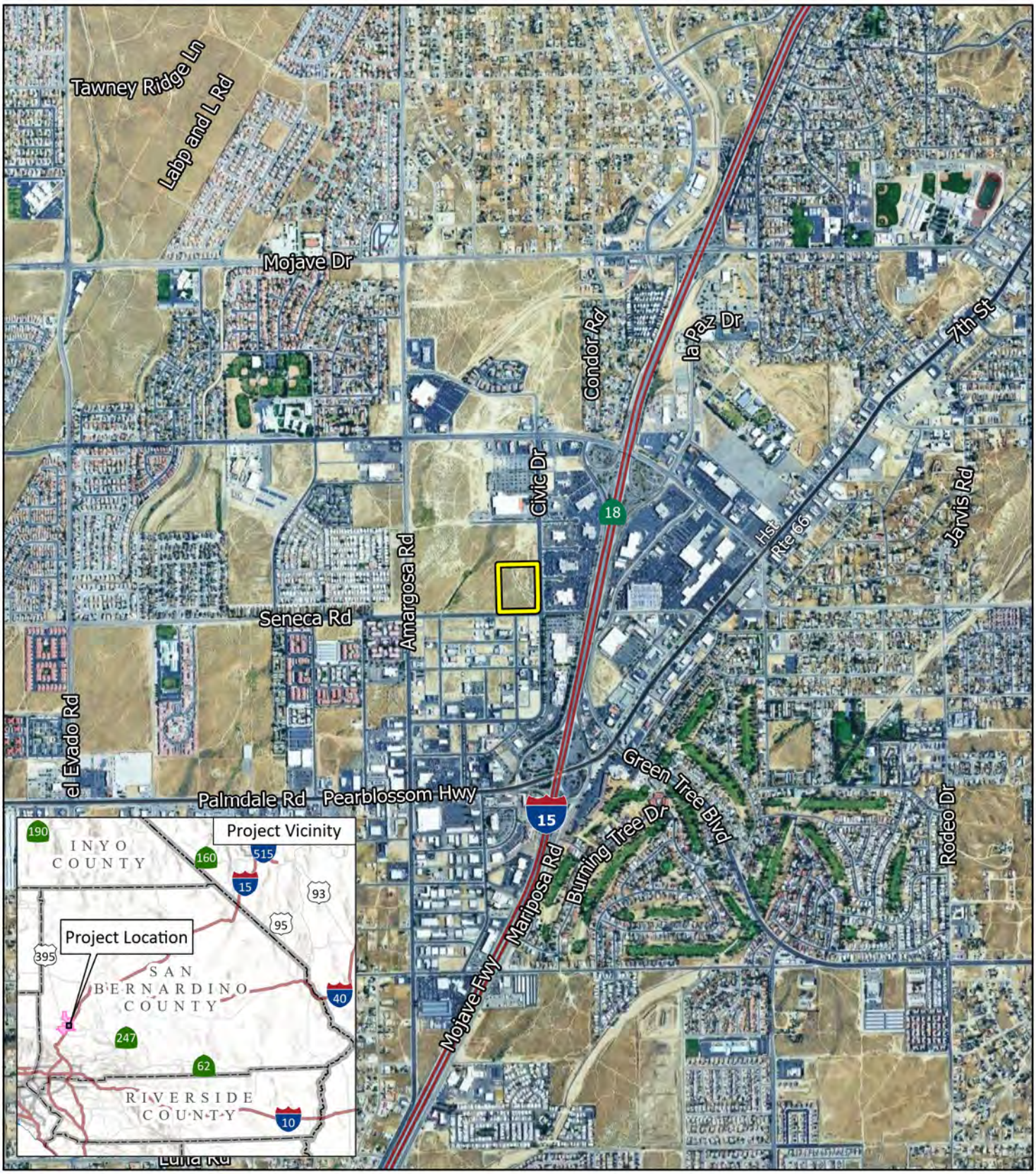
Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.

Andromeda Figueroa

Andromeda Figueroa
Biologist

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity
Figure 2: Project Area and Photograph Locations
Figure 3: Site Photographs



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Project Location

City of Victorville

FIGURE 1

0 1000 2000

FEET

SOURCE: Google Maps (2024)

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Project Location and Vicinity

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Project Location

Photograph Location

FIGURE 2

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0 60 120
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (7/4/2024)

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Project Area and Photograph Locations

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Photo 1: View from northeast corner of project site, showing adjacent land to the north and east.

Photo 2: View from northeast corner of project site, showing bare, compacted ground and disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub in northern portion of site.

Photo 3: View from southwest corner of project site, showing disturbed creosote bush scrub in site interior.

Photo 4: View from southeast corner of project site, showing disturbed creosote bush scrub in site interior.

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FIGURE 3
Page 1 of 2

Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Site Photographs

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Photo 5: View from northwest corner of project site, showing disturbed creosote bush scrub in site interior.

Photo 6: view of squirrel burrow that is suitable size for burrowing owl.

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FIGURE 3
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Victorville Police Department and Civil Park Project

Site Photographs

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ATTACHMENT C

TABLES

Table A: Plant Species Observed
Table B: Special-Status Species Summary
Table C: Joshua Tree Census Data

Table A: Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
GNETOPHYTES	
Ephedraceae	**Ephedra family**
Ephedra nevadensis	Nevada jointfir
EUDICOT FLOWERING PLANTS	
Amaranthaceae	**Amaranth family**
*Amaranthus albus**	Tumble pigweed
Anacardiaceae	**Sumac family**
*Pistacea vera**	Pistacio
Asteraceae	**Sunflower family**
Ambrosia acanthicarpa	Flatspine bur ragweed
Ambrosia dumosa	White bursage
Ericameria nauseosa	Rubber rabbitbrush
Brassicaceae	**Mustard family**
*Brassica tournefortii**	Sahara mustard
*Hirschfeldia incana**	Shortpod mustard
*Sisymbrium irio**	London rocket
Cactaceae	**Cactus family**
Cylindropuntia echinocarpa	Silver cholla
Chenopodiaceae	**Saltbush family**
Atriplex canescens	Fourwing saltbush
Salsola sp.	Russian thistle
Fabaceae	**Pea family**
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *variabilis*	Freckled milkvetch
Psorothamnus arborescens var. *arborescens*	Mojave indigo bush
Geraniaceae	**Geranium family**
*Erodium cicutarium**	Redstem stork's bill
Polygonaceae	**Buckwheat family**
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *polifolium*	California buckwheat
Solanaceae	**Nightshade family**
Lycium andersonii	Water jacket
Zygophyllaceace	**Caltrop family**
Larrea tridentata	Creosote bush
MONOCOT FLOWERING PLANTS	
Agavaceae	**Agave family**
Yucca brevifolia	Western Joshua tree
Poaceae	**Grass family**
*Bromus rubens**	Red brome
*Bromus tectorum**	Cheatgrass
*Hordeum murinum**	Mouse barley
Schismus sp.*	Mediterranean grass

* = nonnative species

Table B: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Occurrence Probability
PLANTS			
Canbya candida **White pygmy-poppy**	US: – CA: 4	Sandy and gravelly places in Joshua tree woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, and Mojave Desert scrub from 600 to 1,460 meters (2,000 to 4,800 feet) in elevation. Known only from Kern, Los Angeles, Inyo, Imperial, and San Bernardino counties.	**Low**. Marginal habitat is present, but the site soils are disturbed and compacted, reducing the likelihood of occurrence.
Chorizanthe spinosa **Mojave spineflower**	US: – CA: 4	Dry habitats, generally sandy, gravelly, or alkaline, in chenopod scrub, Joshua tree woodland, Mojave desert scrub, and playas below 1,300 meters (2,000 feet) in elevation in the western Mojave Desert and the South Coast Ranges along the Central Valley. Known only from Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties, California.	**Low**. Marginal habitat is present, but the site soils are disturbed and compacted, reducing the likelihood of occurrence.
Cymopterus deserticola **Desert cymopterus**	US: – CA: 1B	Deep, loose, well-drained sand of alluvial fans and basins, swales, stabilized low sand dune areas, or sandy slopes of desert dry lake basins in Joshua tree woodland and desert scrub at 625 to 1,500 meters (2,050 to 5,000 feet) in elevation in the western Mojave Desert. Known to occur only in northeast Los Angeles, southeast Kern and northwest San Bernardino counties, California. Historically also occurred in the Apple Valley area of southwest San Bernardino County.	**Absent**. No deep, loose sand on site.
Diplacus (Mimulus) mohavensis **Mojave monkeyflower**	US: – CA: 1B	Dry sandy or gravelly washes in Mojave Desert scrub or Joshua tree woodland at 600 to 1,200 meters (2,000 to 4,000 feet) in elevation. Known only from around Barstow in the Mojave Desert of San Bernardino County.	**Absent**. No washes on site.
Eremothera boothii ssp. boothii **Booth's evening primrose**	US: – CA: 2B	Sandy flats and steep, loose slopes in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland at 880 to 2,400 meters (2,900 to 7,900 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Inyo, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Also occurs in Arizona, Nevada, and Washington.	**Absent**. No sandy flats or steep, loose slopes on site.
Loeflingia squarrosa var. *artemisiarum* **Sagebrush loeflingia**	US: – CA: 2B	Loose sands in sandy flats and washes, desert dunes, and around clay pans in desert scrub or Great Basin scrub at 700 to 1,615 meters (2,300 to 5,300 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Los Angeles, Plumas, Ventura, and San Bernardino counties. Also occurs in Nevada, Oregon, and Wyoming. This variety is not recognized by *Jepson eFlora* or *Flora of North America.*	**Absent**. No sandy flats, washes, or other suitable habitat areas on site.
Lycium torreyi **Torrey's box-thorn**	US: – CA: 4	Rocky and sandy areas in washes and on streambanks in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub from -50 to 1,220 meters (-165 to 4,005 feet) in elevation. According to the California Native Plant Society, plants in California outside the vicinity of the Colorado River are likely misidentifications. Known in California only from Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Santa Barbara counties. Also occurs in other western states, Texas, and Mexico.	**Absent**. No washes or streams on site.
Monardella exilis **Mojave monardella**	US: – CA: 4	Sandy soils in scrub communities, Joshua tree woodland, dunes, washes, and pinyon woodland in the Mojave Desert and adjacent mountainous areas from 600 to 2,050 meters (1,970 to 6,725 feet) in elevation. Known only from Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Tulare Counties, California.	**Low**. Marginal habitat is present, but soils of site are disturbed and compacted, reducing the likelihood of occurrence.

Table B: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Occurrence Probability
Muilla coronata **Crowned muilla**	US: – CA: 4	Occurs in heavy soils in open desert scrub and Joshua tree woodland at 975 to 1,600 meters (3,200 to 5,200 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Tulare Counties, historically distributed from the eastern side of the High Sierra south to the western Mojave desert. Also occurs in Nevada.	**Absent**. No heavy soils on site.
Opuntia basilaris var. *brachyclada* **Short-joint beavertail**	US: – CA: 1B	Sandy soil or coarse, granitic loam in chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon-juniper woodland at 425 to 1,800 meters (1,400 to 5,900 feet) in elevation in the Providence Mountains and desert slopes of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. Known only from Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, California. Individuals of *Opuntia basilaris* in the Santa Clarita area, which are occasionally identified as variety brachyclada, are more properly considered variety basilaris, a common variety of this species (Andrew Sanders, Herbarium Curator at University of California, Riverside, pers. comm. to Stanley Spencer, August 29, 2007; Steve Boyd, Herbarium Curator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, pers. comm. to Stanley Spencer, August 29, 2007).	**Absent**. No beavertail (which can be identified year round) was found on site during January 29 vegetation survey.
Pediomelum castoreum **Beaver Dam breadroot**	US: – CA: 1B	Sandy soils, washes, and roadcuts in Joshua tree woodland and Mojave Desert scrub at 610 to 1,525 meters (2,000 to 5,000 feet) in elevation. In California, known only from San Bernardino County. Also occurs in Arizona and Nevada.	**Low**. Marginal habitat is present, but soils of site are disturbed and compacted reducing the likelihood of occurrence.
Pentachaeta aurea ssp. *aurea* **Golden-rayed pentachaeta**	US: – CA: 4	Valley and foothill grassland, coastal scrub, chaparral, riparian woodland, cismontane woodland, and coniferous forest at 80 to 1,850 meters (260 to 6,070 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Also occurs in Mexico.	**Low**. Marginal habitat is present, but soils of site are disturbed and compacted reducing the likelihood of occurrence.
Sclerocactus polyancistrus **Mojave fishhook cactus**	US: – CA: 4	In limestone areas (usually), hills, canyons, or alluvial slopes in creosote bush scrub, Joshua tree woodland, and Great Basin scrub at 610 to 2,330 meters (2,000 to 7,600 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties. Also occurs in Nevada.	**Absent**. No fishhook cactus (which can be identified year round) was found on site during January 29 vegetation survey.
Scutellaria bolanderi ssp. *austromontana* **Southern mountains skullcap**	US: – CA: 1B	Mesic areas in gravelly soils of stream banks or in oak or pine woodland (rarely chaparral) at 425 to 2,000 meters (1,400 to 6,600 feet) in elevation. Known from Riverside and San Diego counties. Believed extirpated from San Bernardino County and perhaps Los Angeles County.	**Absent.** No mesic areas on site.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum **San Bernardino aster**	US: – CA: 1B	Vernally wet sites (such as ditches, streams, and springs) in many plant communities below 2,040 meters (6,700 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Ventura, Kern, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties. May also occur in San Luis Obispo County. In the western Riverside County area, this species is scarce, and documented only from Temescal and San Timoteo Canyons (*The Vascular Plants of Western Riverside County, California*. F.M. Roberts et al., 2004).	**Absent**. No vernally wet areas on site.

Table B: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Occurrence Probability
Yucca brevifolia **Western Joshua tree**	US: – CA: SC	Various plant communities from Sonoran Desert scrub to yellow pine forest in desert and desert edge areas (up to about 6,600 feet in elevation in California). In California, known from Kern, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Riverside, Inyo, and Mono counties. Also occurs in Nevada.	**Present.** Seven western Joshua trees are present.
INVERTEBRATES			
Bombus crotchii **Crotch's bumble bee**	US: – CA: SCE	Inhabits open scrub (including chaparral) and grassland with high floral diversity from coastal California to the crest of Sierra-Cascade and in desert edge areas, south into Mexico. Primarily nests underground. Suitable bumble bee habitat requires the continuous availability of sufficient flowers suitable for foraging to sustain the colony throughout its duration (spring through summer), as well as sites suitable for colony nesting and for overwintering of the queens. Preferred foraging plants of this species in Southern California habitats include sages (*Salvia*), vetches (*Vicia*), deerweed (*Acmispon*), lupines (*Lupinus*), poppies (*Eschscholzia*), milkweeds (*Asclepias*), and phacelias (*Phacelia*) (*California Bumble Bee Atlas* result highlights for 2022-2023 at *cabumblebeeatlas.org*).	**Not expected**. Site lacks the diversity of floral resources to sustain a bee colony through the colony active period.
Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1 **Monarch butterfly (California overwintering population)**	US: PT CA: SA	Overwintering habitat is located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, Monterey cypress) with nectar and water sources nearby. The majority of the overwintering habitat sites are located within 1.5 miles of the Pacific Ocean or San Francisco Bay. Sites are typically found at low elevations (200-300 feet) and situated on slopes oriented to the south, southwest or west, or in shallow canyons or gullies. The sites need to have dappled sunlight, high humidity, fresh water, and an absence of freezing temps or high winds. Monarchs breed only where milkweeds are found. They forage on a wide variety of flowers.	**Not expected.** No overwintering habitat. Wind-protected tree groves not present and site lacks water sources and is very poor in nectar resources.
Plebulina emigdionis **San Emigdio blue butterfly**	US: – CA: SA	Found in arid washes, desert canyons and along riverbeds in the southernmost edge of the San Joaquin Valley, along the Mojave River in Victorville, and as isolated populations in Inyo, Ventura, and Los Angeles counties. Host plant is four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) or perhaps quail bush (A*triplex lentiformis*).	**Not expected**. No washes or similar habitats on site.
MOLLUSCS			
Helminthoglypta mohaveana **Victorville shoulderband (snail)**	US: – CA: SA	Among granite boulders and at the bases of rocky cliffs. Known only from along the Mojave River in San Bernardino County.	**Not expected**. No rocky, granitic, or cliff areas on site.
FISH			
Siphateles bicolor mohavensis **Mojave tui chub**	US: FE CA: SE	Endemic to the Mojave River basin, adapted to alkaline, mineralized waters. Needs deep pools, ponds, or slough-like areas. Needs vegetation for spawning. Known from San Bernardino County.	**Absent.** No open water on site.
AMPHIBIANS			
Anaxyrus (Bufo) californicus **Arroyo toad**	US: FE CA: SSC	Washes and arroyos with open water; sand or gravel beds; for breeding, pools with sparse overstory vegetation. Coastal and a few desert streams from Santa Barbara County to Baja California.	**Absent.** No open water in vicinity.

Table B: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Occurrence Probability
Rana draytonii **California red-legged frog**	US: FT CA: SSC	Deep, quiet pools of streams, marshes, and occasionally ponds, with dense, shrubby vegetation at edges, usually below 1,200 meters (4,000 feet). Foothills surrounding the Sacramento Valley and coastal streams from Marin County to northwestern Baja California. Believed to be extirpated between Los Angeles County and the Mexican border. Below about 1,000 feet in elevation.	**Absent.** No open water in vicinity.
Rana draytonii **California red-legged frog**	US: FT CA: SSC	Deep, quiet pools of streams, marshes, and occasionally ponds, with dense, shrubby vegetation at edges, usually below 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) in elevation. Foothills surrounding the Sacramento Valley and coastal streams from Marin County to northwestern Baja California. Believed to be extirpated between Los Angeles County and the Mexican border. Below about 1,000 feet in elevation.	**Absent.** No open water in vicinity.
REPTILES			
Actinemys pallida (*Emys marmorata* in part) **Southwestern pond turtle**	US: PT CA: SSC	Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent water. Absent from desert regions, except in the Mojave Desert along the Mojave River and its tributaries. Requires basking sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, or open mud banks.	**Absent.** No permanent water on site.
Gopherus agassizii **Desert tortoise**	US: FT CA: ST	Historically found throughout most of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts into Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. Believed to have been extirpated from the western and southern portions of the Antelope Valley. Found in creosote bush scrub, saltbush scrub, thornscrub (in Mexico), and Joshua tree woodland. Found in the open desert as well as in oases, riverbanks, washes, dunes, and occasionally rocky slopes.	**Absent.** Habitat on site is unsuitable due to the high degree of disturbance and its location within an urban context, with heavy pedestrian use and vehicle traffic. It is isolated from suitable habitat by development. The presence of ravens, a common predator of desert tortoise, as well as dogs and dogs' digs make the site unsuitable for desert tortoise.
Phrynosoma blainvillii (coronatum) **Coast horned lizard**	US: – CA: SSC	Primarily in sandy soil in open areas, especially washes and floodplains, in many plant communities. Requires open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and an abundant supply of ants or other insects. Occurs west of the deserts from northern Baja California north to Shasta County below 2,400 meters (8,000 feet) in elevation.	**Not expected.** The site is highly disturbed, within an urban environment with associated predators, and isolated from better habitat. There are no recent records from the Victorville area.
BIRDS			
Agelaius tricolor (nesting colony) **Tricolored blackbird**	US: BCC CA: ST/SSC (breeding)	Open country. Forages in grassland and cropland habitats. Nests in large groups near fresh water, preferably in emergent wetland with tall, dense cattails or tules, but also in thickets of willow, blackberry, wild rose, or tall herbs. Seeks cover for roosting in emergent wetland vegetation, especially cattails and tules, and also in trees and shrubs. Occurs primarily west of the mountains, from southern Washington through Oregon and California to northwestern Baja California.	**Absent.** No permanent water on site to support nesting colony.

Table B: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Occurrence Probability
Aquila chrysaetos (nesting & wintering) **Golden eagle**	US: – CA: CFP	Generally open country of the Temperate Zone worldwide. Nesting primarily in rugged mountainous country. Uncommon resident in southern California.	**Not expected**. Nesting habitat not present, but may forage in and around the vicinity.
Asio otus (nesting) **Long-eared owl**	US: BCC CA: SSC (breeding)	Scarce and local in forests and woodlands throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere. Rare resident in coastal Southern California. Nests and roosts in dense willow-riparian woodland and oak woodland, but forages over wider areas. Breeds from valley foothill hardwood up to ponderosa pine habitat.	**Absent**. Willow-riparian woodland and oak woodland are absent from the site. Site is too urban for nesting by this species.
Athene cunicularia (burrow sites) **Burrowing owl**	US: BCC CA: SC, SSC	Open, treeless areas with low, sparse vegetation, usually on flat or gently sloping terrain, including grasslands, sparse scrub (cover less than 30 percent), farmland, airfields, airports, road embankments, cemeteries, urban vacant lots, desert areas, and other open habitat. They usually occupy ground squirrel burrows but may also utilize man-made structures such as culverts or debris piles, usually temporarily.	**Not expected**. Four focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted following the survey protocol. No burrowing owl, sign, burrows, or other burrow features potentially occupied by burrowing owl were detected during the survey period. Presence of dogs, a potential predator, as well as off-highway vehicles, homeless encampments, and trash dumping make the habitat unsuitable for burrowing owl.
Buteo swainsoni (nesting) **Swainson's hawk**	US: – CA: ST	Open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah. Forages in adjacent grasslands or suitable grain or alfalfa fields, or livestock pastures. Breeds and nests in western North America, from Alaska to northern Mexico; winters primarily in Argentina. In Southern California, now mostly limited to spring and fall migration.	**Absent**. Suitable nesting habitat is lacking. Species may forage in and around the vicinity.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis (nesting) **Western yellow-billed cuckoo**	US: FT CA: SE	Breeds and nests in extensive stands of dense cottonwood/willow riparian forest along broad, lower flood bottoms of larger river systems at scattered locales in western North America. Winters in South America.	**Absent**. Extensive riparian habitat is absent. No suitable nesting habitat is present.
Empidonax traillii extimus **Southwestern willow flycatcher**	US: FE CA: SE	Rare and local breeder in extensive riparian areas of dense willows or (rarely) tamarisk, usually with standing water, in the southwestern United States and possibly extreme northwestern Mexico. Winters in Central and South America. Below 6,000 feet in elevation.	**Absent**. Extensive riparian habitat is absent. No suitable nesting habitat is present.
Haliaeetus leucocephalus (nesting & wintering) **Bald eagle**	US: – CA: SE/CFP	Typically nests in forested areas near large bodies of water. Winters at deep lakes, reservoirs, and other wetland areas, feeding on fish and waterfowl. Found throughout most of North America.	**Not expected**. Nesting habitat not present, but may forage in and around the vicinity.
Icteria virens (nesting) **Yellow-breasted chat**	US: – CA: SSC (breeding)	Riparian thickets of willow, brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in riparian woodland across much of North America, from south-central Canada to central Mexico. Winters in Mexico and Central America.	**Absent**. Riparian habitat is absent. No suitable nesting habitat is present.

Table B: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Occurrence Probability
Lanius ludovicianus (nesting) **Loggerhead shrike**	US: – CA: SSC (breeding)	Prefers open habitats with scattered small trees and with fences, utility lines, or other perches. Inhabits open country with short vegetation, pastures, old orchards, cemeteries, golf courses, riparian areas, and open woodlands. Highest density occurs in open-canopied valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, valley foothill riparian, pinyon-juniper, juniper, desert riparian, and Joshua tree habitats. Occurs only rarely in heavily urbanized areas, but often found in open cropland. Found in open country in much of North America.	**Low**. Site is surrounded by urbanization, marginal nesting habitat is present and may forage in and around vicinity.
Piranga rubra (nesting) **Summer tanager**	US: – CA: SSC (breeding)	Uncommon and local in Southern California. Breeds in riparian woodland along the Colorado River and at widely scattered locations in desert regions, from Inyo County and northeast Kern County southward. Breeds along the Santa Clara River in northern Los Angeles County, but is unknown closer to the coast.	**Absent**. Woodland and riparian habitats are absent. No suitable nesting habitat is present.
Setophagia petechia (nesting) **Yellow warbler**	US: – CA: SSC (breeding)	Nests primarily in riparian woodland. More widespread in brushy habitats, woodland, and forest during migration and in winter. Nests across much of North America from Alaska and Northwest Territories to central Mexico. Winters primarily from Mexico to northern South America.	**Absent**. Riparian habitat is absent. No suitable nesting habitat is present.
Toxostoma lecontei **Le Conte's thrasher**	US: BCC CA: SA	Inhabits sparsely vegetated desert flats, dunes, alluvial fans, or gently rolling hills having a high proportion of saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.) or cholla (*Cylindropuntia* spp.), often occurring along small washes or sand dunes. Prefers dense thorny shrubs (most often saltbush or cholla) for nesting. Uncommon and local resident in low desert scrub throughout most of the Mojave Desert, extending up into the southwestern corner of the San Joaquin Valley. Breeding range in California extends from these areas into eastern Mojave, north into the Owens Valley and south into the lower Colorado Desert and eastern Mojave. Only the San Joaquin Valley population of this species is considered a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sensitive species or California Species of Concern.	**Not expected**. Saltbush and cholla are absent from site and nesting is not expected.
Vireo bellii pusillus **Least Bell's vireo**	US: FE CA: SE	Riparian forests and willow thickets. The most critical structural component of least Bell's Vireo habitat in California is a dense shrub layer 2 to 10 feet (0.6 to 3.0 meters) above ground. Willows usually dominant. Nests from central California to northern Baja California Sur. Winters primarily in Baja California Sur.	**Absent**. Extensive riparian habitat is absent. No suitable nesting habitat is present.
Vireo vicinior (nesting) **Gray vireo**	US: – CA: SSC (breeding)	Breeds on arid brushy slopes covered by pinyon and juniper. Desert ranges, drier northeastern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains, San Jacinto Mountains, and southern slopes of the Laguna Mountains.	**Not expected**. Slopes covered by pinyon and juniper are absent.
MAMMALS			
Antrozous pallidus **Pallid bat**	US: – CA: SSC	Roosts in crevices in rocky outcrops and cliffs, caves, mines, hollows or cavities of large trees, and anthropogenic structures such as bridges and buildings; may also roost near the ground in rock piles. Has been documented roosting in palms. Foraging habitat includes grassland, open scrub, open forest, and gravel roads. Diet composition varies among populations but considered opportunistic generalists. Gleans a variety of arthropod prey from surfaces, but also captures insects on the wing. Examples of prey include antlions, beetles, centipedes, cicadas, crickets, grasshoppers, Jerusalem crickets, katydids, moths, and scorpions.	**Not expected.** Rocky outcrops and cliffs, caves, mines, hollows or cavities of large tree are absent.

Table B: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Occurrence Probability
		Nonmigratory; present year-round in Southern California but rarely detected during the winter.	
Chaetodipus fallax pallidus **Pallid San Diego pocket mouse**	US: – CA: SA	Found in sandy herbaceous areas, usually associated with rocks or coarse gravel in desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, pinyon-juniper woodlands, etc. in desert border areas of Southern California into Mexico.	**Not expected**. Soils on site are disturbed and compacted, reducing the likelihood of occurrence.
Corynorhinus townsendii **Townsend's big-eared bat**	US: – CA: SSC	Requires caves, mines, tunnels, bridges, buildings, or other similar structures for roosting. Has also been documented using rock crevices and hollow trees for roosting. Often uses separate sites for night, day, hibernation, or maternity roosts. Ranges from southwestern Canada through the western United States to southern Mexico.	**Not expected.** Rocky outcrops and cliffs, caves, mines, hollows or cavities of large tree are absent.
Microtus californicus mohavensis **Mojave River vole**	US: – CA: SSC	Weedy herbaceous growth in wet areas along the Mojave River, and possibly in some nearby irrigated pastures.	**Absent**. Site is not located along Mojave River nor does it contain wet areas.
Xerospermophilus mohavensis **Mohave ground squirrel**	US: – CA: ST	Sandy to gravelly soils in desert scrub and Joshua tree woodland, most often on hilly terrain with a variety of shrub species. Occurs in the western Mojave Desert, with an historical range from the area of Palmdale, Victorville, and Lucerne Valley in the south to Fort Irwin and Owens Lake in the north. Not known from west of Palmdale, Lancaster, and Mojave. Believed to have been nearly extirpated from the southern portion of its range around Palmdale and Lancaster south of Edwards Air Force Base, and in the Victorville and Lucerne Valley areas (Federal Register 75:22063-22069 [April 27, 2010]; Philip Leitner, "Current status of the Mohave ground squirrel: an update covering the period 2013–2020," *California Fish and Wildlife Journal* 107: 300-316 [2021]). A range map is provided by the Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Council at https://mgsconservation.org/. Commonly found in association with the white-tailed antelope squirrel, a sympatric species. Has been found from 505 to 1,525 meters (1,800 to 5,000 feet) in elevation.	**Not expected**. Site is disturbed and fragmented from known occurrences. Mohave ground squirrel has been extirpated throughout much of the vicinity due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Note: California Rare Plant Ranks are assigned by a committee of government agency and nongovernmental botanical experts and are not official State designations of rarity status.

US: Federal Classifications

- – No applicable classification.
- FE Taxa listed as Endangered.
- FT Taxa listed as Threatened.
- FC Candidate for listing as Threatened or Endangered

CA: State Classifications

- SE Taxa State-listed as Endangered.
- ST Taxa State-listed as Threatened.
- SCE Taxa Candidate for State listing.
- SSC California Species of Special Concern. Refers to animals with vulnerable or seriously declining populations.
- CFP California Fully Protected. Refers to animals protected from take under Fish and Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515.
- SA Special Animal. Refers to any other animal monitored by the Natural Diversity Database, regardless of its legal or rarity status.
- 1A California Rare Plant Rank 1A: Presumed extinct in California.
- 1B California Rare Plant Rank 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
- 2B California Rare Plant Rank 2B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

Table C: Joshua Tree Census Data

Tree No.	Tree Latitude (WGS 84)	Tree Longitude (WGS 84)	Size Class[1]	Actual Height of Tree (meters)	Live or Dead?	Mature (Branched)?	Flowering or Fruiting Stage?	Project Impact to Tree (Removal, Trim, Relocation, Other, or None)	Distance (meters) from Project Activities	Relocation Site
1	34.51495	-117.326	B	4.7	Live	Yes	None	Removal	0	Not Determined
2	34.51469	-117.325	B	3.1	Dead	Yes	None	None (dead)	0	Not Applicable
3	34.51562	-117.326	B	1.3	Live	No	None	Removal	0	Not Determined
4	34.51613	-117.326	B	1.1	Live	No	None	Removal	0	Not Determined
5	34.51638	-117.325	B	5 (estimate)	Dead	Yes	None	None (off-site, dead)	10.9	Not Applicable
6	34.51637	-117.325	B	10 (estimate)	Dead	Yes	None	None (off-site, dead)	8.7	Not Applicable
7	34.51501	-117.325	B	4 (estimate)	Dead	Yes	None	None (dead)	0	Not Applicable

Source: Compiled by LSA (2025).

[1] A = Height less than 1 meter (3.8 feet)
B = Height 1 meter (3.8 feet) to less than 5 meters (16.4 feet)
C = Height 5 meters (16.4 feet) or more

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