

APPENDIX B3: ADDITIONAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Lancaster Travel Center Project Draft IS/MND



Lead Agency

City of Lancaster

44933 Fern Avenue
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July 2026

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June 12, 2026

Duke Engineering
Attn: Ms. Shawna Vargo
759 W Lancaster Blvd
Lancaster CA 93534

Ref: Letter Amendment to Add a 1.75 Acre Portion of APN 3114-012-062 to the Biological Resource Assessment of APNs 3114-012-029, 064, 066, Lancaster, California

Dear Ms Vargo:

A field survey was conducted on 11 June 2026 within the northern 1.75 acre area of APN 3114-012-062 to assess the potential for sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species or water features regulated by the State (Figure 1).

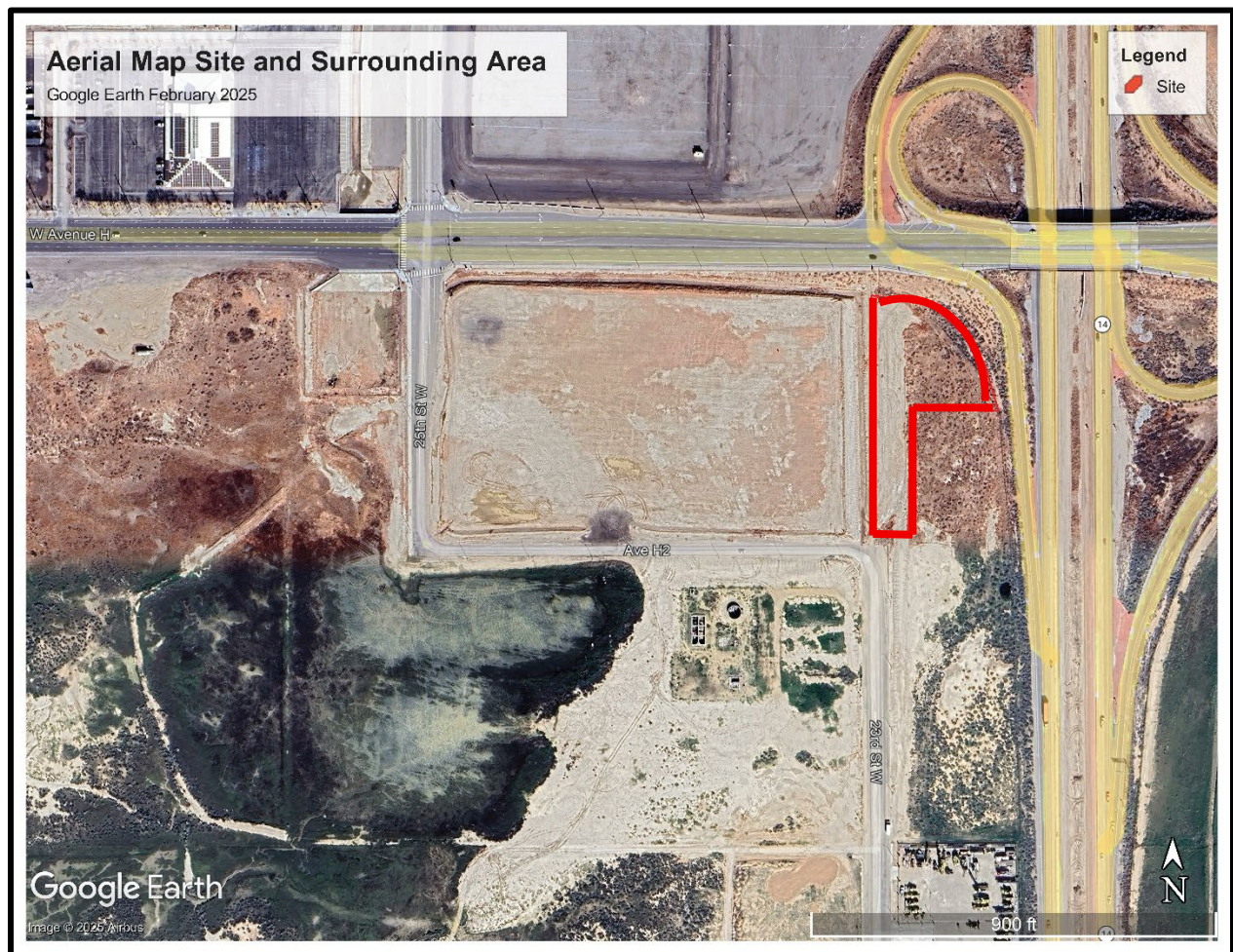


Figure 1. Field Survey Site.

The subject site consisted of halophytic salt bush scrub habitat. A large drainage and the future Pilot Travel Center were located to the west. Halophytic salt bush scrub with clay pan topography was present to the south. State Highway 14 was located to the east of the subject site. Soils consisted of clay loam and silty clay loam. Photographs were taken of the site (Figures 2 and 3).

Methods used were the same as in the “Biological Resource Assessment of APNs 3114-012-029, 064, 066, Lancaster, California.” Six north-south transects were accomplished within the study site. Weather consisted of 90 degree F temperatures, no cloud cover, and moderate winds. Sink holes, a fissure, and small clay pans were observed within the subject site. No washes other than small erosional features leading into the western drainage were observed. The dominant perennial shrubs consisted of rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) and shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*). Brome grasses (*Bromus* sp.) were the dominate annual plant species. Fifteen plant species were observed within the subject site (Table 1). No alkali mariposa lily (*Calochortus striatus*), Rosamond eriastrum (*Eriastrum rosamondense*), western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), or other sensitive plant species were observed. Marginal habitat for alkali mariposa lily was present within the site.

Eight wildlife species were observed within the site (Table 2). No desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) or their sign were observed and would not be expected in this area. No Mojave ground squirrels (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) were observed and would not be expected in this area. No burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) or their sign were observed. No cover sites that would provide future burrows for burrowing owls were observed. No suitable floristic resources were present for Crotch’s bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*).

The western edge of the site had been graded. A small amount of litter was observed within the site.

The activity planned for this site is to install a highway visible sign. Disturbance would consist of the placement of the sign, ground disturbance caused by heavy equipment required for the installation, and ingress and egress into the site. Care must be taken to stay within the area surveyed as there appears to be more clay pans to the south and a higher potential for alkali mariposa lily.

Clay pans are considered wetlands, a subset of Waters of the State under Division 7, of the Water Code (Porter-Cologne Act), Chapter 28, California Wetlands Policy Act, Section 1600 and 1602, January 2025. Consultation with would be necessary to determine permitting requirements for this area just as it would be required for the Pilot Travel Center site. Mitigation would be determined through consultation with Lahontan Water Quality Control Board (LWQCB). A jurisdictional delineation of the clay pans would be required as part of the LWQCB consultation process. A Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement would not be required for the study site.

Areas with suitable alkali mariposa lily habitat will be mapped and acreage calculated. The project proponent will pay \$2,405/acre for these areas and funds placed into a designated account as indicated by the City of Lancaster. These funds will be utilized for the acquisition of conservation habitat, with similar habitat to the project site, within the Antelope Valley. Alkali mariposa lily mitigation can be determined as part of LWQCB consultation process.



Figure 2. Representative photos of the site and clay pans.



Top photo depicts the drainage along western boundary. Largest erosional feature shown in bottom photo. This feature was approximately 10 feet long and situated within the western graded area which consists of soft clay loam.

Table 1. List of plant species that were observed during the line transect survey of the study site, Lancaster, California.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Rabbit brush	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosis</i>
Shadscale	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>
Silverscale	<i>Atriplex argentea</i>
Inkweed	<i>Suaeda torreyana</i>
Alkali pink	<i>Nitrophila occidentalis</i>
Pineapple weed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>
Russian knapweed	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>
Five-hook bassia	<i>Bassia hyssopifolia</i>
Fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>
Sahara mustard	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>
Tumble mustard	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola iberica</i>
Red stemmed filaree	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>
Foxtail barley	<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>

Table 2. List of wildlife species, or their sign, that were observed during the line transect survey of the project site, Lancaster, California.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Rodents	Order: Rodentia
Desert cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Cliff swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
Grasshopper	Order: Orthoptera
Harvester ants	Order: Hymenoptera
Spider	Order: Araneida

Reference

Hagan M. 2026. Biological Resource Assessment of APNs 3114-012-029, 064, 066, Lancaster, California. Mark Hagan, 44715 17th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535. 12pp.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.



Mark Hagan
Wildlife Biologist