



An Employee-Owned Company

February 13, 2026

Mr. Joe DeHoyos
Project Manager
Z Global
750 West Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Reference: Biological Resources Survey and Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment for the Rio Vista Apartments Project, Brawley, California (RECON Number 10631)

Dear Mr. DeHoyos:

This report summarizes the biological resources survey and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat assessment methods and results, assessment of potential impacts to biological resources, and recommended avoidance and minimization measures for the Rio Vista Apartments Project (project).

1.0 Project Description and Location

The project is located in the northwestern portion of the city of Brawley in Imperial County, California (Figure 1). The project is located within the U.S. Geological Survey Brawley quadrangle, Township 13 South, Range 14 East (Figure 2; U.S. Geological Survey 1979). The 7.87-acre project site consists of five parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 046-050-016, 046-050-030, 046-050-028, 046-050-039, and 046-050-038) bounded by West River Road to the south, North Rio Vista Avenue to the east, Pat Williams Park to the west, and vacant open space to the north (Figure 3). The project site is currently developed with an equestrian center that would be demolished as part of the project (Photographs 1 and 2).

The project would construct a 144-unit apartment complex consisting of five separate buildings, providing a total of 42 one-bedroom units and 102 two-bedroom units. The project would also construct a 4,400-square-foot clubhouse with a swimming pool, three green spaces, and a sewer lift station. The project would also provide a total of 278 surface parking spaces. Access to the project site would be provided via a driveway connection to West River Road.

2.0 Biological Survey and Methods

RECON Environmental, Inc. biologists Katie Raffaini and Chelsea Poley conducted a general biological resources survey and burrowing owl habitat assessment on June 10, 2025, to evaluate the biological resources present within and adjacent to the project site and to evaluate the potential for the site to support burrowing owl. The general biological resources survey was conducted within the 7.87-acre project site surrounded by a 100-foot buffer (herein referred to as the biological survey area; Figure 4). The burrowing owl habitat assessment included the project site and a 500-foot buffer (herein referred to as the burrowing owl survey area; see Figure 4). Both surveys were conducted concurrently from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and weather conditions ranged from 88 to 99 degrees Fahrenheit, with 0 percent cloud cover, and 0- to 3-mile-per-hour winds (Table 1).

Table 1 Survey Information				
Date	Survey Type	Surveyors	Beginning Conditions	Ending Conditions
6/10/2025	General Biological Survey and Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment	K. Raffaini, C. Poley	9:30 a.m.; 88°F; 0-3 mph; 0% cc	12:15 p.m.; 99°F; 0-3 mph; 0% cc
°F = degrees Fahrenheit; mph = miles per hour; % = percent; cc = cloud cover.				

The biologists conducted the surveys on foot by meandering through the project site and survey areas where vegetation density allowed access. For the general biological survey, the biologists mapped vegetation communities, recorded vegetation and habitat characteristics, noted plant species, and noted wildlife species observed directly or detected from calls, tracks, scat, nests, den/burrow, or carcass within the project site and biological survey area. The general biological survey focused on documenting and mapping biological resources and noting suitable habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species. For the burrowing owl habitat assessment, the biologists identified the presence of suitable habitat, which included mapping vegetation communities, within the project site and burrowing owl survey area. The burrowing owl habitat assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). A detailed description of the burrowing owl habitat assessment methods and results are provided in the Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment for the Rio Vista Apartments Project (RECON 2026).

A review of publicly available data was also conducted to determine the potential for special-status species to occur within and adjacent to the project site. Plant or wildlife species are considered special-status if they are (1) listed by state or federal agencies as threatened or endangered or are proposed for listing; (2) included on California Native Plant Society California Rare Plant Ranks 1, 2, 3, or 4 (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] 2025b); or (3) considered rare, endangered, or threatened by local conservation organizations or specialists. The review included data provided by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2025a), the All Species Occurrence Database (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2025), and the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory (CNPS 2025b).

3.0 Existing Biological Resources and Survey Results

A discussion of the existing biological resources observed during the general biological resources survey and burrowing owl habitat assessment is presented below. Vegetation community classifications follow the *Manual of California Vegetation* (CNPS 2025a) and Oberbauer et al. (2008). The scientific and common names of plants were primarily derived from the Jepson Online Interchange (Jepson Flora Project 2025). In instances where common names were not provided in this resource, common names were obtained from Rebman and Simpson (2014) or the Sunset Western Garden Book (Brenzel 2001). Nomenclature for invertebrates is in accordance with NatureServe 2021 and Evans 2008; for reptiles and amphibians with Crother et. al (2017); for birds with Chesser et al. 2024; and for mammals with Bradley et al. (2014) and American Society of Mammalogists (2025).

3.1 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

The project site supports two land cover types: disturbed land and urban/developed land (see Figure 4), which are not considered sensitive. The project site is surrounded by iodine bush scrub, arrow-weed thickets, urban/developed land, and disturbed land within the survey areas. The acreages of these vegetation communities/land cover types are listed in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2 Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Types Within the Project Site and Survey Areas (Acres)					
Vegetation Communities	Project Site	100-Foot Buffer	Biological Survey Area (Project Site Plus 100-Foot Buffer)	500-Foot Buffer	Burrowing Owl Survey Area (Project Site Plus 500-Foot Buffer)
Iodine Bush Scrub	--	0.14	0.14	7.02	7.02
Arrow Weed Thickets	--	--	--	0.99	0.99
Disturbed Land	3.61	4.34	7.95	15.06	18.67
Urban/Developed Land	4.25	3.43	7.68	29.40	33.65
TOTAL	7.87¹	7.91	15.77	52.47	60.33
¹ Totals may differ due to rounding.					

Iodine bush scrub is a vegetation community dominated by iodine bush (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*) in the scrub canopy, with no other species with greater or equal cover (CNPS 2025a). It is typically found within dry lakebed margins and playas. This vegetation community is found within both the 100-foot buffer and the 500-foot buffer (Photograph 3). This vegetation community consists primarily of iodine bush, with scattered four-wing salt bush (*Atriplex canescens*) and salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*).

Arrow weed thickets is a vegetation community dominated by arrow-weed (*Pluchea sericea*), with no other species of equal or greater cover in the shrub canopy. This vegetation community is found around seeps, springs, and irrigation ditches (CNPS 2025a). This vegetation community is only found within the 500-foot buffer in the northwest corner. Arrow-weed was the only species observed within this community, which comprised a relatively small area of one acre.

The disturbed land consists of primarily unvegetated areas throughout the entirety of the biological survey area and burrowing owl survey area. Some sparse vegetation is present, such as scattered four-wing saltbush, Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and nettle-leaf goosefoot (*Chenopodium murale*). Disturbed land within the 500-foot buffer also includes scattered brush piles and an old agricultural field.

The urban/developed land consists of paved and unpaved roads, graded lots, residential areas, public park land, equestrian features, and ornamental vegetation including Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), salt cedar, and gum tree (*Eucalyptus* sp.) (Photograph 4). This land cover type occupies the largest proportion of both the project site and the 500-foot buffer.

3.2 Plant and Wildlife Species Observed

Twenty-two plant species were observed within the biological survey area, including twelve natives and ten non-native species. These species are listed in Attachment 1. Thirteen wildlife species, including twelve birds and one mammal, were observed or detected during the survey. Wildlife species detected within the biological survey area include species commonly found in urban areas. These species are listed in Attachment 2.

3.3 Sensitive Plants

No sensitive plants were detected within the biological survey area. Furthermore, no sensitive plants are anticipated to occur due to high levels of disturbance and development within the project site. Sensitive plant species known to occur within one mile of the project site per the CNDDDB (CDFW 2025a) or within a nine-quadrangle search per the

CNPS Rare Plant Inventory (CNPS 2025a), based on a database review, are presented with an evaluation of their potential for occurrence in Attachment 3.

3.4 Sensitive Wildlife

One sensitive wildlife species, burrowing owl, has low potential to occur within the project site. Two additional wildlife species, Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) and western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), are not expected to occur within the project site but have low potential to occur within the biological survey area. These species are described below. Sensitive wildlife species known to occur within one mile of the project site, based on a database review, are presented with an evaluation of their potential for occurrence in Attachment 4.

Crotch's Bumble Bee. Crotch's bumble bee is a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) candidate species (CDFW 2023). This species inhabits open grasslands, scrublands, and coastal and desert environments with abundant flowering plants and suitable nesting substrates, such as soft soil or abandoned rodent burrows (CDFW 2023). Crotch's bumble bee was not observed and is not expected to occur within the project site due to the lack of suitable floral resources for nectaring and the lack of suitable burrows for nesting. Within the biological survey area, floral resources were present but comprised less than one percent cover; in addition, rodent burrows suitable for nesting are present within the biological survey area. As such, Crotch's bumble bee is not expected to occur within the project site and has low potential to occur within the biological survey area.

Burrowing Owl. Burrowing owl is a CDFW state candidate for listing as endangered or threatened (CDFW 2025b). This species occupies open, sparsely vegetated habitats such as grasslands, agricultural fields, and disturbed sites with suitable burrow availability, typically provided by ground squirrels or other mammals (CDFW 2012). No burrowing owl individuals, sign of burrowing owl activity, or suitable burrows were detected within the project site during the habitat assessment conducted. One suitable rodent burrow was observed in the northeastern portion of the burrowing owl survey area (see Figure 4); however, no burrowing owl individuals, sign of burrowing owl activity, or burrow complexes were observed. Based on the presence of a single suitable burrow outside of the project site, this species has low potential to occur within or adjacent to the project site.

Western Yellow Bat. The western yellow bat is a CDFW species of special concern (CDFW 2025c). This species roosts primarily in groves of California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifolia*), but will also use non-native palms, cottonwoods, and yuccas. In palms, it prefers tall trees with a skirt of dead fronds around the trunks (Tremor et al 2017). Western yellow bat is not expected to occur within the project site due to lack of suitable groves of palms, cottonwoods, or yuccas for roosting. Mexican fan palms are present within the biological survey area; however, these palms provide marginal quality roosting habitat as they comprise a few isolated individuals that are present within landscaped areas associated residences and lack skirts of dead fronds around the trunk. As such, there is low potential for this species to occur within the biological survey area.

Migratory and Nesting Birds. The majority of the project site has potential to support migratory and nesting bird species. Urban adapted species, in particular, have been known to nest within ornamental vegetation, while ground nesting species have the potential to nest within the open areas found within the disturbed land and urban/developed land within the biological survey area.

3.5 Aquatic Resources

No potential jurisdictional wetlands or waters, including riparian/riverine areas or vernal pools, were observed within or adjacent to the project site.

4.0 Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation for Project Impacts

As discussed above, project impacts to disturbed land and urban/developed lands would be less than significant and would not require mitigation. The project would also not impact any sensitive plant species or potential jurisdictional wetlands/waters; therefore, no mitigation would be required. The project is not expected to impact Crotch's bumble bee or western yellow bat as these species are not expected to occur within the project site and have a low potential to occur within the biological survey area. Potential direct and/or indirect impacts to burrowing owl and migratory and nesting birds would be addressed through the following avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures below.

4.1 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

The project would convert the entire 7.87-acre project site to residential uses, permanently impacting 2.95 acres of disturbed land and 4.92 acres of urban/developed land (see Figure 4). Impacts to disturbed land and urban/developed land are not considered significant as these land cover types are not considered sensitive. Therefore, the project would not require any mitigation for impacts to vegetation communities and land cover types.

4.2 Sensitive Wildlife

Burrowing Owl. Burrowing owl has low potential to occur within the project site and adjacent portion of the burrowing owl survey area. However, this species is known to occur within the broader Imperial Valley. Were this species to subsequently colonize the project site, potential direct impacts to this species would be significant. However, implementation of avoidance and minimization measure BIO-1 would reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to burrowing owls to a level less than significant.

BIO-1: Burrowing owl. Prior to any vegetation clearing, grading, or construction, a pre-construction take-avoidance survey shall be conducted within the project footprint, plus a 500-foot buffer. Per the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012), take avoidance surveys require an initial survey no less than 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance activities and a final survey conducted within 24 hours of ground disturbance. If burrowing owls are detected, a Qualified Biologist shall notify and consult with CDFW to determine appropriate avoidance measures.

If active burrowing owl burrows are identified within the potential impact area, the project shall avoid disturbing active burrowing owl burrows (nesting sites) and burrowing owl individuals. Buffers shall be established around occupied burrows in accordance with guidance provided in the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012) based on the proposed level of disturbance. For low disturbance projects, initial setback distances for avoidance of active burrows shall be 200 meters (approximately 656 feet) from April 1 to October 15 and 50 meters (164 feet) from October 16 to March 31. Exceptions can be made to the avoidance distance for areas with natural (hills, trees) or artificial (buildings, walls) barriers in place. The final avoidance buffer shall be at the discretion of the Qualified Biologist in consultation with CDFW. If, after consideration of a reduced buffer, an adequate avoidance buffer cannot be provided between an occupied burrow and required ground-disturbing activities, then passive relocation activities during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) may be authorized in consultation with CDFW, which would include preparation, approval, and implementation of a Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan in accordance with the protocol described in the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* and an Incidental Take Permit may be required per CESA Section 2081 at the discretion of CDFW.

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Migratory and Nesting Birds. Migratory and nesting birds are covered under the California Fish and Game Code 3503 and 3503.5 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and have the potential to be directly impacted by the project if construction activities (i.e., clearing, grubbing, grading) occur during the Colorado Desert nesting bird breeding season of January 15 to July 15. Direct impacts to nesting birds would be considered significant. However, implementation of avoidance and minimization measure BIO-2 would reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to nesting birds to a level less than significant.

BIO-2: Migratory and Nesting Birds. Prior to any vegetation clearing, grading, or construction, a pre-construction survey for nesting birds shall be conducted if the project is initiated during the Colorado Desert nesting bird breeding season, which is generally defined as January 15 to July 15. The nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified avian biologist and occur no more than seven days prior to vegetation removal. If active bird nests are confirmed to be present during the pre-construction survey, a buffer zone will be established and maintained by a qualified avian biologist until the qualified avian biologist has verified that the young have fledged or the nest has otherwise become inactive.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact me at (619) 810-7636 ext. 145 or at kraffaini@reconenvironmental.com.

Sincerely,



Katie Raffaini
Assistant Biologist

KAR:CAP:sjg

Attachments

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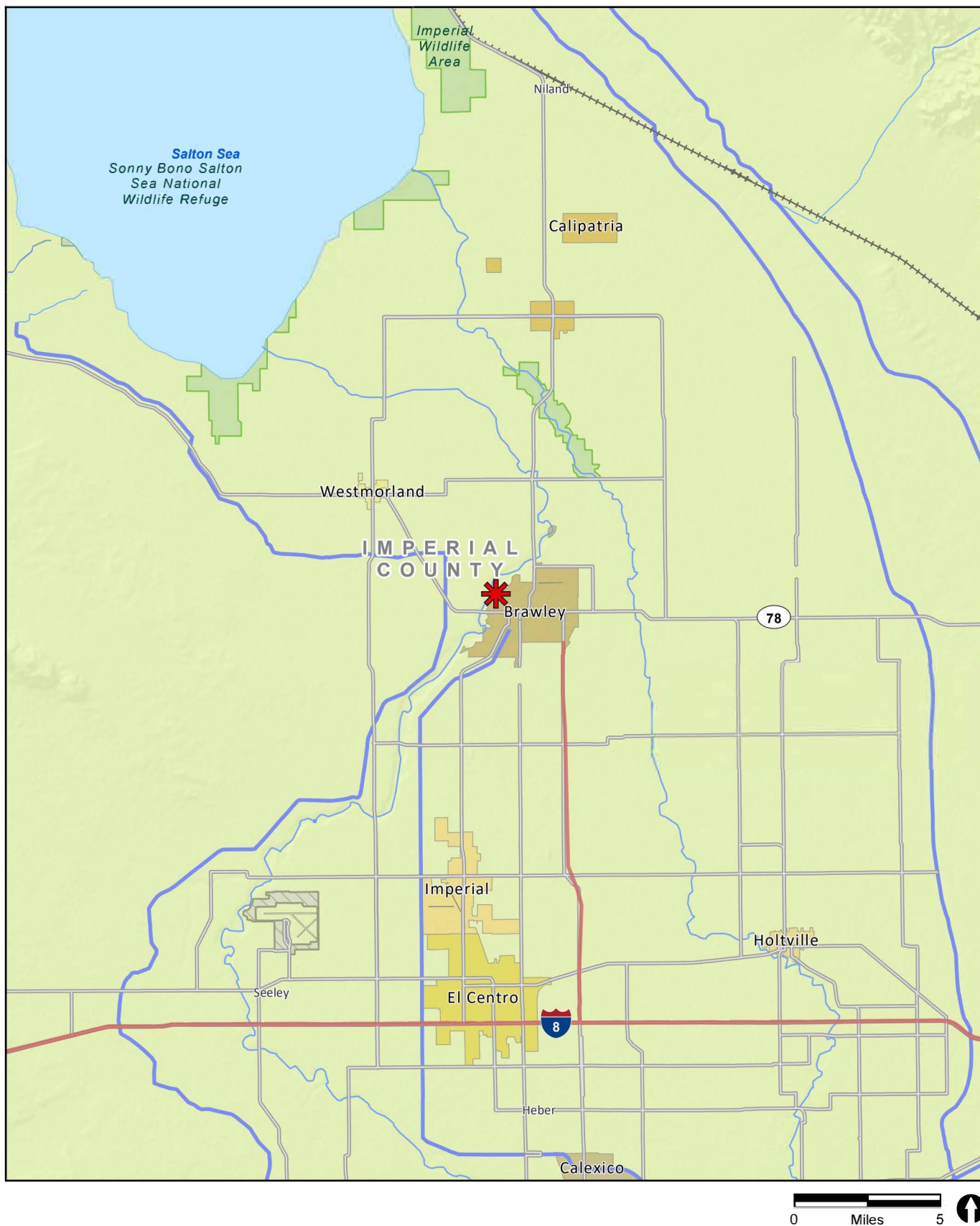
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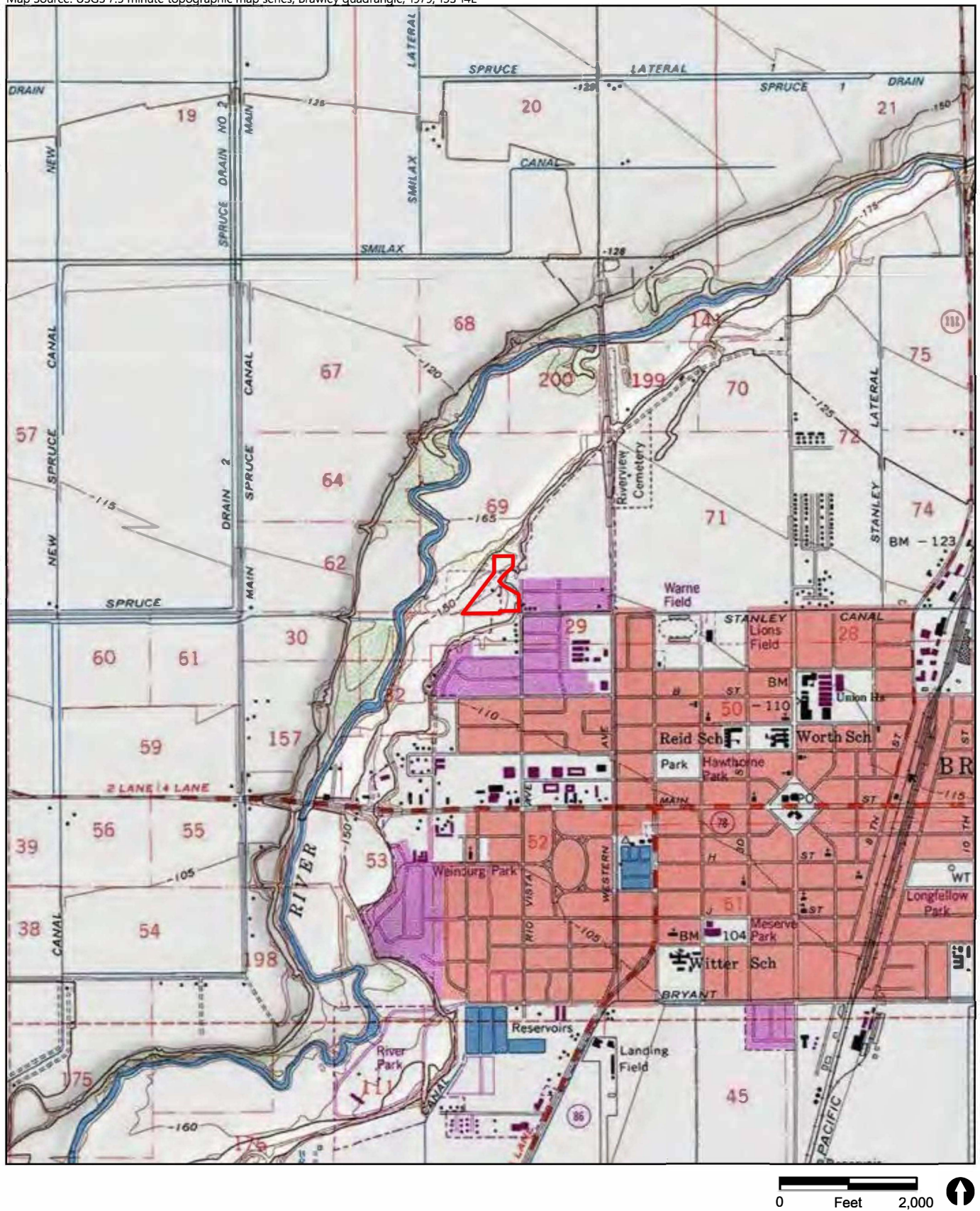
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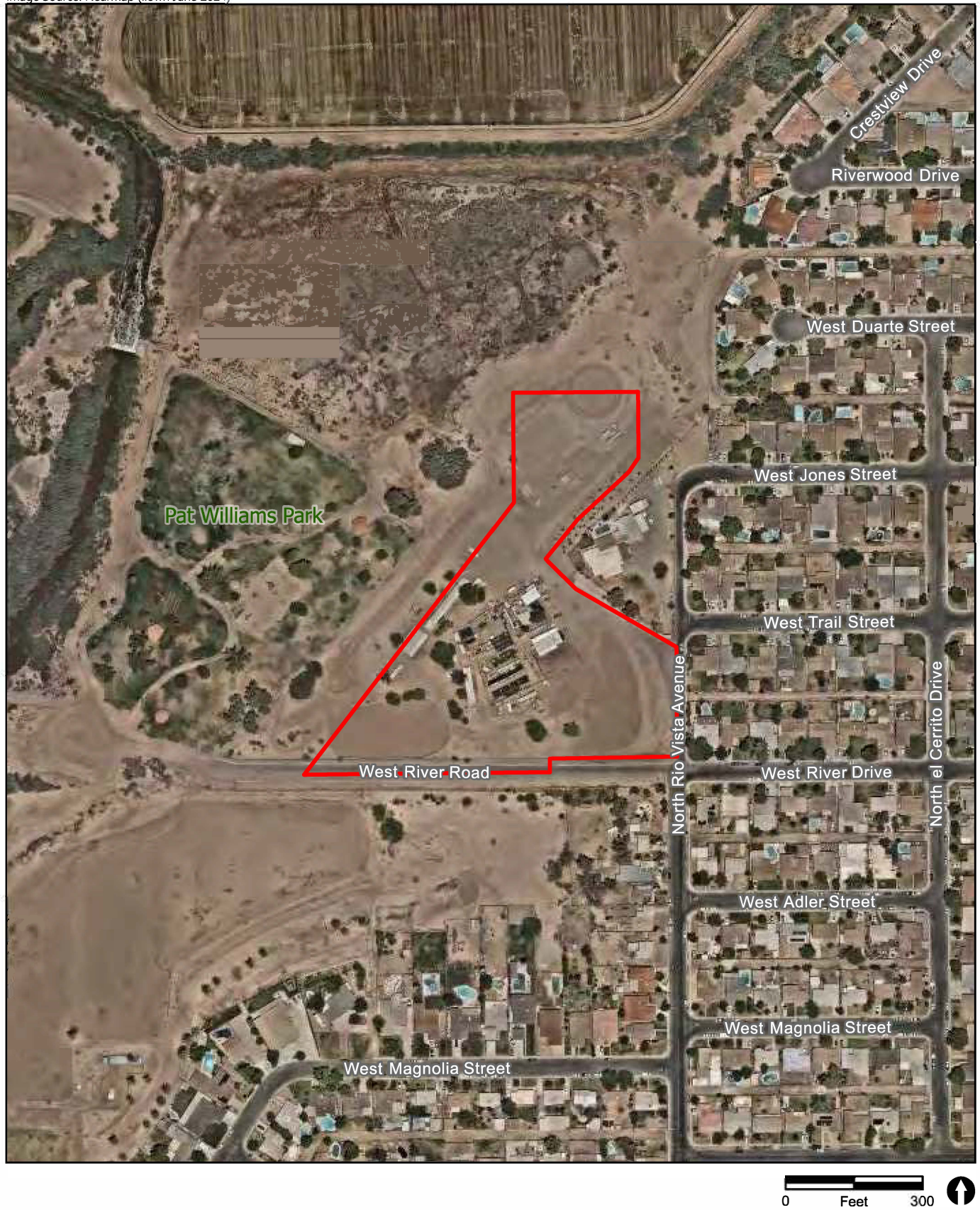


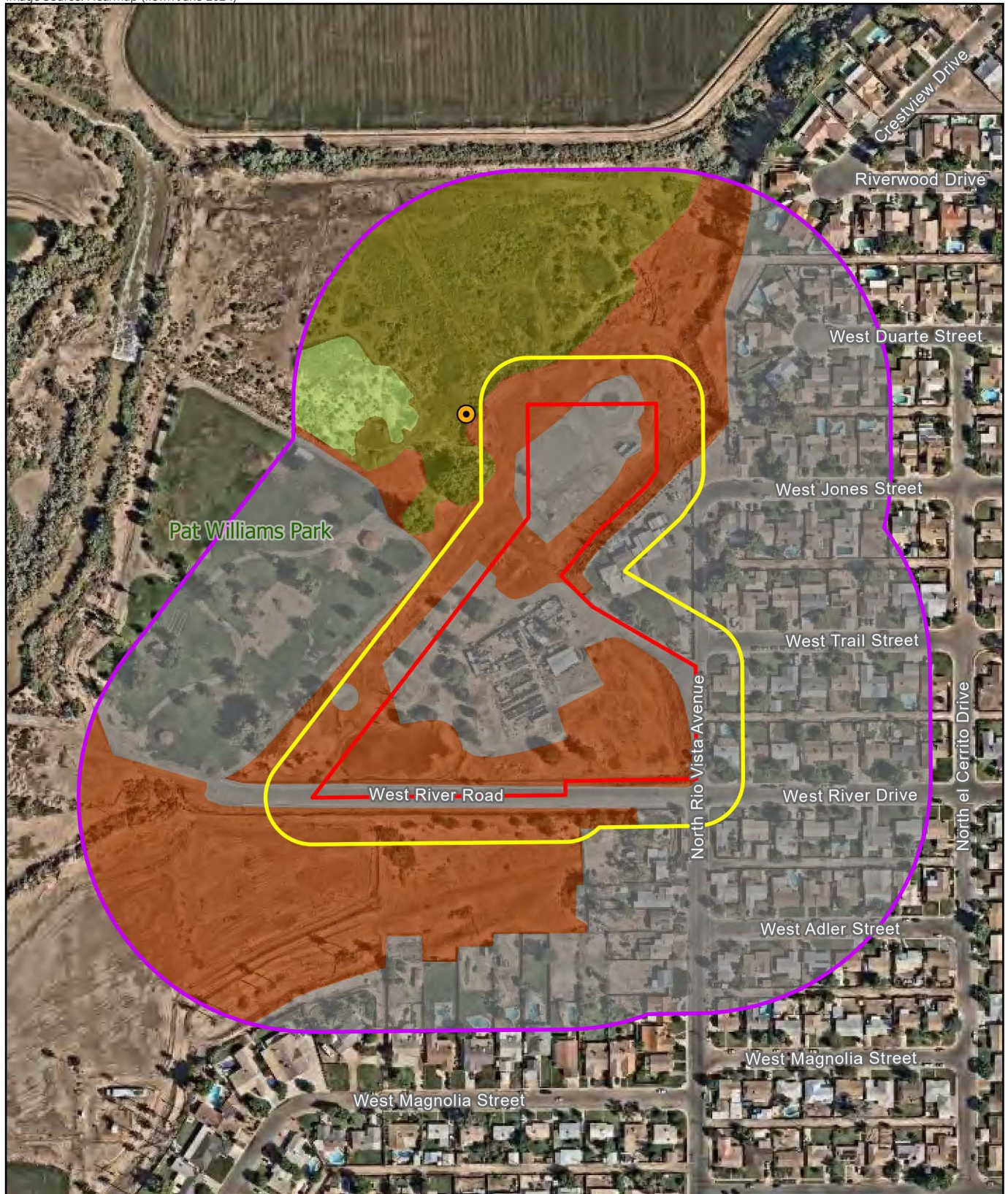
 Project Location

FIGURE 1
Regional Location



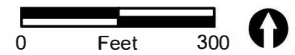
Project Site





- Project Site
- Biological Survey Area
- Burrowing Owl Survey Area
- Suitable Burrow

- Vegetation Community**
- Arrowweed Thickets
 - Disturbed
 - Iodine Bush Scrub
 - Urban/Developed Land





PHOTOGRAPH 1
View of Project Site from the Southwest Corner of the Site



PHOTOGRAPH 2
View of Equestrian Feature (Disturbed Land) in the
Southwest Portion of the Project Site



PHOTOGRAPH 3

View of Iodine Bush Scrub Habitat in the Northwestern Portion of the
Biological Survey Area



PHOTOGRAPH 4

View of Pat Williams Park (Urban/Developed Land) in the Western Portion of
the Biological Survey Area

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1

Plant Species Observed

Attachment 1 Plant Species Observed					
Major Plant Group	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Occupied Habitat	Origin
Conifers	Pinaceae / Pine Family	<i>Pinus</i> sp.	pine	DEV	N/I
Angiosperms: Monocots	Arecaceae / Palm Family	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm	DEV	I
Angiosperms: Monocots	Poaceae (Gramineae) / Grass Family	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass	DIS	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Anacardiaceae / Sumac or Cashew Family	<i>Searsia lancea</i> [= <i>Rhus lancea</i>]	African sumac	DEV	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Asteraceae / Sunflower Family	<i>Pluchea sericea</i>	arrow-weed	AT	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Chenopodiaceae / Goosefoot Family	<i>Allenrolfea occidentalis</i>	iodine bush	IBS	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Chenopodiaceae / Goosefoot Family	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	four-wing saltbush, shad-scale	DIS	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Chenopodiaceae / Goosefoot Family	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>	big saltbush	DIS	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Chenopodiaceae / Goosefoot Family	<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	nettle-leaf goosefoot	DIS	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Chenopodiaceae / Goosefoot Family	<i>Suaeda nigra</i>	bush seepweed	DIS	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Chenopodiaceae / Goosefoot Family	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Indian rosewood	DEV	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Fabaceae (Leguminosae) / Legume Family	<i>Neltuma odorata</i>	honey mesquite	DEV	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Fabaceae (Leguminosae) / Legume Family	<i>Neltuma velutina</i>	velvet mesquite	DEV	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Fabaceae (Leguminosae) / Legume Family	<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>	blue palo verde	DEV	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Fabaceae (Leguminosae) / Legume Family	<i>Strombocarpa pubescens</i>	screwbean mesquite	DEV	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Moraceae / Mulberry Family	<i>Morus alba</i>	white mulberry	DEV	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Myrtaceae / Myrtle Family	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	gum tree	DEV	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Salicaceae / Willow Family	<i>Populus fremontii</i> ssp. <i>fremontii</i>	Fremont cottonwood, alamo	DEV	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Salicaceae / Willow Family	<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	Goodding's black willow	DEV	N
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Tamaricaceae / Tamarisk Family	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	athel	IBS	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Tamaricaceae / Tamarisk Family	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	saltcedar	IBS	I
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Zygophyllaceae / Caltrop Family	<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	creosote bush	DIS	N
NOTE: Scientific and common names were primarily derived from Jepson eFlora (Jepson Flora Project 2025). In instances where common names were not provided in this resource, common names were obtained from Rebman and Simpson (2014). Additional common names were obtained from the <i>Sunset Western Garden Book</i> (Brenzel 2001) for ornamental/horticultural plants.					
HABITAT AT = Arrow-weed thickets DIS = Disturbed FA = Fallow agriculture IBS = Iodine bush scrub DEV = Urban/ developed					
ORIGIN N =Native to locality I = Introduced species from outside locality					

ATTACHMENT 2

Wildlife Species Observed

Attachment 2
Wildlife Species Observed

Major Wildlife Group	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Occupied Habitat	Evidence of Occurrence
Birds	Ardeidae / Herons & Bitterns	<i>Egretta thula</i>	snowy egret	N	DEV	O
Birds	Columbidae / Pigeons & Doves	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian collared-dove	I	DEV	O
Birds	Columbidae / Pigeons & Doves	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove	N	DEV	O
Birds	Apodidae / Swifts	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift	N	DEV	O
Birds	Tyrannidae / Tyrant Flycatchers	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe	N	DEV	O
Birds	Corvidae / Crows, Jays, & Magpies	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow	N	DEV	O
Birds	Remizidae / Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>	verdin	N	DEV	O
Birds	Mimidae / Mockingbirds & Thrashers	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird	N	DEV	O
Birds	Icteridae / Blackbirds & New World Orioles	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	great-tailed grackle	N	DEV	O
Birds	Fringillidae / Finches	<i>Haemorrhous [=Carpodacus] mexicanus</i>	house finch	N	DEV	O
Birds	Passeridae / Old World Sparrows	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow	I	DEV	O
Mammals	Leporidae / Rabbits & Hares	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail	N	IBS	O

NOTE: Zoological nomenclature for birds is in accordance with Chesser et al. 2024 and for mammals with Bradley et al. (2014) and American Society of Mammalogists 2025. Determination of the potential occurrence for listed, sensitive, or noteworthy species is based upon known ranges and habitat preferences for species follows Evans 2008, Jennings and Hayes 1994, Unitt 2004, Tremor et. al. 2017 and Western Bat Working Group 2017. Federal and state listing status is based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Diversity Database (CDFW) 2025a.

ORIGIN

N =Native to locality.

I = Introduced species from outside locality.

EVIDENCE OF OCCURRENCE

O = Observed

HABITATS

DEV = Urban/ developed

IBS = Iodine bush scrub

ATTACHMENT 3

Sensitive Plant Species
Observed or with the Potential to Occur

Attachment 3 Sensitive Plant Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur									
Major Plant Group	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS Rare Plant Rank	Habitat Preference / Requirements	Potential to Occur On-site	Basis for Determination of Occurrence Potential
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Apodanthaceae / Apodanthes Family	<i>Pilostyles thurberi</i>	Thurber's pilostyles			4.3	Perennial stem-parasite; open desert scrub in the southern Sonoran desert; host plant indigo bush (<i>Psoralea</i> spp.); blooms January; elevation below 1,100 feet	Unexpected	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of suitable open desert scrub habitat with indigo bush. This species has been known to occur within a nine-quadrangle search (CNPS 2025b).
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Asteraceae / Sunflower Family	<i>Malperia tenuis</i>	brown turbans			2B.3	Annual herb; creosote bush scrub on arid slopes with shallow soils and rocky surface rubble, volcanic flats and slopes, rocky ridges in the Sonoran desert; blooms March-April and December; elevation below 1,100 feet	Unexpected	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of suitable creosote bush scrub, volcanic flats, and rocky ridges. This species has been known to occur within a nine-quadrangle search (CNPS 2025b).
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Nyctaginaceae / Four O'clock Family	<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>	chaparral sand verbena			1B.1	Annual herb; sandy floodplains in inland, arid areas of coastal sage scrub and open chaparral; blooms January–September; elevation 300–5,300 feet.	Unexpected	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of suitable sandy floodplains, coastal sage scrub, and open chaparral habitats. This species has been known to occur within a nine-quadrangle search (CNPS 2025b).
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Euphorbiaceae / Spurge Family	<i>Euphorbia abramsiana</i>	Abrams' spurge			2B.2	Annual herb; desert scrub (Mojavean and Sonoran), playas, desert washes; sandy or gravelly substrate; blooms August–November; elevation 0 to 4,300 feet.	Unexpected	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of suitable Mojavean or Sonoran desert scrub or desert wash habitat. This species has been known to occur within a one-mile buffer of the survey area. (CDFW 2025a)

Attachment 3
Sensitive Plant Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur

Major Plant Group	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS Rare Plant Rank	Habitat Preference / Requirements	Potential to Occur On-site	Basis for Determination of Occurrence Potential
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Fabaceae (Leguminosae) / Legume Family	<i>Astragalus crotalariae</i>	Salton milk-vetch			4.3	Perennial herb; barren, sandy areas with mild soil disturbance in the Sonoran desert; blooms January-April; elevation 200 to 800 feet.	Unexpected	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of suitable barren, sandy areas with mild soil disturbance. This species has been known to occur within a nine-quadrangle search (CNPS 2025b).
Angiosperms: Eudicots	Solanaceae / Nightshade Family	<i>Lycium parishii</i>	Parish's desert-thorn			2B.3	Perennial shrub; coastal sage scrub, Sonoran desert scrub; blooms March–April; elevation 1,000–3,300 feet.	Unexpected	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of suitable coastal sage scrub and Sonoran desert scrub habitats. This species has been known to occur within a nine-quadrangle search (CNPS 2025b).

NOTE: Scientific and common names were primarily derived from Jepson eFlora (Jepson Flora Project 2025). In instances where common names were not provided in this resource, common names were obtained from Rebman and Simpson (2014). Additional common names were obtained from the Sunset Western Garden Book (Brenzel 2001) for ornamental/horticultural plants. Federal and state listing status is based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Diversity Database (CDFW) 2025a.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS): California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR)

1B = Species rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. These species are eligible for state listing.

2B = Species rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere. These species are eligible for state listing.

4 = A watch list of species of limited distribution. These species need to be monitored for changes in the status of their populations.

0.1 = Species seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat).

0.2 = Species fairly threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat).

0.3 = Species not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened; low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known).

ATTACHMENT 4

Sensitive Wildlife Species
Observed or with the Potential to Occur

Attachment 4

Sensitive Wildlife Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur

Major Wildlife Group	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Preference / Requirements	Potential to Occur (Observed or L/M/H/U)	Basis for Determination of Occurrence Potential
Invertebrates	Apidae / Honey Bees, Bumble Bees, and Allies	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch's bumble bee		SCE	Coastal areas, open grasslands, shrub habitats.	U (Project Site), L (Biological Survey Area)	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of floral resources for nectaring and rodent burrows for nesting. Low potential to occur within biological survey area, as floral resources comprised less than one percent cover and some suitable rodent burrows for nesting are present. This species has been known to occur within a one-mile buffer of the project site (CDFW 2025a).
Reptiles	Phrynosomatidae / Spiny Lizards	<i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i>	flat-tailed horned lizard		SSC	Dunes and sandy flats of low desert.	U (Project Site and Biological Survey Area)	Unlikely to occur on-site or within the biological survey area due to the lack of suitable dune habitat. This species has been known to occur within a one-mile radius of the project site (CDFW 2025a).
Birds	Strigidae / Typical Owls	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl		SCE	Grassland, agricultural land, coastal dunes. Require rodent burrows. Declining resident.	L (Project Site, Biological Survey Area, and Burrowing Owl Survey Area)	Low potential to occur on-site and adjacent to the project site. One suitable rodent burrow was observed outside of the project site in the northeastern portion of the burrowing owl survey area; however, no burrowing owl individuals, sign of burrowing owl activity, or burrow complexes were observed.

Attachment 4 Sensitive Wildlife Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur								
Major Wildlife Group	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Preference / Requirements	Potential to Occur (Observed or L/M/H/U)	Basis for Determination of Occurrence Potential
Birds	Picidae / Woodpeckers & Sapsuckers	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>	Gila woodpecker		SE	Saguaro and willow-cottonwood desert. Date palms, tamarisk. Lower Colorado River.	U (Project Site and Biological Survey Area)	Unlikely to occur on-site or within biological survey area. While few isolated palm trees occur within the survey area, suitable riparian habitat is not present. This species has been known to occur within a one-mile radius of the project site (CDFW 2025a).
Birds	Mimidae / Mockingbirds & Thrashers	<i>Toxostoma crissale</i>	crissal thrasher		SSC	Mesquite thickets in Borrego Springs area. Rare resident.	U (Project Site and Biological Survey Area)	Unlikely to occur on-site or within the biological survey area due to the lack of suitable mesquite thicket habitat. While few mesquite trees are present within the project site, these trees are isolated and do not constitute suitable mesquite thicket habitat. This species has been known to occur within a one-mile radius of the project site (CDFW 2025a).
Mammals	Vespertilionidae / Vesper Bats	<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	western yellow bat		SSC	Active year-round. Roosts in the foliage of trees in arid habitats, particularly in native and exotic palm trees. Forage for a variety of flying insects over streams and ponds. Ranges from southern California and Arizona into western Mexico.	U (Project Site), L (Biological Survey Area)	Unlikely to occur on-site due to the lack of palm trees for roosting. Low potential to occur within biological survey area due to presence of a few isolated palm trees within landscaped areas. This species has been known to occur within a one-mile radius of the project site (CDFW 2025a).

Attachment 4

Sensitive Wildlife Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur

NOTE: Zoological nomenclature for invertebrates is in accordance with NatureServe 2021 and Evans 2008; for reptiles and amphibians with Crother et. al (2017); for birds with Chesser et al. 2024; for mammals with Bradley et al. (2014), American Society of Mammalogists 2025. Determination of the potential occurrence for listed, sensitive, or noteworthy species is based upon known ranges and habitat preferences for species follows Evans 2008, Jennings and Hayes 1994, Unitt 2004, Tremor et. al. 2017, and Western Bat Working Group 2017. Federal and state listing status is based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Diversity Database (CDFW) 2025a.

STATE STATUS

SE = Listed as endangered by the state of California

SCE = State candidate for listing as Endangered

SSC = California Department of Fish and Wildlife species of special concern

POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

L = Low

M = Medium

H = High

U = Unexpected