

REDDING CAR COLLECTION BIOTA REPORT  
24233 THE OLD ROAD,  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for  
Redding Properties

July 2012



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Prepared for  
Redding Properties  
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July 2012

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# BIOTA REPORT

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## Redding Car Collection 24233 The Old Road

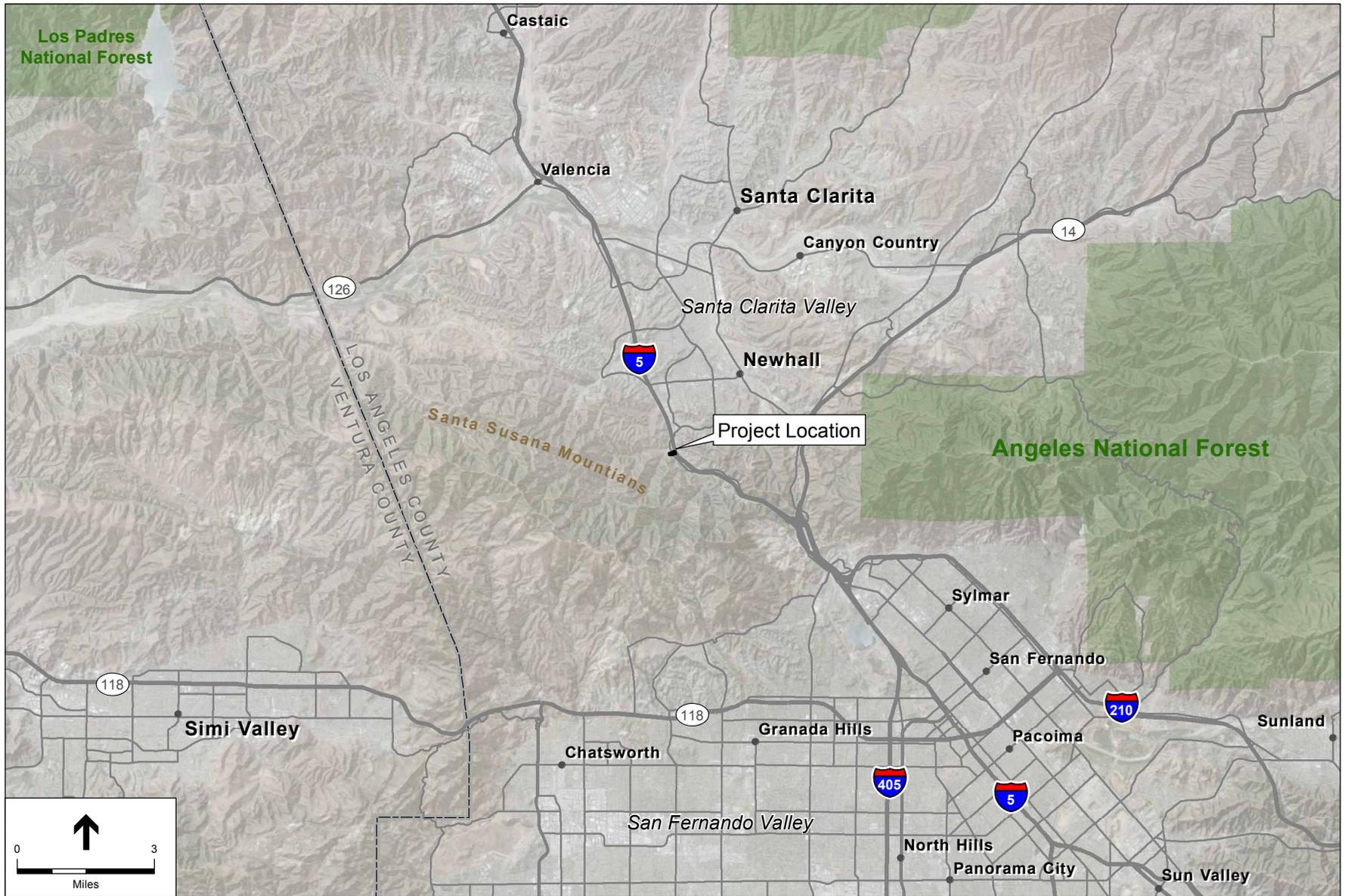
### 1. Introduction and Background

This document describes and analyzes potential impacts to the biological resources of the approximately 2.86-acre Redding Car Collection project site. Because the property is within Significant Ecological Area (SEA) No. 20, the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Department) requires that two biological documents, a Biological Constraints Analysis and a Biota Report, be prepared for and reviewed by the Significant Ecological Area Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC). The Biological Constraints Analysis, prepared by Environmental Sciences Associates (ESA) under the direction of Greg Ainsworth, was submitted on May 17, 2012. At the SEATAC meeting held on June 4, 2012, the Committee provided comments on the BCA regarding methods, mapping, and overall preparation and directed the Applicant to review SEATAC's comments and incorporate appropriate revisions of the BCA into a Biota Report. As such, the Department has directed the preparation of this document as the Biota Report required to be submitted to SEATAC for its review, comments and recommendations. The Department has also directed that this document be prepared in a manner that satisfies SEATAC's format and content guidelines for preparing Biota Reports.

### 2. Project Description

#### 2.1 Project Location

The project site is located at 24233 The Old Road in northwestern Los Angeles County. The project site is a rectangular parcel of land encompassing 2.86 acres along the east side of The Old Road, less than one mile southwest of the City of Santa Clarita. The Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5) runs approximately 500 feet to the northeast of the project site. The project site is in an unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area, and is situated just east, and within the foothills of the northern flank of the Santa Susana Mountains (**Figure 1, Project Vicinity Map**).



SOURCE: Aerial Express, 2011; Los Angeles County GIS, 2012.

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**Figure 1**  
Project Vicinity Map

Adjacent land uses to the north include a mostly disturbed (previously graded) private property containing two structures and an adobe-type bunk house, with scattered coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) trees, beyond which is Townsend Canyon Road. To the east is The Old Road, beyond which is private property with scattered storage containers, abandoned vehicles, and other various items; to the south is a post office distribution center and undisturbed coast live oak/southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) woodland to the southwest; and, to the west is undisturbed northern mixed chaparral/scrub oak woodland and coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland, which further extends west into the Santa Susana Mountains. The Interstate 5 is approximately 500 feet northeast of the project site.

## 2.2 Project Features and Size

Development plans for the proposed project include the construction of a 7,840 square feet barn-style garage structure intended to house a private historic car collection for the property owner. This proposed garage structure would be situated entirely within flat, previously disturbed portions of the property (**Figure 2: Project Boundary, Adjacent Land Uses, and Site Plan**). In addition to the garage, the proposed project includes plans for rows of fruit/vegetable crops which would occupy approximately .08 acre of flat, previously disturbed land in the northeast portion of the property. An existing double-wide mobile home will be used as a caretakers unit and an existing cinder block structure as an office. The Applicant also proposes to construct cistern(s) to capture rain water from building roofs for use in irrigation and percolation. This cistern would be placed within the previously disturbed area; however, the precise location is unknown at this time.

## 2.3 Grading

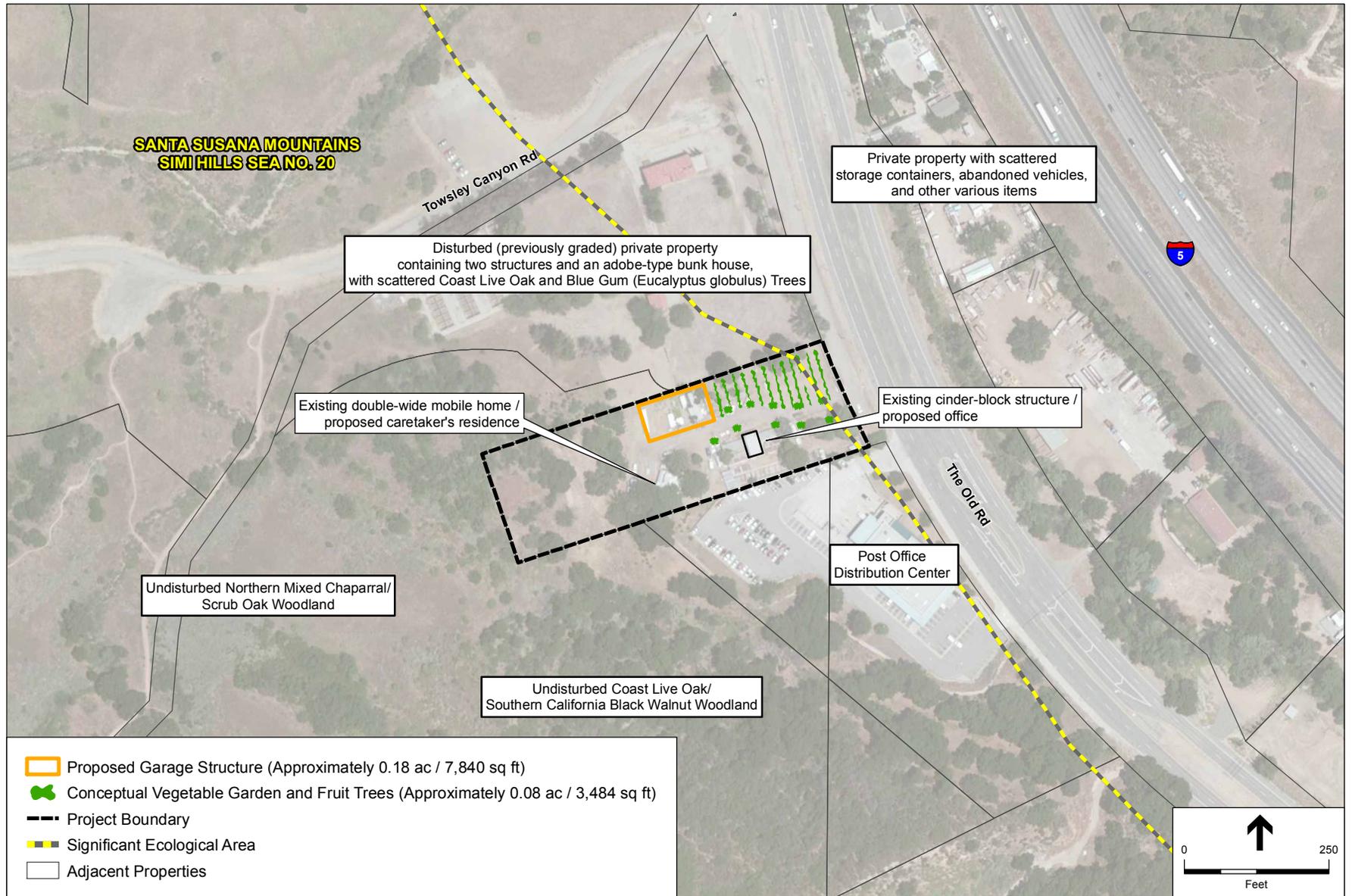
According to the Applicant, a minimum amount of grading is anticipated for the construction of the garage structure. Approximately 8,000 square feet would be subject to site grading, which will be confined to previously disturbed areas. It is estimated that up to 500 cubic yards of soil will be moved for grading; however, the balance will remain on the site. No soil will be imported to, or exported from, the site.

## 2.4 Requested Discretionary Actions and Approvals

The Applicant is seeking a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to authorize the development and use of the historic vehicle collection facility and a caretaker's residence in the SEA.

## 2.5 Summary of Significant Impacts

No significant impacts to biological resources are anticipated from implementation of the proposed project. Construction and operation of the proposed project would disturb approximately 0.18 acre of previously disturbed area. No native habitats, including coast live



SOURCE: Bing Maps; Los Angeles County GIS; ESA, 2012.

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**Figure 2**  
Project Boundary, Adjacent Land Uses, and Site Plan

oak/southern California black walnut woodland would be directly impacted during construction or operation. All oak and walnut trees located on the site will be preserved in perpetuity. Any oak or walnut tree located with a minimum of 100 feet from construction activities will be temporarily fenced, so that the trees are not inadvertently impacted during construction.

As indicated below in this report, the site is distinguished by two general areas: a completely disturbed (previously graded) area where the proposed development is proposed, and a relatively undisturbed hillside that consists of natural woodland and undefined grassland. Several wildlife species are expected to use the natural areas of the hillside located within the property boundary and birds may nest throughout the site. Because the property contains natural areas, the Applicant's proposed project would improve the existing condition of the site by removing debris from the disturbed portion of the site as well as existing nighttime lighting. Currently, there are non-native, invasive trees that include Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) on the site. The Applicant agrees to eradicate all Tree-of-Heaven from the site and plant with native coast live oak (acorns) and walnut trees (walnuts). Impacts to nesting birds would be avoided by initiating construction to outside of the bird nesting season or retaining a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction bird nest survey to identify nests in proximity to construction and establish suitable buffer zones to protect nests until they are no longer active.

Wildlife movement in the area will be improved by implementation of the project. The Applicant will cease all maintenance of the existing chain-link fence along the periphery of the hillside. Once the fence is dilapidated, wildlife will be allowed to move freely within the natural woodland area on the site and this portion of the site will then contribute to the wildlife movement habitats in the surrounding area.

Because required brush clearance activities can affect native seed dispersal and soil erosion, the proposed project will conduct brush clearance with use of mechanical tools (i.e., weed whips) and prior to the month of May. This will allow native plants to set seed later in the growing season, so that regeneration can be maintained.

## 3. Setting

### 3.1 Characteristics of the Site

The 2.86 acre project site is located on the Oat Mountain 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map and is in northwestern Los Angeles County, less than one mile southwest of the City of Santa Clarita (**Figure 3: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map and SEA Boundaries**). The eastern portion of the site where developments are proposed is flat, compacted, and entirely disturbed. Previous disturbances include graded areas, mobile homes, and storage containers; however, these items and other debris have since been removed from the property. According to the Applicant, the site was previously used as a private residence and animal shelter.

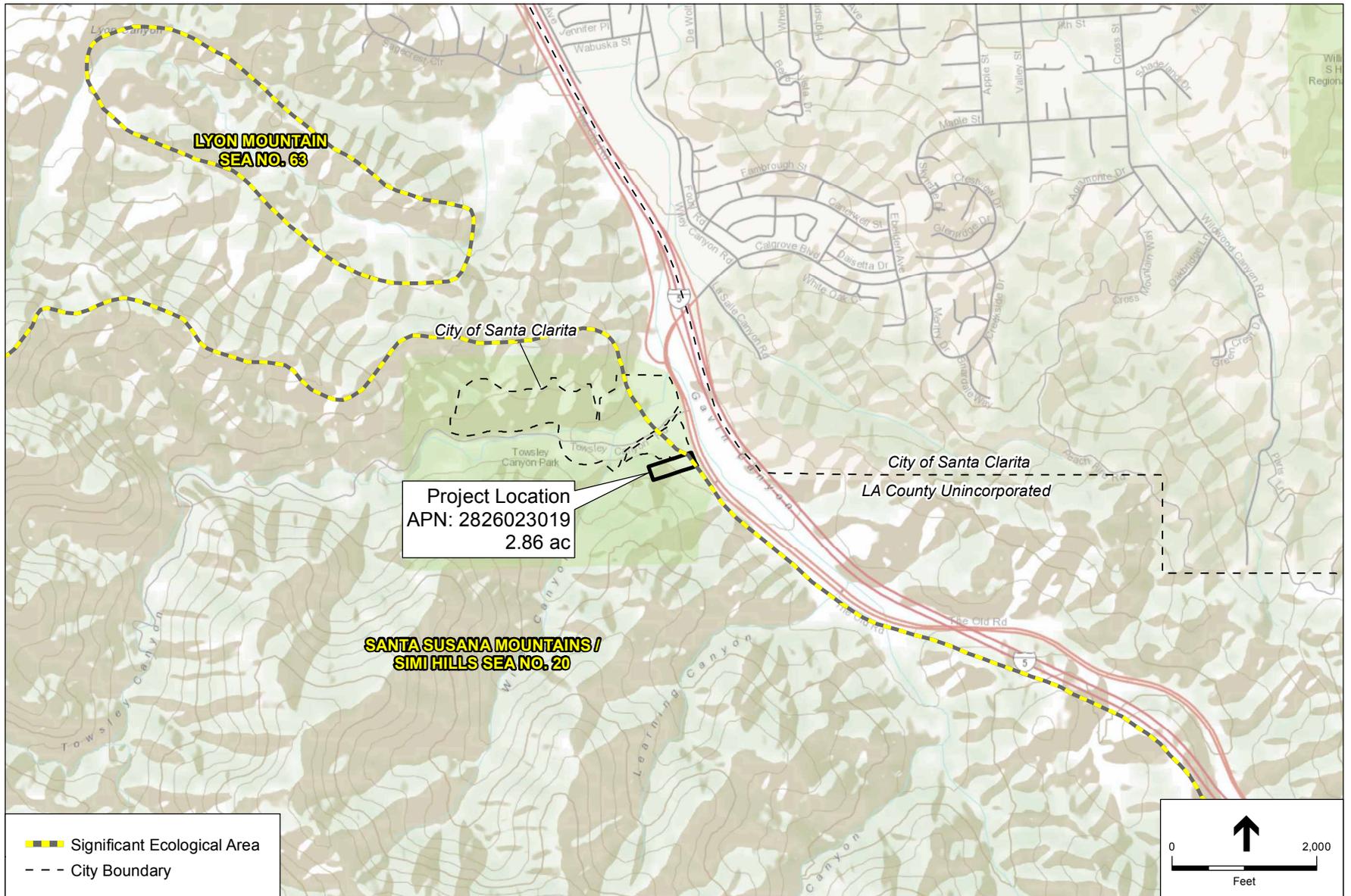
The western one-third of the project site consists of steep (approx. 30 percent) easterly-facing slopes. The toe of the slope to approximately 80 feet up was graded for a former driveway and residence and currently consists of undefined grasses and non-native trees (See **Figure 4, Vegetation Communities and Oak Trees**). The remainder of this hillside to the property boundary to the west is characterized as coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland with an understory of undefined grasses.

#### 3.1.1 Significant Ecological Area No. 20

The majority of the subject property lies within the Los Angeles County-designated Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills Significant Ecological Area (SEA No. 20). SEA No. 20 is located northwest of the San Fernando Valley within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and an incorporated area of the City of Los Angeles west of Chatsworth. SEA No. 20 is south of State Route 126 (SR-126) and the Santa Clara River, west of the Interstate 5, and includes much of the Santa Susana Mountains to the north, the Santa Susana Pass, Chatsworth Reservoir, and the eastern portion of the Simi Hills in the south.

The Santa Susana Mountains are one of several relatively small ridges that form the western end of the transverse ranges and blend eastward into the larger San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. The Santa Susana Mountains are the main representative of the small, dry interior mountain ranges of Los Angeles County. The core of this range is in a relatively natural condition and has not been heavily disturbed by human use, even as urban growth continues in the San Fernando and Simi Valleys and the Saugus-Newhall area. The limits of SEA No. 20 in relation to the project site is depicted on Figure 3.

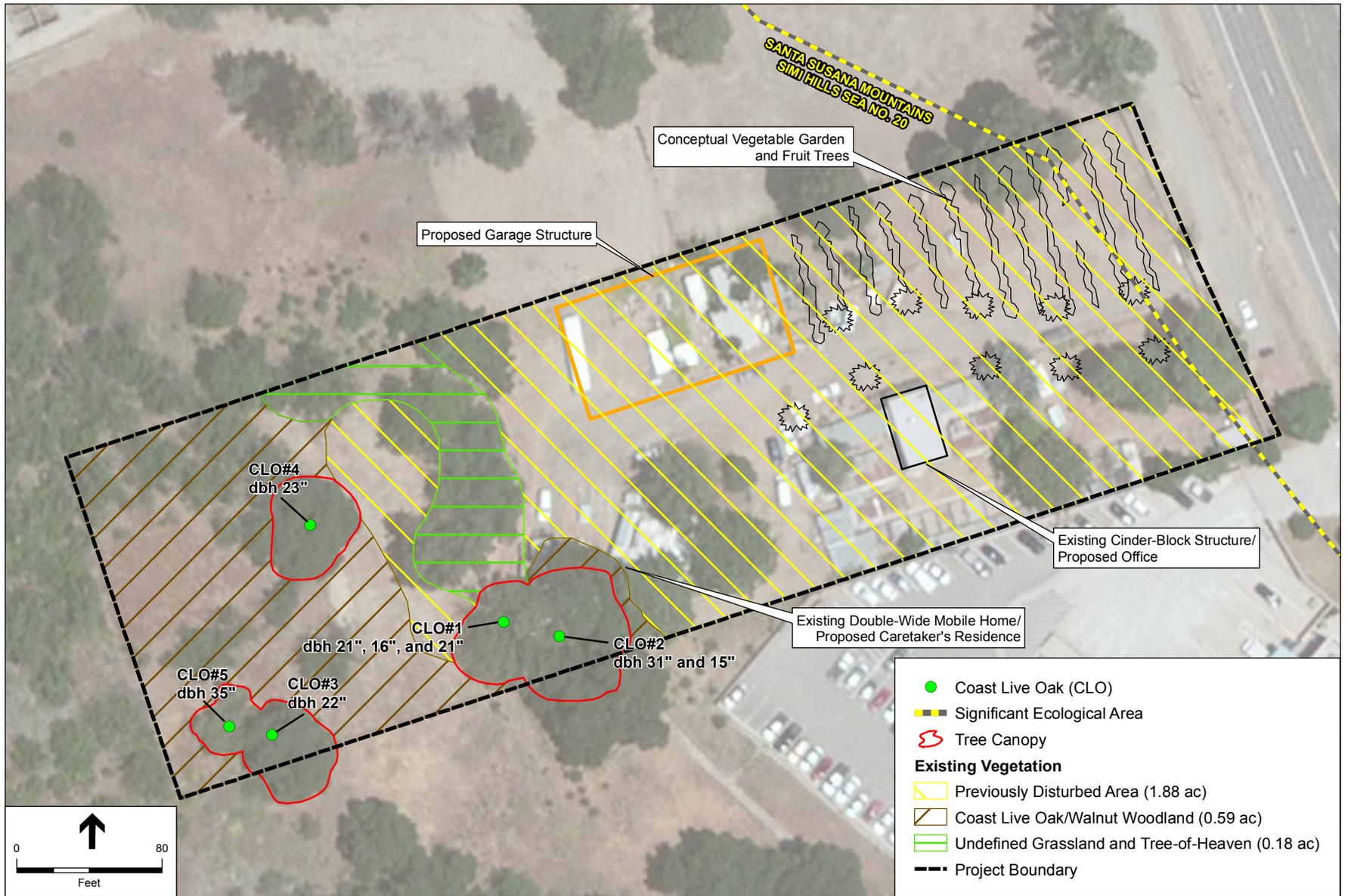
The habitat on the western portion of the site that consists of northerly-facing slopes with coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland and undefined grassland is contiguous with adjacent natural habitats of SEA No. 20. Wildlife movement from the SEA and surrounding open spaces in the area to the project site are impeded by the existing chain link fence which encloses the property on the east, west, and south boundaries.



SOURCE: USGS Topoquad: Oat Mountain

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**Figure 3**  
USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map and SEA Boundaries



SOURCE: Bing Maps; Los Angeles County GIS; ESA, 2012.

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**Figure 4**  
Vegetation Communities and Protected Oak Trees

### 3.1.2 Geology and Topography

No unusual or significant landforms or geologic features are visually apparent on the site. The portion of the project site where development is proposed is flat. This flat portion of the site is disturbed and covers approximately two-thirds of the total 2.86 acre property. The remainder of the site consists of approximately 30 degree north-facing slopes and is generally characterized as coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland and undefined grassland.

### 3.1.3 Soil Characteristics

The project site is geologically located within the Transverse Range geomorphic province of southern California, in the eastern portion of the Ventura depositional basin. Soils at the project site are mapped as Millsholm rocky loam and Yolo loam. The Millsholm series consists of shallow, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from sandstone, mudstone and shale (NRCS, 2011). Millsholm soils occur on hills and mountains with slopes of 5 to 75 percent. In southern California, this soil series typically supports native annual grasses, oaks (*Quercus* sp.), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), ceanothus (*Ceanothus* sp.), and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). Millsholm rocky loam soils occur in the western portion of the site which is characterized by north-facing slopes at approximately 30 percent grade. This soil series on the property supports a mixed coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland with an understory of grasses and forbes, as well as an undefined grassland.

The Yolo series is a member of the fine-silty, mixed, nonacid, thermic family of Mollic Xerofluvents. Yolo soils have thick grayish brown, neutral silt loam A horizons and brown and pale brown mildly alkaline silt loam C horizons (NRCS, 2011). This soil series in southern California is usually associated with intensive row, field, and orchard crops, although it naturally supports annual grasses, forbs, and some scattered oak. Yolo loam occurs on the flat, disturbed portions of the site. This area is generally compacted and currently supports introduced ornamental plant species as well as remnant native species, including cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).

### 3.1.4 Drainage Patterns

The property has a gradual downward slope to the east and surface water during rain events sheet flows from west to east towards The Old Road. The project site falls within the Santa Clara River Watershed. No major drainages, riparian features, or jurisdictional resources are contained within the property.

### 3.1.5 Plant Communities and Land Uses

The eastern two-thirds of the property is generally flat, compacted, and previously disturbed. Existing disturbances in the majority of the property include previously graded areas, mobile homes, and storage containers; however, following the assessment of the site on 7 September 2011, it has been reported by the project Applicant that these items and other structures and debris have been removed from the property. According to the Applicant, the site was previously

used as a private residence and animal shelter. Vegetation along the flat, disturbed portion of the property mostly consists of non-native, ornamental shrubs (e.g., *Oleander* sp.), ornamental cacti, and native and non-native trees, including Peruvian peppertree (*Schinus molle*) and Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).

The western one-third of the project site consists of steep (approx. 30 percent) easterly-facing slopes. The toe of the slope to approximately 80 feet up was graded for a former driveway and residence and currently consists of non-native grasses and non-native trees, including Tree-of-Heaven and Peruvian peppertree. The remainder of this hillside to the property boundary to the west is characterized as coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland with an understory of undefined grasses (Figure 4). Summaries of these communities are provided below. Plant communities were characterized in the field based on the *Manual of California Vegetation* (MCV) (Sawyer et al. 2009) and *List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations* (CDFG 2010).

**3.1.5.1 Alliance: *Quercus agrifolia* (71.060.00); Rank: G5S4  
Association: *Juglans californica* (71.060.27)**

This community occurs on the hillside on the western-most quarter of the project site and intergrades with undefined grassland towards the bottom of the hillside. On the project site this community consists primarily of numerous southern California black walnut trees interspersed with five mature coast live oak trees and numerous immature coast live oaks. The understory of this community is dominated by grasses and forbes including red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis* spp. *rubens*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), rattail (*Festuca myuros*), and long-beak filaree (*Erodium botrys*). When compared to natural undisturbed areas to the southwest, west and northwest which are densely vegetated with native scrub oak chaparral and coast live oak and southern California black walnut woodland, the entire hillside within the property limits may have been formerly grazed. This is speculated based on the dominance of non-native and undefined grasses and lack of chaparral and oak and walnut saplings as compared to adjacent undisturbed land.

**3.1.5.2 Undefined Grassland**

This community of assorted native and nonnative grasses occurs towards the bottom of the hillside in the western half of the property and generally comprises the understory of the coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland. Dominant herbaceous species observed in this community include blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), little California melica (*Melica imperfecta*), western wild-rye (*Elymus glaucus* ssp. *glaucus*), and Mediterranean grass (*Hordeum marinum* ssp. *gusseoneanum*). A compilation of all plant species observed on the site (and within this community) is provided in Section 5.3.

### 3.1.6 Flora and Fauna

As described above, the western portion of the property which most resembles a natural assemblage of vegetation and habitats is characterized as coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland with an understory of undefined grasses. This community is expected to support regionally common and abundant wildlife species typical of the both the Santa Susana Mountains and the urbanized Santa Clarita Valley to the north and east, which include: red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). Common reptile and amphibian species include southern Pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus*), California kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula californiae*), gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer*), California treefrog (*Hyla cadaverina*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*). Larger mammal species that are known to occur in the Santa Susana mountains such as bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*), American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor browni*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and not expected to occur within the property boundary due to the existing chain-link fence that surrounds the project site. Population sizes of the various species of flora and fauna in the surrounding area were not estimated. Additional discussion of fauna expected on the project site is discussed in **Section 5.2**. Population sizes of the various species of flora and fauna in the project area were not estimated.

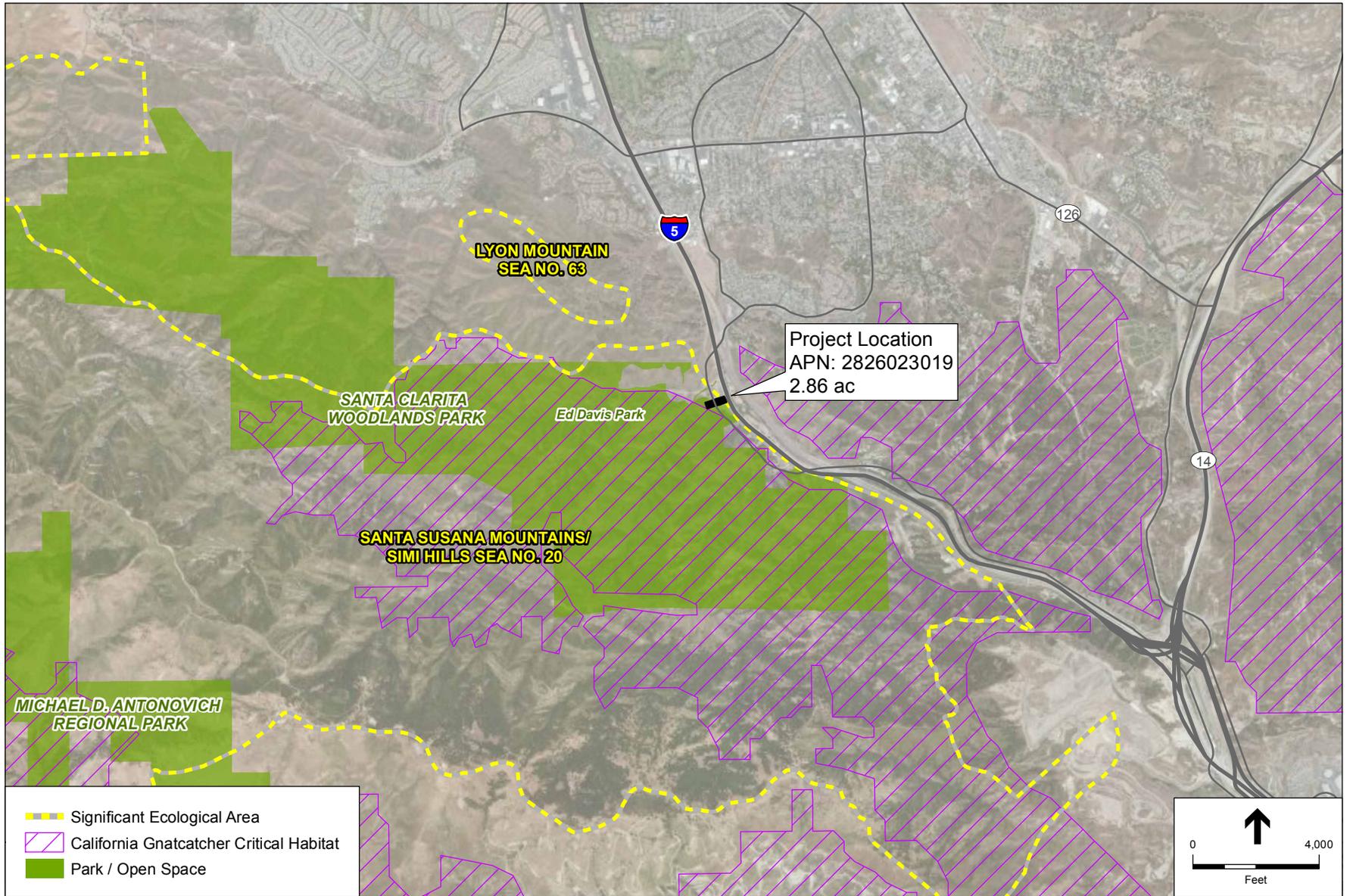
## 4. Characteristics of the Surrounding Area

### 4.1 Existing Land Uses

Adjacent land uses to the north include a mostly disturbed (previously graded) private property containing two structures and an adobe-type bunk house, with scattered coast live oak and blue gum trees, beyond which is Townsend Canyon Road; to the east is The Old Road, beyond which is a private property with scattered storage containers, abandoned vehicles, and other various items; to the south is a post office distribution center and undisturbed coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland to the southwest; and to the west is undisturbed northern mixed chaparral/scrub oak woodland, which further extends into the Santa Susana Mountains. The Interstate 5 is approximately 500 feet northeast of the project site.

### 4.2 Open Space Reserves in the Area

Ed Davis Park, a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone Parkland managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, is located approximately .15 mile to the northeast of the project site (**Figure 5: Regional Open Spaces, Critical Habitat and SEA Boundaries**). The park is part of the Towsley Canyon Santa Clarita Woodlands. The public park features trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Notable park features include Towsley Creek and water-worn rock formations in Towsley gorge, as well as scenic trail viewpoints and undisturbed oak woodlands. The park is a part of 4,000 acres of public parkland (the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park) on the north-facing flank of the Santa Susana Mountains. A



SOURCE: Bing Maps, 2011; Los Angeles County GIS; ESA, 2012.

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**Figure 5**  
Regional Open Space, Critical Habitat, and SEA Boundaries

portion of the Towsley View Loop Trail, which begins at the entrance to the park on Towsley Canyon Road, runs approximately 300 feet east of the property boundary.

Michael D. Antonovich Open Space; a 480 acre portion of the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park southeast of the project site, occupies some of the most densely wooded portions of the Woodlands. Lyon Canyon SEA No. 63, located approximately one mile northwest of the project site, is an approximately 150 acre area representing a relatively narrow, undisturbed canyon that contains both an oak woodland community in the northern portion of the SEA and a substantial chamise chaparral community in the south.

### 4.3 Habitats, Associations, and Vegetative Communities

The north-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains support northern mixed chaparral communities, as well as natural oak and walnut woodlands and forests. Oak species in the area generally include coast live oak, valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), and scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), and native walnuts in the region are southern California black walnut. The understory community in this area generally consists of annual grassland comprised of non-native and native understory species, such as bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus aridus*), mariposa-lily (*Calochortus sp.*), canyon sunflower (*Venegasia carpesioides*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), purple needlegrass, brome grasses, and wild oats.

### 4.4 Flora and Fauna

The numerous canyons of the Santa Susana Mountains south and west of the project site contain globally unique combinations of tree species, perennial streams, spring wildflower displays, and abundant wildlife. The area constitutes a critical component of a cross-mountain range wildlife habitat corridor that links the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests. The undisturbed canyons and ridges of the mountains feature mixed woodlands comprised of bigcone douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), coast live oak, southern California black walnut, native ash (*Fraxinus sp.*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). Additionally, most of the lands within the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park south and west of the project site are designated critical habitat for the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). The coastal California gnatcatcher is a small songbird that inhabits several distinctive sub-associations of the coastal sage scrub plant community, particularly those dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). The coastal California gnatcatcher has declined in range and abundance in the northern end of its range in southern California due mainly to loss and fragmentation of its habitat from urban development.

Lyon Canyon SEA No. 63, located approximately one mile northwest of the project site, is an approximately 150 acre area representing a relatively narrow, undisturbed canyon that contains both an oak woodland community in the northern portion of the SEA and a substantial chamise chaparral community in the south.

The north-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains support a variety of wildlife common to the Transverse Ranges of southern California. In addition to numerous common passerine bird species, common raptor species in the region include red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, American kestrel, and red-shouldered hawk. Common reptile and amphibian species include southern Pacific rattlesnake, California kingsnake, gophersnake, California treefrog, California slender salamander, western fence lizard, and side-blotched lizard. In addition to common small mammal species, larger mammals that are known to occur in the Santa Susana Mountains include bobcat, ringtail, American badger, mountain lion, and black bear. Population sizes of the various species of flora and fauna in the surrounding area were not estimated.

## 4.5 Overall Biological Value of the Area

The Santa Susana Mountains contain natural communities, vegetation associations, and habitats of plant and animal species that are considered to be regionally significant for a variety of reasons. Among the reasons are that these natural communities, vegetation associations, and plant and animal species which occur in this region are either unique or restricted in distribution; that selected habitats may prove critical in providing concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, or migrating grounds for wildlife that are limited in availability; and the area provides for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural communities in Los Angeles County. The project site is contained within the eastern limits of the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEA because it is located at the beginning of the foothills of the northern flank of the Santa Susana Mountains. While the Santa Susana Mountains represent a rich and valuable resource to the region, the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valley's to the north and south of the project site, respectively, are highly urbanized areas which hold little biological value to the region. The project site is a generally disturbed property at the bottom of the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains, and lacks nearly all of the biological features that characterize the value of the SEA as a whole. What's more, the proximity of the Interstate 5 to the project site, as well as the fact that the site has been completely fenced off for over a decade, prevents the site from being used as a viable movement corridor for wildlife and with the exception of nesting habitat for native birds, has little overall biological value to the surrounding area.

The project site, in essence, represents a small patch of coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland along the bottom of the northern flank of the mountains. The coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland in this area is contiguous with native areas to the west and provides a natural buffer between native habitats of the SEA and the project site.

## 4.6 Wildlife Habitat Linkages

While a few wildlife species are entirely dependent on a single vegetative community, the entire mosaic of all the vegetation communities within the area and adjoining areas constitutes a functional ecosystem for a variety of wildlife species. The Santa Susana Mountains feature several important linkages for wildlife movement. The Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains provide a vast open space corridor to foster wildlife movement between the Santa Monica

Mountains to the south, San Gabriel Mountains to the east, and Los Padres National Forest to the north. Dense, natural habitat associated with the majority of the open spaces in these mountain ranges provide excellent opportunities for concealment and water sources while the grasslands provide an abundance of prey.

## **5. General Biota Surveys**

### **5.1 Methods**

#### **5.1.1 Literature and Database Review**

Prior to assessing the site in the field, ESA reviewed existing information for the site and surrounding vicinity, including the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (CDFG, 2012) and the California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPS, 2012). The CNDDDB lists historical and recently recorded occurrences of both special-status plant and wildlife species and the CNPS database lists historical and recent occurrences of rare and special-status plant species. ESA queried these sources for special-status species records in the Oat Mountain U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles (Warm Springs Mountain, Green Valley, Mint Canyon, San Fernando, Newhall, Santa Susana, Val Verde, and Whitaker Peak). A list of special-status species that have been recorded in the region was established from this query.

#### **5.1.2 Field Surveys**

##### **5.1.2.1 Reconnaissance-level Survey and Habitat Assessment**

A focused assessment of biological resources and Los Angeles County protected oak trees was conducted by ESA biologists Greg Ainsworth and Jon West on 7 September, 2011. The site assessment was conducted on foot from approximately 0800 to 1200 hours under fair weather conditions. The purpose of the field assessment was to gather information on existing conditions including characterization of all onsite and adjacent land uses including plant communities, wildlife habitats and habitat use, wildlife corridors, and any riparian areas, and to assess the habitat suitability for supporting any special-status species. Dominant plant species within each plant community and area were documented and plant communities were characterized and mapped. Casual observations of bird and other vertebrate wildlife species were recorded during the site assessment. The presence of birds was ascertained by song or by direct sighting aided by binoculars, when necessary. The wildlife habitat of the site and surrounding areas were described using the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) *A Guide to Wildlife Habitats* (Mayer and Laudenslayer, 1988).

##### **5.1.2.2 Sensitive Plant Surveys**

A focused sensitive plant survey and vegetation analysis was conducted by ESA botanist Patrick McConnell on 16 June, 2012, under fair weather conditions. Botanical surveys were conducted on

foot, with the surveyor walking meandering transects within vegetated areas of the property. Survey methods for the target rare plants were based on the CDFG Guidelines and CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines (CDFG, 2009; CNPS, 2001). Sources utilized for identification of rare plant species included The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California (Hickman, 1993), the Checklist of Vascular Plants (Simpson and Rebman, 2006), and Calflora online database for identification of plants of California, (<http://www.calflora.org/>).

### **5.1.2.3 Protected Oak Tree Inventory**

Pursuant to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance, removal or damage of any tree of the oak genus (*Quercus*) that is 25 inches in circumference (8 inches in diameter) or has a combined trunk circumference of any two trunks of at least 38 inches (12 inches in diameter), as measured 4.5 feet above the mean natural grade (i.e., diameter at breast height [DBH]), is unlawful without a permit (Ordinance 88-0157 1, 82-0168 2, Section 22.56.2050, 1988). An oak tree that has a trunk DBH equal to or greater than 36 inches is considered a heritage tree, as defined in the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance.

Greg Ainsworth, International Society of Arboriculture - Certified Arborist # WE747-3A, conducted an oak tree inventory on 7 September 2011. All oak trees located on the property with a DBH of 7 inches or greater were inventoried. The property was traversed on foot through areas where oak trees occur. Oak tree locations were collected from the base of each tree with a Trimble GeoXH Global Positioning System (GPS) with sub-foot accuracy. The information from the GPS was downloaded directly into the mapping software (ArcGIS) and overlain on the site plan to depict the locations of all protected oak trees on the property. Basic tree characteristics and physical conditions were evaluated for each protected oak tree on the site, and overall health was evaluated based on vigor, presence of damage (i.e. pathogens, insect pests, and other forms of natural and human-caused damage), and comparison of the typical archetype of the same species.

Field evaluations of all oak considered the following:

#### **Tree Characteristics**

- **Trunk diameter** – The diameter of the trunk of each protected oak tree was measured using a forester’s steel diameter-equivalent tape measure. Trees with multiple trunks were measured at breast height and measurements for up to seven trunks were inputted in the field.
- **Height and dripline** – The height and dripline for each tree was measured in all directions (north, south, east, and west).
- **Balance** – The balance or symmetry of each oak tree was characterized based on the crown radius measurements and whether or not the tree was leaning or unstable.
- **Heritage tree** – Identification of trees that are classified as heritage oaks (DBH equal or greater than 36 inches).

### Physical Condition

- **Damage** – Identification of damage caused by pathogens or insect pests, by natural causes such as lightning, or by human activity;
- **Vigor** – Evaluation of vigor based on such parameters as amount of new growth, leaf color, abnormal bark, dead wood, evidence of wilt, excessive necrosis or leaf necrosis, thinning of crown, etc.; and
- **Health** – Assessment of overall health based on the evaluation of vigor, presence of damage, and comparison to the typical archetype tree of the same species.

### Recommended Measures

- Identification of whether the tree requires safety pruning, such as the removal of dead or weak branches, and if a cable or brace should be installed if the tree is to be saved and would not be impacted by proposed development.

### Grade

- A subjective alphabetical ranking (“A” being best and “F” being worst) was assigned for vigor, overall health, aesthetic value, and balance for each tree based on the criteria described below:

**“A” = Excellent:** A healthy and vigorous tree characteristic of its species and reasonably free of any visible signs of stress, disease, or pest infestation.

**“B” = Good:** A healthy and vigorous tree with minor visible signs of stress, disease, and/or pest infestation. Some maintenance measures may need to be implemented, such as pruning of dead wood or broken branches.

**“C” = Fair:** Although healthy in overall appearance, there is abnormal amount of stress or disease/insect infestation, and a substantial amount of maintenance may be needed.

**“D” = Poor:** A tree that may be exhibiting a substantial amount of stress, disease, or insect damage than what the amount that is expected for the species. The tree may be in a state of rapid decline, and may show various signs of dieback, necrosis, or other symptoms caused by pathogens or insect pests.

**“E” = Nearly Dead:** An unhealthy tree in which mortality is inevitable. Examples of such trees include those that may show signs of disease and/or pest infestation, have a substantial amount of defoliation, and appear to be a safety hazard.

**“F” = Dead:** This tree has no foliage and exhibits no sign of life or vigor.

## 5.2 Wildlife Species Observed or Anticipated

Common wildlife observed at the project site include house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani cinerascens*). A woodrat (*Neotoma* sp.) nest was observed at the base of an oak tree located in the coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland. Wildlife not directly observed but expected to occur (primarily on the undevelopable slopes on the property and vicinity) include common reptile (snakes and lizards), mammal (mice, rats and ground squirrels), and passerine bird species as well as birds of prey, such as red-tailed hawk. Special-status wildlife species anticipated to occur within the undisturbed portions of the site are identified in Table 4. No raptor nests or bat roosts were observed on the project site, including any of the mature coast live oak trees or any other large trees on the property. However, the larger, mature trees on the site have the potential to provide nesting habitat to raptor species.

## 5.3 Plant Species Observed

Plant species observed during the reconnaissance-level survey and focused sensitive plant survey include the following species in below in **Table 1, Plant Species Observed**.

**TABLE 1  
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED**

Scientific Name	Common name
MONOCOTS	
Iridaceae – Iris Family	
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed grass
Liliaceae – Lily Family	
<i>Calochortus venustus</i>	Butterfly mariposa lily
Themidaceae – Brodiaea Family	
<i>Bloomeria crocea</i>	Common Goldenstar
Poaceae – Grass Family	
<i>Avena fatua</i> *	Wild oat
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	Ripgut brome
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> *	Soft chess
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i> *	Red brome
<i>Elymus glaucus</i> ssp. <i>glaucus</i>	Western wild-rye
<i>Festuca myuros</i> *	Rattail
<i>Hordeum marinum</i> ssp. <i>gusseoneanum</i> *	Medeterranean barley
<i>Hordeum marinum</i> ssp. <i>marinum</i> *	Wall barley
<i>Melica imperfecta</i>	Little California melica
<i>Schismus barbatus</i> *	Mediterranean grass
EUDICOTS	
Adoxaeae – Muskroot Family	

**TABLE 1**  
**PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED**

Scientific Name	Common name
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>caerulea</i>	Blue elderberry
Amaranthaceae – Amaranth Family	
<i>Amaranthus albus</i> *	Tumbleweed
Anacardiaceae – Cashew Family	
<i>Schinus molle</i> *	Peruvian peppertree
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak
Apiaceae – Carrot Family	
<i>Sanicula arguta</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sanicle
<i>Torilis nodosa</i> *	Short sock-destroyer
Asteraceae – Sunflower Family	
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sage
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mule fat
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> *	Italian thistle
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i> *	Tocalote
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> *	Yellow star thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	Bull thistle
<i>Corethrogyne filaginifolia</i>	Sand aster
<i>Dienandra fasciculata</i>	Fascicled Tarplant
<i>Erigeron Canadensis</i>	Horseweed
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> *	Smooth cats-ear
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	Prickly lettuce
<i>Logfia gallica</i> *	Daggerleaf cottonrose
<i>Madia gracilis</i>	Gumweed
<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>	California everlasting
<i>Silybum marianum</i> *	Milk thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	Common sow thistle
<i>Stephanomeria elata</i>	Wreathplant
<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>	Silver puffs
Brassicaceae – Mustard Family	
<i>Brassica nigra</i> *	Black mustard
<i>Lepidium strictum</i>	peppergrass
<i>Lobularia maritima</i> *	Sweet alyssum
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i> *	London rocket
Chenopodiaceae -- Goosefoot Family	
<i>Chenopodium murale</i> *	Pigweed
Euphorbiaceae – Spurge Family	
<i>Croton setigerus</i>	Turkey-Mullein
Fabaceae – Legume Family	

**TABLE 1**  
**PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED**

Scientific Name	Common name
<i>Acmisopon glaber</i> var. <i>glaber</i>	Deerweed
<i>Acmisopon wrangelianus</i>	Calf lotus
<i>Lupinus succulentus</i> <sup>2</sup>	Lupine
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> *	California burclover
<i>Melilotus indicus</i> *	Sourclover
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> *	Black locust
<i>Trifolium wildenovii</i>	Tomcat clover
Fagaceae – Oak Family	
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> var. <i>agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak
Geraniaceae – Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *	Red-stem filaree
<i>Erodium botrys</i> *	Long-beak filaree
Juglandaceae – Walnut Family	
<i>Juglans californica</i>	Southern California black walnut
Lamiaceae – Mint Family	
<i>Marubium vulgare</i> *	Horehound
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple sage
Malvaceae – Mallow Family	
<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i> *	Velvet-leaf
<i>Malva parviflora</i> *	Cheeseweed
Myrsinaceae – Myrsine Family	
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> *	Scarlet pimpernel
Onagraceae – Evening-Primrose Family	
<i>Clarkia bottae</i>	Punchbowl godetia
<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	Elegant clarkia
Polemoniaceae – Phlox Family	
<i>Leptosiphon parviflorus</i>	Coast baby-star
Ranunculaceae – Buttercup Family	
<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	Virgin's bower
<i>Delphinium</i> sp.	Larkspur
Rhamnaceae – Buckthorn Family	
<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	Holly-leaf redberry
Rosaceae – Rose Family	
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
Rubiaceae – Madder Family	
<i>Galium parisiense</i> *	Wall bedstraw
Salicaceae – Willow Family	
<i>Populus freemontii</i>	Cottonwood

**TABLE 1  
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED**

Scientific Name	Common name
Simaroubaceae – Quassia Family	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> *	Tree of heaven
Solanaceae – Nightshade Family	
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimson weed
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> *	Tree tobacco
<i>Solanum sp.</i>	Nightshade
Urticaceae – Nettle Family	
<i>Urtica urens</i> *	Dwarf nettle
Verbenaceae – Vervain family	
<i>Verbena lasiostachys var. scabrida</i>	Vervain

\* Represents Non-native species

<sup>2</sup> Due to the lateness of the season, a some species were exceedingly difficult to identify with certainty. These identifications were based on the known distributions as well as remaining stems, leaves, and fruits. A couple of species were impossible to identify to the specific epithet due to either the plant being underdeveloped (*Solanum sp.*), or as in the case of the *Delphinium sp.*, was missing too much material to rely on distribution information for identification.

## 5.4 Los Angeles County Protected Oak Trees

Several immature coast live oak trees exist naturally on the hillside and within the coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland. A total of five (5) coast live oak trees that meet Los Angeles County’s criteria for protection (i.e., eight inches in diameter or two trunks that equal twelve inches or more in diameter when combined) occur on the site. As depicted on Figure 4, oak tree numbers 1 and 2 are located within the disturbed portion of the site near the existing double-wide mobile home, and oak tree numbers 3, 4 and 5 are located on the hillside. A summary of the data collected during the protected oak tree inventory are provided below in **Table 2, Summary of Protected Oak Tree Data.**

**TABLE 2  
SUMMARY OF PROTECTED OAK TREE DATA**

Tree No.	DBH (inches)	Height (feet)	Canopy Spread (N/W/S/E)	Assessment Grades (health/vigor/ balance/aesthetics)	Comments
1	21, 16, 21"	60	22/34/22/20	A/A/A/A	Broken limb on south-facing side
2	31, 15	35	36/35/20/39	A/A/B/A	
3	22	25	19/34/15/22	A/A/B/A	Approx. 40% of roots exposed on east-facing slope.
4	23	30	27/30/21/27	A/A/A/A	
5	35	30	23/15/21/19	A/A/B/A	

## 5.5 Lists of Persons Contacted For Technical Assistance

Shirley Imsand  
Senior Biologist  
Impact Analysis Section  
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

## 6. Sensitive Species and Communities

### 6.1 Special-Status Species

Special-status species are defined as those plants and animals that, because of their recognized rarity or vulnerability to various causes of habitat loss or population decline, are recognized by federal, state, or other agencies as under threat from human-associated developments. Some of these species receive specific protection that is defined by federal or state endangered species legislation. Others have been designated as special-status on the basis of adopted policies and expertise of state resource agencies or organizations with acknowledged expertise, or policies adopted by local governmental agencies such as counties, cities, and special districts to meet local conservation objectives. Special-status species include:

- Species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, or are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered, under the federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act;
- Species that meet the definitions of rare or endangered under *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15380.
- Plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be rare, threatened, or endangered (List 1A, 1B and 2 plants) in California;
- Plants listed by the CNPS as plants in which more information is needed to determine their status and plants of limited distribution (List 3 and 4 plants);
- Plants listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (Fish and Game Code 1900 et seq.);
- Species covered under an adopted NCCP/HCP;
- Species considered “sensitive” by USFS;
- Wildlife designated by CDFG as species of special concern;
- Wildlife "fully protected" in California (CDFG Code Sections 3511, 4700, and 5050); and
- Wildlife protected by the MBTA.

Note that the CDFG refers to the following categories of special status species as "sensitive species: "threatened or endangered species, fully protected species, and wildlife designated by

CDFG as species of special concern. The USFS Manual (2670.15) defines "sensitive species" as "those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trend in numbers or density" and..."habitat capability that would reduce a species existing distribution."

Lists of special-status plant species and wildlife species, and natural communities are provided in **Tables 3, 4, and 5** respectively. These species have been previously recorded in the region to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and/or the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants and have potential to occur on the project site. The "Potential for Occurrence" category is defined as follows:

- **Unlikely:** The project site and/or immediate area do not support suitable habitat for a particular species, and therefore the project is unlikely to impact this species.
- **Low Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area only provide limited habitat for a particular species. In addition, the known range for a particular species may be outside of the immediate project area.
- **Medium Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area provide suitable habitat for a particular species, and proposed development may impact this species.
- **High Potential:** The project site and/or immediate area provide ideal habitat conditions for a particular species and/or known populations occur in the immediate area.

### 6.1.1 Special-Status Plant Species

A review of the most recent CNPS Electronic Inventory found 34 special-status plant species recorded in the region. The potential for special-status plant species to occur at the project site is based on the proximity to previously recorded occurrences in the CNDDDB and CNPS databases, on-site vegetation and habitat quality, topography, elevation, soils, surrounding land uses, habitat preferences, geographic ranges, and visual observations made during the focused sensitive plant survey. Based on these factors, 7 special-status plant species were determined to have a high potential to occur within the project site or in adjacent undisturbed habitats, including Catalina mariposa-lily (*Calochortus catalinae*), club-haired mariposa-lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *clavatus*), late-flowering mariposa-lily (*Calochortus fimbriatus*), round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*), Peirson's morning-glory (*Calystegia peirsonii*), Plummer's mariposa-lily (*Calochortus plummerii*), and slender mariposa-lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*). One special-status plant species – southern California black walnut – is known to occur on the project site. This species is on the CNPS Watch List of plants of limited distribution, but has not been afforded any specific protections. No other special-status plant species were observed during the focused sensitive plant survey conducted on the project site.

Special-status plant species that are known to occur or have been recorded in the region through the CNDDDB, CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, or other reporting programs, and that have potential to occur on the project site are listed in **Table 3** below. Potential to occur criteria was based on the methods described above.

**TABLE 3**  
**RARE AND SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR ON PROJECT SITE**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status/ CNPS Rank</b>	<b>Growth Habit/ Flowering Period</b>	<b>Elevation (ft (m))</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence in Project Area</b>
Braunton's milk-vetch ( <i>Astragalus brauntonii</i> )	SE/1B.1	Perennial herb/January -August	15-2,100 (4-640)	Often found in recently burned or disturbed areas with sandstone or carbonate substrates in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Nevin's barberry ( <i>Berberis nevinii</i> )	SE/1B.1	Perennial evergreen shrub/March-June.	950-5,165 (290-1,575)	Found on steep, north-facing slopes or in low-grade sandy washes in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides marginal habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Catalina mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus catalinae</i> )	None/4.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb/February-June	50-2,295 (15-700)	Commonly found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>High.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
club-haired mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>clavatus</i> )	None/4.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb/May-June	245-4,265 (75-1,300)	Found on serpentine, clay, and rocky substrates in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>High.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Slender mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb/March-June	1,375-2,500 (420-760)	Found in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Shaded foothill canyons; often on grassy slopes within other habitat.	<b>High.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
late-flowered mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb/June-August	900-6,250 (275-1,905)	Often found on serpentine substrates is chaparral, cismontane woodland, and riparian woodland habitats.	<b>High.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.

**TABLE 3  
RARE AND SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR ON PROJECT SITE**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status/ CNPS Rank</b>	<b>Growth Habit/ Flowering Period</b>	<b>Elevation (ft (m))</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence in Project Area</b>
Plummer's mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus plummerae</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb/May- July	295-5,250 (90-1,600)	Found in rocky and sandy sites, usually of granitic or alluvial material, within coastal sage scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, and forests and woodlands.	<b>High.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
round-leaved filaree ( <i>California macrophylla</i> )	None/1B.1	Annual herb/March- May	50-3,940 (15- 1,200)	Found on clay substrates in cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>High.</b> Project site has suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Pierson's morning-glory ( <i>Calystegia piersonii</i> )	None/4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb/April- June	100-4,920 (30-1,500)	Found in chaparral, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>High.</b> Project site has suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
white pygmy- poppy ( <i>Canbya candida</i> )	None/4.2	Annual herb/March- June	1,970-4,790 (600-1,460)	Found on sandy, gravelly, and granitic substrates in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
southern tarplant ( <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> )	None/1B.1	Annual herb/May- November	0-1,395 (0- 425)	Found in the margins of marshes and swamps, vernal mesic valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pool habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides marginal quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
island mountain- mahogany ( <i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> var. <i>blancheae</i> )	None/4.3	Perennial evergreen shrub/Februa ry-May	100-1,970 (30-600)	Commonly found within close-cone coniferous forest and chaparral habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.

**TABLE 3  
RARE AND SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR ON PROJECT SITE**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status/ CNPS Rank</b>	<b>Growth Habit/ Flowering Period</b>	<b>Elevation (ft (m))</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence in Project Area</b>
San Fernando Valley spineflower ( <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i> )	FC, SE/1B.1	Annual herb/April-July	295-1,640 (90-500)	Found in sandy substrates on foothills, mixed grassland and chaparral communities.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides marginal quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Santa Susana tarplant ( <i>Deinandra minthornii</i> )	CR/1B.2	Perennial deciduous herb/July-November	920-2,495 (280-760)	Found on rocky substrates within chaparral and coastal scrub communities.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support habitat types required by the species. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Slender-horned spineflower ( <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> )	FE, SE/1B.1	Annual herb/April-June	660-2,500 (200-760)	Found in flood-deposited terraces and washes in chaparral, coastal scrub, and alluvial fan sage scrub habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides marginal quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Blochman's dudleya ( <i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> )	None/1B.1	Perennial herb/April-June	15-1,475 (5-450)	Found on rocky, clay, and serpentine substrates in coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides low quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Agoura Hills dudleya ( <i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>agourensis</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial herb/May-June	655-1,640 (200-500)	Found on rocky and volcanic substrates in chaparral and cismontane woodland habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides low quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
many-stemmed dudleya ( <i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial herb/April-July	50-2,590 (15-790)	Often found on clay substrates in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides low quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.

**TABLE 3  
RARE AND SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR ON PROJECT SITE**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status/ CNPS Rank</b>	<b>Growth Habit/ Flowering Period</b>	<b>Elevation (ft (m))</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence in Project Area</b>
Palmer's grapplinghook ( <i>Harpagonella palmeri</i> )	None/4.2	Annual herb/March- May	65-3,135 (20- 955)	Commonly found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland and undisturbed portions on the hillside. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Newhall sunflower ( <i>Helianthus inexpectus</i> )	None/1B.1	Perennial rhizomatous herb/August- October	~1,000 (~305)	Found in freshwater seeps, marshes and swamps, and riparian woodlands.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support habitat types required by the species.
southern California black walnut ( <i>Juglans californica</i> )	None/4.2	Deciduous tree/March- August	165-2,950 (50-900)	Found within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub or alluvial habitats.	<b>Present.</b> Species occurs on the project site.
Coulter's goldfields ( <i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> )	None/1B.1	Annual herb/Februar y-June	0-4,000 (0- 1220)	Found in coastal salt marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pool habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support habitat types required by the species.
Robinson's pepper-grass ( <i>Lepidium virginicum</i> L. var. <i>robinsonii</i> )	None/1B.2	Annual herb/ January-July	3-3,100 (1- 945)	Found in dry soils and shrubland in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides marginal habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. . This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
ocellated humboldt lily ( <i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i> )	None/4.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb/March- August	100-5,905 (30-1,800)	Found in openings within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Davidson's bush-mallow <i>Malocothamnus davidsonii</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial deciduous shrub/June- January	590-2,800 (180-855)	Found in sandy washes in coastal scrub, riparian woodland, and chaparral habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides low quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.

**TABLE 3  
RARE AND SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR ON PROJECT SITE**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status/ CNPS Rank</b>	<b>Growth Habit/ Flowering Period</b>	<b>Elevation (ft (m))</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence in Project Area</b>
spreading navarretia ( <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> )	FT/1B.1	Annual herb/April- June	100-2,150 (30-655)	Commonly found in chenopod scrub, assorted shallow freshwater marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pool habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support habitat types required by the species. No recorded occurrences in the vicinity of the project site. Not observed during field surveys.
Ojai navarretia ( <i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i> )	None/1B.1	Annual herb/May- July	900-2,035 (275-620)	Found in openings within chaparral, coastal scrub, and within valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides marginal habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Pine Mountains navarretia ( <i>Navarretia setiloba</i> )	None/1B.1	Annual herb/April- July	1,000-6,890 (305-2,100)	Found on clay or gravelly loam substrates in cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site supports marginal habitat for the species. No recorded occurrences in the vicinity of the project site. Not observed during field surveys.
chaparral nolina ( <i>Nolina cismontana</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial evergreen shrub/May- July	460-4,185 (140-1,275)	Found on sandstone or gabbro substrates in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides marginal habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
short-joint beavertail ( <i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i> )	None/1B.2	Perennial stem succulent/Ap- ril-August	1,395-5,905 (425-1,800)	Found in chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides low quality habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
California Orcutt grass ( <i>Orcuttia californica</i> )	FE, SE/1B.1	Annual herb/April- August	50-2,165 (15- 660)	Found in vernal pool habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support habitat types required by the species.
Mojave phacelia ( <i>Phacelia mohavensis</i> )	None/4.3	Annual herb/April- August	4,595-8,200 (1,400-2,500)	Found on sandy and gravelly substrates within cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support habitat types required by the species.

**TABLE 3  
RARE AND SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR ON PROJECT SITE**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status/ CNPS Rank</b>	<b>Growth Habit/ Flowering Period</b>	<b>Elevation (ft (m))</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence in Project Area</b>
white rabbit-tobacco ( <i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i> )	None/2.2	Perennial herb/July-December	0-6,890 (0-2,100)	Found on sandy and gravelly substrates in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian habitats.	<b>Low.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
chaparral ragwort ( <i>Senecio aphanactis</i> )	None/2.2	Annual herb/January-April	50-2,625 (15-800)	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats, sometimes in alkaline soils.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.
Greata's aster ( <i>Symphyotrichum greatae</i> )	None/1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb/June-October	985-6,595 (300-2,010)	Found on mesic substrates within broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site provides suitable habitat for this species within the oak/walnut woodland. This species was not observed during the focused plant survey conducted in June 2012.

1. Federal status: USFWS Listing, other non-CA specific listing

**FE** = Listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

**FT** = Listed as threatened under ESA

**FC** = Candidate for listing (threatened or endangered) under Federal Endangered Species Act.

2. State status: CDFG Listing

**SE** = Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

**CR** = Rare in California

3. Habitat description:

Habitat description information from the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System maintained by the CDFG

1 CNPS: CNPS Ranking

**Rank 1B** = Plant species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

**Rank 2** = Plant species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

**Rank 4** = Plants of limited distribution - a watch list

2 Habitat description: Habitat description adapted from CNPS online inventory (CNPS 2010)

**Threat Ranks**

**0.1** – Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)

**0.2** – Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)

**0.3** – Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

SOURCES: USFWS 2012; CDFG 2012; CNPS 2012

## 6.1.2 Special-Status Wildlife

A review of the most recent CNDDDB for the project site found 58 special-status wildlife species recorded in the region. The potential for special-status wildlife species to occur at the project site is based on the proximity to previously recorded occurrences in the CNDDDB database, on-site vegetation and habitat quality, topography, elevation, soils, surrounding land uses, habitat preferences, geographic ranges, and visual observations made during the field assessment. Based on these factors, 13 special-status wildlife species were determined to have a high potential to occur in the vicinity of the project site.

No special-status wildlife species were observed or are expected to occur with the previously disturbed portions of the property. However, the coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland provides marginal habitat for the following special-status species recorded in the area: grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*), oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*), and western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis caifornicus*). Focused surveys for these species were not conducted for the project site, and none are recommended due to lack of suitable habitat within the portion of the site where the project is proposed. With the exception of the aforementioned special-status avian species, the hillside provides only marginal habitat quality for many of due to the lack of shrub species, and dominance of non-native annual grasses.

Special-status wildlife species that are known to occur or have been recorded in the region through the CNDDDB or other reporting programs, and that have potential to occur on the project site are listed below in **Table 4 Special-Status Wildlife Species**. Potential to occur criteria was based on the methods described above.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

Species	Status: Federal/State	Preferred Habitat	Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	FT/None	Associated with vernal pools and other sources of ephemeral freshwater in a variety of soils types.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on the project site.
monarch butterfly ( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> )	None/None	Prefers open fields and meadows with milkweed in the spring and summer. Overwinters on the southern California coast and central Mexican highlands. Requires eucalyptus groves for suitable roosting habitat.	<b>Medium.</b> Recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site. The hillside at the western portion of the site provides low quality roosting and foraging habitat; however, migrants may pass through the site.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
quino checkerspot butterfly ( <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i> )	FE/None	Known to occur in meadows and upland sage scrub or chaparral habitats. Larvae require dwarf plantain, owl's clover as hostplants. Adults feed primarily on the nectar of annuals, including goldfields, cryptanthas, and trefoils.	<b>Medium.</b> Potentially suitable habitat for the species is present within the vicinity of the project site. Recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
Gertsch's socialchemmis spider ( <i>Socalchemmis gertschi</i> )	None/None	Known to occur in sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, coniferous forest, and rocky outcrops near Brentwood and Topanga.	<b>Low.</b> The project site is outside of the known geographic range of the species; however, suitable host plants are present.
<b>Amphibians</b>			
arroyo toad ( <i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> )	FE/SSC	Sandy/gravelly areas of permanent and intermittent rivers and creeks with sandy banks.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on or adjacent to the project site.
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> )	FT/SSC	Requires 11 to 20 weeks of permanent water for larval development; must have access to aestivation habitat. Occurs in lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on or adjacent to the project site.
Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog ( <i>Rana muscosa</i> )	FE/SC, SSC	Inhabits lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and riverbanks in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. In the mountains of southern California, inhabits rocky streams in narrow canyons and chaparral habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on or adjacent to the project site.
western spadefoot ( <i>Spea hammondi</i> )	None/SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	<b>Low.</b> Project site does not support suitable breeding habitat for the species. Recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
Coast Range newt ( <i>Taricha torosa</i> )	None/SSC	Endemic to California. Found wet forest, oak forest, chaparral, and grassland habitats from Mendocino to San Diego counties. A disjunct population occurs in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains.	<b>Low.</b> Marginal habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
<b>Fish</b>			
arroyo chub ( <i>Gila orcuttii</i> )	None/SSC	South coast flowing streams. Adapted to hypoxic conditions and large temperature fluctuations.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on or adjacent to the project site.
Santa Ana sucker ( <i>Catostomas santaanae</i> )	FT/SSC	South coast flowing waters. Prefers small to medium streams with higher gradients, clear water, and coarse substrates.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on or adjacent to the project site.
unarmored threespine stickleback ( <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i> )	FE/SE, FP	South coast flowing waters. Endemic to the southern California region.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on or adjacent to the project site.
Santa Ana speckled dace ( <i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> )	None/SSC	Prefers habitat that includes clear, well oxygenated water, with movement due to a current or waves. In addition the fish thrive in areas with deep cover or overhead protection from vegetation or woody debris. Speckled dace predominantly occupy small streams of the second to third order where they feed and forage for aquatic insects.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is not present on or adjacent to the project site.
<b>Reptiles</b>			
silvery legless lizard ( <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i> )	None/SSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils in chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Requires soils with a high moisture content.	<b>High.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. Recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
Coastal western whiptail ( <i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> )	None/None	Found in deserts & semiarid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland & riparian areas. Ground may be firm soil, sandy, or rocky.	<b>High.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. Recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
western pond turtle ( <i>Emys marmorata</i> )	None/SSC	Slow-moving permanent or intermittent streams, ponds, small lakes, reservoirs with emergent basking sites; adjacent uplands used during winter.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
Coast horned lizard ( <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> )	None/SSC	A wide variety of habitats, most common in sandy washes with scattered, low bushes. Requires open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	<b>High.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. Recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
two-striped garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> )	None/SSC	Marshes, meadows, sloughs, ponds, and slow-moving water courses.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.
<b>Birds</b>			
Cooper's hawk ( <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> )	None/WL	Nests in woodlands and sometimes suburban settings if mature trees are present. Broken woodlands or near habitat edges with the exception of their desert occurrences; seldom found in areas that do not have dense, or patchy, wooded areas. Occurs in dense stands of live oak, riparian, deciduous, or other forest habitats near water.	<b>High.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside and taller trees located in the eastern portion of the site provide good foraging and nesting habitat. Recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
tricolored blackbird ( <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> )	None/SSC	Highly colonial species, requiring open water, protected nesting substrate and foraging areas with insect prey in the vicinity of the colony.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.
southern California rufous-crowned sparrow ( <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> )	None/WL	Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb species. Resident in Southern California coastal sage scrub and mixed chaparral.	<b>Medium.</b> Marginal suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. Recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
grasshopper sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> )	None/SSC	Occurs in dry, dense grasslands, especially those with a variety of grasses and tall forbs and scattered shrubs for singing perches. Occurs primarily on hillsides and mesas in coastal areas.	<b>High.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. Recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
Bell's sage sparrow ( <i>Amphispiza belli belli</i> )	None/WL	Nests on the ground beneath shrubs or in shrubs 6 to 18 inches above the ground within chaparral communities dominated by fairly dense stands of chamise or in coastal scrub in southern part of its range.	<b>Medium.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
Golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	None/FP, WL	Species known to nest in region on cliff ledges or in trees on very steep slopes. Species typically forages over open scrubland and grassland habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> No suitable nesting habitat on or within the vicinity of the project site. This species could use the oak/walnut woodland on the hillside for foraging. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cucularia</i> )	None/SSC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. A subterranean nester dependent upon burrowing mammals, particularly the California ground squirrel.	<b>Low.</b> Burrowing owl typically prefers flat areas with low growing vegetation for foraging and nesting. The flat disturbed portions of the site do not provide habitat for this species. However, there is a (very) low potential that this species could occur on the hillside. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
oak titmouse ( <i>Baeolophus inornatus</i> )	None/None	Year-round resident of dry oak and pine woodlands in the Pacific United States and Mexico. Nests primarily in natural cavities, including woodpecker holes.	<b>High.</b> Suitable habitat for the species is present on the hillside and within all oak trees that occur on and adjacent to the site.
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	None/ST	Within California, the species is strongly associated with riparian areas within desert, shrubsteppe, grassland, and agricultural habitats. Primary stronghold of the species is concentrated in two disjunct populations, one in the Central Valley, and the other in the Great Basin.	<b>Unlikely.</b> The project site is well outside of the known range of this species.
Costa's hummingbird ( <i>Calypte costae</i> )	None/None	Species occurs primarily in arid scrub and chaparral habitats, and in riparian edge communities.	<b>Medium.</b> Potentially suitable habitat for the species is present on the project site. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.

**TABLE 4**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

Species	Status: Federal/State	Preferred Habitat	Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site
coastal cactus wren ( <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i> )	None/SSC	Species is considered an obligate inhabitant of coastal sage scrub communities. Nests are constructed almost exclusively in prickly pear and coast cholla.	<b>Medium.</b> Project site does not support typical nesting habitat; however, this species could be found passing through or foraging within the oak/walnut woodland area of the project site. There are recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
lark sparrow ( <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> )	None/None	Breeds in open habitats, often where grasslands intermix with scattered trees or shrubs in sandy soils. Known to inhabit open woodlands, mesquite grasslands, and fallow agricultural fields.	<b>Medium.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. No recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
western yellow-billed cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> )	FC/SE	Riparian forests along broad, low flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow and cottonwoods with dense understories.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.
yellow warbler ( <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i> )	None/SSC	Summer resident found in riparian deciduous habitats featuring cottonwoods, willows, alders, and other small trees and shrubs typical of low, open-canopy riparian woodland.	<b>Low.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat; however, migrants may be observed foraging or passing through the site.
white-tailed kite ( <i>Elanus leucurus</i> )	None/FP	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland.	<b>High.</b> Suitable nesting and foraging habitat for the species is present on the project site. However, no raptor nests have been observed on the site. Recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax trailii</i> )	None/SE	Neotropical migrant. Breeds in southern California in willow-dominated riparian habitat.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.
southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax trailii extimus</i> )	FE/SE	Neotropical migrant. Breeds in southern California in willow-dominated riparian habitat.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
California horned lark ( <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> )	None/WL	The subspecies prefers open terrain to construct nests on the ground, often in sparsely vegetated areas. Highest nesting densities are generally found in annual grassland and oak savannah habitats in the foothill regions.	<b>Medium.</b> Marginal habitat for the species is present on hillside; however, this species usually found within flatter areas with suitable vegetation requirements. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )	None/WL	Occurs primarily as a winter resident within California. Typically does not nest within California. Prefers open country for foraging habitat throughout its range.	<b>Low.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. No recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
American peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrines anatum</i> )	FD/SD, FP	Primarily occurs near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water; on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds; also, human-made structures.	<b>Low.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat. However, this species could potentially pass through the site or forage within the open woodland area. Recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
California condor ( <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> )	FE/SE	Primarily inhabit rugged canyons, gorges, and forested mountains in restricted portions of California and Arizona. Nests are typically located in extremely steep, rugged terrain, often located in caves, crevices, and on natural rock ledges.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat. Given the known range and recorded occurrences of this species in the region, California condors would not be expected to forage on the project site.
yellow-breasted chat ( <i>Icteria virens</i> )	None/SSC	Summer resident of riparian thickets of willow or other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in low, dense riparian habitat.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.
loggerhead shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )	None/SSC	Lowlands and foothills throughout California. Prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, and other perches.	<b>High.</b> Suitable habitat is supported on the project site; primarily within the undisturbed areas on the hillside.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
Nuttall's woodpecker ( <i>Picoides nuttallii</i> )	None/None	Permanent resident of oak woodland habitats, known to occur in deciduous riparian and chaparral habitats as well. Associated with riparian communities in much of its limited range.	<b>High.</b> Suitable habitat is supported on the project site; primarily within the oak/walnut woodland areas on the hillside.
coastal California gnatcatcher ( <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> )	FT/SSC	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 760m in southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas & slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	<b>Low.</b> Low quality habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. This species is not expected to nest on the site, but the undisturbed areas on the hillside may provide foraging opportunities.
black-tailed gnatcatcher ( <i>Poliophtila melanura</i> )	None/None	Species considered resident throughout their range, but known to wander in the non-breeding season. Commonly nests in densely lined arroyos and washes dominated by scrub species.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site is outside of the known range of this species. Marginal quality foraging habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. The project site and vicinity does not provide good nesting habitat for this species.
bank swallow ( <i>Raparia riparia</i> )	None/FT	Species is associated with streamside habitats. Commonly nests in riverside banks and bluffs. Also known to nest away from riparian areas in areas of human disturbance, including quarries and road cuts. Species forages over open lowlands near water.	<b>Low.</b> Low quality foraging habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. Suitable nesting habitat is absent from the site.
least Bell's vireo ( <i>vireo bellii pusillus</i> )	FE/SE	Riparian forest, scrub, and woodland habitats. Nests primarily in willow riparian habitats.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Project site does not support suitable habitat.
<b>Mammals</b>			
pallid bat ( <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> )	None/SSC	Occurs throughout California at low elevations; occupies a wide variety of habitats including grasslands, shrublands, woodland's, and coniferous forests; most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.	<b>High.</b> Suitable foraging habitat exists on the hillside; however, roosting or maternal nesting would not be expected on the project site. Recorded occurrences in the vicinity of the project site. No evidence of roosting in existing structures was observed during field surveys.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
spotted bat ( <i>Euderma maculatum</i> )	None/SSC	Species prefers to roost in rock crevices, although known to occur in caves, cliffs, and buildings. Nocturnal species primarily feeds on moths.	<b>High.</b> Good foraging habitat exists on the hillside; however, roosting or maternal nesting would not be expected on the project site. Recorded occurrences in the vicinity of the project site. No evidence of roosting in existing structures was observed during field surveys.
western mastiff bat ( <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> )	None/SSC	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer & deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees & tunnels.	<b>High.</b> Good foraging habitat exists on the hillside; however, roosting or maternal nesting would not be expected on the project site. Recorded occurrences in the vicinity of the project site. No evidence of roosting in existing structures was observed during field surveys.
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit ( <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> )	None/SSC	Often occurs in open or semi-open areas, typically in grasslands, agricultural fields, or open coastal scrub habitats.	<b>Medium.</b> Potentially suitable habitat exists within the oak/walnut woodland habitat on the hillside. However, no recorded occurrences also within the vicinity of the project site.
silver-haired bat ( <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> )	None/None	Species prefers temperate woodland environments with water nearby. Will often roost behind the loose bark of trees. Often associated with willow, maple, and ash trees.	<b>Medium.</b> Marginal habitat exists in the oak/walnut woodland; however, roosting or maternity nesting on the site is unlikely. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
hoary bat ( <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> )	None/None	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover & open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.	<b>Medium.</b> Marginal habitat exists in the oak trees on the site. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
California leaf-nosed bat ( <i>Macrotus californicus</i> )	None/SSC	Primarily found in arid habitats. Known to roost in caves, mines, and abandoned buildings. Species often roosts in well-lit areas. Known to select mines and caves that stay warm in the winter months.	<b>Low.</b> Marginal foraging habitat exists on the hillside; however, roosting or maternal nesting would not be expected on the project site. No recorded occurrences in the vicinity of the project site. No evidence of roosting in existing structures was observed during field surveys.
cave myotis ( <i>Myotis velifer</i> )	None/SSC	California population is restricted to the extreme southeast of the state. Species prefers to roost in caves, mines, rock crevices, abandoned buildings, barns, and under bridges.	<b>Low.</b> Project is outside the known geographic range of the species. Roosting or maternal nesting would not be expected on the project site. No recorded occurrences in the vicinity of the project site. No evidence of roosting in existing structures was observed during field surveys.
San Diego desert woodrat ( <i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> )	None/SSC	Coastal scrub of southern California from San Diego county to San Luis Obispo county. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops & rocky cliffs & slopes.	<b>High/Present.</b> Species known to occur within the vicinity of the project site. A woodrat nest of an undetermined species was observed in the oak/walnut woodland of the site.
southern grasshopper mouse ( <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i> )	None/SSC	Known to occur in alkali desert scrub, desert scrub, succulent scrub, desert wash, riparian areas, chaparral, and coastal scrub habitats within its California range.	<b>Low.</b> Marginal quality habitat is present on the project site. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
Los Angeles pocket mouse ( <i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i> )	None/SSC	Known to occur in areas with fine, sandy soils, often in arid grassland or coastal sage scrub habitats. Require friable soils to allow for the construction of burrows.	<b>Medium.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the oak/walnut woodland area on the project site. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.

**TABLE 4  
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status: Federal/State</b>	<b>Preferred Habitat</b>	<b>Probability of Occurrence Natural Areas on Project Site</b>
American badger ( <i>Taxidea taxus</i> )	None/SSC	Most abundant in drier, open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils. Requires open, uncultivated ground and sufficient burrowing rodent prey.	<b>Low.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the project site; however, no burrows of the typical size to support this species were observed during field surveys. The existing fence that borders the site makes access onto the site for this species difficult. However, this species could burrow under the fence and could potentially forage on the site. No recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
1. Federal status: USFWS Listing, other non-CA specific listing	<b>FE</b> = Listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) <b>FT</b> = Listed as threatened under ESA <b>FC</b> = Candidate for listing (threatened or endangered) under Federal Endangered Species Act. <b>FD</b> = Delisted in accordance with the ESA		
2. State status: CDFG Listing	<b>SE</b> = Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) <b>ST</b> = Listed as threatened under the CESA <b>SC</b> = Candidate for listing (threatened or endangered) under CESA <b>SD</b> = Delisted in accordance with the CESA <b>SSC</b> = Species of Special Concern as identified by the CDFG <b>FP</b> = Listed as fully protected under CDFG code <b>WL</b> = Watch Listed		
3. Habitat description:	Habitat description information from the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System maintained by the CDFG		

SOURCES: USFWS 2012; CDFG 2012

### 6.1.3 Sensitive Plant Communities

Sensitive natural communities are those that are considered sensitive due to their decline in the region and/or their ability to support special-status plant and/or wildlife species. These communities include those that, if eliminated or substantially degraded, would sustain a significant adverse impact as defined under CEQA. Sensitive natural communities are important ecologically because their degradation and destruction could threaten populations of dependent plant and wildlife species and significantly reduce the regional distribution and viability of the community. Loss of sensitive natural communities also can remove or reduce important ecosystem functions, such as water filtration by wetlands or bank stabilization by riparian woodlands, etc...

Sensitive natural communities occurring in the region include coast live oak woodland and California walnut woodland, scrub oak chaparral, coastal sage scrub, alluvial scrub, valley oak woodland, mainland cherry woodland, native grassland, southern willow scrub, and cottonwood-willow riparian forest. These communities or closely related designations are considered highest-inventory priority communities by the CDFG, indicating that they are experiencing a decline throughout their range. One of these sensitive plant communities – California walnut woodland – is present on the project site. This community is considered very threatened in California due to urbanization and other development in the region. Sensitive plant communities recorded in the region are summarized below in **Table 5, Natural Communities of Special Concern**.

**TABLE 5  
NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN**

Community Name	CNDDDB Element Rank: Global/State	Community Description	Presence on Project Site
California Walnut Woodland	G2/S2.1	Similar to and intergrading with Interior Live Oak Woodland or Coast Live Oak Woodland but with a more open tree canopy locally dominated by <i>Juglans californica</i> . The open tree canopy allows development of a grassy understory. In most sites, this understory is comprised of introduced winter-active annuals that complete most of their growth cycle before the deciduous <i>Juglans</i> leaves out in spring.	<b>Present.</b> This community was observed within the project site during field surveys.
Cismontane Alkali Marsh	G1/S1.1	Very similar to Coastal Brackish Marsh with many of the same species. Most growth and flowering occur in summer. Standing water or saturated soil present during most or all of year. High evaporation and low input of fresh water render these marshes somewhat salty, especially during the summer. Probably similar to Coastal Brackish Marsh in quantitative range of saltiness, but more alkaline and usually with salts other than sodium chloride.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community
Mainland Cherry Forest	G1/S1.1	Populations of <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> are known to occur as tree and shrub forms on mainland southern California. Is more often seen as shrubs. Stands with large trees are exceptional. Description suggests that large trees of hollyleaf cherry associate with local series rather than forming one.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community

**TABLE 5**  
**NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN**

Community Name	CNDDDB Element Rank: Global/State	Community Description	Presence on Project Site
Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	G1/S1.1	Scrub community found on alluvial fans that experience infrequent but severe flood events. It typically is found on coarse particles riverwash soils near the flood channels or in areas that are frequently inundated. Soils supporting alluvial scrub drain rapidly, have slow runoff, and contain low amounts of organic matter. It is made up predominantly of drought tolerant soft-leaved shrubs, but includes a significant number of larger perennial species typically found in chaparral in its mature phases.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community
Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream	_/SNR	Characterized by slow, low turbidity, continuous and perennial water flow in non-storm-event periods. Times of low flow often occur and may be necessary to provide associated species with breeding isolation.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community.
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	G4/S4	Open to locally dense evergreen sclerophyllous riparian woodlands dominated by <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> . This type appears to be richer in herbs and poorer in understory shrubs than other riparian communities. Similar to and questionably distinct from Central Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest.	<b>Not Present.</b> The project site supports a remnant area of this community. Recorded occurrences within the vicinity of the project site.
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest	G3/S3.2	Tall, open, broadleaved winter-deciduous riparian forests dominated by <i>Populus fremontii</i> , <i>Populus trichocarpa</i> , and several tree willows. Similar to Central Coast Cottonwood-Sycamore Riparian Forest, although apparently with less <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> or <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> . Understories usually are shrubby willows.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community. However, there are two to three cottonwood trees located within the disturbed portion of the project site. These specimens may be remnant species of a larger stand of trees. Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest does not currently exist adjacent to the site.

**TABLE 5**  
**NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN**

Community Name	CNDDDB Element Rank: Global/State	Community Description	Presence on Project Site
Southern Mixed Riparian Forest	G2/S2.1	Similar to Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland, and Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, except does not show that species dominance characteristic of these communities, but rather a heterogeneous mixture of common riparian tree species.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community.
Southern Riparian Scrub	G3/S3.2	This habitat type has the same potential species composition as riparian forest, but at a younger successional stage, either because of a more recent disturbance or more frequent flooding. In addition to the species listed in the description of riparian forest habitat types, riparian scrub also may include <i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> .	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community.
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	G4/S4	A tall, open, broadleaved, winter-deciduous streamside woodland dominated by <i>Platanus racemosa</i> (and often also <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> ). These stands seldom form closed canopy forests, and even may appear as trees scattered in a shrubby thicket of sclerophyllous and deciduous species. Lianas include <i>Rubus ursinus</i> and <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i> . This habitat type is similar to Sycamore Alluvial Woodland.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community.
Southern Willow Scrub	G3/S2.1	Dense, broadleaved, winter-deciduous riparian thickets dominated by several <i>Salix</i> species, with scattered emergent <i>Populus fremontii</i> and <i>Platanus racemosa</i> . Most stands are too dense to allow much understory development.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community.
Valley Needlegrass Grassland	G3/S3.1	A midheight (to 2 feet in height) grassland dominated by perennial, tussock-forming <i>Nassella pulchra</i> . Native and introduced annuals occur between the perennials, often actually exceeding the bunchgrasses in cover.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community.

**TABLE 5**  
**NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN**

Community Name	CNDDDB Element Rank: Global/State	Community Description	Presence on Project Site
Valley Oak Woodland	G3/S2.1	Similar to Oregon Oak Woodland and Blue Oak Woodland, but typically more open, forming a grassy-understoried savanna rather than a closed woodland. <i>Quercus lobata</i> is usually the only tree present. This winter-deciduous species is California's largest broad-leaved tree. Most stands consist of open-canopy growth form trees and seldom exceed 30-40% absolute cover.	<b>Not Present.</b> Project site does not support characteristic species or habitats of the community. However, this community is present in the vicinity of the project site.

**Global Ranking**

The global rank (G-rank) is a reflection of the overall condition of an element throughout its global range.

**Species or Community Level**

G1 = Less than 6 viable element occurrences (EOs) OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres.

G2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres.

G3 = 21-80 EOs OR 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres.

G4 = Apparently secure; this rank is clearly lower than G3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat.

G5 = Population or stand demonstrably secure to ineradicable due to being commonly found in the world.

**State Ranking**

The state rank (S-rank) is assigned much the same way as the global rank, except state ranks in California often also contain a threat designation attached to the S-rank.

S1 = Less than 6 EOs OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres

S1.1 = very threatened

S1.2 = threatened

S1.3 = no current threats known

S2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres

S2.1 = very threatened

S2.2 = threatened

S2.3 = no current threats known

S3 = 21-80 EOs or 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres

S3.1 = very threatened

S3.2 = threatened

S3.3 = no current threats known

S4 = Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e. there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat. NO THREAT RANK.

S5 = Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California. NO THREAT RANK.

SNR = National, sub-national, or State conservation status not yet assessed.

## 7. Impacts

This section identifies the applicable significance criteria from CEQA to assess potential impacts from the proposed development and operation of a garage intended to store historic automobiles. This section also focuses on the assessment of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the project. As indicated previously in this report, the western (approximate) on-third of the site consists of a relatively undisturbed hillside with native

vegetation. These valuable biological resources that exist on the hillside include a coast live oak and southern California black walnut woodland and undefined grassland (which also exists as the understory within the woodland area). This hillside is also contiguous with the habitats of SEA #20 and supports biological resources considered valuable; therefore, the Applicant proposed to preserve these resources in perpetuity and no direct or indirect impacts are proposed within this native area. The remainder of the site (the eastern two-thirds) is heavily disturbed and contains few biological resources. Two large mature coast live oak trees exist on the flat, disturbed portion of the site near the toe of the slope.

The proposed project will be limited to this previously disturbed area and only a portion of these disturbed areas will be affected by the proposed project. Moreover, all oak trees located on the property will be protected and preserved indefinitely. The biological value of the site is described below in this section. Mitigation measures associated with impacts that are referenced in the following text are included in **Section 8.0, Mitigation Measures**.

## 7.1 Significance Threshold Criteria

Significant impacts of proposed development on the project site were determined from criteria included in the *CEQA Guidelines* (14 Cal.Code Regs. §§15000, et seq.). As stated in Appendix G (Environmental Checklist) of the *CEQA Guidelines* (2005), a project could have a significant impact on the environment if it would:

- have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFG or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Section 15065(a) of the *CEQA Guidelines* also states that a project may have a significant effect on the environment when the project has the potential to:

- substantially degrade the quality of the environment;

- substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species;
- cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels;
- threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; or
- substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an Endangered, Rare or Threatened species.

## 7.2 Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology

Construction related impacts associated with a development project typically represent the physical alteration (i.e., habitat degradation or loss) of biological resources that occur on site as a result of project implementation. Operational impacts are generally indirect and can have a reasonably foreseeable effect on remaining or adjacent biological resources. The physical alteration of habitat is not in and of itself a “significant” impact under CEQA; rather, significance is determined when the physical alteration of habitat is evaluated in terms of each of the significance threshold criteria defined above. For example, if habitat alteration results in a direct or indirect loss or causes an otherwise substantial adverse effect on a species identified as a “candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS,” impacts would be considered significant, assuming appropriate compensatory or other mitigation is not available or feasible.

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be “substantial,” and, therefore, a significant impact, must consider both the resource itself and the significance threshold criteria being evaluated. For example, because most plant and animal species are dependent on native habitats to satisfy various life cycle requirements, a habitat-based approach that addresses the overall biological value of a particular vegetation community or habitat area is appropriate when determining whether or not alteration of that habitat will “substantially” affect special-status species, sensitive habitats, wetlands or movement corridors. The relative biological value of a particular habitat area—its functions and values—can be determined by such factors as disturbance history, biological diversity, its importance to particular plant and wildlife species, its uniqueness or sensitivity status, the surrounding environment and the presence or absence of special-status resources.

However, direct impacts to specific plant and wildlife resources (e.g., active nests and individual plants and animals) are also evaluated and discussed when impacts to these resources, in and of themselves, could be considered significant or conflict with local, state and federal statutes or regulations. The significance of direct impacts on individuals or populations of plant and animal species takes into consideration the number of individual plants or animals potentially affected, how common or uncommon the species is both on the project site and from a regional perspective and the species' sensitivity status according to resource agencies. These factors are evaluated based on the results of on-site biological surveys and studies, results of literature and database reviews, discussions with biological experts, and established and recognized ecological and biodiversity theory and assumptions.

With mitigation, construction and operation of the proposed project would not impact sensitive biological resources. No nighttime lighting is proposed and no development would occur outside of the previously disturbed portion of the project site.

Given the present level of disturbance on the site combined with the proximity of the site to Interstate 5, the majority of the project site provides little ecological value to the surrounding biological mosaic. However, it is recognized that the western one-third of the property that consists of a native oak and walnut woodland and grassland does provide biological value. Therefore, this area would be completely avoided and preserved in perpetuity. The woodland area and this western one-third of the site will function as a natural buffer between contiguous natural woodland communities in the Santa Susana foothills that extend to the west.

### 7.3 Development Impacts

For purposes of this impact analysis, impacts are evaluated in the context of the proposed development, as well as on a regional basis in terms of habitat loss and potential effects to habitat linkages and wildlife corridors. Permanent direct impacts such as grading during construction of the proposed project were analyzed. Impacts would be concentrated within the previously disturbed portion of the site: No temporary impacts are proposed outside of the portion of the site that has been previously disturbed.

As indicated below in **Table 6**, approximately 0.18 acre of direct impacts would occur to previously disturbed areas as a result of project implementation. The remainder of the previously disturbed area is graded and was also disturbed by mobile homes, storage containers; and various other debris, most of which has since been cleared from the site by the Applicant. As indicated in **Table 6, Development Impacts to Vegetation Communities** no impacts would occur to the coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland undefined grassland.

**TABLE 6  
DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS TO VEGETATION COMMUNITIES**

Vegetation Community	Existing Cover (acre)	Direct Impacts (acre)	Cover Remaining (acre)
Coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland	0.8	--	0.8
Undefined grassland	0.2	--	0.2
Disturbed	1.92	0.18 (approx.)	1.74 (approx.)

#### 7.3.1 Special Status Plants

As described previously and in **Tables 3 and 4**, many special-status plant species have the potential to exist on the natural hillside within the western portion of the property. However, no special-status species were observed during a focused plant survey conducted in June 2012. The blooming period was short during 2012 due to limited rainfall and the plant survey was conducted during a period for which many annual species had completed their blooming period. Therefore,

there is potential for special-status plant species to exist within the coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland and undefined grassland areas. The remainder of the site that is highly disturbed does not provide habitat for special-status plant species.

### 7.3.2 Common Wildlife and Special Status Species

A substantial adverse effect would occur if implementation of the project would (1) substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of any special status species; or(2) have the potential to result in a “taking” of a species that is listed, or proposed for listing, or a candidate for listing as an endangered or threatened species under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Act, a rare species, or a species that is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 or, Fish and Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, and 5050, or to modify the habitat for such a species, so as to result in such an impact.

The second standard, above is based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15065 which provides, in part, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it has the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or wildlife community. CEQA Guidelines Section 15065 also provides that a project may have a significant effect on the environment if it would “substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species” The significance standards set forth above do not limit application of this test to endangered, rare, or threatened species, but extend it to all special-status species. Thus, a substantial adverse effect would be found under either standard, if implementation of the project would substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of any special-status species.

The natural woodland and undefined grassland on the site can provide habitat to many common and special-status wildlife species. Mature oak trees and other tree species found within both the undisturbed and disturbed areas can also provide nesting opportunities to a variety of bird species. Conversely, the existing chain-link fence that encloses the site limits the potential for mid-to large animals, such as badger, from using the site for foraging opportunities, shelter, and breeding; however, small rodent species such as the Los Angeles pocket mouse could conceivable occur within the natural communities on the hillside.

As stated throughout this document, the proposed project would be confined to the previously disturbed portions of the site. These disturbed areas do not provide habitat for supporting special-status fish, amphibian, reptile, or mammal species. Mature oak trees and other mature trees on and adjacent to the site can provide nesting habitat to raptors and song birds, including special-status species such as Nuttall’s woodpecker. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-1, Avoidance of Nesting Birds**, would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds to a level of less than significant.

### 7.3.3 Sensitive Natural Communities

Southern California black walnut woodland, which is associated with coast live oak woodland, exists on the hillside of the proposed project site and within the SEA. This community is natural,

undisturbed, and contiguous with the greater walnut woodland in the immediate area and throughout the expanses of SEA #20. The proposed project would be confined to the previously disturbed portions of the site, and therefore, no direct or indirect impacts to this sensitive natural community would occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

### 7.3.4 Jurisdictional Resources

Jurisdictional resources typically include “Waters of the United States” that are regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Jurisdictional resources also include state protected waters. Under Section 1601-1616 of the California Fish and Game Code, DFG regulates projects that divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or use material from a streambed.

There are no federally or state protected waters on or adjacent to the proposed project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a direct or indirect impact to such resources or associated riparian habitats as a result of construction or operation of the proposed project.

To control runoff from the site, the Applicant proposes to capture runoff from the building’s roof through an underground cistern. Water collected will be used for irrigation and percolation into the water table.

### 7.3.5 Oak Trees

Coast live oak trees are considered a valuable resource under the SEA and are protected under the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance. No protected oak trees would be impacted by project implementation.

There are a total of five mature coast live oak trees on the site. These trees are labeled numbers 1 through 5 on Figure 4. Numbers 1 and 2 occur on the flat, disturbed portion of the site and numbers 3 through 5 occur within the undisturbed portion of the hillside. These trees contribute to the vast coast live oak woodland community of the vicinity and region-wide.

The Applicant does not propose any disturbances near any of the coast live oak trees on the site (or offsite). All oak trees are located up gradient from the proposed development; therefore, no indirect impacts associated with runoff or debris would occur. The nearest disturbance to an oak tree would consist of the proposed garage structure, which is estimated to be approximately 125 feet to the northeast of coast live oak tree #1 (See Figure 4). To ensure that there are no inadvertent impacts during construction to native oak (and walnut) trees, Mitigation Measure **BIO-2, Protection of Native Oaks and Southern California Black Walnut Trees** shall be implemented.

## 7.4 Integrity of the SEA

The Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills Significant Ecological Area (#20) includes much of the Santa Susana Mountains to the north, the Santa Susana Pass, Chatsworth Reservoir, and the eastern portion of the Simi Hills in the south. SEA #20 is representative of the small, dry interior mountain ranges of Los Angeles County, much of which is in a relatively natural condition and has not been heavily disturbed by human use, even as urban growth continues in the San Fernando and Simi Valleys and the Saugus-Newhall area.

The proposed project is located along the eastern edge of the SEA. The proposed project would impact a portion of the SEA that has been in a disturbed condition for several years and the amount of area that would be disturbed in the context of the entire SEA is insignificant. The proposed project is intended to improve the site by removing foreign debris such as a mobile home, storage containers, animal kennels, and various other types of unsightly debris. The site has recently been cleared of such debris and the proposed garage structure would be situated within the previously disturbed area. Moreover, the Applicant has agreed to remove the highly invasive, non-native tree-of-heaven from the site and replace with native coast live oaks and southern California black walnuts (See Mitigation Measure **BIO-3, Removal of Tree-of-Heaven**). No direct impacts would occur to the SEA. Currently, there is nighttime lighting on the project site; however, the Applicant intends to remove all existing nighttime lighting and does not intend to include new nighttime lighting in the proposed project. Therefore, indirect impacts associated with nighttime lighting would be considered less than significant following implementation of **BIO-4, Nighttime Lighting**. Resulting from this analysis, the proposed project would not divide the whole of the SEA, impair its values or functions, or diminish its present character.

## 7.5 Brush Clearance

A limited amount of vegetation clearing would be required for construction of the garage structure. Existing ornamental species may be removed during construction and eventually replaced with non-invasive fruit trees and other non-invasive vegetation. The proposed garage structure would be situated approximately 50 feet from the toe of the hillside to the west where the undefined grassland exists. Brush clearing for fire control is expected to extend a minimum of 200 feet from the proposed garage structure, as well as the caretakers unit and office (these are existing structures). Mitigation Measure **BIO-5, Brush Clearance** described measures to control the fuel load within the fuel modification zone. With the implementation of BIO-5, brush clearance activities would be considered less than significant.

## 7.6 Accessory Structures

There are no accessory structures associated with the project site.

## 7.7 Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

The Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills provide vast open space for regional wildlife movement. The native undisturbed habitats located near the site and within the SEA also provide habitat and movement opportunities for a number of wildlife species. Wildlife is expected to use these areas for local movement. The mountains and hills of the region also provide linkages to other open space area.

The project site is located in northwestern Los Angeles County, less than one mile southwest of the City of Santa Clarita. Interstate 5 is located approximately 500 feet to the northeast of the site. Adjacent land uses to the north include a mostly disturbed (previously graded) private property containing two structures and an adobe-type bunk house, with scattered coast live oak and blue gum trees, beyond which is Townsend Canyon Road; immediately to the east is The Old Road, beyond which is private property with scattered storage containers, abandoned vehicles, and other various items; to the south is a post office distribution center; to the southwest is undisturbed coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland; and to the west is undisturbed northern mixed chaparral/scrub oak woodland, which appears to continue further west into the Santa Susana Mountains.

Currently, a chain-link fence creates a physical barrier between the site and the adjacent undisturbed habitats of the Santa Susana Mountains. The chain-link fence appears to be intact based on a visual inspection during the assessment; however, it is conceivable that there are openings near the ground surface that would allow wildlife to utilize the hillside portion of the site that would remain undisturbed. Therefore, the undeveloped areas within the site itself may provide habitat connectivity beneficial to broader wildlife movement in the area, mostly for small, terrestrial species, and it may be utilized for avian refugium and small animal local movement.

The proposed construction impact would occur entirely within the disturbed portion of the site and would not further fragment open space areas that contribute to local wildlife movement, nor would the project impact the local wildlife movement. As requested by the SEATAC, the Applicant will cease future maintenance of the chain-link fence on the hillside area, so that future access onto the hillside portion of the property may be obtainable by larger wildlife species. Although the proposed project does not present a significant impact to wildlife movement, the Applicant has agreed to implement Mitigation Measure **BIO-6, No Fence Maintenance on Hillside**.

## 7.8 Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project involves the removal of foreign debris from the project site and the construction of a garage structure for storing a vintage car collection. The project would not significantly impact biological resources on the site, offsite in the vicinity, or regionally. The Applicant proposes to improve the existing conditions of the site by not only by removing foreign debris and unsightly structures, but also eradicating invasive species such as tree-of-heaven from

the site and replacing with native species that include coast live oak and endemic walnut trees. As such, the proposed project would not contribute to a cumulative impact to biological resources in a regional (or local) context. Cumulative impacts are less than significant.

## 8. Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures will be implemented by the project Applicant to avoid impacts to sensitive biological resources.

### BIO-1: Avoidance of Nesting Birds

- Brush removal, tree trimming, building demolition, or grading activities should be conducted outside of the nesting season (February 1 through August 15). If these activities are proposed within the breeding season, then the following shall occur:
  - The Applicant and/or its contractors shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct nest surveys in potential nesting habitat within and adjacent to the Project Site prior to construction or site preparation activities that are proposed during the nesting season.
  - At least one survey shall be conducted within 30 days of ground disturbance activities associated with construction or grading. A survey shall also be conducted no more than five days prior to initiation of clearance or construction work. If ground disturbance activities are delayed, additional pre-construction surveys will be conducted such that no more than five days will have elapsed between the last survey and the commencement of ground disturbance activities.
  - If active nests are found, construction activity within 100 feet of an active nest should be delayed until the nest is no longer active and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting during the same year, as determined by the biologist.

### BIO-2: Protection of Native Oaks and Southern California Black Walnut Trees

- Fencing shall be installed a minimum of 5 ft from all oak and walnut tree driplines that are located within 50 ft of proposed construction activities, including access routes and staging areas. Documentation of protective fence installation shall be provided to the County prior to the issuance of building permits.

### BIO-3: Removal of Tree-of-Heaven

- All invasive tree-of-heaven [*Ailanthus altissima*] shall be removed from the subject property to the greatest extent feasible via root extraction.
- Removed plant parts shall be mulched or disposed of off-site in a landfill.
- Locations in which the removal of tree-of-heaven may result in subsequent erosion or establishment of highly flammable non-native herbaceous species, shall be planted with locally-indigenous native coast live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*) and southern

California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) in order to provide an erosion preventative function and a woodland barrier that is less flammable than invasive non-native annual species. Acorns and walnuts collected from the project site are suitable and recommended.

**BIO-4: Nighttime Lighting**

- Existing lighting that impacts natural areas shall be removed or reoriented.
- Any lighting associated with the project shall be shielded from the sky above and from adjacent on and off-site natural areas.
- Any outdoor lighting required for safety shall be of low intensity (lights not exceeding 800 lumens), in the yellow area of spectrum, and low stature fixtures (2.5-3 ft.).
- Lights shall be directed downwards with good shielding against projection into the nighttime sky, surrounding properties, and undeveloped areas.
- If DPW does not require public lighting, then none shall be used.
- Security lighting, if used, shall be on an infrared detector or a motion sensor.

**BIO-5: Brush Clearance**

- Fire fuels management shall be accomplished by mechanical means, such as weed whips, and shall be executed prior to May in order to minimize effects to soils and native plants. Grazing, soil-disturbance methods such as disking, and herbicide applications are prohibited.

**BIO-6: No Fence Maintenance on Hillside**

- Because of extensive establishment of vegetation along the existing peripheral fence enclosing the western, natural area of the property, removal of the fence is not recommended. Nevertheless, this fence shall not be maintained and shall be allowed to collapse naturally as time passes. This will allow larger wildlife into the property and promote connectivity. Fencing may be installed at the toe of the slope outside of the protected zones of any oak trees.

**BIO-7: Filling of Oak and Walnut Tree Cavities**

- To prevent occupation of oak and walnut tree cavities by bee and wasp colonies in a manner least harmful to trees, the filling of cavities is prohibited.
- Any cavities to be made inaccessible to colonizing bees and wasps shall be screened with wire mesh of an appropriate gauge to prevent passage. Cavities in oak and walnut trees within the undeveloped portion of the project site and further than 100 ft. from the proposed garage structure (but on the project site) shall not be screened in order to allow access by native wildlife.

## 9. SEA Design Compatibility

The proposed project is designed to be compatible with the biotic resources of the SEA. No water bodies, sensitive natural communities, or other sensitive biological resources are associated with the construction impact area. Impacts to native habitats would be completely avoided as part of the proposed project. The project was designed to keep away from sensitive vegetation and to preserve the all native oak and walnut trees, as well as preserving the natural undisturbed areas for use in wildlife movement. The SEATAC Guidance Compliance Checklist is included in **Appendix A**.

## 10. Monitoring Program

Prior to finalization of CEQA documentation for the proposed project (if applicable), a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) will be prepared as part of the Findings. The MMRP will identify the mitigation measures, state the responsible party for implementing each measure, give the period for implementing the measure, and provide a space for the date on which the measure is implemented. Ensuring implementation of all mitigation measures is the responsibility of the Lead Agency. The MMRP will address SEATAC monitoring plan requirements.

## 11. References

- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG 2010), California Natural Diversity Database. Records of Occurrence for Newhall, Warm Springs Mountain, Green Valley, Mint Canyon, San Fernando, Oat Mountain, Santa Susana, Val Verde, and Whitaker Peak. USGS quadrangle maps. Sacramento, CA: CDFG, Natural Heritage Division, 2010.
- CDFG. 2003. List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities.
- CDFG. 2010. List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations. Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, California Department of Fish and Game. Sacramento, CA. September 2010.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2012. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-01a). California Native Plant Society. Sacramento, CA.
- Hickman, James C., ed. 1996. *The Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press. Berkeley, California.
- Mayer, Kenneth E., William F. Laudenslayer, Jr. 1988. *A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California*. [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/wildlife\\_habitats.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/wildlife_habitats.asp). State of California Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game. Sacramento, CA.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture. Web
- Sawyer, J.O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition*. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento. 1300 pp.

Soil Survey. Available online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Accessed October 18, 2011.

USFWS. 2012. Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that may be Affected by Projects in the Oat Mountain, California 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangles.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 1980. 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle, Oat Mountain, California.

## **APPENDIX A**

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### Guideline Compliance Checklist

**Appendix A—GUIDELINE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST**

	PAGE	PREPARER'S INITIALS
Setting	<u>6</u>	<u>JA</u>
Original topographical quad sheet (or color photocopy)	<u>7</u>	<u>JA</u>
Project site photographs or color photocopies	APPENDIX <u>C</u>	<u>JA</u>
Color aerial photographs	<u>5, 10</u>	<u>JA</u>
SEA/SERA map	<u>7</u>	<u>JA</u>
Biotic survey of the project site	<u>10</u>	<u>JA</u>
Floral and faunal lists in systematic/alphabetic order	<u>18, 19</u>	<u>JA</u>
Table of sensitive species impacts matrix	<u>25, 32, 43</u>	<u>JA</u>
Document showing CNDDDB contact	CONTACT ATTEMPTED, BUT NOT MADE.	<u>JA</u>
Site/grading plans	<u>5</u>	<u>JA</u>
Initial study questionnaire	COUNTY PLANNING TO PROVIDE	<u>JA</u>
Impacts	<u>47</u>	<u>JA</u>
Mitigation measures	<u>54</u>	<u>JA</u>
Mitigation monitoring	<u>56</u>	<u>JA</u>
Preparer's resume/qualifications	APPENDIX <u>F</u>	<u>JA</u>

## **APPENDIX B**

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### Table of Sensitive Species Impacts Matrix

Species								
Scientific Name	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	<i>Amphispiza belli belli</i>	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>
Common Name	Cooper's hawk	tricolored blackbird	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	grasshopper sparrow	Bell's sage sparrow	arroyo toad	silvery legless lizard	pallid bat
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	BIO-1	None	BIO-1	None	BIO-1	None	None	None

Species								
Scientific Name	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
Common Name	golden eagle	coastal whiptail	Braunton's milk-vetch	burrowing owl	oak titmouse	Nevin's barberry	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Swainson's hawk
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	None	None	Bio-1	None	None	None





<b>Species</b>					
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> southern tarplant	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> var. <i>blancheae</i>	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	Cismontane Alkali Marsh
<b>Common Name</b>	southern tarplant	island mountain-mahogany	lark sparrow	San Fernando Valley spineflower	Cismontane Alkali Marsh
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	Yes	No	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	None	None	None



<b>Species</b>						
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>agourensis</i>	<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i>	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	<i>Emys marmorata</i>
<b>Common Name</b>	Agoura Hills dudleya	many-stemmed dudleya	white-tailed kite	willow flycatcher	southwestern willow flycatcher	western pond turtle
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	Bio-1	None	None	None









<b>Species</b>					
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	<i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i>	<i>Navarretia setiloba</i>	<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	<i>Nolina cismontana</i>
<b>Common Name</b>	spreading navarretia	Ojai navarretia	Piute Mountains navarretia	San Diego desert woodrat	chaparral nolina
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	Yes	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	None	None	None

<b>Species</b>					
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	<i>Opuntia basilaris var. brachyclada</i>	<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	<i>Phacelia mohavensis</i>
<b>Common Name</b>	southern grasshopper mouse	short-joint beavertail	California Orcutt grass	Los Angeles pocket mouse	Mojave phacelia
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	None	None	None

<b>Species</b>						
<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	<i>Polioptila melanura</i>	<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i>	<i>Rana draytonii</i>
<b>Common Name</b>	coast horned lizard	Nuttall's woodpecker	coastal California gnatcatcher	black-tailed gnatcatcher	white rabbit-tobacco	California red-legged frog
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	Bio-1	None	None	None	None



<b>Species</b>					
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream</i>	<i>Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest</i>	<i>Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest</i>	<i>Southern Mixed Riparian Forest</i>	<i>Southern Riparian Scrub</i>
<b>Common Name</b>	Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream	Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest	Southern Mixed Riparian Forest	Southern Riparian Scrub
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	None	None	None

<b>Species</b>					
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland</i>	<i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	<i>Symphytotrichum greatae</i>	<i>Taricha torosa</i>
<b>Common Name</b>	Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	Southern Willow Scrub	western spadefoot	Greata's aster	Coast Range newt
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	Yes
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	None	None	None

<b>Species</b>					
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	<i>Valley Needlegrass Grassland</i>	<i>Valley Oak Woodland</i>	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>
<b>Common Name</b>	American badger	two-striped garter snake	Valley Needlegrass Grassland	Valley Oak Woodland	least Bell's vireo
Habitat present and species is reasonably expected to occur onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted directly by habitat loss? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat loss substantial? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Species impacted indirectly on adjacent lands by edge effects? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to eliminate species onsite? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential to reduce population size below self sustaining levels? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential for substantial reduction in numbers of individuals? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Potential restriction of range of rare or endangered species? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Impact significant? (YES/NO)	No	No	No	No	No
Mitigation	None	None	None	None	None

## **APPENDIX C**

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### Photo Exhibits



Photo 1. Facing east from site towards The Old Road.



Photo 2. Facing west from site towards disturbed hillside with non-native grasses and trees.



Photo 3. Facing northeast from hillside at view of coast live oak/southern California black walnut woodland.

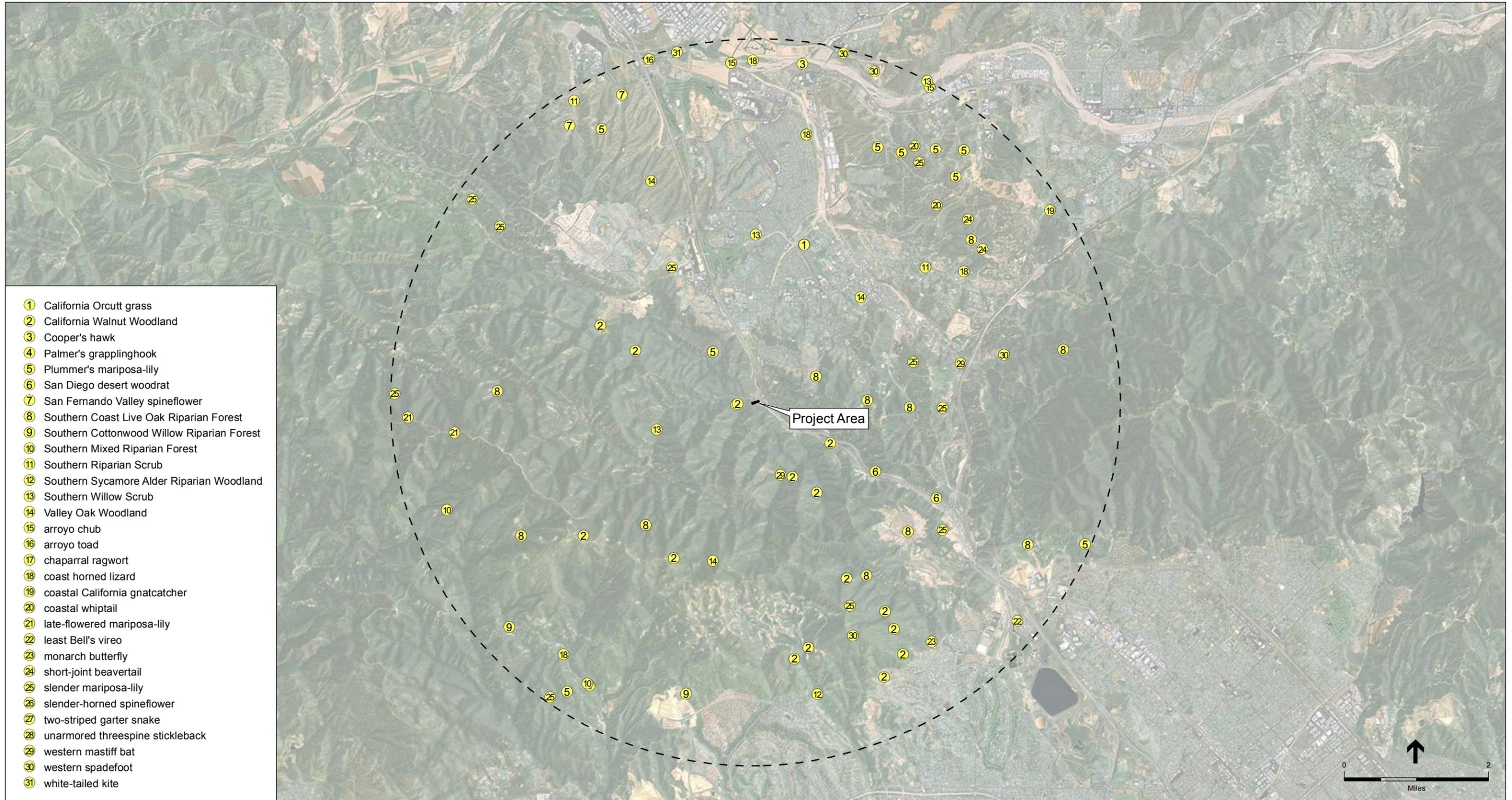


Photo 4. View of previously graded area on hillside where water tower is proposed.

## **APPENDIX D**

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### **CNDDDB and CNPS Search Results**



SOURCE: California Department of Fish and Game; California Natural Diversity Database, 2012

24233 The Old Road, 211740

**Figure 5**

Special Status Species Occurrences within 5-Mile Radius of the Project Site



# Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Game

California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFG SSC or FP
<b>arroyo chub</b> <i>Gila orcuttii</i>	AFCJB13120	None	None	G2	S2	SSC
<b>arroyo toad</b> <i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	AAABB01230	Endangered	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
<b>bank swallow</b> <i>Riparia riparia</i>	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S2S3	
<b>Bell's sage sparrow</b> <i>Amphispiza belli belli</i>	ABPBX97021	None	None	G5T2T4	S2?	WL
<b>burrowing owl</b> <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
<b>California condor</b> <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	ABNKA03010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	
<b>California horned lark</b> <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	ABPAT02011	None	None	G5T3Q	S3	WL
<b>California leaf-nosed bat</b> <i>Macrotus californicus</i>	AMACB01010	None	None	G4	S2S3	SSC
<b>California Orcutt grass</b> <i>Orcuttia californica</i>	PMPOA4G010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>California red-legged frog</b> <i>Rana draytonii</i>	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G4T2T3	S2S3	SSC
<b>California Walnut Woodland</b> <i>California Walnut Woodland</i>	CTT71210CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
<b>chaparral ragwort</b> <i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	PDAST8H060	None	None	G3?	S1.2	2.2
<b>Cismontane Alkali Marsh</b> <i>Cismontane Alkali Marsh</i>	CTT52310CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b>coast horned lizard</b> <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	ARACF12100	None	None	G4G5	S3S4	SSC
<b>coastal California gnatcatcher</b> <i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G3T2	S2	SSC
<b>coastal whiptail</b> <i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	ARACJ02143	None	None	G5T3T4	S2S3	
<b>Cooper's hawk</b> <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S3	WL
<b>Davidson's bush-mallow</b> <i>Malacothamnus davidsonii</i>	PDMAL0Q040	None	None	G1	S1.1	1B.2
<b>grasshopper sparrow</b> <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	ABPBXA0020	None	None	G5	S2	SSC
<b>Greata's aster</b> <i>Symphytotrichum greatae</i>	PDASTE80U0	None	None	G2	S2.3	1B.3
<b>hoary bat</b> <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	AMACC05030	None	None	G5	S4?	



# Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Game

California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFG SSC or FP
<b>late-flowered mariposa-lily</b> <i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i>	PMLIL0D1J2	None	None	G3G4	S2.2	1B.2
<b>least Bell's vireo</b> <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S2	
<b>lodgepole chipmunk</b> <i>Neotamias speciosus speciosus</i>	AMAFB02172	None	None	G4T2T3	S2S3	
<b>loggerhead shrike</b> <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
<b>Mainland Cherry Forest</b> <i>Mainland Cherry Forest</i>	CTT81820CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b>monarch butterfly</b> <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	IILEPP2010	None	None	G5	S3	
<b>Nevin's barberry</b> <i>Berberis nevinii</i>	PDBER060A0	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>Newhall sunflower</b> <i>Helianthus inexpectatus</i>	PDAST4N250	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>Ojai navarretia</b> <i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i>	PDPLM0C130	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>pallid bat</b> <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	AMACC10010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<b>Palmer's grapplinghook</b> <i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	PDBOR0H010	None	None	G4	S3.2	4.2
<b>Parry's spineflower</b> <i>Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi</i>	PDPGN040J2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
<b>Peirson's morning-glory</b> <i>Calystegia peirsonii</i>	PDCON040A0	None	None	G3	S3.2	4.2
<b>Piute Mountains navarretia</b> <i>Navarretia setiloba</i>	PDPLM0C0S0	None	None	G1	S1.1	1B.1
<b>Plummer's mariposa-lily</b> <i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	PMLIL0D150	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<b>Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub</b> <i>Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub</i>	CTT32720CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b>Ross' pitcher sage</b> <i>Lepechinia rossii</i>	PDLAM0V060	None	None	G1	S1.2	1B.2
<b>rosy boa</b> <i>Charina trivirgata</i>	ARADA01020	None	None	G4G5	S3S4	
<b>round-leaved filaree</b> <i>California macrophylla</i>	PDGER01070	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<b>San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit</b> <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	AMAEB03051	None	None	G5T3?	S3?	SSC
<b>San Diego desert woodrat</b> <i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	AMAFF08041	None	None	G5T3?	S3?	SSC



# Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Game

California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFG SSC or FP
<b>San Fernando Valley spineflower</b> <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	PDPGN040J1	Candidate	Endangered	G2T1	S1.1	1B.1
<b>San Gabriel bedstraw</b> <i>Galium grande</i>	PDRUB0N0V0	None	None	G2	S2.2	1B.2
<b>Santa Ana sucker</b> <i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	AFCJC02190	Threatened	None	G1	S1	SSC
<b>Santa Susana tarplant</b> <i>Deinandra minthornii</i>	PDAST4R0J0	None	Rare	G2	S2.2	1B.2
<b>short-joint beavertail</b> <i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i>	PDCAC0D053	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
<b>Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog</b> <i>Rana muscosa</i>	AAABH01330	Endangered	Candidate Endangered	G1	S1	SSC
<b>silvery legless lizard</b> <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	ARACC01012	None	None	G3G4T3T4Q	S3	SSC
<b>slender mariposa-lily</b> <i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	PMLIL0D096	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.2
<b>slender-horned spineflower</b> <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	PDPGN0V010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>southern California rufous-crowned sparrow</b> <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T2T4	S2S3	WL
<b>Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream</b> <i>Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream</i>	CARE2320CA	None	None	G?	SNR	
<b>Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest</b> <i>Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61310CA	None	None	G4	S4	
<b>Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest</b> <i>Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61330CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
<b>southern grasshopper mouse</b> <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	AMAFF06022	None	None	G5T3?	S3?	SSC
<b>Southern Mixed Riparian Forest</b> <i>Southern Mixed Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61340CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
<b>Southern Riparian Scrub</b> <i>Southern Riparian Scrub</i>	CTT63300CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
<b>Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland</b> <i>Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland</i>	CTT62400CA	None	None	G4	S4	
<b>Southern Willow Scrub</b> <i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	CTT63320CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
<b>spotted bat</b> <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	AMACC07010	None	None	G4	S2S3	SSC
<b>spreading navarretia</b> <i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	PDPLM0C080	Threatened	None	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>two-striped garter snake</b> <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	ARADB36160	None	None	G3	S2	SSC



Selected Elements by Scientific Name  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFG SSC or FP
<b>unarmored threespine stickleback</b> <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	AFCPA03011	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1	S1	FP
<b>Valley Oak Woodland</b> <i>Valley Oak Woodland</i>	CTT71130CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
<b>western mastiff bat</b> <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	AMACD02011	None	None	G5T4	S3?	SSC
<b>western pond turtle</b> <i>Emys marmorata</i>	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
<b>western spadefoot</b> <i>Spea hammondi</i>	AAABF02020	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
<b>western yellow-billed cuckoo</b> <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	ABNRB02022	Candidate	Endangered	G5T3Q	S1	
<b>white-tailed kite</b> <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
<b>yellow warbler</b> <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	ABPBX03018	None	None	G5T3?	S2	SSC
<b>yellow-breasted chat</b> <i>Icteria virens</i>	ABPBX24010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 72



## Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants

v7-12mar 3-28-12

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**Status:** search results - Thu, Mar. 29, 2012 04:40 c

{QUADS\_123} =~ m/138D|112A|112B|137B|137C|111B|138A|138E

**Tip:** +DNT Jun Jul returns Del Norte taxa with those blooming both months listed first.  
[\[all tips and help.\]](#)[\[search history\]](#)

**Your Quad Selection:** Oat Mountain (138D) 3411835, Canoga Park (112A) 3411825, Calabasas (112B) 3411826, Mint Canyon (137B) 3411844, San Fernando (137C) 3411834, Van Nuys (111B) 3411824, Newhall (138A) 3411845, Val Verde (138B) 3411846, Santa Susana (138C) 3411836

**Hits 1 to 26 of 26**  
**Requests that specify topo quads will return only Lists 1-3.**

To save selected records for later study, click the ADD button.

Selections will appear in a new window.

open	save	hits	scientific	common	family	CNPS
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Astragalus brauntonii</a></u>	Braunton's milk-vetch	Fabaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Berberis nevinii</a></u>	Nevin's barberry	Berberidaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">California macrophylla</a></u>	round-leaved filaree	Geraniaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Calochortus clavatus</a></u> var. <u><a href="#">gracilis</a></u>	slender mariposa lily	Liliaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Calochortus fimbriatus</a></u>	late-flowered mariposa lily	Liliaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Calochortus plummerae</a></u>	Plummer's mariposa lily	Liliaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Centromadia parryi</a></u> ssp. <u><a href="#">australis</a></u>	southern tarplant	Asteraceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Chorizanthe parryi</a></u> var. <u><a href="#">fernandina</a></u>	San Fernando Valley spineflower	Polygonaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Deinandra minthornii</a></u>	Santa Susana tarplant	Asteraceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Dodecahema leptoceras</a></u>	slender-horned spineflower	Polygonaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Dudleya blochmaniae</a></u> ssp. <u><a href="#">blochmaniae</a></u>	Blochman's dudleya	Crassulaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Dudleya cymosa</a></u> ssp. <u><a href="#">agourensis</a></u>	Agoura Hills dudleya	Crassulaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Dudleya multicaulis</a></u>	many-stemmed dudleya	Crassulaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Helianthus inexpectatus</a></u>	Newhall sunflower	Asteraceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Lasthenia glabrata</a></u> ssp. <u><a href="#">coulteri</a></u>	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<u><a href="#">Lepidium virginicum</a></u> var. <u><a href="#">robinsonii</a></u>	Robinson's pepper-grass	Brassicaceae	List 1B.2

	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Malacothamnus davidsonii</u></b> 	Davidson's bush-mallow	Malvaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Navarretia fossalis</u></b> 	spreading navarretia	Polemoniaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Navarretia ojaiensis</u></b> 	Ojai navarretia	Polemoniaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Navarretia setiloba</u></b> 	Piute Mountains navarretia	Polemoniaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Nolina cismontana</u></b> 	chaparral nolina	Ruscaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Opuntia basilaris</u></b> var. <b><u>brachyclada</u></b> 	short-joint beavertail	Cactaceae	List 1B.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Orcuttia californica</u></b> 	California Orcutt grass	Poaceae	List 1B.1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</u></b>	white rabbit-tobacco	Asteraceae	List 2.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Senecio aphanactis</u></b> 	chaparral ragwort	Asteraceae	List 2.2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<b><u>Symphotrichum greatae</u></b> 	Greata's aster	Asteraceae	List 1B.3

To save selected records for later study, click the ADD button.

Selections will appear in a new window.

No more hits.



## **APPENDIX E**

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### Resumes



# GREGORY C. AINSWORTH

Director, Senior Managing Biologist

Gregory Ainsworth directs the Southern California Biological Resources Group. Greg has provided biological resource consulting on numerous community development projects, solar and wind development, infrastructure, and water agency projects. He is a certified arborist, an experienced wetland delineator, and an approved biologist on several city and county approved lists. Greg's technical strengths include biological resource constraints studies and fatal flaw assessments, rare plant surveys and vegetation mapping, special-status wildlife surveys, avian risk assessments, native plant restoration, wetland delineations, and permitting. He has managed dozens of CEQA and NEPA projects, and projects involving compliance with the Endangered Species Act and has extensive knowledge of habitats found between the California deserts and the coastal shoreline.

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## Education

M.C.R.P., Environmental Planning, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

B.S., Environmental Horticulture Science, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

## 11 Years Experience

### Certifications

International Certified Arborist (Cert# WE 7473A)

California Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collection Permit

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Section 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit (Pending)

Wetland Delineation & Management (ACOE, #2128), 2003

### Specialized Training

Snowy plover nesting and roosting surveys, Los Angeles Audubon, 2004-present

Desert Tortoise Workshop, The Desert Tortoise Council, 2006

Mohave ground squirrel Workshop, The Wildlife Society, 2005

California Native Plant Society Plant Survey Techniques, 2004 and 2006

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## Relevant Experience in Ventura County

**California Public Utilities Commission, SCE Presidential Substation EIR, Ventura County, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg is co-managing the preparation of an EIR for the SCE Presidential Substation Project located in Ventura County. The proposed project would involve construction of a substation and associated subtransmission source lines that run through a rural residential area. ESA has implemented a rigorous public and agency outreach program to engage the stakeholders in the CEQA process. Key biological resource issues to be addressed in the EIR include state- and federally-endangered fairy shrimp species, the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher, and the federally-listed plant: Lyon's pentachaeta.

**Department of Water Resources, Piru Creek Special Use Permit Renewal, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, CA. Project Manager/Senior Biologist.** Greg is providing environmental compliance and permitting for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the renewal of a Special Use Permit to operate and maintain access to an existing stream gauging station to measure flows into Pyramid Lake. The permit would also include necessary improvements at a high and low flow gauging station. Greg conducted a habitat assessment for potentially occurring special-status species, a focused plant survey, protocol surveys for the federally endangered arroyo toad, wetland delineation, and wildlife migration corridor analysis. Greg managed the preparation of a BE/BA for Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance and prepared an EA in accordance with NEPA. Greg will be engaging in formal consultation with the USFWS for their preparation of a Biological Opinion under Section 7b of the ESA.

**California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Arroyo Toad Monitoring Plan, Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, CA. Project Manager/Senior Biologist.** Mr. Ainsworth is providing three consecutive years' of biological monitoring and technical analysis for DWR's monitoring program for the federally endangered arroyo toad and other special-status species including California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, and two-striped garter snake in middle Piru Creek in the Los Padres National Forest. Greg

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

managed the implementation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved monitoring plan, and is conducting clutch surveys to monitor arroyo toad reproductive success, habitat quality, and hydrological features on middle Piru Creek.

**County of Ventura Harbor Department, Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County, CA. *On-call Arborist and Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth serves as the Harbor Department's on-call Arborist and has conducted numerous tree health surveys and pre-trimming or removal guidance. Greg also serves as the Department's on-call biologist for conducting focused surveys on herons and egrets for various construction projects within the harbor.

**County of Ventura Harbor Department, Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County, CA. *Construction Monitor.*** Greg is conducting weekly monitoring of the construction of the Boating Instruction and Safety Center (BISC). Monitoring includes assessing potential construction-related impacts on great blue herons and black-crowned night herons and other species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and other agency protection.

**Greystar Real Estate Partners, Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County, CA. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth conducted an assessment of all trees within the Paz Mar Select and Paz Mar Reserve condominium complexes for presence of bird nests and active heron roost sites prior to annual tree trimming activities. All trees with sign of heron presence were flagged and specific tree trimming procedures were applied based on recommendations provided by Mr. Ainsworth.

**E. Rojas Landscape Inc., Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County, CA. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth conducted an assessment of all trees within the Paz Mar Select and Paz Mar Reserve condominium complexes for presence of bird nests and active heron roost sites prior to annual tree trimming activities. All trees with sign of heron presence were flagged and specific tree trimming procedures were applied based on recommendations provided by Mr. Ainsworth.

**County of Ventura. *Qualified Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth was a qualified biologist with the County of Ventura from April 2003 through May 2005. He was responsible for conducting biological assessments and special-status species surveys. He prepared numerous biological resource sections of CEQA Initial Studies based on findings. He was a member of the County's committee for establishing criteria for identifying wetlands and vernal pools within the County as well as identifying locally important plant and animal species.

**Channel Islands Development Partners, Wildwood Stable Estates, Ventura County, CA. *Project Manager/Senior Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth prepared a Biological Assessment Report for the Wildwood Stable Estates Project Site. In support of the Report, he mapped all plant communities on the site, conducted focused surveys for southwestern pond turtle, two-striped garter snake, least Bell's vireo, raptors, and special-status plants, and conducted a protected tree survey and prepared a tree report per the Ventura County Protected Tree Ordinance. While conducting focused plant surveys he identified an unknown

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

population of Conejo dudleya (*Dudleya parva*), a federally threatened plant species.

**Vintage Marina, Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County, CA. *Project Manager/Senior Biologist.*** Managed and conducted construction monitoring for potential impacts to great blue herons and black-crowned night herons at the Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard, California. Monitor efforts includes an assessment of short- and long-term construction related impacts on breeding and foraging herons. Provided on-call biological resource-related services for various projects within the Harbor.

**Marine Emporium Landing, LLC, Channel Islands Harbor, Ventura County, CA. *Lead Biologist.*** Conducted biological assessments and prepared technical reports for two separate development projects at the Channel Islands Harbor. Conducted construction monitoring for potential impacts to great blue herons and black-crowned night heron during the construction phases.

**Ventura County Regional Sanitation District, Toland Landfill, Ventura County, CA. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth identified ecologically sensitive areas, performed habitat assessments and reconnaissance-level biota surveys, and established a mitigation and monitoring plan for future expansions of the Toland Road Landfill in Santa Paula, California.

**City of Oxnard, Parks Division, *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth conducted nesting/breeding bird surveys and assessment of active heron roosts prior to tree removal or pruning activities at various location in the City of Oxnard.

**Essex Property Trust, Inc., Hidden Valley Development, Ventura County, CA. *Monitoring Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth managed the implementation of a Revegetation Plan for the creation of wetland and riparian habitats along the Arroyo Simi Creek in Ventura County, California. He monitored weed abatement and restoration activities for the creation of a floodplain terrace and new riparian habitat along the banks of the creek. He helped established weed abatement and planting guidelines for the restoration efforts.

**Soule Park Golf Course, Ojai, Ventura County, CA. *Monitoring Biologist.*** Greg monitored the installation of a span bridge across a jurisdictional creek. Greg was responsible for ensuring that all BMPs were conducted in accordance with permit conditions and was responsible to for providing recommendations to avoid potential impacts to the creek and its indigenous flora and fauna. Greg led daily construction meetings and was responsible for preparing daily monitoring reports and communication with jurisdictional agencies.

**City of Ojai, Libbey Bowl Reconstruction Project, Ventura County, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg conducted a focused survey of all trees located at the Libbey Bowl. Greg prepared a detailed tree assessment report for the City of Ojai that included data collected on the health and physical structure of each tree, as well as recommendation for preserving trees and mitigating those trees that would be removed or otherwise impacted.

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

**Conejo Valley Development Corporation, Corporate Ridge Development Project, Ventura County, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg conducted on-call monitoring of oaks to be preserved within the development project. Greg prescribed specific measures for avoiding impacts to oak trees and monitored all construction activities within 15 feet from all protected tree canopies. Greg prepared monitoring logs and communicated directly with the City of Agoura Hills Arborist on prescribed preservation and avoidance measures.

**City of Simi Valley. *Lead Biologist.*** Prepared biological resource section of the Lost Canyon Specific Plan EIR; mapped all plant communities and biological resources on the 1,200 acre project site, conducted a floristic inventory and rare plant survey and assessment of impacts to wildlife migration corridors.

**Rockwell Scientific. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth conducted a protected tree survey and prepared a tree report per the City of Thousand Oaks and County of Ventura protected tree ordinances for proposed residential development.

**City of Santa Paula. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth prepared a biological impact assessment, mapping and characterization of plant communities, and a migration corridor study on the proposed East Area 1 Specific Plan project site in Santa Paula, California. Conducting a protected tree survey per the requirements of the City of Santa Paula's Protected Tree Guidelines.

**Pinnacle Development Group. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth conducted a jurisdictional resources delineation (i.e., streams and drainages) per the recent Corps Rapanos decision and prepared a draft jurisdictional delineation report for over 300 stream reaches located on the Adams Canyon Preserve Project site located in Santa Paula, California. Mapped all plant communities and conducted a focused floristic inventory and rare plant survey and general wildlife surveys for proposed development areas. Prepared biological technical studies in support of future EIR.

**City of Oxnard. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth conducted nesting/breeding bird surveys and monitored a great blue heron heronry and American crow rookery prior to grading of the 1,200 acre Riverpark Development Site in Oxnard, California.

**Weston, Benshoof, Rochefort, Rubalcava, MacCuish, LLP. *Lead Biologist.*** Mr. Ainsworth conducted a biological resource assessment and focused presence/absence botanical survey for potentially-occurring special status plant species on proposed residential development in Malibu, Unincorporated Ventura County, California.

**Hilltop Builders, LLC. *Lead Biologist.*** Conducted a biological resource assessment and focused presence/absence botanical survey for potentially-occurring special status plant species on the on the Gateway Commercial Development Project in Newbury Park, California.

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

### Additional Project Experience

**Grossmont High School Tree Survey, San Diego, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg conducted a tree survey for a proposed high school alternative location for the Grossmont Union High School District. The locations of oak trees and mature riparian woodland species located on the alternative high school site were assessed and mapped by Greg, our certified arborist. A subsequent tree report was prepared and all attribute data (e.g., tree number, size, health, balance) collected were provided in the report. The report identified the number of trees that were removed, encroached, and preserved by the proposed alternative high school location.

**Helix Water District, El Monte Groundwater Recharge, Mining and Reclamation Project EIR, San Diego, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg conducted a tree survey and identify trees that should be removed based on poor health conditions and which should be preserved based on overall value and aesthetics. He collected specific information during the assessment such as: type of species, trunk diameter, estimated height and radius of canopy, physical conditional and overall health rating. A subsequent tree report was prepared and all attribute data collected were provided in the report. The report identified the number of trees that were removed, encroached, and preserved.

**Western Wind Energy Corporation, Aero Windswept Lower Resource Energy Project Biota Surveys, Tehachapi, CA. *Project Manager.*** Greg is the project director and daily manager of all data collection, reporting, and permitting service being provided on this project. Biota surveys have included rare plant surveys, wildlife surveys including burrowing owl, desert tortoise, Mojave ground squirrel, bats, bird use counts, and raptor surveys (in accordance with CEC Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Development). Greg is the primary author of the biological technical report and avian risk assessment being prepared to support the project's EIR.

**San Diego Gas and Electric, Manzanita Wind Generation Project, San Diego County, CA. *Project Manger of Biological Resources.*** Greg is managing all focused surveys for the proposed gen-tie line, substation locations, switchyard, and other ancillary features. Focused studies under the management of Greg include: avian studies (bird use counts, small bird counts and migration counts), Quino checkerspot butterfly and Hermes copper butterfly, rare plant surveys, wetland delineation, vegetation mapping, and biological constraints analysis. Greg will be managing the preparation of the PEA for the proposed project and participating in Section 7 consultation related to potential impacts to the Golden Eagle.

**Sunshine Canyon Landfill Arborist Support and Revegetation Plan, Los Angeles, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** Greg is conducting annual monitoring for several mitigation requirements that include City of Los Angeles oak tree mitigation, PM10 tree buffer mitigation, big cone Douglas fir mitigation, coastal sage scrub restoration, coastal sage scrub and chaparral revegetation required by the Air Quality Control Management District. Greg prepared a

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

restoration and revegetation plan introducing native coastal sage scrub and chaparral vegetation between the landfill and adjacent neighborhoods. Greg is monitoring the implementation of the plan for the next five years. Greg is providing on-call services that include: preconstruction bird surveys, protected tree surveys for proposed grading activities, and identification of suitable native revegetation sites throughout the landfill property.

**City of Calabasas, On-Call Services, Calabasas, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg is the City of Calabasas' on-call arborist. His services include providing oak tree damage assessments for the Code Enforcement Department, review of oak tree reports prepared by city-approved arborists, and preparation of oak tree damage and appraisal reports.

**Department of Water Resources, Templin HWY Culvert Repair, Los Angeles County, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** ESA is providing environmental compliance and permitting for the Department of Water Resources for their installation of a new culvert below Templin Highway. The proposed culvert is within a blue line stream that falls under the jurisdiction of the USACE, RWQCB and the CDFG. Greg conducted a wetland delineation for Waters of the U.S. and State jurisdictional waters and is preparing permits in accordance to the Clean Water Act (401/404) and California Department of Fish and Game Code (1602), Streambed Alteration Agreement.

**Metropolitan Water District City of La Verne Tree Ordinance Compliance and Breeding Bird Surveys, La Verne, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** Greg conducted a significant tree survey, prepared a tree report, and submitted a tree permit to the City of La Verne for the Metropolitan Water District Weymouth Treatment Plant Main Line Project. Greg conducted a preconstruction breeding bird and nest survey for the proposed project and identified appropriate buffers to avoid impacts to breeding birds.

**Private Wind Developers, Los Angeles County, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** Greg has managed and conducted several confidential biological resource fatal flaw assessments for potential wind development projects in the Mojave desert and rural areas of Los Angeles County. Tasks included reconnaissance-level biological field assessments, identification of adjacent land uses and zoning, and preparation of technical biological constraints reports. Greg has provided consultation to wind developers on the local, state, and federal permitting requirements associated with biological resources and wind development.

**Red Mountain Ridge Wind Project, San Diego, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** Greg managed a 30-day fatal flaw analysis for biological, cultural, and paleo resources on a proposed 7.5 square mile wind development project known as the Red Mountain Ridge Wind Project, which includes approximately 8 miles of transmission line. The results of the fatal flaw assessment was used to develop a detailed scope and budget for conducting baseline biology and cultural assessments that will support the preparation of an EIR by Kern County's CEQA

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

consultant for a zone change, Wind Energy overlay, CUP for the solar portion, and a variance.

**Bureau of Land Management, Ocotillo Wind Farm Express, El Centro, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** The Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project is a 15,000-acre, 561 megawatt wind energy project including a substation, transmission facilities, administration facilities, operations and maintenance facilities, and temporary construction lay-down areas. The project would be located almost entirely on BLM administered lands in the Imperial Valley, approximately 5 miles west of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California. Greg is serving as a third-party biological consultant under the direction of the BLM El Centro Field Office. Specifically, Greg and ESA are contracted to assist with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg is providing field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

**Solar Millennium Blythe and Palen Solar Power Projects, Blythe, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** The Blythe Solar Power Project will be a concentrated STE generating facility with two adjacent, independent, and identical solar plants of 250 MW nominal capacity each for a total capacity of 500 MW nominal. The project site is located approximately two miles north of Interstate 10 and eight miles west of the City of Blythe in an unincorporated area of Riverside County. Greg served as a third-party biological consultant under the direction of the BLM Palm Springs Field Office. Greg assisted with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg provided field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

**Desert Sunlight Solar Project BLM Support Services, Desert Center, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** The Desert Sunlight Solar project will be a solar PV energy generating facility with a total capacity of 550 MW. The project is proposed to be located on federal lands managed by the BLM approximately six miles north of the community of Desert Center, in Riverside County. Greg is serving as a third-party biological consultant under the direction of the BLM Palm Springs Field Office. Specifically, Greg and ESA are contracted to assist with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg is providing field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

**NextEra Genesis Solar Energy Project, BLM Support Services, Palm Springs, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** Greg and ESA provided regulatory review for the California South Coast BLM for the Genesis Solar project application. Greg's role in this project included review of the biological resources technical reports that accompanied the permit applications. He determined appropriate mitigation strategies in consultation with project managers to help facilitate compliance with the Endangered Species Act and BLM Wildlife Management Areas.

**Sun Peak Chuckwalla and Superstition Solar, Riverside County, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** The Chuckwalla Solar I project is a 200 megawatt photovoltaic power plant located in Riverside County. All components of the proposed facility would be located on public lands managed by the BLM, under the jurisdiction of the Palm Springs Field Office. Specifically, Greg and ESA are contracted to assist with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg is providing field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

**Hollywood Heights Biological Resource Assessment, Los Angeles, CA. *Project Manager.*** Greg prepared a biological resource assessment for a proposed residential development in the Hollywood Heights area of Los Angeles County. Following a literature and database review of the project area, Greg prepared a technical biological assessment report documenting the methods and results of the database and field assessment and provided mitigation measures and recommendations, where applicable, to reduce potential impacts to biological resources to levels of less than significant (per CEQA thresholds).

**Department of Water Resources, East Branch Enlargement Project, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** Greg conducted habitat assessments for special-status plant and animal species in proposed construction areas, as well as, presence/absence surveys for burrowing owls. He is currently conducting a floristic inventory and rare plant survey within the Department's easement areas. ESA has conducted technical studies to complete the EIR and has begun negotiating permit requirements and restoration planning with resource agencies including the USACE, RWQCB, and USFWS.

**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, April Road Reservoir Environmental Constraints Analysis, Agoura Hills, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** Greg is preparing a Biological Constraints Analysis for the proposed April Road Recycled Water Reservoir Site for the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. The purpose of the assessment is to identify fatal flaws of the site and to characterize key biological resource hurdles. His analysis includes an assessment of potential incompatibilities with Los Angeles County's Sensitive Ecological Areas, impacts to wildlife migration corridors and sensitive plants and wildlife, and potential mitigation options. Greg prepared a draft oak tree appraisal to

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

assessment the potential cost of impacting approximately 200 coast live oak trees and conducted a rare plant survey of the proposed project site.

**County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW), Sorensen Community Park Phase III MND, Los Angeles, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg prepared the biological resource section of the EIR/EA for the LADPW for Phase III of the Stephen Sorensen County Park Project. Greg conducted and managed special-status wildlife surveys including protocol-level surveys for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus Ramona*), terrestrial mammal trapping and relocation, and implementing an employee education and awareness training.

**Orange County Sanitation District, Newport Trunk Sewer Biological Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Newport, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg provided construction monitoring efforts for sensitive biological resources in the area of the Santa Ana River Marsh. Greg assisted in the demarcation of boundaries for construction through the marsh area and conducted breeding surveys for the federally and state listed Belding's savannah sparrow. He also provided training for the construction workers to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities with regard to protecting sensitive species and habitats in the area.

**Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD), Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant MND. Irvine, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg prepared the biological resource section of this Initial Study and MND for the IRWD Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant project. The goal of the proposed project is to increase water supply reliability in southern Orange County by creating redundancy of treatment system capacity and distribution infrastructure for potable water in the event of facility outages due to routine maintenance or unforeseen emergencies. Greg conducted a rare plant survey, habitat assessment for potentially occurring special-status species, mapped plant communities and sensitive habitats, and assessment potential mitigation options.

**City of San Juan Capistrano, Terminal Reservoir MND, San Juan Capistrano, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg conducted a biological resource assessment, floristic inventory and rare plant survey, and prepared the biological resource section of the MND.

## Additional Professional Experience

- Senior Biologist, Impact Sciences (05/2004 – 02/2009)
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveying Biologist, SWCA (05/2008 - 07/2008)
- Environmental Scientist/Biologist, ENSR International (04/2003 - 5/2004)
- Environmental Scientist, Rincon Environmental Consultants, Inc (10/2001-04/2004)
- Project Manager/ Field Biologist, Pacific Agricultural Research and Vintners Lab (06/1999 - 09/2001)



## JON WEST

Associate Biologist II, Southern California Biological Resources and Land Management

Jon West is an Associate Biologist II in ESA's Biological Resources and Land Management Group and has over 4 years of experience as a biologist with private consulting firms and federal agencies. Jon has worked on numerous community development projects, solar and wind development, infrastructure, and water agency projects throughout Southern California and the southwest region. He has a wide variety of experience in biology and resource management, including habitat assessments and focused surveys for rare and special-status plants and wildlife. Other experience includes biological and mitigation monitoring, avian studies and nest searches, wetland and riparian jurisdictional delineations, vegetation mapping, terrestrial mammal trapping, and exotic plant management. Jon also has experience with GPS and ArcGIS software, and provides a variety of technical analysis functions in support of CEQA, NEPA and Endangered Species Act compliance and documentation.

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### Education

B.A. Environmental Studies

B.A. Writing,

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

**Years Experience: 05**

### Relevant Training

38 Hour Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Training Program

USFWS protocol-level surveys for southwest willow flycatcher presence/absence surveys and nest monitoring.

USFWS protocol-level surveys for arroyo toad presence/absence and breeding surveys.

Successful CEQA Compliance – UCLA Extension.

### Professional Affiliations

Association of Environmental Professionals – Channel Counties Chapter

Wildlife Society – Western Section

Los Angeles Audubon Society – western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) survey volunteer

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## Relevant Experience

### Focused Studies

**California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Arroyo Toad Monitoring Plan. Los Padres National Forest, CA. *Wildlife Biologist and Technical Analyst.*** Jon assisted ESA with biological monitoring and technical analysis for DWR's monitoring program for the federally endangered arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) and other special-status species including California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata pallida*), and two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) in middle Piru Creek in the Los Padres National Forest. Jon assisted in formulating and implementing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved monitoring plan, and conducting field surveys to monitor *A. californicus* reproductive success, habitat quality, and hydrological features on Piru Creek.

**DWR Lake Perris Remediation Project. Riverside County, CA. *Wildlife Biologist.*** Jon assisted ESA in performing protocol-level presence/absence surveys for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) at Lake Perris and multiple mitigation sites in Riverside County. Focused surveys were performed to assist in assessing impacts from a drawdown of the lake and to provide the basis for impact mitigation under the MSHCP.

**Aero Lower West Biota Surveys. Kern County, CA. *Deputy Project Manager, Wildlife Biologist.*** Jon assisted ESA in performing biota surveys for a technical biological study for Aero Energy's submittal package to Kern County for pursuing wind energy development in the Tehachapi Pass Wind Resource Area. Jon helped coordinate and perform focused bird and bat studies in accordance with the California Energy Commission's *Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development*. Bat studies were conducted using digital mist netting and SonoBat software to analyze and compare high-resolution full-spectrum sonograms of bat echolocation calls. Jon assisted with coordinating field efforts and performing

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

focused surveys for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Jon also provided technical analysis in drafting the technical biological report.

**San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) Wind Interconnection Project. San Diego County, CA. *Technical Analyst and Biological Technician.*** Jon assisted ESA in developing a Biological Resources Technical Report and Proponent's Environmental Assessment for SDG&E's project to construct a switchyard and 6.7 miles of interconnection facilities to provide transmission interconnection for current and future wind energy projects in east San Diego County. Jon performed general wildlife reconnaissance surveys and focused rare plant surveys on the site and assisted SDG&E with siting of transmission poles and stringing sites in the field. Jon also provided technical analysis in developing the reports for the Project.

**DWR Piru Creek Special Use Permit Renewal. Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, CA. *Technical Analyst and Wildlife Biologist.*** Jon assisted ESA with completing a Biological Assessment in support of DWR's renewal of a Special Use Permit to access and maintain the Piru Creek Gauging Station in Los Padres National Forest. Presence/absence surveys and habitat assessments were conducted for special-status species including arroyo toad, southwestern pond turtle, red-legged frog, and two-striped garter snake. Jon also assisted in the technical analysis of biological data and project plans while drafting the document in consultation with DWR, USFS, and USFWS.

**DWR Templin Highway Culvert Repair. Angeles National Forest, San Bernardino County, CA. *Biological Technician.*** Jon assisted ESA with conducting biological resources reconnaissance surveys and performing jurisdictional wetland delineations in support of DWR's environmental compliance and federal permitting for installation of a new culvert below Templin Highway. Jon assisted in characterizing and mapping vegetation in the project area, conducting a floristic inventory and rare plant survey, and surveying for special-status wildlife including arroyo toad and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*).

**Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) Vegetation Plan. Los Angeles County, CA. *Biological Technician and Technical Analyst.*** Jon assisted ESA in developing and implementing a vegetation plan to satisfy requirements of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Order of Abatement for the landfill. The vegetation plan included augmentation of existing vegetation that remained after a wildfire swept through the site, selection of new planting trees, maintaining plants to maturity, replacement of dead trees, and an analysis of ownership of properties downslope of the landfill site. Jon performed field reconnaissance and monitoring surveys and provided technical analysis in developing and implementing the vegetation plan.

**Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan. Los Angeles County, CA. *Technical Analyst and Biological***

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

**Technician.** Jon assisted ESA in preparing an EIR and Biological Technical Report for the SCVSD's project which aims to provide alternatives to reduce chloride discharges into the Santa Clara River in compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Chloride TMDL limit levels of 100 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for the District's wastewater treatment and discharge facilities. Jon performed field reconnaissance surveys of the site and provided technical analysis in drafted the reports for the Project.

**Cadiz Groundwater Project. San Bernardino County, CA. Biological Technician and Technical Analyst.** Jon assisted ESA with developing a Biological Technical Report and EIR for Cadiz, Inc's. Project to develop a water conservation program that involves capturing natural recharge in the Fenner and northern Bristol valley's and implementing a groundwater storage component that would involve extraction of native groundwater from subsurface groundwater in storage. Jon performed reconnaissance biological surveys and focused rare plant surveys of the proposed pipeline corridor and other project impact areas.

**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Environmental Constraints Assessment for Recycled Water Reservoir Site. Los Angeles County, CA. Technical Analyst and Biological Technician.** Jon assisted ESA in conducting a reconnaissance-level biological survey and drafting a constraints assessment identifying fatal flaws and significant environmental and regulatory hurdles to developing a reservoir site in the Santa Monica Mountains.

**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Seminole Check Valve Project. Los Angeles County, CA. Technical Analyst and Biological Technician.** Jon assisted ESA with completing a Biological Constraints Assessment for LVMWD's proposed project to install three check valves as safety measures to protect an existing potable water main that passes through a canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains. The assessment evaluated the existing conditions of biological resources in the area and identified potential impacts to said resources as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

**Tylerhorse Wind Energy Project. Kern County, CA. Technical Analyst.** Jon assisted ESA with developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to analyze potential impacts to environmental resources from the construction, operation, and maintenance of up to 40 wind turbines in the Tehachapi Pass Wind Resource Area. The analysis included the proposed project as well as three alternatives.

**DWR California Aqueduct East Branch Extension Project. San Bernardino County, CA. Biological Technician.** Jon assisted ESA with conducting biological resources reconnaissance surveys for special-status wildlife and rare and special-status plants along segments of DWR's proposed East Branch Extension Project.

**Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 (LACWWD40) Regional Recycled Water Project. Los Angeles County, CA. Biological Technician**

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

*and Technical Analyst.* Jon is assisted ESA with conducting biological resource reconnaissance surveys and providing technical analysis in support of LACWWD40's Program EIR for the Project.

**Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Baker Water Treatment Plant Project. Orange County, CA. *Biological Technician and Technical Analyst.*** Jon assisted ESA with conducting biological resources reconnaissance surveys and providing technical analysis in support of IRWD's Program EIR for the Project.

**24233 The Old Road Focused Biological Constraints Assessment. Los Angeles County, CA. *Biological Technician and Technical Analyst.*** Jon assisted ESA with conducting a focused Biological Constraints Assessment, oak tree survey, and providing support with Los Angeles County permitting support for a private development project in Newhall, CA. The focused study was conducted for submittal to the Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC).

**Saddle Crest Homes Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Orange County, CA. *Biological Technician and Technical Analyst.*** Jon assisted ESA with developing an EIR for the proposed development of 65 single family homes on approximately 113 acres within the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan area of Orange County. Jon performed field reconnaissance surveys on-site and provided technical analysis for the EIR's evaluation of two project designs.

## **Construction Monitoring**

**San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) TL-680A Reconductor Project. San Diego County, CA. *Biological and Wetland Monitor.*** Jon served as a construction monitor for biological and wetland resources for SDG&E's Project to reconductor approximately 4.5 miles of existing and new transmission and distribution lines along TL-680 in Oceanside and Carlsbad, CA. Duties included conducting pre-construction reconnaissance surveys for special-status species, nesting birds, and other sensitive biological and wetland resources. Other responsibilities included holding pre-construction meetings with crews and monitoring construction activities to assist crews in avoiding and minimizing impacts to NCCP habitats during project-related activities.

**U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project. Riverside County, CA. *Compliance Monitor.*** Jon assisted ESA in providing BLM-third party compliance monitoring and documentation as part of the Project's Environmental and Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan (ECCMP). The project includes the construction of a 550-megawatt solar photovoltaic generating facility and 220-kilovolt generation interconnection line on approximately 4,144 acres of BLM-managed land in the Mojave Desert.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting**

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

**Program (MMRP). Los Angeles County, CA. Construction Monitor.** Jon is assisting ESA's Consulting Mitigation Monitoring Team with providing on-site construction monitoring and reporting for MWD's Inlet Conduit Construction, Power Systems and Seismic Upgrades, and Filter Rehabilitation Demonstration Projects, respectively. Jon is monitoring construction activities and mitigation measures, and providing reporting and communication documentation in support of the Project's MMRP.

**Southern California Edison (SCE) Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project. Los Angeles County, CA. Construction and Bird Nest Monitor.** Jon monitored construction activities and active bird nests on Segments 4-11 of SCE's Project to construct transmission lines, substations, and other support structures intended to connect renewable energy generated at the Tehachapi Pass Wind Resource Area to the Greater Los Angeles Area. Jon performed pre-construction reconnaissance surveys and monitored construction activities and active bird nests to reduce impacts to sensitive biological resources from project-related activities. Other duties included monitoring for burrowing owls and other nesting bird species, ensuring compliance with adopted BMP's, and communicating with crews.

**Long Beach Unified School District Early College Academic and Training School Project. Los Angeles County, CA. Biological Monitor.** Under the provisions of the Project's MMRP, Jon monitored protected oak trees and nesting birds during demolition activities and worked with the Project's engineer on-site to ensure that activities did not negatively impact protected biological resources.

**County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Steven Sorensen County Park, Gymnasium/Community Building Project. Los Angeles County, CA. Biological Monitor.** Jon assisted ESA with providing biological resources mitigation monitoring and reporting for Phase III of the Project. Monitoring responsibilities included pre-construction focused surveys for burrowing owl and southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus Ramona*). Other duties included pre-construction terrestrial mammal trapping and relocation, and implementing an employee education and awareness training program.

**U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ocotillo Wind Energy Project. Imperial County, CA. Biological Monitor.** Jon assisted ESA with conducting pre-construction biological resources clearance surveys for meteorological tower installation in support of the Ocotillo Wind Energy Project in the Sonoran Desert of Imperial County, CA. Pre-construction clearance surveys were conducted for rare and special-status vegetation and wildlife.

**Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Newport Trunk Sewer Biological Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Orange County, CA. Biological Monitor.** Jon assisted ESA in providing biological monitoring in support of OCSD's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project located in the area of the Santa Ana River Marsh. Monitoring

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

responsibilities included BMP inspections, special-status plant and wildlife clearance surveys, nest searches, and supporting employee education and awareness programs.

### Prior to ESA

**U.S Bureau of Reclamation Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Management Plan. Lower Colorado River, CA/AZ. *Biological Technician and Survey Coordinator.*** Jon conducted USFWS protocol-level, presence/absence surveys and nest monitoring for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) along the lower Colorado River. In addition to performing focused surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher, Jon also surveyed for other special-status bird species such as least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*), clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris*), black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), and yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*). Study methods included collecting resight and behavioral data for *E. traillii*, analyzing microclimate conditions, and maintaining field data equipment, such as data loggers. Jon collected hydrology, vegetation, and wildlife data in the field for field reports, and used GPS to map localities of *E. traillii* and other biological resource data.

**National Park Service. White Sands National Monument, NM. *Biological Science Technician.*** As a member of the Exotic Plant Management Team, Jon surveyed and mitigated exotic plant species, including salt cedar (*Tamarix*) and African rue (*Peganum harmala*) in backcountry environments using foliar spray and cut-stump treatment techniques in accordance with NPS protocol and safety procedures. He used GPS and ArcMap software to document and map localities of exotic plant infestations and treatment areas, maintained and analyzed exotic plant management data, and completed a management report to the NPS Exotic Plant Management Team. He also conducting various wildlife, hydrology, and paleontology surveys in support of NPS and independent research efforts.

**BLM Resource Management Plan. Vernal, UT. *Biological Technician.*** Jon conducted USBLM protocol-level presence/status surveys for special-status plants, including Uintah basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*) and Pariette cactus (*Sclerocactus brevispinus*) in the oil and gas fields of the Uinta basin, Utah. Jon also conducted habitat delineation surveys for Graham's penstemon (*Penstemon grahamii*) in backcountry environments. Used GPS to map habitat delineations as well as proposed oil pad and pipeline locations.



# PATRICK MCCONNEL

Biologist

Patrick has over eleven years experience in field biology, primarily in the subject area of botany, and has been involved in numerous survey efforts for state and federally listed plant species in a variety of ecosystems. He has been instrumental in the design of experimental efforts involving manipulation of habitat variables related to the success of the federally endangered willow monardella (*Monardella viminea*), the federally threatened thread leaf brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), designed and carried out long-term monitoring programs for the State endangered Orcutt's hazardia (*Hazardia orcuttii*), and the federally threatened San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*). His experience incorporates current research and knowledge of monitoring methodology for chaparral, scrub, grassland, and forest systems, and has a working knowledge of statistical theory and practice. He has written several management plans, dozens of reports, and is proficient in ArcGIS and ArcPad software. Patrick is also involved with plant restoration in coastal and desert areas of California, he has a strong insect taxonomy background, and is permitted to survey for coastal California gnatcatchers (*Poliophtila californica californica*).

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## Education

MS, Biology, Emphasis in Ecology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA,

BS, Biology, Emphasis in Ecology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA,

## 11 Years Experience

### Permits

USFWS Threatened Species Permit # TE 162656-0 (Cagn)

Additional Training: California Anostracan and Notostracan Identification, completed practical exam August 2005

## Professional Affiliations

California Invasive Plant Council: Biology and Identification Instructor

California Native Plant Society: Former Vegetation Co-Chair for San Diego Chapter  
Southern California Botanists

## Relevant Experience

### **Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Malibu Bluffs and Coral Canyon Campsites and Trail Improvement Project, Malibu, Los Angeles County, CA. Lead Botanist.**

Patrick conducted a focused rare plant survey botanical inventory at two proposed campsites in Malibu, CA. The project also included trail improvement areas. Patrick identified all plant species on the sites and provided a technical plant report for submittal to the California Coastal Commission.

### **Center for Natural Lands Management, San Diego County, CA. Preserve Manager.**

Responsible for the management of five preserves. Developed habitat evaluation procedures for San Diego thornmint, thread-leaf brodiaea (including estimation procedures), Orcutt's hazardia, wart-stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), coast scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), coast live oak woodland, valley needlegrass habitat, and developed long-term monitoring methodology for coastal sage scrub habitat among our north San Diego County preserves. Surveyed for and developed plant species lists for City of Carlsbad properties, and in the process drew attention to a species previously thought extinct; the exceedingly rare Wiggins Cryptantha (*Cryptantha wigginsii*). Created three management plans, and is responsible for the entirety of annual reports and work plans for each preserve that go to the agencies. These reports include geographical information relating to species distribution and abundance, and thus utilize ESRI ArcGIS 9.0 geographic information systems software. Use Systat software for both univariate and multivariate analyses of data relating to differences, interactions, estimation procedures, linear and non-linear modeling, and graphical presentation. Reports plant population and vegetative cover trend data, including population estimation, cover estimation, power and area curve comparisons used for improving field collection techniques. Patrick has installed and maintained of four restoration areas, totaling almost ten acres. Performed

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

Property Analyses Records (PARs) using the Center's unique software to determine cost, in perpetuity, of managing open spaces. Recently completed mapping a preserve under his management using the new Vegetation Classification Manual for Western San Diego County (CNPS vegetation association classification methodology), and have also mapped many properties using the updated Holland methodology. Performs presence/absence surveys of the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher.

**Ramona Airport, Ramona, CA. *Botanist.*** Botanist for vernal pool floral surveys at the Ramona Airport vernal pool complex. Surveys included species richness, cover data collection, and comparison among pools for the purpose of establishing baseline conditions for created and enhanced pools. Consulted with maintenance contractors and supervised crews in weed removal activities.

**Buchman Springs Road, San Diego County, CA. *Botanist.*** Developed species list, and mapped vegetation assemblages for the Buchman Springs Road Project, entailing over five miles of right of way. Identified and mapped rare plants occurring along the right of way, and identified potential rare species locations based on habitat variables and CNDDDB information.

**Cocklebur Mesa Ecosystem Conservation and Enhancement Plan, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA. *Biologist.*** Responsible for collection, organization, and presentation of information relating to the current knowledge of the ecology of vernal pool, coastal sage scrub, grassland, riparian, marsh, and beach plant communities at Cocklebur Mesa. Research for suggested management actions included correspondence with local experts at San Diego State University, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Carlsbad.

**Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P., MCB Camp Pendleton Pipeline Restoration Project, Oceanside, CA. *Biologist.*** Monitored restoration progress in habitats representing coastal sage scrub, wetland, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, freshwater seep, oak woodland, non-native grassland, and native grassland along the Project also included mitigation for impacts to the federally threatened thread-leaf brodiaea populations along the pipeline. Responsible for qualitatively, and quantitatively monitoring these habitats during the last season of required reporting, helped in the production of the final report to Base, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Drafted a suggested alternative mitigation for the thread-leaf brodiaea populations impacted by the construction of this pipeline. Research for this report involved current and past work with the restoration of this species, and suggesting alternative research that served to increase understanding of the species' ecology.

**San Diego State University Foundation Resource Assessment Program.** Responsible for surveying and building a species list for the newly acquired San Felipe Wildlife Management Area in eastern San Diego County. Involved mapping the distribution and abundance of state and CNPS listed rare plants throughout this area. Aided the Dept. of Fish and Game in mapping vegetation assemblages using CNPS rapid assessment criteria.