

### **SECTION 3.0**

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS, IMPACTS, MITIGATION, AND LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

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This section of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluates the potential of the proposed Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development (proposed initiative) to result in significant impacts to the environment. This section provides a full scope of environmental analysis in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines).

The Initial Study for the proposed initiative determined that there was no evidence that the proposed initiative would cause significant environmental effects related to four environmental resources: agriculture and forestry resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and mineral resources.<sup>1</sup> The Initial Study identified the potential for the proposed initiative to result in significant impacts to 13 environmental resources warranting further analysis: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems. As a result of the detailed evaluation contained in this EIR, it has been determined that the proposed initiative would not result in potentially significant impacts to noise, population and housing, or transportation and traffic. However, the proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, public services, recreation, utilities and service systems, and energy.

Each section provides the regulatory framework, existing conditions, thresholds of significance, impact analysis, cumulative impact analysis, mitigation measures for significant impacts, and level of significance after mitigation. The applicable federal, State, regional, County, and local statutes and regulations that govern individual environmental resources that must be considered by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in the decision-making process are included in the regulatory framework described for each environmental resource. The existing conditions portion of the analysis has been prepared in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines and includes a description of the environment in the proposed initiative study area. The existing conditions are described based on literature review and archived resources, and agency coordination. Significance thresholds were established in accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The potential for cumulative impacts was considered in relation to four related projects identified as a result of scoping and agency consultation. Mitigation measures were derived from public and agency input and state-of-the-practice engineering methods. The level of significance after mitigation was evaluated in accordance with the thresholds of significance and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigations to reduce potentially significant impacts to below the significance threshold. The impact analysis contained in this environmental document is based solely on the implementation of the proposed initiative as described in Section 2, *Project Description*. The regulatory requirements that exist pursuant to federal, State, and local statutes and regulations were also considered in the amelioration of environmental impacts (Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). In addition, the County will notify parties that are eligible for the use of hauled water as a source of potable water to support development of a single-family residence, pursuant to the proposed initiative, of additional Best Practices that would be effective in reducing

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<sup>1</sup> County of Los Angeles. September 2014. County of Los Angeles Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development Initial Study. Prepared by: Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, CA.

impacts on the environment resulting from activities associated with construction, occupancy, or maintenance of the residence (Appendix D, *Best Practices*). While these Best Practices would be quite effective where implemented, the County lacks the statutory authority to compel implementation of the Best Practices. Therefore, the Best Practices were not taken into consideration when evaluating the level of significance after mitigation.

## SECTION 3.1 AESTHETICS

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As a result of the Initial Study (Appendix F),<sup>1</sup> the County of Los Angeles (County) determined that the proposed Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development (proposed initiative) had the potential to result in impacts to aesthetics. Therefore, this issue has been carried forward for detailed analysis in this Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The analysis of aesthetics consists of a summary of the regulatory framework that guides the decision-making process, a description of the existing conditions at the proposed initiative study area, thresholds for determining if the proposed initiative would result in significant impacts, anticipated impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative), mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation. Aesthetics were evaluated with regard to the 1968 National Trails System Act;<sup>2</sup> the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Scenic Highway System<sup>3</sup> designations; the Conservation and Natural Resources Element<sup>4</sup> of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035; the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country (Antelope Valley Area Plan);<sup>5</sup> the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan;<sup>6</sup> and a review of the Los Angeles County Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance.<sup>7</sup> An Aesthetics Technical Report was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed initiative (Appendix G, *Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development Aesthetics Technical Report*).

### Definitions

**Agricultural Land Use Pattern:** Agricultural areas are characterized by production of crops, raising of animals, and small-scale sale of products grown on the property. Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code establishes agricultural zones as areas where crop production, grazing, and low-density single-family residential uses are permitted.<sup>8</sup> Agricultural areas can overlap with rural areas, as agricultural activities are often permitted in rural areas.

**Background:** Over 15 miles away from viewer/viewpoint.

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<sup>1</sup> Sapphos Environmental, Inc. September 2014. County of Los Angeles Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development Initial Study. Prepared for: County of Los Angeles.

<sup>2</sup> National Park Service. 12 July 2012. The National Trails System Act. Also found in United States Code, Volume 16, Sections 1241-1251. Available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html>

<sup>3</sup> California Department of Transportation. Accessed 11 April 2014. Scenic Highway Program: Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (OD) Routes. Available online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/cahisys.htm>

<sup>4</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035: Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

<sup>6</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd\\_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 28 September 2012. Ordinance No. 2012-0047. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord\\_outdoor-lighting.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord_outdoor-lighting.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. n.d. Zoning Ordinance Summary – Agricultural Zones. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/luz/summary/category/agricultural\\_zones/](http://planning.lacounty.gov/luz/summary/category/agricultural_zones/)

**Contrast:** The opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape.

**Designated Open Space:** The County of Los Angeles General Plan has established an Open Space Resource Areas designation for public and private lands and waters that are preserved in perpetuity or for long-term open space and recreational uses. Existing open spaces in the unincorporated areas include County parks and beaches, conservancy lands, state parklands, and federal lands. Open spaces can also include deed-restricted open space parcels and easements.<sup>9</sup>

**Foreground:** Less than five miles away from viewer/viewpoint.

**Glare:** Perceived glare is the unwanted and potentially objectionable sensation as observed by a person looking directly into the light source (e.g., the sun, the sun's reflection, automobile headlights, or other light fixtures). Reflective surfaces on existing buildings, car windshields, and so forth can expose people and property to varying levels of glare.

**Middleground:** Between five and 15 miles away from viewer/viewpoint.

**Rural Land Use Pattern:** The County of Los Angeles General Plan defines rural land as low-density residential land with a permitted maximum density range of one dwelling per acre to one dwelling unit per 40 acres, or nonresidential land with a maximum floor-area-ratio of 0.5, with the intended land uses of single-family residences, equestrian and animal use, and agricultural and related activities.<sup>10</sup>

**Scenic Resources:** Significant visual resources identified by local planning documents that can be maintained and enhanced to promote a positive image in the community, such as natural open spaces, topographic formations, and landscapes that contribute to a high level of visual quality. Natural landforms and landscapes are often established as scenic resources, such as lakes, rivers and streams, mountain meadows, and oak woodlands. However, scenic resources can also include man-made open spaces and the built environment, such as parks, trails, nature preserves, sculpture gardens, and similar features.<sup>11</sup>

**State-designated Scenic Highway:** The State Scenic Highway Program was created in 1963 to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors through special conservation treatment. A highway may be designated scenic depending upon how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler's enjoyment of the view.<sup>12</sup>

**Suburban Land Use Pattern:** A suburb is a residential area or a mixed-use area located at the outskirts of a city or large town, either existing as part of a city or urban area or as a separate residential

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<sup>9</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 6: Land Use Element. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 6: Land Use Element. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd\\_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Available online at [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf)

community within commuting distance of a city.<sup>13</sup> The American English Dictionary<sup>14</sup> defines a suburb as an area outside a city but near it and consisting mainly of homes, sometimes also having stores and small businesses. Suburban areas typically have low to moderate residential density.

**Urban Land Use Pattern:** The American English Dictionary<sup>15</sup> defines urban as of or in a city or town, and a city as a place where many people live, with many houses, businesses, and so forth, and that is bigger than a town. Urban areas are typically characterized by a high density of development, including single- and multi-family homes and city centers.

**Viewshed:** The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

### 3.1.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

#### Federal

##### *1968 National Trails System Act*

The 1968 National Trails System Act instituted a national system of recreation, scenic and historic trails, and standards to preserve the scenic value of these trails.<sup>16</sup> The Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail (also known as the Pacific Crest Trail or PCT) is designated as a National Scenic Trail, established in Section 5 of the Act. National scenic trails are designated extended trails (at least 100 miles in length) intended to provide maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass. The PCT is primarily administered by the U.S. Forest Service where it passes through the western portion of the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea and the eastern portion of the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Natural scenic trails may be located as to represent desert, marsh, grassland, mountain, canyon, river, forest, and other areas, as well as landforms that exhibit significant characteristics of the physiographic regions of the United States. Section 7(a)(2) of the 1968 Act establishes the relationship between the trail and the management of adjacent land:<sup>17</sup>

Development and management of each segment of the National Trails System shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any established multiple-use plans for the specific area in order to insure continued maximum benefits from the land.

The 1982 Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan provides guidelines and criteria for design and location of the PCT.<sup>18</sup> Specifically, these guidelines state that the most desirable location for

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<sup>13</sup> Merriam-Webster. Accessed 1 June 2015. Suburb. Available at: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/suburb>

<sup>14</sup> Cambridge University Press. 2015. American English Dictionary. Suburb. Available online at: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/suburb>

<sup>15</sup> Cambridge University Press. 2015. American English Dictionary. Urban. Available online at: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/urban>

<sup>16</sup> National Park Service. 12 July 2012. The National Trails System Act. Also found in United States Code, Volume 16, Sections 1241-1251. Available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html>

<sup>17</sup> National Park Service. 12 July 2012. The National Trails System Act. Also found in United States Code, Volume 16, Sections 1241-1251. Available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html>

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region. January 1982. Comprehensive Management

the PCT will avoid established highways, unattractive motor roads, mining areas, power and telephone lines, existing commercial and industrial developments, fences, and other features incompatible with the natural condition of the trail, and with its use for outdoor recreation. Where the trail encounters such developments, it should be located so as not to adversely affect, or conflict with, the purpose of the development. Where the trail passes through right-of-ways on private land, signs should notify the trail user where Federal land ends and private land begins, and the limits of the right-of-way. Natural vegetation, topography, or natural plantings shall also be used, where possible, to screen objectionable features from the view of the trail user.

## State

### ***California Scenic Highway Program, Sections 260 through 263<sup>19</sup>***

The California Scenic Highway Program preserves and protects scenic highway corridors throughout the State of California from changes that would diminish their aesthetic value. Caltrans designates scenic highway corridors and establishes those highways that are eligible for the program. The program was created in 1963 with the enactment of the State Scenic Highways Law. The street and highway code includes a list of those highways that are either designated or considered eligible for designation.<sup>20</sup> The purpose of the Scenic Highway Program is to enhance and protect scenic resources along California highways in the following ways:<sup>21</sup>

- Protect the scenic corridor from encroachment of incompatible land uses, such as junkyards, dumps, concrete plants, and gravel pits.
- Mitigate activities within the corridor that detract from its scenic quality by proper siting, landscaping, or screening.
- Prohibit billboards and regulate on-site signs so they do not detract from scenic views.
- Make development more compatible with the environment and in harmony with the surroundings.
- Regulate grading to prevent erosion, cause minimal alteration of existing contours, and preserve important vegetative features along the highway.
- Preserve views of hillsides by minimizing development on steep slopes and along ridgelines.
- Prevent the need for noise barriers (sound walls) by requiring a minimum setback for residential development adjacent to a scenic highway.

When Caltrans determines that a proposed scenic highway satisfies its qualifications for designation, the local governing body, with citizen support, must adopt a program to protect the scenic corridor.<sup>22</sup> Where there is more than one governing body involved, each jurisdiction shall jointly submit

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Plan for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Available online at:  
[http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5311111.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5311111.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> California Department of Transportation. Accessed 11 April 2014. Frequently Asked Questions. Available online at:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/faq.htm>

<sup>20</sup> California Department of Transportation. Accessed 11 April 2014. Scenic Highway Program: Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (OD) Routes. Available online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/cahisys.htm>

<sup>21</sup> California Department of Transportation. Accessed 11 April 2014. The Benefits of Scenic Highway Designation. Available at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/can\\_do.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/can_do.htm)

<sup>22</sup> Caltrans Landscape Architecture Program, Division of Design. October 2008. Scenic Highway Guidelines. Available at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16\\_livability/scenic\\_highways/guidelines/scenic\\_hwy\\_guidelines\\_04-12-2012.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/guidelines/scenic_hwy_guidelines_04-12-2012.pdf)

protection measures. The zoning and land use along the highway must meet the State's legislatively required elements for scenic highway corridor protection as stated in Section IV: Designation Process, of Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines. The Corridor Protection Program for Angeles Crest Scenic Byway (California State Route 2), a designated State scenic highway, was produced by the Federal Highway Administration in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Caltrans, and many State and local partners.<sup>23</sup>

A scenic corridor is the land generally adjacent to and visible from the highway and is identified by using a motorist's line of vision. A reasonable boundary is selected when the view extends to the distant horizon. Caltrans outlines the following minimum requirements for scenic corridor protection (Section 261 of the Streets and Highways Code):

1. Regulation of land use and density of development (i.e., density classifications and types of allowable land uses)
2. Detailed land and site planning (i.e., permit or design review authority and regulations for the review of proposed developments)
3. Control of outdoor advertising (i.e., prohibition of off-premise advertising signs and control of on-premise advertising signs)
4. Careful attention to and control of earthmoving and landscaping (i.e., grading ordinances, grading permit requirements, design review authority, landscaping and vegetation requirements)
5. The design and appearance of structures and equipment (i.e., design review authority and regulations for the placement of utility structures, microwave receptors, wireless communication towers, etc.)

Caltrans is authorized by statute to revoke an official scenic highway designation if it determines that the Corridor Protection Program or the scenic quality of the corridor is no longer in compliance. Caltrans defines non-compliance for a Corridor Protection Program as a program that: (1) no longer complies with the five legislatively required elements under Section 261 of the Street and Highways Code, (2) no longer affords protection because required elements have been amended or changed, or (3) no longer is being enforced by the local governing body.

## **Local**

### ***Los Angeles County General Plan***

The County's consideration of development of single-family residences in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County is guided by the Los Angeles County General Plan. Information contained in the Conservation and Natural Resources Element<sup>24</sup> of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 has been referenced.

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<sup>23</sup> Federal Highway Administration, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, the California Department of Transportation, and state and local partners. Accessed 12 November 2015. Corridor Management Plan: Angeles Crest Scenic Byway. Available at: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3\\_019912.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3_019912.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035: Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. PDF available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf)

## *Land Use Element*

The Land Use Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 provides strategies and planning tools to facilitate and guide future development and revitalization efforts.<sup>25</sup> The County recognizes that scenic features in the region, such as the coastline and mountain vistas, are significant natural resources for the County. The Land Use Element includes policies that protect the visual quality of scenic resources, including Hillside Management Areas (HMAs), ridgelines, scenic viewsheds, and areas along scenic highways.

## *Conservation and Natural Resources Element*

The Conservation and Natural Resources Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 identifies the three officially State-Designated County Scenic Highways in the County (Angeles Crest Highway State Route 2, two sections of Mulholland Highway, and Malibu Canyon-Las Virgenes Highway from CA-1 to Lost Hills Road), describes scenic viewsheds, and identifies significant ridgelines that need to be protected and preserved. According to County General Plan Policy C/NR 13.10, significant ridgelines are identified by the following criteria:<sup>26</sup>

- Topographic complexity
- Uniqueness of character and location
- Presence of cultural or historic landmarks
- Visual dominance on the skyline or viewshed, such as the height and elevation of a ridgeline
- Environmental significance to natural ecosystems, parks, and trail systems

The Conservation and National Resources Element also states that the Los Angeles County Scenic Highway Plan was created to conform to the State Scenic Highway Program. According to State guidelines, a highway may be designated scenic depending upon how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler's enjoyment of the view. To be designated as an official State scenic highway, the County must create a corridor protection program, which must be adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Each corridor protection program must contain the following five elements related to preserving the nominated scenic highway:

- Regulation of land use and density of development
- Detailed land and site planning
- Control of outdoor advertising
- Careful attention to and control of earthmoving and landscaping
- Attention to design and appearance of structures and equipment

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<sup>25</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 6: Land Use Element. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035: Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. PDF available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf)

The Conservation and Natural Resources Element has established one goal and seven policies relevant to aesthetics in consideration of the proposed initiative:

- **Goal C/NR 13: Protected visual and scenic resources.**
- **Policy C/NR 13.1:** Protect scenic resources through land use regulations that mitigate development impacts.
- **Policy C/NR 13.2:** Protect ridgelines from incompatible development that diminishes their scenic value.
- **Policy C/NR 13.3:** Reduce light trespass, light pollution, and other threats to scenic resources.
- **Policy C/NR 13.4:** Encourage developments to be designed to create a consistent visual relationship with the natural terrain and vegetation.
- **Policy C/NR 13.5:** Encourage required grading to be compatible with the existing terrain.
- **Policy C/NR 13.8:** Manage development in Hillside Management Areas (HMAs) to protect their natural and scenic character and minimize risks from natural hazards, such as fire, flood, erosion, and landslides.
- **Policy C/NR 13.9:** Consider the following in the design of a project that is located within an HMA, to the greatest extent feasible:
  - Public safety and the protection of hillside resources through the application of safety and conservation design standards;
  - Maintenance of large contiguous open areas that limit exposure to landslide, liquefaction and fire hazard and protect natural features, such as significant ridgelines, watercourses, and SEAs [Significant Ecological Areas].

#### *General Plan Implementation Programs*

Chapter 16, *General Plan Implementation Programs*, of the County General Plan establishes the following relevant program to aesthetics in response to Conservation and Natural Resources Element Goal C/NR 13:

- **Program C/NR-6:** Scenic Resources Ordinance (timeframe: 1–2 years)
  - Prepare a Scenic Resources Ordinance that creates a scenic corridor, scenic viewshed, and significant ridgeline program and/or ordinance to protect remaining scenic resources.
  - Develop countywide ridgeline protection regulations and a countywide ridgeline map.

#### **2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country**

The Antelope Valley Area Plan - Town & Country (Antelope Valley Area Plan) was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on June 16, 2015.<sup>27</sup> The Antelope Valley Area Plan, a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan, provides planning policies for approximately 1,800 square miles of elevated desert terrain bounded by the southern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains on the south, Kern County to the north, and extending from the eastern border of the community of Agua Dulce and

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<sup>27</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

the Ventura County line on the west to the San Bernardino County line on the east, including 94.8 percent of the parcels that would be potentially affected by the proposed initiative.<sup>28</sup> The Antelope Valley Area Plan identifies 53 priority scenic drives in the Planning Area.<sup>29</sup> The Conservation and Open Space Element of the Antelope Valley Area Plan establishes the following goals and policies relevant to protecting Antelope Valley's valuable scenic resources and dark night skies in consideration of the proposed initiative:<sup>30</sup>

- **Goal COS 5:** The Antelope Valley's scenic resources, including scenic drives, water features, significant ridgelines, buttes, and Hillside Management Areas, are enjoyed by future generations.
  - **Policy COS 5.1:** Identify and protect natural landforms and vistas with significant visual value, such as the California Poppy Preserve, by designating them as Scenic Resource Areas.
  - **Policy COS 5.2:** Except within economic opportunity areas, limit the amount of potential development in Scenic Resource Areas through appropriate land use designations with very low densities in order to minimize negative impacts from future development.
  - **Policy COS 5.3:** Require new development in Hillside Management Areas to comply with applicable Zoning Code requirements, ensuring that development occurs on the most environmentally suitable portions of the land.
  - **Policy COS 5.4:** Require appropriate development standards in Hillside Management Areas that minimize grading and alteration of the land's natural contours, ensure that development pads mimic natural contours, and ensure that individual structures are appropriately designed to minimize visual impacts.
  - **Policy COS 5.5:** Require adequate erosion control measures for all development in Hillside Management Areas, both during and after construction.
  - **Policy COS 5.6:** Restrict development on buttes and designated significant ridgelines by requiring appropriate buffer zones.
  - **Policy COS 5.7:** Ensure that incompatible development is discouraged in designated Scenic Drives by developing and implementing development standards and guidelines for development within identified viewsheds of these routes (Map 4.2: Antelope Valley Scenic Drives).
  
- **Goal COS 15:** Humans and wildlife enjoy beautiful dark Antelope Valley skies unimpeded by light pollution.
  - **Policy COS 15.1:** Ensure that outdoor lighting, including street lighting, is provided at the lowest possible level while maintaining safety.

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<sup>28</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

<sup>29</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 31 March 2015. Los Angeles County Town and Country Scenic Drives Map. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/tnc\\_map4-2-20150601.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/tnc_map4-2-20150601.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Accessed 30 July 2015. Town & Country – Antelope Valley Area Plan Update. Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

- **Policy COS 15.2:** Prohibit continuous all-night outdoor lighting in rural areas, unless required for land uses with unique security concerns, such as fire stations, hospitals, and prisons.
- **Policy COS 15.3:** Replace outdated, obtrusive, and inefficient light fixtures with fixtures that meet dark sky and energy efficiency objectives.
- **Policy COS 15.4:** Require compliance with the provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District throughout the unincorporated Antelope Valley.
- **Goal COS 16:** Native vegetation thrives throughout the Antelope Valley, reducing erosion, flooding, and wind-borne dust and sand.
  - **Policy COS 16.1:** Except within Economic Opportunity Areas, require new development to minimize removal of native vegetation. Discourage the clear-scraping of land and ensure that a large percentage of land is left in its natural state.
  - **Policy COS 16.2:** Maximize the use of native vegetation in landscaped areas, provided that vegetation meets all applicable requirements of the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works.

The Land Use Element of the Antelope Valley Area Plan establishes the following goals and policies relevant to protecting Antelope Valley’s valuable scenic resources in consideration of the proposed initiative:<sup>31</sup>

- **Goal LU 1:** A land use pattern that maintains and enhances the rural character of the unincorporated Antelope Valley.
  - **Policy LU 1.3:** Maintain the majority of the unincorporated Antelope Valley as Rural Land, allowing for agriculture, equestrian and animal-keeping uses, and single-family homes on large lots.
- **Goal LU 2:** A land use pattern that protects environmental resources.
  - **Policy LU 2.1:** Limit the amount of potential development in Significant Ecological Areas, including Joshua Tree Woodlands, wildlife corridors, and other sensitive habitat areas, through appropriate land use designations with very low residential densities, as indicated in the Land Use Policy Map (Map 2.1) of this Area Plan.
  - **Policy LU 2.2:** Except within economic opportunity areas, limit the amount of potential development near and within Scenic Resource Areas, including water features, significant ridgelines, and Hillside Management Areas, through appropriate land use designations with very low residential densities, as indicated in the Land Use Policy Map (Map 2.1) of this Area Plan.

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<sup>31</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

The Economic Development Element of the Antelope Valley Area Plan establishes the following goal and policy relevant to protecting Antelope Valley's valuable scenic resources in consideration of the proposed initiative:<sup>32</sup>

- **Goal ED 1:** A healthy and balanced economic base in the Antelope Valley that attracts a wide range of industries and businesses and provides high-paying jobs for local residents.
  - **Policy ED 1.16:** Preserve the scenic resources of the Antelope Valley, including Scenic Drives, Significant Ridgelines and Significant Ecological Areas, in such a way that can contribute to the economic activities in the area.

The Antelope Valley Area Plan recommends the development and implementation of an Antelope Valley Scenic Drives Program to ensure that the scenic value of Scenic Drives is maintained in the years to come, which may include:<sup>33</sup>

- Required Visual Impact Assessment for proposed development within the viewsheds of identified Scenic Drives;
- Required finding for discretionary entitlements that the proposed development is compatible with the scenic character of the route; or
- Applicable development standards for developing along a Scenic Drive.

This program has not yet been developed.

The Community-Specific Land Use Concepts Element of the Antelope Valley Area Plan also establishes the desired land uses for each area and identifies potential incompatible land uses.<sup>34</sup> Of the 19 rural areas defined in the plan, 17 are located in or partially overlap with the proposed initiative study area:

- **Acton:** The area should remain a rural community to protect its unique identity. The majority of new residential development in Acton shall be directed to the rural town area instead of the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character.
- **Antelope Acres:** The area should remain a rural community to protect its unique identity. Development in the rural preserve area should be limited to single-family homes on very large lots, light and heavy agriculture, equestrian and animal-keeping uses, and other uses where appropriate.
- **Crystallaire:** The majority of new residential development in Crystallaire should be directed to the rural town area instead of the surrounding rural preserve areas, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses, provided that lots meet Zoning Code requirements for those uses.

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<sup>32</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Chapter 6: Economic Development Element. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

<sup>33</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Chapter 8: Plan Implementation. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

<sup>34</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Chapter 7: Community-Specific Land Use Concepts. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

- **Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes (The Lakes):** The majority of new residential development in Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes (collectively known as The Lakes) should be directed to the rural town areas instead of the surrounding rural preserve areas, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character.
- **Fairmont:** The entire community is considered to be a rural preserve area; development in the rural preserve area should be limited to single-family homes on very large lots, light and heavy agriculture, equestrian and animal-keeping uses, and other uses where appropriate.
- **Gorman:** Development in the rural preserve area should be limited to single-family homes on very large lots, light and heavy agriculture, equestrian and animal-keeping uses, and other uses where appropriate.
- **Green Valley:** The majority of new residential development in Green Valley should be directed to the rural town areas instead of the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character.
- **Juniper Hills:** Development in the rural town area should be limited to single-family homes on large lots, light agriculture, equestrian and animal-keeping uses, and other uses where appropriate.
- **Lake Los Angeles:** The majority of new residential development in Lake Los Angeles should be directed to the rural town areas instead of the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses, provided that lots meet Zoning Code requirements for those uses.
- **Lakeview:** The majority of new residential development in Lakeview should be directed to the rural town area instead of the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses, provided that lots meet Zoning Code requirements for those uses.
- **Leona Valley:** The area should remain a rural community to protect its unique identity. The majority of new residential development in Leona Valley should be directed to the rural town area instead of the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character.
- **Littlerock and Sun Village (Southeast Antelope Valley):** The area should remain a rural community to protect its unique identity. The majority of new residential development in Littlerock and Sun Village (collectively known as Southeast Antelope Valley) should be directed to rural town areas instead of the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses, provided that lots meet Zoning Code requirements for those uses.
- **Llano:** The majority of new residential development in Llano should be directed to the rural town area instead the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses.
- **Neenach:** The majority of new residential development in Neenach should be directed to the rural town areas instead of the surrounding rural preserve areas, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses.
- **Pearblossom:** The majority of new residential development in Pearblossom should be directed to the rural town areas instead of the surrounding rural preserve area,

provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses.

- **Roosevelt:** Community residents are concerned about the urbanization of the area and wish to remain an unincorporated rural community with a unique agricultural identity. The majority of new residential development in Roosevelt should be directed to the rural town areas instead of the surrounding rural preserve area, provided that such development is consistent with existing community character and allows for light agriculture, equestrian, and animal-keeping uses.
- **Three Points:** Development in the rural preserve area should be limited to single-family homes on very large lots, light and heavy agriculture, equestrian and animal-keeping uses, and other uses where appropriate.

### **2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan**

The Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan – One Valley One Vision (Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan) was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on November 27, 2012.<sup>35</sup> The Santa Clarita Valley Plan, a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan, provides planning policies for approximately 485 square miles, comprised of approximately 432 square miles of unincorporated County territory (including 235 square miles within National Forest boundaries) and approximately 53 square miles that are within the City of Santa Clarita.<sup>36</sup> The Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea (5.2 percent of the subject parcels potentially affected by the proposed initiative) is located within the Planning Area of the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, which comprises the entire Santa Clarita Valley and provides goals, policies, and maps to establish zoning regulations and guide new development proposals.<sup>37</sup> The 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan has designated Significant Ridgelines as valuable scenic resources to be protected during development and trail planning and construction.<sup>38</sup> Relevant guiding principles stated in the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan include:

- **Environmental Resources**
  - **5.** The natural buffer area surrounding the entire Valley, which includes the Angeles National Forest, Santa Susana, San Gabriel, Sierra Pelona, and Del Sur mountains, shall be preserved as a regional recreational, ecological, and aesthetic resource.
  - **7.** The Santa Clarita Valley's prominent ridgelines shall be preserved and hillside development shall be limited to protect their valuable aesthetic and visual qualities intrinsic to the Valley landscape.
  - **8.** Development shall be located and designed to minimize the impact of the Valley topography, emphasizing the use of grading techniques for development pads that mimic the natural topography in lieu of repetitive flat

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<sup>35</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 27 November 2012. *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Update*. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/ovov>

<sup>36</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 27 November 2012. *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*. Introduction. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov\\_2012-ch\\_00-01\\_intro.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-ch_00-01_intro.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 2012. *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd\\_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf), Page 3-4, Section IV. Planning Area.

<sup>38</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 2012. *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd\\_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf), Appendix II, Page 280, Figure CO-7: Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: Scenic Resources.

pads to the extent feasible and consistent with a community's open space objectives.

The Land Use Element of the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan has established the following goals, objectives, and policies relevant to aesthetics in consideration of the proposed initiative:

- **Goal LU-1: Urban Form** - An interconnected Valley of Villages providing diverse lifestyles, surrounded by a greenbelt of natural open space.
  - **Objective LU-1.1:** Maintain an urban form for the Santa Clarita Valley that preserves an open space greenbelt around the developed portions of the Valley, protects significant resources from development, and directs growth to urbanized areas served with infrastructure.
    - **Policy LU-1.1.4:** Preserve community character by maintaining natural features that act as natural boundaries between developed areas, including significant ridgelines, canyons, rivers and drainage courses, riparian areas, topographical features, habitat preserves, or other similar features, where appropriate.
  - **Objective LU-1.2:** Maintain the distinctive community character of villages and neighborhoods throughout the planning area by establishing uses, densities, and design guidelines appropriate to the particular needs and goals of each area, including, but not limited to the following:
    - **Policy LU-1.2.10:** In Agua Dulce, recognize the scenic and environmental qualities of Vasquez Rocks in future planning; protect the existing rural lifestyle while providing opportunities to enhance the village center; provide additional services to residents; and maintain community character in accordance with the County's Agua Dulce Community Standards District.
  - **Objective LU 1.3:** Plan for density and intensity of development that respects and is reflective of the natural terrain.
    - **Policy LU-1.3.2:** Substantially retain the integrity and natural grade elevations of significant natural ridgelines and prominent landforms that form the Valley's skyline backdrop.
    - **Policy LU-1.3.3:** Discourage development on ridgelines and lands containing 50 percent slopes so that these areas are maintained as natural open space.
- **Goal LU-6: Community Appearance** - A scenic and beautiful urban environment that builds on the community's history and natural setting.
  - **Objective LU-6.1:** Maintain the natural beauty of the Santa Clarita Valley's hillsides, significant ridgelines, canyons, oak woodlands, rivers, and streams.
    - **Policy LU-6.1.1:** Designate ridgelines throughout the planning area, and preserve these ridgelines from development by encouraging a minimum distance for grading and development from these ridgelines of 50 feet, or more if determined preferable by the reviewing authority based on site conditions.
- **Goal LU-7: Environmentally Responsible Development** – Environmentally responsible development through site planning, building design, waste reduction, and responsible stewardship of resources.
  - **Objective LU-7.6:** Protect natural habitats through site design where reasonable and feasible.

- **Policy LU-7.6.1:** Limit outdoor lighting levels to the minimum needed for safety and security, and encourage lower lighting levels when businesses are closed.

The Conservation Element provides the following goals, objectives, and policies relevant to aesthetics in consideration of the proposed initiative:

- **Goal CO-3:** Biological Resources – Conservation of biological resources and ecosystems, including sensitive habitats and species.
  - **Objective CO-3.6:** Minimize impacts of human activity and the built environment on natural plant and wildlife communities.
- **Policy CO-3.6.1:** Minimize light trespass, sky-glow, glare, and other adverse impacts on the nocturnal ecosystem by limiting exterior lighting to the level needed for safety and comfort; reduce unnecessary lighting for landscaping and architectural purposes, and encourage reduction of lighting levels during non-business nighttime hours.
- **Goal CO-6:** Scenic Resources – Preservation of scenic features that keep the Santa Clarita Valley beautiful and enhance quality of life, community identity, and property values.
  - **Objective CO-6.1:** Protect the scenic character of local topographic features.
    - **Policy CO-6.1.1:** Protect scenic canyons from overdevelopment and environmental degradation.
    - **Policy CO-6.1.2:** Preserve significant ridgelines as a scenic backdrop throughout the community by maintaining natural grades and vegetation.
    - **Policy CO-6.1.3:** Protect the scenic quality of unique geologic features throughout the planning area, such as Vasquez Rocks, by including these features within park and open space land where possible.
  - **Objective CO-6.3:** Protect the scenic character of major water bodies.
    - **Policy CO-6.3.2:** Protect the banks of the Santa Clara River and its major tributaries through open space designations and property acquisitions, where feasible, to protect and enhance the scenic character of the river valley.
  - **Objective CO-6.4:** Protect the scenic character of oak woodlands, coastal sage, and other habitats unique to the Santa Clarita Valley.
  - **Objective CO-6.5:** Maintain the scenic character of designated routes, gateways, and vista points along roadways.
  - **Objective CO-6.6:** Limit adverse impacts by humans on the scenic environment.
    - **Policy CO-6.6.1:** Enhance views of the night sky by reducing light pollution through use of light screens, downward directed lights, minimized reflective paving surfaces, and reduced lighting levels, as deemed appropriate by the reviewing authority.
- **Goal CO-10:** Open Space – Preservation of open space to meet the community's multiple objectives for resource preservation.
  - **Objective CO-10.1:** Identify areas throughout the Santa Clarita Valley which should be preserved as open space in order to conserve significant resources for long-term community benefit.
    - **Policy CO-10.1.2:** The Santa Clara River corridor and its major tributaries shall be preserved as open space to accommodate storm

water flows and protect critical plant and animal species, as follows: (Guiding Principle #6)

- Designed to maximize the full range of river amenities, including views and recreational access, while minimizing adverse impacts to the river.
- **Policy CO-10.1.5:** Maintain open space corridors along canyons and ridgelines as a way of delineating and defining communities and neighborhoods, providing residents with access to natural areas, and preserving scenic beauty.

### ***Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance***

Approximately 337,840 acres of the 340,461-acre proposed initiative study area (99.2 percent) are located within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District and subject to restrictions in terms of producing sources of light and glare at night.<sup>39</sup> The Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance, adopted in November 2012, is an amendment to Title 22 – Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code that established a rural outdoor lighting district, a supplemental district for the rural areas of the County within which outdoor lighting is regulated to maintain dark skies at night for the residents and wildlife in the district.<sup>40</sup> The ordinance also modified the community standards districts located within the district to be consistent with the dark skies ordinance. Under the ordinance, outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded on properties located in residential, agricultural, open space, or watershed zones. Drop-down lenses, mercury vapor light, ultraviolet lights, searchlights, laser lights, and other lighting that flashes, blinks, alternates, or moves are prohibited within the rural outdoor lighting district. In addition to compliance with the applicable provisions of the Building and Electrical Codes of Los Angeles County, outdoor lighting within the rural outdoor lighting district, other than street lights, is subject to the following requirements under the Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance relevant to the proposed initiative:

- For properties located in a residential, agricultural, open space, or watershed zone, outdoor light fixtures installed above 15 feet in height shall have a manufacturer's maximum output rating of no greater than 400 lumens.
- Outdoor lighting shall cause no unacceptable light trespass.
- Outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded.
- The maximum height for an outdoor light fixture, as measured from the finished grade to the top of the fixture, shall be 20 feet for a property located in a residential, agricultural, open space, or watershed zone.

In order to maintain the dark skies characteristic of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District, street lights in the district shall be prohibited except where necessary at urban cross-sections with sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, or at intersections and driveways on County roads, where the Director of Public Works finds that street lights will alleviate traffic hazards, improve traffic flow, and/or promote safety and security of pedestrians and vehicles based on Public Works' highway safety lighting standards.

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<sup>39</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. n.d. Los Angeles County Rural Outdoor Lighting District. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/map\\_t07-rural\\_outdoor\\_lighting\\_district.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/map_t07-rural_outdoor_lighting_district.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 28 September 2012. Ordinance No. 2012-0047. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord\\_outdoor-lighting.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord_outdoor-lighting.pdf)

Where street lights are installed in the district, they shall:

1. Be placed at the maximum distance apart, with the minimum lumens allowable pursuant to Public Works' highway safety lighting standards, as determined by the Director of Public Works;
2. Utilize full-cutoff (flat glass lens) luminaries so as to deflect light away from adjacent parcels; and
3. Be designed to prevent off-street illumination and glare.

### ***Community Standards Districts Ordinances***

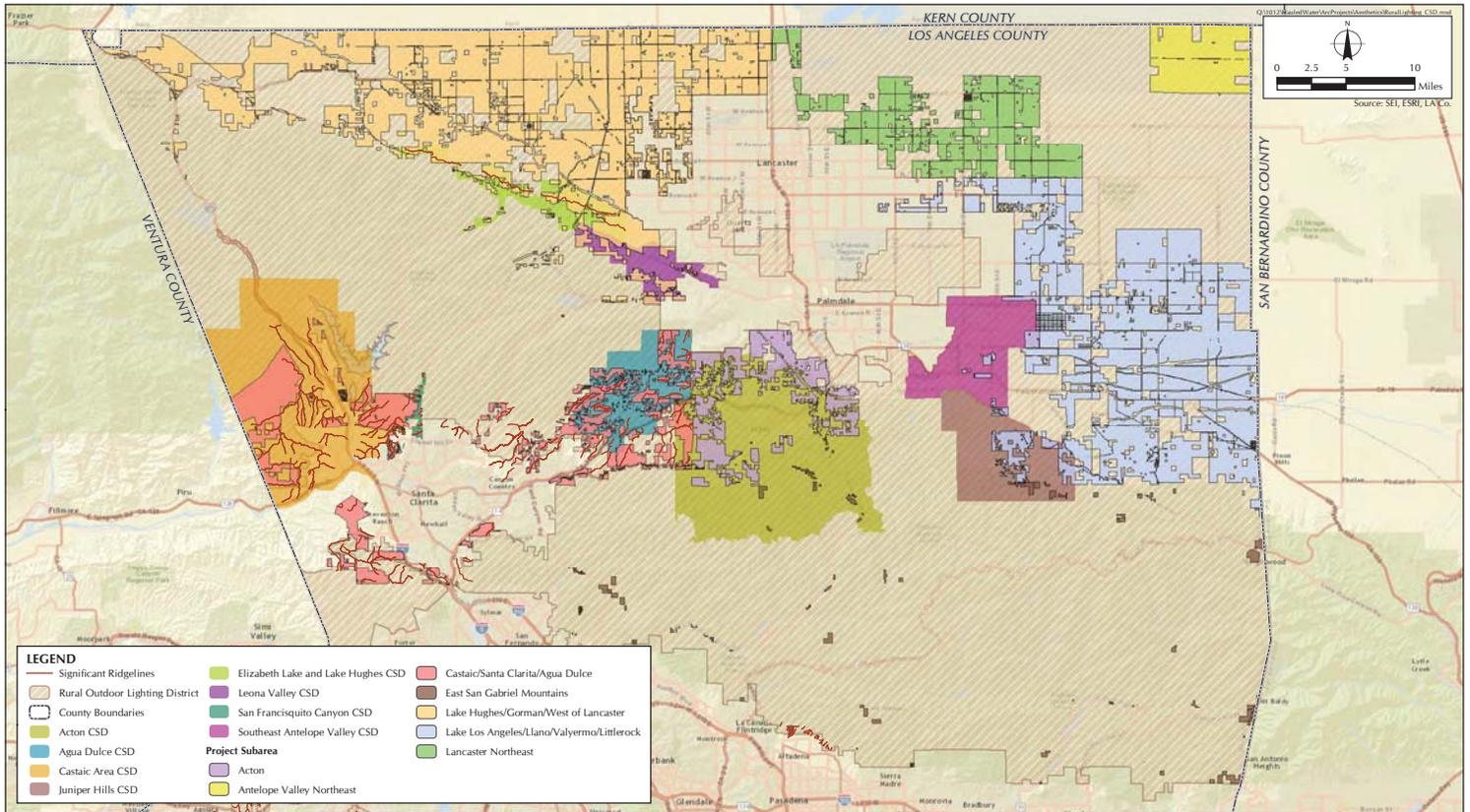
Community standards districts (CSDs) are supplemental districts that are established to provide a means of implementing special development standards for neighborhoods and communities within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County or to provide a means of addressing special problems which are unique to certain geographic areas within the County (Ord. 93-0047 § 1, 1993; Ord. 87-0130 § 1, 1987; Ord. 83-0065 § 5, 1983; Ord. 1494 Ch. 9 Art. 5 § 905.1, 1927).<sup>41</sup> CSD regulations supplement the Countywide zoning and subdivision regulations.<sup>42</sup> Properties located within CSDs must demonstrate compliance with community-wide development standards, as well as zone-specific development standards and area-specific development standards as applicable. The Acton, Agua Dulce, Altadena, Castaic Area, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, and San Francisquito Canyon CSDs establish grading, building height, and setback standards for preserving significant ridgeline areas within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce and Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subareas (Figure 3.1.1-1, *County Rural Outdoor Lighting District and CSD Ordinance Boundaries*; and Table 3.1.1-1, *Community Standards Districts*).

As shown in Table 3.1.1-1, the Agua Dulce, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, Juniper Hills, San Francisquito Canyon, and Southeast Antelope Valley CSDs establish street lighting standard; and the Acton, Agua Dulce, Castaic Area, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, Juniper Hills, Leona Valley, San Francisquito Canyon, and Southeast Antelope Valley CSDs established outdoor lighting standards. In addition to significant ridgeline provisions and outdoor lighting standards, the Action CSD establishes community-wide development standards for preservation of hillside resources by use of sensitive site design and grading techniques, preservation of native vegetation, and area-specific development standards based on the Antelope Valley Area Plan Land Use Policy Map. In addition to significant ridgeline provisions, street lighting standards, and outdoor lighting standards, the Agua Dulce CSD establishes community-wide development standards for zone-specific lot design and yard requirements. In addition to significant ridgeline provisions, the Altadena CSD establishes community-wide development standards for regular maintenance of landscaping, preservation of hillside resources by use of grading techniques that minimize disturbance to the natural hillside, zone-specific development standards, and area-specific development standards. In addition to significant ridgeline provisions and outdoor lighting standards, the Castaic Area CSD establishes community-wide development standards for painting water tanks to match the color of the surrounding landscape and screening of water tanks from public view by fast-growing, drought-tolerant native tree species or by an

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<sup>41</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Accessed 29 July 2014. Community Standards Districts. Website. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/community\\_standards\\_districts](http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/community_standards_districts)

<sup>42</sup> County of Los Angeles. n.d. County of Los Angeles, California, Code of Ordinances: Title 22 – Planning and Zoning: Division 1 – Planning and Zoning: Chapter 22.44 – Supplemental Districts: Part 2 Community Standards Districts. Website. Available online at: [https://library.municode.com/HTML/16274/level4/TIT22PLZO\\_DIV1PLZO\\_CH22.44SUDI\\_PT2COSTDI.html#TIT22PLZO\\_DIV1PLZO\\_CH22.44SUDI\\_PT2COSTDI\\_22.44.126ACCOSTD](https://library.municode.com/HTML/16274/level4/TIT22PLZO_DIV1PLZO_CH22.44SUDI_PT2COSTDI.html#TIT22PLZO_DIV1PLZO_CH22.44SUDI_PT2COSTDI_22.44.126ACCOSTD)



**FIGURE 3.1.1-1**  
County Rural Outdoor Lighting District and CSD Ordinance Boundaries

earth berm landscaped with locally indigenous vegetation; preservation of locally indigenous vegetation; required hearings for the removal or relocation of one oak tree in conjunction with single-family residence use; zone-specific development standards; and area-specific development standards. In addition to significant ridgeline provisions, street lighting standards, and outdoor lighting standards, the Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD establishes community-wide development standards for preservation of native vegetation, a preservation of viewsheds through all reasonable design measures within hillside management areas, grading standards for preservation of visual quality and community character, and zone-specific development standards. In addition to street lighting standards and outdoor lighting standards, the Juniper Hills CSD establishes community-wide development standards for conservation of existing vegetation. In addition to outdoor lighting standards, the Leona Valley CSD establishes community-wide development standards for preservation of existing natural contours, existing native vegetation, and natural rock outcropping features; and incorporation of new landscaping features that will integrate the development into the surrounding are. In addition to significant ridgeline provisions, street lighting standards, and outdoor lighting standards, the San Francisquito Canyon CSD establishes community-wide development standards for zone-specific development and area-specific development. In addition to street lighting standards and outdoor lighting standards, the Southeast Antelope Valley CSD establishes community-wide development standards for preservation of natural contours, native vegetation, and natural rock outcropping features; property maintenance to preserve visual character; zone-specific development standards, and area-specific development standards for non-residential uses. The Stonyvale CSD establishes community-wide development standards for front yard setbacks and fence height limits.

**TABLE 3.1.1-1  
COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICTS**

Community Standards District (CSD)	Number of Parcels within Subareas	Purpose of CSD	Significant Ridgeline Protection Standards	Street Lighting Standards	Outdoor Lighting Standards
Acton CSD	993 parcels – Acton subarea  158 parcels – Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea  42 parcels – East San Gabriel Mountains subarea	Protect and enhance the rural, equestrian, and agricultural character of the community and its sensitive features including significant ecological areas, floodplains, hillsides, National Forest, archaeological resources, multipurpose trail system, and Western heritage architectural theme.	Preserve to the greatest extent possible the natural silhouette in significant ridgeline areas. Significant ridgelines are the ridgelines that surround or visually dominate the Acton landscape either through their size in relation to the hillside or mountain terrain of which they are a part, or through their visual dominance as characterized by a silhouetting appearance against the sky, or through their visual dominance due to proximity and view from existing development, freeways, and highways designated as Major, Secondary or Limited Secondary on the Highway Plan.	—	Outdoor lighting shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District. Where outdoor lights are required, light fixtures in keeping with the Western frontier architectural style will be required.
Agua Dulce CSD	733 parcels – Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea	Preserve the secluded rural nature of the community; protect the equestrian, agricultural, historical, cultural, archaeological, and geological characteristics of the community; protect sensitive resources and areas, including Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park, the Santa Clara River, and Angeles National Forest, and the various floodplains, hillsides, ridgelines, rock outcroppings, and significant ecological areas located within the CSD; and minimize the development of urban infrastructure that would alter the rural character of the community, including the development of sewer and water systems, paved local streets, street lights, concrete sidewalks, and concrete flood control systems. Maintain and enhance the pedestrian and equestrian trail system within the CSD, including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.	The highest point of any structure, excluding chimneys, rooftop antennas, amateur radio antennas, roof-mounted solar panels, and wind energy conversion systems, shall be located at least 50 vertical feet and 50 horizontal feet from a significant ridgeline.  Any modification to the requirements shall require a conditional use permit, in accordance with the applicable provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 22.56 of the Los Angeles County, California, Code of Ordinances. In approving such conditional use permit, the hearing officer or Commission shall make the following findings, in addition to those required by Section 22.56.090:  i. That alternative sites within the project site have been considered and rejected due to documented hazards for potentially greater damage to biota on the alternative sites than on the subject site, as determined by a biologist; and  ii. That the overall development is designed so that grading will not occur uniformly across the project area and will be limited to the pads required for individual structures.	Street lights shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District. Where installed, street lights shall be compatible in style and material with the poles on which they are mounted.	Outdoor lighting shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.

**TABLE 3.1.1-1  
COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICTS, *Continued***

Community Standards District (CSD)	Number of Parcels within Subareas	Purpose of CSD	Significant Ridgeline Protection Standards	Street Lighting Standards	Outdoor Lighting Standards
Altadena CSD	3 parcels – East San Gabriel Mountains subarea	Ensure that new and expanded structures are compatible in size and scale with the characteristics of surrounding residential neighborhoods, protecting the light, air, and privacy of existing single-family residences from negative impacts. The CSD is also established to minimize the visual and environmental impacts of development in hillside management areas.	<p>i. The highest point of any structure shall be located at least 50 vertical feet and 50 horizontal feet from a significant ridgeline, excluding chimneys, rooftop antennas, amateur radio antennas, roof-mounted solar panels, and wind energy conversion systems.</p> <p>ii. Any modification to the standards set forth in subsection i, shall require a conditional use permit, pursuant to Part 1 of Chapter 22.56. In approving such conditional use permit, the Hearing Officer or Regional Planning Commission shall make the following findings in addition to those required by Section 22.56.090:</p> <p>(A) Alternative sites within the project site have been considered and rejected due to the presence of documented hazards or the potential for greater damage to biota, as determined by a biologist; and</p> <p>(B) The overall development is designed to comply with the development standards provided below:</p> <p>The overall development minimizes visual and environmental impacts to the surrounding area. In making this finding, the Hearing Officer or Regional Planning Commission shall require projects to comply with the following development standards regarding hillside design, where they apply to the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grading is not conducted uniformly across the entirety of the project and is limited to the pads required of individual structures.</li> <li>• Terracing and retention walls, if unshielded by landscaping and visible from downslope, are designed with varied gradients and curvilinear shapes that mimic or blend into surrounding contours.</li> <li>• Structures, retention walls, and graded areas are screened by landscaping and vegetation.</li> <li>• Structures are placed to minimize their visibility from surrounding parcels or public viewpoints downslope.</li> <li>• Structures incorporate articulated surface faces instead of flat blank walls.</li> <li>• Structures incorporate colors, materials, and textures with an average Light Reflectance Value of 35 percent or less.</li> <li>• Where new tree planting occurs, new trees blend with surrounding vegetation.</li> <li>• Existing trail right-of-ways or trailheads within the project, dedicated to the County as of the effective date of the ordinance creating this subsection, are improved if necessary to ensure their ongoing use.</li> </ul>	—	—

**TABLE 3.1.1-1  
COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICTS, *Continued***

Community Standards District (CSD)	Number of Parcels within Subareas	Purpose of CSD	Significant Ridgeline Protection Standards	Street Lighting Standards	Outdoor Lighting Standards
Castaic Area CSD	354 parcels – Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea	Protect the rural character, unique appearance, and natural resources of the Castaic Area communities.	<p>For purposes of this CSD, significant ridgelines shall consist of primary and secondary ridgelines. Except as provided below, no development, grading, construction, or improvements shall be allowed on a significant ridgeline within a 50-foot radius from every point on the crest of a primary ridgeline or within a 25-foot radius from every point on the crest of a secondary ridgeline.</p> <p><b>Significant Ridgeline Exemptions</b>            Provided an approval is obtained for an exemption as described below, the following structures or uses may be permitted on significant ridgelines, or within the respective 50-foot and 25-foot restricted areas surrounding such significant ridgelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Accessory buildings or structures;</li> <li>ii. Additions and/or modifications to an existing single-family residence;</li> <li>iii. New single-family residences where not more than one such residence is proposed to be built by the same person on contiguous parcels of land;</li> <li>iv. Open spaces, conservation areas, parks, recreation areas, and/or trails;</li> <li>v. Water tanks or transmission facilities;</li> <li>vi. Architecturally superior structures, other than new single-family residences, which maximize the aesthetic appeal of the hillsides and significant ridgelines, and minimize the disturbance of the natural setting; and</li> <li>vii. Roads providing access to any of the structures or uses described above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant Ridgeline Exemption Approval</b>            No exemption shall be allowed unless the applicant obtains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) A director's review and approval pursuant to subsection G, below, for structures or uses described in subsection i, ii, and iii; or</li> <li>(B) A conditional use permit, as provided in Part 1, Chapter 22.56, for structures or uses described in subsections iv, v, or vi. The application for the conditional use permit must contain the information either required by or described in Sections 22.56.030, 22.56.040 and, where applicable, subsections D and E of Section 22.56.215.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. In addition to any information required for the director's approval and the conditional use permit, an application for a significant ridgeline exemption approval shall also demonstrate that the proposed use:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) Is compatible with adjacent uses, the character of the neighboring community, and the goals and policies of the general plan;</li> <li>(B) Will leave the crest of the significant ridgeline in its natural state;</li> <li>(C) Is designed to minimize the amount of grading necessary and will use landscaping to minimize the visual impact of the project;</li> <li>(D) Will not be materially detrimental to the visual character of the neighborhood or the Castaic communities;</li> <li>(E) Will not impede the normal and orderly development of surrounding properties and will not promote encroachments on significant ridgelines; and</li> <li>(F) Will not degrade the visual integrity of the significant ridgeline, as verified through submission of a precise illustration and depiction.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	—	Outdoor lighting shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.

**TABLE 3.1.1-1  
COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICTS, *Continued***

Community Standards District (CSD)	Number of Parcels within Subareas	Purpose of CSD	Significant Ridgeline Protection Standards	Street Lighting Standards	Outdoor Lighting Standards
Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD	401 parcels – Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea	Enhance the quality of life in these communities by preserving and protecting their rural character and the beauty of their environmental setting.	<p>The highest point of a structure shall be located at least one hundred-fifty (150) vertical feet and one hundred-fifty (150) horizontal feet in a southerly direction from a significant ridgeline, excluding chimneys, rooftop antennas, amateur radio antennas, and wind energy conversion systems. No portion of any structure shall be located less than fifty (50) horizontal feet in a northerly direction from a significant ridgeline, excluding amateur radio antennas, chimneys, rooftop antennas, and wind energy conversion systems.</p> <p>Any modification to the requirements shall require a minor conditional use permit, as provided in Section 22.56.085. In approving such permit, the Hearing Officer or Commission shall make the following findings in addition to those required by Section 22.56.090:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Alternative sites within the project site have been considered and eliminated from consideration due to their physical infeasibility or their potential for substantial habitat damage or destruction; and</li> <li>ii. The project maintains the maximum view of the applicable significant ridgeline through design features, including, but not limited to, minimized grading; reduced structural height; use of shapes, materials, and colors that blend with the surrounding environment; and/or use of native drought-tolerant landscaping for concealment.</li> </ul>	Street lights shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District. Where installed, street lights shall be compatible in style and material with the poles on which they are mounted.	Outdoor lighting shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.
Juniper Hills CSD	391 parcels – Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea  29 parcels – East San Gabriel Mountains subarea	Maintain the low densities, secluded rural character, unique desert foothill appearance, and significant natural resources of the community.	—	Street lights shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District. Where installed, street lights shall be compatible in style and material with the poles on which they are mounted.	Outdoor lighting shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.
Leona Valley CSD	174 parcels – Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea	Protect the community's unique appeal, including its rural agricultural character, the portion of the Ritter Ridge Significant Ecological Area within Leona Valley, and the floodplain and hillside management areas defined by the Antelope Valley Area Plan.	—	—	Outdoor lighting, including street lights, shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.
San Francisquito Canyon CSD	24 parcels – Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea	Protect and enhance the community's secluded rural, equestrian, and agricultural character as well as its natural features, including ridgelines, significant ecological areas, and flood plains.	<p>The highest point of a structure shall be located at fifty (50) vertical feet and fifty (50) horizontal feet from a significant ridgeline, excluding chimneys, rooftop antennas, amateur radio antennas, and wind energy conversion systems.</p> <p>Any modification to the requirements shall require a minor conditional use permit, as provided in Section 22.56.085. In approving such permit, the Director, Hearing Officer, or Commission shall make the following findings in addition to those required by Section 22.56.090:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Alternative sites within the project have been considered and eliminated from consideration due to their physical infeasibility or their potential for substantial habitat damage or destruction; and</li> <li>ii. The project maintains the maximum view of the applicable significant ridgeline through design features, including but not limited to, minimized grading; reduced structural height; use of shapes, materials, and colors that blend with the surrounding environment; and/or use of native drought-tolerant landscaping for concealment.</li> </ul>	Street lights shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District. Where installed, street lights shall be compatible in style and material with the poles on which they are mounted.	Outdoor lighting shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.

**TABLE 3.1.1-1  
COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICTS, *Continued***

Community Standards District (CSD)	Number of Parcels within Subareas	Purpose of CSD	Significant Ridgeline Protection Standards	Street Lighting Standards	Outdoor Lighting Standards
Southeast Antelope Valley CSD	383 parcels – Lake Los Angeles/ Llano/Valyermo/ Littlerock subarea	Protect and enhance the community's rural, equestrian, and agricultural character as well as its natural features, including significant ecological areas, flood plains, and desert terrain.	—	Street lights shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.	Outdoor lighting shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.
Stonyvale CSD	9 parcels – East San Gabriel Mountains subarea	Facilitate the construction of single-family residences, accessory structures, fences, and walls in the Stonyvale area affected by the 2009 Station Fire, without endangering the health and safety of residents. This CSD does not modify or waive any other provisions of the County Code or any local, state, and federal laws or regulations.	—	—	—

**SOURCE:** Municode. Accessed 6 May 2015. Los Angeles County, California, Code of Ordinances >> Title 22 – Planning and Zoning >> Division 1 – Planning and Zoning >> Chapter 22.44 – Supplemental Districts >> Part 2 Community Standards Districts. Available online at: [https://library.municode.com/HTML/16274/level4/TIT22PLZO\\_DIV1PLZO\\_CH22.44SUDI\\_PT2COSTDI.html#TIT22PLZO\\_DIV1PLZO\\_CH22.44SUDI\\_PT2COSTDI\\_22.44.127ALCOSTDI](https://library.municode.com/HTML/16274/level4/TIT22PLZO_DIV1PLZO_CH22.44SUDI_PT2COSTDI.html#TIT22PLZO_DIV1PLZO_CH22.44SUDI_PT2COSTDI_22.44.127ALCOSTDI)

### 3.1.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### Scenic Vistas

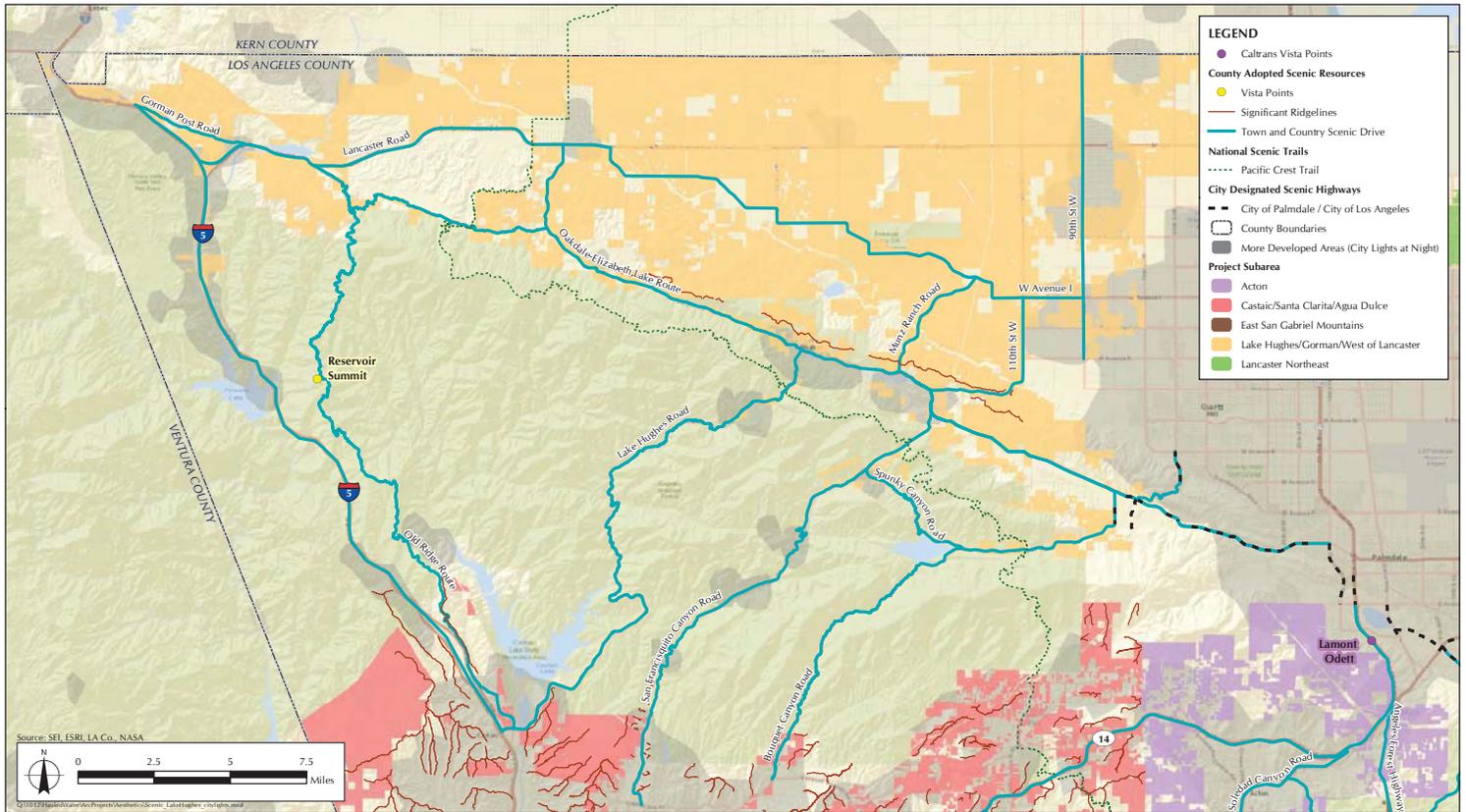
There are no officially designated County scenic vistas in the northern one-third of the County in the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035.<sup>43</sup> The General Plan programs include Program No. C/NR-6 for the preparation of a Scenic Resources Ordinance that creates a scenic corridor, scenic viewshed, and significant ridgeline program and/or ordinance to protect remaining scenic resources, that may include scenic resources from the County's 1965 Regional Recreation Areas Plan.<sup>44</sup> However, there is no time commitment or timeframe for an actual project at this time. There are three scenic vista points that were identified in the 1965 Regional Recreation Areas Plan from which the subject parcels within the proposed initiative study area are potentially visible (Figure 3.1.2-1, *Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea Scenic Resources*, Figure 3.1.2-2, *Acton Subarea and Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea Scenic Resources*, and Figure 3.1.2-3, *East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea Scenic Resources*):

- **Reservoir Summit (1965 County Vista Point 12):** This scenic vista point, which was designated by the County for its panorama view of mountain landforms and landscapes, is located approximately 9.6 miles north-northwest of the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea and approximately 6.0 miles south of the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea. According to the viewshed analysis conducted in the Aesthetics Technical Report, 132 of the 42,867 parcels (0.3 percent) within the proposed initiative study area have the potential to be visible from this vista point (see Appendix G).
- **Inspiration Point (1965 County Vista Point 463):** This scenic vista point, which was designated by the County for its panorama view of the San Gabriel River watershed, is located approximately 4.5 miles south of the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea. According to the viewshed analysis conducted in the Aesthetics Technical Report, 2,124 of the 42,867 parcels (5.0 percent) within the proposed initiative study area have the potential to be visible from this vista point (see Appendix G).
- **Big Rock Canyon Vista Point (1965 County Vista Point 464):** this scenic vista point, which was designated by the County for its panorama view of Big Rock Canyon and the Antelope Valley, is located approximately 4.3 miles south of the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea. According to the viewshed analysis conducted in the Aesthetics Technical Report, 32,982 of the 42,867 parcels (76.9 percent) within the proposed initiative study area have the potential to be visible from this vista point (see Appendix G).

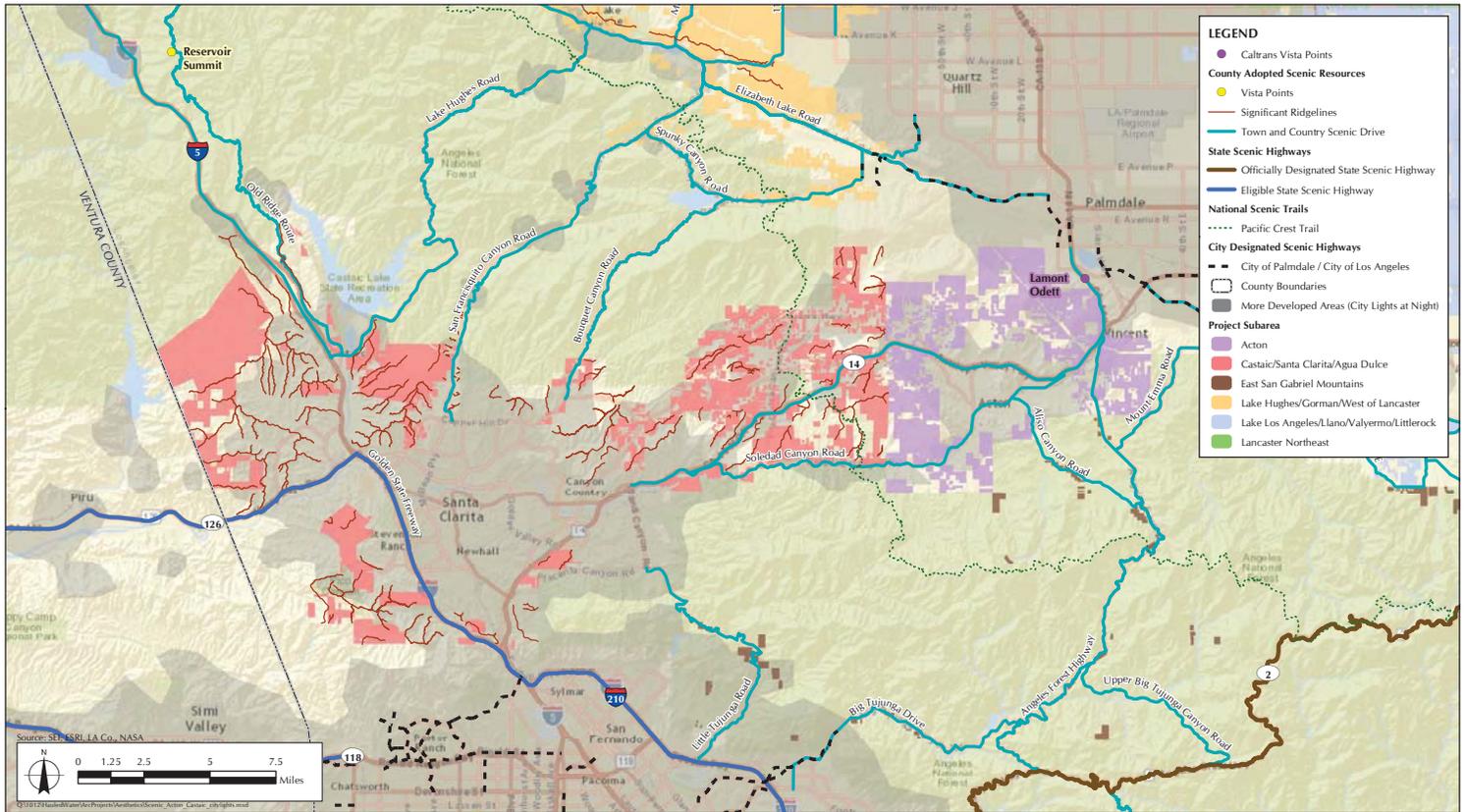
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<sup>43</sup> The County has designated scenic vistas in the Santa Monica Mountains land use plans, which are located more than 13 miles south of the nearest parcel within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea and more than 15 miles southwest of the nearest parcel within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea. As the proposed initiative study area is not located in the vicinity of these scenic vistas, they have not been included in the analysis. Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program map with public viewing areas available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/coastal\\_adopted-map3.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/coastal_adopted-map3.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. n.d. Chapter 16: General Plan Implementation Programs. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch16.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch16.pdf)



**FIGURE 3.1.2-1**  
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea Scenic Resources



**FIGURE 3.1.2-2**  
Acton Subarea and Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea Scenic Resources



Caltrans has designated one scenic vista point within Los Angeles County, Lamont Odett Vista Point, which is located at Post Mile 57.8 along the northbound side of State Route 14 and overlooks the Aerospace Valley, Lake Palmdale, and the California Aqueduct toward the north and northeast from the Vista Point.<sup>45,46</sup> This vista point is located approximately 0.4 mile north of the Acton subarea, approximately 5.2 miles north of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, approximately 7.6 miles east of the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, approximately 9.7 miles south of nearest parcels within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea, approximately 11.4 miles south of the nearest parcels within the Lancaster Northeast subarea, approximately 13.7 miles south of the nearest parcels within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea, and approximately 25.2 miles southwest of the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea. Although subject parcels within the Acton subarea would be visible from this vista point, they are located to the south of the vista point, opposite the scenic view.

Caltrans has designated another scenic vista point within a 15-mile radius of the proposed initiative study area, Silverwood Lake 2 Scenic Vista Point, which is located at Post Mile 25.3 along the south-eastbound side of State Route 138. This vista point is located approximately 2.8 miles east of the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea and approximately 3.1 miles northeast of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea. Subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea would not be visible from this vista point because they are located on slopes opposite the vista point or on flat land on the other side of the community of Pinon Hills.

## **Scenic Highways**

There are four categories of scenic highway designation within the proposed initiative study area: (1) Officially Designated State Scenic Highways, (2) Highways eligible for State Scenic Highway Designation, (3) State-Designated County Scenic Highways, and (4) City-Designated Scenic Highways. The Caltrans website was consulted to determine the location of the nearest designated and eligible proposed scenic highways.<sup>47</sup>

According to a viewshed analysis conducted in the Aesthetics Technical Report, approximately 34,744 of the 42,867 parcels located in the proposed initiative study area are potentially visible from designated and eligible State Scenic Highways (see Appendix G).

### ***Officially Designated State Scenic Highways***

Approximately 34,309 of the 42,867 parcels (80.0 percent) located in the proposed initiative study area are in the viewshed of officially designated State Scenic Highways. The nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway to the subject parcels is State Route 2 (SR-2) (Angeles Crest Highway), a 55-mile stretch of highway located approximately 50 feet south of the nearest parcel within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea and approximately 3.4 miles south of the southernmost

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<sup>45</sup> Male, Laura, Sapphos Environmental, Inc. Pasadena, CA. 3 July 2015. Communication with Daniel Kitowski, Transportation Manager (GIS), California Department of Transportation.

<sup>46</sup> California Department of Transportation. 2014. 2014 Named Freeways, Highways, Structures and other Appurtenances in California. Available online at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tsip/hseb/products/Named\\_Freeways\\_Final.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tsip/hseb/products/Named_Freeways_Final.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> California Department of Transportation. Accessed 18 May 2015. Scenic Highway Program: Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (OD) Routes. Available online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/cahisys.htm>

parcels within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea (Figure 3.1.2-4, *Lancaster Northeast Subarea, Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea, and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea Scenic Resources*; see Figure 3.1.2-1, Figure 3.1.2-2, and Figure 3.1.2-3).<sup>48</sup> The subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea at the western edge of Wrightwood and the eastern edge of the Los Angeles County line are located within the SR-2 scenic corridor.

The second nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway is SR-33, which is located approximately 29.5 miles west of the westernmost parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea in Ventura County.

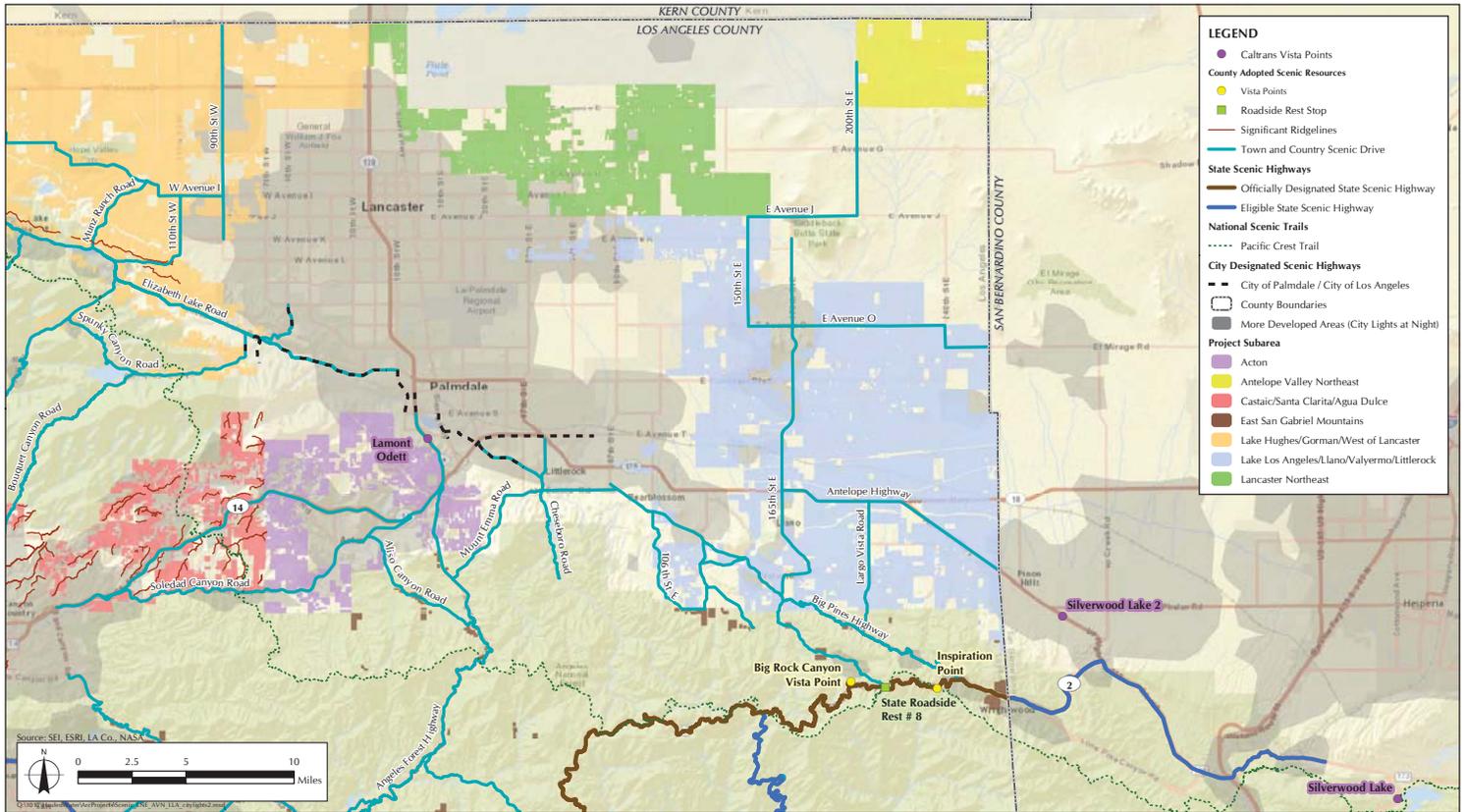
### ***Eligible State Scenic Highways***

Approximately 435 of the 42,867 parcels (1.0 percent) located in the proposed initiative study area are located in the viewshed of highways that are eligible for the State Scenic Highway designation. The nearest eligible State Scenic Highways to the subject parcels are:

- **Interstate 5 (I-5):** Interstate 5 is located approximately 0.2 mile southwest of the nearest parcel in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-2). The subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea that are located on a County-designated significant ridgeline, are within proximity to the I-5, and are visible from I-5. These subject parcels contain scenic trees within the I-5 scenic corridor. Although the nearest parcel within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea is located approximately 6.7 miles east of I-5, the subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea are not visible due to intervening topography (see Figure 3.1.2-3).
- **SR-126:** SR-126 is located approximately 0.7 mile southeast of the nearest parcel within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-2). The subject parcels that are on a County-designated significant ridgeline within this subarea and are visible from SR-126. However, no scenic trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings are located on these parcels within the SR-126 scenic corridor.
- **SR-210:** SR-210 is located approximately 1.2 miles south of the nearest parcel in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea and approximately 1.2 miles southeast of the nearest parcel in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-2 and Figure 3.1.2-3). Subject parcels on the south-facing slope of the San Gabriel Mountains within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea are visible from SR-210 and contain scenic trees within the SR-210 corridor. The subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are not visible from SR-210 due to intervening topography.
- **SR-39:** SR-39 is located approximately 660 feet west of the nearest parcel in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-3). The subject parcels are located on ridgelines and on slopes facing the San Gabriel River near the San Gabriel Reservoir, Morris Reservoir, and within Azusa Canyon at the southern boundary of the Angeles

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<sup>48</sup> State of California Department of Transportation. 2014. California Scenic Highway Program. Website. Available online at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic\\_highways/scenic\\_hwy.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm)



**FIGURE 3.1-2-4**  
 Lancaster Northeast Subarea, Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea,  
 and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea Scenic Resources

National Forest, and are visible from SR-39. These subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea contain scenic trees within the SR-39 corridor.

**Officially State-Designated County Scenic Highways**

None of the 42,867 parcels (zero percent) located in the proposed initiative study area are visible from officially State-Designated County Scenic Highways. The nearest officially State-Designated County Scenic Highway, Malibu Canyon-Las Virgenes Road, is located approximately 16.2 miles southwest of the nearest parcel in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea and approximately 22.0 miles southwest of the nearest parcel in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea.

**Visual Character and Quality**

There are four land use patterns that contribute to the visual character and quality of the landscape in the proposed initiative study area either through the designation of open space resources or planning and design review standards that apply to specified areas: (1) urban, (2) suburban, (3) rural/agricultural, and (4) designated open space. There are also five areas that contribute to the visual character and quality of the landscape in the proposed initiative study area either through the designation of scenic resources or planning and design review standards that apply to specified areas: (1) PCT, National Scenic Trail designation; (2) Significant Ridgelines; (3) CSDs; (4) County-designated scenic drives; and (5) Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan–designated scenic resources within the unincorporated Santa Clarita Valley. The seven subareas vary in visual character from predominantly designated open space areas in the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea to predominantly suburban land use patterns, with some visual connection to urban areas in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea (Table 3.1.2-1, *Visual Character in Relation to Land Use Patterns in Vicinity of Subareas*).

**TABLE 3.1.2-1  
VISUAL CHARACTER IN RELATION TO LAND USE PATTERNS IN VICINITY OF  
SUBAREAS**

Subarea	Urban Land Use Pattern	Suburban Land Use Pattern	Rural/Agricultural Land Use Pattern	Designated Open Space
Acton	No	Adjacent to parcels	Adjacent to parcels	Adjacent to parcels
Antelope Valley Northeast	No	No	No	Adjacent to parcels
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	At a distance from parcels	Adjacent to parcels	Adjacent to parcels	On and adjacent to parcels
East San Gabriel Mountains	No	Adjacent to parcels	Adjacent to parcels	Surrounding parcels
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster	No	Sparse	On and adjacent to parcels	On and adjacent to parcels
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	No	No	On and adjacent to parcels	Adjacent to parcels
Lancaster Northeast	No	No	On and adjacent to parcels	Adjacent to parcels

**Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)**

The PCT, a trail approximately 2,650 miles long (2,350 miles in 1967) extending from the Mexican-California border northward along the mountain ranges of the West Coast states to the Canadian-

Washington border, was designated as a national scenic trail with the original establishment of the National Trails System Act. According to the National Trails System Act, “to the extent practicable, efforts shall be made to avoid activities incompatible with the purposes for which such trails were established.”<sup>49</sup> PCT passes through easements between subject parcels and adjacent to subject parcels within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea, the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, and the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea (see Figures 3.1.2-1, 3.1.2-2, 3.1.2-3, and 3.1.2-4). This national scenic trail is located approximately 0.5 mile southwest of the nearest parcels within the Acton subarea, approximately 3.1 miles south of the nearest parcels within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea, approximately 20.7 miles south of the Lancaster Northeast subarea, and approximately 26.3 miles south of the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea. Approximately 41,473 of the 42,867 parcels (96.7 percent) in the proposed initiative study area are located within the viewshed of approximately 161.5 miles of the PCT (see Appendix G).

### **Significant Ridgelines**

Los Angeles County has designated significant ridgelines that intersect with 423 of the subject parcels: 350 parcels of the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, four parcels of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, and 69 parcels of the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea (see Figures 3.1.2-1, 3.1.2-2, and 3.1.2-3).

### **Community Standards Districts (CSDs)**

Approximately 8.6 percent (3,694) of the subject parcels are located within CSDs (Figure 3.1.1-1; see also Table 3.1.1-1). Furthermore, 3,656 of the 3,694 subject parcels within CSDs (99.0 percent) are also located within the Rural Outdoor Lighting District; as a result, the Acton, Agua Dulce, Castaic Area, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, Juniper Hills, Leona Valley, San Francisquito Canyon, and Southeast Antelope Valley CSDs have established lighting standards requiring compliance with the Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance.

### **County Designated Scenic Drives**

Approximately 40,330 of the 42,867 parcels (94.1 percent) within the proposed initiative study area are located within the viewshed of at least one of the 53 County-designated Priority Scenic Drives identified in the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country.<sup>50,51</sup> These scenic drives have been identified in order to ensure that incompatible development is discouraged in designated Scenic Drives by developing and implementing design standards and guidelines for development within identified viewsheds of these routes, in accordance with Antelope Valley Area Plan Policy COS 5.7 (Table 3.1.2-2, *County Scenic Drives*; see Figures 3.1.2-1, 3.1.2-3, and 3.1.2-4).

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<sup>49</sup> National Park Service. 12 July 2012. The National Trails System Act. Also found in United States Code, Volume 16, Sections 1241-1251. Available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.htm>, Section 7, Administration and Development.

<sup>50</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/documents/>

<sup>51</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 31 March 2015. Los Angeles County Town and Country Scenic Drives Map. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/tnc\\_map4-2-20150601.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/tnc_map4-2-20150601.pdf)

**TABLE 3.1.2-2  
COUNTY SCENIC DRIVES<sup>1</sup>**

Scenic Drive Number <sup>2,3</sup>	Acton Subarea	Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea	Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea	East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea	Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea	Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea	Lancaster Northeast Subarea
1. 2. Golden State Freeway (I-5)	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
3. Gorman Post Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
4. Old Ridge Route Road	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Not visible
5. West Lancaster Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
6. Three Points Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
7. Pine Canyon Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Not visible
8. Lancaster Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
9. Lake Hughes Road	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
10. Munz Ranch Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
11. San Francisquito Canyon Road	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
12. Fairmont Neenach Drive	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
13. West Avenue I	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
14. 110 <sup>th</sup> Street West	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
15. Johnson Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
16. Elizabeth Lake Road	Visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible	Not visible
17. Spunky Canyon Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
18. Bouquet Canyon Road	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
19. Little Tujunga Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
20. 90 <sup>th</sup> Street West	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible
23. Goode Hill Road West	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Not visible
24. Antelope Valley Freeway (SR-14)	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Not visible
25. Soledad Canyon Road	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
27. Big Tujunga Canyon Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
28. Aliso Canyon Road	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
29. Angeles Forest Highway	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible

TABLE 3.1.2-2  
COUNTY SCENIC DRIVES, *Continued*

Scenic Drive Number <sup>2,3</sup>	Acton Subarea	Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea	Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea	East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea	Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea	Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea	Lancaster Northeast Subarea
31. Barrel Springs Road	Visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
32. Mount Emma Road	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
33. Upper Big Tujunga Canyon Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
34. Mount Wilson – Red Box Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
35. Cheseboro Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
37. Angeles Crest Highway	Visible in background	Not visible	Visible	Visible	Visible in background	Visible	Visible
38. 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street East	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible in background
39. 106 <sup>th</sup> Street East	Visible in background	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Visible in background	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible in background
40. Juniper Hills Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible in background
41. Longview Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
42. Pallett Creek Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
43. Devils Punchbowl Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible
44. 200 <sup>th</sup> Street East	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in background	Not visible
45. East Avenue J	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea
46. 150 <sup>th</sup> Street East	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea
47. 165 <sup>th</sup> Street East	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Visible
48. Bobs Gap Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
49. Big Rock Creek Road	Visible in background	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
50. San Gabriel Canyon Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
51. East Avenue O	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
52. Antelope Highway	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
53. Largo Vista Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible
54. Big Pines Highway	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Visible	Not visible
55. East Fork Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
56. Glendora Mountain Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
57. Glendora Ridge Road	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible

**TABLE 3.1.2-2  
COUNTY SCENIC DRIVES, *Continued***

Scenic Drive Number <sup>2,3</sup>	Acton Subarea	Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea	Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea	East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea	Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea	Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea	Lancaster Northeast Subarea
<b>58. Mount Baldy Road</b>	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Visible in foreground; passes through subarea	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
<b>Total visibility level of county scenic drives from subject parcels</b>	Visible from 9 County Scenic Drives (including 5 drives in the foreground)	Visible from 7 County Scenic Drives (including 6 drives in the foreground)	Visible from 2 County Scenic Drives (including 1 drive in the foreground)	Visible from 22 County Scenic Drives (including 13 drives in the foreground)	Visible from 22 County Scenic Drives (including 16 drives in the foreground)	Visible from 21 County Scenic Drives (including 16 drives in the foreground)	Visible from 7 County Scenic Drives (including 2 drives in the foreground)

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Visibility determination is based on Google Earth Street View and Ground View Imagery using KMLs of the parcel boundaries for reference.

<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, 31 March 2015, Los Angeles County Town and Country Scenic Drives Map. [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/tnc\\_map4-2-20150601.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/tnc_map4-2-20150601.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The County has removed five road segments from the 58-route Scenic Route List but retained the original numeric designations for the scenic routes.

## ***Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Designated Scenic Resources***

The Conservation Element of the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan has identified the following scenic resources within the Santa Clarita Valley planning area as significant resources to be maintained to preserve the visual character of the valley:

- **Scenic Canyons**, which have remained undeveloped and support a variety of natural habitats. Five of the seven scenic canyons identified by the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan are located within the study area for the proposed initiative (Figure 3.1.2-5, *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Designated Scenic Canyons, Woodlands, and Scenic Water Bodies*):
  - San Francisquito Canyon
  - Placerita Canyon
  - Bouquet Canyon
  - Pico Canyon
  - Tick Canyon
- **Scenic Woodlands**, which contribute to rural and scenic character: The Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan strives to protect existing oak woodland and cottonwood-willow riparian forest areas, several areas of which have been adopted by the County as Significant Ecological Areas. The Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea includes parcels located within the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park and subject parcels that intersect with a total of approximately 174 acres of southern coast live oak riparian forest and approximately 25 acres of southern cottonwood willow riparian forest plant communities that should be protected in accordance with the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (see Figure 3.1.2-5 and Section 3.4.2).<sup>52</sup>
- **Scenic Water Bodies**, which provide scenic visual relief from urbanization as well as habitat for wildlife. Nine of the 11 scenic water bodies identified by the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan are located within the study area for the proposed initiative (see Figure 3.1.2-5):
  - Santa Clara River and its major tributaries:
    - San Francisquito Canyon
    - Oak Springs Canyon
    - Bouquet Canyon
    - Placerita Creek
    - Towsley Creek
    - Castaic Creek
    - Sand Canyon
    - Mint Canyon

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<sup>52</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Accessed May 2014. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program. Available online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>

- **Vasquez Rocks Natural Area**, which is both a visual and historic landmark in the community. The nearest subject parcel within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea is located within 200 feet of Vasquez Rocks Natural Area (see Figure 3.1.2-6, *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Designated Scenic Landmarks, Significant Ridgelines, and Significant Ecological Areas*). Parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea and Acton subarea are visible from this park. However, the nearby subject parcels to the north and west of the park are adjacent to existing rural residential development.
- **Significant Ridgelines**, which create a sense of place for each neighborhood (see Figure 3.1.2-6).

### ***City-Designated Scenic Highways***

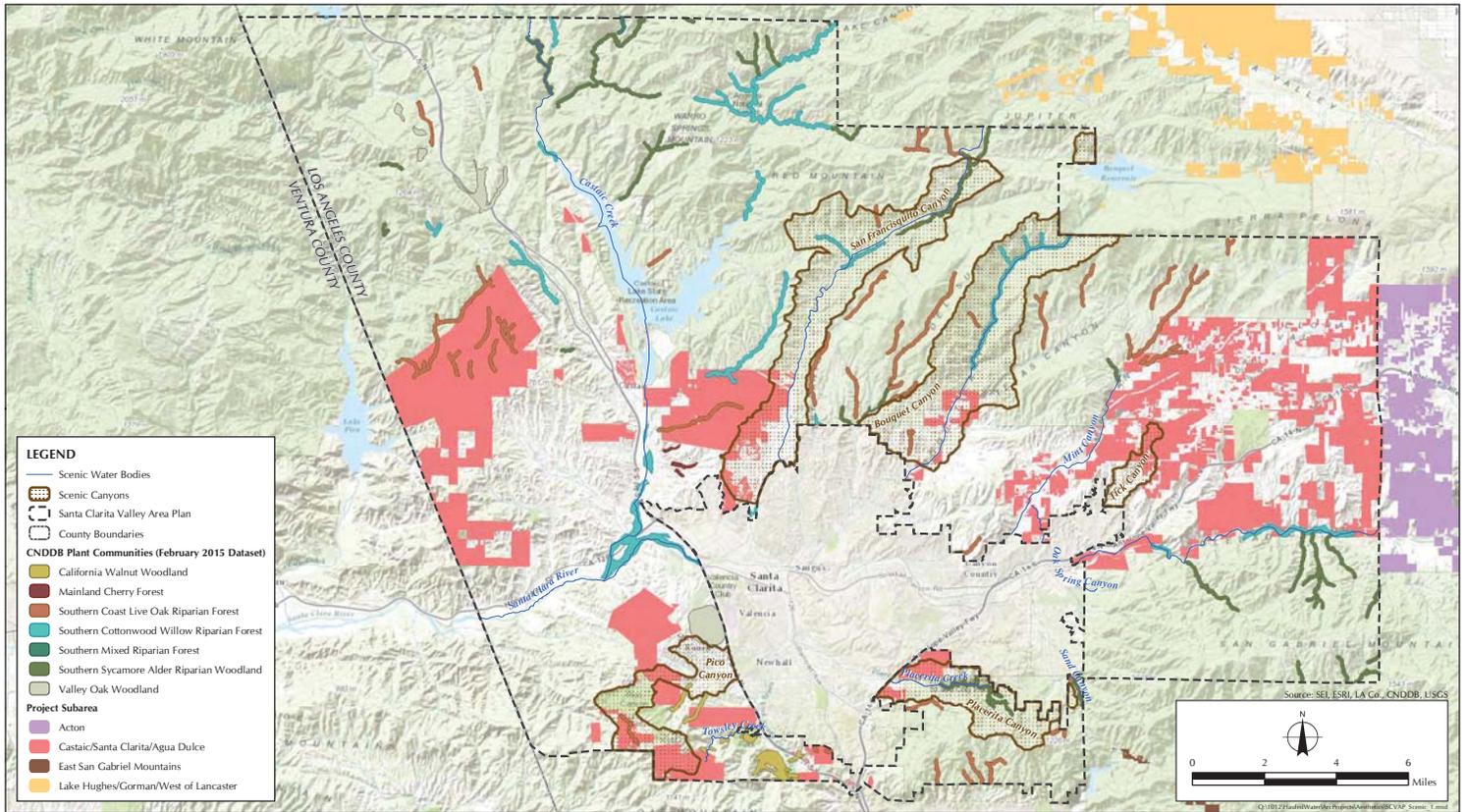
Although the subject parcels are located within unincorporated Los Angeles County, 375 of the 42,867 parcels (0.9 percent) within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea, East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, and Acton subarea are potentially within the visible range of city-designated scenic highways or highway corridors in the adjacent city of Palmdale using viewshed analysis. The nearby cities of Santa Clarita and Lancaster have not designated city scenic highway corridors, and the subject parcels within the proposed initiative study area, including the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea and Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, are not visible from any of the nearby City of Los Angeles-designated City scenic highways due to topography and distance (see Figure 3.1.2-2, Figure 3.1.2-3, and Figure 3.1.2-4).<sup>53</sup>

The nearby City of Palmdale has designated eight City scenic highways, which have been designated in order to preserve the existing panoramic vistas of rugged mountains, steep canyon slopes covered with native chaparral, extensive areas of the Mojave Desert, and rural or small-town settings. Development has not yet significantly reduced scenic potential and the city has identified an opportunity for public investment to ensure the future maintenance of these eight City scenic highways, which would have design implications or development restrictions for single-family residences (Table 3.1.2-3, *Visibility of Subject Parcels from Adjacent City Designated Scenic Highways*):<sup>54</sup>

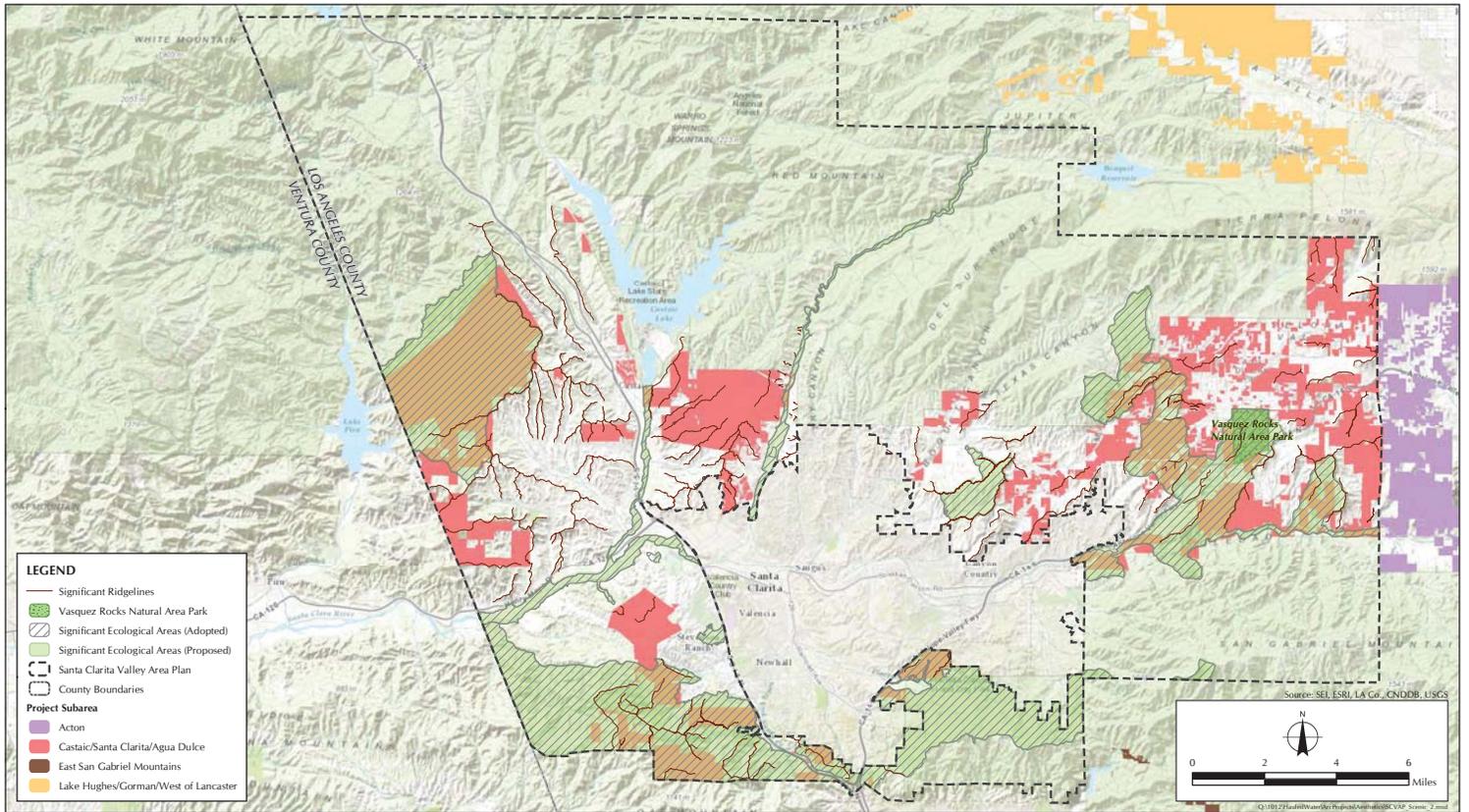
1. **Barrel Springs Road:** The designated scenic highway portion of Barrel Springs Road within the City of Palmdale is located approximately 0.9 mile north of the nearest parcel within the Acton subarea and approximately 4.3 miles west of the nearest subject parcel within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).
2. **Tierra Subida Avenue:** The designated scenic highway portion of Tierra Subida Avenue within the City of Palmdale is located approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the nearest parcels within the Acton subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).

<sup>53</sup> City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning. June 1998. Map E: Transportation Element of the General Plan: Scenic Highways in the City of Los Angeles. Website. Available online at: [http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/gnlpln/transelt/TEMaps/E\\_Scnc.gif](http://cityplanning.lacity.org/cwd/gnlpln/transelt/TEMaps/E_Scnc.gif)

<sup>54</sup> City of Palmdale. 25 January 1993. General Plan. Available online at: [http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/departments/planning/general\\_plan/general\\_plan.pdf](http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/departments/planning/general_plan/general_plan.pdf)



**FIGURE 3.1.2-5**  
 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Designated Scenic Canyons, Woodlands, and Scenic Water Bodies



**FIGURE 3.1.2-6**  
 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Designated Scenic Landmarks, Significant Ridgelines, and Significant Ecological Areas

3. **Sierra Highway, South of Avenue S:** The designated scenic highway portion of Sierra Highway within the City of Palmdale is located approximately 0.7 mile northeast of the Acton subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).
4. **Elizabeth Lake Road:** The designated scenic highway portion of Elizabeth Lake Road within the City of Palmdale is located adjacent to the nearest parcel within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).
5. **Pearblossom Highway:** The designated scenic highway portion of Pearblossom Highway within the City of Palmdale is located approximately 1.6 miles northwest of the nearest parcel within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea, approximately 1.7 miles northeast of the nearest parcels within the Acton subarea, and approximately 5.1 miles north of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).
6. **Bouquet Canyon Road:** The designated scenic highway portion of Bouquet Canyon Road within the City of Palmdale is located adjacent to the nearest parcel within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).
7. **Godde Hill Road:** The designated scenic highway portion of Godde Hill Road within the City of Palmdale is located approximately 300 feet south of the nearest parcel within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).
8. **Antelope Valley Freeway, south of Rayburn Road:** The designated scenic highway portion of Antelope Valley Freeway (SR 14) within the City of Palmdale is located approximately 1.0 mile east of the nearest parcels within the Acton subarea (see Figure 3.1.2-4).

**TABLE 3.1.2-3  
VISIBILITY OF SUBJECT PARCELS FROM ADJACENT CITY-DESIGNATED SCENIC HIGHWAYS**

Subarea	Barrel Springs Road	Tierra Subida Avenue	Sierra Highway, South of Avenue S	Elizabeth Lake Road	Pearblossom Highway	Bouquet Canyon Road	Godde Hill Road	Antelope Valley Freeway, South of Rayburn Road
Acton	Visible due to hilltop location	Visible due to hilltop location	Visible due to hilltop location	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Visible due to hilltop location	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Visible due to hilltop location
Antelope Valley Northeast	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, existing residences, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground
East San Gabriel Mountains	Not visible due to topography, buildings, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Barely visible due to topography, buildings, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Visible due to proximity to the designated segment of the road and hilltop location	Not visible due to distance, topography, existing residences, and vegetation in the foreground	Visible due to proximity to the designated segment of the road and hilltop location	Visible due to proximity to the designated segment of the road and hilltop location	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	Not visible due to topography and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Barely visible due to topography and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground
Lancaster Northeast	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, existing residences, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible due to distance, topography, and vegetation in the foreground	Not visible
<b>Total visibility level</b>	Visible from Acton subarea	Visible from Acton subarea	Visible from Acton subarea	Visible from Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea	Visible from Acton subarea; barely visible from Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea and East San Gabriel Mountains subarea	Visible from Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea	Visible from Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea	Visible from Acton subarea

NOTE: Visibility determination is based on Google Earth Street View and Ground View Imagery using KMLs of the parcel boundaries for reference.

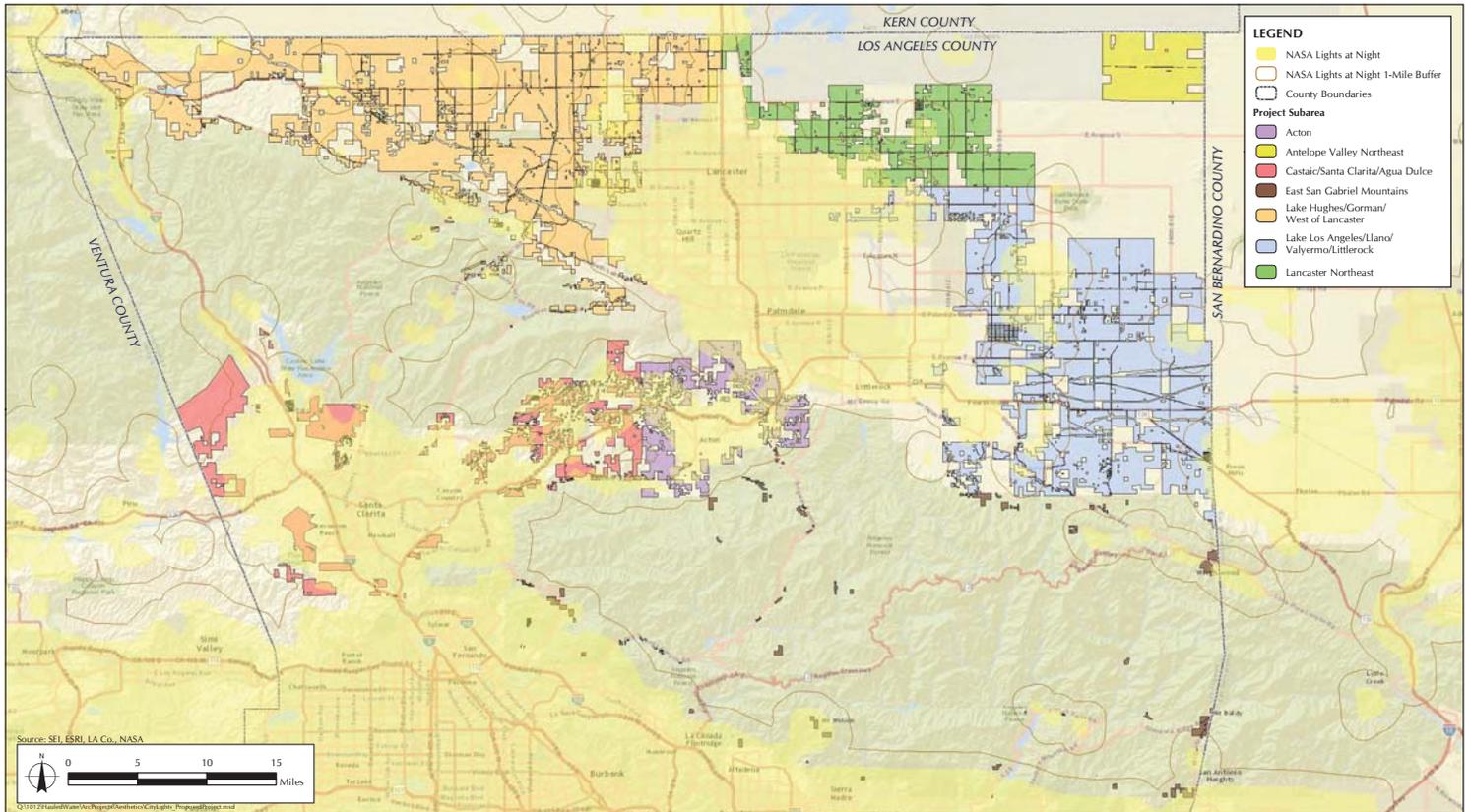
## Light and Glare

Within Los Angeles County, the major sources of nighttime sky glow are the cities (i.e., Los Angeles, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Lancaster, and Palmdale), transportation corridors (i.e., I-5 and SR-14), and the established communities of Gorman, Neenach, Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Green Valley, Lake Los Angeles, Santa Clarita Valley, Acton, Agua Dulce, and Valyermo. According to the GIS proximity analysis conducted in the Aesthetics Technical Report (Appendix G), approximately 45.9 percent (19,664 parcels) of the 42,867 subject parcels are located within one mile of an already-developed area that currently produces high levels of nighttime skyglow (Figure 3.1.2-7, *City Lights at Night 2012*). These parcels are concentrated within the Acton subarea, the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, and the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea within the edges of the Angeles National Forest. Less than half of the subject parcels within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea, the Lancaster Northeast subarea, and the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea are located within one mile of an existing developed area that is a source of nighttime sky glow, and none of the parcels within the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea are located within one mile of an existing developed area (the area is undeveloped and dark at night).

The nighttime light levels in subject parcels within the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea, the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea, the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea, and the Lancaster Northeast subarea are very low; while the nighttime light levels in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, and the Acton subarea are moderate due to the nighttime glare from the adjacent cities of Los Angeles, Santa Clarita, Palmdale, and Lancaster.<sup>55</sup> The relative levels of light and glare are summarized in Table 3.1.2-4, *Relative Levels of Light and Glare*. All of the subject parcels within the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea, East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea, Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea, and Lancaster Northeast subarea, as well as 99.9 percent of the subject parcels within the Acton subarea and 85.4 percent of the subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, are located within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District and subject to restrictions in terms of producing sources of light and glare at night.

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<sup>55</sup> NASA Earth Observatory/NOAA NGDC. April and October 2012. Earth at Night 2012. Available from Google Earth Maps Gallery.



**FIGURE 3.1.2-7**  
City Lights at Night 2012



**TABLE 3.1.2-4  
RELATIVE LEVELS OF LIGHT AND GLARE**

<b>Subarea</b>	<b>Nighttime Light Level<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Nighttime Glare Level</b>	<b>Daytime Glare Level</b>
Acton	Low to moderate	Low on parcels near the Angeles National Forest to moderate near the Antelope Valley Freeway	Moderate due to the presence of paved roads, residential development and infrastructure, and high vehicle traffic levels on the Antelope Valley Freeway
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	Moderate to high	Low in isolated rural areas to high near Santa Clarita and major freeways	Moderate to high due to the presence of paved roads, commercial and residential development and infrastructure, high vehicle traffic levels on major roads and freeways, and reflective water bodies
Antelope Valley Northeast	Very low	Very low throughout the subarea	Very low due to the lack of paved roads, absence of large water bodies, low traffic levels, and low level of development and infrastructure
East San Gabriel Mountains	Very low to high	Very low within the Angeles National Forest; moderate within the East Fork of the San Gabriel River and near the communities of Wrightwood, Acton, and San Antonio Heights; and high within the southern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains near the urban and suburban development of the Los Angeles basin	Low due to the presence of both paved and dirt roads, sparse development and infrastructure, and trees
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster	Very low	Very low in rural areas to low in the communities of Gorman, Lake Hughes, and Leona Valley and near Quartz Hill, Lancaster, and Palmdale	Low due to the presence of both paved and dirt roads, and sparse development and infrastructure
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	Low	Low in rural areas to moderate near the communities of Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, and Pearblossom and the City of Palmdale	Low due to the presence of both paved and dirt roads, sparse development and infrastructure, and subgrade location of the aqueduct
Lancaster Northeast	Low	Low in rural areas to moderate adjacent to the City of Lancaster	Low due to the presence of both paved and dirt roads, and sparse development and infrastructure

**NOTE:** Relative nighttime light level was qualitatively evaluated based on source and the following criteria:

- **Very Low:** Very few sources of 2012 nighttime sky glow intersect with parcels.
- **Low:** Parcels within subarea are towards the edge of sources of 2012 nighttime sky glow and less than half of parcels within subarea intersect with 2012 sources of nighttime sky glow.
- **Moderate:** Approximately half of parcels within subareas intersect with sources of 2012 nighttime sky glow.
- **High:** More than half of parcels are located within 2012 nighttime sky glow area.

**SOURCE:** NASA Earth Observatory/NOAA NGDC. April and October 2012. Earth at Night 2012. Available from Google Earth Maps Gallery.

### 3.1.3 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The potential for the proposed initiative to result in impacts related to aesthetics was analyzed in relation to the questions contained in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. Would the proposed initiative:

- a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
- d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

### 3.1.4 IMPACT ANALYSIS

#### **IMPACT AES-1: Have a Substantial Adverse Effect on a Scenic Vista?**

The proposed initiative would not result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to scenic vistas because the subject parcels within the Acton, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, Lancaster Northeast, and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subareas that have the potential to be visible from the Caltrans-designated Lamont Odett Vista Point are located at a far enough distance and located to the south of the vista point, which would not affect the intended designated vista from this point of Aerospace Valley, Lake Palmdale, and the California Aqueduct toward the north and northeast. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not obstruct or affect the view of the valley in the foreground or middleground of this foreground-middleground focused vista, and no impacts would occur.

The Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 refers to more localized planning documents for designation of local scenic resources, such as the significant ridgelines identified in the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and the Priority Scenic Drives identified in the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan. No scenic vistas have been designated in the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan or the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan.<sup>56</sup> The total anticipated 3,680 single-family residences that would be expected to be developed over the 20-year planning horizon would be a minor increase in the total development in the North County area. The viewshed from the four scenic vistas and roadside rests designated in the 1965 Regional Recreation Areas Plan would be generally consistent with existing viewsheds characterized by a mix of open space, agricultural and rural residential land uses. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not result in significant impacts in regard to having a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and the consideration of mitigation measures is not required.

#### **IMPACT AES-2: Substantially Damage Scenic Resources, Including, but Not Limited to Trees, Rock Outcroppings, and Historic Buildings within a State Scenic Highway?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to aesthetics related to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway, therefore requiring the consideration of mitigation

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<sup>56</sup> As of the March 24, 2015, approval of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035, there are no officially designated County scenic vistas. As the County intends to develop a Scenic Resources Ordinance as part of its implementation program and may include scenic resources from the County's 1965 Regional Recreation Areas Plan, these scenic vistas have been retained in the visual analysis for reference.

measures. The Caltrans website was consulted, and the nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway to the subject parcels is SR-2, located adjacent to subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea.<sup>57</sup> All the parcels are vacant; therefore, the proposed initiative would not affect historic buildings. Rock outcrops are present on subject parcels within the Acton, Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce, East San Gabriel Mountains, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, and Lake Los Angeles/Valyermo/Llano/Littlerock subareas, where there is a potential for rock outcrops to be affected on parcels within state scenic highway viewsheds. Rock outcrops are rare within the Antelope Valley Northeast and Lancaster Northeast subareas. According to the GIS viewshed analysis conducted in the Aesthetics Technical Report (Appendix G), new homes and hauled water tanks on 34,744 of the 42,867 subject parcels (81.1 percent) would potentially be visible from officially designated and eligible State scenic highways (Table 3.1.4-1, *Proposed Initiative Parcels Potentially Visible from State Scenic Highways*). The percentage of parcels containing trees potentially visible from State designated and eligible scenic highways ranges from 0 percent in the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea to approximately 40.8 percent in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea (Table 3.1.4.-1).

**TABLE 3.1.4-1  
PROPOSED INITIATIVE PARCELS POTENTIALLY VISIBLE FROM STATE SCENIC  
HIGHWAYS**

Subarea	Number of Parcels within Viewshed of Designated State Scenic Highways	Number of Parcels within Viewshed of Eligible State Scenic Highways	Total Parcels within Viewshed of State Scenic Highways	Number of Parcels Containing Trees within Viewshed of Designated and Eligible State Scenic Highways	Percent of Parcels Containing Trees within Viewshed of Designated and Eligible Scenic Highways
Acton	315	92	<b>407</b>	39	9.6%
Antelope Valley Northeast	1,466	0	<b>1,466</b>	0	0.0%
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	6	249	<b>255</b>	104	40.8%
East San Gabriel Mountains	30	82	<b>112</b>	45	40.2%
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster	13,603	12	<b>13,615</b>	219	1.6%
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	12,095	0	<b>12,095</b>	1	0.01%
Lancaster Northeast	6,794	0	<b>6,806</b>	29	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,309</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>34,744</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

<sup>57</sup> State of California Department of Transportation. 2015. California Scenic Highway Program. Website. Available online at: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic\\_highways/scenic\\_hwy.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm)

## ***Officially Designated State Scenic Highways***

### *State Route 2*

The subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea at the western edge of Wrightwood and the eastern edge of the Los Angeles County line are located within the SR-2 scenic corridor and would be expected to substantially damage scenic resources (trees and rock outcroppings) within a state scenic highway and degrade the rural scenic character of the SR-2 viewshed. The majority of these subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea that are located within the SR-2 viewshed contain several pine trees that should not be removed in order to preserve the scenic value of the designated scenic highway corridor, and there is a potential for rock outcrops to be located on these parcels as well. Although some of the subject parcels within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea are visible in the distance from portions of SR-2, the parcels within this subarea affected by the proposed initiative do not contain scenic resources that are essential to the scenic character of the SR-2 scenic corridor. Therefore, the consideration of mitigation measures is required to preserve scenic resources within this scenic highway corridor.

### *State Route 33*

Due to distance (at least 29.5 miles) and intervening topography, any residential or hauled water construction on the subject parcels would not be visible from SR-33 in Ventura County.

## ***Eligible State Scenic Highways***

### *Interstate 5*

The subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are located on a County-designated significant ridgeline, are within proximity to the I-5 and are visible from I-5. These subject parcels contain scenic trees within the I-5 scenic corridor that should not be removed in order to preserve the scenic value of the eligible scenic highway corridor. Therefore, the consideration of mitigation measures is required to preserve scenic resources within this scenic highway corridor.

### *State Route 126*

The subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are on a County-designated significant ridgeline and are visible from SR-126. However, no scenic trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings are located on these parcels within the SR-126 scenic corridor that would need to be preserved.

### *State Route 210*

Subject parcels on the south-facing slope of the San Gabriel Mountains within the East San Gabriel Mountains subareas are visible from SR-210 and contain scenic trees within the SR-210 corridor that should not be removed in order to preserve the scenic value of the eligible scenic highway corridor. The subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are not visible from SR-210 due to intervening topography. Therefore, the consideration of mitigation measures is required to preserve scenic resources within this scenic highway corridor.

## *State Route 39*

The subject parcels located on ridgelines and slopes facing the San Gabriel River within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea near the San Gabriel Reservoir, Morris Reservoir, and within Azusa Canyon at the southern boundary of the Angeles National Forest are visible from SR-39. These subject parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea contain scenic trees within the SR-39 corridor that should not be removed in order to preserve the scenic value of the eligible scenic highway corridor. Therefore, the consideration of mitigation measures is required to preserve scenic resources within this scenic highway corridor.

### ***Officially State-designated County Scenic Highways***

The subject parcels are not visible from the nearest officially State-designated County Scenic Highway, Malibu Canyon-Las Virgenes Road, due to distance and intervening topography.

Impacts to aesthetics related to substantial damage to scenic resources within a State scenic highway resulting from the proposed initiative would be expected to be reduced to below the level of significance through the incorporation of mitigation measures. Trees and rock outcroppings located on subject parcels within the designated SR-2 and eligible SR-210 and SR-39 scenic corridors in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea are essential to the scenic character of the SR-2, SR-210, and SR-39 scenic corridors. Within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, approximately 40.2 percent of the subject parcels within the SR-2, SR-210, and SR-39 viewsheds contain scenic trees, and there is a potential for these parcels to contain scenic rock outcroppings as well. Several of the subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are also visible from State-eligible portions of I-5 and SR-126. The subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea that are visible from I-5 encompass part of a County-designated significant ridgeline, and approximately 40.8 percent of these parcels contain mature trees that could potentially be removed during the construction of single-family residences. The subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea that are visible from SR-126 are located on a County-designated significant ridgeline. Damage to these scenic resources as a result of construction of single-family residences on these subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea would adversely affect the scenic value of the one officially designated State scenic highway and three State-eligible scenic highway corridors. Therefore, implementation of the proposed initiative has the potential to result in significant impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a State scenic highway, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

### **IMPACT AES-3: Substantially Degrade the Existing Visual Character or Quality of the Site and Its Surroundings?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to aesthetics in relation to the degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the initiative study area and its surroundings. The proposed initiative would be expected to alter the visual character of parcels that are visible from resources designated for the visual quality or character of the surrounding area or designated for special planning and design review standards, including (1) PCT, National Scenic Trail designation; (2) Significant Ridgelines; (3) CSDs; (4) County proposed or designated scenic drives; (5) 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan-designated scenic resources; and (6) 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan-designated scenic resources. The degree to which the alteration would occur would vary in relation to the proximity of parcels that are potentially eligible for use of hauled water to other existing agricultural, rural, suburban, and urban development. A change from in visual character from a less developed to a more developed visual character category was identified as a significant impact.

The proposed initiative would be expected to result in significant impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The Los Angeles County General Plan 2035, 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan, and 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan were reviewed. According to the GIS viewshed analysis conducted in the Aesthetics Technical Report (Appendix G), new homes and hauled water tanks on 96.8 percent of the subject parcels would potentially be visible from the PCT; new homes and hauled water tanks on 94.1 percent of the subject parcels would potentially be visible from County-designated scenic drives; and new homes and hauled water tanks on 0.9 percent of the subject parcels would potentially be visible from City-designated scenic highways (Table 3.1.4-2, *Proposed Initiative Parcels Visible from Federal, County, and City Designated Scenic Resources*).

**TABLE 3.1.4-2  
PROPOSED INITIATIVE PARCELS VISIBLE FROM FEDERAL, COUNTY, AND CITY  
DESIGNATED SCENIC RESOURCES**

Subarea	Total Parcels Visible from PCT	Total Parcels Visible from County- Designated Scenic Drives	Total Parcels Visible from City-Designated Scenic Highways
Acton	1,179	1,045	1
Antelope Valley Northeast	1,933	1,623	0
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	1,651	723	13
East San Gabriel Mountains	144	287	334
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster	14,982	15,047	27
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	14,790	14,811	0
Lancaster Northeast	6,794	6,794	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,473</b>	<b>40,330</b>	<b>375</b>

Due to the presence of several of the subject parcels on County-designated significant ridgelines, adjacent to the PCT, within County-designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs), visible from County-designated scenic drives and City-designated scenic highways, and visible from 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan-designated scenic resources, the development of single-family residences on several of the subject parcels would be expected to adversely affect the existing visual character or quality of the area (Table 3.1.4-3, *Visual Character Impacts by Subarea*).

**TABLE 3.1.4-3  
VISUAL CHARACTER IMPACTS BY SUBAREA**

Subarea	Visible from Pacific Crest Trail?	Located on County Significant Ridgeline?	Visible from County Scenic Drive?	Located Within County SEAs (Antelope Valley Area Plan Scenic Resources)?	Visible from City-Designated Scenic Highway?	Visible from Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Scenic Resources?
Acton	High visibility	No	Yes	168 parcels in one SEA: SEA #20, Santa Clara River	Yes; visible from 5 scenic highways	Yes; Santa Clara River & Vasquez Rocks Natural Area
Antelope Valley Northeast	Low visibility	No	Yes	1,355 parcels in one SEA: SEA #3, Antelope Valley	No	No
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	High visibility	350 parcels: 40 – Acton CSD 70 – Agua Dulce CSD 103 – Castaic Area CSD 137 parcels not in CSDs	Yes	454 parcels in four SEAs: SEA #5, Cruzan Mesa Vernal Pools SEA #20, Santa Clara River SEA #21, Santa Felicia SEA #23, Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills	No	Yes; Vasquez Rocks Natural Area and all scenic canyons, water bodies, & woodlands listed in Section 3.1.2. 377 of the subject parcels are also located within scenic canyons
East San Gabriel Mountains	High visibility	4 parcels: 3 – Altadena CSD 1 parcel not in CSD	Yes	51 parcels in five SEAs: SEA #2, Altadena Foothills and Arroyos SEA #3, Antelope Valley SEA #18, San Dimas Canyon/San Antonio Wash SEA #19, San Gabriel Canyon SEA #20, Santa Clara River	Yes; visible from 1	No
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster	High visibility	69 parcels, all in Elizabeth Lake & Lake Hughes CSD	Yes	2,223 parcels in two SEAs: SEA #10, Joshua Tree Woodlands SEA #17, San Andreas	Yes; visible from 3	No
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	Moderate visibility	No	Yes	8,288 parcels in one SEA: SEA #3, Antelope Valley	Yes; visible from 1	No
Lancaster Northeast	Low visibility	No	Yes	4,984 parcels in one SEA: SEA #3, Antelope Valley	No	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>High: 4 subareas Moderate: 1 subarea Low: 2 subareas</b>	<b>423 parcels in Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce, East San Gabriel Mountains, and Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subareas located on significant ridgelines; 285 (67%) in CSDs<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>All subareas have visible parcels</b>	<b>17,523 parcels (within all subareas) are located within County SEAs<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Up to 375 parcels within the Acton, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subareas are potentially visible</b>	<b>Parcels visible in Acton and Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subareas</b>

**NOTES:**  
<sup>1</sup> SEA – Significant Ecological Area. The Conservation and Natural Resources Element of the County General Plan contains a planning overlay component called the SEA Program that designates ecologically important land and water systems to preserve valuable habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species and conserve biological diversity in Los Angeles County and limits development in unincorporated regions of the County through requirement of a SEA Conditional Use permit for project review by biologists on the SEA Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC); Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, 9 July 2013. "SEA Program." Last updated 2009. Website. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/sea/>. Development has the potential to degrade the existing visual character on sites within designated SEAs because they are environmentally sensitive areas that support valuable plant species.  
<sup>2</sup> City of Palmdale Designated Scenic Highway  
<sup>3</sup> CSD – Community standards district. CSDs can establish development standards such as grading, building height, and setback standards for preserving the visual character of a community, including significant ridgeline areas.  
<sup>4</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, February 2015. Figure 9.3: Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas Policy Map. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/nc\\_significant\\_ecological\\_areas\\_UPD.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/nc_significant_ecological_areas_UPD.pdf)

### ***Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)***

The construction of new homes and hauled water tanks on approximately 3,680 of the subject parcels over the 20-year planning horizon would have the potential to affect views from the PCT. Subject parcels within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea, the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, and the Acton subarea are clearly visible in the foreground and would have a high impact on views from the PCT. The subject parcels within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea are visible in the middleground and would have a moderate impact on views from the PCT. The subject parcels within the Lancaster Northeast subarea and Antelope Valley Northeast subarea are visible in the distance/background and would have a low impact on views from the PCT.

### ***County-Designated Scenic Drives***

The construction of new homes and hauled water tanks on approximately 3,680 of the subject parcels over the 20-year planning horizon would have the potential to affect views from County-designated scenic drives. Subject parcels within every subarea are clearly visible in the foreground and would have a high impact on views from these priority scenic drives.

### ***City-Designated Scenic Highways***

The construction of new homes and hauled water tanks on approximately 3,680 of the subject parcels over the 20-year planning horizon would have the potential to affect views from City-designated scenic highways if these parcels include the approximately 375 of the subject parcels within the viewshed of City-designated scenic highways. Subject parcels within the Acton subarea and Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea are clearly visible in the foreground and would have a high impact on views from City-designated scenic highways. Subject parcels within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea are visible in the distance/background and would have a low impact on views from City-designated scenic highways. Subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea, Antelope Valley Northeast subarea, East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, and Lancaster Northeast subarea are not visible from these highways and would have no impact on views from City-designated scenic highways.

The proposed initiative would be expected to result in significant impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings that may not be able to be reduced to below the level of significance through the incorporation of mitigation measures. Due to the presence of several of the subject parcels on County-designated significant ridgelines, adjacent to the PCT, visible from County-designated scenic drives and City-designated scenic highways, and visible from 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan–designated scenic resources, the development of single-family residences on several of the subject parcels would be expected to adversely affect the existing visual character or quality of the area. The construction of single-family residences on the subject parcels, and related appurtenant structures, such as water tanks, and access roads and driveways, at locations identified as significant ridgelines within the Acton, Agua Dulce, Altadena, Castaic Area, Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, and San Francisquito Canyon CSDs, would be required to conform to the grading, building heights, and setbacks established by the respective community development standards as part of the building permit process. The construction of single-family residences and hauled water tanks on the 131 subject parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea and the one subject parcel within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea located on significant ridgelines that are not restricted by the standards of a CSD would have the potential to affect the visual character or quality of the significant ridgelines. Therefore, the

development of new single-family residences, hauled water tanks, and access roads that could occur as a result of the proposed initiative has the potential to result in significant impacts to aesthetics related to the degradation of visual character and quality and warrants the consideration of mitigation measures.

#### **IMPACT AES-4: Create a New Source of Substantial Light or Glare Which Would Adversely Affect Day or Nighttime Views in the Area?**

The proposed initiative would be expected to result in significant impacts to aesthetics in relation to the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the proposed initiative study area. The construction of new homes and hauled water tanks on approximately 3,680 of the subject parcels over the 20-year planning horizon would have the potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the proposed initiative study area, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

As approximately 99.2 percent of the 42,867 subject parcels are located within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District, which regulates outdoor lighting to maintain dark skies at night for residents and wildlife, four of the seven subareas have an existing very low level of nighttime light that is expected to be affected by the development of single-family residences and street lights in association with the development of the residences (see Figure 3.1.2-7). Pursuant to the 2012 Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance, outdoor lighting must be fully shielded on properties located in residential zones, and drop-down lenses, mercury vapor light, ultraviolet lights, searchlights, laser lights, and other lighting that flashes, blinks, alternates, or moves are prohibited within the Rural Outdoor Lighting District.<sup>58</sup> The Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance also limits outdoor lighting fixtures installed above 15 feet high to a manufacturer's maximum output rating or no greater than 400 lumens, restricts the maximum height for an outdoor light fixture to 20 feet from the finished grade, and establishes that outdoor lighting shall cause no unacceptable light trespass. Additionally, the Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance prohibits street lights within the district, except where deemed necessary at urban cross sections by the Director of Public Works, and establishes standards to prevent off-street illumination and glare. Therefore, outdoor lighting on the subject parcels for single-family residences that would be constructed as a result of the proposed initiative would be required as part of the building permit process to reduce the levels of nighttime light and glare on the property to below the level of significance.

However, the Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance and the building permit process do not restrict the use of reflective building materials, such as large spans of glass or metallic surfaces, which would have the potential to contribute to a source of daytime glare. The proposed initiative would have the potential to result in an indirect impact on daytime glare as a result of the construction of new single-family residences, which would require the consideration of mitigation measures to reduce impacts to daytime glare that would adversely affect daytime views in the area to below the level of significance. Metal hauled water tanks, in particular, have the potential to become an elevated source of daytime glare on the subject parcels. Therefore, the development of new single-family residences that could occur as a result of the proposed initiative has the potential to result in significant impacts to aesthetics related to the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely

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<sup>58</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 28 September 2012. Ordinance No. 2012-0047. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord\\_outdoor-lighting.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord_outdoor-lighting.pdf)

affect daytime or nighttime views in the proposed initiative area and requires the consideration of mitigation measures.

### **3.1.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The incremental impact of the proposed initiative to aesthetics, when added to the four related past, present, or reasonably foreseeable, probable future projects listed in Section 2, *Project Description*, would be expected to be significant (see Figure 2.9-1, *Related Projects*):

#### **IMPACT AES-1: Have a Substantial Adverse Effect on a Scenic Vista?**

As the proposed initiative would not result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to scenic vistas, it would not contribute to cumulative impacts to scenic vistas in consideration of the four related projects. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not result in significant cumulative impacts to aesthetics in regard to having a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and the consideration of mitigation measures is not required.

#### **IMPACT AES-2: Substantially Damage Scenic Resources, Including, but Not Limited to Trees, Rock Outcroppings, and Historic Buildings within a State Scenic Highway?**

The proposed initiative would not be expected to contribute incrementally with the Centennial planned community project in regard to substantial damage of scenic resources within a State scenic highway corridor because the Centennial project would not be expected to affect scenic resources within a State scenic highway corridor. The Centennial planned community would not be expected to affect scenic resources within the nearest State scenic highways, State Route 126 (eligible) and State Route 2 (designated) due to distance and intervening topography within the Angeles National Forest.

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project in regard to substantial damage of scenic resources within a State scenic highway corridor. The residential development as a result of the proposed initiative which would accommodate approximately 12,880 persons within the proposed initiative study area within the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon would be expected to incrementally contribute to indirect cumulative impacts to scenic resources within a State scenic highway, in combination with the High Desert Corridor Project, which would be visible from the nearest designated State scenic highway, State Route 2.

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan in regard to substantial damage of scenic resources within a State scenic highway corridor. The proposed initiative, in consideration of the development of this planned community adjacent to the proposed initiative study area, would be expected to incrementally contribute to direct cumulative impacts to scenic resources within a state scenic highway, in combination with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, which would directly affect scenic resources within the scenic highway corridor for State Route 126, an eligible scenic highway corridor that is located within the Specific Plan area.

The proposed initiative would not be expected to contribute incrementally with the Northlake Specific Plan in regard to substantial damage of scenic resources within a State scenic highway corridor. The Northlake Specific Plan would not be expected to affect scenic resources within the nearest State scenic highways, State Route 126 (eligible), State Route 33 (designated), and State Route 2 (designated) due to distance and intervening topography within the Santa Clarita Valley and the Angeles National Forest. The approximately 1,330-acre Specific Plan Area is located on currently undeveloped land west

of Castaic Lake, within the I-5 eligible State scenic highway corridor, but the Specific Plan discloses that it avoids impacts to views from scenic I-5 due to its canyon location and the large amount of open space, site landscaping, and compatible architectural designs required in the plan's design guidelines that would create a new scenic element in the Castaic area.

### **IMPACT AES-3: Substantially Degrade the Existing Visual Character or Quality of the Site and Its Surroundings?**

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the Centennial planned community project in regard to substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The proposed initiative, in consideration of the development of this planned community within the proposed initiative study area, would be expected to incrementally contribute to direct cumulative impacts to the rural visual character of the area. The Centennial project requires several discretionary approvals, including but not limited to: adoption of the Centennial Specific Plan; a Development Agreement; a Zone Change; a Vesting Tentative Parcel Map (VTPM); Conditional Use Permits (CUP) for Grading and Hillside Management, as well as other discretionary approvals that may be necessary to implement the Project.<sup>59</sup>

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project in regard to substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. This project would be expected to facilitate indirect urbanization of the rural communities of Pearblossom, Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, Valyermo, and Llano as a result of increased transportation access within the subarea. The High Desert Corridor Project would be expected to facilitate indirect urbanization of the rural communities of Pearblossom, Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, Valyermo, and Llano as a result of increased transportation access within the subarea. Therefore, the residential development as a result of the proposed initiative which would accommodate approximately 12,880 persons within the proposed initiative study area within the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon would be expected to incrementally contribute to indirect cumulative impacts to visual character, in combination with the High Desert Corridor Project.

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan in regard to substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The approximately 6,170-acre Specific Plan area is located on currently agricultural and largely undeveloped land, within the SR-126 and I-5 eligible State scenic highway corridors, within Chiquito Canyon, is comprised of a few significant ridgelines, includes portions of the adopted Santa Clara River SEA, and is adjacent to parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and the Landmark Village Project EIR (Newhall Ranch Phase I) have been prepared, which disclose that the Specific Plan would significantly alter the visual characteristics of the Santa Clara River/State Route 126 corridor and Interstate 5 corridor, significantly alter views in Chiquito Canyon, introduce outdoor lighting such as streetlights and traffic signals (essential safety features), and ultimately result in significant and unavoidable impacts to the visual character of the site, which would change from rural to urban.<sup>60</sup> Therefore, the proposed initiative, in consideration of the development of this planned community adjacent to the proposed

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<sup>59</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. October 1, 2015. Revised Notice of Preparation. The Centennial Project, County Project Number: Project No. 02-232. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/sp\\_02-232\\_nop-20151001.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/sp_02-232_nop-20151001.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. November 2006. Landmark Village Draft EIR. Volume II. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/lmv>

initiative study area, would be expected to incrementally contribute to direct cumulative impacts to the rural visual character of the area, in combination with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the Northlake Specific Plan in regard to substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The approximately 1,330-acre Specific Plan Area is located on currently undeveloped land west of Castaic Lake, includes one significant ridgeline, and is adjacent to parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. The Northlake Specific Plan, approved in 2015, is located completely within the Castaic Area CSD.<sup>61</sup> Although the Specific Plan discloses that it avoids impacts to views from Castaic Lake due to its canyon location and the large amount of open space, site landscaping, and compatible architectural designs required in the plan's design guidelines that would create a new scenic element in the Castaic area, the development of undeveloped open space would ultimately alter the visual character of the area. Therefore, the proposed initiative, in consideration of the development of the Northlake planned community, would be expected to incrementally contribute to direct cumulative impacts to the rural visual character of the area of northern Los Angeles County.

#### **IMPACT AES-4: Create a New Source of Substantial Light or Glare Which Would Adversely Affect Day or Nighttime Views in the Area?**

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the Town of Centennial project in regard to creation of a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Similar to the proposed initiative, although the Centennial project would be located completely within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District and subject to the provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance, the project would be expected to result in the creation of new sources of substantial glare which would adversely affect daytime views as a result of development. Therefore, the proposed initiative, in consideration of the development of this planned community within the proposed initiative study area, would be expected to incrementally contribute to direct cumulative impacts to increased sources of daytime glare, in combination with the Centennial project.

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project in regard to creation of a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Similar to the proposed initiative, although the majority of the High Desert Corridor Project would be located within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District and subject to provisions of the Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance, the project would be expected to result in the creation of new sources of substantial glare which would adversely affect daytime views as a result of development. Therefore, the residential development as a result of the proposed initiative which would accommodate approximately 12,880 persons within the proposed initiative study area within the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon would be expected to incrementally contribute to indirect cumulative impacts to increased sources of daytime glare, in combination with the High Desert Corridor Project.

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan in regard to creation of a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Similar to the proposed initiative, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan would be expected to result in the creation of new sources of substantial glare which would

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<sup>61</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. October 22, 2015. Project No. R2015-00408-(5) / Vesting Tentative Tract Map 073336. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/tr073336>.

adversely affect daytime views as a result of development. Furthermore, as the Specific Plan would not be located within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District, and only a small portion of the Specific Plan would be located within the Castaic Area CSD, the project would be expected to create a new source of nighttime light or glare as it would not be subject to the provisions of the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance. Therefore, the proposed initiative, in consideration of the development of this planned community adjacent to the proposed initiative study area, would be expected to incrementally contribute to direct cumulative impacts to increased sources of daytime glare, in combination with the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

The proposed initiative would be expected to contribute incrementally with the Northlake Specific Plan in regard to creation of a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The approximately 1,330-acre Specific Plan Area is located on currently undeveloped land west of Castaic Lake, and is adjacent to parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Similar to the proposed initiative, although the Northlake Specific Plan would be located completely within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District as well as the Castaic Area CSD and subject to provisions of both ordinances, the project would be expected to result in the creation of new sources of substantial glare which would adversely affect daytime views as a result of development. Therefore, proposed initiative, in consideration of the development of this planned community adjacent to the proposed initiative study area, would be expected to incrementally contribute to direct cumulative impacts to increased sources of daytime glare, in combination with the Northlake Specific Plan.

### **3.1.6 MITIGATION MEASURES**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to aesthetics, including contribution to cumulative impacts to views from scenic highways, visual character, and daytime light and glare as a result of altering the rural community character of the area, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

#### **IMPACT AES-1: Have a Substantial Adverse Effect on a Scenic Vista?**

The consideration of mitigation measures is not required.

#### **IMPACT AES-2: Substantially Damage Scenic Resources, Including, but Not Limited to Trees, Rock Outcroppings, and Historic Buildings within a State Scenic Highway?**

**MM-AES-1:** To mitigate potential impacts on aesthetics, including scenic resources within a State scenic highway, adverse changes to visual quality or character of an area, or creation of new sources of light and glare, property owners determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water shall be required to complete and submit a Site Plan Review Application to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. The Site Plan Review Application shall contain relevant information to characterize the project for consistency with County of Los Angeles General Plan Goals and Policies related to visual character and quality, including development that affects the viewshed of a State-designated scenic highway or a highway determined eligible for State designation as a scenic highway; consistency with any applicable community standards districts, including a site plan that describes existing oak trees, the proposed building materials, hardscape and landscape plans (including fences, setbacks, and walls); and design features that have been used to avoid or minimize impacts on State- or County-designated scenic highways or routes, to the extent feasible. The site plan shall note the location of any existing or proposed trails depicted in the Regional Trail System map in the Parks and Recreation Element of the County General

Plan, and shall provide evidence of avoidance of recorded trail easement or alignment agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation for existing or proposed trails that would be affected by the development of the proposed property. The site plan shall demonstrate the manner in which building materials or visual screening have been used to visually screen buildings and structures and reduce daytime glare. The Site Plan shall also demonstrate compliance with any additional site requirements related to any applicable community standards district standards.

**IMPACT AES-3: Substantially Degrade the Existing Visual Character or Quality of the Site and Its Surroundings?**

MM-AES-1.

**IMPACT AES-4: Create a New Source of Substantial Light or Glare Which Would Adversely Affect Day or Nighttime Views in the Area?**

MM-AES-1.

**3.1.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

**IMPACT AES-1: Have a Substantial Adverse Effect on a Scenic Vista?**

Implementation of the proposed initiative would not result in significant impacts to aesthetics in regard to scenic vistas. The consideration of mitigation measures is not required, and impacts would be **less than significant**.

**IMPACT AES-2: Substantially Damage Scenic Resources, Including, but Not Limited to Trees, Rock Outcroppings, and Historic Buildings within a State Scenic Highway?**

As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Building and Safety and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with applicable provisions of California Scenic Highway Program, Sections 260 through 263 and the Corridor Protection Program for Angeles Crest Scenic Byway which provide minimum requirements for scenic corridor protection within a State scenic highway corridor (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*).

Although conformance with regulatory measures and implementation of **MM-AES-1** would reduce and avoid impacts, impacts to scenic resources that are visible from State scenic highways would not be reduced to below the level of significance. Therefore, the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed initiative would remain **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT AES-3: Substantially Degrade the Existing Visual Character or Quality of the Site and Its Surroundings?**

As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division plan check and agency referral process, and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with applicable provisions of the 1968 National Trails System Act and the 1982 Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan and the Community Standards District Ordinance (Ord. 93-0047 § 1,

1993: Ord. 87-0130 § 1, 1987: Ord. 83-0065 § 5, 1983: Ord. 1494 Ch. 9 Art. 5 § 905.1, 1927.) which provide coordination protocols regarding Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail easements and rights-of-way and establish standards to protect visual character within community standards districts, including protection of significant ridgelines and standards for street lighting and outdoor lighting (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*).

Although conformance with regulatory measures and implementation of **MM-AES-1** would reduce impacts, impacts resulting from the change in visual quality from currently undeveloped state to residential development would not be reduced to below the level of significance. Therefore, the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed initiative on aesthetics from the change in visual character would remain **significant and unavoidable**.

#### **IMPACT AES-4: Create a New Source of Substantial Light or Glare Which Would Adversely Affect Day or Nighttime Views in the Area?**

As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division plan check and agency referral process, and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with applicable provisions of the Los Angeles County Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance and Community Standards District Ordinance (Ord. 93-0047 § 1, 1993: Ord. 87-0130 § 1, 1987: Ord. 83-0065 § 5, 1983: Ord. 1494 Ch. 9 Art. 5 § 905.1, 1927.) which provide limitations on outdoor lighting to maintain dark skies at night and establish standards to protect views within community standards districts, including standards for street lighting and outdoor lighting (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*).

Conformance with regulatory measures and implementation of **MM-AES-1**, which requires conformance with community standards district provisions related to the reduction of daytime glare and protection of the night sky, would reduce and avoid impacts to aesthetics from the creation of new sources of light and glare to below the level of significance. Therefore, the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed initiative would be **less than significant**.

## **SECTION 3.2**

### **AIR QUALITY**

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As a result of the Initial Study (Appendix F),<sup>1</sup> the County of Los Angeles (County) determined that the proposed Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development (proposed initiative) had the potential to result in impacts to air quality. Therefore, this issue has been carried forward for detailed analysis in this Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The analysis of air quality consists of a summary of the regulatory framework that guides the decision-making process, a description of the existing conditions at the proposed initiative study area, thresholds for determining if the proposed initiative would result in significant impacts, anticipated impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative), mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation. Available air quality data from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) were referenced for this analysis and evaluated with regards to federal, state, and regional standards and regulations. An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Report was prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed initiative (Appendix H, *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Report*).

#### **Definitions**

**AAQS:** Ambient air quality standards (AAQS) define the maximum amounts of a pollutant that can be present in outdoor air without causing harm to the public's health, as established by a public agency. This analysis references both the National AAQS (NAAQS) established pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act and the State of California (CAAQS) established pursuant to the State Clean Air Act.

**AVAQMD:** The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) is the local agency with the primary responsibility for the control of non-vehicular sources of air pollution through the Antelope Valley.

**CAPCOA:** California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association (CAPCOA) is a nonprofit association of the air pollution control officers from all 35 local air quality agencies throughout California.

**CARB:** California Air Resources Board (CARB) is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency and is responsible for attaining and maintaining healthy air quality, conducting air pollution research, and systematically solving air quality issues throughout the state.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas formed by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels.

**H<sub>2</sub>S:** Hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) is a colorless gas with the foul characteristic of rotten eggs, and is associated with geothermal activity, oil and gas production, refining, sewage treatment plants, and confined animal feeding operations.

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<sup>1</sup> Sapphos Environmental, Inc. September 2014. County of Los Angeles Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development Initial Study. Prepared for: County of Los Angeles.

**MDAB:** The Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) is one of several geopolitical regional air basin areas designated by the state government of California, for the purpose of air quality management and air pollution control in Southern California. The MDAB is comprised of four air districts: the Kern County Air Pollution Control District, the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, and the eastern portion of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

**N<sub>2</sub>O:** Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is a clear, colorless gas with a slightly sweet odor that is primarily produced by agricultural soil management including soil cultivation practices, animal manure management, sewage treatment, mobile and stationary combustion of fossil fuels, and production of adipic and nitric acids.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is a highly reactive, brownish-red gas that plays a major role in the formation of ground-level ozone and acid rain.

**O<sub>3</sub>:** Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is a colorless gas that is formed in the atmosphere when reactive organic gases react in the atmosphere in the presence of ultraviolet sunlight and is one of the main components of photochemical smog in urban areas.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>:** Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) with primary sources that include fuel combustion from motor vehicles, power generation, industrial facilities, residential fireplaces, and wood stoves.

**PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) with primary sources that include crushing or grinding operations; dust stirred up by vehicles traveling on roads; wood-burning stoves and fireplaces; dust from construction, landfills, and agriculture; wildfires and brush/waste burning activities; industrial sources; windblown dust from open lands; and atmospheric chemical and photochemical reactions.

**Pb:** Lead (Pb) in the atmosphere occurs as particulate matter with primary sources that include leaded gasoline, battery manufacture, paint, ink, ceramics, ammunition, and secondary Pb smelters.

**ROG:** Reactive organic gases (ROGs), also known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), are emitted from incomplete combustion of hydrocarbons or other carbon-based fuels.

**SCAB:** The Southern California Air Basin (SCAB) is one of several geopolitical regional air basin areas designated by the state government of California, for the purpose of air quality management and air pollution control in Southern California. The SCAB district was created in 1969 and includes all of Orange County and the non-desert regions of Los Angeles County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County.

**SCAG:** The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities, and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to encourage a more sustainable Southern California now and in the future.

**SCAQMD:** South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the air pollution agency responsible for regulating stationary sources of air pollution in the South Coast Air Basin. The

SCAQMD develops, adopts and implements an Air Quality Management Plan for bringing the area into compliance with the clean air standards established by national and state governmental legislation.

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) is a colorless, pungent gas formed primarily by the combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels. Generally, the highest levels of SO<sub>2</sub> are found near large industrial complexes where coal and oil are used in power plants and industries.

**SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-2</sup>:** Sulfates (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-2</sup>) are particulate products of combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels.

**TACs:** Toxic air contaminants (TACs) are airborne pollutants that potentially pose a hazard to human health or may be expected to result in an increased rate of mortality or serious illness.

**VOC:** Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), also known as reactive organic gases (ROGs), are emitted from incomplete combustion of hydrocarbons or other carbon-based fuels.

**U.S. EPA:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is an agency of the federal government that was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress. The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. EPA to establish national ambient air quality standards for certain common and widespread pollutants based on the latest science.

### 3.2.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

#### Federal

##### *Federal Clean Air Act*

The Clean Air Act (CAA) was enacted in 1970 to foster growth in the economy and industry while improving human health and the environment. The CAA is the comprehensive federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. Among other things, the CAA authorizes the U.S. EPA to establish national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and public welfare and to regulate emissions of hazardous air pollutants. The CAA requires the U.S. EPA to routinely review and update the NAAQS in accordance with the latest available scientific evidence. For example, the 1-hour standard for O<sub>3</sub> was revoked in 2005 in favor of a new 8-hour standard that is intended to better protect public health.

##### *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*

The NAAQS were established by the U.S. EPA per the requirements of the CAA (Table 3.2.1-1, *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*). The NAAQS are used to identify thresholds for specific pollutants. Two types of air quality standards were established by the CAA: (1) primary standards and (2) secondary standards. Primary standards define limits for the intention of protecting public health, which includes sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Secondary standards define limits to protect public welfare to include protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

**TABLE 3.2.1-1  
NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

Pollutant		Primary/Secondary	Averaging Time	Level
Carbon Monoxide		Primary	8-hour	9 ppm
			1-hour	35 ppm
Lead		Primary and Secondary	Rolling 3 month average	0.15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Nitrogen Dioxide		Primary	1-hour	100 ppb
		Primary and Secondary	Annual	53 ppb
Ozone		Primary and Secondary	8-hour	0.075 ppm
Particle Matter	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Primary	Annual	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
		Secondary	Annual	15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
		Primary and Secondary	24-hour	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
	PM <sub>10</sub>	Primary and Secondary	24-hour	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Sulfur Dioxide		Primary	1-hour	75 ppb
		Secondary	3-hour	0.5 ppm

**KEY:** ppm = parts per million; ppv = parts per billion; µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter.

**NOTE:** As of October 2011.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. December 2012. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Washington, DC.

### *State Implementation Plans*

Federal clean air laws require areas with unhealthy levels of ozone, inhalable particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide to develop plans, known as State Implementation Plans (SIPs). SIPs are comprehensive plans that describe how an area will attain NAAQS. The 1990 amendments to the federal CAA set deadlines for attainment based on the severity of an area's air pollution problem.

SIPs are a compilation of new and previously submitted plans, programs (such as monitoring, modeling, permitting, etc.), district rules, state regulations, and federal controls. Many of California's SIPs rely on the same core set of control strategies, including emissions standards for cars and heavy trucks, fuel regulations, and limits on emissions from consumer products. State law makes CARB the lead agency for all purposes related to the SIP. CARB forwards SIP revisions to the U.S. EPA for approval and publication in the *Federal Register*. The Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Chapter I, Part 52, Subpart F, Section 52.220, lists all of the items included in the California SIP.

### *Conformity Rule*

Section 176(c) of the CAA states that a federal agency cannot issue a permit for or support an activity unless the agency determines it would conform to the most recent U.S. EPA-approved SIP. This means that projects using federal funds or requiring federal approval must not (1) cause or contribute to any new violation of a NAAQS; (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation; or (3) delay the timely attainment of any standard, interim emission reduction, or other milestone.

Based on the present NAAQS attainment status of the SCAB, a federal action would conform to the SIP if its annual emissions remain below 100 tons of CO and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 70 tons of PM<sub>10</sub>, and 10 tons of NOX or VOCs. These de minimis thresholds apply to the proposed construction and operation activities pertaining to the federal action. If the proposed action exceeds one or more of the de

minimis thresholds, a more rigorous conformity determination is the next step in the conformity evaluation process. SCAQMD Rule 1901 adopts the guidelines of the General Conformity Rule.

### ***Highway Diesel Rule (the “2007 Highway Rule”)***

To reduce emissions from off-road diesel equipment, the U.S. EPA established a series of increasingly strict emission standards for new engines. Locomotives and marine vessels are exempt from this rule. Manufacturers of off-road diesel engines would be required to produce engines with certain emission standards under the following compliance schedule:

- Tier 1 standards were phased in from 1996 to 2000 (year of manufacture), depending on the engine horsepower category
- Tier 2 standards were phased in from 2001 to 2006
- Tier 3 standards were phased in from 2006 to 2008
- Tier 4 standards, which likely will require add-on emissions control equipment to attain them, will be phased in from 2008 to 2015

In 2000, the U.S. EPA moved forward with its regulation to make heavy-duty trucks and buses run cleaner. The Highway Diesel Rule (the “2007 Highway Rule”) was finalized in January 2001. Beginning with the 2007 model year, the harmful pollution from heavy-duty highway vehicles will be reduced by more than 90 percent. U.S. EPA will require a 97 percent reduction in the sulfur content of highway diesel fuel from its current level of 500 parts per million (ppm) (low sulfur diesel, or LSD) to 15 ppm parts per million (ultra-low sulfur diesel, or ULSD).

## **State**

### ***Heavy-Duty Diesel Truck Idling Regulation***

Beginning in 2008, CARB implemented the Heavy-Duty Diesel Truck Idling Regulation, requiring that heavy-duty trucks be equipped with a non-programmable engine system that shuts down the engine after five minutes to prevent long idling times or, as an alternative, meet a stringent NO<sub>x</sub> idling emissions standard. Additionally, CARB has established diesel fuel regulations that limit sulfur emissions to 15 ppm for diesel sold in California for use in on-road and off-road motor vehicles.

### ***Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program***

The CARB Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) establishes a uniform program to regulate portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units. Once registered in this program, engines and equipment units may operate throughout California without the need to obtain individual permits from local air districts. The portable equipment, however, cannot reside at the same location for more than 12 months. Some construction-related equipment may be registered under PERP. Equipment would not reside at the same location for more than 12 months.

### ***On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicle Regulation***

On December 12, 2008, CARB approved the on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicle (in use) regulation to significantly reduce PM and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from existing diesel vehicles operating in California. The regulation applies to nearly all diesel-fueled trucks and buses with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 14,000 pounds that are privately or federally owned and for privately and

publicly owned school buses. Starting January 1, 2012, the regulation would phase-in requirements for heavier trucks to reduce PM emissions with exhaust retrofit filters that capture pollutants before they are emitted to the air or by replacing vehicles with newer vehicles that are originally equipped with PM filters. Starting on January 1, 2015, lighter trucks with a GVWR of 14,001 to 26,000 pounds with engines that are 20 years or older would need to be replaced with newer trucks. Starting January 1, 2020, all remaining trucks and buses would need to be replaced so that they would all have 2010 model year engines or equivalent emissions by 2023. Heavier trucks and buses with a GVWR greater than 26,000 pounds would have two ways to comply. Fleets could comply with a compliance schedule by engine model year or use a phase-in option where engine replacement could be delayed by installing a PM filter on the existing engine.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Airborne Toxic Control Measure***

Effective February 19, 2011, diesel-fueled portable engines with a rated brake horsepower of 50 or greater are subject to the CARB's Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM). The ATCM imposes fuel and diesel particulate matter (DPM) emission requirements for in-use and new portable diesel engines. Diesel fleets are required to meet certain DPM standards by set compliance dates. By January 1, 2020, new emergency standby diesel engines will need to be certified to Tier 4 emission standards.

### ***California Clean Air Act***

The California CAA of 1988 requires all air pollution control districts in the state to aim to achieve and maintain state ambient air quality standards for O<sub>3</sub>, CO, and NO<sub>2</sub> by the earliest practicable date and to develop plans and regulations specifying how the districts will meet this goal. There are no planning requirements for the state PM<sub>10</sub> standard. The CARB, which became part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) in 1991, is responsible for meeting state requirements of the federal CAA, administering the California CAA, and establishing the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The California CAA, amended in 1992, requires all air districts in the state to endeavor to achieve and maintain the CAAQS. The CAAQS are generally stricter than national standards for the same pollutants, but there is no penalty for nonattainment. California has established standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride, and visibility-reducing particles, for which there are no national standards.

### ***California Ambient Air Quality Standards***

The federal CAA permits states to adopt additional or more protective air quality standards if needed. California has set standards for certain pollutants, such as particulate matter and ozone, which are more protective of public health than respective federal standards (Table 3.2.1-2, *California Ambient Air Quality Standards*). California has also set standards for some pollutants that are not addressed by federal standards.

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<sup>2</sup> California Air Resources Board. "On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles (In-Use) Regulation." <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/onrdiesel.htm>

**TABLE 3.2.1-2  
CALIFORNIA AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

Pollutant		Averaging Time	Level
Carbon Monoxide		8-hour	9 ppm
		1-hour	20 ppm
Lead		30 day average	1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Nitrogen Dioxide		1-hour	0.18 ppm
		Annual	0.03 ppm
Ozone		8-hour	0.07 ppm
		1-hour	20 ppm
Particle Matter	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Annual	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
	PM <sub>10</sub>	24-hour	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
		Annual	20 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Sulfur Dioxide		1-hour	0.25 ppm
		24-hour	0.04 ppm
Sulfates		24-hour	25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Hydrogen Sulfide		1-hour	0.03 ppm
Vinyl Chloride		24-hour	0.01 ppm

**KEY:** ppm = parts per million; µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter.

**NOTE:** As of June 2012.

**SOURCE:** California Air Resources Board. November 2009. California Ambient Air Quality Standards. Sacramento, CA.

***Assembly Bill 1493 (2009) / Advanced Clean Cars Program***

The Advanced Clean Cars Program under AB 1493 (referred to as Pavley I) requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and adopt standards for vehicle manufacturers to reduce GHG emissions coming from passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks at a “maximum feasible and cost effective reduction” by January 1, 2005. Pavley I took effect for model years starting in 2009 to 2016 and Pavley II, which is now referred to as “LEV (Low Emission Vehicle) III GHG” will cover 2017 to 2025. Fleet average emission standards would reach 22 percent reduction by 2012 and 30 percent by 2016.

As of January 2012, CARB adopted the Advanced Clean Cars program to extend AB 1493 through model years 2017 to 2025. This program will promote all types of clean fuel technologies such as plug-in hybrids, battery electric vehicles, compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, and hydrogen powered vehicles while reducing smog and saving consumers’ money in fuel costs. By 2025, when the rules will be fully implemented:

- New automobiles will emit 34 percent fewer global warming gases and 75 percent fewer smog-forming emissions.
- Environmentally superior cars will be available across the range of models, from compacts, to SUVs, pickups and minivans.
- Consumer savings on fuel costs will average \$6,000 over the life of the car. The savings more than offsets the average \$1,900 increase in vehicle price for the ultra-clean, high-efficiency technology.

## ***Executive Order B-16-2012***

EO B-16-2012 establishes long-term targets of reaching 1.5 million zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) on California's roadways by 2025 and sets ZEV purchasing requirements for State Government fleets. EO B-16-2012 also sets a target for 2050 of a reduction of GHG emissions from the transportation sector equaling 80 percent less than 1990 levels. In February 2013, an interagency working group developed the ZEV Action Plan, which identifies specific strategies and actions that State agencies will take to meet the milestones of the Executive Order. The ZEV Action Plan states:

ZEVs are crucial to achieving the state's 2050 greenhouse gas goal of 80 percent emission reductions below 1990 levels, as well as meeting federal air quality standards. Achieving 1.5 million ZEVs by 2025 is essential to advance the market and put the state on a path to meet these requirements.

## **Regional**

### ***AQMD Rule 403, Fugitive Dust***

The SCAQMD and AVAQMD have adopted Rule 403, *Fugitive Dust*, which requires the implementation of best available fugitive dust control measures during construction and operational activities capable of generating fugitive dust emissions from on-site earth-moving activities, construction/demolition activities, and mobile equipment traveling on paved and unpaved roads.

### ***Rule 1401, New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants and Rule 1402, Control of Toxic Air Contaminants from Existing Sources***

The SCAQMD has adopted two rules for TACs to limit cancer and non-cancer health risks from facilities located within its jurisdiction. Rule 1401, *New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants*, regulates new or modified facilities; and Rule 1402, *Control of Toxic Air Contaminants from Existing Sources*, regulates facilities that are already in operation. Rule 1402 incorporates requirements of the AB 2588 program, including implementation of risk reduction plans for significant risk facilities.

### ***SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook***

Although the SCAQMD is responsible for regional air quality planning efforts, it does not have the authority to directly regulate air quality issues associated with new development projects within the SCAB. Instead, the SCAQMD published the *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* in 1993 to assist lead agencies, as well as consultants, project proponents, and other interested parties, in evaluating potential air quality impacts of projects proposed in the SCAB. The *SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook* provides standards, methodologies, and procedures for conducting air quality analyses in EIRs and was used extensively in the preparation of this analysis.

### ***South Coast Air Quality Management Plan***

The Castaic/Santa Clarita subarea, the Kagel Canyon subarea, and the western portion of the Acton/Agua Dulce subarea are located within the SCAQMD boundary, and are therefore subject to

the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The most recent update to the AQMP was adopted in 2012 by the SCAQMD Board and the CARB.<sup>3</sup> The AQMP demonstrates attainment of the federal 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard by 2014 in the SCAB through adoption of all feasible measures. The current AQMP also updates the U.S. EPA–approved 8-hour ozone control plan with new measures designed to reduce reliance on the CAA Section 182(e)(5) long-term measures for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC reductions. In addition, the AQMP addresses several state and federal planning requirements, incorporating new scientific information, primarily in the form of updated emissions inventories, ambient measurements, and new meteorological air quality models.

### ***Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District Attainment Plan***

The Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea; the Lancaster Northeast subarea; the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea; the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea; and the eastern portion of the Acton subarea are all located within the AVAQMD, and are therefore subject to the AVAQMD Attainment Plan. The AVAQMD has adopted a single attainment plan for ozone. The AVAQMD Federal 8-hour Ozone Attainment Plan, adopted in May 2008, demonstrates that the AVAQMD will meet the primary required federal ozone planning milestones by June 2021, presents the progress the AVAQMD will make towards meeting all required ozone planning milestones, and discusses the newest 0.075 part per million 8-hour ozone NAAQS.<sup>4</sup>

### ***2012–2035 Southern California Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Plan***

SCAG is a council of governments for the Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. As a regional planning agency, SCAG serves as a forum for regional issues relating to transportation, the economy, community development, and the environment. SCAG also serves as the regional clearinghouse for projects requiring environmental documentation under federal and state law. In this role, SCAG reviews projects to analyze their impacts on SCAG’s regional planning efforts.

Although SCAG is not an air quality management agency, it is responsible for several air quality planning issues. Specifically, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Southern California region, it is responsible, pursuant to Section 176(c) of the 1990 amendments to the CAA, for providing current population, employment, travel, and congestion projections for regional air quality planning efforts. It is required to quantify and document the demographic and employment factors influencing expected transportation demand, including land use forecasts. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 40460(b), SCAG is also responsible for preparing and approving the portions of the Basin’s air quality management plans relating to demographic projections and integrated regional land use, housing, employment, and transportation programs, measures, and strategies. SCAG’s method of accomplishing these requirements is through the preparation of demographic projections published in its 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which was used by the SCAQMD in the preparation of its 2012 AQMP, discussed below.

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<sup>3</sup> South Coast Air Quality Management District. 2012. Final 2012 Air Quality Management Plan. Diamond Bar, CA.

<sup>4</sup> Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. 20 May 2008. AVAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan.

## **County of Los Angeles General Plan**

The proposed initiative subareas are located within unincorporated Los Angeles County and subject to the County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035. The General Plan was the primary planning document referenced for the County. The Air Quality Element summarizes the air quality issues and outlines the goals and policies in the General Plan that will improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Of the 12 policies outlined in the Air Quality Element, the following four policies are applicable to the proposed initiative:<sup>5</sup>

Goal AQ 1: Protection from exposure to harmful air pollutants.

- Policy AQ 1.2: Encourage the use of low or no volatile organic compound (VOC) emitting materials.
- Policy AQ 1.3: Reduce particulate inorganic and biological emissions from construction, grading, excavation, and demolition to the maximum extent feasible.
- Policy AQ 1.4: Work with local air quality management districts to publicize air quality warnings, and to track potential sources of airborne toxics from identified mobile and stationary sources.

Goal AQ 2: The reduction of air pollution and mobile source emissions through coordinated land use, transportation and air quality planning.

- Policy AQ 2.2: Participate in, and effectively coordinate the development and implementation of community and regional air quality programs.

### **3.2.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### **Regional Climate**

##### ***Southern California Air Basin***

The regional climate significantly influences the air quality in the SCAB. Temperature, wind, humidity, precipitation, and the amount of sunshine influence the quality of the air. In addition, the SCAB is frequently subjected to an inversion layer that traps air pollutants. Temperature has an important influence on basin wind flow, pollutant dispersion, vertical mixing, and photochemistry.

Annual average temperatures throughout the SCAB vary from the low to middle 60 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). However, due to decreased marine influence, the eastern portion of the SCAB shows greater variability in average annual minimum and maximum temperatures. January is the coldest month throughout the SCAB, with average minimum temperatures of 47°F in downtown Los Angeles and 36°F in San Bernardino. All portions of the SCAB have recorded maximum temperatures above 100°F.

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<sup>5</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 8: Air Quality Element. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch8.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch8.pdf)

Although the climate of the SCAB can be characterized as semiarid, the air near the land surface is quite moist on most days because of the presence of a marine layer. This shallow layer of sea air is an important modifier of SCAB climate. Humidity restricts visibility in the SCAB, and the conversion of SO<sub>2</sub> to SO<sub>4</sub> is heightened in air with high relative humidity. The marine layer is an excellent environment for that conversion process, especially during the spring and summer months. The annual average relative humidity is 71 percent along the coast and 59 percent inland. Because the ocean effect is dominant, periods of heavy early morning fog are frequent, and low stratus clouds are a characteristic feature. These effects decrease with distance from the coast.

More than 90 percent of the SCAB's rainfall occurs from November through April. Annual average rainfall varies from approximately 9 inches in Riverside to 14 inches in downtown Los Angeles. Monthly and yearly rainfall totals are extremely variable. Summer rainfall usually consists of widely scattered thundershowers near the coast and slightly heavier shower activity in the eastern portion of the region and near the mountains. Rainy days comprise 5 to 10 percent of all days in the SCAB, with the frequency being higher near the coast. The influence of rainfall on the contaminant levels in the SCAB is minimal. Although some washout of pollution would be expected with winter rains, air masses that bring precipitation of consequence are very unstable and provide excellent dispersion that masks wash-out effects. Summer thunderstorm activity affects pollution only to a limited degree. If the inversion is not broken by a major weather system, then high contaminant levels can still persist even in areas of light showers.

### ***Mojave Desert Air Basin***

The MDAB is an assemblage of mountain ranges interspersed with long broad valleys that often contain dry lakes. Many of the lower mountains which dot the vast terrain rise from 1,000 to 4,000 feet above the valley floor. Prevailing winds in the MDAB are out of the west and southwest. These prevailing winds are due to the proximity of the MDAB to coastal and central regions and the blocking nature of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the north; air masses pushed onshore in Southern California by differential heating are channeled through the MDAB. The MDAB is separated from the Southern California coastal and central California valley regions by mountains (highest elevation approximately 10,000 feet), whose passes form the main channels for these air masses. The Antelope Valley is bordered in the northwest by the Tehachapi Mountains, separated from the Sierra Nevadas in the north by the Tehachapi Pass (3,800 feet). The Antelope Valley is bordered in the south by the San Gabriel Mountains, bisected by Soledad Canyon (3,300 feet).

During the summer the MDAB is generally influenced by a Pacific Subtropical High cell that sits off the coast, inhibiting cloud formation and encouraging daytime solar heating. The MDAB is rarely influenced by cold air masses moving south from Canada and Alaska, as these frontal systems are weak and diffuse by the time they reach the desert. Most desert moisture arrives from infrequent warm, moist and unstable air masses from the south. The MDAB averages between three and seven inches of precipitation per year (from 16 to 30 days with at least 0.01 inch of precipitation). The MDAB is classified as a dry-hot desert climate (BWh), with portions classified as dry-very hot desert (BWh) to indicate at least three months have maximum average temperatures over 100.4° F.

### ***Temperature Inversion***

The vertical dispersion of air pollutants in the SCAB and MDAB is frequently restricted by the presence of a persistent temperature inversion in the atmospheric layers near the earth's surface. Normally, the temperature of the atmosphere decreases with altitude. However, when the temperature of the atmosphere increases with altitude, the phenomenon is termed an inversion. An

inversion condition can exist at the surface or at any height above the ground. The bottom of the inversion, known as the mixing height, is the height of the base of the inversion.

In general, inversions in the SCAB and MDAB are lower before sunrise than during the daylight hours. As the day progresses, the mixing height normally increases as the warming of the ground heats the surface air layer. As this heating continues, the temperature of the surface layer approaches the temperature of the base of the inversion layer. When these temperatures become equal, the inversion layer's lower edge begins to erode, and if enough warming occurs, the layer breaks up. The surface layers are gradually mixed upward, diluting the previously trapped pollutants. The breakup of inversion layers frequently occurs during mid to late afternoon on hot summer days. Winter inversions usually break up by midmorning.

### ***Regional Air Quality***

Air quality in Southern California does not meet the state and federal standards. The American Lung Association consistently gives the County failing grades in the amount of ozone and particulate pollution in the air. Although smog levels are impacted by seasons and weather patterns, smog is visible in the air on most days.

The County is situated within a large basin with the Pacific Ocean to the west and several mountain ranges with 11,000-foot peaks to the east and south. Frequent sunny days and low rainfall contribute to O<sub>3</sub> formation, as well as high levels of fine particles and dust. In addition, the County is home to many diverse industries and the largest goods movement hub on the West Coast. In spite of emission controls that are among the most stringent in the country, power generation and petroleum refining continue to be among the County's largest stationary sources of air pollution.

The determination of whether a region's air quality is healthy or unhealthy is determined by comparing contaminant levels in ambient air samples to national and state standards. These standards were established to protect exposed sensitive receptors from adverse health effects with a margin of safety. Air quality of a region is considered to be in attainment/nonattainment of the state standards.

For the SCAB, the maximum pollutant concentrations measured at SCAQMD monitoring stations in 2011 exceeded the levels of the federal standards for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and lead (Pb) (Table 3.2.2-1, *NAAQS Attainment Status South Coast Air Basin*). In 2011, a total of 125 days exceeded the levels of current short-term (24-hour average or less) federal standards for 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> or 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> at one or more SCAB locations. The more stringent state 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> or 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standards were exceeded on 137 days. While the SCAB exceeded the state annual and 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standards, it did not exceed the 24-hour federal standard. The federal and state annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards were exceeded in the SCAB in 2011, with only one station exceeding the federal standard. While the state PM<sub>10</sub> annual standard was exceeded, the revoked federal annual PM<sub>10</sub> standard was not. The other criteria pollutants, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>), did not exceed federal or state standards.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>South Coast Air Quality Management District. 2012 AQMP. Appendix II, Current Air Quality. February 2013. Available online at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/2012aqmp/Final-February2013/AppII.pdf>

**TABLE 3.2.2-1  
NAAQS ATTAINMENT STATUS SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN**

Criteria Pollutant	Standard	Designation
Ozone	1-Hour (0.12 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme)
	1997 8-Hour (0.08 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme)
	2008 8-Hour (0.075 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme)
Carbon Monoxide	1-Hour (35 ppm)	Attainment
	8-Hour (9 ppm)	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	1-Hour (100 ppb)	Attainment
	Annual (0.053 ppm)	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	1-Hour (75 ppb)	Designation pending
	24-Hour (0.14 ppm)	Designation pending
	Annual (0.03 ppm)	Attainment
PM <sub>10</sub>	24-Hour (150 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Nonattainment (Serious)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	24-Hour (35 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Nonattainment
	Annual (15.0 µ/m <sup>3</sup> )	Nonattainment
Lead	3-Months Rolling (0.15 µ/m <sup>3</sup> )	Nonattainment (Partial)

**KEY:** ppm = parts per million; ppv = parts per billion; µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter.

**SOURCE:** South Coast Air Quality Management District. February 2013. 2012 AQMP. Appendix II, Current Air Quality. Available online at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/2012aqmp/Final-February2013/AppII.pdf>

Furthermore, as shown in Table 3.2.2-2, *Attainment Status for AVAQMD*, the AVAQMD portion of the MDAB is classified as non-attainment for the federal and state ozone standards and the state PM<sub>10</sub> standard. All other criteria pollutants have been designated as attainment for the AVAQMD portion of the MDAB.

**TABLE 3.2.2-2  
ATTAINMENT STATUS FOR AVAQMD**

Criteria Pollutant	Standard	Designation
Ozone	8-Hour (Federal 84 ppb)	Nonattainment (Severe)
	8-Hour (Federal 75 ppb)	Nonattainment
	State	Nonattainment (Extreme)
Carbon Monoxide	Federal	Attainment
	State	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Federal	Attainment
	State	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Federal	Attainment
	State	Attainment
PM <sub>10</sub>	Federal	Unclassified
	State	Nonattainment
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Federal	Unclassified/attainment
	State	Unclassified
Lead	Federal	Attainment
	State	Attainment

**SOURCE:** Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. Accessed 29 May 2014. AVAQMD Designations and Classifications. Available online at: <http://www.avaqmd.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=289>

Southern California does not meet either the federal or state standards for ambient air quality. The Health and Safety Code (H&SC) section 39607(e) requires CARB to periodically review area designation criteria for CAAQS. These designation criteria provide the basis for CARB to designate areas of California as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for the State standards. CARB made the first area designations for CAAQS in 1989 and, since then, has reviewed the designations each year, making changes as needed. As of 2012, the County has been designated as nonattainment for O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and Pb (Table 3.2.2-3, *CAAQS Attainment Status Los Angeles County*).

**TABLE 3.2.2-3  
CAAQS ATTAINMENT STATUS LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Pollutant	Designation
Ozone	Nonattainment
PM <sub>10</sub>	Nonattainment
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Nonattainment / Unclassified
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment
Sulfates	Attainment
Lead	Nonattainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	Unclassified
Visibility Reducing Particles	Unclassified

**SOURCE:** California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board. 2013. 2012 State Area Designations. Available online at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>

### ***Sensitive Receptors***

Land uses identified to be sensitive receptors by SCAQMD in the Air Quality Handbook include residences, schools, medical centers, and parks.

#### *Residences*

The area that would be subject to the proposed initiative consists of 42,867 parcels in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, all of which could potentially be developed into single-family residences. As these parcels are vacant and have yet to be developed, all 42,867 parcels shall be considered sensitive receptors.<sup>7</sup>

Using 2008 building footprint GIS data, buildings over 1,000 square feet within a one-quarter mile of the 42,867 parcels were identified. (An assumption of over 1,000 square feet was used to qualify a building as a potential residence.) Using the assumption that a residence can only be built on certain zoning designations, there are 21,565 buildings over 1,000 square feet in those zoning designations and within one-quarter mile of all the proposed initiative subareas. The designations cover cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The qualifying zoning designations for building a residence include: open space, commercial recreation, commercial planned development, light manufacturing, planned industrial manufacturing, heavy agricultural, light

<sup>7</sup> The term vacant is used as identified by the County Assessor.

agricultural, limited multiple residence, rural mixed-use development, rural, residential agricultural, rural commercial, residential planned development, residential agricultural, single-family residence, specific plan, and two-family residence.

### *Schools*

There are 20 elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools located within one-quarter mile of the parcels within all the proposed initiative subareas. There are no schools within one-quarter mile in the Acton subarea and the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea (Figure 3.2.2-1, *Schools within One-Quarter Mile of Proposed Initiative Subarea Parcels*). Table 3.2.2-4, *Schools in the Vicinity of Proposed Initiative Subareas*, indicates which schools are located adjacent to or in the vicinity of the proposed initiative subareas.

**TABLE 3.2.2-4  
SCHOOLS IN THE VICINITY OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE SUBAREAS**

<b>Subarea</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Public/Private</b>
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	Agua Dulce Elementary School	Public
	Desert Canyon Academy	Private
	Mint Canyon Elementary School	Public
	Castaic Elementary School	Public
	Castaic Middle School	Public
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster	Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Elementary School	Public
	Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Middle School	Public
	Gorman Elementary School	Public
	Gorman Middle School	Public
	Del Sur Elementary School	Public
	Del Sur Middle School	Public
	Neenach Elementary School	Public
	Sommer Haven Church School	Private
Shema Christian	Private	
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	Almondale Middle School	Public
	Lake Los Angeles Elementary School	Public
	Vista San Gabriel Elementary School	Public
Lancaster Northeast	Eastside Elementary School	Public
East San Gabriel Mountains	Mount Baldy Elementary School	Public
	Hathaway-Sycamores NPS	Private

### *Medical Centers*

There are no medical centers located within a one-quarter-mile radius of any of the proposed initiative parcels.

### *Parks*

In addition to residential parcels, schools, and hospitals, parks are often considered sensitive receptors due to the likely presence of children and because athletes have higher breathing rates. There are three local parks (approximately 25 acres) located within a one-quarter mile-radius of the proposed initiative parcels (Table 3.2.2-5, *Local Parks in the Vicinity of Proposed Initiative Subareas*). There are 27 regional parks (approximately 40,542 acres) located within a one-quarter-

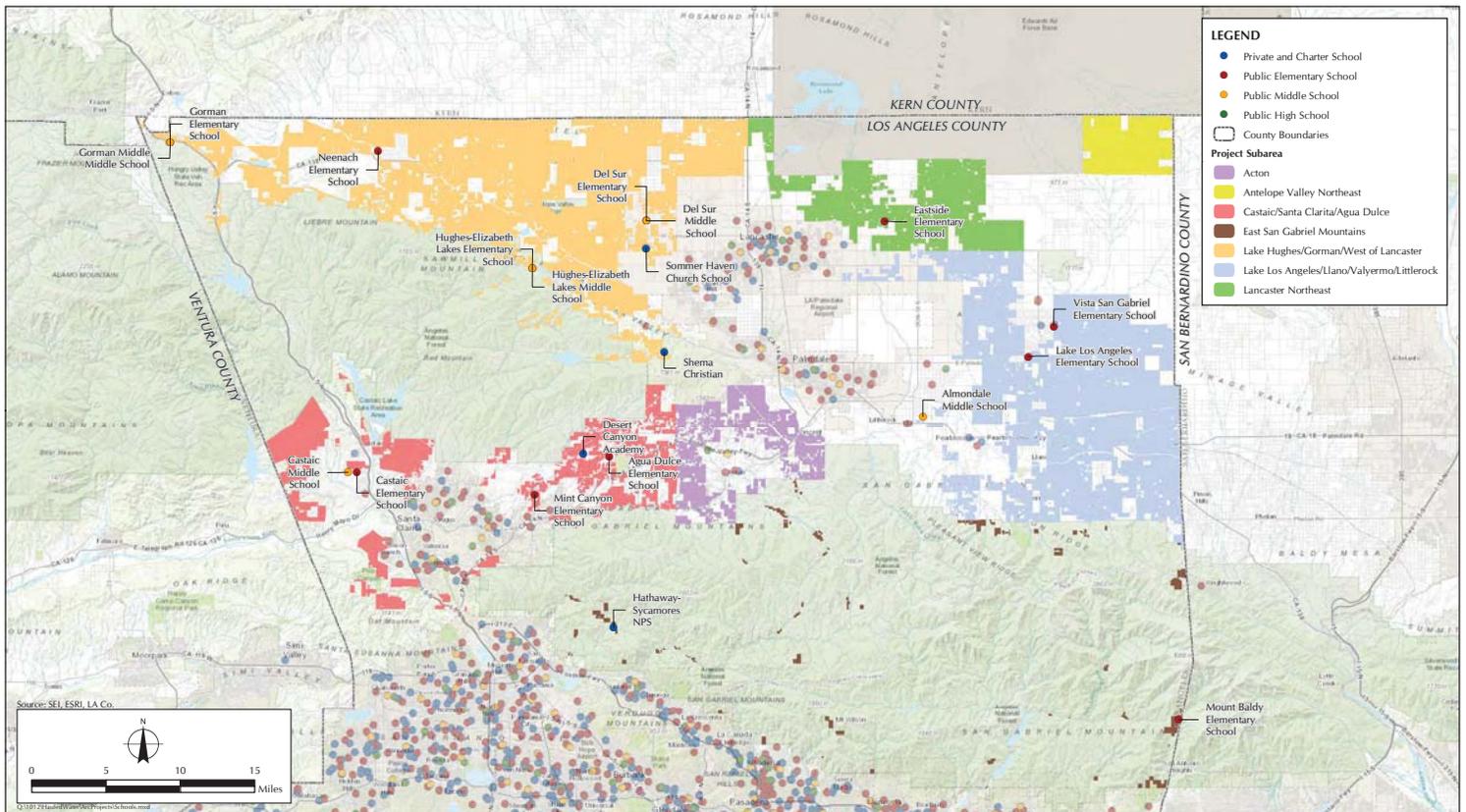
mile radius of the proposed initiative parcels (Table 3.2.2-6, *Regional Parks in the Vicinity of Proposed Initiative Subareas*). Local and regional parks acreage within one-quarter mile of the proposed initiative parcels total approximately 40,567 total acres (Figure 3.2.2-2, *Parks within One-Quarter Mile of Proposed Initiative Subarea Parcels*).

**TABLE 3.2.2-5  
LOCAL PARKS IN THE VICINITY OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE SUBAREAS**

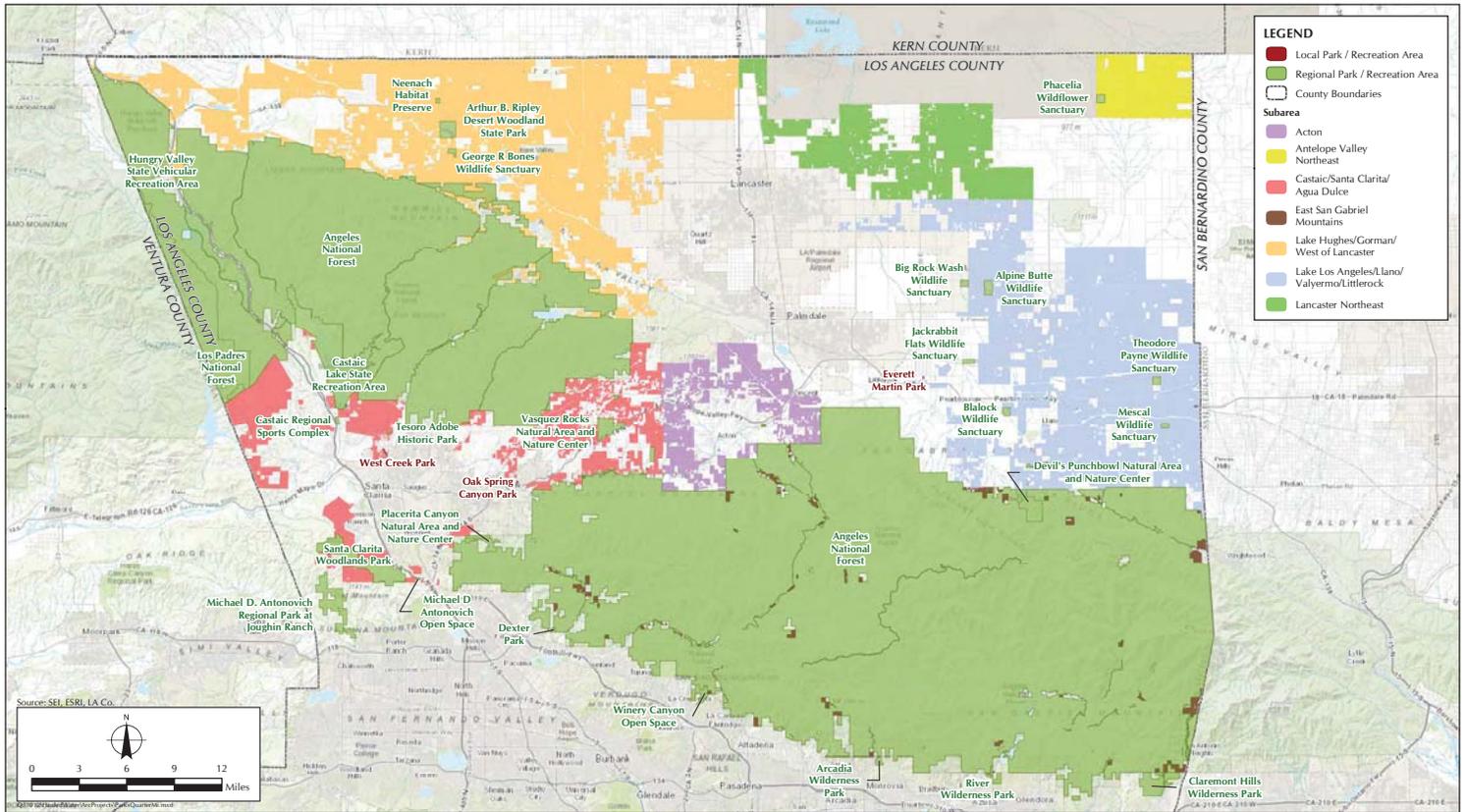
Subarea	Park	Acreage within One-Quarter Mile
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	Oak Spring Canyon Park	1
	West Creek Park	18
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock	Everett Martin Park	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

**TABLE 3.2.2-6  
REGIONAL PARKS IN THE VICINITY OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE SUBAREAS**

Subarea	Park	Acreage within One-Quarter Mile
Acton	Angeles National Forest	34,116
Antelope Valley Northeast	Phacelia Wildflower Sanctuary	160
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce	Castaic Lake State Recreation Area	956
	Castaic Regional Sports Complex	24
	Los Padres National Forest	132
	Michael D Antonovich Open Space	6
	Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch	1
	Placerita Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center	30
	Santa Clarita Woodlands Park	1502
	Tesoro Adobe Historic Park	18
	Vasquez Rocks Natural Area and Nature Center	507
	East San Gabriel Mountains	Arcadia Wilderness Park
Claremont Hills Wilderness Park		211
Dexter Park		38
River Wilderness Park		11
Winery Canyon Open Space		94
Lake Hughes/Gorman/ West of Lancaster	Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park	434
	George R Bones Wildlife Sanctuary	99
	Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area	1125
	Neenach Habitat Preserve	40
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/ Littlerock	Alpine Butte Wildlife Sanctuary	315
	Big Rock Wash Wildlife Sanctuary	80
	Blalock Wildlife Sanctuary	110
	Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area and Nature Center	235
	Jackrabbit Flats Wildlife Sanctuary	39
	Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary	99
Theodore Payne Wildlife Sanctuary	157	
<b>Total</b>		<b>40,542</b>



**FIGURE 3.2.2-1**  
Schools within One-Quarter Mile of Proposed Initiative Subarea Parcels



**FIGURE 3.2.2-2**  
Parks within One-Quarter Mile of Proposed Initiative Subarea Parcels

### 3.2.3 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The air quality impacts associated with the proposed initiative can be separated into construction-related short-term impacts and operation-related long-term, permanent impacts. Both types of impacts may occur on a local or regional scale. The potential for the proposed initiative to result in impacts related to air quality and GHG emissions was analyzed in relation to the questions outlined in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. Would the proposed initiative:

- a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

In the absence of specific guidance set forth by the County regarding construction emissions, impacts to air quality were also evaluated in accordance with the most recent SCAQMD and AVAQMD significance thresholds for criteria pollutants (Table 3.2.3-1, *SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds*; and Table 3.2.3-2, *AVAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds*).

**TABLE 3.2.3-1  
SCAQMD AIR QUALITY SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS**

Pollutant	Construction (pounds/day)	Operation (pounds/day)
Nitrogen Oxides	100	55
VOC	75	55
PM <sub>10</sub>	150	150
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	55	55
Sulfur Oxides	150	150
Carbon Monoxide	550	550

**SOURCE:** South Coast Air Quality Management District. 1993. CEQA Handbook.

**TABLE 3.2.3-2  
AVAQMD AIR QUALITY SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS**

Pollutant	Construction (pounds/day)	Operation (pounds/day)
Nitrogen Oxides	137	137
VOC	137	137
PM <sub>10</sub>	82	82
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	82	82
Sulfur Oxides	137	137
Carbon Monoxide	548	548

**SOURCE:** Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. 2011. CEQA and Federal Conformity Guidelines.

- c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?
- d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

### 3.2.4 IMPACT ANALYSIS

#### IMPACT AIR-1: Conflict with or Obstruct Implementation of the Applicable Air Quality Plan?

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to air quality in relation to conflicting with or obstructing implementation of the applicable air quality plans. The proposed initiative subareas are located within the County of Los Angeles, within the SCAQMD portion of the SCAB and the AVAQMD portion of the MDAB. The proposed initiative is therefore subject to the SCAQMD AQMP that was adopted in 2012, which demonstrates attainment of the federal 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard by 2014 and implements the adopted 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> control plan, and the AVAQMD federal 8-hour Ozone Attainment Plan that was adopted in 2008. The SCAQMD is currently classified as nonattainment for the federal 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard and nonattainment (extreme) for the federal 8-Hour O<sub>3</sub> standard, and the AVAQMD is currently classified as nonattainment (severe) for the federal 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> standard.

Since 2003, building permits have not been issued for the construction of new single-family residences, on properties that are not served by groundwater or a public or private water purveyor. The subject vacant parcels in the proposed initiative subareas would not be eligible for residential development in the absence of the proposed initiative or a comparable action.<sup>8</sup> Assuming a reasonable worst-case scenario, the proposed initiative has the potential to result in approximately 184 building permits per year for residential development. Construction emissions associated with the proposed initiative would include construction of new single-family residences in each of the proposed initiative subareas where issuance of building permits would be allowed based on the use of hauled water. Operational emissions associated with the proposed initiative would include delivery of hauled water to and from residential developments and designated water purveyors as well as additional passenger car trips by the residents. As a result of construction and operational activities, the proposed initiative would have the potential to increase emissions for criteria pollutants for which the proposed initiative subareas are not in attainment.

**Construction.** The proposed initiative would have a significant impact on air quality for VOCs, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the SCAQMD region (Table 3.2.4-1, *Estimated Daily Regional On-Site Construction Emissions*). The proposed initiative would have a significant impact on VOCs, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO in the AVAQMD region. As such, the proposed initiative would conflict with the SCAQMD AQMP and the AVAQMD federal 8-hour Ozone Attainment Plan. Considering that construction equipment will meet stricter emission standards in the future and given the 20-year planning horizon, this analysis constitutes a reasonable worst-case scenario using emissions calculated in 2016. Tier 4 emission standards for off-road diesel engines are expected to reduce exhaust emissions by 90 percent.

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<sup>8</sup> The term vacant refers to parcels identified as such by the County Assessor.

**TABLE 3.2.4-1  
ESTIMATED DAILY REGIONAL ON-SITE CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS**

Off-Road Emission Sources	Construction Emissions (Pounds/Day)					
	VOCs	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	SO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Site Preparation	27.51	293.28	218.43	< 1	36.12	56.03
Grading	48.70	516.99	333.11	< 1	53.24	80.46
Building Construction	152.55	1,638.54	741.63	< 1	66.35	71.12
Paving	18.16	206.78	129.61	< 1	9.27	10.06
Architectural Coating	235.81	145.49	115.55	< 1	12.05	12.05
<b>SCAQMD Significance Threshold</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Significant?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>AVAQMD Significance Threshold</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Significant?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

**SOURCE:** Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 2015. Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emission Technical Report. Appendix A, CalEEMod Output for the Proposed initiative. (Appendix H).

**Operation.** The proposed initiative would have significant operational air quality impacts (Table 3.2.4-2, *Estimated Daily Operational Emissions*). Daily operational emissions are above the SCAQMD and AVAQMD significance thresholds for all criteria air pollutants except SO<sub>x</sub>. As such, the proposed initiative would conflict with the SCAQMD AQMP and the AVAQMD federal 8-hour Ozone Attainment Plan. Passenger mobile trips is the largest contributor to the operational emissions as there would be an expected 588,000 additional passenger vehicle miles traveled (VMT) made by 2035 at full build-out on 3,680 parcels (184 parcels/year × 20 years). The 4,300 daily truck VMT generated by this proposed initiative are responsible for a relatively small amount of emissions compared to the 588,000 new passenger VMT generated from the new single-family residences.

Estimated emissions are likely to be higher than actual emissions from the proposed initiative due to the conservative assumptions used for emission modeling and emission factors from 2016. In the next 20 years, it is likely that there will be technological advances and stricter regulations reducing operational household and mobile emissions. For example, passenger mobile emissions are expected to decline significantly with Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards reaching an average 54.5 miles per gallon (mpg) for all cars by 2025.

**TABLE 3.2.4-2  
ESTIMATED DAILY OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS**

Emission Sources	Air Pollutants (Pounds/Day)					
	VOCs	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	SO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Area	332.67	3.61	308.02	1.66	1.66	1.66
Energy	2.98	25.47	10.82	< 1	2.06	2.06
Mobile (Hauled Water Truck Trips)	.17	1.93	1.99	< 1	.08	.21
Mobile (Passenger Trips)	222.27	557.15	3540.16	5.89	112.61	407.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>558.09</b>	<b>588.16</b>	<b>3860.99</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>116.41</b>	<b>411.31</b>
<b>SCAQMD Significance Threshold</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Significant?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>AVAQMD Significance Threshold</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Significant?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**SOURCE:** Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 2015. Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emission Technical Report. Appendix A, CalEEMod Output for the Proposed initiative. (Appendix H).

**IMPACT AIR-2: Violate Any Air Quality Standard or Contribute Substantially to an Existing or Projected Air Quality Violation?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to air quality in relation to violation of any air quality standard or substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation. As shown in Table 3.2.2-3, the County is currently designated as nonattainment for California’s O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and Pb standards. It is anticipated that construction and operational activities associated with the proposed initiative would contribute significantly to existing air quality standards. During the construction phase, the air quality impacts from constructing 184 single-family residences yearly across unincorporated Los Angeles County would contribute substantially to the amounts of O<sub>3</sub> precursors, CO, PM<sub>2.5</sub> (in SCAQMD), and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions standard as shown in Table 3.2.4-1. For operations, the increased truck traffic from delivering hauled water and the additional passenger car trips would substantially increase the amounts of O<sub>3</sub> precursors, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub> above the emissions standards as shown in Table 3.2.4-2. Therefore, both construction and operation phases would cause a violation to the air quality standards.

**IMPACT AIR-3: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Any Criteria Pollutant for Which the Project Region Is Non-attainment under an Applicable Federal or State Ambient Air Quality Standard (Including Releasing Emissions Which Exceed Quantitative Thresholds for Ozone Precursors)?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to air quality in relation to resulting in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). The proposed initiative would result in a net increase in emissions of VOC, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO; and it would also have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts on air quality from related projects in the vicinity of the proposed initiative subareas. As shown in Table 3.2.2-1, the proposed initiative subareas located within the SCAQMD portion of the SCAB are designated as nonattainment (extreme) for the federal 8-Hour O<sub>3</sub> standard, nonattainment (serious) for the federal 24-Hour PM<sub>10</sub> standard, nonattainment for both the federal 24-Hour and Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, and nonattainment (partial) for the 3-Month Rolling Pb standard. Table 3.2.2-2 indicates that the

AVAQMD portion of the MDAB is nonattainment (severe) for the federal 8-hour ozone standard, nonattainment (extreme) for the state ozone standard, and nonattainment for the state PM<sub>10</sub> standard. Additionally, the County as a whole is designated as nonattainment for the California's ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen dioxide, and lead standards.

The proposed initiative is therefore subject to the SCAQMD AQMP that was adopted in 2012, which demonstrates attainment of the federal 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard by 2014 and implements the adopted 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> control plan, and the AVAQMD federal 8-hour Ozone Attainment Plan that was adopted in 2008. As mentioned above for issue areas (a) and (b), construction and operational emissions associated with the proposed initiative would be expected to substantially increase the amounts of O<sub>3</sub> precursors (VOC), PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>. As such, cumulative impacts to air quality in relation to SCAQMD, AVAQMD, and County attainment statuses are expected to be significant.

#### **IMPACT AIR-4: Expose Sensitive Receptors to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations?**

The proposed initiative would result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. There are 42,867 vacant parcels within the proposed initiative subareas that would be subject to the proposed initiative and are considered sensitive receptors. In addition, there are schools and parks located within a one-quarter mile of the proposed initiative subareas. The Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Report (Appendix H) includes further description of the nearby sensitive receptors in Sections 2.3.6, *Schools*, 2.3.7, *Medical Centers*, and 2.3.8, *Parks*.

As discussed above for issue areas (a)–(c), construction and operational activities are anticipated to increase levels of VOC, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub> within the proposed initiative subareas, in the vicinity of sensitive receptors. However, because the pollutant concentrations are dispersed among the seven subareas, no one sensitive receptor would take the full impact of the proposed initiative's emissions. The construction emissions would be spread geographically among 184 construction sites yearly across unincorporated Los Angeles County, and the operational emissions would be spread among the potential development of approximately 3,680 parcels across unincorporated Los Angeles County at the end of the 20-year time horizon. Therefore, the proposed initiative would result in less than significant impacts to air quality relating to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

#### **IMPACT AIR-5: Create Objectionable Odors Affecting a Substantial Number of People?**

The proposed initiative would result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to creating objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Odors associated with the proposed initiative would include diesel emissions from on-site construction equipment during the construction phase of the project. Odors associated with the proposed initiative would include diesel emissions from truck trips between the point of sale of the hauled water and single-family residences that would utilize hauled water sources. Passenger car emissions would also be generated from the residents living on the parcels. The use of diesel-powered equipment would only occur in the short-term for construction, and once a week for water delivery to residential developments within the proposed initiative subareas. Similar to the response to issue area (d), the odors from these mobile and construction emissions would be dispersed across Los Angeles County and not concentrated towards a specific location or group of people. Therefore, impacts related to objectionable odors would be below the level of significance.

### 3.2.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

#### **IMPACT AIR-1: Conflict with or Obstruct Implementation of the Applicable Air Quality Plan?**

The incremental impacts of the proposed initiative, when added to the related past, present, reasonably foreseeable or probable future projects, would be expected to result in significant cumulative impacts related to air quality in relation to conflicting with or obstructing implementation of the applicable air quality plans. The four related projects in the vicinity are the Centennial Project, High Desert Corridor Project, Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and Northlake Specific Plan. The cumulative effect of these related projects alongside the proposed project would increase emissions for criteria pollutants for which the proposed initiative subareas are not in attainment, thereby violating the SCAQMD AQMP and associated attainment plans.

#### **IMPACT AIR-2: Violate Any Air Quality Standard or Contribute Substantially to an Existing or Projected Air Quality Violation?**

The incremental impacts of the proposed initiative, when added to the related past, present, reasonably foreseeable or probable future projects, would be expected to result in significant cumulative impacts related to air quality in relation to violating an air quality standard or substantially contributing to an existing or projected air quality violation for VOCs, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>.

#### **IMPACT AIR-3: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Any Criteria Pollutant for Which the Project Region Is Non-attainment under an Applicable Federal or State Ambient Air Quality Standard (Including Releasing Emissions Which Exceed Quantitative Thresholds for Ozone Precursors)?**

The incremental impacts of the proposed initiative, when added to the related past, present, reasonably foreseeable or probable future projects, would be expected to result in significant cumulative impacts related to air quality in relation to resulting in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). By applying the SCAQMD's cumulative air quality methodology, implementation of the proposed initiative while taking into account the four related projects would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants for which the Basin is in nonattainment. The SCAB is currently in nonattainment for ozone, for which VOCs and NO<sub>x</sub> are precursors; PM<sub>2.5</sub>; and PM<sub>10</sub>. The MDAB is currently in nonattainment for ozone and PM<sub>10</sub>. Cumulative impacts to criteria pollutants for which the region is non-attainment would occur for VOCs, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>.

#### **IMPACT AIR-4: Expose Sensitive Receptors to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations?**

The incremental impacts of the proposed initiative, when added to the related past, present, reasonably foreseeable or probable future projects, would be expected to result in less than significant cumulative impacts related to air quality in relation to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

### **IMPACT AIR-5: Create Objectionable Odors Affecting a Substantial Number of People?**

The incremental impacts of the proposed initiative, when added to the related past, present, reasonably foreseeable or probable future projects, would be expected to result in less than significant cumulative impacts in relation to creating objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

### **3.2.6 MITIGATION MEASURES**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to air quality due to the anticipated exceedance of VOC, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, and PM emissions during both construction and operation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

### **IMPACT AIR-1: Conflict with or Obstruct Implementation of the Applicable Air Quality Plan?**

**MM-AIR-1:** To mitigate potential impacts on air quality from fugitive dust and criteria pollutants during construction, property owners determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water shall adhere to Department or Regional Planning Standard Conditions of Approval related to protection of air quality:

- All off-road diesel powered engines used during construction and related excavation or grading phases shall utilize construction equipment that adheres to Tier 4 emission standards, or comparable methods, to achieve a 90 percent reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> and PM emissions.
- Measures required and recommended by the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District at the time of construction shall be implemented. The feasibility of such measure to avoid or reduce impacts is characterized by five examples of such measure that were required or recommended at the time of preparation of this EIR:
  - Keep all construction equipment in proper tune in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
  - Use late-model heavy-duty diesel-powered equipment at the project site to the extent that it is readily available in the South Coast Air Basin (meaning that it does not have to be imported from another air basin and the procurement of the equipment would not cause a delay in construction activities of more than two weeks).
  - Use low emission diesel fuel for all heavy-duty diesel-powered equipment operating and refueling at the project site to the extent that it is readily available and cost effective in the South Coast Air Basin (meaning that it does not have to be imported from another air basin and the procurement of the equipment would not cause a delay in construction activities of more than two weeks, that the cost of the equipment is not more than 20 percent greater than the cost of standard equipment).
  - Limit truck and equipment idling time to five minutes or less.
  - Rely on the electricity infrastructure surrounding the construction site rather than electrical generators powered by internal combustion engines to the extent feasible.

- All construction activities shall implement fugitive dust control measures in accordance with SCAQMD and AVAQMD Rule 403. Measures required and recommended by SCAQMD and AVAQMD at the time of construction shall be implemented. The feasibility of such measure to avoid or reduce impacts, related to fugitive dust, is characterized by eight examples of such measure that were required or recommended at the time of preparation of this EIR:
  - Water active grading/excavation sites and unpaved surfaces at least three times daily.
  - Cover stockpiles with tarps, or apply non-toxic chemical binders.
  - Sweep daily (with water sweepers) all paved parking areas and staging areas.
  - Provide daily clean-up of mud and dirt carried on to paved streets from the site.
  - Wash off the tires of tracks of all trucks and equipment leaving the site.
  - Install wind breaks at the windward side of the construction site.
  - Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds (instantaneous gusts) exceed 15 miles per hour over a 30-minute period or more.
  - An information sign shall be posted at the entrance to each construction site that identifies the permitted construction hours and provides a telephone number to call and receive information about the construction project or report complaints regarding excessive fugitive dust generation. Any reasonable complaints shall be rectified within 24 hours of their receipt.

**IMPACT AIR-2: Violate Any Air Quality Standard or Contribute Substantially to an Existing or Projected Air Quality Violation?**

**MM-AIR-1.**

**IMPACT AIR-3: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Any Criteria Pollutant for Which the Project Region Is Non-attainment under an Applicable Federal or State Ambient Air Quality Standard (Including Releasing Emissions Which Exceed Quantitative Thresholds for Ozone Precursors)?**

**MM-AIR-1.**

**IMPACT AIR-4: Expose Sensitive Receptors to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations?**

The consideration of mitigation measures is not required.

**IMPACT AIR-5: Create Objectionable Odors Affecting a Substantial Number of People?**

The consideration of mitigation measures is not required.

**3.2.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

**IMPACT AIR-1: Conflict with or Obstruct Implementation of the Applicable Air Quality Plan?**

**MM-AIR-1** would reduce impacts to air quality related to conflicting with or obstructing implementation of the applicable air quality plans. Property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would

be required to comply with the Federal and California Clean Air Acts (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). In addition, the County has identified Best Practices that may be employed to mitigate PM2.5 and PM10 emissions from fugitive dust (please see Appendix D, *Best Practices*). Implementation of **MM-AIR-1**, regulatory measures, and voluntary implementation of Best Practices would not reduce direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to below the level of significance; therefore, impacts would remain **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT AIR-2: Violate Any Air Quality Standard or Contribute Substantially to an Existing or Projected Air Quality Violation?**

**MM-AIR-1** would reduce impacts to air quality related to violating any air quality standard or contributing substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be required to comply with the Federal and California Clean Air Acts (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). In addition, the County has identified Best Practices that may be employed to mitigate PM2.5 and PM10 emissions from fugitive dust (please see Appendix D, *Best Practices*). Implementation of **MM-AIR-1**, regulatory measures, and voluntary implementation of Best Practices would not reduce direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to below the level of significance; therefore, impacts would remain **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT AIR-3: Result in a Cumulatively Considerable Net Increase of Any Criteria Pollutant for Which the Project Region Is Non-attainment under an Applicable Federal or State Ambient Air Quality Standard (Including Releasing Emissions Which Exceed Quantitative Thresholds for Ozone Precursors)?**

**MM-AIR-1** would reduce impacts to air quality relating to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). Property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be required to comply with the Federal and California Clean Air Acts (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). In addition, the County has identified Best Practices that may be employed to mitigate PM2.5 and PM10 emissions from fugitive dust (please see Appendix D, *Best Practices*). Implementation of **MM-AIR-1**, regulatory measures, and voluntary implementation of Best Practices would not reduce direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to below the level of significance; therefore, impacts would remain **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT AIR-4: Expose Sensitive Receptors to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations?**

The proposed initiative would result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The consideration of mitigation measures is not required, and impacts would be **less than significant**.

**IMPACT AIR-5: Create Objectionable Odors Affecting a Substantial Number of People?**

The proposed initiative would result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to creating objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. The consideration of mitigation measures is not required, and impacts would be **less than significant**.

## **SECTION 3.3**

### **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

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As a result of the Initial Study (Appendix F),<sup>1</sup> the County determined that the proposed initiative would have the potential to result in significant impacts to biological resources. Therefore, this issue has been carried forward for detailed analysis in this EIR. This analysis was undertaken to identify opportunities to avoid, reduce, or otherwise mitigate potential significant impacts to biological resources. The analysis of biological resources consists of a summary of the regulatory framework that guides the decision-making process, a description of the existing conditions within the proposed initiative study area, thresholds for determining if the proposed initiative would result in significant impacts, anticipated impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative), mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation.

The proposed initiative was evaluated with regard to information contained in published and unpublished literature, databases, review of current and historic maps and aerial photographs to characterize the existing conditions in relation to biological resources, and modeling of potential development to estimate the potential level of development. The evaluation also considered the policies, goals, and objectives of the adopted and proposed land use planning documents for the study area: Land Use Element and Conservation and Natural Resources Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035,<sup>2,3</sup> the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country,<sup>4</sup> and the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan.<sup>5</sup> Letters and comments were received in response to the Notice of Preparation (Appendix E). Comments provided during the scoping period have been taken into consideration in this section. Letters received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Center for Biological Diversity recommended that focused field surveys including rare plant surveys, plant community mapping, and jurisdictional delineations be performed. All potential listed and sensitive species and State jurisdictional areas have been assumed to be present for the purpose of this analysis. As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division plan check and agency referral process, and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with provisions of the applicable federal, State, or local statute or regulations. Compliance with applicable federal, State, or local statutes and regulations is the sole responsibility of the property owner.

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<sup>1</sup> Sapphos Environmental, Inc. September 2014. County of Los Angeles Single-Family Residential Hauled Water Initiative for New Development Initial Study. Prepared for: County of Los Angeles.

<sup>2</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 6: Land Use Element. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country: A Component of the Los Angeles County General Plan. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc>

<sup>5</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd\\_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf)

## Definitions

**Critical Habitat:** A designated area defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) as being important for the survival of species listed pursuant to the federal ESA. The USFWS evaluates the collection of the environmental conditions (i.e., plant communities, range, elevation, food source, etc.) essential to the continued conservation and preservation of each species listed as federally threatened and endangered.

**Federal Wetlands:** Defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the EPA as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.”<sup>6</sup>

**Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs):** Required by the USFWS as part of an application for an “incidental take” permit for species listed pursuant to the federal ESA. HCPs describe the anticipated effects of the proposed taking, how the impacts will be minimized and mitigated, and how the HCP is to be funded.

**Listed Species:** Include those species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the federal and State Endangered Species Acts (ESAs).

**Locally Important Species:** Include those not listed pursuant to the State or federal ESA or designated as SSC by CDFW, but otherwise identified as sensitive species that should be considered in assessing the potential effects of proposed projects. These include those plant species designated as rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (Rare Plant Rank 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, or 4).<sup>7</sup> This designation includes those species listed on the California Special Animals List that are not otherwise covered by other regulations.<sup>8</sup> It also includes species afforded protection by the County General Plan, such as some native trees.

**Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP):** Defined by CDFW as a plan for the conservation of natural communities that identifies and provides for the regional or area wide protection and perpetuation of plants, animals, and their habitats.

**Nursery Site:** Habitat in which native wildlife may establish nests, maternity roosts, dens, or otherwise engage in breeding and/or the rearing of offspring.

**Sensitive Plant Community:** A native plant community listed on CDFW Natural Communities List as being rare within California or threatened by human actions.

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. Vicksburg, MS.

<sup>7</sup> California Native Plant Society. 2014. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-02). California Native Plant Society. Sacramento, CA. Available online at: <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>

<sup>8</sup> California Department of Fish and Game, Biogeographic Data Branch. Accessed December 2014. Rarefind 5: A Database Application for the Use of the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA.

**Sensitive Species:** Include (1) Species of Special Concern (SSC) that have been designated by CDFW, (2) rare plants, (3) special-status animals designated by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and (4) locally important species.

**Significant Ecological Area (SEA):** The SEA Program is a component of the Conservation/Open Space Element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan. This program is a resource identification tool that indicates the existence of important biological resources. SEAs are not preserves, but are areas where the county deems it important to facilitate a balance between limited development and resource conservation. Limited development activities are reviewed closely in these areas where site design is a key element in conserving fragile resources such as streams, oak woodlands and threatened or endangered species and their habitat.

**Species of Special Concern:** Species, subspecies, or distinct population of an animal (bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and amphibian) native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following criteria: (a) is extirpated from the State or, in the case of birds, in its primary seasonal or breeding role; (b) is listed as federally, but not State-, threatened or endangered; (c) meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed; (d) is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (non-cyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State-threatened or endangered status; or (e) has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for State-threatened or endangered status.

**State Wetlands/Streams:** Defined by the California Fish and Game Code. A *stream* is defined as a body of water that flows at least periodically, or intermittently, through a bed or channel having banks and supporting fish or other aquatic life. *Wetlands* are defined as areas having riparian vegetation, without regard to wetland vegetation, soils, or hydrology.

**Waters of the United States:** Surface waters such as navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, natural lakes, all wetlands adjacent to other waters, and all impoundments of these waters. On April 21, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to refine the definition of Waters of the United States to include all tributaries of traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, territorial seas, and impoundments of such tributaries; wetlands adjacent to the foregoing; and waters other than wetlands that are adjacent to other jurisdictional waters.<sup>9</sup>

**Wildlife Movement Corridors:** Characterized as areas of habitat that are used by wildlife for the purpose of moving between locations.

### 3.3.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The proposed initiative study area is located entirely within unincorporated Los Angeles County, including the 42,867 subject parcels zoned for single-family residential development, which have not been issued building permits due to a lack of potable water from a water purveyor or water well. As a result, the proposed initiative must comply with the County General Plan and all County land use policies, ordinances, and regulations. The analysis of conformity to the State of California Government Code regarding the development and implementation of the County General Plan

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<sup>9</sup> Federal Register. Vol. 79, No. 76, 21 April 2014. Proposed Rules. Available online at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-21/pdf/2014-07142.pdf>

allows the EIR to fulfill its intended purpose as an informational document. The potential for the proposed initiative to result in significant impacts to biological resources was evaluated in light of the applicable federal, State, and local statutes and regulations that afford protection to rare, threatened, and endangered species; Waters of the State and Waters of the United States; special categories of species, including migratory birds, fur-bearing mammals, and mature oak trees; and lands afforded long-term conservation.

## **Federal**

### *Federal Endangered Species Act*

The federal ESA defines listed species as “endangered” or “threatened” and provides regulatory protection for listed species. The federal ESA provides a program for conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species; it also ensures the conservation of designated critical habitat that the USFWS has determined is required for the survival and recovery of these listed species. Section 9 of the federal ESA prohibits the “take” of species listed by USFWS as threatened or endangered. Take is defined as follows: “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in such conduct.” In recognition that take cannot always be avoided, Section 10(a) of the federal ESA includes provisions for take that is incidental to, but not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) permits (incidental take permits) may be issued if take is incidental and does not jeopardize the survival and recovery of the species. As defined in the federal ESA, individuals, organizations, states, local governments, and other nonfederal entities are affected by the designation of critical habitat only if their actions occur on federal lands; require a federal permit, license, or other authorization; or involve federal funding.<sup>10</sup>

Compliance with the applicable provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

### *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) makes it unlawful to pursue, capture, kill, or possess any migratory bird or part, nest, or egg of any such bird listed in wildlife protection treaties between the United States, Great Britain, Mexico, Japan, and Russia (formerly the Soviet Union).<sup>11</sup> Similar to the federal ESA, the MBTA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for incidental take.

Compliance with the applicable provisions of the MBTA, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

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<sup>10</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Accessed July 2009. Federal Endangered Species Act. Available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/Endangered/pdfs/esaall.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1918. Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html>

### *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act*

The purpose of the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) of 1940 (as amended) that is administered by the USFWS protects bald and golden eagles, their nests, eggs, and parts.<sup>12</sup> The BGEPA prohibits the “take” of bald and golden eagles unless pursuant to regulations. Take is defined by the BGEPA as an action “to pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest, or disturb (i.e., agitate or bother to a degree that causes injury, decreased productivity, or nest abandonment).”<sup>13</sup> In addition, the *National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines* were published by the USFWS in May 2007 in conjunction with delisting the bald eagle to provide provisions to continue to protect bald eagles from harmful actions and impacts.<sup>14</sup> Under the BGEPA, a final rule was published in May 2008 in the *Federal Register* that proposed authorization for take of bald eagles for those with existing authorization under the federal ESA where the bald eagle is covered in an HCP or the golden eagle is covered as a non-listed species.<sup>15</sup>

Compliance with the applicable provisions of the BGEPA, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

### *Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act*

Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, which is administered by the USACOE, regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into Waters of the United States, which include surface waters such as navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, natural lakes, all wetlands adjacent to other waters, and all impoundments of these waters. USACOE has established a series of nationwide permits that authorize certain activities in Waters of the United States, provided that a proposed activity can demonstrate compliance with standard conditions. Projects that result in the loss of less than the acreage specified by the applicable nationwide permit can normally be conducted pursuant to one of the nationwide permits, if consistent with the standard permit conditions. If the conditions of a nationwide permit cannot be met, or the project results in more than minimal adverse environmental impact, an individual permit may be required.

Compliance with the applicable provisions of the Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

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<sup>12</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and Conservation Measures: Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Eagle/guidelines/bgepa.html>

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and Conservation Measures: Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Eagle/guidelines/bgepa.html>

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. May 2007. National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. Available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/eagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Federal Register. 20 May 2008. “Notices.” 73(98): 29075–29084.

## State

### **State Fish and Game Code**

#### *Sections 1600 through 1603, Notification to CDFW of Lake or Streambed Alteration*

All diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake in California are subject to the regulatory authority of the CDFW (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 through 1603) and require preparation of a Streambed Alteration Agreement. Pursuant to the Code, a *stream* is defined as a body of water that flows at least periodically, or intermittently, through a bed or channel having banks and supporting fish or other aquatic life. Based on this definition, a watercourse with surface or subsurface flows that support or have supported riparian vegetation is a stream and is subject to CDFW jurisdiction. Altered or artificial waterways valuable to fish and wildlife are subject to CDFW jurisdiction.

Compliance with Section 1600 of the state Fish and Game Code, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

#### *Sections 1900–1913—Native Plant Protection Act*

The Native Plant Protection Act includes measures to preserve, protect, and enhance rare and endangered native plants. The list of native plants afforded protection pursuant to the Native Plant Protection Act includes those listed as rare and endangered under the California ESA. The Native Plant Protection Act provides limitations that no person would import into this State—or take, possess, or sell within the State of California—any rare or endangered native plant, except in compliance with provisions of the Act. Where individual landowners have been notified by the CDFW that rare or native plants are growing on their land, the landowners are required to notify the CDFW at least 10 days in advance of changing land uses to allow the CDFW to salvage any rare or endangered native plant material.

Compliance with the Native Plant Protection Act where suitable habitat for rare or endangered native plant species exists on their private land, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

#### *Sections 2080 and 2081—California Endangered Species Act*

The California ESA (California Fish and Game Code §§ 2050 et seq.) prohibits the take of listed species, except as otherwise provided in State law. The *take* for the California ESA is defined as it is in the federal ESA; however, unlike the federal ESA, the California ESA also applies the take prohibitions to species petitioned for listing as State candidates rather than only those listed species. State lead agencies are required to consult with CDFW to ensure that any actions undertaken by the lead agency are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any State-listed species or result in destruction or degradation of required habitat. CDFW is authorized to enter into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with individuals, public agencies, universities, zoological gardens, and scientific or educational institutions to import, export, take, or possess listed species for scientific, educational, or management purposes. Permits for incidental take of species protected pursuant to the California ESA are available under certain circumstances as described in Sections 2080 and 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code described below.

Section 2080 of the California ESA states:

No person shall import into this state [California], export out of this state, or take, possess, purchase, or sell within this state, any species, or any part or product thereof, that the commission [State Fish and Game Commission] determines to be an endangered species or threatened species, or attempt any of those acts, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, or the Native Plant Protection Act, or the California Desert Native Plants Act (DNPA).

Pursuant to Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code, CDFW may authorize individuals or public agencies to import, export, take, or possess, any State-listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species. These otherwise prohibited acts may be authorized through permits or MOUs as follows: (1) if the take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity, (2) if impacts of the authorized take are minimized and fully mitigated, (3) if the permit is consistent with any regulations adopted pursuant to any recovery plan for the species, and (4) if the applicant ensures adequate funding to implement the measures required by CDFW. CDFW shall make this determination based on available scientific information and shall include consideration of the ability of the species to survive and reproduce.

Compliance with the California ESA where suitable habitat for state-listed species exists on their private land, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

*Section 2800–2835, Natural Community Conservation Planning Act of 1991, as Amended*

The Natural Community Conservation Planning Act of 1991, as amended in 2003 (California Fish and Game Code Section 2800–2835) established the Natural Community Conservation Planning program for the protection and perpetuation of the State’s biological diversity. The CDFW established the program in order to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem level while accommodating compatible land use. An NCCP identifies and provides for the regional or area-wide protection of plants, animals, and their habitats, while allowing compatible and appropriate economic activity. The CDFW provides support, direction, and guidance to participants in order to ensure that NCCPs are consistent with the State ESA.

*Sections 3503 and 3503.5 State Protection for Birds*

Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the State Fish and Game Code provide regulatory protection to resident and migratory birds and all birds of prey within the State of California, including the prohibition of the taking of nests and eggs, unless otherwise provided for by the Code. Specifically, these sections of the Code make it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by the Code.

Compliance with Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the State Fish and Game Code where suitable nesting habitat for resident and migratory bird species exists on their private land, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

### *Section 3511, 4700, 5050 and 5515 State Fully Protected Species*

The State of California classifies certain animals as “Fully Protected,” in Section 3511 of the State Fish and Game Code. This classification was the State’s initial effort in the 1960s to identify and provide additional protection to certain species that were rare or faced possible extinction. Lists were made for fish, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Most of the species on these lists have subsequently been listed under the State and/or federal ESAs. Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the Fish and Game Code state that Fully Protected species (birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians) or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed at any time, and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for collecting these species for necessary scientific research and relocation of the bird species for the protection of livestock.

Compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the State Fish and Game Code, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

### *Section 4150—Non-Game Mammal or Furbearing Mammal*

All mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission. The regulations of take of furbearing mammals are established within the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 1 (Subdivision 2), Chapter 5. Take is prohibited for several furbearing mammals under Title 14, § 460 of the CCR, including but not limited to desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*). Title 14 § 460 is supported by Sections 200, 202, 203, and 4009.5 of the Fish and Game Code.

Compliance with the applicable provisions of Section 4150 of the State Fish and Game Code, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

### *Division 23 of the California Food and Agriculture Code*

The main purpose of the California DNPA (Division 23 of the California Food and Agriculture Code) is to preserve and enhance desert native plants by protecting certain species from unlawful harvesting on both public and privately owned lands. The list of desert native plants afforded protection pursuant to the DNPA includes species within the Mojave Desert portion of Los Angeles County. The DNPA provides limitations that no person will harvest, transport, or possess certain native desert plants without authorization (i.e., valid permit or wood receipt). Authorization for take of native desert plants can be obtained through the sheriff or commissioner of the county where harvesting will occur and subject to county-designated fees. The following species are regulated by the DNPA and may occur within Los Angeles County: panamint dudleya (*Dudleya saxosa*), all species of the family Agavaceae (century plants and yuccas), all species of the family Cactaceae (cacti), all species of mesquites (*Prosopis*), catclaw (*Acacia greggii*), and desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*).

Compliance with the applicable provisions of Division 23 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, in relation to the development of a property using hauled water as the source of potable water, would be the sole responsibility of the property owner.

## Local

### *Los Angeles County General Plan 2035*

The proposed initiative study area is located entirely within unincorporated Los Angeles County and is subject to the County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035. The Conservation and Natural Resources Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 has established two goals and 12 policies related to biological resources.<sup>16</sup> The two goals and seven supporting policies that apply to the proposed initiative are:

- **Goal C/NR 3:** Permanent, sustainable preservation of genetically and physically diverse biological resources and ecological systems including: habitat linkages, forests, coastal zone, riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, woodlands, alpine habitat, chaparral, shrublands, and Significant Ecological Area (SEAs).
  - Policy C/NR 3.1: Conserve and enhance the ecological function of diverse natural habitats and biological resources.
  - Policy C/NR 3.6: Assist State and federal agencies and other agencies, as appropriate, with the preservation of special-status species and their associated habitat and wildlife movement corridors through the administration of the SEAs and other programs.
  - Policy C/NR 3.8: Discourage development in areas with identified significant biological resources, such as SEAs.
  - Policy C/NR 3.9: Consider the following in the design of a project that is located within an SEA, to the greatest extent feasible:
    - Preservation of biologically valuable habitats, species, wildlife corridors and linkages;
    - Protection of sensitive resources on the site within open space;
    - Protection of water sources from hydro-modification in order to maintain the ecological function of riparian habitats;
    - Placement of the development in the least biologically sensitive areas on the site (prioritize the preservation or avoidance of the most sensitive biological resources onsite); and
    - Maintenance of watershed connectivity by capturing, treating, retaining, and/or infiltrating storm water flows on site.
  - Policy C/NR 3.10: Require environmentally superior mitigation for unavoidable impacts on biologically sensitive areas, and permanently preserve mitigation sites.

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<sup>16</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available online at: [planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf)

- Policy C/NR 3.11: Discourage development in riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, and other native woodlands in order to maintain and support their preservation in a natural state, unaltered by grading, fill, or diversion activities.
- **Goal C/NR 4**: Conserved and sustainably managed woodlands.
  - Policy C/NR 4.1: Preserve and restore oak woodlands and other native woodlands that are conserved in perpetuity with a goal of no net loss of existing woodlands.

#### *2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*

All parcels located within the Santa Clarita Valley are situated within the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan. The 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan has a Conservation and Open Space Element that covers biological resources. There are seven objectives and 32 policies related to Biological Resources, of which four objectives and eight policies are relevant directly to the consideration of the proposed initiative:

- **Objective CO-3.2**: Identify and protect areas which have exceptional biological resource value due to a specific type of vegetation, habitat, ecosystem, or location.
  - Policy CO-3.2.1: Protect wetlands from development impacts, with the goal of achieving no net loss (or functional reduction) of jurisdictional wetlands within the planning area.
  - Policy CO-3.2.2: Ensure that development is located and designed to protect oak and other significant indigenous woodlands. (Guiding Principle #9)
  - Policy CO-3.2.3: Ensure protection of any endangered or threatened species or habitat, in conformance with State and federal laws.
  - Policy CO-3.2.4: Protect biological resources in the designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) through the siting and design of development which is highly compatible with the SEA resources. Specific development standards shall be identified to control the types of land use, density, building location and size, roadways and other infrastructure, landscape, drainage, and other elements to assure the protection of the critical and important plant and animal habitats of each SEA. In general, the principle shall be to minimize the intrusion and impacts of development in these areas with sufficient controls to adequately protect the resources. (Guiding Principle #10)
- **Objective CO-3.3**: Protect significant wildlife corridors from encroachment by development that would hinder or obstruct wildlife movement.
  - Policy CO-3.3.1: Protect the banks and adjacent riparian habitat along the Santa Clara River and its tributaries, to provide wildlife corridors.

- Policy CO-3.3.3: Identify and protect one or more designated wildlife corridors linking the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests through the Santa Clarita Valley (the San Gabriel-Castaic connection).
- **Objective CO-3.5**: Maintain, enhance, and manage the urban forest throughout developed portions of the Santa Clarita Valley to provide habitat, reduce energy consumption, and create a more livable environment.
  - Policy CO-3.5.3: Pursuant to the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, protect heritage oak trees that, due to their size and condition, are deemed to have exceptional value to the community.
- **Objective CO-3.6**: Minimize impacts of human activity and the built environment on natural plant and wildlife communities.
  - Policy CO-3.6.5: Ensure revegetation of graded areas and slopes adjacent to natural open space areas with native plants (consistent with fire prevention requirements).

#### *2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country*

The Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country (Antelope Valley Area Plan) was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on November 12, 2014, and adopted on June 16, 2015.<sup>17</sup> The Antelope Valley Area Plan, a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan, provides planning policies for approximately 1,800 square miles of elevated desert terrain bounded by the southern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains on the south, Kern County to the north, and extending from the eastern border of the community of Agua Dulce and the Ventura County line on the west to the San Bernardino County line on the east, including 94.8 percent of the parcels that would be potentially affected by the proposed initiative.<sup>18</sup> The Antelope Valley Area Plan has one goal and 10 policies related to biological resources, seven of which are relevant directly to the consideration of the proposed initiative:

- **Goal COS 4**: Sensitive habitats and species are protected to promote biodiversity.
  - Policy COS 4.1: Direct the majority of the unincorporated Antelope Valley's future growth to rural town centers and economic opportunity areas, minimizing the potential for habitat loss and negative impacts in Significant Ecological Areas.
  - Policy COS 4.2: Limit the amount of potential development in Significant Ecological Areas, including the Joshua Tree Woodlands, wildlife corridors, and other sensitive habitat areas, through appropriate land use designations with very low residential densities

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<sup>17</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Accessed 1 May 2015. Town & Country: Latest News. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc>

<sup>18</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 16 June 2015. Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country: A Component of the Los Angeles County General Plan. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc>

- Policy COS 4.3: Require new development in Significant Ecological Areas to comply with applicable Zoning Code requirements, ensuring that development occurs on the most environmentally suitable portions of the land.
- Policy COS 4.4: Require new development in Significant Ecological Areas, to consider the following in design of the project, to the greatest extent feasible:
  - Preservation of biologically valuable habitats, species, wildlife corridors and linkages;
  - Protection of sensitive resources on the site within open space;
  - Protection of water sources from hydromodification in order to maintain the ecological function of riparian habitats;
  - Placement of development in the least biologically sensitive areas on the site, prioritizing the preservation or avoidance of the most sensitive biological resources onsite;
  - Design of required open spaces to retain contiguous undisturbed open space that preserves the most sensitive biological resources onsite and/or serves to maintain connectivity;
  - Maintenance of watershed connectivity by capturing, treating, retaining and/or infiltrating storm water flows on site; and
  - Consideration of the continuity of onsite open space with adjacent open space in project design.
- Policy COS 4.5: Subject to local, state or federal laws, require new development to provide adequate buffers from preserves, sanctuaries, habitat areas, wildlife corridors, State Parks, and National Forest lands, except within Economic Opportunity Areas.
- Policy COS 4.6: Encourage connections between natural open space areas to allow for wildlife movement.
- Policy COS 4.7: Restrict fencing in wildlife corridors. Where fencing is necessary for privacy or safety, require appropriate development standards that maximize opportunities for wildlife movement.

*County Municipal Los Angeles County Code Section 22.56.215 – Hillside Management and Significant Ecological Areas – Additional Regulations*

Under the adopted ordinance, conditional use permits are required prior to granting a building permit or grading permit within an SEA and must be approved to allow development within SEAs, subject to review by the Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC) and a public hearing. However, under the adopted ordinance 22.56.215, single-family residences where not more than one such residence is proposed to be built by the same person on contiguous lots or parcels are exempt from the conditional use permit. Therefore, this ordinance is not applicable to parcels included within the proposed initiative study area.

## *County Municipal Los Angeles County Code Sections 22.56.2050 – 22.56.2260 – Oak Trees*

The Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance requires a permit prior to the cutting, removing, destroying, relocating, inflicting damage on, or encroaching into a protected zone of any tree within the oak genus.<sup>19</sup> The Ordinance regulates only oak trees (genus *Quercus*) located within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. In addition, the circumference of an oak tree with one trunk must be 25 inches (8 inches in diameter) or more. For oak trees with multiple trunks, any two trunks must have a circumference of 38 inches (12 inches in diameter) or more. Measurements must be recorded at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade.

### *Acton Community Standards District*

The Acton Community Standards District (CSD) requires that development plans emphasize the protection of, and revegetation with, native vegetation, including the native plants, grasses, shrubs and trees which intercept, hold and more slowly release rainfall than bare earth surfaces. On any parcel consisting of one acre or greater, the removal or destruction of native vegetation exceeding 10 percent of the parcel area within any 12-month period shall require the Director's approval. All permit applications involving grading must include a site plan for director's review. Within hillside areas, such site plan must comply with Section 22.56.215, which requires a conditional use permit for projects in hillside management areas. This information shall not substitute for oak tree permit requirements. Material submitted shall include a landscaping plan supportive of the Acton CSD, showing existing and proposed landscaping, acceptable to the Department of Regional Planning. Such plan shall specifically identify California junipers, manzanita, Great Basin sage and Joshua trees and generally describe the type and condition of native vegetation. Re-landscaping of disturbed areas should emphasize the use of existing native, drought tolerant vegetation. The director shall approve the site plan with appropriate conditions, for all or a portion of the proposed work when satisfied that the performance of such work is consistent with the intent of the Acton CSD to preserve native vegetation. Properties located within CSDs must demonstrate compliance with community-wide development standards, as well as zone-specific development standards and area-specific development standards as applicable.

### *Juniper Hills Community Standards District*

The Juniper Hills CSD requires that the removal or destruction of vegetation of any kind on a lot or parcel of land two-and-one-half acres or greater in size shall require a conditional use permit pursuant to Part 1 of Chapter 22.56 where the area of removal or destruction is greater than 30 percent of the gross area of the lot or parcel. This requirement does not apply to the removal or destruction of vegetation that is necessary to allow for the construction of additions to existing single-family residences. Where a new single-family residence is proposed on an existing unimproved lot or parcel of land two-and-one-half acres or greater in size, site plans shall be submitted to the director pursuant to Part 12 of Chapter 22.56 that depict existing vegetation. A fuel modification plan shall also be submitted to the director that demonstrates that the proposed removal or destruction of vegetation shall not occur on more than 30 percent of the gross area of the lot or parcel unless such removal or destruction meets the exclusions contained in subsection E.9.b of the CSD. A vegetation conservation covenant shall be recorded with the county recorder

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<sup>19</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Accessed 27 March 2014. Los Angeles County, California, Code of Ordinances – Title 22 Planning and Zoning. Available online at: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16274>

for each such parcel or lot to ensure the permanent maintenance of the vegetation on each lot as depicted in the approved fuel modification plan. Transplantation of vegetation is encouraged as an alternative to removal. Properties located within CSDs must demonstrate compliance with community-wide development standards, as well as zone-specific development standards and area-specific development standards as applicable.

#### *Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes Community Standards District*

The Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD defines native vegetation as those plants designated for the corresponding Ecological Zone in the Los Angeles County Drought-tolerant Approved Plant List, maintained by the Department of Regional Planning. This CSD requires that all property development shall use only native vegetation in landscaped areas and to re-vegetate graded slopes, provided the available species are determined adequate to prevent erosion by the Department of Public Works. Where fuel modification is required, species from the Desirable Plan List, maintained by the Fire Department, may be used in Fuel Modification Zones A and B. The CSD also determines that in order to remove or destroy greater than thirty (30) percent of the native vegetation on a lot or parcel of land, the applicant shall substantiate that the applicant has obtained verification by an engineer, architect, biologist, or equivalent that removal or destruction is necessary because continued existence at present location(s) precludes the reasonable use of the property for a permitted use in the zone and the cost of alternative development plans would be prohibitive, or that it is required by the Fire Department, or that it is necessary for work performed under a permit issued by the Department of Public Works to control erosion or flood hazards. Properties located within CSDs must demonstrate compliance with community-wide development standards, as well as zone-specific development standards and area-specific development standards as applicable.

#### *Castaic Area Community Standards District*

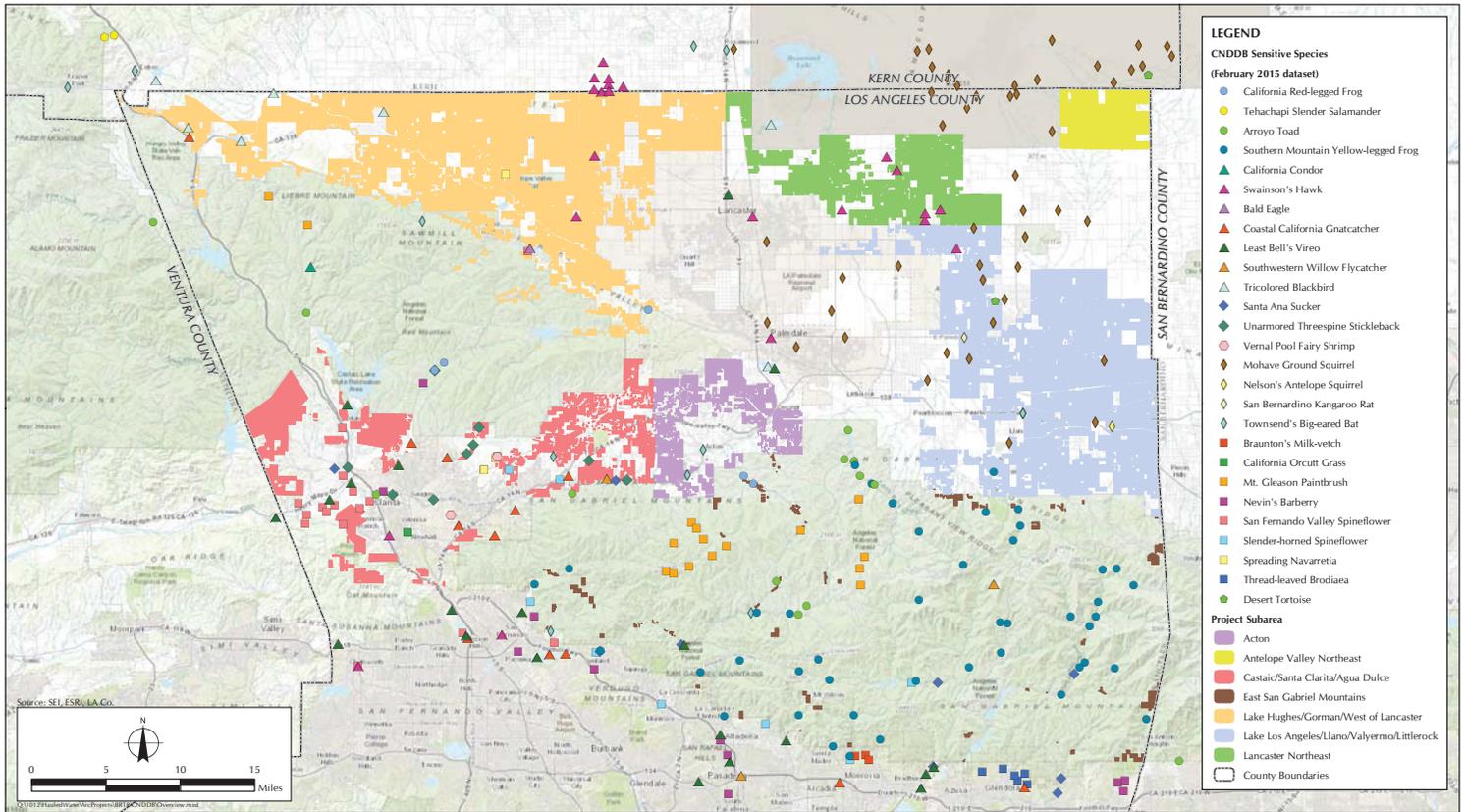
The Castaic Area CSD determines that the removal or destruction of locally indigenous vegetation is prohibited on a parcel of land one acre or greater in size, where the area of removal or destruction is greater than 10 percent of the parcel. Locally indigenous vegetation is defined as the vegetation listed on the Castaic Area List of Indigenous Plants, prepared and maintained by Regional Planning. In addition, the channelization of the Castaic, Hasley Canyon, Violin Canyon, Tapia Canyon, Charlie Canyon, San Martinez Grande Canyon, and San Martinez/Chiquito Canyon creeks shall be permitted by the Castaic Area CSD provided that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented, as approved by the County Departments of Regional Planning and Public Works, to preserve the indigenous habitats of the creeks and to protect the aesthetics of the creek settings. In formulating such mitigation measures, input from the Castaic Area Town Council and state and federal agencies with expertise in this field shall be considered. The CSD requires that the channels are maintained with soft bottoms, the channel sides slope downward such that, at each cross-section along the length of the channel, the channel has a trapezoidal configuration, channel bank materials are matched with local soils and stone for color and texture compatibility, adequate setbacks are incorporated to allow for the preservation or replanting of locally indigenous vegetation, and to the greatest extent possible, watercourses shall flow naturally within the full width of the improved natural flood plain. In addition, an oak tree permit for the removal or relocation of one oak tree in conjunction with a single-family residence use in the Castaic Area CSD, shall require publishing and hearing as otherwise required in Part 16 of Chapter 22.56. The exemptions permitted in Chapter 22.56 are not applicable in the Castaic Area CSD. Properties located within CSDs must demonstrate compliance with community-wide development standards, as well as zone-specific development standards and area-specific development standards.

### 3.3.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

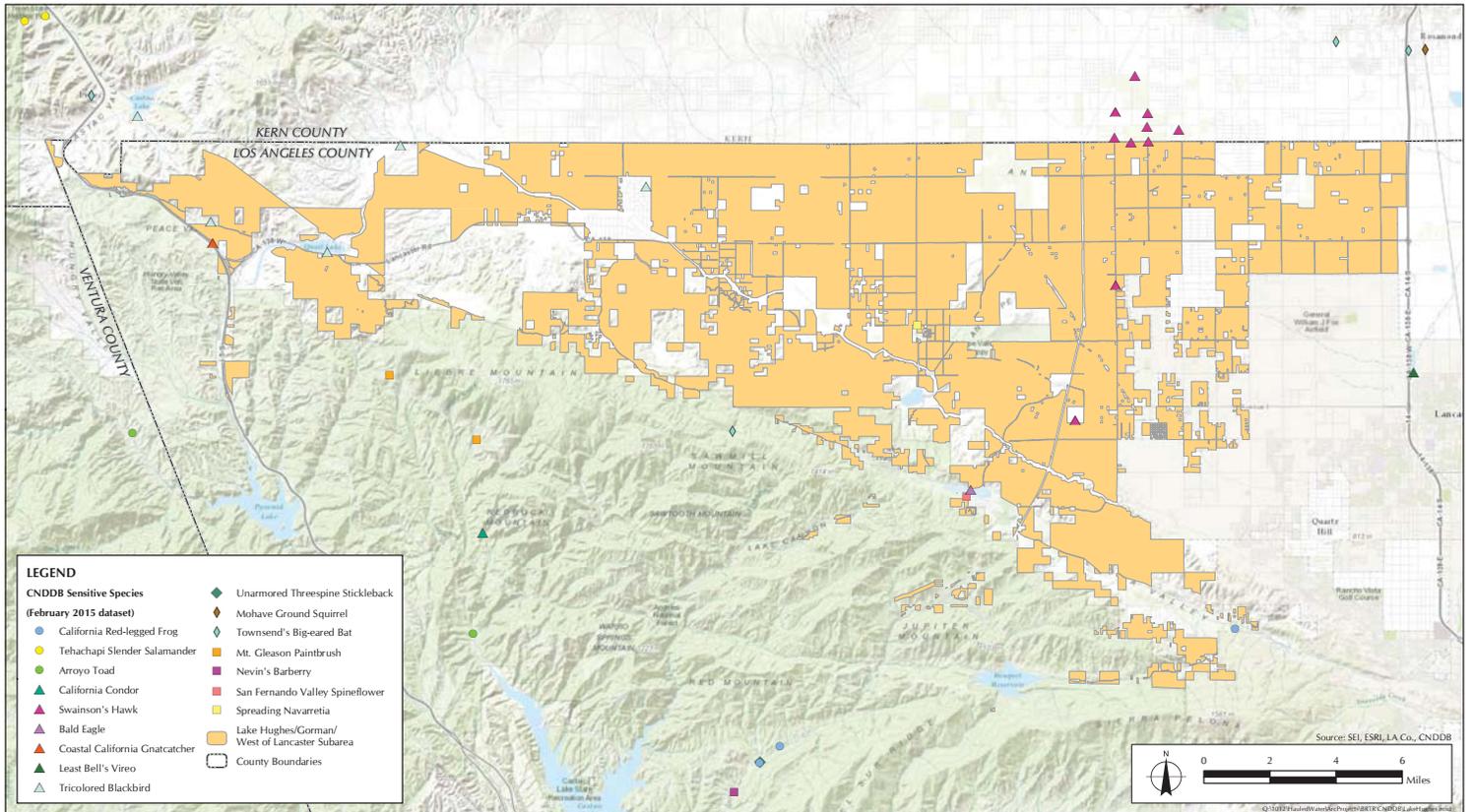
#### Special-Status Species: Listed, Sensitive, and Locally Important Species

##### *Listed and Candidate Species and Critical Habitat*

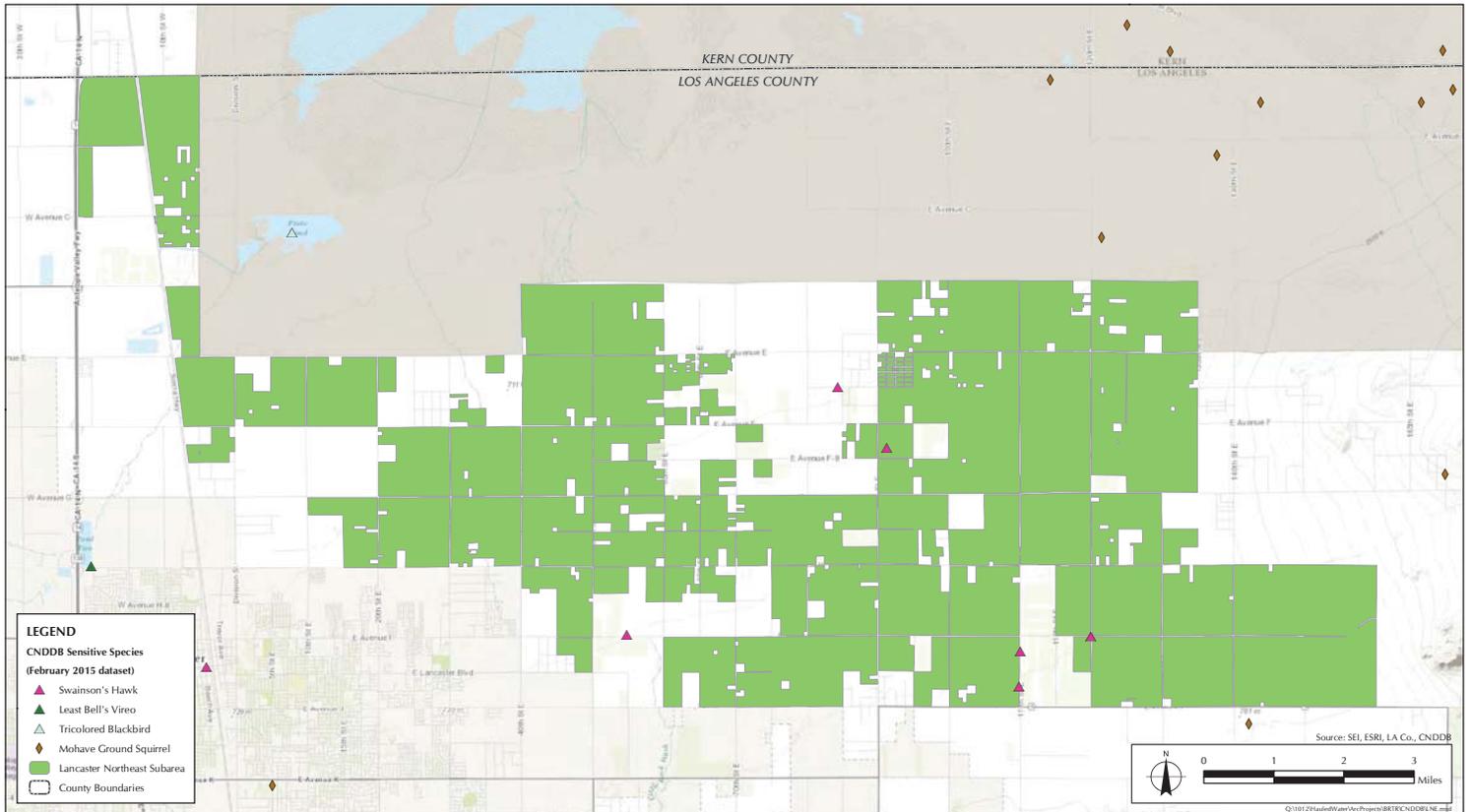
As a result of the records and literature review, coordination with the USFWS and CDFW, and focused surveys completed for other County projects in the north County, as documented in the Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR; Appendix I to the EIR), there are 27 species that are listed or candidate species under protection of the federal ESA or California ESA (CESA) (Table 3.3.2-1, *Federally and State-Listed Species with the Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area*; Figure 3.3.2-1, *Federally and State-Listed Species with the Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*) that have the potential to be present on or within the vicinity of parcels affected by the proposed initiative, including eight listed plants and 19 listed animals. The number of listed and candidate species within a given subarea ranges from six to 20.



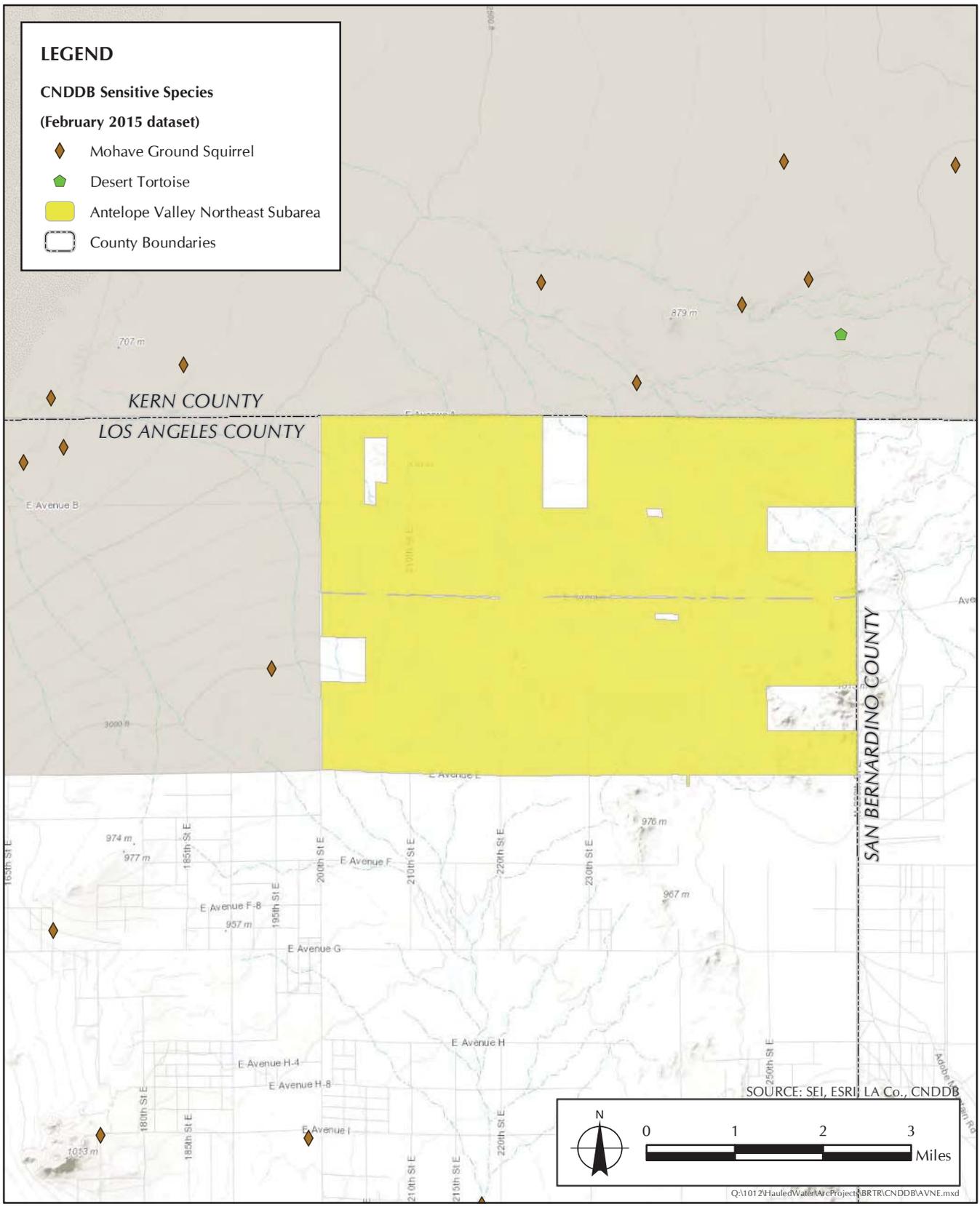
**FIGURE 3.3.2-1**  
Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas



**FIGURE 3.3.2-1A**  
 Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea

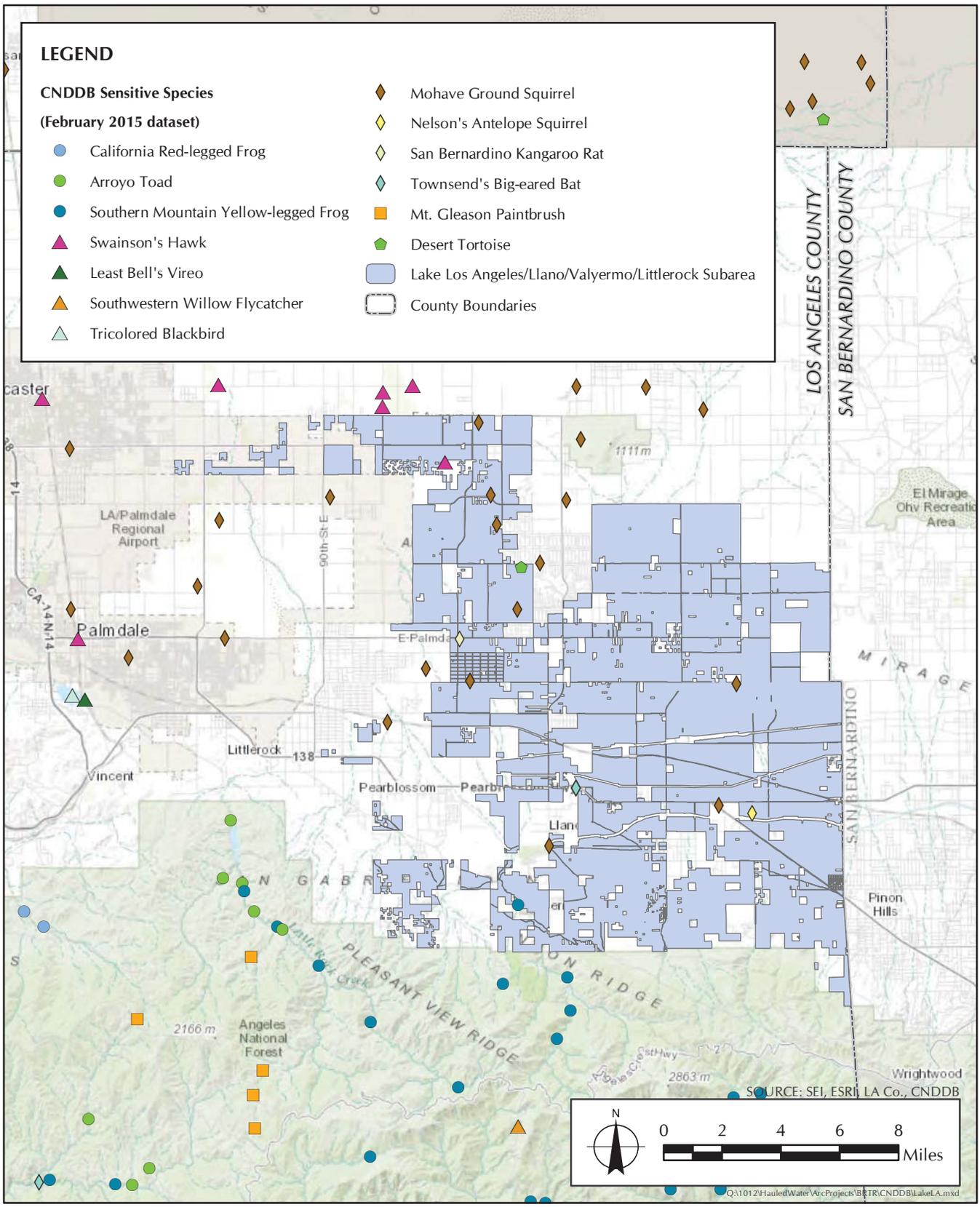


**FIGURE 3.3.2-1B**  
 Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lancaster Northeast Subarea

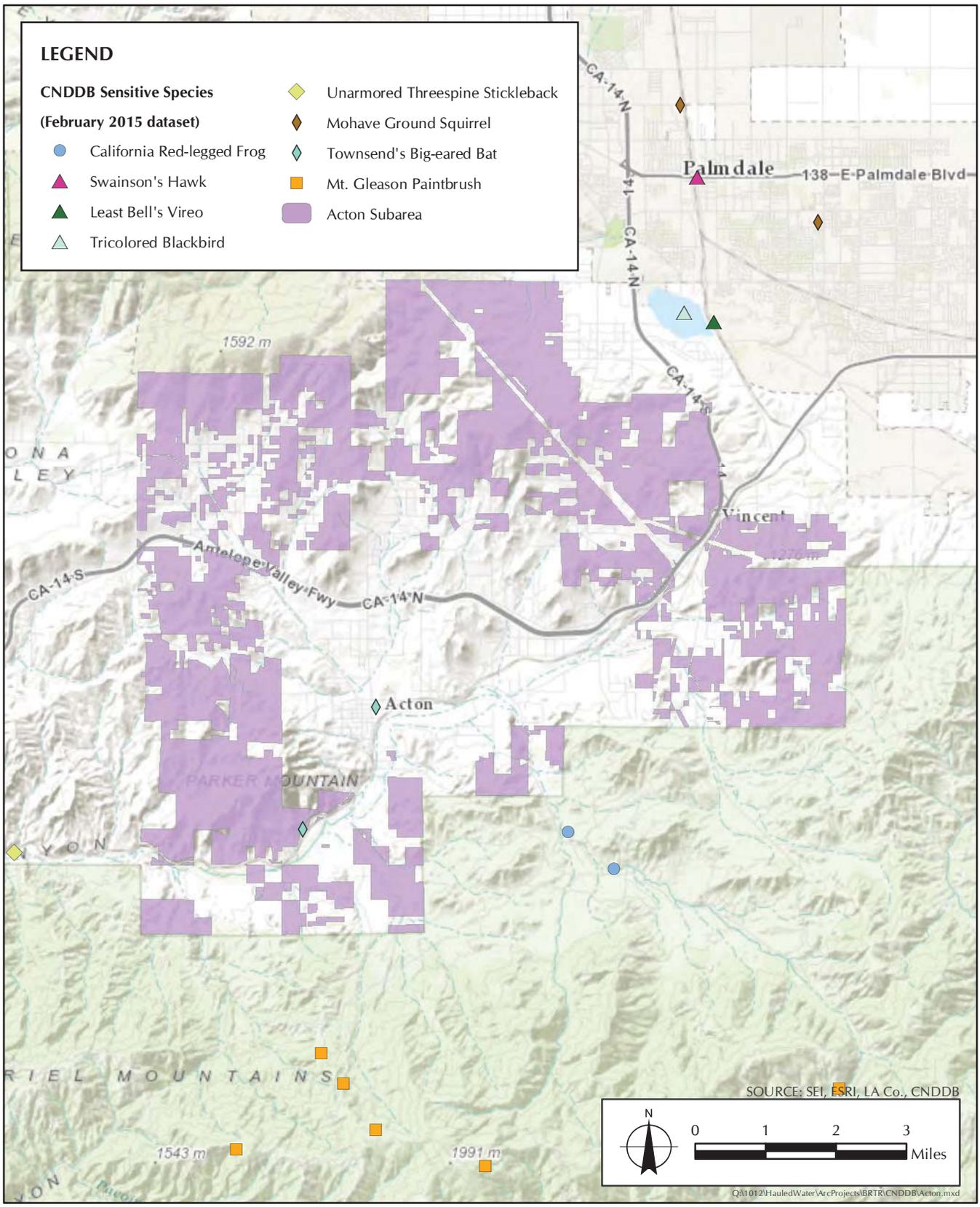


**FIGURE 3.3.2-1C**

Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-1D**  
 Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea



**LEGEND**

**CNDDDB Sensitive Species (February 2015 dataset)**

● California Red-legged Frog	◆ Unarmored Threespine Stickleback
▲ Swainson's Hawk	◆ Mohave Ground Squirrel
▲ Least Bell's Vireo	◆ Townsend's Big-eared Bat
△ Tricolored Blackbird	■ Mt. Gleason Paintbrush
	■ Acton Subarea

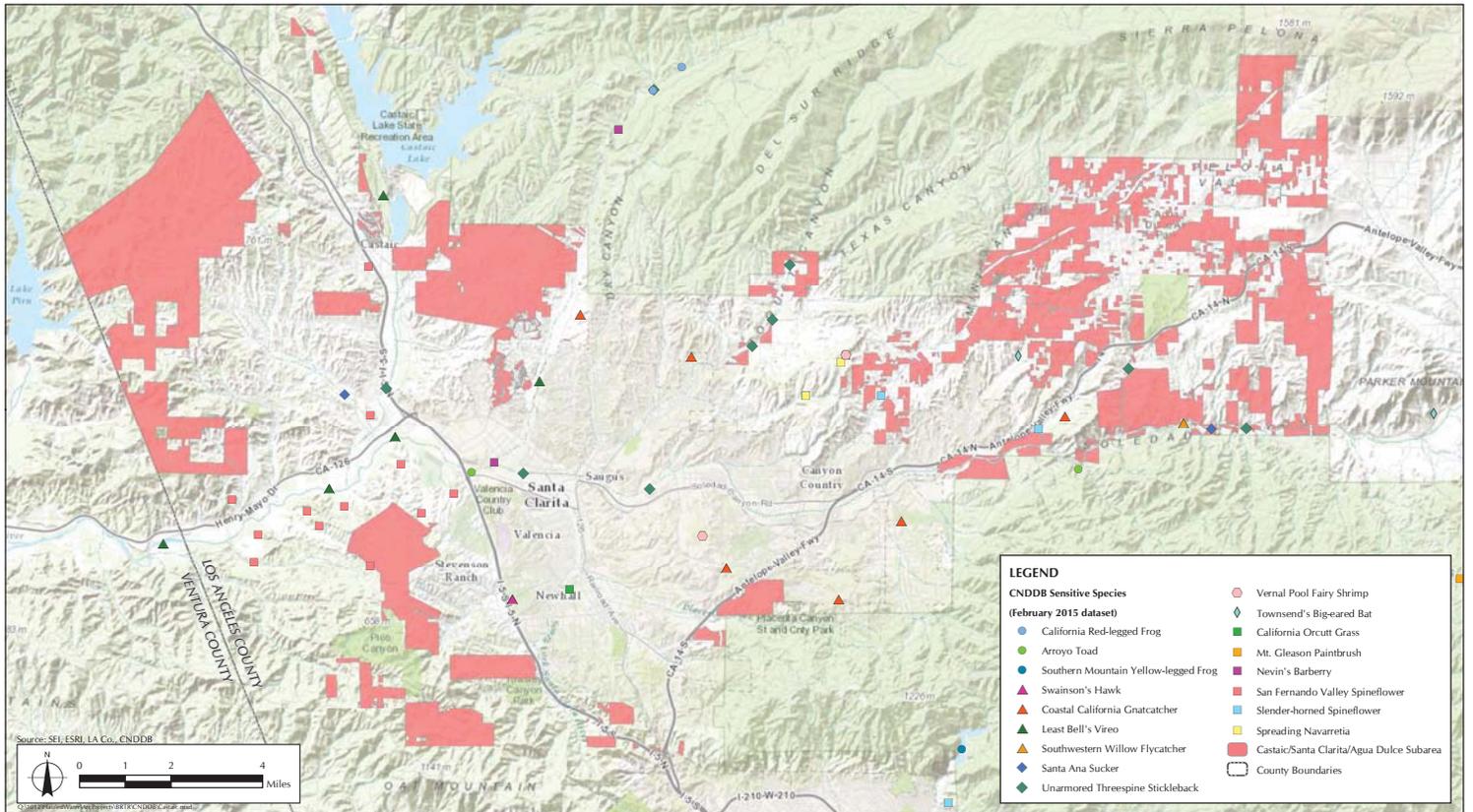
SOURCE: SEI, ESRI, LA Co., CNDDDB

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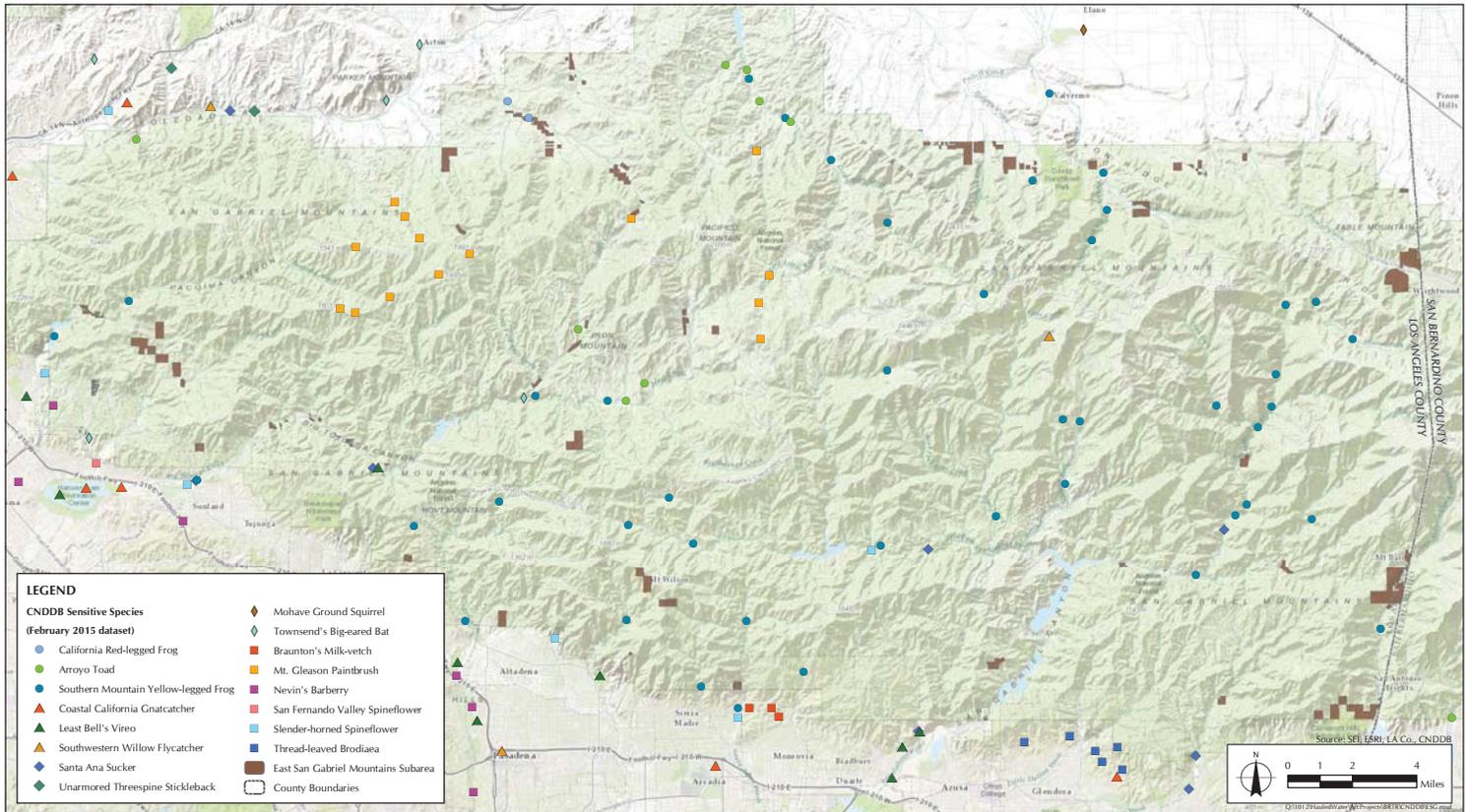
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**FIGURE 3.3.2-1E**  
 Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas Acton Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-1F**  
 Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-1G**  
 Federally and State-Listed Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

**TABLE 3.3.2-1  
FEDERALLY AND STATE-LISTED SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN  
THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA**

Species	Federal/State/ Other Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
<b>Plants</b>								
Braunton's milk-vetch ( <i>Astragalus brauntonii</i> )	FE/ CRPR 1B.1	X	X					X
California Orcutt grass ( <i>Orcuttia californica</i> )	FE/ SE/ CRPR 1B.1	X						
Mt. Gleason paintbrush ( <i>Castilleja gleasoni</i> )	SR/ CRPR 1B.2							X
Nevin's barberry ( <i>Berberis nevinii</i> )	FE/ SE/ CRPR 1B.1	X						X
San Fernando Valley spineflower ( <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i> )	FC/ SE/ CRPR 1B.1	X						
slender horned spineflower ( <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> )	FE/ SE/ CRPR1B.1	X	X					X
spreading navarretia ( <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> )	FE, CRPR 1B.1	X		X				
thread-leaved brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> )	FT/ SE/ CRPR 1B.1							X
<b>Crustaceans</b>								
vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	FT	X						
<b>Fish</b>								
Santa Ana sucker ( <i>Catostomus santaanae</i> )	FT/SSC	X	X	X				X
unarmored threespine stickleback ( <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i> )	FE/ SE (FP)	X	X	X				
<b>Amphibians</b>								
arroyo toad ( <i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> )	FE/SSC	X	X	X	X			X
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> )	FT/SSC	X	X	X				
southern mountain yellow-legged frog ( <i>Rana muscosa</i> )	FE/ SE, SSC/FS				X			X
Tehachapi slender salamander ( <i>Batrachoseps stebbinsi</i> )	ST	X		X				
<b>Reptiles</b>								
desert tortoise ( <i>Gopherus agassizii</i> )	FT/ ST			X	X	X	X	
<b>Birds</b>								
bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	FDEL, BGEPA /SE (FP)/FS	X		X				X
California condor ( <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> )	FE/SE	X		X				
coastal California gnatcatcher ( <i>Polioptila californica californica</i> )	FT/SSC	X		X				X

**TABLE 3.2.3-1  
FEDERALLY AND STATE-LISTED SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN  
THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA, *Continued***

Species	Federal/State/ Other Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
least Bell's vireo ( <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> )	FE/ SE	X	X	X				X
southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> )	FE/SE	X	X					X
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	ST	X		X	X	X	X	
tricolored blackbird ( <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> )	SCT	X	X	X	X		X	
<b>Mammals</b>								
Mohave ground squirrel ( <i>Xerospermophilus mohavensis</i> )	ST			X	X	X	X	
Nelson's antelope squirrel ( <i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i> )	ST				X	X	X	
San Bernardino kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> )	FE/SSC				X	X	X	
Townsend's big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> )	SCT/WBWG:H	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>

**KEY:**

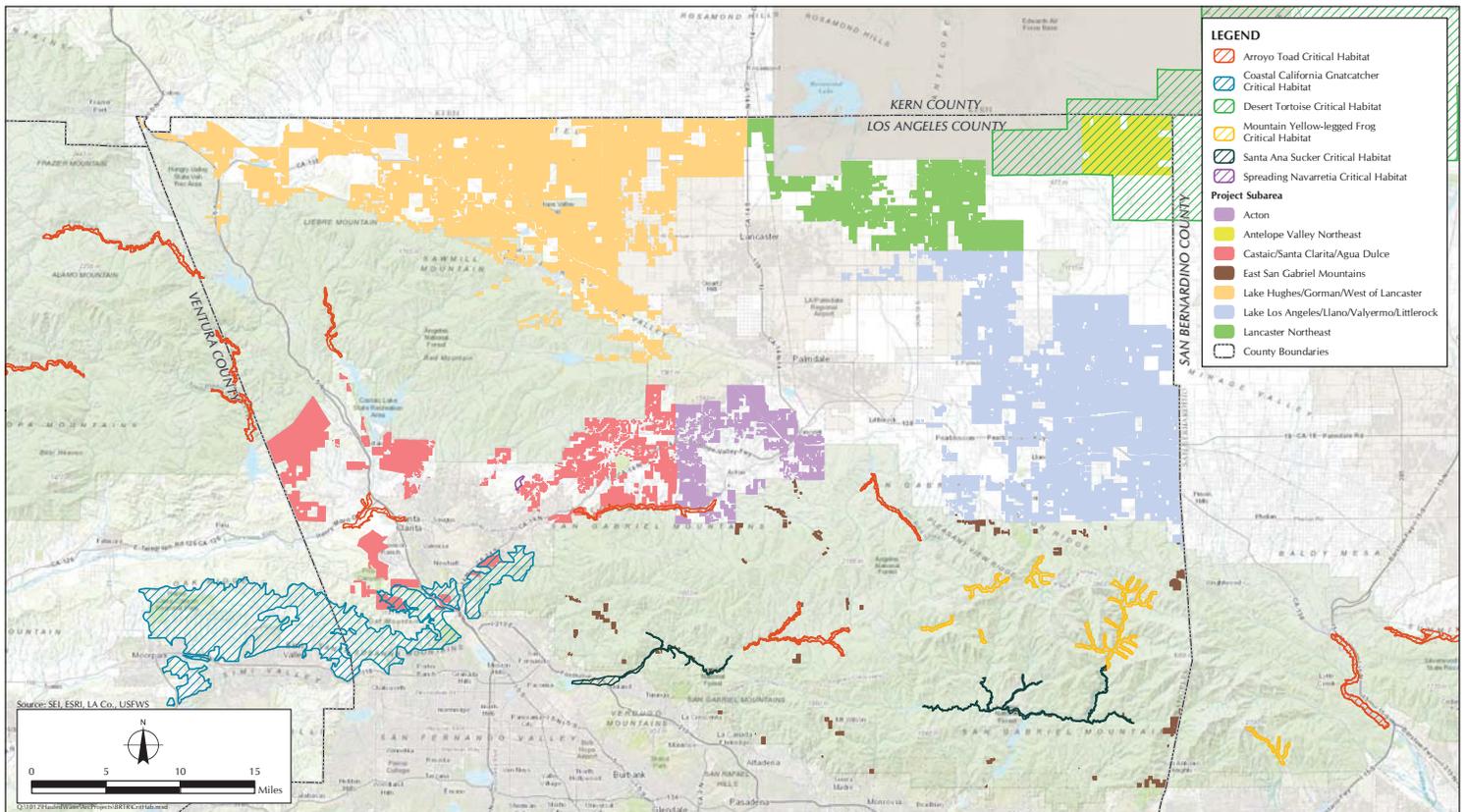
BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; FDEL = federal delisted species; FC = federal candidate; FE = federal endangered; FT = federal threatened; SCT = State candidate threatened; SE = State endangered; SE (FP) = State endangered fully protected; SSC = California species of special concern; SR = State Rare; FS = Forest Service Sensitive; ST = State threatened; CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; WBWG:H = Western Bat Working Group High Priority. C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

**NOTE:**

CNPS categories: California Rare Plant Rank:

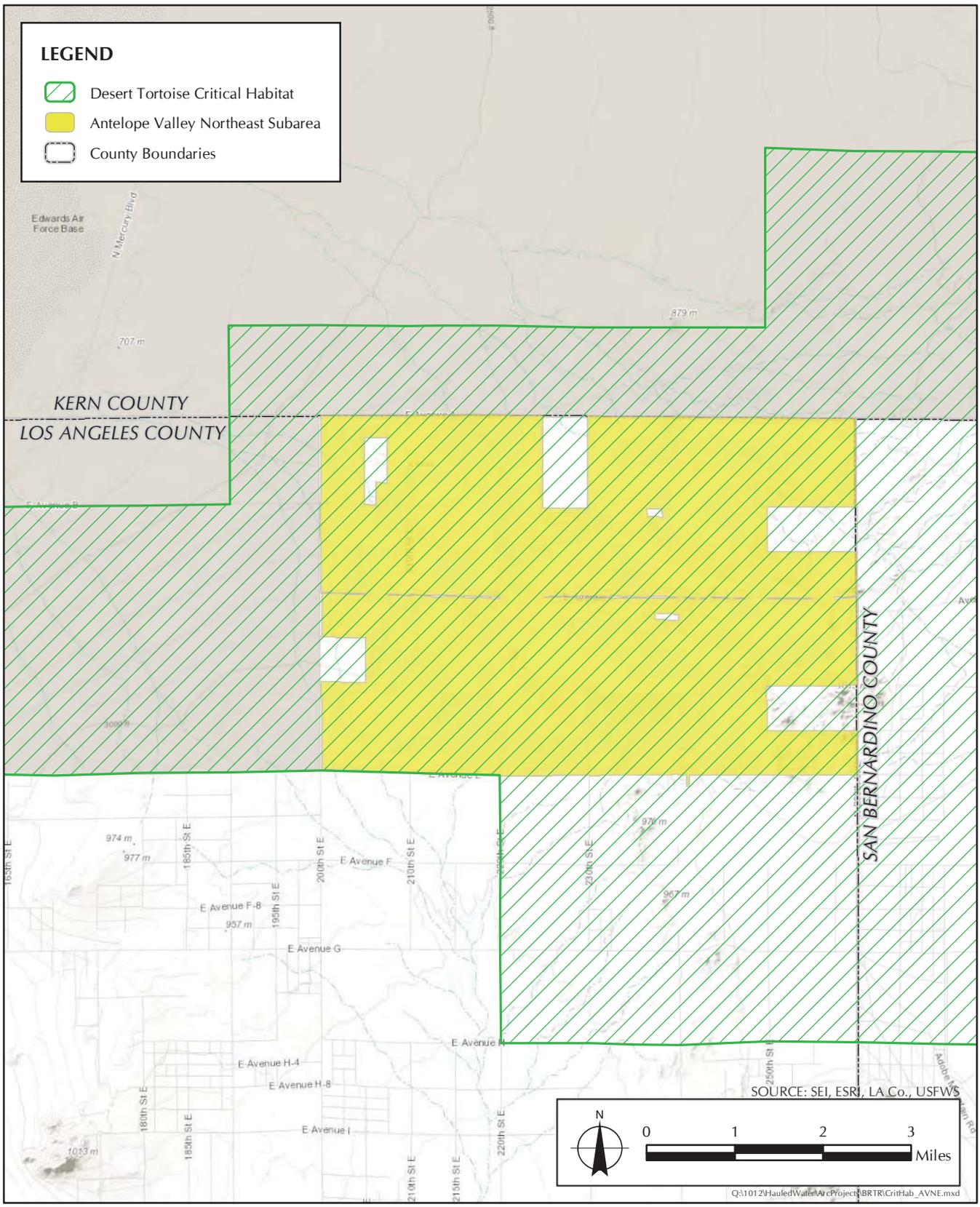
List 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere (0.1: Seriously endangered in California, 0.2: Fairly endangered in California)

Of these 27 listed species, the proposed initiative study area contains designated critical habitat for six species: spreading navarretia, Santa Ana sucker, southern mountain yellow-legged frog, desert tortoise, coastal California gnatcatcher, and Arroyo toad. Furthermore, critical habitat occurs in only four of the subareas (Table 3.3.2-2, *Critical Habitat within Subareas*; Figure 3.3.2-2, *Critical Habitat within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*). The Antelope Valley Northeast subarea is almost entirely, 99 percent, designated as critical habitat for desert tortoise. Designated critical habitat comprises five percent or less of the remaining six subareas. Critical habitat for spreading navarretia is only within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea at the Cruzan Mesa. For coastal California gnatcatcher, critical habitat is limited to along the lower slopes of the San Gabriel and Santa Susana Mountains in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Arroyo toad critical habitat is within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce, Acton, and East San Gabriel Mountains subareas but only within the vicinity of the Santa Clara and San Gabriel Rivers. Santa Ana sucker critical habitat is only within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea and is limited to the vicinity of the San Gabriel River. Southern mountain yellow-legged frog critical habitat only exists on a very small segment of a single parcel in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea.

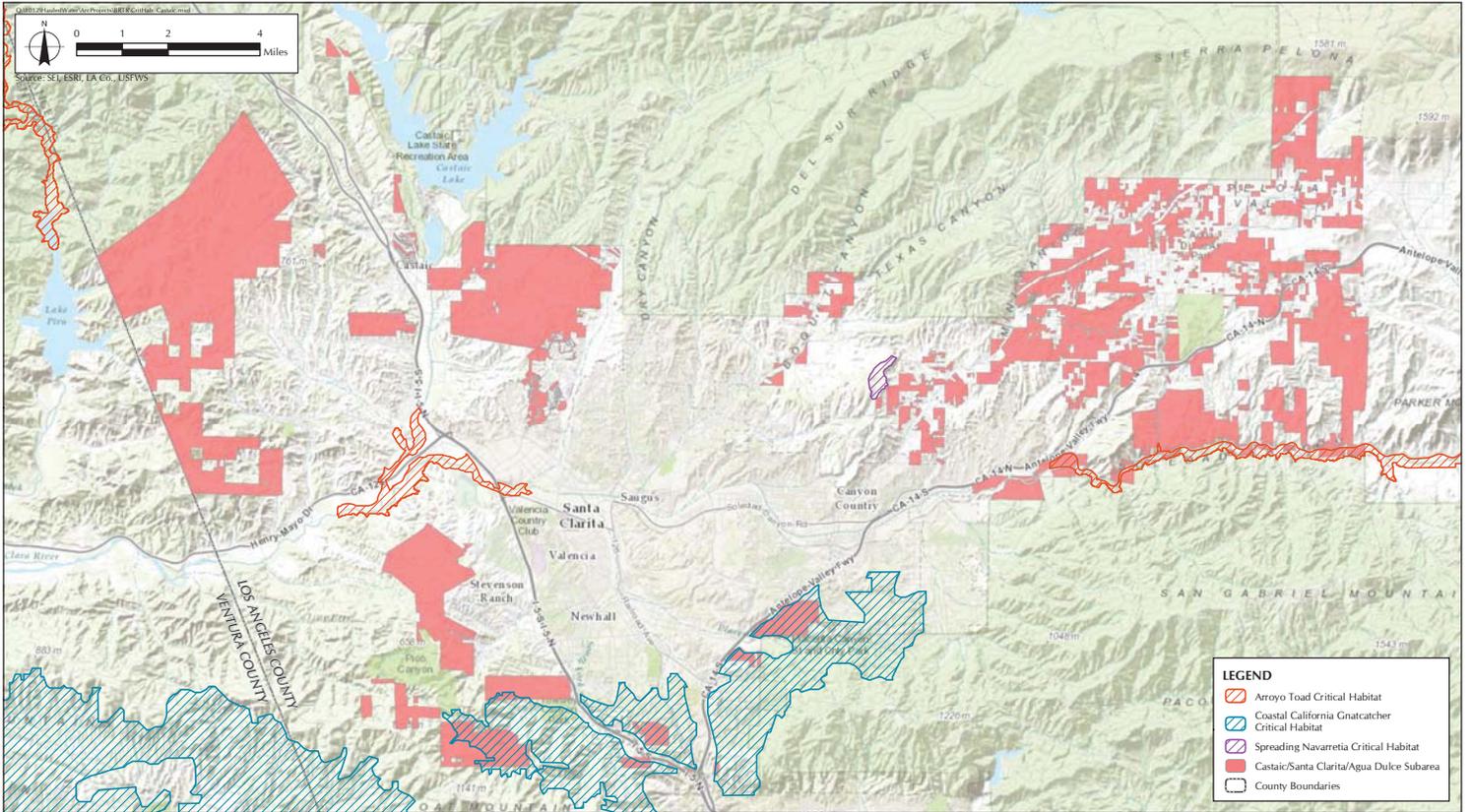


**FIGURE 3.3.2-2**  
Critical Habitat Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas

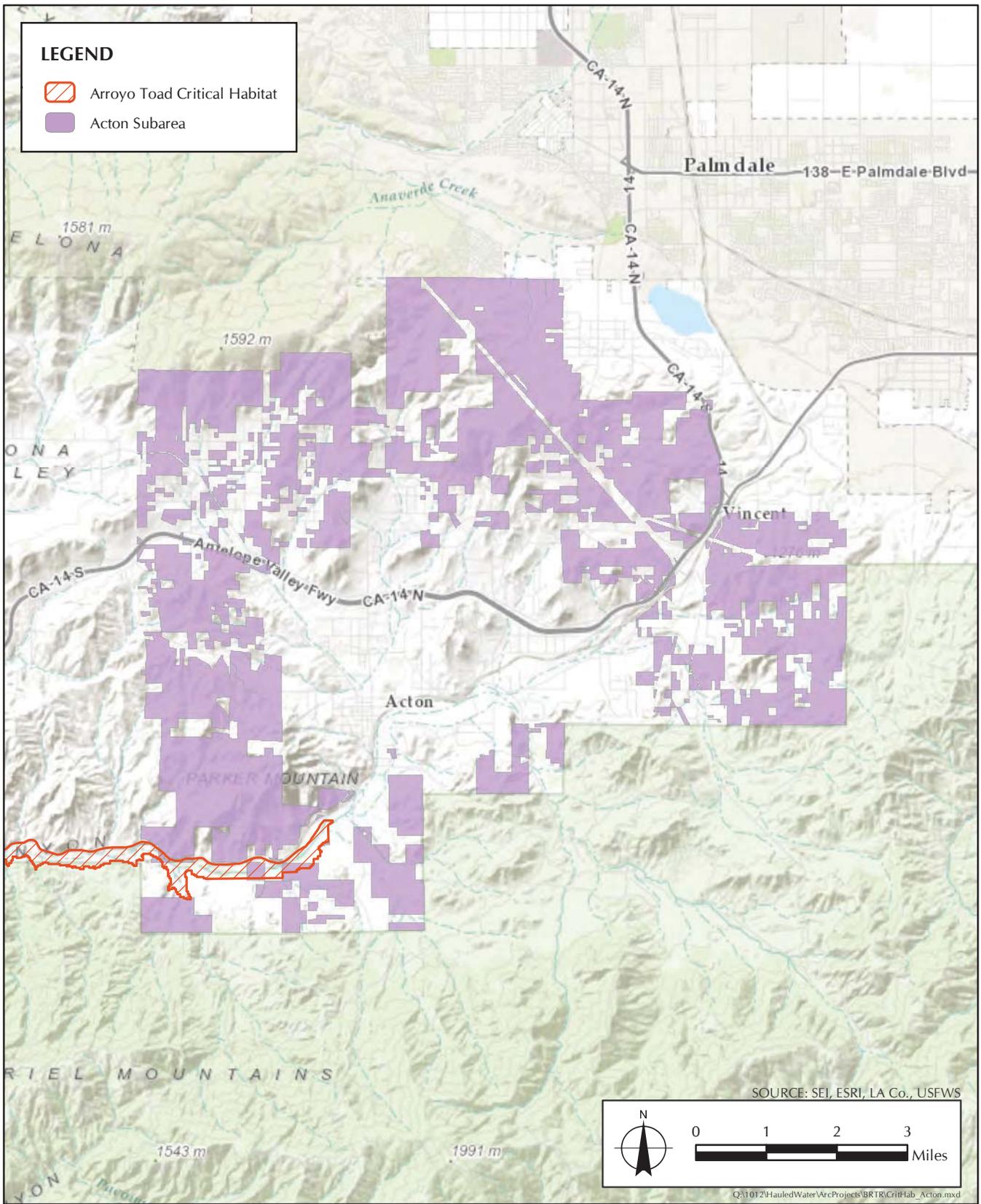




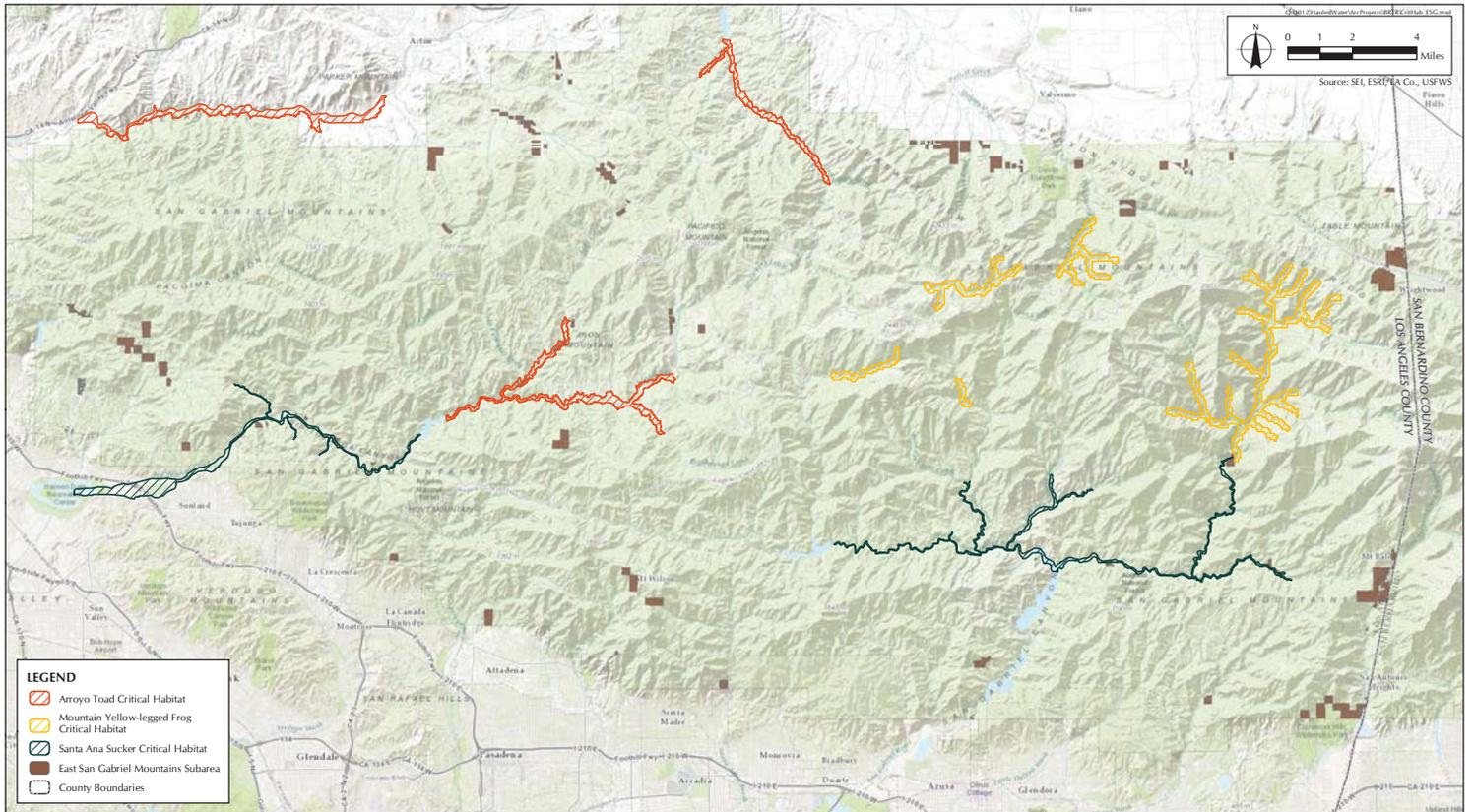
**FIGURE 3.3.2-2A**  
Critical Habitat Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-2B**  
 Critical Habitat Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-2C**  
 Critical Habitat Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Acton Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-2D**  
 Critical Habitat Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

**TABLE 3.3.2-2  
CRITICAL HABITAT WITHIN SUBAREAS**

Subarea	Total Subarea Acres	Acres of Critical Habitat	Percentage of Subarea Critical Habitat
C	35,340	1,775	5%
A	18,065	80	<0.1%
LH	125,040	0	0%
LL	108,065	0	0%
AV	14,530	14,530	99%
LN	35,325	0	0%
SG	4,090	85	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,460</b>	<b>16,740</b>	<b>5%</b>

**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

*Rare Plants and Sensitive Wildlife Species*

A total of 75 species that are considered sensitive or rare in the State of California have the potential to be present in the proposed initiative study area (Table 3.3.2-3, *Rare Plants and Sensitive Wildlife Species with the Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative*; Figure 3.3.2-3, *Other Sensitive Plant Species with the Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative*; Figure 3.3.2-4, *Other Sensitive Wildlife Species with the Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative*). This includes: 41 plants, two fish, two amphibians, five reptiles, nine birds, and 16 mammals. The number of rare plants and sensitive wildlife species within a given subarea ranges from 12 to 49.

**TABLE 3.3.2-3  
RARE PLANTS AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR  
WITHIN THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA**

Species	Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
<b>Plants</b>								
alkali mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus striatus</i> )	CRPR 1B.2			X	X	X	X	X
Baja navarretia ( <i>Navarretia peninsularis</i> )	CRPR 1B.2	X		X				X
Big Bear Valley woollypod ( <i>Astragalus leucolobus</i> )	CRPR 1B.2							X
California satintail ( <i>Imperata brevifolia</i> )	CRPR 2B.1	X	X	X				X
Clokey's cryptantha ( <i>Cryptantha clokeyi</i> )	CRPR 1B.2	X	X	X	X			
Davidson's bush-mallow ( <i>Malacothamnus davidsonii</i> )	CRPR 1B.2	X	X	X	X		X	X
desert cymopterus ( <i>Cymopterus deserticola</i> )	CRPR 1B.2			X	X	X	X	

**TABLE 3.2.3-3  
RARE PLANTS AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR  
WITHIN THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA, *Continued***

Species	Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
Ewan's cinquefoil ( <i>Drymocallis cuneifolia</i> var. <i>ewanii</i> )	CRPR 1B.3							X
Greata's aster ( <i>Symphotrichum greatae</i> )	CRPR 1B.3	X	X					X
grey-leaved violet ( <i>Viola pinetorum</i> var. <i>grisea</i> )	CRPR 1B.3							X
Hall's monardella ( <i>Monardella macrantha</i> ssp. <i>hallii</i> )	CRPR 1B.3							X
Kern Canyon clarkia ( <i>Clarkia xantiana</i> ssp. <i>parviflora</i> )	CRPR 4.3	X	X	X	X			
late-flowered mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i> )	CRPR 1B.3	X						
lemon lily ( <i>Lilium parryi</i> )	CRPR 1B.2				X			X
Lincoln rockcress ( <i>Boechera lincolnensis</i> )	CRPR 2B.3			X				
Mason's neststraw ( <i>Stylocline masonii</i> )	CRPR 1B.1	X	X					
Newhall sunflower ( <i>Helianthus inexpectatus</i> )	CRPR 1B.1	X						
Ojai navarretia ( <i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i> )	CRPR 1B.1	X	X					
Palmer's mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i> )	CRPR 1B.2			X	X			X
Peirson's lupine ( <i>Lupinus peirsonii</i> )	CRPR 1B.3							X
Peirson's morning-glory ( <i>Calystegia peirsonii</i> )	CRPR 4.2	X	X	X	X			
Piute Mountains navarretia ( <i>Navarretia setiloba</i> )	CRPR 1B.1	X	X	X				
Plummer's mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus plummerae</i> )	CRPR 4.2	X	X					X
Robinson's pepper-grass ( <i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i> )	CRPR 4.3							X
Rock Creek broomrape ( <i>Orobanche valida</i> ssp. <i>valida</i> )	CRPR 1B.2				X			X
round-leafed filaree ( <i>California macrophylla</i> )	CRPR 1B.1	X		X				
Rosamond eriastrum ( <i>Eriastrum rosamondense</i> )	CRPR 1B.1						X	
sagebrush loeflingia ( <i>Loeflingia squarrosa</i> var. <i>artemisiarum</i> )	CRPR 2B.2			X	X	X	X	
San Antonio milk-vetch ( <i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>antoniuss</i> )	CRPR 1B.3							X

**TABLE 3.2.3-3  
RARE PLANTS AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR  
WITHIN THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA, *Continued***

Species	Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
San Bernardino aster ( <i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i> )	CRPR 1B.2			X				X
San Gabriel bedstraw ( <i>Galium grande</i> )	CRPR 1B.2							X
San Gabriel linanthus ( <i>Linanthus concinnus</i> )	CRPR 1B.2				X			X
San Gabriel manzanita ( <i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i> ssp. <i>gabrielensis</i> )	CRPR 1B.2							X
San Gabriel Mountains dudleya ( <i>Dudleya densiflora</i> )	CRPR 1B.1							X
short-jointed beavertail ( <i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i> )	CRPR 1B.2	X	X	X	X			X
slender mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> )	CRPR 1B.2	X	X	X	X			X
Sonoran maiden fern ( <i>Thelypteris puberula</i> var. <i>sonorensis</i> )	CRPR 2B.2							X
southern alpine buckwheat ( <i>Eriogonum kennedyi</i> var. <i>alpigenum</i> )	CRPR 1B.3							X
western sedge ( <i>Carex occidentalis</i> )	CRPR 2B.3							X
white pygmy-poppy ( <i>Canbya candida</i> )	CRPR 4.2				X	X	X	
woolly mountain-parsley ( <i>Oreonana vestita</i> )	CRPR 1B.3							X
<b>Fish</b>								
arroyo chub ( <i>Gila orcuttii</i> )	SSC/FS	X	X					X
Santa Ana speckled dace ( <i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> ssp. 3)	SSC							X
<b>Amphibians</b>								
western spadefoot ( <i>Spea hammondi</i> )	SSC	X	X					
yellow-blotched salamander ( <i>Ensatina eschscholtzii croceator</i> )	SSC/FS	X		X				
<b>Reptiles</b>								
California mountain kingsnake (San Bernardino population) ( <i>Lampropeltis zonata</i> ) ( <i>parvirubra</i> )	SSC							X
coast horned lizard ( <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> )	SSC	X	X	X	X			X
silvery legless lizard ( <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i> )	SSC/FS	X	X	X	X		X	
two-striped garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> )	SSC	X	X	X	X			X

**TABLE 3.2.3-3  
RARE PLANTS AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR  
WITHIN THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA, *Continued***

Species	Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
western pond turtle ( <i>Emys marmorata</i> )	SSC/FS	X	X	X				X
<b>Birds</b>								
American peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	FDEL/ FP nesting	X	X	X	X			X
black swift ( <i>Cypseloides niger</i> )	SSC							X
burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	SSC	X	X	X	X	X	X	
golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	BGEPA/FP	X	X	X	X			
grasshopper sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> )	SSC	X		X				
loggerhead shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )	SSC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
mountain plover ( <i>Charadrius montanus</i> )	SSC			X	X		X	
white-tailed kite ( <i>Elanus leucurus</i> )	FP	X	X	X				
yellow warbler ( <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i> )	SSC nesting	X	X	X				
<b>Mammals</b>								
American badger ( <i>Taxidea taxus</i> )	SSC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
desert bighorn sheep ( <i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i> )	FP							X
fringed myotis ( <i>Myotis thysanodoes</i> )	WBWG:H, FS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
hoary bat ( <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> )	WBWG:M	X	X	X	X			X
long-eared myotis ( <i>Myotis evotis</i> )	WBWG:M	X	X	X	X			X
pallid bat ( <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> )	SSC/ WBWG:H, FS	X	X	X	X			X
pallid San Diego pocket mouse ( <i>Chaetodipus fallax pallidus</i> )	SSC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit ( <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> )	SSC	X		X				X
San Diego desert woodrat ( <i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> )	SSC	X		X				X
silver-haired bat ( <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> )	WBWG:M	X	X	X	X			X
southern grasshopper mouse ( <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i> )	SSC	X		X	X			

**TABLE 3.2.3-3  
RARE PLANTS AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR  
WITHIN THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA, *Continued***

Species	Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
spotted bat ( <i>Euderma maculatum</i> )	SSC/ WBWG:M	X		X	X	X	X	
Tehachapi pocket mouse ( <i>Perognathus alticolus inexpectatus</i> )	SSC/FS			X				
western mastiff bat ( <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> )	SSC/ WBWG:H	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
western small-footed myotis ( <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i> )	WBWG:M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yuma myotis ( <i>Myotis yumanensis</i> )	WBWG:LM	X	X	X	X		X	X
<b>Total</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>49</b>

**KEY:** SSC = California species of special concern; BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; FDEL = federal delisted species; CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; FS = Forest Service Sensitive; SDEL = State delisted species; CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database; CNPS = California Native Plant Society. C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

**NOTE:**

Western Bat Working Group categories:

WBWG:H = High Priority, WBWG:M = Medium Priority, WBWG:LM = Low-Medium Priority

CNPS categories:

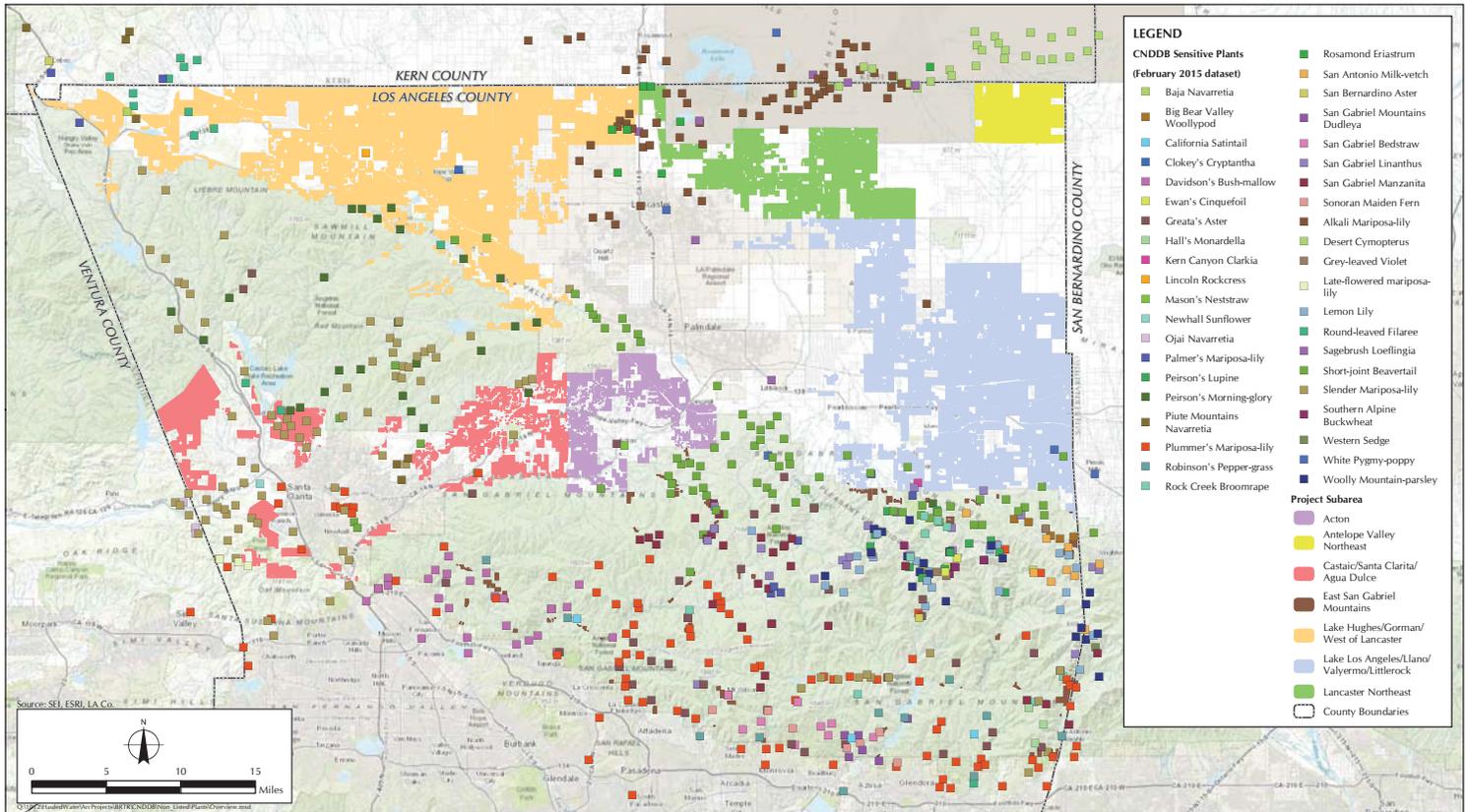
California Rare Plant Rank: List 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere (0.1: Seriously endangered in California, 0.2: Fairly endangered in California, 0.3: Not very endangered in California)

List 2: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere (0.2: Fairly endangered in California)

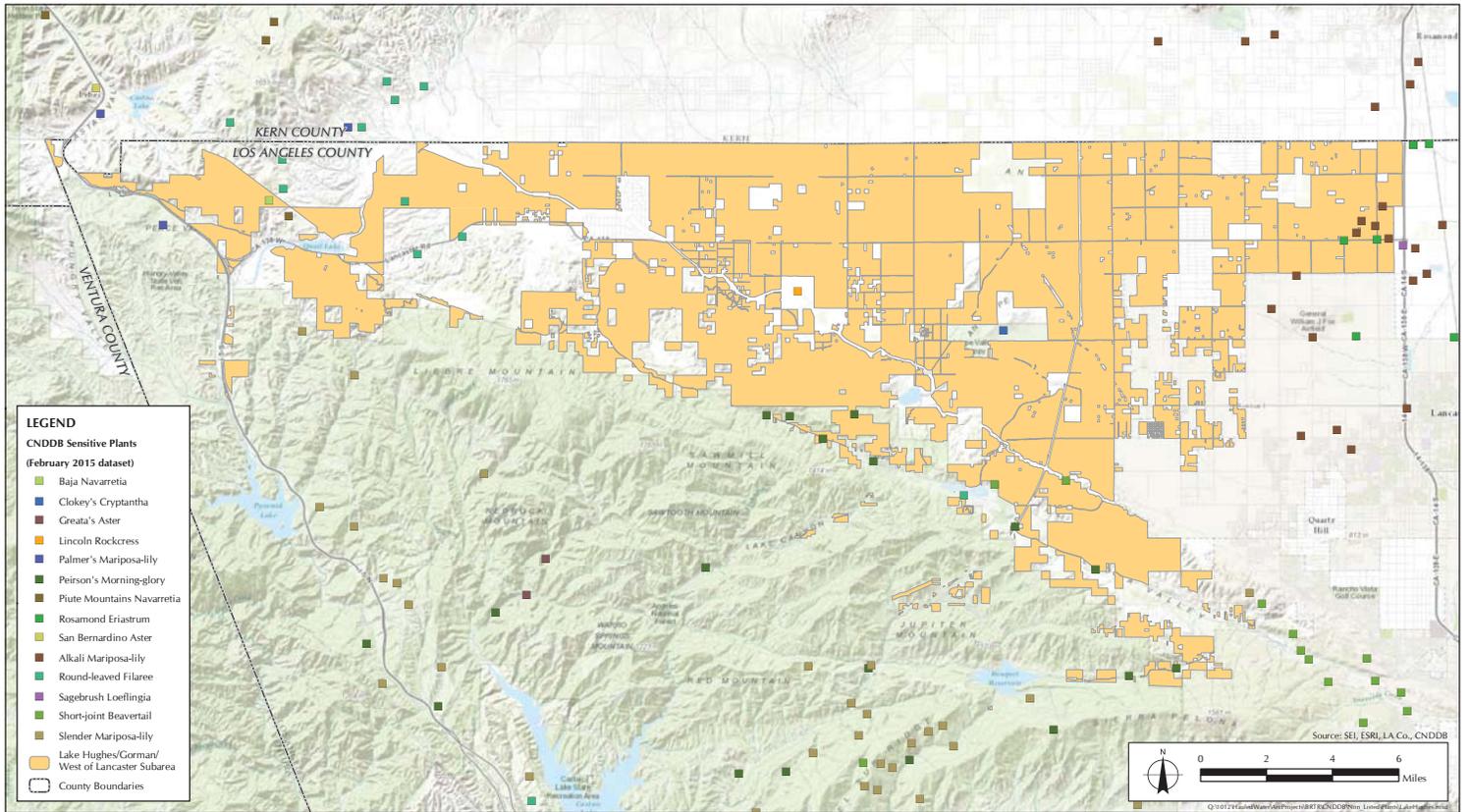
List 3: Review list, more information required; List 4: Limited distribution (Watch List) (0.1: Seriously endangered in California, 0.2: Fairly Endangered in California, 0.3: Not very endangered in California).

***Locally Important Species***

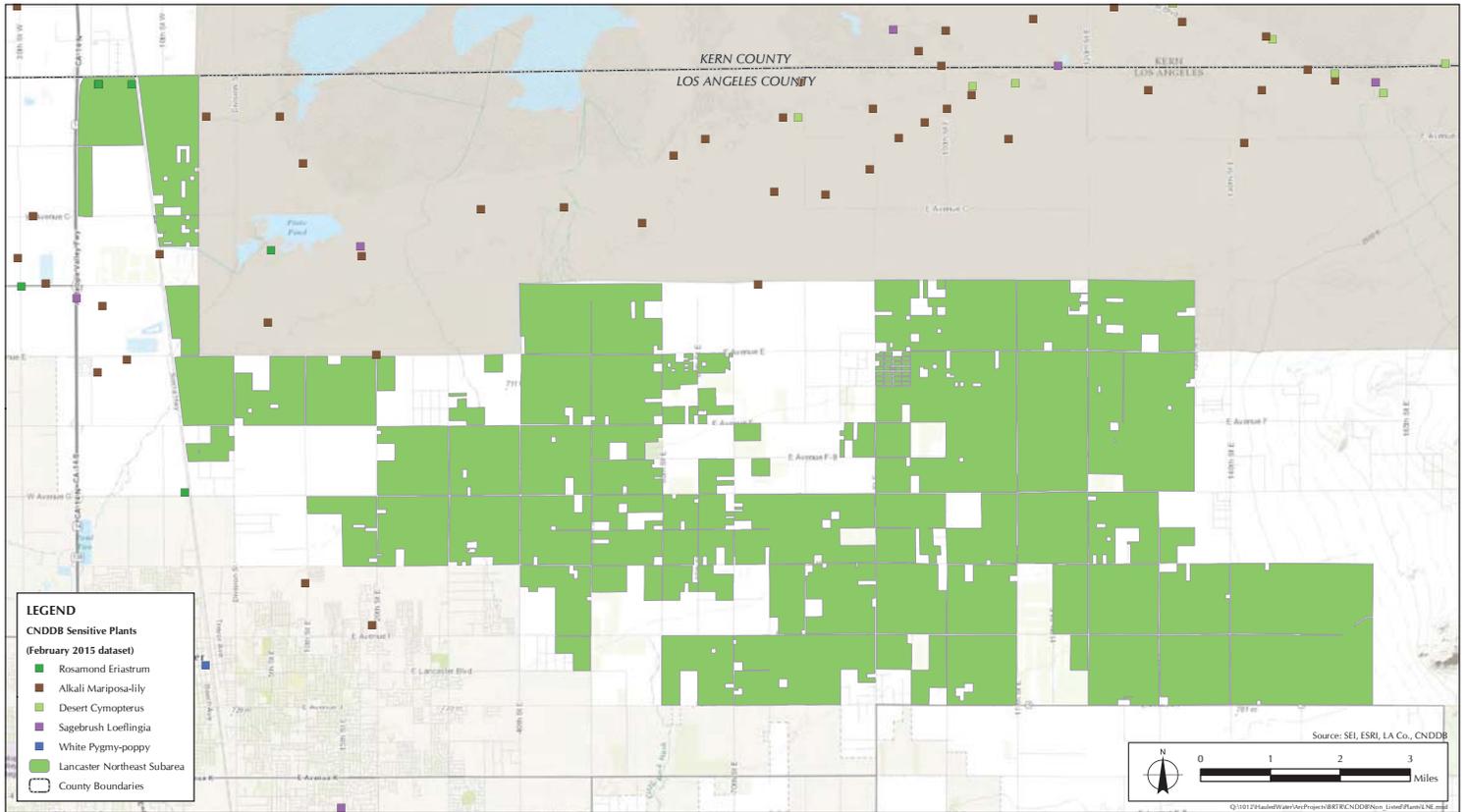
The proposed initiative study area is within the known historic range for 12 common plant species that are protected under the DNPA and two mammals protected under fur-bearing mammal regulations (Table 3.3.2-4, *Locally Important Species with the Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area*). Plants protected by the DNPA require coordination with the sheriff or commissioner of the county where harvesting will occur prior to their removal. Authorization of plant removal may also include the requirement to pay county-designated fees. Plants protected by the DNPA are not limited to only subareas within the Mojave Desert as a few of these species also occur in coastal scrub habitats. Fur-bearing mammals protected by the California Code of Regulations Title 14 cannot be taken at any time. The number of locally important species within a given subarea ranges from three to 12.



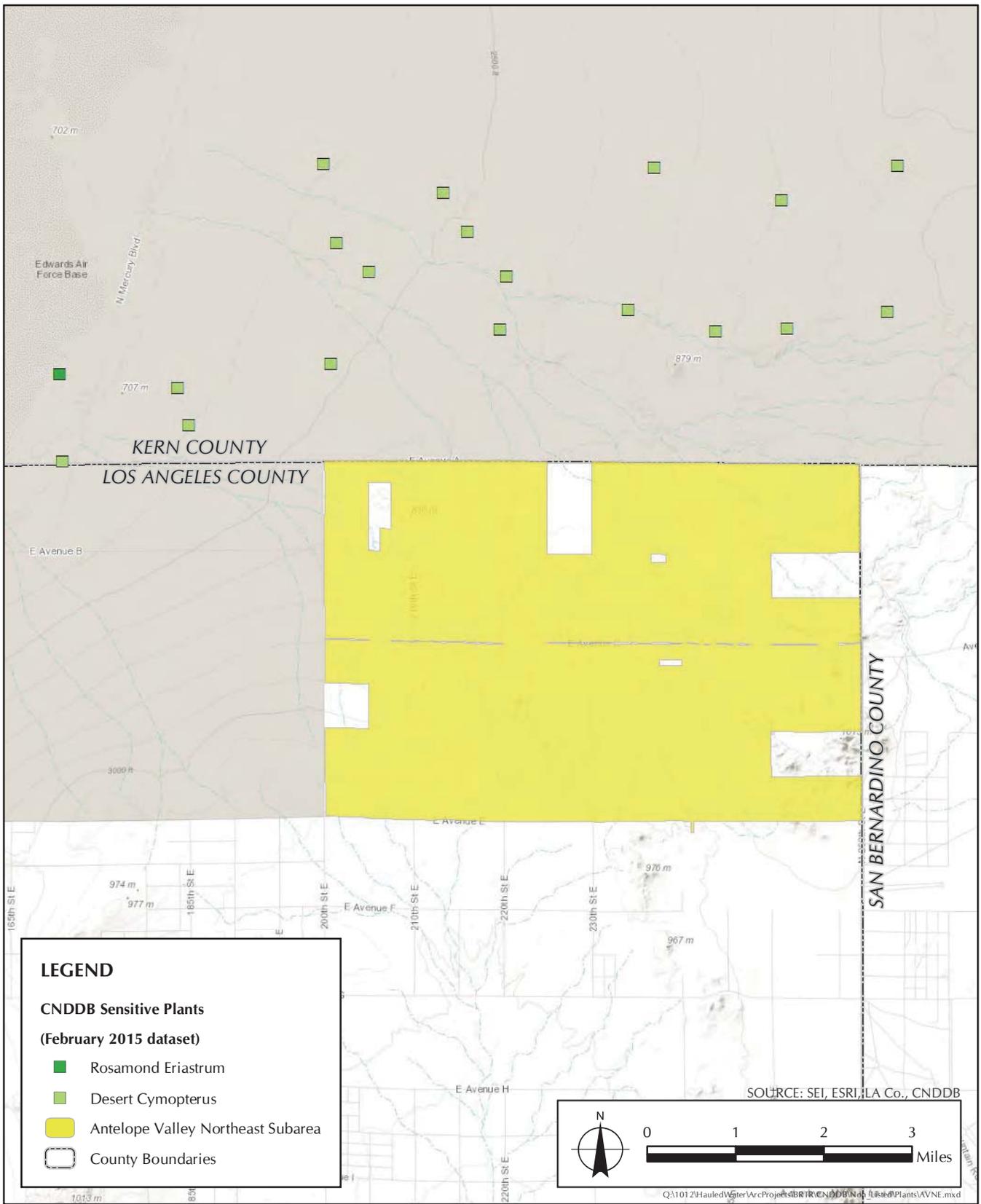
**FIGURE 3.3.2-3**  
Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas



**FIGURE 3.3.2-3A**  
 Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-3B**  
 Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lancaster Northeast Subarea

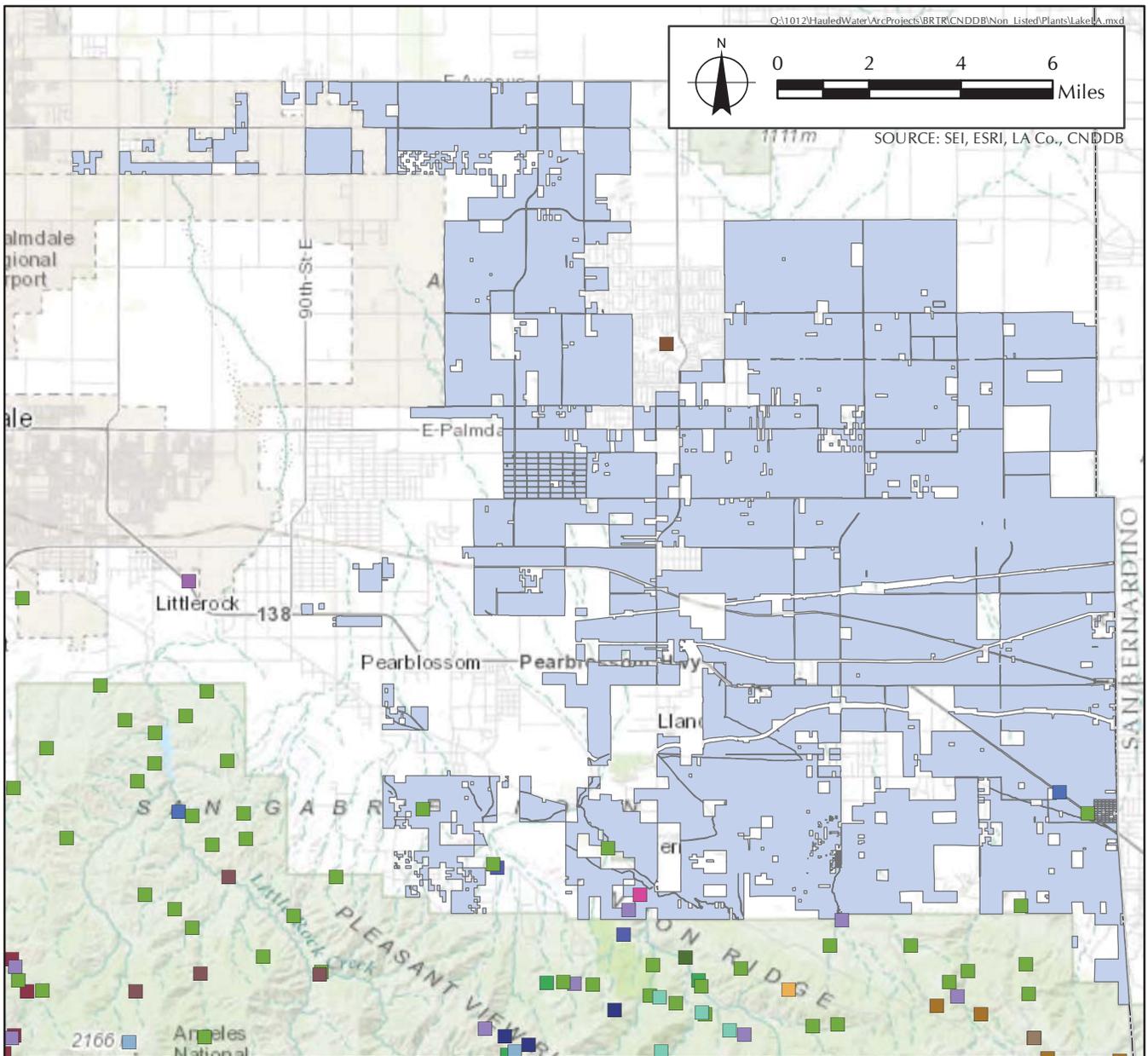


**FIGURE 3.3.2-3C**

Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative  
Subareas Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea



SOURCE: SEI, ESRI, LA Co., CNDDB

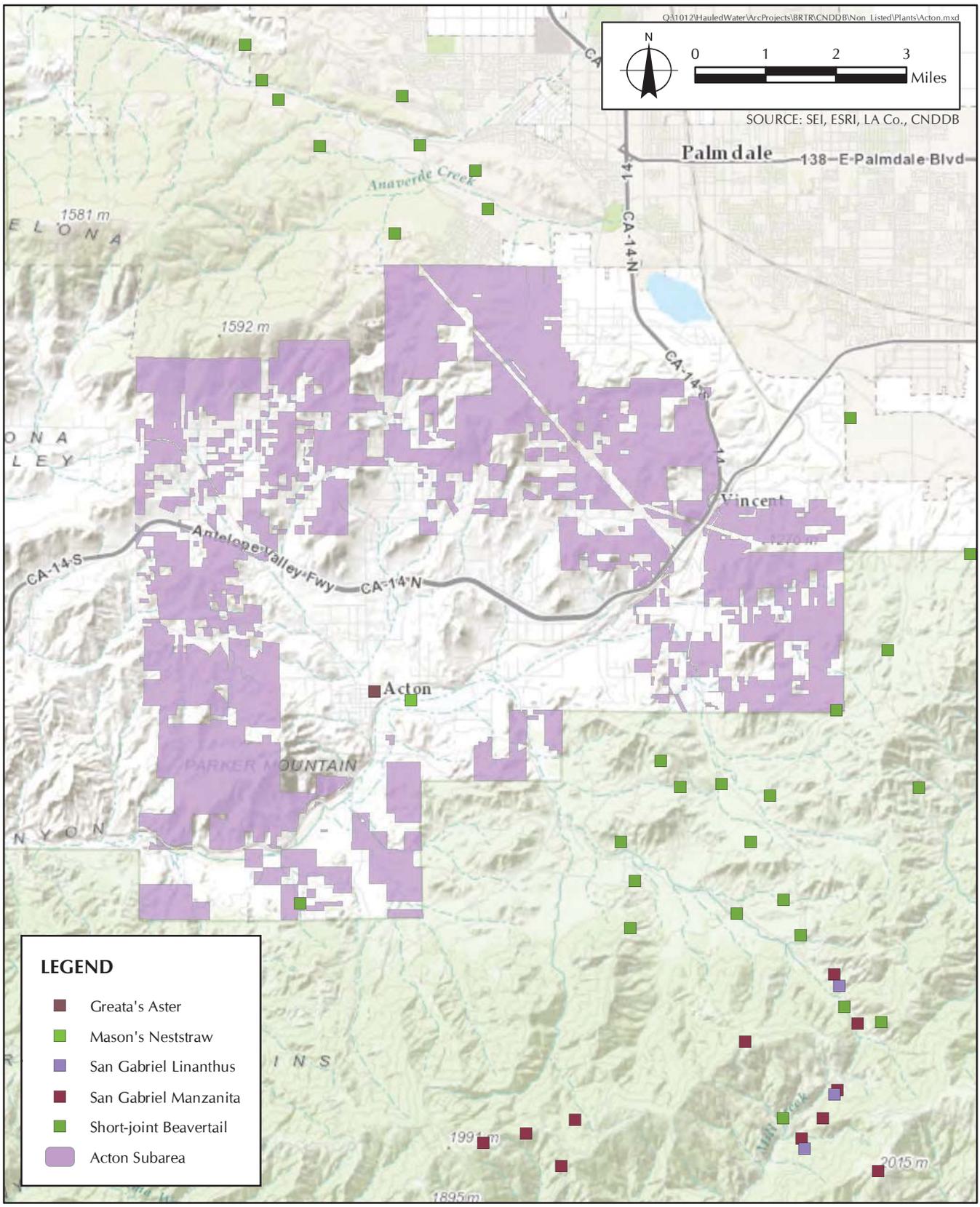


LEGEND			
<b>CNDDB Sensitive Plants (February 2015 dataset)</b>			
Big Bear Valley Woollypod	Peirson's Lupine	San Gabriel Manzanita	Southern Alpine Buckwheat
Great's Aster	Peirson's Morning-glory	Alkali Mariposa-lily	Western Sedge
Kern Canyon Clarkia	Rock Creek Broomrape	Grey-leaved Violet	White Pygmy-poppy
Palmer's Mariposa-lily	San Antonio Milk-vetch	Lemon Lily	Woolly Mountain-parsley
	San Bernardino Aster	Sagebrush Loeflingia	Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea
	San Gabriel Linanthus	Short-joint Beavertail	County Boundaries

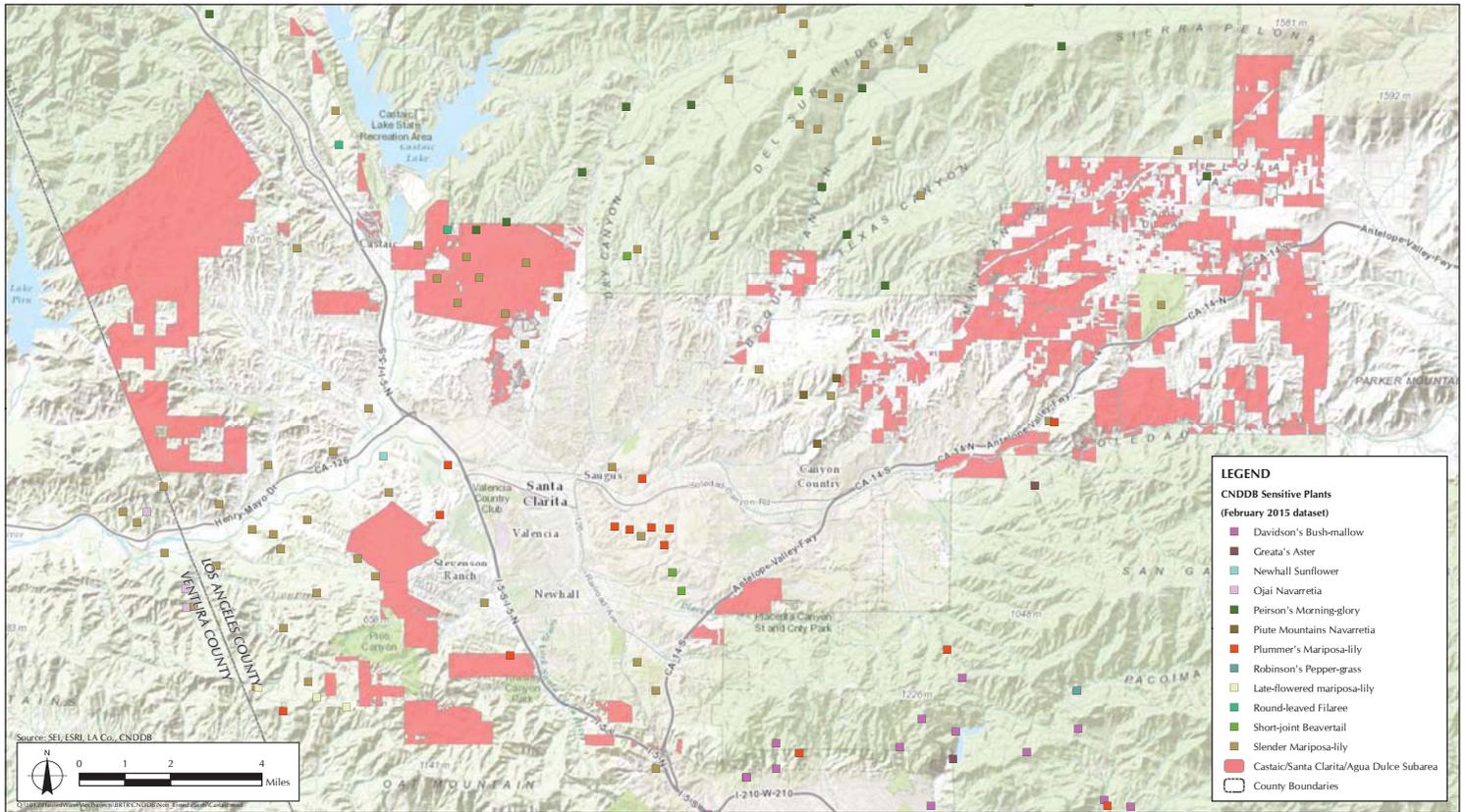


**FIGURE 3.3.2-3D**

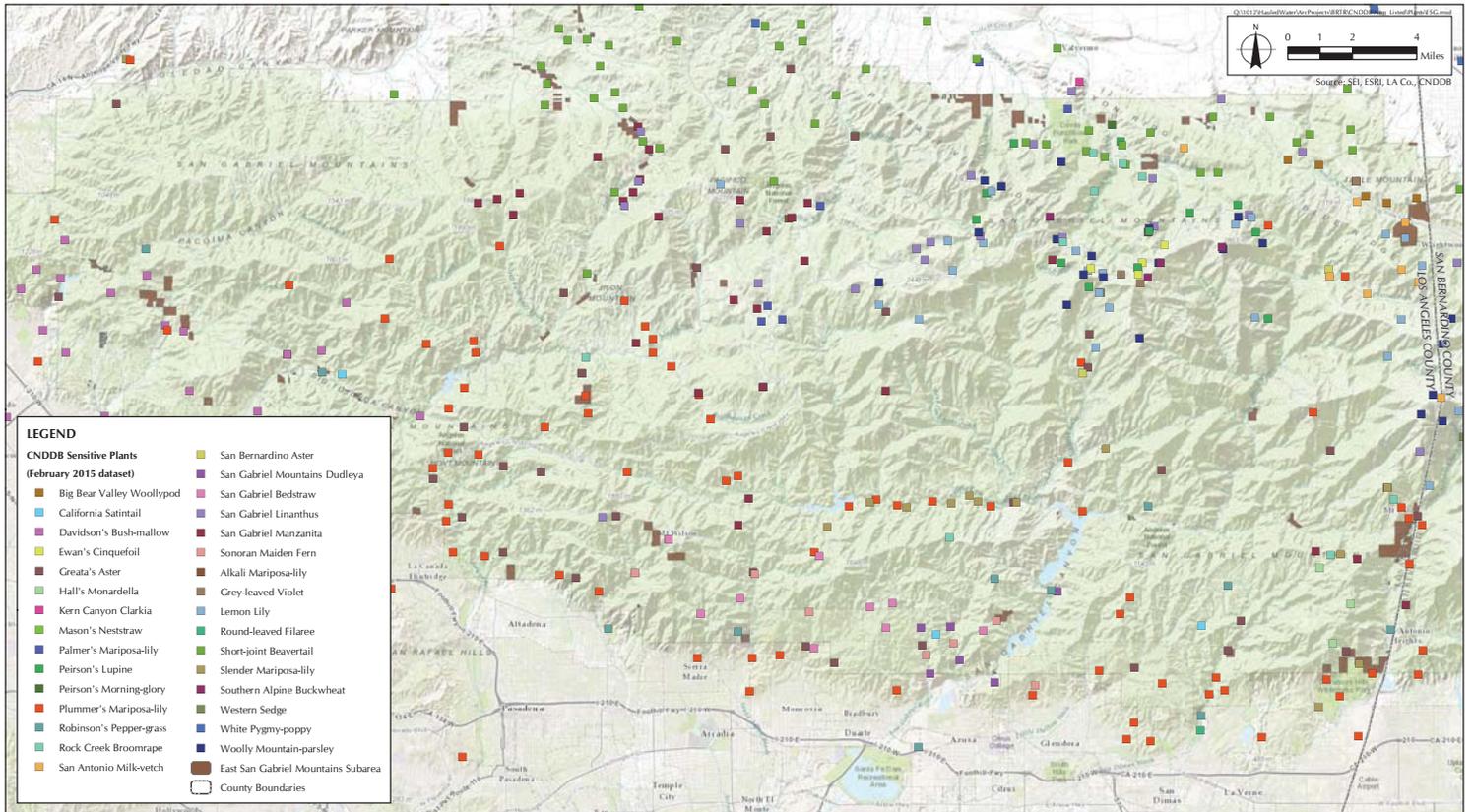
Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea



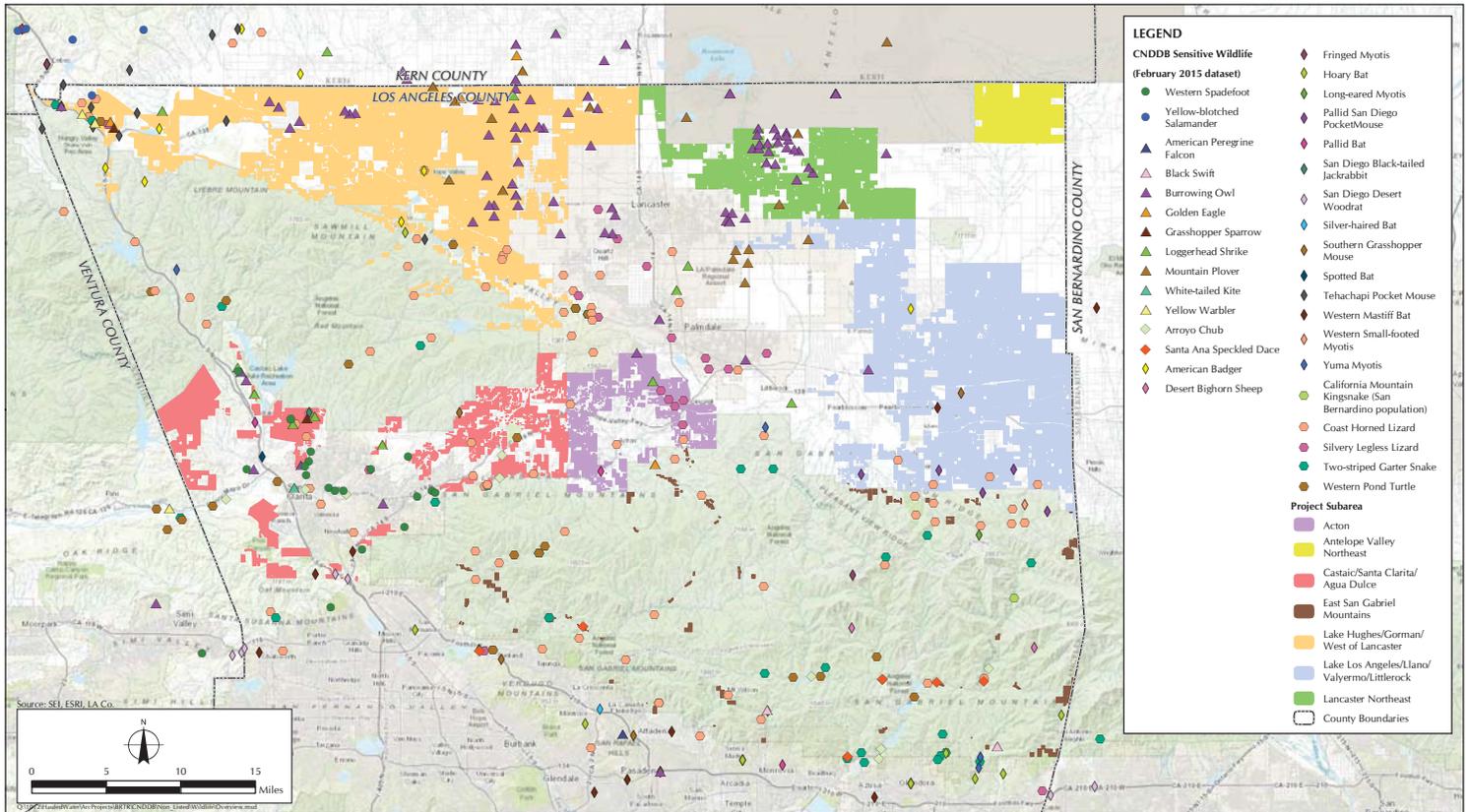
**FIGURE 3.3.2-3E**  
Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas Acton Subarea



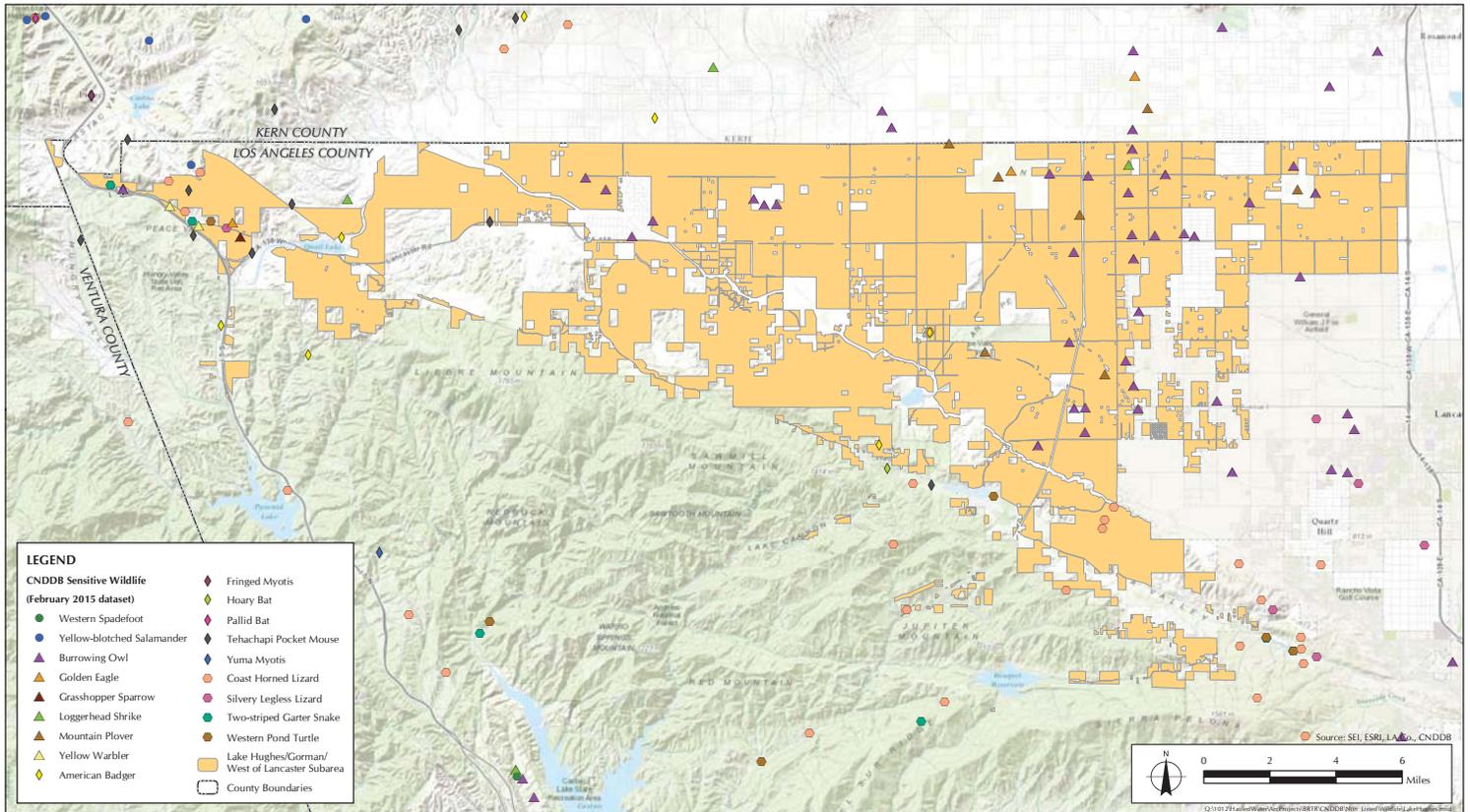
**FIGURE 3.3.2-3F**  
 Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea



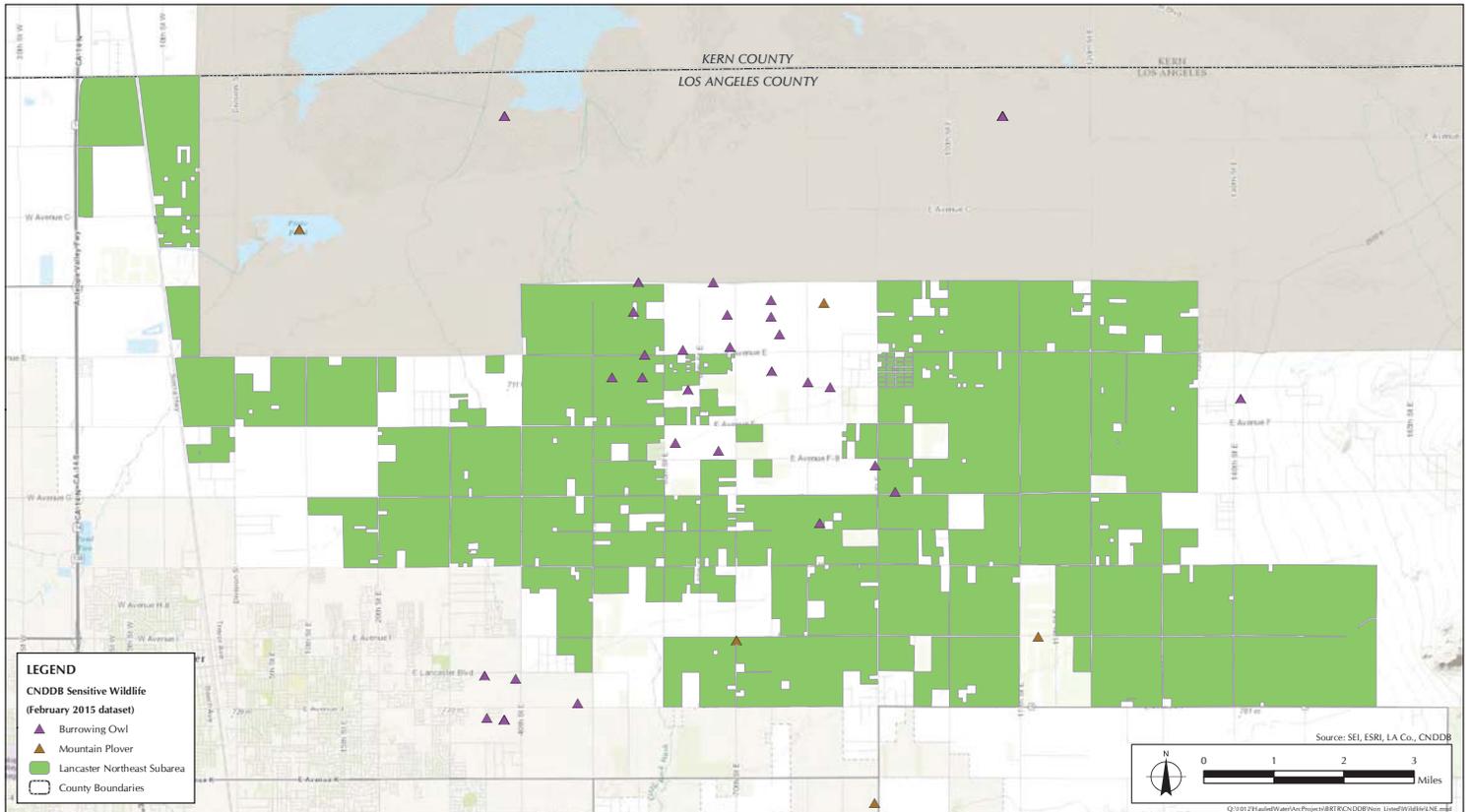
**FIGURE 3.3.2-3G**  
 Other Sensitive Plant Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea



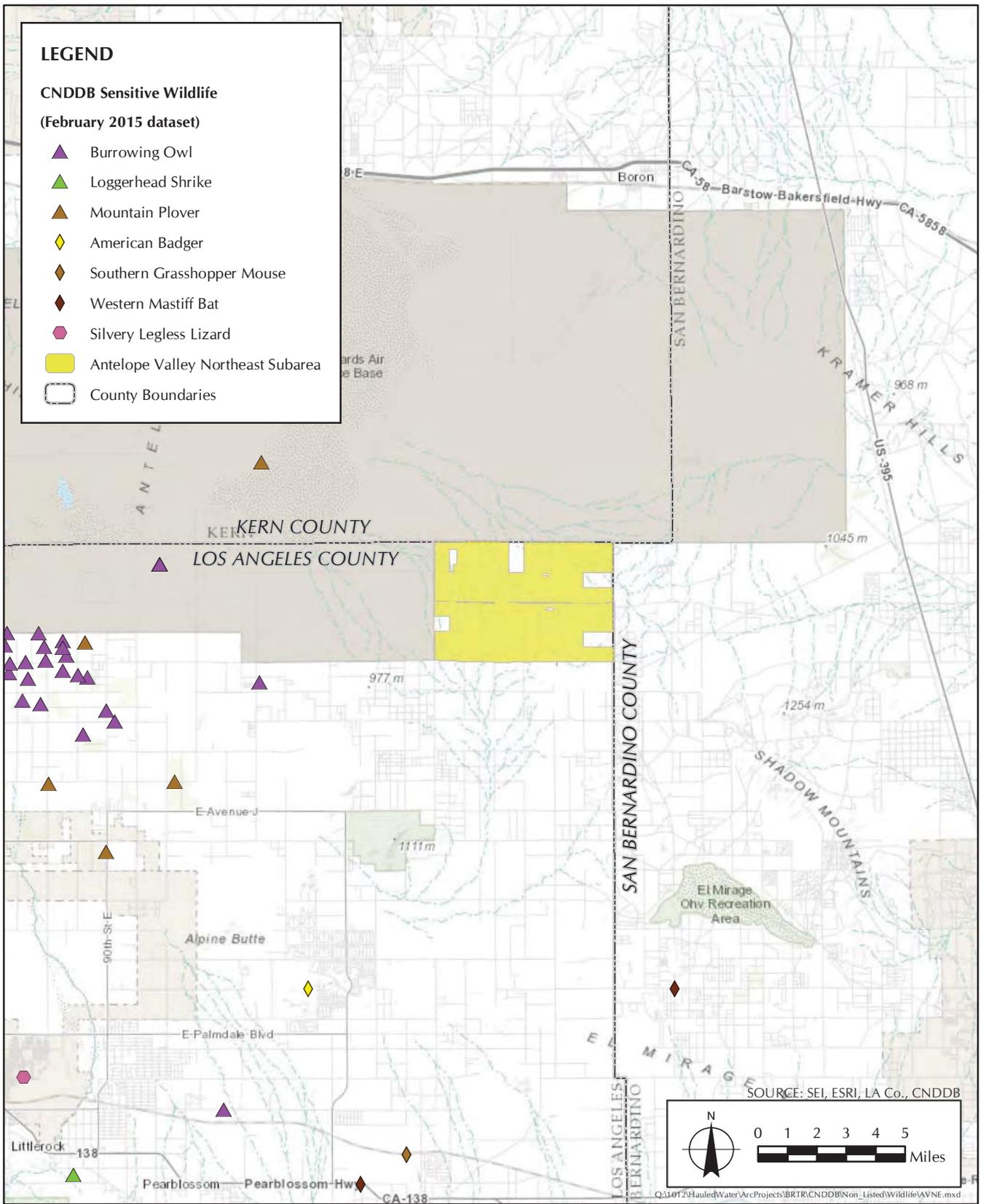
**FIGURE 3.3.2-4** Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas



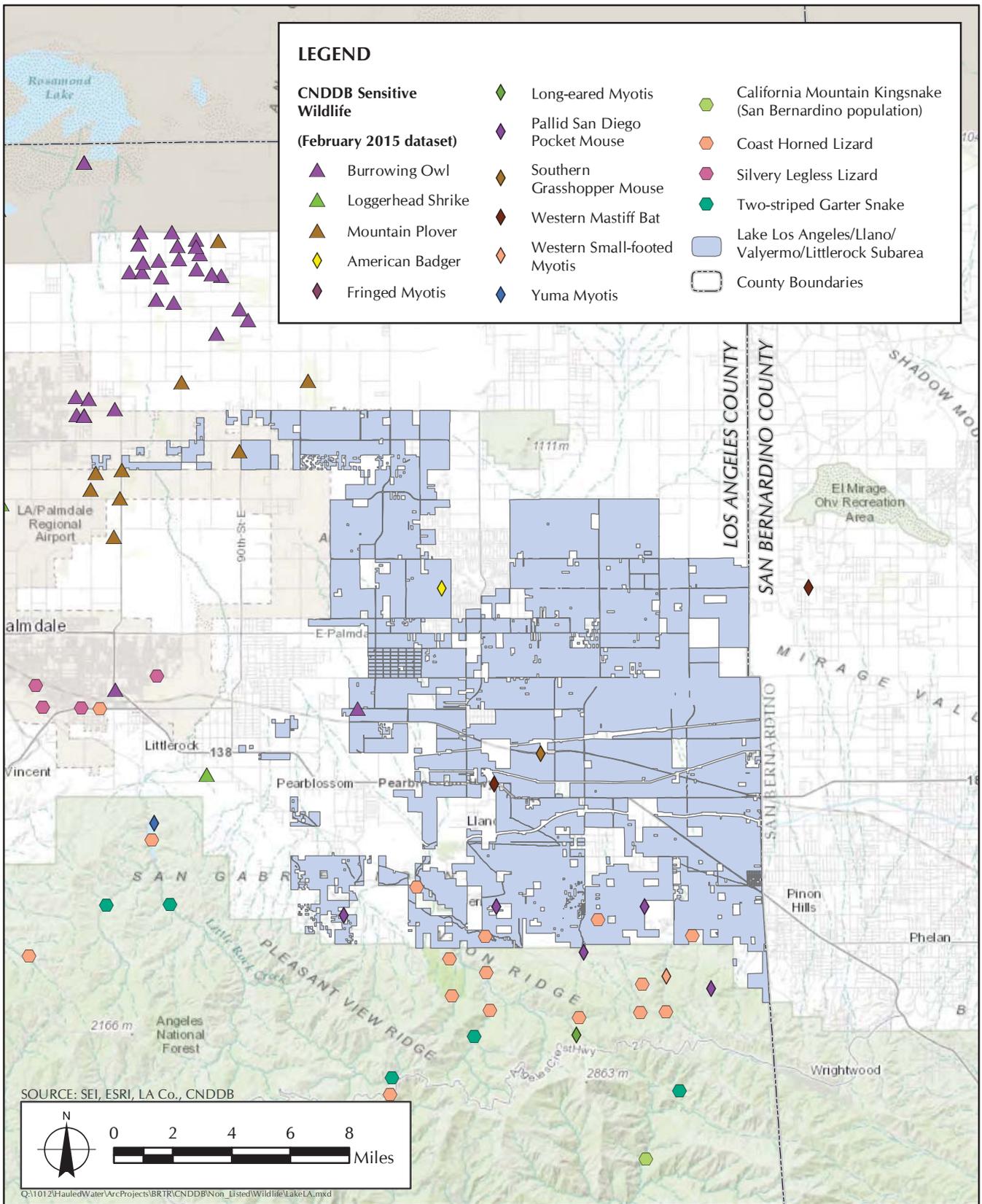
**FIGURE 3.3-2-4A**  
 Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea



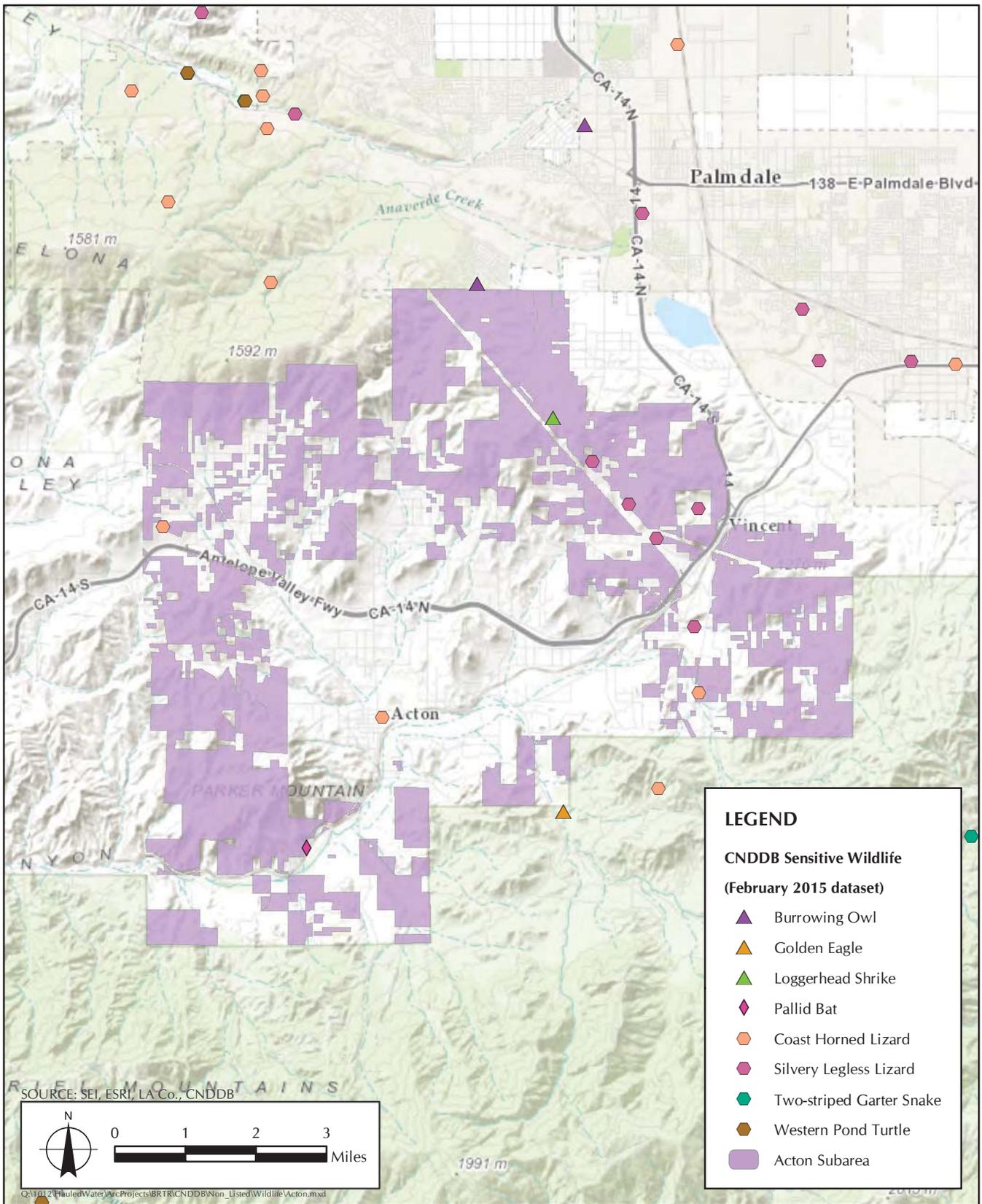
**FIGURE 3.3.2-4B**  
 Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lancaster Northeast Subarea



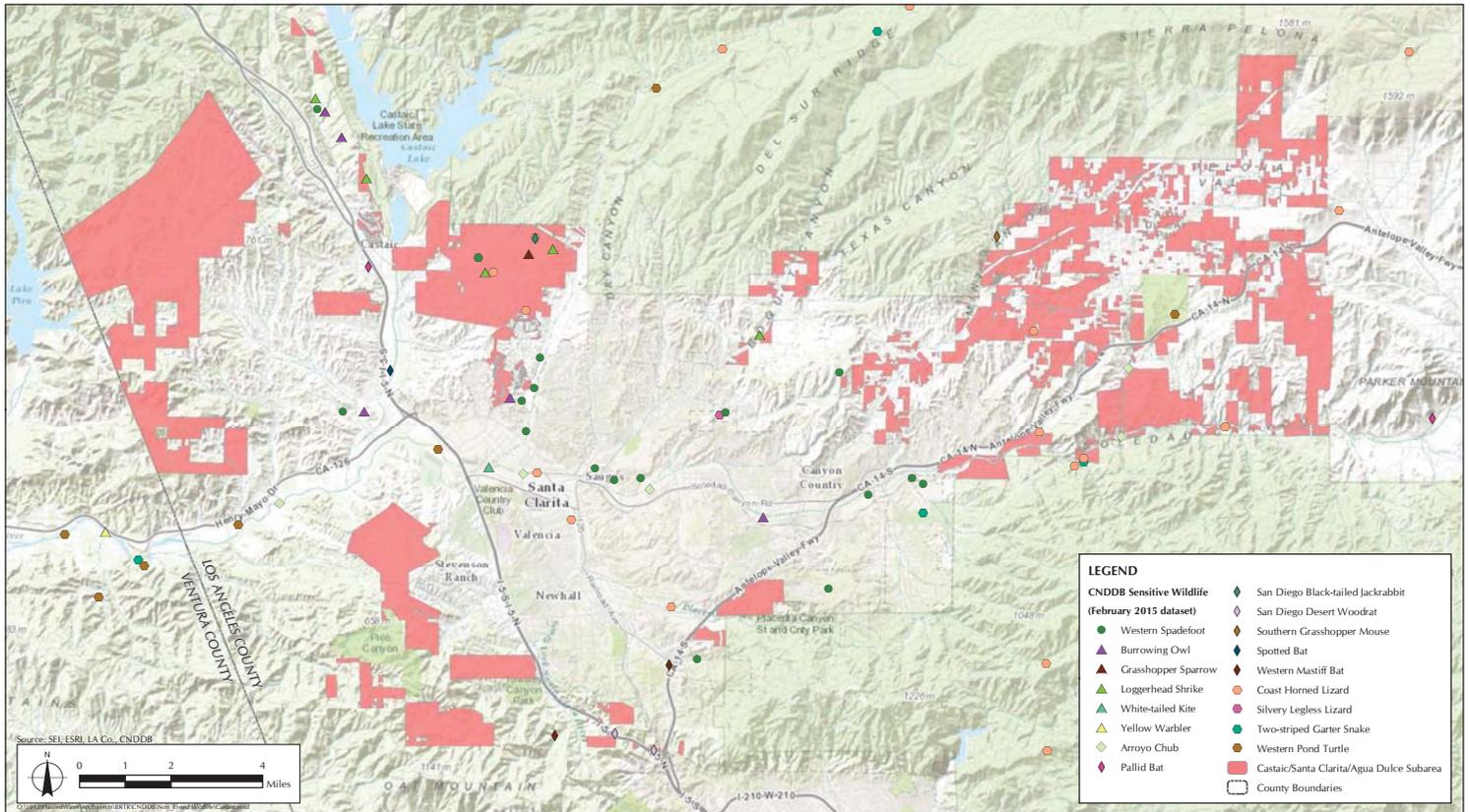
**FIGURE 3.3.2-4C**  
Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea



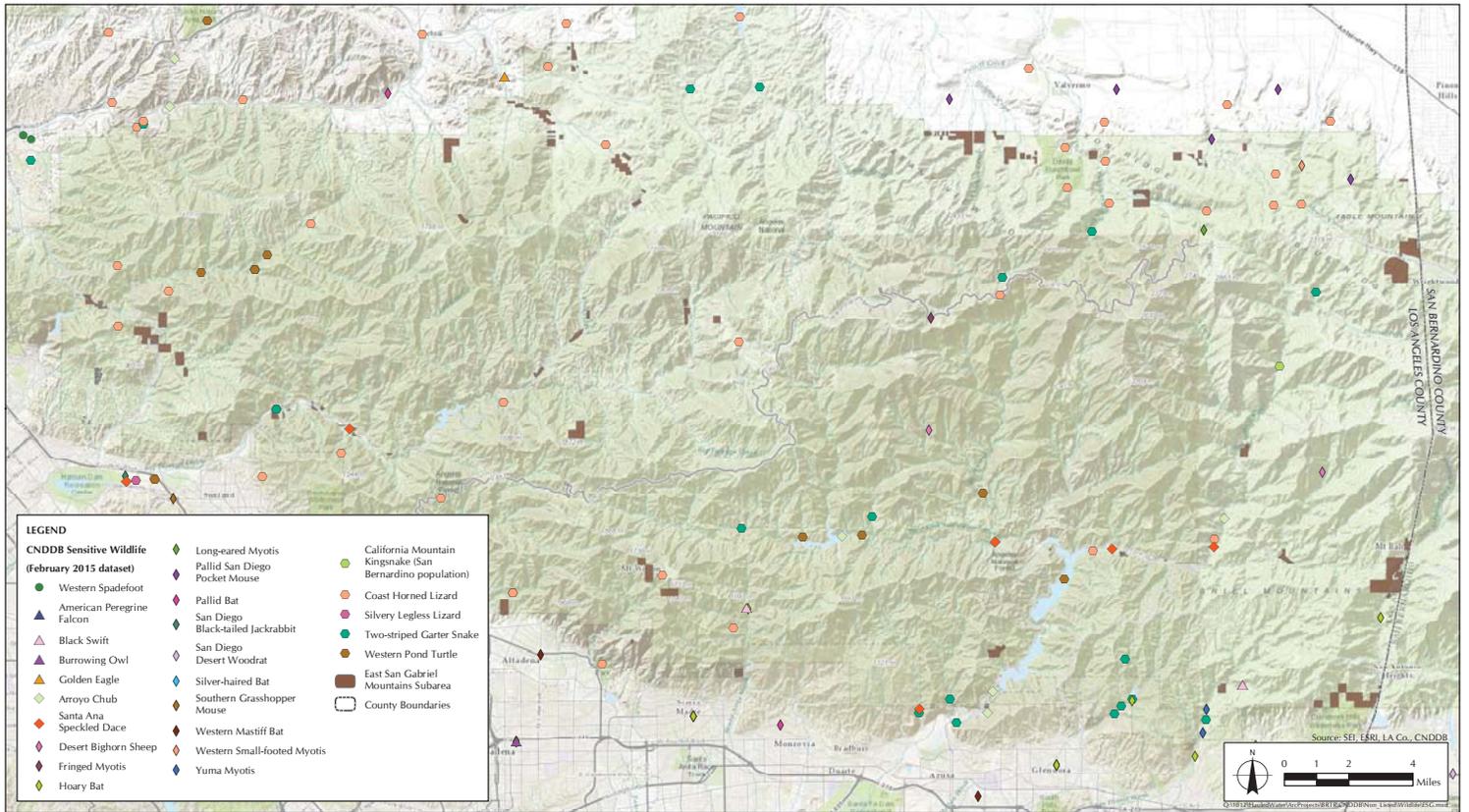
**FIGURE 3.3.2-4D**  
 Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative  
 Subareas Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-4E**  
 Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas Acton Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-4F**  
Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-4G**  
Other Sensitive Wildlife Species With the Potential to Occur Within The Proposed Initiative Subareas  
East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

**TABLE 3.3.2-4  
LOCALLY IMPORTANT SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE  
PROPOSED INITIATIVE AREA**

Species	Status	Potential to Occur within the Proposed Initiative Area						
		C	A	LH	LL	AV	LN	SG
<b>Plants</b>								
Beavertail cactus ( <i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>basilaris</i> )	DNPA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Branched pencil cholla ( <i>Cylindropuntia ramosissima</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
Buck horn cholla ( <i>Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
Cane cholla ( <i>Cylindropuntia californica</i> var. <i>parkeri</i> )	DNPA	X	X					
Chaparral yucca ( <i>Hesperoyucca whipplei</i> )	DNPA	X	X	X	X			X
Desert holly ( <i>Atriplex hymenelyta</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
Honey mesquite ( <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
Joshua Tree ( <i>Yucca brevifolia</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
Mojave prickly pear ( <i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
Panamint dudleya ( <i>Dudleya saxosa</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
Western prickly pear ( <i>Opuntia littoralis</i> )	DNPA	X	X					
Wiggins' cholla ( <i>Cylindropuntia echinocarpa</i> )	DNPA			X	X	X	X	
<b>Mammals</b>								
red fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	FBM	X	X	X	X			X
desert kit fox ( <i>Vulpes macrotis macrotis</i> )	FBM			X	X	X	X	
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>

**KEY:** DNPA = Desert Native Plant Act; FBM = Furbearing Mammal. C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

***Riparian Communities and State-Designated Sensitive Habitat***

*Sensitive Plant Communities*

Two data sources were used to analyze riparian habitat and other sensitive plant communities: DRECP and CalVeg (see Appendix I, BRTR, Chapter 4.0 *Methods*, for a detailed explanation of these data sets). Parcels located within the Mojave Desert have DRECP plant community data available, but parcels south of the Mojave Desert only have CalVeg plant community data

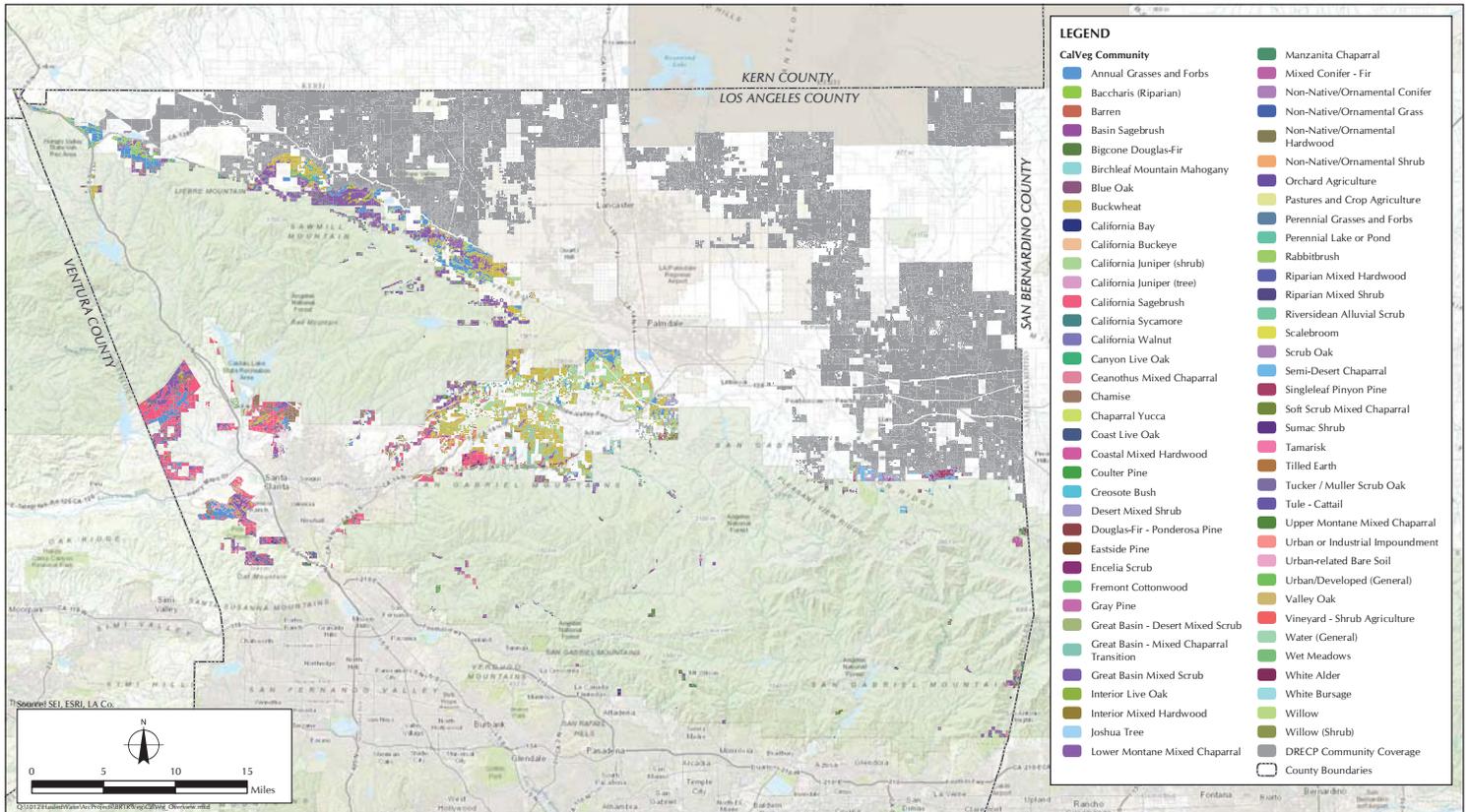
available. No overlap exists between the two data sets on any individual parcel; however, a single subarea may be covered by both data sets. The entirety of the proposed initiative study area was covered by these data sets (Figure 3.3.2-5, *CalVeg Plant Communities Present within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*; Figure 3.3.2-6, *DRECP Plant Communities Present within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*). Communities in both of these data sets were converted to standard plant communities recognized by CDFW (based on *A Manual of California Vegetation*, second edition).<sup>20</sup>

Based on the existing data, there are 136 plant community alliances with the potential of being present on parcels within the proposed initiative study area. Of the 136 plant community alliances, there are 59 State-designated sensitive habitats, including 55 plant community alliances and four additional alliances that have a sensitive association.

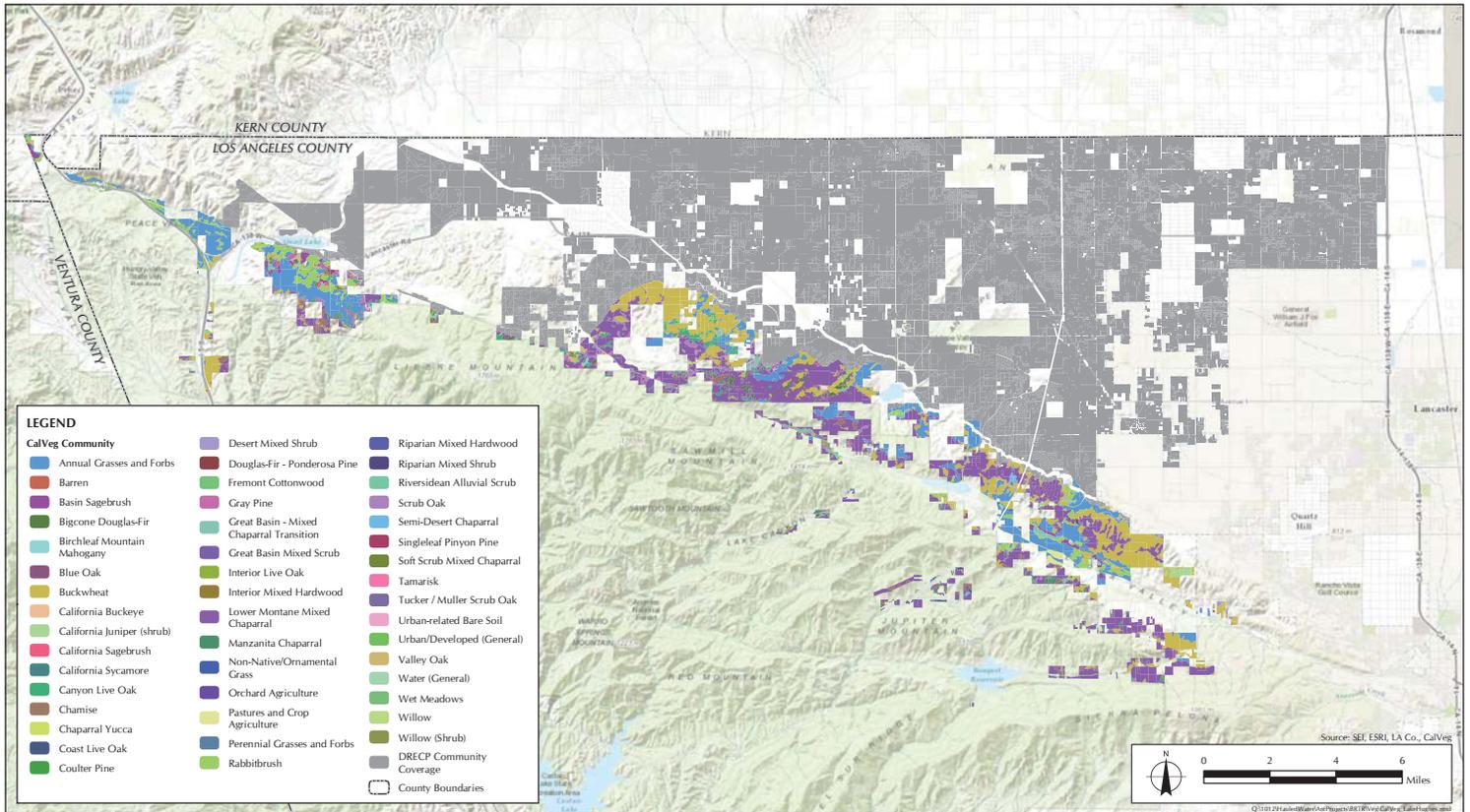
Comparing the amount of area likely to contain a sensitive plant community in relation to the total acres within each subarea indicates that parcels located within the following subareas have the greatest potential to contain sensitive plant communities: Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock, Antelope Valley Northeast, and East San Gabriel Mountains (Table 3.3.2-5, *Sensitive Plant Communities with the Potential to Occur in Subareas – CalVeg Data*; Table 3.3.2-6, *Sensitive Plant Communities with the Potential to Occur in Subareas – DRECP Data*). The Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea is the most diverse in term of plant communities and sensitive plant communities, likely because of the convergence of several mountain ranges and the Mojave Desert. The East San Gabriel Mountains has the highest percentage of the subarea potentially sensitive because almost 25 percent of the subarea is classified as Interior Mixed Hardwood, which could potentially contain the sensitive *Quercus lobata*–Valley Oak Woodland plant community. It should be noted that the potential presence of State-designated sensitive habitats is likely inflated for Antelope Valley Northeast because the sensitive *Larrea tridentata*–*Ambrosia dumosa*–*Petalonyx thurberi* Association may occur within the most common plant community, *Larrea tridentata*–*Ambrosia dumosa* Creosote–White Burr Sage Scrub (Figure 3.3.2-6). In contrast, parcels within the following subareas have the least potential to contain sensitive plant communities: Acton, Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce, and Lancaster Northeast. The Acton subarea has the fewest acres of potentially present sensitive plant communities, but is also very diverse in the number of sensitive plant communities that could be present.

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<sup>20</sup> Sawyer, J.O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation*. Second Edition. Sacramento, CA: California Native Plant Society Press.

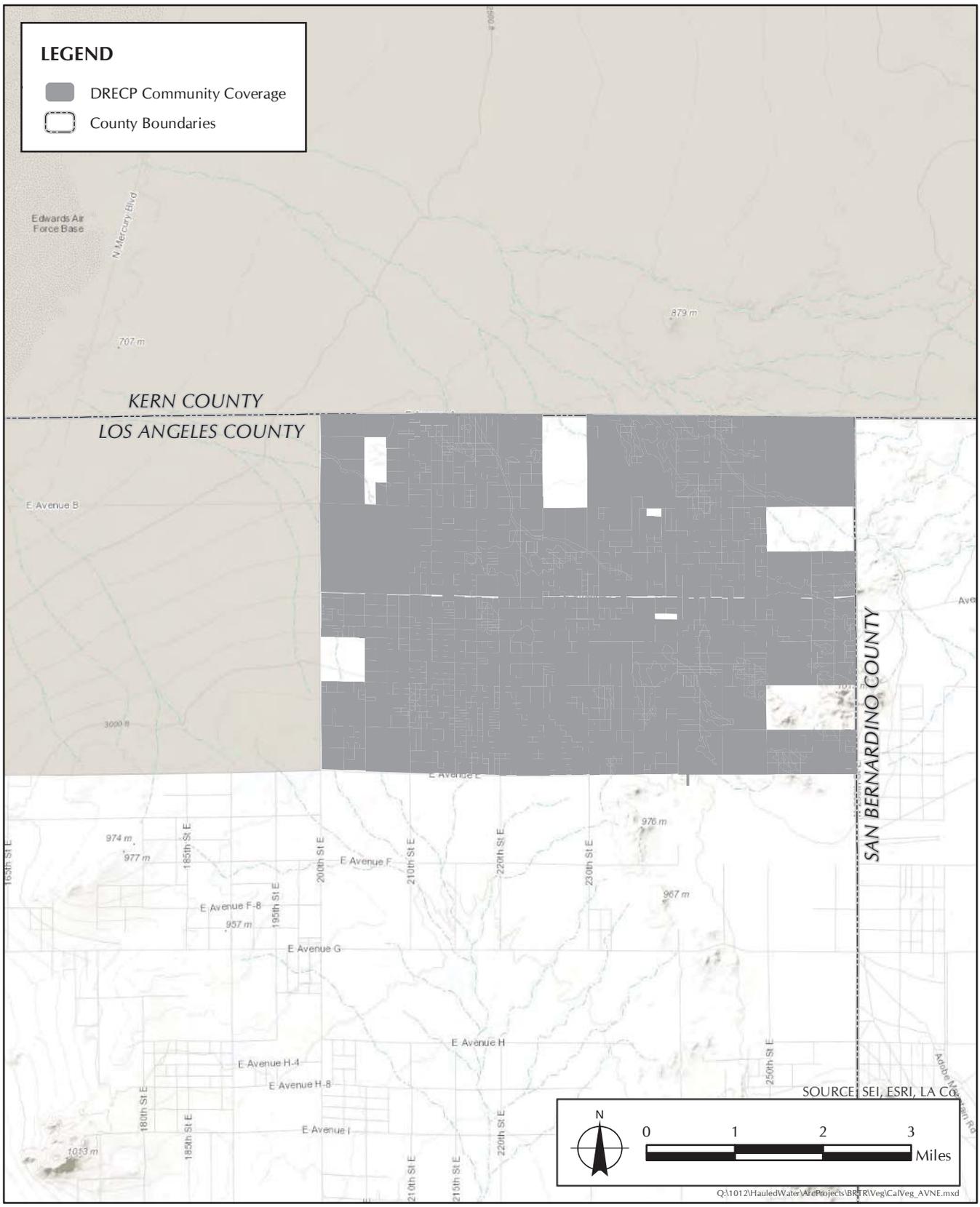


**FIGURE 3.3.2-5**  
 CalVeg Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas



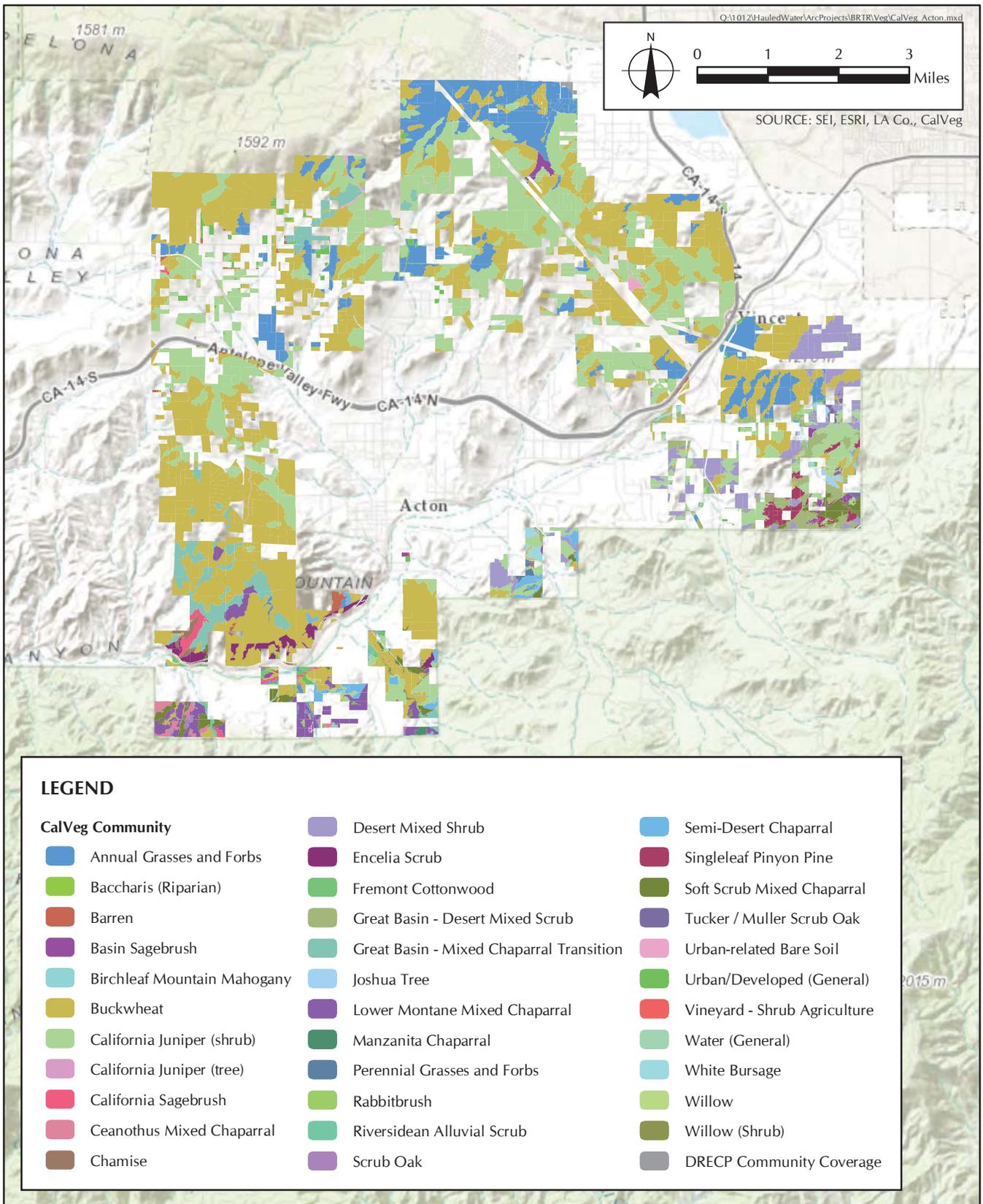
**FIGURE 3.3.2-5A**  
 CalVeg Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea





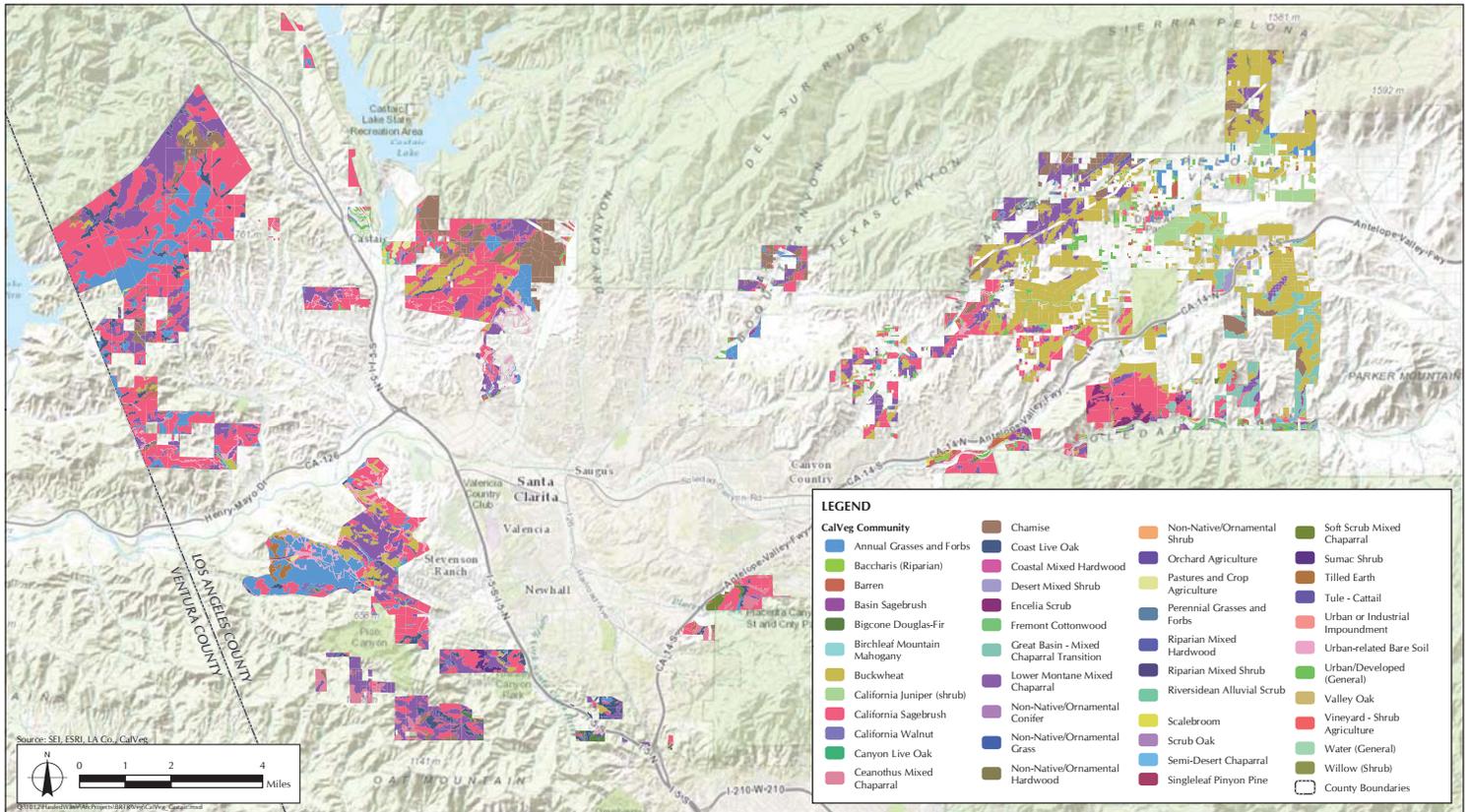
**FIGURE 3.3.2-5C**  
 CalVeg Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea





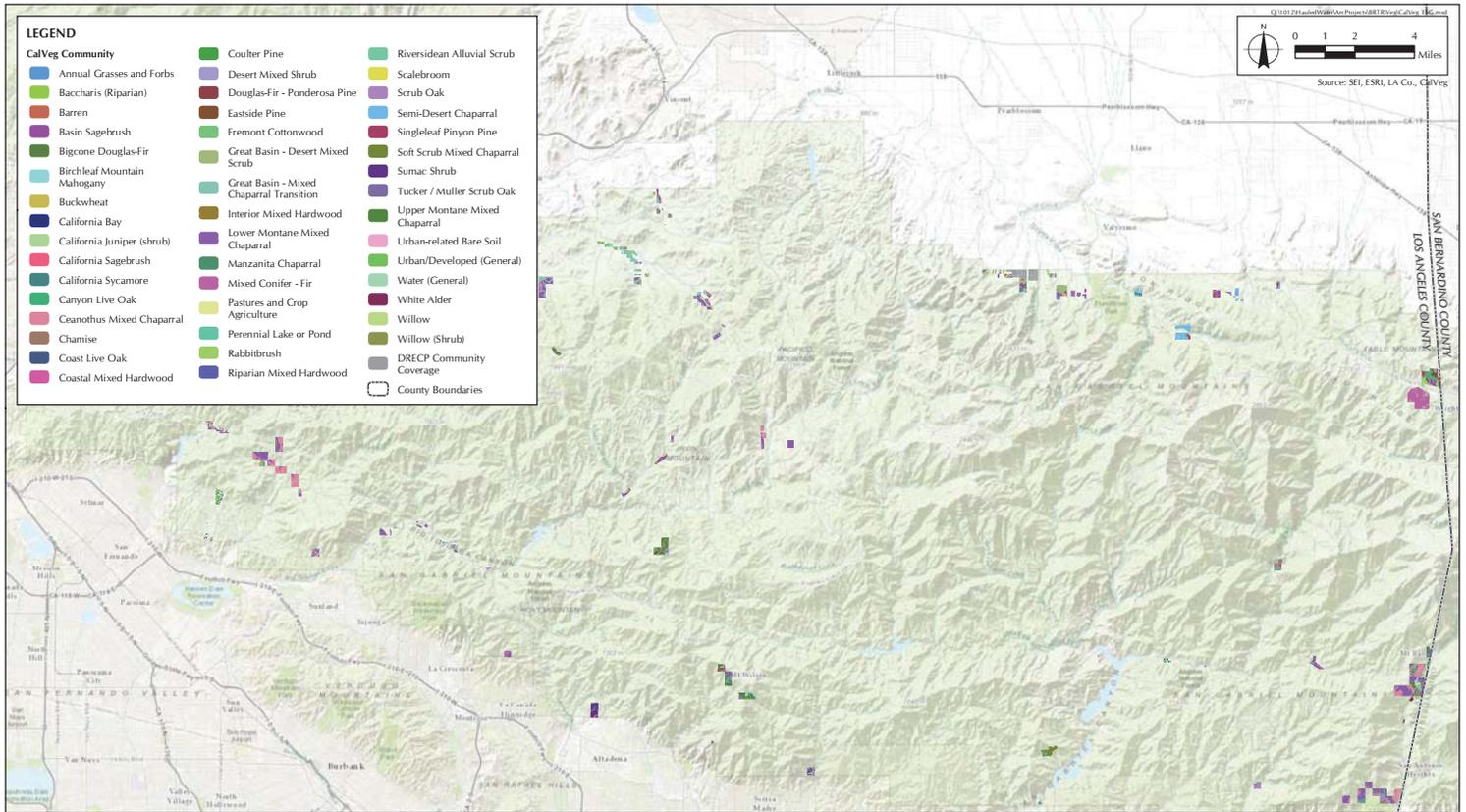
**FIGURE 3.3.2-5E**

CalVeg Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
Acton Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-5F**  
 CalVeg Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea





**FIGURE 3.3.2-5G**  
 CalVeg Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiatives Subareas  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

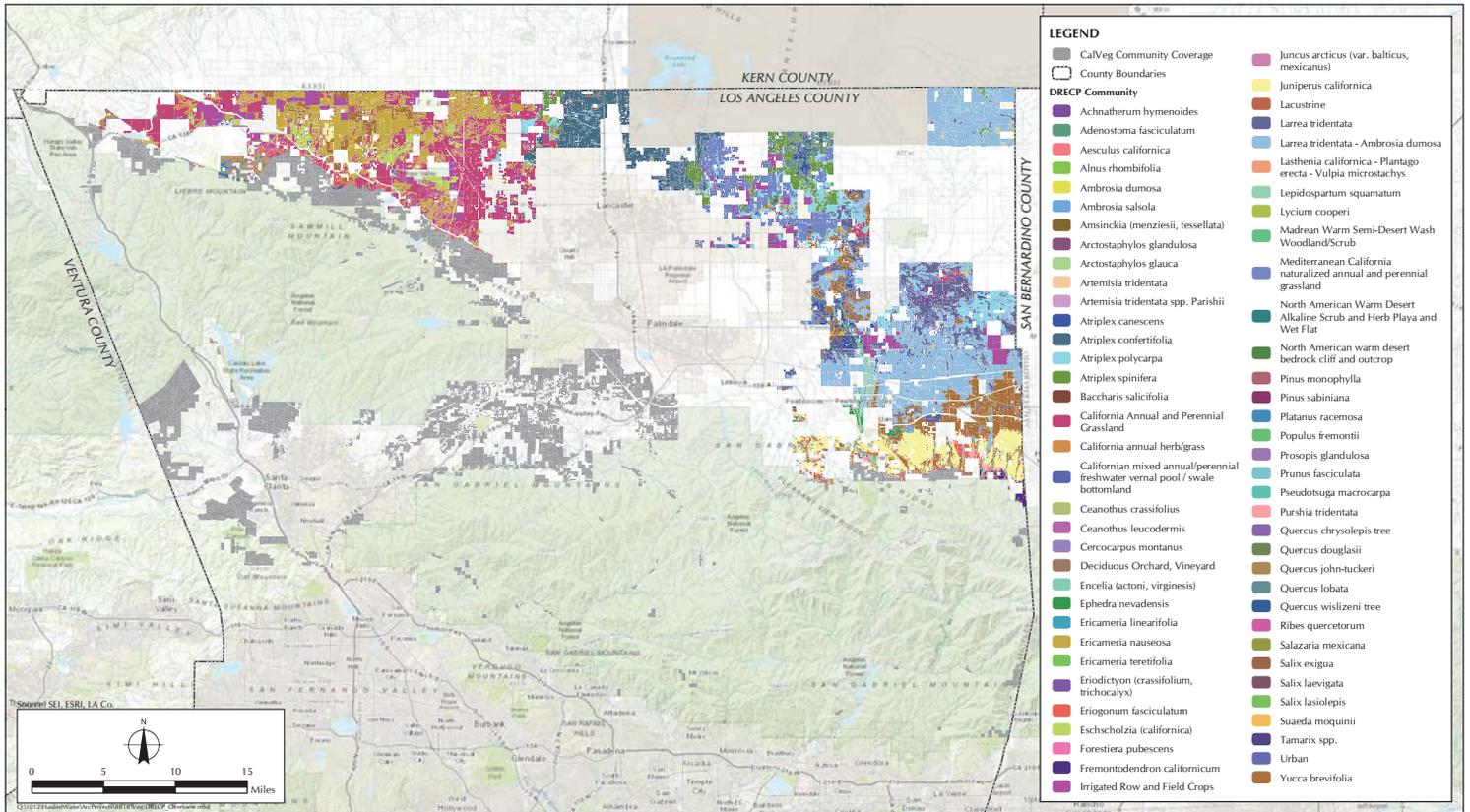
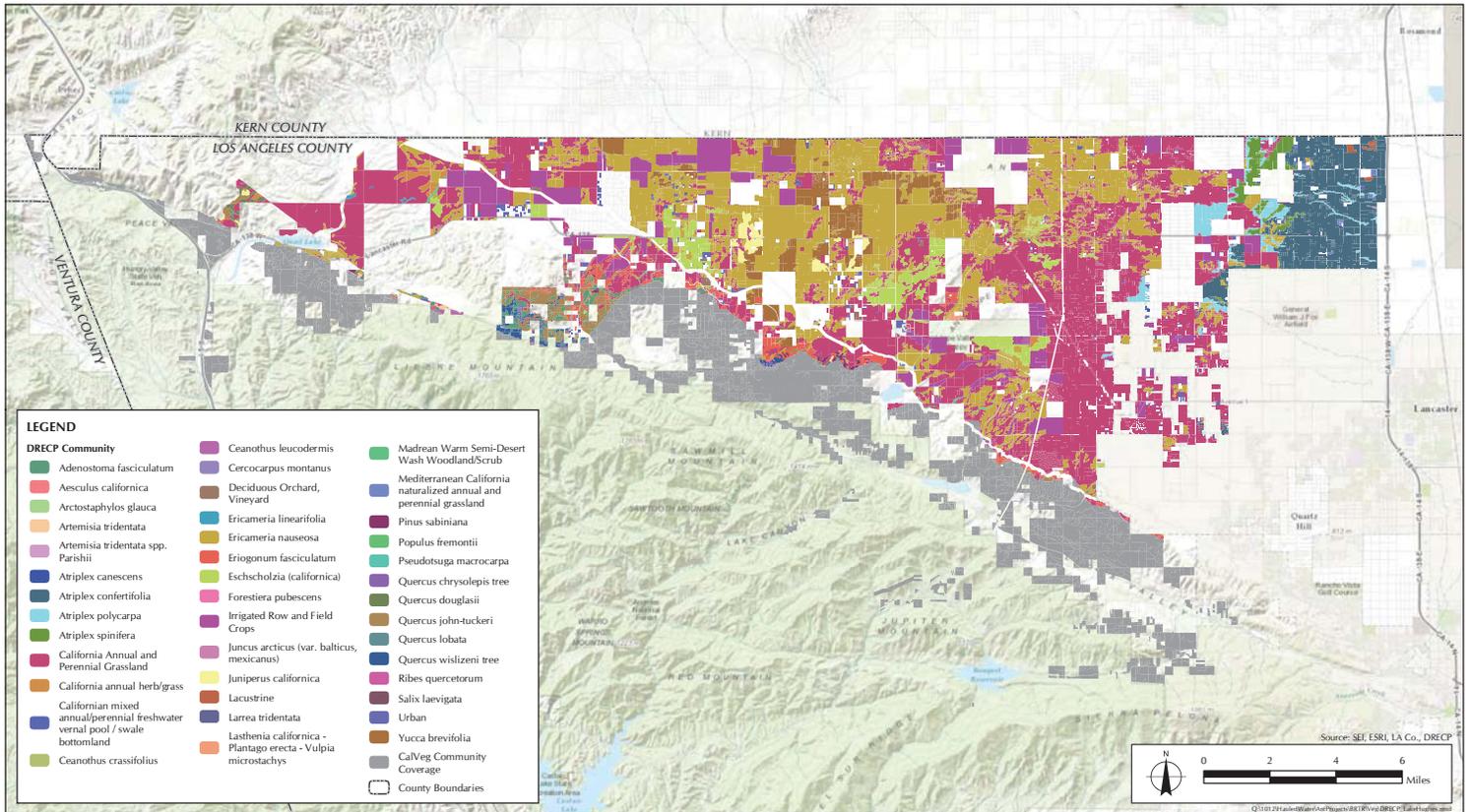


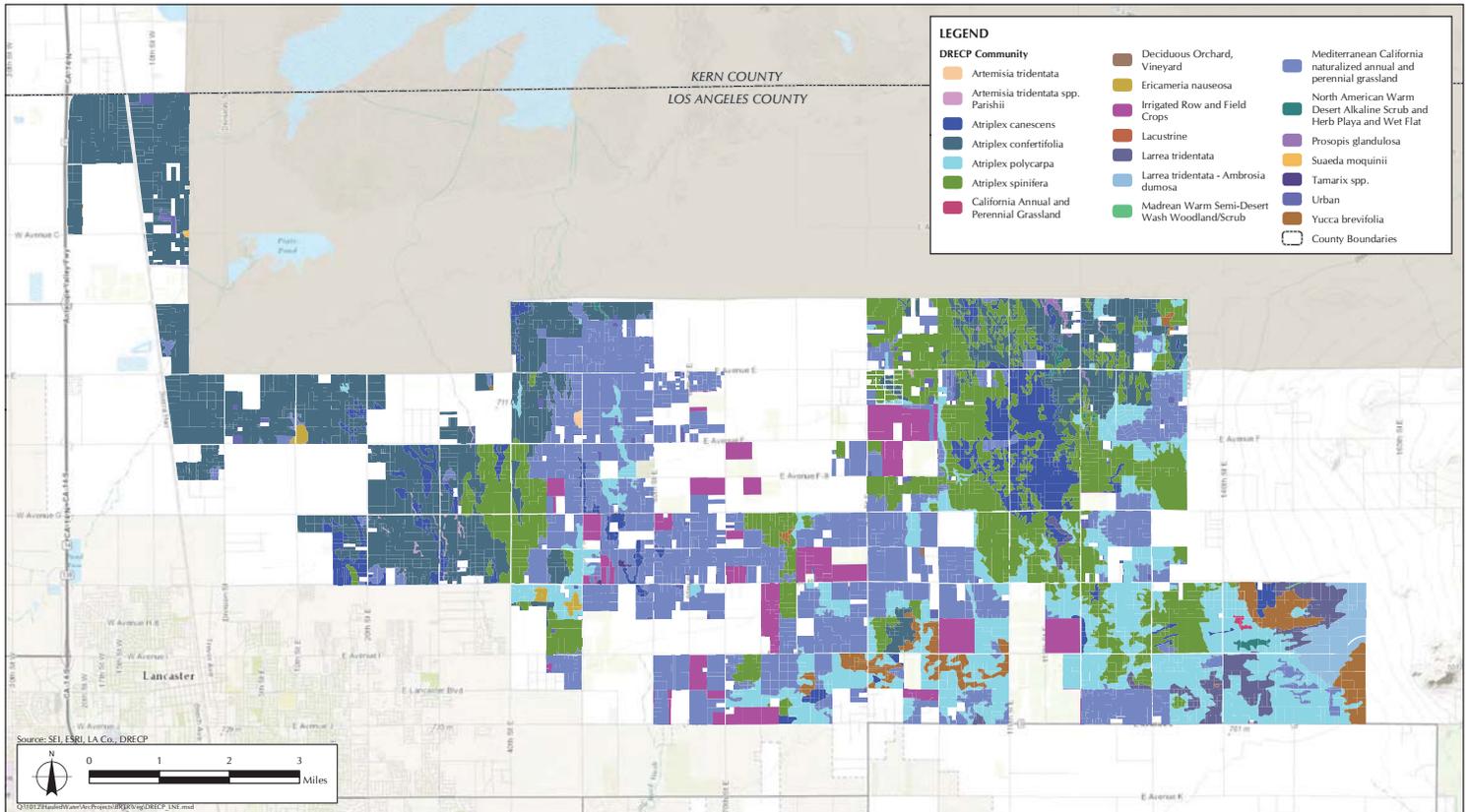
FIGURE 3.3.2-6

DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas





**FIGURE 3.3.2-6A**  
 DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea

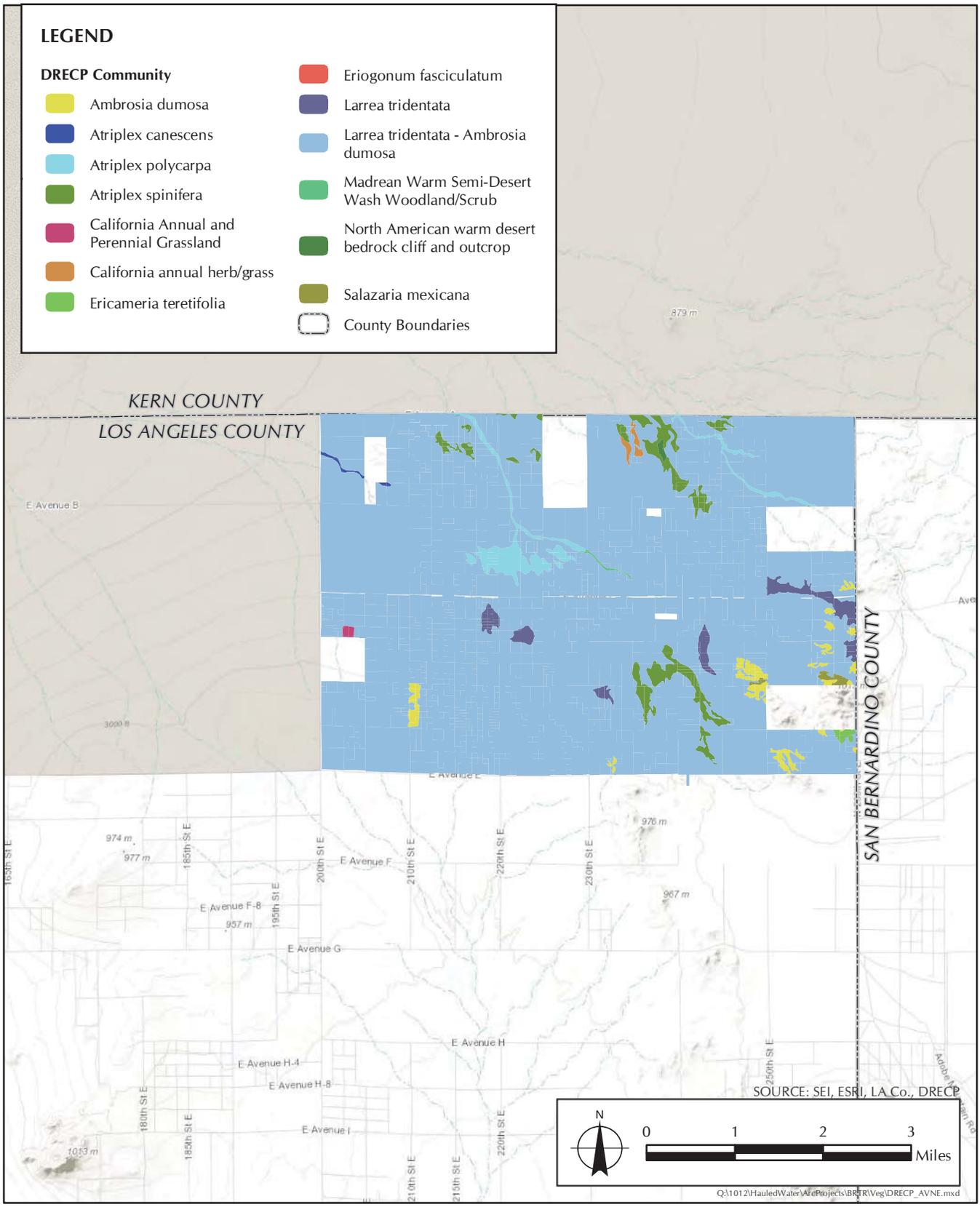


**FIGURE 3.3.2-6B**  
 DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lancaster Northeast Subarea

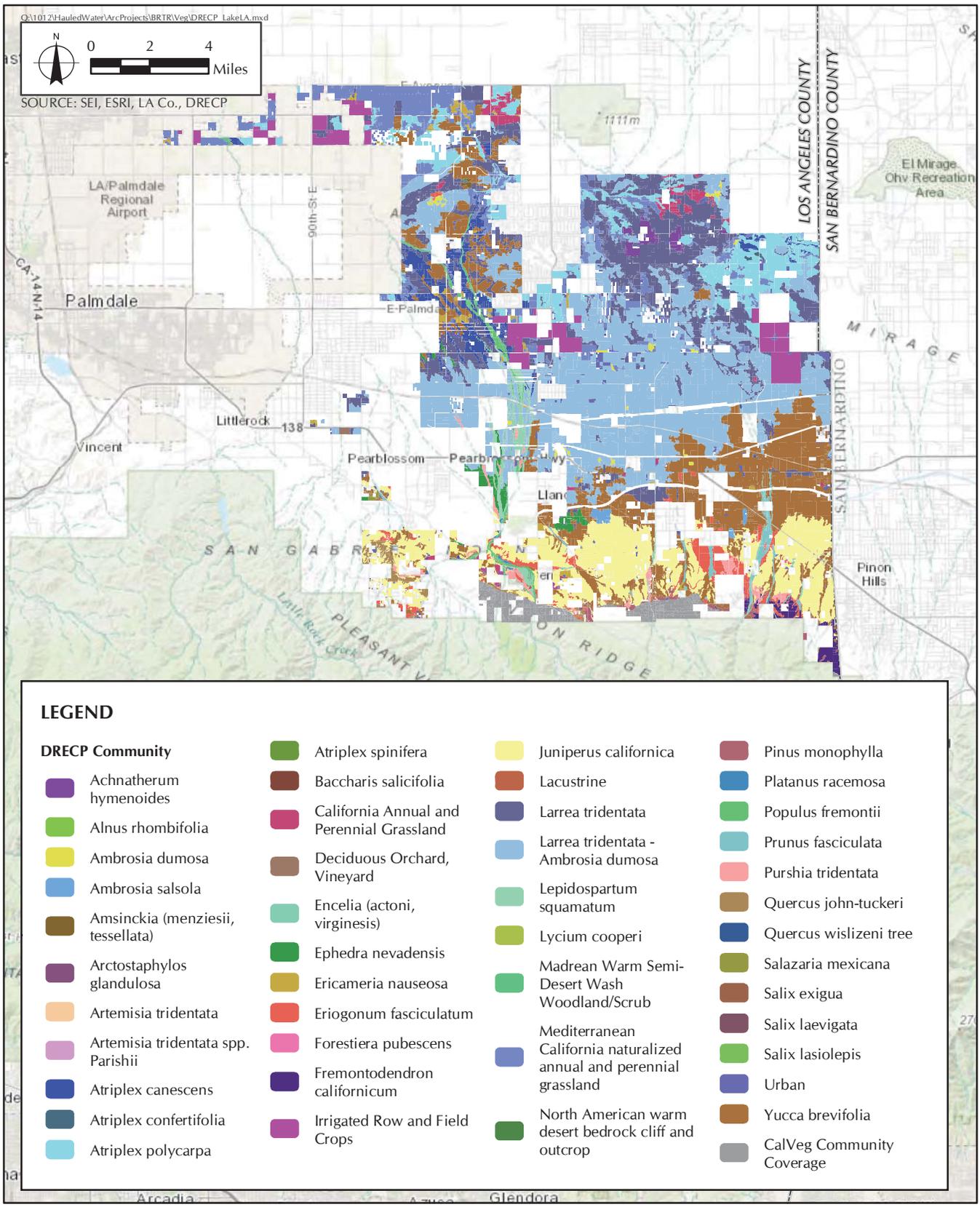
**LEGEND**

**DRECP Community**

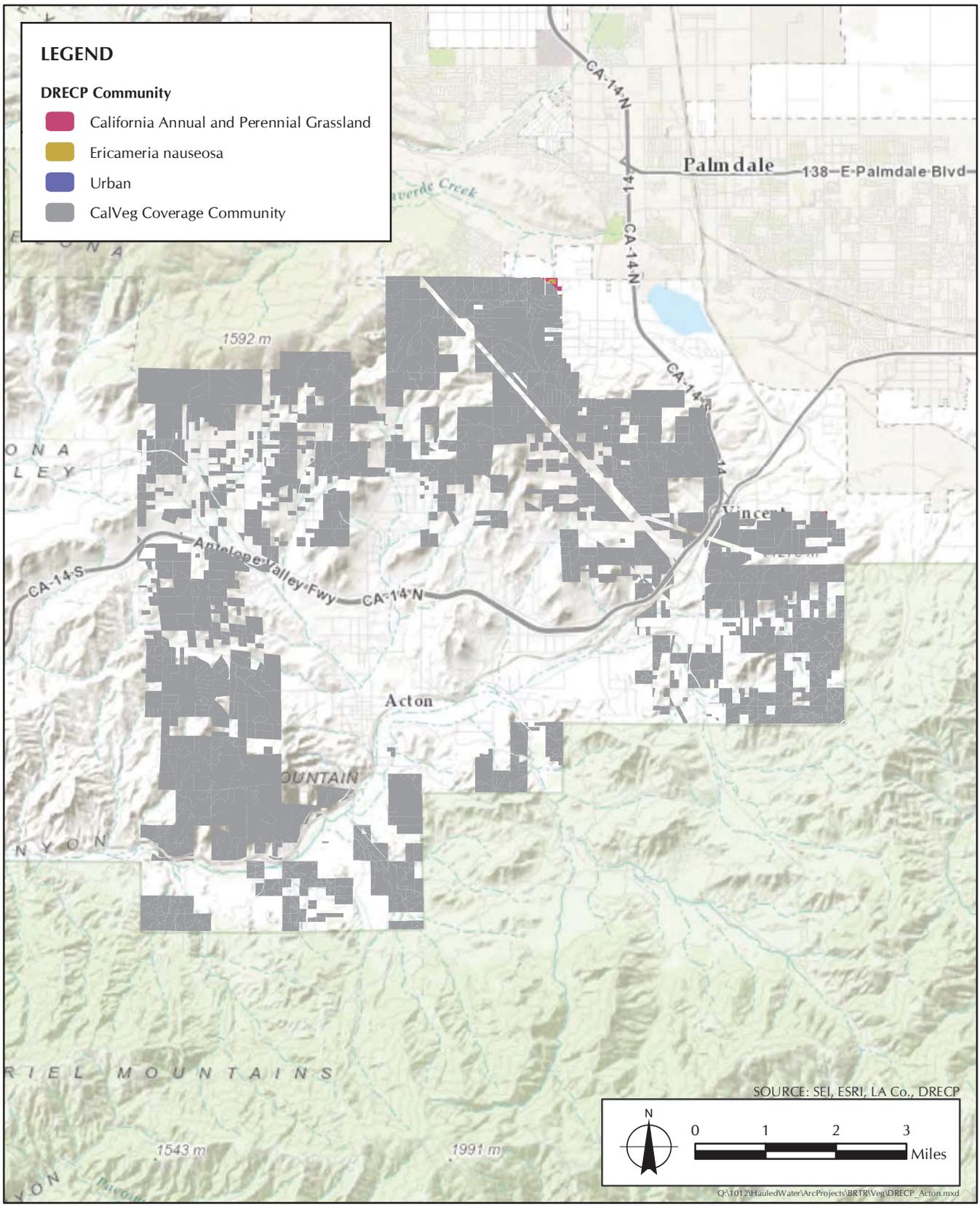
- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | Ambrosia dumosa                           |  | Eriogonum fasciculatum                               |
|  | Atriplex canescens                        |  | Larrea tridentata                                    |
|  | Atriplex polycarpa                        |  | Larrea tridentata - Ambrosia dumosa                  |
|  | Atriplex spinifera                        |  | Madrean Warm Semi-Desert Wash Woodland/Scrub         |
|  | California Annual and Perennial Grassland |  | North American warm desert bedrock cliff and outcrop |
|  | California annual herb/grass              |  | Salazaria mexicana                                   |
|  | Ericameria teretifolia                    |  | County Boundaries                                    |



**FIGURE 3.3.2-6C**  
 DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea

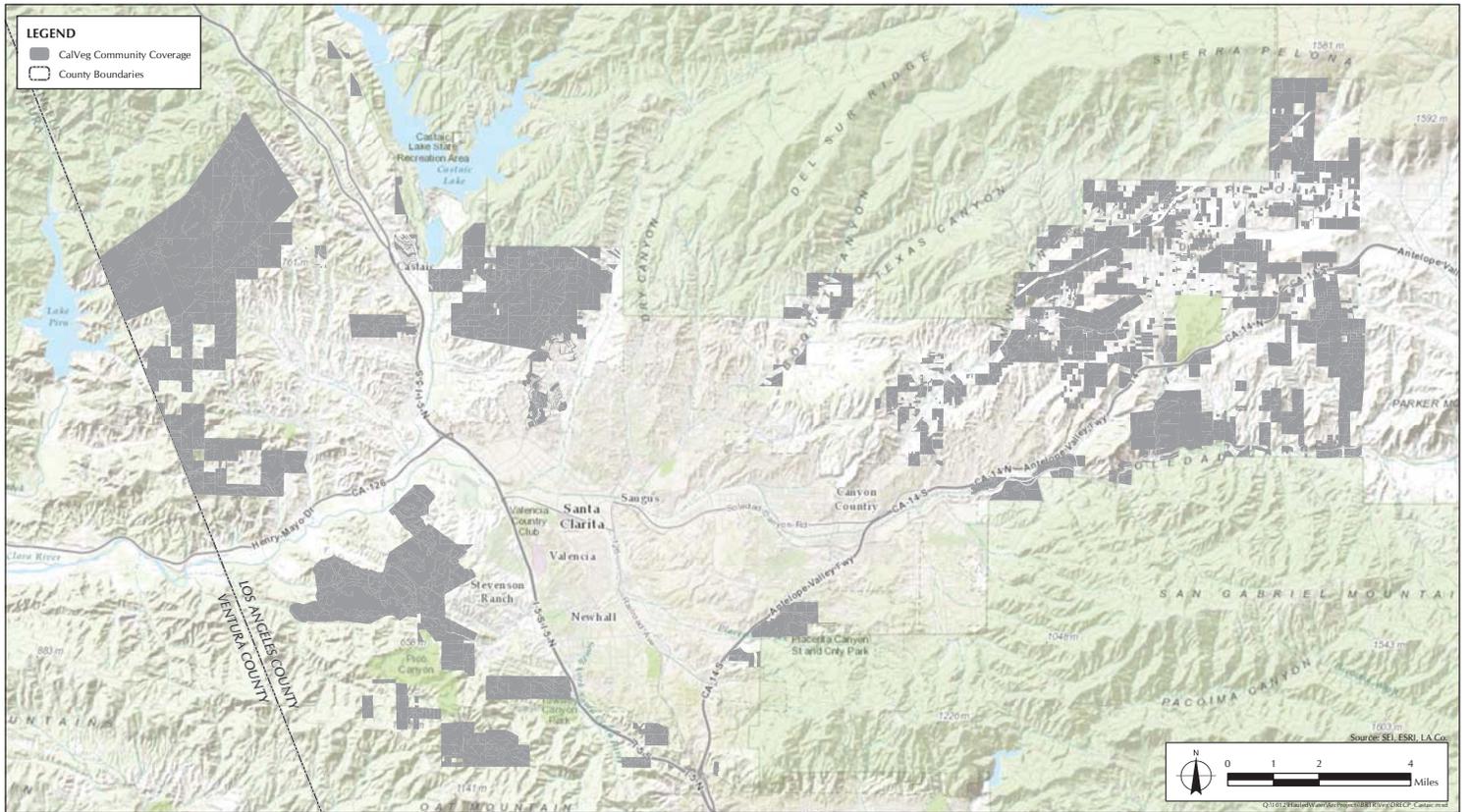


**FIGURE 3.3.2-6D**  
 DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea

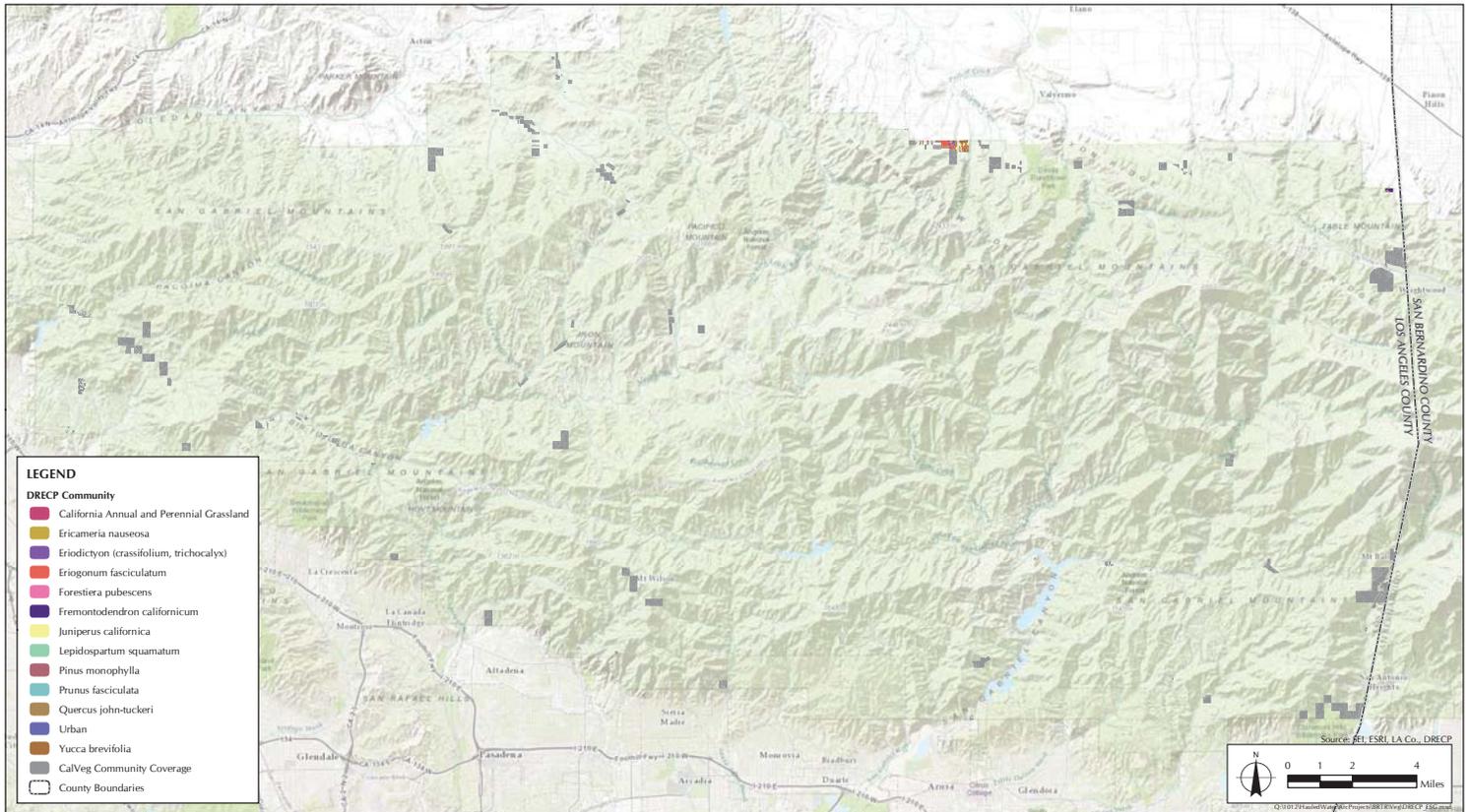


**FIGURE 3.3.2-6E**

DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
Acton Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-6F**  
 DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-6G**  
 DRECP Plant Communities Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

**TABLE 3.3.2-5  
SENSITIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES  
WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN SUBAREAS – CALVEG DATA**

Subarea	Total Subarea Acres	Potentially Present Sensitive Plant Communities		
		No. of Sensitive Communities	Acres of Sensitive	Percentage of Subarea Sensitive
C	35,340	32	9,655	27%
A	18,065	26	1,670	9%
LH	125,040	40	12,655	10%
LL	108,065	27	1,565	1%
AV	—*	—	—	—
LN	—	—	—	—
SG	4,090	33	2,705	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>290,610</b>		<b>28,245</b>	<b>10%</b>

**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

**NOTE:** \*The subareas for which values are entered as “—” are areas for which no CalVeg data is available. Plant community data for these subareas is represented by DRECP data in table below.

**TABLE 3.3.2-6  
SENSITIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES  
WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN SUBAREAS – DRECP DATA**

Subarea	Total Subarea Acres	Potentially Present Sensitive Plant Communities		
		No. of Sensitive Communities	Acres of Sensitive	Percentage of Subarea Sensitive
C	—*	—	—	—
A	18,065	26	10	< 1%
LH	125,040	40	42,670	35%
LL	108,065	27	53,410	49%
AV	14,530	17	14,020	97%
LN	35,325	16	7,720	22%
SG	4,090	33	70	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>305,120</b>		<b>117,900</b>	<b>39%</b>

**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

**NOTE:** \*The subareas for which values are entered as “—” are areas for which no DRECP data are available. Plant community data for these subareas is represented by CalVeg data in table below.

*Riparian and Wetland Plant Communities*

Most of the riparian and wetland communities that are subject to CDFW jurisdiction are included within the sensitive plant communities listed above. However, some of the more common plant communities also occur along desert washes and within riparian areas and may be subject to CDFW jurisdiction. Overall, one percent of the study area covered by CalVeg data and 14 percent of the study area covered by DRECP data has the potential for riparian and wetland plant communities. Subareas with the greatest potential to have these riparian and wetland plant communities include Lancaster Northeast and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock (Table 3.3.2-7, *Riparian Plant Communities with the Potential to Occur in Subareas*). The reason the

Lancaster Northeast subarea has the greatest percent cover of potential riparian and wetland habitat is because this area is in proximity to the dry lakes on Edwards Air Force Base. As such, alkali sinks are located in these areas and water will pool after large rain events, resulting in a high potential for a playa to occur. In contrast, most of the State riparian and wetland plant communities in the Acton, East San Gabriel Mountains, and Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subareas are also subject to USACOE jurisdiction because they are within watersheds of the Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel Rivers.

**TABLE 3.3.2-7  
RIPARIAN PLANT COMMUNITIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN SUBAREAS**

Subarea	Total Subarea Acres	Riparian Plant Communities		State Riparian/Wetland Acres (CalVeg)	State Riparian/Wetland Acres (DRECP)	Percent of Subarea (CalVeg)	Percent of Subarea (DRECP)
		No. of Sensitive Communities	No. of Non-Sensitive Communities				
C	35,340	16	11	490	—	1%	—
A	18,065	11	4	1,080	0	6%	0%
LH	125,040	17	13	610	9,725	< 1%	8%
LL	108,065	10	9	600	14,095	< 1%	13%
AV	14,530	8	5	—	795	—	5%
LN	35,325	11	8	—	21,885	—	62%
SG	4,090	12	6	530	< 5	13%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,460</b>			<b>3,310</b>	<b>46,505</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>14%</b>

**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

#### *State Jurisdictional Areas*

State Jurisdictional Areas are potentially present on two percent (8,019.3 acres) of the proposed initiative study area (Table 3.3.2.8, *State Jurisdictional Areas with the Potential to Occur in Subareas*; Figure 3.3.2-7, *State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*). To avoid overestimating the size of potential State Jurisdictional Areas, riparian plant communities and plant communities with associated wetland plants that fell outside of existing blue line drainages and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) features were not included in the analysis of State Jurisdictional Areas, although the State may choose to take jurisdiction over these communities during the Streambed Alteration Agreement process.

Subareas with the greatest potential to have State Jurisdictional Areas include: Lancaster Northeast, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock (Table 3.1.1-8). The reason the Lancaster Northeast subarea has the greatest percentage cover of potential State Jurisdictional Areas is because this area is in proximity to the dry lakes on Edwards Air Force Base which are located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year Floodplain. The Acton, East San Gabriel Mountains, and Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subareas also have the potential for State Jurisdictional Areas because they are within watersheds of the Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel Rivers.

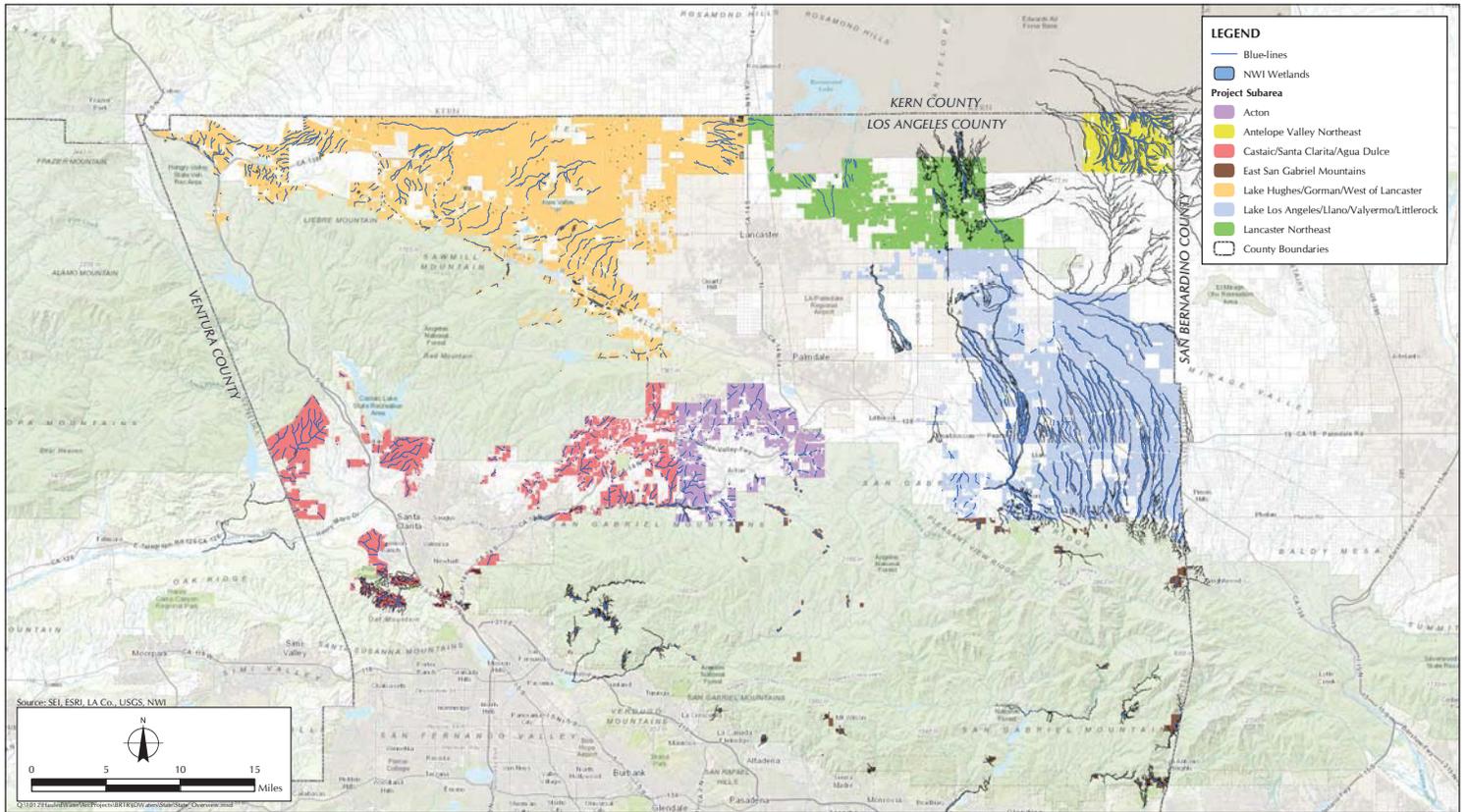
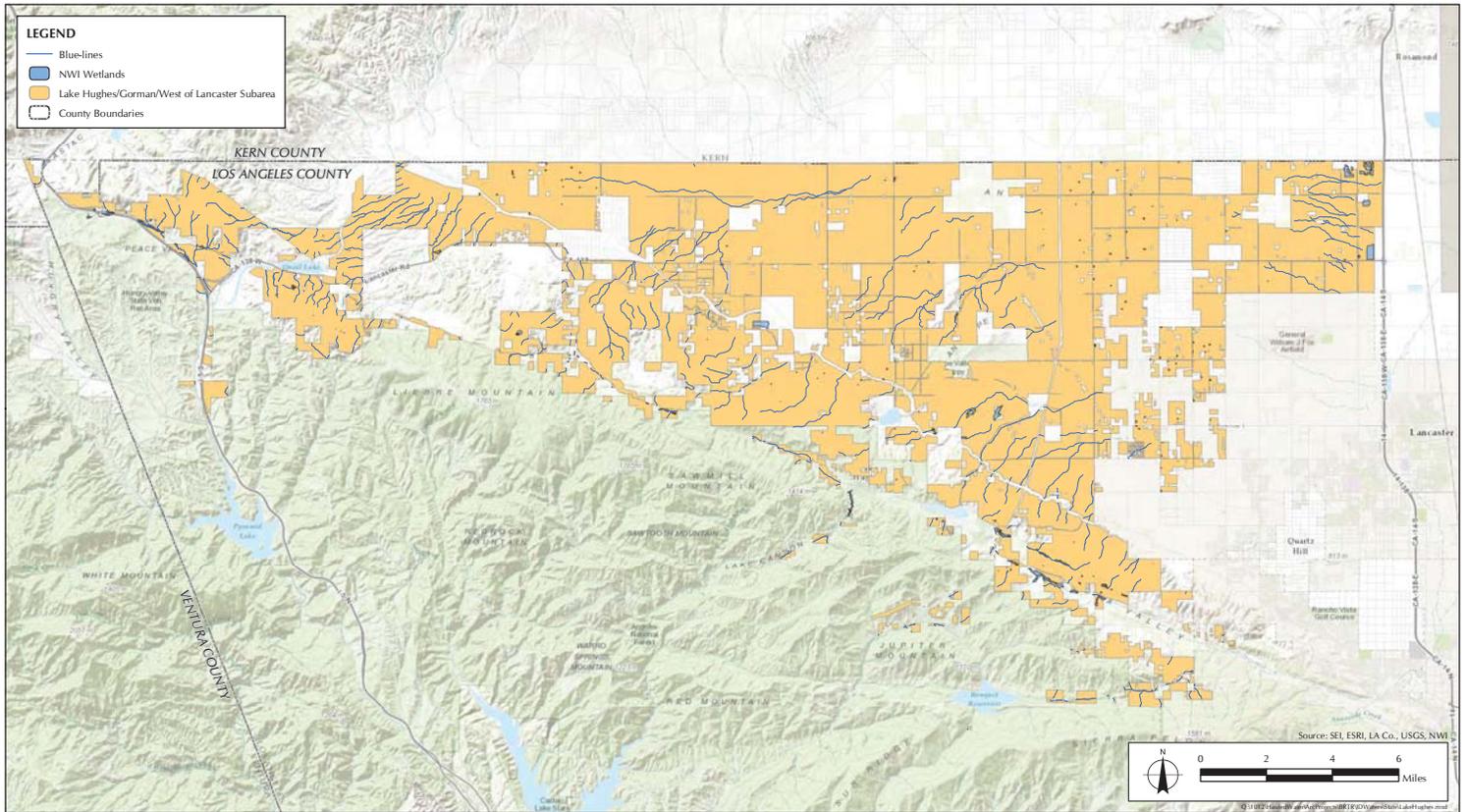
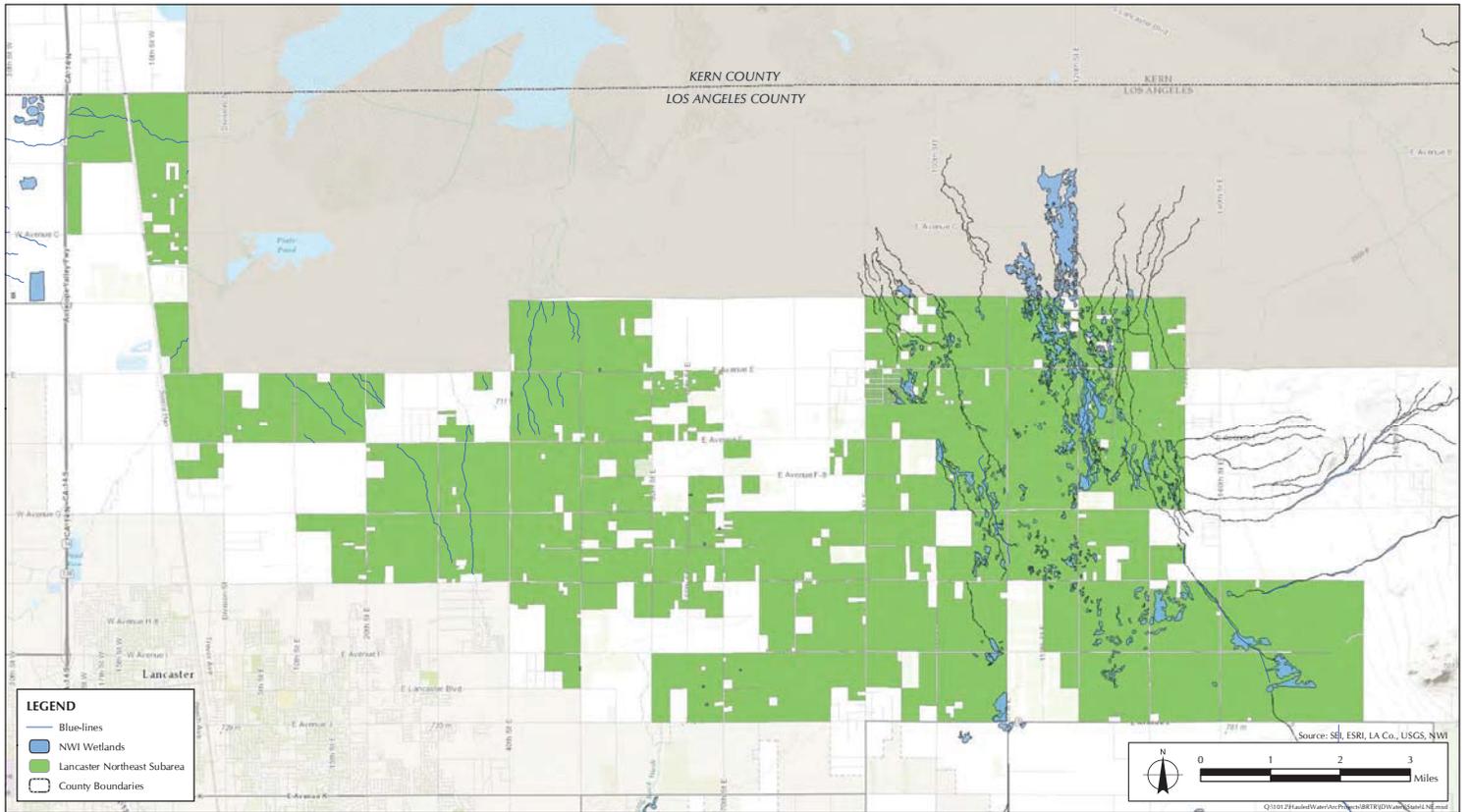


FIGURE 3.3.2-7

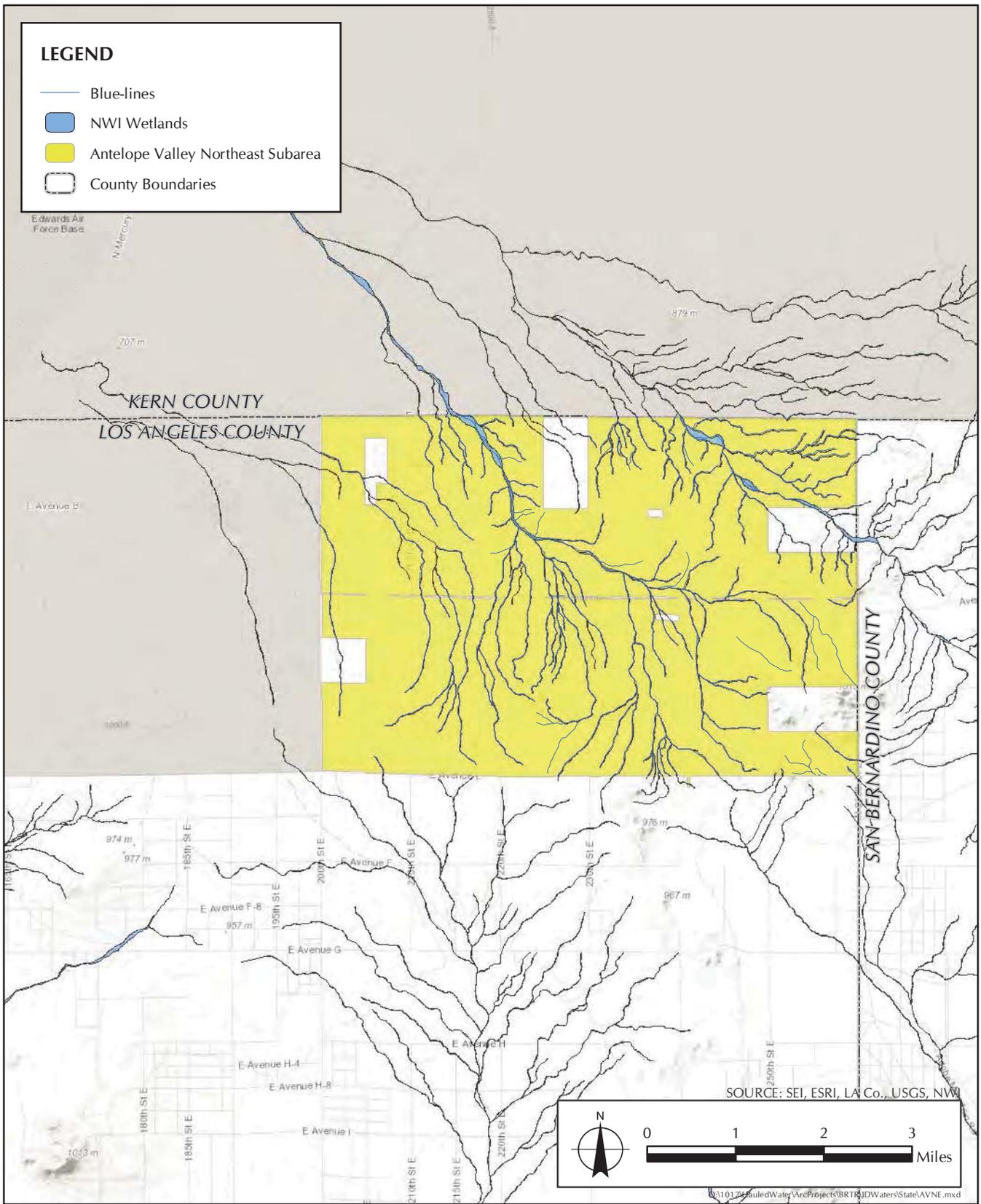
State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas



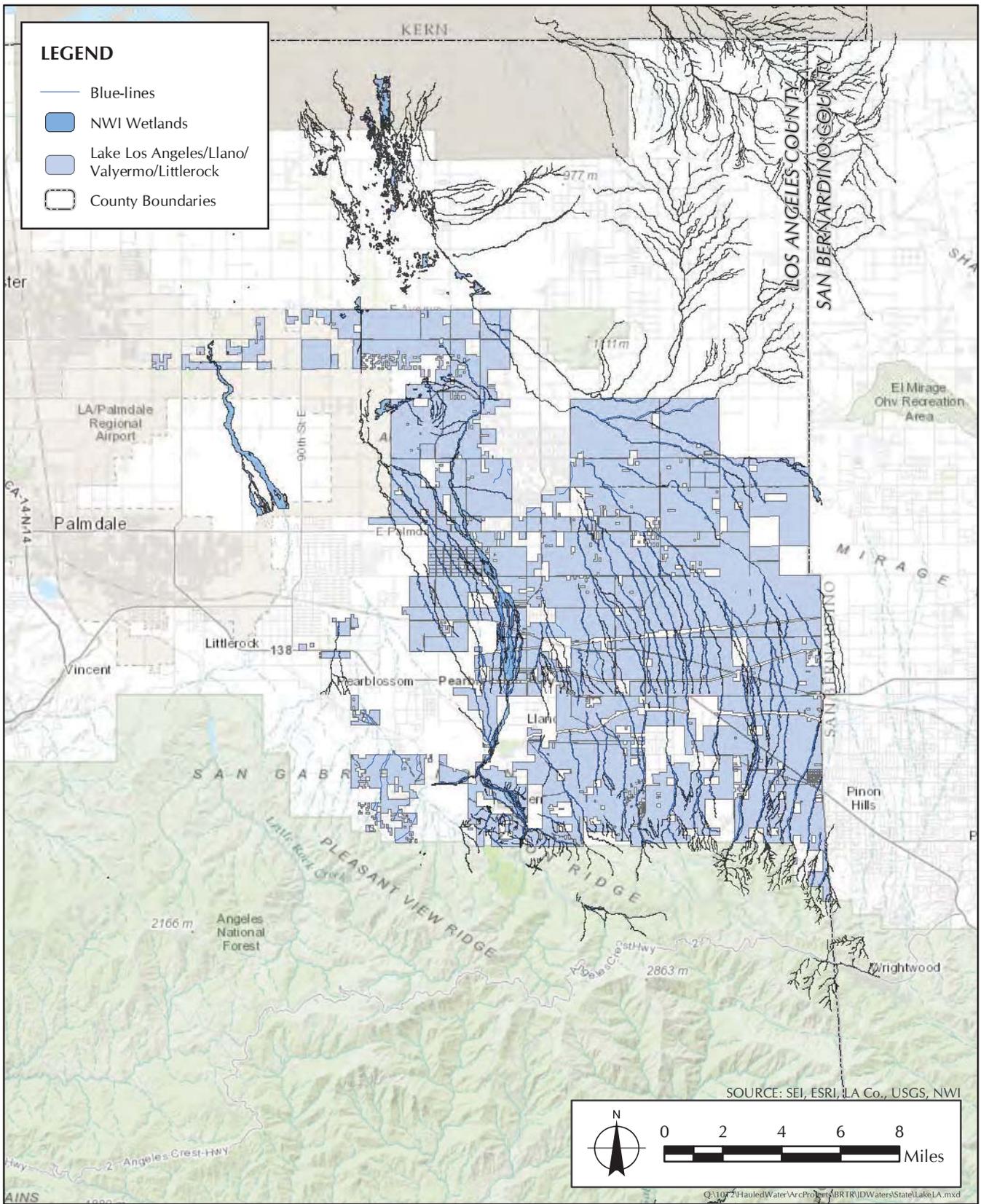
**FIGURE 3.3.2-7A**  
State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea



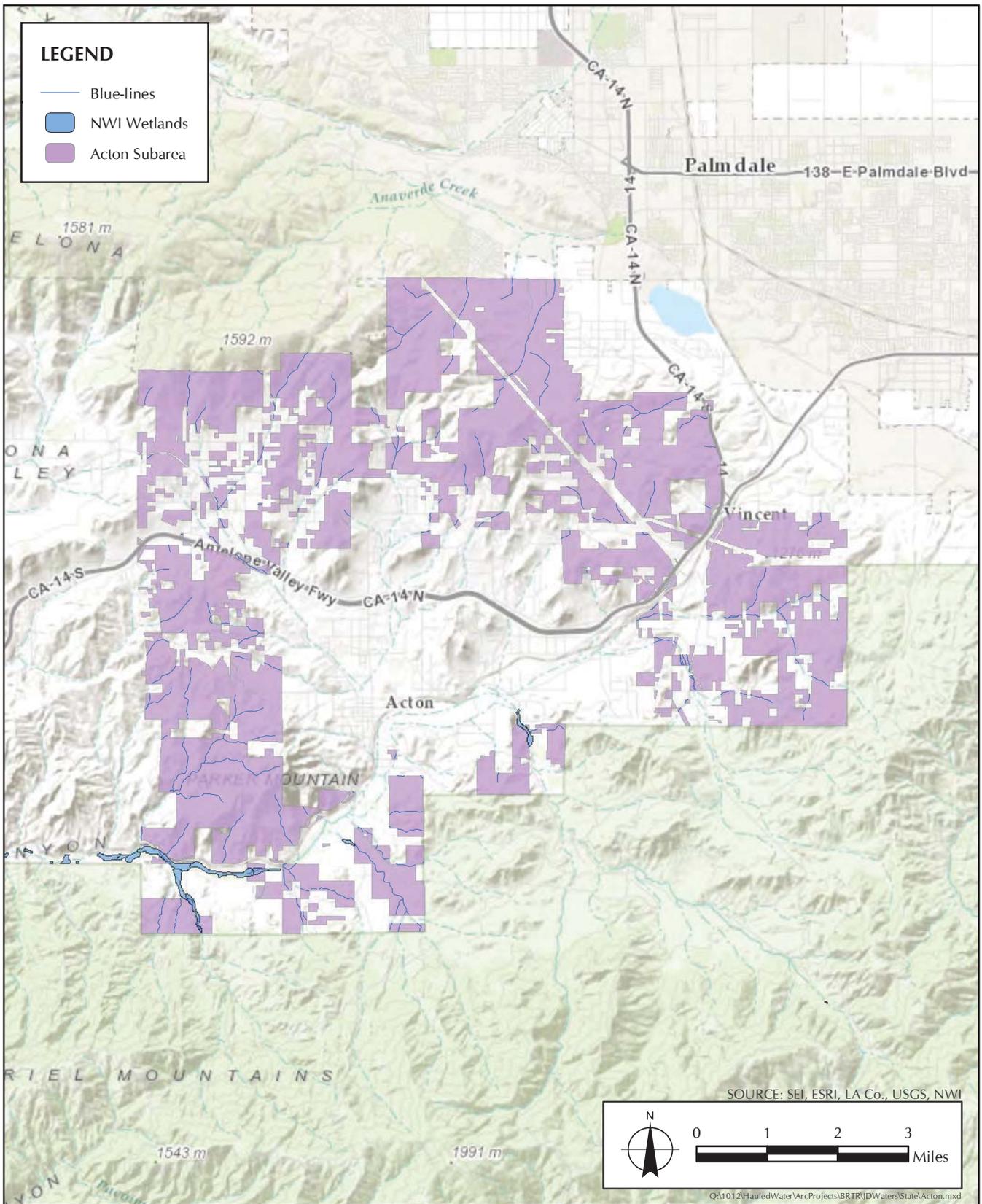
**FIGURE 3.3.2-7B**  
 State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lancaster Northeast Subarea



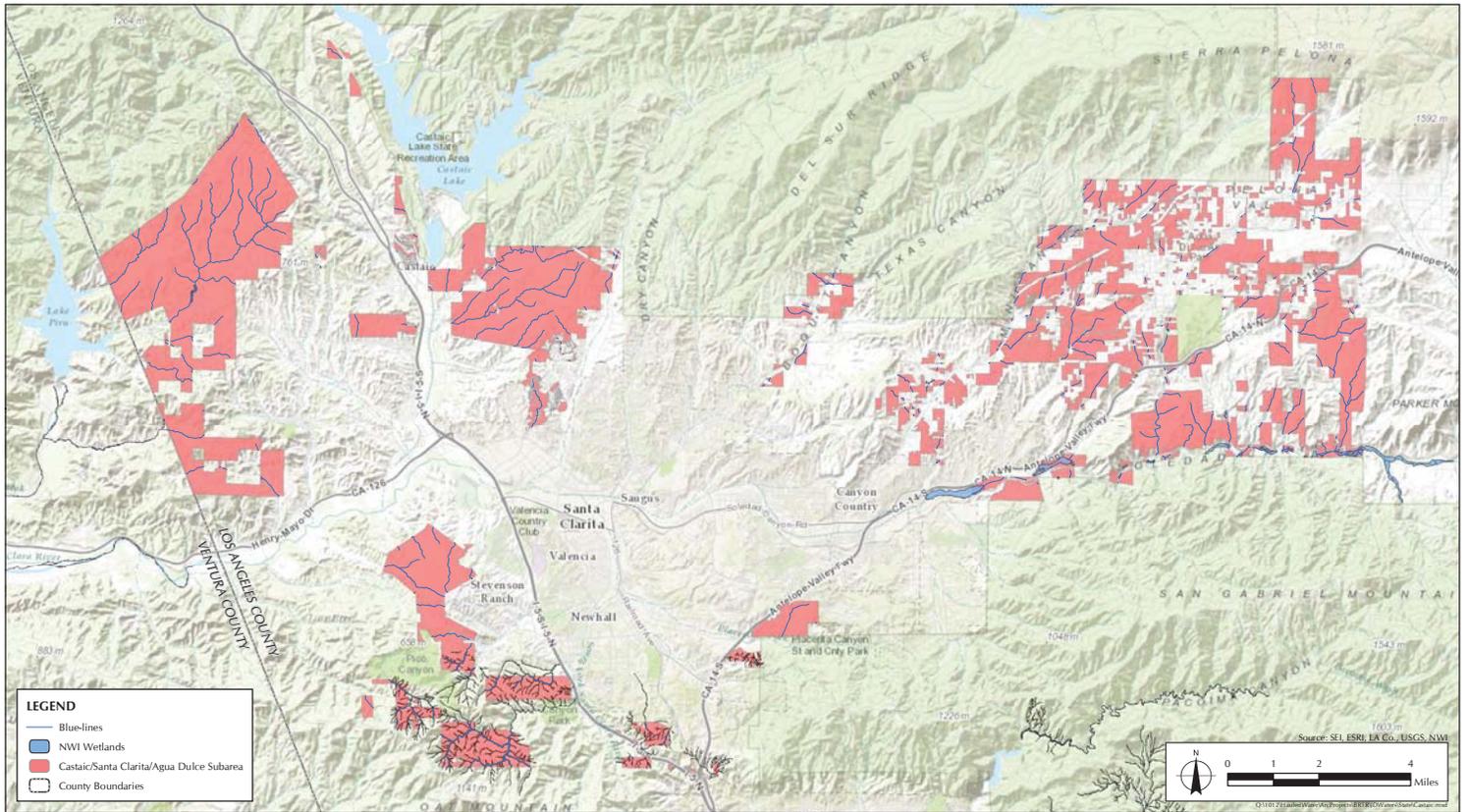
**FIGURE 3.3.2-7C**  
State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea



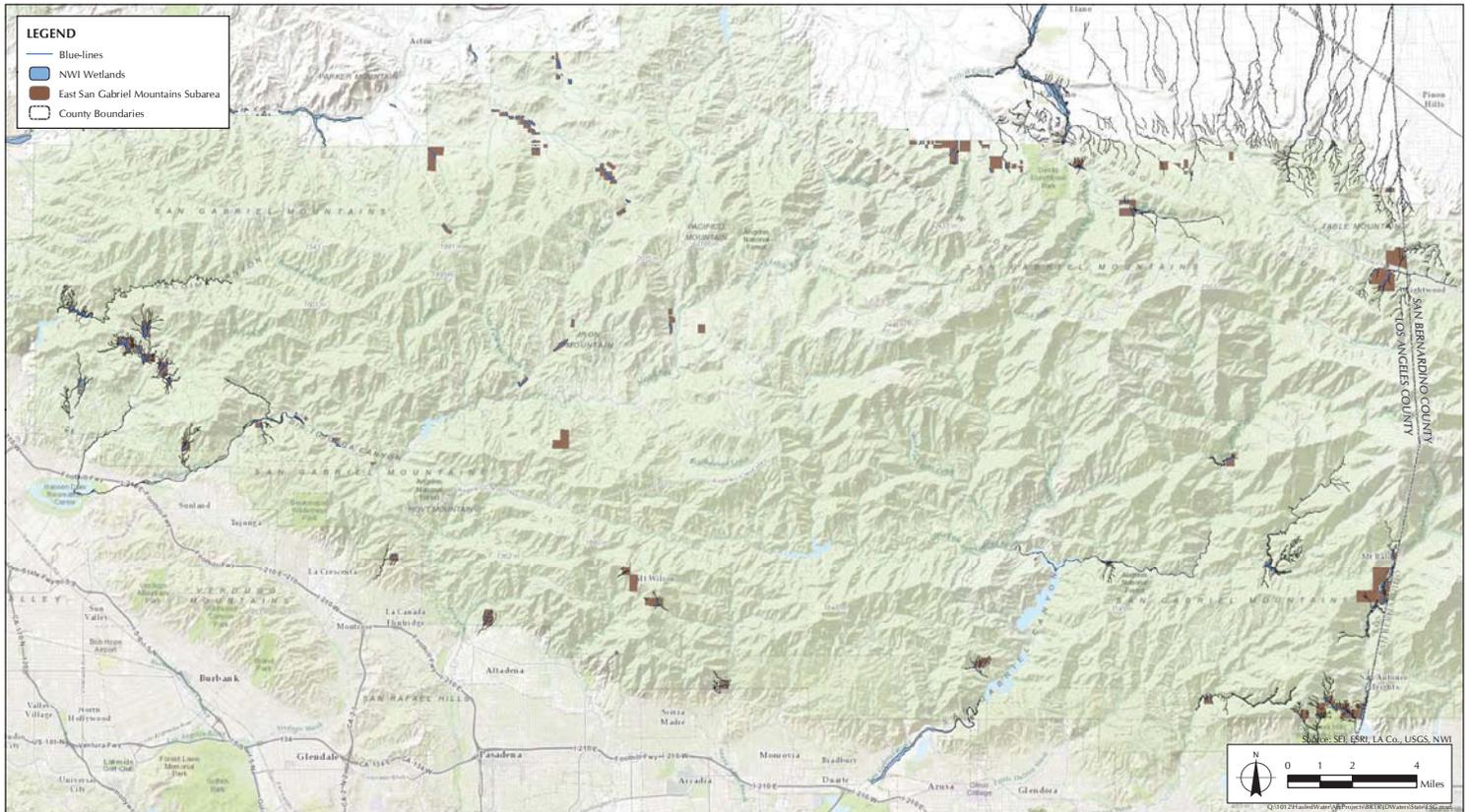
**FIGURE 3.3.2-7D**  
 State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-7E**  
 State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Acton Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-7F**  
 State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea



 **FIGURE 3.3-2-7G**  
 State Jurisdictional Areas Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

**TABLE 3.3.2-8  
STATE JURISDICTIONAL AREAS WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN SUBAREAS**

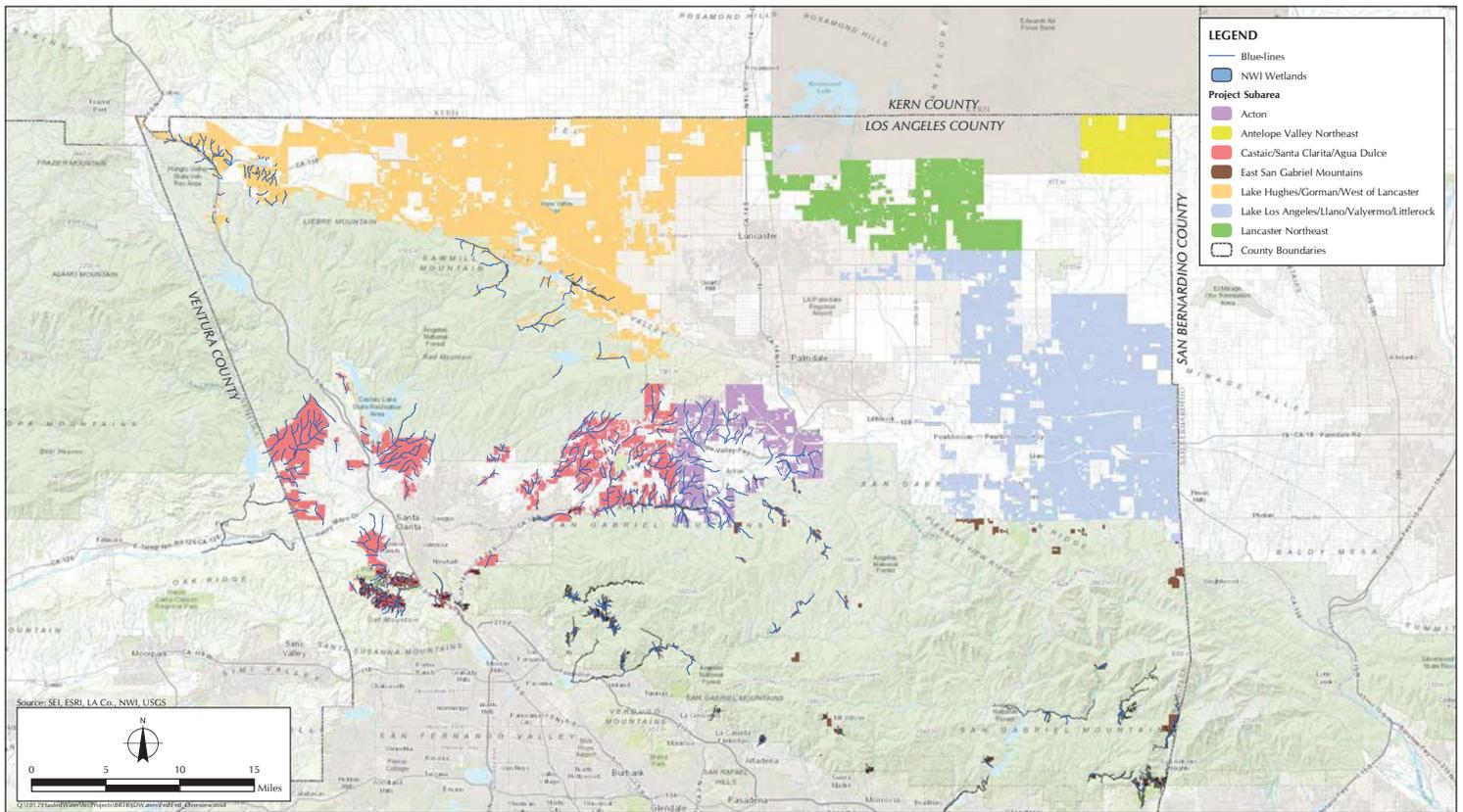
<b>Subarea</b>	<b>Total Subarea Acres</b>	<b>State Jurisdictional Areas (Acres)</b>	<b>Percentage of Subarea State Jurisdictional</b>
C	35,340	800	2%
A	18,065	275	2%
LH	125,040	1,535	1%
LL	108,065	3,315	3%
AV	14,530	565	4%
LN	35,325	1,310	4%
SG	4,090	210	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,460</b>	<b>8,020</b>	<b>2%</b>

**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

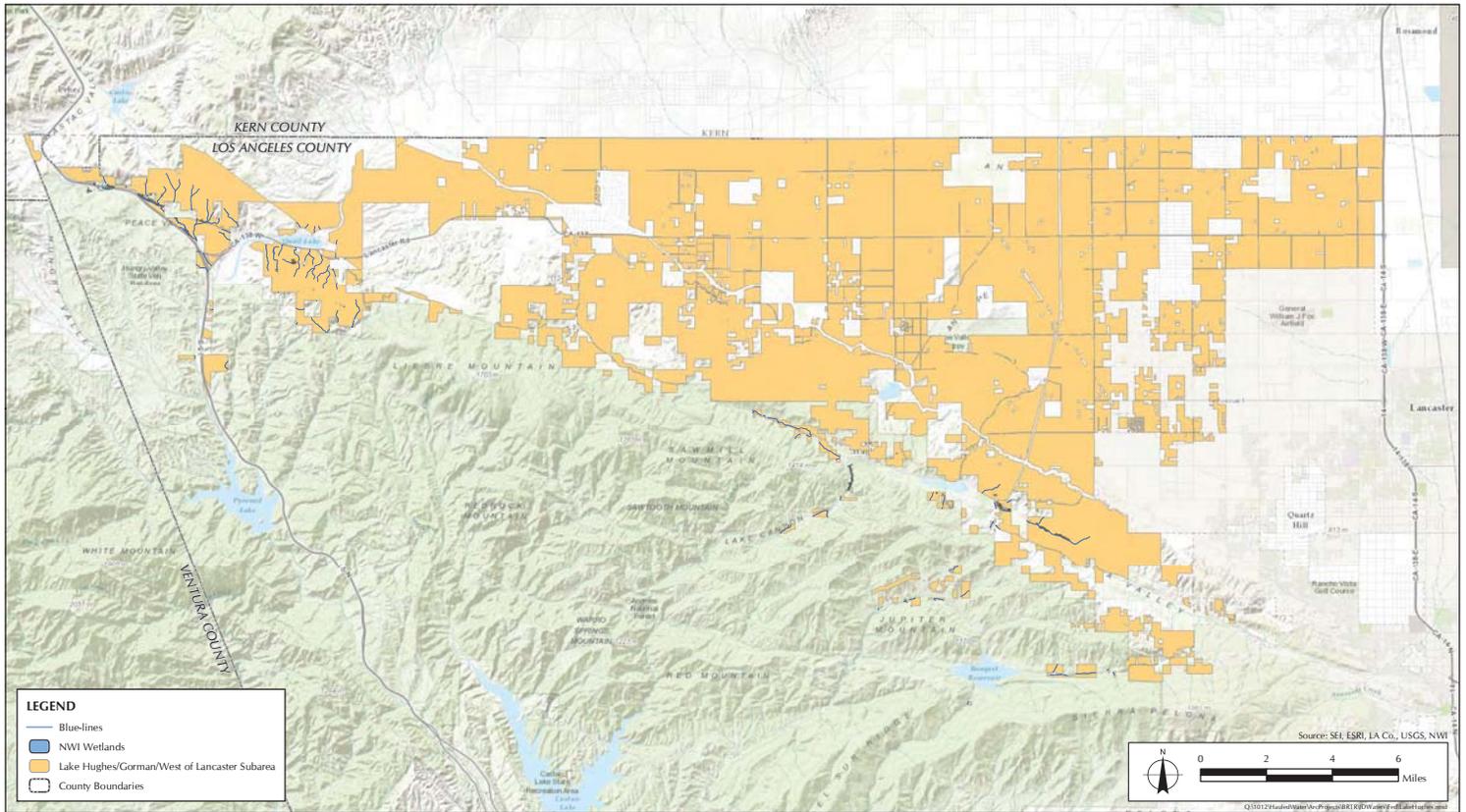
***Waters of the United States***

There are 19 lakes and reservoirs and three rivers within the study area of the proposed initiative, including Santa Clara River and tributaries, Tujunga Wash (a tributary of the Los Angeles River), San Gabriel River and tributaries, Lake Piru, Upper Castaic Lake, Castaic Lagoon, Pyramid Lake, Bouquet Reservoir, Hughes Lake, Lake Elizabeth, Munz Lakes, Quail Lake Lake Palmdale, San Gabriel Reservoir and Morris Reservoir, Little Rock Reservoir, Big Tujunga Reservoir, Crystal Lake, Pacoima Reservoir, Cogswell Reservoir, Big Dalton Reservoir and San Dimas Reservoir.

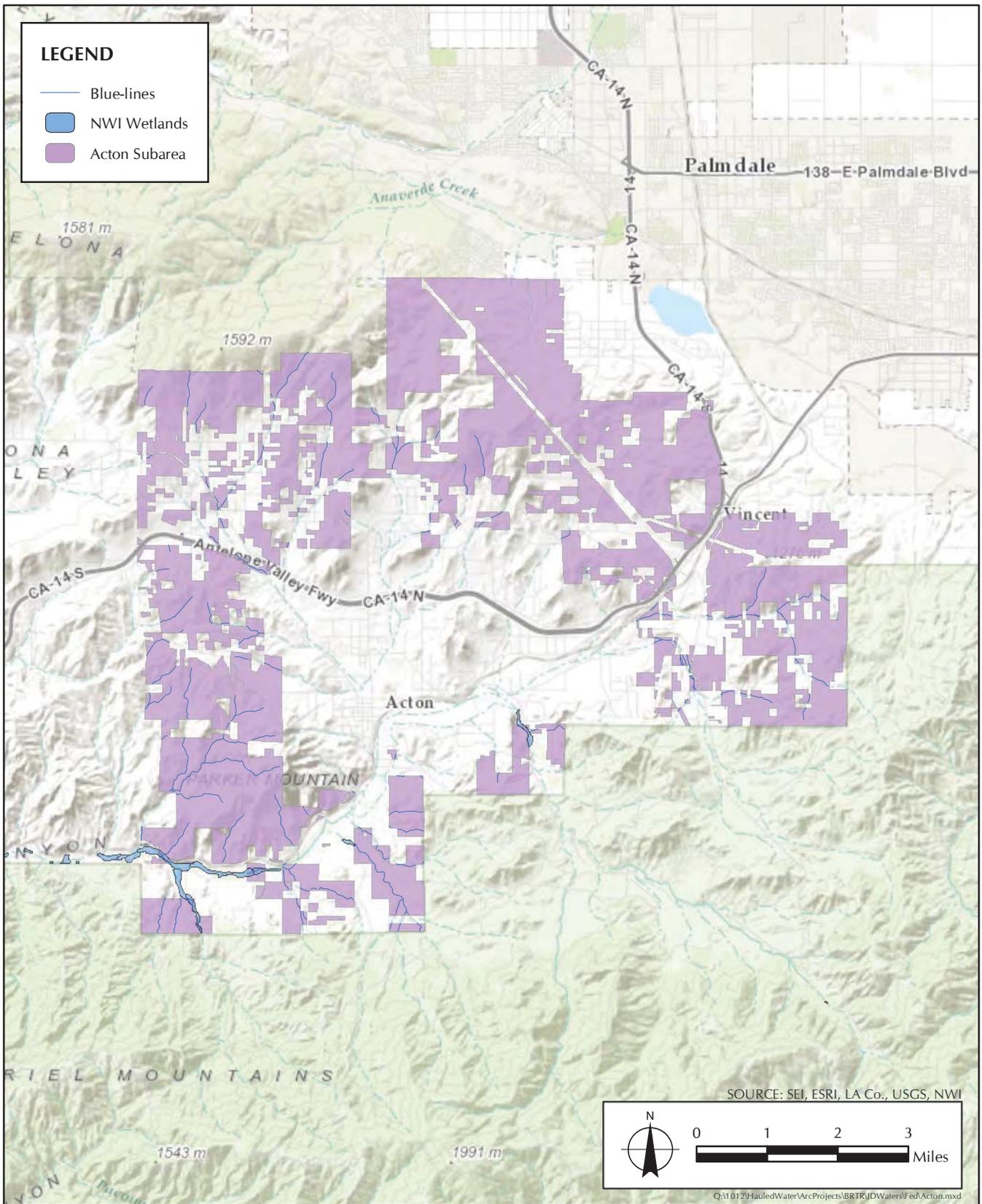
Waters of the United States, consisting of wetlands and waterways, are potentially present on less than one percent (1,440 acres) of the total area that may be affected by the proposed initiative (Table 3.3.2-9, *Waters of the United States with the Potential to Occur in Subareas*, Figure 3.3.2-8, *Federal Waters of the United States Potentially Present within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*). Waters of the United States are generally not found within any of the four subareas located in the Mojave Desert, with the exception of the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea (the other three being Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock, Antelope Valley Northeast, and Lancaster Northeast), which has a small amount of potential Waters of the United States. The three remaining subareas contain varying amounts of potential Waters of the United States, with the largest total estimated amount of Waters of the United States occurring in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea and the lowest total amount occurring in the Acton subarea. Waters of the United States are most abundant within the East San Gabriel Mountains and Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subareas due to the branching nature of the Tujunga Wash, San Gabriel River, and Santa Clara River. Much of the Waters of the United States acreage within these two subareas are classified as riverine. Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea also contains Waters of the United States in the form of vernal pools located on the Cruzan Mesa. Waters of the United States in the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea tend to be wet meadows, including wet meadows near Quail Lake and within Leona Valley. Waters of the United States in the Acton subarea were shrubby/forested wetlands located along the Santa Clara River.



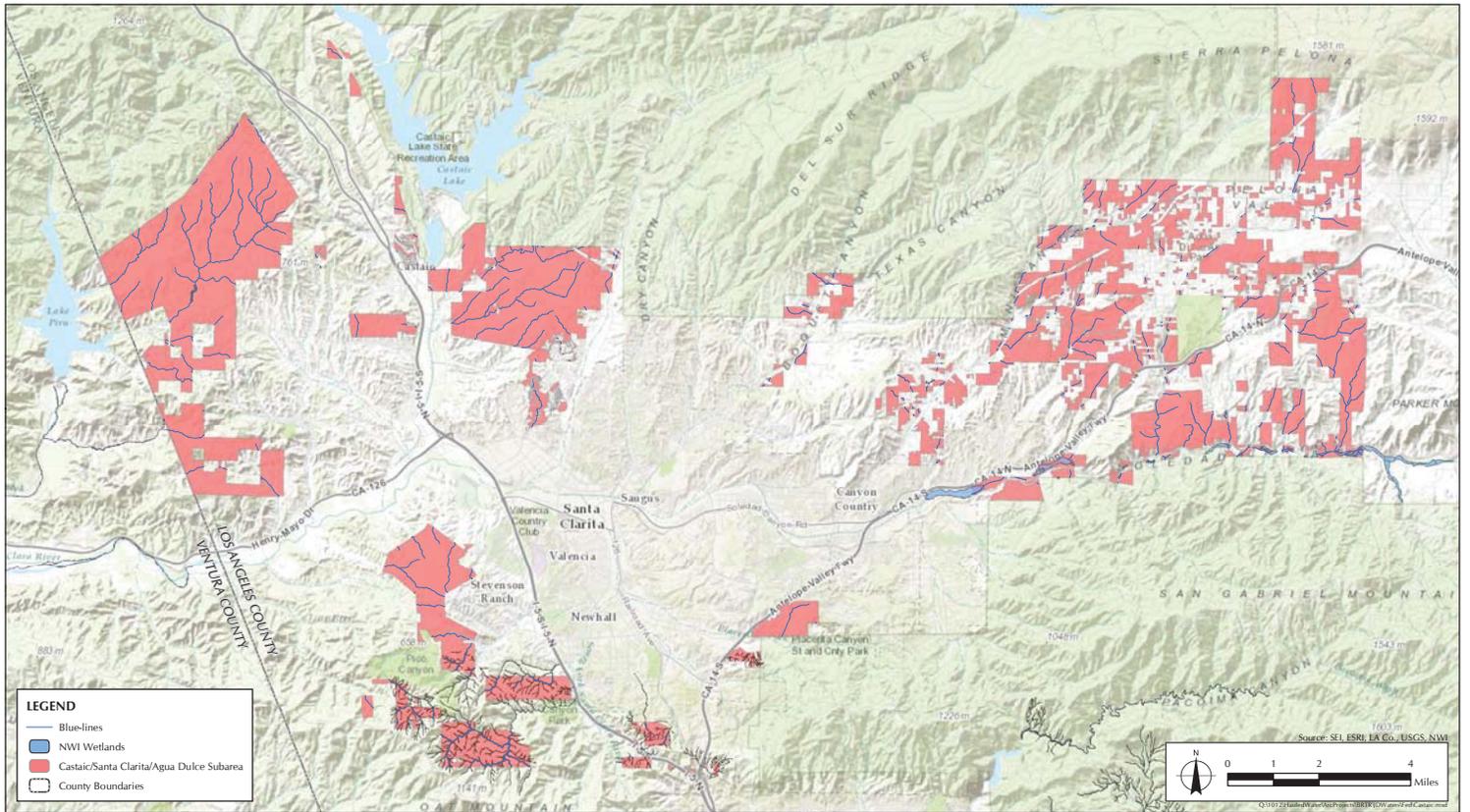
**FIGURE 3.3.2-8**  
Federal Waters of the United States Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas



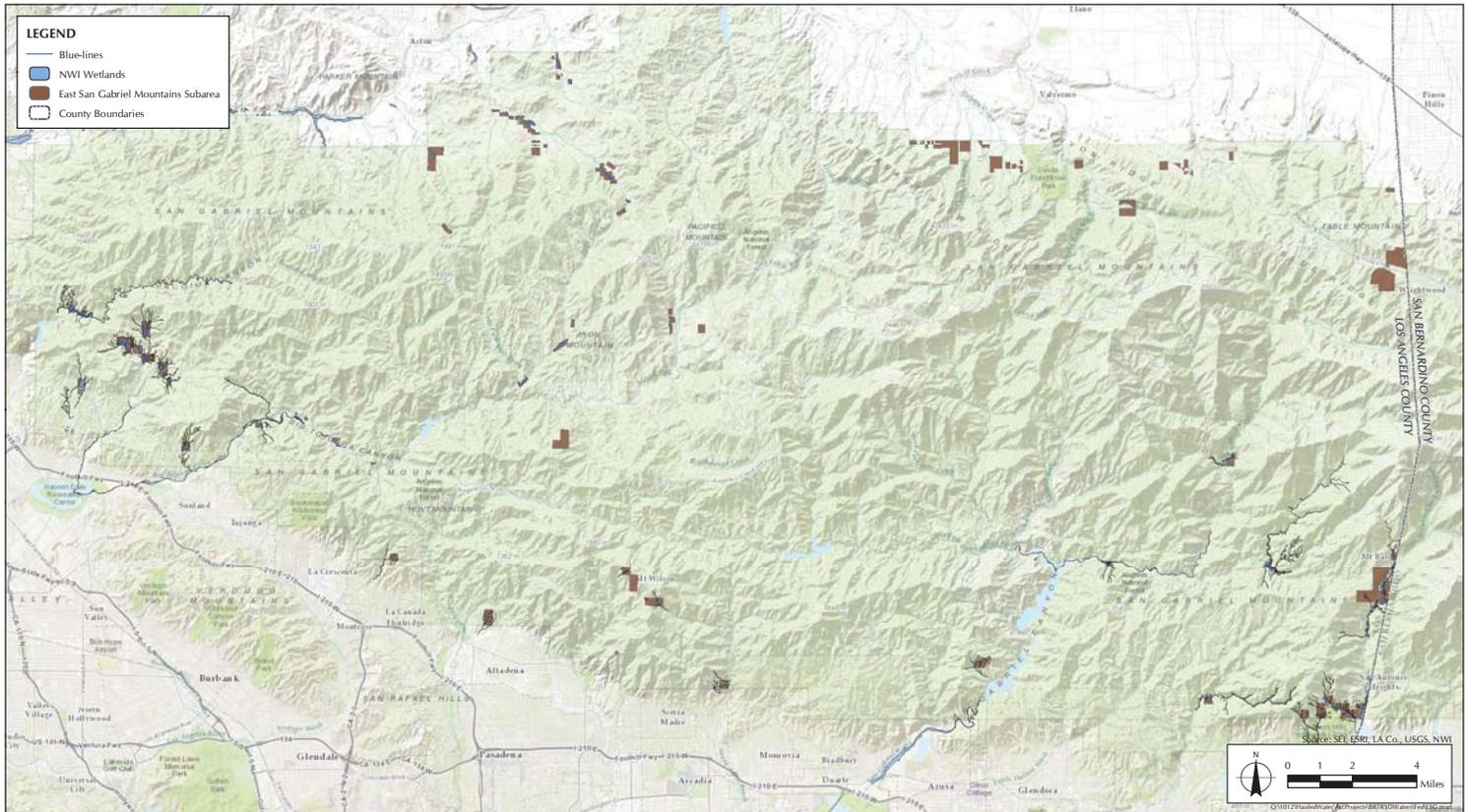
**FIGURE 3.3.2-8A**  
 Federal Waters of the United States Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-8B**  
Federal Waters of the United States Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
Acton Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-8C**  
 Federal Waters of the United States Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-8D**  
 Federal Waters of the United States Potentially Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

**TABLE 3.3.2-9  
WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN SUBAREAS**

Subarea	Total Subarea Acres	Total Acres of Federal Wetlands and Waterways	Percentage of Subarea
C	35,340	800	2%
A	18,065	215	1%
LH	125,040	245	0.2%
LL	108,065	0	0%
AV	14,530	0	0%
LN	35,325	0	0%
SG	4,090	180	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,460</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

A total of 220 linear miles of potential federal waterways were identified from blue-line features (Table 3.3.2-10, *Miles of Blue-Line Drainages within Proposed Subareas*). Lake Piru, Pyramid Lake, Hughes Lake, Lake Elizabeth, Munz Lakes, Upper Castaic Lake, Castaic Lagoon and Bouquet Reservoirs are within the Santa Clara River watershed; therefore, these water bodies and blue-line features that connect to them were classified as Waters of the United States.<sup>21,22</sup> The Acton, Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce, and Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subareas are located within the Santa Clara River watershed. The Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea contains Quail Lake, which is a man-made feature connected to the California Aqueduct system. For the purpose of this EIR, Quail Lake and blue-line drainages that connect to it were considered Waters of the United States.<sup>23</sup> There are very few blue-line drainages around Quail Lake and existing blue-lines are composed of short drainage features from the immediate area. In the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, blue-line drainages that connect to Little Tujunga Wash, San Gabriel River, San Gabriel Reservoir, Morris Reservoir, Big Tujunga Reservoir, Crystal Lake, Pacoima Reservoir, Cogswell Reservoir, Big Dalton Reservoir, and San Dimas Reservoir also were classified as Waters of the United States.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2012. Santa Clara River Watershed Feasibility Study. Prepared by CDM Smith, Irvine, CA.

<sup>22</sup> Los Angeles Department of Public Works. 2014. Upper Santa Clara River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Prepared by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

<sup>23</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed 27 October 2015. Guidance to Identify Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act. Available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/guidance-identify-waters-protected-clean-water-act>

**TABLE 3.3.2-10  
MILES OF BLUE-LINE DRAINAGES WITHIN PROPOSED INITIATIVE SUBAREAS**

Subareas	Federal Waterway	Federal Blue-Line Linear Miles
C	Santa Clara River watershed	125
A	Santa Clara River watershed	40
LH	Santa Clara River watershed; Quail Lake	35
LL	None	0
AV	None	0
LN	None	0
SG	Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>220</b>

**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains

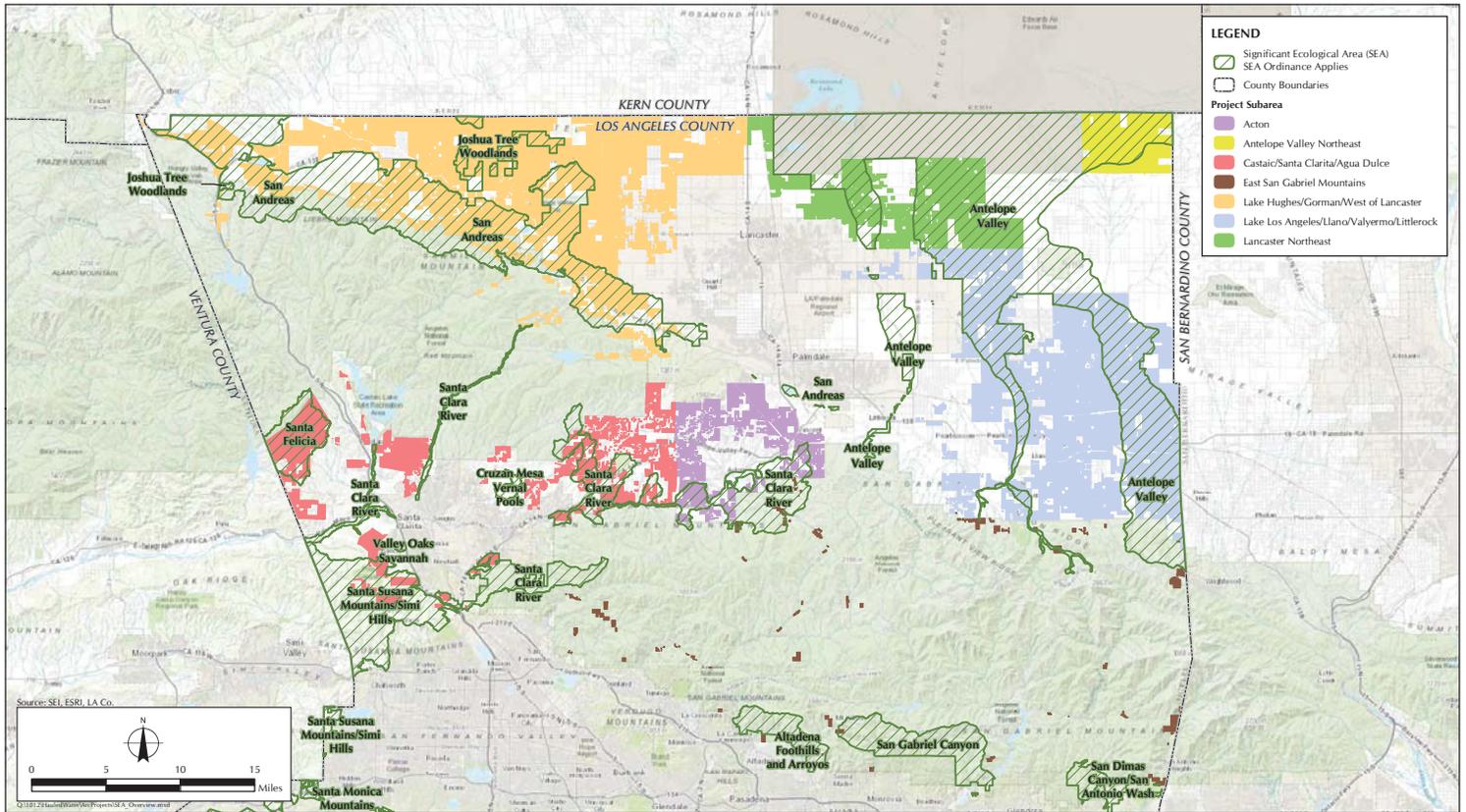
***Migratory Corridors and Nursery Sites***

Although SEAs are not preserves, SEAs are areas where the County General Plan deems it important to facilitate a balance between limited development and resource conservation. Limited development activities are reviewed closely in these areas where site design is a key element in conserving fragile resources such as streams, oak woodlands and threatened or endangered species and their habitat. Due to the relatively high quality of habitat associated with SEAs, they can be indicators of the presence of wildlife movement corridors. As of the adoption of the 2035 General Plan Update, there are ten existing SEAs present on 146,715 acres of the proposed initiative parcels, making up approximately 43 percent of the total study area (Table 3.3.2-11, *Subareas Located within SEAs*; Figure 3.3.2-9, *Proposed Initiative Subareas Located within SEAs*).

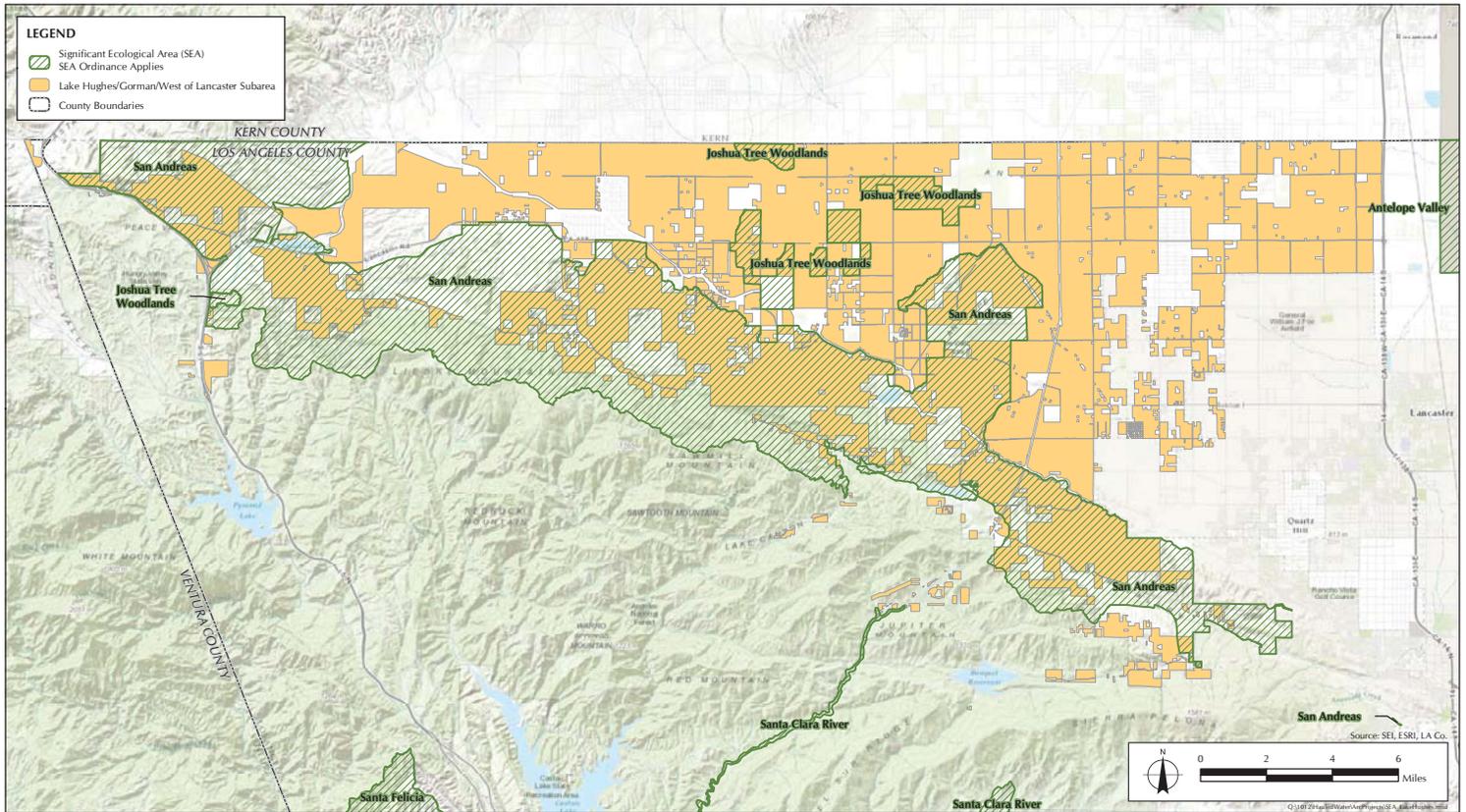
**TABLE 3.3.2-11  
SUBAREAS LOCATED WITHIN SEAs**

Subareas	Total Subarea Acres	Acres within Existing SEAs	Percentage of Subarea within Existing SEAs
C	35,340	14,920	42%
A	18,065	3,685	20%
LH	125,040	44,095	35%
LL	108,065	49,385	46%
AV	14,530	10,870	75%
LN	35,325	23,280	66%
SG	4,090	485	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,460</b>	<b>146,715</b>	<b>43%</b>

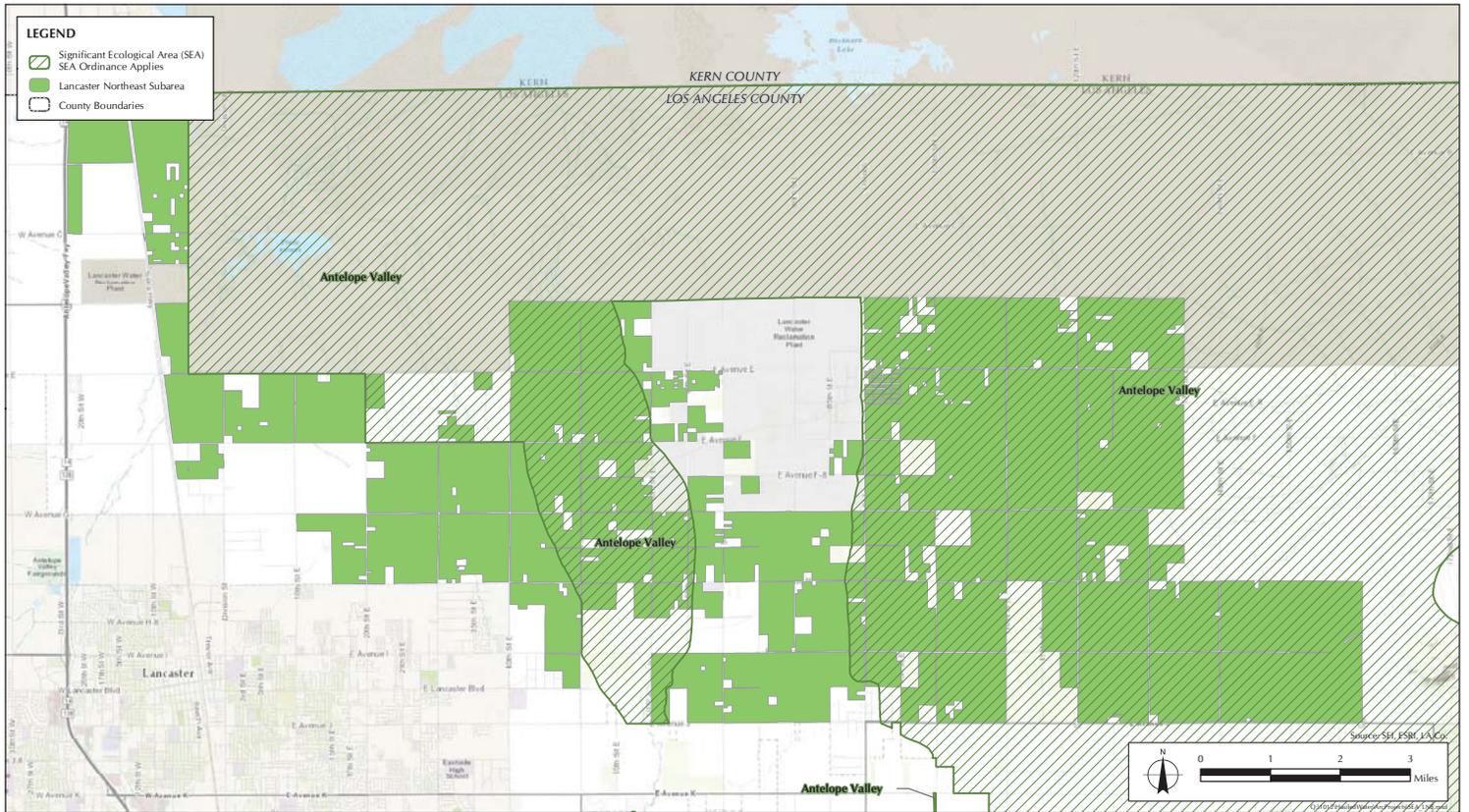
**KEY:** C = Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce; A = Acton; LH = Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster; LL = Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock; AV = Antelope Valley Northeast; LN = Lancaster Northeast; SG = East San Gabriel Mountains



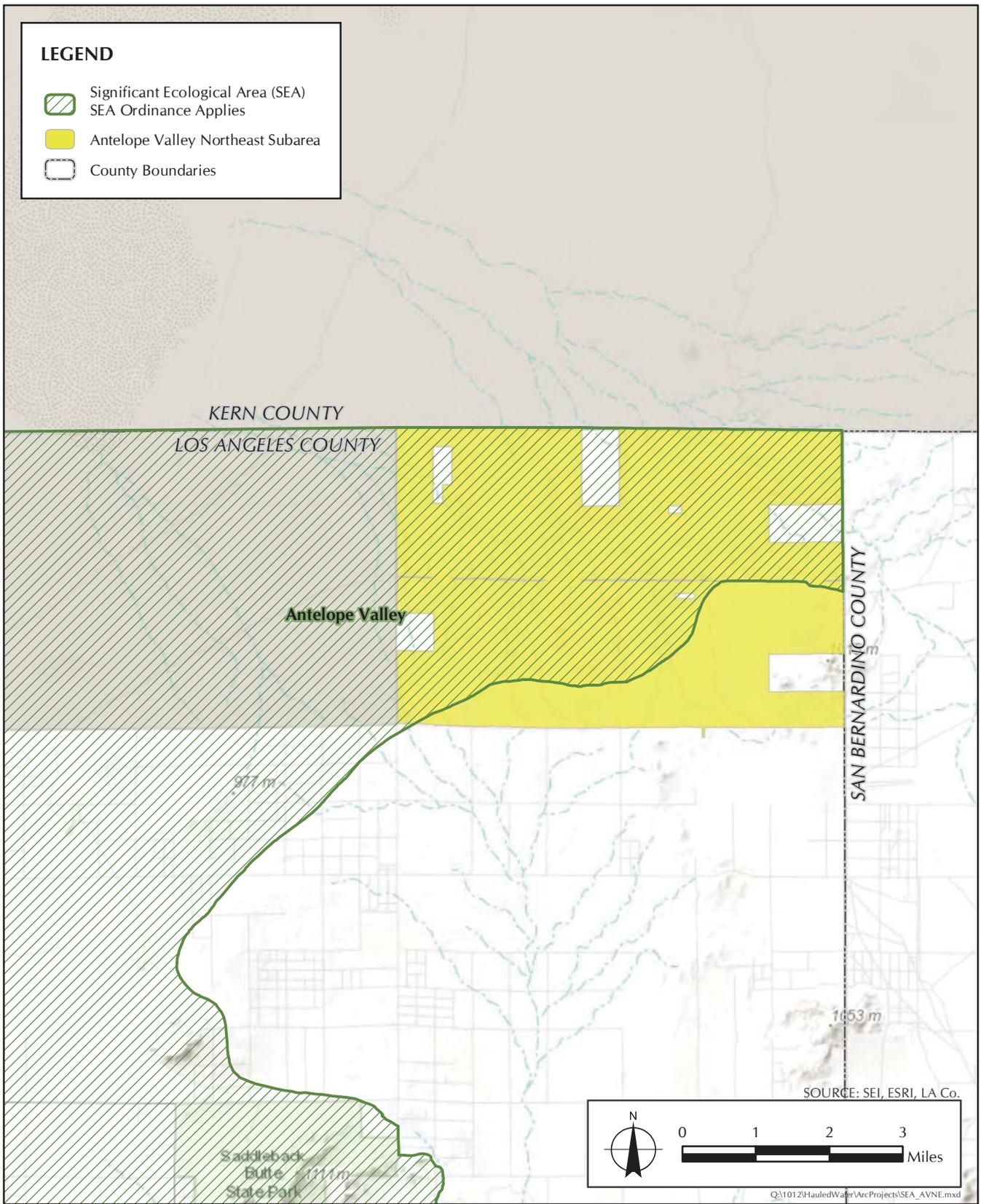
**FIGURE 3.3.2-9**  
Proposed Initiative Subareas Located Within SEAs



**FIGURE 3.3.2-9A**  
 Proposed Initiative Subareas Located Within SEAs  
 Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster Subarea

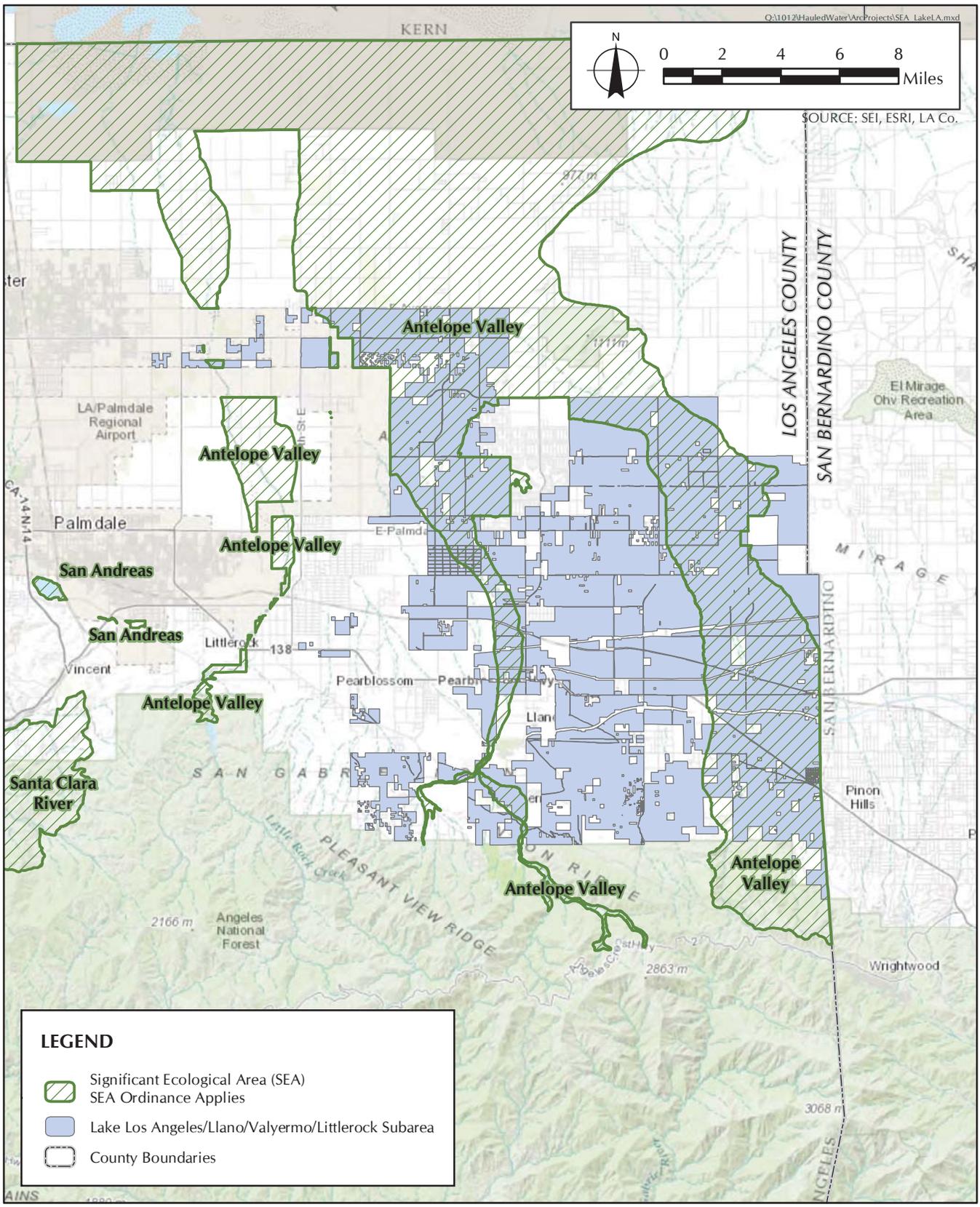


**FIGURE 3.3.2-9B**  
Proposed Initiative Subareas Located Within SEAs  
Lancaster Northeast Subarea

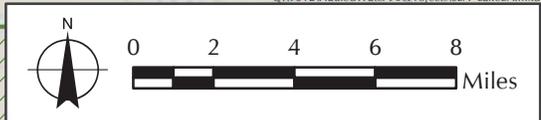


**FIGURE 3.3.2-9C**

Proposed Initiative Subareas Located Within SEAs  
Antelope Valley Northeast Subarea



Q:\11012\HauledWater\ArcProjects\SEA\_LakeLA.mxd



SOURCE: SEI, ESRI, LA Co.

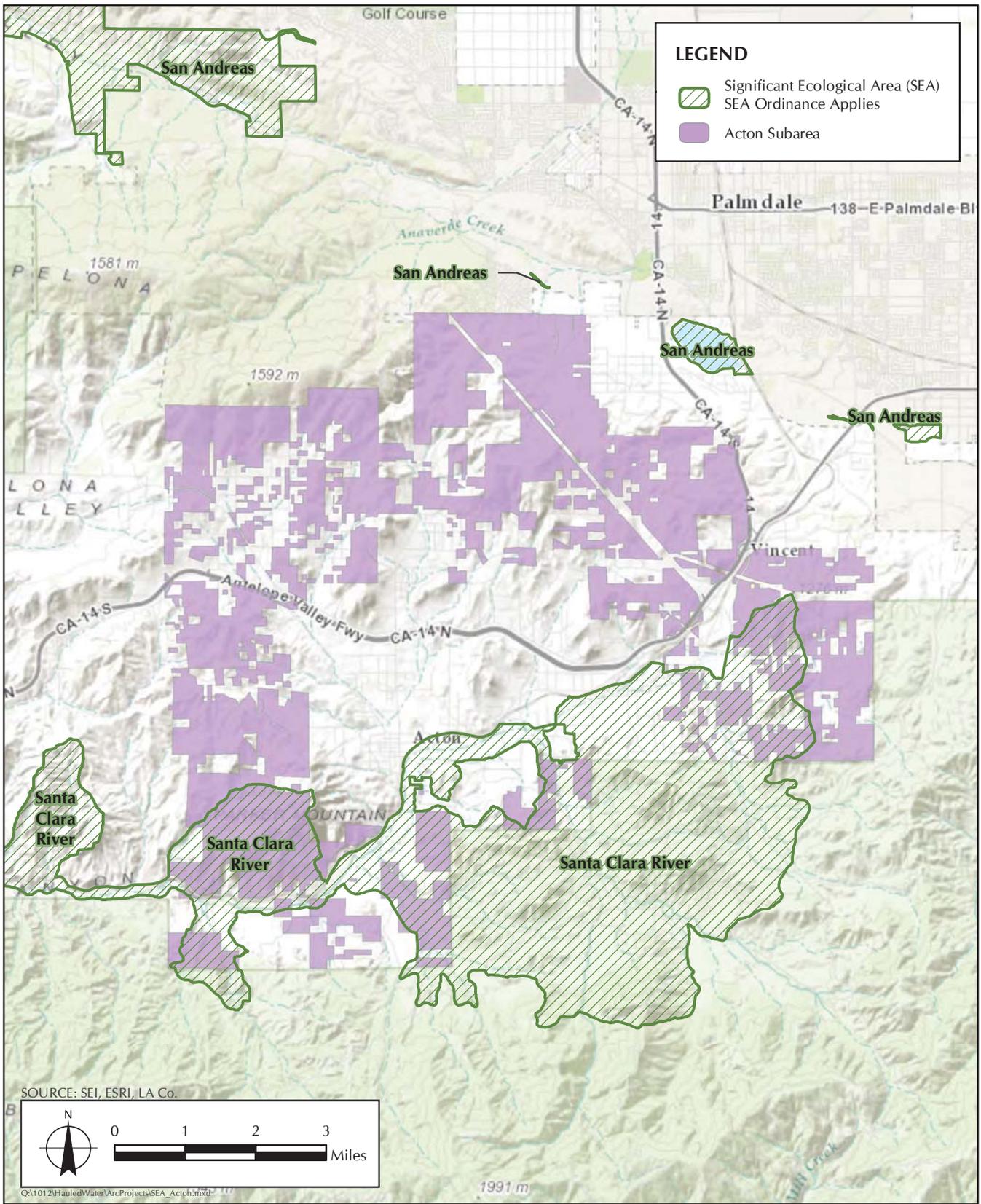
**LEGEND**

-  Significant Ecological Area (SEA)  
SEA Ordinance Applies
-  Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea
-  County Boundaries



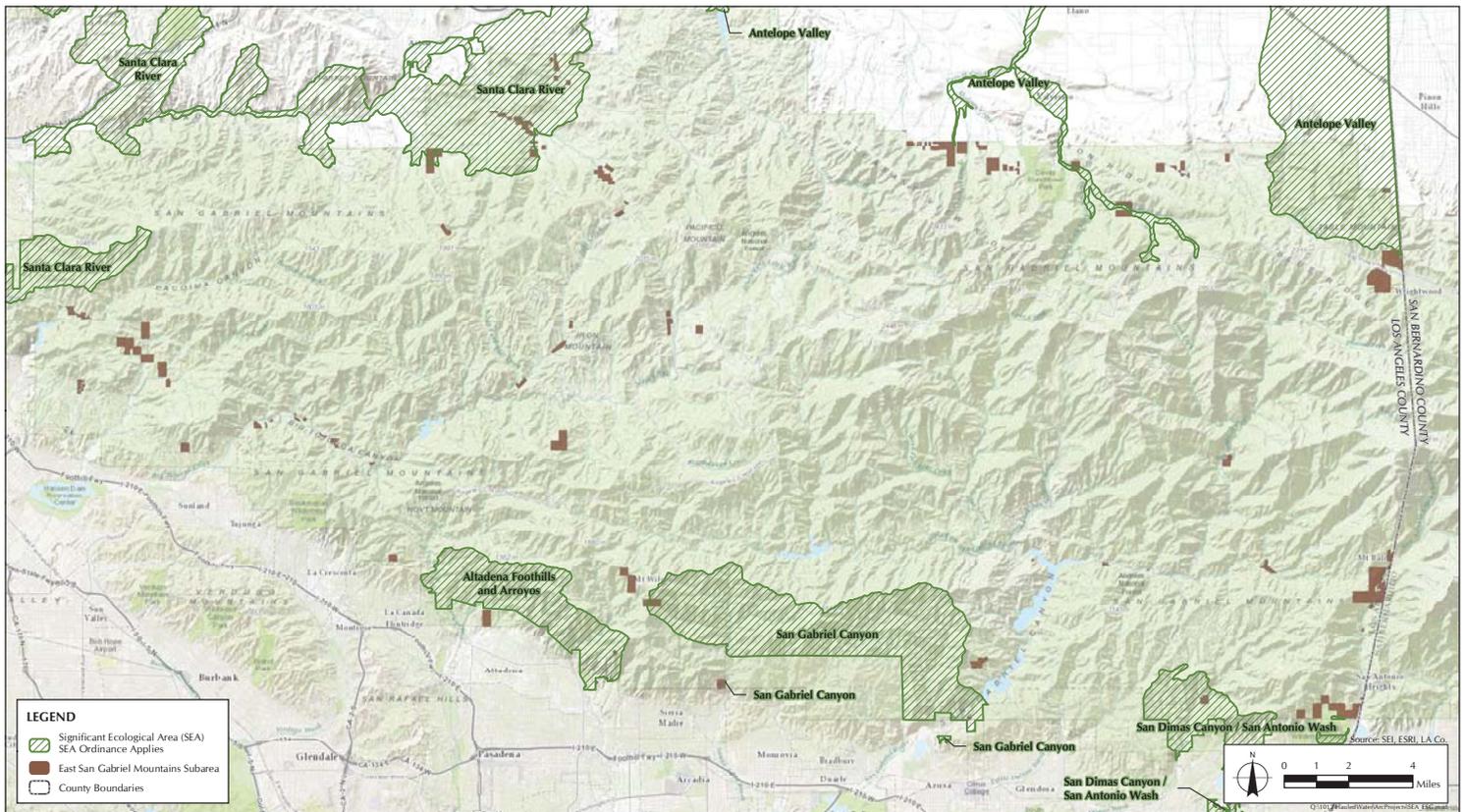
**FIGURE 3.3.2-9D**

Proposed Initiative Subareas Located Within SEAs  
Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock Subarea



**FIGURE 3.3.2-9E**  
 Proposed Initiative Subareas Located Within SEAs  
 Acton Subarea





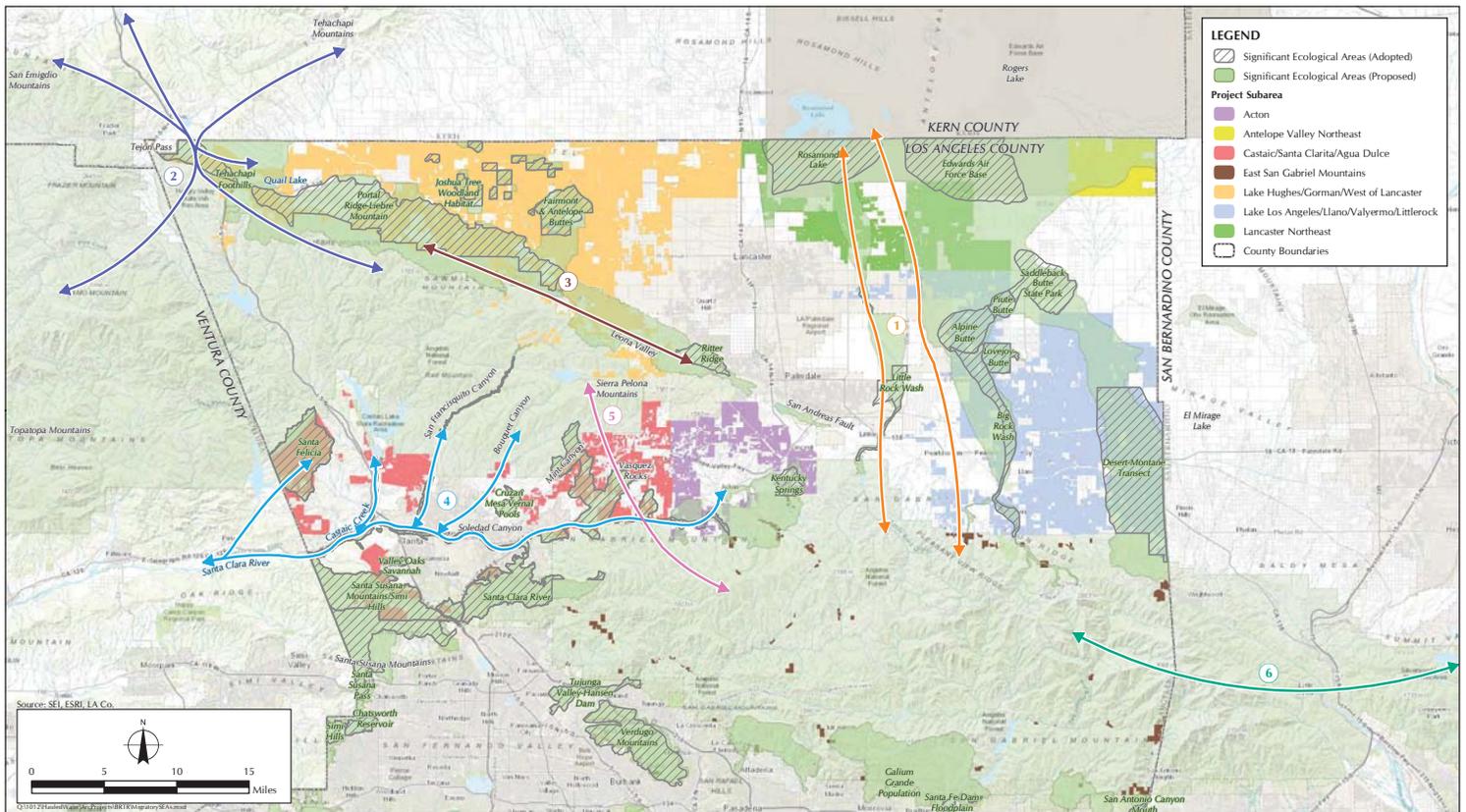
**FIGURE 3.3.2-9G**  
 Proposed Initiative Subareas Located Within SEAs  
 East San Gabriel Mountains Subarea

The size and location of the Santa Clara River, San Felicia, and Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEAs were designed to protect corridors and nurseries and connect wildlife habitats. In contrast, Cruzan Mesa Vernal Pools and Joshua Tree Woodlands SEAs meet the standards of being able to provide stopover/habitat connectivity, but their small size and isolation from other corridors limits their value as migratory corridors. In addition, the South Coast Missing Linkages identified a migratory pathway between the Sierra Pelona Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains along a pathway that crosses Agua Dulce.<sup>24</sup> There are six general areas within the proposed initiative study area where wildlife movement corridors are present (Figure 3.3.2-10, *Migratory Corridors Potentially Present within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*). The primary wildlife movement corridors within the study area are as follows:

- 1) The Big Rock Wash, Little Rock Wash, and other small washes that feed into Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes are known migration routes for wildlife. Such washes allow wildlife to move between the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and Rogers/Rosamond Dry Lakes and between Rogers/Rosamond Dry Lakes and El Mirage Dry Lake. Furthermore, the dry lakes on Edwards Air Force Base are considered a globally significant area for wintering and migrating birds.
- 2) The junction of several mountain ranges at Gorman is expected to be an important area for migrating birds because species migrating into the Central Valley have to pass through Tejon Pass in Gorman. Further, the area is at the convergence of the Tehachapi Mountains (northeast), Sierra Pelona Mountains (southeast), San Emigdio Mountains (northwest), and Topatopa Mountains (southwest). Condors may move through the area given that populations have been reintroduced into the Topatopa and Tehachapi Mountains.
- 3) Portal Ridge and Leona Valley are expected to be important for local movement and bird migration. Portal Ridge separates the Mojave Desert from the Sierra Pelona Mountains. The Leona Valley is situated along the San Andreas Fault and is bordered by Portal Ridge to the north and the Sierra Pelona Mountains to the south. Together, the valley and ridgeline allow wildlife movement between the San Gabriel Mountains and Acton to the east and Quail Lake and Gorman to the west. Furthermore, wildlife can move through the lush vegetation of the Leona Valley rather than the more arid Antelope Valley and Mojave Desert north of Portal Ridge.
- 4) The Santa Clara River and tributaries such as Castaic Creek, Mint Canyon, San Francisquito Canyon, and Bouquet Canyon are expected to be a wildlife movement corridor for wildlife moving between the Santa Susana Mountains, the Sierra Pelona Mountains, and the San Gabriel Mountains. Further movement can occur for wildlife moving from Soledad Canyon and Acton area to downstream areas, such as the flood plains around Fillmore. Soledad Canyon between Acton and Santa Clarita, at the convergence of the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek, and in the San Francisquito Canyon near the old dam site have been designated as a Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream, meaning that movement for this fish species likely occurs in these areas. Therefore, the Santa Clara River also is designated as a nursery site for these fish.

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<sup>24</sup> South Coast Wildlands. March 2004. South Coast Missing Linkages Project: A Linkage Design for the San Gabriel-Castaic Connection. Available online at: [http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCML\\_SanGabriel\\_Castaic.pdf](http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCML_SanGabriel_Castaic.pdf)



**FIGURE 3.3.2-10**  
Migratory Corridors Potentially Present within the Proposed Initiative Subareas

- 5) The Sierra Pelona Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains through Vasquez Rocks are expected to be important linkages between mobile species, such as mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), and less mobile species, such as trees and invertebrates. Between these two mountain ranges are a series of foothills that are undeveloped, and Agua Dulce, a rural community with some undeveloped areas at the edge of more densely populated areas.
- 6) The San Gabriel Mountains and the San Bernardino Mountains through Lytle Creek and the Cajon Pass are important linkages between habitats for native mammal species such as mountain lion, American badger, and desert bighorn sheep. These two mountain ranges contain habitat for numerous listed and endemic species.

Much of Lancaster Northeast, Antelope Valley Northeast, and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subareas are within the migratory corridor moving along the Big Rock Wash, Little Rock Wash, and other small washes that feed into Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes. The corridor that exists at the junction of several mountain ranges at Gorman and the corridor that spans Portal Ridge are both located within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea. The Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce and Acton subareas occur within the wildlife corridors along the Santa Clara River and between the San Gabriel-Sierra Pelona Mountain Ranges. The eastern edge of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea is within the corridor connecting the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains.

The Santa Clara River Watershed is a nursery site for several fish species, especially near the junction of Castaic Creek and downstream because of more regularly flowing water. The Santa Clara River is the largest natural river remaining in southern California.<sup>25</sup> Similarly, the San Gabriel River Watershed which occupies the eastern portion of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea is a nursery site for many endemic fish species such as the Santa Ana sucker and the Santa Ana Speckled Dace. Many similar rivers in southern California have been channelized. As such, these natural areas allow for the movement of wildlife from upstream to downstream populations. Although there are no know bird rookeries in the proposed initiative study area, many species of birds breed within the proposed initiative study area. Nesting birds protected under the MBTA have the potential to be present on any parcel within the proposed initiative study area.

### **General Plans and Policies**

#### *Los Angeles County General Plan 2035*

Every parcel within the proposed initiative study area is in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is subject to the goals and policies of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Goal C/NR 3 of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 is applicable to the proposed initiative because the County must promote “permanent, sustainable preservation of genetically and physically diverse biological resources and ecological systems including: habitat linkages, forests, coastal zone, riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, woodlands, and SEAs.” In support of this goal, there are six policies within the Plan Update that are applicable to the proposed initiative: Policies C/NR 3.1, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, and 3.11.

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<sup>25</sup> Los Angeles Department of Public Works. 2014. Upper Santa Clara River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Prepared by: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants.

Goal C/NR 3 is applicable to the proposed initiative because the Plan modifies the boundaries of existing SEAs and proposes the adoption of new SEAs. As of the adoption of the General Plan 2035 in October 2015, there are 10 SEAs within the vicinity of the proposed initiative parcels:

- 1) Antelope Valley SEA: Designated to protect wildlife movement from the San Gabriel Mountains to the dry lakes on Edwards Air Force Base. Also protects nesting raptors on buttes migrating birds, and overlaps Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat. Further, it protects sensitive upland plant communities, riparian plant communities, and alkali plants and communities. Indeed, areas on Edwards Air Force Base are the most pristine desert habitat in the Antelope Valley area. This SEA includes parcels within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock, Lancaster Northeast, Antelope Valley Northeast, and East San Gabriel Mountains subareas.
- 2) Joshua Tree Woodland SEA: Primarily designated to protect the Joshua tree woodland, a State-sensitive community. Through protection of the woodlands, it provides a migration stopover for migrating birds and potential nesting habitat for raptors, including State-threatened Swainson's hawk. This SEA includes parcels within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea.
- 3) San Andreas SEA: Designated as an SEA because of the area's importance for wildlife movement and plant communities that are only found in Los Angeles County within these areas. This SEA serves as an important linkage between the San Gabriel Mountains, the Tehachapi Mountains, and the Coastal Ranges. The slopes along Portal Ridge are designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area (IBA). This SEA includes parcels within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea.
- 4) Santa Clara River SEA: Important for a large number of sensitive wildlife, especially for fish, amphibians, and riparian birds. Large number of protected plant communities, including riparian communities and areas with bigcone Douglas fir. Overlaps California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat and Arroyo Toad Critical Habitat. Migration corridor is especially important because wildlife can safely cross under Highway 14. The area is designated as an IBA. This SEA includes parcels within the Acton, Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, and East San Gabriel Mountains subareas.
- 5) Santa Felicia SEA: Protects native plant communities, including areas considered nearly pristine that are uncommon within Los Angeles County. Further protects the tributaries of Piru Creek, an important source of water for the Santa Clara River. This SEA includes parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea.
- 6) San Dimas Canyon/San Antonio Wash SEA: Designated to protect rare plants including the rock monardella (*Monardella saxicola*), and plant communities including riparian woodlands, coastal sage scrub, walnut woodlands. Protects major canyons and areas that have a large elevation gradient which provide habitat for sensitive species. Protects a large area of undisturbed native biotic communities. This SEA includes parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea.

- 7) Altadena Foothills and Arroyos SEA: Designated to protect areas where mountain and coastal plain communities meet and plants and wildlife unique to this ecotone are found. This SEA also protects important habitat linkage areas for movement between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Verdugo and Santa Monica Mountains. This SEA includes parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea.
- 8) San Gabriel Canyon SEA: Designated to protect core habitat for many native fish species including Santa Ana sucker, arroyo chub, and Santa Ana speckled dace. Also protected under this SEA is habitat for the San Gabriel bedstraw and San Gabriel Mountains Dudleya, as well as several sensitive plant communities. This SEA includes parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea.
- 9) Cruzan Mesa Vernal Pools SEA: Designated to protect seasonally wet vernal pools and surrounding coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats which support sensitive plant species with specific habitat requirements that include seasonal pools and clay soils, and sensitive animal species such as western spadefoot and Riverside fairy shrimp. The vernal pools located within this SEA represent the only vernal pools found in Los Angeles County. This SEA includes parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea.
- 10) Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEA: Designated to protect sensitive coastal sage scrub, alluvial scrub, valley oak woodland, mainland cherry woodland, native grassland, southern willow scrub, and cottonwood-willow riparian forest plant communities. Sensitive plants found in these plant communities include Lyon's pentachaeta, Nevin's barberry, and slender-horned spineflower. This SEA was also designated to protect sensitive wildlife species including California condor, Swainson's hawk, and arroyo southwestern toad. This SEA contains several important linkages for wildlife movement. This SEA includes parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea.

Policy C/NR 3.1 is applicable to the proposed initiative because the proposed initiative study area contains "diverse natural habitats and biological resources". Policy C/NR 3.6 is applicable to the proposed initiative because "special status species and their associated habitat and wildlife movement corridors" are present within the proposed initiative study area. Policies C/NR 3.8 and C/NR 3.9 are applicable to the proposed initiative because 146,715 acres of the proposed initiative parcels are within SEAs. Policies C/NR 3.10 and C/NR 3.11 are applicable to the proposed initiative because proposed initiative parcels are located within or in the vicinity of biologically sensitive areas including riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, and native woodlands. Goal C/NR 4, Policy C/NR 4.1 is applicable to the proposed initiative because there is the potential for the presence of oak woodlands within every subarea except for the Antelope Valley Northeast and Lancaster Northeast subareas.

#### *2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*

Of the 42,867 parcels in the proposed initiative study area, 2,243 are located within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Only parcels located within this subarea fall within the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. Parcels located within the Santa Clarita Valley are situated within the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. The Conservation and Open Space Element of the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan has four objectives (CO-3.2, CO-3.3, CO-3.5 and CO-3.6) and

eight policies (CO- 3.2.1, CO-3.2.2, CO-3.2.3, CO-3.2.4, CO-3.3.1, CO-3.3.3, CO-3.5.3, and CO-3.6.5) that cover biological resources.

The Policies CO-3.2.1 and CO-3.3.1 are applicable to the proposed initiative because wetlands, riparian habitat, and wildlife corridors along the Santa Clara River and tributaries, including the Cruzan Mesa are present within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Policies CO-3.2.2 and CO-3.5.3 are applicable to the proposed initiative because several parcels in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are located within Coast Live Oak Woodlands (*Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance) and other plant communities likely to have protected oak species. Policy CO-3.2.3 is applicable to the proposed initiative because endangered or threatened species and/or habitat are present within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Policy CO-3.3.3 is applicable to the proposed initiative because wildlife movement corridors, including between Castaic and the San Gabriel Mountains, are present in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea.

Policy CO-3.2.4 is applicable to the proposed initiative because 14,911.3 acres of parcels in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are located within existing SEAs. Likewise, Policy CO-3.6.5 is applicable to the proposed initiative because some parcels within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are located adjacent to natural open space areas, and development on these parcels may require grading.

#### *2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country*

The Acton, Antelope Valley Northeast, East San Gabriel Mountains, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock, and Lancaster Northeast subareas are within the Antelope Valley Area Plan. The Antelope Valley Area Plan has one goal and seven policies which are relevant directly to the proposed initiative. Goal COS 4 of the Antelope Valley Area Plan is applicable to the proposed initiative because the County must protect sensitive habitats and species to promote biodiversity. In support of this goal, there are seven policies within the Plan that are applicable to the proposed initiative: Policies COS 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7. Policies 4.1, and 4.2 are applicable to the proposed initiative because the proposed initiative would indirectly allow for development in areas that were not previously able to be developed and would not dictate which parcels would be developed or the density of parcels to be developed. Policies 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7 are applicable to the proposed initiative because the proposed initiative would indirectly allow for development in areas that may be within SEAs, or are within the vicinity of wildlife movement areas such as preserve areas and parks.

#### *County Municipal Los Angeles County Code Section 22.56.215 – Hillside Management and Significant Ecological Areas – Additional Regulations*

Under the adopted Hillside Management and Significant Ecological Area Ordinances 22.56.215, single-family residences where not more than one such residence is proposed to be built by the same person on contiguous lots or parcels are exempt from the requirement to obtain a conditional use permit. Therefore, this ordinance is not relevant to the evaluation of conflicts of the proposed initiative with local general plans, policies, and ordinances.

#### *County Municipal Los Angeles County Code Sections 22.56.2050 – 22.56.2260 – Oak Trees*

The Los Angeles County Municipal Code Sections 22.56.2050 – 22.56.2260 outline the County's Oak Tree Ordinance and guides the policies within the proposed and adopted General Plan and

the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. The Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance requires a permit prior to the cutting, removing, destroying, relocating, inflicting damage on, or encroaching into a protected zone of any tree within the oak genus.<sup>26</sup>

There is the potential for protected oak trees to be present on or within the vicinity of parcels in all subareas affected by the proposed initiative. Oak trees are typically found in oak woodlands and other indigenous woodlands, but may also be found in urban areas as planted trees. Based on existing plant community data, it is anticipated that the subareas within which this ordinance is most applicable are: Acton, East San Gabriel Mountains, Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock. However, within Acton and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock, the protected oaks are most likely large scrub oaks within Tucker Oak Chaparral (*Quercus john-tuckeri* Shrubland Alliance) along the foothills and lower slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains. In contrast, large oak trees occur within hardwood forests, especially within the Santa Clarita Valley and the Sierra Pelonas near Gorman. Planted oak trees could be within the Lancaster Northeast subarea but are not likely given the conditions are outside the habitat requirements for oak trees. Therefore, this ordinance is relevant to the evaluation of conflicts of the proposed initiative with local general plans, policies, and ordinances.

#### *Acton Community Standards District*

The Acton CSD requires that development plans emphasize the protection of, and revegetation with, native vegetation, including the native plants, grasses, shrubs and trees which intercept, hold and more slowly release rainfall than bare earth surfaces. Parcels containing native vegetation under the jurisdiction of the Acton CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area. Therefore, the provisions enforced by this CSD are relevant to the evaluation of conflicts of the proposed initiative with local general plans, policies, and ordinances.

#### *Juniper Hills Community Standards District*

The Juniper Hills CSD requires that the removal or destruction of vegetation of any kind on a lot or parcel of land two-and-one-half acres or greater in size shall require a conditional use permit pursuant to Part 1 of Chapter 22.56 where the area of removal or destruction is greater than 30 percent of the gross area of the lot or parcel. Parcels containing vegetation that would be removed during the construction of a single-family residence under the jurisdiction of the Juniper Hills CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area. Therefore, the provisions enforced by this CSD are relevant to the evaluation of conflicts of the proposed initiative with local general plans, policies, and ordinances.

#### *Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes Community Standards District*

The Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD requires that all property development shall use only native vegetation in landscaped areas and to re-vegetate graded slopes. The CSD also determines that in order to remove or destroy greater than 30 percent of the native vegetation on a lot or parcel of land, the applicant shall substantiate that the applicant has obtained verification by an engineer,

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<sup>26</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Accessed 27 March 2014. Los Angeles County, California, Code of Ordinances – Title 22 Planning and Zoning. Available online at: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16274>

architect, biologist, or equivalent that removal or destruction is necessary because continued existence at present location(s) precludes the reasonable use of the property for a permitted use in the zone. Parcels containing vegetation that would be removed during the construction of a single-family residence under the jurisdiction of the Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area. Therefore, the provisions enforced by this CSD are relevant to the evaluation of conflicts of the proposed initiative with local general plans, policies, and ordinances.

#### *Castaic Area Community Standards District*

The Castaic Area CSD determines that the removal or destruction of locally indigenous vegetation is prohibited on a parcel of land one acre or greater in size, where the area of removal or destruction is greater than 10 percent of the parcel. In addition, the channelization of creeks shall be permitted by the Castaic Area CSD provided that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to preserve the indigenous habitats of the creeks. Further, an oak tree permit for the removal or relocation of one oak tree in conjunction with a single-family residence use in the Castaic Area CSD, shall require publishing of notice and a public hearing. Parcels containing locally indigenous vegetation, oak trees, and in the vicinity of creeks that would be impacted during the construction of a single-family residence under the jurisdiction of the Castaic Area CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area. Therefore, the provisions enforced by this CSD are relevant to the evaluation of conflicts of the proposed initiative with local general plans, policies, and ordinances.

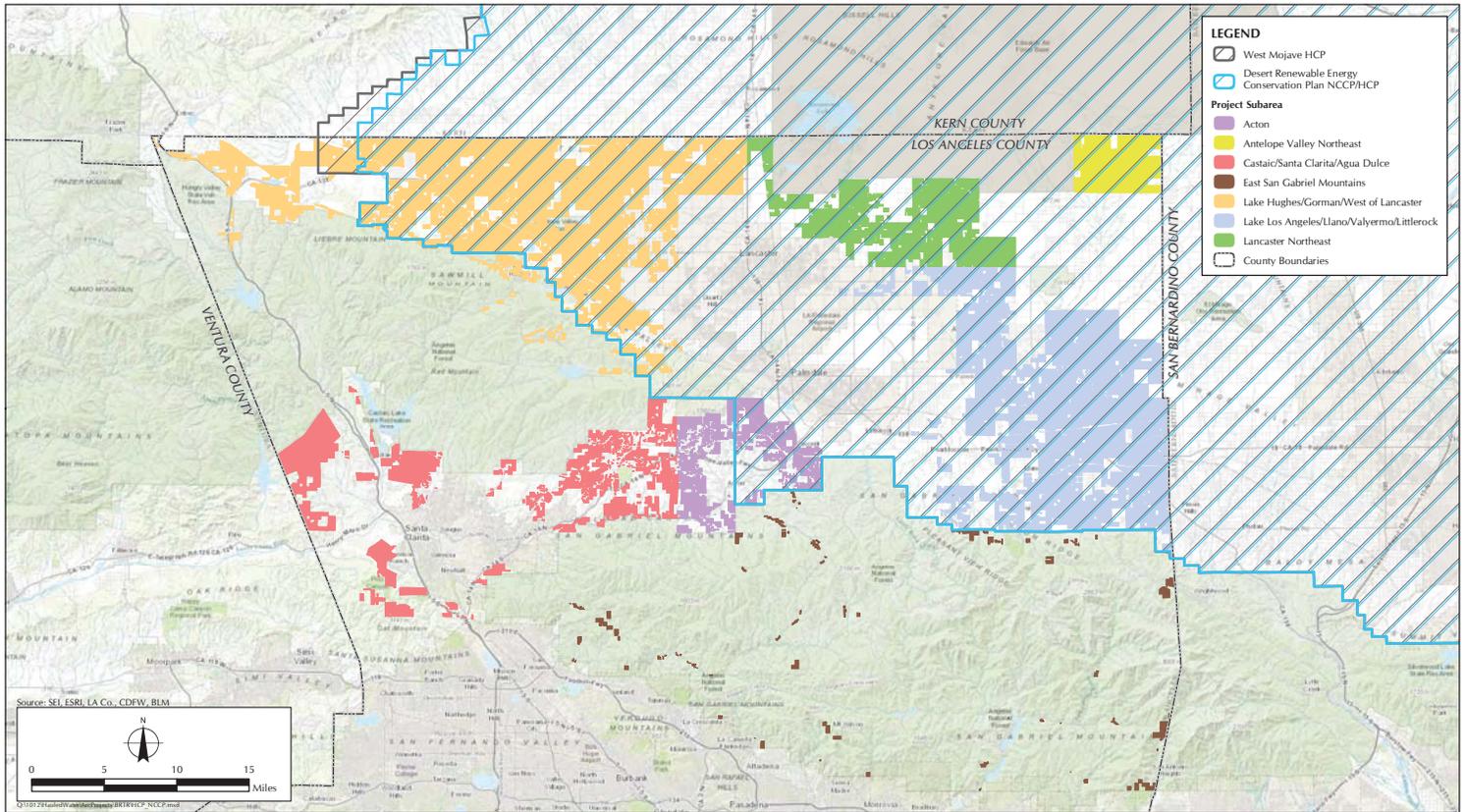
#### ***HCPs and NCCPs***

There are parcels located within the boundaries of two HCPs/NCCPs present within the study area of the proposed initiative: the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) NCCP/HCP and the West Mojave Plan HCP (Figure 3.3.2-11, *HCPs and NCCPs Present within the Proposed Initiative Subareas*). However, the West Mojave Plan HCP applies only to lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The DRECP is a proposed multi-species HCP intended to conserve threatened and endangered species and natural communities in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions of Southern California. The purpose of the DRECP NCCP/HCP is to provide for orderly development of renewable energy projects in a manner that conserves habitat for federally and State-listed endangered species. The DRECP is both an HCP and an NCCP. NCCPs comply with the State Natural Community Conservation Plan Act, and HCPs comply with the federal ESA.

### **3.3.3 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The potential for the proposed initiative to result in impacts related to biological resources was analyzed in relation to the questions contained in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed initiative would normally be considered to have a significant impact on biological resources when any one of the following six thresholds occurs. Would the proposed initiative:

- a. 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?



**FIGURE 3.3.2-11**  
HCPs and NCCPs Present Within the Proposed Initiative Subareas

- b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- c. 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?
- d. 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?
- e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan?

### 3.3.4 IMPACT ANALYSIS

The analysis of significant impacts to biological resources was based on a reasonable worst-case scenario that assumes the annual average rate of issuance of building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon as a result of the proposed initiative would be approximately 32 per year in the Santa Clarita Valley and approximately 152 per year in the Antelope Valley for a total of 184 permits per year for both areas. The total anticipated building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon would be approximately 3,680. The number of parcels forecasted to be issued building permits over the 20-year planning horizon within each subarea is as follows: (a) 735 of 2,243 parcels in the Castaic/ Santa Clarita/ Agua Dulce subarea, (b) 737 of 1,246 parcels in the Acton subarea, (c) 847 of 15,166 parcels in the Lake Hughes/ Gorman/ West of Lancaster subarea, (d) 1,251 of 14,822 parcels in the Lake Los Angeles/ Llano/ Valyermo/ Littlerock subarea, (e) zero of 1,938 parcels in the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea, (f) 110 of 6,794 parcels in the Lancaster Northeast subarea, and (g) zero of 648 parcels in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea. An analysis of a small subset of parcels in each subarea was performed in order to determine potential impacts from hauled water infrastructure including a storage tank, a septic leach field, and access for hauled water delivery vehicles. Based on the analysis it was determined that the average area of disturbance for each parcel was approximately 36 percent. The average size of lots analyzed was four acres.<sup>27</sup> Based on this analysis, potential impacts to biological resources were determined.

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<sup>27</sup> Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 27 August 2014. Memorandum for the Record. Subject: Analysis of Residential Development and Existing Disturbance for Parcels within or near the Proposed Hauled Water Initiative Study Area. Prepared for: Los Angeles County Hauled Water Task Force.

**IMPACT BIO-1: 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to biological resources in relation to threatened and/or endangered species, fully protected and sensitive species, locally important species, or associated critical habitat by facilitating development of potentially suitable and occupied habitat for listed and special-status species. Within the entire study area, there are records of and/or habitat for 27 listed or candidate species, 75 sensitive or rare species (including four fully protected species), 14 locally important species (including 12 protected under the Desert Native Plants Act and two protected by California Fish and Game Code furbearing mammal regulations), and up to 16,740 acres of designated critical habitat. Impacts within each subarea are discussed in detail below. While the proposed initiative would have no direct impacts on candidate, sensitive, or special status species, indirect impacts would occur as a result of development being permitted in areas that are currently undeveloped due to being located outside a water district and not being able to develop a groundwater well with sufficient water to provide a reliable source of potable water. These impacts would include direct habitat loss and fragmentation as parcels are developed, introduction of non-native plants, and introduction of lighting and noise. Further, growth-inducing impacts resulting from the proposed initiative would include not only the development of infrastructure on parcels, but associated road improvements which may impact special-status plants and wildlife through disturbance and removal of vegetation as well as increased light and noise during and after improvements. Development of parcels within the proposed initiative study area would be subject to the provisions of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, as well as Sections 1900 – 1913, 3511, 4150, 4700, 5050, 5515 of the State Fish and Game Code and Sections 80071-80075 of the State Food and Agriculture Code.

Approximately 16,740 acres or five percent of the proposed initiative study area is located within critical habitat. Given the reasonable worst-case scenario, it can be expected that five percent of the 3,680 building permits or 184 parcels will be issued within areas of critical habitat. This would result in approximately 736 acres of potential development in areas designated as critical habitat and 265 acres of critical habitat disturbance. Facilitating housing development in these areas of critical habitat for federally listed species would conflict with Section 9 of the Federal Endangered Species Act and Section 2080 of the California Endangered Species Act, to promote the survival and recovery of listed species.

This forecast can only predict how many parcels would be issued building permits, not which parcels would be developed. Therefore, all impacts below must be considered as significant impacts to listed and sensitive species and their habitats as a result of the proposed initiative for those parcels where occupied or potentially suitable habitat for special status species is present, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

***Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce***

There are 20 federally and State-listed species and associated habitats potentially present in this subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative. This subarea is the most diverse subarea with regards to listed species. These include six plants, one invertebrate, two fish, three amphibians, seven birds, and one mammal. This subarea has the greatest number of listed plants and birds and is the only subarea with a listed invertebrate, due to the presence of vernal pools on the Cruzan Mesa. However, the proposed initiative would have the least impact on threatened and

endangered birds in this subarea because (1) no nesting habitat is present for bald eagle, California condor, and Swainson's hawk within this subarea; (2) only one percent of the subarea is designated critical habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher; and (3) southwestern willow flycatcher habitat is degraded or lacking in this subarea. In contrast, portions of the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are ideal habitat for threatened and endangered plants, invertebrates, fish, and amphibians. Most of these species congregate along two resources: (1) the Santa Clara River and tributaries and (2) vernal pools on the Cruzan Mesa; additionally, the San Fernando Valley spineflower may be found in the western parts of the Santa Clarita Valley in the foothills along the Santa Clara River. Critical habitat for federally listed species occurs on five percent of this subarea. Both the Santa Clara River and Cruzan Mesa are designated critical habitat. The proposed initiative parcels occur along these vital resources. In addition, this subarea has the potential for a large number of rare plants (16 species), sensitive mammals (15 species), and birds (eight species) and is one of the few subareas with the potential presence of sensitive amphibians, reptiles, and fish. Sensitive species not only occur within the vernal pools and Santa Clara River, but also within the foothill grasslands and oak woodlands that occur along the base of the Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountains.

Potential impacts to listed, sensitive, and locally important species in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 1,775 acres or five percent of this subarea is located within critical habitat. It can be expected that five percent of the 735 building permits or 37 parcels will be issued for areas within critical habitat within this subarea. This would result in approximately 147 acres of potential development in areas designated as critical habitat and 53 acres of potential critical habitat disturbance in this subarea.

### **Acton**

There are 10 federally and State-listed species and associated habitats potentially present in this subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative. These include two plants, two fish, two amphibians, three birds, and one mammal. All of these species have habitat within this subarea primarily along the Santa Clara River, which includes the Santa Ana sucker, unarmored threespine stickleback, arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, tricolored blackbird, Braunton's milk-vetch, and slender-horned spineflower; however, California red-legged frog disperses into upland habitat up to a couple miles from the water source and tributaries, and the slender-horned spineflower and Braunton's milk-vetch habitat includes chaparral and coastal scrub. Critical habitat for federally listed species occurs on less than 0.1 percent of this subarea. Critical habitat for arroyo toad is present near the Santa Clara River. Acton has a large number of sensitive plants (12 species) and birds (six species), none of which are concentrated within specific habitats. This subarea is also important for sensitive reptiles, amphibians, and fish, mostly along the Santa Clara River. Plants protected by the DNPA also occur within this subarea.

Potential impacts to listed, sensitive, and locally important species in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 80 acres or less than 0.1 percent of this subarea is located within critical habitat. It can be expected that less than 0.1 percent of the 737 building permits or one parcel will be issued for areas within critical habitat, resulting in approximately 1 acre of potential critical habitat disturbance in this subarea.

### ***Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster***

There are 15 federally and State-listed species and associated habitats potentially present in this subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative. These include one plant, two fish, three amphibians, one reptile, six birds, and two mammals. The Santa Ana sucker and unarmored threespine stickleback only have habitat near parcels located in Green Valley and Lake Hughes due to the connection of tributaries to populations downstream in the Santa Clara River; however, both species are unlikely to be present given the lack of regularly flowing water throughout most of San Francisquito Canyon and Elizabeth Lake Canyon. However, wintering bald eagles are known to occur along the lakes of this subarea and the presence of the moisture in wooded areas provides habitat for arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, and Tehachapi slender salamander. This subarea is also the most likely place within the study area for California condor given proximity to extant populations and probable movement between populations in the Tehachapi Mountains and those populations in the mountains to the west. In addition, most of the subarea within the Mojave Desert is habitat for desert tortoise. Resources required by listed species in this subarea are not concentrated; rather, they are more widespread given the available habitat. There is no designated critical habitat for federally listed species present on parcels within this subarea. Sensitive species are more concentrated, generally occurring within the mountainous portions of this subarea. This subarea has a high number of sensitive plants (16 species), birds (eight species), reptiles (four species), and mammals (15 species). The high diversity of sensitive species is due to the convergence of the Mojave Desert and Traverse Range and standing water within several lakes and wet meadows. Plants protected by the DNPA also occur within this subarea.

Potential impacts to listed, sensitive, and locally important species in this subarea are substantial. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. However, the reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that 847 of the 15,166 parcels (six percent) within the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, the impacts within this subarea described above would be greater than the actual anticipated impacts.

### ***Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock***

There are nine federally and State-listed species and associated habitats potentially present in this subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative. These include two amphibians, one reptile, two bird, and four mammals. A majority of this subarea is habitat only for desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and Swainson's hawk. The plant communities and terrain along Big Rock and Little Rock washes, which bisect this subarea, are ideal habitat for desert tortoise. However, the foothills and creeks/wash near Juniper Hills and Valyermo also have habitat for Nelson's antelope squirrel, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, arroyo toad, and southern mountain yellow-legged frog. Much of the habitat for listed species is in proximity to rural development and agricultural fields, therefore, limiting the habitat value for all species except Swainson's hawk, which will use the cottonwood trees commonly planted as wind breaks around the agricultural fields for roosting and nesting. There is no designated critical habitat for federally listed species present on parcels within this subarea. This subarea has a large number of sensitive plants (14 species) and mammals (12 species), most of which can be expected on and near the lower slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains or along washes. Plants protected by the DNPA also occur within this subarea.

Potential impacts to listed, sensitive, and locally important species in this subarea are substantial. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. However, the reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that 1,251

of the 14,822 parcels (eight percent) within the Lake Los Angeles/Llano Valyermo/Littlerock subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, the impacts within this subarea described above would be larger than the actual anticipated impacts.

### ***Antelope Valley Northeast***

There are six federally and State-listed species and associated habitats potentially present in this subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative. The Antelope Valley Northeast subarea is the least diverse subarea with regards to listed species. These include one reptile, one bird, and four mammals. The presence of Swainson's hawk is possible, but the lack of trees for nesting within the subarea limits its value as Swainson's hawk habitat. Nelson's antelope squirrel and San Bernardino kangaroo rat are also potentially present given the presence of habitat for these species. This subarea is very likely to have desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel, owed to its remoteness, and undeveloped desert plant communities. Almost all of this subarea (99 percent) is within desert tortoise critical habitat. This subarea has fewer sensitive species compared to the other subareas and the sensitive plants are expected to be concentrated within more alkali areas.

The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. However, the reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that zero parcels within the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, it is not anticipated that substantial impacts to listed and special-status species would occur in this subarea.

### ***Lancaster Northeast***

There are seven federally and State-listed species and associated habitats potentially present in this subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative. These include one reptile, two bird, and four mammals. The list of potentially present species is similar to Antelope Valley Northeast; however, the habitat for these species likely is poorer quality, owed to the proximity to rural settlements around Lancaster. Furthermore, the predominant plants are *Atriplex* species, which are habitat for most of the listed species, but typically these species occur in lower abundance. This subarea also has the greatest amount of agricultural fields, meaning Swainson's hawks are very likely to nest within this subarea. There is no designated critical habitat for federally listed species present on parcels within this subarea. This subarea has fewer sensitive species compared to the other subareas and the sensitive plants are expected to be concentrated within more alkali areas.

Potential impacts to listed, sensitive, and locally important species in this subarea are substantial. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. However, the reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that 110 of the 6,794 parcels (two percent) within the Lancaster Northeast subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, the impacts within this subarea described above would be greater than the actual anticipated impacts.

### ***East San Gabriel Mountains***

There are 13 federally and State-listed species and associated habitats potentially present in this subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative. These include five plants, one fish, two amphibians, four birds, and one mammal. This subarea also contains small amounts of critical habitat for arroyo toad, Santa Ana sucker, and southern mountain yellow-legged frog. California

gnatcatcher is unlikely to occur because parcels within East San Gabriel Mountains are interspersed with already developed parcels. In contrast, Nevin's barberry was documented in the adjacent Lopez Canyon in 1998, which has the same elevation and plant communities as the East San Gabriel Mountains. Townsend's big-eared bad is a habitat generalist and can occur almost anywhere, including East San Gabriel Mountains. Critical habitat for federally listed species is present on two percent of this subarea. The parcels within this subarea are widespread throughout the San Gabriel Mountains, which contain a large variety of habitat types and a large elevation gradient. As a result, this subarea has the potential for the most sensitive species.

The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. However, the reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that zero parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, it is not anticipated that substantial impacts to listed and special-status species will occur in this subarea.

**IMPACT BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to biological resources in relation to sensitive plant communities and riparian habitat because of allowable development in undeveloped habitats. The study area contains up to 59 sensitive plant communities and 146,150 acres (28,245 acres covered by CalVeg data and 117,900 acres covered by DRECP data) that have the potential to contain a sensitive plant community. The study area includes 49,812 acres (one percent of the study area covered by CalVeg data and 14 percent of the study area covered by DRECP data) that have the potential to contain a riparian plant community. Additionally, there are 8,020 acres of potential State Jurisdictional Areas throughout the study area. Impacts within each subarea are discussed in detail below. While the proposed initiative would have no direct impacts on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities, indirect impacts would occur as a result of development being permitted in areas that are currently undeveloped. These impacts would include direct loss and fragmentation of sensitive communities as parcels are developed and the introduction of non-native plants that would degrade existing communities. Further, growth-inducing impacts resulting from the proposed initiative would include not only the development of infrastructure on parcels, but associated road improvements which may impact sensitive plant communities through the disturbance and removal of vegetation. Development of parcels within the proposed initiative study area would be subject to the provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code. Mitigation measures are required to reduce the level of impacts of the proposed initiative to riparian habitat and other sensitive natural communities.

Approximately 146,150 acres or 43 percent of the proposed initiative study area is potentially located within state-sensitive plant communities. Given the reasonable worst-case scenario of 184 building permits per year for a total of 3,680 building permits over the 20-year planning horizon, it can be expected that 43 percent of these 3,680 building permits or 1,582 parcels will be issued for areas within state-sensitive plant communities resulting in approximately 6,330 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing state-sensitive plant communities and 2,279 acres of state-sensitive plant community disturbance.

Approximately 49,810 acres or 15 percent of the proposed initiative study area is potentially located within riparian habitat. It can be expected that 15 percent of the 3,680 building permits or 552 parcels will be issued for areas within potential riparian habitat. This would result in

approximately 2,208 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing riparian habitat and 795 acres of potential riparian habitat disturbance.

Approximately 8,020 acres or two percent of the proposed initiative study area is potentially located within State Jurisdictional Areas. It can be expected that two percent of the 3,680 building permits or 74 parcels will be issued for areas within State Jurisdictional Areas, resulting in 294 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing State Jurisdictional Areas and 106 acres of potential State Jurisdictional Area disturbance. As such, the potential exists for the proposed initiative to impact state sensitive plant communities and riparian habitat, which constitutes a significant impact requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

### ***Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce***

There is potential for 32 sensitive plant communities, 16 of which are riparian communities, and an additional 11 non-sensitive riparian plant communities to be impacted in this subarea. The riparian areas along the Santa Clara River and tributaries are State sensitive Fremont' Cottonwood Forest (*Populus fremontii* Forest Alliance), Scale Broom Scrub (*Lepidospartum squamatum* Shrubland Alliance), and Red Willow Thickets (*Salix laevigata* Shrubland Alliance); in addition, the Arroyo Willow Thicket (*Salix lasiolepis* Shrubland Alliance) that predominates has a State sensitive association, which means the entirety of the community should be considered State sensitive until field verification. Other, non-State sensitive plant communities occur within these riparian habitats along the Santa Clara River and tributaries.

Potential impacts to riparian communities, State-sensitive plant communities, and State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 9,655 acres or 27 percent of this subarea is located within potential state-sensitive plant communities. It can be expected that 27 percent of the 735 building permits or 198 parcels will be issued for areas within state-sensitive plant communities in this subarea. This would result in approximately 794 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing state-sensitive plant communities and 286 acres of potential state-sensitive plant community disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 490 acres or one percent of this subarea is located within potential riparian habitat. It can be expected that one percent of the 735 building permits or seven parcels will be issued for areas potentially within riparian habitat in this subarea. This would result in approximately 29 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing riparian habitat and 11 acres of potential riparian habitat disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 802 acres or two percent of this subarea is located within potential State Jurisdictional Areas. It can be expected that two percent of the 735 building permits or 15 parcels will be issued for areas within potential State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea. This would result in approximately 59 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing State Jurisdictional Areas and 21 acres of potential State Jurisdictional Areas disturbance in this subarea.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) includes the Newhall Ranch portion of the Castaic/ Santa Clarita/ Agua Dulce subarea. In the event any flood protection facility is built in an upland type area, as a result of increased development resulting from approval of building permits for single-family homes where hauled water is authorized as the primary source of potable water, the Water Resources Division of DPW anticipates that such facilities, due to their function,

would likely convert upland area to waters of the United States. Maintenance activities in open earthen bottom channel, check dams, retention and detention basins would have the potential to require routine removal of riparian and aquatic habitats and would thus be subject to regulation under the State Fish and Game Code Section 1601 (Lake/Streambed Alteration Agreements with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife), and the LACFCD maintenance standards and practices for removal or conversion of aquatic and riparian habitats, in perpetuity over the life of the facility during storm season, before storm season, and after storm season. Facility maintenance would normally involve annual mowing of the facility bottom, dewatering of accumulated debris, and excavation of the debris which could include removal of accumulated debris and the root balls of opportunistic vegetation within the debris cone of the facility during cleanouts of the facility, and hauling material to a disposal site. Therefore, LACFCD would not allow any plantings in the vicinity of the facility right-of-way that would have the potential to attract sensitive species that would have the potential to constrain maintenance and cleanouts of the facility and its appurtenant features.

As a requirement of the grading permit and the building permit application process, the Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division requires the property owner to have the capacity for on-site retention of 200 gallons of stormwater through the use of at least two of the Low Impact Development Best Management Practices. These measures are required to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces on natural drainages. The property owner is responsible for maintenance of retention basins and other onsite facilities installed on private property.

### **Acton**

There is potential for 26 sensitive plant communities, 11 of which are riparian communities, and an additional four non-sensitive riparian plant communities to be impacted in this subarea. The reason for the diversity in this subarea is that this area has a mix of riparian (i.e., the Santa Clara River) and chaparral plant communities with a transition to desert plant communities. The riparian habitat in this subarea is similar in composition to the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea but with a higher probability of California Sycamore Woodland (*Platanus racemosa* Woodland Alliance). The difference between Acton and the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subareas generally is due to the transition into the Mojave Desert, including Joshua Tree Woodlands (*Yucca brevifolia* Woodland Alliance), Narrow-leaf Goldenbush Scrub (*Ericameria linearifolia* Shrubland Alliance), Anderson's Boxthorn Scrub (*Lycium andersonii* Shrubland Alliance), and Nodding Needle Grass Grassland (*Nassella cernua* Herbaceous Alliance).

Potential impacts to riparian communities, State-sensitive plant communities, and State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 1,680 acres or nine percent of this subarea is located within potential state-sensitive plant communities. It can be expected that nine percent of the 737 building permits or 66 parcels will be issued for areas within state-sensitive plant communities in this subarea. This would result in 265 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing state-sensitive plant communities and 96 acres of potential state-sensitive plant community disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 1,080 acres or six percent of this subarea is located within potential riparian habitat. It can be expected that six percent of the 737 building permits or 44 parcels will be issued for areas potentially within riparian habitat in this subarea. This would result in approximately 177 acres of

potential development in areas potentially containing riparian habitat and 64 acres of potential riparian habitat disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 275 acres or two percent of this subarea is located within potential State Jurisdictional Areas. It can be expected that two percent of the 737 building permits or 15 parcels will be issued for areas within potential State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea. This would result in approximately 59 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing State Jurisdictional Areas and 21 acres of potential State Jurisdictional Areas disturbance in this subarea.

The LACFCD includes the Acton portion of the study area. In the event any flood protection facility is built in an upland type area, as a result of increased development resulting from approval of building permits for single-family homes where hauled water is authorized as the primary source of potable water, the Water Resources Division of DPW anticipates that such facilities, due to their function, would likely convert upland area to waters of the United States. Maintenance activities in open earthen bottom channel, check dams, retention and detention basins would have the potential to require routine removal of riparian and aquatic habitats and would thus be subject to regulation under the State Fish and Game Code Section 1601 (Lake/Streambed Alteration Agreements with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife), and the LACFCD maintenance standards and practices for removal or conversion of aquatic and riparian habitats, in perpetuity over the life of the facility during storm season, before storm season, and after storm season. Facility maintenance would normally involve annual mowing of the facility bottom, dewatering of accumulated debris, and excavation of the debris which could include removal of accumulated debris and the root balls of opportunistic vegetation within the debris cone of the facility during cleanouts of the facility, and hauling material to a disposal site. Therefore, LACFCD would not allow any plantings in the vicinity of the facility right of way that would have the potential to attract sensitive species that would have the potential to constrain maintenance and cleanouts of the facility and its appurtenant features.

As a requirement of the grading permit and the building permit application process, the Building and Safety Division requires the property owner to have the capacity for on-site retention of 200-gallons of stormwater through the use of at least two of the Low Impact Development Best Management Practices. These measures are required to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces on natural drainages. The property owner is responsible for maintenance of retention basins and other onsite facilities installed on private property.

### ***Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster***

There is potential for 40 sensitive plant communities, 17 of which are riparian communities, and an additional 13 non-sensitive riparian plant communities to be impacted in this subarea. This subarea has the highest diversity of potential sensitive plant communities. The reason for the large numbers and diverse sensitive plant communities is because the subarea is largely undeveloped, has both mountains and desert, and is at the transition zone between major eco-types. This subarea has less *Ceanothus* scrub and more oak woodlands and chaparral, including the State-sensitive Valley Oak Woodland Canyon Live Oak Chaparral (*Quercus chrysolepis* Shrubland Alliance), and Basket Bush Thickets (*Rhus trilobata* Provisional Shrubland Alliance); in addition, the Scrub Oak Chaparral (*Quercus berberidifolia* Shrubland Alliance) that predominates has a State-sensitive association with Cup-leaf Ceanothus (*Ceanothus greggii*), which occurs in the transition zones and the desert. Wet meadows are present within the Leona Valley and near Gorman, which can host a number of State-sensitive herbaceous communities. Within the Mojave Desert portions of this subarea, dry washes have the potential for State-sensitive communities, such as Black-stem

Rabbitbush Scrub (*Ericameria paniculata* Shrubland Alliance), and Joshua Tree Woodlands occur along the lower slopes of Portal Ridge.

Potential impacts to riparian communities, State-sensitive plant communities, and State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 55,330 acres or 44 percent of this subarea is located within potential state-sensitive plant communities. It can be expected that 44 percent of the 847 building permits or 373 parcels will be issued for areas within state-sensitive plant communities in this subarea. This would result in approximately 1,491 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing state-sensitive plant communities and 537 acres of potential state-sensitive plant community disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 10,340 acres or eight percent of this subarea is located within potential riparian habitat. It can be expected that eight percent of the 847 building permits or 68 parcels will be issued for areas potentially within riparian habitat in this subarea. This would result in approximately 271 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing riparian habitat and 98 acres of potential riparian habitat disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 1,535 acres or one percent of this subarea is located within potential State Jurisdictional Areas. It can be expected that one percent of the 847 building permits or eight parcels will be issued for areas within potential State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea. This would result in approximately 34 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing State Jurisdictional Areas and 12 acres of potential State Jurisdictional Areas disturbance in this subarea.

### ***Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock***

There is potential for 27 sensitive plant communities, 10 of which are riparian communities, and an additional nine non-sensitive riparian plant communities to be impacted in this subarea. The reason for a large amount of the area being potentially sensitive partially due to the presence of State-sensitive Creosote–White Burr Sage Scrub (*Larrea tridentate*–*Ambrosia dumosa* Shrubland Alliance), which forms a State-sensitive association with *Petalonyx thurberi* in desert washes. Creosote–White Burr Sage Scrub dominates the plant communities in this subarea; so although the State-sensitive alliance only occurs in washes, the large number of washes that originate on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains warrants considering most of the area as a State-sensitive plant community. The foothills are also areas for other State-sensitive plant communities, such as Andersons Boxthorn Scrub and Canyon Live Oak Chaparral, Indian Rice Grass Grasslands (*Achnatherum [Stipa] hymenoides* Herbaceous Alliance), and Desert Olive Patches (*Forestiera pubescens* Shrubland Alliance). Riparian habitats include State-sensitive Scalebroom Scrub and non-State sensitive Cheesebush Scrub (*Ambrosia salsola* Shrubland Alliance), which are common along the large number of washes in the subarea.

Potential impacts to riparian communities, State-sensitive plant communities, and State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 54,970 acres or 51 percent of this subarea is located within potential state-sensitive plant communities. It can be expected that 51 percent of the 1,251 building permits or 638 parcels will be issued for areas within state-sensitive plant communities in this subarea. This would result in approximately 2,552 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing state-sensitive

plant communities and 919 acres of potential state-sensitive plant community disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 14,695 acres or 14 percent of this subarea is located within potential riparian habitat. It can be expected that 14 percent of the 1,251 building permits or 175 parcels will be issued for areas potentially within riparian habitat in this subarea. This would result in approximately 700 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing riparian habitat and 252 acres of potential riparian habitat disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 3,315 acres or three percent of this subarea is located within potential State Jurisdictional Areas. It can be expected that three percent of the 1,251 building permits or 38 parcels will be issued for areas within potential State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea. This would result in approximately 150 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing State Jurisdictional Areas and 54 acres of potential State Jurisdictional Areas disturbance in this subarea.

### ***Antelope Valley Northeast***

There is potential for 17 sensitive plant communities, eight of which are riparian communities, and an additional five non-sensitive riparian plant communities to be impacted in this subarea. The plant communities within this area are not very diverse, with Creosote–White Burr Sage Scrub being the predominant community. Given that the Creosote–White Burr Sage Scrub plant community is considered sensitive because of a State-sensitive association, 14,020 acres of the subarea have potential for sensitive plant communities. The potential riparian habitat, which is about 795 acres, is likely higher than what is actually present within the subarea because Spinescale Scrub (*Atriplex spinifera* Shrubland Alliance), which is a common State-sensitive community in the subarea, was classified as riparian; this plant community occurs in alkali sinks where playas form (i.e., desert wetlands where water pools) and State-sensitive plants can occur. Other State-sensitive plant communities mostly occur within the washes, but near the alkali flats there is a possibility for Winterfat Scrubland (*Krascheninnikovia lanata* Shrubland Alliance) and Spiny Hop Sage Scrub (*Grayia spinosa* Shrubland Alliance). In addition, it was determined that up to 565 acres of State Jurisdictional Areas have the potential to be present within this subarea.

Potential impacts to riparian communities, State-sensitive plant communities, and State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. However, the reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that zero parcels within the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, it is not anticipated that substantial impacts to State-sensitive and riparian plant communities will occur in this subarea.

### ***Lancaster Northeast***

There is potential for 16 sensitive plant communities, 11 of which are riparian communities, and an additional eight non-sensitive riparian plant communities to be impacted in this subarea. The plant communities in the Lancaster Northeast and Antelope Valley Northeast are similar; however, the Lancaster Northeast subarea has more *Atriplex* communities because water flow from the Big Rock and Little Rock Washes begins to slow and pool in the area, ultimately ending in the Rosamond Dry Lake two miles to the north. Almost all of the State-sensitive plant communities in this subarea are associated with the riparian washes or the alkali flats, except for some Creosote

Bush–White Burr sage Scrub to the east and Joshua Tree Woodlands close to Lancaster. This subarea had the largest percent considered riparian compared to the other subareas because of the presence of alkali flats and washes. Much of the area is dominated by State-sensitive wash and riparian plant communities or non-State sensitive *Atriplex* communities.

Potential impacts to riparian communities, State-sensitive plant communities, and State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 7,720 acres or 22 percent of this subarea is located within potential state-sensitive plant communities. It can be expected that 22 percent of the 110 building permits or 24 parcels will be issued for areas within state-sensitive plant communities in this subarea. This would result in approximately 97 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing state-sensitive plant communities and 35 acres of potential state-sensitive plant community disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 21,885 acres or 62 percent of this subarea is located within potential riparian habitat. It can be expected that 62 percent of these 110 building permits or 68 parcels will be issued for areas potentially within riparian habitat in this subarea. This would result in approximately 273 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing riparian habitat and 98 acres of potential riparian habitat disturbance in this subarea.

Approximately 1,310 acres or four percent of this subarea is located within potential State Jurisdictional Areas. It can be expected that four percent of these 110 building permits or 4 parcels will be issued for areas within potential State Jurisdictional Areas in this subarea. This would result in approximately 18 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing State Jurisdictional Areas and 6 acres of potential State Jurisdictional Areas disturbance in this subarea.

### ***East San Gabriel Mountains***

There is potential for 33 sensitive plant communities, 12 of which are riparian communities, and an additional six non-sensitive riparian plant communities to be impacted in this subarea. The reason for the large numbers and diverse sensitive plant communities is because of the subarea is largely undeveloped, spans the entirety of the San Gabriel Mountains, has a large elevation gradient, and is at the transition zone between major eco-types. If all parcels in the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea were developed as a result of the proposed initiative, it would result in up to 2,775 acres of sensitive plant communities potentially impacted. In addition, 530 acres of riparian habitat could be impacted. It was also determined that up to 210 acres of State Jurisdictional Areas have the potential to be present within this subarea. The reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that zero parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, it is not anticipated that substantial impacts to State-sensitive and riparian plant communities will occur in this subarea.

The proposed initiative would be expected to result in significant impacts to State-designated riparian and other sensitive plant communities, including areas subject to Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code. The County building permit process does not currently require property owners to demonstrate compliance with Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code. However, the CDFW requires applicants for Streambed and Lake Alteration Agreements (SLAA) to demonstrate that there will no net loss of habitat function or value as a result of the SLAA; therefore, alteration of lands subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW, as a result of the construction of single-family homes and infrastructure, developed as a result of the proposed initiative would be

expected to be reduced to below the level of significance, as required by the SLAA notification and agreement process. However, there is no Federal, State, or local statute that requires avoidance or compensation for State-designated sensitive habitats located beyond the limits of the area subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code, and the conversion of an estimated 2,280 acres of State-sensitive plant communities and 795 acres of riparian habitat would be a significant impact.

The LACFCD includes the East San Gabriel Mountains portion of the study area. In the event any flood protection facility is built in an upland type area, as a result of increased development resulting from approval of building permits for single-family homes where hauled water is authorized as the primary source of potable water, the Water Resources Division of DPW anticipates that such facilities, due to their function, would likely convert upland area to waters of the United States. Maintenance activities in open earthen bottom channel, check dams, retention and detention basins would have the potential to require routine removal of riparian and aquatic habitats and would thus be subject to regulation under the State Fish and Game Code Section 1601 (Lake/Streambed Alteration Agreements with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife), and the LACFCD maintenance standards and practices removal or conversion of aquatic and riparian habitats, in perpetuity over the life of the facility during storm season, before storm season, and after storm season. Facility maintenance would normally involve annual mowing of the facility bottom, dewatering of accumulated debris, and excavation of the debris which could include removal of accumulated debris and the root balls of opportunistic vegetation within the debris cone of the facility during cleanouts of the facility, and hauling material to a disposal site. Therefore, LACFCD would not allow any plantings in the vicinity of the facility right of way that would have the potential to attract sensitive species that would have the potential to constrain maintenance and cleanouts of the facility and its appurtenant features.

As a requirement of the grading permit and the building permit application process, the Building and Safety Division requires the property owner to have the capacity for on-site retention of 200 gallons of stormwater through the use of at least two of the Low Impact Development Best Management Practices. These measures are required to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces on natural drainages.

**IMPACT BIO-3: 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?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to biological resources in relation to federally protected wetlands and Waters of the United States as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act because of allowable development in undeveloped locations, warranting the consideration of mitigation measures. The study area includes 1,440 acres of federal wetlands and 220 linear miles of federal waterways. Impacts within each subarea are discussed in detail below. While the proposed initiative would have no direct impacts on federally protected wetlands and waterways, indirect impacts would occur as a result of development being permitted in areas that are currently undeveloped. These impacts would include disruption of streams and wetlands through adjacent development, and dredge and fill activities associated with development. Further, growth-inducing impacts resulting from the proposed initiative would include not only the development of infrastructure on parcels, but associated road improvements which may impact federally protected wetlands via dredge and fill activities. Development of parcels within the proposed initiative study area would be subject to the provisions of Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Dredge or fill in Waters of the United States is subject to the regulatory authority

of the USACOE pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The use of an authorized Nationwide Permit or issuance of an individual permit, requires the project applicant to demonstrate compliance with the Corps' Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule. Each year thousands of property owners undertake projects that affect the nation's aquatic resources. Proposed projects that are determined to impact jurisdictional waters are first subject to review under the Clean Water Act. The USACOE reviews these projects to ensure environmental impacts to aquatic resources are avoided or minimized as much as possible. Consistent with the administration's goal of "no net loss of wetlands" a USACOE permit may require a property owner to restore, establish, enhance or preserve other aquatic resources in order to replace those impacted by the proposed project. This compensatory mitigation process seeks to replace the loss of existing aquatic resource functions and area. Property owners required to complete mitigation are encouraged to use a watershed approach and watershed planning information. The new rule establishes performance standards, sets timeframes for decision making, and to the extent possible, establishes equivalent requirements and standards for the three sources of compensatory mitigation: permittee-responsible mitigation, mitigation banks and in-lieu-fee programs.

Approximately 1,440 acres or 0.4 percent of the proposed initiative study area is potentially located within federal wetlands. Given the reasonable worst-case scenario of 184 building permits per year for a total of 3,680 building permits over the 20-year planning horizon, it can be expected that less than one percent of these 3,680 building permits or fewer than 16 parcels will be issued for areas within federal wetlands and waterways. This would result in approximately 62 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing federal wetlands and waterways and 22 acres of federal wetland and waterway disturbance. As such, the potential for the proposed initiative to impact federal wetlands and waterways exists, which constitutes a significant impact requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

### ***Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce***

This subarea occurs entirely within the Santa Clara River Watershed. There two types of federally protected wetlands and waterways within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea: vernal pools on the Cruzan Mesa and riparian/wetland communities along the edge of the Santa Clara River and tributaries. There are approximately 800 acres of federal wetlands/waterways (two percent of the total subarea) and 125 miles of blue-line waterways that may be impacted within this subarea.

Given the presence of these federal wetlands and waterways, the proposed initiative has the potential to indirectly and significantly affect wetlands and Waters of the United States subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in this subarea. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 800 acres or two percent of this subarea is located within areas containing potential federal wetlands and waterways. It can be expected that two percent of the 735 building permits or 15 parcels will be issued for areas containing federal wetlands and waterways in this subarea. This would result in approximately 59 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing Federal wetlands and waterways and 21 acres of potential federal wetlands and waterways disturbance.

The LACFCD includes the Newhall Ranch portion of the Castaic/ Santa Clarita/ Agua Dulce subarea. In the event any flood protection facility is built in an upland type area, as a result of increased development resulting from approval of building permits for single-family homes where hauled water is authorized as the primary source of potable water, the Water Resources Division of

DPW anticipates that such facilities, due to their function, would likely convert upland area to Waters of the United States. Maintenance activities in open earthen bottom channel, check dams, retention and detention basins would have the potential to require routine removal of riparian and aquatic habitats and would thus be subject to regulation under the Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, and the LACFCD maintenance standards and practices for removal or conversion of aquatic and riparian habitats, in perpetuity over the life of the facility during storm season, before storm season, and after storm season. Facility maintenance would normally involve annual mowing of the facility bottom, dewatering of accumulated debris, and excavation of the debris which could include removal of accumulated debris and the root balls of opportunistic vegetation within the debris cone of the facility during cleanouts of the facility, and hauling material to a disposal site. Therefore, LACFCD would not allow any plantings in the vicinity of the facility right of way that would have the potential to attract sensitive species that would have the potential to constrain maintenance and cleanouts of the facility and its appurtenant features.

As a requirement of the grading permit and the building permit application process, the Building and Safety Division requires the property owner to have the capacity for on-site retention of 200 gallons of stormwater through the use of at least two of the Low Impact Development Best Management Practices. These measures are required to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces on natural drainages.

### ***Acton***

This subarea occurs entirely within the Santa Clara River Watershed but contains fewer tributaries of the Santa Clara River compared to the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Most of the federally protected wetlands and waterways are within the Santa Clara River itself, with a few tributaries. There are approximately 215 acres of federal wetlands/waterways (one percent of the total subarea) and 40 miles of blue-line waterways that may be impacted within this subarea.

Given the presence of these federal wetlands and waterways, the proposed initiative has the potential to indirectly and significantly affect wetlands and Waters of the United States subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in this subarea. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 215 acres or one percent of this subarea is located within areas containing potential Federal wetlands and waterways. It can be expected that one percent of the 737 building permits or seven parcels will be issued for areas containing federal wetlands and waterways in this subarea. This would result in approximately 30 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing federal wetlands and waterways and 11 acres of potential federal wetlands and waterways disturbance in this subarea.

The LACFCD includes the Acton portion of the study area. In the event any flood protection facility is built in an upland type area, as a result of increased development resulting from approval of building permits for single-family homes where hauled water is authorized as the primary source of potable water, the Water Resources Division of DPW anticipates that such facilities, due to their function, would likely convert upland area to Waters of the United States. Maintenance activities in open earthen bottom channel, check dams, retention and detention basins would have the potential to require routine removal of riparian and aquatic habitats and would thus be subject to regulation under the Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, and the LACFCD maintenance standards and practices for removal or conversion of aquatic and riparian habitats, in perpetuity over the life of the facility during storm season, before storm season, and after storm season. Facility maintenance would normally involve annual mowing of the facility bottom,

dewatering of accumulated debris, and excavation of the debris which could include removal of accumulated debris and the root balls of opportunistic vegetation within the debris cone of the facility during cleanouts of the facility, and hauling material to a disposal site. Therefore, LACFCD would not allow any plantings in the vicinity of the facility right of way that would have the potential to attract sensitive species that would have the potential to constrain maintenance and cleanouts of the facility and its appurtenant features.

As a requirement of the grading permit and the building permit application process, the Building and Safety Division requires the property owner to have the capacity for on-site retention of 200 gallons of stormwater through the use of at least two of the Low Impact Development Best Management Practices. These measures are required to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces on natural drainages.

### ***Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster***

This subarea occurs partially within the Santa Clara River Watershed, which are the parcels south of Portal Ridge and the Mojave Desert. In addition, blue-line drainages and wetlands that feed into Quail Lake in this subarea are classified as federal wetlands and potentially subject to the jurisdiction of the USACOE. Wetlands in this subarea are either within riparian areas, drainages, or wet meadows. There are approximately 245 acres of wetlands/waterways (less than one percent of the total subarea) and 35 miles of blue-line waterways that may be impacted within this subarea.

Given the presence of these federal wetlands and waterways, the proposed initiative has the potential to indirectly and significantly affect wetlands and Waters of the United States subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in this subarea. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 245 acres or less than one percent of this subarea is located within areas containing potential federal wetlands and waterways. It can be expected that less than one percent of the 847 building permits or two parcels will be issued for areas containing federal wetlands and waterways in this subarea. This would result in approximately 7 acres of potential development in areas potentially containing federal wetlands and waterways and 2 acres of potential federal wetlands and waterways disturbance in this subarea.

### ***Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock***

There are no wetlands or waterways that connect to navigable waterways within this subarea. There are expected to be no impacts to federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act within this subarea.

### ***Antelope Valley Northeast***

There are no wetlands or waterways that connect to navigable waterways within this subarea. There are expected to be no impacts to federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act within this subarea.

### ***Lancaster Northeast***

There are no wetlands or waterways that connect to navigable waterways within this subarea. There are expected to be no impacts to federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act within this subarea.

### ***East San Gabriel Mountains***

This subarea occurs partially within the Los Angeles River Watershed and partially within the San Gabriel River Watershed. There are approximately 180 acres of wetlands/waterways (four percent of the total subarea) and 20 miles of blue-line waterways that may be impacted within this subarea.

Given the presence of these federal wetlands and waterways, the proposed initiative has the potential to indirectly and significantly affect wetlands and Waters of the United States subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. However, the reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that zero parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, it is not anticipated that substantial impacts to federal wetlands and waterways will occur in this subarea.

The proposed initiative would be expected to result in significant impacts to Waters of the United States and other wetlands. The County does not currently require property owners to demonstrate compliance with Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act during the building permit application process. However, the USACOE requires property owners seeking authorization to exercise a Nationwide Permit or seeking an Individual Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act to demonstrate that there will be no net loss of habitat function or value as a result of the Section 404 Nationwide or Individual Permit. Therefore, alteration of lands subject to the jurisdiction of the USACOE, as a result of the construction of single-family homes and infrastructure developed as a result of the proposed initiative would be expected to be reduced to below the level of significance, as required by the USACOE Section 404 permitting process.

The LACFCD includes the East San Gabriel Mountains portion of the study area. In the event any flood protection facility is built in an upland type area, as a result of increased development resulting from approval of building permits for single-family homes where hauled water is authorized as the primary source of potable water, the Water Resources Division of DPW anticipates that such facilities, due to their function, would likely convert upland area to Waters of the United States. Maintenance activities in open earthen bottom channel, check dams, retention and detention basins would have the potential to require routine removal of riparian and aquatic habitats and would thus be subject to regulation under the Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, and the LACFCD maintenance standards and practices for removal or conversion of aquatic and riparian habitats, in perpetuity over the life of the facility during storm season, before storm season, and after storm season. Facility maintenance would normally involve annual mowing of the facility bottom, dewatering of accumulated debris, and excavation of the debris which could include removal of accumulated debris and the root balls of opportunistic vegetation within the debris cone of the facility during cleanouts of the facility, and hauling material to a disposal site. Therefore, LACFCD would not allow any plantings in the vicinity of the facility right of way that would have the potential to attract sensitive species that would have the potential to constrain maintenance and cleanouts of the facility and its appurtenant features.

As a requirement of the grading permit and the building permit application process, the Building and Safety Division requires the property owner to have the capacity for on-site retention of 200 gallons of stormwater through the use of at least two of the Low Impact Development Best Management Practices. These measures are required to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces on natural drainages.

**IMPACT BIO-4: 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?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to biological resources in relation to migratory wildlife corridors and nursery sites because of allowable development in undeveloped locations, warranting the consideration of mitigation measures. Throughout the study area, there are 146,715 acres of 10 SEAs. Impacts within each subarea are discussed in detail below. While the proposed initiative would have no direct impacts on migratory corridors and nursery sites, indirect impacts would occur as a result of development being permitted in areas that are currently undeveloped. These impacts would include direct habitat fragmentation that would disrupt corridor functionality as parcels are developed, and introduction of lighting and noise that may disturb nursery sites. Further, growth-inducing impacts resulting from the proposed initiative would include not only the development of infrastructure on parcels, but associated road improvements which may impact wildlife corridors and nursery sites through disturbance and removal of vegetation as well as increased light and noise during and after improvements. The current SEA ordinance does not regulate the development of single-family residences; as such, significant impacts to SEAs within the study area would occur as a result of the proposed initiative.

The proposed initiative allows for development of previously undeveloped areas where development has been limited due to the location of a parcel outside the limits of an established water district, where the property owner has not been able to demonstrate access to a reliable source of potable water. Developing these parcels has the potential to disrupt migratory corridors differently than the impacts on other biological resources previously disclosed because even one development within a frequented corridor could shift wildlife patterns, especially for more elusive, human-shy species. Furthermore, the proposed initiative would result in habitat fragmentation which could in turn result in many small obstacles for wildlife movement rather than a clear, unobstructed pathway.

Approximately 146,715 acres or 43 percent of the proposed initiative study area is potentially located within state-sensitive plant communities. Given the reasonable worst-case scenario of 184 building permits per year for a total of 3,680 building permits over the 20-year planning horizon, it can be expected that 43 percent of these 3,680 building permits or 1,582 parcels will be issued for areas within SEAs. This would result in approximately 6,330 acres of potential development in areas within SEAs and 2,279 acres of SEA disturbance. As such, the potential for the proposed initiative to impact wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites exists, which constitutes a significant impact requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

***Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce***

Parcel development along the Santa Clara River in this subarea has the potential to obstruct movement along the river and tributaries if roads and driveways must be developed to cross these corridors. Furthermore, the river itself is an important nursery site for several species of fish. Several parcels in this subarea occur high in the Santa Susanna Mountains, but these parcels appear to have been incorporated into Open Space Preserves, thereby protecting the corridor. Most of the remaining areas within potential migratory corridors are located east of Piru Lake, where wildlife

movement occurs between the San Gabriel and the Sierra Pelona Mountains; this linkage has been identified as important within the South Coast Missing Linkages report.<sup>28</sup>

Potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites within this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 14,920 acres or 42 percent of this subarea is located within SEAs. It can be expected that 42 percent of the 735 building permits or 309 parcels will be issued for areas within SEAs in this subarea. This would result in approximately 1,235 acres of potential development in areas within SEAs and 445 acres of potential SEA disturbance in this subarea.

### ***Acton***

Parcel development along the Santa Clara River in this subarea has the potential to obstruct movement along the river and tributaries if roads and driveways must be developed to cross these corridors. Furthermore, the river itself is an important nursery site for several species of fish. Several parcels in this subarea occur within a migratory pathway between the Sierra Pelona Mountains the San Gabriel Mountains along a pathway that crosses near Agua Dulce.<sup>29</sup>

Potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites within this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 3,685 acres or 20 percent of this subarea is located within SEAs. It can be expected that 20 percent of the 737 building permits or 147 parcels will be issued for areas within SEAs in this subarea. This would result in approximately 590 acres of potential development in areas within SEAs and 212 acres of potential SEA disturbance in this subarea.

### ***Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster***

This subarea is likely important as a migratory corridor because Portal Ridge and Leona Valley move wildlife from the San Gabriel Mountains into the San Emigdio Mountains and Tehachapi Mountains. For this reason, the area around Gorman may be important because of linkages between the Mojave Desert and Central Valley and among the different mountain ranges. It is expected that California Condors may move through the Gorman area given that populations have been reintroduced into the Topatopa and Tehachapi Mountains.

Potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites within this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 44,095 acres or 35 percent of this subarea is located within SEAs. It can be expected that 35 percent of the 847 building permits or 296 parcels will be issued for areas within SEAs. This would result in approximately 1,186 acres of potential development in areas within SEAs and 427 acres of potential SEA disturbance in this subarea.

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<sup>28</sup> South Coast Wildlands. March 2005. South Coast Missing Linkages Project: A Linkage Design for the Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection. Available online at: [http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCML\\_SierraMadre\\_Castaic.pdf](http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCML_SierraMadre_Castaic.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> South Coast Wildlands. March 2004. South Coast Missing Linkages Project: A Linkage Design for the San Gabriel-Castaic Connection. Available online at: [http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCML\\_SanGabriel\\_Castaic.pdf](http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCML_SanGabriel_Castaic.pdf)

### ***Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock***

Parcels located along the Big Rock Wash, Little Rock Wash, and other small washes that feed into Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes are situated within known migration routes for wildlife. Such washes could allow wildlife to move between the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and Rogers/Rosamond Dry Lakes. Furthermore, the dry lakes on Edwards Air Force Base are considered a globally significant area for wintering and migrating birds.

Potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites within this subarea are significant. The impacts described above assume that every parcel within this subarea will be developed as a result of the proposed initiative. Approximately 49,385 acres or 46 percent of this subarea is located within SEAs. It can be expected that 46 percent of the 1,251 building permits or 575 parcels will be issued for areas within SEAs in this subarea. This would result in approximately 2,302 acres of potential development in areas within SEAs and 829 acres of potential SEA disturbance.

### ***Antelope Valley Northeast***

This subarea occurs east of the main wildlife corridors between the San Gabriel Mountains and Rogers/Rosamond Dry Lakes. However, this subarea links Antelope Valley to the eastern Mojave Desert, via the Kramer Hills, and may be a corridor between Rogers/Rosamond Dry Lakes and El Mirage Dry Lake. The Antelope Valley SEA covers 10,870 acres or 75 percent of this subarea in part because of the existence of this wildlife movement. Additionally the subarea is within the migratory corridor moving along the Big Rock Wash, Little Rock Wash, and other small washes that feed into Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes.

The reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that zero parcels within the Antelope Valley Northeast subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, it is not anticipated that substantial impacts to migratory corridors or nursery sites will occur in this subarea.

### ***Lancaster Northeast***

This subarea is within the same corridor as the Antelope Valley Northeast and Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subareas. These parcels are located adjacent to the Rogers and Rosamond Dry Lakes, which are considered globally important areas for wintering and migrating birds.

Therefore, potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites within this subarea have the potential to be substantial. Approximately 23,280 acres or 66 percent of this subarea is located within SEAs. It can be expected that 66 percent of the 110 building permits or 73 parcels will be issued for areas within SEAs in this subarea. This would result in approximately 290 acres of potential development in areas within SEAs and 105 acres of potential SEA disturbance in this subarea.

### ***East San Gabriel Mountains***

The eastern edge of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea is within the corridor connecting the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. The San Gabriel River Watershed, which occupies the eastern portion of the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea, is a nursery site for many endemic fish

species such as the Santa Ana sucker and the Santa Ana speckled dace. In total, approximately 485 acres (12 percent of the total subarea) of the subarea that may be impacted by the proposed initiative are located within SEAs, which often serve as wildlife corridors.

The reasonable worst-case scenario assumes that zero parcels within the East San Gabriel Mountains subarea would be issued building permits over the 20-year 2015 to 2035 planning horizon. As such, it is not anticipated that substantial impacts to migratory corridors or nursery sites will occur in this subarea.

The proposed initiative would be expected to result in significant impacts to wildlife movement corridors, particularly whose importance is recognized pursuant to a designation as an SEA, as a result of the development of single-family homes and related infrastructure that would be expected to result in the development of up to 1,582 parcels, and conversion of 2,279 acres of habitat within SEAs. However, there is no federal, State, or local statute that requires avoidance or compensation for natural habitat or wildlife movement corridors within SEAs that are converted to single-family residences or related infrastructure. The conversion of an estimated 2,279 acres of habitat and potential wildlife movement areas would be a significant impact.

**IMPACT BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to biological resources in relation to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources because of allowable development in currently undeveloped locations, warranting the consideration of mitigation measures. Facilitating development throughout the study area has the potential to conflict with local policies protecting biological resources that are relevant to the proposed initiative. Conflicts with each applicable Plan and/or Ordinance are discussed below. The potential for the proposed initiative to impact biological resources in relation to conflicts with local policies and ordinances exists, which constitutes a significant impact requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

***Los Angeles County General Plan 2035***

Policy C/NR 3.1 of the Plan states that the County will “conserve and enhance the ecological function of diverse natural habitats and biological resources.” The proposed initiative would be expected to conflict with this policy because the initiative would allow for building residences in areas that currently cannot be developed for single-family residences due to lack of a reliable source of potable water, including parcels that may contain natural habitats and sensitive biological resources. If development occurs on these parcels as a result of the proposed initiative, then the ecological function of the parcels would be disrupted. Furthermore, although single-family residences are currently permitted within SEAs, any development within the SEAs could result in a decrease in function of the ecosystems.

Policy C/NR 3.6 states that the County will “assist state and federal agencies and other agencies, as appropriate, with the preservation of special-status species and their associated habitat and wildlife movement corridors through the administration of the SEAs and other programs.” The proposed initiative would not affect the County’s ability to coordinate with state and federal agencies regarding special status species and their associated habitat and wildlife movement corridors through the administration of the SEAs and other programs. Therefore, the proposed initiative is not expected to conflict with this policy.

Policy C/NR 3.8 states that the County will “Discourage development in areas with identified significant biological resources, such as SEAs.” The proposed initiative would conflict with this policy because it would indirectly encourage development within SEAs (which cover approximately 23 percent of the study area) through allowing the use of hauled water for ministerial single-family residential development. Similarly, Policy C/NR 3.11 states that the County will “discourage development in riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, and other native woodlands in order to maintain and support their preservation in a natural state, unaltered by grading, fill, or diversion activities.” The proposed initiative is expected to partially conflict with this policy because while any alteration of waters of the State would require a Streambed Alteration Agreement for which CDFW would ensure that no net loss of habitat functions or values occurs, other native woodlands are not afforded this protection under state or federal statutes. Any discharge of dredge or fill material into federal Waters of the United States would be subject to a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. As such, adherence to state and federal regulations related to watersheds, streams, and riparian vegetation would partially eliminate conflicts with this policy. However, conflicts related to development in native woodlands would remain.

Policy C/NR 3.9 states that the County will “consider [biological resources] in the design of a project that is located within an SEA.” The proposed initiative is not expected to conflict with this policy because this policy is wholly directed to developments, exclusive of single-family residences. Further, the proposed initiative is not expected to conflict with Policy C/NR 3.10 because the proposed initiative does not affect the County’s ability to “require environmentally superior mitigation for unavoidable impacts on biologically sensitive areas, and permanently preserve mitigation sites.”

The proposed initiative is expected to conflict with Goal C/NR 4.1 of the Plan Update that promotes “conserved and sustainably managed woodlands.” The proposed initiative may result in impacts to oak woodlands as a result of allowing single-family residential development in areas that are currently limited by water availability. Therefore, the proposed initiative is expected to conflict with Policy C/NR 4.1 because of potential effects on the County’s ability to “preserve and restore oak woodlands and other native woodlands that are conserved in perpetuity with a goal of no net loss of existing woodlands.” The County building permit process notifies property owners of the need to comply with the County’s Oak Tree Ordinance. The County requires applicants for Oak Tree Permits to demonstrate that oak trees will be avoided during construction and/or the loss of the oak tree will be compensated as a result of the issuance of the Permit; therefore, the removal of oak trees, as a result of the construction of single-family homes and infrastructure, developed as a result of the proposed initiative would be expected to be reduced to below the level of significance, as required by the County’s Oak Tree permitting process.

### ***2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan***

Of the 42,867 parcels in the proposed initiative study area, 2,243 are located within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Only parcels located within this subarea fall within the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan.

The proposed initiative is expected to conflict with Policies CO-3.2.1 and CO-3.3.1 because the proposed initiative could indirectly result in impacts to wetlands, riparian habitat, and wildlife corridors along the Santa Clara River and tributaries, including the Cruzan Mesa; these wetlands are expected to be jurisdictional to the USACOE and CDFW. Any alteration of waters of the State would require a Streambed Alteration Agreement for which CDFW would ensure that no net loss

of habitat functions or values occurs. Similarly, any discharge of dredge or fill material into federal Waters of the United States would be subject to a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. As such, adherence to state and federal regulations related to watersheds, streams, and riparian vegetation would reduce conflicts with this policy.

The proposed initiative also is expected to conflict with Policy CO-3.2.2 and CO-3.5.3 because parcels in the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea are located within Coast Live Oak Woodlands and other plant communities likely to have protected oak species. The Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance requires the replacement of mature and heritage oak trees should they be impacted or removed. As such, adherence to this ordinance would reduce conflicts with this policy. In addition, the proposed initiative is expected to conflict with Policy CO-3.2.3 because it affects the County's ability to "ensure protection of any endangered or threatened species or habitat, in conformance with State and federal laws" within the Castaic/Santa Clarita/Agua Dulce subarea. Development as a result of the proposed initiative could affect wildlife movement corridors, including between Castaic and the San Gabriel Mountains, which is in conflict with Policy CO-3.3.3.

The proposed initiative is expected to conflict with Policy CO-3.2.4 because single-family residences are exempt from the conditions of the SEA CUP and the SEA Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC) process. This will conflict with the County's ability to "protect biological resources in the designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) through the siting and design of development which is highly compatible with the SEA resources." The proposed initiative would result in an incremental degradation of habitat and habitat conversion which would conflict with this policy. The proposed initiative is not expected to conflict with Policy CO-3.6.5, which states that the County will "ensure revegetation of graded areas and slopes adjacent to natural open space areas with native plants (consistent with fire prevention requirements)" because the initiative will not impact the County's ability to enforce this policy.

### ***2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan – Town & Country***

The Acton, Antelope Valley Northeast, East San Gabriel Mountains, Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster, Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock, and Lancaster Northeast subareas are within the adopted Antelope Valley Area Plan.

The proposed initiative would conflict with Policy COS 4.1 of the Antelope Valley Area Plan because the policy states that the County will "direct the majority of the unincorporated Antelope Valley's future growth to rural town centers and economic opportunity areas, minimizing the potential for habitat loss and negative impacts in Significant Ecological Areas." The proposed initiative would allow for the development of areas outside of rural town centers and within SEAs, thus directly conflicting with this policy. Similarly, the proposed initiative would conflict with Policy COS 4.2 because the policy states that the County shall "limit the amount of potential development in Significant Ecological Areas, including the Joshua Tree Woodlands, wildlife corridors, and other sensitive habitat areas, through appropriate land use designations with very low residential densities." Residential densities would increase in these sensitive areas as result of the proposed initiative; thus, the proposed initiative conflicts with this policy. Policy COS 4.3 states that the County shall "require new development in Significant Ecological Areas to comply with applicable Zoning Code requirements, ensuring that development occurs on the most environmentally suitable portions of the land." The proposed initiative will not impact the way that the County shall evaluate building permits in SEAs and therefore will not conflict with the County's ability to enforce this policy. Similarly, Policy COS 4.4 states that the County shall require new

development in SEAs to consider [biological resources] in the design of the project to the greatest extent feasible." The proposed initiative is not expected to conflict with this policy because this policy is wholly directed to developments, exclusive of single-family residences.

Policies COS 4.5 and COS 4.7 state that the County shall "require new development to provide adequate buffers from preserves, sanctuaries, habitat areas..." and "restrict fencing in wildlife corridors." The proposed initiative would not prevent the county from enforcing these requirements for new development; therefore, the proposed initiative is not expected to conflict with these policies. Policy 4.6 states that the County shall "encourage connections between natural open space areas to allow for wildlife movement." The proposed initiative would conflict with this policy because residential densities would increase in wildlife movement areas as result of the proposed initiative which would reduce connections between natural open space areas.

#### *Los Angeles County Code Section 22.56.215 – Hillside Management and Significant Ecological Areas – Additional Regulations*

Under the adopted Hillside Management and Significant Ecological Area Ordinances 22.56.215, single-family residences where not more than one such residence is proposed to be built by the same person on contiguous lots or parcels are exempt from the requirement to obtain a conditional use permit. Therefore, there would be no impacts related to conflicts with existing ordinance 22.56.215 resulting from the proposed initiative.

#### ***County Code Sections 22.56.2050 – 22.56.2260 – Oak Trees***

There is the potential for protected oak trees to be present on or within the vicinity of parcels in all subareas affected by the proposed initiative. However, any development on parcels within unincorporated Los Angeles County is required to demonstrate compliance with this ordinance as a part of the site plan review process. This requirement would not change as a result of the proposed initiative. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not conflict with the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance.

#### ***Acton Community Standards District***

Parcels containing native vegetation under the jurisdiction of the Acton CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area, and may be impacted as a result of development influenced by the proposed initiative. However, any development of parcels within the Acton CSD would be required to comply with the provisions of the CSD. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not conflict with the provisions of the Acton CSD.

#### ***Juniper Hills Community Standards District***

Parcels containing vegetation that would be removed during the construction of a single-family residence under the jurisdiction of the Juniper Hills CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area. However, any development of parcels within the Juniper Hills CSD would be required to comply with the provisions of the CSD. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not conflict with the provisions of the Juniper Hills CSD.

### ***Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes Community Standards District***

Parcels containing vegetation that would be removed during the construction of a single-family residence under the jurisdiction of the Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area. However, any development of parcels within the Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD would be required to comply with the provisions of the CSD. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not conflict with the provisions of the Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes CSD.

### ***Castaic Area Community Standards District***

Parcels containing locally indigenous vegetation, oak trees, and in the vicinity of creeks that would be impacted during the construction of a single-family residence under the jurisdiction of the Castaic Area CSD are present within the proposed initiative study area. However, any development of parcels within the Castaic Area CSD would be required to comply with the provisions of the CSD. Therefore, the proposed initiative would not conflict with the provisions of the Castaic Area CSD.

### **IMPACT BIO-6: Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan?**

The proposed initiative would not result in significant impacts to biological resources in relation to a conflict with an applicable HCP or NCCP. Approximately 50 percent of the Acton subarea, 100 percent of the Antelope Valley North East sub area, and approximately 80 percent of the Lake Hughes/Gorman/West of Lancaster subarea are within the DRECP. The DRECP is a proposed multispecies HCP intended to conserve threatened and endangered species and natural communities in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions of southern California. However, the DRECP only applies to the development of renewable energy projects.

Similarly, the same areas of the proposed initiative parcels are located within the West Mojave Plan HCP as the boundaries of both HCPs as they affect Los Angeles County are the same. However, the West Mojave Plan HCP does not apply to the proposed initiative because potential hauled water parcels are not located on federal lands and the initiative would not trigger a federal nexus.<sup>30</sup><sup>31</sup> Therefore, the proposed initiative would not result in impacts to biological resources in relation to a conflict with an applicable HCP or NCCP and no mitigation measures are required.

### **3.7.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The incremental impact of the proposed project to biological resources, when added to the related past, present, or reasonably foreseeable, probable future projects listed in Section 2, *Project Description*, would be expected to be significant with regards to biological resources because these projects would contribute to an increase in habitat fragmentation and development upon native habitats. The four related projects are the Centennial Project, High Desert Corridor Project,

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<sup>30</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Accessed 24 November 2014. Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP). Available online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/>.

<sup>31</sup> Renewable Energy Action Team. Accessed 24 November 2014. Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Available online at: <http://www.drecp.org/>

Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and Northlake Specific Plan. The High Desert Corridor Project, which would involve construction of the 63-mile High Desert Corridor as a new transportation facility in the High Desert region of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties to provide route continuity and relieve traffic congestion between State Route 14 in Los Angeles County and State Route 18 and Interstate 15 in San Bernardino County, would be expected to result in habitat fragmentation and conversion of natural landscape containing sensitive biological resources into paved roads. Increased access to undeveloped areas as a result of extension of roads through the Lake Los Angeles/Llano/Valyermo/Littlerock subarea to the City of Palmdale would also be expected to indirectly increase housing development within the rural communities of Pearblossom, Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, Valyermo, and Llano as a result of increased transportation access within the subarea, resulting in further habitat fragmentation. The Centennial Project, which has not yet begun the environmental review process, would be expected to result in the development of 23,000 homes within the Antelope Valley Area Plan area, which would likely result in substantial habitat fragmentation and development of natural landscape containing sensitive biological resources.<sup>32,33</sup> The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan includes 20,885 residential units, and the Northlake Specific Plan includes 2,337 single-family dwellings.

**IMPACT BIO-1: 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

The proposed initiative would not contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to impacts on federally and/or state-listed species, state rare plant species, fully protected species, California Desert Native Plants, and furbearing mammal species because both projects would be subject to the federal ESA, Section 2080 of the CESA, and the applicable sections of the State Fish and Game Code which would require the undertaking of conservation measures prior to the issuance of take permits.

The proposed initiative would contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to impacts on other sensitive and/or rare plant and animal species not afforded protection under the federal and/or state ESAs or the State Fish and Game Code as a result of an incremental loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation for these species.

**IMPACT BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

The proposed initiative would not contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to impacts on state jurisdictional riparian habitats because all developments would be subject to

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<sup>32</sup> CaliforniaCityNews.org 18 April 2012. The Town of Centennial: New Master-Planned Community Slowly Moves Forward. Available online at: <https://www.californiacitynews.org/2014/06/town-centennial-new-master-planned-community-slowly-moves-forward.html>

<sup>33</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. March 2004. Notice of Preparation: Centennial Specific Plan Project Description. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/sp\\_02-232\\_notice-of-preparation.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/sp_02-232_notice-of-preparation.pdf)

Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code, which would require a Streambed Alteration Agreement prior to the alteration of a State jurisdictional area.

The proposed initiative would contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to impacts on state-sensitive plant communities and riparian communities in upland habitat as a result of an incremental loss of habitat.

**IMPACT BIO-3: 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?**

The proposed initiative would not contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to impacts on federally protected wetlands and waterways because all projects would be subject to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, which would require no net loss of habitat function or value.

**IMPACT BIO-4: 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?**

The proposed initiative would contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to impacts on migratory corridors and nursery sites as a result of an incremental loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation.

**IMPACT BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

The proposed initiative would contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to conflicts with local policies and ordinances as a result of an incremental net loss of habitat.

**IMPACT BIO-6: Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan?**

The proposed initiative is not subject to any HCPs or NCCPs and would not contribute incrementally with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan to conflicts with HCPs and NCCPs.

Overall, the impacts to biological resources as a result of the proposed initiative that would involve the development of 3,680 parcels within the proposed initiative study area within the 2015 to 2035 20-year planning horizon would increase habitat fragmentation and would incrementally contribute to indirect cumulative impacts, in combination with the High Desert Corridor Project, the Centennial Project, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, and the Northlake Specific Plan.

### 3.7.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

The proposed initiative would result in significant impacts to biological resources related to listed and sensitive species, riparian and sensitive plant communities, Waters of the United States, migratory corridors and nursery sites, and conflicts with general plans and policies, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

**IMPACT BIO-1: 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

No feasible mitigation measures have been identified.

**IMPACT BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

No feasible mitigation measures have been identified.

**IMPACT BIO-3: 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?**

No feasible mitigation measures have been identified.

**IMPACT BIO-4: 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?**

No feasible mitigation measures have been identified.

**IMPACT BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

**MM-AES-1.**

**IMPACT BIO-6: Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan?**

The consideration of mitigation measures is not required.

### 3.7.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

**IMPACT BIO-1: 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division plan check and agency referral process, and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with applicable provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, and the California Native Plant Protection Act (Sections 1900–1913 of the State Fish and Game Code), which require that there can be no adverse effect on the ability of rare, threatened, or endangered species to survive and recover in the wild; Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the State Fish and Game Code, which prohibit take of State-designated “Fully Protected” species; Sections 80071–80075 of the State Food and Agricultural Code, which provides limitations that prohibit the harvest, transport, or possess certain native desert plants without authorization; and Section 4150 of the State Fish and Game Code, which provide limitations that prohibit the take of specific fur-bearing mammals (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). Therefore, compliance with these statutes would be expected to reduce impacts to these species to below the level of significance.

The County has identified Best Practices that may be employed to avoid and minimize the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on candidate, sensitive, and special status species not afforded protection under the statutes outlined above (please see Appendix D, *Best Practices*). However, development of a single-family residence is a by-right land use subject to a non-discretionary building permit, and the County may not compel property owners to implement the identified Best Practices. Therefore, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on candidate, sensitive, and special status species not afforded protection under federal and state statutes would be **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division plan check and agency referral process, and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with applicable provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code, which require that there is no net loss of habitat function or value of riparian habitats under the jurisdiction of CDFW, as the basis for issuance of Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). Therefore, compliance with applicable provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code would be expected to reduce impacts to riparian habitat under the jurisdiction of CDFW to below the level of significance.

The County has identified Best Practices that may be employed to avoid, reduce, or compensate for the net loss of State-designated sensitive plant communities and riparian communities that do not fall within areas under the jurisdiction of the CDFW, under Section 1600 of the State Fish and

Game Code (please see Appendix D, *Best Practices*). However, development of a single-family residence is a by-right land use subject to a non-discretionary building permit, and the County may not compel property owners to implement the identified Best Practices. Therefore, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on State-designated sensitive plant communities and riparian communities that do not fall within areas under the jurisdiction of the CDFW would be **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT BIO-3: 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?**

As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division plan check and agency referral process, and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with applicable provisions of Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, which requires the demonstration that the project would be in compliance the USACOE's Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule, which would result in no net loss of habitat function or value, as the basis for determination of eligibility for an Nationwide Permit or issuance of an individual permit (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). Compliance with applicable provisions of Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act would be expected to reduce impacts to federally protected wetlands to below the level of significance. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

**IMPACT BIO-4: 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?**

As part of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division plan check and agency referral process, and the Department of Regional Planning Site Plan Review Application, property owners that have been determined to be eligible to develop properties using hauled water as the primary source of potable water would be notified of the requirement to comply with applicable provisions of Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the State Fish and Game Code, which prohibit take nests or eggs of native resident and migratory birds (please see Appendix C, *Regulatory Measures*). Therefore, compliance with applicable provisions of Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the State Fish and Game Code would be expected to reduce impacts to nursery sites for native resident and migratory birds below the level of significance.

The County has identified Best Practices that may be employed to avoid, reduce, or compensate for substantial interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or use of native wildlife nursery sites (please see Appendix D, *Best Practices*). However, development of a single-family residence is a by-right land use subject to a non-discretionary building permit, and the County may not compel property owners to implement the identified Best Practices. Therefore, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts related to interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or use of native wildlife nursery sites would be **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed initiative on oak trees protected by the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance would be expected to be reduced below the level of significance through the implementation of **MM-AES-1**.

The County has identified Best Practices that may be used to demonstrate consistency with general plan goals and policies related to biological resources not afforded protection by federal, state, and local statutes and regulations (please see Appendix D, *Best Practices*). However, development of a single-family residence is a by-right land use subject to a non-discretionary building permit, and the County may not compel property owners to implement the identified Best Practices. Therefore, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts related to conflicts with general plan goals and policies related to biological resources not afforded protection by federal, state, and local statutes and regulations would be **significant and unavoidable**.

**IMPACT BIO-6: Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan?**

The proposed initiative would not result in significant impacts to biological resources relating to conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. The consideration of mitigation measures is not required, and impacts would be **less than significant**.