

18. San Dimas Canyon and San Antonio Wash SEA

Location

General

The San Dimas Canyon and San Antonio Wash Significant Ecological Area (SEA) is located along the cismontane foothills of the eastern San Gabriel Mountains. Generally, the SEA is centered on the mouths of four major canyons, which flow from the mountains and interconnecting terrain. From east to west, these canyons include San Antonio Canyon above the City of Claremont as one component; and Live Oak, Marshall, and San Dimas canyons above the cities of La Verne and San Dimas as a second component. The SEA incorporates areas with diverse natural habitat ranging from high elevations to the foothill alluvial areas of two of the major drainages of the San Gabriel Mountains. San Dimas Canyon is a tributary of the San Gabriel River. San Antonio Wash is a tributary of the Santa Ana River.

The SEA is found within the Mount Baldy and Ontario U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' California Quadrangles.

General Boundary and Resources Description

Over most of its boundaries, particularly to the north, east, and west of both the San Dimas Canyon and San Antonio Wash components, the SEA is bordered by open space within the Angeles National Forest. Generally to the south, however, the borders are mostly defined by the edge of urban development within the San Gabriel Valley. The San Dimas Canyon component covers approximately 5,500 acres and includes portions of Live Oak, Marshall, and San Dimas canyons. The smaller component, San Antonio Canyon, covers approximately 1,200 acres of the San Antonio Canyon alluvial outwash. In total, this SEA encompasses 6,727 acres.

In general, the topography of the SEA is severe, consisting of steep-walled canyons and narrow ridgelines. Elevations range from a high of approximately 3,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL) along the ridges of San Dimas Canyon, to a low of approximately 451 feet above MSL in San Antonio Wash. Several major drainages and numerous tributaries exit the San Gabriel Mountains through this SEA.

The wide range of elevation, topography, slope aspect, and geology represent a wide array of physical habitats within this SEA. Consequently, a number of plant communities exist, including grasslands, riparian, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Within these major community types, there are many sub-communities, which vary according to plant species dominance. This area contains the last remaining relatively well-developed lower montane riparian habitat in the eastern County. Dammed drainages have created significant reservoirs or flood control basins in the SEA. The SEA is within several jurisdictions including: the Angeles National Forest, the unincorporated area of the County, the City of Claremont, the City of Glendora, the City of La Verne, and the City of San Dimas.

The more westerly component of this SEA generally includes portions of the lower watersheds of San Dimas, Marshall, and Live Oak canyons, which is part of the San Dimas Canyon component. The San Dimas Canyon watershed is part of the Experimental Forest section of the Angeles National Forest. Experiments were conducted and data was collected here during the latter half of the 20th century to determine the relationships among rainfall, topography, vegetation, and runoff. Much of the work and results influenced flood control in the Los Angeles Basin and even other areas of the U.S. The area was carefully protected through very limited and monitored access. The terrain

chiefly includes undisturbed natural habitats of rocky canyon walls and canyon forest, riparian areas of many vegetation types, coniferous and oak forest, chaparral, and grassland. A few slopes were altered with vegetation removal in order to experiment on the effect of vegetation, and some of these are still grassland.

This SEA area on the border of the granitic San Gabriel Mountains has unusual rock strata, such as the Glendora Volcanics. Much of the grassland is natural and has unusual vegetation, such as wildflowers that prefer clay substrates. Not too distant from this area are critical habitat areas for the endangered thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*). Some of these brodiaea and other rare wildflowers could occur in appropriate habitat of the SEA in undiscovered populations.

Beginning at Johnstone Peak in the west, the western boundary follows the ridgeline separating Big Dalton Canyon and San Dimas Canyon. Just before this ridgeline is intersected by Big Dalton Canyon Road, the SEA boundary turns east. From the area of Big Dalton Canyon Road, the northern boundary follows and crosses over a series of ridgelines to include the upper portions of several tributary canyons. It continues in this fashion in a southeasterly direction eventually meeting and following the Sunset Ridge Fire Road (Sunset Peak Motorway), which separates Wolfskill and Marshall canyons. The tributaries San Dimas Canyon include Lodi, West Fork of San Dimas, and San Dimas from near the junction with Wolfskill Canyon. The lower section of Wolfskill Canyon with and below the Wolfskill Falls is included in the SEA. The upper section of Wolfskill is not included in the SEA, but much of Marshall Canyon watershed is included, along with watersheds of Live Oak and Webb canyons in the City of Claremont.

A large lobe of the SEA extends from the Sunset Ridge Fire Road on the dividing ridgeline, to include lush canyon forests and chaparral of the slopes above the City of La Verne and City of Claremont. Most of this lobe is in municipal or private ownership. The Angeles National Forest boundary is about a 0.1 mile south of the Sunset Ridge Fire Road. The eastern boundary leaves the fire road and travels south along a ridgeline, including Live Oak Canyon in the SEA, but separating out the more developed watersheds of Palmer, Cobal, Burbank, and Gail canyons in the City of Claremont. A finger of the SEA includes the lush riparian oak forest of Webb Canyon to the edge of a development. The lobe of the SEA excludes an area around the residences and equestrian areas that surround Live Oak Reservoir. Live Oak Canyon Reservoir and its riparian oak woodland is included as far south as Base Line Road. The ridges and dissected canyons that border Live Oak Reservoir are included as far south as Base Line Road. However, the flat area of the ridge around Live Oak Reservoir and development in the periphery are excluded. The northwestern edge of the lobe includes the riparian area and slopes of Marshall Creek, but excludes developed areas, such as the Marshall Canyon Regional Park and Golf Course. The lobe boundary returns north into the Angeles National Forest at the Sunset Ridge Fire Road along the edge of Marshall Creek and the western ridge of Marshall Canyon.

From Sunset Ridge Fire Road, the southern boundary of the SEA is within the Angeles National Forest and follows the ridgeline that includes the watershed of San Dimas Canyon. The San Dimas Reservoir, with good habitat for waterfowl, is included in the SEA. The SEA extends a finger out of the Angeles National Forest along San Dimas Canyon road to include the riparian habitat along the watercourse, which is a rare example of the lowland riparian community. From the Angeles National Forest boundary and rocky cliffs above the west side of San Dimas Canyon, the SEA boundary follows the ridge of Lodi Canyon (tributary of San Dimas Canyon) to Johnstone Peak.

The eastern, disjunct segment of the SEA (San Antonio Wash) follows the San Bernardino-Los Angeles County line as its eastern boundary from about a 0.5 mile upstream of the San Antonio Dam through the San Antonio debris basin, past the San Antonio Dam, to the natural extent of alluvial fan vegetation south of the Interstate-210. This is at an area about a 0.1 mile north of Base Line Road. Downstream of the San Antonio Dam has the best example of arroyo or wash vegetation that remains in the County, and it extends onto the adjacent alluvial fan. The vegetation is a dry form

of coastal sage scrub, with included desert plants that are adapted to coarse substrate. The vegetation is much more dense and stable than the alluvial fan in the arroyos behind Santa Fe Dam (San Gabriel Canyon SEA) and Hansen Dam (Tujunga Valley-Hansen Dam SEA). From its southern point, the SEA turns north to include the natural alluvial fan vegetation and border on the existing residential development on the alluvial fan. At the intersection of the San Antonio Wash with Mount Baldy Road, the SEA boundary follows the southeast side of Mount Baldy Road to the watershed of Chicken Canyon, which is a tributary of San Antonio Wash. The boundary crosses the road and includes the undeveloped part of Chicken Canyon. The boundary follows the minor ridgeline up to Potato Mountain, and goes along the south ridge of Evey Canyon back to cross Mount Baldy Road and return to the San Bernardino-Los Angeles County line in the San Antonio Debris Basin. Evey Canyon is outside the SEA, but is a preserve of the Claremont Colleges, and has excellent riparian canyon habitat. The SEA designation acknowledges the need to protect the Evey Canyon watershed. Small tributary watersheds of San Antonio Canyon with chaparral vegetation are included with the Chicken Canyon area.

Vegetation

The variety of topography, soil types, slope aspects and water availability within the San Dimas Canyon-San Antonio Wash SEA creates a range of physical habitats, which support numerous plant species. Plant species observed or recorded in previous documentation within the SEA are indicated in the *Comprehensive Floral & Faunal Compendium of the Los Angeles County SEAs*. Sensitive plant species occurring or potentially occurring within the SEA are discussed in the Sensitive Biological Resources section.

Brief descriptions and general locations of each major plant community present within the SEA are provided below, including bigcone Douglas-fir-canyon oak forest, white alder riparian forest, alluvial fan scrub, oak woodland, oak riparian forest, walnut woodland, southern willow scrub, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and non-native grassland.

Bigcone Douglas-Fir-Canyon Oak Forest: An open to dense forest dominated by bigcone Douglas-fir that is 50 to 80 feet tall over a dense canopy of canyon live oak. It is found scattered throughout the San Dimas Canyon component of this SEA on canyon sides at elevations generally above 2,500 feet, where it occupies rocky substrates. It commonly occurs in small enclaves within chaparral.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Pseudotsuga macrocarpa* (bigcone Douglas-fir forest) Forest Alliance
- *Quercus chrysolepis* (canyon live oak forest) Forest Alliance

White Alder Riparian Forest: Found along the lower reaches of San Dimas Canyon. This community is dominated by white alder, which grow 30 to 40 feet high over a shrub understory. It typically grows along streams in bedrock-constrained, steep-sided canyons, which results in a fairly narrow riparian corridor.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Alnus rhombifolia* (white alder groves) Forest Alliance

Alluvial Fan Scrub: A shrub community characterized by harsh substrates and subject to episodic flooding and scouring. It is generally restricted to broad canyon outwashes, or alluvial washes. It is found in this SEA at the San Antonio Canyon mouth, where it forms an open shrub vegetation within areas of bare, scoured ground in between.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Artemisia californica-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California sagebrush-California buckwheat scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Eriogonum fasciculatum-Salvia apiana* (California buckwheat-white sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Lepidospartum squamatum* (scale broom scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Malosma laurina* (laurel sumac scrub) Shrubland Alliance

Oak Woodland: A plant community dominated by species of the oak genus (*Quercus*). This community includes coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), which typically grows to heights of 20 to 40 feet and the somewhat smaller coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*) and canyon oak, and forms either closed or open tree canopies. Understory vegetation varies from grassland in level areas to shrubs, where topography is steeper. It may also intergrade with shrub communities. This community is scattered throughout the SEA and most prevalent on north-facing slopes and in drainage bottoms.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Quercus agrifolia* (coast live oak woodland) Woodland Alliance
- *Quercus chrysolepis* (canyon live oak forest) Forest Alliance
- *Quercus engelmannii* (Engelmann oak woodland) Woodland Alliance

Oak Riparian Forest: A closely related community to oak woodland found in the SEA. This community is also dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*) (canyon oaks at higher elevations). The primary difference between oak woodland and oak riparian forest is the greater availability of water in riparian situations, which is expressed in a denser tree canopy cover and higher density of trees. There are also a greater number of hydrophytic (moisture-favoring) plant species in the understory. Typical riparian trees, such as western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and willow occasionally occur. Oak riparian forest is best developed within the broader, more level gradient drainages of this SEA.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Quercus agrifolia* (coast live oak woodland) Woodland Alliance
- *Quercus chrysolepis* (canyon live oak forest) Forest Alliance
- *Quercus engelmannii* (Engelmann oak woodland) Woodland Alliance

Walnut Woodland: Often intergrades with oak dominated woodlands or develops as a distinct community. This community is dominated by the Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), which grows 10 to 30 feet high. More often than not, walnut woodland in this SEA is highly intermixed with oak woodland and chaparral, and large monotypic stands are uncommon.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Juglans californica* (Southern California black walnut groves) Woodland Alliance

Southern Willow Scrub: Found along widely scattered reaches of several drainages throughout this SEA. This community is dominated by species of willow, which form nearly monotypic stands due to their dense growth, with an occasional cottonwood. These stands generally reach 10 to 20 feet in height with little understory vegetation.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Salix exigua* (sandbar willow thickets) Shrubland Alliance

- *Salix lasiolepis* (arroyo willow thickets) Shrubland Alliance

Chaparral: A shrub community composed of robust species. Within this SEA, a number of chaparral subcommunities are found, which are differentiated by their dominant plant species. These include chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), buck brush (*Ceanothus* spp.), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), and mosaics of these depending on mixtures of species and elevation. These and other shrub species form dense vegetation covers, which grow 5 to 10 feet in height. The development of chaparral is pronounced over large hillside areas throughout both components of the SEA.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Adenostoma fasciculatum* (chamise chaparral) Shrubland Alliance
- *Adenostoma fasciculatum-Salvia apiana* (chamise-white sage chaparral) Shrubland Alliance
- *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* (Eastwood's manzanita chaparral) Shrubland Alliance
- *Arctostaphylos glauca* (bigberry manzanita chaparral) Shrubland Alliance
- *Ceanothus greggii* (cup leaf ceanothus chaparral) Shrubland Alliance
- *Ceanothus leucodermis* (chaparral whitethorn) Shrubland Alliance
- *Ceanothus oliganthus* (hairy leaf ceanothus chaparral) Shrubland Alliance
- *Prunus ilicifolia* (holly leaf cherry chaparral) Shrubland Alliance
- *Rhus ovata* (sugarbush chaparral) Shrubland Alliance

Coastal Sage Scrub: A shrubland community that exhibits less robust structure found within this SEA. This plant community is dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), California brittle bush (*Encelia californica*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). It also forms dense stands, which grow three to four feet in height. Within this SEA, it is generally found in scattered patches, which are highly integrated with mixed chaparral. These are primarily located in the lower elevation hillsides of both SEA components.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Artemisia californica-Salvia mellifera* (California sagebrush-black sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Artemisia californica-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California sagebrush-California buckwheat scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Encelia californica* (California brittle bush scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Dendromecon rigida* (bush poppy scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Salvia apiana* (white sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Salvia leucophylla* (purple sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Salvia mellifera* (black sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California buckwheat scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Eriogonum fasciculatum-Salvia apiana* (California buckwheat-white sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Ericameria linearifolia* (narrowleaf goldenbush scrub) Provisional Shrubland Alliance
- *Lotus scoparius* [*Acmispon glaber*] (deer weed scrub) Shrubland Alliance
- *Malacothamnus fasciculatus* (bush mallow scrub) Shrubland Alliance

Non-Native Grassland: Dominated by non-native annual grasses and forbs. These opportunistically growing species include brome grasses, wild oats and mustards. This community became established as a result of livestock grazing and agriculture, as native vegetation is removed,

sometimes by mechanical means, and replaced by more opportunistic species. Non-native grassland is found throughout the SEA.

Corresponding MCV communities:

- *Avena (barbata, fatua)* (wild oats grasslands) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
- *Brassica (nigra)* and other mustards (upland mustards) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
- *Bromus (diandrus, hordeaceus)-Brachypodium distachyon* (annual brome grasslands) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
- *Bromus rubens-Schismus (arabicus, barbatus)* ([*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*] red brome or Mediterranean grass grasslands) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
- *Centaurea (solstitialis, melitensis)* (yellow star-thistle fields) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
- *Lolium perenne [Festuca perennis]* (perennial rye grass fields) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands

Wildlife

Wildlife populations within the SEA are diverse and abundant due to the region's physiographic diversity, its relative isolation, and its location within and adjacent to the Angeles National Forest. Analysis of invertebrates on any given site is generally limited by a lack of specific data; however, the size of the SEA and diversity of habitats present is considered sufficient to encompass healthy populations of a large number of invertebrate species. Fair numbers of amphibians are expected to be present primarily due to the aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats provided within the numerous drainages and several reservoirs. Reptile abundance and diversity are expected to be characteristic for the habitats present, although areas closer to urban development along the southern boundaries of this SEA are likely to be suppressed due to the edge effect.

Bird use, diversity, and abundance within the SEA are expected to be high for several reasons. In general, this SEA provides habitat for a wide range of shrubland, woodland, forest, and riparian species that occur at varying elevations. In particular, the riparian habitats found in drainages throughout this SEA provide essential habitat for riparian-obligate and riparian-favoring species. In addition, a number of migratory birds use this area to move across the northern portion of the Los Angeles Basin. These include a wide spectrum of birds including song birds, waterfowl, and raptorial species.

Similarly, the mammalian fauna is expected to be very diverse and abundant. Virtually all mammalian species found in the forest (with the exception of Nelson's bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)) are expected to be found in this SEA. Frequent observations of American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) in foothill communities attest to the range of species expected.

Wildlife Movement

Wildlife movement within the SEA takes on two major forms. First, due to the extreme intervening topography, it is logical to expect considerable movement of wildlife up and down the many sizeable drainages, which course through this SEA and connect the forest interior with foothill areas. The larger the watershed of the drainages, the greater the volume of movement. Consequently, this type of movement occurs on a seasonal and more frequent basis, particularly for large mobile mammals, such as American black bear, mountain lion, coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), whose full range of habitat needs are typically met over broad areas.

The second major type of movement occurs across the flanks of the foothills and lower mountains, in an east-west direction. Particularly for riparian-favoring migratory birds, a corridor linking lower elevational riparian habitats in the SEA is expected to be of high use and importance. In addition to

providing essential habitat for resident riparian birds, this SEA contains some of the best developed riparian habitat for birds, which are seasonal visitors to the cismontane region of the County.

Sensitive Biological Resources

Sensitive biological resources are habitats or individual species that have special recognition by federal, state, or local conservation agencies and organizations as endangered, threatened, and/or rare. This is due to the species' declining or limited population sizes, which usually results from habitat loss. Watch lists of such resources are maintained by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and special groups, such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The following sections indicate the habitats as well as plant and animal species present, or potentially present within the SEA, which have been accorded special recognition.

Sensitive Plant Communities and Habitats

The SEA supports several habitat types considered sensitive by resource agencies. These are inventoried by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) [2011]. The CNDDDB includes state and federally-listed endangered, threatened, and rare vascular plants, as well as several sensitive vertebrate species. The communities include walnut woodland, southern coast live oak riparian forest, southern willow scrub, coastal sage chaparral scrub, and Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, which occur throughout the SEA. These communities, or closely related designations, are considered high priority communities by the CDFG, which indicates that they are experiencing a decline throughout their range. The array and composition of these communities has been discussed in the Vegetation section.

Sensitive Plant Species

The statuses of rare plants are hierarchically categorized by the CNPS using a rank and decimal system. The initial category level of Rare Plant Rank is indicated by the ranks 1A (presumed extinct in California), 1B (rare or endangered in California and elsewhere), 2 (rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere), 3 (more information needed, a review list), and 4 (limited distribution). In cases where the CNPS has further identified the specific threat to the species, a decimal or Threat Code is added: .1 (seriously endangered in California), .2 (fairly endangered in California), or .3 (not very endangered in California).

The following special-status plant taxa have been reported or have the potential to occur within the SEA, based on known habitat requirements and geographic range information:

- Sonoran maiden fern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*) RPR 2.2
- Coulter's saltbush (*Atriplex coulteri*) RPR 1B.2
- Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*) RPR 1B.2
- Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) FE, SE, RPR 1B.1
- Round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*) RPR 1B.1
- Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*) RPR 1B.1
- Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*) RPR 1B.1
- White-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*) RPR 1B.2
- Slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*) FE, SE, RPR 1B.1
- San Gabriel Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya densiflora*) RPR 1B.1
- Many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) RPR 1B.2
- Los Angeles sunflower (*Helianthus nuttallii* ssp. *parishii*) RPR 1A
- Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*) RPR 1B.1

- Jokerst's monardella (*Monardella australis* ssp. *jokerstii*) RPR 1B.1
- Rock monardella (*Monardella viridis* ssp. *saxicola*) RPR 4.2
- Prostrate vernal pool navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*) RPR 1B.1
- White rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) RPR 2.2
- Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*) RPR 2.2
- Salt spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*) RPR 2.2
- San Bernardino aster (*Symphotrichum defoliatum*) RPR 1B.2
- Rigid fringedpod (*Thysanocarpus rigidus*) RPR 1B.2
- Thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*) RPR FT, SE, 1B.1
- Slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*) RPR 1B.2
- Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) RPR 1B.2
- California sawgrass (*Cladium californicum*) RPR 2.2
- California muhly (*Muhlenbergia californica*) RPR 4.3

Sensitive Animal Species

The following special-status animal species are reported or are likely to be present within the SEA based on habitat requirements and known range attributes:

- California diplectronan caddisfly (*Diplectrona californica*) CDFG Special Animals List
- Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) FT, FSS, SSC
- San Gabriel Mountains slender salamander (*Batrachoseps gabrieli*) FSS
- Large-blotched salamander (*Ensatina klauberi*) FSS, SSC
- Northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) FSS, SSC
- Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) FE, FSS, SSC
- Coast range newt (*Taricha torosa*) SSC
- Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) FSS, SSC
- Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) CDFG Special Animals List
- San Diego banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus abbotti*) CDFG Special Animals List
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) BLMS, FSS, SSC
- San Bernardino mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata parvirubra*) FSS, SSC
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) BLMS, FSS, SSC
- Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*) SSC
- Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) BLMS, FSS, SSC
- Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) CDFG Watch List
- Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) CDFG Special Animals List
- Bell's sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli belli*) BCC, CDFG Watch List
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) BCC, BLMS, SSC
- Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*) BCC, FSS, SSC
- Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*) SSC
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) CDFG Fully Protected
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) FE, FSS, SE, USBC, AWL, ABC
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) CDFG Watch List
- Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*) SSC
- Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) FT, SSC, USBC, AWL, ABC
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) FE, BCC, SE, USBC, AWL, ABC
- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) FSS, BLMS, SSC, WBWG High
- Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*) SSC

- San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) FE, SSC
- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) BLMS, SSC, WBWG High
- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) WBWG Medium
- Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*) WBWG High
- San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*) SSC
- Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumaensis*) BLMS, WBWG Low-Medium
- San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) SSC
- Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*) SSC, WBWG Medium
- Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*) SSC, WBWG Medium-High
- Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*) FSS, SSC
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) SSC

Ecological Transition Areas (ETAs)

There are no ETAs designated within this SEA.

Regional Biological Value

The SEA meets several SEA designation criteria and supports many regional biological values. Each criterion and how it is met described below.

Criteria Analysis of the San Dimas Canyon and San Antonio Wash SEA

	Criterion	Status	Justification
A)	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Not Met	Although the SEA contains rare plant populations, it does not contain a core population of a listed species and therefore does not meet this criterion. The lower slopes in and around San Dimas Canyon support one of the largest populations of the coastal cactus wren in the County, which is a subspecies that is very threatened throughout its range, although not officially recognized by listing.
B)	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Met	The SEA contains habitat of the rare rock monardella. In addition, several plant communities within this SEA are CDFG highest priority communities due to their restricted distribution in the Southern California region, including: walnut woodland, oak riparian woodland, southern willow scrub, coastal sage scrub, and alluvial fan scrub.
C)	Within the County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are	Met	All of the plant communities and habitats mentioned as being restricted in distribution on a regional basis, are also restricted in distribution within the County.

	restricted in distribution		
D)	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, or migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in the County.	Met	The major canyons within this SEA support well-developed and diverse riparian woodlands, as well as a source of perennial water. These represent important stopover and overwintering areas for a wide variety of migratory birds, as well as essential habitat for resident species of fauna and flora. These canyons also support seasonal and more frequent movement for wide-ranging mammals, which must move over large areas to fulfill their habitat requirements. The federally-threatened California gnatcatcher has been sighted (2010) in the Glendora foothills, and probably maintains a small population along the lowest slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains.
E)	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.	Not Met	The SEA does not contain biotic resources that are clearly an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community, and therefore does not meet this criterion. However, the extreme localization of several species of plants in the SEA may indicate geographical processes that are not well understood at this time that merit scientific inquiry.
F)	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in the County.	Met	Virtually all of the native biotic communities within this SEA are relatively undisturbed over most of their extent. Because urbanization throughout much of the County's foothill regions has removed large expanses of these communities, those in the SEA are particularly important to the County's natural heritage.

In conclusion, the area is an SEA because it contains: B-C) biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant and animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution in the County and regionally; D) concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, or migrating grounds, which are limited in availability in the County; and F) areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in the County.

18. San Dimas Canyon and San Antonio Wash SEA Sources

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