6. East San Gabriel Valley SEA

Location

General

The East San Gabriel Valley SEA is located in the eastern end of the San Gabriel Valley. The SEA includes some of the low hills that rim the San Gabriel Valley on the east. The SEA has several natural, interacting components that constitute an area-wide ecological unit. The SEA consists of five units. The location and configuration of this SEA and its parts are primarily defined by the urbanization of the eastern San Gabriel Valley, which has occurred over the more developable valley floor and lower slopes of the San Jose Hills. As a consequence, the SEA resembles an "archipelago" that encompasses portions, or islands, of undeveloped ridgelines, hilltops and drainages between the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and the Puente Hills to the south.

Generally, the topography within this SEA consists of moderate to steep hillsides with north, south, east and west slope aspects. Ridgelines vary in width, from narrow to broad, with well-defined drainages in between. One major drainage, Walnut Creek, and a man-made reservoir, Puddingstone Reservoir, are found within this SEA. Elevations range from a low of approximately 560 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL) in the Walnut Creek drainage, to a high of approximately 1,375 feet above MSL at Buzzard Peak.

The SEA has several ridgelines and hilltops and the major drainage of Walnut Creek at the northern side of the San Jose Hills. In the last half of the 20th century, these areas have become surrounded by urban development. Units 1-5 include: 1) South Hills Park and the surrounding undeveloped land in the City of Glendora north of Interstate-210; 2) The natural riparian section of Walnut Creek County Park. The SEA includes sections in the City of Covina and City of San Dimas; 3) Frank G. Bonelli Regional County Park (Bonelli Park); 4) Buzzard Peak, which is an extended ridge of undeveloped slopes to the west of Bonelli Park within the City of San Dimas, City of Walnut, and City of West Covina; and 5) Elephant Hill and an adjoining ridgeline in the City of Pomona. Along most of its boundaries, the SEA is bordered by developed properties. Large parts of this SEA are designated critical habitat for the federally-threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*).

In its entirety, the SEA is located within the San Dimas, Glendora and Baldwin Park U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' California Quadrangles.

General Boundary and Resources Description

Unit 1: The northernmost section of the SEA is the South Hills unit. Much of the SEA is “protected” in the South Hills Park of the City of Glendora. The SEA lies north of the Interstate-210, has its northwestern boundary along Big Dalton Wash (a concrete-lined flood control channel), and northeastern boundary along existing residential development in the floodplain of the wash and adjoining hills. The eastern boundary is also bordered by existing residential development. The southern boundary consists of the Interstate-210 right-of-way, and the western boundary lies along Glendora Avenue. Residential

neighborhoods on the periphery (and not inside) of the South Hills Park are excluded, while external natural habitat is included in the SEA. An area of nursery fields in a central position of the park is included, as it is less than 40 acres in extent. Toward the eastern side of the SEA, there are some estate residences on the hills that are included, as they incorporate much natural habitat; however, denser neighborhoods are excluded from the SEA.

The South Hills are an area of chaparral and grasslands, and a northern stepping stone for wildlife (chiefly aerial) that move along the spine of the San Jose Hills between the San Gabriel Mountains of the Transverse Ranges, and the Puente and Chino Hills of the Peninsular Ranges on the southern side of the San Gabriel Valley. In South Hills Park, there are fine stands of walnut woodland in the upper elevations; northern ravines of oak woodland with walnut woodland in the upper elevations; what remains of the coast live oak woodland that once bordered the Big Dalton Wash; and excellent stands of prickly pear cactus covering some of the slopes. There are also grasslands with a dominant component of introduced mustards and some rocky exposures. Coastal sage scrub with alternating dominant components of California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), sumacs (*Rhus* spp.) and elderberries (*Sambucus* spp.) cover many of the slopes. Big Dalton Wash is channelized, and much development has been inserted into what was formerly Big Dalton's riparian oak woodland. This residential area forms a border for the northeast area of the SEA.

Unit 2: The most westerly portion of Walnut Creek begins where South Reeder Avenue crosses the Walnut Creek drainage on the border of the City of Covina and City of San Dimas. Walnut Creek runs along the northern base of the San Jose Hills and is a riparian interface between the rolling hill habitat and the coastal plain of the San Gabriel Valley. This segment encompasses the undeveloped creek bottom and flood plain, which is a relatively natural area along and adjacent to Walnut Creek, and most of it preserved as Walnut Creek Park. The Creek and lower slopes of the San Jose Hills contain one of the best riparian oak woodlands in the County, with a mixture of ash, walnut, willows, and sycamores. The upper areas of the oak woodland transition into excellent examples of walnut woodlands. Traveling east from this point, the SEA is bordered to the north by residential areas on the plains and to the south by residential areas on the ridgelines above the Creek. Much of the habitat of interest is on the slope of the ridgeline above the Creek.

Unit 3: The Walnut Creek Park unit is connected to the Bonelli Park unit. The SEA continues east to the Interstate-210, where the drainage and the SEA underpass along with San Dimas Avenue. There is a fenced footpath on the south side of the underpass that wildlife and humans use extensively. On the east side of the Interstate-210, the boundaries diverge and follow the freeway right-of-way to the north and to the south. At the edge of natural habitat about a 0.2 mile north, the boundary turns northeast with Walnut Creek. There are two fingers of creek tributaries: one encircles its stream course as far as the Arrow Highway, and the other includes the undeveloped north-facing slope of a low ridge that has residential development along the top. The SEA ends at a Union Pacific rail line. The edges of Walnut Creek have business parks and industrial properties, as well as residential areas.

The SEA boundary returns back west from the two fingers to circle around the west side, and excludes the Raging Waters theme park. From Raging Waters, the SEA boundary follows along the northern

boundary of Bonelli Park, which is the largest unit of the SEA. This area of Bonelli Park includes the 250-acre Puddingstone Reservoir, which is a flood control basin created by damming the main course of Walnut Creek. Puddingstone Reservoir is home to many resident birds, including a large population of American coots (*Fulica americana*). Notably, Puddingstone Reservoir also hosts a great variety and number of migrating waterfowl and other birds during the spring and fall, and provides riparian habitat for birds and other animals that are riparian obligates. Following along Puddingstone Drive to the Puddingstone Channel, the SEA eastern boundary turns south to conform to the eastern boundary of Bonelli Park. The Mountain Meadows Golf Course on the west side of the Park is an ETA, as are the campground area for recreational vehicles, the northern parking area of Puddingstone Reservoir, and the developed south side of Puddingstone Reservoir. On the south side of the park, the boundary borders the Interstate-10 to the junction with State Route-57, and then turns north following the east side of State Route-57, back to the undercrossing of San Dimas Avenue.

Bonelli Park (with the exception of the ETA areas), Puddingstone Reservoir, and Raging Waters is critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher. There are a number of breeding pairs that occur in natural areas of coastal sage scrub in Bonelli Park. Another species of note is the many-stemmed dudleya or live-forever (*Dudleya multicaulis*), which is an uncommon plant found on the picturesque rocky outcrops of the Glendora volcanics formation. This plant is at its northernmost extent in this area of the San Gabriel Valley, and is more common in Orange County.

Unit 4: Across the State Route-57 from Bonelli Park, the San Jose Hills continue southwest, with residential areas dispersed among intervening grassland and chaparral natural areas. This area is considered an extension of the Buzzard Peak ridgeline. The natural area that continues the habitat in Bonelli Park is roughly a central area of a north-facing wooded area and a southern area of a ridgeline with steep slopes along the Interstate-10. The SEA is chiefly on the undeveloped upper ridge areas, and critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher closely follows the SEA in the southern part along the ridgeline and the Interstate-10. The SEA and critical habitat for the gnatcatcher cross the highway with the ridgeline, and extend to Buzzard Peak

Buzzard Peak and its associated lands begin in the east along a ridgeline that is immediately north of the California State Polytechnic University (Cal Poly), Pomona campus. The western section of the SEA is undeveloped, but may be on the brink of growth. This component follows the ridgeline west to where it crosses Grand Avenue and continues in a westerly direction, which encompasses a series of minor ridgelines and drainages with highly dispersed residential areas. Moving east to west, its northern boundary is marked by Interstate-10, developed portions of the Forest Lawn Memorial Park Covina Hills and residential areas. Moving from east to west, its southern boundary is marked by developed and cultivated areas of the Cal Poly campus, Amar Road and residential areas. Along their entire lengths, the northern and southern boundaries follow highly circuitous alignments at the edge of developed landscape. A lobe of the SEA extends into the natural area that separates Cal Poly Pomona from Mt. San Antonio College. Gnatcatcher critical habitat covers most of this segment of the SEA, and extends beyond Grand Avenue as far as State Route-39 (Azusa Avenue), with some islands of critical habitat in nearby hilltops.

Unit 5: A final component of this SEA is located south of the intersection of State Route-71 and State Route-57 in the City of Pomona, at a ridgeline that is bordered chiefly by development that has an undisturbed remnant of the original habitat: north-facing slopes of oak and walnut woodland. South-facing slopes consist of a mixture of dispersed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and grasslands. There is a lobe that is north of Mission Boulevard in the City of Pomona on Elephant Hill, and a lobe south of Mission Boulevard. On Elephant Hill, the northern boundary is the Metrolink track. The eastern boundary is industrial development, the southern boundary is Mission Boulevard in the southeast, and the periphery of apartments along Brea Canyon Road, Appian Way, and Ferrara Court in the southwest. The western boundary is State Route-57. The Spadra cemetery with many introduced eucalyptus trees is not included. The ravines of Elephant Hill have fine examples of walnut woodland and the upper slopes have grassland, often dominated by mustards, with some areas of prickly-pear scrub.

Southeast of Mission Boulevard, the SEA is bordered by Mission Boulevard. The north-facing slopes with excellent oak and walnut woodland are bordered by residential areas at the base of the steep slopes. The eastern end is bordered by North Ranch Road, and the southwest is bordered by the dense residential community of Phillips Ranch in the City of Pomona. The crest of the ridge is rolling grasslands that are dominated by introduced mustards, and the slopes have a mix of dispersed grasslands, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and prickly pear scrub.

The SEA encompasses several different local jurisdictions, including the unincorporated area of the County, City of Covina, City of Glendora, City of La Verne, City of Pomona, City of San Dimas, City of Walnut, and City of West Covina.

Vegetation

The variety of topography, soil types, slope aspects and water availability within this SEA create a range of physical habitats that support numerous plant species. The biological communities found in this SEA vary according to physical habitat conditions (i.e., slope exposure, soil type and depth, and the availability of water) and the area's history of grazing practices. Elevation plays almost no role in defining habitat types. Many slopes support oak and walnut woodland, which often intergrade with prevalent stands of mixed chaparral. Coastal sage scrub is also found on slopes with shallower, drier soils. Drainages are typically vegetated with oak riparian woodlands and forests, with stands of western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and willow woodland. More moderate slopes and broader ridgelines have been subjected to livestock grazing. In these areas, the dominant vegetation consists of open non-native grassland. Oftentimes, grassland exists as the understory ground cover for wooded areas, which creates oak and walnut savannahs. Small isolated areas of freshwater marsh are also found around Puddingstone Reservoir. 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 plant community present within the SEA are provided below, including oak woodland, oak riparian forest, walnut woodland, willow woodland, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, freshwater marsh, and non-native grassland.

Oak Woodland: A plant community dominated by species of the oak genus (*Quercus*). Within this SEA the dominant species is the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), which typically grows to heights of 20 to 40 feet and forms either closed or open canopies. Understory vegetation varies from grassland in areas that are subject to grazing, to shrubs where the topography is steeper and/or grazing has been relaxed. This vegetation may also intergrade with shrub communities. Within this SEA, oak woodland is scattered throughout all components where it is most prevalent on northfacing slopes and in drainage bottoms.

Oak Riparian Forest: A highly related community to the oak woodland found in the SEA. It is also dominated by coast live oak. The primary difference between oak woodland and oak riparian forest is the greater availability of water in riparian situations, which is expressed in a dense tree canopy cover and tree clusters. A greater number of hydrophytic (moister favoring) plant species are also found in the understory. Typical riparian trees, such as western sycamore and willows (*Salix* spp.), occasionally occur. Oak riparian forest is well developed within Walnut Creek. Riparian trees are also scattered in other drainages throughout the Buzzard Peak component of this SEA.

Corresponding MCV communities:

Quercus agrifolia (coast live oak woodland) Woodland Alliance
Quercus engelmannii (Engelmann oak woodland) Woodland Alliance

Walnut Woodland: Often intergrading with oak dominated woodlands or developed 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, the Southern California black walnut grows in open stands; however, closed tree canopies are not uncommon. In similar fashion to oak woodlands, its understory varies from grasses to shrubs. Thus, it forms stands ranging from savannahs to forests throughout the SEA. It is most common within Bonelli Park and Walnut Creek Park, South Hills, and Buzzard Peak components of the SEA.

Corresponding MCV communities:

Juglans californica (Southern California black walnut groves) Woodland Alliance

Southern Willow Scrub: A well-developed southern willow scrub community that is found along Live Oak Creek upstream and at the point where the Creek flows into Puddingstone Reservoir in the Bonelli Park and Walnut Creek Park component of the SEA. Smaller patches of this community are also found scattered along drainages in the Buzzard Peak component. This community is dominated by species of willow, which form nearly monotypic stands due to their dense growth. 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

Mixed Chaparral: A shrub community composed of robust species. Within the SEA, these species include laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) and western blue-elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* var. *caerulea*). Along with other shrub species, chaparral forms dense vegetation covers that grow 5 to 10 feet in height. The development of chaparral is most pronounced within the South Hills, Bonelli Park and Walnut Creek Park, and Buzzard Peak components of the SEA.

Corresponding MCV communities:

Adenostoma fasciculatum (chamise 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) Shrubalnd Alliance

Coastal Sage Scrub: Communities of coastal sage scrub exhibit less robust structure within this SEA. This plant community is dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), California brittle bush (*Encelia californica*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Coastal sage scrub 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 communities are primarily located in the South Hills, Bonelli Park and Walnut Creek Park, Via Verde, and Buzzard Peak components of the SEA.

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
Salvia mellifera (black sage scrub) Shrubland Alliance
Eriogonum fasciculatum (California buckwheat scrub) Shrubland Alliance
Lotus scoparius [*Acmispon glaber*] (deer weed scrub) Shrubland Alliance
Opuntia littoralis (coast prickly pear scrub) Shrubland Alliance

Non-Native Grassland: Consists of non-native annual grasses and forbs. These opportunistically growing species include brome grasses, wild oats and mustards. Characteristic of other parts of Southern California, this community became established as a result of livestock grazing. In the process, 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*) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
Brassica (*nigra*) and other mustards Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
Bromus (*diandrus*, *hordeaceus*)-*Brachypodium distachyon* Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
Bromus rubens-Schismus (*arabicus*, *barbatus*) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands

Centaurea (*solstitialis*, *melitensis*) (yellow star-thistle fields) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands
Lolium perenne (perennial rye grass fields) Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands

Freshwater Marsh: Small areas that support freshwater marsh and found at scattered locations along the shoreline Puddingstone Reservoir. This community may also exist at other locations, in or adjacent to artificially created impoundments used to water livestock. Freshwater marsh requires perennially shallow water or saturated soils. Dominant plants are comprised of emergent species, including cattails and bulrushes.

Corresponding MCV communities:

Schoenoplectus californicus (California bulrush marsh) Herbaceous Alliance
Typha (*angustifolia*, *domingensis*, *latifolia*) (cattail marshes) Herbaceous Alliance
Lemna (*minor*) and relatives (duckweed blooms) Provisional Herbaceous Alliance

Wildlife

Wildlife populations within the SEA are generally expected to reflect lower diversity and abundance of habitat types. This is due to the influences of surrounding development and location of recreational uses over relatively large areas of the SEA. Analysis of invertebrates on any given site is generally limited by a lack of specific data; however, the SEA is considered sufficient to encompass moderately healthy populations of common invertebrate species. Fair numbers of amphibians are expected to be present primarily due to the aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats provided by Puddingstone Reservoir, and riparian habitats along Live Oak Channel and Walnut Creek. Diversity and evenness among these populations, however, is likely to be degraded due to a history of urbanization, which results in only a few species that are able to adapt accordingly.

Similar effects are anticipated for reptiles. Reptilian species that are typically found in suburban and rural areas are expected to occur in relatively high numbers. Less common, and perhaps, locally extinct would be those species that are more secretive in their habitats and/or not as prolific.

A surprisingly high diversity of birds is documented within this SEA, including a large population of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), which is a federally-threatened species. For numerous upland, raptorial, and water associated birds, the SEA provides a mosaic of habitats. Between woodland, shrubland, grassland and wetlands, diverse populations of birds are able to meet nesting, foraging, and migratory requirements.

Mammal populations also reflect the urbanized areas imparting this SEA. Small mammals are expected to be uneven in their diversity, with more adaptive, introduced European species in greater numbers compared to other species. Medium-sized mammal populations are expected to exhibit the same characteristics. Large mammals are largely absent on a resident basis.

All wildlife species previously recorded, as well as those expected to occur within this SEA are tabulated in the *Comprehensive Floral & Faunal Compendium* of the *Los Angeles County SEAs*. Sensitive wildlife species occurring or potentially occurring within the SEA are discussed in the Sensitive Biological Resources section.

Wildlife Movement

The SEA represents the only regional wildlife linkage between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Puente Hills and Chino Hills complex. Unlike the commonly held concept of a corridor, however, this SEA contains a series of discontinuous habitat blocks and patches, rather than an unbroken corridor for movement. This SEA facilitates movement and exchange between larger habitat areas by permitting terrestrial "island-hopping" between the SEA components.

Using birds as an example, movement may be initiated by an individual or group of birds in either the San Gabriel Mountains or the Puente Hills. Larger species, with the capacity to cover long distances, may make the passage as one segment of its journey. Smaller species, however, that lack the physical or behavioral capacity may not be able to attain this movement under normal circumstances. By utilizing various components of the SEA, the same species can cover this journey in several smaller trips. The same example may also apply to winged insects and wind-borne plant propagules and pollen. Interaction between, not just through the components, can occur as well.

This same function probably does not apply to other taxonomic groups. It is highly doubtful that amphibian, reptile and most mammal populations use this corridor as effectively as birds, if at all. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), for example, do not occur within Bonelli Park, but are common in the San Gabriel Mountains and the Puente Hills. However, some mammals that tolerate urban environments, such as Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), use the corridor in the manner previously described. Even mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) periodically enter Bonelli Park and Walnut Creek Park from the outside, by way of routes related to SEA components.

The manner in which the SEA allows wildlife populations in different areas to interact is less than ideal. However, exchange in the manner described above is dictated by the widespread urbanization of the region. “Island hopping” is the only remaining connection for regional interaction that can contribute to the maintenance of genetic variability and health of regional wildlife populations.

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. When species are federally-listed as endangered or threatened, they often have federally-designated, geographically-specific “critical habitat areas.” Critical habitat areas, after extensive study by experts, are judged to be essential to conservation and maintenance of the species. In this SEA, extensive areas are critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher.

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 (CNDDB) [2011]. The CNDDB includes state and federally-listed endangered, threatened, and rare vascular plants, as well as several sensitive vertebrate species. Vegetation communities include Engelmann oak woodland, Southern California black walnut groves, holly leaf cherry chaparral, and California brittle bush 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:

Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) FE, SE, RPR 1B.1
Round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*) RPR 1B.1
Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) RPR 1B.1
Smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*) RPR 1B.1
Peruvian dodder (*Cuscuta obtusiflora* var. *glandulosa*) RPR 2.2
San Gabriel Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya densiflora*) RPR 1B.1
Many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) RPR 1B.2
Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*) RPR 1B.1
Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*) RPR 1B.1
Robinson's pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*) RPR 1B.2
Brand's star phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*) FC, RPR 1B.1
White rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) RPR 2.2
Parish's gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum* var. *parishii*) RPR 1A
Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*) RPR 2.2
San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*) RPR 1B.2
Thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*) FT, SE, RPR 1B.1
Slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*) RPR 1B.2
Palmer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus palmeri* var. *palmeri*) RPR 1B.2
Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) RPR 1B.2
Intermediate mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*) RPR 1B.2
Vernal barley (*Hordeum intercedens*) RPR 3.2

California satintail (*Imperata brevifolia*) RPR 2.1
California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*) FE, SE, RPR 1B.1

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:

Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) FSS, SSC
coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) CDFG Special Animals List
Rosy boa (*Charina trivirgata*) BLMS, FSS
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 hammondii*) BLMS, FSS, SSC
Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) CDFG Watch List
Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) BCC, BLMS, SSC, USBC, AWL, ABC
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) CDFG Watch List
Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) CDFG Special Animals List
Long-eared owl (*Asio otus*) SSC, LAA
Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*) BCC, FSS, SSC
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) FC, BCC, FSS, SE
Black swift (*Cypseloides niger*) BCC, SSC, USBC, AWL, ABC
White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) CDFG Fully Protected
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) FE, FSS, SE, USBC, AWL, ABC
Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*) SSC
Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) FT, SSC, USBC, AWL, ABC
Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) ST
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
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
Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*) BLMS, WBWG High
Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*) BLMS, SSC, WBWG Medium
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
American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) SSC

Ecological Transition Area (ETA)

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 EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SEA

Criterion		Status	Justification
A)	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Met	This SEA contains various alliances of coastal sage scrub that are found in scattered patches over hillside habitat, which support a core population of the federally-threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. The gnatcatcher population has been slowly increasing, as recently observed in coastal sage scrub at two locations in the area, Bonelli Park and Buzzard Peak. There are an estimated 10 and 15 pairs of gnatcatchers in this population. The SEA also has a population of breeding coastal cactus wren. The rare multi-stemmed dudleya has its northernmost population in Bonelli Park.
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	Several plant communities within this SEA are CDFG highest priority communities due to their restricted distribution in the Southern California region. These communities include walnut woodlands, which are scattered throughout the SEA; oak riparian woodland, which is excellent within the Walnut Creek drainage; isolated stands of willow woodland along many of the drainages; freshwater marsh and open water in association with Puddingstone Reservoir; and coastal sage scrub in scattered patches over hillsides. Coastal sage scrub serves as the habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, which has been slowly increasing in Bonelli Park and Buzzard Peak. These areas also have a population of breeding cactus wren. The rare multi-stemmed dudleya has its northernmost population in Bonelli Park.
C)	Within the County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution	Met	All of the plant communities and habitats indicated as restricted in distribution on a regional basis, are also restricted in distribution within the County.
D)	Habitat that at some point in the life	Met	Any relatively large body of water with pockets of

	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.		natural lakeside vegetation along its shoreline potentially meets this criterion, particularly within the context of an arid to semi-arid environment that is characteristic of the County. Although subjected to boating activities and shoreline recreational use, Puddingstone Reservoir serves as an important habitat for migrating water fowl and water birds, which is evident in the high diversity of birds recorded at the Bonelli Park over the past several years. The natural areas of the east San Gabriel Valley serve as a migration and habitat connection between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Puente Hills.
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.	Met	Bonelli Park contains a population of the rare many-stemmed dudleya, which is at the northern limit of its range. Most of the species is found in the Peninsular Ranges in Orange County. The coastal California gnatcatchers are in the northern extent of their range here, are clearly at an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, and may represent unusual variation in a population or community. The SEA, therefore, meets this criterion.
F)	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in the County.	Not Met	The SEA does not contain areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in the County.

In conclusion, the area is an SEA because it contains: A) the habitat of core populations of endangered and threatened plant and animal species; 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 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.

6. East San Gabriel Valley SEA Sources

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