GUIDELINE #13

BARGAS
A Decade of Excellence

July 25, 2022

Elizabeth Ophalt
Whitestone DCI
7190 Sunset Boulevard #507
Los Angeles, CA 90046
Phone: 708-203-2559
Email: liz@wsdci.com

Subject: Biological resources report for the approximately 2.1-acre residential property located at 2401 Laurel Canyon Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Elizabeth Ophalt:

Bargas Environmental Consulting (Bargas) is pleased to provide this biological resources report for the approximately 2.1-acre property located at 2401 Laurel Canyon Boulevard (hereafter, Project) in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. As described herein, no special status biological resources were observed on or in the vicinity of the property during the survey, and none have more than a moderate potential to occur on or in the vicinity of the site. Further, the proposed Project is unlikely to have an effect on wildlife movement and is not located within or adjacent to preserved areas or Significant Ecological Areas identified by the County of Los Angeles. Accordingly, the site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species. The following report details the resources analyzed during desktop analysis and methods used during the field survey.

Project Location & Description

The proposed Project is a planned approximately 10,000 square foot residence in Laurel Canyon on Los Angeles County Assessor parcel numbers 5565-015-003, 5565-015-004, 5565-015-005, 5565-015-006, 5565-015-013, 5565-015-014, 5565-015-016, and 5565-015-017 (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. Project location. Image source: Google Earth. Imagery date: January 2020.

Methods

This report is informed by data from a desktop analysis of the literature and numerous resource databases, as well as the field survey, the methods for which are described below.

Definitions

This report will use the following definitions for areas referred to herein:

- **Project site:** The Project site is defined as the 2.1 acres being analyzed for Project entitlements.
- **Biological Study Area:** The Biological Study Area is defined as the Project site and a 500-foot buffer. This is the area within which biological resources were fully analyzed.
- **Regional Study Area:** The Regional Study Area is defined as the Project site and a 3-mile buffer. The Regional Study Area was used as the basis for determining special status biological resource records for consideration in this report.

Desktop Review

Prior to conducting the field survey, Bargas conducted an initial review of literature and data sources to characterize the biological conditions and to compile records of sensitive biological resources that could potentially occur in the Biological Study Area. The methods used for this analysis are described below.

Biological Setting

The biological setting includes terrain, hydrology, soils, land uses, and other features that support or inhibit biological resources in an area. In order to better understand the biological setting of the project, the following resources were reviewed in detail:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service's *National Wetlands Inventory* to determine if surface waters and wetlands have been mapped on or adjacent to the Biological Study Area.
- US Geological Survey's *National Hydrography Dataset* to determine if hydrological features have been mapped on or adjacent to the Biological Study Area.
- US Department of Agriculture National Resource Conservation Service *Web Soil Survey* to map and describe soil(s) within the Biological Study Area.
- Google Earth Pro aerial map images of the Biological Study Area, including historical aerial images.

Special Status Species & Habitats

It is important to create a well-defined list of habitats and species that could reasonably be expected to occur on the Project site in order to analyze potential Project effects on biological resources effectively. The following describes how the list of potentially-occurring special status biological resources was assembled.

Data Sources

Species and habitat occurrences were queried from the following resources:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service's *Information for Planning and Consultation* portal (IpaC) for a list of federally listed species and designated critical habitat recommended for impact analysis consideration, based on an upload of the Biological Study Area limits.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife's *California Natural Diversity Database* (CNDDB) for special status species and habitat records within the Regional Study Area.

- California Native Plant Society's *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* for a list of special status plant species occurrences within the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles that overlap the Regional Study Area.

Special Status Designations Considered

A variety of agencies and respected non-profit organizations assess the conservation status of plant and wildlife species, however, not all are applicable to this report. The following special status designations were considered when determining special status species to be discussed in this report:

- **Federal Status:** Species listed as **Endangered (FE)** or **Threatened (FT)**, as well as species **Proposed as Endangered (FPE)**, **Proposed as Threatened (FPT)**, **Proposed for Delisting (FPD)**, and **Candidates (FC)** for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- **California Status:** Species listed as **Endangered (CE)** or **Threatened (CT)**, as well as species that are **Candidates** for **Endangered (CCE)** status, **Threatened (CCT)** status, or **Delisting (CCD)** under the California Endangered Species Act. Also considered are species listed as **Fully Protected (FP)** and **Species of Special Concern (SSC)**.
- **CNPS Status:** All California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) maintained by the CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants*.
- **Vegetation Communities:** All vegetation communities mapped by the CNDDB.

Occurrence Potential

Following the desktop review, field surveys, and habitat analyses, Bargas assessed the potential for the occurrence of special status species in the Biological Study Area. Biological conditions (vegetation communities, wildlife habitats, disturbances, etc.) and the habitat and life cycle requirements of special status species identified for analysis in the desktop review were considered. "Recent" occurrences are defined as observed within the past 30 years. Based on these considerations, species were assigned to the following categories:

- **Present:** Species is known to occur in Biological Study Area based on recent surveys, CNDDB (within 30 years), or other records.
- **High**: Species with known recent recorded occurrences/populations near the Biological Study Area and highly suitable habitat occurs within the Biological Study Area. Highly suitable habitat includes all necessary elements to support the species (e.g., elevation, hydrology, soils, cover, habitat type, food resources).
- **Moderate**. Species with known recent recorded occurrences/populations near the Biological Study Area; however, habitat within the Biological Study Area has been moderately disturbed, fragmented, or is small in extent. Moderately suitable habitat includes several elements to support the species (e.g., elevation, hydrology, soils, cover, habitat type, food resources). Furthermore, moderately suitable habitat may also be located at the edge of the species' range, or there are no reported occurrences nearby.
- **Low**. Species with few known recent recorded occurrences/populations near the Biological Study Area and habitat within the Biological Study Area is highly disturbed or extremely limited. A low potential is assigned to annual or perennial plant species that may have been detectable during a focused survey in the appropriate blooming period but was not found; however, small populations or scattered individuals are still considered to have a low potential to occur. Additionally, species for which poor-quality habitat may support the species within the Biological Study Area, but the reported extant range is far outside the Biological Study Area and/or any species observations would anticipate being migratory (i.e., not likely to reproduce within the Biological Study Area).

- **Presumed Absent/No Potential**. Focused surveys were conducted and the species was not detected, or the species was found in the desktop review, but suitable habitat (soil, vegetation, elevational range) was not found in the Biological Study Area, or the Biological Study Area is not within the known geographic range of the species.

The potential for bird species were further distinguished into those that may: 1) nest within or near the Biological Study Area; 2) forage within or near the Biological Study Area; and/or 3) occur on or near the Biological Study Area only as transients during migratory flights or other dispersal events.

Field Surveys

Bargas biologists, Gregory Garcia and Michelle Gonzalez, performed a reconnaissance-level biological survey on June 29, 2022 from 0730 to 1100h. The goal of the survey was to record all observations of plant and wildlife species and determine the suitability of habitats on the Project site for potential special status species. The Project site was examined on foot and by binoculars to view distant wildlife. Wildlife and plant species observed were recorded by hand in a field notebook. General photos of Project site conditions were taken using an iPhone camera using the Solocator app.

Seasonal and temporal factors may have influenced species detected. The survey was conducted in June and may have missed potentially occurring migrants, breeding species, and other season-specific flora and fauna. In addition, the survey was performed during the day and was limited to diurnal wildlife species.

Survey dates, times, personnel, and weather conditions are summarized in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Survey Summary Table

Date	Biologist(s)	Time	Start Conditions			End Conditions		
			Temp	Clouds	Wind	Temp	Clouds	Wind
June 29, 2022	Michelle Gonzalez, Gregory Garcia	0730 - 1100	75°F	Partly Cloudy	Light Breeze out of the East	82°F	Mostly Clear	Light Breeze out of the Southeast

Results

This section discusses in detail what is known about biological resources in the Biological Study Area based on information from the field survey, 18 CNDDB records, 29 CNPS records, 3 IPaC records, and 0 critical habitat determinations in the Regional Study Area.

Biological Setting

The Project site is located in Laurel Canyon, much of which was initially constructed in the early 1900s. It is situated on the west side of Laurel Canyon Boulevard on a steep east-facing slope. Elevations on the Project site range from 795 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) at street level to 932 feet amsl on the west side of the property.

The Project site is not located within or adjacent to any conserved areas or Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). The nearest SEAs are the Griffith Park SEA 2.5 miles to the northeast and the Santa Monica Mountains SEA 7 miles to the west.

No part of the project site is identified for conservation in an adopted natural community conservation plan pursuant to the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 2800) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), a habitat conservation plan pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.), or other adopted natural resource protection plan.

Soils

All soils on the Project site are mapped as Topanga-Mipolomol-Sapwi association, 30 to 75 percent slopes.

Aquatic Resources

Two dry concrete lined drainages were present on the southwestern area of the Project site and one dry man-made drainage was present on the southeastern area of the Project site. No riparian vegetation was present on or in the vicinity of the Project site.

Vegetation Communities

The Project site is located on a steep east-facing slope in a residential community with oak woodland and ornamental vegetation (see photos in **Attachment C**).

One sensitive vegetation community was mapped by the CNDDB within the Regional Study Area. This community and its potential for occurrence is discussed below:

- **California Walnut Woodland**
  1 CNDDB record(s) in the Regional Study Area. Potential for Occurrence: None. California Walnut Woodland is not present on the Project site. Instead, the surveyor observed oak woodland habitat throughout the Project.

Plants

A total 24 plant taxa were detected during the field survey. A list of all plant taxa detected during the field survey is provided in **Attachment A**.

The desktop review determined that 29 plant taxa with special status had been documented as occurring within the Regional Study Area. These taxa and their occurrence potential are discussed below and summarized in **Attachment B**.

- No special status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to be **Present** in the Biological Study Area.
- No special status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **High** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
- No special status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **Moderate** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
- No special status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **Low** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
- The following 29 special status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **No** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
    - **White Rabbit-Tobacco**
      Asteraceae > Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum
      No federal status, No state status, CRPR 2B.2
      Source(s): CNDDB, CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles.
      Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.
    - **Southern Tarplant**
      Asteraceae > Centromadia parryi ssp. australis
      No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
      Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Marsh and swamp, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pool habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **Coulter's Goldfields**
  Asteraceae > Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. No swamp or marsh habitat or standing vernal pools were present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **San Bernardino Aster**
  Asteraceae > Symphyotrichum defoliatum
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grassland habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **Greata's Aster**
  Asteraceae > Symphyotrichum greatae
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.3
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland habitats are not present and Project site elevation is below the limits for this species.

- **Nevin's Barberry**
  Berberidaceae > Berberis nevinii
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub and riparian scrub habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. There is also a lack of gravely and sandy soils on the Project site.

- **Beach Spectaclepod**
  Brassicaceae > Dithyrea maritima
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal dune and scrub habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.

- **Gambel's Water Cress**
  Brassicaceae > Nasturtium gambelii
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS, IPaC. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Marsh and swamp habitat is not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **Marsh Sandwort**
  Caryophyllaceae > Arenaria paludicola
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Marshes and swamps are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **Coulter's Saltbush**
  Chenopodiaceae > Atriplex coulteri
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal scrub, bluff scrub, dunes, and valley and foothill grassland habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.

- **South Coast Saltscale**
  Chenopodiaceae > Atriplex pacifica

No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: Yes. Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and playa habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.

- **Parish's Brittlescale**
  Chenopodiaceae > Atriplex parishii
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNDDB, CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chenopod scrub, playas, and vernal pool habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained and do not pool water.
- **Davidson's Saltscale**
  Chenopodiaceae > Atriplex serenana var. davidsonii
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.
- **Lucky Morning-Glory**
  Convolvulaceae > Calystegia felix
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Meadows and seeps are not present, and the Project site lacks Riparian scrub to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.
- **Many-stemmed Dudleya**
  Crassulaceae > Dudleya multicaulis
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNDDB, CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.
- **Braunton's Milk-Vetch**
  Fabaceae > Astragalus brauntonii
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNDDB, CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: Overlaps. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.
- **Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch**
  Fabaceae > Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and marsh and swamp habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.
- **Coastal Dunes Milk-Vetch**
  Fabaceae > Astragalus tener var. titi
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal bluff scrub, dunes, and praire are not present on the Project site to support this species.
- **Nuttall's Scrub Oak**
  Fagaceae > Quercus dumosa
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1

Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest and coastal scrub habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.

- **Southern California Black Walnut**
  Juglandaceae > Juglans californica
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 4.2
  Source(s): Bargas. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: Unknown. Not present during survey.

- **Mud Nama**
  Namaceae > Nama stenocarpa
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 2B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Marsh and Swamp habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **Davidson's Bush-Mallow**
  Malvaceae > Malacothamnus davidsonii
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Suitable woodland, coastal, and riparian habitats and sandy soils are not present on the Project site to support this species.

- **Salt Spring Checkerbloom**
  Malvaceae > Sidalcea neomexicana
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 2B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, and playa habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.

- **San Fernando Valley Spineflower**
  Polygonaceae > Chorizanthe parryi var. fernandina
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNDDB, CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species.

- **Slender-horned Spineflower**
  Polygonaceae > Dodecahema leptoceras
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. The Project site lacks sandy soils required for the species.

- **Prostrate Vernal Pool Navarretia**
  Polemoniaceae > Navarretia prostrata
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pool habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained and do not pool water.

- **Mesa Horkelia**
  Rosaceae > Horkelia cuneata var. puberula
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.1
  Source(s): CNDDB, CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. There is also a lack of gravely and sandy soils present on the Project site.

- **Salt Marsh Bird's-Beak**
  Orobanchaceae > Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum
  Federal Endangered, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Coastal dune, marsh and swamp habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **Sanford's Arrowhead**
  Alismataceae > Sagittaria sanfordii
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Marsh and swamp habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. Soils on the Project site are well drained.

- **Slender Mariposa-Lily**
  Liliaceae > Calochortus clavatus var. gracilis
  No federal status, No state status, CRPR 1B.2
  Source(s): CNPS. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Soils: No. Chaparral, coastal scrub, and Valley and foothill grassland habitats are not present on the Project site to support this species. The Project area elevation is below the suitable limit for the species.

Wildlife

A total of 15 wildlife taxa were detected during the field survey. A list of all wildlife taxa detected during the field survey is provided in **Attachment A**.

The desktop review determined that 8 wildlife taxa with special status had been documented as occurring within the Regional Study Area. These taxa and their occurrence potential are discussed below and summarized in **Attachment B**.

- No special status wildlife taxa from desktop analysis were determined to be **Present** in the Biological Study Area.
- No special status wildlife taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **High** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
- The following special status wildlife taxon from desktop analysis was determined to have **Moderate** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
  - **San Diegan Legless Lizard**
    Anniellidae > Anniella stebbinsi
    California Species of Special Concern
    Source(s): CNDDB. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 5. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Medium Quality. Medium quality habitat and non-ideal (non-friable) soils lower the potential for occurrence of this species despite records within 5 miles. As indicated below, none were observed on the site.
- The following 2 special status wildlife taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **Low** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
  - **Pallid Bat**
    Vespertilionidae > Antrozous pallidus
    California Species of Special Concern
    Source(s): CNDDB. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Low Quality. Although vegetation and buildings are present on the Project site to support bats, both human activity and lack of available water and roosting sites impair the site's value as potential habitat and result in a low potential for this species to occur. As indicated below, none were observed on the site.
  - **Western Mastiff Bat**
    Molossidae > Eumops perotis

California Species of Special Concern
Source(s): CNDDB. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. Although vegetation and buildings are present on the Project site to support bats, both human activity and lack of available water and roosting sites impair the site's value as potential habitat and result in a low potential for this species to occur. As indicated below, none were observed on the site.

- The following 5 special status wildlife taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **No** potential for occurrence in the Biological Study Area.
    - **Monarch - California Overwintering Population**
      Nymphalidae > Danaus plexippus pop. 1
      Federal Candidate
      Source(s): IPaC. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 0. Habitat: Not Present. Although Monarchs may fly through the Project site and are relatively common regionally, roosting habitat is not present.
    - **Blainville's Horned Lizard**
      Phrynosomatidae > Phrynosoma blainvillii
      California Species of Special Concern
      Source(s): CNDDB. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. Would not occur in the habitat types present on the Project site and also locally uncommon.
    - **Southwestern Pond Turtle**
      Emydidae > Actinemys pallida
      California Species of Special Concern
      Source(s): CNDDB. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. There is no year-round ponding water present on the Project site to support this species.
    - **Least Bell's Vireo**
      Vireonidae > Vireo bellii pusillus
      Federal Endangered; California Endangered
      Source(s): CNDDB. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. No suitable riparian habitat is present on or near the Project site.
    - **California Gnatcatcher**
      Polioptilidae > Polioptila californica
      Federal Threatened; California Species of Special Concern
      Source(s): CNDDB; IPaC. CNDDB records in the Regional Study Area: 1. Nearest CNDDB record: 1 to 3 Miles. Habitat: Not Present. Coastal sage scrub is not present on or near the Project site.

Other Considerations

Mountain Lion

Mountain Lions (*Puma concolor*) are regionally important, both due to efforts to conserve them within a region heavily impacted by urban development, and conflicts with humans due to predation of domestic animals. This species has been documented within and adjacent to Laurel Canyon[1]. This species was not observed and is unlikely to occur on the Project site in current conditions due to widespread surrounding residential development and the tall fence surrounding the Project site.

Wildlife Movement

Effects on wildlife movement are an important consideration when assessing the potential impacts of any project. At a small enough scale, any project or activity can potentially affect the movement of wildlife if any wildlife are present at all.

[1] https://ktla.com/news/local-news/mountain-lion-caught-on-wildlife-camera-roaming-laurel-canyon/

In general, however, the term "Wildlife movement corridor" means an area of habitat that is important for the movement of wildlife between larger habitat areas. Wildlife movement corridors are important for maintaining population levels and genetic diversity.

Wildlife require space to roam in search of food, shelter, mates, or for seasonal migration. Fragmentation of wildlife movement from human development can disrupt the normal flow of essential ecosystem functions. The extent of habitat movement requirements is dependent on the taxa and is crucial to the survival of many species. Overall wildlife movement has become restricted due to man-made barriers, such as roads, structures, development, walls or fencing, and even agricultural fields. It is particularly important to maintain habitat and landscape connectivity and wildlife movement between regional habitat blocks for wide-ranging and low-density mammalian carnivores that require a large home range for survival, including Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Coyote (*Canis latrans*), and Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*).

Wildlife corridors or habitat linkages may apply to areas that occur naturally or areas that allow free movement of wildlife between adjacent habitats. Wildlife corridors are typically a single conduit, whereas a habitat linkage may have multiple connectivity pathways; however, these terms are often used interchangeably. The Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan (NRPP) was developed to guide the protection of habitat blocks and habitat linkages throughout the Santa Monica Mountains between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and the eastern boundary of Griffith Park[2]. The South Coast Missing Linkages Project (MLP) has also identified potential corridors throughout Southern California[3].

The Project site is not located within or adjacent to a linkage described by the MLP, nor within any habitat blocks defined by the NRPP. The NRPP identifies potential linear corridors for wildlife movement that adjoin the project site, although it is important to note,that the NRPP cautions that these "alignments [are] approximate and not all field verified". Indeed, the existing tall fencing bounding the Project Site makes wildlife movement through the Project site highly unlikely, especially for larger species. Moreover, vehicular traffic on adjacent Laurel Canyon Boulevard, a busy transportation corridor connecting Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley with a three-way signalized intersection at the southeast corner of the project site, may further discourage wildlife movement in proximity to the project site. Moreover, no fauna was observed utilizing the potential wildlife corridor during the site visit.

Nesting Birds

Birds – including native species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code – have the potential to nest in nearly any environment, including those heavily altered by anthropogenic activity. On the Project site, trees and shrubs provide ample locations for potential nesting, although no nesting was observed.

Discussion

Any project resulting in ground disturbance has the potential to impact biological resources. However, this proposed Project is located on a fenced parcel in an established residential neighborhood. No special status species has more than a moderate potential to occur. Further, the proposed Project is unlikely to have an effect on wildlife movement and is not located with or adjacent to preserved areas or Significant Ecological Areas identified by the County of Los Angeles. It is recommended, however, that the following measures be taken:

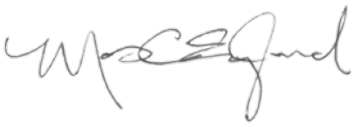
- An arborist survey, previously submitted to the City, identified a total of 222 trees on the subject property, including 159 protected trees (6 proposed for removal) and 48 significant trees (12 proposed for removal). All minimization, avoidance, or mitigation measures identified in that report and supported by the City of Los Angeles should be followed.

[2] http://meetings.smmc.ca.gov/pdf/attachment5314_Map.pdf
[3] http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/scmlregionalreport.pdf

- If construction occurs during the nesting bird season (February 1 to September 30), a nesting bird survey should be conducted within one week of construction initiation. If active nests of Migragory Bird Treaty Act-protected species are identified during the survey, and the surveying biologist determines that the nests could be impacted, the biologist should develop a written plan including measures to ensure the protection of nesting bird resources.

We thank you for the opportunity to work on this project. Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 213-304-1826 or mengland@bargasconsulting.com.

Sincerely,



Marcus England
Director of Biological Resources

Attachments:

- Attachment A. Floral & Faunal Compendia
- Attachment B. Special Status Biological Resource Summary
- Attachment C. Site Photographs

Attachment A. Floral & Faunal Compendia

Bargas has documented the presence of 24 plant taxa and 15 wildlife taxa. Taxa are presented in taxonomic order.

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Major Clade	Nativity
	Cotoneaster sp.	Rosaceae	Eudicots	
	Agave sp.	Agavaceae	Monocots	
	Lilium sp.	Liliaceae	Monocots	
	Pennisetum sp.	Poaceae	Monocots	
Laurel Sumac	Malosma laurina	Anacardiaceae	Eudicots	Native
Western Poison Oak	Toxicodendron diversilobum	Anacardiaceae	Eudicots	Native
Southern California Black Walnut	Juglans californica	Juglandaceae	Eudicots	Native
Blue Gum	Eucalyptus globulus	Myrtaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
English Ivy	Hedera helix	Araliaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Big Sagebrush	Artemisia tridentata subsp. tridentata	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Native
Toyon	Heteromeles arbutifolia	Rosaceae	Eudicots	Native
California Brickellbush	Brickellia californica	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Native
Tree Tobacco	Nicotiana glauca	Solanaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Date Palm	Phoenix dactylifera	Arecaceae	Monocots	Waif
	Sequoia sp.	Cupressaceae	Gymnosperms	
	Pinus sp.	Pinaceae	Gymnosperms	
	Malacothrix sp.	Asteraceae	Eudicots	
	Jacaranda sp.	Bignoniaceae	Eudicots	
	Opuntia sp.	Cactaceae	Eudicots	
	Chenopodium sp.	Chenopodiaceae	Eudicots	
	Erica sp.	Ericaceae	Eudicots	
	Quercus sp.	Fagaceae	Eudicots	
	Eucalyptus sp.	Myrtaceae	Eudicots	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Major Clade	Nativity
	Plumbago sp.	Plumbaginaceae	Eudicots	

Wildlife

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Introduced/Endemic
Western Fence Lizard	Sceloporus occidentalis	Phrynosomatidae (Zebra-tailed, Earless, Fringe-toed, Spiny, Tree, Side-blotched, and Horned Lizards)	
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)	Introduced
Anna's Hummingbird	Calypte anna	Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)	
Allen's Hummingbird	Selasphorus sasin	Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)	
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	Accipitridae (Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies)	
California Scrub-Jay	Aphelocoma californica	Corvidae (Crows and Jays)	
Common Raven	Corvus corax	Corvidae (Crows and Jays)	
Oak Titmouse	Baeolophus inornatus	Paridae (Chickadees and Titmice)	
Bushtit	Psaltriparus minimus	Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits and Bushtits)	
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	Troglodytidae (Wrens)	
House Finch	Haemorhous mexicanus	Fringillidae (Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies)	
Lesser Goldfinch	Spinus psaltria	Fringillidae (Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies)	
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Passerellidae (New World Sparrows)	
California Towhee	Melozone crissalis	Passerellidae (New World Sparrows)	
Spotted Towhee	Pipilo maculatus	Passerellidae (New World Sparrows)	

Attachment B. Special Status Biological Resource Summary

The research conducted for this report included a desktop review of numerous resource databases in order to determine a list of special status biological resources, including 29 plant taxa and 8 wildlife taxa to be analyzed for potential occurrence. The result of this analysis is summarized in the tables below. Table column definitions:

- **Common Name:** The most widely-accepted English common name for the taxon.
- **Scientific Name:** The most widely-accepted scientific name for the taxon.
- **Source(s):** The desktop review source(s) that contained this taxon.
- **Legal Status:** The legal protected status of the taxon. These terms are described in detail in the Methods section of this report.
- **Habitat:** The quality of the habitat on the Project site for supporting the taxon. Classification of habitats is described in detail in the Methods section of this report.
- **Soils:** The suitability of soils on the Project site to support the taxon, if known. Classification of soils is described in detail in the Methods section of this report.
- **Potential:** The potential for the taxon to be found on the Project site. Ranking of potential is described in detail in the Methods section of this report.

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Source(s)	Legal Status	Habitat	Soils	Potential
White Rabbit-Tobacco	Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum	CNDDB, CNPS	CRPR 2B.2	Not Present	No	None
Southern Tarplant	Centromadia parryi ssp. australis	CNPS	CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Coulter's Goldfields	Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri	CNPS	CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
San Bernardino Aster	Symphyotrichum defoliatum	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None
Greata's Aster	Symphyotrichum greatae	CNPS	CRPR 1B.3	Not Present	No	None
Nevin's Barberry	Berberis nevinii	CNPS	FE, CE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Beach Spectaclepod	Dithyrea maritima	CNPS	CT, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Gambel's Water Cress	Nasturtium gambelii	CNPS, IPaC	FE, CT, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Marsh Sandwort	Arenaria paludicola	CNPS	FE, CE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Coulter's Saltbush	Atriplex coulteri	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None

Common Name	Scientific Name	Source(s)	Legal Status	Habitat	Soils	Potential
South Coast Saltscale	Atriplex pacifica	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	Yes	None
Parish's Brittlescale	Atriplex parishii	CNDDB, CNPS	CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Davidson's Saltscale	Atriplex serenana var. davidsonii	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None
Lucky Morning-Glory	Calystegia felix	CNPS	CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Many-stemmed Dudleya	Dudleya multicaulis	CNDDB, CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None
Braunton's Milk-Vetch	Astragalus brauntonii	CNDDB, CNPS	FE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch	Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus	CNPS	FE, CE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Coastal Dunes Milk-Vetch	Astragalus tener var. titi	CNPS	FE, CE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Nuttall's Scrub Oak	Quercus dumosa	CNPS	CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Mud Nama	Nama stenocarpa	CNPS	CRPR 2B.2	Not Present	No	None
Davidson's Bush-Mallow	Malacothamnus davidsonii	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None
Salt Spring Checkerbloom	Sidalcea neomexicana	CNPS	CRPR 2B.2	Not Present	No	None
San Fernando Valley Spineflower	Chorizanthe parryi var. fernandina	CNDDB, CNPS	CE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Slender-horned Spineflower	Dodecahema leptoceras	CNPS	FE, CE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Prostrate Vernal Pool Navarretia	Navarretia prostrata	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None
Mesa Horkelia	Horkelia cuneata var. puberula	CNDDB, CNPS	CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	No	None
Salt Marsh Bird's-Beak	Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum	CNPS	FE, CE, CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None

Common Name	Scientific Name	Source(s)	Legal Status	Habitat	Soils	Potential
Sanford's Arrowhead	Sagittaria sanfordii	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None
Slender Mariposa-Lily	Calochortus clavatus var. gracilis	CNPS	CRPR 1B.2	Not Present	No	None

Wildlife

Common Name	Scientific Name	Source(s)	Legal Status	Habitat	Potential
Monarch - California Overwintering Population	Danaus plexippus pop. 1	IPaC	Federal Candidate	Not Present	None
San Diegan Legless Lizard	Anniella stebbinsi	CNDDB	California Species of Special Concern	Medium Quality	Moderate
Blainville's Horned Lizard	Phrynosoma blainvillii	CNDDB	California Species of Special Concern	Not Present	None
Southwestern Pond Turtle	Actinemys pallida	CNDDB	California Species of Special Concern	Not Present	None
Least Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii pusillus	CNDDB	Federal Endangered; California Endangered	Not Present	None
California Gnatcatcher	Polioptila californica	CNDDB; IPaC	Federal Threatened; California Species of Special Concern	Not Present	None
Pallid Bat	Antrozous pallidus	CNDDB	California Species of Special Concern	Low Quality	Low
Western Mastiff Bat	Eumops perotis	CNDDB	California Species of Special Concern	Not Present	Low

Attachment C. Site Photographs

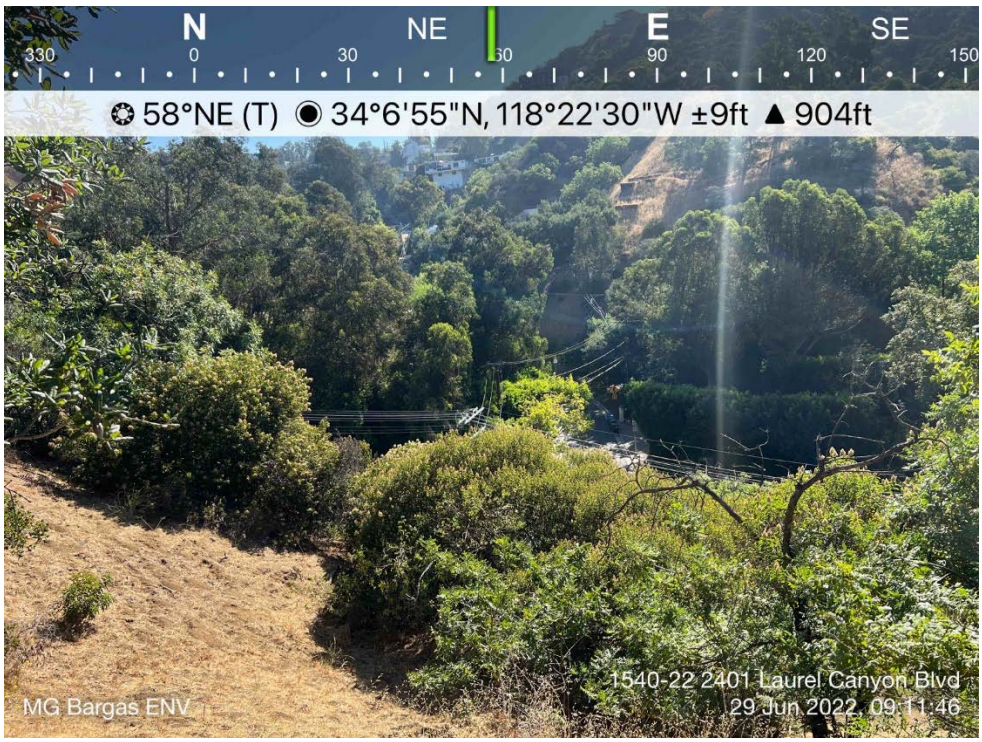


Photo 1. Overview of the Project site looking northeast.

Photo 2. Overview of the Project site and nearby houses looking to the south.

Photo 3. A house within the Project site.

Photo 4. A dry man-made drainage feature located on the southeastern portion of the Project site.

Photo 5. A dry concrete-lined drainage present on the southwestern portion of the Project site.

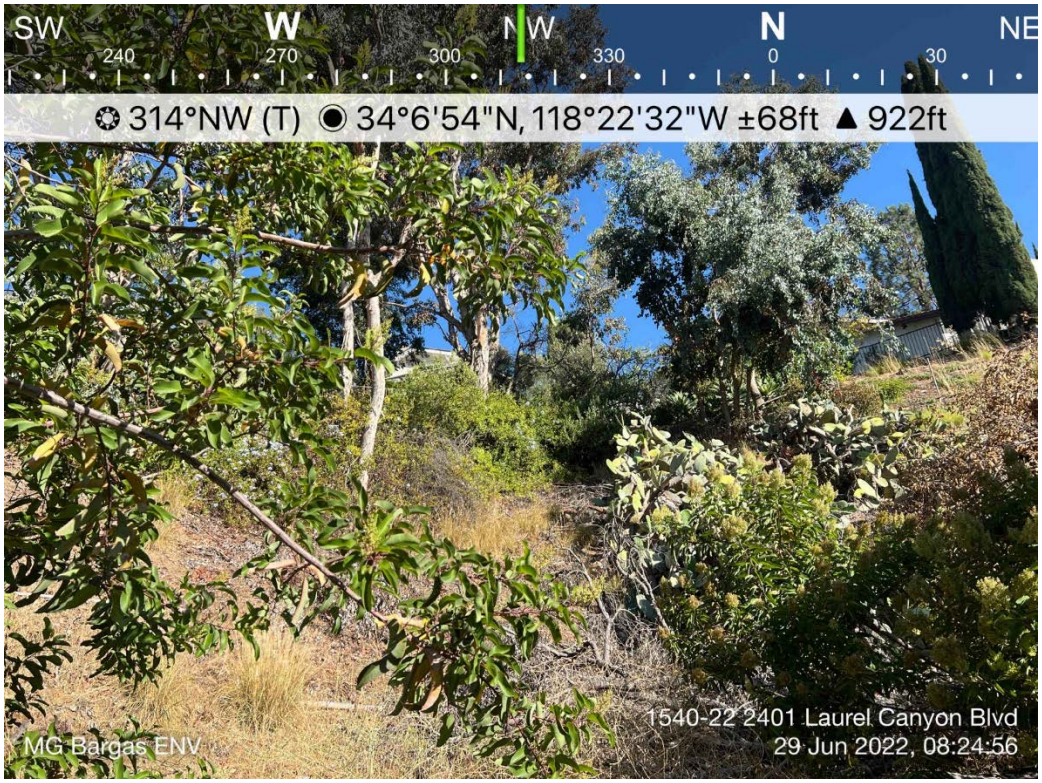


Photo 6. Upslope view from the bottom of the Project site looking towards the nearby houses.