

# **Biological Resources Survey**

2424 N Briarcrest Road Beverly Hills, California 90210 AIN: 4388-015-010

## **Prepared for:**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Great Ecology performed a biological resources survey for the property located at 2424 N Briarcrest Road in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California (the property) in August 2020. The property is located within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan (Specific Plan) and the Beverly Bel-Air Crest Community Plan of the City of Los Angeles (the City's) General Plan. Proposed project activities involve the development of a 7,029 square foot (sq. ft.), two-story, single-family residence with a garage.

This revised report fulfills the biological resources requirement for the proposed project. A summary of report revisions is outlined in the attached memorandum.

Great Ecology's analysis identified three protected habitats onsite. These habitats are protected under the CDFW sensitive natural community list and under the City's Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Program. Note, the site is not currently located within the SEA Program boundaries. Removal of any of the CDFW designated sensitive plant species or vegetation communities would require permits from CDFW.

Our classification of sensitive communities includes protected tree species observed onsite. Precise locations and final determinations of any protected trees, or more specific project impacts on those individuals can be found in a Protected Tree Survey Report prepared for this proposed project. The Briarcrest property intersects with wildlife corridors defined in the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains linkage map indicating there are potential impacts to overall habitat connectivity. No special-status wildlife species were detected during the August 2022 survey. However, while no nesting bird or mountain lion activity was observed in the study area or in the immediately adjacent vicinity during the survey, Section 4.4.3 and Appendix D discuss the potential for these species to occur based on existing habitat and wildlife corridors.

This report summarizes the survey methods, existing conditions, potential for presence of specialstatus plant and animal species, and other natural resources occurring on the property. This information will help the City and the Mulholland Design Review Board preserve wildlife habitats and support the ecology of the Scenic Parkway. Section 5 describes recommendations on ways to minimize and avoid potential impacts to sensitive biological resources. These recommendations are intended to serve as a general framework to guide the project applicant in avoiding impacts. However, additional avoidance and minimization measures are under the purview of state and federal agencies with regulatory authority over the project.



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## Acronyms

BIOS	Biogeographic Information and Observation System
CCH2	Consortium of California Herbarium Data Portal
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNPSEI	California Native Plant Society's Electronic Inventory
dbh	Diameter at Breast Height
ECA	Essential Connectivity Area
ESMM-NRPP	Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consulting
LAMC	Los Angeles Municipal Code
LSAA	Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
MDRB	Mulholland Design Review Board
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NPS	National Parks Service
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
SAMO	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
SCWP	South Coast Wildlands Project
SMMC	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
SEATAC	Significant Ecological Area Technical Advisory Committee
SSC	Species Special Concern
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
USDA	US Department of Agriculture
USGS	US Geological Survey
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
ZIMAS	Zone Information and Map Access System



## **1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Great Ecology was contracted by Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick/Heusch Inc. to perform a biological resources survey of the property at 2424 N. Briarcrest Road, Beverly Hills, California (AIN 4388-015-010; the property). Proposed activities involve the development of a 7,029 sq. ft. two-story single-family residence with a garage (Project). The property has no neighbors on immediately adjacent properties.

The property is situated in Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 14 West, of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian, USGS 7.5' Beverly Hills, California quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California (FIGURE 1). The property is located within the 500-ft to One-Half Mile from Right of Way section called the Outer Corridor and within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan (Specific Plan; Ordinance No. 167,943), a part of the Circulation Element of Los Angeles City's General Plan. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy adopted the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan (ESMM – NRPP), which designates key wildlife habitat linkages through the proposed project's property. The Specific Plan identifies the property as a sensitive area. The Specific Plan mandates the protection of the scenic highway, including its scenic resources and unique character. The City and the Mulholland Review Board require a report on the existing biological resources as part of Project approval.

The Specific Plan requires an application from the developer that includes reporting on existing biological resources as part of Project approval. Great Ecology performed a biological resources survey on August 18, 2022. The biological survey focused on the existing natural resources, wildlife habitats and corridors, and the potential for presence of special-status flora and fauna likely to occur within the parcel and surrounding area. Great Ecology utilized a combination of desktop resources (aerial photographs, agency databases, etc.) and on the ground surveys to determine what natural resources existed prior to grading. This information will help inform the reviewing agencies: Mulholland Design Review Board, the City of Los Angeles, and the Santa Monica Conservancy so they can determine if this project aligns with Plan goals.



Figure 1. Topographic Map





## 2.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT

The following section outlines federal, state, and local/regional regulations for potential jurisdictional features present throughout the property of the proposed development.

## 2.1 Federal

### 2.1.1 Endangered Species Act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are the lead federal agencies responsible for implementing the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA regulates any action that results in a "taking" of any listed species of endangered fish or wildlife. Take is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S. Code [USA] Section 1532[19]). Additionally, it prohibits any import, export, interstate, and foreign commerce of listed species. The ESA program provides a process for listing species as endangered and threatened and provides guidance for protecting those listed species and the habitats in which they are found. To that end, the ESA requires that critical habitats are designated for any listed species. Under the ESA, listed plants may not be removed, maliciously damaged, or destroyed.

### 2.2 State

### 2.2.1 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA is a law that requires public agencies to analyze and publicly disclose the environmental impacts from projects they approve, while requiring mitigation measures to mitigate significant impacts they identify. For example, during CEQA review, impacts to the 220 plant species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) must be disclosed and mitigated. CEQA applies to "projects" proposed that have a state level nexus and require approval by the state and/or local agencies to proceed.

### 2.2.2 California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is a state agency that manages and protects the state's wildlife, plant and habitat resources for their ecological value and has regulatory authority over recreation, commercial, scientific and education uses of these natural resources. As a state agency, they provide publicly available data that guides the public sector, business community, investors, and developers in managing natural resources.

### 2.2.2.1 California Endangered Species Act

CDFW implements CESA, and is responsible for protecting plant and animal species, and vital habitats, listed as threatened or endangered in California. Similar to federally listed species, CESA-listed species may not be imported, exported, or "taken" (i.e. killed) without proper authorization. However, unlike the ESA, habitat under CESA is not necessarily protected. CDFW plays an essential



role to make an effective determination for Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, California Bird Species of Special Concern (SCC), and Candidate species and designated critical habitat. California Bird Species of Special Concern are defined by those species, subspecies, or distinct populations of native birds that currently satisfy one or more criteria on population size and trend, range size and trend, threats, and population concentration. A full list of California Bird SSC with potential to occur within the project site can be found in Appendix D. For projects that will result in a take of a state only listed species, the project owner must apply for an incidental take permit under Section 2081(b).

#### 2.2.2.2 Section 1602 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code

The California Fish and Wildlife Code mandates that it is unlawful for any person to substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the department, or use any material from the streambeds, without first notifying the department of such activity.

CDFW jurisdiction includes ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial watercourses (including dry washes) and lakes characterized by the presence of definable bed and banks and/or existing wildlife resources. Furthermore, CDFW jurisdiction is often extended to habitats adjacent to watercourses that function hydrologically as part of the riparian system. Precedent cases established CDFW jurisdiction over watercourses that disappear and re-emerge elsewhere. Under the CDFW definition, a watercourse need not exhibit evidence of an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) to be claimed as jurisdictional.

#### 2.2.2.3 Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), §670.2 and §670.5

Under CESA, these regulations list the designated threatened and endangered plant and animal species. CDFW species of special concern are species that serve as an indication of habitat changes in the region or are in consideration of future protected status. CDFW utilizes the list of species of special concern as a management tool to take species into special consideration in future land management.

#### 2.2.2.4 California Rare Plant Ranks

CDFW works in collaboration with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to upkeep California's list of sensitive plant species. See section 4.4.2 for how this report addresses these rankings.

#### 2.2.2.5 Native Plant Protection Act

CDFW implements the NPPA, which prohibits take of endangered or rare native plants. The NPPA requires CDFW to designate plants as rare or endangered. Plants that are listed under the NPPA are also endangered under CESA, while plants listed as rare under NPPA are not rare under CESA.

#### 2.2.3 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) was established by the California state legislature in 1980 through the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Act. This act was put in



place to form a governmental mechanism that could perform evaluations on individual development projects that would result in irreplaceable loss of open space and recreation resources. SMMC is a trustee agency under CEQA and is the deemed trustee agency for projects affecting natural resources in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone, as defined in the Conservancy Act (Pub. Resources Code, §33000, et seq.). SMMC aims to work collaboratively with other local, state and federal stakeholders to preserve, protect and restore treasured pieces of southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public (SMMC, n.d.). SMMC has adopted the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan (ESMM - NRPP) and the Plan's corresponding habitat linkage maps as the standard of natural resource management in the region.

## 2.3 Regional/Local Regulations

### 2.3.1 County of Los Angeles, Significant Ecological Area Program

The Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Program is a component of the Los Angeles County Conservation/Open Space Element. The SEA program designates areas where significant biological resources exist. SEA regulates development activities in these areas that may affect streams, oak woodlands, and threatened or endangered species and their associated habitats (Los Angeles County 2009). This project does not currently fall within a designated SEA and is exempt from the following: protection of those designated resources, requirement of the SEA conditional use permit, and the review process by the Significant Ecological Area Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC). The SEA program is Los Angeles County's biodiversity protection mechanism (CLA, 2020).

### 2.3.2 City of Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles is the principal CEQA lead agency for development in the Santa Monica Mountains plan area. The City works collaboratively with SMMC. The City also works with the Mulholland Design Review Board (MDRB) to process applications for projects occurring within the Specific Plan (Personal Communication, 2023). These three agencies guide the public and private sectors in 1) managing sensitive natural resources and habitats, and 2) compliance with local environmental regulations.

#### 2.3.2.1 City of Los Angeles General Plan

The General Plan is the fundamental policy document of the City for managing and utilizing physical resources. The City relies on the General Plan for decisions regarding: land use, design and character of buildings and open spaces, conservation of new housing, infrastructure and public and human services, protection of environmental resources, protection of residents from natural and man-caused hazards, and allocation of fiscal resources.



#### 2.3.2.1.1 City of Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinances

The City's Protected Tree Ordinance (Ordinance No. 177404, Los Angeles Municipal Code [LAMC] Section 46.02), authorizes the preservation of protected trees. Trees protected under this ordinance include southern California black walnut (*Junglans california* var. *california*), western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), and all oaks (*Quercus* spp.) indigenous to California, except for scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*). In February 2021, two native shrubs, Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), were added to this ordinance. This report will acknowledge the local ordinance and discuss any occurrences as they pertain to wildlife habitat. However, in depth reporting should be covered in a Protected Tree Report prepared by a certified arborist.

#### 2.3.2.1.2 Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, 1992

The Specific Plan seeks to provide a review process of development projects visible from Mulholland Drive to encourage aesthetically and environmentally designs that conform with the development standards contained in the Specific Plan and the Landform Grading Manual (CLA, 2001). The Specific Plan spans approximately 20 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains, traveling through five council districts, six Community Plans, one City-recognized SEA Program, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SAMO). The Specific Plan regulates the preservation of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway corridor. The Mulholland Scenic Parkway corridor was created with the goal of preserving the viewshed of a unique resource in Los Angeles. As a result, the Specific Plan requires that certain projects obtain a Design Review from the Design Review Board and a Specific Plan Project Permit Compliance Procedure. This report fulfills the biological review requirements of the MDRB. The property is located within the 500-ft to One-Half Mile from Right of Way section called the Outer Corridor (dark orange) of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Corridor, protected by the Specific Plan (FIGURE 2. Site Boundary Within Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. The sensitive resources onsite are required to be protected, preserved, and where damaged, restored per the regulatory context described in Section 2.

#### 2.3.3 Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resources Protection Plan

Th ESMM-NRPP serves as a standard and a guide to the private sector, business community, investors, and developers in the region that may affect biological resources. This plan was adopted by the SMMC, and subsequently the State of California. The plan addresses the threats to habitat by focusing on connectivity via the existing system of non-contiguous habitat blocks and the pathways that wildlife use to travel between them. The ESMM-NRPP includes habitat planning maps that provide insight to city planners and biologists implementing natural resource management. The habitat planning maps utilized camera data to confirm the function of mapped wildlife movement routes particularly on the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map. The camera data also reveals new, large mammal travel routes through developed neighborhoods (Edelman, 2021).



### 2.3.4 Bel Air – Beverley Crest Community Plan

This planning document implements programs that preserve and manage biological resources within the following neighborhoods: Laurel Canyon, Laurel Hills, Lookout Mountain, Wonderland Park, Coldwater Canyon, Franklin Canyon, Benedict Canyon, Beverly Glen, Casiano Estates, Glenridge, Roscomare Valley, Bel Air Crest and Summitridge. The Bel Air-Beverly Crest Community Plan (BABCCP) was last updated in 1998 (CLA, 1998). BABCCP recognizes the need to protect environmentally sensitive areas, scenic views, open space, and the natural character of mountainous areas. The community plan compliments and builds on the City's General Plan by coordinating development with various parts of the City and adjacent municipalities in a beneficial and desirable manner to the residents of the community. This includes the recognition and zoning of specific areas requiring environmental protection.





Figure 2. Site Boundary Within Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan



## **3.0 SURVEY METHODS**

The following section describes the methodology for identifying biological resources in the Project area. Of note, the biological evaluation and impact assessment described herein, by nature involves an after-the-fact interpolation of community and jurisdictional boundaries based on analysis of historical aerial photographs and inspection of remnant resources located adjacent to the area of proposed development. Vegetation mapping in national parks has been through the National Parks Service (NPS) Inventory and Monitoring Program Division, in collaboration with US Geological Survey (USGS) Biological Resources Division. California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG et al. 2006), now CDFW, produced a vegetation map describing vegetation types, keys to each type at SAMO. Starting in the mid-1990s, several California parks, including SAMO, were chosen by USGS-NPS to develop a standardized vegetation classification system. USGS-NPS (2007) was used as the link between the mapping (CDFG et al., 2006), and field-based vegetation classification. Great Ecology used the USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program due to its regional and comprehensive approach in classifying vegetation cover. To categorize sensitive vegetation communities, Great Ecology cross-referenced the regionally specific vegetation units (USGS-NPS 2007) with CDFW's sensitive natural communities list (see Section 4.2.1).

### 3.1 Desktop Review

Prior to the site reconnaissance survey in August 2022, Great Ecology biologists utilized the following resources to identify sensitive species and habitats with the potential to occur in the region:

- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2022);
- California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI, n.d.);
- Consortium of California Herbarium Data Portal (CCH2, n.d.);
- USFWS Information for Planning and Consulting (IPaC) online mapper (USFWS, 2020);
- Biodiversity Atlas of LA, Breeding Birds (UCLA, 2021);
- Vegetation Classification of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Environs in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, California (CDFG et al., 2006);
- Zone Information and Map Access System (ZIMAS) (CLA, 2020); and
- SMMC adopted plans.

The search radius for CNDDB and CNPSEI included the topographic quadrangle that contains the site (Beverly Hills), as well as the seven adjacent quadrangles (Burbank, Inglewood, Hollywood, Canoga Park, Van Nuys, Topanga, Venice). The search radius for CCH2 and IPaC was limited to the parcel boundary of the property. Before botanical field surveys were conducted, Great Ecology surveyors compiled relevant botanical information in the general project area to provide a regional context.

Great Ecology reviewed the Los Angeles County SEAs Regional Habitat Linkages and Wildlife Corridors. All existing data was reviewed for potential overlap between the property and notable



wildlife corridors that are essential for maintaining the integrity of landscape habitat connectivity. Great Ecology biologists reviewed multiple regional planning documents and consulted with local and state agencies to confirm all information collected during our desktop review and site reconnaissance survey.

## 3.2 Site Reconnaissance Survey

### 3.2.1 Survey Methods

Great Ecology biologists Elias Potashov and Thea Lemberger conducted a biological survey of the eastern, graded area of the property on August 18, 2022. During the survey the temperature was 79°F and the weather was calm with intermittent cloud cover.

The survey covered the entire natural area to identify existing conditions of terrain and vegetation, and a list of notable plant and wildlife species occurring onsite. Methods consisted of walking slowly over the site while watching and listening for wildlife and pausing frequently to observe and listen.

## **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

## 4.1 Physical Setting

The site lies on the east side of Briarcrest Road on steeply sloped land, with an elevation grade of 1,430-1,540 feet above mean sea level. Geologic strata for the area are mapped as gray to light quartz diorite of the Cretaceous Period, composed of gray to light gray medium grained granitic rock that is mostly fractured and deeply weathered (USGS, 2022). Soils for the site are mapped as Urban land-Xerothents, landscaped complex on the western side of the property, and Topanga-Mipolomol-Sapwi association on the eastern side (USDA, 2022; FIGURE 3).



Figure 3. Soils Map





## 4.2 Vegetation Communities

In California, natural communities have been part of the natural heritage conservation triad, along with plants and animals, since the inception in 1979 of California's natural heritage program, the CNDDB. Natural communities are evaluated by CDFW using NatureServe's Heritage Methodology, the same system used to assign global and state rarity ranks for plant and animal species in the CNDDB. Natural communities with ranks of S1-S3 are considered sensitive natural communities to be addressed in the environmental review processes of CEQA and its equivalents. By grouping vegetation into communities, they can be described and mapped spatially to depict predictions on available habitat for plant and animal species of environmental concern.

Currently, the site is comprised primarily of the Undifferentiated Exotic Vegetation mapping unit (9500) with small patches of native plants and protected native tree individuals distributed throughout. Great Ecology's review of historic aerial photography and field reconnaissance identified seven vegetation units that occur in the project area (TABLE 1). Habitat characteristics of these units are discussed below. A list of all plant species observed during the site reconnaissance surveys is provided in Appendix A.

Mapping Unit	Name	Estimated (acres)
1113	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> Woodland/Forest Superassociation	0.09
2140	Malosma laurina Woodland/Forest Alliance	0.04
4060	Pennisetum setaceum Herbaceous Alliance	0.01
9500	Undifferentiated Exotic Vegetation	0.40
9520	Conifer Woodland/Forest	0.20
9530	Other Exotic Woodland/Forest	0.02
9543	<i>Mesembryanthemum</i> spp <i>Carpobrotus</i> spp. Shrubland	0.04
TOTAL		0.80

Table 1.	Vegetation	Types in	Project Area
		<i></i>	

As shown in (FIGURE 4), the property is dominated by undifferentiated exotic vegetation, comprised of species such as Australian silver oak (*Grevillea robusta*) and common olive (*Olea europaea*). The olive trees have been planted 10 to 20 feet off center across much of the property. Multiple low growing shrubs of laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) were observed throughout the property. A complete list of native and non-native vegetation observed can be found in Appendix A. The following vegetation classification types and smaller patches observed are described below:

1113: "*Quercus agrifolia* Woodland/Forest Superassociation" occurs as an open to dense stand of trees, with coast live oak (*Q. agrifolia*) as the dominant tree. Typically, the cover of coast live oak is high to very high. Southern California black walnut may be present in very low to high cover, and sometimes co-dominates. In stands with an open overstory, tall shrubs, including toyon and



laurel sumac, may be present at very low to high cover. This type usually occurs on mesic to drymesic north-facing gentle to steep slopes. It can be found on variable surfaces on bottoms to upper slopes.

2140: "*Malosma laurina* Woodland/Forest Alliance" represents the hierarchical class into which all *Malosma* association types are nested. The alliance occurs as sparse to continuous stands on dryto-dry mesic south-facing gentle to extremely steep slopes. It is found on all surface types on bottoms to upper slopes and ridge tops. It sometimes is on north-facing slopes and rocky or thin soils. Bay laurel is typically dominant but can co-dominate with ashyleaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum cinereum*), California buckwheat (*E. fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), purple sage (*S. leucophylla*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), and lemonade berry (*R. integrifolia*).

4060: "*Pennisetum setaceum* Herbaceous Alliance" occurs as open to intermittent herbaceous plants on dry coastal south-facing gentle to extremely steep slopes. It can be found on neutral to undulating bottoms to upper slopes. It is common on coastal bluffs, road cuts, and some sand dunes. *Pennisetum* is dominant at moderate to very high cover. Some shrubs may be present at very low cover.

9500: "Undifferentiated Exotic Vegetation" is mapped where non-native trees and/or shrubs occupy the landscape. This vegetation assemblage is usually found adjacent to urban land use, but may also occur within wildlands.

9520: "Conifer Woodland/Forest" is mapped where conifers, such as *Pinus* spp., dominate a stand of trees. This assemblage is usually found adjacent to urban land use but may also occur within wildlands.

9530: "Other Exotic Woodland/Forest" is mapped where there is a stand of exotic trees that are not dominated by eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.), conifers, or Peruvian peppertree (*Schinus molle*). This assemblage is usually found adjacent to urban land use but may also occur within wildlands.

9543: "*Mesembryanthemum* spp.-*Carpobrotus* spp. Shrubland" is mapped where ice plant (*Mesembryantemum* spp. and/or *Carpobrotus* spp.) dominates a stand. This assemblage is found adjacent to urban land use but may also occur within wildlands.

Based on the habitat dynamics discussed by CDFG et al., 2006, undisturbed areas with connectivity to other open space areas function as higher-quality habitat for sensitive plants and wildlife. Project areas that are predominantly non-native, disturbed, and/or isolated typically are lower-quality wildlife habitat, though some sensitive plants and wildlife are known to occur in such areas.





Figure 4. Vegetation Types Onsite (2022)



### **4.2.1 Sensitive Vegetation Communities**

Great Ecology classified vegetation communities within the project area according to CDFW Sensitive Vegetation Communities and mapping units designated by the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS-NPS, 2007). To classify the regional mapping units in accordance with CDFW's Sensitive Natural Communities list (CDFW, 2020), both alliances are listed below. The state listed sensitive communities within the project area are:

- 1. "*Quercus agrifolia* Woodland/Forest Superassociation (1113)", CDFW listing: Coast live oak woodland and forest (71.060.07);
- 2. "*Quercus agrifolia* Woodland/Forest Superassociation (1113)", CDFW listing: California walnut groves (72.100.00); and
- 3. "*Malosma laurina* Woodland/Forest Alliance (2140)," CDFW listing: Laurel sumac scrub (45.455.00)

The project contains three habitats onsite that are protected under the City's SEA Program; however, the site is not currently located within the SEA Program boundaries (CLA 2020).

### 4.3 Wildlife

A full list of wildlife species detected during the site reconnaissance survey is included in Appendix B. Great Ecology observed a domestic cat (*Felis catus*) carcass, and droppings from woodrat (*Neotoma* sp.). No special-status wildlife species were detected during the August 2022 survey. However, while no nesting bird activity was observed in the study area or immediately adjacent vicinity during the survey, Section 4.4.3 discusses the potential for various native bird species to occur based on existing habitat and Section 5 describes recommended avoidance and minimization measures.

### 4.3.1 Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)

Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) is found in montane coniferous forests, lowland tropical forests, grassland, dry brush country, and any areas with adequate cover and prey. Dense vegetation, caves, and rocky crevices provide shelter. Mountain lions may also be found in chaparral, forest, scrub forests, or mountains (Dewey and Shivaraju, 2020). The potential range of mountain lions spans the entirety of the Santa Monica Mountains and thus encompasses the property. The mountain lions of the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains regularly use paved public streets and private yards to move between habitat areas (Edelman, 2021). The mountain lion is a CESA candidate species and in southern California it is granted full protection of a threatened species under CESA.



## 4.4 Sensitive Species

#### 4.4.1 Evaluation Criteria

State and federal agencies regulate sensitive species and require an assessment of their presence or potential presence to be conducted onsite prior to approval of any proposed development on a property. For purposes of this report, species are considered sensitive if they are:

- 1. Listed or proposed for listing by state or federal agencies as threatened or endangered;
- 2. On List 1B (considered endangered throughout its range) or List 2 (considered endangered in California but more common elsewhere) of the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS, 2022); or
- 3. Considered fully protected, sensitive, rare, endangered, or threatened by the CNDDB. California fully protected is a designation adopted by the State of California prior to the creation of CESA and is intended as protection from harm or harassment.

Special-status species reported for the region in the literature review or for which suitable habitat occurs onsite were assessed for their potential to occur within the property based on the following guidelines:

- **Present:** The species was observed during reconnaissance.
- **High:** Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the site, and a known occurrence has recently been recorded (within the last five years) within the topographic quadrangle (Beverly Hills).
- **Moderate:** Habitat for the species occurs within the site and a more recent documented observation (within the last 10 years old) was recorded within the search radius.
- **Low:** Limited or marginal habitat for the species occurs within the site and only historic documented observations (more than 10 years old) were recorded within the search radius.
- **Presumed Absent:** Species was not observed during reconnaissance; habitat does not exist on site; or the known geographic range of the species does not include the site.

### 4.4.2 Sensitive Plant Species

A list of sensitive plant species with the potential to occur in the Project footprint is presented in Appendix C. Several plant species had a low to moderate potential to occur onsite; however, none from the table generated from CDFW's sensitive plant species mapper were identified during reconnaissance.

The City's Municipal Code Native Tree ordinance (Code Section 177404) protects native trees with a cumulative diameter at breast height (DBH) over four inches (CLA, 2006). If the mature trees were to be impacted by construction, the proponent would file a Tree Removal Permit with the City's Department of Public Works Urban Forestry Division and each tree would be replaced in



accordance with the requirements of the tree removal permit or at a 2:1 ratio in accordance with the Specific Plan.

The four species protected in the ordinance are:

- Oaks, excluding scrub oak;
- Western sycamore;
- Southern California black walnut; and
- California bay laurel.

The individual saplings within the community had a DBH 2.5 inches or less, therefore these trees are not protected under the native tree ordinance. Precise locations and final determinations of any protected trees, or more specific project impacts on those individuals can be found in a Protected Tree Survey Report prepared for this proposed project.

#### 4.4.3 Sensitive Wildlife Species

The project area and the areas immediately outside of the property boundary include habitat that could potentially support listed wildlife species. Section 5 describes recommendations on ways to minimize and avoid potential impacts to these areas.

A full analysis of habitat suitability for sensitive wildlife species is included in Appendix D. Several species had a low to moderate potential to occur onsite; however, no sensitive wildlife species were identified during reconnaissance.

The property is within the mountain lion habitat range, but no mountain lions or mountain lion activity was observed during field surveys. The nearest Essential Connectivity Area (ECA) is located over ten miles away (

FIGURE 5). However, the property is located within habitat linkage corridors described in section 4.5 (FIGURE 6).

No nesting bird or mountain lion activity was observed in the study area or immediately adjacent vicinity during the survey. Although no sensitive wildlife species were detected during the site reconnaissance surveys, the project area includes habitat that could potentially support (or, in the past has potentially supported) other sensitive wildlife species.

Native trees and shrubs within the property have potential to support various species, such as coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The California gnatcatcher is found exclusively in coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush. Coastal sage scrub species including California buckwheat, hollyleaf redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) were identified outside of the property boundary and sugar bush was identified at the northern boundary. Due to the proximity of potential suitable California gnatcatcher habitat, protocol level surveys may be necessary.



Great Ecology did not observe any monarch butterflies during the August 2022 survey. The Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) had a low potential to occur onsite and no roosts were observed. Additionally, there was no suitable habitat observed for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusilus*). The USFWS's critical habitat online mapper (USFWS, 2022) displays no critical habitat for any state listed bird species occurring within the project boundaries (UCLA, 2021).





Figure 5. Site Proximity to Puma Range and ECA

## 4.5 Wildlife Movement Corridors

The suburban areas of California, including the Santa Monica Mountains are noted for their global significance for mountain lion population (Dewey and Shivaraju 2020). Entities including the California Natural Resources Agency, the City, SMCC, and others are actively planning ecological restoration and preservation of the Santa Monica Mountains to conserve species diversity,



important functions for wildlife habitat connectivity, and other important ecosystem services related to environmental health and safety.

The property is located within wildlife corridors designated in the ESMM Habitat Linkage Planning Map (SMMC, 2021). The ESMM Habitat Linkage Planning Map shows a wildlife corridor running north-south, going through the Briarcrest property. Potential impacts to overall habitat connectivity resulting from the proposed project are addressed in section 5. ESMM-NRPP fuses three adopted Conservancy planning maps together to create a contiguous east to west habitat linkage unified system (Edelman 2021). The three maps are: 1) The Big Wild - Topanga State Park Core Habitat Area Planning Map 2) The Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map, and 3) The Griffith Park Area Habitat Linkage Planning Map (Edelman, 2021).

The three maps combined were consolidated within the ESMM-NRPP to:

- Address potential parcel specific impacts to wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity that were excluded from other regional linkages and corridors;
- Represent a single habitat system that allows for larger wildlife species to cross the San Diego (405) freeway periodically successfully; and
- Maintain species diversity in the Santa Monica Mountains from Griffith Park to Topanga State Park all within the city boundary.

Linkages and corridors between the Santa Monica and Sierra Madre connection have been modeled as significant by researchers associated with the South Coast Wildlands Project (SCWP). SCWP is a working group that was formed to develop and implement scientifically-based regional conservation strategies related to wildlife movement corridors. The group is comprised of conservation biologists, ecologists, wildlife agencies, land managers and planners, and other conservation organizations. Members include the Wildlands Conservancy, California Natural Resources Agency, U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, California State Parks Foundation, NPS, Conservation Biology Institute, SMCC, Mountain Lion Foundation, etc. (Penrod et al., 2012).







*\*Wildlife Corridor alignments are approximate and not field verified. They are not intended to be 100% inclusive of all potential movement pathways (Edelman, 2021).* 

## **5.0 AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES**

Great Ecology recommends the following measures to minimize potential project impacts to sensitive biological resources. These measures are intended to serve as a general framework to guide the project applicant in avoiding impacts. However, official avoidance and minimization measures are under the purview of state and federal agencies with regulatory authority over the project.



## 5.1 Biological Resources

#### 5.1.1 Mountain Lions and Corridors

- 1. Development avoids the wildlife corridors outlined in the ESMM- NRPP to the maximum extent practicable.
- 2. Minimize the use of fencing. However, if fencing is necessary, it is recommended to use fencing that is permeable for wildlife outside of developed areas. This will allow wildlife to move easily through the undeveloped portion of the property. Additionally, it is strongly suggested to minimize fencing of the entire property during construction to avoid disrupting wildlife connectivity.
- 3. Due to proximity of wildlife corridors, the project applicant should consider conducting additional surveys, performed by a CDFW-approved biologist specializing in mountain lion ecology to determine presence/absence and potential for natal dens of mountain lions. If potential habitat for natal dens is identified in this survey, a pre-construction survey is recommended, as well as once a week during construction activities. If "take" or adverse impacts to mountain lion cannot be minimized during the project construction, CDFW should be consulted to acquire a CESA Incidental Take Permit.
- 4. Avoid the use of rodenticides and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides due to their harmful effect on the ecosystem and wildlife.

#### 5.1.2 Sensitive Vegetation Communities and Habitat Areas

- 1. Development avoids sensitive species and sensitive vegetation communities outlined in sections 4.2.1 and 4.4.2 to minimize adverse impacts to these resources. Any vegetation removal within designated sensitive vegetation communities would require permits from CDFW.
  - a. The project area supports special-status trees. Impacts, avoidance, and minimization measures for these species would be found in a Protected Tree Report produced for the proposed project. In general, it is recommended to avoid and minimize removal of native trees, such as oak, walnut, sycamore, juniper (*Juniperus* spp.), and Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*).
  - b. For all special-status species and vegetation communities it is recommended that the project applicant retain a qualified biologist to flag or demarcate the authorized limits of construction with high visibility fencing, flagging, and markings to ensure that project impacts are restricted to authorized work areas only.



### 5.1.3 Nesting Birds

- 1. A full list of California Bird SSC with potential to occur within the project site can be found in Appendix D. A Presence/Absence Survey for California gnatcatcher is recommended because the proposed project is located within the historic range of this species and sage scrub plant communities (chaparral and sage scrub vegetation) (USFWS, 2019).
  - a. To avoid potential impacts to active nests, project applicant should prioritize high impact activities on the property to occur outside of the bird breeding season to avoid take of their eggs and impacts to species of special concern (SSC). CDFW recommends avoiding any construction activity during nesting season. CDFW also recommends the Lead Agency require these surveys occur no more than 7 days prior to the beginning of any Project-related activity (CDFW, 2022). The nesting bird season generally runs from February 1 to August 31. If avoidance of the avian breeding season is not possible, it is recommended that a qualified biologist with experience conducting breeding bird surveys conduct nesting bird surveys to detect protected native birds occurring in suitable habitat within 500 feet of the disturbance area.
- 2. Vegetation clearing should occur between September and January, to avoid the nesting bird season bird season (February 1st to August 31st, as early as January 1 for some raptors);
  - a. If vegetation removal must be conducted within the nesting season, then preconstruction nest surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to identify appropriate avoidance measures for nesting birds within the Project site; and
  - b. Nesting bird surveys are also recommended in addition to any preconstruction surveys when removing potential habitat for SSC because preconstruction surveys may not be sufficient in detecting SSC (CDFW, 2022).
- 3. Great Ecology recommends minimizing the use of non-glare/non-reflective glass and/or other methods for preventing collisions of birds with window glass.

### 5.2 Design Considerations

- 1. Due to the site's steep topography and desire to preserve the existing vegetation, the design minimizes the extent of grading. The house has a minimalist facade facing the street to ensure the privacy of its residents, while opening out to the landscape.
- 2. Great Ecology recommends minimizing use of any bright white lights, flashing white lights, or landscape lighting facing downslope on the property to avoid frightening mountain lions.



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## **Appendix A – Plant Species Observed**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Area Observed*	Native/Nonnative
<i>Acacia</i> sp.	acacia	West, South, East	Nonnative
Brassica nigra	black mustard	North	Nonnative
Crassula ovata	jade plant	West, North	Nonnative
Delairea odorata	German ivy	East	Nonnative
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	eucalyptus	North, West	Nonnative
Grevillea robusta	Australian silver oak	South, East, North	Nonnative
Jacaranda sp.	jacaranda	West, North	Nonnative
Juglans californica	California black walnut	East, North	Native
Malosma laurina	laurel sumac	South, North, East, West	Native
Mesembryanthemum sp.	crystalline iceplant	North, West	Nonnative
Nicotiana glauca	tree tobacco	North, East	Nonnative
Olea europaea	common olive	North, South, West	Nonnative
Osteospermum	shrubby daisy	West	Nonnative
fruticosum			
Pinus cembroides	Mexican pinyon pine	West	Nonnative
Pennisetum	purple fountain grass	Northeast	Nonnative
setaceum			
Plumbago europaea	common leadwort	North, West	Nonnative
<i>Pyracantha</i> sp.	firethorn	East	Nonnative
Rhamus ilicifolia	hollyleaf redberry	North	Nonnative
Rhus ovata	sugar bush	North	Native
Salix exigua	narrowleaf willow	South	Native
Schinus longifolia	longleaf pepper tree	South, West, East	Nonnative
Schinus molle	Peruvian pepper	East	Nonnative
Tecoma sp.	yellow elder	East	Nonnative
Quercus agrifolia	California live oak	West, North, East	Native



## **Appendix B – Wildlife Species Observed**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Evidence of Occurrence				
Birds – none observed						
Mammals						
<i>Neotoma</i> sp.	woodrat	Scat observed offsite				
Felis catus	domestic cat	Carcass found				



## **Appendix C – Sensitive Plant Species Observed or With Potential to Occur**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State) <sup>1</sup>	Rank (CRPR) <sup>2</sup>	Rank (Global/State) <sup>3</sup>	Blooming Period	Description, Potential to Occur
Arenaria paludicola	marsh sandwort	FE/CE	1B.1	G1/S1	May-Aug	A perennial stoloniferous herb that occurs in marshes and swamps, with clay soils at elevations between 10 – 560 feet. Species is absent, since the site is outside of the species' elevation range and does not contain suitable habitat.
Astragalus brauntonii	Braunton's milk- vetch	FE/None	1B.1	G2/S2	Jan-Aug	Perennial deciduous shrub that occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland with carbonate and sandstone soils at elevations between 35 – 2,430 feet. Species is absent, due to lack of suitable soils onsite.
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i>	Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE/CE	1B.1	G2T1/S1	(Jun) Aug- Oct	A perennial herb that occurs in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, with sandy loam or clay soils at elevations between 5 – 115 feet. Species is absent, since the site is outside of the species' elevation range and does not contain suitable habitat.
<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>titi</i>	coastal dunes milk-vetch	FE/CE	1B.1	G2T1/S1	Mar-May	An annual herb that occurs in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and coastal prairie habitat, with alkaline clay soils at elevations between 5 – 165 feet. Species is absent, since the site is outside of the species' elevation range and does not contain suitable habitat.
Berberis nervine	Nevin's barberry	FE/CE	1B.1	G1/S1	(Feb) Mar- Jun	A perennial evergreen shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub habitat, found on a variety of soils at elevations between 230 – 2,705 feet. Species has low potential to occur onsite based on suitable habitat and



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State) <sup>1</sup>	Rank (CRPR) <sup>2</sup>	Rank (Global/State) <sup>3</sup>	Blooming Period	Description, Potential to Occur
						elevation and older recorded observations; however, species was not encountered during reconnaissance surveys.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i>	salt marsh bird's beak	FE/CE	1B.2	G4?T1/S1	Mar-May	An annual herb (hemiparasitic) that occurs in coastal dunes, marshes, and swamps with alkaline soils at elevations between 0 – 100 feet. Species is absent, since the site is outside of the species' elevation range and does not contain suitable habitat.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	San Fernando Valley spineflower	None/CE	1B.1	G2T1/S1	Apr-Jul	An annual herb that occurs in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland with sandy to gravelly soils at elevations between 490 – 4, 005 feet. Species is absent, due to lack of suitable habitat and soils onsite.
Deinandra minthornii	Santa Susana tarplant	None/CR	1B.2	G2/S2	Jul-Nov	A perennial deciduous shrub that occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats, with rocky soils at elevations between 920 – 2,495 feet. Species is absent, due to lack of suitable habitat and soils onsite.
Dithyrea maritima	beach spectaclepod	None/CT	1B.1	G1/S1	Mar-May	A perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in coastal dune and coastal scrub habitat, with sandy soils at elevations between 10 – 165 feet. Species is absent, since the site is outside of the species' elevation range and does not contain suitable habitat.
Dodecahema leptoceras	slender-horned spineflower	FE/CE	1B.1	G1/S1	Apr-Jun	An annual herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub, with silt, loamy sand, and sandy soils at elevations between 655 – 2,495 feet. Species is absent, due to lack of suitable soils onsite.
<i>Dudleya cymose</i> ssp. <i>Ovatifolia</i>	Santa Monica dudleya	FT/None	1B.1	G5T1/S1	Mar-Jun	A perennial herb that occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub habitat, with rocky soils at elevations between 490 – 5,495 feet.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State) <sup>1</sup>	Rank (CRPR) <sup>2</sup>	Rank (Global/State) <sup>3</sup>	Blooming Period	Description, Potential to Occur
						Species is absent, due to lack of suitable soils onsite.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i>	San Diego button-celery	FE/CE	1B.1	G5T1/S1	Apr-Jun	An annual/perennial herb that occurs in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools habitat, with clay soils at elevations between $65 - 2,035$ feet. Species is absent, due to lack of suitable habitat and soils onsite.
Nasturtium gabelii	Gambel's water cress	FE/CT	1B.1	G1/S1	Apr-Oct	A perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in marshes and swamps, with volcanic and rocky or clayey soils at elevations between 15 – 1,085 feet. Species is presumed absent, since the site is outside of the species' elevation range and does not contain suitable habitat.
Navarretia fossalis	spreading navarretia	FT/None	1B.1	G2/S2	Apr-Jun	An annual herb that occurs in Chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools habitat, with alkaline soils at elevations between 100 - 2,150 feet. Species is absent, due to lack of suitable habitat and soils onsite.
Orcuttia californica	California orcutt grass	FE/CE	1B.1	G1/S1	Apr-Aug	An annual herb that occurs in vernal pools habitat, with clay soils at elevations between 50 – 2,165 feet. Species is absent, due to lack of suitable habitat and soils onsite.

1 Special Status Codes:

FE = Federally-listed Endangered

FT = Federally-listed Threatened

CE = State-listed Endangered

CT = State-listed Threatened

CR = State-listed Rare

#### 2 California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) Designations:

1A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere

1B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State) <sup>1</sup>	Rank (CRPR) <sup>2</sup>	Rank (Global/State) <sup>3</sup>	Blooming Period	Description, Potential to Occur
2A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But More Common Elsewhere 2B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere 3 = Plants about Which More Information is Needed - A Review List 4 = Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List 0.1 = Seriously threatened in California 0.2 = Moderately threatened in California						
<b>3 Rank (Global/State):</b> G1= Critically Imperiled G2 = Imperiled G3 = Vulnerable G4 = Apparently Secure G5 = Secure T(1) = T rank applies to the SX = Presumed Extirpated S1 = Critically Imperiled S2 = Imperiled	infraspecific taxon					



## Appendix D – Sensitive Wildlife Observed or With Potential to Occur

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur			
Amphibians	Amphibians						
Anaxyrus californicus	arroyo toad	FE/SSC	Semi-arid areas near washes, sandy riverbanks, riparian areas, palm oasis, Joshua tree, mixed chaparral and sagebrush; stream channels for breeding (typically third order); adjacent stream terraces and uplands for foraging and wintering	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.			
Spea hammondii	western spadefoot toad	None/SSC	Primarily grassland and vernal pools, but also in ephemeral wetlands that persist at least 3 weeks in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley–foothill woodlands, pastures, and other agriculture	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.			
Fish	•						
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10	Steelhead – Southern California DPS	FE/Candidate	Originating below natural and manmade impassable barriers from the Santa Maria River to the U.SMexico Border.	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.			
Reptiles	·		·	·			
<i>Anniella</i> spp.	California legless lizard	None/SSC	General taxonomic reporting in CNDDB. Shrubs, leaf litter, sandy/loose organic soil, moisture is essential habitat requirement	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.			
Anniella stebbinsi	southern California legless lizard	None/SSC	Coastal dunes, stabilized dunes, beaches, dry washes, valley–foothill, chaparral, and scrubs; pine, oak, and riparian woodlands; associated with sparse vegetation and moist sandy or loose, loamy soils	Low potential to occur, some suitable habitat present. Species was not observed during reconnaissance.			
Arizona elegans occidentalis	California glossy snake	None/SSC	Commonly occurs in desert regions throughout southern California, prefers open sandy area with scattered brush.	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.			
Aspidoscelis tigirs stejnegeri	coastal whiptail	None/SSC	Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian areas, woodlands, rocky areas: sand/gravel bottom habitats, brushy areas associated with washes, open chaparral and coastal sage with a gravelly substrate	Low potential to occur since suitable habitat is present. However, soils onsite are not suitable, and species was not observed during reconnaissance.			



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur
Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	None/SSC	Flowing rivers and streams, permanent lakes, ponds, reservoirs, settling ponds, marshes, other wetlands	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	None/SSC	Coastal sage scrub, dunes, alluvial scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak and riparian woodland, coniferous forest, saltbush scrub; loose, fine soils for burrowing, open areas for thermoregulation, and shrub cover for refugia	Low potential to occur since suitable habitat is present. However, soils onsite are not suitable, and species was not observed during reconnaissance.
Thamnophis	two-striped garter	None/SSC	Streams, creeks, pools, streams with rocky beds,	Presumed absent, due to lack
hammondii	snake		ponds, lakes, vernal pools	of suitable habitat onsite.
Birds	1	1	1	1
Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	None/ST	Seasonal wetlands, freshwater marshes, alkali flats, native grasslands, riparian forests, oak savannas, agricultural fields (rice, alfalfa, grain fields)	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Athene cunicularia / Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea	burrowing owl	None/SSC	Grassland, agricultural land, coastal dunes with suitable rodent burrows	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and rodent burrows onsite. Species or burrows were not observed during reconnaissance.
<i>Buteo swaisoni</i> (nesting)	Swainson's hawk	None/ST	Nests in open woodland and savanna, riparian, and in isolated large trees; forages in nearby grasslands and agricultural areas	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Charadrius nivosus nivosus	western snowy plover	FT/SSC	Sandy beaches, dried mudflats, and saltpan	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Coturnicops noveboracensis	yellow rail	None/SSC	Wet marsh/sedge meadows or coastal marshes	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Empidonax traillii extimus	southwestern willow flycatcher	FE/SE	Nests in dense riparian habitats along streams, reservoirs, or wetlands	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Laterallus	California black	None/ST, FP	Tidal marshes, shallow freshwater margins, wet	Presumed absent, due to lack
jamaicensis coturniculus	rail		meadows, and flooded grassy vegetation	of suitable habitat onsite.



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi	Belding's savannah sparrow	None/SE	Coastal saltmarsh	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Pelecanus occidentalis californicus	California brown pelican	Delisted/Delisted, FP	Forages in warm coastal marine and estuarine environments; nests on dry, rocky offshore islands	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Polioptila californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT/ST, SSC	Coastal sage scrub, coastal sage scrub/ chaparral mix, coastal sage scrub/ grassland ecotone, riparian in late summer	Low potential to occur, some suitable habitat present. However, species was not observed during reconnaissance.
Riparia riparia	bank swallow	None/ST	Riparian ecosystems.	One observation recorded in CNDDB, considered extirpated as a breeder in Southern California. Presumed absent due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Sternula antillarum browni	California least tern	FE/SE, FP	Forages in shallow estuaries and lagoons; nests on sandy beaches or exposed tidal flats	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	FE/SE	Nests in riparian scrubs with dense cover within 1-2 meters of the ground; habitat includes willows, cottonwoods, <i>Baccharis</i> species, wild blackberry, or mesquite on desert areas	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Mammals				
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	None/SSC	Grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, forests; most common in open, dry habitats with rocky outcrops for roosting	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	None/SSC	Chaparral, coastal and desert scrub, coniferous and deciduous forest, woodland; roosts in crevices in rocky canyons and cliffs, trees, tunnels	Low potential to occur, some suitable habitat present. However, crevices and/or roosts were not observed during reconnaissance.



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur
Lasiurus xanthinus	western yellow bat	None/SSC	Foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm habitats; roosts in palms and riparian area	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Microtus californicus stephensi	south coast marsh vole	None/SSC	Arid uplands, wet meadows, salt marsh	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	None/SSC	Coastal sage scrub, chaparral	Low potential to occur, some suitable habitat present. However, species was not observed during reconnaissance.
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	pocketed free- tailed bat	None/SSC	Pinyon–juniper woodlands, desert habitats; roosts in high cliffs or rock outcrops, caverns, buildings	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Nyctinomops macrotis	big free-tailed bat	None/SSC	Rocky areas; roosts in caves, holes in trees, buildings, crevices, rocky outcrops	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Onychomys torridus ramona	southern grasshopper mouse	None/SSC	Arid desert habitat, alkali desert scrub/desert scrub, succulent scrub, wash, riparian areas, coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, low sage, bitterbrush	Low potential to occur, some suitable habitat present. However, species was not observed during reconnaissance.
Perognathus Iongimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	None/SSC	Lower elevation grasslands and coastal sage scrub; open ground with fine sands	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Perognathus longimembris pacificus	Pacific pocket mouse	FE/SSC	Open coastal sage scrub; fine, alluvial sands near ocean	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Sorex ornatus salicornicus	southern California saltmarsh shrew	None/SSC	Coastal marshes	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Taxidea taxus	American badger	None/SSC	Dry, open, treeless areas; grasslands, coastal scrub, agriculture, and pastures, especially with friable soils	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Invertebrates				



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/ State <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> pop. 1	monarch butterfly– California overwintering population	Candidate/None	Wind-protected tree groves (gum, pine, cypress, sycamore), milkweed	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite. Species was not observed.
Euphilotes battoides allyni	El Segundo blue butterfly	FE/None	El Segundo sand dunes	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
Streptocephalus woottoni	Riverside fairy shrimp	FE/None	Vernal pools or non-vegetated ephemeral pools	Presumed absent, due to lack of suitable habitat onsite.
<b>1 Special Status Codes:</b> FE = Federally-listed Endar FT = Federally-listed Threa SE = State-listed Endanger ST = State-listed Threaten	ngered itened red ed			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
FP = Fully protected (CDF)	N)			

SSC = Species of Special Concern (CDFW) WL = Watch List (CDFW)



## **Appendix E – Site Photos**

Photo 1: Western Section of Project Area, facing southeast



Photo 2: Eastern Section of Project Area, facing North







Photo 3: Northern Section of Project Area, facing West

Photo 4: Northwestern Section of Project Area, facing South

