

November 17, 2022 JN 189548

### PULTE GROUP

Attn: *Mr. David Dewegeli* 27401 Los Altos, Suite 400 Mission Viejo, California 92691

SUBJECT: Results of a Biological Resources Assessment and Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis for the proposed Sevilla II Tentative Tract Map No. 38557 Project – City of Coachella, County of Riverside, California

Dear Mr. Dewegeli:

Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) has prepared this report to document the results of a biological resources assessment and Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) consistency analysis for the proposed Sevilla II Tentative Tract Map No. 38557 (project or project site) located in the City of Coachella, County of Riverside, California. Michael Baker conducted a thorough literature review and a field survey to confirm existing site conditions and assess the potential for special-status plant and wildlife species¹ that have been documented or that are likely to occur on or within the immediate vicinity of the project site. Specifically, this report provides a detailed assessment of the suitability of the on-site habitat to support special-status plant and wildlife species that were identified in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database RareFind 5 (CNDDB; CDFW 2022a), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CIRP; CNPS 2022), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation Project Planning Tool (IPaC; USFWS 2022a), CVMSHCP, and other databases as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site.

### **Project Location**

The project site is generally located north and east of Martinez Mountains, west of State Route 86 and south of State Route 111 in the City of Coachella, County of Riverside, California (refer to Figure 1, *Regional and Project Vicinity*, in Attachment A). The project site is depicted in Section 1 of Township 6 South, Range 7 East, on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) *Indio, California* 7.5-minute quadrangle.

As used in this report, "special-status" refers to plant and wildlife species that are federally-/State-listed, proposed, or candidates; plant species that have been designated a California Rare Plant Rank species by the California Native Plant Society; wildlife species that are designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as Fully Protected, Species of Special Concern, or Watch List species; State/locally rare vegetation communities; and species that warrant protection under local or regional preservation policies.

Specifically, the project site is located north of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, east of Calhoun Street, south of Avenue 50, and west of Van Buren Street. The project site totals approximately 39 acres and encompasses Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 779-280-002 and 779-320-001 (refer to Figure 2, *Project Site*, in Attachment A).

### **Project Description**

The proposed project is planned as a residential development in the City of Coachella within Riverside County. The project site is approximately 39 acres and is located at 50503 Van Buren Street (APNs 779-280-002, 779-320-001). The project site is bordered to the north by agricultural land, followed by Avenue 50; to the east by Van Buren Street, followed by residential properties; to the south by agricultural land; and to the west by agricultural land. Since the 1920's, project site has been utilized for agricultural purposes. Additionally, the project site is developed with one (1) residence located in the central portion of the subject site, along with five (5) warehouse/storage buildings. Two groundwater wells are present on site.

The proposed project would develop approximately 205 lots for single-family homes and include pedestrian sidewalks, a recreational park area, landscaping, water retention basin, monumental signage, and street and utility improvements. The residential lots size would be approximate 5,000 square feet. Construction is anticipated to occur in one (1) phase, for the duration of approximately 24 months.

### Methodology

### Literature Review

Michael Baker conducted thorough literature reviews and record searches within the four closest quadrangles to the project site to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur on or within the general vicinity of the project site. Previous special-status plant and wildlife species occurrence records within the USGS *Indio, La Quinta, Valeria,* and *Martinez Mountain, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles were determined through a query of the CNDDB (CDFW 2022a) and CIRP (CNPS 2022), and for the project region through a review of the IPaC (USFWS 2022a).

The current regulatory/conservation status of special-status plant and wildlife species was verified through lists and resources provided by the CDFW, specifically the *Special Animals List* (CDFW 2022b), *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List* (CDFW 2022c), *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CDFW 2022d), and *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California* (CDFW 2022e). USFWS-designated Critical Habitat for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) was reviewed online via the Environmental Conservation Online System: Threatened and Endangered Species Active Critical Habitat Report (USFWS 2022b). In addition, Michael Baker reviewed previously prepared reports, survey results, and literature, as available, detailing the biological resources previously observed on or within the vicinity of the project site to understand existing site conditions, confirm previous species observations, and note the extent of any disturbances, if present, that have occurred within the project site that would otherwise limit the distribution of special-status biological resources. Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status species, as well as the following resources:

- Calflora Database (Calflora 2022)
- Google Earth Pro Historical Aerial Imagery from 1996 to 2021 (Google, Inc. 2022)
- Species Accounts provided by Birds of the World (Billerman et. al 2020)
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird Database (eBird 2022)
- Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG] 2012)
- Custom Soil Resource Report for Riverside County, Coachella Valley Area, California (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2022)
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper and Environmental Conservation Online System (USFWS 2022b)

### California Desert Native Plants Act

The California Desert Native Plants Act (CDNPA) protects certain species of California desert native plants from unlawful harvesting on both public and privately-owned lands. It is applicable only within the boundaries of the Counties of Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. Within these counties, the CDNPA prohibits the harvest, transport, sale, or possession of specific native desert plants unless a valid permit or wood receipt, and required tags and seals are obtained. The sheriff or commissioner of the county where the collection will occur will provide the appropriate permits, tags, and seals for a fee.

### **CVMSHCP**

The CVMSHCP is a long-term program finalized in 2008 that is intended to conserve Federally protected species, State protected species, and/or other species of concern. The program aims to conserve over 240,000 acers of open space and protect 27 plant and animal species through comprehensive compliance with Federal and State endangered species laws. The CVMSHCP is managed by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and participants include Riverside County, the cities of Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, as well as Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Imperial Irrigation District, Mission Springs Water District, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and California Department of Transportation (CVAG 2007). The CVMSHCP includes most of the Coachella Valley floor portion of Riverside County (CVAG 2007).

The proposed project was reviewed to determine consistency with the CVMSHCP. Michael Baker utilized GIS ArcView software to map the project site's relation to the CVMSHCP including Conservation Areas, Sand Transport Areas, Corridors and Linkages. The CVMSHCP requires that local Permittees, such as the CVWD, comply with various protective measures for covered species, communities, essential ecological processes, and biological corridors. In addition, certain projects may be subject to local development mitigation fees, a Joint Project Review Process, or other conservation or implementation measures.

### Biological Field Survey/Habitat Assessment

Michael Baker biologists Lauren Mapes and Tom Millington conducted a biological field survey/habitat assessment of the project site on October 27, 2022, to document existing conditions and assess the potential for special-status biological resources to occur within the boundaries of the project site. Michael Baker biologists were able to survey the entire project site without any limitations or access restrictions. Refer to Table 1 below for a summary of the survey date, timing, surveyors, and weather conditions.

Table 1: Survey Date, Time, Surveyors, and Weather Conditions

Date	Hours	Surveyors	Temperature	Wind Speed
10/27/2022	0830 – 1100	Lauren Mapes, Tom Millington	73 – 81 °F	0-2  mph

Vegetation communities occurring within the project site were mapped on an aerial photograph and classified in accordance with the vegetation descriptions provided in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009) and cross referenced with the *California Sensitive Natural Communities List* (CDFW 2022f) to determine which communities may qualify as special-status under CDFW's current mapping, and the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986) for the purposes of evaluating the presence or absence of special-status vegetation communities identified in the CNDDB records search, which still uses the now-outdated Holland vegetation classification system. In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, condition of on-site vegetation communities, and the presence of potentially regulated jurisdictional features (e.g., streams, flood control channels) were noted within the project site. Michael Baker used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) ArcView software to digitize the mapped vegetation communities and then transferred these data onto an aerial photograph to further document existing conditions and quantify the acreage of each vegetation community.

All plant and wildlife species observed/detected, as well as dominant plant species within each vegetation community, were recorded. Plant species observed during the field survey were identified by visual characteristics and morphology in the field, while unusual and less familiar plant species were photographed and identified later using taxonomic guides. Plant nomenclature used in this report follows Jepson eFlora (Jepson Flora Project 2022) and scientific names are provided immediately following common names of plant species (first reference only).

Wildlife species were identified by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other types of evidence. Field guides used to assist with identification of wildlife species during the habitat assessment included *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2014), *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Stebbins 2003), *Bats of the United States and Canada* (Harvey et al. 2011), and *A Field Guide to Mammals of North America* (Reid 2006). Although common names of wildlife species are well standardized, scientific names are provided immediately following common names of wildlife species in this report (first reference only). To the extent possible, nomenclature of birds follows the most recent annual supplement of the American Ornithological Society's *Checklist of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2020), nomenclature of amphibians and reptiles

follows Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding (Crother 2017), and nomenclature for mammals follows the Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico (Bradley et al. 2014).

### **Existing Site Conditions**

The project site is relatively flat and sloping slightly to the southeast with elevation ranging from approximately -34 to -53 feet above mean sea level. According to the *Custom Soil Resource Report for Riverside County, Coachella Valley Area, California* (USDA 2022), the project site is underlain by the following soil units: Gilman fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (GbA), and Gilman fine sandy loam, wet, 0 to 2 percent slopes (GcA) (refer to Figure 3, *USDA Soils*, in Attachment A). Based on the results from the field survey and a review of historic aerial imagery (Google, Inc. 2022), the project site has been utilized as agricultural land (date palm and more recently okra) and subjected to continual disturbance since the 1920's, but now heavily tilled/ripped soils that are either devoid of vegetation or sparsely vegetated with non-native and native ruderal species. Refer to Attachment B for representative photographs of the project site taken during the field survey.

### **Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types**

One (1) vegetation community was observed within the project site: tamarisk thicket (*Tamarix* spp. Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance). Additionally, the project site contains two (2) land cover types classified as disturbed, and developed (refer to Figure 4, *Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types*, in Attachment A).

### Tamarisk Thicket

Approximately 2.65 acres along the northern boundary of the project site consist of a tamarisk thicket (*Tamarix* spp. Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance) that functions as a windbreak. The tamarisk thickets consist of dense stands of Athel tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*) ranging from approximately 10 to 60 feet in height.

### Disturbed

Approximately 35.49 acres of the project site consist of disturbed land. The area consists primarily old agricultural land that is comprised of heavily tilled/ripped soils that are either devoid of vegetation or sparsely vegetated with non-native and native ruderal species, including saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*).

### Developed

Approximately 0.91 acre of the project site consists of developed land, which consists of a residential building and warehouse/storages associated with the agricultural farming, are located at the center of the project site, consisting primarily of compacted bare ground and buildings used historically for agriculture.

### Wildlife

Natural vegetation communities provide foraging habitat, nesting/denning sites, and shelter from adverse weather or predation. This section provides a general discussion of common wildlife species that have been detected on-site by Michael Baker or that are expected to occur based on existing site conditions. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather conditions during the field survey. Refer to Attachment C for a complete list of wildlife species observed during the field survey.

### Fish

No fish or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) that would support populations of fish were observed in the project site during the field survey. Therefore, no fish are expected to occur.

### **Amphibians**

No amphibians or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) that would provide suitable breeding habitat for amphibians were observed within the project site during the field survey. Therefore, no amphibians are expected to occur.

### Reptiles

One (1) reptile species was observed in the project site during the field survey: western side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*). The project site is expected to provide habitat for a limited number of reptilian species that are acclimated to edge or urban environments, such as Great Basin whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris tigris*) and red racer (*Coluber flagellum piceus*).

### **Birds**

A total of eleven (11) bird species were detected during the field survey, the most common of which included killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 and the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)<sup>2</sup>. To maintain compliance with the MBTA and CFGC, clearance surveys are typically required prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities to avoid direct or indirect impacts to active bird nests and/or nesting birds. Consequently, if an active bird nest is destroyed or if project activities result in indirect impacts (e.g., nest abandonment, loss of reproductive effort) to nesting

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by the California Fish and Game Code or any regulation made pursuant thereto; Section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey); and Section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird except as provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 703 et seq.).

birds, it is considered "take" and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. Although the project site provides suitable nesting habitat for various year-round and seasonal bird species, no active nests or birds displaying overt nesting behavior were observed during the field survey.

### Mammals

The project site provides marginal habitat for a limited number of mammalian species adapted to living in edge or urban environments. Coyote (*Canis latrans*) was the only mammal species observed during the field survey. Other common mammalian species that may occur within the project site include opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), racoon (*Procyon lotor*), and domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*). There is no suitable roosting habitat for bat species (Order Chiroptera) within the project site, due to a lack of hollow trees, mines, caves, rock outcrops, deep rock crevices, and man-made structures (i.e., bridges, tunnels, and buildings) which may provide suitable bat roosting habitat. Although there are palm trees in the surrounding residential and agricultural landscape, they are frequently trimmed and maintained, and are not expected to provide suitable roosting habitat for bats.

### **State and Federal Jurisdictional Resources**

There are three agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the U.S." pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates discharges to surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and Section 13263 of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and associated vegetation communities under Section 1600 *et seq.* of the CFGC.

No potential jurisdictional drainages or wetland features were observed within the boundaries of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to result in impacts to State or federal jurisdictional areas or require regulatory approvals/permits from the USACE, RWQCB, or CDFW.

### **Special-Status Biological Resources**

The CNDDB (CDFW 2022a), CIRP (CNPS 2022), and IPaC (USFWS 2022a) were queried for reported locations of special-status plant and wildlife species as well as special-status natural vegetation communities in the USGS *Indio*, *La Quinta*, *Valerie*, and *Martinez Mountain*, *California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. The biological field survey/habitat assessment was conducted to assess and evaluate the conditions of the habitat(s) within the boundaries of the project site to determine if the existing vegetation communities, at the time of the field survey, have the potential to provide suitable habitat(s) for special-status plant and wildlife species. Additionally, the potentials for special-status species to occur within the project site were determined based on the reported occurrence locations in the CNDDB, CIRP, and Calflora databases and the following criteria:

• **Present**: the species was observed or detected within the project site during the field survey.

- **High**: Recent (within 20 years) occurrence records indicate that the species has been known to occur on or within 1 mile of the project site and the site is within the normal expected range of this species. Intact, suitable habitat preferred by this species occurs within the project site and/or there is viable landscape connectivity to a local known extant population(s) or sighting(s).
- Moderate: Recent (within 20 years) occurrence records indicate that the species has been known to occur within 1 mile of the project site and the project site is within the normal expected range of this species. There is suitable habitat within the project site, but the site is ecologically isolated from any local known extant populations or sightings.
- Low: Recent (within 20 years) occurrence records indicate that the species has been known to occur within 5 miles of the project site, but the site is outside of the normal expected range of the species and/or there is poor quality or marginal habitat within the project site.
- **Not Expected**: There are no occurrence records of the species occurring within 5 miles of the project site, there is no suitable habitat within the project site, and/or the project site is outside of the normal expected range for the species.

Twenty-nine (29) special-status plant species and twenty-five (25) special-status wildlife species were identified during the review of the CNDDB and CIRP as occurring within the USGS *Indio, La Quinta, Valerie,* and *Martinez Mountain, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles and by the IPaC for the project region. In addition, one (1) special-status vegetation community was identified. Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the project site based on specific habitat requirements, availability/quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions of species/populations. Special-status biological resources identified during the literature review are presented in *Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources*, provided in Attachment D.

### Special-Status Plants

A total of twenty-nine (29) special-status plant species have been recorded in the USGS *Indio, La Quinta, Valerie,* and *Martinez Mountain, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDB and CIRP and in the project region by the IPaC (refer to Attachment D). No special-status plant species- were identified in the project site during the field survey. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that none of the special-status plant species identified by the CNDDB, CIRP, and IPaC are expected to occur within the project site. Although not considered a special-status plant species, paloverde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) is regulated under the CDNPA and may not be harvested except under a permit issued by the commissioner of the County of Riverside.

### Special-Status Wildlife

A total of twenty-five (25) special-status wildlife species have been recorded in the USGS *Indio, La Quinta, Valerie,* and *Martinez Mountain, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDB and in the project region by the IPaC (refer to Attachment D). No special-status wildlife species were identified in the project site during the field survey. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, occurrence records, known distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that the project site has a low potential to support for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; a State Species of Special Concern [SSC]). All remaining special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDB and IPaC either have a low potential or are not expected to occur within the project site.

### **Burrowing Owl**

The burrowing owl is a grassland specialist distributed throughout western North America where it occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. Burrowing owls use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with well-drained, level to gently sloping areas characterized by sparse vegetation and bare ground (Haug and Didiuk 1993; Dechant et al. 1999). Burrowing owls are dependent upon the presence of burrowing mammals (e.g., California ground squirrels [Otospermophilus beecheyi], coyotes, American badger [Taxidea taxus]) whose burrows are used for roosting and nesting. The presence or absence of mammal burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence or absence of burrowing owls. Where mammal burrows are scarce, burrowing owls have been found occupying man-made cavities, such as buried and non-functioning storm drain pipes, stand-pipes, and dry culverts. Burrowing owls may also burrow beneath rocks and debris or large, heavy objects such as abandoned cars, concrete blocks, or concrete pads. They also require open vegetation allowing open line-of-sight of the surrounding habitat to forage as well as watch for predators.

According to the CNDDB, there are six (6) occurrence records for burrowing owl within the USGS *Indio* and *La Quinta, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles; there are no occurrence records for burrowing owl within the USGS *Valerie* and *Martinez Mountain*, California 7.5-minute quadrangles (CDFW 2022a). The closest occurrence (Occurrence 656) was recorded in 2003, approximately 1.25 miles northwest of the project site; but is now considered extirpated due to residential development in 2003. The closest extant occurrence (Occurrence Number 1127) was recorded in 2007, approximately 1.75 miles northeast of the project site; there were two burrowing owls observed at a burrow at the time of the record (CDFW 2022a). In addition, there are several records of this species in the eBird database, both within and just outside of a 5-mile radius from the project site (eBird 2022). It should be noted that most of these were at the Spotlight 29 Casino to the north and Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport to the southeast of the project site.

No burrowing owls or burrowing owl sign were found during the field survey. The project site is located near existing residential and commercial developments, with Van Buren Street immediately to the east and Avenue 50 to the north of the site. In addition, there are several utility poles along Van Buren Street, Avenue 50, and other nearby roadways that provide perching opportunities for raptors that are known to prey on burrowing owls. Further, no California ground squirrels or suitable burrows (>4 inches in diameter) capable

of providing suitable nesting opportunities were observed within the boundaries of the project site. As a result, burrowing owl was determined to have a low potential to occur within the project site.

Special-Status Vegetation Communities

One (1) special-status vegetation community has been reported in the USGS *Indio, La Quinta, Valerie*, and *Martinez Mountain, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles by the CNDDB: Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland. The special-status vegetation community identified by the CNDDB was not observed during the field survey, and no other special-status vegetation communities were observed.

### **Critical Habitat**

Under the definition included in the FESA, designated Critical Habitat refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species that were occupied at the time it was listed that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species. Areas of Critical Habitat may require special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether the species is still extant in the area. Areas that were not known to be occupied at the time a species was listed can also be designated Critical Habitat if they contain one or more of the physical or biological features that are essential to that species' conservation and if the other areas that are occupied are inadequate to ensure the species' recovery. If a project may result in take or adverse modification to a species' designated Critical Habitat and the project has a federal nexus, the project proponent may be required to provide suitable mitigation. Projects with a federal nexus may include projects that occur on federal lands, require federal permits (e.g., CWA Section 404 permit), or receive any federal oversight or funding. If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing funds or permits would be required to consult with the USFWS pursuant to the FESA.

The project site is not located within USFWS-designated Critical Habitat for any federally listed species (refer to Figure 5, *Critical Habitat*, in Attachment A).

### **Migratory Corridors and Linkages**

Wildlife corridors and linkages are key features for wildlife movement between habitat patches. Wildlife corridors are generally defined as those areas that provide opportunities for individuals or local populations to conduct seasonal migrations, permanent dispersals, or daily commutes, while linkages generally refer to broader areas that provide movement opportunities for multiple keystone/focal species or allow for propagation of ecological processes (e.g., for movement of pollinators), often between areas of conserved land.

The project site is located within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP but is not located within any Conservation Areas (refer to Figure 6, CVMSHCP Conservation Areas, in Attachment A). The project site is surrounded by a mixture of developed and undeveloped land on all sides resulting in limited to no wildlife movement opportunities. In addition, wildlife movement into or out of the project site is likely reduced by the absence of vegetative cover, presence of surrounding high-traffic roadways (i.e., Avenue 50, Calhoun

Street, and Van Buren Street), existing residential developments, and agricultural land uses. Further, elevated noise levels, lighting, fencing, and human presence associated with the surrounding residential and commercial developments and roadways decrease the suitability of the project site to be used as a wildlife movement corridor or linkage.

### **Local Policies and Ordinances**

### **CVMSHCP**

The project site is located within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP but is not located within any Conservation Areas (refer to Figure 6, CVMSHCP Conservation Areas, in Attachment A). The proposed project is not listed as a planned "Covered Activity" under the published CVMSHCP but is still considered to be a current Covered Activity pursuant to Section 7.1 of the CVMSHCP which states that take authorization will be provided for certain activities that take place outside of Conservation Areas, including development permitted or approved by local Permittees. This includes, but is not limited to, new projects approved pursuant to county and city general plans, including the circulation element of said general plans, transportation improvement plans for roads in addition to those addressed in Section 7.2 of the CVMSHCP, master drainage plans, capital improvement plans, water and waste management plans, Riverside County's adopted Trails Master Plan, and other plans adopted by the Permittees.

As a Permittee under the CVMSHCP, the City of Coachella established a Local Development Mitigation Fee to assist in the maintenance of biological diversity and the natural ecosystem processes that support this diversity; the protection of vegetation communities and natural areas within the City's limit, Coachella Valley and surrounding mountains located in central Riverside County which are known to support threatened, endangered or key sensitive populations of plant and wildlife species; the maintenance of economic development within the City of Coachella by providing a streamlined regulatory process from which development can proceed in an orderly process; and the protection of the existing character of the City of Coachella and the region through the implementation of a system of reserves which will provide for permanent open space, community edges and habitat conservation for species covered by the CVMSHCP.

To assist in providing revenue for the conservation of lands necessary to implement the CVMSHCP, the Local Development Mitigation Fee shall be paid for each project, or portion thereof, to be constructed within the City of Coachella. As defined in Section 5 of Ordinance 702, the Local Development Mitigation Fee only applies to the following four categories: (1) residential units, density less than 8.0 dwelling units per acre; (2) residential units, density between 8.1 and 14.0 dwelling units per acre; (3) residential units, density greater than 14.1 dwelling units per acre; (4) non-residential. As such, the Local Development Mitigation Fee would need to be paid in full at the time of the issuance of a building permit for the proposed project.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

No special-status plant species were observed within the project site during the field survey. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that none of the special-status plant species identified by the CNDDB, CIRP, and IPaC are expected to occur within the project site. Although not considered a special-status plant species, paloverde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) is regulated under the CDNPA and may not be harvested except under a permit issued by the commissioner of the County of Riverside.

No special-status wildlife species were observed within the project site during the field survey. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, occurrence records, known distributions, and elevation ranges, Michael Baker determined that burrowing owl (a State SSC) has a low potential to occur within the project site. All remaining special-status wildlife species identified by the CNDDB and IPaC are not expected to occur within the project site.

In order to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to biological resources, it is recommended that the following Avoidance and Minimization Measures be implemented:

- **BIO-1**: If project-related activities are to be initiated during the nesting season (January 1 to August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than three (3) days prior to the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities. The qualified biologist shall survey all suitable nesting habitat within the project impact area, and areas within a biologically defensible buffer zone surrounding the project impact area. If no active bird nests are detected during the clearance survey, project activities may begin, and no additional avoidance and minimization measures shall be required. If an active bird nest is found, the species shall be identified, and a "no-disturbance" buffer shall be established around the active nest. The size of the "no-disturbance" buffer shall be increased or decreased based on the judgement of the qualified biologist and level of activity and sensitivity of the species. The qualified biologist shall periodically monitor any active bird nests to determine if project-related activities occurring outside the "no-disturbance" buffer disturb the birds and if the buffer should be increased. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, project activities within the "no-disturbance" buffer may occur following an additional survey by the qualified biologist to search for any new bird nests in the restricted area.
- **BIO-2:** Prior to initiating any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities, a clearance survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist to confirm that burrowing owls remain absent, and impacts do not occur to any occupied burrows that may be located on or within 500 feet of the project site. In accordance with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (California Department of Fish and Game 2012), one clearance survey should be conducted within 30 days prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities. Documentation of the surveys and findings should be provided to the City of Coachella for review prior to initiating project

activities. If no burrowing owls or occupied burrows are detected, project-related activities may begin.

If an occupied burrow is found outside, but within 500 feet, of the development footprint, the qualified biologist shall establish a "no-disturbance" buffer around the burrow location(s). The size of the "no-disturbance" buffer shall be determined in consultation with CDFW and be based on the species status (i.e., breeding, non-breeding) and proposed level of disturbance. If an occupied burrow is found within the development footprint and cannot be avoided, the qualified biologist shall flag the location and establish a "no-disturbance" buffer around the burrow in accordance with Section 4.4 of the CVMSHCP and contact CDFW to determine the appropriate method of relocation (i.e., eviction/passive relocation or active relocation).

Please do not hesitate to contact Tom Millington at (949) 246-7004 or <u>tommillington@mbakerintl.com</u> or Lauren Mapes at (714) 519-9922 or <u>lauren.mapes@mbakerintl.com</u> should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Tom Millington

Senior Biologist

Lauren Mapes

Lam Mayor

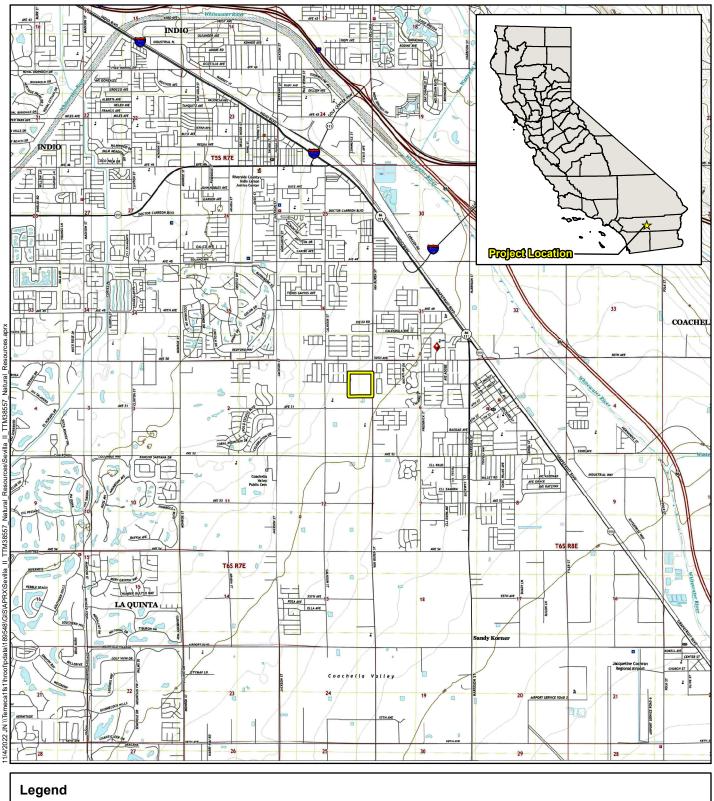
**Biologist** 

### Attachments:

- A. Project Figures
- B. Site Photographs
- C. Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List
- D. Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources
- E. References

# Attachment A

Project Figures

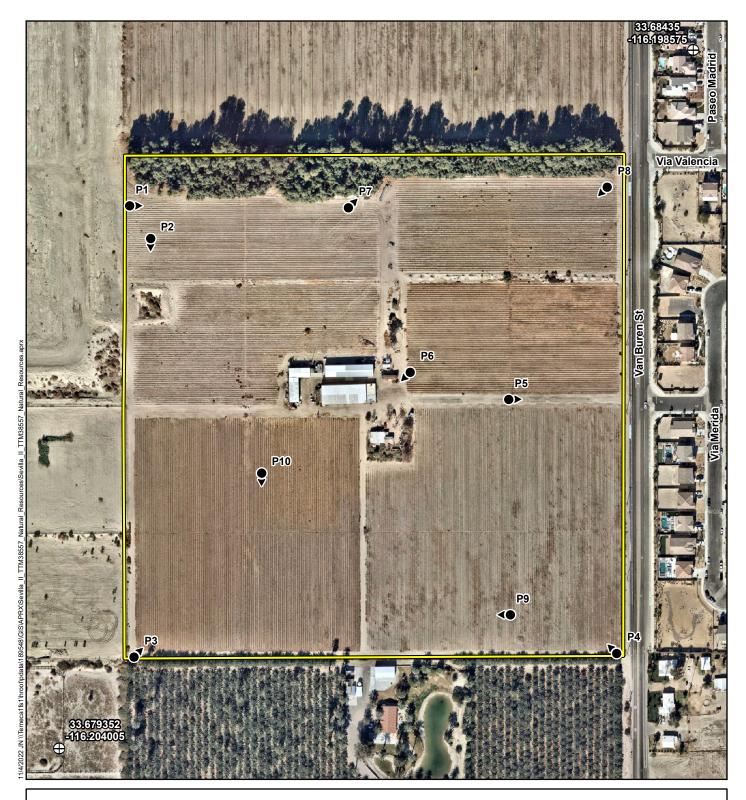




SEVILLA II TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 38557 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND CVMSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS







### Legend



hotograph Point and Direction

Source: Nearmap (01/2022)

⊕ Reference Point

SEVILLA II TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 38557 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND CVMSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS



0 125 250 Feet

**Project Site** 





Project Site (39.05 acres)

**GbA** Gilman fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes

⊕ Reference Point

GCA Gilman fine sandy loam, wet, 0 to 2 percent slopes

SEVILLA II TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 38557 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND CVMSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

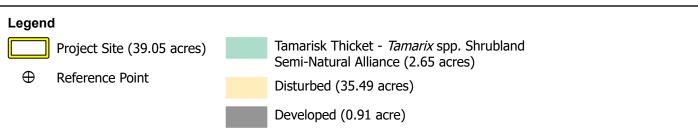


0 125 250 Feet

Source: Nearmap (01/2022), USDA (09/2019)

**USDA Soils** 



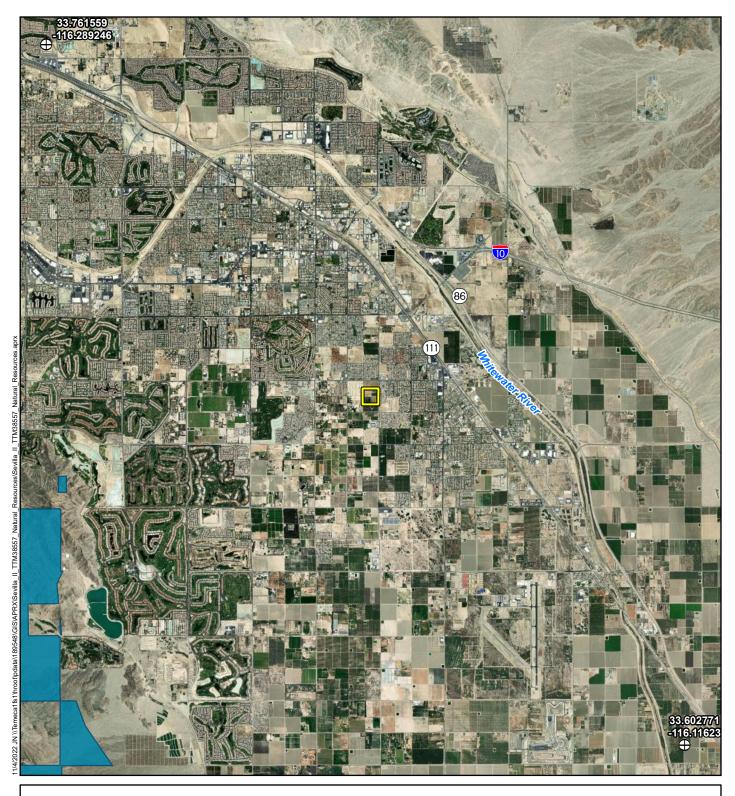


SEVILLA II TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 38557 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND CVMSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS



Source: Nearmap (01/2022)

Figure 4





Project Site (39.05 acres)

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (Ovis canadensis nelsoni)

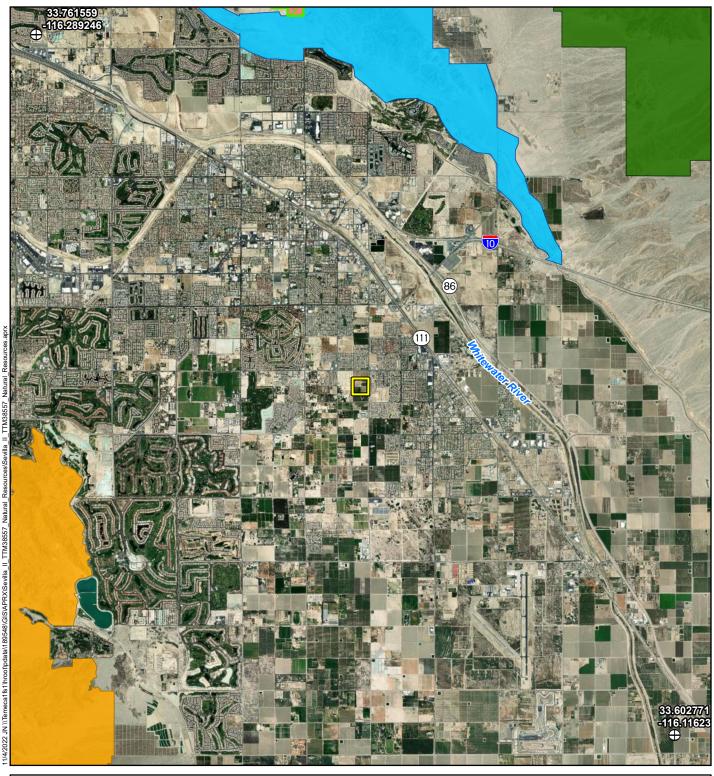
⊕ Reference Point

SEVILLA II TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 38557 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND CVMSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS





**Critical Habitat** 





SEVILLA II TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 38557 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND CVMSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS



0 0.75 1.5 Miles

Source: Esri/Maxar (06/2021), CVCC (08/2022)

# Attachment B Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Standing near the northwest corner of the project site, facing east.



Photograph 2: Standing near the western boundary of the project site, facing south.



Photograph 3: Standing near the southwest corner of the project site, facing northeast.



**Photograph 4:** Standing near the southeast corner of the project site, facing northwest.



Photograph 5: Standing in the western portion of the project site, facing east.



**Photograph 6:** Standing in the center of the project site, facing southwest.



Photograph 7: Standing near the northern boundary of the project site, facing northeast.



**Photograph 8:** Standing near the northeast corner of the project site, facing southwest.



Photograph 9: Standing in the southeast portion of the project site, facing west.



Photograph 10: Standing in the southwest portion of the project site, facing south.

# **Attachment C**

Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

Table C-1: Plant and Wildlife Species Observed List

Scientific Name*	Common Name	Cal-IPC Rating**	Special-Status Rank
Plants			
Abelmoschus esculentus	okra		
Amaranthus palmeri	Palmer's amaranth		
Atriplex lentiformis	big saltbush		
Atriplex sp.	saltbush sp.		
Cynodon dactylon*	Bermuda grass	Moderate	
Erigeron bonariensis	flax-leaved horseweed		
Parkinsonia aculeata*	paloverde		
Salsola tragus*	Russian thistle	Limited	
Tamarix aphylla*	Athel tamarisk	Limited	
Trianthema portulacastrum	desert horse purslane		
Tribulus terrestris*	puncture vine	Limited	
Reptiles			
Uta stansburiana elegans	western side-blotched lizard		
Birds			
Calypte costae	Costa's hummingbird		
Charadrius vociferus	killdeer		
Columba livia*	rock pigeon		
Falco sparverius	American kestrel		
Geococcyx californianus	greater roadrunner		
Haemorhous mexicanus	house finch		
Melozone aberti	Abert's towhee		
Mimus polyglottos	northern mockingbird		
Streptopelia decaocto*	Eurasian collared dove		
Thryomanes bewickii	Bewick's wren		
Zenaida macroura	mourning dove		
Mammals			
Canis latrans	coyote		

### \* Non-native species

### \*\* California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Ratings

Moderate

These species have substantial and apparent—but generally not severe—ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal, though establishment is generally dependent upon ecological disturbance. Ecological amplitude and distribution may range from limited to widespread.

Limited

These species are invasive, but their ecological impacts are minor on a statewide level or there was not enough information to justify a higher score. Their reproductive biology and other attributes result in low to moderate rates of invasiveness. Ecological amplitude and distribution are generally limited, but these species may be locally persistent and problematic.

# Attachment D Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
		SPECIAL-	STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES	S	
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	SSC G4 S3	Yes	Yearlong resident of California. Primarily a grassland species, but it persists and even thrives in some landscapes highly altered by human activity. Occurs in open, annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. The overriding characteristics of suitable habitat appear to be burrows for roosting and nesting and relatively short vegetation with only sparse shrubs and taller vegetation.	No	Low: The project site provides suitable foraging habitat, but no nesting habitat for this species due to historical agricultural activities resulting in heavily disturbed surface soils and a lack of suitable burrows. However, this species was observed 1.75 miles northeast of the project site (CDFW 2022a). In addition, there are several records of this species in the eBird database, both within and just outside of a 5-mile radius from the project site (eBird 2022).
Batrachoseps major aridus desert slender salamander	FE SE G4T1 S1	No	Known only from Hidden Palm Canyon (2,800 feet amsl) and Guadalupe Creek on the eastern slope of the Santa Rosa Mountains in Riverside County. Inhabits yearround seeps and moist cliffs with limestone sheets, rocks, and talus, shaded by California fan palms and willow trees.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Buteo regalis ferruginous hawk	WL G4 S3S4	No	Common winter resident of grasslands and agricultural areas in southwestern California. Frequents open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills surrounding valleys, and fringes of pinyon-juniper habitats. This species does not breed in California.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
Chaetodipus fallax pallidus pallid San Diego pocket mouse	SSC G5T3T4 S3S4	No	Common resident of sandy herbaceous areas, usually in association with rocks or course gravel in southwestern California. Occurs mainly in arid coastal and desert border areas. Habitats include coastal scrub, chamiseredshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. In addition, the project site primarily consists of disturbed habitat due to historical agricultural activities resulting in heavily disturbed surface soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Crotalus ruber red-diamond rattlesnake	SSC G4 S3	No	Found in southwestern California, from the Morongo Valley west to the coast and south along the peninsular ranges to mid Baja California. It can be found from the desert, through dense chaparral in the foothills (it avoids the mountains above around 4,000 feet amsl), to warm inland mesas and valleys, all the way to the cool ocean shore. It is most commonly associated with heavy brush with large rocks or boulders. Dense chaparral in the foothills, boulders associated coastal sage scrub, oak/pine woodlands, and desert slope scrub associations; however, chamise and red shank associations may offer better structural habitat for refuges and food resources for this species than other habitats.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Cyprinodon macularius desert pupfish	FE SE G1 S1	Yes	Historically occurred in several springs, seeps, and slow-moving streams in the Salton Sink Basin, as well as in backwaters and sloughs along the lower Colorado River. Currently, natural populations of desert pupfish occur in the Salton Sea and nearby shoreline pools, freshwater ponds, and irrigation drains, as well as in portions of creeks/washes that are tributary to the Salton Sea. The desert pupfish tolerates an extreme range of environmental conditions: salinities ranging from freshwater to 68-90 parts per thousand, water temperatures as high as 108 °F and as low as 40 °F.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Danaus plexippus monarch butterfly	FC G4T2T3 S2S3	No	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts are located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	No	Not Expected: There are no known wintering roosts within or nearby the project site (Xerxes 2022).
Dinacoma caseyi Casey's June beetle	FE G1 S1	No	Only two known populations in a small area of southern Palm Springs. Found in sandy soils within desert wash and Mojavean desert scrub habitat; the females live underground and only come to the ground surface to mate.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Empidonax traillii extimus southwestern willow flycatcher	FE SE G5T2 S1	Yes	Uncommon summer resident in southern California primarily found in lower elevation riparian habitats occurring along streams or in meadows. The structure of suitable breeding habitat typically consists of a dense mid-story and understory and can also include a dense canopy. Nest sites are generally located near surface water or saturated soils. The presence of surface water, swampy conditions, standing or flowing water under the riparian canopy are preferred.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	SSC G5T4 S3S4	No	Primarily a cliff-dwelling species, roost generally under exfoliating rock slabs. Roosts are generally high above the ground, usually allowing a clear vertical drop of at least 3 meters below the entrance for flight. In California, it is most frequently encountered in broad open areas. Its foraging habitat includes dry desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, and agricultural areas.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging or roosting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no recent occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Falco mexicanus prairie falcon	WL G5 S4	No	The prairie falcon is associated primarily with perennial grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, some agricultural fields during the winter season, and desert scrub areas, all typically dry environments of western North American where there are cliffs or bluffs for nest sites. The species requires sheltered cliff ledges for cover and nesting which may range in height from low rock outcrops of 30 feet to vertical, 400 feet high (or more) cliffs and typically overlook some treeless country for hunting. Open terrain is used for foraging.	No	Low (foraging): This species was observed approximately three miles west (Occurrence 129 and Occurrence 130) of the project site (CDFW 2022a). Additionally, there are several reports of this species within and just outside of a 5-mile radius of the project site in eBird (eBird 2022). However, the project site provides marginal foraging habitat and no nesting habitat for this species.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Gopherus agassizii desert tortoise	FT ST G3 S2S3	Yes	Can be found in a wide variety of habitats, such as alluvial fans, desert washes, canyons, and saltbush plains; most tortoises in the Mojave Desert are usually associated with creosote bush scrub on alluvial fans and bajadas. Wildflowers, grasses, and in some cases, cacti make up the bulk of their diet. Some of the more common forbs consumed by the tortoise include desert dandelion, primrose, gilia, desert plantain, milkvetches, desert marigold, Mojave lupine, phacelia, desert wishbone bush, forget-me-knots, lotus, goldfields, California coreopsis, white-margin sandmat, and the introduced red stemmed filaree.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Lasiurus xanthinus western yellow bat	SSC G5 S3	Yes	Uncommon in California, known only in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. Occurs in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. Prefers to roost and feed in, and near, palm oases and riparian habitats. Commonly found in the southwestern U.S. roosting in the skirt of dead fronds in both native and non-native palm trees.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging or roosting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no recent occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Nyctinomops femorosaccus pocketed free-tailed bat	SSC G5 S3	No	Often found in pinyon-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, desert riparian, desert wash, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree woodland, and palm oasis habitats. The species roosts primarily in crevices of rugged cliffs, high rocky outcrops, and slopes. May also roost in buildings, caves, and under roof tiles.	No	Not Expected: Suitable foraging or roosting habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no recent occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2 Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	FE ST FP G4T3Q S2	Yes	Eastern slopes of the Peninsular Ranges below 4,600 feet asml. This DPS of the subspecies inhabits the Peninsular Ranges in southern California from the San Jacinto Mountains south to the US-Mexico International Border. Optimal habitat includes steep walled canyons and ridges bisected by rocky or sandy washes, with available water. Alluvial fans and washes in flatter terrain are also used for foraging and water. Peninsular bighorn sheep in particular avoid higher elevations that support chaparral.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Perognathus longimembris bangsi Palm Springs pocket mouse	SSC G5T2 S1	Yes	Known from various vegetation communities, including creosote scrub, desert scrub, and grasslands, generally occurring on loosely packed or sandy soils with sparse to moderately dense vegetative cover. No longer occur on the valley floor from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea in areas developed for urban and agricultural land uses.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. In addition, the project site primarily consists of disturbed habitat due to historical agricultural activities resulting in heavily disturbed surface soils. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Phrynosoma mcallii flat-tailed horned lizard	SSC G3 S2	Yes	Restricted to desert washes and desert flats in desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran Desert scrub. Critical habitat element is fine sand with high density of harvester ants and fine windblown sand, but do not normally occur in habitats characterized as marshes and tamarisk-arrowweed thickets, or agricultural and developed areas.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. In addition, the project site primarily consists of disturbed habitat due to historical agricultural activities resulting in heavily disturbed surface soils.
Polioptila melanura black-tailed gnateatcher	WL G5 S3S4	No	In Mojave, Great Basin, Colorado and Sonoran Desert communities, prefers nesting and foraging in densely lined arroyos and washes dominated by creosote bush ( <i>Larrea tridentata</i> ) and salt bush ( <i>Atriplex</i> sp.) with scattered bursage ( <i>Ambrosia</i> sp.), ocotillo ( <i>Fouquieria splendens</i> ), saguaro barrel cactus ( <i>Ferocactus</i> sp.), prickly pear cactus ( <i>Opuntia littoralis</i> ), and cholla.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
Pyrocephalus rubinus vermilion flycatcher	SSC G5 S2S3	No	Occurs in a variety of open habitats including open woodland, clearings, desert scrub, savannah, agricultural land, golf courses, and recreational parks. The species tends to stay near water, often occurring in riparian vegetation characterized by Fremont cottonwoods, mesquite, willows, and California sycamores ( <i>Platanus racemosa</i> ).	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
Taxidea taxus American badger	SSC G5 S3	No	Occupies a wide variety of habitats including dry, open grassland, sagebrush, and woodland habitats. Require dry, friable, often sandy soil to dig burrows for cover, food storage, and giving birth. Occasionally found in riparian zones and open chaparral with less than 50% plant cover.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. In addition, the project site primarily consists of disturbed habitat due to historical agricultural activities resulting in heavily disturbed surface soils.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Toxostoma crissale Crissal thrasher	SSC G5 S3	Yes	Common yearlong resident in southern California. Occupies arid habitats including desert washes, riparian brush, and mesquite thickets at lower elevations and dense scrub in arroyos at higher elevations. Nests in dense vegetation along streams/washes dominated by mesquite, screwbean mesquite, ironwood, catclaw, acacia, arrowweed, willow.	No	Not Expected: Although there are reports of this species within and just outside of a 5-mile radius (a few within 2 miles) of the project site in eBird (eBird 2022) the project site does not provide suitable habitats preferred by this species.
Toxostoma lecontei Le Conte's thrasher	SSC G4 S3	Yes	Common yearlong resident in southern California. Primarily occurs in open desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and desert succulent shrub habitats; also occurs in Joshua tree habitat with scattered shrubs. Habitats with a high proportion of one or more species of saltbush and/or cylindrical cholla cactus is preferred. The ground is generally bare or with sparse patches of grasses and annuals forming low ground cover. Commonly nests in a dense, spiny shrub or densely branched cactus in desert wash habitat, usually 2 to 8 feet above ground.	No	Not Expected: Although there is a recent report (within 10 years) of this species within a 5-mile radius of the project site in eBird (eBird 2022), the project site does not provide suitable habitats preferred by this species.
Uma inornate Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	FT SE G1Q S1	Yes	Sparsely vegetated arid areas with fine wind-blown sand, including dunes, washes, alkali scrub, and flats with sandy hummocks formed around the bases of vegetation. Requires fine, loose, wind-blown sand for burrowing.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Although there are occurrences (Occurrence 190 and Occurrence 204) within 1 mile and several outside of the 1-mile radius, these areas have since been developed (CDFW 2022a). Further, the project site primarily consists of disturbed habitat due to historical agricultural activities resulting in heavily disturbed surface soils.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Vireo bellii pusillus least Bell's vireo	FE SE SSC G5T2 S2	Yes	Summer resident in southern California. Breeding habitat generally consists of dense, low, shrubby vegetation in riparian areas, and mesquite brushlands, often near water in arid regions. Early successional cottonwood-willow riparian groves are preferred for nesting. The most critical structural component of nesting habitat in California is a dense shrub layer that is 2 to 10 feet (0.6 to 3.0 meters) above ground. The presence of water, including ponded surface water or moist soil conditions, may also be a key component for nesting habitat.	No	Not Expected: There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project site.
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus Palm Springs round- tailed ground squirrel	SSC G5T2Q S2	Yes	Prefers open, flat, grassy areas in fine-textured, sandy soil. Habitats include mesquite- and creosote-dominated sand dunes, creosote bush scrub, creosote-paloverde, and saltbush/alkali scrub. Substrates include wind-blown sand, coarse sand, and packed silt with desert pavement.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. In addition, the project site primarily consists of disturbed habitat due to historical agricultural activities resulting in heavily disturbed surface soils.
		SPECIA	L-STATUS PLANT SPECIES		
Abronia villosa var. aurita chaparral sand-verbena	1B.1 G5T2? S2	No	Annual herb. Occurs on sandy soils within chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert dunes. Grows in elevations ranging from 245 to 5,250 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Blooming period is (January) March through September.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. borreganu Borrego milk-vetch	4.3 G5T1 S1	No	Annual herb. Grows on sandy soils within Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Grows in elevations ranging from 100 to 2,935 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through May.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. coachellae Coachella Valley milk- vetch	FE 1B.2 G5T1 S1	Yes	Annual/perennial herb. Occurs on dunes and sandy flats along disturbed margins of sandy washes and on sandy soils along roadsides adjacent to existing sand dunes. May also occur on sandy substrates in creosote bush scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 130 to 2,150 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through May.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Astragalus preussii var. Laxiflorus Lancaster milk-vetch	1B.1 G4T2 S1	No	Perennial herb. Occurs on alkaline clay soils in flat, gravelly or sandy washes in chenopod scrub. Found at elevations ranging at or around 2,295 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through May.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Astragalus sabulonum gravel milk-vetch	2B.2 G4G5 S2	No	Annual/perennial herb. Associated with sandy, sometimes gravelly flats, washes, and roadsides. Habitats include desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran Desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from -195 to 3,050 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through June.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
Astragalus tricarinatus triple-ribbed milk- vetch	FE 1B.2 G2 S2	Yes	Perennial herb. Found on sandy or gravelly soils within Joshua tree woodland and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 1,475 to 3,905 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through May.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Ayenia compacta California ayenia	2B.3 G4 S3	No	Perennial herb. Grows on rocky canyon bottoms within Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 490 to 3,595 feet amsl. Blooming period is from March to April.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Bursera microphylla little-leaf elephant tree	2B.3 G4 S2	No	Perennial deciduous tree. Occurs in rocky environments found in Sonoran Desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 655 to 2,295 feet amsl. Blooming period is June through July.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species. Additionally, there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Chorizanthe leptotheca Peninsular spineflower	4.2 G3 S3	No	Annual herb. Occurs on granitic soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 985 to 6,235 feet amsl. Blooming period is May through August.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Ditaxis claryana glandular ditaxis	2B.2 G3G4 S2	No	Perennial herb. Occurs on sandy soils in dry washes and on rocky hillsides in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 1,525 feet amsl. Blooming period is October to March.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

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Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Ditaxis serrata var. californica California ditaxis	3.2 G5T3T4 S2?	No	Perennial herb. Occurs on sandy washes and alluvial fans of the foothills and lower desert slopes in Sonoran Desert scrub habitat at elevations ranging from 100 to 3,280 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through December.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Eriastrum harwoodii Harwood's eriastrum	1B.2 G2 S2	No	Annual herb. Found in desert dune habitats. Occurs at elevations ranging from 410 to 3,000 feet amsl. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Funastrum crispum wavyleaf twinvine	2B.2 G4 S1	No	Perennial herb. Grows within chaparral and pinyon and juniper woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 3,820 to 6,035 feet amsl. Blooming period is May through August.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Horsfordia alata pink velvet-mallow	4.3 G5 S4	No	Perennial shrub. Grows on rocky soils within Sonoran Desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 330 to 1,640 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through December.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Horsfordia newberryi Newberry's velvet- mallow	4.3 G5 S4	No	Perennial shrub. Grows on rocky soils within Sonoran Desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 2,625 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through December.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Jaffueliobryum raui Rau's jaffueliobryum moss	2B.3 G4 S2	No	Moss. Occurs on carbonate dry, openings, and rock crevices within alpine dwarf scrub, chaparral, Mojavean Desert scrub, and Sonoran Desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations found from 1,610 to 6,890 feet amsl.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Johnstonella costata ribbed cryptantha	4.3 G4G5 S4	No	Annual herb. Grows on sandy soils within desert dunes in Mojavean Desert scrub, and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from -195 to 1,640 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through May.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
Johnstonella holoptera winged cryptantha	4.3 G4G5 S4	No	Annual herb. Found in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Grows in elevations ranging from 330 to 5,545 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through April.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Juncus acutus ssp. Leopoldii southwestern spiny rush	4.2 G5T5 S4	No	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Occurs within coastal dunes (mesic), meadows and seeps (alkaline seeps), and marshes and swamps (coastal salt). Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 2,955 feet amsl. Blooming period is (March) May through June.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Leptosiphon floribundus ssp. Hallii Santa Rosa Mountains leptosiphon	1B.3 G4T1T2 S1S2	No	Perennial herb. Occurs within pinyon and juniper woodland and Sonoran Desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 3,280 to 6,560 feet amsl. Blooming period is May through July (November).	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Marina orcuttii var. orcuttii California marina	1B.3 G2G3T1T2 S2?	No	Perennial herb. Occurs on rocky soils within chaparral, pinyon and juniper woodland, and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 3,445 to 3,805 feet amsl. Blooming period is May through October.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Matelea parvifolia spear-leaf matelea	2B.3 G5 S3	No	Perennial herb. Occurs on rocky soils within Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 1,445 to 3,595 feet amsl. Blooming period is March through May (July).	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
Mirabilis tenuiloba slender-lobed four o'clock	4.3 G5 S4	No	Perennial herb. Occurs within Sonoran Desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 755 to 3,595 feet amsl. Blooming period is (February) March through May.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species.
Nemacaulis denudata var. gracilis slender cottonheads	2B.2 G3G4T3? S2	No	Annual herb. Occurs in coastal dunes, desert dunes, and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from -165 to 1,310 feet amsl. Blooming period is (March) April through May.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site.
Phaseolus filiformis slender-stem bean	2B.1 G5 S1	No	Annual herb. Occurs within Sonoran Desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from at or around 410 feet amsl. Blooms during the month of April.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Pseudorontium cyathiferum Deep Canyon Snapdragon	2B.3 G4G5 S1	No	Annual herb. Grows on rocky soils within Sonoran Desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 2,625 feet amsl. Blooming period is February through April.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Selaginella eremophila desert spike-moss	2B.2 G4 S2S3	No	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Found in chaparral and Sonoran Desert scrub habitats on gravelly or rocky soils. Found at elevations ranging from 655 to 4,250 feet amsl. Blooming month is (May) June (July).	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).
Senna covesii Cove's cassia	2B.2 G5 S3	No	Perennial herb. Found on dry, sandy desert washes and slopes within Sonoran Desert scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 740 to 4,250 feet amsl. Blooming period is from March to June (August).	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).

Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Special- Status Rank*	CVMSHCP Covered Species	Habitat Preferences and Distribution Affinities	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur		
Stemodia durantifolia purple stemodia	2B.1 G5 S2	No	Perennial herb. Occurs on sandy soils and mesic sites within Sonoran Desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 591 to 984 feet amsl. Blooming period is from (January) April to December.	No	Not Expected: Suitable habitats preferred by this species are not present within the project site. Further, the project site is located outside of the known elevation ranges for this species and there are no occurrence records within five miles of the project site (CDFW 2022a).		
SPECIAL-STATUS VEGETATION COMMUNITIES							
CNDDB/Holland (1986) Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland MCV (1995) Fan Palm Series NVCS (2009) Washingtonia filifera seasonally flooded woodland alliance	G3 S3.2	N/A	Found at elevations ranging from 328 to 2,952 feet amsl in desert springs in canyon waterways or along fault lines where underground water is continuously available. Washintonia filifera is dominant or co-dominant in the tree canopy with white alder (Alnus rhombifolia), Arizona ash (Fraxinus velutina), California sycamore, Fremont cottonwood, honey mesquite (Prosopis glandulosa), screwbean mesquite (Prosopis pubescens), narrow leaved willow (Salix exigua), Goodding's black willow (Salix gooddingii), and arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis). Trees are less than 98 feet tall; canopy is open to continuous. Shrubs include saltbush, willow baccharis (Baccharis salicina), brittlebush (Encelia farinose), arrowweed, bush seepweed (Suaeda nigra) or tamarix. Herbaceous layer is open to continuous.	No	Absent: This vegetation community does not occur within or adjacent to the project site.		

### \* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- FE Endangered any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- FT Threatened any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- FC Candidate any species which is currently designated a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

### California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

- SE Endangered any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease.
- ST Threatened any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required under the California Endangered Species Act.
- FP Fully Protected any native species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, or reptile that were determined by the State of California to be rare or face possible extinction.
- SSC Species of Special Concern any species, subspecies, or distinct population of fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, or mammal native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following criteria: is extirpated from California or, in the case of birds, in its primary seasonal or breeding role; is listed as Federally-, but not State-, threatened or endangered; meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed; is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (noncyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status; or has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for State threatened or endangered status.
- WL Watch List taxa that were previously designated as "Species of Special Concern" but no longer merit that status, or which do not yet meet SSC criteria,

but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status.

### California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank

- 1B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
- 2B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.
- 3 Plant that lack the necessary information to assign them to one of the other ranks or to reject them.
- 4 Plants of limited distribution Watch List.

### Threat Ranks

- .1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree any immediacy of threat).
- .2 Moderately threatened in California (20 to 80 percent of occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat).
- .3 Not very threatened in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known).

### NatureServe Conservation Status Rank

The Global Rank (G#) reflects the overall condition and imperilment of a species throughout its global range. The Infraspecific Taxon Rank (T#) reflects the global situation of just the subspecies or variety. The State Rank (S#) reflects the condition and imperilment of an element throughout its range within California. (G#Q) reflects that the element is very rare but there are taxonomic questions associated with it; the calculated G rank is qualified by adding a Q after the G#). Adding a ? to a rank expresses uncertainty about the rank.

- G1/T1 Critically Imperiled At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.
- G2/T2 Imperiled— At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.
- G3/T3 Vulnerable— At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.
- G4/T4 Apparently Secure— Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
- G5/T5 Secure Common; widespread and abundant.
- S1 Critically Imperiled Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the State.
- S2 Imperiled Imperiled in the State because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the nation or State.
- S3 Vulnerable Vulnerable in the State due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
- S4 Apparently Secure Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.

### Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Yes - Fully Covered.

No - Not Covered.

## Attachment E

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