



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN  
DETERMINATION OF BIOLOGICALLY  
EQUIVALENT OR SUPERIOR PRESERVATION  
REPORT  
FOR THE  
VILLAGE AT MORENO VALLEY  
PROJECT**

**CITY OF MORENO VALLEY  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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**NOVEMBER 14, 2022**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

Hernandez Environmental Services (HES) was contracted to prepare a Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRCMSHCP) Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) for the Village at Moreno Valley Project, Master Plot Plan PEN21-0074, Tentative Parcel Map 37896 (Project). The Project proposes a retail commercial development on the approximate 9.6-acre Project site. The Project is located in the City of Moreno Valley within the County of Riverside, California.

### **1.1 Project Location**

The Project site consists of approximately 9.6 acres comprised of Riverside County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 487-250-005; -006; -007; and 010, located north of Fir Avenue, west of Nason Street, south of Interstate 60 (SR 60) and east of Tulip Road in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California (Figures 1 through 3). Specifically, the site is located within Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 3 West, of the Sunnymead California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. The approximate center of the site is located at 33.937003°, -117.192624°.

### **1.2 Project Description**

The Project proposes retail commercial space including restaurants, retail, offices, mixed use food/retail, fast food drive-thru restaurants, service station with convenience store, car wash, and parking. The Project will demolish the existing onsite cell tower and residence. The proposed Project includes the construction of associated access drives and related appurtenances. Current plans indicate that two access driveways to the site will be provided via Fir Street and one access driveway will be provided via Nason Street. Implementation of the proposed Project will result in impact to approximately 9.3 acres of the Project site. Refer to Figure 4.

## **2.0 Existing Conditions and Results**

### **2.1 Environmental Setting**

The Project site is bordered by State Route 60 (SR 60), Nason Street and Fir Avenue. Nason Street forms the eastern boundary for the project. Fir Avenue forms the southern boundary. The entire Project site has been disturbed by anthropogenic disturbances, including the vegetation onsite, which has been disturbed by adjacent land uses.

Onsite elevations range from 1,755± feet above mean sea level (amsl) in the northeastern portion of the Project site to a low of 1,725± feet amsl in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the site. The Project site consists of gradually sloping land on the eastern and western portions and an elevated area in the center. Onsite slopes are steeply sloping up to Nason Street.

Land uses immediately adjacent to the project site's western and southern boundaries are comprised of single-family residences. Additionally, the land use to the east of the project site is commercial; and the parcel to the north of the project site is a narrow strip of disturbed land.

## 2.2 Soils

Soils data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was used to determine potential soil types that may occur within the Project site. The soil associations mapped on the site are Cieneba sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent, eroded; Fallbrook sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded; Greenfield sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes; Hanford fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Monserate sandy loam, shallow, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded; Ramona sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; and Vista coarse sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, eroded. Refer to Figure 5.

## 2.3 Plant and Habitat Communities

A Biological Habitat Assessment and Focused Burrowing Owl Survey were prepared for the Project by Gonzalez Environmental Consulting, LLC (Appendix A). The Biological Habitat Assessment identified the vegetation types on the Project site. The primary vegetation communities in the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the Project site. Refer to Figure 6.

### California Annual Grassland Alliance

The Project site contains approximately 5.112 acres of California annual grassland alliance. This alliance of non-native annual grasslands and forb lands is composed of cool-season, annual grasses mostly introduced from Europe. They are invasive in disturbed areas throughout much of California and the composition varies widely. The California annual grassland alliance found on the Project site is dominated by stands of *Bromus diandrus*—mixed herbs which form a dense herbaceous layer (75%) at 0-0.5m tall. Shrub and tree layers are absent.

### *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance

The Project site contains approximately 0.149 acre of mulefat alliance. The mulefat alliance found on the Project site is comprised of an individual mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) that was observed in one of the drainage check dams. One emergent *Populus fremontii* was found next to the mulefat. Wide space bare of vegetation between plants was observed. The check dam is an anthropogenic creation and is lined with black plastic.

### *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance

The Project site contains approximately 0.916 acre of brittlebush-buckwheat shrub alliance. This series is considered part of the coastal scrub, which is better thought of as a collection of series. This approach allows stands of composition, which can be considered, regardless of geographic location. This series has Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) as the semi-dominant plant species. This community is found on the slopes of the project area.

### Landscape

The Project site contains approximately 0.399 acre of landscape/non-native trees. Non-native trees on the project site include Pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).

### Disturbed/Developed

The Project site contains approximately 2.717 acres of disturbed and developed areas. The disturbed areas on the Project site are characterized by predominantly non-native species introduced and established through human action. Disturbed or barren areas are areas that either completely lack vegetation or have a predominance of non-native species. The onsite developed areas are characterized by existing buildings and structures scattered throughout the central portions of the Project site.

#### **2.3.1 Impacts to Habitat**

Project construction activities (i.e. grading, staging areas, etc.) would result in the permanent loss of approximately 9.293 acres of onsite areas and approximately 0.147 acre of offsite areas, as described in Table 1. Refer to Figure 7.

**Table 1. Project Impacts to Vegetation Types**

<b>Vegetation Types</b>	<b>Onsite Project Impacts (Acreage)</b>	<b>Offsite Project Impacts (Acreage)</b>
California Annual Grassland Alliance	5.112	0.071
Developed/Disturbed	2.717	0.057
Brittlebush-Buckwheat Shrub Alliance	0.916	0.018
Landscape	0.399	0.32
Mulefat Alliance	0.149	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.293</b>	<b>0.147</b>

#### **2.4 Western Riverside County MSHCP**

Although the Project area is located within Western Riverside County MSHCP Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan of the Western Riverside County MSHCP, the Project itself is not located within a Criteria Cell or Cell Group. The Project site is not located within plan-defined areas requiring surveys for amphibian species, mammalian species, narrow endemic plant species, criteria area species, or burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). A habitat assessment conducted on the site determined that suitable burrowing owl habitat is present on the Project site. Further, focused surveys found that the Project site is not currently in use by burrowing owl.

### **3.0 Section 6.1.2 Riparian/Riverine Resources**

Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP describes the process through which protection of riparian/riverine areas, riparian bird species, vernal pools, and fairy shrimp species will occur within the WRCMSHCP Area.

#### **3.1 Riparian/Riverine**

Pursuant to Section 6.1.2 of the Western Riverside County WRCMSHCP, “riparian/riverine areas are lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to, or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or areas with freshwater flow during all or a portion of the year” (WRCMSHCP 2003). Riparian/riverine areas under the WRCMSHCP also include drainage areas that are vegetated or have upland (non-riparian/riverine) vegetation and that drain directly into an area that is described for conservation under the WRCMSHCP (or areas already conserved). Protection of riparian/riverine resources is based on the potential for the habitat to support riparian/riverine covered species, which are identified in WRCMSHCP Section 6.1.2.

##### **3.1.1 Methodology**

A Jurisdictional Delineation was prepared for the Project by Hernandez Environmental Services in September of 2022 (Appendix A). The Jurisdictional Delineation consisted of a desktop, field, and jurisdictional assessments of the Project area. Prior to conducting fieldwork, the following map resources were reviewed:

- USFWS National Wetland Inventory
- Google Earth color aerial imagery dating back to 1996
- USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps dating back to 1905
- USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus

In addition to the previously listed resources that are routinely used as references to support jurisdictional delineations, the WRCMSHCP website was also reviewed and used for reference.

These resources were used to identify potential jurisdictional features based on changes in vegetation, topographic changes, and/or visible drainage patterns. Prior to field surveys, potential features were digitized into a working field map that was then used as a reference during field surveys.

The project area was walked and assessed for riparian vegetation, wetlands, and jurisdictional drainages on September 2, 2022. During the field survey, selected transects were walked a minimum of 100 feet upstream and downstream, noting the presence or absence of fluvial activity, boundaries of geomorphic units, changes in plant species composition between different geomorphic units, photographing points of transition, and mapping the watercourse and watercourse boundaries. The guidelines followed are those established in the 2014 Mapping Episodic Stream Activity (MESA) Field Guide. Areas measured were recorded using a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) for accurate location reference, and site photographs were also taken. Refer to Appendix A.

Furthermore, the presence of an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) was recorded. Where the presence of an OHWM was evident, a second measurement was recorded for the width of the OHWM. According to 33 CFR 328.3(e), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines the OHWM as: “on non-tidal rivers, the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by the physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; the presence of litter and debris; or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area”.

Where changes in plant community composition were apparent, the area was examined for the possibility of wetlands. Whether or not adjacent to waters of the United States (WUS), the potential wetland area is evaluated for the presence of the three wetland indicators: hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. The guidelines followed are those established in the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers Manual.

Information from the Jurisdictional Delineation and vegetation mapping from the Biological Habitat Assessment were combined to determine areas qualifying as riparian/riverine based on WRCMSHCP criteria.

### **3.1.2 Existing Conditions and Results**

The Jurisdictional Delineation found that the Project site contains one ephemeral drainage feature that flows through the eastern portion of the Project site. The drainage onsite originates from a culvert outlet from SR 60 which provides flow into a trapezoidal concrete channel, which sheet flows prior to entering the site. The ephemeral drainage is tributary to the San Jacinto River.

The drainage enters the northern portion of the site as a channel lined with cloth/fabric matting. The channel then narrows and becomes a natural bottom channel before entering a concrete trapezoidal channel. The drainage becomes an earthen channel in the southeastern portion of the site prior to exiting the site through a culvert. The onsite drainage is severely disturbed. The drainage is dominated by disturbed areas and upland habitat with remnant patches of mulefat scrub. The drainage extends approximately 859 feet through the eastern portion of the site and consists of approximately 0.27 acre of ephemeral streambed, including approximately 0.016 acre of associated riparian vegetation. The onsite drainage and associated riparian vegetation are considered WRCMSHCP riparian/riverine resources. Refer to Figure 8.

The onsite ephemeral drainage has low functions and values for flood storage and flood flow modification, sediment trapping and transport, nutrient retention and transformation, toxicant trapping, public use, and wildlife and aquatic habitat due to its small size, severe anthropogenic impacts, and lack of perennial or intermittent sources of water.

The proposed Project will impact the entire onsite drainage totaling (0.27 acre/859 linear feet). Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to natural and beneficial functions and values.

### **3.1.3 Mitigation and Equivalency**

Implementation of the proposed project will result in impacts to approximately 0.27 acres of riparian/riverine resources. To mitigate for permanent impacts to the 0.27 acre of ephemeral drainage feature and associated riparian vegetation, the Project Proponent proposes to provide



offsite mitigation through the purchase of 0.54-acre, a 2:1 ratio, of re-establishment credits at the Riverpark Mitigation Bank. The River Park Mitigation Bank proposes to re-establish alkali plain wetland system habitat and rehabilitate alkali plain wetland habitat and replace functions and services of aquatic resources and associated habitats that have been degraded or destroyed. Functions and values restored include long-term water storage, flood flow dissipation, greater nutrient retention, greater removal of elements and compounds, spreading of low flows for greater retention and removal of dissolved substances, increased structural habitat, habitat interspersion, and wildlife connectivity, and higher support for sensitive species. Therefore, unlike the onsite drainage feature, the proposed mitigation would provide for the conservation of wetland habitat with superior functions and values.

Although the project is unable to avoid impacts to the onsite riverine resources, the project's proposed mitigation would represent a biologically equivalent or superior preservation alternative to avoidance since the proposed mitigation would be expected to result in the restoration and conservation of an increased acreage of habitat with higher values in comparison to the drainage feature impacted by the project.

### **3.2 Vernal Pools**

Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three parameters (soils, vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season. Vernal pools are depressions in areas where a hard-underground layer prevents rainwater from draining downward into the subsoils. When rain fills the pools in the winter and spring, the water collects and remains in the depressions. In the springtime, the water gradually evaporates away, until the pools become completely dry in the summer and fall. Vernal pools tend to have an impermeable layer that results in ponded water. The soil texture (the amount of sand, silt, and clay particles) typically contains higher amounts of fine silts and clays with lower percolation rates. Pools that retain water for a sufficient length of time will develop hydric cells. Hydric cells form when the soil is saturated from flooding for extended periods of time and anaerobic conditions (lacking oxygen or air) develop.

The entire site was evaluated for the presence of habitat capable of supporting branchiopods. The site was evaluated as described in the USFWS Survey Guidelines for the Listed Large Branchiopods (May 31, 2016). The Project area is primarily comprised of sandy loams. The onsite soils do not allow for water pooling on the site for any significant length of time after rain events. No vernal pools, swales, or vernal pool mimics such as ditches, borrow pits, cattle troughs, or cement culverts with signs of pooling water were found on the site. In addition, the site does not contain areas that showed signs of ponding water, hydrophytic vegetation, or soils typical of vernal pools that would be suitable for large branchiopods.

### **3.3 Fairy Shrimp**

The entire Project site was evaluated for the presence of habitat capable of supporting branchiopods. Habitat was evaluated as described in the USFWS Survey Guidelines for the Listed Large Branchiopods (2017). The site does not contain evidence of persistent wetness, hydrophytic vegetation, or soils typical of vernal pools that would be suitable for large branchiopods.

### 3.4 Riparian Birds

While the onsite ephemeral drainage feature meets the definition of a riparian/riverine area according to the WRCMSHCP, the drainage does not support suitable riparian habitat with the potential to support riparian/riverine bird species. Further, none of the riparian/riverine bird species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP were found within the project site. Due to the lack of suitable riparian habitat on the project site, focused surveys for riparian/riverine bird species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP are not warranted.

### 4.0 Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species (Section 6.1.3)

The Project site is not located within the WRCMSHCP Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA) pursuant to Section 6.1.3 of the WRCMSHCP. Therefore, the NEPSSA requirements are not applicable to the project.

### 5.0 Section 6.3.2 Additional Surveys and Procedures

#### 5.1 Criteria Area Species Survey Area – Plants

The Project Area is not located within any of the Western Riverside County WRCMSHCP Criteria Area Plant Species Survey Areas (CAPSSA) pursuant to Section 6.3.2 of the Western Riverside County WRCMSHCP.

#### 5.2 Criteria Area Species Survey Area - Burrowing Owl

##### 5.2.1 Methodology

The Biological Habitat Assessment prepared for the Project area, determined that focused surveys for burrowing owl (BUOW) would be required due to the presence of suitable habitat documented during the February 7, 18, and 26, 2021 habitat assessment field visits. In accordance with the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area, focused burrow and BUOW surveys (Part A and Part B, respectively) were conducted on four separate days during the breeding season: March 1, April 17, May 17, and June 22, 2021 (Appendix A). Survey times, weather, and sunrise/sunset information is described in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. BUOW Survey Information**

Survey	Date	Survey Start Time/Duration	Sunrise/Sunset Time	Weather
1	3/1/2021	1645-1845	0616/1745	37 to 54 degrees Fahrenheit; 40% cloud cover, winds 1-10 miles per hour

2	4/17/2021	1722-2022	0613/1922	43 to 61 degrees Fahrenheit; 60% cloud cover, winds 0-2 miles per hour
3	5/17/2021	1745-2045	0545/1945	52 to 66 degrees Fahrenheit; clear, winds 0-6 miles per hour
4	6/22/2021	1803-2103	0538/2003	75 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit; clear, winds 0-4 miles per hour

Surveys were conducted from one hour before sunrise to two hours after sunrise or two hours before sunset to one hour after sunset and during weather that was conducive to observing owls outside their burrows and detecting BUOW sign. The surveys were not conducted during rain, high winds (> 20 miles per hour), dense fog, or temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Surveys involved walking through potentially suitable habitat within the Project site and 500-ft buffer area. The pedestrian survey transects were spaced approximately 30 to 50 ft apart to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface (Figure 9). Special attention was paid to those habitat areas that appeared to provide suitable habitat for BUOW. Where permission to access the buffer areas could not be obtained, the biologist visually inspects adjacent habitats with binoculars.

All encountered burrows or structure entrances were checked for the presence of BUOW, molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, tracks, or excrement. Natural or man-made structures and debris piles that could support BUOW were also surveyed. The locations of all suitable BUOW habitat, potential burrows, BUOW sign, and any BUOW observed was recorded and mapped with a handheld GPS unit.

All wildlife species encountered visually or audibly during the field survey were identified and recorded in field notes. Binoculars were used to aid in the identification of observed wildlife. Photographs were taken to document existing conditions within the Project site and 500-ft buffer area.

### **5.2.2 Results**

Based on the results of the habitat assessment, it was determined that the Project site provides suitable burrows/nesting opportunities for BUOW. Although several potential debris piles were mapped within the project area during habitat assessments for this species, focused surveys did not identify BUOW or active burrows during surveys on the site or in adjacent areas. Despite systematic searches of the Project site and 500-ft buffer area (Figure 9), no BUOW or evidence (i.e., including scat, pellets, feathers, tracks, and prey remains) were found which suggests recent or historical use of the Project site by BUOW. Therefore, BUOWs are not present within the Project site.

**5.2.3 Mitigation and Equivalency**

Due to the fact that the Project site is located within the WRCMSHCP BUOW survey area, a 30-day preconstruction survey is required prior to the commencement of Project activities (e.g. vegetation clearing, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, site watering) to ensure that no owls have colonized the Project area in the days or weeks preceding Project activities. If BUOW are found to have colonized the Project site prior to the initiation of construction, the Project proponent will immediately inform RCA and the Wildlife Agencies and will need to prepare a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan for approval by RCA and the Wildlife Agencies prior to initiating ground disturbance. If ground-disturbing activities occur but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey will again be necessary to ensure BUOW has not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If BUOW is found, the same coordination described above will be necessary.

**5.3 Criteria Area Species Survey Area – Mammals**

The Project site is not located within the WRCMSHCP Additional survey areas for mammals.

**5.4 Criteria Area Species Survey Area – Amphibians**

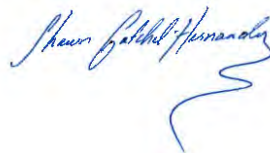
The Project site is not located within the WRCMSHCP Additional survey areas for amphibians.

**6.0 Certification**

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date 11-04-2022

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



PROJECT MANAGER

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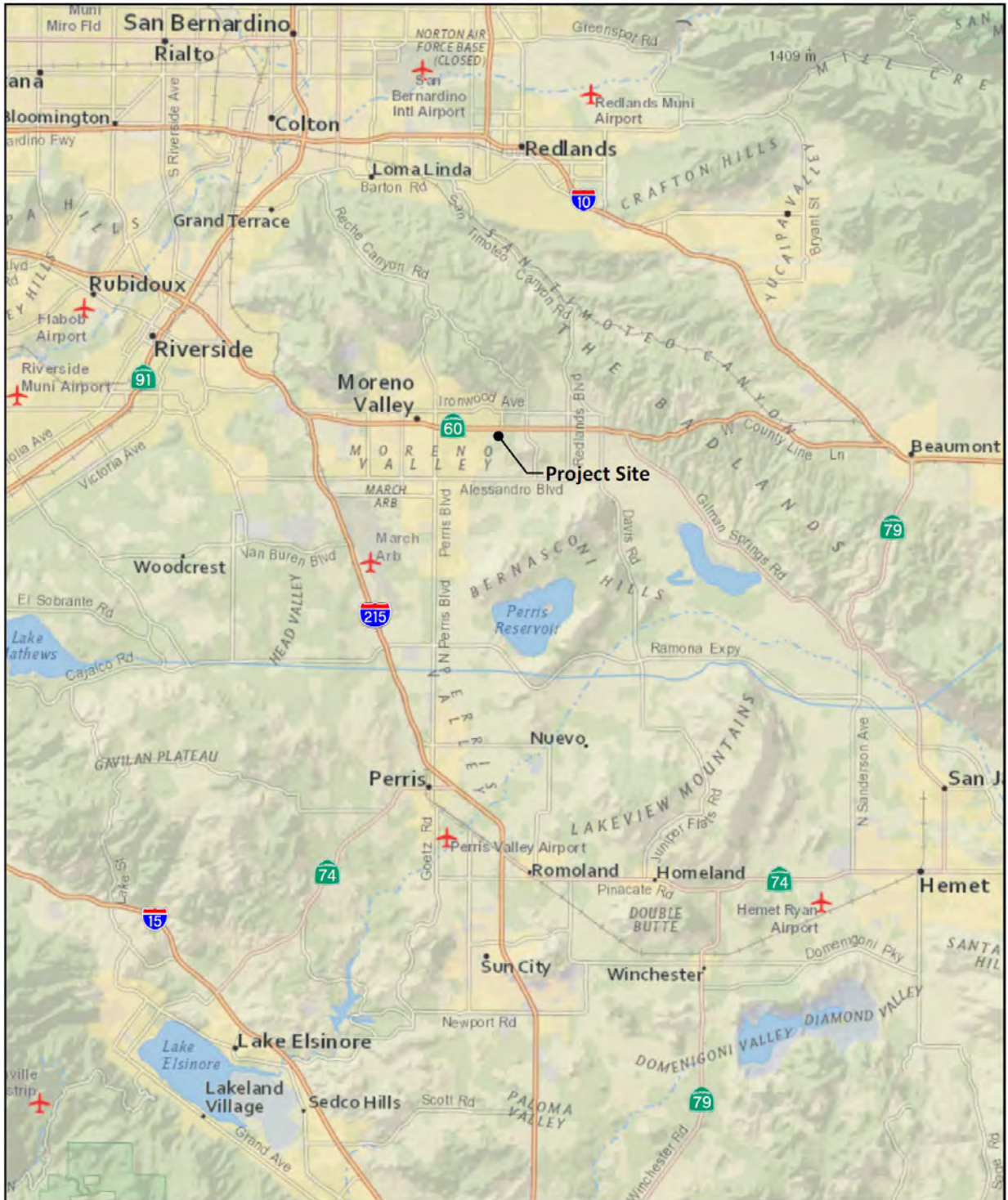
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# FIGURES

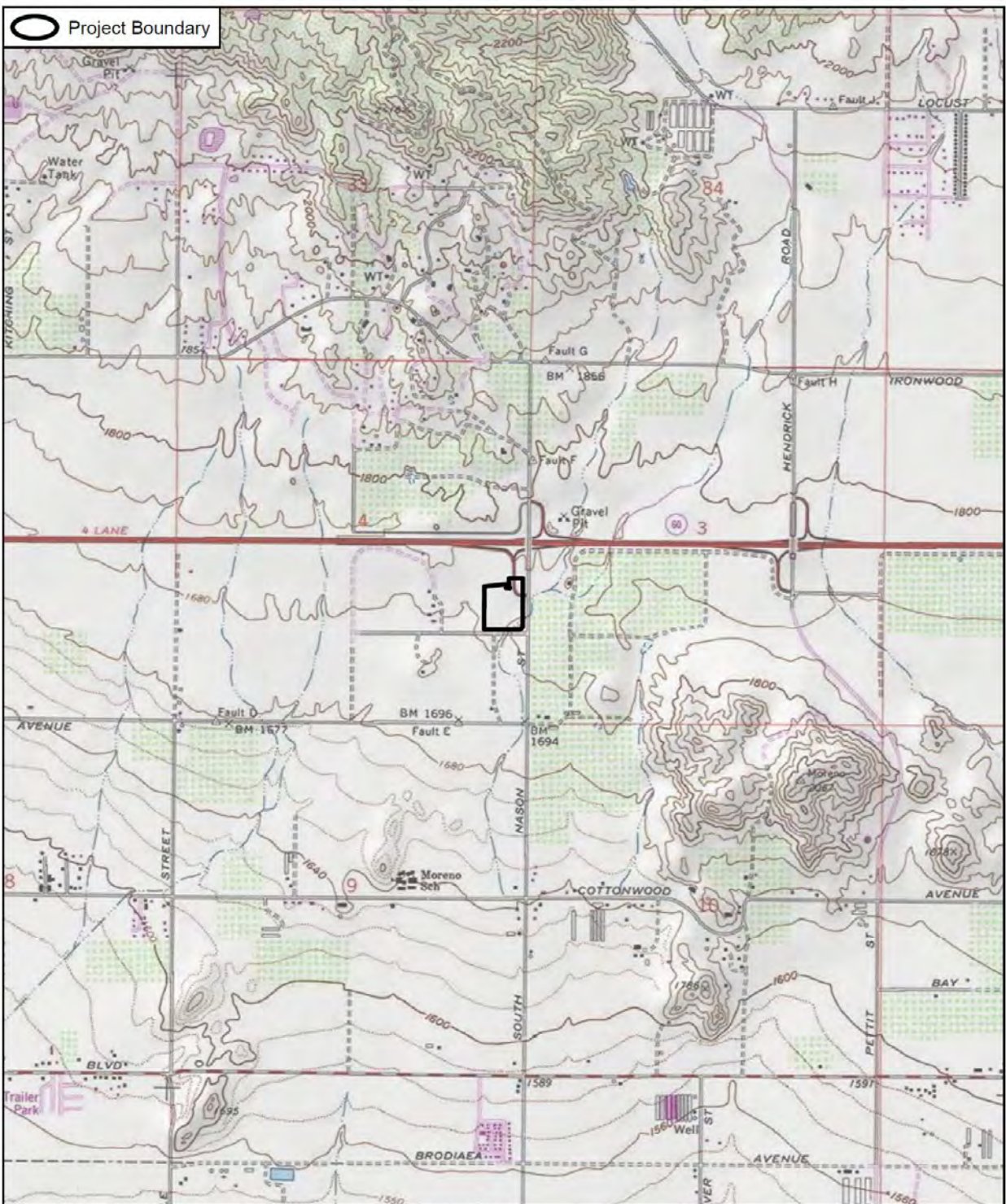


Source: National Geographic

**FIGURE 1** Regional Map

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





Source: USGS 7.5' Quadrangle (Sunnymead), Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

**USGS Topo**

**FIGURE 2**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY



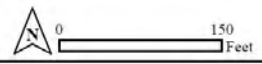


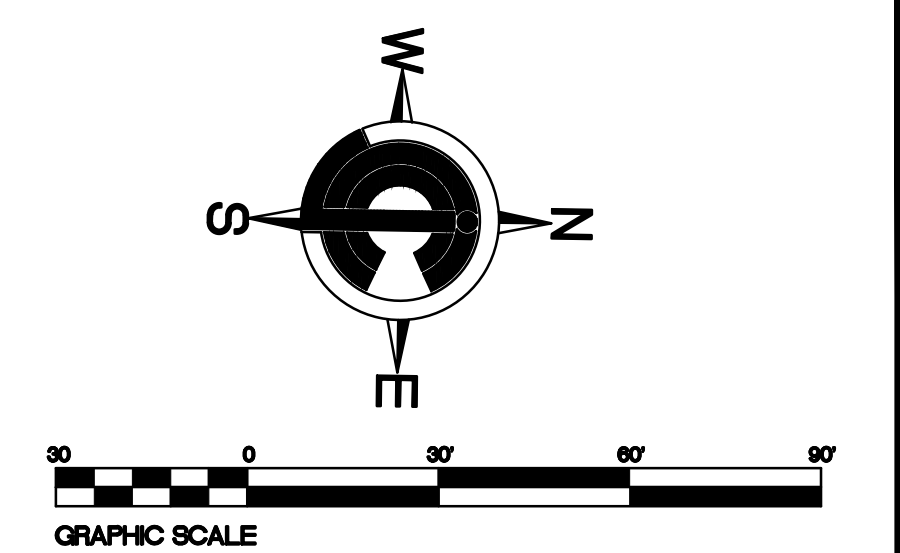
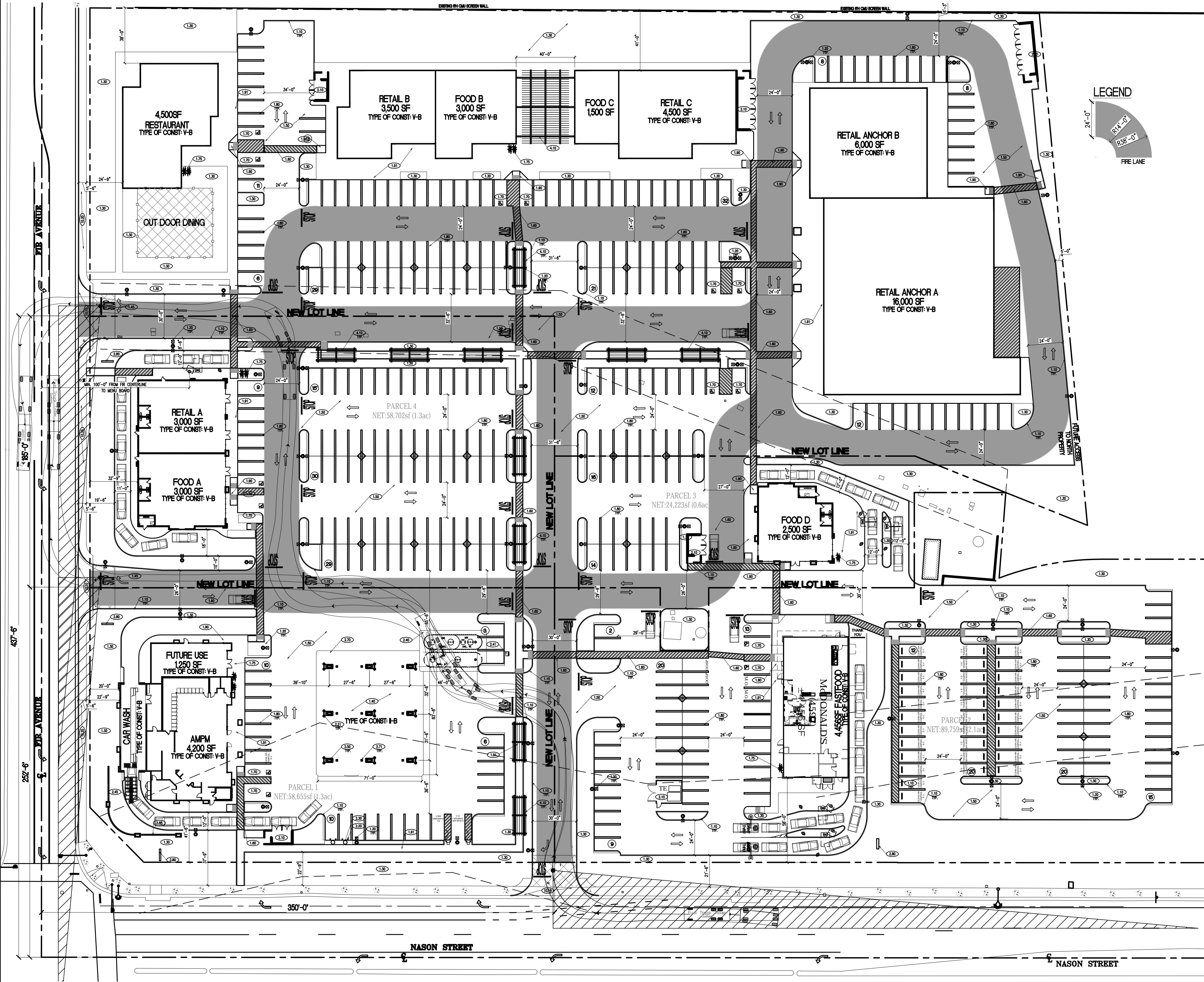
Aerial Photo: Nearthmap 2020

**FIGURE 3**

**Aerial Photograph**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

- 1.10 6" CONCRETE CURB
- 1.20 20" LED AREA LIGHT WITH PHOTO-CELL AND TIME CLOCK SWITCHING PER "CALGREEN" AND TITLE 24 REQUIREMENTS. HOOD AND ARRANGE SO AS NOT TO CAUSE A NUISANCE TO ADJACENT STREET TRAFFIC OR TO LIVING ENVIRONMENT. THE AMOUNT OF LIGHT THAT SHALL BE PROVIDED SHALL BE PER THE PUBLIC WORKS STANDARDS AND CALGREEN
- 1.30 LANDSCAPING WITH AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION
- 1.40 6" CONCRETE DRIVE SLAB WITH #3 BARS @ 18" O.C. OR AS SPECIFIED IN SOILS REPORT IF AVAILABLE.
- 1.45 COLORED CONCRETE WITH 8X8 SCORE LINES
- 1.50 6" OVER 4" AB. ASPHALT PAVING OR AS SPECIFIED IN SOILS REPORT IF AVAILABLE.
- 1.60 HANDICAP PATH OF TRAVEL (MIN. 48" WIDE AND SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 2% EACH WAY)
- 1.70 HANDICAP PARKING SPACE WITH ALL RELATED SIGNAGE (SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 2% E.W.)
- 1.75 BICYCLE PARKING PER CAL GREEN CODE
- 1.80 9'X18' STANDARD PARKING SPACES
- 1.90 CONCRETE HANDICAP RAMP (SLOPE 8.33%)
- 1.91 CONCRETE SIDEWALK (MIN. 48" WIDE WITH 2% CROSS SLOPE WHERE HANDICAP PATH OF TRAVEL OCCURS)
- 2.10 TRASH ENCLOSURE PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD
- 2.20 6" CONCRETE FILLED STEEL GUARD POSTS
- 2.21 U-SHAPE STEEL GUARD POSTS
- 2.30 AIR/WATER AND VACUUM UNIT
- 2.35 ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION
- 2.40 UNDER GROUND STORAGE TANKS (2) 20,000 GALLON AND (1) 30,000 GALLON UNDER REINFORCED CONCRETE SLAB
- 2.41 TANK VENT RISERS CARBON CANISTER
- 2.45 3,000 GALLON CAR WASH CLARIFIER
- 2.50 CONCRETE ISLAND W/ (1) MULTI PRODUCT DISPENSER (6" MIN. & 8" MAX. HEIGHT)
- 2.70 FUELING CANOPY
- 2.71 FUELING CANOPY COLUMNS
- 2.80 ID SIGNAGE
- 2.85 36" STUCCO FINISH SCREEN WALL
- 2.90 ELECTRICAL PANELS
- 3.10 ADA PARKING LOT ENTRY SIGN PER CHAPTER 11B OF CBC
- 4.10 TRELLIS ROOF SHADE
- 10.10 CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD
- 10.20 CONCRETE SIDEWALK PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD

**SITE PLAN & PARKING SUMMARY**

BUILDING NO.	SIZE	USE	RATIO	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
C-STORE BUILDING	5,450 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	25	25
CAR WASH	1,600 S.F.	SERVICE	1/BAY	1	4
RETAIL - A	3,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	14	40
FOOD - A	3,000 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	30	43
RESTAURANT BLDG.	4,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	45	40
FOOD - B	3,000 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	30	27
RETAIL - B	3,500 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	16	10
FOOD - C	1,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	15	12
RETAIL - C	4,500 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	20	16
RETAIL ANCHOR - A	16,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	71	61
RETAIL ANCHOR - B	6,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	27	24
FOOD - D	2,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	25	22
FASTFOOD BUILDING	4,456 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	45	95
<b>TOTAL BUILDING S.F.</b>	<b>74,206 S.F.</b>			<b>364</b>	<b>422</b>

TOTAL PARKING PROVIDED: 422 PARKING SPACES  
 SITE IS OVER PARKED BY: 56 PARKING SPACES  
 HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES REQUIRED: 422 SPACES- 9 REQUIRED PER CODE. PROVIDED 14 SPACES

**SITE PLAN**

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

PE STAMP

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP.
5	12/18/22	REVISED PER CITY COMMENTS		
6	03/01/23	REV. LOCATION OF FOOD A MENU BOARD		
7	07/02/23	REV. WESTERLY TO BAY		
8	07/07/23	REV. PER CITY COMMENTS		
9	08/19/23	REV. NASON GEOMETRIC PER EXH.		

**CJC Design, Inc.**  
 Design Planning Permitting  
 22485 La Palma Avenue, Suite 202, Torrance, CA 90505  
 Tel: (714) 920-8653 Fax: (714) 917-0250  
 www.cjcorp.com

**MORENO**  
 valley Center

**PROJECT:**  
 N.W. COR. NASON ST. @ FIR AVENUE  
 MORENO VALLEY, CA.  
**OVERALL SITE PLAN**

DATE ISSUED: 02/04/2022

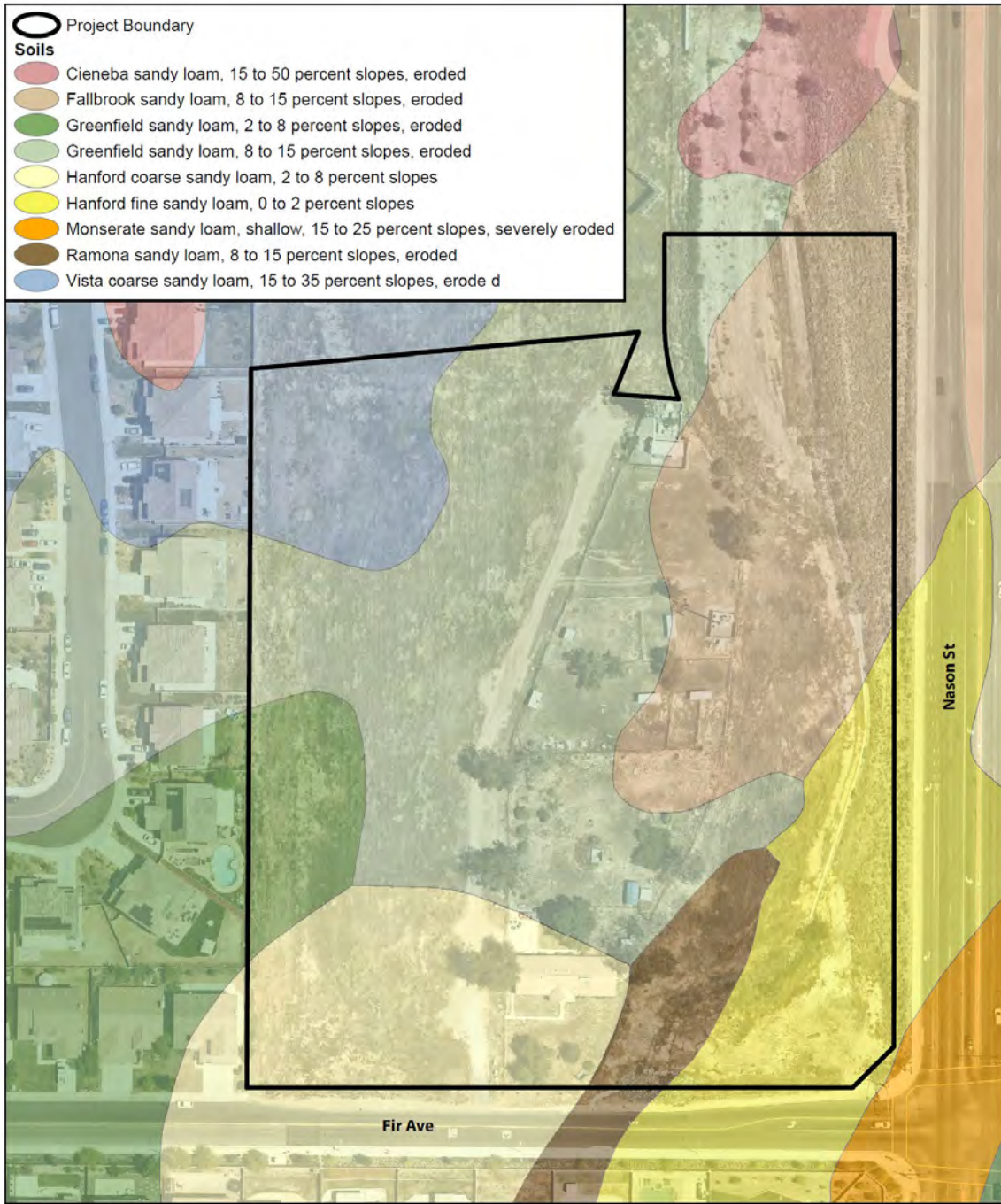
SCALE:

DRAWN BY: F. COHEN CHECKED BY: F. COHEN

PROJECT NUMBER: 17098

STORE NUMBER: RIVERSIDE HOLDING

SHEET: C.10



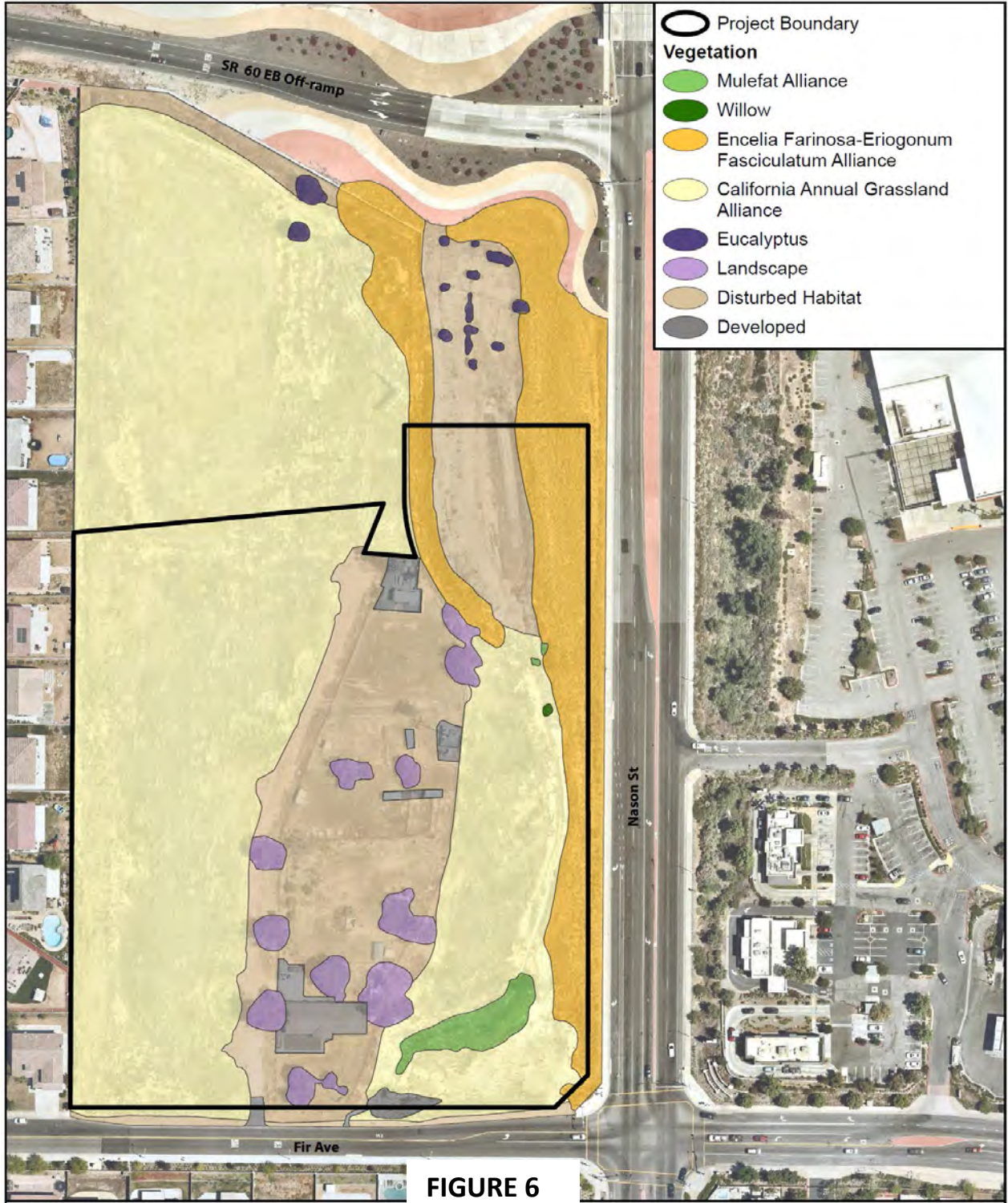
Aerial Source: Nearmap 2020

**FIGURE 5**

**Soils**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**FIGURE 6**

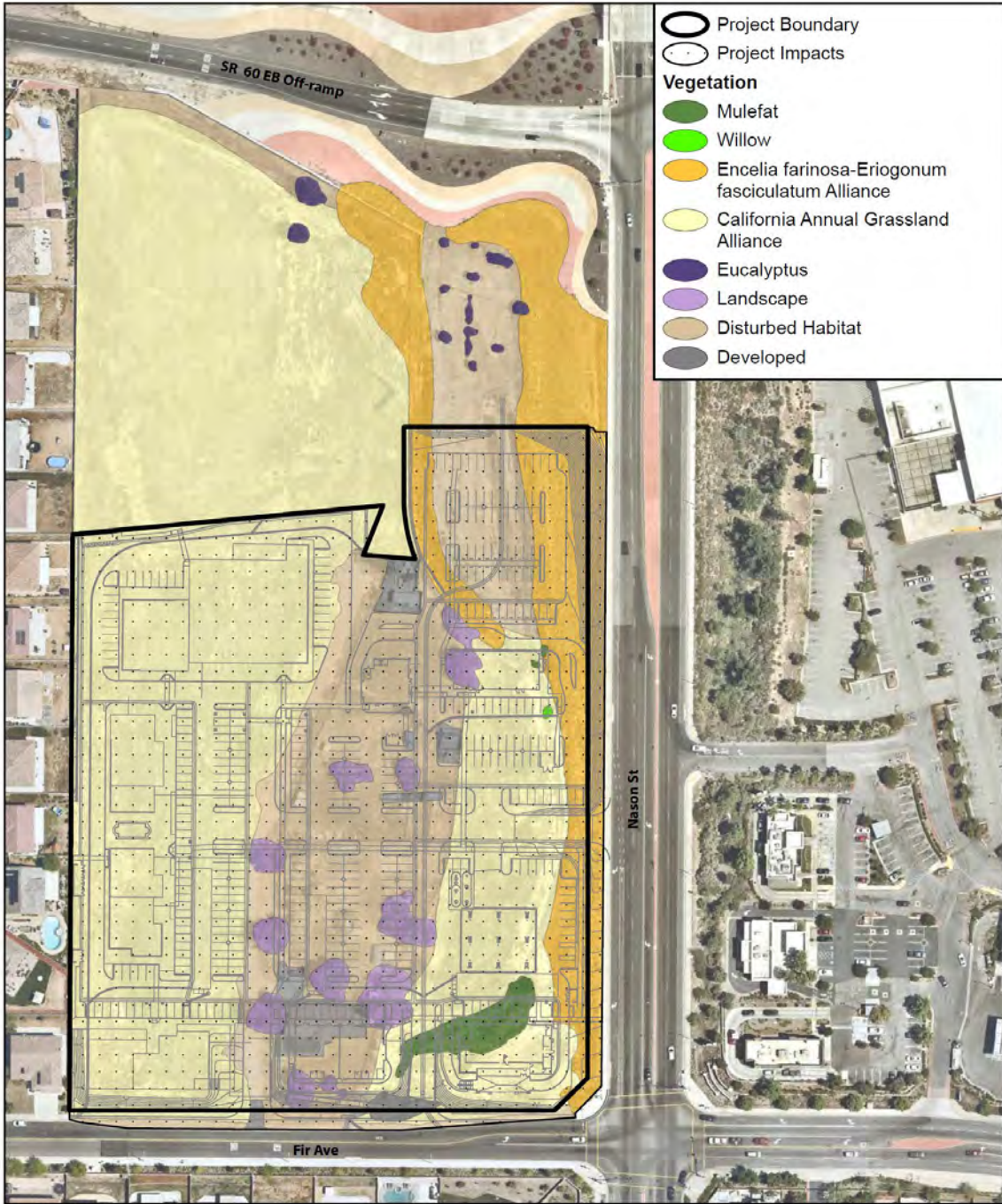
**Vegetation**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY

Aerial Photo: Nearthmap 2020







Aerial Photo: Neamap 2020

**FIGURE 7**




**Vegetation Impacts**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY

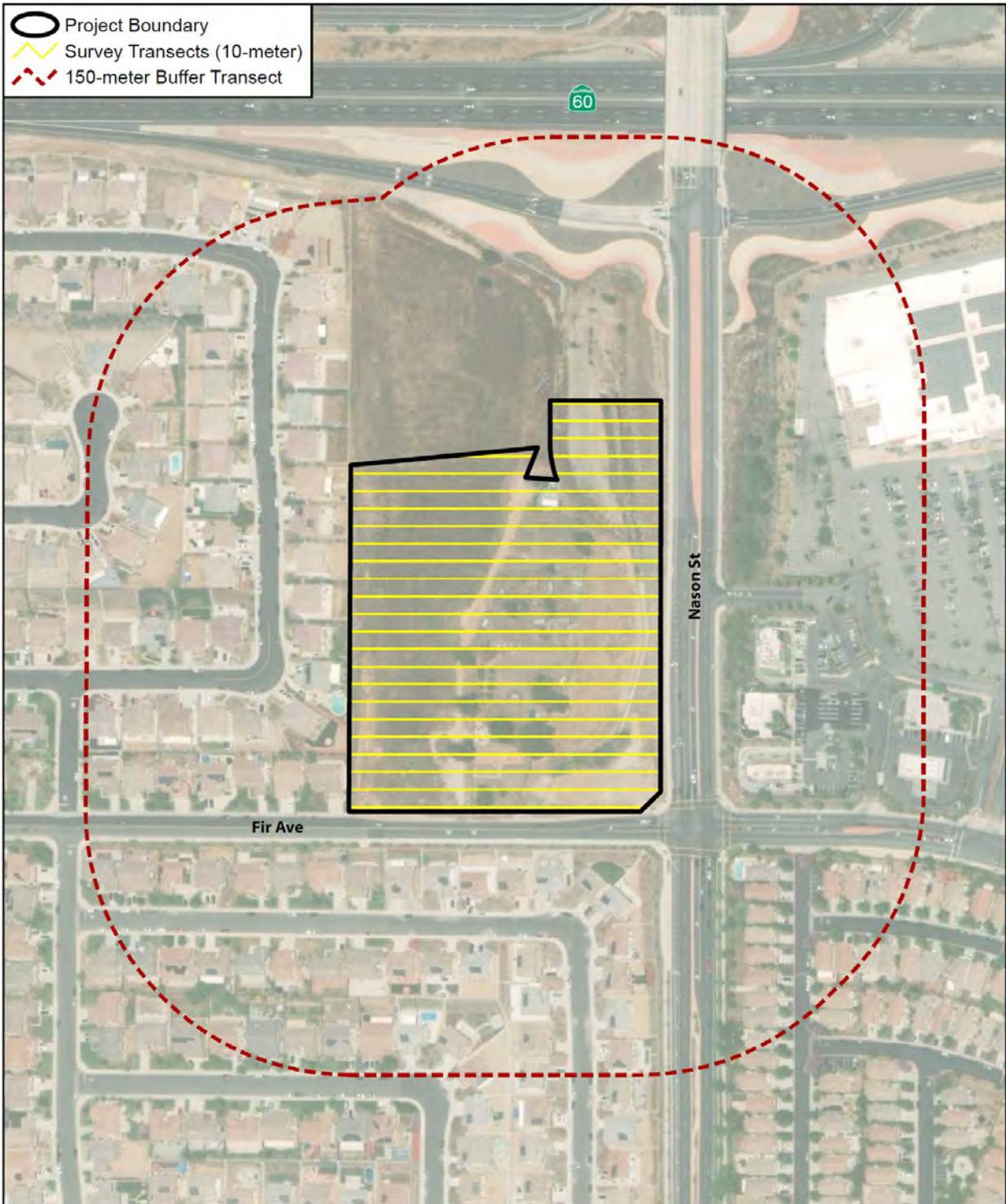




**Figure 8**  
 Riparian/Riverine Resources Map  
 Village at Moreno Valley  
 City of Moreno Valley  
 Riverside County, California

- Legend**
-  Project Site Boundary
  -  Ephemeral Stream (0.27 Acre)
  -  Remnant Muelfat Scrub Riparian Habitat (0.016 Acre)





Aerial Source: Maxar, Esri 2018

## Transects

**FIGURE 9**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY

Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC

# **APPENDIX A**



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN  
CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS  
FOR THE  
VILLAGE AT MORENO VALLEY  
PROJECT**

**CITY OF MORENO VALLEY  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**Prepared for:  
Village at Moreno Valley, LLC  
10995 Indiana Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92503**

**Prepared by:  
Hernandez Environmental Services  
17037 Lakeshore Drive  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

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**APPENDICES**

- Appendix A – Biological Habitat Assessment
- Appendix B – Jurisdictional Delineation

## **1.0 Introduction**

Hernandez Environmental Services was contracted to prepare a Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRCMSHCP) Consistency Analysis for the Village at Moreno Valley Project (Project). The Project proposes a retail commercial development on the approximate 9.6-acre Project site. The Project is located in the City of Moreno Valley within the County of Riverside, California.

### **1.1 Project Location**

The Project site consists of approximately 9.6 acres comprised of Riverside County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 487-250-005; -006; -007; and 010, located north of Fir Avenue, west of Nason Street, south of Interstate 60 (SR 60) and east of Tulip Road in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California (Figures 1 through 3). Specifically, the site is located within Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 3 West, of the *Sunnymead* California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. The approximate center of the site is located at 33.937003°, -117.192624°.

### **1.2 Project Description**

The Project proposes retail commercial space including restaurants, retail, offices, mixed use food/retail, service station with convenience store, car wash and parking. The proposed Project also includes associated access drives and related appurtenances (Figure 4). Access to the site will be provided via Fir Street. Implementation of the proposed Project will result in impact to approximately 9.3 acres of the Project site.

### **1.3 Environmental Setting**

The Project site is bordered by State Route 60 (SR 60), Nason Street and Fir Avenue. Nason Street forms the eastern boundary for the project. Fir Avenue forms the southern boundary. The entire Project site has been disturbed by anthropogenic disturbances. Vegetation has been disturbed by adjacent land uses.

Onsite elevations range from 1,755± feet above mean sea level (amsl) in the northeastern portion of the Project site to a low of 1,725± feet amsl in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the site. The Project site consists of gradually sloping land on the eastern and western portions and an elevated area in the center. Onsite slopes are steeply sloping up to Nason Street.

Land immediately adjacent to the site's western and southern boundaries are single family residences. Land to the east is commercial. The land to the north is a disturbed narrow strip of land between the project site and SR 60.



## **2.0 Western Riverside County MSHCP Reserve Assembly Analysis**

The WRCMSHCP (County of Riverside Transportation and Land Management Agency [TLMA] 2003) is a comprehensive, multijurisdictional habitat conservation planning program for western Riverside County, California. The purpose of the WRCMSHCP is to preserve native habitats, and to this end, the plan focuses upon the habitat needs of multiple species rather than one species at a time. The WRCMSHCP provides coverage/take authorization for some species listed under the federal or state Endangered Species Act (ESA) as well as non-listed special-status plant and wildlife species. It also provides mitigation for impacts to special-status species and their associated habitats.

Through agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), 129 listed and special-status plant and animal species receive coverage under the WRCMSHCP. Of the 129 covered species, the majority have no additional survey needs or conservation requirements. Furthermore, the WRCMSHCP provides mitigation for Project-specific impacts to these species, thereby reducing the degree of impact to below a level of significance, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Several of the species covered under the WRCMSHCP have additional survey requirements. These include the riparian communities and associated species addressed in Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP document (“Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools”), plants identified in Section 6.1.3 (“Narrow Endemic Plant Species”); and plants and animal species addressed in Section 6.3.2 (“Additional Survey Needs and Procedures”).

### **2.1 Project Relationship to the Western Riverside County MSHCP**

The Project site is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP boundaries. The City of Moreno Valley, acting as the lead agency for the proposed project, is a permittee under the Western Riverside County MSHCP and, therefore, is afforded coverage under the state or federal ESAs for impacts to listed species covered by the plan. The City is required to document consistency with the Western Riverside County MSHCP in conjunction with any discretionary approvals for the project. As such, this report was prepared to provide all necessary information required to determine project consistency with the Western Riverside County MSHCP.

The Project area is located within Western Riverside County MSHCP Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan of the Western Riverside County MSHCP. The Project site is not located within a Criteria Cell or Cell Group. The Project site is not located within plan-defined areas requiring surveys for amphibian species, mammalian species, narrow endemic plant species, criteria area species, or burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). A habitat assessment conducted on the site determined that suitable habitat is present on the Project site. Focused surveys found that the Project site is not currently in use by burrowing owl.

The Project site does contain a disturbed ephemeral drainage that would be considered riparian/riverine areas as defined in Section 6.1.2 of the Western Riverside MSHCP. No vernal pools were observed within the Project site boundaries.

### **3.0 Existing Conditions**

A Biological Habitat Assessment and Focused Burrowing Owl Survey were prepared for the Project by Gonzalez Environmental Consulting, LLC (Appendix A).

#### **3.1 Soils**

Soils data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was used to determine potential soil types that may occur within the Project site. The soil associations mapped on the site are Cienega sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent, eroded; Fallbrook sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded; Greenfield sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes; Hanford fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Monserate sandy loam, shallow, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded; Ramona sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; and Vista coarse sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, eroded. Refer to Figure 5.

#### **3.2 Vegetation**

The Biological Habitat Assessment identified the vegetation types on the Project site. The primary vegetation communities in the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the Project site. Refer to Figure 6.

##### California Annual Grassland Alliance

The Project site contains approximately 5.112 acres of California annual grassland alliance. This alliance of non-native annual grasslands and forb lands is composed of cool-season, annual grasses mostly introduced from Europe. They are invasive in disturbed areas throughout much of California. The composition varies widely. Many alien annual species may be present, including *Avena fatua*, *Brassica spp.*, *Bromus diandrus*, *Bromus hordeaceus* and *Bromus madritensis*. The composition of this alliance is largely determined by amount of disturbance coupled with fall temperatures and precipitation, light intensity, litter thickness and micro topography. The percentage of exotic alien species is often directly related to disturbance history with heavy disturbance correlating with heavy exotic invasion. Annual grasses are supremely adapted to the Mediterranean climate of California; many species evolved under similar conditions in southern Europe and northern Africa. Plants germinate during winter rains, and complete their life cycles by the beginning of the summer drought. Seeds often remain viable for many years.

*Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance

The Project site contains approximately 0.149 acre of mulefat alliance. Mulefat scrub is dominated by mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), but also may include willows (*Salix spp.*), sedges (*Carex spp.*) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

*Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance

The Project site contains approximately 0.916 acre of brittlebush-buckwheat shrub alliance. This series is considered part of the coastal scrub, which is better thought of as a collection of series. This approach allows stands of composition, which can be considered, regardless of geographic location. This series has Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) as the semi-dominant plant species. This community is found on the slopes of the project area.

Landscape

The Project site contains approximately 0.399 acre of landscape/non-native trees. Non-native trees on the project site include Pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).

Disturbed/Developed

The Project site contains approximately 2.717 acres of disturbed and developed areas. Disturbed areas are characterized by predominantly non-native species introduced and established through human action. Disturbed or barren areas are areas that either completely lack vegetation or have a predominance of non-native species.

**3.3 Impacts**

Project construction activities (i.e. grading, staging areas, etc.) would result in the permanent loss of approximately 9.293 acres of onsite areas and approximately 0.147 acre of offsite areas, as described in Table 1. Refer to Figure 7.

**Table 1. Project Impacts to Vegetation Types**

<b>Vegetation Types</b>	<b>Onsite Project Impacts (Acreage)</b>	<b>Offsite Project Impacts (Acreage)</b>
California Annual Grassland Alliance	5.112	0.071
Developed/Disturbed	2.717	0.057
Brittlebush-Buckwheat Shrub Alliance	0.916	0.018
Landscape	0.399	0.32
Mulefat Alliance	0.149	-

Vegetation Types	Onsite Project Impacts (Acreage)	Offsite Project Impacts (Acreage)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.293</b>	<b>0.147</b>

### 3.4 Wildlife

General wildlife species documented within the Project area include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna’s hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Say’s phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*). The complete list of species observed is included in Appendix A.

## 4.0 Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Habitat and Vernal Pools(Section 6.1.2)

Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP describes the process through which protection of riparian/riverine areas, riparian bird species, vernal pools, and fairy shrimp species will occur within the WRCMSHCP Area.

### 4.1 Riparian/Riverine

Pursuant to Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP, “riparian/riverine areas are lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to, or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or areas with freshwater flow during all or a portion of the year” (WRCMSHCP 2006). Riparian/riverine areas under the WRCMSHCP also include drainage areas that are vegetated or have upland (non-riparian/riverine) vegetation and that drain directly into an area that is described for conservation under the WRCMSHCP (or areas already conserved). Protection of riparian/riverine resources is based on the potential for the habitat to support riparian/riverine covered species, which are identified in WRCMSHCP Section 6.1.2.

#### 4.1.1 Methodology

A Jurisdictional Delineation was prepared for the Project by Hernandez Environmental Services in September of 2022 (Appendix A). The Jurisdictional Delineation consisted of a desktop, field, and jurisdictional assessments of the Project area. Prior to conducting fieldwork, the following map resources were reviewed:

- USFWS National Wetland Inventory.
- Google Earth color aerial imagery dating back to 1996
- USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps dating back to 1905

- USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus

In addition to the previously listed resources that are routinely used as references to support jurisdictional delineations, the WRCMSHCP website was also reviewed and used for reference.

These resources were used to identify potential jurisdictional features based on changes in vegetation, topographic changes, and/or visible drainage patterns. Prior to field surveys, potential features were digitized into a working field map that was then used as a reference during field surveys.

The project area was walked and assessed for riparian vegetation, wetlands, and jurisdictional drainages on September 2, 2022. During the field survey, selected transects were walked a minimum of 100 feet upstream and downstream, noting the presence or absence of fluvial activity, boundaries of geomorphic units, changes in plant species composition between different geomorphic units, photographing points of transition, and mapping the watercourse and watercourse boundaries. The guidelines followed are those established in the 2014 *Mapping Episodic Stream Activity (MESA) Field Guide*. Areas measured were recorded using a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) for accurate location reference, and site photographs were also taken. Refer to Appendix A.

Furthermore, the presence of an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) was recorded. Where the presence of an OHWM was evident, a second measurement was recorded for the width of the OHWM. According to 33 CFR 328.3(e), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines the OHWM as: “on non-tidal rivers, the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by the physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; the presence of litter and debris; or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area”.

Where changes in plant community composition were apparent, the area was examined for the possibility of wetlands. Whether or not adjacent to waters of the United States (WUS), the potential wetland area is evaluated for the presence of the three wetland indicators: hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. The guidelines followed are those established in the 1987 *Army Corps of Engineers Manual*.

Information from the Jurisdictional Delineation and vegetation mapping from the Biological Habitat Assessment were combined to determine areas qualifying as riparian/riverine based on WRCMSHCP criteria.

#### **4.1.2 Existing Conditions and Results**

The Jurisdictional Delineation found that the Project site contains one ephemeral drainage feature that flows through the eastern portion of the Project site. The drainage onsite originates from a

culvert outlet from SR 60 which provides flow into a trapezoidal concrete channel, which sheet flows prior to entering the site. The ephemeral drainage is tributary to the San Jacinto River.

The drainage enters the northern portion of the site as a channel lined with cloth/fabric matting. The channel then narrows and becomes a natural bottom channel before entering a concrete trapezoidal channel. The drainage becomes an earthen channel in the southeastern portion of the site prior to exiting the site through a culvert. The onsite drainage is severely disturbed. The drainage is dominated by disturbed areas and upland habitat with remnant patches of mulefat scrub.

The drainage extends approximately 859 feet through the eastern portion of the site and consists of approximately 0.27 acre of ephemeral streambed, including approximately 0.016 acre of associated riparian vegetation. The onsite drainage and associated riparian vegetation are considered CDFW jurisdictional. Further, the onsite drainage feature is considered non-wetland Waters of the United States (WUS) which is regulated by the USACE and RWQCB under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Additionally, the drainage and associated riparian vegetation are WRCMSHCP riparian/riverine resources. Refer to Figure 8.

#### **4.1.3 Impacts**

Implementation of the proposed project will impact the entire 0.27 acre of onsite ephemeral drainage and associated riparian vegetation.

#### **4.1.4 Mitigation**

Offsite mitigation for impacts to 0.27 acres of disturbed ephemeral drainage and associated riparian habitat would be provided at a 2:1 ratio. An MSHCP Determination of Biological Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) will be prepared for impacts to 0.27 acre of riparian/riverine resources.

### **4.2 Vernal Pools**

Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three parameters (soils, vegetation and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season. Vernal pools are depressions in areas where a hard-underground layer prevents rainwater from draining downward into the subsoils. When rain fills the pools in the winter and spring, the water collects and remains in the depressions. In the springtime, the water gradually evaporates away, until the pools become completely dry in the summer and fall. Vernal pools tend to have an impermeable layer that results in ponded water. The soil texture (the amount of sand, silt, and clay particles) typically contains higher amounts of fine silts and clays with lower percolation rates. Pools that retain water for a sufficient length of time will develop hydric cells. Hydric cells form when the soil is saturated from flooding for extended periods of time and anaerobic conditions (lacking oxygen or air) develop.

The entire site was evaluated for the presence of habitat capable of supporting branchiopods. The site was evaluated as described in the USFWS Survey Guidelines for the Listed Large Branchiopods (May 31, 2016). The Project area is primarily comprised of sandy loams. The onsite soils do not allow for water pooling on the site for any significant length of time after rain events. No vernal pools, swales, or vernal pool mimics such as ditches, borrow pits, cattle troughs, or cement culverts with signs of pooling water were found on the site. In addition, the site does not contain areas that showed signs of ponding water, hydrophytic vegetation, or soils typical of vernal pools that would be suitable for large branchiopods.

#### **4.3 Fairy Shrimp**

The entire Project site was evaluated for the presence of habitat capable of supporting branchiopods. Habitat was evaluated as described in the USFWS *Survey Guidelines for the Listed Large Branchiopods* (2017). The site does not contain evidence of persistent wetness, hydrophytic vegetation, or soils typical of vernal pools that would be suitable for large branchiopods.

#### **4.4 Riparian Birds**

While the onsite ephemeral drainage feature meets the definition of a riparian/riverine area according to the WRCMSHCP, the drainage does not support suitable riparian habitat with the potential to support riparian/riverine bird species. Further, none of the riparian/riverine bird species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP were found within the Project site. Due to the lack of suitable riparian habitat on the site, focused surveys for riparian/riverine bird species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the WRCMSHCP are not warranted.

### **5.0 Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species (Section 6.1.3)**

The Project site is not located within the WRCMSHCP Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA) pursuant to Section 6.1.3 of the WRCMSHCP. Therefore, the NEPSSA requirements are not applicable to the project.

### **6.0 Additional Surveys and Procedures (Section 6.3.2)**

The Project site is not located within the WRCMSHCP Additional survey areas for amphibians, mammals, or any special linkage areas. In addition, the Project site is not located within the WRCMSHCP Criteria Area Plant Species Survey Area (CAPSSA) pursuant to Section 6.3.2 of the WRCMSHCP. However, the project site is located within the WRCMSHCP Additional survey area for burrowing owl.

#### **6.1 Burrowing Owl**

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; BUOW) is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Its habitat includes coastal prairie, coastal scrub, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean Desert scrub, Sonoran Desert scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. This species is typically found in

open and dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. It is a subterranean nester and is dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably the California ground squirrel.

### 6.1.1 Methodology

The Biological Habitat Assessment prepared for the Project, determined that focused surveys for BUOW would be required due to the presence of suitable habitat documented during the February 7, 18, and 26, 2021 habitat assessment. In accordance with the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area*, focused burrow and BUOW surveys (Part A and Part B, respectively) were conducted on four separate days during the breeding season: March 1, April 17, May 17, and June 22, 2021 (Appendix A). Survey times, weather, and sunrise/sunset information is described in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. BUOW Survey Information**

Survey	Date	Survey Start Time/Duration	Sunrise/Sunset Time	Weather
1	3/1/2021	1645-1845	0616/1745	37 to 54 degrees Fahrenheit; 40% cloud cover, winds 1-10 miles per hour
2	4/17/2021	1722-2022	0613/1922	43 to 61 degrees Fahrenheit; 60% cloud cover, winds 0-2 miles per hour
3	5/17/2021	1745-2045	0545/1945	52 to 66 degrees Fahrenheit; clear, winds 0-6 miles per hour
4	6/22/2021	1803-2103	0538/2003	75 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit; clear, winds 0-4 miles per hour

Surveys were conducted from one hour before sunrise to two hours after sunrise or two hours before sunset to one hour after sunset and during weather that was conducive to observing owls outside their burrows and detecting BUOW sign. The surveys were not conducted during rain, highwinds (> 20 miles per hour), dense fog, or temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Surveys involved walking through potentially suitable habitat within the Project site and 500-ft buffer area. The pedestrian survey transects were spaced approximately 30 to 50 ft apart to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface (Figure 9). Special attention was paid to those habitat areas that



appeared to provide suitable habitat for BUOW. Where permission to access the buffer areas could not be obtained, the biologist visually inspects adjacent habitats with binoculars.

All encountered burrows or structure entrances were checked for the presence of BUOW, molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, tracks, or excrement. Natural or man-made structures and debris piles that could support BUOW were also surveyed. The locations of all suitable BUOW habitat, potential burrows, BUOW sign, and any BUOW observed was recorded and mapped with a handheld GPS unit.

All wildlife species encountered visually or audibly during the field survey were identified and recorded in field notes. Binoculars were used to aid in the identification of observed wildlife. Photographs were taken to document existing conditions within the Project site and 500-ft buffer area.

### **6.1.2 Existing Conditions and Results**

Based on the results of the habitat assessment, it was determined that the Project site provides suitable burrows/nesting opportunities for BUOW. Although several potential debris piles were mapped within the project area during habitat assessments for this species, focused surveys did not identify BUOW or active burrows during surveys on the site or in adjacent areas. Despite systematic searches of the Project site and 500-ft buffer area (Figure 9), no BUOW or evidence (i.e., including scat, pellets, feathers, tracks, and prey remains) were found which suggest recent or historical use of the Project site by BUOW. Therefore, BUOW are not present within the Project site.

### **6.1.3 Impacts**

Focused surveys found that BUOW are absent from the Project site (Appendix A); therefore, no impacts to BUOW are expected to result from Project implementation.

### **6.1.4 Mitigation**

Due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat, a 30-day pre-construction survey for burrowing owls is required prior to initial ground-disturbing activities (including vegetation clearing, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, site watering, equipment staging, grading, etc.) to ensure that no owls have colonized the Project site in the days or weeks preceding the ground-disturbing activities. If burrowing owls have colonized the Project site prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the Project proponent will immediately inform the RCA and the Wildlife Agencies and will need to coordinate further with RCA and the Wildlife Agencies, including the possibility of preparing a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan, prior to initiating ground disturbance. If ground-disturbing activities occur, but the Project site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey will again be necessary to ensure burrowing owl has not colonized the Project site since they were last disturbed. If burrowing owl is found, the same coordination described above will be necessary.

## **7.0 Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (Section 6.1.4)**

The project site is not located within or adjacent to a Western Riverside County MSHCP Conservation Area. However, since the Project site is traversed by and adjacent to drainage areas that are considered WRCMSHCP riparian/riverine resources, Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (Section 6.14 of the WRCMSHCP) are required to be applied to the Project. The following mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the Project to reduce potential impacts to the onsite drainages:

### **7.1 Drainage**

Water quality BMPs shall be incorporated, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems and erosion control requirements from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to ensure that the quantity and quality of surface water runoff discharged into the onsite and offsite drainage areas is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions. These BMPs will be implemented as part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to ensure that water quality is not degraded.

### **7.2 Toxics**

Measures such as those employed to address drainage issues will be implemented for toxics. Land uses proposed in proximity to the onsite and offsite drainage areas that use chemicals or generate bioproducts that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat or water quality must incorporate measures or BMPs to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in discharge to the drainage areas.

### **7.3 Lighting**

Night lighting shall be directed away from the riparian/riverine resources to protect species within the riparian/riverine resource areas from direct night lighting. Shielding shall be incorporated in Project designs to ensure ambient lighting in the riparian/riverine resource areas are not increased.

### **7.4 Noise**

Proposed noise generating land uses affecting the riparian/riverine resource areas shall incorporate setbacks, berms or walls to minimize the effects of noise on riparian/riverine resources pursuant to applicable rules, regulations and guidelines related to land use noise standards. For planning purposes, wildlife within the riparian/riverine resource areas should not be subject to noise that would exceed residential noise standards.

### **7.5 Invasives**

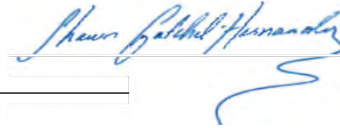
Invasive, non-native plant species must not be used in the Project area. Table 6-2 of Volume 1 of the WRCMSHCP lists the plants that should be avoided.

## 8.0 Certification

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date 09-26-2022

Signed



**Shawn Gatchel-Hernandez**  
**Principal Regulatory Specialist**

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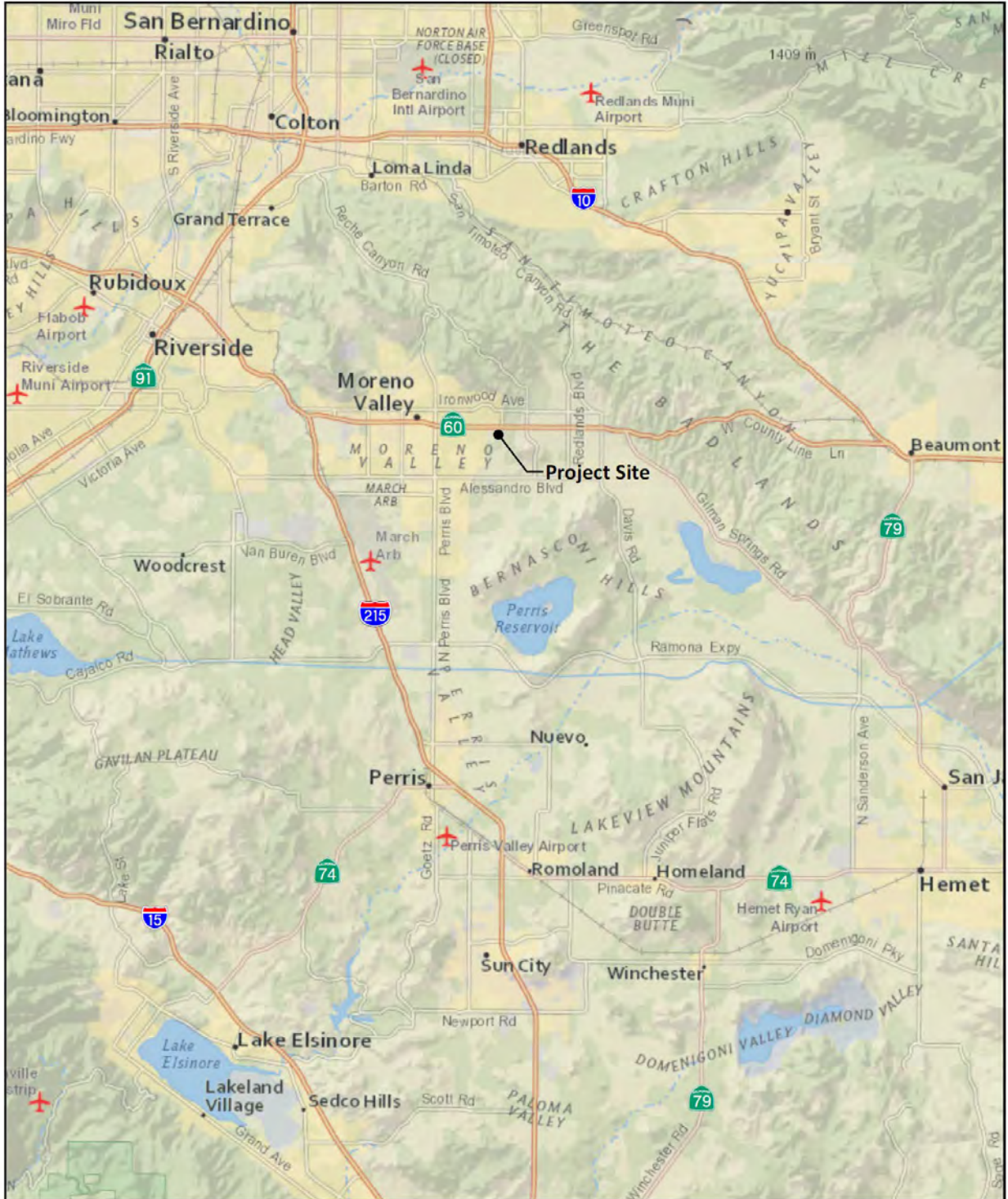
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# FIGURES

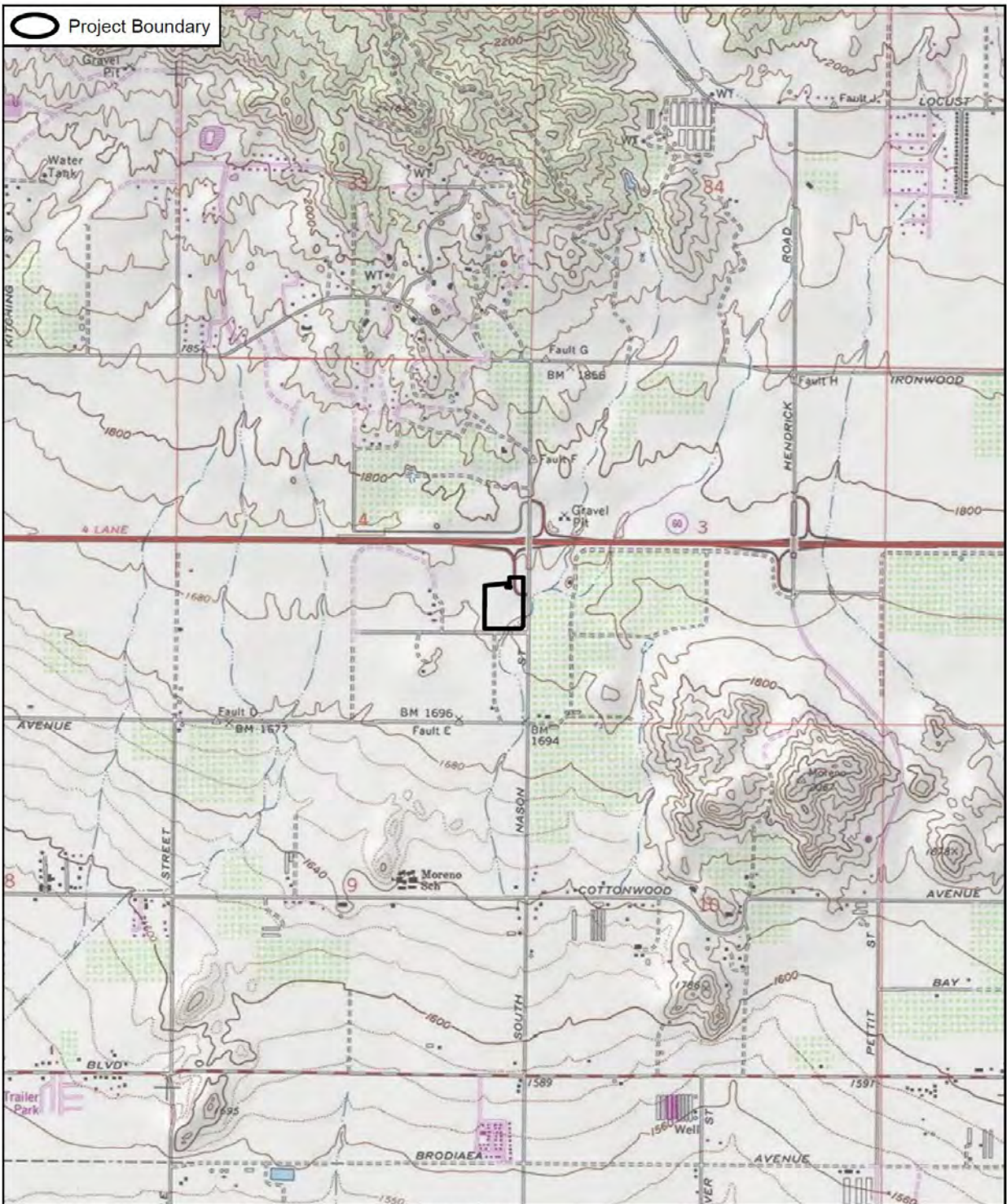


Source: National Geographic

**FIGURE 1** Regional Map

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





Source: USGS 7.5' Quadrangle (Sunnymead), Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

**USGS Topo**

**FIGURE 2**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





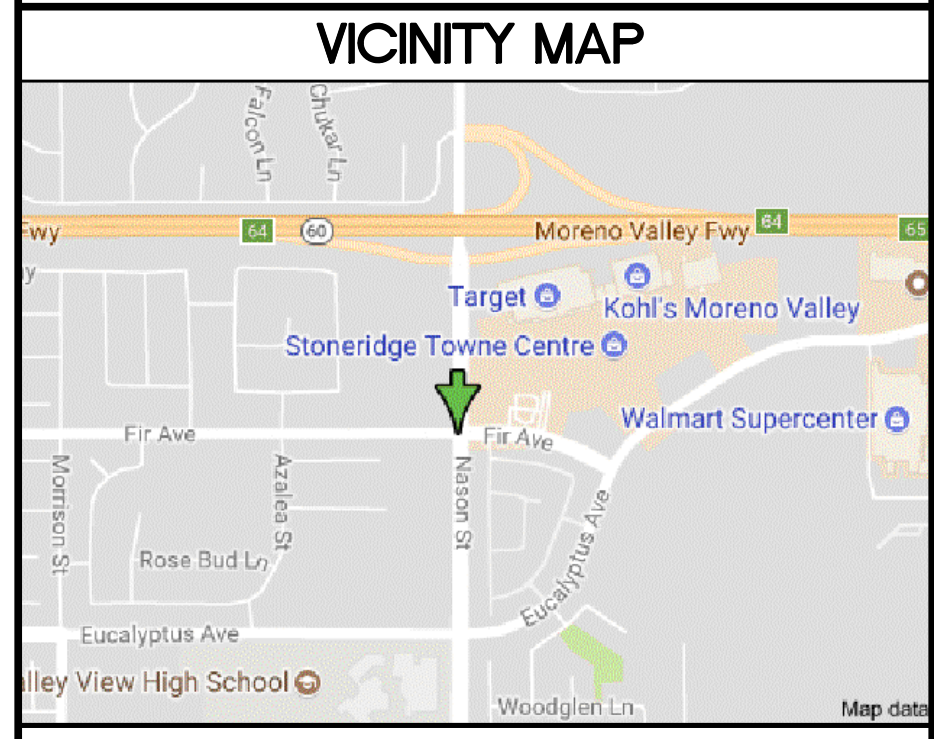
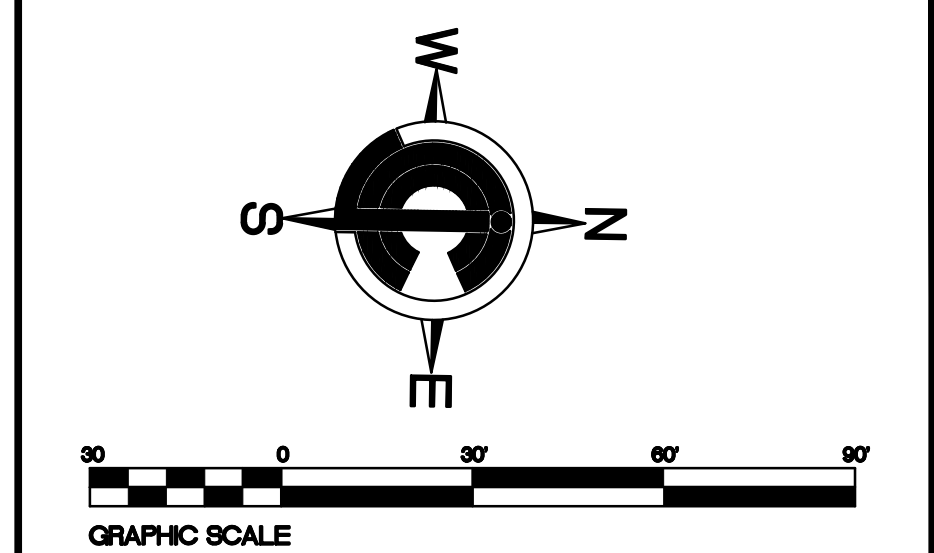
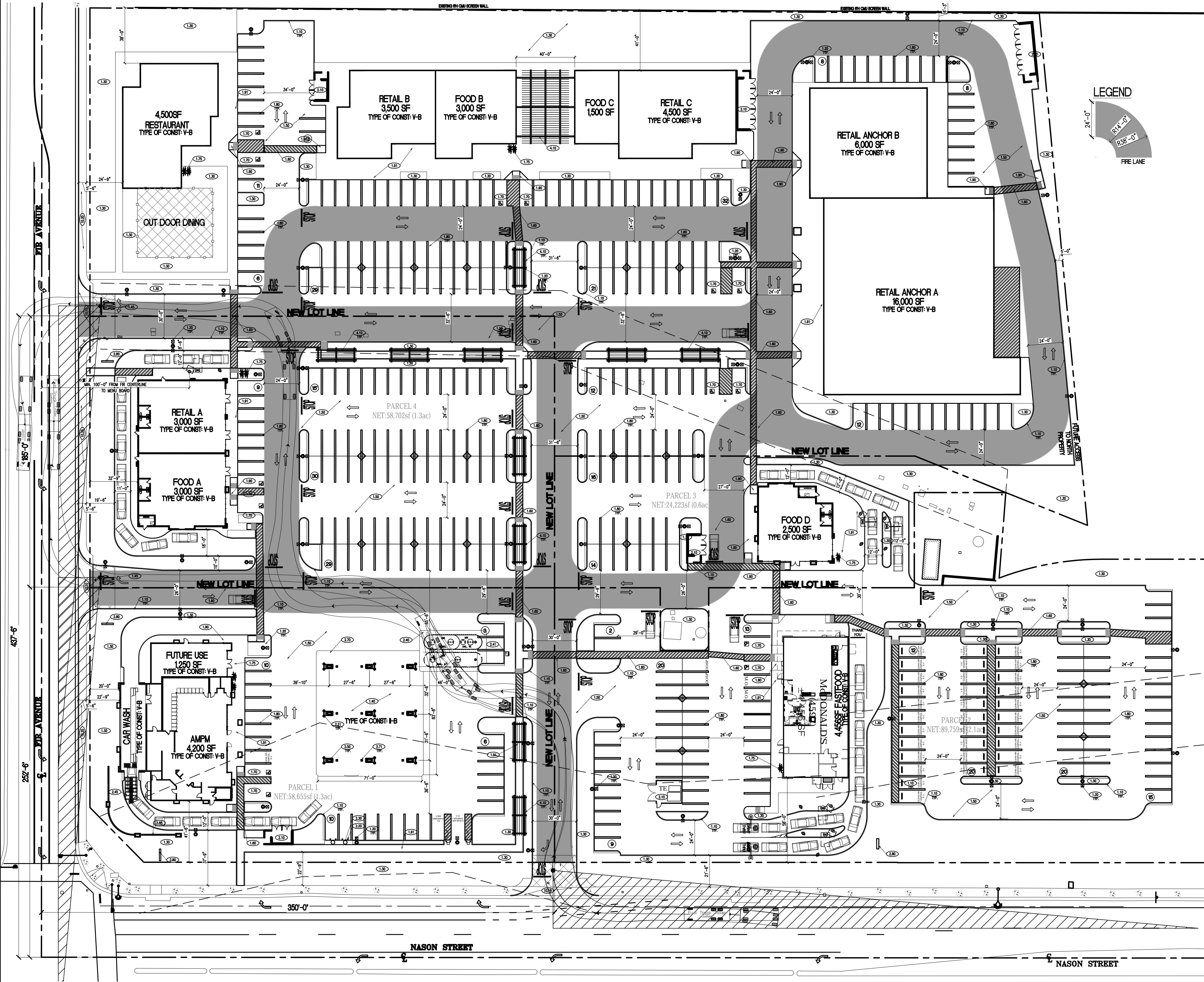
Aerial Photo: Nearthmap 2020

**FIGURE 3**

**Aerial Photograph**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

- 1.10 6" CONCRETE CURB
- 1.20 20" LED AREA LIGHT WITH PHOTO-CELL AND TIME CLOCK SWITCHING PER "CALGREEN" AND TITLE 24 REQUIREMENTS. HOOD AND ARRANGE SO AS NOT TO CAUSE A NUISANCE TO ADJACENT STREET TRAFFIC OR TO LIVING ENVIRONMENT. THE AMOUNT OF LIGHT THAT SHALL BE PROVIDED SHALL BE PER THE PUBLIC WORKS STANDARDS AND CALGREEN
- 1.30 LANDSCAPING WITH AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION
- 1.40 6" CONCRETE DRIVE SLAB WITH #3 BARS @ 18" O.C. OR AS SPECIFIED IN SOILS REPORT IF AVAILABLE.
- 1.45 COLORED CONCRETE WITH 8X8 SCORE LINES
- 1.50 6" OVER 4" AB. ASPHALT PAVING OR AS SPECIFIED IN SOILS REPORT IF AVAILABLE.
- 1.60 HANDICAP PATH OF TRAVEL (MIN. 48" WIDE AND SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 2% EACH WAY)
- 1.70 HANDICAP PARKING SPACE WITH ALL RELATED SIGNAGE (SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 2% E.W.)
- 1.75 BICYCLE PARKING PER CAL GREEN CODE
- 1.80 9'X18' STANDARD PARKING SPACES
- 1.90 CONCRETE HANDICAP RAMP (SLOPE 8.33%)
- 1.91 CONCRETE SIDEWALK (MIN. 48" WIDE WITH 2% CROSS SLOPE WHERE HANDICAP PATH OF TRAVEL OCCURS)
- 2.10 TRASH ENCLOSURE PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD
- 2.20 6" CONCRETE FILLED STEEL GUARD POSTS
- 2.21 U-SHAPE STEEL GUARD POSTS
- 2.30 AIR/WATER AND VACUUM UNIT
- 2.35 ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION
- 2.40 UNDER GROUND STORAGE TANKS (2) 20,000 GALLON AND (1) 30,000 GALLON UNDER REINFORCED CONCRETE SLAB
- 2.41 TANK VENT RISERS CARBON CANISTER
- 2.45 3,000 GALLON CAR WASH CLARIFIER
- 2.50 CONCRETE ISLAND W/ (1) MULTI PRODUCT DISPENSER (6" MIN. & 8" MAX. HEIGHT)
- 2.70 FUELING CANOPY
- 2.71 FUELING CANOPY COLUMNS
- 2.80 ID SIGNAGE
- 2.85 36" STUCCO FINISH SCREEN WALL
- 2.90 ELECTRICAL PANELS
- 3.10 ADA PARKING LOT ENTRY SIGN PER CHAPTER 11B OF CBC
- 4.10 TRELIS ROOF SHADE
- 10.10 CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD
- 10.20 CONCRETE SIDEWALK PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD

**SITE PLAN & PARKING SUMMARY**

BUILDING NO.	SIZE	USE	RATIO	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
C-STORE BUILDING	5,450 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	25	25
CAR WASH	1,600 S.F.	SERVICE	1/BAY	1	4
RETAIL - A	3,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	14	40
FOOD - A	3,000 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	30	43
RESTAURANT BLDG.	4,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	45	40
FOOD - B	3,000 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	30	27
RETAIL - B	3,500 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	16	10
FOOD - C	1,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	15	12
RETAIL - C	4,500 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	20	16
RETAIL ANCHOR - A	16,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	71	61
RETAIL ANCHOR - B	6,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	27	24
FOOD - D	2,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	25	22
FASTFOOD BUILDING	4,456 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	45	95
<b>TOTAL BUILDING S.F.</b>	<b>74,206 S.F.</b>			<b>364</b>	<b>422</b>

TOTAL PARKING PROVIDED: 422 PARKING SPACES  
 SITE IS OVER PARKED BY: 56 PARKING SPACES  
 HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES REQUIRED: 422 SPACES- 9 REQUIRED PER CODE. PROVIDED 14 SPACES

**SITE PLAN**

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

PE STAMP

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP.
5	12/18/22	REVISED PER CITY COMMENTS		
6	03/01/23	REV. LOCATION OF FOOD A MENU BOARD		
7	07/02/23	REV. WESTERLY TO BAY		
8	07/07/23	REV. PER CITY COMMENTS		
9	08/19/23	REV. NASON GEOMETRIC PER EXH.		

**CJC Design, Inc.**  
 Design Planning Permitting

22485 La Palma Avenue, Suite 202, Torrance, CA 90505  
 Tel: (714) 929-8653  
 Fax: (714) 917-0250  
 www.cjcorp.com

**DESIGN**  
**OF**  
**NO.**

**MORENO**  
 valley Center

**PROJECT:**  
 N.W. COR. NASON ST. @ FIR AVENUE  
 MORENO VALLEY, CA.  
**OVERALL SITE PLAN**

DATE ISSUED: 02/04/2022

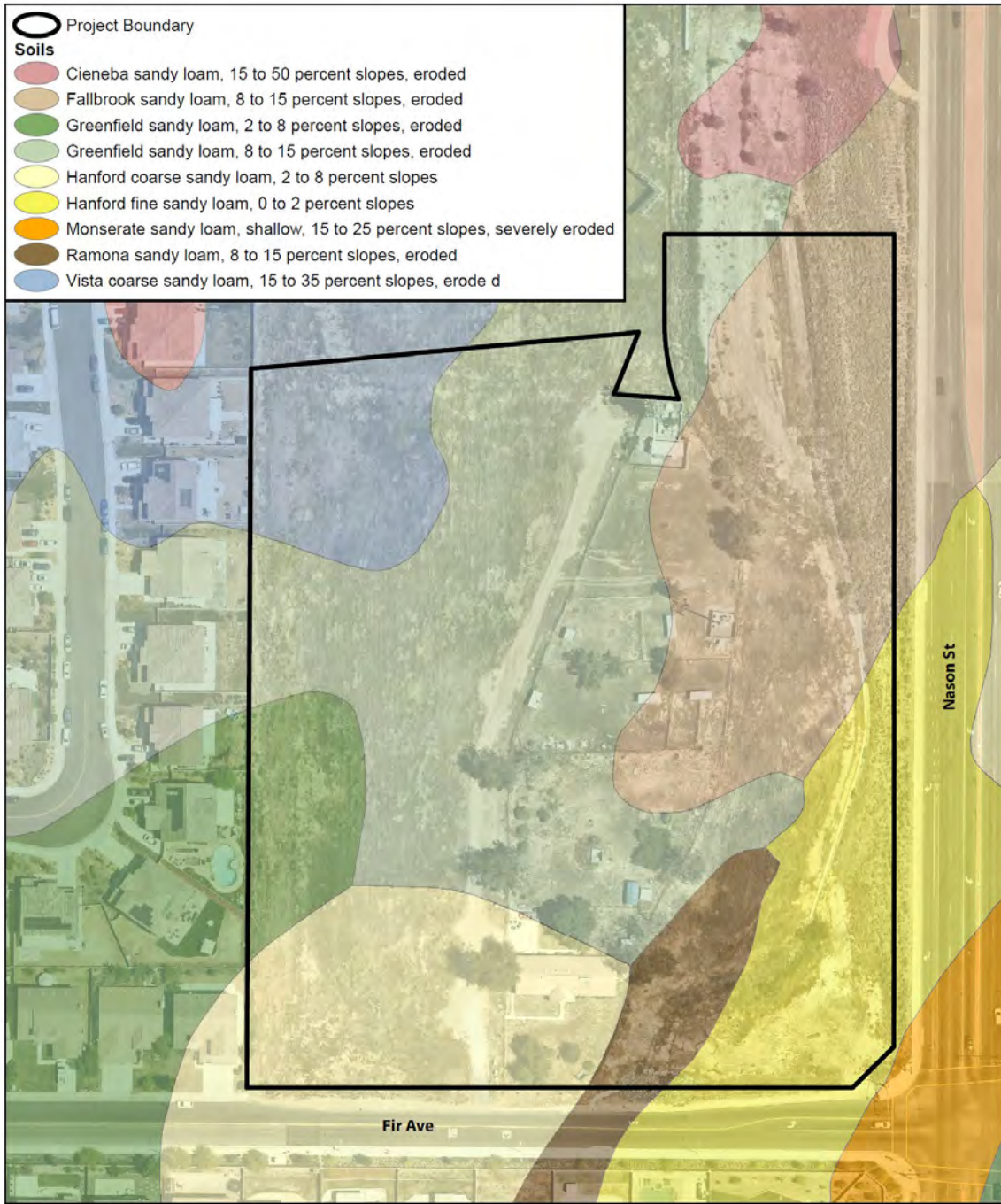
SCALE:

DRAWN BY: F. COHEN  
 CHECKED BY: F. COHEN

PROJECT NUMBER: 17098

STORE NUMBER: RIVERSIDE HOLDING

SHEET: C.10

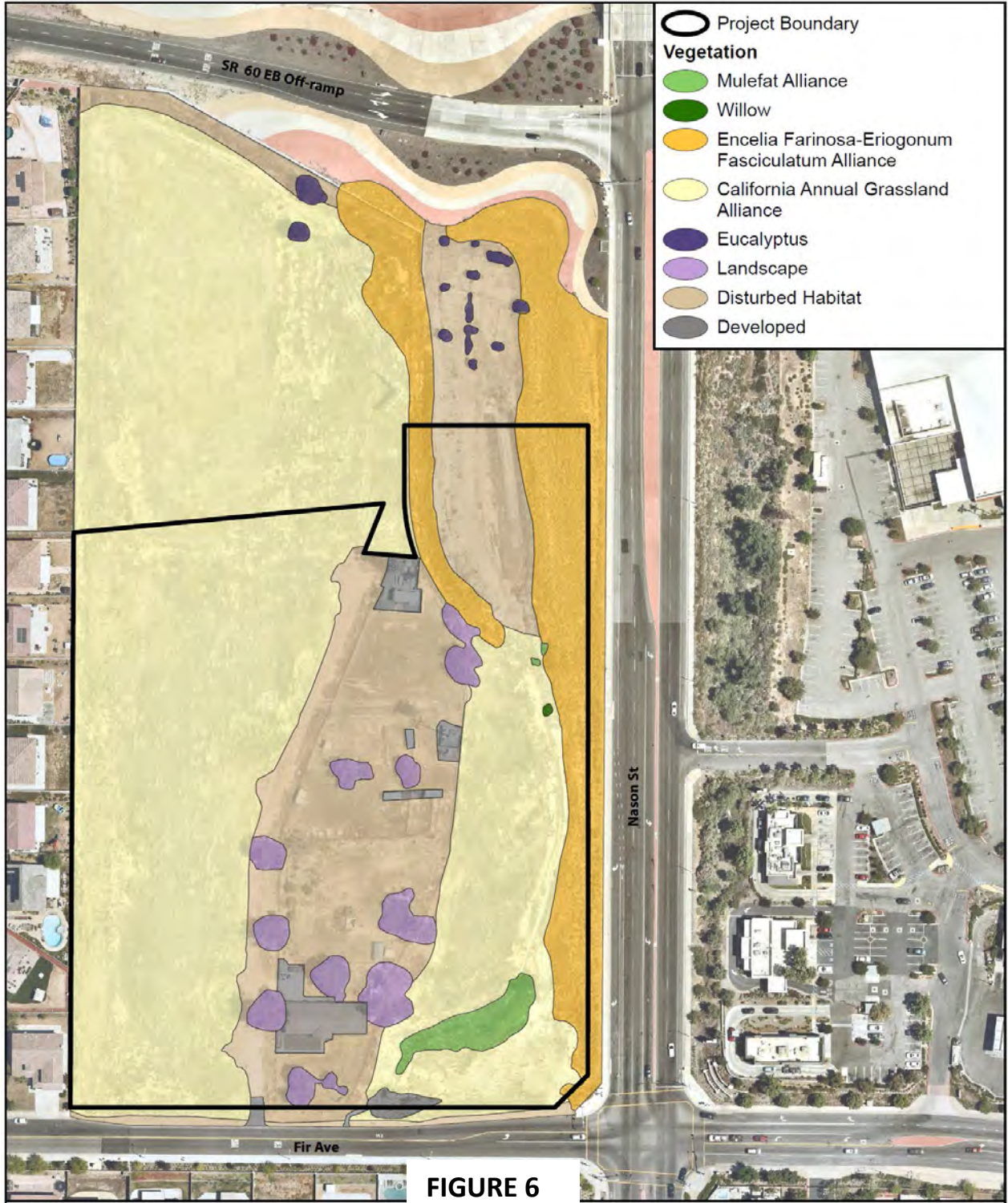


Aerial Source: Nearmap 2020

**FIGURE 5**

**Soils**  
SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**FIGURE 6**

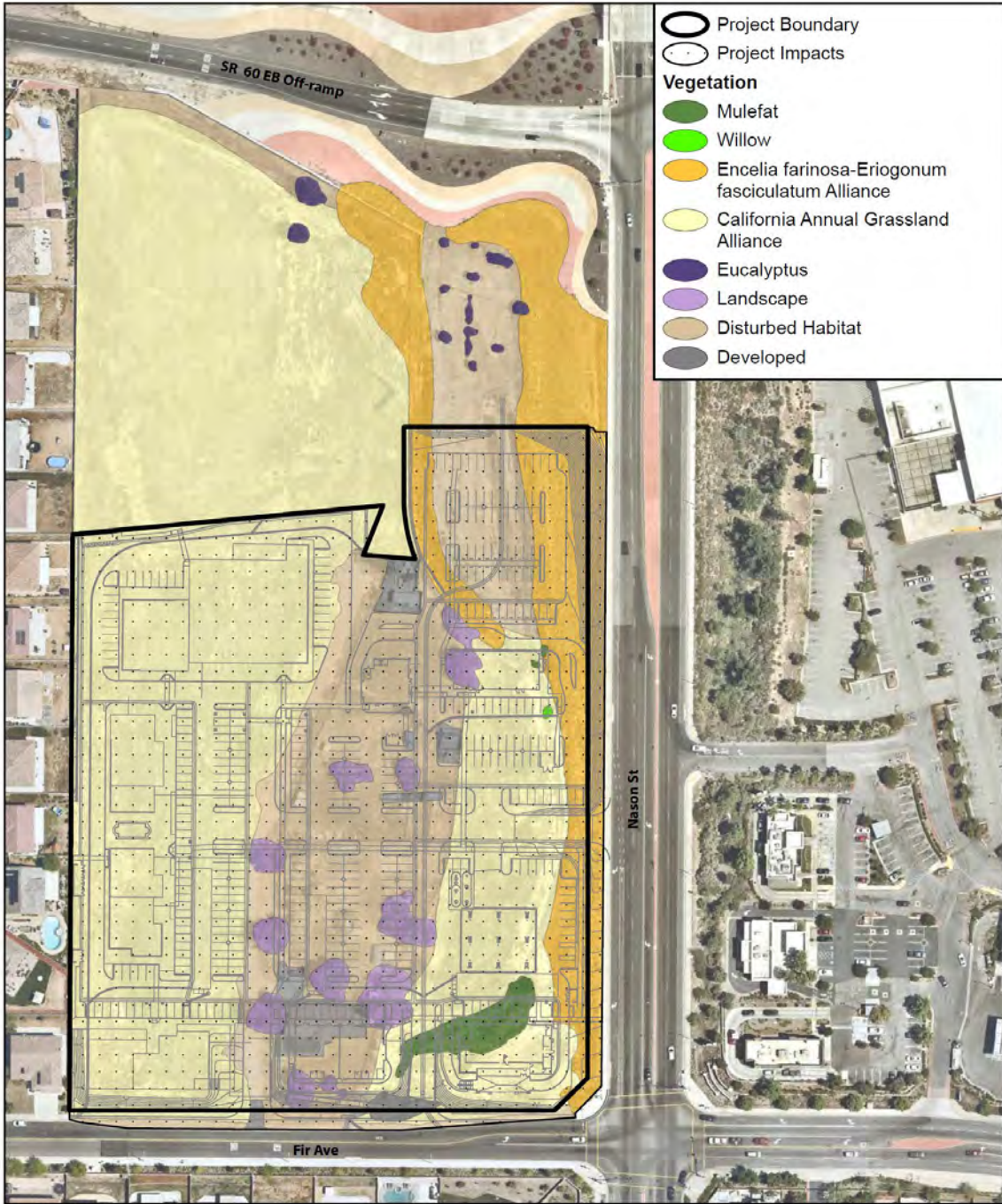
Aerial Photo: Nearthmap 2020

**Vegetation**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY

Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC





Aerial Photo: Neamap 2020

**FIGURE 7**

**Vegetation Impacts**




SALEM MORENO VALLEY



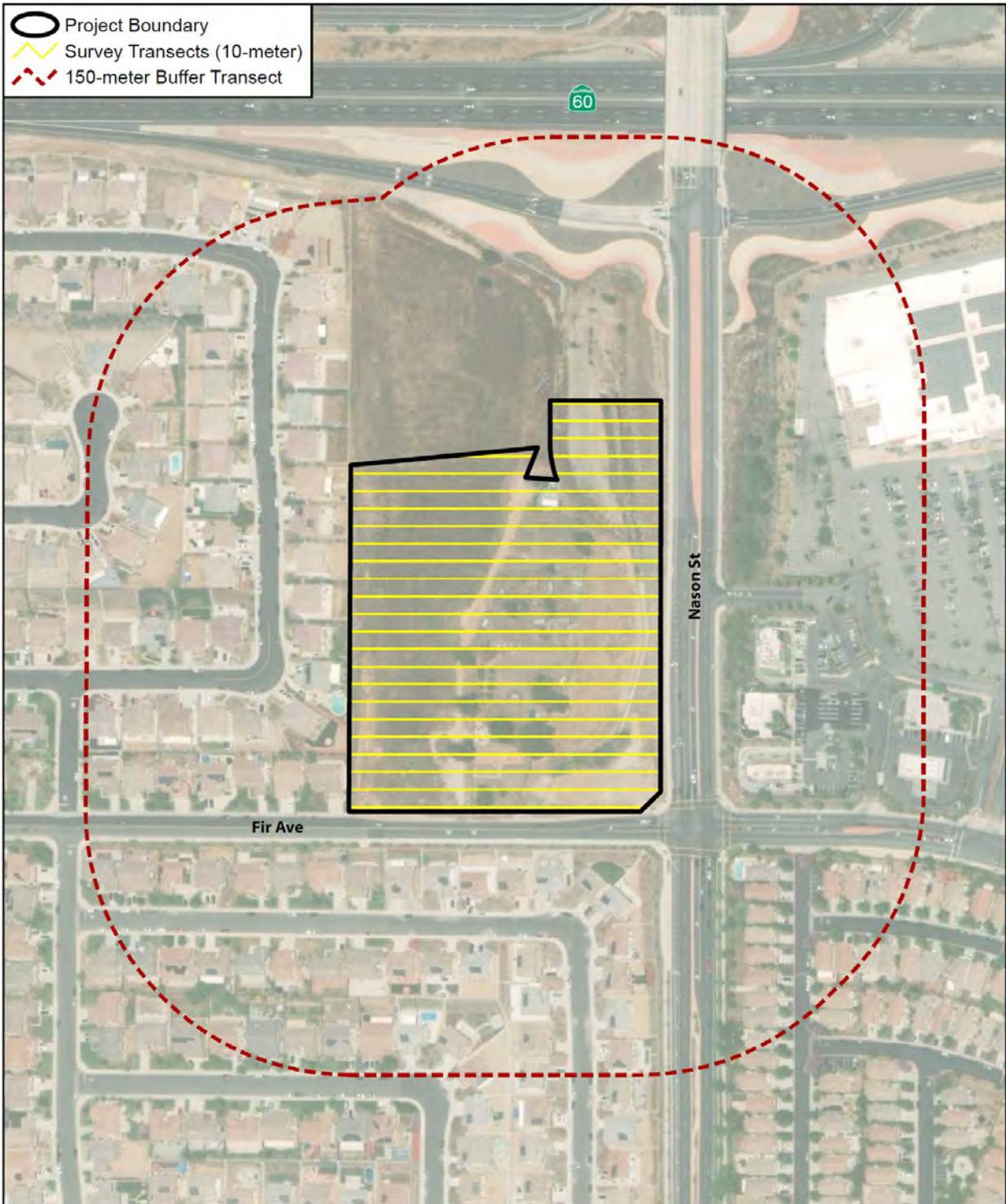


**Figure 8**  
 Riparian/Riverine Resources Map  
 Village at Moreno Valley  
 City of Moreno Valley  
 Riverside County, California

**Legend**

-  Project Site Boundary
-  Ephemeral Stream (0.27 Acre)
-  Remnant Muelfat Scrub Riparian Habitat (0.016 Acre)





Aerial Source: Maxar, Esri 2018

## Transects

**FIGURE 9**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY

Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC

0 250 Feet

# **APPENDIX A**

**HABITAT ASSESSMENT INCLUDING THE RESULTS OF A FOCUSED BURROWING  
OWL SURVEY AND OVERVIEW MSHCP CONSISTENCY  
APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010  
In the  
City of Moreno Valley, County of Riverside  
USGS 7.5-minute Sunnymead topographic quadrangle map in Section 4 of  
Township 3 South, Range 3 West**



Prepared By:



358 Crystal Drive  
San Jacinto, CA 92583  
(760) 777-1621  
[www.gonzalesenvironmental.com](http://www.gonzalesenvironmental.com)

Report Date: October 19, 2020

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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: October 19, 2020

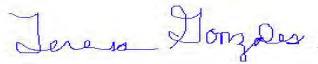
Signed:



USFWS Certification: I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work.

Permit #: TE060175-5

Signed:



**A. Date report prepared:** October 19, 2020

**B. Report Title:** HABITAT ASSESSMENT INCLUDING THE RESULTS OF FOCUSED BURROWING OWL AND OVERVIEW MSHCP CONSISTENCY for APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010 In the City of Moreno Valley, County of Riverside

**C. Project site location:** USGS 7.5-minute topographic Sunnymead Quadrangle Township 3 South, Range 3 West, portions of Section 4

**D. Owner/Applicant:**

Salem Engineering Group, Inc  
13355 Noel Road, Suite 1100  
Dallas, TX 75240

**E. Principal Investigator(s):** Teresa Gonzales and Paul Gonzales

**Address:** 358 Crystal Drive  
San Jacinto, CA 92583  
**Phone:** 760.777-1621

**G. Name and phone number of person preparing report and of all persons who performed fieldwork on the site**

<u>Name of Person</u>	<u>Role on project</u>
Teresa Gonzales	Prepared report and performed fieldwork
Paul Gonzales	Performed fieldwork

This document should be cited as:

Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC. 2020. Habitat Assessment Including the Results of Focused Burrowing Owl and Overview MSHCP Consistency for 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010 In the City of Moreno Valley, County of Riverside; USGS 7.5-minute topographic Sunnymead Quadrangle Township 3 South, Range 3 West, portions of Section 4. October 19, 2020. Moreno Valley, California. Prepared for Salem Engineering Group, Inc.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMPs	best management practices
BUOW	burrowing owl
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
DBESP	Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
ESA	Endangered Species Act
° F	degrees Fahrenheit
FEIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
Ft <sup>2</sup>	square feet
GEC	Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HMMP	Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
JD	Jurisdictional Determination
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MSHCP	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Plan	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
PQP	Public/Quasi-Public
RCA	Regional Conservation Authority
RCFCD	Riverside County Flood Control District
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SKR	Stephens' kangaroo rat
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UWIG	Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines



WOS	Waters of the State
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WUS	Waters of the U.S.

## SUMMARY

---

In February and March 2020, Teresa Gonzales and Paul Gonzales of Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC (GEC) conducted biological resources assessment of the project site APN [487-250-005 (0.30 acre), 487-250-006 (3.31 acres), 487-250-007(2.42 acres), 487-250-010 (2.21 acres)] (site). The purpose of our assessment was to characterize biological resources on the site, and to identify any biological constraints to land-use changes.

### Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The site is in within Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan of the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). **No Criteria cell, Core and Linkage are located in or around the project area.** Habitat assessments are required for burrowing owl as it is MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Area.

Based on biological resource assessments, the Riverside County Integrated Project Conservation Report Generator, and maps of MSHCP survey areas, it was determined that the following studies would be required for the proposed Project's consistency with the MSHCP:

- Focused surveys for the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*).

### Vegetation

The vegetation communities within the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the project site. Previous and current anthropogenic activities and invasion of nonnative plant species have contributed to the disturbed condition of many vegetation communities within the project vicinity.

### Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species

A few special-status plant and animal species have the potential to occur on site. None were found on the site.

### Streambed Resources

There are seasonal watercourses on site which are MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site. CDFW streambed (0.371 acres) are found on the site. RWQCB jurisdiction (0.239 acres) are found on the site. MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site are riverine (0.222 acres) and riparian (0.149 acres) are found on the site. There are no USACE waters of the U.S. or wetlands on the project site.

### Summary of Project Effects

Participation in the MSHCP, seasonal restrictions, compliance with local tree ordinances, implementation of mitigation measures, and compliance with local, state, and federal laws will allow the proposed project to proceed as proposed without significant impacts to biological resources.

The project area supports a low-moderate diversity of wildlife species due to the high level of disturbance and development in the vicinity. Many of the wildlife species observed or detected in the project area are commonly found in the urban interface or in disturbed habitat.

There is suitable habitat for occupation by burrowing owl (BUOW) present in the project area. A general habitat assessment and focused surveys were conducted in 2020. No BUOWs, sign or burrows were observed. A pre-construction survey of all suitable habitats will be conducted 30 days or less prior to the initiation of construction to ensure that no BUOW have occupied the project area. If active burrows are detected, avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented including, but not limited to, establishing avoidance buffers and use of biological monitors during construction activities.

Increases in noise, construction traffic, and human activities during construction activities may temporarily deter movement of wildlife within the project vicinity. However, significant impacts to wildlife corridors or nursery sites are not expected from construction or operational activities of the proposed project.

During construction, as with any project, there is the possibility that sensitive species, including those Adequately Conserved or those with additional mitigation requirements, could be encountered. In this event, the project proponent will coordinate directly with RCA and resource agencies (if appropriate) to determine any additional processing and mitigation as needed.

The proposed project is consistent with the MSHCP Reserve Assembly goals and project relationship for Criteria Areas/Cells in the Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan. **No Criteria cell, Core and Linkage are located in or around the project area.** The proposed project would not impede the functions and values nor the goals and objectives of the MSHCP.

## I. INTRODUCTION

---

This report was prepared by Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC (GEC) for Salem Engineering Group, Inc. The project is located in the City of Moreno Valley of Riverside County, California.

The report summarizes results of literature review to determine the potential presence or absence of species of concern within the project vicinity and the results of the 2020 general biological survey as well as the 2020 field investigations conducted by GEC. In addition, the report provides an assessment of the potential impacts of the project on the biological resources on the project site.

GEC conducted biological surveys of the project site in 2020. This report documents the results of the surveys, provides a summary of the technical studies (attached as Technical Appendices), analyzes the effects of the proposed project on the identified biological resources and recommends mitigation measures for identified impacts.

### Project Location

The project site (site) discussed in this report is located north of Fir Avenue, west of Nason Street, south of Interstate 60 (SR 60) and east of Tulip Road in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California. See Figures 1.1 and 1.2.

The site is located within San Bernardino Meridian in a portion of Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 3 West, City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California (Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3). This location is shown on the Sunnymead, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle (Sunnymead Photorevised 1980); page 718 Grid B3 of the Riverside County Street Guide and Directory (Thomas Brothers Maps Design 2013). The approximate center of the site is located at 33.937003°, -117.192624°.

Elevation of the assessment area ranges from a from a low of 1726± feet above mean sea level (msl) in the southern portion of the assessment area to a high of 1770± feet above msl in the northwestern portion of the assessment area. This represents an elevational change across the assessment area of 44± feet. The entire site consists of relatively level land. The project site has been impacted by anthropogenic activities. Land use in the surrounding area consists of commercial and single family residential.

The primary vegetation communities in the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the project site. Previous and current anthropogenic activities and invasion of nonnative plant species have contributed to the disturbed condition of many vegetation communities within the project vicinity.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The site is comprised of 8.24 acres of disturbed property situated in the City of Moreno Valley in Riverside County, California.

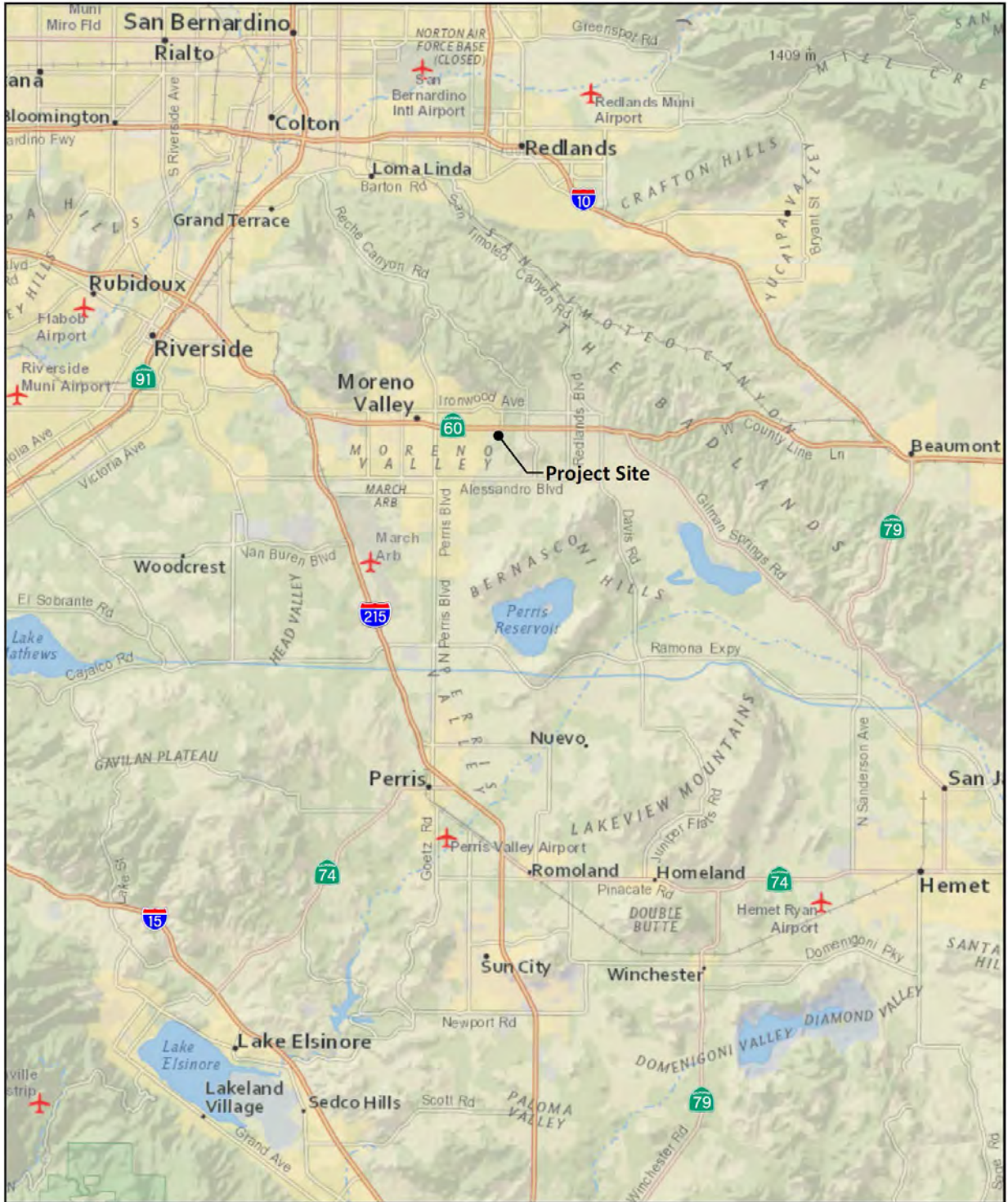
The project site high is 1755± feet above mean sea level (msl) in the northeastern portion of the assessment area to a low of 1725± feet above msl in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the assessment area. This represents an elevational change across the assessment area of 30± feet. The site consists of gradually sloping land on the eastern and western portions and elevated area in the center of the site. Slopes are steeply sloping up to Nason Street. The project proposes retail commercial space including restaurants, retail, offices, mixed use food/retail, service station with convenience store, car wash and parking. Access to the site will be taken from Fir Street.

Estimated Duration of Construction:

Estimated duration of construction is 18 months.

Full Avoidance Infeasibility:

The project, as designed proposes to disturb only where required in order to allow for development of the surrounding property. Where avoidance was not possible, mitigation of these impacts is being provided offsite as a part of this project.



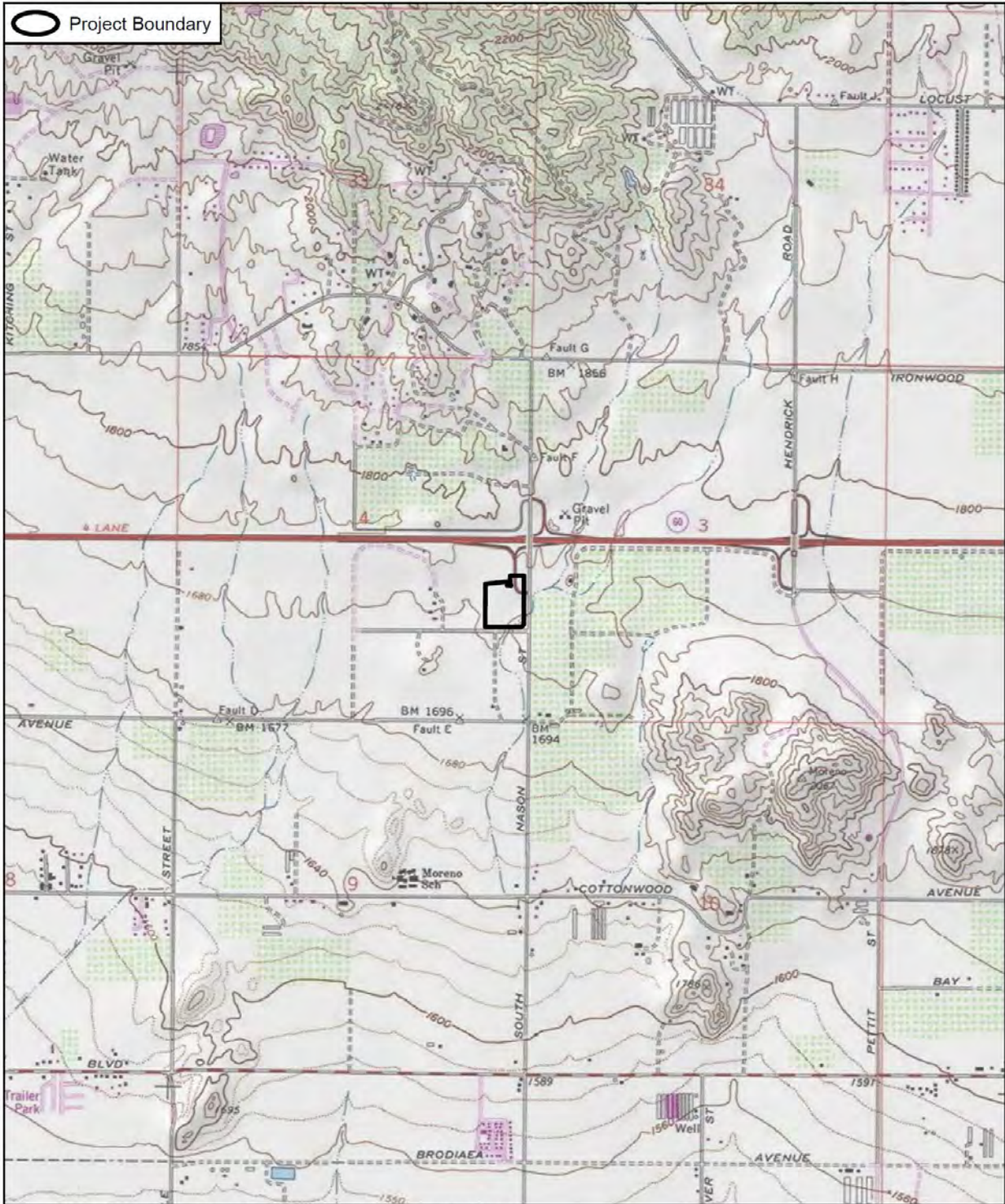
Source: National Geographic

## Regional Map

**FIGURE 1.1**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**USGS Topo**

**FIGURE 1.2**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





Aerial Photo: Nearmap 2020

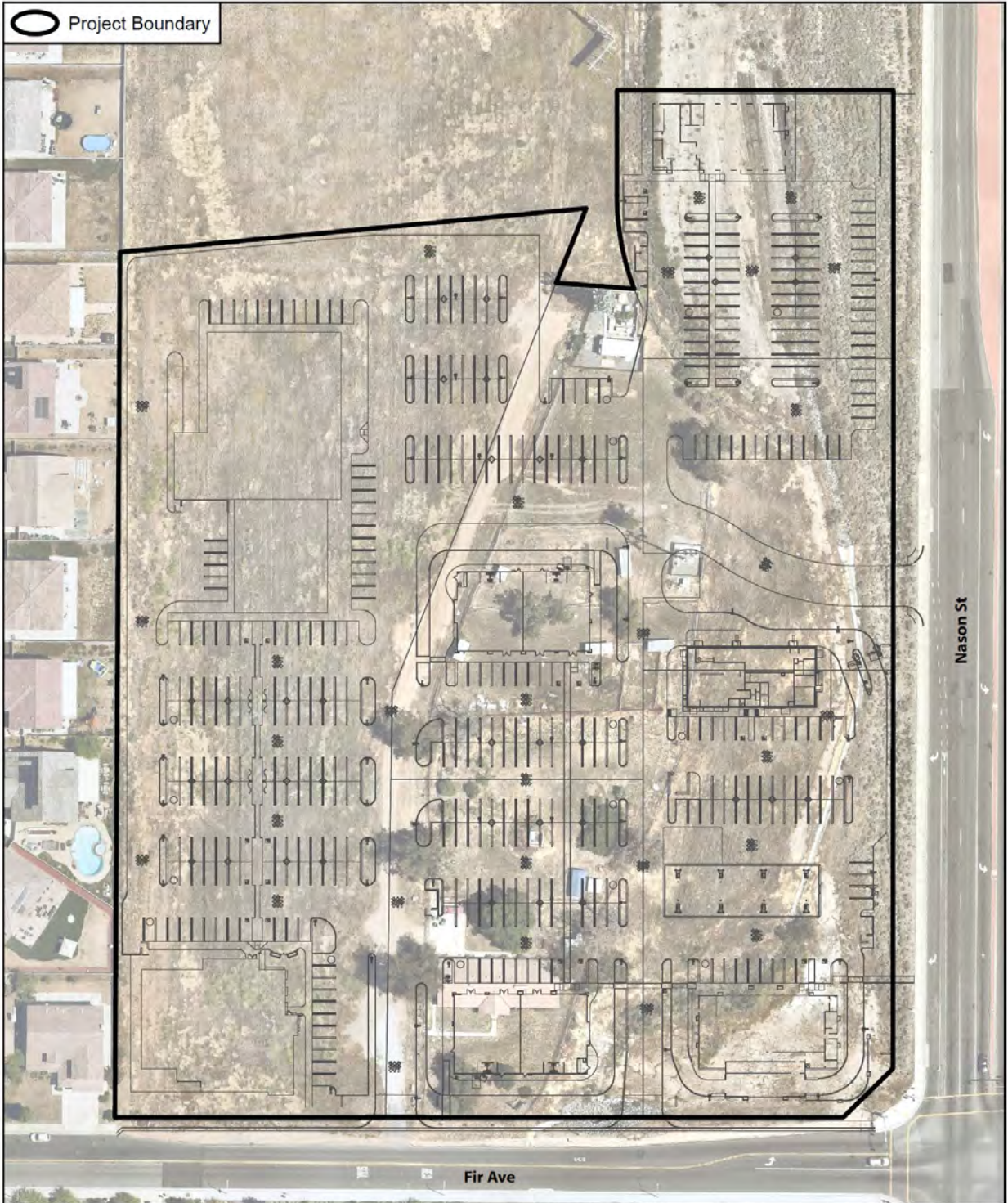
## Aerial Photograph

**FIGURE 1.3**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY







Aerial Photo: Nearmap 2020

### Site Plan

**FIGURE 1.4**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY



## II. REGULATORY SETTING

---

The project is subject to state and federal regulations associated with a number of regulatory programs. These programs often overlap and were developed to protect natural resources, including state- and federally listed plants and animals; aquatic resources including rivers and creeks, ephemeral streambeds, wetlands, and areas of riparian habitat; other special-status species which are not listed as threatened or endangered by the state or federal governments; and other special-status vegetation communities.

### REGIONAL LAND USE AND CONSERVATION PLANS

#### Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

The proposed project area occurs in undeveloped lands within the City of Moreno Valley. It contains a combination of native and disturbed lands.

The proposed project is located within the boundaries of the MSHCP. The MSHCP allows for the Permittees within the Plan area to manage local land-use decisions and maintain a strong economic climate while addressing the requirements of the state and federal Endangered Species Acts (ESAs). Rather than address sensitive species on an individual basis, the MSHCP focuses on the conservation of 146 species, proposing a reserve system of approximately 5,000 acres and a mechanism to fund and implement the reserve system (County of Riverside 2003). Take of Stephen's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*; SKR) will be processed directly through the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) leaving the MSHCP to cover incidental take, as needed, for 145 species potentially impacted by the proposed project.

The importance of the Plan to the proposed Project and other projects within its boundaries is that it streamlines the environmental review and permitting processes for projects that affect biological resources. This is accomplished by having established survey and analysis requirements that directly support the identified conservation goals and objectives of the Plan. The goals and objectives of the Plan ultimately result in the development of a comprehensive biological resources reserve system providing long-term conservation of biological resources. The overall benefit to a project proponent is the use of existing state and federal take permits for listed species, with built-in mitigation measures, so that individual applicants need not seek their own permits from the USFWS and CDFW in accordance with the Federal ESA and California ESA take authorizations.

### MSHCP RESERVE ASSEMBLY ANALYSIS

#### Area Plans, Subunits and Criteria Cells

The project area is located in MSHCP Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan. The Area Plan is further divided into Subunits that contain Criteria Cells that are targeted for conservation. Target conservation acreages have been established along with a description of the planning species, biological issues and considerations, and criteria for each Subunit within the MSHCP. In some areas, Cells that have a common habitat goal are combined forming a Cell Group. The design for conservation involves core areas of habitat, blocks of habitat, and linkages between the core and block areas. The project area is not in a Subunit or

Criteria Cell. The following specific target planning species and conservation goals are included within the biological considerations for Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan:

Planning Species

- Bell's sage sparrow
- Cactus wren
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow
- Bobcat
- Stephens' kangaroo rat
- Nevin's barberry
- Los Angeles pocket mouse
- mountain lion
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat
- American bittern
- black-crowned night heron
- burrowing owl
- California horned lark
- double-crested cormorant
- mountain plover
- northern harrier
- osprey
- peregrine falcon
- prairie falcon
- tricolored blackbird
- white-faced ibis
- white-tailed kite
- California orcutt grass
- Coulter's goldfields
- Davidson's saltscale
- San Jacinto Valley crownscale
- smooth tarplant
- spreading navarretia
- thread-leaved brodiaea
- vernal barley
- Wright's trichocoronis

Biological Issues and Considerations:

- Conserve existing, intact upland Habitat augmenting existing Box Springs Mountain Reserve.
- Conserve existing populations of Bell's sage sparrow and cactus wren.
- Maintain linkage area to Box Springs Mountain for bobcat.
- Conserve upland Habitat in the Badlands.
- Maintain a connection between Blue Mountain to the west and Reche Canyon to the east.
- Conserve existing populations of Bell's sage sparrow.
- Maintain Core Area for bobcat.

- Maintain Core and Linkage Habitat for mountain lion.
- Determine presence of potential small population of San Bernardino kangaroo rat.
- Determine presence of potential Core Area for Los Angeles pocket mouse.
- Maintain Core Area for Nevin's barberry.
- Conserve large habitat blocks in the Badlands.
- Maintain Core Area for bobcat.
- Maintain Core and Linkage Habitat for mountain lion.
- Maintain linkage area to San Jacinto Wildlife Area for Stephens' kangaroo rat.
- Determine potential for scattered populations of San Bernardino kangaroo rat along San Timoteo Creek.
- Determine presence of potential Core Area for Los Angeles pocket mouse in San Timoteo Creek and tributaries and Badlands.
- Conserve alkali playa and other Habitat to augment existing Conservation in the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and Mystic Lake.
- Conserve existing vernal pool complexes associated with the San Jacinto River floodplain, in the Mystic Lake/San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Conservation should focus on vernal pool surface area and supporting watersheds.
- Provide for a connection of intact Habitat between San Jacinto Wildlife Area/Mystic Lake to adjacent Badlands area to the north.
- Conserve Willow-Domino-Travers soils supporting sensitive plants such as San Jacinto Valley crowscale, Davidson's saltscare, Coulter's goldfields, spreading navarretia, vernal barley and Wright's trichocoronis.
- Provide for and maintain a continuous Linkage along the San Jacinto River from the southern boundary of the Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan to the southeastern Area Plan boundary.
- Maintain linkage area for bobcat.
- Maintain linkage area for Stephens' kangaroo rat to San Jacinto Wildlife Area.
- Determine presence of potential Core Area for Los Angeles pocket mouse in connection between Badlands and San Jacinto Wildlife area.

#### Cores and Linkages within Conservation Area

MSHCP Conservation Area is comprised of a variety of existing and proposed cores, extensions of existing cores, linkages, constrained linkages and non-contiguous habitat blocks. These features are generally referenced as cores and linkages. A Core is a block of habitat of appropriate size, configuration, and vegetation characteristics to generally support the life history requirements of one or more Covered Species. Although a more typical definition is population-related and refers to a single species, in the MSHCP this term is habitat-related because of the multi-species nature of the MSHCP Plan. An MSHCP linkage is defined as a connection between Core Areas with adequate size, configuration and vegetation characteristics to generally provide for "live-in" habitat and/or provide for genetic flow for identified planning species. A constrained linkage is a constricted connection expected to provide for movement of identified planning species between Core Areas, where options for assembly of the connection are limited due to existing patterns of use. Areas identified as linkages in MSHCP may provide movement habitat but not live-in habitat for some species, thereby functioning more as movement corridors.

Project site is not in a Criteria Cell. There are no proposed cores or linkages within the project area.

**PUBLIC/QUASI PUBLIC CONSERVED LANDS**

The project site is outside of PQP lands. There are no Public/Quasi Public (PQP) land(s) within the immediate area.

**MSHCP SURVEY REQUIREMENTS**

MSHCP survey areas for the proposed project were identified by conducting an initial search of the RCA MSHCP Information Map (RCA 2020). As a result, the study area was identified to be located within the burrowing owl survey area.

**TABLE 2.1**  
**MSHCP PROJECT REVIEW CHECKLIST**

Checklist	Yes	No
Is the project located in a Criteria Area or Public/Quasi-Public Land?		✓
Is the project located in Criteria Area Plant Survey Area?		✓
Is the project located in Criteria Area Amphibian Survey Area?		✓
Is the project located in Criteria Area Mammal Survey Area?		✓
Is the project located in Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area?		✓
Are riverine/riparian/wetland habitats or vernal pools present?		✓
Is the project located in Burrowing Owl Survey Area?	✓	
Is the project located in a Special Linkage Area?		✓

**MSHCP SECTION 6**

Section 6 of the MSHCP provides provision for MSHCP implementation. Two particular subsections of this section are relevant to the proposed project:

- *6.1.2 Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine areas and Vernal Pools*
- *6.1.3 Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species*
- *6.1.4 Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface (relevant)*
- *6.3.2 Additional Survey Needs (relevant)*

The MSHCP covers 146 species, 38 of which require additional surveys if the proposed project occurs in the specific survey area for a species. As noted in Table 4 the proposed project occurs within the burrowing owl survey areas. The project area does not traverse *Riparian/Riverine* and *Vernal Pool* habitats as defined by the MSHCP. Based on biological resource assessments, the RCIP Conservation Report Generator, and maps of MSHCP survey areas, it was determined that surveys for *Riparian/Riverine* habitats, *Vernal Pools*, and associated species are not required pursuant to *Sections 6.1.2, 6.1.3, and 6.3.2* of the MSHCP.

*Section 6.1.3* of the MSHCP describes the 14 Narrow Endemic Plant Species and the procedures necessary for surveying, mapping and documenting these species. In addition to the Narrow Endemic Plant Species listed in *Section 6.1.3*, additional surveys may be needed for certain species listed in *Section 6.3.2* in conjunction with Plan implementation in order to achieve coverage for these species. These species are referred to as “Criteria Area Species”. Furthermore, per *Section 6.1.2* of the MSHCP, if potential *Riparian/Riverine*, and/or *Vernal Pool* habitat (as defined by the MSHCP) occurs within the project area, additional surveys are necessary for specific species that have potential to occur within these habitats.

The MSHCP does not supersede existing federal and state regulations covering lakes, streams, vernal pools, and other wetland areas. Thus, projects must comply with existing regulations for these aquatic resources pursuant to Clean Water Act (CWA) and California Fish and Game Code (CFG). However, pursuant to the MSHCP, an assessment of the potentially significant effects of projects on Riparian/Riverine areas, and Vernal Pools as it relates to habitat functions and values for MSHCP-covered species is required. If an avoidance alternative is not feasible and a more practicable alternative is selected instead, a DBESP would be provided to ensure replacement of any lost functions and values of habitat as it relates to the needs of Covered Species that rely on that habitat.

*Section 6.1.2* of the MSHCP defines *Riparian/Riverine* and *Vernal Pool* habitats as follows:

*Riparian/Riverine Areas:* are lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or unvegetated, ephemerals that transport water supporting downstream resources in the MSHCP Conservation Area.

*Vernal Pools:* are seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three parameters (soils, vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season, but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season. Obligate and facultative wetland plant species are normally dominant during the wetter portion of the growing season, while upland species (annuals) may be dominant during the drier portion of the growing season.

In addition to mapping *Vernal Pools*, the MSHCP requires mapping of stock ponds, ephemeral pools, and other features which may be suitable habitat for Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta lynchi*), and Santa Rosa fairy shrimp (*Linderiella santarosae*).

The MSHCP describes a strategy of impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation for these resources and further requires that long-term conservation of these areas is assured, and recommends that indirect impacts be reviewed to provide protection for these areas.

Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP describes a process to ensure that projects located outside of, but adjacent to, the Conservation Area do not undermine conservation planning objectives of the MSHCP. This process is called the Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (UWIG).

*“Future Development in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area may result in Edge Effects that will adversely affect biological resources within the MSHCP Conservation Area. To minimize such Edge Effects, the following guidelines shall be implemented in conjunction with review of individual public and private Development projects in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area.”*

Specific elements to be considered in UWIG compliance include:

- Drainage
- Toxics
- Lighting
- Noise
- Invasives
- Barriers
- Grading and land development

As stated in the MSHCP: *“Existing local regulations are generally in place that address the issues presented in this section. Specifically, the County of Riverside and the 18 Cities within the MSHCP Plan Area have approved general plans, zoning ordinances and policies that include mechanisms to regulate the development of land. In addition, project review and impact mitigation that are currently provided through the CEQA process address these issues.”* UWIG compliance, therefore, relies heavily on the application of Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) during site development and project operation. These BMPs can be found in *Appendix C* of the MSHCP. Projects must accordingly demonstrate that they will not adversely affect any Conservation Area and must adequately consider the elements listed above per the UWIG.

### **MSHCP TABLE 9-3 REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET FOR 28 SPECIES PRIOR TO INCLUDING THOSE SPECIES ON THE LIST OF COVERED SPECIES ADEQUATELY CONSERVED**

Of the 146 Covered Species addressed in the MSHCP, 118 species are considered to be Adequately Conserved. The remaining 28 Covered Species will be considered to be adequately conserved when certain conservation requirements are met (by RCA) as identified in the species-specific conservation objectives for those species. For 16 of the 28 species, particular species-specific conservation objectives, which are identified in *Table 9-3* of the MSHCP, must be satisfied to shift those particular species to the list of Covered Species Adequately Conserved.

**TABLE 2.2**  
**MSHCP SECTION 6 SPECIES LIST**

MSHCP Section	Species
Section 6.1.2 Riparian/ Riverine and Vernal Pools	<p><b>Plants:</b> Brand's phacelia, California orcutt grass, California black walnut, coulter's Matilija poppy, Engelmann oak, fish's milkwort, graceful tarplant, lemon lily, Mojave tarplant, mud nama, ocellated Humboldt lily, orcutt's brodiaea, parish's meadowfoam, prostrate navarretia, San Diego button-celery, San Jacinto Valley crownscale, San Miguel savory, Santa Ana river woolly-star, slender-horned spine flower, smooth tarplant, spreading navarretia, thread-leaved brodiaea, and vernal barley.</p> <p><b>Invertebrates:</b> Riverside fairy shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp</p> <p><b>Fish:</b> Santa Ana sucker</p>
Section 6.1.3 Narrow Endemic Plant Species	<p>Brand's phacelia, California Orcutt grass, Hammitt's clay-cress, Johnston's rockcress, many-stemmed dudleya, Munz's mariposa lily, Munz's onion, San Diego ambrosia, San Jacinto Mountains bedstraw, San Miguel savory (Santa Rosa Plateau, Steele Rock), slender-horned spine flower, spreading navarretia, Wright's trichocoronis, and Yucaipa onion.</p>
Section 6.3.2 Additional Survey Needs and Procedures	<p><b>Plants*:</b> Coulter's goldfields, Davidson's saltscale, heart-leaved pitcher sage, little mud nama, Nevin's barberry, Parish's brittlescale, prostrate navarretia, round-leaved filaree, San Jacinto Valley crownscale, smooth tarplant, thread-leaved, and Vail Lakeceanothus.</p> <p><b>Amphibians*:</b> arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, and California red-legged frog</p> <p><b>Birds:</b> burrowing owl</p> <p><b>Mammals*:</b> Aguanga kangaroo rat, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, Los Angeles pocket mouse</p>

\*Note: Project does not occur within the plants, amphibian, fish and mammal species survey areas.

MSHCP Consistency Analysis has been added as an appendix to this report.



### III. SURVEY METHODS

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For the development of this document, a systematic approach was taken to identify and characterize biological resources, including vegetation community types, and special status plant and animal species in the project area. The biological resource study area is defined as the area either directly or indirectly impacted by the project. Records of known occurrences were reviewed to identify those plant and wildlife species that may occur in the project area. Those records were then compared with federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or special status species. General biological surveys; vegetation mapping; and surveys for special status wildlife and plant species for the project were conducted. Methods that were used during these surveys are summarized by resource type in the following sections.

#### Records Search

Preliminary investigations included review of information obtained from the USFWS, and CDFW; literature searches; examination of aerial photographs; and database searches including California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records, and sensitive species accounts for Riverside County. Reviewed environmental documents included Environmental Impact Reports prepared for other projects in the vicinity. The following resources were used in background research and during field surveys:

- Topographic maps (USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle)
- Aerial photos
- California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2020)
- USFWS sensitive species occurrence database (USFWS 2020)
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2020)
- Western Riverside Area, California Soil Survey (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1971)
- Volume 1, Parts I and II of the MSHCP (County of Riverside 2003)
- County of Riverside Conservation Summary Report Generator (County of Riverside 2017)

A list of special status species was compiled, including all species in the project area that were:

Listed as endangered or threatened, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA);

Listed as endangered or threatened, or candidates for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA);

Included in one of the CDFW publications on species of special concern;

“Fully protected” by the State of California;

Included in the CNPS compilation; or

Identified as plants meeting the definition of rare or endangered under CEQA.

The information provided by these agencies included both regional and site-specific data on sensitive species. These species are listed in Table 3.4.

Appendix F presents a list of special-status species that were determined to have potential to occur within the project area based on literature and database review, as well as initial habitat assessments.

## FIELD SURVEY OVERVIEW

The general biological study area consisted of the proposed project area with some focused surveys out to 500 feet on either side of the proposed project area. A number of biological resources assessments and focused surveys have been performed within the project area to date. General and focused biological surveys and habitat assessments were conducted in order to assess the following:

- General biological characteristics of the project area;
- Presence or potential presence of any listed, special-status, or MSHCP species;
- Vegetation communities;
- Flora and fauna species inventories;
- Habitat suitability for burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) within MSHCP survey area;
- Presence or potential presence of species not covered by the MSHCP;
- Presence or potential presence of MSHCP defined fairy shrimp, *Vernal Pool*, and *Riparian/Riverine* habitats; and
- Presence or potential presence of waters and wetlands under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction.

Data was collected in the field by numerous techniques including the use of field notes, hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) devices, standardized data forms, photographs, and field maps. Field maps with an aerial view of the project area included CNDDDB, USFWS, and MSHCP sensitive species data points. Potentially occurring habitats for special-status species were identified prior to field investigations through aerial photo-interpretation. Initial reconnaissance level wildlife and botanical surveys were conducted in conjunction with vegetation mapping. The project area was traversed on foot and by vehicles as needed to gain 100 percent access of the survey area.

Focused surveys were scheduled based on the results of the initial assessments. Lists of all vertebrate wildlife species and all plant species encountered within the entire project area are included in Appendix D. Table 4 identifies all field work conducted within the project area in 2020.

### Vegetation Methods

Aerial photography and digital vegetation maps were reviewed to determine potential community types within the project area. Preliminary ground-truthing surveys concurred with digital vegetation maps, and additional surveys were performed to accurately define the community types and boundaries.

### Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Methods

General wetland and streambed assessments of the proposed project site were conducted in January and February 2020 by GEC, which included general mapping of habitat(s) that may be subject to jurisdiction of CDFW pursuant to sections 1600-12 of the California Fish and Game Code, ACOE and MSHCP Section 6.1.2 if present. Potential MSHCP Section 6.1.2 seasonal watercourses were found on the project site.

A brief assessment of the wetland/riparian jurisdictional communities encountered (if they were encountered) was also conducted which described the dominant and associate plant species of each community and the presence and/or absence of visual field indicators (e.g., dominance of hydrophytic species, presence of drift lines).

### Wildlife Survey and Habitat Assessment Methods

General reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were completed to determine habitat suitability for listed species and special status plant, wildlife, and aquatic species. Suitable habitat for listed species and special status species was determined by the presence of specific habitat elements. The surveys coincided with the period during which many wildlife species, including migratory species, would have been most detectable. A faunal inventory of all species observed during the course of the surveys was also prepared.

## **SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES METHODS**

### Special Status Rare Plant Species Survey Methods

Information on special status rare plant species within the project area was gathered from several sources including California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2020), CNDDDB (CNDDDB 2020), and CalFlora (CalFlora 2020). Maps depicting all known sensitive plant species locations within the project area were produced to aid in determining the target species for survey. General reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were completed to determine habitat suitability for listed species and special status plants. Suitable habitat for listed species and special status species was determined by the presence of specific habitat elements.

Plant surveys of the project area were conducted in February, March, April, May and June 2020. This time period corresponds to the time during which early ephemeral spring annuals and herbaceous perennials in Riverside County would be detectable. No sensitive plant species were located. The likelihood of these species occurrence (expected, high, moderate, low, or not expected) was also assessed. A floral inventory of all species observed during the course of the surveys was also documented.

## Special Status Wildlife Species Survey Methods

Prior to conducting habitat assessment surveys, CNDDDB and other sources were reviewed for the records of special status wildlife species potentially occurring in the project area. General reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were conducted to assess the presence of special status wildlife species habitats within the project area. Maps depicting all known sensitive wildlife species locations within the regional vicinity of the project were produced to aid in determining the target species to survey. All wildlife species encountered during surveys were documented. Any specific areas (e.g., potential nesting, breeding, and foraging habitat) encountered during the surveys that have a high probability for supporting sensitive wildlife were documented. The likelihood of these species occurrence (not expected, low, moderate, high, expected) was also assessed. General habitat assessments and focused protocol-level surveys for other species including, but not limited to, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), were also conducted. General habitat assessments involved evaluating the specific vegetation communities encountered and their potential to support these sensitive species (expected, high, moderate, low, not expected).

## Surveys

Based on the findings of the biological surveys, focused habitat assessment and species-specific surveys were scheduled for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) to determine presence of sensitive, listed, and covered species within the project area. A complete floristic survey of the project area, as required in a complete CEQA analysis, was conducted in 2020 to determine whether listed or special status plant species or sensitive plant communities occur. Burrowing owl surveys were also conducted in the spring of 2020. All plants encountered were identified to a level necessary to ensure detection of covered or special status species.

The following table identifies the sensitive species for which protocol-level surveys were required for the project.

**TABLE 3.1**  
**PROTOCOL SURVEYS**

Protocol Surveys			
Species		Survey Protocol	Location
Scientific Name	Common Name		
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	A minimum of four surveys are required between March 1 and August 31 (County of Riverside).	Grasslands, debris piles, disturbed areas

Transects for general reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were conducted to assess the presence of special status wildlife and plant species habitats within the project area. Please see Figure 3.1. Surveys were conducted in February, March, April, May and June 2020.

**TABLE 3.2**  
**SURVEY LOCATIONS, PERSONNEL, DATES, AND PURPOSE**

Surveyor(s)	Date(s)	Purpose
	2020	
TG, PG	February 7, 18, 26, March 1, April 17, May, 17, June 22	General Biological Survey (Plant and Wildlife Habitat Assessments)
TG, PG	February 7, 18, 26, March 1, April 17, May, 17, June 22	Focused Burrowing Owl Surveys
TG, PG	February 7, 18, 26, March 1	MSHCP Habitat Assessment
TG, PG	February 7, 18, 26, March 1, April 17	Jurisdictional Delineation
TG, JP	February 7, 18, 26, March 1	Vegetation Mapping
TG, JP	February 7, 18, 26, March 1	Various Assessments, Vegetation Mapping




LEGEND:

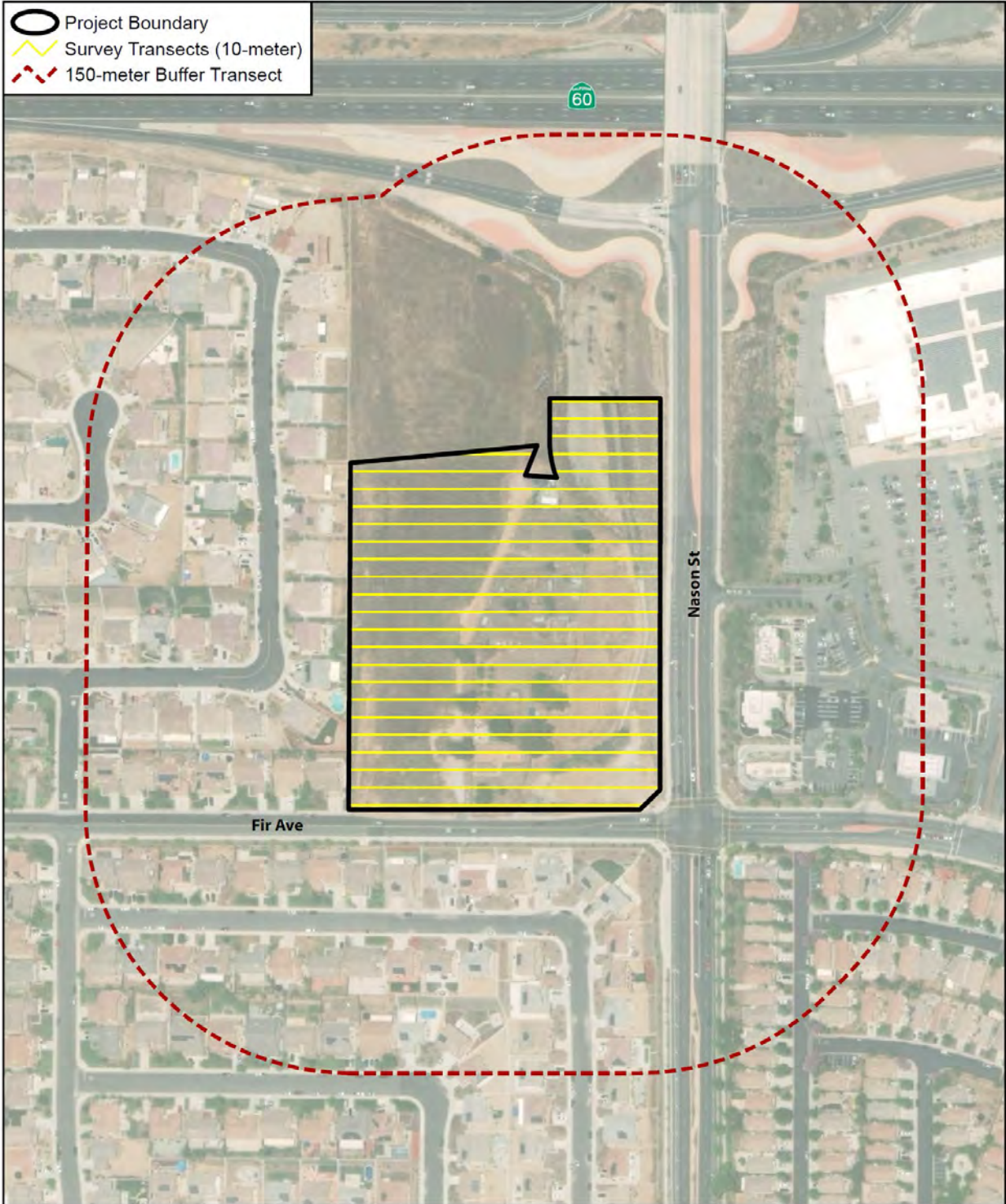
TG=Teresa Gonzales, GEC Biologist  
 PG=Paul Gonzales, GEC Biologist  
 JP= Justin Palmer, AJP GIS

**TABLE 3.3**  
**BURROWING OWL SURVEY SUMMARY 2020\*\***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Air Temperature (F)</b>	<b>Wind Speed (mph)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover</b>	<b>Precipitation</b>	<b>Sunrise/Sunset Times</b>	<b>Time-Duration*</b>
February 7	43-55	3-9	Clear-30% cloud cover	No	0641/1725	1625/1825 3 hrs
February 18	48-58	0-10	10% cloud cover	No	0630/1735	1635/1835 3 hrs
February 26	43-56	0-7	Clear	No	0621/1742	1642/1842 3 hrs
March 1	37-54	0-10	40% cloud cover	No	0616/1745	1645/1845 3 hrs
April 17	43-61	0-2	60% cloud cover	No	0613/1922	1722/2022 3 hrs
May 17	52-66	0-6	Clear	No	0545/1945	1745/2045 3 hrs
June 22	75-95	0-4	Clear	No	0538/2003	1803/2103 3 hrs

\*Approved hours for burrowing owl surveys are one hour prior to sunrise until two hours after and two hours prior to sunset and one hour after sunset.

-  Project Boundary
-  Survey Transects (10-meter)
-  150-meter Buffer Transect



Aerial Source: Maxar, Esri 2018

**FIGURE 3.1**

**Transects**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY



## BURROWING OWL

Burrowing owl habitat assessment surveys and focused surveys were conducted in 2020 (refer to Table 3.2 for dates and Table 3.3 for 2020 survey information) according to the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area* (County of Riverside 2006).

GEC biologists knowledgeable in BUOW habitat, ecology, and field identification of the species conducted surveys on the dates shown in Table 3.2 and 3.3. The weather conditions during these surveys were conducive to observing BUOW outside their burrows and detecting BUOW sign. Data was collected by numerous techniques including the use of a hand-held GPS device, standardized data forms, photographs, and aerial field maps. Details regarding each survey method are provided below:

### Habitat Assessment (Step 1)

Habitat within the project area was assessed for BUOW presence, use, and potential use. Areas with potential BUOW habitat, including pasture and debris piles were surveyed by GEC for potential burrows and BUOW. Biologists walked areas of potential habitat while searching for BUOW, potential and active burrows, and owl sign, such as feathers, pellets, and prey items. The survey area included a 150-meter (500-foot) buffer zone outside the project site. Transect surveys for burrows, including owl sign, was conducted by walking or being escorted through suitable habitat over the entire survey area (the proposed route and the 150-meter [500-foot] buffer zone). Pedestrian survey transects were spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines was no more than 10 meters (30 feet) and was reduced when necessary to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility.

### Focused Burrow Surveys (Step 2 A)

GEC conducted focused burrow surveys including natural burrows or suitable debris piles. Transect surveys for burrows, including owl sign, was conducted by walking or being escorted through suitable habitat over the entire survey area (the proposed route and the 150-meter [500-foot] buffer zone). Pedestrian survey transects were spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines was no more than 10 meters (30 feet) and was reduced when necessary to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility. The locations of all potential owl burrows, observed owl sign, and observed BUOW were recorded and mapped with a GPS device.

### Focused Owl Surveys (Step 2B)

Focused BUOW surveys consisted of eleven site visits covering all project areas and adjacent areas. Surveys were conducted in the morning 1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunrise and 1 hour before sunset to 2 hours after sunset. Upon arrival at the survey area and prior to initiating the walking surveys, surveyors used binoculars and/or spotting scopes to scan all suitable habitats, location of mapped



burrows, owl sign, and owls, including perch locations to ascertain owl presence. A survey for owls and owl sign was then conducted by walking through suitable habitat over the entire project site and within the adjacent 150-meter (500-foot) buffer zone. These pedestrian surveys followed transects spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines were no more than 10 meters (30 feet) and were reduced to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility. In areas where access was not obtained, the area adjacent to the project site was surveyed using binoculars and/or spotting scopes to determine if owls are present in areas adjacent to the project site.

### **JURISDICTIONAL WATERS AND WETLANDS**

USACE regulates deposition of fill material into waters of the U.S. (WUS) under Section 404 of the CWA. RWQCB regulates impacts to WUS under Section 401 of the CWA and to waters of the State (WOS) under the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. CDFW regulates impacts to their jurisdiction, which includes lakes and streambeds to the outer extent of the riparian canopy, under Section 1600 of the CFGC.

There are seasonal watercourses on site which are MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site. CDFW streambed (0.371 acres) are found on the site. RWQCB jurisdiction (0.239 acres) are found on the site. MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site are riverine (0.222 acres) and riparian (0.149 acres) are found on the site. There are no USACE waters of the U.S. or wetlands on the project site.

### **MSHCP 6.1.2 RIPARIAN/RIVERINE/VERNAL POOLS**

An assessment of the potentially significant effects of the proposed project on riparian, riverine and vernal pool areas was conducted. Seasonal watercourses are not present and no evidence of recent surface water was observed on site. Riverine MSHCP 6.1.2 areas were found on the project site. There are no Riparian/Riverine associated species on the project site (i.e. least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, blue grosbeak, etc.) as there is no appropriate habitat.

### **FAIRY SHRIMP**

An assessment of the potentially significant effects of the proposed project on fairy shrimp was conducted. Fairy shrimp can occasionally be found in habitats other than vernal pools, such as artificial pools created by roadside ditches, shallow depressions and road ruts. Suitable habitat for fairy shrimp would require features that would be able to hold water long enough to support fairy shrimp. We found no appropriate habitat on the project site for fairy shrimp.

### **SECTION 6.1.2 RIPARIAN, RIVERINE, AND VERNAL POOL RESOURCES**

The lack of appropriate vegetation means that the site is not suitable for riparian bird species including least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), and yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). No vernal pool plants or appropriate soils were observed on the project site.

**TABLE 3.4**

**CNDDDB RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES AND HABITATS IN SUNNYMEAD QUADRANGLE<sup>1</sup>**

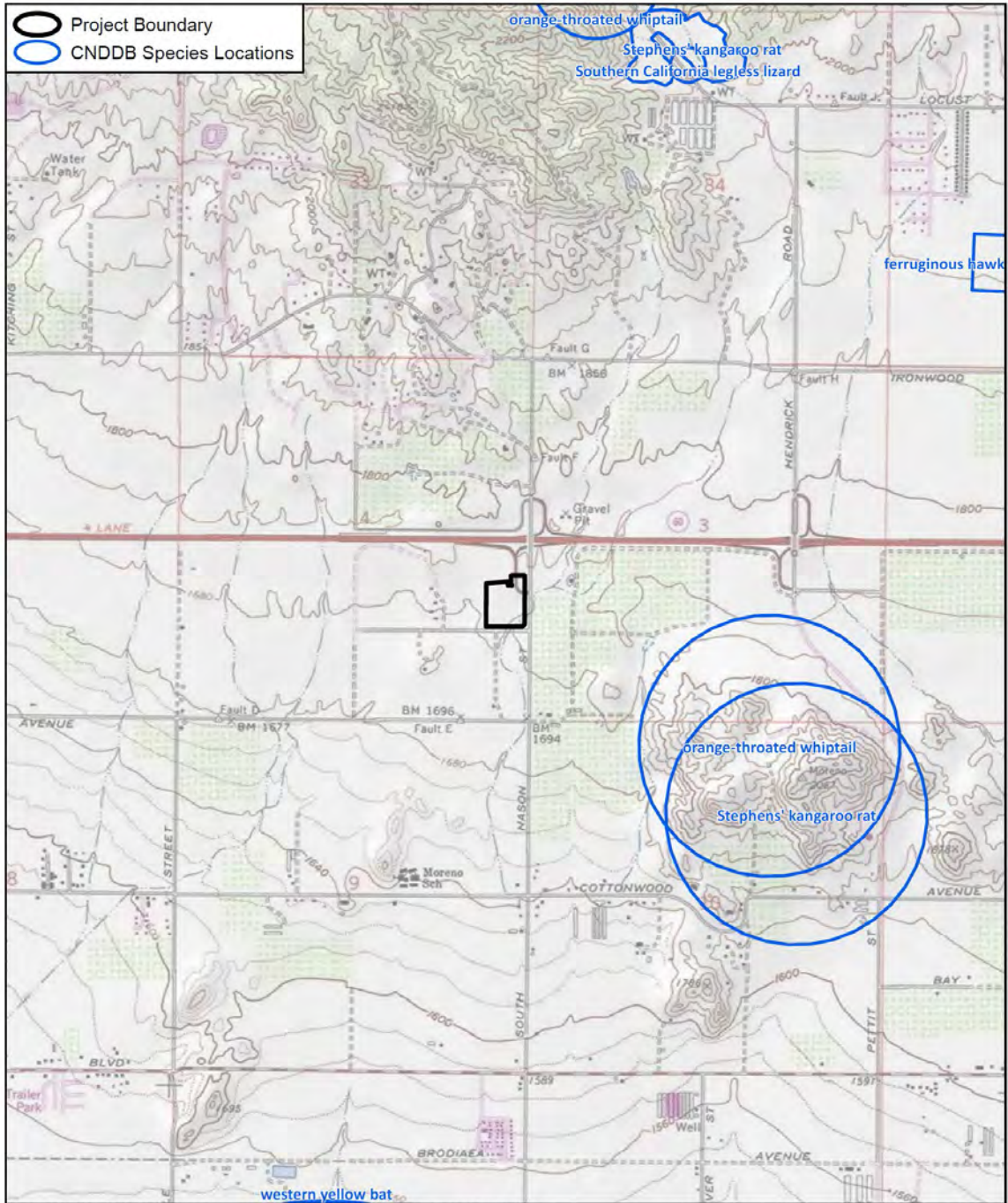
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	CALIF STATUS	CDFW	CNPS LIST
<i>Spea hammondi</i>	western spadefoot	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	Delisted	Delisted	FP	-
<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	American white pelican	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	Delisted	Endangered	FP	-
<i>Artemisospiza belli belli</i>	Bell's sage sparrow	None	None	WL	-
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	black-crowned night heron	None	None	-	-
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Larus californicus</i>	California gull	None	None	WL	-
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	California horned lark	None	None	WL	-
<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	canvasback	None	None	-	-
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	None	None	-	-
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	coastal California gnatcatcher	Threatened	None	SSC	-
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	None	None	WL	-
<i>Calypte costae</i>	Costa's hummingbird	None	None	-	-
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	double-crested cormorant	None	None	WL	-
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	ferruginous hawk	None	None	WL	-
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	golden eagle	None	None	FP ; WL	-
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	grasshopper sparrow	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	great blue heron	None	None	-	-
<i>Ardea alba</i>	great egret	None	None	-	-
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i>	Lawrence's goldfinch	None	None	-	-
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo	Endangered	Endangered	-	-
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Numenius americanus</i>	long-billed curlew	None	None	WL	-
<i>Asio otus</i>	long-eared owl	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	merlin	None	None	WL	-
<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	northern harrier	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	None	None	WL	-
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	prairie falcon	None	None	WL	-
<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	red-breasted sapsucker	None	None	-	-
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	sharp-shinned hawk	None	None	WL	-
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	short-eared owl	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Egretta thula</i>	snowy egret	None	None	-	-
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	None	None	WL	-
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	southwestern willow flycatcher	Endangered	Endangered	-	-
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	None	Threatened	-	-
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	None	Threatened	SSC	-
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Vaux's swift	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	western yellow-billed cuckoo	Threatened	Endangered	-	-
<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	white-faced ibis	None	None	WL	-
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	white-tailed kite	None	None	FP	-
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	willow flycatcher	None	Endangered	-	-
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Icteria virens</i>	yellow-breasted chat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	yellow-headed blackbird	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Dipodomys simulans</i>	Dulzura kangaroo rat	None	None	-	-
<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	Los Angeles pocket mouse	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>	northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Lynx rufus pallescens</i>	pallid bobcat	None	None	-	-
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	pocketed free-tailed bat	None	None	SSC	-

<sup>1</sup> NDDB 2016

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	CALIF STATUS	CDFW	CNPS LIST
<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	San Bernardino kangaroo rat	Endangered	Candidate Endangered	SSC	-
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	San Diego desert woodrat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	Stephens' kangaroo rat	Endangered	Threatened	-	-
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	western small-footed myotis	None	None	-	-
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	western yellow bat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis	None	None	-	-
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	coast horned lizard	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>	coast patch-nosed snake	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	coastal whiptail	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i>	orange-throated whiptail	None	None	WL	-
<i>Crotalus ruber</i>	red-diamond rattlesnake	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i>	San Bernardino ringneck snake	None	None	-	-
<i>Coleonyx variegatus abbotti</i>	San Diego banded gecko	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i>	southern California legless lizard	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland</i>	Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	None	None	-	-
<i>Artemisia palmeri</i>	San Diego sagewort	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>	chaparral sand-verbena	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>	paniculate tarplant	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's spineflower	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's jewelflower	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>	Peninsular spineflower	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	Plummer's mariposa-lily	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	Robinson's pepper-grass	None	None	-	4.3
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i>	San Bernardino aster	None	None	-	1B.2
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	smooth tarplant	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Juglans californica</i>	southern California black walnut	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i>	white-bracted spineflower	None	None	-	1B.2

**Legend:**

Candidate= Candidate for listing  
 CNDDB=California Natural Diversity Database  
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**FIGURE 3.2**

**CNDDB**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY



**TABLE 3.5**  
**CNDDDB RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES AND HABITATS IN SUNNYMEAD QUADRANGLE AND**  
**SURROUNDING NINE QUADRANGLES**

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	CA STATUS	CDF W	CNPS LIST
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	T	None	SSC	-
<i>Rana muscosa</i>	southern mountain yellow-legged frog	E	E	WL	-
<i>Spea hammondi</i>	western spadefoot	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American bittern	None	None	-	-
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	Delisted	Delisted	FP	-
<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	American white pelican	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	Delisted	E	FP	-
<i>Artemisiospiza belli belli</i>	Bell's sage sparrow	None	None	WL	-
<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	black swift	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	black-crowned night heron	None	None	-	-
<i>Poliophtila melanura</i>	black-tailed gnatcatcher	None	None	WL	-
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	brant	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Brewer's sparrow	None	None	-	-
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	California black rail	None	T	FP	-
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	California brown pelican	Delisted	Delisted	FP	-
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	California condor	E	E	FP	-
<i>Larus californicus</i>	California gull	None	None	WL	-
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	California horned lark	None	None	WL	-
<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	California Spotted Owl	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	canvasback	None	None	-	-
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	None	None	-	-
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i>	coastal cactus wren	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	coastal California gnatcatcher	T	None	SSC	-
<i>Gavia immer</i>	common loon	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	None	None	WL	-
<i>Calypte costae</i>	Costa's hummingbird	None	None	-	-
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	double-crested cormorant	None	None	WL	-
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	ferruginous hawk	None	None	WL	-
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	golden eagle	None	None	FP ; WL	-
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	grasshopper sparrow	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	great blue heron	None	None	-	-
<i>Ardea alba</i>	great egret	None	None	-	-
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus</i>	large-billed savannah sparrow	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i>	Lawrence's goldfinch	None	None	-	-

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	CA STATUS	CDF W	CNPS LIST
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo	E	E	-	-
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	least bittern	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Lewis' woodpecker	None	None	-	-
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	loggerhead shrike	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Numenius americanus</i>	long-billed curlew	None	None	WL	-
<i>Asio otus</i>	long-eared owl	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	merlin	None	None	WL	-
<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	mountain plover	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	northern goshawk	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	northern harrier	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	oak titmouse	None	None	-	-
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	olive-sided flycatcher	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	None	None	WL	-
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	prairie falcon	None	None	WL	-
<i>Progne subis</i>	purple martin	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	red-breasted sapsucker	None	None	-	-
<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	red-breasted sapsucker	None	None	-	-
<i>Aythya americana</i>	redhead	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	rufous hummingbird	None	None	-	-
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	sharp-shinned hawk	None	None	WL	-
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	short-eared owl	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Egretta thula</i>	snowy egret	None	None	-	-
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	None	None	WL	-
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	southwestern willow flycatcher	E	E	-	-
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	None	T	-	-
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	None	T	SSC	-
<i>Anser albifrons elgasi</i>	tule greater white-fronted goose	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Vaux's swift	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	vermillion flycatcher	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	western yellow-billed cuckoo	T	E	-	-
<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	white-faced ibis	None	None	WL	-
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	white-tailed kite	None	None	FP	-
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	willow flycatcher	None	E	-	-
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Icteria virens</i>	yellow-breasted chat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	yellow-headed blackbird	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	Riverside fairy shrimp	E	None	-	-
<i>Gila orcuttii</i>	arroyo chub	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> ssp. 3	Santa Ana speckled dace	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	Santa Ana sucker	Threatened	None	-	-

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	CA STATUS	CDF W	CNPS LIST
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10	steelhead - southern California DPS	E	None	-	-
<i>Carolella busckana</i>	Busck's gallmoth	None	None	-	-
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch bumble bee	None	None	-	-
<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis</i>	Delhi Sands flower-loving fly	Endangered	None	-	-
<i>Ceratochrysis longimala</i>	Desert cuckoo wasp	None	None	-	-
<i>Halictus harmonius</i>	haromonius halictid bee	None	None	-	-
<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	quino checkerspot butterfly	E	None	-	-
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Dipodomys simulans</i>	Dulzura kangaroo rat	None	None	-	-
<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	Dulzura pocket mouse	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	lesser long-nosed bat	Delisted	None	SSC	-
<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	Los Angeles pocket mouse northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>	mouse	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	Pacific pocket mouse	E	None	SSC	-
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Lynx rufus pallescens</i>	pallid bobcat	None	None	-	-
<i>Chaetodipus fallax pallidus</i>	pallid San Diego pocket mouse	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i> pop. 2	Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	E	T	FP	-
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	pocketed free-tailed bat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Glaucomys oregonensis californicus</i>	San Bernardino flying squirrel	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	San Bernardino kangaroo rat	E	C E	SSC	-
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	San Diego desert woodrat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	southern grasshopper mouse	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	Stephens' kangaroo rat	E	T	-	-
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Lasiurus blossevillei</i>	western red bat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	western small-footed myotis	None	None	-	-
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	western yellow bat	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis	None	None	-	-
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	California glossy snake	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	coast horned lizard	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i>	coast patch-nosed snake	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	coastal whiptail	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Anniella pulchra</i>	northern California legless lizard	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i>	orange-throated whiptail	None	None	WL	-
<i>Crotalus ruber</i>	red-diamond rattlesnake	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i>	San Bernardino ringneck snake	None	None	-	-
<i>Coleonyx variegatus abbotti</i>	San Diego banded gecko	None	None	SSC	-



SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	CA STATUS	CDF W	CNPS LIST
<i>Diadophis punctatus similis</i>	San Diego ringneck snake	None	None	-	-
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i> pop. 1	south coast gartersnake	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i>	southern California legless lizard	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	two-striped gartersnake	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	None	None	SSC	-
<i>Galium californicum</i> ssp. <i>primum</i>	Alvin Meadow bedstraw	None	None	-	1B.2
<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	Brand's star phacelia	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Carex comosa</i>	bristly sedge	None	None	-	2B.1
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	California satintail	None	None	-	2B.1
<i>Tortula californica</i>	California screw moss	None	None	-	1B.2
<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	chaparral ragwort	None	None	-	2B.2
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>	chaparral sand-verbena	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Diplacus clevelandii</i>	Cleveland's bush monkeyflower	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Coulter's matilija poppy	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Muilla coronata</i>	crowned muilla	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	None	None	-	1B.2
<i>Pseudorontium cyathiferum</i>	Deep Canyon snapdragon	None	None	-	2B.3
<i>Juncus duranii</i>	Duran's rush	None	None	-	4.3
<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann oak	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	Gambel's water cress	E	T	-	1B.1
<i>Monardella macrantha</i> ssp. <i>hallii</i>	Hall's monardella	None	None	-	1B.3
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i>	Horn's milk-vetch	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Astragalus pachypus</i> var. <i>jaegeri</i>	Jaeger's milk-vetch	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i>	little mousetail	None	None	-	3.1
<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i>	long-spined spineflower	None	None	-	1B.2
<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i>	Los Angeles sunflower	None	None	-	1A
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	marsh sandwort	E	E	-	1B.1
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>	mesa horkelia	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i>	mud nama	None	None	-	2B.2
<i>Allium munzii</i>	Munz's onion	E	T	-	1B.1
<i>Piperia leptopetala</i>	narrow-petaled rein orchid	None	None	-	4.3
<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	Nevin's barberry	E	E	-	1B.1
<i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i>	ocellated humboldt lily	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	Palmer's grapplinghook	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>	paniculate tarplant	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Parish's brittlescale	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Malacothamnus parishii</i>	Parish's bush-mallow	None	None	-	1A
<i>Sidalcea hickmanii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i>	Parish's checkerbloom	None	Rare	-	1B.2
<i>Lycium parishii</i>	Parish's desert-thorn	None	None	-	2B.3
<i>Ribes divaricatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i>	Parish's gooseberry	None	None	-	1A

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	CA STATUS	CDF W	CNPS LIST
<i>Rupertia rigida</i>	Parish's rupertia	None	None	-	4.3
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's spineflower	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's jewelflower	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>	Peninsular spineflower	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Cuscuta obtusiflora</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i>	Peruvian dodder	None	None	-	2B.2
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	Plummer's mariposa-lily	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Sphenopholis obtusata</i>	prairie wedge grass	None	None	-	2B.2
<i>Monardella pringlei</i>	Pringle's monardella	None	None	-	1A
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	Robinson's pepper-grass	None	None	-	4.3
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i>	salt marsh bird's-beak	E	E	-	1B.2
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	salt spring checkerbloom	None	None	-	2B.2
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i>	San Bernardino aster	None	None	-	1B.2
<i>Artemisia palmeri</i>	San Diego sagewort	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Senecio astephanus</i>	San Gabriel ragwort	None	None	-	4.3
<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i>	San Jacinto Valley crownscale	E	None	-	1B.1
<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>	Santa Ana River woollystar	E	E	-	1B.1
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	slender-horned spineflower	E	E	-	1B.1
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i>	small-flowered morning-glory	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	smooth tarplant	None	None	-	1B.1
<i>Juglans californica</i>	southern California black walnut	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i>	southern jewelflower	None	None	-	1B.3
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	T	None	-	1B.1
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	thread-leaved brodiaea	T	E	-	1B.1
<i>Bouteloua trifida</i>	three-awned grama	None	None	-	2B.3
<i>Hordeum intercedens</i>	vernal barley	None	None	-	3.2
<i>Asplenium vespertinum</i>	western spleenwort	None	None	-	4.2
<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i>	white-bracted spineflower	None	None	-	1B.2
<i>Texasporium sancti-jacobi</i>	woven-spored lichen	None	None	-	3
<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	Wright's trichocoronis	None	None	-	2B.1
<i>Allium marvinii</i>	Yucaipa onion	None	None	-	1B.2

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## IV. EXISTING CONDITIONS

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This section provides the existing conditions of the study area, including the general description of the site, hydrological resources, soil types, and vegetation communities.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

Elevation of the assessment area ranges from a low of 1726± feet above mean sea level (msl) in the southern portion of the assessment area to a high of 1770± feet above msl in the northwestern portion of the assessment area. This represents an elevational change across the assessment area of 44± feet. The entire site consists of relatively level land. The project site has been impacted by anthropogenic activities. Land use in the surrounding area consists of commercial and single family residential.

### HYDROLOGICAL RESOURCES

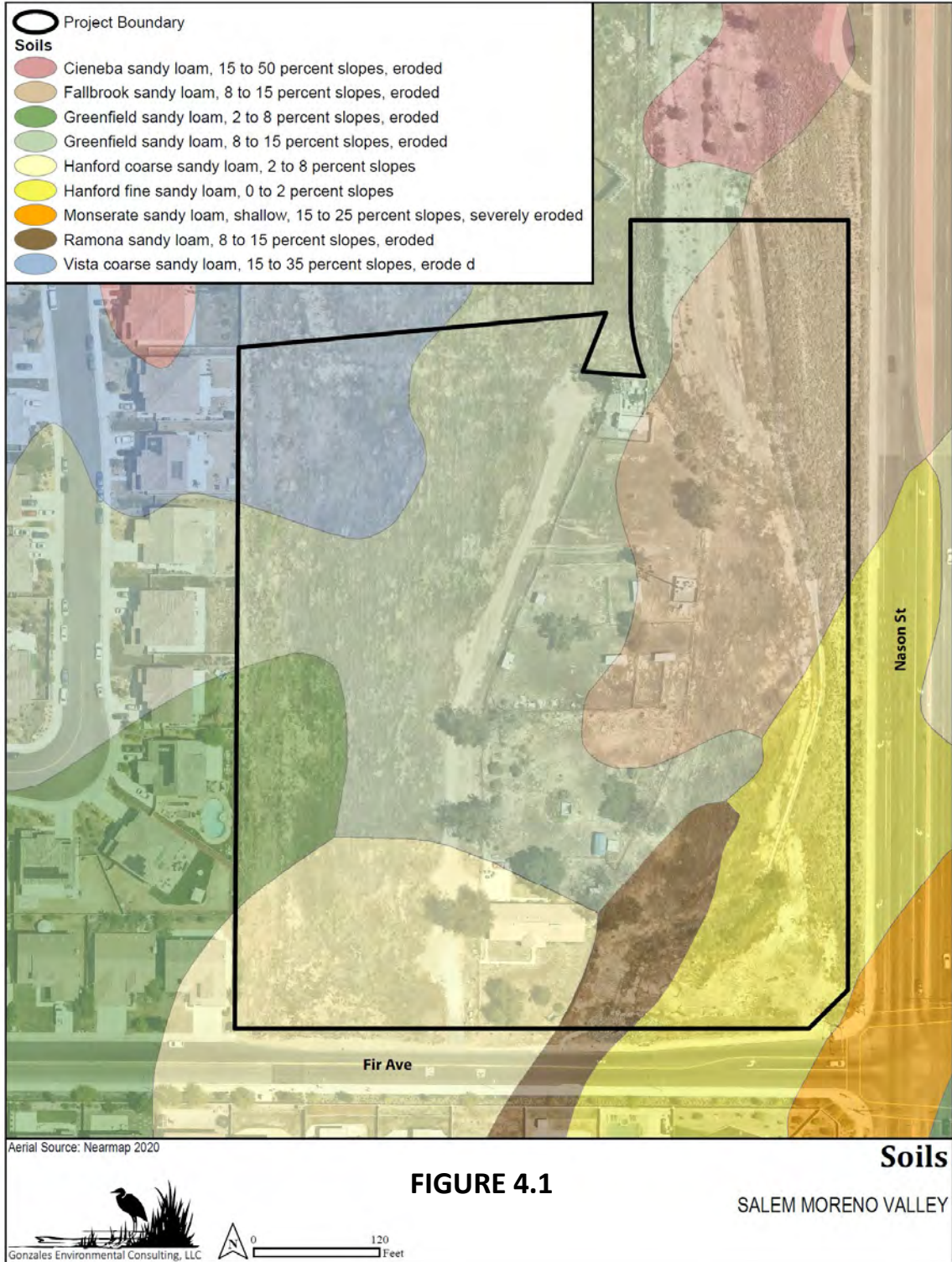
The project site contains altered (trapezoidal channel) and natural channel drainage on the project site. The drainages direct stormwater runoff from the site.

### SOILS OF THE SITE

The soil associations mapped for the area are Hanford-Tujunga-Greenfield association. Hanford-Tujunga-Greenfield association: Very deep, well-drained to to excessively drained, nearly level to moderately steep soils that have a surface layer of sand to loam; on alluvial fans and flood plains. The soil series mapped for the area are described in Table 4.1. The soils found are similar in texture and color to those mapped, but were highly disturbed from anthropogenic activities. The soils were compacted and unstratified over the majority of the project site. The soils at soil pit locations did not meet the criteria for hydric soils within project boundaries.

**TABLE 4.1**  
**SOIL SERIES MAPPED FOR THE AREA**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
Cieneba sandy loam 15-50% slopes, eroded	Somewhat excessively drained soils on uplands. Formed in coarse-grained igneous rock. Slopes range from 15-50%. Elevations range from 900-3,500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 9-16 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-65 degrees F, and the average frost-free season from 220-300 days. The vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, chamise, and flat-top buckwheat.
Fallbrook sandy loam 8-15% slopes, eroded	Well-drained soils that lie on upland. These soils developed on granodiorite and tonalite. Slopes range from 8-15%. Elevations range from 700-3,500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 10-14 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-65 degrees F, and the average frost-free season from 200-280 days. The vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, oaks, flat-top buckwheat, and chaparral.
Greenfield sandy loam, 2-8% slopes, eroded	Soils are on alluvial fans and terraces. Slopes 2-8%. These well-drained soils developed in alluvium consisting mainly of granitic materials. Elevations range from 600-,3500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 10-18 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-64 degrees F, and the average frost-free season from 200-280 days. The vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, forbs, sumac, and chamise but includes some scattered oak trees.
Greenfield sandy loam, 8-15% slopes, eroded	Soils are on alluvial fans and terraces. Slopes 8-15%. These well-drained soils developed in alluvium consisting mainly of granitic materials. Elevations range from 600-,3500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 10-18 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-64 degrees F, and the average frost-free season from 200-280 days. The vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, forbs, sumac, and chamise but includes some scattered oak trees.
Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2-8% slopes	Well-drained and somewhat excessively drained soils on alluvial fans. Slopes are 2-8%. These soils developed in alluvium made of granitic materials. Elevations range from 700-2,500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 9-14 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-64 degrees F and the average frost-free season from 210-280 days. Vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, forbs, and chamise.
Hanford fine sandy loam, 0-2% slopes	Well-drained and somewhat excessively drained soils on alluvial fans. Slopes are 0-2%. These soils developed in alluvium made of granitic materials. Elevations range from 700-2,500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 9-14 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-64 degrees F and the average frost-free season from 210-280 days. Vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, forbs, and chamise.
Monserate sandy loam, shallow, 15-26% slopes, severely eroded	Well-drained soils that developed in alluvium from predominately granitic materials. Slopes are 15-25%. These soils are on terraces and on old alluvial fans. Elevations range from 700-2,500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 9-14 inches, the average annual temperature from 61-64 degrees F and the average frost-free season from 220-280 days. Vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, forbs, and chamise.
Ramona sandy loam, 8-15% slopes, eroded	Well-drained soils on alluvial fans and terraces. Slopes are 8-15%. These soils developed in alluvium consisting mainly of granitic materials. Elevations range from 500-3,500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 9-18 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-65 degrees F and the average frost-free season from 220-300 days. Vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, forbs, chamise, salvia, and flat-top buckwheat.
Vista coarse sandy loam, 15-35% slopes, eroded	Well-drained soils of the uplands. Slopes are 2-35%. These soils developed on weathered granite and granodiorite. Elevations range from 1,000-3,500 feet. The average annual rainfall ranges from 10-15 inches, the average annual temperature from 59-64 degrees F and the average frost-free season from 220-260 days. Vegetation is chiefly annual grasses, forbs and chaparral. In a few areas the plant cover consists of grasses and oaks.



## PLANT COMMUNITIES

### Sensitive Vegetation Communities

Sensitive vegetation communities are those that are: considered sensitive pursuant to the State of California NCCP program; are under the jurisdiction of the ACOE pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA; are under the jurisdiction of the CDFW pursuant to Sections 1600 through 1612 of the California Fish and Game Code; are known or believed to be of high priority for inventory in the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB 2020); are considered regionally rare in southern California; have undergone a large-scale reduction from their Pre-European coverage in southern California due to increased urban and agricultural encroachment; and/or support sensitive plant and animal species.

Sensitive vegetation communities listed for the surrounding project area (9 surrounding quadrangles) are:

Canyon Live Oak Ravine Forest, Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Riparian Forest, Southern Riparian Scrub, Southern Sycamore Alder, Riparian Woodland, and Southern Willow Scrub.

### Vegetation Communities on the Project Site

The primary vegetation communities in the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the project site. The existing plant communities are described in more detail below.

### California Annual Grassland Alliance

This alliance of non-native annual grasslands and forb lands is composed of cool-season, annual grasses mostly introduced from Europe. They are invasive in disturbed areas throughout much of California. The composition varies widely. Many alien annual species may be present, including *Avena fatua*, *Brassica* spp., *Bromus diandrus*, *Bromus hordeaceus* and *Bromus madritensis*. The composition of this alliance is largely determined by amount of disturbance coupled with fall temperatures and precipitation, light intensity, litter thickness and micro topography. The percentage of exotic alien species is often directly related to disturbance history with heavy disturbance correlating with heavy exotic invasion. Annual grasses are supremely adapted to the Mediterranean climate of California; many species evolved under similar conditions in southern Europe and northern Africa. Plants germinate during winter rains, and complete their life cycles by the beginning of the summer drought. Seeds often remain viable for many years.



**PICTURE 4.1**

***Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance**

Mulefat scrub is dominated by mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), but also may include willows (*Salix* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) (Holland 1986).





***Encelia farinosa*-*Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance**

This series is considered part of the coastal scrub, which is better thought of as a collection of series. This approach allows stands of composition, which can be considered, regardless of geographic location. This series has Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) as the semi-dominant plant species. This community is found on the slopes of the project area.



**PICTURE 4.3**

## Landscape

Non-native trees on the project site include Pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).



**Disturbed/Developed**

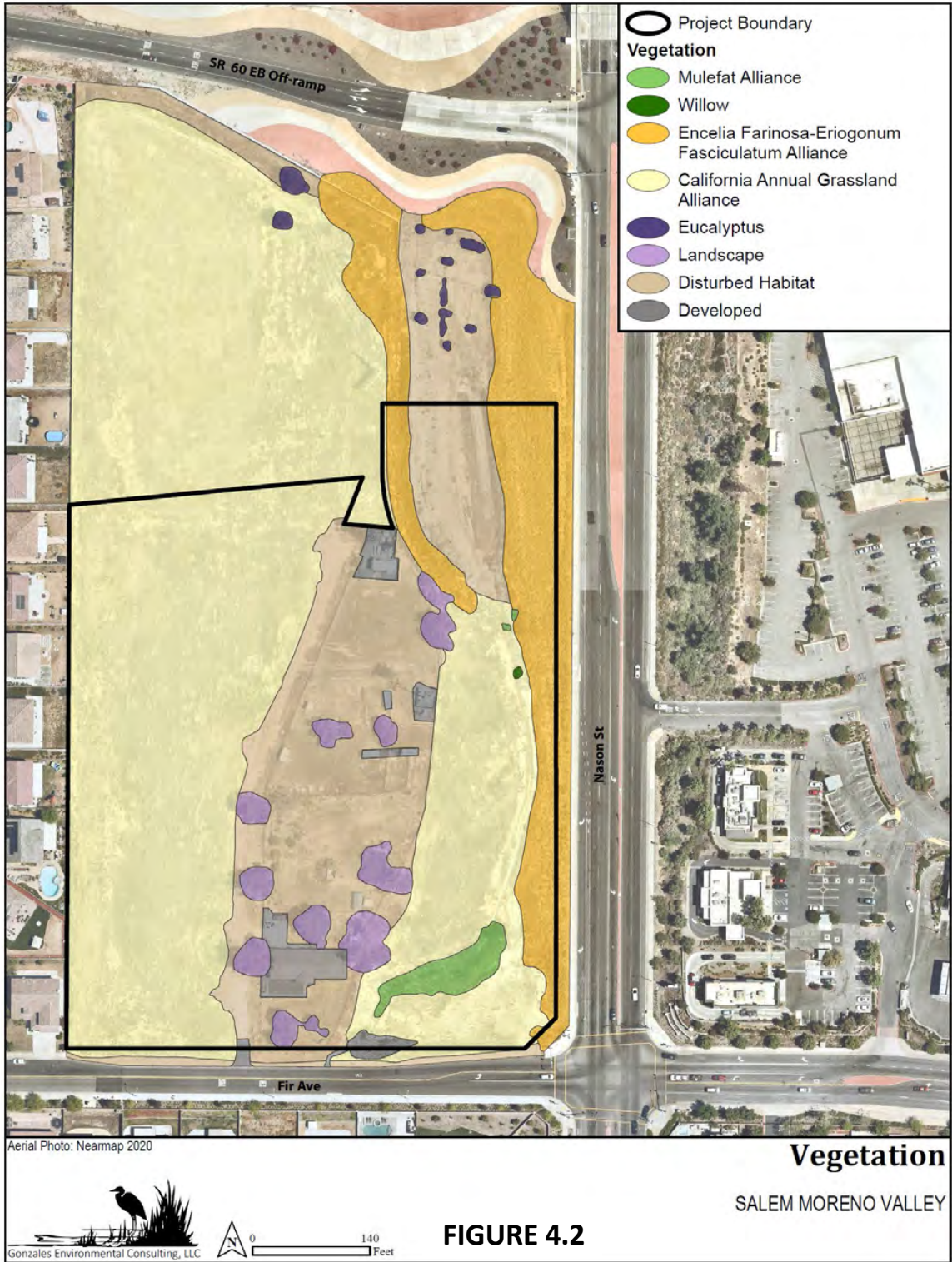
Disturbed areas are characterized by predominantly non-native species introduced and established through human action. Disturbed or barren areas are areas that either completely lack vegetation or have a predominance of non-native species.



**PICTURE 4.3**

**TABLE 4.1**  
**ACREAGE OF HABITAT TYPES**

California Annual	
Grassland Alliance	5.112
Developed	0.275
Disturbed Habitat	2.442
<i>Encelia farinosa-</i>	
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	
Alliance	0.916
Landscape	0.399
Mulefat alliance	0.146
Willow	0.003
<b>TOTAL (acres)</b>	<b>9.293</b>



## V. RESULTS

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This section presents the result of habitat assessments and focused surveys that were conducted within the study area. Regarding how the survey results relate to potential impacts to sensitive biological resources and MSHCP consistency, refer to Section 6 and Section 7, respectively, of this report.

### SENSITIVE HABITATS

A list of special status habitats was created based on published literature and literature readily available on the internet and CNDDDB records searches. Canyon Live Oak Ravine Forest, Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Riparian Forest, Southern Riparian Scrub, Southern Sycamore Alder, Riparian Woodland, and Southern Willow Scrub are sensitive habitats listed for the surrounding area.

### MSHCP RIPARIAN/RIVERINE AND VERNAL POOL HABITATS

#### RIPARIAN/RIVERINE

We found seasonal watercourses and potential 6.1.2 riverine vegetation and evidence of recent surface water on the project site. There are seasonal watercourses on site which are MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site. CDFW streambed (0.371 acres) are found on the site. RWQCB jurisdiction (0.239 acres) are found on the site. MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site are riverine (0.222 acres) and riparian (0.149 acres) are found on the site. There are no USACE waters of the U.S. or wetlands on the project site.

#### VERNAL POOLS

An assessment of the potentially significant effects of the proposed project on vernal pools was conducted. Vernal pools, also called vernal ponds or ephemeral pools, are temporary pools of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals. We found none of those features on the project site. There are no clay soils or areas which has compacted soils that would allow water to stand for any length of time. No vernal pools are present on the project site.

#### FAIRY SHRIMP

An assessment of the potentially significant effects of the proposed project on fairy shrimp was conducted. Fairy shrimp can occasionally be found in habitats other than vernal pools, such as artificial pools created by roadside ditches, shallow depressions and road ruts. Suitable habitat for fairy shrimp would require features that would be able to hold water long enough to support fairy shrimp. We found none of those features on the project site. There are no clay soils or areas which has compacted soils that would allow water to stand for any length of time. The site has been anthropogenically impacted and does not have any features necessary to support fairy shrimp in its current condition.

## SENSITIVE PLANTS

Several special-status plant and animal species have the potential to occur on site. Table 5.1 documents the special-status plant species that may occur in the SUNNYMEAD quadrangle and surrounding nine quadrangles (Rarefind 5-2020).

**TABLE 5.1**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES LISTED FOR SUNNYMEAD & SURROUNDING NINE QUADRANGLES**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	Primary Habitat Associations	Status Onsite or Potential to Occur
<i>Galium californicum</i> ssp. <i>primum</i>	Alvin Meadow bedstraw	None/None	1B.2	Chaparral and yellow pine forests at an elevation 5000 feet	No habitat; No potential
<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	Brand's star phacelia	None/None	1B.1	Open areas, coastal-sage scrub coastal sage scrub below 400 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Carex comosa</i>	bristly sedge	None/None	2B.1	Lake-margins and edges between 0 and 1400 feet	No habitat; No potential
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	California satintail	None/None	2B.1	Wet springs, meadows, streambanks, floodplains in wet or dry soil of Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub, and Creosote Bush Scrub habitats; Elevation: < 500 m	No habitat; No potential
<i>Tortula californica</i>	California screw moss	None/None	1B.2	Sage scrub and grassland at an elevation between 33 and 328 feet	Habitat present; No potential above elevational range
<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	chaparral ragwort	None/None	2B.2	Alkaline flats, dry open rocky areas at an elevation between 10--550 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>	chaparral sand-verbena	None/None	1B.1	Sandy places in coastal-sage scrub, chaparral at less than 1600 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Diplacus clevelandii</i>	Cleveland's bush monkeyflower	None/None	4.2	Disturbed areas, open borders of woodland, and chaparral habitats at an elevation between 1300--2600 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	None/None	1B.1	Alkaline coastal salt marshes, alkali playas, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools	Habitat present; No potential not observed during surveys
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Coulter's matilija poppy	None/None	4.2	Sage scrub and chaparral	No habitat; No potential
<i>Muilla coronata</i>	crowned muilla	None/None	4.2	Creosote Bush Scrub, Joshua Tree Woodland, Pinyon-Juniper Woodland at an elevation between 1000-1600 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i> davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	None/None	1B.2	Domino-Willows-Traver Soils series in association with the alkali vernal pools, alkali annual grassland, alkali playa, and alkali scrub components of alkali vernal plains	No alkali habitat; No potential
<i>Pseudorontium cyathiferum</i>	Deep Canyon snapdragon	None/None	2B.3	Washes, rocky slopes in creosote bush scrub; Elevation: < 800 m	No habitat; No potential
<i>Juncus duranii</i>	Duran's rush	None/None	4.3	Creek banks, wet places, in montane conifer forest at an elevation from 1800--2750 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann oak	None/None	4.2	Slopes, foothills, woodland at an elevation less than 1300 meters	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	Gambel's water cress	E/T	1B.1	Freshwater marsh, coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities. Habitat includes freshwater-march and brackish marsh	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Monardella macrantha</i> ssp. <i>hallii</i>	Hall's monardella	None/None	1B.3	Chaparral, foothill woodlands, yellow pine forests, mixed evergreen forests, and valley grasslands.	Habitat present; No potential not observed during surveys
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i>	Horn's milk-vetch	None/None	1B.1	Salty flats and lakeshores	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Astragalus pachypus</i> var. <i>jaegeri</i>	Jaeger's milk-vetch	None/None	1B.1	Rocky or sandy areas; Elevation: 450-1200 m.	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i>	little mousetail	None/None	3.1	Vernal Pools	No habitat; No potential
<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i>	long-spined spineflower	None/None	1B.2	Southern needle grass grassland, and openings in coastal sage scrub and chaparral	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i>	Los Angeles sunflower	None/None	1A	Coastal salt marsh	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	marsh sandwort	E/E	1B.1	Freshwater-marsh, Wet meadows, marshes at an elevation less than 300 meters	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>	mesa horkelia	None/None	1B.1	Vernal pools, depressions and ditches in areas that once supported vernal pools below 2000 feet.	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i>	mud nama	None/None	2B.2	Intermittently wet areas; <810 m	No suitable habitat; No potential



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	Primary Habitat Associations	Status Onsite or Potential to Occur
<i>Allium munzii</i>	Munz's onion	E/T	1B.1	Grassy openings in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, juniper woodland, valley and foothill grasslands in clay soils. Found on mesic exposures or seasonally moist microsites	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Piperia leptopetala</i>	narrow-petaled rein orchid	None/None	4.3	Dry sites, scrub, and woodland at an elevation less than 2200 meters	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	Nevin's barberry	E/E	1B.1	Chaparral, Foothill Woodland, Coastal Sage Scrub habitats, Sandy to gravelly soils, washes, chaparral at an elevation less than 650 meters	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i>	ocellated humboldt lily	None/None	4.2	Oak canyons, chaparral and yellow-pine forest at an elevation below 1800 meters	No suitable habitat; No potential
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	Palmer's grapplinghook	None/None	4.2	Clay slopes and in burned areas at lower elevations	No habitat; No potential
<i>Mimulus diffusus</i>	Palomar monkeyflower	None/None	4.3	Sandy washes, disturbed areas at an elevation less than 2100 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>	paniculate tarplant	None/None	4.2	Grassland, open chaparral and woodland, disturbed areas, often in sandy soils up to 1320 meter	Habitat present; No potential not observed during surveys
<i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Parish's brittle-scale	None/None	1B.1	Alkaline or clay soils at an elevation less than 470 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Malacothamnus parishii</i>	Parish's bush-mallow	None/None	1A	Chaparral and coastal sage scrub	No habitat; No potential
<i>Sidalcea hickmanii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i>	Parish's checkerbloom	None/Rare	1B.2	Chaparral and Yellow Pine forests	No habitat; No potential
<i>Lycium parishii</i>	Parish's desert-thorn	None/None	2B.3	Creosote Brush Scrub and Coastal Sage Scrub habitats; Sandy to rocky slopes, canyons at an elevation less than 1000 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Ribes divaricatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i>	Parish's gooseberry	None/None	1A	Moist woodland between 60–310 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Rupertia rigida</i>	Parish's rupertia	None/None	4.3	Woodland, chaparral, lower montane conifer forest at an elevation less than 2500 m	No habitat; No potential
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's spineflower	None/None	1B.1	Openings of chaparral, sage scrub, alluvial fan sage scrub and Juniper woodland	No habitat; No potential
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's jewelflower	None/None	4.2	Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub	No habitat; No potential
<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>	Peninsular spineflower	None/None	4.2	Sand or gravel, between (300)600–1600 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Cuscuta obtusiflora</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i>	Peruvian dodder	None/None	2B.2	Found on herbs including Alternanthera, Dalea, Lythrum, Polygonum and Xanthium at an elevation of less than 500 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	Plummer's mariposa-lily	None/None	4.2	Dry, rocky slopes, brushy areas and openings in chaparral below 5000 feet	No habitat; No potential
<i>Sphenopholis obtusata</i>	prairie wedge grass	None/None	2B.2	Wet meadows, streambanks, ponds at an elevation between 240–2870 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Monardella pringlei</i>	Pringle's monardella	None/None	1A	Interior sand dunes in sandy soils at an elevation between 300–400 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	Robinson's pepper-grass	None/None	4.3	Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, dry soils up to 1,500 foot elevation	No habitat; No potential
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i>	salt marsh bird's-beak	E/E	1B.2	Coastal Strand and Coastal Salt Marsh and under natural conditions in wetlands at an elevation less than 10 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	Salt Spring checkerbloom	None/None	2B.2	Creosote Bush Scrub, Chaparral, Yellow Pine Forest, Coastal Sage Scrub and Alkali Sink	No habitat; No potential
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i>	San Bernardino aster	None/None	1B.2	Cismontane woodlands, coastal sage scrub, lower montane coniferous forests, meadows, seeps, marshes, swamps, valleys and foothill grasslands	Habitat present; No potential not observed during surveys
<i>Artemisia palmeri</i>	San Diego sagewort	None/None	4.2	Moist drainages, sandy soil at an elevation greater than 600 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Senecio astephanus</i>	San Gabriel ragwort	None/None	4.3	Steep rocky slopes in chaparral/coastal-sage scrub and oak woodland; Elevation: 400–1500 m	No habitat; No potential
<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i>	San Jacinto Valley crownscale	E/None	1B.1	Alkali flats	No habitat; No potential

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	Primary Habitat Associations	Status Onsite or Potential to Occur
<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>	Santa Ana River woollystar	E/E	1B.1	Washes, floodplains, dry riverbeds at an elevation less than 500 m.	No habitat; No potential
<i>Dodecachaema leptoceras</i>	slender-horned spineflower	Endangered/Endangered	1B.1	Alluvial washes. It is usually restricted to old bench habitats in Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub	No habitat; No potential
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i>	small-flowered morning-glory	None/None	4.2	Coastal sage scrub, valley grassland	Habitat present; No potential not observed during surveys
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	smooth tarplant	None/None	1B.1	Alkaline soils at the edges of marshes and swamps	No habitat; No potential
<i>Juglans californica</i>	southern California black walnut	None/None	4.2	Hillsides and canyons at 30–900 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i>	southern jewelflower	None/None	1B.3	Juniper woodland or high desert transitional chaparral. Open, rocky conifer forest, chaparral, woodland; Elevation: 900–2300 m	No habitat; No potential
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	Threatened/None	1B.1	Vernal pools and depressions and ditches	No habitat; No potential
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	thread-leaved brodiaea	Threatened/Endangered	1B.1	Valley Grassland, Foothill Woodland, Coastal Sage Scrub, and Freshwater Wetland	Habitat present; No potential not observed during surveys
<i>Bouteloua trifida</i>	three-awned grama	None/None	2B.3	Dry, rocky, generally calcareous slopes, crevices, washes, scrub in creosote bush scrub; at an elevation: 200–1600 m	No habitat; No potential
<i>Hordeum intercedens</i>	vernal barley	None/None	3.2	Vernal pools, dry, saline streambeds and alkaline flats at an elevation below 500 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Asplenium vespertinum</i>	western spleenwort	None/None	4.2	Moist, shady, rocky places, such as the shadows beneath cliff overhangs	No habitat; No potential
<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i>	white-bracted spineflower	None/None	1B.2	Saltbush, pinyon-juniper, and pine-oak woodlands communities, at an elevation between 400-1,250 meters	No habitat; No potential
<i>Texosporium sancti-jacobi</i>	woven-spored lichen	None/None	3	Arid to semi-arid shrub-steppe, grassland or savannah communities up to 1,000 meters in elevation	Habitat present; Low potential- was not observed during surveys
<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	Wright's trichocoronis	None/None	2B.1	Moist places, drying riverbeds	No habitat; No potential
<i>Allium marvinii</i>	Yucaipa onion	None/None	1B.2	Dry slopes, ridges; Elevation: 300–1250 m	No habitat; No potential

**Legend**

FE: Federally-listed as endangered  
 FT: Federally-listed as threatened  
 SCE: State candidate for listing as endangered  
 FC: Federal Candidate  
 SE: State-listed as endangered  
 ST: State-listed as threatened  
 SR: State rare  
 CNPS List= California Native Plant Society  
 CNPS 1B= Rare or Endangered in California and Elsewhere  
 CNPS 2= Rare or Endangered in California, More Common Elsewhere  
 CNPS 3= Need More Information  
 CNPS 4= Plants of Limited Distribution  
 CNPS New Threat Code extensions and their meanings:  
 1 - Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)  
 2 - Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)  
 3 - Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

## OAK TREES

There are no oak trees on or adjacent to the project site.

## FAUNA

The project study area supports a low-moderate diversity of wildlife species due to the level of disturbance and development in the vicinity. Many of the wildlife species observed or detected in the project study area are commonly found in the urban interface or on disturbed habitat. Wildlife is generally specific to disturbed sage scrub habitat. While a few wildlife species are entirely dependent on a single vegetative community, the entire mosaic of the site and adjoining areas constitutes a functional ecosystem for a variety of wildlife species. The habitat on the site provides foraging habitat for year-round residents, seasonal residents, and migrating song birds. In addition, the site encompasses raptor foraging and perching habitat. A list of observed wildlife is attached as Appendix D. Wildlife usage of the project site tends to be focused around the margins of the project site, away from the eastern development. Characteristic avian species detected include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*).

## SENSITIVE WILDLIFE

No sensitive wildlife was detected within the project study area during wildlife field studies. Additional species are discussed in Appendix F. One (1) species is assumed to be present. Table 5.2 provides the listing status of the species.

**TABLE 5.2**  
**MSHCP ADEQUATELY CONSERVED WILDLIFE SPECIES**

Species	Listing Status
Stephens' kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> )	Federal: Endangered State: Threatened MSHCP: Covered Species

## MSHCP ADEQUATELY CONSERVED SPECIES

Wildlife species that are covered and Adequately Conserved by the MSHCP does not include Stephens Kangaroo rat. Stephens Kangaroo rat (SKR) is covered under a separate Habitat Conservation Plan. As a Covered species, participation in the HCP would provide "take" for SKR species and no additional mitigation except a fee, would be required. Although SKR is Adequately Conserved, the intent of the proposed project is to avoid and/or minimize impacts to all biological resources that occur within its boundaries.

## MSHCP SECTION 6.1.2 SPECIES

No MSHCP Section 6.1.2 species (LBV, southwestern Willow flycatcher and other riparian species) were observed on the project site or within the 500 foot buffer.

## **FAIRY SHRIMP**

We found no ponded water areas on the project site.

## **MSHCP SECTION 6.3.2 CRITERIA AREA SPECIES**

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a state species of special concern and MSHCP Group 3 species that is found in open, dry grasslands, agricultural and range lands, as well as desert habitats with low-growing vegetation. The BUOW resides in burrows primarily created, then abandoned, by species such as California ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) and coyotes (*Canis latrans*). Although several potential debris piles were mapped within the project area during habitat assessments for this species, focused surveys did not identify BUOW or active burrows during surveys on the property or in adjacent areas.

## VI. IMPACT ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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This section provides an analysis of impacts to biological resources expected to occur from the construction of the proposed project. Both direct and indirect impacts are anticipated as a result of construction activities. Impacts are defined as activities that destroy, damage, alter, or otherwise affect biological resources in a project area. Impacts are described below.

### PROJECT EFFECTS

The number of individuals of each sensitive species inhabiting the habitat areas was not determined, for the following reasons: (a) many species are amphibians or reptiles, which are difficult to detect during routine field surveys, (b) intensive population studies of small mammals inhabiting the various habitats were not conducted due to the excessive time required to complete such investigations, and (c) some of the bird species known from habitats immediately adjacent to the project area were not observed during field surveys but, due to their capacity of flight, could inhabit the area any time in the future.

#### Direct and Indirect Impacts to Wildlife

This section addresses direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources that may result from implementation of the proposed project.

**Direct impacts** generally consist of the loss of habitat and the plant and wildlife species that it contains within the area impacted by the proposed project. For the purposes of this assessment, all biological resources within the grading impact area are considered 100 percent lost.

**Indirect Impacts** are difficult to quantify but, in some cases, they may be as significant as direct impacts. In general, indirect impacts primarily result from adverse "edge effects," either short-term indirect impacts related to construction or long-term, chronic indirect impacts associated with the location of development in proximity to biological resources within natural open space.

Short-term indirect impacts that may potentially result from any project construction include dust production, which could affect plant growth and insect activity; noise, which could disrupt wildlife communication, including bird breeding behavior; lighting, which could disrupt behavior of nocturnal reptiles, mammals, and raptors; sedimentation, siltation, and erosion, which could affect water quality of onsite streams; and pollutant runoff, including chemicals used during construction and machinery maintenance, which could contaminate soil and water.

Cumulative Impacts refer to incremental individual environmental effects of the proposed project and other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects when combined together. These impacts taken individually may be minor, but collectively may be significant as they occur over a period of time.

## THRESHOLDS FOR DETERMINING POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Guidelines under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provide guidance and interpretation for implementing CEQA statutes. CEQA significance entails any impact to plant and wildlife species listed by federal or state agencies as threatened or endangered, or of regional or local significance. A significant impact to listed or sensitive species could be direct or indirect, with impacts to rare or sensitive habitats also considered significant.

In general, the proposed project could result in a potentially significant impact to the environment if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by CDFW, USACE, RWQCB, or USFWS.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.
- Introduce land use within an area immediately adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area that would result in substantial edge effects; or
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Mitigation and conservation recommendations to address each impact to biological resources are identified below.

Participation in the MSHCP and implementation of conservation and additional mitigation measures would compensate for impacts that would occur as a result of project implementation.

## DIRECT IMPACTS

Direct impacts consist of any ground-disturbing activities (i.e., vegetation removal, grading, paving, building of structures, installing landscaping, etc.). Impacts will occur to all of the habitat on the site. These impacts will occur in the grading for the buildings and roadways by removal of habitat. No state or federal listed plant species will be impacted by the proposed project. The habitat on the project site supports common native wildlife species that would be directly affected by the removal of the habitat.

The more mobile wildlife species, such as birds that utilize the affected area will be displaced during clearing activities to adjacent areas. These animals may move to open adjacent properties. The less mobile species will probably be lost during the habitat clearing and grading. Construction of the project will probably limit the future use of the

area except for common reptile, bird and small mammal species that can be found in urban neighborhoods.

Anticipated impacts to most sensitive wildlife species would be relatively minor, for the following reasons: (a) most of the potentially impacted species are common, and (b) the project area is already disturbed by anthropogenic activities.

Construction Related Land Disturbance

Land disturbance calculations that would result from construction activities (i.e. grading, staging areas etc.) are provided in Table 6.1 below. Implementation of the proposed project would result in the estimated direct permanent loss of approximately 9.293 acres of habitat.

**TABLE 6.1**  
**ACREAGE OF HABITAT TYPES RELATED TO LAND DISTURBANCE**

<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Impacts</b>	
	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Onsite Impacts</b>	<b>Offsite Impacts</b>
California Annual Grassland Alliance	5.112	5.112	0.071
Developed	0.275	0.275	0.018
Disturbed Habitat	2.442	2.442	0.039
Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum Alliance	0.916	0.916	0.018
Landscape	0.399	0.399	
Mulefat alliance	0.146	0.146	
Willow	0.003	0.003	
<b>TOTAL (acres)</b>	<b>9.293</b>	<b>9.293</b>	<b>0.147</b>

Vegetation Communities

Permanent impacts to vegetation communities that occur within the project footprint would result from disturbance associated with permanent roads and structures.

Clearing and grading associated with construction of the project may result in the alteration of soil conditions, including the loss of native seed bank and changes to the topography and drainage of a site such that the capability of the habitat to support current vegetation is impaired. Table 6.1 describes impacts to habitat types.

## **RIPARIAN, STREAMBED, MSHCP SECTION 6.12 AND WATERS OF THE U.S.**

There are state or federal streambed resources on the project site. MSHCP Section 6.12 riverine resources are located on the project site.

There are seasonal watercourses on site which are MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site. CDFW streambed (0.371 acres) are found on the site. RWQCB jurisdiction (0.239 acres) are found on the site. MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on the project site are riverine (0.222 acres) and riparian (0.149 acres) are found on the site. There are no USACE waters of the U.S. or wetlands on the project site.

## **FAIRY SHRIMP**

There are no fairy shrimp on the project site. Fairy shrimp are not located on the project site.

## **SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES**

There are no sensitive plant species in the project area, and none were observed on the project site.

## **OAK TREES**

There are no oak trees on the project site.

## **COMMON AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES**

Although the intent of the proposed project is to protect biological resources to the maximum extent possible, construction and implementation of the proposed project could potentially impact common wildlife species, species Covered by the MSHCP and associated habitats for these species as identified within the study area. The following avoidance and minimization measures will be incorporated during project implementation for the protection of these species.

## **COMMON AND MSHCP ADEQUATELY CONSERVED SPECIES**

No wildlife species, that are Covered Species and Adequately Conserved by the MSHCP, were detected within the study area during habitat assessment and focused surveys. The following measures will be implemented in order to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to common and Adequately Conserved MSHCP wildlife species resources.

### **Construction Minimization Measures (Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP)**

The following construction minimization measures shall be implemented during project construction to minimize impacts on biological resources during construction:

- Timing of construction activities shall consider seasonal requirements for breeding birds and migratory non-resident species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Habitat clearing shall be avoided during species active breeding season, defined as February 1 to September 15. The footprint of disturbance shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to the project site shall occur on pre-existing access routes to the greatest extent possible.



- Equipment storage, fueling and staging areas shall be sited on non-sensitive upland habitat types with minimal risk of direct discharge into riparian areas or other sensitive habitat types. The limits of disturbance, including the upstream, downstream and lateral extents, shall be clearly defined and marked in the field. Mitigation Monitoring Program personnel shall review the limits of disturbance prior to initiation of construction activities.
- Exotic species removed during construction shall be properly handled to prevent sprouting or regrowth.
- Training of construction personnel shall be provided.
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting shall occur for the duration of the construction activity to ensure implementation of best management practices (BMPs).
- All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur only in designated areas within the proposed grading limits of the project site. These designated areas shall be clearly marked and located in such a manner as to contain run-off.
- Waste, dirt, rubble, or trash shall not be deposited in a Conservation Area or on native habitat.

#### **SENSITIVE SPECIES RELATED TO SECTION 6.1.2 OF THE MSHCP**

There are no sensitive species related to Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP on the project site.

#### **FAIRY SHRIMP**

There are no fairy shrimp on the project site.

#### **MSHCP SECTION 6.3.2 CRITERIA AREA SPECIES**

**Burrowing Owl**-Focused surveys for BUOW were completed in accordance with the applicable survey protocol as discussed above in Section 3.0 Survey Methods. This species has been determined absent from the project study area at this time. Although no impacts to this species are anticipated as a result of construction activities, implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described below would be implemented to minimize potential for impact to the species should BUOW come into the project area.

Pursuant to the MSHCP Objective 6, for burrowing owl, a preconstruction burrowing owl survey shall be conducted prior to issuance of a grading permit to verify the presence/absence of the owl on the Project site. Within thirty days of the onset of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall survey within 500 feet of the Project site for the presence of any active owl burrows. Any active burrow found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. If no active burrows are found, no further mitigation would be required. Results of the surveys shall be provided to the City of Moreno Valley. If nesting activity is present at an active burrow, the active site shall be protected until nesting activity has ended to ensure compliance with Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. Nesting activity for burrowing owl in the region normally occurs between March and August. To protect the active burrow, the following restrictions to construction activities shall be required until the burrow is no longer active

as determined by a qualified biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a 500-foot buffer around any active burrow, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within 300 feet of any active burrow, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the active burrow shall only be allowed if the biologist determines that the proposed activity will not disturb the nest occupants. Construction can proceed when the qualified biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest. If an active burrow is observed during the non-nesting season, the nest site shall be monitored by a qualified biologist, and when the raptor is away from the nest, the biologist will either actively or passively relocate the burrowing owl based on direction from the WRC RCA. The biologist shall then remove the burrow so the burrowing owl cannot return to the burrow. Therefore, based on the described construction activities and implementation of mitigation measures as identified, impacts to BUOW would not be significant.

***Stephens' Kangaroo rat (SKR)*** - This species has been determined absent from the project study area at this time. No impacts to this species are expected. Although no impacts to this species are anticipated as a result of construction activities it is in the SKR habitat area. It is a HCP covered species and a fee is required.

***Raptors*** (Including MSHCP covered and non-covered species)-Seven days prior to the onset of construction activities during the raptor nesting season (February 1 to June 30), a qualified biologist shall survey within 500 feet of the Project impact area for the presence of any active raptor nests (common or special status). Any nest found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. If no active nests are found, no further mitigation would be required. Results of the surveys shall be provided to the CDFW. If nesting activity is present at any raptor nest site, the active site shall be protected until nesting activity has ended to ensure compliance with Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. To protect any nest site, the following restrictions to construction activities are required until nests are no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a 500-foot buffer around any occupied nest, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within 300 feet of any occupied nest, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the known nest shall only be allowed if the biologist determines that the proposed activity will not disturb the nest occupants. Construction can proceed when the qualified biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest. If an active nest is observed during the non-nesting season, the nest site shall be monitored by a qualified biologist, and when the raptor is away from the nest, the biologist will flush any raptor to open space areas. A qualified biologist, or construction personnel under the direction of the qualified biologist, shall then remove the nest site so raptors cannot return to a nest. Therefore, based on the described construction activities and implementation of mitigation measures as identified, impacts to raptors would not be significant.

#### **NON-MSHCP COVERED WILDLIFE SPECIES**

No non-MSHCP covered special status wildlife species were observed on the project site. Impacts to non-MSHCP covered special status wildlife species would not be considered significant with the implementation of minimization and avoidance measures proposed below in conjunction with other nesting and/or migratory bird species.

## **MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES**

Project construction may temporarily effect the movement of migratory bird species and their breeding success. Their active nests could be directly or indirectly impacted such that nest abandonment resulting in death of eggs or young occurs. Disturbance from construction activities, such as noise, human presence, and habitat alteration due to the trimming of trees and clearing of native vegetation, could affect the nesting habits of the special-status and migratory bird species. However, these impacts would not be considered significant with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described above and below:

If construction is to occur during the MBTA nesting cycle (February 1-September 15) than a nesting bird survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (e.g., killing or abandonment of eggs or young) may be considered take and is potentially punishable by fines or imprisonment. Active bird nests should be mapped utilizing a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) and a 300' buffer will be flagged around the nest (500' buffer for raptor nests). Construction should not be permitted within the buffer areas while the nest continues to be active (eggs, chicks, etc.). Therefore, based on the described construction activities and implementation of mitigation measures as identified, impacts to migratory birds would not be significant.

## **WILDLIFE MOVEMENT**

Increases in noise, construction traffic, and human activities during construction activities may temporarily deter movement of wildlife within the project vicinity. Impacts to wildlife species are considered significant if they interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Indirect, adverse, substantial effects on movement of wildlife or impediments to the use of wildlife corridors or nursery sites are not expected from construction or operational activities of the proposed project. However, implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described above would ensure that wildlife movement would not be significantly impacted by the proposed project.

## **INDIRECT IMPACTS**

It is anticipated that there will be some indirect impacts resulting from the proposed project. Potential indirect impacts include increased noise, human activity, and light levels as described below. For each of the indirect impacts (MSHCP Section 6.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface) described below, an action(s) or measure(s) is described to ensure that these potential indirect impacts can be maintained at less than significant levels.

### **Runoff, Erosion and Siltation**

Siltation and erosion resulting from the proposed activities are potentially significant indirect impacts associated with this proposed project because of the proximity of the proposed work area to natural areas. Surface water quality could be diminished as a result of scraping and grading, and material laydown. As such, erosion from these

activities can remove topsoil necessary for plant growth both in the graded areas and in lower areas affected by increased runoff. The eroded soil can be deposited as silt and alluvium off of the project site. Siltation from these activities can damage wetlands and aquatic habitats and bury vegetation or topsoil. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described above under direct impacts is proposed. These measures include implementation of an effective SWPPP or WQMP that employs appropriate BMPs to avoid or limit runoff, erosion, and siltation. With these measures, project related runoff, erosion, and siltation would not result in significant impacts to any offsite water features or sensitive habitats.

### Nonnative Weed Establishment

The loss of topsoil from grading or as a result of overland flow may increase the likelihood of exotic plant establishment in offsite native communities. Nonnatives may out-compete native species, suppress native recruitment, alter community structure, degrade or eliminate habitat for native wildlife, and provide food and cover for undesirable nonnative wildlife. The introduction of nonnative plant species into a community as a result of soil disturbance and erosion can increase the competition for resources such as water, minerals, and nutrients between native and nonnative species as well as alter the hydrology and sedimentation rates. In addition, if the nonnative plants form a continuous ground cover, an increase in the natural fire regime may occur, further eliminating any remaining native vegetation, and causing a type conversion to a disturbed/nonnative habitat type. The establishment of nonnative weeds could affect endangered species associated with offsite habitat and could therefore be considered potentially significant if not mitigated. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described under direct impacts will reduce potential impacts from project related impacts due to nonnative species.

### Toxic Substances

Toxic substances can kill wildlife and plants or prevent new growth where soils or water are contaminated. Toxic substances can be released into the environment through several scenarios including planned or accidental releases, leaching from stored materials, pesticide or herbicide use, or fires, among others. No intentional releases of toxic substances are planned as part of the proposed project. Accidental releases could occur from several sources such as leaking equipment, or fuel spills during the course of the construction. The implementation of BMPs during construction will reduce the risk of leaks and fuel spills below a level of significance.

A spill contingency plan, written by the construction contractor and approved prior to construction will be in effect during all phases of construction activities. The project would result in the additional use of hazardous materials in limited quantities associated with normal residential use such as cleaning products, solvents, herbicides, and insecticides. However, compliance with regulations will reduce the potential risk of hazardous material exposure to a level that is less than significant. An information pamphlet will be prepared for each homeowner regarding the use of toxics.

## Fugitive Dust

Trenching, grading, and vehicle operations associated with the construction of the proposed project may produce fugitive dust. Excessive dust can damage or degrade vegetation by blocking leaf exposure to sunlight. Implementation of dust control measures, as part of BMPs during construction, will reduce fugitive dust emissions to below a level of significance. Dust control measures can include spraying work or driving areas with water and careful operation of equipment.

## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Construction of the proposed project will alter 4.8 acres of habitat. To determine if this impact is significant on a cumulative basis, it needs to be considered in the context of existing and future surrounding developments within this area of the City of Moreno Valley. Cumulative impacts could also result from the marginalization of quality of the habitat in close proximity to the future project by increased human activities associated with the development of the proposed project site.

- Riverside County is expected to experience a dramatic increase in residential and commercial development over the next twenty years. Such development will involve many large scale construction projects which may encroach on biological resources, potentially impacting sensitive communities, special status species, and biological diversity.
- For the purpose of this analysis, the geographic scope will comprise the habitat areas directly and indirectly affected by the construction and operation of the project. Urbanization and development in the area impact the ability of certain plant and animal species to forage, breed, and develop in their natural habitat. A cumulative impact would occur if the proposed project substantially contributed to the cumulative degradation of biological resources caused by recent, current, and planned development.
- The proposed project is located within the coverage area of the MSHCP. This conservation planning effort with the overall goal of maintaining biological diversity in rapidly urbanizing areas provides a Conservation Area for 146 special status species, requiring incidental take permits for projects impacting these species. The proposed project would contribute to significant cumulative impacts to biological resources if it violated a conservation plan such as the MSHCP. The proposed project will comply with all MSHCP regulations, including but not limited to the payment of relevant fees, compliance with acquisition processes, and compliance with policies protecting various plants and animals. In following all the regulations set forth by the MSHCP, the proposed project would not substantially contribute to cumulative impacts to biological resources in violation of conservation plans.
- Construction and operation of the proposed project can potentially result in the permanent loss of or temporary disturbance to habitat through grading, drilling, clearing brush, or other construction activities. To protect sensitive biological resources a biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys and mark sensitive areas so that they might be avoided by construction crews and protected from construction activities. The same measures will be taken to protect special status plant species, special status terrestrial species, and BUOW. Construction activities may also impact avian species by disturbing active nests trimming trees or removing vegetation. Mitigation measures mandates that

either construction activities be limited to non-breeding season or a wildlife biologist conduct a preconstruction focused nesting survey. Additionally, construction noise may impact both migratory and nesting birds; mitigation measures regulates ambient noise levels to minimize the impact to birds nesting within or passing through construction areas. With the implementation of mitigation measures, construction of the proposed project would not substantially contribute, either directly or through habitat modification, to adverse cumulative effects on candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

- Construction of the proposed project will result in permanent and temporary disturbance to natural lands through grading and clearing vegetation, exposing topsoil to weathering, impacting sheetflow, and impeding plant growth. In a rapidly developing area, these impacts would contribute to the cumulative degradation of this habitat. The Applicant will minimize the effects of erosion and the hydrologic impacts through such measures as the installation of sediment control structures and the use of water bars, silt fences, stalked straw bales, and mulching in disturbed areas. By implementing BMP measures, the proposed project will not substantially contribute to the cumulative damage to this habitat.

- The proposed project falls under the jurisdiction of local policies and ordinances regarding trees. In order to construct the proposed project the removal of vegetation at will permanently and directly damage trees. By complying with the City of Moreno Valley requirements, the proposed project will not significantly contribute to the cumulative impact on local tree populations.

- Composite development has the potential to interfere with the movement of migratory animals by physically interfering with the migratory corridor. Construction activities, and introduced structures can act as barriers to migration. Construction activities could potentially impact migration patterns but are considered temporary. Given the distribution of the structures and the volume of traffic associated with the proposed project, the project may significantly contribute to cumulative obstacles to migratory wildlife.

The cumulative effects of the proposed project on biological resources are considered insignificant for the following reasons:

The proposed project site totals approximately **9.293** acres, of which all of it will be disturbed.

1. The proposed best management practices (BMP's) are part of the requirement for the proposed project by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board for protection of surface water quality from sediments in the proposed project runoff.

2. The habitat present is contiguous with habitat to the west and east. Preserving the proposed project site would provide biological value because of the nesting target species that already occur on the project site.

3. If the proposed project is not constructed, impacts to the existing area would still occur as a result of populater of invasive species and anthropogenic activities.

Anticipated impacts to sensitive wildlife species would be relatively minor, for the following reasons: (a) most of the potentially impacted species are common species and not threatened/endangered, and (b) the project area is already disturbed by the existing anthropogenic activities and surrounding developments. Appendix C-Riverside County Attachment E-4 of this document includes CEQA checklist (impacts to sensitive habitat/riparian habitat, wetlands/jurisdictional features, wildlife movement, and local ordinances).

## VII. MSHCP CONSISTENCY OVERVIEW

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This section provides an overview of MSHCP consistency of the proposed Project with the MSHCP. Appendix G, attached, provides a stand alone MSHCP Consistency Determination Report. The proposed Project must comply with the following MSHCP requirements:

- Project Consistency with MSHCP Reserve Assembly (MSHCP *Section 3.2.3* and *Section 3.3*)
- Guidelines for facilities within the PQP Lands (MSHCP *Section 7.5*)
- Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pool guidelines (MSHCP *Section 6.1.2*)
- Narrow Endemic Plant Species guidelines (MSHCP *Section 6.1.3*)
- Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (MSHCP *Section 6.3.2*)
- Urban Wildlands Interface Guidelines (MSHCP *Section 6.1.4*)
- Requirements To Be Met For 28 Species Prior To Including Those Species On The List Of Covered Species Adequately Conserved (MSHCP *Table 9-3*)

### PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH MSHCP AREA PLANS

The project area is located in Reche Canyon/Badlands. Reserve assembly goals and project relationship for each of these areas are presented in Section 2 of this report.

The project alignment is located within Rough Step 3. Based on the 2017 Annual Report, Rough Step Unit 3 is in "Rough Step." Therefore, the project does not affect the Reserve Assembly goals of the MSHCP.

### PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH CORES AND LINKAGES WITHIN THE CONSERVATION AREA

The MSHCP Conservation Area is comprised of a variety of existing and proposed cores, extensions of existing cores, linkages, constrained linkages and non-contiguous habitat blocks. These features are generally referenced as cores and linkages. There are no proposed cores and linkages located within the project area. There will not be any impacts to key species associated with cores and linkages.

### PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC LANDS

There are no public/quasi-public lands adjacent to the project site. There will be no anticipated direct impacts to public/quasi-public lands.

### MSHCP SECTION 6.1.2 – PROTECTION OF SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH RIPARIAN/RIVERINE AND VERNAL POOL RESOURCES

An assessment of the potentially significant effects of the proposed project on riparian, riverine and vernal pool areas was conducted. Seasonal watercourses are present and evidence of recent surface water was observed on site. Potential MSHCP 6.1.2 areas were found on the project site. A Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) Report as required by the MSHCP (Section 6.1.2, pages 6-21 and 6-22) for impacts to Riparian/Riverine Areas/Vernal Pools will be required to be completed.



The proposed project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.2, depending on the seasonal watercourses determination.

### **MSHCP SECTION 6.1.2 – PROTECTION OF NARROW ENDEMIC PLANT SPECIES**

There are no narrow endemic plant species on the project site. The proposed project will have no impact on these resources. As such, the proposed project is consistent with MSHCP *Section 6.1.3*.

### **MSHCP SECTION 6.3.2 - ADDITIONAL SURVEY NEEDS AND PROCEDURES**

#### Criteria Area Plant Surveys

No Criteria Area Plant Surveys have been identified within the project area to date. As such, the proposed project will have no impact on the Criteria Area Plant Surveys and is consistent with MSHCP *Section 6.3.2*.

#### Burrowing Owl

The proposed project is located within the BUOW survey area of the MSHCP. Focused surveys for BUOWs were completed in accordance with the applicable survey protocol (refer to Table 6 for list of survey dates). Although no BUOW sign and no live individuals were detected in the project study area, BUOW was detected adjacent to the project area. As BUOW is a species that is known for its ability to move into and out of areas across seasons and years, avoidance and minimization measures presented in Section 6 above will be implemented for the protection of this species if BUOW is encountered. The proposed project will have no impact on the BUOW. As such, the proposed project is consistent with MSHCP *Section 6.3.2*.

### **MSHCP TABLE 9-3 REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET FOR 28 SPECIES PRIOR TO INCLUDING THOSE SPECIES ON THE LIST OF COVERED SPECIES ADEQUATELY CONSERVED**

*Table 9-3* of the MSHCP lists goals for 28 species that must be met before they are considered to be Adequately Conserved. GEC found none of the species listed in *Table 9-3* on the proposed project site. As such, the proposed project is consistent with MSHCP *Table 9-3*.

### **MSHCP SECTION 6.1.4 - URBAN WILDLANDS INTERFACE GUIDELINES**

The guidelines presented in *Section 6.1.4* of the MSHCP are intended to address indirect effects associated with development in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area (i.e., the portions of the Criteria Cells which will be, or have been, conserved). Below is a summary of the Urban Wildlands Interface Guidelines and their relationship to the proposed project:

**Drainage-** The proposed project will impact existing runoff conditions. BMPs established in Section 8.0 will be taken to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff will be comparable to existing conditions.

**Toxics-** It is not anticipated that this proposed project will use chemicals or generate bi-products that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat or water quality. If a toxic substance is identified during construction, measures such as

those employed to address drainage issues, as presented in Section 8.0, will be implemented to avoid potential for adverse impacts. An information pamphlet will be prepared for each business owner regarding the use of toxics.

**Lighting-** Night lighting shall be directed away from the MSHCP Conservation Area to protect species within the MSHCP Conservation Area from direct night lighting. Shielding shall be incorporated into project designs to ensure ambient lighting in the MSHCP Conservation Area is not increased.

**Noise-** Proposed noise generating land uses affecting the MSHCP Conservation Area shall incorporate setbacks, berms or walls to minimize the effects of noise on MSHCP Conservation Area resources pursuant to applicable rules, regulations, and guidelines related to land use noise standards.

**Invasives-** Project related landscaping within or adjacent to the Conservation Area, will comply with not utilizing the invasive nonnative plant species listed in *Table 6-2 of Section 6.1.4* of the MSHCP. Minimization and avoidance measures as presented in Section 8.0 of this report will be implemented in order to avoid the spread of invasive species within the project area.

**Barriers-** Proposed land uses adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers, where appropriate, in individual project designs to minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass, or dumping into the MSHCP Conservation Areas.

**Grading/Land Development-** All manufactured slopes associated with site development will be within the project site.

## **MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT COMPLIANCE**

Pursuant to MSHCP *Section 14.13*, the Section 10(a) Permit issued for the MSHCP constitutes a Special Purpose Permit under 50 Code of Federal Regulations Section 21.27, for the Take of Covered Species Adequately Conserved listed under Federal ESA and which are also listed under the MBTA of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712), in the amount and/or number specified in the MSHCP, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Section 10(a) Permit. Any such Take will not be in violation of the MBTA. The MBTA Special Purpose Permit will extend to Covered Species Adequately Conserved listed under Federal ESA and also under the MBTA, valid for a period of three (3) years from its Effective Date, provided the Section 10(a) Permit remains in effect for such period. The Special Purpose Permit shall be renewed pursuant to the requirements of the MBTA if needed valid for a period of three (3) additional years.

The period from approximately 15 February to 15 September covers the breeding season for most birds in the project area, but unseasonal active nests must also be avoided if encountered. Although minimal direct impacts are anticipated in habitats for nesting birds, nesting in adjacent areas may suffer indirect impacts from project activity, such as disturbance related nest abandonment. In these areas, work should be conducted in the

non-breeding season when possible. If project activity must be conducted during the breeding season, a qualified biologist should check for nesting birds prior to such activity. Implementation of avoidance/minimization measures presented in Section 8.0 would ensure that migratory and/or nesting bird species would not be impacted by the proposed project. As it relates to nesting birds covered under MSHCP *Section 14.13*, the proposed project is consistent with the MSHCP.

## VIII. SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND BMPS

This section provided a comprehensive list of avoidance, minimization and compensation measures. Implementation of these measures, as proposed, ensures compliance and consistency with the MSHCP.

### MSHCP BMPS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Table 8.1 presents MSHCP BMPS (Appendix C of the MSHCP), Construction Guidelines (*Section 7.5.3* of the MSHCP), and species specific mitigation measures that have been incorporated in the MSHCP and will be implemented as part of the project.

**TABLE 8.1**

**MSHCP BMPS AND SPECIES SPECIFIC MITIGATION MEASURES**

<b>MSHCP BMPS (MSHCP Vol. I, Appendix C)</b>	
MSHCP BMP-1	Water pollution and erosion control plans shall be developed and implemented in accordance with RWQCB requirements.
MSHCP BMP-2	Equipment storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on upland sites with minimal risks of direct drainage into riparian areas or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. Necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters. Project related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to appropriate entities including but not limited to applicable jurisdictional city, USFWS, and CDFW, RWQCB and shall be cleaned up immediately and contaminated soils removed to approved disposal areas.
MSHCP BMP-3	Exotic species that prey upon or displace target species of concern should be permanently removed from the site to the extent feasible.
MSHCP BMP-4	To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the project site shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).
MSHCP BMP-5	Construction employees shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the proposed project footprint and designated staging areas and routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the project and shall be specified in the construction plans. Construction limits will be fenced with orange snow screen. Exclusion fencing should be maintained until the completion of all construction activities. Employees shall be instructed that their activities are restricted to the construction areas.
<b>MSHCP Construction Guidelines (MSHCP Section 7.5.3)</b>	
	Plans for water pollution and erosion control will be prepared for all Discretionary Projects

MSHCP CONST-1	involving the movement of earth in excess of 50 cubic yards. The plans will describe sediment and hazardous materials control, dewatering or diversion structures, fueling and equipment management practices, use of plant material for erosion control. Plans will be reviewed and approved by the City of Lake Elsinore and participating jurisdiction prior to construction.
MSHCP CONST-2	Timing of construction activities will consider seasonal requirements for breeding birds and migratory non- resident species. Habitat clearing will be avoided during species active breeding season defined as February 15-September 15
MSHCP CONST-3	Sediment and erosion control measures will be implemented until such time soils are determined to be successfully stabilized.
MSHCP CONST-4	Silt fencing or other sediment trapping materials will be installed at the downstream end of construction activities to minimize the transport of sedimentsoff-site.
MSHCP CONST-5	Settling ponds where sediment is collected will be cleaned in a manner that prevents sediment from re-entering the stream or damaging/disturbing adjacent areas. Sediment from settling ponds will be removed to a location where sediment cannot re-enter the stream or surrounding drainage area. Care will be exercised during removal of silt fencing to minimize release of debris or sediment into streams.
MSHCP CONST-6	No erodible materials will be deposited into water courses. Brush, loose soils, or other debris material will not be stockpiled within stream channels or on adjacent banks.
MSHCP CONST-7	The footprint of disturbance will be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to sites will occur on pre-existing access routes to the greatest extent possible.
MSHCP CONST-8	Equipment storage, fueling and staging areas will be sited on non-sensitive upland Habitat types with minimal risk of direct discharge into riparian areas or other sensitive Habitat types.
MSHCP CONST-9	The limits of disturbance, including the upstream, downstream and lateral extents, will be clearly defined and marked in the field. Monitoring personnel will review the limits of disturbance prior to initiation of construction activities.
MSHCP CONST-10	During construction, the placement of equipment within the stream or on adjacent banks or adjacent upland Habitats occupied by Covered Species that are outside of the project footprint will be avoided.
MSHCP CONST-11	Exotic species removed during construction will be properly handled to prevent sprouting or regrowth.
MSHCP CONST-12	Training of construction personnel will beprovided.
MSHCP CONST-13	Ongoing monitoring and reporting will occur for the duration of the construction activity to ensure implementation of best managementpractices.

MSHCP CONST-14	Active construction areas shall be watered regularly to control dust and minimize impacts to adjacent vegetation.
MSHCP CONST-15	All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur only in designated areas within the proposed grading limits of the project site. These designated areas shall be clearly marked and located in such a manner as to contain run-off.
MSHCP CONST-16	Waste, dirt, rubble, or trash shall not be deposited in the Conservation Area or on native habitat.
MSHCP CONST-17	Wildlife Biologist required to be present during construction of the project.
<b>MSHCP Species/Habitat Specific Measures</b>	
MSHCP-BUOW	A 30-day pre-construction survey for burrowing owls is required prior to initial ground-disturbing activities (including but not limited to vegetation clearing, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, site watering) to ensure that no owls have colonized the site in the days or weeks preceding the ground-disturbing activities. If burrowing owls have colonized the project site prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the project proponent will immediately inform the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) and the Wildlife Agencies, and will need to coordinate further with RCA and the Wildlife Agencies, including the possibility of preparing a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan, prior to initiating ground disturbance. If ground-disturbing activities occur but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey will again be necessary to ensure burrowing owl has not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If burrow owl is found, the same coordination described above will be necessary.

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## X. APPENDICES

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Appendix A: Project Site Photos and Photo Location Key

Appendix B: Riverside County Attachment E-3

Appendix C: Riverside County Attachment E-4

Appendix D: Plant and Animal Compendium

Appendix E: Burrowing Owl Report

Appendix F: List of special-status species that were determined to have potential to occur within the project area

Appendix G: Consistency Analysis

# Appendix A

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Photo key & Photos





**Figure 2**  
Picture 1  
View North



**Figure 3**  
Picture 2  
View West





**Figure 4**  
Picture 3  
View East



**Figure 5**  
Picture 4  
View West



**Figure 6**  
Picture 5  
View North



**Figure 7**  
Picture 6  
View East



**Figure 8**  
Picture 7  
View South

# Appendix B

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Riverside County Attachment E-3

**BIOLOGICAL REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

(Submit two copies to the County)

**Applicant Name:** Salem Engineering Group, Inc

**Assessor's Parcel Number (APN):** APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010

**Site Location:** Section 4 Township: 3S Range: 3W Sunnymead Quadrangle  
**Site Address:** NA

**Related Case Number(s):** ----- **PDB Number:** -----

CHECK SPECIES SURVEYED FOR	SPECIES or ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE OF CONCERN	(Circle Yes, No or N/A regarding species findings on the referenced site)		
		Yes	No	N/A
XXX	MSHCP 6.1.2 riparian/riverine/vernal pools			X
XXX	Blueline Stream(s)		X	
XXX	California red-legged frog			X
XXX	southern mountain yellow-legged frog			X
XXX	western spadefoot			X
XXX	American bittern			X
XXX	American peregrine falcon		X	
XXX	American white pelican			X
XXX	bald eagle			X
XXX	Bell's sage sparrow		X	
XXX	black swift		X	
XXX	black-crowned night heron			X

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XXX	black-tailed gnatcatcher			X
XXX	brant			X
XXX	Brewer's sparrow		X	
XXX	burrowing owl		X	
XXX	California black rail			X
XXX	California brown pelican			X
XXX	California condor			X
XXX	California gull			X
XXX	California horned lark			X
XXX	California Spotted Owl			X
XXX	canvasback			X
XXX	Caspian tern			X
XXX	coastal cactus wren			X
XXX	coastal California gnatcatcher			X
XXX	common loon			X
XXX	Cooper's hawk			X
XXX	Costa's hummingbird			X
XXX	double-crested cormorant			X
XXX	ferruginous hawk		X	
XXX	golden eagle		X	
XXX	grasshopper sparrow		X	
XXX	great blue heron			X
XXX	great egret			X
XXX	large-billed savannah sparrow			X
XXX	Lawrence's goldfinch			X
XXX	least Bell's vireo			X



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XXX	least bittern			X
XXX	Lewis' woodpecker			X
XXX	loggerhead shrike		X	
XXX	long-billed curlew			X
XXX	long-eared owl		X	
XXX	merlin		X	
XXX	mountain plover			X
XXX	northern goshawk			X
XXX	northern harrier		X	
XXX	oak titmouse			X
XXX	olive-sided flycatcher			X
XXX	osprey			X
XXX	prairie falcon		X	
XXX	purple martin			X
XXX	red-breasted sapsucker			X
XXX	red-breasted sapsucker			X
XXX	redhead			X
XXX	rufous hummingbird			X
XXX	sharp-shinned hawk			X
XXX	short-eared owl		X	
XXX	snowy egret			X
XXX	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow		X	
XXX	southwestern willow flycatcher			X
XXX	Swainson's hawk		X	
XXX	tricolored blackbird			X
XXX	tule greater white-fronted goose			X

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XXX	Vaux's swift		X	
XXX	vermilion flycatcher			X
XXX	western yellow-billed cuckoo			X
XXX	white-faced ibis			X
XXX	white-tailed kite		X	
XXX	willow flycatcher			X
XXX	yellow warbler			X
XXX	yellow-breasted chat			X
XXX	yellow-headed blackbird			X
XXX	Riverside fairy shrimp			X
XXX	arroyo chub			X
XXX	Santa Ana speckled dace			X
XXX	Santa Ana sucker			X
XXX	steelhead - southern California DPS			X
XXX	Busck's gallmoth			X
XXX	Crotch bumble bee		X	
XXX	Delhi Sands flower-loving fly			X
XXX	Desert cuckoo wasp			X
XXX	haromonius halictid bee			X
XXX	quino checkerspot butterfly			X
XXX	American badger		X	
XXX	Dulzura kangaroo rat		X	
XXX	Dulzura pocket mouse		X	
XXX	lesser long-nosed bat		X	
XXX	Los Angeles pocket mouse		X	
XXX	northwestern San Diego pocket mouse		X	

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XXX	Pacific pocket mouse		X	
XXX	pallid bat		X	
XXX	pallid bobcat		X	
XXX	pallid San Diego pocket mouse		X	
XXX	Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS		X	
XXX	pocketed free-tailed bat		X	
XXX	San Bernardino flying squirrel			X
XXX	San Bernardino kangaroo rat			X
XXX	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit		X	
XXX	San Diego desert woodrat		X	
XXX	southern grasshopper mouse		X	
XXX	Stephens' kangaroo rat	X-within fee area		
XXX	western mastiff bat			X
XXX	western red bat			X
XXX	western small-footed myotis			X
XXX	western yellow bat		X	
XXX	Yuma myotis		X	
XXX	California glossy snake		X	
XXX	coast horned lizard		X	
XXX	coast patch-nosed snake		X	
XXX	coastal whiptail		X	
XXX	northern California legless lizard		X	
XXX	orange-throated whiptail		X	
XXX	red-diamond rattlesnake		X	
XXX	San Bernardino ringneck snake		X	
XXX	San Diego banded gecko		X	

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XXX	San Diego ringneck snake			X
XXX	south coast gartersnake			X
XXX	southern California legless lizard			X
XXX	two-striped gartersnake			X
XXX	western pond turtle			X
XXX	Alvin Meadow bedstraw			X
XXX	Brand's star phacelia			X
XXX	bristly sedge			X
XXX	California satintail			X
XXX	California screw moss			X
XXX	chaparral ragwort			X
XXX	chaparral sand-verbena			X
XXX	Cleveland's bush monkeyflower			X
XXX	Coulter's goldfields		X	
XXX	Coulter's matilija poppy			X
XXX	crowned muilla			X
XXX	Davidson's saltscale			X
XXX	Deep Canyon snapdragon			X
XXX	Duran's rush			X
XXX	Engelmann oak			X
XXX	Gambel's water cress			X
XXX	Hall's monardella			X
XXX	Horn's milk-vetch			X
XXX	Jaeger's milk-vetch			X
XXX	little mousetail			X
XXX	long-spined spineflower			X

XXX	Los Angeles sunflower			X
XXX	marsh sandwort			X
XXX	mesa horkelia			X
XXX	mud nama			X
XXX	Munz's onion			X
XXX	narrow-petaled rein orchid			X
XXX	Nevin's barberry			X
XXX	ocellated humboldt lily			X
XXX	Palmer's grapplinghook			X
XXX	paniculate tarplant			X
XXX	Parish's brittlescale			X
XXX	Parish's bush-mallow			X
XXX	Parish's checkerbloom			X
XXX	Parish's desert-thorn			X
XXX	Parish's gooseberry			X
XXX	Parish's rupertia			X
XXX	Parry's spineflower			X
XXX	Payson's jewelflower			X
XXX	Peninsular spineflower			X
XXX	Peruvian dodder			X
XXX	Plummer's mariposa-lily			X
XXX	prairie wedge grass			X
XXX	Pringle's monardella			X
XXX	Robinson's pepper-grass			X
XXX	salt marsh bird's-beak			X
XXX	salt spring checkerbloom			X
XXX	San Bernardino aster			X
XXX	San Diego sagewort			X
XXX	San Gabriel ragwort			X
XXX	San Jacinto Valley crownscale			X
XXX	Santa Ana River woollystar			X

XXX	slender-horned spineflower			X
XXX	small-flowered morning-glory			X
XXX	smooth tarplant			X
XXX	southern California black walnut			X
XXX	southern jewelflower			X
XXX	spreading navarretia			X
XXX	thread-leaved brodiaea			X
XXX	three-awned grama			X
XXX	vernal barley			X
XXX	western spleenwort			X
XXX	white-bracted spineflower			X
XXX	woven-spored lichen			X
XXX	Wright's trichocoronis			X
XXX	Yucaipa onion			X

Species of concern shall be any unique, rare, endangered, or threatened species. It shall include species used to delineate wetlands and riparian corridors. It shall also include any hosts, perching, or food plants used by any animals listed as rare, endangered, threatened or candidate species by either State, or Federal regulations, or for Riverside County as listed by the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided on this summary sheet is in accordance with the information provided in the biological report.



Teresa Gonzales-Gonzales Environmental Consulting LLC

Signature and Company Name  
 10(a) Permit Number (if applicable) TE060175-5

Report Date October 19, 2020  
 Permit Expiration Date

*County Use Only*

Received by:

Date:

PD-B#

# Appendix C

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Riverside County Attachment E-4

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECKLIST**  
 For Biological Resources  
 (Submit Two Copies)

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot/Parcel No.: APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010  
 EA Number -----

**Wildlife & Vegetation**

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
---------------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------	------------------

(Check the level of impact the applies to the following questions)

a) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan?

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
	<b>X</b>		

With urban interface mitigation the project will have a less than significant impact on open space.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any endangered, or threatened species, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (Sections 17.11 or 17.12)?

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
		<b>X</b>	

c) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Wildlife Service?

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
		<b>X</b>	

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
		<b>X</b>	



e) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
	X		

f) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
			X

No wetlands are present.

g) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
			X

Source: CGP Fig. VI.36-VI.40

Findings of Fact: The number of individuals of each sensitive species inhabiting the habitat areas was not determined, for the following reasons: (a) many species are amphibians or reptiles, which are difficult to detect during routine field surveys, (b) intensive population studies of small mammals inhabiting the various habitats were not conducted due to the excessive time required to complete such investigations, and (c) some of the bird species known from habitats immediately adjacent to the project area were not observed during field surveys but, due to their capacity of flight, could inhabit the area any time in the future.

### Direct and Indirect Impacts to Wildlife

This section addresses direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources that may result from implementation of the proposed project.

**Direct impacts** generally consist of the loss of habitat and the plant and wildlife species that it contains within the area impacted by the proposed project. For the purposes of this assessment, all biological resources within the grading impact area are considered 100 percent lost.

**Indirect Impacts** are difficult to quantify but, in some cases, they may be as significant as direct impacts. In general, indirect impacts primarily result from adverse "edge effects," either short-term indirect impacts related to construction or long-term, chronic indirect impacts associated with the location of development in proximity to biological resources within natural open space.

Short-term indirect impacts that may potentially result from any project construction include dust production, which could affect plant growth and insect activity; noise, which could disrupt wildlife communication, including bird breeding behavior; lighting, which could disrupt behavior of nocturnal reptiles, mammals, and raptors; sedimentation, siltation, and erosion, which could affect water quality of onsite streams; and pollutant runoff, including chemicals used during construction

and machinery maintenance, which could contaminate soil and water.

Cumulative Impacts refer to incremental individual environmental effects of the proposed project and other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects when combined together. These impacts taken individually may be minor, but collectively may be significant as they occur over a period of time.

## **THRESHOLDS FOR DETERMINING POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Guidelines under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provide guidance and interpretation for implementing CEQA statutes. CEQA significance entails any impact to plant and wildlife species listed by federal or state agencies as threatened or endangered, or of regional or local significance. A significant impact to listed or sensitive species could be direct or indirect, with impacts to rare or sensitive habitats also considered significant.

In general, the proposed project could result in a potentially significant impact to the environment if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by CDFW, USACE, RWQCB, or USFWS.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.
- Introduce land use within an area immediately adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area that would result in substantial edge effects; or
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Mitigation and conservation recommendations to address each impact to biological resources are identified below.

Participation in the MSHCP and implementation of conservation and additional mitigation measures would compensate for impacts that would occur as a result of project implementation.

## **DIRECT IMPACTS**

Direct impacts consist of any ground-disturbing activities (i.e., vegetation removal, grading, paving, building of structures, installing landscaping, etc.). Impacts will occur to all of the habitat on the site. These impacts will occur in the grading for the buildings and roadways by removal of habitat. No state or federal listed plant species will be impacted by the proposed project. The habitat on the project site supports common native wildlife species that would be directly affected by the removal of the habitat.

The more mobile wildlife species, such as birds that utilize the affected area will be displaced

during clearing activities to adjacent areas. These animals may move to open adjacent properties. The less mobile species will probably be lost during the habitat clearing and grading. Construction of the project will probably limit the future use of the area except for common reptile, bird and small mammal species that can be found in urban neighborhoods.

Anticipated impacts to most sensitive wildlife species would be relatively minor, for the following reasons: (a) most of the potentially impacted species are common, and (b) the project area is already disturbed by anthropogenic activities.

**Construction Related Land Disturbance**

Land disturbance calculations that would result from construction activities (i.e. grading, staging areas etc.) are provided in Table 1 below. Implementation of the proposed project would result in the estimated direct permanent loss of approximately 4.8 acres of habitat.

**TABLE 1  
ACREAGE OF HABITAT TYPES RELATED TO LAND DISTURBANCE**

<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Existing/Impacts</b>
<i>Amaranthus albus</i> (Tumbleweed) herb alliance	1.630
California Annual Grassland Alliance	3.120
Developed	0.050
Palm Tree ( <i>Washingtonia</i> sp.)	0.003
Palo Verde sp.	0.007
<b>TOTAL (acres)</b>	<b>4.811</b>

**Vegetation Communities**

Permanent impacts to vegetation communities that occur within the project footprint would result from disturbance associated with permanent roads and structures.

Clearing and grading associated with construction of the project may result in the alteration of soil conditions, including the loss of native seed bank and changes to the topography and drainage of a site such that the capability of the habitat to support current vegetation is impaired. Table 6.1 describes impacts to habitat types.

## **RIPARIAN, STREAMBED, MSHCP SECTION 6.12 AND WATERS OF THE U.S.**

There are no state or federal streambed resources on the project site. MSHCP Section 6.12 riverine resources are not located on the project site.

## **FAIRY SHRIMP**

There are no fairy shrimp on the project site. Fairy shrimp are not located on the project site.

## **SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES**

There are no sensitive plant species in the project area, and none were observed on the project site.

## **OAK TREES**

There are no oak trees on the project site.

## **COMMON AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES**

Although the intent of the proposed project is to protect biological resources to the maximum extent possible, construction and implementation of the proposed project could potentially impact common wildlife species, species Covered by the MSHCP and associated habitats for these species as identified within the study area. The following avoidance and minimization measures will be incorporated during project implementation for the protection of these species.

## **COMMON AND MSHCP ADEQUATELY CONSERVED SPECIES**

No wildlife species, that are Covered Species and Adequately Conserved by the MSHCP, were detected within the study area during habitat assessment and focused surveys. The following measures will be implemented in order to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to common and Adequately Conserved MSHCP wildlife species resources.

## **Construction Minimization Measures (Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP)**

The following construction minimization measures shall be implemented during project construction to minimize impacts on biological resources during construction:

- Timing of construction activities shall consider seasonal requirements for breeding birds and migratory non-resident species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Habitat clearing shall be avoided during species active breeding season, defined as February 1 to September 15. The footprint of disturbance shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to the project site shall occur on pre-existing access routes to the greatest extent possible.
- Equipment storage, fueling and staging areas shall be sited on non-sensitive upland habitat types with minimal risk of direct discharge into riparian areas or other sensitive habitat types. The limits of disturbance, including the upstream, downstream and lateral extents, shall be clearly defined and marked in the field. Mitigation Monitoring Program personnel shall review the limits of disturbance prior to initiation of construction activities.
- Exotic species removed during construction shall be properly handled to prevent sprouting or regrowth.
- Training of construction personnel shall be provided.
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting shall occur for the duration of the construction activity to ensure implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

- All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur only in designated areas within the proposed grading limits of the project site. These designated areas shall be clearly marked and located in such a manner as to contain run-off.
- Waste, dirt, rubble, or trash shall not be deposited in a Conservation Area or on native habitat.

## **SENSITIVE SPECIES RELATED TO SECTION 6.1.2 OF THE MSHCP**

There are no sensitive species related to Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP on the project site.

## **FAIRY SHRIMP**

There are no fairy shrimp on the project site.

## **MSHCP SECTION 6.3.2 CRITERIA AREA SPECIES**

**Burrowing Owl**-Focused surveys for BUOW were completed in accordance with the applicable survey protocol as discussed above in Section 3.0 Survey Methods. This species has been determined absent from the project study area at this time. Although no impacts to this species are anticipated as a result of construction activities, implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described below would be implemented to minimize potential for impact to the species should BUOW come into the project area.

Pursuant to the MSHCP Objective 6, for burrowing owl, a preconstruction burrowing owl survey shall be conducted prior to issuance of a grading permit to verify the presence/absence of the owl on the Project site. Within thirty days of the onset of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall survey within 500 feet of the Project site for the presence of any active owl burrows. Any active burrow found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. If no active burrows are found, no further mitigation would be required. Results of the surveys shall be provided to the City of Moreno Valley. If nesting activity is present at an active burrow, the active site shall be protected until nesting activity has ended to ensure compliance with Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. Nesting activity for burrowing owl in the region normally occurs between March and August. To protect the active burrow, the following restrictions to construction activities shall be required until the burrow is no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a 500-foot buffer around any active burrow, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within 300 feet of any active burrow, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the active burrow shall only be allowed if the biologist determines that the proposed activity will not disturb the nest occupants. Construction can proceed when the qualified biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest. If an active burrow is observed during the non-nesting season, the nest site shall be monitored by a qualified biologist, and when the raptor is away from the nest, the biologist will either actively or passively relocate the burrowing owl based on direction from the WRC RCA. The biologist shall then remove the burrow so the burrowing owl cannot return to the burrow. Therefore, based on the described construction activities and implementation of mitigation measures as identified, impacts to BUOW would not be significant.

**Stephens' Kangaroo rat (SKR)** - This species has been determined absent from the project study area at this time. No impacts to this species are expected. Although no impacts to this species are anticipated as a result of construction activities it is in the SKR habitat area. It is a HCP covered species and a fee is required.

**Raptors** (Including MSHCP covered and non-covered species)-Seven days prior to the onset of construction activities during the raptor nesting season (February 1 to June 30), a qualified

biologist shall survey within 500 feet of the Project impact area for the presence of any active raptor nests (common or special status). Any nest found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. If no active nests are found, no further mitigation would be required. Results of the surveys shall be provided to the CDFW. If nesting activity is present at any raptor nest site, the active site shall be protected until nesting activity has ended to ensure compliance with Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code. To protect any nest site, the following restrictions to construction activities are required until nests are no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist: (1) clearing limits shall be established within a 500-foot buffer around any occupied nest, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within 300 feet of any occupied nest, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the known nest shall only be allowed if the biologist determines that the proposed activity will not disturb the nest occupants. Construction can proceed when the qualified biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest. If an active nest is observed during the non-nesting season, the nest site shall be monitored by a qualified biologist, and when the raptor is away from the nest, the biologist will flush any raptor to open space areas. A qualified biologist, or construction personnel under the direction of the qualified biologist, shall then remove the nest site so raptors cannot return to a nest. Therefore, based on the described construction activities and implementation of mitigation measures as identified, impacts to raptors would not be significant.

### **NON-MSHCP COVERED WILDLIFE SPECIES**

No non-MSHCP covered special status wildlife species were observed on the project site. Impacts to non-MSHCP covered special status wildlife species would not be considered significant with the implementation of minimization and avoidance measures proposed below in conjunction with other nesting and/or migratory bird species.

### **MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES**

Project construction may temporarily effect the movement of migratory bird species and their breeding success. Their active nests could be directly or indirectly impacted such that nest abandonment resulting in death of eggs or young occurs. Disturbance from construction activities, such as noise, human presence, and habitat alteration due to the trimming of trees and clearing of native vegetation, could affect the nesting habits of the special-status and migratory bird species. However, these impacts would not be considered significant with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described above and below:

If construction is to occur during the MBTA nesting cycle (February 1-September 15) than a nesting bird survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (e.g., killing or abandonment of eggs or young) may be considered take and is potentially punishable by fines or imprisonment. Active bird nests should be mapped utilizing a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) and a 300' buffer will be flagged around the nest (500' buffer for raptor nests). Construction should not be permitted within the buffer areas while the nest continues to be active (eggs, chicks, etc.). Therefore, based on the described construction activities and implementation of mitigation measures as identified, impacts to migratory birds would not be significant.

### **WILDLIFE MOVEMENT**

Increases in noise, construction traffic, and human activities during construction activities may temporarily deter movement of wildlife within the project vicinity. Impacts to wildlife species are considered significant if they interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Indirect, adverse, substantial effects on

movement of wildlife or impediments to the use of wildlife corridors or nursery sites are not expected from construction or operational activities of the proposed project. However, implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described above would ensure that wildlife movement would not be significantly impacted by the proposed project.

## **INDIRECT IMPACTS**

It is anticipated that there will be some indirect impacts resulting from the proposed project. Potential indirect impacts include increased noise, human activity, and light levels as described below. For each of the indirect impacts (MSHCP Section 6.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface) described below, an action(s) or measure(s) is described to ensure that these potential indirect impacts can be maintained at less than significant levels.

### **Runoff, Erosion and Siltation**

Siltation and erosion resulting from the proposed activities are potentially significant indirect impacts associated with this proposed project because of the proximity of the proposed work area to natural areas. Surface water quality could be diminished as a result of scraping and grading, and material laydown. As such, erosion from these activities can remove topsoil necessary for plant growth both in the graded areas and in lower areas affected by increased runoff. The eroded soil can be deposited as silt and alluvium off of the project site. Siltation from these activities can damage wetlands and aquatic habitats and bury vegetation or topsoil. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described above under direct impacts is proposed. These measures include implementation of an effective SWPPP or WQMP that employs appropriate BMPs to avoid or limit runoff, erosion, and siltation. With these measures, project related runoff, erosion, and siltation would not result in significant impacts to any offsite water features or sensitive habitats.

### **Nonnative Weed Establishment**

The loss of topsoil from grading or as a result of overland flow may increase the likelihood of exotic plant establishment in offsite native communities. Nonnatives may out-compete native species, suppress native recruitment, alter community structure, degrade or eliminate habitat for native wildlife, and provide food and cover for undesirable nonnative wildlife. The introduction of nonnative plant species into a community as a result of soil disturbance and erosion can increase the competition for resources such as water, minerals, and nutrients between native and nonnative species as well as alter the hydrology and sedimentation rates. In addition, if the nonnative plants form a continuous ground cover, an increase in the natural fire regime may occur, further eliminating any remaining native vegetation, and causing a type conversion to a disturbed/nonnative habitat type. The establishment of nonnative weeds could affect endangered species associated with offsite habitat and could therefore be considered potentially significant if not mitigated. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures described under direct impacts will reduce potential impacts from project related impacts due to nonnative species.

### **Toxic Substances**

Toxic substances can kill wildlife and plants or prevent new growth where soils or water are contaminated. Toxic substances can be released into the environment through several scenarios including planned or accidental releases, leaching from stored materials, pesticide or herbicide use, or fires, among others. No intentional releases of toxic substances are planned as part of the proposed project. Accidental releases could occur from several sources such as leaking equipment,

or fuel spills during the course of the construction. The implementation of BMPs during construction will reduce the risk of leaks and fuel spills below a level of significance.

A spill contingency plan, written by the construction contractor and approved prior to construction will be in effect during all phases of construction activities. The project would result in the additional use of hazardous materials in limited quantities associated with normal residential use such as cleaning products, solvents, herbicides, and insecticides. However, compliance with regulations will reduce the potential risk of hazardous material exposure to a level that is less than significant. An information pamphlet will be prepared for each homeowner regarding the use of toxics.

### **Fugitive Dust**

Trenching, grading, and vehicle operations associated with the construction of the proposed project may produce fugitive dust. Excessive dust can damage or degrade vegetation by blocking leaf exposure to sunlight. Implementation of dust control measures, as part of BMPs during construction, will reduce fugitive dust emissions to below a level of significance. Dust control measures can include spraying work or driving areas with water and careful operation of equipment.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Construction of the proposed project will alter 4.8 acres of habitat. To determine if this impact is significant on a cumulative basis, it needs to be considered in the context of existing and future surrounding developments within this area of the City of Moreno Valley. Cumulative impacts could also result from the marginalization of quality of the habitat in close proximity to the future project by increased human activities associated with the development of the proposed project site.

- Riverside County is expected to experience a dramatic increase in residential and commercial development over the next twenty years. Such development will involve many large scale construction projects which may encroach on biological resources, potentially impacting sensitive communities, special status species, and biological diversity.
- For the purpose of this analysis, the geographic scope will comprise the habitat areas directly and indirectly affected by the construction and operation of the project. Urbanization and development in the area impact the ability of certain plant and animal species to forage, breed, and develop in their natural habitat. A cumulative impact would occur if the proposed project substantially contributed to the cumulative degradation of biological resources caused by recent, current, and planned development.
- The proposed project is located within the coverage area of the MSHCP. This conservation planning effort with the overall goal of maintaining biological diversity in rapidly urbanizing areas provides a Conservation Area for 146 special status species, requiring incidental take permits for projects impacting these species. The proposed project would contribute to significant cumulative impacts to biological resources if it violated a conservation plan such as the MSHCP. The proposed project will comply with all MSHCP regulations, including but not limited to the payment of relevant fees, compliance with acquisition processes, and compliance with policies protecting various plants and animals. In following all the regulations set forth by the MSHCP, the proposed project would not substantially contribute to cumulative impacts to biological resources in violation of conservation plans.
- Construction and operation of the proposed project can potentially result in the permanent loss of or temporary disturbance to habitat through grading, drilling, clearing brush, or other construction activities. To protect sensitive biological resources a biologist will conduct



preconstruction surveys and mark sensitive areas so that they might be avoided by construction crews and protected from construction activities. The same measures will be taken to protect special status plant species, special status terrestrial species, and BUOW. Construction activities may also impact avian species by disturbing active nests trimming trees or removing vegetation. Mitigation measures mandates that either construction activities be limited to non-breeding season or a wildlife biologist conduct a preconstruction focused nesting survey. Additionally, construction noise may impact both migratory and nesting birds; mitigation measures regulates ambient noise levels to minimize the impact to birds nesting within or passing through construction areas. With the implementation of mitigation measures, construction of the proposed project would not substantially contribute, either directly or through habitat modification, to adverse cumulative effects on candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

- Construction of the proposed project will result in permanent and temporary disturbance to natural lands through grading and clearing vegetation, exposing topsoil to weathering, impacting sheetflow, and impeding plant growth. In a rapidly developing area, these impacts would contribute to the cumulative degradation of this habitat. The Applicant will minimize the effects of erosion and the hydrologic impacts through such measures as the installation of sediment control structures and the use of water bars, silt fences, stalked straw bales, and mulching in disturbed areas. By implementing BMP measures, the proposed project will not substantially contribute to the cumulative damage to this habitat.

- The proposed project falls under the jurisdiction of local policies and ordinances regarding trees. In order to construct the proposed project the removal of vegetation at will permanently and directly damage trees. By complying with the City of Moreno Valley requirements, the proposed project will not significantly contribute to the cumulative impact on local tree populations.

- Composite development has the potential to interfere with the movement of migratory animals by physically interfering with the migratory corridor. Construction activities, and introduced structures can act as barriers to migration. Construction activities could potentially impact migration patterns but are considered temporary. Given the distribution of the structures and the volume of traffic associated with the proposed project, the project may significantly contribute to cumulative obstacles to migratory wildlife.

The cumulative effects of the proposed project on biological resources are considered insignificant for the following reasons:

The proposed project site totals approximately 4.8 acres, of which all of it will be disturbed.

1. The proposed best management practices (BMP's) are part of the requirement for the proposed project by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board for protection of surface water quality from sediments in the proposed project runoff.

2. The habitat present is contiguous with habitat to the west and east. Preserving the proposed project site would provide biological value because of the nesting target species that already occur on the project site.

3. If the proposed project is not constructed, impacts to the existing area would still occur as a result of populater of invasive species and anthropogenic activities.

Anticipated impacts to sensitive wildlife species would be relatively minor, for the following reasons: (a) most of the potentially impacted species are common species and not threatened/endangered, and (b) the project area is already disturbed by the existing anthropogenic activities and surrounding developments. Appendix C-Riverside County Attachment E-4 of this document includes CEQA checklist (impacts to sensitive habitat/riparian habitat, wetlands/jurisdictional features, wildlife movement, and local ordinances).

## **MSHCP CONSISTENCY OVERVIEW**

This section provides an overview of MSHCP consistency of the proposed Project with the MSHCP. Appendix G, attached, provides a stand alone MSHCP Consistency Determination Report. The proposed Project must comply with the following MSHCP requirements:

- Project Consistency with MSHCP Reserve Assembly (MSHCP *Section 3.2.3* and *Section 3.3*)
- Guidelines for facilities within the PQP Lands (MSHCP *Section 7.5*)
- Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pool guidelines (MSHCP *Section 6.1.2*)
- Narrow Endemic Plant Species guidelines (MSHCP *Section 6.1.3*)
- Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (MSHCP *Section 6.3.2*)
- Urban Wildlands Interface Guidelines (MSHCP *Section 6.1.4*)
- Requirements To Be Met For 28 Species Prior To Including Those Species On The List Of Covered Species Adequately Conserved (MSHCP *Table 9-3*)

### **PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH MSHCP AREA PLANS**

The project area is located in Reche Canyon/Badlands. Reserve assembly goals and project relationship for each of these areas are presented in Section 2 of this report.

The project alignment is located within Rough Step 3. Based on the 2017 Annual Report, Rough Step Unit 3 is in "Rough Step." Therefore, the project does not affect the Reserve Assembly goals of the MSHCP.

### **PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH CORES AND LINKAGES WITHIN THE CONSERVATION AREA**

The MSHCP Conservation Area is comprised of a variety of existing and proposed cores, extensions of existing cores, linkages, constrained linkages and non-contiguous habitat blocks. These features are generally referenced as cores and linkages. There are no proposed cores and linkages located within the project area. There will not be any impacts to key species associated with cores and linkages.

### **PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC LANDS**

There are no public/quasi-public lands adjacent to the project site. There will be no anticipated direct impacts to public/quasi-public lands.

### **MSHCP SECTION 6.1.2 – PROTECTION OF SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH RIPARIAN/RIVERINE AND VERNAL POOL RESOURCES**

An assessment of the potentially significant effects of the proposed project on riparian, riverine and vernal pool areas was conducted. Seasonal watercourses are present and evidence of recent surface water was observed on site. Potential MSHCP 6.1.2 areas were found on the project site. A Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) Report as required by the MSHCP (Section 6.1.2, pages 6-21 and 6-22) for impacts to Riparian/Riverine Areas/Vernal Pools may be required to be completed. The proposed project is consistent with MSHCP Section 6.1.2, depending on the seasonal watercourses determination.

## **MSHCP SECTION 6.1.2 – PROTECTION OF NARROW ENDEMIC PLANT SPECIES**

There are no narrow endemic plant species on the project site. The proposed project will have no impact on these resources. As such, the proposed project is consistent with MSHCP *Section 6.1.3*.

## **MSHCP SECTION 6.3.2 - ADDITIONAL SURVEY NEEDS AND PROCEDURES**

### **Criteria Area Plant Surveys**

No Criteria Area Plant Surveys have been identified within the project area to date. As such, the proposed project will have no impact on the Criteria Area Plant Surveys and is consistent with MSHCP *Section 6.3.2*.

### **Burrowing Owl**

The proposed project is located within the BUOW survey area of the MSHCP. Focused surveys for BUOWs were completed in accordance with the applicable survey protocol (refer to Table 6 for list of survey dates). Although no BUOW sign and no live individuals were detected in the project study area, BUOW was detected adjacent to the project area. As BUOW is a species that is known for its ability to move into and out of areas across seasons and years, avoidance and minimization measures presented in Section 6 above will be implemented for the protection of this species if BUOW is encountered. The proposed project will have no impact on the BUOW. As such, the proposed project is consistent with MSHCP *Section 6.3.2*.

## **MSHCP TABLE 9-3 REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET FOR 28 SPECIES PRIOR TO INCLUDING THOSE SPECIES ON THE LIST OF COVERED SPECIES ADEQUATELY CONSERVED**

*Table 9-3* of the MSHCP lists goals for 28 species that must be met before they are considered to be Adequately Conserved. GEC found none of the species listed in Table 9-3 on the proposed project site. As such, the proposed project is consistent with MSHCP *Table 9-3*.

## **MSHCP SECTION 6.1.4 - URBAN WILDLANDS INTERFACE GUIDELINES**

The guidelines presented in *Section 6.1.4* of the MSHCP are intended to address indirect effects associated with development in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area (i.e., the portions of the Criteria Cells which will be, or have been, conserved). Below is a summary of the Urban Wildlands Interface Guidelines and their relationship to the proposed project:

**Drainage-** The proposed project will impact existing runoff conditions. BMPs established in Section 8.0 will be taken to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff will be comparable to existing conditions.

**Toxics-** It is not anticipated that this proposed project will use chemicals or generate bi- products that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat or water quality. If a toxic substance is identified during construction, measures such as those employed to address drainage issues, as presented in Section 8.0, will be implemented to avoid potential for adverse impacts. An information pamphlet will be prepared for each business owner regarding the use of toxics.

**Lighting-** Night lighting shall be directed away from the MSHCP Conservation Area to protect species within the MSHCP Conservation Area from direct night lighting. Shielding shall be incorporated into project designs to ensure ambient lighting in the MSHCP Conservation Area is not increased.

**Noise-** Proposed noise generating land uses affecting the MSHCP Conservation Area shall incorporate setbacks, berms or walls to minimize the effects of noise on MSHCP Conservation Area resources pursuant to applicable rules, regulations, and guidelines related to land use noise standards.

**Invasives-** Project related landscaping within or adjacent to the Conservation Area, will comply with not utilizing the invasive nonnative plant species listed in *Table 6-2 of Section 6.1.4* of the MSHCP. Minimization and avoidance measures as presented in Section 8.0 of this report will be implemented in order to avoid the spread of invasive species within the project area.

**Barriers-** Proposed land uses adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers, where appropriate, in individual project designs to minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass, or dumping into the MSHCP Conservation Areas.

**Grading/Land Development-** All manufactured slopes associated with site development will be within the project site.

## **MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT COMPLIANCE**

Pursuant to MSHCP *Section 14.13*, the Section 10(a) Permit issued for the MSHCP constitutes a Special Purpose Permit under 50 Code of Federal Regulations Section 21.27, for the Take of Covered Species Adequately Conserved listed under Federal ESA and which are also listed under the MBTA of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712), in the amount and/or number specified in the MSHCP, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Section 10(a) Permit. Any such Take will not be in violation of the MBTA. The MBTA Special Purpose Permit will extend to Covered Species Adequately Conserved listed under Federal ESA and also under the MBTA, valid for a period of three (3) years from its Effective Date, provided the Section 10(a) Permit remains in effect for such period. The Special Purpose Permit shall be renewed pursuant to the requirements of the MBTA if needed valid for a period of three (3) additional years.

The period from approximately 15 February to 15 September covers the breeding season for most birds in the project area, but unseasonal active nests must also be avoided if encountered. Although minimal direct impacts are anticipated in habitats for nesting birds, nesting in adjacent areas may suffer indirect impacts from project activity, such as disturbance related nest abandonment. In these areas, work should be conducted in the non-breeding season when possible. If project activity must be conducted during the breeding season, a qualified biologist should check for nesting birds prior to such activity. Implementation of avoidance/minimization measures presented in Section 8.0 would ensure that migratory and/or nesting bird species would not be impacted by the proposed project. As it relates to nesting birds covered under MSHCP *Section 14.13*, the proposed project is consistent with the MSHCP.

## SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND BMPS

This section provided a comprehensive list of avoidance, minimization and compensation measures. Implementation of these measures, as proposed, ensures compliance and consistency with the MSHCP.

### MSHCP BMPS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Table 2 presents MSHCP BMPS (Appendix C of the MSHCP), Construction Guidelines (*Section 7.5.3* of the MSHCP), and species specific mitigation measures that have been incorporated in the MSHCP and will be implemented as part of the project.

**TABLE 2  
MSHCP BMPS AND SPECIES SPECIFIC MITIGATION MEASURES**

<b>MSHCP BMPS (MSHCP Vol. I, Appendix C)</b>	
MSHCP BMP-1	Water pollution and erosion control plans shall be developed and implemented in accordance with RWQCB requirements.
MSHCP BMP-2	Equipment storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on upland sites with minimal risks of direct drainage into riparian areas or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. Necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters. Project related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to appropriate entities including but not limited to applicable jurisdictional city, USFWS, and CDFG, RWQCB and shall be cleaned up immediately and contaminated soils removed to approved disposal areas.
MSHCP BMP-3	Exotic species that prey upon or displace target species of concern should be permanently removed from the site to the extent feasible.
MSHCP BMP-4	To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the project site shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).
MSHCP BMP-5	Construction employees shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the proposed project footprint and designated staging areas and routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the project and shall be specified in the construction plans. Construction limits will be fenced with orange snow screen. Exclusion fencing should be maintained until the completion of all construction activities. Employees shall be instructed that their activities are restricted to the construction areas.
<b>MSHCP Construction Guidelines (MSHCP Section 7.5.3)</b>	
MSHCP CONST-1	Plans for water pollution and erosion control will be prepared for all Discretionary Projects involving the movement of earth in excess of 50 cubic yards. The plans will describe sediment and hazardous materials control, dewatering or diversion structures, fueling and equipment management practices, use of plant material for erosion control. Plans will be reviewed and approved by the City of Lake Elsinore

	and participating jurisdiction prior to construction.
MSHCP CONST-2	Timing of construction activities will consider seasonal requirements for breeding birds and migratory non- resident species. Habitat clearing will be avoided during species active breeding season defined as February 15-September 15
MSHCP CONST-3	Sediment and erosion control measures will be implemented until such time soils are determined to be successfully stabilized.
MSHCP CONST-4	Silt fencing or other sediment trapping materials will be installed at the downstream end of construction activities to minimize the transport of sediment off-site.
MSHCP CONST-5	Settling ponds where sediment is collected will be cleaned in a manner that prevents sediment from re-entering the stream or damaging/disturbing adjacent areas. Sediment from settling ponds will be removed to a location where sediment cannot re-enter the stream or surrounding drainage area. Care will be exercised during removal of silt fencing to minimize release of debris or sediment into streams.
MSHCP CONST-6	No erodible materials will be deposited into water courses. Brush, loose soils, or other debris material will not be stockpiled within stream channels or on adjacent banks.
MSHCP CONST-7	The footprint of disturbance will be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to sites will occur on pre-existing access routes to the greatest extent possible.
MSHCP CONST-8	Equipment storage, fueling and staging areas will be sited on non-sensitive upland Habitat types with minimal risk of direct discharge into riparian areas or other sensitive Habitat types.
MSHCP CONST-9	The limits of disturbance, including the upstream, downstream and lateral extents, will be clearly defined and marked in the field. Monitoring personnel will review the limits of disturbance prior to initiation of construction activities.
MSHCP CONST-10	During construction, the placement of equipment within the stream or on adjacent banks or adjacent upland Habitats occupied by Covered Species that are outside of the project footprint will be avoided.
MSHCP CONST-11	Exotic species removed during construction will be properly handled to prevent sprouting or regrowth.
MSHCP CONST-12	Training of construction personnel will be provided.
MSHCP CONST-13	Ongoing monitoring and reporting will occur for the duration of the construction activity to ensure implementation of best management practices.
MSHCP CONST-14	Active construction areas shall be watered regularly to control dust and minimize impacts to adjacent vegetation.
MSHCP CONST-15	All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur only in designated areas within the proposed grading limits of the project site. These designated areas shall be clearly marked and located in such a manner as to contain run-off.
MSHCP CONST-16	Waste, dirt, rubble, or trash shall not be deposited in the Conservation Area or on native habitat.
MSHCP CONST-17	Wildlife Biologist required to be present during construction of the project.

Appendix C

MSHCP Species/Habitat Specific Measures	
MSHCP-BUOW	<p>A 30-day pre-construction survey for burrowing owls is required prior to initial ground-disturbing activities (including but not limited to vegetation clearing, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, site watering) to ensure that no owls have colonized the site in the days or weeks preceding the ground-disturbing activities. If burrowing owls have colonized the project site prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the project proponent will immediately inform the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) and the Wildlife Agencies, and will need to coordinate further with RCA and the Wildlife Agencies, including the possibility of preparing a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan, prior to initiating ground disturbance. If ground-disturbing activities occur but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey will again be necessary to ensure burrowing owl has not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If burrow owl is found, the same coordination described above will be necessary.</p>

# Appendix D

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## Plant & Animal Compendium



Non-native	SCIENTIFIC NAMES	COMMON NAMES
	<b>DIVISION ANTHOPHYTA</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>
	<b>Class Dicotyledones</b>	<b>Dicots</b>
	<b>FAMILY AMARANTHACEAE</b>	<b>PEPPER TREE FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian Pepper tree
	<b>FAMILY AMARANTHACEAE</b>	<b>AMARANTH FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	Tumbleweed
	<b>FAMILY ASTERACEAE</b>	<b>SUNFLOWER FAMILY</b>
	<i>Astragalus gambelianus</i>	Dwarf loco weed
	<i>Lasthenia gracilis</i>	Needle goldfields
	<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	Annual Bur-sage
	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	Western Ragweed
	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Mugwort
	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mule Fat
	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	Horseweed
	<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	Telegraph Weed
	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Sunflower
	<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	Brittlebush
	<b>FAMILY BORAGINACEAE</b>	<b>BORAGE FAMILY</b>
	<i>Amsinckia intermedia</i>	Common Fiddleneck
	<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i>	Fiddleneck
	<i>Plagiobothrys canescens</i>	Valley popcorn flower
	<b>FAMILY BRASSICACEAE</b>	<b>MUSTARD FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard
X	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Saharan Mustard
X	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Short-pod Mustard
	<b>FAMILY CHENOPODIACEAE</b>	<b>GOOSEFOOT FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Pigweed
X	<i>Dysphania ambrosioides</i>	Mexican Tea
X	<i>Salsola australis</i>	Russian Thistle
	<b>FAMILY EUPHORBIACEAE</b>	<b>SPURGE FAMILY</b>
	<i>Chamaesyce albomarginata</i>	Rattlesnake Weed
	<i>Croton setigerus</i>	Dove Weed
X	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor bean
	<b>FAMILY LAMIACEAE</b>	<b>SALVIA FAMILY</b>
	<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	Vinegar weed
	<b>FAMILY MALVACEAE</b>	<b>MALLOW FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Cheeseweed
	<b>FAMILY POLYGONACEAE</b>	<b>BUCKWHEAT FAMILY</b>

Non-native	SCIENTIFIC NAMES	COMMON NAMES
	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	Buckwheat
X	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Yard Knotweed
X	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Leaved Dock
	<b>FAMILY MYRTACEAE</b>	<b>EUCALYPTUS FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue gum
	<b>FAMILY SIMAROUBACEAE</b>	<b>TREE OF HEAVEN FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
	<b>FAMILY SALICACEAE</b>	<b>WILLOW FAMILY</b>
	<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	Goodding's Willow
	<b>FAMILY SOLANACEAE</b>	<b>NIGHTSHADE FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree Tobacco
	<b>FAMILY TAMARICACEAE</b>	<b>TAMARISK FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Salt cedar
	<b>Class Monocotyledones</b>	<b>Monocots</b>
	<b>FAMILY POACEAE</b>	<b>GRASS FAMILY</b>
X	<i>Bromus berterianus</i>	Chilean chess
X	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut grass
X	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Chess
X	<i>Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens</i>	Foxtail Chess
X	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Hare Barley
X	<i>Schismus barbatus</i>	Mediterranean schismus

Legend:

X = Non-native

## BIRDS

SCIENTIFIC NAMES	COMMON NAMES
<b>VERTEBRATES</b>	
<b>CLASS REPTILIA</b>	<b>REPTILES</b>
<b>FAMILY IGUANIDAE</b>	<b>IGUANIDS</b>
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	Side-blotched Lizard
<b>CLASS AVES</b>	<b>BIRDS</b>
<b>FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE</b>	<b>BUTEOS, KITES AND HAWKS</b>
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk
<b>FAMILY COLUMBIDAE</b>	<b>DOVES AND PIGEONS</b>
<i>Columba livia</i>	*Rock Pigeon
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove
<b>FAMILY TROCHILIDAE</b>	<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird
<b>FAMILY PICIDAE</b>	<b>WOODPECKERS AND FLICKERS</b>
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker
<b>FAMILY FALCONIDAE</b>	<b>FALCONS AND CARACARAS</b>
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel
<b>FAMILY TYRANNIDAE</b>	<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Western Kingbird
<b>FAMILY CORVIDAE</b>	<b>CROWS AND RAVENS</b>
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven
<b>FAMILY TROGLODYTIDAE</b>	<b>WRENS</b>
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren
<b>FAMILY MIMIDAE</b>	<b>MIMIC THRUSHES, OR MIMIDS</b>
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird
<b>FAMILY STURNIDAE</b>	<b>STARLINGS AND ALLIES</b>
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	*European Starling
<b>FAMILY EMBERIZIDAE</b>	<b>SPARROWS AND TOWHEES</b>
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California Towhee
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow
<b>FAMILY ICTERIDAE</b>	<b>BLACKBIRDS AND ALLIES</b>
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's Blackbird
<b>FAMILY FRINGILLIDAE</b>	<b>NEW WORLD SEEDEATERS</b>
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House Finch
<b>FAMILY PASSERIDAE</b>	<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	*House Sparrow

<b>CLASS MAMMALIA</b>	<b>MAMMALS</b>
<b>FAMILY CANIDAE</b>	<b>DOGS, FOXES AND ALLIES</b>
<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Domestic Dog
<b>FAMILY LEPORIDAE</b>	<b>RABBITS AND HARES</b>
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	Cottontail
<b>FAMILY FELIDAE</b>	<b>CATS</b>
<i>Felis catus</i>	Domestic cat
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>	
<b>CLASS INSECTA</b>	<b>INSECTS</b>
<b>FAMILY CERCOPOIDEA</b>	<b>SPITTLE BUGS</b>
<i>Prosapia bicincta</i>	Two-Lined Spittle Bug
<b>FAMILY APIDAE</b>	<b>HONEY BEES</b>
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honey Bee
<b>FAMILY PENTATOMIDAE</b>	<b>STINK BUGS</b>
<i>Chlorochroa sayi</i>	Say's Stinking Bug
<b>FAMILY TENEBRIONIDAE</b>	<b>DARKLING BEETLES</b>
<i>Eleodes acutus</i>	Stink beetle
<b>FAMILY APHIDIDAE</b>	<b>APHIDS</b>
<i>Toxoptera aurantii</i>	Aphids
<b>FAMILY CULICIDAE</b>	<b>MOSQUITOES</b>
<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i>	Mosquito
<b>FAMILY FORFICULIDAE</b>	<b>EARWIGS</b>
<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	European Earwigs
<b>FAMILY BOMBYLIIDAE</b>	<b>ROBBER FLIES</b>
<i>Mallophora faultrix</i>	Robber fly
<b>FAMILY MUSCIDAE</b>	<b>HOUSE FLY</b>
<i>Musca domestica</i>	Common House Fly
<b>CLASS ARACHNIDA</b>	<b>SPIDERS, MITES, TICKS AND SCORPIONS</b>
<b>FAMILY CTENIZIDAE</b>	<b>TRAP DOOR SPIDER</b>
<i>Bothriocyrtum californicum</i>	California Trapdoor Spider

**HABITAT ASSESSMENT & FOCUSED SURVEYS FOR  
BURROWING OWL  
APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010  
In the  
City of Moreno Valley, County of Riverside  
USGS 7.5-minute Sunnymead topographic quadrangle map in Section 4 of  
Township 3 South, Range 3 West**



Prepared By:



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(760) 777-1621

Report Date: October 19, 2020

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## I. TITLE PAGE

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- A. **Date report prepared:** October 19, 2020
- B. Report Title: FOCUSED BURROWING OWL SURVEYS for APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010 In the City of Moreno Valley, County of Riverside
- C. **Project site location:** USGS 7.5-minute Sunnymead topographic quadrangle map in Section 4 of Township 3 South, Range 3 West
- D. **Owner/Applicant:**  
Salem Engineering Group, Inc  
13355 Noel Road, Suite 1100  
Dallas, TX 75240
- E. **Principal Investigator(s):** Teresa Gonzales and Paul Gonzales  
**Address:** 358 Crystal Drive  
San Jacinto, CA 92583  
**Phone:** 760.777-1621
- G. **Name and phone number of person preparing report and of all persons who performed fieldwork on the site**

<u>Name of Person</u>	<u>Role on project</u>
Teresa Gonzales	Prepared report and performed fieldwork
Paul Gonzales	Performed fieldwork

This document should be cited as:

Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC. 2020. FOCUSED BURROWING OWL SURVEYS for APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010 In the City of Moreno Valley, County of Riverside; USGS 7.5-minute topographic Sunnymead topographic quadrangle map in Section 4 of Township 3 South, Range 3 West. October 12, 2020. San Jacinto, California. Prepared for Salem Engineering Group, Inc.

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The project site is located in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California. In February, March, April, May and June 2020, Teresa Gonzales and Paul Gonzales, Biologists for Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC (GEC), conducted focused surveys for burrowing owl.

The vegetation communities within the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the project site. Previous and current anthropogenic activities and invasion of nonnative plant species have contributed to the disturbed condition of many vegetation communities within the project vicinity.

The proposed project site is within the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP) and MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Area.

In February, March, April, May and June 2020, Teresa Gonzales, Principal Biologist and Paul Gonzales, Senior Biologist for Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC (GEC), conducted focused surveys for Burrowing owl on the proposed project site. No burrowing owl(s) were found during our surveys of the area.



### III. PROJECT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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This report summarizes the findings of focused surveys to determine presence or absence of burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) on the project site(site).

#### PROJECT LOCATION

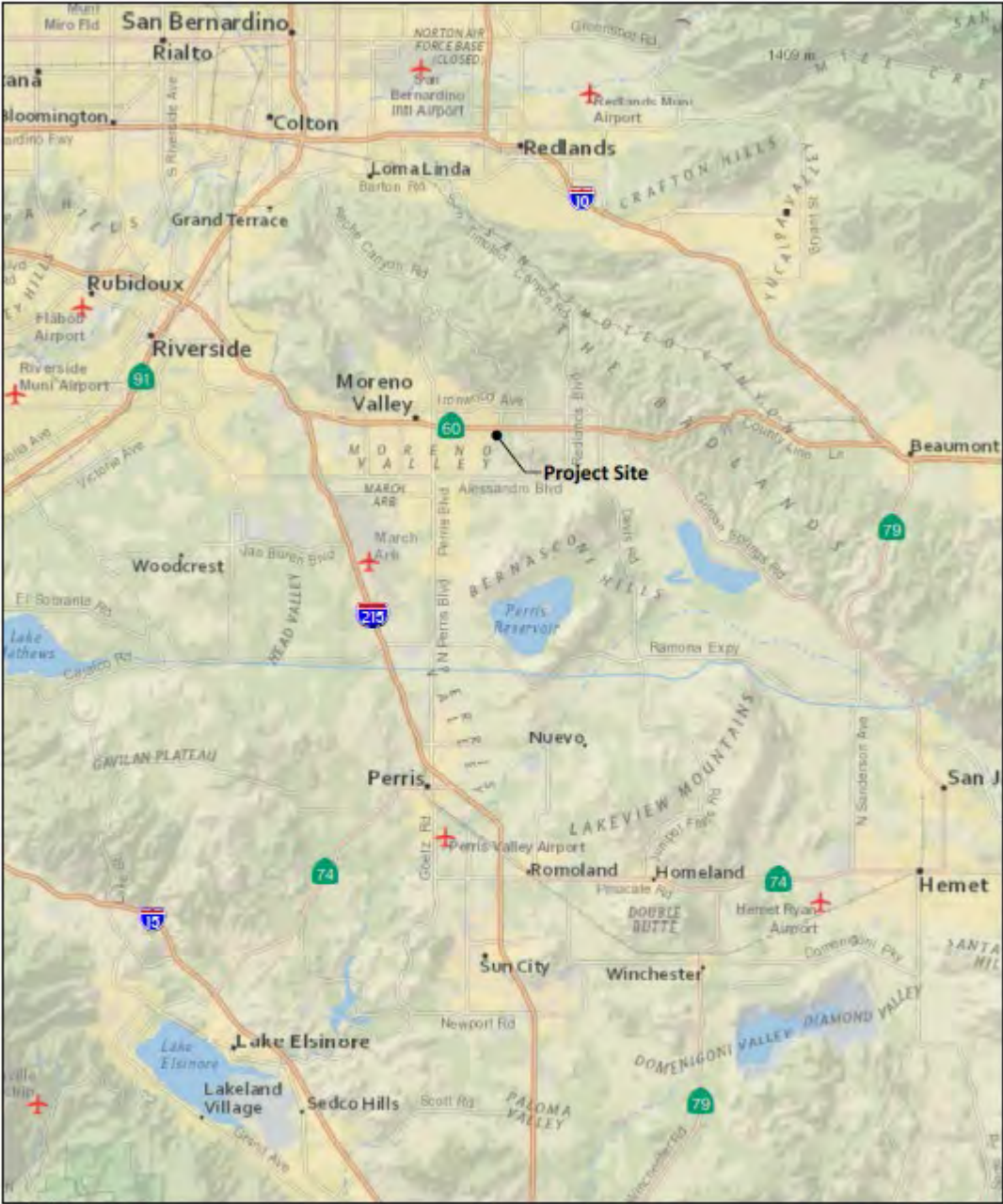
##### Property Description

The project site (site) discussed in this report is located north of Fir Avenue, west of Nason Street, south of Interstate 60 (SR 60) and east of Tulip Road in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California. See Figures 3.1 and 3.2.

The site is located within San Bernardino Meridian in a portion of Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 3 West, City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California (Figures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3). This location is shown on the Sunnymead, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle (Sunnymead Photorevised 1980); page 718 Grid B3 of the Riverside County Street Guide and Directory (Thomas Brothers Maps Design 2013). The approximate center of the site is located at 33.937003°, -117.192624°.

Elevation of the assessment area ranges from a from a low of 1726± feet above mean sea level (msl) in the southern portion of the assessment area to a high of 1770± feet above msl in the northwestern portion of the assessment area. This represents an elevational change across the assessment area of 44± feet. The entire site consists of relatively level land. The project site has been impacted by anthropogenic activities. Land use in the surrounding area consists of commercial and single family residential.

The primary vegetation communities in the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the project site. Previous and current anthropogenic activities and invasion of nonnative plant species have contributed to the disturbed condition of many vegetation communities within the project vicinity.



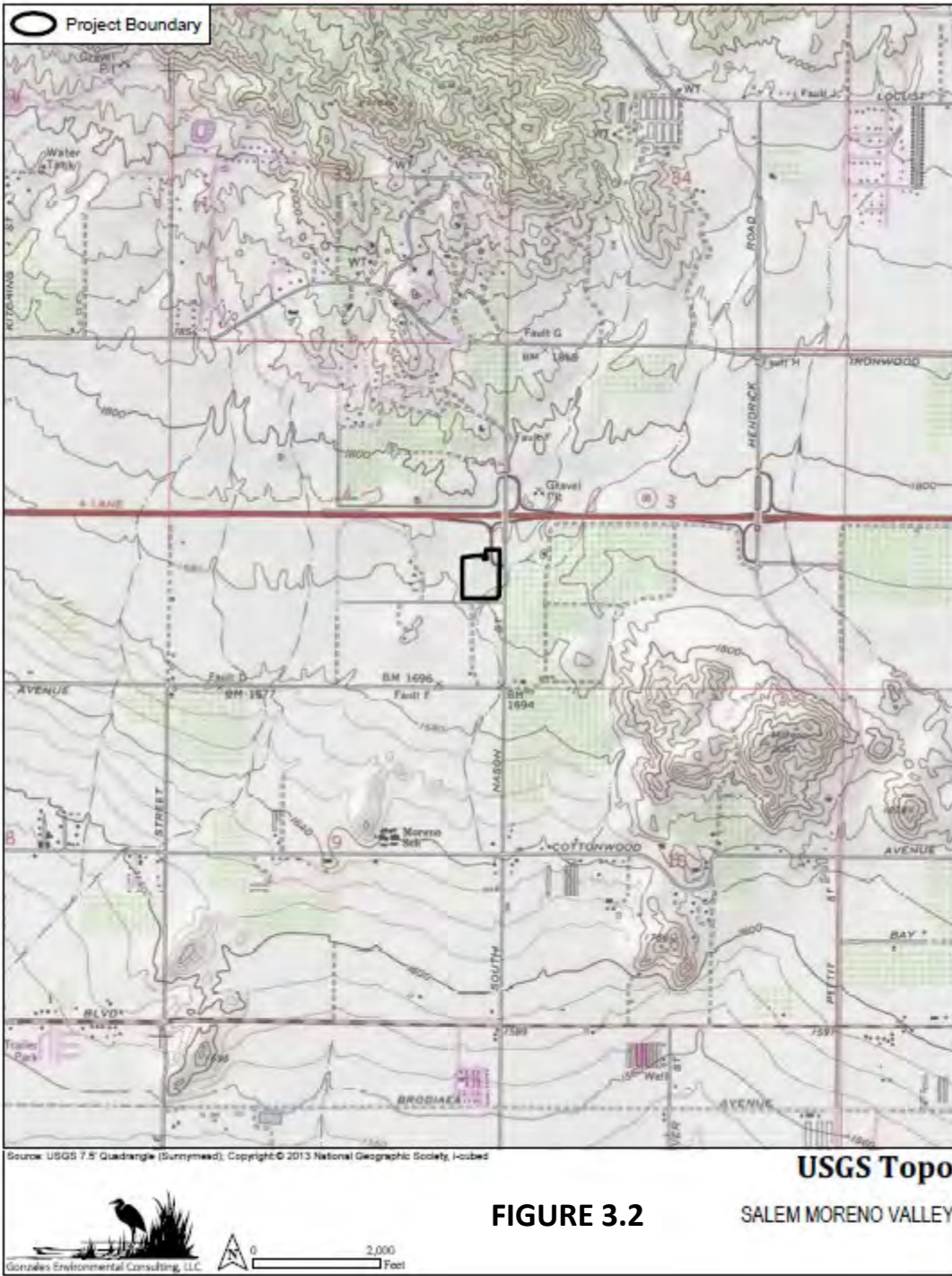
Source: National Geographic

**Regional Map**

**FIGURE 3.1**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**FIGURE 3.2**



## IV. STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

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The following sections summarize the study area conditions. For purposes of this report, the term study area includes the proposed project construction limits and a surrounding 500-meter buffer (Figure 5.1).

### Physical Conditions

Elevation of the assessment area ranges from a low of 1726± feet above mean sea level (msl) in the southern portion of the assessment area to a high of 1770± feet above msl in the northwestern portion of the assessment area. This represents an elevational change across the assessment area of 44± feet. The entire site consists of sloping. The project site has been impacted by anthropogenic activities. Land use in the surrounding area consists of commercial and single family residential.

### Definitions

#### Vegetation Communities

Vegetation habitats or communities are assemblages of plant species that usually coexist in the same area. The classification of vegetation communities is based upon the life form of the dominant species within the community and the associated flora. The nomenclature for vegetation communities follows CDFW Vegetation Alliances of Western Riverside County, California.

#### Wildlife Habitats

Wildlife habitats differ from vegetation communities in that a wildlife habitat may contain several vegetation communities that are similar in structure but different in the plant species composition, location, and soil substrate. This distinction becomes an important factor when assessing the sensitivity of a particular wildlife habitat to impacts. In addition, the interaction of various wildlife species occurs between many different wildlife habitats. This becomes more evident where these habitats overlap in areas known as ecotones. These ecotones support a combination of species from two or more adjoining habitats that generally increases the number and diversity of species within these areas. Wildlife habitats encountered on the project site approximate the vegetation communities discussed in this report.

## Vegetation

The project encompasses several vegetation community types. Vegetation communities currently present are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the project site. The existing plant communities are described in more detail below.

### California Annual Grassland Alliance

This alliance of non-native annual grasslands and forb lands is composed of cool-season, annual grasses mostly introduced from Europe. They are invasive in disturbed areas throughout much of California. The composition varies widely. Many alien annual species may be present, including *Avena fatua*, *Brassica* spp., *Bromus diandrus*, *Bromus hordeaceus* and *Bromus madritensis*. The composition of this alliance is largely determined by amount of disturbance coupled with fall temperatures and precipitation, light intensity, litter thickness and micro topography. The percentage of exotic alien species is often directly related to disturbance history with heavy disturbance correlating with heavy exotic invasion. Annual grasses are supremely adapted to the Mediterranean climate of California; many species evolved under similar conditions in southern Europe and northern Africa. Plants germinate during winter rains, and complete their life cycles by the beginning of the summer drought. Seeds often remain viable for many years.



**PICTURE 4.1**

***Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance**

Mulefat scrub is dominated by mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), but also may include willows (*Salix* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) (Holland 1986).





***Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance**

This series is considered part of the coastal scrub, which is better thought of as a collection of series. This approach allows stands of composition, which can be considered, regardless of geographic location. This series has Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) as the semi-dominant plant species. This community is found on the slopes of the project area.



**PICTURE 4.3**

## Landscape

Non-native trees on the project site include Pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).



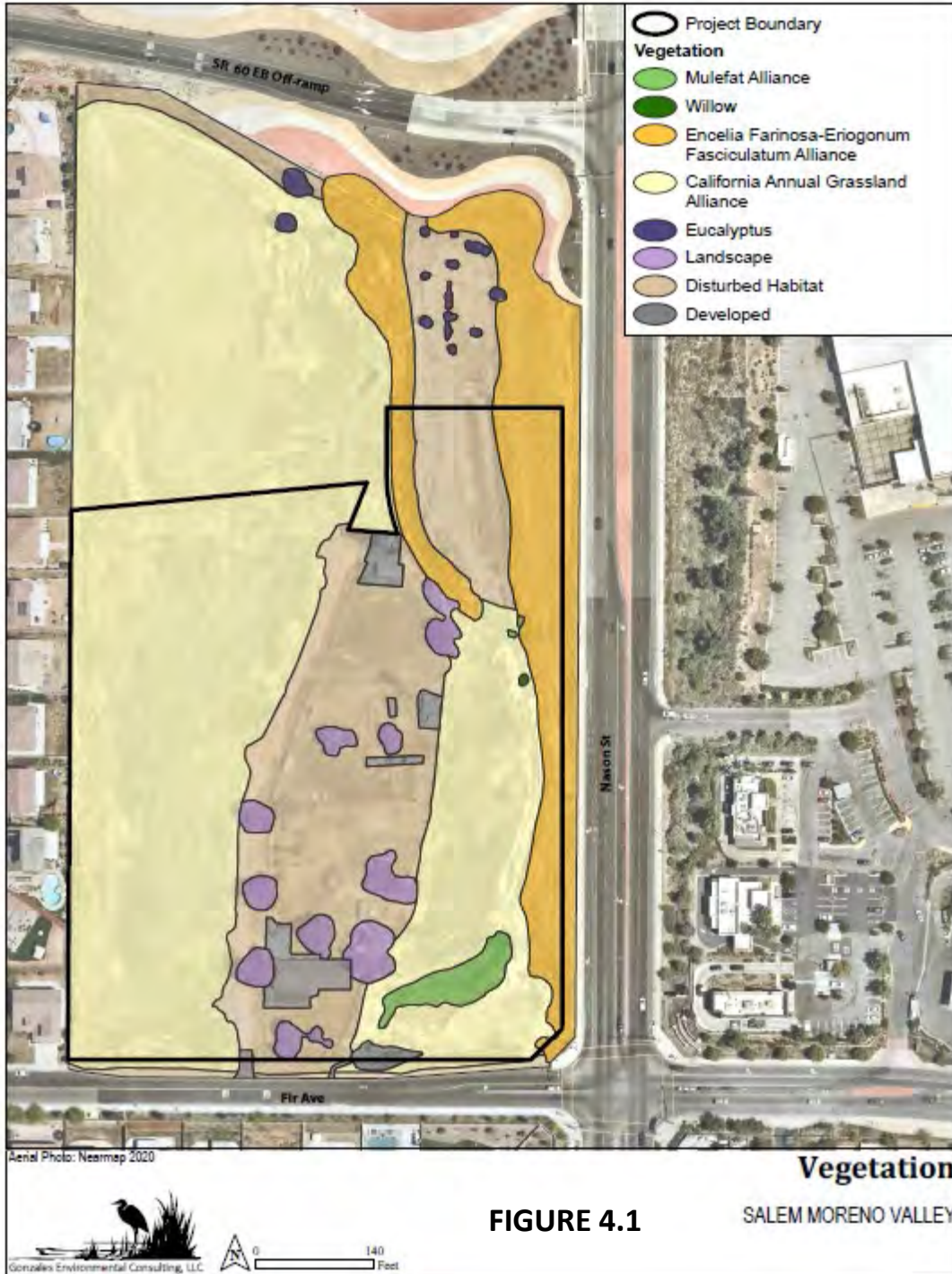
**Disturbed/Developed**

Disturbed areas are characterized by predominantly non-native species introduced and established through human action. Disturbed or barren areas are areas that either completely lack vegetation or have a predominance of non-native species.



**TABLE 4.1**  
**ACREAGE OF HABITAT TYPES**

California Annual	
Grassland Alliance	5.112
Developed	0.275
Disturbed Habitat	2.442
Encelia farinosa- Eriogonum fasciculatum	
Alliance	0.916
Landscape	0.399
Mulefat alliance	0.146
Willow	0.003
<b>TOTAL (acres)</b>	<b>9.293</b>



**FIGURE 4.1**

## V. METHODOLOGY

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For the development of this document, a systematic approach was taken to identify and characterize biological resources, including vegetation community types, and special status plant and animal species in the project area. The biological resource study area is defined as the area either directly or indirectly impacted by the project. Records of known occurrences were reviewed to identify those plant and wildlife species that may occur in the project area. Those records were then compared with federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or special status species. General biological surveys; vegetation mapping; and surveys for special status wildlife and plant species for the project were conducted. Methods that were used during these surveys are summarized by resource type in the following sections.

### Records Search

Preliminary investigations included review of information obtained from the USFWS, and CDFW; literature searches; examination of aerial photographs; and database searches including California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records, and sensitive species accounts for Riverside County. Reviewed environmental documents included Environmental Impact Reports prepared for other projects in the vicinity. The following resources were used in background research and during field surveys:

- Topographic maps (USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle)
- Aerial photos
- California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2020)
- USFWS sensitive species occurrence database (USFWS 2020)
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2020)
- Western Riverside Area, California Soil Survey (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1971)
- Volume 1, Parts I and II of the MSHCP (County of Riverside 2003)
- County of Riverside Conservation Summary Report Generator (County of Riverside 2017)

A list of special status species was compiled, including all species in the project area that were: Listed as endangered or threatened, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA);

Listed as endangered or threatened, or candidates for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA);

Included in one of the CDFW publications on species of special concern;

“Fully protected” by the State of California;

Included in the CNPS compilation; or

Identified as plants meeting the definition of rare or endangered under CEQA.

The information provided by these agencies included both regional and site-specific data on sensitive species. These species are listed in Table 5.1.

Appendix F presents a list of special-status species that were determined to have potential to occur within the project area based on literature and database review, as well as initial habitat assessments.

## FIELD SURVEY OVERVIEW

The general biological study area consisted of the proposed project area with some focused surveys out to 500 feet on either side of the proposed project area. A number of biological resources assessments and focused surveys have been performed within the project area to date. General and focused biological surveys and habitat assessments were conducted in order to assess the following:

- General biological characteristics of the project area;
- Presence or potential presence of any listed, special-status, or MSHCP species;
- Vegetation communities;
- Flora and fauna species inventories;
- Habitat suitability for burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) within MSHCP survey area;
- Presence or potential presence of species not covered by the MSHCP;
- Presence or potential presence of MSHCP defined fairy shrimp, *Vernal Pool*, and *Riparian/Riverine* habitats; and
- Presence or potential presence of waters and wetlands under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction.

Data was collected in the field by numerous techniques including the use of field notes, hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) devices, standardized data forms, photographs, and field maps. Field maps with an aerial view of the project area included CNDDDB, USFWS, and MSHCP sensitive species data points. Potentially occurring habitats for special-status species were identified prior to field investigations through aerial photo-interpretation. Initial reconnaissance level wildlife and botanical surveys were conducted in conjunction with vegetation mapping. The project area was traversed on foot and by vehicles as needed to gain 100 percent access of the survey area.

Focused surveys were scheduled based on the results of the initial assessments. Lists of all vertebrate wildlife species and all plant species encountered within the entire project area are included in Appendix D. Table 4 identifies all field work conducted within the project area in 2020.

### Vegetation Methods

Aerial photography and digital vegetation maps were reviewed to determine potential community types within the project area. Preliminary ground-truthing surveys concurred with digital vegetation maps, and additional surveys were performed to accurately define the community types and boundaries.

### Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Methods

General wetland and streambed assessments of the proposed project site were conducted in January and February 2020 by GEC, which included general mapping of habitat(s) that may be subject to jurisdiction of CDFW pursuant to sections 1600-12 of the California Fish and Game Code, ACOE and MSHCP Section 6.1.2 if present. Potential MSHCP Section 6.1.2 seasonal watercourses were found on the project site.

A brief assessment of the wetland/riparian jurisdictional communities encountered (if they were encountered) was also conducted which described the dominant and associate plant species of each community and the presence and/or absence of visual field indicators (e.g., dominance of hydrophytic species, presence of drift lines).

#### Wildlife Survey and Habitat Assessment Methods

General reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were completed to determine habitat suitability for listed species and special status plant, wildlife, and aquatic species. Suitable habitat for listed species and special status species was determined by the presence of specific habitat elements. The surveys coincided with the period during which many wildlife species, including migratory species, would have been most detectable. A faunal inventory of all species observed during the course of the surveys was also prepared.

### **SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES METHODS**

#### Special Status Rare Plant Species Survey Methods

Information on special status rare plant species within the project area was gathered from several sources including California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2020), CNDDDB (CNDDDB 2020), and CalFlora (CalFlora 2020). Maps depicting all known sensitive plant species locations within the project area were produced to aid in determining the target species for survey. General reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were completed to determine habitat suitability for listed species and special status plants. Suitable habitat for listed species and special status species was determined by the presence of specific habitat elements.

Plant surveys of the project area were conducted in January and February 2020. This time period corresponds to the time during which early ephemeral spring annuals and herbaceous perennials in Riverside County would be detectable. No sensitive plant species were located. The likelihood of these species occurrence (expected, high, moderate, low, or not expected) was also assessed. A floral inventory of all species observed during the course of the surveys was also documented.



**Special Status Wildlife Species Survey Methods**

Prior to conducting habitat assessment surveys, CNDDDB and other sources were reviewed for the records of special status wildlife species potentially occurring in the project area. General reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were conducted to assess the presence of special status wildlife species habitats within the project area. Maps depicting all known sensitive wildlife species locations within the regional vicinity of the project were produced to aid in determining the target species to survey. All wildlife species encountered during surveys were documented. Any specific areas (e.g., potential nesting, breeding, and foraging habitat) encountered during the surveys that have a high probability for supporting sensitive wildlife were documented. The likelihood of these species occurrence (not expected, low, moderate, high, expected) was also assessed. General habitat assessments and focused protocol-level surveys for other species including, but not limited to, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), were also conducted. General habitat assessments involved evaluating the specific vegetation communities encountered and their potential to support these sensitive species (expected, high, moderate, low, not expected).

**Surveys**

Based on the findings of the biological surveys, focused habitat assessment and species-specific surveys were scheduled for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) to determine presence of sensitive, listed, and covered species within the project area. A complete floristic survey of the project area, as required in a complete CEQA analysis, was conducted in 2020 to determine whether listed or special status plant species or sensitive plant communities occur. Burrowing owl surveys were also conducted in the spring of 2020. All plants encountered were identified to a level necessary to ensure detection of covered or special status species.

The following table identifies the sensitive species for which protocol-level surveys were required for the project.

**TABLE 5.1  
PROTOCOL SURVEYS**

Protocol Surveys			
Species		Survey Protocol	Location
Scientific Name	Common Name		
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	A minimum of four surveys are required between March 15 and August 31.	Grasslands, debris piles, disturbed areas

Transects for general reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys were conducted to assess the presence of burrowing owl within the project area. Survey information is included in Table 5.2.

**Surveys**

Based on the findings of the biological surveys, focused habitat assessment and species-specific surveys were conducted for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) to determine presence of sensitive, listed, and covered species within the project area. Burrowing owl habitat surveys were conducted on February 7, 2020. The habitat assessment and focused surveys followed the

California Burrowing Owl Consortium Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines<sup>1</sup> and Riverside County Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions<sup>2</sup>.

The schedule and field conditions during the visits are summarized below.

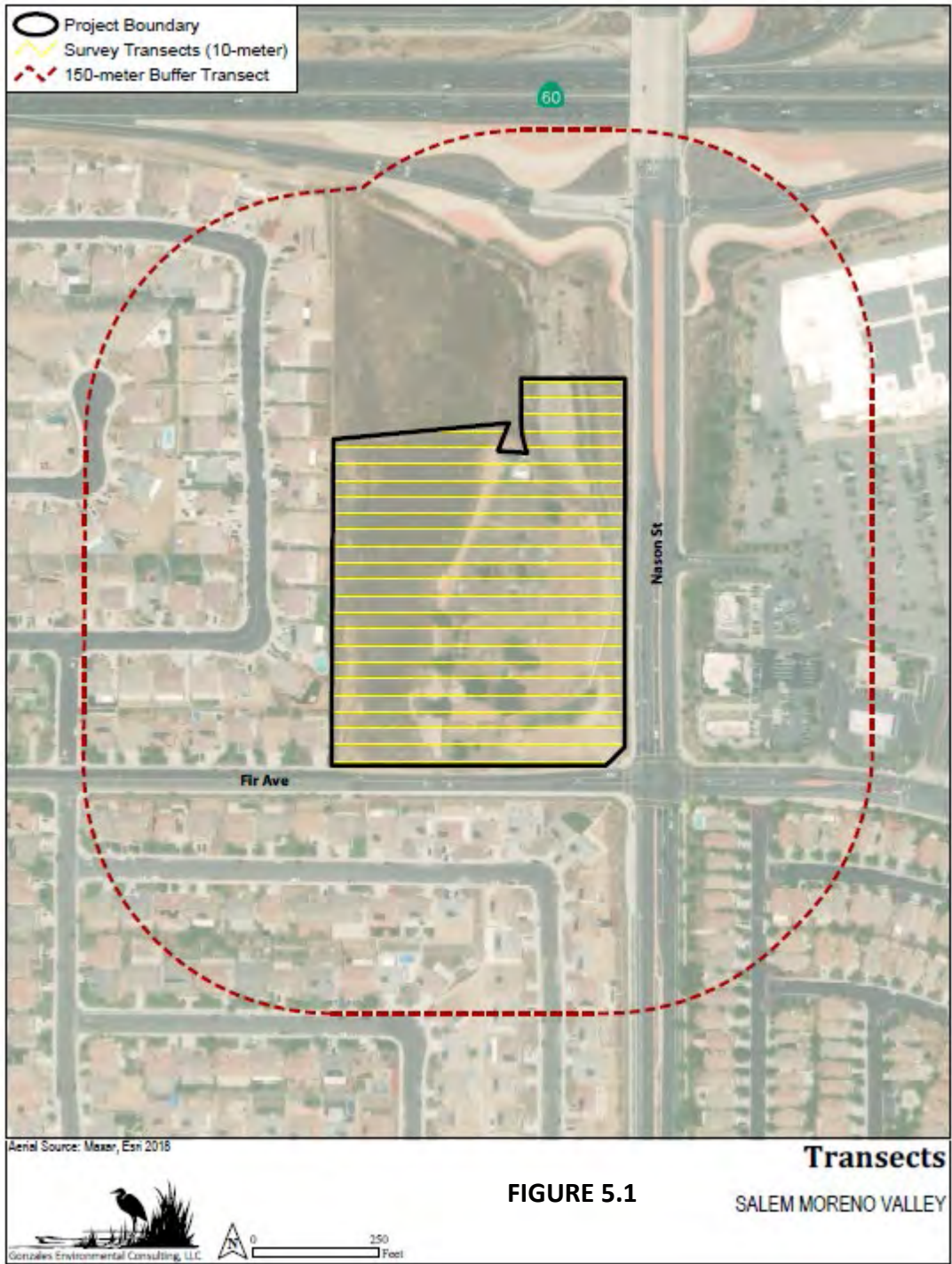
**TABLE 5.2**  
**BURROWING OWL SURVEY SUMMARY 2020**

Date	Air Temperature (F)	Wind Speed (mph)	Cloud Cover	Precipitation	Sunrise/Sunset Times	Time-Duration*
February 7	43-55	3-9	Clear-30% cloud cover	No	0641/1725	1625/1825 3 hrs
February 18	48-58	0-10	10% cloud cover	No	0630/1735	1635/1835 3 hrs
February 26	43-56	0-7	Clear	No	0621/1742	1642/1842 3 hrs
March 1	37-54	0-10	40% cloud cover	No	0616/1745	1645/1845 3 hrs
April 17	43-61	0-2	60% cloud cover	No	0613/1922	1722/2022 3 hrs
May 17	52-66	0-6	Clear	No	0545/1945	1745/2045 3 hrs
June 22	75-95	0-4	Clear	No	0538/2003	1803/2103 3 hrs

\*Approved hours for burrowing owl surveys are one hour prior to sunrise until two hours after and two hours prior to sunset and one hour after sunset.

<sup>1</sup> The California Burrowing Owl Consortium. 1993. Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines. 15 pgs.

<sup>2</sup> Riverside County. 2006. Burrowing Owl Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP. 4 pgs



## VI. ASSESSMENT AND FOCUSED SURVEY

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Burrowing owl habitat assessment surveys and focused surveys were conducted in 2020 (refer to Table 3.2 for dates and Table 3.3 for 2020 survey information) according to the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area* (County of Riverside 2006).

GEC biologists knowledgeable in BUOW habitat, ecology, and field identification of the species conducted surveys on the dates shown in Table 3.2 and 3.3. The weather conditions during these surveys were conducive to observing BUOW outside their burrows and detecting BUOW sign. Data was collected by numerous techniques including the use of a hand-held GPS device, standardized data forms, photographs, and aerial field maps. Details regarding each survey method are provided below:

### Habitat Assessment (Step 1)

Habitat within the project area was assessed for BUOW presence, use, and potential use. Areas with potential BUOW habitat, including pasture and debris piles were surveyed by GEC for potential burrows and BUOW. Biologists walked areas of potential habitat while searching for BUOW, potential and active burrows, and owl sign, such as feathers, pellets, and prey items. The survey area included a 150-meter (500-foot) buffer zone outside the project site. Transect surveys for burrows, including owl sign, was conducted by walking or being escorted through suitable habitat over the entire survey area (the proposed route and the 150-meter [500-foot] buffer zone). Pedestrian survey transects were spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines was no more than 10 meters (30 feet) and was reduced when necessary to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility.

### Focused Burrow Surveys (Step 2 A)

GEC conducted focused burrow surveys including natural burrows or suitable debris piles. Transect surveys for burrows, including owl sign, was conducted by walking or being escorted through suitable habitat over the entire survey area (the proposed route and the 150-meter [500-foot] buffer zone). Pedestrian survey transects were spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines was no more than 10 meters (30 feet) and was reduced when necessary to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility. The locations of all potential owl burrows, observed owl sign, and observed BUOW were recorded and mapped with a GPS device.

### Focused Owl Surveys (Step 2B)

Focused BUOW surveys consisted of eleven site visits covering all project areas and adjacent areas. Surveys were conducted in the morning 1 hour before sunrise to 2 hours after sunrise and 1 hour before sunset to 2 hours after sunset. Upon arrival at the survey area and prior to initiating the walking surveys, surveyors used binoculars and/or spotting scopes to scan all suitable habitats, location of mapped burrows, owl sign, and owls, including perch locations to ascertain owl presence. A survey for owls and owl sign was then conducted by walking through suitable habitat over the entire project site and within the adjacent 150-meter (500-foot) buffer zone.

These pedestrian surveys followed transects spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines were no more than 10 meters (30 feet) and were reduced to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility. In areas where access was not obtained, the area adjacent to the project site was surveyed using binoculars and/or spotting scopes to determine if owls are present in areas adjacent to the project site.

#### Focused Burrowing Owl Survey Results

No burrows or burrowing owls were observed on the proposed project site or in adjacent areas.

## VII. RESULTS

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GEC conducted habitat assessment (Step 1) and focused Burrowing Owl Burrow (Step IIA) and burrowing owl (Step IIB) surveys as outlined by Burrowing Owl Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP. Step 1 of the survey identified suitable burrowing owl habitat on-site with the presence of low-growing vegetation. **Results of the Step II A surveys found no owl burrows on the proposed project site or in adjacent areas. Step II B found no burrowing owl on the proposed project site or adjacent to the project site.**

## VIII. REFERENCES

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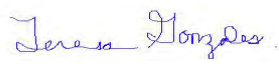


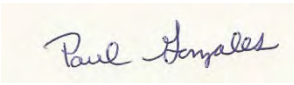
**IX. CERTIFICATION**

CERTIFICATION: *"I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Field work conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the project applicant or applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the project."*

DATE: October 12, 2020 SIGNED:   
1) Teresa Gonzales

1) Fieldwork Performed By:

  
Teresa Gonzales

  
Paul Gonzales

Check here \_\_\_\_\_ If Adding any additional Names/Signatures, below or on other side of page.

## Appendix F

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List of special-status species that  
were determined to have potential  
to occur within the project area

**TABLE 1**  
**SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES LISTED FOR SUNNYMEAD & SURROUNDING NINE QUADRANGLES**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Federal/ State	CNPS List	Primary Habitat Associations	Status Onsite or Potential to Occur
<i>Texosporium sancti-jacobi</i>	woven-spored lichen	None/None	3	Arid to semi-arid shrub-steppe, grassland or savannah communities up to 1,000 meters in elevation	Habitat present; Low potential- was not observed during surveys

**Legend**  
FE: Federally-listed as endangered  
FT: Federally-listed as threatened  
SCE: State candidate for listing as endangered  
FC: Federal Candidate  
SE: State-listed as endangered  
ST: State-listed as threatened  
SR: State rare  
CNPS List= California Native Plant Society  
CNPS 1B= Rare or Endangered in California and Elsewhere  
CNPS 2= Rare or Endangered in California, More Common Elsewhere  
CNPS 3= Need More Information  
CNPS 4= Plants of Limited Distribution  
CNPS New Threat Code extensions and their meanings:  
.1 - Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)  
.2 - Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)  
.3 - Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

**Appendix F**

Salem-Moreno Valley  
(APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010)

Scientific Name <sup>1</sup>	Common Name	Status <sup>2</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur in Study Area (High, Moderate, Low)
<b>Birds</b>				
Scientific Name <sup>1</sup>	Common Name	Status <sup>2</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur in Study Area (High, Moderate, Low)
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-Shinned Hawk	CSC, MSHCP Covered Species	Grasslands, coastal sage scrub	Low. Has potential to occur within study area as a winter migrant.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	Southern California Rufous-Crowned Sparrow	CSC, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Open coastal sage scrub	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	grasshopper sparrow	CSC, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Grasslands with patches of bare ground	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	FBCC, BEPA, CSC, CFP, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Grasslands, trees, cliffs, scrub	Low. Has potential to forage within study area.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing Owl	FSC, FBCC, CSC (Burrow sites) MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Open land, old ground squirrel burrows	Low. Has potential to occur within study area. Potential to nest in study area (i.e. low growing vegetation present).
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous Hawk	FBCC, CSC (wintering), MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Grasslands	Low. Has potential to forage within study area.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	ST, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Forage in adjacent grasslands, suitable grain or alfalfa fields, or in livestock pastures	Low. Has potential to forage within study area.

## Appendix F

Salem-Moreno Valley

(APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010)

Scientific Name <sup>1</sup>	Common Name	Status <sup>2</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur in Study Area (High, Moderate, Low)
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	CSC (nesting), MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species (breeding)	Grasslands, marshes, open habitats	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	White-Tailed Kite	CFP, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Open habitats with perches	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	California Horned Lark	CSC, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Open habitats, bare dirt	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	merlin	WL, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Open forests, grasslands, and especially coastal areas with flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	prairie falcon	WL, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Open grassland habitats	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	FP, MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Forage over extensive areas and can be expected to occur almost anywhere in California during the winter	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	FBCC, CSC (nesting), MBTA, MSHCP Covered Species	Open habitats, scrub	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i>	Lawrence's goldfinch	MBTA	Dry grassy slopes with weed patches, chaparral and open woodlands	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<b>Mammals</b>				
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	CSC	Dry, open grasslands, fields, and pastures	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	Stephens' Kangaroo Rat	ST/FE, MSHCP Covered Species	Grasslands with sparse to no shrub cover	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.

## Appendix F

Salem-Moreno Valley  
 (APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010)

<i>Lepus californica bennettii</i>	San Diego Black- Tailed Jackrabbit	CSC, MSHCP Covered Species	Scrub/grassland interface	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.
<i>Perognathus (Chaetodipus) fallax fallax</i>	Northwestern San Diego Pocket Mouse	CSC, MSHCP Covered Species	Sage scrub, grassland, desert scrub	Low. Has potential to occur within study area.

**Federal Status**

FE = Federal Endangered

FT = Federal Threatened

FBCC= Federal Birds of Conservation Concern

MBTA = Migratory Bird Treaty Act Species

FP=Fully Protected

**State/CDFG Status**

SE = State Endangered

ST = State Threatened

CFP= California Fully Protected Species

CSC = California Species of Concern

CNDDDB = has a California Natural Diversity DataBase ranking only

**County Status**

MSHCP Covered Species = Covered species under County of Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

**Appendix F**

Salem-Moreno Valley

(APN 487-250-005, 487-250-006, 487-250-007, 487-250-010)

## **APPENDIX B**

September 25, 2022

Village at Moreno Valley, LLC  
c/o Maria Ruvalcaba  
10995 Indiana Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92503

RE: Jurisdictional Delineation for the Village at Moreno Valley Project located in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California.

Dear Ms. Ruvalcaba:

At your request, Hernandez Environmental Services has prepared a Jurisdictional Delineation for the Village at Moreno Valley Project (Project). The Project site consists of approximately 9.6 acres comprised of Riverside County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 487-250-005; -006; -007; and 010, located north of Fir Avenue, west of Nason Street, south of Interstate 60 (SR 60) and east of Tulip Road in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California (Figures 1 through 3). Specifically, the site is located within Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 3 West, of the *Sunnymead* California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. The approximate center of the site is located at 33.937003°, -117.192624°.

The Project proposes retail commercial space including restaurants, retail, offices, mixed use food/retail, service station with convenience store, car wash and parking. The proposed Project also includes associated access drives and related appurtenances (Figure 4). Access to the site will be provided via Fir Street. Implementation of the proposed Project will result in impact to approximately 9.3 acres of the Project site.

## Methodology

The Jurisdictional Delineation consisted of a desktop, field, and jurisdictional assessments of the Project area. Prior to conducting fieldwork, the following map resources were reviewed:

- USFWS National Wetland Inventory.
- Google Earth color aerial imagery dating back to 1996
- USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps dating back to 1905
- USGS National Hydrography Dataset Plus

In addition to the previously listed resources that are routinely used as references to support jurisdictional delineations, the WRCMSHCP website was also reviewed and used for reference.



These resources were used to identify potential jurisdictional features based on changes in vegetation, topographic changes, and/or visible drainage patterns. Prior to field surveys, potential features were digitized into a working field map that was then used as a reference during field surveys.

The project area was walked and assessed for riparian vegetation, wetlands, and jurisdictional drainages on September 2, 2022. During the field survey, selected transects were walked a minimum of 100 feet upstream and downstream, noting the presence or absence of fluvial activity, boundaries of geomorphic units, changes in plant species composition between different geomorphic units, photographing points of transition, and mapping the watercourse and watercourse boundaries. The guidelines followed are those established in the 2014 *Mapping Episodic Stream Activity (MESA) Field Guide*. Areas measured were recorded using a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) for accurate location reference, and site photographs were also taken. Refer to Appendix A.

Furthermore, the presence of an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) was recorded. Where the presence of an OHWM was evident, a second measurement was recorded for the width of the OHWM. According to 33 CFR 328.3(e), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines the OHWM as: “on non-tidal rivers, the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by the physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; the presence of litter and debris; or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area”.

Where changes in plant community composition were apparent, the area was examined for the possibility of wetlands. Whether or not adjacent to waters of the United States (WUS), the potential wetland area is evaluated for the presence of the three wetland indicators: hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation. The guidelines followed are those established in the 1987 *Army Corps of Engineers Manual*.

Information from the Jurisdictional Delineation and vegetation mapping from the Biological Habitat Assessment were combined to determine areas qualifying as riparian/riverine based on WRCMSHCP criteria.

## **Results**

### Environmental Setting

The Project site is bordered by State Route 60 (SR 60), Nason Street and Fir Avenue. Nason Street forms the eastern boundary for the project. Fir Avenue forms the southern boundary. The entire Project site has been disturbed by anthropogenic disturbances. Vegetation has been disturbed by adjacent land uses.

Onsite elevations range from 1,755± feet above mean sea level (amsl) in the northeastern portion of the Project site to a low of 1,725± feet amsl in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the site. The Project site consists of gradually sloping land on the eastern and western portions and an elevated area in the center. Onsite slopes are steeply sloping up to Nason Street.

Land immediately adjacent to the site's western and southern boundaries are single family residences. Land to the east is commercial. The land to the north is a disturbed narrow strip of land between the project site and SR 60.

### Hydrology

The hydrology in the Project area has been altered by anthropogenic disturbances. The Project site contains one ephemeral drainage feature that flows through the eastern portion of the Project site. The drainage onsite originates from a culvert outlet from SR 60 which provides flow into a trapezoidal concrete channel, which sheet flows prior to entering the site. The ephemeral drainage is tributary to the San Jacinto River. The Project site falls within the San Jacinto Valley watershed (18070202).

The drainage enters the northern portion of the site as a channel lined with cloth/fabric matting. The channel then narrows and becomes a natural bottom channel before entering a concrete trapezoidal channel. The drainage becomes an earthen channel in the southeastern portion of the site prior to exiting the site through a culvert. The onsite drainage is severely disturbed. The drainage is dominated by disturbed areas and upland habitat with remnant patches of mulefat.

The drainage extends approximately 859 linear feet through the eastern portion of the site and consists of approximately 0.27 acre of ephemeral streambed, including approximately 0.016 acre of associated riparian vegetation. The unnamed drainage is dry most of the year. The onsite ephemeral drainage feature is tributary to the San Jacinto River.

### Soils

Soils data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was used to determine potential soil types that may occur within the Project site. The soil associations mapped on the site are Cieneba sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent, eroded; Fallbrook sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded; Greenfield sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes; Hanford fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Monserate sandy loam, shallow, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded; Ramona sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded; and Vista coarse sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, eroded. Refer to Figure 5.

### Vegetation

The primary vegetation communities in the project area are California Annual Grassland Alliance, *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat) Alliance, *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum* (Brittlebush-

Buckwheat) shrub Alliance, Landscape, Disturbed and developed. One Goodding's Black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and multiple eucalyptus trees are located on the Project site. Refer to Figure 6.

#### *California Annual Grassland Alliance*

The Project site contains approximately 5.112 acres of California annual grassland alliance. This alliance of non-native annual grasslands and forb lands is composed of cool-season, annual grasses mostly introduced from Europe. They are invasive in disturbed areas throughout much of California. The composition varies widely. Many alien annual species may be present, including *Avena fatua*, *Brassica spp.*, *Bromus diandrus*, *Bromus hordeaceus* and *Bromus madritensis*. The composition of this alliance is largely determined by amount of disturbance coupled with fall temperatures and precipitation, light intensity, litter thickness and micro topography. The percentage of exotic alien species is often directly related to disturbance history with heavy disturbance correlating with heavy exotic invasion. Annual grasses are supremely adapted to the Mediterranean climate of California; many species evolved under similar conditions in southern Europe and northern Africa. Plants germinate during winter rains, and complete their life cycles by the beginning of the summer drought. Seeds often remain viable for many years.

#### *Baccharis salicifolia (Mulefat) Alliance*

The Project site contains approximately 0.149 acre of mulefat alliance. Mulefat scrub is dominated by mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), but also may include willows (*Salix spp.*), sedges (*Carex spp.*) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

#### *Encelia farinosa-Eriogonum fasciculatum (Brittlebush-Buckwheat) shrub Alliance*

The Project site contains approximately 0.916 acre of brittlebush-buckwheat shrub alliance. This series is considered part of the coastal scrub, which is better thought of as a collection of series. This approach allows stands of composition, which can be considered, regardless of geographic location. This series has Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) as the semi-dominant plant species. This community is found on the slopes of the project area.

#### *Landscape*

The Project site contains approximately 0.399 acre of landscape/non-native trees. Non-native trees on the project site include Pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).

#### *Disturbed/Developed*

The Project site contains approximately 2.717 acres of disturbed and developed areas. Disturbed areas are characterized by predominantly non-native species introduced and established through human action. Disturbed or barren areas are areas that either completely lack vegetation or have a predominance of non-native species.

#### California Department of Fish and Wildlife Jurisdiction

The Project site contains approximately 0.27-acre (859 linear feet) of ephemeral streambed, including approximately 0.016-acre of associated riparian vegetation consisting of remnant mulefat scrub (Figure 7). The onsite drainage feature is severely disturbed and appears to be dry most of the year. Onsite flows originate from an offsite culvert beneath SR 60 to the north. The drainage exits the site via a culvert at the southern site boundary and eventually flows to the San Jacinto River. The drainage feature and associated riparian habitat are jurisdictional under Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code.

Implementation of the Project as proposed will impact the entire 0.27-acre of onsite CDFW jurisdictional drainage and associated habitat under Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code. The proposed impacts to CDFW jurisdiction will require the submittal of a Notification for a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW.

#### Waters of the United States

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Under Section 404 of the CWA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into WUS, including wetlands. Section 404 requires a permit from the USACE or authorized state for the discharge of dredged or fill material into WUS, including wetlands.

For purposes of Section 404 of the CWA, the lateral limits of jurisdiction over non-tidal WUS extend to the OHWM, in the absence of adjacent wetlands.

According to the EPA and USACE, “wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.” Water saturation (hydrology) largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants (hydrophytes) and promote the development of characteristic wetland (hydric) soils. The EPA and the Corps use the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and Regional Supplements to define wetlands for the CWA Section 404 permit program. To qualify for wetlands

status, vegetation, soils, and hydrologic parameters must all be met. There are no areas on site that meet the qualifications for wetlands status.

The onsite 0.27 acre (859 linear feet) of ephemeral stream is considered non-wetland Waters of the United States (WUS) which is regulated by Section 404 of the CWA (Figure 8). The onsite ephemeral stream is an unnamed tributary to the San Jacinto River, which flows to Lake Elsinore and ultimately into the Pacific Ocean.

Implementation of the Project as proposed will impact the entire 0.27-acre of onsite WUS regulated by Section 404 of the CWA. The proposed impacts to onsite WUS will require the application for a 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE.

### Waters of the State

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) (collectively Water Boards) have the authority to regulate discharges of dredged or fill material to WUS and waters of the state under Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne), respectively. CWA Section 401 water quality certifications are issued to applicants for a federal license or permit for activities that may result in a discharge into WUS, including but not limited to the discharge or dredged or fill material. Waste discharge requirements (WDR) under Porter-Cologne are issued for discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the state. The Water Code defines waters of the State broadly to include “any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.” The onsite 0.27 acre (859 linear feet) of ephemeral stream would be regulated under Section 401 of the CWA (Figure 8).

Implementation of the Project as proposed will impact the entire 0.27-acre of onsite ephemeral drainage regulated by the RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA. The proposed impacts to onsite WUS will require the application for a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Santa Ana RWQCB.

### Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool

The identification of riparian/riverine resources is based on potential for the habitat to support riparian/riverine covered species, which are identified in Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRCMSHCP) Section 6.1.2. The Project site contains approximately 0.27-acre (859 linear feet) of ephemeral streambed, including approximately 0.016-acre of associated riparian vegetation consisting of remnant mulefat scrub. The onsite drainage and associated riparian vegetation are considered WRCMSHCP riparian/riverine resources (Figure 7).

Implementation of the proposed project will result in impacts to approximately 0.27-acre of WRCMSHCP riparian/riverine resources. The project will be required to prepare a Determination

of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) for impacts to 0.27 acre of riparian/riverine resources and comply with the WRCMSHCP.

### **Summary of Findings**

WUS, waters of the State, and CDFW jurisdiction are regulated by federal and state governments under a no-net-loss policy, and all impacts are considered significant and should be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Impacts to jurisdictional waters require mitigation through habitat creation, restoration, or enhancement as determined by consultation with the regulatory agencies during the permitting process.

The Project site contains approximately 0.27-acre (859 linear feet) of ephemeral streambed, including approximately 0.016-acre of associated riparian vegetation consisting of remnant mulefat scrub. The drainage feature and associated riparian habitat are jurisdictional under Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code. In addition, the onsite 0.27 acre of ephemeral stream is considered non-wetland Waters of the United States (WUS) which is regulated by Sections 401 and 404 of the CWA


Implementation of the project as proposed will impact approximately 0.27-acre of CDFW jurisdictional drainage and associated habitat under Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code. Further, the project will impact 0.27-acre of WUS regulated by the USACE and RWQCB under Sections 404 and 401 of the CWA. The project will require a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW, a 404 Nationwide Permit from USACE, and a 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB.

The Project site also contains approximately 0.27-acre of ephemeral streambed, including approximately 0.016-acre of associated riparian vegetation consisting of remnant mulefat scrub that are considered WRCMSHCP riparian/riverine resources. The project will be required to prepare a DBESP for impacts to 0.27 acre of riparian/riverine resources and comply with the WRCMSHCP.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: September 25, 2022

Signed:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn Gatchel-Hernandez

## Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Regional Map

Figure 2 – USGS Topographic Map

Figure 3 – Aerial Photograph

Figure 4 – Site Plan

Figure 5 – Soils Map

Figure 6 – Vegetation Map

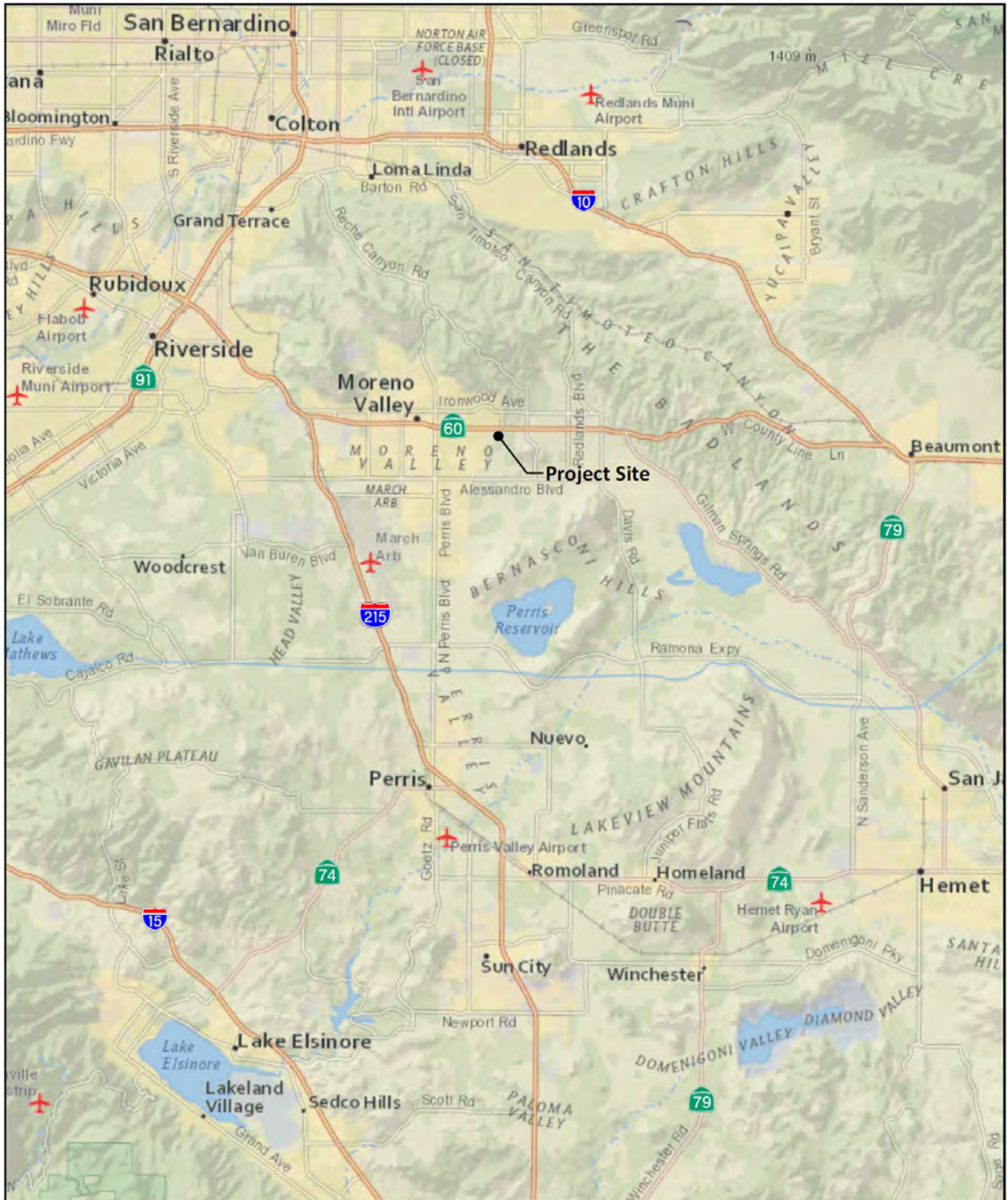
Figure 7 – CDFW Jurisdiction and Riparian/Riverine Resources Map

Figure 8 – Waters of the U.S. Map

Appendix A: Site Photographs

# FIGURES



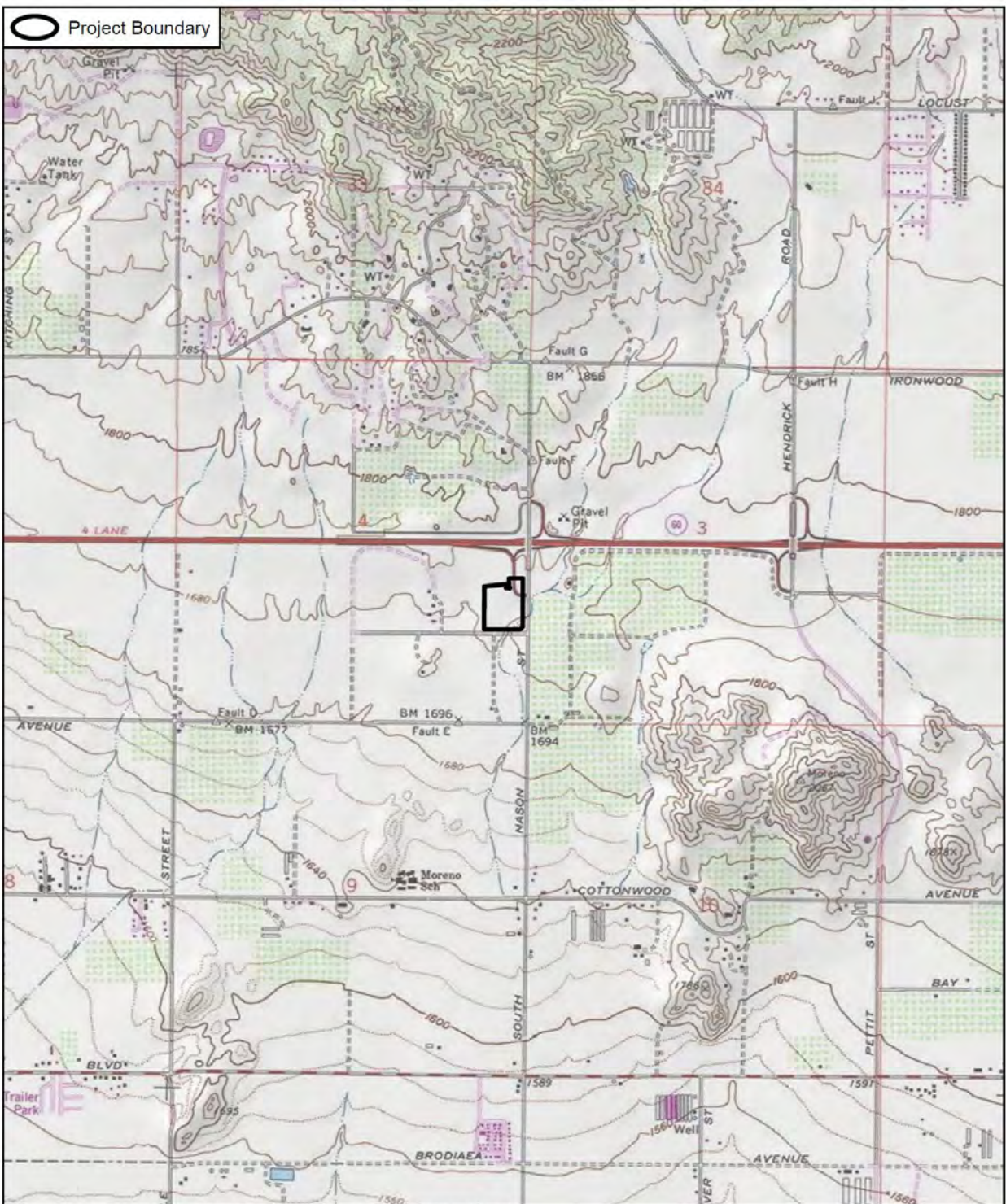


Source: National Geographic

**FIGURE 1** Regional Map

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





Source: USGS 7.5' Quadrangle (Sunnymead), Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

**USGS Topo**

**FIGURE 2**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY



Gonzales Environmental Consulting, LLC

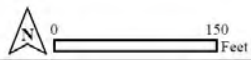


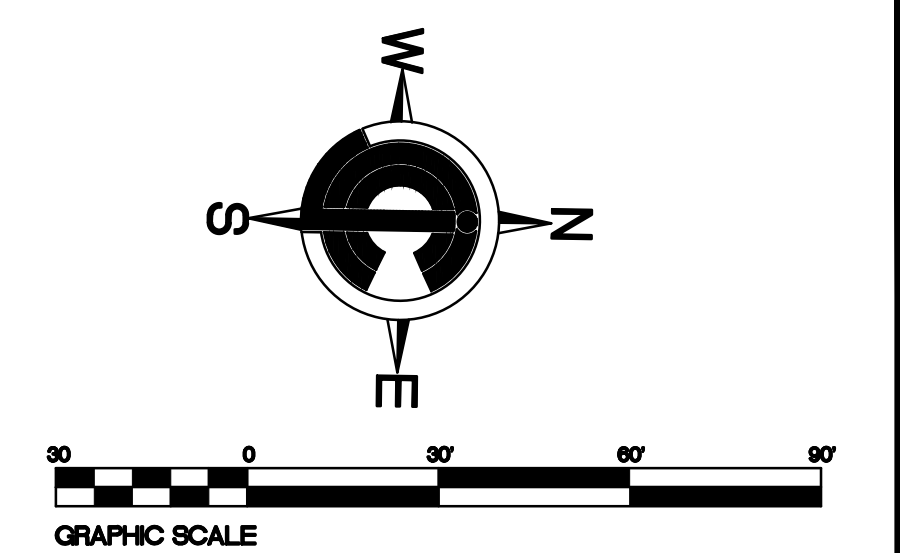
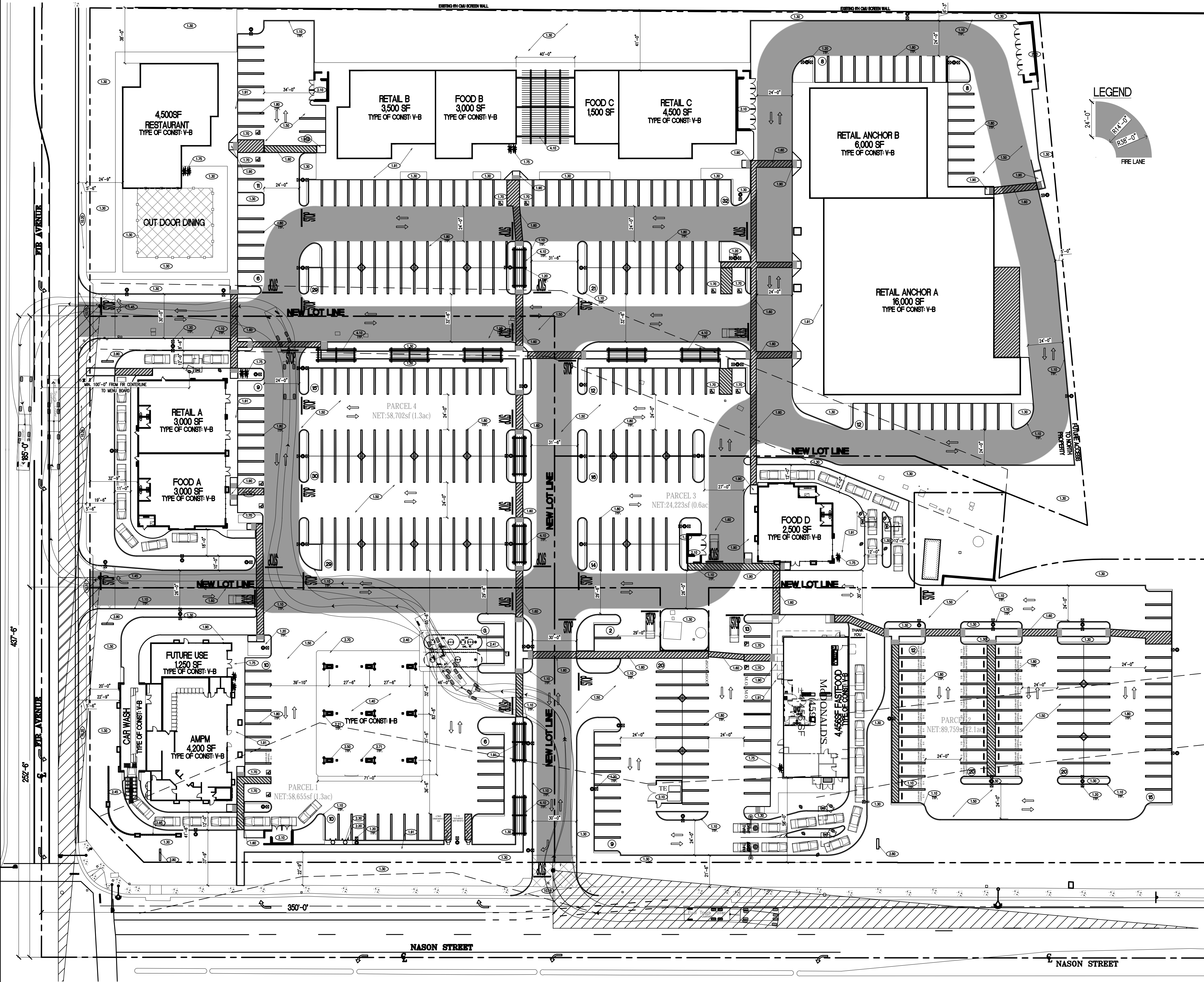
Aerial Photo: Nearthmap 2020

**FIGURE 3**

**Aerial Photograph**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

- 1.10 6" CONCRETE CURB
- 1.20 20" LED AREA LIGHT WITH PHOTO-CELL AND TIME CLOCK SWITCHING PER "CALGREEN" AND TITLE 24 REQUIREMENTS. HOOD AND ARRANGE SO AS NOT TO CAUSE A NUISANCE TO ADJACENT STREET TRAFFIC OR TO LIVING ENVIRONMENT. THE AMOUNT OF LIGHT THAT SHALL BE PROVIDED SHALL BE PER THE PUBLIC WORKS STANDARDS AND CALGREEN
- 1.30 LANDSCAPING WITH AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION
- 1.40 6" CONCRETE DRIVE SLAB WITH #3 BARS @ 18" O.C. OR AS SPECIFIED IN SOILS REPORT IF AVAILABLE.
- 1.45 COLORED CONCRETE WITH 8X8 SCORE LINES
- 1.50 6" OVER 4" AB. ASPHALT PAVING OR AS SPECIFIED IN SOILS REPORT IF AVAILABLE.
- 1.60 HANDICAP PATH OF TRAVEL (MIN. 48" WIDE AND SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 2% EACH WAY)
- 1.70 HANDICAP PARKING SPACE WITH ALL RELATED SIGNAGE (SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 2% E.W.)
- 1.75 BICYCLE PARKING PER CAL GREEN CODE
- 1.80 9'X18' STANDARD PARKING SPACES
- 1.90 CONCRETE HANDICAP RAMP (SLOPE 8.33%)
- 1.91 CONCRETE SIDEWALK (MIN. 48" WIDE WITH 2% CROSS SLOPE WHERE HANDICAP PATH OF TRAVEL OCCURS)
- 2.10 TRASH ENCLOSURE PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD
- 2.20 6" CONCRETE FILLED STEEL GUARD POSTS
- 2.21 U-SHAPE STEEL GUARD POSTS
- 2.30 AIR/WATER AND VACUUM UNIT
- 2.35 ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION
- 2.40 UNDER GROUND STORAGE TANKS (2) 20,000 GALLON AND (1) 30,000 GALLON UNDER REINFORCED CONCRETE SLAB
- 2.41 TANK VENT RISERS CARBON CANISTER
- 2.45 3,000 GALLON CAR WASH CLARIFIER
- 2.50 CONCRETE ISLAND W/ (1) MULTI PRODUCT DISPENSER (6" MIN. & 8" MAX. HEIGHT)
- 2.70 FUELING CANOPY
- 2.71 FUELING CANOPY COLUMNS
- 2.80 ID SIGNAGE
- 2.85 36" STUCCO FINISH SCREEN WALL
- 2.90 ELECTRICAL PANELS
- 3.10 ADA PARKING LOT ENTRY SIGN PER CHAPTER 11B OF CBC
- 4.10 TRELLIS ROOF SHADE
- 10.10 CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD
- 10.20 CONCRETE SIDEWALK PER CITY OF MORENO VALLEY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD

**SITE PLAN & PARKING SUMMARY**

BUILDING NO.	SIZE	USE	RATIO	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
C-STORE BUILDING	5,450 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	25	25
CAR WASH	1,600 S.F.	SERVICE	1/BAY	1	4
RETAIL - A	3,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	14	40
FOOD - A	3,000 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	30	43
RESTAURANT BLDG.	4,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	45	40
FOOD - B	3,000 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	30	27
RETAIL - B	3,500 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	16	10
FOOD - C	1,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	15	12
RETAIL - C	4,500 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	20	16
RETAIL ANCHOR - A	16,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	71	61
RETAIL ANCHOR - B	6,000 S.F.	RETAIL	1/225	27	24
FOOD - D	2,500 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	25	22
FASTFOOD BUILDING	4,456 S.F.	FOOD	1/100	45	95
<b>TOTAL BUILDING S.F.</b>	<b>74,206 S.F.</b>			<b>364</b>	<b>422</b>

TOTAL PARKING PROVIDED: 422 PARKING SPACES  
 SITE IS OVER PARKED BY: 56 PARKING SPACES  
 HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES REQUIRED: 422 SPACES- 9 REQUIRED PER CODE. PROVIDED 14 SPACES

**SITE PLAN**

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

PE STAMP

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP.
5	12/18/22	REVISED PER CITY COMMENTS		
6	03/01/23	REV. LOCATION OF FOOD A MENU BOARD		
7	07/02/23	REV. WESTERLY TO BAF		
8	07/07/23	REV. PER CITY COMMENTS		
9	08/19/23	REV. NASON GEOMETRIC PER EXH.		

**CJC Design, Inc.**  
 Design Planning Permitting  
 22485 La Palma Avenue, Suite 202, Torrance, CA 90505  
 Tel: (714) 929-8653  
 Fax: (714) 917-0250  
 www.cjcorp.com

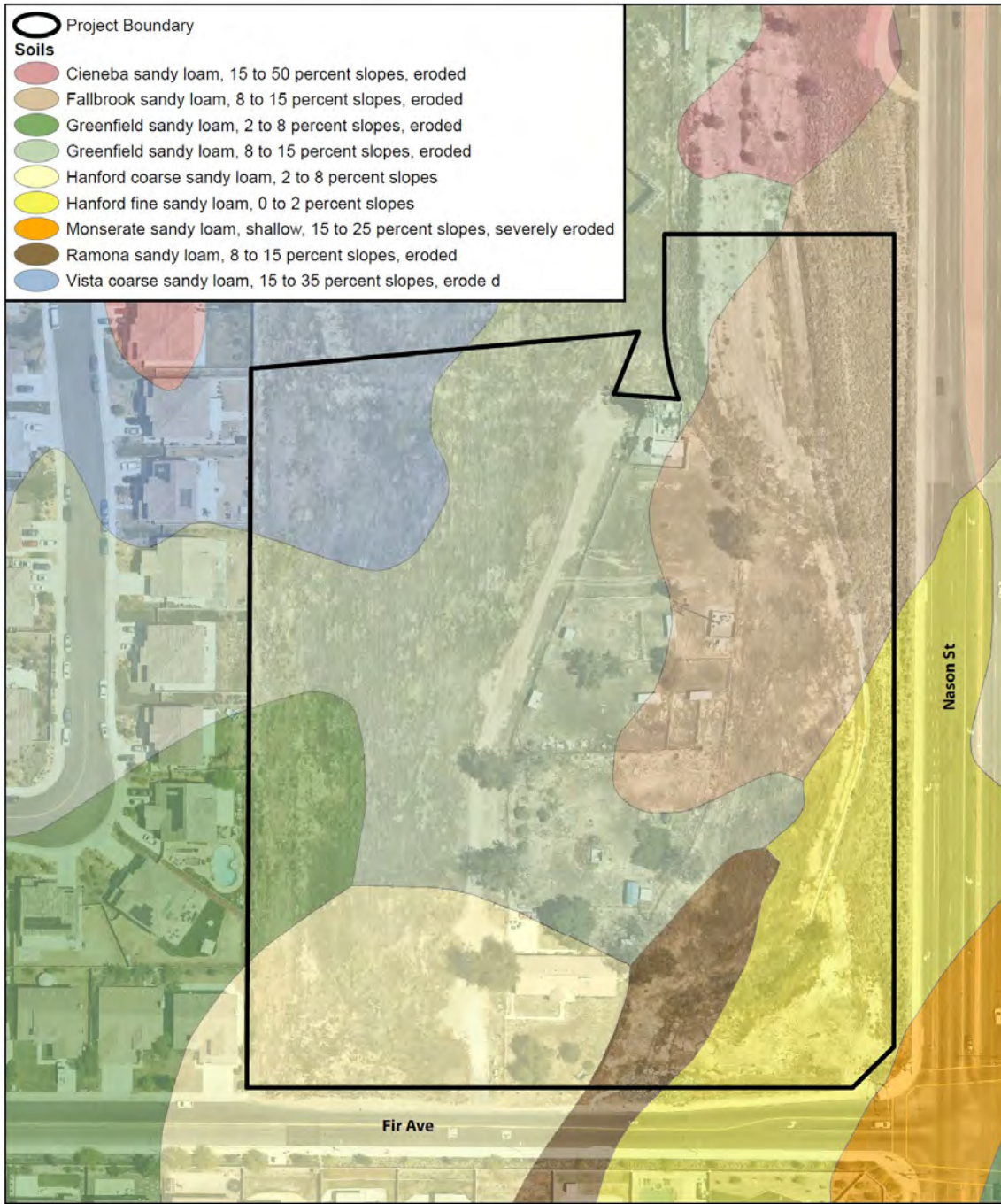
**REVISIONS**

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP.
5	12/18/22	REVISED PER CITY COMMENTS		
6	03/01/23	REV. LOCATION OF FOOD A MENU BOARD		
7	07/02/23	REV. WESTERLY TO BAF		
8	07/07/23	REV. PER CITY COMMENTS		
9	08/19/23	REV. NASON GEOMETRIC PER EXH.		

**MORENO Valley Center**

**PROJECT:**  
 N.W. COR. NASON ST. @ FIR AVENUE  
 MORENO VALLEY, CA.  
 OVERALL SITE PLAN

DATE ISSUED: 02/04/2022  
 SCALE:  
 DRAWN BY: F. COHEN  
 CHECKED BY: F. COHEN  
 PROJECT NUMBER: 17098  
 STORE NUMBER: RIVERSIDE HOLDING  
 SHEET: C.10

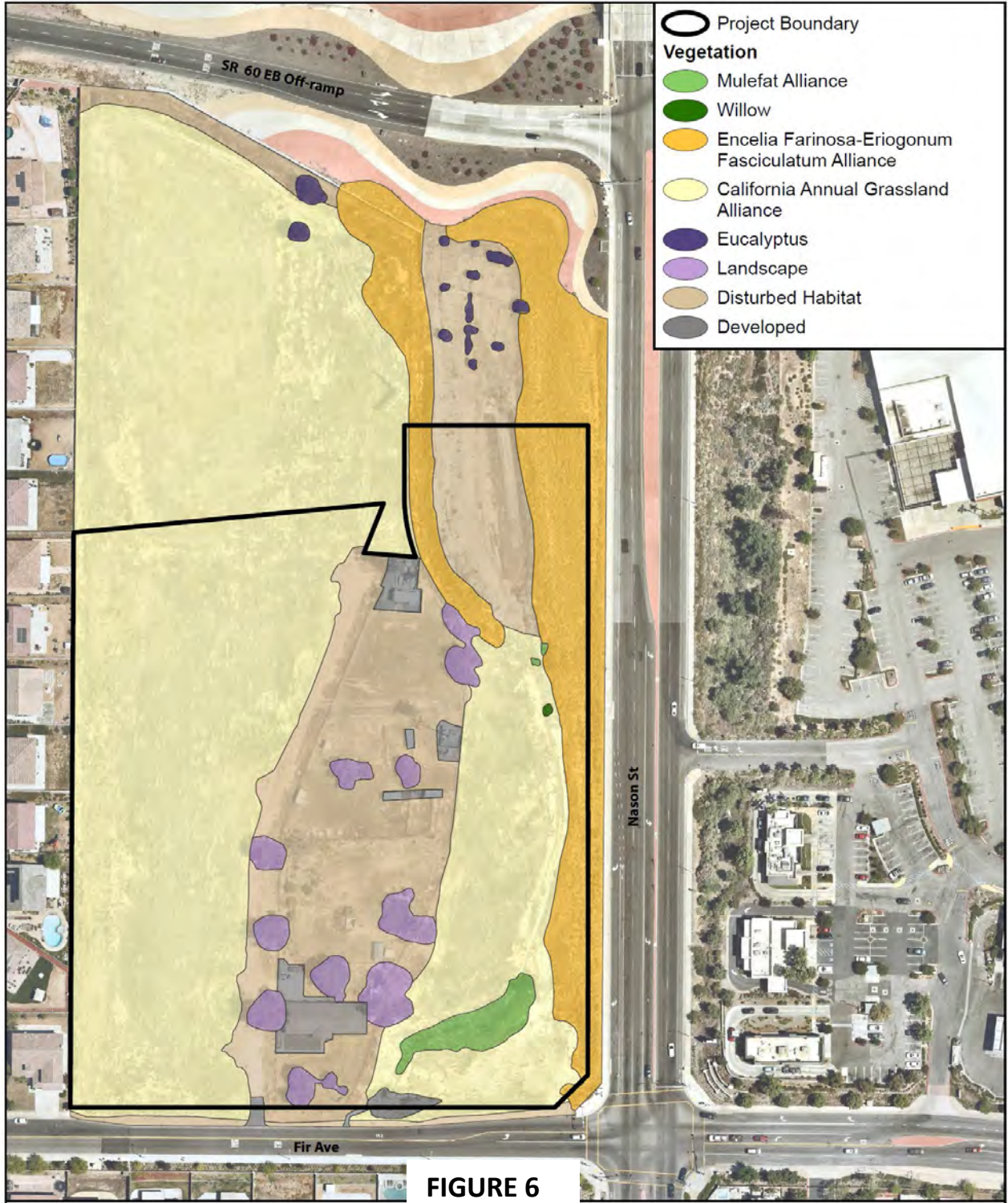


**FIGURE 5**

**Soils**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY





**FIGURE 6**

**Vegetation**

SALEM MORENO VALLEY




Aerial Photo: Nearthmap 2020





**Figure 7**  
 CDFW Jurisdiction & Riparian/Riverine Resources Map  
 Village at Moreno Valley  
 City of Moreno Valley  
 Riverside County, California

**Legend**



-  Project Site Boundary
-  Ephemeral Stream (0.27 Acre)
-  Remnant Muelfat Scrub Riparian Habitat (0.016 Acre)





**Figure 8**  
 Waters of the U.S. Map  
 Village at Moreno Valley  
 City of Moreno Valley  
 Riverside County, California

**Legend**

-  Project Site Boundary
-  Ephemeral Stream (0.27 Acre)

N  
  Hernandez  
 Environmental  
 Services



# **APPENDIX A**



Aerial Source: Nearmap 2019

**Figure 1: Picture Locations**

HOBBS-MORENO VALLEY TTM 37858





Picture 1  
View North



Picture 2  
View West



Picture 3  
View East



Picture 4  
View West



Picture 5  
View North



Picture 6  
View East





Picture 7  
View South