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LEI-01

Mr. James Leising
Leising Builders
1260 Via Vista
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Subject: Biological Resources Letter Report for Ridge Creek Drive

TM 5469 ER 05-02-043

Dear Mr. Leising:

HELIX Environmental Planning Inc. (HELIX) has completed a biological analysis of the proposed Ridge Creek Drive property (project) on approximately 33 acres in northern San Diego County. This analysis provides the project applicant, County of San Diego (County), resource agencies, and the public with current biological data to satisfy the review of the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other federal, state, and County regulations.

INTRODUCTION

The proposed project is a rural residential subdivision located within a former strawberry nursery. Since farming ceased, the majority of the property has been subject to periodic discing. The proposed project consists of 14 residential estates on minimum 2-acre lots, associated internal roads and utilities, and biological open space. Access would be from Ridge Creek Drive in the northwest portion of the site. The proposed project will also make improvements to Ridge Creek Drive.

The project site lies southeast of Fallbrook in an unincorporated portion of San Diego County (Figure 1) at the end of Ridge Creek Drive approximately 0.75 mile south of East Mission Road and approximately 1 mile north of Reche Road (Figure 2). The site is located approximately 5 miles north of the San Luis Rey River within Section 21, Township 9 South, Range 3 West on the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute Temecula quadrangle (Figure 2).

METHODS

In addition to conducting biological field surveys, HELIX performed a review of existing literature, including searches of the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG's) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) and California Native Plant Society's (CNPS's) online database for information regarding sensitive species reported in the project vicinity.



Table 1 EXISTING VEGETATION COMMUNITIES	
HABITAT*	ACRE(S)
Wetlands	
Freshwater marsh (52400)	0.01
Mule fat scrub (63310)	0.03
Uplands	
Coast live oak woodland (including disturbed; 71160)	1.31
Diegan coastal sage scrub (32500)	3.67
Eucalyptus woodland (11100)	0.19
Non-native vegetation (11000)	0.04
Disturbed habitat (11300)	25.87
Developed (12000)	1.84
TOTAL	32.96

*Vegetation community codes are from Holland (1986) and Oberbauer (1996)

Freshwater Marsh

Coastal and valley freshwater marsh is dominated by perennial, emergent monocots which reach a height between 12 and 15 feet, often forming completely closed canopies. This vegetation type occurs along the coast and in coastal valleys near river mouths and around the margins of lakes and springs. These areas are permanently flooded by fresh water yet lack a significant current (Holland 1986). Characteristic species include cattails (*Typha* sp.), spike-sedge (*Eleocharis* sp.), rush (*Juncus* sp. and *Scirpus* sp.), and umbrella sedge (*Cyperus* sp.). A total of 0.01 acre of freshwater marsh occurs in a drainage in the northwest area of the site to the north of Ridge Creek Drive.

Mule Fat Scrub

Mule fat scrub is a depauperate, tall, herbaceous riparian scrub community dominated by mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and interspersed with shrubby willows (*Salix* spp.). This habitat occurs along intermittent stream channels with a fairly coarse substrate and moderate depth to the water table. This early seral community is maintained by frequent flooding, the absence of which would lead to a cottonwood or sycamore dominated riparian woodland or forest (Holland 1986).

Species in this vegetation community within the site include mule fat and one willow tree. A total of 0.03 acre of mule fat scrub occurs within the eastern drainage in the southeast corner of the site.



common species being either the blue gum (*E. gunnii*) or red gum (*E. camaldulensis* ssp. *obtusata*). The understory within well-established groves is usually very sparse due to the closed canopy and allelopathic nature of the abundant leaf and bark litter. If sufficient moisture is available, this species becomes naturalized and is able to reproduce and expand its range. The sparse understory offers only limited wildlife habitat; however, as a wildlife habitat, these woodlands provide excellent nesting sites for a variety of raptors, including red-shouldered hawks (*Buteo lineatus*). During winter migrations, a large variety of warblers may be found feeding on the insects that are attracted to the eucalyptus flowers. Eucalyptus trees with active raptor nests are considered sensitive. On site, eucalyptus woodland covers approximately 0.2 acre and occurs adjacent to the eastern drainage.

Non-native Vegetation

Non-native vegetation includes areas of cultivated or landscaping plants that have either naturalized into otherwise native habitat areas or are remnant of previous cultivated land uses. Such plants occur without supplemental irrigation and may spread, supplanting native plant species. Non-native vegetation on site consists of a Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) occupying less than 0.1 acre along a drainage near the eastern property boundary.

Disturbed Habitat

Disturbed habitat consists of lands previously and permanently altered by legal human activity and that offer little or no biological value for native species. Such areas generally include dirt roads, graded areas, and legal dump sites where few native or naturalized species remain. The majority of the project site is classified as disturbed habitat and totals approximately 25.9 acres. Disturbed habitat on site includes the disced field, as well as portions of the eastern drainage, at its northern extent on site. These areas are unvegetated and characterized by exposed soil. Trash and strawberry farming debris (i.e., irrigation pipe and plastic sheeting) have been previously dumped in the northern end of the eastern canyon.

Developed

Lands classified as developed are areas clearly altered, tended, and maintained. Developed land includes areas with permanent structures where land is kept cleared or landscaped, or where septic systems are present. Developed areas support no native vegetation and contain manmade structures or paved areas. Within the project site, developed lands cover approximately 1.8 acres and include several man-made structures in the northern and central areas of the property and a portion of Ridge Creek Drive in the northwest corner of the property.



Animal Species

Animal species detected on site during surveys are listed in Attachment C. Three sensitive animal species detected on site (orange-throated whiptail lizard, red-shouldered hawk, and turkey vulture) are described in more detail, below.

Orange-throated whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*)

Listing: --/CSC, MSCP Covered

Distribution: Southern Orange County and southern San Bernardino County, south through Baja

Habitat: Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, edges of riparian woodlands, and washes. Also found in weedy, disturbed areas adjacent to these habitats. Important habitat requirements include open, sunny areas, shaded areas, and abundant insect prey base, particularly termites (*Reticulitermes* sp.).

Status on site: Observed in 2002 at the upper end of the fork in the eastern drainage on site; not observed in 2006

Red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

Listing: --/--

Distribution: Throughout the coastal slope in San Diego County

Habitat: Riparian woodland, oak woodland, orchards, eucalyptus groves, or other areas with tall trees

Status on site: Observed on site in 2006 utilizing the eucalyptus trees and coast live oak trees for perching. May use the trees on or adjacent to the site for nesting.

Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Listing: --/--

Distribution: Observed throughout San Diego County with the exception of extreme coastal San Diego where development is heaviest

Habitat: Foraging habitat includes most open habitats with breeding occurring in crevices among boulders

Status on site: Observed flying over the site in 2006. Unlikely that site is used for nesting, but species may use site for foraging.

Additional sensitive animal species with potential to occur on site are included in Attachment D. A listing and explanation of status and sensitivity codes for both plant and animal species can be found in Attachment E.

The federally listed threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) has low potential to occur on site. The strip of Diegan coastal sage scrub that lines a canyon in association with the eastern drainage on site is considered low quality for supporting the gnatcatcher. Several patches of sage scrub also occur on site, but they are too small and isolated to support the gnatcatcher.



California Department of Fish and Game

The CDFG is responsible for issuing permits for impacts to state listed plant and animal species under Section 2081 of the California ESA. No state listed plants or animal species were detected on site, so no Section 2081 permit will be required.

The CDFG is also responsible for issuing permits for impacts to state jurisdictional wetlands and wetland habitats. CDFG jurisdictional areas include both Corps jurisdictional areas and other areas with riparian vegetation that do not meet all three federal jurisdictional wetland criteria. Any impacts to CDFG jurisdictional areas will require a Streambed/Lake Alteration Agreement permit under California Fish and Game Code Section 1602. As currently designed, no impacts would occur to habitat that potentially could be under CDFG jurisdiction.

Natural Community Conservation Planning Program

California's NCCP program focuses largely on conserving large areas of coastal sage scrub and the habitat linking those areas. The County is preparing a regional conservation plan for northern San Diego County, the North County MSCP Subarea Plan, but it has not been adopted. Therefore, any take of coastal sage scrub would be granted under the FESA Section 4(d) process with findings of conformance with the NCCP Guidelines (CDFG 1997). The project will impact approximately 1 acre of coastal sage scrub, so 4(d) findings will be required.

North County Multiple Species Conservation Program

The project is located within the North County MSCP Planning area, which is currently being developed. According to the Draft Subarea Plan map (County 2003), potential Pre-approved Mitigation Areas (PAMA) occur approximately one mile north and one mile east of the site. In the project vicinity, the PAMA appears to be mapped as a 3,500-foot wide north-south corridor east of Interstate 15 (east of the site) and a 7,000- to 15,000-foot wide east-west corridor that includes the Santa Margarita River and Santa Margarita Mountains (north of the site).

Resource Protection Ordinance

The County RPO (County 1991) is the governing local ordinance over biological resources in this part of the County. RPO restricts to varying degrees impacts to various natural resources, including wetlands, wetland buffers, floodplains, steep slopes, sensitive habitat lands, and historical sites. The project avoids impacts to the RPO wetlands that occur in the eastern drainage and the northwestern drainage and provides a minimum 50-foot wide buffer around each of the RPO Wetland areas per RPO requirements (Figure 4).



Project development would avoid approximately 2.7 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub on the property, which would be placed in a biological open space easement. This area of Diegan coastal sage scrub represents the upper portion of a canyon that extends to the south of the project and includes a drainage that ultimately drains into the San Luis Rey River (Figure 5). Approximately 0.8 acre of coast live oak woodland (including disturbed) will be avoided and placed in the open space easements on site. The coast live oak woodland in the northwest portion of the site represents a small area of oak-lined drainage that extends off site to the north and south and joins the drainage identified above (Figure 5). The connection of these biological open space areas to sensitive off-site resources will help maintain the riparian corridors complex within the Fallbrook area. Moreover, the open space would be offset from the proposed development area by a 100-foot limited building zone that would preclude construction of any structures (habitable or otherwise) but would allow fire clearing. As a result, the limited building zone would effectively serve to prevent future fire clearing impacts within the biological open space.

Sensitive Plant or Animal Species

No sensitive plant or animal species would be directly impacted by the proposed project.

The location of the orange-throated whiptail lizard noted in 2002 is presently in the active discing area of the site. No orange-throated whiptail lizards were noted during the 2006 survey. If present on site, the species will be using the Diegan coastal sage scrub or the disturbed coast live oak woodland along the eastern boundary, which will be placed in an open space easement.

Wildlife Corridors

Habitat connected to open space or preservation areas may function as a wildlife corridor, which may be either local or regional in scale. Corridors represent areas where wildlife movement is concentrated due to natural or artificial constraints. Local corridors (such as hillsides and tributary drainages) provide access to resources such as food, water, and shelter. Animals can use these corridors to travel among different habitats (i.e., riparian and upland habitats), which they may use at different points throughout their life history. Regional corridors link two or more large areas of open space and provide avenues for movement, dispersal, migration, and contact between otherwise distinct animal populations.

The site is not part of a PAMA under the proposed North County MSCP Subarea Plan Map (County 2005). The development area lies within a former strawberry field and is currently subjected to repeated discing. The drainage that crosses the northwest portion of the site is intermittent and supports coast live oak (including disturbed), freshwater marsh, and disturbed habitat. The drainage in the eastern portion of the site is ephemeral and supports Diegan coastal sage scrub, mule fat



not shine onto the biological open space easements. As a result, night lighting is not anticipated to cause a significant impact to wildlife in the project vicinity.

Runoff and Water Quality

Increased runoff during construction and later (through landscape irrigation of the residential development) could be a significant impact if it results in increased erosion, sedimentation, or pollution of any downstream wetlands or streambeds. The use of fuels, oils, lubricants, or fertilizers could potentially result in contaminated surface water and adverse effects on the plants and animals that depend on the water. To prevent potentially significant indirect impacts due to runoff, the project would have conform to applicable requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for both construction and post-construction runoff, which include construction Best Management Practices implemented as part of the County-required Stormwater Management Plan. As a result, significant impacts to water quality will be avoided.

Non-native Plants

Non-native plants are known to colonize sites disturbed by construction, potentially spreading into adjacent native habitats, especially following a disturbance such as fire. Such non-native plants are typically invasive and can displace native vegetation reducing native species diversity, potentially increase flammability and fire frequency, change ground and surface water levels, and potentially adversely affect native wildlife that is dependent on the native plant species. The proposed lots on the east side of the site will be adjacent to native coastal sage scrub habitat. Invasive plant species (particularly oats and ripgut grass) are present (but not abundant) on site. Further colonization by non-native plant species in non-impact areas and potential degradation of open space for use by native species would be considered a significant impact on site unless mitigation measures are implemented.

Nuisance Animals

Domestic pets (particularly cats) may be effective predators on native mammals and birds, and brown-headed cowbirds are known nest predators that severely reduce breeding success of native bird species. The proposed addition of 14 residential estate lots within the existing disced field would likely include introduction of a number of domestic pets. These impacts would be considered significant if adjacent preserved sensitive areas are likely to be degraded and unless measures to control these activities are applied.

Human Activity

Increases in human activity in undeveloped areas could result in degradation of sensitive vegetation by further fragmenting habitat and increasing habitat edge by removal of vegetation and creation of trails. Such trails often lead to illegal



Impacts to approximately 0.3 acre of disturbed coast live oak woodland would be considered significant and would require mitigation on site at a 3:1 ratio. The project will preserve 0.8 acre of coast live oak woodland (including disturbed) within the proposed biological open space easement, 0.1 acre less than the amount required for mitigation. The remaining 0.1 acre of coast live oak woodland required for mitigation will be obtained through the purchase of a 0.1-acre credit at Daley Ranch Conservation Bank in Escondido, which offers mitigation credits for a variety of habitats, including coast live oak woodlands.

The majority of the impacts to Diegan coastal sage scrub are to small, isolated patches of sage scrub that will be mitigated with on-site preservation at a 2:1 ratio. As mentioned above, the Diegan coastal sage scrub is not considered to have high potential value for long-term conservation. It does occur in close proximity to sage scrub that occurs along the eastern drainage on site. Therefore, it is considered to have intermediate potential value for long-term conservation. Approximately 2.1 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub will be counted towards mitigation for impacts to sage scrub, 0.3 acre more than required for mitigation.

Eucalyptus woodland, non-native vegetation, disturbed habitat, and developed lands are not considered sensitive habitat lands, so impacts to these areas do not require mitigation. As mentioned above, eucalyptus woodland may provide nesting habitat for raptors. Construction avoidance during raptor breeding season is recommended to preclude any impacts to these birds. However, if avoidance is not possible, surveys for raptor nests by a qualified biologist should be conducted to determine presence or absence of nesting raptors.

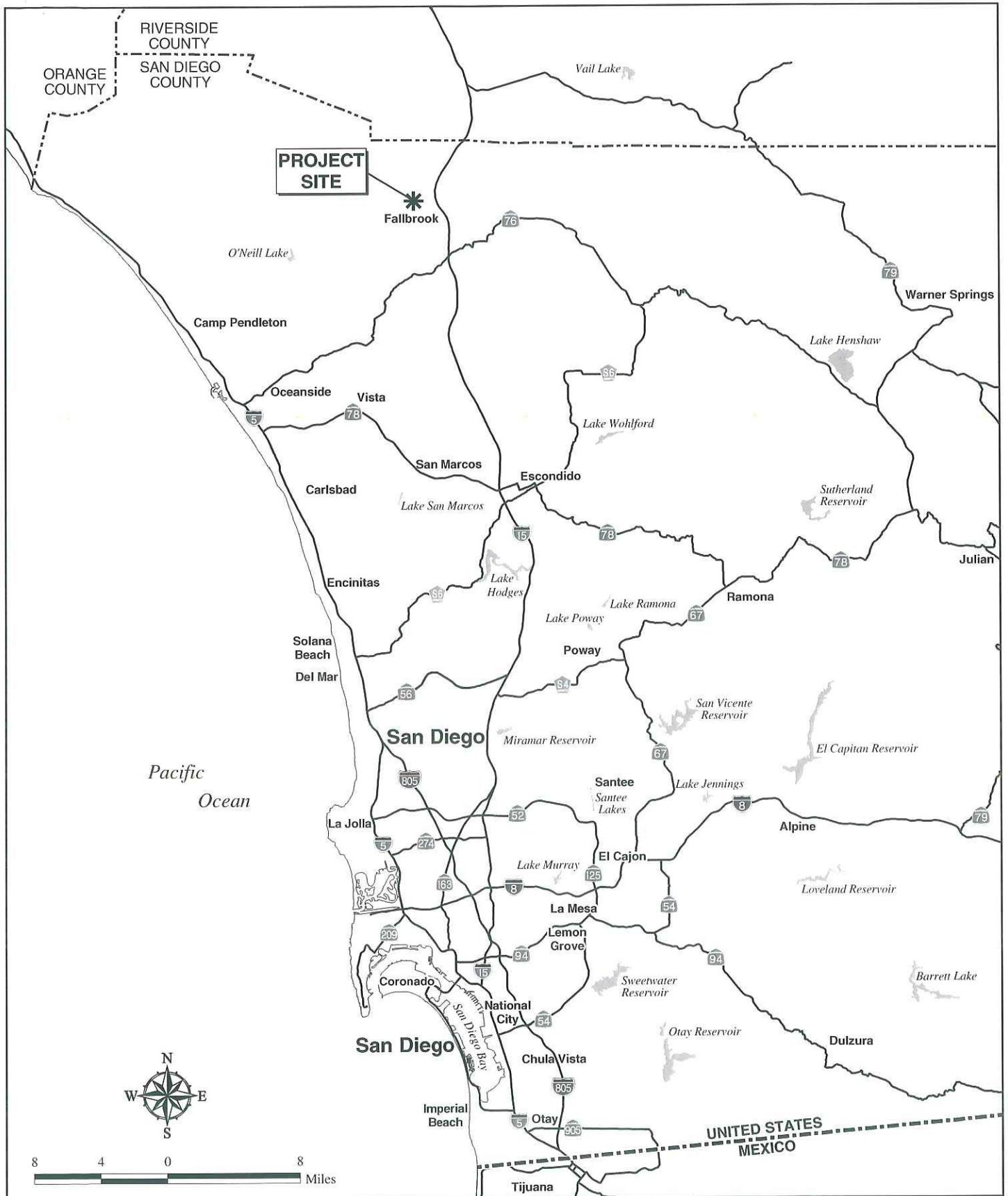
The following measures would be implemented to reduce project impacts to below a level of significance:

- Open space easements located in the northwestern corner of the site and along the eastern boundary of the site would preserve approximately 4.1 acres of habitat, including less than 0.1 acre of mule fat scrub, 0.8 acre of coast live oak woodland (including disturbed), 2.7 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub, 0.1 acre of eucalyptus woodland, less than 0.1 acre of non-native vegetation, and approximately 0.4 acre of disturbed habitat (Figure 4). To ensure that future changes to the brush management requirements would not result in impacts within the open space, the County requires a limited building zone such that no construction of habitable structures may occur within 100 feet of the open space. The proposed project includes a 100-foot Limited Building Zone extending from the biological open space (Figure 4);
- Mitigation for impacts to 0.9 acre of Diegan coastal sage scrub will be mitigated at a 2:1 ratio through the on-site preservation of 2.1 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub, 0.3 acre more than the amount required;



REFERENCES

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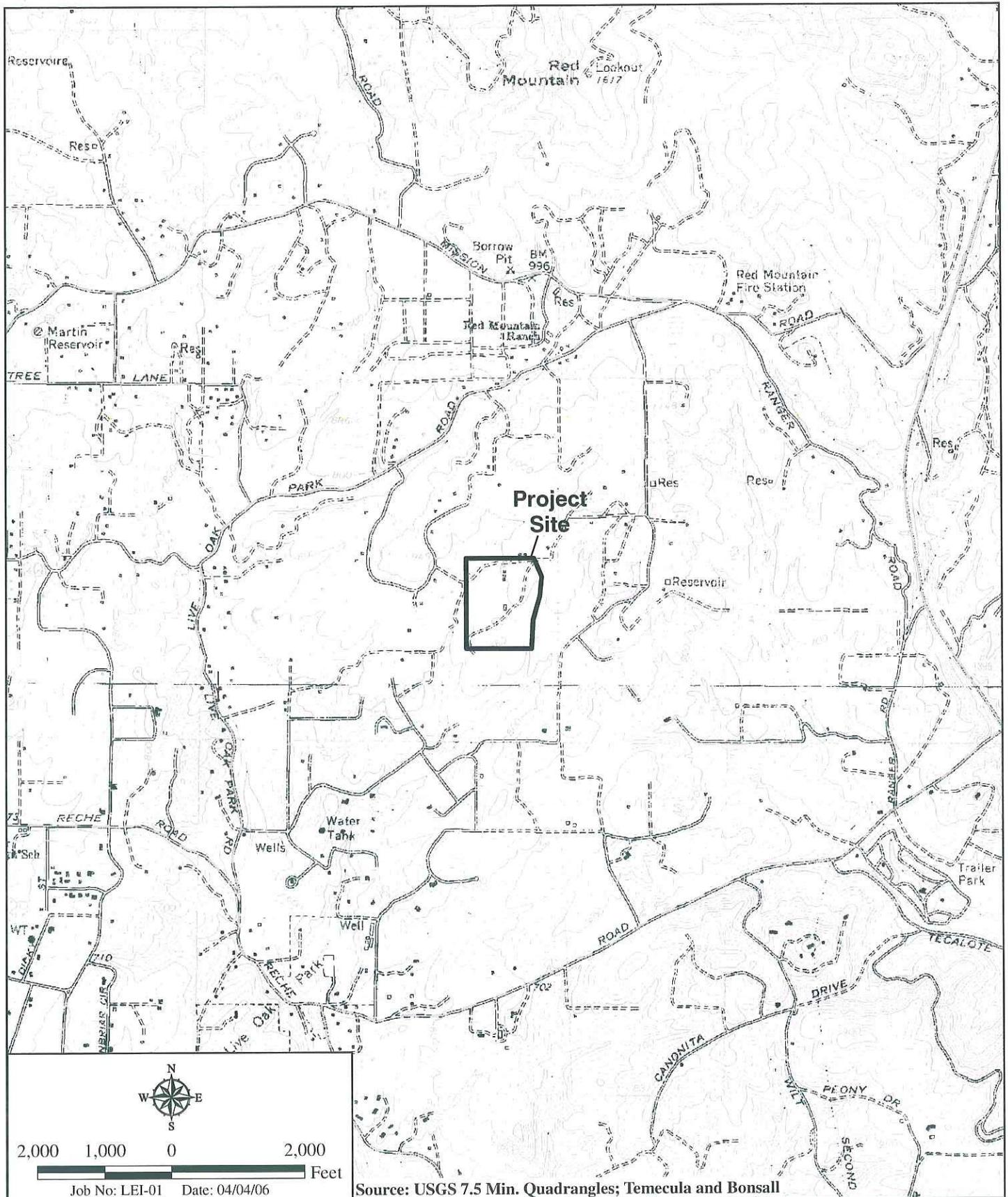
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Regional Location Map

RIDGE CREEK DRIVE PROJECT

Figure 1





Project Location Map

RIDGE CREEK DRIVE PROJECT

Figure 2

LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|---|
|  | Freshwater Marsh (52410) | Sensitive Resources |  | Orange-throated whiptail
(<i>Chenidophorus hyperythrus beldingi</i>) |
|  | Mule Fat Scrub (63310) | OTWH |  | Red-shouldered Hawk
(<i>Buteo lineatus</i>) |
|  | Coast Live Oak Woodland (71160) | RSHA |  | Turkey Vulture
(<i>Cathartes aura</i>) |
|  | Coast Live Oak Woodland Disturbed (71160) | TUVU |  | Waters of the U.S./Streambed
(width shown in feet) |
|  | Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (32500) | | | |
|  | Non-native Grassland (42200) | | | |
|  | Non-native Vegetation (11000) | | | |
|  | Eucalyptus Woodland (11100) | | | |
|  | Disturbed Habitat (11300) | | | |
|  | Orchard (18100) | | | |
|  | Developed (12000) | | | |

Note: Numbers in parentheses represent the Holland code for the vegetation type.



Job No: LEI-01 Date: 05/02/06

Note:
This map is based on site conditions as observed at the time of our field investigations. The information presented herein was developed by visual inspection and/or aerial photograph interpretation. Note that both site conditions and applicable regulatory requirements may change.

Vegetation and Sensitive Resources

RIDGE CREEK DRIVE PROJECT

Figure 3



LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
| Vegetation | Sensitive Resources |
| Freshwater Marsh (52410) | OTWH Orange-throated whiptail
(<i>Cheridophorus hyperythrus beldingi</i>) |
| Mule Fat Scrub (63310) | RSHA Red-shouldered Hawk
(<i>Buteo lineatus</i>) |
| Coast Live Oak Woodland (71160) | TUVU Turkey Vulture
(<i>Cathartes aura</i>) |
| Coast Live Oak Woodland Disturbed (71160) | Waters of the U.S./Streambed
(width shown in feet) |
| Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (32500) | |
| Non-native Grassland (42200) | Project Impacts |
| Non-native Vegetation (11000) | Biological Open Space |
| Eucalyptus Woodland (11100) | Existing Easements |
| Disturbed Habitat (11300) | Limited Building Zone |
| Orchard (18100) | 50' RPO Wetland Buffer |
| Developed (12000) | |

Note: Numbers in parentheses represent the Holland code for the vegetation type.



Note:
This map is based on site conditions as observed at the time of our field investigations. The information presented herein was developed by visual inspection and/or aerial photograph interpretation. Note that both site conditions and applicable regulatory requirements may change.

Job No: LEI-01 Date: 01/04/07

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Aerial Photograph of the Project Vicinity

RIDGE CREEK DRIVE PROJECT

Attachment A
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED – RIDGE CREEK DRIVE

<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>HABITAT(S)‡</u>
ANGIOSPERMS – MONOCOTS			
Liliaceae	<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	our Lord's candle	DCSS
Poaceae	<i>Avena fatua</i> *	wild oat	NNG
	<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	common rippgut grass	CLOW-D
	<i>Bromus</i> sp.*	chess	NNG
ANGIOSPERMS – DICOTS			
Anacardiaceae	<i>Malosma laurina</i>	laurel sumac	CLOW-D, DCSS
	<i>Schinus molle</i> *	Peruvian pepper tree	NNV
	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak	CLOW-D
Apiaceae	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> *	fennel	DCSS
Asteraceae	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	DCSS
	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush	CLOW-D, DCSS, DH
	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mule fat	MFS
	<i>Baccharis sarothroides</i>	broom baccharis	DCSS
	<i>Gnaphalium bicolor</i>	bicolor cudweed	NNG
	<i>Gnaphalium californicum</i>	California everlasting	CLOW
	<i>Gnaphalium canescens</i>	white everlasting	CLOW-D
	<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	telegraph weed	DH
	<i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i>	sand-aster	DCSS
Brassicaceae	<i>Brassica nigra</i> *	black mustard	CLOW-D, DCSS, DH
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia</i> sp.	cholla	DCSS
Caprifoliaceae	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	blue elderberry	DCSS
Crassulaceae	<i>Dudleya pulverulenta</i>	chalk-lettuce	DCSS
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Marah macrocarpus</i>	wild cucumber	CLOW-D
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>	dove weed	DH
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	CLOW, CLOW-D
Lamiaceae	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	black sage	DCSS
Lauraceae	<i>Persea americana</i> *	avocado	ORC
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.*	eucalyptus	EW
Oleaceae	<i>Olea europaea</i> *	olive	DH
Rosaceae	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	DCSS
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	monkey-flower	DCSS
Solanaceae	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> *	tree tobacco	DCSS
	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> *	white horse-nettle	DH, AG
	<i>Solanum xanti</i>	purple nightshade	CLOW-D
Tamaricaceae	<i>Tamarix</i> sp.*	tamarisk	NNG
Typhaceae	<i>Typha</i> sp.	cattail	FWM

*Non-native species

‡Habitat acronyms: AG=agriculture, CLOW=coast live oak woodland, CLOW-D=disturbed coast live oak woodland, DCSS=Diegan coastal sage scrub, DH=disturbed habitat, EW=eucalyptus woodland, FWM=freshwater marsh, MFS=mule fat scrub, NNG=non-native grassland, NNV=non-native vegetation, ORC=orchard

Attachment B
LISTED OR COUNTY SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR –
RIDGE CREEK DRIVE

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	BLOOMING PERIOD	POTENTIAL TO OCCUR
Orcutt brodiaea (<i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 1B.1 County Group A	Grasslands near streams and vernal pools under 5,250 ft	May to July	Low. Limited wetland areas occur on site.
Prostrate spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe procumbens</i>)	--/--	Coastal scrub and chaparral under 2,624 ft	April to June	Low. Two small sage scrub areas present on site but would have been observed if present.
Delicate clarkia (<i>Clarkia delicata</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 1B.2 County Group B	Oak woodland and chaparral between 770 and 3,280 ft	April to June	Low. Suitable habitat present on site but would have been observed if present.
Palmer's grapplinghook (<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 4.2 County Group D	Open chaparral with chamise under 3,280 ft	March to May	Low. No chaparral habitat present on site.
Southwestern spiny rush (<i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 4.2 County Group D	Moist, saline, or alkaline soils in coastal salt and riparian marshes under 2,953 ft	May to June	Low. Small area of suitable habitat in drainage that crosses NW area of site but would have been observed if present.
California adder's-tongue (<i>Ophioglossum californicum</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 4.2 County Group D	Grassy slopes and vernal pool margins under 3,280 ft	December to April	Low. Suitable habitat does not occur on site.
Golden daisy (<i>Pentachaeta aurea</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 4.2 County Group D	Mesic montane grasslands and sage scrub between 262 and 6,070 ft	March to July	Low. Small amount of sage scrub present on site but would have been observed if present.
Narrow-petaled rein orchid (<i>Piperia leptopetala</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 4.3 County Group D	Cismontane woodland and montane coniferous forest between 1,247 and 7,300 ft	May to July	Low. Suitable habitat present, but site below species' known elevation.
Engelmann oak (<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>)	--/-- CNPS List 4.2 County Group D	Slopes, foothills, canyons, and woodlands under 4,265 ft	April to June	Low. Suitable habitat present, but would have been observed if present.

*Refer to Attachment E for a listing and explanation of status and sensitivity codes

Attachment C
ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED – RIDGE CREEK DRIVE

SCIENTIFIC NAME

COMMON NAME

INVERTEBRATES

	unknown sulfur butterfly
<i>Anthocharis sara</i>	unknown white butterfly
<i>Papilio</i> sp.	Sara orange tip
	swallowtail butterfly

VERTEBRATES

Reptiles

<i>Cnemidophorus hyperythrus</i> †	orange-throated whiptail
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard

Birds

<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift
<i>Abelocoma californica</i>	western scrub jay
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
<i>Buteo lineatus</i> †	red-shouldered hawk
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	house finch
<i>Cathartes aura</i> †	turkey vulture
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	wrentit
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	yellow-rumped warbler
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.	flycatcher
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	song sparrow
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's woodpecker
<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California thrasher
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	house wren
<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	white-crowned sparrow

Mammals

<i>Neotoma</i> sp.	woodrat
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	raccoon
<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail

†Sensitive species

Attachment D
LISTED OR COUNTY SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR –
RIDGE CREEK DRIVE

SPECIES	STATUS*	POTENTIAL TO OCCUR
INVERTEBRATE		
Monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	--/--	Low. Limited nectar and water resources exist near the site.
VERTEBRATES		
Reptiles/Amphibians		
Western spadefoot (<i>Spea hammondi</i>)	--/CSC	Moderate. Limited suitable habitat (sandy or gravelly washes, temporary pools, and friable soils) occurs in the drainage in NW corner of site.
Silvery legless lizard (<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>)	--/CSC	Low. A limited amount of suitable habitat (sand dunes or sandy areas) occurs on site.
Coastal rosy boa (<i>Charina trivirgata roseofusca</i>)	--/--	Low. Prefers coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and desert scrub with rocky outcrops. Limited amount of suitable rocky areas present on site.
Coastal western whiptail (<i>Cnemidophorus tigris stejnegeri</i>)	--/--	High. Suitable habitat (coastal sage scrub and riparian scrub) present on site.
San Diego banded gecko (<i>Coleonyx variegatus abbotti</i>)	--/--	Low. Prefers coastal sage scrub and chaparral with rocky outcrops. Sage scrub occurs on site, but no suitable rocky areas present.
Red-diamond rattlesnake (<i>Crotalus exsul</i>)	--/CSC	Moderate. Requires rodent burrows, cracks in rocks, or surface cover objects, which are present but not abundant on site.
San Diego ringneck snake (<i>Diadophis punctatus similes</i>)	--/--	Moderate. Known to occur in oak woodlands, canyons, grassland, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub. Suitable habitat present on and adjacent to site.
San Diego horned lizard (<i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei</i>)	--/CSC MSCP Covered	Low. Requires adequate shrub cover and areas of loose soil, which are not present on site.
Coast patch-nosed snake (<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>)	--/CSC	Low to moderate. Known to occur in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and grassland mixed with scrub. Two areas of sage scrub occur on site but are isolated.
Birds		
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	Nesting; --/CSC MSCP Covered	Moderate for foraging. Requires mature oaks, eucalyptus, or riparian woodlands for nesting sites. Mature oak trees occur on and adjacent to the site.
Sharp-shinned hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	Nesting; --/CSC	Low. Not known to breed in San Diego County. Site may be used for foraging during winter months.
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>)	--/CSC MSCP Covered	Low to moderate. Prefers coastal sage scrub, open chaparral, and shrubby grasslands. Suitable habitat limited to several small, isolated patches of sage scrub that occur on site.
Grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)	--/--	Very low. No grassland habitat occurs on site.

Attachment D (cont.)
LISTED OR COUNTY SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR –
RIDGE CREEK DRIVE PROPERTY

SPECIES	STATUS*	POTENTIAL TO OCCUR
VERTEBRATES (cont.)		
Mammals (cont.)		
California pocket mouse (<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>)	--/CSC	Low. Limited suitable habitat (mature chaparral and coastal sage scrub) occurs on site.
Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>)	--/CSC	Low. Limited suitable habitat (coastal sage scrub with sandy substrates) occurring on site is small and isolated.
Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	--/CSC	Very low. No suitable habitat (scrub deserts, pine, pinyon-juniper forests) occurs on site. Presence of species is negatively correlated with human activity.
Stephens' kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>)	FE/ST	Low. Limited suitable habitat (small, isolated, and sparse coastal sage scrub) occurs on site.
California mastiff bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	--/CSC	Low. Some suitable habitat (coast live oak woodland) present on site, but large drinking ponds not present.
Mountain lion (<i>Felis concolor</i>)	--/-- MSCP Covered	Low. Site surrounded by agriculture and urban development; species requires large undeveloped areas.
Western red bat (<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>)	--/--	Moderate. Suitable habitat (riparian and wooded habitat) present adjacent to the site. Species documented within 2 miles of site (TAIC/GIS 2006).
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>)	--/CSC	Moderate. Prefers open coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grasslands, and disturbed areas. Sage scrub on site not suitable.
California leaf-nosed bat (<i>Macrotus californicus</i>)	--/CSC	Very low. No suitable habitat (desert scrub) present on site.
Small-footed myotis (<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>)	--/--	Very low. Limited suitable habitat (deserts and arid locales; roosts in caves, rock crevices, and buildings) present on site.
Yuma myotis (<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>)	--/--	Low. Known to occur near ponds, lakes, and streams, which do not occur in general project vicinity.
San Diego desert woodrat (<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>)	--/CSC	Moderate. Habitat (open coastal sage scrub) occurs on site, with some woodrat nests observed in eastern canyon on site.
Pocketed free-tailed bat (<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>)	--/CSC	Very low. No suitable habitat (desert habitats with high cliffs or rocky areas) present on site.
Big free-tailed bat (<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>)	--/CSC	Low. Limited suitable habitat (low, rugged canyons with rocky areas) present on site.
Southern mule deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>)	--/-- MSCP Covered	Moderate. Require a mixture of habitats, including shrublands, grasslands, and woodlands that provide ample cover. Drainages occurring on site are connected to habitat south of the project.

Attachment E
EXPLANATION OF STATUS CODES FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

<u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</u>		<u>California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)</u>	
FE	Federally listed endangered	SE	State listed endangered
FT	Federally listed threatened	ST	State listed threatened
		CSC	California species of special concern

County of San Diego

Plant sensitivity:

- Group A Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California or elsewhere
- Group B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
- Group C Plants that may be quite rare, but more information is needed to determine rarity status
- Group D Plants of limited distribution and are uncommon, but not presently rare or endangered

Animal sensitivity:

- County Sensitive Animals considered under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of projects.

Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Covered

MSCP covered species for which the County has take authorization within the MSCP area.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Codes

Lists	Threat Code Extensions
1A = Presumed extinct.	.1 = Seriously endangered in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
1B = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. Eligible for state listing.	.2 = Fairly endangered in California (20 to 80 percent occurrences threatened)
2 = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere. Eligible for state listing.	.3 = Not very endangered in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)
3 = Distribution, endangerment, ecology, and/or taxonomic information needed. Some eligible for state listing.	All List 1A (presumed extinct in California) and some List 3 (need more information; a review list) plants lacking threat information receive no threat code extension. These Threat Code guidelines represent a starting point in the assessment of threat level. Other factors, such as habitat vulnerability and specificity, distribution, and condition of occurrences, are considered in setting the Threat Code.
4 = A watch list for species of limited distribution. Needs monitoring for changes in population status. Few (if any) eligible for state listing.	