

# KLUTZ BIOLOGICAL

## C O N S U L T I N G



Dollar General  
27444 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, California 92082

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

RE: Biological Resource Letter Report the Dollar General Borrego Springs Commercial Project (Record ID: PDS2021-LDGRMJ-30354; APN 141-370-17)

The following Biological Resource Letter Report analyzes project related impacts for the construction of a Dollar General commercial store located in the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs (County of San Diego, California) (Figure 1). The proposed project is located north of Palm Canyon Drive and west of Ocotillo Circle which is approximately 0.5-miles west of Christmas Circle Community Park (Figure 2). The proposed project will be built on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 141-348-18-00 and is generally located in the southwest corner of the parcel.

### **SUMMARY**

The proposed project consists of the construction of a new commercial building (Dollar General retail store) that will include a new parking lot, landscaping, and minor road improvements to Palm Canyon Drive (Figure 3).

The project site and study area contain primarily disturbed Sonoran mixed woody scrub and urban/developed lands (Figure 4). Project improvements will impact 1.9 acres of disturbed Sonoran mixed woody scrub that will require mitigation at a 1:5 ratio. Mitigation obligations will be accomplished by conserving 2.85 acres of Tier III chaparral habitat at a County approved mitigation bank (Cleveland Corridor Mitigation Bank). The project does not propose impacts to special status species, jurisdictional wetlands or waterways, or wildlife corridors as these resources are not present on the project site.

However, clearing of vegetation on-site represents a potentially significant impact. As a mitigation measure for this potential impact, if any construction work is proposed to occur during the County of San Diego migratory bird or raptor breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist will be required to conduct a bird and raptor survey no more than three days prior to scheduled operations to ensure that no nesting birds in the project area would be impacted. If an active nest is identified, a buffer would

be established between the construction activities and the nest so that nesting activities are not interrupted. The buffer should be a minimum of 300 feet for migratory bird species and 500 feet for raptor species, be delineated by temporary fencing, and remain in effect as long as construction is occurring or until the nest is no longer active. No project construction would be allowed to occur within the fenced zone until the young have fledged and will not be impacted by the project. This will reduce the potential impact to below a level of significance.

## **INTRODUCTION, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, LOCATION AND SETTING**

### **Project Description**

The proposed project consists of the construction of a new commercial building (Dollar General retail store) that will include a new parking lot, landscaping, and minor road improvements to Palm Canyon Drive (Figure 5). Off-site impacts are not anticipated to occur as a result of the implementation of the project.

### **Project Location**

The proposed project is located in the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs which is in the northeastern corner of the County of San Diego (California) (Figure 1). Specifically, the proposed project is north of Palm Canyon Drive and approximately 0.35-mile east of Christmas Circle Community Park (Figure 2). The proposed project will be built on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 141-370-17 which is located within the County of San Diego's Draft East County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) planning area (Figure 4). Projects that occur within this planning area must comply with draft conservation program and be consistent with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources (County of San Diego, 2010).

### **Project Setting**

The study area, which comprises the parcel boundary and a 100-foot buffer, is generally comprised of natural open space lands but is also in close proximity to both residential and commercial development (Figure 4). The study area is accessible via Palm Canyon Drive. The project site is shown on the Borrego Palm Canyon USGS 7.5' Quadrangle and is accessible via Palm Canyon Drive. The approximate elevation range of the study area is from 580 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) to 550 feet AMSL. The study area is relatively flat with a very slight slope that drains the site from the northwest to the southeast. Two soil types occur on-site and include Mecca fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, eroded and Rositas loamy coarse sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes (Bowman 1973).

## **SITE SURVEY**

Klutz Biological Consulting (KBC) biologist Korey Klutz conducted two biological resources surveys one on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and another on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The surveys were conducted between the hours of 1200-1430 and 1500-1600 respectively. Conditions

during the first survey consisted of clear skies and a temperature of approximately 70 degrees Fahrenheit (F) with winds from 0 to 8 miles per hour. Weather conditions during the second survey included partly cloudy skies, an air temperature of approximately 65 degrees F and winds from 4-12 mph. All surveys were conducted by slowly walking meandering transects within the study area and recording all plants and wildlife species observed.

Following the general surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021 a focused, presence/absence flat tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) (FTHL) survey was conducted on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The focused FTHL survey was conducted by Alicia Omlid between 0800-1000 with weather conditions consisting of clear skies, and temperatures between 70.8-88 degrees F (Summit West Environmental 2022). The survey was conducted by walking transects from east to west at 5-meter spacing.

Prior to the survey effort, a search of the California Natural Diversity Database was also conducted to identify sensitive species known to occur in the general vicinity of the project site. Although the entire project area was surveyed, some sensitive resources may not have been detected due to the timing and duration of the survey events. Specifically, wildlife species that are not active during the day (e.g. strictly nocturnal), that are secretive in their habits, or that use the site only periodically like during nesting may not have been detected during the survey.

Mapping was performed following the Biological Resource Mapping Guidelines within the Report Format and Content Requirements: Biological Resources (County of San Diego 2010). Wildlife was identified directly by sight or by vocalizations, and indirectly by scat, tracks, or burrows. Field notes were maintained throughout the surveys. The primary focus of the survey was to document and map the size, location, and general quality of all habitat types and to determine the presence or potential presence of any sensitive resources (plant or wildlife) on-site.

Nomenclature for this report conforms to Hickman (2014) for plants, Holland (1986) and Oberbauer (2008) for plant communities and habitat types, American Ornithological Union (AOU 1998 and 2000) for birds, Jennings (1983) and Stebbins (2003) for reptiles and amphibians, Jones (1992) for mammals, and Powell (1979) for insects.

### **Biological Resources Present**

This section presents the results of the site surveys and the regional context of the biological resources observed or that have the potential to occur onsite. The site contains two landcover types including Sonoran mixed woody scrub and urban/developed lands.

### **Regional Biological Context**

The project is located within the Draft East County (EC) MSCP. Specifically, the site is mapped by the Draft EC MSCP as Agriculture or Natural Upland Outside of a Focused Conservation Area (FCA) and Developed Lands. .

### **Habitats and Vegetation Communities**

The following is a summary of the existing habitats and vegetation communities on the site. The landcover types within the study area are comprised of both native habitat and developed lands (Figure 4). Habitat types on-site were mapped based on observations of site conditions during the initial site visit. A discussion of each landcover or habitat type observed within the study area is provided below.

#### **Sonoran Mixed Woody Scrub (33210)**

Sonoran mixed woody scrub consists of a shrubland that is from 0.5-3 meters tall. Shrubs are typically widely spaced, usually with bare ground between shrubs and moderate species diversity (including the presence of succulent plants). Vegetative growth typically only occurs during the winter or spring rainy seasons. Wildflowers will also occur and will typically flower in late February and March if the winter rains are sufficient. Site factors of this habitat type include well-drained secondary soils with winter temperatures seldomly below freezing.

On-site characteristic species observed within this community include creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens ssp. splendens*) white bur-sage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), white rhatany (*Krameria bicolor*), and Gander's Cholla (*Cylindropuntia gander*).

#### **Urban/Developed (12000)**

Urban/developed consists of regularly maintained roads and two existing commercial developments that occur west and east of the site. One large tamarisk tree also occurs along the western property boundary. This tree is regularly maintained and is part of the existing ornamental vegetation that is associated with the commercial development west of the site.

### **General Wildlife Observations**

During the site surveys two wildlife species were observed including one lizard and one butterfly. Species observed included a side blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*) and painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) (Attachment B).

### **Special Status Species**

The following is a summary of all sensitive species with potential to occur on the site or on land immediately adjacent to the project area. Sensitive or special status plant and wildlife species and habitats are those that are considered rare, threatened, or endangered within the state or region by local, state, or federal resource conservation agencies. Sensitive species are so called because of their limited distribution, restricted

habitat requirements, susceptibility to human disturbance, degradation due to development or invasion by non-native species, or a combination of these factors.

The following were used in the determination of sensitive biological resources: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (2007, 2010); California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (2009, 2010a, 2010b, 2010c), County Sensitive Plant and Animal list (County 2010), County of San Diego Biology Scoping Letter, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) online inventory (2020), and the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2020).

### **Sensitive Plants**

Fifteen special status plant species were identified by the literature search as potentially occurring within the general project vicinity including Salton milk-vetch (*Astragalus crotalariae*), Harwood's milk-vetch (*Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii*), Peirson's milk-vetch (*Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii*), California ayenia (*Ayenia compacta*), little-leaf elephant tree (*Bursera microphylla*), Arizona carlowrightia (*Carlowrightia arizonica*), Peirson's pincushion (*Chaenactis carphoclinia* var. *peirsonii*), Las Animas colubrina (*Colubrina californica*), California ditaxis (*Ditaxis serrata* var. *californica*), Newberry's velvet-mallow (*Horsfordia newberryi*), Palmer's lyrepod (*Lyrocarpa coulteri*), slender-lobed four o'clock (*Mirabilis tenuiloba*), Baja California bur-comb (*Pectocarya peninsularis*), bluish spike-moss (*Selaginella asprella*), and Cove's cassia (*Senna covesii*). None of these plant species were observed during the survey and none of them are considered to have a high potential to occur on-site. Please see Attachment C for further details regarding the status, habitat types, and potential for these plants to occur on-site.

### **Sensitive Wildlife**

Nineteen special status wildlife species were identified during the literature search as potentially occurring within the project site including Red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), Common chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*), Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Pallid San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), Big free-tailed bat (*Myctinomops macrotis*), California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*), Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*), Southern mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus fuliginatus*), Jacumba pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris internationalis*), Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*), and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*).

These species have the potential to occur because they have been previously identified in close proximity to the project site. However, none of these species were detected and none of them have a high potential to occur on-site. A more in-depth discussion regarding their status, habitats, and potential presence on site is provided in Attachment C.

#### Large Mammal Use

Due to the proximity of the project site to existing development and the overall small size of the study area the site contains low quality or limited habitat for large mammals.

#### Raptor Nesting & Foraging

The site contains limited areas that support raptor nesting. However, the entire study contains suitable raptor foraging habitat. Raptors are large predatory or scavenger birds that typically require tall trees for perching and nesting associated with adjacent open grasslands to forage. Due to declining habitat and the associated declining numbers of these species on the whole, many raptor species have been designated as California Species of Special Concern by the CDFW. These species are protected, especially during their critical nesting and wintering stages. Raptors are protected under the CDFW California Raptor Protection Act (Title 14, Section 670). No nests were observed onsite.

#### Migratory Bird Treaty Act

On-site bird species have the potential to nest within the Sonoran mixed woody scrub. Active bird nests are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

#### **Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waterways**

The study area does not contain any jurisdictional wetlands or waterways.

#### **Other Unique Features/Resources**

##### Wildlife Corridors and Linkages

No regional wildlife corridors or regional linkages occur within the project site. The project site is not recognized as an important conservation area within the Draft EC MSCP.

##### Topography/Connectivity

The project site lies on the outer edge of the existing developed commercial areas associated with the community of Borrego Springs.

#### **SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION**

The study area is located within the County of San Diego's Draft EC MSCP but is outside of an FCA. The impact analysis and associated mitigation requirements are consistent with the Draft EC MSCP and the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources (County of San Diego, 2010).

#### **Riparian Habitat and Sensitive Natural Community**

The proposed project will impact 1.9 acres of Sonoran mixed woody scrub and 0.2-acre of Urban/Developed Lands (County of San Diego 2010).

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

<i>Habitat Type</i>	<i>Acres within the Study Area</i>	<i>Impacts within Project Footprint (Acres)</i>	<i>Mitigation Ratio</i>	<i>Mitigation Acreage</i>
Sonoran Mixed Woody Scrub	3.5	1.9	1:5	2.85
Developed Lands	0.3	0.3	NA	NA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1:5</b>	<b>2.85</b>

The project proposes to mitigate impacts by purchasing mitigation credits off-site (2.85-acres) within a County approved mitigation bank. Tier III chaparral credits will be purchased from the Cleveland Corridor Mitigation Bank as in kind Sonoran Mixed Woody Scrub mitigation is not available to be purchased either within the EC MSCP or elsewhere within the County.

**Special Status Species**

No special status species were observed on the site. Please note, at the request of the County and the Wildlife Agencies a focused survey was conducted to determine the potential presence or absence for FTHL on-site. The survey was conducted on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and the results of the survey were negative. The flat tailed horned lizard biologist determined that the project site contained low quality habitat and the species was not expected to occupy the site. Furthermore, the project is not anticipated to impact any sensitive plant or wildlife species (Attachment C).

**Federal Wetlands**

No jurisdictional wetlands or waterways were observed on the site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

**Wildlife Movement and Nursery Sites**

The project will not impact any significant wildlife movement areas and mitigation is not necessary.

### **Local Plans, Ordinances and Adopted Plans**

Based upon the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources (2010), a significant impact related to local policies, ordinances and adopted plans would occur if the project would:

- Impact coastal sage scrub vegetation within lands outside of the MSCP more than the County's five-percent habitat loss threshold, or preclude connectivity between areas of high values, as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.
- Preclude or prevent the preparation of the subregional NCCP.
- Impact any amount of wetlands or sensitive habitat lands as outlined in the RPO.
- Not minimize and/or mitigate coastal sage scrub habitat loss in accordance with Section 4.3 of the NCCP Guidelines.
- Not conform with the goals and requirements, as outlined in any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan, Habitat Management Plan, Special Area Management Plan, Watershed Plan, or similar regional planning effort.
- Not minimize impacts to Biological Resources Core Areas (BRCAs) within lands in the MSCP, as defined by the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).
- Not maintain existing movement corridors and/or habitat linkages as defined by the BMO.
- Not avoid impacts to MSCP narrow endemic species and would impact core populations of narrow endemics.
- Reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed species in the wild.
- Result in the killing of migratory birds or destruction of active migratory bird nests and/or eggs (MBTA).
- Result in the take of eagles, eagle eggs or any part of an eagle (Bald Eagle Protection Act)

### **Impact to Coastal Sage Scrub**

The project site does not contain any coastal sage scrub habitat. Therefore, the project will not contribute to the loss of coastal sage scrub habitat or preclude connectivity between habitats of high value; no impact is identified related to this subthreshold.

### **Preparation of a Subregional NCCP**

The project site is within Draft EC MSCP but is located outside of an FCA. The project would not impact the preparation of a subregional Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP). Therefore, no impact is identified for this threshold.

### **Impact Wetlands or Sensitive Lands as Identified in the RPO**

The project will not impact wetlands, or any other sensitive land identified in the RPO.

#### Minimization/Mitigation of Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat Loss

The project site does not contain any coastal sage scrub habitat. Therefore, the project will not contribute to the loss of coastal sage scrub habitat and no impact is identified related to this subthreshold.

#### Non-Conformance with HCP, HMP, Special Area Management Plan, Watershed Plan or Similar Plan

There are no existing approved County HCPs, HMPs, Special Area Management Plans, or Watershed Plans for the area, and therefore there are no impacts.

#### Impacts to Biological Resource Core Areas (BRCAs)

The project site is not located within the approved South County MSCP. Therefore, no impact would occur.

#### Impacts to MSCP Narrow Endemic Species

The project site is located outside of the approved MSCP and narrow endemic species do not occur onsite. No MSCP narrow endemic species have been identified within the project area and therefore there are no impacts.

#### Reduce Survival and Recovery of Listed Species

No listed species have been identified within the project area and therefore there are no impacts.

#### MBTA Species

The project will impact 1.9 acres of Sonoran mixed woody scrub. To avoid the direct loss of nest(s) protected under the MBTA a pre-construction nesting survey will be required. If project brushing, clearing, grubbing, grading, or construction activities are proposed within 500 feet of raptor nesting habitat and/or 300 feet of migratory bird nesting habitat during the migratory bird breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified County-approved biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey no more than three days prior to the proposed activities to determine the presence/absence of nesting raptors and/or other migratory birds to ensure that active nests are not impacted. If active nest(s), are detected, no construction activities should occur until the young have fledged and are no longer returning to the nest(s), as determined by the project biologist. If no active nests are present, construction activities may commence since there would be no potential for significant direct or indirect impacts to nesting migratory birds and/or raptors.

### Take of Eagles or Eagle Eggs

No golden eagles have been recorded in the project area and no nesting sites are known within 4,000 feet of the project site. Thus, the project would not have an impact to eagles. No impact is identified for this subthreshold.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Sonoran mixed woody scrub is one of the most common habitat types within desert portion of the EC MSCP planning area. Since the site is located outside of an FCA, site improvements would not result in a potential cumulatively significant impact. Furthermore, the project complies with the County's General Plan.

### **MITIGATION**

As detailed before, the project must mitigate impacts to 1.9 acres of Sonoran mixed woody scrub by conserving of 2.85 acres of habitat off-site. Mitigation is proposed to occur off-site at the Cleveland Corridor Mitigation Bank. In addition, clearing of vegetation on-site represents a potentially significant impact. As a mitigation measure for this potential impact, if any construction work is proposed to occur during the County of San Diego migratory bird or raptor breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist will be required to conduct a bird and raptor survey no more than three days prior to scheduled operations to ensure that no nesting birds in the project area would be impacted. If an active nest is identified, a buffer would be established between the construction activities and the nest so that nesting activities are not interrupted. The buffer should be a minimum of 300 feet for migratory birds and 500 feet for raptors, be delineated by temporary fencing, and remain in effect as long as construction is occurring or until the nest is no longer active. No project construction would be allowed to occur within the fenced zone until the young have fledged and will not be impacted by the project. This will reduce the potential impact to below a level of significance.

Standard siltation and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented during construction, including boundary silt fencing, gravel bags, fiber rolls, weed-free straw wattles and mulch, and slope stabilization. The landscape plan will stipulate that project landscaping will not include exotic plant species listed on the California Invasive Plant Council's (Cal-IPC) "Invasive Plant Inventory" list.

### **REFERENCES REVIEWED AND/OR CITED**

ACOE. Army Corps of Engineers 1988. National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: California.

AOU. American Ornithological Union. 1998, 2000. Forty-second Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds.

Bowman, R. H. 1973. Soil Survey, San Diego Area, California, Part 1. United States Department of Agriculture. 104 pp. + appendices.

CDFG 2010a. California Department of Fish and Game. "Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List." Biogeographic Data Branch, California Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA. Quarterly publication. 71 pp.

CDFG 2010b. California Department of Fish and Game. "State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California." Biogeographic Data Branch, California Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA. January 2010.

CDFG 2010c. California Department of Fish and Game. "State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened and Rare Plants of California." Biogeographic Data Branch, California Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA. April 2010.

CDFG 2009. California Department of Fish and Game. "Special Animals (883 taxa)." Biogeographic Data Branch, California Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA. July 2009.

CNDDDB 2020. Biogeographic Data Branch. Biogeographic Data Branch, California Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, CA.  
[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/rf\\_ftpinf.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/rf_ftpinf.asp)

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2011. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-01a). California Native Plant Society. Sacramento, CA.

County of San Diego. 2010. County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance: Biological Resources. Department of Planning and Land Use, September 15, 2010.

County of San Diego. 2010. County of San Diego Report Format and Content Requirements: Biological Resources. Department of Planning and Land Use, September 15, 2010.

County of San Diego. 2007. County of San Diego, Resource Protection Ordinance, 2007 (Ord. No. 9842).

Environmental Laboratory. 1987. "Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual", Technical Report Y-87-1, US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Miss.

Hickman, J. C. 1993. The Jepson Manual of Higher Plants of California. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Holland, R. F. 1986. Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California. Non-game Heritage Program, State of California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA. 157 pp.

Jennings, M. R. 1983. An Annotated Checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Southern California. California Department of Fish and Game 69(3):151-171.

Jepson Flora Project (eds.) 2020, Jepson eFlora, <https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/>, accessed on April 09, 2020.

Jones, J.K., et al. 1992. Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico, 1991. Occasional Papers The Museum Texas Tech. University. Number 146. February 7, 1992.

Murphy, RK, MW Gratson, and RN. Rosenfield. 1988. Activity and habitat use by a breeding male Cooper's Hawk in a suburban area. Journal of Raptor Research 22(4):97-100.

Oberbauer, T. 1996. Terrestrial Vegetation Communities in San Diego County Based on Holland's Descriptions. San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA 6 pp.

SanGIS 2020. San Diego Geographic Information Source, Interactive Mapping: <http://www.sangis.org/SangisInteractive/viewer/viewer.asp>

SDNHM 2007. San Diego Natural History Museum. San Diego County Bird Atlas: Google Earth. Author. San Diego, CA. November 2007. [http://sdnhm.org/ge\\_files/birdatlaslist.kmz](http://sdnhm.org/ge_files/birdatlaslist.kmz)

Stebbins, R. C. 2003. Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Summit West Environmental 2022. Email communication providing summary of FTHL focused survey. Alicia Omlid sent April 25, 2022.

Unitt, P. A. 2004. San Diego County Bird Atlas. San Diego Natural History Museum. San Diego, CA 645 pp.

USGS. 2004. U.S. Geological Survey. 2004. Bat Inventory of the San Diego County MSCP Area. <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/> [go to MSCP Portal].

USFWS. 2010. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Birds of Conservation Concern. U.S. Department of the Interior. United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Division of Migratory Bird Management. Arlington, VA. 85 pp.

USFWS. 2007. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. Endangered, Threatened and Candidate Plant and Animal Species by State and Lead Region. U.S. Department of the Interior. United States Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened and Endangered Species System (TESS), 2007. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pubs/index.html>.

**Preparer and Persons/Organizations Contacted**

Prepared by:



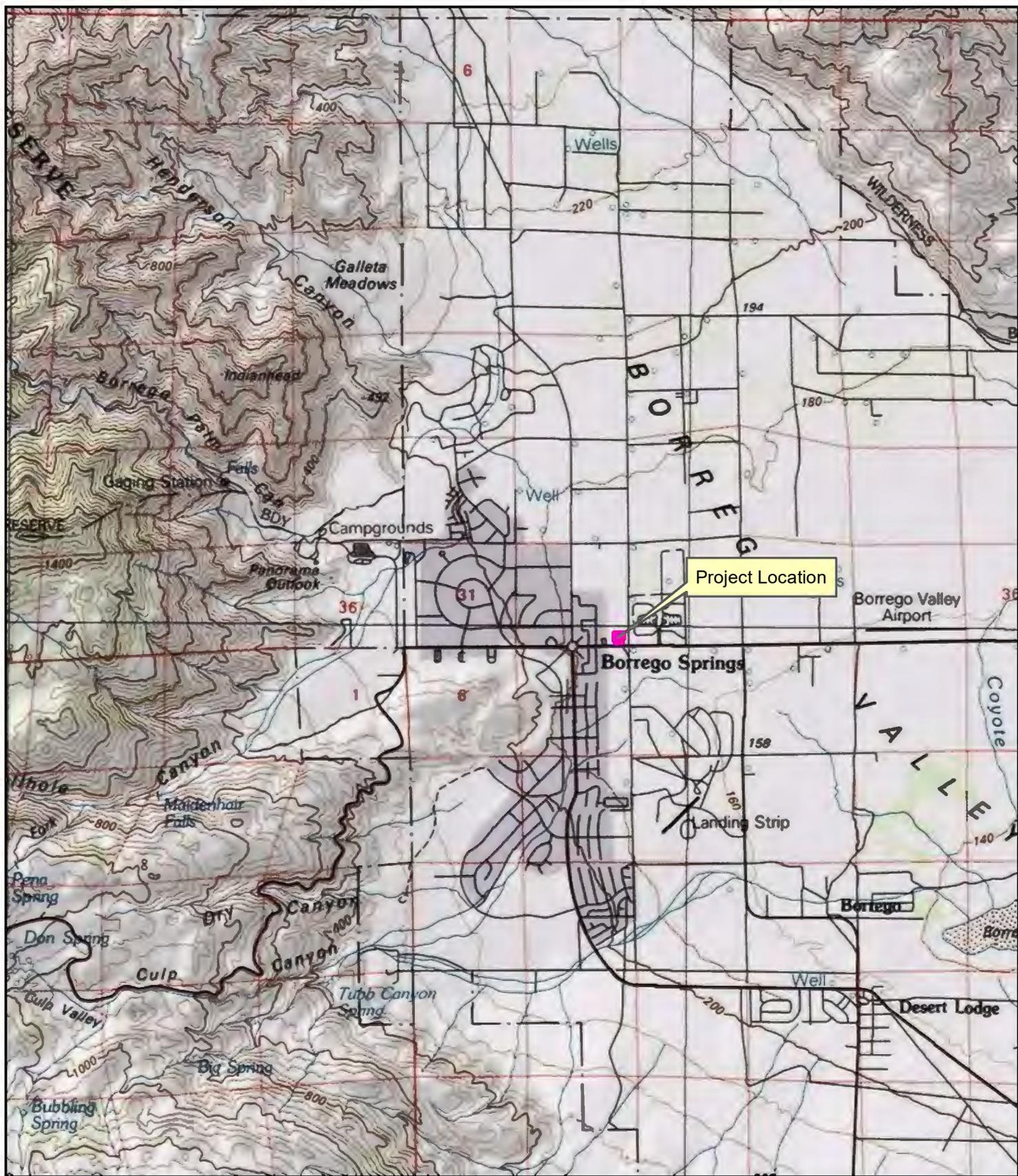
---

Korey Klutz, County Approved Biologist

ATTACHMENTS:

- Figure 1 Regional Vicinity
- Figure 2 Project Vicinity
- Figure 3 Proposed Project
- Figure 4 Biological Resources
- Figure 5 Project Impacts
- Attachment A Vascular Plant List
- Attachment B Wildlife List
- Attachment C Special Status Species with Potential to Occur



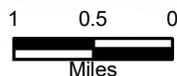


**Borrego Springs  
Dollar General**

**KLUTZ BIOLOGICAL  
CONSULTING**

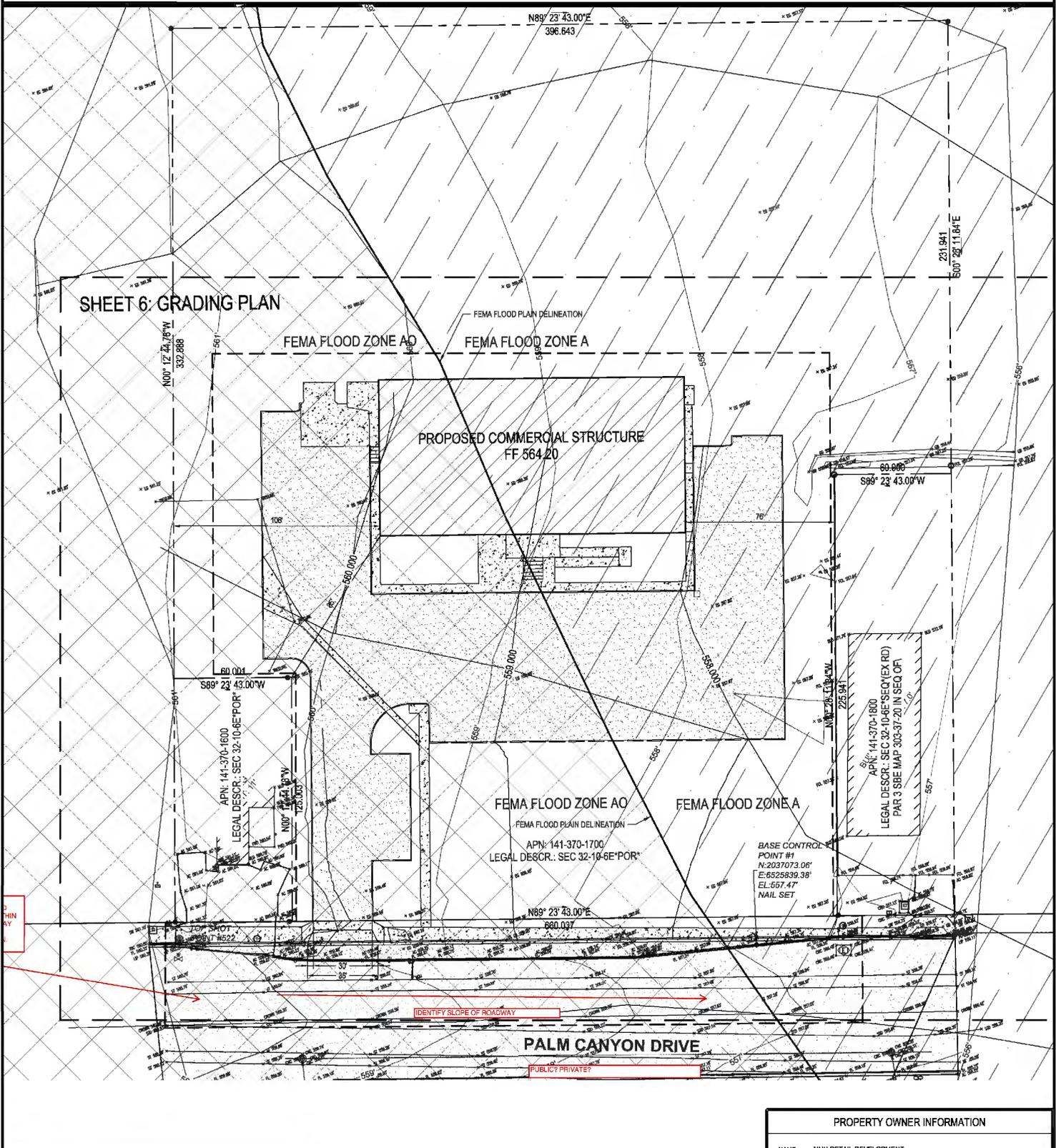
Date Printed: 11/10/2021

Author: Korey Klutz



**Figure 2  
Project Vicinity**

SHEET 6: GRADING PLAN

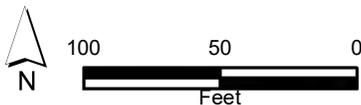


Borrego Springs  
Dollar General

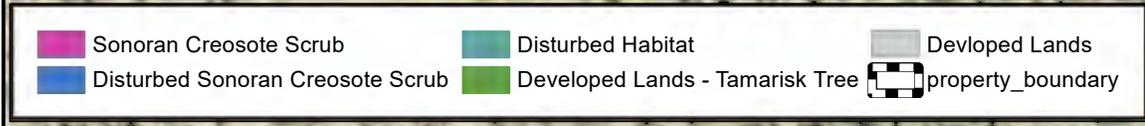
**KLUTZ BIOLOGICAL**  
CONSULTING

Date Printed: 11/10/2021

Author: Korey Klutz



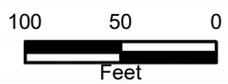
**Figure 3**  
**Proposed Project**



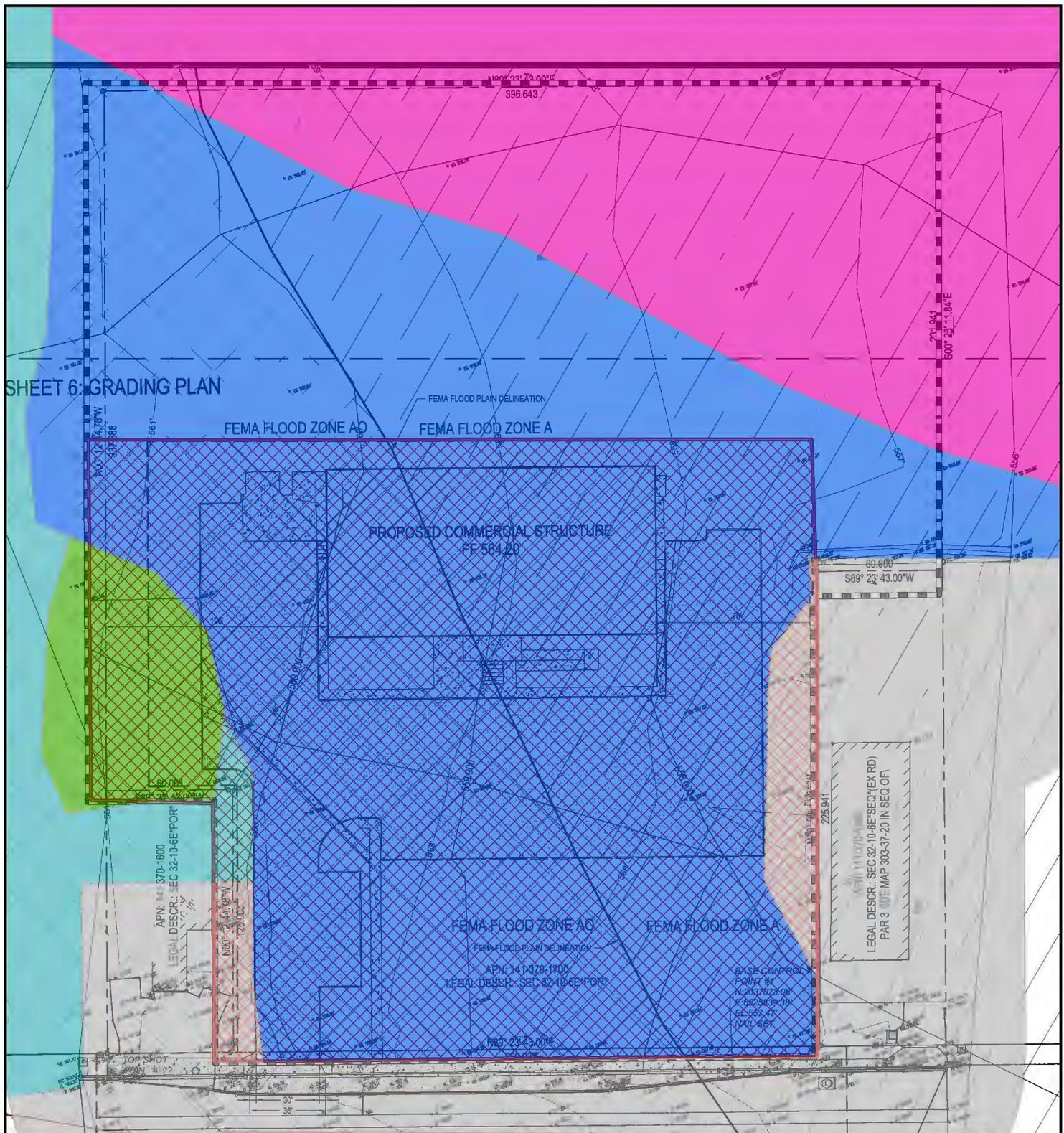
**Borrego Springs  
Dollar General**

**KLUTZ BIOLOGICAL  
CONSULTING** 

Date Printed: 11/10/2021      Author: Korey Klutz



**Figure 4  
Biological Resources**

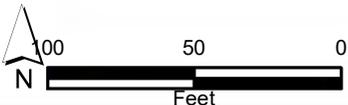


 Sonoran Creosote Scrub	 Disturbed Habitat	 Developed Lands	 impacts
 Disturbed Sonoran Creosote Scrub	 Developed Lands - Tamarisk Tree	 property_boundary	

**Borrego Springs  
Dollar General**

**KLUTZ BIOLOGICAL  
CONSULTING**

Date Printed: 11/10/2021    Author: Korey Klutz



**Figure 5  
Project Impacts**

## Attachment A Vascular Plant List

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status
<b>EUDICOTS</b>		
<b>Cactaceae - Cactus family</b>		
<i>Cylindropuntia ganderi</i>	Gander's cholla	
<b>EUDICOTS</b>		
<b>Asteraceae - Sunflower family</b>		
<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>	White bur-sage	
<i>Chaenactis sp.</i>	Pincushion	
<i>Malacothrix sp.</i>	California desert dandelion	
<b>Boraginaceae - Borage family</b>		
<i>Cryptantha sp.</i>	Cryptantha	
<i>Pectocarya sp.</i>	Combseed	
<b>Brassicaceae - Mustard family</b>		
* <i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Asian mustard	
<b>Fouquieriaceae - Ocotillo family</b>		
<i>Fouquieria splendens ssp. splendens</i>	Ocotillo	
<b>Geraniaceae - Geranium family</b>		
* <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Redstem filaree	
<b>Krameriaceae - Rhatany family</b>		
<i>Krameria bicolor</i>	White rhatany	
<b>Papaveraceae - Poppy family</b>		
<i>Eschscholzia minutiflora</i>	Pygmy poppy	
<b>Plantaginaceae - Plantain family</b>		
<i>Plantago ovata</i>	Desert indianwheat	
<b>Polemoniaceae - Phlox family</b>		
<i>Eriastrum sapphirinum</i>	Sapphire woollystar	
<b>Polygonaceae - Buckwheat family</b>		
<i>Eriogonum sp.</i>	Buckwheat	
<b>Zygophyllaceae - Caltrop family</b>		
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote bush	
<b>MONOCOTS</b>		
<b>Poaceae - Grass family</b>		
* <i>Schismus barbatus</i>	Common Mediterranean grass	

**ATTACHMENT B  
WILDLIFE SPECIES**

**Vertebrates**

**BIRD**

*Psaltriparus minimus*—bushtit  
*Haemorhous mexicanus*—house finch  
*Amphispiza bilineata*—black-throated sparrow  
*Corvus corax*—common raven  
*Zenaida macroura*—mourning dove  
*Sturnus vulgaris*—European starling

**REPTILE**

**LIZARDS**

**PHRYNOSOMATIDAE—IGUANID LIZARDS**

*Uta stansburiana*—common side-blotched lizard

**Invertebrates**

*Vanessa cardui*—Painted Lady

**Attachment C – Special Status Species with Potential to Occur**

**Plant Species**

Scientific Name	Common Name	USFWS	CDFW	CRPR	County of San Diego	Habitat Characteristics	Potential	Observed On-site?
<i>Astragalus crotalariae</i>	Salton milk-vetch	None	None	4.3	D	Perennial herb. Sandy or gravelly Sonoran desert scrub; -196–820 ft. Blooming period: January–April	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Astragalus insularis var. harwoodii</i>	Harwood's milk-vetch	None	None	2B.2	B	Annual herb. Sandy or gravelly areas in desert dunes and Mojavean desert scrub; 0–2,329 ft. Blooming period: January–May	Moderate, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Astragalus magdalenae var. peirsonii</i>	Peirson's milk-vetch	FT	SE	1B.2	A	Perennial herb. Desert dunes; 196–738 ft. Blooming period: December–April	Low, desert dune scrub habitat does not occur on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Ayenia compacta</i>	California ayenia	None	None	2B.3	B	Perennial herb. Rocky areas in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub, sometimes along desert arroyos; 492–3,593 ft. Blooming period: March–April	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Bursera microphylla</i>	little-leaf elephant tree	None	None	2B.3	B	Deciduous tree. Rocky Sonoran desert scrub; 656–2,296 ft. Blooming period: June–July	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site

Scientific Name	Common Name	USFWS	CDFW	CRPR	County of San Diego	Habitat Characteristics	Potential	Observed On-site?
<i>Carlowrightia arizonica</i>	Arizona carlowrightia	None	None	2B.2	B	Deciduous shrub. Sandy or granitic alluvium in Sonoran desert scrub; 1,262–1,410 ft. Blooming period: March–May	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Chaenactis carphoclinia</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>	Peirson's pincushion	None	None	1B.3	A	Annual herb. Sandy Sonoran desert scrub; 9–1,640 ft. Blooming period: March–April	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Colubrina californica</i>	Las Animas colubrina	None	None	2B.3	B	Deciduous shrub. Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub; 32–3,280 ft. Blooming period: April–June	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Ditaxis serrata</i> var. <i>californica</i>	California ditaxis	None	None	3.2	C	Perennial herb. Sonoran desert scrub; 98–3,280 ft. Blooming period: March–December	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Horsfordia newberryi</i>	Newberry's velvet-mallow	None	None	4.3	D	Shrub. Rocky Sonoran desert scrub; 10–2,624 ft. Blooming period: February–December	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site

Scientific Name	Common Name	USFWS	CDFW	CRPR	County of San Diego	Habitat Characteristics	Potential	Observed On-site?
<i>Lyrocarpa coulteri</i>	Palmer's lyrepod	None	None	4.3	D	Perennial herb. Gravelly or rocky areas in Sonoran desert scrub; 393–2,607 ft. Blooming period: December–April	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Mirabilis tenuiloba</i>	slender-lobed four o'clock	None	None	4.3	D	Perennial herb. Sonoran desert scrub; 984–3,591 ft. Blooming period: February–May	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site
<i>Pectocarya peninsularis</i>	Baja California bur-comb	None	None	None	D	Uncommon in San Diego County but occurs in Borrego Valley	High, due to the presence of suitable Sonoran desert scrub habitat on-site	Not detected. Focused survey conducted in March 2020 did not detect this species on-site
<i>Selaginella asprella</i>	bluish spike-moss	None	None	4.3		Perennial rhizomatous herb. Granitic or rocky soils in Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, subalpine coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest; 5,248–8,856 ft.	Low, rocky soils due not occur on-site.	Not detected. Focused survey conducted did not detect this species on-site

Scientific Name	Common Name	USFWS	CDFW	County of San Diego	Habitat Characteristics	Potential	Rationale
<b>Reptiles</b>							
<i>Crotalus ruber</i>	Red-diamond rattlesnake	None	SSC	Group 2	Inhabits arid scrub, coastal chaparral, oak and pine woodlands, rocky grassland and cultivated areas. Prefers rocky areas with dense vegetation (Nafis 2017).	Moderate	Not detected Suitable habitat occurs on-site
<i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i>	flat tailed horned lizard	None	SSC	Group 1	Feeds on ants and requires fine sands for shelter, moderately flat terrain with sparse vegetation for cover. At the request of the Wildlife Agencies a focused survey was conducted to determine presence/absence on-site.	Low	Focused survey results did not detect FTHL or FTHL scat (survey conditions = 4/25/2022,800-1000, 70.8F-88F, clear skies, 5mph winds).
<i>Sauromalus obesus</i>	Common chuckwalla	None	None	Group 2	Rocky desert habitats	Low	Not detected. The site lacks suitable rocky habitat
<b>Birds</b>							
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous hawk	None	None	Group 1	Grasslands, sagebrush country, saltbush-greasewood shrublands, and edges of pinyon-juniper forests. Breeding habitat includes cliffs, rock outcrops, and woodlands.	Moderate	Not detected. The site contains suitable foraging habitat.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	None	ST	Group 1	Nests in stands with few trees in riparian areas, juniper-sage flats, and oak savannah. Forages in adjacent grasslands, agricultural fields and pastures.	Low potential nest on-site. Moderate potential for foraging habitat.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.

Scientific Name	Common Name	USFWS	CDFW	County of San Diego	Habitat Characteristics	Potential	Rationale
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Prairie falcon	None	None	Group 1	Open hills, plains, prairies, deserts. Typically found in fairly dry open country, including grassland and desert. In winter, often found in farmland and around lakes and reservoirs, and may regularly winter in some western cities.	Low potential nest on-site. Moderate potential for foraging habitat.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike	None	SSC	Group 1	Breed in shrublands or open woodlands with a fair amount of grass cover and areas of bare ground (Shuford 2008).	Moderate	Not detected. Suitable habitat occurs on-site.
<b>Mammals</b>							
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	None	SSC	Group 2	Day roosts are in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings (CDFW 2013b).	Low potential to roost on-site.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.
<i>Chaetodipus fallax pallidus</i>	San Diego pocket mouse	None	SSC	Group 2	Coastal scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland.	Moderate	Not detected. Suitable habitat occurs on-site.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	None	SSC	Group 2	Cave-dwelling, also roosts in old mine-workings, occasionally found in buildings. Population concentrations in areas with cavity-forming rock and in old mining districts (Bolster 1998).	Low potential to roost on-site.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.

Scientific Name	Common Name	USFWS	CDFW	County of San Diego	Habitat Characteristics	Potential	Rationale
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Western mastiff bat	None	SSC	Group 2	Open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, annual and perennial grasslands, palm oases, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban areas. Roosts in crevices on vertical cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels (CDFW 2013).	Low potential to roost on-site.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.
<i>Myotis macrotis</i>	Big free-tailed bat	None	SSC	Group 2	Rock crevices in canyon settings in arid, high relief landscapes (Bolser 1998). Mainly an inhabitant of rugged, rocky habitats in arid landscapes. It has been found in a variety of lowland plant associations, including desert shrub, woodlands, and evergreen forests. Roosts mainly in the crevices of rocks in cliff situations, although there is some documentation of roosting in buildings, caves, and tree cavities (WBWG 2016).	Low potential to roost on-site.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.
<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	California leaf-nosed bat	None	SSC	Group 2	Caves, mines, and rock shelters, mostly in Sonoran desert scrub.	Low potential to roost on-site.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.

Scientific Name	Common Name	USFWS	CDFW	County of San Diego	Habitat Characteristics	Potential	Rationale
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	Pocketed free-tailed bat	None	SSC	Group 2	Associated with creosote scrub or chaparral, and large rock features such as boulder jumbles or rocky canyons (Bolster 1998). Colonial and roosts primarily in crevices of rugged cliffs, high rocky outcrops and slopes. It has been found in a variety of plant associations, including desert shrub and pine-oak forests. The species may also roost in buildings, caves, and under roof tiles (WBWG 2016).	Low potential to roost on-site.	Not detected. Suitable foraging habitat occurs on-site.
<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginatus</i>	Southern mule deer	None	None	Group 2	Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, desert scrub, grasslands, and woodlands	Low to moderate	Not detected. Suitable habitat occurs on-site but proximity to development likely reduces overall likelihood of occurrence on-site.
<i>Perognathus longimembris internationalis</i>	Jacumba pocket mouse	None	SSC	Group 2	Desert willow wash, grasslands, mesquite & acacia scrub. Substrate sandy to gravelly.	Low to Moderate	Not detected. Suitable habitat occurs on-site but site is previously disturbed and sandy soils are compacted.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	None	SSC	Group 2	Open shrub, forest and herbaceous habitats with friable soils. Associated with treeless regions, prairies, park lands and cold desert areas. Range includes most of California, except the North Coast (CDFW 2016).	Low	Not detected. No active dens or potentially suitable dense were observed on-site. Potential remains for the site to be utilized during dispersal.