

APPENDIX D

Biological Resources Technical Report

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Type of Report:

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Project Common Name:

NORTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AS-BUILT PLAN

DPLU Project No./Environmental Log No. :

#S08-015/#08-08-012

Lead Agency:

County of San Diego
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
5510 Overland Ave, 3rd Floor, Room 310,
San Diego, CA 92123

Date:

Revised March 10, 2013
December 14, 2012

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT
FOR THE
North County Environmental Resources As-BUILT
PLAN
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CA
PROJECT # S08-015
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW #08-08-012**

Prepared For:

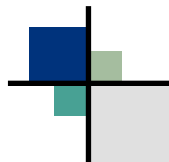
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SUMMARY	10
1.0 INTRODUCTION	11
1.1 Purpose of the Report	11
1.2 Project Location and Description	11
1.3 Survey Methodologies	11
1.3.1 Protocol Wetland Survey	13
1.4 Environmental Setting.....	13
1.4.1 Regional Context	13
1.4.2 Habitat Types/Vegetation Communities	13
1.4.3 Flora.....	15
1.4.4 Fauna	15
1.4.5 Sensitive Plant Species	16
1.4.6 Sensitive Wildlife Species	18
1.4.7 Wetlands/Jurisdictional Waters	19
1.4.8 Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors.....	24
1.5 Applicable Regulations	24
2.0 PROJECT EFFECTS.....	27
2.1 Habitat Impacts	28
2.2 Plant Impacts.....	29
2.3 Wildlife Impacts	29
3.0 SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES	30
3.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance	30
3.2 Analysis of Project Effects	30
3.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis	32
3.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations	32
3.5 Conclusions	42
4.0 RIPARIAN HABITAT OR SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY	42
4.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance	42
4.2 Analysis of Project Effects	42
4.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis	45
4.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations	45
4.5 Conclusions	47
5.0 JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS.....	47
5.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance	47
5.2 Analysis of Project Effects	48
5.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis	48
5.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations	48
5.5 Conclusions	48
6.0 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT AND NURSERY SITES	48
6.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance	48
6.2 Analysis of Project Effects	49
6.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis	49
6.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations	50
6.5 Conclusions	50

7.0	LOCAL POLICIES, ORDINANCES, ADOPTED PLANS	50
7.1	Guidelines for the Determination of Significance	50
7.2	Analysis of Project Effects	51
7.3	Cumulative Impact Analysis	52
7.4	Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations	52
7.5	Conclusions	52
8.0	SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION	52
9.0	REFERENCES	55
10.0	LIST OF PREPARERS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED.....	57

TECHNICAL APPENDICIES/ATTACHMENTS

FIGURES

1:	Regional location	attached
2:	Project location	attached
3.0:	Property Aerial (March, 2005)	attached
3.1:	Property Aerial (1964)	attached
3.2:	Property Aerial (1980)	attached
3.3:	Property Aerial (February, 2008)	attached
4:	Project Area Vegetation Map (historic vegetation inclusive)	attached
5:	Unauthorized and Proposed Habitat Impacts	attached
6:	Proposed On-Site Mitigation Open Space	attached

TABLES

1:	Plant Communities	page 14
2:	Sensitive Plant Species Observed or with the Potential for Occurrence	attached
3:	Sensitive Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring	attached
4:	Sensitivity Codes	attached
5:	Unauthorized Grading Impacts	page 29
6:	Proposed Mitigation Acreages	page 46

PHOTOGRAPHS

1:	Looking south; Recent Grading within the Caltrans borrow pit	attached
2:	Looking south-south west; Visible scarring from Caltrans activities	attached

ATTACHMENTS (additional technical data)

1:	Sensitive Plant Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur
2:	Sensitive Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring
3:	Sensitivity Codes
4:	Plant Species Observed
5:	Wildlife Species Observed/Detected
6:	Wetland Delineation Sheet
7:	Cumulative Impact Project List

GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS AND ACRONYMS

ACOE: Army Corps of Engineers

Adaptive Management: A systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.

Alluvium: Material, including clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar unconsolidated sediments, deposited by a streambed or other body of running water.

Biological Open Space Easement (BOSE): An easement dedicated to the County of San Diego or other jurisdictional body for the purposes of the preservation of natural resources.

Blue-line Stream: A watercourse shown as a blue line on a U.S. Geological Service topographic quadrangle map.

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

BMPs: Best Management Practices

Buffer Zone: An area of land separating two distinct land uses that acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on the other.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG): a department of the California Resources Agency.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA): The California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game code, Section 2050, et seq.) and all rules, regulations and guidelines promulgated hereunder, as amended.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) and all guidelines promulgated hereunder, as amended.

CCC: California Coastal Commission

CFG: California Fish and Game Code

CNDDDB: California Natural Diversity Data Base

CNPPA: California Native Plant Protection Act

CNPS: California Native Plant Society

Candidate Species: Any species of animal or plant or population thereof for which the USFWS currently has on file substantial information on their biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened species. Issuance of proposed rules for listing is presently precluded by other higher priority listing actions.

Canopy Cover: The cover of leaves and branches formed by the tops or crowns of plants as viewed from above.

Carrying Capacity: Maximum stocking rate possible without inducing damage to vegetation or related resources. It may vary from year to year on the same area due to fluctuating weather conditions and forage production (see grazing capacity).

Community: A group of plants and animals living together in a common area and having close interactions.

Conservation Easement: A legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency, such as the CDFG, that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values (California Government Code Section 27255)

Conserve: To use "all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act are no longer necessary...."

Conserved Land: Land that is permanently protected and managed for the benefit of natural resources under legal arrangements, including a Conservation Easement that prevent its conversion to other uses and the institutional arrangements that provide for its ongoing management.

Constrained Linkage: A constricted connection expected to provide for movement of identified species between core areas, where options for assembly of the connection are limited due to existing patterns of land use.

GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS AND ACRONYMS cont.

Consult/Consultation: A cooperative effort established by the FESA between Federal agencies and the USFWS. The purpose is to ensure that agency actions conserve listed species, aid in recovery of listed species, and protect critical habitat.

Core Area: A block of habitat of appropriate size, configuration, and vegetation characteristics to generally support the life history requirements of one or more Covered Species.

Corridor: A direct or indirect connection that links separate patches of habitat.

Covered Species: Those species within a Subarea Planning Area that will be “adequately conserved” by an existing approved Plan or at the time the ‘DRAFT’ Plan(s) are implemented.

Covered Species Adequately Conserved: Covered Species that are adequately conserved by a Subarea Plan and which are provided in the Incidental Take Coverage Section 10(a) Permit and NCCP Permit and for animals through the Section 10(a) permit issued in conjunction with an Implementing Agreement.

Cumulative Impact: As used in CEQA, the total impact resulting from the accumulated impacts of individual projects or programs over time.

Dedication: The turning over by an owner or developer of private land for public use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the public function for which it will be used. Dedications for roads, parks, school sites, or other public uses often are made conditions for approval of a development by a city or county.

Easement: Usually the right to use property owned by another for specific purposes or to gain access to another property. For example, utility companies often have easements on the private property of individuals to be able to install and maintain utility facilities.

Edge Effects: Adverse direct and indirect effects to species, habitats and vegetation communities, generally along the natural wildlands/urban interface.

Endangered: A formal designation under CESA and FESA. Under CESA, a taxon which is “in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes” (CFGC § 2062). Under FESA, a taxon which is “in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range” (FESA § 3 (6)).

Endangered Species: Those species listed as Endangered under FESA and/or CESA.

Environment: CEQA defines environment as “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.”

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A report required pursuant to CEQA which assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area, determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action, and identifies alternatives or other measures to avoid or reduce those impacts.

Exotic Species: A species of plant or animal that is not indigenous, native, or naturalized to the area where it is found.

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA): The Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C., Section 1531, et seq.) and all rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, as amended.

Forb: Any herbaceous plant other than those in the Gramineae (true grasses), Cyperaceae (sedges), and Juncaceae (rushes) families, i.e. any non-grasslike plant having little or no woody material on it. A broad-leaved plant with above ground stems that do not become woody or persistent.

FPA: Focused Planning Area

FSC: Federal Species of Concern

Ground Cover: Surface materials including the basal areas of grass and forbs, and aerial coverage of shrubs that provide protection to the soils surface.

GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS AND ACRONYMS cont.

Habitat: The combination of environmental conditions of a specific place providing for the needs of a species or a population.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): An area-specific plan prepared pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of FESA that is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit for a project with no Federal nexus for a listed species, designed to minimize and mitigate the authorized take of the species.

Habitat Requirements: A specific set of physical and biological conditions that surround a single species, group of species, or community of species upon which the species or associations are dependent for their existence. In wildlife management the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Herbaceous: Vegetation with little or no woody component, such as grasses and forbs.

Implementing Agreement (IA): A contractual obligation between individual jurisdictions within a Subarea and the Wildlife Agencies to implement the requirements of a Subarea Plan.

Incidental Take: Take which is incidental to the pursuit of an otherwise legal activity. Legal incidental take is set forth by the USFWS in a biological opinion under Section 7 of FESA.

Incidental Take Permit/Incidental Take Authorization: The authorization from the USFWS for taking of a federally listed wildlife species, if such taking is incidental to and not the purpose of carrying out otherwise lawful activities.

Indicator: Quantitative measure of an ecosystem element used to describe the condition of an ecosystem; changes in indicators over relatively short periods of time are used to measure the effects of management.

Lead Agency: Under CEQA, the public agency that has the primary responsibility for approving the proposed project/action.

Linkage: A connection between Core Areas with adequate size, configuration, and vegetation characteristics to generally provide biological viability and/or provide for genetic flow for identified species.

List 1A. A CNPS ranking applied to plants presumed extinct in California.

List 1B. A CNPS ranking applied to plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

List 2. A CNPS ranking applied to plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

List 3. A CNPS ranking applied to plants about which we need more information—a “review” list.

List 4. A CNPS ranking applied to plants of limited distribution—a “watch” list.

Limited Building Zone (LBZ): A structural setback easement established by the County of San Diego that prohibits the construction of habitable structures. The LBZ extends from the edge of conserved habitat in the direction of development.

Listed Species: A taxon that is protected under the FESA or CESA. Listing categories include: Threatened, Endangered, Species of Special Concern, State Protected Species, Federally Proposed Threatened or Endangered, and Federally Petitioned Threatened or Endangered.

LORS: Acronym for the applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards relative to the property

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA): The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (50 C.F.R., Section 21, et seq.) and all rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, as amended.

MHCOSP: County of San Diego Multiple Habitat Conservation and Open Space Program

MHCP: County of San Diego Multiple Habitat Conservation Program, a Subregional Plan

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

MSCP: A Subregional Plan. Also refers to the County of San Diego’s Multiple Species Conservation Program Subarea Plan or City of San Diego’s Multiple Species Conservation Program Subarea Plan.

Mean Sea Level (MSL): The average altitude of the sea surface for all tidal stages.

GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS AND ACRONYMS cont.

Mima Mound : A hump of soil in a vernal pool grassland. Mima mounds can range from a few inches to a few feet in height.

Mitigation: In general, a combination of measures to lessen the impacts of a project or activity on an element of the natural environment or various other cultural or historic values. More specifically, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality in its regulations for implementing NEPA, mitigation includes: (a) avoiding the impact, (b) minimizing the impact, (c) rectifying (i.e., repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring) the impact (d) reducing or eliminating the impact through operations during the life of the project, or (e) compensating by replacing or substituting resources.

Monitoring: The timed collection of information to determine the effects of resource management and to identify changing resource conditions or needs.

Narrow Endemic Species: Species that are highly restricted by their habitat affinities, soil requirements, or other ecological factors.

Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA): A 1977 law which gave the California Fish and Game Commission the authority to designate native plants as endangered or rare, and to require permits for collecting, transporting, or selling such plants (CFGCA §§ 1900-1913).

Native (Indigenous) Species: A species of plant or animal that naturally occurs in an area and that was not introduced by humans.

Natural Community Conservation Planning Act: A habitat conservation program instituted by the State of California in 1991 to encourage the preservation of natural communities before species within those communities are threatened with extinction.

Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP): A plan prepared under the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program designed to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem scale while accommodating compatible land use.

NCCP Permit: The Permit issued in accordance with the IA by CDFG under the NCCP to permit the take of identified species, including rare species, species listed under CESA as threatened or endangered, species that are candidates for listing, and unlisted species.

Natural State: The condition existing prior to development.

Non-contiguous Habitat Block: A block of habitat not connected to other habitat areas.

Occurrence: A location where an element (plant, animal, or natural community) is found. The occurrence can consist of a single population or several colonies in the nearby vicinity. The separation distance between discrete occurrences as per CNDDDB is 0.25 miles in California.

Perennial Plant Species: A plant that has a life cycle of three years or more.

Plant Community: Assemblage of plant populations in a defined area or physical habitat; an aggregation of plants similar in species composition and structure, occupying similar habitats over the landscape.

Population: A group of individuals of a given species that inhabits a relatively well-defined geographic area and has the opportunity to interbreed freely.

Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA): Lands that have been identified through an extensive computer modeling process and independent scientific review as being of high biological importance. PAMA lands are “pre-approved” as being suitable for conservation.

Preserve: Noun: an area set apart for the protection of wildlife and natural resources. Verb: to keep intact or unimpaired; maintain.

Proposed Species: A species of plant or animal formally proposed by the USFWS to be listed as threatened or endangered under FESA.

GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS AND ACRONYMS cont.

Raptor: Any predatory bird (such as falcon, hawk, eagle, vulture, or owl) that has feet with sharp talons or claws adapted for seizing prey and a hooked beak for shearing flesh.

Rare: A species of plant or animal existing in such small numbers throughout all or a significant portion of its range that it may become endangered or threatened (as defined by CESA or FESA) if its environment worsens.

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB): A State permitting agency

Recovery: Improvement in the status of a Listed Species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set forth in Section 4 of FESA. Also, the process by which species and/or their ecosystems are restored to be self-sustaining.

Recruitment: Addition to a plant or animal population from all sources, including reproduction, immigration, and stocking.

Regional: Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale affecting a broad geographic area.

Resource Management Plan (RMP): An activity plan for wildlife resources for a specific geographical area of land. It identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO): San Diego County Ordinance No. 9842 relating to wetlands, prehistoric and historic sites, agricultural operations, enforcement, and other matters

Right-of-Way (ROW): An easement or permit, which authorizes land to be used for a specified purpose that generally requires a long narrow strip of land. Examples are roads, power lines, pipelines, etc.

Riparian: In reference to the transitional area between an aquatic ecosystem and an adjacent terrestrial ecosystem identified by soil characteristics or distinctive vegetation communities that require significant hydration.

Section 7: The section of FESA that requires all federal agencies, in consultation with USFWS, to insure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Listed Species or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Soil Compaction: A decrease in the volume of soil as a result of compression stress.

SCS: Soils Conservation Service

SLRR: The San Luis Rey River, a major riverine system in northern San Diego County

Species: A fundamental category of plant or animal classification.

SSC: Species of Special Concern (State of California)

Special Status Species: Plant or animal species listed as endangered, threatened, candidate, or sensitive by federal, state, or local governments.

Subarea: Pertaining to a portion of a Subregion. Generally used to mean a discrete planning area under a single jurisdiction.

Subdivision: The division of a tract of land into defined lots, either improved or unimproved, which can be separately conveyed by sale or lease, and which can be altered or developed.

Subregional: Pertaining to a portion of a region. Generally used to mean a discrete planning area under multiple jurisdictions.

Successional: Reference to the constantly occurring process of community change; the sequence of communities that replace one another in a given area over time.

Take: Under FESA and CESA: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct relative to a Listed Species.

Taxon: A taxonomic category or group, such as a phylum, order, family, genus, species, subspecies, or variety.

Third Party Take Authorization: Take Authorization received by a landowner, developer, or other public or private entity pursuant to an IA, thereby allowing the Incidental Take of Covered Species.

GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS AND ACRONYMS cont.

Threatened Species: Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and as further defined by FESA and the CESA.

T&E: Threatened and Endangered (Species)

Upland: Land at a higher elevation than the alluvial plain or low stream terrace; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

USFS: United States Forest Service

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS/USFWS): An agency of the United States Department of the Interior.

USGS: United States Geological Survey

Vegetative Community: Refers to the species or various combinations of species which dominate or appear to dominate an area of habitat (see plant community).

Viable Populations: Populations of plants and/or animals that persist for a specified period of time across their range despite normal fluctuations in population and environmental conditions.

Watershed: The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse that drains into a lake, or reservoir.

Wetlands: An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wildlife Agencies: The USFWS and CDFG, collectively.

Wildlife Corridor: A landscape feature that allows animal movement between two patches of habitat or between habitat and sources of essential resources.

SUMMARY

The North County Environmental Resources property is an approximately 138.12 acre property located in the unincorporated portion of San Diego County. Access to the property is off of Mesa Rock Road, on the west side of Interstate 15 (Figures 1 and 2). In the late 1960's and early 1970's California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) initiated and completed the construction of the Interstate 15 utilizing a portion of the property as a 'borrow pit'. The following list provides a brief history of Interstate 15 in the San Diego area relevant to the North County Environmental Resources property:

- Mid-1950s. U.S. 395 is rural highway for its entire San Diego County length except for Cabrillo Freeway section in Balboa Park. Plans call for the entire route to be upgraded to freeway standards. This includes the Escondido Freeway from Miramar north to Escondido.
- 1957. First time that an extension of Interstate 15 south from near San Bernardino to San Diego is suggested, with the rationale that such a highway could connect military bases in San Diego with Air Force bases in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. It is not incorporated in the original Interstate Highway System.
- 1967. Escondido Freeway is completed as far north as Rancho Bernardo Road. California 103 is commissioned along current Interstate 15 south of Miramar Road via Murphy Canyon Road, Ward Road, 40th Street, and Wabash Boulevard.
- December 1968. The Interstate 15 extension south to San Diego finally added to the Interstate Highway System after intense lobbying from San Diego and other Southern California politicians who would stand to benefit from such a freeway. This original plan has Interstate 15 culminating at the 32nd Street Naval Station (southwest of Interstate 5).
- 1971. Interstate 15/Escondido Freeway complete as far north as Lake Hodges. California 103/future Interstate 15 freeway construction through Murphy Canyon ongoing.

In addition to the construction of Interstate 15 along the eastern edge of the property, Caltrans utilized material excavated from the property to create material for the Interstate's construction in the area. These excavated areas, referred to as borrow pits, are located in two locations; the primary borrow pit is located in the south-eastern portion of the property adjacent to the west side of Interstate 15, and a second smaller area is located just west of the center of the property. The total area within the borrow pits (onsite) totals approximately 20.13 acres. In addition to the borrow pit impacts, numerous roads were graded throughout the property enabling the Caltrans trucks access to the borrow pits, totaling at least 3.09 acres (main road in only); with a total of 23.22 of total Caltrans impacts. A review of historic photographs ranging from the mid 1940's to the most recent aerial available, dated February 2008, were utilized to identify the historic impacts from the Caltrans borrow pit activities. A historic photograph dated March 2005 was selected to analyze the condition of the site prior to unauthorized grading. This historic vegetation and impact analysis is the baseline for determining the extent of the unauthorized grading of habitat which occurred onsite in 2006-2007 (approximately).

After an extensive review of historic photographs and site visits to observe the still visible scarring and the re-growth of the successional vegetation from the borrow pit activities, it has been determined, to the greatest extent possible, that a total of approximately 12.88 acres of habitat were impacted by the unauthorized grading activities and an additional 7.64 acres (total project impacts: 20.52 acres) are proposed to be impacted by the "As-Built" plan. Of this, a total of approximately 11.82 acres of sensitive mafic chaparral, 0.02 acres of sensitive willow scrub habitat, 1.91 acres of sensitive highly disturbed coastal sage scrub and 6.77 acres of disturbed habitat (dirt road; not sensitive/not significant) will be impacted by the proposed project (unauthorized impacts inclusive).

Because the unauthorized and proposed (as-built grading plan) grading was/is focused within the general area of the primary borrow pit area and the existing graded road accessing the site, the 20.52 acres of habitat and disturbed area proposed to be impacted are of low to moderate quality. This is due to the negative effects of long term edge exposure and continued disturbance from the use of trespassing off-road vehicles and general pedestrian traffic over the decades.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to determine the total acreage, type of vegetation/habitat, and what, if any, sensitive or rare species were impacted through the onsite un-authorized grading as well as assess any potential significant impacts and recommend measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate significant impacts consistent with federal, state, and local rules and regulations including the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the County of San Diego's Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO).

An examination of historic aerial photographs was required to determine the extent of habitat prior to the unauthorized grading activities. The historic photograph utilized to determine the "baseline" vegetation map (post borrow pit activities and pre-unauthorized grading) is dated March, 2005 and was used because of the clarity, angle, and age of the image (Figure 3.0). This aerial was compared to a 1947 aerial a 1964 aerial (Figure 3.1), a 1980 aerial (Figure 3.2) and a current aerial (February 2008; Figure 3.3) to best identify what specifically was impacted by the unauthorized grading which occurred between 2006 and 2007 (approximately).

1.2 Project Location and Description

The North County Environmental Resources property is an approximately 138.12 acre property located in the unincorporated portion of San Diego County.

The property is mapped in Section 30, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS 1968) 7.5-minute San Marcos quadrangle topographic map. The property is immediately west of Interstate 15, off of Mesa Rock Road (to the west) as it intersects the Interstate (Figures 1 and 2).

The site is within the area covered by the draft North County MSCP.

1.3 Survey Methodologies

Literature that was reviewed prior to initiation of the site surveys included: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service (SCS) mapping for the project area; a database query of potential on-site sensitive species based on a determination of the site's physical characteristics (*e.g.*, location, elevation, soils/substrate, and topography); documentation of California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records for the project vicinity; and previous biology reports prepared for the project area, including reports prepared by the author.

BLUE Consulting's County of San Diego approved biological consultant, Michael Jefferson, conducted onsite general vegetation, a wetlands/waters assessment and rare plant and species surveys on January 2nd and 3rd, 2008

and October 13th 2008 and again on October 30 and November 22nd, 2012. A protocol jurisdictional wetland delineation was completed onsite by independent biologist Victor Novik on August 25, 2009. All mapping was completed on a March 2007 and a February 2008 aerial photograph of the area.

Animal species observed directly or detected from calls, tracks, scat, nests, or other sign were noted. All plant species observed on-site were also noted, and plants that could not be identified in the field were identified later using taxonomic keys. The site visit included a directed survey for sensitive plants that would be apparent at the time of the survey.

Limitations to the compilation of a comprehensive floral checklist were imposed by dense vegetation in parts of the site that limited the ability to detect small shrubs and annuals. Because surveys were not completed in the spring, some spring annual species that potentially exist onsite were not mature enough to absolutely identify. Since surveys were performed during the day, nocturnal animals were detected by sign.

Floral nomenclature for common plants follows Hickman (1993). Plant community classifications follow the California Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) (Holland 1986). Zoological nomenclature for birds is in accordance with the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist (1998); for mammals, Jones et al. (1982); and for amphibians and reptiles, Collins (1997). Assessments of the sensitivity of species and habitats are based primarily on County of San Diego MSCP (1996; 2004), Skinner and Pavlik (1994), State of California (2009), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2009). Nomenclature for animal species in this report follows American Ornithological Union (AOU 2000) for birds, Stebbins (2003) for reptiles and amphibians, Jones (1992) for mammals, and Powell (1979) for insects. Nomenclature for plants follows Hickman (1996), as updated by Simpson & Rebman (2001). Habitats were classified according to Holland (1986) and Oberbauer (1996).

The specific dates, personnel, and weather conditions are presented below:

Biological Surveys Conducted on North County Environmental Resources Property				
Date	Survey Type	Time	Conditions Temp (°F), Wind (mph) begin and end, Sky	Biologists
1-2-08	General/rare	0900-1345	51-68, 0-5, Clear	MJ
1-3-08	General/rare	0830-1230	53-67, 0-5, Clear	MJ
10-13-08	General/rare	1015-1430	66-65, 0-5, 10% Cloud cover	MJ
8-25-09	Wetland Delineation	1030-1300	69-72, 0-5, Clear	VN
10-30-12	General/rare	0800-1530	56-65, 0-5, 10% Cloud cover	MJ
11-22-12	General/rare	0815-1230	58-69, 0-5, 1-5% Cloud cover	MJ

Investigators include the lead biologist and author (MJ) and Victor Novik (VN; wetland delineation). During the field surveys, the entire property was walked, and all plants, animals and habitats encountered were noted in the field.

Several directed field surveys and habitat evaluations were conducted in conjunction with the biological study of the site. These included a protocol wetland survey and habitat evaluations for the various other sensitive species known from the vicinity (CNDDDB).

1.3.1 Protocol Wetland Delineation

A protocol jurisdictional wetland delineation was completed onsite by independent biologist Victor Novik on August 25, 2009. All mapping was completed on a March 2007 and a February 2008 aerial photograph of the area. This directed survey consists of mapping the boundaries of the wetland habitat based on specific County, State, and Federal wetland definitions, utilizing the referenced “ground-truthed” aerial photographs of the site.

1.4 Environmental Setting

The property consists of steep, rocky slopes at elevations between 925 feet above mean sea level (AMSL, U.S. Geological Survey 1968) at the south-eastern corner of the property to 1383 feet AMSL in the central/western portion of the property. The area within the borrow pit area is approximately 1,000 feet AMSL.

The property is comprised of three soil types. The northern portion of the property is comprised of Vista course sandy loam with 15%-30% slopes. The eastern property edge is comprised of Ramona sandy loam with slopes ranging from 5%-15%. The bulk of the property, approximately 65% is comprised of Cienega very rocky course sandy loam with slopes ranging between 9% and 75% slopes.

Surrounding land uses are comprised of the following: to the south is undeveloped habitat, an avocado grove and scattered single family residences, to the north is undeveloped habitat and a newly graded estate size subdivision, to the west is low density rural development and habitat, and to the east is Interstate 15 and housing.

1.4.1 Regional Context

In general, the regional context of the property can be described as follows: The site is located adjacent to Interstate 15 (I-15) freeway. This area is within the context of San Diego County’s draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) North County Subarea Planning area. The North County draft MSCP Planning area is a proposed NCCP Subarea to the MSCP.

1.4.2 Habitat Types/Vegetation Communities

During the biological surveys, a total of four vegetation communities were mapped on-site: Diegan coastal sage scrub, mafic southern mixed chaparral, willow scrub and disturbed habitat. The dirt roads which traverse the entire property were mapped as disturbed habitat. These land cover types are described below. Table 1 summarizes the acreage of each land cover type and Figure 4 depicts their location (Photographs 1 and 2).

Habitat-types present onsite are described below:

TABLE 1
PLANT COMMUNITIES

Plant Community	Tier	Acres
Diegan coastal sage scrub	II	3.9
Mafic southern mixed chaparral	I	121.32
Willow Scrub	I	0.12
Disturbed habitat	IV	12.78
TOTAL		138.12

Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (3.9 acres; Holland Code 32500)

Coastal sage scrub is a plant community comprised of low-growing, aromatic, drought-deciduous soft-woody shrubs that have an average height of approximately three to four feet. The plant community is typically dominated by facultatively drought deciduous species such as California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*). The community typically is found on low moisture-availability sites with steep, xeric slopes or clay rich soils that are slow to release stored water. These sites often include drier south- and west-facing slopes and occasionally north-facing slopes. Diegan coastal sage scrub is found in coastal areas from Los Angeles County south into Baja California (Holland 1986).

Diegan coastal sage scrub on-site is of low to moderate quality and is generally in transition into the surrounding mafic chaparral. In general, all areas mapped as Diegan coastal sage scrub had at least 15 percent cover of native shrubs and subshrubs; this includes the CSS regrowth within the Quarry footprint.

The dominant native shrub differed at the two different locations on-site (higher quality in the northern population) but generally included California sagebrush, California buckwheat, black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and white sage. The Diegan coastal sage scrub regrowth within the historic Cal-Trans rock quarry (and assumed similar to what was impacted by the unauthorized grading) is dominated by non-native vegetation including black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), and foxtail chess (*Bromus rubens* ssp. *madritensis*). This is likely due to the constant impacts to the area from off-road vehicles and typical pedestrian traffic.

Mafic Southern Mixed Chaparral (121.32 acres, Holland Code 37122)

Mafic southern mixed chaparral is a subtype of southern mixed chaparral that occurs on mafic (rich in magnesium and iron) soils. Southern mixed chaparral is a vegetation community typically dominated by broad-leaved sclerophyllous shrubs or small trees and characteristically occupies protected north-facing and canyon slopes or ravines where more mesic conditions are present. The vegetation is usually dense, with little or no understory cover, but may include patches of bare soil. This community typically is found in sites that are moister than those supporting chamise chaparral. Many species in this community are adapted to repeated fires by their ability to stump sprout. Southern mixed chaparral is typically found in coastal foothills of San Diego County and northern Baja California, Mexico, usually at elevations below 3,000 feet (Holland 1986).

Mafic southern mixed chaparral dominates the property, where the dense vegetation on the north-facing slope is eight to ten feet tall, except in those areas where it has regrown within the quarry footprint. In these re-growth areas, the vegetation is much sparser and shorter (3 feet) and the understory is dominated by non-native annual species. Dominant species are chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*), mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), ceanothus (*Ceanothus oliganthus*), and bushrue (*Cneoridium dumosum*). The observed Mafic southern mixed

chaparral on the south-facing slopes was dominated by these species but included yellow bush penstemon (*Keckiella antirrhinoides*) and more elements of Diegan coastal sage scrub, particularly black sage and California buckwheat.

Willow Scrub (0.12 acres)

This designation is used for the single 0.12 acre pocket supporting willows sp. and poison oak.

This area was observed to the east of the existing road (opposite the large bend in the road) and is within an ephemeral drainage that supports approximately 4 mulefat and 1 arroyo willow with poison oak as the dominant understory species.

Disturbed Habitat (12.78 acres, Holland Code 11300)

Disturbed habitat is found throughout the site in the form of bare dirt paths and graded dirt access roads. These areas were originally all generally within the rock quarry footprint. This disturbed habitat supports occasional weedy species such as Long-beaked Stork's-bill (*Erodium botrys*), Red-stem Stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), Dove Weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*), and others. Disturbed Habitat is a non-sensitive habitat-type in San Diego County as defined by the RPO and the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance. The Disturbed Habitat onsite has little to no biological resource value.

1.4.3 Flora

A total of 83 plant species were identified within the survey area (Attachment 1). Of this total, 63 (76 percent) are species native to San Diego County.

1.4.4 Fauna

Typically, mature Chaparral is occupied by numerous insects, reptiles, birds, and rodents and other mammals, although none of these are restricted to this vegetation community. Most species are found in other shrub-dominated types such as Coastal Sage Scrub. The numbers of all are reduced, for varying durations, by fire. The current quality of the habitat is generally very high.

Twenty two species of animals were detected on and adjacent to the property during the surveys. A complete list of the wildlife species detected is provided in (Attachment 2). Sensitive species potentially occurring on-site are discussed in the Sensitive Biological Resources section of this report.

Amphibians

Most amphibians require moisture for at least a portion of their lifecycle, with many requiring a permanent water source for habitat and reproduction. Terrestrial amphibians have adapted to more arid conditions and are not completely dependent on a perennial or standing source of water. These species avoid desiccation by burrowing beneath the soil or leaf litter during the day and during the dry season.

While willow scrub was observed onsite, it does not support the appropriate hydrological conditions amphibians require. No suitable habitat for amphibians was observed on-site. No sensitive amphibians were detected on-site during the surveys.

Reptiles

The diversity and abundance of reptile species varies with habitat type. Many reptiles are restricted to certain plant communities and soil types although some of these species will also forage in adjacent communities. Other

species are more ubiquitous, using a variety of vegetation types for foraging and shelter.

Southern Pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis helleri*) and coastal whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*) were observed on and along a dirt road leading up to the top peak of the property (towards “whale rock”). Common reptiles such as western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) are expected to occur on the site.

Birds

The diversity of bird species varies with respect to the character, quality, and diversity of plant communities present on a site.

Fifteen species of birds were observed in the property. Most species observed in Mafic southern mixed chaparral are relatively common scrub residents such as bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus minimus*), Bewick's wren (*Thyromanes bewickii*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), and California quail (*Callipepla californica californica*).

Mammals

Naturally vegetated areas provide cover and foraging opportunities for a variety of mammal species. Disturbed areas provide limited opportunities for mammals. Most mammal species are nocturnal and are difficult to detect during daytime surveys.

No mammals were observed during the surveys. The site is likely to provide habitat for common mammals, such as California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

1.4.5 Sensitive Plant Species

State and federal agencies regulate sensitive species and require an assessment of their presence or potential presence to be conducted on-site prior to the approval of any proposed development on a property. For purposes of this report, species will be considered sensitive if they are: (1) listed or proposed for listing by local, state or federal agencies as threatened or endangered; (2) on List 1B (considered endangered throughout its range) or List 2 (considered endangered in California but more common elsewhere) of the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* (Skinner and Pavlik 1994); or (3) considered fully protected, sensitive, rare, endangered, or threatened by the State of California (2009) and California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB; State of California 2009), or other local conservation organizations or specialists. California fully protected is a designation adopted by the State of California prior to the creation of the State Endangered Species Act and is intended as protection from harm or harassment.

Noteworthy plant species are considered to be those which are on List 3 (more information about the plant's distribution and rarity needed) and List 4 (plants of limited distribution) of the CNPS Inventory. Sensitive habitat types are those identified by the CNDDB (State of California, 2009), Holland (1986) and/or those considered sensitive by other resource agencies.

Determination of the potential occurrence for listed, sensitive or noteworthy species are based upon known ranges and habitat preferences for the species (Zeiner et al. 1988a, 1988b, 1990; Skinner and Pavlik 1994; Reiser 1994); species occurrence records from the NDDDB (State of California, 2009); and species occurrence records from other sites in the vicinity of the project site.

Plant species have variable blooming seasons and may only be identifiable at a certain time of year. Plants documented from the area have been assessed for their relative potential to occur within the habitats on the site.

Sensitive Plant Communities and Habitats

Three vegetation communities on the site, coastal sage scrub, mafic southern mixed chaparral, and willow scrub are considered sensitive to a greater or lesser degree by the County of San Diego, NDDDB (State of California 2009), Holland (1986), and/or state and federal resource agencies). Mafic southern mixed chaparral (Tier I habitat type) and Diegan coastal sage scrub (Tier II habitat type) are both considered sensitive by the wildlife agencies as well as the County. Furthermore, these habitats are considered as sensitive under the Draft North County MSCP. All riparian habitats, including unvegetated ephemeral drainages, in southern California are regarded as sensitive because of their generalized functions as bird and mammal foraging and breeding habitat, and because they have undergone general diminution over time.

Sensitive Plants

The CNDDDB search revealed 3 federally- or state-listed species or Species of Concern on-site or adjacent to the site (off-site). One of these, Summer-Holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*) was observed on the site (Reiser 2001). The others, Rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*) and Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*), were not observed on-site. While other sensitive plant species may have potentially existed within the "As-Built" plan footprint in the past, prior to the initiation of the long standing impacts to this area, no other plant taxa (such as many of those listed in the issued County letter) that are considered sensitive and/or rare could be within the scope of the "As-Built" plan footprint and not observed.

Table 2 lists those species that were observed or are potentially expected to occur onsite and within the "As-Built" plan footprint. One of these species was observed on the property.

None of the sensitive plant species listed as potentially occurring onsite were observed in or around (within 1000 linear feet) the remaining habitat surrounding the borrow pit area.

A. Observed

Summer-Holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*). Summer-holly is a federal Species of Concern and is a CNPS List 1B species. Mesic north-facing slopes in southern mixed chaparral are the preferred habitat of this species. Rugged steep drainages seem to be a preferred location for isolated shrubs. Most of the population of summer-holly occurs west of Interstate 15. In the larger populations, the surrounding mature chaparral is typically tall, dense, and luxuriant. Possible associates include wart-stemmed ceanothus, mission Manzanita, and toyon (Reiser 2001). A single individual Summer-holly plant was reported observed at the top of the main peak onsite in 1989 (CNDDDB, 2012). It was not observed during the 2008 or 2012 surveys conducted by BLUE and is outside the proposed project footprint.

B. Not Observed

Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*). Parry's tetracoccus is a CNPS (2009) List 1B species. This erect or spreading shrub in the spurge family (*Euphorbiaceae*) reaches six feet in height and has linear leaves. The plant blooms in April and May, with small inconspicuous flowers produced separately on male and female plants (Munz 1974). This species is found from the Ortega Highway in southern Orange and Riverside counties through the Peninsular Range and east to Jacumba in San Diego County and south to Baja California (Munz 1974; CNPS 2009). Parry's tetracoccus grows on dry, rocky slopes below 3300 feet in chaparral (Hickman 1993), particularly in

moderately dense, low-growing chamise chaparral (Reiser 2001).

Parry's tetracoccus was observed approximately 1.5 miles offsite to the west (CNDDDB, 2009).

Rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*). Rainbow manzanita is a CNPS (2007) List IB species. This evergreen shrub in the heath family (Ericaceae) flowers in January and February. The range of this species is limited to the Peninsular Range in northern San Diego County and southern Riverside County. It grows in southern mixed chaparral between 750 and 2200 feet (CNPS 2009). This species was described (Keeley and Massihi 1994) after the publication of the *Jepson Manual* (Hickman 1993). It is commonly found on rocky Cieneba and Las Posas soils. Rainbow manzanita can be distinguished from big-berry manzanita, which may grow in the same location, because it lacks that species' large, sticky fruits (Reiser 2001).

Rainbow manzanita was observed approximately 1.4 miles offsite to the north (CNDDDB, 2009).

1.4.6 Sensitive Wildlife Species

The CNDDDB search revealed 4 federally- or state-listed species or Species of Concern recorded from the USGS 7.5' San Marcos and Bonsall, California topographic quadrangles. Table 3 lists these species, their conservation status, and potential for occurrence on the property. Table 4 lists the Sensitivity Codes.

A. Observed

Raptor species. Raptors are large predatory or scavenger birds that typically require tall trees for perching and nesting. These tall trees are often associated with adjacent open grasslands used as foraging areas for raptors. Due to declining habitat and the associated declining numbers of these species on the whole, raptor species, as a group, have been designated as California Species of Special Concern by the CDFG. These species are protected, especially during their critical nesting and wintering stages.

Two red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) were observed onsite during the surveys. Turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) were also observed flying over the site. It is reported that a golden eagle is ranging resident in the area; however, it was not observed during any of the surveys. These species and others raptors are not expected to nest on-site, because of the absence of large trees/nesting areas. The onsite populations of these species are not anticipated to be large or regionally significant, as these species occur throughout cismontane southern California in areas of suitable habitat.

B. Not Observed

Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*). The southern California rufous-crowned sparrow is a state species of special concern. This subspecies of rufous-crowned sparrow is a resident and ranges throughout southern California from Los Angeles County to Baja California, Mexico, along the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges (Collins 1997). Southern California rufous-crowned sparrows are found in chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats and occasionally in grasslands adjacent to these habitats.

Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow was not observed onsite during the surveys; however, an individual was detected approximately 1/3 of a mile south of the property limit (CNDDDB, 2009).

Belding's orangethroat whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingii*). The Belding's orangethroat whiptail is a CDFG species of special concern. This species ranges from southwestern San Bernardino County to the tip of Baja

California, Mexico, in areas of low, scattered brush and grass with loose sandy loam soils. It can be found in open coastal sage scrub, chaparral, washes, stream sides, and other sandy areas with rocks, patches of brush, and rocky hillsides (Stebbins 1985). The orangethroat whiptail feeds primarily on subterranean termites and harvester ants. It is active during the spring and summer months and hibernates during the fall and winter. Adult orangethroat whiptails generally hibernate from late July or early August until late April. The immature whiptail has a shorter inactivity period, usually hibernating from December through March. Hibernation sites are on soft, well-drained slopes with southern exposure and little or no vegetation cover, and road cuts tend to be suitable.

The property contains vegetation and soils that would provide suitable habitat for Belding's orangethroat whiptail. There is a moderate potential for the species to occur on-site.

Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). The coastal California gnatcatcher is a Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) covered species, a federally listed threatened species, and a CDFG species of special concern. The coastal California gnatcatcher is a resident species restricted to the coastal slopes of southern California, from Ventura County southward through Los Angeles County, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties into Baja California, Mexico (Atwood 1980; Jones and Ramirez 1995). The coastal California gnatcatcher typically occurs in coastal sage scrub, although this bird also uses chaparral, grassland, and riparian woodland habitats where they occur adjacent to coastal sage scrub. Populations of this species have declined as a result of both urban and agricultural development (Unitt 1984; Atwood 1990).

No coastal California gnatcatchers were observed onsite during the surveys; however an individual was detected approximately 2/3 of a mile south of the property limit (CNDDb, 2012).

San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*). The San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), occurs only on the coastal side of the southern California mountains where suitable jackrabbit habitat is less common (Stephenson and Calcarone 1999). This subspecies has been recorded from northern Baja California through San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties, as well as on Mt. Pinos. The black-tailed jackrabbit is a habitat generalist occurring in open areas or semi-open country, typically in grasslands, agricultural fields or sparse coastal scrub (Bond 1977). Vaughan (1954) found San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit in "thin stands" of coastal sage scrub and on the margins of citrus groves in the lower foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains; however, it is generally not found in chaparral or woodland habitats.

While appropriate habitat occurs onsite, no San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit(s) or any distinguishable sign was observed onsite during the surveys. Due to the appropriate and high quality habitat supported within the majority of the property(s) it is likely that the San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit occurs onsite. Potential for occurrence within the proposed project footprint and/or the Caltrans borrow pit area however is low as this area has, for the most part, been 'developed' and offers little to no cover and protection for the SD jack rabbit from the raptors observed in the area.

1.4.7 Wetlands/Jurisdictional Waters

State and Federal regulatory requirements pertain to jurisdiction over wetlands and other sensitive habitats, as well as listed species. The area within the proposed development footprint of the pads and access road contains potential jurisdictional wetlands or waters. Drainages, as possible wetlands or waters, are potentially subject to regulation by several agencies. The County of San Diego exercises control over wetlands through the Resource

Protection Ordinance (RPO); the CDFG regulates certain drainages and/or wetlands through the Fish and Game Code; and the ACOE regulates wetlands and waters protected by the Clean Water Act.

The current definitions utilized by these agencies with respect to wetlands regulation are as follows:

Federal Wetland Definitions

The federal regulations that implement Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which was enacted in 1972, define “wetlands” as follows:

“Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water (hydrology) at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation (hydrophytes) typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (hydric soils). Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.” (40 CFR 232.2(r).

Federal jurisdictional wetlands that are regulated by the ACOE under Section 404 of the CWA must exhibit all three of the above characteristics: hydrology, hydrophytes, and hydric soils (ACOE, 1987). Areas that may function as wetlands ecologically, but exhibit one or two of the three characteristics, do not currently qualify as federal jurisdictional wetlands, thus activities in these wetlands are not regulated under Section 404.

The ACOE also regulates the discharge of dredge and/or fill material into non-wetland “waters of the United States”. The term “waters of the United States” is defined by Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 328.3 9(a) as:

- 1) All waters that are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
- 2) All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
- 3) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sand flats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
 - i. which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or
 - ii. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
 - iii. which are used or could be used for industrial purpose by industries in interstate commerce;
- 4) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under the definition;
- 5) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a)(1)-(4) of this section;
- 6) The territorial seas;
- 7) Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (a)(1)(6) of this section.

Three Wetland Criteria

a. Hydrophytic Vegetation

Hydrophytic vegetation is defined as “the sum total of macrophytic plant life growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content” (USACE 1987). The potential wetland areas were surveyed by walking the proposed project site and making observations of those areas exhibiting characteristics of jurisdictional waters or wetlands. Vegetation units with the potential to be wetlands

were examined. The dominant plant species for each vegetation stratum (i.e., tree, shrub, herb, and vine) within the unit was determined, and the relative canopy cover was visually estimated. The dominant species from each stratum were then recorded on a summary data sheet along with the associated wetland indicator status of those species. The wetland indicator status of each dominant species was determined by using the list of wetland plants for California provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1997).

The hydrophytic vegetation criterion is considered fulfilled at a location if greater than 50 percent of all the dominant species present within the vegetation unit have a wetland indicator status of obligate (OBL), facultative-wet (FACW), or facultative (FAC) (USACE 1987). An OBL indicator status refers to plants that have a 99 percent probability of occurring in wetlands under natural conditions. A FACW indicator status refers to plants that occur in wetlands (67-99 percent probability) but are occasionally found in non-wetlands. A FAC indicator status refers to plants that are equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (estimated probability 34-66 percent).

b. Hydrology

Hydrologic information for the site was obtained by locating “blue-line” streams on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, reviewing groundwater table elevation information from soil surveys, and direct observations of hydrology indicators in the field (e.g., inundation, drift lines, sediment deposits, and drainage patterns). Evidence of flows, flooding, and ponding were recorded and the frequency and duration of these events were inferred.

The wetland hydrology criterion is considered fulfilled at a location based upon the conclusions inferred from the field observations, which indicate that an area has a high probability of being inundated or saturated (flooded or ponded) long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the surface soil environment, especially the root zone (USACE 1987).

c. Hydric Soils

The hydric soil criterion is considered fulfilled at a location if soils in the area could be inferred to have a high groundwater table, evidence of prolonged soil saturation, or any indicators suggesting a long-term reducing environment in the upper 12 inches of the soil profile.

The California version of CWA is the Porter-Cologne Act, which established the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) to oversee use and protection of the “waters of the state”. In California, all surface waters and groundwater are “waters of the state”.

The ACOE also takes jurisdiction in non-tidal waters when wetlands are not present according to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). This is defined as:

“...that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as 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 areas.”

State Wetland Definitions

According to the definition used by the CDFG, wetlands are "lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is covered by shallow water," and they exist where any one of the following conditions are present:

- 1) Predominantly undrained hydric soils; i.e. soils with low concentrations of oxygen in the upper layers during the growing season;
- 2) Predominance, at least periodically, of hydrophytic plants (plants that have adapted to the low availability of oxygen and others stresses in saturated soils);
- 3) Nonsoil substrate (such as a rocky shore) that is saturated with water or covered by shallow water each year at some point during the growing season.

County Wetland Definitions

The County's recently amended (2007) RPO defines "Wetlands" as follows.

- (1) Lands having one or more of the following attributes are "wetlands":
 - (aa) At least periodically, the land supports a predominance of hydrophytes (plants whose habitat is water or very wet places);
 - (bb) The substratum is predominantly undrained hydric soil; or
 - (cc) An ephemeral or perennial stream is present, whose substratum is predominately non-soil and such lands contribute substantially to the biological functions or values of wetlands in the drainage system.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) above, the following shall not be considered "Wetlands":
 - (aa) Lands which have attribute(s) specified in paragraph (1) solely due to man-made structures (e.g., culverts, ditches, road crossings, or agricultural ponds), provided that the Director of Planning and Land Use determines that they:
 - (i) Have negligible biological function or value as wetlands;
 - (ii) Are small and geographically isolated from other wetland systems;
 - (iii) Are not Vernal Pools; and,
 - (iv) Do not have substantial or locally important populations of wetland dependent sensitive species.
 - (bb) Lands that have been degraded by past legal land disturbance activities, to the point that they meet the following criteria as determined by the Director of Planning and Land Use:
 - (i) Have negligible biological function or value as wetlands even if restored to the extent feasible; and,
 - (ii) Do not have substantial or locally important populations of wetland dependent sensitive species.

"Waters" are not specifically discussed in the County's amended RPO, and the County of San Diego does not apparently recognize "waters" as a County-regulated resource.

The wetland habitat onsite can be described in terms of disturbance, species diversity, and connectivity to off-site habitat.

Five potential ephemeral drainages were evaluated for potential jurisdictional status on the North County Environmental Resources property (Figure 4). These five drainage features were evaluated because they were visible as topographic features on an aerial photo. Each drainage was evaluated for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and County of San Diego Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) jurisdictional status. All but one of the channels had no material to dig “pits” as is typical for protocol wetland delineations; one pit was dug and the results are attached. The results of this protocol wetland jurisdiction evaluation are provided below.

Of the 5 potential drainages/upland swales studied, one (drainage 4) had a portion of its length delineated as RPO/CDFG jurisdictional wetlands (0.12 acres of willow scrub). This 0.12 acres of willow scrub are outside of the original Caltrans borrow pit impact area. As the delineation shows, none of the identified upland swales previously impacted by Caltrans (or the unauthorized impacts) supported RPO/jurisdictional wetlands.

Non RPO and/or Jurisdictional Upland Drainage 1

The unvegetated ephemeral drainage located just north of the Caltrans graded pad has been determined to be a topographical feature, a cleft in the face of the rocky slope. The observed exposed rock is not a result of water scour but a condition indicative of the past use and the area’s natural rocky substrate. A portion of this drainage may have been graded in the past. It was difficult to determine where the drainage terminates as the area of topographical relief dissipates and there is no scour or visible path of water flow. It is assumed that any potential flows fan out and sheet flow into the I-15 right of way. Within this area there is a culvert which picks up the street storm water, but there is no visible connection between the two. As a historic rock quarry which was subject to significant impacts from the removal of vegetation, erosion, grading and explosive blasting, the exposed bedrock within and surrounding the topographic feature studied is not a natural condition. Due to the presence of upland plants in this drainage, and a lack of scour in those areas still supporting a soil substrate, indicates that there is not usually water in this drainage.

No consistent ordinary high water mark was observed. Therefore, this drainage was determined to not be ACOE Waters of the U.S. Because no aquatic resources such as riparian vegetation were observed, this drainage was determined to not be a CDFG jurisdictional stream. Because no evidence that the water table is usually at or near the ground surface was observed, vegetation is not hydrophytic, and it lacks evidence of stream flow, this drainage was determined to not be an RPO wetland.

Non RPO and/or Jurisdictional Upland Drainages 2 and 3

The central and south-western drainages are entirely within and support upland mixed chaparral habitat. These drainages both initiate and terminate within the mixed chaparral habitat. No consistent ordinary high water mark was observed. Therefore, this drainage was determined to not be an ACOE Waters of the U.S. Because no aquatic resources such as riparian vegetation were observed, this drainage was determined not to be a CDFG jurisdictional stream. Because no evidence that the water table is usually at or near the ground surface was observed, vegetation is not hydrophytic, and it doesn’t have a predominantly non-soil substrate, this drainage was determined to not be an RPO wetland.

Drainage 4 (partially RPO and/or Jurisdictional)

The majority of this drainage is located in the mixed chaparral habitat. This topographic feature terminates at a culvert which collects storm water from Mesa Rock Road. No consistent ordinary high water mark was observed. In a small patch of the drainage under several live oaks several wetland plants (*Cyperus* sp.) were observed. The presence of this riparian vegetation, though sparse, suggests that this lower portion of the drainage could be

considered jurisdictional by CDFG. This drainage is isolated and therefore would not be considered ACOE jurisdictional. Because no evidence that the water table is usually at or near the ground surface was observed, the drainage pattern supports soil substrate, and the vegetation is not predominantly hydrophytic, this drainage is not an RPO drainage. However, an area of approximately 0.12 acres which runs perpendicular to the topographic feature does support hydrophytic vegetation. This area of willow scrub habitat qualifies as sensitive RPO wetlands. It appears that this area supporting the willows persists due to the fact that it lies on a natural bench on the slope which allows rain water to collect on top of the underlying rock. This natural bench feature within an otherwise steep slope is also the reason why the proposed road runs through this area.

Non RPO and/or Jurisdictional Upland Drainage 5

The northernmost of the potential ephemeral drainages is located near the entrance to the site. This upland swale begins up slope to the west of the access road and travels down the slope to an existing drainage ditch which runs parallel to the road, both terminate at a culvert. A small eroded "channel" occurs in this area and it appears to be the result of the concentration of flows created within the graded drainage ditch which captures the sheet flow off of the existing access road. However, it dead-ends at the golf course waste area and does not join a tributary to Waters of the U.S., so it is not a Waters of the U.S. Because no aquatic resources such as riparian vegetation were observed, this drainage was determined to not be a CDFG jurisdictional stream. Because no evidence that the water table is usually at or near the ground surface was observed, vegetation is not hydrophytic, and it does not contribute substantially to the biological functions or values of wetlands in the drainage system, this drainage was determined to not be an RPO wetland.

In summary, of the five drainages examined, none would fall under the jurisdiction of the ACOE since they do not connect to a navigable water. One, "Drainage 4" has the potential to be partially CDFG jurisdictional, however the habitat is small and isolated and would not be considered a stream. These 0.12 acres of willow scrub habitat within "Drainage 4" has been determined to be a RPO wetland. See section 4.2 for the RPO road crossing findings. Impacts would be considered significant and mitigation is required (see mitigation section).

1.4.8 Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors or linkages between significant wildlife areas are important because of their role in preserving species diversity and viability. Without some connection or corridor to other areas, wildlife areas become virtual islands surrounded by development. Carlquist's principals of island biogeography predict that species diversity of an island is a function of the size of the island, the distance from the mainland, and the length of time it has been isolated. These principles have been shown to apply to wildlife areas within the urban fabric (Soule et al. 1988). As shown by Soule, small fragmented areas of habitat ultimately support lower numbers of species than similarly situated larger blocks of habitat.

Because the property is large and located within an extensive tract of mountainous undeveloped open space that includes the Interstate 15 corridor, it is likely to be traversed by large mammals including mule deer and mountain lions.

1.5 Applicable Regulations

Development of the North County Environmental Resources project is subject to discretionary environmental review in compliance with CEQA, the RPO, FESA, and other applicable environmental regulations. The purpose of this discretionary review is to ensure that the project will not result in significant, adverse impacts to the

environment. In this case, it applies specifically to endangered species, protected habitats, wetlands, and other sensitive biological resources.

The Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards (LORS) applicable for this proposed project include:

FEDERAL	
Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977	Title 33, United States Code, Sections 1251-1376, and Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30, Section 330.5(a)(26), prohibit the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States without a permit. The administering agency is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973	Title 16, United States Code, Section 1531 et seq., and Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 17.1 et seq., designate and provide for the protection of threatened and endangered plant and animal species and their critical habitat. The administering agency is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
Migratory Bird Treaty Act	Title 16, United States Code, Sections 703 through 712, prohibit the taking of migratory birds, including nests with viable eggs. The administering agency is the USFWS.
Fish and Game Coordination Act	Title 16, United States Code, section 661 et seq. requires federal agencies to coordinate federal actions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conserve fish and wildlife resources.
STATE	
California Endangered Species Act (CESA) of 1984	Fish and Game Code Sections 2050 through 2098 protect California's rare, threatened, and endangered species.
California Code of Regulations	California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 1, Subdivision 3, Chapter 3, Sections 670.2 and 670.5, list plants and animals of California that are designated as rare, threatened, or endangered.
Fully Protected Species	Fish and Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 prohibit the taking of animals that are classified as fully protected in California.
Nest or Eggs — Take, Possess, or Destroy	Fish and Game Code Section 3503 protects California's birds by making it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird.
Birds of Prey — Take, Possess, or Destroy	Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 specifically protects California's birds of prey in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes by making it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any such birds of prey or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird.
Migratory Birds — Take or Possession	Fish and Game Code Section 3513 protects California's migratory non-game birds by making it unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird as designated in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or any part of such migratory non-game bird.
Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)	This act includes provisions for protection and management of state-listed threatened or endangered plants and animals and their designated

Act of 1991	habitats.
Native Plant Protection Act of 1977	Fish and Game Code Sections 1900 et seq. designate rare, threatened, and endangered plants in the State of California.
Streambed Alteration Agreement	Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. requires the CDFG to review project impacts to waterways, including impacts to vegetation and wildlife from sediment, diversions, and other disturbances.
Clean Water Act	By federal law, every applicant for a federal permit or license for an activity which may result in a discharge into a California water body, including wetlands, must request a 401 certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board so that the proposed activity will not violate state and federal water quality standards.
LOCAL	
San Diego County General Plan — Open Space Element; Conservation Element and Community and Subregional Plans	Provides guiding principles for the conservation of biological resources, such as water, vegetation, and wildlife habitat.
Multiple Species Conservation Plan San Diego County Code Title 8 Div 6 Ch Biological Ordinance Sec 86 501	These ordinances protect the County's biological resources by guiding development outside of biological resource core areas, and by establishing mitigation standards for discretionary projects. Adoption and implementation of these ordinances enable the County of San Diego to achieve the conservation goals set forth in the Subarea Plan for the Multiple Species Conservation Plan ("MSCP"), adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 22, 1997.
NCCP Conservation and Process Guidelines	Documents comprising the NCCP Conservation and Process Guidelines include the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Community Conservation Planning Conservation Guidelines and the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Community Conservation Planning Process Guidelines, both dated November 1993, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors as Document No. 758984. These documents comprise the State's NCCP Conservation and Process Guidelines by the special rule promulgated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the coastal California Gnatcatcher under Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, published at Section 17.41(b) of Part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
Habitat Loss Permit	This permit is issued by the San Diego County Director of Planning & Development Services or the Director of the Department of Public Works in connection with the issuance of a permit or approval authorizing the disturbance or removal of coastal sage scrub. Habitat Loss Permit Ordinance No. 9698 amends Section 86.101 San Diego County Code to authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works to issue Habitat Loss Permits in connection with the review of grading and improvement plans.

2.0 PROJECT EFFECTS

Impacts to biological resources can be categorized as direct, indirect, or cumulative. Direct impacts are a result of project implementation, and generally include loss of vegetation, sensitive habitats, and plant and animal populations; introduction of non-native species which may outcompete and displace native vegetation; activity-related wildlife mortality; loss of foraging, nesting, breeding, or burrowing habitat; and fragmentation of wildlife corridors. Indirect impacts occur as a result of the increase in human encroachment in the natural environment and include off-road vehicle use, which impacts sensitive plant and animal species; harassment and/or collection of wildlife species; wildlife predation by domestic animals that intrude into open space areas; and increased wildlife mortality along roads. Cumulative impacts occur as a result of ongoing direct and indirect impacts for unrelated projects within a geographic area. Cumulative impacts are assessed on a regional basis and determine the overall effect of numerous activities on a sensitive resource over a larger area.

The extent of the unauthorized grading which impacted the onsite habitat was assessed by creating a historic rendition of the area prior to the recent impacts (Figure 4) and overlaying the prepared proposed grading plans over it (Figure 5).

The completed historic analysis has shown that approximately 12.88 acres were cleared and/or graded without prior authorization. These acreage totals are inclusive of habitat both within the historic quarry footprint (natural regrowth/recruitment) as well as previously pristine habitat outside of the quarry footprint. This is broken down by habitat type as follows: 0.92 acres of coastal sage scrub, 6.48 acres of Mafic southern mixed chaparral and 5.48 acres of disturbed habitat.

This analysis has determined that of the properties approximately 138.12 acres, the recent unauthorized grading as well as the area proposed to be impacted by the As-Built plan totals approximately 20.52 acres. Of this total, approximately 7.64 acres of impacts are outside of the area previously graded without authorization (12.88 acres). Finally, this total is inclusive of the 30 foot wide driveway fire buffer clearing and 100 foot wide structure buffer as approved by the County Fire Marshal.

These direct impacts result from the removal of habitat, plants, and animals from the site through grading and brushing, clearing, or thinning for fire protection purposes, agriculture, etc. These direct impacts are considered permanent because they result in a conversion of habitats to landscaped areas, structures, roads, etc. Indirect impacts also affect plants, animals, and habitats that occur on or near a project site. These are not the direct result of grading or development, but are the result of changes in land use as a by-product of adjacency. Examples of indirect impacts include the introduction of exotic species, human or pet intrusions into natural areas, lighting, traffic, and noise. Indirect impacts are often called "edge effects".

The determination of whether a project has a significant effect on biological resources is based on the best scientific and factual data that staff could review for the project. The significance of the activity is in large part dependent on the setting and the existing LORS for the particular site. For example, disturbance during construction on a "brownfield" (i.e., developed) site may not be significant, but this same activity on a "greenfield" (i.e., undeveloped) site may be significant because of the greater likelihood of sensitive biological resources in the area. Generally, staff relies on the rules and regulations of USFWS, USACE, and CDFG in assessing significance. Staff also considered the County of San Diego's ordinances protecting biological resources and guidance contained within the draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program in developing the impact analysis and mitigation measures discussed below.

Significant biological resource impacts would occur if special-status species, such as state- or federal-listed species, state fully protected species, candidates for state or federal listing and/or Species of Special Concern, are likely to be impacted from the construction or operation of the proposed project. Interruption of species migration, reduction of native fish, wildlife and plant habitat, causing a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, and disturbance of wetlands, marshes, riparian areas or other wildlife habitat would also be considered significant impacts. Harassment of a protected species, even if it does not result in the loss of habitat or reduction in population numbers, would still be considered a significant impact. Substantial degradation of the quality of the environment or environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, would also be considered significant. Compliance with LORS is typically sufficient to avoid or mitigate these impacts.

The biological impacts resulting from the unauthorized grading as well as the proposed grading/impacts were assessed according to guidelines set forth in the CEQA and as stated above. The guidelines provide standard mitigation for impacts to sensitive habitats, sensitive species, and wetlands. Mitigation is required for impacts that are considered significant under CEQA guidelines.

Direct and Indirect impacts and Mitigation

The CEQA Guidelines define direct impacts as those impacts that result from the project and occur at the same time and place. Indirect impacts are caused by the project, but can occur later in time or farther removed in distance while still reasonably foreseeable and related to the project. The potential impacts discussed in this analysis are those most likely to be associated with construction and operation of the project.

Projects in developed sites typically have less of an impact on sensitive biological resources because they lack suitable habitat on site. However, such projects are evaluated for the impacts they could have on surrounding areas that remain in more natural conditions and support sensitive biological resources.

2.1 Habitat Impacts

In combination, a total of 20.52 acres are proposed to be impacted by the the As-Built plan as well as the unauthorized grading area. Of this total, a total of 13.75 acres support sensitive plant communities.

These sensitive plant communities include: 11.82 acres of Mafic southern mixed chaparral, 1.91 acres of coastal sage scrub and 0.02 acres of willow scrub. The remaining 6.77 acres of impacts (to acquire the total footprint of approximately 20.52 acres) consists of previously developed/disturbed area(s) associated with the Caltrans borrow pit activities and subsequent public access. Table 5 lists the acres of each plant community that was/is proposed to be impacted on-site.

Impacts to mafic southern mixed chaparral, willow scrub and coastal sage scrub are considered significant and require mitigation. The impacts to disturbed and/or previously developed habitat are considered less than significant (Figure 5).

TABLE 5
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROPOSED
PROJECT IMPACTS

Plant Community	Acreage On-Site (historic total)	Unauthorized Impacts	Proposed Impacts (additional)	Total Impacts
Diegan coastal sage scrub	3.9	0.92*	0.99*	1.91*
Mafic southern mixed chaparral	121.32	6.48*	5.34*	11.82*
Willow scrub	0.12	0.0	0.02*	0.02*
Disturbed	12.78	5.48	1.29	6.77
Total	138.12	12.88	7.64	20.52

* denotes a significant impact

2.2 Plant Impacts

While sensitive plant species have been historically observed on and offsite, none were observed during the current surveys onsite. In 1989, CNDDDB reports, a Summer holly plant was observed onsite towards the top of the high peak (Figure 4). No other species have been recorded onsite or within the adjacent habitat since that time. While it is possible that a rare or sensitive species may have been impacted by the unauthorized grading, because the location of the unauthorized impacts essentially expanded the existing borrow pit footprint by an average of less than 100 feet of width (and only along the southern and eastern edge of the borrow pit), it is assumed that the remaining vegetation is a very good indicator as to what species were within the impacted habitat(s).

Furthermore, it is assumed that the remaining vegetation at the limit (recent) of the unauthorized grading is of higher quality than the habitat (and the potential sensitive and/or rare plant species that habitat may support) which was recently cleared. This reduction of the quality of the habitat at the urban/wildlands edge interface is result of the negative influences related to long term edge effects as well as continued disturbance from the use of off-road vehicles and general pedestrian traffic over the years. This phenomenon may be seen onsite in those areas of the borrow pit which were not impacted by the unauthorized grading activity (generally along the western edge). In these areas, motorized vehicles have driven outside the original borrow pit footprint (for significant distances in some cases) impacting the habitat both directly and indirectly (Photograph 2). No mitigation is recommended.

2.3 Wildlife Impacts

The sensitive wildlife species potentially on-site with low mobility (Belding's orange throated whiptail) may potentially be directly impacted (inadvertently killed) or indirectly impacted through the loss of habitat by the proposed development. Species with high mobility such as the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, the San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit and/or mule deer may be indirectly impacted through the loss of habitat. Due to the relatively low acreage of habitat to be impacted, the status and regionally large populations, the impacts to these species are considered less than significant and will not require specific mitigation requirements.

Due to the fact that raptors have been observed in the area and potentially appropriate raptor nesting sites occur onsite (immature eucalyptus trees/power poles adjacent to the proposed grading activities) preventative

measures to preclude direct and/or indirect impacts violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) shall be implemented. Potential nesting sites are defined as large trees, and/or man made towers/poles etc. Preventative mitigation is recommended via pre-construction surveys (Mitigation Section).

3.0 SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

3.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance

The determination of impact significance is based on the following criteria:

Would the project 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. Fish and Wildlife Service?

County Guidelines for the Determination of Significance (2008) state that any of the following conditions would be considered significant impacts:

- 3.1.A The project would impact one or more individuals of a species listed as federally or state endangered or threatened.
- 3.1.B The project would impact the regional long-term survival of a County Group A or B plant species, or a County Group I animal species, or a species listed as a state Species of Special Concern.
- 3.1.C The project would impact the regional long-term survival of a County Group C or D plant species or a County Group II animal species.
- 3.1.D The project may impact Arroyo Toad aestivation or breeding habitat.
- 3.1.E The project would impact Golden Eagle habitat.
- 3.1.F The project would result in a loss of functional foraging habitat for raptors.
- 3.1.G The project would increase noise and/or nighttime lighting to a level above ambient proven to adversely affect sensitive species.
- 3.1.H The project would impact the viability of a core wildlife area, defined as a large block of habitat (typically 500 acres or more not limited to project boundaries, though smaller areas with particularly valuable resources may also be considered a core wildlife area) that supports a viable population of a sensitive wildlife species or an area that supports multiple wildlife species.
- 3.1.I The project would increase human access or predation or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species to levels that would adversely affect sensitive species.
- 3.1.J The project would impact nesting success of sensitive animals (as listed in the Guidelines for Determining Significance) through grading, clearing, modification, and/or noise generating activities such as construction.

3.2 Analysis of Project Effects

Sensitive Plant Impacts

The project will directly impact no sensitive plant species.

The proposed project will not result in significant impacts to sensitive plants under the following guidelines for the following reasons:

- 3.1.A. No state or federally listed species are proposed to be impacted.
- 3.1.B. The project will not impact County List A or B plant species.
- 3.1.C. The project shall not impact the regional long-term survival of a County Group C or D plant species

Sensitive Wildlife Impacts

The proposed project will not result in significant impacts to sensitive wildlife under the following guidelines for the following reasons:

- 3.1.A. No state or federally listed species are proposed to be impacted.
- 3.1.B. The project would not impact the regional long-term survival of a County Group I animal species or a species listed as a state Species of Special Concern.
- 3.1.C. The project would not impact the regional long-term survival of a County Group II animal species.
- 3.1.D. No arroyo toads were detected, or expected to occur onsite.
- 3.1.E. No golden eagles were detected, or expected to occur onsite.
- 3.1.F. The project would not result in a loss of functional foraging habitat for raptors.
- 3.1.G. Noise and/or nighttime lighting is not expected to increase to a level above ambient. The proposed project will adhere to County lighting standards. Night construction is not proposed.
- 3.1.H. The project site does not constitute a wildlife core area and will not impact the wildlife core area.
- 3.1.I. The project would not increase human access or predation or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species to levels that would adversely affect sensitive species because of the steep topography between the development area and surrounding habitat. In addition, barriers and signage would be used to protect the open space, and security personnel would be on-site at all times to prevent unauthorized access.
- 3.1.J. The project shall not impact nesting success of sensitive animals through grading, clearing, modification, and/or noise generating activities such as construction as a result of preventative mitigation measures.

The sensitive wildlife species potentially on-site with low mobility (Belding's orange throated whiptail) may potentially be directly impacted (inadvertently killed) or indirectly impacted through the loss of habitat by the proposed development. Species with high mobility such as the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, the San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit and/or mule deer may be indirectly impacted through the loss of habitat. Due to the relatively low acreage of habitat to be impacted, the status and regionally large populations, the impacts to these species are considered less than significant and will not require specific mitigation requirements.

Due to the fact that raptors have been observed in the area and there is a large open graded pit onsite, raptor foraging within this area may occur. However, as this area is currently and historically utilized by human activity, the loss of this area is does not constitute a significant habitat impact or loss of significant raptor foraging area. As both raptors and potentially appropriate raptor nesting sites have been observed onsite (immature eucalyptus trees/power poles adjacent to the proposed grading activities) preventative measures to preclude direct and/or indirect impacts violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) shall be implemented. Potential nesting sites are defined as large trees, and/or man made towers/poles etc. Preventative mitigation (pre-construction surveys) are recommended (Mitigation Section 3.4).

3.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

Cumulative impacts refer to a proposed project's incremental effect viewed over time, together with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects (Public Resources Code § 21083; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15064[h], 15065[c], 15130, and 15355). Cumulative impacts can occur when individually minor but collectively significant projects take place over time.

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to sensitive species and the loss of habitat are critical issues in the San Diego County region, an area supporting an extraordinarily high number of sensitive species. Consequently, state, federal, and local agencies have developed regional and subregional strategies to help minimize sensitive species impacts. Compliance with the draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (dNCMSCP) is the primary means of conserving San Diego County's sensitive biological resources and special status species and minimizing direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the dNCMSCP area. With the implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with staff's conditions, all of which are consistent with the dNCMSCP, the proposed project will not result in cumulative impacts to special status species or other sensitive biological resources. As the unauthorized grading occurred in an area that had for the most part previously been impacted, these additional impacts do not significantly contribute to the fragmentation of open space in the region. This impact is considered adverse but less than significant. No additional mitigation is recommended.

3.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mitigation is required for all significant biological impacts. Mitigation guidelines include, in order of preference: 1) avoidance of impacts, 2) minimization of impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and 3) mitigation if avoidance is not feasible and the impacts have been minimized. Whenever possible, the significant impact should be avoided using design alternatives such as increasing development density in disturbed habitats while reducing or eliminating density in areas that support sensitive biological resources. If it is not feasible to avoid the impact due to either jurisdictional policy or to economic or topographic constraints, then minimizing of impacts should be considered. Impacts to significant resources should be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Minimizing includes decreasing lot size, narrowing roadways, increasing buffer zones, etc. If unavoidable impacts to significant resources would still occur, mitigation would be required.

Plant Mitigation

As discussed, it is not possible to accurately determine whether sensitive species were impacted by the unauthorized grading activities. However, after surveys of the interface area surrounding the original borrow pit footprint and extant habitat as well as the newly created interface where the grading occurred, it has been determined that the likelihood of significant impacts to sensitive plant species is low.

No specific mitigation measures are recommended at this time, however it is expected that any potential sensitive plant individuals, specifically within the mixed chaparral, impacted may be mitigated with the permanent protection of the same habitat adjacent to that impacted at a 3:1 mitigation ratio.

Wildlife Mitigation

As discussed, it is not possible to accurately determine whether sensitive animal species with low mobility were impacted by the unauthorized grading activities. However, after surveys of the interface area surrounding the original borrow pit footprint and extant habitat as well as the newly created interface where the grading occurred, it has been determined that the likelihood of significant impacts to sensitive animal species is low. Furthermore, while raptors were seen flying overhead, significant impacts to raptors both directly through the loss of an active nest, or indirectly through the loss of annual grasslands for hunting did/shall not result from the unauthorized/proposed grading.

Birds nesting within and near the footprint of the proposed impacts could be directly impacted by construction activities if the required clearing and grubbing occurs during the “breeding season”. Direct impacts from the proposed construction activities/vegetation removal could impact nesting activity, possibly resulting in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings, or could lead to nest abandonment. Loss in eggs or young of birds would violate the MBTA, and in the case of listed species such as raptors and/or coastal California gnatcatcher, would be considered take.

Potential indirect impacts resulting from increased noise are not considered potentially significant due to the high level of existing ambient noise from the Interstate 15 freeway which abuts the eastern property line.

To avoid potential impacts to nesting raptors and other species which may potentially utilize the observed mature trees and power poles and coastal sage scrub habitat (for nesting), construction activities within these areas shall be avoided from January 15 through August 31. If construction activities cannot be avoided during these periods, pre-construction surveys nest surveys shall be conducted and avoidance measures implemented, as required upon consultation with the County and appropriate Wildlife Agencies.

If pre-construction surveys are required, they shall be conducted in all areas subject to construction impacts, including disturbed sites, because landscaping trees and shrubs in orchards and ruderal areas could support nesting activities by disturbance-tolerant species such as western scrub jay and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

PRE-CONSTRUCTION NEST SURVEYS

Pre-construction nest surveys shall be conducted if construction activities will occur within 500 feet of potential raptor nesting sites and Diegan coastal sage scrub habitat from January 15 through August 31, or within 300 feet of riparian habitat from March 15 through September 15.

The Designated Biologist shall perform surveys in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Surveys shall cover all potential nesting habitat within 500 feet of the boundaries of the proposed grading activities;
2. One pre-construction survey shall be conducted within the 7-day period preceding initiation of construction activity. Additional follow-up surveys may be required if periods of construction inactivity exceed 7 days, an interval during which birds may establish a nesting territory and initiate egg laying and incubation;
3. If active nests of non-listed species are detected during the survey, a buffer zone (protected area surrounding the nest, the size of which is to be determined by the Designated Biologist in consultation with CDFG) and monitoring plan shall be developed. Nest locations shall be

- mapped and submitted, along with a report stating the survey results, to the CPM;
- 4. The Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest until he or she determines that nestlings have fledged and dispersed; activities that might, in the opinion of the Designated Biologist, disturb nesting activities, shall be prohibited within the buffer zone until such a determination is made; and
- 5. If active nests of least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher are detected within 300 feet of proposed construction, or if active nests of coastal California gnatcatcher are detected within 500 feet, such construction shall cease until the Designated Biologist determines that the nestlings have fledged and dispersed, and

Within the seven (7) days prior to the start of any project-related ground disturbance activities, the project owner shall provide the County and Wildlife Agencies a letter-report describing the findings of the pre-construction nest surveys, including the time, date, and duration of the survey; identity and qualifications of the surveyor; and a list of species observed. If active nests are detected during the survey, the report shall include a map or aerial photo identifying the location of the nest and shall depict the boundaries of the no-disturbance buffer zone around the nest.

Prior to approval of any plan or issuance of any permit, and prior to use of the premises in reliance on this permit, the following measures will be required to reduce the above biological impacts to less than significant:

1. **BIOLOGICAL EASEMENT: [PDS, PCC] [DPR TC, GPM] [DGS, RP] [MA, GP, IP] [PDS, FEE X 2]. Intent:** In order to protect sensitive biological resources, a biological open space easement shall be granted.

Description of Requirement: Grant to the County of San Diego and the California Department of Fish and Game by separate document, an open space easement, as shown on the Approved Site Plan dated _____. This easement is for the protection of biological resources and requires the landowner(s) to provide resource management activities according to an approved Resource Management Plan, stewardship activities including fencing, removal of trash and report of illegal trespass to the County of San Diego Sheriff's Department.

Fencing is required to be placed on the property line between the building pad on APN 187-090-50 and the proposed open space. The proposed fencing should match the fencing used for the existing open space dedicated to the City of Escondido as document number 2006-0147108, sub map 15276, tract # 683-J.

This easement prohibits all of the following on any portion of the land subject to said easement: grading; excavation; placement of soil, sand, rock, gravel, or other material; clearing of vegetation; construction, erection, or placement of any building or structure; vehicular activities; trash dumping; or use for any purpose other than as open space. Granting of this open space authorizes the County and its agents to periodically access the land to perform management and monitoring activities for the purposes of species and habitat conservation.

The only exceptions to this prohibition are:

- a. Selective clearing of vegetation by hand to the extent required by written order of the fire authorities for the express purpose of reducing an identified fire hazard. While clearing for fire management is not anticipated with the creation of this easement, such clearing may be deemed

necessary in the future for the safety of lives and property. All fire clearing shall be pursuant to the applicable fire code of the Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction and the Memorandum of Understanding dated February 26, 1997, between the wildlife agencies and the fire districts and any subsequent amendments thereto.

- b. Activities conducted pursuant to a revegetation or resource management plan approved by the Director of Planning & Development Services, Parks and Recreation or the Director of Public Works.

Documentation: The applicant shall prepare the draft plats and legal descriptions of the easements, then submit them for preparation and recordation with the [DGS, RP], and pay all applicable fees associated with preparation of the documents. Upon Recordation of the easements, the applicant shall provide copies of the recorded easement documents to [PDS, PCC] for approval.

Timing: Prior to the approval of any plan and issuance of any permit, the easements shall be executed and recorded.

Monitoring: The [DGS, RP] shall prepare and approve the easement documents and send them to [PDS, PCC] and [DPR TC, GPM] for preapproval. The [PDS, PCC] shall pre-approve the language and estimated location of the easements before they are released to the applicant for signature and subsequent recordation. Upon Recordation of the easements [DGS, RP] shall forward a copy of the recorded documents to [PDS, PCC] for satisfaction of the condition.

2. **LBZ EASEMENT: [PDS, PCC] [DGS, RP] [MA, GP, IP] [PDS, FEEX 2] Intent:** In order to protect sensitive biological resources protected in a biological open space easement from vegetation management requirements, introduction of exotic pest plants, and increased light and noise, pursuant to CEQA, an enhanced Limited Building Zone Easement shall be granted.

Description of Requirement: Grant to the County of San Diego a Limited Building Zone Easement as shown on the Approved Site Plan dated _____. This easement requires the landowner(s) to maintain permanent open space fencing and open space signage in a manner that restricts access to the open space easement, and as shown on the above referenced exhibit.

This easement prohibits all of the following on any portion of the land subject to said easement: construction, erection, or placement of any building or structure; landscaping with exotic pest plants, defined as those on the California Invasive Plant Council Inventory, at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php>; artificial lighting, except for low-pressure sodium fixtures, shielded and directed away from the open space easement; and equipment that regularly generates noise in excess of 60 dBA at the open space boundary. Granting of this open space authorizes the County and its agents to periodically access the land to perform monitoring activities for the purposes of compliance with this condition.

Documentation: The applicant shall prepare the draft plats and legal descriptions of the easements, then submit them for preparation and recordation with the [DGS, RP], and pay all applicable fees associated with preparation of the documents. Upon Recordation of the easements, the applicant shall provide copies of the recorded easement documents to [PDS, PCC] for approval.

Timing: Prior to the approval of any plan and issuance of any permit, the easements shall be recorded.

Monitoring: The [DGS, RP] shall prepare and approve the easement documents and send them to [PDS, PCC] for pre approval. The [PDS, PCC] shall pre-approve the language and estimated location of the easements before they are released to the applicant for signature and subsequent recordation. Upon Recordation of the easements [DGS, RP] shall forward a copy of the recorded documents to [PDS, PCC] for satisfaction of the condition.

3. **OPEN SPACE SIGNAGE AND FENCING: [PDS, PCC] [MA, GP, IP] [PDS, FEE]. Intent:** In order to protect the proposed open space easement from entry, informational signs and fences/barriers shall be installed.
- Description of Requirement:** Open space signs shall be placed at the biological open space easement boundary (on fencing where required). Fencing shall be installed along the western open space boundary where not adjacent to open space. Fencing shall match the fencing of the existing off-site open space, to the satisfaction of the PDS Director. Large boulders or concrete barriers with signage shall be installed to block access wherever existing dirt roads/trails enter the open space. The signs must be corrosion resistant, a minimum of 6" x 9" in size, on posts not less than three (3) feet in height from the ground surface. At each of the barricaded 'old' entry points and every 200 feet at the western boundary between the development footprint (driveway and graded pad) and the OS, signs will be placed. The sign must state the following:

Sensitive Environmental Resources

Area Restricted by Easement

Entry without express written permission from the
County of San Diego is prohibited

To report a violation or for information about restrictions and exceptions

Contact the County of San Diego

Department of Planning and Development Services

Reference: 3500 08-015; ER#08-08-012

Documentation: The applicant shall install the signs, fences and barriers as indicated above and provide site photos and a statement from a California Registered Engineer, or licensed surveyor that the open space signs, fences and barriers have been installed at the boundary of the open space easement.

Timing: Prior to the approval of any plan and issuance of any permit, the open space signs, fences and barriers shall be installed.

Monitoring: The [PDS, PCC] shall review the photos and statement for compliance with this condition.

4. **BIOLOGICAL MONITORING: [PDS, PCC] [DPW, LDR] [GP, IP, MA] [PDS, FEE X2]. Intent:** In order to prevent inadvertent disturbance to sensitive habitats, jurisdictional waters, and special-status species, clearing and grading located within 100 feet of the biological open space easements shall be monitored by a biologist.

Description of Requirement: A County approved biologist "Project Biologist" shall be contracted to perform biological monitoring during all grading, clearing, grubbing, trenching, and construction activities.

The following shall be completed:

- a. The Biologist shall perform the monitoring duties before, during and after construction pursuant to the most current version of the County of San Diego Biological Report Format and Requirement Guidelines and this permit. The contract provided to the county shall include an agreement that this will be completed, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the biological consulting company and the County of San Diego shall be executed. The contract shall include a cost estimate for the monitoring work and reporting.
- b. The cost of the monitoring shall be added to the grading bonds that will be posted with the Department of Public Works, or bond separately with the Department of Planning & Development Services.

Documentation: The applicant shall provide a copy of the biological monitoring contract, cost estimate, and MOU to the [PDS, PCC]. Additionally, the cost amount of the monitoring work shall be added to the grading bond cost estimate.

Timing: Prior to the approval of any plan or issuance of any permit, the requirement shall be completed.

Monitoring: The [PDS, PCC] shall review the contract, MOU and cost estimate or separate bonds for compliance with this condition. The cost estimate should be forwarded to [DPW, Project Manager], for inclusion in the grading bond cost estimate, and grading bonds. The [DPW, PC] shall add the cost of the monitoring to the grading bond costs.

5. **PLAN CONDITIONS NOTES: [DPW, ESU] [PDS, BD] [DPR, TC, GPM, PP] [GP, IP, MA] Intent:** In order to implement the required mitigation measures, which were the basis for approval of this project pursuant to the County Subdivision Ordinance Section 81.303, County Subdivision Ordinance Section 81.605, the condition notes shall be implemented on the grading and Improvement plans and made conditions of the permit issuance.

Description of Requirement: The Grading and Improvement plans shall include the following condition notes and made conditions of the issuance of said permit:

DURING CONTRUCTION

The following actions shall occur throughout the duration of the grading construction.

6. **BIOLOGICAL MONITORING: [PDS, PCC] [DPW,PDCI] [PC] [PDS, FEE X3]. Intent:** In order to prevent inadvertent disturbance to sensitive habitats, clearing and grading located within or adjacent to sensitive habitats shall be monitored by a biologist.

Description of Requirement: The biologist shall supervise and monitor grading activities to ensure against damage to biological resources that are intended to be protected and preserved. The biologist and/or employed biological professionals shall be on site during clearing activities that are in or within 100 feet of native biological habitat or within 100 feet of biological open space easements during clearing and grading activities. If there are disturbances, the biologist must report them immediately to the [PDS PCC]. Additionally, the biologist shall perform the duties specified in the most current version of the County of San Diego Biological Report Format and Requirement Guidelines.

Documentation: The biologist shall prepare and submit to the satisfaction the [PDS, PCC] monitoring reports, which indicate that the monitoring has occurred as indicated above.

Timing: The above actions shall occur throughout the duration of the grading construction. **Monitoring:** The [DPW, PDCI] shall assure that the biologist is on-site performing the monitoring duties of this condition during all applicable grading activities as determined by the biologist. The [DPW, PDCI] shall contact the [PDS, PCC] if the biologist or applicant fails to comply with this condition. The [PDS, PCC] shall review and approve the monitoring reports for compliance with this condition.

FINAL GRADING RELEASE: *(Prior to any occupancy, final grading release, or use of the premises in reliance of this permit).*

7. **OPEN SPACE SIGNAGE: [PDS, PCC] [MA, GP, IP] [PDS, FEE]. Intent:** In order to protect the proposed open space easement from entry, informational signs shall be installed.

Description of Requirement: Open space signs shall be placed at the biological open space easement boundary (on posts where required). The signs must be corrosion resistant, a minimum of 6" x 9" in size, on posts not less than three (3) feet in height from the ground surface. In addition, signs approximately

200 feet apart along right-of-ways at the boundary between the development and the biological open space easement. The sign must state the following:

Sensitive Environmental Resources

Area Restricted by Easement

Entry without express written permission from the

County of San Diego is prohibited

To report a violation or for information about restrictions and exceptions

Contact the County of San Diego

Department of Planning and Development Services

Reference: 3500 08-015; ER#08-08-012

Documentation: The applicant shall install the signs as indicated above and provide site photos and a statement from a California Registered Engineer, or licensed surveyor that the open space signs have been installed at the boundary of the open space easement.

Timing: Prior to any occupancy, final grading release, or use of the premises in reliance of this permit, the open space signs shall be installed.

Monitoring: The [PDS, PCC] shall review the photos and statement for compliance with this condition.

8. **BIOLOGICAL MONITORING: [PDS, PCC] [UO, FG] [PDS, FEE X2]. Intent:** In order to ensure that the biological monitoring occurred during the grading phase of the project, a final Biological Monitoring Report shall be prepared.

Description of Requirement: The biologist shall prepare final biological monitoring report. The report shall substantiate the supervision of the grading activities, and state that grading or construction activities did not impact any additional areas of sensitive habitats, jurisdictional waters, special-status plant and wildlife species, or any other sensitive biological resources. The report shall conform to the County of San Diego Report Format Guidelines for Biological Resources, and include the following items:

1. Photos of the temporary fencing that was installed during the trenching, grading, or clearing activities.
2. Monitoring logs showing the date, time, and persons, (biologist and/or employed qualified biologists) present on site.
3. Photos of the site after the grading and clearing activities.
4. Daily verification of the following compliance measures:
 - a. Best Management Practices for erosion control;
 - b. Noise barriers will be installed if needed to avoid impacts to sensitive species.
 - c. Hours of construction will comply with applicable ordinances and avoid noise impacts to sensitive species.
 - d. Construction activities shall take place only inside the designated construction area;
 - e. Grading materials shall be stored either inside the fenced construction area or in an area approved by the project biologist;
 - f. A storm drain system and detention basins shall be constructed to restrict excess water flow from proposed roads and structures. Filter devices shall be installed at the appropriate points to ensure that run-off is cleansed before reaching the basins. All water-catchment features shall be located above graded and natural slopes;
 - e. Nighttime lighting shall be shielded and directed away from riparian and upland habitat adjacent to the development.

Documentation: The biologist(s) shall prepare the final report and submit it to the [PDS, PCC] for review and approval.

Timing: Prior to any occupancy, final grading release, or use of the premises in reliance of this permit, the final report shall be approved.

Monitoring: The [PDS, PCC] shall review the final report for compliance this condition and the report format guidelines. Upon approval of the report, [PDS, PCC] shall inform [DPW, LDR] and [DPW, PDCI], that the requirement is complete and the bond amount can be relinquished. If the monitoring was bonded separately, then [PDS, PCC] shall inform [PDS, FISCAL] to release the bond back to the applicant.

9. **RESOURCE AVOIDANCE (COASTAL SAGE SCRUB): [PDS, PCC] [DPW, PDCI] PDS, FEE X2.** **Intent:** In order to avoid impacts to nesting coastal California gnatcatchers or other sensitive species under CEQA, brushing and clearing of coastal sage scrub (CSS), chaparral, or willow scrub, or within 300 feet of those habitats shall not occur during the breeding season (February 15 to August 31).

Description of Requirement: There shall be no brushing, clearing and/or grading during the breeding season of the coastal California gnatcatcher. The Director of Planning & Development Services [PDS, PCC] may waive this condition, through written concurrence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided that no gnatcatchers or other sensitive species are present in the vicinity of the brushing, clearing or grading based on a survey done within 7 days of the habitat clearing.

Documentation: The applicant shall provide a letter of agreement with this condition, or the applicant shall provide a letter report of the preconstruction survey.

Timing: Prior to preconstruction conference and prior to any clearing, grubbing, trenching, grading, or any land disturbances and throughout the duration of the grading and construction, compliance with this condition is mandatory.

Monitoring: The [DPW, PDCI] shall not allow any grading of the site during the specified dates, unless a concurrence from the [PDS, PCC] is received. The [PDS, PCC] shall review the concurrence letter.

10. **RESOURCE AVOIDANCE (RAPTOR NESTING HABITAT): [PDS, PCC] [DPW, PDCI] PDS, FEE X2.** **Intent:** In order to avoid impacts to nesting raptors, which are a sensitive biological resource pursuant to CEQA, brushing and clearing within 500 feet of trees suitable for nesting shall not occur during the breeding season unless a pre-construction survey verifies there are no active nests.

Description of Requirement: There shall be no brushing, clearing and/or grading allowed within 500 feet of raptor nesting habitat during the breeding season. The breeding season is defined as occurring between January 15 and July 15. The Director of Planning & Development Services [PDS, PCC] may waive this condition, through written concurrence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided that no raptors are present in the vicinity of the brushing, clearing or grading based on a survey done within 7 days of the habitat clearing.

Documentation: The applicant shall provide a letter report of the preconstruction survey with the locations of raptor nests or a letter of agreement with this condition.

Timing: Prior to preconstruction conference and prior to any clearing, grubbing, trenching, grading, or any land disturbances and throughout the duration of the grading and construction, compliance with this condition is mandatory unless the requirement is waived by the County upon receipt of concurrence from the Wildlife Agencies.

Monitoring: The [DPW, PDCI] shall not allow any grading in or within 500 feet of any trees during the specified dates, unless a concurrence from the [PDS, PCC] is received. The [PDS, PCC] shall review the concurrence letter.

Documentation: The applicant shall submit the Grading and Improvement plans, which shall include the above reference condition notes. The condition notes shall be in addition to what is already approved on the Conceptual Grading and Improvement Plan, unless indicated in this condition that it is superseding.

Timing: Prior to the approval of any grading and or improvement plans and issuance of any Grading or Construction Permits) and prior to the approval of any map for each phase, the notes and items shall be placed on the plans.

Monitoring: The [DPW, ESU, or PDS, BD for PDS Minor Grading and DPR, TC and PP for trail and park improvements] shall verify that the grading and or improvement plan requirements have been implemented on the final grading and or improvement plans. The environmental mitigation notes shall be made conditions of the issuance of said grading or construction permit.

- 11. TEMPORARY FENCING: [PDS, PCC] [DPW, PDCI] [PC] [PDS, FEE]. Intent:** In order to prevent inadvertent disturbance to all on-site biological open space, temporary construction fencing shall be installed.

Description of Requirement: Prior to the commencement of any grading and or clearing in association with the grading plan, temporary orange construction fencing shall be placed to protect from inadvertent disturbance of all open space easements that do not allow grading, brushing or clearing:

- a. Temporary fencing is also required in all locations of the project where proposed grading or clearing is within 100 feet of an open space easement boundary.
- b. The placement of such fencing shall be approved by the PDS, Permit Compliance Section. Upon approval, the fencing shall remain in place until the conclusion of grading activities after which the fencing shall be removed.

Documentation: The applicant shall provide evidence that the fencing has been installed and have a California licensed surveyor certify that the fencing is located on the boundary of the open space easement(s). The applicant shall submit photos of the fencing along with the certification letter to the [PDS, PCC] for approval.

Timing: Prior to Preconstruction Conference, and prior to any clearing, grubbing, trenching, grading, or any land disturbances the fencing shall be installed, and shall remain for the duration of the grading and clearing.

Monitoring: The [PDS, PCC] shall either attend the preconstruction conference and approve the installation of the temporary fencing, or review the certification and pictures provided by the applicant.

- 12. OFF-SITE WILLOW SCRUB MITIGATION: [PDS, PCC] [BP, GP, CP, UO] [DPR, GPM] [PDS,FEE X2] INTENT:**

In order to mitigate for the impacts to 0.02 acre of willow scrub, which is a sensitive biological resource pursuant to the [Resource Protection Ordinance \(RPO\)](#) and CEQA, off-site mitigation shall be acquired.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT: The applicant shall purchase habitat credit, or provide for the conservation of habitat of 0.06 acre of riparian/wetland habitat, including at least 0.02 acre of creation and the remainder restoration/enhancement, located in the Northern Foothills ecoregion or as directed by CDFW as indicated below.

- a. **Option 1:** If purchasing Mitigation Credit the mitigation bank shall be approved by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. The following evidence of purchase shall include the following information to be provided by the mitigation bank:

1. A copy of the purchase contract referencing the project name and numbers for which the habitat credits were purchased.

2. If not stated explicitly in the purchase contract, a separate letter must be provided identifying the entity responsible for the long-term management and monitoring of the preserved land.
 3. To ensure the land will be protected in perpetuity, evidence must be provided that a dedicated conservation easement or similar land constraint has been placed over the mitigation land.
 4. An accounting of the status of the mitigation bank. This shall include the total amount of credits available at the bank, the amount required by this project and the amount remaining after utilization by this project.
- b. **Option 2:** If habitat credit cannot be purchased in a mitigation bank, then the applicant shall provide for the creation, restoration/enhancement, and conservation of habitat of the same amount and type of land located in the Northern Foothills ecoregion or as directed by CDFW as indicated below:
1. Prior to purchasing the land for the proposed mitigation, the location should be pre-approved by [PDS].
 2. A Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Revegetation/Enhancement Plan shall be prepared and approved pursuant to the County of San Diego Biological Report Format and Content Requirements to the satisfaction of the Director of PDS. If the offsite-mitigation is proposed to be managed by DPR, the RMP shall also be prepared and approved to the satisfaction of the Director of DPR.
 3. An open space easement over the land shall be dedicated to the County of San Diego or like agency to the satisfaction of the Director of PDS. The land shall be protected in perpetuity.
 4. The purchase and dedication of the land and the selection of the Resource Manager and establishment of an endowment to ensure funding of annual ongoing basic stewardship costs shall be complete prior to the approval of the RMP.
 5. In lieu of providing a private habitat manager, the applicant may contract with a federal, state or local government agency with the primary mission of resource management to take fee title and manage the mitigation land). Evidence of satisfaction must include a copy of the contract with the agency, and a written statement from the agency that (1) the land contains the specified acreage and the specified habitat, or like functioning habitat, and (2) the land will be managed by the agency for conservation of natural resources in perpetuity.

DOCUMENTATION: The applicant shall purchase the off-site mitigation credits and provide the evidence to the [PDS, PCC] for review and approval. If the offsite mitigation is proposed to be owned or managed by DPR, the applicant must provide evidence to the [PDS PCC] that [DPR, GPM] agrees to this proposal. It is recommended that the applicant submit the mitigation proposal to the [PDS, PCC], for a pre-approval. If an RMP and Revegetation Plan is going to be submitted in-lieu of purchasing credits, then the RMP and Revegetation Plan shall be prepared and applications shall be submitted to the [PDS, ZONING]. **TIMING:** Prior to approval of any plan or issuance of any permit, and prior to use of the premises in reliance of this permit, the mitigation shall occur. **MONITORING:** The [PDS, PCC] shall review the mitigation purchase for compliance with this condition. Upon request from the applicant [PDS, PCC] can pre-approve the location

and type of mitigation only. The credits shall be purchased before the requirement can be completed. If the applicant chooses option #2, then the [PDS, ZONING] shall accept an application for an RMP, and [PDS, REG] [DPR, GPM] shall review the RMP submittal for compliance with this condition and the RMP Guidelines.

3.5 Conclusions

Implementation of the proposed mitigation for potential project impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species will reduce the significance level of these potential significant impacts (direct and/or indirect) to less than significant.

Indirect impacts to sensitive animals will be mitigated by fencing and signage at the edge of open space and pre-construction nesting surveys. Potential indirect impacts will be mitigated by conspicuously marking the construction area, installing a temporary silt fence and using low-intensity lights if required (but not expected).

Implementation of these mitigation measures will reduce potential project impacts to below a level of significance and ensure that the project is compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act.

4.0 RIPARIAN HABITAT OR SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY

4.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance

Would the project 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?

Any positive response relative to the following conditions would be considered significant:

- 4.1.A Project-related construction, grading, clearing, construction or other activities would temporarily or permanently remove sensitive native or naturalized habitat on or off the project site.
- 4.1.B Any of the following will occur to or within jurisdictional wetlands and/or riparian habitats as defined by ACOE, CDFG and the County of San Diego: removal of vegetation; grading; obstruction or diversion of water flow; adverse change in velocity, siltation, volume of flow, or runoff rate; placement of fill; placement of structures; construction of a road crossing; placement of culverts or other underground piping; any disturbance of the substratum; and/or any activity that may cause an adverse change in native species composition, diversity and abundance.
- 4.1.C The project would draw down the groundwater table to the detriment of groundwater-dependent habitat, typically a drop of 3 feet or more from historical low groundwater levels.
- 4.1.D The project would increase human access or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species to levels proven to adversely affect sensitive habitats.
- 4.1.E The project does not include a wetland buffer adequate to protect the functions and values of existing wetlands.

4.2 Analysis of Project Effects

The extent of the unauthorized grading which impacted the onsite habitat was assessed by creating a historic rendition of the area prior to the recent impacts (Figure 4) and overlaying the prepared As-Built grading plans over it (Figure 5). This analysis has determined that of the properties approximately 138.12 acres, the recent

unauthorized grading as well as the area proposed to be impacted by the As-Built plans total approximately 20.52 acres. This total is inclusive of the 30 foot wide driveway fire buffer clearing and 100 foot wide Fire Buffer/Limited Building Zone (LBZ) buffer per the Fire Protection Plan conditionally accepted by Deer Springs Fire Protection District. The total significant impacts associated with the unauthorized grading as well as the area proposed to be impacted by the As-Built plans totals approximately 13.75 acres (Table 5).

**TABLE 5
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROPOSED
PROJECT IMPACTS**

Plant Community	Acreage On-Site (historic total)	Unauthorized Impacts	Proposed Impacts (additional)	Total Impacts
Diegan coastal sage scrub	3.9	0.92*	0.99*	1.91*
Mafic southern mixed chaparral	121.32	6.48*	5.34*	11.82*
Willow scrub	0.12	0.0	0.02*	0.02*
Disturbed	12.78	5.48	1.29	6.77
Total	138.12	12.88	7.64	20.52

* denotes a significant impact

This total is inclusive of the following sensitive plant communities: 11.82 acres of Mafic southern mixed chaparral, 1.91 acres of coastal sage scrub and 0.02 acres of willow scrub. The remaining 6.77 acres of impacts (to acquire the total footprint of approximately 20.52 acres) consists of previously disturbed areas (associated with the Caltrans borrow pit activities and/or general property access – dirt bike paths).

Impacts to mafic southern mixed chaparral, willow scrub and coastal sage scrub are considered significant and require mitigation. The impacts to disturbed and/or previously developed habitat (borrow pit area and access road) are considered less than significant (Figure 5).

No large and/or mature trees that currently (as observed) support raptor nesting are within the “As-Built” plan footprint, although a few growing eucalyptus are onsite (within the Caltrans area, on and off-site).

Therefore, the proposed current project as well as the unauthorized impacts will result in significant direct impacts to Riparian Habitats or Other Sensitive Natural Communities pursuant to the above significance guidelines for the following reasons:

- 4.1.A Project-related construction, grading, clearing, or other activities will permanently remove sensitive native or naturalized habitat on the project site.
- 4.1.B Grading within state and county defined wetlands will occur. A portion of the CDFG jurisdictional wetlands and riparian habitats onsite are proposed to be impacted by the proposed access road.

As there are proposed impacts to CDFG jurisdictional and RPO wetlands (0.02 acres of willow scrub), the Permitted Use and Development Criteria must be met. That is that:

As required in the RPO, Section 86.604(a)(5), crossings of wetlands for roads, driveways or trails/pathways dedicated and improved to the limitations and standards under the County Trails Program, that are necessary to access adjacent lands, when all of the following conditions are met:

- (aa) There is no feasible alternative that avoids the wetland;
- (bb) The crossings are limited to the minimum number feasible;
- (cc) The crossings are located and designed in such a way as to cause the least impact to environmental resources, minimize impacts to sensitive species and prevent barriers to wildlife movement (*e.g.*, crossing widths shall be the minimum feasible and (dd) The least-damaging construction methods are utilized (*e.g.*, staging areas shall be located outside of sensitive areas, work shall not be performed during the sensitive avian breeding season, noise attenuation measures shall be included and hours of operation shall be limited so as to comply with all applicable ordinances and to avoid impacts to sensitive resources). Wetlands shall be bridged where feasible.
- (ee) The applicant shall prepare an analysis of whether the crossing could feasibly serve adjoining properties and thereby result in minimizing the number of additional crossings required by adjacent development; and
- (ff) There must be no net loss of wetlands and any impacts to wetlands shall be mitigated at a minimum ratio of 3:1 (this shall include a minimum 1:1 creation component, while restoration/enhancement of existing wetlands may be used to make up the remaining requirements for a total 3:1 ratio).

As the proposed road is the only possible access point to the property, from any direction, and all alternatives reviewed resulted in greater impacts to sensitive habitat (as determined by the engineer relative to the regulations imposed on the road due to the alignment, location and width); the proposed project meets all of the aforementioned conditions, aa through ff. The access road must be re-aligned in order to comply with the County road standards in regards to width and radius of curves. As the existing road is both too narrow and maintains a tight curve (radius) on the steep slope, the road cannot be improved to the minimum standards in its current location. It has therefore been straightened to meet the road standards while impacting the smallest possible area of habitat. The area utilized for the placement of the road was chosen as there is a natural bench in the slope which is quite steep otherwise. This naturally 'flatter' area within an otherwise steep slope presumably holds rain water and is the reason that the willow scrub habitat persists while being surrounded by drought deciduous vegetation. Bridging the upland drainage and willow scrub habitat is cost prohibitive as a component of the proposed development and as such is not feasible. Staging areas shall be located outside of sensitive areas, work shall not be performed during the sensitive avian breeding season, noise attenuation measures shall be included as needed, and hours of operation shall be limited so as to comply with all applicable ordinances and to avoid impacts to sensitive resources. Therefore, the significant impact to the 0.02 acres of willow scrub is acceptable with the appropriate mitigation measures in place.

Significant direct impacts to Riparian Habitats or Other Sensitive Natural Communities pursuant to the following significance guidelines are not proposed to occur for the following reasons:

- 4.1.C The project would not draw down the groundwater table to the detriment of groundwater-dependent habitat, typically a drop of 3 feet or more from historical low groundwater levels.
- 4.1.D The project would not increase human access or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species to levels proven to adversely affect sensitive habitats.

- 4.1.E The road was routed to the east as much as possible to minimize impacts to the wetland, but it was not possible to fully avoid the wetland and buffer area. However, the graded slope that separates the remaining wetland from the road and will be planted with native species including Coast Live Oak, California sycamore, and a native hydroseed mix. Although it's not the full fifty feet in width, the replanted slope will serve as a buffer to protect the functions and values of the avoided wetland and jurisdictional areas.

4.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

The North County Environmental Resources project will contribute to the cumulative loss of Riparian Habitats or Other Sensitive Natural Communities. Project-related construction, grading, clearing, or other activities will permanently remove sensitive native or naturalized habitat on the project site. That is, the project has/shall directly impact 11.82 acres of mafic southern mixed chaparral, 1.91 acres of coastal sage scrub and 0.02 acres of willow scrub. However, due to the site's history of disturbance and adjacency to existing development, as well as the fact that all impacts to riparian habitats and sensitive natural communities will be mitigated for to a level that is below significance, approval of the North County Environmental Resources project will not have cumulatively considerable impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects affecting the same resource. A list of the projects in the vicinity and their impacts in combination with the proposed projects' impacts are described in Table 7 (attached), the Cumulative Impacts Project List.

4.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations

Mitigation is required for impacts that are considered significant, including impacts to sensitive species, sensitive plant communities, and wetlands. Mitigation is intended to reduce significant impacts to a level of less than significant. Mitigation measures typically employed include resource avoidance, habitat replacement (creation and/or restoration), preserving and maintaining habitat on-site, or the paying of fees into a mitigation bank.

Because the site is within the planned/draft North County Subarea of the MSCP, the mitigation requirements of the County of San Diego's Guidelines for Determining Significance (2009) are used as a guideline for habitat mitigation ratios. Due to the fact that a portion of the described impacts were unauthorized, the typical mitigation measures associated with the identified unauthorized impacts have been increased by a margin 1:1; i.e. a mitigation ratio would rise from 2:1 to 3:1.

Table 6 summarizes the projects significant impacts as well as the typical mitigation measures required to reduce the impacts to a level below significance. Impacts assessed are the combined acreages of the unauthorized grading impacts, the proposed grading on the submitted "As-Built" grading plan, and the brush management zones around the single structure proposed on-site and on either side of the access road.

**TABLE 6
MITIGATION FOR IMPACTS TO
SENSITIVE HABITAT**

Plant Community	Unauthorized Impacts	Mitigation Ratio/Acreage	Proposed Impacts (additional)	Mitigation Ratio/Acreage	Mitigation Acreage Total
Diegan coastal sage scrub	0.92	3:1/2.76	0.99	2:1/1.98	4.74**
Mafic southern mixed chaparral	6.48	4:1/25.92	5.34	3:1/16.02	41.94
Willow scrub	0.0	N/A	0.02	3:1/0.06*	0.06
Disturbed	5.48	N/A	1.29	N/A	0.0
Total	12.88	28.68	7.64	18.06	46.74

* including the typically required 1:1 creation component (0.02 acres)

** partially to be completed offsite

The unauthorized grading and proposed As-Built plans impact approximately 11.82 acres of mafic southern mixed chaparral; 6.48 acres previously cleared without authorization and 5.34 acres proposed. The mitigation requirement for this plant community is 4:1 if the impacts were unauthorized and 3:1 for proposed impacts. A total of 41.94 acres of mitigation would be required for these potentially significant impacts. This shall be completed onsite within the proposed 44.07 acre open space easement area.

The unauthorized grading and proposed As-Built plans impact approximately 1.91 acres of unoccupied coastal sage scrub. The unauthorized grading impacted approximately 0.92 acres of unoccupied Diegan coastal sage scrub; the mitigation requirement is therefore increased to 3:1. For the 0.99 acres of proposed impacts, a 2:1 mitigation ratio is required. A total of 4.74 acres of mitigation would be required for this impact and shall be acquired offsite within a County and Wildlife Agency approved location.

The proposed impacts to the 0.02 acres of sensitive willow scrub habitat shall require mitigation. Mitigation shall be at a ratio of 3:1 with a 1:1 wetland creation component. Due to the size and scope of the impacts, the specifics of the required mitigation shall be determined through consultation with County staff and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The establishment of the Limited Building Zone (LBZ) around the perimeter of the onsite open space shall provide a buffer between the proposed project and the open space in perpetuity.

A protective impact neutral Limited Building Zone (LBZ, Buffer) 100 feet deep and totaling approximately 11.56 acres of habitat (outside of mitigation area and preservation/mitigation acreage calculation) shall be placed around the north, east and southern perimeters of the onsite mitigation area (which is protected by an open space easement; Figure 6). A LBZ is not required to the west of the proposed Open Space as it protected by a pre-existing open space easement. The proposed LBZ shall prevent potential fire clearing within the open space. No structures, grading or brush management impacts shall be permitted within the mitigation area/open space.

Due to the extremely steep grade of the site and the mature stands of impenetrable chaparral, fencing around the open space easement area and active management are not required as these activities (if possible to get down the

slope) will impact the area through the creation of new trails into the open space. As stated, signs shall be placed around the Open Space in those areas where potential access is possible. An area outside the mitigation area, but at the limit of the 100 foot LBZ (north-western corner) as well as all access points along the existing access road shall be blocked off with large boulders/rock (sourced from proposed onsite grading) to block off the paths of the dirt bikes which will contribute to maintaining the natural feel (as opposed to a fence) in the habitat. Due to the steep grade of the property in general, and between the mitigation area and the proposed development specifically, access to it from the east (development area) is not possible. Furthermore, no existing trails lead from the development to the mitigation area. Therefore, it does not contribute additional protection to the mitigation area with the installation of a fence in this area, or “surrounding” the open space area in general.

4.5 Conclusions

Project implementation will contribute to the loss of coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, and wetland vegetation in the region. This loss of sensitive habitat will be offset with the preservation of habitat onsite, within the proposed Open Space.

5.0 JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS

No ACOE jurisdictional waters or wetlands were observed onsite. County and CDFG jurisdictional wetland habitat is proposed to be impacted. Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures will reduce the significance level of all significant impacts to Riparian Habitat or Sensitive Natural Communities to less than significant.

5.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance

Would the project 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?

Any of the following conditions would be considered significant:

- 5.1.A Project-related construction, grading, clearing, construction or other activities would temporarily or permanently remove sensitive native or naturalized habitat on or off the project site.
- 5.1.B Any of the following will occur to or within jurisdictional wetlands and/or riparian habitats as defined by ACOE, CDFG and the County of San Diego: removal of vegetation; grading; obstruction or diversion of water flow; adverse change in velocity, siltation, volume of flow, or runoff rate; placement of fill; placement of structures; construction of a road crossing; placement of culverts or other underground piping; any disturbance of the substratum; and/or any activity that may cause an adverse change in native species composition, diversity and abundance.
- 5.1.C The project would draw down the groundwater table to the detriment of groundwater-dependent habitat, typically a drop of 3 feet or more from historical low groundwater levels.
- 5.1.D The project would increase human access or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species to levels proven to adversely affect sensitive habitats.
- 5.1.E The project does not include a wetland buffer adequate to protect the functions and values of existing wetlands.

5.2 Analysis of Project Effects

The following significance guidelines do not apply to the North County Environmental Resources project for the following reasons:

- 5.1.A No federally (ACOE) protected wetlands would be impacted because no ACOE jurisdictional wetlands or waters occur onsite.
- 5.1.B No grading will occur within federally protected wetlands.
- 5.1.C The project would not draw down the groundwater table to the detriment of groundwater-dependent habitat, typically a drop of 3 feet or more from historical low groundwater levels.
- 5.1.D The project would not increase human access or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species to levels proven to adversely affect sensitive habitats.
- 5.1.E No ACOE jurisdictional wetlands or waters occur onsite.

5.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

No federally (ACOE) protected wetlands would be impacted because no ACOE jurisdictional wetlands or waters occur onsite. Therefore the project cannot contribute to a cumulative impact to federally protected wetlands.

5.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations

No mitigation is required for federally (ACOE) protected wetlands because no ACOE jurisdictional wetlands or waters occur onsite. See section 4.4 for a discussion of mitigation for State and RPO jurisdictional willow scrub.

5.5 Conclusions

The delineated portion (0.12 acres) of upland drainage #4 would be regulated by the CDFG and County of San Diego RPO, but not by the ACOE. The project has been designed to minimize impacts to the wetland habitat within the upland swale/drainage #4. The required wetland mitigation shall be accomplished within a County and CDFG approved location.

6.0 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT AND NURSERY SITES

6.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance

Would the project 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?

Any of the following conditions would be considered significant:

- 6.1.A The project would prevent wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction.
- 6.1.B The project would substantially interfere with connectivity between blocks of habitat, or would potentially block or substantially interfere with a local or regional wildlife corridor or

- linkage.
- 6.1.C The project would create artificial wildlife corridors that do not follow natural movement patterns.
- 6.1.D The project would increase noise and/or nighttime lighting in a wildlife corridor or linkage to levels proven to affect the behavior of the animals identified in a site specific analysis of wildlife movement.
- 6.1.E The project does not maintain an adequate width for an existing wildlife corridor or linkage and/or would further constrain an already narrow corridor through activities such as (but not limited to) reduction of corridor width, removal of available vegetative cover, placement of incompatible uses adjacent to it, and placement of barriers in the movement path.
- 6.1.F The project does not maintain adequate visual continuity (i.e., long lines-of-site) within wildlife corridors or linkage.

6.2 Analysis of Project Effects

The area within the proposed project footprint has very little remaining function as a wildlife corridor, linkage, or nursery site due to its developed and highly disturbed nature. However, the Interstate 15, which runs along the eastern property boundary, as well as the vast numbers of undeveloped acres surrounding the proposed development functions as a significant corridor, linkage, and nursery site for many upland species. The North County Environmental Resources project will not impact existing habitat connectivity, either on or offsite, or native wildlife nursery sites. A portion of the property which supports the highest quality habitat shall be conserved in biological open space. No barriers or crossings are proposed within the open space. The proposed Open Space easement is adjacent to an existing Open Space easement to the west.

The following significance guidelines do not apply to the North County Environmental Resources project for the following reasons:

- 6.1.A The project will not prevent wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction because no permanent fencing, or equivalent wildlife movement inhibitor, is proposed.
- 6.1.B The project will not substantially interfere with connectivity between blocks of habitat and will not potentially block or substantially interfere with a local or regional wildlife corridor or linkage.
- 6.1.C The project will not create artificial wildlife corridors that do not follow natural movement patterns.
- 6.1.D The project will not increase noise and/or nighttime lighting in a wildlife corridor, linkage, or nursery to levels proven to affect the behavior of the animals identified in a site specific analysis of wildlife movement.
- 6.1.E The project will maintain an adequate width for an existing wildlife corridor or linkage and will not further constrain an already narrow corridor.
- 6.1.F The project maintains adequate visual continuity within wildlife corridors or linkages.

6.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

As stated above, the North County Environmental Resources project will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife movement and nursery sites. Wildlife movement will be preserved through the proposed on-site open space. Therefore, approval of the North County Environmental Resources project will not have cumulatively

considerable impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects affecting the same resource.

6.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations

As discussed above, the project will have no significant impacts to wildlife movement or nursery sites. Therefore, no specific mitigation for impacts to Wildlife Movement or Nursery Sites is necessary.

6.5 Conclusions

As stated above, the project will not significantly impact Wildlife Movement or Nursery Sites.

7.0 LOCAL POLICIES, ORDINANCES, ADOPTED PLANS

7.1 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance

Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?

County Guidelines (2009) state that the following conditions would be considered significant:

- 7.1.A For lands outside of the MSCP, the project would impact coastal sage scrub (CSS) vegetation in excess of the County's 5% habitat loss threshold as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.
- 7.1.B The project would preclude or prevent the preparation of the subregional Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP). For example, the project proposes development within areas that have been identified by the County or resource agencies as critical to future habitat preserves.
- 7.1.C The project will impact any amount of sensitive habitat lands as outlined in the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO).
- 7.1.D The project would not minimize and/or mitigate coastal sage scrub habitat loss in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.
- 7.1.E The project does not conform to the goals and requirements as outlined in any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), Watershed Plan, or similar regional planning effort.
- 7.1.F For lands within the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), the project would not minimize impacts to Biological Resource Core Areas (BRCAs), as defined in the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).
- 7.1.G The project would preclude connectivity between areas of high habitat values, as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.
- 7.1.H The project does not maintain existing movement corridors and/or habitat linkages as defined by the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).
- 7.1.I The project does not avoid impacts to MSCP narrow endemic species and would impact core populations of narrow endemics.

- 7.1.J The project would reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed species in the wild.
- 7.1.K The project would result in the killing of migratory birds or destruction of active migratory bird nests and/or eggs (Migratory Bird Treaty Act).
- 7.1.L The project would result in the take of eagles, eagle eggs or any part of an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act).

7.2 Analysis of Project Effects

The North County Environmental Resources project will result in significant impacts to Local Policies, Ordinances, and Adopted Plans under the following guidelines for the following reasons:

- 7.1.K The project could result in the killing of migratory birds or destruction of active migratory bird nests and/or eggs (Migratory Bird Treaty Act).

The following significance guidelines with respect to Local Policies, Ordinances, and Adopted Plans do not apply to the North County Environmental Resources project for the following reasons:

- 7.1.A The project site is located outside of the MSCP, but supports far less than 5% of the CSS habitat loss threshold as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.
- 7.1.B The project does not propose development within any area that has been identified by the County or resource agencies as critical to future habitat preserves.
- 7.1.C The project will not impact any amount of sensitive habitat lands as outlined in the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO).
- 7.1.D The project minimizes and mitigates all impacts to coastal sage scrub habitat loss in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.
- 7.1.E The project is not located in an area subject to the goals and requirements as outlined in any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), Watershed Plan, or similar regional planning effort.
- 7.1.F The project is not located within any Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Planning Area. Therefore, the project is not subject to the designation of Biological Resource Core Areas (BRCAs), as defined in the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).
- 7.1.G The project will not preclude connectivity between areas of high habitat values, as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.
- 7.1.H The project is not subject to the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).
- 7.1.I The project is not subject to the narrow endemic species provisions of the BMO. Furthermore, the project will not impact any core populations of narrow endemic species.
- 7.1.J The project will have no affect on the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed species in the wild.
- 7.1.L The project site does not support eagles, eagle eggs or any part of an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act).

7.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

Due to the fact that the project and all cumulative projects are required to comply with the MBTA, approval of the North County Environmental Resources project will not have cumulatively considerable impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects affecting the same resource.

7.4 Mitigation Measures and Design Considerations

Direct Impact Mitigation Measures

Impacts to migratory birds or destruction of active migratory bird nests and/or eggs will be prevented by the implementation of seasonal restrictions on the removal of potential nesting areas (trees and shrubs) in conjunction with site build-out. This will ensure consistency with the MBTA and the CFGC, and keep impacts to Local Policies, Ordinances, or Adopted Plans to a level which is less than significant.

7.5 Conclusions

As discussed in the previous sections, future development of the project site, as presently proposed, could result in significant impacts to Local Policies, Ordinances, or Adopted Plans. However, all significant impacts to Local Policies, Ordinances, or Adopted Plans shall be mitigated for, reducing them to a level that is less than significant.

8.0 SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Section 3.4 and Table 6 (page 46) specifically describes all impacts and mitigation measures required to reduce the impact to a level less than significant. The summary is as follows:

MITIGATION FOR IMPACTS TO SENSITIVE HABITAT				
Plant Community	Impact Total	Mitigation Acreage	Onsite Open Space	Offsite Mitigation
Diegan coastal sage scrub	1.91	4.74	0.00	4.74
Mafic southern mixed chaparral	11.82	41.94	42.03	0.0
Willow scrub	0.02	0.06*	N/A	0.06*
Disturbed Habitat	N/A	N/A	2.04	
TOTAL	13.75	46.74	44.07	4.80*

* including the required 1:1 wetland creation component (0.02 acres)

The unauthorized grading and proposed As-Built plans impact approximately 11.82 acres of mafic southern mixed chaparral; 6.48 acres previously cleared without authorization and 5.34 acres proposed. The mitigation requirement for this plant community is 4:1 if the impacts were unauthorized and 3:1 for proposed impacts. A total of 41.94 acres of mitigation would be required for these potentially significant impacts. This shall be completed onsite within the proposed 44.07 acre open space easement area.

The unauthorized grading and proposed As-Built plans impact approximately 1.91 acres of unoccupied coastal sage scrub. The unauthorized grading impacted approximately 0.92 acres of unoccupied Diegan coastal sage scrub; the mitigation requirement is therefore increased to 3:1. For the 0.99 acres of proposed impacts, a 2:1 mitigation ratio is required. A total of 4.74 acres of mitigation would be required for this impact. All 4.74 acres of CSS mitigation shall be acquired offsite within a County and Wildlife Agency approved location.

The proposed impacts to the 0.02 acres of sensitive willow scrub habitat shall require mitigation. Mitigation shall be at a ratio of 3:1 with a 1:1 wetland creation component. Due to the size and scope of the impacts, the specifics of the required mitigation shall be determined through consultation with County staff and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The project proponent has proposed that the required mitigation for the impacts to willow scrub and CSS be completed offsite within an approved mitigation bank. All Mafic southern mixed chaparral mitigation shall be completed onsite through the creation of a 44.07 acre open space easement protecting a minimum of 41.94 acres of Mafic southern mixed chaparral. The location of the onsite open space easement is shown in Figure 6.

To avoid potential impacts to nesting raptors, coastal California gnatcatchers and other species which may potentially utilize the observed mature trees and power poles and coastal sage scrub habitat (for nesting), construction activities within these areas shall be avoided from February 15 through August 31. If construction activities cannot be avoided during these periods, pre-construction surveys nest surveys shall be conducted and avoidance measures implemented, as required upon consultation with the County and appropriate Wildlife Agencies.

A protective impact neutral Limited Building Zone (LBZ, Buffer) 100 feet deep and totaling approximately 11.56 acres of habitat (outside of mitigation area and acreage calculation) shall be placed around the north, east and southern perimeters of the onsite mitigation area (which is protected by an open space easement). This shall prevent potential fire clearing within the open space. No structures, grading or brush management impacts shall be permitted within the mitigation area/open space. No trails or disturbed habitat is located within the proposed mitigation open space easement area.

Due to the extremely steep grade of the site and the mature stands of impenetrable chaparral, fencing around the open space easement area and active management are not required as these activities (if possible to get down the slope) will impact the area through the creation of new trails into the open space. Signs shall be placed around the Open Space and at the intersection of the development and the LBZ in those areas where potential access is possible. An area outside the mitigation area, but at the limit of the 100 foot LBZ (north-western corner) as well as all access points along the existing access road shall be blocked off with large boulders/rock to block off the paths of the dirt bikes which will contribute to maintaining the natural feel (as opposed to a fence) in the habitat. Due to the steep grade of the property in general, and between the mitigation area and the proposed development specifically, access to it from the east (development area) is not possible. Furthermore, no existing trails lead from the development to the mitigation area. Therefore, it does not contribute additional protection to the mitigation area with the installation of a fence in this area, or "surrounding" the open space area in general.

Potential indirect impacts will be mitigated by conspicuously marking the construction area, installing a temporary silt fence, and using low-intensity lights if any are required.

Implementation of these mitigation measures will reduce potential project impacts to below a level of significance and ensure that the project is compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act.

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10.0 LIST OF PREPARERS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED

Prepared by:

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Michael Jefferson, County approved biological consultant

Victor Novik (certified wetland delineator)

Organizations Contacted:

County of San Diego

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Certification/Qualification

The following individual completed the field survey(s) and preparation of this report: Michael Jefferson

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.

Signed:



Michael K. Jefferson

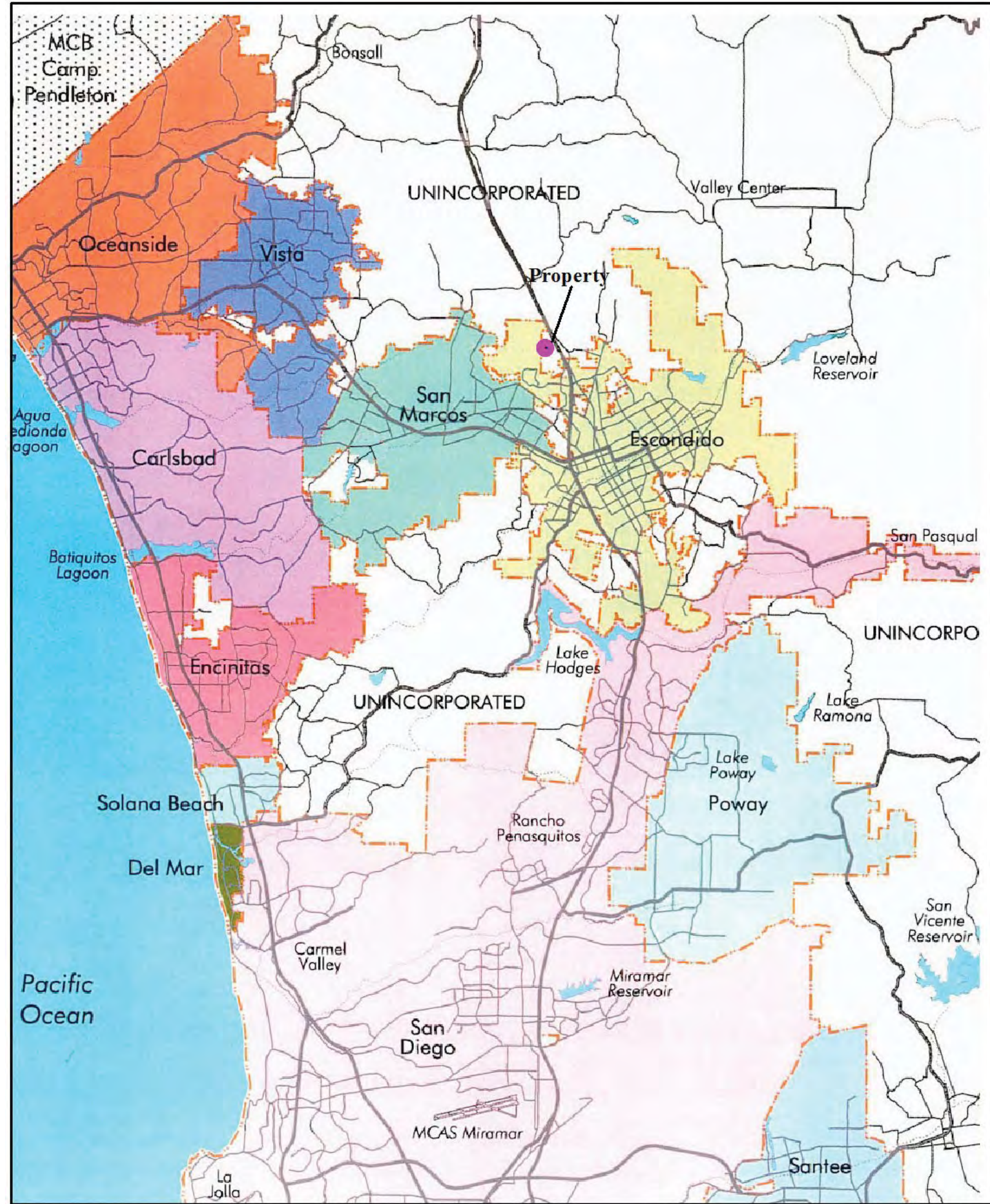
BLUE Consulting Group, LLC

ATTACHMENTS

Attached Figures 1-6

FIGURES

1:	Regional location	attached
2:	Project location	attached
3.0:	Property Aerial (March, 2005)	attached
3.1:	Property Aerial (1964)	attached
3.2:	Property Aerial (1980)	attached
3.3:	Property Aerial (February, 2008)	attached
4:	Project Area Vegetation Map (historic vegetation inclusive)	attached
5:	Unauthorized and Proposed Habitat Impacts	attached
6:	Proposed On-Site Mitigation Open Space	



● Property

FIGURE 1
Regional Location



☐ Property (approximately)




 Borrow Pit Area; prior to
grading in 2006/2007

FIGURE 3
Property Aerial
(March, 2005)



I-15 alignment



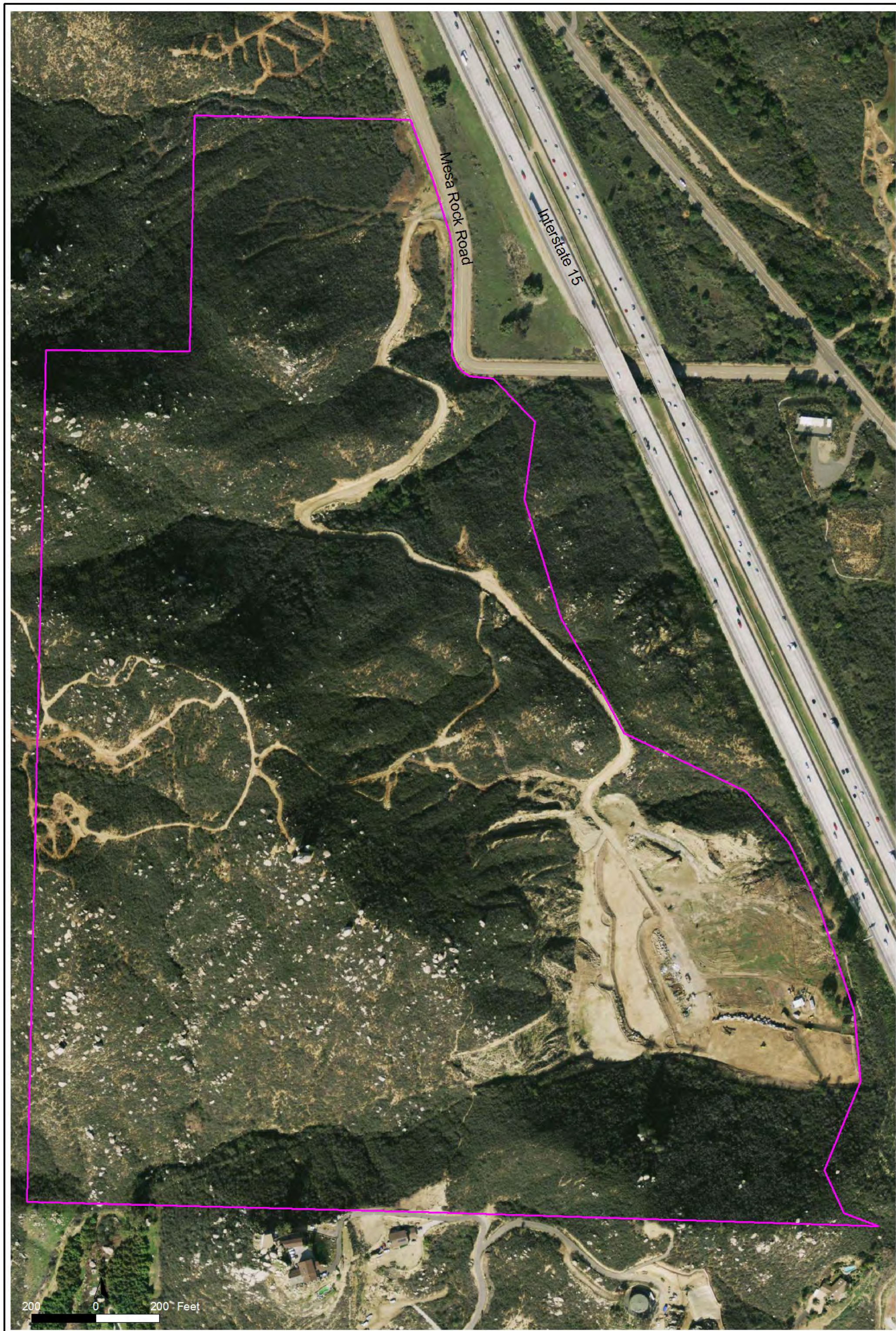
Borrow Pit Area; prior to
grading in 2006/2007

FIGURE 3.1
Property Aerial
(1964)



Borrow Pit Area; prior to
grading in 2006/2007

FIGURE 3.2
Property Aerial
(1980)




 Property; post grading, 2006/2007

FIGURE 3.3
Property Aerial;
2008

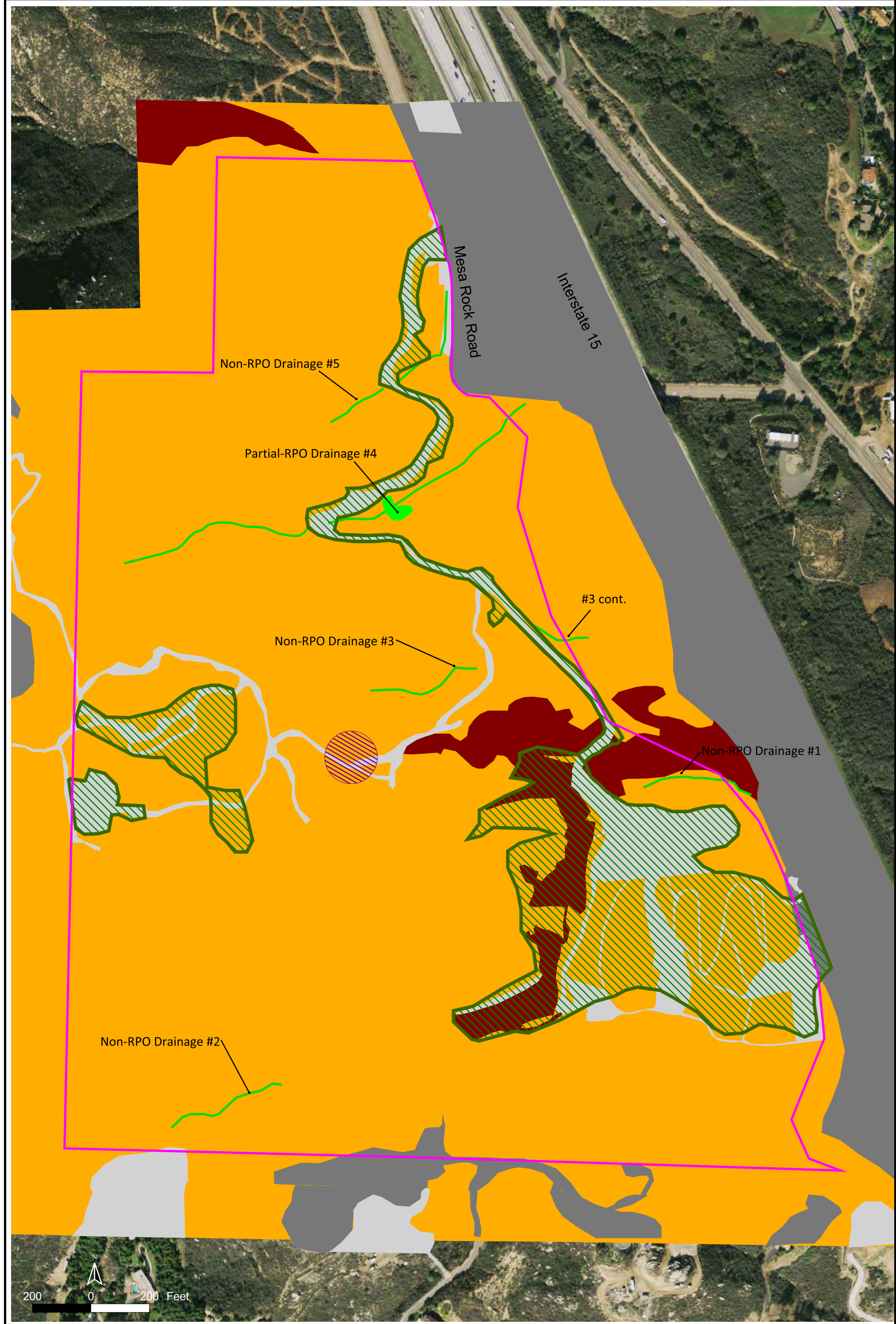


FIGURE 4
Historic/Observed Habitat
and Species Map

B L
U E

Property
Caltrans Quarry Pits
and Haul Road Footprint

Summer holly (historic observation)
Upland Swale
Developed

Disturbed Habitat
Willows
Coastal Sage Scrub
Mafic Mixed Chaparral

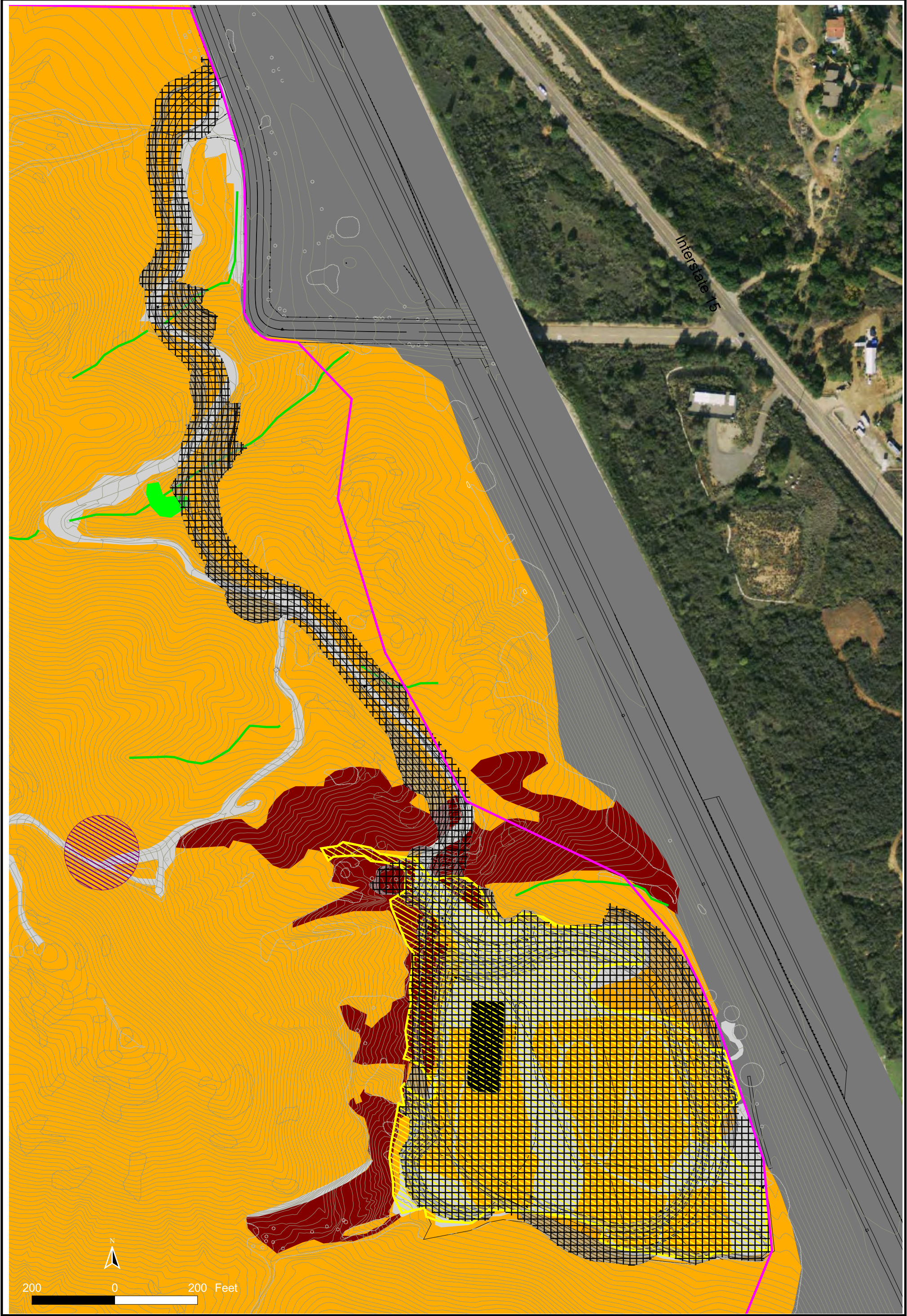


FIGURE 5

Unauthorized and Proposed
Habitat Impact Map

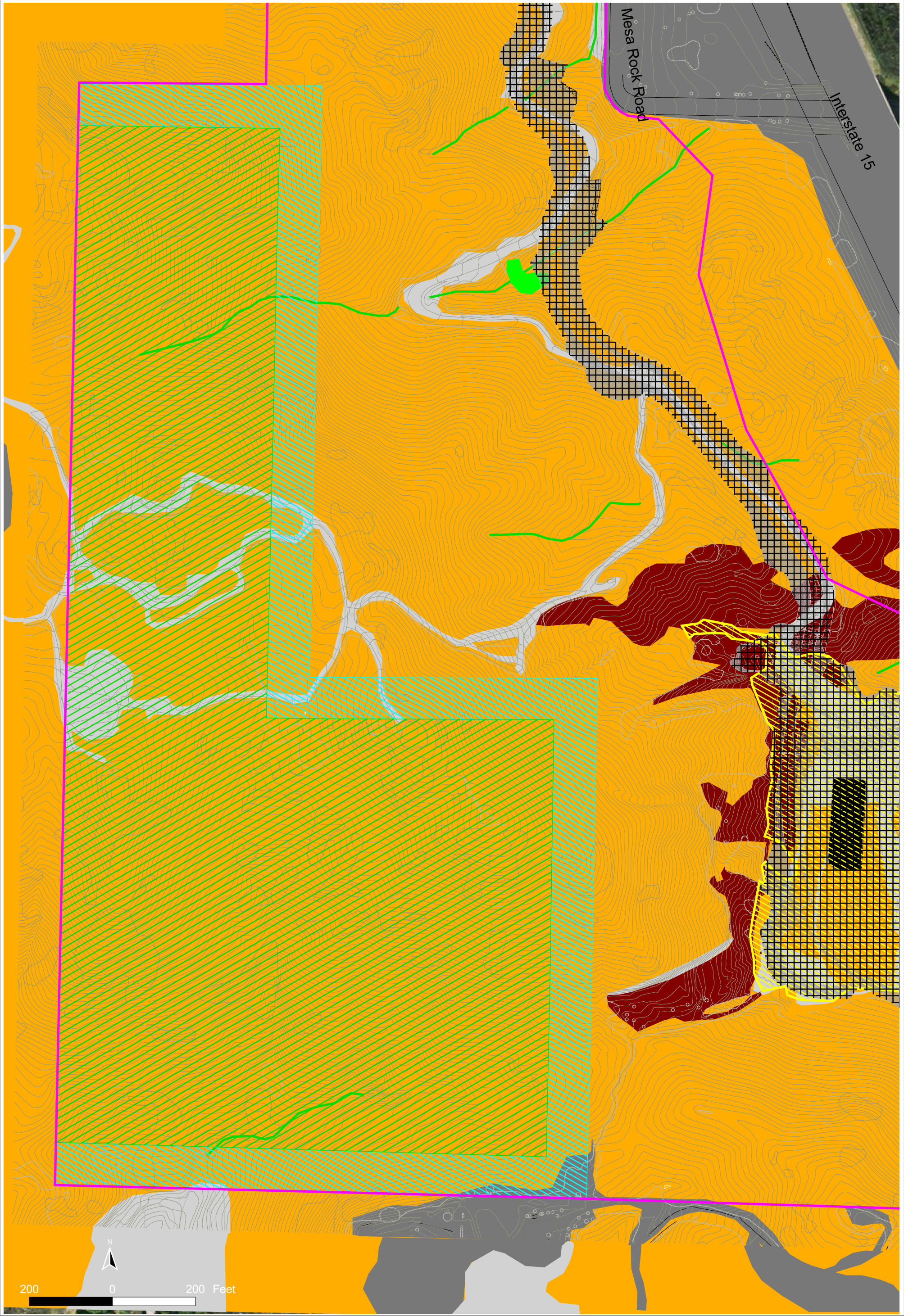


Property

- Proposed Development Footprint
- Unauthorized Impacts
- Proposed Structure

- Developed
- Disturbed Habitat
- Upland Swale

- Willows
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Mafic Mixed Chaparral



Attached Photographs 1-2



Photograph 1 Looking South; Recent Grading within the Caltrans Quarry Pit Footprint



Photograph 2 Looking South, South West; Visible Scarring From Caltrans Quarry Pit Activities

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ATTACHMENTS 1-7

- 1: Sensitive Plant Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur
- 2: Sensitive Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring
- 3: Sensitivity Codes
- 4: Plant Species Observed
- 5: Wildlife Species Observed/Detected
- 6: Wetland Delineation Sheet
- 7: Cumulative Impact Project List

Sensitive Plant Species Observed or with the Potential to Occur

TABLE 2
SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES
OBSERVED OR WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE

Species	State/Federal Status	MSCP Status	CNPS List/Code	Typical Habitat/Comments
<i>Acanthomintha ilicifolia</i> San Diego thornmint	CE/FT	NE, CS	1B/2-3-2	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland/ clay soils. Not expected to occur.
<i>Adolphia californica</i> California adolphia	—/—	—	2/1-2-1	Coastal sage scrub, chaparral. Not expected to occur.
<i>Ambrosia pumila</i> San Diego ambrosia	—/—	NE, CS	1B/3-2-2	Creekbeds, seasonally dry drainages, floodplains. Low potential to occur.
<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i> ssp. <i>crassifolia</i> Del Mar manzanita	—/FE	NE, CS	1B/3-3-2	Southern maritime chaparral. Not observed within plan footprint.
<i>Arctostaphylos rainbowensis</i> Rainbow manzanita	—/FE	NE, CS	1B/3-3-2	Southern maritime chaparral. Moderate potential to be within plan footprint. Not observed within plan footprint.
<i>Artemisia palmeri</i> San Diego sagewort	—/—	—	2/2-2-1	Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian. Low potential to occur.
<i>Baccharis vanessae</i> Encinitas coyote bush	CE/FT	NE, CS	1B/2-3-3	Chaparral. Not observed within plan footprint.
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> Thread-leaved brodiaea	CE/FT	NE	1B/3-3-3	Valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Not expected to occur.
<i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i> Orcutt's brodiaea	—/—	—	1B/1-3-2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, meadows, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Not expected to occur.
<i>Ceanothus verrucosus</i> Wart-stemmed ceanothus	—/—	CS	2/1-2-1	Chaparral. Not observed within plan footprint.

TABLE 2
SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES
OBSERVED OR WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
(continued)

Species	State/Federal Status	MSCP Status	CNPS List/Code	Typical Habitat/Comments
<i>Chorizanthe orcuttiana</i> Orcutt's spineflower	CE/FE	NE, CS	1B/3-3-3	Openings in coastal chamise chaparral. Only a few extant populations occur from Encinitas to Point Loma. Low potential to occur.
<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i> Peninsular spineflower	—/—	--	4/1-2-2	Openings in coastal chamise chaparral.
<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i> Long-spined spineflower	—/—	—	1B/2-2-2	Open chaparral, coastal sage scrub, montane meadows, valley and foothill grasslands; vernal pools/clay. Low potential to occur.
<i>Comarostaphylis diversifolia</i> ssp. <i>diversifolia</i> Summer holly	—/—	CS	1B/2-2-2	Chaparral. No suitable habitat. Not expected to occur.
<i>Dichondra occidentalis</i> Western dichondra	—/—	—	4/1-2-1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland; generally post-burn. Not expected to occur.
<i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> Blochman's dudleya	—/—	NE	1B/2-2-2	Coastal sage scrub. Would have been observed if present. Not expected to occur.
<i>Dudleya variegata</i> Variegated dudleya	—/—	NE	1B/1-2-2	Openings in chaparral and coastal sage scrub; open, rocky grasslands. Not expected to occur.
<i>Dudleya viscida</i> Sticky-leaved liveforever	—/—	—	1B/3-2-3	Coastal sage scrub; steep, north-facing slopes/ gabbroic soils. No suitable soils. Not expected to occur.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i> San Diego button celery	CE/FE	NE		Vernal pools. No suitable habitat present; not expected to occur.

TABLE 2
SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES
OBSERVED OR WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
(continued)

Species	State/Federal Status	MSCP Status	CNPS List/Code	Typical Habitat/Comments
<i>Euphorbia misera</i> Cliff spurge	—/—	CS	2/2-2-1	Coastal sage scrub, coastal bluff scrub. Not expected to occur.
<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i> Coast barrel cactus	—/—	CS	2/1-3-1	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Not expected to occur.
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i> Palmer's grappling hook	—/—	—	2/1-2-1	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland. . Moderate potential to occur
<i>Hazardia orcuttii</i> Orcutt's hazardia	—/—	NE, CS	1B/3-3-2	Open chamise chaparral. Only one U.S. population known from Encinitas. No suitable habitat. Not expected to occur.
<i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i> Spiny rush	—/—	—	4/1-2-1	Coastal dunes (mesic) meadows (alkaline), coastal salt marsh. No suitable habitat. Not expected to occur.
<i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i> var. <i>filaginifolia</i> (= <i>Corethrogyne filaginifolia</i> var. <i>incana</i>) San Diego sand aster	—/—	—	1B/2-2-2	Coastal sage scrub, chaparral. Out of range. Not expected to occur.
<i>Muilla clevelandii</i> San Diego goldenstar	—/—	NE	1B/2-2-2	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Not expected to occur.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> Prostrate navarretia	—/FT	NE, CS	1B/2-3-2	Vernal pools. No suitable habitat present; not expected to occur.
<i>Nolina cismontana</i> Chapparal beargrass	—/—	--	--	Chaparral, xeric coastal sage scrub. Not expected to occur.
<i>Quercus dumosa</i> Nuttall's scrub oak	—/—	CS	1B/2-3-2	Coastal chaparral. Not observed, not expected to occur.

TABLE 2
SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES
OBSERVED OR WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
(continued)

Species	State/Federal Status	MSCP Status	CNPS List/Code	Typical Habitat/Comments
<i>Tetracoccus dioicus</i> Parry's tetracoccus	—/—	CS	1B/3-2-2	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub. Not observed within plan footprint, not expected to occur.

NOTE: See Table 3 for explanation of sensitivity codes.

Sensitive Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
<u>Invertebrates</u> (Nomenclature from Collins 1997)			
Quino checkerspot butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	CSC, MSCP	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub with coarse sandy soils and scattered brush and <i>plantago</i> sp.	No potential to occur onsite.
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	CSC, MSCP	Open fields and meadows with milkweed.	No potential to occur onsite.
<u>Reptiles</u> (Nomenclature from Collins 1997)			
Southwestern pond turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	CSC, FSS, MSCP	Ponds, small lakes, marshes, slow-moving, sometimes brackish water.	No potential to occur onsite.
San Diego horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i>	CSC, MSCP, *	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub with fine, loose soil. Partially dependent on harvester ants for forage.	Moderate potential to occur onsite due to habitat. Not historically observed in the area, not expected to occur.
Coastal rosy boa <i>Charina trivirgata roseofusca</i>	CSC, MSCP	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub with coarse sandy soils and scattered brush.	Moderate potential to occur onsite. Not historically observed in the area, not expected to occur.
San Diego banded gecko <i>Coleonyx variegates abbottii</i>	CSC, MSCP	Rocky areas in coastal sage and chaparral.	Moderate potential to occur onsite due to habitat. Not historically observed in the area, not expected to occur.
Coastal whiptail <i>Cnemidophorus tigris stejnegeri</i>	CSC, MSCP	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub with coarse sandy soils and scattered brush.	Moderate potential to occur onsite. Not historically observed in the area, not expected to occur.
Belding's orangethroat whiptail <i>Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi</i>	CSC, MSCP	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub with coarse sandy soils and scattered brush.	Moderate potential to occur onsite. Not historically observed in the area, not expected to occur.

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)
(continued)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
Silvery legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	CSC	Herbaceous layers with loose soil in coastal scrub, chaparral, and open riparian habitats. Prefers dunes and sandy washes near moist soil.	Low potential to occur onsite due to habitat. Not historically observed in the area, not expected to occur.
Red diamond rattlesnake <i>Crotalus exsul (C. ruber ruber)</i>	CSC	Desert scrub and riparian habitats, coastal sage scrub, open chaparral, grassland, and agricultural fields.	Moderate potential to occur onsite due to habitat. Not historically observed in the area.
San Diego ring neck snake <i>Diadophis punctatus similis</i>	CSC	Moist habitats, including wet meadows, rocky hillsides, gardens, farmland, grassland, chaparral, mixed coniferous forests, woodlands.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Coast patch-nosed snake <i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i>	CSC	Grasslands, chaparral, sagebrush, desert scrub. Found in sandy and rocky areas.	Low potential to occur onsite.
<u>Birds</u> (Nomenclature from American Ornithologists' Union)			
Great blue heron (rookery site) <i>Ardea herodias</i>	*	Bays, lagoons, ponds, lakes. Non-breeding year-round visitor, some localized breeding.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Great egret (rookery site) <i>Ardea alba</i>	*	Lagoons, bays, estuaries. Ponds and lakes in the coastal lowland. Winter visitor, uncommon in summer.	Low potential to occur onsite.
White-tailed kite (nesting) <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	CFP, *	Nest in riparian woodland, oaks, sycamores. Forage in open, grassy areas. Year-round resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)
(continued)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
Northern harrier (nesting) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	CSC, MSCP	Coastal lowland, marshes, grassland, agricultural fields. Migrant and winter resident, rare summer resident.	Observed onsite. Winter 2009
Sharp-shinned hawk (nesting) <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	CSC	Open deciduous woodlands, forests, edges, parks, residential areas. Migrant and winter visitor.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Cooper's hawk (nesting) <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	CSC, MSCP	Mature forest, open woodlands, wood edges, river groves. Parks and residential areas. Migrant and winter visitor.	Low potential to occur on site.
Ferruginous hawk (wintering) <i>Buteo regalis</i>	CSC	Require large foraging areas. Grasslands, agricultural fields. Uncommon winter resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Golden eagle (nesting and wintering) <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	CSC, CFP, BEPA, MSCP	Require vast foraging areas in grassland, broken chaparral, or sage scrub. Nest in cliffs and boulders. Uncommon resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	CSC	Rare winter visitor. Grasslands, agricultural fields, occasionally mud flats.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Prairie falcon (nesting) <i>Falco mexicanus</i>	CSC	Grassland, agricultural fields, desert scrub. Uncommon winter resident. Rare breeding resident. Breeds on cliffs.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (breeding) <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	SE	Large riparian woodlands. Summer resident. Very localized breeding.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Western burrowing owl (burrow sites) <i>Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea</i>	CSC, MSCP	Grassland, agricultural land, coastal dunes. Require rodent burrows. Declining resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)
(continued)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	SE, FE, FSS, MSCP	Nesting restricted to willow thickets. Also occupies other woodlands. Rare spring and fall migrant, rare summer resident. Extremely localized breeding.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	CSC, MSCP	Grassland, agricultural land, coastal sage, chaparral. Declining resident.	Low potential to occur onsite (nesting). Limited potential nesting onsite
California horned lark <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	CSC	Sandy shores, mesas, disturbed areas, grasslands, agricultural lands, sparse creosote bush scrub.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Coastal cactus wren <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi</i>	CSC, MSCP, *	Maritime succulent scrub, coastal sage scrub with <i>Opuntia</i> thickets. Rare localized resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	FT, CSC, MSCP	Coastal sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub. Resident.	Low potential to occur onsite. Protocol survey not recommended
Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	CSC	Open foraging areas near scattered bushes and low trees.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Least Bell's vireo (nesting) <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	SE, FE, MSCP	Willow riparian woodlands. Summer resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Yellow warbler (nesting) <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	CSC	Breeding restricted to riparian woodland. Spring and fall migrant, localized summer resident, rare winter visitor.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Yellow-breasted chat (nesting) <i>Icteria virens</i>	CSC, MSCP	Dense riparian woodland. Localized summer resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)
(continued)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	CSC, MSCP	Coastal sage scrub, grassland. Resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Bell's sage sparrow <i>Amphispiza belli belli</i>	CSC, MSCP	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub. Localized resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	CSC, MSCP	Freshwater marshes, agricultural areas, lakeshores, parks. Localized resident.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Blue grosbeak (nesting) <i>Guiraca caerulea</i>	*	Riparian woodland edges, mule fat thickets. Summer resident, spring and fall migrant, winter visitor.	Low potential to occur onsite.
<u>Mammals</u> (Nomenclature from Jones et al. 1982)			
Pallid bat <i>pallidus</i>	<i>Antrous</i> CSC	Caves, mines, buildings. Found in a variety of habitats, arid and mesic.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Ringtail cat <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	CSC	Desert dune, rock outcrops, chaparral, forest (scrub) and mountains.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Pale big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	CSC	Caves, mines, buildings. Found in a variety of habitats, arid and mesic.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Townsend's western big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>	CSC, MSCP	Caves, mines, buildings. Found in a variety of habitats, arid and mesic.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Californian leaf nosed bat <i>Macrotus californicus</i>	CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)
(continued)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
Western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Western small-footed myotis <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Long-eared myotis <i>Myotis evotis</i>	CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Friged myotis <i>californicus</i>	<i>Eumops perotis</i> CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Long legged myotis <i>volans</i>	<i>Myotis</i> CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Big free-tailed bat <i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Pocketed free-tailed bat <i>femorascacca</i>	<i>Nyctinomops</i> CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)
(continued)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
Californai leaf nosed bat <i>Macrotus californicus</i>	CSC, MSCP	Woodlands, rocky habitat, arid and semiarid lowlands, cliffs, crevices, buildings, tree hollows.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Mountain lion <i>Felis concolor</i>	CSC, MSCP	Grassland, agricultural land, coastal sage, chaparral. Declining resident.	Moderate potential to occur onsite. No tracks/evidence observed in plan footprint
Southern Mule Deer <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	CSC, MSCP	Grassland, agricultural land, coastal sage, chaparral. Declining resident.	Observed tracks onsite.
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	CSC, MSCP	Open areas of scrub, grasslands, agricultural fields.	Moderate potential to occur, not observed
Dulzura California pocket mouse <i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	CSC, MSCP	San Diego County west of mountains in sparse, disturbed coastal sage scrub or grasslands with sandy soils.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse <i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>	CSC, MSCP	San Diego County west of mountains in sparse, disturbed coastal sage scrub or grasslands with sandy soils.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Stephen's kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	CSC, MSCP	Sparse perennial plant cover is preferred (Thomas 1975). Burrows may be excavated in firm soil that is "neither extremely hard nor sandy" (Lackey 1967a)	Out of range, no potential to occur onsite.
San Diego desert woodrat <i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	CSC	Coastal sage scrub and chaparral.	Low potential to occur onsite.
Southern grasshopper mouse <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	FE, CSC, MSCP	Grasslands and sparse coastal sage scrub.	Out of range, no potential to occur onsite.

TABLE 3
SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN (OR POTENTIALLY OCCURRING)
(continued)

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence/Comments*
Los Angeles little pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	FE, CSC, MSCP	Fine, sandy soils, typically in arid grassland or coastal sage scrub habitats.	Out of range, no potential to occur onsite.
Pacific little pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	FE, CSC, MSCP	Open coastal sage scrub; fine, alluvial sands near ocean.	Out of range, no potential to occur onsite.
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	MSCP	Dry, open grasslands, fields, and pastures.	No potential to occur onsite.

Status Codes

Listed/Proposed

FE = Listed as endangered by the federal government
 FT = Listed as threatened by the federal government
 SE = Listed as endangered by the state of California

Other

BEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
 CFP = California fully protected species
 CSC = California Department of Fish and Game species of special concern
 FC = Federal candidate for listing (taxa for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list as endangered or threatened; development and publication of proposed rules for these taxa are anticipated)
 FSS = Federal (Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service) sensitive species
 MSCP = Multiple Species Conservation Program target species list
 * = Taxa listed with an asterisk fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Taxa considered endangered or rare under Section 15380(d) of CEQA guidelines
- Taxa that are biologically rare, very restricted in distribution, or declining throughout their range
- Population(s) in California that may be peripheral to the major portion of a taxon's range, but which are threatened with extirpation within California
- Taxa closely associated with a habitat that is declining in California at an alarming rate (e.g., wetlands, riparian, old growth forests, desert aquatic systems, native grasslands)

Plant Species Observed

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Scientific Name	Comon Name	Habitat	Origin
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i> Hook. & Am.	Chamise	MC	N
<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> (Lehm.) Nelson & J.F. Macbr.	Rancher's fireweed	D	N
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> L.	Scarlet pimpernel	D, MC	I
<i>Artemisia californica</i> Less.	California sagebush	CSS, MC	N
<i>Avenafatua</i> L.	Wild oat	D, CSS, MC	I
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> DC.	Coyote bush	MC	N
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mulefat	W	N
<i>Bloomeria crocea</i> (Torrey) Cov.	Common goldenstar	D, CSS, MC	N
<i>Brassica nigra</i> (L.) Koch.	Black mustard	D, MC, CSS	I
<i>Brassica rapa</i> L.	Field mustard	D, MC, CSS	I
<i>Brornus madritensis</i> L. ssp. <i>rubens</i> (L.) Husnot	Foxtail chess	D, CSS, MC	I
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i> ssp. <i>tenuifolia</i> (Abrams) Brum	Chaparral morning-glory	MC	N
<i>Castilleja foliolosa</i> Hook. & Am.	Woolly Indian paintbrush	MC	N
<i>Ceanothus crassifolius</i>	Torrey Hoaryleaf ceanothus	MC	N
<i>Ceanothus oliganthus</i>	Nutt. Ceanothus	MC	N
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i> L.	Tocolote, star-thistle	D, MC, CSS	I
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> Torrey & A. Gray Birch-Leaf	Mountain-mahogany	MC	N
<i>Chamaesyce albomarginata</i> (Torrey & A. Gray) Small	Rattlesnake weed	D	N
<i>Chlorogalum parviflorum</i> Wats.	Amole, soap plant	CSS, MC	N
<i>Chorizanthe staticoides</i> Benth.	Turkish rugging	CSS, MC	N
<i>Cirsium occidentale</i> (Nutt.) Jepson var. <i>californicum</i> (A. Gray)	California thistle	D, MC	N
<i>Cneoridium durnosum</i> (Nutt.) Baillon	Bushrue	MC	N
<i>Daucus pusillus</i> Michx	Rattlesnake weed	MC	N
<i>Enceliafarinosa</i> ssp. <i>canum</i>	California-fuchsia, zauschneria	MC	N
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> Benth. var. <i>fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	CSS, MC	N
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i> (DC.) A. Gray var. <i>confertiflorum</i>	Golden-yarrow	D, CSS	N
<i>Erodium</i> sp.	Filaree, storksbill	MC	I
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> (L.) L. Her.	White-stemmed filaree	D, MC	I
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> Cham.'	California poppy	D	I
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Mill.	Fennel	D, MC	I
<i>Gutierrezia californica</i> (DC.) Torrey & A. Gray	California matchweed	CSS, MC	N
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> (Lindley) Roemer	Toyon, Christmas berry	MC	N

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED
(continued)

Scientific Name	Comon Name	Habitat	Origin
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> L.	Smooth cat's-ear	MC	I
<i>Keckiella antirrhinoides</i> (Benth.) Straw. var. <i>antirrhinoides</i>	Yellow bush penstemon	MC	N
<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i> (Benth.) Straw /	Climbing penstemon	MC	N
<i>Keckiella ternata</i> (Torrey) Straw ·	Summerbush penstemon	MC	N
<i>kamarckia aurea</i> (L.) Moench.	Goldentop	MC	I
<i>Layia platyglossa</i> (F. & M.) A. Gray ·	Tidy-tips	MC	N
<i>Lathyrus splendens</i> Kell.	Pride of California, Campo pea	MC	N
<i>Lathyrus vestitus</i> Nutt. vat. <i>alefeldii</i> (White) Isely.	Wild sweet pea	MC	N
<i>Lotus strigosus</i> (Nutt.) E. Greene	Bishop's lotus	D, MC	N
<i>Lupinus</i> sp. ~	Lupine	D, MC	N
<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i> (Torrey & A. Gray) E. Greene	Chaparral mallow	MC	N
<i>Malosma laurina</i> (Nutt.) Abrams	Laurel sumac	MC	N
<i>Marah macrocarpus</i> (E. Greene) E. Greene	Wild cucumber	MC	N
<i>Melica imperfecta</i> Trin.	California melic	MC	N
<i>Melilotus indica</i> (L.) All.	Sourclover	D, MC	I
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> Curtis	Bush monkeyflower	MC	N
<i>Mimulus brevipes</i> Benth.	Hillside monkeyflower	MC	N
<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i> Benth.~	Scarlet monkeyflower	MC	N
<i>Mirabilis californica</i> A. Gray	Wishbone bush	MC	N
<i>Nassella pulchra</i> (A. Hitchc.) Barkworth	Purple needlegrass	D, MC	N
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> Grah.	Tree tobacco	D	I
<i>Paeonia californica</i> Torrey & A. Gray	Peony	MC	N
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> Forsskal	Fountain grass	D	I
<i>Phacelia</i> sp.	Phacelia	MC	N
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	English plantain	MC	I
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> (Nutt.) Walp. ssp. <i>ilicifolia</i> '	Holly-leaved cherry, Islay	MC	N

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED (continued)

Scientific Name	Comon Name	Habitat	Origin
<i>Pterostegia dytmarioides</i> Fischer & C. Meyer	California thread-stem	MC	N
<i>Quercus berberidifolia</i> Liebin.	Scrub oak	MC	N
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i> Nutt.	Spiny redberry	MC	N
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i> (Nutt.) Brewer & Watson	Lemonadeberry	MC	N
<i>Rhus ovata</i> Wats.	Sugar bush	MC	N
<i>Ribes indecorum</i> Eastw.	White flowering currant	MC	N
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow	W	N
<i>Salsola tragus</i> L.	Russian thistle, tumbleweed	D	I
<i>Salvia columbariae</i> Benth.	Chia	NNG, CSS	N
<i>Salvia mellifera</i> E. Greene	Black sage	MC	N
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> C. Presl J	Blue elderberry	MC	N
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L.	Common sow thistle	D, MC	I
<i>Stephanomeria virgata</i> (Benth.) ssp. <i>virgata</i>	Slender stephanomeria	D, MC	N
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak	W	N
<i>Trifolium hirtum</i> All.	Rose clover	D	I
<i>Uropapus lindleyi</i> (DC.) Nutt.	Silver puffs	MC	N
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> Wendl.	Washington palm	D	I
<i>Xylococcus bicolor</i> Nutt.	Mission manzanita	MC	N
<i>Yucca schidigera</i> K.E. Ortgies	Mohave yucca	MC	N
<i>Yucca whipplei</i> Torrey	Our Lord's candle	CSS, MC	N

HABITATS

OTHER TERMS

CSS = Coastal sage scrub

D = Urban/developed

MC = Mafic southern mixed chaparral

W=Willow

N = Native to locality

I = Introduced species from outside locality

Sensitivity Codes

TABLE 4
SENSITIVITY CODES

FEDERAL CANDIDATES AND LISTED PLANTS

FE	=	Federally listed, endangered
FT	=	Federally listed, threatened
FPE	=	Federally proposed endangered
FPT	=	Federally proposed threatened

STATE LISTED PLANTS

CE	=	State listed, endangered
CR	=	State listed, rare
CT	=	State listed, threatened

Draft North County MSCP STATUS

NE	=	Narrow endemic species
CS	=	MSCP Covered Species List

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

LISTS		R-E-D CODES
1A	= Species presumed extinct.	R (Rarity)
1B	= Species rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. These species are eligible for state listing.	1 = Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low at this time.
2	= Species rare, threatened, or endangered in California but which are more common elsewhere. These species are eligible for state listing.	2 = Occurrence confined to several populations or to one extended population.
3	= Species for which more information is needed. Distribution, endangerment, and/or taxonomic information is needed.	3 = Occurrence limited to one or a few highly restricted populations, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom reported.
4	= A watch list of species of limited distribution. These species need to be monitored for changes in the status of their populations.	E (Endangerment)
		1 = Not endangered
		2 = Endangered in a portion of its range
		3 = Endangered throughout its range
		D (Distribution)
		1 = More or less widespread outside California
		2 = Rare outside California
		3 = Endemic to California

Wildlife Species Observed/Detected

WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED/DETECTED

Common Name	Scientific Name	Occupied Habitat	Evidence Of Occurrence
Invertebrates (Nomenclature from Mattoni 1990 and Opler and Wright 1999)			
Cabbage white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	D, MC	O
Common or checkered white	<i>Pieris protodice</i>	D, MC	O
Sara orangetip	<i>Anthocaris sara</i>	D, MC	O
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	D, MC	O
Reptiles (Nomenclature from Collins 1997)			
Coastal whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus</i>	D	O
Southern pacific rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus oreganus helleri</i>	D	O
Birds (Nomenclature from American Ornithologists' Union)			
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	F	O
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	F	O
California quail	<i>Callipepla californica californica</i>	CSS	O,V
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura marginella</i>	CSS	O,V
White-throated swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	F	O
Western scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	CSS	O,V
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax clarionensis</i>	CSS	O,V
Bushtit	<i>Psaltirparus minimus minimus</i>	CSS	O,V
Wrentit	<i>Chamaeafasciata henshawi</i>	CSS	V
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	MC	O,V
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria hesperophilus</i>	D, MC	V
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanusfrontalis</i>	D, MC	V
Western tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	MC	O
Black-headed grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus maculatus</i>	MC	O
Lazuli bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	D, MC	O,V
California towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	D, MC	V

WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED/DETECTED
(continued)

Habitats

- CSS = Coastal sage scrub
- D = Urban/developed
- F = Flying overhead
- MC = Mafic southern mixed chaparral
- W = Willow

Evidence of Occurrence

- V = Vocalization
- O = Observed

Wetland Delineation Sheet

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Arid West Region

Project/Site: Mesa Rock City/County: SD Sampling Date: 8/25/09
 Applicant/Owner: BLM State: CA Sampling Point: 1
 Investigator(s): Victor Arriaga Section, Township, Range: _____
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Hilly Local relief (concave, convex, none): _____ Slope (%): _____
 Subregion (LRR): _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____ Datum: _____
 Soil Map Unit Name: _____ NMI classification: _____
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ☒ No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)
 Are Vegetation, Soil, or Hydrology significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ☒ No _____
 Are Vegetation, Soil, or Hydrology naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?	Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes _____ No _____		
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes _____ No _____		
Remarks: <u>looks like a drainage canyon. couple of mulefat mixed in the rocks</u>			

VEGETATION

Tree Stratum (Use scientific names.)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet:
1. _____				Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A)
2. _____				Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>1</u> (B)
3. _____				Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0/1</u> (A/B)
4. _____				
Total Cover: _____				
Sapling/Shrub Stratum				Prevalence Index worksheet:
1. <u>MAIA</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>UPL</u>	Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____
2. <u>ROSAL</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>FACW</u>	OBL species x 1 = _____
3. <u>ARCA</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>UPL</u>	FACW species x 2 = <u>2</u>
4. <u>MAIA</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>NL</u>	FAC species x 3 = _____
5. _____				FACU species x 4 = _____
Total Cover: <u>63</u>				UPL species x 5 = <u>310</u>
Herb Stratum				Column Totals: <u>63</u> (A) <u>312</u> (B)
1. _____				Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4.9</u>
2. _____				Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:
3. _____				— Dominance Test is >50%
4. _____				— Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 ¹
5. _____				— Morphological Adaptations ¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
6. _____				— Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation ¹ (Explain)
7. _____				
8. _____				
Total Cover: _____				
Woody Vine Stratum				¹ Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.
1. _____				Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. _____				
Total Cover: _____				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____		% Cover of Biotic Crust _____		
Remarks: <u>looks like upland drainage</u>				

Sampling Point: _____

SOIL

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Surface Water (A1) | Salt Crust (B11) | Seamless Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine) |
| High Water Table (A2) | Biotic Crust (B12) | Drift Deposits (B3) (Riverine) |
| Saturation (A3) | Aquatic Invertebrates (B13) | Drainage Patterns (B10) |
| Water Marks (B1) (Nonriverine) | Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1) | Dry-Season Water Table (C2) |
| Sediment Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine) | Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | Thin Muck Surface (C7) |
| Drift Deposits (B3) (Nonriverine) | Presence of Reduced Iron (C4) | Crayfish Burrows (C8) |
| Surface Soil Cracks (B5) | Recent Iron Reduction in Flowed Soils (C6) | Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9) |
| Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7) | Other (Explain in Remarks) | Shallow Aquitard (D3) |
| Water-Stained Leaves (B9) | | FAC-Neutral Test (D5) |

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches):

Water Table Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches):

Saturation Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches): _____

(includes capillary fringe)

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

This is a drainage from the surrounding hills

Cumulative Impact Project List

TABLE 7
CUMULATIVE IMPACT PROJECT LIST

PROJECT NAME	PERMIT/MAP NUMBER	Mafic southern mixed chaparral impacts	Diegan coastal sage scrub impacts	Willow scrub impacts
Escondido RV and Mini Storage	MUP 05-052	0	0	0
Knox Tentative Parcel Map	TPM 20879	0	0	0
Hartman STP Turf Storage	S07-041	0	0	0
Hartman Administrative Permit	AD 07-057	?	?	?
Cell Site Minor Use Permit	ZAP 00-059	?	?	?
Bennett/Boresma Boundary Adjustment	BA 03-0093	0	0	0
Sleepy Hill Boundary Adjustment	BA 00-0071	0	0	0
Montreux Site Plan	S05-030	0	0	0
Escondido 68 Site Plan	S03-019	0	0	0
Jesmond Dene Heights Administrative permit (withdrawn)	AD 02-017	0	0	0
Stephens Tentative Parcel Map	TPM 19895	Unknown amount	0	0
Cell Site Minor Use Permit (withdrawn)	ZAP 00-145	0	0	0
Eadington Jesmond Dene Rezone	TM 5114, HLP 01-012, REZ 00-017	0	64.6	0.07
Jack Rabbit Acres Administrative Permit	AD 03-069	0	0	0
Hooper Tentative Parcel Map	TPM 20960	0	0	0
Jack Rabbit Acres Tentative Map	TM 5240	0	0.6	0
Rancho Verona Major Use Permit	MUP 04-050	0	1.07	0
<i>ADJ Holdings Site Plan / Mesa Rock Caltrans Borrow Pit</i>	<i>S08-015</i>	<i>5.76</i>	<i>0.47</i>	<i>0.02</i>
Total		Unknown amount	66.74	0.09