

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
OASIS MEETING FACILITY/SENIOR CENTER,
ORCUTT, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Prepared for:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following Biological Resources Assessment (Assessment) provides the results of the biological resources surveys conducted by Storrer Environmental Services, LLC (SES), on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department (County), for the OASIS Meeting Facility/Senior Center (Project).

Prior to this Assessment, a Biological Constraints Analysis (BCA) was prepared for the Project to establish baseline conditions, identify potential “fatal flaws” or sensitive biological resources, and recommend focused biological studies (Stantec 2016). The BCA concluded that additional focused surveys for rare plant species, special-status semi-aquatic wildlife (e.g., California red-legged frog, western spadefoot toad, southern western pond turtle), special-status terrestrial wildlife (e.g., silvery legless lizard, Blainville’s horned lizard, burrowing owl), and protocol-level least Bell’s vireo surveys should be conducted. As recommended in the BCA, the objectives of this Assessment were to complete the following: a seasonally appropriate focused botanical survey, focused surveys for special-status semi-aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species, and protocol-level least Bell’s vireo surveys.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is located in the Town of Orcutt, in northwestern Santa Barbara County, California (Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map). The Project is entirely within the 39.73-acre Orcutt Community Plan (OCP) Key Site 18, northwest of the corner of Foxenwood Lane and Clark Avenue (Figure 2 – Project Area Map). Key Site 18 consists of 15 parcels, which are currently vacant with the exception of a single family residence near the northeast corner (County 2004). The Project involves two of the parcels (APNs 105-020-063 and 105-020-064) totaling 5.28 acres, within Key Site 18 (Project Area).

The majority of the parcels in Key Site 18 are designated as open space area in the OCP. As part of the Project, the applicant is requesting a General Plan Amendment to amend the OCP Key Site 18 Policy KS18-1 and Development Standard KS18-1 to remove the subject parcels from the designated open space area, and allow for the construction of the OASIS Meeting Facility/Senior Center (County 2015).

The proposed Project entails development of a 15,900 square foot meeting facility/senior center (including the main building and an ancillary Art and Crafts Area & BBQ facility), 170 parking spaces, recreation lawns for the community, and decomposed granite walking trails with educational signage (Figure 3 – Site Plan). The structural development and impervious surfaces would cover approximately 2.28 acres of the 5.35-acre Project Area. Access to the meeting facility/senior center would utilize an existing driveway from Foxenwood Lane, provided by a private access easement over the adjacent parcel (County 2015) (see Appendix A – Site Photographs).

To satisfy County drainage requirements, an approximate 0.5-acre retention/detention basin will be constructed in the western portion of the Project Area. In addition, a subsurface “French drain” (gravel filled underdrain) is proposed. The subsurface French drain would extend from the northerly side of the main building to the west, and will convey runoff to the retention/detention basin.

The existing sewer trunk line that will service the meeting facility/senior center is located along the top of bank and within the channel of Orcutt Creek (Figure 4 – Preliminary Utility Plan). The sewer lateral line tie-in for the Project extends from the main building approximately 160 feet to the trunk line. The location of the tie-in of the lateral line to the sewer trunk line is outside, south of, the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek.

A water line and gas line will also be installed on the southern boundary of the property. The water and gas lines will be approximately 130 feet in length and will tie into existing lines along Clark Avenue (Figure 4 – Preliminary Utility Plan).

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Town of Orcutt is in the southern portion of the Santa Maria Valley and is bounded to the south by the Solomon Hills and to the west by the Casmalia Hills. The Project is located approximately 10 miles inland of the coastline at an elevation of approximately 325 feet above mean sea level (msl).

The Orcutt area is unusual biologically because it is situated on the Orcutt Terrace, a series of wind-blown sand dunes deposited between 6,000 to at least 80,000 years ago (County 2015). The Orcutt Terrace is exposed to warm, dry summers and cooler, wet winters, with prevailing winds from the northwest. Extensive urban and agricultural development has eliminated much of the Orcutt Terrace dune sheet, and none of the remaining dunes in Orcutt are protected (County 2015).

The Orcutt Planning Area (OPA) is contained within the 29,000-acre Orcutt Drainage Area, the largest of five major watersheds in the vicinity of the Santa Maria/Orcutt urbanized area (County 2015). Orcutt Creek is the predominant drainage in the OPA and extends across Key Site 18, along the northern boundary of the Project Area. Orcutt Creek flows southeast to northwest along its 5,000-acre drainage area before discharging into the Santa Maria River, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean, approximately 13 miles northwest of the Project Area.

2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Sensitive biological resources, including special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive plant communities, wildlife corridors, nesting birds, and jurisdictional waters and wetlands, are protected under various federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The following sections summarize the regulations and policies administered by resource agencies pertaining to biological resources that are known to occur, or have the potential to occur, in the vicinity of the Project Area.

2.1 FEDERAL REGULATIONS

2.1.1 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.)

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) provides for the protection of plant and animal species listed by the federal government as “endangered” or “threatened,” and “the ecosystems upon which they depend.” The USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for administration of the federal ESA. An “endangered” species is one that is “in danger of extinction” throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A “threatened” species

is one that is “likely to become endangered” within the foreseeable future. The ESA prohibits “take” of threatened or endangered species except under certain circumstances and only with authorization from the USFWS. “Take” as defined by the ESA, “means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” This can also include the modification of a species’ habitat. For plants, this statute governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any listed plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any listed plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 U.S.C. § 1538(c)).

When non-federal entities, such as states, counties, local governments, and private landowners, wish to conduct an otherwise lawful activity that might incidentally, but not intentionally, “take” a listed species, an incidental take permit must first be obtained via formal consultation with the USFWS using one of two methods. If a federal nexus is available, an incidental take permit must be obtained for the Project by the federal agency involved in the nexus via formal consultation with USFWS (ESA § 10(a)(1)(B)). If no federal nexus is available, then an incidental take permit must be obtained must first be obtained following formal consultation with the USFWS via Section 7 of the ESA (ESA § 7).

2.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MTBA) of 1918 (16 USC 703-711) is also administered by the USFWS. The MTBA provides protection of nearly all species of birds, their nests, and their eggs, including all native bird species. Under the MTBA, it is unlawful to “take”, kill, collect, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 CFR 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR 21). Certain game bird species are allowed to be hunted for specific periods determined by federal and state governments.

2.1.3 Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is comprehensive legislation established to protect the nation’s water from pollution by setting water quality standards and by limiting the discharge of effluents in the waters of the United States. Section 404 of the CWA regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Section 404 of the CWA is jointly administered and enforced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Activities in waters of the U.S. regulated under Section 404 include dredge or fill for development, water resources projects (i.e., dams and levees), infrastructure development (i.e., highways and airports), and mining projects. With the exception of certain farming and forestry activities that are exempt from Section 404 regulation, a Section 404 permit is required before any dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the U.S. The Section 404 program prohibits discharge of dredged or fill material if waters of the U.S. would be significantly degraded or a practical alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment.

2.2 STATE REGULATIONS

2.2.1 California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game Code § 2050, et seq.)

Fish and wildlife resources are protected by a number of laws and programs administered by the CDFW, formerly the California Department of Fish and Game. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) generally parallels the provisions of the federal ESA, and states that “all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation, will be protected or preserved.”

Under the CESA, “endangered” is defined as “a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range;” and “threatened” is defined as “a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts.” “Take” is defined as “to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill” an individual of a species, but the definition does not include “harm” or “harass,” as the ESA does. As a result, the threshold for a take under the CESA is higher than that under the federal ESA. Exceptions to the take prohibition are limited to authorization of collection for “necessary scientific research”.

Consistent with the CESA, CDFW has established lists of endangered, threatened, and candidate species that may or may not also be included on a federal ESA list. CDFW also maintains a list of Species of Special Concern for those species that have declining populations, limited distribution, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, educational, or recreational value. In addition, CDFW manages a “watch list” of species that have been de-listed or are vulnerable. Species of Special concern and watch list species are not afforded the same legal protection as listed species.

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2081, CESA allows for incidental take permits to otherwise lawful development projects that could result in the take of a state-listed threatened or endangered species. The application for an incidental take permit under Section 2081(b) has a number of requirements including the preparation of a conservation plan, generally referred to as a Habitat Conservation Plan. CESA emphasizes early consultation to avoid potential impacts to rare, endangered, and threatened species and to develop appropriate mitigation planning to offset project-caused losses of listed species.

2.2.2 Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code §§ 1900 - 1913, § 2062 and § 2067)

The CDFW also manages the California Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA), which designates and protects species eligible for state listing. Eligible species include those identified on California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Ranks (CRPRs) 1A, 1B, and 2 meet the definitions of Sections 1901, Chapter 10 (NPPA) or Sections 2062 and 2067 (CESA) of the California Fish and Game Code. CRPR 3 and 4 species, though not meeting the criteria for listing by CDFW, may be considered during project review by the agencies.

2.3 LOCAL REGULATIONS

Requirements for the protection of biological resources in the unincorporated areas of the County are provided in Community Plans (such as the OCP), the Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element, Environmental Resource Management Element, Land Use Element, and the County Code. These Plans/Elements provide a framework of policies designed to protect special-status species and sensitive habitats. The Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County 2008) provides definitions of sensitive biological resources and guidance for determining levels of impacts to sensitive areas, including appropriate methods for avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation.

Disturbance to habitats or species may be considered significant by the County if a Project substantially impacts sensitive resources in the following ways:

1. Substantially reduce or eliminate species diversity or abundance.
2. Substantially reduce or eliminate quantity or quality of nesting areas.
3. Substantially limit reproductive capacity through losses of individuals or habitat.
4. Substantially fragment, eliminate, or otherwise disrupt foraging areas and/or access to food sources.
5. Substantially limit or fragment range and movement (geographic distribution or animals and/or seed dispersal routes).
6. Substantially interfere with natural processes, such as fire or flooding, upon which the habitat depends.

Examples of less than significant impacts, where the habitat is given little or no importance and it is presumed that disturbance would not create a significant impact include:

1. Small acreages of non-native grassland if wildlife values are low.
2. Individuals or stands of non-native trees if not used by important animal species such as raptors or monarch butterflies.
3. Areas of historical disturbance such as intensive agriculture.
4. Small pockets of habitats already significantly fragmented or isolated, and degraded or disturbed.
5. Areas of primarily ruderal species resulting from pre-existing man-made disturbance.

2.3.1 Orcutt Community Plan (OCP)

The following biological mitigation measures from the OCP apply to the Project and habitat within and adjacent to Key Site 18:

Mitigation BIO-9: All trails shall be sited and designed to minimize removal of native vegetation. To the maximum extent feasible, trails shall follow existing dirt road and trail alignments. Where this is not possible, prior to final trail alignment of these trail segments, the proposed trail route shall be surveyed by a qualified botanist. The botanist, in consultation with P&D, shall reroute the trail alignment to avoid sensitive species. The final alignment shall be approved by P&D and the Parks Department. Signage shall be placed alongside the trails providing educational and interpretive information.

Mitigation BIO-13: All new retention basins shall be sited and designed in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to wetlands, riparian habitats and oak woodlands. Excavated fill shall not be placed within these habitats and areas adjacent to or within these habitats which are disturbed during construction shall be revegetated with appropriate native species. All sensitive habitat areas adjacent to basins shall be fenced prior to commencement of grading to prevent disturbance and stockpiling in these areas.

Mitigation BIO-24: Riparian vegetation shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible. A minimum buffer of 50 feet from the dripline of riparian vegetation shall be maintained. All new development adjacent to creeks and streams shall be required to implement a riparian habitat restoration plan. The project shall minimize the effects of adjacent urbanization by: 1) locating the restoration onsite to the maximum extent feasible, 2) hooding and directing all lights away from the creek, 3) providing a long term drainage plan that directs any potentially polluted drainage away from the creek, and 4) implementing an erosion and sedimentation control plan during construction.

Mitigation BIO-26: Oak trees shall be protected to the maximum extent feasible. All land use development applications shall be processed in such a manner as to avoid damage to oak trees. Measures taken to preserve oak trees should include modification of project design (e.g., clustering, narrower road width, taller building heights, etc). The area protected from grading, paving and other disturbances should include the area 6 feet outside of the dripline. Where oak trees are killed, they shall be replaced in a manner consistent with County standards.

Mitigation BIO-28: Landscape plans for developments on the edge of open space areas shall include trees and shrubs native to the Santa Maria Valley. (The Orcutt Biological Resources Technical Report [Rindlaub, Hunt and Storrer 1995] contains a list of species.) Planting of invasive weedy plants such as iceplant, pampas grass, veldt grass, Monterey pine, eucalyptus, spiny clotbur and Australian fireweed shall be strongly discouraged and removed in these areas.

2.3.2 Oak Tree Protection

As described in the Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Oak Tree Protection in the Inland Rural Areas of Santa Barbara County, Development Standard 1 (2009), the following applies for the protection of all species of mature oak trees:

“All development shall avoid removal of or damage to mature oak trees, to the maximum extent feasible. Mature oak trees are considered to be live oak trees six inches or greater diameter at breast height and blue oak trees four inches or greater diameter at breast height, or live and blue oaks six feet or greater in height. Native oak trees that cannot be avoided shall be replanted on site. When replanting oak trees on site is not feasible, replanting shall occur on receiver sites known to be capable of supporting the particular oak tree species, and in areas contiguous with existing woodlands or savannas where the removed species occurs. Replanting shall conform to the County’s *Standard Conditions and Mitigation Measures*. (This development standard applies to oak trees other than valley oaks, valley oak trees are address in separate Development Standards.)”

The County’s Standard Conditions and Mitigation Measures (County 2011) require that grading, trenching, ground disturbance, construction activities and structural development occur beyond six

feet of the dripline of all oak trees. Mitigation for impacted oak trees requires posting of a performance security and tree replacement at a 10:1 ratio, preferably on-site.

2.3.3 County Wetland Definition

For the purpose of determining potentially significant effect to wetland habitat, the County uses the following wetland definition that has been adopted by most resource protection agencies (e.g., USFWS, CDFW, and California Coastal Commission):

"For purposes of this classification wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes:

- a) At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes, that is plants adapted to moist areas.
- b) The substrate is predominantly un-drained hydric soil, and
- c) The substrate is non soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year. (Cowardin 1979)"

3.0 METHODS

To document special-status biological resources within the Project Area, SES reviewed the BCA (Stantec 2016), previous botanical and biological assessments completed in support of the OCP (e.g., Rindlaub et al. 1995), and conducted additional background research and field investigations.

3.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Prior to conducting field surveys, a literature review was performed to identify any special-status plant and wildlife species and sensitive natural communities that have the potential to occur in the Project Area. The literature review included an examination of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2016), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2016), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Database (USFWS 2016a), and the USFWS critical habitat portal (USFWS 2016b). SES also reviewed the NRCS Web Soil Survey of Santa Barbara County, California, South Coastal Part (NRCS 2016), the USGS Dos Pueblos Canyon, CA 7.5-minute quadrangle map, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) (USGS-NHD 2016), National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2016c), weather data, and the following biological reports and documents previously prepared for the Project:

- Rindlaub K., L. Hunt and J. Storrer. 1995. Biological Resources Assessment for Selected Key Sites within the Orcutt Planning Area. Final Report. Prepared for County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department. July 27.
- County of Santa Barbara Department of Planning and Development Division (County P&D). 2004. Orcutt Community Plan. Amended October 2004.
- County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department (County P&D). 2015. County Planning Commission Memorandum. OASIS Application for a General Plan

Amendment Case No. 14GPA-00000-00020. No Site Address, Key Site 18, Orcutt, APNs 105-020-063 and 105-020-064. May 21, 2015.

- Stantec Consulting Services (Stantec). 2016. Biological Constraints Analysis, OASIS Community Center Public Improvement Plan, Santa Barbara County, California. January 28, 2016.
- Storrer Environmental Services (SES). 2006. Results of California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) surveys and monitoring – Orcutt/Solomon Creek channel maintenance project. (USFWS PAS No. 526.21-2148.2897). Prepared for Laguna Sanitation District, Santa Maria, California. April 10.
- Storrer Environmental Services (SES). 2010. California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) Habitat Assessment and Survey Results – Key Site 11 (APN 103-181-006), Orcutt, California. Prepared for Coker Ellsworth. July 27.
- Storrer Environmental Services (SES). 2011. California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) Habitat Assessment and Survey Results – Key Site 11 (APN 103-181-006), Orcutt, California. Prepared for Coker Ellsworth. November 7.

The CNDDB search provided locations of special-status plant populations, sensitive natural communities, and special-status wildlife documented within a 5-mile radius of the Project Area (Figures 5 and 6 – CNDDB Plant and Wildlife Occurrences). The potential for each of those species to occur within the Project Area was evaluated in consideration of range, habitat type, and known regional occurrences and distribution (see Table 1).

3.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY

Botanical and wildlife surveys, focused on special-status species, were conducted on April 14, 2016 by SES botanist, Jessica Peak and wildlife biologist, John Storrer. Special-status species targeted during the surveys include those that are known to occur or have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project Area (Table 1). Surveys were scheduled so that suitable habitats were visited during the appropriate bloom period for the special-status plant taxa with potential to occur in the Project Area. Protocol-level presence/absence least Bell's vireo surveys were also conducted along Orcutt Creek from April 14 through July 27, 2016.

3.2.1 Botanical Surveys

The survey took place during the appropriate season to identify special-status plant species, and was consistent with the botanical survey guidelines of the California Department of Fish and Game (now CDFW) (2009), the USFWS (1996), and the California Native Plant Society (2001). The survey involved systematically searching the Project Area for special-status plants. All vascular plant species observed within the Project Area were recorded (see Appendix B – Vascular Plant Inventory). Plant specimens that were not positively identified in the field were further examined using a dissecting microscope and appropriate botanical keys, including *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* (Baldwin et al. 2012) and *A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region, California, Second Edition* (Smith 1998). The field survey also documented all sensitive

vegetation communities (e.g., vernal pools, native grasslands, and oak woodlands) present within and adjacent to the Project Area.

3.2.2 Wildlife Surveys

A complete list of all wildlife species observed within the Project Area was compiled during the April 14, 2016 reconnaissance and subsequent surveys for least Bell's vireo (see Appendix C – Wildlife Inventory). A general evaluation of the character and quality of wildlife habitat on-site was also made. No water was present in Orcutt Creek during the survey interval therefore no aquatic surveys were performed as part of the Assessment.

An evaluation of wildlife use of the property was made in part through field reconnaissance, but was also based on habitat suitability within the Project Area and known occurrence of various species in the Project vicinity. Habitat conditions and current status of special-status wildlife species, including California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), Blainville's horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), were a particular focus of the wildlife surveys. Potential for nesting, roosting, or foraging by sensitive bird species, including burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and raptors was also assessed.

3.2.2.1 Least Bell's Vireo Surveys

Protocol-level presence/absence least bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) surveys were also conducted by Mr. Storrer along the Orcutt Creek riparian corridor adjacent to the Project Area. Per the USFWS *Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines* (USFWS 2001), all riparian and other potential vireo habitats should be surveyed at minimum of eight (8) times between April 10 and July 31, with surveys spaced at least 10 days apart. Least Bell's vireo surveys were conducted on the following dates: April 14, May 6, May 17, June 1, June 14, June 28, July 12, and July 27, 2016. Results of the protocol-level least Bell's vireo surveys are included as Appendix D.

4.0 RESULTS

The following sections provide a summary of environmental conditions in the Project Area including existing plant communities, soils, hydrology, and wildlife habitat documented during the field surveys. Representative photographs of biological character of the Project Area are provided in Appendix A.

4.1 SOILS AND HYDROLOGY

Soils within the Project Area were determined based on a review of the Web Soil Survey of Northern Santa Barbara County, California, (NRCS 2016). One mapped soil unit (Corralitos loamy sand) has been identified in the Project Area. Corralitos loamy sand is a non-hydric soil formed on excessively drained flood plains and alluvial sands in nearly flat (0 to 2 percent slope) areas.

In the vicinity of the Project Area, the channel of Orcutt Creek is shallowly incised (3 feet to 6 feet in height) and the ranges from approximately 8 feet to 15 feet wide. Orcutt Creek is intermittent and only supports surface flows during storm events. No water was present in Orcutt Creek during the 2016 field surveys.

4.2 VEGETATION AND LAND COVER TYPES

The composition and distribution of vegetation communities and land cover types observed during the 2016 surveys are consistent with those mapped in the BCA (Stantec 2016). Descriptions of vegetation communities are adapted from *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MV-II) (Sawyer et al. 2009) and are described below. Vegetation communities and land cover types within and adjacent to the Project Area are depicted in Figure 7 - Vegetation Communities and Land Use Map.

4.2.1 Arroyo Willow – Narrowleaf Willow – Fremont Cottonwood Thickets (*Salix lasiolepis* – *Salix exigua* – *Populus fremontii* Shrubland Alliance)

The riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek, adjacent to the northern boundary of the Project Area, is dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), with scattered occurrences of Fremont cottonwood on the upper banks (*Populus fremontii*) and narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*) along the stream channel (see Appendix A – Site Photographs). Additional tree and shrub species within the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek include coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). Understory herbaceous species observed along the channel include poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and petty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*).

4.2.2 Annual Brome Grassland (*Bromus diandrus*, *B. hordeaceus* – *Brachypodium distachyon* Semi-natural Herbaceous Stands)

Annual brome grassland habitat comprises the majority (4.85 acre) of the Project Area (see Appendix A – Site Photographs). This habitat is dominated by ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and wild oats (*Avena barbata*, *A. fatua*), with common occurrences of black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), filaree (*Erodium moschatum*, *E. botrys*, *E. cicutarium*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), turkey mullein (*Croton setigerus*), hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa* ssp. *villosa*), and arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*).

4.2.3 Coast Live Oak and Ornamental Tree Woodland

Approximately 0.5-acre of coast live oak and ornamental tree woodland habitat is within the Project Area. The southern boundary of the Project Area is dominated by coast live oaks and ornamental trees including Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (see Appendix A – Site Photographs). Within this habitat, the understory is dominated by sea fig and ice plant (*Carpobrotus chilensis*, *C. edulis*), with scattered native shrubs including coyote crush and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Twelve (12) mature coast live oak trees are present in this habitat (Figure 7 - Vegetation Communities and Land Use Map).

4.3 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES AND SENSITIVE HABITATS WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN THE PROJECT AREA

Special-status species and sensitive habitats include plant and wildlife taxa, vegetation communities, or other unique biological features that are afforded special protection by local land use policies and/or state and federal regulations. Vegetation communities may warrant special status if they are of limited distribution, support protected plants and animals, have high

wildlife value, or are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. Special-status plant and animal species are those that are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Acts or those that appear on various “watch lists” compiled by academic institutions, conservation organizations, and wildlife agencies. These include the CNDDDB lists of “*Special Animals*” and “*Special Plants*” (CNDDDB 2016), CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2016), “*California Bird Species of Special Concern*” (Shuford and Gardali 2008), “*Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern in California*” (Jennings and Hayes 1994), and “*Mammalian Species of Special Concern in California*” (Williams 1986).

Nine (9) special-status plant species and 13 special-status wildlife species are known to occur within a 5-mile radius of the Project Area (i.e., are tracked by the CNDDDB). The list of potential special-status plant and wildlife species is presented below in Table 1. Conclusions as to likelihood for special-status species to occur in the Project Area are based on habitat suitability and requirements, elevation and geographic range, soils, topography, surrounding land uses, and proximity of known occurrences in the CNDDDB database to the Project Area. The likelihood for special-status species to occur within the Project Area was assessed using information from the various listed sources and the wildlife and botanical surveys.

Table 1. Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species with the Potential to Occur in the Project Area.

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
Plants¹				
Hoover's bent grass <i>Agrostis hooveri</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Dry, sandy soils in open chaparral and oak woodland. Elevation range: 0 – 2,000 feet. Blooming period: April – August.	Yes	Sandy soils and oak woodland are present within and adjacent to the Project Area. Known occurrences within 5-miles of the Project Area are from 1973 and 1987 collections from Graciosa Ridge and Vandenberg Airforce Base, respectively. This species was not observed in the Project Area during botanical surveys and is not expected to occur.
Sand mesa manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos rudis</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Sandy soils in maritime chaparral and coastal scrub. Elevation range: 0 – 1,300 feet. Blooming period: November – February.	No	Sandy soil present, but suitable chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are not present within the Project Area. No manzanita species were observed in the Project Area during botanical surveys and sand mesa manzanita is not expected to occur.
La Graciosa thistle <i>Cirsium scariosum</i> var. <i>loncholepis</i>	FE ST CRPR 1B.1	Mesic, sandy sites in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Prefers brackish marshes and dune wetlands. Elevation range: 0 – 200 feet. Blooming period: April – September.	No	Suitable marsh and dune wetland habitats are not present in the Project Area. The type locality for La Graciosa thistle was documented near the southern border of the Project Area in 1906 (CNDDB 2016). However, this population is now extirpated. La Graciosa thistle was not observed during botanical surveys and is not expected to occur.

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
Gaviota tarplant <i>Deinandra increscens</i> ssp. <i>villosa</i>	FE SE CRPR 1B.1	Coastal bluffs and fields, coastal scrub. Elevation range: 0 – 200 feet. Blooming period: June – September.	No	Sandy soil present, but suitable coastal bluff and coastal scrub habitats are not present in the Project Area. The elevation of the Project Area (325 feet msl) and distance from the coast (10 miles) is outside the range of this species. The documented nearby occurrence is from a 1962 collection from an approximate location 3.5 miles northwest of Orcutt along Highway 1 (CNDDDB 2016). No Gaviota tarplant was observed in the Project Area during botanical surveys and this species is not expected to occur.
Dune larkspur <i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Sandy sites in maritime chaparral, coastal dunes. Elevation range: 0 – 700 feet. Blooming period: April – May.	No	Sandy soil present, but suitable coastal dune and maritime chaparral habitats are not present in the Project Area. Nearby documented occurrences are from 1935 and 1943 collections and exact locations are unknown. No dune larkspur was observed in the Project Area during botanical surveys and this species is not expected to occur.
Blochman's leafy daisy <i>Erigeron blochmaniae</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Sand dunes and hills, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Elevation range: 0 – 250 feet. Blooming period: July – October.	No	Sandy soil present, but suitable coastal dune and coastal scrub habitats are not present in the Project Area. No Blochman's leafy daisy was observed in the Project Area and this species is not expected to occur.
Lompoc yerba santa <i>Eriodictyon capitatum</i>	FE SR CRPR 1B.2	Sandy soils in ravines, mesas, maritime chaparral, Bishop pine woodland, coastal bluff scrub. Elevation range: 100 – 3,000 feet. Blooming period: April – July.	No	Sandy soil present, but suitable coastal bluff scrub, maritime chaparral, and Bishop pine woodland habitats are not present in the Project Area. Nearby documented occurrences are from the Orcutt Oilfield (CNDDDB 2016). Lompoc yerba santa was not observed during botanical surveys and this species is not expected to occur.

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
Mesa horkelia <i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>	CRPR 1B.1	Dry, sandy coastal chaparral and coastal scrub. Elevation range: 200 - 2,900 feet. Blooming period: February – September.	No	Sandy soil present, but suitable coastal chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are not present within the Project Area. No mesa horkelia was observed within the Project Area during botanical surveys and this species is not expected to occur.
Southern curly-leaved monardella <i>Monardella sinuata</i> ssp. <i>sinuata</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Sandy soils in coastal strand, dune and sagebrush scrub, coastal chaparral, and oak woodland. Elevation range: 0 - 1,000 feet. Blooming period: April – September.	Yes	Sandy soil and oak woodland habitat present in the Project Area. Nearby occurrence documented from Vandenberg Airforce Base (CNDDDB 2016). No monardella species were observed within the Project Area during botanical surveys and southern curly-leaved monardella is not expected to occur.
Invertebrates				
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT	Endemic to the grasslands of the central valley, central coast mountains, and south coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	No	Vernal pool habitat is not present in the Project Area and vernal pool fairy shrimp are not expected to occur.
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> (California overwintering population)	SA	Overwintering sites (i.e., roosts) extend from Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico and are located in wind-protected tree groves (typically eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and cypress), with nectar and water nearby.	No	Suitable protected tree groves for roosting are not present in the Project Area. Nearby documented occurrences are from Waller Park and the Santa Maria Country Club in Santa Maria in the mid-1990s (CNDDDB 2016).

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
Lompoc grasshopper <i>Trimerotropis occulens</i>	SA	Open to sparsely vegetated chaparral, scrub, and grassland habitats. Often in diatomaceous earth or rocky shale soils (Arnold 2009).	No	The range of the species is described as two localities in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties (Rentz 1996). Nearby occurrences are from Vandenberg Airforce Base (CNDDDB 2016). The annual grassland onsite is too dense to be suitable habitat for this species. No grasshopper species were observed within the Project Area during wildlife surveys and this species is not expected to occur.
Amphibians				
California tiger salamander (CTS) <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT ST SSC	Inhabits valley foothills and grasslands, savannas, and open woodlands near vernal pools or other seasonal sources of water for breeding. Require upland, underground refuges, often old California ground squirrel and Botta's pocket gopher burrows (Stebbins 2003).	No	No vernal pool or suitable breeding habitat for CTS is present in or adjacent to the Project Area. The Project Area location relative to known and potential CTS breeding ponds is further than the maximum distance the species is known to migrate or disperse (1.37 miles). There are substantial barriers to dispersal to and from known or potential CTS breeding ponds, primarily due to urban infrastructure (SES 2010).
California red-legged frog (CRLF) <i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT SSC	Found primarily in coastal drainages of central California, from Marin County, California, to northern Baja California, Mexico. Uses a variety of areas, including aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats. Require a breeding pond, slow-flowing stream reach, or deep pool within a stream with vegetation or other material to which egg masses may be attached. Uses both riparian and upland habitats for foraging, shelter, cover, and non-dispersal movement and will also use small mammal burrows and moist leaf litter as refugia (USFWS 2010).	Yes	No suitable breeding habitat for CRLF is present in or adjacent to the Project Area. Protocol level CRLF field surveys conducted in 2010 for a neighboring parcel to the southeast, one-quarter mile upstream from the Project Site were negative (SES 2011). Habitat for CRLF within the segment of Orcutt Creek adjacent to the Project Area is marginal. This species is known to occur in Orcutt Creek; however, this portion of Orcutt Creek is intermittent and only contains flows during and after storm events. The channel's sandy bottom lacks pools or eddies for resting or breeding and it is routinely maintained to improve conveyance of storm flows. Upland and riparian habitat within and adjacent to the Project Area may be utilized by CRLF during dispersal events.

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
Western spadefoot toad <i>Spea hammondi</i>	SSC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including grasslands, mixed woodlands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, and river floodplains. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying (Stebbins 2003).	Yes	Suitable grassland and sandy soils are present, but no breeding habitat for western spadefoot toad is present in or adjacent to the Project Area. All known occurrences within 5-miles of the Project Area are from locations with vernal pools or stock ponds that provide breeding habitat for this species. Western spadefoot toad was not found during aquatic surveys for CRLF conducted on a neighboring parcel to the southeast, one-quarter mile upstream from the Project Area (SES 2011). Upland and riparian habitat within and adjacent to the Project Area may be utilized by western spadefoot toad during dispersal.
Reptiles				
Silvery legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	SSC	Inhabits moist soil in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather often indicate suitable habitat. Often can be found under surface objects such as rocks, boards, driftwood, and logs (Stebbins 2003).	No	Suitable sandy soils are present in the Project Area. Nearest known occurrence of this species is from coastal dune scrub, with sandy soil, near the Santa Maria Airport (CNDDDB 2016). Conversion to annual grassland and periodic mowing have reduced the value of upland habitat for silvery legless lizard. This species is unlikely to occur in the Project Area.
Southern western pond turtle (SWPT) <i>Actinemys pallida</i>	SSC	Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types; at elevations below 6,000 feet. Require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks. Needs suitable upland nesting sites with silty soils for egg laying (Stebbins 2003).	Yes	SWPT is known to occur in Orcutt Creek. A specimen was observed in a large retention basin on a neighboring parcel to the southeast, one-quarter mile upstream from the Project Area in 2010 (SES 2011). SWPT may occur in the segment of Orcutt Creek bordering the Project Site on a transient basis.

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
Blainville's (coast) horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	SSC	Occur in various scrublands, grasslands, coniferous and broadleaf forests, and woodlands at elevations up to 6,000 feet. Require loose, fine soils with open areas for basking and shrubs for refugia. Often occur in sandy sites (CDFG 2000).	Yes	Suitable sandy soils, grasslands, and woodlands are present in or adjacent to the Project Area. Open areas for basking are limited to the edges of the Project Area, beneath the oak trees in southwest boundary or along the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek. Nearest known occurrences are from southeast Orcutt in oak woodland and coastal scrub habitats with sandy soils and patches of open terrain (Rindlaub et al. 1995; CNDDDB 2016). Conversion to annual grassland and periodic mowing has reduced the value of upland habitat for horned lizards. The species is unlikely to occur but may still be present.
Birds				
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SSC BCC MBTA	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and shrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals for harborage and nesting (Shuford and Gardali 2008).	Yes	Dense annual grassland habitat and small mammal burrows are present in the Project Area. Nearest known occurrences are from grassland habitat in western Santa Maria (CNDDDB 2016). Burrowing owl may occur in the Project Area as a rare seasonal (winter) transient.
Cooper's hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	WL MBTA	Nests in oak, riparian, and non-native woodlands. Frequents a wide variety of habitats while hunting. .	Yes	Considered an uncommon transient and local, resident breeder in Santa Barbara County (Lehman 2016). Suitable nesting habitat is present in the Project Area. An adult Cooper's hawk was observed during a field survey on June 1, 2016. The species is expected as an uncommon visitor and potential breeder onsite.

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
American peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	FP BCC MBTA	Use a large variety of open habitats for foraging, often near rivers or lakes, including tundra, marshes, seacoasts, savannahs, grasslands, meadows, open woodlands, and agricultural areas. Riparian areas, as well as coastal and inland wetlands, are important year-round habitats. Requires cliffs or suitable surrogates for breeding that are close to preferred foraging areas (Zeiner et al. 1990).	Yes	The annual grassland and riparian habitat in and adjacent to the Project Area may be used by American peregrine falcon for foraging. The nearest known nesting occurrence of this species is from a coastal cliff near Point Sal Road (CNDDB 2016). The American peregrine falcon is a wide-ranging species that could occur in the Project Area on occasion as a transient,
Least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE SE	Breeds in riparian habitat in southern California, primarily along the coast and the western edge of the Mojave Desert. Nearest recent nesting records are from the upper Santa Ynez River drainage. Require dense riparian areas, dominated by willows and adjacent to freshwater streams (Peterson et al. 2004).	Yes	Dense riparian habitat, dominated by willows is present in the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek, adjacent to the Project Area. Protocol-level presence/absence surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted as part of this Assessment. No least Bell's vireos were observed within the Project Area during protocol surveys. This species could occur near the Project Area in the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek as a rare transient.
Mammals				
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	SC SSC	Found in a variety of locations including coniferous forests and woodlands, deciduous riparian woodland, semi-desert and montane shrublands. Hibernate in mines or caves in the winter months. Roost in a variety of habitats including limestone caves, lava tubes, and human-made structures (Arroyo-Cabrales et al. 2008).	No	Townsend's big eared bat may utilize the Project Area for foraging. No suitable roosting habitat for this species is present in or adjacent to the Project Area. All known occurrences within 5-miles of the Project Area were detected by an electronic device and may represent foraging bats or bats in transit (CNDDB 2016).

Common Name Scientific Name (Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)	Listing Status*	Habitat Requirements	Suitable Habitat Present in Project Area (Y/N)	Likelihood for Occurrence within Project Area
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils for burrows. Need sufficient food, open, uncultivated ground. Prey on burrowing rodents.	No	No badger burrows or signs of this species were observed in the Project Area during wildlife surveys. All known occurrences within 5-miles of the Project Area are from road kill observations from 1978 to 1991 (CNDDB 2016). Due to the Project Area's urban context and fragmented habitat, this species is not expected to occur.

*Listing Status Notes:

Federal: FE – Federally listed Endangered

FT – Federally listed Threatened

FC – Federal Candidate Species

WL – USFWS Watch list

BCC – USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern

MTBA – Migratory Bird Treaty Act

State: SE – State listed Endangered

ST – State listed Threatened

SC – State Candidate Species

SR – State Rare Species

SA – State Special Animal

FP – CDFW Fully Protected Species

SSC – CDFW Species of Special Concern

CRPR: California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank

1B – Rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere

2 – Rare, threatened, or endangered in CA but common elsewhere

4 – Limited distribution (Watch-list)

CRPR Extensions

0.1 – Seriously endangered in California

0.2 – Fairly endangered in California

0.3 – Not very endangered in California

¹ – Unless otherwise noted, habitat, elevation, and blooming period for special-status plant species is from *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* 2012 and CNPS 2016.

4.4 BOTANICAL SURVEYS

A total of 73 plant species was observed in the Project Area during 2016 botanical surveys. Of the species observed, 32 (44 percent) were native and 41 (56 percent) were non-native, naturalized, or landscape species. A comprehensive list of vascular plant species observed in the Project Area is provided in Appendix B.

4.4.1 Special-status Plant Species

No special-status plant species were observed in the Project Area during the 2016 field surveys. Special-status species with moderate or high potential for occurrence based on suitable habitat, soil types, and/or nearby populations, are described in more detail below, including their habitat preferences, distribution, and key characteristics.

Hoover's bent grass (*Agrostis hooveri*) (CRPR 1B.2). Hoover's bent grass is a perennial grass that occurs in dry, sandy soils in open chaparral and oak woodlands at elevations below 2,000 feet. Hoover's bent grass blooms from April through August and is considered fairly endangered in California by the CNPS. It is known from 21 occurrences in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Populations of Hoover's bent grass have been recorded on Graciosa Ridge and Vandenberg Airforce Base within 5-miles of the Project Area (see Figure 5 – CNDDDB Special-status Plant Species and Sensitive Habitat Occurrences). Although suitable sandy soils and oak woodland habitat are present within the Project Area, Hoover's bent grass was not observed during 2016 botanical surveys and is not expected to occur on-site. Further, no native grass species were observed in, or adjacent to the Project Area.

Southern curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata* ssp. *sinuata*) (CRPR 1B.2). Southern curly-leaved monardella is an annual herb with an erect, sparingly branched growth form and wavy leaf margins. This species blooms between April and September and occurs in sandy soils in coastal strand, dune and sagebrush scrub, coastal chaparral, and oak woodland at elevations below 1,000 feet. Southern curly-leaved monardella is considered fairly endangered in California by the CNPS. It is known from 36 occurrences in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Although sandy soils and oak woodland habitat are present in the Project Area, Southern curly-leaved monardella was not observed during 2016 botanical surveys and is not expected to occur.

4.4.2 Sensitive Vegetation Communities

One sensitive riparian vegetation community, Arroyo willow – Narrowleaf willow – Fremont cottonwood thickets, is present adjacent to the Project Area along Orcutt Creek. Riparian vegetation is considered sensitive by the County and is provided protected by the biological mitigation measures outlined in the OCP. Per the OCP, riparian vegetation should be preserved to the maximum extent feasible and a minimum buffer of 50 feet from the dripline of riparian vegetation should be maintained. Potential impacts to riparian habitat are discussed below in Section 5.0.

An additional sensitive vegetation community, Southern vernal pool, was documented by the CNDDDB (2016) within 5-miles of the Project Area. Vernal pools are seasonal, shallow depressional wetlands that contain water for variable periods in winter and spring, but remain dry for most of the summer and fall. Vernal pools are typically underlain by bedrock or a hard clay

layer in the soil that allows for ponding of water. No vernal pool habitat is present in, or adjacent to the Project Area.

4.4.3 Protected Trees

Oak woodlands and individual mature coast live oak trees (6 inches or greater diameter at breast height) are considered sensitive by the County and are provided protected by the Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element Oak Tree Protection Supplement (2009) and the biological mitigation measures outlined in the OCP. Several mature coast live oaks are present along the southern boundary of the Project Area. Potential impacts to oak trees and mitigation measures to protect oak trees are described below in Sections 5.0 and 6.0.

4.5 WILDLIFE SURVEYS

A general field reconnaissance was made in April of 2016 to assess the character and extent of wildlife habitat in and near the Project Area. Emphasis was placed on potential for occurrence of special status wildlife species (e.g., California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, southern western pond turtle, Blainville's horned lizard, least Bell's vireo). Additional wildlife observations were made during eight subsequent surveys of the Orcutt Creek riparian corridor for least Bell's vireo. A complete list of all wildlife species observed within the Project Area is included as Appendix C.

4.5.1 General Wildlife Habitat

Thirty (30) bird species were observed during nine field surveys. Species typically associated with open grassland and riparian habitats were most abundant, as expected. Examples include turkey vulture (*Carthartes aura*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottis*), and scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). Mammals consisted of California Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). One common herpetile species, western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), was present in abundance.

Annual grassland is the prevailing habitat type, as described in Section 4.2.2. The riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek along the northern boundary and the coast live oaks and non-native trees on the southern boundary of the Project Area afford nest sites for numerous bird species.

4.5.2 Special-status Wildlife Species

One special-status wildlife species, Cooper's hawk, was observed in the Project Area during the 2016 field surveys. No ephemeral pools or permanent water bodies are present in the Project Area to support aquatic species (e.g., Southern steelhead) or breeding habitat for semi-aquatic species (e.g., CRLF, CTS, western spadefoot toad).

Four additional special-status wildlife species have a low-to-moderate potential to occur in the Project Area on a regular or permanent basis. This conclusion is based on presence of suitable habitat, soil types, and/or documentation of nearby occurrences. These are CRLF, western spadefoot toad, SWPT, and Blainville's horned lizard.

California red-legged frog (CRLF) (*Rana draytonii*) (FT, SSC). The CRLF is known from downstream segments of Orcutt Creek (SES 2006). Protocol level CRLF field surveys conducted in 2010 for a neighboring parcel to the southeast, one-quarter mile upstream from the Project Site, were negative (SES 2011). The segment of Orcutt Creek adjacent to the Project Area lacks the defining habitat elements necessary to support breeding by CRLF. These include standing pools of sufficient duration (minimum of four months) for metamorphosis. The species may occur as a rare to uncommon transient during migration or dispersal to or from breeding sites. CRLF could be found in the Orcutt Creek channel during such events.

Western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*) (SSC). The western spadefoot toad is known from various locations in the Santa Maria Valley (CNDDDB 2016). Larvae were found in ephemeral pools in the western portion of the Orcutt Community Plan Area (Key Site 22) in 1995 (Rindlaub et al. 1995). They were not detected during aquatic surveys of a retention basin (pond) on a neighboring property in 2010 (SES 2011). Due to the lack of suitable breeding habitat and fragmented nature of upland habitat in the Project Area, the species has very limited potential to occur.

Southern western pond turtle (SWPT) (*Actinemys marmorata*) (SSC). The SWPT is known from a number of locations in the Santa Maria Valley including Orcutt Creek (CNDDDB 2016, SES 2006). The nearest documented occurrence is from a retention basin pond on a neighboring parcel, approximately one-quarter mile to the southeast (SES 2011).

SWPT is most often found in streams, ponds, or other permanent or ephemeral water bodies. Retreat sites such as rocks, logs, and mats of emergent vegetation are used to avoid predation and for estivation. These same features are favored for basking during daytime, especially when associated with “plunge pools”.

The segment of Orcutt Creek adjacent to the Project Area does not consistently support surface flow or standing pools. SWPT may be found on a transient basis during periods of dispersal, but such the potential for such occurrence is considered very low.

Blainville’s Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) (SSC). Blainville’s (coast) horned lizard occurs in a variety of habitats including scrublands, grasslands, coniferous and broadleaf forests, and woodlands. It prefers sandy sites in which it can bury itself; these are often associated with red ant colonies. The vegetation and soils of the Project Area may provide suitable habitat and food resources to support Blainville’s horned lizard.

Blainville’s (coast) horned lizard was observed at three “Key Sites” within one mile of the Project Area during surveys for the Orcutt Community Plan (Rindlaub et al. 1995). Habitat value in the Project Area has been reduced through habitat conversion and regular mowing. However, the species should be considered a possible resident.

Cooper’s Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) (WL). The Cooper’s hawk is considered an uncommon transient and local, resident breeder in Santa Barbara County (Lehman 2016). Woodlands are preferred for nesting. The Orcutt Creek riparian corridor supports suitable nesting habitat. An adult Cooper’s hawk was observed during field surveys for this Assessment. The species is expected as an uncommon visitor and is a potential breeder in the Project Area.

4.5.2.1 Protocol Least Bell's Vireo Surveys

Surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in spring and summer of 2016 (SES 2016). No least Bell's vireos were detected. Based on these results and in consideration of documented regional occurrence it appears that this species does not presently use this portion of Orcutt Creek for breeding. Least Bell's vireo may occur as a rare transient in the Orcutt Creek riparian corridor.

4.6 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS AND WETLANDS

No jurisdictional waters or wetland features are present in the Project Area. Orcutt Creek, adjacent to the northern boundary of the Project Area, is an ephemeral blue-line stream that is considered likely to be jurisdictional under current federal guidance. The Project Area is outside of the channel and the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek.

5.0 IMPACT DISCUSSION

The following section describes the potential for direct, indirect, temporary, and permanent impacts of the proposed Project on biological resources and provides a preliminary judgement on whether impacts are significant. During environmental review of the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County will consider and validate the significance determinations for impacts described in this section. The CEQA statute requires that any direct and indirect impacts found to be potentially significant must be mitigated to a less than significant level where feasible.

Consistent with the County's *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* (County 2008), the impacts on biological resources are considered significant if the Project:

- Has a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any sensitive natural community or plant or wildlife species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.
- Has 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.
- Interferes 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.
- Conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Conflicts with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

5.1 IMPACTS TO EXISTING VEGETATION AND SENSITIVE COMMUNITIES

Acreages of temporary and permanent impacts to vegetation communities in the Project Area are summarized in Table 2. Table 2 also includes the temporary and permanent impacts within the 50-foot buffer from the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek.

All structures, pervious and impervious surfaces (e.g., parking lots, BBQ area), and decomposed granite walking trails are considered permanent impacts. Temporary impacts include ground disturbance for installation of the sewer lateral line, water line and gas line and construction of the subsurface “French drain” and the retention/detention basin. The subsurface French drain and retention/detention basin will be revegetated with native plant species.

Table 2. Temporary and Permanent Impacts to Existing Vegetation

Vegetation Community	Temporary Impacts		Permanent Impacts	
	Square feet	Acres	Square feet	Acres
Annual brome grassland	26,200	0.59	98,583	2.26
50-foot riparian buffer (comprised of annual brome grassland)	440	0.01	1,700	0.03
Riparian habitat (Arroyo willow – Narrowleaf willow – Fremont cottonwood thickets)	0	0	0	0
Oak woodland habitat (Coast live oak trees)	0	0	0	0

The Project will result in 2.26 acres of permanent impacts to annual brome grassland. The decomposed granite walking trail on the north side of the Project Area will result in permanent encroachment on approximately 0.03-acre of the 50-foot buffer from the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek.

Approximately 0.6-acre of temporary impacts to annual brome grassland will occur from construction of the “French drain”, retention/detention basin, and installation of utility lines. Temporarily disturbed areas will be revegetated with native species, per the OCP (Mitigation BIO-28).

Project-related equipment, vegetation clearing, and ground disturbance would be confined to the annual brome grassland habitat within the Project Area boundary. No direct impacts to the coast live oaks in the southwest corner of the Project Area are expected. No direct impacts to the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek are expected.

Ground disturbance and construction are likely to create fugitive dust. Dust from construction would be minimized through implementation of the recommended dust control measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in Section 6.0 below. With implementation of the recommended avoidance and mitigation measures, direct and indirect impacts to sensitive habitat (i.e., riparian habitat and oak trees) within and adjacent to the Project Area would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

5.2 IMPACTS TO PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

No special-status plant species were observed or detected in the Project Area during the 2016 field surveys. One special status bird species, Cooper's hawk, was observed. Direct and/or indirect impacts to special-status plants and wildlife that have the potential to occur as a result of the Project (e.g., ground disturbance, noise, lighting, etc.) are discussed below.

5.2.1 Impacts to Special-status Plants

No impacts to special-status plant species are expected as a result of the Project. No special-status plant species were observed within the Project Area during appropriately timed surveys and none are expected to occur.

5.2.2 Impacts to Special-status Wildlife

Five special-status wildlife species, CRLE, western spadefoot toad, SWPT, Blainville's horned lizard, and Cooper's hawk have, limited potential to occur in the Project Area, as described in Section 4.5.2. The reptile and amphibian species could be injured or killed during initial clearing and grading, if present with the limits of excavation. These impacts can be avoided through pre-project survey, monitoring, and capture and relocation. With implementation of the recommended avoidance and mitigation measures, direct and indirect impacts to special-status wildlife would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

5.2.3 Impacts to Nesting Birds

If construction is to occur during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), work could result in direct or indirect impacts to nesting birds. Direct impacts could occur through removal of vegetation supporting active nests. Noise, dust, and general activity associated with construction could result in nest abandonment.

These potential impacts can be avoided by conducting a pre-construction bird survey and establishment of buffers or setbacks from construction activity, as described below.

5.3 IMPACTS TO JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

No jurisdictional waters or wetland features are present in the Project Area and no impacts to jurisdictional waters are expected as a result of the Project. Indirect impacts to the Orcutt Creek stream channel and riparian corridor (e.g., erosion/sedimentation, lighting) would be minimized through implementation of the recommended mitigation measures and BMPs outlined in Section 6.0 below.

6.0 RECOMMENDED AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The following avoidance and minimization measures are recommended to minimize impacts to biological resources prior to and during construction. Measures required by the OCP are listed first, followed by recommended species-specific measures and general construction measures/BMPs. With implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization

measures, Project impacts to biological resources would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

6.1 ORCUTT COMMUNITY PLAN – KEY SITE 18 BIOLOGICAL MITIGATION MEASURES

- Riparian vegetation shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible. A minimum buffer of 50 feet from the dripline of riparian vegetation shall be maintained. All new development adjacent to creeks and streams shall be required to implement a riparian habitat restoration plan. The project shall minimize the effects of adjacent urbanization by: 1) locating the restoration onsite to the maximum extent feasible, 2) hooding and directing all lights away from the creek, 3) providing a long term drainage plan that directs any potentially polluted drainage away from the creek, and 4) implementing an erosion and sedimentation control plan during construction.
- Oak trees shall be protected to the maximum extent feasible. All land use development applications shall be processed in such a manner as to avoid damage to oak trees. Measures taken to preserve oak trees should include modification of project design (e.g., clustering, narrower road width, taller building heights, etc). The area protected from grading, paving and other disturbances should include the area 6 feet outside of the dripline. Where oak trees are killed, they shall be replaced in a manner consistent with County standards.
- Landscape plans for developments on the edge of open space areas shall include trees and shrubs native to the Santa Maria Valley. (The Orcutt Biological Resources Technical Report [Rindlaub et al. 1995] contains a list of species.) Planting of invasive weedy plants such as iceplant, pampas grass, veldt grass, Monterey pine, eucalyptus, spiny clotbur and Australian fireweed shall be strongly discouraged and removed in these areas.
- All trails shall be sited and designed to minimize removal of native vegetation. To the maximum extent feasible, trails shall follow existing dirt road and trail alignments. Where this is not possible, prior to final trail alignment of these trail segments, the proposed trail route shall be surveyed by a qualified botanist. The botanist, in consultation with P&D, shall reroute the trail alignment to avoid sensitive species. The final alignment shall be approved by P&D and the Parks Department. Signage shall be placed alongside the trails providing educational and interpretive information.
- All new retention basins shall be sited and designed in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to wetlands, riparian habitats and oak woodlands. Excavated fill shall not be placed within these habitats and areas adjacent to or within these habitats which are disturbed during construction shall be revegetated with appropriate native species. All sensitive habitat areas adjacent to basins shall be fenced prior to commencement of grading to prevent disturbance and stockpiling in these areas.
- Signage shall be placed alongside the trails providing educational and interpretive information.
- All sensitive habitat areas adjacent to the Project Area shall be fenced prior to commencement of grading to prevent disturbance and stockpiling in these areas.

6.2 SPECIES-SPECIFIC AND GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

- If the Project is implemented during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a County-approved biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey of the Project Area and adjacent habitats within 7 days of construction commencement (i.e., mobilization, staging, vegetation clearing, or excavation) to avoid impacts to nesting raptors and other birds. Surveys shall be conducted in all areas within 500 feet of proposed disturbance areas, or a lesser distance if dense vegetation renders a 500-foot survey radius infeasible. If breeding birds with active nests are found prior to (or during) Project construction, a County-approved biologist shall oversee the establishment of a buffer (typically 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors) around the nest; no activities will be allowed within the buffer(s) until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails.
- A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey of the Project Area for CRLF, western spadefoot toad, Blainville's horned lizard, and SWPT immediately prior to the onset of grubbing and grading. Any specimens found (with the exception of CRLF) shall be captured and relocated to suitable habitat within Key Site 18. If CRLF is present with the work area, (considered highly unlikely) the USFWS and CDFW will be consulted regarding any necessary avoidance measures (e.g. morning inspections of the work area, installation of exclusion barriers around active work zones). No state or federally listed species shall be handled without the approval of the USFWS and/or CDFW.
- Prior to the start of work, a County-approved biologist shall oversee worker orientation for all construction contractors (including site supervisors, equipment operators, and laborers) which emphasizes the presence of special-status species within or adjacent to the Project Area, identification of those species, their habitat requirements, applicable regulatory policies and provisions regarding their protection, measures being implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts, and penalties for noncompliance will be conducted. If new members of the crew arrive after the initial orientation meeting, they shall attend a subsequent training prior to working on the job. No staging of equipment or construction supplies shall occur prior to the tailgate meeting.
- A County-approved biological monitor shall monitor earthwork activities (e.g., grading, trenching) and shall periodically inspect the Project site during construction. Work shall be stopped if necessary to protect wildlife and other biological resources, or if violations of laws or permit conditions are observed. The County-approved biological monitor shall oversee the survey of the work areas prior to activities commencing. Any special-status wildlife species observed in the Project Area shall not be physically relocated without permission from the CDFW or the USFWS, as appropriate. To the extent practical, common wildlife species entering the construction zone shall be captured and relocated to suitable habitat.

- All construction equipment shall be limited to the use of designated access roads, staging areas, and/or previously identified work areas.
- Exclusionary fencing shall be erected at the boundaries of the Project limits of work to avoid equipment and human intrusion into adjacent native habitats (i.e., oak trees and the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek). The fencing shall remain in place throughout the duration of construction activities.
- All motorized equipment used at the Project Area shall be maintained in proper working condition and shall be free of drips and leaks of coolant, hydraulic, and petroleum products. No equipment shall be used in the Project Area unless such equipment is free of leaks and drips.
- Dust generated by the development activities shall be kept to a minimum with a goal of retaining dust on the site. Water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease. The construction area shall be wet down after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds 15 mph.
- A spill prevention and clean-up kit (including socks, absorbent pads, kitty litter, broom, dustpan, shovel, and container for dirty absorbent material) shall be available on-site for immediate use in case of an accidental spill. Any equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated adjacent to Orcutt Creek shall be checked and maintained daily to prevent leaks of materials that if introduced to water could be deleterious to aquatic life. Service and refueling activities shall not occur within 100 feet of Orcutt Creek.
- Construction material shall be stockpiled in upland habitat at least 100 feet from Orcutt Creek. BMPs (e.g., silt fencing, straw wattles) shall be installed between the work area and the riparian corridor of Orcutt Creek to ensure sediment runoff from the work area does not enter the creek. Unattended soil stockpiles shall be covered.
- Erosion control measures (e.g., which may include silt fencing, jute netting, straw bales) shall be used throughout all phases of construction where sediment runoff from exposed soils could enter Orcutt Creek.
- Open excavations will be covered at the end of each work day. If this is not feasible, escape ramps will be installed in the pits to ensure no entrapment of animals occur.
- No pets, open fires (including barbeques), or firearms will be allowed at the Project Area.
- Trash and food items will be kept in closed containers and removed daily.

7.0 LITERATURE CITED

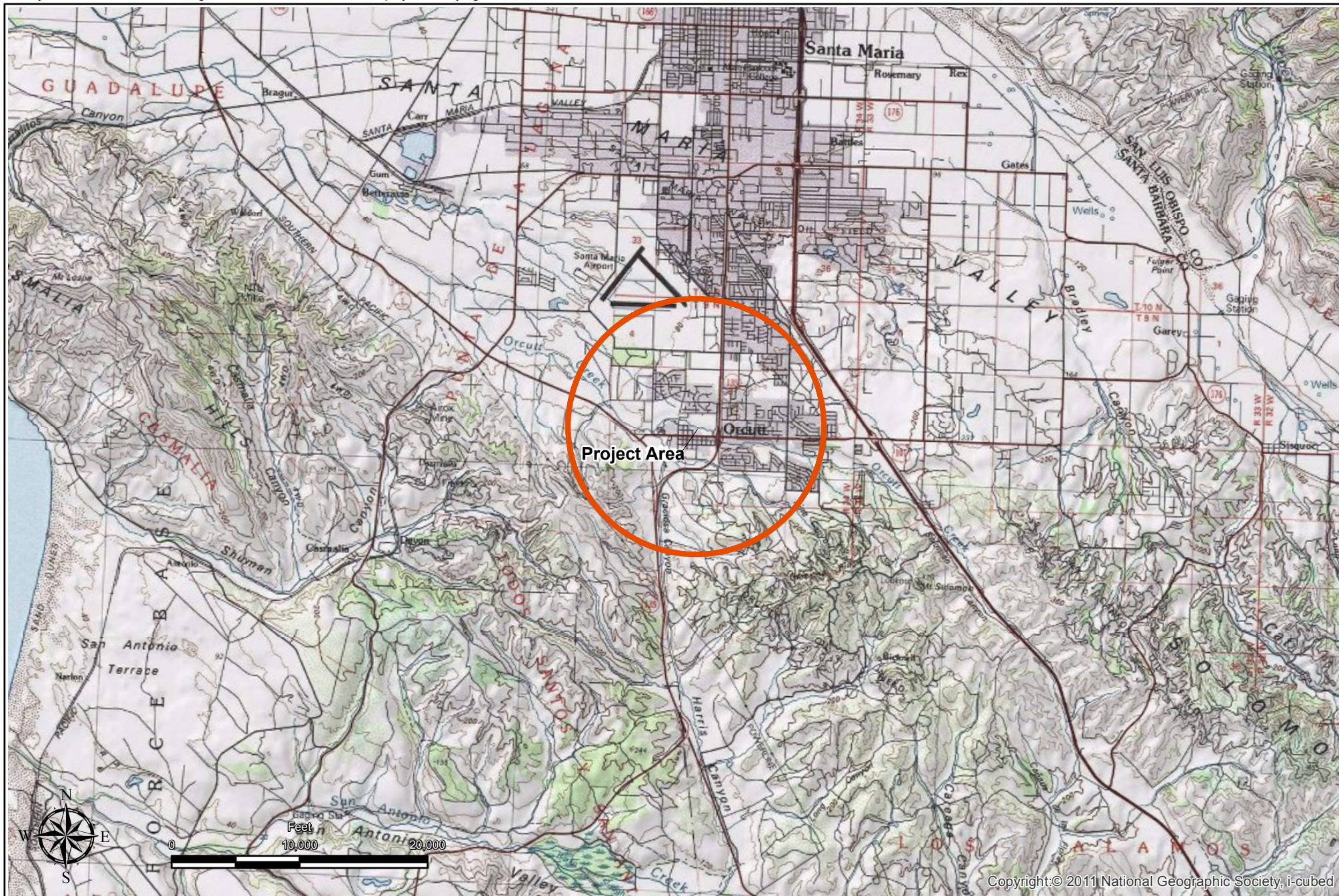
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FIGURES



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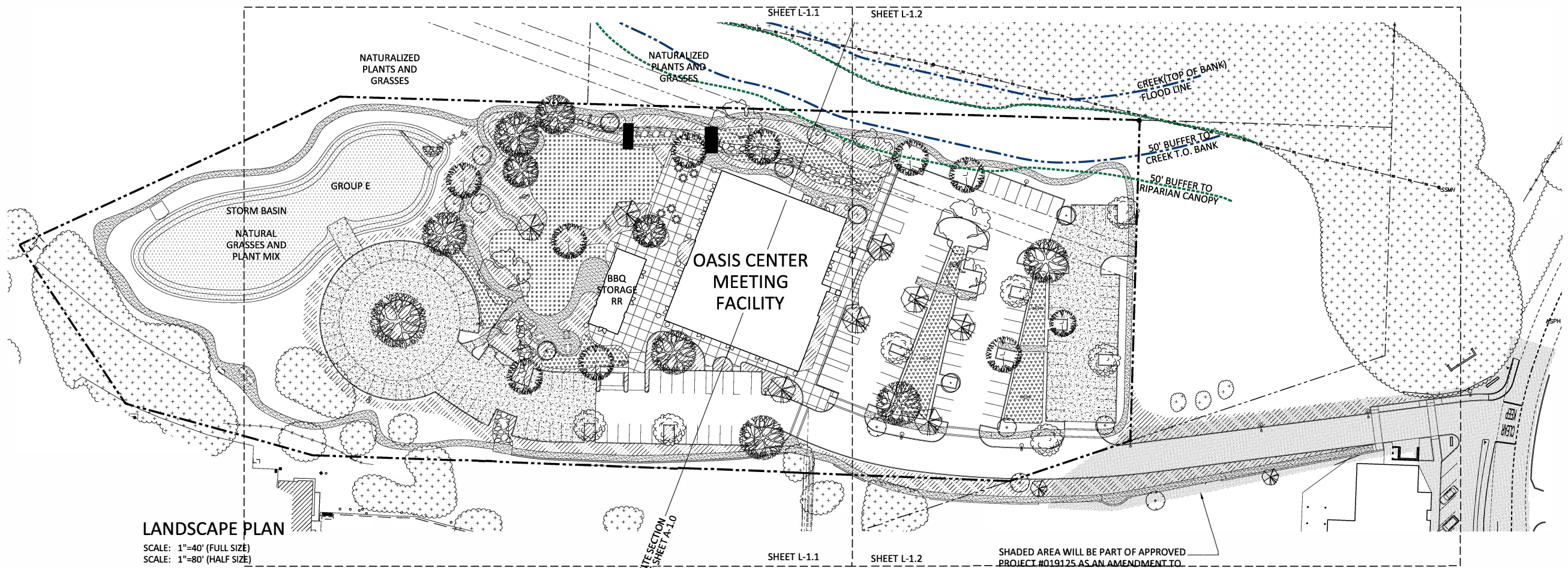


STORRER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
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Project Vicinity Map
Oasis Meeting Facility/Senior Center
Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California

Figure 1

August 9, 2016



LANDSCAPE PLAN
SCALE: 1"=40' (FULL SIZE)
SCALE: 1"=80' (HALF SIZE)

SHADED AREA WILL BE PART OF APPROVED PROJECT #019125 AS AN AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PLANS. WORK TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO OASIS CENTER SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION. SEE SHEET A-1.2 FOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS

GROUP A - TREES						
TAG/ID	QTY	NURSERY SIZE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	H.W.	NOTES
1	15 gal	48" box	Platanus racemosa	California Sycamore	60' x 35'	near bioswales
2	15 gal	48" box	Platanus racemosa	California Sycamore	60' x 35'	near bioswales
3	15 gal	48" box	Populus fremontii	Western Cottonwood	45' x 30'	
4	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
5	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
6	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
7	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
8	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
9	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
10	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
11	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	
12	15 gal	48" box	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	30' x 25'	

GROUP B - SHRUBS AND LARGE BUSHES						
TAG/ID	QTY	NURSERY SIZE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	H.W.	NOTES
13	1 gal	1 gal	Arctostaphylos patula	Manzanita	2' x 2'	
14	1 gal	1 gal	Adenostoma sparsifolium	Red Shrub	4' x 4'	
15	1 gal	1 gal	Rosa californica	Rose	5' x 6'	
16	1 gal	1 gal	Salvia mellifera	Black Sage	4' x 4'	
17	1 gal	1 gal	Salvia leucophylla	Purple Sage	3' x 3'	
18	1 gal	1 gal	Arctostaphylos patula	Manzanita	6' x 6'	
19	1 gal	1 gal	Ribes cereum	White flowering currant	4' x 4'	near oaks/drainage swales
20	1 gal	1 gal	Salvia apiana	White Sage	3' x 4'	
21	1 gal	1 gal	Artemisia californica	California Sagebrush	4' x 4'	full sun
22	1 gal	1 gal	Koeberlinia confertifolia	Heart Leaved Penstemon	4' x 4'	
23	1 gal	1 gal	Rhamnus crocea	Redberry	3' x 3'	
24	1 gal	1 gal	Rhamnus californica	Coffeeberry	6' x 7'	near bioswales
25	1 gal	1 gal	Rhamnus californica	Mexican Elderberry	6' x 7'	near bioswales

GROUP C - GROUNDCOVERS AND FLOWERS						
TAG/ID	QTY	NURSERY SIZE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	H.W.	NOTES
26	1 gal	1 gal	Allium haematochiton	Red skinned onion	1' x 2'	
27	1 gal	1 gal	Echeveria californica	California Poppy	1.5' x 1.5'	
28	1 gal	1 gal	Diplazis aurantiaca	Narrow Leaf Southern Monkey Flower	1.5' x 3'	
29	1 gal	1 gal	Eriogonum fasciculatum	California Buckwheat	1.5' x 3'	
30	1 gal	1 gal	Zauschneria californica	Red California Fuchsia	2' x 3'	
31	1 gal	1 gal	Penstemon margarita	Footfall or Mountain Penstemon	1.5' x 3'	
32	1 gal	1 gal	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	2' x 2'	
33	1 gal	1 gal	Rosmarinus officinalis	Prostrate Rosemary, Creeping Rosemary	1' x 6'	non-native

GROUP D - LAWNS AND BEDDINGS						
TAG/ID	QTY	NURSERY SIZE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	H.W.	NOTES
34	1 gal	1 gal	Species TBD	Species TBD	n/a	
35	1 gal	1 gal	Species TBD	Species TBD	n/a	

GROUP E - BIOSWALES						
TAG/ID	QTY	NURSERY SIZE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	H.W.	NOTES
36	1 gal	1 gal	Rosa californica	California wild rose	3' x 5'	51-413
37	1 gal	1 gal	Carex praeacris	Clustered Field Sedge	1' x 3'	160-1000
38	1 gal	1 gal	Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	4' x 4'	100-300
39	1 gal	1 gal	Elymus condensatus	Canyon/Prince Giant Wild Rye	2.5' x 3'	near swale edge
40	1 gal	1 gal	Myrica californica	Pacific Wax Myrtle	4' x 3'	125-1600
41	1 gal	1 gal	Bioswale Grass Mixed Seed Mixture	Bioswale Grass Mixed Seed Mixture	n/a	50-300

GROUP F - HILLSIDES						
TAG/ID	QTY	NURSERY SIZE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	H.W.	NOTES
42	1 gal	1 gal	Molate Creeping Red Fescue	Molate Creeping Red Fescue	1' x 3'	70-1550
43	1 gal	1 gal	Tufted Hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa)	Tufted Hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa)	1' x 10'	40-100
44	1 gal	1 gal	California Barley (Hordeum californicum)	California Barley (Hordeum californicum)	1.5' x 10'	50-160
45	1 gal	1 gal	Sandberg Bluegrass (Poa secunda)	Sandberg Bluegrass (Poa secunda)	1' x 9'	63-180
46	1 gal	1 gal	Creeping Wildrye (Elymus triticoides)	Creeping Wildrye (Elymus triticoides)	1' x 7'	63-180
47	1 gal	1 gal	Purple Needlegrass (Nasella pulchra)	Purple Needlegrass (Nasella pulchra)	1' x 7'	63-180
48	1 gal	1 gal	Junus phaeocephalus	Brown Headed Creeping Rush	1' x 6'	non-native

OWNER:
OASIS CENTER
OASIS CENTER INC.

PROJECT ADDRESS:
CLARK AND FOXENWOOD LANE
APN: 105-020-063

DATE/REV/SUBMITTAL:
4-24-15 NBAR CONCEPT
6-11-15 PLANNING COMMISSION
1-15-16 CUP, GPA
5-20-16 REVISED SITE PLAN
10-9-16 REVISED SUBMITTAL

SHEET/DRAWING TITLE:
LANDSCAPE PLAN

SHEET NO:



L-1.0

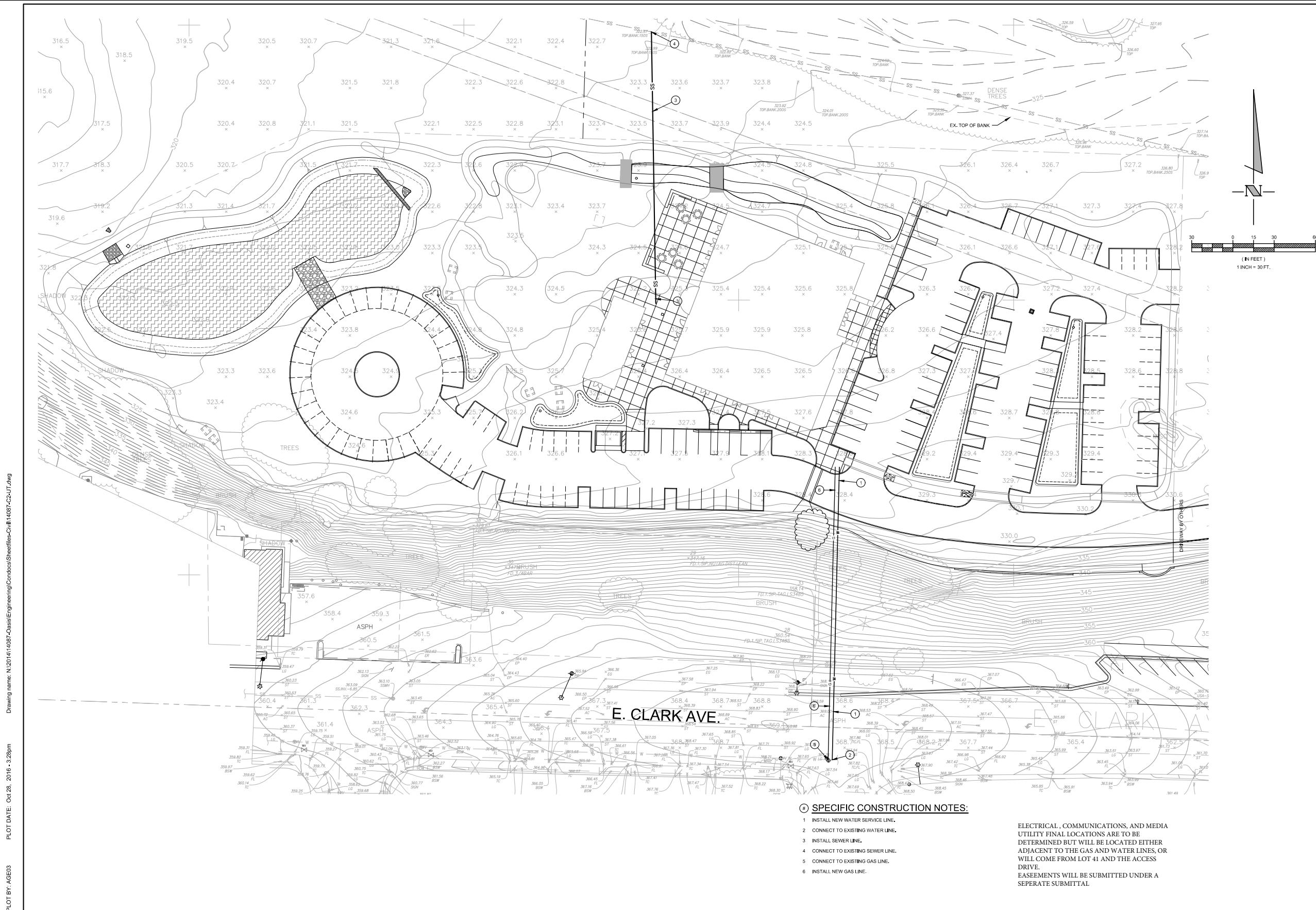
ENGINEER OF RECORD:



DATE _____

OASIS SENIOR CENTER
700 BLOCK OF E. CLARK AVE.
ORCUTT, CA 93455

PRELIMINARY UTILITY PLAN

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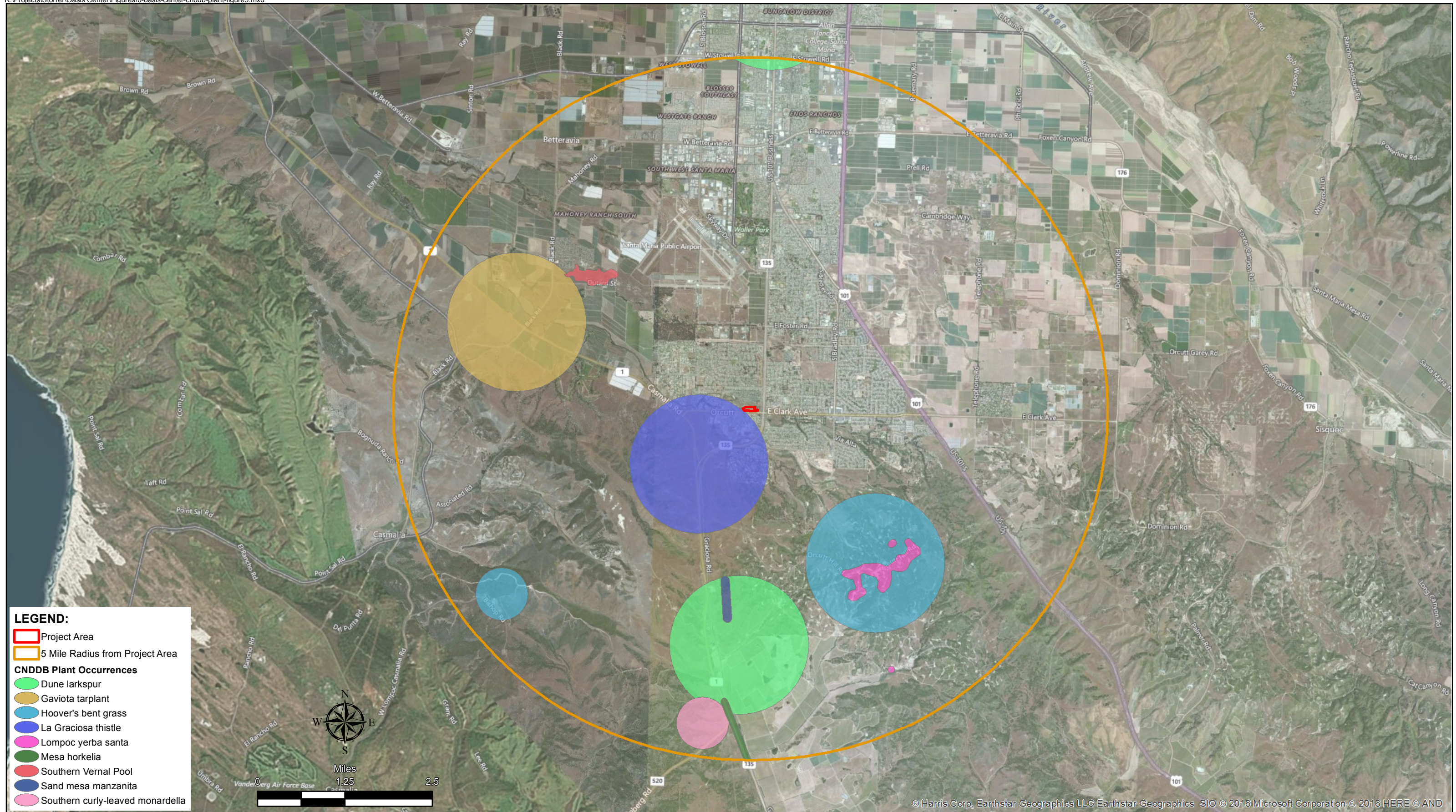
STORRER
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

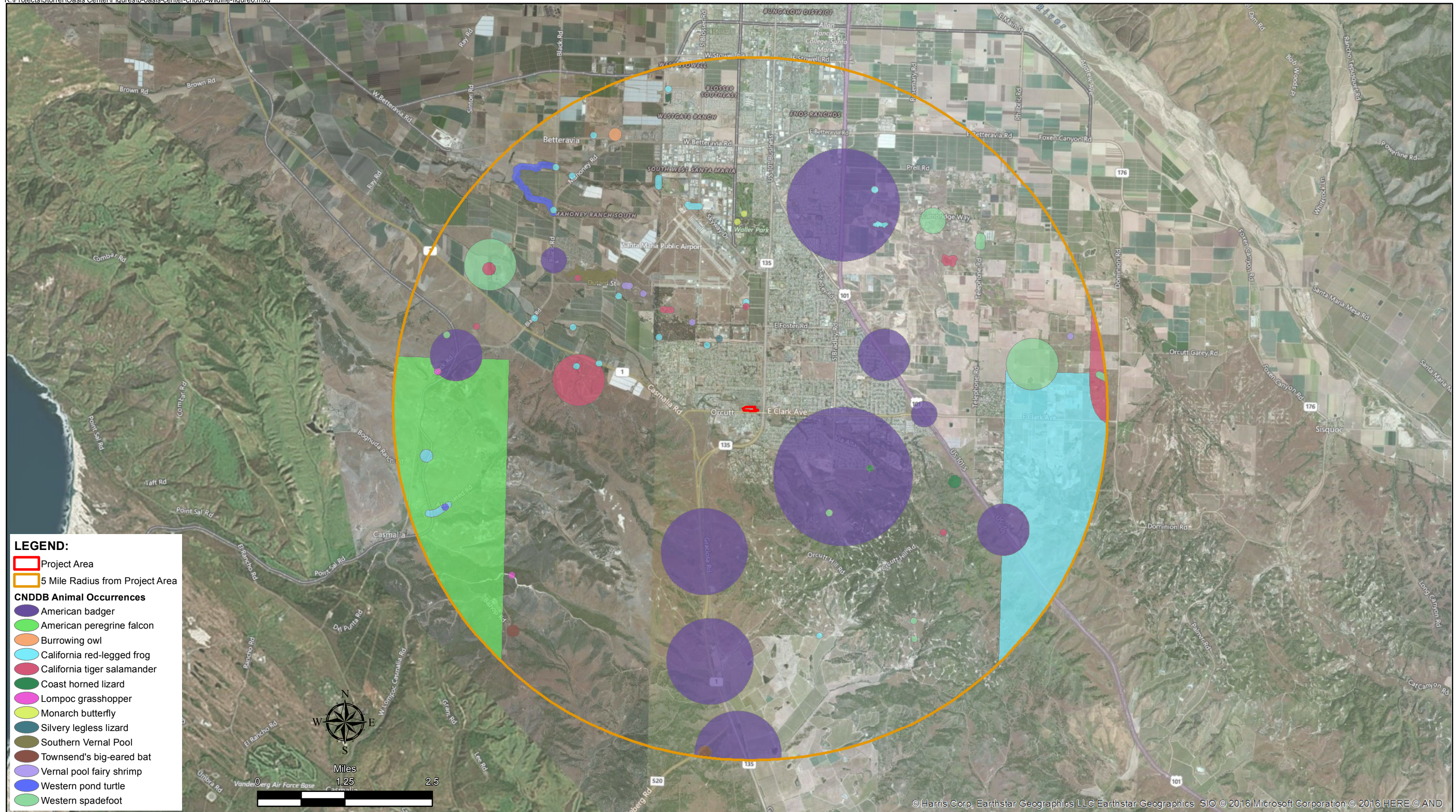
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**Preliminary Utility Plan
Oasis Meeting Facility/Senior Center
Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California**

Figure 4

September 7, 2016







APPENDIX A
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Overview of Project Area from access easement off Foxenwood Lane (Aspect: Northwest). The Project Area is central portion of Key Site 18, west of the dashed red line. Photo taken on April 14, 2016.



Photo 2: Orcutt Creek channel adjacent to the northern boundary of the Project Area; photo taken looking upstream (Aspect: East). Photo taken on April 14, 2016.



Photo 3. Annual grassland habitat within the 50-foot ESHA setback along the northern boundary of the Project Area (Aspect: East). Photo taken on April 14, 2016.



Photo 4: Annual grassland is the dominant habitat in the Project Area. Photo taken from the southwest corner of the site (Aspect: Northeast). Photo taken on April 14, 2016.



Photo 5. Southern boundary of the Project Area, with oak and ornamental woodland along the slope in the background (Aspect: West). Photo taken on April 14, 2016.



Photo 6. Southern boundary of the Project Area, looking at the access easement from Foxenwood Lane (Aspect: East). Photo taken on April 14, 2016.

APPENDIX B
VASCULAR PLANT INVENTORY

**Vascular Plant Species Observed within the Oasis Meeting Facility/Senior Center Project Area
(APN's 105-020-063 and 105-020-064), Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California**

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
	GYMNOSPERMS	
<u>Pinaceae</u>		
	<i>Pinus radiata</i> **	Monterey pine
	ANGIOSPERMS - Dicots	
<u>Adoxaceae</u>		
	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>caerulea</i>	blue elderberry
<u>Aizoaceae</u>		
	<i>Carpobrotus chilensis</i> **	sea fig
	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> **	iceplant
<u>Anacardiaceae</u>		
	<i>Schinus molle</i> *	Peruvian pepper tree
	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak
<u>Apiaceae</u>		
	<i>Conium maculatum</i> *	poison hemlock
	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> *	wild fennel
<u>Araliaceae</u>		
	<i>Hedera helix</i> *	Engilsh ivy
<u>Asteraceae</u>		
	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	western ragweed
	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush
	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	mugwort
	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush
	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mulefat
	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i> *	tochalote
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	bull thistle
	<i>Deinandra fasciculata</i>	clustered tarplant
	<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	telegraph weed
	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> *	smooth cat's-ear
	<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	prickly wild lettuce
	<i>Silybum marianum</i> *	milk thistle
	<i>Sonchus asper</i> ssp. <i>asper</i> *	spiny sowthistle
	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	common sowthistle
<u>Boraginaceae</u>		
	<i>Amsinkia intermedia</i>	common fiddleneck
	<i>Cryptantha intermedia</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>	common cryptantha
	<i>Pholistoma auritum</i> var. <i>auritum</i>	fiesta flower
<u>Brassicaceae</u>		
	<i>Brassica nigra</i> *	black mustard
	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	water cress
	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> *	wild radish
	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> *	hedge mustard
<u>Chenopodiaceae</u>		
	<i>Chenopodium album</i> *	lamb's quarters
<u>Euphorbiaceae</u>		
	<i>Croton setigerus</i>	turkey-mullein
	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i> *	petty spurge
<u>Fabaceae</u>		
	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	coastal bush lupine
	<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	miniature lupine
	<i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	succulent lupine
	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> *	burclover
	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> **	black locust
	<i>Vicia sativa</i> ssp. <i>sativa</i> *	spring vetch
	<i>Vicia villosa</i> ssp. <i>villosa</i> *	hairy vetch
<u>Fagaceae</u>		
	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> var. <i>agrifolia</i>	coast live oak
<u>Geraniaceae</u>		
	<i>Erodium botrys</i> *	broad-leaf filaree
	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *	redstem filaree
	<i>Erodium moschatum</i> *	whitestem filaree
<u>Malvaceae</u>		
	<i>Malva parviflora</i> *	cheeseweed
<u>Montiaceae</u>		
	<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i> ssp. <i>perfoliata</i>	miner's lettuce
<u>Myrsinaceae</u>		
	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> *	scarlet pimpernel
<u>Myrtaceae</u>		

**Vascular Plant Species Observed within the Oasis Meeting Facility/Senior Center Project Area
(APN's 105-020-063 and 105-020-064), Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California**

	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> **	blue gum
<u>Onagraceae</u>	<i>Camissonia strigulosa</i>	sandy soil suncup
	<i>Camissoniopsis micrantha</i>	Spencer primrose
	<i>Clarkia purpurea</i> ssp. <i>quadrivulnera</i>	four-spot
<u>Oxalidaceae</u>	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> *	Bermuda buttercup
<u>Papaveraceae</u>	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy
<u>Plantaginaceae</u>	<i>Nuttallanthus texanus</i>	blue toadflax
	<i>Plantago coronopus</i> *	cut-leaft plantain
<u>Platanaceae</u>	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	western sycamore
<u>Polygonaceae</u>	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> *	sheep sorrel
<u>Rosaceae</u>	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon
	<i>Rosa californica</i>	California rose
<u>Rubiaceae</u>	<i>Galium aparine</i>	goose grass
<u>Salicaceae</u>	<i>Populus fremontii</i> ssp. <i>fremontii</i>	Fremont cottonwood
	<i>Salix exigua</i> var. <i>exigua</i>	narrow-leaved willow
	<i>Salix laevigata</i>	red willow
	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow
<u>Solanaceae</u>	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> *	tree tobacco
	<i>Solanum douglasii</i>	Douglas' nightshade
<u>Tropaeolaceae</u>	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i> *	garden nasturtium
<u>Urticaceae</u>	<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>holosericea</i>	hoary nettle
	ANGIOSPERMS- Monocots	
<u>Alliaceae</u>	<i>Allium neapolitanum</i> *	white garlic
<u>Poaceae</u>	<i>Avena barbata</i> *	slender wild oats
	<i>Avena fatua</i> *	wild oats
	<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	ripgut brome
	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> *	soft chess
	<i>Ehrharta calycina</i> *	veldt grass
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i> ssp. <i>leporinum</i> *	hare barley
	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> *	wheat

Notes: Scientific nomenclature follows *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition*, Baldwin et al. (2012).

Species in bold type are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2015).

An "*" indicates non-native species which have become naturalized or persist without cultivation.

An "***" indicates non-native species which been planted as landscaping or is an agricultural crop plant.

APPENDIX C
WILDLIFE INVENTORY

**Wildlife Species Observed within the Oasis Meeting Facility/Senior Center Project Area
(APN's 105-020-063 and 105-020-064), Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Regulatory Status
<u>Reptiles</u>		
Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	N/A
<u>Birds</u>		
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	MTBA
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	MTBA
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	MTBA
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	MTBA
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	MTBA
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	N/A
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	N/A
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	MTBA
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	MTBA
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	MTBA
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	MTBA
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	MTBA
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	MTBA
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	MTBA
Western scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	MTBA
Oak Titmouse	<i>Parus inornatus</i>	MTBA
Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	MTBA
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	MTBA
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	MTBA
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	MTBA
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	N/A
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	MTBA
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	MTBA
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	MTBA
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	MTBA
California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	MTBA
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	MTBA
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	MTBA
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	MTBA
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	N/A
<u>Mammals</u>		
Botta's Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	N/A
California Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	N/A
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	N/A
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	N/A

Regulatory Status Codes:

FE – Federal endangered species
 FT -- Federal threatened species
 FC – Federal candidate species
 MBTA – Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 SE – State endangered species
 ST – State threatened species
 CSC – California Species of Special Concern
 CFP – California Fully Protected Species
 MMPA - Marine Mammal Protection Act

APPENDIX D
LEAST BELL'S VIREO SURVEY RESULTS



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Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) Survey Report
Key Site 18, APN's 105-020-063 and 105-020-064
Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California



Prepared for: County of Santa Barbara
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Submitted: August 29, 2016

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1.0 Introduction

Surveys for least Bell's vireo (LBVI – *Vireo bellii pusillus*) were conducted on eight (8) occasions on and adjacent to a 0.4-mile segment of Orcutt Creek, Orcutt, California (Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map). The surveys were performed by John Storrer, Storrer Environmental Services LLC, under contract to the County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department.

2.0 Existing Conditions

The project site (Site) consists of two undeveloped parcels (APNs 105-020-063 and 105-020-064) comprising 5.28 acres. The Site is proposed for development of a meeting facility/senior center.

Orcutt Creek flows westward, paralleling the Site's northern boundary. Orcutt Creek is an intermittent tributary to the Santa Maria River. The confluence of these two drainages lies approximately 10.5 miles to the northwest.

Surrounding land uses are a mix of residential and commercial. Adjacent and nearby residential development is of moderate to high density, with associated infrastructure (e.g., streets, drainage improvements).

The Site is vegetated with a mix of annual grassland and ruderal plant species. Context and character suggest prior agricultural use.

The segment of Orcutt Creek paralleling the Site supports willow riparian woodland dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and narrow-leaved willow (*S. exigua*). Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) are also present in modest abundance. The woodland overstory is complemented by a dense understory dominated by species such as poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and wild blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Stream flow is intermittent and seasonally variable in volume.

3.0 Assessment of Potential for LBVI

Background Review

Background research included a query of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB 2016), review of unpublished survey reports (e.g., Stantec 2016), and consultation with local biologists familiar with LBVI occurrence and regional distribution (e.g., Kisner, 2016 personal communication). The CNDDB was queried for information on special-status species documented within a 5-mile radius of the Site.

Field Survey Method

Surveys for LBVI were conducted in accordance with protocols recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2001). They consisted of eight surveys during the period from April 10 to July 31. Surveys were scheduled a minimum of 10 days apart to maximize detection of early and late arrivals of both sexes. Surveys were conducted during

the morning hours under suitable weather conditions. Survey dates, intervals and weather conditions are summarized in Appendix A.

The survey area encompassed a 0.4-mile (approx.) reach of Orcutt Creek from the culvert beneath Foxenwood Lane downstream.

Survey method consisted of one observer walking within the streambed while searching the adjacent tree canopy and understory with the aid of 10-power binoculars. The observer paused periodically to listen for auditory clues. Observations were recorded in the form of field notes.

Field Survey Results

LBVI were not observed during any of the eight field surveys. A total of thirty bird species was recorded, as summarized in Appendix B.

4.0 Discussion

Lehman (2016) describes the LBVI as a “very local resident in District I” [District I = Interior Lowlands]. A breeding population of LBVI in the vicinity of Mono Creek/Gibraltar Reservoir in the upper Santa Ynez River drainage was monitored during extensive field work in 1979-1983 and 1987-1993. That population suffered a precipitous decline following a fire in 1984 and has apparently not recovered. Records of LBVI in the past six decades have been very sporadic outside of the upper Santa Ynez River population. There is no documentation for LBVI nesting in Orcutt Creek. One of the most recent records for LBVI in the Santa Barbara Region was a singing male along the Santa Ynez River near Buellton in spring of 2016 (Kisner, 2016 personal communication). No evidence of nesting was confirmed and the bird was determined to be a transient individual.

5.0 Conclusions

Results of protocol-level field surveys for LBVI conducted in spring and summer of 2016 were negative. Based on these results and in consideration of documented regional occurrence it appears that LBVI do not presently use this portion of Orcutt Creek for breeding.

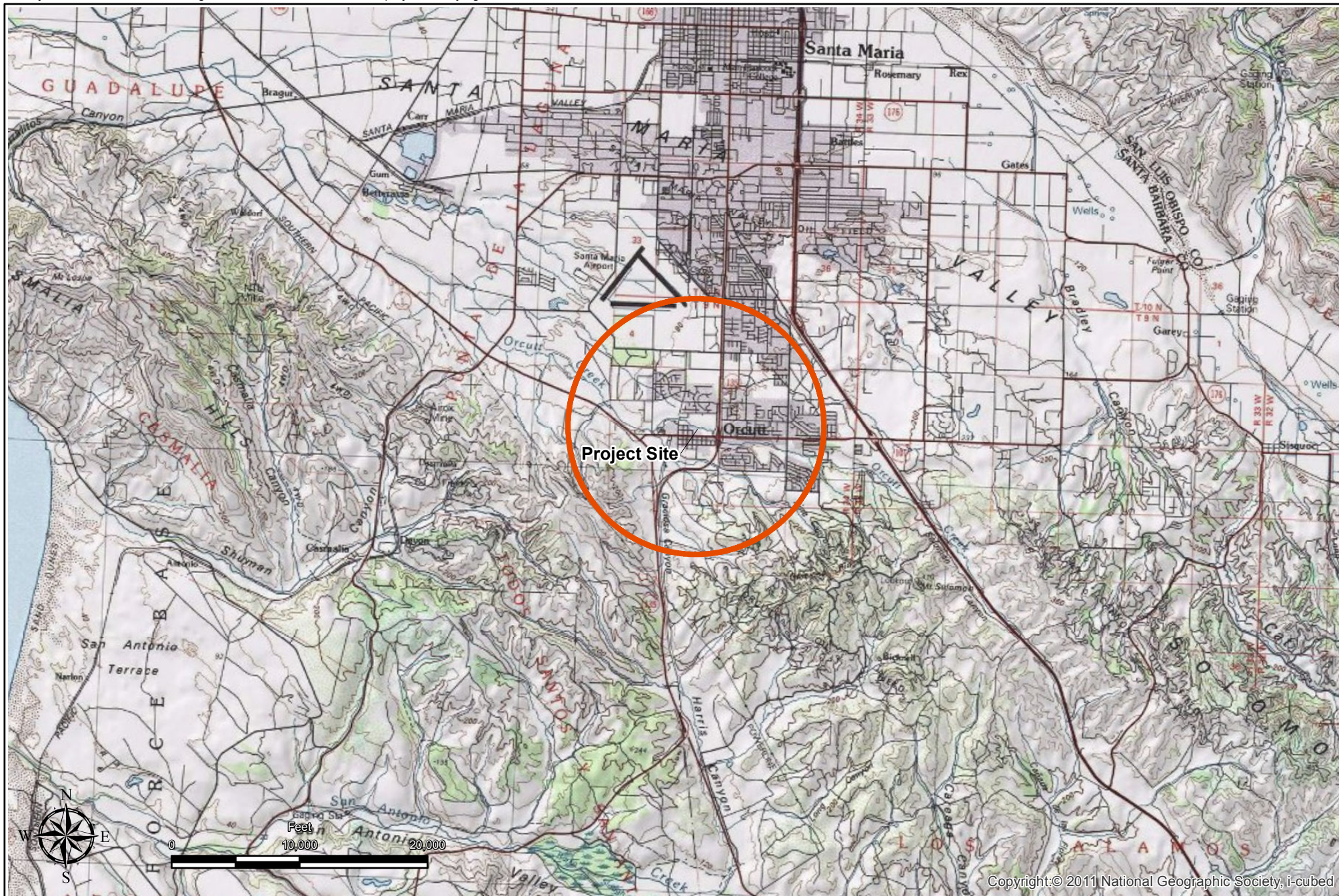
6.0 References

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United States Fish and Wildlife Services. 2001. Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines. January 19.

Personal Communications

Kisner, David. Biologist, Kisner Restoration and Ecological Consulting. Personal communication with J. Storrer on July 26, 2016.



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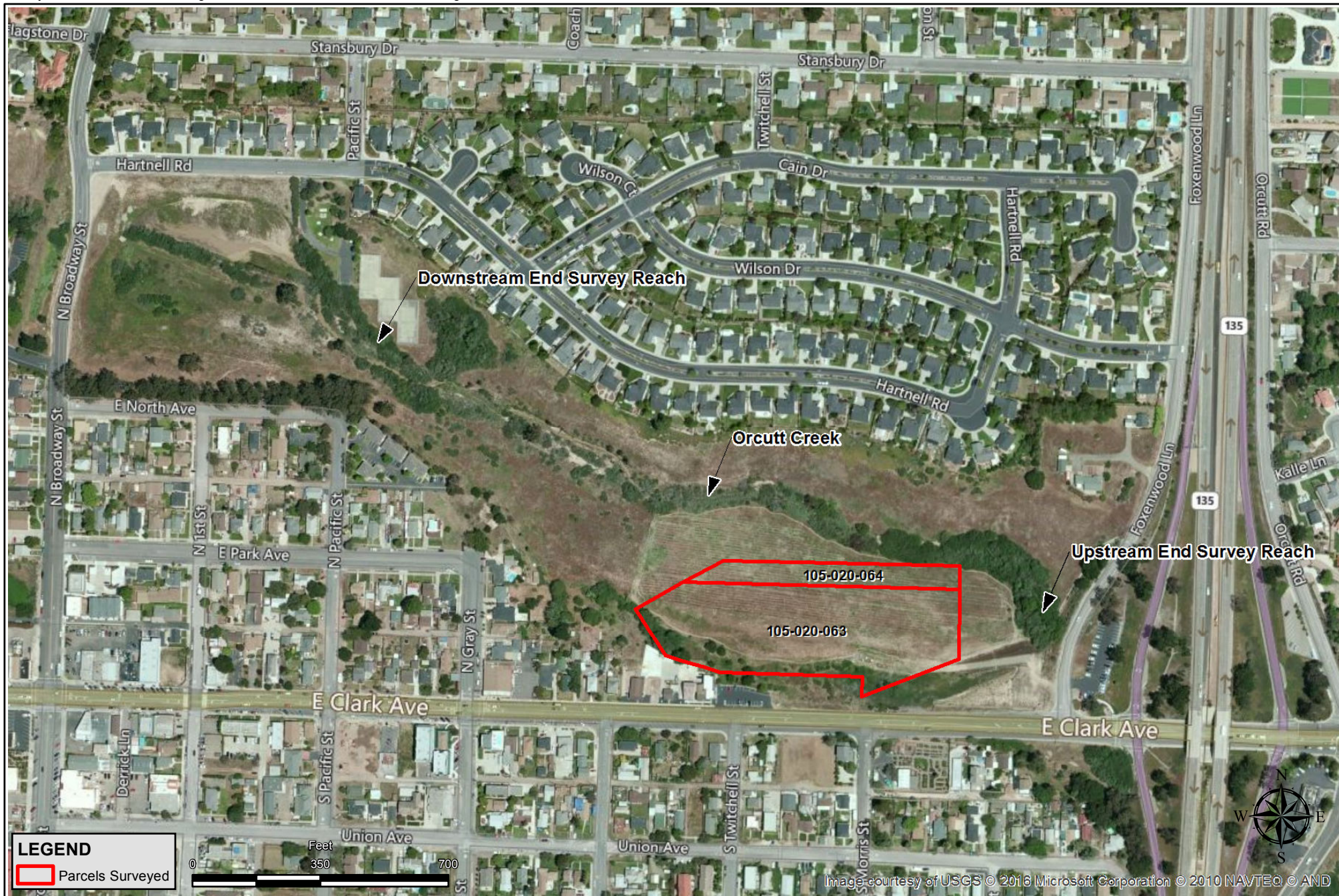


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Project Vicinity Map
Oasis Meeting Facility/Senior Center
Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California

Figure 1

August 9, 2016



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**Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) Survey Reach
Orcutt Key Site 18 (APNs 105-020-063 and 105-020-064)
Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California**

Figure 2

August 22, 2016

APPENDIX A

Table 1. Summary of Survey Dates, Intervals and Weather Conditions

Survey Date/ Interval	Weather Conditions	Observer
14 April 2016 0900-1055	Clear (10% high cloud cover); NW breeze ~ 5mph; air temp. = 60° F.	J. Storrer
6 May 2016 0912-1105	Very large cumulus clouds (20% cover); no wind; air temperature = 72° F.	J. Storrer
17 May 2016 0900-1102	Overcast (marine layer); NW wind ~3 mph. air temperature = 57° F.	J. Storrer
1 June 2016 0933 - 1102	Clear – some lingering marine layer on distant hills; NW breeze 3-5 mph; air temperature = 75° F.	J. Storrer
14 June 2016 0810 – 0940	Clear and sunny (0% cloud cover); NW wind 5-10 mph. Air temperature = 65° F.	J. Storrer
28 June 2016 0940 – 1110	Sunny, high broken clouds (25% cover); NW breeze very light; air temperature = 72° F.	J. Storrer
13 July 2016 0920-1115	Clear – some lingering marine layer on distant hills; NW breeze 2-3 mph; air temperature = 74° F.	J. Storrer
27 July 2016 0906 - 1024	Clear and sunny (0% cloud cover); light NW breeze; air temperature = 72° F	J. Storrer

APPENDIX B

Table 2. Bird Species Observed at Key Site 18, Orcutt, California 2016

Common Name Scientific Name	Date of Survey							
	4/14	5/6	5/17	6/1	6/14	6/28	7/13	7/27
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	1							
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	6	1	2				1	
Red-shouldered Hawk <i>Buteo lineatus</i>	1	1				1	1	
Cooper's Hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>				1				
California Quail <i>Callipepla californica</i>				1			7	
Eurasian Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>								2
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	2	1	5	2	2	5	2	1
Anna's Hummingbird <i>Calypte anna</i>		2			3	3		2
Nuttall's Woodpecker <i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	1	1	1		1	2		2
Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i>				1				
Pacific-slope Flycatcher <i>Empidonax difficilis</i>		3	1		1			
Black Phoebe <i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1		1		1			
Scrub Jay <i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	2		2	2	5	5	3	3
American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	1	4	7	5	5	3	2	
Oak Titmouse <i>Parus inornatus</i>	1						1	1
Bushtit <i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	7	1	16	3		5		8
Bewick's Wren <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	1			1	2		5	2
Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>		1	2	4	2	3	1	1
Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	12							
European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>						1		1
Warbling Vireo <i>Vireo gilvus</i>			1					
Yellowthroat Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>		2						
Wilson's Warbler <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>		1						
Spotted Towhee <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	3	1	2		5	3	1	1

LBVI Survey Results
Key Site 18, Orcutt, California

Common Name Scientific Name	Date of Survey							
	4/14	5/6	5/17	6/1	6/14	6/28	7/13	7/27
California Towhee <i>Pipilo crissalis</i>)		5	6	3	2	5	4	4
Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i>			2		3			
House Finch <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>			1	2	16	6	7	1
Lesser Goldfinch <i>Carduelis psaltria</i>						7		
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>							5	