Appendix E-2: Biological Technical Report

BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL REPORT THE PROPERTY AT 3003 RUNYON CANYON ROAD CITY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

PREPARED FOR

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background

This document is a Biological Technical Report prepared to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This report provides the scope, methodology, and the results of habitat assessments and general and focused biological surveys, and the impact assessment and mitigation to reduce the Proposed Project's biological impacts to less than significant. General and focused surveys were conducted during three field survey visits in 2018 in order to adequately survey floral and faunal populations.

The approximately 4.5-acre property at 3003 Runyon Canyon Road is located in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California [Exhibit 1; Regional Map]. The property is adjacent to Runyon Canyon Road on the eastern and southern edges, and is surrounded by open space/parkland. It is located within the boundaries of Runyon Canyon Park which occupies 160-acres [Exhibit 2; Vicinity Map]. A vegetation map of the Study Area is provided as Exhibit 3; a total of 8.72 acres was surveyed and mapped which includes habitat adjacent to the potential impact area. The area subject to potential impacts covers approximately 6.62 acres, of which 2.48 acres is currently developed including a private residence and surrounding ornamental plantings, and 2.88 acres is existing fuel modification zones as required by the Los Angeles City Fire Department¹ for the existing residence. While this document characterizes the entire study area, the focus of the impact analysis is on the areas that would be potentially disturbed by the project, including the site of the proposed residence including proposed grading, and the area required for fuel modification, all of which are depicted on Exhibit 4. Representative site photographs are included as Exhibit 5.

1.2 Scope and Methodology

The scope of this report includes 1) A characterization of biological resources associated with the Study Area, with focus on the impact areas, and 2) an evaluation of the Study Area for presence or potential presence of state or federally listed endangered species or other special-status species. This report also includes a discussion of existing conditions for the Study Area, all methods employed regarding habitat assessments and general biological surveys, and the documentation of botanical and wildlife resources identified.

Methods of study include a review of relevant literature and databases, habitat assessments, general field surveys, and a Geographical Information System (GIS)-based analysis of vegetation communities. As appropriate, this report is consistent with accepted scientific and technical standards and survey guideline requirements issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the CDFW, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Glenn Lukos Associates, Inc. (GLA) conducted site-specific habitat assessments, as well

¹ https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush/clearance-requirements-contractor-list

as general and focused biological surveys within the Study Area on June 11, 2018, June 12, 2018, and June 26, 2018.

1.3 Existing Conditions

The majority of the Study Area consists of developed land or areas subject to ongoing fuel modification as required by the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Surrounding areas support native vegetation communities including chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats, as well as off-site fuel modification zones. The northern, western, and southeastern corner of the Study Area consist of a mixed chaparral habitat while the southern and northeastern portions consist of existing fuel modification zones. Surrounding land uses include residential properties and recreational park usage, as the Study Area is located within the boundaries of Runyon Canyon Park which is owned by the City of Los Angeles. The park is heavily trafficked.

1.4 Results of Field Studies

1.4.1 Vegetation Associations/Land Uses

Vegetation mapping of the Study Area identified 13 different vegetation/land use types: (1) cliff (0.45 acre); (2) coastal sage scrub (0.02 acre); (3) developed (0.97 acre); (4) developed/existing residential (0.50 acre); (5) FMZ (fuel modification zone) (1.64 acres); (6) FMZ/mixed chaparral (1.48 acres); (7) mixed chaparral (2.16 acres); (8) non-native grassland (0.16 acre); (9) ornamental (0.98 acre); (10) ruderal (0.18 acre); (11) sugar bush (0.01 acre); (12) toyon (0.03 acre); and (13) turf (0.13 acre).

1.4.2 Special-Status Plants

No special-status plants, which include state- or federally- listed species and CNPS-designated plants, were detected within the Study Area. The habitat assessment for special-status plants determined that six special-status plant species: (1) Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*); (2) Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*); (3) Davidson's bush mallow (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*); (4) many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya* multicaulis); (5) mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula*); and (6) Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) have a low potential to occur within the Study Area and the habitats immediately surrounding the property. Focused surveys conducted for these plant species within the proposed Development Area did not detect these or any other special-status plant species.

1.4.3 Wildlife Resources

Several common bird species, mammal species, and one common reptile species were detected within the Study Area.

Birds observed during biological surveys include California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), spotted towhee (*Melozone crissalis*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macrourus*), white-throated swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), California scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), and phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*). Reptiles observed during biological surveys include Great Basin fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*).

Mammals observed on site include domesticated dogs and the Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). The Mexican free-tailed bat was detected using bat ultrasonic equipment and visual detection. This species was observed flying over, but not roosting on site.

1.4.4 Special-Status Wildlife

No special-status wildlife, which include state- or federally- listed species, were detected within the Study Area. The habitat assessment for special-status wildlife determined that two special-status species: (1) coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) and (2) coastal western whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) have a low to moderate potential to occur within the Study Area and the surrounding habitats. Focused surveys conducted for these species within the proposed Development Area did not detect these or any other special-status wildlife species.

Two additional species, the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) and the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) were noted in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Notice of Preparation (NOP) letter² for recommended surveys. Focused surveys did not detect evidence of bats roosting on site. All areas of suitable habitat were thoroughly searched including trees, cavities, and structures. Additionally, although the site contains suitable habitat for the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, this watch list species was not observed during avian surveys. As such, neither species is expected to occur within or surrounding the Study Area.

1.5 Proposed Project Impacts to Biological Resources and Mitigation

The proposed project will not result in any significant direct or indirect impacts to special-status biological resources, and as such, no mitigation is required to compensate for such impacts.

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² Schmoker & Courtney. May 3, 2018. California Department of Fish and Wildlife: State of California – Natural Resources Agency. Comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Draft of Environmental Impact Report (DERI) for the 3003 Runyon Canyon (ENV-2016-4180-EIR) Project, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County (SCH # 2018041016)

The project has potential to impact nesting migratory birds; however, with implementation of the measures outlined herein, impacts would be avoided.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Biologists from Glenn Lukos Associates, Inc. (GLA) conducted surveys of the Study Area to identify the presence of special-status species or habitats capable of supporting special-status species.

Potential impacts (direct and/or indirect) to special-status species and habitats are addressed below for purposes of review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In addition, impacts to special-status species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) are regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and special-status species listed as threatened or endangered by the State of California are regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to the State ESA and are addressed below. Wildlife that are assigned other designations by CDFW (i.e., species of special concern, fully-protected species, etc.) and plants given special status by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) are not granted additional protection, except that impacts to these species generally require evaluation pursuant to CEQA.

2.1 Location of Study Area

The approximately 4.5-acre property at 3003 Runyon Canyon Road, and is located in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California [Exhibit 1; Regional Map]. The property is adjacent to Runyon Canyon Road on the east and southern edges, and is surrounded by open space/parkland. Furthermore, the Study Area is located within the boundaries of Runyon Canyon Park [Exhibit 2; Vicinity Map]. Elevations within the Study Area range from roughly 950 to 1,150 feet above mean sea level. The entire 4.5-acre property, as well as surrounding areas associated with the project, were subject to vegetation mapping and general biological surveys.

2.2 Existing Conditions

The majority of the Study Area consists of developed land or area subject to ongoing fuel modification as required by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department. Surrounding areas support native vegetation communities including chaparral and coastal sage scrub. The northern, western, and southeastern corner of the Study Area consist of a mixed chaparral habitat while the southern and northeastern portions consist of existing fuel modification zones. Surrounding land uses include residential properties and recreational park usage, as the Study Area is located within the boundaries of Runyon Canyon Park which is owned by the City of Los Angeles.

2.3 Project Description

The proposed project consists of construction of a single-family residence in the southwestern portion of the property, as depicted in Exhibit 4. Additionally, the proposed project includes expanding the developed parking area near the northwestern boundary that would include grading and constructing retaining walls.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

In order to adequately identify biological resources, GLA assembled biological data consisting of the following components:

- Performance of vegetation/land use-land cover mapping for the Study Area;
- Performance of site-specific habitat assessments for special-status plants and animals; and
- General and focused biological surveys to evaluate the presence/absence of special-status plant and animal species (or potentially suitable habitat).

The focus of the biological surveys was determined through initial site reconnaissance, a review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) [CDFW 2017], the CDFW Special Animals List (CDFWG 2016), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory (CNPS 2016), the USFWS online list of threatened and endangered species for Los Angeles County, the USDA Soil Conservation Service's (SCS) soil maps for the Study Area, other pertinent literature including the letter from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) submitted in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP), and knowledge of the region. Vegetation associations and land use types within the Study Area were also surveyed on foot and mapped directly onto a 200-scale topographic map based on the Manual of California Vegetation Second edition (MCV II)³. Habitat assessments and focused surveys within the Study Area were conducted on foot.

3.1 Summary of Surveys

The field studies focused on the following primary objectives in accordance with CEQA: (1) general reconnaissance surveys and vegetation mapping according to the Holland Classification System; (2) general botanical surveys; (3) general wildlife surveys; (4) habitat assessments for special-status plants; (5) habitat assessments for special-status animals; (6) focused surveys for special-status plants; and (7) focused surveys for special-status animals. Observations of all plant and wildlife species were recorded during each of the above-mentioned survey efforts [Appendix A: Floral Compendium and Appendix B: Faunal Compendium]. Table 3-1 provides a summary list of survey dates, survey types and personnel.

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³ Sawyer, J.O., Keeler-Wolf, T., & Evens, J.M. 2008. A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition, California Native Plant Society.

Table 3-1. Summary of Biological Surveys for the Property.

Survey Date and Time	Survey Type	Surveying Biologist	Weather
June 11, 2018	 General Botanical and Wildlife Survey Special-Status Plant Habitat Assessment Vegetation Mapping Focused Survey for Special-Status Plants Habitat Assessment for Special-Status Animals 	T. Bomkamp and J. Stephens	60°-73° F Clear Wind 0-3 mph
June 12, 2018	 Habitat Assessment for Special-Status Animals and General Wildlife Sruveys Focused Survey for Special-Status Bats 	J. Ahrens	67°-72° F Clear Wind 0-2 mph
June 26, 2018	 Habitat Assessment for Special-Status Animals and General Wildlife Sruveys Focused Survey for Special-Status Bats 	J. Ahrens	64°-67° F Clear Wind 0-3 mph

3.2 Botanical Resources

A site-specific survey program was designed to accurately document the botanical resources within the Study Area, and consisted of six components: (1) a literature search; (2) preparation of a list of target special-status plant species and sensitive vegetation communities that could occur within the Study Area including input from CDFW in response to NOP; (3) general field reconnaissance surveys; (4) vegetation mapping according to the Manual of California Vegetation Second edition (MCV II); (5) habitat assessments for special-status plants; (6) focused surveys for special-status plants; and (7) preparation of a vegetation map for the Study Area.

3.2.1 Literature Search

Prior to conducting fieldwork, pertinent literature on the flora of the region surrounding the Study Area was examined. A thorough archival review was conducted using available literature and other historical records. These resources included the following:

- California Native Plant Society *Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California*. Available at: http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/; and
- California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB 2017) for the USGS 7.5' Burbank quadrangle which contains the Study Area, and the eight surrounding quadrangles including San Fernando, Sunland, Condor Peak, Pasadena, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Van Nuys.

3.2.2 Soil Map Review

Prior to conducting botanical fieldwork, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil maps were reviewed to determine soils types occurring within the Study Area. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS)⁴ has mapped the following soil types as occurring in the Study Area:

• Urban Land - Xerorthents, landscaped-Urban land complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes

This soil type consists of well-drained loam soils formed in colluvium and residuum derived from sedimentary rock and other mixed sources. This soil type generally occurs within the developed portion of the Study Area.

• Topanga-Mipolomol-Sapwi Association 30 to 75 percent slopes This soil type consists of well-drained gravelly loam soils formed in colluvium and/or residuum weathered from sandstone, shale and slate. This soil type occurs within the undeveloped portion of the Study Area.

3.2.3 Special-Status Plant Species and Sensitive Vegetation Communities Evaluated for the Study Area

The CNDDB, the CNPS Inventory (CNPS 2016), and the letter from CDFW in response to NOP were initially consulted to determine well-known occurrences of plants and habitats of special concern in the region.

According to the CNDDB (2012), eight special-status habitats occur within the Burbank quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles (San Fernando, Sunland, Condor Peak, Pasadena, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Van Nuys) including Southern California Arroyo Chub/Santa Ana Sucker Stream, Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Mixed Riparian Forest, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland, California Walnut Woodland, and Walnut Forest.

Table 3-2 provides a list of special-status plants evaluated for the Study Area through habitat assessments. Species were evaluated based on a number of factors, including: 1) species identified by the CNDDB as occurring (either currently or historically) on or in the vicinity of the Study Area, and 2) any other special-status plants that are known to occur within the vicinity of the Study Area, or for which potentially suitable habitat occurs within the Study Area.

As noted in Section 3.2.5 below, vegetation communities within the Study Area were mapped in accordance with the MCV II, as provided in the habitat descriptions (where applicable) in Section 4.1.1 below. The MCV II also includes rarity rankings as provided

⁴ SCS is now known as the National Resource Conservation Service or NRCS.

in the California Natural Diversity Database that includes both Global (G) and State (S) rankings from 1 to 5. Substantial impacts to vegetation alliances with a State ranking of 1, 2 or 3 may be considered significant; whereas, vegetation alliances with a State ranking of 4 or 5 are considered "secure" statewide and impacts are generally not considered significant.

Table 3-2. Special-status plants evaluated for the Property.

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Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence	
Beach spectaclepod Dithrea maritima	Federal: None State: ST CRPR: 1B.1	scrub. Blooming period	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.	
Braunton's milk-vetch Astragalus brauntonii	Federal: FE State: None CRPR: 1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Usually carbonate soils. Recent burn or disturbed areas. Blooming period Jan-Aug. Elevation range 4-640m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.	
California Orcutt grass Orcuttia californica	Federal: FE State: SE CRPR: 1B.1	Vernal pools. Blooming period Apr-Aug. Elevation range 15-660m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.	
California satintail Imperata brevifolia	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 2.1	Coastal scrub, chaparral, riparian scrub, mojavean scrub, meadows and seeps/alkali. Blooming period Sep-May. Elevation range 0-500m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.	
Coastal dunes milk-vetch Astragalus tener var. titi	Federal: FE State: FE CRPR: 1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub and coastal dunes. Blooming period Mar-May. Elevation range 1-50m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.	
Coulter's goldfields Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.1	Playas, vernal pools, marshes and swamps (coastal salt). Blooming period Feb-Jun. Elevation range 1-1220m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.	
Davidson's bush mallow Malacothamnus davidsonii	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal sage scrub, riparian woodland. Blooming period Jun-Jan. Elevation range 185-855m.	Does not occur based on lack of detection by focused surveys.	
Davidson's saltscale Atriplex serenana var. davidsonii	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2	Alkaline soils in coastal sage scrub, coastal bluff scrub. Blooming period Apr-Oct. Elevation range 10-200m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.	

Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Gambel's water cress Nasturtium gambelii	Federal: Endangered State: Threatened CRPR: 1B.1	Freshwater or brackish marches and swamps. Blooming period Apr-Oct. Elevation range 5-330m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Greata's aster Aster greatae	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland in mesic canyons. Blooming period Jun-Oct. Elevation range 300-2010m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Los Angeles sunflower Helianthus nuttallii ssp. Parishii	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1A presumed extinct in CA	Marshes and swamps (coastal salt and freshwater). Historical from Southern California. Blooming period Aug-Oct. Elevation range 10-1675m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat and because species is presumed extinct.
Many-stemmed dudleya Dudleya multicaulis	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Often occurring on clay soils. Blooming period Apr-Jul. Elevation range 15-790m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat and soils.
Marsh sandwort Arenaria paludicola	Federal: FE State: SE CRPR: 1B.1	Bogs and fens, freshwater marshes and swamps. Blooming period May-Aug. Elevation range 3-170m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Mesa horkelia Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Occurring on sandy or gravelly soils. Blooming period Feb-Jul(Sept). Elevation range 70-810m.	
Mt. Gleason paintbrush Castilleja gleasonii	Federal: None State: Rare CRPR: 1B.2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Mud nama Nama stenocarpum	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 2.2	Marshes and swamps. Blooming period Jan-Jul. Elevation range 5-500m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Nevin's barberry Berberis nevinii	Federal: FE State: SE CRPR: 1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian scrub. Occurs on steep, north-facing slopes	Does not occur based on lack of detection by focused surveys.

Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Palmer's grapplinghook Harpagonella palmeri	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 4.2	clay soils. Blooming period Mar-May. Elevation range 20-955m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Parish's brittlescale Atriplex parishii	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.1	vernal pools. Blooming	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Parish's gooseberry Ribes divaricatum var. parishii	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1A Presumed extinct in California	Blooming period Feb-Apr. Elevation range 65-300m.	Does not occur as species is presumed extinct.
Parry's spineflower Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 3.2		Not expected due to marginal habitat
Plummer's mariposa lily Calochortus plummerae	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2	chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal sage scrub, lower montane	Not expected to occur based on lack of detection during focused surveys.
Prostrate navarretia Navarretia prostrata	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.1	meadows and seeps,	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Robinson's pepper grass Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub. Blooming period Jan-Jul. Elevation range 1-885m.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Round-leaved filaree Erodium macrophyllum	Federal: None State: None CRPR: 2.1	Clay soils in cismontane woodland, valley, and	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Salt marsh bird's-beak	Federal: FE	Coastal dune, coastal salt	Does not occur
Cordylanthus maritimus	State: SE	marshes, and swamps.	due to a lack of
ssp. <i>maritimus</i>	CRPR: 1B.2	Blooming period May-Oct.	suitable habitat.
		Elevation range 0-30m.	

Federal

FE - Federally Endangered FT - Federally Threatened FC - Federal Candidate State

SE - State Endangered ST - State Threatened

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

List 1A - Plants presumed extinct in California

List 1B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

List 2A - Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But Common Elsewhere

List 2B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

List 3 – Plants about which more information is needed.

List 4 – Plants of limited distribution (a watch list).

Threat Code Extensions

- .1 Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
- .2 Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
- .3 Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

3.2.4 General Reconnaissance Surveys and Habitat Assessments

General site-specific surveys of the Study Area were conducted to identify potential habitat for special-status plants as presented in Table 3-2 above, and to establish the accuracy of the data identified from the literature. An aerial photograph and topographic map were used to determine the community types and other physical features that may support sensitive and uncommon taxa or communities within the Study Area. The reconnaissance surveys also applied the guidelines adopted by CNPS (Nelson 1984, CNPS 2001).

3.2.5 Vegetation Mapping

Vegetation communities within the Study Area were initially mapped according to the MCV II as provided in the habitat descriptions (where applicable) in Section 4.1.1 below. Where necessary, deviations were made when areas did not fit into exact habitat descriptions provided by the MCV II. Plant communities were mapped in the field directly onto a 50-scale (1"=50") topographic map. Exhibit 3 [Vegetation Map] provides vegetation mapping for the Study Area.

3.2.6 Focused Surveys for Special-Status Plants

Based on initial site reconnaissance, habitat assessment, and vegetation mapping, it was determined that the Development Area supports potentially suitable habitat for three plant species on the CNDDB list: Davidson's bush mallow, Nevin's barberry, and Plummer's mariposa lily. Furthermore, in addition to the Plummer's mariposa lily, the CDFW in response to NOP letter cited three additional specific special-status plants of which the project site may have viable habitat: many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), mesa

horkelia (Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula), and Braunton's milk-vetch (Astragalus brauntonii).

It is noteworthy that there are no records for any of these six species in Runyon Canyon Park and thus the potential for the species to occur is very low based on previously mapped occurrences. However, focused surveys were conducted throughout the project site for all six species in such a manner as to allow inspection of all areas of potential habitat by direct observation by walking meandering transects through areas of suitable habitat, but none of the species were observed either within the study site or in the surrounding areas.

3.3 Wildlife Resources

Wildlife species were evaluated and detected during field surveys by sight, call, tracks, nests (when applicable), and scat. Site reconnaissance was conducted in such a manner as to allow inspection of the Study Area by direct observation, including the use of binoculars. Observations of physical evidence and direct sightings of wildlife were recorded in field notes during each visit. A complete list of wildlife species observed within the Study Area is provided in Appendix B. Scientific nomenclature and common names for vertebrate species referred to in this report follow Collins (1997) for amphibians and reptiles, Jones, et al. (1992) for mammals, and AOU Checklist (1998) for birds.

Two focused survey visits for special-status animals, specifically bat surveys, were conducted. All areas of suitable habitat were thoroughly searched including trees, cavities, and structures (buildings, sheds, stable). Equipment included: (1) two Wildlife Acoustics Echometer Touch 2 Pro bat detectors placed on opposite ends of the property; (2) Sonobat 4.2.2 bat analysis software to process acoustic files; (3) a Seek Compact Pro Thermal imager attached to an iPhone to assist in searching for roosting bats; and (4) an inspection scope to inspect inside tree cavities for roosting bats.

3.3.1 General Surveys

Birds

During each survey within the Study Area, birds were identified within each habitat type. Birds were detected by both direct observation and by vocalizations, and were recorded in field notes.

Mammals

During each survey within the Study Area, mammals were identified within each habitat type. Mammals were detected both by direct observations and by the presence of diagnostic sign (i.e., tracks, burrows, scat, calls, etc.).

Reptiles and Amphibians

During each survey within the Study Area, reptiles and amphibians were identified within each habitat type. Habitats were examined for diagnostic reptile sign, which include shed

skins, scat, tracks, snake prints, and lizard tail drag marks. All reptiles and amphibian species observed, as well as diagnostic sign, were recorded in field notes.

3.3.2 Special-Status Wildlife Species Evaluated for the Study Area

Table 3-3 provides a list of special-status animals evaluated for the Study Area through habitat assessments and focused surveys (where suitable habitat was present). Species were evaluated based on a number of factors, including: 1) species identified by the CNDDB as occurring (either currently or historically) on or in the vicinity of the property, and 2) any other special-status animals that are known to occur within the vicinity of the property, or for which potentially suitable habitat occurs on site.

Table 3-3. Special-status animals evaluated for the Property.

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Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
American badger Taxidea taxus	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	herbaceous habitats. Needs	Not expected to occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
American peregrine falcon (nesting) Falco peregrinus anatum	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CFP	forest, and coastal habitats. Non-	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Arroyo chub Gila orcutti	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Slow-moving or backwater sections of warm to cool streams	Does not occur due to a lack of aquatic habitat.
Bank swallow (nesting) <i>Riparia riparia</i>	Federal: None State: ST CDFW: None	in riparian and other lowland	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Big free-tailed bat Nyctinomops macrotis	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Southern California. Roosts in high cliffs or rocky outcrops.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable roosting habitat. Not detected during focused bat surveys.
Burrowing owl (Burrow sites and some wintering sites) Athene cunicularia	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	lowland scrub, agricultural lands	Not expected to occur due to a lack of open habitat and ground squirrel burrows.
Busck's gallmoth Carolella busckana	Federal: None State: None CDFW: None	Coastal sand dunes.	Does not occur due to a lack of coastal dune habitat.
Coast (San Diego) horned Lizard Phrynosoma coronatum (blainvillii population)	Federal: FSC State: None CDFW: CSC	Chaparral and coastal sage scrub	Low to moderate potential to occur within fuel modification zone.
Coast Range Newt Taricha torosa torosa	Federal: None State: None CDFW: None	Wet forests, oak forests, chaparral, and rolling grasslands.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Coastal California gnatcatcher Polioptila californica californica	Federal: FT State: None CDFW: CSC	Low elevation coastal sage scrub and coastal bluff scrub.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Coastal western whiptail Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	Federal: None State: None CDFW: SSC	Open, often rocky areas with little vegetation, or sunny microhabitats within shrub or grassland associations.	Low potential to occur within fuel modification zone.
Globose dune beetle Coelus globosus	Federal: None State: None CDFW: None	Coastal sand dunes.	Does not occur due to a lack of coastal dune habitat.
Hoary Bat <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Federal: None State: None CDFW: None	mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths.	of suitable roosting habitat. Not detected during

Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Least Bell's vireo (nesting) Vireo bellii pusillus	Federal: FE State: SE CDFW: None	Dense riparian habitats with a stratified canopy, including southern willow scrub, mule fat scrub, and riparian forest.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable riparian habitat.
Los Angeles pocket mouse Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Fine, sandy soils in coastal sage scrub and grasslands.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable riparian habitat.
Monarch butterfly (wintering) Danaus plexippus	Federal: None State: None	Roosts in winter in wind- protected tree groves along the California coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico.	Does not occur due to lack of proximity from the coast.
Pallid Bat Antrozous pallidus	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Habitats with rocky, outcropped areas.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during focused bat surveys.
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow Aimophila ruficeps ⁵	Federal: None State: None CDFW: WL	Coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats.	Potential to occur on site. Not observed during focused surveys.
San Diego black- tailed jackrabbit Lepus californicus bennettii	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Occupies a variety of habitats, but is most common among shortgrass habitats. Also occurs in sage scrub, but needs open habitats.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable open habitat.
San Diego desert woodrat Neotoma lepida intermedia	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Occurs in a variety of shrub and desert habitats, primarily associated with rock outcrops, boulders, cacti, or areas of dense undergrowth.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
Sandy beach tiger beetle Cicindela hirticollis gravida	Federal: None State: None CDFW: None	Coastal sand dunes	Does not occur due to a lack of coastal dune habitat.

⁵ In the CDFW letter in response to NOP, the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) was recommended for focused surveys; however, the scientific name for the cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) was mistakenly included as a scientific name for the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow.

Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Santa Ana speckled dace Rhinichthys osculus	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Santa Ana and San Gabriel Rivers. May be extirpated from the Los Angeles River system. Requires permanent flowing streams with summer water temperatures of 17-20 C. Usually inhabits shallow cobble and gravel riffles.	Does not occur due to a lack of aquatic habitat.
Santa Ana sucker Catostomus santaanae	Federal: FT State: None CDFW: CSC	than 7 meters in width, with currents ranging from swift in the canyons to sluggish in the bottom lands. Preferred substrates are generally coarse and consist of gravel, rubble, and boulders with growths of filamentous algae, but occasionally they are found on sand/mud substrates.	
Sierra Madre yellow- legged frog <i>Rana muscosa</i>	Federal: FE State: None CDFW: CSC	Occurs in partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky or cobbly substrate in a variety of habitats. Federal listing refers to populations in the San Gabriel, San Jacinto, and San Bernardino mountains only.	to a lack of aquatic habitat.
Silver-haired bat Lasionycteris noctivagans	Federal: None State: None CDFW: None	forest dweller fedding over streams, ponds, and open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark,	Does not occur due to lack of suitable roosting habitat. Not detected during focused bat surveys.
Silvery legless lizard Anniella pulchra pulchra	Federal: FSC State: None CDFW: CSC	Occurs primarily in areas with	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.
South coast marsh vole Microtus californicus stephensi	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Angeles, and southern Ventura	Does not occur due to a lack of coastal marsh habitat.
	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	Desert scrub habitats with low to moderate shrub cover and friable soils for digging.	

Species Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Western pond turtle Emys marmorata	Federal: FSC State: None CDFW: CSC	intermittent streams, small ponds	Does not occur due to a lack of aquatic habitat.
Southwestern willow flycatcher (nesting) Empidonax traillii extimus	Federal: FE State: SE CDFW: None		Does not occur due to a lack of suitable riparian habitat.
Two-striped garter snake Thamnophis hammondii	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	associated with wetland habitats	Does not occur due to a lack of aquatic habitat.
Western mastiff bat Eumops perotis californicus	Federal: None State: None CDFW: CSC	protected from above and open from below with open areas for	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during focused bat surveys.
Western spadefoot Scaphiopus hammondii	Federal: FSC State: None CDFW: CSC		Does not occur due to a lack of aquatic habitat.
Western yellow bat Lasiurus xanthinus	Federal: None State: None CDFW: None	trees, particularly palms.	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during focused bat surveys.
Western yellow- billed cuckoo (nesting) Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	Federal: FT State: SE	with well-developed	Does not occur due to a lack of suitable riparian habitat.

Federal

FE – Federally Endangered FT – Federally Threatened FPT – Federally Proposed Threatened FSC – Federal Species of Concern

CDFW
CSC – California Species of Concern
CFP – California Fully-Protected Species

State SE – State Endangered ST – State Threatened

4.0 RESULTS

As noted in the methods section above, a detailed literature review was conducted prior to performing general surveys and habitat assessments. This section discusses the results of general reconnaissance, vegetation mapping, habitat assessments for special-status plants and wildlife, and focused surveys for special-status plants and wildlife.

4.1 Botanical Resources

The Study Area is largely vegetated with native, mixed chaparral, most of which has been subject to thinning associated with ongoing fuel modification as required by Los Angeles County Fire Department, as well as ornamental species. The southern boundary of the property, bordering Runyon Canyon Road, consists of a rocky cliff outcrop which supports sparse, native vegetation that is not affected by fuel modification. The proposed impact site for the residence and driveway improvements consist of turf and ornamental vegetation and limited areas of existing fuel modification vegetated with mixed chaparral species. The proposed area for increased fuel modification consists primarily of mixed chaparral, disturbed chaparral, and existing fuel modification zones. Included in this expansion, however, is a non-native grassland, a disturbed ruderal area, and patches of sugar bush and toyon individuals. None of the CNDDB special-status habitats occur within the Study Area; therefore, there would be no significant impacts as discussed below in Section 5.0 "Impact Analysis."

4.1.1 Vegetation Mapping

During vegetation mapping of the Study Area, 13 different vegetation/land use types were identified. Table 4-1 provides a summary of vegetation types/land uses for the Study Area and the corresponding acreage. A Vegetation Map is attached as Exhibit 3.

Table 4-1. Summary of Vegetation/Land Use Types for the Study Area.

Vegetation/Land Use Type		Area (Acres)
PROPERTY VEGETATION		
Developed		0.38
Developed/Existing Residential		0.50
FMZ/Mixed Chaparral		1.33
Mixed Chaparral		0.08
Ornamental		0.98
Cliff		0.32
FMZ		0.82
Turf		0.13
	Property subtotal	4.54

OFFSITE VEGETATION	
Cliff	0.13
Coastal Sage Scrub	0.02
Developed	0.59
FMZ	0.82
FMZ/Mixed Chaparral	0.15
Mixed Chaparral	2.08
Non-Native Grassland	0.16
Ruderal	0.18
Sugar bush	0.01
Toyon	0.03
Offsite subtotal	4.18
Total Study Area Vegetation/Land Use Acreage	8.72

Mixed Chaparral

Approximately 2.16 acres of the Study Area, 0.08 acre within the property boundary and 2.08 acres outside the property, consist of chaparral vegetation with dominant species including sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and big pod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus*). A single California walnut tree (*Juglans californica*) occurs in this area on the western edge of the Study Area in the ephemeral drainage. These areas of mixed chaparral intergrade and include the following alliance in the MCV II: *Rhus ovata* Shrubland Alliance – Sugar bush chaparral (G4S4). This habitat also has assimilations with the *Malosma laurina* Shrubland Alliance – Laurel sumac scrub (G4S4) with *Rhus ovata* and *Ceanothus megacarpus* associations.

FMZ/Mixed Chaparral

Approximately 1.33 acres in the western and southern portion of the property, as well as 0.15 acre outside the property boundary, support disturbed chaparral vegetation in which the understory has been cleared for fuel modification [Exhibit 5, Photograph 1]. While some areas have a canopy ranging 20 to 50 percent cover due to clearing, the dominant species in this habitat is big pod ceanothus which most closely matches the *Ceanothus megacarpus* Shrubland Alliance – Big pod ceanothus chaparral (G4S4). Other species occurring in this area include scattered individuals of laurel sumac, sugar bush, toyon, and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*).

FMZ

Approximately 1.64 acres of the Study Area, 0.82 acre within the property boundary and 0.82 acre offsite, consist of fuel modification zones for the existing residence [Exhibit 5, Photograph 2]. These areas consist of low growing shrubs and ruderal species such as chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*), and ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*). Approximately two lemonade berry individuals (*Rhus integrifolia*) occur in the fuel

modification zone on the northeastern edge of the Study Area. Due to the extent of clearing and/or thinning for fuel modification as required the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, this vegetation cover type does not have a close analog in the MCV II.

Toyon

Within the fuel modification zone, just outside the northeastern edge of the property, a patch of toyon covers approximately 0.03 acre of the Study Area belonging to the *Heteromeles arbutifolia* Shrubland Alliance – toyon chaparral (G4S4).

Sugar Bush

Within the fuel modification zone, just outside the northeastern edge of the property, a patch of sugar bush covers approximately 0.01 acre of the Study Area belonging to the *Rhus ovata* Shrubland Alliance – Sugar bush chaparral (G4S4).

Coastal Sage Scrub

Approximately 0.02 acre outside the property boundary supports coastal sage scrub vegetation. Dominant species include California buckwheat, California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). Areas of coastal sage scrub intergrade and include the *Eriogonum fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance – California buckwheat scrub (G5S5),

Cliff

Approximately 0.45 acre of the Study Area, 0.32 acre within the property boundary and 0.13 acre offsite, consists of a rocky cliff outcrop along the southern boundary of the property and along the northern edge of Runyon Canyon Road, as well as a small patch on the eastern edge of the property [Exhibit 5, Photograph 3]. This area will be avoided as it is not in the scope of the project and will not require fuel modification. Component species include small-flowered melic (*Melica imperfecta*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), and California buckwheat. According to the MCV II, this area matches the *Eriogonum fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance – California buckwheat scrub (G5S5).

Non-Native Grassland

Approximately 0.16 acre outside the property boundary, on the eastern edge of the Study Area within the extended fuel modification boundary, consists of a non-native annual grassland. Dominant species include ripgut brome, wild oat (*Avena fatua*), Mediterranean grass, and foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*), with occurrences of summer mustard and tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*). This area of non-native grasses most closely matches the following alliances in the MCV II: *Bromus (diandrus, hordeaceus)*– *Brachypodium distachyon* Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands – Annual brome grasslands and *Bromus rubens–Schismus (arabicus, barbatus)* Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands – Red brome or Mediterranean grass grasslands.

Ruderal

Approximately 0.18 acre outside the property boundary but within the extended fuel modification zone is vegetated with ruderal species including summer mustard, tocalote

(*Centaurea melitensis*), fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), and non-native brome grasses (*Bromus* sp.). Several native species occur sporadically in this area including sacapellote (*Acourtia microcephala*) and black sage. Because of the predominance of summer mustard, this vegetation cover type most closely matches *Brassica* (*nigra*) and other Mustards Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands – Upland mustards.

Ornamental

Approximately 0.98 acre of the property consists of landscape planted species such as olive (*Olea europea*), ornamental pines, ornamental figs, and jasmine (*Jasminum multiflorum*).

Developed/Existing Residential

Approximately 0.50 acre of the property is covered by developed areas consisting of the existing residence and associated garage, driveway, and parking areas.

Turf

Approximately 0.13 acre of the property consists of a lawn/turf area that is associated with the existing residence.

Developed

Approximately 0.38 acre within the property and 0.59 acre offsite is covered by developed areas consisting of Runyon Canyon Road and Runyon Canyon Park trails. This area borders the eastern and southern edges of the property.

4.1.2 Focused Botanical Surveys

No special-status plants, which include state- or federally- listed species and CNPSdesignated plants, were detected within the Study Area. The habitat assessment for specialstatus plants determined that three special-status plant species had potential to occur within the property area and surrounding habitats: (1) Nevin's barberry; (2) Plummer's mariposa lily; and (3) Davidson's bush mallow. While the Study Area contains suitable habitat for Plummer's mariposa lily, it was determined that the species does not occur due to lack of detection. The species is a perennial bulbiferous herb that is easily identifiable during its blooming season (May-July) and is identifiable to genus (Calochortus sp.) for a few months after blooming when the fruit is present. Additionally, a reference site near Griffith Park was visited on June 16, 2018, approximately one week after the focused botanical survey at 3003 Runyon Canyon Road. This reference site, located above Innsdale Drive in Los Angeles, is at the same elevation as the given Study Area and contained many, flowering Plummer's mariposa lily individuals. Phenology indicated that the flowers had been blooming for 2-3 weeks prior. Davidson's bush mallow and Nevin's barberry are shrubs that can be detected year-round. As such, these three target species would have been identifiable during the site visit.

Three additional special-status species, indicated in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Notice of Preparation (NOP) letter, had low potential to occur within the habitats on and surrounding the property: (4) many-stemmed Dudleya; (5) mesa horkelia;

and (6) Braunton's milk-vetch. It was determined that habitat for many-stemmed dudleya was not suitable on the project site as this species has an affinity for clay soils. A reference site containing many-stemmed dudleya was visited on June 5, 2018, approximately one week prior to the focused botanical survey at 3003 Runyon Canyon Road. The reference site is located in a dedicated habitat reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo in Orange County. Many-stemmed dudleya remains dormant as an underground corm throughout the annual dry season, but the species was still in flower at the reference site which is approximately 300 feet above mean sea level.

Focused surveys conducted for all six plant species within the property boundary and surrounding coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats did not detect these or any other special-status plant species. It is noteworthy that there are no records for any of these six species in Runyon Canyon Park and thus the potential for the species to occur is very low.

A complete list of plant species observed within the Study Area is provided in Appendix A.

4.1.3 City of Los Angeles Protected Trees

Native species of oak (*Quercus* sp., except scrub oak [*Q. dumosa*]), Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) and California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) trees at least four inches in diameter (cumulative for multi-trunked trees) at 4.5 feet above the ground level at the base of the tree (or "diameter at breast height") are considered protected trees within the City of Los Angeles under Ordinance No. 177404 (effective April 23, 2006).

One California walnut tree, which is subject to the protected tree ordinance, occurs on the western edge of the Study Area within a mixed chaparral habitat [Exhibit 3]. However, this tree is not within the impact area for the proposed residence or the extended fuel modification boundary, so it will not be impacted by the proposed project.

4.2 Wildlife Resources

Birds observed during biological surveys include California towhee, spotted towhee, California quail, northern mockingbird, house finch, lesser goldfinch, wrentit, Allen's hummingbird, red-tailed hawk, mourning dove, white-throated swift, Nuttall's woodpecker, California scrub-jay, bushtit, Bewick's wren, house wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, and phainopepla.

Reptiles observed include the Great Basin fence lizard. Other common species expected to occur include side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*).

Mammals observed on site include domesticated dogs and the Mexican free-tailed bat. The Mexican free-tailed bat was detected during both surveys using bat ultrasonic equipment, as well as during one survey by visual detection flying high over the site. Other small mammal species are expected to occur, including Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys*

bottae) and deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*). Also expected to occur occasionally are mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*).

Appendix B provides a complete list of wildlife species observed and expected to occur within the Study Area.

4.2.1 Special-Status Wildlife Habitat Assessments

The special-status wildlife habitat assessment determined that the Development Area supports habitat of low to moderate suitability two special-status reptile species: (1) coast horned lizard and (2) coastal western whiptail.

The coast horned lizard occurs in coastal sage scrub and chaparral with open areas and friable soils. The coastal western whiptail occurs within sunny, open areas in a variety of habitats included coastal sage scrub and chaparral. The ground of the existing fuel modification zone and chaparral habitat within the Study Area is densely covered with nonnative grasses. This ground cover will generally not support the coast horned lizard or the coastal western whiptail, but there is a low to moderate chance that these species may occur.

Two additional species, the hoary bat and the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, were indicated in the CDFW letter in response to the NOP. Focused bat surveys were conducted from approximately 7:30pm to 11:00pm, when bats are most active. No evidence of bats roosting on site (e.g., guano or urine staining) was detected during the surveys. All areas of suitable habitat were thoroughly searched including trees, cavities, and structures (buildings, sheds, stable). Additionally, although the site contains suitable habitat for the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, this watch list species was not observed during avian surveys. As such, neither species is expected to occur within or surrounding the Study Area.

No other special-status animals have the potential to occur within the Study Area.

4.2.2 Wildlife Movement

During general wildlife surveys, no evidence of wildlife movement was observed within the Study Area. The proposed residence is located within the open space of Runyon Canyon Park which is highly trafficked. The park is a popular hiking location and is widely used, thus reducing the amount of large mammal wildlife activity.

Pursuant to Los Angeles City motion #14-0518⁶, a wildlife connectivity assessment was performed by Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. Their results indicate that mule deer occasionally forage on the ornamental vegetation on site. Since there is nothing in the

⁶ A motion by council members Koretz, Huizar, et al., relative to creating a wildlife corridor in the eastern area of the Santa Monica Mountains, council file no. 14-0518.

proposed development plan that would eliminate such foraging, the proposed impact of new development would not result in any permanent, negative impact to wildlife movement.

4.3 Special-Status Habitats

According to the CNDDB (2008), eight special-status habitats occur within the Burbank quadrangle and the five surrounding quadrangles (Triunfo Pass, Newbury Park, Thousand Oaks, Calabasas, and Malibu Beach) including southern California arroyo chub/Santa Ana sucker stream, Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub, southern coast live oak riparian forest, southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, southern mixed riparian forest, southern sycamore alder riparian woodland, California walnut woodland, and walnut forest. None of the above-mentioned special-status habitats occur within the Study Area. Additionally, none of the habitats occurring within the Study Area are considered special-status⁷.

5.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following discussion examines the potential impacts to plant and wildlife resources that may occur as a result of implementation of the Proposed Project.

Project-related impacts can occur in two forms, direct and indirect. Direct impacts are considered to be those that involve the loss, modification or disturbance of plant communities, which in turn, directly affect the flora and fauna of those habitats. Direct impacts also include the destruction of individual plants or wildlife, which may also directly affect regional population numbers of a species or result in the physical isolation of populations thereby reducing genetic diversity and population stability.

Other impacts, such as loss of foraging habitat, can occur although these areas or habitats are not directly removed by project development; i.e., indirect impacts. Indirect impacts can also involve the effects of increases in ambient levels of noise or light, unnatural predators (i.e., domestic cats and other non-native animals), competition with exotic plants and animals, and increased human disturbance such as hiking, horseback riding, and dumping of green waste on site. Indirect impacts may be associated with the subsequent day-to day activities associated with project build-out, such as increased traffic use, permanent concrete barrier walls or chain link fences, exotic ornamental plantings that provide a local source of seed, etc., which may be both short-term and long-term in their duration. These impacts are commonly referred to as "edge effects," and may result in a slow replacement of native plants by exotics, and changes in the behavioral patterns of wildlife and reduced wildlife diversity and abundances in habitats adjacent to project sites.

⁷ Habitats in California are generally considered special-status when they have either a state ranking of S3or less or global ranking of S3 or less, meaning that there are 50,000 acres or less of such habitats. The native habitats present on site have rankings of either G4S4 or G5S5, indicating that they are either apparently secure or demonstrably secure in California. The natural communities list and state and global rankings can be found at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/vegcamp/natural_comm_list.asp.

The potential for significant adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any special-status plant, animal, or habitat that could occur as a result of project development is discussed below.

5.1 California Environmental Quality Act

5.1.1 Thresholds of Significance

Environmental impacts relative to biological resources are assessed using impact significance threshold criteria, which reflect the policy statement contained in CEQA, Section 21001(c) of the California Public Resources Code. Accordingly, the State Legislature has established it to be the policy of the State of California:

"Prevent the elimination of fish or wildlife species due to man's activities, ensure that fish and wildlife populations do not drop below self-perpetuating levels, and preserve for future generations representations of all plant and animal communities..."

Determining whether a project may have a significant effect, or impact, plays a critical role in the CEQA process. According to CEQA, Section 15064.7 (Thresholds of Significance), each public agency is encouraged to develop and adopt (by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation) thresholds of significance that the agency uses in the determination of the significance of environmental effects. A threshold of significance is an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant. In the development of thresholds of significance for impacts to biological resources CEQA provides guidance primarily in Section 15065, Mandatory Findings of Significance, and the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form. Section 15065(a) states that a project may have a significant effect where:

"The project has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or wildlife community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, ..."

Therefore, for the purpose of this analysis, impacts to biological resources are considered potentially significant (before considering offsetting mitigation measures) if one or more of the following criteria discussed below would result from implementation of the Proposed Project.

5.1.2 Criteria for Determining Significance Pursuant to CEQA

Based on the criteria set forth in the City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006) the Project would have a significant biota impact if it results in the following:

- The loss of individuals, or the reduction of existing habitat, of a state or federally listed endangered, threatened, rare, protected, candidate, or sensitive species or a Species of Special Concern;
- The loss of individuals or the reduction of existing habitat of a locally designated species or a reduction in a locally designated habitat or plant community;
- Interference with wildlife movement/migration corridors that may diminish the chances for long-term survival of a sensitive species;
- The alteration of an existing wetland habitat; or
- Interference with habitat such that normal species behaviors are disturbed (e.g., from the introduction of noise, light) to a degree that may diminish the chances for long-term survival of the sensitive species.

5.2 Direct Impacts to Vegetation Associations and Special-Status Habitats

5.2.1 Grading

Proposed grading impacts for the project total 1.41 acres [Exhibit 4], resulting in impacts to 7 vegetation/land use types (Table 5-1 below). None of the impacted vegetation types are considered special-status by either CDFW, the CNDDB (i.e., vegetation alliances with State rankings of 1, 2 or 3), or the Los Angeles City CEQA Thresholds Guide; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

5.2.2 Fuel Modification

Pursuant to the requirements of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, proposed fuel modification impacts for the proposed residence total 3.33 acres [Exhibit 4], resulting in impacts to 8 vegetation/land use types (Table 5-1 below). None of the impacted vegetation types are considered special-status by either CDFW, the CNDDB (i.e., vegetation alliances with State rankings of 1, 2 or 3), or the Los Angeles City CEQA Thresholds Guide; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5-1. Summary of Direct Impacts to Vegetation/Land Use Types

Impacted Vegetation/Land Use Type	Area (Acres)
PROPOSED GRADING	
Developed	0.01
Developed/Existing Residential	0.15
FMZ/Mixed Chaparral	0.44

Mixed Chaparral	0.06
Ornamental	0.33
FMZ	0.31
Turf	0.12
Proposed Development subtotal	1.41
PROPOSED FUEL MODIFICATION	
Cliff	0.41
FMZ	1.12
FMZ/Mixed Chaparral	1.01
Mixed Chaparral	0.56
Non-Native Grassland	0.08
Ruderal	0.12
Sugar bush	0.01
Toyon	0.02
Offsite subtotal	3.33
Total Impacted Vegetation/Land Use Acreage	4.74

5.3 Special-Status Plants

No special-status plants were detected during focused surveys, and therefore no impacts to special-status plants would be associated with the Proposed Project.

5.3.1 City of Los Angeles Protected Trees

One California walnut tree, which is subject to the protected tree ordinance of the City of Los Angeles, occurs within the Study Area [Exhibit 3]; however, this tree is completely avoided by the proposed project and associated fuel modification boundary [Exhibit 4]. Therefore, no impacts to protected trees are associated with the proposed project and no mitigation is required.

5.4 Special-Status Wildlife

No special-status wildlife species were detected during general wildlife surveys. Two special-status species, coastal western whiptail and coast horned lizard, have low to moderate potential to occur within the fuel modification zone and mixed chaparral habitat within the impact area.

Coastal western whiptail is classified as a species of special concern by CDFW, but is not listed in the Los Angeles City CEQA Thresholds Guide or in regional plans, policies, or regulations. The species has low potential to occur within the Study Area and any impacts to this species as a result of the proposed project would be less than significant due to the limited area of impact, its current lack of rarity, and/or overall threat to the species.

Coast horned lizard is classified as a species of special concern by CDFW, and is classified as sensitive by the Los Angeles City CEQA Thresholds Guide, and has low to moderate potential to occur within the Study Area. If present, it would occur in coastal sage scrub and the mixed chaparral/fuel modification zones. The 0.02 acre of coastal sage scrub will not be impacted by the proposed project; however, 0.81 acre of mixed chaparral/fuel modification zone is within the proposed development impact area. If coast horned lizard did occur within this area, it would be in very low numbers, and impacts that could occur from the proposed project would be less than significant.

Therefore, if either of these two species were to occur, potential impacts from the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

Focused surveys for the hoary bat, recommended by CDFW did not detect this species and a careful review of the site found no roosting bats. The project would not impact special-status bats.

5.5 Wildlife Movement

As mentioned previously, a wildlife connectivity assessment was performed by Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. Their results state that the site is occasionally used by wildlife including mule deer; however, due to its location surrounded by open space, the proposed development will not appreciably affect the movement of this and other local species using the site.

5.6 Nesting Birds and Migratory Bird Treaty Act Considerations

The Study Area currently contains groundcover, trees, and shrubs that have the potential to support nesting birds; however, avian surveys were conducted within raptor nesting season and nesting raptors were not observed.

Impacts to migratory nesting birds are prohibited under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)⁸; however, adherence to the MBTA measures would ensure potential impacts would be fully avoided and therefore less than significant.

5.7 Mulholland Specific Plan Streams

Pursuant to the Mulholland Specific Plan (MSP), grading of more than 100 cubic yards is not permitted within 100 feet of streams identified in the MSP. Exhibit 4 depicts drainages as shown on the MSP map 12 of 12. The project has been designed such that grading is a

⁸ The MBTA makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 C.F.R. Part 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 C.F.R.21). In addition, sections 3505, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Department of Fish and Game Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs.

minimum of 100 feet from drainages. Therefore, there is no significant impact to streams in accordance with the MSP.

5.8 Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts to biological resources associated with construction of the Proposed Project are very limited and are associated with lighting and noise.

Lighting

No significant increase in lighting will be associated with the proposed project following construction, as it consists of a single-family residence and exterior lighting would be limited to lighting systems typical of single-family residence. All exterior lighting will be directed downward and will be positioned such that it does not illuminate adjacent native habitats.

Given the lack of special-status species associated with the native habitats adjacent to the Development Area and the minimal amount of new lighting associated with the Proposed Project, lighting impacts to biological resources resulting from the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

Noise

There will be a temporary increase in noise levels during construction; however, noise will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. All construction vehicles and equipment, fixed or mobile, will be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers to minimize noise. Further, construction will be limited to standard construction hours to limit noise impacts.

No significant increase in noise will be associated with use of the proposed project following construction, as it consists of a single-family residence and exterior noise would be limited to occasional vehicle traffic and minor exterior noise (i.e. lawn-mowing) associated with a typical single-family residence.

Given the lack of special-status species associated with the Development Area and adjacent areas of the Study Area, as well as the limited nature of construction noise and lack of long-term noise increase, temporary and permanent noise impacts to biological resources resulting from the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

Human Use

Construction of the Proposed Project would not result in increased human use of the native habitats surrounding the Development Area. Therefore, no impacts from human use would be associated with the Proposed Project.

6.0 MITIGATION MEASURES AND PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

As discussed above, the Proposed Project will result in no significant impacts to special-status plants, wildlife, or special-status habitat. However, the Proposed Project has the potential to impact migratory nesting birds.

6.1 Nesting Birds

The following requirements under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503.5, 3503, and 3513 are to be implemented to ensure that nesting birds are not harmed during project construction. It should be noted that raptor species are not expected to nest within the Development Area due to a lack of suitable habitat:

- 1. If feasible, the removal of vegetation should occur outside of the nesting season, generally recognized as March 15 to August 31 (potentially earlier for raptors). If vegetation removal must occur during the nesting season, then a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey prior to any vegetation removal. If active nests are identified, the biologist shall flag vegetation containing active nests. The biologist shall establish appropriate buffers around active nests to be avoided until the nests are no longer active and the young have fledged. Buffers will based on the species identified, but generally will consist of 50 feet for non-raptors and 300 feet for raptors.
- 2. If for some reason it is not possible to remove all vegetation during the non-nesting season, then vegetation to be removed during the nesting season must be surveyed by a qualified biologist no more than three days prior to removal. If no nesting birds are found, the vegetation can be removed. If nesting birds are detected, then removal must be postponed until the fledglings have vacated the nest or the biologist has determined that the nest has failed. Furthermore, the biologist shall establish an appropriate buffer zone where construction activity may not occur until the fledglings have vacated the nest or the biologist has determined that the nest has failed.

6.2 Protected Trees

Although no impacts to protected trees are anticipated as a result of the proposed project, the walnut tree within 100 feet of the project grading limits will be flagged as a project design feature. Flagging shall be installed under the supervision by the Project Biologist prior to the start of grading and be maintained until completion of construction activity to ensure that the walnut tree is not impacted by any construction activities.

7.0 REFERENCES

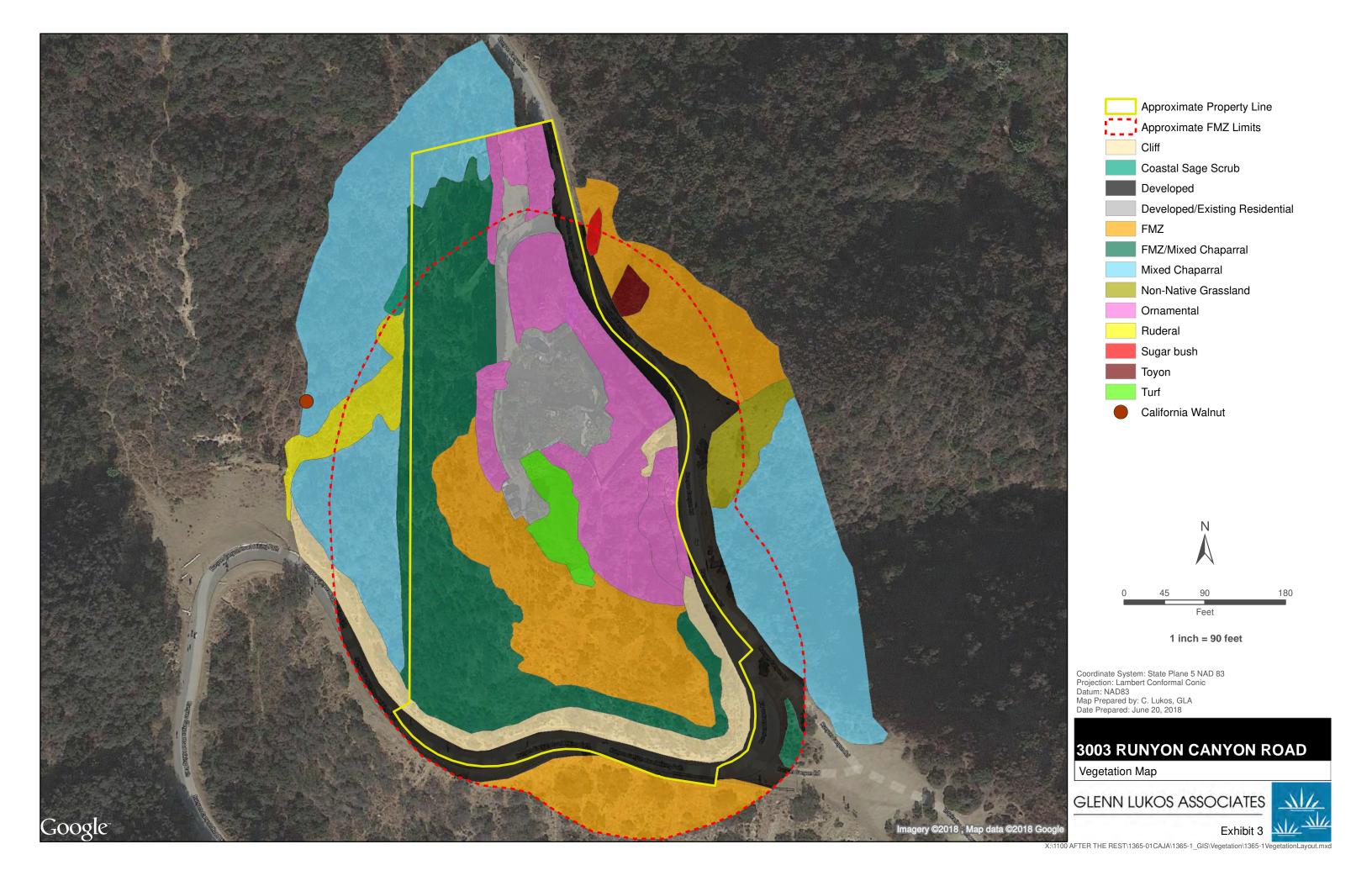
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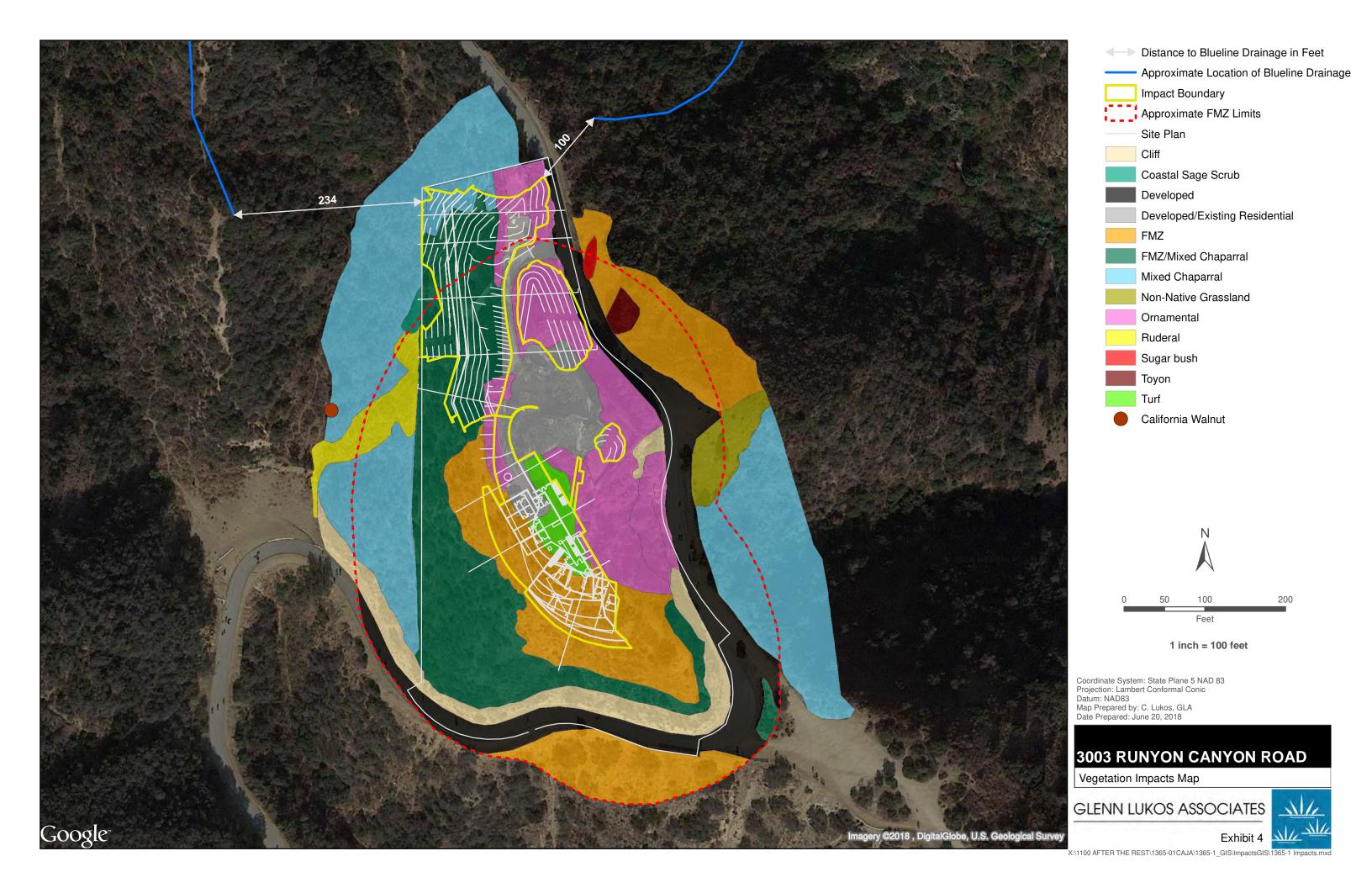
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Exhibit 1

Regional Map







Photograph 1: View of mixed chaparral habitat subject to fuel modification. Vegetation thinned to approximately 50 percent in accordance with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.



Photograph 2: View of existing fuel modification zone, thinned to less than 20 percent.

3003 RUNYON CANYON ROAD

Site Photographs

Site Photographs

APPENDIX A: FLORAL COMPENDIUM

The floral compendium lists species identified on the project site. Taxonomy follows the Jepson Manual (Baldwin et al 2012) and, for sensitive species, the California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Inventory (Tibor 2001). Common plant names are taken from Hickman (1993), Munz (1974), and Roberts et al (2004). An asterisk (*) denotes a non-native species.

Scientific Name

MAGNOLIOPHYTA DICOTYLEDONS

ADOXACEAE

Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea

ANACARDIACEAE

Malosma laurina Rhus integrifolia Rhus ovata Toxicodendron diversilobum *Schinus molle

APIACEAE

Foeniculum vulgare

APOCYNACEAE

*Nerium oleander

ASTERACEAE

Acourtia microcephala
*Ageratina adenophora
Artemisia californica
*Bidens pilosa
Brickellia californica
*Centaurea melitensis
Cirsium occidentale
Conyza Canadensis
Encelia californica
Eriophyllum confertiflorum
Hazardia squarrosa
Malacothrix saxatilis var. saxatilis
Psuedognaphalium biolettii
Psuedognaphalium californicum
*Sonchus oleraceus

Common Name

FLOWERING PLANTS DICOTS

Elderberry Family

blue elderberry

Sumac Family

laurel sumac lemonade berry sugarbush poison oak Peruvian pepper tree

Carrot Family

sweet fennel

Dogbane Family

oleander

Sunflower Family

sacapellote
sticky eupatorium
California sagebrush
common beggar-ticks
California brickellbush
tocalote
cobwebby thistle
common horseweed
California bush sunflower
golden yarrow
saw-tooth goldenbush
cliff aster
bicolored cudweed
California everlasting
common sow-thistle

BORAGINACEAE

Emmenanthe pendulifera Phacelia cicutaria Phacelia distans Phacelia parryii

BRASSICACEAE

*Hirschfeldia incana *Lepidium pinnatifidum

CACTACEAE

Opuntia littoralis

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lonicera subspicata

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Silene laciniata ssp. laciniata

CHENOPODIACEAE

- *Atriplex semibaccata
- *Chenopodium album
- *Salsola tragus

CONVOLVULACEAE

Calystegia macrostegia

EUPHORBIACEAE

Chamaesyce albomarginata

- *Euphorbia maculata
- *Euphorbia peplus
- *Ricinus communis

FABACEAE

Acmispon glaber

GERANIACEAE

*Erodium cicutarium

JUGLANDACEAE

Juglans californica

LAMIACEAE

*Marrubium vulgare

Borage Family

whispering bells caterpillar phacelia common phacelia Parry's phacelia

Mustard Family

summer mustard wayside pepper grass

Cactus Family

prickly pear

Honeysuckle Family

southern honeysuckle

Pink Family

Mexican pink

Goosefoot Family

Australian saltbush lamb's quarters Russian thistle

Morning Glory Family

large-bracted morning glory

Spurge Family

rattlesnake spurge spotted spurge petty spurge castor bean

Legume Family

deerweed

Geranium Family

red-stemmed filaree

Walnut Family

Southern California black walnut

Mint Family

horehound

Salvia columbariae Salvia mellifera

MALVACEAE
*Malva parviflora

MYRTACEAE *Eucalyptus sp.

NYCTAGINACEAE

*Bougainvillea spectabilis Mirabolis laevis var. crassifolia

OLEACEAE

*Jasminum multiflorum Olea europa

ONAGRACEAE

Camissoniopsis micrantha Eulobus californicus

PLANTAGINACEAE

Keckiella cordifolia

POLYGONACEAE

Eriogonum fasciculatum

PRIMULACEAE

*Anagallis arvensis

RHAMNACEAE

Ceanothus megacarpus Ceanothus spinosus

ROSACEAE

Adenostoma fasciculatum Cercocarpus betuloides Heteromeles arbutifolia

RUBIACEAE

Galium angustifolium ssp. angustifolium

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Mimulus auranticus Scrophularia californica chia black sage

Mallow Family

cheeseweed

Myrtle Family eucalyptus

y Franc

Four O'Clock Family great bougainvillea California wishbone bush

Olive Family star jasmine olive

Primrose Family spencer primrose California primrose

Plantain Family climbing penstemon

Buckwheat FamilyCalifornia buckwheat

Primrose Family scarlett pimpernill

Buckthorn Family

bigpod lilac greenbark lilac

Rose Family chamise mountain mahogany toyon

Madder Family narrow-leaved bedstraw

Figwort Family sticky monkey flower California figwort

*Myoporum laetum

SOLANACEAE

*Nicotiana glauca Solanum douglasii

ULMACEAE

*Ulmus parvifolia

MAGNOLIOPHYTA MONOCOTYLEDONES

AGAVECEAE

*Agave Americana Hesperoyucca whipplei

POACEAE

- *Avena barbata
- *Avena fatua
- *Bromus diandrus
- *Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens
- *Hordeum murinum ssp. leporinum

Melica imperfecta

- *Pennisetum setaceum
- *Schismus barbatus

Stipa coronatum

*Stipa miliacea

lollypop tree

Nightshade Family

tree tobacco

Douglas' nightshade

Elm Family

Chinese Elm

FLOWERING PLANTS MONOCOTS

Agave Family

century plant our lord's candle

Grass Family

slender oat

wild oat

ripgut brome

foxtail chess

foxtail barley

small-flowered melic

fountain grass

father of the earth

giant needlegrass

smilo grass

APPENDIX B: FAUNAL COMPENDIA

Vertebrates identified in the field by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other signs are cited according to the nomenclature of Collins (1997) for amphibians and reptiles, AOU (1998) for birds, and Jones et al. (1992) for mammals.

LEGEND

Presence of animals noted by direct sighting, call identification or observation of tracks, scat or other signs

- † Denotes species not observed but expected to occur on site
- * Denotes non-native species

TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES

REPTILES

IGUANIDAE - IGUANID LIZARDS

Sceloporus occidentalis
western fence lizard
† Uta stansburiana
side-blotched lizard

COLUBRIDAE - COLUBRID SNAKES

- † Pituophis melanoleucus gopher snake
- † Lampropeltis getulus common kingsnake

BIRDS

CATHARTIDAE - NEW WORLD VULTURES

† Cathartes aura turkey vulture

ACCIPITRIDAE - HAWKS

Buteo jamaicensis red-tailed hawk

PHASIANIDAE - PHEASANTS & QUAILS

Callipepla californica California quail

APODIDAE - PIGEONS & DOVES

Zenaida macroura mourning dove

COLUMBIDAE - SWIFTS

Aeronautes saxatalis
White-throated swift

TROCHILIDAE - HUMMINGBIRDS

† Calypte anna
Anna's hummingbird
Selasphorus sasin
Allen's hummingbird

PICIDAE - WOODPECKERS

Picoides nuttallii
Nuttall's woodpecker

TYRANNIDAE - TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

† Sayornis nigricans black phoebe

† Sayornis saya Say's phoebe

CORVIDAE - JAYS & CROWS

Aphelocoma californica Western scrub-jay

- † Corvus brachyrhynchos American crow
- † Corvus corax common raven

AEGITHALIDAE - BUSHTITS

Psaltriparus minimus bushtit

TROGLODYTIDAE - WRENS

Thryomanes bewickii
Bewick's wren
Troglodytes aedon
house wren

POLIOPTILIDAE - GNATCATCHERS

Polioptila caerulea
Blue-gray gnatcatcher

MUSCICAPIDAE - KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS, THRUSHES & BABBLERS

Chamaea fasciata wrentit

MIMIDAE - THRASHERS

Mimus polyglottos
Northern mockingbird

STURNIDAE - STARLINGS

*† Sturnus vulgaris
European starling

PTILIOGONATIDAE - common name?

Phainopepla nitens
Phainopepla

PARULIDAE - WOOD WARBLERS

† Setophaga coronata yellow-rumped warbler

EMBERIZIDAE - SPARROWS, BUNTINGS, WARBLERS, & RELATIVES

Melozone crissalis
California towhee

Pipilo maculatus
spotted towhee

† Melospiza melodia
song sparrow

† Zonotrichia leucophrys
white-crowned sparrow

ICTERIDAE - BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES

† Euphagus cyanocephalus Brewer's blackbird

FRINGILLIDAE - FINCHES

Carpodacus mexicanus house finch Carduelis psaltria lesser goldfinch

PASSERIDAE - OLD WORLD SPARROWS

*† Passer domesticus house sparrow

MAMMALS

DIDELPHIDAE - NEW WORLD OPOSSUMS

†* Didelphis virginiana Virginia opossum

VESPERTILIONIDAE - EVENING BATS

† *Myotis spp*. myotis bat

GEOMYIDAE - POCKET GOPHERS

† Thomomys bottae

Botta's pocket gopher

MURIDAE - MICE, RATS, AND VOLES

† Peromyscus maniculatus deer mouse

PROCYONIDAE - RACCOONS

† Procyon lotor Raccoon

CERVIDAE - DEER

† Odocoileus hemionus Mule Deer

CANIDAE - CANINES

† Canius latrans Coyote