2020020349

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Approximately 5 acres within the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, just south of the Willow Staging Area. The site occupies the mouth of Rattlesnake Canyon where it enters Laguna Canyon.	**COUNTY**	Orange
LEAD AGENCY	CalFire		
CONTACT	Mike Rohde, Project Manager	**PHONE**	(949) 464-6683
ADDRESS	505 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, CA 92651		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Laguna Beach Fire Department (LBFD) has partnered with the Orange County Fire Authority and Orange County Parks to implement the Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project. The Project site comprises five acres within Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and occupies the mouth of Rattlesnake Canyon where it enters Laguna Canyon. The site is accessed via Willow Canyon Road on the west side of State Route 133, approximately 0.9 mile south of State Route 73. The Project site is surrounded by oak woodland and coastal sage scrub vegetation on either side of the canyon and is bounded on the down-canyon side by the Stagecoach South fire road. A small ephemeral drainage crosses through the restoration area from west to east. The restoration activities would include approximately 3.9 acres of habitat restoration through installation of container plants, trees, and seed of native plant species, and approximately 1.1 acres of habitat enhancement through targeted invasive species control. No planting or the use of heavy equipment would occur within the ephemeral drainage, and restoration activities on the surrounding slopes and in culturally sensitive areas would be limited to weed management.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 33 §15333 Small Habitat Restoration Projects
- [ ] Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- [ ] Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- [ ] Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- [ ] Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project can be categorized as Class 33 Small Habitat Restoration Projects per CEQA Guideline Section 15333, which states: "Class 33 consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided that:

(a) There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065,
(b) There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed, and
(c) The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.
(d) Examples of small restoration projects may include, but are not limited to:
(1) revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species."

The Project satisfies the requirements for a Class 33 exemption. Site surveys have concluded that there would be no significant impact on an endangered, rare or threatened species, and there are no hazardous materials at or near the site. The Project would not be cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with other projects. A Notice of Exemption would satisfy CEQA requirements for the Project and is not negated by any "exception" described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment and is considered exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.

Documentation of the environmental review completed by the LBFD is kept on file at 505 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, CA 92651.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 18 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director 2/14/20
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed CAL FIRE project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents CAL FIRE's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the Department.

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Project Name:	Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project
Project Number:	17-FP-ORC-2013
Program Type:	SRA
CAL FIRE Unit:	ORC
County:	Orange
Acres:	5 acres
Legal Location:	T07S, R08W and T07S, R09W; APNs: 495-011-03, 495-011-30, 495-011-31
Name of USGS 7.5'Quad Map(s):	Laguna Beach Quadrangle

☒Project Vicinity Map Attached ☒Project Location Map Attached ☒Photos Attached

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:

Would the project result in:	YES	NO
alterations to a watercourse (DFG - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	☐	☒
conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	☐	☒
demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	☐	☒
soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)	☐	☒
fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	☐	☒
other:	☐	☒

Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:

Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

The Laguna Beach Fire Department (LBFD) has partnered with the Orange County Fire Authority and Orange County Parks to implement the Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project. The Project site comprises five acres within Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and occupies the mouth of Rattlesnake Canyon where it enters Laguna Canyon (see Figures 1 and 2). The site is accessed via Willow Canyon Road on the west side of State Route (SR) 133, approximately 0.9 mile south of SR 73. The Project site is surrounded by oak woodland and coastal sage scrub vegetation on either side of the canyon and is bounded on the down-canyon side by the Stagecoach South Trail. A small ephemeral drainage crosses through the restoration area from west to east.

The Project site has been highly disturbed. Recent disturbances, such as cattle ranching, have contributed to degradation of the native vegetative communities and introduced non-native plant species. During construction of SR 73, significant loose soil eroded downstream across SR 133. This loose soil was deposited to the side of SR 133, including within the Project area. Ongoing maintenance activities at the site include mowing.

The proposed restoration activities would include approximately 3.9 acres of habitat restoration through installation of container plants, trees, and seed of native plant species, and approximately 1.1 acres of habitat enhancement through targeted invasive species control. The Project design has been modified based on the location of cultural resource environmental sensitive areas (ESAs) within the site as described in the CAL FIRE Archaeological Survey Report Form[1]. Restoration activities within the ESAs would be limited to weed management. No planting or the use of equipment would occur within 25

[1] Macko, Michael E. 2020. An Archaeological Survey Report for the Rattlesnake Restoration Project, Orange County, California. Prepared for CAL FIRE. January. Aspen Environmental Group. Confidential.

feet of either side of the ephemeral drainage (total buffer length of 50 feet across). Activities within this 50-foot buffer would be limited to herbicide application.

A detailed Project Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan is included as Attachment 1 to this Environmental Review Report. The following is a summary of the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan.

Site Preparation. Stagecoach South Trail would remain open to the public during Project implementation. However, temporary fencing and signage would be installed along the boundary of the Project site adjacent to Stagecoach South Trail to protect restoration efforts and ensure public safety. The ESAs would be staked in the field with temporary fencing or appropriate flagging. Site preparation would begin with the removal of non-native vegetation within the upland, riparian and riparian transitional, and wildflower-grassland meadow areas using a combination of brush-cutting, hand-pulling, and herbicide application. Trash and non-hazardous debris would be removed and disposed of in a landfill; such debris may include removing sandbags from previous flood mitigation activities. Outside of the ESAs, thatch from non-native annual grasses and weeds would be removed by raking and hauling off site. No raking would occur within the ESAs. To avoid unintentional removal of cultural resources within the ESAs, standing vegetation would be removed from the site immediately following cutting; however, cut vegetation on the ground would not be raked or otherwise removed.

Transient encampments or materials deemed to be hazardous to remove would be reported directly to the City of Laguna Beach Police Department for removal.

Planting. The Project would incorporate the following planting plan and methodology:

- Source of Plant Materials: To the degree feasible, plant material would originate from wild sources within coastal Orange County to maximize the chance of long-term success of the restoration plantings and to preserve regional genetic integrity.
- Plant Placement: Planting areas would be established in areas devoid of native vegetation. Container plants and seed would be distributed in a manner mimicking natural plant distribution (i.e., clusters and islands, proper spacings) within analogous areas in the Laguna Canyon Creek watershed. Special care would be given to increase the diversity and complexity of the vegetation structure to support the maximum amount of wildlife. All seed would be hand-broadcast and imprinted using a weighted seed roller. No container plantings would occur within the ESAs.
- Planting Methods for Container Stock: All container stock would be thoroughly watered prior to planting. Holes would be dug at least two times the diameter of the plant container and two times the container depth. Holes would be filled with water and allowed to drain immediately before planting is to occur. Holes would be backfilled with tamped native soil so that no air pockets remain and so that the top of the root ball is set one half inch above finish grade. On sloped areas, a level watering basin with a three-inch hand-packed earth berm approximately 36 inches in diameter would be constructed around each plant. Each plant would be thoroughly watered-in immediately after planting.
- Mulching: Sterile, weed-free, wood-chip-based, non-composted mulch may be applied around plants as judged necessary by the Project Biologist. Alternatively, plant shelters may be used. The Project Biologist, in consultation with the Park Ecologist, would determine which approach(es) to use depending on site conditions and other factors.

Irrigation Plan. Irrigation after plant installation would be applied through hand watering using a water trailer with a pump and hose reel and/or a utility-vehicle-mounted spray rig with hose reel. Water tanks would be refilled at the Project staging area, outside of the ESAs. Supplemental irrigation would be used solely for the establishment of plants within the planted areas and would be applied judiciously to minimize container plant mortality while preventing excess weed growth. Care would be taken to avoid watering already-established native vegetation. New plantings would be irrigated for as long as is necessary to establish root systems in the native soil, likely for the first two to three dry seasons. If normal rainfall does not materialize in the wet seasons, supplemental irrigation may be used to mimic the average rainfall for the season. As plants become established, watering events would become longer and farther apart (i.e., once every two to three weeks) to encourage deeper root growth.

Equipment. During non-native vegetation removal activities, the following equipment/methods would be employed.

- Non-Native Vegetation Removal: Methods may include hand-pulling, the use of hand tools such as loppers and hand saws, and the use of hand-held power equipment such as chainsaws and brush cutters.
- Non-Native Vegetation Treatment: Handheld squeeze bottles would be used for cut-stump application whenever possible. Backpack sprayers would be used when foliar treatment is necessary. A utility vehicle with a spray rig may be used in some areas for hand-watering and/or weed management.
- Revegetation: A hand-held power auger and/or shovels may be used to dig planting holes.

Staging Area. The main staging areas for equipment, vehicles and materials will be the area immediately adjacent to the parking lot at the Willow Staging Area. A parking and turnaround area will be designated immediately adjacent to Stagecoach South Trail near the disturbed dirt mound within the project site so that this thoroughfare will remain passable to maintenance and emergency vehicles at all times. This parking and turnaround area will be restored after the completion of other restoration activities.

Management Activities. The following management activities would be implemented during the plant establishment period:

- Weed Management: The Project site shall be subject to weed management throughout the plant establishment period. All personnel would be trained to distinguish weed species from native vegetation. Weeds would be removed or treated before they go to seed. Weeds would be hand-pulled wherever feasible. When herbicide is deemed necessary, an appropriate pesticide would be chosen and applied by a qualified applicator according to the label in the minimum amount and concentration needed for effective control.
- Remedial Planting and Seeding: All terminally diseased, dead or declining container plants would be replaced during the appropriate planting season as recommended by the Project Biologist. Replacement plants shall conform to the species, size requirements and spacing as specified for the plants being replaced. Since the successful establishment of plants from seed would be entirely dependent on natural rainfall, remedial seeding may be necessary depending on the conditions experienced on the site during the first growing season.

Monitoring. Monitoring would assess attainment of Project goals and objectives as well as identify the need to implement contingency measures in the event restoration is not successful:

- Qualitative Monitoring. The Project Biologist shall conduct brief qualitative monitoring surveys once per month for the first 18 months and once quarterly thereafter until the monitoring/maintenance period ends, to ensure that maintenance tasks are being performed as required. General observations such as plant fitness and health, presence of weeds and sufficiency of weed management, pest problems, plant mortality rates, irrigation or erosion control issues, and wildlife observations shall be noted. The Project Biologist shall determine any remedial measures necessary to enable the success of the Project. A qualitative evaluation monitoring sheet would be filled out and kept on record by the Project Biologist and referenced in annual reports.
- Photo Documentation. Fixed photo points shall be established prior to large-scale plant installation. Photo points would be monumented and GPS coordinates and directional bearings would be recorded to ensure that photo documentation is consistent and comparable year to year. Photos shall be taken annually thereafter to document the condition and progress of the Project.
- Annual Reports: Annual reports shall be prepared by the Project Biologist, beginning the first year after installation and continuing until the monitoring/maintenance period ends. Reports shall be submitted to LBFD, Orange County Parks, and pertinent regulatory agencies on an annual basis.

Workforce. Initial weed removal, plant installation, and maintenance shall be performed by qualified Landscape Contractors who would be required to demonstrate experience in these areas. Contractors applying herbicide shall provide proof of being a licensed Pesticide Applicator to the Project Biologist prior to implementation.

Schedule. Restoration activities would begin within 30 days of reception of official notice of Categorical Exemption from the requirements of CEQA and end no later than March 1, 2022. Special consideration would be given to ensure compliance during the bird breeding and nesting season (February 15 through August 31). Revegetation would be implemented primarily during the optimal planting period (generally November 15 to March 1) depending on weather conditions, as well as occasionally outside of the optimal planting period when resources are available to properly irrigate plants during the dry season.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Aesthetics

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Project activities would be located in a prominent area of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park that is visible from Stagecoach South Trail and SR 133. The Project site is currently overgrown with invasive, non-native species. While the construction equipment and crews required for weed removal and restoration would be temporarily visible, the proposed Project would result in a long-term improvement to the aesthetics of the Project area. No scenic resources outside of the Project site (e.g., scenic highway) would be affected by the Project.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ Yes ☒ No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land/timberland to non-forest use?

☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project would remove non-native annual grasses and forbs within a five-acre area of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. No forest or agricultural resources would be affected by the Project.

Air Quality

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ Yes ☐ No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Hand-held power equipment such as chainsaws and brush cutters may be used as part of the proposed non-native vegetation removal. Air quality permitting is not required for small portable or hand-held equipment under 50 horsepower. Given the limited equipment use that would be required for Project implementation, there would be no impact associated with air quality.

Biological Resources

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ Yes ☐ No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
☒ Yes ☐ No Was a current NDDB review completed? Results discussed below:
☒ Yes ☐ No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

An in-depth biological resources study was performed for the Project and is retained by the City of Laguna Beach. As part of this study, a thorough review of available literature to identify special status plants and animals known from the vicinity of the Project site was performed, which included searches of the California Natural Diversity Database (May 2019) for the following USGS 7½ minute topographic quadrangles: El Toro, Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano, and Tustin. The literature review also included the California Native Plant Society On-line Electronic Inventory (May 2019), Consortium of California Herbaria data (May 2019), iNaturalist (May 2019), and eBird (May 2019). Tables 1 and 2 list all special-status species identified during the literature review that have a potential to be present and summarizes their habitat, distribution, conservation status, and probability of occurrence on the site.

On April 30, 2019, Justin M. Wood, Senior Biologist with Aspen Environmental Group, surveyed the Project site for special-status plants and animals. Mr. Wood also conducted a habitat assessment for other special-status species. Table 3 includes a list of all observed species. Photos from the site survey are provided at the end of this report.

No special-status plant species are known from the Project site and none were observed during the site survey. One special-status plant, paniculate tarplant, has a CRPR of 4.2 (which is a "watch list," not an indicator of rarity) and may be present on the site, although not observed during the site survey. However, impacts to paniculate tarplant, should it occur, generally would not be considered significant under CEQA.

No special-status animal species are known from the Project site and none were observed during the site survey, although federally listed coastal California gnatcatcher and several other special-status animals have potential to be present. Impacts to California gnatcatcher habitat would not be significant given the lack of suitable coastal sage scrub habitat for California

gnatcatcher within the Project site and the abundance of coastal sage scrub in the surrounding open space. However, California gnatcatcher have a moderate potential to forage within the Project site and are expected to be occasionally present in the open space surrounding the Project site. The Project is not expected to result in significant impacts to California gnatcatcher because of their ability to move away from the Project activities outside of nesting season and because limited work is proposed during the nesting season. With the implementation of Project, as described, the Project is not expected to take or adversely impact California gnatcatcher or any other special-status species.

Table 1. Special-status Plants Known from the Vicinity of the Project Site with a Potential to be Present

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Potential to Occur
PLANTS				
Brodiaea filifolia **Thread-leaved brodiaea**	Clay soils; coastal scrub; valley and foothill grasslands; vernal pools; moist open grassy areas on gentle slopes, surrounded by chaparral, woodlands, Approx. 80-2900 ft. elev.	Mar-Jun	Fed: **THR** CA: **END**, S2 CRPR: 1B.1	**Minimal.** Minimally suitable habitat is present, not observed during focused survey.
Calochortus catalinae **Catalina mariposa lily**	Perennial herb; clay soils in grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and woodlands; Approx. 50-2300 ft. elev.	Mar-Jun	Fed: none CA: S3S4 CRPR: 4.2	**Low.** Minimally suitable habitat is present, not observed during focused survey.
Calochortus weedii var. *intermedius* **Intermediate mariposa-lily**	Perennial herb; rocky, calcareous soils, chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands with dry, rocky open slopes and rock outcrops. Approx. 300-2800 ft. elev.	May-Jul	Fed: none CA: S2 CRPR: 1B.2	**Low.** Minimally suitable habitat present adjacent to the Project site, not observed during focused survey.
Centromadia parryi ssp. australis **Southern tarplant**	Annual herb; margins of marshes and swamps, native grasslands, and vernal pools; Approx. 0-1500 ft. elev.	May-Nov	Fed: none CA: S2 CRPR: 1B.1	**Minimal.** Minimally suitable habitat present, not observed during focused survey.
Deinandra paniculata **Paniculate tarplant**	Annual herb; mesic or sand sites in coastal scrub, vernal pools, and native grasslands, Approx. 80-3000 ft. elev.	Apr-Nov	Fed: none CA: S4 CRPR: 4.2	**Moderate.** Suitable habitat is present, not observed during focused survey.
Dudleya multicaulis **Many-stemmed dudleya**	Perennial herb; clay soils and outcrops in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and native grasslands, Approx. 50-2600 ft. elev.	Apr-Jul	Fed: none CA: S2 CRPR: 1B.2	**Moderate.** Suitable habitat is present along the margins of the Project site, known from within 0.25 miles, not observed during focused survey.
Dudleya stolonifera **Laguna Beach dudleya**	Perennial stoloniferous herb; rocky habitats in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, and native grasslands, Approx. 30-850 ft. elev.	May-Jul	Fed: **THR** CA: **THR**, S1 CRPR: 1B.1	**Moderate.** Suitable habitat is present along the margins of the Project site, known from within 0.25 miles, not observed during focused survey.
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula* **Mesa horkelia**	Perennial herb; sandy or gravelly soils in oak woodlands and coastal scrub; Approx. 200-2700 ft. elev.	Feb-Jul	Fed: none CA: S1 CRPR: 1B.1	**Low.** Marginally suitable habitat present around the margins of the Project site, not observed during focused survey.
Microseris douglasii ssp. *platycarpha* **Douglas' silverpuffs**	Annual herb; clay soils in grasslands, coastal sage scrub, woodlands, and vernal pools; Approx. 50-2000 ft. elev.	Mar-Jun	Fed: none CA: S4 CRPR: 4.2	**Low.** Minimally suitable habitat is present, not observed during focused survey.
Pentachaeta aurea ssp. *allenii* **Allen's pentachaeta**	Annual herb; openings in coastal sage scrub and native grasslands; Approx. 250-1700 ft. elev.	Mar-Jun	Fed: none CA: S1 CRPR: 1B.1	**Low.** Minimally suitable habitat is present, not observed during focused survey.

Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum **White rabbit-tobacco**	Perennial herb; sandy and gravelly soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland; Approx. 0-6900 ft. elev.	Jul-Dec	Fed: none CA: S2 CRPR: 2B.2	**Minimal.** Minimally suitable habitat is present, not observed during focused surveys.
Quercus dumosa **Nuttall's scrub oak**	Evergreen shrub; sandy or clay soils in coastal scrub, chaparral, and confer forest; Approx. 50-1300 ft elev.	Year-round	Fed: none CA: S3 CRPR: 1B.1	**Minimal.** Minimally suitable habitat is present, no records within 5 miles, not observed during focused survey.
Verbesina dissita **Big-leaved crownbeard**	Perennial herb; maritime chaparral and coastal scrub; Approx. 150-700 ft. elev.	Apr-Jul	Fed: **THR** CA: **THR**, S1 CRPR: 1B.1	**Minimal.** Minimally suitable habitat is present, no records within 5 miles, not observed during focused survey.

General references (botany): Baldwin et al., 2012; CDFW, 2019; CNPS, 2019; and CHH, 2019.

Conservation Status

Federal designations (Fed): (federal ESA, USFWS).

END: Federally listed, endangered.
THR: Federally listed, threatened.
Delisted: Previously Federally listed and formally delisted.

State designations (CA): (CESA, CDFW, Fish and Game Commission)

END: State listed, endangered.
THR: State listed, threatened.
RARE: State designated rare, may not be taken without permit from CDFW.
SC: Species of Special Concern
WL: Watch List

California Rare Plant Rank designations. Note: According to the California Native Plant Society (http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/ranking.php), plants ranked as CRPR 1A, 1B, and 2 meet definitions as threatened or endangered and are eligible for state listing. That interpretation of the state Endangered Species Act is not in general use.

1A: Plants presumed extinct in California.
1B: Plants rare and endangered in California and throughout their range.
2A: Plants presumed extinct in California but more common elsewhere in their range.
2B: Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California but more common elsewhere in their range.
3: Plants about which we need more information; a review list.
4: Plants of limited distribution; a watch list.

California Rare Plant Rank Threat designation 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)

Definitions of occurrence probability: Estimated occurrence probabilities are based on literature sources cited earlier, field surveys, and habitat analyses reported here.

Present: Observed on the site by qualified biologists.
High: Habitat is a type often utilized by the species and the site is within the known range of the species.
Moderate: Site is within the known range of the species and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used.
Low: Site is within the species' known range but habitat is rarely used, or the species was not found during focused surveys covering less than 100% of potential habitat or completed in marginal seasons.
Minimal: No suitable habitat on the site; or well outside the species' known elevational or geographic ranges; or a focused study covering 100% of all suitable habitat, completed during the appropriate season and during a year of appropriate rainfall, did not detect the species.

Table 2. Special-status Animals Known from the Vicinity of the Project Site with a Potential to be Present

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Potential to Occur
INVERTEBRATES				
Bombus crotchii **Crotch bumble bee**	Coastal Calif. in sage scrub and chaparral. Food plant genera include *Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia,* and *Eriogonum.*	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: S1S2	**Low.** Suitable habitat and food plants present, one historic record from Laguna Beach, not observed during survey.

Danaus plexippus pop. 1 **Monarch - California overwintering population**	Winter roost sites from Baja Calif. north to Mendocino Co. Roosts in protected tree groves including Eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and cypresses.	Winter	Fed: none CA: S2S3	**Minimal.** No suitable roost sites are present that would support overwintering monarchs, not observed during survey.
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS				
Anniella stebbinsi **Southern California legless lizard**	Costal Calif. from the Transverse Range south to Baja Calif. Moist loose soils under vegetation in a variety of habitats.	Year-round	Fed: none CA: SC, S3	**Moderate.** Marginally suitable sandy habitat in Project site, one historic record from Laguna Beach, not observed during survey.
Aspidoscelis hyperythra **Orange-throated whiptail**	So. Calif. in low-elevation coastal scrub, chaparral, and valley-foothill hardwood habitats. Prefers sandy soils.	Spring-summer	Fed: none CA: S3	**High.** Suitable habitat is present in Project site, known from the vicinity of the Project site, not observed during survey.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri **Coastal whiptail**	Found primarily in hot and dry open areas with sparse foliage - chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S3	**High.** Suitable habitat is present in Project site, known from the vicinity of the Project site, not observed during survey.
Crotalus ruber **Red-diamond rattlesnake**	Chaparral, woodlands, and grasslands, from San Diego and Orange Cos. Found in rocky areas with dense vegetation.	Spring-summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S3	**High.** Suitable habitat is present in Project site, known from the vicinity of the Project site, not observed during survey.
Phrynosoma blainvillii **Coast horned lizard**	Found in open areas of sandy soil and low vegetation in valleys, foothills and semiarid mountains, grasslands, coniferous forests, woodlands, and chaparral, with open areas and patches of loose soil.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S3S4	**Moderate.** Suitable habitat is present, known from the vicinity of the Project site, not observed during survey.
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea **Coast patch-nosed snake**	Coastal So. Calif. in coastal sage scrub. Mainly found in brushy or shrubby vegetation.	Spring-summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S2S3	**Minimal.** Marginally suitable habitat present, no records within 5 miles of the Project site, not observed during survey.
BIRDS				
Accipiter cooperii **Cooper's hawk**	Hunts in broken woodland and habitat edges. Nests in dense stands of live oak, riparian deciduous or other forest habitats near water used most frequently.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: WL, S4	**High (foraging).** Suitable foraging habitat is present throughout the area, not observed during survey. **Moderate (nesting).** Suitable nest sites are present in the oak trees adjacent to but not within the Project site.
Agelaius tricolor **Tricolored blackbird**	Common is wetlands and grasslands dominated by cattails and tall grasses. Once common in So Calif., now much less common.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: **THR**, SC, S1S2	**Low (foraging).** Suitable foraging habitat is present throughout, not observed during survey. **Low (nesting).** Minimally suitable grass nesting habitat is present, no recent records in vicinity.

Aimophila ruficeps canescens **Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow**	Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches; also, grassy slopes without shrubs, if rock outcrops are present.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: WL, S3	**High (foraging).** Suitable foraging habitat is present throughout, not observed during survey. **Moderate (nesting).** Suitable nesting habitat present.
Ammodramus savannarum **Grasshopper sparrow**	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S3	**Moderate (forging and nesting).** Marginally suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present in the Project site, not observed during survey.
Athene cunicularia **Burrowing owl**	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S3	**Minimal (foraging and nesting).** Minimally suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present, not observed during survey.
Buteo regalis **Ferruginous hawk**	Open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and fringes of pinyon and juniper habitats. Nests in mid-western U.S. Migrates through So. Calif.	Spring and Fall	Fed: none CA: WL, S3S4	**Low (foraging).** Suitable foraging habitat is present, and birds may sporadically migrate through the region, not observed during survey. **Absent (nesting).** Does not nest in region.
Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis **Coastal cactus wren**	The key habitat element is thickets of chollas (*Opuntia prolifera*) or prickly-pear cacti (*O. littoralis, O. oricola*) tall enough to support and protect the birds' nests. Suitable conditions are found on south-facing slopes, at bases of hillsides, or in dry washes	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S3	**Low (foraging).** Marginally suitable foraging habitat present throughout, not observed during survey. **Minimal (nesting).** Suitable nesting habitat is not present.
Elanus leucurus **White-tailed kite**	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: FP, S3S4	**High (foraging).** Suitable foraging habitat throughout, not observed during survey. **Minimal (nesting).** No suitable nesting habitat.
Eremophila alpestris actia **California horned lark**	Coastal Calif. from Sonoma Co. south to San Diego Co. Also, main part of San Joaquin Valley and east to foothills.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: WL, S4	**Low (foraging and nesting).** Marginally suitable habitat present, known from the vicinity, not observed during survey.
Polioptila californica californica **Coastal California gnatcatcher**	Coastal sage scrub obligates; will utilize adjacent habitats, including grasslands, chaparral, and riparian habitats for foraging and dispersal.	Year-round	Fed: THR CA: SC, S2	**Moderate (foraging).** Suitable foraging habitat is present within the project site but none observed during survey. **Minimal (nesting).** Coastal sage scrub on adjacent slopes provides suitable habitat but suitable nesting habitat is absent in the project site.
MAMMALS				
Eumops perotis californicus **Western mastiff bat**	Lowlands; Cent. And S Calif., S Ariz., NM, SW Tex., N Mexico; roost in deep rock crevices, forage over wide area	Year-round	Fed: none CA: SC, S3S4	**Moderate (foraging and roosting).** Suitable foraging and roosting habitat present, no bats observed during survey.

Myotis yumanensis **Yuma myotis**	Common and widespread, optimal habitat is open forests and woodlands but can be found over water sources such as ponds, streams, and stock tanks. Roosts buildings, mines, caves, or crevices.	Year-round	Fed: none CA: S4	**Moderate (foraging and roosting).** Suitable foraging and roosting habitat present, no bats observed during survey.
Neotoma lepida intermedia **San Diego desert woodrat**	Coastal scrub from San Diego Co. to San Luis Obispo Co. in dense canopies with rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	Year-round	Fed: none CA: SC, S3S4	**High.** Suitable habitat present surrounding the Project site, no middens observed during survey.
Nyctinomops macrotis **Big free-tailed bat**	Low-lying arid habitats in So. Calif. Roosts on cliffs and in rock outcrops. Forages in a variety of habitats and feeds on large moths.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none CA: SC, S3	**Low (foraging and roosting).** Suitable foraging and roosting habitat present, one record from Orange County, none observed during survey.

Table 3. Species Observed on the Project Site

Latin Name		Common Name
VASCULAR PLANTS		
Dicotyledons		
ADOXACEAE		MUSKROOT FAMILY
	Sambucus nigra ssp. *cerulea*	Blue elderberry
ANACARDIACEAE		SUMAC or CASHEW FAMILY
	Malosma laurina	Laurel sumac
	Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade berry
	Toxicodendron diversilobum	Western poison oak
APIACEAE		CELERY FAMILY
*	*Conium maculatum*	Poison hemlock
	Daucus pusillus	Wild carrot
	Sanicula crassicaulis	Pacific sanicle
ASTERACEAE		ASTER FAMILY
	Artemisia californica	California sagebrush
	Baccharis pilularis	Coyote brush
	Baccharis salicifolia	Mule fat
	Brickellia californica	California brickellbush
*	*Carduus pycnocephalus*	Italian thistle
*	*Centaurea melitensis*	Tocalote
	Encelia californica	California encelia
	Ericameria pinifolia	Pine goldenbush
*	*Erigeron bonariensis*	Flax-leaved horseweed
	Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph weed
*	*Hypochaeris glabra*	Smooth cat's-ear
	Isocoma menziesii	Coastal goldenbush
*	*Logfia gallica*	Daggerleaf cottonrose
	Pseudognaphalium californicum	California everlasting
	Rafinesquia californica	California chicory
*	*Sonchus asper* ssp. *asper*	*Prickly sow thistle*
*	*Sonchus oleraceus*	*Common sow thistle*
	Stephanomeria virgata	Wreath plant
BORAGINACEAE		BORAGE OR WATERLEAF FAMILY
	Amsinckia intermedia	Large flower rancher's fiddleneck
	Cryptantha intermedia	Common cryptantha

	Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia	Common eucrypta
	Phacelia ramosissima	Branching phacelia
	Phacelia parryi	Parry's phacelia
BRASSICACEAE		MUSTARD FAMILY
*	*Hirschfeldia incana*	Shortpod mustard
	Lepidium lasiocarpum	Sand peppergrass
*	*Raphanus sativus*	Wild radish
CARYOPHYLLACEAE		PINK FAMILY, CARNATION FAMILY
*	*Polycarpon tetraphyllum* var. *tetraphyllum*	Four-leaved allseed
*	*Silene gallica*	Small-flower catchfly, windmill pink
CHENOPODIACEAE		GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
*	*Chenopodium album (?)*	Lamb's quarters, common goosefoot
*	*Salsola tragus*	Russian thistle
CONVOLVULACEAE		MORNING GLORY FAMILY
	Calystegia macrostegia	Island morning glory
CRASSULACEAE		STONECROP FAMILY
	Dudleya lanceolata	Southern California dudleya
	Dudleya pulverulenta	Chalk dudleya
CUCURBITACEAE		CUCUMBER FAMILY
	Marah macrocarpa	Chilicothe
EUPHORBIACEAE		SPURGE FAMILY
	Croton setiger	Turkey-mullein, doveweed
	Euphorbia albomarginata	Rattlesnake sandmat,
*	*Euphorbia maculata*	Spotted spurge
FABACEAE		LEGUME FAMILY, PEA FAMILY
	Acmispon glaber	Deerweed
	Acmispon micranthus	Small flowered lotus
	Lupinus bicolor	Miniature lupine
	Lupinus hirsutissimus	Stinging lupine
	Lupinus succulentus	Arroyo lupine
*	*Medicago polymorpha*	California burclover
*	*Melilotus indicus*	Sourclover, India sweetclover
FAGACEAE		OAK FAMILY
	Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak
GERANIACEAE		GERANIUM FAMILY
*	*Erodium cicutarium*	Redstem filaree
*	*Erodium moschatum*	Greenstem filaree
	Geranium carolinianum	Carolina geranium
GROSSULARIACEAE		GOOSEBERRY FAMILY
	Ribes speciosum	Fuchsia flowered gooseberry
LAMIACEAE		MINT FAMILY
*	*Marrubium vulgare*	Horehound
	Salvia apiana	White sage
	Salvia mellifera	Black sage
MALVACEAE		MALLOW FAMILY
*	*Malva parviflora*	Cheeseweed
MONTIACEAE		MINER"S LETTUCE FAMILY
	Calandrinia menziesii	Red maids
MYRSINACEAE		MYRSINE FAMILY
*	*Anagallis arvensis*	Scarlet pimpernel
NYCTAGINACEAE		*FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY*

	Mirabilis laevis	Wishbone bush
ONAGRACEAE		EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY
	Camissoniopsis bistorta	California sun cup
PAPAVERACEAE		POPPY FAMILY
	Eschscholzia californica	California poppy
PHRYMACEAE		MONKEYFLOWER FAMILY
	Mimulus aurantiacus	Sticky monkeyflower
PLANTAGINACEAE		PLANTAIN FAMILY
	Nuttallanthus texanus	Blue toadflax
POLYGONACEAE		BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
	Eriogonum fasciculatum	California buckwheat
*	*Rumex crispus*	Curly dock
RHAMNACEAE		BUCKTHORN FAMILY
	Rhamnus ilicifolia	Evergreen buckthorn
RUBIACEAE		BEDSTRAW FAMILY
	Galium nuttallii	Climbing bedstraw
SALICACEAE		WILLOW FAMILY
	Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo willow
SOLANACEAE		NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
	Datura wrightii	Jimsonweed
	Nicotiana quadrivalvis	Indian tobacco
URTICACEAE		NETTLE FAMILY
*	*Urtica urens*	Dwarf nettle
VERBENACEAE		VERVAIN FAMILY
	Verbena lasiostachys	Western vervain
Monocotyledons		
AGAVACEAE		AGAVE FAMILY
	Chlorogalum pomeridianum	Amole
IRIDACEAE		IRIS FAMILY
	Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue eyed grass
LILIACEAE		LILY FAMILY
	Calochortus splendens	Splendid mariposa
POACEAE		GRASS FAMILY
*	*Avena fatua*	Wild oat
*	*Bromus diandrus (B. rigidus)*	Ripgut brome
*	*Bromus hordeaceus (B. mollis)*	Soft chess
*	*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*	Red brome
	Elymus condensatus	Giant wild-rye
*	*Festuca myuros*	Rattail sixweeks grass
*	*Festuca perennis*	Awned Italian ryegrass
*	*Hordeum murinum*	Wall barley, hare barley
	Muhlenbergia microsperma	Littleseed muhly
THEMIDACEAE		BRODIAEA FAMILY
	Bloomeria crocea	Common goldenstar
	Dichelostemma capitatum	Wild hyacinth
VERTEBRATE ANIMALS		
AVES		
CATHARTIDAE		VULTURES
	Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture

ACCIPITRIDAE		HAWKS, EAGLES, HARRIERS
	Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed hawk
TROCHILIDAE		HUMMINGBIRDS
	Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird
CORVIDAE		CROWS AND JAYS
	Corvus corax	Common raven
EMBERIZIDAE		SPARROWS, WARBLERS, TANAGERS
	Pipilo maculatus	Spotted towhee
	Pipilo crissalis	California towhee
REPTILIA		
IGUANIDAE		IGUANID LIZARDS
	Uta stansburiana	Side-blotched lizard
MAMMALIA		
CANIDAE		DOGS, FOXES, AND COYOTES
	Canis latrans	Coyote (tracks and scat)
FELIDAE		CATS
	Lynx rufus	*Bobcat* (scat)

Non-native species indicated by asterisk, special-status species indicated by two asterisks. This list includes only species observed on the site. Others may have been overlooked or unidentifiable due to season (amphibians are active during rains, reptiles during summer, some birds (and bats) migrate out of the area for summer or winter, some mammals hibernate, many plants are identifiable only in spring).

Cultural Resources

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ Yes ☐ No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
☒ Yes ☐ No Was a CAL FIRE Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
☒ Yes ☐ No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site?
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

An in-depth cultural resources study was performed for the Project and is retained by the City of Laguna Beach. As documented in the cultural resources study, an archaeological survey was conducted on April 29, 2019 with a follow-up survey completed on November 8, 2019, both conducted by Michael E. Macko, Archaeologist (RPA) for Aspen Environmental Group. The Project area was surveyed by foot. Mr. Macko also reviewed available literature by conducting a records search at the California Historical Resources Inventory System (CHRIS) facility at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at Cal State Fullerton. The archaeological survey and records search determined that there are five cultural resource sites within 0.25 mile of the Project site. Two site (a.k.a. ESAs) totaling 0.05 acres are within the 5-acre Project site boundary. The Project has been modified to exclude ground disturbance within these ESAs. Restoration activities within the ESAs would be limited to weed whacking and hand removal of excess or cut vegetation. No raking would occur within the ESAs. To avoid unintentional removal of cultural resources within the ESAs, standing vegetation would be removed from the site immediately following cutting; however, cut vegetation on the ground would not be raked or otherwise removed. As there would be no ground disturbance within the ESAs, the Project avoids impacts to cultural resources.

In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to State Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which would determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection and make recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The MLD recommendations may include scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials, preservation of Native American human remains and associated items in place, relinquishment of Native American human remains and associated items to the descendants for treatment, or any other culturally appropriate treatment. Therefore, no impacts to human remains are expected.

Geology and Soils

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project area is dominated by Anaheim clay loam located in 50 to 75 percent slopes and Capistrano sandy loam located in 2 to 9 percent slopes. Several rock outcrops are present within the southern half of the Project area, and evidence of debris slides was observed on some of the cave features on site. Sand bags were found on site that may have been placed previously to control prevalent existing erosion. Landslide deposits and scars are known to exist on the canyons east of SR 133 and are likely to exist within the Project area as well due to being part of the same geologic block. A dam structure was built in the late 1990s during an El Niño event to control debris flows, but has since accumulated sediment at the west end of the Project site. An ephemeral drainage flows through an incised canyon, which crosses through the western portion of the Project area and leaves the Project area through the eastern end near SR 133. Proposed activities would not involve any heavy earthmoving equipment that would exacerbate existing erosion issues. An in-depth paleontological study was performed for the Project and is retained by the City of Laguna Beach. The paleontological records search determined that there were no records of paleontological localities in the immediate Project area, and no impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated given that the proposed activities would not involve surface disturbance beyond shovel depth. Therefore, no impacts to geology and soils, including paleontological resources, are expected to occur.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
☐ Yes ☒ No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

Emissions of GHGs would occur during equipment operation through the burning of gas and diesel fuel in internal combustion engines. The total quantity of GHGs released during equipment operation is estimated at 11.28 metric tons CO2. A detailed GHG calculation is presented at the end of this report. The proposed Project's total GHG emissions would be substantially below the South Coast Air Quality Management District's significance threshold of 3,000 metric tons CO2e. Therefore, the proposed Project would not generate significant GHG emissions that would impact the environment.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Hazardous material use during temporary fuel modification activities would be limited to gas and/or diesel fuel for equipment and herbicides. Hazardous materials would not be used or stored onsite in quantities that could create a foreseeable upset or accident condition that would generate a hazard to the public or the environment. Refueling activities would occur within the Project staging area, at a distance greater than 700 feet from the ephemeral drainage. There would be no impact associated with the Project.

Hydrology and Water Quality

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A small ephemeral drainage crosses through the restoration area from west to east. It is a natural drainage that conveys storm flows from the Rattlesnake Canyon watershed to the west, east to the creek in Laguna Canyon. It is sparsely vegetated with mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) seedlings. No planting or the use of heavy equipment would occur within 25 feet of either side of this drainage. Restoration activities on the surrounding slopes and in the ephemeral drainage would be limited to targeted invasive control only. The ephemeral drainage channel would be preserved for future riparian mitigation projects. The Project would have no impact on hydrology and water quality.

Land Use and Planning

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The LBFD has partnered with the Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Parks, and Laguna Canyon Foundation to implement the proposed invasive species control and habitat restoration within Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The proposed Project activities would not result in any change to the existing land use, nor would the Project increase the usership within the area. The Project site is zoned by the County as Open Space (OS) and is entirely within the California coastal zone, and as such is subject to the policies set forth in the California Coastal Act (Sections 30223, 30240, 30244, and 30251) and the

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Resource Management Plan. The Project would be consistent with applicable policies. An in-depth coastal consistency analysis was performed for the Project and is retained by the City of Laguna Beach.

Mineral Resources

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project does not have the potential to affect mineral resources.

Noise

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project site is located adjacent to SR 133, which is a high-volume corridor that is a continuous source of noise to the adjacent residents and recreationists. While the Project would utilize mechanical equipment such as chainsaws and a power auger, equipment operations would comply with the County of Orange and City of Laguna Beach noise regulations. Equipment use would be limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and would not occur on federal holidays. The proposed hours of equipment operation would be more restrictive than the City and County's individual noise regulations, thereby avoiding an adverse noise impact to nearby residents and recreationists.

Population and Housing

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project does not have the potential to affect population and housing.

Public Services

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project does not have the potential to affect public services.

Recreation

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project would occur within the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, which is a popular recreation area for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Project staging within the Wilderness Park's Willow Staging Area would be minimal, and would not preclude public access to the existing parking lot. Stagecoach South Trail would remain open during Project implementation, and fencing and signage would be installed along the Project' southern boundary to protect the restoration area and to ensure public safety by preventing access to Project equipment. No established trails within the Widlerness Park would be affected by the Project. The Wilderness Park would be fully accessible to the public, weather permitting, during Project implementation. The Project would have no impact to recreation.

Transportation/Traffic

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

All Project activities and staging areas would occur within the Project site. The Project would include the use of several staff vehicles to transport workers and equipment to the site. Because there are no major construction activities that would require a substantial crew or large equipment, the number of vehicles is expected to be minimal and temporary, and as a result, would not impact local traffic conditions.

Utilities and Service Systems

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The Project does not have the potential to affect utilities and service systems.

Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:

None.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:	**YES**	**NO**
(a) Does the project have the potential to 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 animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒
(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects)	☐	☒
(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒

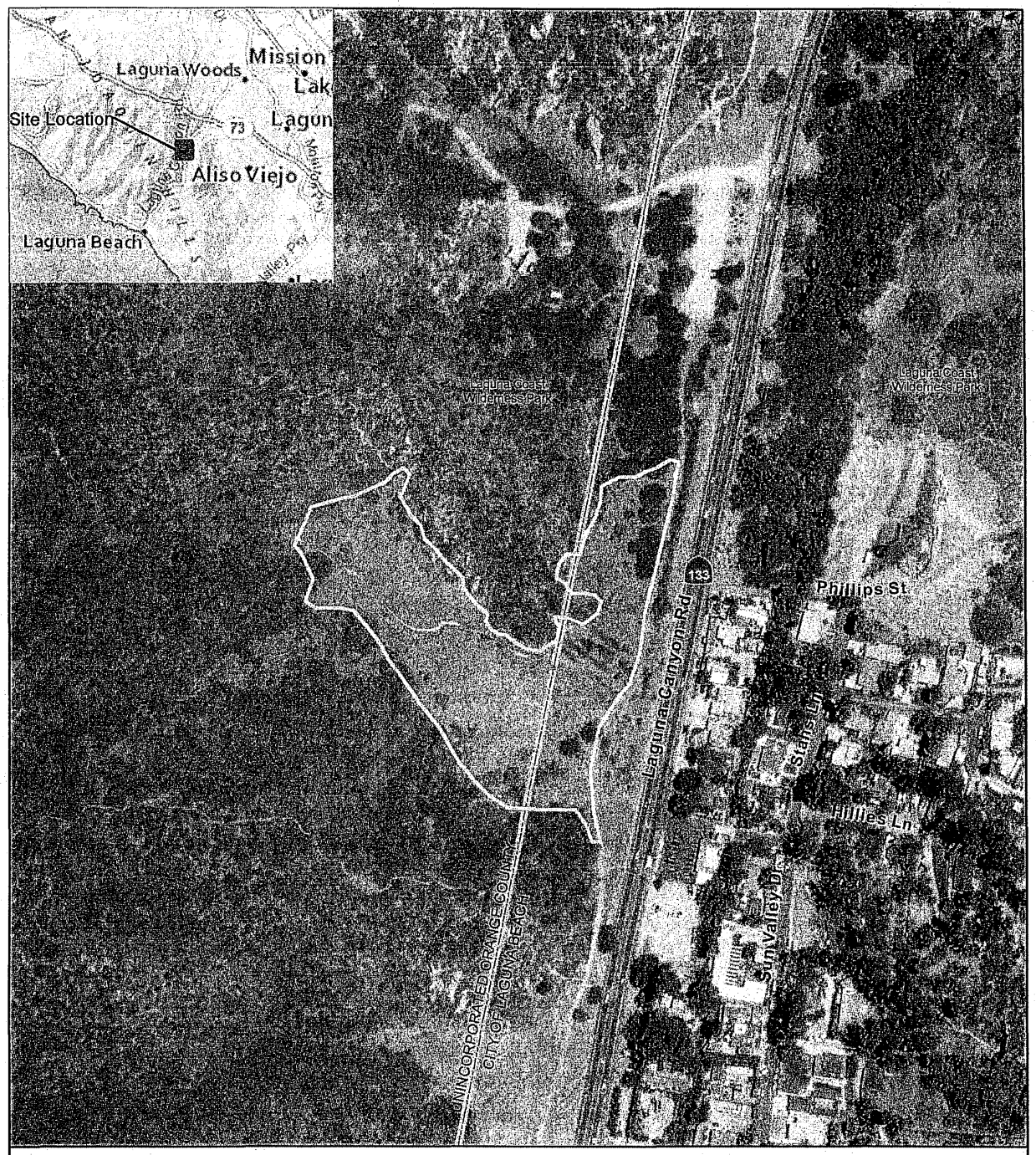
Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):

The Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project can be categorized as Class 33 Small Habitat Restoration Projects per CEQA Guideline Section 15333. The primary objective of the proposed restoration activities at Rattlesnake Canyon is to restore degraded and disturbed habitat through removal of invasive and non-native species, trash and debris, and the installation of native perennial vegetation. Given that this small restoration project would not exceed five acres in size, the categorial exemption described in CEQA Guidelines 15333 applies. The Project would avoid sensitive areas that have been sufficiently surveyed and flagged to prevent impacts to resources within those aeras. None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would negate the Class 33 exemption.

Conclusion:

☒ After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The Department considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse.

☐ After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.



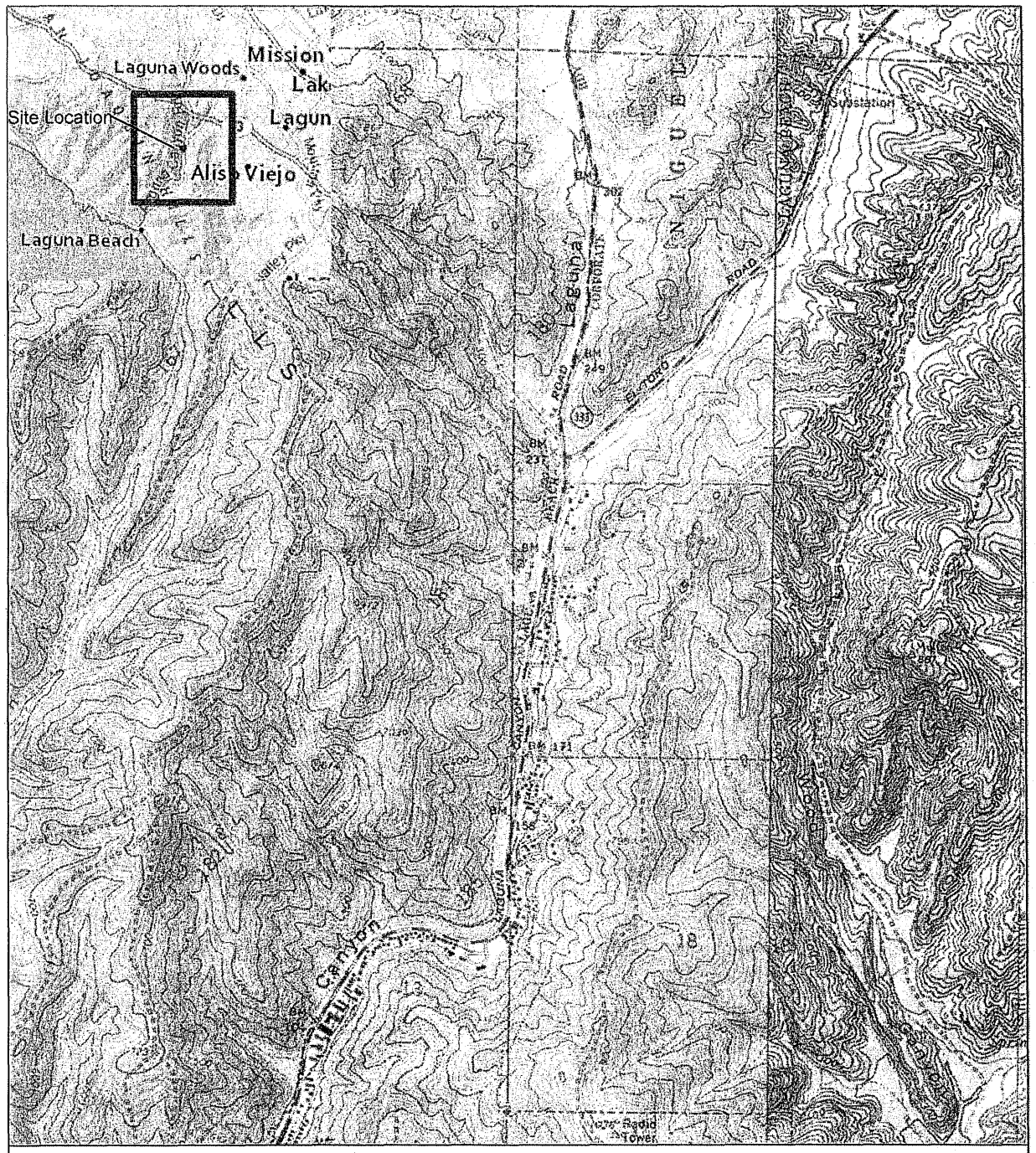
N

Restoration Area
Ephemeral Drainage
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

100 0 100 Feet

Figure 1.

Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project



Restoration Area
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

N

1:24,000

0 0.5 Miles

Figure 2.

Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Project Overview

Rattlesnake Canyon Restoration Site Photos

Photo 1: West-facing view of the Project site.

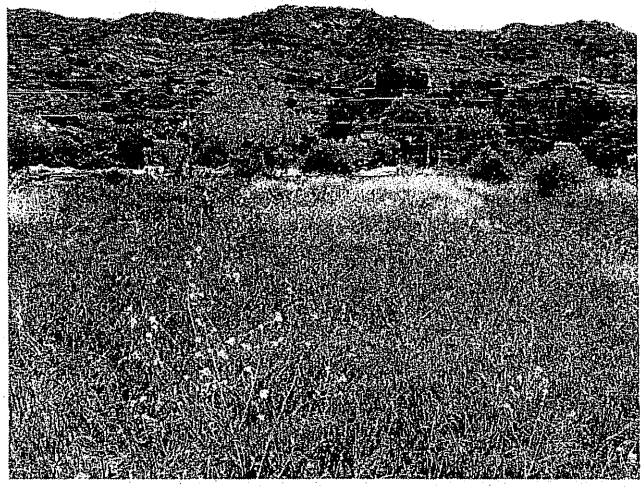


Photo 2: East-facing view of non-native grasslands.

Photo 3: Northeast-facing view of coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland.

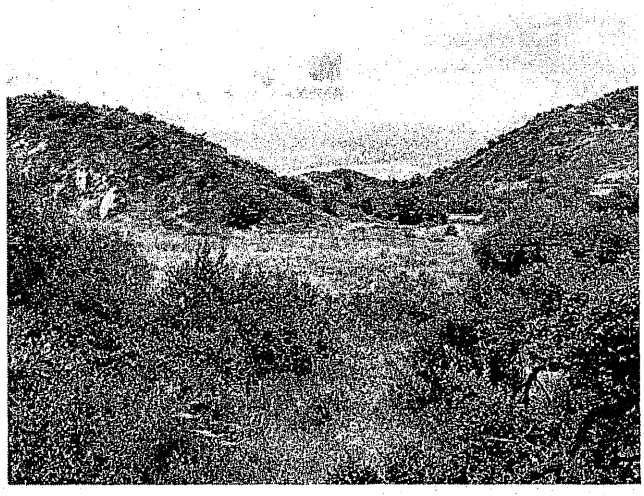


Photo 4: North-facing view of coast live oak woodland and non-native grassland.

Rattlesnake Canyon Project Site
Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculations

Project Equipment

1. Staff Vehicle (5)
   5 vehicles x 10 miles/day = 50 miles/day; 50 miles/day x 312 days = 15,600 miles;
   15,600 miles ÷ 15 miles/gal = 1,040 gal gas

2. Pickup Truck (1)
   20 days x 10 miles/day = 200 miles; 200 miles ÷ 15 miles/gal = 13 gal gas

3. Mower (1)
   3 mowers x 5 miles/day = 15 miles/day; 15 miles/day x 3 days = 45 miles;
   45 miles ÷ 15 miles/gal = 3 gal diesel

4. Mower Transport (3 transport trucks)
   3 trucks x 10 miles/day = 30 miles/day; 30 miles/day x 3 days = 90 miles;
   90 miles ÷ 10 miles/gal = 9 gal diesel

5. Power Auger (1)
   3 gal/day x 10 days = 30 gal gas

6. Chainsaw (2)
   2 saws x 1 gal/day = 2 gal/day; 2 gal/day x 5 days = 10 gal gas

7. UTV (1)
   15 miles/day ÷ 13 miles/gal = 1.2 gal/day; 28 days x 1.2 gal/day = 33.6 gal gas

8. UTV Transport
   10 miles/day x 28 days = 280 miles; 280 miles ÷ 10 miles/gal = 28 gal diesel

Total Fuel Consumption

Total gasoline: 1,040 + 13 + 30 + 10 + 33.6 = 1,126.6 gallons of gasoline
Total diesel: 3 + 9 + 28 = 40 gallons of diesel

Total CO2 Emissions

Gasoline GHG: 1,126.6 gal x 8.78 kg CO2/gal = 9,891.5 kg CO2 = 9.89 metric tons of CO2
Diesel GHG: 28 gal x 10.21 kg CO2/gal = 285.9 kg CO2 = 0.29 metric tons of CO2
Vegetation Removal: 1 metric ton of CO2/acre x 1.1 acres = 1.1 metric tons of CO2

Total estimated GHG emissions/project: 9.89 + 0.29 + 1.1 = 11.28 metric tons of CO2

Assumptions

- Staff vehicle days estimated from proposed Project timeline: September 1, 2019 to March 1, 2020 (debris and weed removal, plant installation); November 15, 2020 to March 1, 2021 (weed control and plant installation); November 15, 2021 to March 1, 2022 (weed control and plant installation). Calculations assumed 24 days/month, for 13 months.
- Assumptions of equipment use, gallons per day, and miles per day were provided by the Laguna Beach Fire Department on October 7, 2019.
- Conversion factors for grams of CO2 emissions per gallon of gasoline consumed and per gallon of diesel consumed were obtained from The Climate Registry 2019 Default Emission Factors.