

**Supplement
to the
2021 Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the
Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project Partial
Realignment**

August 2023

Lead Agency:



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Supplement to Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) updates the IS/MND for the Oak Valley Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project with the evaluation of a proposed realignment for an approximately 2,500-foot-long segment of the approximately 24,100-linear-foot-long sewer force main connecting the Oak Valley/Summerwind Ranch residential development to the Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility (WRWRF) (Revised Project). The IS/MND and original alignment was approved by the Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) Board of Directors on December 7, 2021 (2021 IS/MND). Since that time, the developer of the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan has indicated a preference for the location of the sewer pipeline approximately 1,000 feet further west than the alignment analyzed in the 2021 IS/MND. Per this information, YVWD proposes to revise the previously approved Project for the portion of the alignment south of Sandalwood Drive.

1.1 Documents Incorporated by Reference

The Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project Draft IS/MND was distributed for public review from October 8 to November 8, 2021. The Final IS/MND was approved by the YVWD Board on December 7, 2021. These documents are incorporated by reference:

- Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project (Draft October 2021; Final November 2021)

1.2 Environmental Setting

The Project described by the 2021 IS/MND is located in the cities of Calimesa and Yucaipa, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, California (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). Revisions to the 2021 IS/MND would only modify those portions of the 2021 alignment located within the City of Calimesa, south of Sandalwood Drive. The portion of the pipeline located south of Sandalwood Drive is located within the approved Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan, which has not yet been developed. The 2021 approved alignment begins at the Summerwind residential development, turns due east, crosses Garden Air Creek, and continues north adjacent to I-10 until it reaches Sandalwood Drive. This entire portion of the 2021 approved alignment is within undeveloped land (Figure 1-2). The proposed realigned pipeline would cross Garden Air Creek and continue straight to Shady Brook Road. The pipeline would be constructed within Shady Brook Road until it reaches Sandalwood Drive, where it would continue the same alignment as approved in 2021 (Figure 1-3).

The Project Site is zoned as Public Right-of-Way, Open Space – Natural, and Mixed Use (Commercial & MF-20du/ac). Surrounding zoning and land use are described in Table 1-1.

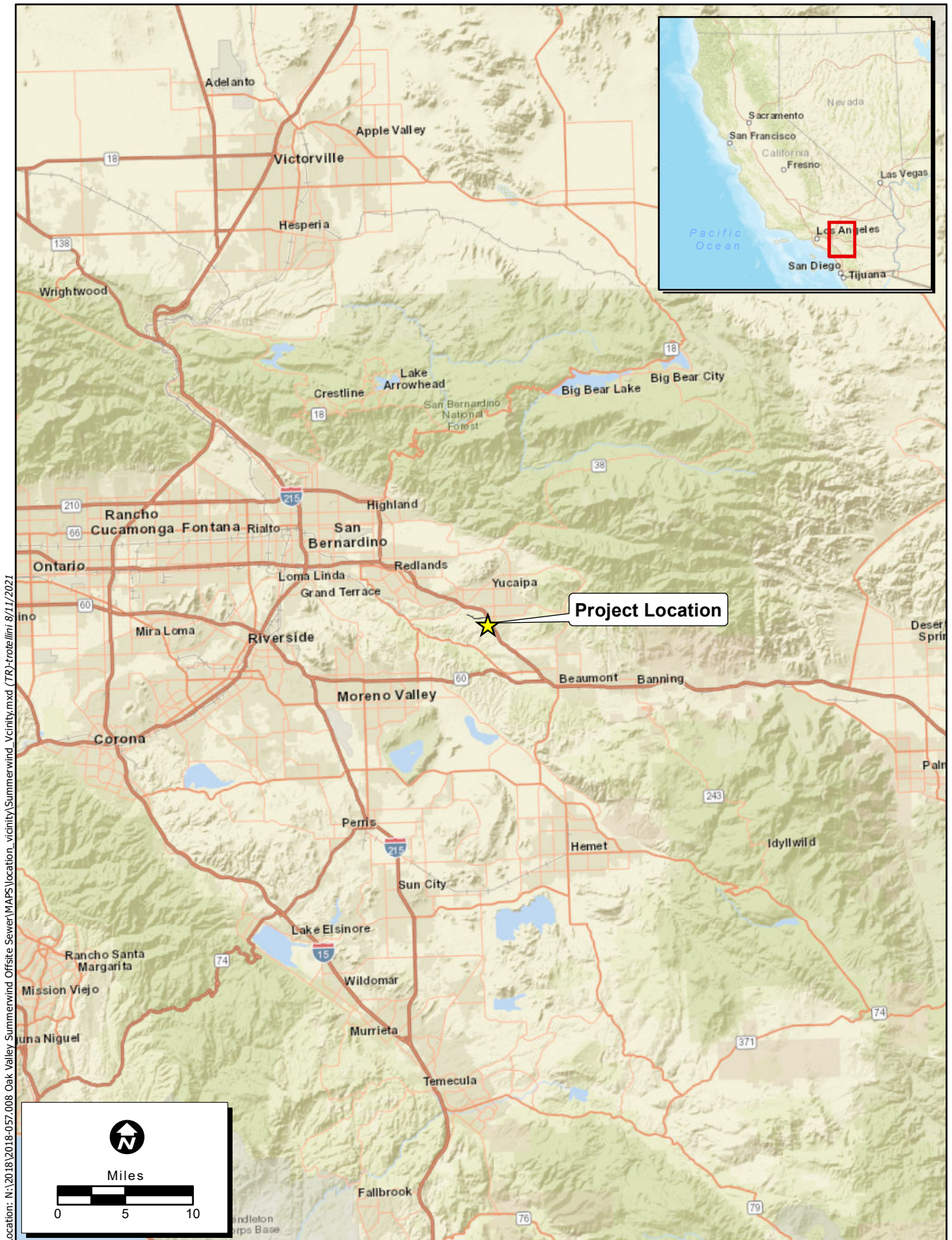
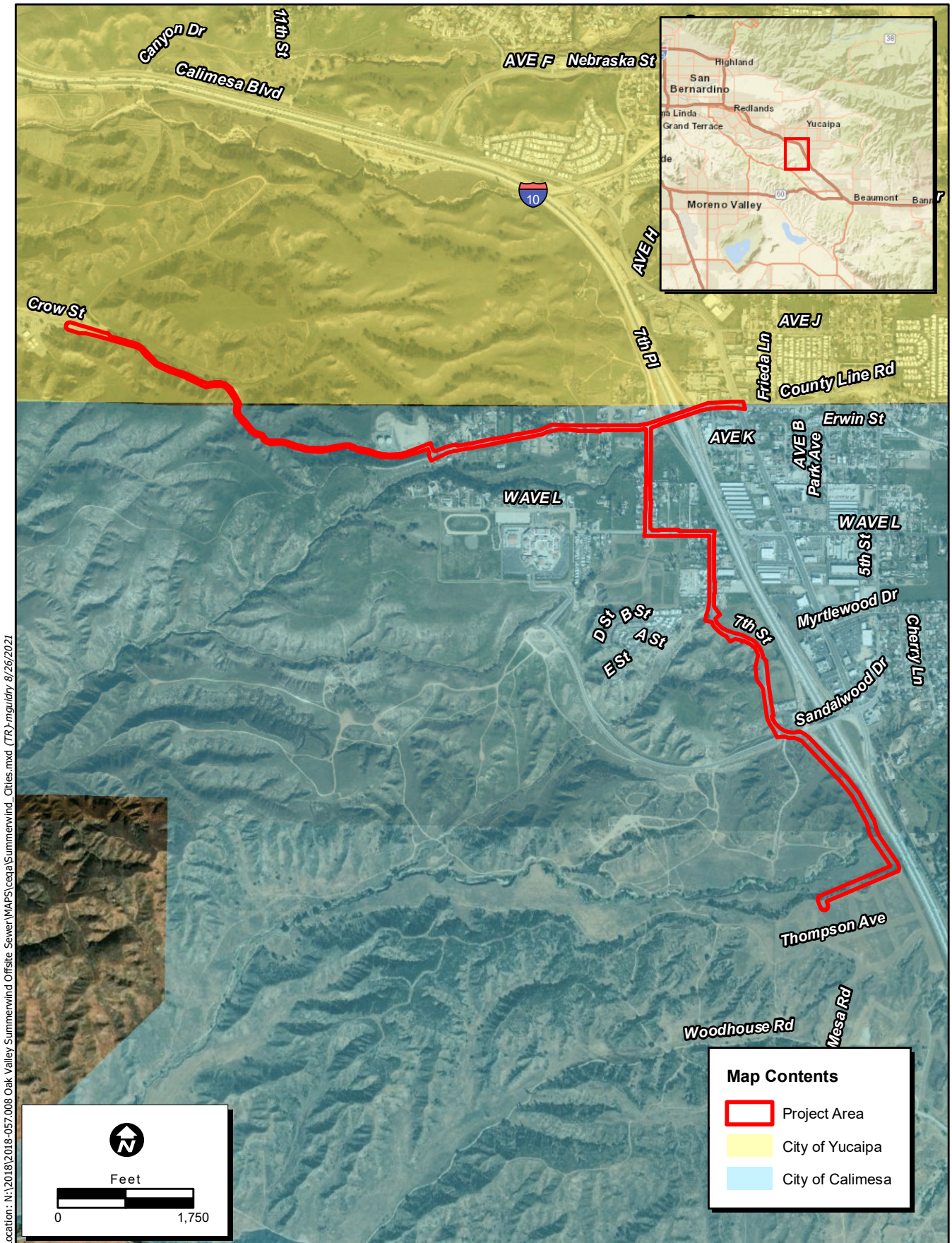


Figure 1-1. Project Vicinity

2018-057.008 Oak Valley Summerwind Offsite Sewer



Location: N:\2018\2018-057.008 Oak Valley Summerwind Offsite Sewer\MAPS\ceqa\Summerwind_Cities.mxd (TR)-mguidry 8/26/2021

Figure 1-2. 2021 Approved Project Location
 2018-057.008 Oak Valley Summerwind Offsite Sewer

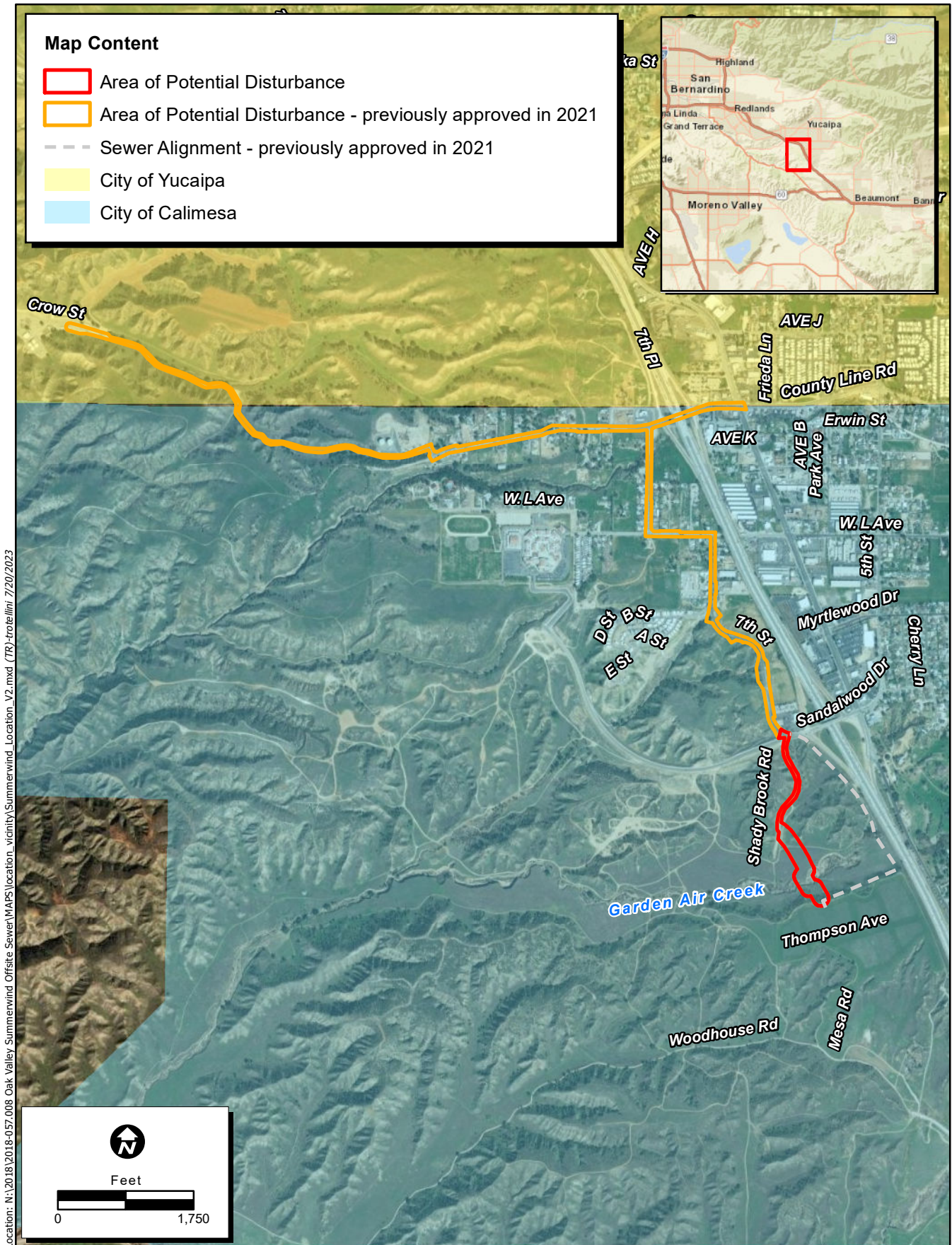


Figure 1-3. Revised Alignment

Table 1-1. Surrounding Zoning and Land Use Designations			
	Zoning Designation	Land Use Designation	Existing Land Use
Project Site	Public Right-of-Way, Open Space – Natural, Mixed Use (Commercial & MF-20du/ac)	Public Right-of-Way, Open Space – Natural, Mixed Use	Shady Brook Road Right-of-Way, Open Space
North	Medium Density Residential, Rural Residential, Open Space, Community Commercial, Mixed Use, Public Institutional	Open Space – Natural, Mixed-Use, City Commercial, Rural Residential, Residential Low/Medium, Residential Low	I-10 Freeway Single Family Homes Commercial Open Space
East	I-10 Freeway, Medium Density Residential, Open Space, Community Commercial, Mixed Use, Public Institutional	Open Space – Natural, Mixed Use, City Commercial, Rural Residential, Residential Low/Medium	I-10 Freeway Single Family Homes Commercial Open Space
South	Medium Density Residential, Open Space, Community Commercial, Mixed Use, Public Institutional	Mixed Use, City Commercial, Rural Residential, Residential Low/Medium, Residential Low	Single Family Homes Commercial Open Space
West	Medium Density Residential, Open Space, Community Commercial, Mixed Use, Public Institutional	Open Space – Natural, Mixed Use, City Commercial, Rural Residential, Residential Low/Medium, Residential Low	Single Family Homes Commercial Open Space

Source: City of Calimesa 2014

1.3 Public and Agency Review

This Supplemental IS/MND is subject to a 30-day review period for agencies, the public, and any interested parties. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15163(b) and (d), YVWD is only circulating the information necessary to make the 2021 IS/MND adequate for the Project as revised.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 2021 Approved Sewer Force Main Alignment

The 2021 approved alignment begins at the Summerwind residential development, turns due east toward I-10, turns north and crosses Garden Air Creek via a bore and jack, and continues north adjacent to I-10 until it reaches Sandalwood Drive, where it would be constructed within paved roadways to the WRWRF. The entire portion of the approved alignment south of Sandalwood Drive is within undeveloped land within the approved Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan development (Figure 2-1). The approved 2021 alignment south of Sandalwood Drive included an area of potential disturbance of approximately 60 feet in width and included a construction of a graded road along this portion of the alignment for access to the sewer main. This would be the permanent location of the sewer main.

2.2 Revised Sewer Force Main Alignment

The Revised Alignment would cross Garden Air Creek approximately 1,000 feet west of the 2021 approved alignment, using the same or similar jack and bore method. Traveling north approximately 1,165 feet, the Revised Alignment would then be constructed within the existing (paved) Shady Brook Road for approximately 1,350 feet to Sandalwood Drive, where it would continue to the WRWRF within the alignment approved in 2021 (Figure 2-2). The Revised Alignment includes a potential disturbance area of 100 feet on each side of the pipeline alignment (total of 200 feet) until the alignment enters the pavement of Shady Brook Road and then a 50-foot area of potential disturbance (25 feet on each side of the pipeline alignment) within Shady Brook Road to Sandalwood Drive. As part of the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan development construction, the sewer main alignment would be relocated to its ultimate location within the new Roberts Road. The timeframe for that development is currently unknown. The environmental impacts of the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan Development, including utilities, are evaluated in the EIR for the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan (City of Calimesa 2007, 2017).

The 2021 approved alignment would install permanent sewer force mains along the I-10, then the developer would install water utility infrastructure within the future Roberts Road as part of the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan. The temporary area of disturbance for construction would be slightly less (0.65-acre less) with the Revised Alignment when compared to the 2021 approved alignment. Additionally, the Revised Alignment would reduce the permanent area of disturbance for water and wastewater infrastructure when the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan is developed in the future because the Revised Alignment would allow the ultimate alignments for both water and wastewater infrastructure to be constructed within the new Roberts Road. As stated previously, the environmental impacts of the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan Development, including utilities, are evaluated in the EIR for the Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan (City of Calimesa 2007, 2017).

Figure 2-2 depicts both the Revised Alignment of the proposed sewer line in addition to a buffer that encompasses areas of potential effects where minimal impacts associated with construction equipment

and personnel is anticipated and analyzed as part of the Project. Once constructed, the Project would be located entirely underground and would follow the centerline depicted in Figures 1-3 and 2-2.

A comparison of the 2021 approved project and Revised Project is provided below in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. 2021 Approved Alignment and Revised Project Alignment Comparison	
2021 Approved Project Alignment (Figures 1-2 and 2-1)	Revised Project Alignment (Figures 1-3 and 2-2)
The 2021 approved alignment would cross Garden Air Creek adjacent to the I-10 corridor using a jack and bore method and would install the remainder of the pipeline using trenching.	The Revised Alignment would cross Garden Air Creek approximately 1,000 feet west of the approved alignment using the same or similar jack and bore method. Trenching would be used to construct the remainder of the pipeline.
The 2021 approved alignment is east-adjacent to the I-10 corridor for the portion south of Sandalwood Drive.	The Revised Alignment would be constructed approximately 1,050 feet west of the previous alignment within undisturbed land for approximately 1,165 feet and within the existing paved Shady Brook Road ROW for approximately 1,350 feet until it connects to the 2021 approved alignment at Sandalwood Drive.
The 2021 approved alignment, south of Sandalwood Drive, proposed an area of disturbance of approximately 60 feet in width and included a permanent graded road along this portion of the alignment.	The Revised Alignment assumes a temporary construction disturbance area of 100 feet on each side of the pipeline alignment (total of 200 feet wide) until the alignment enters the paved segment of Shady Brook Road and then a 50-foot area of disturbance for construction (25 feet on each side of the pipeline alignment) within Shady Brook Road. After construction, the project components would be below ground.
The total area of disturbance for the 2021 approved alignment encompasses approximately 29.15 acres.	The area of disturbance for the Revised Alignment encompasses approximately 28.5 acres of disturbance total, or approximately 0.65-acre less than what was considered in the 2021 approved alignment.
Construction would take 8 months	Construction would take 8 months

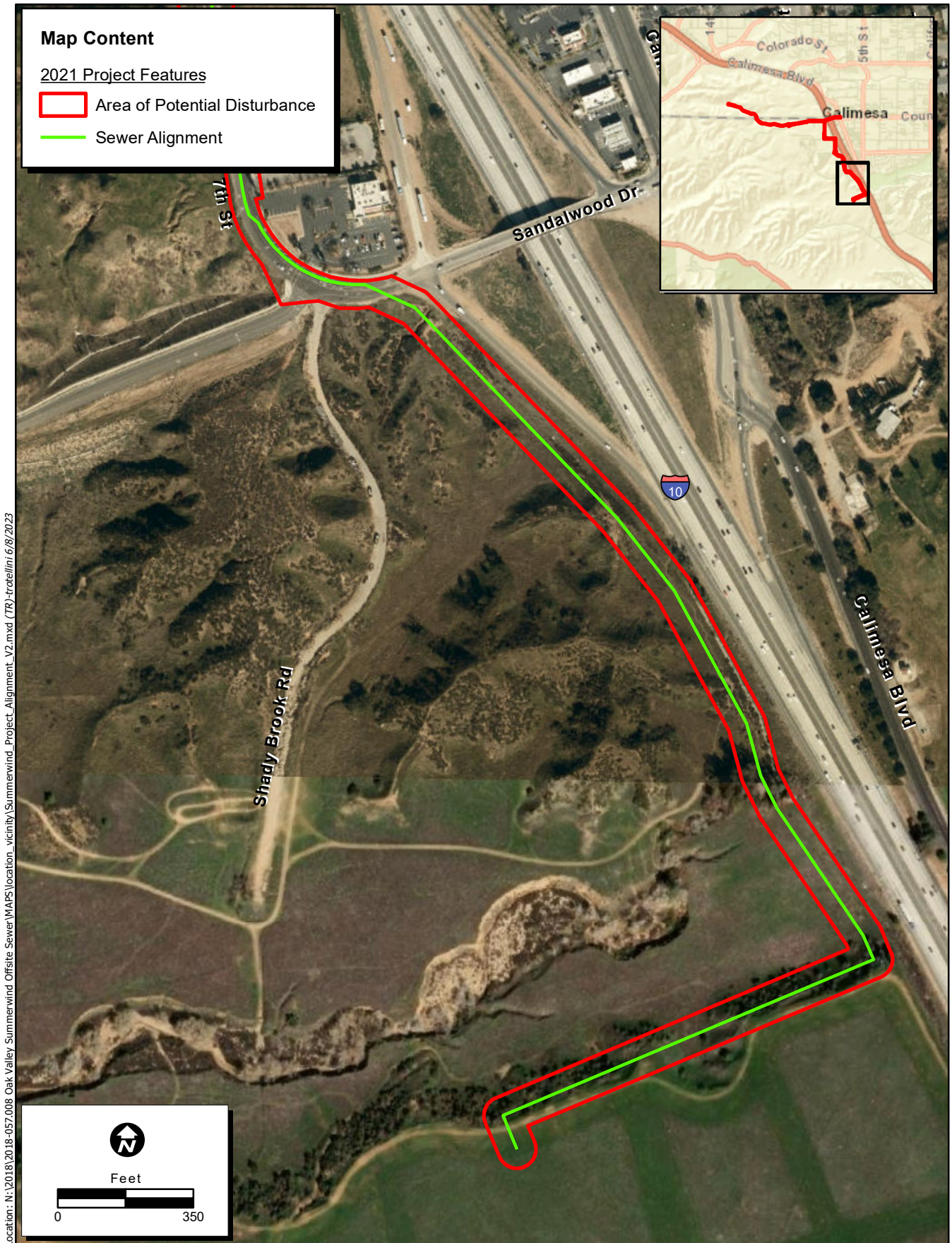


Figure 2-1. Original Project Alignment

2018-057.008 Oak Valley Summerwind Offsite Sewer



Figure 2-2. Revised Project Alignment

2018-057.008 Oak Valley Summerwind Offsite Sewer

3.0 DECISION TO PREPARE AN SUPPLEMENT TO IS/MND

When a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been adopted for a project and revisions to that project are proposed, the Lead Agency (in this case YVWD) must review the revised project to determine whether to prepare a Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration, Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration, an Addendum, or no further documentation (CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (b)).

The Revised Alignment includes changes made to a portion of the sewer force main alignment of the Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project analyzed in the 2021 IS/MND. To assist in the determination if new or more substantial environmental impacts would occur from the Revised Project, technical studies for biological resources (ECORP 2023a; Appendix A) and cultural resources (ECORP 2023b) were prepared. The criteria in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) for determining what further documentation should be prepared was reviewed (see Section 3.2). After reviewing the Revised Project information, the new biological resources and cultural resources studies, and the CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162(a), it was determined that new significant environmental effects could occur from the Revised Project related to the designation of the Crotch bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*) as a candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). It was determined that the potential environmental effects to the Crotch bumblebee could be mitigated to a less than significant level. Refer to Section 4.1.2 for discussion of the current and previous listing status for Crotch bumblebee under the CESA.

The Revised Project would not require a major revision of the 2021 IS/MND. Therefore, YVWD has determined that a supplement to the 2021 IS/MND is the appropriate CEQA document (CEQA Guidelines Section 15163; Public Resources Code [PRC] 21166). CEQA Guidelines Section 15163 allows the Lead Agency (YVWD) to choose to prepare a supplement to an Initial Study rather than an Addendum or Subsequent document because only minor addition or changes would be necessary to make the prior IS/MND adequately apply to the Revised Project in the changed situation. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15163(b): the supplement to the IS/MND need contain only the information necessary to make the prior IS/MND adequate for the project as revised. A supplement to an IS/MND may be circulated for public review by itself without recirculating the prior Draft or Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The purpose of this Supplemental IS/MND is to provide local decision-makers and the public with an objective analysis of the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Project. This Supplemental Initial Study provides a discussion of the environmental impacts related biological resources from the Revised Project.

3.1 Comparison of Impacts

Table 3-1 compares key environmental impacts of the original Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project with those of the Revised Project. As shown in the table, the approved Project and the Revised Project would have similar impacts and the same mitigation measures for all resources except for biological resources. As described in Section 4, there would be new, potentially significant effects to

Crotch bumblebee that require the addition of mitigation measures resulting from the species' new status as a candidate for listing in CESA.

Environmental Resource Area	Impact Determination	Impact Comparison between the 2021 Approved and Revised Alignment
Aesthetic and Visual Resources	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts to Aesthetic and Visual Resources would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The general topography for either alignment would be similar, and the visual character of the Project and its vicinity under the Revised Alignment would be similar to the 2021 approved alignment. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts to Agriculture and Forestry Resources would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The Revised Alignment is located less than one-quarter mile west of the 2021 approved alignment and would be located on lands consistent with the impact determinations of the prior IS/MND. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Air Quality	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts to Air Quality would occur. Construction-related emissions associated with the Revised Alignment would be consistent with those analyzed by the prior IS/MND for the 2021 approved alignment, as the Revised Alignment would be consistent in scope and scale. The YVWD has adopted all mitigation measures required by the 2021 IS/MND.
Biological Resources	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p>	Please refer to <i>Section 4.0 Environmental Review</i> of this document for discussion of new or increased impacts to Biological Resources that would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. A comparison of revisions to the Project and new Mitigation Measures that would reduce potential impacts to Biological Resources are included, below, in <i>Section 5.0 Revisions to the 2021 IS/MND</i> .
Cultural Resources	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts to Cultural Resources would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The Project under the Revised Alignment would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known historical resource as defined under CEQA or Historic Properties as defined by Section 106 of the NHPA. The cultural resources study prepared for the Revised Alignment did not identify any historical resources under CEQA or Historic Properties as defined by Section 106 of the NHPA. Additionally, the Revised Alignment would be located less than one-quarter mile west of the 2021 approved alignment and all projects with ground-disturbing activities have the potential to unearth previously undiscovered cultural resources. The potential impacts for undiscovered subsurface resources, including human remains,

Environmental Resource Area	Impact Determination	Impact Comparison between the 2021 Approved and Revised Alignment
		would be reduced to a less than significant threshold with the implementation of the mitigation measures required by the 2021 IS/MND, which have been adopted by the YVWD.
Energy Resources	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts to Energy Resources would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. Energy use for the construction of the Project under the Revised Alignment would not use substantially more energy than the 2021 approved alignment or conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Geology and Soils	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts to Geologic and Soil Resources would occur. The Revised Alignment would be located less than one-quarter mile west of the 2021 approved alignment, in an area with similar geologic constraints and topography and would not be subject to previously undisclosed geologic hazards or significant effect on the environment. The YVWD has adopted all mitigation measures required by the 2021 IS/MND.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts related to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. GHG Emissions associated with the Revised Alignment would be released in quantities similar to the 2021 approved alignment as part of its construction phase and would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials would occur. The Project under the Revised Alignment would not increase the quantity of hazardous materials used, transported, or disposed during project construction or operation when compared to the 2021 approved alignment. Additionally, no known hazardous materials on the Project Site or immediate vicinity of either the original or Revised Alignment. The YVWD has agreed to all mitigation measures required by the approved 2021 IS/MND and current Supplement.
Hydrology and Water Quality	<p>Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p> <p>Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i></p>	No substantial increase in impacts to Hydrologic and Water Quality Resources would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The topography and drainage patterns of the Revised Alignment would not substantially differ from those analyzed under the 2021 approved alignment. Ground-disturbing activities would be similar under the original and Revised Alignments, and environmental effects to surface and

Environmental Resource Area	Impact Determination	Impact Comparison between the 2021 Approved and Revised Alignment
		groundwater quality in the Project vicinity would not differ. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Land Use and Planning	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Land Use and Planning would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. Neither the 2021 approved alignment or Revised Alignment would physically divide an established community, nor would they conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Mineral Resources	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Mineral Resources would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The City of Calimesa does not contain any significant sand, gravel, or rock resources. Neither the 2021 approved alignment nor the Revised Alignment would result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Noise	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Noise would occur. Construction noise levels and groundborne vibrations associated with the Revised Alignment would not substantially differ from those levels analyzed by the prior IS/MND with the 2021 approved alignment. Additionally, as the Revised Alignment is located less than one-quarter mile west of the alignment analyzed under the prior IS/MND, it would not expose new sensitive receptors to excessive noise or locate the Project within the vicinity of an airstrip or airport land use plan. The YVWD has adopted all mitigation measures required by the 2021 IS/MND.
Population and Housing	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Population and Housing would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The Project under the Revised Alignment would function similarly to the 2021 approved alignment and would not increase the capacity described in the prior IS/MND. The project under the Revised Alignment would install sewer system infrastructure to accommodate planned residences and would not include the removal or disturbance of existing housing. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Public Services	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Public Services would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The Revised Alignment would not result in unplanned population growth or generate new employment opportunities. The

Environmental Resource Area	Impact Determination	Impact Comparison between the 2021 Approved and Revised Alignment
	Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i>	Revised Alignment would not change existing demand for public services when compared to the effects analyzed by the prior IS/MND. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Recreation	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Recreational Resources would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The Project would install sewer lines under both the original and Revised Alignment and therefore would not induce unplanned population growth in the region or affect recreational facilities. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Transportation	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Transportation and Circulation Systems would occur. The duration of Project construction would not substantially differ from the 2021 approved alignment analyzed by the prior IS/MND. Furthermore, the Revised Alignment would not increase long-term traffic beyond those analyzed in the prior IS/MND. The YVWD has adopted all mitigation measures required by the 2021 IS/MND.
Tribal Cultural Resources	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources would occur. There are no known Tribal Cultural Resources located within either the 2021 approved alignment or the Revised Alignment footprint. All ground disturbing activities have the potential to result in the discovery of, or inadvertent find damages to, archaeological contexts and human remains, and this possibility cannot be eliminated. The YVWD has adopted all mitigation measures required by the approved 2021 IS/MND and current Supplement.
Utilities and Service Systems	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	No substantial increase in impacts to Utilities and Service Systems would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The Revised Alignment would not involve substantial environmental effects greater than that which was analyzed in the prior IS/MND. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.
Wildfire	Approved 2021 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i> Revised 2023 Alignment: <i>No Impact</i>	No substantial increase in impacts related to Wildfire Hazards would occur with the implementation of the Revised Alignment. The Revised Alignment would be located less than one-quarter mile west of the 2021 approved alignment and would be located in an area with similar fire hazard risk and would not increase fire risk compared to that which was analyzed under the prior IS/MND. No new information has become known that would suggest that the Revised Project would have previously undisclosed significant effects on the environment.

3.2 CEQA Guidelines Criteria for a Supplemental IS/MND

In accordance with Section 15162(a)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency shall prepare a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or MND if substantial changes are proposed to the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. These criteria are listed below, along with a brief discussion regarding the reason the Revised Alignment meets the criteria in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162.

Section 15162. Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations

(a) *When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:*

(1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Impacts would be comparable to those evaluated in the original IS/MND, excluding Biological Resources. The 2023 Biological Technical Report determined that the Project under the Revised Alignment has the potential to adversely affect special-status species (the Crotch bumble bee). Impacts to sensitive natural communities and protected wetlands would be similar to those evaluated in the 2021 IS/MND.

(2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. The impacts of the Revised Alignment were considered against current regulations. During the interim between the approval of the 2021 approved alignment and the preparation of the July 2023 Biological Technical Report (ECORP 2023a; Appendix A) the Crotch bumble bee has been designated as a candidate species under the CESA. As a candidate species, the Crotch bumble bee is provided all of the same legal protections as a fully listed species under the CESA. The July 2023 Biological Technical Report determined that the species has a high potential for occurrence on the Project Site.

(3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:

(A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration. A CEQA analysis of key issues was conducted for the Revised Project (see Section 4.0), identifying new, and potentially significant adverse effects to the Crotch bumble bee. However, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures contained within this Supplemental IS/MND.

(B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR. A CEQA analysis of key issues was conducted for the Revised Project (See Section 4.0), which identified new, and potentially significant adverse effects to the Crotch bumble bee. However, these impacts would meet the same impact threshold of *Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* and would not be substantially more severe than those described within the 2021 IS/MND.

(C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative. As discussed in Sections 4.0 and 5.0, YVWD has agreed to all mitigation measures required by the approved IS/MND for the 2021 original alignment, none were found to be infeasible. YVWD will adopt the mitigation measures as proposed in this Supplemental IS/MND to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative. YVWD has adopted all mitigation measures required by the approved 2021 IS/MND. YVWD will adopt the mitigation measures as proposed in this Supplemental IS/MND to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

The Revised Project would not require a major revision of the 2021 IS/MND. Therefore, YVWD has determined that a supplement to the 2021 IS/MND is the appropriate CEQA document (CEQA Guidelines Section 15163; Public Resources Code [PRC] 21166). CEQA Guidelines Section 15163 allows the Lead Agency (YVWD) to choose to prepare a supplement to an Initial Study rather than an Addendum or Subsequent document because only minor addition or changes would be necessary to make the prior IS/MND adequately apply to the Revised Project in the changed situation.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

4.1 Introduction

The prior IS/MND was approved in December 2021 by the YVWD Board of Directors. This Supplement to the 2021 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project updates the prior IS/MND to revise the 2021 approved alignment south of Sandalwood Drive to Garden Air Creek where the future Roberts Road would cross the creek. Specifically, this Supplement address the realignment of approximately 2,500-linear-feet of 10-inch and 12-inch parallel force mains that would connect the Summerwind Ranch residential development in the City of Calimesa to the existing WRWRF.

This environmental review provides a comparison of the Project evaluated in the approved IS/MND with the original project as modified with the Revised Alignment. The analysis indicates the Project with Revised Alignment will not result in any of the conditions in CEQA 15162 that would otherwise require preparation of a subsequent negative declaration or EIR.

The analysis addresses the Revised Alignment's potential for new adverse impacts that have not been analyzed by the prior IS/MND. This supplement to the prior IS/MND analyzes potential impacts identified by YVWD to Biological Resources. A brief discussion of Biological Resources is provided that compares findings from the approved IS/MND with the Project as modified by the current proposed alignment. For each of these topics the discussion will summarize the following:

- Prior Environmental Review
- Discussion of Project Impacts with Proposed Revised Alignment
- Mitigation Measures with Proposed Revised Alignment

4.1.1 Prior Environmental Review

Previous Environmental Analysis

The impacts to Biological Resources associated with the Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project were evaluated in the following documents:

- Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project (Draft October 2021; Final November 2021)

Previously Identified Significant Project Impacts

The 2021 IS/MND for the Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project identified potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, including special status wildlife species (burrowing owl and least Bell's vireo) and suitable habitat for nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Impacts to wetlands and jurisdictional waters would be avoided through construction methods (jack and bore) used to cross Garden Air Creek.

Previously Identified Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3 were previously adopted by YVWD. For reference purposes, these mitigation measures are listed below.

BIO-1: **Preconstruction Burrowing Owl Survey:** A preconstruction wildlife survey shall be conducted for the burrowing owl prior to Project-related ground disturbance south of Sandalwood Drive. The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of initial ground disturbance (grading, grubbing, and construction) in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). Typically, if burrowing owls or active burrowing owl burrows are identified on a Project site during the survey, these features must be completely avoided during the owl breeding season (March 1 through August 31). If impacts to those features are unavoidable, then the Project proponent must also develop an owl mitigation plan in consultation with CDFW. Mitigation methods may include passive relocation conducted between September 1 and February 28) outside of the owl breeding season. If an active owl burrow is identified, and construction is to proceed, then a qualified owl biologist (with two or more years of owl experience) can establish an appropriate disturbance-limit buffer around the burrow using flagging or staking. The buffer limit size can be at the biologist's discretion based on topography of the site and other conditions. Construction activities shall not occur within any buffer zones until the burrow is deemed inactive by the qualified owl biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

BIO-2: **Least Bell's Vireo Survey:** The riparian habitat south of Sandalwood Drive, within Garden Air Creek, should be avoided during the least Bell's vireo breeding season (March 15 through August 31). If Project-related ground disturbance south of Sandalwood Drive is proposed from March 15 through August 31, then the riparian areas must be avoided until the area has been shown by survey to not support least Bell's vireo. The survey shall consist of eight separate surveys, conducted at least 10 days apart, in accordance with all stipulations of the federal protocol for least Bell's vireo surveys (USFWS 2001) and by a qualified vireo biologist with at least 30 hours of positive survey experience with the species. Typically, if least Bell's vireos are identified on a Project site during such a survey, impacts near riparian features supporting this species must be completely avoided until

the breeding season is concluded. If avoidance is not feasible, then consultation with USFWS and CDFW would need to occur and possibly federal Endangered Species Act permitting to offset any impacts. Additional mitigation measures that could be implemented during a permitting process may include compensatory mitigation for loss of occupied habitat or vireo pairs.

BIO-3: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey: If construction or other Project activities are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to ensure that active bird nests will not be disturbed or destroyed. The survey shall be completed no more than 3 days prior to initial ground disturbance. The nesting bird survey shall include the Project site and adjacent areas where Project activities have the potential to affect active nests, either directly or indirectly, due to construction activity, noise, or ground disturbance. If an active nest is identified, a qualified avian biologist shall establish an appropriate disturbance-limit buffer around the nest using flagging or staking. Construction activities shall not occur within any disturbance-limit buffer zones until the nest is deemed inactive by the qualified avian biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

4.1.2 Discussion of Project Impacts with Revised Alignment

ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) previously prepared a Biological Technical Report for the 2021 adopted IS/MND. An updated Biological Technical Report was prepared in July 2023 by ECORP biologists for the Revised Alignment utilizing the same methodologies to determine federally or state-listed endangered, threatened, proposed endangered or threatened species (ECORP 2023a; Appendix A), California Species of Special Concern (SSC), or other special-status species or habitat that may occur within or near the Project. The findings of the Biological Technical Report conclude the Revised Alignment would not result in new or substantial adverse impacts to special-status species (except the Crotch bumble bee), sensitive natural communities, protected wetlands, local wildlife corridors and nursery sites, or conflict with the provisions of an adopted local plan, policy, ordinance, or conservation plan.

The California Fish and Game commission advanced the Crotch bumblebee to CESA candidacy in June 2019. This decision was subsequently challenged in court, and in November 2020 the California Superior Court ruled that insects are not eligible for listing under the CESA (CDFW 2021). As a result of ongoing litigation, on May 31, 2022, the Third Appellate Court District in California ruled that four bumblebee species, including Crotch bumblebee, may be listed as endangered or threatened species under the CESA (Reuters 2022). As a result, the Crotch bumble bee has once again been advanced to CESA candidacy and therefore is afforded all legal protections required for endangered species under the CESA. Because of these changed circumstances, the impact determination for potential effects to the Crotch bumble bee has changed from *less than significant* to *less than significant with mitigation*. Mitigation measures have been updated or added in this Supplemental IS/MND to address effects to the Crotch bumble bee and to ensure avoidance of other sensitive resources.

The findings of the 2023 Biological Technical Report (Appendix A) are summarized below.

Analysis: Impact threshold a) for Biological Resources in Appendix G of the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form reads as follows:

Would the Project: a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

As part of the updated 2023 literature review and database searches, 46 special-status plant species were identified. However, of these 46 species only 5 were determined to have a potential to occur onsite (white-rabbit tobacco [CRPR 2B.2], chaparral sand verbenas [CRPR 1B.1], Yucaipa onion [CRPR 1B.2], smooth tarplant [CRPR 1B.1], and Jaeger's milk vetch [CRPR 1B.1]). The remainder of these species were eliminated from the analysis because they either have no potential to occur onsite, or are included on a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) review or watch list and do not have special-status protection. All five of these plant species were determined to have a low potential to occur due to marginally suitable habitat, or the previously documented occurrences were historic or more than five miles away. The Project Site is not anticipated to host a significant quantity of these species due to their low potential for occurrence. This is similar to the anticipated effects for the 2021 approved alignment, which identified two species (white-rabbit tobacco and chaparral sand verbenas) with a low potential to occur. The amount of temporary ground disturbance with the Revised Alignment is similar to the ground disturbance with the 2021 approved alignment, but the amount of vegetation disturbance required for the Revised Alignment would be less because a portion of the Revised Alignment would be constructed within Shady Brook Road. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur to the special-status plants, and any residual impacts to special-status plant specimens would further be reduced with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3, and BIO-6.

The literature review and database searches identified 45 special-status wildlife species that occur in the vicinity of the Project Site. However, based on the condition of the Project Site, and the available habitat, only five species were determined to have a high potential to occur on the Project Site: Crotch bumble bee, southern California legless lizard, coastal whiptail, red-diamond rattlesnake, and coast horned lizard. There are also three species with moderate potential to occur (western spadefoot, coast patch-nosed snake, and white-tailed kite) and ten species with low potential to occur. Direct impacts to these species may occur in the form of mortality or injury during construction of the Project. Indirect impacts could occur in the form of ground vibrations, increased human and vehicular activity, and noise. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 would reduce these impacts to a level that is less than significant. With the exception of the Crotch bumble bee (discussed below), impacts to special-status wildlife species would be similar to the 2021 approved alignment and would be less than significant with mitigation.

One special-status species, Crotch bumble bee (candidate for state listing) has a high potential to occur and two species, least Bell's vireo (federally and state-listed endangered) and burrowing owl (CDFW SSC),

have a low potential to occur. For these three species, any direct or indirect impacts to them due to Project implementation would be considered significant under CEQA. The least Bell's vireo and burrowing owl would have similar effects with the Revised Alignment as disclosed with the 2021 approved alignment and would be less-than-significant with mitigation.

Both the 2021 approved alignment and the Revised Alignment contain suitable nesting and overwintering habitat and food sources for the Crotch bumble bee. Because the status of the Crotch bumble bee has changed since the Project was approved in 2021, potential impacts to the species could be potentially significant and additional mitigation measures are required. The amount of temporary ground disturbance with the Revised Alignment is similar to the ground disturbance with the 2021 approved alignment, but the amount of vegetation disturbance required for the Revised Alignment would be less because a portion of the Revised Alignment would be constructed within Shady Brook Road. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5 would reduce impacts to a level that is less than significant.

The Revised Alignment contains a similar amount of suitable nesting habitat for bird species protected under the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code when compared to the 2021 approved alignment. Both the Revised Alignment and the 2021 approved alignment will be required to comply with the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code and avoid impacts to nesting birds. If Project activities occur during the nesting bird season, ground-disturbing construction activities could directly affect birds protected by the MBTA and their nests through the removal of habitat and indirectly through increased noise. Impacts to nesting birds would be eliminated or reduced to a level that is less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-5.

Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3 are additional measures developed for the Revised Project that were not included in the Biological Technical Report prepared for the previously approved alignment (ECORP 2021). Additionally, this Supplemental IS/MND does not include focused surveys for least Bell's vireo, as required by the IS/MND (ECORP 2021), because construction of the Revised Project would not result in any direct impacts to potentially suitable least Bell's vireo nesting habitat in Garden Air Creek. The riparian habitat in Garden Air Creek that would be affected by the Revised Alignment does not include a dense understory suitable for least Bell's vireo nesting. Instead, implementation of BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-5 would reduce impacts to least Bell's vireo to a level that is less than significant.

Analysis: Impact threshold b) for Biological Resources in Appendix G of the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form reads as follows:

Would the Project: b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The Project Site consists of riparian, chaparral, oak woodland, and nonnative grassland vegetation communities as well as developed land cover. The riparian habitat south of Sandalwood Drive has the

potential to provide habitat for special-status wildlife species and nesting birds. The aquatic feature associated with this riparian habitat, Garden Air Creek, was determined to be potentially jurisdictional and is considered to contain a sensitive natural community (ECORP 2021). Project-related impacts to this community may include removal, loss of habitat, and habitat degradation.

Additionally, it should be noted that the Revised Alignment would disturb less total area than the 2021 approved alignment. Both the 2021 approved alignment and the Revised Alignment would avoid sensitive riparian communities by utilizing jack and bore construction methods to cross Garden Air Creek without disturbance to or removal of riparian habitat. The 2021 approved alignment would disturb approximately 0.65-acre more land than the Revised Alignment. Impacts to sensitive natural communities and riparian habitats associated with the Revised Alignment would be similar to, or slightly less than those associated with the 2021 approved alignment.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 is an additional measure developed for the Revised Project that was not included in the Biological Technical Report prepared for the previously approved alignment (ECORP 2021). Implementation of BIO-6 would ensure avoidance of Garden Air Creek and reduce potential Project-related impacts to a level that is less than significant. If, however, impacts to this area are unavoidable, regulatory permitting will be required with CDFW and potentially with the USACE and RWQCB.

Analysis: Impact threshold c) for Biological Resources in Appendix G of the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form reads as follows:

Would the Project: c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

The Project Area was previously assessed for aquatic resources potentially jurisdictional under USACE, CDFW, and RQCB in 2021 (ECORP 2021). A feature previously identified during the 2021 Aquatic Resources Delineation (i.e., Garden Air Creek) that would have been affected by the 2021 approved alignment would also be affected by the Revised Alignment. Both the 2021 approved alignment and the Revised Alignment would avoid adverse effects to Garden Air Creek with the use of jack and bore construction methods. The jack and bore method of construction does not require trenching and avoids adverse effects at the ground-surface level. Implementation of BIO-6, establishing Garden Air Creek as an environmentally sensitive area, and BIO-1 and BIO-2, worker training and construction monitoring, would ensure that aquatic resources would be avoided and would reduce potential Project-related impacts to a level that is less than significant.

4.1.3 Mitigation Measures with Revised Alignment

The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce biological resources impacts to a less than significant level:

BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP): The YVWD shall have a qualified biologist experienced with the sensitive biological resources in the region conduct an on-site worker education training for all on-the-ground Project personnel prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, staging of equipment, staking/flagging of the Project limits and staging areas, demolition, vegetation removal, tree trimming, and initial grading), with emphasis on undeveloped areas south of Sandalwood Drive. The training shall include a description of the Project limits and staging areas, best management practices to be implemented, sensitive biological resources of concern, state and federal environmental laws and regulations, consequences for violations of said laws and regulations, and the name and number of the Lead Project Biologist shall be provided to each attendee. All personnel shall be required to sign and date the Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training sign-in sheet at the completion of training to acknowledge they have been informed and fully understand the information that has been provided. Subsequent training shall be required for new personnel throughout the construction phase of the Project.

BIO-2: Biological Monitoring: A biological monitor familiar with the special-status species with potential to occur shall be present during all initial ground disturbing activities, including but not limited to tree trimming and vegetation removal activities. The biological monitor shall perform biological clearance surveys at the start of each workday where ground disturbing activities take place to minimize impacts on special-status species, including (but not limited to) the Crotch bumble bee. The monitor will be responsible for helping Project crews avoid impacts to special-status species to the fullest extent possible. The monitor shall have the authority to enforce any work exclusion zones, including active nest non-disturbance buffers, and may temporarily halt work to relocate native wildlife species out of harm's way. If a new bird nest is detected during biological monitoring, the monitor shall establish an appropriate non-disturbance buffer around the nest using flagging or staking and shall immediately notify the crew and the YVWD of the new avoidance area. The non-disturbance buffer shall remain in place until the nest is no longer active and any fledglings from the nest are no longer reliant on the nest area.

BIO-3: Preconstruction Crotch Bumble Bee Surveys: If the Crotch bumble bee is no longer a Candidate or formally Listed species under the CESA at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures are proposed for the species.

If the Crotch bumble bee is legally protected under the CESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur, pre-construction surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the established survey protocol provided by CDFW. If no such protocol is available and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the Crotch bumble bee flight season (February 16 through October 31), then a minimum of two Crotch bumble bee preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist experienced in identifying the species prior to ground disturbing

activities (including vegetation removal) south of Sandalwood Drive. The surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days and three (3) days prior to ground-disturbing activities and vegetation clearing activities that are to occur during the flight season.

Should vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities be scheduled to begin during the overwintering season (November 1 to February 15), when Crotch bumble bee are not detectable aboveground, then four (4) focused surveys will be conducted at least three (3) weeks apart during the peak flight season (late March through August) immediately prior to start of construction.

It is important to note that if Crotch bumble bee is determined to occur within the Project area at any time, coordination with CDFW will be required and the project may need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of CESA. Revegetation of the temporary impact areas will occur post-construction to re-establish foraging and overwintering habitat for the species. This will result in only a temporary loss of habitat resulting from the project.

BIO-4: Preconstruction Burrowing Owl Survey: A preconstruction burrowing owl survey shall be conducted for the Project site prior to ground disturbing activities. The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of initial ground disturbance (grading, grubbing, and construction) in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). Typically, if burrowing owls or active burrowing owl burrows are identified on a Project site during the survey, these features must be completely avoided during the owl breeding season (March 1 through August 31). If impacts to those features are unavoidable then the Project proponent must also develop an owl mitigation plan in coordination with CDFW. Mitigation methods may include passive relocation conducted between September 1 and February 28, outside of the burrowing owl breeding season. If an active burrowing owl burrow is identified, and construction is to proceed, then a qualified owl biologist (with two or more years of burrowing owl experience) can establish an appropriate non-disturbance buffer around the burrow using flagging or staking. The buffer size will be at the biologist's discretion based on topography of the site and other conditions. Project-related activities shall not occur within any non-disturbance buffers until the burrow is deemed inactive by the qualified burrowing owl biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

BIO-5: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey: If Project-related ground disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist who is experienced in bird and nest identification to ensure that active bird nests will not be disturbed or destroyed. The survey shall be completed no more than three days prior to initial ground disturbance, vegetation removal, and tree trimming activities and may need to be repeated if these activities are completed in stages or if Project activities are

delayed and not initiated within three days of completion of the preconstruction survey. The nesting bird survey shall include the Project site and adjacent areas where Project activities have the potential to affect active nests, either directly or indirectly, due to construction activity, noise, or ground disturbance. If an active nest is identified, a qualified avian biologist shall establish an appropriate disturbance-limit buffer around the nest using flagging or staking. Project activities shall not occur within any non-disturbance buffers established around active bird nests until the nest is deemed inactive by the qualified avian biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

BIO-6: **Avoidance of Jurisdictional Aquatic Features:** To ensure impacts to waters and habitats jurisdictional to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife are avoided, an exclusion zone shall be staked by a qualified biologist prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities. The exclusion zone shall remain in place for the duration of construction, and the purpose of the exclusion zone shall be included in the WEAP as well as during construction worker daily briefings (tailgate meetings). No Project-related work of any kind will be allowed to occur inside the exclusion zone.

4.2 **Conclusion**

This Supplement addresses the minor changes that the Revised Alignment makes to the Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project, which was analyzed in the approved IS/MND. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15163, YVWD will consider this Supplement together with the prior IS/MND prior to making a decision on the Revised Alignment. This analysis shows that the Revised Alignment's impacts would be similar to those evaluated in the IS/MND, and that a Supplement is the appropriate CEQA document to reflect the findings of the July 2023 Biological Technical Report.

5.0 REVISIONS TO THE 2021 IS/MND

5.1 Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures (identified below, as BIO-1 through BIO-6) would reduce those impacts identified by the July 2023 Biological Technical Report and this Supplement to a less than significant level. Furthermore, these six mitigation measures would replace the original three biological resources mitigation measures (BIO-1 through BIO-3) adopted by YVWD for the 2021 approved alignment.

BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP): The YVWD shall have a qualified biologist experienced with the sensitive biological resources in the region conduct an on-site worker education training for all on-the-ground Project personnel prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, staging of equipment, staking/flagging of the Project limits and staging areas, demolition, vegetation removal, tree trimming, and initial grading), with emphasis on undeveloped areas south of Sandalwood Drive. The training shall include a description of the Project limits and staging areas, best management practices to be implemented, sensitive biological resources of concern, state and federal environmental laws and regulations, consequences for violations of said laws and regulations, and the name and number of the Lead Project Biologist shall be provided to each attendee. All personnel shall be required to sign and date the Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training sign-in sheet at the completion of training to acknowledge they have been informed and fully understand the information that has been provided. Subsequent training shall be required for new personnel throughout the construction phase of the Project.

BIO-2: Biological Monitoring: A biological monitor familiar with the special-status species with potential to occur shall be present during all initial ground disturbing activities, including but not limited to tree trimming and vegetation removal activities. The biological monitor shall perform biological clearance surveys at the start of each workday where ground disturbing activities take place to minimize impacts on special-status species, including (but not limited to) the Crotch bumble bee. The monitor will be responsible for helping Project crews avoid impacts to special-status species to the fullest extent possible. The monitor shall have the authority to enforce any work exclusion zones, including active nest non-disturbance buffers, and may temporarily halt work to relocate native wildlife species out of harm's way. If a new bird nest is detected during biological monitoring, the monitor shall establish an appropriate non-disturbance buffer around the nest using flagging or staking and shall immediately notify the crew and the YVWD of the new avoidance area. The non-disturbance buffer shall remain in place until the nest is no longer active and any fledglings from the nest are no longer reliant on the nest area.

BIO-3: Preconstruction Crotch Bumble Bee Surveys: If the Crotch bumble bee is no longer a Candidate or formally Listed species under the CESA at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures are proposed for the species.

If the Crotch bumble bee is legally protected under the CESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur, pre-construction surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the established survey protocol provided by CDFW. If no such protocol is available and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the Crotch bumble bee flight season (February 16 through October 31), then a minimum of two Crotch bumble bee preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist experienced in identifying the species prior to ground disturbing activities (including vegetation removal) south of Sandalwood Drive. The surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days and three (3) days prior to ground-disturbing activities and vegetation clearing activities that are to occur during the flight season.

Should vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities be scheduled to begin during the overwintering season (November 1 to February 15), when Crotch bumble bee are not detectable aboveground, then four (4) focused surveys will be conducted at least three (3) weeks apart during the peak flight season (late March through August) immediately prior to start of construction.

It is important to note that if Crotch bumble bee is determined to occur within the Project area at any time, coordination with CDFW will be required and the project may need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of CESA. Revegetation of the temporary impact areas will occur post-construction to re-establish foraging and overwintering habitat for the species. This will result in only a temporary loss of habitat resulting from the project.

BIO-4: Preconstruction Burrowing Owl Survey: A preconstruction burrowing owl survey shall be conducted for the Project site prior to ground disturbing activities. The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of initial ground disturbance (grading, grubbing, and construction) in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). Typically, if burrowing owls or active burrowing owl burrows are identified on a Project site during the survey, these features must be completely avoided during the owl breeding season (March 1 through August 31). If impacts to those features are unavoidable then the Project proponent must also develop an owl mitigation plan in coordination with CDFW. Mitigation methods may include passive relocation conducted between September 1 and February 28, outside of the burrowing owl breeding season. If an active burrowing owl burrow is identified, and construction is to proceed, then a qualified owl biologist (with two or more years of burrowing owl experience) can establish an appropriate non-disturbance buffer around the burrow using flagging or staking. The buffer size will be at the biologist's discretion based on topography of the site and other conditions. Project-related activities shall not occur within any non-disturbance buffers

until the burrow is deemed inactive by the qualified burrowing owl biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

BIO-5: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey: If Project-related ground disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist who is experienced in bird and nest identification to ensure that active bird nests will not be disturbed or destroyed. The survey shall be completed no more than three days prior to initial ground disturbance, vegetation removal, and tree trimming activities and may need to be repeated if these activities are completed in stages or if Project activities are delayed and not initiated within three days of completion of the preconstruction survey. The nesting bird survey shall include the Project site and adjacent areas where Project activities have the potential to affect active nests, either directly or indirectly, due to construction activity, noise, or ground disturbance. If an active nest is identified, a qualified avian biologist shall establish an appropriate disturbance-limit buffer around the nest using flagging or staking. Project activities shall not occur within any non-disturbance buffers established around active bird nests until the nest is deemed inactive by the qualified avian biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

BIO-6: Avoidance of Jurisdictional Aquatic Features: To ensure impacts to waters and habitats jurisdictional to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife are avoided, an exclusion zone shall be staked by a qualified biologist prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities. The exclusion zone shall remain in place for the duration of construction, and the purpose of the exclusion zone shall be included in the WEAP as well as during construction worker daily briefings (tailgate meetings). No Project-related work of any kind will be allowed to occur inside the exclusion zone.

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Supplemental Biological Technical Report

APPENDIX A

Biological Technical Report

Biological Technical Report

Oak Valley - Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project Addendum

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNPSEI	CNPS Electronic Inventory

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CWA	Clean Water Act
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FP	Fully protected
gpm	Gallons per minute
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
I-10	Interstate 10
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
ITP	Incidental Take Permit
LF	Linear feet
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NHD	National Hydrology Dataset
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
Project	Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project
ROW	Right-of-way
SSA	Streambed Alteration Agreement
SSAR	Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles
SSC	Species of Special Concern
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	U.S. Code
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WRCRCA	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
WRWRF	Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility
YVWD	Yucaipa Valley Water District

1.0 INTRODUCTION

ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) conducted a biological reconnaissance survey to provide an addendum to the Yucaipa Valley Water District's (YVWD) proposed Oak Valley-Summerwind Offsite Sewer Project (Project) in the city of Calimesa, Riverside County, California. ECORP conducted several surveys for this Project as an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) which was approved by the YVWD Board on December 7, 2021. Since then, the southern portion of the Project's alignment has been revised and shifted west of the alignment analyzed in the IS/MND. As a result, ECORP conducted a supplemental biological reconnaissance survey within the revised Project alignment (Project site), plus a 100-foot buffer, to identify any potential biological resources that could be affected by the proposed Project, pursuant to the terms of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and for the purposes of identifying any biological constraints that would affect the proposed site plan for the Project. The Project will be subject to county, state, and federal regulations regarding compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), California ESA, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and California Fish and Game Code.

1.1 Project Location

The Project site is located in the northern portion of the city of Calimesa (Figure 1-1). The Project site, as depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute El Casco topographic quadrangles, lies within Sections 14 and 23 of Township 2 South, and Range 2 West (Figure 1-2). The Project is located approximately five miles northwest of the junction of Interstate (I-) 10 and Highway 60, and approximately seven miles south of the foothills of the San Bernardino National Forest. The topography surrounding the site consists of gentle to moderate rolling hills and ridgelines, separated by broad valleys and narrow ravines, all scattered with oak trees and scrub vegetation. The proposed Project site extends south of Sandalwood Drive, where pipeline installation would occur along Shady Brook Road and cross Garden Air Creek within undeveloped land west of and roughly parallel with I-10 (Figure 1-3). The elevation of the Project site ranges from approximately 698 to 732 meters (2,290 to 2,400 feet) above mean sea level.

1.2 Project Characteristics

The YVWD was previously approved to construct 14,600 linear feet (LF) of 10-inch and 12-inch parallel force mains and 9,500 LF of 18-inch to 21-inch gravity sewer main connecting the Summerwind Ranch Residential development to the Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility (WRWRF) in the city of Yucaipa. The YVWD proposes to revise the southern portion of the previously approved alignment, south of Sandalwood Drive to Garden Air Creek where the future Roberts Road would cross the creek. The remainder of the Project site north of Sandalwood Drive will remain the same as that approved in 2021 (Figure 1-2).

1.2.1 Pipeline Alignment

The Project site would cross Garden Air Creek approximately 1,080 feet west of the previously approved alignment, using the same jack and bore method proposed for the original alignment. Traveling north approximately 700 feet, the alignment would then be constructed within the existing Shady Brook Road for approximately 1,200 feet to Sandalwood Drive, where it would continue to the Wochholz

Regional Water Recycling Facility (WRWRF) along the alignment approved in 2021. The alignment south of Sandalwood Drive is located within undeveloped private property, which will require property dedications to YVWD to both construct and maintain the force mains. The Project site is approximately 12 acres, which includes approximately one acre of paved road (Shady Brook Road) but is mostly undisturbed property south of and adjacent to Shady Brook Road.

1.2.2 Force Mains

The force main and pipeline would follow the revised alignment described above, from the southernmost Project boundary to the intersection of Seventh Place and West County Line Road. As previously described in the IS/MND (ECORP 2021a), the force mains are designed to carry a range of flows starting with low flows during initial operation, and then gradually increasing flows as the project develops, and then finally ultimate flows when the developments are built-out. Initially, sewage would flow through the 10-inch force main at a rate of 800 gallons per minute (gpm), which is greater than the initial peak sewage flow of 357 gpm. When flows increase and the flow rate approaches the capacity of the 10-inch force main (at approximately 750 gpm) the station discharge will be switched to the 12-inch force main. The sewage would then discharge through the 12-inch force main at a rate of 1,175 gpm until the sewage flow rate approaches the capacity of the 12-inch force main (at approximately 1,100 gpm). Once the 12-inch capacity is met, both force mains would be utilized, and sewage will then discharge from the station through both the 10-inch and 12-inch force mains at a design flow rate of 1,782 gpm.

1.2.3 Gravity Sewer

As previously described in the IS/MND (ECORP 2021a), the extended force main would convey the sewage to a new discharge manhole located at the intersection of Seventh Place and West County Line Road where it can discharge into a new gravity sewer pipeline. The gravity sewer pipeline would then run westerly in West County Line Road the remaining distance to the WRWRF. The Project would also extend the new sewer pipeline easterly in West County Line Road from the Seventh Place manhole to the intersection of Calimesa Boulevard (approximately 1,200 LF of 18-inch to 21-inch pipeline) to divert current flows in the Calimesa Boulevard sewer pipeline to the new sewer pipeline in West County Line Road.

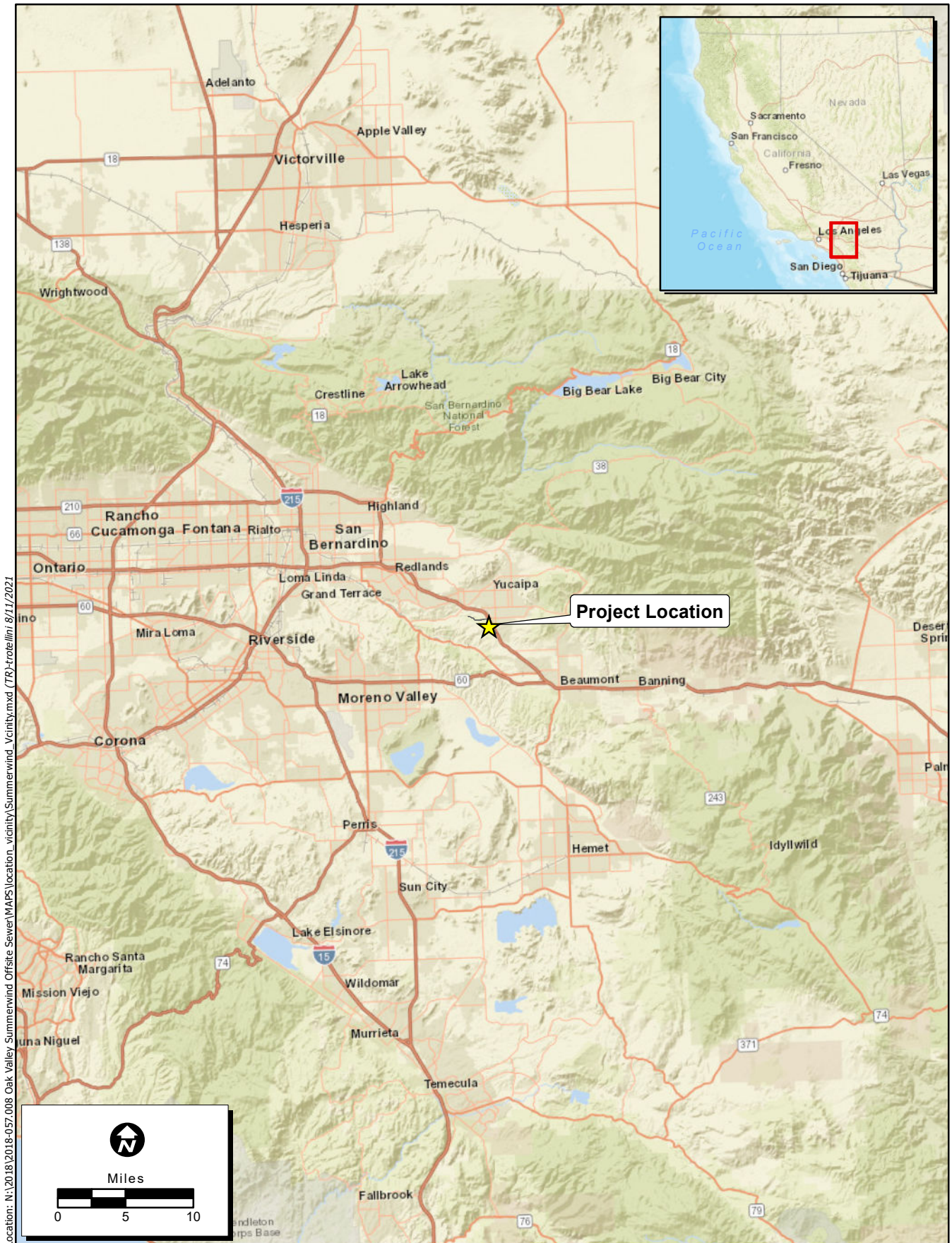


Figure 1-1. Project Vicinity

2018-057.008 Oak Valley Summerwind Offsite Sewer

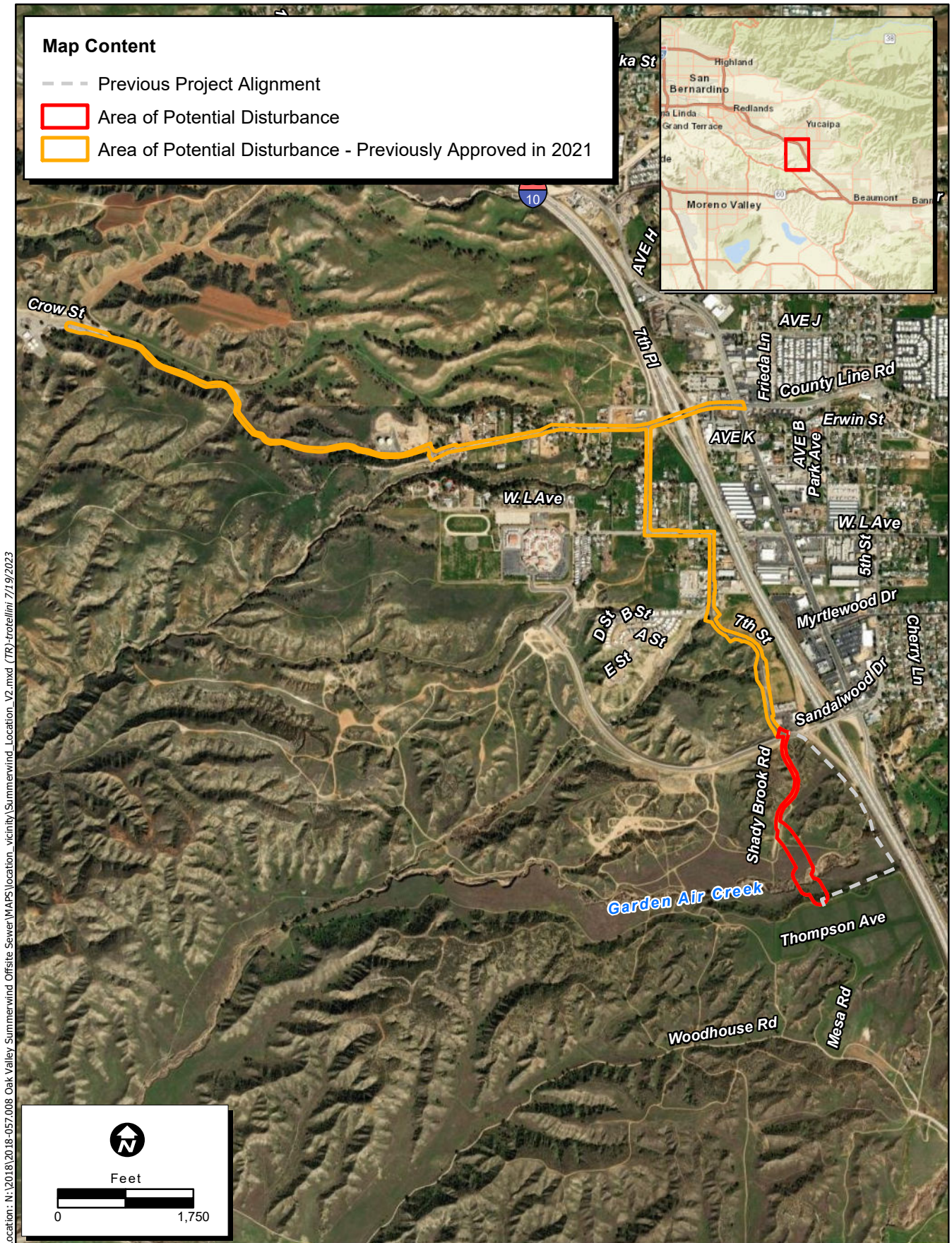


Figure 1-2. Project Location



Figure 1-3. Project Alignment

2.0 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES REGULATIONS

A biological reconnaissance survey of the proposed Project site was conducted to identify potential biological resource constraints and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations regarding listed, protected, and sensitive species. The regulations are detailed below.

2.1 Federal Regulations

2.1.1 The Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) protects plants and animals that are listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as "*harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct*" (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.3). For plants, this statute governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 U.S. Code [USC] 1538). Under Section 7 of the FESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a listed (or proposed) species (including plants) or its critical habitat. Through consultation and the issuance of a biological opinion, the USFWS may issue an incidental take statement allowing take of the species that is incidental to an otherwise authorized activity provided the activity will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Section 10 of the FESA provides for issuance of Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) where no other federal actions are necessary provided a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is developed.

2.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implements international treaties between the U.S. and other nations and is devised to protect migratory birds, any of their parts, eggs, and nests from activities including hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. As authorized by the MBTA, the USFWS issues permits to qualified applicants for the following types of activities: falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (rehabilitation, education, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), take of depredating birds, taxidermy, and waterfowl sale and disposal. The regulations governing migratory bird permits can be found in 50 CFR Part 13 General Permit Procedures and 50 CFR Part 21 Migratory Bird Permits. The State of California has incorporated the protection of birds of prey in Sections 3800, 3513, and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code.

2.1.3 Federal Clean Water Act

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). *Discharges of fill material* is defined as the addition of fill material into waters of the U.S., including, but not limited to the following: placement of fill necessary for the construction of any structure, or impoundment requiring rock, sand, dirt, or other

material for its construction; site development fills for recreational, industrial, commercial, residential, and other uses; causeways or road fills; and fill for intake and outfall pipes, and subaqueous utility lines [33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] § 328.2(f)]. In addition, Section 401 of the CWA (33 U.S. Code [USC] 1341) requires any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity that may result in a discharge of a pollutant into waters of the U.S. to obtain a certification that the discharge will comply with the applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. Section 401 Certification, "gives states and authorized tribes the authority to grant or waive certification of proposed federal licenses or permits that may discharge into waters of the US" (33 USC 1251).

On January 18, 2023, the USACE and United States Environmental Protection Agency published the final *Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"* rule in the Federal Register, and this rule went into effect on March 20, 2023. The regulations established in this rule are generally consistent with the currently recognized pre-2015 regulatory regime and define the Waters of the U.S. as follows:

1. Traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, and interstate waters.
2. Impoundments of "Waters of the United States."
3. Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this section when the tributaries meet either the relatively permanent standard or significant nexus standard.
4. Wetlands adjacent to traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, and interstate waters; wetlands adjacent to and with a continuous surface connection to relatively permanent waters identified in paragraphs 2 and 3; and wetlands adjacent to waters identified in paragraphs 2 and 3 when the wetlands meet the significant nexus standard.
5. Intrastate lakes and ponds, streams, or wetlands not identified in paragraphs 1 through 4, which meet either the relatively permanent standard or significant nexus standard.

Features excluded from jurisdiction under this rule, even where the feature would otherwise be jurisdictional under paragraphs 2 through 5 above, include the following:

1. Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons, designed to meet the requirements of the CWA;
2. Prior converted cropland designated by the Secretary of Agriculture
3. Ditches, including roadside ditches, excavated wholly in and draining only dry land and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water;
4. Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to dry land if the irrigation ceased;
5. Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing;

6. Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons;
7. Water filled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel unless and until the construction or excavation operations is abandoned and the resulting body of water meets the definition of Waters of the United States; and
8. Swales and erosional features characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow.

2.2 State and Local Regulations

2.2.1 California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) generally parallels the main provisions of the FESA but, unlike its federal counterpart, the CESA applies the take prohibitions to species proposed for listing (called "candidates" by the state). Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the taking, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or in the regulations. Take is defined in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code as "*hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.*" The CESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects. State lead agencies are required to consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to ensure that any action they undertake is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in destruction or adverse modification of essential habitat.

2.2.2 Fully Protected Species

The State of California first began to designate species as "fully protected" (FP) prior to the creation of the FESA and CESA. Lists of fully protected species were initially developed to provide protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction, and included fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Most fully protected species have since been listed as threatened or endangered under the FESA or CESA. The regulations that implement the Fully Protected Species Statute (California Fish and Game Code § 4700) provide that fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time. Furthermore, CDFW prohibits any state agency from issuing ITPs for fully protected species, except for necessary scientific research.

2.2.3 Native Plant Protection Act

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 (California Fish and Game Code §§ 1900-1913) was created with the intent to "*preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State.*" The NPPA is administered by CDFW. The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) has the authority to designate native plants as "endangered" or "rare" and to protect endangered and rare plants from take. The CESA of 1984 (California Fish and Game Code § 2050-2116) provided further protection for rare and endangered plant species, but the NPPA remains part of the California Fish and Game Code.

2.2.4 California Fish and Game Code

2.2.4.1 Streambed Alteration Agreement

Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code requires that a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration be submitted to CDFW for *“any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake.”* The CDFW reviews the proposed actions and, if necessary, submits to the applicant a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) for measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources. The final SAA is obtained once the measures contained within are mutually agreed upon by CDFW and the applicant.

2.2.4.2 Migratory Birds

The CDFW enforces the protection of nongame native birds in §§ 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Fish and Game Code. Section 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the possession or take of birds listed under the MBTA. These sections mandate the protection of California nongame native birds’ nests and also make it unlawful to take these birds. All raptor species are protected from “take” pursuant to California Fish and Game Code § 3503.5 and are also protected at the federal level by the MBTA of 1918 (USFWS 1918).

2.2.5 California Environmental Quality Act Significance Criteria

Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines encourages local agencies to develop and publish the thresholds the agency uses in determining the significance of environmental effects caused by projects under its review. However, agencies may also rely upon the guidance provided by the expanded Initial Study checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Appendix G provides examples of impacts that would normally be considered significant. Based on these examples, impacts to biological resources would normally be considered significant if the Project would:

- have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; and

- conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP.

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. Substantial impacts would be those that would diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, state, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant according to CEQA. The reason is that although the impacts would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish, or result in the permanent loss of, an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Literature Review

Prior to conducting the biological reconnaissance survey, ECORP biologists performed a literature review using the CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2023a) and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI; CNPS 2023) to determine the special-status plant and wildlife species that have been documented near the Project site. ECORP searched CNDDDB and CNPSEI records within the Project site boundaries as depicted on the USGS 7.5-minute El Casco topographic quadrangle, plus the surrounding eight topographic quadrangles including Yucaipa, Forest Falls, Beaumont, San Jacinto, Lakeview, Perris, Sunnymead, and Redlands. The CNDDDB and CNPSEI contain records of reported occurrences of federally or state-listed endangered, threatened, proposed endangered or threatened species, California Species of Special Concern (SSC), or other special-status species or habitat that may occur within or near the Project. Additional information was gathered from the following sources and includes, but is not limited to:

- *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California* (CDFW 2023b);
- *Special Animals List* (CDFW 2023c);
- *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012);
- *The Manual of California Vegetation*, 2nd Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009); and
- various online websites (e.g., Calflora 2023; USFWS 2023b).

Using this information and observations in the field, a list of special-status plant and animal species that have the potential to occur on or near the Project site was generated. For the purposes of this assessment, special-status species are defined as plants or animals that:

- have been designated as either rare, threatened, or endangered by CDFW, CNPS, or the USFWS, or are protected under either the FESA or CESA;
- are candidate species being considered or proposed for listing under these same acts;
- are fully protected by the California Fish and Game Code, §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, or 5515; or

- are of expressed concern to resource and regulatory agencies or local jurisdictions.

Special-status species reported for the region in the literature review or for which suitable habitat occurs on the site were assessed for their potential to occur within the Project site based on the following guidelines:

Present: The species was observed on site during a site visit or focused survey.

High: Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project site and a known occurrence has recently been recorded (within the last 20 years) within five miles of the area.

Moderate: Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project site and a documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within five miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project site; or a recently documented observation occurs within five miles of the area and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs in the Project site.

Low: Limited or marginal habitat for the species occurs within the Project site and a recently documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within five miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Project site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site, but no records or only historic records were found within the database search.

Presumed Absent: Species was not observed during a site visit (if it was a species expected to be observed) or during focused surveys conducted in accordance with protocol guidelines at an appropriate time for identification; habitat (including soils and elevation factors) does not exist on site; or the known geographic range of the species does not include the Project site.

Note that location information on some special-status species may be of questionable accuracy or unavailable. Therefore, for survey purposes, the environmental factors associated with a species' occurrence requirements may be considered sufficient reason to give a species a positive potential for occurrence. In addition, just because a record of a species does not exist in the databases does not mean it does not occur. In many cases, records may not be present in the databases because an area has not been surveyed for that species. For example, the lack of recent CNDDDB records for bat observations does not necessarily indicate a lack of sensitive bat presence, as bats tend to be underrepresented in biological resources surveys and observations are commonly underreported due to the sensitivity of known bat-roost locations.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

The biological reconnaissance survey was conducted by walking the Project site to determine the vegetation communities and wildlife habitats present on and adjacent to the site. Areas that were not accessible by foot, or where access was not permitted, were scanned using binoculars. The biologists documented the plant and animal species present on the Project site, and the location and condition of

the Project site were assessed for the potential to provide habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species. Data were recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, field notebooks, and/or maps. Photographs were also taken during the survey to provide visual representation of the conditions within the Project site. The Project site was also examined to assess its potential to facilitate wildlife movement or function as a movement corridor for wildlife moving throughout the region. In addition, the biologists documented the vegetation communities present on the Project site.

Plant and wildlife species, including any special-status species that were observed during the survey, were recorded. Plant nomenclature follows that of *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012). Wildlife nomenclature follows Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR 2017), *Check-list of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2020), and the *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico* (Bradley et al. 2014).

In instances where a special-status species was observed, the date, species, location and habitat, and GPS coordinates were recorded.

4.0 RESULTS

Summarized below are the results of the literature review and field surveys, including site characteristics, vegetation communities, wildlife and plant species observed, special-status species potential for occurrence, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors). These results are compared to the results from the IS/MND (ECORP 2021a, ECORP 2021b).

4.1 Literature Review

4.1.1 Special-Status Plants and Wildlife

The literature review and database searches identified 46 special-status plant species and 45 special-status wildlife species that could occur near the Project site. This literature review identified 18 additional plant species and one less wildlife species compared to the IS/MND (ECORP 2021a). A list was generated from the results of the literature review and the Project site was evaluated for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant or wildlife species on the list. Special-status plant and wildlife species are addressed in more detail in Section 4.2.4.

4.1.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Designated Critical Habitat

The Project site is not located within any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat. Designated Critical Habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) is present approximately 6.1 miles northeast of the Project site (Unit: Oak Glen Creek) and approximately 6.1 miles west of the Project site (Unit: San Timoteo Creek) (USFWS 2023). No impacts to designated Critical Habitat will occur as a result of the Project.

4.2 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

The biological reconnaissance survey was conducted on June 15, 2023, by ECORP biologists Corrina Tapia and Shelby Dunn. Summarized below are the results of the biological reconnaissance survey, including site characteristics, plant communities, wildlife species observed, special-status species potential for occurrence, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors). Weather conditions during the survey are summarized in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Weather Conditions During the Survey								
Date	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
	Start	end	Min	Max	min	max	min	max
06/15/2023	0700	1000	61.2	65	100	100	0	1

4.2.1 Project Site Characteristics

The Project site is bounded by open space, low-density residential development, commercial development, and I-10. Disturbances observed near Sandalwood Drive and Shady Brook Road included paved roadways, commercial development, vehicles, dumpsters, trash, stockpiled dirt, and barbed wire fencing. Trash was present throughout Garden Air Creek. Representative site photographs are presented in Appendix A.

The following soils are present on the Project site (NRCS 2023):

- Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
- Hanford coarse sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded
- Ramona very fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
- Ramona sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded
- Terrace escarpments

The soils above are consistent with the soils reported in the IS/MND (ECORP 2021a).

4.2.2 Vegetation Communities

Vegetation communities present on the Project site or directly adjacent to it include riparian, oak woodland, chaparral, and nonnative grassland. There was also one land cover type present, developed/urban, within the Project alignment. The vegetation communities present in the Project site are consistent with those described in the IS/MND (ECORP 2021a) and are briefly described below. A full list of plant species observed on and immediately adjacent to the Project site is included in Appendix B.

4.2.2.1 Riparian

The Project site crosses riparian habitat south of Shady Brook Road. A riparian vegetation community is present within the wash of Garden Air Creek. Riparian vegetation consists of plant communities that grow laterally to rivers and streams. They have multiple adaptations which allow them to persist in dynamic conditions. The riparian vegetation community present within the Project site included cottonwood (*Populus* sp.) dominant with some groups of eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.) and California croton (*Croton californicus*).

4.2.2.2 Oak Woodland

Scattered oak woodland habitat is present throughout the Project site. The dominant plant species that were observed in these communities included oak sp. (*Quercus* sp.), sugar sumac (*Rhus ovata*), turkey mullein (*Croton setiger*), sunflower (*Helianthus* sp.), and Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.).

4.2.2.3 Chaparral

Chaparral habitat is present on the rolling hills south of Sandalwood Drive, surrounding Shady Brook Road. Vegetation at the time of survey ranged from intermittent to continuous canopy with shrubs less than 12 feet tall. Plant species within this community that were present on the Project site include chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), and blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *cerulea*).

4.2.2.4 Nonnative Grassland

Nonnative grassland was present throughout the Project site but especially south of Shady Brook Road, where the pipeline alignment branches off from Shady Brook Road to Garden Air Creek. Nonnative grassland communities are largely devoid of native vegetation due to human disturbance and are dominated by open areas of nonnative grasses including nonnative weedy and ruderal vegetation. Vegetation height at the time of survey ranged from approximately 0.5 foot to three feet. Plants present within the Project site included primarily nonnative grasses and weedy species such as black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), brome grass (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) with scattered oak trees throughout.

4.2.2.5 Developed/Urban

The Project site surrounding Sandalwood Drive and along Shady Brook Road consists of developed/urban land cover. Developed is not a vegetation classification, but rather a land cover type. Areas classified as developed were heavily disturbed due to paved roads, commercial development, vehicle traffic, dumpsters, fencing and trash. Developed land cover also includes urban areas with landscaped vegetation such as ornamental trees, lawn shrubs, and grass. Within the Project site landscaped vegetation included palm trees (*Washingtonia* sp.).

4.2.3 Wildlife

Wildlife species observed and detected on the Project site, or adjacent, were characteristic of chaparral and nonnative grassland habitat. Three mammal species were detected on and in the vicinity of the Project site: California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). One reptile and 16 bird species were observed on and in the vicinity of the Project Site and are listed in Appendix C. The Project site provides suitable habitat for wildlife since most of the Project site consists of undeveloped land and includes native vegetation. A complete list of wildlife species observed on or immediately adjacent to the Project site is included in Appendix C.

4.2.4 Potential for Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species to Occur on the Project Site

The literature review and database searches identified 46 special-status plant species and 45 special-status wildlife species that occur on or near the Project site. The special-status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur on the Project site are discussed below. A complete list of the special status species identified in the literature review are described in Appendix D and E.

4.2.4.1 Special-Status Plants

There were 46 special-status plant species that appeared in the literature review and database searches for the Project site (CDFW 2023a; CNPS 2023). Of the 46 special-status plants identified, five species were determined to have a low potential to occur. Two of these plant species, chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*) and white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*), were identified in the IS/MND and three are new (ECORP 2021a). The remaining special status plant species are presumed absent from the Project site due to a lack of suitable habitat and records, historical or recent, in CNDDb within five miles of the Project site. A complete list of the special status plant species identified in the literature review, and their potential for occurrence, is attached as Appendix D.

For the purposes of this study, the results of the literature review were limited to plant species occurring within a nine-quadrangle search of the Project site. With various habitat types occurring within the nine-quadrangle search, several species appeared in the literature review results that had no potential to occur on or near the Project site. Additionally, for the purposes of this study, plant species with a CNPS Rare Plant Rank of 1A were eliminated from the analysis because they are presumed to be extirpated from California. Additionally, CNPS Rare Plant Rank 3 or 4 species were eliminated from the analysis because these rankings are considered a review list and a watch list, respectively. Descriptions of the CNPS designations can be found in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2. CNPS Status Designations

List Designation	Meaning
1A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But Common Elsewhere
2B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere
3	Plants about which more information is needed; a review list
4	Plants of limited distribution; a watch list
List 1B, 2, and 4 extension meanings:	
.1	Seriously threatened in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2	Moderately threatened in California (20 to 80 percent occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

Note: According to CNPS (Skinner and Pavlik 1994), plants on Lists 1B and 2 meet definitions for listing as threatened or endangered under Section 1901, Chapter 10, of the California Fish and Game Code (California Department of Fish and Game 1984). This interpretation is inconsistent with other definitions.

4.2.4.2 Plant Species with a Low Potential to Occur

Five species have a low potential to occur on the Project site because marginal or limited habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species is present and a recently documented occurrence was identified in the literature search.

- chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*), CNPS 1B.1
- Yucaipa onion (*Allium marvinii*), CNPS 1B.2
- Jaegar's milk-vetch (*Astragalus pachypus* var. *jaegeri*), CNPS 1B.1
- smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*), CNPS 1B.1
- white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*), CNPS 2B.2

4.2.4.3 Special-Status Wildlife

Of the 45 special-status wildlife species identified in the literature review, five were found to have a high potential to occur, three have a moderate potential to occur, and 12 have a low potential to occur on the Project site. The remaining species are presumed absent from the Project site. A complete list of the special status wildlife identified in the literature review, and their potential for occurrence, are described in Appendix E.

4.2.4.4 Wildlife Species with a High Potential to Occur

The following species have a high potential to occur on the Project site because suitable habitat is present and a known occurrence of the species has been recently (within the last 20 years) recorded within five miles of the Project site:

Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*)

Crotch bumble bee is a candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and is therefore afforded all the same legal protections as a fully listed species would receive under the CESA. The Crotch bumble bee occurs in open grassland and scrub habitats ranging from coastal California, east to the Sierra-Cascade crest, and south into Mexico. The flight period for queens in California is from late February to late October, peaking in early April with a second pulse in July. The flight period for workers and males in California is from late March through September, peaking in early July. The species prefers a diet consisting of certain plant species including milkweeds (*Asclepias* sp.), dusty maidens (*Chaenactis* sp.), lupines (*Lupinus* sp.), medics (*Medicago* sp.), phacelias (*Phacelia* sp.), sages (*Salvia* sp.), clarkias (*Clarkia* sp.), poppies (*Papaver* sp. or *Eschscholzia* sp.), and wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.). The nests of the species are often located underground in abandoned rodent nests or above ground in tufts of grass, old bird nests, rock piles, or cavities in dead trees. Overwintering sites utilized by Crotch bumble bee mated queens include soft, disturbed soils, or under leaf litter or other debris. Suitable nonnative grassland and chaparral with scrub components (California buckwheat and brittle bush) and rodent burrows for nesting and overwintering are present throughout the Project site. Three recent occurrences of this species were documented in 2020 (Occ # 199, 220, 278; CDFW 2023a) and two historic records (Occ # 180 and 181; CDFW 2023a) were recorded within five miles of the Project site. Suitable nectaring habitat, including buckwheat, fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.), and deerweed, were present throughout the Project site. The presence of suitable nesting and overwintering habitat, food sources, and recent occurrences nearby result in this species having a high potential to occur on the Project site. This is a higher potential to occur than the previous Project alignment where Crotch bumble bee was found to have a moderate potential to occur (ECORP 2021a).

Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*)

Southern California legless lizard is a CDFW SSC. The southern California legless lizard is found in coastal sand dunes and a variety of interior habitats including sandy washes and alluvial fans. The species also occurs in moist warm loose soil and in sparsely vegetated beach dunes, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, chaparral, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks and is sometimes found in suburban gardens. Leaf litter is a common component of suitable habitat. The diet of the species consists of larval insects, beetles, termites, and spiders. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the riparian habitat at the south end of the Project site and in the chaparral vegetation community along the slopes present south of Sandalwood Drive. Three recent records and four historical records of this species are documented within five miles of the Project site. The closest occurrence was documented less than one mile away in 2018 (Occ # 391; CDFW 2023a). The Southern California legless lizard has a high potential to

occur on the Project site due to the presence of suitable habitat and recent occurrences within five miles of the Project site. This conclusion is consistent with the previous Project alignment (ECORP 2021a).

Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*)

Coastal whiptail is a CDFW SSC. The coastal whiptail is found primarily in hot and dry open areas with sparse vegetation in habitats including chaparral, woodlands, and dry riparian areas. It primarily feeds on small lizards and small invertebrates including spiders, scorpions, centipedes, and termites. Suitable habitat is present in the chaparral and dry riparian habitats on the Project site. Two recent records of this species are documented within five miles of the Project site with the closest record being approximately 4 miles away in 2015 (Occ # 120; CDFW 2023a). The coastal whiptail has a high potential to occur on the Project site due to the presence of suitable habitat and recent occurrences within five miles of the Project site. This conclusion is consistent with the previous Project alignment (ECORP 2021a).

Red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*)

Red-diamond rattlesnake is a CDFW SSC. The red-diamond rattlesnake is found in coastal chaparral, arid scrub, rocky grassland, oak and pine woodlands, desert mountain slopes, and rocky desert flats. The diet consists of birds, lizards, and small mammals including ground squirrels, woodrats, and rabbits. Suitable chaparral and non-native grassland habitat is present in the Project site. Foraging is possible on the Project site as lizards, birds, and small mammals are expected to be present. The literature review identified one recent record within five miles of the Project site in 2016 (Occ # 177; CDFW 2023a). The red-diamond rattlesnake has a high potential to occur on the Project site due to the presence of suitable habitat and recent occurrences within five miles of the Project site. This conclusion is consistent with the previous Project alignment (ECORP 2021a).

Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)

Coast horned lizard is a CDFW SSC. The coast horned lizard occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, desert wash, pinyon and juniper woodlands, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. The species is most commonly found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. The coast horned lizard requires open areas for sunning, bushes to provide cover, and loose soil for burial. The species' diet consists mainly of native ants and small invertebrates. The Project site contains suitable chaparral, riparian, and grassland habitat. The Project site also has loose soils for burial, shrubs to provide cover, open areas for sunning, and ant hills for food. There are two recent records (Occ # 528 and 550) and one historical record (Occ # 741) of this species within five miles of the Project site, with the closest being approximately 4 miles southeast of the Project site in 2005 (Occ # 550; CDFW 2023a). The coast horned lizard has a high potential to occur on the Project site due to the presence of suitable habitat and recent occurrences within five miles of the Project site. This is a higher potential to occur than the previous Project alignment where coast horned lizard was found to have a moderate potential to occur (ECORP 2021a).

4.2.4.5 Wildlife Species with a Moderate Potential to Occur

The following species have a moderate potential to occur on the Project site because a recently (within the last 20 years) documented observation occurs within five miles of the Project and marginal or limited amounts of habitat is present:

Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*)

Western spadefoot is a CDFW SSC. The western spadefoot is found in open areas with sandy soils in a wide range of habitats including lowlands to foothills, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, mixed woodlands, sandy washes, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, and grasslands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying. The species is almost completely terrestrial, entering water only to breed (CDFW 2023a). The species spends most of its life burrowed underground, is typically active between October to May, and eats a variety of insects (Nafis 2023). Suitable upland habitat for foraging and burrowing is present on the Project site in the chaparral, non-native grassland, and riparian habitats. No standing water was observed during the site visit, but potential western spadefoot breeding habitat could be present in Garden Air Creek after rain events. Six recent records from 2005, 2010, 2014, and 2015 of this species are documented within five miles of the Project site (Occ # 1007, 1008, 393, 455, 456, 457, respectively). The closest occurrence was documented in 2010 approximately 2 miles south of the Project site (Occ # 1007; CDFW 2023a). The western spadefoot has a moderate potential to occur on the Project site due to the presence of suitable habitat and recent occurrences within five miles of the Project site. Due to the change in the Project alignment, this is a higher potential to occur than previously where western spadefoot was presumed absent (ECORP 2021a).

Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*)

Coast patch-nosed snake is a CDFW SSC. The coast patch-nosed snake is found in coastal scrub and semi-arid brushy areas and chaparral in canyons, rocky hillsides, and plains in coastal Southern California. The species requires small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites. The snake's diet consists mostly of lizards, along with small mammals. Marginally suitable chaparral habitat is present on the Project site. Small mammals and their burrows are present on site for refuge, overwintering, and foraging. There is one occurrence (Occ # 23; CDFW 2023a) from 2016 within five miles of the Project site. The coast patch-nosed snake has a moderate potential to occur on the Project site due to the presence of marginally suitable habitat and one recent occurrence within five miles of the Project site. This is consistent with the previous Project alignment (ECORP 2021a).

White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

White-tailed kite is a CDFW FP species. The white-tailed kite is found in open habitat in lowlands including savanna, open woodlands, marshes, and agricultural fields. The species nests in trees, riparian scrub areas, oak woodlands, and other similar habitats. Marginally suitable habitat exists throughout the entire Project site in the oak woodland, the scattered oak trees in the chaparral habitat, and in the riparian habitat including the trees in Garden Air Creek. Suitable foraging habitat is also present in the non-native grassland. Three recent records of the species occur within five miles of the Project, two of which were

recorded in 2016 approximately one mile away (Occ # 147, 166, 167; CDFW 2023a). The white-tailed kite has a moderate potential to occur on the Project site due to the presence of suitable habitat and recent occurrences within five miles of the Project site. This is a higher potential to occur than the previous Project alignment where white-tailed kite was found to have a low potential to occur (ECORP 2021a).

4.2.4.6 Wildlife Species with a Low Potential to Occur

A total of 12 species are considered to have a low potential to occur on the Project site because limited or marginal habitat for the species occurs within the Project site and a recently (within the last 20 years) documented observation occurs in the literature search, but not within five miles of the Project; a historic observation was recorded within the Project site; suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site, but no records or only historic records were identified in the literature search; or a recently documented observation was identified within five miles of the project but no suitable habitat is present on the Project site. These species include one federally and state-listed (endangered) species, the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; CDFW SSC). These two species are discussed in more detail below.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene Cunicularia*)

Burrowing owls are a CDFW SSC that use a wide variety of open scrub and grassland habitats, as well as disturbed fields and even agricultural areas under some circumstances. The bird is a year-round resident species in California. The bird uses small mammal burrows for nesting areas, typically including burrows made by California ground squirrels. The Project site included small burrows made by ground squirrels that burrowing owls could use. However, the non-native grassland habitat is composed of dense tall grasses which is not suitable burrowing owl habitat. Additionally, there are no occurrences of burrowing owl within five miles of the Project site. Therefore, burrowing owl has a low potential to occur on the Project site. This conclusion is consistent with the previously approved alignment (ECORP 2021a). The CDFW has published guidelines for how to assess impacts to this species and provides survey requirements; these are considered in the impact analysis presented in Section 5.0.

Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)

Least Bell's vireo is a federally and state-listed (endangered) songbird species that occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. The bird is a neotropical migrant species that spends summers in California and winters in Mexico. Vireos typically arrive in April and leave the area by the end of August. The bird places its nests along margins of riparian areas, usually within willows (*Salix* sp.), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), or other similar riparian species. Least Bell's vireos eat insects including caterpillars, grasshoppers, moths, and beetles. Suitable foraging habitat is present in the riparian vegetation (Garden Air Creek) of the Project site although, the canopy is sparse with little to no understory and is not suitable for nesting. Therefore, least Bell's vireo could use the Project site as a migratory stopover but are not expected to nest. This potential for occurrence is consistent with the previous Project alignment (ECORP 2021a). However, unlike the previous Project alignment, there is no nesting habitat for least Bell's vireo within 500 feet of the Project site.

Other species with a low potential to occur:

- Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), CDFW SSC
- Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), CDFW SSC
- California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*), CDFW SSC;
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), CDFW SSC;
- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), CDFW SSC;
- Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), CDFW SSC;
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), CDFW SSC;
- Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), CDFW SSC;
- Southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus ramona*), CDFW SSC; and
- Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*), CDFW SSC.

4.2.5 Raptors and Migratory Birds

Suitable nesting habitat for numerous species of migratory birds protected under the federal MBTA and California Fish and Game Code is present on the Project site in the palm trees, eucalyptus trees, cottonwoods, oaks, and larger shrubs. Therefore, nesting birds could use the Project site during the nesting bird season (typically February 1 through August 31). As stated above, the federally and state listed least Bell's vireo could use the site as a migratory stopover but is not expected to nest on or adjacent to the Project site.

4.2.6 Wildlife Movement Corridors, Linkages, and Significant Ecological Areas

The concept of habitat corridors addresses the linkage between large blocks of habitat that allow the safe movement of mammals and other wildlife species from one habitat area to another. The definition of a corridor varies, but corridors may include such areas as greenbelts, refuge systems, underpasses, and biogeographic land bridges. In general, a corridor is described as a linear habitat, embedded in a dissimilar matrix, which connects two or more large blocks of habitat. Wildlife movement corridors are critical for the survivorship of ecological systems for several reasons. Corridors can connect water, food, and cover sources, spatially linking these three resources with wildlife in different areas. In addition, wildlife movement between habitat areas provides for the potential of genetic exchange between wildlife species populations, thereby maintaining genetic variability and adaptability to maximize the success of wildlife responses to changing environmental conditions. This is especially critical for small populations subject to loss of variability from genetic drift and effects of inbreeding. The nature of corridor usage and wildlife movement patterns vary greatly among species.

The Project site was assessed for its ability to function as a wildlife corridor. The Project likely provides wildlife movement opportunities because it consists of open and unimpeded land outside of Shady Brook Road, which is paved and bordered by barbed wire. At the southern end of the Project site is the drainage,

Garden Air Creek. This drainage could serve as a movement corridor for wildlife between the Project site and the hills west of the Project site which connect to San Timoteo Canyon, a natural habitat area. Garden Air Creek, however, provides limited cover for wildlife moving through the area as there is little understory. The I-10 is located approximately 0.2 mile to the east of the Project site and this likely presents a barrier to wildlife traveling east-west. The northern portion of the revised alignment is bordered by commercial development that reduces the likelihood of wildlife movement in these areas. Additionally, the disturbances from vehicles on neighboring paved roads could deter wildlife from moving through the area. Although wildlife may use portions of the Project site and surrounding areas, the Project site itself does not function as a wildlife corridor.

5.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS

5.1 Special-Status Species

The revised pipeline encompasses a mix of primarily developed land (paved surfaces) and undeveloped lands vegetated with chaparral, non-native grassland, oak woodland and riparian vegetation communities. Of the 46 special-status plant species identified in the literature review and database searches, only five of the plant species (white-rabbit tobacco [CRPR 2B.2], chaparral sand verbena [CRPR 1B.1], Yucaipa onion [CRPR 1B.2], smooth tarplant [CRPR 1B.1], and Jaegar's milk vetch [CRPR 1B.1]) were determined to have a low potential to occur due to the marginally suitable habitat (including elevation factors and soils) on the Project site and/or the previously documented occurrences were historic or more than five miles away. Direct impacts to all five species could occur in the form of mortality or injury when the Project is constructed. However, the site is not expected to support large numbers of any of these species, and any potential Project-related impacts to these species would be temporary, as this is a temporary sewer line to provide sewer services to residences in the area before the Mesa Verde Specific Plan is constructed. Additionally, these species will all be addressed in the 1,500-acre Mesa Verde Specific Plan, which will be subject to the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and adequate protection and mitigation measures would be developed and implemented as part of the Specific Plan. Therefore, impacts to these species due to the Project implementation, though potentially adverse, would not be expected to be significant under CEQA.

The literature review and database searches identified 45 special-status wildlife species that occur in the vicinity of the Project site but, based on the condition of the site and the available habitat, only five species (Crotch bumble bee, southern California legless lizard, coastal whiptail, red-diamond rattlesnake, and coast horned lizard) were determined to have a high potential to occur on the Project site. Five of these species are reptiles or amphibians that are CDFW SSC and likely to occur on or adjacent to the Project site in low numbers. There are also three species with moderate potential to occur (western spadefoot, coast patch-nosed snake and white-tailed kite) and ten species with low potential to occur. Direct impacts to these species may occur in the form of mortality or injury during construction of the Project. Indirect impacts could occur in the form of ground vibrations, increased human and vehicular activity, and noise. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 will reduce these impacts to a level that is less than significant.

One special-status species, Crotch bumble bee (candidate for state listing) has a high potential to occur and two species, least Bell's vireo (federally and state-listed endangered) and burrowing owl (CDFW SSC), have a low potential to occur. For these three species, any direct or indirect impacts to them due to Project implementation would be considered significant under CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5 will reduce impacts to a level that is less than significant.

The Project site contains suitable nesting habitat for bird species protected under the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code. Development of the Project site will be required to comply with the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code and avoid impacts to nesting birds. It is strongly recommended that Project construction be completed outside of the nesting bird season, which typically runs from February 1 through August 31. Note that other special-status bird species may have different breeding seasons. If Project activities occur during the nesting bird season, ground-disturbing construction activities could directly affect birds protected by the MBTA and their nests through the removal of habitat and indirectly through increased noise. Impacts to nesting birds would be eliminated or reduced to a level that is less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-5.

Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3 are additional measures developed for the revised Project alignment that were not included in the biological report prepared for the previously approved alignment (ECORP 2021a). Additionally, this Addendum does not include focused surveys for least Bell's vireo, like the IS/MND (ECORP 2021a), because construction of the Project would not result in any direct impacts to potentially suitable least Bell's vireo nesting habitat in Garden Air Creek. The riparian habitat in Garden Air Creek does not include a dense understory suitable for least bell's vireo nesting. Instead, implementation of BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-5 will reduce impacts to least Bell's vireo to a level that is less than significant.

5.2 Sensitive Natural Communities

The Project site consists of riparian, chaparral, oak woodland, and nonnative grassland vegetation communities as well as developed land cover. The riparian habitat south of Sandalwood Drive has the potential to provide habitat for special-status wildlife species and nesting birds. The aquatic feature associated with this riparian habitat, Garden Air Creek, was determined to be potentially jurisdictional and is considered to contain a sensitive natural community (ECORP 2021b). Project-related impacts to this community may include removal, loss of habitat, and habitat degradation. It is recommended that this area be completely avoided to prevent Project-related impacts to the riparian vegetation. Implementation of BIO-6 will reduce potential Project-related impacts to a level that is less than significant. If, however, impacts to this area are unavoidable, regulatory permitting will be required with CDFW and potentially with the USACE and RWQCB.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 is an additional measure developed for the revised Project alignment that was not included in the biological report prepared for the previously approved alignment (ECORP 2021a).

5.3 State and Federally Protected Wetlands and Waters of the United States

The site was previously assessed for aquatic resources potentially jurisdictional under USACE, CDFW, and RQCB in 2021 (ECORP 2021b). The current Project site was not reassessed for aquatic resources. However, a feature previously identified during the 2021 Aquatic Resources Delineation (i.e., Garden Air Creek) is still present in the Project site. For a complete description of that feature, see the formal aquatic resources delineation provided under a separate cover in 2021. Implementation of BIO-6, establishing Garden Air Creek as an environmentally sensitive area, will reduce potential Project-related impacts to a level that is less than significant. Additionally, implementation of BIO-1 and BIO-2 will reduce impacts to potentially jurisdictional areas to a level that is less than significant.

5.4 Wildlife Corridors and Nursery Sites

The Project site could provide wildlife movement opportunities since it consists of open and unimpeded land, and wildlife could use Garden Air Creek as a corridor to travel east-west. The disturbances from vehicles and commercial development on the paved road near Sandalwood Drive would likely deter wildlife from moving through the area from the north, and I-10 would impede wildlife movement from the east. Since the Project's pipeline will run underground, the Project is not expected to impede existing wildlife movement throughout the region during or after Project activities. Therefore, the Project will not permanently impact linkages or corridors to natural habitat areas and no impacts are expected.

5.5 Local Policies, Ordinances, and Conservation Plans

The Project site is located within the planning area for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan); however, the Project Proponent, Yucaipa Valley Water District, is not a signatory to the Plan. Therefore, this Project is not subject to the requirements of the Plan. No impacts to local policies, ordinances, or conservation plans are expected as a result of this Project.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Mitigation Measures are recommended prior to Project implementation:

BIO-1 – Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP): The Project proponent shall have a qualified biologist experienced with the sensitive biological resources in the region conduct an on-site worker education training for all on-the-ground Project personnel prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, staging of equipment, staking/flagging of the Project limits and staging areas, demolition, vegetation removal, tree trimming, and initial grading), with emphasis on undeveloped areas south of Sandalwood Drive. A trifold pamphlet outlining the Project limits and staging areas, best management practices to be implemented, sensitive biological resources of concern, state and federal environmental laws and regulations, consequences for violations of said laws and regulations, and the name and number of the Lead Project Biologist shall be provided to each attendee. All personnel shall be required to sign and date the Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training sign-in sheet at the completion of training to acknowledge they have been informed and fully understand the information

that has been provided. Subsequent training shall be required for new personnel throughout the construction phase of the Project.

BIO-2 –Biological Monitoring: A biological monitor familiar with the special-status species with potential to occur shall be present during all initial ground disturbing activities, including but not limited to tree trimming and vegetation removal activities. The biological monitor shall perform biological clearance surveys at the start of each workday where ground disturbing activities take place to minimize impacts on special-status species, including (but not limited to) the Crotch bumble bee. The monitor will be responsible for helping Project crews avoid impacts to special-status species to the fullest extent possible. The monitor shall have the authority to enforce any work exclusion zones, including active nest non-disturbance buffers, and may temporarily halt work to relocate native wildlife species out of harm's way. If a new bird nest is detected during biological monitoring, the monitor shall establish an appropriate non-disturbance buffer around the nest using flagging or staking and shall immediately notify the crew and Project proponent of the new avoidance area. The non-disturbance buffer shall remain in place until the nest is no longer active and any fledglings from the nest are no longer reliant on the nest area.

BIO-3– Preconstruction Crotch Bumble Bee Surveys: If the Crotch bumble bee is no longer a Candidate or formally Listed species under the CESA at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures are proposed for the species.

If the Crotch bumble bee is legally protected under the CESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur, it is recommended pre-construction surveys be conducted in accordance with the established survey protocol provided by CDFW. If no such protocol is available and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the Crotch bumble bee flight season (February 16 through October 31), then it is recommended a minimum of two Crotch bumble bee preconstruction surveys are conducted by a qualified biologist experienced in identifying the species prior to ground disturbing activities (including vegetation removal) south of Sandalwood Drive. The surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days and three (3) days prior to ground-disturbing activities and vegetation clearing activities that are to occur during the flight season.

Should vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities be scheduled to begin during the overwintering season (November 1 to February 15), when Crotch bumble bee are not detectable aboveground, then four (4) focused surveys will be conducted at least three (3) weeks apart during the peak flight season (late March through August) immediately prior to start of construction.

It is important to note that if Crotch bumble bee is determined to occur within the Project area at any time, coordination with CDFW will be required and the project may need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of CESA. Revegetation of the temporary impact areas will occur post-construction to re-establish foraging and overwintering habitat for the species. This will result in only a temporary loss of habitat resulting from the project.

BIO-4– Preconstruction Burrowing Owl Survey: A preconstruction burrowing owl survey shall be conducted for the Project site prior to ground disturbing activities. The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of initial ground disturbance (grading, grubbing, and construction) in accordance with the CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). Typically, if burrowing owls or active burrowing

owl burrows are identified on a Project site during the survey, these features must be completely avoided during the owl breeding season (March 1 through August 31). If impacts to those features are unavoidable then the Project proponent must also develop an owl mitigation plan in coordination with CDFW. Mitigation methods may include passive relocation conducted between September 1 and February 28, outside of the burrowing owl breeding season. If an active burrowing owl burrow is identified, and construction is to proceed, then a qualified owl biologist (with two or more years of burrowing owl experience) can establish an appropriate non-disturbance buffer around the burrow using flagging or staking. The buffer size will be at the biologist's discretion based on topography of the site and other conditions. Project-related activities shall not occur within any non-disturbance buffers until the burrow is deemed inactive by the qualified burrowing owl biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

BIO-5 – Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey: If Project-related ground disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist who is experienced in bird and nest identification to ensure that active bird nests will not be disturbed or destroyed. The survey shall be completed no more than three days prior to initial ground disturbance, vegetation removal, and tree trimming activities and may need to be repeated if these activities are completed in stages or if Project activities are delayed and not initiated within three days of completion of the preconstruction survey. The nesting bird survey shall include the Project site and adjacent areas where Project activities have the potential to affect active nests, either directly or indirectly, due to construction activity, noise, or ground disturbance. If an active nest is identified, a qualified avian biologist shall establish an appropriate disturbance-limit buffer around the nest using flagging or staking. Project activities shall not occur within any non-disturbance buffers established around active bird nests until the nest is deemed inactive by the qualified avian biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

BIO-6 – Avoidance of Jurisdictional Aquatic Features: To ensure impacts to waters and habitats jurisdictional to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife are avoided, an exclusion zone shall be staked by a qualified biologist prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities. The exclusion zone shall remain in place for the duration of construction, and the purpose of the exclusion zone shall be included in the WEAP as well as during construction worker daily briefings (tailgate meetings). No Project-related work of any kind will be allowed to occur inside the exclusion zone.

6.1 Additional Recommendations

The following best management practices are not mitigation measures pursuant to CEQA but are recommended to further reduce impacts to species that have potential to occur on the Project site:

- Confine all work activities to a pre-determined work area.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during the construction phase of a Project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed,

one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals.

- Wildlife are often attracted to burrow- or den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipes and become trapped or injured. To prevent wildlife use of these structures, all construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater should be capped while stored onsite.
- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from the construction or Project site.
- Use of rodenticides and herbicides on the Project site should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of wildlife, and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the USEPA, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other state and federal legislation. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to predatory wildlife.

7.0 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Field work conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the Project applicant or the applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the Project.

SIGNED: 

Shelby Dunn
Associate Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.

DATE: 07/19/23

SIGNED: 

Corrina Tapia
Associate Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.

DATE: 07/19/23

Under the direction of:

SIGNED: 

Kristen Wasz
Senior Biologist
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DATE: 07/19/23

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LIST OF APPENDICES

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Appendix D – Potential for Occurrence of Sensitive Plant Species

Appendix E – Potential for Occurrence of Sensitive Wildlife Species

APPENDIX A

Representative Site Photographs



Photo 1. View of Shady Brook Road with dumpsters, facing south. Nonnative grassland with scattered oaks present.



Photo 2. Dirt mounds along Shady Brook Rd with small mammal burrows, facing south.



Photo 3. View of where the Project alignment turns off paved Shady Brook Road into undeveloped nonnative grassland. Facing southeast towards Garden Air Creek.



Photo 4. Pipeline alignment staked in nonnative grassland, facing south. Garden Air Creek and oak woodland habitat in the distance.



Photo 5. View of the riparian habitat in Garden Air Creek, facing southwest. Trash is present in the dry creek.



Photo 6. View of the Garden Air Creek, facing east towards I-10 and the previous Project alignment. Little to no canopy with sandy soils are present.



Photo 7. View of the habitat adjacent to Shady Brook Road where it meets Sandalwood Drive, facing southeast. Nonnative grassland and chaparral vegetation communities are present.



Photo 8. Location of the southernmost end of the pipeline alignment, facing north. Garden Air creek, riparian habitat, nonnative grassland, and oak woodland are present. In the background, Shady Brook Road is visible to the left and I-10 is visible to the right.

APPENDIX B

Plant Species Observed

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	Deerweed
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise
<i>Amsinckia</i> sp.	Fiddleneck
<i>Areaceae</i> sp.*	Palm
<i>Avena fatua</i> *	Wild oat
<i>Brassica nigra</i> *	Black mustard
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	Brome grass
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> *	Foxtail chess
<i>Bromus tectorum</i> *	Cheatgrass
<i>Croton californicus</i>	California croton
<i>Croton setiger</i>	Turkey mullein
<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	Brittlebush
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat
<i>Erodium</i> sp.*	Stork's bill
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.*	Eucalyptus sp.
<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	Sunflower sp.
<i>Populus</i> sp.	Cottonwood sp.
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak sp.
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar sumac
<i>Salsola</i> sp.*	Russian thistle
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>cerulea</i>	Blue elderberry
*Nonnative species	

APPENDIX C

Wildlife Species Observed

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
REPTILIA	REPTILES
<i>Crotalus oreganus helleri</i>	Southern pacific rattlesnake (dead)
AVES	BIRDS
<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	Rufous-crowned sparrow
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Lark sparrow
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House finch
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song sparrow
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Ash-throated flycatcher
<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	Phainopepla
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted towhee
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Lesser goldfinch
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House wren
<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird
<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	Mourning dove
MAMMALIA	MAMMALS
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote (scat)
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	Desert cottontail

Potential for Occurrence of Sensitive Plant Species

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Bloom Period & Elevation (meters)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> Chaparral sand-verbena	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	(Jan) Mar-Sept 75-1600	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert dune habitats. Often found in sandy soil.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginal suitable chaparral vegetation is present. A recent CNDDDB occurrence was documented in 2014 but was not within five miles of the site (Occ # 107).
<i>Allium marvinii</i> Yucaipa onion	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Apr-May 760-1065	Occurs in chaparral (clay, openings).	Moderate Potential to Occur: Chaparral vegetation is present, however, clay soils were not observed on site. Three recent CNDDDB occurrences have been recorded within five miles of the site; the closest observation was recorded 1.9 miles away in 2017 (Occ # 44).
<i>Arenaria lanuginosa</i> var. <i>saxosa</i> rock sandwort	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.3	Jul-Aug 1455-2600	Occurs in subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forests. Often found in openings and sandy substrate	Presumed absent: No suitable habitat is present on site and there is only one CNDDDB occurrence; this occurrence was over 100 years ago and over 5 miles from the site (Occ # 2).
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i> sandwort	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	May-Aug 3-170	Occurs in marshes and swamps (brackish, freshwater). Often found in alkaline soils	Presumed absent: No suitable habitat is present on site and there is only one CNDDDB occurrence from over 100 years ago over 5 miles from the site (Occ # 8).
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i> Horn's milk-vetch	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	May-Oct 60-850	Occurs in meadows and seeps and playas. Often found along lake margins in alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable meadow and seep, playa, or lake habitat is present on the Project site. There is only one CNDDDB occurrence (5.07 miles; Occ # 16) documented in CNDDDB for this species and it is over 100 years ago.
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>cochellae</i> Coachella Valley milk-vetch	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	END none 1B.2	Feb-May 40-655	Occurs in desert dunes and sandy areas of Sonoran desert scrub.	Presumed Absent: No suitable dune or desert scrub habitat is present on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the site.
<i>Astragalus pachypus</i> var. <i>jaegeri</i> Jaeger's milk-vetch	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	Dec-Jun 365-975	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Often found in sandy or rocky soils.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable habitat is present in the sandy soils of Garden Air Creek, chaparral vegetation, and nonnative grassland. There are historic CNDDDB occurrences of the species, all of which are over 5 miles from the site.
<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notator</i> San Jacinto Valley crownscale	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	END none 1B.1	Apr-Aug 139-500	Occurs in playas, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools in alkaline soils.	Presumed absent: Alkaline soils were not observed on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Atriplex parishii</i> Parish's brittlescale	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	Jun-Oct 25-1900	Occurs in chenopod scrub, playas, and vernal pools in alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chenopod scrub, playa, or vernal pool habitats are present on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the site.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i> Davidson's saltscale	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Apr-Oct 10-200	Occurs in coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat is present on site and there are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the site.
<i>Berberis nevini</i> Nevin's barberry	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	(Feb) Mar-Jun 70-825	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland in sandy or gravelly soils.	Presumed Absent: Although chaparral and riparian habitat occur on the Project site, this is a large, perennial shrub species that would have been observed if present. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the site.
<i>Bouteloua trifida</i> three-awned grama	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.3	(Apr) May-Sep 700-2000	Occurs in carbonate, rocky soils of Mojavean desert scrub.	Presumed Absent: No suitable Mojavean desert scrub habitat is present on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> thread-leaved brodiaea	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	THR END 1B.1	Mar-Jun 25-1120	Occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools, and in openings of chaparral. Often found in clay soils.	Presumed absent: Although chaparral and riparian habitat is present on site, suitable clay soils were not observed on the site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i> scallop moonwort	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.2	Jun-Sep 1268-3280	Occurs in bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps (freshwater), meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Often found in mesic soils	Presumed absent: No suitable habitat is present on site. There is only one occurrence documented in CNDDDB for this species (Occ #2); it is over 100 years ago and over five miles away from the site.
<i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i> Palmer's mariposa-lily	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Apr-Jul 710-2390	Occurs in mesic soils in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and meadow and seep habitats.	Presumed absent: Although chaparral and riparian habitat are present on site, suitable mesic soils were not observed in either habitat on the site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Castilleja lasiorhyncha</i> San Bernardino Mountains owl's-clover	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	May-Aug 1300-2390	Occurs in mesic soils in chaparral, meadows and seeps, pebble (Pavement) plain, riparian woodland, upper montane coniferous forest.	Presumed absent: Although chaparral and riparian habitat are present on site, suitable mesic soils were not observed in either habitat on the site. There are no CNDDDB records within five miles.
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i> smooth tarplant	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	Apr-Sep 0-640	Occurs in alkaline chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable riparian and nonnative grassland vegetation are present on site. One recent CNDDDB occurrence (Occ #154) was documented in 2020 approximately 2.5 miles from the site.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i> salt marsh bird's-beak	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	END END 1B.2	May-Oct(Nov) 0-30	Occurs in coastal dunes, marshes and swamps (coastal salt).	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat is present on site and no CNDDDB occurrences have been documented within five miles.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Parry's spineflower	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	Apr-Jun 275-1220	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitat. Often found in sandy or rocky openings. Generally associated with larger alluvial plains.	Presumed Absent: Although there is one CNDDDB occurrence 3.6 miles from the site (Occ # 127), this plant is only known from larger alluvial floodplains and that habitat is absent from the site.
<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i> long-spined spineflower	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Apr-Jul 30-1530	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pool habitat. Often found in clay soil.	Presumed absent: Although chaparral and riparian habitat is present on the Project site, suitable clay soils were not observed on site. There is only one historic CNDDDB occurrence over 5 miles away (Occ #18).

<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i> white-bracted spineflower	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Apr-Jun 300-1200	Occurs in sandy or gravelly soils on alluvial fans in coastal scrub habitats, and in Mojavean desert scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats.	Presumed Absent: No coastal scrub habitat, desert scrub, or pinyon and juniper woodland habitat is present on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Cuscuta obtusiflora</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i> Peruvian dodder	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.2	Jul-Oct 280	Occurs in marshes and swamps (freshwater)	Presumed absent: No suitable habitat is present on site. There is only one CNDDDB occurrence recorded for this species (Occ #1); it is over 100 years ago and over five miles away.
<i>Deinandra mohavensis</i> Mojave tarplant	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none END 1B.3	(Jan-May) Jun-Oct 640-1600	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub. Most commonly found in riparian areas or in ephemeral grassy areas. Often found in mesic soils.	Presumed absent: Although chaparral and riparian habitat is present on the Project site, suitable mesic soils were not observed. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> slender-horned spineflower	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	Apr-Jun 200-760	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub habitats. Often found in sandy soil.	Presumed Absent: Only known from large alluvial floodplains. Although there is one occurrence (Occ #11) in CNDDDB recorded 2 miles from the project site, it is a historic record over 40 years old.
<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i> Santa Ana River woollystar	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	Apr-Sep 91-610	Occurs in chaparral and alluvial fan coastal scrub in sandy or gravelly soils. Generally only located in large alluvial systems.	Presumed Absent: Only known from large alluvial floodplains. There are no recent CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the project site.
<i>Gilia leptantha</i> ssp. <i>leptantha</i> San Bernardino gilia	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.3	Jun-Aug 1500-2560	Occurs in lower montane coniferous forest (gravelly, sandy)	Presumed absent: There is no suitable habitat on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Heuchera parishii</i> Parish's alumroot	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.3	Jun-Aug 1500-3800	Occurs in alpine boulder and rock field, lower montane coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Often found in rocky substrate, sometimes found in carbonate	Presumed absent: There is no suitable habitat on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> mesa horkelia	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	Feb-Jul (Sep) 70-810	Occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and maritime chaparral in sandy or gravelly soils.	Presumed Absent: No suitable cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, or maritime chaparral habitat was present on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i> California satintail	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.1	Sep-May	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, alkaline meadows and seeps, and riparian scrub habitats in mesic soils.	Presumed Absent: Although chaparral and riparian habitat is present on the Project site, there were no mesic soils observed on the Project site. Additionally, there are only two CNDDDB occurrences of the species, both of which are historic and over five miles away (Occ# 6 & 30).
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.1	Feb-Jun 1-1220	Occurs in coastal salt marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: No suitable coastal salt marsh, swamp, playa, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Lilium parryi</i> lemon lily	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Jul-Aug 1220-2745	Occurs in lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, riparian forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Often found in mesic soils	Presumed Absent: Although riparian habitat is present on the Project site, there were no mesic soils observed on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Mentzelia tricusps</i> spiny-hair blazing star	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.1	Mar-May 150-1280	Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub. Often found in sandy, gravelly soils along slopes and in washes.	Presumed Absent: No suitable desert scrub habitat was present on the Project site. There is one CNDDDB occurrence documented 5.07 miles from the Project site (Occ # 2), however, it is over 100 years ago.
<i>Monardella macrantha</i> ssp. <i>hallii</i> Hall's monardella	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.3	Jun-Oct 730-2195	Occurs in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland	Presumed Absent: Although there is chaparral and grassland habitat on site, there are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> spreading navarretia	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	THR none 1B.1	Apr-Jun 30-655	Occurs in chenopod scrub, shallow freshwater marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: No suitable chenopod scrub, marsh, playa, or vernal pool habitat is present on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i> mud nama	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.2	Jan-Jul 5-500	Occurs in marshes and swamps (lake margins, riverbanks)	Presumed absent: There is no suitable habitat on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Oxytropis oreophila</i> var. <i>oreophila</i> rock-loving oxytrope	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.3	Jun-Sep 3400-3800	Occurs in alpine boulder and rock field, subalpine coniferous forest. Sometimes found in gravelly or rocky substrate	Presumed absent: There is no suitable habitat on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Parnassia cirrata</i> var. <i>cirrata</i> San Bernardino grass-of-Parnassus	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.3	Aug-Sep 1250-2400	Occurs in lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. Often found in mesic soils and streambanks.	Presumed absent: There is no suitable habitat on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Petalonyx linearis</i> narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.3	(Jan-Feb) Mar-May (Jun-Dec) 25-1115	Occurs in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub. Often found in sandy or rocky canyons.	Presumed Absent: No suitable desert scrub habitat was present on the Project site and there are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Pseudorontium cyathiferum</i> Deep Canyon snapdragon	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.3	Feb-Apr 0-800	Occurs in rocky soils of Sonoran desert scrub.	Presumed Absent: No suitable desert scrub habitat was present on the Project site and there are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i> white rabbit-tobacco	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.2	(Jul)Aug-Nov(Dec) 0-2100	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland. Often found in sandy, gravelly soils.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable chaparral vegetation is present on the Project site. There are two recent CNDDDB occurrences more than five miles from the Project site (Occ # 40 & 41).
<i>Sidalcea hickmanii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i> Parish's checkerbloom	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none RARE 1B.2	(May)Jun-Aug 1000-2499	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest	Presumed absent: Although there is chaparral habitat present on the project site, there are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.

<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i> salt spring checkerbloom	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.2	Mar-Jun 15-1530	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub, and playas. Often found in mesic, alkaline soils.	Presumed Absent: Although there is chaparral habitat on site, alkaline soils are not present. There is one historic CNDDDB occurrence of the species 3.8 miles from the Project site that is over 100 years old (Occ# 22).			
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i> southern jewelflower	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.3	(Apr)May-Jul 900-2300	Occurs in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland. Often found in rocky substrate	Presumed absent: Although there is chaparral habitat present on the Project site, there was no rocky substrate present. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.			
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Jul-Nov 2-2040	Occurs in meadows and seeps, marshes, and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and vernal mesic valley and foothill grassland. Often found in disturbed areas and near ditches, streams, and springs.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat was present on the Project site. Species occurs in meadow and seep, marsh, swamp, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland communities. One occurrence was recorded in CNDDDB within 5 miles (Occ # 24) more than 50 years ago.			
<i>Tortula californica</i> California screw moss	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 1B.2	Moss 10-1460	Occurs in sandy soil of chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland.	Presumed Absent: Although nonnative grassland is present on the Project site, the soil in this area consists of sandy loam. No chenopod scrub is present on the Project site and there are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.			
<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> Wright's trichocoronis	Fed: Ca: CNPS:	none none 2B.1	May-Sep 5-435	Occurs in alkaline marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps, riparian forest, vernal pools.	Presumed Absent: Although there is marginal riparian habitat on site, there are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the project site.			
<table><tr><td>Federal Designations: (Federal Endangered Species Act, USFWS) END: federally listed, endangered THR: federally listed, threatened</td><td>State designations: (California Endangered Species Act, CDFG) END: state-listed, endangered THR: state-listed, threatened RARE: state-listed, rare CAN: Candidate for state listing FP: Fully Protected Species SSC: Species of Special Concern</td><td>CNPS Ranking 1A: Presumed extinct 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere 2B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere 3: Review list of plants requiring more study 4: Plants of limited distribution watch list CNPS Threat Code 0.1: Seriously threatened in California 0.2: Fairly threatened in California 0.3: Not very threatened in California</td></tr></table>						Federal Designations: (Federal Endangered Species Act, USFWS) END: federally listed, endangered THR: federally listed, threatened	State designations: (California Endangered Species Act, CDFG) END: state-listed, endangered THR: state-listed, threatened RARE: state-listed, rare CAN: Candidate for state listing FP: Fully Protected Species SSC: Species of Special Concern	CNPS Ranking 1A: Presumed extinct 1B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere 2B: Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere 3: Review list of plants requiring more study 4: Plants of limited distribution watch list CNPS Threat Code 0.1: Seriously threatened in California 0.2: Fairly threatened in California 0.3: Not very threatened in California
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Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) Yucaipa, El Casco, Forest Falls, Beaumont, San Jacinto, Lakeview, Perris, Sunnymead, and Redlands 7.5-minute quads.								

Potential for Occurrence of Sensitive Wildlife Species

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence	
INVERTEBRATES				
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	Fed: CA:	none CAN	Found in coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Occurs in open grassland and scrub habitats. Prefers a diet consisting of certain plant species including milkweeds, dusty maidens, lupines, medics, phacelias, sages, clarkias, poppies, and wild buckwheats. Nests are often located underground in abandoned rodent nests or above ground in tufts of grass, old bird nests, rock piles, or cavities in dead trees.	High Potential to Occur: Suitable nonnative grassland habitat, and scrub in the chapparral habitat is present. Abandoned rodent nests and food sources including deerweed and buckwheat were present on the Project Site. There are three recent CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the project site from 2020 (Occ # 199, 220, and 278).
FISHES				
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10 steelhead - southern California DPS	Fed: CA:	END none	Typically occurs in very large and historically slow water steams or rivers with permanent water	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences of this species within 5 miles of the Project site.
<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> ssp. 8 Santa Ana speckled dace	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Permanent flowing creeks and streams with shallow gravel and cobble riffles.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present on the Project site. The riparian corridor on site only holds water intermittently with the rainy season. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
AMPHIBIANS				
<i>Rana muscosa</i> southern mountain yellow-legged frog	Fed: CA:	END END	Ponds, streams, lakes, and isolated pools in southern Sierra Nevada Mountains and rocky streams within narrow canyons and the chaparral belt in Southern California mountains.	Presumed Absent: There is chaparral habitat on site, however, Garden Air Creek does not provide suitable habitat because it is only fed intermittently during the rainy season. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Open areas with sandy soils in a wide range of habitats including lowlands to foothills, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, mixed woodlands, sandy washes, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, and grasslands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying. The species is almost completely terrestrial, entering water only to breed.	Moderate Potential to Occur: Suitable habitat for this species is present on the Project site including chaparral, oak woodlands, nonnative grassland, sandy soils in Garden Air Creek, and river floodplains. No standing water was observed during the site visit but vernal pools are likely present after rains which would support breeding. Six recent records from 2005, 2010, 2014, and 2015 of this species are documented within five miles of the Project site (Occ# 1007, 1008, 393, 455, 456, 457, respectively) - the closest occurrence is 2.3 miles from the Project site (Occ # 1007).
REPTILES				
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> southern California legless lizard	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Coastal sand dunes and variety of interior habitats including sandy washes and alluvial fans. Occurs in moist warm loose soil with plant cover and sparsely vegetated beach dunes, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, chaparral, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Sometimes found in suburban gardens.	High Potential to Occur: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the Garden Air Creek and also in the chaparral. There are three recent CNDDDB occurrences and four historical records of this species documented within five miles of the Project site. Of the recent CNDDDB occurrences, the closest is 0.6 miles away in 2018 (Occ # 391), and the furthest is 3.4 miles away (Occ# 385).
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California glossy snake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Most common in desert habitats but also found in arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, low elevation coastal scrub, valley-foothill hardwood, and chaparral. Prefers washes and sandy areas with patchy brush and rocks. Perennial plants necessary in habitat for food source.	Low Potential to Occur: Limited suitable habitat for this species is present in the sandy soils of Garden Air Creek, the nonnative grassland, and chaparral. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Arid habitats including chaparral, woodlands, and dry riparian areas.	High Potential to Occur: Suitable chaparral and dry riparian habitats occur on the Project site. Two recent CNDDDB occurrences exist within five miles of the Project site with the closest being 4.15 miles away in 2015 (Occ # 120).
<i>Charina umbratica</i> southern rubber boa	Fed: CA:	none THR	Under rocks, woody debris, or in crevices in conifer or conifer-mixed semi-open forests and woodlands, patchy chaparral/shrublands, and meadows.	Presumed Absent: Project site is outside of species' known range.
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> red-diamond rattlesnake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Found in coastal chaparral, arid scrub, rocky grassland, oak and pine woodlands, desert mountain slopes and rocky desert flats. Diet consists of birds, lizards, and small mammals including ground squirrels, wood rats, and rabbits.	High Potential to Occur: Suitable chaparral, nonnative grassland, and oak woodland habitat is present in the Project site. Foraging is possible on the Project site as lizards, birds, and small mammals were observed during the reconnaissance survey. There is one CNDDDB occurrence (Occ # 177) within five miles of the Project site in 2016.

<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in aquatic, artificial flowing waters, Klamath/North coast flowing waters, Klamath/North coast standing waters, marsh & swamp, Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters, Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters, south coast flowing waters, south coast standing waters, and wetland habitats. Needs basking sites (logs, rocks, and exposed banks) and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	Presumed Absent: Suitable habitat is not present on the Project site because there is no standing water present. There is one recent CNDDB occurrence 4.17 miles from the Project site (Occ# 1286).
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, desert wash, pinyon & juniper woodlands, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Requires open areas for sunning, bushes to provide cover, and loose soil for burial. Diet consists mainly of ants and also small invertebrates. Most commonly found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	High Potential to Occur: Suitable chaparral, riparian, and grassland habitats are present on the Project Site. Also present are loose soils for burial, bushes to provide cover, open areas for sunning, and food sources (e.g., ants). Two recent CNDDB occurrences (Occ # 52 and 550) were documented within five miles from 2004 & 2005.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i> coast patch-nosed snake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Coastal scrub and semi-arid brushy areas and chaparral in canyons, rocky hillsides, and plains. Brushy or shrubby vegetation in coastal Southern California. Require small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites. Diet consists mostly of lizards, along with small mammals.	Moderate Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable chaparral and nonnative grassland habitat is present on the Project site. There is one CNDDB occurrence (Occ# 23) from 2016 within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occur along aquatic habitats such as pools and creeks usually near chaparral, rocky areas, brushland, oak woodland, and conifer forests. Found in coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation. Hunts in water.	Presumed Absent: No suitable aquatic habitats were found on the Project Site.
BIRDS				
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird (nesting colony)	Fed: CA:	none THR/SSC	Occurs in freshwater marsh, swamp, and wetland habitats. Largely endemic to California. Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prep within a few kilometers of the colony. Forages in open habitat such as cultivated fields and pastures.	Presumed Absent: No suitable freshwater marsh, swamp, or nesting habitat is present on the Project site. There are no CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle (nesting & wintering)	Fed: CA:	none FP	Occurs in broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, pinon & juniper woodlands, upper montane coniferous forest, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Found in rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also large trees such as eucalyptus or oak in open areas.	Presumed Absent: Although marginally suitable foraging habitat occurs on the Project site, nesting activities are not expected on this site because no cliff-walled canyons are located on the Project site. This species could use the site for foraging during wintering migration. There is one historic CNDDB occurrence within five miles of the Project site (Occ # 302), but no recent occurrences.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl (burrow & some wintering sites)	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Occurs in coastal prairie, coastal scrub, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel. Also found in vacant lots and airports.	Low Potential to occur: Marginally suitable nonnative grassland habitat occurs on the Project site. The grassland habitat is dense and this limits the likelihood that the species would burrow on the Project site. No suitable burrows were observed on the Project site. However, California ground squirrel burrows were present. The species is mobile and can fly over the Project site at any time. There were no records identified within five miles.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none THR	Occurs in Great Basin grassland, riparian forest, riparian woodland, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, & agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Nests in solitary bush or tree, or in small groves. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands or alfalfa/grain fields supporting rodent populations.	Presumed Absent: The Project Site contains suitable foraging habitat but the species is not known to occur in this area. One historic CNDDB occurrence (Occ #2250) describes two nests within five miles of the Project site, which is outside of their known breeding range. This species may use the site as a stopover during migration.
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i> coastal cactus wren	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Coastal sage scrub with tall opuntia cacti. Nests in opuntia cactus.	Presumed Absent: No suitable coastal sage scrub habitat with opuntia cacti is present on the Project site and there are no CNDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> western yellow-billed cuckoo (nesting)	Fed: CA:	THR END	Occurs in riparian forest habitat. Nests along the broad, lower floodbottoms of larger river systems in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat is present on the Project Site. Typically occurs in large riparian forest habitat. No large river systems are within five miles. There are no CNDDB occurrences within five miles.

<i>Cypseloides niger</i> black swift (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Coastal belt of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties; central & southern Sierra Nevada; San Bernardino & San Jacinto mountains. Often breeds in small colonies on cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls in deep canyons and sea-bluffs above the surf; forages widely.	Presumed Absent: No suitable mountain habitat is present in the Project site. There are also no sea-bluffs or cliffs near waterfalls present to provide breeding habitat. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none FP	Open habitat in lowlands including savanna, open woodlands, marshes, and agricultural fields. Nests in trees, riparian scrub areas, oak woodlands, and other similar habitats.	Moderate Potential to Occur: Marginal suitable nesting habitat is present on the Project site in the riparian vegetation and oak woodland. Foraging habitat is present in the grassland with scattered oaks. There are three recent CNDDDB occurrences from 2006 (Occ# 147) and 2016 (Occ #166 & 176) within five miles of the Project.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher (nesting)	Fed: CA:	END END	Occurs in riparian woodland habitat in Southern California. Nests in densest areas of riparian tree and shrub communities associated with rivers, swamps, and other wetlands, including lakes and reservoirs. Nests are found within larger riparian floodplains, typically in vegetation stands of with a high structural diversity.	Presumed Absent: Although there is some riparian vegetation on the Project site, it provides no suitable nesting habitat for the this species due to the lack of density and other preferred habitat characteristics. There are two recent CNDDDB occurrences (Occ # 46 and 47) within five miles of the project site from 2004.
<i>Icteria virens</i> yellow-breasted chat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape along streams or at the edges of ponds or swamps. Forages and nests within 10 ft of ground.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable riparian habitat was present on the Project Site. Dense riparian habitat is absent for nesting but the species could stopover during migration. One recent CNDDDB occurrence from 2016 (Occ # 116) is 1.2 miles from the Project.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in a wide variety of open scrub habitats. Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.	Low Potential to occur: Suitable habitat is present in the chaparral vegetation on the Project site. The habitat includes both open areas with perches for hunting and also dense shrubs for nesting. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	Fed: CA:	THR SSC	Dry coastal slopes, washes, and mesas with areas of low vegetation and coastal sage scrub including California sagebrush, California buckwheat, salvia, and prickly pear cactus. Moves about actively in shrubs and low trees to forage. Generally found at elevations below 3,000 ft.	Presumed Absent: Although some suitable habitat is present the Project site in the California buckwheat and chaparral vegetation, the species has not been recorded in either Yucaipa or Calimesa for a long time and is generally considered to be extirpated from the area. There are no CNDDDB occurrences of this species within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Progne subis</i> purple martin (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Woodlands, broadleaved upland forest, and lower montane coniferous forest, particularly low elevation coniferous forest of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and Monterey pine. Nests in old woodpecker cavities mostly; also in human-made structures. Nest often located in tall, isolated tree/snag.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat was present on the Project site. Occurs in low elevation coniferous forest and broadleaved upland forest. There is one CNDDDB occurrence of the species 5.07 miles from the Project site, but the record is over 100 years old.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler (nesting)	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders. Diet consists primarily of insects.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present on the Project site in the riparian habitat. There is one recent CNDDDB occurrence of the species from 2016 1.2 miles from the Project (Occ # 112).
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo (nesting)	Fed: CA:	END END	Occurs in riparian forest, riparian scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Summer resident of southern California in low riparian vegetation in the vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms, below 2,000 ft msl. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, mulefat, and mesquite.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable riparian habitat is present on the Project Site in the seasonally flooded Garden Air Creek. There is one CNDDDB occurrence within five miles of the Project site from 2013 (Occ # 11).
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> yellow-headed blackbird	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Marshes, swamps, and wetlands. Frequently found nesting in freshwater emergent wetlands with dense vegetation and deep water. Often along borders of lakes or ponds.	Presumed Absent: Although riparian vegetation is present on the Project site, the water feature is seasonally flooded and does not provide deep water habitat for the species. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
MAMMALS				
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, desert wash, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, riparian woodland, Sonoran desert scrub, upper montane coniferous forest, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Most commonly found in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	Low Potential to occur: Marginal foraging habitat is present on the Project site in the chaparral, riparian vegetation, and nonnative grassland. Roosting activities are not expected on this site because there are no suitable rocky outcrops. There are no in CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.

<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i> Dulzura pocket mouse	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert grasslands in San Diego county along the U.S.-Mexico border.	Presumed Absent: Although marginally suitable chaparral and nonnative grassland habitat is present on the Project site, the site is outside of the known range for this species. One historic CNDDDB occurrence (Occ # 8), observed in 1995, has been identified approximately 10.0 miles from the Project site.
<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i> northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Sandy herbaceous areas, usually in association with rocks or coarse gravel in southwestern California. Primarily occurs in arid coastal and desert borders. Typical habitats include sandy desert fans and shrub communities such as coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland.	Low Potential to Occur: Although marginally suitable nonnative grassland and chaparral habitat is present on the Project site, the site does not contain rocks or coarse gravel. Two recent CNDDDB occurrences (Occ# 103 and 105) from 2016 and six historical occurrences (Occ #s 56, 55, 52, 53, 74, 14) of the species were identified in CNDDDB within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Occurs in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, chenopod scrub, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadow and seep, Mojavean desert scrub, riparian forest, riparian woodland, Sonoran desert scrub, Sonoran thorn woodland, upper montane coniferous forest, and valley & foothill grassland habitats. Found throughout California, most commonly in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	Low Potential to occur: Some marginal chaparral and nonnative grassland habitat is present on the Project site. Roosting activities are not expected on this site because there are structures on site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.
<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> San Bernardino kangaroo rat	Fed: CA:	END CAN/SSC	Gentle slopes of alluvial fans, on flood plains, along washes, and on adjacent upland areas with soils containing sand, loam, and gravel deposited by rivers and streams. Can also be found in sandy soils that are wind deposited. Found in alluvial sage scrub, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral vegetation.	Presumed Absent: No Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub is present on the Project site, which also occurs outside of the known species range. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> Stephen's kangaroo rat	Fed: CA:	END THR	Annual grasslands, coastal sage scrub with sparsely spaced vegetation, loose friable soils, and flat or slightly rolling terrain. Prefer open habitats with less than 50% protective cover.	Presumed Absent: No suitable habitat and the Project occurs outside of the known species range. There are two CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site, both of which are historic (Occ# 221 from 1999, and Occ# 116 from 1990).
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Roosts high above ground in rock and cliff crevices, shallow caves, and rarely in buildings. Occurs in arid and semiarid regions including rocky canyon habitats.	Presumed Absent: No suitable rock, cliff, or cave habitat is present on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Project site.
<i>Glaucomys sabrinus californicus</i> San Bernardino flying squirrel	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Mixed conifer forests of white fir, Jeffery pine, and black oak with many snags and fallen logs. Prefers forests with a relatively closed canopy and open or sparse undergrowth.	Presumed Absent: No suitable conifer forest habitat is present on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles, and the Site is outside of the known species range.
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> western yellow bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Found in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats and human developed areas. Roosts in trees, particularly palms. Forages over water and among trees.	Low Potential to Occur: Although there has been one occurrence (Occ # 41) of this species documented in CNDDDB approximately 2 miles from the Project site; the occurrence was recorded in 1991 and is considered historic. Limited suitable riparian habitat and roosting habitat is present on the Project site. A few palm trees were observed during the reconnaissance survey that could provide roosting habitat, but are highly disturbed as they are directly adjacent to paved roadways and commercial development.
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i> lesser long-nosed bat	Fed: CA:	DL SSC	Roosts in caves and mines. Occurs in arid regions including desert grasslands and shrub lands. Requires suitable concentration of columnar cacti and agave food sources.	Presumed Absent: There is marginally suitable nonnative grassland habitat present on the Project site, but there were no suitable food sources. No caves or mines are present for roosting. One historic CNDDDB occurrence (Occ # 1) was documented in CNDDDB 2 miles from the Project site 30 years ago.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Also found in coastal chaparral, sagebrush scrub, sandy desert, Joshua tree woodland, pinyon-juniper pine, and boulder habitats. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops & rocky cliffs & slopes.	Presumed Absent: Although limited suitable chaparral habitat is present on the Project site, the site lacks moderate to dense canopies and rocky habitats. There is only CNDDDB occurrence (Occ # 111) within five miles of the Project site, and it is over 20 years old.
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Roosts in crevices of outcrops and cliffs, shallow caves, and buildings. Found along rugged canyons, high cliffs, and semiarid rock outcroppings.	Presumed Absent: No suitable rugged canyon, cliff, or rock outcropping habitat is present on the Project site. There are no CNDDDB occurrences within five miles.

<i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i> southern grasshopper mouse	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Low, semi-open, and open scrub habitats with flat, sandy valley floors. Habitats include coastal and mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub, low sagebrush, and grasslands with interspaced shrubs.	Low Potential to Occur: Marginally suitable nonnative grassland, riparian vegetation, sandy soils, and chaparral habitat is present on the Project site. One historic CNDDB occurrence (Occ # 29) was recorded within five miles of the site, however, it is over 80 years old.														
<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i> Los Angeles pocket mouse	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Lower elevation grasslands, alluvial sage scrub, and coastal sage communities in and around the Los Angeles Basin. Can be found in fine, sandy soils associated with washes or dunes. May hide under weeds and dead leaves in addition to digging burrows.	Low Potential to Occur: Limited suitable nonnative grassland, sandy soils, and wash habitat is present on the Project site. One recent CNDDB occurrence (Occ # 61) was documented in 2016 within five miles of the Project site .														
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: CA:	none SSC	Low, semi-open, and open scrub habitats with flat, sandy valley floors. Habitats include coastal and mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub, low sagebrush, and grasslands with interspaced shrubs. Prefers open areas and may also frequent brushlands with little groundcover. When inactive, occupies underground burrow. Young are born in underground burrows.	Presumed Absent: Limited suitable chaparral, riparian, and nonnative grassland vegetation occur on the Project site. There are no CNDDB occurrences within five miles and all of the records greater than five miles away are more than 100 years old.														
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Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) Yucaipa, El Casco, Forest Falls, Beaumont, San Jacinto, Lakeview, Perris, Sunnymead, and Redlands 7.5-minute quads.																		