

September 16, 2022

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VIA EMAIL
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Subject: Results of the Focused Special Status Plant/Desert Native Plant Survey Conducted for the 8th Street East Industrial Project in the City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Ms. Anderson:

This Letter Report presents the findings of special status plant/desert native plant surveys conducted for the 8th Street East Industrial Project located in the City of Palmdale, Los Angeles County, California (Exhibit 1).

PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project is located on approximately 18-acres in the southern portion of the Antelope Valley in the City of Palmdale. The Project site is situated east of Sierra Highway, west of 8th Street East, and approximately 800 feet south of East Avenue P in the city of Palmdale (Exhibit 1). The Project site is located on the Palmdale U.S. Geologic Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map (Exhibit 2).

METHODS

Botanical surveys were floristic in nature and consistent with the protocols created by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (CDFG 2009). In addition, the survey was intended to document the plants regulated by the City of Palmdale and the California Desert Native Plants Act and Native Desert Vegetation Preservation Ordinance (Sections 14.04.010-14.04.120). Prior to the field surveys, a literature search was conducted to identify special status plant species reported from the vicinity of the proposed Project site. Sources reviewed include the USGS for Palmdale, Lancaster East, Lancaster West, Alpine Butte, Littlerock, and Ritter Ridge 7.5-minute quadrangles in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS') Locational Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2022) and the CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (CDFW 2022).

Plants regulated by the City of Palmdale and the California Desert Native Plants Act include:

- All species of Burseraceae family (elephant tree)
- *Carnegiea gigantea* (sahuaro cactus)
- *Ferocactus acanthodes* (barrel cactus)
- *Castela emoryi* (crucifixion thorn)

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- *Dudleya saxosa* (Panamint dudleya)
- *Pinus longaeva* (bristlecone pine)
- *Washingtonia filifera* (fan palm)
- All species of the family Agavaceae (century plants, nolinass, yuccas)
- All species of the family Cactaceae (cacti), except for the plants listed in subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 80072 which may be harvested under a permit obtained pursuant to that section
- All species of the family Fouquieriaceae (ocotillo, candlewood)
- All species of the genus *Prosopis* (mesquites)
- All species of the genus *Cercidium* (palos verdes)
- *Acacia greggii* (catclaw)
- *Atriplex hymenelytra* (desert-holly)
- *Dalea spinosa* (smoke tree)
- *Olneya tesota* (desert ironwood), including both dead and live desert ironwood

According to the National Weather Service, Palmdale received 3.88 inches of precipitation for Water Year 2022 to date (October 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022), which is about 67 percent of the normal average (National Weather Service 2022). Where available, reference populations were monitored for annual and difficult-to-detect target species to ensure that the scheduled surveys were comprehensive. This is especially relevant during periods of unusual rainfall patterns or below-average rainfall. If conditions at a nearby reference population are suitable for germination and growth, then it can be inferred that conditions would also be suitable in the survey area. Reference populations were not monitored for species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 4; perennials (e.g., *Atriplex* species) which would be identifiable throughout the year; or for species with no extant, publicly accessible reference population in the Project region.

Psomas Biologists Sarah Thomas and Jack Underwood conducted special status plant surveys on April 14; and May 12, 2022. The surveys comprised 4 total person-hours. The potentially suitable habitats for special status plants within the survey area were systematically surveyed to the extent possible during the site visits (Exhibit 3). All plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using keys in Hickman (1993) and Munz (1974). Taxonomy follows Hickman (1993) and/or current scientific data (e.g., scientific journals) for scientific and common names.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Elevations range from approximately 2,610 feet above mean sea level (msl) to approximately 2,620 feet above msl. The Project site is currently undeveloped but has had some previous disturbance and is directly adjacent (south of) a decommissioned portion of the Pacific Union Railroad. Vegetation on the site is comprised mostly of disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub, with a small patch of developed/disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub in the eastern portion of the site and big sagebrush - rubber rabbitbrush scrub in the drainage that runs along the southern edge of the site (Exhibit 4).

Most of the site has been disturbed historically (e.g., evidence of heavy machine work such as scraping), and contains many trash piles from illegal dumping. Throughout most of the site, the soils have been heavily compacted, making it unsuitable for special status plants. The only potentially suitable habitat

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occurs within, and immediately adjacent to the drainage in the southern portion of the site. Soil types in the survey area include Hesperia fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; and Rosamond loam. (USDA NRCS 2007). Exhibit 5 shows a map of soil types throughout the survey area.

SURVEY RESULTS

No special status plants were observed during the survey. No plants regulated by the City of Palmdale and the California Desert Native Plants Act and Native Desert Vegetation Preservation Ordinance were observed on-site during the survey.

A list of all plants observed within the survey area during the focused plant surveys can be found in Attachment. Table 1 below lists the special status plant species known to occur in the vicinity of the Project site along with habitat suitability within the survey area and survey results.

TABLE 1
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES KNOWN TO OCCUR
IN THE SURVEY AREA VICINITY

Scientific Name	Common Name	CDFW	CRPR	Species Background	Potential
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i>	Horn's milk-vetch		1B.1	Annual herb. Lake margins and alkaline soils in meadows, seeps, and playas; 196–2,788 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, San Bernardino (Presumed extirpated). Blooming period: May–October	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Astragalus preussii</i> var. <i>laxiflorus</i>	Lancaster milk-vetch		1B.1	Perennial herb. Chenopod scrub; elevation range unknown due to lack of records. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino. Blooming period: March–May	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Calochortus striatus</i>	alkali mariposa lily		1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Alkaline and mesic soils in chaparral, chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows, seeps, desert grasslands; 230–5,232 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: April–June	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Calystegia peirsonii</i>	Peirson's morning-glory		4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Chaparral, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, grassland; 98–4,920 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Los Angeles. Blooming period: April–June	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Canbya candida</i>	white pygmy-poppy		4.2	Annual herb. Gravelly, sandy, or granitic soils in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; 1,968–4,789 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: March–June	Marginally suitable habitat. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Chorizanthe spinosa</i>	Mojave spineflower		4.2	Annual herb. Sometimes alkaline soils in chenopod scrub, Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and playas; 20–4,264 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: March–July	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Cymopterus deserticola</i>	desert cymopterus		1B.2	Perennial herb. Sandy soil in Joshua tree woodland and Mojavean desert scrub; 2,066–4,920 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: March–May.	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Eriastrum rosamondense</i>	Rosamond eriastrum		1B.1	Annual herb. Alkaline hummocks in often sandy soil in openings of chenopod scrub and the edges of vernal pools; 2,296–2,345 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles. Blooming period: April–July	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Eriophyllum mohavense</i>	Barstow woolly sunflower		1B.2	Annual herb. Chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, and playas; 1,640–3,149 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: March–May	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Gilia latiflora</i> ssp. <i>cuyamensis</i>	Cuyama gilia		4.3	Annual herb. Sandy soil in Pinyon and juniper woodland; 1,952–6,560 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura. Blooming period: April–June	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Goodmania luteola</i>	golden goodmania		4.2	Annual herb. Alkaline or clay soils in Mojavean desert scrub, meadows, seeps, playas, and grassland; 66–7,216 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles. Blooming period: April–August	No suitable soils. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Loeflingia squarrosa</i> var. <i>artemisiarum</i>	sagebrush loeflingia		2B.2	Annual herb. Sandy soil in desert dunes, great basin scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub; 2,296–5,297 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: April–May	Marginally suitable habitat. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Lycium torreyi</i>	Torrey's box-thorn		4.2	Perennial shrub. Coastal scrub and Sonoran desert scrub; -10–3,660 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego. Blooming period: January–November	Marginally suitable habitat. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Muilla coronata</i>	crowned muilla		4.2	Perennial cormous herb. Chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, Joshua tree and Pinyon and juniper woodland; 2,509–6,429 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: March–May	Marginally suitable habitat. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i>	short-joint beavertail		1B.2	Stem succulent shrub. Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Joshua tree, Pinyon and juniper woodland; 1,394–5,904 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: April–August	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Perideridia pringlei</i>	adobe yampah		4.3	Perennial herb. Serpentine or often clay soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland; 984–5,904 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura. Blooming period: April–July	No suitable soils. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Puccinellia simplex</i>	California alkali grass		1B.2	Annual herb. Saline flats, mineral springs; <2,953 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino. Blooming period: March–May	No suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>	western Joshua tree	CST		Perennial herb. Desert flats, slopes; 1,312–7,546 ft. Southern California County Distribution: Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside. Blooming period: March–June	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed during focused surveys.
CDFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife; CRPR: California Rare Plant Rank			CRPR		
Species Status:			1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere	
State (CDFW)			2B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere	
CST			4	Plants of limited distribution - watch list	
Candidate State Threatened			.1	Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)	
			.2	Moderately threatened in California (20–80% of occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)	
			.3	Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened; low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)	

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Psomas appreciates the opportunity to assist on this project. If you have any comments or questions, please call Marc Blain at (626) 351-2000.

Sincerely,

P S O M A S



Marc T. Blain
Senior Project Manager



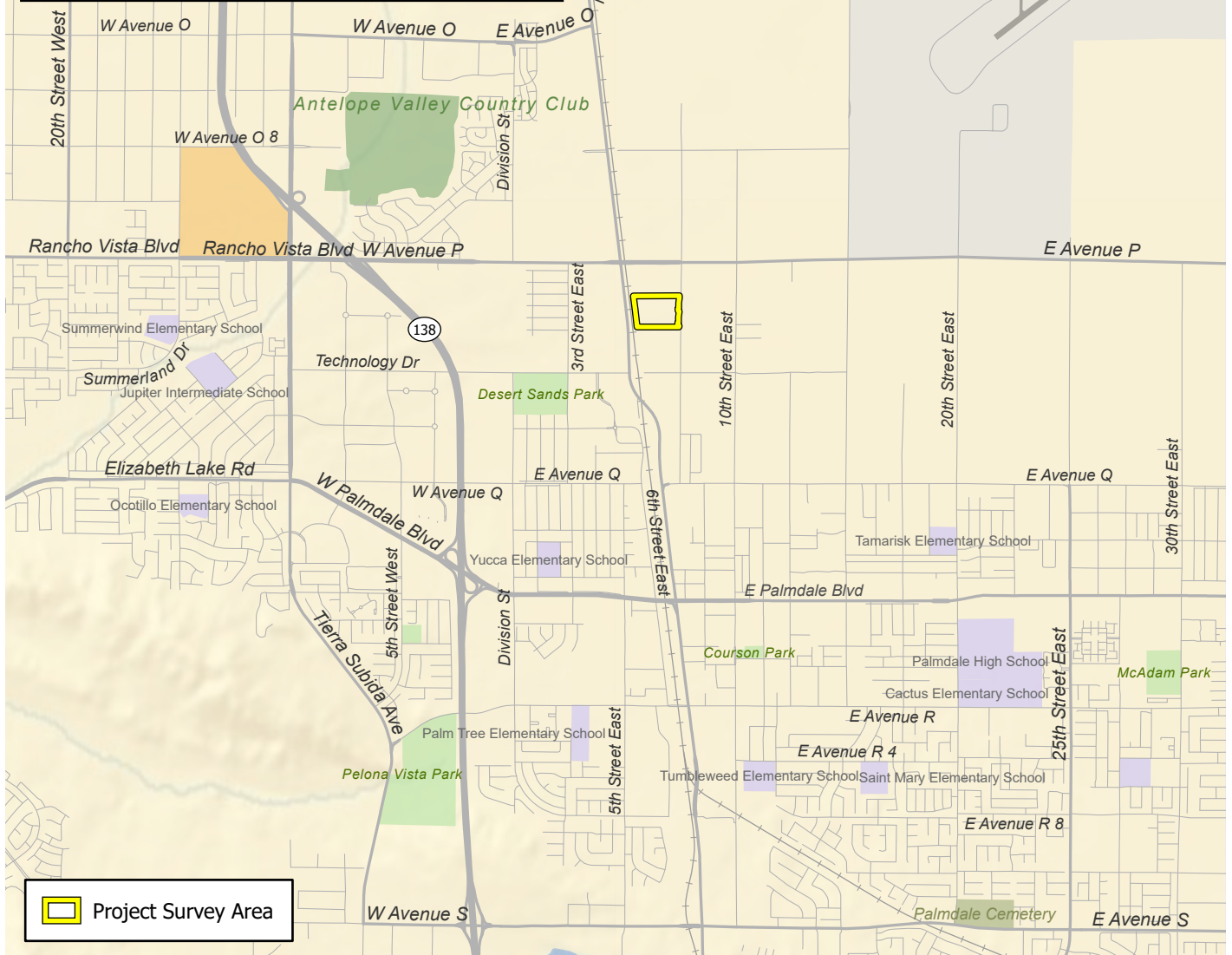
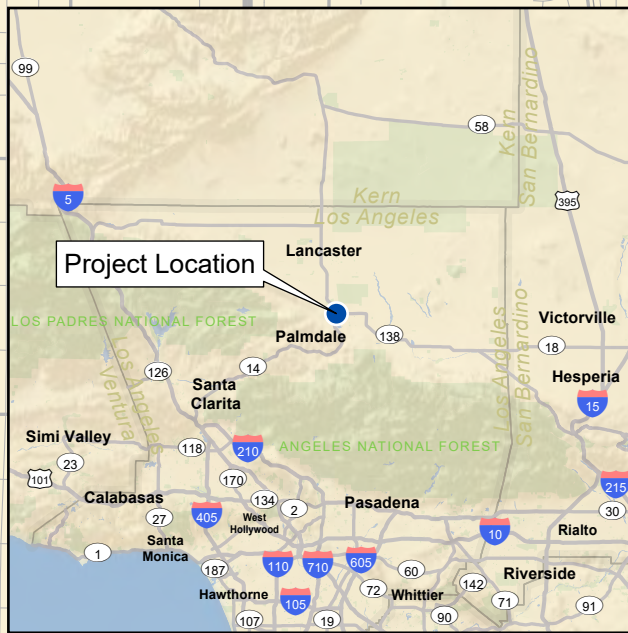
Sarah Thomas
Biologist


Enclosures: Exhibit 1 – Regional Location and Local Vicinity
 Exhibit 2 – USGS Quadrangle Map
 Exhibit 3 – Survey Area
 Exhibit 4 – Vegetation Map and Other Areas
 Exhibit 5 – Soils Map
 Attachment A – Plant Compendium

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 Project Survey Area

Regional Location and Local Vicinity

8th Street East Industrial Project



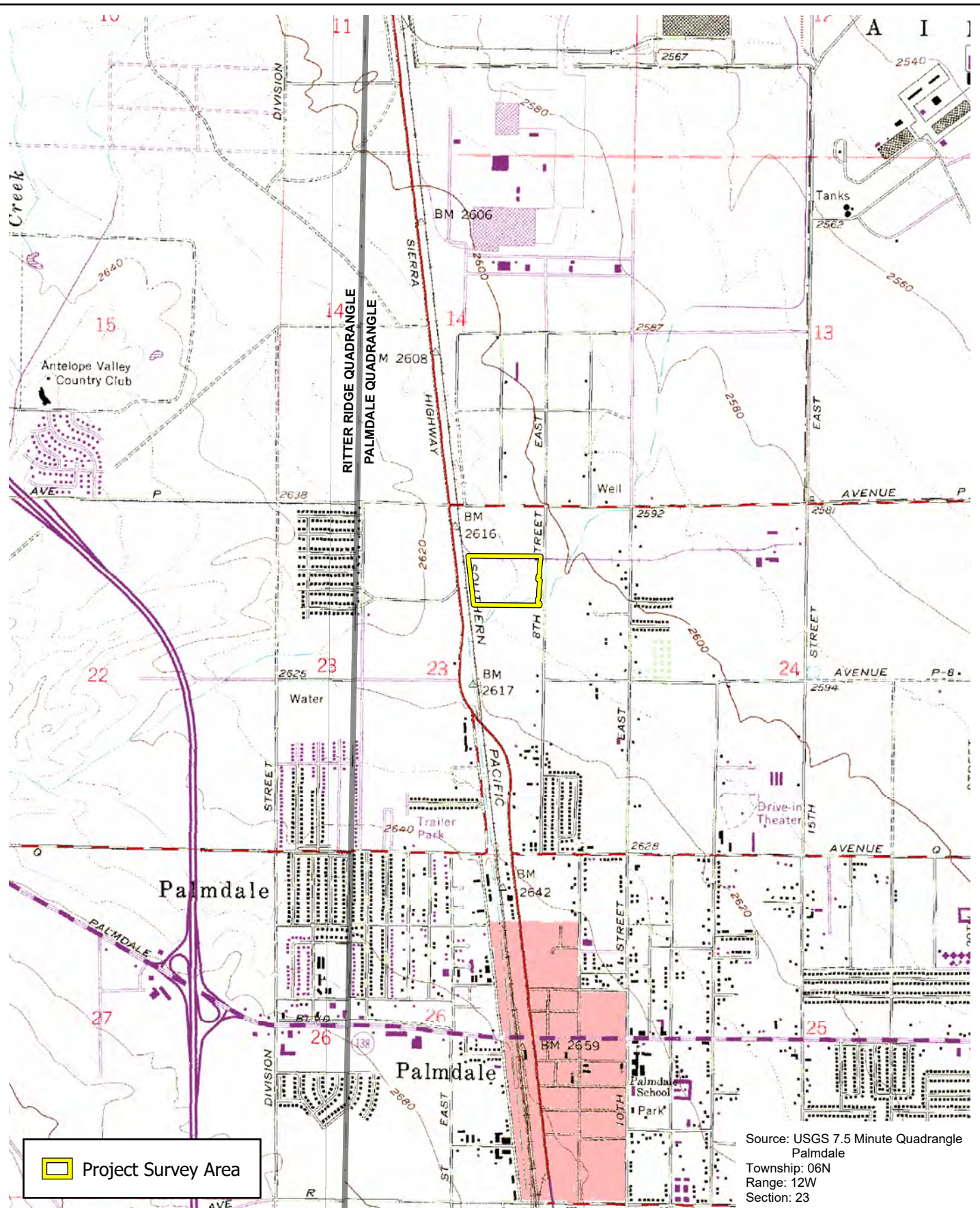
4,000 2,000 0 4,000
Feet

Exhibit 1



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USGS 7.5-Minute Digital Quadrangle

8th Street East Industrial Project



2,000 1,000 0 2,000
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Exhibit 2



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Survey Area

8th Street East Industrial Project



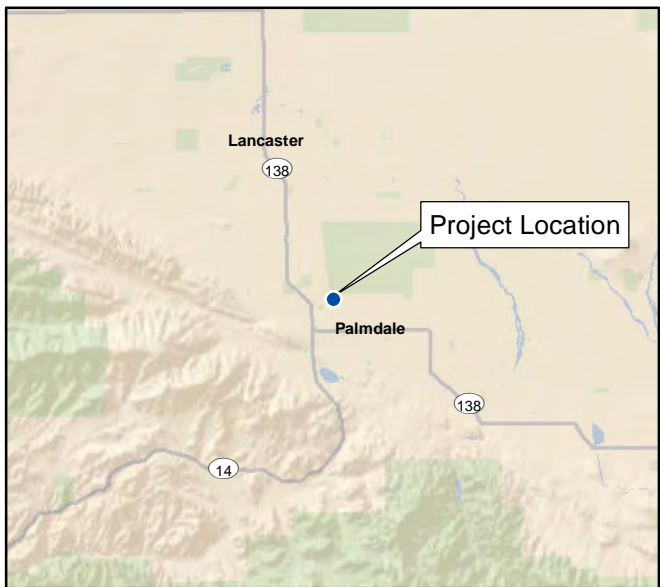
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Feet





Exhibit 3

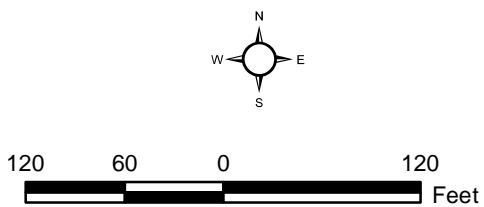


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-  Project Survey Area
- Vegetation Types and Other Areas**
-  big sagebrush - rubber rabbitbrush scrub
 -  developed/ disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub
 -  disturbed rubber rabbitbrush scrub



Aerial Source: Esri, Maxar 2021

**Vegetation Types
and Other Areas**

Exhibit 4

8th Street East Industrial Project



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Soils Map

8th Street East Industrial Project



200 100 0 200
Feet

Exhibit 5



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ATTACHMENT A
PLANT COMPENDIUM

**PLANTS OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA
DURING FOCUSED PLANT SURVEYS**

Species	
Scientific Name	Common Name
GYMNOSPERMS	
EPHEDRACEAE – EPHEDRA FAMILY	
<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>	Nevada ephedra
EUDICOTS	
ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY	
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	big sagebrush
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	rubber rabbitbrush
<i>Lessingia glandulifera</i>	glandular lessingia
<i>Senecio flaccidus</i>	threadleaf ragwort
BORAGINACEAE – BORAGE FAMILY	
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i> var. <i>oculatum</i>	seaside heliotrope
BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY	
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *	grayish shortpod mustard
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i> *	tumble mustard
CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY	
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	four-wing saltbush
EUPHORBIACEAE – SPURGE FAMILY	
<i>Croton setiger</i>	turkey-mullein
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE – CALTROP FAMILY	
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	creosote bush
MONOCOTS	
POACEAE – GRASS FAMILY	
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	ripgut grass
* Non-native or invasive species	