

Valley Boulevard Widening Project

CITY OF MENIFEE, CALIFORNIA

Final Tiered Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared for:

City of Menifee
29844 Haun Road
Menifee, CA 92586

Prepared by:

Dokken Engineering
110 Blue Ravine Road, Suite 200
Folsom, CA 95630



June 2023

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General Information about this Document

What's in this document:

The City of Menifee (City) has prepared this Tiered Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Valley Boulevard Widening Project (Project) located in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, California. The document describes the Project, the existing environment that will be affected by the Project, the impacts from the Project, and the avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures.

In accordance with CEQA, the City circulated the Draft Tiered IS/MND for a period of thirty (30) days from May 12, 2023 to June 12, 2023. All comments and the responses to the comments received on the circulated document are shown in Appendix G, Response to Public Comments, which has been added since the draft. The City held a public hearing regarding the project at the Planning Commission meeting held on June 28th, 2023. A resolution adopting the project was recommended to the commission, which voted in favor to adopt the resolution.

What happens next:

The project has completed all required environmental compliance under CEQA with public circulation of this document and filing of the Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse. This document can also be accessed electronically at the following website:

<https://www.cityofmenifee.us/325/Environmental-Notices-Documents>

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Valley Boulevard Widening Project

City of Menifee, California

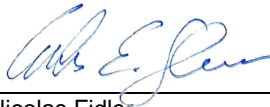
FINAL TIERED INITIAL STUDY with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

CITY OF MENIFEE

7/5/2023

Date of Approval



on behalf of

Nicolas Fidler
Public Works Director
City of Menifee
Public Works & Engineering Department

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CEQA Environmental Checklist Form	1
Project Description	1
Tiering	4
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:	17
EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:	19
I. AESTHETICS	21
II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES	23
III. AIR QUALITY	25
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	33
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES	73
VI. ENERGY	83
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS	85
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	90
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	93
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	97
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING	100
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES	101
XIII. NOISE	102
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING	123
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES	125
XVI. RECREATION	127
XVII. TRANSPORTATION	128
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES	131
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	135
XX. WILDFIRE	137
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	140
List of Preparers	143
References	144
Appendix A	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
Appendix B	Air Quality Road Construction Emissions Model
Appendix C	Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report (2022)
Appendix D	CNDDB, USFWS, CNPS, and CDFW Special Status Species Table
Appendix E	AB 52 Native American Correspondence Log
Appendix F	Acronyms
Appendix G	Response to Comments

List of Figures

Figure 1. Project Vicinity	5
Figure 2. Project Location	6
Figure 3. Project Features.....	7
Figure 4. Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area.....	37
Figure 5. Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities	59
Figure 6. Project Area Limits	77
Figure 7. Noise Levels of Common Activities	103
Figure 8. Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations	105

List of Tables

Table 1. Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	26
Table 2. Attainment for the South Coast Air Basin	28
Table 3. South Coast Air Quality Management District Thresholds of Significance	28
Table 4. Road Construction Emissions Model Compared to Thresholds of Significance	30
Table 5. Operational Air Emissions Estimates.....	30
Table 6. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats	57
Table 7. Annual Construction Fuel Consumption	83
Table 8. Construction CO2 Emissions Compared to Threshold of Significance.....	91
Table 9. Projected Operational Emissions.....	91
Table 10. Population Density and Associated Ambient Noise Levels	104
Table 11. Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels.....	104
Table 12. Comparison of Estimated Exterior Noise Levels in Future (2045) and with Rubberized Asphalt.....	119
Table 13. Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment.....	121
Table 14. Guideline Vibration Damage Potential Threshold Criteria	121
Table 15. City of Menifee Population, Housing, and Employment Forecasts	123
Table 16. VMT Estimates	129



CITY OF MENIFEE

CEQA Environmental Checklist Form

1. **Project title:** Valley Boulevard Widening Project
2. **Lead agency name and address:** City of Menifee, Public Works Department, 29844 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92586
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Ryan Fowler, Principal Planner: 951-723-3740
4. **Project location:** The project is located in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, along Valley Boulevard, a north-south arterial road that provides access through the northwestern portion of the City, between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road and extend the roadway through two existing gaps, providing local residents with one continuous route. Valley Boulevard is currently a two-lane undivided road with unstriped shoulders and sidewalks on one side of the road within the project vicinity. Refer to **Figure 1, Project Vicinity Map** and **Figure 2, Project Location Map**.
 - A. Total Project Area: 61.7 gross acres
 - B. Assessor's Parcel No: N/A
 - C. Map: N/A
 - D. Section 14, Township 5S & Range 3W of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian.
 - E. Longitude: 117° 12' 47.3" W Latitude: 33° 42' 51.2" N
5. **Project Applicant/Owners:** City of Menifee, Public Works Department, 29844 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92586

Representative: Diego Guillen, PE, City of Menifee Capital Improvement Program, 29844 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92586
6. **General Plan Designation:** 4-lane divided arterial road
7. **Existing Zoning:** Existing Roadway
8. **Project Description:**

The City of Menifee (City) proposes to widen the existing Valley Boulevard roadway between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road and extend the roadway through two existing gaps, providing local residents with one continuous route. The project is located in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, along Valley Boulevard, a north-south arterial road that provides access through the northwestern portion of the City. Valley Boulevard is currently a two-lane undivided road with unstriped shoulders and sidewalks on one side of the road within the project vicinity. In the City's General Plan, Valley Boulevard is

designated as a 4-lane divided arterial road. The City is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project will widen Valley Boulevard from a two-lane road to a four-lane facility between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road. The project will close the existing gaps in the roadway at two locations: a 700-foot segment north of McCall Boulevard and an 800-foot segment at the recently constructed Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) Desalination Facility near Murrieta Road. The project will include raised medians, turn lanes, and seven new traffic signals at major intersections. Additionally, the project will enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. Existing pavement will be rehabilitated throughout the Project Area, while existing curb ramps and sidewalks will be improved as needed.

Landscaping will be incorporated within the median and along the sidewalks throughout the corridor to preserve and enrich the visual quality of the City, enhancing the sense of place and character of the existing neighborhoods. Landscaping walls will also be incorporated along the roadway where appropriate.

The improvements associated with the widening of Valley Boulevard would also potentially require utility relocations. While the majority of the utilities within the project area are underground which may need to be relocated, there may also be impacts to some above ground boxes/vaults due to the widening improvements. Any existing utilities within the project area requiring relocation would be coordinated with the owner and operator of the utility.

The project will require some right of way acquisition to accommodate the proposed improvements. While the majority of the project is within existing City right of way, some right of way acquisitions are anticipated at the gap closures. No relocations of homes or businesses are anticipated as these are vacant parcels. Temporary construction easements may also be required along the project corridor.

During construction, temporary closures of portions of the road will be necessary; however, the improvements would be staged to minimize disruptions. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 18 months.

Additional project activities needed to support the design of the project include potholing and geotechnical investigations within the existing roadway and proposed improvement locations.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Improve Valley Boulevard to a 4-lane facility to be compliant with the City of Menifee General Plan and accommodate existing and future anticipated traffic volumes;
- Improve connectivity by closing the existing gaps in the roadway at two locations;
- Promote job growth by improving roadway connectivity and traffic circulation;
- Enhance the overall roadway network and quality by rehabilitating the existing pavement and improving existing curb ramps and sidewalks; and,
- Provide all residents with a safe and complete roadway infrastructure that encourages other modes of active transportation throughout the project limits by constructing sidewalks and bike lines on both sides of the roadway.

9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:**

The Project is located along the existing Valley Boulevard which is a north/south-trending corridor situated at an elevation of approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. Valley Boulevard is surrounded by both residential development on all sides as well as vacant, undeveloped, vegetated properties on the west side as well as at two existing roadway gaps in between. The Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) operates the Sun City Regional Water Reclamation Facility and Perris II Reverse Osmosis Treatment Facility at the existing southern terminus of Valley Boulevard.

The adjacent General Plan Area Land Use Designations include Residential, Public Facility (to the southeast), and Open Space (to the east and south).

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**

Based on the current Project design concept, other permits necessary to realize the proposal will likely include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Stormwater management and associated permitting will be required consistent with the provisions of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Tiering

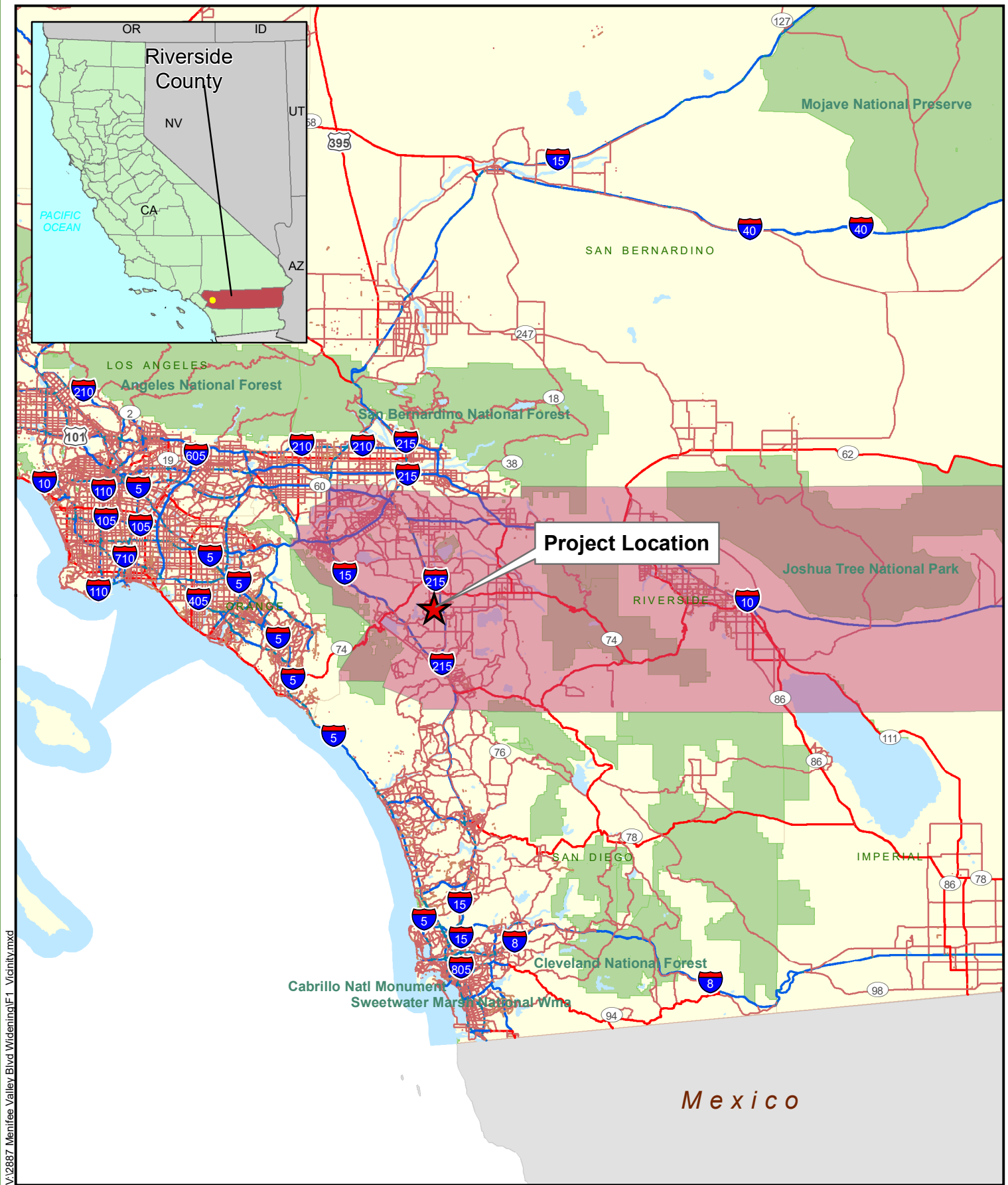
CEQA Guidelines section 15152 allows a MND to be adopted for a later, narrower project when an EIR has previously been prepared for a broader program, policy, plan or ordinance. Tiering refers to: (1) using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR with later CEQA documents on narrower projects; (2) incorporating by reference the general discussions from that broader EIR into the later CEQA document for the narrower project; and (3) concentrating the later CEQA document on the issues specific to the narrower project. Where an EIR has been prepared and certified for a large-scale planning approval, such as a general plan, the lead agency should limit the CEQA document prepared for a later project to effects that were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR. The later project must be consistent with that broader program or plan and must not result in any significant effects that were not examined in that previous EIR. In order to tier from an EIR, the later project must be consistent with the general plan and zoning of the applicable city or county. The CEQA document prepared for the later project must clearly state that it is being tiered upon a previous EIR, reference that EIR, and state where a copy of the EIR can be examined. *(Please note narrower projects in this instance refers to those that have been more narrowly defined since the time of a programmatic EIR analysis.)*

In addition to the findings required of a MND pursuant to Section 21080 and 21064.5, Office of Planning and Research recommends that the Lead Agency that engages in a tiered analysis find that:

1. The project is consistent with the program, policy, plan or ordinance for which the previous EIR was prepared.
2. The project is consistent with the general plan and zoning of the applicable city or county.
3. The project, as revised or mitigated, will not result in any significant effects which were not examined in the previous EIR.

This Tiered IS/MND for the Project is tiered off the City of Menifee's 2013 General Plan Update EIR (SCH # 2012071033). The 2013 General Plan Update EIR can be found at the City's website here: <https://www.cityofmenifee.us/262/Environmental-Impact-Report>. The Project is consistent with the 2013 Comprehensive Update to the City of Menifee General Plan for which the 2013 Menifee General Plan EIR was prepared. The Project is consistent with the general plan and zoning of the City of Menifee.

The City of Menifee analyzed, at the program level, environmental effects from full build out of the land use changes and development proposed by the Comprehensive Update to the City of Menifee General Plan, including impacts from the potential widening of Valley Boulevard, in the City of Menifee 2013 General Plan EIR. The 2013 General Plan EIR identified potentially significant and unavoidable program-level impacts from full build-out of the General Plan Update with respect to the following resources: agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and transportation/traffic. In analyzing the Project's impacts, this Tiered IS/MND tiers off the 2013 General Plan EIR. Further, as explained in this IS/MND, the Project will not have any additional significant impacts related to noise that were not already analyzed and disclosed in the 2013 General Plan EIR.



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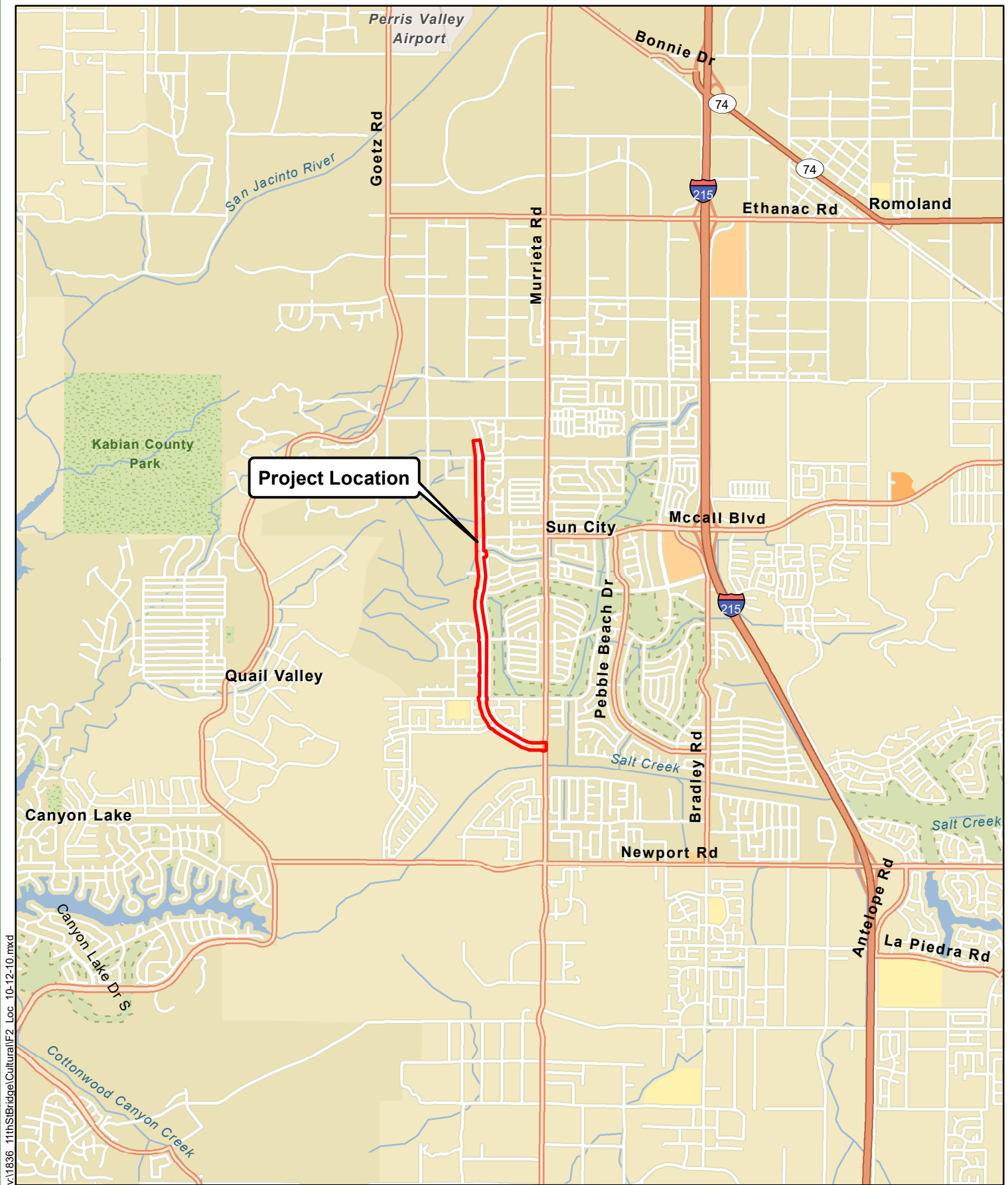
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Miles

FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

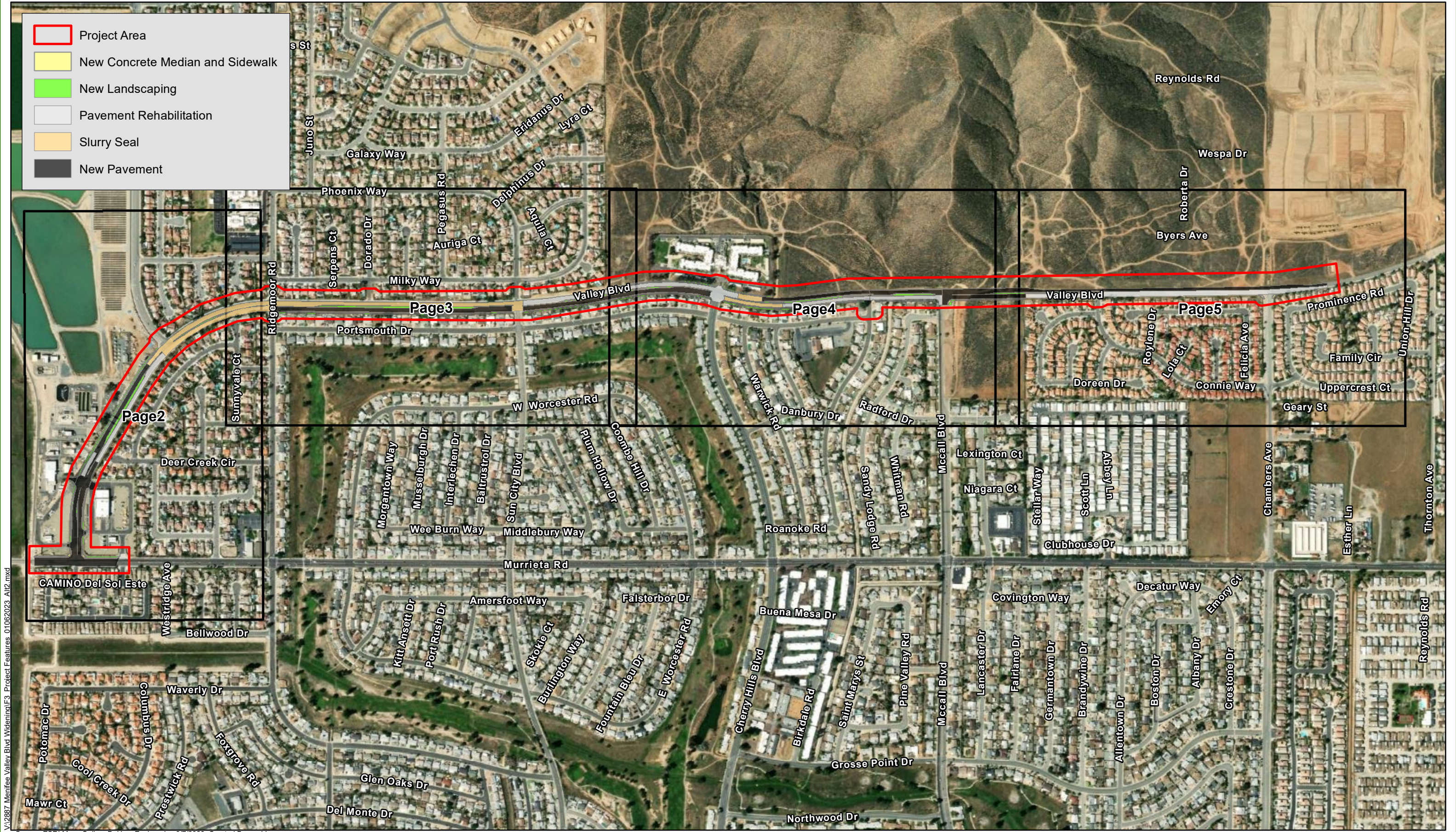


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Source: ESRI World Street Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/20/2022; Created By: hsheldon



Figure 2
Project Location
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl

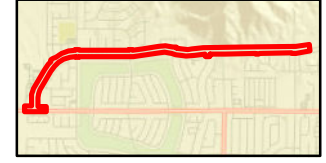
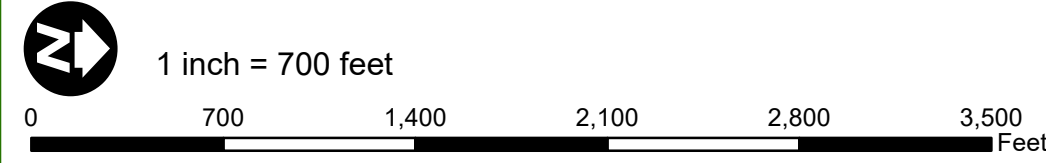


Figure 3
Project Features
 Page 1 of 5
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl



1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

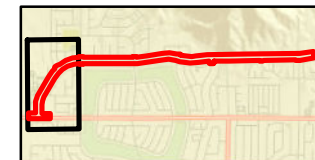
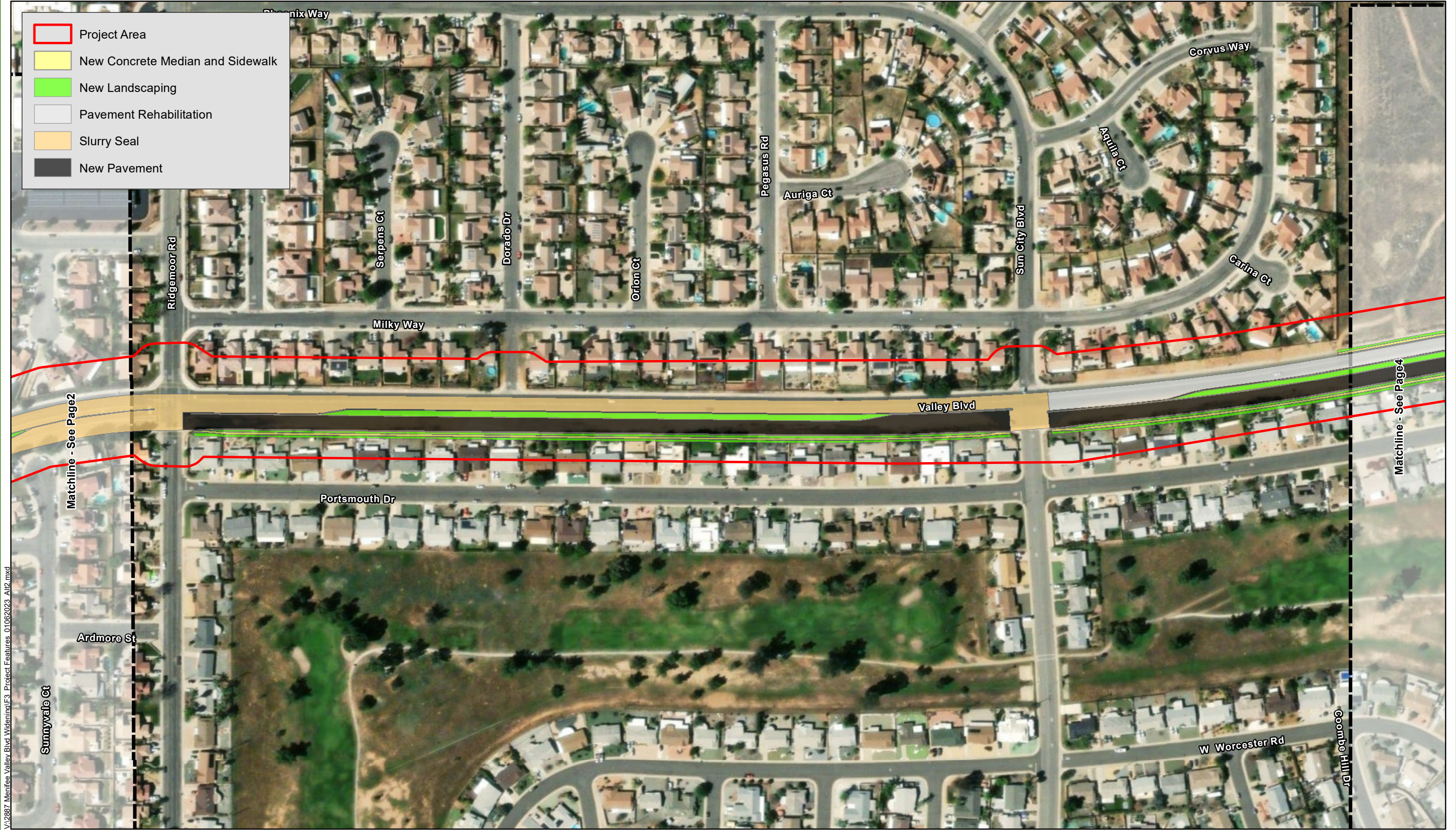


Figure 3
Project Features
Page 2 of 5

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl



1 inch = 200 feet

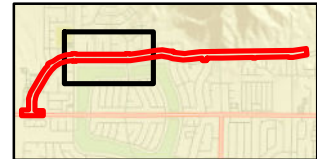


Figure 3
Project Features
Page 3 of 5

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

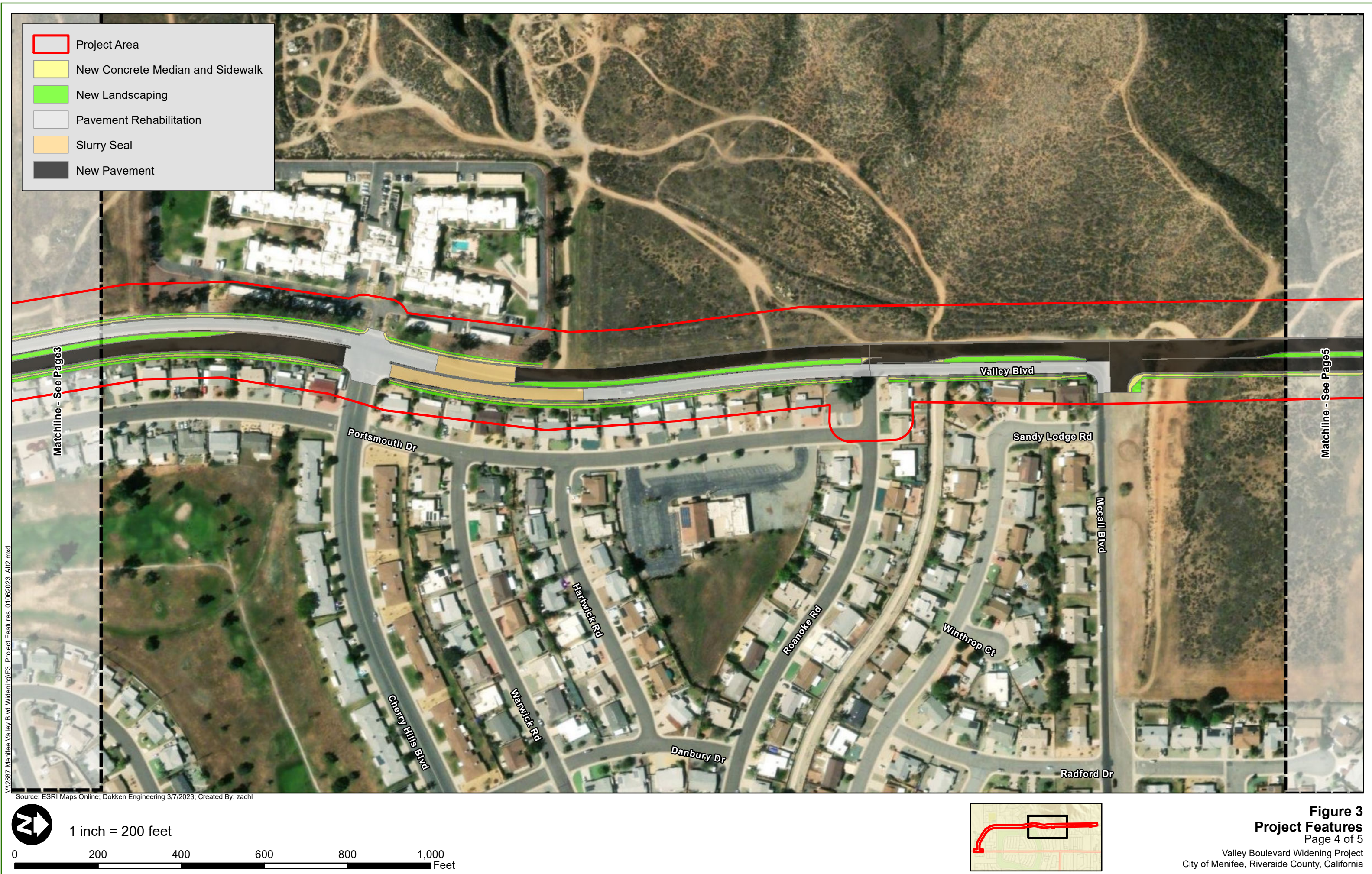


Figure 3
Project Features
Page 4 of 5

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Project Area

New Concrete Median and Sidewalk

New Landscaping

Pavement Rehabilitation

Slurry Seal

New Pavement



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl



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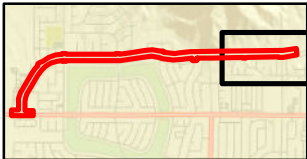


Figure 3

Project Features

Page 5 of 5

Valley Boulevard Widening Project

City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a **“Potentially Significant Impact”** as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a **“Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated”** as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a **“Less than Significant”** as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

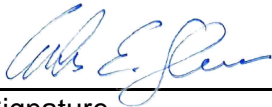
The environmental factors checked below (x) would have **“No Impact”** by this Project as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.



Signature

Carlos E. Geronimo

Printed Name

7/5/2023

Date

For Nicolas Fidler
Public Works Director

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. State CEQA Guidelines §15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

- a, c) **No Impact.** The Project is located along the existing Valley Boulevard, which is situated between a residential neighborhood and a large area of open space where Quail Hill, one of the City's tallest landforms, is located. This natural landform includes undisturbed slopes, hillsides, and rock outcroppings which enhance the City's environmental setting, per the City General Plan's Open Space and Conservation Element. As such, this area may be considered a scenic vista. The proposed Project would widen Valley Boulevard and close the gap on this roadway. The Project would not develop the undisturbed hillsides of Quail Hill and would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The widening of an existing road would also not substantially degrade the existing visual character of the area. Public views of Quail Hill would be increased by the gap closure because there would be a direct route along Valley Boulevard with unobstructed views of Quail Hill. Furthermore, landscaping will be incorporated within the median and along the sidewalks throughout the corridor to preserve and enrich the visual quality of the City. There would be **No Impact**.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project area is not located adjacent to any State scenic highway. The proposed Project will not have a significant impact upon a scenic highway corridor. **No Impacts** to any state eligible scenic highways are anticipated.
- d) **No Impact.** The Project would widen an existing road where streetlights currently exist. The project does propose to construct seven signalized intersections at existing stop controlled intersections; however, the traffic lights would not introduce substantially more

light than what is currently existing along the corridor with the streetlights. The project would not introduce any new source of substantial light or glare. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to aesthetics. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to aesthetics beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder

- a) **No Impact.** According to the California Department of Conservation, the proposed Project area is not located within proximity to any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. There is a small area of land at the northern end of the Project area that is considered Farmland of Local Importance; however, this area is currently being developed into residential homes and no farming is anticipated to occur at this site. All surrounding adjacent land use consists of Urban and Built-Up Land, Grazing Land, and Other Land. There would be **No Impact**.
- b) **No Impact.** There are no Williamson Act contract lands or lands zoned for agricultural use within proximity to the Project site. There would be **No Impact**.
- c, d) **No Impact.** There are no forest lands or timberlands (or lands zoned as such) in the Project area. The Project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. There would be **No Impact**.
- e) **No Impact.** The Project would have no impact to conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is in the Project area as mapped by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. No forest land is in the Project area as well. There would be **No impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to agriculture and forest resources. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to agriculture and forest resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): CARB Maps of State Area Designations (2020); CARB Maps of Federal Area Designations (2018); SCAQMD Air Quality Analysis Handbook (2019)

Affected Environment

The Project is located in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the agency responsible for monitoring and regulating air pollutant emissions from stationary, area, and indirect sources within the SCAB. The SCAQMD also has responsibility for monitoring air quality and setting and enforcing limits for source emissions. California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the agency with the legal responsibility for regulating mobile source emissions. The SCAQMD is precluded from such activities under State law.

The proposed Project is in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)'s 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the 2020-2045 Connection SoCal Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) under ID# RIV180141. The design concept and scope of the proposed Project is consistent with the project description, goals and policies listed in the 2021 FTIP, the 2020 Connect SoCal, and the assumptions in SCAG's regional emissions analysis.

Existing air quality conditions in the Project area can be characterized in terms of the ambient air quality standards that the State (California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS)) and federal government (National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)) have established for several different pollutants. For some pollutants, separate standards have been set for different measurement periods. Most standards have been set to protect public health. Ambient air pollutant concentrations are measured at 16 permanent monitoring stations throughout the SCAB. The federal and State governments have established ambient air quality standards for six criteria pollutants: ozone, CO, NO₂, SO₂, particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), and lead (Table 1. Ambient Air Quality Standards). Within the SCAQMD, ozone and PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ are considered pollutants of concern.

Table 1. Ambient Air Quality Standards

Ambient Air Quality Standards						
Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards ¹		National Standards ²		
		Concentration ³	Method ⁴	Primary ^{3,5}	Secondary ^{3,6}	Method ⁷
Ozone (O ₃) ⁸	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Photometry	—	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet Photometry
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)		0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)		
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM10) ⁹	24 Hour	50 µg/m ³	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m ³		—		
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) ⁹	24 Hour	—	—	35 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m ³	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	12.0 µg/m ³	15 µg/m ³	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m ³)	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)	—	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)
	8 Hour	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m ³)		9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)	—	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m ³)		—	—	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) ¹⁰	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m ³)	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	100 ppb (188 µg/m ³)	—	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m ³)		0.053 ppm (100 µg/m ³)	Same as Primary Standard	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) ¹¹	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	75 ppb (196 µg/m ³)	—	Ultraviolet Fluorescence; Spectrophotometry (Pararosaniline Method)
	3 Hour	—		—	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m ³)	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m ³)		0.14 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	—	
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	—		0.030 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	—	
Lead ^{12,13}	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m ³	Atomic Absorption	—	—	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Calendar Quarter	—		1.5 µg/m ³ (for certain areas) ¹²	Same as Primary Standard	
	Rolling 3-Month Average	—		0.15 µg/m ³		
Visibility Reducing Particles ¹⁴	8 Hour	See footnote 14	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape	No National Standards		
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m ³	Ion Chromatography			
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence			
Vinyl Chloride ¹²	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m ³)	Gas Chromatography			

See footnotes on next page ...

See footnotes on next page ...

For more information please call ARB-PIO at (916) 322-2990

California Air Resources Board (5/4/16)

(Table 1, continued)

1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM₁₀, the 24 hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is equal to or less than one. For PM_{2.5}, the 24 hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.
3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.
4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.
5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.
6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.
7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.
8. On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.
9. On December 14, 2012, the national annual PM_{2.5} primary standard was lowered from 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 12.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The existing national 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards (primary and secondary) were retained at 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, as was the annual secondary standard of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The existing 24-hour PM₁₀ standards (primary and secondary) of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.
10. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national 1-hour standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national 1-hour standard to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 100 ppb is identical to 0.100 ppm.
11. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO₂ standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO₂ national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved.

Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.
12. The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.
13. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.
14. In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

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California Air Resources Board (5/4/16)

Under NAAQS, the Project is located in an area that is in non-attainment for 8-hour ozone, 1-hour ozone, and PM2.5. It is in attainment or unclassified for other federal criteria pollutants. Under CAAQS, the Project is located in an area that is in non-attainment for 8-hour ozone, 1-hour ozone, PM10, and PM2.5. It is in attainment or unclassified for other State criteria pollutants (Table 2. Attainment for the South Coast Air Basin).

Table 2. Attainment for the South Coast Air Basin

Pollutant	Attainment Status	
	Federal	State
O ₃ (8-hour)	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
O ₃ (1-hour)	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
PM10	Attainment	Nonattainment
PM2.5	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
CO	Unclassifiable/Attainment	Attainment
NO ₂	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
SO ₂	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Lead	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified

The State CEQA Guidelines further state that the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the determinations above. The SCAQMD has specified significance thresholds (SCAQMD 2019) to determine whether mitigation is needed for project-related air quality impacts (Table 3. South Coast Air Quality Management District Thresholds of Significance).

Table 3. South Coast Air Quality Management District Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Construction (lbs per day)	Operation (lbs per day/tons per day)
NO _x	100	55/0.0275
VOC	75	55/0.0275
PM10	150	150/0.075
PM2.5	55	55/0.0275
SO _x	150	150/0.075
CO	550	550/0.275
Lead	3	3/0.001

Environmental Consequences

- a) **No Impact.** A project is considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of regional air quality plans if it would be inconsistent with the emissions inventories contained in the regional air quality plans. Emission inventories are developed based on projected increases in population growth and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) within the region. As a roadway gap closure project, the construction or operation of the Project would not induce growth of population or housing in the Project vicinity and would not increase VMT. The Project will enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. The Project would provide all residents with a safe and complete roadway infrastructure that encourages other modes of active transportation throughout the project limits. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with

or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan for the region, and **No Impact** would occur.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction of the Project would result in short-term and intermittent increases in criteria pollutants; however, no long-term operational impacts to net increases of criteria pollutants would occur. According to results of the Project's Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM) construction effects would not result in an exceedance of the SCAQMD construction emission thresholds. Specifically, the RCEM (Appendix B. Air Quality Road Construction Emissions Model) determined that short-term local nuisance of increased criteria pollutants would be under the daily maximum pounds (lbs) per day SCAQMD thresholds (see Table 4). As a roadway gap closure, the operation of the completed facility would not cause an increase in any criteria pollutants. Therefore, the Project's effects to air quality would be considered **Less than Significant**. Discussion of the short-term construction and operational significance thresholds, as applicable to the proposed project, are discussed below.

Short-Term Construction Emissions

Temporary construction activities would include site preparation that will involve excavation, grading, constructing new sidewalks, and other construction activities. During construction, short-term air quality effects are expected from the release of particulate emissions (airborne dust) generated by excavation, grading, hauling, and other activities related to construction. However, adherence to standard dust control and construction best management practices (BMPs) would be required as part of the Project's Construction Management Plan and approved by the City.

Emission from construction equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines are also anticipated. The RCEM model estimates construction equipment effects of criteria pollutants including CO, NO_x, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), directly emitted PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, and toxic air contaminants (TACs) such as diesel exhaust particulate matter. These emissions would be temporary and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site. The RCEM model was calculated with the Project's construction anticipated to take approximately 18 months. The Project's construction emissions were modeled using the RCEM developed by Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD 2018), which is the accepted model for all CEQA roadway projects throughout California. The RCEM results (Appendix B) were then compared with the SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds to determine if the Project would exceed any regional thresholds of significance. As summarized in Table 4, due to the limited scale/intensity of the Project's construction activities, construction related emissions will not exceed SCAQMD threshold criteria for significant air quality impacts. Therefore, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment, and the Project's air quality effects would be considered **Less than Significant**.

Table 4. Road Construction Emissions Model Compared to Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Road Construction Emissions Model Estimates (lbs per day)	SCAQMD Threshold (lbs per day)	
	Construction Only	Construction	Operation
NO _x	46.77	100	55
VOC	4.31	75	55
PM ₁₀	3.58	150	150
PM _{2.5}	2.03	55	55
SO _x	0.11	150	150
CO	39.83	550	550

Source: Modeling using the Road Construction Emissions Model 9.0.0 (Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District 2018).

Long-Term Operational Emissions

Long-term air quality impacts consist of mobile source emissions generated from project-related traffic and stationary source emissions (generated directly from on-site activities and from the electricity and natural gas consumed). As a roadway gap closure, VMT is anticipated to decrease as a result of the Project. Operational emissions were calculated using EMFAC2021 for the No-Build Alternative and the Build Alternative. As the Build Alternative reduces the number of miles traveled by vehicles, operational emissions are anticipated to decrease as a result of the proposed Project. Table 5 shows the estimated reduction in operational emissions in pounds per day as a result of the Project.

Table 5. Operational Air Emissions Estimates

Pollutant	EMFAC2021 Emissions Estimates (lbs per day)	SCAQMD Threshold (lbs per day)
NO _x	-2.2	55
VOC	-1.2	55
PM ₁₀	-0.2	150
PM _{2.5}	-0.2	55
SO _x	0	150
CO	0	550

There would be no increase in any of the pollutants as a result of the Project. The Project will reduce the number of miles traveled by vehicles and enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. The Project would provide all residents with a safe and complete roadway infrastructure that encourages other modes of active transportation throughout the project limits, which may lead to a reduction in the production of criteria pollutants from vehicle use. The Project would not result in a significant increase in traffic or stationary source emissions. Therefore, **No Impact** relating to operational emissions would occur.

- c) **Less than Significant.** Sensitive populations (i.e., children, senior citizens and acutely or chronically ill people) are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than are the general population. Sensitive land uses typically include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes. The closest sensitive populations are several residences and a senior citizens home.

Short-Term Construction Emissions and Exposure

Although construction of the Project would result in associated air pollutants, these increases are not concentrated and are well below significance thresholds as shown under discussion b) above. Construction activities would be short-term and intermittent in nature and would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. In addition, adherence to standard dust control and construction BMPs would be required as part of the Project's Construction Management Plan. Further, avoidance and minimization measures **AQ-1** through **AQ-3** would be implemented to reduce any potential impacts. Therefore, Project effects would be considered **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

Long-Term Operational Emissions and Exposure

Operation of the facility would not result in a significant increase in long-term substantial pollutant concentrations as shown under discussion b) above. Therefore, no impact due to operation of the facility would occur.

- d) **Less Than Significant.** The Project would have a less than significant impact related to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and creating objectionable odors. Some phases of construction, particularly asphalt paving, would result in short-term odors in the immediate area of each paving site(s). Such odors would be quickly dispersed below detectable thresholds as distance from the site(s) increases. With implementation of avoidance and minimization measures **AQ-1** and **AQ-3**, impacts related to other emissions such as nuisance odors are **Less than Significant**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

All of the construction impacts to air quality are short-term in duration and, therefore, will not result in adverse or long-term impacts. Implementation of the following avoidance and minimization measures will further minimize any air quality impacts resulting from construction activities to Less than Significant:

- AQ-1:** The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations related to air quality, including air pollution control district and air quality management district regulations and local ordinances.
- AQ-2:** Construction of the project would comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Rule 403—Fugitive Dust.
- AQ-3:** The construction contractor shall implement control measures to reduce emissions of NO_x, ROG, and PM₁₀. The contractor shall:
- Minimize idling time to 5 minutes when construction equipment is not in use, unless per engine manufacturer's specifications or for safety reasons more time is required.
 - To the extent practicable, manage operation of heavy-duty equipment to reduce emissions such as maintaining heavy-duty earthmoving, stationary and mobile equipment in optimum running conditions.
 - Use electric equipment when feasible.
 - Properly maintain equipment according to manufacturers' specifications.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to air quality with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to air quality beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report (2022)

Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

This section describes the following federal regulations that are applicable to the proposed Project: the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 (16 United States Code Section

1531 et seq.), Executive Order (EO) 13112 (Prevention and Control of Invasive Species), and EO 13186 (Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)).

Federal Endangered Species Act

The FESA of 1973 (16 United States Code Section 1531 et seq.) provides for the conservation of endangered and threatened species listed pursuant to Section 4 of the FESA (16 United States Code section 1533) and the ecosystems upon which they depend. These species and resources have been identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service. Compliance under FESA, for impacts to Federally listed species, will occur through the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

Executive Order 13112: Prevention and Control of Invasive Species

EO 13112 (signed February 3, 1999) directs all federal agencies to prevent and control introductions of invasive species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. The EO requires consideration of invasive species in environmental analyses, including their identification and distribution, their potential impacts, and measures to prevent or eradicate them.

Executive Order 13186: Migratory Bird Treaty Act

EO 13186 (signed January 10, 2001) directs each federal agency taking actions that could adversely affect migratory bird populations to work with USFWS to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. Protocols developed under the MOU will include the following agency responsibilities:

- avoid and minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, adverse impacts on migratory bird resources when conducting agency actions;
- restore and enhance habitat of migratory birds, as practicable; and
- prevent or abate the pollution or detrimental alteration of the environment for the benefit of migratory birds, as practicable.

The EO is designed to assist federal agencies in their efforts to comply with the MBTA (50 Code of Federal Regulations 10 and 21) and does not constitute any legal authorization to take migratory birds. Take is defined under the MBTA as “the action of or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect, or kill” (50 Code of Federal Regulations 10.12) and includes intentional take (i.e., take that is the purpose of the activity in question) and unintentional take (i.e., take that results from, but is not the purpose of, the activity in question).

State Regulations

This section describes the following State of California regulations that are applicable to the proposed Project: CEQA (California Public Resources Code (PRC), Sections 21000 – 21178, and Title 14 CCR, Section 753, and Chapter 3, Sections 15000 – 15387), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; California Fish and Game (CFG) Code Sections 2050-2116), CFG Code Section 3503 and 3503.5, and CFG Code Section 3513.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA is a California state law created to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities and to work to reduce these negative environmental impacts. The City is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed Project.

California Endangered Species Act

The CESA (CFG Code Section 2050 et seq.) requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to establish a list of endangered and threatened species (Section 2070) and to prohibit the incidental taking of any such listed species except as allowed by the Act (Sections 2080-2089). In addition, CESA prohibits take of candidate species (under consideration for listing).

CESA also requires CDFW to comply with CEQA when evaluating incidental take permit applications (CFG Code Section 2081(b) and California Code Regulations, Title 14, section 783.0 et seq.), and the potential impacts the project or activity for which the application was submitted may have on the environment. CDFW's CEQA obligations include consultation with other public agencies which have jurisdiction over the proposed project or activity (California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.5(d)(3)). CDFW cannot issue an incidental take permit if issuance would jeopardize the continued existence of the species (CFG Code Section 2081(c); California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.4(b)). Compliance under CESA, for impacts to State listed species, will occur through the MSHCP.

Sections 3503 and 3503.5: Birds and Raptors

CFG Code Section 3503 prohibits the destruction of bird nests and Section 3503.5 prohibits the killing of raptor species and destruction of raptor nests. Trees and shrubs are present in and adjacent to the Project area and could contain active nests during the nesting bird season.

Section 3513: Migratory Birds

CFG Code Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory non-game bird as designated in the MBTA or any part of such migratory non-game bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the MBTA.

Local Regulations

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Statewide, multi-jurisdictional comprehensive habitat conservation planning efforts were initiated under the umbrella of the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) Act of 1991. The NCCP program creates a process for the issuance of Federal and State permits and other authorizations under FESA and CESA, and the state's NCCP. The Riverside County NCCP region is composed of two subregional multiple habitat/multiple species planning programs. The Project area is located within the MSHCP, Sun City, Menifee Valley Plan Area, and therefore the Project must comply with the MSHCP.

The MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan (HCP) focused on the conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The goal

of the plan is to maintain biological and ecological diversity through conservation of open space and 146 covered species. The MSHCP serves as an HCP pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of FESA, as well as a NCCP under the NCCP Act of 2001. The approval of the MSHCP and execution of the Implementing Agreement by the wildlife agencies allows participating jurisdictions to authorize “take” of all plant and wildlife species covered by the MSHCP. Therefore, compliance with the requirements of Section 6.0 of the MSHCP is intended to provide full mitigation under CEQA, FESA, and CESA for impacts to the species and habitats covered by the MSHCP pursuant to agreements with the resource agencies. The Project is within the MSHCP Plan Fee Area and outside of Criteria Cells, therefore a joint project review under the Regional Conservation Authority is not required (MSHCP 2003).

Affected Environment

The Project Area was defined as the area of direct impacts and is approximately 61.7 acres in area. Prior to field surveys, a Biological Study Area (BSA) was defined as the area required for Project activities, plus an approximate 300-foot buffer to account for adjacent biological resources and potential changes in Project design. From north to south, the BSA measures approximately 1.8 miles, and from east to west, the BSA ranges from approximately 230 feet to 970 feet at its widest point. The total area of the BSA is approximately 109.82 acres. The BSA is located in the western portion of the City, approximately 1.46 miles west of Interstate 215. The northern portion of the BSA is located at Chambers Avenue and Valley Boulevard and goes south toward the intersection of Valley Boulevard and Murrieta Road. The BSA is partially within a developed residential area and partially within an undeveloped area. Vegetation communities within the BSA include developed/urban, barren, non-native grassland, coastal sage scrub, and one storm drain (Figure 4. Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area).

See Appendix C for Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report (2022).

- a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Plant and animal species have special status if they have been listed as such by federal or State agencies or by one or more special interest groups, such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Prior to field surveys, literature searches were conducted using the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation, the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory to identify regionally sensitive species with potential to occur within the BSA (Appendix D. USFWS, CDFW, and CNPS Special Status Species Table).

On May 10, 2022, Dokken Engineering biologists Hanna Sheldon and Clare Favro surveyed the Project BSA in order to document existing biological resources and evaluate habitat that may support special status species. Additionally, focused coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) surveys were conducted by USFWS-permitted 10(a)(1)(A) biologists Christine Tischer and Shannan Shaffer, in accordance with the *1997 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines* published by the USFWS (USFWS 1997). A total of six surveys were conducted from April 22, 2022, through May 27, 2022, within a 500-foot buffer from Project limits (ECORP 2022a). Furthermore, focused Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) surveys were conducted by Dr. Philip Brylski, permitted under a CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit and a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) for SKR. Small mammal traps were deployed and checked from August 10, 2022, through August 13, 2022. Surveying was concentrated in the northern limits of the Project area, where there is suitable habitat for SKR (ECORP 2022b).

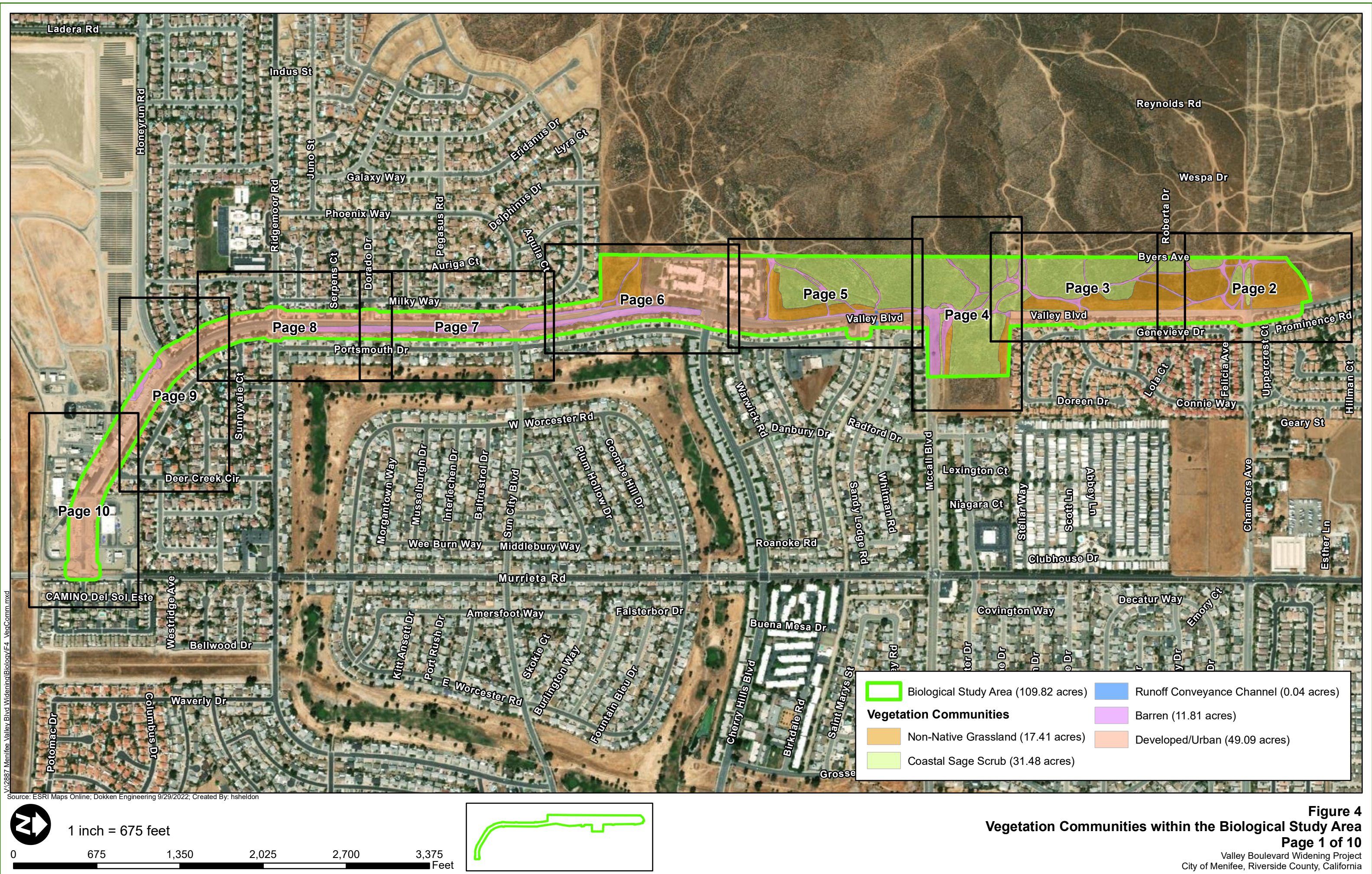
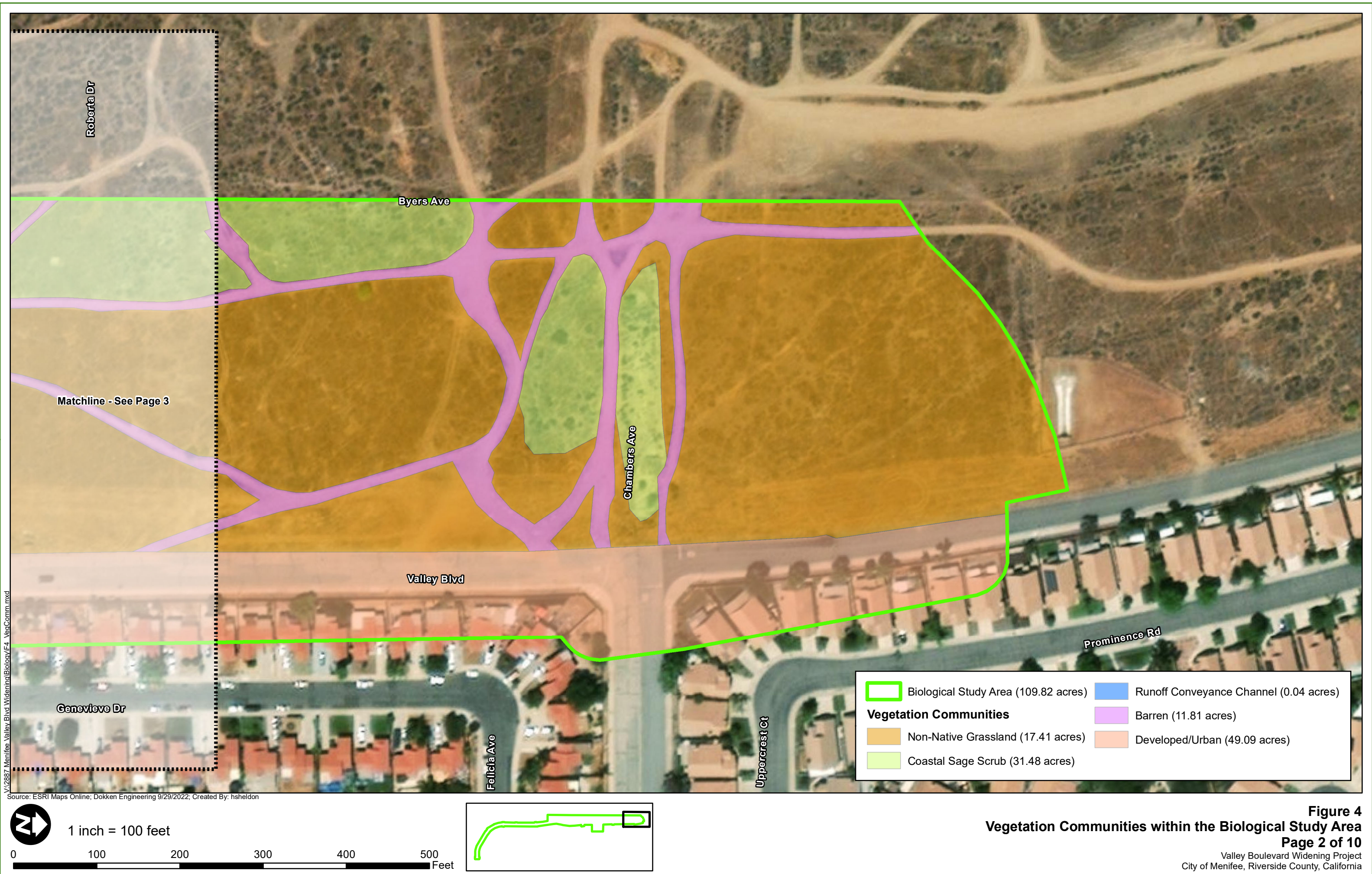
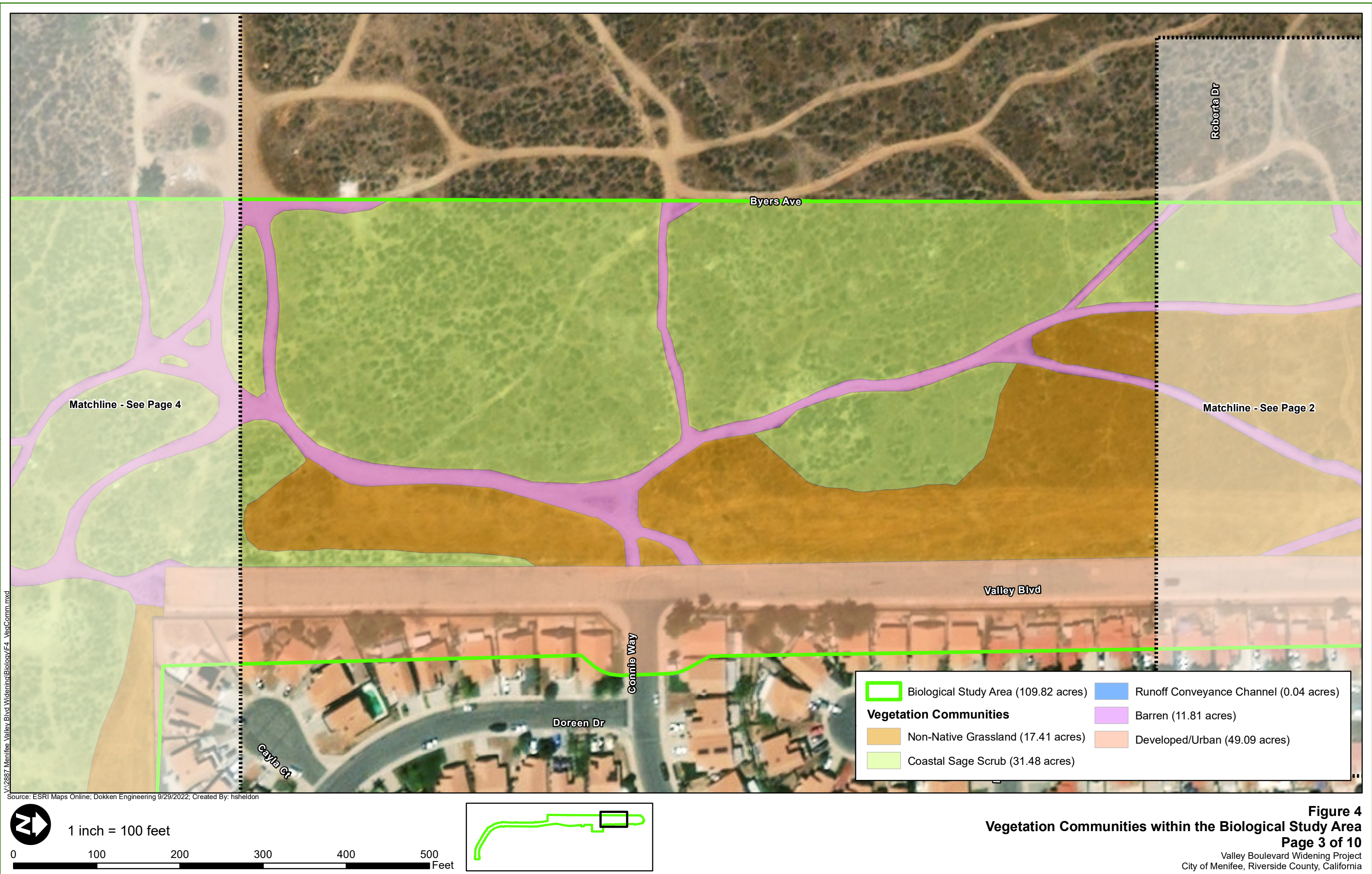


Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 1 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California





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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon



1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

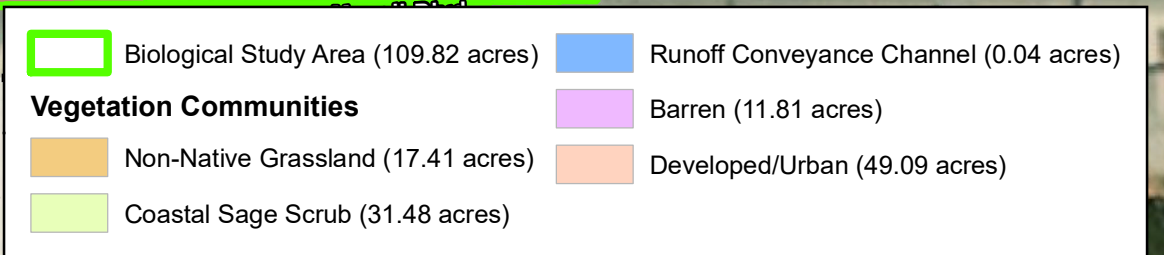
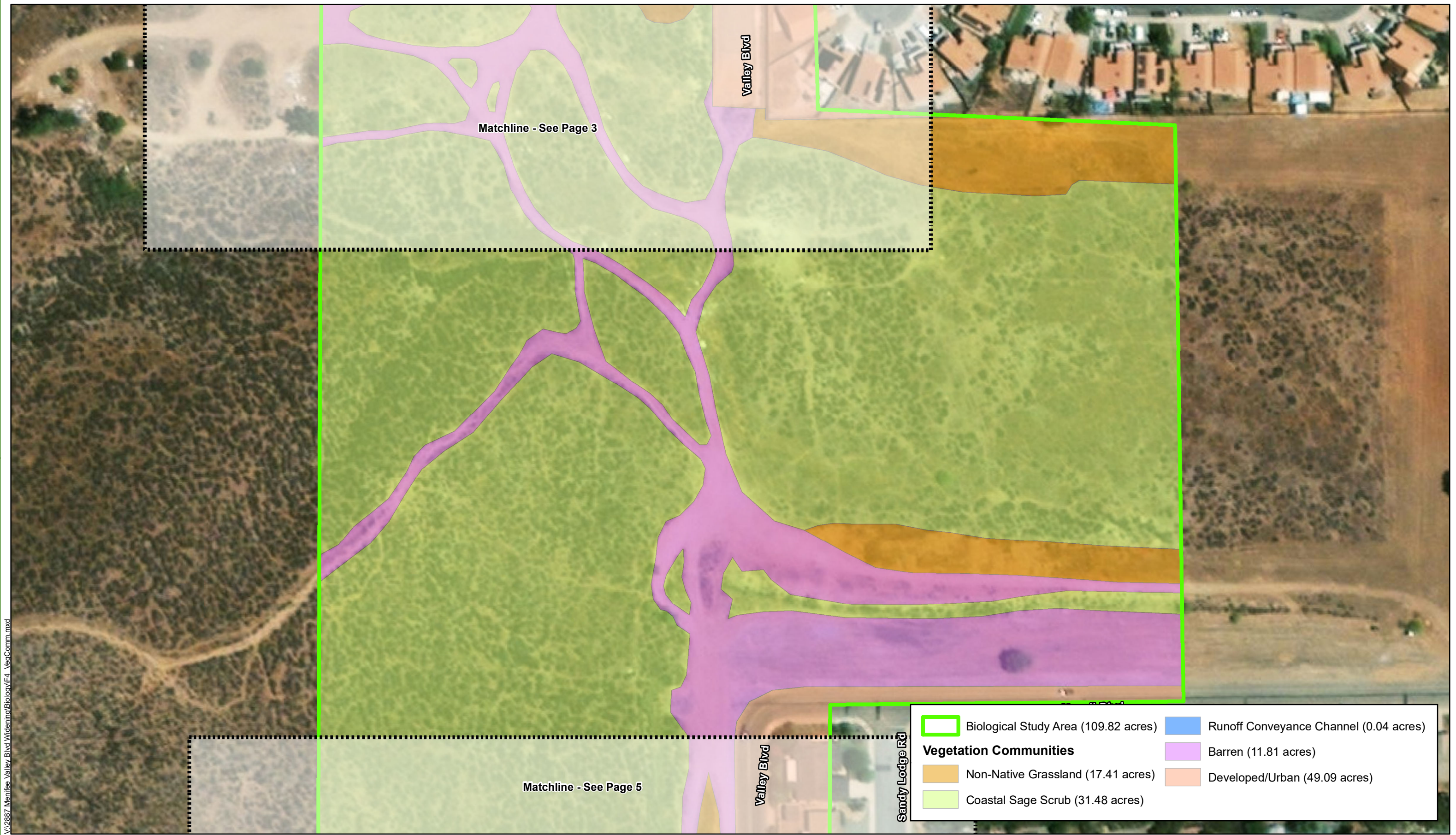
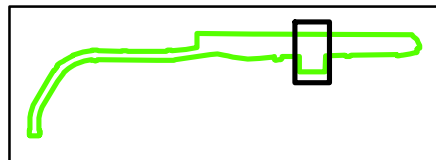


Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 4 of 10

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

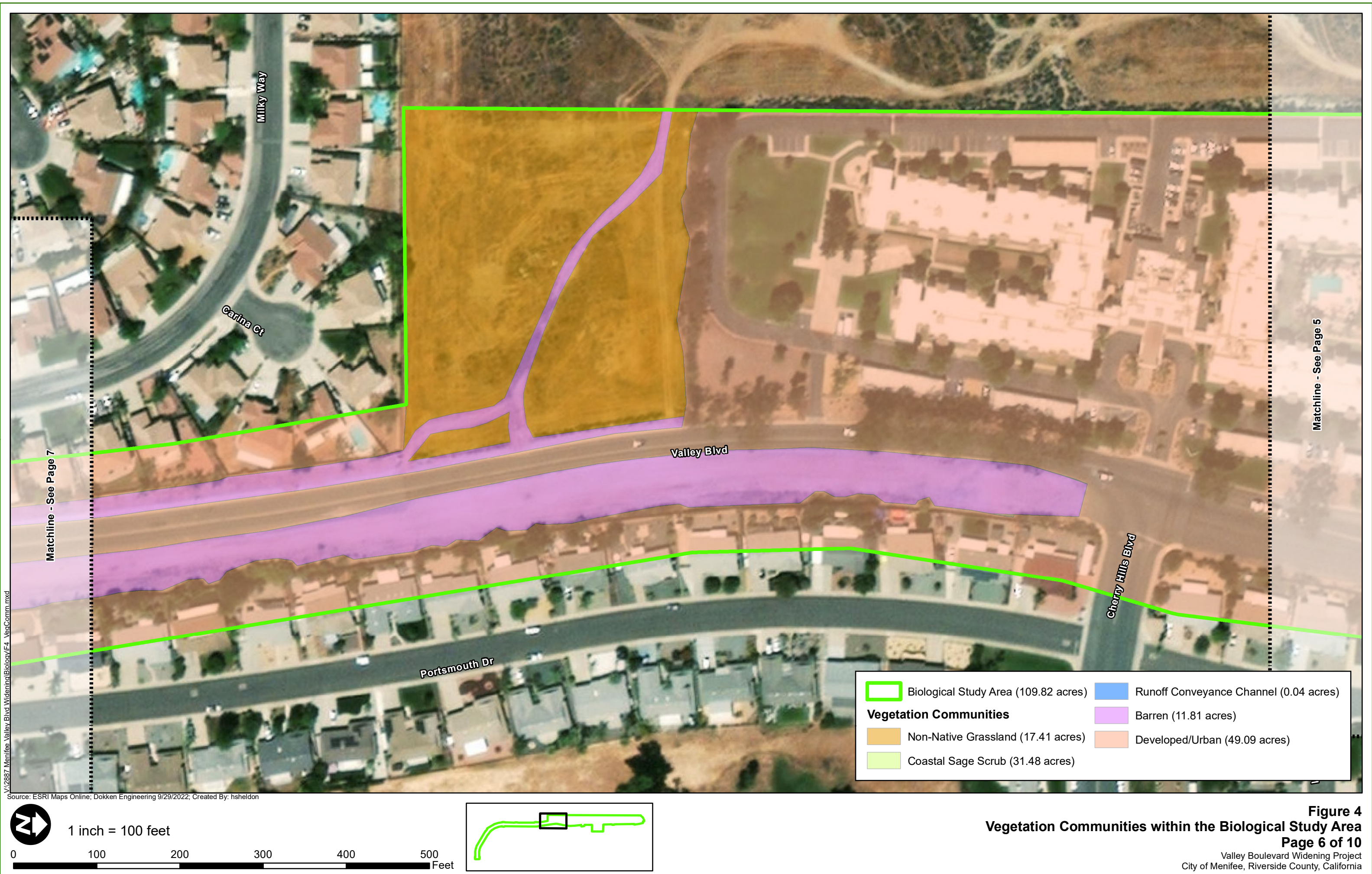
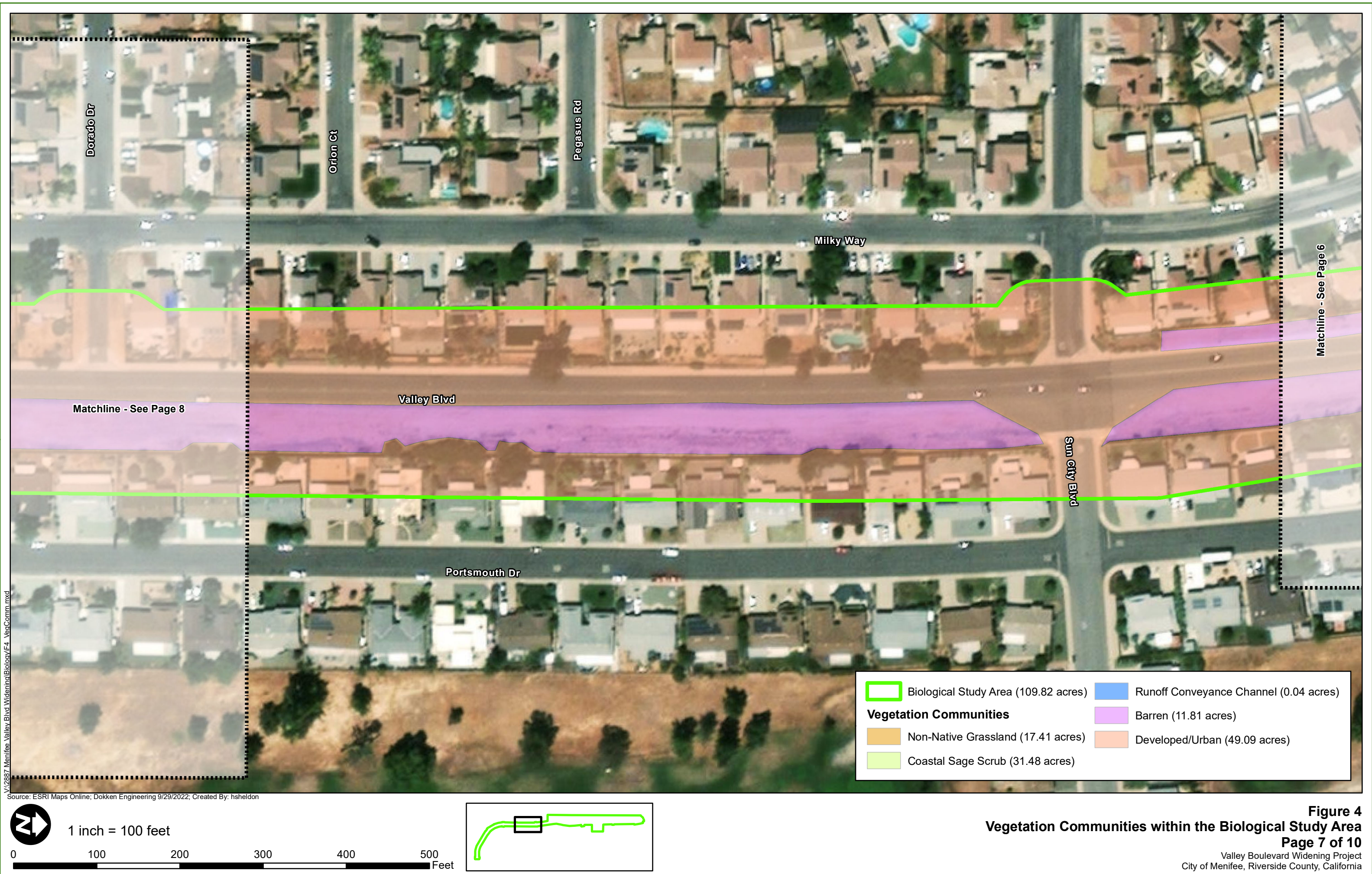


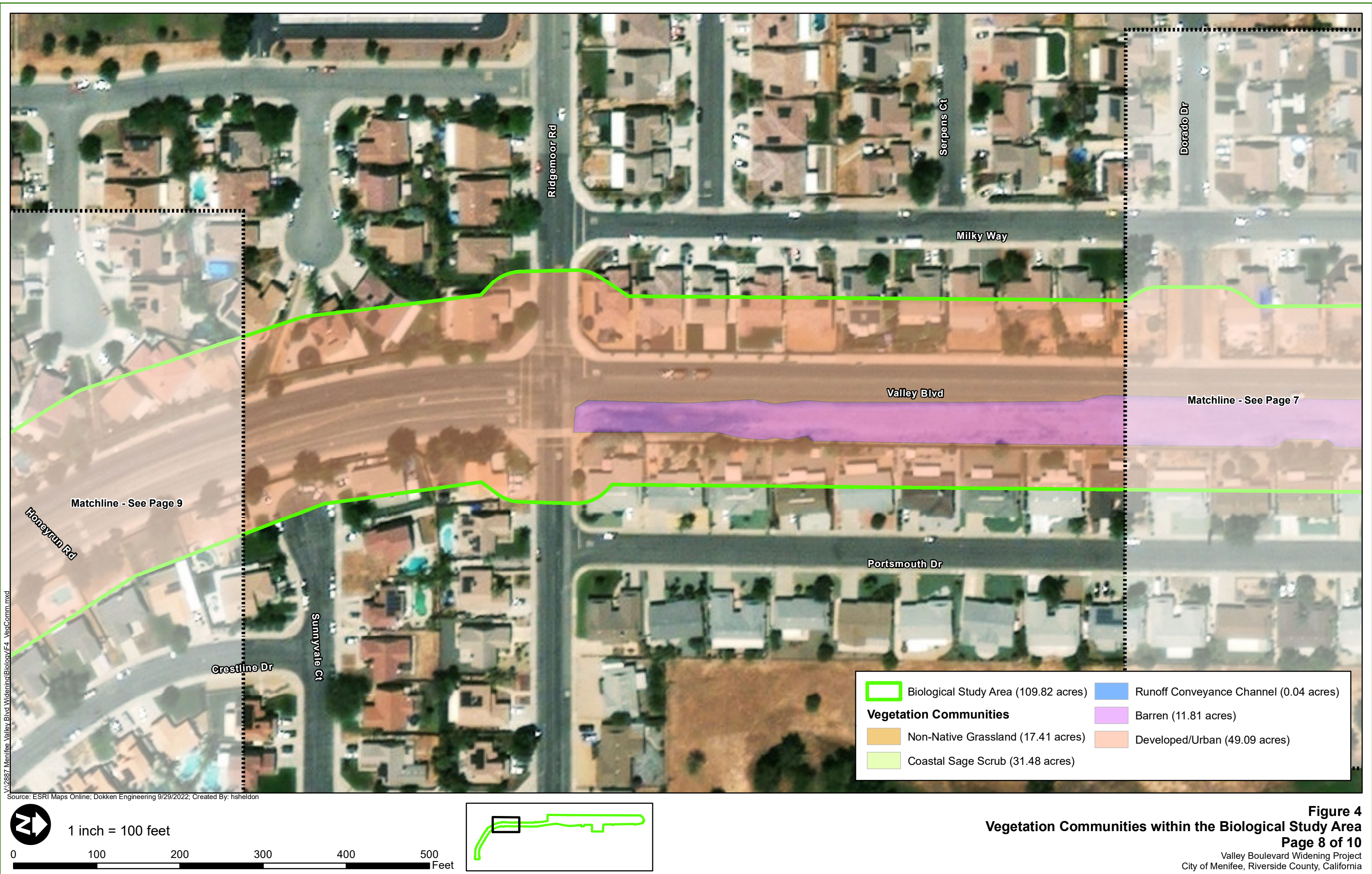
Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 6 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



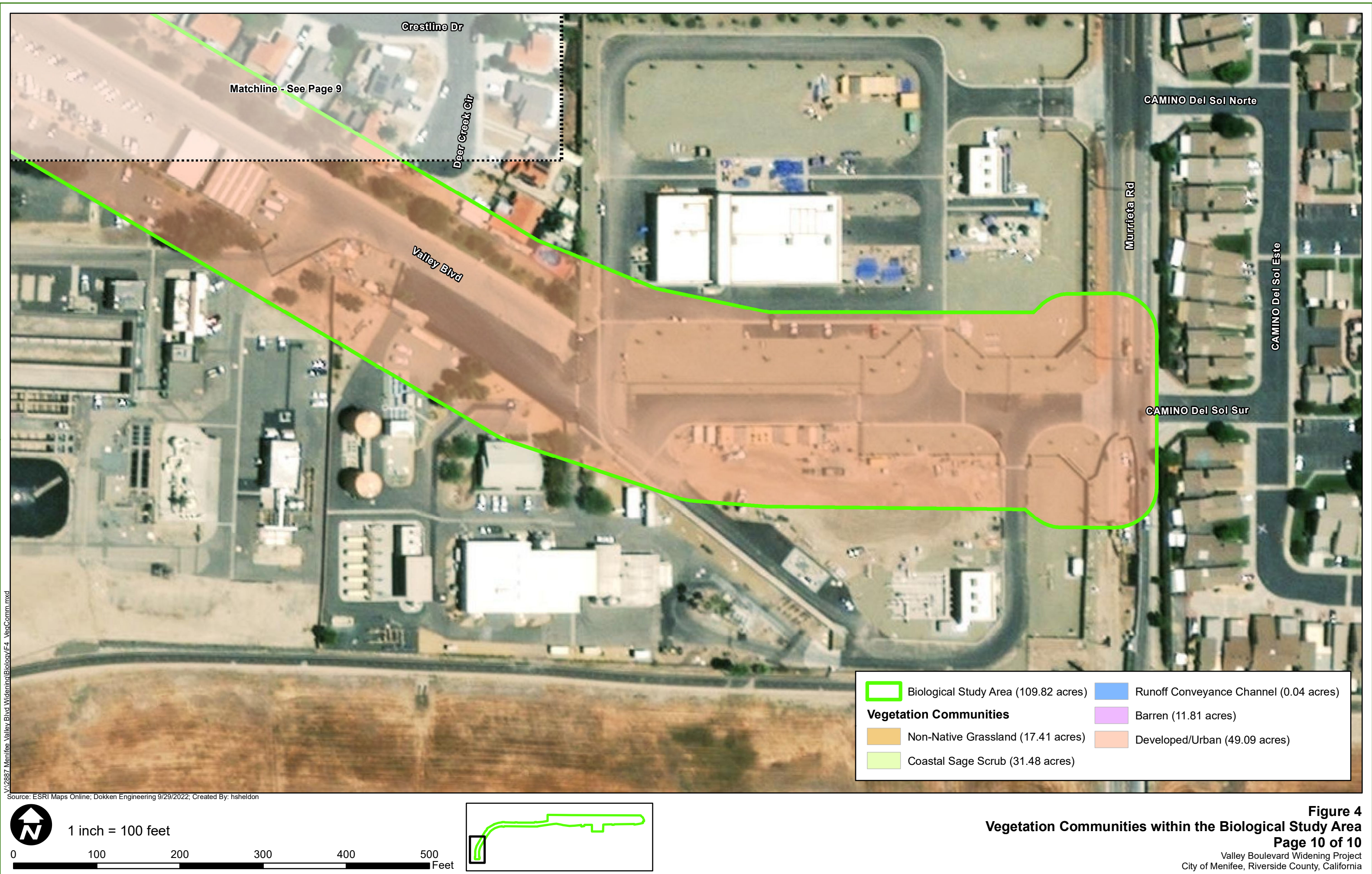
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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 7 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California







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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

A total of eight special status species were determined to have the potential to occur within the BSA. Three of those species were observed within the BSA during biological surveys and were determined to be present: CAGN (*Polioptila californica californica*), SKR (*Dipodomys stephensi*), and northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*). Additionally, two species have a high potential to occur: Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Finally, three species have a low to moderate potential to occur within the BSA: western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*), and Dulzura pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*). The Project area includes coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat, which provide potentially suitable habitat for these special status species.

Special status species habitat (coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland) will be temporarily impacted during construction to accommodate movement of large equipment and allow for adequate access around Project features. Additionally, special status species habitat will be permanently impacted by the Project as a result of roadway widening and paving for sidewalk installation. Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-5** (as described below) will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA. Additionally, following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions per Mitigation Measure **BIO-6**. Avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-7** through **BIO-17** (as described below) will be implemented throughout the Project to avoid and minimize impacts to all other special status species in the Project area. With implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-17**, impacts would be **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

- b) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Within the BSA, coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat has been identified as the only sensitive habitat/natural communities of special concern. These habitats are considered sensitive since they are known to support populations of CAGN and SKR. The BSA contains approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub and approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland, located west of Valley Boulevard.

Approximately 1.06 acres of coastal sage scrub and approximately 1.76 acres of non-native grassland will be temporarily impacted during construction to accommodate movement of large equipment and allow for adequate access around Project features. Additionally, approximately 1.00 acre of coastal sage scrub and approximately 2.48 acres of non-native grassland will be permanently impacted by the Project as a result of roadway widening and paving for sidewalk installation (Table 6. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats; Figure 5. Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities). Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions per Mitigation Measure **BIO-6**. With implementation of these mitigation efforts, impacts would be **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

Table 6. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive Habitat Type	Impact (acres)	
	Temporary	Permanent
Coastal sage scrub	1.06 acres	1.00 acre
Non-native Grassland	1.76 acres	2.48 acres
Total Impacts	2.82 acres	3.48 acres

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Biological Study Area (109.82 acres)

ESA Fence

Vegetation Communities

Non-native Grassland (17.41 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (31.48 acres)

Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities

Permanent Impacts

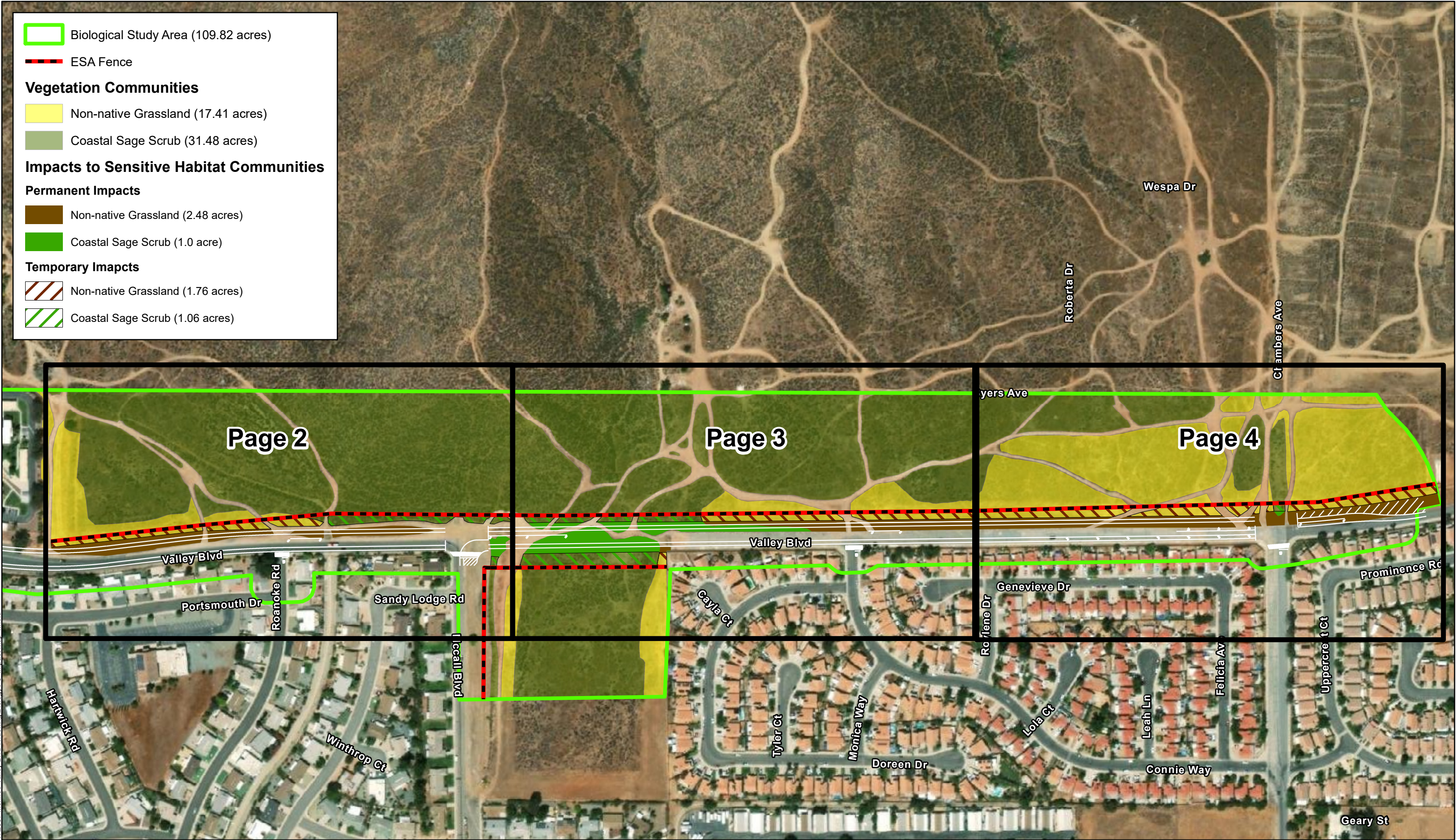
Non-native Grassland (2.48 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.0 acre)

Temporary Imapcts

Non-native Grassland (1.76 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.06 acres)



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/21/2022; Created By: hsheldon



1 inch = 280 feet



Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 1 of 4
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

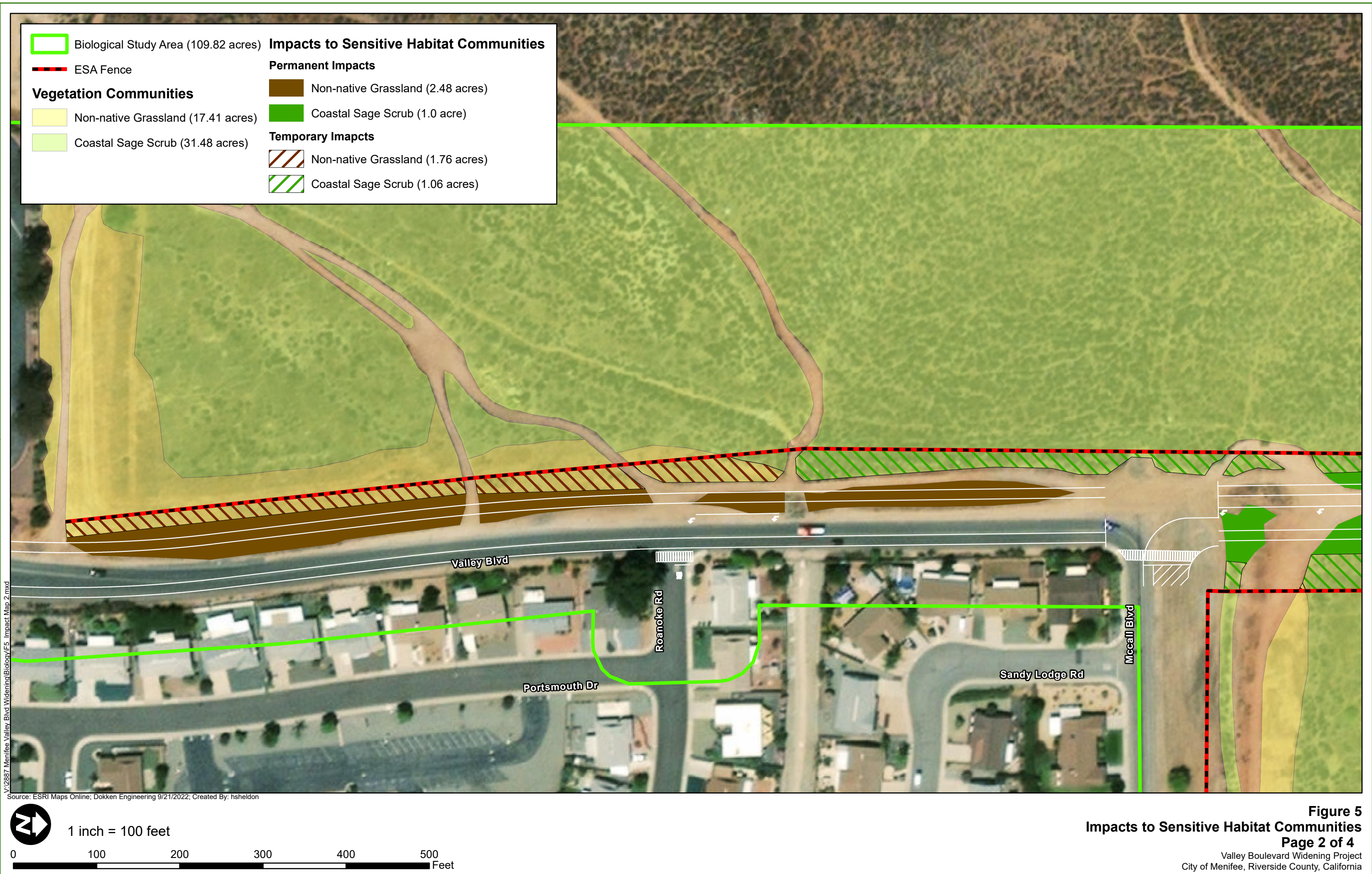
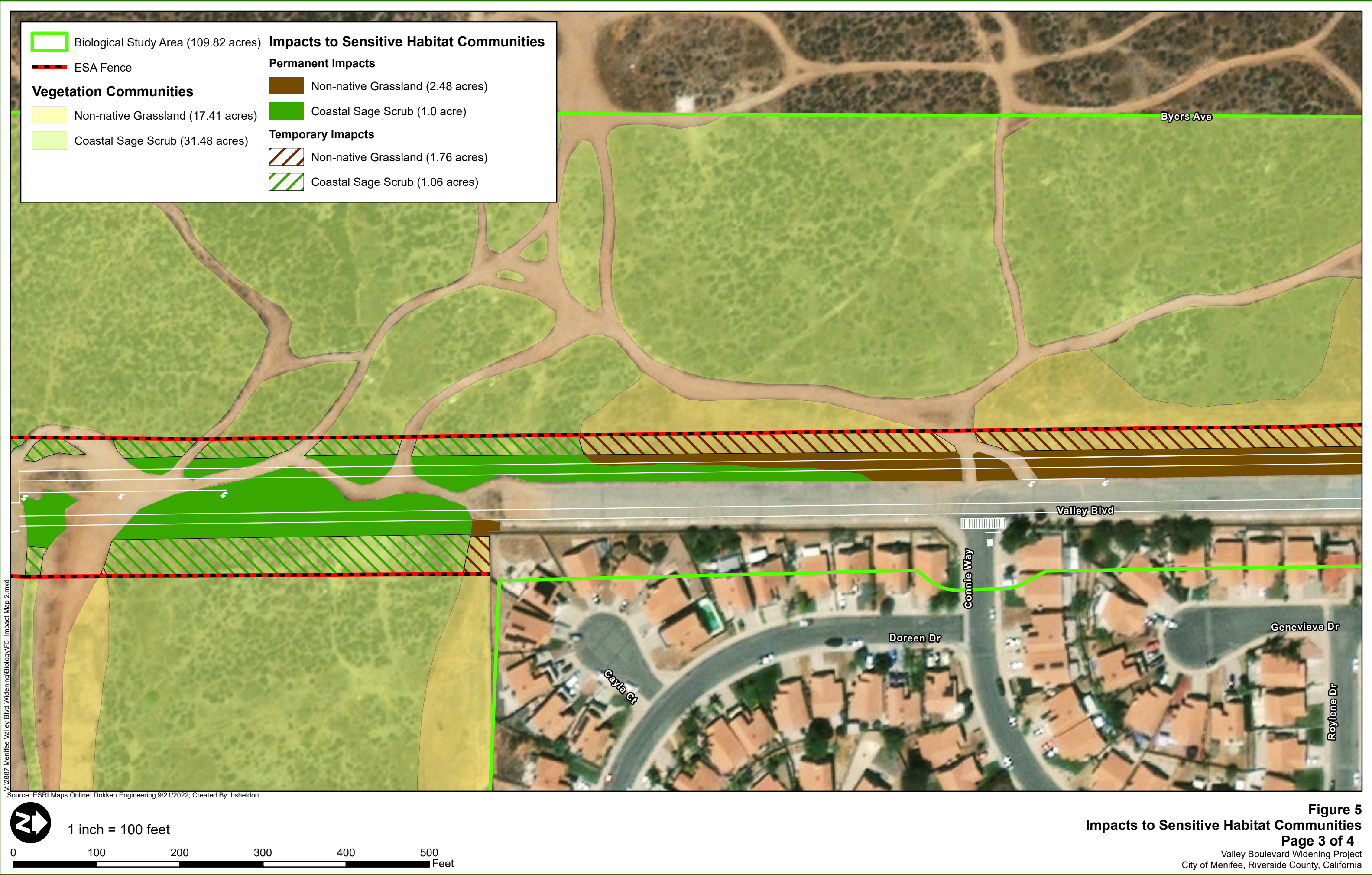


Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 2 of 4
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



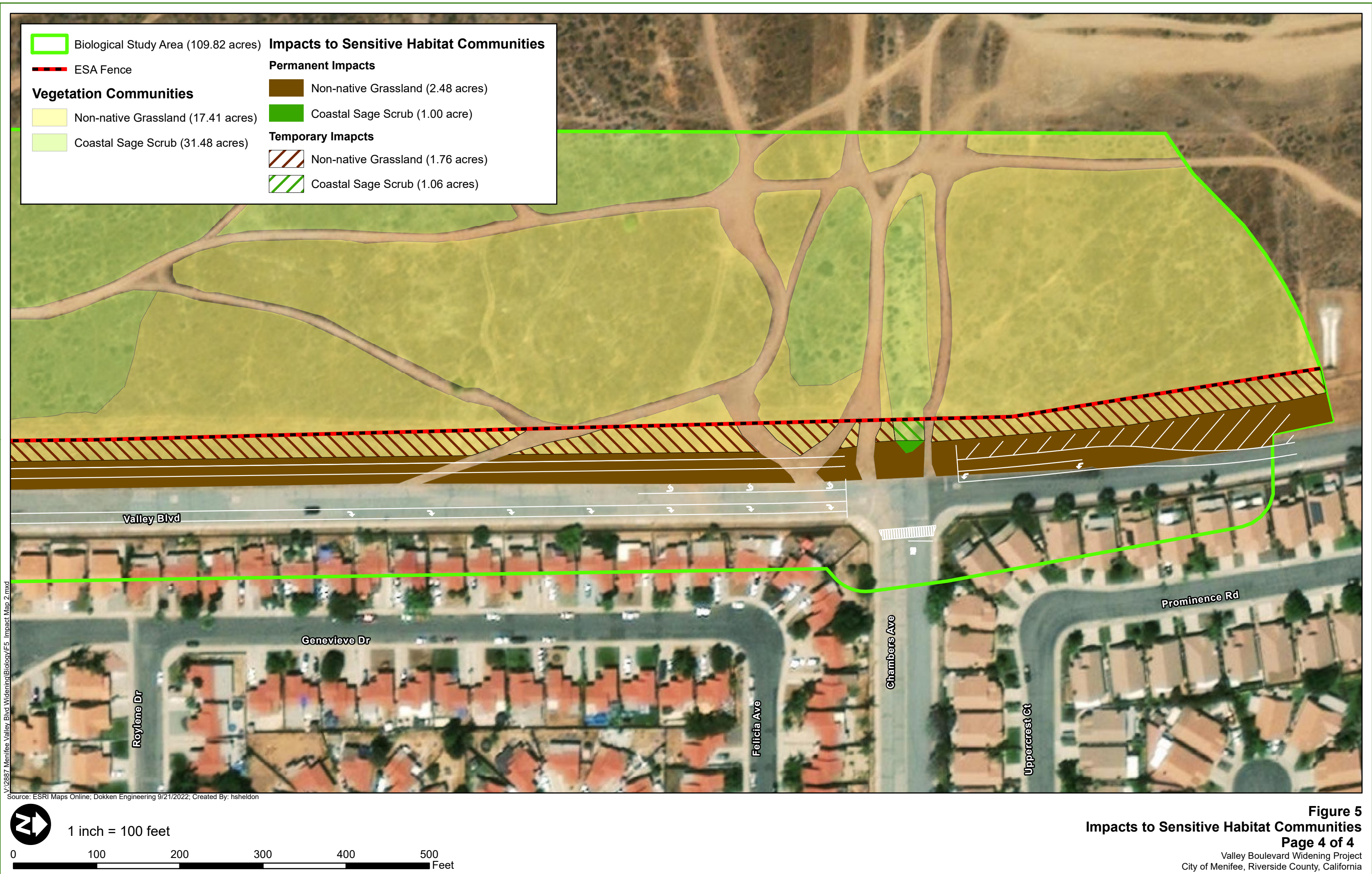


Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 4 of 4
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

- c) **No Impact.** There were no State or federally protected wetlands identified within the BSA during biological surveys. The BSA does contain approximately 365 linear feet of a man-made storm drain. The channel is concrete lined and does not provide any suitable habitat for wildlife. The storm drain canal is owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control and only carries storm water runoff during high rain events. During the May 2022 biological survey, the storm drain was determined to be a non-jurisdictional feature given its lack of connectivity to other water bodies. Due to the lack of State or federally protected wetlands within the BSA, **No Impact** is anticipated.
- d) **No Impact.** The CDFW Biogeographic Information & Observation System (CDFW 2022a) was reviewed to determine if the BSA is located within an Essential Connectivity Area. The BSA is within an area of Terrestrial Connectivity Rank 1 – Limited connectivity opportunity. This ranking indicates that land use within the region, including urbanization, limits opportunities for habitat connectivity and no connectivity importance has been assigned to this region. Due to this low ranking and the given that the Project will close a gap within an existing roadway, implementation of the Project would not impact any existing habitat connectivity networks or result in further habitat fragmentation. There would be **No Impact**.
- e) **No Impact.** Riverside County's Oak Tree Management Guidelines, County Ordinance No. 559, and General Plan Policies OS 9.3 and 9.4 regulate tree removal. There are no oak trees or other trees of special concern on-site. The Project will comply with the Western Riverside MSHCP, County General Plan Policies for protection of biological resources, and all other guidelines and regulations applicable to the Project. There would be **No Impact**.
- f) **No Impact.** The Project is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP boundary and is considered a Covered Project by the Western Riverside County MSHCP. Although specimens of SKR were observed within the vicinity, the RCHCA has a Section 10A permit granted by US Fish and Wildlife Service for take of SKR. Furthermore, the project is outside of the SKR fee area; therefore, no further actions for SKR are necessary. The Project will implement all applicable policies and practices required by the Western Riverside County MSHCP and there would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-5** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA.

- BIO-1:** Every individual working on the Project will attend a biological awareness training session delivered by the Project biologist. This training session will include information regarding the biological resources occurring within the Project area, the importance of avoiding impacts to these resources, and pertinent environmental permit requirements that will be implemented/observed by construction personnel.
- BIO-2:** Prior to the start of construction activities, the Project limits within proximity to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat will be marked with high visibility Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into sensitive habitat communities.

BIO-3: Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into Project design and Project management to minimize impacts on the environment including erosion and the release of pollutants (e.g. oils, fuels):

- Exposed soils and material stockpiles would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the Project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities;
- All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion
- All vehicle and equipment fueling/maintenance would be conducted outside of any sensitive habitat;
- All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction.

BIO-4: Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will remain outside of sensitive habitat (coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland).

BIO-5: A chemical spill kit will be kept onsite and available for use in the event of a spill.

(BIO-6 is a mitigation measure and found below under Mitigation Measures)

Parry's spineflower is not a State or Federally listed species and take authorization is not required. However, this species is covered under the Western Riverside MSHCP. Therefore, if the species is discovered within the Project impact area, the species will be protected in place, where feasible, and Avoidance and Minimization Measure **BIO-7** will be implemented.

BIO-7: If Parry's spineflower is identified within the temporary impact area, the species will be protected in place with ESA fencing, where feasible. ESA fence installation will be completed under the direction of the Project biologist.

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-8** and **BIO-9** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to Coastal California Gnatcatcher and other nesting birds within the BSA.

BIO-8: Prior to grading or other ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist shall survey all potential nesting vegetation within and adjacent to the site for nesting coastal California gnatcatcher according to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2019 survey protocol guidelines. The City of Menifee (City) shall impose conditions of approval on future grading permits requiring focused surveys to be conducted prior to ground disturbance or discing activities. A minimum of 3 (3) surveys shall be conducted at least one week apart to determine presence/absence of coastal California gnatcatcher. Surveys shall be conducted by the Designated Biologist at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of project activities. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate. Written and mapped qualitative descriptions of plant communities (including dominant species and habitat quality) on and adjacent to the area surveyed will also be provided with survey results to USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), within 45 days following the field surveys, prior to ground disturbing activities. The results of the focused surveys shall be provided to the City, CDFW, and

USFWS for review and approval prior to commencement of ground disturbing or discing activities.

If feasible, clearing and grubbing within coastal sage scrub habitat will occur outside of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) breeding season (March 1 to August 15). In the event that the focused surveys do not identify the presence of California gnatcatcher, habitat has been confirmed to be unoccupied by California gnatcatcher, and MM BIO-9 has been completed, then ground disturbance or discing may occur during the nesting season (i.e., between March 1 and August 15). In the event that the focused surveys identify the presence of California gnatcatchers, then ground disturbance or discing of the occupied areas shall be prohibited between March 1 and August 15. If an active coastal California gnatcatcher nest is discovered, the nest site shall be fenced with a buffer of a minimum of 500 feet in all directions, and this area shall not be disturbed until after the next becomes inactive, the young have fledged, the young are no longer being fed by the parents, the young have left the area, as confirmed by a qualified biologist. If a nest is suspected, but not confirmed, the Designated Biologist shall establish a disturbance-free buffer until additional surveys can be completed, or until the location can be inferred based on observations. If a nest is observed, but thought to be inactive, the Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest for one hour (for hours for raptors during the non-breeding season) prior to approaching the nest to determine status. The Designated Biologist shall use their best professional judgement regarding the monitoring period and whether approaching the nest is appropriate. Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with these requirements and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by City of Menifee staff or its designee to confirm compliance.

BIO-9: To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, site preparation activities (such as ground disturbance, construction activities, and/or removal of trees and vegetation) for all implementing development and infrastructure projects shall be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the nesting season. Within 3 days prior to vegetation removal or initial ground disturbance during the nesting bird season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey and burrowing owl survey of the Project area will be conducted by a Qualified biologist. The survey area will include the project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint within 3 days prior to initiation of activity. Within 72 hours of the nesting bird survey, all areas surveyed by the biologist will be cleared by the Contractor or a supplemental nesting bird survey is required. The survey results shall be provided to the City's Planning Department. The Project Applicant shall adhere to the following:

1. Applicant shall designate a biologist (Designated Biologist) experienced in: identifying local and migratory bird species of special concern; conducting bird surveys using appropriate survey methodology; nesting surveying techniques, recognizing breeding and nesting behaviors, locating nests and breeding territories, and identifying nesting stages and nest success; determining/establishing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures; and monitoring the efficacy of implemented avoidance and minimization measures.
2. A project-specific habitat assessment and pre-construction survey for burrowing owl in accordance with the March 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for

the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities.

3. Pre-activity field surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of Project activities. Surveys shall encompass all suitable areas including trees, shrubs, bare ground, burrows, cavities, and structures. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the Project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate.

If no nesting birds or burrowing owls are observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin.

If an active nest or nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist and approved by the City of Menifee, based on their best professional judgement and experience. The Contractor will immediately stop work in the buffer area and is prohibited from conducting work (as determined by the Qualified biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the Project biologist determines the young have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for topography, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type. All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest at the onset of project activities, and at the onset of any changes in such project activities (e.g., increase in number or type of equipment, change in equipment usage, etc.) to determine the efficacy of the buffer. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution of indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest. Work can resume within these avoidance areas when no other active nests are found. Upon completion of the survey and nesting bird monitoring, a report shall be prepared and submitted to the City for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.

If burrowing owl are observed within the survey area:

- CDFW shall be sent written notification within 48 hours of detection of burrowing owls.
- A Burrowing Owl Plan shall be submitted to the City, CDFW, and USFWS within two weeks of detection for review and approval and no Project activity will continue within 1,000 feet of the burrowing owls until CDFW approves the Burrowing Owl Plan. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, relocation, monitoring, minimization, and/or mitigation actions. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites and details on proposed buffers if

avoiding the burrowing owls or information on the adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls for relocation. If no suitable habitat is available nearby for relocation, details regarding the creation and funding of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls shall also be included in the Burrowing Owl Plan. The City will implement the Burrowing owl Plan following CDFW and USFWS review and approval.

- If active burrowing owl nests are identified at the project site during the preconstruction survey, the Project applicant shall not commence activities until no sign is present that the burrows are being used by adult or juvenile owls or following CDFW approval of a Burrowing Owl Plan as described above. If owl presence is difficult to determine, a qualified biologist shall monitor the burrows with motion-activated trail cameras for at least 24 hours to evaluate burrow occupancy. The onsite qualified biologist will verify the nesting effort has finished according to methods identified in the Burrowing Owl Plan.
- If ground-disturbing activities occur, but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey shall again be necessary to minimize the possibility burrowing owl have not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If burrowing owls are found in the subsequent survey, the same coordination described above shall be necessary.
- A final report shall be prepared by a qualified biologist documenting the results of the burrowing owl surveys and detailing avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures implemented. The final report will be submitted to the City and CDFW within 30 days of completion of the survey and burrowing monitoring for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-10** through **BIO-13** will be incorporated to avoid direct impacts to western spadefoot.

BIO-10: Vehicle traffic and construction equipment will observe a 15-mile-per-hour speed limit while on the Project site.

BIO-11: All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures that are stored in the Project area for one or more overnight periods will be either securely capped prior to storage or thoroughly inspected by the contractor and/or the Project biologist for special status wildlife species or other animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way.

BIO-12: To prevent inadvertent entrapment of special status wildlife species or other animals during construction, the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager will ensure that all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than six inches deep are provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals by the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager.

BIO-13: The work period within the Project area will be restricted to periods of low rainfall (less than ¼-inch per 24-hour period) and periods of dry weather (with less than a 50% chance of rain). The Permittee and contractor will monitor the National Weather Service 72-hour

forecast for the Project area. No work will occur during a dry-out period of 24 hours after the above referenced wet weather.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-14** through **BIO-16** will be implemented to avoid impacts to the Dulzura pocket mouse to the greatest extent feasible.

BIO-14: All food-related trash will be disposed of in closed containers and will be removed from the Project area daily. Construction personnel will not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the Project area.

BIO-15: The contractor will not apply rodenticide or herbicide within the Project area during construction.

BIO-16: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure **BIO-17** will be incorporated into the Project plans to ensure invasive species are not introduced or spread at the Project site.

BIO-17: Prior to arrival at the Project site and prior to leaving the Project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds will be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.

Mitigation Measures

In addition to avoidance and minimization measures, the Project will implement the following mitigation measure **BIO-6** to compensate for temporary impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat.

BIO-6: Following the completion of construction, all temporarily impacted areas will be re-graded to pre-construction conditions and final erosion control measures will be implemented, including a seed mix of native, local species.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated relating to biological resources with incorporation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to biological resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): Menifee Valley Boulevard Widening Project Memorandum (October 2022)

Regulatory Setting

The CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a), and the PRC 5024(a)(b) and (d) require consideration of potential project impacts to "unique" archaeological sites that do not qualify as historical resources. The statutory requirements for unique archaeological sites that do not qualify as historical resources are established in PRC Section 21083.2. These two PRC sections operate independently to ensure that significant potential impacts on historical and archaeological resources are considered as part of a CEQA project's environmental analysis. Historical resources, as defined in the CEQA regulations, include:

- 1) Cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register);
- 2) Cultural resources included in a local register of historical resources;
- 3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in one of several historic themes important to California history and development.

Under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if the project could result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, meaning the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource would be materially impaired. This would include any action that would demolish or adversely alter the physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historic significance and qualify it for inclusion in the California Register or in a local register or survey that meets the requirements of PRC Section 5020.1(l) and 5024.1(g). PRC Section 5024 also requires state agencies to identify and protect state-owned resources that meet National Register of Historic Place (National Register) listing criteria. Sections 5024(f) and 5024.5 require state agencies to provide notice to and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office before altering, transferring, relocation, or demolishing state-owned historical resources that are listed on or are eligible for inclusion in the National Register or are registered or eligible for registration as California Historical Landmarks. Also, CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines also recommend provisions be made for the accidental discovery of

archaeological sites, historical resources, or Native American human remains during construction (PRC Section 21083.2(i) CCR Section 15064.5(d and f)).

Affected Environment

The Project Area Limits (PAL) includes all ground-disturbing activities and staging areas required for the construction of the roadway widening and gap closures. This includes the construction of medians, turn lanes, traffic signals, sidewalks, bike lanes, pavement rehabilitation, new roadway, construction access, and staging areas. The horizontal PAL extends along Menifee Valley Boulevard between Murrieta Road and Chambers Avenue. The horizontal PAL for the Project is approximately 62 acres (Figure 6. Project Area Limits). The vertical extent of the PAL is 2 feet below ground surface to accommodate all roadway construction and utility work. Construction of any landscaping walls will require work up to 8 feet deep. North of McCall Boulevard along Valley Boulevard, there is a hill that will be graded to complete a gap closure and connect Valley Boulevard. The vertical PAL at that location will extend up to 13.5 feet deep.

- a) **No Impact.** Efforts to identify potential historical resources in the PAL include background research, a search of site records and survey reports on file at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), efforts to coordinate with Native American representatives, and a pedestrian ground surface inventory. A records search of the PAL and a 1-mile study area buffer was requested from the EIC on April 12, 2022. No previously recorded cultural resources have been identified within the PAL.

On June 15, 2022, Dokken Engineering archaeologist Michelle Campbell conducted a ground surface inventory of the PAL. Five-meter-wide pedestrian transects were used along the PAL in the unpaved areas. All cut banks, burrow holes, and other exposed sub-surface areas were visually inspected for the presence of archaeological resources, soil color change, and/or staining that could indicate past human activity or buried deposits.

The pedestrian ground surface inventory survey did not identify any archaeological sites, features, or artifacts during the June 15, 2022 surface inventory. The ground surface throughout the PAL ranged significantly including bare shoulder, recently plowed, landscaped, and various levels of grass and vegetation coverage or gravel that created variable surface visibility. The majority (75%) of the PAL had approximately 75-100 percent while the remaining 25% had 25-50% visibility.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted with a request for a Sacred Lands File Search on April 12, 2022. The request to the NAHC seeks to identify any Native American cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area. Negative results were returned on May 17, 2022. Further discussion regarding Native American consultation is included in Section XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.

As no cultural resources were observed during the course of the survey, there are no historic properties documented within the PAL; therefore, there were no historic properties or historical resources within the PAL. Listing or eligibility for inclusion in the National Register or California Register is the primary consideration in determining whether cultural resources (i.e., districts, sites, buildings, structures, and object) qualify as “historic properties” or “historical resources”. As such, a finding of no historic properties or historical resources affected for the proposed Project is recommended at this time. This would result in the project having no adverse effect on historical resources as defined by §15064.5. **No Impact** would occur.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Current knowledge of the geomorphic history of the region provides a strong basis for assessing the potential for discovering buried archaeological sites. Efforts to identify potential archaeological resources in the PAL were conducted and included background research, a search of site records and survey reports on file at the EIC, coordination with Native American representatives, and a pedestrian surface survey.

The Project is located in the City of Menifee, in Menifee Valley. Menifee Valley is a north/south-trending corridor. Canyon Lake is approximately 5 miles to the west and Diamond Valley Reservoir is approximately 7 miles to the east. The Project is situated at an elevation of approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. Mineral hot springs are common to this area as geologic activity associated with the Valley's Elsinore Fault Zone pushes heated water to the surface from deep below the ground (Norris and Webb 1990).

The region is characterized by granitic bedrock hills and inselbergs and intermediate Quaternary alluvial valleys. These areas are located near the northern end of the Peninsular Ranges physiographic province of southern California within the Perris Block, a portion of the southern California batholith (a massive geological intrusion of granite rock that was formed in the late Cretaceous Period and uplifted in the early Tertiary Period), which is bound to the southwest by the Elsinore fault zone and on the northeast by the San Jacinto fault zone. Cretaceous-age rocks of the Peninsular Range batholiths, and older metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks of probable Mesozoic-age, underlie the region. Granitic bedrock is very much exposed on the hill slopes and inselbergs surrounding the Project area, and also occurs as small to large isolated outcrops on the valley floor areas. Many of the granitic bedrock exposures and outcrops scattered throughout the region were utilized prehistorically by Native American groups as bedrock milling areas for the processing of local biotic resources. Local granitic materials were also regularly used for the production of prehistoric ground stone implements. Metasedimentary rocks conducive for the production of flaked stone artifacts, such as fine-grained quartzite, can also be found near the Project area in the Bedford Canyon Formation, portions of which are exposed in the hills surrounding Domenigoni and Diamond valleys immediately south and east from the Project area. Other lithic materials locally available for the production of flaked and/or ground stone tools include (i.e., white, milky, or vein) quartz, crystalline quartz, schist, and low-grade steatite; these materials can also be found in the hill ranges surrounding Domenigoni Valley and Diamond Valley (Goldberg et al. 2001).

The valley sediments underlying most of the Project area are mapped as Old alluvial fan deposits (late to middle Pleistocene), which are described as reddish-brown, gravel and sand alluvial deposits; indurated, commonly slightly dissected, which may be capped with a thin alluvial fan deposit of Holocene age. These deposit types commonly have an upper profile of a moderately to well-developed pedogenic soils (Morton 2003).

Prior to historic-period ranching and agriculture, natural vegetation in the area was dominated by coastal sage scrub plant communities common to the hot dry climate of coastal southern California (Munz 1974). Typical plant species within the coastal sage scrub communities include lemonade-berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), coastal sagebush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), bushrue (*Cneoridium dumosum*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). These plant species provided important food and medicinal

resources that could have been used by Native Americans.

Subsurface Sensitivity

Based on a review of historic mapping, geographic features, previously recorded archaeological resources, and past survey reports, overall archaeological site sensitivity in the project vicinity is low. Within the PAL, archaeological site sensitivity is also considered low due to the extensive disturbance of development throughout the PAL, lack of previously recorded archaeological resources within the PAL, and negative pedestrian survey results. Modern interchange and road construction and maintenance as well as total development surrounding the interchange likely impacted soils within the PAL and maintains the potential to encounter archaeological resources as *low*.

Current knowledge of the geomorphic history of the region provides a strong basis for assessing the potential for discovering buried archaeological sites. Soils of the Project area are mapped as Porterville clay (NRCS 2022) late to middle Pleistocene Old alluvial fan deposits (Morton 2003), which are approximately 11,700 to 129,000 years old, therefore not a significant amount of deposition has occurred to obscure visibility of archaeological resources. Also, no historic structures are mapped within the Project area, reducing the sensitivity for buried historical archaeological resources. For these reasons, the potential for the Project to impact intact buried cultural resource deposits in the PAL is *low*.

With any project requiring ground disturbance, there is always the possibility that unmarked burials may be unearthed during construction. Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to previously unknown human remains that may be unexpectedly discovered during Project implementation to a **Less than Significant** level.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Disturbance to human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries is not anticipated. Furthermore, implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** would ensure impacts to undiscovered human remains remain **Less Than Significant**.

Standard Conditions of Approval

COA-CUL-1 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to Public Resource Code § 5097.98(b) remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted within the period specified by law (24 hours). Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the "most likely descendant." The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in PRC § 5097.98.

COA-CUL-2 Non-Disclosure of Location Reburials

It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or associated grave goods shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r)., parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r).

COA-CUL-3 Inadvertent Archeological Find

If during ground disturbance activities, unique cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological report(s) and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to Project approval, the following procedures shall be followed. Unique cultural resources are defined, for this condition only, as being multiple artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its sacred or cultural importance as determined in consultation with the Native American Tribe(s).

- a) All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resources shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the developer, the archaeologist, the tribal representative(s) and the Community Development Director to discuss the significance of the find.
- b) At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and after consultation with the tribal representative(s) and the archaeologist, a decision shall be made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resources.
- c) Grading or further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties as to the appropriate mitigation. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area and will be monitored by additional Tribal monitors, if needed.
- d) Treatment and avoidance of the newly discovered resources shall be consistent with the Cultural Resources Management Plan and Monitoring Agreements entered into with the appropriate tribes. This may include avoidance of the cultural resources through Project design, in-place preservation of cultural resources located in native soils and/or re-burial on the Project property so they are not subject to further disturbance in perpetuity as identified in Non-Disclosure of Reburial Condition.

- e) If the find is determined to be significant and avoidance of the site has not been achieved, a Phase III data recovery plan shall be prepared by the Project archeologist, in consultation with the Tribe, and shall be submitted to the City for their review and approval prior to implementation of the said plan.
- f) Pursuant to Calif. Pub. Res. Code § 21083.2(b) avoidance is the preferred method of preservation for archaeological resources and cultural resources. If the landowner and the Tribe(s) cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for the archaeological or cultural resources, these issues will be presented to the City Community Development Director for decision. The City Community Development Director shall make the determination based on the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to archaeological resources, recommendations of the Project archeologist and shall take into account the cultural and religious principles and practices of the Tribe. Notwithstanding any other rights available under the law, the decision of the City Community Development Director shall be appealable to the City Planning Commission and/or City Council.

COA-CUL-4 Cultural Resources Disposition

In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during the course of grading (inadvertent discoveries), the following procedures shall be carried out for final disposition of the discoveries:

- a) One or more of the following treatments, in order of preference, shall be employed with the tribes. Evidence of such shall be provided to the City of Menifee Community Development Department:
 - i. Preservation-In-Place of the cultural resources, if feasible. Preservation in place means avoiding the resources, leaving them in the place where they were found with no development affecting the integrity of the resources.
 - ii. Reburial of the resources on the Project property. The measures for reburial shall include, at least, the following: Measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts in perpetuity. Reburial shall not occur until all legally required cataloging and basic recordation have been completed, with an exception that sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains are excluded. Any reburial process shall be culturally appropriate. Listing of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the confidential Phase IV report. The Phase IV Report shall be filed with the City under a confidential cover and not subject to Public Records Request.
 - iii. If preservation in place or reburial is not feasible then the resources shall be curated in a culturally appropriate manner at a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence of curation in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that subject archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid, shall be provided by the landowner to the City. There shall be no destructive or invasive testing on sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains. Results concerning finds of any inadvertent discoveries shall be included in the Phase IV monitoring report.

COA-CUL-5 Archaeologist Retained

Prior to issuance of a grading permit the Project applicant shall retain a Riverside County qualified archaeologist to monitor all ground disturbing activities in an effort to identify any unknown archaeological resources.

The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall manage and oversee monitoring for all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of each portion of the Project site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, mass or rough grading, trenching, stockpiling of materials, rock crushing, structure demolition and etc. The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources in coordination with any required special interest or tribal monitors.

The developer/permit holder shall submit a fully executed copy of the contract to the Community Development Department to ensure compliance with this condition of approval. Upon verification, the Community Development Department shall clear this condition.

In addition, the Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Consulting Tribe(s), the contractor, and the City, shall develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) in consultation pursuant to the definition in Assembly Bill (AB) 52 to address the details, timing and responsibility of all archaeological and cultural activities that will occur on the Project site. A consulting tribe is defined as a tribe that initiated the AB 52 tribal consultation process for the Project, has not opted out of the AB 52 consultation process, and has completed AB 52 consultation with the City as provided for in Cal Pub Res Code § 21080.3.2(b)(1) of AB 52. Details in the Plan shall include:

- a) Project grading and development scheduling;
- b) The Project archeologist and the Consulting Tribes(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the City, the construction manager and any contractors, and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the Project following the initial Training must take the Cultural Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the Project archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as-needed basis;
- c) The protocols and stipulations that the contractor, City, Consulting Tribe(s) and Project archaeologist will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural resources discoveries, including any newly discovered cultural resource deposits that shall be subject to a cultural resources evaluation.

COA-CUL-6 Native American Monitoring (Pechanga)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Pechanga Band of Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a

signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-7 Native American Monitoring (Soboba)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-8 Native American Monitoring (Agua Caliente)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-9 Prior to Final Occupancy Archeology Report - Phase III and IV

Prior to final inspection, the developer/permit holder shall prompt the Project Archeologist to submit two (2) copies of the Phase III Data Recovery report (if required for the Project) and the Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report that complies with the Community Development Department's requirements for such reports. The Phase IV report shall include evidence of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the pre-grade meeting. The Community Development Department shall review the reports to determine adequate mitigation compliance. Provided the reports are adequate, the Community Development Department shall clear this condition. Once the report(s) are determined to be adequate, two (2) copies shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California Riverside (UCR) and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the Consulting Tribe(s) Cultural Resources Department(s).

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to cultural resources with incorporation of the Standard Conditions of Approval listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to cultural resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

VI. ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): United States Environmental Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

Affected Environment

Energy consumption can be measured in direct and indirect energy use. Direct energy use is the energy consumed in the actual propulsion of a vehicle using the facility. It can be measured in terms of the thermal value of the fuel (usually measured in British thermal units (BTUs) or Joules), the costs of the fuel, or the quantity of electricity used in the engine or motor. Indirect energy is defined as all the remaining energy consumed to run a transportation system, including construction energy, maintenance energy, and any substantial impacts to energy consumption related to project induced land use changes and mode shifts, and any substantial changes in energy associated with vehicle operation, manufacturing, or maintenance due to increased automobile use.

- a, b) **No Impact.** Energy use associated with the proposed Project would primarily occur during construction and be associated with the consumption of fuel through operation of heavy-duty construction equipment, material deliveries, and debris hauling. Fuel consumption was calculated by inputting emissions results from the SMAQMD Road Construction Emissions Model into the United States Environmental Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator (<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>), and converting the results into fuel and energy equivalence consumed (Table 7. Annual Construction Fuel Consumption).

Table 7. Annual Construction Fuel Consumption

Construction Year	CO ₂ Emissions from Construction (Metric Tons)	Annual Fuel Consumption	
		Gasoline (gallons)	Total Energy (BTU)
2023	1,564	175,955	2.11E+10

Energy use associated with proposed Project construction is estimated to result in the short-term consumption of 175,955 gallons of fuel, which is equivalent to approximately 2.11E+10 BTUs consumed annually for construction. This represents a small demand on local and regional fuel supplies that would be easily accommodated, and this demand would cease once construction is complete. Moreover, construction-related energy consumption would be temporary and not present a permanent source of energy demand, and demand for fuel would have no noticeable effect on peak or baseline demands for

energy. Therefore, construction of the Project would not result in an inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy.

Operation of Valley Boulevard after it has been widened would require minimal energy use associated with the operation of the seven new traffic signals installed as a part of the Project but would otherwise have no impacts related to long-term energy use. Traffic signals are necessary for traffic safety and thus, operation of the Project would not result in an inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy.

Construction and operation of the Project would also not obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to energy. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to energy beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013); Paleontological Resources Assessment Report (2022)

Affected Environment

The proposed Project occurs within the Riverside, California United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle. The proposed Project is situated in a valley between the Santa Ana Mountains and the San Jacinto Mountains and is approximately 1,500 feet above mean sea level. Topographical features in the Project vicinity include Steele Peak approximately 6 miles to the northwest and Double Butte approximately 6 miles to the east. Additionally, Canyon Lake is located approximately 3 miles to the west and Lake Elsinore is approximately 7 miles to the southwest.

The soils present within the proposed Project area, as mapped by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) include the following (NRCS 2022):

- Arbuckle loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
 - Domino silt loam, saline-alkali
 - Escondido fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
 - Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes
 - Garretson very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slope
 - Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
 - Lodo rocky loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, eroded
 - Lodo rocky loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded
 - Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes
 - Perkins gravelly loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes
 - Ysidora gravelly very fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded
- a (i) **No Impact.** Based on the California Department of Conservation Earthquake Hazards Zone Application EQ Zapp, the Project site is not within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone. **No Impact** related to fault rupture would result from the proposed Project.
- a (ii) **Less than Significant Impact.** Like all of Southern California, Riverside County has and will continue to be subject to ground shaking resulting from activity on local and regional faults. However, the Project would widen an existing road and would not build any structures subject to dangers due to seismic ground shaking. With adherence to all applicable construction standards, impacts related to seismic ground shaking would be **Less than Significant**.
- a (iii) **No Impact.** The City of Menifee General Plan identifies an area where local geological and groundwater conditions suggest a potential for liquefaction located just south of the Project area; however, the proposed road widening would not occur within this area and **No Impact** is anticipated.
- a (iv) **No Impact.** The City of Menifee General Plan identifies an area where local geological and groundwater conditions suggest a potential for earthquake-induced landslides in the hills to the west of the Project area; however, the proposed road widening would not occur within this area and **No Impact** is anticipated.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** Excavation during construction would result in soil disturbance, rendering surface soils susceptible to erosion and sedimentation. However, this impact would be mitigated through implementation of the Stormwater Pollution

Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which would require incorporation of BMPs and erosion control methods. With adherence to state and federal requirements, impacts related to soil erosion or loss of topsoil would be **Less than Significant**.

- c, d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not include the construction of any occupied buildings subject to the Uniform Building Code. Additionally, the Project would not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems and there would be **No Impact**.
- e) **No Impact.** The Project does not include septic tanks or an alternative wastewater disposal system on the site. There would be **No Impact**.
- f) **Less than Significant Impact.** According to the City of Menifee General Plan, the proposed Project is in an area of high paleontological sensitivity. However, the results of a focused paleontological resources assessment of the Project area conducted in 2022 (Cogstone 2022) indicate that the majority of the Project area has low paleontological sensitivity. The southeastern end of the Project area has low sensitivity within the first 5-8 feet below the ground surface, and a moderate sensitivity at depths below 5-8 feet. Based on the planned depth of excavation in this area, the Project has low to no potential to impact fossil resources. With implementation of Standard Condition of Approval **COA-GEO-1** and Avoidance and Minimization Measures **GEO-1**, impacts would remain **Less than Significant**.

Standard Conditions of Approval

COA-GEO-1 Paleontological Resource Impact Monitoring Program (PRIMP)

This site is mapped as having a high potential for paleontological resources (fossils) at shallow depth. Therefore, PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF GRADING PERMITS:

The permittee shall retain a qualified paleontologist approved by the City of Menifee to create and implement a Project-specific plan for monitoring site grading/earthmoving activities which exceed 5 feet in depth in native sedimentary.

The Project paleontologist retained shall review the approved Tentative Tract Map and shall conduct any pre-construction work necessary to render appropriate monitoring and mitigation requirements as appropriate. These requirements shall be documented by the Project paleontologist in a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP). This PRIMP shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to issuance of a Grading Permit.

Information to be contained in the PRIMP, at a minimum and in addition to other industry standards and Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards, are as follows:

- a. The Project paleontologist shall participate in a pre-construction project meeting with development staff and construction operations to ensure an understanding of any mitigation measures required during construction, as applicable.
- b. Paleontological monitoring of earthmoving activities will be conducted on an as-needed basis by the Project paleontologist during all earthmoving activities that may expose sensitive strata. Earthmoving activities in areas of the Project area where previously undisturbed strata will be buried but not otherwise disturbed will not be monitored. The Project paleontologist or his/her assignee will have the

authority to reduce monitoring once he/she determines the probability of encountering fossils has dropped below an acceptable level.

- c. If the Project paleontologist finds fossil remains, earthmoving activities will be diverted temporarily around the fossil site until the remains have been evaluated and recovered. Earthmoving will be allowed to proceed through the site when the Project paleontologist determines the fossils have been recovered and/or the site mitigated to the extent necessary.
- d. If fossil remains are encountered by earthmoving activities when the Project paleontologist is not on-site, these activities will be diverted around the fossil site and the Project paleontologist called to the site immediately to recover the remains.
- e. If fossil remains are encountered, the fossiliferous rock will be recovered from the fossil site and processed to allow for the recovery of smaller fossil remains. Test samples may be recovered from other sampling sites in the rock unit if appropriate.
- f. Any recovered fossil remains will be prepared to the point of identification and identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible by knowledgeable paleontologists. The remains then will be curated (assigned and labeled with museum* repository fossil specimen numbers and corresponding fossil site numbers, as appropriate; placed in specimen trays and, if necessary, vials with completed specimen data cards) and catalogued, and associated specimen data and corresponding geologic and geographic site data will be archived (specimen and site numbers and corresponding data entered into appropriate museum repository catalogs and computerized databases) at the museum repository by a laboratory technician. The remains will then be accessioned into the museum* repository fossil collection, where they will be permanently stored, maintained, and, along with associated specimen and site data, made available for future study by qualified scientific investigators.

*The City of Menifee must be consulted on the repository/museum to receive the fossil material prior to being curated.

- g. A qualified paleontologist shall prepare a report of findings made during all site grading activity with an appended itemized list of fossil specimens recovered during grading (if any). This report shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to building final inspection as described elsewhere in these conditions.
- h. All reports shall be signed by the Project paleontologist and all other professionals responsible for the report's content (e.g., Professional Geologist, Professional Engineer, etc.), as appropriate. Two wet-signed original copies of the report shall be submitted directly to the Community Development Department along with a copy of this condition, deposit-based fee and the grading plan for appropriate case processing and tracking.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

In addition to implementation of the Standard Conditions of Approval as agreed upon between the consulting Native American tribes and the City of Menifee, the following additional Avoidance and Minimization Measure shall be required:

GEO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training will be given to all onsite Project staff prior to construction. The WEAP training will be developed by a qualified cultural resources specialist.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to geology and soils with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to geology and soils beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): Riverside County General Plan (2015), Riverside County Climate Action Plan (2019) & SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (2016)

Regulatory Background

Riverside County 2019 Climate Action Plan Update

The County updated its Climate Action Plan (CAP) on December 17, 2019 to integrate its past and current efforts with future efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote sustainability in its operations and growth. The 2019 CAP Update includes an update to the County's GHG inventory for the year 2018 and sets a target to reduce community-wide GHG emissions by 15 percent from 2008 baseline levels by 2020, 49 percent by 2030, and 83 percent by 2050. GHG reduction measures prescribed in the 2019 CAP Update build upon those adopted under the County's 2015 CAP to ensure that the County meets the reduction targets established pursuant to California Senate Bill (SB) 32.

Riverside County Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Screening Tables

In the County's guidance document titled "Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Screening Tables, County of Riverside, California," the County determined the size of development that is too small to be able to provide the level of GHG emission reductions expected from the Screening Tables or alternate emissions analysis method. The County's analysis determined that the 3,000 metric ton (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent gases (CO₂e) per year value be used in defining small projects that, when combined with modest energy efficiency measures shown in the bullet points below, are considered less than significant and do not need to use the Screening Tables or alternative calculations. The efficiency measures required of small projects are:

- Energy efficiency matching or exceeding the Title 24 requirements in effect as of January 2017; and
 - Water conservation measures that match the California Green Building Standards Code in effect as of January 2017.
- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** GHG emissions for transportation projects can be divided into those produced during construction and those produced during operations. Construction GHG emissions include emissions produced as a result of material processing, emissions produced by on-site construction equipment, and emissions arising from traffic delays due to construction. GHG emissions produced during operations are those that result from potentially increased traffic volumes or changes in automobile speeds.

Short-Term Construction Emissions

Short-term construction emissions from the Project are anticipated. Emissions from construction equipment would include all equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines. The RCEM model estimates construction equipment effects of criteria pollutants including CO, NO_x, VOCs, directly emitted PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, and TACs such as diesel exhaust particulate matter. These emissions would be temporary and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site. The RCEM model was calculated with the Project's construction anticipated to take approximately 18 months and determined that the total amount of emissions generated by construction of the Project is 1,564 MTCO₂e (Appendix B).

Table 8. Construction CO₂ Emissions Compared to Threshold of Significance

Greenhouse Gas	Road Construction Emissions Model Estimates (MT/year)	Riverside County Screening Threshold (MT/year)
CO ₂	1,564 total for the project	3,000

Source: Modeling using the *Road Construction Emissions Model* 9.0.0 (Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District 2017).

The proposed Project impacts related to GHG emissions are considered **Less than Significant**.

Operational Emissions

GHG emissions produced during operations are typically associated with increased traffic volumes or changes in automobile speeds. Table 9 gives projected CO₂ operational emissions as a result of the Project.

Table 9. Projected Operational Emissions

Greenhouse Gas	EMFAC2021 (tons/year)	Riverside County Screening Threshold (MT/year)
CO ₂	-2,800	3,000

Source: EMFAC2021

The projected emissions are based on VMT data. CO₂ emissions would actually decrease annually as a result of the Project. Impacts related to GHG emissions or climate change from operation would be **Less than Significant**.

- b) **No Impact.** GHG emissions from construction activity would be temporary and intermittent and would not exceed the Riverside County Screening Threshold for small projects. Operation of the proposed Project would not result in any significant GHG emissions. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. **No Impacts** are anticipated.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to greenhouse gas emissions. No additional impacts have been identified. The Project would not result in any additional significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): Riverside County General Plan (2015), State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker Database, Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor Database, and Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List

Regulatory Setting

Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are regulated by many State and federal laws. These include not only specific statutes governing hazardous waste, but also a variety of laws regulating air and water quality, human health and land use.

Hazardous waste in California is regulated primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, and the California Health and Safety Code. Other California laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning.

Worker health and safety and public safety are key issues when dealing with hazardous materials that may affect human health and the environment. Proper disposal of hazardous material is vital if it is disturbed during Project construction.

- a) **Less than Significant.** During short-term construction activities, the Project would involve the use of heavy equipment for the grading, hauling, and handling of materials. Use of this equipment may require the use of fuels and other common materials that have hazardous properties (e.g., fuels are flammable). These materials would be used in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and, if used properly, would not pose a hazard to people, animals, or plants. All refueling of construction vehicles and equipment would occur within the designated areas of the Project area. The use of hazardous materials would be short-term and temporary. The operation of the Project facility would not have routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Within implementation avoidance and minimization measure **HAZ-1**, the Project contractor would be required to prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCCP) to prevent any potentially significant impacts. Therefore, Project effects would be considered **Less than Significant**.
- b) **Less than Significant.** During short-term construction activities, the Project would require ground disturbance that would cause the potential for unknown contaminants or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment, as well as upset or accident relating to machinery. With the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures **HAZ-1** and **HAZ-2** during short-term construction activities, any potential significant hazard to the public or the environment would be less than significant. The project would have no operational effects relating to reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. Impacts would be **Less than Significant**.
- c) **No Impact.** The Project site was evaluated via the SWRCB GeoTracker database and the Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor database. No schools are located within one-quarter mile of the Project site. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.
- d) **No Impact.** EnviroStor and GeoTracker were used to find active hazardous waste sites within the Project vicinity. There were no records indicated in the EnviroStor and GeoTracker databases. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.
- e) **No Impact.** The project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area as the project is not within the vicinity of an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The closest airport to the Project

site is the Perris Valley Airport-L65, which is located approximately 3.4 miles north. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.

- f) **No Impact.** The Project's short-term construction activities or operation would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. During short-term construction activities traffic would be accommodated to allow for movement through the area. No operational effects on future traffic congestion or interference with an emergency evacuation plan route would occur. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.
- g) **No Impact.** The Project would not cause people or structures to be exposed to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Implementation of the following avoidance and minimization measures will further reduce any potential impacts resulting from construction activities:

- HAZ-1:** The contractor shall prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCCP) prior to the commencement of construction activities. The SPCCP shall include information on the nature of all hazardous materials that shall be used on-site. The SPCCP shall also include information regarding proper handling of hazardous materials, and clean-up procedures in the event of an accidental release. The phone number of the agency overseeing hazardous materials and toxic clean-up shall be provided in the SPCCP.
- HAZ-2:** As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, the potential exists for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. If soil contaminated by hazardous waste is discovered during construction, proper hazardous waste handling and emergency procedures under 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 262 and Division 4.5 of Title 22 California Code of Regulations shall be followed.
- HAZ-3:** If any yellow pavement striping is to be removed during construction, it is recommended that removal requirements for yellow striping and pavement marking materials be performed in accordance with Caltrans Standard Special Provisions for REMOVE TRAFFIC STRIPE AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS.
- HAZ-4:** Any leaking transformers observed during the course of the Project should be considered a potential polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) hazard. A detailed inspection of individual electrical transformers was not conducted for this Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. However, should leaks from electrical transformers (that will either remain within the construction limits or will require removal and/or relocation) be encountered during construction, the transformer fluid should be sampled and analyzed by qualified personnel for detectable levels of PCB's. Should PCBs be detected, the transformer should be removed and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency. Any stained soil encountered below electrical transformers with detectable levels of PCBs should also be handled and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to hazards and hazardous materials with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): Federal Emergency Management Agency FIRM No. 06065C2055H

Regulatory Setting

Pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, for construction projects that will disturb one or more acres, a SWPPP is required for compliance with the State's Construction General Permit (2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS 000002). The focus of a SWPPP is to manage soil disturbances, non-stormwater discharges, and construction materials and activities which may impact the quality of runoff from an active construction site. The Construction General Permit requires that applicable sites have a SWPPP submitted prior to the start of construction activities, and also keep the SWPPP on site during grading and construction activities.

The federal Clean Water Act establishes requirements for the discharge of urban runoff from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The City of Menifee is a Co-permittee under the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) MS4 permit area for Order number R8-2010-0033, NPDES permit No. CAS 618033.

Affected Environment

The Project area is located in the Southern California Coastal Hydrologic Unit Subregion, San Jacinto Subbasin, Lower San Jacinto River Watershed, Menifee Valley Subwatershed (USGS 2018). Major regional hydrological features include Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake located to the southwest of the Project area.

The Project area does not contain any major surface water features or waters of the United States. There is one storm drain feature, a runoff conveyance channel owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control. The runoff conveyance channel is concrete-lined and only carries storm water runoff during high rain events.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) No. 06065C2055H, the Project area is located in Zone X, which indicates an area of minimal flood hazard.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Short-term, construction-related earth disturbing activities could potentially cause soil erosion and sedimentation to local waterways. Projects are at the highest risk during use of heavy equipment during grading activities. Coverage under a Construction General Permit would be obtained and a SWPPP would be prepared prior to construction. Potential impacts would be mitigated for through sediment, erosion, and non-storm water control methods identified in the SWPPP pursuant to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. Temporary sediment control BMPs can include silt fences and street sweeping. Temporary erosion control BMPs can include hydroseeding and preservation of existing vegetation. Temporary non-stormwater BMPs can include water conservation practices and implementation of proper vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance procedures. Accidental spills of petroleum hydrocarbons (fuels and lubricating oils), concrete waste or other construction-related products or wastes are also a concern during construction activities. The Project SWPPP will include spill prevention and response BMPs to reduce impacts to **Less Than Significant**.
- b, e) **No Impact.** The Project is a road widening project and would not access or effect groundwater supplies. The Project would not interfere with groundwater recharge; therefore, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. **No Impact** is anticipated.

- c (i, iv) **No Impact.** There are no major surface water features within the Project area, and the Project would not alter the drainage pattern of the existing runoff conveyance channel that is within the Project area in a way that would result in erosion or sedimentation or impede flood flows. There would be **No Impact**.
- c (ii, iii) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project would not substantially alter any existing stream, river, or other drainage feature, including the runoff conveyance channel that is located within the Project area. However, the Project would add a net impervious surface area of approximately 15 acres. The increase in impervious surface area within the Project area has the potential to increase the amount of surface runoff. However, Project design includes appropriate stormwater drainage features, and the amount of increased impervious surface is not expected to create a significant increase in runoff water. There would be a **Less Than Significant Impact**.
- d) **No Impact.** The Project area is not within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone. **No Impact** would occur.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to hydrology and water quality with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to hydrology and water quality beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013); Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report (2022)

- a) **No Impact.** The Project would widen the existing Valley Boulevard and close a gap in this road that is currently vacant land. Therefore, there would be no physical division of an established community. The proposed Project would improve community connectivity by closing the gap on this road and there would be **No Impact**.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project is identified in the City's General Plan and complies with the land use anticipated for this area. Similarly, the Project is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP and is considered a covered project under the Western Riverside County MSHC. The Project Area is Sun City, Menifee Valley Plan Area but is outside of Criteria Cells; therefore, a joint project review under the Regional Conservation Authority is not required (MSHCP 2003). The Project would comply with all applicable City planning and MSHCP regulations and have **No Impact** or conflict with existing land use plans or policies.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to land use and planning. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to land use and planning beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

- a, b) **No Impact.** There are no known mineral resources or locally important resources within the City of Menifee; therefore, there are no known mineral resources at the Project site. The City of Menifee General Plan indicates that the majority of the Project area is located within an Urban Area. A small segment at the southern end of the Project area is within an area designated as Mineral Resource Zone 3, which denotes areas where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data. The Project site has no potential to be mined in the future because it is surrounded by adjacent and proximal residential uses and is not considered a state-designated mineral resource extraction zone. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to mineral resources. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to mineral resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): Noise Study Report (2022), City of Menifee General Plan (2013), Federal Highway Administration Construction Noise Handbook (2017)

Regulatory Setting

Riverside County has established noise-level performance standards for projects affected by non-transportation sources and transportation sources. Noise is generally characterized as an equivalent continuous sound level (Leq) averaged over time, day-night average sound level (Ldn), or Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). The Noise Element of the Riverside County General Plan (December 2013) outlines noise policy with respect to CEQA.

For residences and retail commercial locations exposed to noise from transportation noise sources, the County has established a criterion of 55 decibel A-weighted (dBA) between 7:00AM and 10:00PM, and 45 dBA between 10:00PM and 7:00AM (2007); however, construction activities carried out for capital improvement projects by governmental agencies are exempt from the County Noise Control Ordinance.

Figure 7. Noise Levels of Common Activities

Common Outdoor Activities	Noise Level (dBA)	Common Indoor Activities
Jet Fly-over at 300m (1000 ft)	110	Rock Band
Gas Lawn Mower at 1 m (3 ft)	100	
Diesel Truck at 15 m (50 ft), at 80 km (50 mph)	90	Food Blender at 1 m (3 ft)
Noisy Urban Area, Daytime	80	Garbage Disposal at 1 m (3 ft)
Gas Lawn Mower, 30 m (100 ft)	70	Vacuum Cleaner at 3 m (10 ft)
Commercial Area		Normal Speech at 1 m (3 ft)
Heavy Traffic at 90 m (300 ft)	60	
Quiet Urban Daytime	50	Large Business Office
		Dishwasher Next Room
Quiet Urban Nighttime	40	Theater, Large Conference Room (Background)
Quiet Suburban Nighttime		Library
Quiet Rural Nighttime	30	Bedroom at Night, Concert Hall (Background)
	20	Broadcast/Recording Studio
	10	
Lowest Threshold of Human Hearing	0	Lowest Threshold of Human Hearing

Affected Environment

The noise environment near the proposed project is dominated by traffic sources. Background noise levels are primarily influenced by adjacent roadways including Valley Boulevard and McCall Road. Traffic remains the dominant noise source at the project site. As a way to characterize noise levels, Table 10 summarizes typical ambient noise levels based on population density.

Table 10. Population Density and Associated Ambient Noise Levels

Population Density	dBA, Ldn
Rural Suburban	40–50
Quiet suburban residential or small town	45–50
Normal suburban residential urban	50–55
Normal urban residential	60
Noisy urban residential	65
Very noisy urban residential	70
Downtown, major metropolis	75–80
Under flight path at major airport, 0.5 to 1 mile from runway	78–85
Adjoining freeway or near a major airport	80–90

Sources: Cowan 1984, Hoover and Keith 1996

The vicinity of the project area is most similar to that of “normal suburban residential urban”. Normal suburban residential urban areas have a typical noise level of 50-55 dBA (2015).

Noise sensitive receptors include the surrounding residences located adjacent east and west of Valley Boulevard, the closest within approximately 100 feet away, as shown in Figure 8. Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations.

Table 11 summarizes noise levels produced by commonly used construction equipment. Construction equipment is expected to generate noise levels ranging from 70 to 90 dB at a distance of 50 feet, and noise produced by construction equipment would be reduced over distance at a rate of about 6 dB per doubling of distance. The construction noise level at a given location depends on the type of construction activity, the noise level generated by that activity, and the distance and shielding between the activity and noise receivers.

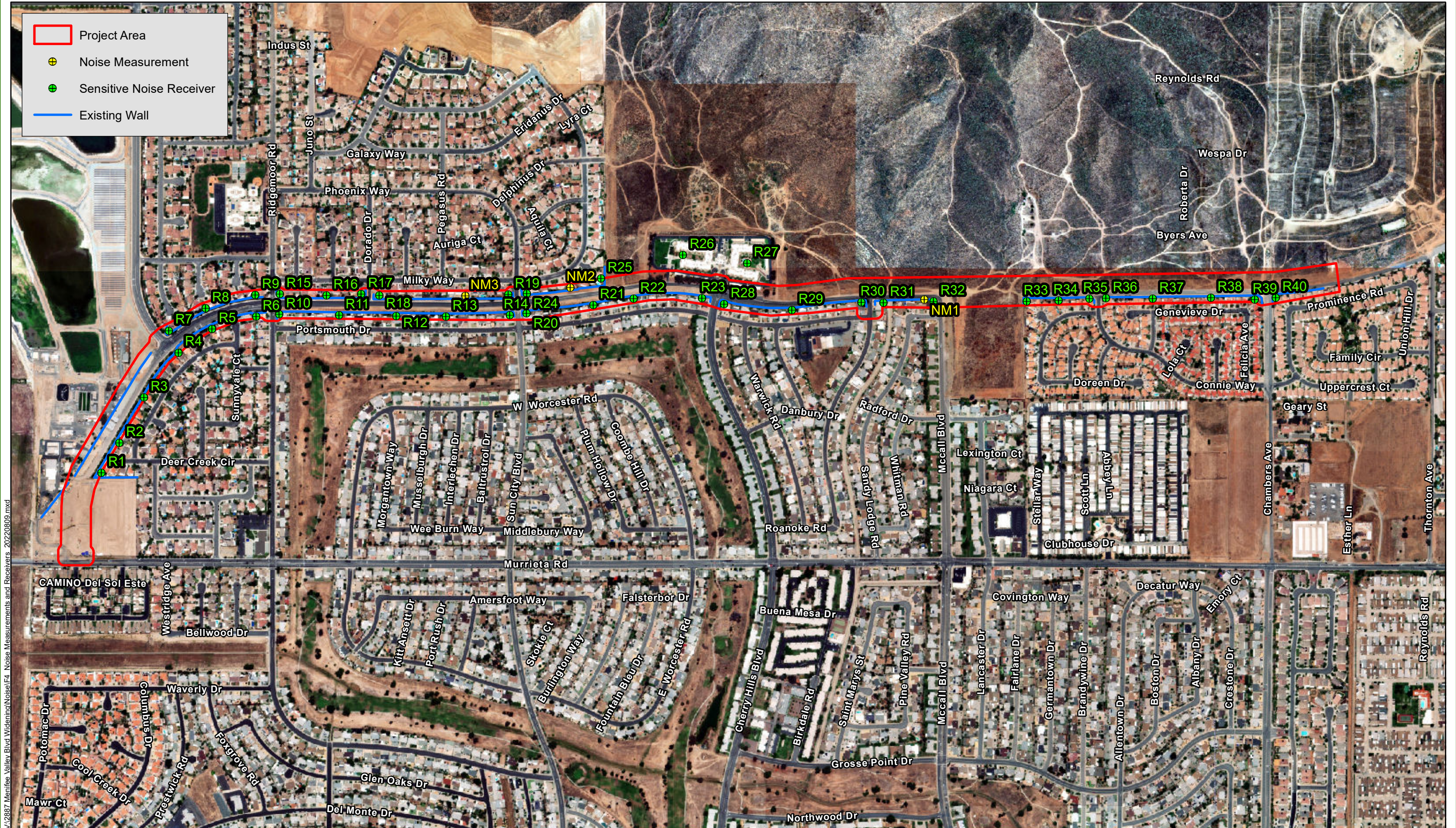
Table 11. Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

Equipment	Maximum Noise Level (dBA at 50 feet)
Scrapers	89
Bulldozers	85
Heavy Trucks	88
Backhoe	80
Pneumatic Tools	85
Concrete Pump	82

Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2006 See also:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

Generally, noise levels at construction sites can vary from 55 dBA to a maximum of nearly 96 dBA when heavy equipment is used. Construction noise of this project would be intermittent, and noise levels would vary depending on the type of construction activity. For this project, lowest construction equipment-related noise levels would be 55 dBA at a distance of 50 ft for sound from a pick-up truck. Highest noise levels would be up to 89 dBA (at a distance of 50 ft) for excavation as part of the road widening.



V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\Noise\F4 Noise Measurements and Receivers 20220809.mxd

Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 10/13/2022; Created By: cfavro

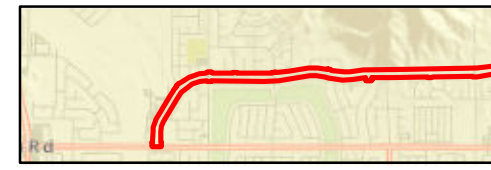
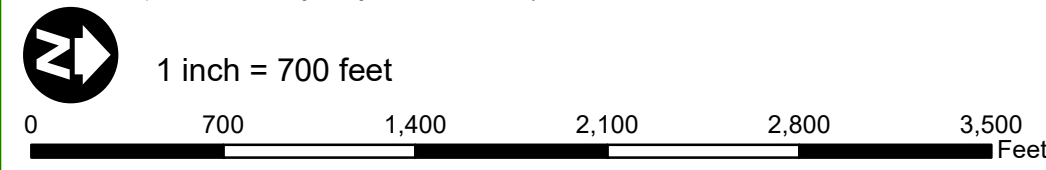
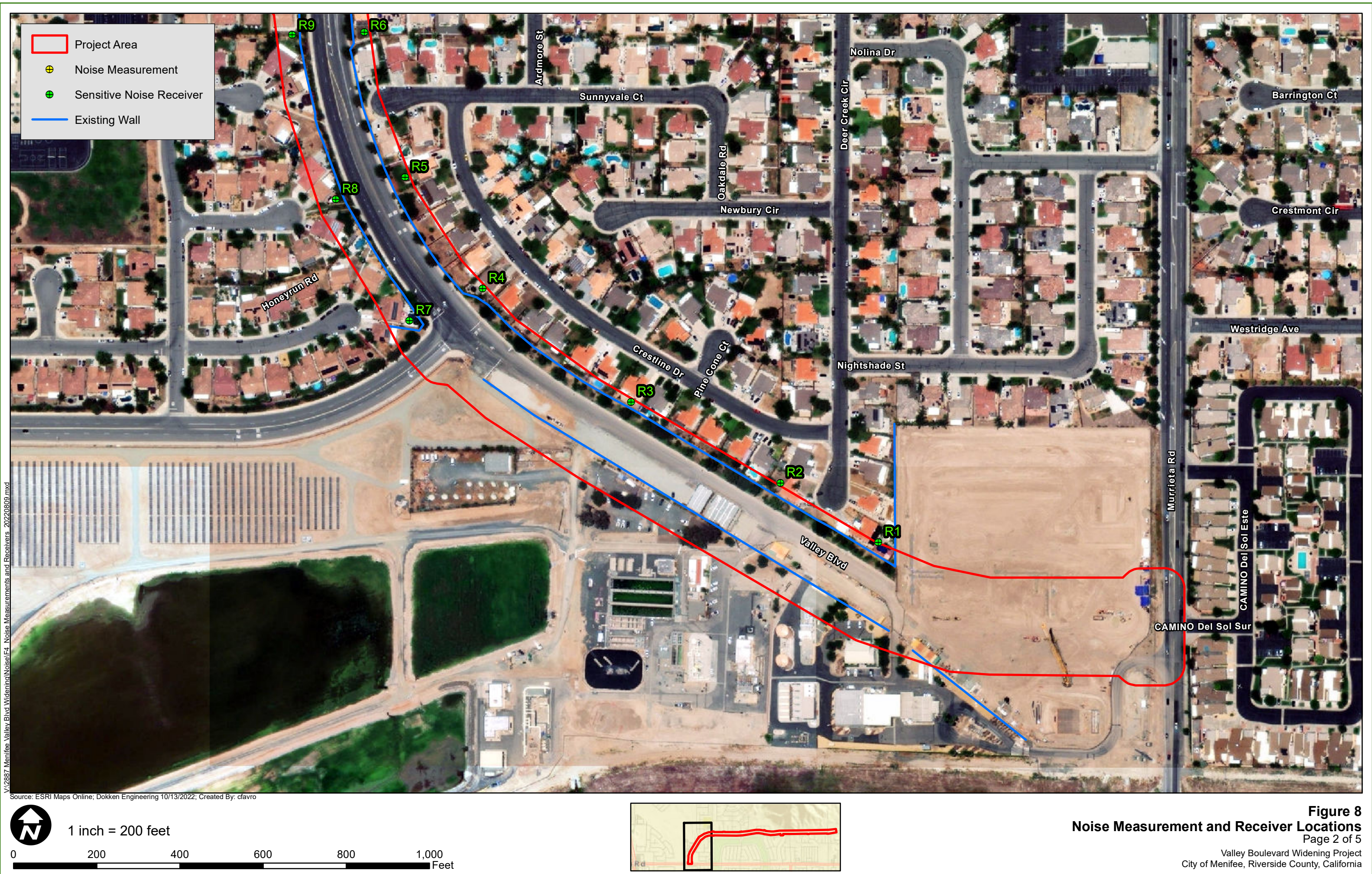


Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
 Page 1 of 5
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 10/13/2022; Created By: cfavro



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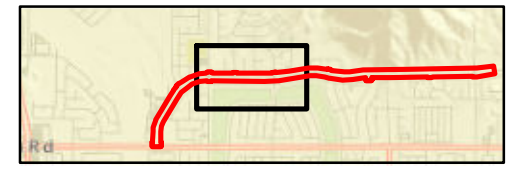
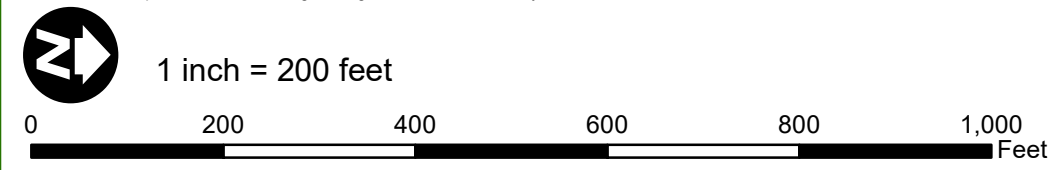


Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
 Page 3 of 5
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
Page 4 of 5
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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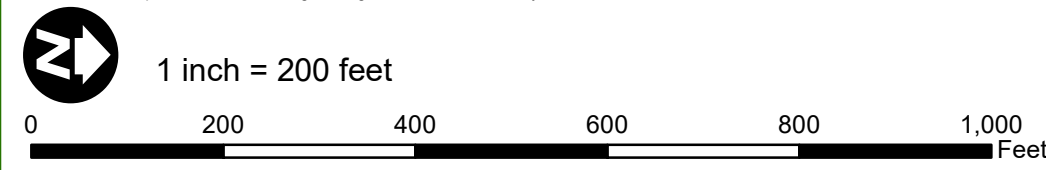


Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
 Page 5 of 5
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

- a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** . Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending upon the nature or phase of construction (e.g., demolition/land clearing, grading and excavation). Noise generated by construction equipment, including earth movers, material handlers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. Typical noise levels for individual pieces of construction equipment are summarized in Table 11 above.

Short-Term Construction Noise

During construction of the project, noise from construction activities may intermittently dominate the noise environment in the immediate area of construction. Construction noise is regulated by the County of Riverside. Construction activity could result in noise that exceeds the 50-dBA daytime standard or 45-dBA nighttime standard. Other construction activities associated with the proposed project may cause a small amount of groundborne vibration; however, vibration from these activities would be short-term and intermittent. Although temporary construction noise for capital improvement projects is exempt from local noise ordinances, the project would include construction methods, structure designs, and operational methods that would reduce the potential noise and vibration impacts to less than significant levels, and work activities would not exceed 86 dBA maximum sound level (Lmax) at 50 feet between the hours of 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. for the duration of construction.

No significant adverse noise impacts from construction are anticipated because construction noise would be short-term and intermittent, and construction would be conducted in accordance with County ordinances as appropriate. Construction is anticipated to take 18 months. Therefore, impacts would be **Less than Significant**.

Operational Impacts

Valley Boulevard is currently a two-lane undivided road with unstriped shoulders and sidewalks on one side of the road within the project vicinity. The Project is being implemented to be compliant with the City's General Plan, which designates Valley Boulevard as a 4-lane divided arterial road.

The City of Menifee General Plan Environmental Impact Report (December 2013) includes a broad, city-wide level noise analysis that describes the existing noise environment throughout the City. According to the Noise analysis, noise-sensitive land uses adjacent to major roads would be exposed to a substantial increase in noise levels of at least 5 db where future noise levels would be in excess of 65 dBA CNEL. The "highest increase would occur along areas that are least developed, along roadways that would be improved with additional lanes and connections currently not implemented, bringing substantial pass-by traffic". Substantial noise increases that would occur as a result of increased traffic from implementation of the General Plan were determined to result in a significant and unavoidable impact.

A project-level noise analysis was also conducted to estimate traffic noise level changes specifically from widening Valley Boulevard from a two-lane road to a four-lane facility between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road, as well as extending Valley Boulevard through two existing gaps along the alignment. A field investigation was conducted on June 15, 2022 and aerial photographs were reviewed to determine land uses and identify sensitive noise receptors. Additionally, traffic-noise modelling was used to evaluate existing and future traffic-related noise conditions in the vicinity of the project site.

Traffic noise levels were predicted using the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Traffic Noise Model Version 2.5 (TNM 2.5). TNM 2.5 is a computer model based on two FHWA reports: FHWA-PD-96-009 and FHWA-PD-96-010 (FHWA 1998a, 1998b). Key inputs to the traffic noise model were the locations of roadways, traffic mix and speed, shielding features (e.g., topography and buildings), noise barriers, ground type, and receptors. Three-dimensional representations of these inputs were developed using field data, CAD drawings, aerials, and topographic contours provided by the project engineer.

To validate the accuracy of the model calculations, TNM 2.5 was used to compare measured traffic noise levels taken during the June 2022 field investigation to modeled noise levels at field measurement locations. For each receptor, traffic volumes counted during the short-term measurement periods were normalized to 1-hour volumes. These normalized volumes were assigned to the corresponding project area roadways to simulate the noise source strength at the roadways during the actual measurement period. Modeled and measured sound levels were then compared to determine the accuracy of the model and if additional adjustment of the model was necessary.

Predicted future 2045 traffic noise levels with the project are compared to existing conditions and to future no-project conditions. The future 2045 traffic noise modeling results indicate that exterior noise levels would range between 53 dBA CNEL and 70 dBA CNEL under Future 2045 conditions without the proposed Project. South of McCall Boulevard, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would increase by approximately 2 dB CNEL over the next twenty years in the project area due to traffic growth. North of McCall Boulevard, where traffic would more drastically increase due to future planned development and new road connections, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would increase by 6 to 15 dB CNEL, which is considered a substantial increase. Exterior noise levels at R14, R16 through R19, and R30 would be exposed to noise levels exceeding the City of Menifee 65 dBA CNEL exterior noise level compatibility level for single-family residences in 2045 without the proposed Project.

As shown in Table 12, exterior noise levels under Future 2045 conditions with the Project would range between 61 dBA and 71 dBA CNEL in 2045. South of McCall Boulevard, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would generally be approximately 3 to 6 dB CNEL louder over the next twenty years than Future 2045 No Project conditions. Notably, R1 would be exposed to noise level increases up to 13 dB due to its proximity to the proposed Valley Boulevard extension south of the project area that would complete a gap closure, introducing new traffic noise to the immediate vicinity.

North of McCall Boulevard, where traffic would more drastically increase due to future planned development and new road connections, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would increase by 16 to 23 dB CNEL.

The proposed Project would cause exterior noise levels at additional residences to exceed the City of Menifee 65 dBA CNEL exterior noise level compatibility level for single-family residences in 2045 with the proposed Project. Furthermore, a substantial permanent noise increase would occur at R1 and R33 through R40 due to their proximity to new roadway gap closures that would introduce new traffic noise into their vicinity.

As a permanent increase in ambient noise level would occur with implementation of the proposed Project, incorporation of rubberized asphalt, which would attenuate noise levels

by approximately 3 dBA, will be incorporated on Valley Boulevard throughout the entire Project limit. Rubberized asphalt will be incorporated per Measure **NOI-1** below.

As indicated, the use of rubberized asphalt would be sufficient to reduce significant noise impacts at most analyzed receivers to acceptable noise levels. Receivers R16 through R19 would continue to be exposed to excessive noise levels due to inconsistent or nonexisting barriers shielding them from traffic noise. Furthermore, a permanent substantial noise increase would remain at receivers R1 and R33 through R40 even with implementation of **NOI-1**. Consistent with the findings of the General Plan EIR, the highest noise increase would occur where the proposed Project would close existing gaps, bringing substantial pass-by traffic to nearby residences. As the proposed Project is being implemented in compliance with the City of Menifee General Plan, and substantial permanent noise increase has already been previously identified in the General Plan EIR as a significant and unavoidable impact, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to Noise beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR that would require any additional mitigation measures, such as soundwalls.

Implementation of the General Plan includes several policies to protect noise-sensitive uses from excessive noise. Although these policies could in certain cases reduce or prevent significant increases in ambient noise at sensitive land uses under implementation of the proposed plan, mitigation measures to implement these policies would not be universally feasible, and some of the most effect in noise-attenuation measures, including sound walls and berms, would be infeasible or inappropriate in a majority of locations where sensitive land uses already exist. Factors that would render these measures infeasible include but are not limited to cost, aesthetic considerations, and negative impacts to pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

Soundwalls will be incorporated as a landscaping design feature where feasible. However, it may not be feasible to incorporate soundwalls at all locations where existing and future significant noise impacts would occur due to both cost and aesthetic considerations. However, as these impacted areas have already been previously disclosed by the 2013 General Plan EIR, and no new significant impact has been proposed in addition, impacts would be considered **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

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Table 12. Comparison of Estimated Exterior Noise Levels in Future (2045) and with Rubberized Asphalt

Receiver No.	Existing (2022) (dBA CNEL)	Future without Project (2045) (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Existing to Future No Build (dBA CNEL)	Future with Project (2045) (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Existing to Future with Project (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Future No Project to Future with Project (dBA CNEL)	Future with Project and Rubberized Asphalt (2045) (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Existing to Future with Project and Rubberized Asphalt (dBA CNEL)
R1	48	50	2	61	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	58	<u>9</u>
R2	58	60	2	62	4	2	59	1
R3	61	63	2	65	4	2	62	1
R4	58	60	2	63	<u>5</u>	3	60	2
R5	58	60	2	63	<u>5</u>	3	60	2
R6	58	60	2	63	<u>5</u>	3	60	2
R7	58	60	2	63	<u>5</u>	3	60	2
R8	59	61	2	64	4	2	61	1
R9	56	58	2	60	4	2	57	1
R10	60	62	2	64	<u>5</u>	3	61	2
R11	63	65	2	68	<u>5</u>	3	65	2
R12	61	63	2	<u>67</u>	<u>6</u>	4	64	3
R13	61	63	2	<u>66</u>	<u>5</u>	3	63	2
R14	64	<u>66</u>	2	<u>68</u>	4	2	65	1
R15	58	60	2	62	3	1	59	0
R16	<u>68</u>	<u>70</u>	2	<u>71</u>	3	2	<u>68</u>	0
R17	64	<u>66</u>	2	<u>69</u>	<u>5</u>	3	<u>66</u>	2
R18	<u>66</u>	<u>68</u>	2	<u>70</u>	4	2	<u>67</u>	1
R19	<u>67</u>	<u>69</u>	2	<u>70</u>	3	1	<u>67</u>	0
R20	62	64	2	<u>66</u>	4	2	63	1
R21	61	62	2	<u>66</u>	<u>5</u>	4	63	2
R22	61	63	2	<u>67</u>	<u>6</u>	4	64	3
R23	61	63	2	<u>66</u>	<u>5</u>	3	63	2
R24	58	60	2	61	3	1	58	0
R25	60	62	2	64	4	2	61	1
R26	55	57	2	59	4	2	56	1
R27	53	55	2	58	<u>5</u>	3	55	2
R28	61	63	2	<u>66</u>	<u>5</u>	3	63	2
R29	61	63	2	64	3	1	61	0
R30	65	<u>67</u>	2	<u>68</u>	3	1	65	0
R31	63	64	2	<u>68</u>	<u>6</u>	4	65	3
R32	63	65	2	63	0	-2	60	-3
R33	52	57	<u>6</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	65	<u>13</u>
R34	46	59	<u>13</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>20</u>
R35	48	60	<u>12</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>19</u>
R36	44	57	<u>13</u>	65	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	62	<u>18</u>
R37	42	57	<u>15</u>	64	<u>21</u>	<u>7</u>	61	<u>18</u>
R38	45	57	<u>13</u>	65	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	62	<u>18</u>
R39	43	55	<u>13</u>	63	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	60	<u>18</u>
R40	41	53	<u>12</u>	61	<u>20</u>	<u>8</u>	58	<u>17</u>

Source: FHWA Traffic Noise Model 2.5
Bold and Underline indicate potential significant traffic noise exposure

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b) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Construction Impacts

Construction of the proposed project could potentially increase groundborne vibration or noise in the project area. Table 13 provides an estimate of vibration levels associated with construction activities for each piece of equipment. These are based on a wide range of soil conditions.

Table 13. Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	PPV at 25 feet (in/sec)
Pile Driver (impact)	1.518
Pile Drive (sonic)	0.734
Vibratory Roller	0.210
Hoe Ram	0.089
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Caisson drilling	0.089
Loaded trucks	0.076
Jackhammer	0.035
Small bulldozer	0.003

Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2006. See also:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

During construction, the equipment with the greatest potential for vibration impacts would be generated by vibratory rollers, which would compact soil over where road widening would occur. Based on the information shown in Table 13, vibratory rollers could cause continuous vibration levels up to 0.210 peak particle velocity (PPV) to buildings within 25 feet of Valley Boulevard during construction.

To assess the damage potential to nearby structures from ground vibration induced by construction equipment, the following criteria to evaluate the potential for damage was used:

Table 14. Guideline Vibration Damage Potential Threshold Criteria

Structure and Condition	Maximum PPV (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Extremely fragile historic buildings, ruins, ancient monuments	0.12	0.08
Fragile buildings	0.2	0.1
Historic and some old buildings	0.5	0.25
Older residential structures	0.5	0.3
New residential structures	1.0	0.5
Modern industrial/commercial buildings	2.0	0.5

Note: Transient sources create a single isolated vibration event, such as blasting or drop balls.

Continuous/frequent intermittent sources include impact pile drivers, pogo-stick compactors, crack-and-seat equipment, vibratory pile drivers, and vibratory compaction equipment.

Source: Caltrans Transportation- and Construction-Induced Vibration Guidance Manual, June 2004

None of the buildings within 25 feet of where soil compaction would occur are considered extremely fragile, fragile, or historic buildings. The majority of buildings in the project vicinity that would be impacted are older residential and commercial use structures.

Therefore, no buildings would be exposed to potentially damaging construction vibration levels from vibratory rollers exceeding the thresholds shown in Table 13. Impacts would be **Less than Significant** and no avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.

Operational Impacts

Operation of the proposed project would not perceptibly increase groundborne vibration or groundborne noise on the proposed project because operation of the proposed project would not involve vibration creating activities.

- c) **No Impact.** There are no private airstrips located within the vicinity of the Project site. The closest airport to the Project site is the Perris Valley Airport-L65, which is located approximately 3.4 miles north. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

Inclusion of the following mitigation measure shall be required:

- NOI-1:** Rubberized and/or open grade asphalt will be used on Valley Boulevard from Murrieta Road to approximately 300 feet north of Chambers Avenue.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated relating to noise with incorporation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure listed above.

The 2013 General Plan EIR found that noise levels along major transportation corridors would increase as a result of substantial increase in traffic volumes within the General Plan Update. This increase of noise levels and traffic volumes included the widening of Valley Boulevard as part of its analysis and the General Plan EIR found these improvements would contribute to a significant and unavoidable noise impact. No additional impacts other than those disclosed in the 2013 General Plan EIR have been identified. Thus, the Project's impacts related to noise are not significant with mitigation incorporated.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

Affected Environment

The proposed Project is included in the adopted SCAG 2020 SoCal Connect RTP, which includes population, housing, and employment trends and forecasts at the city and region level as follows:

Table 15. City of Menifee Population, Housing, and Employment Forecasts

	Adopted SCAG Region Wide Forecasts				Adopted City of Menifee Forecasts			
	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2035	Year 2045	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2035	Year 2045
Population	19,517,731	20,821,171	21,443,006	22,503,899	94,518	108,494	115,690	129,750
Households	6,333,458	6,902,821	7,170,110	7,633,451	34,287	41,223	44,704	51,226
Employment	8,695,427	9,303,627	9,566,384	10,048,822	17,787	24,250	26,393	29,210

- a) **No Impact.** The Project would not directly impact population growth since it does not propose new homes. Road widening and gap closure projects indirectly support future population growth. However, this Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth as it meets the goals and objectives of the City General Plan Circulation Element. The design concept and scope of the proposed Project is consistent with the project description and growth forecasts of the 2020 Connect SoCal. Furthermore, the gap in Valley Boulevard is identified as a planned arterial road in the City General Plan. **No Impact** would occur.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project is located along the existing Valley Boulevard and road widening and gap closure activities would occur on vacant land. No acquisition of residential homes is anticipated with the Project; therefore, no displacements of residents would occur with the Project. Therefore, **No Impact** would occur to people or housing such that replacement housing would be required.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to population and housing. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to population and housing beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a (i-v) **No Impact.** The Project would not result in the need for new public services. The Project does not propose a new housing or commercial development that would generate population growth or require additional school facilities, police, and/or fire services. The Project would not impact any parks as no parks are within the Project area and the Project would have no potential to cause significant environmental impact to nearby parks. There would be **No Impact** to public services.

As the Project will extend and widen an existing road to close a gap, emergency vehicles will have more efficient access to residences surrounding the Project area and service and emergency response times may potentially be improved. There would be **No Impact** to emergency services.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to public services. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to public services beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XVI. RECREATION:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a, b) **No Impact.** While the Project will close a gap on an existing road and improve access to existing neighborhood facilities such as schools and parks, as well as the nearby Salt Creek Trail; however, it would not be to the extent such that substantial physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities would occur or be accelerated, nor would it require the construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities. There would be **No Impact.**

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to recreation. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to recreation beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013), City of Menifee Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled (2020), Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (2018), City of Menifee Active Transportation Plan (2020)

Regulatory Setting

California SB 743 requires lead agencies under CEQA to identify new methodologies for transportation analyses that will encourage “land use and transportation planning decisions and investments that reduce VMT and contribute to the reductions in GHG emissions required in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.” SB 743 changes the way that significance related to traffic impacts will be determined under CEQA. The significance of traffic impacts under CEQA will change from measuring impacts to drivers to measuring the impact of driving. The change is being made by replacing level of service (impact to drivers) with VMT (impact of driving) for land use and transportation projects that will help reduce future VMT growth.

This shift in transportation impact focus is expected to better align transportation impact analysis and mitigation outcomes with California’s goals to reduce GHG emissions, encourage infill development, and improve public health through more active transportation.

In 2020, the City adopted thresholds of significance related to VMT and transportation impact analysis, and Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines that provide guidance on how to conduct VMT assessment for transportation projects. If the project is determined to lead to a measurable and substantial increase in vehicle travel, mitigation measures are required to reduce that impact to a less than significant level.

2020 City of Menifee Active Transportation Plan

The City of Menifee has adopted an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) to meet the City's goals and vision for providing a transportation system that supports walking, cycling, public transit and automobiles. The ATP provides recommended actions, projects and programs to support increasing bicycling and walking as well as improve non-motorized travel infrastructure to provide safer, walkable streets throughout the City for residents that are dependent on these modes.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** In the City's General Plan, Valley Boulevard is designated as a 4-lane divided arterial road. Additionally, the gap in Valley Boulevard is identified as a planned arterial road in the City General Plan. Construction of the proposed Project would allow Valley Boulevard to be consistent with the City's adopted General Plan Circulation Element. By constructing sidewalks and bike lines on both sides of the roadway and improving existing curb ramps and sidewalks, the Project would be consistent with the goals of the City's 2020 ATP and meeting the City's strategic goal for an interconnected and safe community. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

Vehicle access along Valley Boulevard would be modified and potentially temporarily restricted during construction, but no long-term road closures are anticipated. The implementation of Avoidance and Minimization Measure **TRA-1** would result in **Less Than Significant** impacts during construction related to roadway, bicycle, pedestrian and other transportation facilities.

- b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project's VMT was measured using the Riverside County travel demand forecasting model (RIVCOM) which is considered the most appropriate model for use in this Project due to the more recent land use and roadway information. The VMT was estimated using the Base Year model for 2022. Three boundaries were identified to account for the full influence area of the Project: the City boundary, a 5-mile radius, and a 14.3-mile radius. The 14.3-mile radius was selected based on the estimate of the average trip length of vehicles that use Valley Boulevard. The results of the modeling and VMT estimation show that the VMT with Project is lower within the selected areas than without the Project, indicating that the Project assists in diverting and shortening existing trips. Table 16 below shows the reduction in VMT with the project:

Table 16. VMT Estimates

Boundary	No Project	With Project	Change in VMT	Percent Change
City Boundary	1,588,477	1,585,434	-3,043	-0.19%
5-Mile Radius	2,600,990	2,598,319	-2,671	-0.10%
14.3-Mile Radius	14,196,831	14,181,908	-14,923	-0.11%

The results of the VMT modeling indicate that the Project is anticipated to reduce total VMT in the study area by connecting existing gaps and shortening existing trips. According to the CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(1), projects that decrease VMT in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have **No Impact**.

- c) **No Impact.** The Project would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm

equipment). Design features would comply with City standards as appropriate. The Project would not increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. There would be **No Impact**.

- d) **No Impact.** The Project would widen Valley Boulevard and provide gap closures where the road currently does not connect, resulting in improved access for emergency vehicles. Valley Boulevard would remain accessible to vehicles during construction. No substantial road closures are anticipated and there would be no change in emergency access. The project would have **No Impact** on emergency access.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following Avoidance and Minimization Measure is required to minimize temporary construction impacts:

TRA-1: Temporary impacts to traffic flow as a result of construction activities would be minimized through signage and a traffic control plan.

Mitigation Measure

No significant impact requiring mitigation would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to transportation with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measure listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to transportation beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): Menifee Valley Boulevard Widening Project Memorandum (March 2022)

Regulatory Background

Effective July 1, 2015, CEQA was revised to include early consultation with California Native American tribes and consideration of Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs). These changes were enacted through Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). By including TCRs early in the CEQA process, AB 52 intends to ensure that local and Tribal governments, public agencies, and project proponents would have information available, early in the project planning process, to identify and address potential adverse impacts to TCRs. CEQA now establishes that a “project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC § 21084.2).

To help determine whether a project may have such an adverse effect, the PRC requires a lead agency to consult with any California Native American tribe that requests consultation and is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project. That consultation must take place prior to the determination of whether a negative declaration, MND, or environmental impact report is required for a project (PRC § 21080.3.1). Consultation must

consist of the lead agency providing formal notification, in writing, to the tribes that have requested notification or proposed projects within their traditionally and culturally affiliated area. AB 52 stipulates that the NAHC shall assist the lead agency in identifying the California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated within the project area. If the tribe wishes to engage in consultation on the project, the tribe must respond to the lead agency within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification. Once the lead agency receives the tribe's request to consult, the lead agency must then begin the consultation process within 30 days. If a lead agency determines that a project may cause a substantial adverse change to TCRs, the lead agency must consider measures to mitigate that impact. Consultation concludes when either: 1) the parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a TCR, or 2) a party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached (PRC § 21080.3.2). Under existing law, environmental documents must not include information about the locations of an archaeological site or sacred lands or any other information that is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the Public Records act. TCRs are also exempt from disclosure. The term "tribal cultural resource" refers to sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

- Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources
- Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of California PRC Section 5020.1
- A resource determined by a California lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of the PRC Section 5024.1.

Affected Environment

The City contacted the following tribes via letter on July 19, 2022 for AB 52 consultation:

- Pattie Garcia-Plotkin, THPO, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Ebru Ozdil, Planning Specialist, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Molly Earp, Cultural Resource Specialist, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Juan Ochoa, Assistant THPO, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Andrea Fernandez, Legal Assistant, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Cheryl Madrigal, THPO, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Cultural Resources Department, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Joe Ontiveros, THPO, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

The letters provided a summary of the Project and requested information regarding comments or concerns the Native American community might have about the Project and whether any traditional cultural properties, TCRs, or other resources of significance would be affected by implementation of the project. The letters also stated that if the tribes would like to consult under AB 52, they would have to respond within 30 days, pursuant to PRC 21080.3.1(d). Below is a list of the current status of all the tribal representatives contacted:

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

No response to the initial letter was received. A follow email was sent on September 30, 2022. On October 6, 2022, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians responded via email to the

request and stated that the project is located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area and the tribe requested a copy of the records search, cultural report, and also requests monitoring by archaeological and Tribal monitors during ground disturbance. The tribe submitted a final letter on February 6, 2023 concluding AB 52 consultation upon the City's confirmation that the tribe's requests would be met.

Pechanga Band of Indians

On January 20, 2022, the Pechanga Band of Indians responded via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB 52. The tribe requested to be added to the distribution list of all public notice and circulation of all documents, including environmental review documents, archaeological reports, development plans, conceptual grading plans (if available), and all other applicable documents pertaining to this Project. The Tribe further requested to be directly notified of all public hearings and scheduled approvals concerning this Project, and that these comments be incorporated into the record of approval for this Project. A follow-up email was sent on September 6, 2022 to coordinate a meeting. A government-to-government meeting took place on January 27, 2023 to discuss the project and the tribe's concerns. Consultation with the tribe is on-going.

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

On September 9th, the Rincon Band responded via email that the tribe had no information to share and was not requesting consultation. The tribe also requested to receive a copy of the cultural resources assessment. On December 2nd, the City met with the tribe to discuss the tribe's comments and suggested revisions for the cultural resources memorandum that was provided.

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

On August 18, 2022, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians responded with a response letter via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB 52. The tribe also asked to be provided dates/times to conduct a consultation meeting and/or phone call. A follow-up email was sent on September 6, 2022 to coordinate a meeting. A government-to-government meeting took place on January 30, 2023 to discuss the project and the tribe's concerns. Consultation with the tribe is on-going.

See Appendix E for complete Native American Consultation Log.

- a-i) **Less Than Significant.** The Project is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historic resources as defined by the PRC section 5020.1 subdivision (k) criteria. No cultural resources were identified during the visual survey, record search and current Native American consultation. However, with any Project involving ground disturbance, there is a possibility that cultural resources may be unearthed during construction. Implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** (as discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources) and **COA-GEO-1** (as discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils) would ensure impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources remain **Less Than Significant**. Refer to Appendix E for a summary of consultation efforts with the Native American community under AB 52.
- a-ii) **Less Than Significant.** The Project is not anticipated to cause adverse impact to any resources considered significant to a California Native American tribe or other resources in the California Register that meet the PRC Section 5024.1 subdivision (c) criteria. No cultural resources were identified during the visual survey, record search and current Native American consultation. With any Project involving ground disturbance, there is a

possibility that a TCR may be unearthed during construction. Implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** (as discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources) and **COA-GEO-1** (as discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils) would ensure impacts remain **Less Than Significant**.

Standard Conditions of Approval

With implementation of the Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** (discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources) and **COA-GEO-1** (as discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils) as agreed upon between the consulting Native American tribes and the City of Menifee, impacts related to Tribal Cultural Resources would remain **Less than Significant**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to Tribal Cultural Resources with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to Tribal Cultural Resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project would not increase population in the Project vicinity and would not cause the need for expanded water or wastewater treatment. The proposed Project would increase impervious surface area resulting in additional storm water drainage; however, the Project would provide sufficient storm water drainage systems.

Utilities in the Project area include Crown Castle, EMWD, Frontier Communications, Lumen/Level 3 Communications, MediaCom, So Cal Edison Distribution, So Cal Edison Transmission Telecom, Southern California Gas Company-Dist, Charter Communications, Sunesys, LLC. Coordination with utilities that would need to be relocated would occur during the final design phase. All utilities, including irrigation systems, would continue to be fully functional before, during, and after construction of the Project. Impacts would be **Less than Significant** and no avoidance or minimization measures are required.

- b) **No Impact.** As a road widening, no increased long-term usage of water supplies is needed. There would be **No Impact** to existing water supplies.
- c) **No Impact.** Wastewater treatment is not needed for this Project. As a road widening, only storm water would be affected. There would be **No Impact**.
- d) **No Impact.** As a road widening, the Project would not generate substantial solid waste during operation. During construction, solid waste may be generated from excavation, grading, and modification of currently paved portions of the roadway; however, the amount is not expected to exceed landfill capacities. The capacity of local solid waste facilities or solid waste reduction goals would not be exceeded. There would be **No Impact**.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to utilities and service systems. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional significant impacts related to utilities and service systems beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Source(s): City of Menifee Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021); City of Menifee General Plan (2013); California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps (2022)

Affected Environment

The project site is located adjacent to and partially within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) within a Local Responsibility Area as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This VHFHSZ is located in the undeveloped area on the western edge of the Project area and within the undeveloped gap on Valley Boulevard. Furthermore, the east side of the Project area north of McCall Boulevard is designated as a VHFHSZ within a State Responsibility Area.

- a) **Less than Significant.** During construction, temporary closures of portions of the road will be necessary; however, the improvements would be staged to minimize disruptions. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 18 months. Valley Boulevard is not identified as an evacuation route on the Western Riverside Council of Governments Evacuation Map (WRCOG 2019). Additionally, implementation of measures **WF-1** through **WF-4** would further ensure impacts related to emergency response times and evacuation accessibility remain less than significant. As the Project would widen Valley Boulevard and close a gap on this road, service and emergency response times would be potentially improved upon completion. Therefore, impacts related to conflicts with any adopted

emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan would be **Less than Significant**.

- b) **Less than Significant.** The Project would not involve the construction of occupied buildings; therefore there would be no associated project occupants that would be exposed to pollutant concentrations from wildfire that would be exacerbated due to the proposed Project. Additionally, implementation of measures **WF-1** through **WF-4** would further ensure impacts related to wildfire hazard risk would remain **Less than Significant**.
- c) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would involve widening of the existing Valley Boulevard and removing gap closures, which would reduce some of the vegetated area along Valley Boulevard subject to wildfire hazard risk. However, the Project also proposes to incorporate landscaped areas. With implementation of measure **WF-2**, the contractor would be required to submit a Fuel Modification Plan subject to approval by the City of Menifee Fire Department.

The improvements associated with the widening of Valley Boulevard would also potentially require utility relocations. While the majority of the utilities within the project area are underground which may need to be relocated, there may also be impacts to some above ground boxes/vaults due to the widening improvements. Any existing utilities within the project area requiring relocation would be coordinated with the owner and operator of the utility. All utility relocation activity will be evaluated for wildfire risk under measure **WF-2**. With implementation of measures **WF-1** through **WF-4**, impacts would remain **Less than Significant**.

- d) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project is located on an existing road. Widening of Valley Boulevard would not cause exacerbated risks related to landslides, unstable slopes, increased runoff, or flooding after a wildfire. There are no major surface water features within the Project area, and the Project would not alter the drainage pattern of the existing runoff conveyance channel that is within the Project area in a way that would result in increased erosion or sedimentation or impede flood flows. Impacts would be **Less than Significant**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented by the City and contractor to minimize exacerbated wildfire risk during construction:

- WF-1:** The contractor shall prepare a Traffic Management Plan that includes a Project schedule with specific information on when vehicle restrictions during construction including if/when limitation to fire equipment access would occur.
- WF-2:** The contractor shall prepare a Construction Fire Protection Plan (FPP) and Fuel Modification Plan approved by the Fire Marshal of the City of Menifee Fire Department. The FPP shall evaluate and describe construction activities on or adjacent to vegetated areas such as utility relocation that may be subject to increased fire hazard risk. The FPP shall also implement fire safety measures during such construction activities in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 15B and California Public Resources Code Section 4442.

WF-3: Hot work (welding, cutting, or any activity that involves open flames or produces sparks) shall cease during Red Flag Warning periods declared by the National Weather Service.

WF-4: The contractor shall prepare an Emergency Plan that includes emergency operational procedures for wildland fires, EMS emergencies, and flood emergencies that identifies ingress and egress during construction.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to wildfire with implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to wildfire beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Operation of the completed Project would not have potential to degrade the quality of the environment or threaten wildlife or plant communities. However, temporary short-term construction of the Project would have the potential to degrade the quality of the existing environment. Potential impacts from Project construction have been identified related to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation, and Tribal Cultural Resources. However, mitigation measures have been developed to reduce all impacts to a **Less than Significant** level.

Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-17** would reduce impacts to biological resources to a less than significant level. The potential for discovery or disturbance of historical, archaeological, human remains, TCRs, or paleontological resources is not anticipated; however, implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** and **COA-GEO-1** would result in less than significant impacts by ensuring that appropriate protocol is followed. Project impacts to Hazards and Hazardous Waste primarily consist of temporary impacts during to construction of the Project. These impacts would be less than significant through implementation and incorporation of **HAZ-1** through **HAZ-4**.

Implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures would reduce the level of all Project-related impacts during construction to less than significant levels. As an Project with independent utility, the construction and operation of the Project would not

have cumulative impacts associated with any other projects within the Project area or vicinity. Therefore, impacts are considered **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

- b) **Less Than Significant.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(h) states that a lead agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a project is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of a project must therefore be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, or other current projects, and probable future projects.

Currently, there are a few proposed projects in the general project vicinity: the City has ongoing and planned land use development and roadway connections as part of the Cimmaron Ridge Specific Plan, the East Municipal Water District recently constructed a desalination plant that has been in operation since summer 2022 along with ongoing storm drain facilities projects, and Riverside County recently completed construction on the Salt Creek Trail Project, a recreational trail that is now in operation. While all these projects are occurring within close proximity to each other, each of these projects have their own independent utility, funding sources, and schedule. Implementation of any of these projects does not change the scope, nature, or impacts of the other projects. Each project will provide an independent and complete facility, meaning that none of the projects are dependent on the others to be completely functional and used by the public. As they are independent of each other, all the projects can be developed based on their specific needs and community input to create truly useful and community enhancing facilities.

Furthermore, while all these projects are occurring within close proximity to each other, based on review of preliminary and available concepts for these projects, they do not share impacts to the same resources, which could be considered cumulative impacts. Each project will provide an independent and complete facility, and under CEQA will be required to analyze impacts specific to each project. All potential significant impacts identified for this Project would be addressed with the identified avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures to reduce any potential significant impacts to a less than significant level. Additionally, as this Project is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, the cumulative impacts related to VMT are considered to be less than significant. No cumulative effects are anticipated because no resources would be adversely affected by the Project, or the Project effects would be localized and of limited extent. Therefore, the Project is considered to have a **Less than Significant Impact** relating to cumulatively considerable effects.

- c) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** The Project would not cause significant adverse effects to human beings, either directly or indirectly with mitigation incorporated. Potential impacts have been identified related to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire. All potentially significant impacts have been reduced to a less than significant level by the following avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures related to individual resource-specific impacts:

Standard Conditions of Approval

COA-CUL-1 through COA-CUL-9 (Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources)
COA-GEO-1 (Geology and Soils)

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Measures **AQ-1** through **AQ-4** (Air Quality)

Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-17** (Biological Resources)

Measures **GEO-1** (Geology and Soils)

Measures **HAZ-1** through **HAZ-4** (Hazards and Hazardous Materials)

Measure **TRA-1** (Transportation)

Measure **WF-1** through **WF-4** (Wildfire)

Mitigation Measures

Measures **BIO-6** (Biological Resources)

Measures **NOI-1** (Noise)

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

Please see individual sections for related measures.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated relating to the mandatory findings of significance with incorporation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to mandatory findings of significance beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

List of Preparers

The following is a list of persons who participated in the Initial Study or prepared technical studies for this project.

City of Meniffee

Diego Guillen, P.E., Project Manager, Capital Improvement Program

Carlos Geronimo, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer, Capital Improvement Program

Ryan Fowler, AICP, Principal Planner, Community Development Department

Dokken Engineering

Sarah Holm, Environmental Manager. B.S. in Environmental Science; 15 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Environmental Oversight

Zach Liptak, Senior Environmental Planner. B.S. in Environmental Science; 15 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Environmental Oversight

Ken Chen, Associate Environmental Planner. B.S. in Community Development and Regional Development; 8 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Environmental Lead and Noise Study Report

Michelle Campbell, Senior Environmental Planner. M.A. in Archaeology; 20 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Cultural Resources Memorandum

Hanna Sheldon, Associate Environmental Planner. B.S. in Animal Science; 3 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Biological Resources Report

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Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
Cultural Resources				
COA-CUL-1 Human Remains: If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to Public Resource Code § 5097.98(b) remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted within the period specified by law (24 hours). Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the "most likely descendant." The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in PRC § 5097.98.	City and Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	
COA-CUL-2 Non-Disclosure of Location Reburials: It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or associated grave goods shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r), parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r).	City and Contractor	Prior to, During, and Post Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	
COA-CUL-3 Inadvertent Archeological Find: If during ground disturbance activities, unique cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological report(s) and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to Project approval, the following procedures shall be followed. Unique cultural resources are defined, for this condition only, as being multiple artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its sacred or cultural importance as determined in consultation with the Native American Tribe(s). a) All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resources shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the developer, the archaeologist, the tribal representative(s) and the Community Development Director to discuss the significance of the find. b) At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and after consultation with the tribal representative(s) and the archaeologist, a decision shall be	City and Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<p>made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resources.</p> <p>c) Grading or further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties as to the appropriate mitigation. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area and will be monitored by additional Tribal monitors, if needed.</p> <p>d) Treatment and avoidance of the newly discovered resources shall be consistent with the Cultural Resources Management Plan and Monitoring Agreements entered into with the appropriate tribes. This may include avoidance of the cultural resources through Project design, in-place preservation of cultural resources located in native soils and/or re-burial on the Project property so they are not subject to further disturbance in perpetuity as identified in Non-Disclosure of Reburial Condition.</p> <p>e) If the find is determined to be significant and avoidance of the site has not been achieved, a Phase III data recovery plan shall be prepared by the Project archeologist, in consultation with the Tribe, and shall be submitted to the City for their review and approval prior to implementation of the said plan.</p> <p>f) Pursuant to Calif. Pub. Res. Code § 21083.2(b) avoidance is the preferred method of preservation for archaeological resources and cultural resources. If the landowner and the Tribe(s) cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for the archaeological or cultural resources, these issues will be presented to the City Community Development Director for decision. The City Community Development Director shall make the determination based on the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to archaeological resources, recommendations of the Project archeologist and shall take into account the cultural and religious principles and practices of the Tribe. Notwithstanding any other rights available under the law, the decision of the City Community Development Director shall be appealable to the City Planning Commission and/or City Council.</p>				
<p>COA-CUL-4 Cultural Resources Disposition: In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during the course of grading (inadvertent discoveries), the following procedures shall be carried out for final disposition of the discoveries:</p> <p>a) One or more of the following treatments, in order of preference, shall be employed with the tribes. Evidence of such shall be provided to the City of Menifee Community Development Department:</p>	City and Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<p>i. Preservation-In-Place of the cultural resources, if feasible. Preservation in place means avoiding the resources, leaving them in the place where they were found with no development affecting the integrity of the resources.</p> <p>ii. Reburial of the resources on the Project property. The measures for reburial shall include, at least, the following: Measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts in perpetuity. Reburial shall not occur until all legally required cataloging and basic recordation have been completed, with an exception that sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains are excluded. Any reburial process shall be culturally appropriate. Listing of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the confidential Phase IV report. The Phase IV Report shall be filed with the City under a confidential cover and not subject to Public Records Request.</p> <p>iii. If preservation in place or reburial is not feasible then the resources shall be curated in a culturally appropriate manner at a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence of curation in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that subject archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid, shall be provided by the landowner to the City. There shall be no destructive or invasive testing on sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains. Results concerning finds of any inadvertent discoveries shall be included in the Phase IV monitoring report.</p>				
<p>COA-CUL-5 Archaeologist Retained: Prior to issuance of a grading permit the Project applicant shall retain a Riverside County qualified archaeologist to monitor all ground disturbing activities in an effort to identify any unknown archaeological resources.</p> <p>The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall manage and oversee monitoring for all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of each portion of the Project site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, mass or rough grading, trenching, stockpiling of materials, rock crushing, structure demolition and etc. The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources in coordination with any required special interest or tribal monitors.</p>	City	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<p>The developer/permit holder shall submit a fully executed copy of the contract to the Community Development Department to ensure compliance with this condition of approval. Upon verification, the Community Development Department shall clear this condition.</p> <p>In addition, the Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Consulting Tribe(s), the contractor, and the City, shall develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) in consultation pursuant to the definition in Assembly Bill (AB) 52 to address the details, timing and responsibility of all archaeological and cultural activities that will occur on the Project site. A consulting tribe is defined as a tribe that initiated the AB 52 tribal consultation process for the Project, has not opted out of the AB 52 consultation process, and has completed AB 52 consultation with the City as provided for in Cal Pub Res Code § 21080.3.2(b)(1) of AB 52. Details in the Plan shall include:</p> <p>a) Project grading and development scheduling;</p> <p>b) The Project archeologist and the Consulting Tribes(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the City, the construction manager and any contractors, and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the Project following the initial Training must take the Cultural Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the Project archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as-needed basis;</p> <p>c) The protocols and stipulations that the contractor, City, Consulting Tribe(s) and Project archaeologist will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural resources discoveries, including any newly discovered cultural resource deposits that shall be subject to a cultural resources evaluation.</p>				
<p>COA-CUL-6 Native American Monitoring (Pechanga): Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified</p>	City and Contractor	Prior to and during Construction	City of Menifee Community	

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
tribal monitor(s) from the Pechanga Band of Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.			Development Department	
COA-CUL-7 Native American Monitoring (Soboba): Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.	City	Prior to and during Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	
COA-CUL-8 Native American Monitoring (Agua Caliente): Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.	City	Prior to and during Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	
COA-CUL-9 Prior to Final Occupancy Archeology Report - Phase III and IV: Prior to final inspection, the developer/permit holder shall prompt the Project Archeologist to submit two (2) copies of the Phase III Data Recovery report (if required for the Project) and the Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report that complies with the Community Development Department's requirements for such reports. The Phase IV report shall include evidence of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the pre-grade meeting. The Community Development Department shall review the reports to determine adequate mitigation compliance. Provided the reports are adequate,	City	After Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
the Community Development Department shall clear this condition. Once the report(s) are determined to be adequate, two (2) copies shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California Riverside (UCR) and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the Consulting Tribe(s) Cultural Resources Department(s).				
Geology and Soils				
<p>COA-GEO-1 Paleontological Resource Impact Monitoring Program (PRIMP): This site is mapped as having a high potential for paleontological resources (fossils) at shallow depth. Therefore, PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF GRADING PERMITS:</p> <p>The permittee shall retain a qualified paleontologist approved by the City of Menifee to create and implement a Project-specific plan for monitoring site grading/earthmoving activities which exceed 5 feet in depth in native sedimentary.</p> <p>The Project paleontologist retained shall review the approved Tentative Tract Map and shall conduct any pre-construction work necessary to render appropriate monitoring and mitigation requirements as appropriate. These requirements shall be documented by the Project paleontologist in a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP). This PRIMP shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to issuance of a Grading Permit.</p> <p>Information to be contained in the PRIMP, at a minimum and in addition to other industry standards and Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Project paleontologist shall participate in a pre-construction project meeting with development staff and construction operations to ensure an understanding of any mitigation measures required during construction, as applicable. b) Paleontological monitoring of earthmoving activities will be conducted on an as-needed basis by the Project paleontologist during all earthmoving activities that may expose sensitive strata. Earthmoving activities in areas of the Project area where previously undisturbed strata will be buried but not otherwise disturbed will not be monitored. The Project paleontologist or his/her assignee will have the authority to reduce monitoring once he/she determines the probability of encountering fossils has dropped below an acceptable level. c) If the Project paleontologist finds fossil remains, earthmoving activities will be diverted temporarily around the fossil site until the remains have been evaluated and recovered. Earthmoving will be allowed to proceed through the site when the 	City	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Community Development Department	

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<p>Project paleontologist determines the fossils have been recovered and/or the site mitigated to the extent necessary.</p> <p>d) If fossil remains are encountered by earthmoving activities when the Project paleontologist is not on-site, these activities will be diverted around the fossil site and the Project paleontologist called to the site immediately to recover the remains.</p> <p>e) If fossil remains are encountered, the fossiliferous rock will be recovered from the fossil site and processed to allow for the recovery of smaller fossil remains. Test samples may be recovered from other sampling sites in the rock unit if appropriate.</p> <p>f) Any recovered fossil remains will be prepared to the point of identification and identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible by knowledgeable paleontologists. The remains then will be curated (assigned and labeled with museum* repository fossil specimen numbers and corresponding fossil site numbers, as appropriate; placed in specimen trays and, if necessary, vials with completed specimen data cards) and catalogued, and associated specimen data and corresponding geologic and geographic site data will be archived (specimen and site numbers and corresponding data entered into appropriate museum repository catalogs and computerized databases) at the museum repository by a laboratory technician. The remains will then be accessioned into the museum* repository fossil collection, where they will be permanently stored, maintained, and, along with associated specimen and site data, made available for future study by qualified scientific investigators.</p> <p>*The City of Menifee must be consulted on the repository/museum to receive the fossil material prior to being curated.</p> <p>g) A qualified paleontologist shall prepare a report of findings made during all site grading activity with an appended itemized list of fossil specimens recovered during grading (if any). This report shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to building final inspection as described elsewhere in these conditions.</p> <p>h) All reports shall be signed by the Project paleontologist and all other professionals responsible for the report's content (e.g., Professional Geologist, Professional Engineer, etc.), as appropriate. Two wet-signed original copies of the report shall be submitted directly to the Community Development Department along with a</p>				

Standard Conditions of Approval for Native American Cultural Resource Compliance	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
copy of this condition, deposit-based fee and the grading plan for appropriate case processing and tracking.				

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
Air Quality				
AQ-1: The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations related to air quality, including air pollution control district and air quality management district regulations and local ordinances.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
AQ-2: Construction of the project would comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Rule 403—Fugitive Dust.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
AQ-3: The construction contractor shall implement control measures to reduce emissions of NOX, ROG, and PM10. The contractor shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize idling time to 5 minutes when construction equipment is not in use, unless per engine manufacturer's specifications or for safety reasons more time is required. To the extent practicable, manage operation of heavy-duty equipment to reduce emissions such as maintaining heavy-duty earthmoving, stationary and mobile equipment in optimum running conditions. Use electric equipment when feasible. Properly maintain equipment according to manufacturers' specifications. 	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
Biological Resources				
BIO-1: Every individual working on the Project will attend a biological awareness training session delivered by the Project biologist. This training session will include information regarding the biological resources occurring within the Project area, the importance of avoiding impacts to these resources, and pertinent environmental permit requirements that will be implemented/observed by construction personnel.	City and Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-2: Prior to the start of construction activities, the Project limits within proximity to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat will be marked with high visibility Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into sensitive habitat communities.	Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-3: Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into Project design and Project management to minimize impacts on the environment including erosion and the release of pollutants (e.g. oils, fuels): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed soils and material stockpiles would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the Project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities; 	City and Contractor	Prior to and During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion All vehicle and equipment fueling/maintenance would be conducted outside of any sensitive habitat; All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction. 				
BIO-4: Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will remain outside of sensitive habitat (coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland).	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-5: A chemical spill kit will be kept onsite and available for use in the event of a spill.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
<p>BIO-7: If Parry's spineflower is identified within the temporary impact area, the species will be protected in place with ESA fencing, where feasible. ESA fence installation will be completed under the direction of the Project biologist.</p> <p>Parry's spineflower is not a State or Federally listed species and take authorization is not required. However, this species is covered under the Western Riverside MSHCP. Therefore, if the species is discovered within the Project impact area, the species will be protected in place, where feasible, and Avoidance and Minimization Measure BIO-7 will be implemented.</p>	City and Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-8: Prior to grading or other ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist shall survey all potential nesting vegetation within and adjacent to the site for nesting coastal California gnatcatcher according to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2019 survey protocol guidelines. The City of Menifee (City) shall impose conditions of approval on future grading permits requiring focused surveys to be conducted prior to ground disturbance or discing activities. A minimum of 3 (3) surveys shall be conducted at least one week apart to determine presence/absence of coastal California gnatcatcher. Surveys shall be conducted by the Designated Biologist at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of project activities. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate. Written and mapped qualitative descriptions of plant communities (including dominant species and habitat quality) on and adjacent to the area surveyed will also be provided with survey results to USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), within 45 days	City and Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<p>following the field surveys, prior to ground disturbing activities. The results of the focused surveys shall be provided to the City, CDFW, and USFWS for review and approval prior to commencement of ground disturbing or discing activities.</p> <p>If feasible, clearing and grubbing within coastal sage scrub habitat will occur outside of coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>) breeding season (March 1 to August 15). In the event that the focused surveys do not identify the presence of California gnatcatcher, habitat has been confirmed to be unoccupied by California gnatcatcher, and MM BIO-9 has been completed, then ground disturbance or discing may occur during the nesting season (i.e., between March 1 and August 15). In the event that the focused surveys identify the presence of California gnatcatchers, then ground disturbance or discing of the occupied areas shall be prohibited between March 1 and August 15. If an active coastal California gnatcatcher nest is discovered, the nest site shall be fenced with a buffer of a minimum of 500 feet in all directions, and this area shall not be disturbed until after the next becomes inactive, the young have fledged, the young are no longer being fed by the parents, the young have left the area, as confirmed by a qualified biologist. If a nest is suspected, but not confirmed, the Designated Biologist shall establish a disturbance-free buffer until additional surveys can be completed, or until the location can be inferred based on observations. If a nest is observed, but thought to be inactive, the Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest for one hour (for hours for raptors during the non-breeding season) prior to approaching the nest to determine status. The Designated Biologist shall use their best professional judgement regarding the monitoring period and whether approaching the nest is appropriate. Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with these requirements and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by City of Menifee staff or its designee to confirm compliance.</p>				
<p>BIO-9: To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, site preparation activities (such as ground disturbance, construction activities, and/or removal of trees and vegetation) for all implementing development and infrastructure projects shall be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the nesting season. Within 3 days prior to vegetation removal or initial ground disturbance during the nesting bird season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey and burrowing owl survey of the Project area will be conducted by a Qualified biologist. The survey area will include the project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint within 3 days prior to initiation of activity. Within 72 hours of the nesting bird survey, all areas surveyed by the</p>	City	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<p>biologist will be cleared by the Contractor or a supplemental nesting bird survey is required. The survey results shall be provided to the City's Planning Department. The Project Applicant shall adhere to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant shall designate a biologist (Designated Biologist) experienced in: identifying local and migratory bird species of special concern; conducting bird surveys using appropriate survey methodology; nesting surveying techniques, recognizing breeding and nesting behaviors, locating nests and breeding territories, and identifying nesting stages and nest success; determining/establishing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures; and monitoring the efficacy of implemented avoidance and minimization measures. 2. A project-specific habitat assessment and pre-construction survey for burrowing owl in accordance with the March 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities. 3. Pre-activity field surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of Project activities. Surveys shall encompass all suitable areas including trees, shrubs, bare ground, burrows, cavities, and structures. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the Project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate. <p>If no nesting birds or burrowing owls are observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin.</p> <p>If an active nest or nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist and approved by the City of Menifee, based on their best professional judgement and experience. The Contractor will immediately stop work in the buffer area and is prohibited from conducting work (as determined by the Qualified biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the Project biologist determines the young have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for topography, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type.</p>				

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<p>All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest at the onset of project activities, and at the onset of any changes in such project activities (e.g., increase in number or type of equipment, change in equipment usage, etc.) to determine the efficacy of the buffer. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution of indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest. Work can resume within these avoidance areas when no other active nests are found. Upon completion of the survey and nesting bird monitoring, a report shall be prepared and submitted to the City for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.</p> <p>If burrowing owl are observed within the survey area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CDFW shall be sent written notification within 48 hours of detection of burrowing owls. •A Burrowing Owl Plan shall be submitted to the City, CDFW, and USFWS within two weeks of detection for review and approval and no Project activity will continue within 1,000 feet of the burrowing owls until CDFW approves the Burrowing Owl Plan. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, relocation, monitoring, minimization, and/or mitigation actions. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites and details on proposed buffers if avoiding the burrowing owls or information on the adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls for relocation. If no suitable habitat is available nearby for relocation, details regarding the creation and funding of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls shall also be included in the Burrowing Owl Plan. The City will implement the Burrowing owl Plan following CDFW and USFWS review and approval. •If active borrowing owl nests are identified at the project site during the preconstruction survey, the Project applicant shall not commence activities until no sign is present that the burrows are being used by adult or juvenile owls or following CDFW approval of a Burrowing Owl Plan as described above. If owl presence is difficult to determine, a qualified biologist shall monitor the burrows with motion-activated trail cameras for at least 24 hours to evaluate burrow occupancy. The onsite qualified biologist will verify the nesting effort has finished according to methods identified in the Burrowing Owl Plan. 				

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •If ground-disturbing activities occur, but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey shall again be necessary to minimize the possibility burrowing owl have not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If burrowing owls are found in the subsequent survey, the same coordination described above shall be necessary. •A final report shall be prepared by a qualified biologist documenting the results of the burrowing owl surveys and detailing avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures implemented. The final report will be submitted to the City and CDFW within 30 days of completion of the survey and burrowing monitoring for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping. 				
BIO-10: Vehicle traffic and construction equipment will observe a 15-mile-per-hour speed limit while on the Project site.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-11: All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures that are stored in the Project area for one or more overnight periods will be either securely capped prior to storage or thoroughly inspected by the contractor and/or the Project biologist for special status wildlife species or other animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way.	City and Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-12: To prevent inadvertent entrapment of special status wildlife species or other animals during construction, the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager will ensure that all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than six inches deep are provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals by the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-13: The work period within the Project area will be restricted to periods of low rainfall (less than ¼-inch per 24-hour period) and periods of dry weather (with less than a 50% chance of rain). The Permittee and contractor will monitor the National Weather Service 72-hour forecast for the Project area. No work will occur during a dry-out period of 24 hours after the above referenced wet weather.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-14: All food-related trash will be disposed of in closed containers and will be removed from the Project area daily. Construction personnel will not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the Project area.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
BIO-15: The contractor will not apply rodenticide or herbicide within the Project area during construction.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-16: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
BIO-17: Prior to arrival at the Project site and prior to leaving the Project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds will be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.	Contractor	Prior to and during Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
Geology and Soils				
GEO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training will be given to all onsite Project staff prior to construction. The WEAP training will be developed by a qualified cultural resources specialist.	City and Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
HAZ-1: The contractor shall prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCCP) prior to the commencement of construction activities. The SPCCP shall include information on the nature of all hazardous materials that shall be used on-site. The SPCCP shall also include information regarding proper handling of hazardous materials, and clean-up procedures in the event of an accidental release. The phone number of the agency overseeing hazardous materials and toxic clean-up shall be provided in the SPCCP.	Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
HAZ-2: As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, the potential exists for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. If soil contaminated by hazardous waste is discovered during construction, proper hazardous waste handling and emergency procedures under 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 262 and Division 4.5 of Title 22 California Code of Regulations shall be followed.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
HAZ-3: If any yellow pavement striping is to be removed during construction, it is recommended that removal requirements for yellow striping and pavement marking materials be performed in accordance with Caltrans Standard Special Provisions for REMOVE TRAFFIC STRIPE AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
HAZ-4: Any leaking transformers observed during the course of the Project should be considered a potential polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) hazard. A detailed inspection of individual electrical transformers was not conducted for this Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. However, should leaks from electrical transformers (that will either remain	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	

Avoidance and Minimization Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
within the construction limits or will require removal and/or relocation) be encountered during construction, the transformer fluid should be sampled and analyzed by qualified personnel for detectable levels of PCB's. Should PCBs be detected, the transformer should be removed and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency. Any stained soil encountered below electrical transformers with detectable levels of PCBs should also be handled and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency.				
Transportation				
TRA-1: Temporary impacts to traffic flow as a result of construction activities would be minimized through signage and a traffic control plan.	City and Contractor	Prior to and During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
Wildfire				
WF-1: The contractor shall prepare a Traffic Management Plan that includes a Project schedule with specific information on when vehicle restrictions during construction including if/when limitation to fire equipment access would occur.	Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
WF-2: The contractor shall prepare a Construction Fire Protection Plan (FPP) and Fuel Modification Plan approved by the Fire Marshal of the City of Menifee Fire Department. The FPP shall evaluate and describe construction activities on or adjacent to vegetated areas such as utility relocation that may be subject to increased fire hazard risk. The FPP shall also implement fire safety measures during such construction activities in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 15B and California Public Resources Code Section 4442.	Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
WF-3: Hot work (welding, cutting, or any activity that involves open flames or produces sparks) shall cease during Red Flag Warning periods declared by the National Weather Service.	Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
WF-4: The contractor shall prepare an Emergency Plan that includes emergency operational procedures for wildland fires, EMS emergencies, and flood emergencies that identifies ingress and egress during construction.	Contractor	Prior to Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	

Mitigation Measures	Responsibility for Implementation	Timing	Responsibility for Monitoring	Monitor (Signature Required) (Date of Compliance)
Biological Resources				
BIO-6: Following the completion of construction, all temporarily impacted areas will be re-graded to pre-construction conditions and final erosion control measures will be implemented, including a seed mix of native, local species.	Contractor	Post Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	
Noise				
NOI-1: Rubberized and/or open grade asphalt will be used on Valley Boulevard from Murrieta Road to approximately 300 feet north of Chambers Avenue.	City and Contractor	During Construction	City of Menifee Public Works	

Appendix B Air Quality Road Construction Emissions Model

Appendix C Valley Boulevard Widening Project
Biological Resources Technical
Report (2022)

Biological Resources Technical Report
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee



Prepared for:
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October 2022

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Table of Contents

Summary	i
Chapter 1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Project History	1
1.2 Project Description	1
Chapter 2. Study Methods	10
2.1 Regulatory Requirements	10
2.2 Studies Required	12
2.3 Agency Coordination and Professional Contacts	13
2.4 Limitations That May Influence Results	13
Chapter 3. Results: Environmental Setting	14
3.1 Description of the Existing Physical and Biological Conditions.....	14
3.2 Regional Species and Habitats and Natural Communities of Concern.....	28
Chapter 4. Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts, and Mitigation	39
4.1 Habitats and Natural Communities of Special Concern.....	39
4.2 Special Status Plant Species	45
4.3 Special Status Wildlife Species.....	45
Chapter 5. Conclusions and Regulatory Determinations	52
5.1 Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary.....	52
5.2 California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary.....	52
5.3 Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary	52
5.4 Invasive Species.....	52
Chapter 6. References	53

List of Tables

Table 1. Species Observed	15
Table 2. Special Status Species with the Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity	29
Table 3. Project Impacts to Sensitive Habitats	39

List of Figures

Figure 1. Project Vicinity	2
Figure 2. Project Location	3
Figure 3. Project Features.....	4
Figure 4. Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area.....	17
Figure 5. Project Impacts	41

Appendices

Appendix A. USFWS Species List
Appendix B. CNDDDB Species List
Appendix C. CNPS Species List
Appendix D. Results of the 2022 Focused CAGN Surveys
Appendix E. Results of Focused SKR Trapping Survey
Appendix F. NRCS Soil Survey Report
Appendix G. Representative Photos

List of Acronyms

BMPs	Best Management Practices
BRTR	Biological Resources Technical Report
BSA	Biological Study Area
CAGN	Coastal California Gnatcatcher
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFG	California Fish and Game
City	City of Menifee
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MSHCP	Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Project	Valley Boulevard Widening Project
RCHCA	Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
SKR	Stephen's Kangaroo Rat
SSC	Species of Special Concern
U.S.C.	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Summary

The City of Menifee (City) proposes to widen the existing Valley Boulevard roadway between Murrieta Road to Chambers Avenue and extend the roadway through two existing gaps, providing local residents with one continuous route, as part of the Valley Boulevard Widening Project (Project).

This Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR) provides a review and evaluation of the potential impacts to threatened, endangered, listed, or special status species and protected habitat resources as a result of the proposed Project. Field surveys were conducted within the Biological Study Area (BSA), which encompasses the Project area, with an additional approximate 300-foot buffer to capture adjacent sensitive resources.

During a biological survey conducted on May 10, 2022, the following vegetation communities were observed within the BSA: non-native grassland, coastal sage scrub, runoff conveyance channel, barren and developed/urban.

For the purposes of this analysis, special status species includes any species that has been afforded special recognition by Federal, State or local resources agencies (e.g., United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) etc.), and/or resource conservation organizations (e.g., California Native Plant Society (CNPS)). Literature research, habitat assessments, and biological surveys determined that the BSA is potentially suitable for the following species of special concern (SSC) listed by CDFW: western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Dulzura pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*) and California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*). Additionally, one rare plant species has the potential to occur within the BSA: Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*).

Additionally, special status species surveys determined that the Federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN, *Poliophtila californica californica*) and the Federally and State threatened Stephen's kangaroo rat (SKR, *Dipodomys stephensi*) are present within the BSA. During the focused SKR surveys, the northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), a SSC, was also identified within the BSA. Given that the Project is within the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) area, impacts to listed species, under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), will be covered through the MSHCP. This BRTR includes species-specific avoidance and minimization measures to avoid impacts to listed species to the greatest extent feasible.

The proposed Project is subject to compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); the City represents the Project proponent and, therefore, is the CEQA lead agency.

Chapter 1. Introduction

This Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR) was prepared for the Valley Boulevard Widening Project and describes the existing biological environment within the Biological Study Area (BSA) of the proposed Project.

1.1 Project History

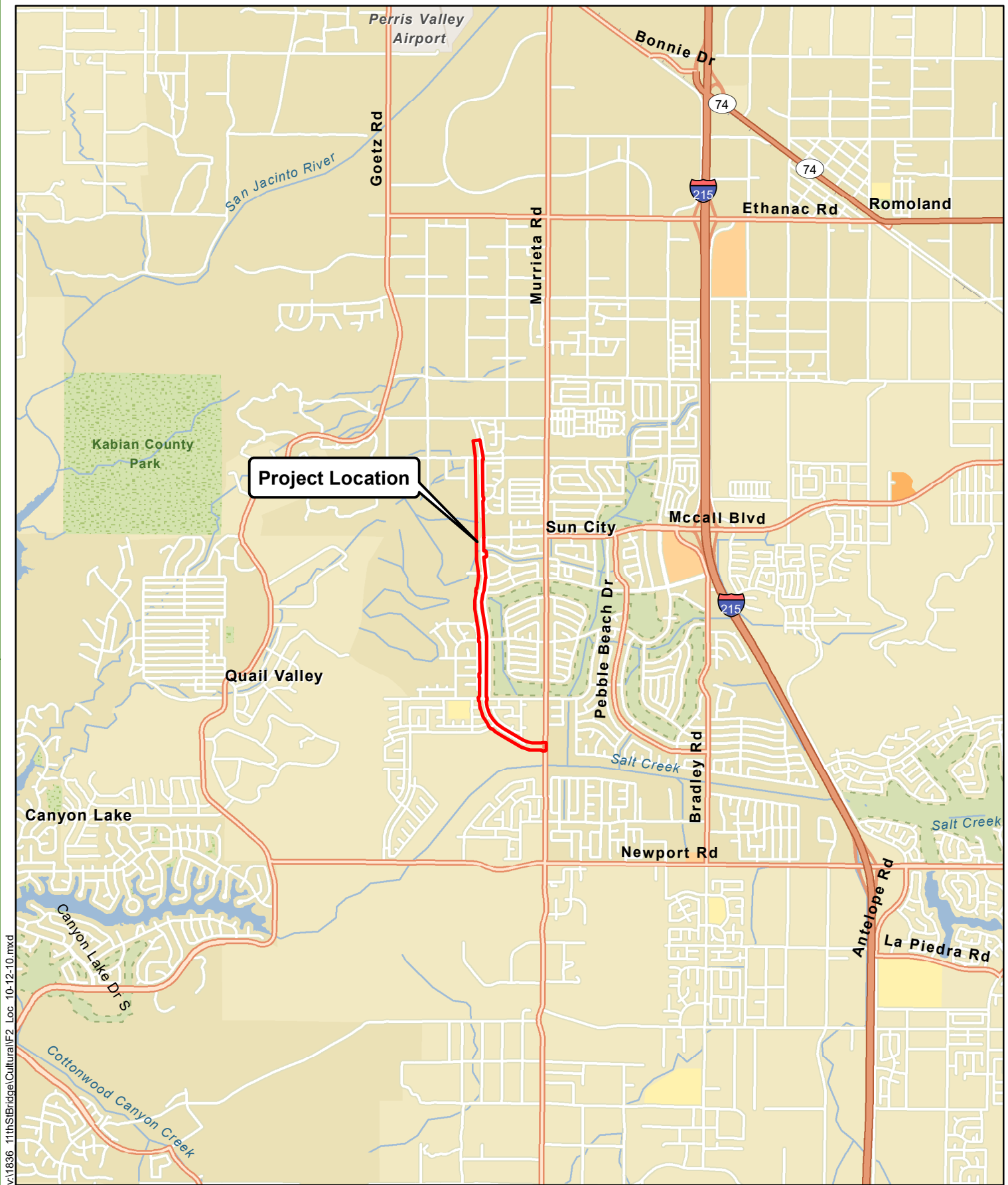
The City of Menifee (City), located within southwestern Riverside County, California is one of the region's fastest growing communities with over 90,000 residents. Over the last decade, development has been continuously occurring around the vicinity of Valley Boulevard. The growth is consistent with adopted local land use plans that govern the development types in the area. The City's general plan and its component plans reflect the residential growth in Menifee. The additional increase of commercial and residential development will result in additional traffic congestion and connectivity issues for residents living in the north area of the City.

Valley Boulevard from Chambers Avenue to Murrieta Road is a two-lane rural corridor located in the northwestern quadrant of the City. The road is discontinued at two locations: north of McCall Boulevard and at the Eastern Municipal Water District Desalter Facility at Murrieta Road. The Project will address this issue by closing these roadway gaps.

1.2 Project Description

The City proposes to widen the existing Valley Boulevard roadway between Murrieta Road to Chambers Avenue and extend the roadway through two existing gaps, providing local residents with one continuous route (Figure 1. Project Vicinity; Figure 2. Project Location; Figure 3. Project Features). The Project will include raised medians, turn lanes, and seven new traffic signals at major intersections. Additionally, the Project will enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. Existing pavement will be rehabilitated throughout the Project area, while existing curb ramps and sidewalks will be improved as needed. Landscaping will be incorporated within the median and along the sidewalks throughout the corridor to preserve and enrich the visual quality of the City, enhancing the sense of place and character of the existing neighborhoods. Where applicable, soundwalls will be incorporated along the roadway to shield existing and future residences from significant traffic noise impacts. The Project is consistent with the City's adopted General Plan Circulation Element and meets the City's strategic goal for an interconnected and safe community.

The purpose of the Project is to improve Valley Boulevard to mitigate existing and future traffic issues, provide roadway connectivity, promote job growth, enhance the overall roadway network and quality, and provide all residents with a safe and complete roadway infrastructure that encourages other modes of active transportation throughout the Project limits.



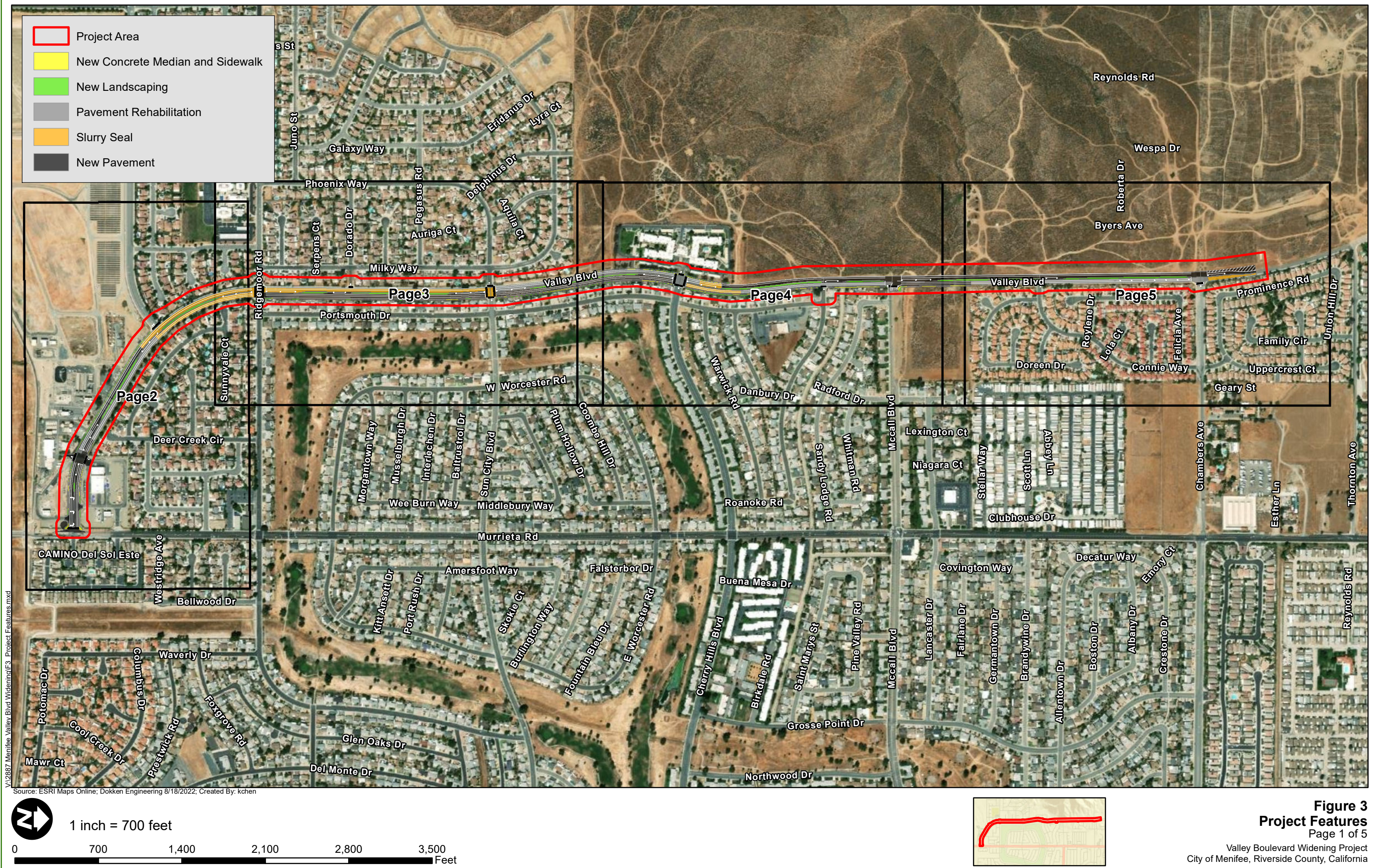
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Source: ESRI World Street Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/20/2022; Created By: hsheldon



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Figure 2
Project Location
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California





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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 8/18/2022; Created By: kchen



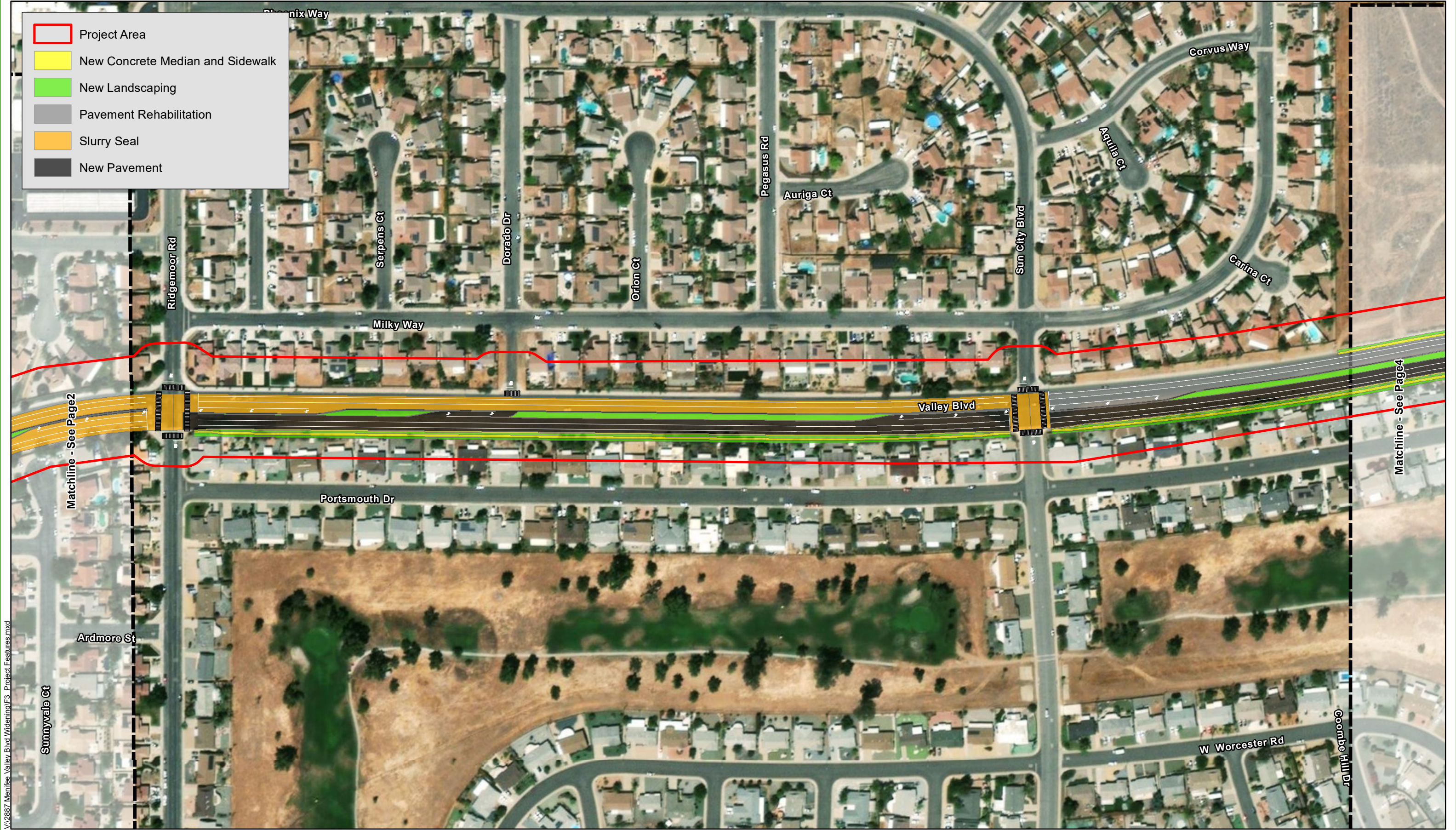
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0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet



Figure 3
Project Features
Page 2 of 5

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 8/18/2022; Created By: kchen

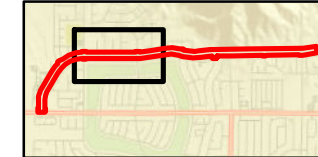



Figure 3
Project Features
 Page 3 of 5
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

-  Project Area
-  New Concrete Median and Sidewalk
-  New Landscaping
-  Pavement Rehabilitation
-  Slurry Seal
-  New Pavement



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 8/18/2022; Created By: kchen



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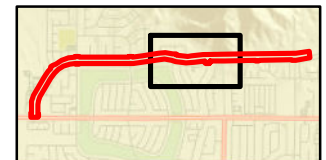
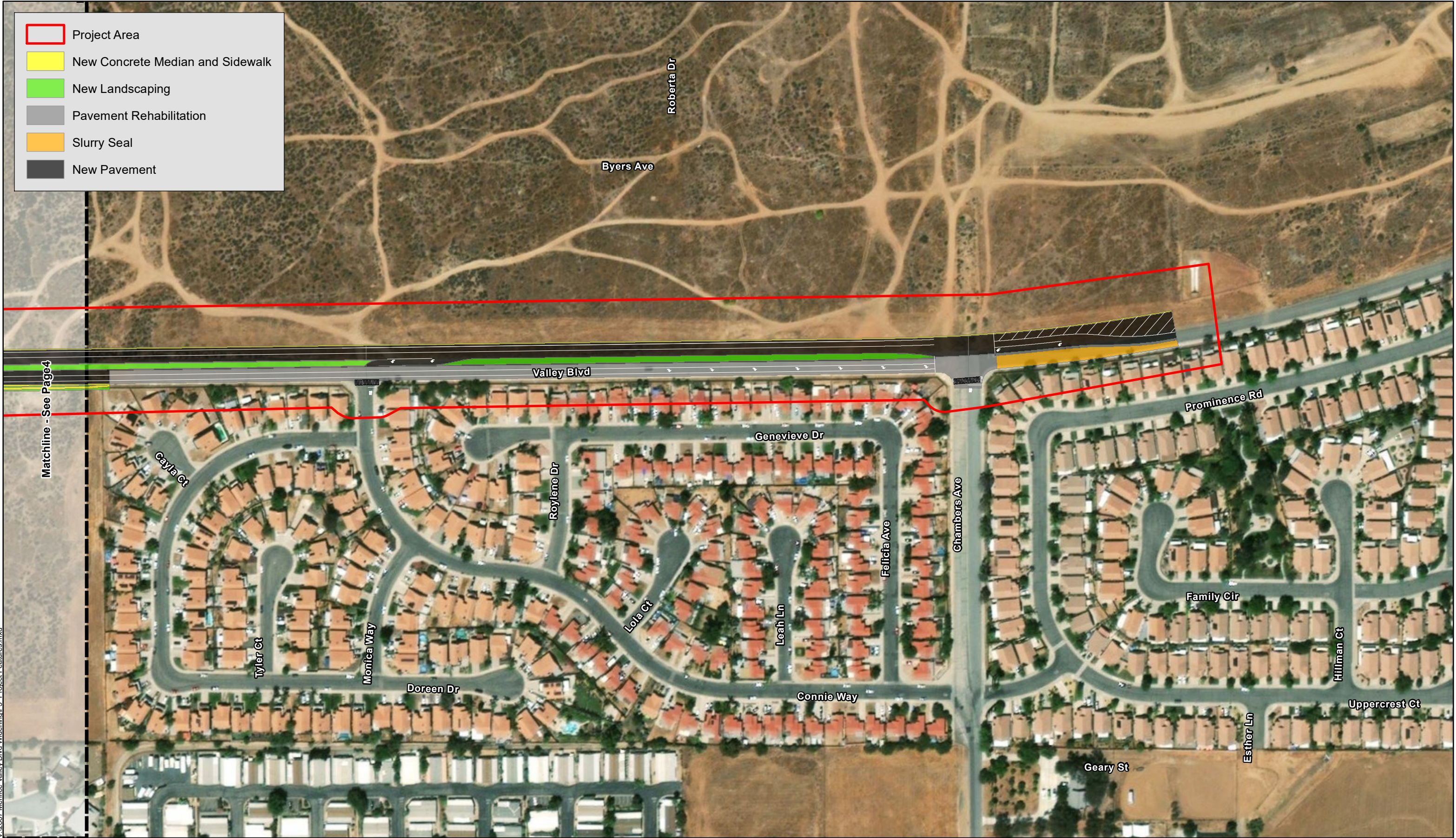


Figure 3
Project Features
 Page 4 of 5
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 8/18/2022; Created By: kchen



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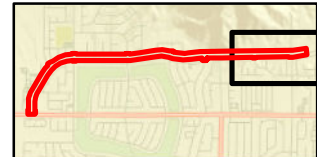


Figure 3
Project Features
Page 5 of 5

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

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Chapter 2. Study Methods

2.1 Regulatory Requirements

This section describes the general Federal, State, and local plans, policies, and laws that are relevant to biological resources within the BSA. Applicable approvals that would be required before construction of the Project are provided in Chapter 5.

2.1.1 Federal Regulations

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides an interdisciplinary framework for environmental planning by Federal agencies and contains action-forcing procedures to ensure that Federal agency decision makers take environmental factors into account. NEPA applies when a Federal agency proposes an action, grants a permit, or agrees to fund or otherwise authorize any other entity to undertake an action that could possibly affect environmental resources.

Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 (16 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1531 et seq.) provides for the conservation of endangered and threatened species listed pursuant to Section 4 of the Act (16 U.S.C. section 1533) and the ecosystems upon which they depend. These species and resources have been identified by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Compliance under FESA, for impacts to Federally listed species, will occur through the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

Executive Order 13112: Prevention and Control of Invasive Species

Executive Order (EO) 13112 (signed February 3, 1999) directs all Federal agencies to prevent and control introductions of invasive species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. The EO requires consideration of invasive species in NEPA analyses, including their identification and distribution, their potential impacts, and measures to prevent or eradicate them.

2.1.2 State Regulations

California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resource Code § 21000 et seq) is a statute that requires State and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. CEQA applies to certain activities of State and local public agencies. A public agency must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "project." A project is an activity undertaken by a public agency or a private activity which must receive some discretionary approval (meaning that the agency has the authority to deny the requested permit or approval) from a government agency which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment.

Proposals for physical development in California are subject to the provisions of CEQA, as are many governmental decisions which do not immediately result in physical development (such as adoption of a general or community plan). Development projects which require a discretionary governmental approval will require at least some environmental review pursuant to CEQA, unless

an exemption applies. The environmental review required imposes both procedural and substantive requirements. A project may not be approved as submitted if feasible alternatives or mitigation measures are able to substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of the project. The City is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed Project.

California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (California Fish and Game (CFG) Code Section 2050 et seq.) requires CDFW to establish a list of endangered and threatened species (Section 2070) and to prohibit the incidental taking of any such listed species except as allowed by the Act (Sections 2080-2089). In addition, CESA prohibits take of candidate species (under consideration for listing).

CESA also requires CDFW to comply with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) when evaluating incidental take permit applications (CFG Code Section 2081(b) and California Code Regulations, Title 14, section 783.0 et seq.), and the potential impacts the project or activity for which the application was submitted may have on the environment. CDFW's CEQA obligations include consultation with other public agencies which have jurisdiction over the proposed project or activity (California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.5(d)(3)). CDFW cannot issue an incidental take permit if issuance would jeopardize the continued existence of the species (CFG Code Section 2081(c); California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.4(b)). Compliance under CESA, for impacts to State listed species, will occur through the MSHCP.

Section 3503 and 3503.5: Birds and Raptors

CFG Code Section 3503 prohibits the destruction of bird nests and Section 3503.5 prohibits the killing of raptor species and destruction of raptor nests. Trees and shrubs are present in and adjacent to the Project area and could contain active nests during the nesting bird season.

Section 3513: Migratory Birds

CFG Code Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory non-game bird as designated in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) or any part of such migratory non-game bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the MBTA.

2.1.3 Local Regulations

Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Statewide, multi-jurisdictional comprehensive habitat conservation planning efforts were initiated under the umbrella of the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) Act of 1991. The NCCP program creates a process for the issuance of Federal and State permits and other authorizations under FESA and CESA, and the state's NCCP. The Riverside County NCCP region is composed of two subregional multiple habitat/multiple species planning programs. The BSA is located within the MSHCP, Sun City, Menifee Valley Plan Area, and therefore the Project must comply with the MSHCP.

The MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan (HCP) focused on the conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The goal of the plan is to maintain biological and ecological diversity through conservation of open space and 146 covered species. The MSHCP serves as an HCP pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of FESA, as well as a NCCP under the NCCP Act of 2001. The approval of the MSHCP and

execution of the Implementing Agreement by the wildlife agencies allows participating jurisdictions to authorize “take” of all plant and wildlife species covered by the MSHCP. Therefore, compliance with the requirements of Section 6.0 of the MSHCP is intended to provide full mitigation under CEQA, FESA, and CESA for impacts to the species and habitats covered by the MSHCP pursuant to agreements with the resource agencies. The Project is within the MSHCP Plan Fee Area and outside of Criteria Cells, therefore a joint project review under the Regional Conservation Authority is not required. (MSHCP 2003).

2.2 Studies Required

2.2.1 Literature Search and Field Reviews

Prior to biological surveys, literature research was conducted through the following government databases: the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) species list tool (Appendix A. USFWS Species List), the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; Appendix B. CNDDDB Species List) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (Appendix C. CNPS Species List) to identify habitats and special status species having the potential to occur within the BSA.

Prior to field surveys, the BSA was defined as the Project impact area plus an approximate 300-foot buffer to facilitate construction access and capture potential biological resources adjacent to Project limits. Habitat assessment and analysis of historic occurrences were conducted to determine the potential for each species to occur within the BSA.

2.2.2 Survey Methods, Personnel and Survey Dates

On May 10, 2022, Dokken Engineering biologists Hanna Sheldon and Clare Favro surveyed the Project BSA in order to document existing biological resources and evaluate habitat that may support special status species. Biological survey methods included walking meandering transects through the entire BSA, observing vegetation communities, compiling notes on observed flora and fauna, and assessing habitat features that may support sensitive plants and wildlife. All plant and wildlife observations were recorded and are discussed in Chapter 3.

Additionally, focused coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) surveys were conducted by USFWS-permitted 10(a)(1)(A) biologists Christine Tischer and Shannan Shaffer, in accordance with the *1997 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines* published by the USFWS (USFWS 1997). A total of six surveys were conducted from April 22, 2022, through May 27, 2022, within a 500-foot buffer from Project limits. A total of 30 CAGN were detected within the survey area, including 8 breeding pairs (Appendix D. Results of the 2022 Focused CAGN Surveys).

Furthermore, focused SKR surveys were conducted by Dr. Philip Brylski, permitted under a CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit and a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) for SKR. Small mammal traps were deployed and checked from August 10, 2022, through August 13, 2022. Surveying was concentrated in the northern limits of the Project area, where there is suitable habitat for SKR. A total of 12 SKRs were identified within the survey area (Appendix E. Results of Focused SKR Trapping Survey).

2.3 Agency Coordination and Professional Contacts

2.3.1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 9, 2022, an official species list was obtained from the USFWS IPaC of Federally listed species that could occur in the vicinity of the Project (Appendix A).

2.3.2 California Department of Fish and Wildlife

On May 6, 2022, a list of species with potential to occur in the Project vicinity was obtained from CDFW's CNDDDB using a one-quadrangle search of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle Reedley (Appendix B).

2.3.3 California Native Plant Society

On May 6, 2022, a list of plant species with potential to occur in the Project vicinity was obtained from the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California using a one-quadrangle search of the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle Reedley (Appendix C).

2.4 Limitations That May Influence Results

Sensitive wildlife species with the potential to occur in the BSA may be cryptic (difficult to detect) or transient, migratory species. Because of this, the data collected for this BRTR represents a "snapshot" in time and may not reflect actual future conditions. The collection of biological field data is normally subject to environmental factors that cannot be controlled or reliably predicted. Consequently, the interpretation of field data must be conservative and consider the uncertainties and limitations imposed by the environment. However, due to the experience and qualifications of the consulting biologists involved in the surveys, this limitation is not expected to severely influence the results or substantially alter the findings.

Biological surveys were conducted in May, during the nesting bird season and beginning blooming season for most local plant species. No additional limitations were present that could influence the results of this document. All surveys were conducted during appropriate weather and temperature conditions.

Chapter 3. Results: Environmental Setting

3.1 Description of the Existing Physical and Biological Conditions

3.1.1 Study Area

The Project area, defined as the area of direct impacts, is approximately 61.7 acres. Prior to field surveys, the BSA was defined as the area required for Project activities, plus an approximate 300-foot buffer to account for adjacent biological resources and potential changes in Project design. From north to south, the BSA measures approximately 1.8 miles, and from east to west, the BSA ranges from approximately 230 feet to 970 feet at its widest point. The total area of the BSA is approximately 109.82 acres (Figure 4. Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area).

3.1.2 Physical Conditions

The BSA is located in the west portion of the City, approximately 1.46 miles west of Interstate 215. The northern portion of the BSA is located at Chambers Avenue and Valley Boulevard and extends south toward the intersection of Valley Boulevard and Murrieta Road. The BSA is partially within a developed residential area and partially within an undeveloped area. Riverside County experiences semi-arid climatic conditions including hot, dry summers and mild winters. The elevation of the BSA is approximately 1,500 feet above mean sea level. Soils within the BSA include the following:

- Arbuckle loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
- Domino silt loam, saline-alkali
- Escondido fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
- Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Garretson very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slope
- Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
- Lodo rocky loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, eroded
- Lodo rocky loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded
- Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Perkins gravelly loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes
- Ysidora gravelly very fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded

(Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) 2022; Appendix F. NRCS Soil Report).

3.1.3 Biological Conditions

Vegetation communities within the BSA include developed/urban, barren, non-native grassland, coastal sage scrub, and one runoff conveyance channel (Figure 4. Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area; Appendix G. Representative Photographs). Plant and wildlife species observed within the BSA during the May 2022 biological survey efforts were used to define habitat types based on composition, abundance, and cover (Table 1. Species Observed).

Table 1. Species Observed

Common Name	Scientific Name	Native (N)/Non-Native (X) [California Invasive Plant Council Invasive Rating]
Plant Species		
Bottlebush	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	X
Broom snakeweed	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	N
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum sp.</i>	N
California aster	<i>Symphyotrichum chilense</i>	N
California buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	N
California cholla	<i>Cylindropuntia californica</i>	N
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	N
Coastal goldenbush	<i>Isocoma menziesii</i>	N
Common stork's-bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	X - Limited
Compact brome	<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	X
Cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii ssp. fremontii</i>	N
Deerweed	<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	N
Turkey-mullein	<i>Croton setiger</i>	N
Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>	X
Fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia sp.</i>	N
Field Mustard	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	X - Limited
Freckled milkvetch	<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i>	N
Italian cypress	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	X
Black poui	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	X
Jimsonweed	<i>Datura sp.</i>	N
Maltese star-thistle	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	X - Moderate
Mexican fan palm	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	X - Moderate
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	X
Palo verde	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	X
Ripgut brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	X - Moderate
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola australis</i>	X
Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia sp.</i>	N
San Diego tarweed	<i>Paniculate tarplant</i>	N
Small wirelettuce	<i>Stephanomeria exigua</i>	N
Smallseed sandmat	<i>Euphorbia polycarpa</i>	N
Stinknet	<i>Oncosiphon pilulifer</i>	X
Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix sp.</i>	X
Tree tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	X - Moderate
Umbrellawort	<i>Mirabilis sp.</i>	N
Wild oat	<i>Avena fatua</i>	X - Moderate
Wildlife Species		
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	N
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypete anna</i>	N
California ground squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	N

Common Name	Scientific Name	Native (N)/Non-Native (X) [California Invasive Plant Council Invasive Rating]
Cassin's kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	N
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	N
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	N
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	N
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	N
Say's phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	N
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	N
Western meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	N

Developed/Urban

Developed and urban land within the BSA consists of paved roadways and lacks vegetation and sensitive biological resources. The main roadway within the Project area is Valley Boulevard; other connecting roadways include Chambers Avenue, McCall Boulevard, Cherry Hills Boulevard and Murrieta Road. Developed and urban habitat comprises approximately 49.09 acres (45%) of the BSA.

Barren

Barren land occurs within the western portion of the BSA and along portions of Valley Boulevard. Within the coastal sage scrub habitat, barren habitat consists of compacted dirt trails with few sparse patches of ruderal weedy vegetation, such as wild oat (*Avena fatua*) and ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*). Ruderal vegetation is minimal and does not provide sufficient habitat opportunities for wildlife. Due to the predominantly unvegetated, compacted land within these areas, the community is classified as barren. Barren land composes approximately 11.81 acres (11%) of the BSA.

Non-native Grassland

Non-native grassland is present within the western portion of the BSA, bordering coastal sage scrub habitat. The dominant species within the non-native grassland habitat include, wild oat, ripgut brome, Maltese star-thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*), and field mustard (*Brassica rapa*). Although non-native, this habitat community may be used for foraging habitat for a variety of species and several small mammal burrows were observed during the May 2022 biological survey. Non-native grassland makes up approximately 17.41 acres (15%) of the BSA.

Coastal Sage Scrub

Coastal sage scrub is the dominant vegetative community within the BSA, located west of Valley Boulevard. The dominant species within this community include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). This habitat community provides foraging and nesting habitat for listed species including, CAGN and SKR. Coastal sage scrub occupies approximately 31.48 acres (28%) of the BSA.

Runoff Conveyance Channel

The BSA contains approximately 365 linear feet of a runoff conveyance channel. The channel is concrete lined and does not provide any suitable habitat for wildlife. During the May 2022 biological survey, the runoff conveyance channel was determined to be a non-jurisdictional feature given its lack of connectivity to other water bodies. The runoff conveyance channel is owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control. The runoff conveyance channel only carries storm water runoff during high rain events. The runoff conveyance channel encompasses approximately 0.04 acres (<1%) of the BSA.

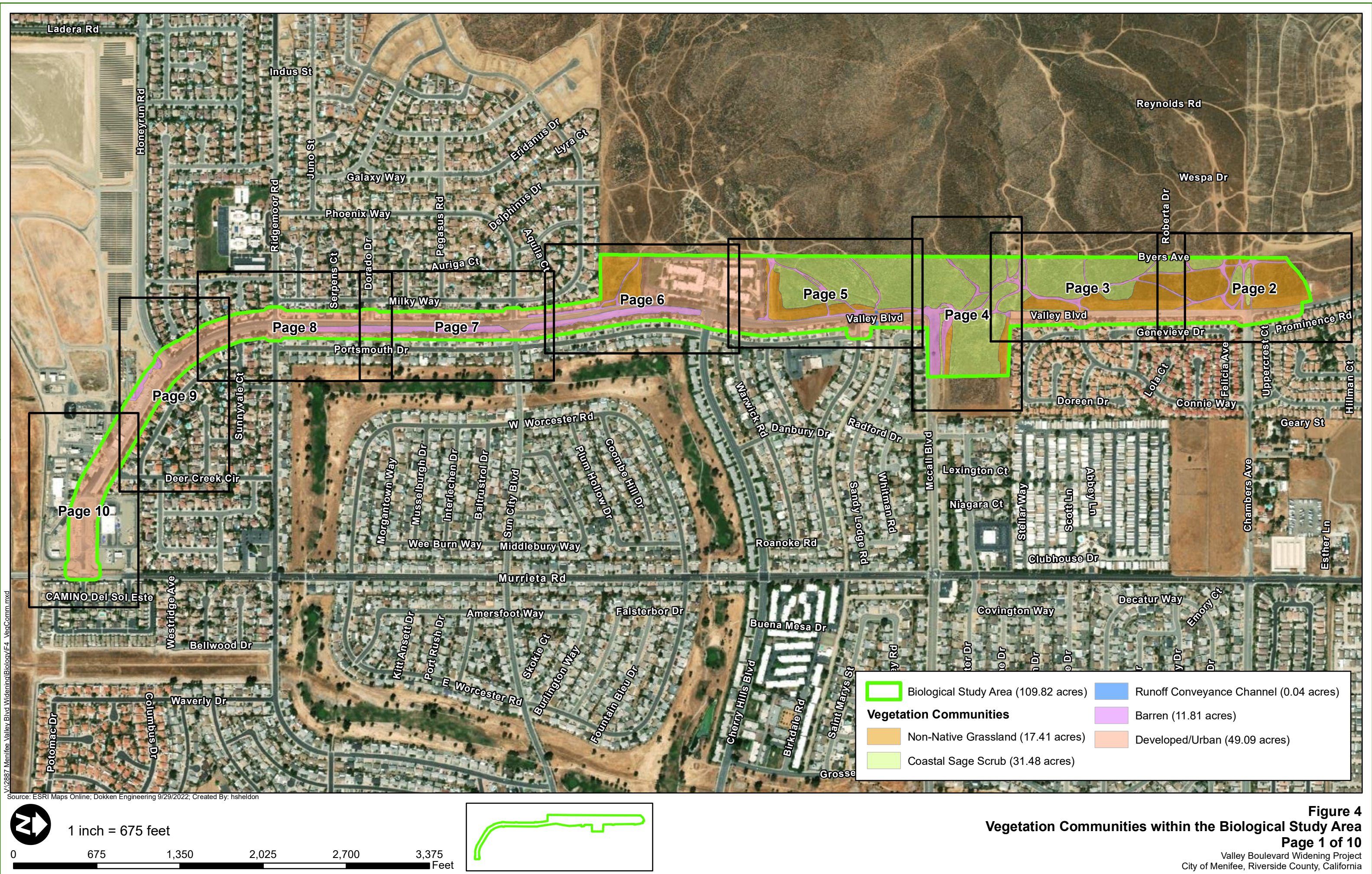
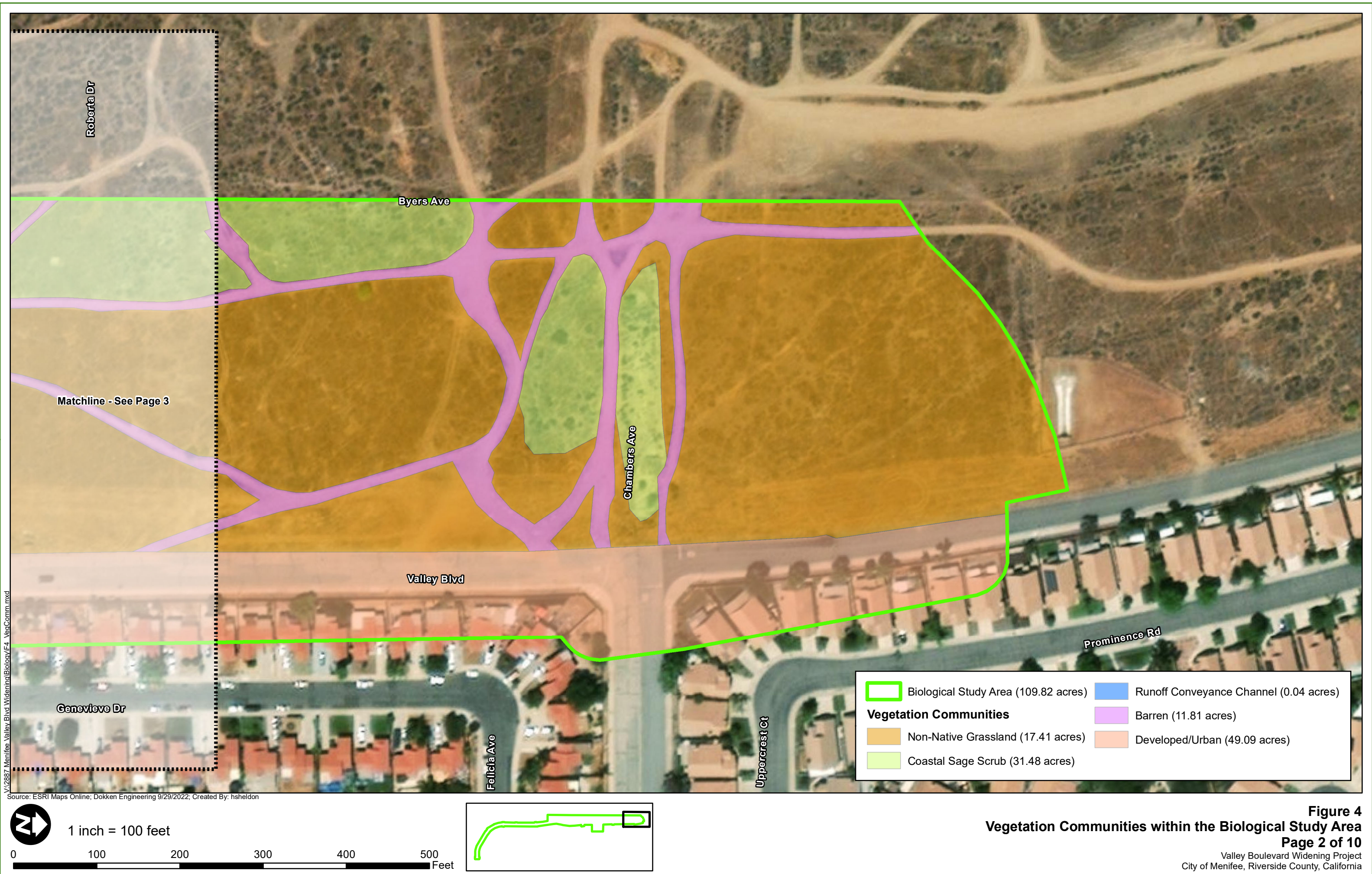
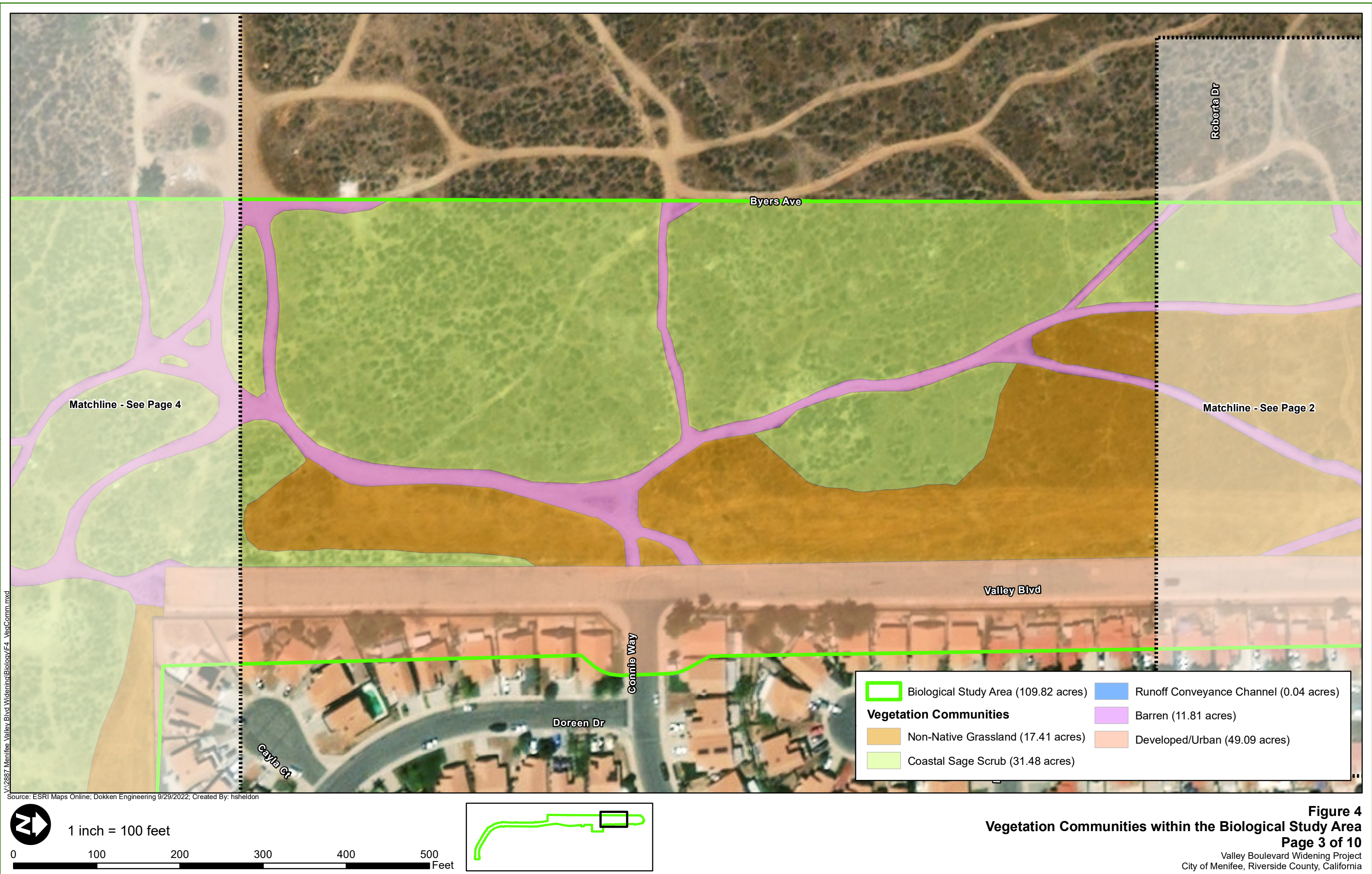


Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 1 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California





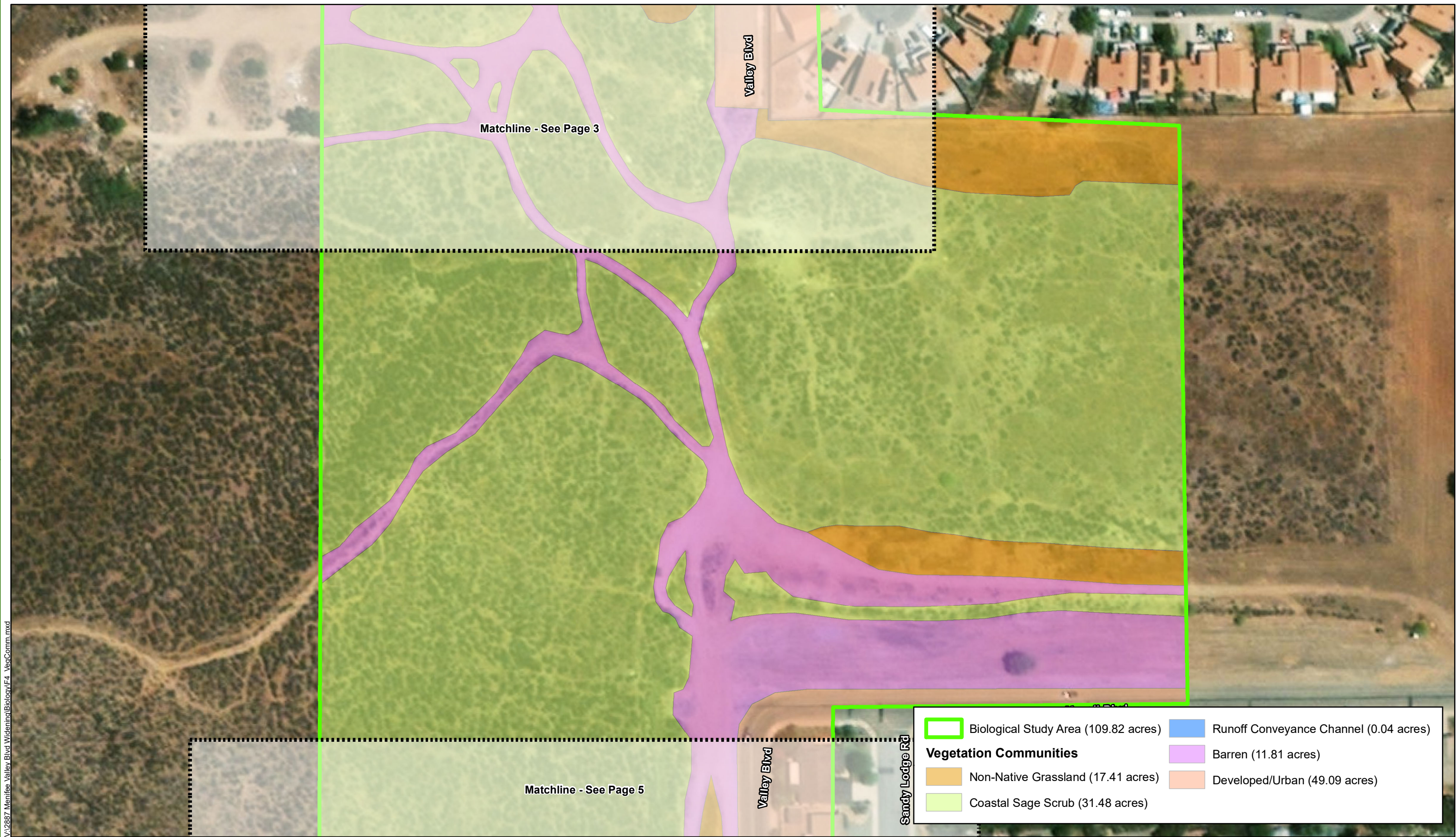
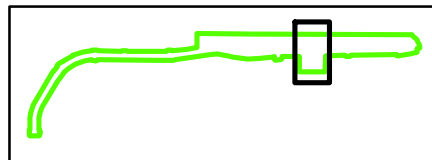
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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon



1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet



	Biological Study Area (109.82 acres)		Runoff Conveyance Channel (0.04 acres)
Vegetation Communities			
	Non-Native Grassland (17.41 acres)		Barren (11.81 acres)
	Coastal Sage Scrub (31.48 acres)		Developed/Urban (49.09 acres)

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 4 of 10

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



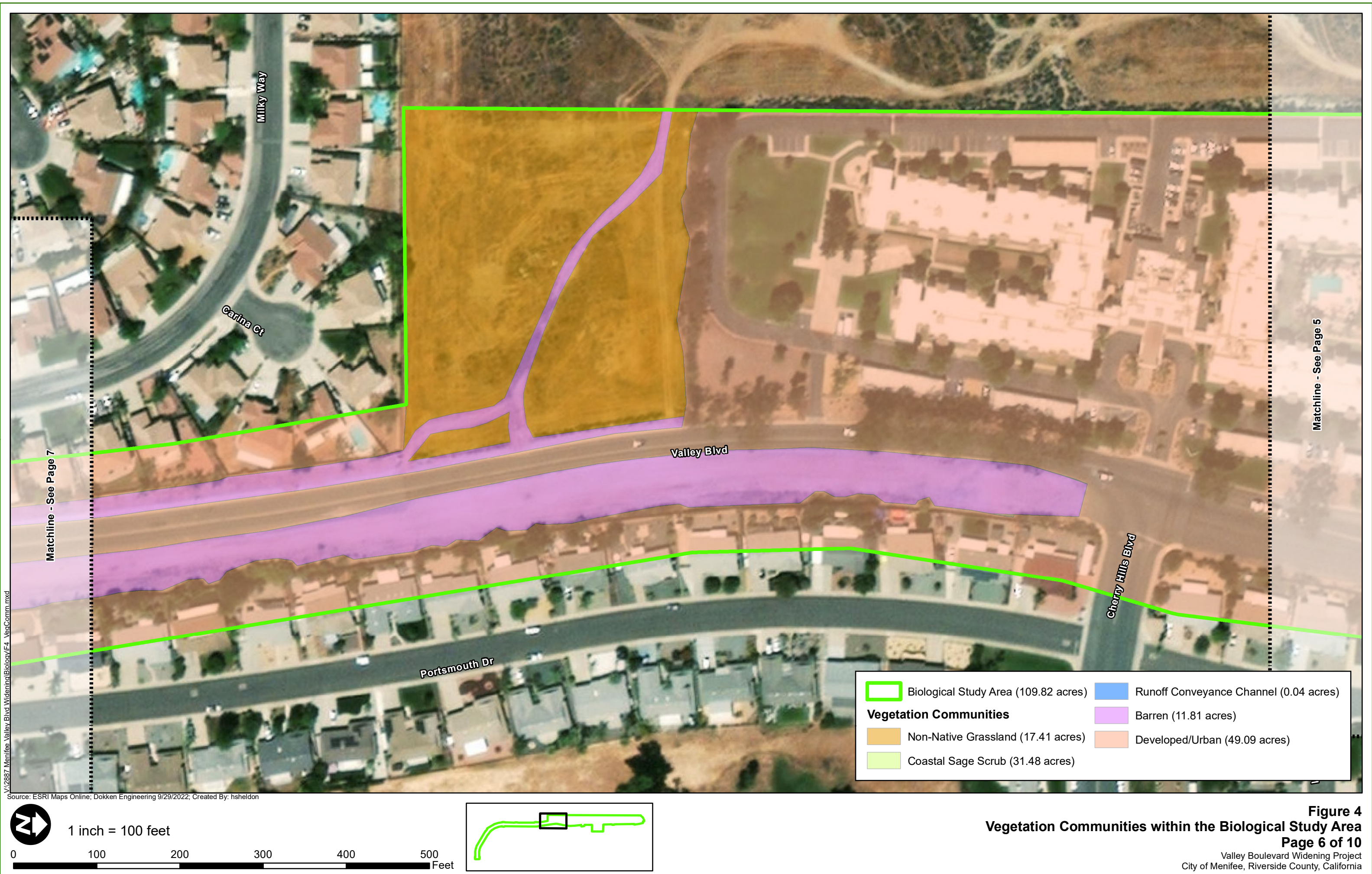
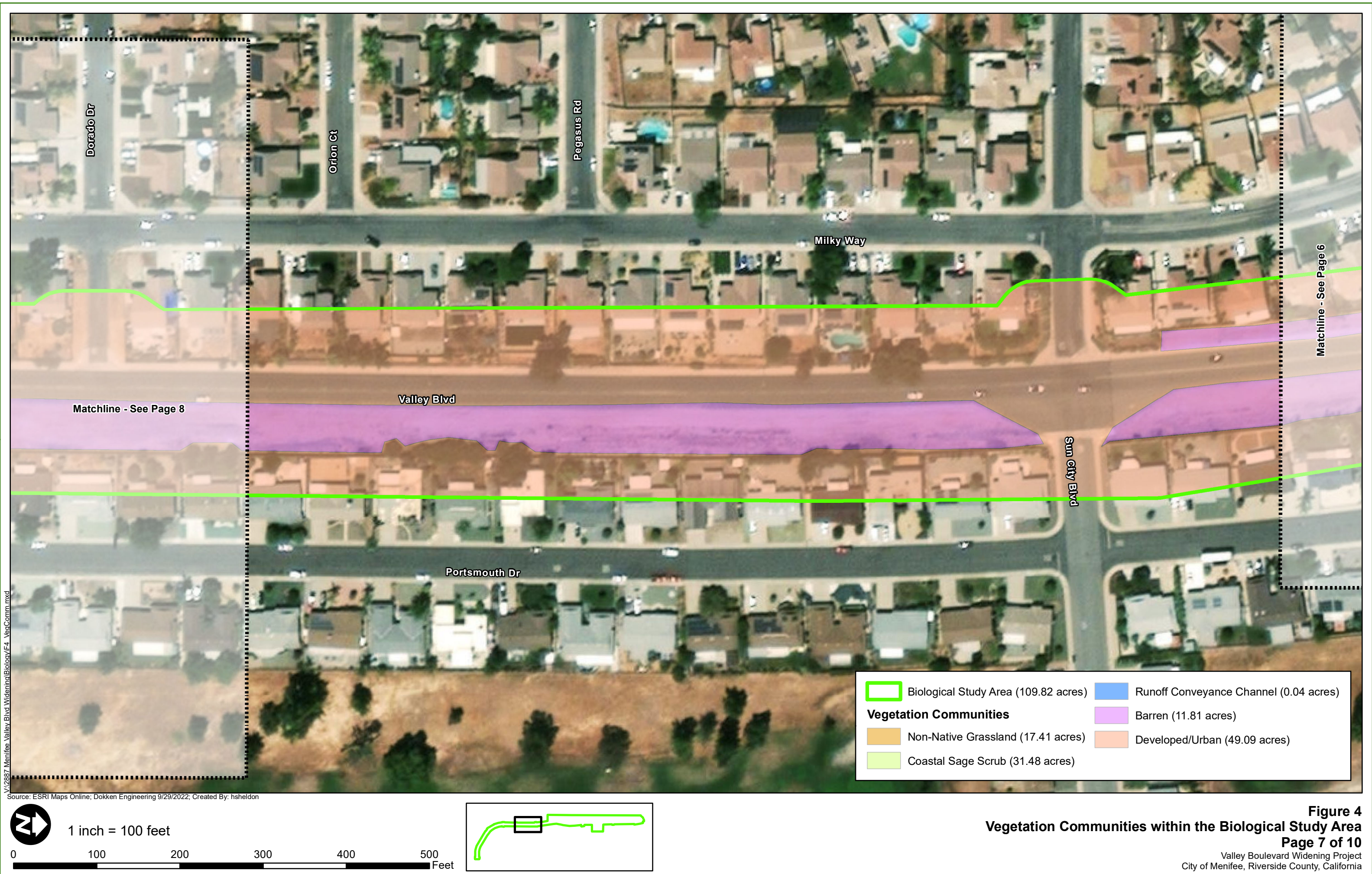


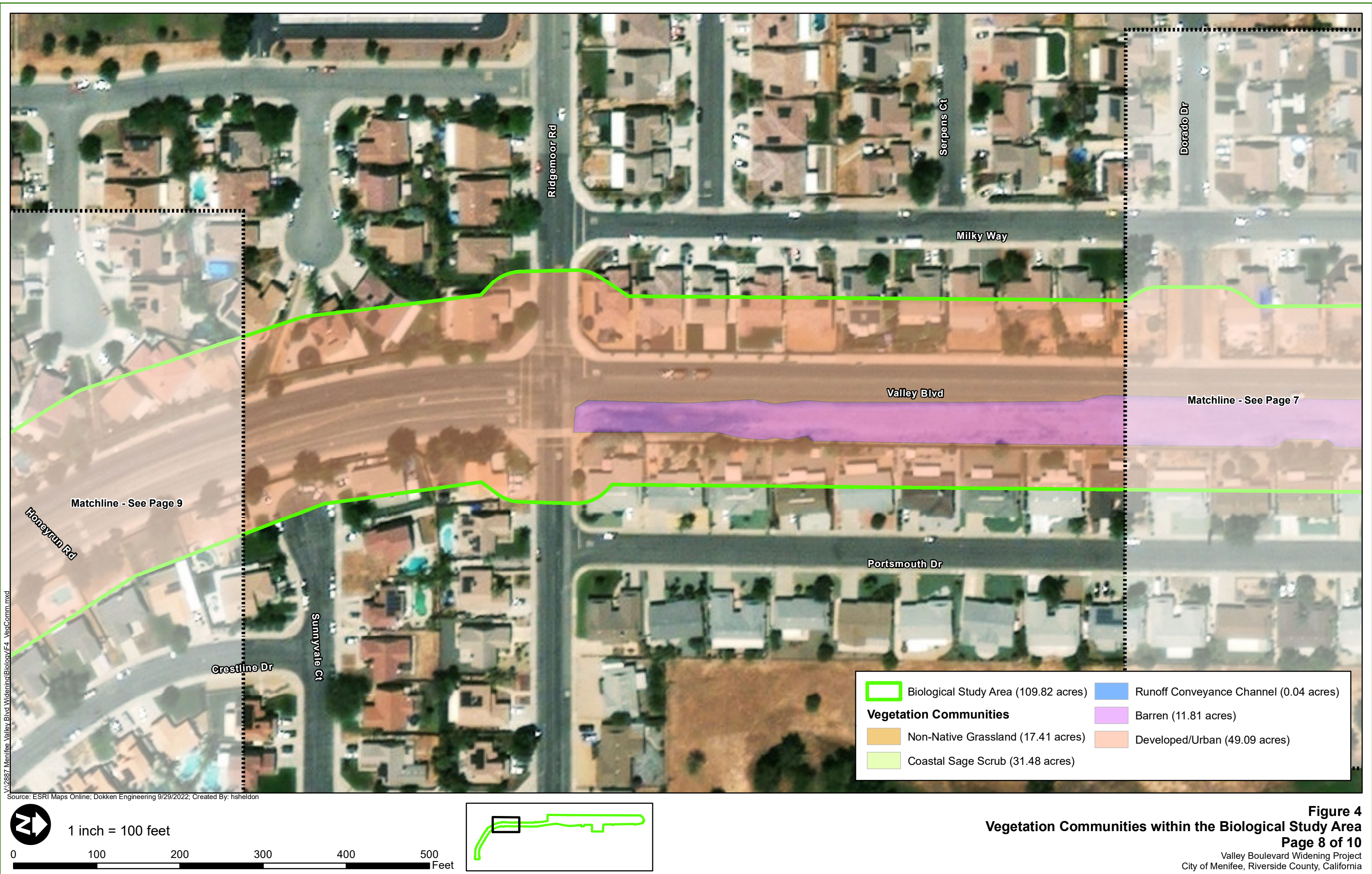
Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 6 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



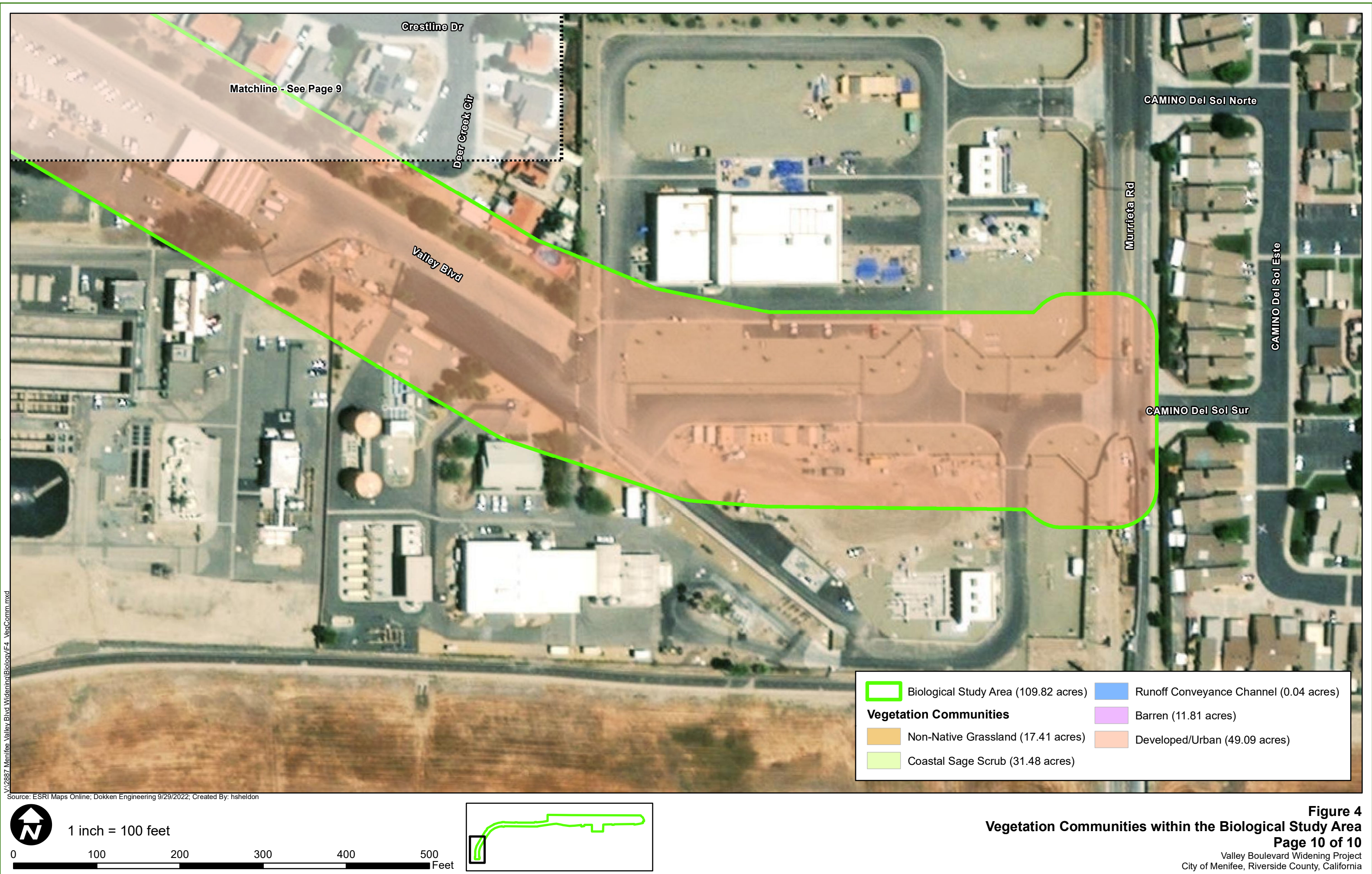
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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 7 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California







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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

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Wildlife

Wildlife observed within the BSA during the biological survey included common bird species, such as turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) and Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). Additionally, species-specific surveys determined that the Federally listed CAGN is known to occur within the Project limits, as well as the State and Federally listed SKR, and one species of special concern (SSC), the northwestern San Diego pocket mouse.

3.1.4 Habitat Connectivity

The CDFW Biogeographic Information & Observation System (CDFW 2022a) was reviewed to determine if the BSA is located within an Essential Connectivity Area. It was determined that the BSA is within an area of Terrestrial Connectivity Rank 1 – Limited connectivity opportunity. This ranking indicates that land use within the region, including urbanization, limits opportunities for habitat connectivity and no connectivity importance has been assigned to this region. Due to this low ranking and the given that the Project will close a gap within an existing roadway, implementation of the Project would not impact any existing habitat connectivity networks or results in further habitat fragmentation.

3.2 Regional Species and Habitats and Natural Communities of Concern

Plant and animal species have special status if they have been listed as such by Federal or State agencies or by one or more special interest groups, such as CNPS. Prior to the field survey, literature searches were conducted using USFWS IPaC, CDFW CNDDDB, and CNPS databases to identify regionally sensitive species with potential to occur within the BSA. Table 2. Special Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity provides the list of regional special status species returned by the database searches, describes the habitat requirements for each species, and states if the species was determined to have potential to occur within the BSA. There is one special status plant species and four special status wildlife species with the potential to occur in the Project's BSA. Additionally, there are three special status species present within the BSA: CAGN, SKR and northwestern San Diego pocket mouse.

Table 2. Special Status Species with the Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
Amphibian Species					
Western Spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: SSC	Inhabits open areas with sandy or gravelly soils including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sagescrub, chaparral, sandy washes, river floodplains, foothills and mountains. Species spends most of the time underground in burrows and only emerges between October and May during ample rainfall. A permanent or ephemeral body of water is required for breeding.	HP	Low to Moderate Potential: The BSA contains grassland and coastal sage scrub habitat preferred by the species. The BSA does not contain a permanent or ephemeral body of water required for breeding. However, the species may utilize burrows within the BSA. There are dozens of recent (< 20 years) CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 10 miles of the BSA and one occurrence within the BSA from 2003. Given potentially suitable habitat within the BSA and local recent occurrences, the species has a low to moderate potential of occurring within the BSA.
Avian Species					
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: SSC	Species inhabits arid, open areas with sparse vegetation cover such as deserts, abandoned agricultural areas, grasslands, and disturbed open habitats. Requires friable soils for burrow construction (Below 5,300 feet).	HP	High Potential: The BSA contains open arid areas, friable soil, and scrub habitat that are potentially suitable for the species. There are dozens of recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 5 miles of the BSA, the nearest one located within the BSA (2005). A population of the species has been documented on eBird utilizing areas along Honeyrun Road from 2013-2020, immediately west of Valley Boulevard. Inactive burrows were observed during a biological survey on May 10 th , 2022. Due to recent occurrences and potentially suitable habitat, there is a high potential the species occurs within the BSA.
Coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Fed: T State: -- CDFW: SSC	Inhabits arid washes, mesas, and slopes of coastal hills dominated by dense, low-growing, drought-	HP	Present: The BSA contains California sagebrush scrub and California buckwheat scrub that is suitable for the

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
				deciduous shrubs and subshrubs of coastal sage scrub. May also use chaparral, grassland, and riparian communities when adjacent to or intermixed with sage scrub vegetation. Breeds February through August (sea level-2,500 feet).		species. The BSA is partially within USFWS-designated critical habitat Unit 10 for the federally listed CAGN. During the protocol level CAGN surveys conducted in spring of 2022, 30 individuals were observed within and adjacent to the Project limits.
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: FP	-- -- FP	Inhabits rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert communities. Requires open terrain for hunting, often utilizing rolling foothills and mountain terrain, wide arid plateaus deeply cut by streams and canyons, open mountain slopes, and cliffs and rock outcrops, grasslands and early successional stages of forest and shrub habitats. Territory is estimated to average 36 mi ² in southern California and 48 mi ² in northern California. Nests on cliffs of all heights and in large trees in open areas; may reuse previous nest sites. Breeds from late January through August (0-11,500 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks streams, canyons, and mountain slopes that are potentially suitable for the species. The BSA does not contain suitable nesting habitat for the species, such as large trees and cliffs. The closest recent CNDDDB occurrence of this species is approximately 20 miles southeast of the BSA (2004). Due to the lack of suitable habitat, the species is presumed absent.
Least Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Fed: E State: -- CDFW: --	E -- --	Summer resident of southern California inhabiting low elevation riparian habitats in the vicinity of water and dry river bottoms. Prefers willows, baccharis, mesquite and other low, dense vegetation as nesting site. Forages in dense brush and occasionally treetops. The species is known to occur in all four southern California national forests, with the largest population in the Los Padres National Forest (below 2,000 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: While the BSA contains brush and scattered trees potentially suitable for nesting, it lacks water bodies and riparian habitat required by the species. The BSA is outside of designated Critical Habitat for the species. There are several recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 5 miles of the BSA, located along the riparian corridor of Canyon Lake. Given the lack of suitable riparian habitat and water sources, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: --	SSC	The species is associated with open canopied valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, valley foothill riparian, pinyon-juniper, juniper, desert riparian, and Joshua tree habitats. Inhabits open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. Rarely found in urbanized areas, but will inhabit open cropland. Nests are built on stable branches in densely-foliaged shrubs or trees. Breeds from March through May.	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks riparian, hardwood, and conifer habitat, and is located within an urbanized, residential area. There are several recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 10 miles of the BSA. The nearest occurrence is located approximately 5.4 miles east of the BSA (2007). However, due to the lack of suitable habitat within and adjacent to the BSA, the species is presumed absent.
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: --	E	Breeds in riparian habitats characterized by dense vegetation in proximity to open water or saturated soil. Species is associated with dense willow-covered islands and riparian habitats at elevations up to 8,000 feet. Often in proximity to rivers, swamps, lakes, reservoirs, and other wetlands. Historically, the species nested in native vegetation, but will also use thickets of non-native tamarisk and Russian olive. Breeds in April through August.	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain riparian habitat, rivers, or habitat communities that the species is associated with. Furthermore, there are no recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 25 miles of the BSA. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and lack of local occurrences, the species is presumed absent.
Crustacean Species						
Riverside fairy shrimp	<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: --	E	A Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego County vernal pool endemic species. Inhabits deep ephemeral vernal pools greater than 12 inches within chaparral, coastal sage scrub and grassland communities. Species requires pools filled with sufficient rainfall; emerges late in the season within warm waters.	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks vernal pools required by the species.

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	T -- --	In California, species inhabits portions of Tehama County, south through the Central Valley, and scattered locations in Riverside County and the Coast Ranges. Species is associated with smaller and shallower cool-water vernal pools approximately 6 inches deep and short periods of inundation. In the southernmost extremes of the range, the species occurs in large, deep cool-water pools. Inhabited pools have low to moderate levels of alkalinity and total dissolved solids. The shrimp are temperature sensitive, requiring pools below 50 F to hatch and dying within pools reaching 75 F. Young emerge during cold-weather winter storms.	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks vernal pools required by the species.
Invertebrate Species						
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	E -- --	Historically inhabited coastal sage scrub habitat in southern California and northern Baja California. Current distribution is limited to southwestern Riverside and San Diego Counties. Larvae associated with <i>Plantago erecta</i> or <i>Castilleja exserta</i> plants. Adults emerge in early to mid-spring.	A	Presumed Absent: While the BSA contains scrub habitat that is potentially suitable for the species, it does not contain <i>Plantago erecta</i> or <i>Castilleja exserta</i> which are the species primary larval host plant. The BSA is not within the designated Critical Habitat for the species. The closest recent CNDDB occurrence of this species is approximately 11 miles from the BSA. Due to the lack of suitable host plants, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.
Mammal Species						
Dulzura pocket mouse	<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Within San Diego and Riverside counties inhabits a variety of habitats particularly coastal scrub, chaparral	HP	Low to Moderate Potential: The BSA contains buckwheat and sagebrush

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
				and grasslands. Species occurs in brushy areas but may be attracted to grass-chaparral edges. The parent species (<i>C. californicus</i> ssp.) elevation range occurs from sea level to 7,900 feet and births April to July.		scrub that are potentially suitable for the species. The closest recent CNDDDB occurrence of the species is approximately 10.5 miles south of the BSA (2005). Due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat, the species has a low to moderate potential to occur within the BSA.
Los Angeles pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: SSC		The species inhabits Riversidean sage scrub, coastal sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, desert scrub, chaparral, grassland, playas, and vernal pools. Fine, sandy soils are required for burrow construction, preferably on sandy washes or areas of windblown sand. Breeding occurs between late spring through early fall and hibernation is believed to occur below ground from October to February (550-2,650 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA contains sagebrush and buckwheat scrub but lacks sandy washes or windblown sand preferred by the species. The closest recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species are approximately 11.3 miles north of the BSA. Due to the lack of preferred habitat and lack of local, recent occurrences, the species is presumed absent.
Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: SSC		Within San Diego and Riverside counties inhabits arid coastal and desert border areas of coastal scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland communities. Species strongly associated with rocky, gravelly or sandy substrates. Mainly prefers low growing vegetation or rocky outcrops around the sandy soils. Breeds March through May (0-6,000 feet).	HP	Present: The BSA contains sagebrush and buckwheat scrub that are potentially suitable for the species. Additionally, the species was identified within the BSA during protocol level SKR surveys.
San Bernardino kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	Fed: E State: CE CDFW: SSC		Species inhabits alluvial floodplains and adjacent upland habitat within San Bernardino, Menifee, and San Jacinto valleys. Prefers alluvial fan	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks habitat within alluvial fans, rivers or floodplains required by the species. The closest, most recent CNDDDB

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
				sage scrub habitat in river and floodplains. Primarily found on sandy loam substrate, suitable for burrow digging.		occurrences are approximately 17 miles northeast of the BSA. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and lack of local occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.
Southern grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: --	SSC	Species prefers alkali and desert scrub habitats with low to moderate shrub cover and friable soils. Found in arid desert habitat of the Mojave Desert and the southern Central Valley. Additional suitable habitats include succulent scrub, coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, low sage, bitterbrush, riparian, and wash habitats (but is uncommon in valley foothill and montane riparian communities). Breeds from May to July, but may begin as early as January under ideal habitat conditions.	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA is outside of the species known range, located in the Mojave Desert and Central Valley. The closest recent CNDDDB occurrence is approximately 23.5 miles from the BSA (2004). Given that the BSA is outside of the species' range and there are no recent occurrences of the species, the species is presumed absent.
Stephens' kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	Fed: T State: T CDFW: --	T T --	Inhabits arid and semi-arid habitats with grass or brush. Prefers open habitats and requires soft, well-drained substrates for building burrows. Typically found in areas with loamy soil.	HP	Present: The BSA contains buckwheat scrub, sagebrush scrub, and friable soil that are suitable for the species. Protocol level SKR surveys determined that the species is present within the BSA.
Western mastiff bat	<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: --	SSC	Inhabits many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Prefers open, rugged, rocky areas where suitable crevices are available for day roosts. Roosts in cliff face crevices (usually granite or consolidated sandstone), high buildings, trees and tunnels. Roosting sites must have a minimum 10 foot vertical drop. Births	A	Presumed Absent: While the BSA contains scrub habitat that is potentially suitable for the species, the BSA lacks cliff face crevices, tall buildings, and trees that are suitable for roosting. There are no recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within Riverside County; therefore, the species is presumed absent.

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
				early April through August or September (sea level-8,475 feet).		
Western yellow bat	<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Species known in California only in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties south to the Mexican border. Inhabits valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats in proximity to water. Species utilizes trees and palms for roosting and maternity colonies. Births in June and July (below 2,000 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA is not within the known geographic range of the species. There are no recent CNDDB occurrences of the species within 50 miles of the BSA; therefore, the species is presumed absent.
Reptile Species						
California glossy snake	<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, and chaparral. Prefers microhabitats of open areas and loose soils. A nocturnal species that hides underground in rocks and burrows during the day. The species can dig its own burrows or use existing ones. Lays from 3 to 23 eggs (more often 5 to 12) in June and July. Eggs hatch late summer and early fall. The species is found from below sea level to around 7,200 feet.	HP	Low to Moderate Potential: The BSA contains buckwheat and sagebrush scrub that is potentially suitable for the species. There are four recent CNDDB occurrences of the species within 10 miles of the BSA. The closest occurrence is located approximately 8 miles away north of the BSA (2011). Given the potentially suitable habitat onsite and recent occurrences of the species, the species has a low to moderate potential of occurring within the BSA.
Coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Inhabits valley-foothill hardwood, conifer forest, and riparian habitats, as well as pine-cypress, juniper woodland, and annual grasslands with sandy areas, washes or flood plains. Frequently found near ant hills. Egg laying occurs from May to June, and some females may lay two clutches per year (sea level-8,000 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain suitable forest, riparian, or floodplain habitat to support the species. Due to the lack of suitable habitat, the species is presumed absent.

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
Coastal whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Inhabits hot, dry areas with sparse foliage and open areas in forests, woodland, chaparral, and riparian areas. The species is diurnal. Breeding occurs from May to August. Their diet primarily includes termites as well as other lizards, insects, spiders, scorpions, and small animals. Occurs from sea level to 7,000 feet.	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain forests, woodland, chaparral, or riparian habitat required to support the species. A CNDDDB occurrence located 6.8 miles from the BSA is the only recent occurrence within 10 miles of the BSA (2002). Due to the lack of suitable habitat within the BSA, the species is presumed absent.
Red-diamond rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus ruber</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- SSC	Inhabits coastal chaparral, oak and pine woodland, cultivated areas, and arid desert scrub communities. Requires rocky areas or areas of dense vegetation. Utilizes rodent burrows, cracks in rocks and surface cover objects for cover. Species is seasonally active, with the greatest activity occurring from March to June. Young are live-born from mid-August to October in quiet, safe locations (0-3,000 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks rocky areas with dense vegetation required to support the species. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is located approximately 7.26 miles from the BSA (2006). Due to the lack of suitable habitat within the BSA, the species is presumed absent.
Plant Species						
California Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	E E 1B.1	An annual herb inhabiting vernal pool communities. Flowers April-August (50-2,200 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks vernal pool habitat required by the species.
Coulter's goldfields	<i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- 1B.1	An annual herb inhabiting playas, coastal salt marshes, swamps, and vernal pool communities. Flowers from February-June (0-4,000 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks playas, coastal salt marshes, swamps and vernal pools required by the species.
Little mouseltail	<i>Myosurus minimus ssp. apus</i>	Fed: State: CDFW:	-- -- 3.1	An annual herb inhabiting alkaline soils in valley and foothill grassland vernal pool communities. Flowers March-June (65-2,100 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks alkaline soils in valley grassland and vernal pool communities, required by the species.

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
Long-spined spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: 1B.2	--	An annual herb inhabiting meadows within chaparral, valley grasslands, and coastal sage scrub habitats. Flowers April-July (100-4,920 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks meadows and open native grassland habitat, required for the species.
Munz's onion	<i>Allium munzii</i>	Fed: E State: T CDFW: 1B.1	E T 1B.1	A perennial herb inhabiting mesic and clay soils and grassy openings in coastal sage scrub; chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Flowers April-May (980-2,950 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks mesic clay soils required by the species.
Parry's spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: 1B.1	-- -- 1B.1	An annual herb inhabiting sandy or rocky openings of chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland communities. Flowers April-July (900-4,000 feet).	HB	High Potential: The BSA contains sandy opening of chaparral and coastal sage scrub potentially suitable for the species. The species was not observed during the May 2022 biological surveys, but there are nearby CNDDDB occurrences of the species and one historic occurrence of the species within the BSA (1998). However, the area of the historic occurrence remains undeveloped suggesting the species most likely still occurs in the area. Therefore, the species has a high potential to occur within the BSA.
San Diego Ambrosia	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	Fed: E State: -- CDFW: --	E -- --	A perennial rhizomatous herb inhabiting sandy loams, clay, and occasionally alkaline soils within chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pool communities. Flowers April-October (65-1,360 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA is outside of the species' known elevation range and all local CNDDDB occurrences of the species are located west of the BSA at lower elevations.
San Jacinto Valley crownscale	<i>Atriplex coronate</i> var. <i>notatior</i>	Fed: E State: -- CDFW: --	E -- --	An annual herb inhabiting alkaline, mesic soils in vernal pools, playas, valley grassland, and foothill	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks alkaline mesic soils required to support the species.

Common Name	Species Name	Status		General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Potential for Occurrence and Rationale
				grassland. Blooms April-August (450-1,640 feet).		
Smooth tarplant	<i>Centromadia pungens ssp. laevis</i>	Fed: -- State: -- CDFW: 1B.1		An annual herb inhabiting alkaline soils of open, chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland communities. Flowers April-September (0-2,100 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks alkaline soils required by the species. Furthermore, all local CNDDDB occurrences are concentrated north and east of the BSA.
Spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	Fed: T State: -- CDFW: 1B.1		An annual herb inhabiting vernal pools, chenopod scrub, playas, and shallow freshwater marsh and swamp communities. Flowers April-June (100-4,300 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks moist habitats including vernal pools, playas and freshwater marsh and swamp communities, required by the species.
Thread-leaved brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	Fed: T State: E CDFW: 1B.1		A perennial bulbiferous herb inhabiting clay soils within grassland, vernal pools, chaparral openings, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, and valley and foothill grassland communities. Flowers March-June (80-4,000 feet).	A	Presumed Absent: The BSA lacks clay soils required by the species.
1Endangered (E); Threatened (T); Candidate (C); Species of Special Concern (SSC); Rare/endangered throughout range (1B); Rare/threatened/endangered in California, common elsewhere (2); Seriously endangered in California (X.1); Fairly endangered in California (X.2), Habitat Present (HP); Absent (A)						

Chapter 4. Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts, and Mitigation

4.1 Habitats and Natural Communities of Special Concern

Habitats are considered to be of special concern based on Federal, State, or local laws regulating their development; limited distributions; and/or the habitat requirements of special-status plants or animals occurring on site. Within the BSA, coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat has been identified as the only sensitive habitat/natural communities of special concern. These habitats are considered sensitive since they are known to support populations of CAGN and SKR. Project impacts, avoidance and minimization measures, and compensatory mitigation for coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland are discussed in this section (Table 3. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats; Figure 5. Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities).

4.1.1 Discussion of Coastal Sage Scrub and Non-native Grassland

4.1.1.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

The BSA contains approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub and approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland, located west of Valley Boulevard. This habitat community provides foraging and nesting habitat for State and Federally listed species including CAGN and SKR.

Approximately 1.06 acres of coastal sage scrub and approximately 1.76 acres of non-native grassland will be temporarily impacted during construction to accommodate movement of large equipment and allow for adequate access around Project features. The temporary impact area was calculated using a 25-foot buffer around the permanent Project features. Additionally, approximately 1.00 acre of coastal sage scrub and approximately 2.48 acres of non-native grassland will be permanently impacted by the Project as a result of roadway widening and paving for sidewalk installation (Table 3. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats). Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions.

Table 3. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive Habitat Type	Impact (acres)	
	<i>Temporary</i>	<i>Permanent</i>
Coastal sage scrub	1.06 acres	1.00 acre
Non-native Grassland	1.76 acres	2.48 acres
Total Impacts	2.82 acres	3.48 acres

4.1.1.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-5** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA. Mitigation for permanent impacts to sensitive habitat communities will be achieved via species-specific mitigation required for SKR (detailed in Section 4.3.7); therefore, additional mitigation is not required.

BIO-1: Every individual working on the Project will attend a biological awareness training session delivered by the Project biologist. This training session will include information regarding the biological resources occurring within the Project area, the importance of avoiding impacts to these resources, and pertinent environmental permit requirements that will be implemented/observed by construction personnel.

BIO-2: Prior to the start of construction activities, the Project limits within proximity to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat will be marked with high visibility Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into sensitive habitat communities.

BIO-3: Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into Project design and Project management to minimize impacts on the environment including erosion and the release of pollutants (e.g. oils, fuels):

- Exposed soils and material stockpiles will be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the Project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities;
- All construction roadway areas will be properly protected to prevent excess erosion
- All vehicle and equipment fueling/maintenance will be conducted outside of any sensitive habitat;
- All construction materials will be hauled off-site after completion of construction.

BIO-4: Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will remain outside of sensitive habitat (coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland).

BIO-5: A chemical spill kit will be kept onsite and available for use in the event of a spill.

In addition to avoidance and minimization measures, the Project will implement the following mitigation measure **BIO-6** to compensate for temporary impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat. Impacts to sensitive habitat communities will be mitigated for as SKR habitat (see Section 4.3.7), additional compensatory mitigation is not proposed.

BIO-6: Following the completion of construction, all temporarily impacted areas will be re-graded to pre-construction conditions and final erosion control measures will be implemented, including a seed mix of native, local species.

Biological Study Area (109.82 acres)

ESA Fence

Vegetation Communities

Non-native Grassland (17.41 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (31.48 acres)

Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities

Permanent Impacts

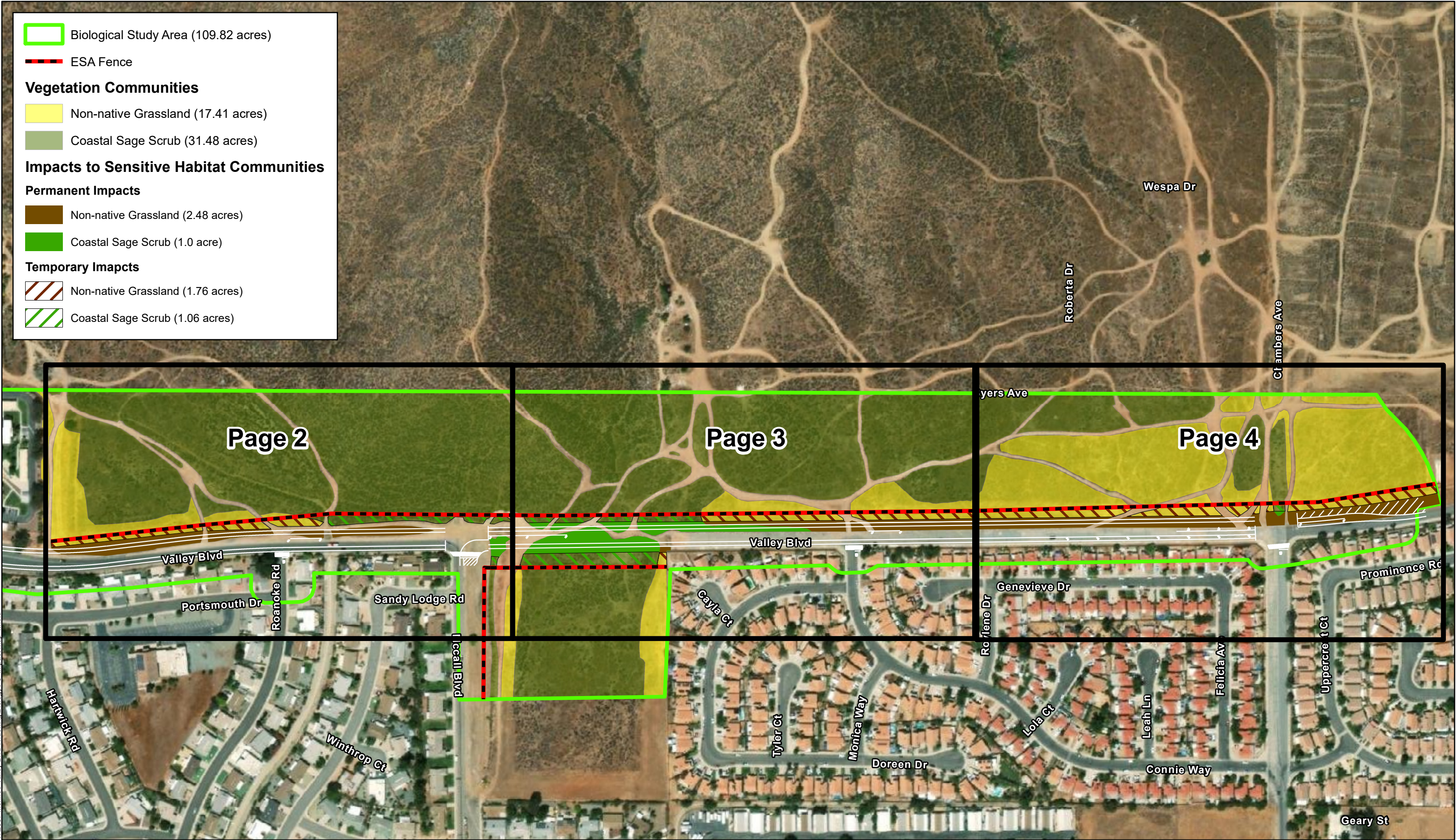
Non-native Grassland (2.48 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.0 acre)

Temporary Imapcts

Non-native Grassland (1.76 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.06 acres)



V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\Biology\F5_Impact Map 1.mxd

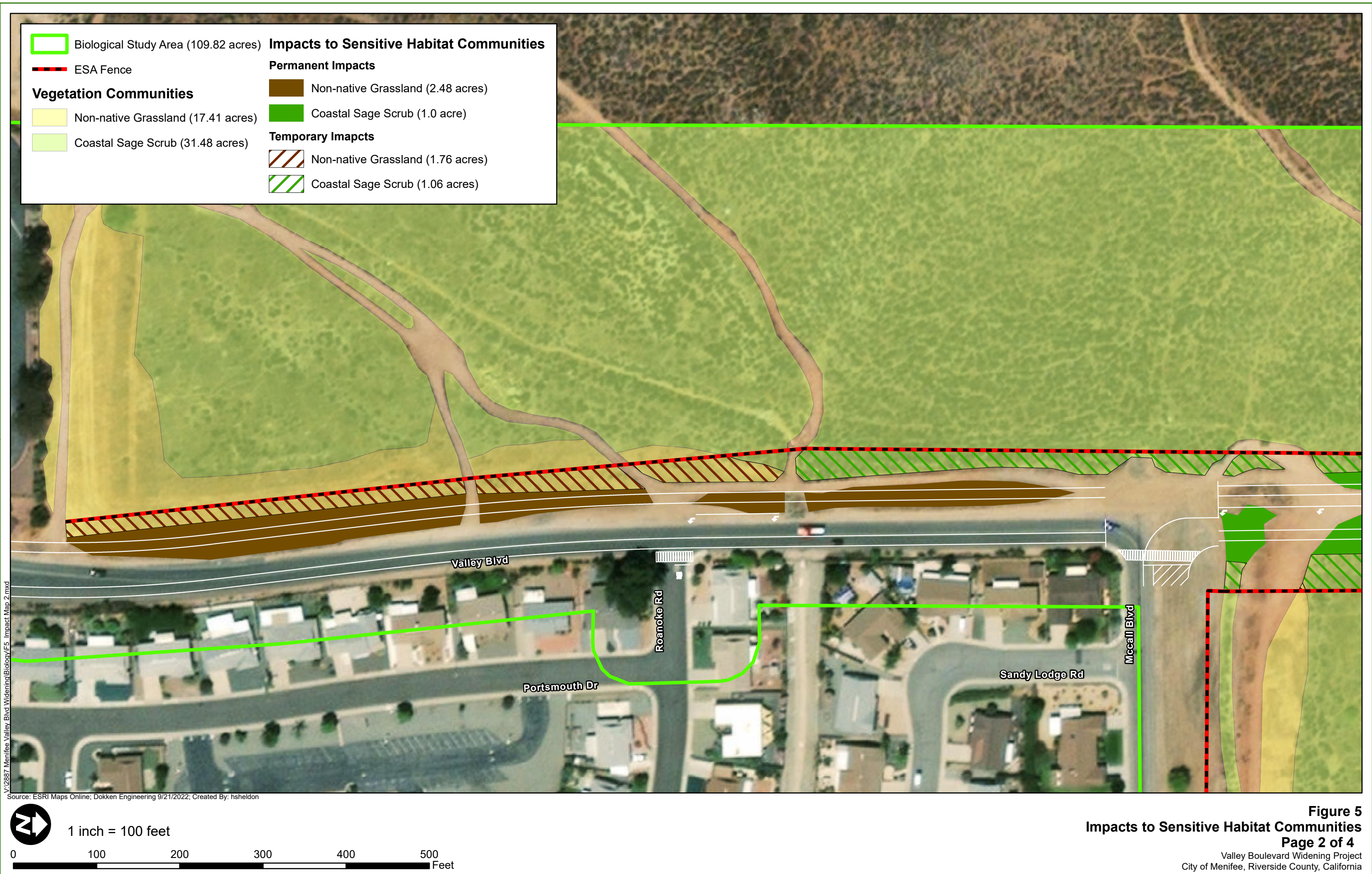
Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/21/2022; Created By: hsheldon



1 inch = 280 feet



Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 1 of 4
 Valley Boulevard Widening Project
 City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



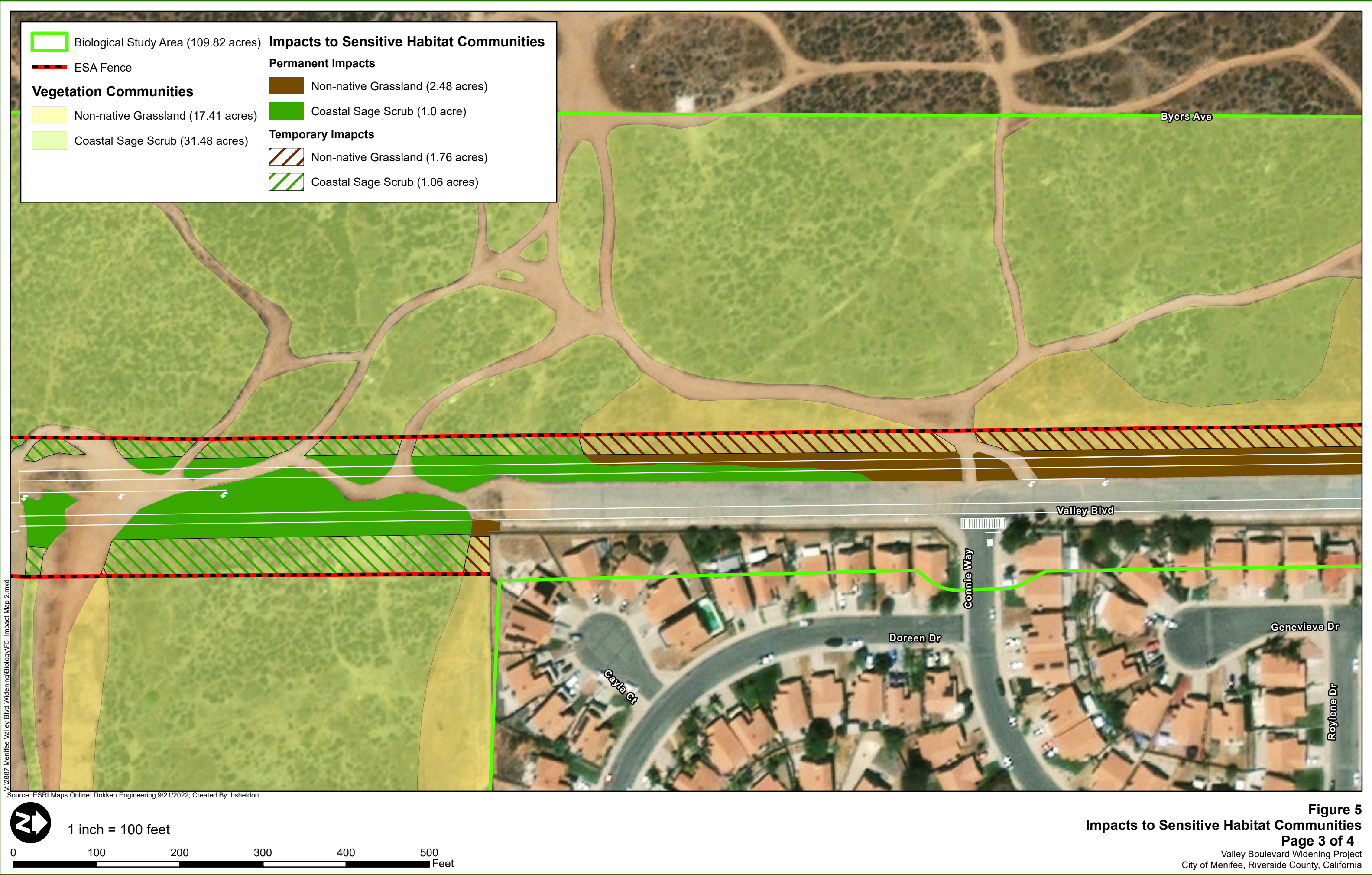


Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 3 of 4
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

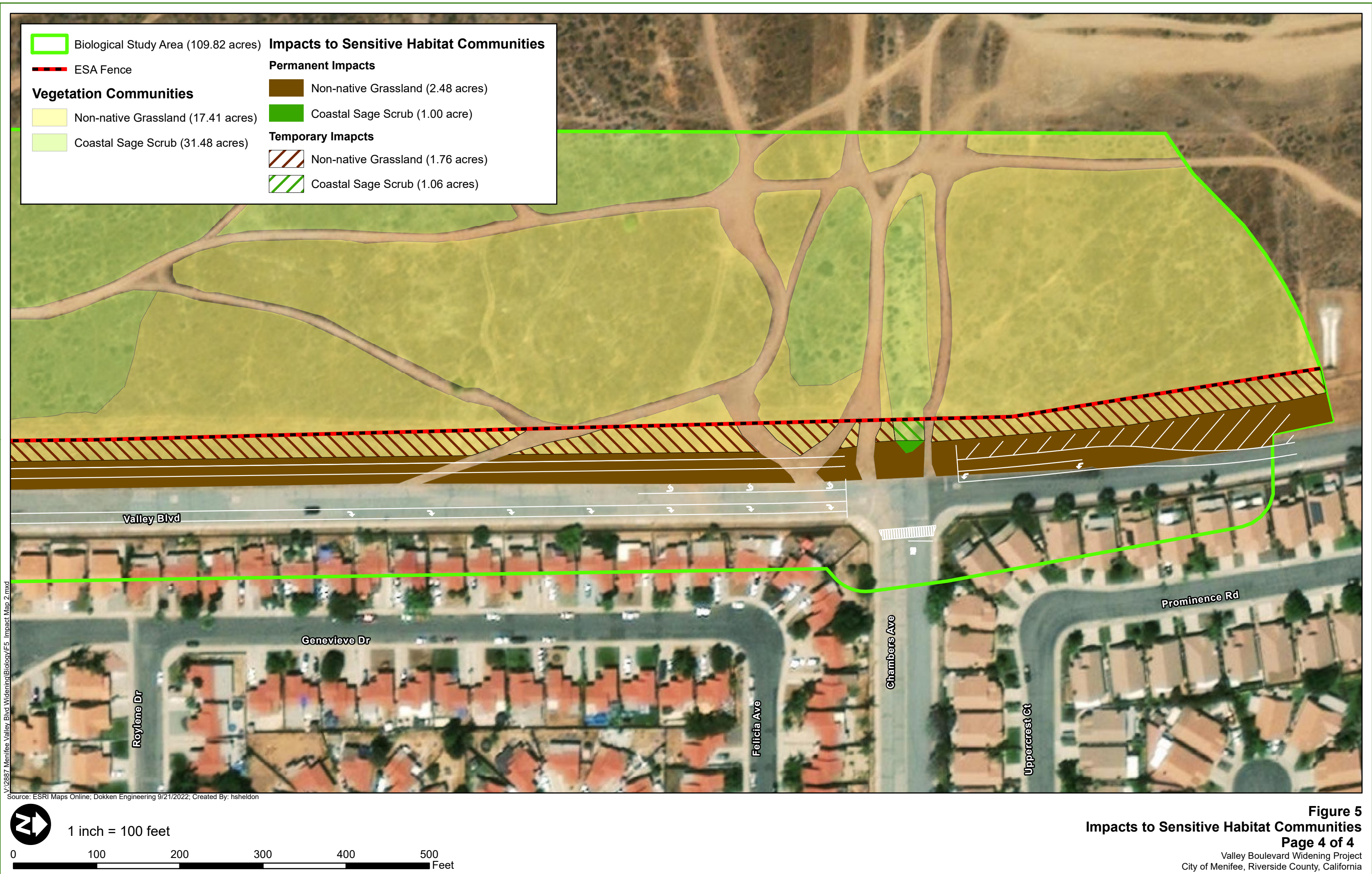


Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 4 of 4
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

4.2 Special Status Plant Species

Prior to field surveys, a list of regional special status plant species with potential to occur within the Project vicinity was compiled from database searches. The potential for each species to occur within the BSA was determined by analyzing the habitat requirements of each species and comparing the habitat requirements to available habitat within the BSA (Table 2. Special Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity). After a careful comparison between habitat requirements and the habitat available within the BSA, one special status plant species, Parry's spineflower, was determined to have a high potential of occurring within the BSA.

4.2.1 Discussion of Parry's Spineflower

Parry's spineflower is a rare plant listed by CNPS with a rare plant ranking 1B.1. This ranking indicates that the plant is rare throughout the California region. The species is an annual herb inhabiting sandy or rocky openings of chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland communities. Parry's spineflower blooms from April through July at elevations from 900 to 4,000 feet.

4.2.1.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

The biological survey was conducted in May of 2022, during the species blooming period when it would be most identifiable. Although the species was not observed during the biological survey, the BSA contains approximately 31.48 acres of potentially suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. Additionally, there is one historic CNDDDB occurrence of the species recorded within the BSA from 1998. The area in which the species was discovered has not been developed; therefore, the species may still persist near the Project vicinity. Given the potentially suitable habitat and the historic occurrence of the species within the BSA, the species has a high potential to occur within the Project site.

4.2.1.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

Parry's spineflower is not a State or Federally listed species and take authorization is not required. However, this species is covered under the MSHCP and therefore, any potential impacts to the species as a result of the Project are covered. If the species is discovered within the Project impact area, the species will be protected in place, where feasible. Measure **BIO-7** below will be incorporated into the Project.

BIO-7: If Parry's spineflower is identified within the temporary impact area, the species will be protected in place with ESA fencing, where feasible. ESA fence installation will be completed under the direction of the Project biologist.

4.3 Special Status Wildlife Species

Prior to field surveys, a list of regional special status wildlife species with potential to occur within the Project vicinity was compiled from database searches. The potential for each species to occur within the BSA was determined by analyzing the habitat requirements of each species and comparing the habitat requirements to available habitat within the BSA (Table 2. Special Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity). After a careful comparison between habitat requirements and the habitat available within the BSA, there are four special status wildlife species with the potential to occur in the Project's BSA and there are three special status species present within the BSA. Each special status wildlife species is discussed in the sections below.

4.3.1 Discussion of Coastal California Gnatcatcher

The CAGN is listed as Federally threatened under FESA and is covered species in the MSHCP. This sub-species is a small, non-migratory songbird that occurs along the Pacific coastal regions of California and down into the northern region of Baja California (USFWS 2010). The CAGN inhabits arid washes, mesas, and slopes of coastal hills dominated by dense, low-growing, drought-deciduous shrubs, and subshrubs of coastal sage scrub (ECORP 2022a). CAGN may also use chaparral, grassland, and riparian communities when adjacent to or intermixed with sage scrub vegetation. The species breeds from February through August (sea level-2,500 feet). The main threats contributing to the CAGN's decline are habitat destruction due to housing development, shopping malls, and farmlands. In addition, nesting attempts often fail, partly because of cowbird parasitism, wildfire, and grazing.

4.3.1.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

Protocol level CAGN surveys were conducted by USFWS-permitted 10(a)(1)(A) CAGN biologists Christine Tischer and Shannan Shaffer, from April 22, 2022, to May 27, 2022. Surveys were conducted within a 500-foot buffer from Project limits and survey methods were consistent with guidelines from USFWS. These surveys confirmed that CAGN actively occupies coastal sage scrub habitat within the BSA, approximately 30 individuals were observed during survey efforts, including 8 breeding pairs (Appendix D. Results of the 2022 Focused CAGN Surveys).

The BSA contains approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, which is known nesting habitat for the species. As discussed in Section 4.1, temporary (1.06 acres) and permanent (1.00 acre) impacts to coastal sage scrub habitat are anticipated. Given that the City is a participating agency in the MSHCP, Project activities that may cause take of CAGN, as defined under FESA, will be covered through the existing MSHCP.

4.3.1.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-5** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to coastal sage scrub habitat within the BSA. Additionally, the Project will seek take coverage for the species through the Western Riverside MSHCP. Mitigation for permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub will be achieved via species-specific mitigation required for SKR (detailed in Section 4.3.7), which shares suitable habitat with this species; therefore, additional mitigation is not required.

BIO-8: The Project will comply with the Western Riverside MSHCP regarding potential take of federally and state listed species, including the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) and Stephen's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*).

BIO-9: If feasible, clearing and grubbing within coastal sage scrub habitat will occur outside of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) breeding season (March 1 to August 15). If clearing and grubbing must occur within the breeding season, the Project biologist will first inspect the vegetation immediately prior to removal and monitor during initial vegetation clearing as appropriate. If an active coastal California gnatcatcher nest is discovered, the Project biologist will take reasonable steps to avoid direct mortality of the species, such as relocating the nest or taking the nest to a local wildlife rehabilitation center to increase the chance of survival of the offspring.

BIO-10: Prior to vegetation removal or initial ground disturbance during the nesting bird season (February 1 to September 30), a pre-construction nesting bird survey of the Project area will be conducted by a Project biologist prior to the start of work. Survey methods will

include inspecting trees, shrubs, and the ground with binoculars for signs of active nests or nesting behavior. The survey area will include the area of direct impact plus a 50-foot buffer. Within 72 hours of the nesting bird survey, all areas surveyed by the biologist will be cleared by the Contractor or a supplemental nesting bird survey shall be conducted.

A 50-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds or raptors, unless applicable “take” coverage of the species has been acquired for the Project or the species is covered under the MSHCP (e.g., Coastal California gnatcatcher, burrowing owl). The Contractor will immediately stop work in the buffer area and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the Project biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the Project biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the Project biologist, in coordination with CDFW.

4.3.2 Discussion of Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl is an underground-nesting owl species listed as a CDFW SSC. It is a small, brown owl with white spotting and bright yellow eyes. The species is found in open habitats, such as grasslands, deserts, agricultural areas, and disturbed open areas (CWHRS 1999). It is often associated with other sparsely vegetated communities such as open shrub stages of pinyon-juniper woodland and ponderosa pine forests. The species nests in burrows from March through August, either constructing new burrows or inhabiting abandoned small mammal burrows. Burrowing owl nests can be identified by the presence of owl excrement, pellets, debris, grass, and feathers in the vicinity of a burrow. Human development threatens burrowing owl populations by reducing available nesting habitat and decreasing rodent populations, which serve as the owl's main food source.

4.3.2.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

During the biological survey conducted in May 2022, several small mammal burrows were observed throughout the BSA within non-native grassland habitat. Burrows appeared to be occupied by California ground squirrel and no signs of burrowing owl, including feathers, whitewash and/or pellets were observed. However, the BSA contains approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland habitat with friable soils potentially suitable for the species. Additionally, there are over a dozen of recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 5 miles of the BSA, the nearest occurrence is located in the western portion of the BSA documented in 2005. Although burrowing owl was not observed during the biological survey, given the many recent occurrences of the species, the species has a high potential of occurring within the BSA.

During Project construction, approximately 1.76 acres of non-native grassland will be temporarily impacted and approximately 2.48 acres will be permanently impacted as a result of roadway widening.

4.3.2.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

In order to reduce and avoid potential impacts to burrowing owl, a pre-construction nesting bird survey will be conducted, in accordance with measure **BIO-10** listed in Section 4.3.1.2.

4.3.3 Discussion of Western Spadefoot

The western spadefoot is listed as a SSC through CDFW. The species inhabits open areas with sandy or gravelly soils including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sagescrub, chaparral,

sandy washes, river floodplains, foothills and mountains. This species' range includes most of the Central Valley and much of the southern California coastline. Western spadefoot spends most of the time underground in burrows and only emerges between October and May during ample rainfall (Stebbins 2012). A permanent or ephemeral body of water is required for breeding. Breeding occurs in late winter in temporary pools formed by heavy rains. During this season, females can lay over 500 eggs, which often results in high predation of tadpoles by wading birds. The leading threat of western spadefoot includes loss of breeding habitat due to urban and agricultural developments.

4.3.3.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

During the biological survey conducted in May 2022, many small mammal burrows were observed throughout the BSA, which may serve as potential refugia habitat for the species. No breeding habitat suitable for the species was observed within the BSA. However, there are dozens of recent (<20 years) CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 10 miles of the BSA and one occurrence within the BSA from 2003. Due to potentially suitable refugia habitat and given local occurrences of the species, the western spadefoot has a low to moderate potential of occurring within the BSA.

The BSA contains approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland habitat and approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, which offers potentially suitable refugia and dispersal habitat for western spadefoot. As discussed in Section 4.1, temporary and permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat are anticipated. Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions.

4.3.3.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-5** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to potentially suitable western spadefoot habitat. Additionally, measures **BIO-11** through **BIO-14**, below, will be incorporated to avoid direct impacts to western spadefoot.

BIO-11: Vehicle traffic and construction equipment will observe a 15-mile-per-hour speed limit on unpaved roads while on the Project site.

BIO-12: All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures that are stored in the Project area for one or more overnight periods will be either securely capped prior to storage or thoroughly inspected by the contractor and/or the Project biologist for special status wildlife species or other animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way.

BIO-13: To prevent inadvertent entrapment of special status wildlife species or other animals during construction, the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager will ensure that all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than six inches deep are provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals by the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager.

BIO-14: The work period within the Project area will be restricted to periods of low rainfall (less than ¼-inch per 24-hour period) and periods of dry weather (with less than a 50% chance of rain). The Permittee and contractor will monitor the National Weather Service (NWS) 72-hour forecast for the Project area.

4.3.4 Discussion of California Glossy Snake

The California glossy snake is an SSC listed through CDFW. The species inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, and chaparral. In California, the species is known to occur from the eastern part of San Francisco Bay south to northwestern Baja California from below sea level to around 7,200 feet (Stebbins 2012). California glossy snake prefers microhabitats of open areas and loose soils. This species is nocturnal, hiding underground in rocks and burrows during the day. Breeding occurs in June and July and females lay between 3 and 23 eggs. Eggs hatch late summer and early fall. This species is in decline due to habitat modifications from agricultural, commercial and residential developments.

4.3.4.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

During the biological survey conducted in May 2022, many small mammal burrows were observed throughout coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA, which may serve as potential refugia habitat for the species. There are four recent CNDDDB occurrences of the species within 10 miles of the BSA. The closest occurrence is located approximately 8 miles north of the BSA documented in 2011. Given the potentially suitable habitat within the BSA, the species has a low to moderate potential of occurring onsite.

The BSA contains approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland habitat and approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, which offers potentially suitable refugia and foraging habitat for the species. As discussed in Section 4.1, temporary and permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat are anticipated. Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions.

4.3.4.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

The measures **BIO-11** through **BIO-13**, listed in Section 4.3.3.2, will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to California glossy snake.

4.3.5 Discussion of Dulzura Pocket Mouse

The Dulzura pocket mouse is listed as a SCC through CDFW. This sub species is known to occur in San Diego and Riverside counties. Suitable habitat for the species includes coastal sage scrub, chaparral and grassland communities. The species occurs in brushy areas and prefers grass-chaparral edges. The parent species (*C. californicus* ssp.) elevation range occurs from sea level to 7,900 feet and young are born between April and July. This species is in decline due to habitat fragmentation and loss as a result of sprawling development.

4.3.5.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

During the biological survey conducted in May 2022, many small mammal burrows were observed throughout coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA, which may provide suitable habitat for the species. The species was not identified during small mammal trapping efforts, conducted for the SKR, however, given the suitable habitat within the BSA the species has a low to moderate potential to occur onsite.

The BSA contains approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland habitat and approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, which offers potentially suitable refugia and dispersal habitat for western spadefoot. As discussed in Section 4.1, temporary and permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat are anticipated. Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions. Mitigation for permanent impacts to sensitive habitat communities will be achieved via species-

specific mitigation required for SKR (detailed in Section 4.3.7), which shares suitable habitat with this species; therefore, additional mitigation is not required.

4.3.5.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-1**, **BIO-6** and **BIO-11** through **BIO-13** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to sensitive habitat communities. Furthermore, the following measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to the Dulzura pocket mouse to the greatest extent feasible.

BIO-15: All food-related trash will be disposed of in closed containers and will be removed from the Project area daily. Construction personnel will not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the Project area.

BIO-16: The Contractor will not apply rodenticide or herbicide within the Project area during construction.

BIO-17: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

4.3.6 Discussion of Northwestern San Diego Pocket Mouse

The northwestern San Diego pocket mouse is a SSC listed through CDFW. The species' range is restricted to the central and northern Baja California Peninsula and southwestern California (Rios 2010). Within San Diego and Riverside counties, the species inhabits arid coastal and desert areas of coastal scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, sagebrush, desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, pinyon-juniper, and annual grassland communities. The species is strongly associated with rocky, gravelly or sandy substrates and mainly prefers low growing vegetation or rocky outcrops around the sandy soils. Breeding occurs from March to May and females can produce 1-3 litters per year. This species is in decline due to habitat fragmentation and loss due to sprawling development.

4.3.6.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

During the biological survey conducted in May 2022, many small mammal burrows were observed throughout the coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA, which provides suitable habitat for the species. Additionally, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse was identified during small mammal trapping efforts, conducted for SKR, and is present within the BSA.

The BSA contains approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland habitat and approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, which offers potentially suitable refugia and dispersal habitat for western spadefoot. As discussed in Section 4.1, temporary and permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat are anticipated. Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions.

4.3.6.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-1**, **BIO-6**, **BIO-11** through **BIO-13**, and **BIO-15** through **BIO-17**, will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to sensitive habitat communities and the northwestern San Diego pocket mouse.

4.3.7 Discussion of Stephen's Kangaroo Rat

The SKR is a State and Federally threatened species known to occur throughout Riverside County and parts of San Diego County. SKR inhabits arid and semi-arid habitats with disturbed annual grassland, sparse cover and herbaceous vegetation. The species prefers open habitats and requires soft, well-drained substrates for building burrows and is most often found inhabiting areas with loamy soil (ECORP 2022b). Breeding occurs twice a year, in the summer and in the winter. On average, reproductive females produce 5 young each year (Bruque 2001). The leading cause of decline for SKR is habitat loss.

4.3.7.1 Survey Results and Project Impacts

Focused protocol level SKR surveys were conducted by Dr. Philip Brylski, permitted under a CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit and a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) for SKR. Small mammal traps were deployed and checked from August 10, 2022, through August 13, 2022. Surveying was concentrated in the northern limits of the Project area, where there is suitable habitat for SKR, including non-native grassland and coastal sage scrub. A total of 12 SKRs were identified within the survey area (Appendix E. Results of Focused SKR Trapping Survey). The species is present within the BSA and occupies coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat.

The BSA contains approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland habitat and approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, which offers potentially suitable refugia and dispersal habitat for western spadefoot. As discussed in Section 4.1, temporary and permanent impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat are anticipated. Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions.

The Project is located within an area that is covered under the SKR HCP area, which is managed by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) and the SKR fee assessment area. The RCHCA has a Section 10(A) permit granted by USFWS for SKR. This permit allows for "take" of SKR as part of development activity. "Take" is defined by the FESA as any attempt to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct as it relates to SKR. As individual projects are proposed and approved in the SKR Plan Area, public and private land developers are required to pay a SKR mitigation fee for land that is developed and removes habitat of SKR, as set forth in Riverside County Ordinance No. 663. These requirements will be fulfilled as outlined below in measure **BIO-18**.

4.3.7.2 Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

The following compensatory mitigation measures **BIO-18**, will ensure that all impacts to SKR and SKR habitat are appropriately mitigated for through the SKR HCP, managed by the RCHCA.

BIO-18: The City of Menifee will mitigate for impacts to SKR and SKR habitat by paying the SKR Mitigation Fee which is currently priced at \$500 per gross acre of the parcels proposed for development.

Chapter 5. Conclusions and Regulatory Determinations

5.1 Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

There are two federally listed species present within the BSA: the Federally threatened CAGN and the Federally threatened SKR. These species are covered under the MSHCP, the Project is within the MSHCP area, and the City is a participating agency. Therefore, the approval of the MSHCP and execution of the Implementing Agreement by the wildlife agencies allows participating jurisdictions to authorize “take” of all plant and wildlife species covered by the MSHCP.

5.2 California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

The SKR is the only State listed species that occurs within the BSA. The Project may have “take”, as defined under CESA, of SKR. However, since SKR is a covered species within the MSHCP, per the NCCP issued by CDFW in 2004, “take” of SKR is authorized for the Project under CESA. There are no other CESA listed species expected to occur within the Project area.

5.3 Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary

There is one runoff conveyance channel within the Project area encompassing approximately 0.04 acres. During biological surveys and literature review, this feature was determined to be non-jurisdictional. No permits related to jurisdictional waters are anticipated for the Project.

5.4 Invasive Species

In February 1999, EO 13112 was signed, requiring Federal agencies to work on preventing and controlling the introduction and spread of invasive species. Measure **BIO-19** will be incorporated into the Project plans to ensure invasive species are not introduced or spread at the Project site.

BIO-19: Prior to arrival at the Project site and prior to leaving the Project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds will be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.

Chapter 6. References

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- CWHR 1999 California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System. Life History Account for Burrowing Owl. CWHR Program Staff, September 1999.
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- Stebbins 2012 Stebbins, Robert C., and McGinnis, Samuel M. Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of California: Revised Edition (California Natural History Guides) University of California Press, 2012.
- USFWS 1997 United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997. Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines.
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Appendix A. USFWS Species List



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

Phone: (760) 431-9440 Fax: (760) 431-5901

<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>



In Reply Refer To:

Project Code: 2022-0040362

Project Name: Valley Blvd Widening Project

May 09, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A biological assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a biological assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a biological assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Consultation website at:

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/faq.html>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

(760) 431-9440

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0040362

Event Code: None

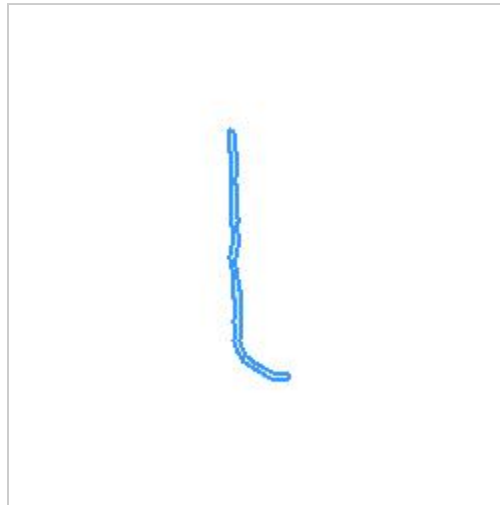
Project Name: Valley Blvd Widening Project

Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: Road widening project

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@33.7088126,-117.21332462378399,14z>



Counties: Riverside County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
San Bernardino Merriam's Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2060	Endangered
Stephens' Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> (incl. <i>D. cascus</i>) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3495	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila californica californica</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate
Quino Checkerspot Butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i> (= <i>E. e. wrighti</i>) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5900	Endangered

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
California Orcutt Grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Munz's Onion <i>Allium munzii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2951	Endangered
San Diego Ambrosia <i>Ambrosia pumila</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8287	Endangered
San Jacinto Valley Crownscale <i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. However, no <i>actual</i> acres or miles were designated due to exemptions or exclusions. See Federal Register publication for details. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4353	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened
Thread-leaved Brodiaea <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6087	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Menifee city
Name: Hanna Sheldon
Address: 110 Blue Ravine Road
City: Folsom
State: CA
Zip: 95630
Email: hsheldon@dokkenengineering.com
Phone: 9168580642

Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: Menifee city

Appendix B. CNDDDB Species List



Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad(Romoland (3311762))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Bell's sage sparrow <i>Artemisiospiza belli belli</i>	ABPBX97021	None	None	G5T2T3	S3	WL
burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
California glossy snake <i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	ARADB01017	None	None	G5T2	S2	SSC
California horned lark <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	ABPAT02011	None	None	G5T4Q	S4	WL
California Orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i>	PMPOA4G010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G4G5T3Q	S2	SSC
coastal whiptail <i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	ARACJ02143	None	None	G5T5	S3	SSC
Coulter's goldfields <i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	PDAST5L0A1	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1
Crotch bumble bee <i>Bombus crotchii</i>	IIHYM24480	None	None	G2	S1S2	
Dulzura pocket mouse <i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	AMAFD05021	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
long-spined spineflower <i>Chorizanthe polygonoides var. longispina</i>	PDPGN040K1	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
Los Angeles pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	AMAFD01041	None	None	G5T2	S1S2	SSC
Munz's onion <i>Allium munzii</i>	PMLIL022Z0	Endangered	Threatened	G1	S1	1B.1
northwestern San Diego pocket mouse <i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>	AMAFD05031	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
orange-throated whiptail <i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i>	ARACJ02060	None	None	G5	S2S3	WL
Palmer's grapplinghook <i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	PDBOR0H010	None	None	G4	S3	4.2



Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Parry's spineflower <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	PDPGN040J2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
quino checkerspot butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	IILEPK405L	Endangered	None	G5T1T2	S1S2	
red-diamond rattlesnake <i>Crotalus ruber</i>	ARADE02090	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Riverside fairy shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	ICBRA07010	Endangered	None	G1G2	S1S2	
Robinson's pepper-grass <i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	PDBRA1M114	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3
San Bernardino kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	AMAFD03143	Endangered	Candidate Endangered	G5T1	S1	SSC
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	AMAE03051	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	
smooth tarplant <i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	PDAST4R0R4	None	None	G3G4T2	S2	1B.1
southern California rufous-crowned sparrow <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T3	S3	WL
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest <i>Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61310CA	None	None	G4	S4	
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest <i>Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61330CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
southern grasshopper mouse <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	AMAFF06022	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
spreading navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	PDPLM0C080	Threatened	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Stephens' kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	AMAFD03100	Endangered	Threatened	G2	S2	
thread-leaved brodiaea <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	PMLIL0C050	Threatened	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.1
western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3	SSC
western yellow bat <i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	AMACC05070	None	None	G4G5	S3	SSC


Record Count: 38

Appendix C. CNPS Species List

Search Results

17 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: Quad is one of [3311762]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	PHOTO
<i>Allium munzii</i>	Munz's onion	Alliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-May	FE	CT	G1	S1	1B.1	 <p>© 2003 Guy Bruyea</p>
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	thread-leaved brodiaea	Themidaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-Jun	FT	CE	G2	S2	1B.1	 <p>© 2016 Keir Morse</p>
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's jewelflower	Brassicaceae	annual herb	(Feb)Mar-May(Jun)	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	smooth tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	Apr-Sep	None	None	G3G4T2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>	Peninsular spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	May-Aug	None	None	G3	S3	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i>	long-spined spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2	No Photo Available
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i>	small-flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>	paniculate tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	(Mar)Apr-Nov	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	Palmer's grapplinghook	Boraginaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4	S3	4.2	 <p>© 2015 Keir Morse</p>
<i>Juglans californica</i>	Southern California black walnut	Juglandaceae	perennial deciduous tree	Mar-Aug	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	 <p>© 2020 Zoya Akulova</p>
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Jun	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1	

<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	Robinson's pepper-grass	Brassicaceae	annual herb	Jan-Jul	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3	 © 2015 Keir Morse
<i>Microseris douglasii</i> ssp. <i>platycarpa</i>	small-flowered microseris	Asteraceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4T4	S4	4.2	 © 2015 Richard Spellenberg
<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i>	little mousetail	Ranunculaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G5T2Q	S2	3.1	No Photo Available
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	FT	None	G2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	No Photo Available

Showing 1 to 17 of 17 entries

Suggested Citation:

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2022. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9-01 1.5). Website <https://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 6 May 2022].

CONTACT US

Send questions and comments to rareplants@cnps.org.



Developed by
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

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CONTRIBUTORS

[The Calflora Database](#)
[The California Lichen Society](#)
[California Natural Diversity Database](#)
[The Jepson Flora Project](#)
[The Consortium of California Herbaria](#)
[CalPhotos](#)

Appendix D. Results of the 2022 Focused CAGN Surveys

**Results of the 2022 Focused Coastal California
Gnatcatcher Surveys
for the
Valley Boulevard Widening Project**

Riverside County, California

Prepared For:

Dokken Engineering
110 Blue Ravine Road, Suite 200
Folsom, CA 95630

Prepared By:



2861 Pullman Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

July 2022

CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Project Location	1
2.0	COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER.....	1
2.1	Life History	1
2.2	Critical Habitat	3
3.0	SURVEY METHODS	3
3.1	Habitat Assessment	3
3.2	Coastal California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys.....	3
4.0	RESULTS	4
4.1	Habitat Assessment	4
4.2	Coastal California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys.....	4
4.3	Other Sensitive Wildlife	7
5.0	SUMMARY.....	8
6.0	CERTIFICATION STATEMENT	8
7.0	LITERATURE CITED	9

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Summary of CAGN Survey Conditions.....	4
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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity	2
Figure 2. Coastal California Gnatcatcher Survey Results	5

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – CAGN Survey Data Sheets
Appendix B – Wildlife Species List

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BCC	Bird of Conservation Concern
CAGN	Coastal California gnatcatcher
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Client	Dokken Engineering, Inc.
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
ECORP	ECORP Consulting, Inc.
Project	Valley Blvd Widening Project from Chambers Avenue to Murrieta Road
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Survey Area	Project area plus a 500-foot buffer
SSC	Species of Special Concern
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United State Geological Survey
WL	Watch List

1.0 INTRODUCTION

ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) was contracted by Dokken Engineering, Inc. (Client) to conduct focused surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN; *Polioptila californica californica*) within the Project Area and 500-foot buffer during the 2022 breeding season in support of the proposed Valley Blvd Widening Project from Chambers Avenue to Murrieta Road (Project) in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, California. The Project will widen an existing two-lane rural corridor to a four-lane corridor. The road is discontinued at two locations: north of McCall Boulevard and at the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) Desalter Facility at Murrieta Road. Focused surveys were conducted to determine the presence/absence of CAGN within and adjacent to the Project Area, particularly in the northwest portion. A 15-day notification letter was sent via email on March 9, 2022, to notify the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the start of protocol surveys for the Project. This report summarizes the results of the six breeding-season focused surveys for CAGN conducted for the Project.

1.1 Project Location

The Project is primarily located along the existing Valley Boulevard between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road in the City of Menifee, California. The Project is centered at latitude 33.707964° and longitude -117.213707° within Sections 20, 29, and 32, Township 5 South, Range 3 West of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Romoland 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1). The entire Project is located within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) area. Surveys were conducted in all areas containing suitable CAGN breeding or foraging habitat within the Project area plus a 500-foot buffer (Survey Area).

1.2 Project Description

The City of Menifee proposes to widen the existing Valley Boulevard roadway between Chambers Avenue to Murrieta Road and extend the roadway through two existing gaps, providing residents with one continuous route. The project will include raised medians, turn lanes, and six new traffic signals at major intersections. Additionally, the project will enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway, providing residents with a safe and complete pedestrian and bicycle facility throughout the project limits. Landscaping will be incorporated within the median and behind the sidewalk throughout the corridor to preserve and enrich the visual quality of the City, enhancing the sense of place and character of the existing neighborhoods. The purpose of the project is to improve Valley Boulevard to mitigate traffic issues and enhance the overall roadway network.

2.0 COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER

2.1 Life History

The CAGN was listed as threatened by the federal government in March 1993 (USFWS 1993) and is also currently a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern (SSC; CDFW 2022). This small gray-blue non-migratory bird is endemic to coastal Southern California. Its known geographic range includes portions of Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and San

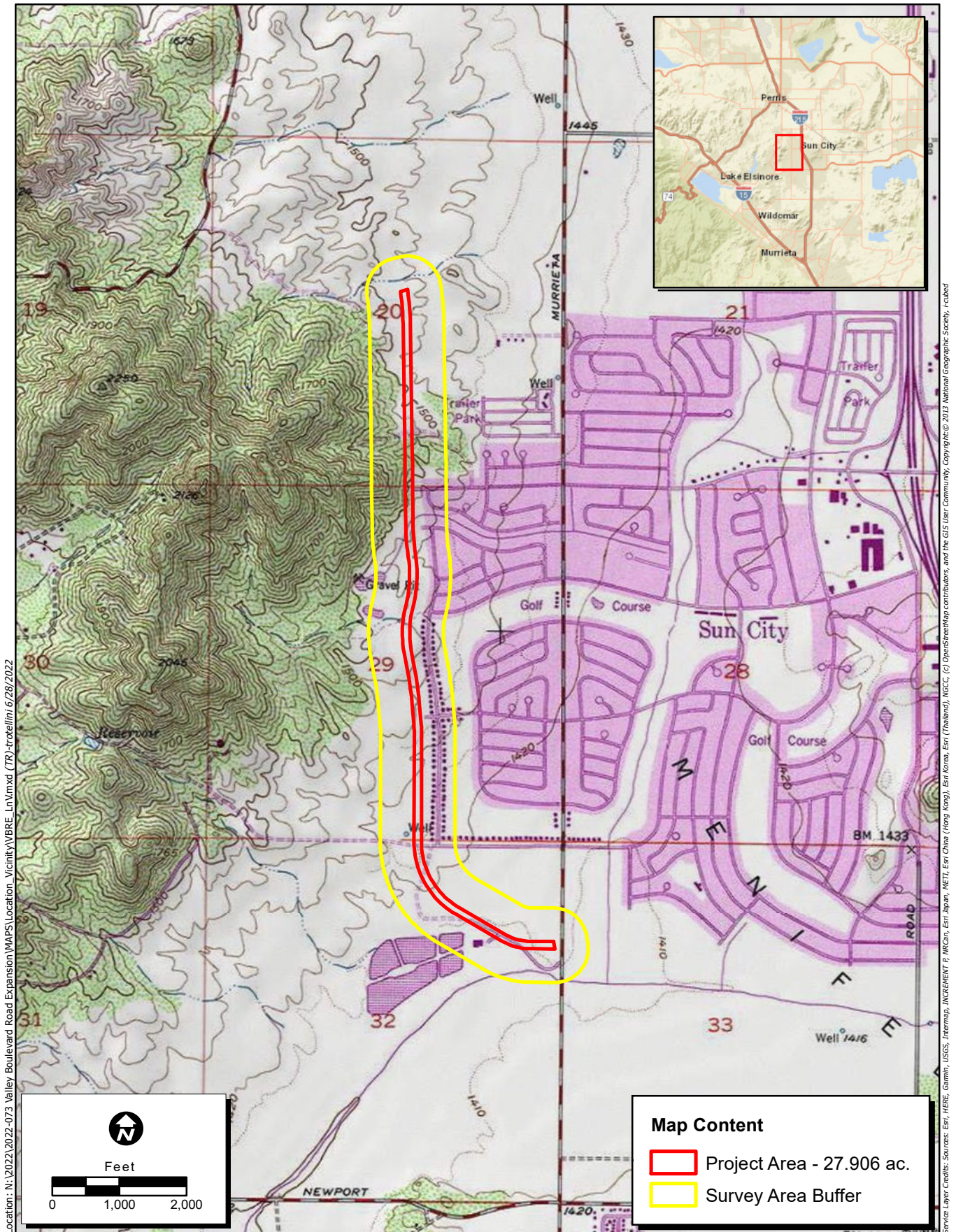


Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

2022-073 Valley Boulevard Road Expansion

Diego counties and extends south into northwestern Baja California. This species is associated with low-growing, drought-tolerant sage scrub habitat. Dominant plant types within these communities include California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), buckwheats (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* and *E. cinereum*), encelias (*Encelia californica* and *E. farinosa*), and various sages (*Salvia mellifera*, *S. apiana*, and *S. leucophylla*). CAGNs have also been documented within chaparral, grassland, and riparian habitats, which occur in proximity to sage scrub, and are used for dispersal and foraging (Atwood et al. 1998; Campbell et al. 1998).

The peak breeding season of the CAGN extends from late February through July, with the peak of nest initiations occurring from mid-March through mid-May. Nests are often located in California sagebrush about 3 feet (1 meter) above the ground with an average clutch size of four eggs. The incubation and nestling periods encompass about 14 and 16 days, respectively. Both sexes participate in all phases of the nesting cycle. Contributing factors in the decline of this species include overly frequent fire cycles, nonnative plant invasions, brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) nest parasitism, predation, and chronic reduction in habitat carrying capacity due to development (Mock 2004).

2.2 Critical Habitat

Critical habitat was designated by the USFWS in 2000 (USFWS 2000) and was re-designated in 2007 (USFWS 2007). The USFWS has designated 13 critical habitat units that are essential to the recovery of the CAGN (USFWS 2007). The Project is partially within USFWS-designated critical habitat Unit 10 (Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan) for the federally listed coastal CAGN (USFWS 2007).

3.0 SURVEY METHODS

3.1 Habitat Assessment

A review of aerial photographs of the Project site was reviewed prior to conducting field surveys to determine locations containing potential CAGN habitat within the Survey Area. Vegetation within the Survey Area was also assessed during the first CAGN field survey to identify areas containing suitable CAGN habitat.

3.2 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys

Focused surveys were conducted by USFWS-permitted 10(a)(1)(A) CAGN biologists and in accordance with the 1997 *Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines* published by the USFWS (1997). Surveys were conducted between sunrise and 1200, when weather conditions were favorable (i.e., no excessive fog, wind, rain, cold [temperatures at or below 45°F], or heat [at or exceeding 100°F]). Surveys consisted of slowly walking various survey routes and scanning all potential habitat with binoculars for the presence of gnatcatchers and listening for CAGN vocalizations. Recorded CAGN vocalizations were occasionally broadcast to elicit a response from CAGNs; however, recorded vocalizations were not used once CAGN were detected within a location. CAGN pairs and/or individuals detected within the Survey Area were recorded using a Global Positioning System-enabled smart device (i.e., smartphone, iPad) outfitted with the ArcGIS Collector® application. Field notes regarding the age, sex, behavior, and activity were recorded and maintained to determine the CAGN use area (territory)

and (likely) repeat individuals associated with each territory over the course of the surveys. CAGN individuals or pairs that were detected outside of the Survey Area that had potential to nest or forage in the Survey Area, were also documented. For each focused survey, the general weather conditions, date, and start and end times were documented on data sheets, included as Appendix A. Additionally, a list of all wildlife observed during the surveys is included as Appendix B.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Habitat Assessment

Approximately 60 acres containing suitable CAGN habitat was identified within the northern portion of the Survey Area, primarily west of Valley Boulevard, and a small area east of Valley Boulevard, immediately north of McCall Boulevard. Suitable habitat included California sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia californica* Shrubland Alliance) California buckwheat scrub (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance). This area also contained disturbed areas. The remaining portions of the Survey Area are characterized as developed and mainly consist of residential developments and landscaped land covers.

4.2 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys

Focused surveys were conducted by federal 10(a)(1)(A)-permitted ECORP biologists Christine Tischer (TE-053379-5) and Shannan Shaffer (TE-67555A-2) between April 22 and May 27, 2022. Table 1 summarizes the conditions during each of the survey days.

Table 1. Summary of CAGN Survey Conditions										
Survey #	2022 Date	Surveyors *	Time		Temperature (°F)		% Cloud Cover		Wind Speed (mph)	
			Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
1	April 22	CT, SS	0655	1125	58.3	69.9	60	10	0-1	7-10
2	April 29	SS	0622	1200	56.3	82	95	0	0-1	0-1
3	May 6	CT	0600	1215	55.2	87.2	5	15	1-3	1-3
4	May 13	SS	0630	1200	63.3	86.6	0	0	0-1	3-5
5	May 20	SS	0615	1200	54.3	62.2	100	100	2-4	3-5
6	May 27	SS	0657	1130	59.1	75.7	100	10	0-1	0-1

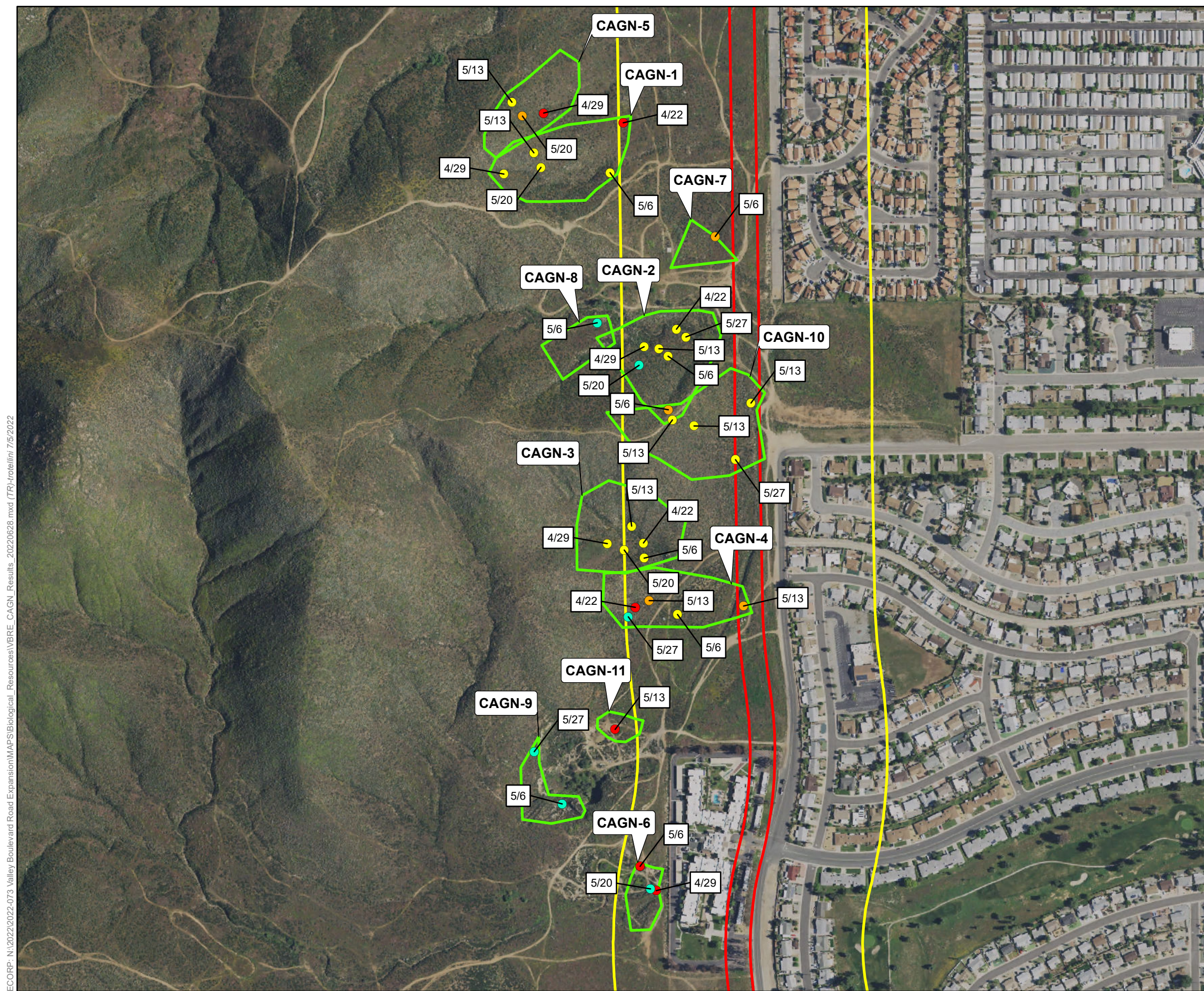
* CT: Christine Tischer, SS: Shannan Shaffer

A total of 30 CAGN (8 pairs, 1 capped male, 2 unsexed adults, 11 unsexed juveniles) were detected and 11 CAGN territories were mapped in and adjacent to the survey area (Figure 2). All of these territories are located entirely within USFWS designated critical habitat for CAGN. A summary of the CAGN observations for each territory is provided below.

CAGN Territory 1

This territory is mapped within a portion of the 500-foot buffer; however, the majority of the mapped territory is located west the 500-foot buffer. A CAGN pair was consistently observed within and around a slope west of the Project alignment within the 500-foot survey buffer. Initial detection occurred during

ECORP: N:\2022\2022-073 Valley Boulevard Road Expansion\MAPS\Biological_Resources\VBRE_CAGN_Results_20220628.mxd (TR)-trotellini 7/5/2022



Map Features

- Project Area - 27.906 ac.
- Survey Area Buffer
- CAGN Territory

CAGN Observations

- Family Group
- Male
- Pair
- Unknown

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Photo Source: NAIP (2020)

Survey 1, with a male responding to broadcast calls at the western edge of the Survey Area, then flying west and observed with a female along the toe of an east facing slope. At least two fledglings associated with this pair were also heard begging just upslope of the pair. Additional detections of the pair within the territory were made on Surveys 2 through 5.

CAGN Territory 2

The eastern extent of this territory is approximately 60 feet west of the Project area and the majority of the territory is mapped within the 500-foot buffer. A CAGN pair was consistently observed within and around a canyon west of the Project alignment within the 500-foot survey buffer. Initial detection included vocalizations without use of broadcast calls heard between two CAGN along canyon during Survey 1. CAGN were observed or otherwise detected within this territory on all of the remaining surveys.

CAGN Territory 3

This territory is partially within the 500-foot buffer and is approximately 225 feet west of the Project area. A CAGN pair was consistently observed within and around the southwest and northeast facing slopes of a canyon west of the Project alignment. Initial detection included vocalizations without use of broadcast calls heard within a canyon from an adjacent slope. Male heard and observed on an *Encelia farinosa* within the canyon, then female observed nearby. Additional detections of the pair were made on Surveys 2 through 5.

CAGN Territory 4

This territory spans the Project Area to the east and extends westward beyond the 500-foot buffer. A family group consisting of a CAGN pair with three juveniles was initially detected, without the use of broadcast calls, near the base of an east-facing slope on Survey 1. The pair was observed together foraging and calling back and forth during Survey 3, but no juveniles or potential new nest building attempts were observed. During subsequent surveys only the male was seen and during the final survey an individual was heard calling from the canyon but was not observed.

CAGN Territory 5

This territory is located entirely outside of the 500-foot buffer. Initial detection occurred during Survey 2, and included vocalizations heard while observing CAGN-1. A family group, consisting of a pair and three juveniles, was observed along a southeast-facing slope. The female was observed carrying what appeared to be nesting material to an area along the slope, but a nest location was not confirmed. The pair was observed foraging without the juveniles during Survey 4 and the male was observed and heard during Survey 5, but the female was not detected.

CAGN Territory 6

This territory is located entirely within the 500-foot buffer, approximately 290 feet west of the Project area, and separated from the Project alignment by an apartment complex located on Valley Boulevard. Initial detection occurred during Survey 2, and included vocalizations heard in response to broadcast call. A pair was observed foraging in California buckwheat and was observed feeding at least one juvenile. The family group was observed again during Survey 3. The male was observed with three

uncapped individuals and at least two were juveniles begging for food. A brief vocalization was heard during Survey 5; however, no other observations were recorded.

CAGN Territory 7

This territory is located entirely within the 500-foot buffer west of the Project Area, and a small amount of the eastern extent of the territory overlaps with the Project Area. Initial detection occurred during Survey 3, with a male responding to broadcast calls by flying into the area, but not vocalizing. He was observed quietly foraging in California buckwheat and California sagebrush scrub. No additional CAGN detections recorded for this territory during subsequent surveys.

CAGN Territory 8

This territory is located entirely outside of the 500-foot buffer. Initial detection occurred during Survey 3, with an individual heard calling above a slope west of the Survey Area. Vocalizations were determined to be moving southwest and, due to its location, it was assumed to be a separate territory adjacent to CAGN-2. No additional CAGN detections recorded for this territory during subsequent surveys and no additional effort to follow up was made due to the location and distance from the survey area.

CAGN Territory 9

This territory is located entirely outside of the 500-foot buffer. Initial detection occurred during Survey 3, with an individual heard calling and observed above a southeast-facing slope west of the Survey Area. Vocalizations were incidentally heard from the top of the slope during Survey 6. No additional observations were made and no additional effort to follow up was made due to the location and distance from the survey area.

CAGN Territory 10

This territory spans the Project Area to the east and extends westward beyond the 500-foot buffer. Initial detection occurred during Survey 3, with a male observed flying southwest, up an east-facing slope. During Survey 4, a pair was heard calling, then observed on the slope while watching adjacent pair (CAGN-2) fly north across the canyon, and then was later observed foraging within the Project area. The pair was observed again within the Project area during Survey 6.

CAGN Territory 11

This territory is mapped within a portion of the 500-foot buffer; however, the majority of the mapped territory is located west the 500-foot buffer. Initial detection occurred during Survey 4, when a family group was observed. The pair was heard calling and was observed feeding three begging juveniles. This family group was not observed during subsequent surveys.

4.3 Other Sensitive Wildlife

The target species for this survey effort was the coastal California gnatcatcher; however, seven other special-status wildlife species were detected during the surveys including two CDFW Species of Special Concern (northern harrier [*Circus hudsonius*] and Vaux's swift [*Chaetura vauxi*]), three CDFW Watch List species (California horned lark [*Eremophila alpestris actia*], Cooper's hawk [*Accipiter cooperii*], and

southern California rufous-crowned sparrow [*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*]), and one USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern (Costa's hummingbird [*Calypte costae*]) (CDFW 2022).

Additionally, seven of the species detected within the Survey Area (Cooper's hawk, northern harrier, California horned lark, turkey vulture [*Cathartes aura*], Bell's sage sparrow [*Artemisiospiza belli belli*], coastal California gnatcatcher, and coyote [*Canis latrans*]) are included as a covered species within the Western Riverside County MSHCP.

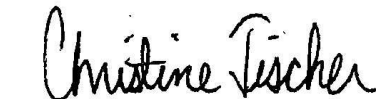
5.0 SUMMARY

Eleven CAGN territories were mapped and a total of 30 CAGN individuals (8 pairs, 1 capped male, 2 unsexed adults, 11 unsexed juveniles) were detected during the 2022 focused survey effort. All eleven of the mapped territories are located entirely within USFWS designated critical habitat for CAGN. Three territories (Territories 4, 7, and 10) are mapped within the proposed Project area and five of the mapped territories (Territories 1, 2, 3, 6, and 11) are located within the 500-foot buffer, but do not extend into the proposed Project area. The remaining three territories (Territories 5, 8, and 9) are located outside of the survey area.

6.0 CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

"I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work."

Signature:

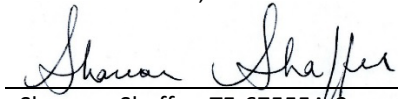


Christine Tischer, TE-053379-5

Date:

July 13, 2022

Signature:



Shannan Shaffer, TE-67555A-2

Date:

July 13, 2022

7.0 LITERATURE CITED

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – CAGN Survey Data Sheets

Appendix B – Wildlife Species List

APPENDIX A

CAGN Survey Data Sheets

General Habitat Description:
California buckwheat scrub, California sagebrush scrub

ECORP Consulting, Inc
California Gnatcatcher Survey Form

Project Name: Menifee Valley Blvd Road Widening

Surveyor Name: Christine Tischer and Shannan Shaffer

Date: 4/22/2022 Survey # 1

CAGN observations and notes:

- 0810 CAGN male responded to playback and flew a short distance emitting squeaky calls from top of buckwheat, then flew a short distance upslope to the southwest. Second CAGN possibly heard in drainage to the west outside 500ft buffer (unconfirmed). (CAGN-1)
- 0858 CAGN-1 observed with female along canyon below east facing slope. Juveniles (2?) heard along the toe of the slope.
- 0905 CAGN-2 pair heard calling back and forth; CAGN-2 male observed.
- 0930 CAGN-3 pair heard from half-way down steep peak in Encelia scrub.
- 10:11 Male heard with female and 3 juveniles following; CAGN-4 family group moving upslope at 500ft buffer south of CAGN-3 territory.

	Time	Temp (°F)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed (avg. mph)
Start	0655	58.3	50	0-1
End	1125	69.9	10	7-10

Wildlife Species Observed:

HOSP ATFL
WEME CATH
HOFI LEGO
COHA* swallow sp.
ANHU white sp.
AMCR desert cottontail
CAKI coyote
CORA Bell's sage sparrow*
BLPH California ground squirrel
NOMO
BUSH
COHU*
HOOR
HOLA* (in grasslands at north end)
SAPH
CALT
GRRO
RTHA

General Habitat Description:
California buckwheat scrub, California sagebrush scrub

ECORP Consulting, Inc
California Gnatcatcher Survey Form

Project Name: Menifee Valley Blvd Road Widening

Surveyor Name: Shannan Shaffer

Date: 4/29/2022 Survey # 2

CAGN observations and notes:

- CAGN-5 pair observed with 3 fledglings. Female possibly nest building.
- CAGN-1 pair heard vocalizing on slope while observing CAGN-5.
- CAGN-2 male heard and observed along slope. Female briefly heard vocalizing from canyon.
- CAGN-3 pair heard calling and observed moving through canyon.
- CAGN-6 pair heard and observed with one fledgling moving through CA buckwheat and tamarisk. Pair observed feeding fledgling.

	Time	Temp (°F)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed (avg. mph)
Start	0622	56.3	95	0-1
End	1200	82	0	0-1

Wildlife Species Observed:

MODO NOHA* (flyover)
NOMO Bell's sage sparrow*
HOFI common side-blotched lizard
CAKI desert cottontail
BUSH California ground squirrel
BLPH black-tailed jackrabbit
AMCR PHAI
CALT
CORA
LEGO
COHA*
AMKE
TUVU
RTHA
VASW*
RCSP*
COHU*

General Habitat Description:
California buckwheat scrub, California sagebrush scrub

ECORP Consulting, Inc
California Gnatcatcher Survey Form

Project Name: Menifee Valley Blvd Road Widening

Surveyor Name: Christine Tischer

Date: 5/6/2022 Survey # 3

CAGN observations and notes:

- 0622-0644 CAGN male flew to investigate playback (CAGN-7 = new territory); no call response to playback, quietly foraging in buckwheat and artemisia scrub.
- 0652-0702 CAGN-2 female observed quietly flying in from the southwest in response to playback. Flew back up slope. CAGN male seen foraging quietly.
- 0722 CAGN-8 heard vocalizing above arundo beyond 500ft buffer. Moved southwest up slope so assumed to be different from CAGN-2.
- 0856 CAGN-9 heard one call north of tamarisk and saw 1 individual head southwest at top of bluff. Does not overlap survey area.
- 0910 CAGN-6 male with 3 uncapped individuals (at least 2 are juveniles begging for food). Expanded territory north to reflect observations.
- 1005-1015 CAGN-3 pair out foraging and using entirety of canyon. (Hot at 10am)
- 1015-1035 CAGN-4 male seen in lower flats perching quietly for 4 mins then moved south, then saw female. Both headed west into CAGN-4 territory and began calling back and forth. No juveniles or stick carries observed.
- 1105-1120 CAGN-10 male along road, flew west upslope to 500' buffer(flag), then flew north. Possibly a male from 1 of the lower territories responding to playback at the top of the hill. Did not observe him return downslope.
- 1137-1141 CAGN-1 pair seen/heard on southern side of territory. No juveniles seen or heard.

	Time	Temp (°F)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed (avg. mph)
Start	0600	55.2	5	1-3
End	1215	87.2	0	1-3

Wildlife Species Observed:

AMKE	BLPH
RTHA	RCSP*
AMCR	COHU
HOFI	GRRO
CAKI	coastal whiptail
NOMO	desert cottontail
ANHU	California ground squirrel
SPTO	Bell's sage sparrow*
CORA	coyote
MODO	coachwhip
CALT	red velvet ant
CATH	Bernardino blue
CAQU	Behr's metalmark
LEGO	white checkered
BEWR	
WREN	
SAPH	
ECDO	

General Habitat Description:
California buckwheat scrub, California sagebrush scrub

ECORP Consulting, Inc
California Gnatcatcher Survey Form

Project Name: Menifee Valley Blvd Road Widening

Surveyor Name: Shannan Shaffer

Date: 5/13/2022 Survey # 4

CAGN observations and notes:

- CAGN-1 heard vocalizing at top of slope north of canyon. Observed pair foraging and calling along slope then they flew south across the canyon to the northeast facing slope (no broadcast calls played).
- CAGN-5 heard calling while observing CAGN-1. Observed CAGN-5 pair moving through vegetation on east facing slope.
- CAGN-2 pair heard and observed on north face of slope, then flew south toward the next canyon, then flew along ridgeline toward plateau. Pair moved further west up the canyon then flew back east along the canyon to the original detection area.
- CAGN-2 pair flew south to the south side of the road in response to playback. Both perched on ART CAL and called, then flew north over the ridge to the further canyon.
- CAGN-10 heard calling while watching CAGN-2 pair return to the north canyon. CAGN-10 pair observed foraging along slope.
- CAGN-3 male observed on slope. Female heard vocalizing further up slope.
- CAGN-4 male briefly observed in CA buckwheat on slope. Did not vocalize. Female not observed.
- CAGN-11 family group – pair observed feeding 3 juveniles.
- CAGN-4 male observed foraging in ART CAL/buckwheat on both sides of drainage then flew west to CAGN-4 territory.
- CAGN-10 pair heard vocalizing and observed foraging.

	Time	Temp (°F)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed (avg. mph)
Start	0630	63.3	0	0-1
End	1200	86.6	0	3-5

Wildlife Species Observed:

CAKI
CORA
RTHA
LEGO
MODO
ANHU
Bell's sage sparrow*
BLPH
NOMO
TUVU
HOFI
CALT
California ground squirrel
desert cottontail

General Habitat Description:
California buckwheat scrub, California sagebrush scrub

ECORP Consulting, Inc
California Gnatcatcher Survey Form

Project Name: Menifee Valley Blvd Road Widening

Surveyor Name: Shannan Shaffer

Date: 5/20/2022 Survey # 5

CAGN observations and notes:

- CAGN-1 pair heard calling and observed foraging on slope.
- CAGN-5 heard calling while observing CAGN-1. Male briefly observed moving through vegetation.
- CAGN-2 heard calling from slope but did not observe.
- CAGN-3 pair heard calling to each other in canyon.
- CAGN-6 heard calling in response to playback.

	Time	Temp (°F)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed (avg. mph)
Start	0615	54.3	100	2-4
End	1200	62.2	100	3-5

Wildlife Species Observed:

CORA
LEGO
HOPI
Bell's sage sparrow*
CALT
AMCR
MODO
SAPH
NOMO
COHU*
COHA*
CAKI
BUSH
California ground squirrel
desert cottontail

General Habitat Description:
California buckwheat scrub, California sagebrush scrub

ECORP Consulting, Inc
California Gnatcatcher Survey Form

Project Name: Menifee Valley Blvd Road Widening

Surveyor Name: Shannan Shaffer

Date: 5/27/2022 Survey # 6

CAGN observations and notes:

- CAGN-2 heard calling (no broadcast) and observed pair foraging together along canyon.
- CAGN-10 heard calling from slope. Observed pair on slope.
- CAGN-4 heard calling from canyon but did not observe.
- CAGN-9? heard calling in the distance outside of the 500ft buffer. Could be either CAGN-9 or 11.

	Time	Temp (°F)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed (avg. mph)
Start	0657	59.1	100	0-1
End	1130	75.7	10	0-1

Wildlife Species Observed:

MODO
CORA
HOPI
BUSH
CAKI
SAPH
RCSP*
GRRO
California ground squirrel
black-tailed jackrabbit

APPENDIX B

Wildlife Species List

Appendix B

Valley Boulevard Widening Project

Wildlife Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
INSECTS	
Lycaenidae	Blues, Hairstreaks, and Gossamer Wings
<i>Euphilotes bernardino</i>	Bernardino blue
Mutillidae	Wasps
<i>Dasymutilla occidentalis</i>	red velvet ant
Pieridae	Orange-Tips, Whites and Sulfurs
<i>Pontia protodice</i>	checkered white
Riodinidae	Metalmark Butterflies
<i>Apodemia virgulti</i>	Behr's metalmark
REPTILES	
Colubridae	Colubrid Snakes
<i>Coluber flagellum</i>	coachwhip
Phrynosomatidae	Spiny Lizards
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	common side-blotched lizard
Teiidae	Whiptails and Racerunners
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>	western whiptail
BIRDS	
Accipitridae	Hawks, Kites, and Eagles
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> ^{1, 4}	Cooper's hawk
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> ^{1, 4}	northern harrier
Aegithalidae	Bushtits
<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
Alaudidae	Larks
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> ^{3, 4}	California horned lark
Apodidae	Swifts
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i> ¹	Vaux's swift
Cathartidae	Vultures
<i>Cathartes aura</i> ⁴	turkey vulture
Columbidae	Pigeons and Doves
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> ²	Eurasian collared dove
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Corvidae	Jays and Crows
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven

Scientific Name	Common Name
Cuculidae	Cuckoos
<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	greater roadrunner
Falconidae	Falcons
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel
Fringillidae	Finches
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	house finch
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
Icteridae	Blackbirds and Orioles
<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	western meadowlark
Mimidae	Mockingbirds and Thrashers
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California thrasher
Odontophoridae	New World Quail
<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California quail
Passerellidae	Sparrows and Towhees
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> ^{1, 4}	southern California rufous-crowned sparrow
<i>Artemisospiza belli belli</i> ⁴	Bell's sage sparrow
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	spotted towhee
Passeridae	Old World Sparrows
<i>Passer domesticus</i> ²	house sparrow
Poliophtidae	Gnatcatchers
<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> ^{3, 4}	coastal California gnatcatcher
Ptiliognatidae	Silky Flycatchers
<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	phainopepla
Sylviidae (Previously Timaliidae)	Old-World Warblers
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	wren
Trochilidae	Hummingbirds
<i>Archilochus anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Calypte costae</i> ¹	Costa's hummingbird
Troglodytidae	Wrens
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
Tyrannidae	Tyrant Flycatchers
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	ash-throated flycatcher
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird
MAMMALS	
Canidae	Dogs, Wolves, and Foxes
<i>Canis latrans</i> ⁴	coyote

Scientific Name	Common Name
Leporidae	Rabbits and Hares
<i>Lepus californicus</i>	black-tailed jackrabbit
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail rabbit
Sciuridae	Squirrels
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel

¹ CDFW California Species of Special Concern/CDFW Fully Protected Species/Watch List Species/USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern

² nonnative species

³ Federally or state-listed threatened or endangered, or Candidate for federal or state listing threatened or endangered

⁴ Western Riverside County MSHCP Covered Species

Appendix E. Results of Focused SKR Trapping Survey



Ken Chen
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September 15, 2022
(2022-073)

Subject: Results of a Focused Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Trapping Survey Conducted at the Valley Boulevard Widening Project, City of Menifee in Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Favro:

This letter report presents the results of a focused Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR; *Dipodomys stephensi*) trapping survey conducted by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for the Valley Boulevard Widening Project from Chambers Avenue to Murrieta Road (Project) in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, California. This letter report includes life history information for SBKR, a description of the methods used to conduct the survey, and a summary and discussion of the survey and results.

Project Location and Description

The Project site is located west of Interstate 215 and east of Goetz Rd in the City of Menifee (Attachment A; Figure 1); the current two-lane rural corridor is proposed to be widened to a 4-lane corridor. The Survey Area, which consisted of areas containing suitable kangaroo rat habitat within and immediately adjacent to the Project, occurs along Valley Boulevard from Chambers Avenue to Murrieta Road (Survey Area). This site, as depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Romoland topographic quadrangle, can be found within Section 32 of Township 5 South, Range 3 West; Section 29 of Township 5 South, Range 3 West; and Section 20 of Township 5 South, Range 3 West. Coordinates for the approximate center of the Survey Area are 33°42'26.262" North, 117°12'46.8072" West. Elevation at the Project site is between approximately 1417 to 1494 feet above mean sea level (msl). The Project site is not within United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat for SKR (USFWS 2022); however, nearby occurrences and habitat within the northwest portion of the Project indicate that the species may be present.

Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Natural History and Occurrence in the Project Area

The state and federally listed (threatened) Stephens' kangaroo rat is known to occur widely in Riverside County, and its distribution in that county is generally well known (RCHCA 1995). However, the distribution of SKR and information regarding its populations in San Diego County are less well documented.

General natural history features and habitat requirements of SKR are well known (O'Farrell and Uptain 1987; O'Farrell 1990). Habitats occupied by SKR characteristically occur on level to gently sloping terrain, although the species has occasionally been found on relatively steep slopes (e.g., Montgomery 1990; M.J. O'Farrell, pers. comm.). Soils in habitats harboring SKR are typically loamy in nature, while soils dominated by clay or sand only occasionally contain this species (Price and Endo 1989; S.J. Montgomery, pers. observation.; O'Farrell and Uptain 1987, 1989).

Stephens' kangaroo rats typically occupy lands described as disturbed annual grassland and are characterized by a relatively sparse cover of both shrubs and herbaceous vegetation. Although resident SKR have occasionally been found in denser stands of sage scrub in Riverside County (S.J. Montgomery, pers. observation), such occurrences are by far the exception to the rule. A maximum of approximately 30-percent shrub cover is typically cited as the upper limit of shrub cover occupied by SKR (USFWS 1997), although exceptions to this limit are known to occur. Occupied habitats commonly exhibit an abundance of bare soil – this is created by low densities of shrubs and herbs – during much of the year. Nonetheless, spring/early summer flushes of forb (e.g., *Erodium* spp.) growth often temporarily reduce the amount of visible exposed ground. This phase of the yearly cycle of vegetation cover is subsequently transformed by the desiccating forces of the summer season, which cause non-grass herbaceous vegetation (i.e., forbs) to dry up and disarticulate, again revealing the bare ground that is so characteristic of occupied SKR habitat. Reflecting this preference for open ground, a high ratio of forbs to grasses increases the suitability of grasslands for this kangaroo rat. The species typically does not occur in woodlands of any sort.

Factors that reduce vegetation cover, and thereby enhance habitat conditions for SKR, would encourage wider distribution and/or denser populations of this species, include: burning (natural or controlled intentional fires), grazing by cattle and/or sheep, mowing, shallow or in some cases deep discing, certain levels of off-road vehicle activity, certain levels of scraping (by heavy equipment), and possibly, certain intensities of vegetation crushing (e.g., by vehicular traffic and/or use by military troops). Although deep discing would be expected to eliminate most or all resident kangaroo rats, this type of intense substrate disturbance does loosen the soil, sometimes rendering it more easily excavated by recolonizing SKR attempting to construct new burrows. Fields that have been recently disced are generally not suitable for this species, because the substrate surface is extremely rough and difficult for the hopping locomotion commonly used by kangaroo rats. Nonetheless, leveling of the surface by dragging a length of weighted chain link fencing cross the ground, driving a vehicle across the terrain (e.g., creating narrow wheel pathways), or flattening the rough surface in some other way can immediately increase the dispersal into, and use of, the field by SKR.

Stephens' kangaroo rats can occupy small patches of favorable habitat amidst otherwise unsuitable (e.g., dense grassy and or shrub) habitats. They also readily use narrow strips of open habitat to traverse denser stands of shrubs when moving between larger blocks of suitable grassland habitat (S. Montgomery, personal observation; O'Farrell 1990; Price et al. 1992). Finally, abundances of SKR can fluctuate widely among seasons and years, due to reproduction, habitat changes (e.g., fire, vegetation clearing), and other unknown factors.

Despite exhibiting soil, topographic and/or general vegetation (i.e., grassland) conditions that appear to be suitable for the species, areas such as these that lack SKR are difficult to explain. Possible reasons for the species' absence in such areas include: (a) excessively dense grass cover; (b) long-term substrate disturbance (e.g., cultivation); and/or (c) inaccessibility of suitable habitat areas to allow for SKR dispersing between established populations due to long distances or large tracts of unsuitable habitat/topography between occupied and unoccupied areas.

Two historic occurrences were documented within a mile of the Project site. OCC 135 was recorded approximately one mile west from the Project site in 1989. OCC 42 was recorded less than one mile west of the Project site in 1999. No recent occurrences were documented in the immediate vicinity of the Project site or Survey Area.

Methods

The SKR trapping survey was conducted according to established protocols described in the permitted biologist's federal 10(a)(1)(A) endangered species recovery permit for SKR. Trapping efforts were focused in the northern area of the Project site where suitable kangaroo rat habitat was present within and immediately adjacent to the Project site (Survey Area). To achieve sufficient coverage of the Survey Area, traps were spaced approximately 10 meters apart in meandering lines within suitable habitats (Attachment B; Figure 2), and whenever possible adjacent to obvious kangaroo rat burrows. The survey was completed in one session of three consecutive nights of trapping. A total of 77 traps were placed within the Survey Area.

Only 12-inch modified (i.e., with front doors shortened slightly) collapsible Sherman live-traps were used during this survey. Trapping protocol typically requires a maximum of five consecutive nights of trapping when the animal is active aboveground and when the overnight low temperatures for the duration of the trapping effort are 50 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Traps were opened and baited with a mixture of bird seed at dusk each day. Traps were checked once for captures during the night, near midnight, and then checked and closed each morning near dawn. All captured animals were identified to species and released at the point of capture. Notes and photographs were taken to document habitat conditions where traps were placed. Weather conditions at the time of the trapping study were also noted.

Small mammal trapping in areas with dense grasses can be very inefficient because the likelihood of a rodent encountering a trap is greatly reduced by the density of the grass. Additionally, kangaroo rats are primarily soil sifters that search for seeds within areas of sparser vegetation, and bare soil and areas of dense grasses are typically unsuitable for SKR. Due to these factors, and in an effort to maximize the efficiency of the trapping survey, the biologist focused on placing traps in areas of suitable habitat. These areas included dirt roads and trails, patches of scrub with reduced between-shrub grass density, disturbed areas with reduced plant cover, and areas with a higher ratio of forbs (non-woody herbaceous plants) to grass.

The overall strategy of the trapping survey was to sample all areas with kangaroo rat sign and areas identified as suitable habitat for SKR. Traps were not set in areas identified as not suitable for SKR. The resultant distribution of trap lines and traps was extensive within areas of suitable habitat and priority was given to areas that offered the best available habitat.

Results

Habitat Conditions

Numerous soils were documented throughout the Project site (NCRS 2022; Table 1). The Project site is relatively level and elevation ranges from 1491 feet at the northern end to 1471 feet at the southeast end. Disturbances were present throughout the Survey Area and included vehicle tracks, previous discing, and trash. At the northern end of the Survey Area, dirt roads were present that continued south through the Survey Area.

Table 1. Soils Present Within Project Site	
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name
AkC	Arbuckle loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
Dv	Domino silt loam, saline-alkali
EcC2	Escondido fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
EpA	Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes
GaC	Garretson very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
GdC	Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
LpE2	Lodo rocky loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, eroded
NnB	Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes
PgC	Perkins gravelly loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes
YsE3	Ysidora gravelly very fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded

Vegetation in the Survey Area consists mainly of disturbed California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) scrub and non-native grassland. California buckwheat was scattered throughout the Survey Area but found in higher density primarily in the middle of the Survey Area. The northern end of the Survey Area was primarily disturbed grassland habitat. Representative photographs of the Survey Area can be found in Attachment C.

Despite disturbances throughout the Survey Area, suitable SKR habitat was present throughout. Suitable habitat consisted of adequate shrub coverage and open ground. Although most of the Survey Area was disturbed, SKR have been documented in disturbed and/or sub-optimal habitat such as that found within the Survey Area.

SBKR Trapping Survey

The trapping survey was conducted by DR. Philip Brylski (TE-148555-2). Mr. Brylski is permitted to trap and handle SKR under the authority of a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) endangered species recovery permit and a CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit. Trapping commenced with the setting and baiting

of traps on the evening of August 10, 2022 and continued through the morning of August 13, 2022.

Nighttime weather conditions during the three-night trapping session were generally mild and suitable for small mammal trapping, with nightly lows ranging between 65- and 69-degrees Fahrenheit and daytime highs ranging between 69- and 72-degrees Fahrenheit, wind speeds ranging from 0 to 1 mph, and cloud cover ranging from sunny to minimal clouds. No precipitation was recorded during the trapping period.

The trapping survey yielded three SKR captures. Two of these captures were of the same adult female with a bobbed tail; she was captured on the first and second day of trapping at the same location. A second adult female was captured on the third day of trapping at the northern end of the Survey Area (Attachment B; Figure 2). A total of 78 traps were baited and opened each evening, which equaled to 234 trap-nights (one trap-night is one trap set for one night) yielded 12 animal captures, including four rodent species: SKR, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), northern Baja mouse (*Peromyscus fraterculus*), and deer mouse (*P. maniculatus*) (Table 2). Except for the SKR, the other species captured during the survey are common throughout Riverside County and are typically found in habitats like those identified in the Survey Area.

Table 2. SKR Trapping Survey Results				
Date Traps Checked	Animals Captured			
	SKR	CHFA	PEFR	PEMA
8/11/2022	1			
8/12/2022	1	1	1	2
8/13/2022	1	1	2	2
TOTALS	3	2	3	4
SKR = Stephens' kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>) CHFA = San Diego pocket mouse (<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>) PEFR = northern Baja deer mouse (<i>Peromyscus fraterculus</i>) PEMA = deer mouse (<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>)				

Discussion and Conclusion

Kangaroo rat sign was identified within disturbed California buckwheat scrub and nonnative grassland habitat in the Survey Area. Due to the presence of suitable habitat, known CNDDB occurrences in the vicinity of the Survey Area, and observed kangaroo rat sign, a focused SKR trapping survey was requested.


The subsequent trapping survey determined that SKR are present within the Project Area. However, the Project Area is located within an area that is covered under the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan area, which is managed by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) and the SKR fee assessment area. The RCHCA has a Section 10A permit granted by USFWS for SKR. This permit allows for "take" of SKR as part of development activity. "Take" is defined by the Endangered

Species Act (ESA) as any attempt to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct as it relates to SKR. As individual projects are proposed and approved in the SKR Plan Area, public and private land developers are required to pay a SKR mitigation fee for land that is developed and removes habitat of SKR, as set forth in Riverside County Ordinance No. 663. The Mitigation Fee is \$500 per gross acre of the parcels proposed for development. The Mitigation Fee shall be paid upon issuance of a grading permit, a certificate of occupancy, or upon final inspection, whichever occurs first.

Certification

Thank you for the opportunity to work on your Project. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (909) 307-0046/pwasz@ecorpconsulting.com.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNED: 

Phillip Wasz
Senior Wildlife
BiologistECORP
Consulting, Inc. 215 N.
5th Street Redlands, CA
92374

DATE: September 15, 2022

Attachments:

Attachment A: Figure 1 – Project Location
Attachment B: Figure 2 – Trapping Results
Attachment C: Representative Site Photographs

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Attachment A: Figure 1- Project Location

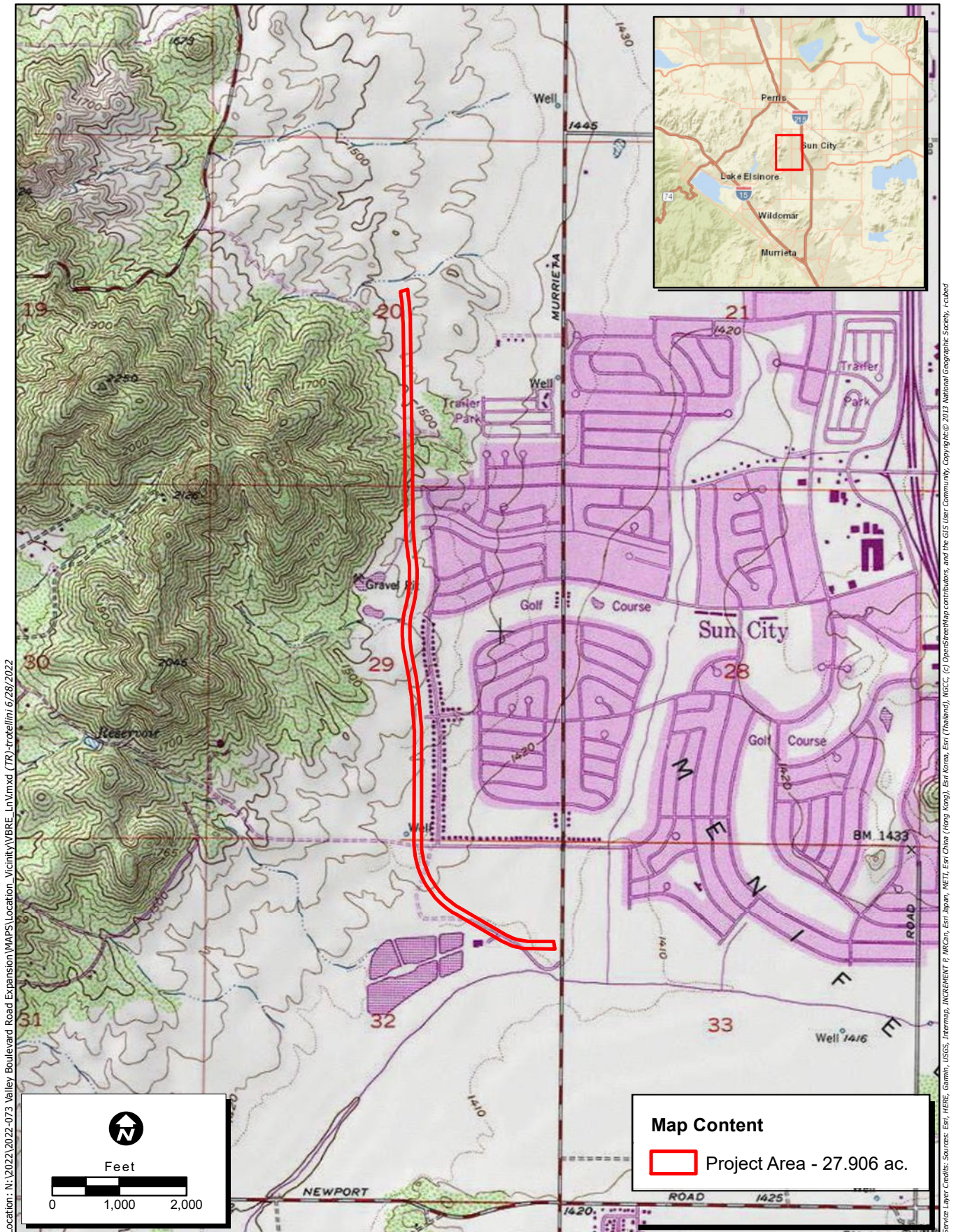
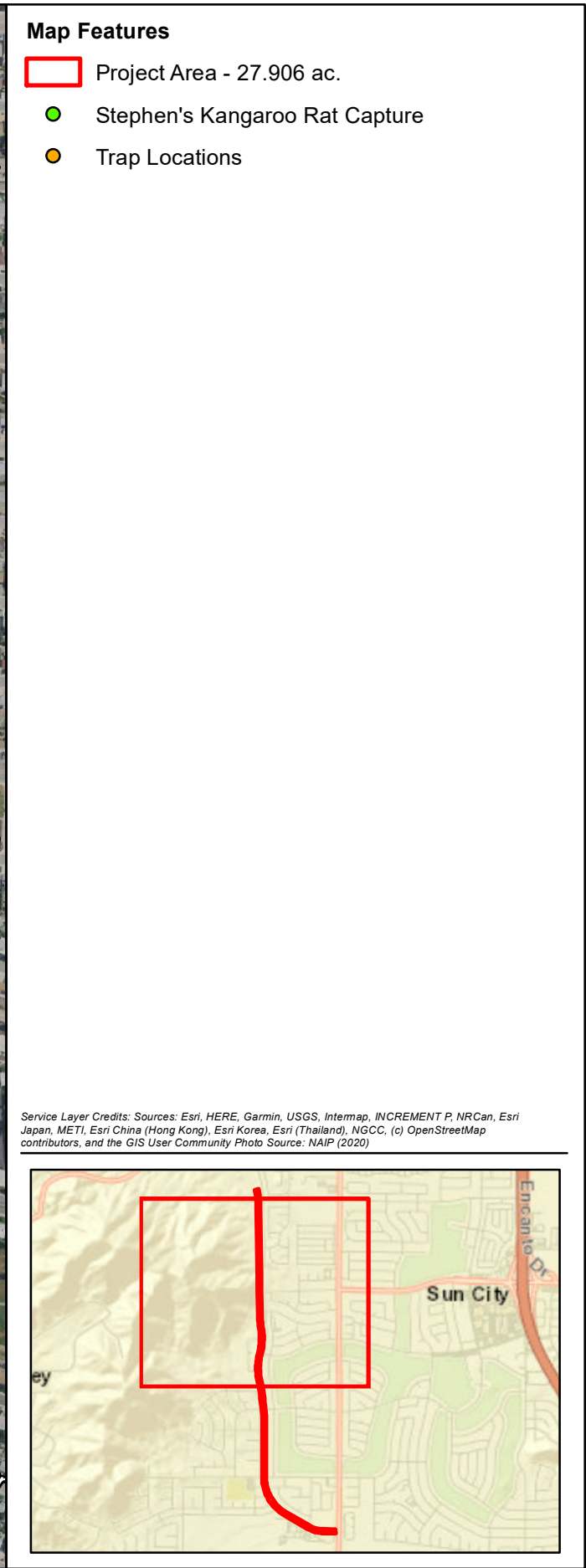
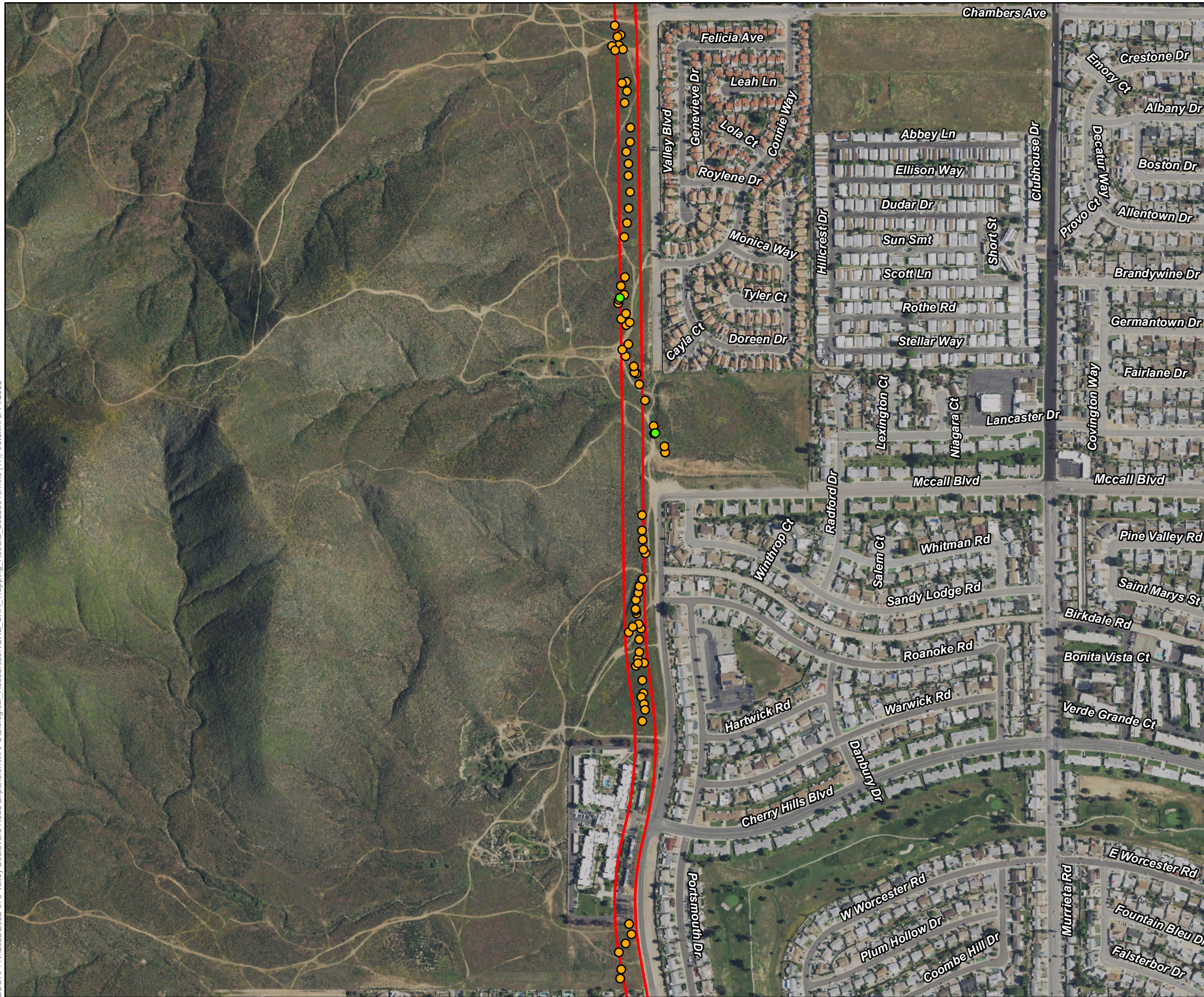


Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

2022-073 Valley Boulevard Road Expansion

Attachment B: Figure 2- Trapping Results

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Attachment C: Representative Site Photographs



Photo 1. Representative photo of SKR caught on the Project Site.



Photo 2. Northern end of the Survey Area, looking south. Grassland and California buckwheat scrub habitat.



Photo 3. Northern end of the Survey Area, looking north.



Photo 4. Kangaroo rat burrow and tail drags observed at the northern end of the Survey Area.



Photo 5. Northern end of the Survey Area, looking south. Vehicle tracks and road.



Photo 6. Northern end of the Survey Area, looking south. Previous discing evident.



Photo 7. Northern end of the Survey Area, looking north.



Photo 8. Middle of the Survey Area, looking south. California buckwheat scrub.



Photo 9. Middle of the Survey Area, looking south. Previously tilled fire break.



Photo 10. Middle of the Survey Area, looking south.



Photo 11. Middle of the Survey Area, looking north. Example of trap placement.



Photo 12. Southern end of the Survey Area, looking north.



Photo 13. Southern end of the Survey Area, looking north. Previously tilled soils.

Appendix F. NRCS Soil Survey Report



United States
Department of
Agriculture

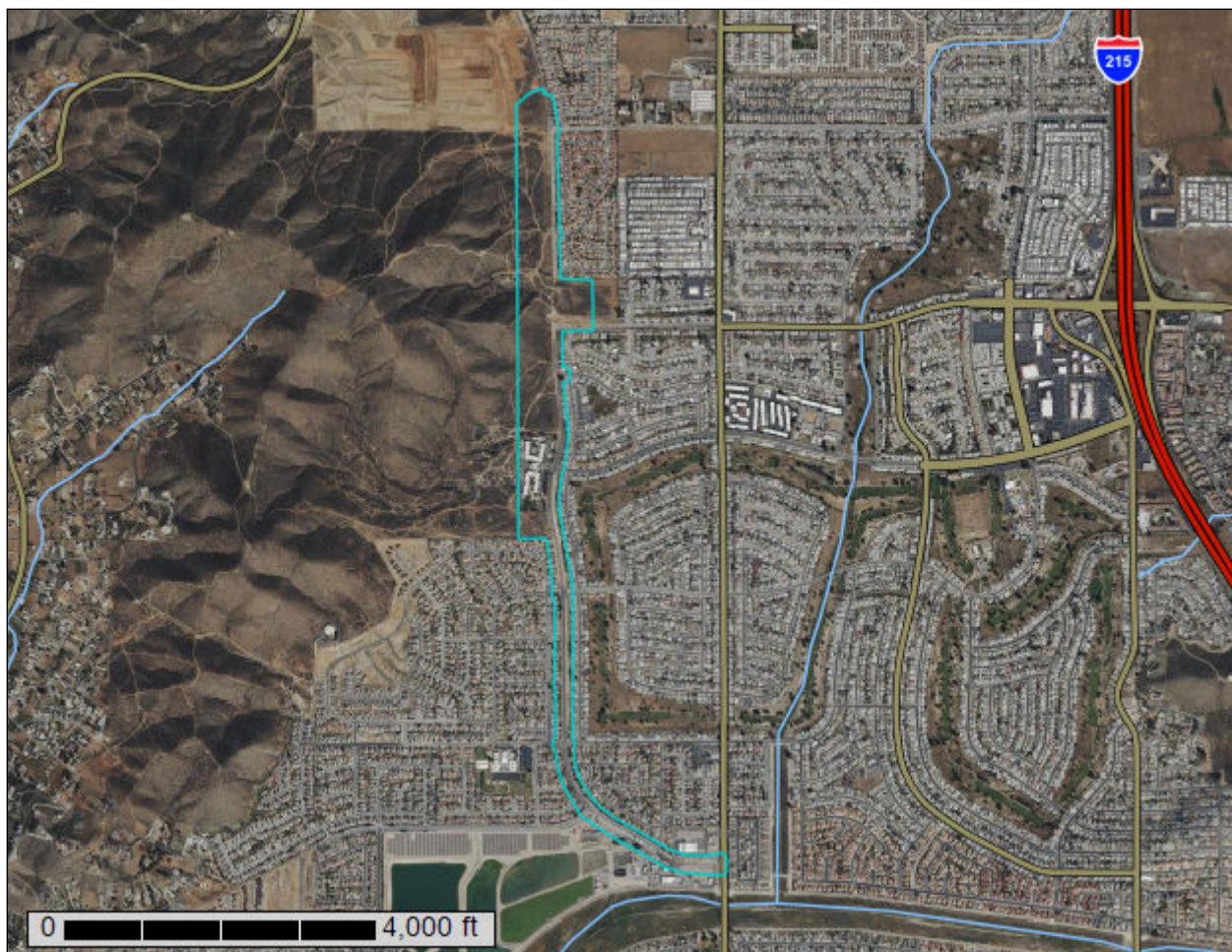
NRCS

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

A product of the National
Cooperative Soil Survey,
a joint effort of the United
States Department of
Agriculture and other
Federal agencies, State
agencies including the
Agricultural Experiment
Stations, and local
participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for Western Riverside Area, California

Valley Blvd Widening



August 31, 2022

Preface

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/>) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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Contents

Preface	2
How Soil Surveys Are Made	5
Soil Map	8
Soil Map.....	9
Legend.....	10
Map Unit Legend.....	11
Map Unit Descriptions.....	11
Western Riverside Area, California.....	14
AkC—Arbuckle loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes.....	14
Dv—Domino silt loam, saline-alkali.....	15
EcC2—Escondido fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded.....	16
EpA—Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes.....	17
GaC—Garretson very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes.....	19
GdC—Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes.....	20
LpE2—Lodo rocky loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, eroded.....	21
LpF2—Lodo rocky loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded.....	22
MmB—Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes.....	24
PgC—Perkins gravelly loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes.....	25
YsE3—Ysidora gravelly very fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded.....	26
References	28

How Soil Surveys Are Made

Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil

scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and

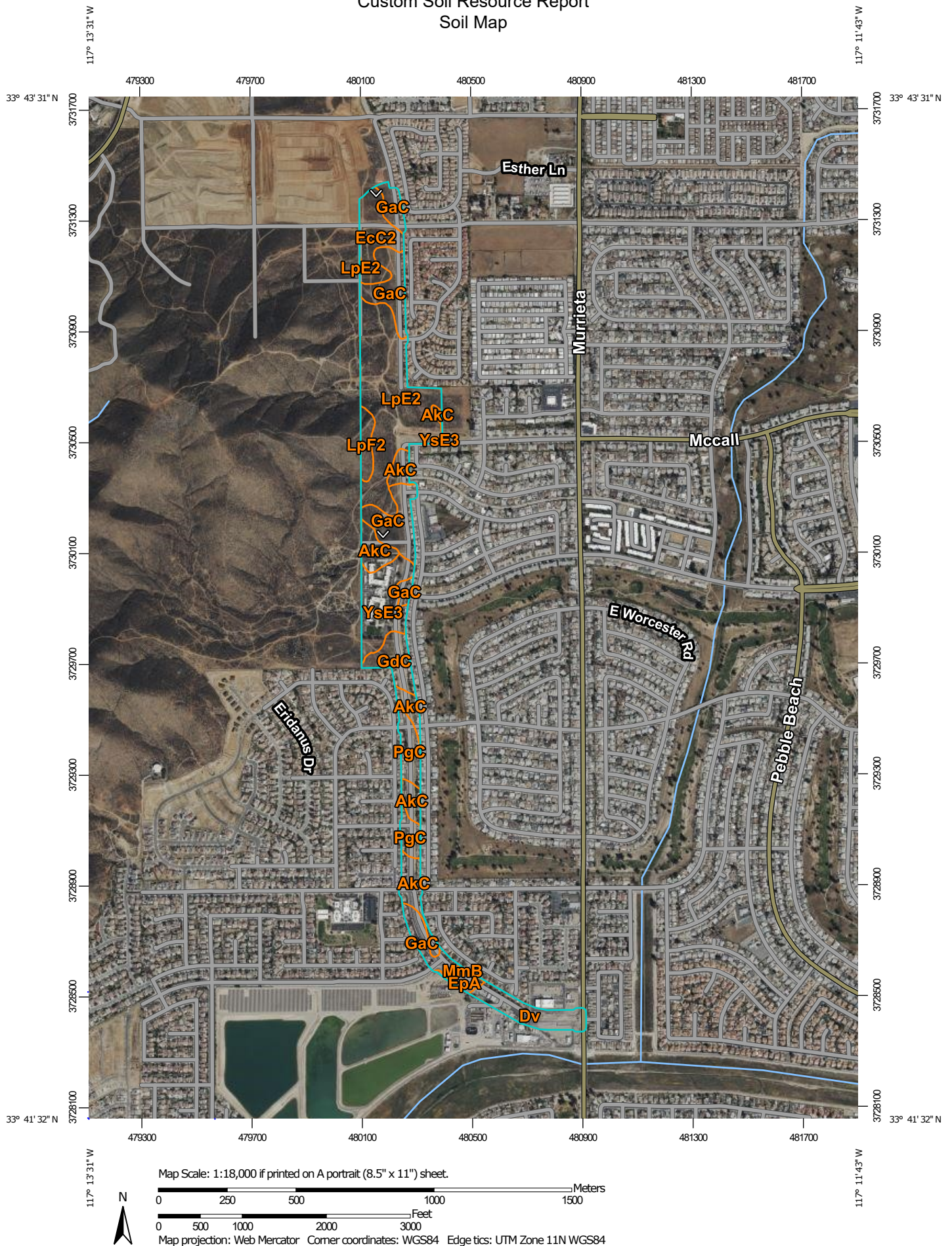
Custom Soil Resource Report

identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

Custom Soil Resource Report Soil Map



Custom Soil Resource Report

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features

 Blowout

 Borrow Pit

 Clay Spot

 Closed Depression

 Gravel Pit

 Gravelly Spot

 Landfill

 Lava Flow

 Marsh or swamp

 Mine or Quarry

 Miscellaneous Water

 Perennial Water

 Rock Outcrop

 Saline Spot

 Sandy Spot

 Severely Eroded Spot


 Sinkhole

 Slide or Slip

 Sodic Spot

 Spoil Area

 Stony Spot

 Very Stony Spot

 Wet Spot

 Other

 Special Line Features

Water Features

 Streams and Canals

Transportation

 Rails

 Interstate Highways

 US Routes

 Major Roads

 Local Roads

Background

 Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:15,800.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL:

Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Western Riverside Area, California

Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 13, 2021

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Mar 14, 2022—Mar 17, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
AkC	Arbuckle loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	14.0	12.7%
Dv	Domino silt loam, saline-alkali	7.5	6.9%
EcC2	Escondido fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	8.3	7.6%
EpA	Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes	1.6	1.4%
GaC	Garretson very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	22.1	20.1%
GdC	Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	5.3	4.8%
LpE2	Lodo rocky loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	30.2	27.5%
LpF2	Lodo rocky loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded	2.7	2.5%
MmB	Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	0.3	0.3%
PgC	Perkins gravelly loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes	6.6	6.0%
YsE3	Ysidora gravelly very fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	11.4	10.4%
Totals for Area of Interest		109.8	100.0%

Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion

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of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Western Riverside Area, California

AkC—Arbuckle loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hcqp
Elevation: 100 to 1,600 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 12 to 35 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 64 degrees F
Frost-free period: 200 to 280 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Arbuckle and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Arbuckle

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from metasedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 12 inches: loam
H2 - 12 to 26 inches: loam
H3 - 26 to 45 inches: gravelly loam
H4 - 45 to 68 inches: stratified sandy loam to very gravelly sandy clay loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 2 to 8 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: High
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.57 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 7.5 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 2e
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R019XD029CA - LOAMY
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Cortina

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Garretson

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Perkins

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Dv—Domino silt loam, saline-alkali

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hct8

Elevation: 1,000 to 1,800 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 12 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 63 degrees F

Frost-free period: 230 to 280 days

Farmland classification: Farmland of statewide importance

Map Unit Composition

Domino and similar soils: 85 percent

Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Domino

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans

Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread

Down-slope shape: Linear

Across-slope shape: Linear

Parent material: Alluvium derived from granite

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 14 inches: silt loam

H2 - 14 to 27 inches: silt loam

H3 - 27 to 36 inches: cemented

H4 - 36 to 63 inches: loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to duripan

Drainage class: Moderately well drained

Runoff class: High

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low (0.00 to 0.00 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: Rare

Frequency of ponding: None

Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 10 percent

Maximum salinity: Moderately saline to strongly saline (8.0 to 16.0 mmhos/cm)

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Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very low (about 3.0 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 3s

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3s

Hydrologic Soil Group: D

Ecological site: R019XD068CA - SILTY BASIN

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Chino

Percent of map unit: 10 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Willows

Percent of map unit: 4 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Unnamed

Percent of map unit: 1 percent

Landform: Depressions

Hydric soil rating: Yes

EcC2—Escondido fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hctb

Elevation: 400 to 2,800 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 10 to 20 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 63 degrees F

Frost-free period: 230 to 280 days

Farmland classification: Farmland of statewide importance

Map Unit Composition

Escondido and similar soils: 85 percent

Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Escondido

Setting

Landform: Hills

Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope

Down-slope shape: Linear

Across-slope shape: Linear

Parent material: Residuum weathered from metamorphic rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 5 inches: fine sandy loam

H2 - 5 to 34 inches: silt loam

H3 - 34 to 38 inches: unweathered bedrock

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Properties and qualities

Slope: 5 to 8 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to lithic bedrock

Drainage class: Well drained

Runoff class: Medium

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.57 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: None

Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 5.0 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 3e

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e

Hydrologic Soil Group: C

Ecological site: R019XD029CA - LOAMY

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Fallbrook

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Lodo

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Friant

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

EpA—Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hctk

Elevation: 300 to 700 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 7 to 15 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 64 degrees F

Frost-free period: 250 to 300 days

Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Exeter and similar soils: 85 percent

Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Exeter

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from granite

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 16 inches: sandy loam
H2 - 16 to 37 inches: sandy clay loam
H3 - 37 to 50 inches: indurated
H4 - 50 to 60 inches: stratified sandy loam to silt loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 35 to 60 inches to duripan
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low (0.00 to 0.00 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: Rare
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 1 percent
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 5.3 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 2s
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R019XD029CA - LOAMY
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Greenfield

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Monserate

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Ramona

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

GaC—Garretson very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hcv2
Elevation: 430 to 1,740 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 12 to 25 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 61 to 64 degrees F
Frost-free period: 220 to 280 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Garretson and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Garretson

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from metasedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 10 inches: very fine sandy loam
H2 - 10 to 60 inches: loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 2 to 8 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high
(0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 9.0 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 2e
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e
Hydrologic Soil Group: B
Ecological site: R019XD029CA - LOAMY
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Cortina

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Perkins

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Arbuckle

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

GdC—Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hcv5
Elevation: 50 to 3,000 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 12 to 25 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 61 to 64 degrees F
Frost-free period: 250 to 350 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Garretson and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Garretson

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from metasedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 10 inches: gravelly very fine sandy loam
H2 - 10 to 53 inches: gravelly loam
H3 - 53 to 72 inches: loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 2 to 8 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high
(0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Custom Soil Resource Report

Frequency of flooding: None

Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 7.4 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 2e

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e

Hydrologic Soil Group: B

Ecological site: R019XD029CA - LOAMY

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Perkins

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Cortina

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Arbuckle

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

LpE2—Lodo rocky loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, eroded

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hcwr

Elevation: 300 to 4,000 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 8 to 35 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 45 to 64 degrees F

Frost-free period: 110 to 250 days

Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Lodo and similar soils: 75 percent

Minor components: 25 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Lodo

Setting

Landform: Hills

Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope

Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope

Down-slope shape: Concave

Across-slope shape: Convex

Parent material: Metamorphosed residuum weathered from sandstone

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 8 inches: gravelly loam

Custom Soil Resource Report

H2 - 8 to 19 inches: unweathered bedrock

Properties and qualities

Slope: 8 to 25 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 8 to 20 inches to lithic bedrock

Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained

Runoff class: Medium

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.57 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: None

Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very low (about 1.1 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 7e

Hydrologic Soil Group: D

Ecological site: R019XD060CA - SHALLOW LOAMY (1975)

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Rock outcrop

Percent of map unit: 10 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Unnamed

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Vallecitos

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Escondido

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Temescal

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Cajalco

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

LpF2—Lodo rocky loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hcws

Elevation: 300 to 3,500 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 12 to 35 inches

Custom Soil Resource Report

Mean annual air temperature: 59 to 64 degrees F

Frost-free period: 230 to 250 days

Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Lodo and similar soils: 85 percent

Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Lodo

Setting

Landform: Hills

Landform position (two-dimensional): Backslope

Landform position (three-dimensional): Side slope

Down-slope shape: Concave

Across-slope shape: Convex

Parent material: Metamorphosed residuum weathered from sandstone

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 8 inches: gravelly loam

H2 - 8 to 19 inches: unweathered bedrock

Properties and qualities

Slope: 25 to 50 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 8 to 20 inches to lithic bedrock

Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained

Runoff class: High

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.57 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: None

Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very low (about 1.1 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 7e

Hydrologic Soil Group: D

Ecological site: R019XD060CA - SHALLOW LOAMY (1975)

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Tumescal

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Escondido

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Vallecitos

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

MmB—Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hcx4
Elevation: 700 to 2,500 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 10 to 18 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 63 to 64 degrees F
Frost-free period: 220 to 280 days
Farmland classification: Farmland of statewide importance

Map Unit Composition

Monserate and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Monserate

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from granite

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 10 inches: sandy loam
H2 - 10 to 28 inches: sandy clay loam
H3 - 28 to 45 inches: indurated
H4 - 45 to 57 inches: cemented
H5 - 57 to 70 inches: loamy coarse sand

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 5 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 39 inches to duripan
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low (0.00 to 0.00 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 4.1 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 3e
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4e
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R019XD029CA - LOAMY
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Greenfield

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Tujunga

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Hanford

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

PgC—Perkins gravelly loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hcxs

Elevation: 60 to 1,700 feet

Mean annual precipitation: 14 to 35 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 64 degrees F

Frost-free period: 220 to 310 days

Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Perkins and similar soils: 85 percent

Minor components: 15 percent

Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Perkins

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans

Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread

Down-slope shape: Linear

Across-slope shape: Linear

Parent material: Alluvium derived from metasedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 12 inches: gravelly loam

H2 - 12 to 44 inches: gravelly loam

H3 - 44 to 60 inches: stratified very gravelly sandy loam to very gravelly clay loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 5 to 8 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches

Drainage class: Well drained

Runoff class: High

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.57 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Custom Soil Resource Report

Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 6.4 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 3e
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R019XD061CA - CLAYPAN (1975)
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Arbuckle

Percent of map unit: 10 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Garretson

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

YsE3—Ysidora gravelly very fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hd0p
Elevation: 500 to 2,500 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 12 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 63 degrees F
Frost-free period: 220 to 280 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Ysidora and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Ysidora

Setting

Landform: Alluvial fans
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Concave
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from metasedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 8 inches: gravelly very fine sandy loam
H2 - 8 to 25 inches: gravelly clay loam
H3 - 25 to 29 inches: cemented

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Properties and qualities

Slope: 8 to 25 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: 20 to 40 inches to duripan

Drainage class: Moderately well drained

Runoff class: High

Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low (0.00 to 0.00 in/hr)

Depth to water table: More than 80 inches

Frequency of flooding: None

Frequency of ponding: None

Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 3.4 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 7e

Hydrologic Soil Group: C

Ecological site: R019XD060CA - SHALLOW LOAMY (1975)

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Arbuckle

Percent of map unit: 10 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

Perkins

Percent of map unit: 5 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

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Custom Soil Resource Report

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Appendix G. Representative Photos



Photo 1. Representative of coastal sage scrub habitat and barren hiking paths within the BSA, facing west (May 2022).



Photo 2. Representative of the concrete lined runoff conveyance channel, facing east (May 2022).



Photo 3. Representative of barren ground within coastal sage scrub habitat, facing north (May 2022).



Photo 4. Representative of urban/developed land within the BSA (Valley Blvd), facing south (May 2022).



Photo 5. Representative of non-native grassland habitat within the BSA, facing south (May 2022).

Appendix ~~G~~D CNDDB, USFWS, CNPS, and
CDFW Special Status Species
Table



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

Phone: (760) 431-9440 Fax: (760) 431-5901

<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>



In Reply Refer To:

Project Code: 2022-0040362

Project Name: Valley Blvd Widening Project

May 09, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A biological assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a biological assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a biological assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Consultation website at:

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/faq.html>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

(760) 431-9440

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0040362

Event Code: None

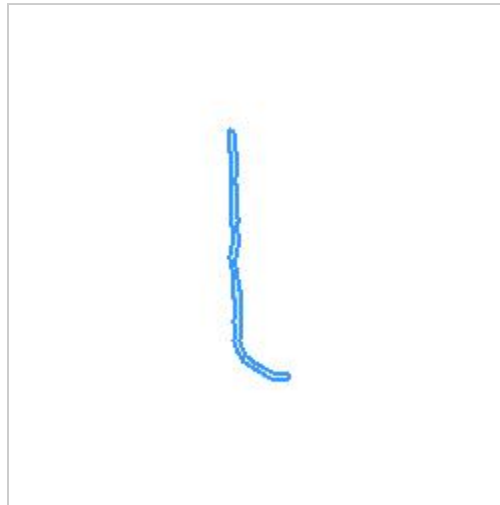
Project Name: Valley Blvd Widening Project

Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: Road widening project

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@33.7088126,-117.21332462378399,14z>



Counties: Riverside County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
San Bernardino Merriam's Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2060	Endangered
Stephens' Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> (incl. <i>D. cactus</i>) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3495	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila californica californica</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate
Quino Checkerspot Butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i> (= <i>E. e. wrighti</i>) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5900	Endangered

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
California Orcutt Grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Munz's Onion <i>Allium munzii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2951	Endangered
San Diego Ambrosia <i>Ambrosia pumila</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8287	Endangered
San Jacinto Valley Crownscale <i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. However, no <i>actual</i> acres or miles were designated due to exemptions or exclusions. See Federal Register publication for details. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4353	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened
Thread-leaved Brodiaea <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6087	Threatened



Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad(Romoland (3311762))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Bell's sage sparrow <i>Artemisiospiza belli belli</i>	ABPBX97021	None	None	G5T2T3	S3	WL
burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
California glossy snake <i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	ARADB01017	None	None	G5T2	S2	SSC
California horned lark <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	ABPAT02011	None	None	G5T4Q	S4	WL
California Orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i>	PMPOA4G010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G4G5T3Q	S2	SSC
coastal whiptail <i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	ARACJ02143	None	None	G5T5	S3	SSC
Coulter's goldfields <i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	PDAST5L0A1	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1
Crotch bumble bee <i>Bombus crotchii</i>	IIHYM24480	None	None	G2	S1S2	
Dulzura pocket mouse <i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	AMAFD05021	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
long-spined spineflower <i>Chorizanthe polygonoides var. longispina</i>	PDPGN040K1	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
Los Angeles pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>	AMAFD01041	None	None	G5T2	S1S2	SSC
Munz's onion <i>Allium munzii</i>	PMLIL022Z0	Endangered	Threatened	G1	S1	1B.1
northwestern San Diego pocket mouse <i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>	AMAFD05031	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
orange-throated whiptail <i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i>	ARACJ02060	None	None	G5	S2S3	WL
Palmer's grapplinghook <i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	PDBOR0H010	None	None	G4	S3	4.2



Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Parry's spineflower <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	PDPGN040J2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
quino checkerspot butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	IILEPK405L	Endangered	None	G5T1T2	S1S2	
red-diamond rattlesnake <i>Crotalus ruber</i>	ARADE02090	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Riverside fairy shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	ICBRA07010	Endangered	None	G1G2	S1S2	
Robinson's pepper-grass <i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	PDBRA1M114	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3
San Bernardino kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	AMAFD03143	Endangered	Candidate Endangered	G5T1	S1	SSC
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	AMAE03051	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	
smooth tarplant <i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	PDAST4R0R4	None	None	G3G4T2	S2	1B.1
southern California rufous-crowned sparrow <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T3	S3	WL
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest <i>Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61310CA	None	None	G4	S4	
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest <i>Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61330CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
southern grasshopper mouse <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i>	AMAFF06022	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
spreading navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	PDPLM0C080	Threatened	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Stephens' kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	AMAFD03100	Endangered	Threatened	G2	S2	
thread-leaved brodiaea <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	PMLIL0C050	Threatened	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.1
western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3	SSC
western yellow bat <i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	AMACC05070	None	None	G4G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 38

Search Results

17 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: Quad is one of [3311762]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	PHOTO
<i>Allium munzii</i>	Munz's onion	Alliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-May	FE	CT	G1	S1	1B.1	 © 2003 Guy Brueya
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	thread-leaved brodiaea	Themidaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-Jun	FT	CE	G2	S2	1B.1	 © 2016 Keir Morse
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's jewelflower	Brassicaceae	annual herb	(Feb)Mar-May(Jun)	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i>	smooth tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	Apr-Sep	None	None	G3G4T2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>	Peninsular spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	May-Aug	None	None	G3	S3	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i>	long-spined spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2	No Photo Available
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i>	small-flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>	paniculate tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	(Mar)Apr-Nov	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	Palmer's grapplinghook	Boraginaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4	S3	4.2	 © 2015 Keir Morse
<i>Juglans californica</i>	Southern California black walnut	Juglandaceae	perennial deciduous tree	Mar-Aug	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	 © 2020 Zoya Akulova
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Jun	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1	

<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	Robinson's pepper-grass	Brassicaceae	annual herb	Jan-Jul	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3	 © 2015 Keir Morse
<i>Microseris douglasii</i> ssp. <i>platycarpa</i>	small-flowered microseris	Asteraceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4T4	S4	4.2	 © 2015 Richard Spellenberg
<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i>	little mousetail	Ranunculaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G5T2Q	S2	3.1	No Photo Available
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	FT	None	G2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	No Photo Available

Showing 1 to 17 of 17 entries

Suggested Citation:

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2022. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9-01 1.5). Website <https://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 6 May 2022].

CONTACT US

Send questions and comments to rareplants@cnps.org.



Developed by
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

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CONTRIBUTORS

[The Calflora Database](#)
[The California Lichen Society](#)
[California Natural Diversity Database](#)
[The Jepson Flora Project](#)
[The Consortium of California Herbaria](#)
[CalPhotos](#)

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Menifee city
Name: Hanna Sheldon
Address: 110 Blue Ravine Road
City: Folsom
State: CA
Zip: 95630
Email: hsheldon@dokkenengineering.com
Phone: 9168580642

Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: Menifee city

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Appendix ED AB 52 Native American
Correspondence Log

Valley Boulevard Widening Project, California
Native American Consultation Log

Affiliation	Name	Contact Date	Contact Type	Response
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)	Andrew Green	4/12/2022	email	5/17/2022 – Andrew Green replied that a search of the Sacred Land File returned negative results within the area of potential effects.
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians	Ebru Ozdil	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022. See response below
		1/27/2023	Conference call	A conference call was held with Mr. Ebru, Ms. Earp and Mr. Paul from the Tribe, Diego Guillen (City), and Ken Chen, Michelle Campbell, and Pamala DalcinWalling (Dokken Engineering) to discuss concerns with the project. The Tribe expressed concern for resources that may be present within previously disturbed soils from development of the Sun City community. The Tribe also stated that a TCP occurs in close proximity southwest of the project alignment. The Tribe requested monitoring but stated that, mostlikely, full time monitoring would occur at the gap-closure section with spot-check monitoring occuring throughout the remainder of the alignment although that determination would be made in the field by Tribal monitors. The Tribes also stated that they needed additional time to review the revised cultural resources memo.
	Molly Earp	7/19/2022	Letter	Delievered 7/25/2022. See reponses above and below
		1/27/2023	Conference call	See above
	Juan Ochoa	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022
		8/12/2022	e-mail	On August 12, 2022, the Temecula Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga) responded via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB52. The tribe requested to be added to the distribution list of all public notice and circulation of all documents, including environmental review documents, archaeological reports, development plans, conceptual grading plans (if available), and all other applicable documents pertaining to this Project. The Tribe further requested to be directly notified of all public hearings and scheduled approvals concerning this Project, and that these comments be incorporated into the record of approval for this Project. Follow-up emails were sent on September 6, 2022, and October 17, 2022, to coordinate a meeting. On October 17, 2022 the Tribe responded to request all available engineering and environmental documents prior to setting up a meeting. Consultation with the tribe is on-going.
	Andrea Fernandez	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022. See reposnse above
		7/19/2022	Letter	Delieverd 7/26/2022
		8/18/2022	e-mail	On August 18, 2022, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians provided a response letter via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB52. The tribe also asked to be provided dates/times to conduct a consultation meeting and/or phone call. A follow-up email was sent on September 6, 2022, to coordinate a meeting.

Valley Boulevard Widening Project, California
Native American Consultation Log

Affiliation	Name	Contact Date	Contact Type	Response
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	Joseph Ontiveros	1/30/2023	Teams meeting	A Teams meeting with Mr. Ontiveros and Ms. Valsez of the Tribe was held with Diego Guillen, City of Menifee, and Ken Chen and Michelle Campbell, Dokken Engineering. At the meeting, Mr. Ontiveros conveyed the Tribes general concern for the sensitivity of the project area and concern for inadvertent discoveries. He also stated that the project occurs within/adjacent to two TCP/TCLs, as the area is a traditional use area for resource gathering and ceremonies as well as holding intangible meaning for the Tribe related to traditional practices. He stated that the standard mitigation measures developed with the City are adequate at this time, but the Tribe reserves the ability to request revisions as the project and consultation continues. A follow-up with the Tribe will occur with the measures in the form for the CEQA document following additional consultation with parties for the project.
		7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/26/2022. See response above
	Jessica Valdez	1/30/2023	Teams meeting	See above
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians	Cheryl Madrigal	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022
		9/9/2022	e-mail	A response was received from the Tribe stating that they had no information to share but requested review of the cultural resources assessment. It also stated that consultation was not requested at that time but reserved the right to comment during public review. A final recommendation was made to consult with the Pechanga regarding information on the project area.
		10/12/2022	e-mail	Follow-up sent. Tribe requested a virtual meeting to discuss the project.
		12/2/2022	Teams meeting	A zoom meeting presented the project to the Tribe and the Tribe stated that comments on the cultural memo would be provided, which were reviewed the same day. The comments requested that the memo include a description of the previously recorded resources as well as background sections. Comments also stated that it was indeterminable if impacts to TCR would occur from the project.
	Cultural Resources Dept	7/19/2022	Letter	
		10/12/2022	e-mail	Follow-up sent. See above.
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Patricia Garcia	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022
		9/30/2022	e-mail	Follow-up sent. Tribe responded on 10/6/2022 via email to the request and stated that the project is located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area and the tribe requested a copy of the records search, cultural report, and also requested monitoring by archaeological and Tribal monitors during ground disturbance.
		10/6/2022 and 12/5/2022	e-mail	The Tribe requested construction monitoring.

Appendix ~~FE~~ Acronyms

AB 52	Assembly Bill 52
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BSA	Biological Study Area
BTU	British thermal unit
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAGN	coastal California gnatcatcher
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFG	California Fish and Game
City	City of Meniffee
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
dBA	Decibel A-weighted
EIC	Eastern Information Center
EMWD	Eastern Municipal Water District
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highways Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GHG	greenhouse gas
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
lbs	Pounds
Ldn	day-night average sound level

Leq	equivalent continuous sound level
Lmax	maximum sound level
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
MSHCP	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
MT	metric ton
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
PAL	Project Area Limits
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PPV	Peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
RCEM	Road Construction Emissions Model
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SKR	Stephens' kangaroo rat
SPCCP	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TACs	toxic air contaminants
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resources
TNM 2.5	Traffic Noise Model Version 2.5
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS	United States Geological Survey
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VOC	volatile organic compounds
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program

|

Appendix G Response to Comments

Comment A: Southern California Association of Governments (June 5, 2023)



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Transportation
Tim Sandoval, Pomona

June 5, 2023

Diego Guillen, Principal Manager
City of Menifee, Community Development Department
29844 Haun Road
Menifee, California 92586
Phone: (951) 672-6777
E-mail: dguillen@cityofmenifee.us

Subject: SCAG Comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Valley Boulevard Widening Project [SCAG NO. IGR10887]

Dear Diego Guillen:

Thank you for submitting the Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Valley Boulevard Widening Project ("proposed project") to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for review and comment. The proposed project includes the widening from a two-lane road to a four-lane road, seven new traffic signals, construction of sidewalks and bike lanes on a 61.7-acre site.

Based on SCAG staff's review, the proposed project does not reference the most recently adopted 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS or Connect SoCal). SCAG staff comments are detailed in the attachment to this letter.

When available, please send project related documents and notices to IGR@scag.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact the Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Program, attn.: Annaleigh Ekman, Senior Regional Planner, at (213) 630-1427 or IGR@scag.ca.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank Wen, Ph.D.
Manager, Planning Strategy Department

A1

**COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
VALLEY BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT [SCAG NO. IGR10887]**

SUMMARY

Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 375, SCAG is the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency under state law and is responsible for preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) including the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). SCAG's feedback is intended to assist local jurisdictions and project proponents to implement projects that have the potential to contribute to attainment of Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) goals and align with RTP/SCS policies.

For regionally significant transportation projects, should major project changes (i.e., change in scope, completion year, and/or costs) take place as result of the environmental review process that are not consistent with the latest RTP/SCS project sponsors should consult with their County Transportation Commission (CTC) to request for SCAG to amend the RTP/SCS to include the latest project information.

The proposed project is currently included in Connect SoCal [RTP ID RIV180141]. Riverside County Transportation Commission should coordinate with SCAG on any updates to the project scope in the RTP/SCS.

Based on SCAG staff review, the IS/MND does not reference the most recently adopted 2020 Connect SoCal. SCAG staff recommends including references to Connect SoCal as described in the following sections.

CONNECT SOCIAL GOALS

The SCAG Regional Council fully adopted [Connect SoCal](#) in September 2020. Connect SoCal, also known as the 2020 – 2045 RTP/SCS, builds upon and expands land use and transportation strategies established over several planning cycles to increase mobility options and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern. The long-range visioning plan balances future mobility and housing needs with goals for the environment, the regional economy, social equity and environmental justice, and public health. The goals included in Connect SoCal may be pertinent to the proposed project. These goals are meant to provide guidance for considering the proposed project. Among the relevant goals of Connect SoCal are the following:

A1 (cont.)

SCAG CONNECT SOCIAL GOALS	
Goal #1:	<i>Encourage regional economic prosperity and global competitiveness</i>
Goal #2:	<i>Improve mobility, accessibility, reliability and travel safety for people and goods</i>
Goal #3:	<i>Enhance the preservation, security, and resilience of the regional transportation system</i>
Goal #4:	<i>Increase person and goods movement and travel choices within the transportation system</i>
Goal #5:	<i>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality</i>
Goal #6:	<i>Support healthy and equitable communities</i>
Goal #7:	<i>Adapt to a changing climate and support an integrated regional development pattern and transportation network</i>
Goal #8:	<i>Leverage new transportation technologies and data-driven solutions that result in more efficient travel</i>

SCAG CONNECT SOCIAL GOALS	
Goal #9:	<i>Encourage development of diverse housing types in areas that are supported by multiple transportation options</i>
Goal #10:	<i>Promote conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of habitats</i>

Connect SoCal Strategies

To achieve the goals of Connect SoCal, a wide range of land use and transportation strategies are included in the accompanying twenty (20) technical reports. To view Connect SoCal and the accompanying technical reports, please visit the [Connect SoCal webpage](#). Connect SoCal builds upon the progress from previous RTP/SCS cycles and continues to focus on integrated, coordinated, and balanced planning for land use and transportation that helps the SCAG region strive towards a more sustainable region, while meeting statutory requirements pertinent to RTP/SCSs. These strategies within the regional context are provided as guidance for lead agencies such as local jurisdictions when the proposed project is under consideration.

SCAG Staff Comments

SCAG staff recommends that you review 2020 Connect SoCal and consider its adopted goals and policies when finalizing the proposed project.

A1 (cont.)

DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROWTH FORECASTS

A key, formative step in projecting future population, households, and employment through 2045 for Connect SoCal was the generation of a forecast of regional and county level growth in collaboration with expert demographers and economists on Southern California. From there, jurisdictional level forecasts were ground-truthed by subregions and local agencies, which helped SCAG identify opportunities and barriers to future development. This forecast helps the region understand, in a very general sense, where we are expected to grow, and allows SCAG to focus attention on areas that are experiencing change and may have increased transportation needs. After a year-long engagement effort with all 197 jurisdictions one-on-one, 82 percent of SCAG's 197 jurisdictions provided feedback on the forecast of future growth for Connect SoCal. SCAG also sought feedback on potential sustainable growth strategies from a broad range of stakeholder groups – including local jurisdictions, county transportation commissions, other partner agencies, industry groups, community-based organizations, and the general public. Connect SoCal utilizes a bottom-up approach in that total projected growth for each jurisdiction reflects feedback received from jurisdiction staff, including city managers, community development/planning directors, and local staff. Growth at the neighborhood level (i.e., transportation analysis zone (TAZ) reflects entitled projects and adheres to current general and specific plan maximum densities as conveyed by jurisdictions (except in cases where entitled projects and development agreements exceed these capacities as calculated by SCAG). Neighborhood level growth projections also feature strategies that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from automobiles and light trucks to achieve Southern California's GHG reduction target, approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in accordance with state planning law. Connect SoCal's Forecasted Development Pattern is utilized for long range modeling purposes and does not supersede actions taken by elected bodies on future development, including entitlements and development agreements. SCAG does not have the authority to implement the plan -- neither through decisions about what type of development is built where, nor what transportation projects are ultimately built, as Connect SoCal is adopted at the jurisdictional level. Achieving a sustained regional outcome depends upon informed and intentional local action. To access jurisdictional level growth estimates and forecasts for years 2016 and 2045, please refer to the [Connect SoCal Demographics and Growth Forecast Technical Report](#). The growth forecasts for the region and applicable jurisdictions are below.

A2

	Adopted SCAG Region Wide Forecasts				Adopted City of Menifee Forecasts			
	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2035	Year 2045	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2035	Year 2045
Population	19,517,731	20,821,171	21,443,006	22,503,899	94,518	108,494	115,690	129,750
Households	6,333,458	6,902,821	7,170,110	7,633,451	34,287	41,223	44,704	51,226
Employment	8,695,427	9,303,627	9,566,384	10,048,822	17,787	24,250	26,393	29,210

A2 (cont.)

SCAG Staff Comments

SCAG staff recommends including a reference to the population, housing, and employment trends and forecasts based on the most recently adopted SCAG 2020 Connect SoCal Regional Growth Forecasts to recognize the city's planned growth.

MITIGATION

SCAG Staff Comments

SCAG staff recommends that you review the [Final Program Environmental Impact Report \(Final PEIR\)](#) for Connect SoCal for guidance, as appropriate. SCAG's Regional Council certified the PEIR and adopted the associated Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations (FOF/SOC) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) on May 7, 2020 and also adopted a PEIR Addendum and amended the MMRP on September 3, 2020 (please see the [PEIR webpage](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page for the PEIR Addendum). The PEIR includes a list of project-level performance standards-based mitigation measures that may be considered for adoption and implementation by lead, responsible, or trustee agencies in the region, as applicable and feasible. Project-level mitigation measures are within responsibility, authority, and/or jurisdiction of project-implementing agency or other public agency serving as lead agency under CEQA in subsequent project- and site- specific design, CEQA review, and decision-making processes, to meet the performance standards for each of the CEQA resource categories.

A3

Thank you for your comments; they have been included within the Final Environmental Document.

Response A1: The 2020 Connect SoCal adopted goals and policies have been reviewed. As the project is listed under ID# RIV180141 in the 2020 Connect SoCal, the following reference to the SCAG's 2020 Connect SoCal have been incorporated into the Affected Environment portion of the Air Quality section:

"The proposed Project is in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)'s 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the 2020-2045 Connection SoCal Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) under ID# RIV180141. The design concept and scope of the proposed Project is consistent with the project description, goals and policies listed in the 2021 FTIP, the 2020 Connect SoCal, and the assumptions in SCAG's regional emissions analysis."

Response A2: The following reference to SCAG's 2020 Connect SoCal have been included in the Affected Environment portion of the Population and Housing section:

"The proposed Project is included in the adopted SCAG 2020 SoCal Connect RTP, which includes population, housing, and employment trends and forecasts at the city and region level as follows:

	Adopted SCAG Region Wide Forecasts				Adopted City of Menifee Forecasts			
	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2035	Year 2045	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2035	Year 2045
Population	19,517,731	20,821,171	21,443,006	22,503,899	94,518	108,494	115,690	129,750
Households	6,333,458	6,902,821	7,170,110	7,633,451	34,287	41,223	44,704	51,226
Employment	8,695,427	9,303,627	9,566,384	10,048,822	17,787	24,250	26,393	29,210

Additionally, Response a) under Population and Housing has been revised to state that the design concept and scope of the proposed Project is consistent with the project description and growth forecasts of the 2020 Connect SoCal.

Response A3: The Final PEIR for the SCAG 2020 Connect SoCal has been reviewed. All project-level impacts requiring mitigation measures have been addressed; no additional measures from the SCAG 2020 Connect SoCal PEIR are needed to be incorporated.

Comment B: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (June 12, 2023)



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



June 12, 2023

Mr. Diego Guillen
Associate Engineer
29844 Haun Road
Menifee, CA 92586
dguillen@cityofmenifee.us

**Subject: Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, Valley Boulevard Widening Project,
State Clearinghouse No. 2023050208, City of Menifee, Riverside County**

Dear Mr. Guillen:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) from the City of Menifee (City) for the Valley Boulevard Widening Project (Project) for the City of Menifee (Project Applicant/Proponent) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines¹.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State [Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subdivision (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, § 15386, subdivision (a)]. CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Id., § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect state fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW is also submitting comments as a Responsible Agency under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code, including

¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

B1

lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 *et seq.*). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take", as defined by State law, of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*), or CESA-listed rare plant pursuant to the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; Fish & G. Code, §1900 *et seq.*), CDFW recommends the Project proponent obtain appropriate authorization under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW issued Natural Community Conservation Plan approval and take authorization in 2004 for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), as per Section 2800, *et seq.*, of the California Fish and Game Code. The MSHCP established a multiple species conservation program to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permit. CDFW is providing the following comments as they relate to the Project's consistency with the MSHCP and CEQA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY

Description: The City of Menifee (City; Lead Agency and Project Applicant) are proposing the Valley Boulevard Widening Project (Project). The proposed Project will consist of the widening of the existing Valley Boulevard roadway between Murrieta Road and Chambers Avenue from a two-lane road to a four-lane facility and extend the roadway through two locations: a 700-foot segment north of McCall Boulevard and an 800-foot segment at the recently constructed Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) Desalination Facility near Murrieta Road. The project will include raised medians, turn lanes, and seven new traffic signals at major intersections. Additionally, the project will create a multi-modal network of sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway.

The proposed widening of Valley Boulevard would also potentially require utility relocations. Additional Project Activities needed to support the design of the project include potholing and geotechnical investigations within the existing roadway and proposed improvement locations.

Location: The Project site is located along the existing Valley Boulevard, between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road, in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, California, in Township 5 South, Section 14, Range 3 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5", California topographic quadrangle map.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the documents for review, CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist the City in adequately identifying, avoiding, and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct, and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. Editorial comments or other suggestions are also included to improve the environmental document. CDFW recommends the measures or

B1 (cont.)

revisions below be included in a science-based monitoring program that contains adaptive management strategies as part of the Project's CEQA mitigation, monitoring and reporting program (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6; CEQA Guidelines, § 15097).

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The MND identifies that general biological assessment of the Project was completed in 2022 and references the "*Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report*". In addition, small mammal surveys have been completed and targeted protocol-level bird surveys for species that may occur (such as coastal California gnatcatcher) have also been conducted. However, no additional details (the methods, times, results, etc.) were provided regarding the focused surveys mentioned within the MND. The CDFW is concerned that, for the purposes of CEQA, the surveys may be inadequate to form a complete inventory of the species present in the Project area.

CDFW recommends that the "*Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report*" and any additional reports be included as Appendices to the revised MND to provide a current and defensible assessment of Project impacts to biological resources.

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Compliance with approved habitat plans, such as the MSHCP, is discussed in CEQA. Specifically, Section 15125(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the CEQA document discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans. An assessment of the impacts to the MSHCP as a result of this Project is necessary to address CEQA requirements. The proposed Project occurs within the MSHCP area and is subject to the provisions and policies of the MSHCP.

To be considered a covered activity, Permittees need to demonstrate that proposed actions are consistent with the MSHCP, the Permits, and the Implementing Agreement. The City is the Lead Agency and is signatory to the Implementing Agreement of the MSHCP. To demonstrate consistency with the MSHCP, as part of the CEQA review, the City shall ensure the Project pays Local Development Mitigation Fees and other relevant fees as set forth in Section 8.5 of the MSHCP; and demonstrates compliance with: 1) the Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP); 2) the Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP); 3) the policies set forth in Section 6.3.2; and 5) the Best Management Practices and the siting, construction, design, operation and maintenance guidelines as set forth in Section 7.0 and Appendix C of the MSHCP.

Specific Comments

B1 (cont.)

B2

Comment #1: Protection of Riparian/Riverine and Vernal Pool Resources (MSHCP Section 6.1.2)

The procedures described in the Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools section of the MSHCP (MSHCP Section 6.1.2) are to ensure that the biological functions and values of these areas are maintained throughout the MSHCP Area (including all areas of the Plan located outside the Criteria Area). Additionally, this process helps identify areas to consider for priority acquisition, as well as those functions that may affect downstream values related to Conservation of Covered Species within the MSHCP Conservation Area. The assessment of riparian/riverine and vernal pool resources may be completed as part of the CEQA review process as set forth in Article V of the State CEQA Guidelines. However, the MSHCP identifies that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and CDFW shall be notified in advance of approval of public or private projects of draft determinations for the biologically equivalent or superior determination findings associated within Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP (MSHCP Section 6.11). Completion of the DBESP process prior to adoption of the environmental document helps to ensure that the Project will be consistent with the MSHCP, and provides public disclosure and transparency during the CEQA process by identifying the Project impacts and mitigation for wetland habitats and species, a requirement of CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15071, subds.(a)-(e).

The MSHCP identifies that assessment of these areas include identification and mapping of riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools. The assessment shall consider species composition, topography/ hydrology, and soil analysis, where appropriate. The documentation for the assessment shall include mapping and a description of the functions and values of the mapped areas with respect to the species identified in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. Factors to be considered include hydrologic regime, flood storage and flood-flow modification, nutrient retention and transformation, sediment trapping and transport, toxicant trapping, public use, wildlife Habitat, and aquatic Habitat.

The MSHCP identifies that for mapped riparian/riverine and vernal pool resources that are not included in the MSHCP conservation area, applicable mitigation under CEQA, shall be imposed by the Permittee (in this case the Lead Agency). Further, the MSHCP identifies that to ensure the standards in Section 6.1.2 are met, the Permittee shall ensure that, through the CEQA process, project applicants develop project alternatives demonstrating efforts that first avoid, and then minimize direct and indirect effects to the wetlands mapped pursuant to Section 6.1.2. If an avoidance alternative is not feasible, a practicable alternative that minimizes direct and indirect effects to riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools and associated functions and values to the greatest extent possible shall be selected. Those impacts that are unavoidable shall be mitigated such that the lost functions and values as they relate to Covered Species are replaced as through the Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP).

B3

The City is required to ensure the Applicant completes the DBESP process prior to completion of the MND to demonstrate implementation of MSHCP requirements in the CEQA documentation.

CDFW appreciate the analysis of impacts provided within the MND and General Biological Resource Assessment. However, the MSHCP implementation process is not complete because a DBESP has not been prepared and has not been submitted to CDFW for review and response, to determine if the mitigation proposed for the impacts to riparian/riverine resources is biologically equivalent or superior preservation to avoidance. It is not appropriate for the City to adopt the MND until the DBESP is complete because the City is required to notify CDFW in advance of approval of public and private projects for identified MSHCP activities, such as completion of the DBESP for the riparian/riverine policy. CDFW request that to demonstrate implementation of the MSHCP, the City of Menifee complete the DBESP process by submitting the DBESP to both CDFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comment prior to adoption of the MND.

B3 (cont.)

Comment #2: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Issue: The Project may have a significant impact on coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*), a Species of Special Concern (SSC) and ESA-listed species.

Specific impact: Project construction and activities may result in injury or mortality of coastal California gnatcatcher, disrupt natural coastal California gnatcatcher breeding behavior, and reduce reproductive capacity. Also, the Project may impact breeding, wintering, and foraging habitat for the species. Populations of coastal California gnatcatcher have been found to be genetically isolated from other populations within their range. Lack of genetic mixing between other geographical populations is likely due to heightened fragmentation and loss of suitable habitat across their range in southern California (Vandergast 2019).

Why impacts would occur: There is approximately 31.48 acres of potential habitat (coastal sage scrub) for coastal California gnatcatcher within the Project site and surrounding 500-foot buffer. The proposed Project activities would temporarily impact 1.06 acres and permanently impact 1.00 acres of coastal California gnatcatcher habitat. The MND states that California gnatcatcher was determined to present onsite during the 2022 protocol surveys; however, no other information was provided regarding gnatcatcher occupancy of the Project site.

Since the MSHCP implementation process has not yet been completed take of habitat is not covered. Thus, surveys for coastal California gnatcatcher are necessary to understand the impacts the Project may have on gnatcatcher nesting habitat and to identify occupied gnatcatcher habitat to meet MSHCP requirements. Coastal California gnatcatcher is an ESA-listed species as Threatened, and the USFWS permit for the

B4

MSHCP restricts clearing of coastal California gnatcatcher-occupied habitat during the nesting season: "clearing of occupied habitat within [Public/Quasi-Public (PQP)] lands and the Criteria Area between March 1 and August 15 is prohibited." (per Condition 5b of the USFWS MSHCP permit). This condition protects gnatcatchers during the nesting season and prevents take of active nests.

Gnatcatchers are territorial, year-round residents with high-site fidelity, and can be extremely quiet during brooding and therefore difficult to detect when nesting. There must be a clear understanding of habitat use by coastal California gnatcatcher before any vegetation removal or ground disturbance occurs. The Project Applicant cannot rely on nesting bird surveys just prior to grading to determine gnatcatcher use of coastal sage scrub and chaparral on the Project site. CDFW recommend protocol surveys to determine coastal California gnatcatcher use of the site within one year of start of project activities or adherence to the vegetation removal restriction periods in the permits.

Evidence impacts would be significant: Coastal California gnatcatcher is an ESA-listed species and a California SSC. ESA-listed species are considered endangered, rare, or threatened species under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). Take under the ESA is more broadly defined than CESA. Take under ESA also includes significant habitat modification or degradation that could result in death or injury to a listed species by interfering with essential behavioral patterns such as breeding, foraging, or nesting. CEQA provides protection not only for State and federally listed species, but for any species including, but not limited to SSC, which can be shown to meet the criteria for State listing. SSC's meet the CEQA definition of rare, threatened, or endangered species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065). Take of SSC's could require a mandatory finding of significance (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065).

Coastal California gnatcatchers are non-migratory, territorial, and have been found not to disperse far from their natal nests (Bailey 1998; Vandergast 2019). Thus, the preservation of sensitive natural communities which they have been documented to utilize is paramount.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s):

Mitigation Measure #1: To address the above issues and help the Project applicant avoid unlawfully taking of nesting birds, CDFW requests the City include the following mitigation measures in the MND per below (edits are in ~~strike through~~ and bold), and also included in Attachment 1 "Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

MM BIO-8: Prior to grading or other ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist shall survey all potential nesting vegetation within and adjacent to the site for nesting coastal California gnatcatcher according to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2019 survey protocol guidelines. The City of Menifee (City) shall impose conditions of approval on future

B4 (cont.)

grading permits requiring focused surveys to be conducted prior to ground disturbance or discing activities. A minimum of three (3) surveys shall be conducted at least one week apart to determine presence/absence of coastal California gnatcatcher. Surveys shall be conducted by the Designated Biologist at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of project activities. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate. Written and mapped qualitative descriptions of plant communities (including dominant species and habitat quality) on and adjacent to the area surveyed will also be provided with survey results to USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), within 45 days following the field surveys, prior to ground disturbing activities. The results of the focused surveys shall be provided to the City, CDFW, and USFWS for review and approval prior to commencement of ground disturbing or discing activities.

If feasible, clearing and grubbing within coastal sage scrub habitat will occur outside of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) breeding season (March 1 to August 15). In the event that the focused surveys do not identify the presence of California gnatcatcher, habitat has been confirmed to be unoccupied by California gnatcatcher, and MM BIO-9 has been completed, then ground disturbance or discing may occur during the nesting season (i.e., between March 1 and August 15). If clearing and grubbing must occur within the breeding season, the Project biologist will first inspect the vegetation immediately prior to removal and monitor during initial vegetation clearing as appropriate. In the event that the focused surveys identify the presence of California gnatcatchers, then ground disturbance or discing of the occupied areas shall be prohibited between March 1 and August 15. If an active coastal California gnatcatcher nest is discovered, the Project biologist will take reasonable steps to avoid direct mortality of the species, such as relocating the nest or taking the nest to a local wildlife rehabilitation center to increase the chance of survival of the offspring. the nest site shall be fenced with a buffer of a minimum of 500 feet in all directions, and this area shall not be disturbed until after the nest becomes inactive, the young have fledged, the young are no longer being fed by the parents, the young have left the area, as confirmed by a qualified biologist. If a nest is suspected, but not confirmed, the Designated Biologist shall establish a disturbance-free buffer until additional surveys can be completed, or until the location can be inferred based on observations. If a nest is observed, but thought to be inactive, the Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest for one hour (four hours for raptors during the non-breeding season) prior to approaching the nest to determine status. The Designated Biologist shall use their best

B4 (cont.)

professional judgement regarding the monitoring period and whether approaching the nest is appropriate. Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with these requirements and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by City of Menifee staff or its designee to confirm compliance.

B4 (cont.)

Comment #3: Burrowing Owl

Issue: The Project may have a significant impact on burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a Species of Special Concern (SSC).

Specific impacts: Project construction and activities may result in injury or mortality of burrowing owl, disrupt natural burrowing owl breeding behavior, and reduce reproductive capacity. Also, the Project may impact breeding, wintering, and foraging habitat for the species. Habitat loss could result in local extirpation of the species and contribute to local, regional, and State-wide declines of burrowing owl.

Why impacts would occur: The MND identifies that burrowing owl have a high potential to occur within the Project site; however, it's unclear if focused surveys of the Project site were completed, as described in the *2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area*. No additional details (the survey dates, times, etc.) were provided regarding the burrowing owl surveys mentioned within the MND if they were conducted. The "Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area" specify a written report must be provided detailing results of the habitat assessment with photographs and indicating whether the project site contains suitable burrowing owl habitat and burrow locations.

B5

There is insufficient information provided to determine if the proposed avoidance and minimization measures will mitigate Project impacts below a level of significance. BIO-9 would require a no-work buffer around nesting birds, which would apply to occupied burrowing owl burrows, both during the nesting season and outside breeding season to be determined by the biologist. However, no-work buffer could be an insufficient buffer from occupied burrows and adjacent foraging grounds given the types of disturbance associated with the Project. Burrowing owls could react to low level disturbances such as surveys, drive by, or minimal ground disturbance/excavation (Environment Canada 2009). The Project is proposing a buffer that may be more suitable for low level disturbances; however, the Project could generate noise and ground vibrations more consistent with medium to high level disturbance. Project construction would generate noise and ground vibrations during daytime and nighttime earthmoving activities, demolition, tunneling, spoils hauling, and operation of large machinery. A buffer from occupied burrows during these types of disturbances could result in burrowing owls abandoning active nests, potentially causing loss of eggs or developing young, and noise could cause birds to avoid suitable nesting habitat. Finally, a buffer would not protect important foraging habitat during burrowing owl nesting season.

Implementation of "50-foot no-disturbance buffer" is not sufficient to avoid take of burrowing owl nests, which means that the mitigation proposed is not an enforceable requirement. Finally, CDFW does not issue permits for the take of nesting birds, nests, or eggs. BIO-9 does not provide any performance standards suitable for successfully mitigating impacts on burrowing owl habitat. The mitigation measure proposed in the MND may not satisfy the CEQA standards for mitigation that formulation of mitigation measures shall not be deferred until some future date (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4).

Evidence impact would be significant: Burrowing owl is a SSC, an SSC is a species, subspecies, or distinct population of an animal native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following (not necessarily mutually exclusive) criteria:

- is extirpated from the State or, in the case of birds, is extirpated in its primary season or breeding role;
- is listed as ESA-, but not CESA-, threatened, or endangered; meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed;
- is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (nonscyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status; and/or,
- has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for CESA threatened or endangered status (CDFW 2022b). CEQA provides protection not only for ESA and CESA-listed species, but for any species including but not limited to SSC which can be shown to meet the criteria for State listing. These SSC meet the CEQA definition of rare, threatened, or endangered species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). In addition, migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, § 10.13). Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of all birds and their active nests including raptors and other migratory nongame birds (as listed under the Federal MBTA). It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any raptor.

In California, burrowing owls are in decline primarily because of habitat loss, as well as disease, predation, and drought. Burrowing owls require specific soil and microhabitat conditions, occur in few locations within a broad habitat category of grassland and some forms of agricultural land, require a relatively large home range to support their life history requirements, occur in relatively low numbers, and are semi-colonial.

The Project's impact on burrowing owl has yet to be mitigated below a significant level. Accordingly, the Project continues to have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or

B5 (cont.)

through habitat modifications, on a species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species by CDFW.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s):

Mitigation Measure #1: To avoid take of active burrowing owl burrows (nests), CDFW requests the City include the following mitigation measures in the MND per below (edits are in ~~strike through~~ and bold), and also included in Attachment 1 "Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

MM-Bio XX: To avoid project-related impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring on or in the vicinity of the project site, a project-specific habitat assessments and pre-construction survey for burrowing owl in accordance with the March 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities including vegetation clearing, grubbing, tree removal, or site watering. In addition, a preconstruction survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted within 3 days prior to initiation of Project activities and reported to CDFW. Additionally, if ground-disturbing activities occur, but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey shall again be necessary to minimize the possibility burrowing owl have not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If burrowing owls are found, the same coordination described above shall be necessary.

If no burrowing owls are observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin. If burrowing owl are present within the survey area, then avoidance or minimization measures shall be undertaken in consultation with the City of Menifee, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). CDFW shall be sent written notification within 48 hours of detection of burrowing owls. If active nests are identified on an implementing project site during the pre-construction survey, the Project applicant shall not commence activities until no sign is present that the burrows are being used by adult or juvenile owls or following CDFW approval of a Burrowing Owl Plan as described below. If owl presence is difficult to determine, a qualified biologist shall monitor the burrows with motion-activated trail cameras for at least 24 hours to evaluate burrow occupancy. The onsite qualified biologist will verify the nesting effort has finished according to methods identified in the Burrowing Owl Plan.

B5 (cont.)

The qualified biologist and Project Applicant shall coordinate with the City, CDFW, and USFWS to develop a Burrowing Owl Plan to be approved by the City, CDFW, and USFWS prior to commencing Project activities. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, relocation, monitoring, minimization, and/or mitigation actions. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites and details on proposed buffers if avoiding the burrowing owls or information on the adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls for relocation. If no suitable habitat is available nearby for relocation, details regarding the creation and funding of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls shall also be included in the Burrowing Owl Plan. The City will implement the Burrowing Owl Plan following CDFW and USFWS review and approval.

If burrowing owls are observed within Project Site(s) during Project implementation and construction, the Project applicant shall notify CDFW immediately in writing within 48 hours of detection. A Burrowing Owl Plan will be submitted to CDFW for review and approval within two weeks of detection and no Project activity will continue within 1000 feet of the burrowing owls until CDFW approves the Burrowing Owl Plan. The City shall be responsible for implementing appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures, including burrow avoidance, passive or active relocation, or other appropriate mitigation measures as identified in the Burrowing Owl Plan.

A final report shall be prepared by a qualified biologist documenting the results of the burrowing owl surveys and detailing avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The final report will be submitted to the City and CDFW within 30 days of completion of the survey and burrowing monitoring for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.

B5 (cont.)

Comment #4: Nesting Bird

Issue: The Project may have a significant impact on nesting birds, including Species of Special Concern and fully protected species, that are subject to Fish and Game Code section 3513 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

Specific impact: Project implementation could result in the loss of nesting and/or foraging habitat for passerine and raptor species from the removal of vegetation onsite.

Why impacts would occur: Project activities could result in temporary or long-term loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitats. Construction during the breeding season of nesting birds could potentially result in the incidental loss of breeding success or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Noise from road use, generators, and heavy

B6

equipment may disrupt nesting bird mating calls or songs, which could impact reproductive success (Patricelli and Blickley 2006, Halfwerk et al. 2011). Noise has also been shown to reduce the density of nesting birds (Francis et al. 2009), and songbird abundance and density was significantly reduced in areas with high levels of noise (Bayne et al. 2008). Additionally, noise exceeding 70 dB(A) may affect feathers and body growth of young birds (Kleist et al. 2018). In addition to construction activities, residential development and increased human presence in the Project site could contribute to nesting bird impacts.

The timing of the nesting season varies greatly depending on several factors, such as the bird species, weather conditions in any given year, and long-term climate changes (e.g., drought, warming, etc.). CDFW staff have observed that changing climate conditions may result in the nesting bird season occurring earlier and later in the year than historical nesting season dates. CDFW recommends the completion of nesting bird survey regardless of time of year to ensure compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to nesting and to avoid take of nests.

The duration of a pair to build a nest and incubate eggs varies considerably, therefore, CDFW recommends surveying for nesting behavior and/or nests and construction within three days prior to start of Project construction to ensure all nests on site are identified and to avoid take of nests. Without appropriate species-specific avoidance measures, biological construction monitoring may be ineffective for detecting nesting birds. This may result in Take of nesting birds. Project ground-disturbing activities such as grading and grubbing may result in habitat destruction, causing the death or injury of adults, juveniles, eggs, or hatchlings. In addition, the Project may remove habitat by eliminating native vegetation that may support essential foraging and breeding habitat.

Evidence impacts would be significant: It is the Project proponent's responsibility to avoid Take of all nesting birds. Fish and Game Code section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by Fish and Game Code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Fish and Game Code section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird except as provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 703 et seq.). Fish and Game Code section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by Fish and Game Code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto. These regulations apply anytime nests or eggs exist on the Project site.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s):

Mitigation Measure #1: To address the above issues and help the Project applicant avoid unlawfully taking of nesting birds, CDFW requests the City include the following

B6 (cont.)

mitigation measures in the MND per below (edits are in ~~strike through~~ and bold), and also included in Attachment 1 "Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Mitigation Measure Bio-9: To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, site preparation activities (such as ground disturbance, construction activities, and/or removal of trees and vegetation) for all implementing development and infrastructure projects shall be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the nesting season. Prior to vegetation removal or initial ground disturbance during the nesting bird season (February 1 to September 30), a pre-construction nesting bird survey of the Project area will be conducted by a Project-Qualified biologist prior to the start of work within 3 days prior to initiation of activity. Survey methods will include inspecting trees, shrubs, and the ground with binoculars for signs of active nests or nesting behavior. The survey area will include the area of direct impact plus a 50-foot buffer project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint within 3 days prior to initiation of activity. Within 72 hours of the nesting bird survey, all areas surveyed by the biologist will be cleared by the Contractor or a supplemental nesting bird survey is required. The survey results shall be provided to the City's Planning Department. The Project Applicant shall adhere to the following:

1. Applicant shall designate a biologist (Designated Biologist) experienced in: identifying local and migratory bird species of special concern; conducting bird surveys using appropriate survey methodology; nesting surveying techniques, recognizing breeding and nesting behaviors, locating nests and breeding territories, and identifying nesting stages and nest success; determining/establishing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures; and monitoring the efficacy of implemented avoidance and minimization measures.
2. Pre-activity field surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of Project activities. Surveys shall encompass all suitable areas including trees, shrubs, bare ground, burrows, cavities, and structures. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the Project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate.

B6 (cont.)

If no nesting birds are observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin. A 50 foot no disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds or raptors, unless applicable "take" coverage of the species has been acquired for the Project or the species is covered under the MSHCP (e.g., Coastal California gnatcatcher, burrowing owl). If an active nest or nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist and approved by the City of Menifee, based on their best professional judgement and experience. The Contractor will immediately stop work in the buffer area and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the Project Qualified biologist and in coordination with Wildlife Agencies) in the buffer area until the Project biologist determines the young have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for topography, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type. All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the Project biologist, in coordination with CDFW. The Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest at the onset of project activities, and at the onset of any changes in such project activities (e.g., increase in number or type of equipment, change in equipment usage, etc.) to determine the efficacy of the buffer. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution if indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest. Work can resume within these avoidance areas when no other active nests are found. Upon completion of the survey and nesting bird monitoring, a report shall be prepared and submitted to the City for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.

B6 (cont.)

Comment #5: Impacts to Aquatic and Riparian Resources; Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA)

Issue: Based on review of material submitted with the MND and review of aerial photography, the Project has the potential to impact fish and wildlife resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.

Specific Impact: Based on review of material submitted with the MND and review of aerial photography, the Project has the potential to impact fish and wildlife resources

B7

subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. The MND identified a "a runoff conveyance channel owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control" and at least one additional drainage appears to flow through the Project area near the current terminus of Valley Boulevard, near the intersection with McCall Boulevard. The Project activities have the potential to impact fish and wildlife resources through the deposition of debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream, or lake.

Why Impact Would Occur: Project-related activities could potentially alter drainage patterns and water quality within, upstream, and downstream of the Project site, including: volume, velocity, and frequency of existing and post-Project surface flows; polluted runoff; soil erosion and/or sedimentation in streams and water bodies; and post-Project fate of runoff from the Project site.

Evidence Impact Would Be Significant: The Project may substantially adversely affect the existing stream pattern and geomorphologic processes of the Project site through the deposition of debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream or lake. Depending on how the Project is designed and constructed, it is likely that the Project applicant will need to notify CDFW per Fish and Game Code section 1602. Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may do one or more of the following: substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream or lake; substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or deposit debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream or lake. Please note that "any river, stream or lake" includes those that are episodic (i.e., those that are dry for periods of time) as well as those that are perennial (i.e., those that flow year-round). This includes ephemeral streams, desert washes, and watercourses with a subsurface flow.

Upon receipt of a complete notification, CDFW determines if the proposed Project activities may substantially adversely affect existing fish and wildlife resources and whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement is required. An LSA Agreement includes measures necessary to protect existing fish and wildlife resources. CDFW may suggest ways to modify the project that would eliminate or reduce harmful impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW's issuance of an LSA Agreement is a "project" subject to CEQA (see Pub. Resources Code, § 21065). To facilitate issuance of an LSA Agreement, if necessary, the MND should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream, or riparian resources, and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring and reporting commitments. Early consultation with CDFW is recommended, since modification of the proposed Project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. To obtain a Lake or Streambed Alteration notification package, please go to <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA/Forms>.

Recommended potentially feasible mitigation measure(s):

B7 (cont.)

Mitigation Measure #1: To ensure compliance with Fish and Game Code section 1602 CDFW recommends that the City condition the MND to include a mitigation measure for consultation with CDFW to determine if Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. resources may occur within the proposed Project alignment.

CDFW recommends the inclusion of the following measure in the MND per the edits below (edits are in ~~strike through~~ and bold), and also included in Attachment 1 "Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program":

Mitigation Measure XX: If jurisdictional waters are impacted as a result of project implementation, the City of Menifee shall obtain all appropriate permits pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW pursuant to Sections 1600–1616 of the California Fish and Game Code. Prior to the grading the Project site and prior to the start of Project activities, the Applicant shall notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources. The applicant shall either receive a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) or written documentation from CDFW that a Streamed Alteration Agreement is not needed.

The notification to CDFW should provide the following information:

1. A stream delineation including the bed, bank and channel;
2. Linear feet and/or acreage of streams and associated natural communities that would be permanently and/or temporarily impacted by the Project. This includes impacts as a result of routine maintenance and fuel modification. Plant community names should be provided based on vegetation association and/or alliance per the Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer et al 2009);
3. A discussion as to whether impacts on streams within the Project site would impact those streams immediately outside of the Project site where there is hydrologic connectivity. Potential impacts such as changes to drainage pattern, runoff, and sedimentation should be discussed; and
4. A hydrological evaluation of the 100-year storm event to provide information on how water and sediment is conveyed through the Project site.

B7 (cont.)

Additional Recommendations

Weed Management Plan. A weed management plan should be developed for the Project site and implemented during the duration of this long-term Project. On-going soil disturbance promotes establishment and growth of non-native weeds. As part of the Project, non-native weeds should be prevented from becoming established. The Projects site should be monitored via mapping for new introductions and expansions of non-native weeds.

B8

Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan

CDFW recommends updating the MND's proposed Biological Resources Mitigation Measures to include mitigation measures recommended in this letter. Mitigation measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally binding instruments [(Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6; CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4(a)(2)]. As such, CDFW has provided comments and recommendations to assist the City in developing mitigation measures that are (1) consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15126.4; (2) specific; (3) detailed (i.e., responsible party, timing, specific actions, location), and (4) clear for a measure to be fully enforceable and implemented successfully via mitigation, monitoring, and/or reporting program (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6; CEQA Guidelines, § 15097). The City is welcome to coordinate with CDFW to further review and refine the Project's mitigation measures. Per Public Resources Code section 21081.6(a)(1), CDFW has provided the City with a summary of our suggested mitigation measures and recommendations in the form of an attached Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan (MMRP; Attachment 1).

B9

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e).) Accordingly, please report any special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). The CNDDDB field survey form can be filled out and submitted online at the following link: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>. The types of information reported to CNDDDB can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Plants-and-Animals>.

B10

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of environmental document filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the environmental document filing fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final.

B11

Mr. Diego Guillen
City of Menifee
June 12, 2023
Page 18 of 27

(Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089.)

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Valley Boulevard Widening Project, State Clearinghouse No. 2023050208 to assist in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. CDFW personnel are available for consultation regarding biological resources and strategies to minimize impacts. CDFW requests that the City of Menifee addresses CDFW's comments and concerns prior to adoption of the MND for the Project.

Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Katrina Rehrer, Environmental Scientist, at katrina.rehrer@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

84F921EE3024C5

Kim Freeburn
Environmental Program Manager

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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
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Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Attachment A: Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan

CDFW recommends the following language to be incorporated into a future environmental document for the Project. A final MMRP shall reflect results following additional plant and wildlife surveys and the Project's final on and/or off-site mitigation plans.

Biological Resources (BIO)			
Mitigation Measure (MM)		Timing	Responsible Party
California Gnatcatcher	MM BIO-8: Prior to grading or other ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist shall survey all potential nesting vegetation within and adjacent to the site for nesting coastal California gnatcatcher according to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2019 survey protocol guidelines. The City of Menifee (City) shall impose conditions of approval on future grading permits requiring focused surveys to be conducted prior to ground disturbance or discing activities. A minimum of three (3) surveys shall be conducted at least one week apart to determine presence/absence of coastal California gnatcatcher. Surveys shall be conducted by the Designated Biologist at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of project activities. Survey duration shall take into consideration the size of the project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate. Written and mapped qualitative descriptions of plant communities (including dominant species and habitat quality) on and adjacent to the area surveyed will also be provided with survey results to USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), within 45 days following the field surveys, prior to ground disturbing activities. The results of the focused surveys shall be provided to the City, CDFW, and		

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	<p>USFWS for review and approval prior to commencement of ground disturbing or discing activities.</p> <p>If feasible, clearing and grubbing within coastal sage scrub habitat will occur outside of coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>) breeding season (March 1 to August 15). In the event that the focused surveys do not identify the presence of California gnatcatcher, habitat has been confirmed to be unoccupied by California gnatcatcher, and MM BIO-9 has been completed, then ground disturbance or discing may occur during the nesting season (i.e., between March 1 and August 15). In the event that the focused surveys identify the presence of California gnatcatchers, then ground disturbance or discing of the occupied areas shall be prohibited between March 1 and August 15. If an active coastal California gnatcatcher nest is discovered, the nest site shall be fenced with a buffer of a minimum of 500 feet in all directions, and this area shall not be disturbed until after the nest becomes inactive, the young have fledged, the young are no longer being fed by the parents, the young have left the area, as confirmed by a qualified biologist. If a nest is suspected, but not confirmed, the Designated Biologist shall establish a disturbance-free buffer until additional surveys can be completed, or until the location can be inferred based on observations. If a nest is observed, but thought to be inactive, the Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest for one hour (four hours for raptors during the non-breeding season) prior to approaching the nest to determine status. The Designated Biologist shall use their best professional judgement regarding the monitoring period and whether approaching the nest is appropriate. Project contractors shall be required to ensure compliance with these requirements and permit periodic inspection of the construction site by City of Menifee staff or its designee to confirm compliance.</p>		
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Burrowing Owl	<p>MM BIO-XX: To avoid project-related impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring on or in the vicinity of the project site, a project-specific habitat assessments and pre-construction survey for burrowing owl in accordance with the March 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 30 days prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities including vegetation clearing, grubbing, tree removal, or site watering. In addition, a preconstruction survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted within 3 days prior to initiation of Project activities and reported to CDFW. Additionally, if ground-disturbing activities occur, but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey shall again be necessary to minimize the possibility burrowing owl have not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If burrowing owls are found, the same coordination described above shall be necessary.</p> <p>If no burrowing owls are observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin. If burrowing owl are present within the survey area, then avoidance or minimization measures will be undertaken in consultation with the City of Menifee, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). CDFW shall be sent written notification within 48 hours of detection of burrowing owls. If active nests are identified on an implementing project site during the pre-construction survey, the Project applicant shall not commence activities until no sign is present that the burrows are being used by adult or juvenile owls or following CDFW approval of a Burrowing Owl Plan as described below. If owl presence is difficult to determine, a qualified biologist shall monitor the burrows with motion-activated trail cameras for at least 24 hours to evaluate burrow occupancy. The onsite qualified biologist will verify the nesting effort has finished according to methods identified in the Burrowing Owl Plan.</p>	Prior to commencing ground- or vegetation disturbing activities	Project Proponent
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B9 (cont.)

	<p>The qualified biologist and Project Applicant shall coordinate with the City, CDFW, and USFWS to develop a Burrowing Owl Plan to be approved by the City, CDFW, and USFWS prior to commencing Project activities. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, relocation, monitoring, minimization, and/or mitigation actions. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites and details on proposed buffers if avoiding the burrowing owls or information on the adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls for relocation. If no suitable habitat is available nearby for relocation, details regarding the creation and funding of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls shall also be included in the Burrowing Owl Plan. The City shall implement the Burrowing Owl Plan following CDFW and USFWS review and approval.</p> <p>If burrowing owls are observed within Project Site(s) during Project implementation and construction, the Project applicant shall notify CDFW immediately in writing within 48 hours of detection. A Burrowing Owl Plan shall be submitted to CDFW for review and approval within two weeks of detection and no Project activity shall continue within 1000 feet of the burrowing owls until CDFW approves the Burrowing Owl Plan. The City shall be responsible for implementing appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures, including burrow avoidance, passive or active relocation, or other appropriate mitigation measures as identified in the Burrowing Owl Plan.</p> <p>A final report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the burrowing owl surveys and detailing avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The final report will be submitted to the City and CDFW within 30 days of completion of the survey and burrowing monitoring for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.</p>		
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B9 (cont.)

<p>Nesting Birds</p>	<p>MM BIO-9: To maintain compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, site preparation activities (such as ground disturbance, construction activities, and/or removal of trees and vegetation) for all implementing development and infrastructure projects shall be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the nesting season. Prior to vegetation removal or initial ground disturbance during the nesting bird season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey of the Project area will be conducted by a Qualified biologist within 3 days prior to initiation of activity. The survey area will include the project impact footprint and a 500-foot buffer where legal access is granted around the disturbance footprint within 3 days prior to initiation of activity. Within 72 hours of the nesting bird survey, all areas surveyed by the biologist will be cleared by the Contractor or a supplemental nesting bird survey is required. The survey results shall be provided to the City's Planning Department. The Project Applicant shall adhere to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant shall designate a biologist (Designated Biologist) experienced in: identifying local and migratory bird species of special concern; conducting bird surveys using appropriate survey methodology; nesting surveying techniques, recognizing breeding and nesting behaviors, locating nests and breeding territories, and identifying nesting stages and nest success; determining/establishing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures; and monitoring the efficacy of implemented avoidance and minimization measures. 2. Pre-activity field surveys shall be conducted at the appropriate time of day/night, during appropriate weather conditions, no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of Project activities. Surveys shall encompass all suitable areas including trees, shrubs, bare ground, burrows, cavities, and structures. Survey duration shall take into 	<p>Prior to commencing ground- or vegetation disturbing activities</p>	<p>Project Proponent</p>
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B9 (cont.)

	<p>consideration the size of the Project site; density, and complexity of the habitat; number of survey participants; survey techniques employed; and shall be sufficient to ensure the data collected is complete and accurate.</p> <p>If no nesting birds are observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin. If an active nest or nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are detected during the nesting bird survey, avoidance buffers shall be implemented as determined by a qualified biologist and approved by the City of Menifee, based on their best professional judgement and experience. The Contractor will immediately stop work in the buffer area and is prohibited from conducting work (as determined by the Qualified biologist and in coordination with Wildlife Agencies) in the buffer area until the Project biologist determines the young have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The buffer shall be of a distance to ensure avoidance of adverse effects to the nesting bird by accounting for topography, ambient conditions, species, nest location, and activity type. All nests shall be monitored as determined by the qualified biologist until nestlings have fledged and dispersed or it is confirmed that the nest has been unsuccessful or abandoned. The Designated Biologist shall monitor the nest at the onset of project activities, and at the onset of any changes in such project activities (e.g., increase in number or type of equipment, change in equipment usage, etc.) to determine the efficacy of the buffer. The qualified biologist shall halt all construction activities within proximity to an active nest if it is determined that the activities are harassing the nest and may result in nest abandonment or take. The qualified biologist shall also have the authority to require implementation of avoidance measures related to noise, vibration, or light pollution if indirect impacts are resulting in harassment of the nest. Work can resume within these avoidance areas when no other active nests are found. Upon completion of the survey and nesting bird monitoring,</p>		
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B9 (cont.)

	a report shall be prepared and submitted to the City for mitigation monitoring compliance record keeping.		
Impacts to Aquatic and Riparian Resources	<p>Mitigation Measure XX: If jurisdictional waters are impacted as a result of project implementation, the City of Menifee shall obtain all appropriate permits pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW pursuant to Sections 1600–1616 of the California Fish and Game Code. Prior to the grading the Project site and prior to the start of Project activities, the Applicant shall notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources. The applicant shall either receive a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) or written documentation from CDFW that a Streambed Alteration Agreement is not needed.</p> <p>The notification to CDFW should provide the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A stream delineation including the bed, bank and channel; 2. Linear feet and/or acreage of streams and associated natural communities that would be permanently and/or temporarily impacted by the Project. This includes impacts as a result of routine maintenance and fuel modification. Plant community names should be provided based on vegetation association and/or alliance per the Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer et al 2009); 3. A discussion as to whether impacts on 	Prior to commencing ground- or vegetation disturbing activities	Project Proponent

B9 (cont.)

	<p>streams within the Project site would impact those streams immediately outside of the Project site where there is hydrologic connectivity. Potential impacts such as changes to drainage pattern, runoff, and sedimentation should be discussed; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A hydrological evaluation of the 100-year storm event to provide information on how water and sediment is conveyed through the Project site. 		
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Thank you for your comments; they have been included within the Final Environmental Document.

Response B1: The Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report has been inserted as Appendix C. Subsequent appendices have been renamed accordingly.

Response B2: The Project is acknowledged to be located within the MSHCP, Sun City, Menifee Valley Plan Area, and therefore the Project must comply with the MSHCP. The Project is within the MSHCP Plan Fee Area and outside of Criteria Cells, therefore a joint project review under the Regional Conservation Authority is not required (MSHCP 2003). The City will pay all applicable Local Development Mitigation Fees as set forth in Section 8.5 of the MSHCP. No changes to the environmental document were made in response to this comment.

Response B3: On May 10, 2022, Dokken Engineering biologists Hanna Sheldon and Clare Favro surveyed the Project BSA in order to document existing biological resources and evaluate habitat that may support special status species. Biological survey methods included walking meandering transects through the entire BSA, observing vegetation communities, compiling notes on observed flora and fauna, and assessing habitat features that may support sensitive plants and wildlife. No riparian/riverine or vernal pool resources were observed or mapped. With implementation of measures provided in the environmental document, no impacts to occupied habitat for survey species, including Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and yellow-billed cuckoo, would occur. As the proposed Project would not impact riparian/riverine, vernal pool resources, or occupied habitat for survey species, the project remains in compliance with the MSHCP, and a DBESP is not considered applicable for this project. No changes to the environmental document were made in response to this comment.

Response B4: Focused coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) surveys were conducted by USFWS-permitted 10(a)(1)(A) biologists Christine Tischer and Shannan Shaffer, in accordance with the *1997 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines* published by the USFWS (USFWS 1997). A total of six surveys were conducted from April 22, 2022, through May 27, 2022, within a 500-foot buffer from Project limits. Eleven CAGN territories were mapped and a total of 30 CAGN individuals (8 pairs, 1 capped male, 2 unsexed adults, 11 unsexed juveniles) were detected during the 2022 focused survey effort. All eleven of the mapped territories are located entirely within USFWS designated critical habitat for CAGN. Three territories (Territories 4, 7, and 10) are mapped within the proposed Project area and five of the mapped territories (Territories 1, 2, 3, 6, and 11) are located within the 500-foot buffer, but do not extend into the proposed Project area. The remaining three territories (Territories 5, 8, and 9) are located outside of the survey area.

The provided revisions to measure BIO-8 have been accepted and incorporated into the final document to conduct pre-construction surveys for CAGN and coordinate with CDFW and USFWS in the event active CAGN nests are located in proximity to the construction to determine appropriate buffer distances.

Response B5: The biological survey conducted in May 2022 included a focused survey for burrowing owl. During the survey, several small mammal burrows were observed throughout the BSA within non-native grassland habitat. Burrows appeared to be occupied by California ground squirrel and no signs of burrowing owl, including feathers, whitewash and/or pellets were observed. Although burrowing owl was not observed during the biological survey, given the many recent occurrences of the species, the species has a high potential of occurring within the BSA.

Language from the provided additional mitigation measure requiring a pre-construction burrowing owl survey in accordance with the March 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the MSHCP, Burrowing Owl Plan subject to USFWS and CDFW review and approval (should burrowing owls be observed), and 1000 feet no-work disturbance area while a Burrowing Owl Plan approval is pending will be incorporated as a sub-bullet under Measure BIO-9 rather than be included as a new separate measure as recommended.

Response B6: The provided revisions to measure BIO-9 have been accepted and incorporated into the final document for migratory nesting birds.

Response B7: There is one runoff conveyance channel within the Project area encompassing approximately 0.04 acres. The channel is concrete lined and does not provide any suitable habitat for wildlife. During the May 2022 biological survey, the runoff conveyance channel was determined to be a non-jurisdictional feature given its lack of connectivity to other water bodies. The runoff conveyance channel is owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control. The runoff conveyance channel only carries storm water runoff during high rain events. As no impacts to jurisdictional waters would occur as a result of the project, no mitigation or permitting is warranted. The suggested mitigation measure will not be incorporated into the environmental document.

Response B8: A weed management plan was already included in Measure BIO-17 to address invasive species. No additional changes to the environmental document are considered necessary.

Response B9: The MMRP will be updated to incorporate revised language provided by CDFW for existing measures, where applicable. No new additional measures will be added to the Final Environmental Document.

Response B10: This request has been acknowledged. Special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys will be reported to the CNDDDB. No changes to the environmental document were made.

Response B11: The City will file a Notice of Determination upon approval and adoption of the Final Environmental Document, anticipated in June 2023. The City will pay the CDFW Filing Fee to the County Clerk upon approval and adoption of the Final Environmental Document and filing of the Notice of Determination with the County Clerk.