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March 12, 2021
Project No: 21-10929

Larry G. Larson, Project Manager
Haagen Company
Indio Grand Marketplace
82227 US Highway 111, Suite A-2
Indio, California 92201
Via email: llarson@haagenco.com

Subject: Biological Resources Assessment Memorandum and Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Analysis for the Airport Business Park Project, Coachella, California

Dear Mr. Larson,

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) is pleased to submit this Biological Resources Assessment Memorandum and Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) Consistency Analysis to support Haagen Company's Airport Business Park Project (project). The assessment was completed to document existing site conditions and determine potential impacts to special-status biological resources as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CVMSHCP.

Project Description and Location

The project is located on the northwest corner of State Highway 86 and Airport Boulevard and east of the Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel in the city of Coachella, California. Haagen Company plans to develop 42.36 acres on three parcels: Assessor Parcel Numbers 763-330-013, 763-330-018, and 763-330-029, which are depicted on Township 6 South, Range 8 East, Section 15 of the *Indio*, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. Refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2 for regional and project location, respectively. The project is within the boundaries of the CVMSHCP, but outside of the CVMSHCP Mecca Hills/Orocopia Mountains Conservation Area (Figure 3) and not within any Conservation Areas.

The project site is vacant with a history of disturbance. Shrubs dominate in densely vegetated areas, while annual grasses dominate in open areas. Elevation on site ranges from approximately 120 to 115 feet (37 to 35 meters) below sea level. Surrounding land uses include the Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel to the west, State Highway 86 and agriculture to the east, Airport Boulevard and low density residential to the south, and dense saltbush scrub to the north. The project site is separated from the property to the north by a barbed wire fence.

Figure 1 Regional Location

Basemap provided by Esri and its licensors © 2021.

Project Location

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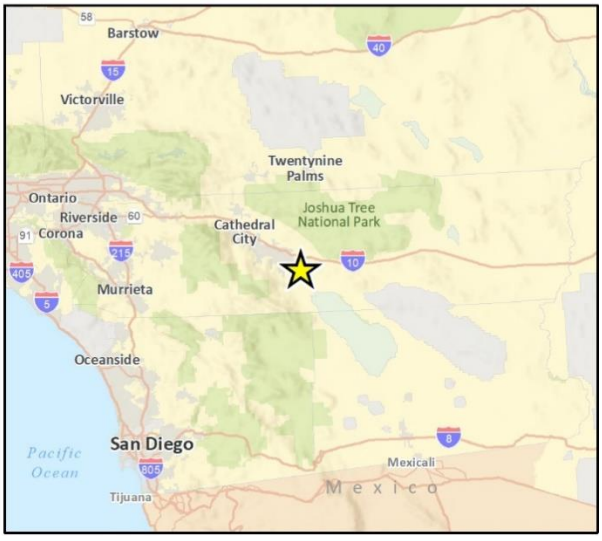
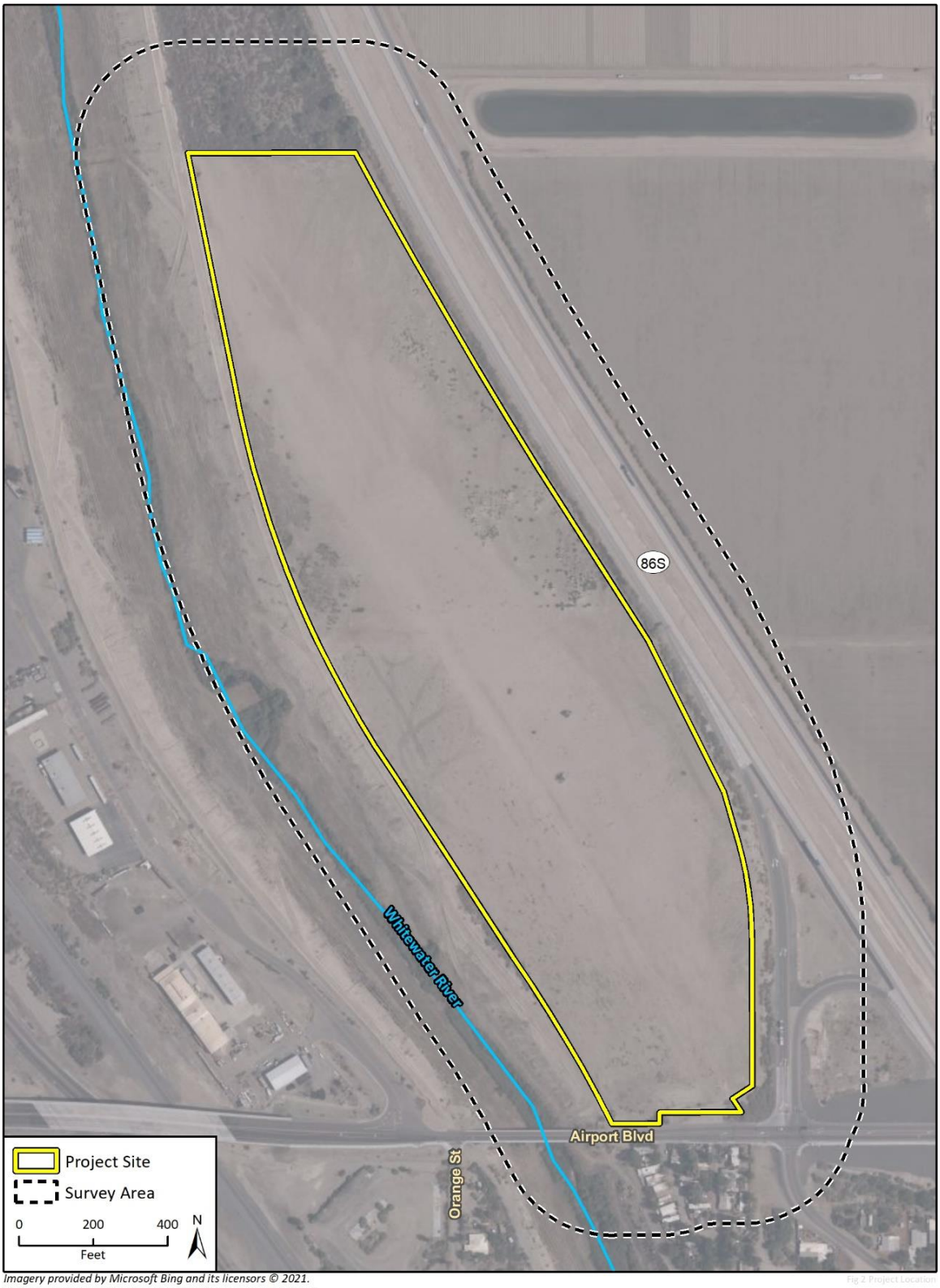


Figure 2 Project Location



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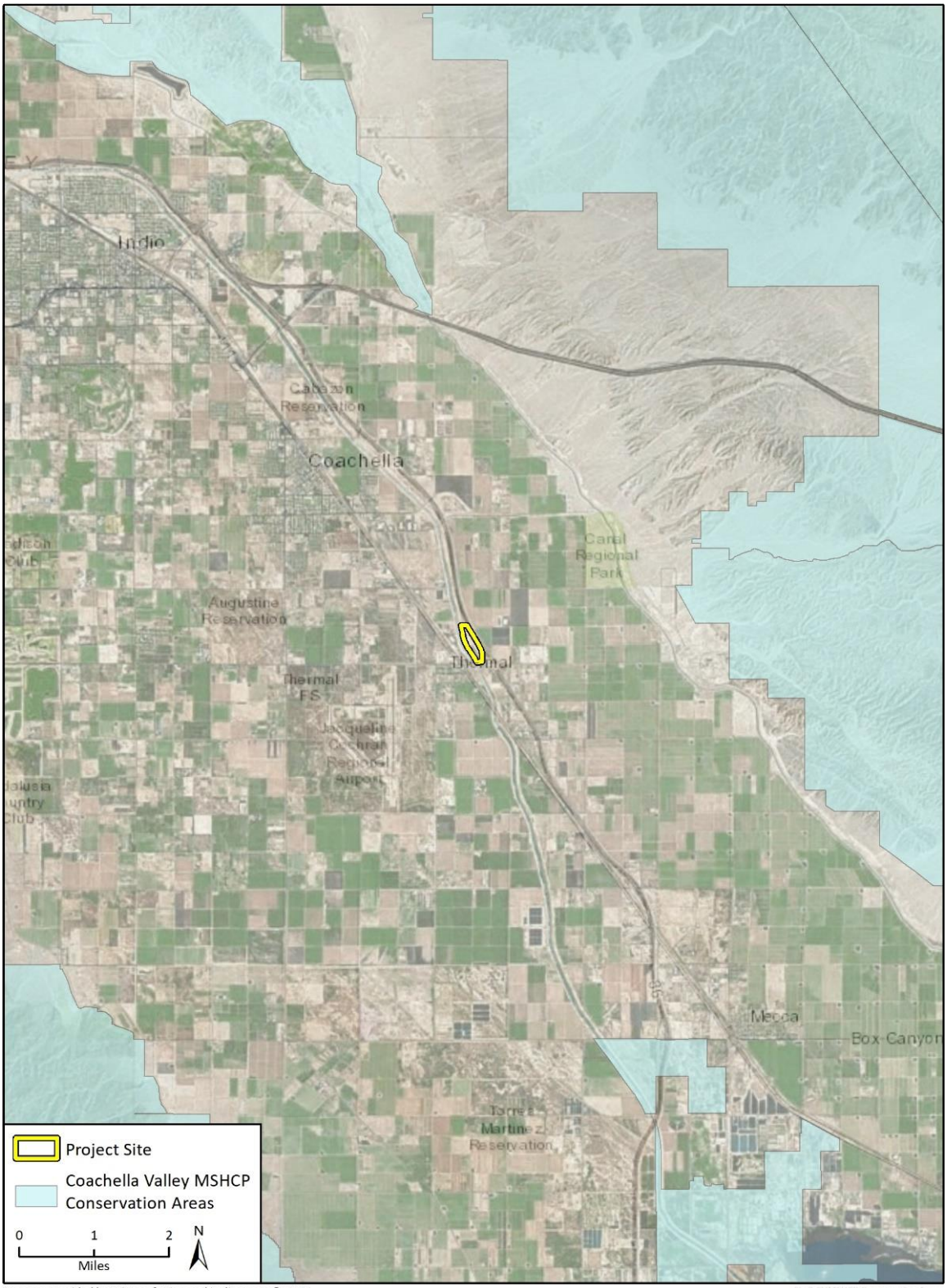
Additional data provided by National Hydrology Dataset, 2020.

Fig 2 Project Location

Figure 3 Project Vicinity To CVMSHCP Conservation Areas



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Additional data provied by CVMSHCP, 2021.

Methodology

Regulatory Overview

Regulated or special-status resources studied and analyzed herein include special-status plant and wildlife species, nesting birds and raptors, sensitive plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, wildlife movement, and locally protected resources, such as protected trees. For the purpose of this report, potential impacts to biological resources were analyzed based on the following statutes:

Federal

- Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

State

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

Local

- City of Coachella Ordinance No. 12.24 & 12.28 Regulating the Removal/Maintenance of Trees
- CVMSHCP

Literature Review

Prior to conducting the biological field survey, Rincon reviewed the parcels (provided by the client), aerial photographs and previous historical land use of the project site. Queries of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (2021a, 2021b) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (2021) were conducted to obtain comprehensive information regarding state and federally listed species as well as other special-status species considered to have potential to occur within a 5-mile radius of the project site. For CNPS query purposes, a 9-quadrangle search area centered on the project site was used; species with elevation ranges exceeding that of the project site were excluded, and plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 3 and 4 were excluded.

In addition, information regarding regionally occurring special-status biological resources and geology related to the site was reviewed using from the following sources:

- United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2021a)
- USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (USFWS 2021b)
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Mapper (USFWS 2021c)

- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2021)

Field Survey

A field reconnaissance survey was conducted by Rincon Biologist Christian Nordal on February 8, 2021 from 0700 to 0900 to document the existing site conditions and evaluate the potential for presence of sensitive biological resources including special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive plant communities, potential jurisdictional waters, wildlife corridors and nursery sites, and locally protected resources. Weather conditions during the survey included temperatures of 55 to 66 degrees Fahrenheit, no wind, and sunny and clear skies. The biologist surveyed the entire project site and a 300-foot buffer (hereinafter referred to as survey area) on foot where accessible (Figure 2). Inaccessible areas were reviewed using binoculars.

The habitat requirements for each regionally occurring special-status species were assessed and compared to the type and quality of the habitats observed within the survey area during the site visit. Vegetation communities observed on site were mapped on a site-specific aerial photograph. All accessible portions of the study area were covered on foot. Vegetation was generally classified using the systems provided in the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Communities of California* (Holland 1986), and modified using *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MCV) (Sawyer et al. 2009) as necessary to reflect the existing site conditions. The survey was conducted to make an initial determination regarding the presence or absence of terrestrial biological resources including plants, birds, and other wildlife.

Based on the results of the site visit, literature review, and species known to occur regionally, Rincon assessed the potential for the proposed project to impact special-status species within the survey area. The potential presence of special-status species is based on the site visit and literature review and is intended to assess habitat suitability within the survey area only. Definitive surveys to confirm the presence or absence of special-status species were not performed and are not included in this analysis. The findings and opinions conveyed in this report are based exclusively on the methodology described above.

Existing Conditions

Soils

Soils on the northwestern portion of the parcel have retained their original characteristics, whereas soils in the southeastern portion have been graded and compacted by previous disturbance activities. Remnant fluvents are what remains of hydric soils on site and do not constitute the majority of soil characteristics, as the site has been graded and heavily disturbed in the past few years. The four soil types on the project site, as mapped by the NRCS (Figure 4):

Coachella Fine Sand, Wet, 0 to 2 Percent Slopes (CrA)

Coachella soils are well-drained, moderately rapidly permeable soils in lacustrine basins that are characterized by layers of fine sand and silt lenses derived from igneous rocks. They are found near the old streambed of the Whitewater River. Stratifications are usually present, but usually thin and deep (NRCS 2021).

Fluvents (Fe)

Fluvents are alluvial soils created by repeated deposition of sediment in periodic floods. Fluvents are considered hydric soils (NRCS 2021).

Gilman Fine Sandy Loam, Wet, 0 to 2 Percent Slopes (GcA)

Gilman soils are characterized by layers of fine sandy loam, silt loam and loamy sand that are formed in stratified stream alluvium. They are found on flood plains and alluvial fans. This soil dominates (>50%) in Coachella (NRCS 2021).

Indio Fine Sandy Loam, Wet (Ir)

The Indio series consists of very deep, well or moderately well drained soils formed in alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. Indio soils are on alluvial fans, lacustrine basins and flood plains (NRCS 2021).

Vegetation and Land Cover

The entire project site is a moderately disturbed property that was historically part of the Whitewater River floodplain. A berm along the western boundary of the site separates it from receiving flow from the river. Soils are sandy and loose in the northwest portion of the project site, characteristic of when the property received flow from the river, and compact and loamy in the southeast portion of the project site (Figure 4). Several vehicle and mechanical tracks are visible throughout the site, indicating relatively recent disturbance. Historic aerial imagery on Google Earth (2021) confirmed disturbance on this parcel between April 2017 and February 2018 with the entire project site being cleared of vegetation. The vegetation has grown back to an extent since, resulting in fourwing saltbush scrub (*Atriplex canescens* Shrubland Alliance) throughout the eastern portion of the project site and barren ground with scattered saltbush and Arabian schismus (*Schismus arabicus*) in the western portion. The Whitewater River channel to the west of the site is primarily barren, with remnant riparian vegetation occurring within the narrow active flow in the channel. No sensitive plant communities are present on the project site. Refer to Attachment A for representative site photographs and Figure 5 for vegetation communities/landcover types.

Plant species observed include shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), fourwing saltbush, big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), arrow weed (*Pluchea sericea*), tamarisk (*Tamarix parviflora*), burro weed (*Ambrosia dumosa*), and Arabian schismus.

General Wildlife

The project site provides saltbush scrub habitat for several wildlife species, particularly for common nesting birds protected under the CFGC Section 3503 and the MBTA. Bird species observed on site during the survey included white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*), Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), savanna sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), and verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*). Bird species observed in the 300-foot buffer to the west, where the Whitewater River occurs, included killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), and great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*). The only reptile species observed on site was side-blotched lizard (*Uta* species). Mammal species were not

Figure 4 Soils (NRCS 2021)

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Additional data provided by SSURGO, 2021.

Figure 5 Vegetation Communities and Landcover

Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2021.

observed directly, but coyote (*Canis latrans*) and black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) scat were observed on site.

Impact Analysis

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are those plants and wildlife listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the USFWS under the Federal ESA; those considered "Species of Concern" by the USFWS; those listed or candidates for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the CDFW under the CESA; wildlife designated as "Fully Protected" by the CFGC; wildlife listed as "Species of Special Concern" (SSC) by the CDFW; and CDFW Special Plants, specifically those with CRPR of 1B, 2, and 3 in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

Furthermore, biological resources are ranked globally (G) and State-wide (S) 1 through 5 (more critical to less critical with those ranked as G or S 1 through 3 being considered as sensitive).

Local, state, and federal agencies regulate special-status species and may require an assessment of their presence or potential presence to be conducted on site prior to the approval of proposed development on a property. A list of special-status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur on site was developed based on a review of a 5-mile search of the CNDDB (CDFW 2021b) and a 9-quad search of the CNPS' online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2021) and can be found in Attachment B.

Pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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 CDFW or USFWS.*

The CNDDB/CNPS query results include 33 special-status plant species within five miles (for CNDDB) and 9-quadrangle search area (for CNPS) of the project site. Special-status plant species typically have specialized habitat requirements, including plant community types, soils, and elevational ranges. Of the 33 species, 32 are not expected to occur on site based on the project site's location and clear lack of suitable habitat (e.g., mountains, desert, elevational ranges). The remaining plant, gravel milk-vetch (*Astragalus sabulonum*; CNPR 2B.2) has low potential to occur based on the lack of local occurrences, the age of the nearest occurrences (over four decades since last seen), and lack of gravelly or course sandy soils that the species relies on (Attachment B). This species will not be analyzed further in this document. No special-status plant species were observed during the site reconnaissance survey. No special-status plant species have moderate or high potential to occur on site given the high disturbance, lack of suitable habitat, and low elevation on the project site. Impacts to special status plant species are not expected to occur as a result of project implementation.

The CNDDB query results include 13 special-status wildlife species within five miles of the project site. The potential for special-status wildlife species to occur on the site was assessed based on known distribution, habitat requirements, and existing site conditions. Of the 13 special-status wildlife species, one was observed on site and one was determined to have a moderate potential to occur on site (Attachment B):

- Two black-tailed gnatcatchers (CDFW Watch List) were detected on site and confirmed present. Black-tailed gnatcatchers are common residents below 300 meters in desert wash habitats and less common in desert scrub (such as saltbush scrub) habitat where they clean insects and siders from shrub foliage. They primarily nest in wooded desert wash habitat and occasional in desert scrub habitat. The project site provides suitable nesting habitat for black-tailed gnatcatcher.
- Crissal thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*, CDFW SSC) was determined to have a moderate potential to occur on site. Crissal thrashers are fairly common in the Colorado River Valley, but uncommon in the rest of their range. They occupy dense thickets of shrubs in desert riparian and wash habitats, primarily utilizing mesquite (*Prosopis* species), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*), and arrow weed. Arrow weed is present on site and may provide suitable habitat for resident thrashers in the Coachella Valley, but other plant species that crissal thrashers are associated with are not on site. The vegetation within the Whitewater River is sparse and likely actively maintained as part of the flood control channel and does not provide suitable nesting habitat for this species.

The project proposes the removal of vegetation that provides habitat for black-tailed gnatcatcher and may provide habitat for crissal thrasher. As such, the project may result in loss of such habitat, as well as potential injury or death to individuals. Direct impacts (e.g., injury or mortality) or indirect impacts (e.g., noise, dust) to these species may occur as a result of project activities. Implementation of a pre-construction clearance survey for these species is recommended to avoid and minimize potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. Suitable habitat for black-tailed gnatcatcher and crissal thrasher occurs north of the site as well, which would not be impacted by project activities and thus could continue to serve as suitable habitat for these species. Due to available suitable habitat north of the project, regionally available habitat for both species, and the implementation of preconstruction surveys for nesting birds (discussed below in Recommended Actions), the project would have a less than significant effect on black-tailed gnatcatcher and crissal thrasher and both species will not be affected by range or distribution.

As noted above, vegetation on the project site could also provide suitable nesting habitat for common avian species that were observed during the reconnaissance survey. Bird nests and eggs are protected under the CFGC Section 3503 and the MBTA. Common species such as mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) as well as sensitive species such as black-tailed gnatcatcher have the potential to nest in shrubs, even in highly disturbed settings. Direct impacts (e.g., injury or mortality) to nesting birds or indirect impacts (e.g., noise, dust) that disrupt nesting behavior and reproductive success would be significant. Implementation of recommended pre-construction nesting bird surveys (discussed below in Recommended Actions) would reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

Sensitive Plant Communities

Pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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 CDFW or USFWS.

The entire project site is comprised of saltbush scrub or open habitat (*Schismus* groundcover with scattered saltbush) that is frequently subject to human activity including disking. No sensitive plant communities are present on the project site. The Whitewater River flood control channel is actively maintained for vegetation and riparian habitat is limited to active flow areas, which are approximately 300 feet west of the berm that separates the project site from the active floodplain. The active flow is far enough where direct and indirect impacts are not anticipated for riparian habitat. Therefore, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities.

Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waterways

Pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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

The entire project site is a disturbed site that has frequently been subject to human activity including disking. No potentially jurisdictional drainage features are present on the project site. The Whitewater River is located adjacent to and west of the project site and is separated from the project site by a berm. While a formal jurisdictional delineation was not performed, the Whitewater River is classified as riverine by the NWI (USFWS 2021c), and may potentially be under the jurisdiction of various regulatory agencies, including the CDFW, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board, as a federal and state water. The project does not propose any construction or operational activities that would directly impact the channel. Indirect impacts from potential storm water runoff, dust, or spills of hazardous materials during or after construction, would be less than significant as a result of the project's required compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit, and preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevent Plan (SWPPP) and best management practices. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.

Wildlife Movement

Pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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 wildlife nursery sites.*

The project site is located adjacent to and east of the Whitewater River, north of Airport Boulevard, west of State Highway 86, and south of undeveloped habitat. The project site contains natural habitat that is separated from the habitat in the parcels to the north by a barbed wire fence. The western half of the parcel is currently mapped by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) Project as a potential riparian connection, but vegetation within the active channel is regularly maintained and does not provide substantial habitat for riparian species and would not act as an essential riparian corridor. The project site is also separated from the Whitewater River by a berm and the project would avoid direct impacts to the connectivity the river provides for species able to utilize limited riparian habitat (as described under item c, above). Impacts to connectivity along the Whitewater River would be limited to

indirect impacts from noise or dust during construction or site use (once the project is implemented). The site is located near active roads and development and additional noise from site use would not result in greater amounts of ambient noise and dust compared to the current status quo. For these reasons, impacts to wildlife movement would be considered less than significant.

Local Policies and Ordinances

Pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

Local tree ordinances for the City of Coachella are limited to street trees and palm trees (Code of Ordinances 12.24 & 12.28). These ordinances require regular trimming and maintenance and/or removal and no preservation is specified within the code. Removal of any trees on site (which are limited to tamarisk) would thereby not be in conflict with local ordinances, and no impact is expected.

Adopted or Approved Plans

Pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Conservation Community Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The project is located within the CVMSHCP but is not located within a Conservation Area. As a result, proposed activities at the project side would avoid direct impacts to the CVMSHCP Conservation Areas and would not conflict with the CVMSHCP Conservation Objectives. Species that are protected by the CVMSHCP include arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*), California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket (*Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis*), Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), crissal thrasher, desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassiizii*), flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus*), mecca aster (*Xylorhiza cognata*), orocopia sage (*Salvia greatae*), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*), peninsular bighorn sheep distinct population segment (DPS) (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni* pop. 2), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*), triple-ribbed milk-vetch (*Atragalus tricarinatus*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), yellow breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*), and Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*). Of these species, only the crissal thrasher has moderate potential to occur on site and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel has low potential to occur on site.

The project would not result in significant impacts to crissal thrasher or black-tailed gnatcatcher due to loss of habitat. While crissal thrasher were not detected during the reconnaissance survey, pre-construction nesting bird surveys (see BIO-1 below) would detect them should they move in on site and are recommended for compliance with MBTA and CFGC.

Recommended Actions

BIO-1 Nesting Bird Surveys

The following mitigation measure, and compliance with MBTA and CFGC requirements, would be required to reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less than significant level.

To avoid disturbance of nesting and special-status birds, including raptorial species protected by the MBTA and CFGC, activities related to the project, including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside of the bird breeding season (February 1 through August 30). If construction must begin within the breeding season, then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities. The nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted within the project site, plus a 300-foot buffer (500-foot for raptors), on foot, and within inaccessible areas (i.e., private lands) afar using binoculars to the extent practical. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in southern California desert communities. If nests are found, an avoidance buffer (which is dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground disturbing activities shall occur within this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed and the young have fledged the nest. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important project. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Christian Nordal
Associate Biologist

Sherri Miller
Principal Biologist

Attachments

Attachment A Site Photographs

Attachment B CNDDB/CNPS Query Results and Special-Status Species Occurrence Potentials

References

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Attachment A

Site Photographs

Photograph 1. Facing north from the access gate, showing historic disturbance.

Photograph 2. Facing north showing access road that runs on the east side of the site.

Photograph 3. Facing west, showing saltbush scrub on site.

Photograph 4. Showing historic mechanical disturbance.

Photograph 5. Showing saltbush scrub on site.

Photograph 6. Facing north, showing the access road on the east. Saltbush scrub on the east borders Highway 86.

Photograph 7. Facing north, showing the end of the access road on the east.

Photograph 8. Facing north, showing the start of the berm on the west side of the site that separates the site from the Whitewater River/ Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel

Photograph 9. Facing east from the berm, showing scrub habitat in the southeastern portion of the project site.

Photograph 10. Facing northwest, showing the berm separating the project site from the Whitewater River.

Photograph 11. Facing east, showing the *Schismus* in the northeastern portion of the site.

Photograph 12. Facing north, showing sandy soils that were historically part of the Whitewater River floodplain.

Photograph 13. Facing east, showing the barbed wire fence that separates the project site from the northern adjacent property.

Photograph 14. Facing north at the barbed wire fence, showing dense scrub habitat that occurs in the property north of the project site.

Attachment B

CNDDB/CNPS Query Results and Special-Status Species Occurrence Potentials

CNDDB/CNPS Query Results and Special-Status Species Occurrence Potentials

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/ Observations
Plants and Lichens				
Abronia villosa var. *aurita* chaparral sand-verbena	None/None G5T2?/S2 1B.1	Annual herb. Blooms Jan-Sept. Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub. Sandy areas of the South Coast and Sonoran Desert Floristic Provinces. 80-1600m (260-5250ft).	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Ambrosia monogyra singlewhorl burrobrush	None/None G5/S2 2B.2	Chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub. sandy. 10 - 500 m. perennial shrub. Blooms Aug-Nov	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus bernardinus San Bernardino milk-vetch	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodland, Pinyon and juniper woodland. Often granitic or carbonate. 900 - 2000 m. perennial herb. Blooms Apr-Jun	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *coachellae* Coachella Valley milk-vetch	FE/None G5T1/S1 1B.2	Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub (sandy). 40 - 655 m. annual / perennial herb. Blooms Feb-May	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus preussii var. *laxiflorus* Lancaster milk-vetch	None/None G4T2/S1 1B.1	Chenopod scrub. 700 - 700 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-May	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Astragalus sabulonum gravel milk-vetch	None/None G4G5/S2 2B.2	Desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub. Usually sandy, sometimes gravelly. Flats, washes, and roadsides, found in gravelly/course sandy soils. -60 - 930 m. annual / perennial herb. Blooms Feb-Jun	Potential to occur is low.	Suitable habitat occurs on site, but suitable soils (gravelly) do not. Soils on site are loamy/sandy loam. The species was not observed on site and has not been documented within a 5-mile radius. All occurrences in the CNDDB within 20 years occur in Inyo County, and all occurrences south of Inyo County are over 40 years old. The closest occurrences to the project site are over a century old.
Astragalus tricarinatus triple-ribbed milk-vetch	FE/None G2/S2 1B.2	Joshua tree woodland, Sonoran desert scrub. sandy or gravelly. 450 - 1190 m. perennial herb. Blooms Feb-May	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Ayenia compacta California ayenia	None/None G4/S3 2B.3	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub. rocky. 150 - 1095 m.	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/ Observations
		perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Apr		
Bursera microphylla little-leaf elephant tree	None/None G4/S2 2B.3	Sonoran desert scrub (rocky). 200 - 700 m. perennial deciduous tree. Blooms Jun-Jul	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Ditaxis claryana glandular ditaxis	None/None G3G4/S2 2B.2	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub. sandy. 0 - 465 m. perennial herb. Blooms Oct, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Ditaxis serrata var. *californica* California ditaxis	None/None G5T3T4/S2? 3.2	Sonoran desert scrub. 30 - 1000 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Dec	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Eremothera boothii ssp. *boothii* Booth's evening-primrose	None/None G5T4/S3 2B.3	Joshua tree woodland, Pinyon and juniper woodland. 815 - 2400 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Sep	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Eriastrum harwoodii Harwood's eriastrum	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Desert dunes. 125 - 915 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Jun	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Euphorbia abramsiana Abrams' spurge	None/None G4/S2 2B.2	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub. sandy. -5 - 1310 m. annual herb. Blooms (Aug)Sep-Nov	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Funastrum crispum wavyleaf twinevine	None/None G4/S1 2B.2	Chaparral, Pinyon and juniper woodland. 1165 - 1840 m. perennial herb. Blooms May-Aug	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Hecastocleis shockleyi prickle-leaf	None/None G4/S4 3	Chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub. rocky slopes, washes; often carbonate or slate. 1200 - 2200 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms May-Jul	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Heuchera hirsutissima shaggy-haired alumroot	None/None G3/S3 1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest. rocky, granitic. 1520 - 3500 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms (May)Jun-Jul	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/ Observations
Jaffueliobryum raui Rau's jaffueliobryum moss	None/None G4?/S2? 2B.3	Alpine dwarf scrub, Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub. Dry openings, rock crevices, carbonate. 490 - 2100 m. moss.	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Leptosiphon floribundus ssp. *hallii* Santa Rosa Mountains leptosiphon	None/None G4T1T2/S1S2 1B.3	Pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran desert scrub. 1000 - 2000 m. perennial herb. Blooms May-Jul(Nov)	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Marina orcuttii var. *orcuttii* California marina	None/None G2G3T1T2/S2? 1B.3	Chaparral, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Sonoran desert scrub. rocky. 1050 - 1160 m. perennial herb. Blooms May-Oct	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Mentzelia tridentata creamy blazing star	None/None G3/S3 1B.3	Mojavean desert scrub. rocky, gravelly, sandy. 700 - 1175 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-May	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis* slender cottonheads	None/None G3G4T3?/S2 2B.2	Coastal dunes, Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub. -50 - 400 m. annual herb. Blooms (Mar)Apr-May	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The dune habitat this species requires does not occur on site and this species was not observed on site
Petalonyx linearis narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	None/None G4/S3? 2B.3	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub. Sandy or rocky canyons. -25 - 1115 m. perennial shrub. Blooms (Jan-Feb)Mar-May(Jun-Dec)	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Phaseolus filiformis slender-stem bean	None/None G5/S1 2B.1	Sonoran desert scrub. 125 - 125 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Pseudorontium cyathiferum Deep Canyon snapdragon	None/None G4G5/S1 2B.3	Sonoran desert scrub (rocky). 0 - 800 m. annual herb. Blooms Feb-Apr	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Saltugilia latimeri Latimer's woodland-gilia	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland. rocky or sandy, often granitic, sometimes washes. 400 - 1900 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Jun	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/ Observations
Selaginella eremophila desert spike-moss	None/None G4/S2S3 2B.2	Chaparral, Sonoran desert scrub (gravelly or rocky). 200 - 1295 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms (May)Jun(Jul)	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Senna covesii Coves' cassia	None/None G5/S3 2B.2	Sonoran desert scrub. Dry, sandy desert washes and slopes. 225 - 1295 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Jun(Aug)	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Stemodia durantifolia purple stemodia	None/None G5/S2 2B.1	Sonoran desert scrub (often mesic, sandy). 180 - 300 m. perennial herb. Blooms (Jan) Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct, Dec	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Thelypteris puberula var. *sonorensis* Sonoran maiden fern	None/None G5T3/S2 2B.2	Meadows and seeps (seeps and streams). 50 - 610 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Jan-Sep	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Wislizenia refracta ssp. *palmeri* Palmer's jackass clover	None/None G5T3T5/S1 2B.2	Chenopod scrub, Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub, Sonoran thorn woodland. 0 - 300 m. perennial deciduous shrub. Blooms Jan-Dec	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Wislizenia refracta ssp. *refracta* jackass-clover	None/None G5T5?/S1 2B.2	Desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, Playas, Sonoran desert scrub. 600 - 800 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Nov	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Xylorhiza cognata Mecca-aster	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Sonoran desert scrub. 20 - 400 m. perennial herb. Blooms Jan-Jun	Species is not expected to occur on site.	The site's elevation range occurs outside of the elevation range where this species is found.
Invertebrates				
Euparagia unidentata Algodones euparagia	None/None G1G2/S1S2	Endemic to the Algodones Dunes in Imperial County.	Species is not expected to occur on site.	Dune habitat does not occur on site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/ Observations
Fish				
Xyrauchen texanus razorback sucker	FE/SE G1/S1S2 FP	Found in the Colorado River bordering California. Adapted for swimming in swift currents but also need quiet waters. Spawn in areas of sand/gravel/rocks in shallow water.	Species is not expected to occur on site.	Aquatic habitat does not occur on site.
Reptiles				
Gopherus agassizii desert tortoise	FT/ST G3/S2S3	Most common in desert scrub, desert wash, and Joshua tree habitats; occurs in almost every desert habitat. Require friable soil for burrow and nest construction. Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) habitat with large annual wildflower blooms preferred.	Potential to occur is low.	Saltbush scrub on site provides suitable vegetation. However, soils on site are not suitable for burrows and the site is surrounded by barriers on all sides that would prevent movement onto the site. Burrows were not observed on site during the field survey.
Uma inornata Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	FT/SE G1Q/S1	Limited to sandy areas in the Coachella Valley, Riverside County. Requires fine, loose, windblown sand (for burrowing), interspersed with hardpan and widely-spaced desert shrubs.	Species is not expected to occur on site.	Sands on site are not windblown/loose and shrubs on site are thick. The microhabitat conditions this species requires are not on site.
Birds				
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	None/None G4/S3 SSC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	Potential to occur is low.	The species was documented in 1929 within a mile of the project site. Open habitat is on the western portion of the project site, but suitable burrows were not observed on site.
Falco mexicanus prairie falcon	None/None G5/S4 WL	Inhabits dry, open terrain, either level or hilly. Breeding sites located on cliffs. Forages far afield, even to marshlands and ocean shores.	Potential to occur is low.	Suitable foraging habitat occurs on site, but nesting habitat does not occur on site. The species was last documented approximately 3 miles southeast of the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/ Observations
Polioptila melanura black-tailed gnatcatcher	None/None G5/S3S4 WL	Primarily inhabits wooded desert wash habitats; also occurs in desert scrub habitat, especially in winter. Nests in desert washes containing mesquite (*Prosopis* species), palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), acacia (*Acacia* species); absent from areas where salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) introduced.	Species occurs on site.	Suitable habitat is on site and the species was detected during the field survey
Pyrocephalus rubinus vermilion flycatcher	None/None G5/S2S3 SSC	During nesting, inhabits desert riparian adjacent to irrigated fields, irrigation ditches, pastures, and other open, mesic areas. Nest in cottonwood (*Populus* species), willow (*Salix* species), mesquite, and other large desert riparian trees.	Species is not expected to occur on site.	Suitable nesting trees for this species do not occur on site. Desert riparian habitat does not occur on site.
Toxostoma crissale Crissal thrasher	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Resident of southeastern deserts in desert riparian and desert wash habitats. Nests in dense vegetation along streams/washes; mesquite, screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*), ironwood, catclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), acacia, arrow weed, willow.	Potential to occur is moderate.	Suitable habitat for this species occurs on site and the species was documented within a mile of the project site (1922). The species was not detected during the field survey.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in Project Area	Habitat Suitability/ Observations
Mammals				
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	None/None G5T4/S3S4 SSC	Occurs in open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including coniferous and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces and caves, and buildings. Roosts typically occur high above ground.	Potential to occur is low.	Suitable foraging habitat occurs on site and in adjacent areas, but suitable roosting habitat does not occur on site.
Lasiurus xanthinus western yellow bat	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Occurs in arid regions of the southwestern United States. Typically found in riparian woodlands, oak or pinyon-juniper woodland, desert wash, palm oasis habitats, and urban or suburban areas. Roosts in trees, often between palm fronds.	Potential to occur is low.	Suitable foraging habitat occurs on site and in adjacent areas, but suitable roosting habitat does not occur on site.
Perognathus longimembris bangsi Palm Springs pocket mouse	None/None G5T2/S2 SSC	Desert riparian, desert scrub, desert wash and sagebrush habitats. Most common in creosote-dominated desert scrub. Rarely found on rocky sites or in saltbush communities. Occurs in all canopy coverage classes.	Potential to occur is low.	Habitat on site is primarily saltbush, which is generally not suitable for this species. Small mammal burrows were not detected during the field survey.
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	None/None G5T2Q/S2 SSC	Restricted to the Coachella Valley. Prefers desert succulent scrub, desert wash, desert scrub, alkali scrub, and levees. Prefers open, flat, grassy areas in fine-textured, sandy soil. Density correlated with winter rainfall.	Potential to occur is low.	Suitable saltbush scrub habitat occurs on site, but small mammal burrows were not detected during the field survey and the site has been disturbed heavily in the past 5 years.