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SECTION ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
DPLU	Department of Planning and Land Use
ESA	Endangered Species Act
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
m	Meters
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MSCP	Multiple Species Conservation Program
NCCP	Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process
R-E-D	Rarity Endangerment Distribution
SDG&E	San Diego Gas and Electric
SR	State Route
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

6.6 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section describes the biological resources in the Site vicinity and evaluates the potential Project impacts and mitigation measures. The Project is located on unincorporated lands in north San Diego County, California, occupied by a former citrus orchard that is no longer viable. Based on review of literature and biological resource agency databases and field surveys, no special-status species are known to occur within the Site or Project linear corridors.

A survey for the Project was conducted to identify habitat types and the presence or absence of listed endangered or threatened species and other species of concern. The following describes the existing and potential biological resources for the Project's regional area (lands within a 10-mile radius of the Project) and the Project vicinity (the area within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors).

6.6.1 Existing Conditions

A biological study of the Site and the Project linear corridors was conducted by Karen D. Wilson and Valerie Walsh of TRC. A detailed report of existing biological conditions is provided in the following sections.

6.6.1.1 Regional Overview

A regional overview of a 10-mile radius surrounding the Site and the Project's linear corridors was conducted to describe the range of environmental features in the area. Lands within a 10-mile radius (see Figure 6.6-1) are referred to herein as the "region". The Site is situated east of Monserate Mountain, north of the San Luis Rey River, west of Pala Indian Reservation, approximately 5 miles west of Cleveland National Forest, and approximately 5 miles south of Riverside County. The Site occurs on a very old alluvial fan surface that slopes southward at an approximately 10 percent grade. The alluvial fan surface is surrounded to the east, north and west by steep slopes. The alluvial fan surface continues southward of the Site to State Route (SR) 76. A former aggregate mine occurs in the San Luis Rey River bed on the south side of SR 76.

The region is primarily rural, including agriculture, large plot residential, small communities, open space, and large-scale commercial/industrial such as hotel/casino and mining operations. The Site is bounded to the north, west, and east by native coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat. The Site is located between two normally dry upland drainages that are slightly to moderately incised into the alluvial fan surface. No concentrated surface drainages occur onsite. Further to the west, the Project is regionally bounded by Rice Canyon Road and Interstate 15 (I-15), which both run in a north to south direction. Just south of the Project Site are SR 76 (Pala Road) and the San Luis Rey River. Both SR 76 and the San Luis Rey River run in a generally east to west direction in this location. The sand and gravel in the riverbed are considered an important mineral resource and a large mine occurs just south of the Site. The Site is regionally bounded on the east by rural residential lands, Pala Indian Reservation, and the Indian-owned Pala Casino Spa Resort.

Native vegetation communities in the region include Diegan coastal sage scrub, chaparral, southern riparian forest, and oak woodland communities. Native vegetation has been replaced over time in areas that have been disturbed. However, a large percentage of native habitat remains intact within the region. A description of the predominant existing vegetation communities and wildlife in the region are provided in the following section.

6.6.1.2 Regional Habitats

6.6.1.2.1 Natural Habitat Communities

The closest natural habitat communities are adjacent to the northern and western site boundaries. Monserate Mountain, Mount Olympus, Gomez Creek, Rainbow Valley, Pala Indian Reservation, Cleveland National Forest, and areas to the north, west, and east support large expanses of creeks and valleys, surrounded by steep to very steep hillsides supporting coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats.

Diegan coastal sage scrub is a shrub and sub-shrub community usually occurring on gentle to moderate slopes and often dominated by coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) with co-dominants of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California broom (*Lotus scoparius*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), and laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*).

Chaparral may be described as a woody and dense shrub community that often grows on steep to very steep hillsides. Native species found in chaparral communities are chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), laurel sumac, and mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*).

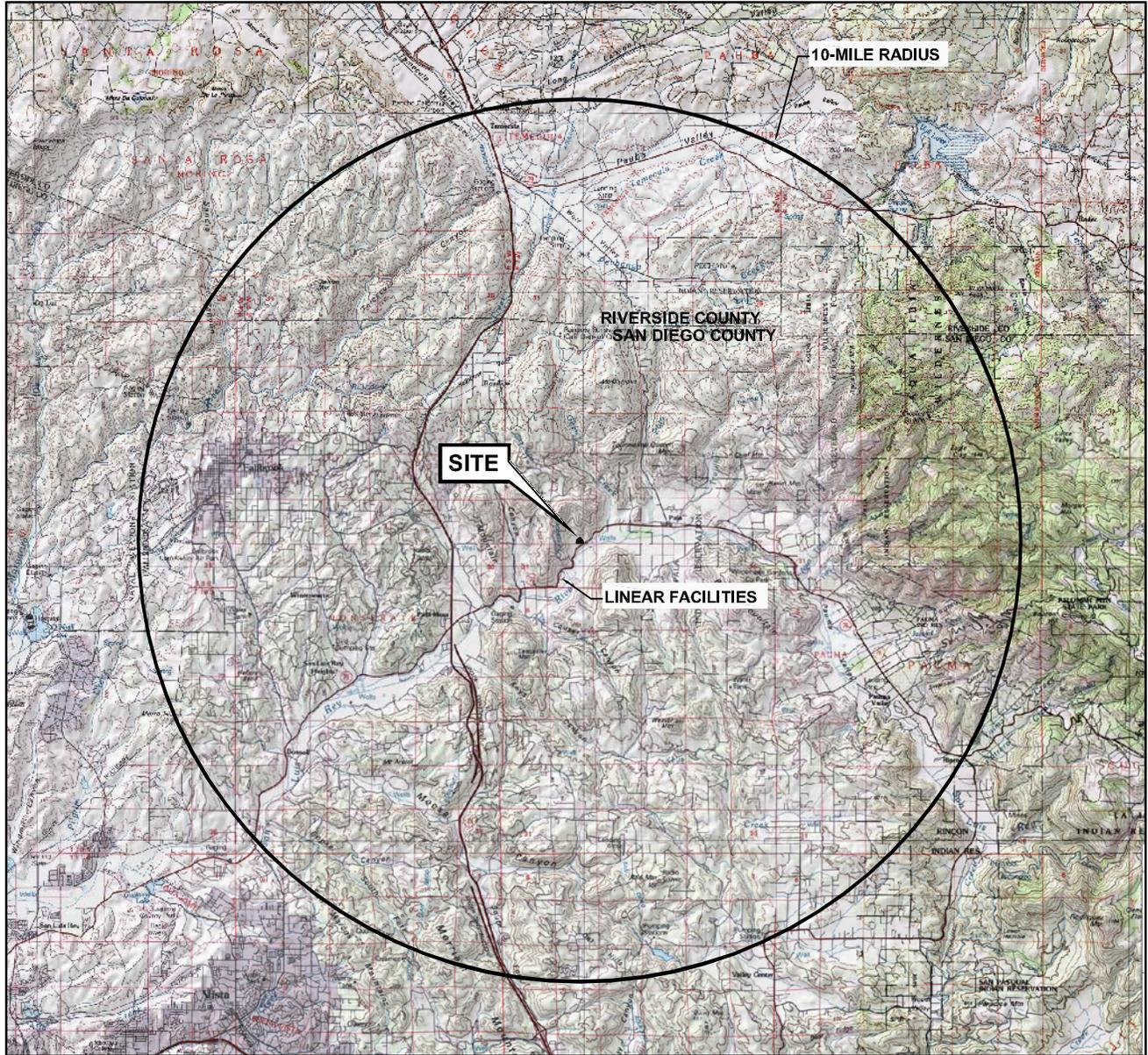
South of the Site and SR 76 is the San Luis Rey River. The San Luis Rey River is a major river of San Diego County that meanders in an east to west direction and is a tributary to the Pacific Ocean. The river channel is mostly described as southern riparian forest habitat. This habitat community is densely vegetated and dominated by willow species such as arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and black willow (*Salix gooddingii*).

6.6.1.2.2 General Agriculture

The southeastern most portion of the region is primarily agricultural land used for pastures, agricultural facilities, citrus orchards, and avocado groves. Most pastures support nonnative grasses and herbaceous weeds that are subject to frequent grazing and surface disturbance.

Orchards and groves in the region are typically open, single-species, tree-dominated habitats. The under story of orchards and groves is typically composed of nonnative low-growing grasses and other herbaceous plants, but are managed to totally or partially prevent under story growth.

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SOURCE:

United States Geological Survey
7.5 Minute Topographic Map, 2000:
Pala, Bonsall, Temecula,
and Pechanga Quadrangles



PROJECT: 29031902

FACILITY:

ORANGE GROVE PROJECT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

FIGURE 6.6-1

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6.6.1.3 Regional Wildlife

6.6.1.3.1 Common Wildlife Species

Many species of native and nonnative wildlife are known to inhabit the region. Bird species in the region include many types of songbirds, raptors, and wading birds. Typical bird species found within the region include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), and western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*). Other common wildlife species in the region include small and large mammals, reptiles, and amphibians such as California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), and Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*).

6.6.1.3.2 Special-status Species Potentially Occurring in the Region

The regional natural communities surrounding the Site, which will not be impacted by the Project, provide habitat for wildlife and vegetation, including special-status species such as Stephen's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), southern California rufous crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), northern red diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*), orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*), arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), rosy boa (*Charina trivirgata*), Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*), Robinson's pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*), and smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*). SR 76 to the south of the Site inhibits movement of terrestrial animals between the Site and the San Luis Rey River. Likewise, terrestrial animal movement from the Site to the west of I-15 is limited by the interstate. However, terrestrial movement between the Site and lands to the north and east are not limited by any major development or transportation corridor.

This section presents a list of special-status species that could occur within the region based on records from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). In addition, it includes an assessment of whether each of these species that may occur regionally are likely to occur on the Site, within 1 mile of the Site, or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors. Any species that is known to occur in the region with habitat needs similar to habitats present on or within 1 mile of the Site, or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors, was evaluated for its potential to occur in the Project vicinity. Special-status species include all species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA), species that are proposed to be listed, Federal Special Concern Species, California Special Concern Species, Fully Protected Species under the California Fish and Game Code, and plant species listed in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California*.

Special-status species database queries were conducted within a 10-mile radius of the Project and included the Bachelor Mountain, Bonsall, Boucher Hills, Fallbrook, Morro Hill, Pala, Pechanga, San Luis Rey, San Marcos, Temecula, Valley Center, and Vail Lake USGS 7.5-

minute topographic quadrangles. Table 6.6-1 and Table 6.6-2 list the respective special-status species plants and wildlife that could potentially occur on or within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors. This list is based on previously recorded accounts and was acquired from the CNDDDB. The following paragraphs describe regional special-status species that have a moderate or high potential to occur within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors.

Chaparral nolina (*Nolina cismontana*) is a native evergreen shrub in the lily family (Liliaceae) that blooms between May and June. This species is known to occur in chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats at an elevation ranging from 140 to 1,275 meters (m) and is typically found on sandstone or gabbro soils. This species is threatened by development, agriculture, road construction, and recreational activities and is categorized as a CNPS List 1B species (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere), with a Rarity Endangerment Distribution (R-E-D) of 3-2-3 which means this plant is fairly endangered in California, is endemic to California, and that its distribution in California has a restricted occurrence or is represented in small numbers and is seldom reported. This species is not federal or state listed; however, it is a List A species (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) according to the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use Sensitive Plant List. No individuals of chaparral nolina were observed on the Project Site; however, CNDDDB records of this species were documented within the areas to the west, southwest, and south. This species has a high potential to occur within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors.

Felt-leaved monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanata*) is a native rhizomatous perennial herb in the mint family (Lamiaceae) that blooms between June and August. This species is known to occur in chaparral and cismontane woodland habitat at an elevation ranging from 300 to 1,190 meters. This species is a CNPS List 1B species (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere), with a R-E-D of 2-2-2 which means this plant is fairly endangered in California, is rare outside of California, and that it's distributed in a limited number of occurrences in California. This species is not federal or state listed; however, it is a List A species (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) according to the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use Sensitive Plant List. No individuals of felt-leaved monardella were observed on the Project Site; however, CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 0.90 mile to the east. This species has a moderate potential to occur within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors.

Table 6.6-1 – Regional Special-status Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within 1 Mile of the Project Site or Within 1,000 Feet of Linear Corridors

SPECIES	LISTING STATUS FEDERAL/ STATE ¹	CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY LIST CODE ²	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SENSITIVITY ³	FLOWERING/ PHENOLOGY	PRESENCE	HABITAT TYPE AND POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
California screw-moss (<i>Tortula californica</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-2-3	--	Not Applicable	None Observed	Chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Prefers sandy soil. Occurs between 10 and 1,460 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Chaparral nolina (<i>Nolina cismontane</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 3-2-3	List A	May to July	None observed	Chaparral, coastal scrub. Prefers sandstone or gabbro soils. Occurs between 140 and 1,275 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 1 mile of the Project. High potential for occurrence within the Project vicinity.
Chaparral sand-verbena (<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-3-2	List A	January to September	None Observed	Chaparral, coastal scrub, desert dunes/sandy soils. Occurs between 80 and 1,600 meters in elevation. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Engelmann oak (<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>)	None/None	4 R-E-D 1-2-2	List D	March to May	Observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Occurs between 120 and 1,300 meters. One tree observed on the Project Site. Also observed within the Project vicinity, just outside the eastern boundary of the Project Site.
Felt-leaved monardella (<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>lanata</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-2-2	List A	June to August	None observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Occurs between 300 and 1,190 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 1 mile of the Project. Moderate potential for occurrence.
Gander's ragwort (<i>Senecio ganderi</i>)	None/SR	1B R-E-D 3-2-3	--	April to June	None observed	Chaparral. Prefers burned areas and gabbroic outcrops. Occurs between 400 and 1,200 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.

SPECIES	LISTING STATUS FEDERAL/ STATE ¹	CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY LIST CODE ²	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SENSITIVITY ³	FLOWERING/ PHENOLOGY	PRESENCE	HABITAT TYPE AND POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
Hall's monardella (<i>Monardella macrantha</i> ssp. <i>hallii</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-1-3	List A	June to August	None Observed	Broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Occurs between 730 and 2,195 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Jaeger's milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus pachypus</i> var. <i>jaegeri</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 3-3-3	List A	December to June	None Observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Prefers sandy or rocky soils. Occurs between 365 and 915 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 mile of the project. Low potential for occurrence.
Lakeside ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus cyaneus</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 3-2-2	List A	April to June	None observed	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral. Occurs between 580 and 1,065 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Long-spined spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-2-2	List A	April to July	None Observed	Chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland. Often prefers clay soils. Occurs between 30 and 1,530 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Mesa horkelia (<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> ssp. <i>puberula</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-3-3	List A	February to July	None observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Prefers sandy or gravelly soil. Occurs between 70 and 810 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 1 mile of the Project. Moderate potential for occurrence within the Project vicinity.
Nevin's barberry (<i>Berberis nevinii</i>)	FE/SE	1B R-E-D 3-3-3	List A	March to June	None Observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Prefers sandy or rocky soils. Occurs between 295 and 825 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.

SPECIES	LISTING STATUS FEDERAL/ STATE ¹	CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY LIST CODE ²	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SENSITIVITY ³	FLOWERING/ PHENOLOGY	PRESENCE	HABITAT TYPE AND POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
Orcutt's brodiaea (<i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 1-3-2	List A	May to July	None Observed	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Prefers clay soils, sometimes serpentine. Occurs between 30 and 1,692 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Parry's tetraococcus (<i>Tetraococcus dioicus</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 3-2-2	List A	April to May	Observed	Chaparral, coastal scrub. Occurs between 165 and 1,000 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 1 mile of the Project. Observed within the Project vicinity, just outside the northern and eastern boundaries of the Project site.
Rainbow manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos rainbowensis</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 3-3-3	List A	January to February	None Observed	Chaparral. Occurs between 225 and 640 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Ramona horkelia (<i>Horkelia truncate</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 3-1-2	List A	May to June	None Observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Prefers clay soils. Occurs between 400 and 1,300 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Robinson's peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-2-2	List A	January to July	None observed	Chaparral and coastal scrub. Occurs between 1 and 885 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 1 mile of the Project. Moderate to high potential for occurrence within the Project vicinity.
San Diego ambrosia (<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>)	FE/ None	1B R-E-D 3-3-2	List A	April - October	None Observed	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Often located in disturbed areas. Occurs between 20 and 415 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
San Diego sunflower (<i>Hulsea californica</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-1-3	List A	April to June	None Observed	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Prefers openings and burned areas. Occurs between 915 and 2,915 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.

SPECIES	LISTING STATUS FEDERAL/ STATE ¹	CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY LIST CODE ²	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SENSITIVITY ³	FLOWERING/ PHENOLOGY	PRESENCE	HABITAT TYPE AND POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE
San Miguel savory (<i>Satureja chandleri</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-2-2	List A	March to July	None Observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Prefers rocky, gabbroic or metavolcanic soils. Occurs between 120 and 1,075 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Slender-horned spineflower (<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>)	FE/SE	1B R-E-D 3-3-3	--	April to June	None Observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Prefers sandy soil. Occurs between 200 and 760 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Summer holly (<i>Comarostaphylis diversifolia</i> ssp. <i>diversifolia</i>)	None/None	1B R-E-D 2-2-2	List A	April to June	None Observed	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Occurs between 30 and 550 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.
Vail Lake ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus ophiochilus</i>)	FT/SE	1B R-E-D 3-3-3	--	February to March	None Observed	Chaparral. Occurs between 580 and 1,065 meters. CNDDDB records document occurrences within 10 miles of the Project. Low potential for occurrence.

¹ U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

FE Federally listed, endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout a significant portion of its range

FT Federally listed, threatened: species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future

State of California

SE State listed, endangered

SR State listed, rare

² **California Native Plant Society**

- List 1B Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
List 2 Rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
List 3 More information is needed
R Rarity: 1=rare, but in sufficient number that extinction potential is low; 2=distribution in a limited number of occurrences; 3=distribution in highly restricted occurrences or present in small numbers
E Endangerment: 1=not endangered; 2=endangered in a portion of range; 3=endangered throughout range
D Distribution: 1=more or less widespread outside California; 2=rare outside California; 3=endemic to California

³ **San Diego County**

- List A Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere
List B Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
List C Plants which may be quite rare, but need more information to determine their true rarity status
List D Plants of limited distribution and are uncommon, but need more information to determine their true rarity status

Table 6.6-2 – Regional Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within 1 Mile of the Project Site or Within 1,000 Feet of Linear Corridors

COMMON NAME/ SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS'	POTENTIAL FOR SPECIES OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA
Mammals		
American badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>)	CSC Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species in San Marcos, California, approximately 11-miles from the Project site. This species is most abundant in drier, open stages of mostly shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.
Dulzura pocket mouse (<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>)	CSC Group 2	Moderate. CNDDDB records document three occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius, including one occurrence within 3-miles of the Project site. This species occurs in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland and is attracted to grass/chaparral edges.
Los Angeles pocket mouse (<i>Perognathus longimembris brevinasus</i>)	CSC FS Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 7.7-miles from the Project site. This species is typically found in lower elevation grasslands and coastal sage communities in the Los Angeles basin. Prefers open ground with fine, sandy soils.
Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>)	CSC Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document four occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 7-miles of the Project site. This species occurs in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland, and sagebrush in western San Diego County. Prefer sandy, herbaceous areas, usually in association with rock or gravel.
Pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>)	CSC Group 2	Moderate. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 7.5-miles from the Project site. This species is known to occur in deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most commonly found in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>)	CSC Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 7.5-miles from the Project site. This species is typically known to occur in intermediate canopy stages of shrub habitats and in open shrub/herbaceous and tree/herbaceous edges.
San Diego desert woodrat (<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>)	CSC Group 2	Moderate. A <i>Neotoma</i> sp. nest was observed on the Project site. CNDDDB records document two occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 3 miles of the Project site. This species prefers moderate to dense canopies and is particularly abundant in areas of rocky outcrops, cliffs, and slopes.
Stephen's kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>)	FE Group 1	Moderate. CNDDDB records document 12 occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 6-miles of the Project site. This species is found primarily in annual and perennial grasslands, but also occurs in coastal scrub and sagebrush with sparse canopy cover. Prefers buckwheat, chamise, brome grass, and filaree. This species will burrow into firm soil.
Western mastiff bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	CSC Group 2	Moderate. CNDDDB records document two occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 7-miles of the Project site. Observed in 1996 on the north rim of Moosa Canyon, approximately 7-miles from the Project site. This species prefers open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in crevices, cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels.

COMMON NAME/ SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS ¹	POTENTIAL FOR SPECIES OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA
Western yellow bat (<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>)	WBWG	Moderate. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 11.5-miles from the Project site. This species is known to occur in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. Often roosts in trees, particularly palms. Forages over water and among trees.
Birds		
Bell's sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli belli</i>)	Group 1, CSC, BCC	Moderate. CNDDDB records document two occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence in Moosa Canyon, located approximately 7.5-miles south of the Project site. This species nests in chaparral consisting of relatively dense stands of chamise.
California horned lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>)	CSC Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 10 miles north of the Project site. This species is known to occur in coastal regions, short-grass prairie, "bald" hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, and alkali flats.
Coastal cactus wren (<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i>)	CSC Group 1	Moderate to high. CNNDDB records from 1990 to 2000 document multiple sightings of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence that overlaps the Project site. This species is typically found in coastal sage scrub where large patches of <i>Opuntia</i> cactus are present for nesting and roosting. No large patches of <i>Opuntia</i> cactus were observed on the Project site during the survey.
Coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>)	FT CSC Group 1	Moderate to high. CNNDDB records document multiple sightings of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including occurrences within 3-miles the Project site. This species is an obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2,500 feet in southern California. This species is known to occur in low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. No coastal California gnatcatchers were observed during the survey.
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	CSC Group 1	Moderate. CNDDDB records document three occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 2.5-miles of the Project site. Nest and fledglings observed in 1991 and 2000 near Trujillo Creek approximately 4 miles from Project site. This species typically nests in open woodlands or in deciduous trees in riparian areas.
Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	Group 1	Moderate. CNDDDB records from 2000 document a golden eagle nest approximately 1-mile west of Pala in deciduous woods of dwarf oak and chamise. The Project site is located within golden eagle territory. This species' nesting and wintering habitats include rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons, rocky outcrops, and large trees provide nesting habitat.
Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>)	FE SE Group 1	High. CNDDDB records document multiple occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 0.2-mile of the Project site in the San Luis Rey River. The San Luis Rey River is known to support a Least Bell's vireo population. This species is typically found foraging and nesting in low riparian areas in the vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms, below 2,000 feet in elevation. Nests are often found in willow, baccharis or mesquite.

COMMON NAME/ SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS ¹	POTENTIAL FOR SPECIES OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA
Northern harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	CSC Group 1	Low. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species 9-miles north of the Project site. This species' nesting habitat is typically associated with coastal salt and freshwater marsh. This species will nest and forage in grasslands, from salt grass in desert sinks to mountain ciengas. Nests on ground in shrubby vegetation, usually at marsh edge.
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>)	CSC Group 1	Moderate. CNDDDB records document 10 occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including 3 occurrences within 3 miles of the Project site. This species typically inhabits coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral, often on rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.
Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>)	FE Group 1	Moderate. CNDDDB records document six occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 2-miles of the Project site. All occurrences are located along the San Luis Rey River, east and west of the Project site. This species uses cottonwood-willow riparian forest for foraging and nesting.
Turkey vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	Group 1	High potential. This species was observed flying over the Project vicinity.
Western burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia hypuagea</i>)	CSC Group 1	Low. CNDDDB records document three occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 8-miles of the Project site. No individuals of this species, or its burrows, castings, or other signs were observed during the survey. This species typically burrows in open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>)	BCC FS Sensitive Group 1	Low. CNDDDB records document this species within 8-miles of the Project site on the Santa Margarita River. This species typically inhabits willow cottonwood riparian forests along the broad lower flood bottoms of larger river systems.
Yellow warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>)	CSC Group 2	Moderate. CNDDDB records document three occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 3.5-miles of the Project site along the San Luis Rey River. This species nests in areas with riparian plant associations. Prefers willow, cottonwood, aspen, sycamore, and alders for nesting and foraging, but will also nest in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests.
Yellow-breasted chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)	CSC Group 1	Moderate. CNDDDB records document five occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 0.4-mile of the Project site along the San Luis Rey River. This species typically inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nesting occurs in low, dense riparian areas.
Reptile/Amphibians		
Arroyo toad (<i>Bufo californicus</i>)	FE Group 1	Moderate to high. CNDDDB records document nine occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 0.4-mile of the Project site along the San Luis Rey River. This species is typically found near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill and desert washes. Prefers rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. Also, loose, gravelly areas of streams in the drier parts of its range.

COMMON NAME/ SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS ¹	POTENTIAL FOR SPECIES OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA
Coast (San Diego) horned lizard (<i>Phrynosoma coronatum</i>) (<i>blainvillii</i> population)	CSC Group 2	Moderate. CNDDDB records document 12 occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 3.5-miles of the Project site. This species inhabits coastal sage scrub and chaparral in arid and semi-arid climate conditions. Prefers friable, rocky, or shallow sandy soils.
Coastal western whiptail (<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>)	Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document five occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 8 miles of the Project site. This species is found in deserts and semiarid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland and riparian areas.
Coronado skink (<i>Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis</i>)	CSC BLM Sensitive Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document four occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 3-miles of the Project site. This species is typically found in grassland, chaparral, pinon-juniper and sage woodland, pine-oak and pine forests in coastal ranges of southern California. Prefers early successional stages or open areas. Found in rocky areas close to streams and on dry hillsides.
Northern red diamond rattlesnake (<i>Crotalus ruber ruber</i>)	CSC Group 2	Observed within the Project vicinity, outside the western boundary of the Project site. CNDDDB records document five occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 3-miles of the Project site. This species is typically found in chaparral, woodland, grassland, and desert areas from coastal San Diego County to the eastern slopes of the mountains. This species prefers rocky areas and dense vegetation and requires rodent burrows, cracks in rocks or other surface cover objects.
Orange-throated whiptail (<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i>)	CSC Group 2	High. CNDDDB records document multiple occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 0.7-miles of the Project site. Records from 2000 document sightings of this species within 2-miles of the Project site in open disturbed coastal sage scrub near fallow agricultural fields. This species is typically found in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and valley-foothill hardwood habitats. Prefers sandy areas with patches of brush and rocks.
Rosy boa (<i>Charina trivirgata</i>)	BLM Sensitive FS Sensitive Group 2	Moderate. CNDDDB records document three occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including an occurrence within 4.5-miles of the Project site. This species is typically found in desert and chaparral from the coast to the Mojave and Colorado deserts. Prefers moderate to dense vegetation and rocky cover. Habitats with a mix of brushy cover and rocky soil such as hillsides, desert canyons, washes and mountains.
San Diego ringneck snake (<i>Diadophis punctatus similes</i>)	FS Sensitive Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 12 miles northwest of the Project site. This species prefers open, fairly rocky areas with surface litter or herbaceous vegetation. Often found in moist areas near intermittent streams.
Two-striped garter snake (<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>)	CSC FS Sensitive BLM Sensitive Group 1	Moderate. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 7.5-miles northwest of the project site. This species is found in coastal California up to 7,000 feet in elevation in or near permanent fresh water. Prefers streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.

COMMON NAME/ SCIENTIFIC NAME	LISTING STATUS ¹	POTENTIAL FOR SPECIES OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA
Western spadefoot (<i>Spea hammondi</i>)	CSC BLM Sensitive Group 2	Low. CNDDDB records document five occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the Project site, including one occurrence within 7.5-miles of the Project site. This species occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.
<i>Invertebrates/Fish</i>		
Arroyo chub (<i>Gila orcuttii</i>)	CSC FS Sensitive Group 1	Low. CNDDDB records document four occurrences of this species along the Santa Margarita River, approximately 6-miles to the north of the project site. This species is found in slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms.
<i>Terrestrial Insects</i>		
Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>)	FE Group 1	Low. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 9-miles north of the project site. This species is found in sunny openings within chaparral and coastal sage shrub, grasslands, and vernal pools, often along ridgelines and hilltops in parts of Riverside and San Diego Counties. The primary host plants for this species' larvae are <i>Plantago erecta</i> , <i>P. patagonica</i> , and <i>Castilleja exserta</i> .

¹California Department of Fish and Game

SE	State listed, endangered
CSC	California species of special concern
SFP	State listed, fully protected
FS	USDA Forest Service sensitive species
BCC	US Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern
WBWG	Western Bat Working Group High Priority

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FE	Federally listed, endangered
FT	Federally listed, threatened
San Diego County	
Group 1	Highly sensitive, usually FE or FT
Group 2	Overall population decreasing

Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*) is a native perennial herb in the rose family (Rosaceae) that blooms between February and September. This species is known to occur in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitat at an elevation ranging from 70 and 810 meters and is typically found in sandy or gravelly soils. This species is categorized as a CNPS List 1B species (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere), with a R-E-D of 2-3-3 which means this plant is seriously endangered in California, is endemic to California, and that it's distributed in a limited number of occurrences in California. This species is not federal or state listed; however, it is a List A species (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) according to the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use Sensitive Plant List. No individuals of chaparral nolina were observed on the Project Site; however, CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 0.90 mile to the east. This species has a moderate potential to occur within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors.

Parry's tetraococcus (*Tetraococcus dioicus*) is native deciduous shrub in the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) that blooms between April and May. This species is known to occur in chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat at an elevation ranging from 165 to 1,000 meters and is typically found in chaparral on gabbro and metavolcanic soils. This species is threatened by

agriculture and development and is categorized as a CNPS List 1B species (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere), with a R-E-D of 3-2-2 which means this species is fairly endangered in California, is rare outside of California, and that its distribution in California has a restricted occurrence or is represented in small numbers and seldom reported. This species is not federal or state listed; however, it is a List A species (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) according to the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use Sensitive Plant List. Several individuals of Parry's tetracoccus were observed just outside the northern and eastern boundaries of the Project Site.

Robinson's peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*) is a native annual herb in the mustard family (Brassicaceae) that blooms between January and July. This species is known to occur in chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats at an elevation ranging from 1 to 500 meters. This species is categorized as a CNPS List 1B species (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere), with a R-E-D of 3-2-2 which means this species is fairly endangered in California, is rare outside of California, and that its distribution in California has a restricted occurrence or is represented in small numbers and is seldom reported. This species is not federal or state listed; however, it is a List A species (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) according to the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use Sensitive Plant List. No individuals of Robinson's peppergrass were observed on the Project Site; however, CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 0.45 mile to the northeast. This species has a moderate to high potential to occur within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors.

Dulzura pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*) is categorized as a California Special Concern Species as defined by the CDFG and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. This species occurs in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland and is attracted to grass/chaparral edges. The Dulzura pocket mouse has a diet of seeds, insects, and sometimes green leaves. CNDDDB records of this species were documented within 3 miles of the Project site. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, the coastal sage scrub habitat within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide the necessary elements for occurrence of this species.

Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) is categorized as a CDFG California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. The pallid bat occurs in arid and semi-arid regions throughout northern Mexico and the western United States. This species is known to occur in deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Pallid bats eat beetles, grasshoppers, and moths, and often forage for slow-moving prey, such as scorpions, flightless arthropods, and sometimes lizards. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 7.5 miles from the Project site. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, the coastal sage scrub habitat within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide the necessary elements for occurrence of this species.

San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) is categorized as a CDFG California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. This species prefers moderate to dense canopies and is abundant in areas of rocky outcrops, cliffs, and slopes. CNDDDB records document this species within 3 miles of the Project site. A *Neotoma* sp. nest was observed at the base of an Engelmann oak located on the Project

site during field surveys conducted on June 20, 2007. It could not be determined if the nest is active and whether it belongs to the dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*), which is not a special-status species, or to the San Diego desert woodrat. Surrounding areas within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Stephen's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) is categorized as a Federally Endangered and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. This species is found in annual and perennial grasslands, but also occurs in coastal scrub and sagebrush with sparse canopy cover and prefers plants such as buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), and filaree (*Erodium* sp.). The Stephen's kangaroo rat's diet consists of seeds, which are collected in cheek pouches and stored in either shallow holes or nesting burrows. CNDDDB records document this species within 3 miles of the Project site. No sign of this species was observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The surrounding areas within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) is categorized as a CDFG California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. This species prefers open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral and often roosts in crevices, cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels. CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 7 miles from the Project site. Although no individuals of this species were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007, the surrounding areas within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*) is categorized by the Western Bat Working Group as a high priority species. This species is known to occur in valley-foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. The western yellow bat often roosts in trees, particularly palms, and forages over water and among trees. The western yellow bat feeds on small to medium-sized, night-flying insects. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 11.5 miles from the Project site. The Site does not support suitable habitat for this species; however, the surrounding areas within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide may support this species.

Bell's sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli belli*) is a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. Bell's sage sparrow is observed year-round in parts of southern California, coastal California, and Baja California in dense chaparral habitat. This is a ground feeding species that thrives mainly on insects. CNDDDB records include one occurrence in Moosa Canyon, located approximately 7.5 miles south of the Site. The Site does not support suitable Bell's sage sparrow habitat; however, habitat within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*) is a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level

of sensitivity) species. Cactus wrens are found year-round in southern California, in extensive cactus thickets in coastal lowland habitat. This rare and local species typically nests in cholla (*Cylindropuntia* sp.) or prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp) and feeds mainly on insects and larvae. CNNDDB records indicate this species was located northeast of the Site; however no observations of this species were observed on the Site during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable extensive cactus thickets; however, the coastal sage scrub habitat within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors may provide the necessary elements for occurrence of this species.

Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) is recognized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a Federally Threatened species and is a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species. This species is an obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below an elevation of 2,500 feet in southern California and Baja California. The coastal California gnatcatcher feeds on insects, spiders, and some seeds. CNNDDB records include occurrences of this species within 3 miles the Project site. No coastal California gnatcatchers were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The coastal California gnatcatcher has a moderate to high potential to occur within 1 mile of the Site or within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors.

Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) is a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. Cooper's hawks are found year round throughout most of the state, nesting in trees or high places that are typically found in open woodlands or in deciduous trees in riparian areas. This species feeds mainly on common small to medium-sized birds. CNDDDB records of this species were within 2.5 miles of the Project site. No Cooper's hawks were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable nesting habitat; however, habitat within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors do support trees and riparian areas where Cooper's hawks prefer to nest.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is a Fully Protected California Special Concern Species as identified by the CDFG and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. Golden eagles are found year round throughout most of the state, nesting on cliff edges and less often in tall trees. This species feeds mainly on mammals such as ground squirrels and rabbits and can be found perched or soaring in the air over hillsides. CNDDDB records of this species were documented encompassing and within 1 mile of the Site. The surrounding western, northern, and eastern hillsides are suitable foraging and nesting habitat for this species. No golden eagles were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, areas within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may provide suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) is categorized as a Federally Endangered, State Endangered as identified by the USFWS and CDFG and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. Least Bell's vireo is restricted to riparian habitat found mostly in coastal lowlands. The species is vulnerable to nest predation from the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). CNDDDB records of this species are documented throughout the San Luis Rey River; however, no least Bell's vireos were observed during field surveys conducted on March

14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable least Bell's vireo habitat; however, the San Luis Rey River is located within 1 mile of the Project and provides suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) is a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. This species is fairly common in sage scrub, burnt chaparral, and along firebreaks in mature chaparral. Rufous-crowned sparrows primarily eat small grass and forb seeds, fresh grass stems, plant shoots, ants, grasshoppers, ground beetles, and scale insects. CNNDDB records document this species within 3 miles of the project site. No southern California rufous-crowned sparrows were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, the surrounding areas within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may provide suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) is categorized as a USFWS Federally Endangered species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. This species uses cottonwood-willow riparian forest for foraging and nesting and feeds on insects by either aerially gleaning from trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation or hawking larger insects by waiting on exposed forage perches and capturing insects in flight. CNDDDB records document sightings of this species approximately 2 miles from the Project site within the San Luis Rey River. No southwestern willow flycatchers were observed on the Site during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, the San Luis Rey River is located within 1 mile of the Project and provides suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*) is a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. Yellow-breasted chats are found seasonally throughout most of California during the summer months and are seen in dense brushy patches and hedgerows in open sunny areas and in extensive riparian woodlands. This type of warbler feeds on small insects from leaves and twigs, as well as berries and nectar. CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 0.50 mile east of the Project along the San Luis Rey River. No yellow-breasted chats were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, the San Luis Rey River is located within 1 mile of the Project and provides suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*) is categorized as a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. This species is considered fairly common in mature riparian woodland on coastal slopes. CNDDDB records document 5 occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the project site, including an occurrence within 0.4 mile of the Project site along the San Luis Rey River. No yellow warblers were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, the San Luis Rey River is located within 1 mile of the Project and provides suitable foraging and nesting conditions for this species.

Arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) is listed as a USFWS Federally Endangered species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. This toad prefers riparian habitats with sandy streambeds with cottonwood (*Populus* sp.), sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and willow trees (*Salix* spp.). Some populations occur in streams within coniferous forests. The stream setting usually has adjacent shallow pools where the toad may sit in the water while partially exposed above. CNDDDB records document 9 occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the project site, including an occurrence within 0.4 mile of the Project site along the San Luis Rey River. No arroyo toads were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable riparian habitat or surface water; however, the San Luis Rey River bed area south of the Site and other drainages within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may provide the necessary elements for occurrence of this species.

Coast (San Diego) horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*) is categorized as a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. This species occurs from northern California to Baja California. CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 3.5 miles from the Site. The coast horned lizard inhabits coastal sage scrub and chaparral, occurring in friable, rocky or shallow sandy soils. Small insects such as ants, particularly the harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex* sp.) are the preferred food of this ground dwelling lizard. No coast (San Diego) horned lizard or harvester ant were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007; however, chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may support this species.

Northern red diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*) is categorized as a CDFG Fully Protected California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. The northern red diamond rattlesnake is a heavy-bodied, venomous pit viper, which occurs in southern California and Baja California from the coast to eastern mountain slopes in rocky areas and dense vegetation such as chaparral, woodland, grassland and desert. The rattlesnake's diet consists of small mammals, including ground squirrels, wood rats, rabbits, lizards, and birds. CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 3 miles from the Project site. One individual of this species was observed west of the Site during a field survey for cultural resources conducted on April 14, 2007. Therefore, habitat within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors supports this species.

Orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*) is categorized as a CDFG California Special Concern Species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. Orange-throated whiptails are found throughout southwestern California and Baja California, in washes, streams, terraces, and other sandy areas where there are rocks and patches of brush and rocky hillsides, including coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats, foraging for insects and spiders. CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 0.70 mile of the Project site. No orange-throated whiptails were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007; however, habitat within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may support this species.

Rosy boa (*Charina trivirgata*) is categorized as a USFWS Federally Sensitive species and a San Diego County Group 2 (overall population decreasing) species. The rosy boa occurs throughout southern California and western Arizona and is typically found in dense and rocky chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat from the coast to the desert. CNDDDB records of this species were documented approximately 4.5 miles from the Project site. No rosy boas were observed during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007; however, habitat within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may support this species.

Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) is categorized as a USFWS Federally Sensitive species and a CDFG California Special Concern Species. This species is also a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. This species is found in coastal California up to 7,000 feet in elevation in or near permanent fresh water. It prefers streams with rocky beds and riparian growth. The two-striped garter snake's diet consists of tadpoles, newt larvae, small frogs and toads, fish, and occasionally worms and fish eggs. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 7.5 miles northwest of the Project site. No two-striped garter snakes were observed on the Site during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007; and the Site does not support suitable habitat. However, habitat within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may support this species.

Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) is categorized as a USFWS Federally Endangered species and a San Diego County Group 1 (very high level of sensitivity) species. This butterfly is a subspecies of Edith's checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha*). The historical range of the Quino checkerspot butterfly included Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties, as well as locations in northern Baja California, Mexico. It is now limited to certain regions with Riverside and San Diego counties, and northern Baja California. The host plants for Quino checkerspot butterfly larvae are plantain (*Plantago erecta*), woolly plantain (*P. patagonica*), Coulter's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum coulterianum*), dark-tip bird's beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *setigerus*), and purple owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*). Adult butterflies will usually emerge in March and last through April to sometimes early May, depending on winter rains and temperatures. Adult Quino checkerspot butterflies nectar from the flowers of low growing annuals, but shrubs such as California buckwheat are also utilized as nectar sources. This butterfly can be found in coastal sage scrub and chaparral, in open meadows adjacent to coastal sage scrub, chaparral and oak woodland as well as juniper woodland and semi-desert scrub. Regardless of the type of habitat, it must have open areas with low-growing and sparse vegetation. Old dirt roads and foot trails, especially those located along hilltops, are suitable for the butterfly and provide a good environment for the territorial males to rest. In addition, the presence of clay soils and cryptogamic crusts favor host plant growth. CNDDDB records document one occurrence of this species approximately 9.5 miles north of the project site, in Riverside County. No Quino checkerspot butterflies or their host plants were observed on the Site during field surveys conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. The Site does not support suitable habitat; however, areas within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of the Project linear corridors may provide suitable conditions for this species.

6.6.1.4 Site Vicinity

The biological resources evaluated for the Project include vegetation communities, plants, wildlife, and wildlife corridors. Regional biological resources described in Section 6.6.1.3 are

based on records from the CDFG CNDDDB. A more intensive evaluation, including field surveys, was conducted for the area within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors. The Project linear facilities include the proposed natural gas pipeline lateral, underground electric transmission interconnection, and water pipeline lateral. The area within 1 mile of the Site and within 1,000 feet of Project linear corridors is referred to herein as the Site "vicinity" (see Figure 6.6-2).

6.6.1.4.1 Field Surveys

Preliminary investigations included examination of aerial photographs and database searches, including:

- CNDDDB records documented within 10 miles of the Project Site;
- County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance Sensitive Plant and Animal List; and
- Draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program.

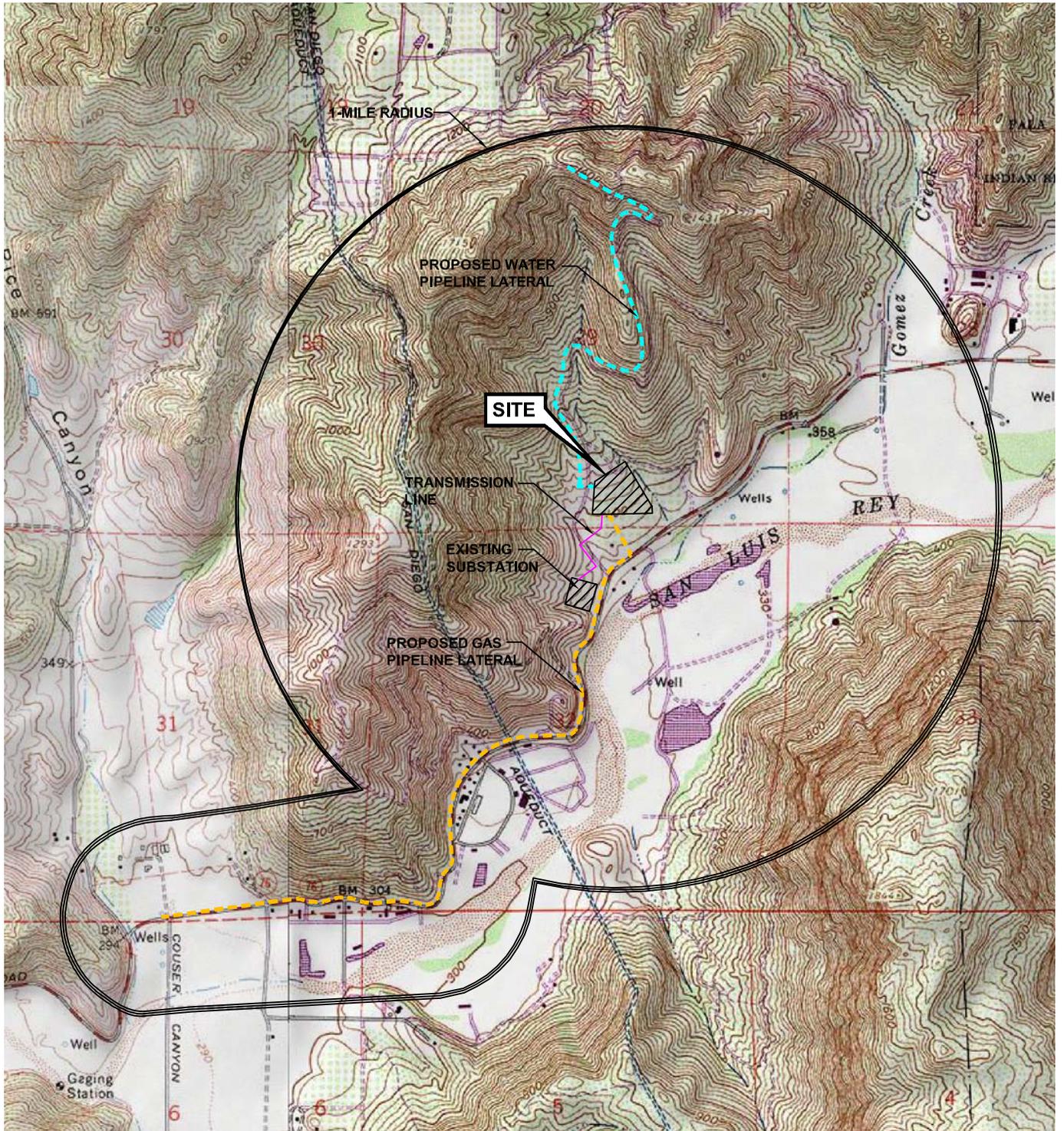
A comprehensive list of special-status species was compiled, including all species that are known to or have the potential to occur in the project region.

Field surveys to identify biological resources in the Site vicinity focused on locating special-status plant and animal species, as well as the vegetation communities observed. Surveys of the Site and linear corridors were conducted on March 14 and June 20, 2007. These studies included:

- Meandering transects throughout the Site to document and record biological resources immediately upon observation;
- Slowly driving Pala del Norte Road, a paved road that parallels the western boundary of the Site before turning north and upslope of the Site. This method was chosen over walking linear transects of the proposed water corridor due to the open visibility of habitat on either side of the road;
- Driving multiple slow passes on SR 76 between the Site and Rice Canyon Road. This method was chosen over walking linear transects of the proposed gas corridor due to the open visibility of habitat on either side of the road and for safety reasons; and
- Photographing biological resources and habitat communities, as well as the Site and Project utility corridors.

Wildlife species were identified directly by sight and/or vocalizations, and indirectly by scat, track, or burrows. Field notes were maintained throughout the surveys and species of interest were mapped. The presence or absence of suitable habitat for sensitive species was also identified.

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SCALE 1:24,000



SOURCE:

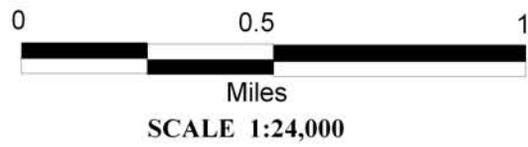
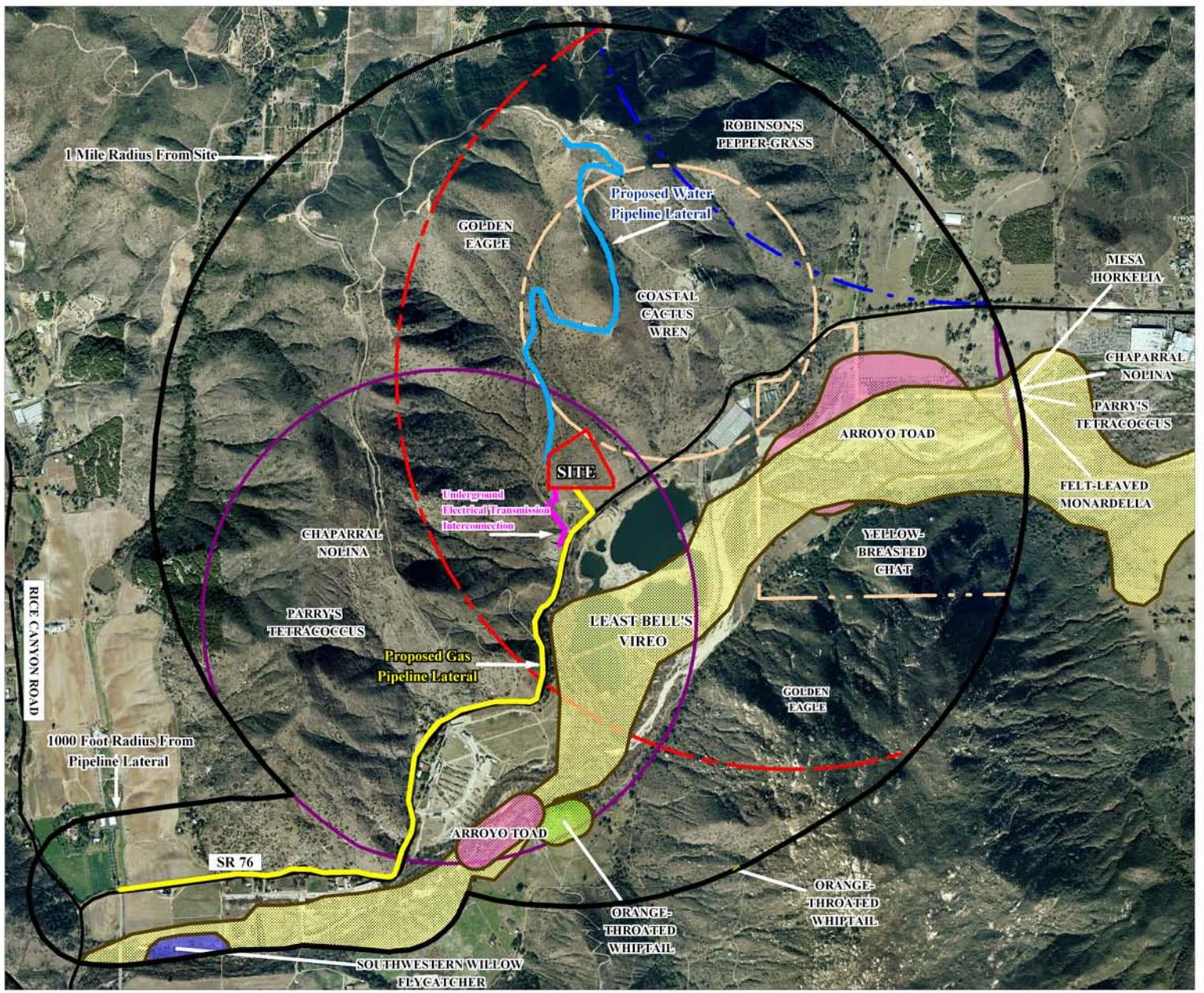
United States Geological Survey
 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, 2000:
 Pala, Bonsall, Temecula,
 and Pechanga Quadrangles



PROJECT: 29031902
 FACILITY:
 ORANGE GROVE PROJECT
 SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

PROJECT VICINITY

FIGURE 6.6-2



SOURCE:
 California Department of Fish & Game,
 2007. California Natural Diversity Database.
 Rarefind 3 Software.
 Aerial : AirPhoto USA 2006

LEGEND

- MESA HORKELIA, CHAPARRAL NOLINA, PARRY'S TETRACOCCLUS, FELT-LEAVED MONARDELLA
- GOLDEN EAGLE
- ROBINSON'S PEPPER-GRASS
- COASTAL CACTUS WREN
- YELLOW-BREADED CHAT
- ARROYO TOAD
- LEAST BELL'S VIREO
- ORANGE-THROATED WHIPTAIL
- SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER



PROJECT: 29031902

ORANGE GROVE PROJECT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

PROJECT VICINITY CNDDDB

FIGURE 6.6-3

6.6.1.4.2 Site and Linear Corridors

The Site is situated on a portion of a former orchard. Most of the trees remain with their condition ranging from extremely stressed to dead so there is little foliage. The northwesternmost corner of the Site was used for orchard debris disposal and supports disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub. A fenced storage yard is located approximately 100 feet south of the Site and within the proposed construction laydown area. A San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) substation is located approximately 700 feet southwest of the Site. Pala del Norte Road, a paved private road, generally parallels the western boundary of the Site. This road leads to residences located in the hills to the north and east of the Site and provides an entry way to both the SDG&E substation and the storage yard. Pala del Norte Road is located between the SDG&E substation and the Project Site. Habitat adjacent to the northern and western boundaries of the Site consists of coastal sage scrub. Upland drainages that run in a generally north to south direction are located to the west and east of the Site. Both of these drainages have been extensively disturbed by orchard land-clearing and debris disposal. The western drainage is lined with scattered remnants of Diegan coastal sage scrub vegetation and the eastern drainage is lined with open coast live oak woodland. An abandoned avocado grove is located east of the eastern drainage. The proposed construction laydown area, which is located immediately south of the Site, between the southern boundary and SR 76 to the south, is part of the same orchard on which the Site is located and supports nonnative grasses and ruderal species. SR 76 is located south of the Site and the proposed construction laydown area. The San Luis Rey River is located parallel to and south of SR 76. The river is lined with southern riparian forest, but has been extensively disturbed in this area due to aggregate mining activities.

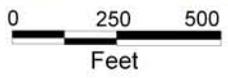
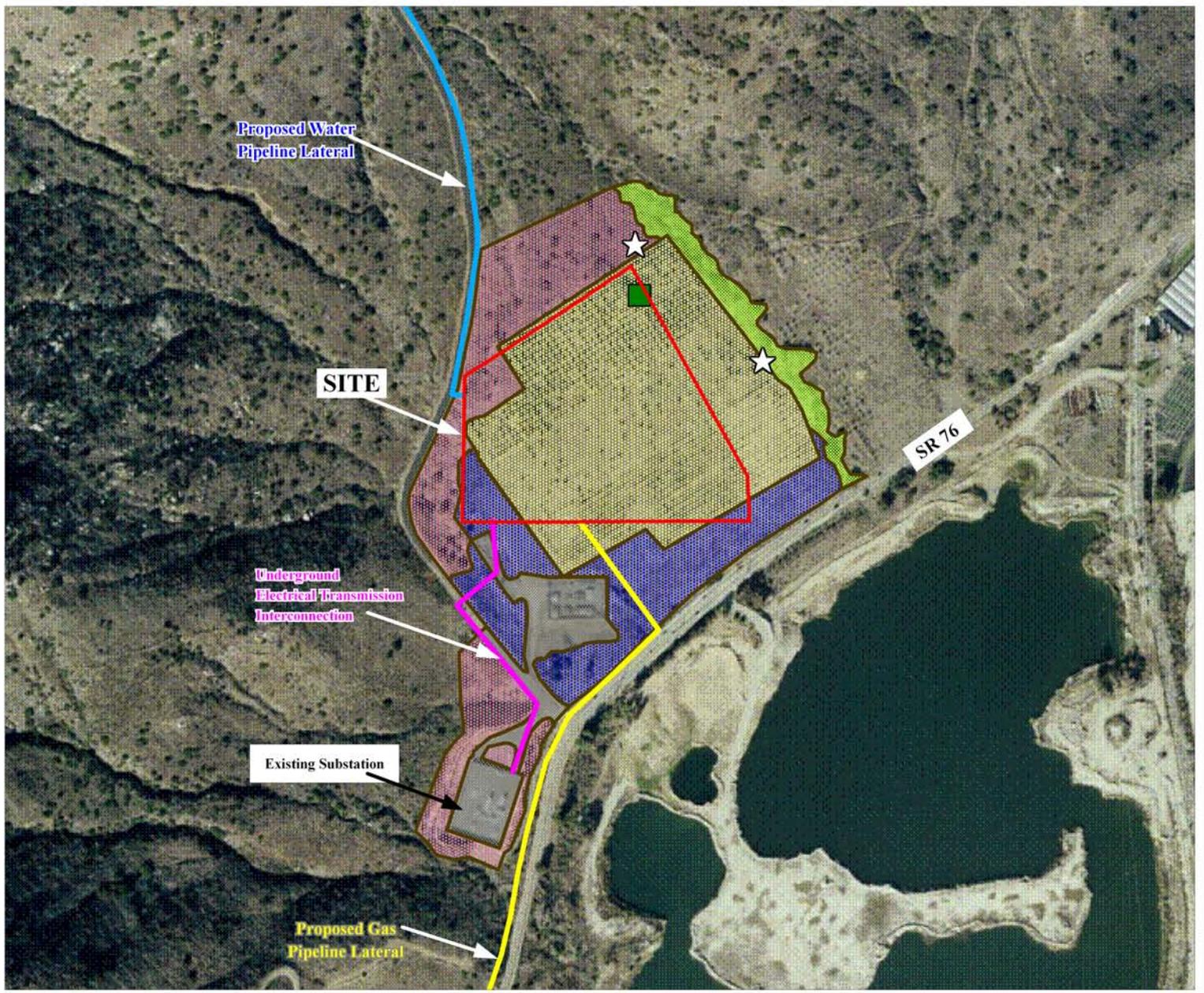
Three linear corridors are proposed for the underground installations of natural gas and water pipelines and an electrical line. The natural gas pipeline will be routed from the Site south to SR 76, then extend west along SR 76 to an existing regional gas transmission line. The water pipeline will be routed from the Site northwest to Pala del Norte Road, then extend generally northward and along Pala del Norte Road to an existing water main. Both SR 76 and Pala del Norte are paved roads. The natural gas and water pipelines will be installed underground within the roadbed and shoulders of SR 76 and Pala del Norte Road, respectively. The water pipeline will not be installed underground within the ephemeral drainage located between the Site and Pala del Norte Road. Instead, to avoid disturbance to the ephemeral drainage, the water pipeline will be attached to a short bridge that will cross the drainage. Areas adjacent to the roads where these pipelines will occur consist of coastal sage scrub, southern riparian forest, agriculture, and developed areas. The underground electrical transmission line interconnection from the Site to the SDG&E substation will be installed under the ephemeral drainage west of the Site, in disturbed and developed areas. The transmission line will be installed in a horizontal bore beneath the drainage, so there will be no disturbance to the drainage.

6.6.1.4.3 Vicinity Vegetation Communities

The following descriptions are based on habitat classifications from the Preliminary Description of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California (Holland 1986) and revised by Thomas Oberbauer in Terrestrial Vegetation Communities in San Diego County Based on Holland's Descriptions (March 2005). These vegetation classifications are categorized within the Project

vicinity, including the Project Site and the proposed construction laydown area. The Site consists of an abandoned citrus orchard. The entire Site and adjacent areas to the west, south and east have been extensively disturbed by orchard activities including land clearing and debris disposal beyond the limits of the trees. The following vegetation communities were observed on and around the Site: nonnative grassland, Diegan coastal sage scrub, open coast live oak woodland, disturbed areas, and developed land. Within the Site, there is one established Engelmann oak tree (*Quercus engelmannii*) that it appears the grove was planted around. In addition, there are a few Engelmann oak saplings and several coast live oak saplings (*Quercus agrifolia*) spread through the Site and surrounding areas within the grove. The oak trees are isolated and are not part of a larger woodland or forest community. Figure 6.6-4 shows the distribution of these communities on and immediately surrounding the Project Site. In addition, southern mixed chaparral and southern riparian forest were observed within the Project vicinity.

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SOURCE:

Terrestrial Vegetation Community Code
 Based on Holland (1996), as Suggested by
 T. Oberbauer, (1996, Revised March
 2005), DPLU, San Diego County.
 Aerial : AirPhoto USA 2006

LEGEND

-  - Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)
-  - Perry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*)
-  - Open Coast Live Oak Woodland
-  - Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (Mostly Revegetated & Disturbed)
-  - Orchard
-  - Nonnative Grasslands
-  - Disturbed and Urban/Developed



PROJECT: 29031902

ORANGE GROVE PROJECT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SITE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

FIGURE 6.6-4

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Nonnative grassland (42200)

The nonnative grassland occurs primarily to the south of the Site where construction staging and the Site secondary access will occur. This habitat is comprised of nonnative grasses and herbaceous broadleaf species of foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and wild oats (*Avena barbata*). This vegetation community is disturbed; however, this habitat type can support wildlife, small mammals, and/or reptiles, and can provide foraging for raptors.

Orchard (18100)

The orchard on site has not been irrigated for at least 5 years and is no longer viable. Most of the orchard's trees have not yet been cut or removed from the Site. Vegetation found in the orchard understory and between trees consists of nonnative grasses and herbaceous broadleaf species, similar to those found in the nonnative grassland. Since the Site has not been maintained, a few coastal sage shrub species are scattered on the Site.

Diegan coastal sage scrub (32500)

Disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub habitat is located in the extreme northwestern corner of the Site and is comprised of native scrub species of California sagebush (*Artemisia californica*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa* var. *grindelioides*), and laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*). This habitat is of low quality due to disturbance by agricultural operations and is intermixed with nonnative species of tocalote and short-pod mustard.

The majority of the area surrounding the Site to the north and west is Diegan coastal sage scrub. This sub-shrub community supports California sagebrush, white sage (*Salvia apiana*), sawtooth goldenbush, California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum*), California broom (*Lotus scoparius*), and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum* var. *confertiflorum*).

Disturbed habitat (11300)

The disturbed area is located south of the Site is composed primarily of bare ground and debris from past agricultural activities and from the fenced storage yard. The disturbed area includes a driveway to the storage yard and was the entrance to the orchard. The proposed underground electrical line will be installed, in part, within the disturbed area.

Urban/Developed (12000)

The developed area is a storage yard located in the proposed construction laydown area. The storage yard contains equipment and several small outbuildings and is completely surrounded by chain-link fence.

Open coast live oak woodland (71161)

The area described as open coast live oak woodland is located east of the Site and is described as a disturbed upland drainage that supports coast live oak and Engelmann oak trees. Other species observed include laurel sumac, sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicanus*),

southern honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *denudata*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

Southern Mixed Chaparral (37120)

Southern mixed chaparral habitat is located in the southeastern portion of the Project vicinity and in patches within the northern and northwestern portions of the Project vicinity. Southern mixed chaparral is often a dense shrub community growing on steep to very steep hillsides and slopes. Typically this habitat supports a variety of species such as laurel sumac, chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), mission manzanita (*Xylcoccus bicolor*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and Our Lord's candle (*Hesperoyucca [Yucca] whipplei*)

Southern riparian forest (61300)

The southern riparian forest within the Project vicinity is south of the Project along the San Luis Rey River. This habitat type is categorized as a riparian and bottomland habitat that often supports arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), coast live oak, sycamore, poison oak, and mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*).

Table 6.6-3 presents a list of plant and wildlife species that were observed on the Site vicinity during the March 14 and June 20, 2007 reconnaissance survey and the habitats in which they were observed.

Table 6.6-3 – Plant and Wildlife Species Observed During March and June 2007 Survey of the Project Site Vicinity

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HABITAT
PLANTS		
Bermuda buttercup	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Orchard
Black sage	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	DDCSS, OCLOW
Blue elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicanus</i>	NNG, OCLOW
Bristly ox-tongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>	Orchard
Bush mallow	<i>Malocothamnus fasciculatus</i>	DDCSS, DCSS
Calabazilla	<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i>	NNG, Orchard
California broom	<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	DDCSS, DCSS
California buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>fasciculatum</i>	DDCSS, DCSS
California peony	<i>Paeonia californica</i>	DDCSS
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	Orchard, DDCSS, DCSS
Coast live oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> var. <i>agrifolia</i>	OCLOW, Orchard
Common mallow	<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Orchard
Coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Orchard
Crete weed	<i>Hedypnois cretica</i>	NNG
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Orchard
Desert wild grape	<i>Vitis girdiana</i>	OCLOW

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HABITAT
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.	OLOW
Dove weed	<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>	NNG, Orchard
Dwarf nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	OLOW
Engelmann oak	<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	OLOW, Orchard
Fascicled tarweed	<i>Deinandra fasciculata</i>	DDCSS, NNG
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	NNG, Orchard
Fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i>	NNG
Foxtail chess	<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	NNG, DDCSS, Orchard
Golden-yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i> var. <i>confertiflorum</i>	DDCSS, DCSS
Hare barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	NNG, Orchard
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Orchard
Horseweed	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	NNG, DIS, DEV
Jimson weed	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Orchard, DEV
Laurel sumac	<i>Malosma laurina</i>	DDCSS, DCSS, NNG
Lemon	<i>Citrus limon</i>	Orchard
Man-root	<i>Marah macrocarpus</i>	OLOW
Morning-glory	<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	DDCSS, NNG, OLOW
Mule fat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Orchard
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Orchard
Parry's tetracoccus	<i>Tetracoccus dioicus</i>	DDCSS, DCSS
Peruvian peppertree	<i>Schinus molle</i>	NNG
Phacelia	<i>Phacelia</i> sp.	OLOW
Poison oak	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	OLOW
Prickly lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	NNG, Orchard
Prickly-pear	<i>Opuntia</i> sp.	OLOW
Red-stem filaree	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	NNG, Orchard
Ripgut grass	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	NNG, Orchard
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Orchard, NNG, OLOW
Sawtooth goldenbush	<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i> var. <i>grindelioides</i>	DDCSS, DCSS
Short-pod mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	DDCSS, NNG, Orchard
Slender wild oats	<i>Avena barbata</i>	NNG, Orchard
Smilo grass	<i>Piptatherum miliaceum</i>	NNG
Soft chess	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	NNG, Orchard
Southern honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera subspicata</i> var. <i>denudata</i>	OLOW
Spotted hideseed	(<i>Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia</i> var. <i>chrysanthemifolia</i>)	OLOW
Sugar bush	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	DDCSS, NNG
Telegraph weed	<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	NNG, Orchard

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HABITAT
Tocalote	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	DDCSS, NNG, Orchard, DIS
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	OLOW
Tree tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	NNG
Western ragweed	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	Orchard
White sage	<i>Salvia apiana</i>	DDCSS, DCSS
Wild radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	NNG
Yellow bush penstemon	<i>Keckiella antirrhinoides</i> var. <i>antirrhinoides</i>)	DDCSS
INVERTEBRATES		
Acmon blue	<i>Icarcia acmon</i>	Orchard
Brown garden snail	<i>Cantareus aspersus</i>	Orchard
Pacific Sara orangetip	<i>Anthocharis sara</i>	Orchard
REPTILES		
Northern red diamond rattlesnake ¹	<i>Crotalus ruber ruber</i>	DCSS
Western fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Orchard
BIRDS		
Acorn woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	OLOW, Overhead
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis</i>	Overhead
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Orchard
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Orchard
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Orchard
California towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	Orchard
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Orchard
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	Orchard
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Orchard
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Orchard
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Overhead
Western kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Orchard
Western scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica obscura</i>	Orchard
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata henshawi</i>	Orchard
MAMMALS		
Audubon's cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	Orchard
California ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi nudipes</i>	Orchard

¹Observed west of the Project Site during an April 14, 2007 cultural survey

OLOW = Open coast live oak woodland

NNG = Nonnative grassland

DDCSS = Disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub

DEV = Developed

DCSS = Diegan coastal sage scrub

DIS=Disturbed habitat

6.6.1.4.4 Vicinity Wildlife

Table 6.6-3 presents a list of wildlife species that were observed on the Project vicinity during the March 14 and June 20, 2007 surveys, and the habitats in which they were observed. The Site is an abandoned citrus orchard; therefore, the vegetation communities contain limited and marginally suitable wildlife habitats. The Project Vicinity, however, has a large percentage of native habitat and potentially supports suitable wildlife habitat and wildlife movement.

Wildlife inhabiting southern riparian forest within the Project Vicinity typically includes riparian-associated bird species including the least Bell's vireo, western wood pewee, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, southwestern willow flycatcher, oak titmouse, song sparrow, ash-throated flycatcher, violet-green swallow, house wren, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and Cooper's hawk. Amphibians and reptiles inhabiting these habitat types include the arroyo toad, western spadefoot toad, western toad, two-striped garter snake, and the San Diego ringneck snake. Mammals inhabiting these areas include such species as the brush rabbit, Virginia opossum, raccoon, coyote, and bobcat.

Wildlife inhabiting the Diegan coastal sage scrub habitat within the Project vicinity typically includes small mammals such as the deer mouse, pacific pocket mouse, San Diego desert woodrat, desert cottontail, which are prey for coyotes, raptors, and other predators. Coastal sage scrub provides foraging habitat for a large array of bird species, including but not limited to the coastal California gnatcatcher, California thrasher, California towhee, coastal cactus wren, common raven, spotted towhee, red-tailed hawk, white-tailed kite, and American kestrel. Reptiles, including the coast horned lizard, orange-throated whiptail, western fence lizard, and side-blotched lizard, San Diego gopher snake, and northern red diamond rattlesnake, can also be found within this habitat type.

Wildlife inhabiting the nonnative grassland habitat within the Project vicinity typically includes mammals such as the Botta's pocket gopher, desert cottontail, California ground squirrel, American badger, and coyote. Nonnative grasslands provide foraging habitat for a variety of raptor species, including the American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, ferruginous hawk, turkey vulture, golden eagle, and barn owl. These areas provide foraging habitat for other bird species including mourning dove, western meadowlark, Say's phoebe, song sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, California horned lark, western bluebird, western kingbird, and loggerhead shrike. Reptiles such as the side-blotched lizard and gopher snake also inhabit nonnative grasslands.

Wildlife inhabiting the southern mixed chaparral habitat within the Project vicinity includes mammals such as the Dulzura pocket mouse, San Diego northwestern pocket mouse, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, San Diego desert woodrat, desert cottontail, coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion. Chaparral supports a large array of bird species including, but not limited to Anna's hummingbird, Bewick's wren, California quail, California towhee, spotted towhee, California thrasher, mourning dove, northern mockingbird, lesser goldfinch, Bell's sage sparrow, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, white-tailed kite, and golden eagle. Reptiles found in this habitat type include the western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, orange-throated whiptail, southern alligator lizard, and northern red diamond rattlesnake.

6.6.1.4.5 *Special-Status Species With the Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity*

Plants

Five special-status plant species have been historically recorded within the Project vicinity, according to the CNDDDB database. These species are chaparral nolina (*Nolina cismontana*), felt-leafed monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanata*), mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*), Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*), and Robinson's peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*). According to the CNDDDB, Parry's tetracoccus and chaparral nolina have been documented in an area encompassing the Project Site and vicinity; felt-leafed monardella and mesa horkelia have been documented approximately 1 mile east of the Site, and Robinson's peppergrass has been documented approximately 0.70 mile northeast of the Site. Parry's tetracoccus was observed in the Project vicinity along the northern and eastern Site boundary during the March 14 and June 20, 2007 reconnaissance survey.

Wildlife

Seven special-status wildlife species have been historically recorded within the Project vicinity, according to the CNDDDB database. These species are coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), and orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*). According to the CNDDDB, coastal cactus wren has been observed about 0.4 mile northeast of the Site, the golden eagle's range encompasses the Project Site, and the orange-throated whiptail has been observed 0.8 mile south of the Site. No special status wildlife species were observed in the Project vicinity during the March 14 and June 20, 2007 survey; however, a northern red diamond rattlesnake was observed in the Project vicinity during an April 18, 2007 cultural survey. The northern red diamond rattlesnake is a CDFG California Special Concern Species.

6.6.2 Impacts

6.6.2.1 Significance Criteria

The following significance criteria are based on the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form and standards adopted by responsible agencies. Using these criteria, an impact may be considered significant if the Project results in:

- 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 CDFG or USFWS.
- A substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFG or USFWS.
- A substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

- Substantial interference with the movement of any native, resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state Habitat Conservation Plan.
- The potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal species.

The San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) has developed additional guidance that was used in this analysis to assist in evaluating whether any of the above significant impact thresholds are reached (DPLU, September 2006). Appendix 6.6-A summarizes DPLU guidance and Project conformance.

6.6.2.2 Construction Impacts

This section describes the temporary and permanent impacts to biological resources for the Project. Direct impacts to biological resources will occur from construction as a result of brushing and grading the Project area. Indirect impacts will occur on the fringes of construction due to increased noise and human presence for the 6-month construction period. Along the gas and water pipeline routes, there will be no direct impact to biological resources because the pipelines will be in the existing road shoulder or road bed. Indirect noise impacts of construction along the pipeline routes will occur only for short periods of time (e.g., hours) at any given area, since the pipelines will be constructed in short segments at a time.

Project construction disturbance areas are identified in Table 6.6-4.

Table 6.6-4 – Vegetation Communities and Construction Impacts

HABITAT/VEGETATION COMMUNITIES	ONSITE IMPACT (ACRES)	LINEAR FACILITIES IMPACT (ACRES)	SITE ACCESS	CONSTRUCTION LAYDOWN IMPACT (ACRES)	TOTAL (ACRES)
Diegan coastal sage scrub	0.5	0.0	0.1	0	0.6
Nonnative grassland	0.7	0.2	0.7	5.0	6.6
Orchard	7.3	0.1	0.4	0.8	8.6
Disturbed and urban/developed area	0.0	NA(1)	NA(1)	NA(1)	NA(1)
TOTAL	8.5	0.3	1.2	5.8	15.8

(1) NA = Not Applicable. Project linear facility ground disturbance on roads and other urban/developed areas is not included in the acreage estimates since it does not provide habitat.

6.6.2.2.1 *Special-Status Species*

The Site construction disturbance area and the temporary construction laydown area will occupy approximately 8.5 and 8.0 acres, respectively. Approximately 2.2 acres of the 8.0 acre laydown area is disturbed and urban/developed area. Linear facility construction will include trenching and backfilling for installation of the gas pipeline; overhead suspension over a drainage and trenching and backfilling for installation of the water pipeline; and a horizontal directional drill under a drainage and trenching and backfilling for installation of the electrical tie-in. Project construction will include dust control. In addition, OSHA and other standards for noise will be followed during construction; they also will protect biologic resources from significant indirect impacts associated with construction noise. A noise analysis is provided in Section 6.12 – Noise Control.

Water for construction will be provided by the Rainbow Water District from an existing water main, or it will be trucked to the site from an existing water supply. The water pipeline lateral will be constructed as an initial part of construction to deliver water to the Site for dust control and soil moisture conditioning. Since the construction water will be from an existing supply, it will have no impact on biological resources. Storm water discharges from the Site during construction will be in accordance with the State General NPDES Permit. A SWPPP and BMP's will be implemented to prevent impacts to storm water quality. Wildlife will not be impacted by construction storm water runoff because of these water quality protection measures and because changes in runoff conditions will be minor (see Section 6.5 – Water Resources).

Construction noise and activity will be short-term, as construction will occur only during working hours, and the construction period is one-half year (six months), from January 2008 to June 2008. Along the pipeline routes, construction noise will generally occur only for several hours in a given location as construction progresses in short segments along the pipeline route. Wildlife will be able to relocate to adjacent lands if disturbed by noise and activity from Project construction. Project impacts on wildlife from construction noise and activities, therefore, are expected to be less than significant.

Parry's tetracoccus was observed outside the northern and eastern boundaries of the Site where no disturbance will occur. Therefore, no impact to this species is expected.

Project construction will impact one established Engelmann oak tree, a few Engelmann oak saplings, and several small coast live oaks. Construction will include landscaping of portions of the Site with Engelmann and coast live oaks that will more than offset this direct impact (See landscaping plan discussion in Section 6.13 – Visual Resources).

The following special status plant species were not observed during the March 14 and June 20, 2007 field survey and are not expected to be impacted by the Project for the following reasons:

- Chaparral nolina was not observed during March or June 2007 Site surveys; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.

- Felt-leaved monardella occupies undeveloped peaks and mountainous ridgelines. Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.
- Mesa horkelia often occupies low-growing, moderately dense chaparral habitat with associate species of chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), and Cleveland's sage (*Salvia clevelandii*). Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.
- Robinson's peppergrass grows in chaparral and sage scrub openings generally well away from foothill elevations. Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.

Special-status wildlife species that occur within the Project vicinity according to the CNDDDB include coastal cactus wren, golden eagle, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, arroyo toad, and orange-throated whiptail. None of the above mentioned species were observed during the March 14 and June 20, 2007 field surveys and are not expected to be impacted by the Project for the following reasons:

- The coastal cactus wren has been historically documented in the northeastern portion of the Project vicinity and is known to occur and nest in coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities occupied by extensive patches of cactus, particularly native prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.). Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.
- Golden eagles have been historically documented encompassing the Site area and the ranges around the northern, northeastern, eastern, southeastern, and southern territories of the Project vicinity. This species rarely occurs in grassland and open areas, preferring to hunt and nest along vast hillsides unfrequented by human activity. Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.
- Least Bell's vireo has been historically documented in and around the San Luis Rey River with the closest proximity of approximately 0.30 mile south of the Site. This species primarily inhabits riparian woodlands, scrub, and thickets for breeding. Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.
- Southwestern willow flycatcher was documented approximately 700 feet south of the proposed gas pipeline lateral that will be buried in the northern edge of SR 76, north of the San Luis Rey River. This species is known to occupy low brushy vegetation, especially riparian willow thickets. Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.
- Yellow breasted chat was documented approximately 0.50 mile east of the Site, along the San Luis Rey River. This species is known to occupy dense thickets and brush, and streamside tangles. The drainage outside of and parallel to the eastern boundary of the Site contains

potentially suitable habitat, but areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable habitat for this special-status species; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.

- Arroyo toad was documented approximately one-half mile east of the Site and almost one mile south of the Site. This species prefers riparian habitats with sandy streambeds with cottonwood, sycamore, and willow trees. Some populations of arroyo toad occur in streams within coniferous forests. The stream setting usually has adjacent shallow pools where the toad may sit in the water while partially exposed. Areas that will be disturbed for Project construction lack suitable riparian habitat for this special-status species. Arroyo toads do require upland habitat, preferably with sandy friable soil for burrowing. Although the Site consists of upland habitat; suitable soils were not observed; therefore, no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.
- Orange-throated whiptail was documented approximately one mile south of the Site. This species inhabits a variety of plant community types that thrive in loose, well-drained soils including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and coastal strand vegetation. This species appears to be tied to the presence of some perennial plants, probably because its staple prey (termites) requires some kind of a perennial plant as a food base. The northwestern corner of the Site supports disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub and therefore may provide suitable habitat for this special-status species. However, the impact on this special status species will be less than significant since the amount of suitable habitat is relatively small (0.50 acres) and highly disturbed, orange-throated whiptail was not observed at the Site, and this species is capable of dispersal; therefore, the Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the regional long-term survival of the orange-throated whiptail and no significant impact on this species is expected to occur.

There are no CNDDDB occurrence records within the Project vicinity for the following special-status wildlife species: Dulzura pocketmouse, pallid bat, San Diego desert woodrat, Stephen's kangaroo rat, western mastiff bat, western yellow bat, Bell's sage sparrow, coastal California gnatcatcher, Cooper's hawk, Southern California rufous-crown sparrow, yellow warbler, coast (San Diego) horned lizard, northern red diamond rattlesnake, rosy boa, two-striped garter snake, and Quino checkerspot butterfly. A northern red diamond rattlesnake was observed west of the Project Site during an April 18, 2007 cultural survey. Although the southern riparian forest, open coast live oak woodland, Diegan coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and rock outcrops within the Project vicinity may provide suitable habitat for these species, the habitat types will not be impacted by Project construction. The minor impact that will occur to Diegan coastal sage scrub will be offset by an overall increase in this type of habitat due to Project-related planting in the construction lay down area.

As described in the preceding paragraphs, Project construction will not have a substantial adverse effect on any special-status species.

6.6.2.2 Riparian and Wetland Habitat

Project construction will not occur on any riparian or wetland habitat. The Project will not affect any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the CDFG or USFWS. Habitats occurring in the Site vicinity are shown in Figure 6.6-4.

6.6.2.2.3 *Wildlife Nursery Sites and Corridors*

There are no wildlife nursery sites in the vicinity that could be impacted by Project construction. The Project will not impact any surface water body and, therefore, will not affect any fish species. There are no identified resident or migratory wildlife corridors that would be blocked by Project construction. Habitats outside the limits of Project disturbances, including coastal sage scrub, upland drainages, and southern riparian forest, may provide foraging and movement habitat, but will not be affected by Project construction. Considering these factors, the short-term Project construction activities will have a less than significant effect on species movement and nursery sites.

Wildlife corridors, or linkages, are important because of their role in preserving species diversity. Without some connection or corridor, wildlife use areas become islands surrounded by development. By definition, these corridors exist between important or major wildlife use areas. Often small, fragmented areas of habitat support lower numbers of species than similarly situated larger blocks of habitat.

The project would not prevent wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction.

6.6.2.2.4 *Established Plans, Policies and Ordinances*

Project construction will be consistent with established plans, policies and ordinances (See Section 6.6.5, Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards).

6.6.2.2.5 *Significance Summary*

Based on the preceding evaluations, and considering that Project construction will only occur for approximately six months, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any special-status species. The Project will have de minimis impact (< 1 acre) to Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub and will not impact any other sensitive natural community or wetlands. It will not interfere with wildlife movement or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The Project will conform with applicable LORS. Considering these factors, Project construction impacts to biological resources will be less than significant.

6.6.2.3 Operations and Maintenance Impacts

6.6.2.3.1 *Special-status Species*

Project operations and maintenance is not expected to result in any direct impact to sensitive species. There will be no new surface disturbance. The underground design of the transmission line interconnection will avoid the potential for transmission line collisions by avian species. Portions of the Site will be planted with native vegetation to stabilize soils and to help screen the power plant from public view. Coast live oak, Engelmann oak, and native shrub and grass species will be used for project landscaping. The construction laydown area will be hydroseeded with a coastal sage scrub/grassland seed mixture (See Appendix 2.2-A).

Table 6.6-5 identifies the area of construction disturbance that will be long term, accounting for Project landscaping and soil stabilization using native plants at completion of construction. The areas shown in Table 6.6-5 are preliminary estimates. Areas that can be replanted and native species to be used will be subject to finalization in the Fire Protection Plan being prepared by Orange Grove Energy for the county Major Use Permit application. The Project will result in a net increase of native habitat on the Site and adjacent areas and will remove non-native species.

Table 6.6-5 – Vegetation Communities Long Term Impacts

HABITAT/VEGETATION COMMUNITIES	TOTAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACT (ACRES)	LANDSCAPING AT CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION (ACRES)	OPERATIONS IMPACT (LONG TERM DIFFERENCE)
Diegan coastal sage scrub	0.6	5	4.4 acres native habitat (added)
Nonnative grassland	6.6	0	6.6 acres non-native vegetation (removed)
Orchard	8.6	0	8.6 acres orchard (removed)
Native plant ground stabilization (e.g., grass and shrubs)	0	4.8	4.8 acres native vegetation (added)
Native plant landscaping (i.e., trees and shrubs)	0	1	1 acre native vegetation (added)
Disturbed and urban/developed habitat	NA(1)	NA(1)	NA(1)
TOTAL	15.8	10.8	10.2 acres native vegetation and habitat (added)

(1) NA = Not Applicable. Project linear facilities ground disturbance on roads and other urban/developed areas is not included in the acreage estimates since it does not provide habitat.

Project operations will include emission control measures to comply with relevant air quality standards, which will also protect biological resources from indirect impacts from operations emissions. The Project will utilize acoustical enclosures around noisy equipment to limit noise emissions. Noise levels will be below applicable standards, which will protect biologic resources from significant indirect impacts from noise. Wildlife that is disturbed by noise from Project operations should be able to relocate to adjacent lands. Project operations impacts on wildlife from emissions and noise, therefore, are expected to be less than significant.

The project linear facilities will be located underground and their operation will not affect biological resources. The water pipeline will be attached to a free-standing bridge over an ephemeral drainage and its operation will not affect biological resources.

The Rainbow Municipal Water District will provide water for Project operations. Since the water will be from an existing municipal supply, it will have no impact on biological resources.

Storm water discharges from the Site will be in accordance with BMPs to prevent impacts to storm water quality and to prevent erosion impacts. Wildlife will not be impacted by storm water

runoff because of these water quality protection measures and because changes in runoff conditions will be minor.

An educational program will be implemented to enhance workers' awareness in order to protect biological resources. This program will be implemented through mandatory initial training with periodic reinforcement using measures such as biological resource sensitivity reminders, periodic training sessions, posters, or signs. Considering these factors, Project operations and maintenance will not directly or indirectly impact sensitive plant species or communities.

Based on the above, Project operations will not have a significant adverse impact on any special-status species. Based on the preceding analysis, the impacts of Project operations on special-status species will be less than significant.

6.6.2.3.2 *Riparian and Wetland Habitat*

Project operations and maintenance will not impact any riparian or wetland habitat. The Project will not affect any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the CDFG or USFWS. Habitats occurring in the Site vicinity are shown in Figure 6.6-4.

6.6.2.3.3 *Wildlife Nursery Sites and Corridors*

As described in Section 6.6.1, there are no wildlife nursery sites in the vicinity that could be impacted by Project operations and maintenance. The Project will not impact any surface water body and, therefore, will not affect any fish species. There are no identified resident or migratory wildlife corridors that would be blocked by Project operations and maintenance. Habitats outside the Site, including coastal sage scrub, upland drainages, and southern riparian forest, may provide foraging and movement habitat, but will not be affected by Project operations and maintenance. Considering these factors, Project operations and maintenance activities will have a less than significant effect on species movement and nursery sites.

6.6.2.3.4 *Plans, Policies and Ordinances*

Project construction will be consistent with established plans, policies and ordinances (See Section 6.6.5, Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards).

6.6.2.3.5 *Significance Summary*

Based on the preceding evaluations, Project operation impacts to biological resources will be less than significant.

6.6.2.4 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts refer to incremental, individual environmental effects of two or more projects when considered together. These impacts taken individually may be minor but may be collectively significant. DPLU guidance indicates that a cumulative impact to biological resources may occur if the project has 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, thereby threatening to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal species (County of San Diego, 2006).

The Site occurs on orchard land zoned for General Agriculture that includes a de minimis amount of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub and nonnative grassland. This land has low to moderate habitat value and provides only low-quality foraging opportunities for local wildlife species. The removal of the orchard and non-native grassland at the Site will incrementally reduce the amount of disturbed low productivity habitat available throughout the region. This impact will be offset by using native species for ground stabilization and landscaping. Considering landscaping, there will be a net increase of coast live oak and Engelmann oak trees and native habitat. The mature landscape vegetation is expected to provide higher quality habitat than the orchard and nonnative grassland that will be disturbed. With Project planting in the construction laydown area, there will be a net increase in Diegan coastal sage scrub. No habitat fragmentation impact will occur and animal movement will not be blocked.

Other projects that could potentially generate cumulative impacts are identified in Section 6.1.3. The Project will not impact wetlands or riparian vegetation, and will not block animal movement or restrict the range of any species, in part due to the Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat and agricultural land. The Project will not conflict with LORS. The project will not affect any fish species or water body. The project will result in a net increase of native habitat and a net increase in Engelmann and California live oaks. Therefore, there is no potential for cumulative impacts in these areas. The Project will not directly impact any sensitive species, except for the Engelmann Oak tree and seedlings that will be replaced. When considered along with other projects identified that could potentially generate cumulative impacts, no substantial adverse affect to sensitive species is expected. The Project, when considered in conjunction with other projects identified in Section 6.1-4, will not reduce the habitat of a wildlife species, cause the wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate any natural community. Considering these factors, cumulative impacts related to biological resources will be less than significant.

6.6.2.5 Project Design Features

The following Site characteristics and Project design features limit the impacts to biological resources to a level that is less than significant:

- The Site was selected so that construction and operations will occur within an abandoned orchard, disturbed habitat, and developed land, to limit the removal of natural vegetation or wildlife habitat.
- The Project has been designed to avoid impact to drainages.
- Project landscaping will use only native vegetation to avoid introducing exotic plants to the Site or surrounding areas. With native landscaping and replanting of the construction laydown area with Diegan coastal sage scrub, the Project will result in a net increase of native habitat.
- The electrical interconnection to the existing SDG&E substation will be installed underground, which will eliminate the potential for avian collisions with the transmission line.

- Project lighting will be directed downward to minimize affects to wildlife.
- Project construction and operation will include emission control measures to comply with relevant air quality standards, which also will protect biologic resources.
- Relevant standards for noise control will be followed during construction and operations that also will protect biologic resources from indirect impacts from noise.
- Project design includes a preconstruction clearance survey and an employee education program to assure that sensitive species are not adversely affected, with the exception of the Engelmann oak impact that is fully mitigated through Project landscaping.
- The Project will comply with California Pesticide Regulations (CCR Title 3, Division 6) to minimize the use of rodenticides and herbicides.

6.6.3 Mitigation Measures

Considering the above analysis of Project impacts, Project design features, and LORS that apply to biological resources, no mitigation measures are required.

6.6.4 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Due to Project design features and Site characteristics, the Project will not have significant unavoidable adverse impacts on biological resources.

6.6.5 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards (LORS)

LORS related to biological resources that are relevant to the Project are listed in Table 6.6-6, along with an identification of the administering agencies and Project approach to compliance. The Project will comply with applicable LORS during construction and operation.

The CDFG may consider the transmission line interconnection horizontal boring beneath the drainage west of the site to be within their jurisdiction, and may require a Streambed Alteration Agreement pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1603. Orange Grove Energy will address this potential requirement with DFG staff. Table 6.6-7 provides contact information for CDFG.

Table 6.6-6 – Summary of Biological Resources LORS and Compliance

JURIS-DICTION	AUTHORITY	AGENCY	REQUIREMENTS	COMPLIANCE	SPPE SECTION
Federal	Endangered Species Act of 1973; 16 USC §1531 et seq., 50 CFR Parts 17 and 222.	USFWS.	Protection and management of federally-listed threatened or endangered plants and animals and their designated critical habitats (terrestrial and avian species).	The Project will not impact any federally-listed species.	6.6.1, 6.6.1.3.2, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3, and 6.6.2.5
	Migratory Bird Treaty Act; 16 USC §703-711; 50 CFR Subchapter B.	USFWS.	Protection of migratory birds.	The Project will not impact migratory birds. An underground transmission line will eliminate any potential for bird collisions with transmission wires.	6.6.1.3.1, 6.6.1.3.2, 6.6.1.4.4, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2.1, 6.6.2.3.1, and 6.6.2.5
	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 16 USC Section 2901 et seq.; 50 CFR part 83.	USFWS.	Calls on states to develop conservation plans for fish and wildlife.	There are no conservation plans applicable to the Site vicinity.	6.6.2.2.4 and 6.6.2.3.4.
	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250.	USFWS	Prohibits the take, transport or sale of bald eagles, their eggs or any part of an eagle except where expressly allowed by the Secretary of Interior. The Act was amended in 1962 to extend the prohibitions to the golden eagle.	The Project will not result in take of bald or golden eagle.	6.6.1.3.2, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3, and 6.6.2.5
State	California Endangered Species Act of 1984; California Fish & Game Code §2050-2098.	CDFG.	Consultation requirement for threatened or endangered species. Endangered plants and animals are listed in 14 CCR §670.2 and 670.5.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process. Implement appropriate measures, if any, developed in consultation with CDFG.	6.6.2.2.1, 6.6.2.3.1 and 6.6.2.5
	Native Plant Protection Act of 1977; California Fish and Game Code §1900 et seq.	CDFG.	Protection for plants listed as rare or endangered.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of impact of native plant species and show compliance with the California Native Plant Protection Act.	6.6.1.3.2, 6.6.1.4.5.

JURIS-DICTION	AUTHORITY	AGENCY	REQUIREMENTS	COMPLIANCE	SPPE SECTION
State (cont.)	California Fish and Game Code §1930-1933.	CDFG, Natural Heritage Division.	Provides for significant Natural Areas program and natural resources database.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of impact to "Natural Areas" and show compliance with the Natural Heritage Division requirements.	6.6.1.2.2, 6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3 and 6.6.2.5
	California Fish and Game Code §3503.	CDFG.	No taking or possessing of nests or eggs of birds.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of impact to nesting birds protected under Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	California Fish and Game Code §3511.	CDFG.	Prohibits the taking of any bird listed as fully protected.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of "taking" of protected bird species in accordance with Section 3511 of the California Fish and Game Code.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	California Fish and Game Code § 3515.	CDFG.	Unlawful to take any non-game migratory bird designated in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of "taking" of non-game, migratory birds designated in Migratory Bird Treaty Act.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	California Fish and Game Code §§ 4700 and 5515.	CDFG.	Prohibits the taking of mammals and fish listed as fully protected.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of "taking" of fully protected mammals and fish in accordance with Sections 4700 and 5515 of the California Fish and Game Code.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	California Fish and Game Code §5050.	CDFG.	Prohibits the taking of any reptile listed as fully protected.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of "taking" of fully protected reptile species in accordance with Section 5050 of the California Fish and Game Code.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	CEQA; California PRC §21000 et seq.	Commission.	Protection of California environment.	Provide information to the Commission through the SPPE process showing protection of the environment and impact from the Project.	6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5.

JURIS-DICTION	AUTHORITY	AGENCY	REQUIREMENTS	COMPLIANCE	SPPE SECTION
State (cont.)	California PRC §25523(a); 20 CCR §1752,1752.5, 2300-2309 and Chapter 2, Subchapter 5, Article I, Appendix B, Part (i).	Commission, with comment by CDFG.	Inclusion of requirements for Commission decision on AFC to assure protection of listed species.	Provide information to the Commission through the AFC process regarding lack of impact to listed species and how the Project protects listed species.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.4, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	California Pesticide Regulations, 3 CCR, Division 6.	California Department of Pesticide Regulation.	Requires minimizing the use of rodenticides and herbicides.	The Project will include measures requiring compliance with California Pesticide Regulation (3 CCR, Division 6) to minimize the use of rodenticides and herbicides.	6.6.2.5
	California Native Species Conservation and Enhancement Act, CDFG Code Section 1750 et seq.	CDFG.	Mandates maintenance of sufficient populations of native species to ensure continued existence.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of impact to native species in accordance with Section 1750 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.4, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	Natural Community Conservation Planning Act of 1991	CDFG	Provides for comprehensive management and conservation of key natural resources to protect and perpetuate natural wildlife diversity while allowing compatible and appropriate development and growth.	Provide information to CDFG through the SPPE process regarding lack of impact to, and protecting and perpetuating, natural wildlife diversity.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.4, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
Local	San Diego County General Plan – Open Space Element (Part 1), Conservation Element (Part X), and Community and Subregional Plans	County of San Diego	Provides guiding principles for the conservation of biological resources, such as water, vegetation, and wildlife habitat.	Provide information to the County of San Diego regarding lack of impact to protected and environmentally sensitive habitat areas in accordance with the policies of the County’s Guidelines for Determining Significance.	6.6.1.4.2, 6.6.1.4.3, 6.6.1.4.4, 6.6.1.4.5, 6.6.2.2, 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5
	County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance	County of San Diego	Designates zoning or Special Area Regulation with certain restrictions pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance.	Provide information to the County of San Diego regarding zoning designation of the Project.	6.6.1.4, 6.6.2. 6.6.2 and Appendix 6.6-A.

JURIS-DICTION	AUTHORITY	AGENCY	REQUIREMENTS	COMPLIANCE	SPPE SECTION
Local	Multiple Species Conservation Program and Biological Mitigation Ordinance	County of San Diego	Establishes a connected preserve system that protects the County's sensitive species and habitats.	The Project is not located within the County of San Diego MSCP boundaries.	6.6.1, 6.6.2.
	Resource Protection Ordinance	County of San Diego	Provides restrictions for impacting wetlands, wetland buffers, floodplains, steep slopes, sensitive habitat lands, and historical sites.	Provide information to the County of San Diego regarding lack of impact to wetlands, wetland buffers, steep slopes, and sensitive habitat lands.	6.6.1, 6.6.2.
	Habitat Loss Permit Ordinance	County of San Diego	Provides means for the County to issue "take permits" in lieu of USFWS Section 7 or 10(a) Permits.	Project will obtain a Habitat Loss Permit for direct and indirect impact to coastal sage scrub habitat, as needed. Project may be exempted due to de minimis (< 1 acre) impact.	6.6.2.2, 6.2.2.3.
Industry	None Applicable	None Applicable	None Applicable	None Applicable	None Applicable

Table 6.6-7 – Agency Contacts for Biological Resources

AGENCY AND CONTACT	AUTHORITY
California Department of Fish and Game Tamara Spear South Coast Region 4949 Viewridge Avenue San Diego, California 92123 (858) 467-4223	Potential need for Streambed Alteration Agreement, per Fish and Game Code section 1603

6.6.6 References

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6.6-A. B

**APPENDIX 6.6-A – COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DPLU GUIDELINES FOR
DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE**

APPENDIX 6.6-A: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DPLU GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE	
County Guidance	Project Conformance
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES	
The project would impact one or more individuals of a species listed as federally or state endangered or threatened.	No federally or state endangered or threatened species were observed on the Project site; therefore, no impacts to these sensitive species are expected. See 6.6.1.3, 6.6.1.4, and 6.6.2.2.
The project would impact the regional long-term survival of a County Group A or B plant species, or a County Group I animal species, or a species listed as a state Species of Special Concern.	No County Group A or B plant species, or County Group I animal species, or a species listed as a state Species of Special Concern were observed on the Project site; therefore, no impacts to these sensitive species are expected. See 6.6.1.3, 6.6.1.4, and 6.6.2.2.
The project would impact the regional long-term survival of a County Group C or D plant species or a County Group II animal species.	No Group C plant species or County Group II animal species were observed on the Project site. One County Group D plant species (Engelmann oak) was observed on the Project site. Because the oaks are isolated and are not part of a larger woodland habitat, no impacts to the regional long-term survival of this species are expected. See 6.6.1.3 and 6.6.2.3.
The project may impact arroyo toad aestivation or breeding habitat.	No arroyo toad or suitable arroyo toad stream habitat was observed on the Project Site. Although; arroyo toads do require upland habitat, sandy friable soil suitable for burrowing were not observed. Therefore, no impacts to arroyo toad aestivation or breeding habitat are expected. See 6.6.1.2, 6.6.1.3, 6.6.1.4, and 6.6.2.2.
The project would impact golden eagle habitat.	No golden eagle or suitable golden eagle habitat was observed on the Project Site, which consists primarily of abandoned orchard, and all electric lines will be installed underground to eliminate the potential for avian collisions with transmission lines; therefore, no impacts to golden eagle habitat are expected. In addition, the Project will replace more native habitat than it will remove. See 6.6.1.3, 6.6.2.3, and 6.6.2.5.
The project would result in a loss of functional foraging habitat for raptors.	The Project will result in a net increase in native habitat that will provide higher foraging value than disturbed lands that the Project will be constructed on. The Project will replace disturbed non-native habitat in an amount that exceeds the long-term project use of disturbed lands. See 6.6.1.1, 6.6.1.2, and 6.6.1.3.

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<p>The project would increase noise and/or nighttime lighting to a level above ambient proven to adversely affect sensitive species.</p>	<p>Noise from Project construction will occur only during daytime working hours, and the construction period will be limited to a six-month period. Once constructed, the Project will use equipment designed to control noise levels within CEC and County LORS. A complete noise analysis is provided in Section 6.12 of the application. Noise is not expected to adversely affect sensitive species. See 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5.</p> <p>The Project will not create a new source of substantial light because lighting will be directed onsite and downward and will utilize non-glare bulbs, and project structures will be treated with non-reflective finishes. Lighting contactors and photocells will be used to control exterior lighting. Timers will be included in needed to mitigate exterior lighting during overnight hours in accordance with County requirements. Therefore, nighttime lighting is not expected to adversely affect sensitive species. See 6.6.2.5 and 6.13.4.4.</p>
<p>The project would impact the viability of a core wildlife area, defined as a large block of habitat that supports a viable population of a sensitive wildlife species or an area that supports multiple wildlife species.</p>	<p>No sensitive wildlife species were observed on the Project Site, the Site is a former citrus orchard that has low to moderate habitat value and provides only low-quality foraging opportunities for wildlife species, and the Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat. Furthermore, the Project would not prevent wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction. Furthermore, since the Project will increase the area of native plants and habitat available to wildlife species through the region, no incremental impact to the viability of a core wildlife area are expected. See 6.6.1.3 and 6.6.1.4, 6.6.2.2, and 6.6.2.4.</p>
<p>The project would increase human access or predation of competition from domestic animals, pest or exotic species to levels that would adversely affect sensitive species</p>	<p>Construction workers will receive training on sensitivity of native species and will be required to avoid unnecessary disturbance. Once construction is completed, the Project will not substantially increase human access in the area or introduce domestic animals. The operations staff will total approximately 6 positions and these staff will receive training on sensitivity of native species and will be required to avoid unnecessary disturbance. Domestic animals will not be allowed on the Site, and Project landscaping will use only native vegetation to avoid introducing pest or exotic plant species. Therefore, no impacts to sensitive species from human access, domestic animals, or pest or exotic species are expected. See 6.6.2.5.</p>

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<p>The project would impact nesting success of sensitive animals through grading, clearing, fire fuel modification, and/or noise generation activities such as construction.¹</p>	<p>None of the sensitive animals referred to in this Guideline (see footnote 2) were observed at the Site and no nests were observed at or near the Site. Project construction will impact primarily a former orchard and nonnative grassland, and to a lesser extent urban/developed areas and disturbed habitat. The small (< 1 acre) area of Diegan coastal sage scrub and the few one established oak tree that will be impacted will be offset by an overall increase in coastal sage scrub and oak trees due to Project landscaping and planting. Therefore, the amount and quality of nesting will increase and no impacts to the nesting success of the sensitive animals referred to in this Guideline are expected. See 6.6.1.3, 6.6.1.4, 6.6.2.2, and 6.6.2.5.</p>
RIPARIAN HABITAT OR SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY	
<p>Project-related construction, grading, clearing, construction or other activities would temporarily or permanently remove sensitive native or naturalized habitat on or off the project site.</p>	<p>The only native or naturalized habitat that would be impacted is a de minimus area (< 1 acre) of disturbed Diegan coast sage scrub and overall there will be a long term increase in coastal sage scrub. Therefore, the impact to sensitive or naturalized habitat will be less than significant. See 6.6.2.4.</p>
<p>As a result of project-related construction, the following would occur to or within jurisdictional wetlands and/or riparian habitats as defined by ACOE, CDFG, and the County of San Diego: removal of vegetation; grading; obstruction or diversion of water flow; adverse change in velocity, siltation, volume of flow, or runoff rate; placement of fill; placement of structures; construction of a road crossing; placement of culverts or other underground piping; any disturbance of the substratum; and/or any activity that may cause an adverse change in native species composition, diversity, and abundance</p>	<p>The Project will not impact jurisdictional wetland and/or riparian habitat. The Project will install an underground electrical transmission line under the ephemeral drainage west of the Site via a horizontal directional drill. Because the electrical line will be installed under the drainage and all standard precautions will be taken during the drilling process, no impacts to the drainage are expected. The Project is designed with a free-span bridge where the Project driveway crosses this drainage to avoid disturbance to the drainage channel. This drainage is a normally dry upland drainage and does not contain wetlands or riparian habitat. See 6.6.1.4, 6.6.2.3, 6.6.2.4, and 6.6.2.5.</p>
<p>The project would draw down the groundwater table to the detriment of groundwater-dependent habitat.</p>	<p>The Project will not use ground water. Therefore, no impacts to the groundwater table are expected. See 6.6.2.2 and 6.6.2.3.</p>

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<p>The project would increase human access or competition from domestic animals, pests, or exotic species to levels proven to adversely affect sensitive habitats.</p>	<p>Construction workers will receive training on sensitivity of native species and will be required to avoid unnecessary disturbance. Once construction is completed, the Project will not substantially increase human access in the area or introduce domestic animals. The Site occurs in a former orchard and adjacent to SR 76 and does not involve increasing access to any area. The operations staff will total approximately 6 positions and these staff will receive training on sensitivity of native species and will be required to avoid unnecessary disturbance. Domestic animals will not be allowed on the Site, and Project landscaping will use only native vegetation to avoid introducing pest or exotic plant species. Therefore, no impacts to sensitive species from human access, domestic animals, or pest or exotic species are expected. See 6.6.2.5.</p>
<p>The project does not include a wetland buffer (25 feet to 200 feet) adequate to protect the functions and values of existing wetlands.</p>	<p>The Project Site lacks jurisdictional wetlands, as do the two ephemeral drainages located east and west, respectively, of the Project Site boundaries. The linear facilities routes lack jurisdictional wetlands. Therefore, no impacts to existing wetlands are expected. See 6.6.2.4</p>
<p>FEDERAL WETLANDS</p>	
<p>The project would have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.</p>	<p>The Project Site and linear facility routes lack jurisdictional wetlands; therefore, no impacts are expected. See 6.6.2.4.</p>
<p>Wildlife movement and nursery sites</p>	
<p>The project would prevent wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction.</p>	<p>The Project Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat and would not prevent wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction. The Project will incrementally increase the area of native plants and native habitat through the region, via ground stabilization planting and landscaping with native species, which when mature, will provide greater habitat value than the vegetation communities that will be impacted. Therefore, no impacts to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for wildlife reproduction are expected. See 6.6.1.3 and 6.6.1.4, 6.6.2.2, and 6.6.2.4</p>

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<p>The project would substantially interfere with connectivity between blocks of habitat, or would potentially block or substantially interfere with a local or regional wildlife corridor or linkage.</p>	<p>The Project Site is not an identified resident or migratory wildlife corridor. The Project Site is small in relation to the topographic setting and surrounding habitat so it will not block areas that might be used for wildlife movement (as opposed to what a linear-shaped area might do). In addition, the three linear facilities associated with the Project will be underground and will not restrict wildlife movement or pose a threat to avian flight. The Project Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat that provides connectivity between blocks of habitat and corridors for local or regional wildlife; therefore, no impacts are expected. See 6.6.2.2 and Figure 6.6-4.</p>
<p>The project would create artificial wildlife corridors that do not follow natural movement patterns.</p>	<p>The Project will not create artificial wildlife corridors.. See 6.6.2.2 and Figure 6.6-4.</p>
<p>The project would increase noise and/or nighttime lighting in a wildlife corridor or linkage to levels proven to affect the behavior of the animals identified in a site-specific analysis of wildlife movement.</p>	<p>The Project Site is not located in an identified resident or migratory wildlife corridor. Noise from Project construction will occur only during daytime working hours, and the construction period will be limited to a six-month period. Once constructed, the Project will use equipment designed to control noise levels within CEC and County LORS. A complete noise analysis is provided in Section 6.12 of the application. Noise is not expected to adversely affect any wildlife corridor. See 6.6.2.3 and 6.6.2.5.</p> <p>The Project will not create a new source of substantial light because lighting will be directed onsite and downward and will utilize non-glare bulbs, and project structures will be treated with non-reflective finishes. Lighting contactors and photocells will be used to control exterior lighting. Timers will be included in needed to mitigate exterior lighting during overnight hours in accordance with County requirements. Therefore, nighttime lighting is not expected to adversely affect any wildlife corridor. See 6.6.2.5 and 6.13.4.4.</p>
<p>The project does not maintain an adequate width for an existing wildlife corridor or linkage and/or would further constrain an already narrow corridor.</p>	<p>The Project Site is not located in an identified resident or migratory wildlife corridor. The Project Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat that provides connectivity between blocks of habitat and corridors for local or regional wildlife; therefore, no impacts are expected. See 6.6.2.2 and Figure 6.6-4.</p>
<p>The project does not maintain adequate visual continuity within wildlife corridors or linkage.</p>	<p>The Project Site is not located in an identified resident or migratory wildlife corridor. The Project Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat that provides connectivity between blocks of habitat and corridors for local or regional wildlife; therefore, no impacts are expected. See 6.6.2.2.</p>

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LOCAL POLICIES, ORDINANCES, ADOPTED PLANS	
For lands outside of the MSCP, the project would impact coastal sage scrub vegetation in excess of the County's 5 percent habitat loss threshold as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.	The Project will have a de minimus (<1 acre) short term impact on disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub, and project planting will result in an overall increase in coastal sage scrub. Therefore, impacts to coastal sage scrub in excess of the County of San Diego's 5 percent habitat loss threshold are not expected. See Table 6.6-5 (Vegetation Communities Permanent Impacts)
The project would preclude or prevent the preparation of the subregional NCCP.	The Project Site has not been identified by the County of San Diego or by resource agencies as critical to future habitat preserves.
The project will impact any amount of sensitive habitat lands as outlined in the Resource Protection Ordinance.	The Project will result in an overall increase in coastal sage scrub. See 6.6.1.3 and 6.6.1.4, 6.6.2.2, and 6.6.2.4
The project would not minimize and/or mitigate coastal sage scrub habitat loss in accordance with Section 4.3 of the NCCP Guidelines.	The Project will result in an overall increase in coastal sage scrub. See 6.6.2
The project does not conform to the goals and requirements as outlined in any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Habitat Management Plan, Special Area Management Plan, Watershed Plan, or similar regional planning effort.	The Project Site is within the Draft North County MSCP, but is not covered under any HCP, Habitat Management Plan, Special Area Management Plan, or Watershed Plan. Since the Project is located on lands previously used as a citrus orchard, will not impact wetlands or riparian vegetation, will increase the area of native plants and habitat, will not block animal movement, and is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat and agricultural land, no impacts to the goals of the Draft North County MSCP are expected.. See 6.6.1.1, 6.6.1.2, 6.6.1.4, and 6.6.2.2.
For lands within the MSCP, the project would not minimize impacts to Biological Resource Core Areas, as defined in the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).	The Project Site is not within the MSCP; therefore, no impacts to Biological Resource Core Areas are expected. See 6.6.5.
The project would preclude connectivity between areas of high habitat values, as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub NCCP Guidelines.	The Project Site is not located in an identified resident or migratory wildlife corridor. The Project Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat that provides connectivity between blocks of habitat for local or regional wildlife; therefore, no impacts are expected. See 6.6.2.2 and Figure 6.6-4.
The project does not maintain existing movement corridors and/or habitat linkages as defined by the BMO.	The Project Site is not located in an identified resident or migratory wildlife corridor. The Project Site is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat that provides corridors and/or habitat linkages for local or regional wildlife; therefore, no impacts are expected. See 6.6.2.2 and Figure 6.6-4.
The project does not avoid impacts to MSCP narrow endemic species and would impact core populations of narrow endemics.	No MSCP narrow endemic species were observed on the Project site; therefore, no impacts to these sensitive species are expected. See 6.6.1.3, 6.6.1.4, and 6.6.2.2.

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The project would reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed species in the wild.	No federally or state endangered or threatened species were observed on the Project site; therefore, no impacts to the survival and recovery of these sensitive species are expected. See 6.6.1.3, 6.6.1.4, and 6.6.2.2
The project would result in the killing of migratory birds or destruction of active migratory bird nests and/or eggs.	No migratory birds, nests or eggs were observed on the project site. Project design includes a preconstruction clearance survey for nesting birds; therefore, no impacts to migratory birds or their nest and/or eggs are expected. See 6.6.2.5
The project would result in the take of eagles, eagle eggs, or any part of an eagle.	No eagle or suitable eagle habitat was observed on the Project Site, which consists primarily of abandoned orchard, and all electric lines will be installed underground to eliminate the potential for avian collisions with transmission lines; therefore, no impacts to golden eagle habitat are expected. See 6.6.1.3, 6.6.2.3, and 6.6.2.5.
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	
The whole of the proposed action would result in significant cumulative impacts beyond the existence of the HCP or NCCP.	The Project will not impact wetlands or riparian vegetation, will increase the area of native plants and native habitat, will not block animal movement, and is surrounded by large expanses of higher quality habitat and agricultural land; therefore, when considered along with other identified projects, cumulative impacts are expected to be less than significant. See 6.6.2.4.

¹ Sensitive animals referred to in this Guideline are the coastal cactus wren, coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, tree-nesting raptors, ground-nesting raptors, golden eagle, and light-footed clapper rail.