BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT LETTER REPORT FOR
THE LARKSPUR ENERGY FACILITY
OTAY MESA, CALIFORNIA

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RE: Biological Resources Assessment of Proposed Larkspur Energy Facility

This letter summarizes the results of a biological resources assessment of the proposed Larkspur Energy Facility (LEF) located in the southeast corner of the intersection of Harvest Road and Otay Mesa Road, within the City of San Diego, California (Figure 1). The LEF will be constructed on approximately three acres within an eight-acre site and will be operated by Wildflower Energy L.P. The purpose of the LEF is to respond to the California Independent System Operator's (ISO) need for power by constructing and operating the proposed "peaker" unit, or power generation facility for use during peak energy demands. The facility is designed for full automatic remote operation and will be utilized when energy demands peak and the ISO requires additional energy sources.

The 8-acre parcel is located adjacent to the SDG&E Harvest Regulator Station on the southeast corner of the intersection of Harvest Road and Otay Mesa Road, San Diego, California. The site is southeast of Brown Field Airport and approximately 1.5 miles north of the United States (U.S.)-Mexico border. The site is located within the Brown Field Airport Area of Influence. The land to the east and south is undeveloped. The site will include the main power generation plant pad, ancillary pipes, and underground transmission line to connect with existing utility lines.

URS Staff Biologists Theresa Weber and Heather Green surveyed the AEF site on January 24, 2001. The purpose of the visit was to assess the site for possible noise impacts to sensitive species and noise-sensitive receptors. (Noise sensitive receptors are land uses associated with indoor and/or outdoor activities that may be subject to stress and/or significant interference from noise. They often include residential dwellings, mobile homes, hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes, educational facilities and libraries). A regional vegetation and sensitive species map of the site and vicinity was developed using ArcView GIS and the San Diego Association of Governments; (SANDAG) vegetation and sensitive species database (see Figure 1).

The site was historically used as active agriculture but has been fallow for over 5 years. Ruderal vegetation dominated by non-native grasses characterizes the site. No vernal pools or wetlands are associated with this site. No native habitat that would support sensitive species is present on or immediately adjacent to the site. No sensitive species were detected during the survey, and there are no historic locations of sensitive species on this site. The site topography consists of a flat field with an approximate elevation of

540 feet average mean sea level (AMSL). Photographs were taken of the existing habitat on the proposed LEF site and adjacent lots (Photographs 1-6).

The proposed project would not result in take of sensitive species, as the ruderal vegetation does not support sensitive species and there are no historic locations of sensitive species onsite.