7.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Biological resources in the vicinity of the project site, including wetlands, vegetation, and wildlife, are described in Section 7.2.1. Sections 7.2.2 through 7.2.4 describe the anticipated potential project-related impacts to biological resources and measures proposed to mitigate or compensate for those impacts. Laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) for protection of biological resources are provided in Section 7.2.5. The subsequent sections describe agencies contacted for this evaluation as well as permits associated with biological resources that would be obtained prior to proposed project construction. Through agency consultations, project modifications, and appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed project will conform to all applicable LORS for protection of biological resources.

The areas evaluated for biological resources include the 37-acre power plant with a 1-mile radius buffer. Additional project components that were surveyed include the proposed natural gas transmission corridor, the combined gas transmission/potable water line and access road corridor, the construction laydown area and the transmission line connecting the proposed project to the Southern California Edison (SCE) Devers substation. The surveys for these project components included a 1,000-foot buffer. These features are shown on Figure 7.2-1, which also shows the biological resources study area.

The impact assessment for biological resources included informal consultation with resource management agencies, literature review, and field surveys. Biological resource field surveys were conducted on the dates listed in Table 7.2-1. The literature search included examination of environmental documents from adjacent and nearby areas and a review of pertinent maps, scientific literature, and regional biological field guides. Key resources/references include the following:

- *Recirculated Draft Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan* (Coachella Valley Association of Governments, 2007)
- *Dillon Wind Project Draft Environmental Impact Report* (TetraTech, 2006), certified as final by County of Riverside Transportation and Land Management Agency, Planning Department, April 6, 2007.
- *Ocotillo Energy Project Final Biology Technical Report* (URS, 2001)
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS, 2007)
- California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFG, 2007)

Plant and animal species observed during these field surveys are listed in Tables 7.2-2 and 7.2-3.

7.2.1 Affected Environment

7.2.1.1 Regional Setting

The proposed project would be located in an unincorporated portion of Riverside County near Palm Springs, California. Regionally the area is known as the Coachella Valley, which is a broad, low elevation valley comprising the westernmost limits of the Sonoran Desert. The proposed project would be sited in the northwest portion of the Coachella Valley. The project site is primarily undeveloped, disturbed Sonoran Desert scrub, with the exception of a vacant house and garage located at the southeastern corner of the site. Land uses surrounding the proposed project include the SCE Devers substation to the west, transmission powerlines to the south, and a wind energy farm and scattered single-family residences to the east and south. North of the project site is undeveloped Sonoran Desert scrub that shows a lower level of disturbance than the project site area and is proposed for development as a

wind farm. The project site is approximately 2 miles north of Interstate 10 (I-10) and 1.75 mile east of State Highway 62.

The Coachella Valley is bounded by the Little San Bernardino Mountains to the north and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains to the south. The project site lies about midway between these two mountain ranges. The San Gorgonio Pass, a narrow corridor between the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains, is approximately 12 miles west of the project site. The San Gorgonio Pass represents the dividing line between the Sonoran Desert and the less arid regions of the Inland Empire and the Los Angeles Basin.

The wide variety of plant forms is the most notable feature of the Sonoran Desert (Mielke, 2005). The project site is in the Lower Colorado River Valley subdivision of the Sonoran Desert. The Sonoran Desert is an assemblage of dry-adapted plants; rainfall typically ranges from 3 to 5 inches annually. The Lower Colorado River Valley desert areas are low in elevation and hot with summer temperatures occasionally exceeding 120° Fahrenheit (F) (Spellenberg, 2003). Vegetative cover is denser on the western side where rainfall is relatively higher than the areas in the eastern portion of the Lower Colorado River Valley. Trees are sparse and typically associated with watercourses.

Several forest, wilderness, and conservation areas are found in the surrounding mountain ranges (ACSC, 2006; DeLorme, 1986) (Table 7.2-4). The project site location, linears, and construction laydown area are located within the boundaries of the proposed Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP); however, none are within or adjacent to any of the designated conservation areas.

An unnamed desert wash runs northwest-southeast near the intersection of Diablo Road and 16th Avenue. The wash is approximately 2,000 feet southwest of the construction laydown area. Garnet Wash is approximately 1.3 miles south of the project site. Both Garnet Wash and the un-named wash appear as "blue line" streams on topographic maps (DeLorme, 1986). Both washes are native channels with unarmored banks and native soil beds. A local geologic feature is Devers Hill, which is slightly over 2,000 feet east of the proposed project. Devers Hill peaks at 1,168 feet above mean sea level (msl); this is locally the highest point in the relatively flat plain sloping to the southeast.

Existing high tension power lines are sited along 16th Avenue, south of the proposed project. A power line access road parallels 16th Avenue. The power line access road is a graded road with loose road base surfacing, and 16th Avenue is a graded, unsurfaced dirt road. Paved roads in the proposed project vicinity are limited to Diablo Road to the west and Dillon Road to the south. The SCE Devers substation is an approximately 80-acre developed area located approximately 700 feet west of the proposed project. Wind energy power farms are located throughout the regional area, with farms adjacent to the proposed project to the northeast, east and south. The construction laydown area is within a wind farm situated to the south of the project site. Residential development in the surrounding area is sparse, with isolated homes to the east and slightly denser development along Diablo Road to the southwest.

The general topography of the project site is sloping to the south-southwest, with historic dry draws transecting the area. Soils are soft loamy sands; soil substrate is loose and unconsolidated. Surface covering of rock and gravel are limited to small patches. Soils throughout the construction laydown area and pipeline route are consistent with those found at the project site.

7.2.1.2 Local Setting

37-Acre Project Site and Transmission Line Corridor

The natural habitat found at the project site is Sonoran creosote bush scrub (Holland, 1996), which shows disturbance from limited vehicle traffic; a single-family residence and garage; and encroachment from neighboring developed areas. The Sonoran creosote bush scrub natural habitat is dominated with mature

shrub creosote with annual grasses around the base in an open vegetative cover mosaic. White bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) and teddy bear cholla (*Cylindropuntia bigelovii*) are common associates. Barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), pencil cholla (*Opuntia ramossima*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and smoke tree (*Psorothamnus schotti*) are occasional contributors to vegetative cover.

The onsite residence was not occupied at the time of site surveys. Ornamental trees have been planted around the perimeter of the residential lot and include eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.). The taller, more prominent trees appeared to be slightly wilted and distressed at the time of the survey, potentially due to the cessation of irrigation watering. No raptor nests were observed within the canopies of the trees.

Common wildlife species observed during the survey included common raven (*Corvus corax*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Several desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*) middens were observed at the bases of shrub creosote bushes and around cactus bases. The middens were constructed of wood branches, teddy bear cholla pieces, and some with a layer of rocks across the top. Side-blotched lizards (*Uta stansburiana*) and Great Basin whiptails (*Cnemidophorus tigris tigris*) were commonly observed around and near the bases of shrub creosote and other vegetation. Coyote (*Canis latrans*) and black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) were also detected.

The soil substrate of the project site is a combination of Carsitas gravelly sand and Carsitas fine sand (NRCS, 2007). These soil types are excessively drained, rapidly permeable, nearly level to strongly sloping and are on alluvial fans, moderately steep valley fills, and dissected remnants of alluvial fans. These soil types are poorly suited for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). A "poorly suited" soil rating from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that the soil characteristics may limit establishment, maintenance, or use of the soil by burrowing species (NRCS, 2007).

The biota of the local area has been reduced by systemic and direct effects of local land use and fragmentation, principally from road development and the Devers substation (see Appendix J). The development of the Devers substation and roads in the area create a "water flow shadow," where regular surface flow patterns of ephemerally intense rain events and wind/water alluvial deposition to the project site have been eliminated.

Construction Laydown Area

A 14-acre offsite construction laydown area will be located south of Powerline Road and 16th Avenue and will include a combination of temporary construction offices, parking, equipment storage, and material laydown areas. The area is moderately to heavily disturbed land within an existing wind energy production farm.

Vegetation and soil types in the construction laydown area are consistent with the project site; disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub habitat dominated by shrub creosote, with white bursage, teddy bear cholla, and barrel cactus associates. Several decommissioned wind power generation units are lying on the ground with a few larger, operational units in the remaining portion of the construction laydown area. Roads, pads, and equipment storage areas for the wind farm exist within the area. The topography ranges from flat desert surfaces to moderate slopes. A historic wash is located 600 feet west of the laydown area; this wash appears to have been isolated from surface water flows by the construction of the Devers substation.

Gas Transmission Corridor

Consistent with the other project areas, the gas transmission corridor is disturbed Sonoran creosote scrub habitat. The corridor generally follows existing roads, other gas pipeline corridors, and access roads for

wind energy farms. Grading, fences, buildings, roads and roadsides, and vehicle traffic are evident along the corridor. Soils along the corridor are Carsitas sands.

Garnet Wash is located 2,750 feet west of the southern terminus of the gas transmission corridor. This area of Garnet Wash is currently maintained as two roads and an intersection (Karen Avenue and 19th Avenue). The wash bank is modified for road continuation. Garnet Wash is dry at this location except after rain events; the vegetation and habitat in this portion of the wash resembles the surrounding desert. This area at Garnet Wash appeared to encompass the only potential habitat for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizards (*Uma inornata*) of all the surveyed areas; however, it is not prime or favorable habitat. If Garnet Wash were less fragmented, due to I-10 and other disturbances, the probability for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard presence would be greater. The CVMSHCP describes Garnet Wash as a source of sand migration within Coachella Valley and as critical habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard.

7.2.1.3 Waters of the United States

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires authorization for all discharges of fill material in waters of the United States (Waters). To comply with these requirements, it is necessary to be able to delineate the location and boundaries for Waters throughout the arid Southwest. Due to the difficulties encountered when performing delineations in dryland fluvial systems of the arid Southwest, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) prepared a guidance document for making jurisdictional determinations for these dry regions (ACOE, 2001). This guidance document was relied upon heavily while making jurisdictional determinations for the proposed project. A letter of concurrence is in the process of being submitted to the ACOE regarding the findings summarized in the following paragraphs. A copy of the jurisdictional determination letter will be submitted to the CEC when it has been received from ACOE.

The definition of Waters are those areas that are currently used or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and all interstate waters (including wetlands). With nontidal waters, in the absence of adjacent wetlands, the extent of ACOE jurisdiction is defined as the "ordinary high water mark." In dryland fluvial systems typical of the desert areas, the most common physical characteristics indicating ordinary high water mark include a clear, natural scour line impressed on the bank; recent bank erosion; destruction of native terrestrial vegetation; and the presence of litter and debris. Jurisdictional determinations in arid areas should apply the presence of high water characteristics of dryland fluvial systems to ensure that the horizontal extent of jurisdiction includes small to moderate storm events, yet not so expansive that it incorporates high water evidence from 25-year, 50-year, and 100-year storm events. Perhaps the primary evidence of a potential jurisdictional Water is surficial hydraulic connectivity with another jurisdictional Water. To be subject to interstate or foreign commerce, there must be potential for a wash to join hydraulically with another surface water body, even ephemerally.

While some topographic features or dry draws are found on the project site, none exhibited evidence of conveying water during lower magnitude storm events. The dry draws contain vegetative composition and coverage consistent with adjacent upland areas. Hydrophytic vegetation or vegetation typically found in desert washes is not present in the dry draws crossing the project site. Evidence of regular surface water flow (i.e., debris patterns, disturbed vegetation, erosion lines) during lower magnitude storms is absent from the dry draws. Therefore, the dry draws were determined to be non- jurisdictional Waters.

A moderate-sized dry wash feature is found 600 feet west of the construction laydown area. Following the wash "upstream," it appeared this wash feature is a remnant drainage currently disconnected from the watershed by the construction of the Devers substation. The upstream wash ends at Powerline Road/16th Avenue, and downstream the wash structure degrades and appears the same as surrounding upland desert scrub habitat. The lack of surface water flows within the wash is evident by light wood debris that is

scattered throughout the wash and has not been affected by surface water flows either in the short term or historically. This dry wash was determined to be non-jurisdictional Waters.

West of the project site, a small coulee originates as surface water runoff from the Devers substation and flows southward across Powerline Road, terminating at 16th Avenue. Immediately after leaving the substation, flow energy appears to be high due to steep and deep incised banks. Where the coulee intersects with Powerline Road, several cheesebush shrubs (*Ambrosia salsola*) are present. While sometimes an indicator of a true desert wash, cheesebush shrubs can also be found along roadsides as an indicator of disturbance. An extension of the coulee was not observed to flow into the construction laydown area. This coulee was determined to not be a jurisdictional wetland; the surface runoff flows generated on the substation dissipate and seep into the soils before connecting to navigable surface waters.

A "blue line" stream is indicated on topographic maps 2,000 feet west of the construction laydown area. This stream was described in the 2001 *Ocotillo Energy Project Biology Technical Report* (URS, 2001) as a relict drainage disconnected from the watershed by Devers substation. During the 2007 survey efforts, surface water flows within the wash were observed to have been directed around the substation. A review of aerial photography showed that this wash eventually connects with Garnet Wash (Figure 7.2-1). Water flow is evident by debris patterns and rock/cobble movement. The wash measures 10 to 12 meters (32.8 to 39.4 feet) across in the vicinity of the laydown area, with bank depths of 1 to 2 meters (3.3 to 6.6 feet). This wash is considered to be jurisdictional Waters. No ground disturbance will occur within the wash boundaries.

Two large topographic drainages cross Powerline Road/16th Avenue east of the 37-acre project site. While the drainages appear to be large regional wash features, they lack the vegetation indicative of washes and lack the physical characteristics (i.e., surface flow evidence, hydraulic connectivity) of jurisdictional Waters. Historically, these features may have been the regional flow path for water following storm events; however, development within the watershed may have dispersed the surface flows to smaller washes. Homes, fences, yards, and other residential developed areas within the relict drainage features further indicate the lack of regular surface water flow. These two features were determined to be non-jurisdictional Waters.

Other drainage features originate from Devers Hill and cross Powerline Road/16th Avenue. These drainages are short-lived and degrade to upland desert scrub habitat shortly after the topography of Devers Hill levels out. These drainage features were determined to be non-jurisdictional Waters.

Garnet Wash is a regionally large and biologically important jurisdictional Water. It flows southeastward, under I-10, and connects with the Whitewater River near Indian Avenue. The intersection of Karen Avenue and 19th Avenue (2,750 feet east of the southern terminus of the proposed gas transmission corridor) lies within the boundaries of Garnet Wash. Vegetation within the wash consists of cheesebush, indigobush (*Psorothamnus aborescens*), desert almond (*Prunus fasiculata*), and joint-fir (*Ephedra californica*). Near the Karen Avenue/19th Avenue intersection, the wash is a wide, shallow channel with a sandy bottom.

State jurisdictional waters occurring at the site and in associated work/laydown areas follow the same delineation boundaries as the previously described federal jurisdictional waters.

Wetlands

In the absence of human disturbance or unusual circumstances, an area must possess indicators (characteristics) of three parameters to be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This method is referred to as the three-parameter approach. The three parameters are

(1) hydrophytic vegetation, (2) hydric soils, and (3) wetland hydrology. No wetland habitats were identified within the surveyed areas.

No State jurisdictional wetland habitats were observed at the CPVS site, associated linears, or within any temporary construction areas.

7.2.1.4 Special-Status Species

The designation of special-status species includes all federal- and state-listed species and species proposed for listing under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts (ESA and CESA), federal species of concern, state species of special concern, and plant species designated as rare, threatened, or endangered (List 1B or List 2) by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Special-status species with the potential to occur in the project vicinity were identified from the following sources:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species lists provided for each 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle in the biological resources study area (called the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle);
- A search of all species occurrences in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) within a 5-mile radius of the proposed project site (CDFG, 2007a; Figures 7.2-2 and 7.2-3);
- The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants for the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle (CNPS, 2007)

Table 7.2-5 identifies all the listed and sensitive plant species that have some potential to occur in the proposed project vicinity. Table 7.2-6 identifies all the listed and sensitive wildlife species with the potential to occur in the proposed project vicinity. These tables summarize the preferred habitats for species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the study area. Species with no suitable habitat in the vicinity of the proposed project are not discussed further in this document.

Threatened or Endangered Plant Species

Based on a review of the CNDDB and CNPS databases, two federally listed plant species are found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle: the Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*) and triple ribbed milk-vetch (*Astragalus tricarinatus*). One additional federally listed plant species, Parish's daisy (*Erigeron parishii*), is recorded in the region but is outside of the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle (Table 7.2-5). Species accounts are based on information available through Calflora (2007) and the CNPS (2007) websites.

Habitat in the biological resources study area and vicinity was evaluated on February 26, 2007, by URS biologist Wayne Vogler; on April 3, 2007, by URS biologists David Kisner and Wayne Vogler; and by Xeric Specialties Consulting from May 7 through May 10, 2007 (Appendix J**)**, for its potential to support special-status plant species.

Coachella Valley Milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*)

The Coachella Valley milk-vetch is an annual or short-lived perennial that is found within eastern Riverside County between the cities of Cabazon and Indio and in southern San Bernardino County. The Coachella Valley milk-vetch was listed as federally endangered in 1998 (CDFG, 2007b) and is a California endemic that is identified as "fairly endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 1B.2). A member of the *Fabaceae* family, it is found in sandy areas within the Sonoran Desert scrub. Its elevation range is large, from 40 to 655 meters (131.2 to 2,149 feet). It blooms from February through

May. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants lists it as being found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle. There are numerous occurrences of Coachella Valley milk-vetch within 5 miles of the proposed project (Figure 7.2-2); the three closest and most interesting occurrences are approximately 2 miles to the south in 1986, 2 miles to the southeast in 1928, and 2.5 to 5 miles to the south-southeast in 2001. No Coachella Valley milk-vetch was observed during site reconnaissance surveys. Habitat assessment surveys were conducted for the species (Appendix J). Habitat that could support this species was found along the southern end of the proposed pipeline route (Figure 7.2-2).

Triple-ribbed Milk-vetch (*Astragalus tricarinatus*)

The triple-ribbed milk-vetch is a perennial herb that is only found within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The triple-ribbed milk-vetch was listed as federally endangered in 1998 (CDFG, 2007b) and is a California endemic that is identified as "fairly endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 1B.2). A member of the *Fabaceae* family, it is found in sandy or gravelly areas within the Sonoran Desert scrub and Joshua Tree woodland. Its elevation range is large, from 450 to 1,190 meters (1,476 to 3,904 feet). It blooms from February through May. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants lists it as being found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle. There are numerous occurrences of triple-ribbed milk-vetch within the biological resources study area (Figure 7.2-2); however, all the occurrences are to the north (1946), northwest (1995), and west (1995) and are at least 4 miles away. No triple-ribbed milk-vetch was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys; the proposed project is at a lower elevation then the expected elevation range of this species, so it is not expected to occur in the proposed project area.

Parish's Daisy (*Erigeron parishii*)

The Parish's daisy is a perennial herb that is only found in San Bernardino County. The Parish's daisy was listed as federally threatened in 1994 (CDFG, 2007b) and is a California endemic that is identified as "seriously endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 1B.1). A member of the *Asteraceae* family, it is found in Mojave Desert scrubs and pinyon and juniper woodlands. Its elevation range is large, from 800 to 2,000 meters (2,624 to 6,561 feet). It blooms from May to June. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has not been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle but is found in the region (Figure 7.2-2). No Parish's daisies were observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Other Special-Status Plant Species

Five special-status plants are found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle and are designated as CNPS 1 or 2 plant species; four additional plant species were included in the discussion due to habitat requirements and proximity to the proposed project vicinity but were not within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle (Table 7.2-2). There were no CNPS 3 or 4 plant species within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle. Species accounts are based on information available through Calflora (2007) and the CNPS (2007) websites.

Chaparral Sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*)

Chaparral sand-verbena is a California endemic annual herb listed as "seriously endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 1B.1). Chaparral sand-verbena is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Nyctaginaceae* family, it is found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert dunes. Its elevation range is large, from 80 to 1,600 meters (262 to 5,249 feet). It blooms from January through September. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle; the only recorded sighting was approximately 3.5 miles west of the proposed project site in 1954 (Figure 7.2-2).

No chaparral sand-verbena was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Ayenia (*Ayenia compacta*)

Ayenia is a perennial California native herb or shrub listed as "not very endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 2.3). Ayenia is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Sterculiaceae* family, it is found in rocky Sonoran Desert scrub and Mojave Desert scrub. Its elevation range is large, from 150 to 1,095 meters (495 to 1,095 feet). It blooms from March through April. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants does not indicate that this species has been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle or project vicinity. No ayenia was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Arizona Spurge (*Chamaesyce arizonica*)

Arizona spurge is a California native perennial herb that is listed as "not very endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 2.3). Arizona spurge is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Euphorbiaceae* family, it is found in Sonoran Desert scrub and sandy flats. Its elevation range is large, from 50 to 300 meters (165 to 990 feet). It blooms from March through April. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has not been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle but has been recorded approximately 10 miles to the southeast (Figure 7.2-2). No Arizona spurge was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

White-bract Spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*)

White-bract spineflower is an annual California endemic herb listed as "fairly endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 1B.2). White-bract spineflower is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Polygonaceae* family, it is found in Mojave Desert scrub and pinyon and juniper woodlands. Its elevation range is large, from 300 to 1,200 meters (990 to 3,960 feet). It blooms from April through June. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle; white-bract spineflower was documented within approximately 1 mile of the proposed project site in 1949. There were two more recent sightings in the region: one approximately 4 miles to the west to northwest of the site in 1980 and a second in 1986 over 5 miles to the northwest (Figure 7.2-2). No white-bract spineflower was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Cliff Spurge (*Euphorbia misera*)

Cliff spurge is a California native shrub listed as "fairly endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 2.2). Cliff spurge is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Euphorbiacea* family, it is found in rocky Mojave Desert scrub and coastal scrub. Its elevation range is large, from 50 to 500 meters (165 to 1,650 feet). It blooms from December through August. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle; cliff spurge was documented within approximately 3.5 miles of the proposed project site in 1993 (Figure 7.2-2). No cliff spurge was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Little San Bernardino Mountain Linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus*)

Little San Bernardino Mountain linanthus is an annual California endemic herb listed as "fairly endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 1B.2). Little San Bernardino Mountain linanthus is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member

of the *Polemoniaceae* family, it is found in Sonoran Desert scrub, Mojave Desert scrub, desert dunes and Joshua Tree "woodlands." Its elevation range is large, from 195 to 2,075 meters (644 to 6,848 feet). It blooms from March through May. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle. Little San Bernardino Mountain linanthus has been documented on numerous occasions to the northeast, north, and northwest of the proposed project site; however, none of the occurrences are within 2 miles of the site (Figure 7.2-2). No Little San Bernardino Mountain linanthus was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Slender Woolly-heads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *gracilis*)

Slender woolly-heads is a California native annual herb listed as "fairly endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 2.2). Slender woolly-heads is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Polygonaceae* family, it is found in Sonoran Desert scrub and desert and coastal dunes. Its elevation range is large, from minus 50 to 400 meters (minus 165 to 1,320 feet). It blooms from March or April through May. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle; slender woolly-heads was documented within approximately 2 miles of the proposed project site in 1948 (Figure 7.2-2). No slender woolly-heads were observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Desert Spike-moss (*Selaginella eremophila*)

Desert spike-moss is a California native pteridophyte listed as "fairly endangered within the state by the CNPS (CNPS List 2.2). Desert spike-moss is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Selaginellaceae* family, it is found in rocky or gravelly Sonoran Desert scrub. Its elevation range is large, from 200 to 900 meters (660 to 2,970 feet). It blooms from May through July but usually in June. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has not been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle; however, desert spike-moss was documented within approximately 5.5 miles south of the proposed project site in 1950 (Figure 7.2-2). No desert spike-moss was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Mecca-aster (*Xylorhiza cognate*)

Mecca-aster is a California endemic dicot listed as "fairly endangered within the state" by the CNPS (CNPS List 2.2) (CNPS, 2007). Mecca-aster is not officially designated as threatened or endangered by federal or state resource agencies. A member of the *Asteraceae* family, it is found in Sonoran Desert scrub. Its elevation range is large, from 20 to 400 meters (66 to 1,320 feet). It blooms from January through June. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants indicates that this species has not been found within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle. No Mecca-aster was observed during site reconnaissance surveys or habitat assessment surveys.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species

Habitat in the biological resources study area and proposed project vicinity was evaluated on February 26, 2007, by URS biologist Wayne Vogler; on April 3, 2007, by URS Biologists David Kisner and Wayne Vogler; and by Xeric Specialties Consulting on May 7 through May 10, 2007 (Appendix J) for its potential to support special-status wildlife species. Threatened and endangered wildlife species with potential to occur in the study area are discussed below (Table 7.2-6).

Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard (*Uma inornata*)

The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is endemic to California and only found within the Coachella Valley. The species was listed as state endangered in October 1980 and federally threatened in September 1980. The USFWS designated Critical Habitat for the species in September 1980 and the Recovery Plan was finalized in 1985 (CDFG, 2007b). This species is associated with windblown sands and has evolved physical and behavioral adaptations to loose sand habitats. CNDDB records indicate that Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard was detected in 1962 in the immediate vicinity to the project site; the closest record in the last 20 years is 3 miles southeast of the site from 2001. This occurrence is on the south side of I-10 and the Southern Pacific Railroad (CDFG, 2007a).

Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizards are most active from April to October, with a peak in May-June. The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is omnivorous and feeds on flowers, leaves, insects, and arthropods. Breeding occurs from late April into August, and eggs are laid from May into September.

Habitat degradation and loss are the primary threats to this species. Disruptions to the processes that create aeolin sands, namely soil transport by storm water and the wind that creates the sands, also adversely affect this species. Impacts by off-road vehicles, invasive exotic weed species, and illegal dumping of garbage are also significant threats to this species.

Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma mcalli*)

The flat-tailed horned lizard is a California state species of concern. Flat-tailed horned lizards are associated with sand flats and dunes but can be found in other areas, including concreted silt or gravely areas. It is often associated with creosote bush and white bursage.

In this region, the flat-tailed horned lizard occurs below approximately 800 feet. This lizard is found in two protected areas created by the Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Habitat Conservation Plan: the Coachella Valley Preserve and the Whitewater River Floodplain Preserve. Another population is known from an unprotected area at the east end of the Indio Hills on the north side of the Coachella Canal. The closest and only occurrence to the project site for this species was in 1979 about 2 miles southwest (CDFG, 2007a).

As with all horned lizards, the flat-tailed horned lizard diet consists almost exclusively of ants; harvester ants comprise about 98 percent of their diet. Adult flat-tailed horned lizards hibernate from mid November to mid February.

Threats to the species include loss of habitat, habitat fragmentation, non-native species, and road mortality. Habitat loss and fragmentation have been caused by agricultural development, urban development, expansion of utility corridors, and off-highway vehicle use. Another threat is the loss of native ants; Argentinean ants (*Linepithema humile*) are known to drive out native ants in more coastal regions.

Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)

Desert tortoise was listed as a state threatened species in 1989 and a federal threatened species in 1990. The USFWS designated Critical Habitat and finalized the Recovery Plan for this species in 1994. In the proposed project vicinity, tortoises are found along the northern, eastern, and western rim of the Coachella Valley in the foothills of the Little San Bernardino Mountains, the Painted and Whitewater Hills, and the San Jacinto and northern Santa Rosa Mountains. There are no CNDDB records for Desert Tortoise within 5 miles of the project site (CDFG, 2007a).

Desert tortoises are herbivores but have been observed eating soil and occasionally the bones and scat of other animals. Their forage typically consists of annual plants, perennial grasses, and succulent perennials. They are opportunistic in their burrowing habits, burrowing into hillsides, using rock caverns, and altering the burrows of other animals species such as kit fox, gray fox, rodents, and hares. In the western Coachella Valley their nesting season extends from April through at least July.

Common vegetation associations in the Sonoran Desert include creosote bush scrub and relatively lush desert habitats, particularly palo verde-mixed cacti associations (Burge, 1979; Vaughn, 1984). Throughout the species range, occupied habitats include desert alluvial fans, washes, canyon bottoms, rocky hillsides, and other steep terrain. Areas with gravelly or coarse sandy soil are preferred, but tortoises can be found in boulder piles in some areas near the Coachella Valley. These soil types are poorly suited for desert tortoise. A "poorly suited" soil rating from the NRCS indicates that the soil characteristics may limit establishment, maintenance, or use of the soil by burrowing species (NRCS, 2007).

Threats to this species include habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, road mortality, off-road vehicle use, disease, non-native species, and fire. Off-road vehicle use can cause the direct mortality of young tortoise and cause the collapse of burrows. Non-native species can impact Desert tortoise in a number of ways. Non-native vegetation can out-compete native vegetation, while non-native species such as cows can out-compete tortoises for food and crush burrows. Dogs and cats can be harass the tortoise and increase water stress or predate smaller individuals.

American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrnns*)

Peregrine falcon is one of the most widespread bird species but has suffered significant population decline. This species was listed as state endangered in 1971 and federally endangered in 1970; however, due to significant population increases, this species was federally de-listed in 1999. Peregrine falcons are a federal species of concern and are a California fully protected species.

Peregrine falcons specialize in predating other birds, especially waterfowl, shorebirds, and pigeons. This species tends to take other birds in flight and rarely take other vertebrate species. The name "peregrine" translates to "the wanderer" and is indicative of this species ability to travel long distances during the nonbreeding season.

Peregrines breed on cliffs, tall building, bridges, and other hard structures from March through August. Post-breeding and migrant individuals would be expected to pass through the Coachella Valley and San Gorgonio Pass, but no breeding individuals are expected in this region.

Other Special-Status Wildlife Species

Special-status wildlife species that are not listed as threatened or endangered under CESA or ESA but have the potential to occur in the study area are described below (Table 7.2-6).

Insects

Coachella Valley Jerusalem Cricket (Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis)

This large insect of the order Orthoptera is considered sensitive but does not have an official status at a state or federal level. The Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket has a limited distribution within the western portion of the Coachella Valley. The only viable population of this species may occur in the area from Windy Point west to Snow Creek Road and Fingal's Finger.

This species can be found in loose sands with native vegetation, and feeds at night on vegetative material, detritus, and occasionally dead animals. Their complete life cycle may take 3 years. This species is most severely threatened by habitat fragmentation, development, and off-road vehicle use. Off-road vehicles likely crush individuals and collapse the burrows.

Coachella Valley Giant Sand Treader Cricket (*Macrobaenetes valgum*)

Like the Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket, the Coachella Valley giant sand treader cricket is a large insect of the order Orthoptera and is considered sensitive but does not have an official status at a state or federal level. The Coachella Valley giant sand treader cricket is endemic to the active sand dunes of western Coachella Valley. Plants found in association with this species include creosote bush, burrobush, honey mesquite, Mormon tea, desert willow, and sandpaper bush. They appear to avoid stabilized sand areas.

This species is nocturnal. Juvenile crickets can be found during the late fall and early winter, but spring is their primary active period. Little is known of their life history through the warm summer months.

Habitat degradation appears to be the primary threat to this species; the loss of aeolian sands and the processes that support this habitat type significantly reduces the available habitat for this species. Off-road vehicles can crush individuals and their burrows. Sand stabilization and activities that cut off or reduce sand transport also impact this species.

Reptiles

San Diego Horned Lizard *(Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei)*

The San Diego horned lizard is a California species of concern. Like other horned lizards, this lizard's primary food source is ants, but this species is adversely affected by the non-native Argentinean ant.

The closest occurrence of the San Diego horned lizard is approximately 4 miles west of the project site (recorded in 1967). Moderately suitable habitat occurs on the proposed project site, within the transmission corridor, and along the gas transmission and potable water line; marginal habitat occurs at the construction laydown area (Appendix J). Unidentified horned lizard scat was found near the proposed project site in 2000 by URS biologists. In 2007, native any colonies were seen in the proposed project vicinity and could be a food source for this species.

Northern Red-diamond Rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*)

The Northern red-diamond rattlesnake is the only species of viper that is a sensitive species; this species is a California species of concern. This species can occupy a wide variety of habitats, from cultivated agricultural lands to open desert floor, but is more common in the foothills and alluvial fans (Stebbins, 2003).

The closest occurrence is approximately 1.5 miles west of the project site, but the record does not have an associated date. There is a recorded occurrence about 4 miles to the west from 2004 (CDFG, 2007a).

Mammals

Palm Springs Round-tailed Ground Squirrel *(Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus)*

The Palm Springs ground squirrel is a subspecies of the round-tailed ground squirrel and is a California species of concern. This species is typically associated with sand fields and dune formation, but it does not require active blow sand areas. This species is also associated with mesquite hummocks, mesic sand dune habitats, and sandy patches within washes. The closest occurrence to the project site is

approximately 5 miles to the southwest (from 1940 and 1908). No current records are documented within 5 miles of the CPVS site.

Young squirrels are born in March or April in litters of 4 to 12. In winter, they remain in their underground burrows for much of the time. They feed on seeds and green leaves of desert plants, including the stems of Mormon tea (*Ephedra* sp.), leaves and beans of mesquite, cactus fruit, ocotillo blossoms, and agricultural crops but may occasionally take small lizards (including flat-tailed horned lizards) and insects; they have also been observed to feed on carrion.

Pocket Mice

Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), and pallid San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*) are California species of concern. All three sub-species have been documented within the region. Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse was recorded about 2.5 miles to the northwest in 1995; Palm Springs pocket mouse has been recorded about 3 miles to the north; and pallid San Diego pocket mouse was recorded in 2000 about 5 miles to the south of the project site.

Based on habitat requirements, the Palm Springs pocket mouse is more likely to be found on the project site then either of the San Diego pocket mice sub-species (Eder, 2005). However, little is known about the exact habitat requirements of these species, and there is no site-specific information indicating if any of these species are in the immediate area.

Bats

The following special-status bats are known to occur in California in the proposed project vicinity:

- Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinopmops macrotis*) – California state species of concern
- California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*) – California state species of concern
- Mexican Long-tongued Bat (*Choeronycteris Mexicana*) – California state species of concern
- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) – California state species of concern
- Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinopmops femorosaccus*) – California state species of concern
- Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*) – California state species of concern
- Cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*) – California state species of concern
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhimus townsendii townsendii*) – California state species of concern
- Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*) – California state species of concern
- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*) – California state species of concern

These bat species are generally widespread throughout the western United States and Mexico but are sensitive to human-related impacts. Suitable roosting and nesting areas include caves, mines, tree snags, buildings, bridges, and other human-made structures. In California, these species generally mate during the late fall and give birth to their young between early May and the end of July (Eder, 2005).

Some of these bat species may forage over the project site. The biological resources study area lacks natural bat roost habitat such as mines, cliffs, or caves. Impacts to breeding and roosting habitat present the biggest threat to declining bat populations in the state.

Birds

Burrowing Owl (Speotyto cunicularia)

Burrowing owl is a federal and California species of concern. It may occur on open, dry grassland and desert habitats, and in grass and forb habitats. Burrowing owls are a communal species; typically if one nest burrow is found, more can be found in the surrounding area. This species has a wide dietary range including insects, scorpions, rodents, snakes, lizards, and small birds. Prey items can often be determined by examining the pellets left near active burrows and favorite perch sites.

In 2000, URS biologists documented five active burrowing owl nests in the proposed project vicinity; however, in 2001, URS biologists found no active burrows. No active burrows were found in 2007 by either URS or Xeric Specialties Consulting.

Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus)

Loggerhead shrike is a federal and California species of concern and is a fairly common resident of the southwestern desert. It occupies a number of habitats, including both native and agricultural parcels. Shrikes are predatory birds that feed on insects, rodents, snakes, and small birds; prey is then impaled upon thorns, barbs, or sharp sticks to aide in rending the prey into smaller pieces.

URS biologists saw two loggerhead shrikes in the Garnet Wash area in 2000/2001. No shrikes were seen during site surveys in 2007.

California Horned Lark (Eremophila alpestris actia)

Horned larks are a California species of concern. They are an open grassland species that frequent agricultural fields, sparse grasslands, and sand dunes. The species breeds throughout most of the lower 48 states (National Geographic Society, 1999) but the local subspecies has declined with the loss of native grasslands, coastal development, and agricultural conversion.

No horned larks were seen in 2007; URS biologists saw a flock of four larks in September 2000. These four birds could have been post-breeding migrants or a local family group.

Crissal Thrasher (Toxostoma crissale)

The Crissal thrasher is a federal and California species of concern. This secretive bird frequents willow and mesquite thickets along streams and washes (National Geographic Society, 1999). No Crissal thrashers were seen by URS biologists in 2000, 2001, or 2007 within the CPVS biological resources study area. There are no documented sightings within 5 miles of the project site (CDFGa, 2007).

LeConte's Thrasher (Toxostoma lecontei)

LeConte's thrasher is a federal and California species of concern. The LeConte's thrasher is found in arid, sparsely vegetated areas (National Geographic Society, 1999) and breeds in large shrubs and small trees.

Four LeConte' thrashers were seen by URS Biologists during the 2000 surveys. No LeConte's thrashers were seen in 2007. Little or no breeding habitat existed along the project site, proposed natural gas pipeline corridor, or laydown area.

Raptors

Numerous sensitive species of predatory birds could pass through the proposed project, including short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), ferruginous hawk (*Buter regalis*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Due to the location of the proposed project near the San Gorgonio Pass, migrant individuals would be expected, especially during the southern fall migration. Individuals of these species may opportunistically hunt in the vicinity, but there are no unique features of the proposed project site or associated linears. None of these species would be expected to nest in the project vicinity.

The only raptor species that would be expected to nest in the biological resources study area would be the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). This species is known to frequent desert scrub habitat and nest in power towers.

7.2.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed project would have significant impacts on vegetation and wildlife if it would:

- Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15065 (a));
- Threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15065 (a));
- Substantially affect, reduce the number, or restrict the range of unique, rare, or endangered species of animal or plant, or the habitat of the species (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15065 (a), Appendix G (c), Appendix I (II.4.b) and (II.5.b));
- Substantially diminish or reduce habitat for fish, wildlife, or plants (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15065 (a), Appendix G (t));
- Interfere substantially with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G (d));
- Change the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass crops, and aquatic plants) or animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects) (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix I (II.4.1) and (II.5.a));
- Introduce new species of plants or animals into an area, or act as a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix I (II.4.c) and (II.5.c));
- Increase the rate of use of any natural resources (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix I (II.9)); or
- Deteriorate existing fish or wildlife habitat (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix I (II.5.d)).

These criteria have been used to evaluate the proposed project's impact on vegetation and wildlife. Impacts to biological resources are discussed below. Impacts primarily related to construction of the proposed project, or specific to one plant or animals species, are described first under specific resource headings. Impacts primarily related to operation of the proposed power plant, or that would affect a wider group of resources, are described in Section 7.2.2.3.

7.2.2.1 Waters of the United States

Jurisdictional Waters identified during this assessment are beyond the proposed project boundaries and would not be affected by project construction and operation activities. The development of the proposed project would not affect downstream movement of sand particles. Other development activities in the region have already disrupted drainages and washes to such a degree that regular surface water flows do not exist at the proposed project. It is anticipated existing access routes will be adequate for construction access. As such, no impacts to the jurisdictional Waters would result.

There are no natural surface water bodies near proposed project that are reliant the regional groundwater aquifer as the source of water. As such, the usage of groundwater for the operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to draw down the regional aquifer to a degree that would impact natural surface water bodies.

7.2.2.2 Special-Status Species

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

No threatened or endangered plant species were observed during surveys conducted to date, but Coachella Valley milk-vetch has the potential to occur along the proposed gas transmission line. No other federally or state listed threatened or endangered plant species were identified as potentially occurring at the proposed project site.

In order to ensure that no Coachella Valley milk-vetch are affected by the project, preconstruction surveys will be conducted prior to disturbance (see mitigation measure BIO-1 in Section 7.2.4). If Coachella Valley milk-vetch is detected, the population will be avoided (see mitigation measure BIO-2).

Other Plant Species

Based on the results of plant surveys conducted in the biological resources study area to date, a literature review of observances of these species, and impact assessment documents for adjacent projects, no special-status plant species are expected within the proposed project. To ensure no sensitive plants are affected, rare plant surveys will be conducted prior to disturbance (see mitigation measure BIO-1).

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species

Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard

No impacts to Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard are anticipated. All recent records of occurrence are south of I-10 and there is little suitable habitat in the biological resources study area. To ensure that there are no impacts to the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, preconstruction surveys will be conducted for this species along the gas transmission corridor (see mitigation measure BIO-3). To ensure that there are no impacts to the habitat "downstream" of the proposed project, mitigation measure BIO-4 will be implemented to protect the sand dune habitat.

Flat-tailed Horned Lizard

Flat-tailed horned lizards are not expected in the proposed project based on recent CNDDB records (CDFG, 2007a). Preconstruction surveys will be conducted (see mitigation measure BIO-3) to ensure that this species would not be affected.

Desert Tortoise

Impacts to this species are not expected to occur due to the lack of recent sign or observations of this species in the proposed project vicinity. To ensure that there are no impacts to this species, preconstruction surveys will be conducted (see mitigation measure BIO-3). If tortoise sign or individuals are detected, additional surveys will be conducted (see mitigation measure BIO-5).

To further protect this species, mitigation measures BIO-6 and BIO-7 will be implemented to ensure project personnel are aware of the threats to this species and how to respond if they encounter a desert tortoise during construction or operations. Additionally, mitigation measures BIO-8 and BIO-9 will be implemented to ensure that there are no impacts associated with "pest species," either plant or animal.

American Peregrine Falcon

No impacts to peregrine falcons are anticipated and no mitigation measures are recommended for this species.

Other Special-Status Wildlife Species

Coachella Valley Jerusalem Cricket and Coachella Valley Giant Sand Treader Cricket

Neither the Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket nor the Coachella Valley giant sand treader cricket are expected to be directly affected by the proposed project. However, both species are closely associated with blow sand and sand dune habitat. To ensure the proposed project does not adversely affect this habitat, mitigation measure BIO-4 will be implemented.

San Diego Horned Lizard

Impacts to this species can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level by the implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3 described in Section 7.2.4.

Northern Red-diamond Rattlesnake

Impacts to this species can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level by the implementation of mitigation measure BIO-3 described in Section 7.2.4.

Coachella Valley Round-tailed Ground Squirrel

No impacts are anticipated for this species, and no mitigation measures are recommended.

Pocket Mice

To minimize impacts to sensitive and common species alike, the project site should be fenced with an animal-proof barrier (i.e., silt fence backed with chain-link; see mitigation measure BIO-10). After the animal barrier fencing is installed, small mammal trapping is recommended (see mitigation measure BIO-11). All animals captured will be relocated outside of the fencing and released.

Bats

No impacts to any bat species are anticipated; therefore, no mitigation is recommended.

Burrowing Owl

Direct impacts to burrowing owls could occur during site preparation of the project site, construction laydown area, or pipeline routes/access road corridor. Construction of the proposed project would not significantly affect burrowing owl habitat. Destruction or degradation of burrows and destruction or degradation of foraging habitat within 350 feet of occupied burrows are considered significant impacts to this species (CDFG, 1995).

Indirect impacts to nesting and foraging burrowing owls would extend 250 feet into suitable habitat from the limits of construction during the breeding season (February 1 through August 15) and 160 feet during the wintering season as outlined in CDFG (1995) guidelines. Noise and visual disturbance from construction of the proposed power plant may displace burrowing owls nesting within these distances from the site. To reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level, mitigation measure BIO-12 will be implemented to identify and avoid nesting burrowing owls.

Loggerhead Shrike

No impacts to this species are anticipated; therefore, no species-specific mitigation is recommended. Regardless, mitigation measure BIO-13 will minimize impacts to all nesting bird species.

Horned Lark

No impacts to this species are anticipated; therefore, no species-specific mitigation is recommended. Regardless, mitigation measure BIO-13 will minimize impacts to all nesting bird species.

Crissal Thrasher

No impacts to this species are anticipated; therefore, no species specific mitigation is recommended. Regardless, mitigation measure BIO-13 will minimize impacts to all nesting bird species.

LeConte's Thrasher

No impacts to this species are anticipated; therefore, no species-specific mitigation is recommended. Regardless, mitigation measure BIO-13 will minimize impacts to all nesting bird species.

Raptors

No direct impacts are anticipated to any of these species. No species-specific mitigation is recommended. Regardless, mitigation measure BIO-13 will minimize impacts to all nesting bird species.

Other Bird Species of Concern

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects all native nesting bird species. Nests containing eggs and/or nestlings cannot be disturbed or destroyed. To ensure that all active nests are protected, mitigation measure BIO-13 will be implemented. Impacts to other bird species of concern will be mitigated to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of this measure.

7.2.2.3 Other/Operational Effects of the Proposed Project

Operation of the proposed power plant, as well as some plant features not yet addressed, would have some additional effects on biological resources. These impacts are described below.

Noise

The proposed project would produce some noise during both construction and operation, as described in Section 7.5, Noise. The power plant would be constructed adjacent to the existing Devers substation, which is currently operational. The proposed project is in-fill surrounded by previously developed areas, primarily industrial in nature. Noise may disturb some wildlife using adjacent areas. However, wildlife in the adjacent areas has likely become accustomed to habitual noise associated with existing development and highway traffic. Impacts associated with noise impacts would be less than significant.

Electrocution Hazard

Additional transmission lines at the proposed project would increase collision and electrocution hazard for raptors. Although the potential for electrocution exists if birds collide with transmission lines or if raptors perch on towers in such a manner as to complete an electrical contact (touching two or more live electrical conductors or a live conductor and a grounded surface), electrocution is unlikely to occur on these proposed transmission connector lines. The conductor distance between conductors or between conductors and the ground wire is such that it is unlikely a bird could complete a circuit and be electrocuted. The proposed transmission lines to be constructed for the proposed project would have a minimum distance greater than the wingspan of any birds in the area. Electrocution is a hazard on small distribution lines where the lower voltages allow less separation between conductors. Therefore, impacts with regard to bird electrocutions at transmission line routes are expected to be less than significant.

Collision Hazard

The proposed transmission line interconnection addressed previously with respect to electrocution hazard could also pose some collision hazard to avian species that may simply fly into the lines. Approximately 0.6-mile of new transmission lines would be installed, and they would be installed within an area with numerous existing overhead lines. The new segment would be located in an area that does not bisect avian usage areas (nesting, forage, loafing) and is currently developed with several power transmission line routes. The significance of this impact would be less than significant.

The eight 90-foot-high combustion turbine generator (CTG) stacks would also increase collision potential for avian species. Some migrating bird species that fly at night are guided in part by constellations and can become confused by brightly lit tall structures. Fog or low cloud cover can further add to collision potential, although fog does not occur with much frequency in the study area. The stacks would not be adjacent to aquatic habitat that attracts large numbers of migratory birds. Although the number of potential collisions cannot be quantified, collision would likely occur relatively infrequently. This impact would be less than significant.

Air Pollutant Emissions

The amounts of nitrogen and sulfur deposition due to the power plant would be at their highest levels about 400 meters (1,320 feet) east of the project site. This area is not known to have had any occurrences of sensitive plant or animal species within the last 25 years. The air quality modeling analyses presented in Chapter 7.1, Air Quality, show that the proposed project, with the planned emission control systems, would neither cause an exceedance of the California and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS and NAAQS), nor contribute significantly to an existing exceedance. These standards are also considered to be protective of biological resources. Additional modeling results demonstrate that the maximum annual averaged pollutant levels caused by the emissions of the proposed project would be below the applicable Class II significant impact levels (SILs) under the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program even though the proposed project would not be high enough to trigger a PSD analysis. Impacts from air pollutants from the proposed project are anticipated to be less than significant.

Open Water/Wildlife Attractive Nuisances

The proposed storm water retention basin has the potential to attract wildlife if the retention basin holds water for an extended period of time. The retention basin is designed to contain a 100-year flood event. Once filled, under expected percolation and evaporation rates, all surface water in the basin is expected to be fully percolated and/or evaporated within less than a week. Since the surface water would only be present for less than a week immediately following a storm event, wildlife is not likely to be attracted to the area.

7.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Past and current development in the proposed project vicinity has resulted in significant cumulative impacts on biological resources, including special-status species and their habitats. Relevant future projects identified in Section 7.4.3 could, unless fully mitigated, further contribute to those impacts.

The proposed CVMSCHP is designed to minimize cumulative impacts to sensitive biological resources associated with development within the Coachella Valley region and ensure their long-term viability. The CVMSCHP identifies the proposed project vicinity as a developed area with a wind energy overlay. The proposed project is an "in-fill" project that does not require extensive linears to connect to the power grid, water system, or natural gas pipelines.

The proposed project would potentially affect waters of the United States and individuals and/or the habitats of Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and desert tortoise. Because mitigation measures identified in Section 7.2.4 would mitigate these impacts to less than significant levels, the proposed project's contribution to this impact would not be cumulatively considerable. Therefore, the proposed project's cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

7.2.4 Mitigation Measures

This section discusses mitigation measures proposed by the Applicant that will be implemented to reduce project-related impacts to biological resources to less-than-significant levels. Impacts to biological resources and corresponding mitigation measures are summarized in Table 7.2-6.

7.2.4.1 Special-Status Species

Special-Status Plant Species

Based on surveys conducted to date, no special-status plant species would be affected by the proposed project. The following measures would be implemented should any special-status plants be discovered at the proposed project site.

BIO-1 Pre-Construction Survey

An approved biologist will conduct a rare plant survey of the affected areas and adjacent areas within 200 feet of the affected areas, or to the property boundary if less than 200 feet and permission from the adjacent landowner cannot be obtained. Surveys will be conducted in early spring to maximize the likelihood of detecting sensitive plants.

BIO-2 Rare Plant Avoidance

If special-status plant species are present that would be affected by work in the proposed construction laydown area, access road, gas transmission corridor, or transmission line interconnection, impacts to the rare plants will be avoided. Avoidance measures could include relocating tower footings, relocating laydown areas to an alternate portion of the proposed

parcels, or realignment of the access road to avoid rare plant populations. It is anticipated that these measures would be sufficient to avoid impacts to any special-status plant species that may be present.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species

Based on surveys conducted to date, no listed wildlife species would be affected by the proposed project. The following measures will be implemented to ensure impacts to sensitive and listed species are less than significant and mitigated to the greatest extent feasible.

Sensitive Wildlife Species Surveys

BIO-3 Preconstruction Survey

An approved biologist will conduct a presence/absence survey of the affected areas and adjacent areas within 200 feet of the affected areas, or to the property boundary if less than 200 feet and permission from the adjacent landowner cannot be obtained. Efforts will include looking for Coachella Valley fringe toed lizards, desert tortoise (including live tortoises, tortoise remains, burrows, scat, tracks, or egg shells), and any sensitive animals. The survey must be conducted between February 15 and October 31. Surveys require 100 percent coverage. If no sign is found, a clearance survey is not required. A presence/absence survey is valid for 90 days or indefinitely if desert tortoise-proof fencing is installed around the proposed project site.

Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard

Although no indications of recent Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard presence were identified during surveys both at the proposed project and associated linears and offsite work areas, feasible and prudent minimization and avoidance measures have been included as follows:

BIO-4 Maintenance of Essential Ecological Processes

Currently, suitable habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard does not exist at the project site or on or adjacent to any of the offsite project areas (linears, construction laydown area). The continued existence of this species is dependant on the presence of suitable habitat. Loose, windblown sand dunes provide the sole habitat for this species. The fluvial movement of sand particles from mountains and the windblown accumulation of the sand form the suitable habitat for this species. The continuation of sand movement and accumulation are Essential Ecological Processes for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. No structures, weirs, or other impediments that may hamper or disrupt the transport of fluvial sand down the washes will be installed.

Desert Tortoise

Although no indications of recent desert tortoise presence were identified during current and previous surveys both at the CPVS site and at neighboring project sites, feasible and prudent minimization and avoidance measures have been included as follows:

BIO-5 Desert Tortoise Clearance Surveys

If fresh signs of the species are observed during the desert tortoise presence/absence surveys, the project areas must be fenced with desert tortoise-proof fencing and a clearance survey conducted. The clearance survey window is from February 15 to June 15 and September 1 to October 31 or in accordance with the most recent resource agency protocols. Clearance surveys must cover 100 percent of the affected areas. The clearance survey must be conducted during different desert tortoise activity periods (morning and afternoon). All desert tortoises encountered will be

relocated by a permitted biologist from the proposed project site to a specified location in coordination with USFWS and CDFG. No desert tortoise should be handled or relocated unless proper authorization is provided by the resource agencies.

BIO-6 Operations and Maintenance Activities

Operation and maintenance activities along the proposed project linears (i.e., access road, potable water line, gas transmission corridor, transmission lines) shall be conducted by personnel instructed to be alert and aware for the presence of desert tortoise. If a desert tortoise is spotted, activities in the vicinity of the desert tortoise's location will be halted and the animal will be allowed to move away from the activity area.

BIO-7 Worker Education Program

A worker education program shall be implemented. All work site personnel shall be required to read an educational brochure and/or attend a desert tortoise education class given by the approved biologist(s). The brochure/class will describe the sensitive species that could be encountered at the proposed project, the regulatory protection of the species, and appropriate measures to take upon discovery of a sensitive species. Construction techniques to minimize potential adverse impacts will also be presented.

BIO-8 Exotic Plant Species Avoidance

Following usage of temporary disturbance areas (gas transmission corridor, laydown area), the disturbed area will be returned to original contours and restored with native plants. Measures to reduce the proliferation of invasive exotic plants will be employed.

Landscaped areas around the proposed project will not use any plant species identified on Table 4-113 (Prohibited Invasive Plant Species) of the CVMSHCP.

BIO-9 Invasive Predator Control

Structures and supports will be designed or modified to prevent common raven (*Corvus corax*) nesting. Should common ravens be observed to be establishing a nest, the nest will be destroyed prior to egglaying and the location modified to prevent future nest establishment.

Other Sensitive Wildlife Species

BIO-10 Animal-proof Fencing

Silt fence buried 1 foot deep and attached to a chain-link fence will be installed at the onset of construction. The fencing will be designed to keep burrowing animals from easily tunneling under and will be secured to the chain-link fence to ensure the winds do not pull the silt fencing out of the ground. The fencing will be examined weekly (more often if necessary) to ensure the fence is not torn; repairs will be made as soon as possible. The fencing will remain in place until construction is complete or other measures are in place to keep wildlife out of the work site.

BIO-11 Small Mammal Trapping

After the animal-proof fencing is in place, five nights of small mammal trapping will be conducted to remove as many individual small mammals from within the work zone as is possible. Traps will be set near sign, burrows, or tracks. Traps will be set at dusk and checked at midnight and dawn. Captured animals will be recorded and set free outside the fencing.

BIO-12 Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Surveys

Prior to ground disturbing activities, the construction areas and adjacent areas within 500 feet of the work sites, or to the edge of the property if less than 500 feet, will be surveyed by an acceptable biologist for burrows that could be used by burrowing owl. If a burrow is determined to be occupied, the following avoidance/minimization measures will be implemented:

- During the Non-Breeding Season (August 1 – February 28): If the burrow can be avoided until the burrowing owl naturally abandons the burrow, a buffer zone of 160 feet from the burrow will be demarcated and work within the buffer zone avoided. If the burrow cannot be avoided, then passive relocation techniques will be employed. Once it is confirmed the burrowing owl has abandoned the burrow, the burrow will be hand-excavated to ensure no harm or mortality to burrowing owls possibly remaining in the burrow.

- During the Breeding Season (March 1 – July 31): A 250-foot buffer zone will be demarcated around the burrow, and work activities will not be conducted within the buffer area. No activities will be conducted within the buffer area until the young are no longer dependent on the burrow.

BIO-13 Vegetated Overburden Removal

Prior to any ground-disturbing activity, a qualified biologist will clear the work area of all mammal, reptile, avian, and amphibian wildlife species. A biologist will be present during grading operations of the top 12 inches of soil to capture and relocate any wildlife uncovered during the grading operations. An orientation of the potential species encountered will be given to all grading personnel. Construction workers will work with biologists to avoid unnecessary harm, injury, or mortality to wildlife.

- No tree or shrub removal will occur during the breeding bird season without biological monitor clearance (February 1 to August 31).

- Any existing raptor nests near the project area should be removed during the non-breeding season to minimize potential for nesting in the same location the following year.

- Preconstruction survey shall be conducted for any nesting raptor species.

- In order to minimize trapping of common wildlife, set up fences around construction zones and relocate any trapped wildlife. Fence areas and trenches should be checked regularly by a biological monitor to rescue and relocate any trapped animals.

- Provide biological orientation training for onsite workers to educate them on procedures for minimizing impacts to common wildlife species and any rare occurrences of special-status species that have a low potential to occur in the study area.

- An approved, designated biologist shall implement the above measures.

7.2.5 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards

The proposed project will be constructed and operated in accordance with all LORS applicable to biological resources. Federal, state, and local LORS applicable to biological resources are discussed below and shown on Table 7.2-7.

7.2.5.1 Federal

Endangered Species Act of 1973 and implementing regulations, Title 16 United States Code (USC) §1531 et seq. (16 USC 1531 et seq.), Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §17.1 et seq. (50 CFR 17.1 et seq.)

The ESA includes provisions for the management and protection of federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals and their designated critical habitats. Section 10(1)(A) of the ESA requires a permit to take threatened or endangered species during lawful project activities. If there is not a federal nexus for the project, a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) may be necessary. The administering agency of the above authority is the USFWS for terrestrial, avian, and most aquatic species, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for anadromous fish species.

Section 7 of Fish and Wildlife Coordinating Act, 16 USC 742 et seq., 16 USC 1531 et seq., and 50 CFR 17.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordinating Act requires consultation if any federal agency action is required for project facilities that could jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species. Applicability depends on federal jurisdiction over some aspect of the project.

The administering agency for this authority is the USFWS.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1251 et seq., 33 CFR §§ 320 and 323)

This section of the Clean Water Act gives the ACOE authority to regulate discharges of dredge or fill material into Waters of the U.S., including wetlands.

The administering agency of this authority is the ACOE.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977

This section of the Clean Water Act requires the Applicant to conduct water quality impact analysis for the project when using Section 404 permits and for discharges to waterways.

The administering agency of this authority is the ACOE.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act 16 USC §§703-711

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act includes provisions for protection of migratory birds, including the non-permitted take of migratory birds.

The administering agency for this authority is the USFWS.

7.2.5.2 State

California Endangered Species Act of 1984, Fish and Game Code, §2050 through §2098

The California Endangered Species Act includes provisions for the protection and management of plant and animals species listed as endangered or threatened, or designated as candidates for such listing. The Act includes a consultation requirement "to ensure that any action authorized by a state lead agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species" (§2090). Plants of California declared to be endangered, threatened, or rare are listed at 14 CCR §670.5. 14 CCR §15000 *et seq*. describes the types and extent of information required to evaluate the effects of a proposed project on biological resources of a project site.

The administering agency for this authority is CDFG.

Fish and Game Code Fully Protected Species

§3511: Fully Protected Birds

§4700: Fully Protected Mammals

§5050: Fully Protected Reptiles and Amphibians

§5515: Fully Protected Fishes

The Fish and Game Code prohibits the taking of listed plants and animals that are Fully Protected Species in California.

The administering agency for this authority is CDFG.

Fish and Game Code, §1930 Significant Natural Areas

This section of the code designates certain areas such as refuges, natural sloughs, riparian areas, and vernal pools and significant wildlife habitats. These Significant Natural Areas are listed in the California Natural Diversity Database (SNDDB).

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG.

Fish and Game Code, §1580, Designated Ecological Reserves

The California Fish and Game Commission designates land and water areas as significant wildlife habitats to be preserved in natural condition for the general public to observe and study.

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG.

Fish and Game Code, §1600, Streambed Alteration Agreement

This section of the code reviews projects for impacts on waterways, including impacts to vegetation and wildlife from sediment, diversions, and other disturbances.

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG.

Native Plant Protection Act of 1977, Fish and Game Code, §1900 *et seq.*

This 1977 Act designates state rare and endangered plants and provides specific protection measures for identified populations.

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG.

CDFG Policies and Guidelines, Wetlands Resources Policy

This policy provides for the protection, preservation, restoration, enhancement, and expansion of wetland habitats in California, including vernal pools.

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG, California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), and the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Public Resources Code, §§25500 & 25527

According to the Public Resources Code, the siting of facilities in certain areas of critical concern for biological resource, such as ecological preserves, wildlife refuges, estuaries, and unique or irreplaceable wildlife habitats or scientific or ecological value, is prohibited. If there is no alternative, strict criteria are applied.

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG.

Title 20 CCR §§1702 (q) and (v)

This Title protects "areas of critical concern" and "species of special concern" identified by local, state, or federal resource agencies within the project area, including the CNPS.

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG.

Title 14 CCR Section 15000 *et seq.*

This Title describes the types and extent of information required to evaluate the effects of a proposed project on biological resources of a project site.

The administering agency for the above authority is CDFG.

California Desert Native Plant Act, Food and Agriculture Code §80001 through §80006

The California Desert Native Plant Act protects California desert native plants from unlawful harvesting on both privately and public owned lands. The Act protects specific species of native desert plants from being harvested from their natural state for sale, possession, replanting, or other purposes. The removal of plants on one's own property for the purpose of construction or developing the property is allowed.

7.2.5.3 Local

Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP)

The 2007 re-circulated draft CVMSHCP intends to address current and potential future state and federal ESA issues within the plan area. The CVMSHCP balances environmental protection and economic development and simplifies compliance with endangered species related laws. The CVMSHCP intends to satisfy the legal requirements for the issuance of permits that will allow the take of species covered by the Plan in the course of otherwise lawful activities. Specific survey requirements and mitigation measures are prescribed in the CVMSHCP to satisfy compliance with the protections afforded.

County of Riverside General Plan

The County of Riverside General Plan provides guidance on the types of development activity and allowable uses for those areas within the county limits.

City of Palm Springs General Plan

The City of Palm Springs General Plan provides guidance on the types of development activity and allowable uses for those areas within the city limits.

7.2.6 Involved Agencies and Agency Contacts

The table below identifies agencies contacted for this evaluation. Jon Porter with the Carlsbad USFWS office was contacted in March regarding sensitive species surveys within the Coachella Valley. Mr. Porter and Mr. Kisner communicated by phone and e-mail during this period. While Mr. Porter was out of the office, Mr. Kisner and Ms. Carol Roberts communicated via phone and e-mail regarding specific species survey protocols and sub-contractor qualifications.

Pursuant to discussions with Mr. Jon Avery, Mr. Kisner attempted to contact both Ms. Kim Nicol and Ms. Katie Barrows via phone. Ms. Nicol, with CDFG, may have had additional information on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that addresses sensitive species within the Coachella Valley. This MOU will be superseded by the CVMSHCP. Mr. Kisner left a voice message with Ms. Barrows with the Coachella Valley Association of Government, but the message was never returned. Mr. Kisner was able to determine the answers to his questions and no follow phone calls were attempted.

In late April, Mr. Kisner contacted Mr. Rick York of the California Energy Commission (CEC) to discuss the survey area around the proposed project. New CEC guidelines were being developed to cope with the numerous large solar energy power projects in the region. Mr. York indicated that the CPVS project was not affected by these proposed guidelines.

Issue	Agency	Contact/Title	Telephone	E-mail
Survey Protocols/ CVMSCHP	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011	Jon Avery, Regulatory Biologist	(760) 431-9440	Jon_Avery@fws.gov
Survey Protocols	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011	Carol A Roberts Division Chief/Salton Sea Coordinator	(760) 431-9440	Carol_A_Roberts@fws.gov
MOU	California Department of Fish and Game Palm Springs Office 78078 Country Club Drive Suite 109 Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203	Kim Nicol, Regulatory Biologist	(760) 200-9158	

Issue	Agency	Contact/Title	Telephone	E-mail
Survey Buffers Require-ments	California Energy Commission	Rick York	(916) 654-3945	ryork@energy.state.ca.us
CVMSCHP	Coachella Valley Association of Governments	Katie Barrows		

7.2.7 Permits Required and Permit Schedule

No permits related to biological resources are required for the CPVS project because there are no anticipated impacts to listed plant or animal species, wetlands, jurisdictional waters, or drainages.

7.2.8 References

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Table 7.2-1
Biological Resources Field Surveys

Resource	Field Surveys Completed	Conducted by URS Biologists(s)
General biology	Habitat assessment, small mammal evaluation, general reconnaissance conducted of project site, pipeline routes/access road corridor and transmission line on February 26, 2007.	Wayne Vogler Heather Vogler
General biology	Habitat assessment, small mammal evaluation, general reconnaissance conducted of project site, construction laydown area, transmission line, and gas line route on April 3, 2007.	David Kisner, Wayne Vogler
Potential jurisdictional wetlands	Site review of project site, pipeline routes/access road, construction laydown area, and transmission line conducted on February 26, 2007, and April 3, 2007.	Wayne Vogler, David Kisner
Herpetological Assessment	Reptile and Habitat Survey of project site, pipeline routes/access road, construction laydown area, and transmission line conducted May 7 – 10, 2007 (Appendix J).	David Silverman, Cindy Hopkins

Table 7.2-2
Plant Species Observed in the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native/Exotic
Ambrosia dumosa	white bursage	native
Ambrosia salsola var. salsola	Cheesebush	native
Amsinckia tessellata[1]	devil's lettuce	native
Atriplex canescens	fourwing saltbush	native
Bebbia juncea var. aspera	Sweetbush	native
Brassica tournefortii	Mustard	exotic
Camissonia californica[1]	California suncup	native
Chaenactis fremontii[1]	Fremont pincushion	native
Chrysothamnus paniculatus	blackband rabbitbrush	native
Cryptantha angustifolia[1]	narrow-leaved forget-me-not	native
Cryptantha nevadensis[1]	forget-me-not	native
Cylindropuntia bigelovii	teddy bear cholla	native
Cylindropuntia echinocarpa	golden cholla	native
Cylindropuntia ramosissima	diamond cholla	native
Ditaxis neomexicana	Ditaxis	native
Encelia farinosa var. farinosa	Brittlebush	native
Ephedra californica	California ephedra	native
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. polifolium	California buckwheat	native
Erodium cicutarium[1]	redstems filaree, storks bill	exotic
Ferocactus cylindraceus	barrel cactus	native
Isomeris arborea	Bladderpod	native
Krameria grayi	white rhatany	native
Larrea tridentata	creosote bush	native
Opuntia basilaris var. basilaris	beavertail cactus	native
Phacelia distans[1]	blue phacelia	native
Pholistoma membranaceum[1]	fiesta flower	native
Plantago ovata [1]	wooly plantain	native
Prunus fasciculata	desert almond	native
Psorothamnus arborescens	indigo bush	native
Psorothamnus schottii	smoke tree	native
Schismus sp[1]	split grass	exotic
Stephanomeria pauciflora var. pauciflora	wire lettuce	native
Stillingia linearfolia	Stillingia	native
Thamnosma Montana	desert thamnosma	native

[1] Dead plants, annual skeletons from previous years

Table 7.2-3
Wildlife Surveys Observed in the Biological Resources Study Area

Common Name	Scientific Name
Invertebrates	
California harvester ant	*Pogonomyrmex californicus*
Desert harvest ant	*Messor pergandei*
Tarantula hawk wasp	*Pepsis* sp.
Reptiles	
Side blotch lizard	*Uta stansburiana*
Great Basin whiptail lizard	*Cnemidophorus tigris tigris*
Avian	
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
ash-throated flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*
barn swallow	*Hirundo rustica*
black-crowned night heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*
black-throated sparrow	*Amphispiza bilineata*
blue-gray gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*
brewer's sparrow	*Spizella breweri*
Cassin's kingbird	*Tyrannus vociferans*
clay-colored sparrow	*Spizella pallida*
cliff swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
common raven	*Corvus corax*
common raven	*Corvus corax*
European starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Gambel's quail	*Callipepla gambelii*
greater roadrunner	*Geococcyx californicus*
hermit warbler	*Dendroica occidentalis*
house finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*
hummingbird species	
northern rough-winged swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
Say's phoebe	*Sayornis saya*
sparrow	*Spizella* sp.
tree swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*
violet-green swallow	*Tachycineta thalassina*
yellow warbler	*Dendroica petechia*
yellow-rumped warbler	*Dendroica coronata*
Mammals	
coyote[1]	*Canis latrans*
kit fox[1]	*Vulpes macrotis*
antelope ground squirrel	*Ammospermophilus leucurus*
desert woodrat [1,2]	*Neotoma lepida*
blacktail jackrabbit[3]	*Lepus californicus*
cottontail rabbit	*Sylvilagus auduboni*

[1] Scat, [2] Middens, [3] Observed

Table 7.2-4
National Forests, Wilderness Areas, and Conservation Preserves near the Biological Resources Study Area

Natural Area	Distance (approx. miles)	Direction
Big Morongo Canyon Preserve	5.25	North
Joshua Tree National Park	7	Northeast
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument	11.5	South
San Jacinto Wilderness	6.5	Southwest
San Bernardino National Forest	11 10.25	Southwest Northwest
Mount San Jacinto State Park	8.5	Southwest
San Gorgonio Wilderness	7	Northwest

Table 7.2-5
Special-Status Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within The Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 1 of 3)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Flowering Activity	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Plants							
Chaparral sand-verbena	*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*	--	--	CNPS 1B.1	January-September	Chaparral, coastal scrub, desert dunes Elv. Range: 264-5,280 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks dunes or sandy soils preferred by this species. Nearest occurrence 3.5 miles west in 1954.
Coachella Valley milk-vetch	*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*	E	--	CNPS 1B.2	February-May	Sonoran desert scrub; sandy flats Elv. Range: 132-2,162 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks sandy soils preferred by this species. Nearest occurrences 2 miles to the south (1986) and 2.5 to 5 miles to the south (2001).
Triple-ribbed milk-vetch	*Astragalus tricarinatus*	E	--	CNPS 1B.2	February-May	Sonoran Desert Scrub (sandy or gravelly), Joshua Tree Woodland Elv. Range: 1,485-3,927 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks sandy soils preferred by this species. Nearest occurrence over four miles away.
Ayenia	*Ayenia compacta*	--	--	CNPS 2.3	March-April	Sonoran Desert Scrub (rocky) and Mojave Desert Scrub Elv. Range: 495-3,614 feet	Unlikely – not recorded in project area.

Table 7.2-5
Special-Status Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within The Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 2 of 3)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Flowering Activity	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Arizona spurge	*Chamaesyce arizonica*	--	--	CNPS 2.3	March-April	Sonoran desert scrub; sandy flats Elv. Range: 165-990 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks sandy soils preferred by this species. Nearest occurrence 10 miles southeast.
White-bracted spineflower	*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*	--	--	CNPS 1B.2	April-June	Mojave Desert scrubs; Pinyon and Juniper woodlands Elv. Range: 990-3,960 feet	Unlikely – nearest recent occurrence 4 to 5 miles to west/northwest (1980 and 1986)
Parish's daisy	*Erigeron parishii*	T	--	CNPS 1B.1	May-June	Mojave Desert scrubs; Pinyon and Juniper woodlands Elv. Range: 2,640-6,600 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks habitat preferred by this species. Not found in area.
Plants							
Cliff spurge	*Euphorbia misera*	--	--	CNPS 2.2	December-August	Mojave Desert (rocky) and Coastal Scrub Elv. Range: 165-1,650 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks rocky habitat preferred by this species. Nearest occurrence is 3.5 miles to west.
Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus	*Linanthus maculatus*	--	--	CNPS 1B.2	March-May	Mojave Desert and Sonoran Desert scrubs; sandy sites Elv. Range: 644-6,848 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks dunes or sandy soils preferred by this species. No occurrence within two miles.

Table 7.2-5
Special-Status Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within The Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 3 of 3)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Flowering Activity	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Slender woolly-heads	*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *gracilis*	--	--	CNPS 2.2	March-May	Sonoran desert scrub; Desert and coastal dunes Elv. Range: minus 165-1,320 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks dunes or sandy soils preferred by this species. No recent occurrences; nearest occurrence 2 miles southwest (1948)
Desert spike-moss	*Selaginella eremophila*	--	--	CNPS 2.2	May-July	Sonoran Desert Scrub (gravelly or rocky) Elv. Range: 660-2,970 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks rocky or gravelly soils preferred by this species. No recent records; nearest occurrence 5.5 miles south (1950)
Mecca-aster	*Xylorhiza cognate*	--	--	CNPS 1B.2	January-June	Sonoran desert scrub Elv. Range: 66-1,320 feet	Unlikely – project site lacks habitat preferred by this species. Not found in area.

Species recorded within the Desert Hot Springs USGS quad are in bold font.

E	Federal/State Endangered	**Protected**	Permit required for take
T	Federal/State Threatened	**CNPS 1 B**	Plants that are rare or endangered in California and elsewhere
PT	Proposed Threatened	**CNPS 2**	Plants that are rate or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
C	Candidate Species	**.1**	Seriously endangered in California
SC	Federal/State Species of Concern	**.2**	Fairly endangered in California
FP	State Fully Protected	**.3**	Not very endangered in California

Table 7.2-6
Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within the Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 1 of 6)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Activity Period	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Wildlife							
Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel	*Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*	--	SC		March-October	Desert scrub, often sandier sites	Low – project site lacks dunes or sandy soils preferred by this species. No current occurrences with 5 miles.
Big free-tailed bat	*Nyctinopmops macrotis*	--	SC		April-September	Rocky areas; roosts in crevices in cliffs	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
California leaf-nosed bat	*Macrotus californicus*	--	SC		Year-round	Sonoran and Mojave desert scrub	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
Mexican long-tongued bat	*Choeronycteris mexicana*	--	SC		April-September	Desert canyons, arid mountain ranges. Roosts in caves, mines, or buildings.	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
Pallid bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	--	SC		April-September	Roosts in rock crevices in cliffs, bridges, buildings; rarely in caves and mines	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.

Table 7.2-6
Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within the Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 2 of 6)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Activity Period	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Pocketed free-tailed bat	*Nyctinopmops femorosaccus*	--	SC		April-September	Lives in desert and sage scrub. Roosts in rock crevices	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
Spotted bat	*Euderma maculatum*	--	SC		April-September	Cliffs and canyons in arid lowlands to lower coniferous forests. Roosts in cliff faces and rock crevices.	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
Wildlife							
Cave myotis	*Myotis velifer*	--	SC		April-September	Roosts in large numbers in caves, mines, barns, buildings, and sometimes under bridges.	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhimus townsendii townsendii*	--	SC		April-September	Desert scrub to Pinyon-Juniper Woodland; roosts in buildings, caves	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
Spotted bat	*Euderma maculatum*	--	SC		April-September	Desert scrub and open forest. Roosts in cliffs and rock crevices.	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.

Table 7.2-6
Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within the Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 3 of 6)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Activity Period	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Western mastiff bat	*Eumops perotis*	--	SC		April-September	Steep, rocky canyons; roosts in cliffs, buildings	Low – project site lacks suitable roosting or breeding site; species could forage over area.
Birds							
Golden eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	--	SC/FP		Spring	Open country; nests in large trees in open areas or cliffs	Low – project site lacks suitable breeding habitat; species could forage over area during winter or migration.
Ferruginous hawk	*Buter regalis*	SC	SC		October-April	Dry, open country; possible winter resident	Low – project site lacks suitable breeding habitat; species could forage over area during winter or migration.
Northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	--	SC		Spring	Open habitats; nests in shrubby open land and marshes	Low – project site lacks suitable breeding habitat; species could forage over area during winter or migration.
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	--	SC		October-April	Open country; nests in trees, cliffs, on ground; possible winter resident	Low – project site lacks suitable breeding habitat; species could forage over area during winter or migration.

Table 7.2-6
Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within the Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 4 of 6)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Activity Period	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Birds							
Prairie falcon	*Falco mexicanus*	SC	SC		Spring	Dry, open country, including arid woodlands; nests in cliffs	Low – project site lacks suitable breeding habitat; species could forage over area during winter or migration.
American peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrnns*	SC	E		Spring	Open country; nests in cliffs.	Low – project site lacks suitable breeding habitat; species could forage over area during winter or migration.
Short-eared owl	*Asio flammeus*	--	SC		October-April	Open habitats; nests on ground and roosts on ground, low poles	Low – project site lacks suitable breeding habitat; species could forage over area during winter or migration.
Burrowing owl	*Speotyto cunicularia*	SC	SC		Spring	Open areas; nests in subterranean burrows, often constructed by mammals	Likely – species detected during surveys of area. Potential breeding in area.
Loggerhead shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*	SC	SC		Spring	Desert scrub habitats, especially those with vertical structure	Likely – species detected during surveys of area. Potential breeding in area.
California horned lark	*Eremophila alpestris actia*	--	SC		Spring, Fall	Open desert habitats	Likely – species detected during surveys of area. Potential breeding in area.

Table 7.2-6
Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within the Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 5 of 6)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Activity Period	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Crissal thrasher	*Toxostoma crissale*	SC	SC		Spring	Desert riparian, wash habitats with dense vegetation	Low – project site lacks shrubby habitat with large rocks preferred by this species. Nearest occurrence 1.5 miles west (no date).
LeConte's thrasher	*Toxostoma lecontei*	SC	SC		Spring	Mojave Desert and Sonoran Desert scrubs; especially with yuccas	Likely – species detected during surveys of area. Low potential for breeding in area.
Reptiles							
Flat-tailed horned lizard	*Phrynosoma mcalli*		SC		March-November	Coachella Valley – fine-sandy flats and washes	Low – project site lacks dunes or sand flats preferred by this species. Nearest record is 2 miles southwest (1979). Not seen during surveys.
Desert tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*	T	T		March 15-June 15; some summer, fall activity	Many desert habitats below approximately 4,000 feet in elevation; not playas	Low – project site isolated by major roads; surrounding areas disturbed. No recent records within 5 miles. Not seen during surveys.

Table 7.2-6
Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring Within the Biological Resources Study Area
(Page 6 of 6)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status			Greatest Activity Period	Habitat Associations	Likelihood of Occurrence
		Federal	State	Other			
Northern red-diamond rattlesnake	*Crotalus ruber ruber*	SC	--		March-November	In desert occurs near base of mountains in brushy and gravelly/rocky areas	Low – project site lacks shrubby habitat with large rocks preferred by this species. Nearest occurrence 1.5 miles west (no date). Not seen during surveys.
Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	*Uma inornata*	T	E		March-November	Coachella Valley; restricted to windblown sand	Low – project site lacks dunes or sand flats preferred by this species. Nearest recent record is 3 miles southeast (2001). Not seen during surveys.
Invertebrates							
Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket	*Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis*				March-November	Dunes	Unlikely – project site lacks dunes or sandy soils preferred by this species.
Coachella Valley giant sand treader cricket	*Macrobaenetes valgum*				December-April	Active dunes	Unlikely – project site lacks dunes or sandy soils preferred by this species.

E Federal/State Endangered
T Federal/State Threatened
PT Proposed Threatened
C Candidate Species
SC Federal/State Species of Concern
FP State Fully Protected
Protected Permit required for take

Table 7.2-7
Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards
(Page 1 of 3)

Laws Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards	Administering Agency	Applicability	AFC Section
Federal			
Endangered Species Act of 1973 and implementing regulations, Title 16 United States Code (USC) §1531 et seq. (16 USC 1531 et seq.), Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §17.1 et seq. (50 CFR 17.1 et seq.)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service	Designates and protects federally threatened and endangered plant and animals and their critical habitat	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Section 7 of Fish and Wildlife Coordinating Act, 16 USC 742 et seq., 16 USC 1531 et seq., and 50 CFR 17.	USFWS	Requires consultation if any project facilities could jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered species. Applicability depends on federal jurisdiction over some aspect of the project	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA	USFWS	Requires a permit to "take" threatened or endangered species during lawful project activities. If there is no federal nexus for the project, a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) may be required.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1251 et seq., 33 CFR §§ 320 and 323)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Gives USACE authority to regulate discharge of dredge or fill material into water of the United State, including wetlands	7.2.1.4 and 7.2.2.1
Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977	Regional Water Control Board	Requires applicant to conduct water quality impact analysis for the project when using 404 permits and for discharge to waterways.	7.2.1.4 and 7.2.2.1
Migratory Bird Treaty Act 16 USC §§703-711	USFWS	Prohibits the non-permitted "take" of native migratory birds, their nests, or eggs.	7.2.2.2 and 7.2.5.1

Table 7.2-7
Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards
(Page 2 of 3)

Laws Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards	Administering Agency	Applicability	AFC Section
State			
California Endangered Species Act of 1984, Fish and Game Code, §2050 through §2098	California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)	Protects California's endangered and threatened plant and animal species.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §§670.2 and 670.5	CDFG	Lists plant and animals of California declared to be threatened or endangered.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Fish and Game Code Fully Protected Species §3511: Fully Protected Birds §4700: Fully Protected Mammals §5050: Fully Protected Reptiles and Amphibians §5515: Fully Protected Fishes	CDFG	Prohibits the taking of listed plants and animals that are Fully Protected in California.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Fish and Game Code, §1930 Significant Natural Areas	CDFG	Identifies and protects Significant Natural Areas of California	7.2.1
Fish and Game Code, §1580, Designated Ecological Reserves	CDFG	Identifies Designated Ecological Reserves of California	7.2.1
Fish and Game Code, §1600, Streambed Alteration Agreement	CDFG	Reviews projects for impacts on waterways, including impacts to vegetation and wildlife from sediment, diversions, and other disturbances.	7.2.1.4 and 7.2.2.1
Native Plant Protection Act of 1977, Fish and Game Code, §1900 *et seq.*	CDFG	Designates state rare and endangered plants and provides specific protection measures for identified populations.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
CDFG Policies and Guidelines, Wetlands Resources Policy	CDFG	Provides for the protection, preservation, restoration, enhancement, and expansion of wetland habitats in California, including vernal pools	7.2.1.4 and 7.2.2.1

Table 7.2-7
Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards
(Page 3 of 3)

Laws Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards	Administering Agency	Applicability	AFC Section
Public Resources Code, §§25500 & 25527	CDFG, USFWS	Prohibits siting of facilities in certain areas of critical concern for biological resource, such as ecological preserves, refuges, etc.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Title 20 CCR §§1702 (q) and (v)	CDFG, USFWS	Protects "areas of critical concern" and "species of special concern" identified by local, state, or federal resource agencies within the project area, including the CNPS.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Title 14 CCR Section 15000 *et seq.*	CDFG, USFWS	Describes the types and extent of information required to evaluate the effects of a proposed project on the biological resources of a project site.	7.2
California Desert Native Plant Act, Food and Agriculture Code §80001 through §80006	California Agricultural Commission	protects California desert native plants from unlawful harvesting on both privately and public owned lands	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
Local			
Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP)	Coachella Valley Association of Governments	Address current and potential future state and federal ESA issues within the plan area. Satisfies the legal requirements for the issuance of permits that will allow the take of species covered by the Plan.	7.2.1.5 and 7.2.2.2
County of Riverside General Plan	Riverside County	Provides guidance on the types of development activity and allowable uses for those areas within the county limits.	7.2.1 and 7.2.2
City of Palm Springs General Plan	City of Palm Springs	Provides guidance on the types of development activity and allowable uses for those areas within the city limits.	7.2.1 and 7.2.2

LEGEND

- Palm Springs City Limits
- Proposed Project Site
- Gas Transmission Corridor (75-feet wide)
- Gas Transmission/ Potable Water Line/ Access Road Corridor (200-feet wide)
- Construction Laydown Area
- Proposed Transmission Line
- 100% Coverage by Biological Survey
- Wash

Note:
Buried Pipe Depth: 7' to top of 24' Pipe

Source: project boundaries and proposed transmission line, referenced from graphics and digitized by URS, December 2006; orthophoto, USDA FSA aerial photography field office; county image mosiac for Riverside, CA (2005); city limits, Riverside County, 2001-2006.

Diablo Rd

Wind Farm

Proposed Transmission Line

Powerline Road North

Powerline Road South

16th Ave

Wind Farm

Construction Laydown Area

Wind Farm

Dillon Rd (existing paved road)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

Diablo Rd

Karen Ave

(existing unpaved road)

Wind Farm

18th Ave

19th Ave

Indigo Energy Facility

N

0 250 500 1,000

FEET

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY AREA COVERAGE AND WATERS OF THE U.S.

CPV Sentinel Energy Project
CPV Sentinel, LLC
Riverside County, California

June 2007
28067168

URS

FIGURE 7.2-1

Map Document: (T:\GIS\Ocotillo_28067168\Projects\figure7.2-1_bioresources.mxd) 6/18/2007 -- 12:45:11 PM MTorchia

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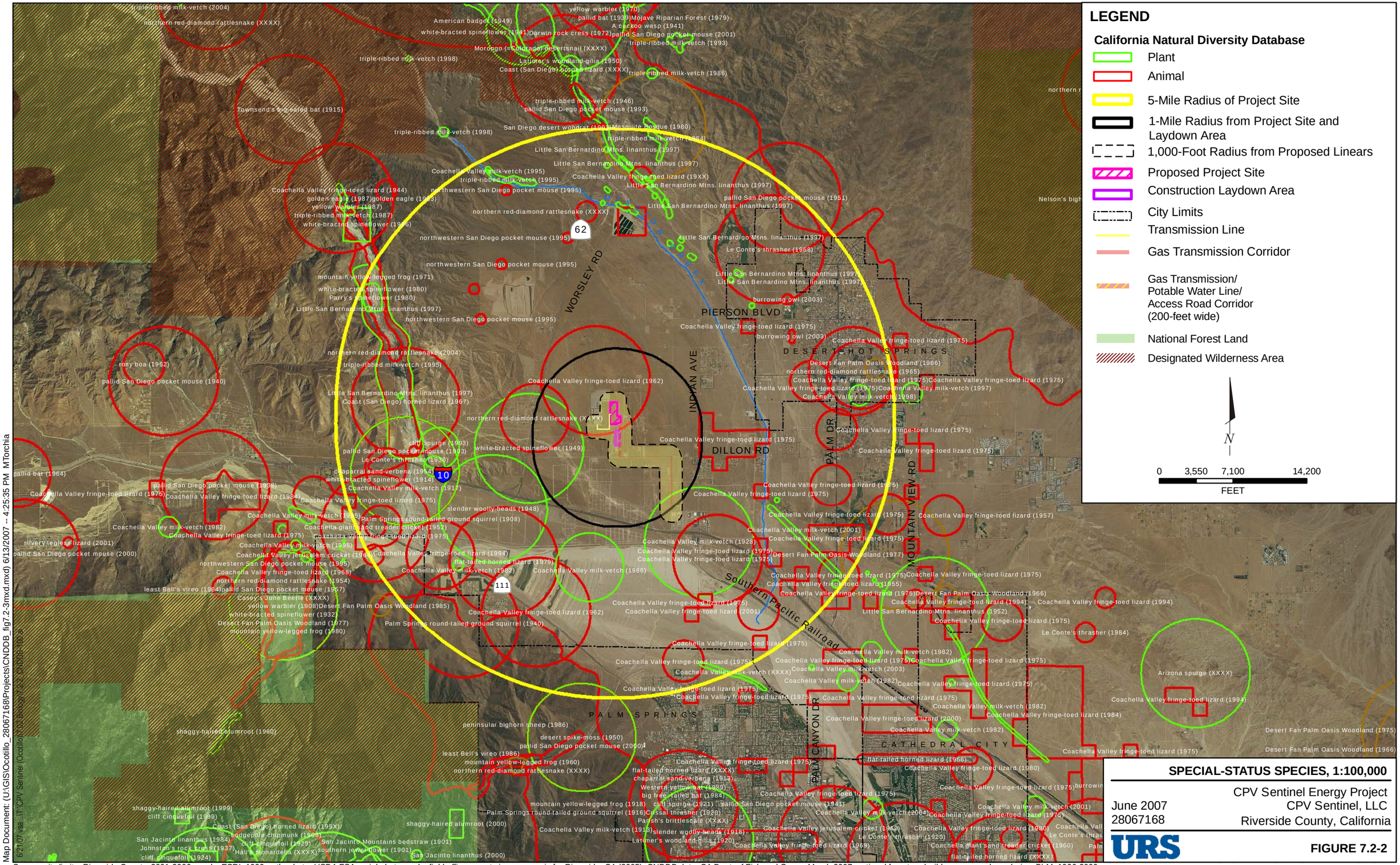

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6/21/07 vsa ..\T\CPV Sentinel (Ocotillo)\02 Biology\7.2.2 CNDDB.mxd

Source: city limits, Riverside County, 2001-2006; roads, ESRI, 1999; orthophoto, USDA FSA aerial photography field office: county image mosaic for Riverside, CA (2005); CNDDB data, CA Dept. of Fish and Game, March 2007; national forest and wilderness area boundaries, BLM, 1996-2000.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES, 1:100,000

June 2007
28067168

CPV Sentinel Energy Project
CPV Sentinel, LLC
Riverside County, California

URS

FIGURE 7.2-2

LEGEND

California Natural Diversity Database

- Plant
- Animal
- 1-Mile Radius from Project Site and Laydown Area
- 1,000-Foot Radius from Proposed Linears
- Proposed Project Site
- Construction Laydown Area
- Transmission Line
- Gas Transmission Corridor
- Gas Transmission/ Potable Water Line/ Access Road Corridor (200-feet wide)

N

0 250 500 1,000
FEET

1:6,000

Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (1962)

northern red-diamond rattlesnake (XXXX)

white-bracted spineflower (1949)

Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (1975)

slender woolly-heads (1948)

Coachella Valley milk-vetch (1928)

flat-tailed horned lizard (1979)

Coachella Valley milk-vetch (1986)

Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (1975)

62

10

WORSLEY RD

INDIAN AVE

DILLON RD

Map Document: (C:\GIS\Cadillo_28067168\Projects\CNDDB_fig7.2-4_oversize.mxd) 6/21/2007 – 2:12:05 PM KLawrence

6/22/07 KL:\T:\CPV Sentinel (Dcobllo)\7.02 Biology\7.2-3_CNDDB-6k.pdf

Source: city limits, Riverside County, 2001-2006; roads, ESRI, 1999; orthophoto, USDA FSA aerial photography field office: county image mosaic for Riverside, CA (2005); CNDDB data, CA Dept. of Fish and Game, March 2007; national forest and wilderness area boundaries, BLM, 1996-2000.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES, 1:6,000

CPV Sentinel Energy Project
June 2007 — CPV Sentinel, LLC
28067168 — Riverside County, CA

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FIGURE 7.2-3