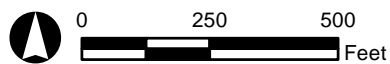




5/12/2020 JN T:\Data\RVAS\camore_Hills\MXD\08 Riparian_Riverine Areas.mxd

Legend

- Project Site
- CDFW/Riparian Areas
- Waters of the US/Riverine



Source: Esri World Imagery, Wood PLC

SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER PROJECT
Riparian/Riverine Areas



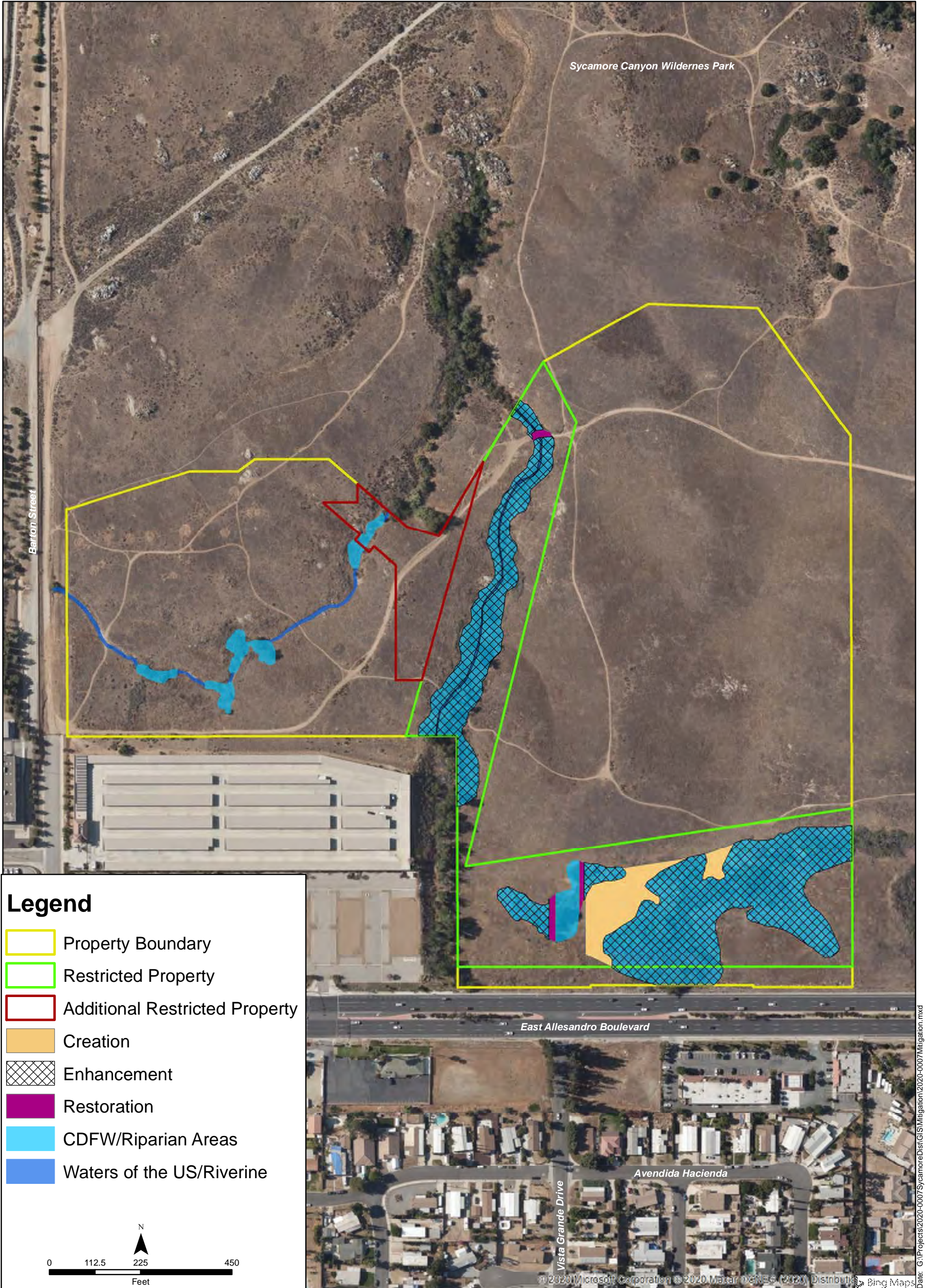
Source: Bing Aerial Microsoft Corporation 2020, Datum: NAD 83, Coordinate Sytem: State Plane 6

SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER



LBV & Flycatcher Location Map

Figure 9



SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER



APPENDICES

DBESP Report

APPENDIX 1

Biological Resources and Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Consistency Report, Sycamore Hills Distribution Center Project, Riverside County, California

DBESP Report

APPENDIX 2

2020 Least Bell's Vireo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher & Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey
Results for the Sycamore Hills Distribution Center, Riverside, California

2020 LEAST BELL'S VIREO,
SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER
& YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO
SURVEY RESULTS
FOR THE
SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

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August 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Kidd Biological, Inc. (KBI) was contracted by Ruth Villalobos and Associates, Inc. to conduct protocol breeding season surveys for the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), (LBVI), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), (SWFL) and western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyx americana occidentalis*) (YBCU) on approximately 23 acres of potentially suitable riparian habitat within the Sycamore Hills Distribution Center Project site in Riverside, California. The surveys were performed to satisfy requirements of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), under which LBVI, SWFL, and YBCU are considered covered species. In addition, under 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, surveys for these species must be conducted when there is potential for impacts to riparian habitats. The surveys followed protocol established for these species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Biologist Angela Johnson (TE 59592B-2) conducted all surveys for the three species.

BACKGROUND

The proposed project is to construct an industrial warehouse development on three parcels [Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 263-060-022, 263-060-024, 263-060-026], totaling 48.64 gross acres (project site), of which, 23 acres contain willow riparian scrub habitat (survey area). The property is located at the northeast corner of Barton Street and Alessandro Boulevard in the City of Riverside (City), immediately south of the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park. The property is spread in an east to west direction with natural rolling land descending gradually from a west to east direction. There are two jurisdictional drainages on the site. The undeveloped parcels are covered with a low to moderate growth of vegetation cover consisting of natural grasses and weeds with some granitic rock outcrops.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes subdividing the site into two parcels (Parcels 1 and 2), and three lettered parcels (Parcels A, B, and C). Each parcel is proposed to be developed with a high cube transload short-term warehouse building (Buildings A and B). Building A, a 400,000 square foot warehouse, will be constructed on Parcel 1. Building B, a 203,100 square foot warehouse, will be constructed on Parcel 2. Associated improvements include parking, fire lanes, fencing and walls (including retaining walls), landscaping, and water quality treatment areas.

Parcels A and Parcel B consist of existing Restricted Property of natural land, with a supporting jurisdictional feature, totaling approximately 11.6 acres. A 0.67-acre driveway will be constructed

through the Restricted Property to provide street access from Alessandro Boulevard to Parcel 1, which would reduce the Restricted Property to 10.93 acres. However, 1.44 acres will be added to Parcel A to mitigate this loss, resulting in a total of 12.37 acres of Restricted Property (net gain of 0.77 acres). A Conservation Easement is proposed to be placed over the amended 12.37 acres of Restricted Property.

A trailhead parking lot is proposed on Parcel C, totaling 1.18 acres, for access to the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park. Improvements include a parking lot, sidewalk, shade structure, bike rack, drinking fountain, fencing, and a Fire Department access gate. Parcel C will be dedicated to the City.

SURVEY LOCATION

The site is located in western Riverside County within Sycamore Hills, southeast of the Interstate 215 and State Route 60 (Moreno Valley Freeway) interchange. The site is west of the City of Moreno Valley, north of the City of Perris, east of the City of Corona and south of Sycamore Canyon Park. It can further be described as being located within the Section 9 of Township 3 South, Range 4 West of the Riverside East, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map (See Figures 1 and 2).

HABITAT DESCRIPTION

The approximately 48.6-acre project site is located in a mix of urban, residential, and open space habitat. The project site, including the 23-acre survey area is undeveloped, but surrounding land uses include open space to the north that is part of Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park, a water treatment plant to the west across Barton Street, single-family residential homes and commercial development to the south across Alessandro Boulevard, a storage facility to the southwest, and vacant land to the east.

The project site has two small, linear drainages that contain riparian woodland habitat and are moderately suitable for sensitive riparian bird species: the canopy throughout consists largely of red/arroyo willow (*Salix, spp.*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), with an understory of mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), red/arroyo willow, black willow, and desert broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*) in the eastern survey area. Although riparian woodland habitat is present, the small habitat size may only support LBVI as they have been observed here in previous surveys. The lack of a permanent water supply, the noise from Barton Street, and high-density urbanization of the area likely limits

the use of this area for nesting by the SWFL and YBCU which are less tolerant of human disturbance, however they may use this habitat as a migratory stop-over.

The remaining habitat in the project site is comprised of annual grasslands that are not suitable for sensitive riparian bird species.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND STATUS

LEAST BELL'S VIREO

The LBVI is a small greenish-gray songbird with a white underbelly, two white wing-bars, and white spectacles across the lores. The LBVI was once widespread throughout the Central Valley and other low elevation river valleys of California. Historically, the LBVI's breeding range extended from the interior of northern California to northwestern Baja California (Grinnell and Miller 1944). The LBVI typically prefers riparian areas dominated by willows of mixed age composition. These areas frequently include other trees such as western cottonwood and California sycamore. It has been noted that the most critical structural component of LBVI's habitat in California was the presence of a dense understory of young willows, mulefat, California wild rose (*Rosa californica*), and a variety of other shrubby species (Goldwasser 1981, Franzreb 1989). Territory sizes of LBVI in California have been reported to range from 0.3-1.3 hectares (0.75-3.2 acres) (Kus, et al. 2020). It was noted by Newman (1992) that "variability in territory size was unrelated to vegetation structure, and did not influence reproductive success of pairs in Southern California."

Within western Riverside County the core populations are primarily Prado Basin and the Santa Ana River, with other smaller populations in Temescal Wash, Mockingbird Canyon, Murrieta Creek, Temecula Creek, Lake Skinner (including Rawson Canyon), Vail Lake, Wilson Creek, and San Timoteo Canyon. According to the MSHCP "other geographic locations that are recorded within the University of California, Riverside database and by the USFWS include: Lake Elsinore, March Air Reserve Base, Meadowbrook, Canyon Lake, De Luz Creek, Potrero Creek, Bautista Creek, and Reche Canyon (USFWS 1998, CNDDDB 2020)." The LBVI breeding season in California starting with first egg laid to date of last fledge is from March 28 to August 10 (Kus et al. 2020).

Loss and degradation of breeding habitat has been the greatest contributor to the decline of the LBVI and SWFL. Habitat conversion for agricultural purposes has removed much of the original riparian woodland, and flood control measures and channelization have further depleted the riparian habitats used by the LBVI and SWFL as well as other riparian birds. Another major contributing factor to the decline of the LBVI and SWFL was the introduction of the brown-headed cowbird (*Malothrus ater*) to California around 1890. Estimates from a 1989 study concluded that

anywhere from 47% to 100% of all LBVI nests contained cowbird eggs (Franzreb 1989). The significant reduction in the population size and range of the vireo resulted in it being listed as a state endangered species in June 1980, and federally listed as endangered in May 1986.

LBVI SURVEY METHODS

Presence/absence surveys were conducted according to the USFWS *Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines* (2001). All potentially suitable LBVI habitat within the survey areas were surveyed eight (8) times between April 10 and July 31, 2020 with at least 10 days between survey visits. The surveys were conducted during the morning hours during appropriate weather conditions. Some survey days continued into the early afternoon if weather conditions and bird activity remained conducive for bird detection. Less than three linear kilometers (km) (1.9 miles) of habitat were surveyed per day. LBVI surveys were conducted passively, listening for vireo songs, calls, whisper songs, scolds and visually looking for adults and juveniles. Any nesting behavior was also noted.

LBVI observations were recorded in a field notebook, and GPS readings of the locations were taken during the surveys. If an exact point could not be taken, estimated points were determined post-survey. Numbers and locations of paired or unpaired territorial males, and the ages and sexes of encountered vireos (when discernible) were noted. Individual LBVI were also checked for colored leg bands.

SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER

SPECIES DESCRIPTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND STATUS

The SWFL is a small, insectivorous passerine that migrates north in the spring from South America, Mexico, and Central America, to breed in the southwestern desert riparian habitats of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Within western Riverside County there are very few reported occurrences with the majority occurring within the Prado Basin. The most current estimated number of range-wide flycatcher territories is 1,299 (288 breeding pairs) (USFWS 2014, Durst et al. 2008). Based on the USFWS' 5-year review of this species, it is reported that there are several factors that may contribute to the species decline within its range. The most concerning is the spread of the tamarisk leaf beetle. Although tamarisk is a non-native species, it provides habitat for the SWFL and seems to be more tolerant of human disturbances than native riparian species such as willows and cottonwoods (USGS 2014). The loss of tamarisk without conserving and/or restoring native riparian habitats could cause large areas of currently suitable habitat to be lost.

Like the LBVI, the SWFL occurs in riparian woodland habitat that is characterized by a dense growth of willows, mulefat, arrowweed (*Pluchea* sp.), cottonwood, sycamore (*Platanus* sp.), and tamarisk. In addition to willow riparian woodland, the SWFL also nests in coast live oak woodland on the upper San Luis Rey River, San Diego County, California; in dense stands of tamarisk on the lower Colorado River, Imperial and Riverside Counties, California. Surface water or saturated soils are usually present in or adjacent to nesting thickets. Like the LBVI, the loss of habitat and parasitism by cowbirds are thought to be the major reasons for the declining numbers of SWFL (Pike et al, 2004, Kus 2002). The southwestern subspecies of willow flycatcher was federally listed as endangered in February 1995 (USFWS 1995). Critical habitat was established in 2005, and then revised in 2013. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) determined that all subspecies in California are endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Determining subspecies is based on the region the flycatcher is found breeding as they are nearly indistinguishable by site or call. In Riverside County, breeding willow flycatchers are considered the federally-listed SWFL (Unitt 1987, Browning 1993, Paxton 2000). Declines in this species are mostly contributed to a loss of riparian habitat throughout the southwest. It is estimated that as much as 90% of riparian habitat has been lost in this region, and the remaining habitats have been degraded due to flood control and dam construction (Busch and Smith 1995). The SWFL breeding season in California starting with first egg laid to date of last fledge is from May 25 to August 27 (Sedgwick 2020).

SWFL SURVEY METHODS

Presence/absence surveys were conducted according to the July 11, 2000 revised protocol for project-related surveys and the general guidelines described by Sogge *et al.* (2010). All potential SWFL habitat and riparian areas within the survey area were surveyed five (5) times: one (1) visit during the 1st Survey Period (May 15 to May 31), two (2) visits during the 2nd Survey Period (June 1 to June 24), and two (2) visits during the 3rd Survey Period (June 25 to July 17). Each visit was at least five (5) days apart. Surveys of the sites were conducted during morning hours and when the temperature exceeded 13°C (55°F). Less than 1.9 miles (3 km) of habitat were surveyed per day. Surveys for the SWFL, LBVI, and YBCU were conducted concurrently, however they survey for each species was done on separate passes (e.g. LBVI was surveyed from south to north transect, SWFL were surveyed for during the north to south transect, and YBCU from south to north transect). The habitats size and linear shape made it possible to survey for each species within published protocol time frames using this method. Surveys were conducted within all potential habitat patches. If a singing SWFL was not heard in an area after one to two minutes, a permitted biologist played a taped vocalization for 15 to 30 seconds and observed the area for responding SWFLs. This was repeated every 20 to 30 meters. If a SWFL was detected, tape playing was discontinued.

Any SWFL observations would be recorded in a field data form (found in Appendix C), and GPS readings of the locations were taken during the surveys. If this species was observed, their behavior, numbers, and locations of paired or unpaired birds; ages; and sexes of encountered SWFL would be noted. The biologist also checked for leg bands.

WESTERN YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

SPECIES DESCRIPTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND STATUS

The YBCU is an extremely rare bird in California, with less than 50 pairs found during a statewide survey in 1986-1987, and no indication of more recent population increases. Most of California's YBCU are found in two areas: along the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Colusa, and along the South Fork Kern River near Weldon (Laymon *et al.* 1997). There is only one known breeding YBCU pair in Riverside County reported in 2001 (Riverside County 2003). There are no recent documentations of this species in western Riverside County.

YBCU are long distance migrants and return to California from their South American wintering areas in late May and June. Occupied riparian forests are usually larger than 25 acres. Detection of YBCU is difficult, as they have large home ranges in dense willow and cottonwood forests and call infrequently. Recorded playback of the species' calls is the recommended method for conducting surveys. YBCU was listed as endangered by the State of California in 1988 and

federally listed as threatened in 2014. The YBCU breeding season in California starting with first egg laid to date of last fledge is from June 21 to August 1 (Hughes 2020).

YBCU SURVEY METHODS

Survey methods for YBCU followed the April 2015 *A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo* (Haltermann et. al 2015).

Surveys were conducted in all potential YBCU habitat within the survey areas. Each survey area was surveyed a minimum of four (4) times over three (3) survey periods: minimum of one (1) visit during the 1st Survey Period (June 15 to July 1), minimum of two (2) visits during the 2nd Survey Period (July 1 to July 31), and a minimum of one (1) visits during the 3rd Survey Period (July 31 to August 15). Each survey visit was conducted at least 12 days apart, but no more than 15 days apart. Surveys were conducted in early morning hours beginning just before sunrise and ending no later than 1100, or until temperatures reached 40°C/104°F, whichever came first.

In order to increase the likelihood of detecting YBCU, the surveyor slowly walked appropriately spaced transects, according to size of habitat patch, while stopping every 100 meters and watching and listening for YBCU. If a YBCU was not heard or seen after one minute, the surveyor broadcast a series of five recorded YBCU contact/“kowlp” calls, spaced one minute apart. If a YBCU was heard or observed then the next stopping point was spaced 300 meters from the last in order to avoid duplicate mappings of the same bird. As recommended by the protocol, surveys for YBCU were not conducted simultaneously with LBVI or SWFL surveys.

Any YBCU observations would be recorded and mapped in a field data form (found in Appendix D) and GPS readings of the locations would be taken during the surveys in accordance with the protocol.

RESULTS

Surveys for LBVI, SWFL, and YBCU were conducted where it was determined to support suitable habitat by permitted biologist Angela Johnson between April 21 and August 9, 2020. Based on the level of effort and environmental conditions all surveys were considered valid as they followed published protocols.

Two (2) territories with counter-singing LBVI males were present on May 5 during the second survey; however, for all subsequent surveys only one male remained throughout the 2020 season. This individual was observed only at the northernmost part of the survey area and was often seen with a mate. Later in the season (survey 6), the pair was also seen with a fledgling.

Surveys for SWFL and YBCU were conducted in the riparian woodland habitat along the north-south drainage. The habitat in the eastern portion of the survey area was deemed not suitable due to the lack of canopy present and small patch size. No SWFL or YBCU were detected within the survey area during the 2020 season. The marginal habitat makes it unlikely that this site will be used in the future by these two species.

A brief description of LBVI, SWFL and YBCU survey results for each of the survey area is provided below. Data sheets for the SWFL and YBCU surveys can be found in Appendix C-D.

TABLE 1. SURVEY CONDITIONS

Survey #	Date	Surveyor	Start Time	Stop Time	Weather	Temp. Range (°f)	# LBVI Detected	# SWFL Detected	# YBCU Detected
1	4/21/20	AJ	0600	0800	50-100% CC, wind 3-6 mph	52-57	0	N/A	N/A
2	5/5/20	AJ	0641	0839	0% CC, wind 1 mph	60-75	3	N/A	N/A
3*	5/19/20	AJ	0557	0800	40-50% CC, wind 3-5 mph	50-55	0	0	N/A
4*	6/2/20	AJ	0620	0815	50-70% CC, wind 1-3 mph	67-71	1	0	N/A
5*	6/16/20	AJ	0522	0725	100% CC, wind 3 mph	56-58	1	0	N/A

(6*)	6/30/20	AJ/ML	0530	0800	100% CC, wind 2-3 mph	60-63	3	0	0
(7*)	7/14/20	AJ	0551	0755	30-100% CC, wind 1-2 mph	64-68	2	0	0
(8)	7/28/20	AJ	0552	0718	0% CC, wind 1 mph	59-64	1	N/A	0
(4)	8/9/20	AJ	0702	0819	0% CC, wind 0-2 mph.	65-70	N/A	N/A	0

* Indicates SWFL and LBVI surveys conducted on the same day. Parentheses (N) Indicates YBCU survey.

TABLE 2. LBVI LOCATIONS (UTM- ZONE 11S)

Survey Area	Northing	Easting
LBVI Territory 1	448651 m E	3756594 m N
LBVI Territory 2	448868 m E	3756685 m N
When LBVI were detected in numerous locations, only the central point of the polygon is given.		

OTHER LISTED AND SENSITIVE SPECIES OBSERVED

This survey focused on three species: the LBVI, SWFL and YBCU; however, incidental observation(s) of all listed and sensitive species were documented. There are various definitions of “sensitive” in accordance with State and Federal Agencies. The following is a brief summary of the status of the species that were observed on site (all definitions were taken directly from the CDFW Biogeographic Data Branch’s Special Animals list [August 2020] unless otherwise indicated):

CDFW California Species of Special Concern (SSC): The Department has designated certain vertebrate species as “Species of Special Concern” because declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats have made them vulnerable to extinction. The goal of designating species as “SSC” is to halt or reverse their decline early enough to secure their long-term viability.

CDFW: Watch List (WL): The birds on this Watch List are 1) not on the current Special Concern list but were on previous lists and they have not been state listed under CESA; 2) were previously

state or federally listed and now are on neither list; or 3) are on the list of “Fully Protected” species. **CDFW California State Threatened (ST):** Species that have been designated at risk of extinction by the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) after a formal listing process.

USFWS Federally Endangered (FE): A species in danger of extinction in a portion or all of its range.

Sensitive species observed included:

TABLE 3. OTHER LISTED AND SENSITIVE SPECIES OBSERVED

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Cooper’s Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	WL
So. California Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	WL
Stephens’ Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	FE, ST
San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	SSC

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Brown-headed cowbirds (BHCO) were not detected (seen or heard) during any of the surveys in 2020. No cowbird traps were noted at any of the survey locations.

The only non-native wildlife species detected within the survey areas were rock pigeons (*Columba livia*), and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). Neither of these birds poses a significant threat to the conservation of the LBVI, SWFL, or YBCU.

There were five invasive plant species within the survey area: Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle*), Brazilian pepper (*S. terebinthifolia*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and salt cedar (*Tamarisk* sp.). None of these species was found to be heavily abundant in the survey area. Giant reed was not found in great density, though it is present in the northern section of the survey area. The presence of giant reed has a greater effect on ecosystem health as the diversity and abundance of leaf/aerial insects are significantly decreased in areas overrun by giant reed (Dudley and Dudley, 2003). For insect-eating birds such as the SWFL and LBVI, the spread of giant reed could cause a significant decrease in food availability.

In the southern portion of the survey area, a few salt cedars were also present. Although an invasive plant, salt cedar is regularly used by SWFLs and other riparian birds for foraging and nesting. Although this species out-competes native plant species, the small extent of salt cedar in this area does not likely have a significant impact on the population of sensitive birds in the area. However, if salt cedar should spread and dominate a substantial portion of the riparian habitat in the surrounding area, the diversity of invertebrates in the willow riparian habitat may decline. The result of decreased abundance and diversity of invertebrates likely affects species at higher trophic levels (Baily et al 2001).

CONCLUSION

A total of two (2) least Bell's vireo territories were detected during the 2020 surveys; however, one territory did not remain active for the entire season. The primary territory fledged at least one young. No southwestern willow flycatchers or yellow-billed cuckoo were detected.

Based on the presence of a State and Federally Endangered Species on the site, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be required for any impacts to the habitat, including potential indirect impacts which could occur during the construction phase. Consultation with the USFWS will be conducted under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. During the consultations, avoidances measures and possible mitigation will be required.

Other sensitive species observed included the Cooper's hawk, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, Stephens' kangaroo rat, and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit. These species are addressed in the Biological Resources and Western Riverside County MSHCP Consistency Report prepared by Wood Consultants.

CERTIFICATION

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

Date: September 10, 2020 Signed:


Angela Johnson TE 59592B-2

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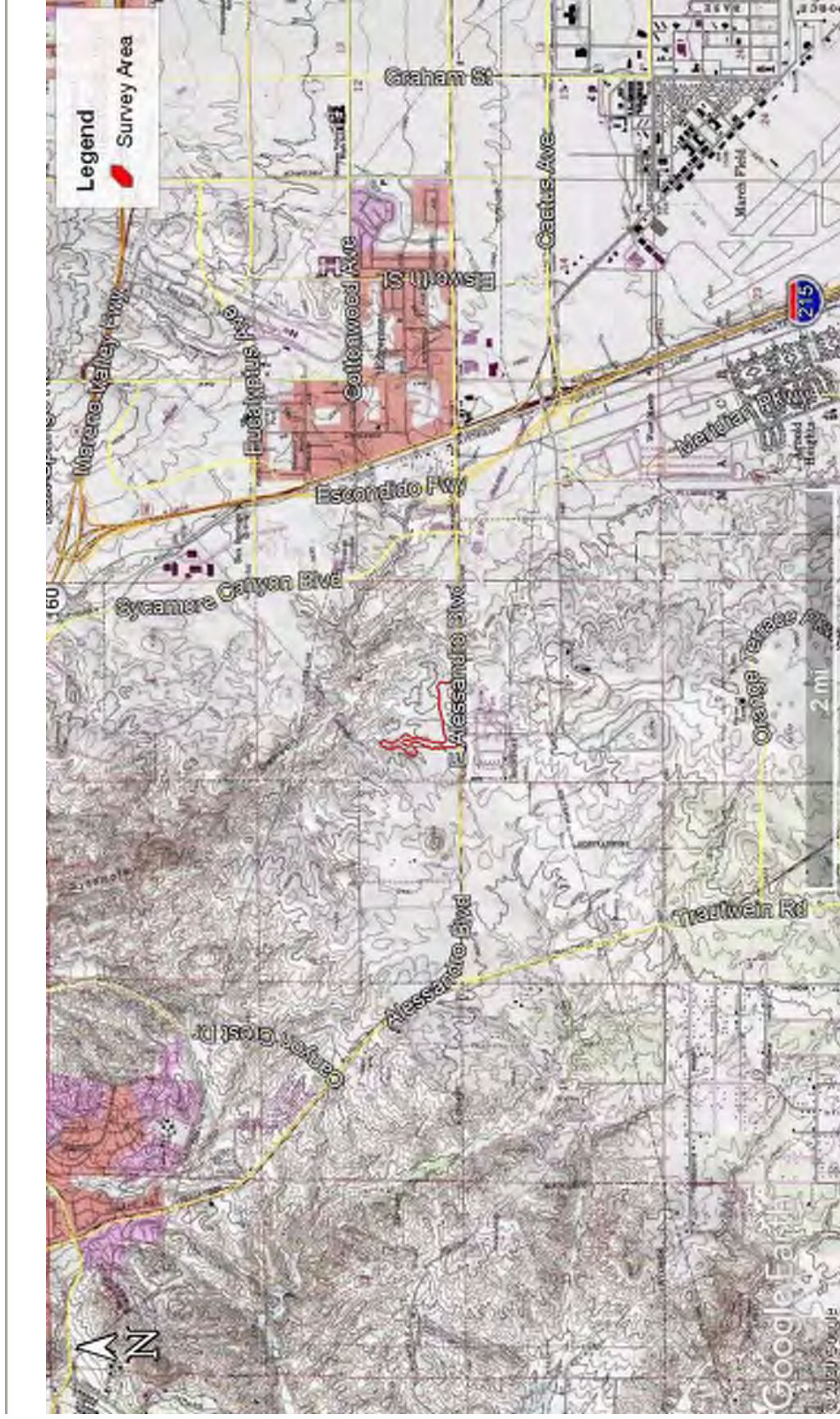
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APPENDIX A- FIGURES





APPENDIX B- SPECIES COMPENDIUM

AVES

Anseriformes – Ducks, Geese, and Swans

Anatidae - Ducks, Geese, and Swans

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Galliformes – Turkey, Grouse, Chicken, and New World Quail

Odontophoridae – New World Quail

California Quail (*Callipepla californica*)

Accipitriformes – Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies

Accipitridae – Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies

§ Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

Columbiformes - Pigeons, and Doves

Columbidae - Pigeons and Doves

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

* Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Cuculiformes – Cuckoos and Allies

Cuculidae – Cuckoos and Allies

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*)

Strigiformes – Owls

Strigidae – Owls

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

Apodiformes – Swifts and Hummingbirds

Apodidae – Swifts

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

Trochilidae – Hummingbirds

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)

Piciformes – Woodpeckers and Allies

Picidae – Woodpeckers and Allies

Nuttall's Woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*)

Falconiformes – Falcons and Caracara

Falconidae – Falcons

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Passeriformes - Passerine Birds

Tyrannidae - Tyrant Flycatchers

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

Vireonidae – Vireos

§ Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)

Corvidae - Crows and Jays

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

Hirundinidae – Swallows

Northern rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Aegithalidae - Long-tailed Tits and Bushtits

Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)

Troglodytidae – Wrens

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

Poliptilidae – Gnatcatchers

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea*)

Mimidae - Mockingbirds and Thrashers

California Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*)

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

Parulidae - Wood-Warblers

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*)

Passerellidae – New World Sparrows

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

§ S. California Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*)

California Towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*)

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

Passeridae – Old World Sparrows

* House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Cardinalidae – Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

Icteridae – Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*)

Fringillidae - Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies

House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*)

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*)

MAMMALIA

Lagomorpha – Hares, Rabbits, and Pika

Leporidae – Hares and Rabbits

Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

§ San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*)

Rodentia – Rodents

Sciuridae – Squirrels

California Ground Squirrel (*Otosperophilus beecheyi*)

Heteromyidae – Pocket Mice and Kangaroo Rats

§ Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*)

Geomyidae – Gophers

Botta's Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys bottae*)

Carnivora – Carnivores

Canidae – Wolves, Dogs, and Coyotes

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

REPTILIA

Squamata – Lizards and Snakes

Phrynosomatidae – Lizards

Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)

Granite Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus orcutti*)

Western Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*)

*Indicates non-native species

§ Indicates Sensitive Species

APPENDIX C- SWFL SURVEY DATA FORMS

Appendix 1. Willow Flycatcher Survey and Detection Form

Always check the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Ecological Services Field Office web site (<http://www.fws.gov/arizona/>) for the most up-to-date version.

Willow Flycatcher (WFL) Survey and Detection Form (revised April 2010)

Site Name: Sycamore Hills Distribution Center State: CA County: Riverside
 USGS Field Name: Riverside East Location: 386
 Creek, River, Wetland, or Lake Name: unimproved drainage
 Is copy of USGS map marked with survey area and WFL sightings attached (as requested)? Yes No

Survey Coordinates: Easting: 471312 N: 3753558 UTM Zone: 18Q Datum: NAD 83
 Easting: 471741 N: 3753091 UTM Zone: 18Q Datum: NAD 83
 If survey coordinates changed between visits, show coordinates for each survey in comments section on back of this page.
 ** Fill in additional site information on back of this page **

Survey Observation ID # (Date)	Date (Month/Day/Year)	Surveyor (WFL)	Number of WFL	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings	Number of Sightings
Survey #1 Observation Angela Johnson	May 5/11/20 Site 0557 Surp 0800 Total hrs: 2.06	Ø	Ø	Ø	N								
Survey #2 Observation Angela Johnson	May 6/2/20 Site 0620 Surp 0815 Total hrs: 1.97	Ø	Ø	Ø	N								
Survey #3 Observation Angela Johnson	May 7/6/20 Site 0522 Surp 0735 Total hrs: 2.05	Ø	Ø	Ø	N								
Survey #4 Observation Angela Johnson, Cristanda Loring	May 6/13/20 Site 0520 Surp 0800 Total hrs: 2.5	Ø	Ø	Ø	N								
Survey #5 Observation Angela Johnson	May 7/14/20 Site 0251 Surp 0755 Total hrs: 2.17	Ø	Ø	Ø	N								
Overall Site Summary Total # of WFL observed in all surveys (including re-surveys). Do not include sightings, recaptures, and tagging.		Total WFL Sightings	Total WFL Sightings	Total WFL Sightings	Total WFL Sightings	Were any Willow Flycatchers observed? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>							
Were any WFL sightings made on this site?		Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	If yes, report each observation(s) in the comments section on back of form and report to USFWS.							
Total Survey Site	12.59												

Reporting Investigator: Angela Johnson Date Report Completed: 8/14/20
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Form # 18295B-01 State Wildlife Agency Version # _____
 Submit form to USFWS and State Wildlife Agency by September 1st. Retain a copy for your records.

32 A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Fill in the following information completely. Submit form by September 1st. Retain a copy for your records.

Reporting Individual: Angela Johnson Phone: 970-512-4777
 Affiliation: Kidd Biological, Inc. E-mail: ajohnson@kiddbiological.com
 Site Name: Sycamore Hills Distribution Center Date Report Completed: 8/24/20
 Was this site surveyed in a previous year? Yes No Unknown
 Did you verify that this site name is consistent with that used in previous years? Yes No Not Applicable
 If site name is different, what name(s) was used in the past? _____
 If site was surveyed last year, did you survey the same general area this year? Yes No If no, summarize below: _____
 Did you survey the same general area during each visit to this site this year? Yes No If no, summarize below: _____

Management Authority for Survey Area: Federal Municipal/County State Tribal Private
 Name of Management Entity or Owner (e.g., Texas National Forest): City of Riverside and private

Length of area surveyed: 1.3 ha/mi

Vegetation Characteristics Check (only one category that best describes the predominant deciduous forest layer at this site)

- Native broadleaf plants (mostly or almost entirely, >90% native)
- Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly native, 50-89% native)
- Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly exotic, 50-90% exotic)
- Exotic/botanical plants (mostly or almost entirely, >90% exotic)

Identify the 20 predominant tree/shrub species in order of dominance. Use scientific names.

Baccharis salicifolia, Salix spp., Salix goodenifolia

Average height of canopy (Do not include a range): 8 meters

Attach the following: 1) copy of USGS quad topographical map (REQUIRED) of survey area, outlining survey site and location of WET, delineations; 2) sketch or aerial photo showing site location, local roads, survey route, location of any detected WETs or their uses; 3) photos of the interior of the patch, exterior of the patch, and overall site. Describe any unique habitat features in Comments.

Comments (such as stem and end coordinates of survey area if changed since surveys, supplemental visits to sites, unique habitat features). Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Habitat forest and patchy. Western survey area most suitable due to thicker understorey. Eastern survey area has little canopy and a low average canopy height of 3m. An overall majority of branches are white and branches terminate with large patches of white flowers.

Territory Summary Table. Provide the following information for each verified territory at your site.

Territory Number	All Dates Detected	UTM E	UTM N	Tree Confused? Y or N	Tree Found? Y or N	Description of How You Confirmed Territory and Breeding Status (e.g., observations of pair interactions, territory acreage, behavior)

Attach additional sheets if necessary

APPENDIX D- YBCU SURVEY DATA FORM

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Survey Site Description Form

This form is designed to provide a general description of the habitat surveyed at a site. More detailed vegetation analysis requires precise measurements, and is outside the scope of this survey protocol. Please check your permit for additional restrictions.

Fill in the following information completely. Date Report completed: 2/14/20

Site Name: <u>Sycamore Hills Distribution Center</u>	State: <u>CA</u>	County: <u>Placer</u>
Name of Reporting Individual: <u>Angela Johnson</u>	Affiliation: <u>Kidd Biological, Inc.</u>	
Phone #: <u>916-412-4777</u>	Email: <u>angela@kiddbiol.com</u>	
USFWS Permit #: <u>TC 5452 B-2</u>	Site Number: _____	

Site Coordinates:	Site E: <u>471312</u>	N: <u>3753352</u>	UTM Zone: <u>11 S</u>
	Site E: <u>471791</u>	N: <u>3753091</u>	State: <u>WGS 84</u>

USFWS Field Office: Everette East Length of area surveyed (in kilometers): 1.3 Elevation: 486m

Name of nearest Creek, River, Wetland, or Lake: Unmarked drainage

Drainage: BLM Reclamation NPS FSR-100 USFS 2018 Other: Other (Multiple?)

Was site surveyed in previous year? Yes No Unknown If Yes, when was site last surveyed? Spring, in 2014

Did you survey the same general area during each visit this year? Yes No No, estimate in comments below

If "Yes", was the same general area surveyed in this year? Yes No No, estimate in comments below

Native Status: The species in this table (not at this site) are considered predominantly of (check one):

Native (indigenous plants) (75% native):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly native) (51%-75%):	
Exotic (introduced plants) (25% exotic):		Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly exotic) (51%-75%):	

List up to 5 species of overstory vegetation and percent canopy cover of each species. Use scientific names. For percent cover, please use <1%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%.

1. <u>Pegulus feregrinus</u> % cover: <u>50</u>	2. <u>Salix spp</u> % cover: <u>25</u>	3. <u>Platanus racemosa</u> % cover: <u>10</u>
4. <u>Salix serotina</u> % cover: <u>10</u>	5. _____ % cover: _____	

Average height of overstory (include non-woody shrubs): 12 Estimated Overall Canopy Cover (percent): 30

List up to 5 species of understory vegetation (not all sites will have a separate understory) and estimate percent understory cover of each species. Use scientific names. For percent cover, please use <1%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%.

1. <u>Salix spp</u> % cover: <u>50</u>	2. <u>Baccharis salicifolia</u> % cover: <u>25</u>	3. <u>Baccharis pilularis</u> % cover: <u>10</u>
4. <u>Samolus sp</u> % cover: <u>10</u>	5. <u>Fernandus sp</u> % cover: <u>1</u>	

Average height of understory (include non-woody shrubs): 4 Estimated Overall Cover (percent): 60

Describe the adjacent habitat (e.g. upland vegetation; forest type; urban/residential; agricultural/developed; oak woodland); primarily non-native grassland and areas of sparse sage scrub (Recreational hiking and biking trails cross uplands and riparian drainages, housing and commercial development primarily to the south, and Sycamore wilderness park to the north).

List up to five categories of adjacent habitat, and estimate percent cover. Use <1%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%.

1. <u>Non-adjacent</u> % cover: <u>20</u>	2. <u>Wooded</u> % cover: <u>25</u>	3. <u>Urban/residential</u> % cover: <u>10</u>
4. <u>Disturbed</u> % cover: <u>10</u>	5. _____ % cover: _____	

Was surface water or saturated soil present at or adjacent to site within 300 meters? Yes No (circle one)

Was surface water or saturated soil present at or adjacent to all points surveyed? Yes No (circle one)

Comments: Please provide comments regarding differences between the survey patches within the site. For example, if the average canopy for this site is 20% cover, but within one patch it is 60% cover - please note. Also, please note ecological differences between deciduous overstory and understory vegetation among the patches. Document these differences with photographs whenever possible. Make sure to reference cameras in photo number whenever applicable.

West patch most suitable for YBCW but patch size is small - has the best canopy species and canopy cover. Southern patch has little understory and is considered marginal due to its small size. Eastern survey patch has little to no canopy and was not considered suitable to win not surveyed for YBCW.

Site Name: Sycamore Hills Distribution Center	Name of Reporting Individual: Angela Johnson
Phase #: 19101912-19197	Title: Sensitive Riparian Bird Surveys
<p>Attach the following: 1) Copy of USGS 7.5 minute quadrat topographical map(s) of survey area, outlining survey site and location of YBCU detection; 2) Sketch or aerial photo showing site location, patch shape/openings, survey route, and location of any detected YBCU or tick notes; 3) Photos of the interior of the patch, exterior of the patch, and overall view. Describe any unique habitat features in Comments. Check your permits for required documentation.</p>	
<p>North Patch: Dominated by Salix spp., then Bouteloua setifolia and B. pilularis. Sedges along the edges. Two large P. racemosa also present. This patch also has an area of woods with a single S. mollis.</p> <p>Narrow strip of Bouteloua spp. connects the north and south patches. No YBCU playback due to no habitat present.</p> <p>South Patch: Dominated by Salix spp., Salix gooddingii, Populus fremontii, but with a light understory of B. setifolia and some non-native forage species, and small patch of Rumex also present.</p> <p>East Patch: One area of canopy consisting of S. gooddingii and Salix spp. but understory dominated. Not suitable for YBCU.</p>	

APPENDIX E- SITE PHOTOS

North Patch Site Photos



South Patch Site Photos



East Patch Site Photos



SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER

RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Burrowing Owl Focused Survey Report

Prepared For:

Ruth Villalobos & Associates, Inc.
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Prepared By:

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June 2020
Updated September 2020

SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER

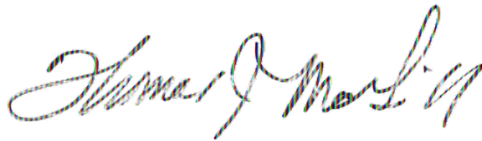
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Burrowing Owl Focused Survey Report

The undersigned certify that the statements furnished in this report and exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and the facts, statements, and information presented is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusions to the best of our knowledge and beliefs.



Travis J. McGill
Director



Thomas J. McGill, Ph.D.
Managing Director

June 2020
Updated September 2020

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APPENDIX

Appendix A	Site Photographs
Appendix B	Fauna Compendium

Section 1 Introduction

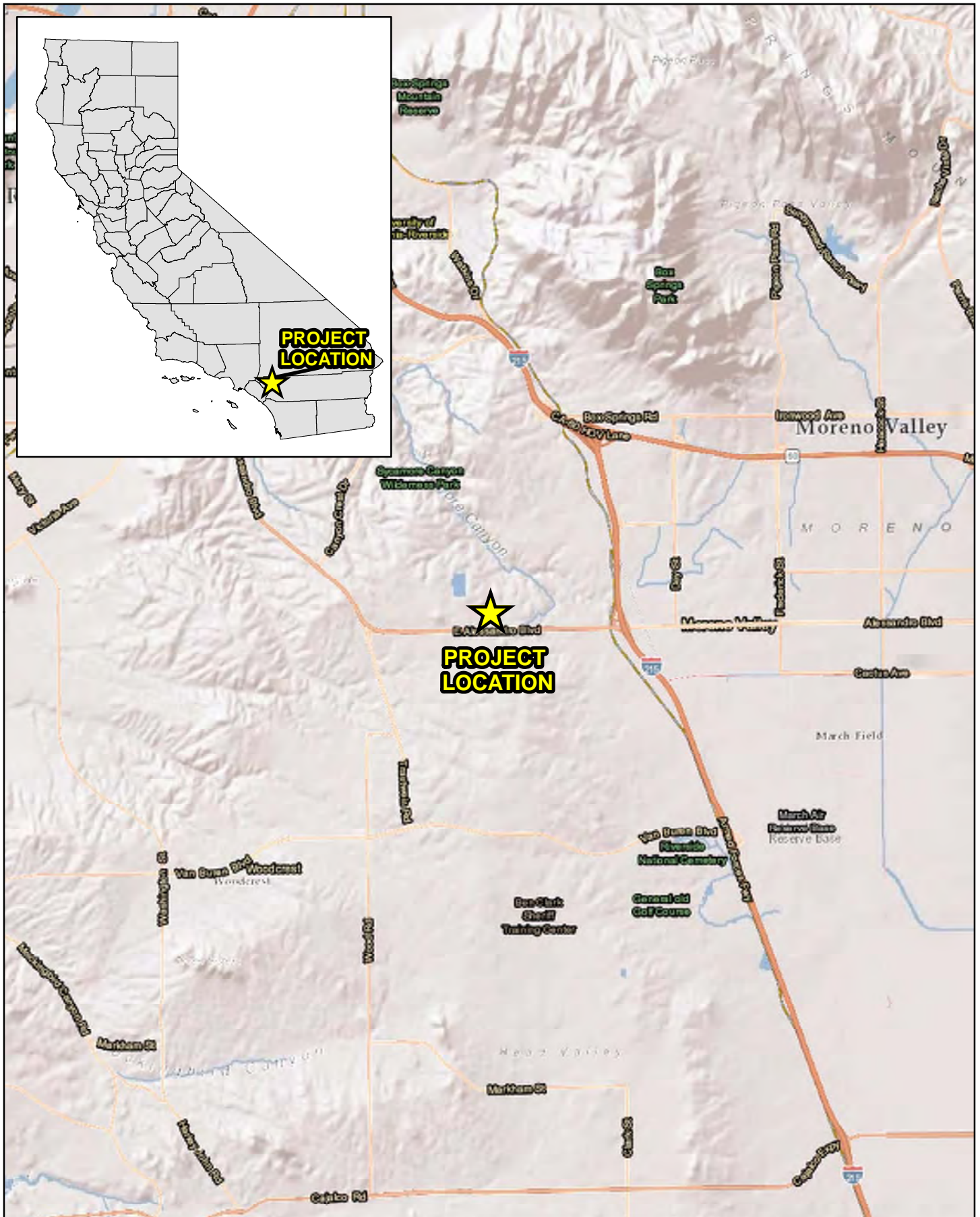
ELMT Consulting (ELMT) conducted a focused burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) survey for the Sycamore Hills Distribution Center East project (project or project site) located north of East Alessandro Boulevard and east of Barton Street in the City of Riverside, Riverside County, California (project site or site). Biologists Thomas J. McGill, Ph.D., Travis J. McGill, Miranda Losing, and Jacob H. Lloyd Davies surveyed the project site in accordance with the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area* (Environmental Programs Department, 2006). Four (4) separate focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted on April 24, May 7, May 21, and June 5, 2020. The surveys were conducted to document the presence/absence of burrowing owl on the project site.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

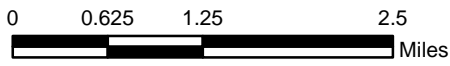
The project site is generally located west of Interstate 215, south of State Route 60, east State Route 91, and north of East Alessandro Boulevard in the City of Riverside, Riverside County, California (Exhibit 1, *Regional Vicinity*). The project site is depicted on the Riverside East quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map series in Section 9 of Township 3 South, Range 4 West (Exhibit 2, *Site Vicinity*). Specifically, the project site is located immediately north of East Alessandro Boulevard, immediately east of Barton Avenue, and immediately southeast of the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park within Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 263-060-022, -024, and -026 (Exhibit 3, *Project Site*).

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

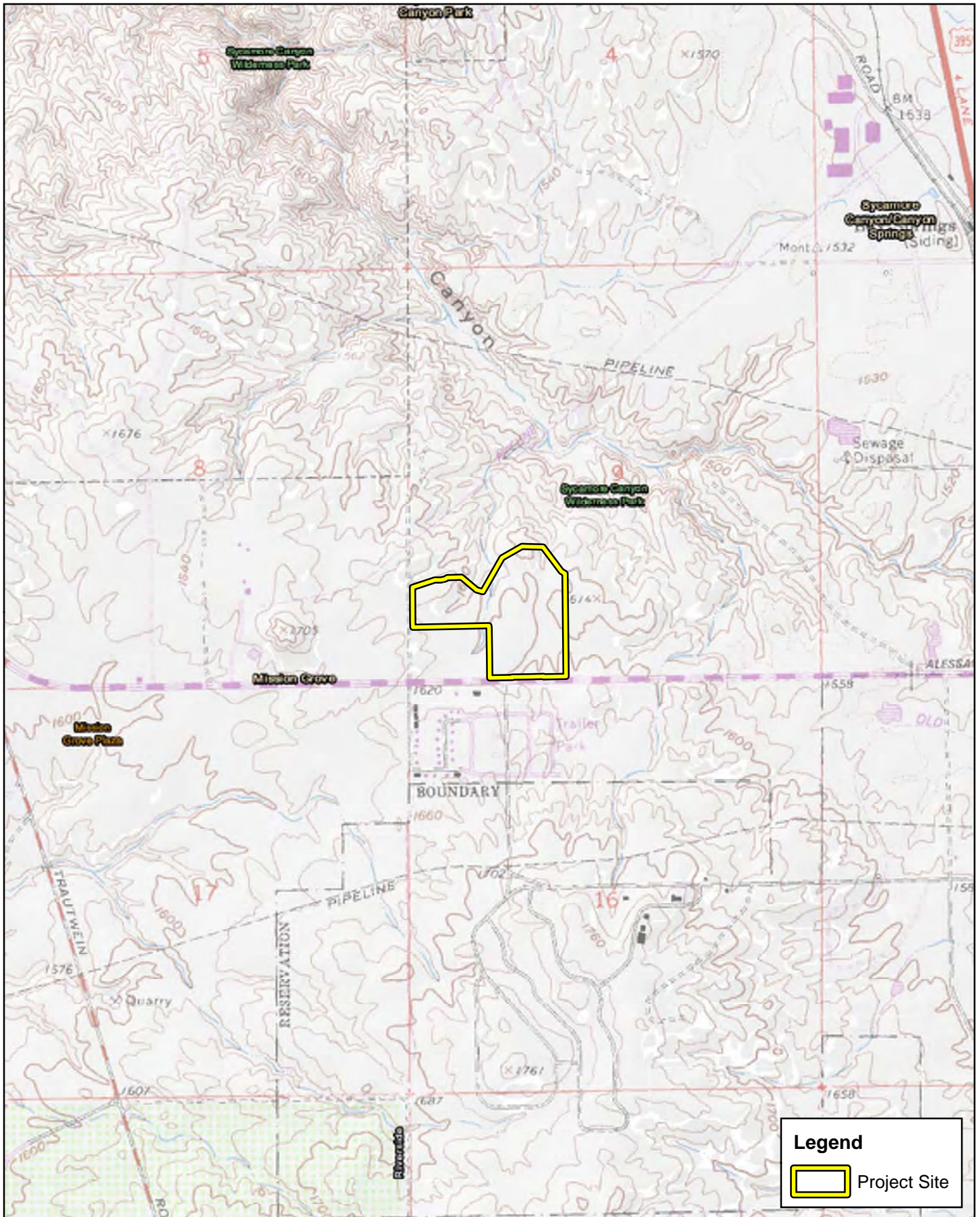
The proposed project consists of the grading for, and construction of, two warehouse buildings and associated office spaces and parking encompassing approximately 48.6 acres. Planned warehouse and office spaces total 603,100 square feet and planned parking includes 623 standard auto parking stalls and 155 tractor-trailer parking stalls.



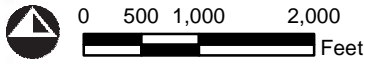
SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER
 BURROWING OWL FOCUSED SURVEY
Regional Vicinity



Source: World Transportation, World Shaded Relief, Riverside County



SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER
 BURROWING OWL FOCUSED SURVEY
Site Vicinity



Source: USA Topographic Map, Riverside County



SYCAMORE HILLS DISTRIBUTION CENTER
BURROWING OWL FOCUSED SURVEY

Project Site

ELMIT CONSULTING logo featuring three colored triangles (blue, green, orange) to the left of the text 'ELMIT CONSULTING'. Below the logo is a scale bar labeled 'Feet' with markings at 0, 125, 250, and 500. A north arrow symbol is positioned above the scale bar.

Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery, Riverside County

Section 2 Species Background

2.1 SPECIES BACKGROUND

The burrowing owl is a grassland specialist distributed throughout western North America where it occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. Burrowing owls use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with well-drained, level to gently-sloping areas characterized by sparse vegetation and bare ground (Haug and Didiuk 1993; Dechant et al. 1999). Burrowing owls are dependent upon the presence of fossorial mammals, such as ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), whose burrows are used for roosting and nesting (Haug and Didiuk 1993). The presence or absence of colonial mammal burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence or absence of burrowing owls. Where mammal burrows are scarce, burrowing owls have been found occupying man-made cavities, such as buried and non-functioning drain pipes, stand-pipes, and dry culverts. Burrowing mammals may burrow beneath rocks and debris or large, heavy objects such as abandoned cars, concrete blocks, or concrete pads. Large, hard objects at burrow entrances stabilize the entrance from collapse and may inhibit excavation by predators.

Burrowing owls have crepuscular (dawn and dusk) hunting habits but are often observed perched in or near the burrow entrance during the day. They prey upon invertebrates and small vertebrates (Thomsen 1971) through low vegetation which allows for foraging visibility. The nesting season occurs between February 1 and August 31. Burrowing owl in California may migrate southerly, but often remain in the breeding area during the non-breeding period.

The burrowing owl was once abundant and widely distributed within coastal southern California, but it has declined precipitously in counties such as Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino. A petition was filed to list the California population of the western burrowing owl as an Endangered or Threatened species (Center for Biological Diversity 2003); however, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) declined to list the burrowing owl as either endangered or threatened. The CDFW currently lists the burrowing owl as a California Species of Special Concern.

2.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The burrowing owl is a resident and migratory bird species protected by international treaty under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. The MBTA reflects agreements made between the U.S., England, Mexico, the former Soviet Union, and Japan to protect all of North America's migratory bird populations. The MBTA protects migratory bird nests from possession, sale, purchase, barter, transport, import and export, and collection. The other prohibitions of the MBTA - capture, pursue, hunt, and kill - are inapplicable to nests. The regulatory definition of take, as defined in Title 50 C.F.R. part 10.12, means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect. Only the verb "collect" applies to nests. It is illegal to collect, possess, and by any means transfer possession of any migratory bird nest. The MBTA prohibits the destruction of a

nest when it contains birds or eggs, and no possession shall occur during the destruction (United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Permit Memorandum, April 15, 2003). Certain exceptions to this prohibition are included in 50 C.F.R. section 21. Pursuant to CDFW Code section 3513, the Department enforces the MBTA consistent with rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Migratory Treaty Act.

Additionally, burrowing owl is protected under Sections 3503, 3503.3, 3511, and 3513 of the CDFW Code which prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs. Implementation of the take provisions requires that project-related disturbance at active nesting territories be reduced or eliminated during critical phases of the nesting cycle (March 1 - August 15, annually). CDFW Code Section 3503.5 protects birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (Birds of Prey, such as hawks and owls, including burrowing owls) which makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy their nest or eggs.

CDFW's 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation offers long-term assurances for conservation of this species in exchange for biologically appropriate levels of incidental take and/or habitat loss as defined in the approved plan. California's NCCP Act (FGC §2800 et seq.) governs such plans at the state level, and was designed to conserve species, natural communities, ecosystems, and ecological processes across a jurisdiction or a collection of jurisdictions. Complementary federal HCPs are governed by the Endangered Species Act (7 U.S.C. § 136, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.) (ESA). Regional conservation plans (and certain other landscape-level conservation and management plans), may provide conservation for unlisted as well as listed species. Because the geographic scope of NCCPs and HCPs may span many hundreds of thousands of acres, these planning tools have the potential to play a significant role in conservation of burrowing owls, and grasslands and other habitats.

Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provide that a species be considered as endangered or "rare" regardless of appearance on a formal list for the purposes of the CEQA (Guidelines, Section 15380, subsections b and d). CEQA requires a mandatory finding of significance if impacts to threatened or endangered species are likely to occur (Sections 21001(c), 21083. Guidelines 15380, 15064, 15065). Avoidance or mitigation must be presented to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

2.2.1 MSHCP Section 6.3.2 Additional Survey Needs and Procedures – Burrowing Owl

Under Section 6.3.2 the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) the burrowing owl is considered an adequately conserved covered species that may still require focused surveys in certain areas as designated in Figure 6-4 of the MSHCP. The purpose of Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP is to provide coverage under the MSHCP for those species for which existing available information was not sufficient, and therefore, survey requirements are incorporated

in the MSHCP to provide the level of information necessary for these species to receive coverage (Dudek & Associates, Inc., 2003).

Section 3 Methodology

General weather conditions during each of the surveys were suitable for detections of burrowing owls. The weather during the surveys consisted of cloudy to clear skies with minimal wind, and temperatures ranging from 44 -60 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). Surveys are not accepted if they are conducted during rain, high winds (> 20 mph), dense fog, or temperatures over 90°F. The protocol survey for burrowing owl requires a systematic survey of all areas that provide suitable habitat plus a 150-meter (approximately 500 feet) zone of influence (survey area) on all sides of suitable habitat, where applicable (Exhibit 4, *Survey Area and Suitable Habitat*). Since the project site is bordered by residential and commercial developments to the south, and the Metropolitan Water District Water Treatment Plant to the west, a zone of influence was not able to be surveyed by foot to the south and west of the project site. The residential and commercial developments south of the project site do not provide suitable habitat for burrowing owls and were not surveyed for burrowing owls. The area west of the project site, associated with the Metropolitan Water District Water Treatment Plant, was scanned with binoculars from the western boundary of the project site for burrowing owls. Refer to Exhibit 5, *Survey Areas and Suitable Habitat*.

Survey transects on the project site were oriented north to south and were conducted at a maximum of 30-meter (approximately 100 feet) intervals to ensure 100% visual coverage of all areas in suitable habitat on the project site and within the survey area. The focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted during the recognized timeframe (the breeding season is typically March through August) in the morning one hour before sunrise to two hours after sunrise.

Suitable burrows/sites, including rock piles and non-natural substrates, were thoroughly examined for signs of presence. All burrows encountered were examined for shape, scat, pellets, white-wash, feathers, tracks, and prey remains. The location of all suitable burrowing owl habitat, potential owl burrows, burrowing owl sign, and any owls observed were recorded and mapped, with a hand-held GPS unit, if observed. Methods to detect presence of burrowing owls included direct observation, aural detection, and signs of presence. Binoculars were used to observe distant birds and their activity around potential nesting habitat. During the focused surveys, the survey area was assessed on foot by qualified biologists Thomas J. McGill, Ph.D., Travis J. McGill, Miranda Losing, and Jacob H. Lloyd Davies who are knowledgeable in the habitats and behavior of burrowing owls.

Four focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted on April 24, May 7, May 21, and June 5, 2020. All surveys were completed between 0600 to 1000 hours. The surveys were conducted to document the presence/absence of burrowing owl on the project site.

Table 1: Survey Data

Survey No.	Survey Date	Surveyor	Time	Temperature (°F)	Cloud Cover	Wind Speed (mph)	Burrowing Owl Detected
1	4/24/20	Travis McGill Miranda Losing	0630-1000	77-81	0%	1-5	No
2	5/07/20	Travis McGill Miranda Losing Jacob Lloyd Davies	0600-1000	65-70	25%	1-5	No
3	5/21/20	Thomas McGill Travis McGill	0600-1000	68-74	10%	1-3	No
4	6/05/20	Travis McGill Miranda Losing Jacob Lloyd Davies	0600-1000	60-62	100%	1-3	No



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BURROWING OWL FOCUSED SURVEY

Survey Area and Suitable Habitat

Section 4 Results

4.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project site is relatively flat with no areas of significant topographic relief and ranges in elevation from 1,571 to 1,620 feet above sea level and generally slopes from west to east. According to the Custom Soil Resource Report, the project site is underlain by the following soil units: Arlington fine sandy loam (2 to 8 percent slopes), Cieneba sandy loam (15 to 50 percent slopes, eroded), Cieneba rocky sandy loam (15 to 50 percent slopes, eroded), Fallbrook sandy loam (8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded), Fallbrook sandy loam (5 to 8 percent slopes, shallow, eroded), Fallbrook fine sandy loam (8 to 15 percent slopes, shallow, eroded), and Vista coarse sandy loam (8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded).

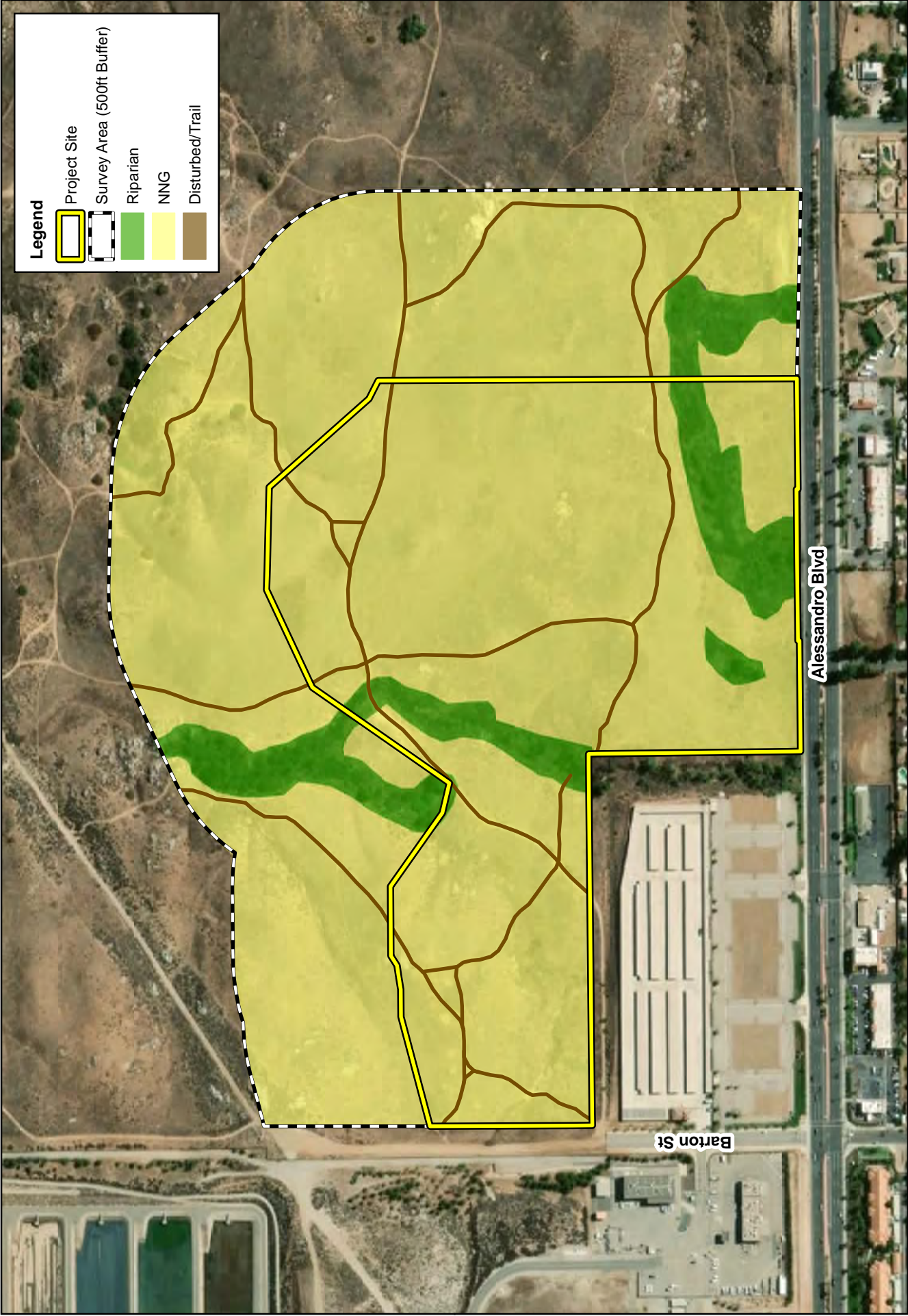
Land uses in the vicinity of the project site primarily consist of residential, commercial, and industrial developments, and undeveloped/vacant parcels. The site is bordered by the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park to the north and east, Barton Street and a water treatment facility to the west, a storage facility and Alessandro Boulevard to the south. The project site consists of undeveloped, vacant land, portions of which have undergone periodic weed abatement for fire control purposes. The site supports two (2) vegetation communities: non-native grassland and riparian woodland, and one (1) land cover type that would be classified as disturbed (Exhibit 5, *Vegetation*).

The majority of the project site supports a non-native grassland. This vegetation community is dominated by non-native grasses such as wild oat (*Avena fatua*), red brome (*Bromus madritensus* ssp. *rubens*), cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*), and ripgut (*Bromus diandrus*). Additional vegetation observed within the non-native grassland community includes short-podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), filaree (*Erodium* sp.), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and California-aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*).

Scattered portions of the project site support drainages that consist of a riparian woodland plant community. This plant community is dominated by willows (*Salix* sp.) and cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*). Other plant species observed in the riparian woodland include mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), other shrubs and herbs, and non-native grasses.

The disturbed areas of the site occur within a network of open, cleared dirt trails that permeate the site. These areas host frequent human traffic and are either completely devoid of vegetation or support minimal weedy/early successional species.

Based on a review of CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) approximately 8 burrowing owl observations have been recorded within 5 miles of the project site. The nearest occurrence was approximately 1 mile southwest of the project site. Refer to Exhibit 6, *CNDDDB BUOW Observations*.



Legend

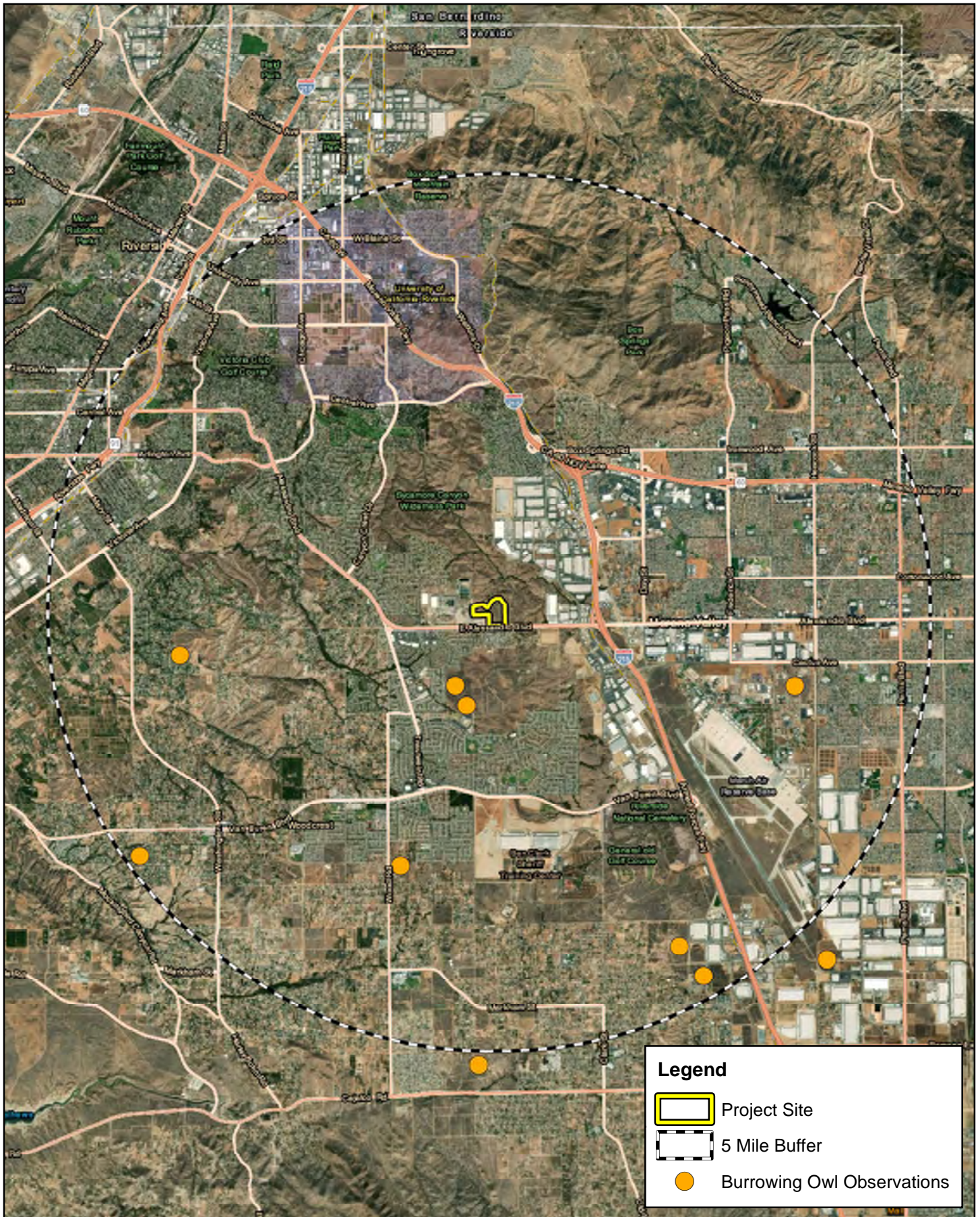
- Project Site
- Survey Area (500ft Buffer)
- Riparian
- NNG
- Disturbed/Trail



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery, Riverside County

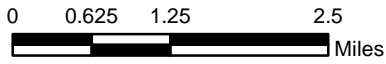
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Vegetation



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CNDDB BUOW Observations



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery, CDFW CNDDB, Riverside County

4.2 BURROWING OWL FOCUSED SURVEY

The majority of the project site is vegetated with a variety of relatively low-growing plant species that allow for the line-of-sight observation opportunities favored by burrowing owl. However, the majority of the site is densely vegetated following high levels of late spring precipitation, resulting in minimal open areas and limited line-of-sight opportunities. Several small mammal burrows that have the potential to provide suitable burrowing owl nesting habitat (>4 inches in diameter) were observed scattered throughout the project site during the surveys. Despite a systematic search of the project site, no burrowing owls or sign (pellets, feathers, castings, or whitewash) were observed on or within 500 feet, where accessible, of the project site during the focused surveys.

Avian species observed during the focused surveys include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), blue grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), hooded oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), Wilson's warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*), and yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*). Refer to Appendix B for a complete list of wildlife species observed during the surveys.

It should be noted that a burrowing owl focused survey was also conducted in 2018 by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. in accordance with the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area* (Environmental Programs Department, 2006). No burrowing owl or sign were observed during the 2018 focused surveys.

Section 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the results of the 2018 and 2020 burrowing owl focused surveys, no burrowing owls or evidence of recent or historic use by burrowing owls were observed on the project site. As a result, burrowing owls are presumed absent from the project site. Out of an abundance of caution, and to ensure burrowing owl remain absent from the project site, it is recommended that a 30-day burrowing owl pre-construction clearance survey be conducted in accordance with the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area* prior to any ground disturbing activities. If burrowing owls and/or birds displaying nesting behaviors are observed within the project site during future construction, further review may be needed to ensure compliance with the MSHCP, MBTA and Fish and Game Code.

Section 6 References

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Appendix A Site Photographs



Photograph 1: From the southwest corner of the project site looking north along the western boundary.



Photograph 2: From the southwest corner of the project site looking east along the southwestern boundary of the project site north of the storage facility to the south.



Photograph 3: From the northeast corner of the survey area (500-foot buffer) looking south along the western boundary.



Photograph 4: From the northwest corner of the survey area (500-foot buffer) looking southeast across the western half of the project site.



Photograph 5: From the southeast portion of the western half of the project site looking north.



Photograph 6: From the middle of the northern boundary of the survey area looking south across the western half of the project site.



Photograph 7: From the northeast corner of the survey area looking southwest across the eastern half of the project site.



Photograph 8: From the middle of the eastern portion of the project site looking south at the southwestern boundary of the project site.



Photograph 9: From the middle of the eastern half of the project site looking north.



Photograph 10: From the eastern boundary of the survey area west across the northern extent of the survey area.



Photograph 11: Looking south from the eastern portion of the survey area.



Photograph 12: From the southeast corner of the survey area looking west across the southern portion of the site.



Photograph 13: From the middle of the project site looking east across non-native grassland on the eastern portion of the site.



Photograph 14: Looking at the riparian habitat on the southwest corner of the project site, east of the storage facility.

Appendix B Fauna Compendium

Table B – 1: Wildlife Species

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Aves	
Birds	
<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	red-shouldered hawk
<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California quail
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	Wilson's warbler
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	lark sparrow
<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	northern harrier
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	common yellowthroat
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch
<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	song sparrow
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	ash-throated flycatcher
<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	blue grosbeak
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's woodpecker
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	spotted towhee
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	northern rough-winged swallow
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	western meadowlark
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Mammalia	
Mammals	
<i>Canis latrans</i>	coyote
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail
Reptilia	
Reptiles	
<i>Sceloporus orcutti</i>	granite spiny lizard
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis longipes</i>	Great Basin fence lizard