Initial Study Biological Assessment

Cover Page

Original ISBA report date: December 5, 2008

Revision report date(s): (none)

Case number: SD08-0042 ZN08-0009

Permit type: Subdivision

Applicant: James Lloyd-Butler Family, LLC

Planning Division case planner: Kristina Roodsari

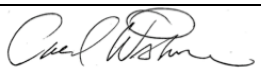
Total parcel(s) size: 340.02 acres

Assessor Parcel Number(s): 109-0-390-01, 03, and 04

Development proposal description: Subdivide 340-acre James Lloyd-Butler Family, LLC Ranch into five parcels. Four of the parcels will have a minimum of 40 acres each. The remaining parcel will have a minimum of 160 acres.

Prepared for Ventura County Planning Division by:

As an approved and contracted biologist with the Ventura County Planning Division, I hereby certify that this Initial Study Biological Assessment was prepared according to the Planning Division's requirements and that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I further certify that I was present throughout the site visit associated with this report.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Approved Biologist (signature):  </td><td>Date April 24, 2009</td></tr>
<tr><td>Name (printed): Carl Wishner</td><td>Title: Principal Biologist</td><td colspan="2">Company: Envicom Corporation</td></tr>
<tr><td>Phone: 818 879-4700</td><td colspan="3">email: cwishner@envicomcorporation.com</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Other Biologist (signature): None</td><td>Date:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Name (printed):</td><td>Title:</td><td colspan="2">Company:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Phone:</td><td colspan="3">email:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Role: Not Applicable</td></tr>
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Initial Study Checklist

This Biological Assessment DID provide adequate information to make CEQA findings regarding potentially significant impacts.

		Project Impact Degree of Effect				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect			
		N	**LS**	**PS-M***	**PS**	**N**	**LS**	**PS-M***	**PS**
A	Endangered, threatened or rare species (includes nests)			X				X	
B	Wetland habitat		X				X		
C	Coastal habitat	X				X			
D	Wildlife movement routes	X				X			
E	Locally important species/communities		X				X		

N: No impact
LS: Less than significant impact
PS-M: Potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated.
PS: Potentially significant
* DO NOT check this box unless the Biological Assessment provided information adequate enough to develop mitigation measures that reduce the level of impact to less than significant.

Contents

Attachments

A. List of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)-tracked species (point occurrences) within 1-, 5-, and 10-miles of the project boundaries.

B. Copies of all CNDDB California Native Species Field Survey Forms and California Natural Community Field Survey Forms sent to the California Department of Fish and Game to document observations of special status species or communities found on the project site. Field Survey Forms for Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, American badger, and Catalina mariposa lily are included. Field Survey Forms were not submitted for observed Nuttall's woodpecker (tracked by CNDDB only as a nesting species), and *Helminthoglypta* (snail) species undetermined.

Summary

The project site includes natural plant communities consisting of Coastal Scrub and Prickly-pear cactus succulent scrub, restricted to mountainous terrain of Butler Hill, and established tree-crop agricultural lands of Avocado and Citrus on the alluvial plain. Special-status plant communities, and observed and potentially occurring plant and animal species are largely restricted to the natural habitats of Butler Hill. The proposed project would result in no impacts to Butler Hill. No impacts would occur to Coastal Habitats, or to Wildlife Movement Routes. Less than Significant Impacts would occur to Wetlands comprised of Agricultural ditches, resulting from placement of residential housing pads within 100 feet of non-significant wetlands. Potentially significant, But Mitigable Impacts to Endangered, Threatened and Locally Important Species, as a result of possible disruption of nesting birds.

Section 1: Construction Footprint Description

Construction Footprint Definition (per the Ventura County Planning Division): The construction footprint includes the proposed maximum limits of temporary or permanent direct land or vegetation disturbance for a project including such things as the building pad(s), roads/road improvements, grading, septic systems, wells, drainage improvements, fire hazard brush clearance area(s), tennis courts, pools/spas, landscaping, storage/stockpile areas, construction staging areas, fire department turnarounds, utility trenching and other grading areas. The construction footprint on some types of projects, such as mining, oil and gas exploration or agricultural operations, may be quite different than the above.

Development Proposal Description:

Subdivide 340-acre James Lloyd-Butler Family, LLC Ranch into five parcels. Four of the parcels will have a minimum of 40 acres each. The remaining parcel will have a minimum of 160 acres. The land is currently zoned OS-80, OS-160, A-E. On the preliminary grading plan, proposed locations of four building pads are shown. The building pads would be for the purpose of constructing single-family residential dwellings. Physical alterations that would occur would be clearing of Agricultural cropland consisting of Avocado and Citrus trees to facilitate the buildings and associated yards.

Construction Footprint Size

The proposed construction footprint includes 79,376 square feet associated with the proposed residential pads and 67,679 square feet in association with the proposed accesås roads. Please note the access roads largely follow existing farm roads.

Project Design for Impact Avoidance or Minimization

No known design or redesign efforts have been made by the applicant prior to this biological assessment, to avoid or minimize impacts to biological resources.

Coastal Zone/Overlay Zones

MRP – Mineral Resource Protection Overlay Zone

Zoning

The land is currently zoned OS-80, OS-160, A-E.

Elevation

100-1100 feet.

Other

Access to building pads, and location of utility easements would follow existing farm roadways.

Section 2: Survey Information

2.1 Survey Purpose

Discretionary actions undertaken by public agencies are required to demonstrate compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of this Initial Study Biological Assessment (ISBA) is to gather enough information about the biological resources associated with the proposed project, and their potential to be impacted by the project, to make a CEQA Initial Study significance finding for biological resources. In general, ISBA's are intended to:

- Provide an inventory of the biological resources on a project site and the values of those resources.
- Determine if a proposed project has the potential to impact any significant biological resources.
- Recommend project redesign to avoid, minimize or reduce impacts to significant biological resources.
- Recommend additional studies necessary to adequately assess potential impacts and/or to develop adequate mitigation measures.
- Develop mitigation measures, when necessary, in cases where adequate information is available.

2.2 Survey Area Description

Survey Area Definition (per the Ventura County Planning Division): The physical area a biologist evaluates as part of a biological assessment. This includes all areas that could potentially be subject to direct or indirect impacts from the project, including, but not limited to: the construction footprint; areas that would be subject to noise, light, dust or runoff generated by the project; any required buffer areas (e.g., buffers surrounding wetland habitat). The construction footprint plus a 100-foot buffer—beyond the required fire hazard brush clearance boundary—(or 20-foot from the cut/fill boundary or road fire hazard brush clearance boundary – whichever is greater) is generally the minimum size of a survey area. Required off-site improvements—such as roads or fire hazard brush clearance—are included in the survey area. Survey areas can extend off the project's parcel(s) because indirect impacts may cross property lines. The extent of the survey area shall be determined by the biologist in consultation with the lead agency.

Survey Area 1 (SA1)

Location

The survey area includes agricultural lands east of the town of Saticoy and the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, at the southern terminus of South Mountain, west of Saticoy Country Club, north of Los Angeles Avenue, at the terminus of Lloyd Butler Road.

Survey Area Boundaries

Survey Area 1 (SA1) included areas along proposed access roadways, on either side, for distances of 100 feet, and proposed house pad locations on parcels 1, 2, 4, and 5. Parcel 3 has an existing residence, and was not included, except as portions thereof were within 100 feet of proposed access roadways or pads. This survey area is different than the parcel boundaries because most of the remaining area of the parcels would not be affected directly or indirectly by the project, lying beyond 100

feet of proposed roadways and pads. The remainder areas unaffected by the project are considered below as separate Survey Areas. The survey area boundary was not flagged.

Survey Area Environmental Setting

SA1 occurs on level to gently sloping agricultural lands at the south base of South Mountain, locally named Butler Hill. Drainage from the mountain is channelized into an agricultural ditch with earthen levee, partially armored with concrete debris. This agricultural ditch, hereafter referred to as Waters 1 (W1) runs through the northern portion of SA1. No 3-parameter wetlands are present, as the ditch exhibits only hydrology, and not hydric soils or hydrophytic vegetation. The existing land use is Estate and Rural Residential, and agriculture comprised of tree crops of citrus and avocados. No unauthorized activities or disturbances were evident. The Survey Area habitats are entirely agricultural and estate residential (Parcel 3).

Surrounding Area Environmental Setting

SA1 is bounded to the north and west by the prominent mountain flank of South Mountain (Butler Hill), which is used for livestock grazing, on habitats comprised of Coastal Scrub and Cactus Scrub. To the south and east of SA1 is entirely agricultural, on level to moderately sloping alluvium of the Oxnard Plain. No protected land is located in the vicinity of S1. An important aspect of the surrounding landscape is its high suitability for agriculture. Another important aspect of the surrounding landscape is the high relief of Butler Hill compared to the adjacent Santa Clara River and Oxnard floodplain.

Cover

1% native vegetation
1% non-native vegetation (ruderal, non-agricultural)
0% recently burned
95% agriculture tree crops
0% bare ground/cleared/graded
1% buildings, paved roads and other impervious cover
2% agricultural drainage ditch

Survey Area 2 (SA2)

Location

The survey area includes agricultural lands east of the town of Saticoy and the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, at the southern terminus of South Mountain, west of Saticoy Country Club, north of Los Angeles Avenue, at the terminus of Lloyd Butler Road.

Survey Area Boundaries

Survey Area 2 (SA2) included all other agricultural areas not included within Survey Area 1 (SA1), but excluding Parcel 3, which has an existing residence. This survey area is different than the parcel boundaries because it includes the remaining area of the parcels that would not be affected directly or indirectly by the project. Another remainder area unaffected by the project is also considered below as a separate Survey Area 3 (SA3). The survey area boundary was not flagged.

Survey Area Environmental Setting

SA2 occurs on level to gently sloping agricultural lands at the south base of South Mountain, locally named Butler Hill. Drainage from the mountain is channelized into an agricultural ditch with earthen levee, partially armored with concrete debris. This agricultural ditch, hereafter referred to as Waters 1 (W1) runs through the northern portion of SA2. No 3-parameter wetlands are present, as the ditch exhibits only hydrology, and not hydric soils or hydrophytic vegetation. One main ranchhouse and compound area is located on Parcel 3, with two smaller farmworker residences and service buildings,

and water pumping stations located on Parcels 1, 2 and 5. The existing land use is Estate and Rural Residential, and agriculture comprised of tree crops of citrus and avocados. No unauthorized activities or disturbances were evident. The Survey Area habitats are entirely agricultural and estate residential (Parcel 3).

Surrounding Area Environmental Setting

SA2 is bounded to the north and west by the prominent mountain flank of South Mountain (Butler Hill), which is used for livestock grazing, on habitats comprised of Coastal Scrub and Cactus Scrub. To the south and east, SA2 is entirely agricultural, on level to moderately sloping alluvium of the Oxnard Plain. No protected land is located in the vicinity of SA2. An important aspect of the surrounding landscape is its high suitability for agriculture. Another important aspect of the surrounding landscape is the high relief of Butler Hill compared to the adjacent Santa Clara River and Oxnard floodplain. Surrounding lands to the west and south of SA2 are located in the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, and used for agriculture, and groundwater recharge.

Cover

0% native vegetation
1% non-native vegetation (ruderal, non-agricultural)
0% recently burned
95% agriculture tree crops
1% bare ground/cleared/graded
1% buildings, paved roads and other impervious cover
2% agricultural drainage ditch

Survey Area 3 (SA3)

Location

The survey area includes mountainous terrain at the southern terminus of South Mountain, east of the town of Saticoy and the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, west of Saticoy Country Club, north of Los Angeles Avenue, at the terminus of Lloyd Butler Road.

Survey Area Boundaries

Survey Area 3 included the majority of parcel 5, excluding agricultural lands in its southern portion. This survey area is different than the parcel boundaries because it covered only the mountainous terrain of the parcel that would not be affected directly or indirectly by the project. The remainder, agricultural areas unaffected by the project are considered as separate Survey Area 2. The survey area boundary not was flagged.

Survey Area Environmental Setting

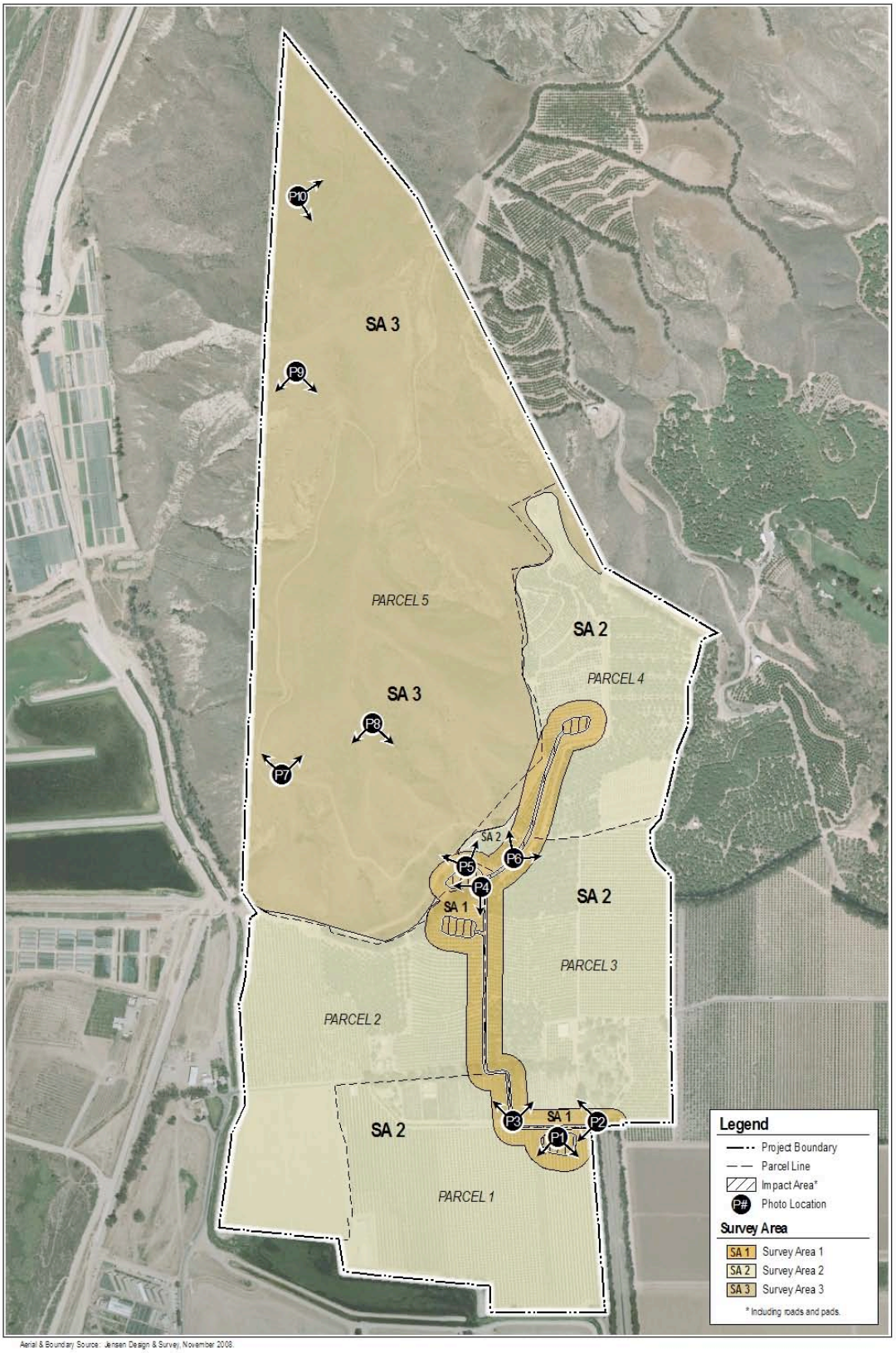
SA 3 occurs on moderately steep to very steep slopes, and gentle ridges on both the west and east sides of the south base of South Mountain, locally named Butler Hill. Drainage on the mountain, hereafter referred to as Waters 1 (W1), is characterized by very large gullies and arroyos, leading directly toward the floodplain of the Santa Clara River on the west slope, and channelized into an agricultural ditch with earthen levee, partially armored with concrete debris on the east slope. No 3-parameter wetlands are present, the gullies on SA3 exhibit only hydrology, and not hydric soils or hydrophytic vegetation. The existing land use is livestock grazing. No unauthorized activities or disturbances were evident. The Survey Area habitats are entirely undeveloped open space comprised of Coastal Scrub and Cactus Scrub, used for livestock grazing. An unusual feature of SA3 is the steep terrain, and severe gullying on highly erosive soils derived of a Pliocene marine seaknoll sediments of the Pico Formation (Yeats, R.S. Pliocene Seaknoll at South Mountain, Ventura Basin, California AAPG Bulletin 49, 1965).

Surrounding Area Environmental Setting

SA 3 is bounded to the southwest, west, and northwest by the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, and to the northeast by the prominent rising ridge of South Mountain. To the south and east, SA3 is surrounded entirely by agricultural lands, on level to moderately sloping alluvium of the Oxnard Plain. No protected land is located in the vicinity of SA 3. An important aspect of the surrounding landscape is its high suitability for agriculture.

Cover

97% native vegetation
1% non-native vegetation (ruderal, non-agricultural)
100% recently burned (2003)
0% agriculture tree crops
1% bare ground/cleared/graded (roads, stock pens)
0% buildings, paved roads and other impervious cover
0% other



Aerial & Boundary Source: Jensen Design & Survey, November 2008.

BIOLOGICAL INITIAL STUDY - SD08-0042

ENVICOM CORPORATION

Site and Survey Map

0 275 550 Feet

FIGURE 1

2.3 Methodology

References

- TetraTech 2007 (November 12). Botanical Survey Report for the Lloyd-Butler Saticoy Project. Thiis letter reports on the results of "a rare plant survey conducted by TetraTech biologists on May 30, 2007. They included the entire 750 acres in their survey. A range of Special-Status Plant Species that could occur was considered. None were found.
- California Department of Fish and Game, BIOS. (November 2007). BIOS is an internet-based biological data map server.
- Ventura County Planning Division, GIS Biology Map Packet (November 2007). Consists of mapped resource information for the project site, including: wetlands and waterbodies; special status species per the California Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) species lists; wildlife corridors/connectivity areas; vegetation; and high resolution aerial imagery.
- California Department of Fish and Game, Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, List of California Vegetation Alliances, October 22, 2007. www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/vegcamp/pdfs/NaturalCommunitiesList_Oct07.pdf
- CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants database, v7-08a 2-01-08, http://cnps.web.aplus.net/cgi-bin/inv/inventory.cgi/Html?item=checkbox_9.htm#q9

Survey Details Table

Survey Date & Details							
Survey Key (1)	**Survey Date (2)**	**Survey Area Map Key(s) (3)**	**Survey Type (4)**	**Time Period (5)**	**Methods/Constraints (6)**	**GPS (7)**	**Surveyors**
SD1	10/24/2008	SA1	ISBA	12:30 pm-–2:00 pm	Walking/driving transects. The entire site was accessible.		Carl Wishner
SD2	10/24/2008	SA2	ISBA	2:00 pm-–5:00 pm	Walking/driving transects. The entire site was accessible.		Carl Wishner
SD3	10/29/2008	SA3	ISBA	9:00 am-–3:00 pm	Walking transects. The entire site was accessible.		Carl Wishner
ISBA .....Initial Study Biological Assessment Botanical .....Botanical Survey							

Section 3: The Biological Inventory

See Appendix One for an overview of the types of biological resources that are protected in Ventura County.

3.1 Habitats: Plant Communities, Physical Features and Wetlands
(Initial Study Checklist A, B, C & E)

Plant Communities

Locally important or rare plant communities were found within the survey area(s).

Major Plant Communities Summary

The Department's 2007 *List of California Vegetation Alliances* is admittedly incomplete, and it does not provide an adequate description for some of the natural plant communities, nor of the highly altered agricultural communities on the site. Also, the List (2007) indicates that, "if an alliance is marked with a G1 through a G3 code, this means that all of the associations within it will also be considered of high inventory priority." "If marked as G4 or G5, these alliances are generally considered common enough to not be of concern. However, it does not mean that certain associations contained within them are not rare (G3 or lower)." By this criterion, none of the Alliances present would be considered "of high inventory priority."

The Ventura County Planning Division considers Global and Subnational or State alliance rankings of G1 through G3 and S1 through S3 as sensitive for the purposes of CEQA impact assessment. Additionally, the County defines a locally important community as one that is considered by a qualified biologist to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region, with this determination being made on a case by case basis.

Using the *List of California Vegetation Alliances* (CDFG October 22, 2007), the following Alliances are present:

Artemisia californica –Salvia mellifera (Alliance 32.120.00, G5S4). The Association presented in *List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities Recognized by the California Natural Diversity Database* (CDFG September 2003) is California Sagebrush – Black Sage Scrub (32.120.01). The closest "generic description" of this Association is provided in the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) for the California Sagebrush Series, as follows: "California sagebrush sole or dominant shrub; black sage, brittlebush, bush monkeyflower, California encelia, chamise, chaparral yucca, coast goldenbush, coyote brush, deerweed, poison oak, purple sage, and/or white sage may be present. Emergent lemonade berry or Mexican elderberry may be present." This description is quite accurate for this site, with California sagebrush, California encelia, black sage being dominant. Bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*) and coastal isocoma (*Isocoma menziesii*) are moderately abundant. Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and chamise are absent. Purple sage, white sage and poison-oak are very infrequent. Lemonade berry is sparse, Mexican elderberry is represented by one dead individual. Local areas have codominance with pinebush (*Ericameria pinifolia*). Also, due to recovery following the 2003 fire, giant wildrye (*Leymus condensatus*) is abundant, especially on the north-facing slopes. Lands in the southern ¾ of the Butler Hill are severely overgrazed, whereas a small triangular area in the north, on mostly northerly slopes was evidently excluded from recent grazing.

Opuntia littoralis (Alliance 32.150.00 G4S3). The Association is *Coast Prickly Pear Succulent Scrub (32.150.00). The best "generic description" of this Association provided in the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) is for Mixed Sage Series: "Black sage, brittlebush, bush monkeyflower, California encelia, California buckwheat, prickly pears, purple sage and/or white sage equally important shrubs in canopy. Emergent laurel sumac, lemonade berry, Mexican elderberry may be present." This description is relatively accurate, and no other Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf descriptions that include *Opuntia* are adequate. On this site, both *Opuntia littoralis* and *O. oricola* are codominant, and mixed with the California Sagebrush scrub as described above. Brittlebush and Mexican elderberry are absent. Tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) and pinebush (*Ericameria linearifolia*) are common. Purple sage and white sage are infrequent. The site supporting this community is severely overgrazed. Although the Department of Fish and Game's List of Alliances (2007) ranks the status of *Opuntia littoralis* Alliance as G4S3, and therefore, it would "be considered of high inventory priority" by that agency, the present qualified biologist, Mr. Wishner, does not consider the occurrence here at this location "to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region," Thus, it does not meet the criterion of a Locally Important Community, and Ventura County has *not* developed a list of Locally Important Communities.

Atriplex lentiformis (Alliance 36.370.00 G5S4). The Association is Big Saltbush – Allscale Scrub (36.370.01). The closest "generic description" provided in the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) is for Mixed Saltbush Series: "No sole or dominant saltbush species in the canopy; allscale, big saltbush, brittlescale, fourwing saltbush, and or shadscale may be present." This description is wholly inadequate. No other descriptions in Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf include big saltbush, however. Only big saltbush is present, forming a pure stand, with minor amounts of tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*). The area occupied is a disturbed edge of the agricultural area, and the vegetation does not appear on the aerial photograph.

Quercus agrifolia (Alliance 71.060.00 G5S4). The Association is Coast Live Oak – California Sagebrush – Grass (71.060.08). The best "generic description" provided in the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) is for Coast Live Oak Series: "Coast live oak sole, dominant, or important tree in canopy; bigleaf maple, blue oak, box elder, California bay, Engelmann oak, laurel sumac, and/or madrone may be present. Shrubs occasional, or common. Ground layer grassy or absent." This is a poor description of the situation here on Butler Hill. The community is represented by a single mature individual of coast live oak, located on a ridgetop. None of the other species included in the generic description are present. The location is severely overgrazed.

Eucalyptus (*camaldulensis*, *globulus*) Alliance 79.199.00, U). The Association is Eucalyptus Naturalized Forest (79.000.00). The "generic description" provided in the *Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) is for Eucalyptus Series: "Eucalyptus sole or dominant tree in the canopy; few other species are present, canopy continuous. Shrubs infrequent. Ground layer sparse." This description is accurate. *Eucalyptus globulus* occurs here in linear as windrows, and does not form broader stands.

No Alliances, Associations, or Series are described by CDFG for the lands that are under intense agricultural production at this site. For the purposes of this report, they shall be called the "Agriculture: Avocado – Citrus Alliance." Understory vegetation is particularly sparse, to altogether absent. Common weedy species encountered include several species of *Amaranthus*, common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), prickly sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), spurge (*Chamaesyce serpens*), sweet- and sourclovers (*Melilotus* spp.), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), yard knotweed (*Polygonum arenastrum*), yellow purslane (*Portulaca*

oleracea), and annual introduced brome grasses. Occasional patches of cosmopolitan mosses, especially silver bryum (*Bryum argenteum*) and cord moss (*Funaria hygrometrica*) occur in wet areas with overhead spray irrigation. Conditions are highly disturbed.

Plant Communities Table

Plant Communities								
Map Key (1)	**SVC Alliance**	**SVC Association**	**Misc. (2)**	**Status (3)**	**Condition (4)**	**Acres Total**	**Acres Impacted**	**Comments (5)**
PC1	*Artemisia californica – Salvia mellifera*	California Sagebrush – Black Sage Scrub	Natural Community: Scrub	G5S4	Intact	159.9	0.0	Severely overgrazed
PC2	*Opuntia littoralis*	Coast Prickly Pear Succulent Scrub	Natural Community: Scrub	CDFG Rare G4S3	Intact	3.8	0.15	Severely overgrazed
PC3	*Atriplex lentiformis*	Big Saltbush Scrub	Natural Community: Scrub	G5S4	Intact	0.56	0.0	
PC4	*Quercus agrifolia*	Coast Live Oak –California Sagebrush – Grass	Natural Community: Woodland	G5S4 LIC, Cal OWA	Intact	0.05	0.0	Severely overgrazed
PC5	*Eucalyptus* (*camaldulensis*, *globulus*)	Eucalyptus Naturalized Forest	Undifferentiated Exotic Vegetation	U	Intact	4.14	0.95	Windrows
PC6	Agriculture: Avocado - Citrus	Avocado - Citrus	Agriculture	None		167.7	9.6	
PC7	Undifferentiated Exotic Vegetation	None	Undifferentiated Exotic Vegetation	None	Intact	3.94	0.00	
					Totals	340.02	10.7	

LIC.....Locally Important Plant Community
ESHA .....Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (Coastal Zone)
CDFG Rare:
G1 or S1.....Critically Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
G2 or S2.....Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
G3 or S3.....Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or Subnationally (state)
Cal OWA.....Protected by the California Oak Woodlands Act

Physical Features

Physical Features Table

Physical Features		
Map Key (1)	**Physical Feature (2)**	**Comments (3)**
PF1	Pliocene Seaknoll	Provides habitat for special status species, including southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (G5T2T4 S2S3, DFG:WL, Catalina mariposa lily (G3/S3.2, CNPS 4.2), American badger (G5S4, DFG:SSC). Possibly also undetermined *Helminthoglypta* sp. could be on Locally Important Animal Species (if *H. willeti*, or *H. venturensis*), and/or DFG:Special Animal, if Trask shoulderband (*H. t. traskii*).

Waters and Wetlands

See Appendix One for an overview of the local, state and federal regulations protecting waters, wetlands and riparian habitats. Wetlands are complex systems; delineating their specific boundaries, functions and values generally takes a level of effort beyond the scope of an Initial Study Biological Assessment (ISBA). The goal of the ISBA with regard to waters and wetlands is simply to identify whether they may exist or not and to determine the potential for impacts to them from the proposed project. This much information can be adequate for designing projects to avoid impacts to waters and wetlands. Additional studies are generally warranted to delineate specific wetland boundaries and to develop recommendations for impact minimization or impact mitigation measures.

Protected waters and/or wetlands were found within the survey area(s).

Waters and Wetlands Summary

Waters 1 (W1)

Originating from the slopes of Butler Hill, from elevations of up to 1053 feet, steep gradient gullies discharge stormwater to the alluvial floodplain of the valley floor, at elevations from 200 to 380 feet. One principal drainage (W1) originating along the northeast boundary of Parcel 5 is channelized upon reaching the valley floor. The "ditch" (W1) flows from the north end of Parcel 4, following southwestward around the southern base of Butler Hill, and discharges into another "ditch" (W3) that originates off-site on the floodplain of the Santa Clara River to the west, ultimately discharging into a series of percolation basins located generally southwest of the Butler Ranch. The latter "ditch" and percolation basins (W3) are shown on the USGS Santa Paula quadrangle map dated 1951. However, the ditch (W1) that now drains flows originating off Butler Hill (W1) is not shown, nor are any other streams so indicated.

The current condition of the stormwater drainage ditch (W1) from the head of the canyon at the north end of Parcel 4 is clearly man-made. The ditch is approximately 8-12 feet wide, incised to about 4 feet deep, with an earthen levee on each side, and occasional armoring with broken concrete, and one concrete "Texas crossing" to facilitate farm equipment. Flows are judged to be ephemeral, only during storm events. No hydrophytic vegetation is present, and no hydric soils are expected in the sandy alluvium. Thus, the stream exhibits one ACOE wetland parameter, namely, hydrology. For these reasons, Waters 1 (W1) is determined to be NOT SIGNIFICANT relative to ecological values and functions, and it is therefore not necessary to assess a minimum setback. The Waters have not been illegally graded or disturbed within the last year. This determination is in compliance with General Plan Biological Resources Policy 1.5.2-4, as this discretionary development would *not* have a significant impact on significant wetland habitat. Nonetheless, the County's standards note that "a wetland that is not deemed to be ecologically significant may still be protected under federal law-even if highly degraded."

Waters 2 (W2)

Another "ditch" (W2) shown on the 1951 USGS map currently exists, in part, across the southwestern portion of the Butler Ranch. However, it appears to have been re-directed westward along the western boundary of the property, and off site. Thus, the remaining portion is evidently cut-off from its original source, and now exists as a historical remnant, but perhaps receiving some sheet flows from the agricultural fields to the north. Evidence of hydrology in the remnant section was unclear, and any flows would be ephemeral. The ditch supports no hydrophytic vegetation, nor any hydric soils. For these reasons, Waters 2 (W2) is determined to be NOT SIGNIFICANT, and it is not necessary to assess a minimum setback. The Waters have not been illegally graded or disturbed within the last year. This determination is in compliance with General Plan Biological Resources Policy 1.5.2-4, as this discretionary development would *not* have a significant impact on significant wetland habitat. Nonetheless, the County's standards note that "a wetland that is not deemed to be ecologically significant may still be protected under federal law-even if highly degraded."

Waters 3 (W3)

The present ditch that follows the western perimeter of the property is completely offsite, and diverts water from the Santa Clara River to a series of percolation basins, also entirely off-site. These exhibit wetland hydrology and vegetation, with open water providing habitat for waterfowl. Therefore, Waters 3 (W3) is determined to be SIGNIFICANT, and a minimum setback of 100 feet is required, in compliance with General Plan Biological Resources Policy 1.5.2-4.

Waters and Wetlands Table

Waters and Wetlands						
Map Key (1)	**Wetland Type (2)**	**Wetland Name (if any)**	**Wetland Status (3) (if known)**	**Wetland Size (4)**	**Hydrologic Status (5)**	**Primary Water Source (6)**
W1	ditch-unpaved	Unnamed	Unregulated/ Unprotected	1.37 ac (assumes avg. 10' width)	dry	precipitation
W2	ditch-unpaved	Unnamed	Unregulated/ Unprotected	0.42 ac. (assumes avg. 4' width)	dry	precipitation
W3	ditch-unpaved/percolation basin	Unnamed	Potentially regulated: USACE, CDFG, General Plan	Not Available, located offsite	flowing/ponded	artificially impounded water

USACE..... U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulated
CDFG..... California Department of Fish & Game regulated
County..... County General Plan protected wetland
WPD..... Co. Watershed Protection District (red-line stream)

Waters and Wetlands (continued)			
Map Key	**County Wetland Significance (7)**	**Wetland Distance from Project (8)**	**Comments (9)**
W1	Not Significant	<50'	Ditch drains ephemeral flows from Butler Hill, through agricultural areas. Does not contain riparian habitat, and is completely channelized with earthen levees and soft bottom.
W2	Not Significant	<50'	Ditch drains agricultural runoff through agricultural areas. Does not contain riparian habitat, and is completely channelized, mostly earthen levees, but short grouted rock-lined segment south of farm residence/compound.
W3	Significant	1,200'	Ditch diverts water from Santa Clara River to percolation basin. All portions located off-site. Supports flowing water, and mostly non-native, herbaceous, but hydrophytic vegetation. Provides habitat for wildlife, mainly waterfowl.

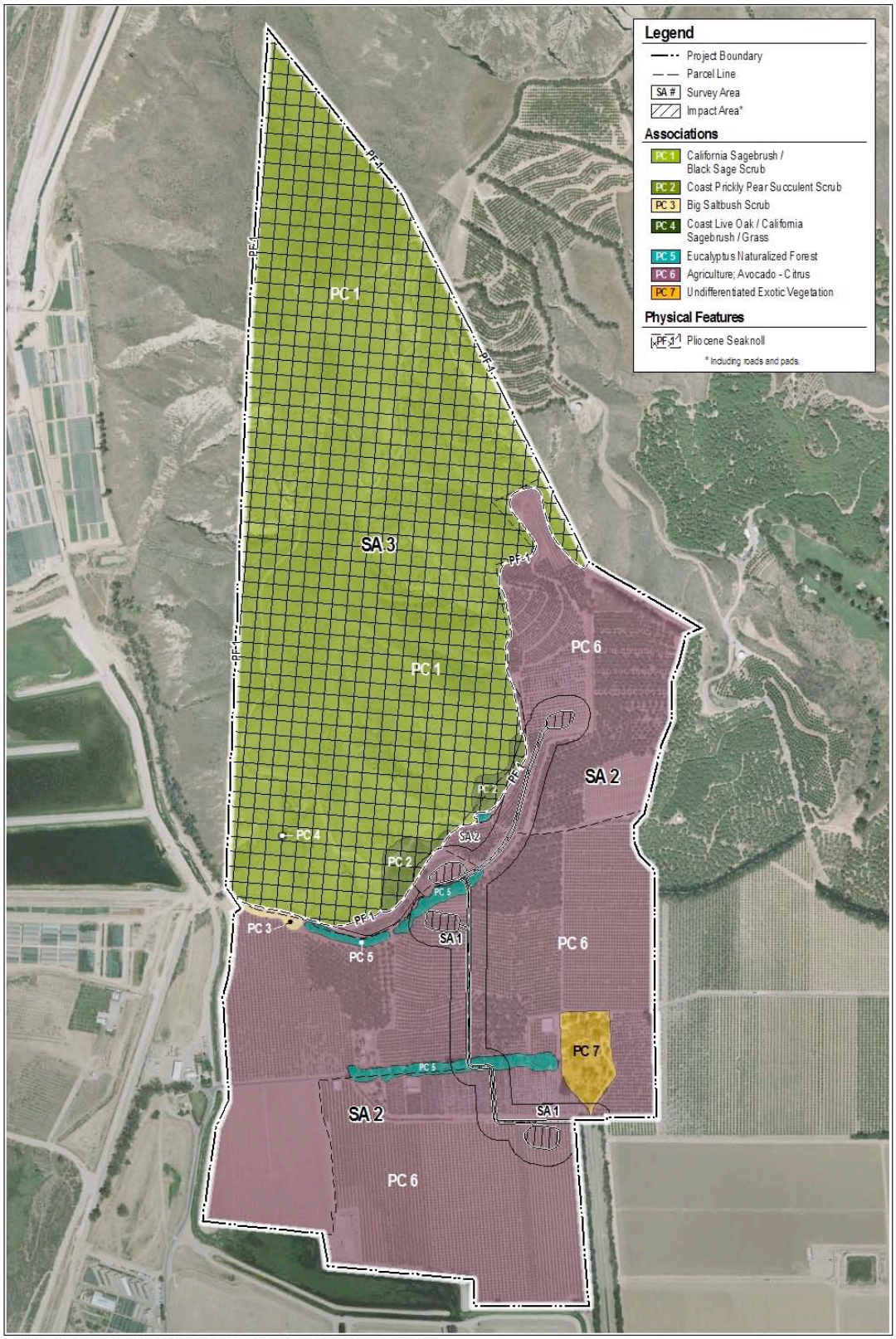
Water/Wetland Buffers Table

Water/Wetland Buffers		
Map Key (1)	**Recommended Buffer (2)**	**Comments**
W1B1	none	Non-significance of habitat values of ephemeral drainage does not warrant General Plan designated 100' wetland buffer to protect its function. No direct impacts to the ditch are proposed to occur..
W2B1	none	Non-significance of habitat values of ephemeral drainage does not warrant General Plan designated 100' wetland buffer to protect its function. No direct impacts to the ditch are proposed to occur.
W3B1	100'	Significant habitat values for waterfowl warrant General Plan designated 100' wetland buffer to protect its function.

Other Areas/Observations

No unpermitted stockpiled materials, buried materials, chemical spills, etc. were observed.

Other Observations		
Map Key (1)	**Describe Features (Violations, other observations, etc.)**	**Comments**
-		



Aerial & Boundary Source: Jensen Design & Survey, November 2008. Plant Communities Source: Envicom Corporation, November 2008.

BIOLOGICAL INITIAL STUDY - SD08-0042

ENVICOM CORPORATION

Plant Communities Map

0 275 550 Feet

FIGURE 2

Aerial & Boundary Source: Jensen Design & Survey, November 2008. Waters / Wetlands Source: Ventura County Wetlands GIS Database, 2008.

BIOLOGICAL INITIAL STUDY - SD08-0042

ENVICOM CORPORATION

Waters and Wetlands Map

FIGURE 3

3.2 Species

Observed Species

Agricultural areas of the site are dedicated to production of Avocado and Citrus, with windrows of *Eucalyptus*. Native trees are absent, and shrubs and herbaceous plants are generally lacking, and primarily exotic species. Observed wildlife are common resident and winter resident birds, and coyote. No special-status plants were observed, and none are expected to occur. Special-status animals were not observed, and would be expected to be limited to infrequent, occasional, or transitory occurrence of migratory bird species, potentially nesting in trees, on rare occasions. Overall diversity of plants is extremely low, with the large majority comprised of non-native species. Overall diversity of animals is low, comprised primarily of native species of birds that are common in the region. A full list of observed species is provided in Appendix 2.

Mountainous terrain of Butler Hill supports natural vegetation of Coastal Sagebrush and Prickly-Pear Cactus scrub. Observed plant species are mostly native, and diversity is moderately high. Wildlife species observed include common resident and winter-resident bird species, and mammals such as desert cottontail, and coyote. Birds-of-prey such as red-tailed hawk were observed, and some uncommon birds such as common poorwill, and greater roadrunner. Special-status species observed included southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, evidence of American badger, and possibly a sensitive land snail of the genus *Helminthoglypta*. Wildlife species are mostly native, with the exception of garden snail, honeybees, and goldfishes in a stock watering tank. Overall condition of the Butler Hill is severely overgrazed in the majority of areas to the south of a fenceline

Endangered, Threatened, Rare, and Locally Important Species and Nests
(Initial Study Checklist A & E)

See Appendix One for definitions of the types of special status species that have federal, state or local protection and for more information on the regulations that protect birds' nests.

Endangered, threatened, rare, or locally important species were observed or have a moderate to high potential to occur within the survey area(s).

Habitat suitable for nests of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act does exist within the survey area(s).

Special Status Species Summary

Background research of Special-Status species potentially occurring within a 5 to 10 mile radius of the Survey Areas was undertaken using the current edition of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and Ventura County's Planning Division GIS layer in BIOS. In addition, the County's List of Locally Important Species was assessed in the context of the potential for their occurrence at the project site. The CNDDB search in the 5 to 10 mile radius indicated occurrence of numerous species for which there is no potential to occur on the project site, based mainly upon habitat considerations. These latter species are not included in the following tables of Observed and Potential Special Status Species.

Observed and Potential Special Status Species Table

Attached to this report is a list of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)-tracked species (point occurrences) that have been documented within a 1-, 5- and 10-mile radius of the project boundaries.

Special Status Species						
Map Key (1)	**Survey/ Source (2)**	**Scientific Name (3)**	**Common Name**	**Species' Status (4)**	**Potential to Occur (5)**	**Habitat Requirements (6)**
SS01	SD3	*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*	Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	SA (Special Animal)	Observed	Resident in southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral. Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SS02	SD3	*Helminthoglypta* sp.		possible SA (Special Animal), or LIS	Observed; shell	For *H. t. traskii*: Known from Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties, also nw Baja. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind]) Habitat requirements of other species (LIC) not described or readily available to non-specialists.
SS03	SD3	*Taxidea taxus neglecta*	American badger	SSC	Observed; diggings	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Need sufficient food, friable soils, and open, uncultivated ground. Prey on burrowing rodents. Dig burrows. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SS04	SD3	*Calochortus catalinae*	Catalina mariposa lily	CNPS4.2	Observed	Valley and foothill grassland, chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland. In heavy soils, open slopes, openings in brush. 30-700m. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP1	CNDDB	*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*	Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE, SE, CNPS1B.1	None	Coastal Salt Marsh. Within reach of high tide or protected by barrier reaches, more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs, 1-35m. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP2	CNDDB	*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	SE	None	Riparian Forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, w/ lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP3	CNDDB	*Danaus plexippus*	monarch butterfly	SA (Special Animal)	Moderate	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree grove (*Eucalyptus*, Monterey Pine, Cypress) with nectar and water sources nearby. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP4	CNDDB	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	least Bell's vireo	FE, SE	None	Summer resident of southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms, below 2000 ft. Nests place along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, *Baccharis*, mesquite. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])

Special Status Species						
Map Key (1)	**Survey/ Source (2)**	**Scientific Name (3)**	**Common Name**	**Species' Status (4)**	**Potential to Occur (5)**	**Habitat Requirements (6)**
SSP5	CNDDB	*Actinemys marmorata pallida*	Southwestern pond turtle	SSC	Low	Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types, below 6000 ft elev. Requires basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks, Need suitable nesting sites. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP6	CNDDB	*Athene cunicularia*	burrowing owl	SSC	Moderate	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent on burrowing mammals, most notably, California ground squirrel.. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP7	CNDDB	*Antrozous pallidus*	pallid bat	SSC	Moderate	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must be protecte from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP8	CNDDB	*Phrynosoma coronatum*	coast horned lizard	SSC	High	Inhabits coastal sage scrub and chaparral in arid and semi-arid climate. Prefers friable, rocky or shallow sandy soils. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP9	CNDDB	*Eremophila alpestris actia*	California horned lark	SA (Special Animal)	Moderate	Coastal regions, chiefly from Sonoma Co to San Diego Co. Also main part of San Joaquin Valley and east to foothills. Short-grass prairie, "bald" hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, alkali flats. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind])
SSP10	TetraTech 2007	*Calochortus clavatus* ssp.	slender, or club-haired mariposa lily, (ssp. unspecified)	CNPS1B.2 (slender) or CNPS 4.3 (club-haired)	Moderate	For *C. clavatus* ssp. *gracilis*: Chaparral, coastal scrub, shaded foothill canyons, often on grassy slopes within other habitat, 420-760m. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind]). Jepson Manual reports ssp. *gracilis* is restricted to San Gabriel Mountains, and CNDDB has no records in Ventura Co. However, Wishner has observed plants referable to this ssp. from several locations in the Santa Susana and Topatopa Mountains of Ventura Co. For *C. clavatus* ssp *c.*: Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, generally on serpentine clay, rocky soils. 75-1300m. (CDFG 2008 [Rarefind]). No records in CNDDB.

Special Status Species (continued)				
Map Key	**Adequate Habitat Onsite**	**Adequate Habitat Size (7)**	**Acreage Impacted**	**Comments (8)**
SS01	Yes	Yes	0.0	Restricted to Butler Hill.
SS02	Yes	Yes	0.0	Restricted to Butler Hill. Information adequate for species determination not readily available to non-specialists.
SS03	Yes	Yes	0.0	Restricted to Butler Hill.
SS04	Yes	Yes	0.0	Restricted to Butler Hill. TetraTech (2007) reports *Calochortus clavatus*. Wishner observed no capsules referable to that taxon. All capsules observed are definitively those of *C. catalinae*.
SSP1	No	No	0.0	Suitable habitat absent.
SSP2	No	No	0.0	Suitable habitat absent.
SSP3	Yes	Yes	0.0	Linear arrangement of *Eucalyptus* windrows may not provide enough wind protection for winter roosting. Expected to forage throughout, and individuals have been observed.
SSP4	No	No	0.0	Suitable habitat absent.
SSP5	No	No	0.0	Suitable habitat absent. Low potential to occur offsite, in adjacent percolation basin.
SSP6	Yes	Yes	0.0	If present, unlikely to utilize cultivated fields, but could nest in levees, and on Butler Hill.
SSP7	Yes	Yes	0.0	If present, could forage throughout site, unlikely to roost except on north slope of Butler Hill.
SSP8	Yes	Yes	0.0	If present, likely to be restricted to Butler Hill.
SSP9	Yes	Yes	0.0	If present, likely to be restricted to Butler Hill.
SSP10	Yes	Yes	0.0	Possible erroneous determination of *C. catalinae* in TetraTech (2007) report. All capsules observed by Wishner are *C. catalinae*. If present, likely to be restricted to Butler Hill.

FE ..... Federal Endangered
FT ..... Federal Threatened
FC ..... Federal Candidate Species
FSC ..... Federal Species of Concern
SFP ..... California Fully Protected Species
SE ..... California Endangered
ST ..... California Threatened
SR ..... California Rare
SSC ..... California Species of Special Concern
CDFG/NatureServe Rank
G1 or S1 - Critically Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
G2 or S2 - Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
G3 or S3 - Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or Subnationally (state)
CNPS 1A ..... California Native Plant Society listed as presumed to be extinct
CNPS 1B ..... California Native Plant Society listed as rare or endangered in California and elsewhere
CNPS 2 ..... California Native Plant Society listed as rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
CNPS 3 ..... **A review list only.** California Native Plant Society listed as in need of more information.
CNPS 4 ..... **A watch list only**. California Native Plant Society listed as of limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California; vulnerability to threat appears relatively low.
LIS ..... Locally Important Species

Nesting Bird Summary

There is potential for the nesting of birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act to be present in the survey areas. This is because there are a large number of species so listed by MTBA, and many of these are known to nest in coastal Ventura County. The potential varies with the many species

involved. The following is a list of potentially nesting bird species of the Survey Areas, which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and that are reported as nesting bird species of coastal Ventura County, derived from California's Wildlife Volume II Birds (Zeiner et al. [eds.] 1990.). Typical locations of nests are also provided.

Turkey vulture: cliffs, ledges, trees

White-tailed kite; trees

Cooper's hawk: trees

Red-shouldered hawk, trees

Red-tailed hawk: trees

Golden eagle: cliffs

American kestrel: trees, crevices, cliffs, buildings.

Virginia rail; on ground, marshland

American coot: over water, marshland

Killdeer: on ground, pastures, riverbeds, roadsides, golf courses, etc.

Spotted sandpiper: ground, vicinity rivers, lakes, ponds

Forster's tern: open levees and low islands in lakes, saltponds

Band-tailed pigeon: tree

Mourning dove: trees, ground

Greater roadrunner: low trees, shrubs

Barn owl: ledges, crevices, buildings, culverts, burrows, trees, nest boxes

Western screech-owl: trees (obligate secondary cavity nester)

Great horned owl: caves, crevices, cliffs, trees

Burrowing owl: burrows, pipes, culverts, nest boxes

Common poorwill: ground

White-throated swift: deep crevices on rocky cliff, tall buildings

Black-chinned hummingbird: trees, shrubs

Anna's hummingbird: trees, shrubs

Costa's hummingbird: shrubs, trees

Allen's hummingbird: trees

Belted kingfisher: burrows, tree cavity

Nuttall's woodpecker: trees

Downy woodpecker: trees

Northern flicker: trees, poles, banks

Western wood pewee: trees

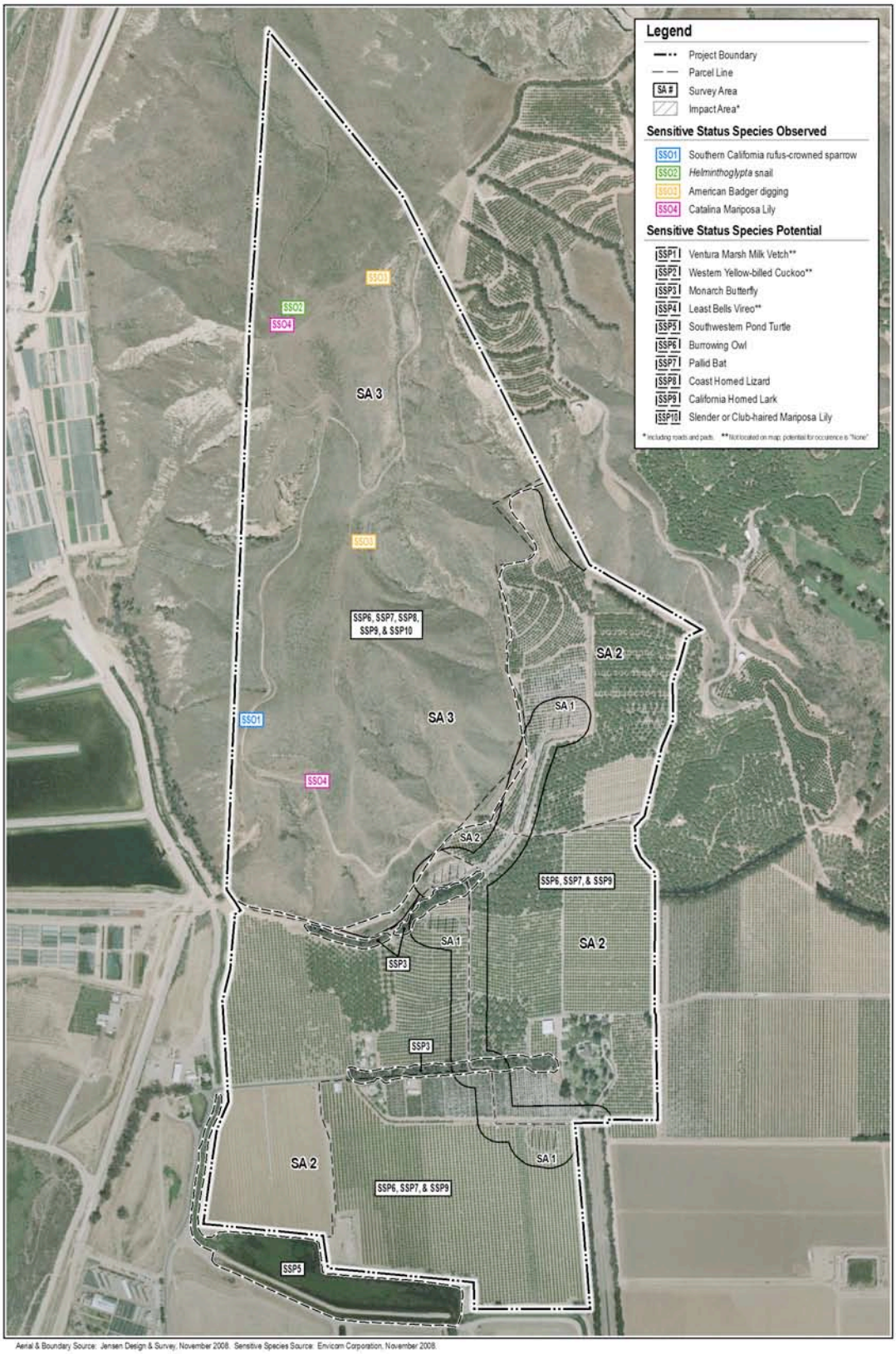
Pacific slope and Cordilleran flycatcher: trees, cliffs, buildings

Black phoebe: cliffs, buildings, bridges, eaves

Ash-throated flycatcher: trees, nest boxes, posts, pipes, culverts, etc.

Cassin’s kingbird: trees
Western kingbird: trees, shrubs
Horned lark: ground
Tree swallow: trees, cliffs, nest boxes, buildings, etc.
Violet-green swallow: trees, cliffs, rocks, nest boxes, structures
Northern rough-winged swallow: banks, cliffs
Cliff swallow: buildings, bridges, cliffs, trees
Barn swallow: bridges, cliffs, banks, buildings, etc.
Western scrub-jay: trees, shrubs
American crow: trees, poles, shrubs, ground
Common raven: trees, cliffs
Oak titmouse: trees, nest boxes
Bushtit: trees, shrubs
White-breasted nuthatch: trees
Brown creeper: trees
Cactus wren: cacti, shrubs, small trees
Rock wren: rocks, cliffs, banks
Canyon wren: cliffs, banks, ledges, structures
Bewick’s wren: ground, cavity, cliffs, ledges, structures
House wren: cavity, crevice, trees, buildings
Blue-gray gnatcatcher: shrubs, low trees
Western bluebird: trees, cavity, nest boxes
Swainson’s thrush: trees
American robin: trees, large shrubs, ground
Northern mockingbird: trees: shrubs
California thrasher: shrubs, trees
Phainopepla: trees, shrubs
Loggerhead shrike: trees, shrubs
Least Bell’s vireo: shrubs, trees
Hutton’s vireo: trees, shrubs
Warbling vireo: shrubs, trees
Orange-crowned warbler: shrubs, trees
Yellow warbler: trees, shrubs
Black-throated gray warbler: shrubs, small trees
Common yellowthroat: ground, shrubs
Yellow-breasted chat: shrubs

Western tanager; trees, shrubs
Black-headed grosbeak: trees, shrubs
Blue grosbeak: trees, shrubs
Lazuli bunting: shrubs, low trees
Spotted towhee: ground, shrubs
California towhee: shrubs, trees
Rufous-crowned sparrow: ground, shrubs
Lark sparrow: ground, shrubs, trees
Sage sparrow: ground, shrubs
Savannah sparrow: ground
Grasshopper sparrow: ground
Song sparrow: ground, shrubs, small trees
Dark-eyed junco: ground, shrubs, trees
Red-winged blackbird: thickets in marshland
Tricolored blackbird: thickets in marshland
Western meadowlark: ground
Yellow-headed blackbird: thickets in marshland
Brewer's blackbird: meadow, grassland, cropland, urban, ground, trees,
Great-tailed grackle: trees, shrubs, thickets
Brown-headed cowbird: trees, shrubs, ground
Hooded oriole: trees
Bullock's oriole: trees
House finch: trees, shrubs, structures
Lesser goldfinch: shrubs, trees
Lawrence's goldfinch: trees, shrubs
American goldfinch: trees, shrubs



Aerial & Boundary Source: Jensen Design & Survey, November 2008. Sensitive Species Source: Envicom Corporation, November 2008.

BIOLOGICAL INITIAL STUDY - SD08-0042

ENVICOM CORPORATION

Sensitive Species Map

0 275 550 Feet

FIGURE 4

3.3 Wildlife Movement and Connectivity
(Initial Study Checklist D)

Wildlife movement or connectivity features, or evidence thereof, were not found within the survey area(s).

Mapped Corridors or Linkages

A mapped Corridor or linkage lies in the immediate vicinity, to the west, in the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, as identified both by the County's GIS layer in BIOS, and by the South Coast Wildlands' publication titled *South Coast Missing Linkages Project: A Linkage Design for the Santa Monica Mountains-Sierra Madre Connection* (2006).

Connectivity Feature 1 (C1)

A mapped Landscape Linkage lies approximately 700 feet west of the the survey area, in the floodplain of the Santa Clara River, and with agricultural lands in the intervening area. The remainder of the mapped Landscape Linkage lies more than 1,200 feet from the northwestern boundary of the survey area. No portion thereof is located on the project site or subject property.

Connectivity Feature

The feature is mapped as a Linkage.

Description

Floodplain of the Santa Clara River

Species Observed

The linkage, located entirely offsite, was not surveyed as part of this IS.

Evidence

No observations were made in the mapped linkage as part of this IS.

Functional Group/Species Expected

Expected Functional Groups include large mammals, medium mammals, small mammals, birds and bats, aquatic/riparian reptiles and amphibians, upland reptiles, and mesopredators. In addition, the movement of aquatic invertebrates and fishes would also be facilitated by this linkage.

Habitats Connected

This connectivity feature links coastal and inland habitats along the Santa Clara River.

Discussion

No additional relevant information about the connectivity feature is provided.

Crossing Structures Table

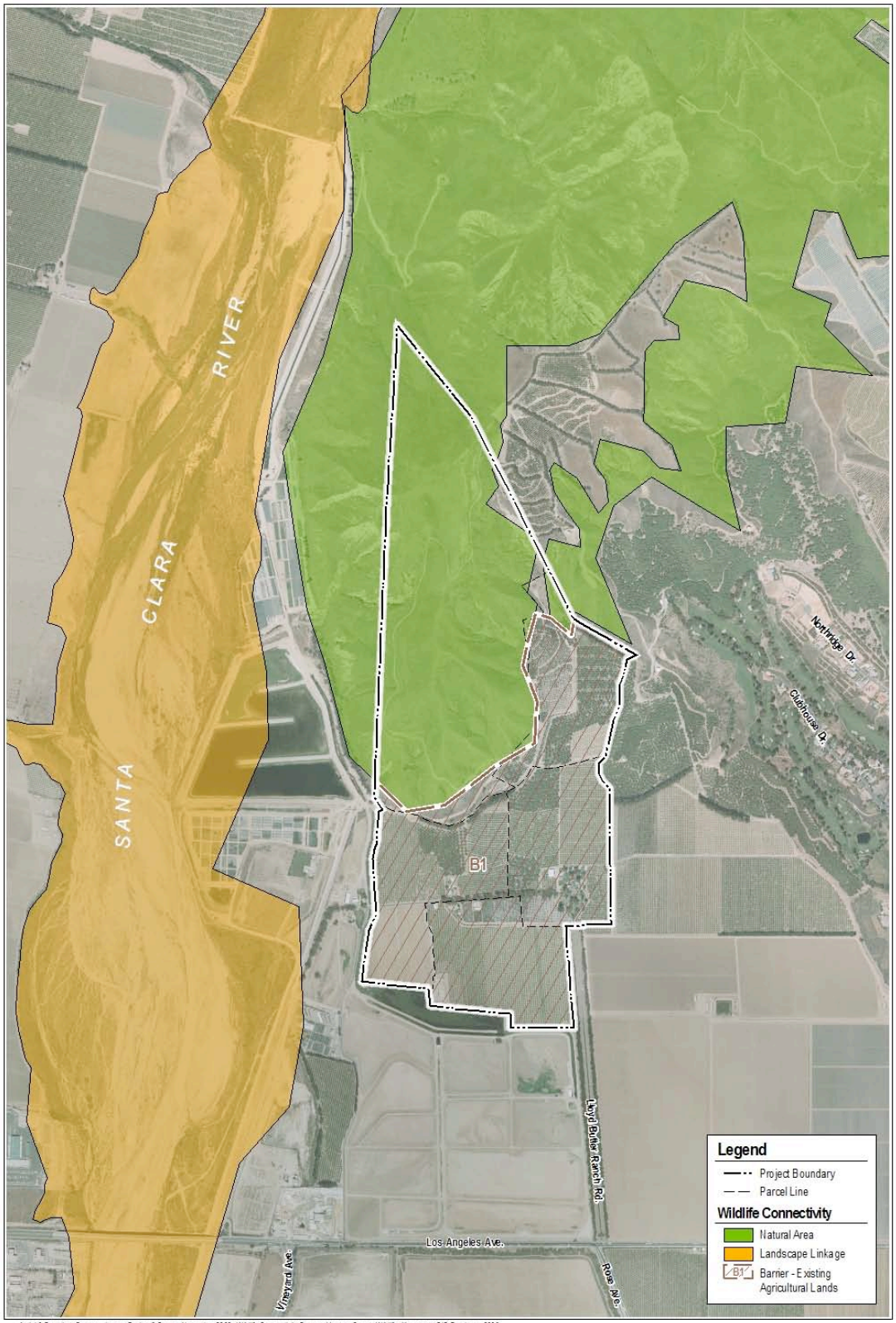
No existing or proposed crossing structures are located within or adjacent to the survey area.

Crossing Structures						
Map Key (1)	**Type of Crossing Structure (2)**	**Passable? (3)**	**Functional Group/Species Expected (4)**	**Species Observed (5)**	**Evidence**	**Comments**
None						

Connectivity Barriers Table

The existing agricultural lands of the project site and surrounding area constitute a connectivity barrier.

Barriers			
Map Key (1)	**Barrier Type (2)**	**Species/Functional Groups Affected (3)**	**Comments (4)**
B1	Existing Agricultural Land	Large, medium and small mammals	The agricultural lands are surrounded to south, and east by similar agricultural lands, with many fences and roadways, and no destination habitat areas.



Aerial & Boundary Source: Jensen Design & Survey, November 2008. Wildlife Connectivity Source: Ventura County Wildlife_Movement GIS Database, 2008.

BIOLOGICAL INITIAL STUDY - SD08-0042

ENVICOM CORPORATION

Wildlife Connectivity Map

0 500 1,000 Feet

FIGURE 5

Section 4: Impact Assessment & Mitigation

4.1 Sufficiency of Biological Data

No Additional information is needed to make CEQA findings and develop mitigation measures.

4.2 Impacts and Mitigation

A. Endangered, Threatened, or Rare Animal or Plant Species, or Their Habitats

Project: PS-M; Cumulative: PS-M

Potentially Significant, But Mitigable Impacts to Endangered, Threatened and Locally Important Species, could result from possible disruption of nesting birds. This impact is most likely to occur during grading and construction phases of the project. The effects of fire hazard brush clearance requirements, roads, and water and sewer lines are not likely to affect nesting birds.

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Code (3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513 and 3800) protect most native birds. In addition, the federal and state endangered species acts protect some bird species listed as threatened or endangered. Project-related impacts to birds protected by these regulations would occur during the breeding season, because unlike adult birds, eggs and chicks are unable to escape impacts.

The MBTA implements various treaties and conventions between the U.S. and Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia for the protection of migratory birds, which occur in two of these countries over the course of one year. The Act maintains that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not. Bird species protected under the provisions of the MBTA are identified by the List of Migratory Birds (Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.13 as updated by the 1983 American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist and published supplements through 1995 by the USFWS).

CDFG Code 3513 upholds the MBTA by prohibiting any take or possession of birds that are designated by the MBTA as migratory nongame birds except as allowed by federal rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the MBTA. In addition, there are CDFG Codes (3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3800), which further protect nesting birds and their parts, including passerine birds, raptors, and state “fully protected” birds.

NOTE: These regulations protect almost all *native nesting birds*, not just sensitive status birds.

MM1:

Impact & Mitigation Goal:

Avoidance of the potentially significant impacts .to nesting birds

Mitigation Action:

Appropriate timing of grading and construction to the period between August 1 and December 31, or by pre-construction surveys to detect and avoid nesting birds during the nesting season between January 1 and July 31.

Monitoring & Timing:

Pre-grading and construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted in all areas within 500 feet of impact areas, and performed by qualified persons not more than fourteen (14) days prior to grading or construction. The Biologist shall provide recommendations for avoidance of impacts to nesting birds for County approval not less than seven (7) days prior to commencement of planned grading and construction.

Standard of Success:

No harm or disruption of nesting birds shall occur in violation of Fish and Game Code (3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513 and 3800.

Mapped Information:

The implementation and monitoring of this mitigation necessitates that any nests found during pre-grading and construction surveys shall be spatially referenced. Such nests and surrounding buffer for avoidance of impacts shall be mapped on the Site Map, and provided to grading and construction contractors prior to commencement of their work. Biologist shall be on-site at the beginning of the day of grading, and throughout that period, to monitor that activity.

Potentially Significant, But Mitigable Impacts to Endangered, Threatened and Locally Important Species, and their Habitats could result from alternative design and location of development, other than the single-family residence proposed, on Parcel 5, substantially comprising Butler Hill. Broad habitat areas of mobile animal species including Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow and American badger are known. Figure 6 shows the areas of Parcel 5 on Butler Hill, which support the highest biological resource values. Based upon the biologist's observation of the conditions at the time of the field surveys, these areas would be most suitable for application of a RESTRICTIVE COVENANT, in order to protect those resource values.

MM2:

Impact & Mitigation Goal:

Avoidance of the potentially significant impacts to Endangered, Threatened and Locally Important Species, and their Habitats.

Mitigation Action:

Prior to recordation of the final map, the applicant shall record a RESTRICTIVE COVENANT (RC) on the portions of the property mapped in Figure 6. The RC shall restrict activities that would disturb sensitive species and/or habitat in the RC, with the exception of existing uses such as grazing, keeping of cattle or livestock and maintenance of existing facilities and roads.

Future requests to amend or remove the RC shall include a recent biological survey prepared by a qualified biological consultant to determine the presence of special-status biological resources within the RC area, and the potential for the proposed amendment to significantly impact special-status biological resources. If the biologist concludes that the proposed amendment would result in significant impacts, a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) shall be provided to the Planning Division along with the biology report. The HMMP shall identify feasible mitigation measures that include replacement ratios for species or habitat, performance standards, and monitoring/reporting requirements that are specific to the impacted special-status species. If the proposed action would not result in significant impacts, or if compliance with the HMMP would reduce significant impacts to a less than significant level, the RC may be amended or removed at the discretion of the Planning Director.

Monitoring and Timing:

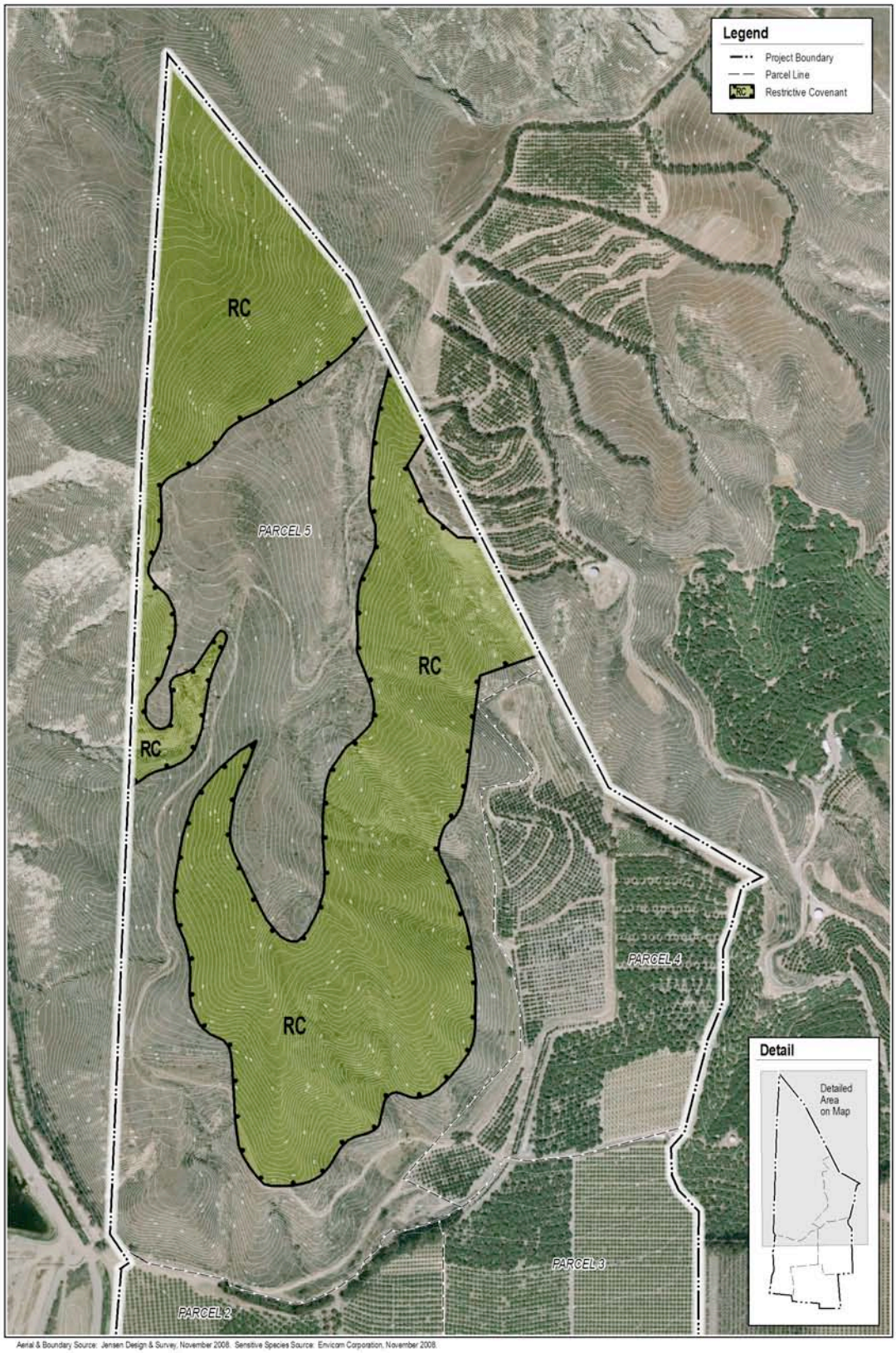
Prior to recordation of the final map.

Standard of Success:

Recordation of the final map whereby the property owner agrees to declare and establish the Restrictive Covenant.

Mapped Information:

The area of the Restrictive Covenant shall apply to the area shown in Figure 6 of this document.



Aerial & Boundary Source: Jensen Design & Survey, November 2008. Sensitive Species Source: Envicom Corporation, November 2008.

BIOLOGICAL INITIAL STUDY - SD08-0042

ENVICOM CORPORATION

Restrictive Covenant on Parcel 5

0 200 400 Feet

R2-05 6

B. Wetland Habitats Project: LS; Cumulative: LS

The proposed project is located in close proximity to identified NOT SIGNIFICANT Waters 1 and 2 (W1, W2), for which buffers are not deemed necessary. Furthermore, no direct impacts to these waters would occur. In one instance, a crossing of W1 is proposed, however, this could easily be accomplished by a short span of a bridge, located entirely outside the banks of that ephemeral drainage ditch, with no impacts thereto. Should the crossing be designed in a way that would alter, divert or dam the ditch, the Applicant shall consult with CDFG regarding the need for a Streambed Alteration Agreement. All project components are located a considerable distance from SIGNIFICANT Waters 3 (W3), which are entirely offsite.

C. Coastal Habitats Project: N; Cumulative: N

The project site is not located within or adjacent to the coastal zone, nor is there significant habitat connectivity between the survey area and the coastal zone.

D. Wildlife Movement and Connectivity (migration corridors) Project: N; Cumulative: N

The proposed project is not located in close proximity to identified Connectivity Features.

The identified Santa Clara River Landscape Linkage is located approximately 700 feet from the westernmost corner of the subject property, with agricultural lands located in the intervening area (see Figure 5). The remainder of the identified Landscape Linkage is more than 1,200 feet from the northwestern boundary of the subject property.

E. Locally Important Species/Communities Project: LS; Cumulative: LS

Among the List of Ventura County Locally Important Species of Plants, none are known to occur, and only Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) and rayless ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*) have some Low potential to occur in areas of Butler Hill, away from proposed project activities. Among Locally Important Species of Animals, none of the listed Amphibians, Birds, or Fishes have *any* potential to occur on the project site. Several Locally Important Reptile species (all are snakes), have potential to occur only in areas of Butler Hill, away from proposed project activities. One Locally Important Mammal species, hoary bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), the most widespread North American bat (Zeiner et al. 1990), could potentially forage aerially anywhere over the project site, and possibly roost in dense foliage of medium to large trees, but it is unlikely to be affected by any proposed project activities. Among invertebrates, the observed shell of an undetermined *Helminthoglypta* is possibly a Locally Important Species, However, its occurrence is away from proposed project activities, and would be unaffected.

Proposed activity in close proximity to mapped Prickly pear succulent scrub is expected to result in a Less than Significant Impact to a Locally Important Community. Ventura County has *not* developed a list of Locally Important Communities. Furthermore, the County's "Initial Study Assessment Guidelines defines a Locally Important Community as one that is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region, with that determination made on a case-by-case basis." Although the Department of Fish and Game's List of Alliances (2007) ranks the status of *Opuntia littoralis* Alliance as G4S3, and therefore, would "be considered of high inventory priority" by

that agency, the present qualified biologist, Mr. Wishner, does not consider the occurrence here at this location “to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region,” Thus, it does not meet the criterion of a Locally Important Community. Moreover, direct impacts (grading) would not occur, and indirect impacts (fuel modification) would be unlikely to be necessary, because the community is sufficiently distant (>50 ft) from the proposed structure location, and the plant community does not represent a serious fire hazard.

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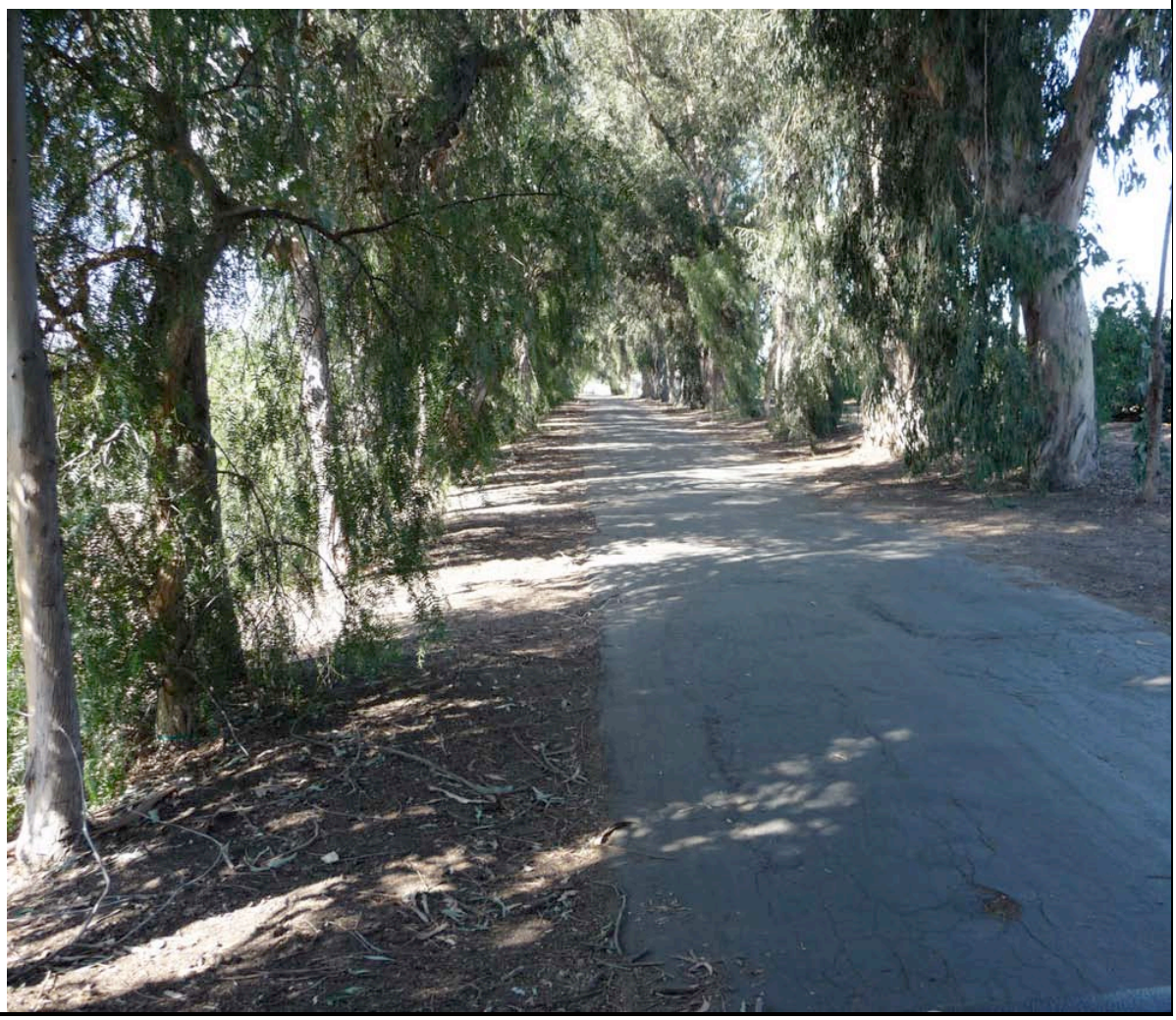
Section 5: Conditions of Approval

Conditions of Approval

No conditions are necessary to be applied independent of mitigating specific impacts under Items A and E, above.

Section 6: Photos

Photos	
Location	
Map Key	
P1	
View Direction	
South	
Description	
Agricultural area of proposed pad	

Location	
	
Map Key	
P2	
View Direction	
West	
Description	
Existing roadway to service proposed houses.	

Location	
	
Map Key	
P3	
View Direction	
North	
Description	
Proposed roadway to service proposed houses.	

Location	
	
Map Key	
P4	
View Direction	
Southwest	
Description	
Agricultural area of proposed pad	

Location	
	
Map Key	
P5	
View Direction	
Northwest	
Description	
Disturbed area of proposed pad.	

Location	
	
Map Key	
P6	
View Direction	
Northeast	
Description	
Agricultural area of proposed pad and access roadway	

Location	
	
Map Key	
P7	
View Direction	
North	
Description	
West Slope of Butler Hill.	

Location	
	
Map Key	
P8	
View Direction	
South	
Description	
Ridgeline of Butler Hill.	

P9	
View Direction	
South-southeast	
Description	
West Slope of Butler Hill..	

Location	
Map Key	
P10	
View Direction	
Southeast	
Description	
Northwest slope of Butler Hill in northern, ungrazed portion..	

Appendix 1

Summary of Biological Resource Regulations

Appendix One

Summary of Biological Resource Regulations

The Ventura County Planning Division, as “lead agency” under CEQA for issuing discretionary land use permits, uses the relationship of a potential environmental effect from a proposed project to an established regulatory standard to determine the significance of the potential environmental effect. This Appendix summarizes important biological resource regulations which are used by the Division’s biologists (consultants and staff) in making CEQA findings of significance:

- Sensitive Status Species Regulations
- Nesting Bird Regulations
- Plant Community Regulations
- Waters and Wetlands Regulations
- Coastal Habitat Regulations
- Wildlife Migration Regulations
- Locally Important Species/Communities Regulations

Sensitive Status Species Regulations

Federally Protected Species

Ventura County is home to 29 federally listed endangered and threatened plant and wildlife species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulates the protection of federally listed endangered and threatened plant and wildlife species.

FE (Federally Endangered): A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

FT (Federally Threatened): A species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

FC (Federal Candidate): A species for which USFWS has sufficient information on its biological status and threats to propose it as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities.

FSC (Federal Species of Concern): A species under consideration for listing, for which there is insufficient information to support listing at this time. These species may or may not be listed in the future, and many of these species were formerly recognized as "Category-2 Candidate” species.

The USFWS requires permits for the ‘taking’ of any federally listed endangered or threatened species. Take is defined by the USFWS as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct; may include significant habitat modification or degradation if it kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.”

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not provide statutory protection for candidate species or species of concern, but USFWS encourages conservation efforts to protect these species. USFWS can set up voluntary Candidate Conservation Agreements and Assurances, which provide non-Federal landowners (public and private) with the assurance that if they implement various conservation activities to protect a given candidate species, they will not be subject to additional restrictions if the species becomes listed under the ESA.

State Protected Species

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) regulates the protection of endangered, threatened, and fully protected species listed under the California Endangered Species Act. Some species may be jointly listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts.

SE (California Endangered): A native species or subspecies which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease.

ST (California Threatened): A native species or subspecies that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required by this chapter. Any animal determined by the commission as "rare" on or before January 1, 1985, is a "threatened species."

SFP (California Fully Protected Species): This designation originated from the State's initial effort in the 1960's to identify and provide additional protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction. Lists were created for fish, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. Most fully protected species have also been listed as threatened or endangered species under the more recent endangered species laws and regulations.

SR (California Rare): A species, subspecies, or variety of plant is rare under the Native Plant Protection Act when, although not presently threatened with extinction, it is in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. Animals are no longer listed as rare; all animals listed as rare before 1985 have been listed as threatened.

SSC (California Species of Special Concern): Animals that are not listed under the California Endangered Species Act, but which nonetheless 1) are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or 2) historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist.

The CDFG requires permits for the taking of any State-listed endangered, threatened, or fully protected species. Section 2080 of the Fish and Game Code prohibits "take" of any species that the California Fish and Game Commission determines to be endangered or threatened. Take is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

The California Native Plant Protection Act protects endangered and rare plants of California. Section 1908, which regulates plants listed under this act, states: “no person shall import into this state, or take, possess, or sell within this state, except as incident to the possession or sale of the real property on which the plant is growing, any native plant, or any part or product thereof, that the commission determines to be an endangered native plant or rare native plant, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.”

The California Endangered Species Act does not provide statutory protection for California species of special concern, but they should be considered during the environmental review process.

California Native Plant Society Listed Species

Plants with CNPS listings 1A, 1B and 2 should always be addressed in CEQA documents. Plants with CNPS listings 3 and 4 do not explicitly qualify for legal protection, but can be addressed in CEQA documents depending on the circumstances and opinion of the biologist conducting the assessment.

CNPS 1A: Plants presumed to be extinct because they have not been seen or collected in the wild in California for many years. This list includes plants that are both presumed extinct in California, as well as those plants which are presumed extirpated in California. A plant is extinct in California if it no longer occurs in or outside of California. A plant that is extirpated from California has been eliminated from California, but may still occur elsewhere in its range.

CNPS 1B: Plants that are rare throughout their range with the majority of them endemic to California. Most of the plants of List 1B have declined significantly over the last century.

CNPS 2: Plants that are rare throughout their range in California, but are common beyond the boundaries of California. List 2 recognizes the importance of protecting the geographic range of widespread species.

Plants identified on CNPS Lists 1A, 1B, and 2 meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. They should be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.

CNPS 3: A review list for plants for which there is inadequate information to assign them to one of the other lists or to reject them.

CNPS 4: A watch list for plants that are of limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California and their vulnerability or susceptibility to threat appears relatively low at this time.

Global and Subnational Rankings

Though not associated directly with legal protections, species have been given a conservation status rank by NatureServe, an international non-profit conservation organization that is the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. The Ventura County Planning Division considers the following ranks as sensitive for the purposes of CEQA impact assessment (G = Global, S = Subnational or State):

G1 or S1 - Critically Imperiled
G2 or S2 – Imperiled
G3 or S3 - Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction

Locally Important Species

Locally important species' protections are addressed in a separate Appendix document, "Locally Important Species/Communities Regulations."

For lists of some of the species in Ventura County that are protected by the above regulations, go to www.ventura.org/rma/planning/bio_resources/index.htm.

Nesting Bird Regulations

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Code (3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513 and 3800) protect most native birds. In addition, the federal and state endangered species acts protect some bird species listed as threatened or endangered. Project-related impacts to birds protected by these regulations would occur during the breeding season, because unlike adult birds, eggs and chicks are unable to escape impacts.

The MBTA implements various treaties and conventions between the U.S. and Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia for the protection of migratory birds, which occur in two of these countries over the course of one year. The Act maintains that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not. Bird species protected under the provisions of the MBTA are identified by the List of Migratory Birds (Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.13 as updated by the 1983 American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist and published supplements through 1995 by the USFWS).

CDFG Code 3513 upholds the MBTA by prohibiting any take or possession of birds that are designated by the MBTA as migratory nongame birds except as allowed by federal rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the MBTA. In addition, there are CDFG Codes (3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3800) which further protect nesting birds and their parts, including passerine birds, raptors, and state "fully protected" birds.

NOTE: These regulations protect almost all *native nesting birds*, not just sensitive status birds.

Plant Community Regulations

Plant communities are provided legal protection when they provide habitat for protected species, when the community is in the coastal zone and qualifies as environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA), or when the community qualifies as locally important.

Global and Subnational Rankings

Though not associated directly with legal protections, plant communities have been given a conservation status rank by NatureServe, an international non-profit conservation organization that is the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. The Ventura County Planning Division considers the following ranks as sensitive for the purposes of CEQA impact assessment (G = Global, S = Subnational or State):

G1 or S1 - Critically Imperiled
G2 or S2 - Imperiled
G3 or S3 - Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction

CDFG Rare

Rare natural communities are those communities that are of highly limited distribution. These communities may or may not contain rare, threatened, or endangered species. Though the Native Plant Protection Act and the California Endangered Species Act provide no legal protection to plant communities, CDFG considers plant communities that are ranked G1-G3 or S1-S3 (as defined above) to be rare or sensitive, and therefore these plant communities should be addressed during CEQA review.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas

The Coastal Act specifically calls for protection of "environmentally sensitive habitat areas" or ESHA, which it defines as: "Any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments" (Section 30107.5).

ESHA has been specifically defined in the Santa Monica Mountains. For projects in this location, the Coastal Commission, the agency charged with administering the Coastal Act, has developed a specific three-part test for determining whether habitat there should be considered coastal sage scrub/chaparral ESHA. A memo from a Coastal Commission biologist outlining this test can be found at: www.ventura.org/rma/planning/pdf/bio_resources/ESHA_Santa_Monica_Mountains.pdf.

Locally Important Communities

The Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines defines a locally important community as one that is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region, with this determination being made on a case-by-case basis. The County has not developed a list of locally important communities, but has deemed oak woodlands to be a locally important community.

Waters and Wetlands Regulations

Numerous agencies control what can and cannot be done in or around streams and wetlands. If a project affects an area where water flows, ponds or is present even part of the year, it is likely to be regulated by one or more agencies. Many wetland or stream projects will require three main permits or approvals (in addition to CEQA compliance). These are:

- 404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- 401 Certification (Regional Water Quality Control Board)
- Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Game)

In addition, the Ventura County General Plan calls for protection of wetlands and there are several other federal, state and local permits that could be required when a project involves disturbance to wetlands or waters. For a more thorough explanation of wetland permitting, see the Ventura County's "Wetland Project Permitting Guide" at www.ventura.org/rma/planning/pdf/prog_servs/bio_resources/FinalPDF.pdf.

404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Most projects that involve streams or wetlands will require a 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act is the primary federal program regulating activities in wetlands. The Act regulates areas defined as "waters of the United States." This includes streams, wetlands in or next to streams, areas influenced by tides, navigable waters, lakes, reservoirs and other impoundments. For nontidal waters, USACE jurisdiction extends up to what is referred to as the "ordinary high water mark" as well as to the landward limits of adjacent Corps-defined wetlands, if present. The ordinary high water mark is an identifiable natural line visible on the bank of a stream or water body that shows the upper limit of typical stream flow or water level. The mark is made from the action of water on the streambank over the course of years.

Permit Triggers: A USACE 404 Permit is triggered by moving (discharging) or placing materials—such as dirt, rock, geotextiles, concrete or culverts—into or within USACE jurisdictional areas. This type of activity is also referred to as a "discharge of dredged or fill material."

401 Certification (Regional Water Quality Control Board)

If your project requires a USACE 404 Permit, then you will also need a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 401 Certification. The federal Clean Water Act, in Section 401, specifies that states must certify that any activity subject to a permit issued by a federal agency, such as the USACE, meets all state water quality standards. In California, the state and regional water boards are responsible for certification of activities subject to USACE Section 404 Permits.

Permit Trigger: A RWQCB 401 Certification is triggered whenever a USACE 404 Permit is required, or whenever an activity could cause a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. or wetlands.

Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Game)

If your project includes alteration of the bed, banks or channel of a stream, or the adjacent riparian vegetation, then you may need a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The California Fish and Game Code, Sections 1600-1616, regulates activities that would alter the flow, bed, banks, channel or associated riparian areas of a river, stream or lake—all considered "waters of the state." The law requires any person, state or local governmental agency or public utility to notify CDFG before beginning an activity that will substantially modify a river, stream or lake.

Permit Triggers: A Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) is triggered when a project involves altering a stream or disturbing riparian vegetation, including any of the following activities:

- Substantially obstructing or diverting the natural flow of a river, stream or lake
- Using any material from these areas
- Disposing of waste where it can move into these areas

Some projects that involve routine maintenance may qualify for long-term maintenance agreements from CDFG. Discuss this option with CDFG staff.

Ventura County General Plan

The Ventura County General Plan contains policies which also strongly protect wetland habitats.

Biological Resources Policy 1.5.2-3 states**:**

Discretionary development that is proposed to be located within 300 feet of a marsh, small wash, intermittent lake, intermittent stream, spring, or perennial stream (as identified on the latest USGS 7½ minute quad map), shall be

evaluated by a County approved biologist for potential impacts on wetland habitats. Discretionary development that would have a significant impact on significant wetland habitats shall be prohibited, unless mitigation measures are adopted that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level; or for lands designated "Urban" or "Existing Community", a statement of overriding considerations is adopted by the decision-making body.

Biological Resources Policy 1.5.2-4 states:

Discretionary development shall be sited a minimum of 100 feet from significant wetland habitats to mitigate the potential impacts on said habitats. Buffer areas may be increased or decreased upon evaluation and recommendation by a qualified biologist and approval by the decision-making body. Factors to be used in determining adjustment of the 100 foot buffer include soil type, slope stability, drainage patterns, presence or absence of endangered, threatened or rare plants or animals, and compatibility of the proposed development with the wildlife use of the wetland habitat area. The requirement of a buffer (setback) shall not preclude the use of replacement as a mitigation when there is no other feasible alternative to allowing a permitted use, and if the replacement results in no net loss of wetland habitat. Such replacement shall be "in kind" (i.e. same type and acreage), and provide wetland habitat of comparable biological value. On-site replacement shall be preferred wherever possible. The replacement plan shall be developed in consultation with California Department of Fish and Game.

Coastal Habitat Regulations

Ventura County's Coastal Area Plan and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance, which constitute the "Local Coastal Program" (LCP) for the unincorporated portions of Ventura County's coastal zone, ensure that the County's land use plans, zoning ordinances, zoning maps, and implemented actions meet the requirements of, and implement the provisions and polices of California's 1976 Coastal Act at the local level.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitats

The Coastal Act specifically calls for protection of "environmentally sensitive habitat areas" or ESHA, which it defines as: "Any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments" (Section 30107.5).
Section 30240 of the Coastal Act states:

(a) "Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on such resources shall be allowed within such areas."

(b) "Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade such areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas."

There are three important elements to the definition of ESHA. First, a geographic area can be designated ESHA either because of the presence of individual species of plants or animals or because of the presence of a particular habitat. Second, in order for an area to be designated as ESHA, the species or habitat must be either rare or it must be especially valuable. Finally, the area must be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities.

Protection of ESHA is of particular concern in the southeastern part of Ventura County, where the coastal zone extends inland (~5 miles) to include an extensive area of the Santa Monica Mountains. The Coastal Commission, the agency charged with administering the Coastal Act, developed a specific three-part test for determining whether habitat in the Malibu area of the Santa Monica Mountains should be considered coastal sage scrub/chaparral ESHA. Given that Malibu is immediately adjacent to the Ventura County part of the Santa Monica Mountains, this three-part test can be used for assessing whether coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat in the Ventura County coastal zone meets the definition of ESHA. A memo from a Coastal Commission biologist outlines this test and can be found at: www.ventura.org/rma/planning/pdf/bio_resources/ESHA_Santa_Monica_Mountains.pdf.

The County's Local Coastal Program outlines other specific protections to environmentally sensitive habitats in the Coastal Zone, such as to wetlands, riparian habitats and dunes. Protections in some cases are different for different segments of the coastal zone.

Copies of the Coastal Area Plan and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance can be found at: www.ventura.org/rma/planning/programs_services/local_coast/local_coast.htm.

Wildlife Migration Regulations

The Ventura County General Plan specifically includes wildlife migration corridors as an element of the region's significant biological resources. In addition, protecting habitat connectivity is critical to the success of special status species and other biological resource protections. Potential project impacts to wildlife migration are analyzed by biologists on a case-by-case basis. The issue involves both a macro-scale analysis—where routes used by large carnivores connecting very large core habitat areas may be impacted—as well as a micro-scale analysis—where a road or stream crossing may impact localized movement by many different animals.

Locally Important Species/Communities Regulations

Locally important species/communities are considered to be significant biological resources in the Ventura County General Plan, thus one of the County's threshold criteria for the evaluation of impacts to biological resources is whether the project impacts locally important species/communities.

Locally Important Species

The following criteria were developed with the assistance of local biologists:

Locally Important Animal Species Criteria

1. Taxa for whom habitat in Ventura County is crucial for their existence either globally or in Ventura County. This includes taxa for whom:
    - Populations in Ventura County represents 10% or more of the known extant global distribution; or
    - In Ventura County, there are less than 6 element occurrences, or less than 1,000 individuals, or less than 2,000 acres.
2. Native taxa that are generally declining throughout their range and/or are in danger of extirpation in Ventura County.

Locally Important Plant Species Criteria

A locally important plant is a taxon that is declining throughout the extent of its range AND has a maximum of five (5) element occurrences in Ventura County.

Locally Important Animal and Plant Species Criteria

In some cases, to be determined on an individual basis, there are taxa whose population(s) do not qualify as locally important species; however, certain locations where a taxon occurs will be defined as locally important. This includes:

- If known, the published type locality for a holotype specimen.
- The edge of a taxon's range. This criteria does not apply to non-native taxa or those taxa whose range and population(s) size is expanding.

The County maintains a list of locally important species, which can be found on the Planning Division website at: www.ventura.org/rma/planning/programs_services/bio_resources/bio_resources.htm. *This list should not be considered comprehensive.* Any species that meets the criteria qualifies as locally important, whether or not it is included on this list.

Locally Important Communities

The Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines defines a locally important community as one that is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region, with this determination being made on a case-by-case basis. The County has not developed a list of locally important communities. Oak woodlands have however been deemed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to be a locally important community.

The state passed legislation in 2001, the Oak Woodland Conservation Act, to emphasize that oak woodlands are a vital and threatened statewide resource. In response, the County of Ventura prepared and adopted an Oak Woodland Management Plan that recommended, among other things, amending the County's Initial Study Assessment Guidelines to include an explicit reference to oak woodlands as part of its definition of locally important communities. The Board of Supervisors approved this management plan and its recommendations.

Appendix 2
Observed Species Tables

Appendix Two

Observed Species Tables

Species Observed			
Scientific Name (Species or Genus)	Common Name	Native (1)	Notes (2):Survey Areas where observed
BRYOPHYTES			Nomenclature from current and provisional Flora of North America
Bryaceae			
Bryum argenteum	silver bryum	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Bryum spp. undetermined		N	SA1, SA2, SA3 (several species undetermined)
Funariaceae			
Funaria hygrometrica	cord moss	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Pottiaceae			
Aloina aloides ssp. *ambiguua*	none	N	SA3 (collection CW10810)
Crossidium seriatum	none	N	SA23 (collection CW10811)
Didymodon vinealis	none	N	SA3
VASCULAR PLANTS			Nomenclature incorporates name and family changes in Jepson Interchange
Adoxaceae			
Sambucus mexicana	Mexican elderberry	N	SA3
Amaranthaceae			
Amaranthus albus	tumbleweed	I	SA1, SA2,
Amaranthus blitoides	prostrate amaranth	I	SA1, SA2
Atriplex lentiformis	lens-fruited saltbush	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Atriplex semibaccata	Australian saltbush	N	SA3
Chenopodium cf. *album*	lamb's-quarters	I	SA3
Chenopodium cf. *berlandeiri*	pit-seed goosefoot	N	SA3
Chenopodium californicum	none	N	SA3
Chenopodium murale	nettle-leaf goosefoot	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Dysphania ambrosioides	Mexican-tea	I	SA1, SA2
Salsola tragus	Russian-thistle	I	SA2, SA3
Anacardiaceae			
Rhus integrifolia	lemonadeberry	N	SA3
Schinus molle	Peruvian peppertree	I	SA1
Toxicodendron diversilobum	poison-oak	N	SA3

Species Observed			
Apiaceae			
Conium maculatum	poison hemlock	I	SA1
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel	I	SA3
Apocynaceae			
Asclepias fascicularis	narrow-leaf milkweed	N	SA3
Asteraceae			
Achillea millefolium	yarrow	N	SA3
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	N	SA1, SA3
Baccharis pilularis consanguinea	coyote brush	N	SA3
Baccharis salicifolia	mulefat	N	SA1, SA3
Carduus pycnocephalus	Italian thistle	I	SA1, SA3
Centauria melitensis	tocalote	I	SA1, SA3
Conyza bonariensis	Buenos Aires horseweed	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Conyza canadensis	horseweed	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Corethrogyne filaginifolia var. *filaginifolia*	California-aster	N	SA3
Deinandra fasciculata	fascicled tarweed	N	SA3
Encelia californica	California encelia	N	SA3
Ericameria pinifolia	pinebush	N	SA3
Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. *confertiflorum*	golden-yarrow	N	SA3
Heterotheca grandiflora	telegraph weed	N	SA3
Isocoma menziesii var. *vernonioides*	coast goldenbush	N	SA3
Lactuca serriola	prickly lettuce	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Malacothrix saxatilis var. *tenuifolia*	cliff-aster	N	SA3
Pseudognaphalium microcephalum	white everlasting	N	SA3
Senecio vulgaris	common groundsel	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Silybum marianum	milk thistle	I	SA3
Sonchus asper	prickly sow-thistle	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Sonchus oleraceus	common sow-thistle	I	SA1, SA2
Stephanomeria exigua ssp. *coronaria*	wand-chicory	N	SA3
Xanthium spinosum	spiny clot-bur	I	SA1, SA3
Boraginaceae			
Cryptantha intermedia	intermediate popcorn flower	N	SA3

Species Observed			
Brassicaceae			
Brassica nigra	black mustard	I	SA3
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse	I	SA1, SA2
Hirschfeldia incana	hoary mustard	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Isomeris arborea var. undet'd	bladderpod	N	SA3
Sisymbrium irio	London-rocket	I	SA1, SA2
Cactaceae			
Opuntia littoralis var. *littoralis*	coast prickly-pear	N	SA3
Opuntia oricola	prickly-pear	N	SA3
Caryophyllaceae			
Herniaria hirsuta var. *cinerea*	none	I	SA3
Convolvulaceae			
Calystegia macrostegia ssp. *cyclostegia*	chaparral morning-glory	N	SA3
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Crassulaceae			
Dudleya lanceolata	lance-leaf dudleya	N	SA3
Cucurbitaceae			
Cucurbita foetidissima	stinking gourd	N	SA3
Euphorbiaceae			
Chamaesyce albomarginata	rattlesnake weed	N	SA3
Chamaesyse serpens	spurge	I	SA1, SA3
Croton californicus	California croton	N	SA3
Croton setigerus	doveweed	N	SA3
Fabaceae			
Astragalus trichopodus var. *phoxus*	milkvetch	N	SA3
Lotus salsuginosus var. *salsuginosus*	succulent lotus	N	SA3
Lotus scoparius var. *scoparius*	deerweed	N	SA3
Lupinus sparsiflorus	Coulter's lupine	N	SA3
Lupinus succulentus	arroyo lupine	N	SA3
Medicago polymorpha	bur-clover	N	SA3
Melilotus albus	white sweetclover	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Melilotus indicus	sourclover	I	SA1
Trifolium willdenovii	tomcat clover	N	SA3
Fagaceae			

Species Observed			
Quercus agrifolia var. *agrifolia*	coast live oak	N	SA3 (one large specimen)
Geraniaceae			
Erodium cicutarium	red-stem filaree	I	SA3
Lamiaceae			
Marrubium vulgare	horehound	I	SA 20
Salvia apiana	white sage	N	SA3
Salvia leucophylla	purple sage	N	SA3
Lauraceae			
Persea americana	avocado	I	SA1, SA2
Lythraceae			
Malvaceae			
Malva parviflora	cheeseweed	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Malvella leprosa	alkali mallow	N	SA3
Myrsinaceae			
Anagallis arvensis	scarlet pimpernel	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Myrtaceae			
Eucalyptus globulus	blue gum	I	SA1, SA2 (windrows)
Nyctaginaceae			
Mirabilis laevis var. *crassicaulis*	wishbone bush	N	SA3
Onagraceae			
Camissonia californica	mustard evening-primrose	N	SA3
Epilobium canum ssp. *canum*	California-Fuchsia	N	SA3
Polygonaceae			
Eriogonum elongatum var. *elongatum*	long-stem buckwheat	N	SA3
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *foliolosum*	California buckwheat	N	SA3
Polygonum arenastrum	yard knotweed	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Rumex crispus	curly dock	I	SA3
Portulacaceae			
Portulaca oleracea	yellow purslane	I	SA1, SA2
Rosaceae			
Heteromeles arbutifolia	toyon	N	SA3
Rubiaceae			
Galium nuttallii ssp. *nuttallii*	San Diego bedstraw	N	SA3
Rutaceae			

Species Observed			
Citrus limon	lemon	I	SA1, SA2 (rows)
Salicaceae			
Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	N	SA3
Solanaceae			
Datura wrightii	jimson-weed	N	SA1
Nicotiana glauca	tree tobacco	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Scrophulariaceae			
Castilleja affinis ssp. *affinis*	paintbrush	N	SA3
Verbenaceae			
Verbena lasiostachys scabrida	western verbena	N	SA3
Zygophyllaceae			
Tribulus terrestris	puncture-vine	I	SA1
Agavaceae			
Yucca whipplei ssp*. intermedia*	Whipple's yucca	N	SA3
Cyperaceae			
Cyperus sp.	sedge	I	SA1, SA2
Liliaceae			
Calochortus catalinae	Catalina mariposa	N	SA3
Poaceae			
Avena barbata	slender wild oat	I	SA1, SA3
Bromus diandrus	ripgut grass	I	SA3
Bromus hordeaceus	soft-chess	I	SA3
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens*	Mediterranean grass (red brome)	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	N	SA3
Eragrostis mexicana ssp. *mexicana*	Mexican lovegrass	N	SA1, SA2
Hordeum murinum ssp. undet'd	foxtail barley	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Leptochloa uninervia	Mexican strangletop	N	SA1, SA2
Leymus condensatus	giant wildrye	N	SA3
Muhlenbergia microsperma	little-seed muhly	N	SA3
Nassella cf. *lepida*	foothill needlegrass	N	SA3
Pennisetum setaceum	purple fountaingrass	I	SA3
Polypogon monspeliensis	annual beardgrass	I	SA4
Vulpia myuros var. *myuros*	rat-tail fescue	I	SA3
Themidaceae			

Species Observed			
Dichelostemma capitatum ssp. *capitatum*	blue dicks	N	SA3
ANIMALS-MOLLUSCS			
Helicidae			
Helix aspersa	common garden snail	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Helminthoglyptidae			
Helminthoglypta undetermined	land snail	N	SA3 (*possibly* a Special Animal or Ventura County Locally Important species: photo of shell available)
ANIMALS-INSECTS			Direct observation
Danaidae			
Danaus plexippus	Monarch butterfly	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Pieridae			
Pieris rapae	cabbage white	I	SA1, SA2, SA3
Nymphalidae			
Vanessa cardui	painted lady	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Lycaenidae			
'blue' genus undetermined	blue	N	SA3
Apidae			
Apis mellifera	honeybee	I	SA1 (commercial hives)
ANIMALS-FISHES			
Cyprinidae			
Carassius auratus	goldfish	I	SA3 (in stock tank)
ANIMALS-REPTILES			Direct observation
Iguanidae			
Uta stansburiana	California side-blotched lizard	N	SA1, SA3
ANIMALS-BIRDS			
Cathartidae			
Cathartes aura	turkey vulture	N	SA3
Accipitridae			
Buteo jamaicensis	red-tailed hawk	N	SA3
Odontophoridae			
Calipepla californica	California quail	N	SA3
Charadriidae			
Charadrius vociferus	killdeer	N	SA2
Laridae			

Species Observed			
Larus occidentalis?	western gull	N	SA1, SA2
Columbidae			
Zenaida macroura	mourning dove	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Cuculidae			
Geococcyx americanus	greater roadrunner	N	SA3
Caprimulgidae			
Phalaenoptilus nuttallii	common poorwill	N	SA3
Apodidae			
Aeronautes saxatilis	white-throated swift	N	SA3
Trochilidae			
Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Picidae			
Colaptes auratus	northern flicker	N	SA3
Picoides nuttallii	Nuttall's woodpecker	N	SA3
Tyrannidae			
Sayornis nigricans	black phoebe	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Sayornis saya	Say's phoebe	N	SA3
Corvidae			
Aphelocoma californica	western scrub-jay	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow	N	SA1, SA2
Corvus corvax	common raven	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Paridae			
Baeolophus inornatus	oak titmouse	N	SA1
Aegithalidae			
Psaltriparus minimus	bushtit	N	SA3
Troglodytidae			
Salpinctes obsoletus	rock wren	N	SA3
Thryomames bewickii	Bewick's wren	N	SA3
Troglodytes aedon	house wren	N	SA3
Regulidae			
Regulus calendula	ruby-crowned kinglet	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Sylviidae			
Polioptila caerulea	blue-gray gnatcatcher	N	SA3
Timaliidae			
Chamaea fasciata	wrentit	N	SA3

Species Observed			
Mimidae			
Mimus polyglottos	northern mockingbird	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Sturnidae			
Sturnus vulgaris	European starling	I	SA1
Parulidae			
Dendroica coronata	yellow-rumped warbler	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Emberizidae			
Pipilo crissalis	California towhee	N	SA3
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	N	SA3
Ammodrammus sandwichensis nevadensis	savannah sparrow	N	SA2
Junco hyemalis oregonensis	dark-eyed junco	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Melospiza melodia	song sparrow	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Zonotrichia atricapilla	golden-crowned sparrow	N	SA3
Zonotrichia leucophrys	white-crowned sparrow	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Euphagus cyanocephalus	Brewer's blackbird	N	SA1
Cardinalidae			
Sturnella neglecta	western meadowlark	N	SA3
Fringillidae			
Carduelis psaltria	lesser goldfinch	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Carpodacus mexicanus	house finch	N	SA1, SA2, SA3
Passeridae			
Passer domesticus	house sparrow	I	SA1
ANIMALS-MAMMALS			
Leporidae			
Sylvilagus audubonii sanctidiegi	desert cottontail	N	SA1, SA3 (scat, observed)
Geomyidae			
Thomomys bottae bottae	pocket gopher	N	SA1, SA2, SA3 (burrows)
Sciuridae			
Spermophilus beecheyi	California ground squirrrel	N	SA1, SA2, SA3 (vocal, burrows, observed
Canidae			
Canis latrans ochropus	coyote	N	SA 20 (scat, track)
Mustelidae			
Taxidea taxus neglecta	American badger	N	SA3 (diggings, photographs available)