

APPENDIX D

**Supplemental Biological Assessment, Los Angeles Regional Interoperable
Communications System (LA-RICS) Long-Term Evolution LTE Project**



Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

Supplemental Biological Assessment

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA-RICS) LONG TERM EVOLUTION (LTE) PROJECT

Lead Agency:



National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

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June 2015

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LA-RICS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
DRAFT
SUPPLEMENTAL BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
LA-RICS LTE Project

Sites BLR2DPW, CHPNWHLL, LADPW38, LDWP243, ONK, and SDW

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communication System (LA-RICS) Joint Powers Authority (Authority) proposes to design and construct a county-wide wireless Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) using long-term evolution (LTE) technology in the greater Los Angeles area. The project would utilize federal funding, and the lead federal agency is the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is provided through a May 2014 *Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), Final NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA), Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Project* (LA-RICS Authority 2014a); and a supplemental EA currently under development for new sites, including those analyzed in this Supplemental Biological Assessment (BA). Project evaluation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to date was provided through a May 2014 BA (LA-RICS Authority 2014b) submitted to and concurred with by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by letter dated July 18, 2014 (Appendix A).

Since the October 2014 FONSI, the LTE project has continued through the permitting process for many of the 231 sites in the system and construction had begun at some sites. Community concerns, triggered in part by outreach activities initiated by the Los Angeles County Firefighters Union (Local 1014), resulted in the passage of a motion on March 24, 2015 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors suspending LA-RICS LTE construction at Los Angeles County Fire Department sites. Following the Board of Supervisors action, the Los Angeles City Council voted on April 1, 2015, to suspend construction at all Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) sites. As a result of these actions by the Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles City Council, and out of concern that the project was behind schedule and there was “substantial uncertainty regarding the timeframe created by the County Board and City Council Resolutions”, NTIA requested that LA-RICS re-design the system in order to complete the project by the end of the grant period (September 30, 2015). The resultant re-designed system features a reduced number of sites, most of which were previously analyzed in the Final LA-RICS LTE System EA as well as additional sites to supplement system coverage and capacity. The resulting project changes require consultation with the USFWS for 18 proposed new sites included in the Supplemental EA (currently being drafted).

Six sites (BLR2DPW, CHPNWHLL, LADPW38, LDWP243, ONK, and SDW) are the subject of this Supplemental BA. The potential project-related effects associated with construction/installation and operation of these six sites on ESA-listed species, their habitat, and designated critical habitat are analyzed in this Supplemental BA. Location information regarding each of these six sites is provided in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Consistent with the methodology in the May 2014 BA (LA-RICS Authority 2014) and as analyzed and disclosed in the Supplemental EA, twelve sites are considered urban, being completely surrounded by development with no native habitats occurring in association with or in proximity to the PSBN sites. A determination has been made that the installation of equipment and operation of sites CHPWVLLY, LASDMVS, SCECART, SCELGNBL, SCELNIDO, SCELONG, SCÉMADR, SCÉMERC, SCÉMESA, SCÉMNRV, SCÉMARGO, and SCESTUD will have no effect on any of the 42 ESA-listed species, their habitats, or

designated critical habitat as previously discussed in the May 2014 BA (LA-RICS Authority 2014b). Location information regarding these 12 sites is shown in Figure 1.

Table 1: Location of Each Non-urban PSBN Site Under Evaluation

Site	Location*	Elevation	Ownership/Administration
CHPNWHLL	Castaic Junction/Santa Clarita T2S, R17W (unsurveyed) UTM 11S 352901mE x 3812123Mn	1,028 feet	State of California California Highway Patrol
BLR2DPW	Unincorporated Los Angeles County About 6 miles north of Lake Los Angeles T2N R9W Sec 16 SE4 UTM 11S 425072mE x 3839355mN	2,815 feet	Los Angeles County
LADPW38	Lake Los Angeles T6N R9W Sec 16 SW4 UTM 11S 422979mE x 3829500mN	2,969 feet	Los Angeles County
LDWP243	near Sylmar, within City of Los Angeles T2N R16W Sec 19 SW4 UTM 11S 362202mE x 3799472mN	1,797 feet	City of Los Angeles
ONK	Unincorporated Los Angeles County About 4.5 miles west I-5/SR14 interchange T3NR16W Sec 20 SW4 UTM 11S 354024mE x 3799447mN	3,515 feet	Los Angeles County
SDW	City of San Dimas T1S R9W (unsurveyed) UTM 11S 424917mE x 3770403mN	1,227 feet	Los Angeles County
*Location: = general vicinity; legal description: Township [T] Range [R] Section [Sec], San Bernardino meridian), section boundaries not available for unsurveyed Townships; and Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates			

Figure 1: Project Vicinity



2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this action is to improve the design of the existing LA-RICS LTE PSBN system. The proposed sites analyzed in this BA are included in the LTE project to supplement coverage and capacity of the re-designed LA-RICS LTE PSBN system with a reduced number of sites while providing dedicated, interoperable broadband communication capability and capacity to enhance first and second responder public safety services throughout Los Angeles County. No improvements to existing access roads were identified as necessary for the proposed sites. All project activities for sites analyzed in this Supplemental BA would occur at the existing publicly owned or administered facilities. No permanent acquisition or change of ownership would be required at any site. No new permanent easement or temporary construction easements would be required. All construction would remain within the existing facility sites. Minimal removal of native perennial vegetation may occur at some sites. The six new PSBN sites for LTE equipment (also referenced as LTE sites) are either permanent sites which include a new monopole (ONK and LDWP243) or collocation on an existing antenna support structure (SDW), or involve deployment of cells on wheels (COWs) at existing institutional sites (BLR2DPW, CHPNWHLL, and LADPW38). Construction would occur in summer 2015. It is anticipated that construction activities will last approximately one month at each permanent site and up to one week at each deployable COW site.

2.1 Permanent Sites

2.1.1 New Monopoles – Sites LDWP243 and ONK

One new monopole is proposed for inclusion at each site LDWP243 and ONK (Figure 2). It is uncertain at this time if the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will require these monopoles to be lighted. If constructed, each proposed new monopole would include:

- A disguised or undisguised monopole up to 70 feet high with an additional up to 15-foot lightning rod, not to exceed a total height up to 85 feet above ground level (AGL)
- Up to 12 panel LTE antennas placed on up to three T-arms at Site LDWP243, equipped with anti-perching devices installed at 120 degrees apart at the same elevation near the top of the proposed monopole at Site LDWP243.
- Up to eight microwave backhaul antennas or dishes on each monopole, each antenna or dish up to 3 feet in diameter at sites LDWP243 and ONK; the microwave antennas would either be directly affixed to the monopole, or affixed to the T-arms equipped with anti-perching devices.

Site LDWP243

Site LDWP243 is currently used to support a water tower and a water ladder. An existing transformer is present within the boundaries of the PSBN site. The site would require up to 500 linear feet of on-site trenching 2 feet wide by 3 feet deep within the previously disturbed area to accommodate electrical and fiber interconnections (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Typical Monopole and Equipment Structures Proposed for Sites LDWP243 and ONK

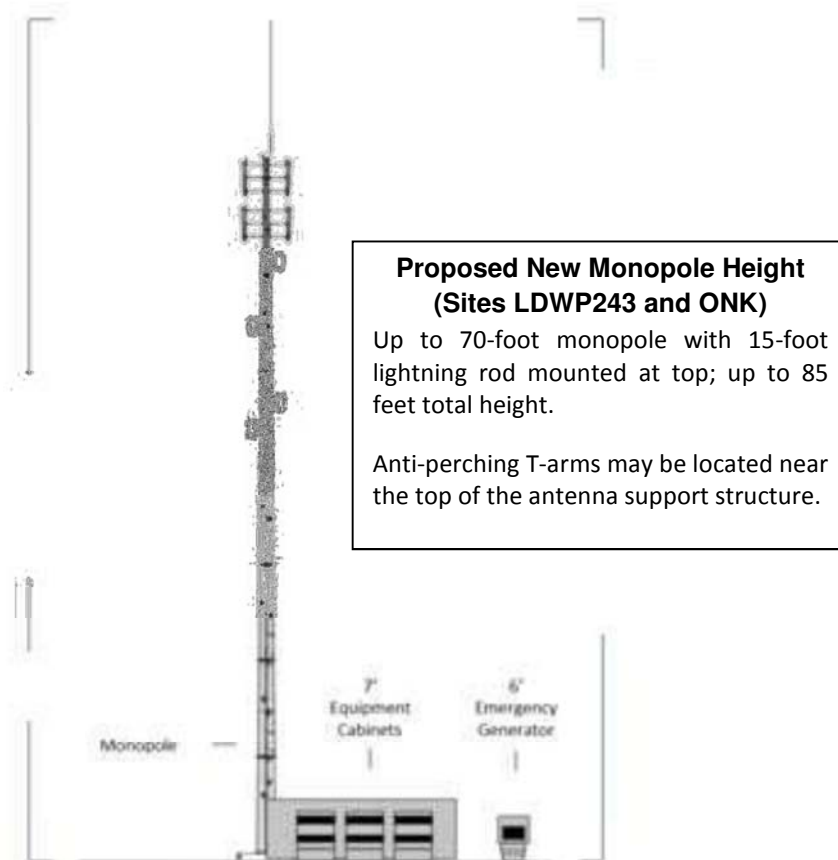


Figure 3: Site LDWP243 Equipment Plan



Site ONK

Within the 3,600-square-foot site, ground disturbance would be limited to areas that are extensively man-altered, including areas previously paved, graded, and cleared or otherwise developed; connections to existing electrical power supply would require up to 500 linear feet of trenching 2 feet wide by 3 feet deep within the previously disturbed area. Structure placement would be immediately outside the existing perimeter chain-link fence, and additional fencing (approximately 22 feet on each side) would surround the new equipment (Figure 4). The new monopole will not include T-arms.

2.1.2 Collocation on Existing Structure – Site SDW

At Site SDW, antennas would be collocated onto an existing communication tower. Installation of equipment cabinets, emergency generators, and other appurtenances and infrastructure would be the same as for the monopole sites and are described below. SDW structure configuration would include antennas mounted to an existing 120-foot guyed double lattice tower (Figure 5).

Site SDW

For electrical connections to an existing transformer at Site SDW, up to 100 linear feet of trenching 2 feet wide by 3 feet deep would occur primarily through compacted soils with limited concrete/asphalt cutting (Figure 6).

2.1.3 Related Site Improvements

Equipment Cabinets

Up to four outdoor equipment cabinets would be included at each of the proposed permanent PSBN sites. Standard cabinets would be approximately 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep by up to 7 feet high, generally configured to be mounted on an up to 162-square-foot concrete slab up to 12 inches thick. Cabinets would be used to house broadband radio base stations (known as an eNodeB), backhaul equipment, and backup batteries as described in Section 2.1.2 of the Final LA-RICS LTE System EA (LA-RICS Authority 2014a). If space is available, the equipment cabinets could be collocated with emergency backup generators (i.e., on a larger pad foundation to combine the two assets). Each cabinet would be equipped with a service light, designed to minimize light exposure to areas not immediately adjacent to each cabinet.

Emergency Generators

The permanent sites have existing power at or adjacent to each site but would require emergency backup generators that would be installed at each permanent site to provide backup power for up to approximately two weeks in the event of outages. Generators are not expected to exceed 35 kilowatts (kW) and would be enclosed in a noise-reducing structure and supplied with diesel fuel from an integrated double-walled sub-base fuel tank (approximately 300 gallons) meeting or exceeding industry standards. Each generator would be sited on an approximately 72-square-foot by 12-inch-thick pad (or collocated with equipment cabinets as described above), and protected by a concrete masonry block wall.

Other Appurtenances, Infrastructure, and Design Measures

Other site improvements for the permanent sites could include trenching for utility and fiber interconnection, security improvements (e.g., lighting, fencing, and alarms), and signage.

Figure 4: Site ONK Equipment Plan



Figure 5: Existing Structures at Site SDW



Figure 6: Site SDW Equipment Plan



2.1.4 Construction Activities

Construction activities at each permanent site include ground disturbance; creation of impervious surfaces; breaking, cutting, and removal of existing paved surfaces; materials storage and staging; site access; and site cleanup. Each activity requires the use of construction equipment including pickup trucks, bobcat, backhoe, utility vehicle with auger drills, crane, geotechnical drilling rig; and cement mixer (Figure 7). Ground-disturbing construction impacts would be confined to areas of existing disturbance. From the start of construction at a site, the completion time is up to one month.

2.1.5 Operations Activities

Full-time staff would not be required to operate any of the proposed permanent PSBN sites. Operations activities associated with the proposed sites include occasional maintenance, repairs, and emergency procedure testing. Aboveground facilities and system components would be inspected annually, at a minimum, for corrosion, equipment misalignment, loose fittings, and other common mechanical problems. Maintenance activities would be conducted utilizing bucket trucks (man-lifts), standard vans, or utility pickup trucks, depending on the scope of maintenance.

2.2 Deployable Cell On Wheels (COWs) – Sites BLR2DPW, CHPNWHLL, and LADPW38

2.2.1 COW Trailers

Each COW trailer would include a monopole, equipment cabinets, an emergency generator, and other support equipment as described below.

Monopoles

Each of the new deployable COW sites (BLR2DPW, CHPNWHLL, and LADPW38) would include one new telescoping or articulating monopole mounted on a trailer up to 70 feet in length (Figure 8 and Figure 9). Each proposed new COW would include:

- An undisguised monopole with a lightning rod not to exceed a total height up to 85 feet above ground level (AGL)

- Up to 12 panel LTE antennas placed on up to three T-arms installed at 120 degrees apart at the same elevation near the top of each monopole

- Up to eight microwave backhaul antennas or dishes on each monopole, each antenna or dish up to 3 feet in diameter

- Grounding rods up to 6 feet deep would be hammered into the ground adjacent to each trailer.

Equipment Cabinets

Each COW trailer would be fitted with equipment cabinets. Cabinets would be used to house broadband radio base stations (known as an eNodeB), backhaul equipment, and backup batteries. Each cabinet

would be equipped with a service light, designed to minimize light exposure to areas not immediately adjacent to each cabinet.

Emergency Generators

Generators would be included on each COW trailer to provide backup power for up to approximately two weeks in the event of outages. Generators are not expected to exceed 35 kilowatts (kW) and would be enclosed in a noise-reducing structure and supplied with diesel fuel from an integrated double-walled fuel tank (approximately 300 gallons) meeting or exceeding industry standards.

Other Appurtenance, Infrastructure, and Design Measures

Power and fiber interconnection would be done either above ground or underground (via trench or conduit) at each site. All COW sites included in this analysis have been screened to verify that power and fiber are available within each site boundary and available for interconnection. All other components of the COW would be contained on the trailer.

2.2.2 Related Site Improvements

No site improvements other than installation of a grounding rod, installation of power and fiber interconnection, and / or installation of fencing or concrete masonry block wall are expected to occur at any of the proposed COW sites.

Figure 7: Example of Auger Equipment and Activity that may be used at PSBN Sites LDWP243 and ONK



Figure 8: Example of Typical Small Mobile Cell On Wheels Equipment Ready for Transport (COW Sites)



Figure 9: Example of Typical Large Mobile Cell On Wheels Equipment Deployment (COW Sites)



2.2.3 Construction Activities

Construction activities at each COW site are limited to deployment, positioning, and dropping power and/or fiber to the mast, plus trenching and fence or block wall construction around each COW. Once a COW trailer is placed in its final position on site, the wheels may be replaced with standards. COW sites would not require any road improvements. Ground disturbance would be limited to fencing and utility trenches at each of the three COW sites. COW sites would require no creation of impervious surfaces, demolition, or materials storage or staging. The COW trailer and infrastructure development would occur only within the site boundaries. Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12 illustrate the site boundaries for sites BLR2DPW, CHPNWHLL, and LADPW38, respectively.

2.2.4 Operations Activities

Operational activities would be very similar to those previously discussed for the permanent sites.

2.3 Construction Management Requirements

Construction Management Requirements (CMRs) are included in the project design and construction contract for each site to prevent adverse effects to biological resources, including federally protected species, during construction and operation of the LTE system (See Appendix B). The biological CMRs (BIO CMRs) identified for implementation are discussed as applicable throughout this BA. These BIO CMRs avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to ESA-listed species, their habitats, and/or designated critical habitat.

Following are BIO CMRs applicable to one or more sites under consideration in this BA to address species-specific issues and as applied to individual PSBN sites and considered in the project effects analysis (Table 2). Other CMRs may also apply to these sites as discussed in Section 2.3 of the Final LA-RICS LTE System EA (LA-RICS Authority 2014a).

BIO CMR 1 – Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds

BIO CMR 6 – Construction Monitoring

BIO CMR 8 – Open Trenches and Ditches

BIO CMR 9 – Protecting Native Vegetation

BIO CMR 14 – Desert Tortoise Preconstruction Surveys and Monitoring

BIO CMR 15 – Avoidance Measures for Arroyo Toad

BIO CMR 18 – Hazardous Substance Management

BIO CMR 19 – Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Table 2: BIO CMRs as Applied to Individual PSBN Sites

Site	Applicable BIO CMRs
ONK	1, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19
LDWP243	1, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19
SDW	1, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19
BLR2DPW	6, 8, 9, 14
CHPNWHLL	6, 8, 9, 15, 18
LADPW38	6, 8, 9, 14

Figure 10: Site Boundary for BLR2DPW



Figure 11: Site Boundary for CHPNWHLL



Figure 12: Site Boundary for LADPW38



3.0 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

Biologists Bruce Palmer and David Charlton (Jacobs) visited Site ONK on August 13, 2014, and Site SDW on August 14, 2014. David Charlton conducted on-site visits to LDWP243 on August 19, 2014, and BLR2DPW and LADPW38 on April 20, 2015. A visit was conducted at Site CHPNWHLL on May 19, 2015, by Jim Hoyt (Jacobs) and again by David Charlton on June 23, 2015. Site visits were conducted to determine habitat types, identify plant species, and assess the potential for occurrence of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and wildlife species. All sites are located within the Southern California/Northern Baja Coast Ecoregion III, at an elevation range of approximately 1,200 to 3,500 feet above mean sea level. The ecoregion is defined by coastal and alluvial plains and mountains that historically were dominated by grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral vegetation communities, with oak and walnut woodlands dispersed throughout (USEPA 2015); however, today the region has large-scale human development.

Throughout this Biological Assessment, the term “work area” is used to represent the outer boundary of where work could occur. This work area is contained within a pre-defined PSBN site boundary. The term “project area” also includes surrounding lands adjacent to the PSBN site, generally for a distance of approximately 500 feet. The term “project vicinity” is used to denote a more expansive landscape context.

3.1 Site ONK

Site ONK is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County in the Santa Susana Mountains about 4.5 miles west of Interstate 5 (I-5)/State Route (SR) 14 interchange (see Figure 1). The work area (defined as the area in which all construction activities would occur) is one of a series of hilltop communications facilities located along the Oat Mountain ridgeline (Figure 13). This ridge extends from Oat Mountain peak, at an elevation of 3,747 feet and the highest peak in the Santa Susana Mountains, to the east for a distance of approximately 2.5 miles, with a gradual descent to an elevation of approximately 3,200 feet. Site ONK is about midway along the ridge at an elevation of 3,515 feet. A maintained, controlled access roadway follows the length of the ridgeline, providing access to at least 12 communication facilities with over 22 major towers and many smaller antenna support structures and other facilities. In addition, spur roads go to more than 50 oil wells, pumps, sumps, pipelines, and related facilities that are scattered below this portion of the ridgeline (Figure 1). Many miles of power lines and hundreds of wooden power poles generally follow the ridgeline and traverse the entire area. The hilltop location of Site ONK is within a rural setting with numerous paved and unpaved roadways leading to the various towers and pumps within the area; however, no residential developments or public transportation facilities are located nearby.

Site ONK is an existing communications facility once used as a missile defense site. The site includes a 128-foot-tall lattice tower and associated equipment and an active communications operation facility. Numerous abandoned buildings and other structures are located just outside the site boundary

(Figure 15). The work area is within the previously developed area and includes both paved and compacted soil surfaces that have been bladed and cleared of perennial vegetation.

Figure 13: View of Site ONK and Other Facilities along Oat Mountain Ridgeline



Figure 14: Site ONK with Adjacent Towers, Pumps, and Wells along the Oat Mountain Ridgeline

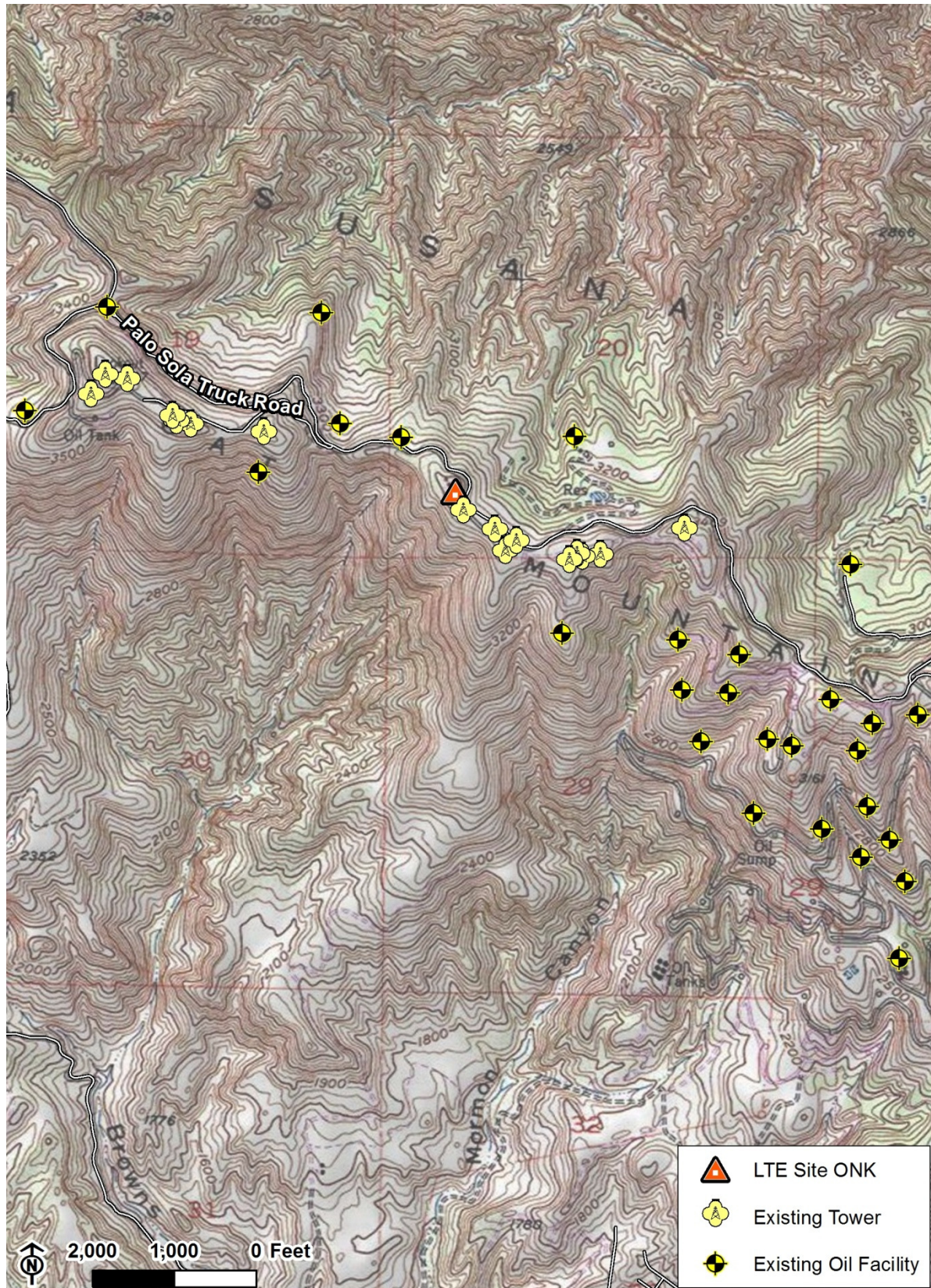


Figure 15: Existing Structures at Site ONK



The site has been somewhat recolonized by weedy annuals and perennials. These areas are dominated by rip-gut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), cudweed aster (*Lessingia filaginifolia*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia tessellata*), and thistle (*Cirsium* sp.). Vegetation along the roadside and building edges includes native narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and ruderal non-natives including tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*), biennial mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), and horseweed (*Conyza* sp.). No mature perennial native vegetation is expected to be removed as part of project activities.

Vegetation along the ridgeline consists of mixed oak woodland on the north-facing slopes with interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) on the hilltops and more xeric slopes, coast live oak (*Q. agrifolia*) in the shadiest canyons and north-facing slopes, and valley oak (*Q. lobata*) in the flats and gentle canyon bottoms and slopes. Nonnative grasslands are found along the top of the ridgeline and on open slopes to the south and west, dominated by wild oats (*Avena barbata* and *A. fatua*) with many other weedy species. Scattered shrubs are found lower on the south- and west-facing slopes, which become increasingly steep as they descend from the ridgeline, with redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), black elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), and our lord's candle (*Yucca whipplei*).

The project area, defined as an approximately 500-foot radius projected from the center of the site, consists primarily of nonnative grassland on the ridge top and on south-facing slopes (approximately 60 percent of the project area); woodlands (approximately 15 percent of the project area) of oak with a few scattered arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) trees; and areas that have been developed or are in ruderal condition; with disturbed vegetation typical of invasive,

pioneer species (approximately 25 percent of the project area) (Figure 16). The ONK site photographs represent the site and surrounding area. Four directional views look toward and away from the site (Figure 17).

Soils in the ONK project area are characterized as belonging to the Rock outcrop-Lithic Xerorthents-Calleguas-Badland Association, which consists of unweathered bedrock, loam, nearly level to moderate to very steep slopes (NRCS 2015).

Figure 16: Vegetation Communities Surrounding Site ONK



Figure 17: Site ONK Project Area Photographs



3.2 Site LDWP243

Site LDWP243 is located near the community of Sylmar in the southwest corner of the San Gabriel Mountains about 0.25 mile east of I-5, less than 1.0 mile northwest of the I-5 and I-210 interchange, and less than 1.0 mile southeast of the I-5 and SR 14 interchange (see Figure 1). Residential and recreational developments are within 0.25 mile of the site (Figure 18). The work area (defined as the area in which all construction activities would occur) is collocated with an existing water transfer facility at an elevation of 1,804 feet on the peak of a ridgeline that has been cleared, leveled, paved, and surrounded by a chain link fence. Existing structures include a water tank (approximately 30 feet tall), parking area, building, and a water cascade ladder comprising a concrete chute with concrete “stairs” to dissipate energy of water being transferred through the Los Angeles aqueduct system. No communication towers are currently located on site (see Figure 5; Figure 19).

Vegetation in the project area, defined as an approximately 500-foot radius projected from the center of the site, is composed of approximately 40 percent California buckwheat scrub on south-facing slopes, 30 percent coast live oak woodland on north-facing slopes, and 20 percent in developed or ruderal condition (Figure 20). Vegetation on the steep north-facing slopes consists of coast live oak with an understory of wild oats and dirty phacelia (*Phacelia ramosissima*); very few shrubs are present. The south- and west-facing slopes are very steep and highly eroded with numerous gullies and rills. The soils are hard packed, light colored, consolidated, poorly drained, and bedrock-like. Soils are characterized as belonging to the Sobrante-Exchequer-Cienega loam, which consists of fine loam, excessively drained, mountainous slopes (NRCS 2015).

Due to difficult growing conditions, the vegetation in the project area is sparse and of small stature with less than 50 percent cover. Shrubs are characteristic of the coastal sagebrush scrub vegetation community, with 15 percent vegetative cover provided by California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*); 3 percent cover by laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*); 2 percent cover each by California encelia (*Encelia californica*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), white sage (*S. apiana*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*); and a trace of deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*). Weedy species in the disturbed areas adjacent to the fence include horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), Pacific aster (*Symphyotrichum chilensis*), tobacco weed (*Pseudognaphalium canescens*), bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), totalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), rip-gut brome, and wild oats.

The access road leading to site LDWP243 is approximately 0.75 mile, and gains over 600 feet in elevation as it winds up to the site. Vegetation along the roadway consists of coast live oak woodland with shrubs with native species that include California sagebrush, California encelia, bursage, mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus microphylla*), deerweed, telegraph weed, and California thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *californicum*) and weedy nonnatives including black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and rip-gut brome (Figure 21).

Figure 18: Landscape Surrounding Site LDWP243



Figure 19: Site LDWP243 Project Area Photographs

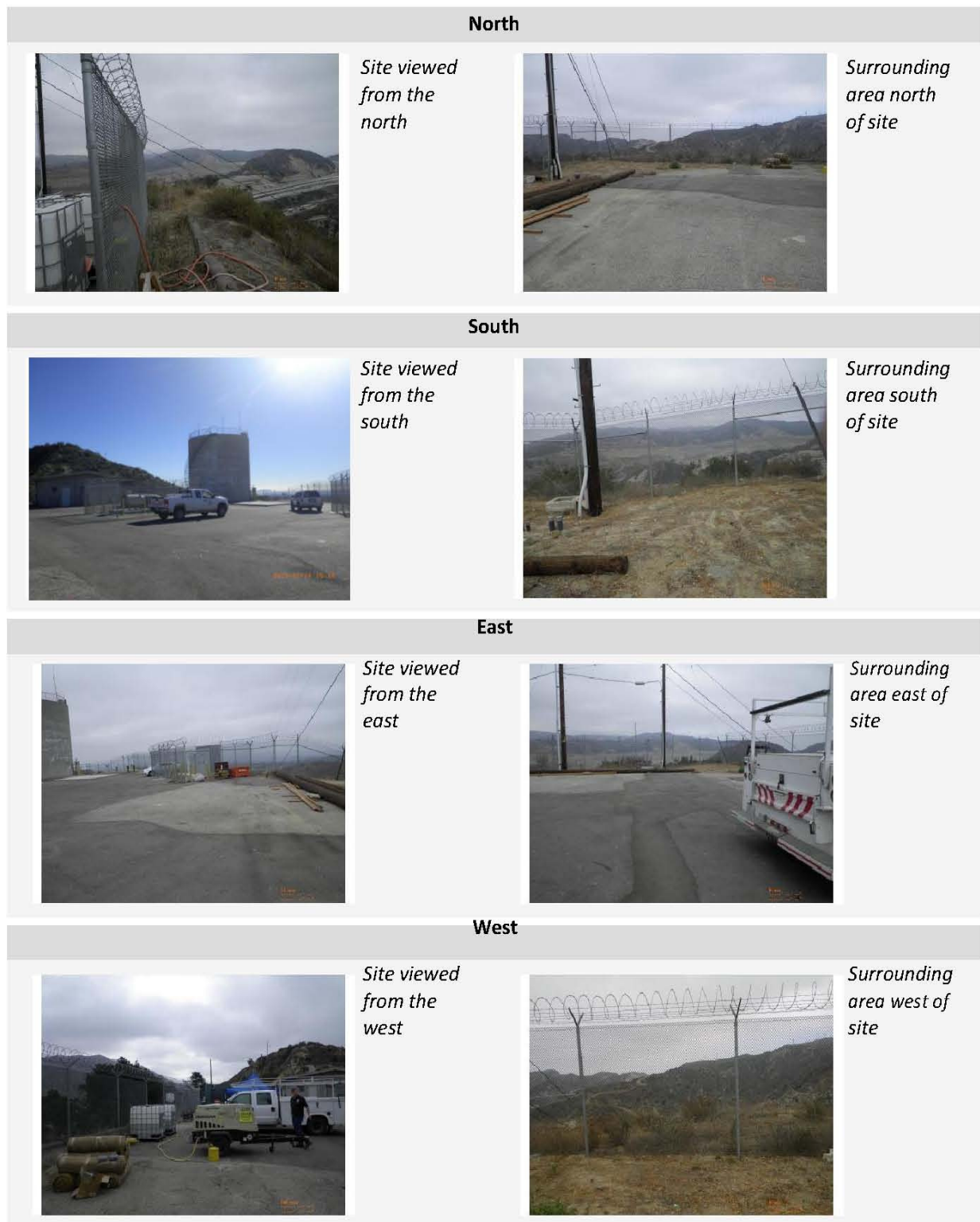


Figure 20: Vegetation Communities Surrounding Site LDWP243

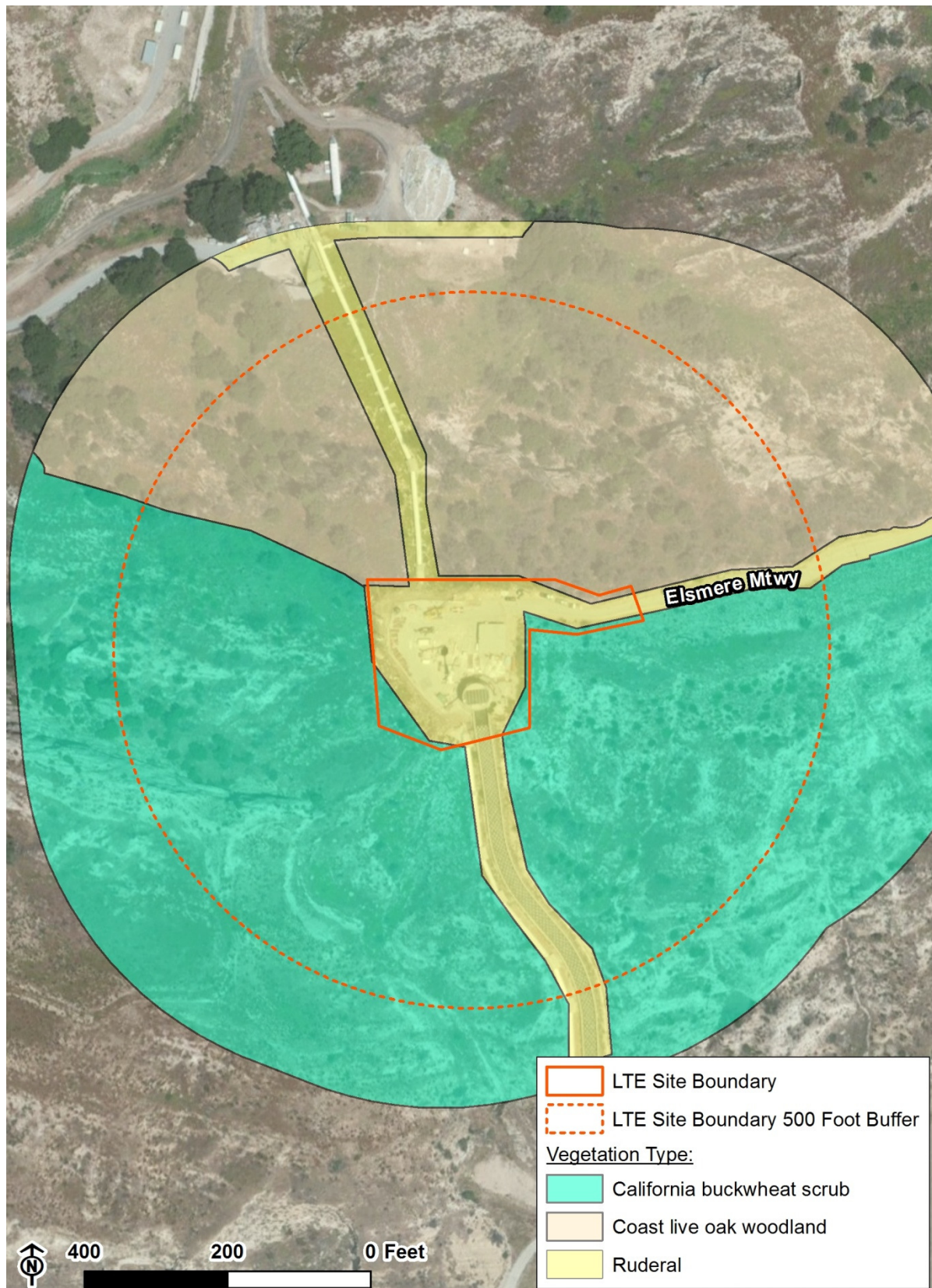


Figure 21: Vegetation along Access Road to Site LDWP243



3.3 Site SDW

Site SDW is in the basin region of Los Angeles County within the City of San Dimas, north of I-10 and west of SR 57 (see Figure 1). The work area (defined as the area in which all construction activities would occur) is situated at approximately 1,227 feet elevation. The site contains a 120-foot existing lattice tower as well as a 20-foot monopole, along with an equipment shelter and indoor generator, and other infrastructure (i.e., the site is surrounded by concrete masonry block walls on three sides and chain-link fence on the south side and has an asphalt driveway and cleared compacted soils). Scattered vegetation on the site includes native narrow-leaf milkweed and common weeds red-stemmed filaree, coyote melon (*Cucurbita foetidissima*), biennial mustard, horehound, telegraph weed, and. A row of California pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) stands adjacent to an existing water tank adjacent to the site (Figure 22).

Soils are characterized as belonging to the Soper-Fontana-Calleguas-Balcom-Anaheim Association, which consists of alluvium moderately fine to fine texture (NRCS 2015). National Wetland Inventory wetlands that may contain surface water during or immediately after rains have been mapped within 500 feet of the site boundaries as temporary or intermittent flooded riverine drainage associated with the headwater drainage and canyon of Walnut Creek.

The project area, defined as an approximately 500-foot radius projected from the center of the site , consists primarily of residential or other developed lands, in ruderal condition or planted with ornamental vegetation that is landscaped, maintained, and irrigated (Figure 23 and Figure 24). Remnant native vegetation receives some degree of maintenance or pruning, usually in the form of clearing for

wildfire prevention (approximately 75 percent of the project area). The canyon and drainage to the south of the PSBN site is the headwaters of Walnut Creek. The area has been impacted by development and past fires and is primarily composed of nonnative grasslands dominated by wild oats and brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.) with California black walnut trees in the drainage bottoms and scattered shrubs including Mexican elderberry and coast prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*) (Figure 25).

A few steep slopes and road cuts include scattered, small patches of remnant coastal sage scrub vegetation, composed largely of coast prickly pear but also includes sparse California sagebrush on the steepest slopes (see Figure 25). A dense patch of coast prickly pear with elderberry (*Opuntia littoralis*-mixed coastal sage scrub community) is immediately down slope of the PSBN site (Figure 26). The bottom of the canyon includes the headwaters of Walnut Creek. The canyon floor and adjacent side canyons contain walnut woodland.

Site SDW is located in an urban area within a residential community adjacent to designated open space associated with the designated East San Gabriel Valley Significant Ecological Area (SEA) (Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning 2015). The SEA is located within an area of continuous development and consists of several natural components that constitute an area-wide ecological unit. The SEA comprises both valley floor as well as the lower slopes of the San Jose Hills. As a consequence, the SEA encompasses portions, or islands, of undeveloped ridgelines, hilltops, and drainages amongst the developed communities.

Figure 22: Site SDW Project Area Photographs



Figure 23: Vegetation Communities Surrounding Site SDW



Figure 24: Residential Development and Ornamental Vegetation at Site SDW



Figure 25: Grassland and Shrub Habitats Adjacent to Site SDW



Figure 26: Coast Prickly Pear Shrub Community



3.4 Site BLR2DPW

The BLR2DPW site is located near the community of Hi Vista, approximately 5 miles north of the community of Lake Los Angeles and 17 miles east of Lancaster, California (see Figure 1). The site is located on the southeast corner of an intersection of two unpaved roads, about 1.5 miles north of the camping area for Saddleback Buttes State Park (Figure 27). The site contains a short access road to a pipeline maintenance valve; the valve is protected by a chain link fence (Figure 28).

The site is located on a gentle south-facing slope. The vegetation is transitional between creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland (Figure 29). The vegetation is low-diversity creosote bush scrub visually dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*). Highest shrub diversity in the project area occurs at natural bedrock outcrops. The outcrops contain desert rhubarb (*Rumex hymenosepalus*), Nevada tea (*Ephedra nevadensis*), desert needle grass (*Acnatherum speciosum*), and California bush buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium*).

Figure 27: Site BLR2DPW Project Area Photographs

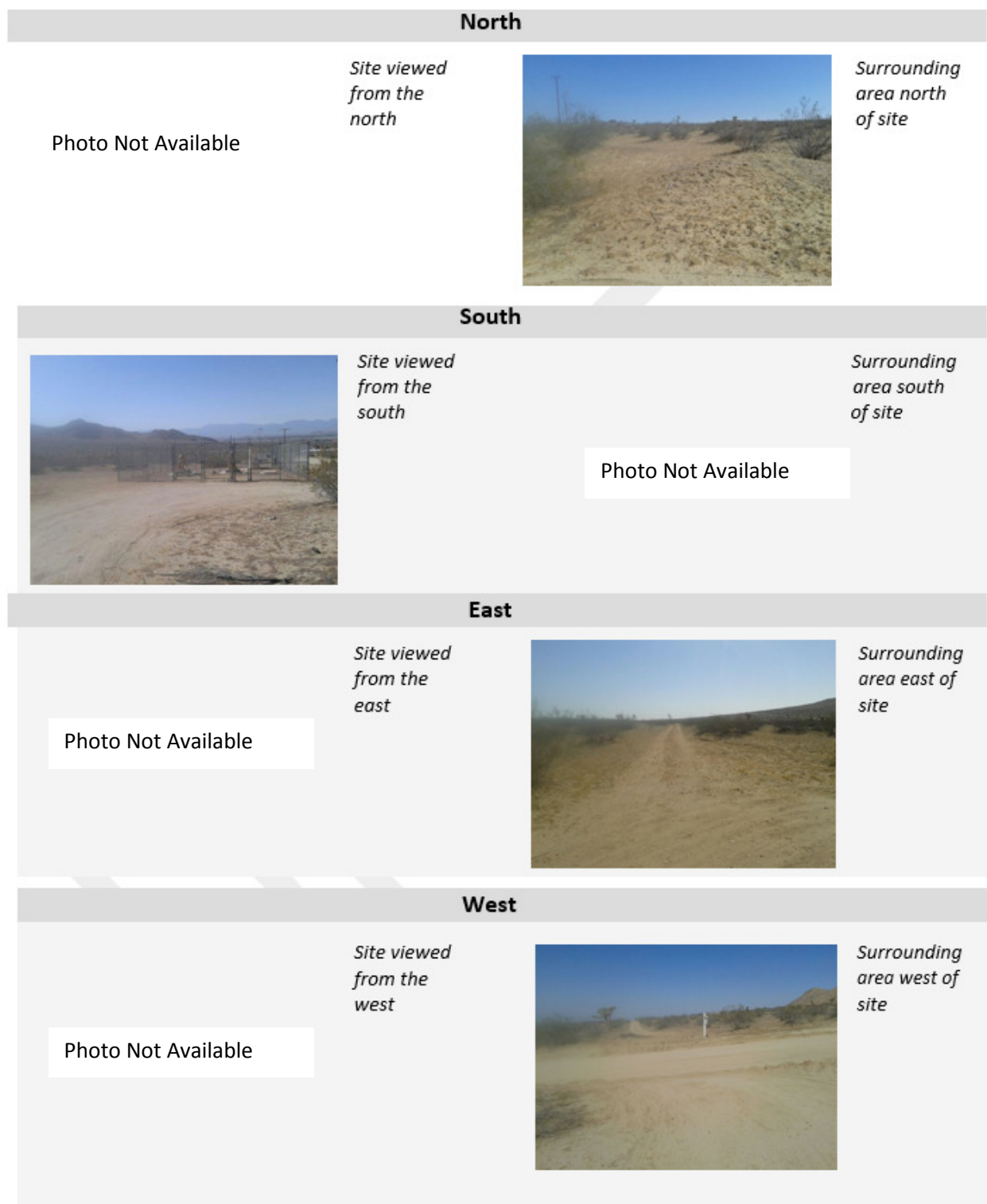
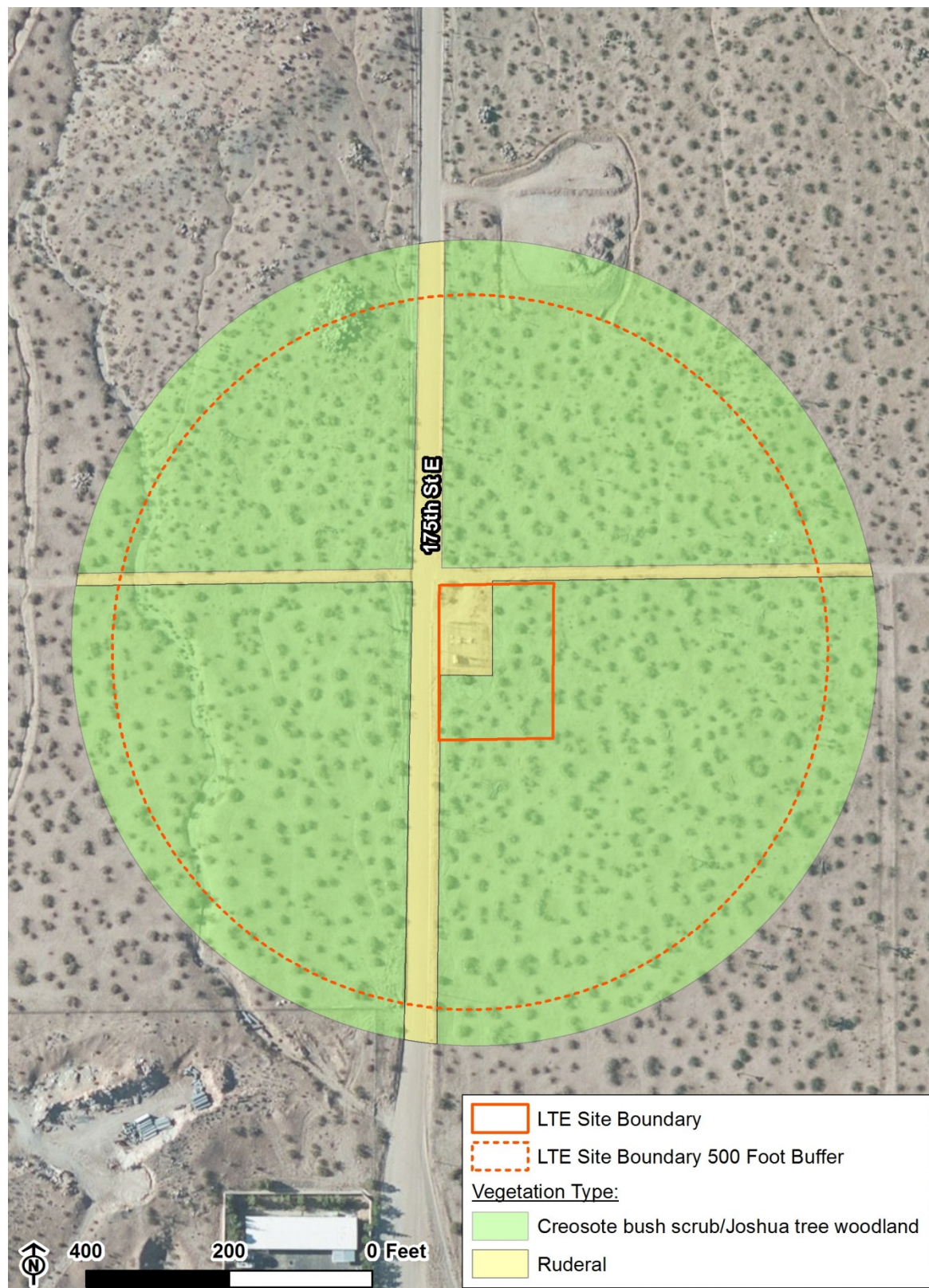


Figure 28: Facility at Site BLR2DPW



Figure 29: Vegetation Communities Surrounding Site BLR2DPW



3.5 Site CHPNWHLL

Site CHPNWHLL is at a California Highway Patrol facility located near the I-5/SR 126 interchange (see Figure 1). The site is fully developed, with a building and parking lot and minor landscaping with lawn and scattered ornamental trees along the perimeter of the property (see Figure 12). The north side of the property borders I-5, with additional buildings and parking lots to the east and west. To the south is The Old Road, a four-lane divided roadway, and beyond The Old Road are agricultural fields in active production (Figure 30). No native habitats are present within the 500-foot-diameter project area; ruderal vegetation includes red brome, rip-gut brome, wild oats, biennial mustard, tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium* sp.), sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), bristly ox tongue, and tocalote (Figure 31). Within about 1 mile of Site CHPNWHLL are extensive commercial and residential developments, other agricultural fields, as well the Six Flags Magic Mountain Amusement Park. Within the overall project vicinity are hills and drainages with native vegetation. About 0.3 mile north of Site CHPNWHLL (1,700 feet), across I-5 and SR 126, are rolling hills that include coast live oak and walnut woodlands and coastal sage scrub vegetation. About 0.3 mile south of the site, across the agricultural lands, is the Santa Clara River, a perennial stream with associated riparian vegetation of sycamore, willow, and cottonwood forest with an understory of primarily weedy plants and bordered by shrubs that include California sagebrush, brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), bush buckwheat, and rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*); the closest riparian vegetation to the PSBN site is about 1,500 feet (Figure 32).

Figure 300: Site CHPNWHLL Project Area Photographs

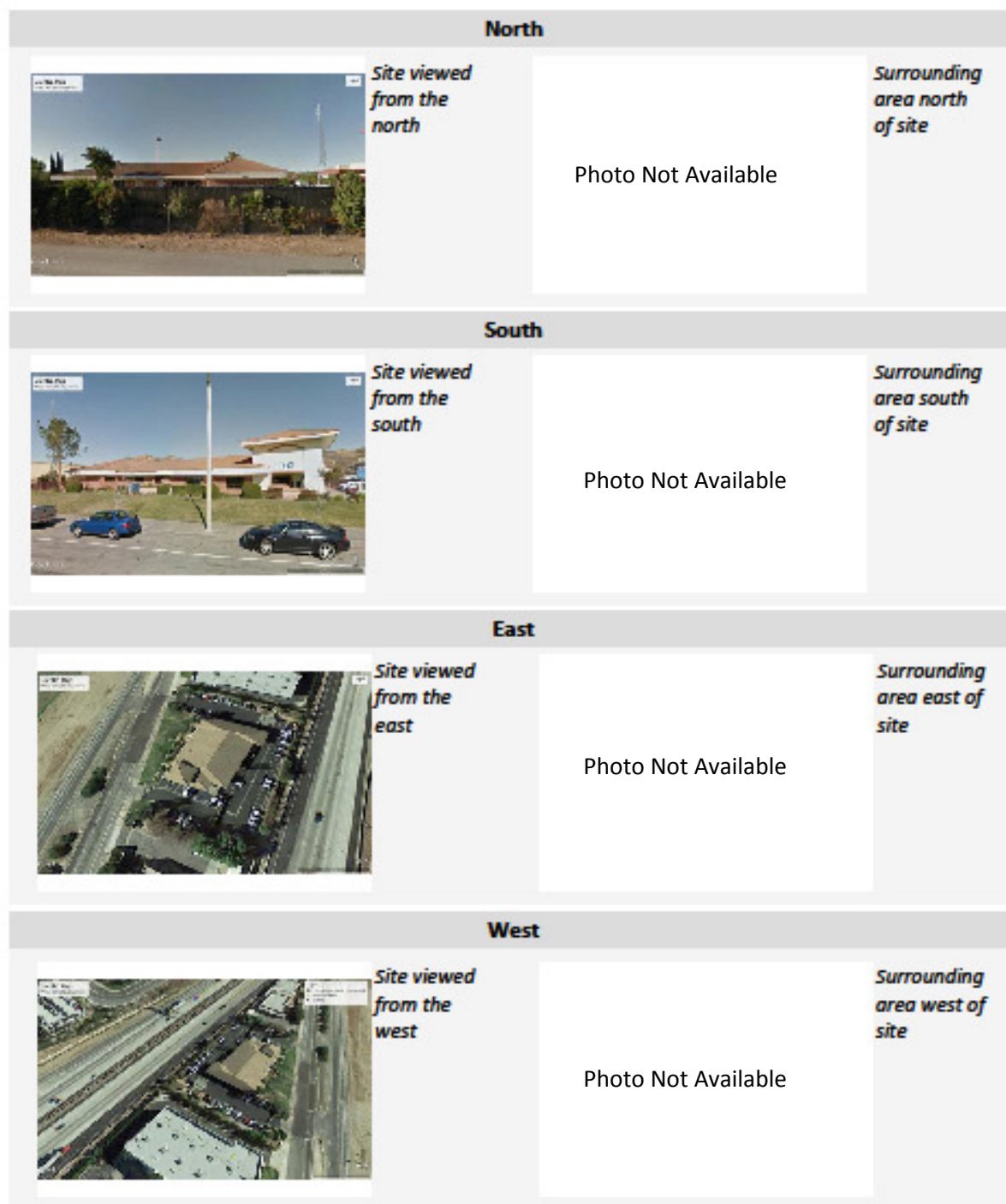


Figure 31: Vegetation Communities Surrounding Site CHPNWHLL

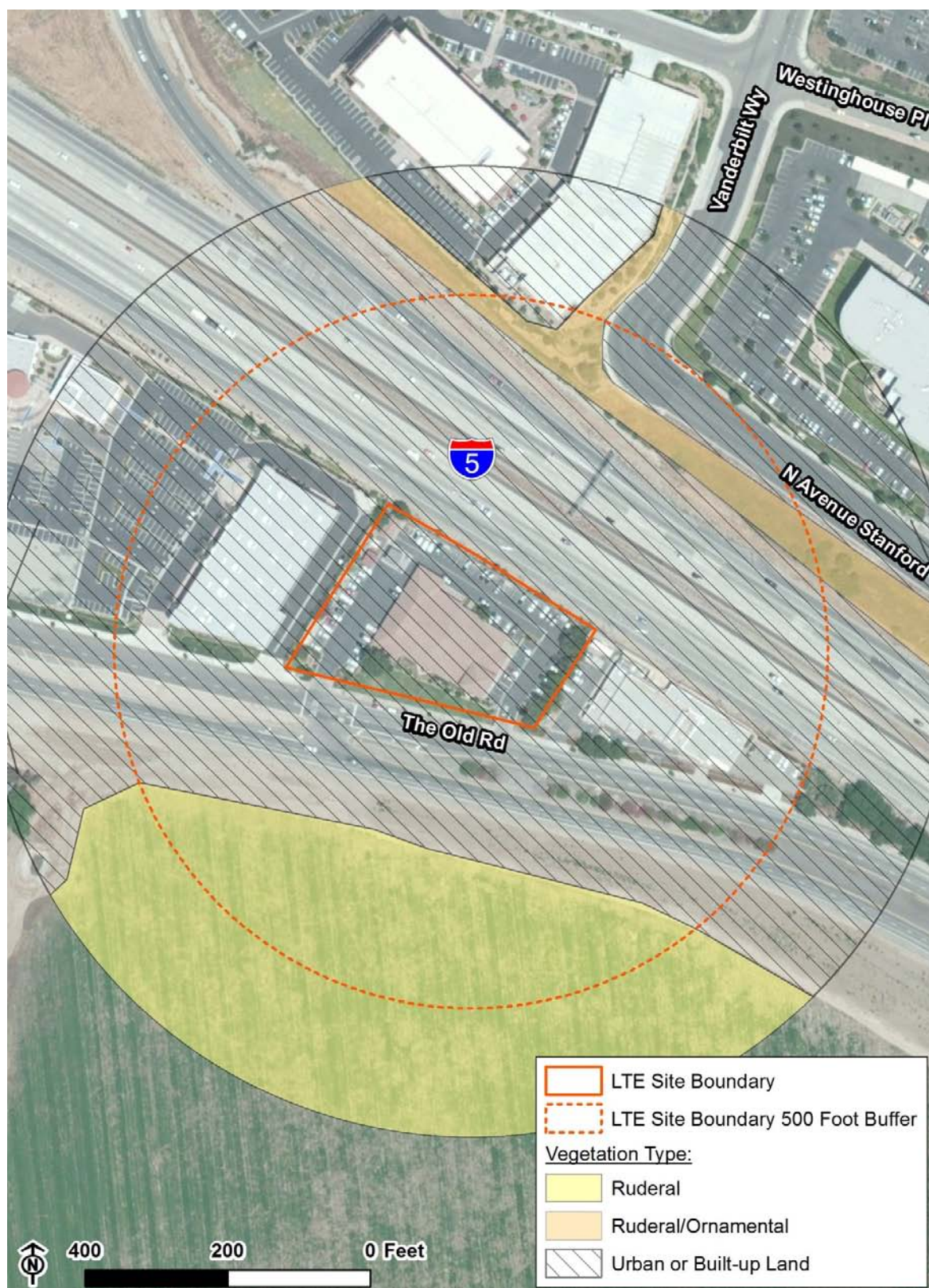
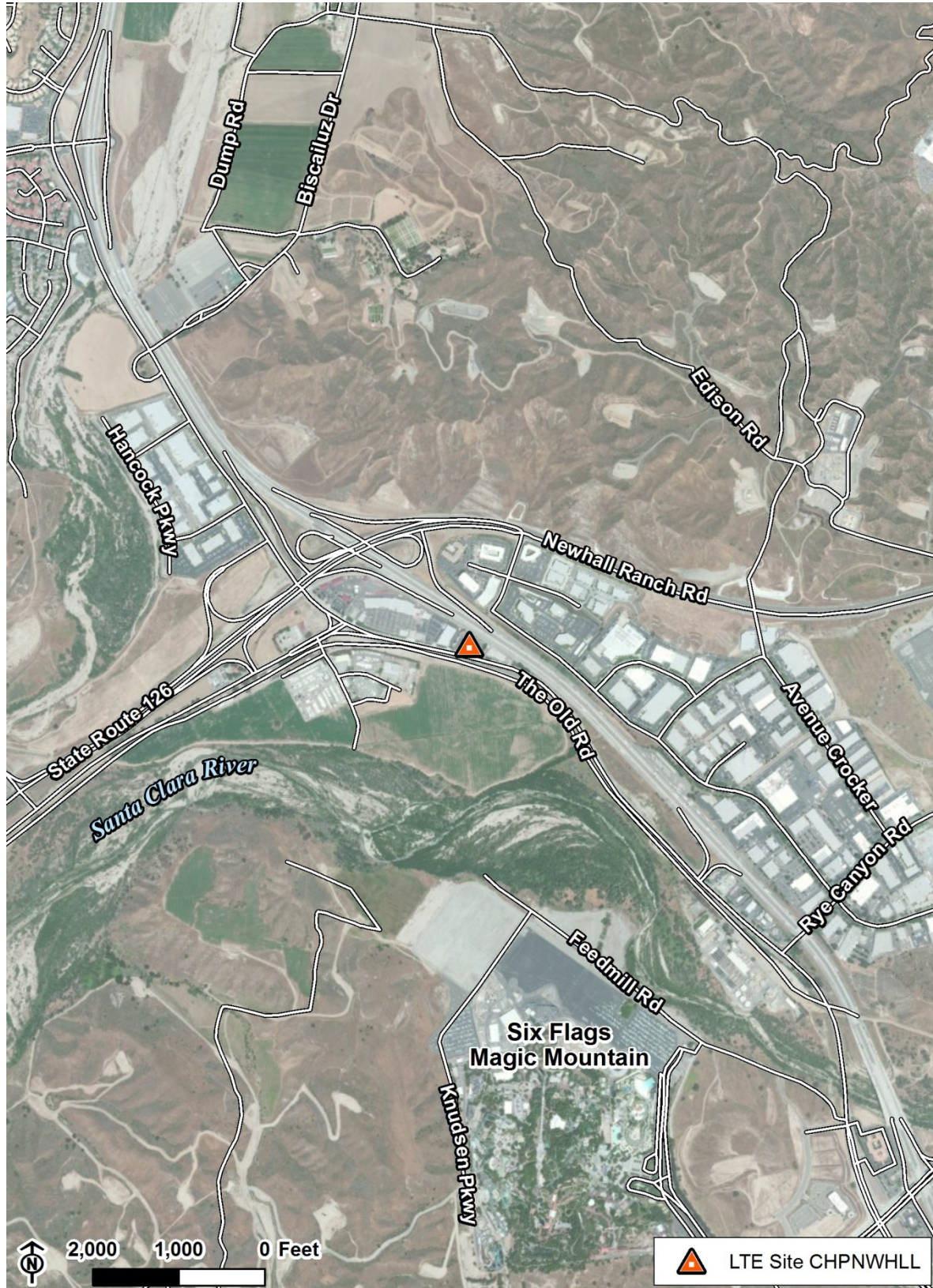


Figure 32: Landscape Surrounding Site CHPNWHLL



3.6 Site LADPW38

Site LADPW38 is located approximately 5 miles south of BLR2DPW, near the community of Lake Los Angeles (see Figure 1). The site contains two 32-foot-tall water tanks enclosed by a 6-foot chain link fence with rolls of razor wire on the top and bottom (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The area within the fence is paved, as is the access road leading to the site (**Error! Reference source not found.**). About one-third of the project area has been bladed or cleared of most vegetation (primarily to the west of the PSBN site), and the remaining portion of the project area consists of mostly undisturbed native vegetation.

Hillsides to the north are very steep, while the area to the south abuts a residential community. The area has been impacted by off-highway vehicle use, trails, and development. Vegetation consists of high-diversity creosote bush scrub and includes creosote bush, burrobush, California bush buckwheat, Cooper's goldenbush (*Ericameria cooperii*), Nevada tea, and Joshua trees (**Error! Reference source not found.**) and **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Figure 33: Water Tanks, Fence, and Paving at Site LADPW38



Figure 34: Site LADPW38 Project Area Photographs

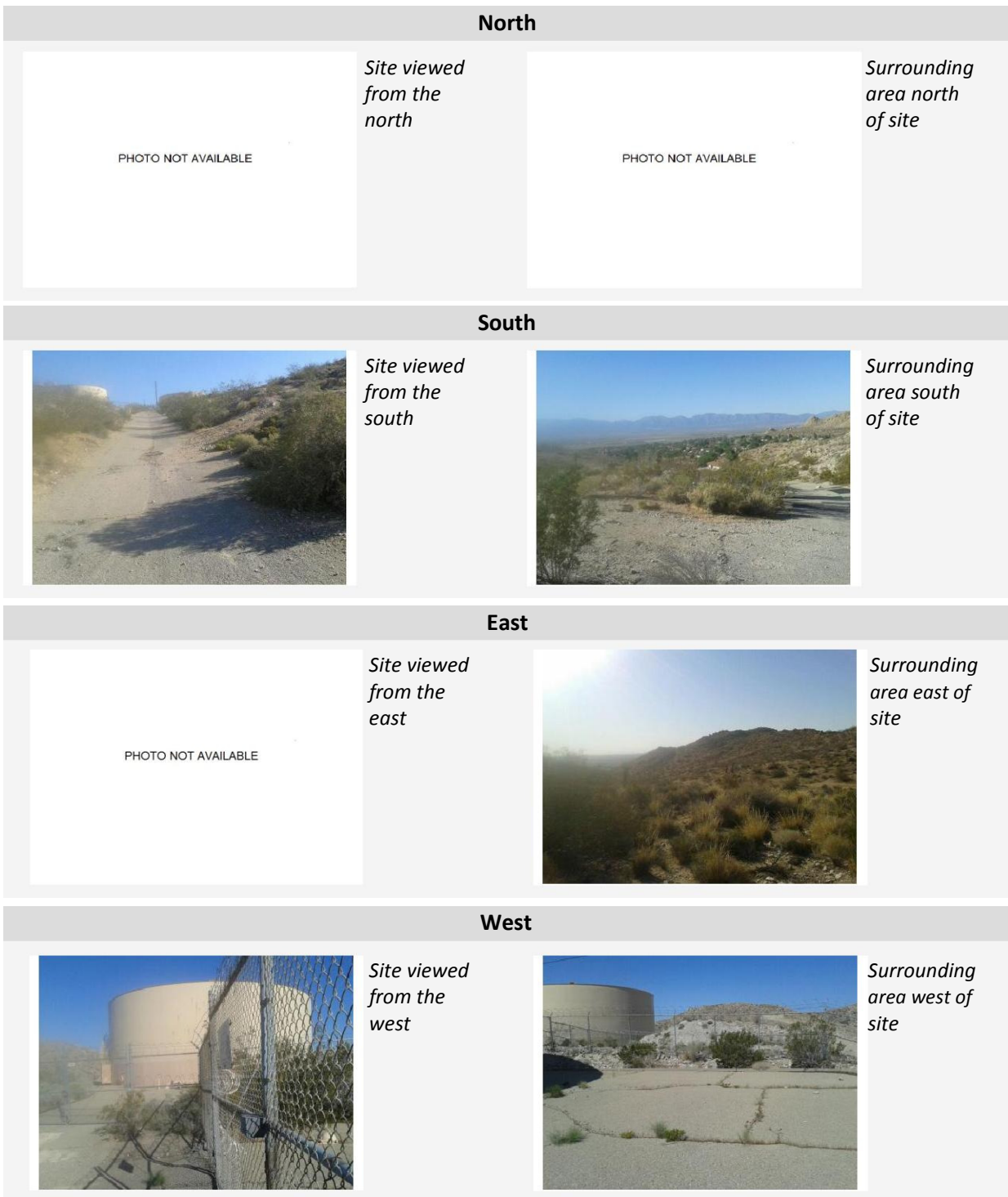


Figure 35: Vegetation Communities Surrounding Site LADPW38



Figure 36: Area Surrounding Site LADPW38



4.0 SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Prior to conducting field visits, biologists prepared lists of special status species that have potential to occur in the general vicinity of each site. Species that are listed, proposed, or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) were evaluated for their potential to occur at or near each of the six PSBN sites. Species with potential to occur for each site were evaluated at two levels: the overall county-wide list of species and a target list of species recorded within 1 to 3 miles of each site based on data from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and taking species-specific factors into consideration. These lists informed the biologists in preparation of survey efforts. Maps were developed to display general habitat, geographical characteristics, and vegetation within the project area, defined by an approximately 500-foot radius projected from the center of the site.

The biologists field-verified the mapping of vegetation communities previously conducted by remote sensing and evaluated whether special habitats or vegetation communities were present in the general vicinity, as these areas often provide habitat for ESA-listed species. Habitat suitability in the vicinity of each site was evaluated for each ESA-listed species potentially occurring in the general area, though species-specific surveys were not necessarily conducted; this was done at two scales: 1) within the PSBN site that captures the work area where all project activities, including temporary lay-down areas, would occur; and 2) within the project area, generally defined as an approximately 500-foot radius projected from the center of the site but possibly including a more expansive area based on the species under evaluation. For species that could occur within the project area, the evaluation considered whether project activities could result in disruption of normal behavior patterns, mortality or injury of individuals, or the loss of occupied or suitable habitat.

A biologist and botanist (Bruce Palmer and David Charlton, respectively) reviewed the USFWS species listed under the ESA as threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate (i.e., ESA-designated species) as originally evaluated in the May 2014 BA (LA-RICS Authority 2014b; see Appendix A) and as provided in updated project-specific lists for Los Angeles County, California, through the Information, Planning and Conservation (IPaC) system for sites ONK, LDWP243, SDW, BLR2DPW, CHPNWHLL, and LADPW38 (Appendix C) to determine the potential for these species and/or suitable habitat to occur in the project area. Additionally, data available through the CDFW CNDDDB was also evaluated for potential species' occurrences in the vicinity of the evaluated PSBN sites. Table 3 includes those ESA-designated species, based on the IPaC and CNDDDB species lists, which were reviewed and determined to have no potential for these species and/or suitable habitat to occur in the identified LTE project areas. This project would have no effect to the species listed in Table 3.

Table 3: ESA-Designated Species with No Potential for the Species and/or Suitable Habitat to Occur in each Identified Project Area

Species Common Name (Scientific Name)	ESA- Status	Habitat	PSBN Site	Potential to Occur in Project Area
Braunton's milk- vetch (<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>)	E	Shallow calcium carbonate soils; scrub dominated by chaparral with high vegetative cover; however, the species does not tolerate shading; associated with bare ground directly around the plant. This species is most common after fires in dense chaparral or along clearings such as fire breaks. Most observations in Los Angeles County are in coastal areas.	ONK	None. This species occurs in a variety of habitats and is typically seen after a fire in chaparral. Site ONK contains coastal sage scrub and oak woodland with a few chaparral species along the eroded slopes on the south side of the project area, the survey area does not contain chaparral habitat. The access road passes mostly through valley bottom with grassland, weeds, occasional oaks, elderberry, and riparian vegetation. No suitable chaparral/ milkvetch habitat occurs along the access road.
California Orcutt grass (<i>Orcuttia californica</i>)	E	Restricted to deep vernal pools.	ONK	None. Area does not contain vernal pools.
			LDWP243	None. Area does not contain vernal pools.
			CHPNWHLL	None. No vernal pool habitat occurs in the project area, which lacks native vegetation and is bordered by agricultural fields.
California red- legged frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>)	T	Aquatic habitat including pools and backwaters within streams and creeks, ponds, marshes, springs, sag ponds, dune ponds, and lagoons within riparian and upland dispersal habitats.	ONK	None. No wetland or aquatic habitat is within 2-mile dispersal distance of potential frog location. Closest known occurrence/ suitable habitat is at Las Virgenes, 12 miles to the southwest.
			CHPNWHLL	None. Nearest recorded habitat/ occurrence is 8.4 miles to the northeast at San Francisquito Creek, which has a hydrological connection to the Santa Clara River but is outside the 2-mile frog dispersal distance.

Table 3: ESA-Designated Species with No Potential for the Species and/or Suitable Habitat to Occur in each Identified Project Area

Species Common Name (Scientific Name)	ESA- Status	Habitat	PSBN Site	Potential to Occur in Project Area
coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>)	T		CHPNWHLL	None. At an elevation of 1,028 feet, the site is just above the 99 percent elevation limits for nesting gnatcatchers. The closest coastal sage scrub (habitat quality unknown) is about 0.3 mile north of the site across the I-5 and SR 126 interchange. Some sage scrub shrubs are found along edge of Santa Clara River corridor, more than 1,500 feet from CHPNWHLL. Between the PSBN site and coastal scrub habitats are urban development, roads, and active agricultural fields.
Gambel's watercress (<i>Rorippa gambellii</i>)	E	Freshwater or brackish marsh habitats at semi-shaded margins of lakes or slow-moving streams.	LDWP243	None. Area does not contain natural surface water.
			ONK	None. Area does not contain permanent water.
			CHPNWHLL	None. No wetland habitat occurs in the area, which is located adjacent to agricultural fields and lacks native vegetation.
least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>)	E	Dense, low, shrubby vegetation in riparian areas, with willows, mesquite, and seep willows; varies with elevation.	LDWP243	None. Area does not contain riparian nesting habitat (1978 record within 1 mile south of site from vicinity of Upper Van Norman Lake on opposite side of I-5).
			ONK	None. Area does not contain riparian nesting habitat
			SDW	None. Area does not contain riparian nesting habitat.
marsh sandwort (<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>)	E	Freshwater or brackish marsh habitats at the margins of lakes or slow-moving streams; sea level to 1,476 feet.	ONK	None. Area does not contain permanent surface water.
			CHPNWHLL	None. No wetland habitats occur in the project area, which is adjacent to agricultural fields and lacks native vegetation.

Table 3: ESA-Designated Species with No Potential for the Species and/or Suitable Habitat to Occur in each Identified Project Area

Species Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	ESA- Status	Habitat	PSBN Site	Potential to Occur in Project Area
Nevin's barberry (<i>Berberis nevinii</i>)	E	Occurs in washes, chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian scrub, and coastal scrub habitats in lowlands or drainages in sandy to gravelly soils at elevations of 900 to 2,870 feet.	CHPNWHLL	None. No natural habitats are found within the project area, which is adjacent to agricultural fields and lacks native vegetation.
Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>)	E	Vernal pools located within 50 miles or less from the California coast in Ventura, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties; does not occur in the nearby desert or mountain areas.	ONK	None. The hilltop site does not contain vernal pools.
			CHPNWHLL	None. Area does not contain vernal pools.
San Fernando Valley spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>)	C	Low-growing late-blooming annual from only three known historical occurrences. Occurred in sandy or gravelly washes of major drainage systems. Specifically occurred on older benches that lacked scouring from flooding for many years. Found in alluvial scrub or coastal sage scrub. The Lasky Mesa population occurs in bare areas with bedrock of marine siltstone and nutrient-poor sandy loam soils with a clay layer beneath. It occurs primarily in Zamora soils with native grassland vegetation. Compaction, tilling and weeds directly interfere with the ability of this plant to compete.	ONK	None. Area does not contain wash habitat for this species.
			LDWP243	None. Area does not contain wash benches. The wash bench system has been destroyed in the vicinity, and no potential habitat was observed within the construction area or along the access road. This genus often leaves skeletons that can be observed for years. No evidence of this genus was observed.
			CHPNWHLL	None. No natural habitats are found within the project area, which is adjacent to agricultural fields and lacks native vegetation.
Santa Ana sucker (<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>) Population: 3 CA river basins	T	Aquatic habitat with coarse substrates that include gravel, cobble, and a mixture of gravel or cobble with sand and a combination of shallow riffle areas and deeper runs and pools.	LDWP243	None. In the Los Angeles River watershed, limited to Big Tujunga and Haines creeks. No suitable aquatic habitat in or near project area.
			CHPNWHLL	None. Santa Ana sucker in the Santa Clara River is presumed introduced and not included as the listed entity.

Table 3: ESA-Designated Species with No Potential for the Species and/or Suitable Habitat to Occur in each Identified Project Area

Species Common Name (Scientific Name)	ESA- Status	Habitat	PSBN Site	Potential to Occur in Project Area
slender-horned spineflower (<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>)	E	Annual herb limited to sandy soils of mature wash benches in alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and oak woodland at elevations of 1,280 to 2,400 feet. Susceptible to surface disturbance of soils.	LDWP243	None. Neither the project area nor the area adjacent to the access road contains sandy or gravelly wash benches. The wash bench system in the general vicinity has been destroyed by development (including construction of I-5).
			ONK	None. Area does not contain washes or wash benches. Plant cannot compete with tall weeds.
			CHPNWHLL	None. No natural habitats are found within the project area, which is adjacent to agricultural fields and lacks native vegetation.
southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax trailii extimus</i>)	E	Cottonwood/willow and tamarisk vegetation communities along rivers and streams; less than 8,500 feet in elevation.	ONK	None. Area does not contain riparian nesting habitat.
			CHPNWHLL	None. Site CHPNWHLL is 1,463 feet from designated critical habitat along the Santa Clara River and at least 1,500 feet from the closest riparian nesting habitat. Between CHPNWHLL and critical habitat are roads, urban development, and active agricultural fields.
spreading navarretia (<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>)	T	Natural vernal pool habitat, seasonally flooded alkali vernal plain habitat, and man-made irrigation ditches and detention basins; basins with appropriate clay soils that provide ponding opportunities during winter and spring months flood plain areas; elevations from sea level to 4,250 feet.	ONK	None. The survey area and access road do not contain potential vernal pool or clay depressions necessary for pooling water.
			CHPNWHLL	None. No natural habitats are found within the project area, which is adjacent to agricultural fields and lacks native vegetation.

Table 3: ESA-Designated Species with No Potential for the Species and/or Suitable Habitat to Occur in each Identified Project Area

Species Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	ESA- Status	Habitat	PSBN Site	Potential to Occur in Project Area
unarmored threespine stickleback (<i>Gasterosteus williamsoni</i>)	E	Found in clear, flowing, well- oxygenated water with pools and eddies and areas of dense vegetation or debris.	CHPNWHLL	None. CNDDDB records from Castaic Creek and Santa Clara River in general project vicinity. This PSBN site is approximately 1,700 feet from Santa Clara River channel where the fish may occur; the closest aquatic habitat to CHPNWHLL. Between the PSBN site and aquatic habitat is urban development, roads, and active agricultural fields. Runoff from the PSBN site is controlled within an urban sewer system.
vernal pool fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>)	T	Vernal pools, alkali pools, seasonal drainages, stock ponds, vernal swales, and rock outcrops along alluvial fans, bedrock, bedrock escarpments, basin rim, floodplain, high terrace, stream terrace, volcanic mudflow, and low terrace formations; elevations of 25-500 feet.	ONK	None. Area does not contain depressions that form pools.
			CHPNWHLL	None. Area does not contain depressions that form pools.

Source: USFWS 2015a March 27, May 1 and 15, 2015. <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>; and CDFW CNDDDB dated March 27, 2015.
ESA-status: E = Endangered; T = Threatened; C = Candidate.

4.0 – Species Identification

ESA-designated species and critical habitat that have been determined to have a potential to occur within the vicinity of the PSBN sites are listed in Table 4. The following species are analyzed in detail in this document:

Table 4: ESA-Designated Species and Critical Habitat Analyzed in Detail

Common Name	Scientific Name	ESA Status	Site
arroyo toad	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	Endangered Critical Habitat	CHPNWHLL
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Endangered	ONK LDWP243 BLR2DPW CHPNWHLL LADPW38
coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Threatened Critical Habitat	ONK LDWP243 SDW
least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Endangered Critical Habitat	CHPNWHLL
Mojave desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	Threatened	BLR2DPW LADPW38

5.0 SPECIES EVALUATION

5.1 California Condor

5.1.1 Life History

The California condor, *Gymnogyps californianus*, is the largest flying land bird in North America. When European settlers arrived, the geographic distribution of California condors appears to have included the western edge of the continent from southern Canada to northern Mexico and perhaps inland into the Southwest. By 1987, their distribution had contracted to a wishbone-shaped area in south-central and southwestern California (USFWS 2013a). California condors are opportunistic scavengers that feed on the carcasses of dead animals. Food is typically found via long-distance reconnaissance flights (USFWS 1984, 2013b). Foraging habitat of California condors has been characterized as open foothill grasslands and oak savanna foothills that support populations of deer, elk, and cattle that provide carcasses for condors to feed on. Condors foraging along the coast in central California also feed on carrion from coastal environments, which include fish, marine mammals, and marine birds (Snyder and Snyder 2000; Chamberlain et al. 2005). California condors repeatedly use roosting sites on ridgelines, rocky outcrops, steep canyons, and tall trees or snags near foraging grounds (USFWS 1984). Condors require high perches from which strong updrafts provide the lift needed for flight (USFWS 2013a).

California condors are primarily a cavity-nesting species and typically nest in cavities located on steep terrain with rock outcroppings, cliffs, and caves or in the burned out hollows of old-growth conifers (i.e., coast redwood [*Sequoia sempervirens*] and giant sequoia trees [*Sequoiadendron giganteum*]) (Koford 1953; Snyder et al. 1986), at elevations that range from 2,000 to 6,500 feet above mean sea level. Nesting occurs in various types of rock formations that include crevices, overhung ledges, sheltered cave, or a hole in a cliff with a sand bottom. Females normally lay a single egg between late January and early April. Both parents incubate the egg, which hatches after approximately 56 days. Both parents feed the nestling. The chick fledges (leaves the nest) in about six months and flies well at about 10 months (USFWS 1984; Snyder et al. 1986). Individuals appear to become sexually mature after six to eight years. Pairs are monogamous for life, and individuals probably live 50 to 60 years (USFWS 1984).

The California condor had an extensive range across much of North America in prehistoric times, but both the geographic range and the numbers of condors decreased significantly following the Pleistocene era (approximately 10,000 years ago). In recent times, the number of California condors has been consistently low, with estimates of a minimum population size during the 1930s to 1960s of about 40 to 60 individuals. Because of their low numbers, the California condor was recognized by the federal government as endangered in 1967. Critical habitat was designated for the condor in 1976 that included “an area of land, water, and airspace to an elevation of not less than 3,000 feet above the terrain” (USFWS 1976). Their numbers continued to decline, reaching their lowest numbers in 1982 with 22 living condors. By 1985 the minimum wild population estimates were as low as nine individuals (USFWS 2013a).

To enhance their recovery, all wild condors were brought into captivity to begin a captive breeding program; the last wild condor was captured in April 1987. The captive breeding program has been successful, with individuals subsequently released back into the wild in southern and central coastal California, northern Arizona and southern Utah, and Baja California, Mexico. Successful nesting in the wild increases each year. As of December 2014, there are 421 living California condors with 228 in the wild; about 130 of these birds are free-flying in central and southern California (USFWS 2015b). Recently, the expanding population in southern California managed by USFWS Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge has moved into the Tehachapi Mountains, a traditional (pre-reintroduction) foraging area (Johnson et al. 2010). Condors are intensively managed. Almost all birds carry a telemetry unit, and about half of the birds are monitored by satellite global position system (GPS) telemetry. From October 2013 through March 2015, 598,999 point locations, representing 29 of 72 condors in the southern California population during 2013, were recorded for condors carrying satellite GPS tags (USFWS 2015c); the total number of GPS locations includes 51 days of duplicate data across three separate data sets. In 2013, the range of the southern California condor population as recorded by satellite GPS included approximately 13,500 square miles across southern California's coastal mountains, the Transverse Ranges, and lower Sierra Nevada Range; the area generally ranges from the Sierra Madre Mountains of Santa Barbara County in the north to the San Gabriel Mountains of Los Angeles County to the south (USFWS 2013b). This area includes activity centers around two National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) – Hopper Mountain NWR and Bitter Creek NWR – as well as Bear Valley Springs and Tejon Ranch areas in southern California.

5.1.2 Threats to California Condors

The California condor is an inquisitive bird and comes in contact with a variety of situations over the large expanse of its range. Threats to condors include poisoning, predation, power line collision, shooting, habitat destruction, consumption of microtrash, and habituation to people and man-made objects. Lead and other chemicals have continued to be a threat to condors. The condor ingests toxic substances (primarily lead bullet fragments) while feeding on contaminated carrion. In 2013, 25 condors in southern California were treated for elevated levels of lead, more than double the number in 2012 (USFWS 2013b). Numerous predators, including coyotes (*Canis latrans*), ravens (*Corvus corax*), golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), bobcats (*Lynx rufus*), and even black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are threats and often responsible for loss of eggs and immature birds. Shooting is a potential threat to these birds, with several recorded incidents since the reintroduction program began in 1992. As with many other species, habitat destruction and modification is a continuous threat to condors as areas are developed and foraging habitat is fragmented or lost (USFWS 2013a).

Power lines pose a threat to condors due to the potential of collisions during flight or electrocution when perching. Young birds, which are relatively inexperienced flyers, are more likely to come into contact with power lines and the associated poles and structures, especially when visual conditions are below optimum, such as in fog (USFWS 2012). Pre-release aversion training of captive-reared birds to mock power poles began in 1995 and has been successful at alleviating the situation; however, wild-fledged chicks do not receive this training and therefore are more susceptible to power pole collisions and electrocutions. No fatalities are known to have occurred due to power line collisions since 2007. In

addition, insulated tree wire (a type of electric line insulation) is replacing many power lines in order to reduce the threat of electrocution (USFWS 2013b).

Small pieces of man-made materials (microtrash), such as plastics, wires, bolts, nuts, and glass, are a significant threat to the California condor (USFWS 2012, 2013b). As natural scavengers, condors are attracted to these types of items within their habitat, often mistaking them as mineral supplements. These items can be ingested by adults or fed to young and result in injury or death. Microtrash was found in six of the seven successful condor nests in 2013 (USFWS 2013b). Presence of trash within the condor diet is a direct result of increased human presence within the condor's range and has been noted particularly in the southern California population of condors (USFWS 2013b). Methods to reduce potential encounters and consumption of trash include providing nest guards, cleaning the nest floor and assessing the health of the nestling, cleaning locations frequented by condors that may pose a threat (including roadside pullouts or construction sites), and providing bait stations with bone chips that the birds would ingest instead of microtrash.

Habituation of condors to human activity and structures can compromise the bird's ability to survive. The interaction with humans can lead to reduced natural survival skills, such as foraging and predator avoidance, or put the bird in greater danger of being shot or ingesting trash. Additionally, these social birds may cause other condors to also become habituated to a situation, thereby increasing the threat to a larger number of birds (USFWS 2012). For instance, condors may approach or land on man-made structures such as power lines or communication towers, increasing the risk of electrocution or entanglement on these structures. A condor became entangled on a communication tower in 2011 and was subsequently euthanized due to sustained injuries (USFWS 2012). To counter threats from habituation, aversion training is currently being performed on captive-bred birds prior to release with use of mock power poles and hazing techniques such as clapping or other loud noises. Environmental awareness programs and other outreach programs are being used to enlighten people on the biology of the bird and preventative measures to ensure the birds' survival.

5.1.3 Analysis of Potential Project-related Effects

Site ONK

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

Site ONK and the Oak Mountain ridgeline are dominated by non-native grasslands mixed with oak woodland, which is suitable foraging habitat for condors. Rocky outcrops and steep canyons are found on the slopes about 0.3 mile below and south of ONK, but it is not known if this includes appropriate cliff-face caves and ledges that could be used for nesting or roosting by an expanding population of condors. Designated critical habitat is approximately 13 miles northwest of Site ONK (Figure 37). Condors are known to have visited various communication sites along the Oak Mountain ridgeline; but it is unknown if condors have visited the facility in which ONK would be collocated, which includes a 128-foot-tall communication tower. One condor carrying a satellite GPS tag, condor number 98, was recorded in the vicinity of Oak Mountain (Figure 38).

Figure 37: Proximity of Designated Critical Habitat for California Condor to PSBN Sites

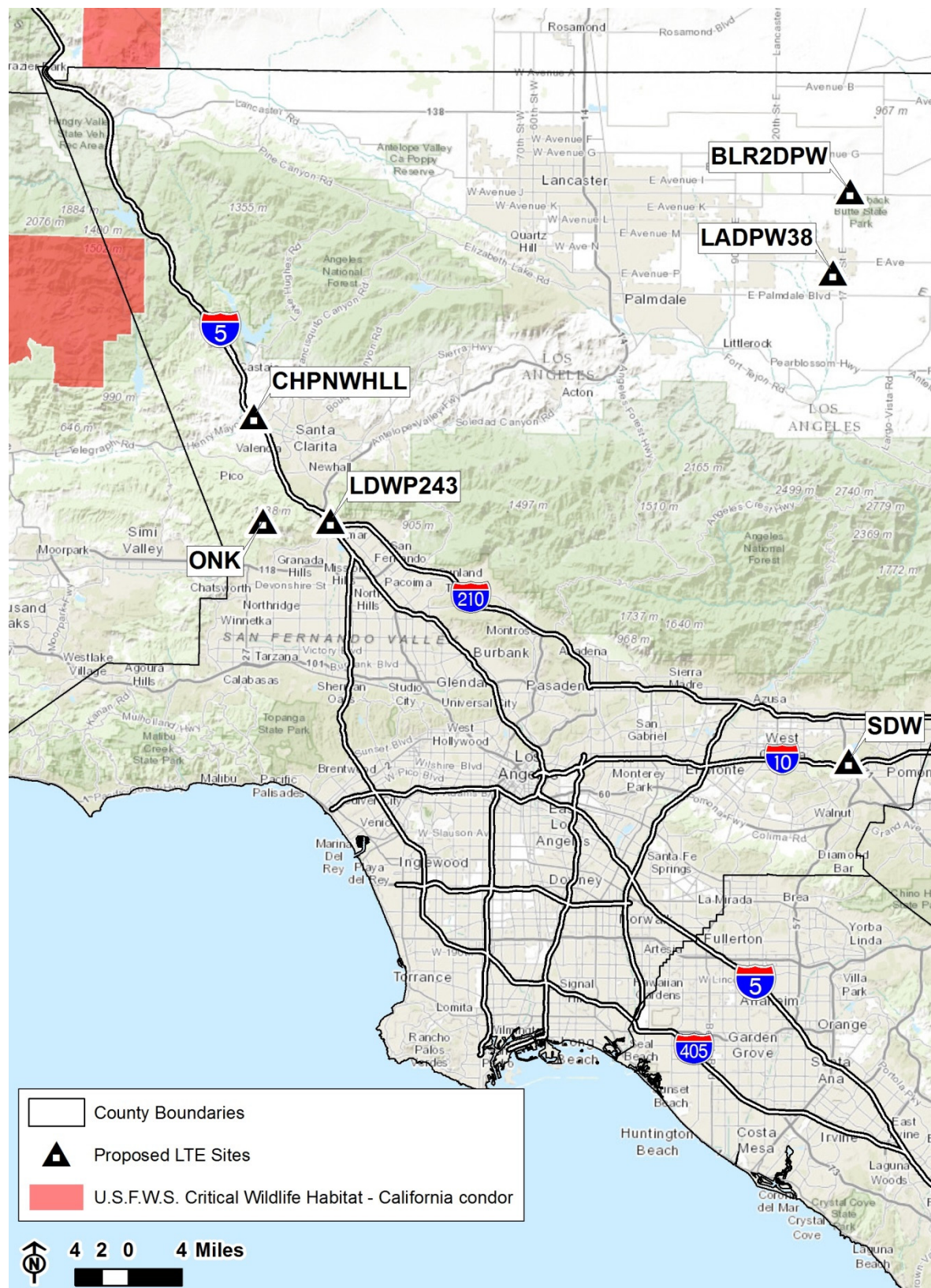
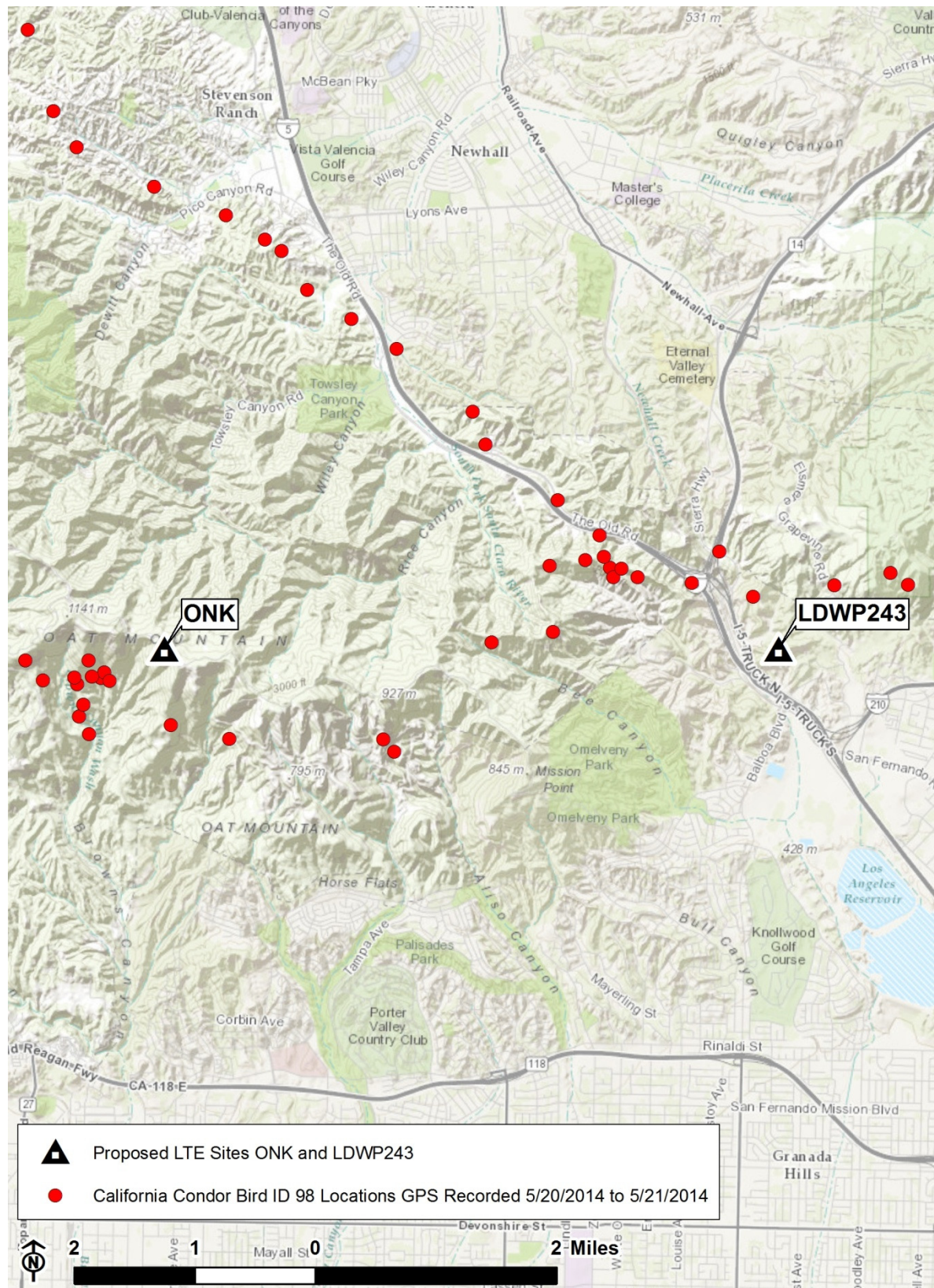


Figure 38: Proximity of Documented California Condor Activity to Sites ONK and LDWP243



As demonstrated by the satellite GPS telemetry data, the vast majority of condor activity is northwest of Site ONK in the vicinity of designated critical habitat (see **Error! Reference source not found.**) and the Sespe Wilderness. Condor 98 was recorded in the vicinity of Oat Mountain on May 21, 2014. Over a period of one hour, approximately 30 GPS locations were recorded for condor 98 below the ridgeline of Oat Mountain. Of these GPS locations, none were in association with any of the many communication towers along the ridge; however, several locations were clearly at oil rig facilities. Condor 98 was also recorded among the steep canyons south of and below the ridgeline. Condor 98, a male that was released at Hopper Mountain NWR in 1995, is one of the older and more experienced birds in the southern California condor population. Since slightly fewer than half of the birds carry satellite GPS units, other non-GPS tagged condors may have been with condor 98 when he visited the Oat Mountain area; other non-GPS tagged condors may have visited the Oat Mountain area at other times and were not recorded by ground-based telemetry.

Condors are known to visit mountaintop communication facilities and perch on towers with suitable structure. In 2012 and 2013, condors with satellite GPS tags visited several developed sites, including the ITT Towers site on the Angeles National Forest approximately 6 miles east of Site ONK in the San Gabriel Mountains (USFWS 2015c). Condor 98 visited the ITT site in 2014, the day prior to passing through the Oat Mountain area. In 2011, one condor became entangled in cables at a communication tower. Numerous communication towers, power lines, wooden power poles, oil rigs, and other man-made structures suitable for perching are located in the vicinity of Site ONK. These and other sites are also potential sources of microtrash that could be ingested by condors.

Direct Effects

The proposed ONK LTE project includes construction of a new communications monopole, installation of associated infrastructure, and modification of facilities currently present on site. The noise and disturbance associated with construction could result in condors avoiding foraging in the area; however, the condor utilizes a huge foraging range and any slight and temporary change in a condor's flight path would be within normal behavior patterns. Conversely, construction activities and the presence of a new monopole could potentially attract condors to the project area where trash, discarded food, and other materials could be consumed by condors. Project requirements include the implementation of BIO CMRs to keep the construction site clean of any and all trash, contain construction supplies, and properly dispose of other hazardous substances to prevent condors, if they should visit the site, from ingesting any materials obtained from Site ONK. Specific provisions for the protection of California condor have been incorporated into BIO CMR 6 – Construction Monitoring and include maintaining a clean site during and after construction activities (see below), as well as during normal operations and maintenance of the facility. An environmental monitor is to be present on site during construction activities to assure all measures are met. Requirements include preconstruction surveys for nesting birds (BIO CMR 1), a worker environmental awareness program (BIO CMR 6), immediate clean-up of all materials, and establishing provisions for how each hazardous substance will be treated in case of leakage or spill (BIO CMR 18). Anti-perch devices would be installed as needed; and all wires, cables, and other items that could entangle a condor are to be securely fastened down (BIO CMR 6). The full text of the BIO CMRs is contained in Appendix B.

All construction would be contained within a previously disturbed area. The existing access road would not be modified, and no native perennial vegetation would be removed. Therefore, no project-related loss or fragmentation of condor foraging habitat would occur. The proposed 85-foot monopole may or may not include horizontal surfaces (e.g., T-arms) that would be suitable for perching by large birds; if T-arms are used they will be fitted with anti-perch devices. No guy wires would be used. The monopole could present a potential threat of collision to condors; however, no incidents of condors colliding with communication towers have been recorded, though power lines have been an issue (see above discussion of threats to the condor). The USFWS has previously concluded that electrical transmission towers are not likely to adversely affect California condors if the appropriate measures are implemented (USFWS 2010a); communication towers, and specifically monopole structures, are even less likely to be a threat to condors when managed appropriately. At least 22 major communication tower sites, over 50 oil rigs, and miles of power lines and wooden power poles are located along the Oat Mountain ridgeline (see Figure 13 and Figure 14). Though condors have been recorded along the Oat Mountain ridgeline, no mortalities or collisions with these towers or power lines have been observed. It is unknown, however, if condors are consuming microtrash found at these various sites. With the implementation of BIO CMRs 1, 6, and 18, the probability of direct effects to condors due to collision with a new ONK monopole or ingestion of microtrash from the ONK site during construction or operations is insignificant (highly unlikely that condors would visit the site due to lack of suitable perch sites) and discountable (if condors would visit the site, any consequences are highly unlikely because the site would be cleared of microtrash that could be ingested by the birds). No project activities would occur near or within designated critical habitat; no project-related effects to designated critical habitat would occur.

Indirect Effects

Construction activities would occur over a period of about one month, and the increased human activity at the site could draw condors to the site due to their inquisitive nature and contribute to increasing levels of habituation of condors to humans and human-made structures. In addition to the communication towers, oil rigs, power lines and poles along the Oat Mountain ridgeline (see Figure 13 and Figure 14), workers are regularly present at these sites. Some of these facilities and towers have anti-perch devices, but observations suggest these devices are not consistently placed or maintained. The proposed 85-foot monopole does not include any horizontal surfaces that could be used as a perch site by a condor. Since these other facilities along the Oat Mountain ridgeline provide elevated sites suitable for condors to perch, it would be unlikely that condors would choose to loaf at Site ONK. In addition, since the presence of condors at man-made structures is not desirable from the perspective of management of the condor population, the USFWS Hopper Mountain NWR monitors the activity patterns of condors via radio and satellite telemetry. If condors are repeatedly converging on developed sites, condor biologists are dispatched to discourage condors from use of those sites. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that indirect effects due to the construction or operations of a new monopole placed at an existing communication tower site or the temporary presence of on-site construction workers would contribute to habituation by condors to human structures and activity.

Determination of Effect

The construction and operations of Site ONK may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the California condor due to increased exposure of condors to humans and human structures. The project would have no effect to designated California condor critical habitat.

Site LDWP243

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

With a large foraging range, the condor could potentially occur in the vicinity of Site LDWP243; however, appropriate cliff-face caves and ledges used for nesting are not known to be present in the vicinity of LDWP243. Designated critical habitat is over 15 miles northwest of Site LDWP243 (see Figure 37). Currently, Site LDWP243 has no communication towers; but an approximately 30-foot tall water tank and associated structures are at the top of a very steep ridge. No records of condors occurring at Site LDWP243 are known, although on May 20-21, 2014, condor 98, tracked by a satellite GPS tag, passed approximately 0.5 mile from the site as it flew along the rim of the San Gabriel Mountains south to about Tujunga Canyon before returning north to overnight in the western end of the San Gabriel Mountains, probably within a few miles of Site LDWP243. In addition, two condors with satellite GPS tags were documented in 2012; and in 2013 three condors were documented at an ITT communications site approximately 5 miles to the northeast (USFWS 2013b). Condor 98 also visited the ITT site as it passed through the area on May 20, 2014 (USFWS 2015c). Since all condors do not carry satellite GPS tags, it is possible that untagged birds may have previously visited Site LDWP243 and/or other surrounding developed sites.

The landscape surrounding Site LDWP243 is highly compromised as condor habitat, since numerous electrical transmission towers and power lines are on the surrounding hilltops (Figure 39) along with extensive human development on surrounding lands. Within 0.5 mile of Site LDWP243 are extensive interstate highways and major interchanges, residential development, and a golf course (see Figure 18). Due to proximity of Site LDWP243 to high levels of disturbance from human activity, it is unlikely that the steep slopes surrounding the site would support populations of large mammals that could provide a carrion prey-base for condors to feed on.

Direct Effects

The existing facility at LDWP243 includes an approximately 30-foot-tall water tower. The proposed monopole would be constructed within the existing fenced compound; the existing access road would not be modified, and native perennial vegetation would not be removed. Therefore, no project-related loss or fragmentation of condor foraging habitat would occur. The 70-foot monopole (with added lightning rod for a total height of 85 feet) is to include three horizontal arms (T-arms) installed at 120 degrees apart at the same elevation near the top of the monopole; no guy wires would be used. Horizontal structures such as these have the potential to be used as perches by condors, which thereby could increase the threat of entanglement or habituation to human structures. Anti-perch devices are to be installed on elevated horizontal surfaces to deter condors from perching on the structure (BIO CMR 6). Since this would be a new structure where no high towers previously existed, the proposed

monopole could present a potential threat of collision; however, no incidents of condors colliding with communication towers are recorded, though power lines have been an issue (see above discussion of threats to the condor). Since there is a slim possibility exists that condors could visit Site LDWP243 and potentially consume microtrash, discarded food, or other substances, a clean site protocol (as defined in BIO CMR 6 and discussed above for Site ONK) is to be implemented during and after construction activities, as well as during normal operations and maintenance of the site. A biologist will present a worker education program (BIO CMR 6) and would be present on the site each day during construction. A final inspection of the site by the monitor would be completed (BIO CMR 6). With the implementation of BIO CMRs 1, 6, and 18, the probability of direct effects to condors due to collision with a new LDWP243 monopole or ingestion of microtrash from the LDWP243 site during construction or operations is insignificant (highly unlikely that condors would visit the site due to lack of suitable perch sites) and discountable (if condors would visit the site, any consequences are highly unlikely because the site would be cleared of microtrash that could be ingested by the birds). No project activities would occur near or within designated critical habitat; no project-related effects to designated critical habitat would occur.

Indirect Effects

Construction activities would occur over a period of about one month, and the increased human activity at the site could draw condors to the site due to their inquisitive nature and contribute to increasing levels of habituation of condors to humans and human-made structures. Also, though construction activities would not involve any blasting, concrete/asphalt cutting would be required, which could temporarily increase the noise produced at the site and could cause condors to temporarily avoid foraging in the area. Many other sources of human activities surround Site LDWP243, including a vehicle storage area with periodic activity, and human presence occurs along the access roadway near the valley floor (Figure 40). The presence of condors at man-made structures and in areas exhibiting high levels of human activity is not desirable from the perspective of management of the condor population. The USFWS Hopper Mountain NWR monitors the activity patterns of condors via radio and satellite telemetry. If condors are repeatedly converging on developed sites, condor biologists are dispatched to discourage condors from use of those sites. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that indirect effects due to the construction or operations of a new monopole at Site LDWP243 or the temporary presence of on-site construction workers would contribute to habituation by condors to human structures and activity or the temporary loss of foraging habitat.

Determination of Effect

The construction and operation of Site LDWP243 may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the California condor due to increased exposure to humans and human structures. The project would have no effect to designated California condor critical habitat.

Figure 39: Power Lines and Towers on Hilltops Adjacent to Site LDWP243



Figure 40: Vehicle Storage Area along the Access Road Leading to Site LDWP243



COW Sites BLR2DPW and LADPW38

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

With a large foraging range, the condor could potentially occur in the vicinity of sites BLR2DPW and LADPW38; appropriate cliff-face caves and ledges used for nesting are not present in the vicinity of either of these sites. Designated critical habitat is more than 50 miles west of both Site LADPW38 and Site BLR2DPW (see Figure 37). Currently, no antenna support structures are present at these sites. BLR2DPW is associated with a pipeline facility; LADPW38 is collocated with 32-foot-tall water tanks. Both sites are fenced. The sites are within Mojave Desert scrub habitats, away from major mountain masses and cliffs; however, Site LADPW38 is within a minor mountainous outcropping surrounded by desert flats. Condors generally do not prefer to fly over or to land on flat terrain where they may be unable to gain sufficient updrafts or to launch from an elevated perch. Nearly 600,000 recorded satellite GPS telemetry locations over an 18-month period (USFWS 2015c); two occurred in desert habitats. Condor 493 was recorded in an agricultural area near Palmdale Airport on October 24, 2014, about 11.5 miles from Site LADPW38 and 13 miles from Site BLR2DPW; and condor 262 was recorded on December 9, 2014, northeast of the community of Lake Los Angeles, 4 miles from LADPW38 and 5 miles from BLR2DPW. These two records are within the USFWS data set for which “outliers” (apparently errant records) have not been reviewed and removed, as appropriate. Therefore, it is uncertain if these records are accurate, as there is no other nearby recorded occurrence of these birds moving in or out of the area. To be consistent with the analysis and determinations made for California condors in previous LTE environmental documents, including consultation with USFWS, and with an abundance of caution, all extensive open space habitats in Los Angeles County are considered potential foraging habitat for condors. Therefore, sites LADPW38 and BLR2DPW are evaluated for potential project-related effects to California condor.

Direct Effects

The existing facility at Site BLR2DPW includes an aboveground pipeline valve; water tanks are at Site LADPW38. The proposed COW tower and associated facilities would be driven to each site on a flatbed truck trailer and parked within a fenced area. Both sites are currently fenced, but up to 150 feet of additional chain-link fence or concrete masonry block wall would be added at each site. Ground disturbing activities at BLR2DPW would be limited to no more than 50 feet of trenching for electric power connections through generally degraded creosote bush/desert scrub habitat. At LADPW38, trenching would be through the existing pavement within the previously fenced area. The monopole would telescope to a height of up to 70 feet, with an additional 15-foot lightning rod. Anti-perch devices would be affixed to any elevated horizontal surface suitable for perching by a large bird (BIO CMR 6). Since this would be the only elevated structure in a wide area surrounding BLR2DPW, condors may be drawn to the site, though they would be unable to perch on the tower. Condors could perch on the rim of water tanks, but an elevated tower could be more visible to condors. Even with the extremely low probability that condors would be found in the vicinity of sites LADPW38 and BLR2DPW, if present at either site, condors could land and possibly consume microtrash, discarded food, or other substances. Therefore, a clean site protocol (as defined in BIO CMR 6 and discussed above for Site ONK) is to be implemented during placement of the COW equipment as well as during normal operations and

maintenance of the sites. A biologist will present a worker education program and inspect the site for microtrash upon completion of equipment placement (BIO CMR 6). With the implementation of BIO CMRs 1, 6, and 18, the probability of direct effects to condors due to collision with new towers or ingestion of microtrash at sites LADPW38 or BLR2DPW during installation or operations is insignificant (highly unlikely that condors would visit the site due to lack of suitable perch sites) and discountable (if condors would visit the site, any consequences are highly unlikely because the site would be cleared of microtrash that could be ingested by the birds). No project activities would occur near or within designated critical habitat; no project-related effects would occur to designated critical habitat.

Indirect Effects

Ground-disturbing activities would be limited to new fence construction and trenching for power connections. The on-site placement of the COW-equipped flatbed trailer and construction of additional fencing would occur within three days for sites receiving a new chain-link fence, and five days for sites receiving a concrete masonry block wall. The placement or operation of new COW towers at Site LADPW38 or Site BLR2DPW and the temporary presence of on-site construction workers would not contribute to habituation by condors to human structures and activity. No temporary or permanent project-related loss or fragmentation of condor foraging habitat would occur. Therefore, no indirect effects to California condors would be associated with sites LADPW38 or BLR2DPW.

Determination of Effect

The construction and operation of sites BLR2DPW and LADPW38 may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the California condor due to increased exposure to human structures. The projects would have no effect to designated California condor critical habitat.

COW Site CHPNWHLL

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

No native habitats are found within the 500-foot diameter project area surrounding Site CHPNWHLL. In addition, the general area surrounding the I-5/SR 126 interchange has been heavily developed (see Figure 32). The surrounding landscape includes rolling hills with increasing rugged topography with increasing distance from the site. To the north and northwest of the site, beginning at a distance of about 4.5 miles, is an area consistently used by California condors (see Figure 38). Site CHPNWHLL is about 13.5 miles southeast of California condor designated critical habitat (see Figure 37).

Of the nearly 600,000 point locations of condors collected from birds carrying satellite GPS telemetry tags over a period of about 18 months, up to about April 2015, no condors were recorded within the general vicinity of Site CHPNWHLL (USFWS 2015c); however, one condor, condor 98, passed within about a mile west of the I-5/SR 126 interchange and west of Six Flags Magic Mountain Park on its exploratory flight to the San Gabriel Mountains on May 20-21, 2014. This is the same bird on the same flight that passed proposed sites ONK and LWPD243 (Figure 41) (USFWS 2015c).

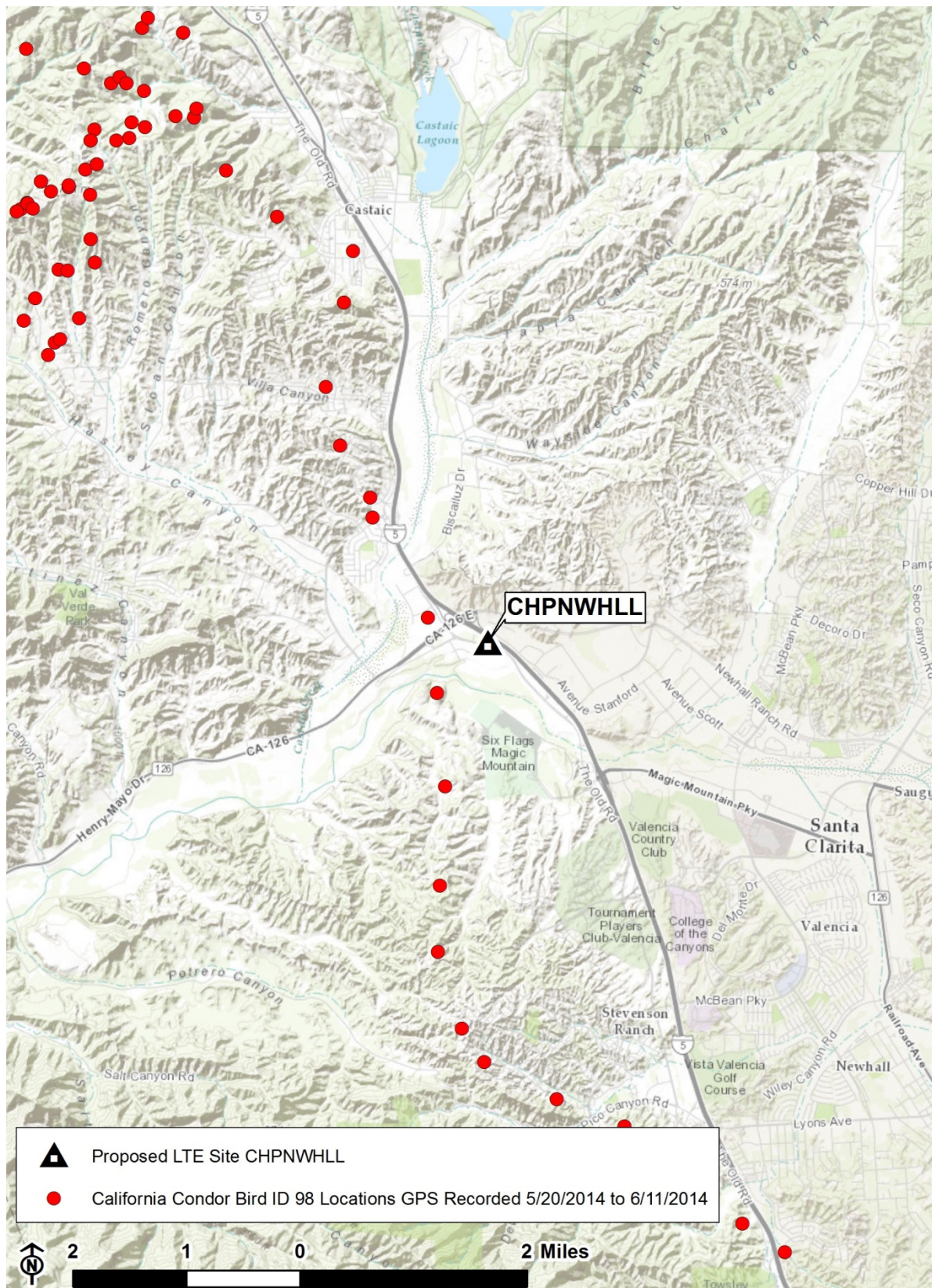
Direct Effects

The existing facility at Site CHPNWHLL is a highway patrol station. The proposed COW tower and associated facilities would be driven to the site on a flatbed truck trailer and parked. The monopole would telescope to a height of up to 70 feet, with an additional 15-foot lightning rod. Due to the extreme levels of existing disturbance in the project area, including traffic on I-5, neighboring developments, and extensive human activity, this area would not be considered a good place for condors, nor is it a place condors would choose to frequent. The nearby Six Flags Magic Mountain Park is likely to have many desirable perch sites and available food scraps, but condors do not go there due to human activity. The presence of an 85-foot-tall monopole would not be expected to increase the likelihood that the birds would be attracted to the area due to the extreme levels of human activity. Nonetheless, since the site is within the foraging range of the condor, anti-perch devices will be affixed to any elevated horizontal surface that may be suitable for perching by a large bird (i.e., placed on the T-arms if used). Otherwise, no additional special protection measures for the condor would be applied to Site CHPNWHLL. The placement and operation of a COW facility at Site CHPNWHLL would not result in direct effects to California condor because birds would not be drawn to the facility where they could ingest microtrash.

Indirect Effects

The COW-equipped flatbed trailer would be placed on site and the additional enclosure fence erected and trenching for power would occur during the course a three-day period. The placement or operations of the new COW monopole at Site CHPNWHLL, and the temporary presence of on-site construction workers, would not contribute to habituation by condors to human structures and activity within a setting where human activities and human structures dominate the landscape (see Figure 12 and Figure 32). No temporary or permanent project-related loss or fragmentation of condor foraging habitat would occur. Therefore, no indirect effects to California condors would be associated with Site CHPNWHLL.

Figure 41: Proximity of Documented California Condor Activity to Site CHPNWHLL



Determination of Effect

The construction and operation of Site CHPNWHLL would have no effect on the California condor or to its designated critical habitat.

5.2 Coastal California Gnatcatcher

5.2.1 Life History

The coastal California gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila californica californica*, is a small, non-migratory songbird (passerine) that occurs in the sage scrub communities along the Pacific coastal regions of southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico (Atwood 1991). Records from 1998 indicated the presence of coastal California gnatcatchers in adjacent Ventura County to the west (USFWS 2007). Based on the species' non-migratory nature and the fact that dispersal distances are usually limited, it is expected that gnatcatchers may occupy surrounding areas within both Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The gnatcatcher measures about 4.5 inches, with dark blue-gray feathers on its back and grayish-white feathers on its underside. This songbird is a ground- and shrub-foraging insectivore, feeding on small insects and other arthropods (Mock 2004).

Coastal California gnatcatchers are typically found in stands of coastal sage scrub that have moderate shrub canopy cover, generally greater than 50 percent (Beyers and Wirtz 1997). The gnatcatcher tends to occur most frequently within sagebrush-dominated stands on mesas, gently sloping areas, and along the lower slopes of the coastal ranges. More than 80 percent of recorded sightings of coastal California gnatcatchers within the United States were reported to occur below an elevation of 820 feet (Atwood and Bolsinger 1992), with approximately 99 percent of reported occurrences at or below 984 feet in elevation (USFWS 2007). Higher elevations may be used during dispersal, however.

The gnatcatcher defends breeding territories ranging in size from 2 to 14 acres. The home range size of the gnatcatcher varies seasonally and geographically, with winter season home ranges being larger than breeding season ranges (Bontrager 1991) and inland populations having larger home ranges than coastal (Atwood and Bontrager 2001). The breeding season of the gnatcatcher generally extends from late February through July (sometimes later). Nests are composed of grasses, bark strips, small leaves, spider webs, down, and other materials and are often located in California sagebrush plants about 3 feet above the ground. The average clutch size is four eggs, and incubation takes about 14 days (USFWS 2007). The gnatcatcher generally disperses short distances within contiguous and undisturbed habitat (USFWS 2010b). Juvenile gnatcatchers can disperse long distances (up to 14 miles) across fragmented and highly disturbed sage scrub habitat such as that found along highway and utility corridors (Bailey and Mock 1998; Famolaro and Newman 1998; Galvin 1998).

5.2.2 Threats to Coastal California Gnatcatchers

Coastal California gnatcatchers were listed as a threatened species under the ESA in 1993 (USFWS 2007) primarily due to habitat loss across the coastal region of California as well as south into Mexico. In 2007, USFWS designated critical habitat, which includes sage scrub habitats such as Venturan coastal sage scrub, Diegan coastal sage scrub, Riversidean sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, Riversidean alluvial

fan scrub, southern coastal bluff scrub, and coastal sage chaparral scrub in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties in California (USFWS 2007). Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs) of critical habitat for the gnatcatcher include the above-mentioned sage scrub vegetation as well as non-sage scrub habitats such as chaparral, grassland, and/or riparian areas, in proximity to the sage scrub habitats that provide space for dispersal, foraging, and nesting (USFWS 2007).

Noise has been implicated as a potential source of threats to coastal California gnatcatchers. Noise, vibrations, and other construction-related activities are temporary disturbances that have the potential to affect gnatcatchers. Noise above certain decibel (dB) levels can present a potential impact to the birds, whether from direct damage to hearing, masking of communication signals between birds, or response to predators. Different sound levels can produce different impacts when certain noise thresholds are exceeded. For instance, various studies on highway and construction noise show that continuous noise levels from above 110 A-weighted decibels¹ (dBA) sound pressure level (SPL) or a single noise blast over 140 dB SPL (125 dBA SPL for multiple blasts) will likely result in damage to some birds. At a distance from the highway or construction area where noise drops to below 110 dBA SPL continuous exposure, hearing loss and permanent hearing sensitivity modifications are unlikely (Dooling and Popper 2007).

Bird response to noise has been shown to be different than human response. Within the average auditory spectrum for bird hearing and vocalization (between 2 kilohertz and 4 kilohertz), the equivalent spectrum noise level is approximately 6 decibels higher relative to background noise for birds compared to human response (Dooling and Popper 2007). The 6-dB difference means that a human can still detect a point source of sound at twice the distance the typical bird can against a background of noise. Therefore, using the A-weighted decibels (dBA) provides a conservative standard of comparison for potential impacts.

5.2.3 Potential Project-Related Effects

Site ONK

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

Site ONK is predominantly surrounded by grasslands mixed with oak woodland at an elevation of 3,514 feet (see Figure 16), almost 2,500 feet above the predominant (99 percent occurrence) maximum elevation range of nesting gnatcatchers. Designated critical habitat is located to the south approximately 1,828 feet laterally from Site ONK and 2,000 feet lower in elevation (Figure 42 and Figure 43). Overall density of shrubs from the chaparral and coastal sage scrub community increases as the slope to the south descends and becomes increasingly steep. It is unknown if critical habitat in this area is suitable for or occupied by gnatcatchers. Though it is theoretically possible that dispersing or non-breeding birds

¹ A-weighted decibels, abbreviated dBA, express the relative loudness of sounds in air as perceived by the human ear by correcting for audio frequency by reducing the values of sounds at low frequencies for which the human ear is less sensitive than high frequencies.

may occasionally be present at or near Site ONK, the lack of shrubs and high elevation render the habitat unsuitable. No evidence of gnatcatchers was observed during the August 13, 2014, site visit.

Direct Effects

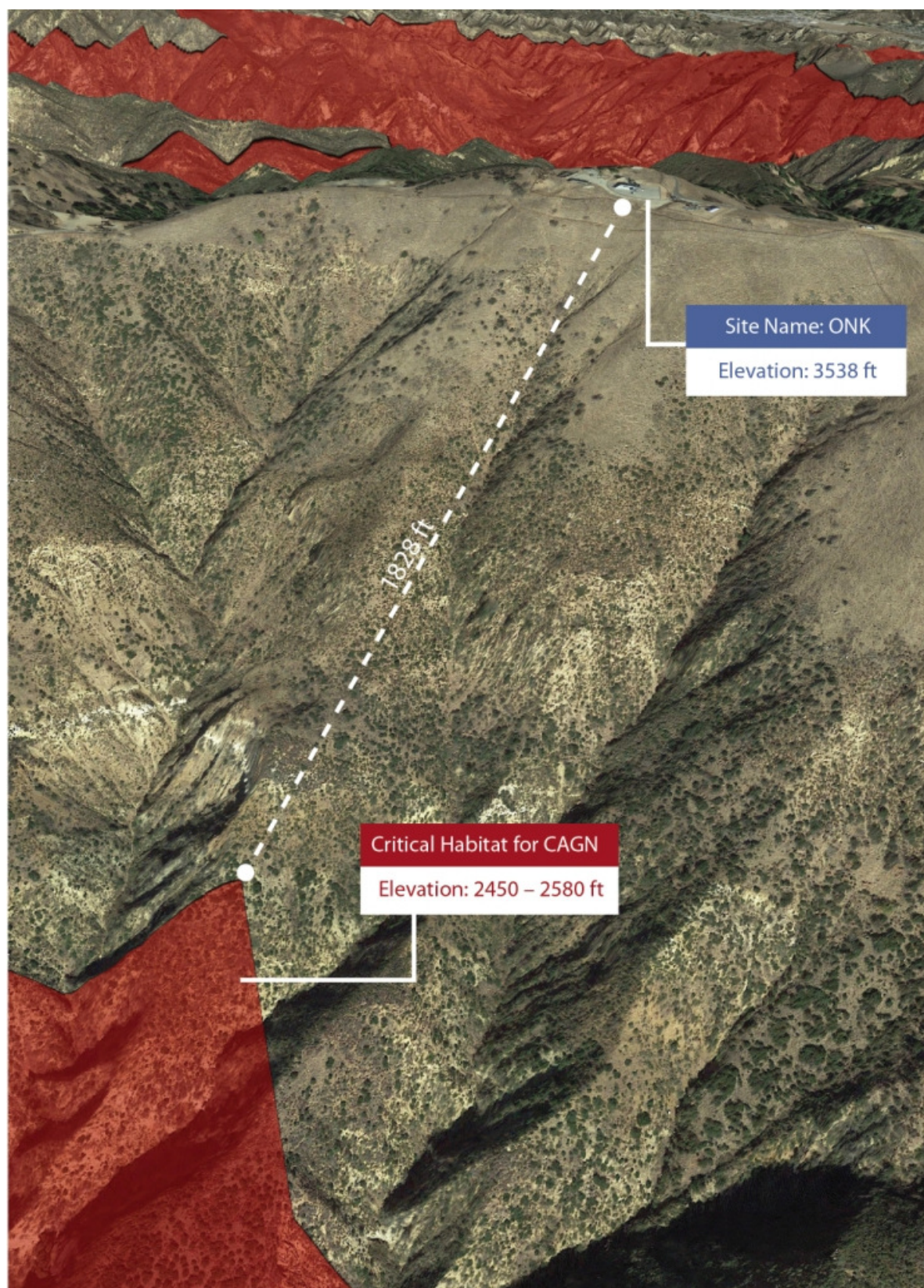
No nesting coastal California gnatcatchers are expected to occur at Site ONK or within the project area due to elevation (nearly 2,000 feet above typical [99 percent] nesting habitat) and lack of suitable shrub habitat. No mature perennial vegetation would be removed. In accordance with BIO CMRs 1 and 19, any suitable habitat within 500 feet of the site would be surveyed prior to initiation of construction activities. In accordance with BIO CMRs 6, 9, and 10, any native perennial vegetation in the construction area would be identified and marked for protection. The project would have no effect on nesting gnatcatchers; however, disruption to the normal behavior patterns of dispersing gnatcatchers at Site ONK could occur due to construction activities, causing birds to temporarily avoid the project area. Therefore, construction activities could temporarily affect dispersing birds.

Indirect Effects

Construction activities at Site ONK may result in noise that could cause disturbance to gnatcatchers that may be nesting in critical habitat below the site. Noise from demolition of existing pavement and structures, including concrete cutting at PSBN sites, was determined to result in the highest one-hour average noise exposure. The one-hour average exposure (equivalent continuous noise level; an average of noise events) at 50 feet from the assumed location of the construction activity (i.e., near the proposed monopole position) would be approximately 90 dBA for concrete cutting activities. Cutting concrete and trenching for underground power connections is expected to be limited at Site ONK since the planned location for the monopole is not covered in concrete. The second noisiest construction activity, excavation and soil handling for the monopole foundation, would occur at Site ONK and may take more than one day; therefore, it would have a greater potential for annoyance to sensitive species. The one-hour average exposure at 50 feet from the assumed location of the activity (near the future monopole position) would be approximately 81 dBA.



Figure 43: Proximity of Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat to Site ONK



Ambient noise levels vary depending on a site's setting, with levels for rural sites typically ranging from 45 to 55 dBA. At Site ONK, considered an urban fringe/rural/remote area, the "soft" ground surfaces absorb a substantial amount of noise energy. The site is located along a ridgeline; and the surrounding wells, pumps, sumps (see Figure 13 and Figure 14), and existing equipment at the site maintain a constant low noise threshold that remains within the rural range.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Roadway Construction Noise Model v.1.1 (FHWA 2008) was used to calculate potential noise exposures at the closest location for coastal California gnatcatcher critical habitat from the construction activity and incorporates the 50-foot reference levels for concrete cutting, excavation, and soil handling activities (Appendix D). The closest critical habitat to Site ONK is located 1,282 feet laterally and approximately 1,000 feet vertically from potential construction activities and would be exposed to 40 dBA during excavation and 41 dBA during drilling activities. This habitat would be exposed to 44 dBA during periods of simultaneous equipment operation. During concrete saw operation, critical habitat at this distance would be exposed to 46 dBA.

Construction activities for the proposed site would be localized over a period of about one month. No noise impacts from construction activities are anticipated at Site ONK because predicted noise levels are at or below ambient levels in the vicinity of the nearest critical habitat and below noise thresholds that typically impact bird species as described above. The noise from maintenance activities, which would include landscaping, routine site inspections, and occasional equipment repairs, would not be substantially different from current levels at Site ONK. Therefore, no indirect effects to coastal California gnatcatcher are anticipated as a result of construction or operation of Site ONK.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects include the effects of future non-federal actions (i.e., state, local, or private actions) that are reasonably certain to occur in the project area. Future federal actions are subject to the consultation requirements established under Section 7 of the ESA and, therefore, are not considered cumulative in the proposed action. Some activities on private or state lands may require federal permits (e.g., a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit), and thus will be subject to Section 7 consultation. Other projects may be planned within the project vicinity over the next several years; however, currently no non-federal projects are known to occur on the land within the project area or along access roads. If projects have a federal nexus due to funding requirements or potential water quality impacts, each of these projects would evaluate environmental effects and mitigate accordingly; therefore, these projects would not be considered to contribute to cumulative impacts with respect to this project. Along the Oat Mountain ridgeline, however, potential exists for habitat loss from developments at lower elevations and exposure of coastal California gnatcatcher critical habitat to noise due to construction or modification of existing towers, expansion of oil extraction facilities, and or private development on to the privately owned land and facilities near Site ONK. Even though many facilities exist within the vicinity of Site ONK, no cumulative effects to coastal California gnatcatcher are expected because of the rapid attenuation of noises to areas that could be inhabited by gnatcatchers, the lack of suitable gnatcatcher habitat along the ridgeline, and the elevation of the Oat Mountain ridgeline relative to the elevation of potential nesting and critical habitat.

Determination of Effects

The construction of Site ONK may affect but is not likely to adversely affect coastal California gnatcatchers as a result of disturbance to dispersing gnatcatchers due to construction noise impacts. Routine operations would have no effect to coastal California gnatcatchers. The project would have no effect to designated coastal California gnatcatcher critical habitat.

Site LDWP243

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

Habitat within the LDWP243 project area consists of mountainous terrain with steep slopes. The vegetation on south exposures consists mostly of well-spaced shrubs of the coastal sage scrub community, with a shrub cover of less than 50 percent. North exposure slopes are predominantly oak woodland (see Figure 20). The PSBN site is at 1,804 feet in elevation; 820 feet above the predominant (99 percent occurrence) maximum elevation of nesting gnatcatchers. The PSBN site is fully paved and contained within a chain link fence (see Figure 19). No gnatcatchers were observed during the August 19, 2014, site visit. Due to the steep slopes, a lack of California sagebrush shrubs, and overall low density and reduced shrub stature, this area around Site LDWP243 is not considered to provide nesting habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher; however, this area could be used as gnatcatcher dispersal habitat. Coastal California gnatcatcher critical habitat is approximately 740 feet away at a horizontal distance; additionally it is 180 to 355 feet below the site vertically (see Figure 42; Figure 44). Many of the slopes within designated critical habitat appear to include diverse coastal sage scrub vegetation; oak woodland is found in the drainage bottoms and canyons. The closest record in the CNDDDB of breeding gnatcatchers is approximately 3 miles southwest in Granada Hills.

The access road to Site LDWP243 crosses through coastal California gnatcatcher designated critical habitat for a distance of approximately 0.22 mile to the north and east of the site (Figure 45). Scattered to dense oak trees occur where the road passes through critical habitat. The road is used by vehicles and large trucks to access the existing water ladder site as well as unrelated industrial sites around the project area. Vehicles and equipment unrelated to the LTE project are stored at a dirt pullout area along the Grapevine Fire Road just before it joins the Elsmere Mountain Highway (see Figure 39, Figure 40, and Figure 45).

Figure 44: Proximity of Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat to Site LDWP243

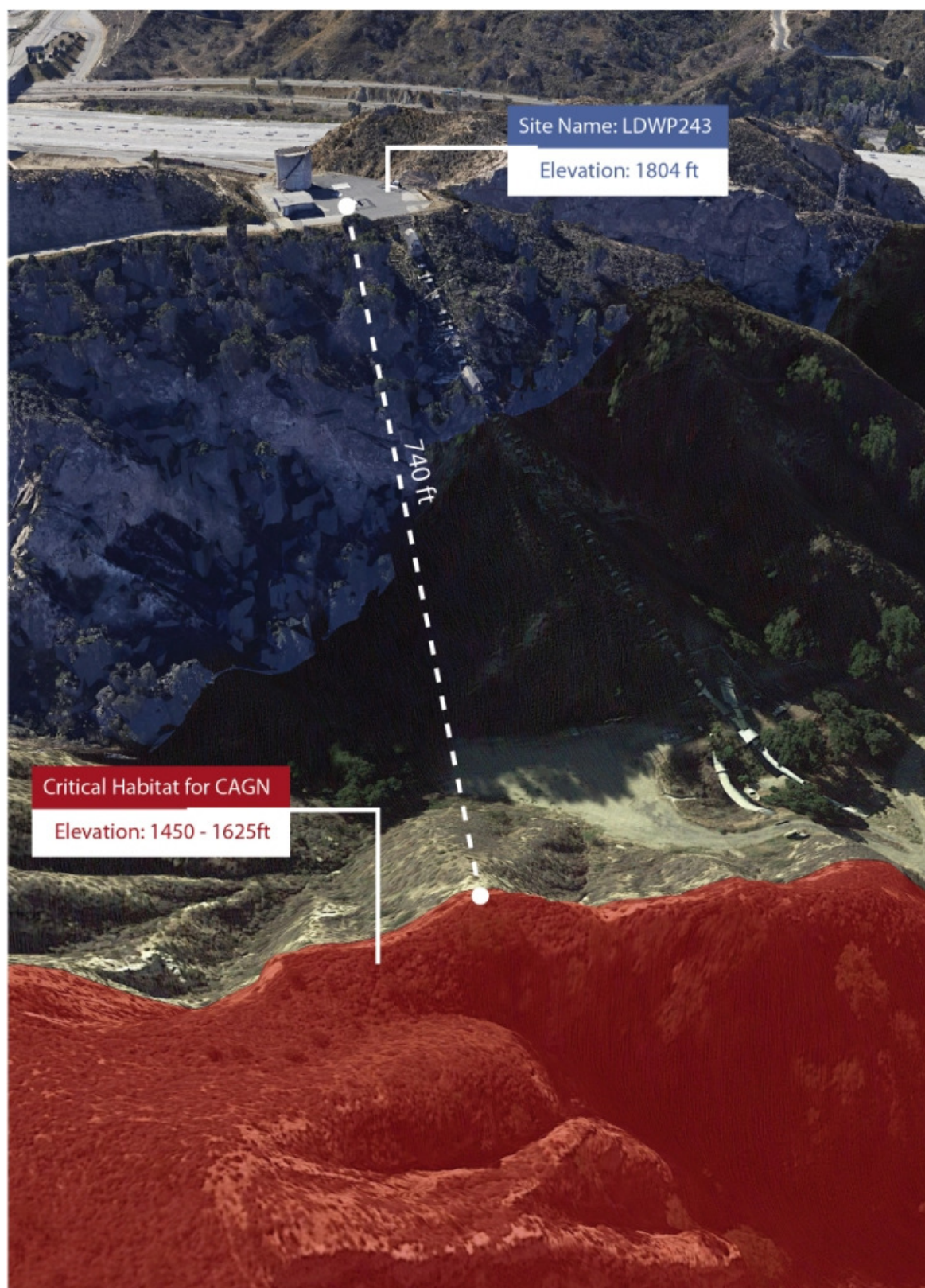
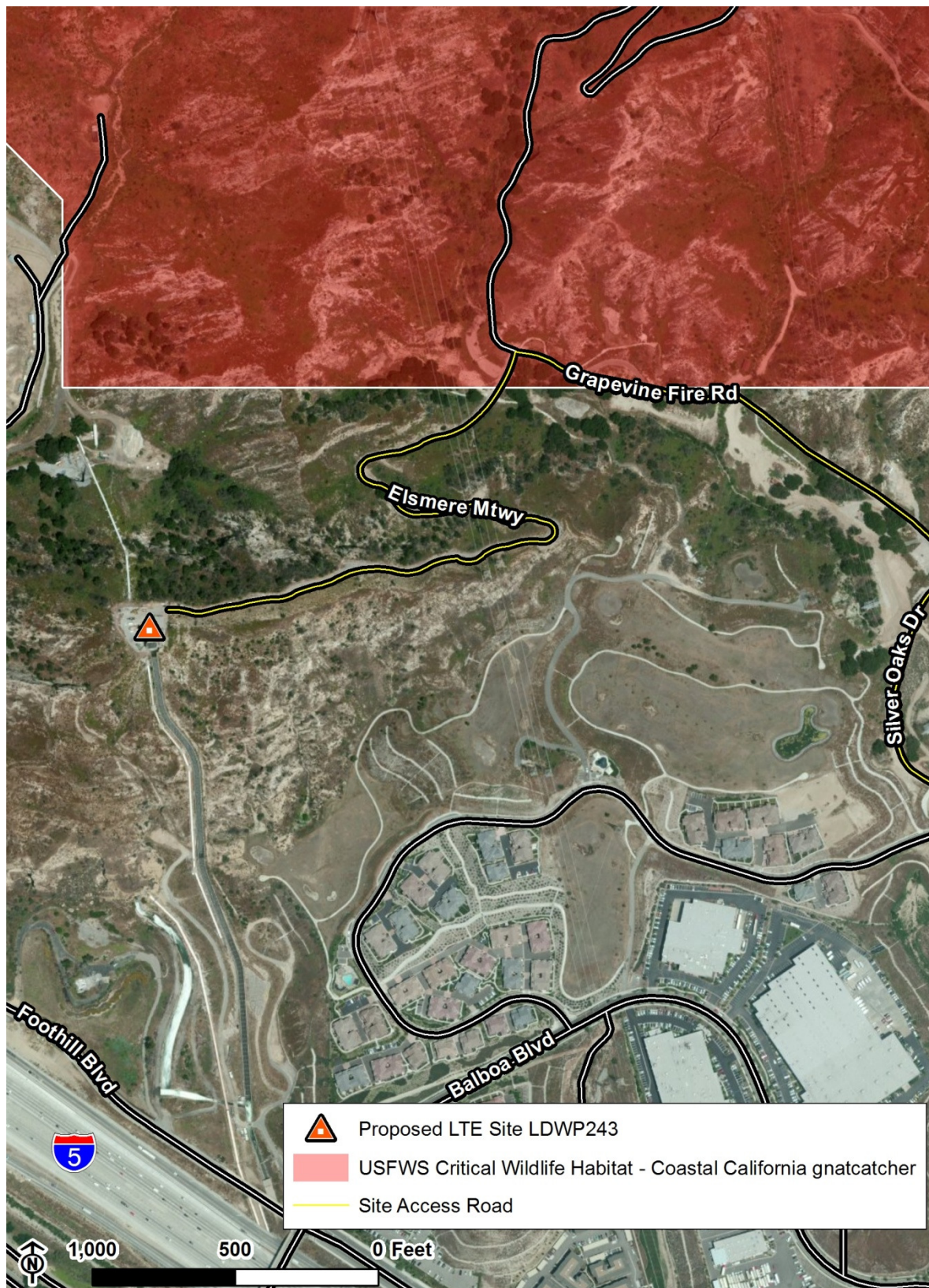


Figure 45: Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat along Access Road to Site LDWP243



Direct Effects

Site LDWP243 is outside the known elevation range used by nesting gnatcatchers; and the habitat is less than suitable for nesting due to low shrub density, steep slopes, and lack of California sagebrush. No native perennial vegetation would be removed as part of project-related actions. In accordance with BIO CMRs 1 and 19, any suitable habitat within 500 feet of Site LDWP243 would be surveyed prior to initiation of construction activities. In accordance with BIO CMRs 6, 9, and 10, any native perennial vegetation in the construction area would be identified and marked for protection. During the estimated construction period of approximately one month, additional vehicles would use the site access road, which crosses through 0.22 mile of gnatcatcher critical habitat; however, the vehicles would stay on the established roadway and would not cause loss or damage to vegetation on either side of the road. Therefore, the project would have no effect on designated critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher. Though it is unknown if gnatcatchers would be nesting within critical habitat along the road (elevation approximately 1,460 feet) a temporary increase in potential disturbance could be associated with increased vehicle activity if birds are present within this area of gnatcatcher critical habitat. Since the birds would have chosen to nest along an actively used road, however, the additional traffic associated with the project would not be expected to be discernable from background traffic levels. No direct project-related effects to the coastal California gnatcatcher are anticipated with the construction and operation of Site LDWP243.

Indirect Effects

Construction activities at Site LDWP243 would result in noise that may cause disturbance to gnatcatchers that may be nesting in critical habitat below the site. Noise from demolition of existing pavement and structures, including concrete or asphalt cutting, was determined to result in the highest one-hour average noise exposure (asphalt is softer, so it would be expected to produce lower noise levels than concrete). The one-hour average exposure at 50 feet from the assumed location of the construction activity (near the proposed monopole position) would be approximately 90 dBA for pavement cutting activities, which is expected to be an important undertaking at Site LDWP243 because the entire planned location for the monopole is paved in asphalt. The second noisiest construction activity, excavation and soil handling for the monopole foundation, would occur at Site LDWP243 and may take more than one day; therefore, it would have a greater potential for annoyance to sensitive species. The one-hour average exposure at 50 feet from the assumed location of the activity (near the proposed monopole position) would be approximately 81 dBA.

At Site LDWP243, an urban fringe/rural/remote area, the “soft” ground surfaces absorb a substantial amount of noise energy. Ambient noise levels for urban fringe sites such as this one typically are lower than urban areas and range from 50 to 60 dBA due to fewer vehicles, construction, public transportation, and other human activities. Additionally, the rush of water on the water cascade ladder when it is in operation may elevate ambient levels to the upper end of the range for an urban fringe environment.

Applying the noise model (FHWA 2008) to calculate potential noise exposures at Site LDWP243 indicated similar noise results as it did at Site ONK (see discussion in previous section; Appendix D). Construction

activities for Site LDWP243 would also be localized over a period of about one month. The closest critical habitat to the proposed LDWP243 site is located 740 feet laterally and approximately 180 feet vertically from potential construction activities and would be exposed to 50 dBA during excavation and 51 dBA during drilling activities. This habitat would be exposed to 54 dBA during periods of simultaneous equipment operation. During concrete/asphalt saw operation, critical habitat at this distance would be exposed to 56 dBA. The steep north slope of oak woodland screens activities at Site LDWP243 from areas of critical habitat and may reduce noise levels by absorbing some of the sounds produced during construction activities.

The predicted noise levels for Site LDWP243 are at or very close to ambient levels in the vicinity of the nearest gnatcatcher critical habitat and below noise thresholds that typically impact bird species as described above; however, it is uncertain if gnatcatchers are nesting in nearby critical habitat. The temporary increase in noise due to the proposed project could potentially disrupt dispersing coastal California gnatcatchers if individuals move through the project area, potentially resulting in insignificant and discountable indirect effects. The noise from operations and maintenance activities, which would include landscaping, routine site inspections, and occasional equipment repairs, would not be substantially different from current levels at the host facilities.

Determination of Effect

The construction and operation of Site LDWP243 may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the coastal California gnatcatcher due to potential temporary disturbance to dispersing gnatcatchers from noise associated with construction activities. The project would have no effect to designated coastal California gnatcatcher critical habitat.

Site SDW

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

Site SDW is predominantly surrounded by areas that have been developed and contain ornamental or ruderal conditions (see Figure 23). Open space associated with the headwater canyon of Walnut Creek is to the south of the site and is designated as an East San Gabriel Valley SEA (Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning 2014). Though most of these undeveloped lands are nonnative grasslands with scattered elderberry shrubs and walnut trees, small, isolated patches of coastal scrub vegetation, primarily consisting of coast prickly pear but also with California sagebrush, occur on the steepest slopes (see Figure 25 and Figure 26). Site SDW occurs at an elevation of 1,227 feet, approximately 250 feet above the predominant (99 percent occurrence) maximum elevation range of nesting gnatcatchers. Designated critical habitat is located to the south approximately 170 feet laterally from Site SDW and 50 feet lower in elevation (Figure 46). Habitat conditions for gnatcatchers in critical habitat appear marginal at best due to the lack of PCEs represented by coastal sage scrub vegetation; however, it is unknown if critical habitat in this area is occupied by nesting gnatcatchers.

Despite the lack of diverse and dense coastal sage scrub vegetation in the vicinity of SDW, portions of the surrounding landscape provide islands of native vegetation that support nesting coastal California gnatcatchers, including Bonelli Park, an area east of SR 57 within approximately 1.25 miles from Site

SDW (Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning 2014; CDFW 2015). It is possible that dispersing or non-breeding birds may be present at or near Site SDW; however, the total lack of shrubs within the work area (see Figure 22), the minor patches of shrubs within in the project area, and high elevation render the habitat generally unsuitable for nesting. No evidence of the gnatcatcher was observed during the August 14, 2014, site visit.

Direct Effects

Due to the elevation of the area and lack of suitable stands of coastal sage scrub vegetation, nesting coastal California gnatcatchers are not expected to occur on or near Site SDW. The patches of coast prickly pear may be used by gnatcatchers dispersing from known nesting habitat about 1 mile away. Since all project activities are contained within the existing fenced site, no native perennial vegetation would be removed or otherwise impacted. Therefore, no direct effects to the coastal California gnatcatcher are anticipated as a result of the construction or operations of Site SDW.

Figure 46: Proximity of Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat to Site SDW



Indirect Effects

Construction activities at Site SDW may result in noise that would cause disturbance to gnatcatchers if they are nesting in critical habitat below Site SDW. These activities are expected to be limited at Site SDW to trenching for power connections. Noise from demolition of existing pavement including asphalt cutting was determined to result in the highest one-hour average noise exposure. The one-hour average exposure at 50 feet from the assumed location of the construction activity (trenching toward the transformer from the current tower position) would be approximately 70 dBA equivalent continuous noise levels for concrete/asphalt cutting activities; however, at the SDW site the saw will be used to cut through asphalt, which is a softer material than concrete and would produce less noise and for a shorter duration compared to cutting through a concrete surface. Drilling for placement of a monopole would not be necessary since the antennas would be attached to the existing structure.

Noise model (FHWA 2008) calculations were also applied to Site SDW to determine impacts from construction activities on coastal California gnatcatchers. The closest critical habitat to Site SDW site is located 170 feet laterally and approximately 50 feet vertically from potential construction activities and would be exposed to 64 dBA noise levels during excavation activities. During concrete/asphalt saw operation, critical habitat at this distance would be exposed to 65 dBA noise levels (Appendix D).

It is uncertain if gnatcatchers are nesting in nearby critical habitat; it is very unlikely that critical habitat near Site SDW contains the requisite PCEs to support nesting birds. Construction activities for the proposed sites would be localized over a period of less than one month; however, since LTE antennas are being added to the existing structure, construction noise and duration is expected to be less than a typical PSBN site. Construction activities associated with Site SDW would likely result in somewhat increased noise levels in the vicinity of critical habitat closest to Site SDW. Habitat suitability within critical habitat is uncertain, and it is not known if gnatcatchers may use this area for nesting or foraging, nevertheless, this analysis assumes that the temporary, increased noise due to the proposed project could disrupt nesting and/or dispersing coastal California gnatcatchers if individuals nest in, or move through, the project area. In accordance with BIO CMRs 1 and 19, any suitable habitat within 500 feet of the PSBN site would be surveyed prior to initiation of construction activities; and, to the extent feasible, the contractor would schedule work at Site SDW outside the gnatcatcher nesting season (February 15 through August 30). In accordance with BIO CMRs 6, 9, and 10, any native perennial vegetation in the construction area would be identified and marked for protection. Therefore, noise impacts associated with Site SDW could potentially result in minor indirect effects to dispersing gnatcatchers.

The noise from maintenance activities, which could include landscaping, routine site inspections, and occasional equipment repairs, would not differ substantially from current levels at the host facilities. Therefore, since minor disruption to the normal behavior patterns of dispersing coastal California gnatcatchers could occur, minor indirect effects would be expected from the construction activities at Site SDW.

Determination of Effects

The construction and operation of Site SDW may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the coastal California gnatcatcher as a result of disturbance to dispersing gnatcatchers due to noise associated with

construction activities. The project would have no effect to designated coastal California gnatcatcher critical habitat.

5.3 Mojave Desert Tortoise

5.3.1 Life History

The desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassizii*, is a medium-sized tortoise found throughout the Mojave Desert in areas west and north of the Colorado River in Arizona, Nevada, and California, including desert habitats within Los Angeles County (Murphy et al. 2011). The species occupies various habitats that include flats and slopes that are often characterized by creosote bush and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) at lower elevations, and rocky slopes in blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*) scrub and juniper habitat at higher elevations. They are most common, however, on gently sloping terrain with sandy-gravelly soils where sparse cover allows growth of herbaceous plants. Occupied areas have soils that are friable enough to dig burrows but firm enough so that the burrows do not collapse (USFWS 1994a).

Mojave desert tortoises maintain home ranges that vary in size depending on location and habitat conditions. Territories can range up to 200 acres, and individuals can use up to 1.5 square miles over their lifetime. Females lay up to three clutches of 1 to 10 eggs per year. The young often have low survival rates because of high levels of predation. Mojave desert tortoises are active from spring through late fall, depending on rainfall patterns; they escape heat, cold, and drought in burrows. Their diet consists of winter annuals and herbaceous perennials that are present after they emerge in the spring (USFWS 1994a).

The numbers of Mojave desert tortoise have decreased significantly since historic times. Most of the decline has resulted from habitat loss or modification, disease, predation by ravens, and vandalism. As a result, the Mojave desert tortoise was listed as threatened under the ESA in 1990 (USFWS 1990). In 1994, the USFWS designated critical habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise, which included areas that encompass portions of the Mojave and Colorado deserts that contain PCEs. PCEs for the tortoise include sufficient space to support viable populations and provide for movements, dispersal, and gene flow; sufficient quantity and quality of forage species, and the proper soil conditions to provide for the growth of such species; suitable substrates for burrowing, nesting, and overwintering; burrows, caliche caves, and other shelter sites; sufficient vegetation for shelter from temperature extremes and predators; and habitat protected from disturbance and human-caused mortality (USFWS 1994b).

5.3.2 Threats to Mojave Desert Tortoise

Threats to Mojave desert tortoise include habitat destruction and fragmentation, vehicle collisions, predation, human predation and collection, disease, and habitat degradation due to livestock grazing (Berry et al. 2013). Numerous predators, including ravens, hawks and eagles, foxes (*Vulpes* spp.), coyotes, mountain lions (*Puma concolor*), black bears, and even domestic dogs are threats to and often responsible for loss of eggs and juvenile tortoises and injury to adult tortoises. Expanding human development within desert habitats has provided a subsidized existence for some of these predators, especially ravens and domestic dogs. People that illegally collect tortoises or remove and relocate them

from their natural habitat are also a threat to the tortoise. Livestock grazing may result in crushing of animals and burrows, as well as loss of forage plants. Also, the vegetation composition may change due to continuous grazing in an area, thereby reducing tortoise habitat quality (Berry et al. 2014). As with many other species, habitat destruction and fragmentation is a continuous threat to tortoises as areas are developed and foraging habitat is lost.

Roadways and vehicle collisions pose a significant threat to tortoises due to the potential of injury or death from being run over (USFWS 1994a). Signs of tortoise use of an area are significantly reduced adjacent to roadways (USFWS 1994a). Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) pose a significant threat to the tortoise as they can operate in areas of suitable habitat for the tortoise and can collide with the animal, crush or damage burrows, and degrade forage potential. Access restrictions and road closures are measures that are used to help reduce impacts (USFWS 1994a).

Disease is another threat to tortoise survival, with upper respiratory diseases found in both captive and wild tortoise populations. Tortoises that are brought into captivity and later released back into the wild population can introduce and spread this and other fatal diseases. Fungal infections due to poor nutrition, drought, and habitat degradation have also been demonstrated to impact tortoises (Berry et al. 2015). Wild tortoises found in closer proximity to human communities have a greater risk of exposure to these diseases (Berry et al. 2014). To counter threats from human development activities, environmental awareness programs are often used to inform construction personnel on the biology of the tortoise and preventative measures to minimize impacts.

5.3.3 Analysis of Potential Project-Related Effects

Site BLR2DPW and LADPW38

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

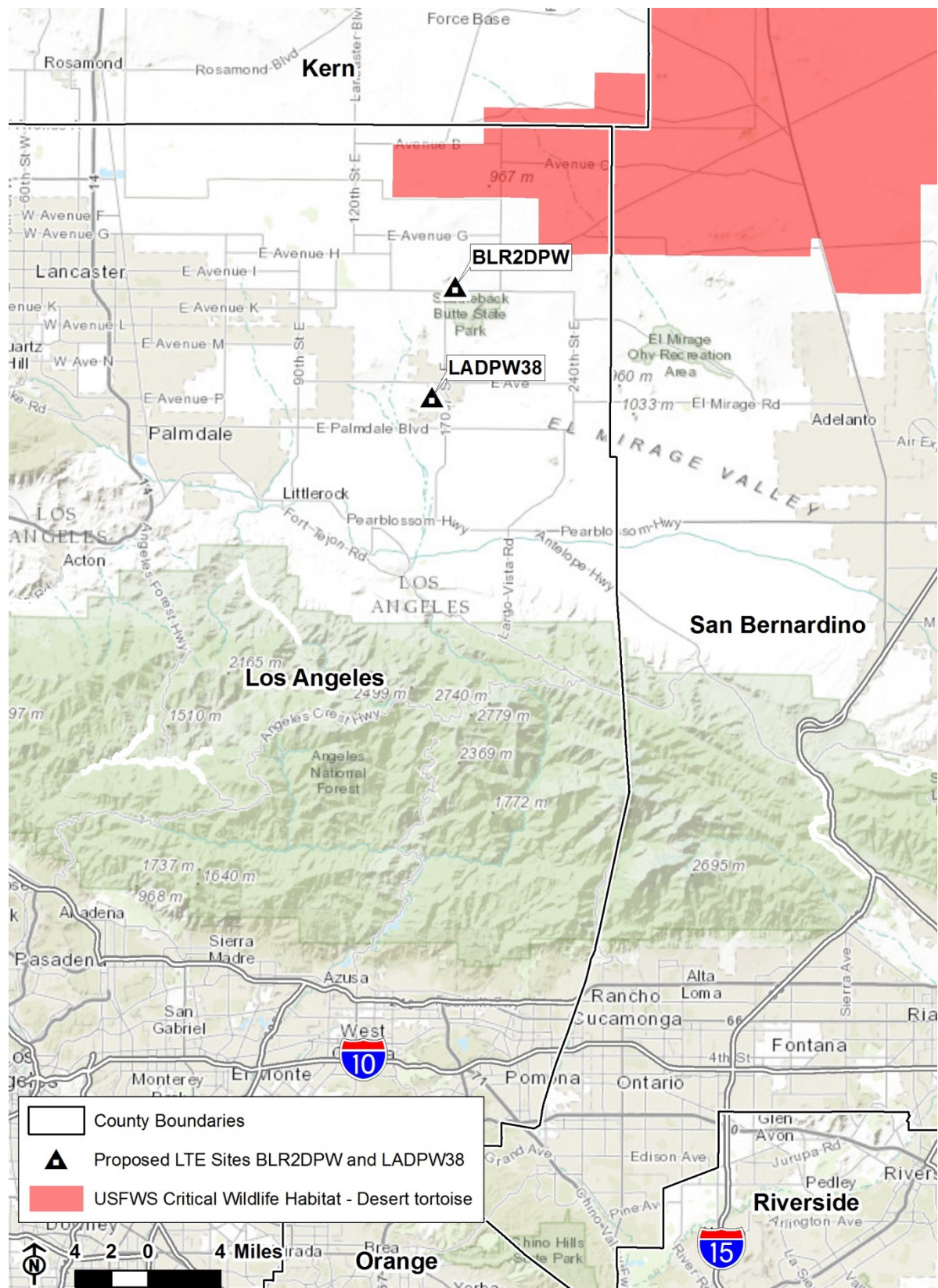
Mojave desert tortoises typically occupy desert flats and gently sloping terrain. In the vicinity of Site BLR2DPW, the terrain is mostly flat; vegetation is of low diversity and consists primarily of creosote bush; and soils are sandy and not ideal for construction of burrows (see **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.**). At Site LADPW38, bedrock exposures within this isolated desert mountain provide cover sites for tortoises, slopes are fairly steep, and desert flora is fairly diverse (see **Error! Reference source not found.**, **Error! Reference source not found.**, and **Error! Reference source not found.**). The project area surrounding each site provides suitable foraging and limited burrowing habitat for tortoises, and is considered to be occupied habitat based on CDFW CNDDDB data. During reconnaissance surveys no tortoise burrows or sign were observed in either project area. Both sites are fenced, but the fenced area at BLR2DPW does not include an area sufficient to surround the proposed COW and a new enclosure is proposed to accomplish this, adjacent to the existing fenced area (see Figure 10). The new enclosure would include up to 150 linear feet of chain-link fence or concrete masonry block wall, enclosing less than 1,400 square feet of generally degraded desert scrub habitat. The fence surrounding LADPW38 currently leaves sufficient space for juvenile tortoises to pass under in places and access the site; the proposed 150 feet of new fencing within that fence would be tortoise-proof. Numerous paved and dirt roadways intersect the general vicinity; due to the long-term

presence of roads and persistent human activities in this area, tortoises are expected to be present in the project areas in limited numbers. Critical habitat is approximately 5 miles northeast of Site BLR2DPW and 10 miles northeast of Site LADPW38 (Figure 47).

Direct Effects

Ground-disturbing activities at BLR2DPW would occur due to fence/block wall construction and limited trenching for power connections. These activities would result in the loss of some creosote bush plants and the enclosure of up to 1,400 square feet of desert scrub habitat, but no Joshua trees or cacti would be lost or included within the enclosure. Placement of a flatbed trailer with project equipment at the proposed Site LADPW38 would require some expansion of the existing fencing, and trenching would be through existing paved surfaces. Construction vehicles accessing the sites could kill or injure tortoises by running over them on the road or crushing them in their burrows. In addition, the noise, dust, and vibrations generated by trenching or moving the COW equipment could disturb tortoises, possibly causing them to leave protected sites and increasing their vulnerability for injury or death. Project requirements include the implementation of BIO CMRs 6, 8, 9, and 14 that would minimize the possibility of adverse effects to desert tortoises. These BIO CMRs would require an environmental awareness program to be attended by all construction workers; the presence of an on-site monitor during all construction activities to assure any tortoises present would be fully protected and that all conservation measures are fully executed; and the implementation of a clean site protocol and attaching anti-perch devices to elevated horizontal surfaces to prevent presence of potential tortoise predators (e.g., ravens and coyotes). Though tortoises would be excluded from sites BLR2DPW and LADPW38 by fencing or concrete masonry block wall, maintenance and operations workers would be subject to these CMRs to ensure awareness of the potential presence of tortoises along access roads. The full text of the BIO CMRs is contained in Appendix B.

Figure 47: Proximity of Designated Critical Habitat for Mojave Desert Tortoise to PSBN Sites



With the implementation of BIO CMRs 6, 8, 9, and 14, the probability of direct effects to tortoises due to site access and construction activities at sites BLR2DPW or LADPW38 during construction or operations is insignificant (highly unlikely that tortoise would be disturbed due to the short duration of project activities and the presence of an on-site biological monitor) and discountable (if tortoises would be encountered, the biological monitor would assure that the tortoise would not be harmed in any way). No project activities or vegetation removal would occur within or near designated critical habitat; no project-related effects to designated critical habitat would occur.

Indirect Effects

Construction activities would occur over a period of one to a few days, and the increased human activity at the sites could generate trash and other materials that could potentially attract ravens or other predators of the desert tortoise. Anti-perch devices would be installed on any elevated horizontal surface associated with the tower that could be used as a perch or nest site by large birds. In accordance with BIO CMR 14, the sites would be kept clean of any and all trash to prevent ravens and other predators from congregating in the area during placement of the equipment as well as during normal operations and maintenance of the site; installation of anti-perch devices would prevent on-site nesting of avian predators. With implementation of BIO CMRs 6, 8, 9, and 14, these potential indirect effects associated with subsidizing potential predators of the Mojave desert tortoise at sites LADPW38 and BLR2DPW would be considered insignificant and discountable.

Determination of Effect

The construction and operations of sites BLR2DPW and LADPW38 may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the Mojave desert tortoise due to the presence of construction and operations vehicles and human activities. The project would have no effect to designated Mojave desert tortoise critical habitat.

5.4 Least Bell's Vireo

5.4.1 Life History

Least Bell's vireo, *Vireo bellii pusillus*, is one of four subspecies; it is the western-most subspecies and breeds entirely within California and northern Baja California (Kus 2002). A small, migratory songbird (passerine), the vireo occurs in riparian woodlands from the interior of northern California to northwestern Baja California, Mexico (USFWS 1994c). Records from 1973 indicated the widespread decline of least Bell's vireos in California due to loss of riparian habitat and brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) (USFWS 1994c). The vireo measures about 4.5 to 5 inches, with gray feathers on its back and a pale underside. This songbird is a ground- and shrub-foraging insectivore, feeding on small insects and other arthropods (Kus 2002).

Least Bell's vireos are typically found in willows (*Salix* spp.), although a variety of other shrub and tree species are used for nesting (USFWS 1994c). Least Bell's vireos forage in riparian and adjoining upland

habitats, although a large percentage of their foraging may occur in the adjacent chaparral community up to 300 or more yards from their nest location (USFWS 1994c).

Male vireos defend breeding territories ranging in size from 0.5 to 7.5 acres. The breeding season of the vireo generally extends from mid-March through late September (sometimes later). Nests are composed of soft plant and bark strips, small leaves, spider webs, down, and other materials and are often located in dense foliage of willows, California wild rose (*Rosa californica*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) in areas of dense understory to hide the nest (Kus 2002). Nests are usually about 3 feet above the ground in plants ranging from 9 to 15 feet tall. The average clutch size is three to four eggs, and incubation takes about 14 days (Kus 2002).

5.4.2 Threats to Least Bell's Vireo

Least Bell's vireo was listed as a threatened species under the ESA in 1986 (USFWS 2006) primarily due to riparian habitat loss across the interior of California as well as south into Mexico. In 1994, USFWS designated approximately 38,000 acres of critical habitat, which includes riparian habitats in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties in California (USFWS 1994c). Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs) of critical habitat for the vireo include riparian woodland vegetation that generally contains both canopy and shrub layers and includes some associated upland habitats. Vireos meet their survival and reproductive needs (e.g., food, cover, nest sites, nestling and fledgling protection) within the riparian zone in most areas. In some areas they also forage in adjacent upland habitats (USFWS 1994c).

Nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds has been associated with loss of population to least Bell's vireo (USFWS 2006; Kus 2002). Several cowbird management programs have been implemented to reduce the impacts from parasitism (Kus 2002). Predation of both adult birds and eggs by such species as western scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma californica*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote, dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*), and gopher snakes (*Pituophis catenifer*) also poses a threat to the birds. Least Bell's vireos often nest near open spaces or trails, and nest failure and abandonment can be caused by human disturbance such as trampling nest sites or clearing vegetation (USFWS 1998). Riparian habitats adjacent to urbanization and agricultural lands have been shown to have an increased decline in reproductive success than territories bordering on more natural vegetation including coastal sage scrub, grassland, and chaparral (RECON 1989).

5.4.3 Analysis of Potential Project-Related Effects

Site CHPNWHLL

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

Site CHPNWHLL and the surrounding 500-foot diameter project area is totally developed for human uses, and no native habitats are present (see Figure 30 and Figure 31); however, the Santa Clara River corridor in this area is considered occupied by nesting least Bell's vireos. Designated critical habitat for the vireo includes the Santa Clara River corridor, extending across an active agricultural field up to and

including The Old Road that borders Site CHPNWHLL (Figure 48 and Figure 49). The closest riparian vegetation is along the Santa Clara River at a distance of approximately 1,500 feet. Within this distance from Site CHPNWHLL, no native habitats are present; no vireo critical habitat PCEs are present.

Direct Effects

The placement of a flatbed trailer with COW equipment and installation of chain-link fence at Site CHPNWHLL is within a previously disturbed area and would not result in the loss of native perennial vegetation. No guy wires will be used to support the monopole; elevated lights attached to the tower would be used only if required by the FAA. Since no riparian vegetation is present within 1,500 feet of the site, no riparian vegetation would be impacted by project activities. Though technically within the geographic delineation of designated critical habitat when project vehicles would access the PSBN site from The Old Road, a 4-lane divided roadway (see Figure 49), no PCEs are present on or along the road; and no PCEs would be impacted. LTE COW placement at Site CHPNWHLL would result in no direct effects to the least Bell's vireo or its designated critical habitat.

Indirect Effects

Noise resulting from the placement of a flatbed trailer with COW equipment would be limited, as no ground-disturbing activities would be conducted; and most activities would occur over a period of one to a few days. In addition, background noise is likely elevated and continuous due to proximity to I-5, masking any project-related noise (see Figure 12). Project-generated noise would not be discernable against background at a distance of over 1,500 feet — the distance to the closest riparian habitat (or any native habitats) to Site CHPNWHLL.

Figure 48: Proximity of Designated Critical Habitat for Least Bell's Vireo to PSBN Sites



Figure 49: Proximity of Least Bell's Vireo Critical Habitat to Site CHPNWHLL



Brown-headed cowbirds, a nest parasite of least Bell's vireo, are often associated with human habitations, agriculture, and areas of trash accumulation. Cowbirds are expected to be present throughout the vicinity of Site CHPNWHLL, in both urban and agricultural settings, and in natural habitats along the Santa Clara River corridor. Project activities would not result in dispersing trash or otherwise alter the distribution or abundance of cowbirds in the project area. No indirect effects would occur to least Bell's vireo due to activities associated with placement or operations of COW equipment at Site CHPNWHLL.

Determination of Effect

The construction and operations of Site CHPNWHLL would have no effect on the least Bell's vireo or its designated critical habitat.

5.5 Arroyo Toad

5.5.1 Life History

The arroyo toad, *Anaxyrus californicus*, is a small-sized, olive green to light brown toad found in semi-arid regions of the southern part of the Coast Ranges in California, including desert habitats within Los Angeles County (CDFW 2005). It ranges up to 6,400 feet in elevation and forages on small invertebrates including snails, beetles, ants, caterpillars, and Jerusalem crickets (CDFW 2005). The species is associated with washes or intermittent streams and occupies valley foothills and desert riparian habitats including Joshua tree, mixed chaparral, and sagebrush. The toad is often found near rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores and typically found in loose gravelly areas of streams in drier portions of its range. During the non-breeding season, arroyo toads are essentially terrestrial and use a variety of upland habitats for foraging, burrowing, and dispersal. Areas of sandy or friable soils are necessary, but these soils can be interspersed with gravel or cobble deposits. Upland sites with compact soils can also be used for foraging and dispersal and include alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grassland, and oak woodland (USFWS 2009). Additionally, arroyo toads may seek temporary shelter under rocks or debris and have been found in mammal burrows on occasion.

Adults usually feed during the night, while newly metamorphosed toads may be active during the day. Breeding season extends from March to July, with shallow, slow-moving streams and standing water required for egg laying.

The dispersal patterns in arroyo toads include the use of upland foraging sites, as well as up- and downstream corridors. Juveniles and adult toads spend much of their lives in riparian and upland habitats adjacent to breeding locations (USFWS 2011). Individual toads have been observed as far as 1.2 miles from the streams where they breed but are most commonly found within 0.3 mile of those streams (USFWS 2001). Dispersal movements along the stream channel may be over 5 miles, as noted in a Forest Service record in 1999 and 2000 (USFWS 2001). The extent of arroyo toad movements away from the stream channel is influenced by rainfall amounts, availability of surface water, width of streamside terraces and floodplains, vegetative cover, and topography. Additionally, the extent to which toads move away from streams may be partially regulated by climatic conditions; moderate stable temperatures and high humidity facilitate longer-distance movements into upland habitats (USFWS 2001).

Although dispersal behavior is not clearly understood, toads often concentrate in upland habitats on alluvial flats and sandy terraces in valley bottoms of active drainages. Sandy, loose soils in upland habitats provide areas for underground burrows during periods of inactivity. The toad has also been found in agricultural fields, although the threat of mortality is fairly high in these locations due to farm equipment (USFWS 2001).

5.5.2 Threats to Arroyo Toad

The numbers of arroyo toad have decreased significantly since historic times. Arroyo toads now survive primarily in the headwaters of streams as small, isolated populations (USFWS 2009). As a result, the arroyo toad was listed as endangered under the ESA in 1994 (USFWS 2001). In 2001, USFWS designated critical habitat for the arroyo toad (revised in 2005), including an additional 734 acres of critical habitat designated in Los Angeles County in 2005 (USFWS 2005). Critical habitat for the arroyo toad includes areas that contain PCEs. PCEs for the toad are:

- 1) Rivers or streams with hydrologic regimes that supply water to provide space, food, and cover needed to sustain eggs, tadpoles, metamorphosing juveniles, and adult breeding toads. Specifically, the conditions necessary to allow for successful reproduction of arroyo toads are:
 - i) Breeding pools with areas less than 12 inches (30 cm) deep
 - ii) Areas of flowing water with current velocities less than 1.3 feet per second (40 cm per second)
 - iii) Surface water that lasts for a minimum length of two months in most years (i.e., a sufficient wet period in the spring months to allow arroyo toad larvae to hatch, mature, and metamorphose)
- 2) Low-gradient stream segments (typically less than 6-percent slope) with sandy or fine gravel substrates that support the formation of shallow pools and sparsely vegetated sand and gravel bars for breeding and rearing of tadpoles and juveniles
- 3) A natural flooding regime, or one sufficiently corresponding to a natural regime, that will periodically scour riparian vegetation, rework stream channels and terraces, and redistribute sands and sediments, such that breeding pools and terrace habitats with scattered vegetation are maintained
- 4) Riparian and adjacent upland habitats (e.g., alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and oak woodlands, but particularly alluvial streamside terraces and adjacent valley bottomlands that include areas of loose soil where toads can burrow underground) to provide foraging, aestivation, and living areas for subadult and adult arroyo toads
- 5) Stream channels and adjacent upland habitats allowing for migration between foraging, burrowing, or aestivating sites; dispersal between populations; and re-colonization of areas that contain suitable habitat

These aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat PCEs form the bases of critical habitat. These features are essential to the conservation of the arroyo toad (USFWS 2001).

Threats to arroyo toad include habitat loss or modification from short- and long-term changes in hydrology (including damming and diversion), road development, off-highway vehicle use, nonnative predators, drought, grazing, mining activities, agriculture, and urban development.

Livestock grazing and mining activities may result in crushing of animals and burrows, as well as loss of plants that support prey. As with many other species, habitat destruction and development is a continuous threat to toads as areas are developed and foraging and dispersal habitat is lost.

Roadways and vehicle collisions pose a significant threat to toads due to the potential for being run over, causing injury or death (USFWS 2001). Off-highway vehicles pose a significant threat to the toads, as they can operate in areas of suitable habitat for the toads and can run over the animal and crush or damage burrows. Run-off from roads can decrease habitat quality for arroyo toads; and roads provide access for humans, domestic animals, and invasive species that can lead to additional habitat degradation (USFWS 2001).

Changes in water hydrology are another threat to toad survival, occurring as both natural flooding or drought and human alteration of flows. Timing and quantity of flows, frequency and intensity of flooding, impacts to riparian plant communities, and/or altered sedimentation dynamics can reduce or eliminate the suitability of stream channels for toad breeding habitats.

5.5.3 Analysis of Potential Project-Related Effects

Site CHPNWHLL

Habitat Evaluation and Suitability

Arroyo toads typically occupy washes or intermittent streams within valley-foothills and desert riparian habitat. In the vicinity of Site CHPNWHLL arroyo toads occur in association with the Santa Clara River, a perennial stream bordered by riparian forests of cottonwood, willow, and sycamore. Designated critical habitat includes the river corridor and associated floodplain (Figure 50 and Figure 51). Site CHPNWHLL is at least 1,329 feet from designated critical habitat; but the surrounding 500-foot-diameter project area is totally developed for human uses, and no native habitats are present (see Figure 30). Site CHPNWHLL is within the reported 1.5-mile dispersal distance of the toad, and the agricultural lands between the PSBN site and the Santa Clara River corridor could be used by arroyo toads.

Direct Effects

Ground-disturbing activities would occur with the placement of a flatbed trailer with project equipment, installation of a chain-link fence, and trenching for power connections at the proposed Site CHPNWHLL. This disturbance would be limited to a previously disturbed (and previously paved or landscaped) area. No native perennial vegetation would be lost, and no work would occur in aquatic or wetland habitats. Construction vehicles accessing the sites could kill or injure toads that may disperse from the Santa Clara River corridor across roads; however, implementation of BIO CMRs 6, 8, 9, and 15 would provide measures for the protection of toads. If on-site work could not be completed during the recommended period between August and January when toads are less active and generally confined to their burrows, various measures would be applied, including an on-site biological monitor; environmental awareness program; restrictions on vehicle speed; limiting all construction activities and site access to daylight hours when toads would not be present; and the biological monitor would conduct a site clearance for toads prior to construction activities occurring within 48 hours of any measurable (0.01 inch) rain event.

With the implementation of BIO CMRs 6, 8, 9, and 15, the probability of direct effects to dispersing arroyo toads by their being run over by construction vehicles is insignificant (highly unlikely that toads would be present on the road during daylight construction periods) and discountable (if toads would be

found on the road or at the PSBN site, toad mortality would be precluded by the presence of a biological monitor and enforced vehicle speed restrictions). Maintenance and operations workers would be subject to these CMRs to ensure awareness of the potential presence of arroyo toads along access roads. No project activities would occur near or within designated critical habitat; no project-related effects would occur to designated critical habitat.

Indirect Effects

Noise and vibrations could disturb toads, possibly causing them to leave protected sites and increase their vulnerability to injury or death; however, construction activity that may cause vibrations is limited to the placement of a flatbed trailer with COW equipment, which would occur over a period of one to a few days. The limited source and low potential for high-magnitude vibrations at the PSBN site would not be expected to transmit at distances to critical habitat (over 1,300 feet) where toads may be present in their burrows. In addition, the background noise and vibrations associated with heavy traffic on I-5 would fully mask any vibrations generated by project activities. Between Site CHPNWHLL and aquatic habitats in the Santa Clara River lies urban development, roads, and active agricultural fields. Implementation of BIO CMR 18 would control any potential runoff from Site CHPNWHLL, which is also served by an urban storm drain system. No indirect effects would occur to arroyo toad from placement of LTE COW equipment at Site CHPNWHLL.

Figure 50: Proximity of Designated Critical Habitat for Arroyo Toad to PSBN Sites

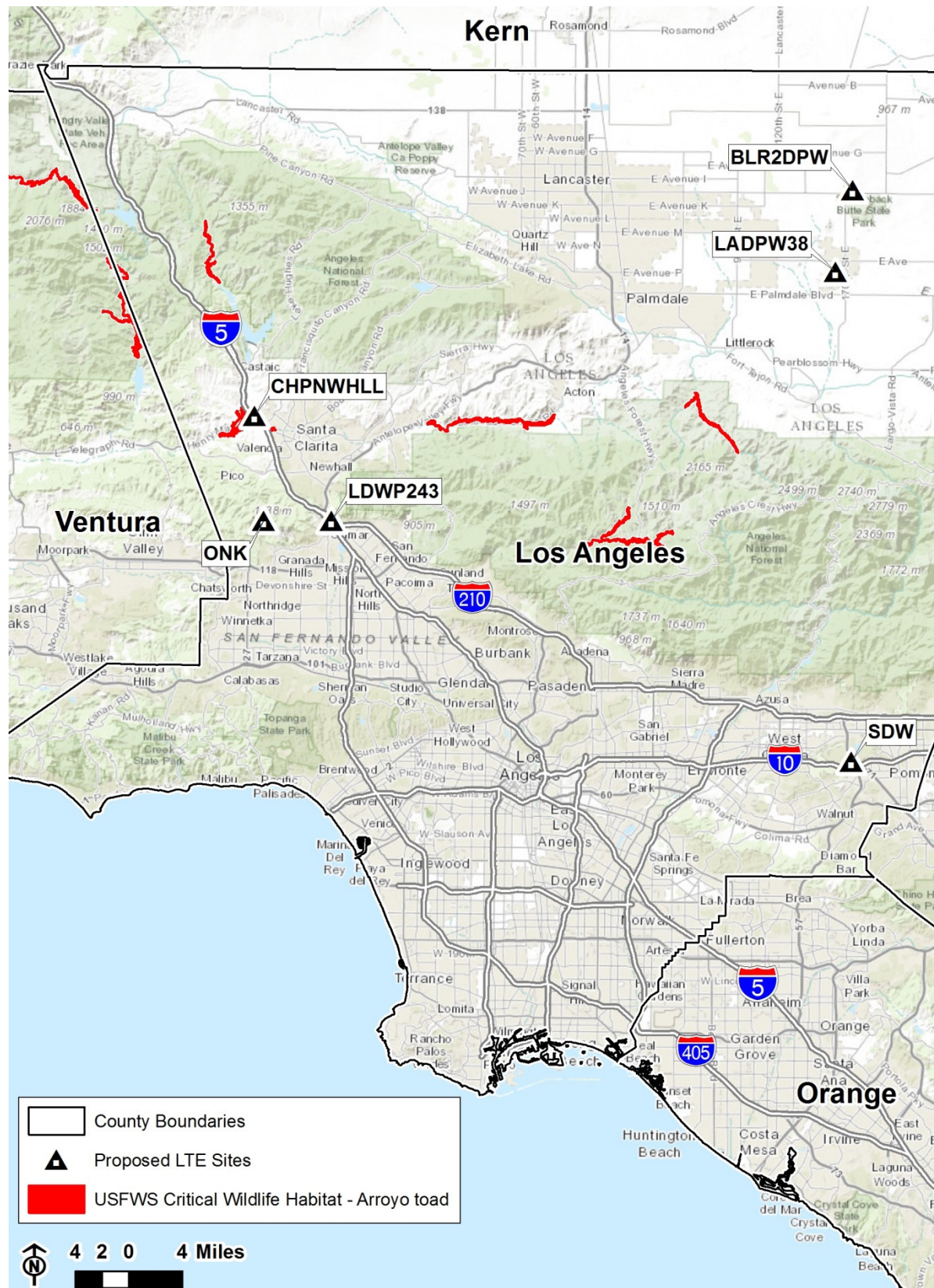
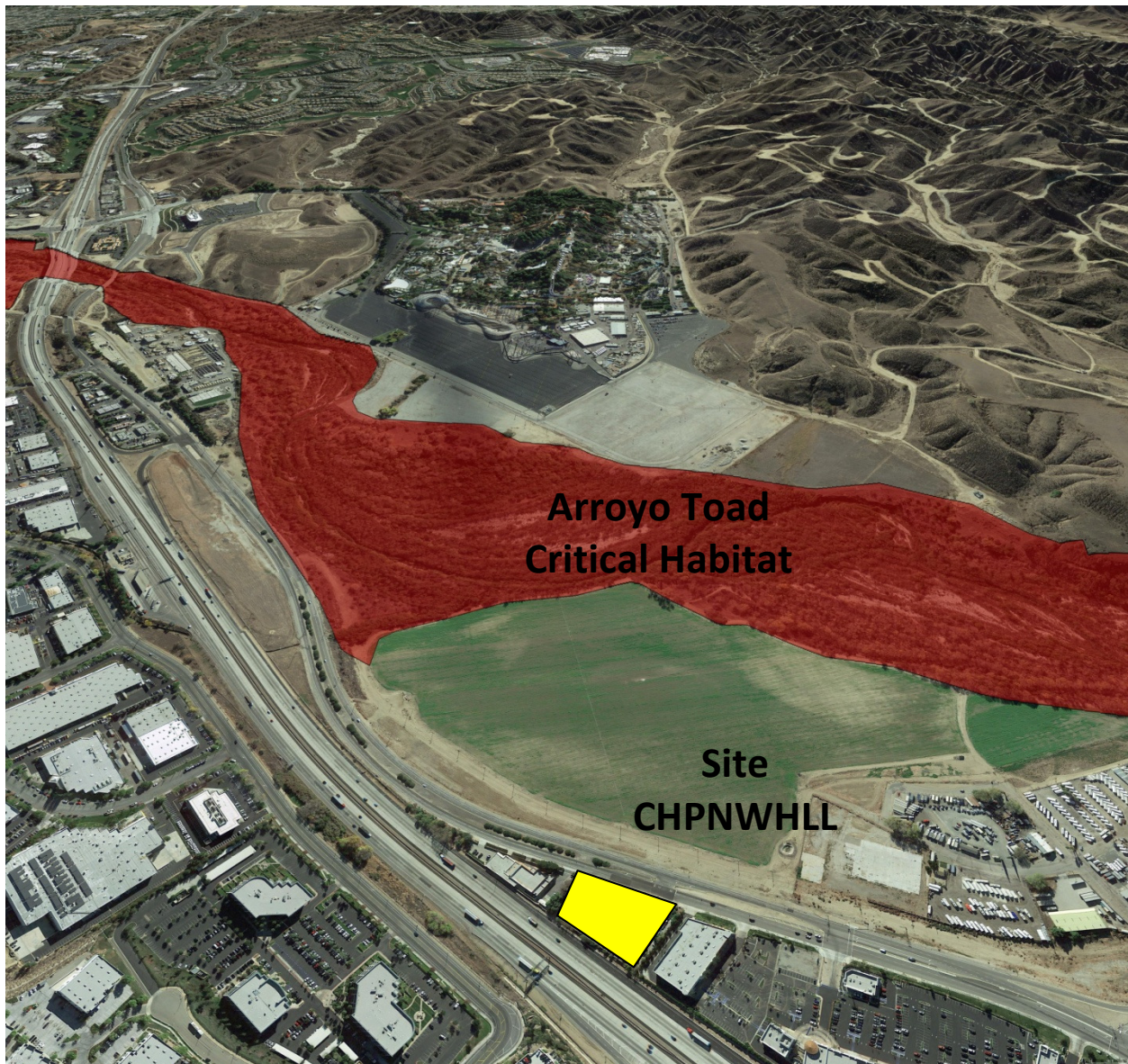


Figure 51: Proximity of Arroyo Toad Critical Habitat to Site CHPNWHLL



Determination of Effect

The construction and operations of Site CHPNWHLL may affect but is not likely to adversely affect dispersing arroyo toads due to the presence of construction vehicles and human activities. No effect would occur to designated arroyo toad critical habitat.

6.0 SUMMARY OF EFFECT DETERMINATIONS

California condor

ONK	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
LDWP243	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
BLR2DPW	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
LADPW38	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
CHPNWHLL	No effect

Coastal California gnatcatcher

ONK	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
LDWP243	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
SDW	May affect, not likely to adversely affect

Mojave desert tortoise

BLR2DPW	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
LADPW38	May affect, not likely to adversely affect

Least Bell's vireo

CHPNWHLL	No effect
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Arroyo toad

CHPNWHLL	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
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7.0 COORDINATION

USFWS responded via the IPaC system letter of March 27, 2015, May 1, 2015, and May 15, 2015, indicating species of concern in the project areas (Appendix C).

Telephone conversation of March 26, 2015, with Colleen Draguesku and Jesse Bennett of USFWS; and Nancy Yang, Anne Lynch, Jim Hoyt, David Charlton, and Bruce Palmer representing LA-RICS to discuss effect determinations for four urban sites (no longer included in the LTE system) and Site ONK and Site LDWP243.

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9.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Field notes, data sheets, and photographs are in the project file at the Jacobs at the Phoenix, Arizona, and Ontario, California, offices.

10.0 SIGNATURE PAGE

Prepared By: 
Bruce Palmer
Jacobs

Date: June 23, 2015

APPENDIX A

US Fish and Wildlife Species List and Concurrence Letter for LA-RICS LTE Project



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
08EVEN00-2014-SL-0044

December 13, 2013

Nancy Yang, Engineer
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200
Monterey Park, California 91754

Subject: Request for Species List for the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Project in Southern California

Dear Ms. Yang:

We are responding to your request, dated November 5, 2013, and received in our office on November 8, 2013, for a list of federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species and their critical habitats which may occur in the vicinity of the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Project (LA-RICS). The project involves the placement of public safety communications facilities and equipment at 232 locations, 230 of which are wholly in Los Angeles County, California. One site is located partially in San Bernardino County, between Claremont and Upland, and another is located in an urban portion of Orange County, in the city of La Habra.

We understand the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is the lead Federal agency for this project, and that it would assume responsibility under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We further understand that LA-RICS is the non-federal representative for the NTIA for purposes of section 7 consultation under the Act.

The proposed project covers areas within the jurisdiction of both the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (VFWO) and Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (CFWO). You requested that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) designate a single point of contact for purposes of section 7 consultation. In the future, please contact the VFWO regarding the proposed project.

The enclosed list includes species which have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the LA-RICS project, including sites within the jurisdiction of both the VFWO and CFWO. The enclosed list of species fulfills the requirements of the Service under section 7(c) of the Act. The NTIA, as the lead Federal agency for the project, has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a construction project which may require an environmental impact statement¹, NTIA has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If NTIA

¹ "Construction project" means any major Federal action which significantly affects the quality of the human environment designed primarily to result in the building of structures such as dams, buildings, roads, pipelines, and channels. This includes Federal actions such as permits, grants, licenses, or other forms of Federal authorizations or approval which may result in construction.

determines that a listed species or critical habitat may be affected, it should request, in writing through our office, consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a written request for formal consultation, if required. During this review process, NTIA may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

In addition, communication towers may create a significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. Communications towers are estimated to kill 4 to 5 million birds per year, which violates the spirit and the intent of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712)(MBTA) and the Code of Federal Regulations at Part 50, designed to implement the MBTA. The MBTA prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior.

Collisions with towers, antennae, or their guy wires are a threat to many bird species, particularly during migration. In order to assist you in your planning efforts for this project, we have included with this letter the Service's 2013 Revised Guidelines for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Retrofitting, and Decommissioning.

We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Game at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area. If you have any questions, please call Colleen Draguesku of my staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 221.

Sincerely,



Jeff Phillips
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor

Enclosures

cc:

Jonathan Snyder, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
Frank J. Monteferrante, National Telecommunications Information Administration

**LISTED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE
VICINITY OF THE LA-RICS PROJECT, CALIFORNIA**

Birds

California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	E, CH
Coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila californica</i>	T, CH
California least tern	<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	E
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E, CH
Western snowy plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	T, CH
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C
Light-footed clapper rail	<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>	E

Reptiles

Desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	T, CH
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Amphibians

California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	T, CH
Arroyo toad	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	E, CH
Mountain yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana muscosa</i>	E, CH

Fish

Tidewater goby	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	E, CH
Unarmored threespine stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	E
Santa Ana sucker	<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	T, CH
Steelhead trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	*E

Mammals

San Bernardino kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	E
Pacific pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	E

Invertebrates

Conservancy fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E
Riverside fairy shrimp	<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	E
San Diego fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>	E
El Segundo blue butterfly	<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i>	E
Palos Verdes blue butterfly	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdensis</i>	E, CH
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	E

Plants

Braunton's milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	E, CH
California Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	E
Conejo dudleya	<i>Dudleya abramsii ssp. parva</i>	T
Lyon's pentachaeta	<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	E, CH

Marcescent dudleya	<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>marcescens</i>	T
Salt marsh bird's-beak	<i>Cordylanthus maritimus</i> ssp. <i>maritimus</i>	E
Nevin's barberry	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	E
Santa Monica Mountains live-forever	<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>ovatifolia</i>	T
San Fernando Valley spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	C
Slender-horned spineflower	<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	E
Spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	T, CH
Verity's dudleya	<i>Dudleya verityi</i>	T
Marsh sandwort	<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	E
Gambel's watercress	<i>Rorippa gambellii</i>	E
Ventura marsh milk vetch	<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i>	E
Coastal dunes milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>titi</i>	E
Thread-leaved brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	T, CH
Brand's phacelia	<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	C

Key:

E - Endangered T - Threatened CH - Critical habitat

C - Candidate species for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on the biological vulnerability and threats to support proposals to list as endangered or threatened.

* The National Marine Fisheries Service is the responsible agency for the steelhead.

2013 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Revised Guidelines for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Retrofitting, and Decommissioning -- Suggestions Based on Previous USFWS Recommendations to FCC Regarding WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Effects of Communication Towers on Migratory Birds," Docket No. 08-61, FCC's Antenna Structure Registration Program, and Service 2012 Wind Energy Guidelines

Submitted by:

Albert M. Manville, II, Ph.D., C.W.B.
Senior Wildlife Biologist & Avian-Structural Lead
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Last updated: April 19, 2013

[Comm Tower 2013 Revised Guidance-to FCC-AMM.docx]

1. Collocation of the communications equipment on an existing communication tower or other structure (e.g., billboard, water and transmission tower, distribution pole, or building mount) is strongly recommended. Depending on tower load factors and communication needs, from 6 to 10 providers should collocate on an existing tower or structure provided that frequencies do not overlap/"bleed" or where frequency length or broadcast distance requires higher towers. New towers should be designed structurally and electronically to accommodate the applicant's antenna, and antennas of at least 2 additional users -- ideally 6 to 10 additional users, if possible - - unless the design would require the addition of lights and/or guy wires to an otherwise unlit and/or unguyed tower. This recommendation is intended to reduce the number of towers needed in the future.
 2. If collocation is not feasible and a new tower or towers are to be constructed, it is strongly recommended that the new tower(s) should be not more than 199 feet above ground level (AGL), and that construction techniques should not require guy wires. Such towers should be unlighted if Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and lighting standards (FAA 2007, Patterson 2012, FAA 2013 lighting circular anticipated update) permit. Instead, we recommend using lattice tower or monopole structures. The Service considers this option the "gold standard" and suggests that this is the environmentally preferred industry standard for tower placement, construction and operation -- i.e., towers that are unlit, unguyed, monopole or lattice, and less than 200 ft AGL.
 3. If constructing multiple towers, the cumulative impacts of all the towers to migratory birds -- especially to Birds of Conservation Concern (FWS 2008) and threatened and endangered species, as well as the impacts of each individual tower, should be considered during the development of a project.
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4. The topography of the proposed tower site and surrounding habitat should be clearly noted, especially in regard to surrounding hills, mountains, mountain passes, ridge lines, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and other habitat types used by raptors, Birds of Conservation Concern, and state and federally listed species, and other birds of concern. Active raptor nests, especially those of Bald and Golden Eagles, should be noted, including known or suspected distances from proposed tower sites to nest locations. Nest site locations for Golden Eagles may vary between years, and unoccupied, inactive nests and nest sites may be re-occupied over multiple years. The Service's 2012 Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance, Version 1 (Wind), available on our website, is a useful document (FWS 2011).

5. If at all possible, new towers should be sited within existing "antenna farms" (i.e., clusters of towers), in degraded areas (e.g., strip mines or other heavily industrialized areas), in commercial agricultural lands, in Superfund sites, or other areas where bird habitat is poor or marginal. Towers should not be sited in or near wetlands, other known bird concentration areas (e.g., state of federal refuges, staging areas, rookeries, and Important Bird Areas), in known migratory, daily movement flyways, areas of breeding concentration, in habitat of threatened or endangered species, or key habitats for Birds of Conservation Concern (FWS 2008). Disturbance can result in effects to bird populations which may cumulatively affect their survival. The Service has recommended some disturbance-free buffers, e.g., 0.5 mi around raptor nests during the nesting season, and 1-mi disturbance free buffers for Ferruginous Hawks and Bald Eagles during nesting season in Wyoming (FWS WY Ecological Services Field Office, referenced in Manville 2007:23). The effects of towers on "prairie grouse," "sage grouse," and grassland and shrub-steppe bird species should also be considered since tall structures have been shown to result in abandonment of nest site areas and leks, especially for "prairie grouse" (Manville 2004). The issue of buffers is currently under review, especially for Bald and Golden Eagles. Additionally, towers should not be sited in areas with a high incidence of fog, mist, and low cloud ceilings.

6. If taller (> 199 ft AGL) towers requiring lights for aviation safety must be constructed, the minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the FAA should be used. Unless otherwise required by the FAA, only white strobe or red strobe lights (red preferable), or red flashing incandescent lights should be used at night, and these should be the minimum number, minimum intensity (< 2,000 candela), and minimum number of flashes per minute (i.e., longest duration between flashes/"dark phase") allowable by the FAA. The use of solid (non-flashing) warning lights at night should be avoided (Patterson 2012, Gehring et al. 2009). Current research indicates that solid red lights attract night-migrating birds at a much higher rate than flashing lights (Gehring et al. 2009, Manville 2007, 2009). Recent research indicates that use of white strobe, red strobe, or red flashing lights alone provides significant reductions in bird fatalities (Patterson 2012, Gehring et al. 2009).

7. Tower designs using guy wires for support, which are proposed to be located in known raptor or waterbird concentrations areas, daily movement routes, major diurnal migratory bird movement routes, staging areas, or stopover sites, should have daytime visual markers or bird deterrent devices installed on the wires to prevent collisions by these diurnally moving species. The efficacy of bird deterrents on guy wires to alert night migrating species has yet to be scientifically validated. For guidance on markers, see Avian Power Line Interaction Committee

(APLIC). 2006. *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines -- State of the Art in 2006*. Edison Electric Institute, APLIC, and the California Energy Commission. Washington, DC, and Sacramento, CA. 207 pp. And APLIC. 2012. *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines -- the State of the Art in 2012*. Edison Electric Institute and APLIC. Washington, DC. 159 pp. Also see www.aplic.org, www.energy.ca.gov, or call 202-508-5000.

8. Towers and appendant facilities should be designed, sited, and constructed so as to avoid or minimize habitat loss within and adjacent to the tower "footprint." However, a larger tower footprint is preferable to the use of guy wires in construction. Several shorter, un-guyed towers are preferable to one, tall guyed, lighted tower. Road access and fencing should be minimized to reduce or prevent habitat fragmentation, disturbance, and the creation of barriers, and to reduce above ground obstacles to birds in flight.

9. If, prior to tower design, siting and construction, if it has been determined that a significant number of breeding, feeding and roosting birds, especially of Birds of Conservation Concern (FWS 2008) and state or federally-listed bird species are known to habitually use the proposed tower construction area, relocation to an alternate site is highly recommended. If this is not an option, seasonal restrictions on construction are advised in order to avoid disturbance, site and nest abandonment, especially during breeding, rearing and other periods of high bird activity.

10. Security lighting for on-ground facilities, equipment and infrastructure should be motion- or heat-sensitive, down-shielded, and of a minimum intensity to reduce nighttime bird attraction and eliminate constant nighttime illumination, but still allow safe nighttime access to the site (FWS 2012, Manville 2011).

11. Representatives from the USFWS or researchers from the Research Subcommittee of the Communication Tower Working Group should be allowed access to the site to evaluate bird use; conduct dead-bird searches; place above ground net catchments below the towers (Manville 2002); and to perform studies using radar, Global Position System, infrared, thermal imagery, and acoustical monitoring, as necessary. This will allow for assessment and verification of bird movements, site use, avoidance, and mortality. The goal is to acquire information on the impacts of various tower types, sizes, configurations and lighting protocols.

12. Towers no longer in use, not re-licensed by the FCC for use, or determined to be obsolete should be removed from the site within 12 months of cessation of use, preferably sooner.

13. In order to obtain information on the usefulness of these guidelines in preventing bird strikes and better understanding impacts from habitat fragmentation, please advise USFWS and TPWD personnel of the final location and specifications of the proposed tower, and which measures recommended in these guidelines were implemented. If any of these recommended measures cannot be implemented, please explain why they are not feasible. This will further advise USFWS in identifying any recurring problems with the implementation of the guidelines, which may necessitate future modifications.

Reference Sources:

- Federal Aviation Administration,. 2007. Obstruction marking and lighting. Advisory Circular AC 70/7460-1K. U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Gehring, J., P. Kerlinger, and A.M. Manville, II. 2009. Communication towers, lights and birds: successful methods of reducing the frequency of avian collisions. *Ecological Applications* 19(2): 505-514. Ecological Society of America.
- Manville, A.M., II. 2002. Protocol for monitoring the impact of cellular telecommunication towers on migratory birds within the Coconino, Prescott, and Kaibab National Forests, Arizona. Protocol requested by U.S. Forest Service. 9 pp.
- Manville, A.M., II. 2004. Prairie grouse leks and wind turbines: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service justification for a 5-mile buffer from leks; additional grassland songbird recommendations. Division of Migratory Bird Management, USFWS, Arlington, VA, peer-reviewed briefing paper. 17 pp.
- Manville, A.M., II. 2007. Comments of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Submitted Electronically to the FCC on 47 CFR Parts 1 and 17, WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Effects of Communication Towers on Migratory Birds." February 2, 2007. 32 pp.
- Manville, A.M., II. 2009. Towers, turbines, power lines, and buildings -- steps being taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to avoid or minimize take of migratory birds at these structures. Pages 262-272 *In* T.D. Rich, C. Arizmendi, D. Demarest, and C. Thompson (eds.). *Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Habitats and People*. Proceedings 4th International Partners in Flight Conference, McAllen, TX.
- Manville, A.M., II. 2011. Comments of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management Filed Electronically on WT Docket No. 08-61 and WT Docket No. 03-187, Regarding the Environmental Effects of the Federal Communication's Antenna Structure Registration Program. January 14, 2011. 12 pp.
- Patterson, J.T., Jr. 2012. Evaluation of new obstruction lighting techniques to reduce avian fatalities. DOT/FAA/TC-TN12/9, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. 28 pp, plus appendices.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Birds of Conservation Concern 2008. United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, VA. 85 pp. <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance. January 2011. 106 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2012. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines. 71 pp



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
08EVEN00-2014-I-0369

July 18, 2014

Frank J. Monteferrante, PhD
U.S. Department of Commerce
H.C. Hoover Bldg. Room 4826
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System, Broadband
Technology Opportunities Program, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Dr. Monteferrante:

We are responding to your request, which we received on May 13, 2014, for our concurrence with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species and their designated critical habitats. The Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Joint Powers Authority is proposing to construct a county-wide wireless broadband network using long-term evolution (LTE) technology to improve shared voice and data communication systems for public safety agencies throughout the greater Los Angeles County area. The LTE system would be constructed on 231 existing public facilities sites across the region, of which 229 facilities are located in Los Angeles County, 1 facility is partially within both Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, and 1 facility is in Orange County. All project activities would occur at existing publicly-owned or administered safety facilities or communications sites, currently developed for use in emergency services or as communications structures.

You have determined that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the federally endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis*), arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and the federally threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), and western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*), and their designated critical habitats.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant to the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority to support design and construction of the broadband network. The program is authorized under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (Public Law 111-5), and the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Public Law

112-96). The NTIA is acting as the lead federal agency for purposes of consultation. Your request and our response are made pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

Proposed Project:

LA-RICS proposes to install LTE technology at 231 sites. The sites were selected to be appropriately spaced to provide radio coverage over the service area, and narrowed from a larger list to minimize impacts to biological and cultural resources, and for other technical concerns.

Of the 231 sites, up to 223 would receive a new monopole tower, a broadband radio base station (eNodeB), network and backhaul equipment, antennas and cabling, and an emergency electrical generator. Based on structural integrity and technical issues to be resolved during later design phases, several of the 223 sites could use existing towers for collocation of new LTE antenna and infrastructure, although the location of all collocation sites is not currently known.

The equipment and structures at each LTE site would be located on developed or disturbed property. Proposed LTE non-collocation site construction would include minor grading, removal of existing pavement to install system components, and ancillary disturbance such as minor roadway repair, electrical and networking interconnection and equipment access and staging needs.

Work areas would be contained within an LTE site and would not contain native vegetation or serve as habitat for federally-listed species. The work area on each site would be refined during the course of design, and ultimately approved by a project biologist prior to construction.

Up to 3,600 square feet (0.08 acre) of ground disturbance may occur at each project site. The individual LTE site boundaries represent the extent of the real property available for any given LTE non-collocation site. Disturbance would occur inside LTE site boundaries, and new monopoles would be located within 100 feet of existing infrastructure wherever feasible. Total ground disturbance for all 231 sites is expected to be less than 20 acres of disturbed areas, which would not contain native vegetation or serve as habitat for federally-listed species.

Vehicles, earth moving equipment, concrete trucks, cranes, a drill rig, and water tenders are among the equipment that would be required to implement the proposed project. Construction crews generally would work up to 10-hour days, up to 7 days per week during daylight hours where permitted by local jurisdictions. LA-RICS anticipates that site construction would be phased, but work at any individual site is expected to be completed within 30 days from start to completion. Overall construction activity at all sites is expected to occur within 1 year from inception. The contractor would restore all areas that are disturbed by project activities to near-preconstruction conditions following the completion of construction. No new disturbance would occur for storage of equipment or material at any site. Under the proposed project, access to each of the LTE sites would be provided via existing dirt or paved roads. No new road improvement or construction is anticipated.

Avoidance and Minimization measures:

A series of Construction Management Requirements (CMRs) were developed to reduce the potential for adverse effects to federally-listed species during construction and operation of the LTE system, and they are included in the project design for each site. The biological CMRs are enclosed with this letter and cover the following topics:

- Bio CMR 1. Pre-construction Survey for Nesting Birds.
- Bio CMR 4. Western Snowy Plover.
- Bio CMR 6. Construction Monitoring.
- Bio CMR 8. Open Trenches and Ditches.
- Bio CMR 9. Establish Habitat Protection Zones.
- Bio CMR 10. Protect Native Vegetation.
- Bio CMR 11. Limit the Spread of Invasive Plants.
- Bio CMR 12. Post-construction Noxious Weed Survey.
- Bio CMR 14. Desert Tortoise Preconstruction Surveys and Monitoring.
- Bio CMR 15. Avoidance Measures for Arroyo Toad.
- Bio CMR 17. Wetlands and other Waters.
- Bio CMR 18. Hazardous Substance Management.
- Bio CMR 19. Coastal California Gnatcatcher.

Among other requirements, the construction contractor would be required to hire biologists with appropriate expertise to perform pre-construction surveys, monitor construction activities, and supervise implementation of the biological CMRs. The biologists provided by the construction contractor would be approved by the LA-RICS Joint Powers Authority.

Palos Verdes blue butterfly

The Palos Verdes blue butterfly has the potential occur at project sites on the Palos Verdes Peninsula including LACF053, LACF056, LACF083, LACF106, and TORFD04; however, the species has not been recorded at these sites in the past. The closest recorded occurrences are at the Portuguese Canyon habitat area, which is currently thought to be extirpated and is located approximately 0.5 mile from site LACFD056. The Malgala Dune habitat area, located approximately 1 mile from the TORFD04, is also not currently known to be occupied (last detected in 2001).

Palos Verdes blue butterflies require suitable larval hostplants for oviposition and larval development. *Astragalus trichopodus lonchus* (coast locoweed) was once thought to be the exclusive larval hostplant; however, Palos Verdes blue butterfly larvae are now known to also feed on *Acmispon glaber* (deerweed). Both of these hostplants are naturally distributed within disturbed patches in coastal sage scrub communities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Adult Palos Verdes blue butterfly are thought to be relatively poor dispersers, and initial studies suggest that males are more likely to disperse among habitat patches than females.

LA-RICS has proposed to implement CMRs 6, 10, 11, and 12 to reduce the potential for adverse effects to the Palos Verdes blue butterfly. These measures include construction monitoring,

protection of native vegetation, limiting the spread of invasive plants, and post-construction noxious weed surveys.

We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Palos Verdes blue butterfly because native vegetation, which includes suitable habitat and the host plants for the subspecies, would be protected (i.e., the proposed project would not remove or damage suitable habitat for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly). In addition, LA-RICS would implement protections to reduce the potential for project-related invasion of non-native plant species; non-native plants compete with host plants for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly and are considered a threat to the species.

Arroyo toad

The arroyo toad has the potential occur near proposed project site LACF076, in city of Newhall. The site occurs on developed land between Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River, which are located approximately 1,000 feet to the north and south of the project site. Critical habitat has been designated for the arroyo toad in Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River; however, the project site does not occur within designated critical habitat. The project site is located immediately adjacent to California State Highway 126 and a gas station. The site consists entirely of developed land.

We have no records of arroyo toads occurring near the project site; however, suitable habitat occurs approximately 1,000 feet to the north and south of the site within the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek, across a busy roads and a highway. Arroyo toads have the potential to pass through the project site during times of dispersal, but this is unlikely.

LA-RICS has proposed to implement BIO CMRs 6, 8, 9 and 15 to reduce the potential for adverse effects to the arroyo toad. These measures include construction monitoring, restrictions on open trenches and ditches, establishment of habitat protection zones, and specific avoidance measures for the species (e.g., training sessions for construction personnel, onsite biological monitors, and project fencing).

We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the arroyo toad because suitable habitat does not occur onsite, the species is not known to occur in the immediate vicinity of the project, heavily used roads surround the site, and LA-RICS will implement the CMRs. We consider the potential for effects to the arroyo toad to be discountable.

Desert tortoise

The desert tortoise has the potential occur near proposed project site BRK, located approximately 15-miles east of the town of Lancaster. The project site does not occur within designated critical habitat. The project site is currently operated as a communication facility.

LA-RICS has proposed to implement BIO CMRs 6, 8, 9 and 14 to reduce the potential for adverse effects to the desert tortoise. These measures include construction monitoring,

restrictions on open trenches and ditches, establishment of habitat protection zones, and specific avoidance measures for the species. A qualified biologist would survey the project site 30 days prior to construction, and each day construction occurs. The biologist would be present through the duration of the construction activity. Exclusionary fencing meeting the specifications described in the Desert Tortoise Field Manual (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009) would be constructed under the supervision of a qualified biologist. Vehicles would observe a 5 miles an hour speed limit onsite. Trash would be contained and removed from the project site daily to discourage the presence of predatory corvid species. All on-site personnel would check for desert tortoises under any parked vehicle or equipment immediately prior to moving or operating the vehicle or equipment. In areas the qualified biologist determines there is a higher likelihood of encountering the desert tortoise, vehicles would be inspected more frequently, with particular attention to surveying for small desert tortoise individuals. In the unlikely event a desert tortoise is detected on the site after installation of exclusionary fencing and monitoring, the desert tortoise would be allowed to exit on its own by leaving an opening in the fence. All work would cease until the desert tortoise is offsite and the qualified biologist must be onsite to confirm the desert tortoise has retreated from the project site on its own prior to recommencement of construction.

We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the desert tortoise because the project site is small enough for a qualified biologist to construct an effective exclusionary fence and to completely survey the property prior to construction. In addition, the protective measures proposed in the BIO CMRs, especially BIO CMR 14, will greatly reduce the potential for project-related effects; therefore, we consider potential effects to the desert tortoise to be discountable.

California condor

You determined that the California condor has the potential occur near proposed project sites BMT, BUR, BRK, LACFCP09, LACFCP14 and LACF077. Critical habitat for the California condor has not been designated onsite.

Project site BMT is within the current range of the California condor, and it occurs on a mountain peak near potentially suitable habitat for foraging and dispersal activities. Suitable breeding habitat is not known to occur within 5 miles of the project site. Site BMT is located near the community of Sandburg, approximately 8-miles southeast of Gorman. This site is within a major dispersal corridor for the species between frequently occupied habitats at Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, and the community of Bear Valley Springs. Project site BUR is located approximately 8-miles west of the town of Lake Hughes. This project site is located on a mountain peak which may contain suitable foraging and dispersal habitat. Located approximately 1.5-miles north of Sylmar, project site LACFCP09 is located on a ridgeline which may contain suitable foraging and dispersal habitat. California condors may forage and roost in the vicinity of project site LACFCP09. Project site LACFCP14 is located approximately 9-miles northeast of Castaic, in the bottom of a valley between two ridgelines on San Francisquito Canyon Road near suitable foraging and dispersal habitat for the California condor. Located adjacent to the intersection of

Interstate Highway 5 and State Highway 138 in the town of Gorman, project site LACF077 occurs near suitable foraging and dispersal habitat for the California condor. Project site BRK is not within the current range of the California condor, and we believe the project would not affect the species.

The County of Los Angeles currently operates project site BMT as a communications facility. An approximately 100-foot tall lattice tower is present onsite. LA-RICS proposes to co-locate antennas onsite, or construct a new monopole tower approximately 70-feet tall. A new pad for the monopole would require approximately 162 square feet of ground disturbance, which would be limited only to areas that are disturbed, including those areas that are previously paved, graded, landscaped, or otherwise developed within the project site.

The U.S. Forest Service administers project site BUR; however, project site BUR is currently occupied by Los Angeles County communication facilities, including a communications outpost and several pieces of equipment and one-story buildings. An existing monopole tower, approximately 20-feet tall, is already onsite; however, LA-RICS proposes to construct a new monopole tower, up to 45-feet tall. Similar to site BMT, a new pad for the monopole would require approximately 162 square feet of ground disturbance, which would be limited to areas that are disturbed, including those areas that are previously paved, graded, landscaped, or otherwise developed within the project site.

The U.S. Forest Service administers project site LACFCP09; however, the site is currently occupied by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Existing facilities include a fire station camp with single-story buildings, flag poles, antennas, and a tower equipped with microwave dishes. LA-RICS proposes to construct a new monopole tower up to 85-feet tall. A new pad for the monopole would require approximately 162 square feet of ground disturbance, which would be limited to areas that are disturbed, including those areas that are previously paved, graded, landscaped, or otherwise developed within the project site.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power administers site LACFCP14; however, the site is currently occupied by Los Angeles County Fire Department. Existing facilities include a fire station camp with buildings, flagpoles, a monopole communication tower and utility lines. The existing monopole tower is approximately 30-feet tall. LA-RICS proposes to construct a new monopole tower up to 85-feet tall. A new pad for the monopole would require approximately 162 square feet of ground disturbance, which would be limited to areas that are disturbed, including those areas that are previously paved, graded, landscaped, or otherwise developed within the project site.

The Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire District administers site LACF077 and it's operated by Los Angeles County Fire Department. Existing facilities include a fire station with multiple-story buildings, flagpoles, a hose tower and utility lines. LA-RICS proposes to construct a new monopole tower up to 85-feet tall. A new pad for the monopole would require approximately 162 square feet of ground disturbance, which would be limited to areas that are disturbed,

including those areas that are previously paved, graded, landscaped, or otherwise developed within the project site.

LA-RICS proposes to implement BIO CMRs 1 and 18 to reduce the potential for adverse effects to the California condor. These measures include construction monitoring and hazardous substance management.

We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the California condor because installing new towers immediately adjacent to existing tower infrastructure is unlikely to alter the breeding, foraging or sheltering behaviors of California condors. The project would not remove, disturb, or destroy suitable habitat for the species because all construction would occur in areas that are previously paved, graded, landscaped or otherwise developed. Guyed support wires, which may entrap individuals, are not proposed. LA-RICS proposes to implement measures to protect the California condor, including measures that require best management practices be selected by the biological monitor to prevent California condors from ingesting trash or hazardous substances. We consider the potential effects to the California condor to be insignificant and discountable.

Coastal California gnatcatcher

The coastal California gnatcatcher has the potential occur near proposed project sites CLM, LACF056, LACF099, LACF194 and WCFD004. Project site CLM is located at the Claremont Police Department where the project would consist of collocating equipment with existing towers and infrastructure. Project sites LACF506, LACF099 and LACF194 are located at Los Angeles County Fire Department facilities in the cities of Rolling Hills, Malibu, and La Mirada, respectively. Project site WCFD004 is located in the city of West Covina, and is occupied by the West Covina Fire Department. All of the project sites occur in urban or residential areas, which are immediately adjacent to roads, utility lines, street lights, homes and other buildings.

Coastal California gnatcatchers are year-round residents of southern California, and have the potential to occur near project areas at any time. LA-RICS has proposed to implement BIO CMRs 1, 9, 10, and 19 to reduce the likelihood of potential adverse effects to the coastal California gnatcatcher. These measures include pre-construction surveys for nesting birds, establishment of habitat protection zones, protection of native vegetation, and specific activity restrictions for the coastal California gnatcatcher. BIO CMR 19 states that pre-construction surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher would be conducted by a qualified biologist, noise would be restricted to no higher than 60 decibels if individuals are observed, and the onsite biologist would have the authority to halt work if individuals are observed and may be adversely affected.

Critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher has been designated within the limits of project sites LACF053 and LACF056; however, the primary constituent elements (PCEs) are not present at site LACF053. Approximately 0.01 acre of designated critical habitat, which contains PCE 1 (i.e., coastal sage scrub vegetation), occurs at LACF056; however, that area of the property does not occur within 100 feet of existing buildings where construction is proposed, and

the area contains native vegetation which will not be removed per the protective measures proposed by LA-RICS. We understand that critical habitat containing PCEs at site LACF056 would not be disturbed as a result of the proposed project. Non-native grassland also occurs onsite, but it would be avoided by project activities as well.

We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the coastal California gnatcatcher and its designated critical habitat because suitable habitat (i.e., native vegetation) would be protected during construction. Individuals could be indirectly affected by elevated noise levels and worker activity; however, LA-RICS would implement measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects (e.g., BIO CMR 19). While noise generated from project activities may be periodically audible, it would not be loud enough to interfere with the breeding, foraging or sheltering activities of this species. We consider the effects to the coastal California gnatcatcher and its designated critical habitat to be insignificant and discountable.

Least Bell's Vireo, Southwestern willow flycatcher

The least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher have the potential occur near proposed project sites LACF069 and LACF076. Site LACF069 is located at the intersection of Topanga Canyon Road and Fernwood Pacific Drive, in the community of Topanga. Critical habitat for either species has not been designed within 5 miles of this project site, and the species have not been recorded in the vicinity. Project site LACF076 is located in city of Newhall. It occurs on developed land between Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River, which are located approximately 1,000 feet to the north and south of the site. Critical habitat has been designated for the least Bell's vireo onsite, and critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher occurs approximately 1,000 feet away in Castaic Creek and in the Santa Clara River. The project site is located immediately adjacent to California State Highway 126 and a gas station. The site consists entirely of developed land.

At site LACF069, potentially suitable habitat is located across a busy highway from the site and down a canyon; there is no suitable habitat onsite. During construction, elevated noise levels (i.e., above 60 decibels) are unlikely to reach suitable habitat areas. Noise generated from project activities may be periodically audible, but would not be loud enough to interfere with the breeding, foraging or sheltering activities of these species. In addition, we have no records of the least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher near the project site. The closest occurrence of the least Bell's vireo is approximately 10 miles to the northeast at the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, and approximately 20 miles to the northwest for the southwestern willow flycatcher in the Santa Clara River.

At site LACF076, potentially suitable habitat is located across a busy highway from the site. While we have records of the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher nearby in the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek, they do not occur onsite because there is no suitable habitat within 1,000 feet. Critical habitat for the least Bell's vireo is designated onsite; however the PCEs are not present. During construction, elevated noise levels (i.e., above 60 decibels) are unlikely to reach suitable habitat areas especially in consideration of the background noise levels

from Highway 126 and the nearby Interstate Highway 5. Noise generated from project activities may be periodically audible, but would not be loud enough to interfere with the breeding, foraging or sheltering activities of these subspecies.

Least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatchers have the potential to pass through project site LACF076 and LACF069 during times of dispersal. LA-RICS has proposed to implement BIO CMRs 1, 6, 9, and 10 to reduce the potential for adverse effects to the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. These measures include pre-construction surveys for nesting birds, construction monitoring, establishment of habitat protection zones, and protection of native vegetation.

We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the southwestern willow flycatcher or least Bell's vireo, and its designated critical habitat, because suitable habitat is not present onsite, including PCEs, and the project would not remove, damage or destroy native vegetation. Furthermore, elevated noise levels from construction activities are unlikely to reach areas with suitable habitat. While critical habitat has been designated on project site LACF076, the PCEs are not present. We consider the potential effects to the southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo, and its designated critical habitat, to be insignificant and discountable.

Western snowy plover

The western snowy plover has the potential occur near proposed project sites LALG-HQ, LALG100, and LALG300. Site LALG-HQ is located approximately 1,500-feet north of Venice Beach Fishing Pier, LALG100 is located at the base of the Hermosa Beach Pier, and LALG300 is located at Zuma Beach County Park, approximately 0.5-mile north of Zuma Canyon. The project sites are occupied by the Los Angeles County Fire Department as beach lifeguard facilities, consisting of parking lots, multiple-story buildings, and other infrastructure. The surrounding properties are dominated by commercial and residential uses, including roads, utility lines, and street lights. Project sites are located on completely developed urban land near coastal beaches.

The Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover breeds primarily above the high tide line on coastal beaches, sand spits, dune-backed beaches, sparsely-vegetated dunes, beaches at creek and river mouths, and salt pans at lagoons and estuaries. In winter, western snowy plovers are found on many of the beaches used for nesting as well as on beaches where they do not nest, in man-made salt ponds, and on estuarine sand and mud flats. Critical habitat for the western snowy plover is not designated on the project sites.

The project could result in elevated noise levels and disturbance to suitable habitat from work activities. LA-RICS proposes to implement BIO CMRs 1, 4, 6 and 9 to reduce the potential for adverse effects to the western snowy plover. These measures include pre-construction surveys for nesting birds, construction monitoring, restrictions on open trenches and ditches, establishment of habitat protection zones, and specific measures to protect the western snowy plover. The beaches are very popular and heavily used by the public year-round. The proposed


communication towers could provide a perch for predatory bird species potentially resulting in direct mortality of western snowy plovers, or indirectly affecting western snowy plovers by causing abandonment of suitable habitat. However, due to the distance of the project sites from western snowy plover habitat, and because there are existing structures, western snowy plovers are unlikely to be adversely affected by construction of communication towers on those sites. We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the western snowy plover or its designated critical habitat because suitable habitat is not present onsite. Furthermore, indirect effects of construction, such as noise and worker activity, would be reduced by the BIO CMRs proposed by LA-RICS. The project sites are heavily utilized by the public, and the proposed construction is unlikely to substantially alter breeding, foraging or sheltering behaviors beyond current conditions. We consider the effects to the western snowy plover to be insignificant and discountable.

Conclusion

We concur with your determination that the subject project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Palos Verdes blue butterfly, arroyo toad, California condor, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, desert tortoise, coastal California gnatcatcher, and western snowy plover, and their designated critical habitats.

Further consultation, pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Act is not required. If the proposed action changes in any manner that may adversely affect a listed species or critical habitat, you must contact us immediately to determine whether additional consultation is required. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Colleen Draguesku of my staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 221.

Sincerely,


Acting / Stephen P. Henry
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc:

Ken Corey, Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
Scott Sobiech, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office

APPENDIX B

Biological Resources

Construction Management Requirements (Revised June 2015)

ATTACHMENT 2 TO EXHIBIT J (CONFIDENTIAL SUPPLEMENT)

Agreement No. LA-RICS 008 – Amended and Restated under Amendment No. 5

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (CMRs)

(REVISED Draft Proposed 06/23/2015)

BIO CMR 1: Pre-Construction Survey for Nesting Birds

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on non-urban sites (as defined in the attached CMR matrix) outside of nesting bird season. If construction takes place during the bird nesting season (determined by CDFW to be February 15 to August 31 for non-raptors and February 1 to August 31 for raptors) a qualified avian biologist shall perform preconstruction surveys for bird nesting activity, within seven days before construction activity begins at a project site. If nesting birds are detected, the avian biologist shall determine appropriate, additional measures from those listed, below. These additional measures shall be implemented by the Contractor and may include any combination of the following:

1. If during the preconstruction survey, no breeding or nesting activities (e.g., territorial displays, courtship, the carrying of nesting material, nest construction, or brooding) are detected within 500 feet of the proposed work and staging areas, construction activities that do not involve the clearing or removal of vegetation may proceed.
2. If bird breeding/nesting activity is confirmed, work activities within 250 feet for non-raptors, 500 feet for non-state or federally listed raptors, 0.5 mile for listed raptors and fully protected species shall be delayed until the young birds have fledged and left the nest. A work area buffer zone around any active nests shall be demarcated, indicating where work may not occur. The buffer distances may be reduced if warranted for the continuation of work based on site characteristics such as topography, location or existing structures, and/or additional CMRs such as sound barriers and/or blinds that minimize disturbance to the nesting birds. Reductions of buffers for listed or sensitive species, raptors and fully protected nesting species shall be developed in cooperation with USFWS and/or CDFW, depending on the species. Project activities may resume in this area once the biological monitor has determined that the nest(s) is no longer active.
3. For sites with a high potential for nesting birds, due to a high prevalence of potentially suitable nest site, follow-up surveys for nesting birds will be performed weekly during the peak of the nesting season (March 1 – June 15).

BIO CMR 2: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Status of Golden Eagle: *California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Sensitive, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully Protected, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Watch List.*

Status of Bald Eagle: *Federally Delisted, State Endangered, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Sensitive, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully Protected, U.S. Forest Service Sensitive, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern.*

Bald Eagle Nesting Season: January 1 – August 31 (CDFW 2013).

Golden Eagle Nesting Season: January 1 – September 30 (Digital Desert 2013).

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To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on sites identified in the attached CMR matrix as of concern for bald and golden eagles outside of nesting season. An approved avian biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for bald and golden eagle if work occurs during the nesting season(s). Nest surveys shall be conducted within a radius of 4,000 feet from the project footprint, within 7 days prior to the onset of construction. If nests of golden or bald eagles or nesting activity (e.g. territorial displays, courtship, the carrying of nesting material, nest construction, or brooding) are detected within 0.5 mile of the site, non-disturbance measures shall be developed in cooperation with the appropriate wildlife agency, as determined by the Project Biologist. Such measures may consist of blinds to shield construction activities from the nest or performing construction work outside of the golden or bald eagle nesting season.

BIO CMR 3: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

Status: *California Species of Special Concern, Bureau of Land Management Sensitive, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern.*

Nesting Season: February 1 – August 31.

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on sites identified in the attached CMR matrix as of concern for burrowing owl outside of burrowing owl nesting season.

Measures for detecting nesting and resident burrowing owls and preventing project related impacts were developed using the guidance presented in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012). An approved biologist shall perform preconstruction surveys for nesting and resident burrowing owls no more than 30 days prior to the onset of construction activities.

The 2012 CDFG Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation lists the following activities as examples of those that have the potential to take burrowing owls, their nests or eggs, or destroy or degrade burrowing owl habitat: grading, diking, cultivation, earthmoving, burrow blockage, heavy equipment compacting and crushing burrow tunnels, levee maintenance, flooding, burning and mowing (if burrows are impacted), and operating wind turbine collisions (collectively hereafter referred to as “projects” or “activities” whether carried out pursuant to CEQA or not). In addition, the following activities may have impacts to burrowing owl populations: eradication of host burrowers; change in vegetation degradation of nesting, foraging, over-wintering or other habitats; destruction of natural burrows and burrow surrogates; and disturbance which may result in harassment of owls at occupied burrows.

Pre-construction Surveys

Pre-construction surveys for nesting burrowing owls shall take place in suitable habitats within 1,640 feet (500 meters) of the project footprint if the project takes place during the nesting season (Feb 1-August 31). Preconstruction surveys for resident burrowing owls shall take place within 500 feet (152 meters) if construction takes place outside of the breeding season (September 1 – January 31). Surveys for nesting or resident owls will be conducted within 7 days prior to the onset of construction.

Site Surveillance

Burrowing owls may attempt to colonize or re-colonize areas within the survey area; thus, ongoing surveillance will be conducted daily within the project footprint by the biological monitor, and weekly outside of the project footprint, within the 1,640 foot survey area during the nesting season, and 500 feet outside of the nesting season. The surveillance frequency/effort should be sufficient to detect burrowing owls if they return. Subsequent to their new occupancy or return to the site, take avoidance measures shall

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ensure with a high degree of certainty that individual owls will not be [injured or killed]. The frequency of site surveillance and size of the survey area may be reduced if conditions so warrant, in cooperation with CDFW, USFWS, and or BLM, as appropriate. Circumstances that may warrant a reduction in surveillance frequency or reduction in size of the survey area include low quality of habitat for burrowing owls and site features that would substantially reduce the potential for burrowing owls to be affected by project related activities, such as terrain, buildings, or other visual and sound obstructions.

Avoidance

1. The project shall avoid disturbing occupied burrows during the nesting period (February 1 - August 31) and shall avoid impacting burrows occupied during the non-breeding season by migratory or non-migratory resident burrowing owls (September 1 – January 31).
2. The project may not fumigate, use treated bait or other means of poisoning nuisance animals in areas where burrowing owls are known or suspected to occur (e.g., sites observed with nesting owls, designated use areas).
3. An approved, avian biologist with experience and expertise in burrowing owl ecology and management shall develop a worker awareness program to increase the worker's recognition of and commitment to burrowing owl protection. The worker awareness program will consist of a short presentation at the worker safety tailboard meeting prior to the commencement of construction activities and will be provided to new workers as they are assigned to the project site.
4. If the preconstruction surveys described above detect burrowing owl during the nesting season (i.e., within 1,640 feet (500 meters) of the project footprint or, if surveys outside of the nesting season detect resident burrowing owls within 500 feet (152 meters), the location of the burrowing owl dens shall be mapped and the CDFW, USFWS, and or BLM, as appropriate shall be informed by the approved biologist of their location, as well as measures that are being taken in order to avoid impacts to the owls.
5. Outside of the breeding season, a biological monitor assigned to the site shall mark a non-disturbance buffer circle around the burrow using signage and flagging for the burrowing owl dens. The diameter of the buffer shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with CDFW, USFWS, and or BLM, as appropriate, but shall typically range from 160 feet (50 meters) to 1,640 feet (500 meters) depending on the type and extent of the disturbance, duration and timing of the impact, visibility and sensitivity of the burrowing owls to the impact, and environmental factors such as nest site availability, predators, prey availability, burrowing mammal presence and abundance, and threats from other extrinsic factors such as human disturbance, urban interface, feral animals, invasive species, disease or pesticides.
6. During the breeding season, a biological monitor assigned to the site shall mark a non-disturbance buffer circle around the burrow using signage and flagging for the burrowing owl dens. The diameter of the buffer shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with CDFW, USFWS, and or BLM, as appropriate, but shall typically range from 250 feet (76 meters) to 1,640 feet (500 meters) depending on the type and extent of the disturbance, duration and timing of the impact, visibility and sensitivity of the burrowing owls to the impact, and environmental factors such as nest site availability, predators, prey availability, burrowing mammal presence and abundance, and threats from other extrinsic factors such as human disturbance, urban interface, feral animals, invasive species, disease or pesticides.

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BIO CMR 4: Pre-Construction Surveys and Avoidance Measures for Western Snowy Plovers

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on sites identified below and in the attached CMR matrix outside of western snowy plover nesting season.

One site (LALG100) is located within USFWS Designated Critical Habitat for the Western Snowy Plover (SNPL). Another site (LALG300) is located approximately 100 feet east of USFWS Designated Critical Habitat for the SNPL. Another site (LALG-HQ) is not located near USFWS Designated Critical Habitat for the SNPL, but is located on a public beach. These sites are all in locations where human visitation is intensive and nesting by the SNPL is unlikely. However, if work is scheduled to take place during the western snowy plover nesting season (February 15 – August 30), the following measures will be implemented:

1. Permitted biologist(s) shall perform a preconstruction survey for the western snowy plover within 500 feet of the project footprint. If SNPL are detected during preconstruction surveys and the permitted biologist confirms nesting activity (prolonged occupation of the site, courtship behavior, territorial displays, brooding), the following measures shall be implemented by the Contractor under the direction of permitted biologists and in cooperation with the USFWS. If SNPL are determined to be present within 500 feet of project footprint, background noise levels shall be measured. Construction noise levels will be measured and monitored to ensure that SNPL are not subjected to sound levels above 60 dBA Leq, or an increase above background if background noise levels are higher than 60 dBA Leq. If SNPL would be subject to such noise levels, the Contractor shall implement the following measures:
2. Sound barriers such as ¾-inch plywood or hay bales, limiting the time and duration of construction activity, modifying construction methods, and/or delaying construction until the end of the nesting season.
3. If after construction of sound barriers it is determined that construction work would nonetheless subject nesting SNPL to sound levels above 60 dBA Leq or background, if background levels are already higher than 60 dBA Leq, the work shall be completed outside of the nesting season (between September 1 and February 14).
4. All areas identified as potentially suitable SNPL habitat including USFWS Designated Critical Habitat shall be strictly avoided. These areas will have been marked by approved biologists, using highly visible means such as flagging and signage prior to the onset of construction activities
5. Construction or installation work at these sites during the nesting season shall be monitored at least weekly by a permitted biologist who will immediately implement measures for nesting SNPL should evidence of nesting activity activities be observed.
6. Any construction or installation work at these sites shall limit noise, dust, nighttime lighting, and human presence to the greatest extent possible.
7. Monthly monitoring letter reports of construction activities and their effects on biological resources shall be provided to the appropriate wildlife agency (USFWS/CDFW).

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BIO CMR 5: Pre-Construction Surveys and Avoidance Measures for Bats

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on sites identified in the attached CMR matrix as of concern roosting bats outside of bat roosting season.

Within 30 days prior to construction activities (including vegetation clearing and/or trimming), an approved biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for the presence of roosting bats within 500 feet of the project footprint.

Active Nursery Roosts:

1. If active nursery roosts are found (typically between April 15 and August 1) within 500 feet of the project footprint, a work exclusion buffer of 500 feet would be cordoned off by the approved biologist. No work may be conducted within the work exclusion buffer until an approved biologist, in consultation with the Project Biologist, has determined that the juvenile bats are able to forage independently.

Non-maternal Roosts:

1. If the approved biologist finds evidence of roosting bats within 500 feet of the project site, prior to initiation of construction, a biological monitor shall be designated to monitor construction activities and advise construction personnel of the procedures for protecting bats and their habitats during the project, so long as the bat roost is in use by bats. If, as a result of pre-construction surveys, exclusion zones around trees or buildings are established to protect roosting bats, the biological monitor shall advise the construction crews of those areas, the requirement to maintain work exclusion zones (#4) and shall enforce the maintenance of those zones.
2. The biological monitor shall provide at least one bat safety training for the entire crew and shall provide the training for construction workers who are new to the site, prior to their starting work. The biological monitor shall also provide onsite direction for addressing habitat- or species-specific issues.
3. Workers shall be instructed regarding health risks and to avoid direct contact with bats.
4. Because bats are nocturnal, work activities shall not be conducted within 100 feet of any structure or tree identified as bat roosts (where evidence of present roosting bats has been identified) between sunset and sunrise. Airspace access to and from any bat roost is to remain approximately the same. Bird-exclusion netting must not be used and access for bats shall not be blocked off. No clearing and grubbing shall occur within 100 feet of bat roosts. Night lighting for construction activities is not to be used within 100 feet of any bat roost. Internal combustion equipment, such as generators, pumps, and vehicles are not to be parked, nor operated, under or adjacent to any occupied roosts. Personnel are not to be within 100 feet of a bat roost between sunset and sunrise.
5. Under the supervision of the biological monitor, workers should cover unoccupied spaces that may later become bat roosts using material that will not trap birds or bats, such as plywood or tarps. Bird netting must not be used.

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BIO CMR 6: Construction Monitoring

A biological monitor is required to be present whenever project related activities have the potential to impact sensitive or native species; and to verify applicable CMRs which avoid this potential are implemented. Note that the timing of construction activities may affect whether this CMR is required.

The biological monitor has the authority to halt, or limit, or adjust the timing or duration of work related activities at the site they are monitoring, or to suggest alternative methods, in order to fully and effectively implement CMRs. This authority applies to discrete work related activities up to and including all work activities at the site. However, the biological monitor is required to work with the construction crews to assist them in the completion of the project in a legal and timely manner while avoiding potential impacts to native flora, fauna, or habitats. Any unresolved disagreement between the Contractor and biological monitor shall be brought to the attention of the Project Biologist, who oversees and directs the work of all of the approved biologists, biological monitors, and permitted biologists, who will seek to resolve the problem and will also contact LA RICS if necessary.

The biological monitor shall conduct pre-construction meetings with equipment operators to address project specific biological constraints including the following:

1. Avoidance and protection measures for native vegetation removal.
2. Locations of habitat protection zones.
3. Avoidance and protection measures for known bird nests or other faunal resources.
4. Avoidance and protection measures for wetlands or other protected waters.
5. Work time restrictions.
6. Noise level restrictions.
7. Lighting restrictions.
8. Specific protection measures for fauna if they occur in the work area.
9. Contact information for approved and permitted biologists, and the Project Biologist (business cards, phone numbers, etc.).

The biological monitor shall be present at all times during ground disturbing activities such as grading or vegetation removal. In the event that state or federally listed wildlife species or species of special concern are detected within 500 feet of the project site, or CDFW Fully Protected Species are detected within 0.5 mile of the project site, project activities shall cease pending resolution of the potential for impacts, which would consist of measures listed under the headings for individual species mentioned in this document. Resolution may include notification of, and coordination with, the appropriate state or federal regulatory agencies.

The Project Biologist shall determine appropriate timing for and conduct sweeps of the project work areas to detect any small mammals, birds, or herpetological fauna that may have entered ditches, trenches, equipment, etc.

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The biological monitor shall monitor and inspect the installation of exclusion fencing and construction activities that occur within close proximity to the identified project area.

Whenever he/she is on-site, the biological monitor shall complete Construction Monitoring Forms detailing that day's construction activities, whether activities were compliant with the aforementioned project design features, and any corrections and/or discussions made with site personnel. The biological monitor shall provide photo documentation for significant monitoring activities.

1. Following ground disturbing activities, the frequency and duration of monitoring shall be based on the nature of the work being performed and its potential effect on protected biological resources. Appropriate timing for frequency and duration of monitoring shall be determined by the Project Biologist, in consultation with the biological monitor. The Contractor shall designate appropriate personnel to maintain communications with the biological monitor and the Project Biologist. For sites where CMRs have been implemented for special status species, the biological monitor shall remain on-site for the installation of all physical CMRs and during periods when construction equipment is active on site..
2. For non-urban sites with the potential for non-listed small mammals, amphibians or reptiles to enter the site, the biological monitor shall ensure that physical CMRs are in good repair and are functioning as intended to prevent unlisted faunal species from entering work areas. For sites where CMRs have been implemented for non-special status species, the biological monitor shall remain on-site for the installation of all physical CMRs and at least for the first three days of construction in order to ensure the proper function of all CMRs and to make any necessary adjustments or repairs. However, if after several days there have been no incidences of non-listed species entering work areas, the Project Biologist may determine a reduction in monitoring is warranted. If a non-listed species is detected on site and a biological monitor is not present at the site, the Contractor's designee shall contact the Project Biologist, who shall immediately arrange for an approved biologist to go the site and determine appropriate handling or monitoring for the animal.

The biological monitor shall ensure that designated habitat protection zones and exclusion areas are conspicuously marked so as to indicate where no construction activities are permitted.

In the event that exclusion fencing is required, the biological monitor shall be responsible for monitoring and inspecting the fence on an appropriate schedule, and making minor repairs to the fence whenever necessary.

A written list of procedures (also known as a clean site protocol) shall be established and posted on-site at all times. Specifically the protocol will list requirements including:

- All trash of any size will be placed and contained in covered containers. No trash of any kind will be released to the environment. This includes any food items, small or large pieces of plastic or wire, and any small metallic objects (i.e., nuts, bolts, wire nuts).

The biological monitor shall determine if and when special management provisions are necessary for the protection of the California condor. Any site that has the potential for condors to be present requires that potential perches on human structures is precluded, that the project site is maintained in clean condition to prevent the ingestion of microtrash by condors, and that the following provisions are fully implemented:

- A qualified biologist will prepare an informational handout to be presented at an environmental awareness program to personnel who will be on-site, including, but not limited to, contractors.

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contractors' employees, supervisors, inspectors, and subcontractors; all persons working on-site must participate in this training. This program will provide, at a minimum, information concerning the biology and distribution of the California condor, legal status, and possible occurrence in the project area, measures to avoid impacts to condors, procedures to be implemented to eliminate microtrash from the site, and what to do in case of California condor encounters.

- Within five days of planned construction, the biologist is to contact USFWS Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge (805-644-5185) to determine the locations and status of any condors in or near the project area. The biologist will inform the construction manager if condors have recently been recorded from the project area. If condors are frequenting the area, the construction manager and biologist will discuss appropriate measures with LA-RICS and USFWS to avoid effects to condors.
- Anti-perch devices would be affixed to any elevated, horizontal structures suitable for perching by raptors, ravens, vultures, or other large birds.
- During construction and operations of the facility, all workers shall avoid any interaction with condors, and shall immediately stop work if condors are present in the project area.
- If condors are on-site the construction manager or environmental monitor will immediately contact the USFWS Ventura office (805-644-1766). Once condors leave on their own accord or as a result of techniques employed by permitted USFWS personnel, on-site work may continue.
- If condors are found roosting within 0.5 mile of the project site, no construction activity will occur between 1 hour before sunset and 1 hour after sunrise or until the condors leave the area.
- If condors are documented nesting within 1.5 miles of the project site (as determined by nesting bird surveys and/or information from USFWS condor program), no construction activity will occur until further authorization is received from USFWS.
- The contractor shall keep a regulated work area free of litter and trash, and shall prepare plans and implement spill containment measures within the project area for all activities and for all vehicles.
- The construction site shall be cleaned up at the end of each day that work is being conducted (e.g., trash removed, scrap materials picked up) to minimize the likelihood of condors and other wildlife visiting the site and consuming microtrash, discarded food, or other substances.
- All wires, cables, and other items that could entangle a condor are to be securely fastened down or removed from site.
- Verification of site cleanup by an environmental monitor would occur at the end of each work day and upon completion of construction activities.

BIO CMR 7: Non-listed Amphibians, Reptiles, and Small Mammals

Non-listed amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals will be protected using the following measures:

1. A biological monitor, assigned to the project site will perform daily sweeps prior to construction activities to ensure that any non-listed amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals are not in the work area and will remove any that are detected. These animals will be moved to a location either on the site (but out of the work area), or immediately off-site, where they are not in any apparent danger from project related activities or non-project related threats such as pets, vehicular traffic, or predation.
2. Any amphibian, reptiles, and small mammal translocation will be conducted by the biological monitor. Workers will not be allowed to handle, harm, or kill any wildlife encountered on the project site.

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3. Prior to the start of the first work day, the biological monitor shall train the crew on procedures for protecting non-listed amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals. New crew members will be trained immediately following morning tailboard safety meetings as they are assigned to the project site. The biological monitor will ensure that the project foreman or site superintendent has his/her and the Project Biologist's cell phone number.
4. Site specific CMRs shall be developed if necessary and feasible by the biological monitor and project foreman or site superintendent. Such CMRs may include barrier silt fencing in strategic areas to keep animals from entering work areas.
5. The frequency and duration of biological monitoring for amphibians, reptiles and small mammals may be reduced by the Project Biologist if after several days it has become apparent that the project does not pose a potential harm to these species.

BIO CMR 8: Open Trenches and Ditches

Small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles may enter open trenches and ditches. Large mammals may be injured by falls into these features, if the open ditches and trenches are left open when work sites are unattended. To avoid and minimize the amount of the open trenches, the following measures must be adhered to by the Contractor:

1. Do not leave trenches open overnight, or for extended periods when personnel will not be present at the site. Cover trenches if they cannot be filled at the close of the work day.
2. Keep trenching and back-filling crews close together at any given time.
3. If trenches cannot be back-filled immediately, escape ramps should be constructed at least every 90 meters. Escape ramps can be short lateral trenches sloping to the surface or wooden planks extending to the surface. The slope should be less than 45 degrees. Trenches that have been left open overnight should be inspected and animals removed prior to back-filling using methods consistent with project CMRs.
4. For non-listed animal species, biological monitors and/or qualified biologists may utilize active removal techniques as a complement to passive removal techniques (e.g., placement of barriers) to avoid unreasonable delays to construction. Active removal techniques include placing small mammals or herpetofaunal species in a bucket for relocation out of harm's way.
5. Any observation of listed species will be reported to the Project Biologist within 24 hours, who in turn will notify the USFWS and other regulatory agencies, as appropriate, within 48 hours of occurrence. All work will cease if a federally-listed species is detected onsite. Work will only resume after the qualified biologist confirms the animal is off-site and would not be adversely affected.
6. For listed species, ~~biological monitors and/or~~ qualified biologists may restrict access of listed small mammals or herpetofaunal species to the work area using non-harassment, passive techniques, such as placing a barrier (e.g., boards) between the organism and the active excavation area.

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BIO CMR 9: Establish Habitat Protection Zones

To avoid impacts to sensitive or native habitats outside of, but adjacent to the work area, the Contractor is required to implement the following measures:

1. Construction activities shall begin only after a biologist has established and clearly marked habitat protection zones using highly visible means such as signage, flagging, and temporary fencing where necessary, explained the significance of the habitat protection zones and explained the responsibilities of the Contractor in avoiding these areas, and approved the work area(s).
2. The Contractor shall ensure that all personnel and equipment stay out of the habitat protection zones, which shall have been clearly marked using signs, flagging, and/or temporary fencing.
3. A biological monitor shall be present during grading or any modification to vegetation (including non-native, previously-disturbed, ornamental, and landscaped vegetation) in order to ensure that non-approved work areas are not entered and that native vegetation is not removed, trimmed, or disturbed and no rare plants or host plants are accidentally damaged or destroyed.

BIO CMR 10: Protect Native Vegetation

Disturbance to native vegetation is not anticipated to occur on this project. An approved biologist shall ensure that native vegetation adjoining the project footprint has been clearly marked using highly visible means such as signage, flagging or fencing. Construction personnel shall not be allowed into habitats with native vegetation except under supervision by the biological monitor. No equipment may be staged within the native habitat areas and they shall not be used for storage. Additionally, the Contractor shall implement or comply with the following measures:

1. Do not remove and/or grade plants or topsoil where stands of native vegetation occur.
2. Erosion caused by construction activities upslope from native vegetation shall be minimized by means of weed-free straw wattling, silt fencing, or other barriers as necessary to prevent runoff into the native habitat.
3. Avoid project activities that unnecessarily disturb or compact the soil surface which could increase erosion, sediment transport, and make future native plant establishment more difficult.
4. Clearance of landscaped or non-native plants shall be conducted under the supervision of a qualified biological monitor, and consistent with the other requirements of these CMRs, to ensure that direct and indirect impacts to wildlife and their habitat are avoided.
5. Utilize existing access roads, pads, and previously developed or disturbed areas as much as feasible in order to avoid impacts to sensitive vegetation.
6. Disturbance of heavily infested non-native and ruderal vegetation areas should be avoided to reduce potential to spread invasive “weedy” species as determined by the California Invasive Plant Council 2011 and California Department of Food and Agriculture lists (containing federally listed-species). Any disturbance in these areas would require presence of a biological monitor.

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BIO CMR 11: Limit the Spread of Invasive Plants

To minimize the spread and establishment of invasive plant species into the project area, all off-road heavy equipment used by the Contractor during project implementation should be free of noxious or exotic weeds and seeds before entering the project area. Vehicle washing, in compliance with site-specific guidelines shall be implemented for all ground disturbing activities. Site specific guidelines shall be identified and selected by the Project Biologist and may include some or all of the following measures:

1. Equipment used on the project shall be subject to inspection prior to transiting to or entering project sites to prevent introduction of weed species. Vehicles will be free of mud, dirt and seed when they arrive on site.
2. Provide a vehicle and equipment washing station away from the project site.
3. Use washing equipment at commercial car or truck washing facility.
4. Post-construction landscaping or revegetation shall not include the use of invasive, exotic plant species listed on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Noxious Weed List (CDFA, 2011) or in the California Invasive Plant Inventory (Cal-IPC 2006).

BIO CMR 12: Post-construction Noxious Weed Survey

Post-construction surveys for noxious weeds shall be conducted to determine the presence of invasive species. Surveys shall cover the project footprint and will take place during April – May, when the greatest proportion of noxious plant species are growing and identifiable, but have not set seed. Any populations of noxious weeds shall be immediately treated under the direction of a botanist.

BIO CMR 13: Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*)

Status: *California Department of Fish and Wildlife Threatened*

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on site BRK during the aestivation period for Mohave ground squirrel. Because multiple species (including Mohave ground squirrel, desert tortoise, and nesting birds) have potential to occur near this site, recommended timing for construction at this site is December and January.

As of July 5, 2013, habitat assessments for the Mohave ground squirrel have been completed for the PSBN project and no sites have been identified as having suitable habitat for the Mohave ground squirrel. However, as-per the CMR spreadsheet, suitable habitats for the Mohave ground squirrel have been identified within 500 feet of some sites. For these sites, the following measures shall be implemented by the Contractor in order to protect Mohave ground squirrels.

1. A temporary fence shall be constructed meeting CDFW specifications that would greatly reduce the potential for a Mohave ground squirrel from accidentally entering the site. The construction of this fence would be overseen by a biologist who is familiar with the CDFW specifications.
2. A biological monitor shall ensure that Mohave ground squirrels that make their way into the fenced enclosure do not remain there. The biological monitor shall be responsible for opening the fence and allowing the animal to leave on its own. However, if the animal needs to be handled, a biologist with the appropriate permits and permission from CDFW shall be contacted to remove and release it outside of the enclosure.

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3. The biological monitor shall have the authority to stop work at the project site, and must stop work related activities that could potentially harm the animal until it has left the site. The biological monitor shall remain present for the duration of construction activities.
4. The Contractor shall designate appropriate personnel to maintain communications with the biological monitor and the Project Biologist. If the Contractor's designee determines that the removal of a Mohave ground squirrel is required and a biological monitor is not present at the site, he/she shall contact the Project Biologist, who shall immediately arrange, after consultation with CDFW and BLM, for an approved biologist to go the site and determine appropriate handling or monitoring for the animal.

BIO CMR 14: Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) Preconstruction Surveys and Monitoring

Status: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Threatened.*

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on site BRK during the aestivation period for desert tortoise. Because multiple species (including Mohave ground squirrel, desert tortoise, and nesting birds) have potential to occur near this site, recommended timing for construction at this site is December and January; however, federally-listed species could be encountered at any time of year.

The following avoidance measures shall apply to the Contractor:

1. A biologist under contract to LA-RICS shall perform preconstruction surveys for the desert tortoise within 30 days prior to the implementation of the project, and day-of-construction sweeps of the site for the species.
2. Exclusionary fencing meeting the specifications described in the Desert Tortoise Field Manual (USFWS 2009) shall be constructed under the supervision of a qualified biologist who is familiar with the construction requirements. Exclusionary fencing shall be placed surrounding all project areas subject to vehicle and heavy equipment access, including access roads, work areas, and staging areas.
3. A qualified biologist shall be present through the duration of construction activity.
4. All vehicles shall observe a speed limit of 5 miles-per-hour in the project footprint and on non-public access roads.
5. All on-site personnel shall thoroughly check for desert tortoises under any parked vehicle or equipment immediately prior to moving or operating the vehicle or equipment. In areas the qualified biologist determines there is a high likelihood of encountering the desert tortoise, vehicles will be inspected more frequently, with particular attention to surveying for small desert tortoise individuals.
6. No persons on the site are authorized to "take" a desert tortoise. "Take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Attempts to approach or touch a desert tortoise are prohibited. During the pre-construction meeting as described in BIO CMR 6, the biological monitor shall describe the

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general biology of the desert tortoise and the project restrictions designed to avoid adverse effects to the species.

7. All measures described in BIO CMR 6 (Construction Monitoring), BIO CMR 7 (Non-listed Amphibians, Reptiles, and Small Mammals), BIO CMR 8 (Open Trenches and Ditches), BIO CMR 9 (Establish Habitat Protection Zones) and BIO CMR 18 (Hazardous Substance Management) shall be adhered to by the Contractor.
8. In the event a desert tortoise is detected on the site after installation of exclusionary fencing, the animal shall be allowed to exit on its own by leaving an opening in the fence. All work shall cease until the animal is off-site. The qualified biologist must be onsite to confirm the animal has retreated from the project site on its own. Work may resume only after approval by the qualified biologist.
9. All trash shall be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of on a daily basis.
10. The Contractor shall designate appropriate personnel to maintain communications with the biological monitor, qualified biologist, and the Project Biologist. Any observation of desert tortoise will be reported to the Project Biologist within 24 hours, who in turn will notify USFWS and other regulatory agencies, as appropriate, within 48 hours of occurrence.
11. Any elevated horizontal surface associated with the monopole that may be suitable as perch or nest sites for raptors, raven, vultures, or other large bird shall include anti-perch devices to deter the use of these facilities as perches or nest sites.
12. No dogs shall be allowed at the site during construction or maintenance operations.

BIO CMR 15: Avoidance Measures for Arroyo Toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*)

Status: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern*

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on sites identified in the attached CMR matrix as of concern for arroyo toad during the aestivation period for the species. Aestivation generally occurs between August and January. Though not expected to occur on site (habitat does not occur within 500 feet of any PSBN site), one site (LACF076) is less than 1,000 feet from potential habitat. In the event that construction activities cannot occur during the aestivation period, the following measures shall apply. These conservation measures are consistent with the Recovery Plan for the Arroyo Southwestern Toad (USFWS 1999).

1. Prior to commencement of construction activities, a qualified biologist (knowledgeable of the ecology of arroyo toads and other local amphibians) shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel and the biological monitors. At minimum, the training shall include: 1) a description of arroyo toad habitat; 2) avoidance measures being implemented for the arroyo toad; and 3) identification of the boundaries of permitted access and work areas.
2. A qualified biologist shall be present at the work site at all times until construction is completed.

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3. The Contractor shall designate appropriate personnel to maintain communications with the biological monitor, qualified biologist, and the Project Biologist. Any observation of arroyo toad will be reported to the Project Biologist within 24 hours, who in turn will notify the USFWS and other regulatory agencies as appropriate, within 48 hours of occurrence.
4. No persons on the site are authorized to “take” an arroyo toad. “Take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Attempts to approach or touch an arroyo toad are prohibited.
5. In the event an arroyo toad is detected on the site, the animal shall be allowed to exit on its own by leaving an opening in the fence. All work shall cease until the animal has moved off-site. Work may resume only after approved by a qualified biologist.
6. Daily pre-construction sweeps of the construction area shall be conducted by a qualified biologist.
7. All trash shall be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of on a daily basis.
8. All fueling and vehicle/equipment maintenance involving the transfer or replenishment of fluids shall be completed within existing paved areas or designated fueling areas designed to contain fuel drips farther than 100 feet from any watercourse. Prior to the onset of work, the Project Biologist under contract to LA-RICS shall ensure that the Contractor has prepared a plan to allow for a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills into the drainage. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
9. Maintenance of vehicles other than the transfer or replenishment of fluids and other equipment, and staging areas, shall be located offsite and more than 60 feet from any drainage connecting to the aquatic habitat.
10. Access routes, staging areas, temporary grading, and the extent of all construction-related activity shall be limited to the minimum necessary to complete the project. Routes and boundaries shall be clearly demarcated and located outside of the riparian corridor.
11. Entry shall not be permitted into any wetlands, streams, arroyos, ephemeral drainages, or riparian areas by workers or equipment. Any such habitats will be clearly marked to aid the construction crew, using signage, flagging, and/or temporary fencing.
12. A “drift fence” of silt fence material at least two feet high shall be installed wherever construction is taking place in the vicinity of suitable arroyo toad habitat. The fence shall be constructed by the Contractor and must be in place far enough ahead of the construction to effectively exclude toads from the workspace for a period of 24 hours prior to construction. This fence shall exclude foraging arroyo toads from the work area and shall be cleared every morning by a qualified biologist before construction begins. The placement of the silt fencing and its construction shall be directly supervised by a qualified biologist.
13. Construction shall be limited to daylight hours.
14. Vehicle, truck, and equipment speeds shall be 15 miles/hour or below within all work areas and on non-public access roads that have been clearly marked with signage and/or flagging by

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qualified biologists. Speed limits may be further reduced at the discretion of the biological monitor or a qualified biologist.

15. The project construction shall avoid stream channels entirely. Stream channels will be clearly marked using signage, flagging, and/or temporary fencing.

BIO CMR 16: Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

Status: *None*

Exhaust and low frequency vibrations, inherent to the operation of heavy equipment, as well as activities involved with the trimming/removal of trees on the project site, may disturb and/or dislodge roosting monarchs during the overwintering season (Oct 1 – Feb 28), should they be present. This would increase colony disturbance and butterfly mortality. The severity of this impact shall depend on the distance of roosting butterflies from the area where the equipment is being operated.

Preconstruction surveys for monarch butterflies will be performed by approved biologists concurrently with nesting bird surveys. If monarch butterfly overwintering colonies are found within 100 feet of the project footprint, avoidance measures will be developed in cooperation with CDFW.

Bio CMR 17: Wetlands and Other Waters

None of the sites in the PSBN Project contain potentially disturbed wetlands or waters within the work area or the PSBN site boundary. Soil disturbance, if any, at PSBN sites will be less than 0.1 acres. To avoid impacts to wetlands and other waters, BMPs shall be selected by the Project Biologist and implemented by the contractor to control sediment and pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater runoff associated with construction. BMPs for sediment and pollutant control may include, but are not limited to, the following.

COMMON BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR STORM WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

BMP (designation)	Description
Silt Fence (SE-1)	Woven geotextile attached to supporting poles to detain coarse sediment entrained in sheet flow.
Sediment Basin (SE-2)	Temporary basin formed by excavation or by constructing an embankment so that sediment-laden runoff is temporarily detained under quiescent conditions, allowing sediment to settle out before the runoff is released.
Fiber Rolls (SE-5)	Straw, coir, or other materials bound into a tight tubular roll wrapped by netting placed at the face or toe of slopes along the contours to intercept runoff, reduce flow velocity, release runoff as sheet flow, and capture sediment.
Gravel Bag Berm (SE-6)	Series of gravel-filled bags placed along a contour to intercept runoff, reduce flow velocity, release runoff as sheet flow, and capture sediment.
Sandbag Barrier (SE-8)	Series of sand-filled bags placed along a contour to intercept runoff, reduce flow velocity, release runoff as sheet flow, and capture sediment.

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BMP (designation)	Description
Straw Bale Barrier (SE-9)	Straw bales placed along a contour, usually at the base of slopes, to intercept sheet flows, pond sheet-flow runoff, and allow sediment to settle.
Storm Drain Inlet Protection (SE-10)	Sediment filter or an impounding area in, around or upstream of a storm drain or other inlet that temporarily ponds runoff, and allows sediment to settle before runoff enters the storm drain or inlet.

Source: CASQA. 2012. Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook Portal: Construction: California Storm Water Quality Association. July update. Portal available only by purchase at <https://www.casqa.org/>. Accessed January 2014.

Barrier materials used in BMPs shall be certified as weed-free.

Bio CMR 18: Hazardous Substance Management

Hazardous substances shall be managed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations. BMPs shall be selected by the Project Biologist and implemented by the Contractor to prevent or reduce the discharge of hazardous substances to drainage systems or watercourses to avoid “take” or “harm” to special status species, and substantial adverse effect or adverse modification of habitat areas. BMPs to prevent or reduce the discharge of hazardous substances to drainage systems or watercourses may include, but are not limited to, the following.

COMMON BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

BMP (designation)	Description
Material Use (WM-2)	Prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to watercourses from material use by using non-hazardous products, minimizing hazardous material use onsite, and training employees and subcontractors.
Stockpile Management (WM-3)	Reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution from stockpiles of soil, soil amendments, sand, paving materials such as Portland cement concrete (PCC) rubble, asphalt concrete (AC), asphalt concrete rubble, aggregate base, aggregate sub-base or pre-mixed aggregate, asphalt minder and pressure treated wood by covering the stockpiles with plastic covers that would withstand weather and sunlight for the anticipated duration of use.
Spill Prevention and Control (WM-4)	Prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to drainage systems or watercourses from leaks and spills by reducing the chance for spills, stopping the source of spills, containing and cleaning up spills, properly disposing of spill materials, and training employees.

Source: CASQA. 2012. Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook Portal: Construction: California Storm Water Quality Association. July update. Portal available only by purchase at

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BMP (designation)	Description
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<https://www.casqa.org/>. Accessed January 2014.

BIO CMR 19: Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*)

Status: Federal Threatened, *California Species of Special Concern*, *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*

Nesting Season: February 15 – August 30.

To the extent feasible, the Contractor shall schedule construction activity on sites identified in the attached CMR matrix as of concern for coastal California gnatcatcher outside of nesting season for the species.

When construction activities may affect breeding or non-breeding coastal California gnatcatchers, the following measures will apply:

- The following sites (CLM, LACF056, LACF099, LACF108, and LACF194) have potential for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) within 500 feet of the project work area. Nesting or non-breeding coastal California gnatcatcher could be present. At these sites, a Permitted Biologist will survey for the coastal California gnatcatcher within 10 days prior to initiating construction activities. In the event species are detected, the results of the survey will be submitted to the USFWS for review and approval prior to initiating any construction activities within 500 feet of occupied habitat.
- If an active nest is located, a 500-foot no-construction buffer will be established around each nest site. No construction activities will take place within this buffer zone until the nest is no longer active. However, if construction must take place within the 500-foot buffer, a Biological Monitor will monitor noise at the edge of the occupied gnatcatcher habitat. If the noise meets or exceeds the 60 dB(A) Leq, or if the Biological Monitor determines that the activities in general are disturbing the nesting activities, the Biological Monitor will have the authority to halt construction activities and will contact the Project Biologist who will in turn contact LA RICS, who will contact the USFWS to devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance in the vicinity. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nesting gnatcatchers and the activities, and working in other areas until the young have fledged.

DEFINITIONS

Notes:

Biological monitors and qualified and permitted biological resources personnel shall be provided by the Contractor. The Contractor is responsible for submitting lists of biologists with appropriate qualifications to serve in these positions to LA-RICS. Submissions must provide sufficient time for LA-RICS to review and approve the biologists to serve in these positions, and to coordinate with resources agencies if required. LA-RICS will provide the Project Biologist and may use the services of the Project Biologist to

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review biologists' respective qualifications. LA-RICS will require all biologists to attend project-specific training regarding the nature of biological resources in the vicinity of the project sites.

Biological Monitor. A biologist whose duty is to monitor construction activities to ensure all CMRs are being implemented appropriately and completely.

PSBN Site. This is a publically-owned real property parcel, portion of a parcel, or combination of parcels used to define the outer bound of where work could occur at a given PSBN site. Each PSBN site has been pre-designated by LA-RICS, and each contains the work area and project footprint.

Permitted Biologist. A biologist permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or in possession of a valid permit or Memorandum of Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to conduct permit-specific activities that could affect special-status species.

Project Biologist. An LA-RICS resource, the biologist with ultimate responsibility for verification of compliance with applicable regulations, and compliance with CMRs. This individual coordinates the biological resource monitoring work and serves as primary conduit for communication regarding biological resources issues between monitors and specialty biologists, Contractor, regulatory agencies, and LA-RICS authority for the project.

Project Footprint. The actual area that is potentially disturbed during the process of construction. The project footprint is limited to a maximum of 3,600 square feet per site and bounds the actual area where construction and staging occurs. It does not include private or public access roads when they are only used as a means of ingress and egress to and from the project site.

Qualified Biologist. A biologist maintaining specialized skills or experience to perform certain functions using these acquired skills. Biologists experienced with the Desert tortoise or Arroyo toad is considered to be within this definition. They are not allowed to capture or handle any listed species.

Special Status Species. Any species reviewed for this project regulated under FESA, BGEPA, MBTA, managed as Forest Service Sensitive or BLM Sensitive, regulated under CESA, NPPA, or regulated by the state of California as a Fully Protected Species.

Work Area. An area generally defined as that contained within a PSBN site that does not contain native vegetation or serve as habitat for special-status species. These areas will be determined by the Project Biologist during preconstruction surveys. Work area also represents the maximum area on a PSBN site where work could occur.

REFERENCES FOR BIOLOGICAL CMRS

California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993. *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines*. Website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/docs/boconsortium.pdf>. Accessed: June 5, 2013.

CDFW 2013. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. *Bald Eagles in California*. Website: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/t_e_spp/bald_eagle/. Accessed May 14, 2013.

Digital Desert 2013. *Golden Eagle; distribution, Abundance, and Seasonality*. Website: <http://digital-desert.com/wildlife/golden-eagle.html>. Accessed June 21, 2013.

ATTACHMENT 2 TO EXHIBIT J (CONFIDENTIAL SUPPLEMENT)

Agreement No. LA-RICS 008 – Amended and Restated under Amendment No. 5

- Halterman, M. D., M. J. Johnson, and J. A. Holmes. 2011. *A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Population*. Draft May 2011.
- USFWS 2013. Desert Tortoise (Mohave Population) Field Manual, Chapter 8 Exclusion Fence. Website: http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species_information/protocols_guidelines/docs/dt/dt_fieldmanual/CHAPTER%208.pdf. Accessed June 5, 2013.
- USFWS 2001. *Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines*. Website: http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species_information/protocols_guidelines/docs/lbv/leastbellsvireo_survey-guidelines.pdf. Accessed June 5, 2013.
- USFWS 2000a. *Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communications Towers*. Website: http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/com_tow_guidelines.pdf. Accessed June 5, 2013.
- USGS 2012. *A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Southwestern Shallow Flycatcher*. Website: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm2a10/>. Accessed June 5, 2013.
- USFWS 1997. *Coastal California Gnatcatcher (Poliophtila californica californica) Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines February 28, 1997*. Website: http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species_information/protocols_guidelines/docs/cagn/coastal-gnatcatcher_survey-guidelines.pdf. Accessed June 5, 2013.
2010. *A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Southwestern Shallow Flycatcher*. Website: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/tm2a10/pdf/tm2a10.pdf>. Accessed June 5, 2013.
- Wikipedia 2013. *Golden Eagle*. Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Eagle. Accessed May 14, 2013.

ATTACHMENT 2 TO EXHIBIT J (CONFIDENTIAL SUPPLEMENT)

Agreement No. LA-RICS 008 – Amended and Restated under Amendment No. 5

CULTURAL RESOURCES - CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (CMRs)

CRM CMR 1: Potential Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Project Area of Potential Effect

At sites that the California Historic Resources Inventory Information Center (CHRIS IC) records indicate the potential presence of prehistoric archaeological material (artifacts and/or features) in the Area of Potential Effect (APE), qualified archaeological and Native American monitors shall be present during all subsurface excavation for tower or monopole foundations, and during grading for access roads and structure foundations. The APE is defined as a one-half-mile radius surrounding the project location. The Contractor will be informed which locations require the presence of monitors well in advance of construction (see PSBN Construction Management Requirements by Project Location Table).

In the event that prehistoric archaeological material is discovered within the APE, the procedures set forth in CRM CMR 3 shall be followed. The archaeological monitor will, at a minimum, have a B.A. in anthropology or related field or will have successfully completed an archaeological field methods school. The monitor will work under the supervision of a Project Archaeologist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Qualifications. These professional qualifications standards have been published in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61. The LA-RICS Authority will have review and refusal over the cultural resource management (CRM) firm to be engaged by the Contractor, which will provide all archaeological personnel described in these CMRs.

CRM CMR 2: Potential Historic Archaeological Sites in Project Area of Potential Effect

At sites that CHRIS IC records indicate the known presence of a National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible site, or other historic structure, in the APE, thereby indicating the potential presence of historic archaeological material (artifacts and/or features), a qualified archaeological monitor shall be present during all subsurface excavation for tower or monopole foundations, and during grading for access roads and structure foundations. The APE is defined as a one-half-mile radius surrounding the project location. The Contractor will be informed which locations require the presence of monitors well in advance of construction (see PSBN Construction Management Requirements by Project Location Table).

In the event that historic archaeological material is discovered within the APE, the procedures set forth in CRM CMR 3 shall be followed. The monitor will, at a minimum, have a B.A. in anthropology or related field or will have successfully completed an archaeological field methods school. The monitor will work under the supervision of a Project Archaeologist who meets or exceeds the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Qualifications. These professional qualifications standards have been published in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61. The LA-RICS Authority will have review and refusal over the cultural resource management (CRM) firm to be engaged by the Contractor.

CRM CMR 3: Archaeological Materials Encountered

In the event that a previously unidentified buried archaeological resource is uncovered, the following actions shall be taken:

1. All ground disturbing work within 165 feet (50 meters) of the discovery shall be halted. The qualified archaeological monitor will mark the immediate area with highly visible flagging.
2. The LA-RICS Project Archaeologist shall inspect the discovery and determine whether further investigation is required. If the discovery can be avoided and no further impacts will occur, the resource shall be documented on California State Department of Parks and Recreation cultural resource record forms and no further effort shall be required.

ATTACHMENT 2 TO EXHIBIT J (CONFIDENTIAL SUPPLEMENT)

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3. If the resource cannot be avoided and may be subject to further impact, the archaeologist shall evaluate the resource and determine whether it is (1) eligible for the CRHR (and thus a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA); or (2) a “unique” archaeological resource as defined by CEQA. If the resource is determined to be neither a unique archaeological nor an historic resource, work may commence in the area following collection and recording of the artifacts.
4. If the resource meets the criteria for either historical or unique archaeological resources, or both, work shall remain halted, and the archaeologist shall consult with LA-RICS Authority staff regarding methods to ensure that no substantial adverse change would occur to the significance of the resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b). Preservation in place, i.e., avoidance, is the preferred method of ensuring that there are no substantial adverse impacts to cultural resources and shall be required unless there are other equally effective methods. If the archaeological material appears to represent a site, defined as a feature or three or more artifacts in an intact deposit, an archaeological test program (Phase II) may be necessary. The Project Archaeologist will make this determination. Other methods include evaluation, collection, recordation, and analysis of any significant cultural materials in accordance with a Cultural Resources Management Plan prepared by the archaeologist. The methods and results of evaluation or data recovery work at an archaeological find shall be documented in a professional level technical report to be filed with CHRIS.
5. Work may commence upon completion of treatment. Copies of the archaeological survey, study or report shall be submitted to: South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), Department of Anthropology at California State University Fullerton, as approved by the LA-RICS Authority.

CRM CMR 4: Human Remains

In the event that human remains are discovered during construction excavation activities, the following procedure shall be observed:

1. All construction activity shall stop immediately and the Project Archaeologist will contact the Los Angeles County Coroner.
2. The Coroner has two working days to examine human remains after being notified by the responsible person. If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours.
3. The NAHC will immediately notify the person it believes to be the Most Likely Descendent (MLD) of the deceased Native American.
4. The MLD has 48 hours to make recommendations to the property owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods.
5. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours the owner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance following procedures required by the Public Resources Code, Sections 5097.94, 5097.98, 5097.99, and Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5.
6. If the owner does not accept the descendant’s recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the NAHC.

ATTACHMENT 2 TO EXHIBIT J (CONFIDENTIAL SUPPLEMENT)

Agreement No. LA-RICS 008 – Amended and Restated under Amendment No. 5

CRM CMR 5: Potential Paleontological Resources in Area

At sites that Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History records indicate the potential presence of paleontological resources in the area, a qualified paleontological monitor shall be present during all subsurface excavation for tower or monopole foundations, and during grading for access roads and structure foundations. The Contractor will be informed which locations require the presence of a paleontological monitor in advance of construction (see PSBN Construction Management Requirements by Project Location Table). The LA-RICS Authority will have review and refusal over the paleontological cultural resource firm to be engaged by the Contractor.

In the event that a previously unidentified paleontological resource is uncovered, the following actions shall be taken:

1. All ground disturbing work within 165 feet (50 meters) of the discovery shall be halted. The LA-RICS-approved, qualified paleontological monitor shall divert or direct construction activities in the area of an exposed fossil in order to facilitate evaluation and, if necessary, salvage of the exposed fossil.
2. A paleontologist shall inspect the discovery and determine whether further investigation is required. If the discovery can be avoided and no further impacts will occur, no further effort shall be required.
3. If the resource cannot be avoided and may be subject to further impact, the paleontologist shall evaluate the resource and determine whether it is “unique” under CEQA, Appendix G, Part V. If the resource is determined to not be unique, work may commence in the area.
4. If the resource is determined to be a unique paleontological resource, work shall remain halted, and the paleontologist shall consult with LA-RICS Authority staff regarding methods to ensure that no substantial adverse change would occur to the significance of the resource. Preservation in place, i.e., avoidance, is the preferred method of ensuring that there are no substantial adverse impacts to the resource and shall be required unless there are other equally effective methods. Other methods include ensuring that the fossils are recovered, prepared, identified, catalogued, and analyzed according to current professional standards.
5. Due to the small nature of some fossils, a fine mesh screen may be used at the discretion of the paleontologist at project-specific inspections to collect matrix samples for processing.
6. Provisions for preparation and identification of any fossils collected shall be made before donation to a suitable repository.
7. All recovered fossils shall be curated at a local accredited and permanent scientific institution according to Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standard guidelines standards. Work may commence upon completion of treatment, as approved by LA-RICS.

CRM CMR 6: Attaching Equipment to Historic Buildings

1. When running new exterior wiring to a historic building, utilize existing entry points when feasible. If a new entry point is required, consider placing the entry at the rear of the building or in an unobtrusive area on the side of the building.

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2. When installing wireless nodes, antennas, microwave or satellite dishes, etc. on historic buildings, utilize existing mounting points when possible. For new mounts, the preferred option is the use of non-penetrating mounts.
3. Consider using existing building features to conceal equipment.
4. Equipment should be placed in a location that does not detract from the building's overall appearance; the best practice is to place roof mounted equipment where it will not be visible from accessible locations at grade. Ensure that there is adequate structural support for the new equipment and design, and install a system that minimizes the number of cutouts or holes in structural members and historic material.
5. The preferred alternative for new equipment installations on a historic building that will be visible is to paint the equipment and color match it to the surrounding building materials.
6. Color match any supports or brackets for new equipment to the existing materials.
7. Minimize visible exterior wiring; where unavoidable, the best practice is to color match the wiring to the original building material to reduce the visual impact.
8. Never anchor equipment directly into stone or brick; use mortar joints for anchoring the equipment.
9. Use rust resistant mounts to prevent staining of the building materials.
10. Use only reversible mounting techniques to avoid damage to building materials.
11. When installing cable or conduit underground at a historic property, the work should be undertaken in a manner that gives consideration to the stability of the historic building, including limiting any new excavations adjacent to historic foundations that could undermine the structural stability of the building, and avoiding landscape or other changes that could alter drainage patterns and cause water-related damage to the building.
12. Best alternative for new interior wiring is to utilize space in existing chases, closets or shafts.
13. Install equipment and systems so that it causes the least alteration possible to the building's floor plan, and the least damage to the historic building material.
14. Install the vertical runs of conduit and cables in closets, service rooms, and wall cavities when possible. Bear in mind, however, that the concept of complete invisibility, which necessitates hiding conduit and cables within wall and floor systems, may not always be appropriate for historic buildings because of the damage that often results. Every effort should be made to design a system that will require the least intrusion into the historic fabric of the building and that can be updated or altered without major intervention into the wall and floor systems.

The Contractor will be informed which locations include historic-age buildings well in advance of construction (see PSBN Construction Management Requirements by Project Location Table).

ATTACHMENT 2 TO EXHIBIT J (CONFIDENTIAL SUPPLEMENT)

Agreement No. LA-RICS 008 – Amended and Restated under Amendment No. 5

DEFINITIONS

Archaeological Monitor. A qualified archaeologist whose duty is to monitor construction activities to ensure all cultural CMRs will be implemented appropriately and completely.

Cross Trained Archaeological/Paleontological Monitor. A qualified archaeologist who has been trained to observe and record paleontological specimens and can demonstrate experience in this task whose duty is to monitor construction activities to ensure all CMRs will be implemented appropriately and completely.

Native American Monitor. A qualified Native American representing the local Tribal people trained in cultural resources identification whose duty is to monitor construction activities to ensure cultural CMRs will be implemented appropriately and completely.

Paleontological Monitor. A qualified paleontologist whose duty is to monitor construction activities to ensure the paleontological CMR will be implemented appropriately and completely.

Project Archaeologist. The archaeologist working for the LA-RICS Authority who coordinates and supervises cultural resource monitoring work, and serves as primary conduit for communication between Contractor, regulatory agencies, and applicant involving cultural resources for the project to ensure all CRM CMRs will be implemented appropriately and completely.

REFERENCES FOR CULTURAL | HISTORIC RESOURCES CMRS

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation: Website:
<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/rhb/stand.htm>. Accessed July 10, 2013.

National Park Service Preservation Briefs (for detailed guidance on preserving, rehabilitating and restoring historic buildings and specific types of historic building materials): Website:
<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>. Accessed July 10, 2013.

APPENDIX C

US Fish and Wildlife Service Information, Planning, and Conservation (iPaC) Species Lists

My project

IPaC Trust Resource Report

Generated May 01, 2015 12:59 PM MDT



US Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Trust Resource Report



Project Description

NAME

My project

PROJECT CODE

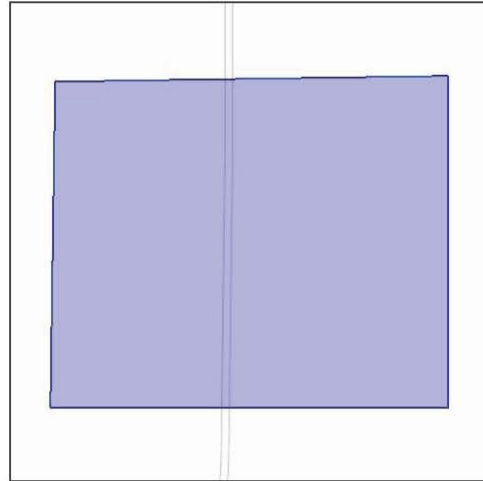
DW3IC-KK6GZ-EOXKJ-OLQZW-LCGT7Y

LOCATION

Los Angeles County, California

DESCRIPTION

No description provided



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Contact Information

Species in this report are managed by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

(760) 431-9440

Endangered Species

Proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species that are managed by the [Endangered Species Program](#) and should be considered as part of an effect analysis for this project.

Birds

California Condor Entire, except where listed as an experimental population

Endangered

DESCRIPTION

117-134 cm. Huge and unmistakable. Black with white wing-linings and silvery panel on upper secondaries. Head naked and orange/red. Immatures with black head and underwing mottled dark. Soars on horizontal wings with primaries curled up.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B002>

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

Reptiles

Desert Tortoise Entire, except AZ south and east of Colorado River, and Mexico

Threatened

DESCRIPTION

Gopherus agassizii is terrestrial, with a domed shell and round, stumpy elephantine hind legs. The front limbs are flattened for digging and heavily scaled without webbed toes. The carapace (upper shell) is oblong and domed with the sides round due to joining of the carapace and plastron (lower shell). The scute centers are often yellowish which have grooved concentric rings. The plastron is also yellowish, with brown along the scute margins. The head is small and rounded in front with redd...

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C041>

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

Critical Habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) within the project area must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There is no critical habitat within this project area

Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Any activity which results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1). There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

You are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations for the protection of birds as part of this project. This involves analyzing potential impacts and implementing appropriate conservation measures for all project activities.

Bald Eagle

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

A large raptor, the bald eagle has a wingspread of about 7 feet. Adults have a dark brown body and wings, white head and tail, and a yellow beak. Juveniles are mostly brown with white mottling on the body, tail, and undersides of wings. Adult plumage usually is obtained by the 6th year. In flight, the bald eagle often soars or glides with the wings held at a right angle to the body.

Bell's Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Sage Sparrow is a medium-sized bird ranging from 12-15 cm in length. It is generally brownish-gray in color with a grayer head and a more brown-colored back and wings. Some distinctive features of the Sage Sparrow include a white eye ring, a white spot in front of the eye, white streaks along the side of the lower jaw, and sometimes a white streak in the middle of its forehead. The Sage Sparrows under parts are mostly white with a contrasting much darker blackish, brown tail. The Sage Sp...

Brewer's Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Brewers Sparrow is a small sparrow of about 12-15 cm in length. Its distinguishing features include a notched tail, conical bill, a finely streaked brown crown, and a defined white eye ring. The underside of the Brewers Sparrow is dullish white and gray in color, while the rest of the plumage is brown intermingled with black streaks. The Brewers Sparrow has a distinctive song consisting of a series of buzzes and trills (Rotenberry et al. 1999). <p>Life History information provided for ...

Burrowing Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

California Spotted Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Cassin's Finch

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Costa's Hummingbird

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Fox Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Le Conte's Thrasher

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Least Bittern

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Least Bittern

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Lewis's Woodpecker

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Loggerhead Shrike

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Long-billed Curlew

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The Long-billed Curlew is a very large shorebird of about 50-65 cm in length. Its distinctive features include a very long bill (11-22 cm) and long legs. Its plumage is a rich pale brown color intermingled with cinnamon and pink. Its flight feathers are a contrasting orange-brown color. Female and male plumage is similar, but females are slightly larger with a longer bill. Juveniles have similar, but slightly different coloring than adults, including less distinct streaking on their undersides, ...

Mountain Plover

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The Mountain Plover is a fairly large bird of about 21-23 cm. Breeding birds have sandy brown coloring with white on the forehead throat and chest, bright white under the wings, a black crown, black bill, and a distinctive black stripe extending from the back of the bill to the eye. Non-breeders look similar to breeders, but the black coloring on the crown and face is replaced by pale brown coloring with some slight variation in coloring on the rest of the body. Juvenile birds are similar to no...

Oak Titmouse

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Prairie Falcon

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Prairie Falcon is a large, light brown-colored falcon ranging from around 37-47 cm in length. Some distinguishing characteristics of this bird include a large, dark eye, square shaped head, a dark ear patch, and a white area around the eye. The dark colored feathers on the underside of the wing closest to the head, which contrast well against the lighter color of the rest of the underwing are another distinctive feature of the Prairie Falcon. Males and females have similar plumage, but males...

Short-eared Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The short-eared owl is an owl of about 0.7 to 0.8 lbs with females slightly larger in size than males. Plumage is brown, buff, white and rust colors. Patches of brown and buff occur mostly on the back side, while the underside is colored more lightly, being mostly white. Females and males have similar plumage. Some distinguishing characteristics of this owl are its gray white fascial disk, and black coloring around yellow eyes. Juveniles have similar plumage to adults, but upper parts and head a...

Sonoran Yellow Warbler

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Swainson's Hawk

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

Swainsons Hawks are broad-winged Buteos of between 48 and 56 cm in length with females slightly larger than males. Males and females have similar plumage. Swainsons Hawks are polymorphic with pale, light and intermediate morph plumage ranging from dark to light or rufous in color. Most Swainsons Hawks have a sharp contrast between the wing linings and flight feathers. However, some of the darkest Swainsons Hawks do not have this distinction. Swainsons Hawks are distinguishable from other Bu...

White Headed Woodpecker

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Refuges

Any activity proposed on [National Wildlife Refuge](#) lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. If your project overlaps or otherwise impacts a Refuge, please contact that Refuge to discuss the authorization process.

There are no refuges within this project area

Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes.

Project proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

DATA LIMITATIONS

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

DATA EXCLUSIONS

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

DATA PRECAUTIONS

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

There are no wetlands identified in this project area

My project

IPaC Trust Resource Report

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US Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Trust Resource Report



Project Description

NAME

My project

PROJECT CODE

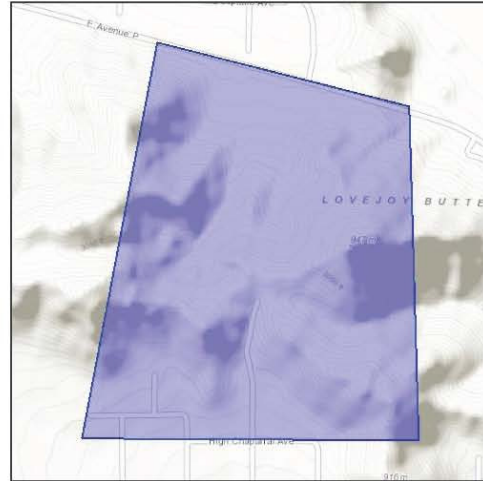
H264L-UYHYR-GBRIN-S3SSD-NZS3IY

LOCATION

Los Angeles County, California

DESCRIPTION

No description provided



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Contact Information

Species in this report are managed by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

(760) 431-9440

Endangered Species

Proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species that are managed by the [Endangered Species Program](#) and should be considered as part of an effect analysis for this project.

Birds

California Condor Entire, except where listed as an experimental population

Endangered

DESCRIPTION

117-134 cm. Huge and unmistakable. Black with white wing-linings and silvery panel on upper secondaries. Head naked and orange/red. Immatures with black head and underwing mottled dark. Soars on horizontal wings with primaries curled up.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B002>

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

Reptiles

Desert Tortoise Entire, except AZ south and east of Colorado River, and Mexico

Threatened

DESCRIPTION

Gopherus agassizii is terrestrial, with a domed shell and round, stumpy elephantine hind legs. The front limbs are flattened for digging and heavily scaled without webbed toes. The carapace (upper shell) is oblong and domed with the sides round due to joining of the carapace and plastron (lower shell). The scute centers are often yellowish which have grooved concentric rings. The plastron is also yellowish, with brown along the scute margins. The head is small and rounded in front with redd...

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C04L>

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

Critical Habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) within the project area must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There is no critical habitat within this project area

Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Any activity which results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1). There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

You are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations for the protection of birds as part of this project. This involves analyzing potential impacts and implementing appropriate conservation measures for all project activities.

Bald Eagle

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

A large raptor, the bald eagle has a wingspread of about 7 feet. Adults have a dark brown body and wings, white head and tail, and a yellow beak. Juveniles are mostly brown with white mottling on the body, tail, and undersides of wings. Adult plumage usually is obtained by the 6th year. In flight, the bald eagle often soars or glides with the wings held at a right angle to the body.

Bell's Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Sage Sparrow is a medium-sized bird ranging from 12-15 cm in length. It is generally brownish-gray in color with a grayer head and a more brown-colored back and wings. Some distinctive features of the Sage Sparrow include a white eye ring, a white spot in front of the eye, white streaks along the side of the lower jaw, and sometimes a white streak in the middle of its forehead. The Sage Sparrows under parts are mostly white with a contrasting much darker blackish, brown tail. The Sage Sp...

Brewer's Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Brewers Sparrow is a small sparrow of about 12-15 cm in length. Its distinguishing features include a notched tail, conical bill, a finely streaked brown crown, and a defined white eye ring. The underside of the Brewers Sparrow is dullish white and gray in color, while the rest of the plumage is brown intermingled with black streaks. The Brewers Sparrow has a distinctive song consisting of a series of buzzes and trills (Rotenberry et al. 1999). <p>Life History information provided for ...

Burrowing Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Cactus Wren

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

California Spotted Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Cassin's Finch

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Costa's Hummingbird

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Fox Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Green-tailed Towhee

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Breeding

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Lawrence's Goldfinch

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Year-round

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Le Conte's Thrasher

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Breeding

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Least Bittern

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Breeding

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Least Bittern

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Year-round

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Lewis's Woodpecker

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Wintering

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Loggerhead Shrike

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Long-billed Curlew

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The Long-billed Curlew is a very large shorebird of about 50-65 cm in length. Its distinctive features include a very long bill (11-22 cm) and long legs. Its plumage is a rich pale brown color intermingled with cinnamon and pink. Its flight feathers are a contrasting orange-brown color. Female and male plumage is similar, but females are slightly larger with a longer bill. Juveniles have similar, but slightly different coloring than adults, including less distinct streaking on their undersides, ...

Mountain Plover

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The Mountain Plover is a fairly large bird of about 21-23 cm. Breeding birds have sandy brown coloring with white on the forehead throat and chest, bright white under the wings, a black crown, black bill, and a distinctive black stripe extending from the back of the bill to the eye. Non-breeders look similar to breeders, but the black coloring on the crown and face is replaced by pale brown coloring with some slight variation in coloring on the rest of the body. Juvenile birds are similar to no...

Oak Titmouse

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Olive-sided Flycatcher

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Prairie Falcon

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Prairie Falcon is a large, light brown-colored falcon ranging from around 37-47 cm in length. Some distinguishing characteristics of this bird include a large, dark eye, square shaped head, a dark ear patch, and a white area around the eye. The dark colored feathers on the underside of the wing closest to the head, which contrast well against the lighter color of the rest of the underwing are another distinctive feature of the Prairie Falcon. Males and females have similar plumage, but males...

Short-eared Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The short-eared owl is an owl of about 0.7 to 0.8 lbs with females slightly larger in size than males. Plumage is brown, buff, white and rust colors. Patches of brown and buff occur mostly on the back side, while the underside is colored more lightly, being mostly white. Females and males have similar plumage. Some distinguishing characteristics of this owl are its gray white fascial disk, and black coloring around yellow eyes. Juveniles have similar plumage to adults, but upper parts and head a...

Sonoran Yellow Warbler

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Swainson's Hawk

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

Swainsons Hawks are broad-winged Buteos of between 48 and 56 cm in length with females slightly larger than males. Males and females have similar plumage. Swainsons Hawks are polymorphic with pale, light and intermediate morph plumage ranging from dark to light or rufous in color. Most Swainsons Hawks have a sharp contrast between the wing linings and flight feathers. However, some of the darkest Swainsons Hawks do not have this distinction. Swainsons Hawks are distinguishable from other Bu...

White Headed Woodpecker

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Refuges

Any activity proposed on [National Wildlife Refuge](#) lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. If your project overlaps or otherwise impacts a Refuge, please contact that Refuge to discuss the authorization process.

There are no refuges within this project area

Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes.

Project proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

DATA LIMITATIONS

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

DATA EXCLUSIONS

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

DATA PRECAUTIONS

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Wetland data is unavailable at this time.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

This resource list is to be used for planning purposes only — it is not an official species list.

Endangered Species Act species list information for your project is available online and listed below for the following FWS Field Offices:

Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 SALK AVENUE - SUITE 250
CARLSBAD, CA 92008
(760) 431-9440
<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>

Project Name:

LTE Site LDEP243



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

Project Location Map:



Project Counties:

Los Angeles, CA

Geographic coordinates (Open Geospatial Consortium Well-Known Text, NAD83):

MULTIPOLYGON (((-118.5014028 34.3287572, -118.4962959 34.3302829, -118.496253 34.3303183, -118.4925623 34.3293951, -118.4920902 34.3262409, -118.4970254 34.3234056, -118.5004158 34.3253549, -118.5014028 34.3287572)))

Project Type:

Communications Tower



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

Endangered Species Act Species List ([USFWS Endangered Species Program](#))

There are a total of **2** threatened or endangered species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fishes may appear on the species list because a project could cause downstream effects on the species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section below for critical habitat that lies within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Species that should be considered in an effects analysis for your project:

Fishes	Status		Has Critical Habitat	Contact
Santa Ana sucker (<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>) Population: 3 CA river basins	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
Flowering Plants				
Gambel's watercress (<i>Rorippa gambellii</i>)	Endangered	species info		Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

Critical habitats within your project area: ([View all critical habitats within your project area on one map](#))

The following critical habitats lie fully or partially within your project area.

Birds	Critical Habitat Type
Coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>) Population: Entire	Final designated critical habitat

FWS National Wildlife Refuges ([USFWS National Wildlife Refuges Program](#))

There are no refuges found within the vicinity of your project.

FWS Migratory Birds ([USFWS Migratory Bird Program](#))

The protection of birds is regulated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. For more information regarding these Acts see: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/RegulationsandPolicies.html>.

All project proponents are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations protecting birds when planning and developing a project. To meet these conservation obligations, proponents should identify potential or existing project-related impacts to migratory birds and their habitat and develop and implement conservation measures that avoid, minimize, or compensate for these impacts. The Service's Birds of Conservation Concern (2008) report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become listed under the Endangered Species Act as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

For information about Birds of Conservation Concern, go to: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Management/BCC.html>.

To search and view summaries of year-round bird occurrence data within your project area, go to the Avian Knowledge Network Histogram Tool links in the Bird Conservation Tools section at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CCMB2.htm>.

For information about conservation measures that help avoid or minimize impacts to birds, please visit: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CCMB2.htm>.

Migratory birds of concern that may be affected by your project:

There are **25** birds on your Migratory birds of concern list. The underlying data layers used to generate the migratory bird list of concern will continue to be updated regularly as new and better information is obtained. User feedback is one method of identifying any needed improvements. Therefore, users are encouraged to submit comments about any questions regarding species ranges (e.g., a bird on the USFWS BCC list you know does not occur in the specified location appears on the list, or a BCC species that you know does occur there is not appearing on the list). Comments should be sent to [the ECOS Help Desk](#).

Species Name	Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC)	Species Profile	Seasonal Occurrence in Project Area
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Sptzella breweri</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Cactus Wren (<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round



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California spotted Owl (<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Cassin's Finch (<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Costa's Hummingbird (<i>Calypte costae</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Flammulated owl (<i>Otus flammeolus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Lawrence's Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Least Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding, Year-round
Lesser Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa flavipes</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Long-Billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Nuttall's Woodpecker (<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Oak Titmouse (<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Olive-Sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
red-crowned Parrot (<i>Amazona virdigenalis</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asto flammeus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
tricolored blackbird (<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
White-headed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round



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Trust Resources List

Williamson's Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
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NWI Wetlands (USFWS National Wetlands Inventory).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency that provides information on the extent and status of wetlands in the U.S., via the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI). In addition to impacts to wetlands within your immediate project area, wetlands outside of your project area may need to be considered in any evaluation of project impacts, due to the hydrologic nature of wetlands (for example, project activities may affect local hydrology within, and outside of, your immediate project area). It may be helpful to refer to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory website. The designated FWS office can also assist you. Impacts to wetlands and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes. Project Proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Data Limitations, Exclusions and Precautions

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery and/or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Exclusions - Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

Precautions - Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

The following wetland types intersect your project area in one or more locations:

Wetland Types	NWI Classification Code	Total Acres
Freshwater Pond	PUSAh	0.0624
Freshwater Pond	PUSAx	0.2401
Riverine	R4SBAx	0.3073
Riverine	R4SBA	17.1359
Riverine	R4SBAr	2.4514
Riverine	R4SBJ	0.6427



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

This resource list is to be used for planning purposes only — it is not an official species list.

Endangered Species Act species list information for your project is available online and listed below for the following FWS Field Offices:

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 PORTOLA ROAD, SUITE B
VENTURA, CA 93003
(805) 644-1766

Project Name:

LTE Site ONK



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

Project Location Map:



Project Counties:

Los Angeles, CA

Geographic coordinates (Open Geospatial Consortium Well-Known Text, NAD83):

MULTIPOLYGON (((-118.5915263 34.3301568, -118.5836706 34.3295897, -118.5837564 34.3295897, -118.5826964 34.3230934, -118.5873635 34.3227602, -118.5915692 34.3248052, -118.5915263 34.3301568))))

Project Type:

Communications Tower



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

Endangered Species Act Species List (USFWS Endangered Species Program).

There are a total of 14 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fishes may appear on the species list because a project could cause downstream effects on the species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section below for critical habitat that lies within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Species that should be considered in an effects analysis for your project:

Amphibians	Status		Has Critical Habitat	Contact
California red-legged frog (<i>Rana draytoni</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Birds				
California condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>) Population: Entire, except where listed as an experimental population	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Southwestern Willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Crustaceans				
Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Vernal Pool fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Flowering Plants				



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Trust Resources List

Braunton's milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>)	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
California Orcutt grass (<i>Orcuttia californica</i>)	Endangered	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Gambel's watercress (<i>Rorippa gambellii</i>)	Endangered	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Marsh Sandwort (<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>)	Endangered	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
San Fernando Valley Spineflower (<i>Chortzanthus parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>)	Candidate	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Slender-Horned spineflower (<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>)	Endangered	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Spreading navarretia (<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>)	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

Critical habitats within your project area:

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

FWS National Wildlife Refuges ([USFWS National Wildlife Refuges Program](#)).

There are no refuges found within the vicinity of your project.

FWS Migratory Birds ([USFWS Migratory Bird Program](#)).

The protection of birds is regulated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. For more information regarding these Acts see: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/RegulationandPolicies.html>.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

All project proponents are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations protecting birds when planning and developing a project. To meet these conservation obligations, proponents should identify potential or existing project-related impacts to migratory birds and their habitat and develop and implement conservation measures that avoid, minimize, or compensate for these impacts. The Service's Birds of Conservation Concern (2008) report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become listed under the Endangered Species Act as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

For information about Birds of Conservation Concern, go to:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Management/BCC.html>.

To search and view summaries of year-round bird occurrence data within your project area, go to the Avian Knowledge Network Histogram Tool links in the Bird Conservation Tools section at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CCMB2.htm>.

For information about conservation measures that help avoid or minimize impacts to birds, please visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CCMB2.htm>.

Migratory birds of concern that may be affected by your project:

There are **24** birds on your Migratory birds of concern list. The underlying data layers used to generate the migratory bird list of concern will continue to be updated regularly as new and better information is obtained. User feedback is one method of identifying any needed improvements. Therefore, users are encouraged to submit comments about any questions regarding species ranges (e.g., a bird on the USFWS BCC list you know does not occur in the specified location appears on the list, or a BCC species that you know does occur there is not appearing on the list). Comments should be sent to [the ECOS Help Desk](#).

Species Name	Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC)	Species Profile	Seasonal Occurrence in Project Area
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Cactus Wren (<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Cassin's Finch (<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Costa's Hummingbird (<i>Calypte costae</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding



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Flammulated owl (<i>Otus flammeolus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Lawrence's Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Least Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding, Year-round
Lesser Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa flavipes</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Long-Billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Nuttall's Woodpecker (<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Oak Titmouse (<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Olive-Sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
red-crowned Parrot (<i>Amazona virens</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Short-eared Owl (<i>Astot flammeus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
tricolored blackbird (<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
White-headed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Williamson's Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

NWI Wetlands ([USFWS National Wetlands Inventory](#))

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency that provides information on the extent and status of wetlands in the U.S., via the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI). In addition to impacts to wetlands within your immediate project area, wetlands outside of your project area may need to be considered in any evaluation of project impacts, due to the hydrologic nature of wetlands (for example, project activities may affect local hydrology within, and outside of, your immediate project area). It may be helpful to refer to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory website. The designated FWS office can also assist you. Impacts to wetlands and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes. Project Proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Data Limitations, Exclusions and Precautions

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery and/or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Exclusions - Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Precautions - Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

The following wetland types intersect your project area in one or more locations:

Wetland Types	NWI Classification Code	Total Acres
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFOA	4.5476
Riverine	R4SBC	8.5915
Riverine	R4SBA	9.739

My project

IPaC Trust Resource Report

Generated May 01, 2015 12:46 PM MDT



US Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Trust Resource Report



Project Description

NAME

My project

PROJECT CODE

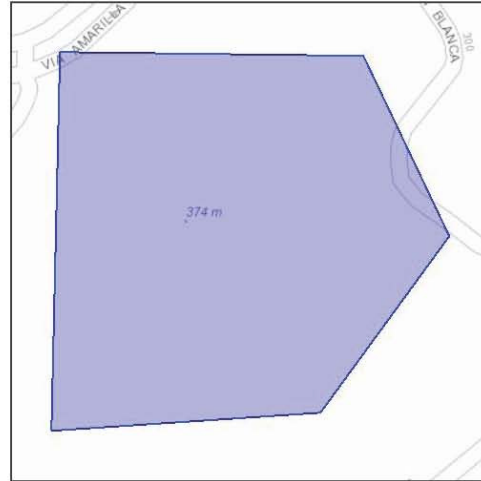
5GVRU-X7ZFV-BGJGX-VU5GK-JRYWQQ

LOCATION

Los Angeles County, California

DESCRIPTION

No description provided



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Contact Information

Species in this report are managed by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250

Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

(760) 431-9440

Endangered Species

Proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species that are managed by the [Endangered Species Program](#) and should be considered as part of an effect analysis for this project.

Birds

Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Threatened

DESCRIPTION

The coastal California gnatcatcher is a small blue-gray songbird which measures only 4.5 inches (11 cm) and weighs 0.2 ounces (6 grams). It has dark blue-gray feathers on its back and grayish-white feathers on its underside. The wings have a brownish wash to them. Its long tail is mostly black with white outer tail feathers. They have a thin, small bill. The males have a black cap during the summer which is absent during the winter. Both males and females have a white ring around their eyes. It ...

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B08X>

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

Least Bell's Vireo

Endangered

DESCRIPTION

Least Bell's vireos are small birds. They are only 11.5-12.5 centimeters long. (About 4.5 to 5.0 inches) They have short rounded wings and short, straight bills. There is a faint white eye ring. Feathers are mostly gray above and pale below. This is a common protective marking in birds. Seen from below, the bird blends into the clouds. From above, it blends into the landcover.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B06Z>

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

Critical Habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) within the project area must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

Final designated Coastal California Gnatcatcher Critical Habitat

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B08X#crithab>

Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Any activity which results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1). There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

You are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations for the protection of birds as part of this project. This involves analyzing potential impacts and implementing appropriate conservation measures for all project activities.

Bald Eagle

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

A large raptor, the bald eagle has a wingspread of about 7 feet. Adults have a dark brown body and wings, white head and tail, and a yellow beak. Juveniles are mostly brown with white mottling on the body, tail, and undersides of wings. Adult plumage usually is obtained by the 6th year. In flight, the bald eagle often soars or glides with the wings held at a right angle to the body.

Brewer's Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Brewers Sparrow is a small sparrow of about 12-15 cm in length. Its distinguishing features include a notched tail, conical bill, a finely streaked brown crown, and a defined white eye ring. The underside of the Brewers Sparrow is dullish white and gray in color, while the rest of the plumage is brown intermingled with black streaks. The Brewers Sparrow has a distinctive song consisting of a series of buzzes and trills (Rotenberry et al. 1999). <p>Life History information provided for ...

Burrowing Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Cactus Wren

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

California Spotted Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Calliope Hummingbird

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Cassin's Finch

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Costa's Hummingbird

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Flammulated Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Fox Sparrow

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Green-tailed Towhee

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Breeding

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Lawrence's Goldfinch

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Year-round

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Least Bittern

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Breeding

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Least Bittern

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Year-round

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Lesser Yellowlegs

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Wintering

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Lewis's Woodpecker

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON
Wintering

DESCRIPTION
No description available

Loggerhead Shrike

This is a **bird of conservation concern** and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Long-billed Curlew

This is a **bird of conservation concern** and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The Long-billed Curlew is a very large shorebird of about 50-65 cm in length. Its distinctive features include a very long bill (11-22 cm) and long legs. Its plumage is a rich pale brown color intermingled with cinnamon and pink. Its flight feathers are a contrasting orange-brown color. Female and male plumage is similar, but females are slightly larger with a longer bill. Juveniles have similar, but slightly different coloring than adults, including less distinct streaking on their undersides, ...

Mountain Plover

This is a **bird of conservation concern** and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The Mountain Plover is a fairly large bird of about 21-23 cm. Breeding birds have sandy brown coloring with white on the forehead throat and chest, bright white under the wings, a black crown, black bill, and a distinctive black stripe extending from the back of the bill to the eye. Non-breeders look similar to breeders, but the black coloring on the crown and face is replaced by pale brown coloring with some slight variation in coloring on the rest of the body. Juvenile birds are similar to no...

Nuttall's Woodpecker

This is a **bird of conservation concern** and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Oak Titmouse

This is a **bird of conservation concern** and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Olive-sided Flycatcher

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Breeding

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Short-eared Owl

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

The short-eared owl is an owl of about 0.7 to 0.8 lbs with females slightly larger in size than males. Plumage is brown, buff, white and rust colors. Patches of brown and buff occur mostly on the back side, while the underside is colored more lightly, being mostly white. Females and males have similar plumage. Some distinguishing characteristics of this owl are its gray white fascial disk, and black coloring around yellow eyes. Juveniles have similar plumage to adults, but upper parts and head a...

Tricolored Blackbird

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

The Tricolored Blackbird is a medium-sized (18-24cm total length), sexually dimorphic North American passerine (Beedy, Edward, and Hamilton III 1999). Adult males are typically larger than females, and are black with bright red and white plumage on the wing shoulder. Adult females have sooty brown-black plumage with distinct grayish streaks, a relatively white chin and throat, and a smaller reddish shoulder-patch. Banding studies indicate a lifespan of 12-13 years (DeHaven and Neff 1973, Kenn...

White Headed Woodpecker

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Year-round

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Williamson's Sapsucker

This is a bird of conservation concern and has the highest priority for conservation

SEASON

Wintering

DESCRIPTION

No description available

Refuges

Any activity proposed on [National Wildlife Refuge](#) lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. If your project overlaps or otherwise impacts a Refuge, please contact that Refuge to discuss the authorization process.

There are no refuges within this project area

Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes.

Project proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

DATA LIMITATIONS

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

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DATA EXCLUSIONS

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Wetland data is unavailable at this time.

My project

IPaC Trust Resource Report

Generated May 15, 2015 11:14 AM MDT



US Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Trust Resource Report



Project Description

NAME

My project

PROJECT CODE

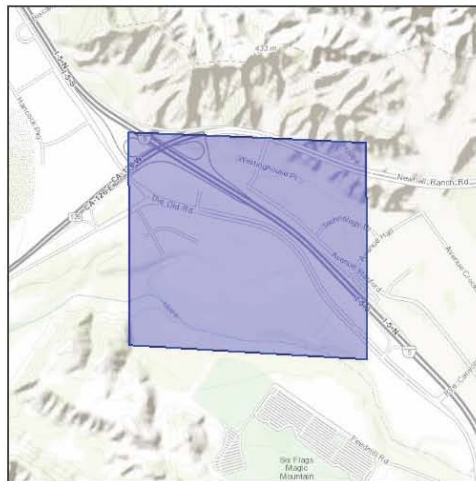
42SZM-6OIVZ-FA5LM-YJQI6-PKJIF4

LOCATION

Los Angeles County, California

DESCRIPTION

No description provided



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Contact Information

Species in this report are managed by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

2493 Portola Road, Suite B

Ventura, CA 93003-7726

(805) 644-1766

Endangered Species

Proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species that are managed by the [Endangered Species Program](#) and should be considered as part of an effect analysis for this project.

Amphibians

Arroyo (=arroyo Southwestern) Toad *Anaxyrus californicus*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=D020>

California Red-legged Frog *Rana draytonii*

Threatened

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=D02D>

Birds

California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B002>

Coastal California Gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica*

Threatened

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B08X>

Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B06Z>

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B094>

Crustaceans

Riverside Fairy Shrimp *Streptocephalus woottoni*

Endangered**CRITICAL HABITAT**

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=K03F>

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*

Threatened**CRITICAL HABITAT**

There is **final** critical habitat designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=K03G>

Fishes

Unarmored Threespine Stickleback *Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*

Endangered**CRITICAL HABITAT**

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=E00X>

Flowering Plants

California Orcutt Grass *Orcuttia californica*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q1ZQ>**Gambel's Watercress** *Rorippa gambellii*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q38L>**Marsh Sandwort** *Arenaria paludicola*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q25H>**Nevin's Barberry** *Berberis nevinii*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q08G>**San Fernando Valley Spineflower** *Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*

Candidate

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q0EZ>**Slender-horned Spineflower** *Dodecahema leptoceras*

Endangered

CRITICAL HABITAT

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q2T6>**Spreading Navarretia** *Navarretia fossalis*

Threatened

CRITICAL HABITAT

There is final critical habitat designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=Q2EZ>

Critical Habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) within the project area must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

Arroyo (=arroyo Southwestern) Toad Critical Habitat Final designated

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=D020#crithab>

Least Bell's Vireo Critical Habitat Final designated

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B067#crithab>

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Critical Habitat Final designated

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B094#crithab>

Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Any activity which results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1). There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

You are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations for the protection of birds as part of this project. This involves analyzing potential impacts and implementing appropriate conservation measures for all project activities.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Bird of conservation concern

Season: Wintering

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B008>

Bell's Sparrow *Amphispiza belli*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0HE>

Black-chinned Sparrow *Spizella atrogularis*

Bird of conservation concern

Season: Breeding

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0IR>

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0HA>

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0NC>

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0FZ>

California Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis occidentalis*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B08L>

Calliope Hummingbird *Stellula calliope*

Bird of conservation concern

Season: Breeding

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0K3>

Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0J6>

Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae*

Bird of conservation concern

Season: Breeding

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0JE>

Flammulated Owl <i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0DK	
Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0NE	
Green-tailed Towhee <i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0IQ	
Lawrence's Goldfinch <i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Year-round https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0J8	
Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Year-round https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0JW	
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0MD	
Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0HQ	
Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Year-round https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0FY	
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B06S	
Nuttall's Woodpecker <i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Year-round https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0HT	
Oak Titmouse <i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Year-round https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0MJ	
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0AN	
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Season: Wintering https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0FU	
Red-crowned Parrot <i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>	Bird of conservation concern
Year-round https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?scode=B0GO	

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Bird of conservation concern

Season: Wintering

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0HD>**Tricolored Blackbird** *Agelaius tricolor*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B06P>**White Headed Woodpecker** *Picoides albolarvatus*

Bird of conservation concern

Year-round

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0HU>**Williamson's Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*

Bird of conservation concern

Season: Wintering

<https://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0FX>

Refuges

Any activity proposed on [National Wildlife Refuge](#) lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. If your project overlaps or otherwise impacts a Refuge, please contact that Refuge to discuss the authorization process.

There are no refuges within this project area

Wetlands

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Project proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

DATA LIMITATIONS

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Wetland data is unavailable at this time.

APPENDIX D

Noise Analysis

Appendix C – Noise Analysis

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 5/20/15
Case Description: LA-RICS LTE ONK

---- Receptor #1 ----

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Human Proxy for CAGN	Residential	50	55	60

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Equipment			
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
Concrete Saw	No	20		89.6	2709	1.5

Equipment		Results													
		Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)						Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)					
		*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Leq	Evening Lmax	Leq	Night Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Leq	Evening Lmax	Leq	Night Lmax	Leq
Concrete Saw		53.4	46.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	53.4	46.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Appendix C – Noise Analysis

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 5/20/15
Case Description: LA-RICS LTE SDW

---- Receptor #1 ----

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Human Proxy for CAGN	Residential	50	55	60

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Equipment			
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
Auger Drill Rig	No	20		84.4	177	1.5
Excavator	No	40		80.7	177	1.5

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)						Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)					
			Day		Evening		Night		Day		Evening		Night	
	*Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq
Auger Drill Rig	71.9	64.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	68.2	64.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	71.9	67.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Appendix C – Noise Analysis

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 5/20/15
Case Description: LA-RICS LTE SDW

---- Receptor #1 ----

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Human Proxy for CAGN	Residential	50	55	60

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Equipment		Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)		
Auger Drill Rig	No	20		84.4	177	1.5
Excavator	No	40		80.7	177	1.5

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Results						Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)					
					Noise Limits (dBA)		Night	Leq					Night	Leq
	*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Leq	Evening Lmax	Leq			Day Lmax	Leq	Evening Lmax	Leq		
Auger Drill Rig	71.9	64.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	68.2	64.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	71.9	67.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Appendix C – Noise Analysis

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 5/20/15
Case Description: LA-RICS LTE ONK

---- Receptor #1 ----

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Human Proxy for CAGN	Residential	50	55	60

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Equipment		Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)		
Auger Drill Rig	No	20		84.4	2709	1.5
Excavator	No	40		80.7	2709	1.5

		Results													
		Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)						Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)					
		*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Evening			Night		Day Lmax	Evening			Night	
Leq	Lmax				Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq		Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	
Equipment															
Auger Drill Rig		48.2	41.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator		44.5	40.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	48.2	43.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Appendix C – Noise Analysis

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 5/20/15
Case Description: LA-RICS LTE LDWP243

---- Receptor #1 ----

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Human Proxy for CAGN	Residential	50	55	60

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Equipment		Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)		
Auger Drill Rig	No	20		84.4	891	1.5
Excavator	No	40		80.7	891	1.5

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)						Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)					
	*Lmax	Leq	Day		Evening		Night		Day	Evening	Night	Day	Evening	Night
			Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq						
Auger Drill Rig	57.8	50.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	54.2	50.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	57.8	53.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Appendix C – Noise Analysis

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 5/20/15
Case Description: LA-RICS LTE LDWP243

--- Receptor #1 ---

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Human Proxy for CAGN	Residential	50	55	60

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Equipment		Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)		
Concrete Saw	No	20		89.6	891	1.5

Equipment		Calculated (dBA)		Results						Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)					
						Noise Limits (dBA)									
		*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Leq	Evening Lmax	Leq	Night Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Leq	Evening Lmax	Leq	Night Lmax	Leq
Concrete Saw		63.1	56.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	63.1	56.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.