



October 30, 2020

Mr. Bob Stark  
Michael Baker International, Inc.  
9755 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard  
San Diego, California 92124

**RE: *Biological Resources Report for the El Centro Town Center Phase IV Project***

Dear Mr. Stark:

This letter report describes the field assessment methods, existing biological resources, biological constraints that may exist, and potential for sensitive biological resources to be present on the property proposed for the El Centro Town Center Village Phase IV Project (proposed Project). Regulated biological resources that may occur on the property or in adjacent areas that could be affected with future development of the proposed Project are discussed as consideration for resource avoidance measures, mitigation measures, and compliance measures during construction. The purpose of this document is to inform the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis of the proposed Project.

## **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Project is located within the City of El Centro (City), Imperial County (County), California (Figure 1). The property is located at the northeast corner of Bradshaw Avenue and North 10th Street in El Centro and includes California Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 044-620-049-001 and a portion of APN 044-620-051). As depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute El Centro topographic quadrangle, the proposed Project is located in Section 30 of Township 15 South, Range 14 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian. The area assessed for this report includes the approximately 11.6 acre property (Project Area) and a 500-foot buffer around the property (cumulatively referred to as the Survey Area).

The El Centro Town Center Village Phase IV Project would result in the rezoning of two parcels located in the City of El Centro's Town Center Village from CG-General Commercial to R3-Multiple Family Residential. The project applicant is requesting the rezone to allow for future development of a 180-unit apartment complex. A General Plan Amendment is also required to change the existing General Plan land use designation from General Commercial to High Density Residential. The City will act as the lead agency for the project relative to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

## **REGIONAL AND REGULATORY CONTEXT**

The proposed Project is subject to the policies outlined in the El Centro General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element (City of El Centro 2004). The element establishes a comprehensive and long-range conservation plan for local resources such as agricultural land, deserts, water, air quality and energy



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Photo Source: NAIP (2018), Service Layer Credits: Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed  
 Map Date: 10/7/2020

**Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity**

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and other open space areas. This element of the General Plan also provides guidance related to the protection of habitat/wildlife resources. The element was reviewed for any City policies relating to potentially affected biological resources. Policy 3.2 of the element specifies to “utilize the environmental review process to evaluate and mitigate impacts to natural resources and plant and animal habitats that may be affected by proposed development” (City of El Centro 2004). This document is in support of that review process.

Additional federal, state, and local regulations also apply to the proposed Project. Table 1 provides a summary of the regulations considered and under which the resources on the property were evaluated for this study.

<b>Table 1. Applicable Federal, State, and Local Regulations</b>		
<b>Federal Regulations</b>		
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Regulating Agency(ies)</b>
Federal Endangered Species Act	Listed “Endangered” or “Threatened” plant and animal species	USFWS
Migratory Bird Treaty Act	Migratory birds, or their parts, nests, or eggs	USFWS
Clean Water Act	“Waters of the U.S.” – aquatic resources	USACE/SWRCB
<b>State Regulations</b>		
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Regulating Agency</b>
California Endangered Species Act	Listed “Endangered,” “Threatened,” or “Candidate” native species and their habitats	CDFW
Fully Protected Species	Fish, wildlife, and native plants	CDFW
Native Plant Protection Act	64 species, subspecies, and varieties of endangered or rare native plants	CDFW
California Fish and Game Code	37 California ESA threatened or endangered species that are rare or face possible extinction; Section 1600 protection of streambeds and associated riparian habitat; Section 4150: protection of non game mammals	CDFW
Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act/ California Water Code	“Waters of the State” – aquatic resources	SWRCB
<b>Local Regulations</b>		
<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Regulating Agency</b>
CEQA Significance Criteria	Special status species, riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities, federal wetlands, and wildlife movement and nursery sites	City of El Centro
El Centro General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element	Natural resources such as water, soils, wildlife, minerals, and air quality.	City of El Centro

\*ESA = Endangered Species Act; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MBTA = Migratory Bird Treaty Act; CWA = Clean Water Act; SWRCB = State Water Resources Control Board; CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

## METHODS

### Background Review

ECORP conducted background research, which included a review of standard resources including the latest version of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) within five miles of the Project Area (CNDDDB; CDFW 2020a), CDFW Special Animals Lists (CDFW 2020b) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Portal and Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Trust Resource List (USFWS 2020a), California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2020), Calflora Information on California Plants (Calflora 2020) and USFWS National Wetland Inventory (USFWS 2020b) as preparation for a field visit and reporting.

Using desktop review information and observations in the field, a list of special-status plant and wildlife species that have potential to occur within the Project Area and Survey Area was generated. For the purpose of this assessment, special-status species are defined as plants or wildlife that:

- have been designated as either rare, threatened, or endangered by CDFW, CNPS, or the USFWS, and/or are protected under either the federal or California Endangered Species Acts (ESAs);
- are candidate species being considered or proposed for listing under these same acts;
- are fully protected by the California Fish and Game Code, §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, or 5515; and/or
- are of expressed concern to resource and regulatory agencies or local jurisdictions.

Potential for occurrence of special-status species were determined based on the following guidelines:

- **Present:** The species was observed within the Survey Area during a site visit.
- **High:** Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Survey Area and a known occurrence has recently been recorded (within the last 20 years) within five miles of the area.
- **Moderate:** Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Survey Area and a documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within five miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Survey Area; or a recently documented observation occurs within five miles of the area and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs in the Survey Area.
- **Low:** Limited or marginal habitat for the species occurs within the Survey Area and a recently documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within five miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within five miles of the Survey Area; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs within the Survey Area, but no records or only historic records were found within the database search.
- **Presumed Absent:** Species was not observed during a site visit or focused surveys conducted in accordance with protocol guidelines at an appropriate time for identification; habitat (including

soils and elevation factors) does not exist within the Survey Area; or the known geographic range of the species does not include the Survey Area.

## **Field Survey**

Following the literature review, qualified ECORP biologist Caroline Garcia conducted a field assessment throughout the Survey Area on October 1, 2020, from 6:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., to further examine the biological resources present on the property and to determine the potential presence for special-status biological resources.

The Survey Area was surveyed on foot by a biologist familiar with the biological resources located in the regional vicinity of the property. The Project Area was surveyed to provide for 100 percent visual coverage. Where access was restricted within the Survey Area, the biologist scanned for biological resources using binoculars. Focused protocol-level surveys were not conducted as a part of this visit. Vegetation mapping was conducted using aerial imagery and ground-truthed during field surveys. The habitat and vegetation community mapping follows the classifications described in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009). *Draft Vegetation Communities of San Diego County* was also used as a reference (Oberbauer et al. 2008). The ArcGIS Collector™ application was utilized to map the vegetation communities and land covers and record any special-status biological resources directly in the field. Plant and wildlife species observed during the survey were recorded and representative photographs of the property were taken (Attachment A). Binoculars were used to aid in bird and butterfly identifications.

## **RESULTS**

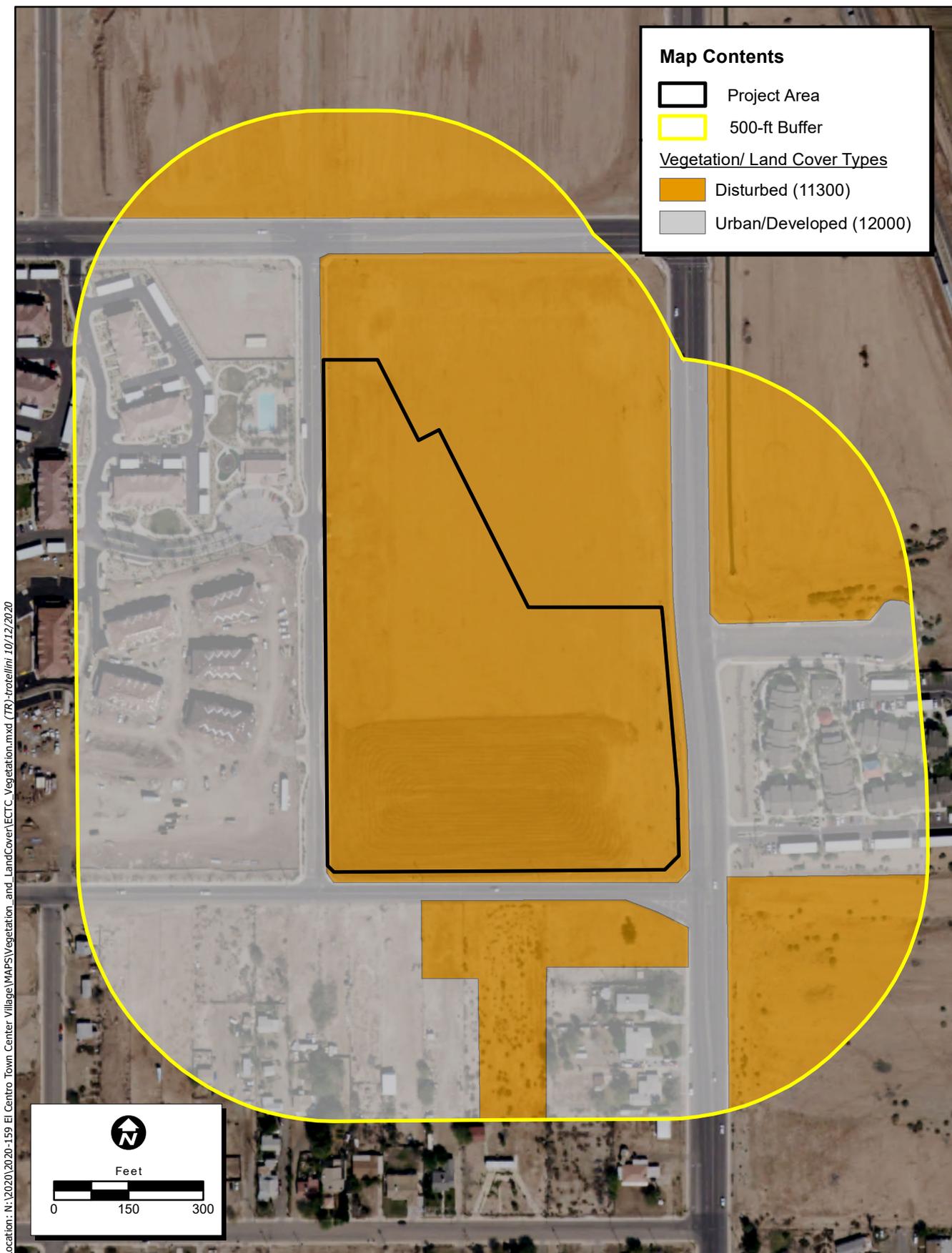
The field assessment confirmed that the proposed Project will be constructed within previously graded and disturbed grounds of the Town Center Village Apartments property. Other existing uses within the Survey Area include apartment complexes, private residences, and vacant disturbed lots. Topography is relatively flat with elevation ranging between -16 meters (-51 feet) and -12 meters (-39 feet) below mean sea level. Weather conditions consisted of temperatures ranging from 70° – 84° Fahrenheit, 0 percent cloud coverage, and wind speeds of 0 to 10 miles per hour.

### **Habitats and Vegetation Communities**

Figure 2 identifies the location of each vegetation community and land cover in the Survey Area and is described in detail below. Representative photographs of the habitats within the Survey Area are included in Attachment A.

#### ***Disturbed Habitat (Holland Code 11300)***

Disturbed habitat is characterized as an area that has been previously modified by anthropogenic effects but retains soils and largely comprises ruderal, nonnative vegetation (Oberbauer et al. 2008) that typically



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Map Date: 10/7/2020  
 Photo Source: NAIP (2018)

**Figure 2. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover**

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has little ecological value. The entirety of the Project Area is classified as disturbed habitat (Figure 2). The dominant plant species observed included native herbs bush seepweed (*Suaeda nigra*) and silverscale saltbush (*Atriplex argentea*); and non-native herbs tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and five-hook bassia (*Bassia hyssopifolia*). These plant species were located on the periphery of the Project Area as the central portion of the Project Area was recently graded and did not support vegetation. Portions of the buffer of the Project Area are also classified as Disturbed: vacant lots to the north, south, and east. Vegetation consists of native herbs bush seepweed and silverscale saltbush. Ruderal species include tamarisk, five-hook bassia, Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), as well as nonnative grasses including red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*).

### **Urban/Developed (Holland Code 12000)**

A majority of the buffer of the Project Area consists of Urban and Developed land. Urban/Developed areas do not constitute a vegetation classification, but rather a land cover type. Areas mapped as Developed have been constructed upon or otherwise physically altered to an extent that native vegetation is no longer supported (Oberbauer et al. 2008). Apartment complexes comprise the majority of the western portion of the Survey Area, as well as some of the eastern portion. Private residences comprise a majority of the southern portion of the Survey Area. Vegetation consists of a mix of landscaped groundcovers, nonnative herbs, and ornamental and landscaped trees including Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), and date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*).

### **General Wildlife Species**

The Survey Area provides habitat for wildlife species that commonly occur in developed and disturbed areas. Wildlife observed within the Survey Area included rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Although the trees within the buffer of the Project Area provide suitable nesting and roosting opportunities for bird species, no nests (active or inactive) were observed during the field assessment.

### **Special-Status Species**

No special-status plant or wildlife species were observed within the Survey Area during the field assessment. Special-status plants and wildlife species reported for the region in the literature review or for which suitable habitat occurs were evaluated for their potential to occur within the Project Area or in adjacent areas where indirect impacts could occur.

### **Special-Status Plants**

No special-status plants were observed during the field assessment. All special-status plants were determined unlikely to occur within the Project Area and Survey Area due to the lack of suitable habitat and/or other conditions such as soil or elevation. Justifications for the conclusions regarding potential to occur are provided in Attachment B.

## **Special-Status Wildlife**

No special-status wildlife were observed during the field assessment. The special-status wildlife species with occurrence records in the area were assessed for potential to occur within the Survey Area. Justifications for the conclusions regarding potential to occur are provided in Attachment C.

One special-status wildlife species, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a federal Bird of Conservation Concern and a California Species of Special Concern, was determined to have a moderate potential to occur within the Survey Area.

Burrowing owl is a small owl typically found in dry open areas with few trees and short grasses such as prairie, pastures, and desert scrublands. This species is also found near human habitation in agricultural areas, vacant lots, and airports. It uses uninhabited mammal burrows for roosts and nests, oftentimes in close proximity to California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) colonies. It primarily feeds on large insects and small mammals, but will also eat birds and amphibians. The disturbed lot of the Project Area provides habitat for burrowing owl, however the soils in the Project Area are not suitable for burrowing. Some of the disturbed lots in the buffer of the Project Area have more suitable soils for burrowing. Materials are staged within the southwestern portion of the Project Area, some of which could be utilized by burrowing owl, but no burrowing owl sign was observed. No mammal burrows or berms were observed throughout the entirety of the Survey Area. There are 19 recent CNDDDB records within five miles of the site with the closest being approximately two miles away. Due to the presence of moderately suitable habitat and known records within five miles of the site, this species was determined to have a moderate potential to occur.

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Designated Critical Habitat**

The proposed project is not located within any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat.

## **Migratory Birds and Raptors**

Native bird species and their nests are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 United States Code 703- 712). Potential nesting habitat within the Project Area is limited to birds that nest on the ground and in open, sparsely vegetated habitat. The Project Area provides limited foraging habitat for migratory bird species and raptors. The buffer of the Project Area contains ornamental, landscaped trees and shrubs that could provide nesting habitat for migratory bird species and, in some locations, for raptors; however, they are situated adjacent to highly trafficked areas (i.e., roads and structures). Therefore, raptor species are not expected to use these trees for nesting. Disturbed areas within the buffer of the Project Area appear to be consistently tended (i.e., graded lot) or contain little vegetation; therefore, foraging habitat is of low quality for raptors. No nests were observed within the Survey Area during the field survey.

## **Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waterways**

There are no jurisdictional wetlands and/or waterways in the Project Area. A manmade concrete-lined channel, Date Canal, runs north-south in the buffer to the east of the Project Area between North 8th

Street and the railroad tracks. Date Canal is managed by the City of El Centro and is not considered a jurisdictional waterway.

## **Wildlife Corridors and Linkages**

There are no wildlife corridors and/or linkages in the Survey Area. There is low potential for wildlife to use or pass through the area as a corridor, as most of the surrounding land is already developed residential, commercial, and agriculture land.

## **PROJECT EFFECTS AND SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION**

For the purposes of this analysis, direct and indirect impacts will be analyzed for biological resources recorded within the Survey Area or those with the potential to occur within the Survey Area upon future development of the property. Direct impacts include the primary effects of construction that displace habitats and species. For the proposed Project, this includes the entirety of the Project Area. Indirect impacts occur from a secondary effect of construction activities or long-term effects of a development. This type of impact could include habitat isolation, urban edge effects, exotic species invasion, vehicular noise or increased human or pet intrusion. The magnitude of an indirect impact can be as significant as that of a direct impact, depending on the circumstances.

The proposed Project would not have significant impacts, either directly or indirectly, on a formally listed or candidate species for listing by the CDFW or USFWS. Impacts to habitats also do not apply to the proposed Project because the entirety of the Project Area is a graded, disturbed lot.

Following is a discussion of the biological resources, by type, and expected impacts.

## **Habitats and Vegetation Communities**

### ***Direct Impacts***

All disturbance and staging will occur within previously graded areas, consisting of direct impacts to ±11.6 acres of disturbed land. Because this habitat is not considered a sensitive biological resource, there is no significant impact to habitats and vegetation communities due to implementation of the proposed Project.

### ***Indirect Impacts***

Habitats and land cover within the Survey Area are not considered sensitive biological resources; therefore there is no significant impact to habitats and vegetation communities due to implementation of the proposed Project.

## **Special-Status Species**

### ***Direct Impacts***

There is potential for burrowing owl, migratory and nesting birds to be impacted by Project activities. Although no burrowing owl or potential burrows, and no nesting birds were identified during the field

assessment, conditions may change by the time construction activities begin. More vegetation could grow within the Project Area if not maintained, and this along with the bare ground could provide suitable nesting habitat for ground dwelling/sparse shrub nesting birds. Approximately 2/3 of the burrowing owl population in California occurs in agricultural areas in the Imperial Valley (County of Imperial 2016), by which the Survey Area is bordered to the east. Soils within the Project Area could become compacted enough to become suitable for California ground squirrel and other mammal burrowing. Because the literature search found recent occurrences of burrowing owl in the area, an assessment closer to Project construction is recommended. Direct impacts to nesting raptors are not anticipated.

Direct impacts to special-status species are possible and, if they occur to the extent that a species or its nest is harmed or breeding activities cease, this impact would be considered significant. Mitigation for this impact can be found below in Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2. Implementation of BIO-1 and BIO-2 will reduce direct impacts to special-status species to a less than significant level.

### **Indirect Impacts**

There is potential for burrowing owl, and migratory and nesting birds to be indirectly impacted by Project activities as habitat for these species is of better quality within the buffer of the Project Area.

Indirect impacts to special-status species are possible and, if they occur to the extent that a species or its nest is harmed or breeding activities cease, then this impact would be considered significant. Mitigation for this impact can be found below in Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2. Implementation of BIO-1 and BIO-2 will reduce indirect impacts to special-status species to a less than significant level.

## **RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES**

The following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce identified impacts for the proposed Project to a level below significance:

**BIO-1: Compliance with Migratory Bird Treaty Act.** Construction activities (for example, but not limited to staging, site preparation, grading) for the Project shall be conducted during the non-breeding season for birds (September 16<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>). This will avoid violations of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513. If activities with the potential to disrupt nesting birds are scheduled to occur or is ongoing during the bird breeding season (January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> for raptors and March 1<sup>st</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> for songbirds), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. These surveys should be performed within three days prior to the commencement of construction activities or if construction activities are ongoing, within three days prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Surveys should include the construction area plus a 500-foot buffer. Survey findings would be documented prior to initiating any construction activities. If no nesting birds are observed during the survey, implementation of Project activities may begin. If nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are found to be present, avoidance or minimization measures shall be undertaken. Measures shall include establishment of an avoidance buffer until nesting has been completed. The width of the buffer will be determined by the biologist based on CDFW recommendations. The qualified

biologist will determine the appropriate buffer size and level of nest monitoring necessary for species not listed under the federal or California ESAs based on the species' life history, the species' sensitivity to disturbances (e.g., noise, vibration, human activity), individual behavior, status of nest, location of nest and site conditions, presence of screening vegetation, anticipated project activities, ambient noise levels compared to project-related noise levels, existing non-project-related disturbances in vicinity, and ambient levels of human activity.

Buffers will be marked (flagged or fenced with environmentally sensitive area fencing) around any active nests and periodic monitoring by the qualified biologist will occur to ensure the project does not result in the failure of the nest. The buffer(s) will be maintained around each nest until the nest becomes inactive as determined by the qualified biologist. At the discretion of the qualified biologist, if a nesting bird appears to be stressed as a result of project activities and the buffer does not appear to provide adequate protection, additional minimization measures may need to be implemented.

Construction may continue outside of the no-work buffers. The qualified biologist will ensure that restricted activities occur outside of the delineated buffers, check nesting birds for any potential indications of stress, and ensure that installed fencing or flagging is properly maintained during nest monitoring and any additional site visits. Buffer sizes may be adjusted (either increased or reduced), or the extent of nest monitoring may be adjusted, at the discretion of the qualified biologist based on the conditions of the surrounding area and/or the behavior of the nesting bird.

Any changes to buffer sizes and/or nest monitoring frequency will be documented.

If listed species are found to be nesting in the Survey Area, construction activity should not occur without coordination with regulating agencies and may require an agency-approved bird management plan.

**BIO-2: Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment.** A pre-construction habitat assessment shall be required for burrowing owls within the one-month period prior to construction. The habitat assessment shall be conducted within the impact area and a 500-foot buffer (where practicable) to assess the area for suitable habitat and the presence of any burrows or burrow surrogates (e.g., culverts, open drain tiles, riprap, and/or discarded tires). If no burrows or burrow surrogates are present, a survey shall not be required. If burrows or burrow surrogates are present, a pre-construction burrowing owl survey shall be required between 14 and 30 days prior to the start of construction.

BIO-1 and BIO-2 can occur concurrently if Project and seasonal timing allows.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT EFFECTS**

The proposed Project will not have significant direct effects on biological resource with appropriate mitigation measures implemented to avoid impacts to sensitive resources that could occupy the area such as covered species.

Sincerely,



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Caroline Garcia  
Associate Biologist  
ECORP Consulting, Inc.

### **Figures and Attachments**

Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2: Vegetation Communities and Land Cover

Attachment A: Site Photos

Attachment B: Special-Status Plant Potential for Occurrence

Attachment C: Special-Status Wildlife Potential for Occurrence

## REFERENCES

- Calflora. 2020. Calflora Information on California Plants. <https://www.calflora.org>. Accessed October 7, 2020.
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## **ATTACHMENT A**

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Site Photos



**Photo 1: View from the center of the Project Area (facing north, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 2: View from the center of the Project Area (facing south, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 3: View of the Project Area from eastern extent (facing west, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 4: Staged materials in the southwestern portion of the Project Area (facing southwest, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 5: Asphalt pile in the western section of the Project Area (facing south, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 6: Eastern section of the Project Area with minor vegetation (facing north, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 7: Disturbed lot directly east of the Project Area (facing northeast, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 8: Date Canal directly east of the Project Area (facing north, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 9: Apartments directly west of the Project Area (facing northwest, October 1, 2020).**



**Photo 10: View of a disturbed lot and adjacent private residence directly south of the Project Area (facing northeast, October 1, 2020).**

Special-Status Plant Potential for Occurrence

### Special-Status Plant Species with Potential for Occurrence

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (meters)</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Potential for Occurrence</b>
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>  chaparral sand- verbena	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 1B.1	Mar-Sep (75 - 1600)	Chaparral Coastal scrub Desert dunes	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Amaranthus watsonii</i>  Watson's amaranth	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 4.3	Apr-Sep (20 - 1700)	Mojavean desert scrub Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Astragalus magdalena</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>  Peirson's milk-vetch	<b>USFWS:</b> Threatened <b>CDFW:</b> Endangered <b>CRPR:</b> 1B.2	Dec-Apr (60 - 225)	Desert dunes	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Astragalus sabulonum</i>  gravel milk-vetch	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 2B.2	Feb-Jun (-60 - 930)	Desert dunes Mojavean desert scrub Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area but it is within the known elevation of the species; a historic record exists within 5 miles.
<i>Cylindropuntia wolffi</i>  Wolf's cholla	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 4.3	Sep-May (100 - 1200)	Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.

### Special-Status Plant Species with Potential for Occurrence

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (meters)</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Potential for Occurrence</b>
<i>Eucnide rupestris</i> annual rock-nettle	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 2B.2	Dec-Apr (500-600)	Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Euphorbia abramsiana</i> Abrams' spurge	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 2B.2	Sep-Nov (-5 - 1310)	Mojavean desert scrub Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i> California satintail	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 2B.1	Sep-May (0 - 1215)	Chaparral Coastal scrub Mojavean desert scrub Meadows and seeps Riparian scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Johnstonella costata</i> ribbed cryptantha	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 4.3	Feb-May (-60 - 500)	Desert dunes Mojavean desert scrub Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area but it is within the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Johnstonella holoptera</i> winged cryptantha	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 4.3	Mar-Apr (100 - 1690)	Mojavean desert scrub Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.

### Special-Status Plant Species with Potential for Occurrence

<b>Scientific Name Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (meters)</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Potential for Occurrence</b>
<i>Lycium parishii</i> Parish's desert-thorn	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 2B.3	Mar-Apr (135 - 1000)	Coastal scrub Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Malperia tenuis</i> brown turbans	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 2B.3	Mar-Apr (15 - 335)	Sonoran desert scrub Sandy, gravelly soils	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Mentzelia hirsutissima</i> hairy stickleaf	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 4.3	Feb-Apr (0 - 700)	Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i> mud nama	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 2B.2	Mar-Oct (0 - 700)	Marshes and swamps Lake margins Riverbanks	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<i>Pholisma sonorae</i> sand food	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 1B.2	Apr-Jun (0 - 200)	Desert dunes Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.

### Special-Status Plant Species with Potential for Occurrence

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Status	Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (meters)	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Pilostyles thurberi</i>  Thurber's pilostyles	<b>USFWS:</b> None <b>CDFW:</b> None <b>CRPR:</b> 4.3	Dec-Apr (0 - 365)	Sonoran desert scrub	<b>Presumed absent:</b> Suitable habitat is not present within the Project Area and it is outside the known elevation of the species; no records occur within 5 miles of the site.

**California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Ranks:**

1B: Plants rare, threatened, and endangered in California and elsewhere.

2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

4: Plants of limited distribution; a watch list.

**CNPS Threat Ranks:**

0.1: Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2: Fairly threatened in California (20-80% of occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3-Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

**Sources:**

California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) (CDFW 2020a)

CNPS Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory (CNPS 2020)

Calflora Information on California Plants (Calflora 2020)

IPaC (USFWS 2020a)

Special-Status Wildlife Potential for Occurrence

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential for Occurrence			
Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>			
RANIDAE (true frogs)			
<i>Lithobates pipiens</i> northern leopard frog	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Inhabits a variety of aquatic habitats that include slow-moving or still water along streams and rivers, wetlands, permanent or temporary pools, beaver ponds, bogs, marshes, and human-constructed habitats such as earthen stock tanks, canals, and borrow pits.  <b>Presumed absent:</b> Site is outside of native range of this species. One historic record within 5 miles of the site; noted to be a transplant outside of native range.
<b>REPTILES</b>			
PHRYNOSOMATIDAE (spiny lizards)			
<i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i> flat-tailed horned lizard	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Desert scrub on sandy flats and valleys with little or no windblown sand, salt flats, and areas with gravelly soils.  <b>Presumed absent:</b> No suitable habitat present for this species. No records occur within 5 miles of the site.
VIPERIIDAE (vipers)			
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> red-diamond rattlesnake	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Coastal chaparral, arid scrub, rocky grassland, oak and pine woodlands, desert mountain slopes and rocky desert flats.  <b>Presumed absent:</b> No suitable habitat present for this species. No records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<b>BIRDS</b>			
ALAUDIDAE (larks)			
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> California horned lark	USFWS: CDFW:	none WL	Bare open areas dominated by low vegetation or widely scattered shrubs, includes prairies, deserts, and plowed fields. Nests in a hollow on the ground.  <b>Low:</b> The disturbed areas of the Project Area and buffer with scattered shrubs provide marginally suitable habitat. No records occur within 5 miles of the site.
LANIIDAE (shrikes)			
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	USFWS: CDFW:	BCC SSC	Open country, with scattered shrubs and trees or other perches for hunting; includes agricultural fields, deserts, grasslands, savanna, and chaparral. Nests 2.5 to 4 feet off ground in thorny vegetation.  <b>Low:</b> The disturbed areas of the Project Area and buffer with scattered shrubs provides marginally suitable habitat. No records occur within 5 miles of the site.

<b>Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential for Occurrence</b>				
<b>Scientific Name</b> Common Name	<b>Status</b>		<b>Habitat Requirements</b>	<b>Potential for Occurrence</b>
POLIOPTILIDAE (gnatcatchers)				
<b><i>Polioptila melanura</i></b> black-tailed gnatcatcher	USFWS: CDFW:	none WL	Semiarid and desert thorn scrub habitats. This species is well adapted to dry habitats and tend to be most common in areas with less than 8 inches of annual rainfall. They often live far from streams and other bodies of water.	<b>Presumed absent:</b> No suitable habitat present for this species. No records occur within 5 miles of the site.
TYRANNIDAE (tyrant flycatchers)				
<b><i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i></b> vermillion flycatcher	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Arid scrublands, farmlands, deserts, parks, and canyon mouths. They are especially reliant on stream corridors with presence of willow, cottonwood, sycamore, mesquite, and other trees.	<b>Presumed absent:</b> No suitable habitat present for this species. One historic record within 5 miles of the site.
STRIGIDAE (owls)				
<b><i>Athene cunicularia</i></b> burrowing owl	USFWS: CDFW:	BCC SSC	Open grasslands including prairies, plains, and savannah; desert scrub with washes and arroyos; fallow fields, former agricultural lands, vacant lots, and airports. Nests in abandoned mammal burrows. This species adapts well to areas of human disturbance.	<b>Moderate:</b> The disturbed lot provides habitat however the soils in the Project Area are not suitable for burrowing. The disturbed lots in the buffer have more suitable soils for burrowing. Twenty four records occur within 5 miles of the site: five are historic records and nineteen are recent records with the closest being approximately 2 miles away in 2006.
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
MOLOSSIDAE (free-tailed bats)				
<b><i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i></b> big free-tailed bat	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Roosts in cliff crevices, and less often in buildings, caves, and tree cavities. Occurs in rocky areas of rugged and hilly country including woodlands, evergreen forests, river floodplain-arroyo habitats, and desert scrub.	<b>Presumed absent:</b> No suitable roosting habitat within site or in buffer. One historic record occurs within 5 miles of the site.

Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential for Occurrence				
Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
VESPERTILIONIDAE (evening bats)				
<b><i>Antrozous pallidus</i></b> pallid bat	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Roosts in rock crevices, caves, mines, buildings, bridges, and in trees. Generally, in mountainous areas, lowland desert scrub, arid grasslands near water and rocky outcrops, and open woodlands.	<b>Low:</b> There is limited suitable roosting habitat within the buffer. No records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<b><i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i></b> Townsend's big-eared bat	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Roosts in mines, caves, buildings, or other crevices, sometimes trees. Usually requires large crevices. Most common in moist areas or those with access to water.	<b>Low:</b> There is limited suitable roosting habitat within the buffer. No records occur within 5 miles of the site.
<b><i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i></b> western yellow bat	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Roosts in trees, particularly palms, in desert wash, desert riparian, valley foothill riparian, and palm oasis habitats.	<b>Low:</b> There is marginally suitable roosting habitat within the buffer in the palm trees. This species has a strong association with roosting under dead palm fronds. Three historic records occur within 5 miles of the site.
CRICETIDAE (New World rats and mice)				
<b><i>Sigmodon hispidus eremicus</i></b> Yuma hispid cotton rat	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Inhabits a variety of habitats, but generally associated with drainage ditches, canals, and seeps vegetated with plants such as arrow weed, saltgrass, common reed, cattails, sedges, tamarisk, heliotrope, and annual grasses. They utilize runways through dense herbaceous growth and nests are built of woven grass. Noted presence in moist agricultural fields.	<b>Low:</b> There is marginally suitable habitat within the buffer in the form of a man-made channel; however, it lacks vegetation. One recent record occurs within 5 miles of the site. Species was found at the junction of Alder canal and a central drain in 2008, four miles northeast of El Centro.
MURIDAE (mice, rats, and voles)				
<b><i>Neotoma albigula venusta</i></b> Colorado Valley woodrat	USFWS: CDFW:	none none	Desert grasslands, semiarid shrublands, mesquite-creosote scrub, saguaro cactus communities, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and interior ponderosa pine forests.	<b>Presumed absent:</b> No suitable habitat present for this species. One historic record occurs within 5 miles of the site.

<b>Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential for Occurrence</b>				
<b>Scientific Name</b> Common Name	<b>Status</b>		<b>Habitat Requirements</b>	<b>Potential for Occurrence</b>
MUSTELIDAE (weasels and relatives)				
<b><i>Taxidea taxus</i></b> American badger	USFWS: CDFW:	none SSC	Open habitats with friable soil such as grasslands, brushlands with sparse ground cover, open chaparral, and sometimes riparian zones.	<b>Presumed absent:</b> No suitable habitat present for this species. One historic record within 5 miles of the site.
<b>Federal designations:</b> (Federal Endangered Species Act, USFWS)  <b>END:</b> Federally Listed, Endangered <b>THR:</b> Federally Listed, Threatened <b>CAN:</b> Federal Candidate Species FSC: Federal Species of Concern FPD: Federal Proposed for Delisting BCC: Bird of Conservation Concern			<b>State designations:</b> (California Endangered Species Act, CDFW)  <b>END:</b> State Listed, Endangered <b>THR:</b> State Listed, Threatened <b>CAN:</b> State Candidate Species SSC: California Species of Special Concern FP: Fully Protected Species WL: Watch List	

**Sources:**

California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) (CDFW 2020a)

Special Animals List (CDFW 2020b)

IPaC (USFWS 2020a)