



Los Flores Shooting Range Project

Biological Resources Assessment

prepared for

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Executive Summary

The proposed project site (site) is located within the Los Flores Ranch property, located in the Solomon Hills in northwest Santa Barbara County. The site is southeast of the unincorporated community of Orcutt, north of the town of Los Alamos, and immediately east of Highway 101. The approximately 5-acre project site is within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 101-060-002 and is located north of Palmer Road.

The proposed project would develop an approximately 5-acre portion of the Los Flores Ranch into a shooting range for the City of Santa Maria Police Department. This report has been prepared to assist the City of Santa Maria in meeting the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Two vegetation communities were identified within the Biological Study Area (BSA): coastal scrub and non-native annual grassland. Six special status plant species have the potential to be present based on presence of suitable habitat: Hoover's bent grass (*Agrostis hooveri*); seaside bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*); mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*); Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *sericea*); southern curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata* ssp. *sinuata*); and black-flowered figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*).

Nine special status wildlife species have potential to occur within the BSA. These include: northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), Blainville's (coast) horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillei*), and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*). For some of these species, foraging habitat is present, but roosting habitat is not. In addition, vegetation within and adjacent to the project site offers potential nesting habitat for bird species that are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code.

Direct and indirect impacts to these species are not expected with implementation of proposed avoidance and minimization measures incorporated into the project. No impacts to jurisdictional waters are expected from the proposed project. There is no federally designated critical habitat within the BSA. All impacts resulting from the project are further described herein.

1 Introduction

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) was retained by the City of Santa Maria (City) to prepare this Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) for the Santa Maria Los Flores Shooting Range Project (project). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Los Flores Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) previously evaluated a large area of the Los Flores Ranch, which included this site, and included several technical studies focused on biological resources. The proposed project differs from the project analyzed in the EIR. Thus, this report documents the current existing conditions and biological resources within the project site and evaluates the potential for project-related impacts to biological resources on-site and in the vicinity as a result of the proposed project. This report has been prepared to assist the City in meeting the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1.1 Project Location

The proposed project site is a small portion of the Los Flores Ranch property, located in the Solomon Hills in northwest Santa Barbara County. The site is southeast of the unincorporated community of Orcutt, north of the town of Los Alamos, and immediately east of Highway 101 (Figure 1). The approximately 5-acre project site is within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 101-060-002, and is north of Palmer Road. The closest mountain range is the Sierra Madre Mountains to the east of the site. The approximate center of the project site is at latitude 34.817622°N and longitude -120.341159°W (WGS-84 datum). The project site is depicted on the *Sisquoc*, California United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, in Meridian San Bernardino, Township 9 North, Range 33 West, Section 34. The site is currently zoned for integrated land fill and open space/recreational use. The IWMF, which will be located north of the area studied for this project, has not yet been constructed and is not in use.

The Biological Study Area (BSA) analyzed in this BRA includes the project impact area plus a minimum 25-foot buffer. The BSA for the proposed project is presented in Figure 2.

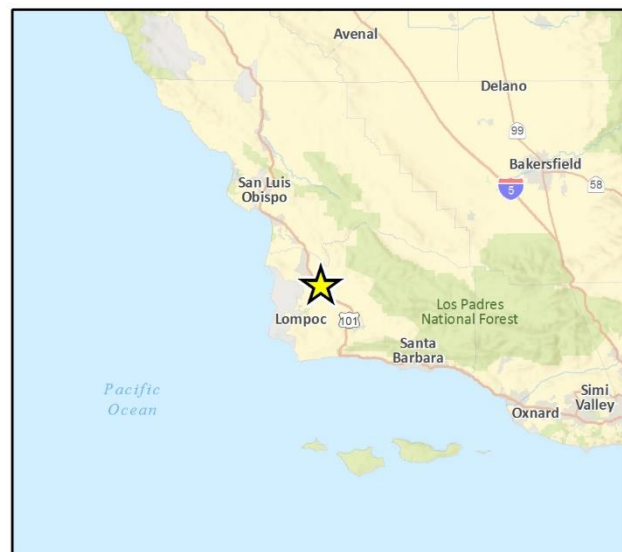
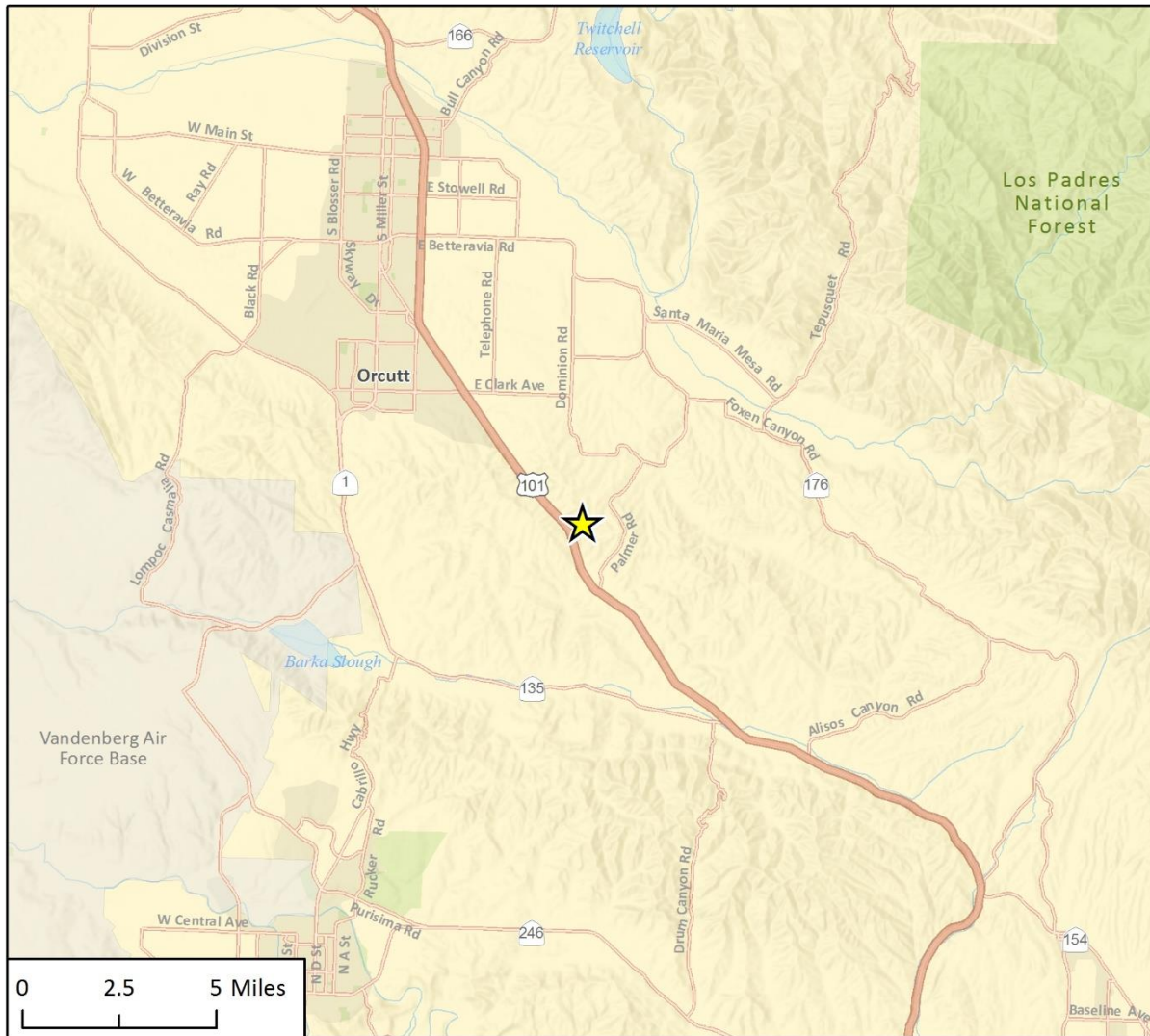
1.2 Project Description

The project consists of an outdoor shooting range for the exclusive use of the Santa Maria Police Department (no public access) on an approximately 5-acre site in the southern portion of the City's Los Flores Ranch property (Figure 2). The facility would include four pistol ranges, a live fire shooting house, a mobile classroom, and a graded parking area with a total of 40 spaces. The site would be accessed using existing access roads on the Los Flores Ranch.

1.3 Previous Technical Studies

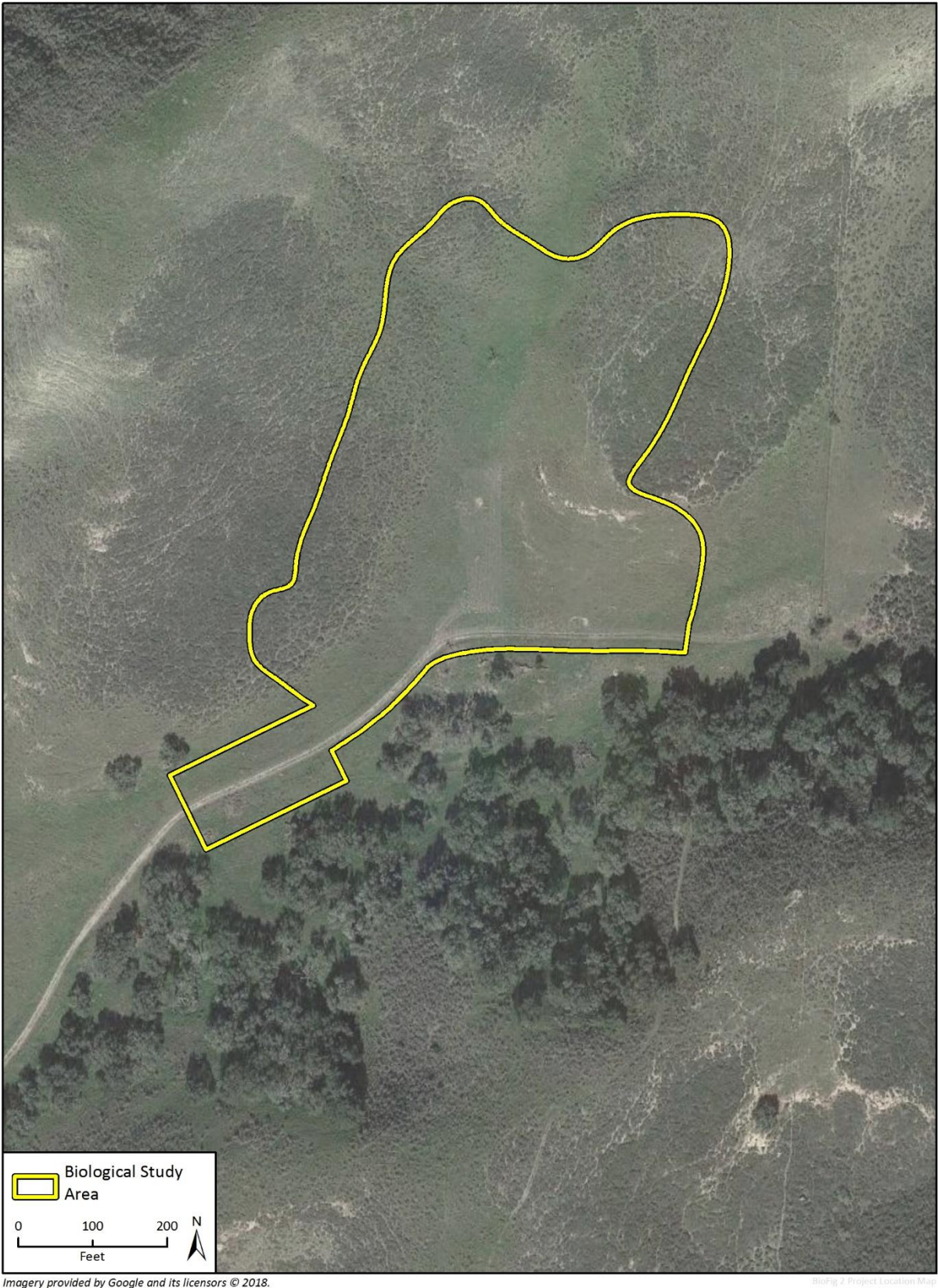
An EIR was completed for the IWMF, and the total land area that was included in that environmental review included the approximately 1,774-acre Los Flores Ranch Property. The BSA that was analyzed as part of this BRA is completely within the boundaries of the

Figure 1 Regional Location Map



BioFig 1: Locality Map

Figure 2 Biological Study Area



Los Flores Ranch, and thus many of the technical studies that were conducted for the 2010 EIR are applicable to this project site and provide biological information that informed the analysis of the resources on this project. Section 2.2 lists several of the technical study references that were used for this review.

2 Methodology

2.1 Regulatory Overview

Regulated or sensitive resources studied and analyzed herein include special status plant and animal species, nesting birds and raptors, sensitive plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, wildlife movement, and locally protected resources, such as protected trees. Regulatory authority over biological resources is shared by Federal, State, and local authorities. Primary authority for regulation of general biological resources lies within the land use control and planning authority of local jurisdictions (in this instance, the City).

Although the project is within the County of Santa Barbara, the parcel is owned by the City. City land use regulations apply to the project site because the Los Flores Ranch property is owned by the City. The County's land use regulations do not apply to the site. The City General Plan's Resource Management Element includes goals and policies regarding biological resources. Many of the policies are focused on urban and street trees, and green belts/preservation around the Santa Maria River and Orcutt Creek, which are not applicable to this project. Additionally, there are policies requiring a biological assessment by a qualified biologist in areas where rare or endangered plants or animals are known or could be expected to exist, as well as development of an ordinance establishing the means to preserve "locally important" trees and identified plant and animal habitats.

2.1.1 Definition of Special Status Species

For the purposes of this report, special status species include:

- Species listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA); species that are under review may be included if there is a reasonable expectation of listing within the life of the project
- Species listed as candidate, rare, threatened, or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Native Plant Protection Act
- Species designated as Fully Protected or Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Plants ranked on California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) 1 and 2, per the following definitions:
 - Rank 1A = Plants presumed extinct in California
 - Rank 1B.1 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
 - Rank 1B.2 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
 - Rank 1B.3 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)
 - Rank 2 = Rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

CRPR 1B and 2 plant species are typically regarded as rare, threatened, or endangered under the CEQA by lead CEQA agencies and were considered as such in this document. CRPR 3 and 4 plant species are typically not considered for analysis under CEQA except where they are designated as rare or otherwise protected by local governments or where cumulative impacts could result in population-level effects.

2.1.2 Environmental Statutes

For the purpose of this report, potential impacts to biological resources were analyzed based on the following statutes (Appendix A):

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
- California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- City of Santa Maria General Plan, Resources Management Element (2001-06)

2.1.3 Guidelines for Determining CEQA Significance

The following threshold criteria, as defined by the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Initial Study Checklist, were used to evaluate potential environmental effects. Based on these criteria, the proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- a) Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.

2.2 Literature Review

Prior to the site visit, Rincon biologists queried the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation System (IPaC; USFWS 2018a), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2018a), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (2018), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Species List Tool. These searches were conducted to obtain comprehensive information regarding state and federally listed species as well as other special status species considered to have potential to occur within the *Sisquoc, California* USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles (*Casmalia, Orcutt, Surf, Lompoc, Los Alamos, Tranquillon Mountain, Lompoc Hills* and *Santa Rosa Hills*).

In addition, the following resources were also reviewed for information about the BSA:

- Aerial photographs of the BSA and vicinity;
- *Sisquoc, California* USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle;
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (USDA, NRCS 2018a);
- USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2018b);
- CDFW Special Animals List (CDFW 2018b);
- CDFW Special Plants List (CDFW 2018c);
- Focused Biological Surveys and Wetland Delineation for the Santa Maria Integrated Waste Management Facility, Los Flores Ranch, Santa Barbara County, California, (Rincon, July 2009); and
- Results of Upland Habitat and Aquatic Surveys for the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) Year 1: November 2010-April 2011 (Hunt, 2011)

2.3 Field Reconnaissance Survey

On August 8, 2018, Rincon biologist Jamie Deutsch conducted a field reconnaissance survey of the BSA. The survey was conducted between 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm. The temperature was 79 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the survey and wind speed was zero to five miles per hour.

The survey consisted of conducting meandering pedestrian transects throughout the BSA. Mr. Deutsch surveyed the entire BSA on foot and recorded all biological resources encountered on site. The survey was conducted to document the existing site conditions and to evaluate the potential for presence of sensitive biological resources, including sensitive plant and animal species, sensitive plant communities, and habitat for nesting birds protected by federal and state laws. During the survey, an inventory of all plant and animal species observed was compiled and an evaluation of the potential for jurisdictional aquatic features to be present was conducted.

The potential presence of sensitive vegetation communities, nesting birds, and potentially jurisdictional waters and wetlands was noted during the reconnaissance survey. Based on findings of the literature review and observations during the field visit, Rincon also analyzed habitat suitability for specific special status plants and animals that could be present. Results of the survey are summarized herein and used in evaluating potential impacts to existing or potentially occurring biological resources within the BSA.

3 Existing Conditions

This section summarizes the results of the literature review and reconnaissance-level field survey. Discussions regarding the general environmental setting, vegetation communities present, plants and animals observed, potential special status species issues, and other possible constraints due to the biological resources on site are presented below. Representative photographs of the BSA are provided in Appendix B. A complete list of all plant and animal species observed on site during the field survey is presented as Appendix C.

3.1 Physical Characteristics

The BSA is located within the Los Flores Ranch in northwestern Santa Barbara County approximately 16 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. The area is characterized by a Mediterranean climate with mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. The topography of the area surrounding the BSA consists of gently rolling hills and low valleys. Elevations on the BSA range from approximately 981 feet above mean sea level to approximately 1,076 feet above mean sea level. Highway 101 is about one third of a mile to the west, and an existing dirt road provides access to the project site.

3.1.1 Watershed and Drainages

The BSA is in the San Antonio Creek watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 18060009; EPA 2018). No drainages or other jurisdictional waters run through or are located within the BSA.

3.1.2 Soils

According to the USDA, NRCS Web Soil Survey data for the Northern Santa Barbara, California survey area (2018), two soil map units occur within the BSA: GmG – Gaviota sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes; and, CuC – Corralitos loamy sand, 2 to 9 percent slopes (Figure 3). These soils are loamy sands and sandy loams commonly occurring on alluvial fans and mountain slopes, and are described below.

Gaviota Sandy Loam (GmG), 30 to 75 Percent Slopes

Gaviota sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes, is a somewhat excessively drained sandy loam. It is formed on mountain slopes derived from residuum weathered from sandstone. A typical soil profile has sandy loam to a depth of 12 inches, and unweathered bedrock below to 22 inches. Available water storage is very low (about 1.4 inches) and the runoff class is medium. There is no frequency of flooding and no frequency of ponding. Minor components of this soil include Arnold, Gilroy and Rock outcrop, occupying approximately 10%, 5%, and 5% respectively. This map unit is not classified as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2018b).

Corralitos Loamy Sand (CuC), 2 to 9 Percent Slopes

Corralitos loamy sand, 2 to 9 percent slopes, is a somewhat excessively drained loamy sand. It is formed on alluvial fans derived from sandy alluvium. A typical soil profile has loamy sand to a depth of 32 inches, and stratified sand to loamy sand below to 60 inches. Available water storage is low

Figure 3 Soil Map



Imagery provided by Google and its licensors © 2018.

Soils data provided by Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey 2018.

Biological Study Map

(about 4.8 inches) and the runoff class is very low. There is no frequency of flooding and no frequency of ponding. Minor components of this soil include Arnold, Corralitos, sand and unnamed, occupying approximately 5% each, respectively. This map unit is not classified as hydric (USDA, NRCS 2018b).

3.2 Vegetation

This section describes the characteristics, extents, and locations of vegetation communities within the BSA, including dominant plant species observed within each community. Two vegetation communities were identified: non-native annual grassland and coastal scrub (Figure 4). Within these communities, thirteen plant species were observed during the reconnaissance-level survey (Appendix C).

The vegetation classification system used for this report is based on *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MCV2; Sawyer et al. 2009) and *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Communities of California* (Holland 1986); but has been modified as needed to accurately describe the existing habitats observed on-site. Approximate acreages of vegetation communities found within the BSA are shown in Table 1, and the aerial extents of the vegetation communities identified on-site are presented on Figure 4. Vegetation types are discussed in greater detail below.

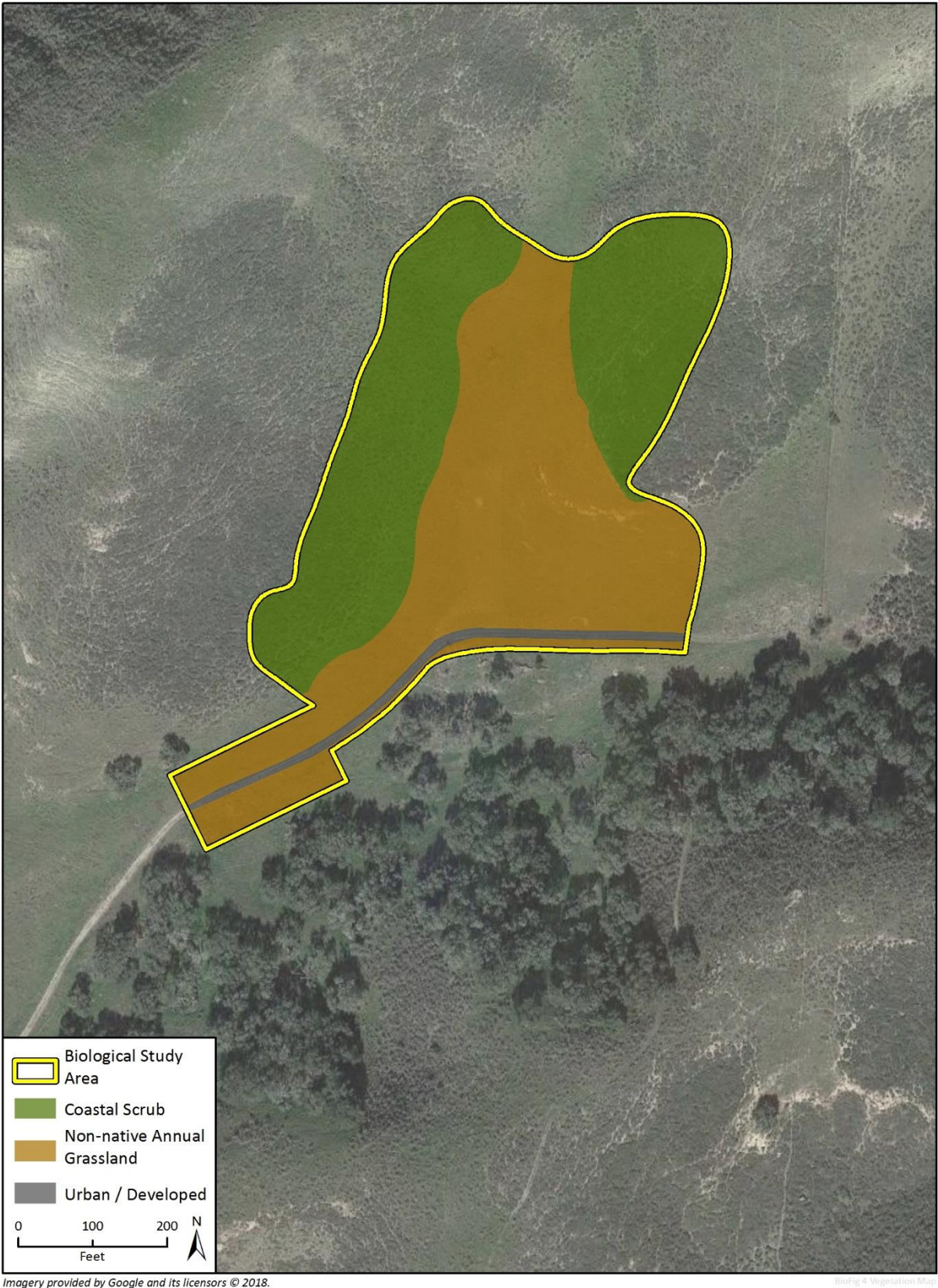
Table 1 Vegetation Acreages within the BSA

Vegetation Community	Coverage within the BSA (acres)
Non-native annual grassland	3.70
Coastal Scrub	3.26
Total	6.96

Non-native Annual Grassland

The dominant vegetation community present within the BSA is non-native annual grassland (Figure 4). It makes up approximately 3.7 acres of the BSA. The non-native annual grassland habitat type within the BSA corresponds most closely with the *Avena (barbata, fatua)* Herbaceous Semi Natural Alliance described by Sawyer et al. (2009) and is most similar to the Non-native Grassland habitat type described by Holland (1986). This habitat type is found in the center of the BSA. Non-native annual grasslands occur mostly on flat plains to gently rolling foothills. They commonly occur on rangelands and in openings in woodlands. Regionally, non-native annual grasslands occur on seasonally dry hillsides and valleys in the interior valleys of the Coast Ranges, and along the coast of central and southern California, as well as some of the off-shore islands. The dominant grass species within the area in the BSA are slender ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oat (*Avena barbata*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis* L. ssp. *rubens*), and Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*). In addition, herbaceous perennials were observed intermixed with these species including turkey-mullein (*Croton setiger*), and deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*). There are also small patches of purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) intermixed, though not present in abundance or extent typical of needlegrass grassland. These small patches do not function as a separate vegetation community within the BSA.

Figure 4 Vegetation Habitat Map



Coastal Scrub

The coastal scrub habitat type occurs on the northeast side and the western edge of the BSA, and occupies approximately 3.26 acres (Figure 4). This habitat most closely resembles Sagebrush Scrub Community Alliance in the Manual of California Vegetation, 2nd Edition system (Sawyer et al. 2009) and the Central (Lucian) Coastal Scrub in the Holland system (Holland, 1986). Coastal scrub commonly occurs on dry slopes and alluvial fans, where soils are shallow. The dominant scrub species within the two scrub areas in the BSA are black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). Other species present in this habitat type include deerweed.

3.3 General Wildlife

Wildlife activity was moderate during the reconnaissance survey. Vegetation onsite likely supports a suite of common avian, mammalian, and reptilian wildlife. The coastal scrub habitat supports passerine species such as Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) and wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*). Other birds observed in the general area included species such as red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). No raptor nests were detected within the BSA, however, foraging habitat for several raptor species is present on-site. Additional wildlife species observed during the site visit include California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). See Appendix C for a full list of species observed within the BSA.

4 Sensitive Biological Resources

Local, state, and federal agencies regulate special status species and other sensitive biological resources and require an assessment of their presence or potential presence to be conducted on-site prior to the approval of proposed development on a property. This section discusses sensitive biological resources observed on the project site, and evaluates the potential for the project site to support additional sensitive biological resources. Nesting birds, including raptors, protected by the MBTA and CFGC Sections 3503 and 3503.5, including common species, are also discussed in this section.

4.1 Special Status Species

Assessments for the potential occurrence of special status species are based upon known ranges, habitat preferences for the species, species occurrence records from the CNDDDB, species occurrence records from other sites in the vicinity of the survey area, previous reports for the project site, and the results of surveys of the project site. For the purpose of this report, special status species were defined in Section 2.1.1.

The potential for each special status species to occur in the study area was evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Not Expected.** Habitat on and adjacent to the site is clearly unsuitable for the species requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, substrate, elevation, hydrology, plant community, site history, disturbance regime), and species would have been identifiable on-site if present (e.g., oak trees).
- **Low Potential.** Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the site is unsuitable or of very poor quality. Alternatively, although suitable habitat is present, previous protocol-level surveys have not identified the species on site. The species is not likely to be found on the site.
- **Moderate Potential.** Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is unsuitable. The species has a moderate probability of being found on the site.
- **High Potential.** All of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is highly suitable. The species has a high probability of being found on the site.
- **Present.** Species is observed on the site or has been recorded (e.g., CNDDDB, other reports) on the site recently (within the last 5 years).

Based on the agency database and literature review, and the results of the reconnaissance survey of the BSA, Rincon evaluated 70 special status species (43 special status plant species and 27 special status animal species) and twelve sensitive natural communities documented within the *Sisquoc*, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle containing the BSA and the eight surrounding quadrangles (*Casmalia*, *Orcutt*, *Surf*, *Lompoc*, *Los Alamos*, *Tranquillon Mtn*, *Lompoc Hills* and *Santa*

Rosa Hills). Each of these 70 species was evaluated for its potential to occur in the BSA (see Appendix D).

4.1.1 Special Status Plant Species

Based on the literature review, 43 special status plant species were documented within the *Sisquoc, California* USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles (Appendix D). No special status plants were observed during the reconnaissance-level field survey. Thirty-seven species were eliminated from the analysis due to a lack of suitable habitat, unsuitable soils, and/or the project's location outside of the known distribution and/or elevation range of the species (e.g., special status plants that are associated with coastal habitats, serpentine soils, or highly alkaline soils that are not present in the BSA). Protocol floristic surveys were conducted in 2007 through 2009 across the Los Flores Ranch site in support of the EIR for the Los Flores IWMF (Rincon, 2009); the results of these surveys were also used in evaluating potential presence of special status plant species in the BSA. However, the previous survey results are aging, and previous negative survey results from surveys more than three to five years old may require an updated survey to confirm the species are absent, particularly for annual and short-lived perennial plants. Thus, although the previous surveys completed in 2007 through 2009 were negative for this area of the Los Flores Ranch site, six special status plants were determined to have a low potential to occur within the BSA due to the presence of suitable habitat and time elapsed since the previous negative survey:

- Hoover's bent grass (*Agrostis hooveri*)
- Seaside bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*)
- Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*)
- Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *sericea*)
- Southern curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata* ssp. *sinuata*)
- Black-flowered figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*)

These species can occur in grassland and scrub habitats with sandy soils. They were not observed during the reconnaissance level field survey in 2018, and were not previously reported from the site during past botanical surveys (Rincon 2009), but due to the late timing of the 2018 survey after many of these species would have finished flowering, the small stature of several of the perennial species, and annual habitat of some of the species, there remains a low potential for these six plant species to be present on the project site.

4.1.2 Special Status Animal Species

Based on the database and literature review, previous studies and observations, 27 special status animal species were documented within the *Sisquoc, California* USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles (Appendix D). Eighteen special status species were eliminated from further analysis due to the absence of suitable habitat within the BSA or because the BSA occurred outside of the species' known range.

Nine special status wildlife species (five mammals, one bird, and three reptiles), were determined to have potential to occur:

- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)

- Western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillei*)
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
- Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)
- Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*)

The potential for each species' presence in the BSA was based on the presence of specific habitat requirements within and adjacent to the BSA. A discussion for each of the species with potential to occur is presented below. Additionally, California tiger salamander (CTS) is discussed below to summarize why this species is not expected, with consideration for the regional distribution of this species.

Pallid Bat, SSC

The pallid bat occurs in grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests, and is most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. They may also roost during the day in caves, crevices, mines, tree cavities, and buildings, and at night in more open areas such as porches and the sides of buildings. They occur throughout most of the western United States, including parts of Washington and Oregon, and extend eastward to Wyoming, western Colorado and parts of Texas. They also occur throughout Baja California and northern Mexico. They are present year-round in most of California except the highest elevations of the Sierra Nevada, and they hibernate in winter near their summer day roosts. Maternal colonies form in early April and may have 12 to 100 individuals. They are nocturnal and have an activity peak 90 to 190 minutes after sunset and a second peak shortly before dawn. It is possible that they could forage throughout most habitats on-site and could roost in tree cavities in the surrounding area. No potential roost sites occur within the BSA, but pallid bats could roost nearby and forage over the BSA.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat, SSC

The Townsend's big-eared bat inhabits scrubland and coniferous forests, and they prefer wet areas. Maternal colonies are in mines, caves, tunnels and buildings and the males roost individually. They hibernate in the winter (October through April) in caves and mines. Breeding is in the winter and young are born in May and June. They occur throughout the western United States, western British Columbia, and throughout central Mexico. They are found throughout California except for the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada. It is possible that they could forage throughout the BSA, but the lack of extensive aquatic habitats indicates the habitat on-site may only be marginally suitable. Suitable roosts are not present in the BSA, but Townsend's big-eared bats could roost in highway underpasses near the site, these bats are known to forage over long distances (Western Bat Working Group 2017), and this species could forage over the BSA.

Western Mastiff Bat, SSC

The western mastiff bat occurs in many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, annual and perennial grasslands, palm oases, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban. This bat catches and feeds on insects in flight, and individuals have been recorded as feeding from ground to tree-level. However, over rugged terrain these bats typically forage at much greater heights (60 meters or 195 feet) above the ground. Distribution of the western mastiff bat is likely driven in part by landscape features; specifically, the species typically requires areas

with significant rock features with suitable crevices under exfoliating rock slabs or crevices in large boulders offer suitable roosting habitat (Western Bat Working Group 2017). The species may also roost in buildings. Roosts are typically high above the ground, with a clear vertical drop of at least 3 meters below the entrance to allow for flight. They are uncommon residents in southeastern San Joaquin Valley and Coastal Ranges from Monterey County southward through southern California, and from the coast eastward to the Colorado Desert. They are non-migratory. Western mastiff bats apparently move among alternate daytime roosts, and commonly share roosts with other large bats. No potential roost sites occur within the Project site, but they could roost nearby and forage over the BSA.

Western Red Bat, SSC

The western red bat forages over grasslands, shrublands, open woodlands, and agricultural areas. They roost in trees, and occasionally in shrubs with dense foliage and an open understory, in forests and woodlands that often are near streams, fields, or urban areas. Individuals are solitary and aggregate only during mating and migration. Roost sites are generally hidden from view from all directions except below; lack obstruction beneath, allowing the bat to drop downward for flight; and typically lack lower perches that would allow visibility by predators (Western Bat Working Group 2017). They are found throughout the coast of central and southern California, the Central Valley, Baja California, desert areas of the southwestern states, and Mexico. They migrate between summer and winter ranges (March-May and September-October). In California, their winter range is along the coast south of San Francisco Bay. Mating is in August and September, and young are born May through early July. Suitable foraging habitat exists in oak woodland, coastal scrub, and grassland habitats at and in the vicinity of the BSA. No potential roost sites occur within the project site due to lack of dense foliage, small stature of the shrubs in the coastal scrub habitat without a clear opening below for entry and exit, and limited leaf litter, but they could roost nearby and forage over the BSA.

Loggerhead Shrike, SSC

The loggerhead shrike forages in grasslands, agricultural areas, and other semi-open habitats. Nesting is in coastal scrub and riparian habitats. They breed in southern Canada, and throughout the United States and Mexico. They winter in southern Oregon eastward to Virginia and into southern Mexico. They are present year-round in Santa Barbara County. This species was not observed on the BSA, but suitable habitat exists and they could occur in scrub and grassland habitats. It is possible that they could use the BSA for foraging and nesting.

California Legless Lizard, SSC

The California legless lizard occurs in a wide variety of habitat types throughout central and southern California, except for the Sierra Nevada and desert areas (Jennings and Hayes 1994). It is a fossorial species that burrows in loose sand and loamy soils. They appear to be active just below the soil surface in the morning and evening, and occasionally they may be found at night above the surface (Miller 1944). Due to these habits, this species is difficult to detect. They can be found under cover objects such as boards, logs and rocks during the spring. Since suitable habitat is present in the BSA and this species is relatively common in this region, it is possible that they occur on-site but were not detected during the survey.

Blainville's Horned Lizard, SSC

Blainville's (coast) horned lizard can be found in grasslands, coniferous forests, woodlands, and chaparral, in open areas and patches of loose soil. The annual grassland and coastal scrub habitats provide suitable habitat and soils for this species. Although this species has not been seen in the BSA, the species has been documented elsewhere on the Los Flores Ranch site, and this species has a high potential to occur within the BSA.

Coast Patch-nosed Snake, SSC

The coast patch-nosed snake is found in coastal chaparral, desert scrub, washes, sandy flats and rocky areas. The snake is widely distributed throughout the lowlands, up to 2120 meters (7000 feet), of southern California from the coast to the eastern border. The snake is an opportunistic feeder with prey items including lizards, small mammals, and eggs of lizards and snakes. The snake is active and diurnal, and uses shrubs, rock crevices and the burrows of other animals. Scrub and patches of friable soils provide suitable habitat. This species has potential to occur in the BSA.

American Badger, SSC

The American badger occurs in grassland, shrubland, and forest habitats with friable soils and adequate rodent prey base. They dig burrows for cover and as maternal dens. They occur throughout the western United States and east to Ohio, Missouri, Oklahoma and eastern Texas. They are also present in parts of Canada, and throughout California except for the northwestern coast. They breed in summer and early fall, and young are born in March and April. The young are weaned in June and disperse from the maternal den in the late summer. They are active throughout the year and are diurnal and nocturnal. No individual badgers were seen during the survey, but it is likely that they occur on the site based on regional distribution, presence of friable soils, and a suitable prey base.

California Tiger Salamander

Although the BSA is suitable upland habitat for California tiger salamander (CTS) and the project is between two regions where the species is known to occur, this species is not expected to occur in the BSA due to negative results for detection of the species after extensive protocol survey efforts for this species as part of the EIR for the IWMF project. Upland drift fence surveys were conducted in 2006/2007 (Rincon 2009); Year 1 protocol CTS surveys were conducted in the winter of 2010/2011 (Hunt 2011); and Year 2 protocol CTS surveys were conducted in the winter of 2011/2012 (Hunt 2012). No CTS were detected in the Los Flores Ranch area, and the protocol surveys concluded that CTS would not likely occur at the site and that the species would not likely occur east of Highway 101, as that creates a barrier for dispersal from any known CTS breeding pools south and east of the Los Flores Ranch across Highway 101. Furthermore, the USFWS issued a letter concurring with the negative findings of the aforementioned protocol-level CTS surveys (USFWS 2012). Therefore, this species is not expected to occur on the Los Flores Ranch.

4.1.3 Nesting Birds

There is suitable nesting habitat for birds in both the coastal scrub and grassland habitats in the BSA, as well as oak woodland habitat in close proximity to the BSA. These areas provide nesting habitat, foraging habitat, and overwintering habitat for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and CFGC, including raptors. As discussed above, the BSA contains suitable foraging habitat

and potential nesting habitat for loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), a California Species of Special Concern, and is also suitable for numerous other passerine species to nest and to forage, and for raptors to forage. Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, and other raptors could forage in open areas of the BSA, and a prairie falcon was observed foraging during the study. The BSA lacks suitable trees to support nesting raptors, and no large stick nests were observed during the survey of the BSA. However, just to the south of the BSA there are suitable trees that could potentially support nesting raptors and other tree-nesting birds in close proximity to the project site. Some bird species are sensitive to nearby disturbance while building nests, laying eggs, and incubating even when their nest sites are not directly impacted.

4.2 Sensitive Plant Communities and Critical Habitats

The CNDDDB lists twelve sensitive natural communities in the nine quadrangles queried including and surrounding the BSA (Appendix D). None of these communities is found in the vicinity of the BSA, and none of the sensitive natural communities are present within the BSA.

CDFW previously tracked sensitive natural communities and kept records of their occurrences in the CNDDDB. However, while CDFW works to transition fully to a vegetation alliance-based system consistent with national standards, the Sensitive Natural Communities List in the CNDDDB has not been maintained and no new information has been added in recent years. Therefore, vegetation types on site were also compared with the List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations (CDFW 2018d). According to the CDFW Vegetation Program, Alliances with State ranks of S1-S3, and certain other associations, are considered to be imperiled, and thus, potentially of special concern. Plant communities are also considered special status biological resources if they have limited distributions, have high value for sensitive wildlife, contain special status species, or are particularly susceptible to disturbance. None of the vegetation alliances ranked as potentially of special concern are present in the Study Area.

Additionally, no designated critical habitats for federally listed species are present in the BSA.

4.3 Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

As described in Sections 3.1 and 3.3, no jurisdictional waters or drainages and no riparian areas occur within the BSA.

4.4 Wildlife Movement

Wildlife movement corridors, or habitat linkages, are generally defined as connections between habitat patches that allow for physical and genetic exchange between otherwise isolated animal populations. Such linkages may serve a local purpose, such as providing a linkage between foraging and denning areas, or they may be regional in nature. Some habitat linkages may serve as migration corridors, wherein animals periodically move away from an area and then subsequently return.

Wildlife movement corridors can be both large and small scale. Regionally, the BSA is not located within an Essential Connectivity Area (ECA) as mapped in the report *California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California* (CDFW 2010). ECAs represent principle connections between Natural Landscape Blocks. ECAs are regions in which land conservation and management actions should be prioritized to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity. ECAs are mapped based on coarse ecological condition indicators, rather than the

needs of particular species and thus serve the majority of species in each region. Small scale habitat corridors are present on site and include habitat linkages and topographic features that facilitate movement. The habitat patches on-site and in the vicinity (e.g. coastal scrub, oak woodland) serve as small-scale wildlife corridors.

4.5 Resources Protected By Local Policies and Ordinances

There are no local policies or ordinances in the City's General Plan, Resources Management Element (2001-06) that would require additional protective measures beyond those outlined in Section 5.

5 Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures

5.1 Special-Status Species

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Substantially affect a rare or endangered species of animal, plant or the habitat of the species.

5.1.1 Special Status Plants

Six special status plant species were determined to have potential to occur within the BSA considering the presence of suitable habitat and soil conditions. Ground-disturbing activities associated with project components may result in direct impacts (removal) to special status plant species. Additionally, indirect impacts could occur due to the spread of invasive, non-native species from construction equipment. Invasive, non-native plant species can out-compete native species and/or alter habitat towards a state that is unsuitable for special status species. For example, the spread of certain weed species can reduce the biodiversity of native habitats through displacement of vital pollinators, potentially eliminating special status plant species, or through competition with native plants for water and light.

To avoid and minimize adverse impacts to special status plants, the following avoidance and minimization measures are recommended for project activities in areas of suitable habitat.

Bio-1 Worker Environmental Awareness Training

Prior to the start of any construction activities, all construction personnel shall attend a worker environmental awareness training from a qualified biologist. The training shall include the identification of all special status plant and animal species with potential to occur on the project site, a description of their habitats, their regulatory statuses, and all measures being implemented to avoid and minimize impacts.

Bio-2(a) Special Status Plant Preconstruction Surveys

Prior to construction within suitable habitat, (including staging and mobilization) and when plants with potential to occur are in a phenological stage conducive to positive identification (i.e., usually during the blooming period for the species), a qualified botanist should conduct surveys for special status plant species. Reference sites must be visited to document target species are detectable prior to site surveys and/or confirm that phenology of species known to bloom and co-occur with target species is suitable for detection if a publically accessible reference site is not available for a given species. Valid botanical surveys will be considered current for up to five years; if construction has not commenced within five years of the most recent survey, botanical surveys must be repeated.

Surveys must be completed during blooming periods for the species with potential to occur onsite and reference site visits must confirm that the species are identifiable in the survey year.

Bio-2(b) Special Status Plant Species Avoidance

If state listed, federally listed, or non-listed CRPR 1B.1 species are discovered within the survey area, an impact analysis to evaluate how the project would directly impact the special status plants shall be completed. If feasible, development would be re-designed in coordination with a qualified biologist to avoid impacting these plant species. Rare plants that are not within the immediate disturbance footprint, but are located within 50 feet of disturbance limits will be flagged and fenced off by a qualified biologist before construction activities start, to avoid impacts to special status plant species. If avoidance of state listed or federally listed plants species is not feasible, impacts must be fully offset through implementation of a restoration plan that results in no net loss (see measure B-2(c)). Note that prior to implementing activities that result in impacts to listed plants, consultation with CDFW and/or USFWS and acquisition of any required permits must also be completed.

Bio-2(c) Restoration Plan for Special Status Plant Species

If avoidance of non-listed CRPR 1B.1 species is not feasible, all impacts will be mitigated at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (number of acres/individuals restored to number of acres/individuals impacted) for each species as a component of habitat restoration. The restoration plan shall include, at a minimum, the following components:

- Description of the project/impact site (i.e., location, responsible parties, areas to be impacted by habitat type);
- Goal(s) of the compensatory mitigation project [type(s) and area(s) of habitat to be established, restored, enhanced, and/or preserved; specific functions and values of habitat type(s) to be established, restored, enhanced, and/or preserved];
- Description of the proposed compensatory mitigation site (location and size, ownership status, existing functions and values);
- Implementation plan for the compensatory mitigation site (rationale for expecting implementation success, responsible parties, schedule, site preparation, planting plan [including species to be used, container sizes, seeding rates, etc.]);
- Maintenance activities during the monitoring period, including weed removal and irrigation as appropriate (activities, responsible parties, schedule);
- Monitoring plan for the compensatory mitigation site, including no less than quarterly monitoring for the first year, along with performance standards, target functions and values, target acreages to be established, restored, enhanced, and/or preserved, and annual monitoring reports for a minimum of five years at which time the project proponent shall demonstrate that performance standards/success criteria have been met;
- Success criteria based on the goals and measurable objectives; said criteria to be, at a minimum, at least 80% survival of container plants and 70% absolute cover by vegetation type. Absolute cover will be determined in comparison to a reference plot for native species.
- An adaptive management program and remedial measures to address any shortcomings in meeting success criteria;
- Notification of completion of compensatory mitigation; and

- Contingency measures (e.g. initiating procedures, alternative locations for contingency compensatory mitigation, funding mechanism).

5.1.2 Special Status Animals

Nine special status animal species have potential to occur within the BSA based upon known ranges, habitat preferences, species occurrence records in the vicinity of the BSA, and presence of suitable habitat. Special status species were not observed within the BSA during the reconnaissance survey.

Pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, western mastiff bat, western red bat

No roosting habitat for special status bats was found on the BSA, and therefore no direct impacts to roosting bats is anticipated from project activities. The project would result in the loss of potential foraging habitat for these species. The loss of a few acres of foraging habitat in the context of the larger Los Flores Ranch open space surrounding the BSA and adjacent rural landscape would not result in a substantial reduction in available foraging habitat. Therefore no additional measures would be required for special status bats.

Coast patch-nosed snake, California legless lizard, and Blainville's horned lizard

Direct impacts to coast patch-nosed snake, California legless lizard, and Blainville's horned lizard such as mortality or injury could occur during initial ground-disturbing activities if animals are present within the proposed disturbance area. The project could also remove scrub habitats potentially suitable for these species. Measures are recommended to minimize potential effects.

American badger

No evidence of American badgers was found onsite during the field survey. However, suitable habitat is located within the BSA. American badgers are also highly mobile and are expected to be present throughout the region. American badgers could be found onsite at any time of the year. Direct impacts could result if ground-disturbing activities directly affect an occupied American badger den. Impacts to American badgers could be significant if breeding American badgers with offspring are present within the proposed disturbance area during project implementation. The project would also remove suitable foraging habitat, although the loss of a few acres of foraging habitat in the context of the larger site and adjacent rural landscape would not result in a substantial reduction in available foraging habitat.

Special Status and Other Nesting Birds

The project has potential to result in direct impacts to nesting birds, including special status birds, if they are nesting within the project site and/or immediate vicinity during construction activities. As mentioned in Section 4.1.2, one State Species of Special Concern bird species (loggerhead shrike) has potential to nest and forage within the Study Area. Numerous additional common species may also nest in the study area, and raptors are expected to forage there. The project would result in the loss of some potential foraging habitat, though in the context of the larger site and adjacent rural landscape, would not result in a substantial reduction in available foraging habitat. Many species of nesting birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code. Mitigation measures are recommended to avoid impacts to special status birds and other nesting birds.

To avoid and minimize adverse impacts to special status animals, the following measures are recommended for project activities in areas of suitable habitat.

Bio-3 Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented for project construction activities within work areas:

- No pets or firearms should be allowed at the project site during construction activities.
- During project activities, all trash that may attract predators should be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris should be removed from work areas.
- Pallets or secondary containment areas for any chemicals, drums, or bagged materials should be provided. Should material spills occur, materials and/or contaminants should be cleaned from the project site.
- All vehicles and equipment should be in good working condition and free of leaks.
- Construction work should be restricted to daylight hours (7:00 AM to 7:00 PM) to avoid impacts to nocturnal and crepuscular (dawn and dusk activity period) species.
- All open trenches should be constructed with appropriate exit ramps to allow species that accidentally fall into a trench to escape. Trenches will remain open for the shortest period necessary to complete required work.
- All project related vehicles should observe a 20 mile-per-hour speed limit in all project areas.
- Erosion control and landscaping specifications should allow only natural-fiber, biodegradable meshes and coir rolls, (i.e. no plastic-mesh temporary erosion control measures) to prevent impacts to the environment and to fish and terrestrial wildlife.
- During construction, the project will make all reasonable efforts to limit the use of imported soils for fill. Soils currently existing on-site should be used for fill material. If the use of imported fill material is necessary, the imported material must be obtained from a source that is known to be free of invasive plant species.
- Equipment and vehicles must be free of caked on mud and weed seeds/propagules before accessing and leaving the project site.

Bio-4 Special Status Reptile Preconstruction surveys

Preconstruction surveys for coast patch-nosed snake, California legless lizard, and Blainville's horned lizard shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in areas of suitable habitat within the project site. Surveys shall include visual inspections and raking/sifting as necessary to locate individuals prior to ground disturbance activities, and relocate individuals to suitable areas outside the project footprint. The qualified biologist shall receive approval from the City, in consultation with CDFW if needed, to identify a relocation site that is nearby with habitat suitable for the species. If individuals are identified during surveys, the qualified biologist shall:

- Store all individuals in an appropriate container (insulated with lid);
- Transfer individuals within four hours of capture;
- Release in appropriate/comparable habitat (in coordination with the City, who may choose to consult with CDFW regarding release sites);
- Document translocation effort through photos, GPS salvage and relocation sites, and standard measurements (temperature, time); and

- Provide the City with a final report of translocation efforts once completed.

Bio-5 Nesting Bird Surveys and Avoidance

Initial site disturbance shall be prohibited during the general avian nesting season (February 1 – August 30), if feasible. If nesting season avoidance is not feasible, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey to determine the presence/absence, location, and status of any active nests on or adjacent to the project site. The extent of the survey buffer area surrounding the site shall be established by the qualified biologist to ensure that direct and indirect effects to nesting birds are avoided. Buffer size shall consider the species involved and relevant level of tolerance to adjacent activity, the location of the nest relative to proposed activities, and site conditions that naturally buffer the location, such as vegetation screening, topography, etc. To avoid the destruction of active nests and to protect the reproductive success of birds protected by MBTA and CFGC, nesting bird surveys shall be performed not more than 14 days prior to initial project activities or vegetation clearance. In the event that active nests are discovered, a suitable buffer shall be established around such active nests and no construction within the buffer allowed until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active (e.g. the nestlings have fledged and are no longer reliant on the nest). No project activities shall occur within this buffer until the qualified biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed and the young have fledged the nest. Nesting bird surveys are not required for construction activities occurring between August 30 and February 1.

Bio-6 American Badger Impact Avoidance and Minimization

Prior to initiation of ground disturbance and vegetation removal for the project, a qualified biologist should complete a survey for badger dens. In order to avoid the potential direct take of adults and nursing young, no ground disturbance should occur within 50 feet of an active badger den as determined by a qualified biologist between March 1 and June 30. Construction activities between July 1 and March 1 should comply with the following measures to avoid direct take of adult and weaned juvenile badgers:

- Conduct a biological survey of the anticipated disturbance areas between 2 weeks and 4 weeks prior to construction. The survey should cover the entire area proposed for disturbance. Surveys should focus on both old and new den sites. If dens are too long to see the end, motion-activated wildlife cameras should be used to determine occupancy status. If the camera method is used, cameras must be used for four consecutive nights to make a determination on den activity and occupancy status.
- Inactive dens should be excavated by hand with a shovel to prevent badgers from reusing them during construction.
- Badgers should be discouraged from using currently active dens prior to the grading of the site by partially blocking the entrance of the den with sticks, debris and soil for 3 to 5 days or through use of a 1-way door. After badgers have stopped using active dens within the development area, the dens should be hand excavated with a shovel to prevent re-use.

5.2 Sensitive Plant Communities

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The proposed project would not impact any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community. There are no sensitive plant communities within the BSA. No construction, demolition, or impacts to any riparian or sensitive natural community are proposed and the construction of the project is not anticipated to affect any offsite riparian or sensitive natural communities.

5.3 Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

The BSA does not contain any federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) or any Waters of the State that would fall under the jurisdiction of the CDFW or the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

5.4 Wildlife Movement

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites.

The proposed project would involve the construction of multiple new structures that may result in some barriers to wildlife movement. Specifically, movement between patches of oak woodland, coastal scrub and non-native annual grassland would be altered by the project, with more limited movement than current conditions, but only within the project footprint. The addition of these structures combined with the layout of the outdoor shooting areas, represents the loss of a few acres of small-scale movement areas in the context of the larger Los Flores Ranch open space surrounding the BSA and the adjacent rural landscape, and thus would not result in a substantial reduction in available foraging habitat.

There is no perimeter fencing that is proposed for the facility, and no night lighting will be used.

The project would not adversely affect wildlife movement or native wildlife nursery sites.

5.5 Local Policies and Ordinances

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance

No trees would be removed during project activities. There are no local policies or ordinances in the City's General Plan, Resources Management Element (2001-06) that would conflict with the project.

5.6 Adopted or Approved Plans

The proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The proposed project would not conflict with any adopted or approved habitat conservation plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. Therefore no minimization or mitigation measures are recommended.

6 Limitations, Assumptions, and Use Reliance

This Biological Resources Assessment has been performed in accordance with professionally accepted biological investigation practices conducted at this time and in this geographic area. The biological investigation is limited by the scope of work performed. Reconnaissance biological surveys for certain taxa may have been conducted as part of this assessment but were not performed during a particular blooming period, nesting period, or particular portion of the season when positive identification would be expected if present, and therefore, cannot be considered definitive. The biological surveys are limited also by the environmental conditions present at the time of the surveys. In addition, general biological (or protocol) surveys do not guarantee that the organisms are not present and will not be discovered in the future within the site. In particular, mobile wildlife species could occupy the site on a transient basis, or re-establish populations in the future. Our field studies were based on current industry practices, which change over time and may not be applicable in the future. No other guarantees or warranties, expressed or implied, are provided. The findings and opinions conveyed in this report are based on findings derived from site reconnaissance, review of CNDDDB RareFind5, and specified historical and literature sources. Standard data sources relied upon during the completion of this report, such as the CNDDDB, may vary with regard to accuracy and completeness. In particular, the CNDDDB is compiled from research and observations reported to CDFW that may or may not have been the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Although Rincon believes the data sources are reasonably reliable, Rincon cannot and does not guarantee the authenticity or reliability of the data sources it has used. Additionally, pursuant to our contract, the data sources reviewed included only those that are practically reviewable without the need for extraordinary research and analysis.

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Appendix A

Regulatory Setting

Regulatory Setting

Special-status habitats are vegetation types, associations, or sub-associations that support concentrations of special-status plant or animal species, are of relatively limited distribution, or are of particular value to wildlife.

Listed species are those taxa that are formally listed as endangered or threatened by the federal government (e.g. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]), pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or as endangered, threatened, or rare (for plants only) by the State of California (i.e., California Fish and Game Commission), pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act or the California Native Plant Protection Act. Some species are considered rare (but not formally listed) by resource agencies, organizations with biological interests/expertise (e.g. Audubon Society, CNPS, The Wildlife Society), and the scientific community.

The following is a brief summary of the regulatory context under which biological resources are managed at the federal, state, and local levels. A number of federal and state statutes provide a regulatory structure that guides the protection of biological resources. Agencies with the responsibility for protection of biological resources within the project site include:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands and other waters of the United States);
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (waters of the State);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (federally listed species and migratory birds);
- California Department Fish and Wildlife (riparian areas, streambeds, and lakes; state-listed species; Species of Special Concern; nesting birds);

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has authority to regulate activities that could discharge fill of material into wetlands or other “waters of the United States.” Perennial and intermittent creeks are considered waters of the United States if they are hydrologically connected to other jurisdictional waters (typically a navigable water). The USACE also implements the federal policy embodied in Executive Order 11990, which is intended to result in no net loss of wetland value or acres. In achieving the goals of the Clean Water Act, the USACE seeks to avoid adverse impacts and offset unavoidable adverse impacts on existing aquatic resources. Any fill of wetlands that are hydrologically connected to jurisdictional waters would require a permit from the USACE prior to the start of work. Typically, when a project involves impacts to waters of the United States, the goal of no net loss of wetland acres or values is met through avoidance and minimization to the extent practicable, followed by compensatory mitigation involving creation or enhancement of similar habitats.

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have jurisdiction over “waters of the State,” pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which are defined as any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State. The SWRCB has issued general Waste Discharge Requirements

(WDRs) regarding discharges to “isolated” waters of the State (Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction). The RWQCB administers actions under this general order for isolated waters not subject to federal jurisdiction, and is also responsible for the issuance of water quality certifications pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for waters subject to federal jurisdiction.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS implements the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 United States Code [USC] Section 703-711) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC Section 668). The USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for implementing the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (16 USC § 153 et seq.). Generally, the USFWS implements the FESA for terrestrial and freshwater species, while the NMFS implements the FESA for marine and anadromous species. Projects that would result in “take” of any federally threatened or endangered species are required to obtain permits from the USFWS or NMFS through either Section 7 (interagency consultation with a federal nexus) or Section 10 (Habitat Conservation Plan) of the FESA, depending on the involvement by the federal government in permitting and/or funding of the project. The permitting process is used to determine if a project would jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and what measures would be required to avoid jeopardizing the species. “Take” under federal definition means to harass, harm (which includes habitat modification), pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Proposed or candidate species do not have the full protection of the FESA; however, the USFWS and NMFS advise project applicants that they could be elevated to listed status at any time.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) derives its authority from the Fish and Game Code of California. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et. seq.) prohibits take of state listed threatened or endangered. Take under CESA is restricted to direct mortality of a listed species and the law does not prohibit indirect harm by way of habitat modification. Where incidental take would occur during construction or other lawful activities, CESA allows the CDFW to issue an Incidental Take Permit upon finding, among other requirements, that impacts to the species have been minimized and fully mitigated.

The CDFW also enforces Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the Fish and Game Code, which prohibits take of species designated as Fully Protected. The CDFW is not allowed to issue an Incidental Take Permit for Fully Protected species; therefore, impacts to these species must be avoided.

California Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 describe unlawful take, possession, or destruction of native birds, nests, and eggs. Section 3503.5 of the Code protects all birds-of-prey and their eggs and nests against take, possession, or destruction of nests or eggs. Section 3513 makes it a state-level offense to take any bird in violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. CDFW administers these requirements.

Species of Special Concern (SSC) is a category used by the CDFW for those species which are considered to be indicators of regional habitat changes or are considered to be potential future protected species. Species of Special Concern do not have any special legal status except that which may be afforded by the Fish and Game Code as noted above. The SSC category is intended by the CDFW for use as a management tool to include these species in special consideration when

decisions are made concerning the development of natural lands. The CDFW also has authority to administer the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) (Fish and Game Code Section 1900 *et seq.*). The NPPA requires the CDFW to establish criteria for determining if a species, subspecies, or variety of native plant is endangered or rare. Effective in 2015, CDFW promulgated regulations (14 CCR 786.9) under the authority of the NPPA, establishing that the CESA's permitting procedures would be applied to plants listed under the NPPA as "Rare." With this change, there is little practical difference for the regulated public between plants listed under CESA and those listed under the NPPA.

Perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and associated riparian vegetation, when present, also fall under the jurisdiction of the CDFW. Section 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements) gives the CDFW regulatory authority over activities that divert, obstruct, or alter the channel, bed, or bank of any river, stream or lake.

Local Jurisdiction

The proposed project is located within the County of Santa Barbara, however the Los Flores Ranch property is owned by the City. Since the City owns the Los Flores Ranch that contains the project site, the City's regulations and policies apply to the project. The project is not subject to County of Santa Barbara regulations and policies.

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Appendix B

Site Photographs



Photograph 1. View of BSA, facing west from the northeast portion of site. Oak woodland in the background is outside the BSA, to its south.



Photograph 2. View of BSA, facing south from the northeast portion of project site.



Photograph 3. View of BSA, facing west from the northeast portion of project site.



Photograph 4. View of BSA, facing southwest from the northeast portion of project site.



Photograph 5. View of BSA, facing northwest from the east portion of project site.



Photograph 6. View of BSA, facing west from the northeast portion of project site.

Appendix C

Floral and Faunal Compendium

Plant Species Observed within the BSA on August 8, 2018

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native or Introduced
Shrubs		
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	Native
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote brush	Native
<i>Encelia californica</i>	bush sunflower	Native
<i>Frangula californica</i>	California coffeeberry	Native
<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i>	sawtooth goldenbush	Native
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black sage	Native
Herbs		
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	Deerweed	Native
<i>Amsinckia</i> sp.	Fiddleneck	Native
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	Introduced; Cal-IPC ¹ Rating: Moderate
<i>Croton setiger</i>	Turkey-mullein	Native
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i>	asthmaweed	Introduced
Grasses		
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Slender wild oats	Introduced
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome	Introduced
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	Red brome	Introduced
<i>Festuca perennis</i>	Italian ryegrass	Introduced
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	Purple needlegrass	Native

¹ Cal-IPC – California Invasive Plant Council Inventory, 2018 rankings

Animal Species Observed Within the BSA on August 8, 2018

Scientific Name	Common Name
Birds	
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey vulture
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Wrentit
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Prairie falcon
Mammals	
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel
Reptiles	
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western fence lizard

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Appendix D

Special Status Species Evaluation Tables

Special Status Plant Species in the Regional Vicinity of the Project Site

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/S-Rank CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
<i>Agrostis hooveri</i> Hoover's bent grass	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Sandy sites. 60-765 m. perennial herb. Blooms Apr-Jul	Moderate potential	Suitable grassland habitat is present in the BSA. This species is known to occur in the Solomon Hills. However, this species was not previously detected in the Study Area during previous protocol level botanical surveys.
<i>Ancistrocarphus keilii</i> Santa Ynez groundstar	None/None G1/S1 1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Sandy soils. 40-130 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Apr	Not expected	The BSA is outside the known elevational range of this species. It is known from only three collections and appears to be confined to the Santa Ynez River.
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i> aphanisma	None/None G3G4/S2 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. On bluffs and slopes near the ocean in sandy or clay soils. 3-305 m. annual herb. Blooms Feb-Jun	Not expected	The BSA does not contain suitable coastal habitat. This species is known to occur at the coastline and within associated coastal bluffs.
<i>Arctostaphylos crustacea</i> ssp. <i>eastwoodiana</i> Eastwood's brittle-leaf manzanita	None/None G4T2/S2 1B.1	Chaparral. In maritime chaparral on sandy soils, in the La Purisima Ridge, Burton Mesa, and Point Sal areas. 150-245 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms Mar	Not expected	No suitable maritime chaparral habitat exists in the BSA. Additionally, this perennial species would have been observed during the site survey if present.
<i>Arctostaphylos pechoensis</i> Pecho manzanita	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub. Grows on siliceous shale with other chaparral associates. 60-855 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms Nov-Mar	Not expected	The BSA does not contain suitable soil conditions and does not contain siliceous shale. Additionally, this perennial species would have been observed during the site survey if present.
<i>Arctostaphylos purissima</i> La Purisima manzanita	None/None G2/S2 1B.1	Chaparral, coastal scrub. Sandstone outcrops, sandy soil. 60-470 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms Nov-May	Not expected	No suitable maritime chaparral habitat exists in the BSA, and no manzanitas were present in the coastal scrub within the study area. This perennial species would have been observed during the site survey if present. During floristic surveys of the entire Los Flores Ranch property, species was only detected in the northern portion of the ranch (outside the BSA) (Rincon 2009).
<i>Arctostaphylos refugioensis</i> Refugio manzanita	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Chaparral. On sandstone. 60-765 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms Dec-Mar(May)	Not expected	No suitable sandstone soils on site. This species is not expected to occur on the project site.

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Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/S-Rank CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
<i>Arctostaphylos rudis</i> sand mesa manzanita	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub. On sandy soils in Lompoc/Nipomo area. 20-335 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms Nov-Feb	Not Expected	Suitable coastal scrub habitats with sandy soils occur on the BSA. However, this perennial species would have been observed during the site survey if present, and no manzanitas were present in the coastal scrub within the study area. During floristic surveys of the entire Los Flores Ranch property, species was not detected (Rincon 2009).
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i> Miles' milk-vetch	None/None G5T2/S2 1B.2	Coastal scrub. Clay soils. 50-385 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Jun	Not expected	Suitable soils do not exist on the BSA.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i> Coulter's saltbush	None/None G3/S1S2 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Ocean bluffs, ridgetops, as well as alkaline low places. Alkaline or clay soils. 2-460 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Oct	Not expected	Suitable alkaline or clay soils do not occur on site. This species is not expected to occur on the project site.
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i> south coast saltscale	None/None G4/S2 1B.2	Coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, playas, coastal dunes. Alkali soils. 1-400 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Oct	Not expected	Suitable alkaline or clay soils do not occur on site. This species is not expected to occur on the project site.
<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i> late-flowered mariposa-lily	None/None G3/S3 1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland. Dry, open coastal woodland, chaparral; on serpentine. 270-1435 m. perennial bulbiferous herb. Blooms Jun-Aug	Not expected	Suitable serpentine soils do not occur on site. This species is not expected to occur on the project site.
<i>Chenopodium littoreum</i> coastal goosefoot	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Coastal dunes. 10-30 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Aug	Not expected	Suitable coastal dune habitat not present on site. This species is not expected to occur.
<i>Chorizanthe rectispina</i> straight-awned spineflower	None/None G2/S2 1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Often on granite in chaparral. 45-1040 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Jul	Not expected	Suitable coastal scrub habitat exists on site, but reports of this species in Santa Barbara County are reportedly the result of mis-identification (SBBG 2012). Specimens reportedly of straight-awned spineflower were later annotated to the common <i>C. uniaristata</i> by expert Dr. James Reveal. <i>C. rectispina</i> is not known to occur in Santa Barbara County. This species is not expected to occur
<i>Cicuta maculata</i> var. <i>bolanderi</i> Bolander's water-hemlock	None/None G5T4/S2 2B.1	Marshes and swamps, fresh or brackish water. 0-200 m. perennial herb. Blooms Jul-Sep	Not expected	No suitable wetland habitat present on site. This species is not expected to occur.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/S-Rank CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
<i>Cirsium rhothophilum</i> surf thistle	None/ Threatened G1/S1 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal bluff scrub. Open areas in central dune scrub; usually in coastal dunes. 3-60 m. perennial herb. Blooms Apr-Jun	Not expected	Project site outside known elevational range of this species. Species not expected to occur.
<i>Cirsium scariosum</i> var. <i>loncholepis</i> La Graciosa thistle	Endangered/ Threatened G5T1/S1 1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub, brackish marshes, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. Lake edges, riverbanks, other wetlands; often in dune areas. Mesic, sandy sites. 4-220 m. perennial herb. Blooms May-Aug	Not expected	No suitable mesic habitat present on site. This species is not expected to occur.
<i>Cladium californicum</i> California saw-grass	None/None G4/S2 2B.2	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps (alkaline or freshwater). Freshwater or alkaline moist habitats. -20-2135 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Jun-Sep	Not expected	No suitable wetland habitat present on site. This species' local distribution is extremely limited and the nearest record is from the vicinity of Los Alamos. This species is not expected to occur.
<i>Cordylanthus rigidus</i> ssp. <i>littoralis</i> seaside bird's-beak	None/ Endangered G5T2/S2 1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, coastal dunes. Sandy, often disturbed sites, usually within chaparral or coastal scrub. 30-520 m. annual herb (hemiparasitic). Blooms Apr-Oct	Low Potential	Suitable habitat exists in coastal scrub areas, and it is known from the area from Lompoc to Buellton. During floristic surveys of the entire Los Flores Ranch property, species was not detected (Rincon 2009). However, the surveys have aged, and it is possible the species has recruited to the site.
<i>Deinandra increscens</i> ssp. <i>villosa</i> Gaviota tarplant	Endangered/ Endangered G4G5T2/S2 1B.1	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub. Known from coastal terrace near Gaviota; sandy blowouts amid sandy loam soil; grassland/coast scrub ecotone. 10-430 m. annual herb. Blooms May-Oct	Not Expected	Suitable grassland and coastal scrub habitat with sandy loam soils present in BSA. All known occurrences of this species are west of the Los Flores Ranch. During floristic surveys of the entire Los Flores Ranch property, species was not detected (Rincon 2009).
<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> dune larkspur	None/None G4T2/S2 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal dunes (maritime). On rocky areas and dunes. 18-305 m. perennial herb. Blooms Apr-Jun	Not expected	No suitable rocky areas or dunes are present within the coastal scrub habitat on site.
<i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i> umbrella larkspur	None/None G3/S3 1B.3	Cismontane woodland, chaparral. Mesic sites. 215-2075 m. perennial herb. Blooms Apr-Jun	Not expected	No suitable mesic habitats occur on site and the project is outside the known elevational range of this species.
<i>Diplacus vandenbergensis</i> Vandenberg monkeyflower	Endangered/ None G1/S1 1B.1	Cismontane woodland, chaparral, coastal dunes. Sandy, often disturbed areas. 75-120 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Jun	Not expected	The project site is outside the known range of this species. No suitable habitat occurs on site. This species is not expected to occur.

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Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/S-Rank CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
<i>Dithyrea maritima</i> beach spectaclepod	None/ Threatened G1/S1 1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Sea shores, on sand dunes, and sandy places near the shore. 3-65 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Mar-May	Not expected	The project site is outside the known range of this species, which occurs along the immediate coast. No suitable habitat occurs on site. This species is not expected to occur.
<i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> <i>ssp. blochmaniae</i> Blochman's dudleya	None/None G3T2/S2 1B.1	Coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Open, rocky slopes; often in shallow clays over serpentine or in rocky areas with little soil. 5-450 m. perennial herb. Blooms Apr-Jun	Not expected	No rocky slopes or suitable soils present on site. This species is not expected to occur.
<i>Erigeron blochmaniae</i> Blochman's leafy daisy	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Sand dunes and hills. 0-185 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Jun-Aug	Not expected	No suitable habitat occurs on site for this species. Project site outside known elevational range of this species. Species not expected to occur.
<i>Eriodictyon capitatum</i> Lompoc yerba santa	Endangered/ Rare G2/S2 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral. Sandy soils on terraces. 60-505 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms May-Sep	Not expected	No suitable coniferous forest or chaparral habitat occurs on site. Species not expected to occur.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> mesa Horkelia	None/None G4T1/S1 1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy or gravelly sites. 15-1645 m. perennial herb. Blooms Feb-Jul(Sep)	Low Potential	Suitable coastal scrub habitat with sandy soils present within the project site. During floristic surveys of the entire Los Flores Ranch property, species was only detected in the northern portion of the ranch (outside the BSA) (Rincon 2009).
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>sericea</i> Kellogg's horkelia	None/None G4T1?/S1? 1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub, coastal dunes, chaparral. Old dunes, coastal sandhills; openings. Sandy or gravelly soils. 5-430 m. perennial herb. Blooms Apr-Sep	Low Potential	Suitable coastal scrub habitat with sandy soils present within the project site. During floristic surveys of the entire Los Flores Ranch property, species was not detected (Rincon 2009). However, the surveys have aged, and it is possible the species has recruited to the site.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	None/None G4T2/S2 1B.1	Coastal salt marshes, playas, vernal pools. Usually found on alkaline soils in playas, sinks, and grasslands. 1-1375 m. annual herb. Blooms Feb-Jun	Not expected	No suitable mesic or alkaline habitats occur on site. This species is not expected to occur.
<i>Layia carnosa</i> beach layia	Endangered/ Endangered G2/S2 1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. On sparsely vegetated, semi-stabilized dunes, usually behind foredunes. 0-30 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Jul	Not expected	No suitable habitat for this species occurs on site. The project site is outside the known range of this species, which occurs at the immediate coast.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/S-Rank CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
<i>Layia heterotricha</i> pale-yellow layia	None/None G2/S2 1B.1	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Alkaline or clay soils; open areas. 90-1800 m. annual herb. Blooms Mar-Jun	Not expected	No suitable alkaline or clay soils occur on site. The local distribution of this species is extremely limited.
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i> var. <i>subspicata</i> Santa Barbara honeysuckle	None/None G5T2?/S2? 1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. 5-825 m. perennial evergreen shrub. Blooms May-Aug(Dec-Feb)	Not expected	Suitable habitat is present on-site, but this long-lived perennial shrub was not previously reported from the Los Flores Ranch during previous protocol-level botanical surveys. Additionally, this perennial species would have been observed during the site survey if present.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>hypoleuca</i> white-veined monardella	None/None G4T3/S3 1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Dry slopes. 50-1280 m. perennial herb. Blooms (Apr)May-Aug(Sep-Dec)	Not expected	No suitable chaparral or cismontane woodland habitat on site. This species is not expected to occur.
<i>Monardella sinuata</i> ssp. <i>sinuata</i> southern curly-leaved monardella	None/None G3T2/S2 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub, chaparral, cismontane woodland. Sandy soils. 20-305 m. annual herb. Blooms Apr-Sep	Low potential	Suitable sandy soils occur within the coastal scrub habitat on site. However, the species was not previously documented on Los Flores Ranch during 2007-2009 surveys.
<i>Monardella undulata</i> ssp. <i>arguelloensis</i> Point Arguello monardella	None/None G3T1/S1 1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes (stabilized), coastal scrub. Sandy substrate. 50-150 m. perennial shrub. Blooms May-Sep	Not expected	The project site is outside the known range of this species. The species is not expected to occur.
<i>Monardella undulata</i> ssp. <i>crispa</i> crisp monardella	None/None G3T2/S2 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Often on the borders of open, sand areas, usually adjacent to typical backdune scrub vegetation. 5-125 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Apr-Aug(Dec)	Not expected	The project site is outside the known range of this species, which is limited to coastal dune environments and not reported from as far inland as the BSA.
<i>Monardella undulata</i> ssp. <i>undulata</i> San Luis Obispo monardella	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Stabilized sand of the immediate coast. 5-200 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms May-Sep	Not expected	The project site is outside the known elevational range of this species. Taxonomy of <i>Monardella</i> was recently revised, and some records from Santa Barbara County are now understood to be better grouped with other species.
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i> Gambel's water cress	Endangered/Threatened G1/S1 1B.1	Marshes and swamps. Freshwater and brackish marshes at the margins of lakes and along streams, in or just above the water level. 5-330 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Apr-Oct	Not expected	No suitable wetland habitat exists on site.

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Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/S-Rank CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
<i>Scrophularia atrata</i> black-flowered figwort	None/None G2?/S2? 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, riparian scrub. Sand, diatomaceous shales, and soils derived from other parent material; around swales and in sand dunes. 10-445 m. perennial herb. Blooms Mar-Jul	Low potential	Suitable sandy soils exists within the coastal scrub habitat. However, the species was not previously documented on Los Flores Ranch during 2007-2009 surveys.
<i>Senecio aphanactis</i> chaparral ragwort	None/None G3/S2 2B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Drying alkaline flats. 20-855 m. annual herb. Blooms Jan-Apr(May)	Not expected	No suitable alkaline soils or flats exist on site.
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	None/None G2/S2 1B.2	Meadows and seeps, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland. Vernal mesic grassland or near ditches, streams and springs; disturbed areas. 2-2040 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Jul-Nov	Not expected	No suitable vernal mesic grasslands or habitat adjacent to ditches, springs, or streams present.
<i>Thelypteris puberula</i> var. <i>sonorensis</i> Sonoran maiden fern	None/None G5T3/S2 2B.2	Meadows and seeps. Along streams, seepage areas. 60-930 m. perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms Jan-Sep	Not expected	No suitable mesic habitat exists on site.

Regional Vicinity refers to within a 9-quadrant search radius of site.

FE = Federally Endangered FT = Federally Threatened FC = Federal Candidate Species

SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SC = State Candidate SR = State Rare

G-Rank/S-Rank = Global Rank and State Rank as per NatureServe and CDFW's CNDDDB RareFind3.

CRPR (CNPS California Rare Plant Rank):

1A=Presumed Extinct in California

1B=Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere

2A=Plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere

2B=Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

CRPR Threat Code Extension:

.1=Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)

.2=Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)

.3=Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened)

Special Status Animal Species in the Regional Vicinity of the Project Site

Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/SRank CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
Invertebrates				
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened/None G3/S3	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	Not expected	No vernal pools in BSA.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> pop. 1 monarch - California overwintering population	None/None G4T2T3/S2S3	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	Not expected	No suitable winter roost habitat in BSA.
Fish				
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> tidewater goby	Endangered/None G3/S3 SSC	Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA.
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i> unarmored threespine stickleback	Endangered/ Endangered G5T1/S1 FP	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small Southern California streams. Cool (<24 C), clear water with abundant vegetation.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10 steelhead - southern California DPS	Endangered/None G5T1Q/S1	Federal listing refers to populations from Santa Maria River south to southern extent of range (San Mateo Creek in San Diego County). Southern steelhead likely have greater physiological tolerances to warmer water and more variable conditions.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA.
Amphibians				
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> California tiger salamander	Threatened/ Threatened G2G3/S2S3 WL	Central Valley DPS federally listed as threatened. Santa Barbara and Sonoma counties DPS federally listed as endangered. Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding.	Not expected	Suitable aquatic habitat is not present in BSA. Upland habitat is present on-site, however, extensive protocol-level surveys of entire Los Flores Ranch have been conducted (Rincon 2009, Hunt 2011), and species not detected.

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Scientific Name Common Name	Status Fed/State ESA G-Rank/SRank CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Rationale
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	Threatened/None G2G3/S2S3 SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	Not expected	Suitable permanent or semi-permanent aquatic habitat does not exist on the BSA or nearby.
<i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot	None/None G3/S3 SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	Not expected	Suitable breeding habitat is not present on the BSA or nearby.
Reptiles				
<i>Anniella pulchra</i> northern California legless lizard	None/None G3/S3 SSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	High potential	Suitable habitat exists throughout most of the site and the site is within this species' range.
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	None/None G3G4/S3 SSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	Not expected	Suitable permanent or semi-permanent aquatic habitat does not exist on the BSA; not likely to use terrestrial habitats on-site because off-site aquatic habitats are too far away.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	None/None G3G4/S3S4 SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	High potential	Suitable habitat occurs within the BSA and surrounding areas.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i> coast patch-nosed snake	None/None G5T4/S2S3 SSC	Brushy or shrubby vegetation in coastal Southern California. Require small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites.	Moderate potential	Suitable scrub habitat in BSA and small mammal burrows are present.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	None/None G4/S3S4 SSC	Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation. Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.	Not expected	BSA does not contain suitable aquatic or riparian habitat for the species.

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Birds				
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	None/Threatened G2G3/S1S2 SSC	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA due to lack of permanent or semi-permanent aquatic sites with dense emergent vegetation and/or well-established riparian habitat.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> western snowy plover	Threatened/None G3T3/S2S3 SSC	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees & shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden eagle	None/None FP	Nests in cliffs and rocky ledges, and forages in grasslands and open areas	Not expected	Suitable foraging habitat present in BSA. Nesting habitat not present. A golden eagle was observed flying over the site during biological surveys in 2008 (Rincon 2009).
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> American peregrine falcon	Delisted/Delisted G4T4/S3S4 FP	Near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water; on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds; also, human-made structures. Nest consists of a scrape or a depression or ledge in an open site.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	None/None G4/S4 SSC	Broken woodlands, savannah, pinyon-juniper, Joshua tree, and riparian woodlands, desert oases. Scrub & washes. Prefers open country for hunting, with perches for scanning, and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting.	High potential	Suitable nesting and foraging habitat are present within the BSA.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	None/None G5/S3S4 SSC	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> California least tern	Endangered/ Endangered G4T2T3Q/S2 FP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA.

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<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	Endangered/ Endangered G5T2/S2	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, Baccharis, mesquite.	Not expected	Suitable habitat is not present in BSA.
Mammals				
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	Low potential	Foraging habitat present. No roosting habitat present in BSA.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	None/None G3G4/S2 SSC	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	Low potential	Potential foraging habitat is present onsite, but roosting is unlikely; this species is present year-round in the site vicinity.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	None/None G5T4/S3S4 SSC	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer & deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	Low potential	Foraging habitat present. No roosting habitat present in BSA.
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i> western red bat	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Roosts primarily in trees, 2-40 ft above ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging.	Low potential	Foraging habitat present. No roosting habitat present in BSA.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	None/None G5T3T4/S3S4 SSC	Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	Not expected	No woodrat middens were observed in BSA. Project site is outside the range for species, and the woodrat species expected to occur in the project area is big eared woodrat (<i>Neotoma macrotis macrotis</i>).

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<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	Moderate potential	Suitable foraging and denning habitat is present in the BSA. Several ground squirrel burrows observed in BSA indicating a suitable prey base is available for the species.
Regional Vicinity refers to within a 9-quad search radius of site.				
FE = Federally Endangered FT = Federally Threatened FC = Federal Candidate Species FS=Federally Sensitive				
SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SC = State Candidate SS=State Sensitive				
SSC = CDFW Species of Special Concern SFP = State Fully Protected				
G-Rank/S-Rank = Global Rank and State Rank as per NatureServe and CDFW's CNDDDB RareFind3.				

Sensitive Natural Communities in the Regional Vicinity of the BSA

Name	Status G-Rank/SRank	Habitat Suitability/Observations
Central Coast Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest	G3/S3.2	Absent
Central Dune Scrub	G2/S2.2	Absent
Central Foredunes	G1/S1.2	Absent
Central Maritime Chaparral	G2/S2.2	Absent
Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	G3/S2.1	Absent
Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	G3/S3.2	Absent
Southern California Coastal Lagoon	GNR/SNR	Absent
Southern California Steelhead Stream	GNR/SNR	Absent
Southern California Threespine Stickleback Stream	GNR/SNR	Absent
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest	G3/S3.2	Absent
Southern Vernal Pool	GNR/SNR	Absent
Southern Willow Scrub	G3/S2.1	Absent