

January 28, 2016  
Project Number: 2064902015

**Attention: Douglas Dougherty**  
Director  
Luis Oasis Senior Center  
420 Soares Ave., Old Orcutt  
Orcutt, CA 93457

c/o Vivek Harris (Architect)  
Vivek Harris, Inc.  
195 South Broadway, Suite 207  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

**Reference: Biological Constraints Analysis, Oasis Community Center Public Improvement Plan,  
Santa Barbara County, California**

Dear Mr. Dougherty:

We were retained by the Luis Oasis Senior Center to provide a Biological Constraints Analysis for the Oasis Community Center Public Improvement Plan, located in Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California. The purpose of this report is to identify potential "fatal flaws" or items associated with biological resources that may cause an exceptional cost or significant project delay, establish baseline conditions for purposes of CEQA and project permitting, and recommend further studies or mitigation measures, if any, that will be appropriate for the project.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The project site is generally located within the Town of Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California. The Town is approximately eight miles south of Santa Maria, California. The site is depicted in Township 9 North, Range 34 West of the U.S. Geographical Survey (USGS) Orcutt 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. The project site is specifically located northwest of the corner of Foxenwood Lane and Clark Avenue. Orcutt Creek extends across the property flowing east to west. The project site currently consists of vacant, open space. Land uses surrounding the project site consist of Foxenwood lane to the east, Clark Avenue and residential and commercial buildings to the south, vacant, open space followed by California Boulevard to the west, vacant, open space and Hartnell Road and residential development to the north (Attachment A).

The project proposes to relocate the existing Oasis Center located at 420 Soares Avenue in downtown Orcutt to the open space northwest of the Clark Avenue and Foxenwood Lane intersection just west of State Route 135. The new Oasis Center is a senior based community center of approximately 15,000 square feet. Access is proposed via a driveway on Foxenwood Lane.

Frontage improvements will include a northbound left-turn lane on Foxenwood Lane at the project driveway. The proposed project impact area is approximately 8.4 acres.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Biological Constraints Analysis for the proposed project consisted of a review of relevant literature followed by a field reconnaissance survey. The literature review included information on sensitive resource occurrences within a five mile buffer (Attachment B and C) around the project site from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) Biogeographic Information and Observation System<sup>1</sup> and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Portal<sup>2</sup>. Site plans provided by the client, aerial photographs, and topographic maps were also examined.

Stantec biologists conducted a field reconnaissance survey to document existing site conditions and the potential presence of sensitive biological resources, including sensitive plant and wildlife species, sensitive plant communities, waters and wetlands, and habitat for nesting birds. The survey area included the proposed project impact area plus a 100-foot buffer, totaling approximately 15.7 acres. Existing biological conditions (e.g. vegetative communities, potential presence of habitats for special status species, and presence of potentially jurisdictional waters) within the project site were documented and photographed (Attachment D).

The potential presence of sensitive species is based on a literature review and field surveys designed to assess habitat suitability only. Any incidental observations of special status species observed during the field reconnaissance survey were documented. Definitive surveys to confirm the presence or absence of special-status species were not performed. Definitive surveys for sensitive plant and wildlife species generally require specific survey protocols requiring extensive field survey time to be conducted only at certain times of the year.

## **EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS**

The field reconnaissance survey was conducted on September 25, 2015, between the hours of 0730 and 1130. Weather conditions during the survey included an average temperature of 75 degrees Fahrenheit, with winds between 1 and 3 miles per hour and no cloud cover. An additional oak tree inventory was conducted on November 11, 2015. All trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) six inches or greater (the minimum DBH required to be protected) within the Oasis Center impact and buffer areas were documented and plotted on a project impact area map (Attachment E). Oaks with a DBH less than six inches were not plotted.

Orcutt Creek flows across the entire site from east to west, and was observed to have light water flow with a bed composed of sandy-loam soils at the time of the survey. The creek banks were

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<sup>1</sup> California Natural Diversity Database. 2015. Biogeographic Data Branch. Department of Fish and Wildlife. October 2015. Commercial version. [www.Bio.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.Bio.dfg.ca.gov)

<sup>2</sup> US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2015. Critical Habitat Portal. Accessed October 2015. <http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov>

approximately 10 to 15 feet apart. The MV-II classification system<sup>3</sup> was used in determining vegetation communities present on site. Four communities observed within the project impact and buffer areas are described in detail below, and are depicted in Attachment E.

Arroyo willow-Narrowleaf willow-Fremont cottonwood thickets (*Salix lasiolepis*-*Salix exigua*-*Populus fremontii* Shrubland Alliance) were observed within Orcutt Creek. While this community is not described within *A Manual of California Vegetation*<sup>3</sup>, this community was noted to be dominated by arroyo willow, narrowleaf willow, and Fremont cottonwood at the time of the survey. Other species present within this alliance included native riparian species such as black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). Scattered coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) were observed bordering the willows in the northwest portion of the impact area.

Wild oats grassland (*Avena barbata*, *A. fatua* Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands), as described within *A Manual of California Vegetation*<sup>3</sup>, was noted to be dominated by wild oats at the time of the survey, and comprised the central and southeast portions of the impact area. Other species present included black mustard\* (*Brassica nigra*), red stemmed filaree\* (*Erodium cicutarium*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), cheeseweed mallow\* (*Malva parviflora*), and sweet fennel\* (*Foeniculum vulgare*). Coast live oaks with a DBH greater than six inches were also observed in the eastern portion of this community.

Coast Live Oak and Ornamental Tree Woodland were observed along the southern portion of the impact area. While this community is not described within *A Manual of California Vegetation*<sup>3</sup>, it was noted to be dominated by coast live oak and ornamental trees. Other species observed included South African iceplant\* (*Carpobrotus edulis*), coyote brush, and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*).

Developed land was observed along the southern and eastern portions of the impact area buffer, and was noted to be comprised of roadways, parking lots, and commercial and residential structures.

Approximately 30% of the site was covered by native vegetation and 70% of the site was covered by non-native vegetation, at the time of the survey. Within the arroyo willow-narrowleaf willow-Fremont cottonwood thickets, approximately 90% of vegetative cover was observed to be native, and 10% cover observed to be non-native. Within the wild oats grassland, approximately 70% of vegetative cover was observed to be non-native, and 30% cover observed to be native. Within the coast live oak and ornamental tree woodland, approximately 30% of vegetative cover was observed to be native, and 70% cover observed to be non-native.

Wildlife activity during the site visit was moderate. California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) burrows were observed throughout the survey area, particularly within the grassland

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<sup>3</sup> Sawyer, J.O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J. Evens. 2009. *A manual of California vegetation*. 2nd Ed. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, California.

\*Non-native species

areas to the north and south of Orcutt Creek. Bird species observed included red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Townsend's warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*), house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).

## **SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DISCUSSION AND IMPACT ANALYSIS**

Based upon the review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) database for special-status plant species within a five mile radius of the site, nine sensitive plant species, one sensitive plant community, and 13 sensitive wildlife species have been reported (Attachments B and C).

The evaluation of potential for special-status species to occur on the project site is based on the proximity of the project site to previously recorded occurrences in the CNDDDB database, evaluation of on-site vegetation and habitat quality, topography, elevation, soils, surrounding land uses, habitat requirements, and geographic ranges of special-status plant and wildlife species known to occur in the region. The potential for occurrence described in Table 1. are classified according to the following:

Not Expected: There is no suitable habitat present on the property (i.e., habitats on the property are clearly unsuitable for the species requirements [e.g., foraging, breeding, cover, substrate, elevation hydrology, plant community, disturbance regime, etc.]). The species has an extremely low probability of being found on the property.

Low Potential: Either significantly limited quantity and/or quality of suitable habitat is present on the property (i.e., not enough area of the habitat is present to support the species, few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or the majority of habitat on the property is unsuitable or of very low quality). And, there are no or few recent known records of occurrence in the near vicinity of the property. The species has a low probability of being found on the property.

Moderate Potential: Some suitable habitat is present on the property (i.e., some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or the quantity of the habitat on the property is marginal). Additionally, there are known records of occurrences in the region of the property, but not necessarily in the immediate vicinity. The species has a moderate probability of being found on the property.

High Potential: Suitable quantity and quality of habitat is present on the property (i.e., all habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or habitat(s) on the property is highly suitable or of high quality). Additionally, there are recent known records of occurrences in the vicinity of the property. This species has a high probability of being found on the property.

Present: Species was observed on the property during surveys associated with this report or by other persons.

Sensitive plant and wildlife species typically have specific habitat requirements and a majority of these species are not expected to occur at the project site. A discussion for species that have the potential to be present at the project site is provided below.

| Table 1: Special Status Species and their Potential for Occurrence Onsite |                   |                         |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Common Name/<br>Scientific Name                                           | Listing<br>Status | Habitat<br>Requirements | Potential for Occurrence in<br>the BSA |

| Amphibians                                                        |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| California red-legged frog/<br><i>Rana draytonii</i>              | FT<br>SSC       | Found in lowlands & 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.                 | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable, dense riparian habitat present adjacent to creek. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.                                                                                           |
| Western spadefoot/<br><i>Spea hammondi</i>                        | SSC             | Occurs primarily in grasslands, alluvial floodplain and alkali flats, habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands.                                                                                                               | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable, grassland habitats and alluvial floodplain within Orcutt creek is present onsite, with sandy soils for burrowing. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.                           |
| Reptiles                                                          |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| California tiger salamander/<br><i>Ambystoma californiense</i>    | FT<br>ST<br>SSC | Found in cismontane woodland, meadows & seeps, riparian woodland, valley & foothill grassland, vernal pools and wetlands. Needs underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, & vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding. | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Vernal pools not observed on site during the survey. Ground squirrel burrows present within grassland, but standing water source was not observed on-site. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site. |
| Coast (San Diego) horned lizard/<br><i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> | SSC             | Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Needs open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, & abundant supply of ants & other insects.              | <b>High Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable habitat (sandy soils, scattered shrubs and open grassland areas) is present on site. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.                                                             |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Silvery legless lizard/<br><i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>                                 | SSC | Found in chaparral, riparian woodlands, beaches and washes. Prefers sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential.                                                                                                                        | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Riparian habitat and sandy, moist soil present onsite. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.                                   |
| Western pond turtle/<br><i>Emys marmorata</i>                                              | SSC | A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams & irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft. elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying. | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable habitat and basking areas present on-site at the time of the survey. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.            |
| <b>Invertebrates</b>                                                                       |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Monarch butterfly/<br><i>Danaus plexippus</i><br><br>[California overwintering population] | S   | 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.                                                     | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> No documented roost sites located within 5 miles of site.                                                                                         |
| Vernal pool fairy shrimp/<br><i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>                                    | FT  | 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.                  | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable habitat (astatic rain-filled pools, sandstone, grassed swales) not observed on site. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site. |
| <b>Birds</b>                                                                               |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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| American peregrine falcon/<br><i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> | FD<br>SD<br>FP<br>BCC<br>MBTA | Found 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.                                                 | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable foraging and nesting habitat (sufficient water body, cliffs, and banks) not present on site. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.   |
| Burrowing owl/<br><i>Athene cunicularia</i>                  | SSC,<br>BLM:S<br>BCC<br>MBTA  | Prefers open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts & scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.                  | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable habitat (grassland and ground squirrel burrows) present. No owls observed during surveys. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site. |
| Least Bell's Vireo                                           | FE<br>SE                      | 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, mulefat, and mesquite. | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable riparian habitat present for nesting and foraging within the Orcutt Creek corridor.                                                           |
| <b>Mammals</b>                                               |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| American badger/<br><i>Taxidea taxus</i>                     | SSC                           | Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.                    | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b> Suitable habitat not present on site. Ground is disturbed, friable soils not present. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.                   |



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| Townsend's big-eared bat/<br><i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>              | SC<br>BLM:S<br>SSC  | Found throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls & ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance. | <b>No Potential to Occur:</b><br>Roosting wall and ceiling sites not present on site. Species has been documented within 5 miles of site.                             |
| <b>Plants</b>                                                            |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Dune larkspur/<br><i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i>       | 1B.2                | Found in chaparral, coastal dunes (maritime). On rocky areas and dunes. 0-200 m.                                                                                                                             | <b>No Potential to Occur:</b><br>Suitable vegetation (maritime chaparral, coastal dunes) not present on site.                                                         |
| Gaviota tarplant/<br><i>Deinandra increscens</i> ssp. <i>villosa</i>     | FE<br>SE<br>1B.1    | Prefers coastal scrub, and coastal bluff scrub. Known from coastal terrace near Gaviota; sandy blowouts amid sandy loam soil; grassland/coast scrub ecotone. 20-430 m.                                       | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b><br>Suitable coastal scrub vegetation not present on site.                                                                              |
| Hoover's bent grass/<br><i>Agrostis hooveri</i>                          | 1B.2<br>BLM: S<br>S | Prefers chaparral, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Sandy sites. 60-610 m.                                                                             | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> Grassland and sandy soils present on site. Species not observed during surveys.                                                   |
| La Graciosa thistle/<br><i>Cirsium scariosum</i> var. <i>loncholepis</i> | FE<br>ST<br>1B.1    | Found in 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.       | <b>High Potential to Occur:</b><br>Suitable habitat present on site. Species has been documented within southern border of site. Species not observed during surveys. |

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| Lompoc yerba santa/<br><i>Eriodictyon capitatum</i>            | FE<br>ST<br>1B.2 | Found in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral. Prefers sandy soils on terraces. 40-900 m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b><br>Sandy soils present, terraces lacking. Suitable forest and chaparral vegetation not present on site.                                                                                        |
| Marsh Sandwort/<br><i>Arenaria paludicola</i>                  | FE<br>SE<br>1B.1 | Found in bogs, fens, and freshwater marshes on saturated, acidic bog soils, mostly sandy with a high organic content. Prefers unshaded settings with dense undergrowth. 3-170 m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> This species is known from Orcutt Creek. Moderately suitable habitat present within Orcutt creek though unshaded areas are generally lacking within the riparian habitat onsite.          |
| Mesa horkelia/<br><i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> | 1B.1             | Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Prefers sandy or gravelly sites. 70-810 m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b><br>Sandy soil present, but suitable chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub vegetation not present on site.                                                                           |
| <i>Nasturtium gambelii</i> /<br>Gambel's water cress           | FE<br>ST<br>1B.1 | Found in marshes and other perennially mesic areas (i.e., streams, creeks) from Arroyo Grande in central California to the Santa Ana River in southern California. Associated with emergent vegetation ( <i>Scirpus</i> spp. (bulrush), <i>Sparganium</i> spp. (bur-reed), <i>Berula erecta</i> (cutleaf water-parsnip), <i>Ribes divaricatum</i> var. <i>pubiflorum</i> (straggly gooseberry, straggly bush), <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i> (poison oak), <i>Salix</i> spp. (willow)). 5-330 m. | <b>Moderate Potential to Occur:</b> This species is known from Orcutt Creek. Moderately suitable habitat present within Orcutt creek though emergent vegetation is generally lacking within the riparian area present onsite. |

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| Sand mesa manzanita/<br><i>Arctostaphylos rudis</i>                                       | 1B.2<br>BLM:S | Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and on sandy soils in Lompoc/Nipomo area. 25-325 m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b><br>Sandy soil present, but suitable chaparral and coastal scrub vegetation not present on site. |
| Southern curly-leaved monardella/<br><i>Monardella sinuata</i> ssp. <i>sinuata</i>        | 1B.2          | Found in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, chaparral, cismontane woodlands. Prefers sandy soils. 0-300 m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Low Potential to Occur:</b><br>Suitable coastal dunes, chaparral and scrub habitats not present on site.                    |
| Listing Status                                                                            |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |
| FE = Federally listed Endangered                                                          |               | SR = State Rare Species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                |
| FT = Federally listed Threatened                                                          |               | SP = State Protected Species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                |
| FC = Federal Candidate                                                                    |               | ST = State Listed Threatened                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                |
| FD = Federally de-listed                                                                  |               | SE = State listed Endangered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                |
| FP = CDFW Fully Protected                                                                 |               | SCE=State Candidate Endangered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                |
| S=U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species (USFS)                                            |               | SCT =State Candidate Threatened                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |
| WL= USFWS Watch list                                                                      |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |
| BCC = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern                         |               | SA = State Special Animal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                |
| MBTA = Migratory Bird Treaty Act                                                          |               | SSC = CDFW California Species of Special Concern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| BLM: S= Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species                                       |               | SD=State de-listed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                |
| California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) System (Formerly CNPS Lists)                         |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |
| CRPR 1A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere   |               | CRPR Threat Ranks<br>0.1- Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)<br><br>0.2- Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)<br><br>0.5- Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known) |                                                                                                                                |
| CRPR 1B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere              |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |
| CRPR 2A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But More Common Elsewhere             |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |
| CRPR 2B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| CRPR 3=Plants About Which We Need More Information- A Review List |  |
| CRPR 4 = Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List            |  |

### **Sensitive Plant Species**

No sensitive plant species were observed onsite. La Graciosa thistle (*Cirsium scariosum* var. *loncholepis*) has a high potential to occur, and has been documented adjacent to and along the southern border of the site but was not observed at the time of survey. Hoover's bent grass (*Agrostis hooveri*) has a moderate potential to occur since grassland and sandy soils providing suitable habitat are present on site. Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) and Gambel's water cress (*Nasturtium gambelii*) have a moderate potential to occur and have been previously documented outside of the site within Orcutt Creek. Seasonally timed surveys to confirm the presence or absence of rare plant species were not performed and should be conducted to confirm absence.

### **Sensitive Plant Communities**

One sensitive plant community, Arroyo Willow-Narrowleaf Willow-Fremont Cottonwood thickets, was observed onsite. An additional sensitive community, Southern Vernal Pool, has been previously documented within 5 miles of the project site. Vernal pools are shallow depressions in the soil that are temporarily filled with water from winter rains and subsequently dry up during the spring and early summer. These pools are underlain by an impervious layer that slows or prevents water drainage. No vernal pools were observed onsite at the time of the survey. However, the presence/absence of a vernal pool can only be confirmed by conducting a survey after a rain event.

### **Sensitive Wildlife Species**

No sensitive wildlife species were observed onsite during the field reconnaissance survey. The CNDDDB database has several occurrence records of sensitive wildlife species within five miles of the project site. Discussed below are species that have a moderate or high potential to occur onsite. A high potential for occurrence exists for coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) due to the presence of sandy soils, scattered shrubs and open grassland area. Moderate suitable habitat exists for western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), and silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) within the Orcutt Creek area. Moderate potential exists for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) due to the presence of grassland habitat and ground squirrel burrows. Least Bells' vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) has been previously documented along portions of Orcutt Creek away from the project

impact area. Suitable riparian willow scrub vegetation is present within the site to support the species. Additionally, the grasslands present onsite provide ideal hunting opportunities for many species of raptors, including the sensitive golden eagle, loggerhead shrike, and white tailed kite. Orcutt Creek corridor provides both important habitat itself and linkages both upstream and downstream to relatively undisturbed areas for wildlife movement and the dispersal of plants.

Construction activities within the project area should avoid any impacts to riparian areas.

### **Nesting Birds**

The California Fish and Game Code (CFGF) Section 3503 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protect native birds and their nests. No nests or breeding/nesting behavior such as courtship displays, copulation, vegetation or food carries, presence of fledglings, or territorial displays (e.g. singing or aggression) was observed during the survey. However, the survey was conducted outside of the general nesting bird season (February 1 to September 1). No evidence of raptor nesting was observed during the site visits; however, one red-tailed hawk was observed perched on top of a eucalyptus and foraging over open grassland present on site. Suitable nesting habitat is present within and directly adjacent to the project site. Therefore, the project has the potential to affect nesting birds if construction occurs during the nesting season.

### **Jurisdictional Drainages and Wetlands**

Orcutt Creek is subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). No development is currently permitted within fifty feet of the banks of Orcutt Creek without appropriate permits.

### **Protected Trees**

The Santa Barbara County Conservation Element Oak Tree Protection Supplement<sup>4</sup> states that projects requiring a development permit within the county shall protect coast live oaks, to the extent feasible, with a DBH of six inches or greater. Santa Barbara County Land Use and Development Code<sup>5</sup> prescribe avoiding impacts to all oak trees unless compelling reasons justify the removal of such trees. Coast live oak, a protected species, was found on the project site. Project activities are proposed in areas where oak trees with a DBH of six inches or greater occur onsite. Final design plans could require the encroachment of or removal of trees. Should the project impact protected trees, an oak tree report documenting removal of the trees and consultation with the County of Santa Barbara may be needed.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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<sup>4</sup> County of Santa Barbara. 2003. Santa Barbara County Conservation Element Oak Tree Protection Supplement.

<sup>5</sup> County of Santa Barbara. 2010. Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, Section 14-38, Appendix A: Grading Ordinance Guidelines for Native Oak Tree Removal.

**Sensitive Species.** The project site contains potentially suitable habitat for sensitive species within the proposed project impact area. The list below describes the recommended sensitive species surveys that should be conducted prior to initiation of construction:

- *Seasonally timed rare plant surveys.* Seasonally timed rare plant surveys to detect the presence of La Graciosa thistle corresponding with its bloom period (May through August), Hoover's bent grass (April through July), marsh sandwort (May through August), and Gambel's water cress (April through October) should be conducted. Surveys for these species can be performed concurrently due to overlapping bloom periods. If rare plants are observed, an avoidance buffer shall be determined by a qualified botanist. Salvage of rare plants after consultation with appropriate agencies may be necessary if construction is unavoidable within the area where rare plant species are present.
- *Protocol-level aquatic species surveys for California red-legged frog.* Protocol-level surveys should be performed according to specific protocol survey timing requirements. A survey should be conducted after a rain event to confirm the presence or absence of vernal pools.
- *Additional focused aquatic surveys.* Additional aquatic surveys for western spadefoot, western pond turtle and silvery legless lizard can be performed in concurrence with protocol-level surveys.
- *Least Bell's vireo surveys.* Least Bell's vireo surveys should be conducted in accordance with CDFW guidelines, which typically include eight surveys ten days apart between April 10 and July 31.
- *Pre-construction and focused terrestrial surveys.* A pre-construction survey of the project site and buffer should be conducted, 1 to 2 weeks prior to construction and can be performed in concurrence with focused surveys for coast horned lizard and burrowing owl.

If sensitive species are observed, an avoidance buffer should be determined by the monitoring biologist based upon the species present and the activity being conducted. Based on the results of focused surveys, consultation with regulatory agencies may be required and a biological monitor may need to be present during construction activities.

**Nesting Birds.** The project site contains habitat suitable for nesting birds. If project activities will occur during the avian nesting season (February 1 to September 1), a survey of the project site and surrounding area for active nests should be conducted by a qualified biologist 1 to 2 weeks prior to construction. If active nest(s) are located, an appropriate buffer should be established surrounding the nest(s) and flagged for avoidance. The avoidance buffer should be determined by the monitoring biologist based upon the species nesting and the activity being conducted. Alternatively, construction within the buffer may be conducted at the discretion of a qualified biological monitor if nesting birds are present. The biologist should monitor the active nest(s) during initial disturbance activities and/or development activities to determine if the recommended avoidance buffers are adequate and that the nests are not being stressed or jeopardized.

**Jurisdictional Drainages and Wetlands.** No development is currently permitted within fifty feet of the banks of Orcutt Creek. If final design plans are modified to include construction or disturbance

within Orcutt Creek, a Section 404 permit of the Clean Water Act will be required from the ACOE. A water quality certification will be required from the RWQCB. Additionally, a Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required from the CDFW. Compliance with the requirements of the appropriate ACOE, CDFW, and RWQCB permits and implementation of any mitigation therein, will reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

**Vegetation Communities.** Native vegetation removal should be minimized to the extent feasible. If native plant removal cannot be avoided, species should be replaced at a mitigation ratio of 1:1. Replacement plantings may occur on a different portion of the project site or a designated offsite location.

**Protected Trees.** Where feasible, development plans should be modified to incorporate existing trees within proposed construction activities. Encroachment, cutting, pruning, physical removal or relocation of native oak trees or death of a tree through damaging, poisoning or other direct or indirect action shall constitute an impact and require mitigation. The precedence in Santa Barbara has typically been a 10:1 replacement ratio for oaks. The area protected from grading, paving and other disturbances shall be at least six feet outside of the dripline of trees. Should the project impact protected trees, an oak tree permit may be needed pursuant to the provisions of Article 35.2 of the County Zoning Ordinance. Oak trees removed should be replaced in a manner consistent with County standards.

Regards,

**STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES**



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Attachment:

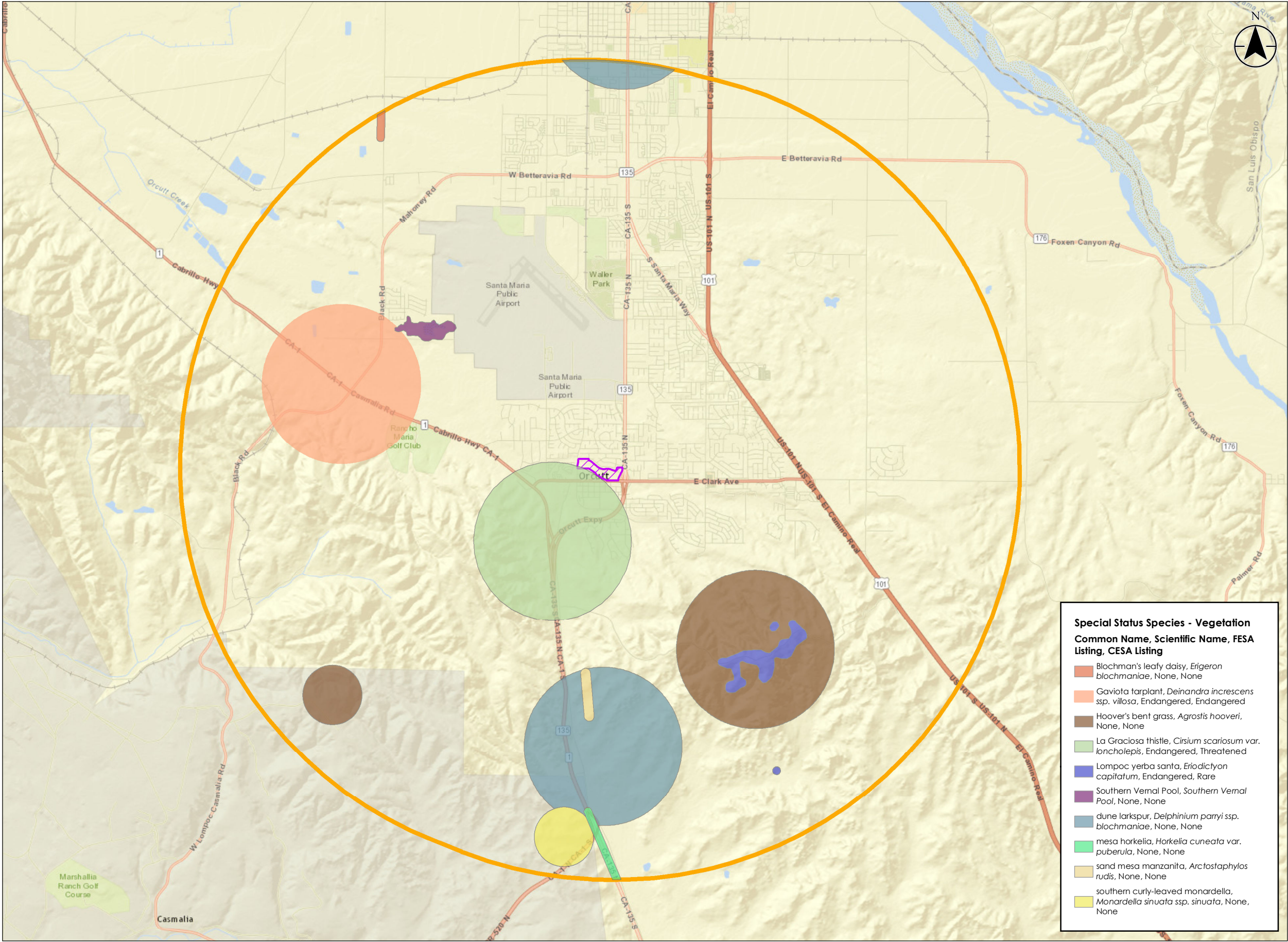
- Attachment A Project Vicinity Map
- Attachment B Special Status Plant Species Map
- Attachment C Special Status Wildlife Species Map
- Attachment D Photo Log
- Attachment E Project Impact Area Map







V:\2037\business\_development\proposals\2064902015\Proposals\100.259 Vivak Harris Oasis Center\gis\mxd\Attachment\_B\_CUDD8\_Plants\_11x17L.mxd    Revised: 2015-09-29 By: jtrick



| Special Status Species - Vegetation                      |                                                                                                |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Common Name, Scientific Name, FESA Listing, CESA Listing |                                                                                                |  |
|                                                          | Blochman's leafy daisy, <i>Erigeron blochmaniae</i> , None, None                               |  |
|                                                          | Gaviota tarplant, <i>Deinandra increscens</i> ssp. <i>villosa</i> , Endangered, Endangered     |  |
|                                                          | Hoover's bent grass, <i>Agrostis hooveri</i> , None, None                                      |  |
|                                                          | La Graciosa thistle, <i>Cirsium scariosum</i> var. <i>loncholepis</i> , Endangered, Threatened |  |
|                                                          | Lompoc yerba santa, <i>Eriodictyon capitatum</i> , Endangered, Rare                            |  |
|                                                          | Southern Vernal Pool, Southern Vernal Pool, None, None                                         |  |
|                                                          | dune larkspur, <i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> , None, None                   |  |
|                                                          | mesa horkelia, <i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> , None, None                       |  |
|                                                          | sand mesa manzanita, <i>Arctostaphylos rudis</i> , None, None                                  |  |
|                                                          | southern curly-leaved monardella, <i>Monardella sinuata</i> ssp. <i>sinuata</i> , None, None   |  |

Legend

Project Boundary

Project Boundary - 5-mile buffer

0 4,000 8,000 Feet

1 in = 8,000 feet (At original document size of 11x17)

**Notes**

1. Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

2. Basemap: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Project Location: Orcutt, CA

Project No.: 2064902015

Prepared by JT on 9/29/2015

Tech. Review by JA on 9/29/2015

Client/Project:

Luis Oasis Senior Center

Biological Constraints Analysis

Oasis Community Center Public Improvement Plan

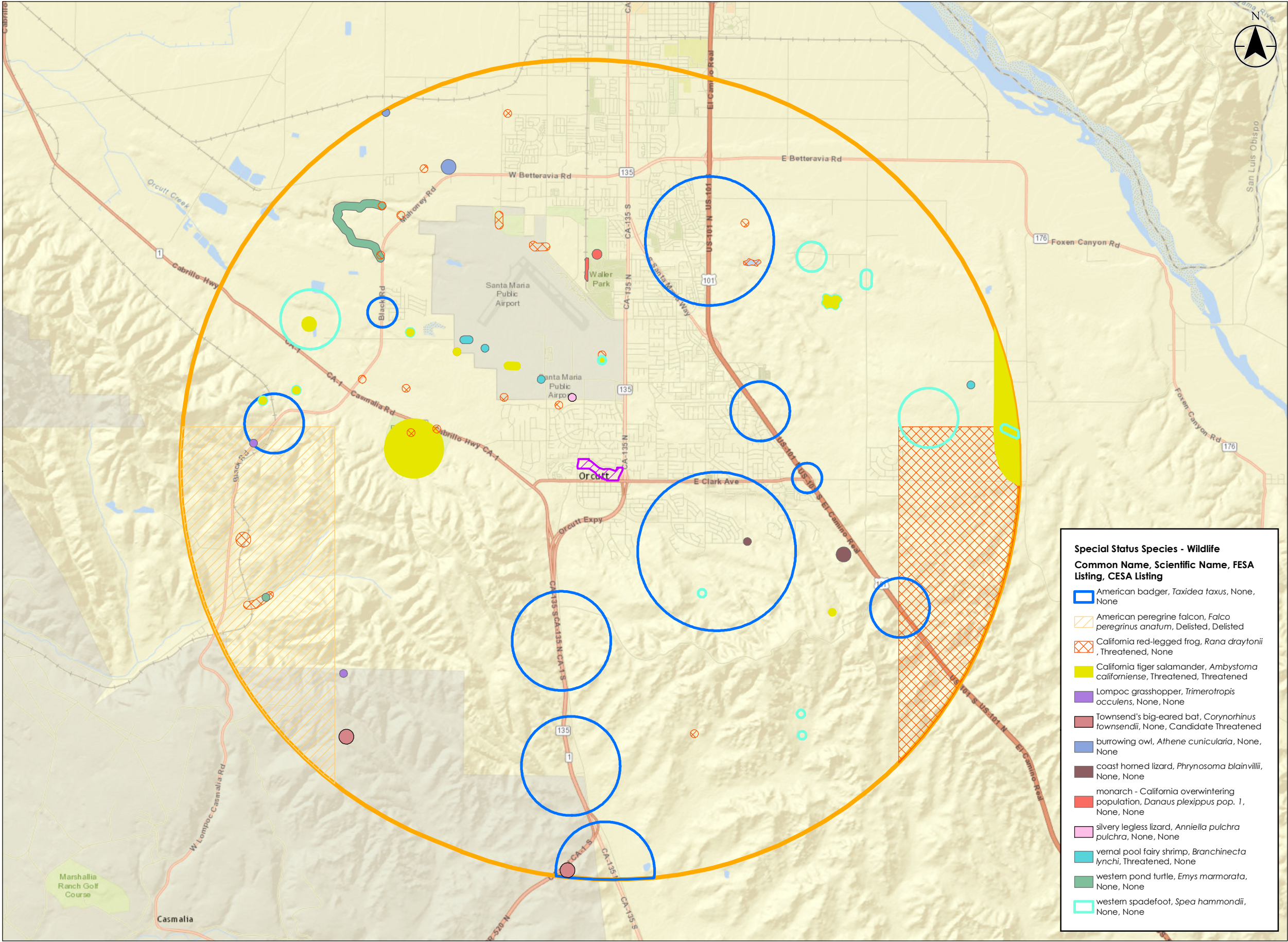
Figure Number/Title:

**Attachment B**

**Special Status Species - Vegetation within 5-miles of Project Boundary**



V:\2037\business\_development\proposals\2064902015\Proposals\100\_259\_Vivak Harris Oasis Center\gis\mxd\Attachment\_C\_Wildlife\_11x17L.mxd Revised: 2015-09-29 By: jbrook



Legend

- Project Boundary
- Project Boundary - 5-mile buffer

0 4,000 8,000 Feet  
1 in = 8,000 feet (At original document size of 11x17)

**Notes**  
1. Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere  
2. Basemap: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location: Orcutt, CA  
Project No.: 2064902015  
Prepared by JT on 9/29/2015  
Tech. Review by JA on 9/29/2015

Client/Project:  
Luis Oasis Senior Center  
Biological Constraints Analysis  
Oasis Community Center Public Improvement Plan

Figure Number/Title:

**Attachment C**  
**Special Status Species - Wildlife**  
**within 5-miles of Project Boundary**



**STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.**  
**Photographic Record**

**Client:** Luis Oasis Senior Center

**Job Number:** 2064118600

**Site Name:** Oasis Community Center  
Public Improvement Plan, Santa Barbara  
County, California

**Photographer:** J. Alvarado

**PHOTO No. 1, September 25, 2015**



Photograph showing native coast live oaks within the proposed project area.  
Photograph taken looking southwest.

**PHOTO No. 2, September 25, 2015**



Photograph showing Orcutt Creek channel. Photograph taken looking east.



**STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.**  
**Photographic Record**

**Client:** Luis Oasis Senior Center

**Job Number:** 2064118600

**Site Name:** Oasis Community Center  
Public Improvement Plan, Santa Barbara  
County, California

**Photographer:** J. Alvarado

**PHOTO No. 3, September 25, 2015**



Photograph showing grassland and willow riparian habitats. Photograph taken looking northwest.

**PHOTO No. 4, September 25, 2015**



Photograph showing coast live oaks and ornamental trees along southern border of proposed project impact area. Photograph taken looking south.



**STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.**  
**Photographic Record**

**Client:** Luis Oasis Senior Center

**Job Number:** 2064118600

**Site Name:** Oasis Community Center  
Public Improvement Plan, Santa Barbara  
County, California

**Photographer:** J. Alvarado

**PHOTO No. 5, September 25, 2015**



Photograph showing proposed project impact area. Photograph taken looking west.

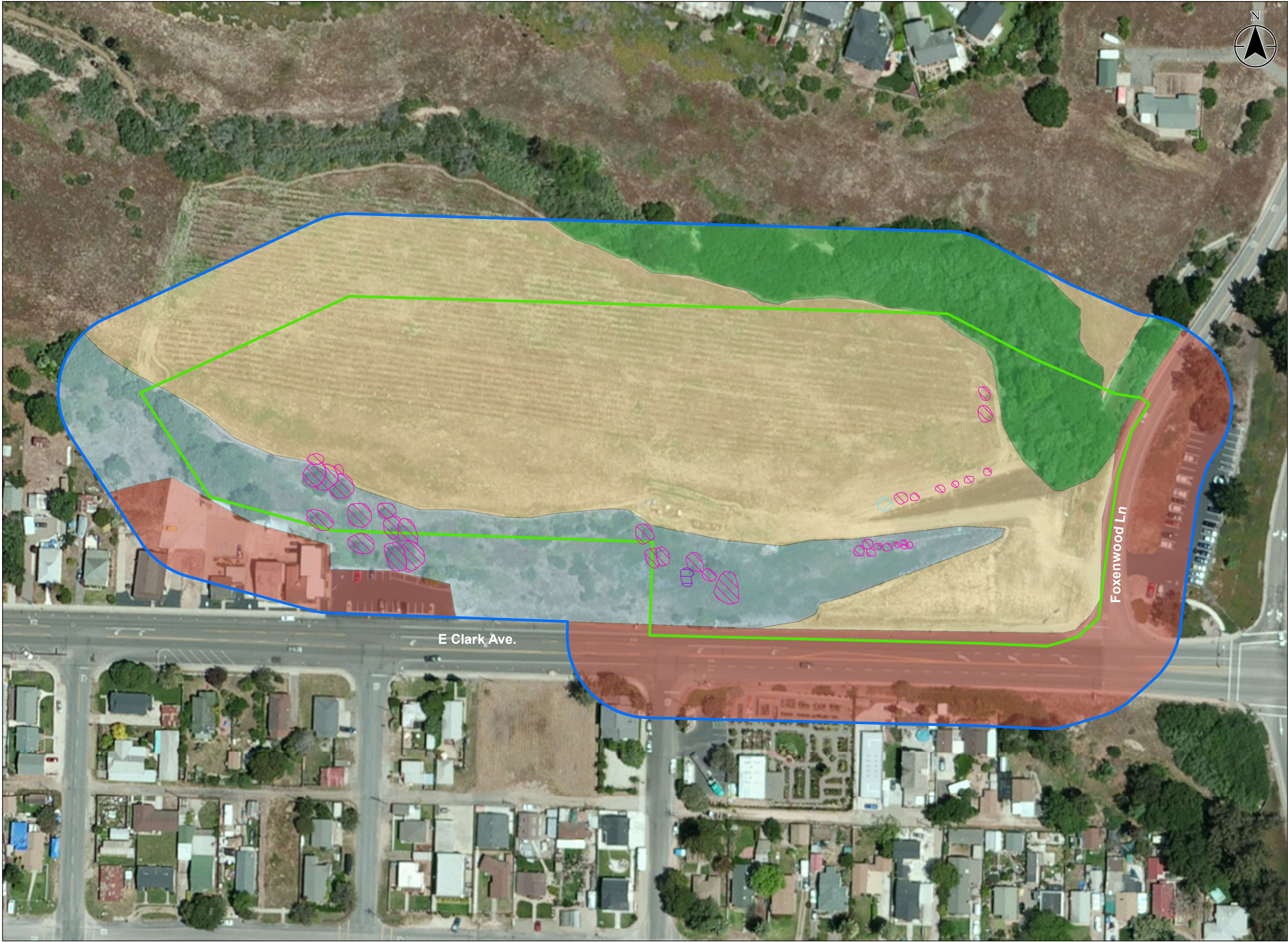
**PHOTO No. 6, September 25, 2015**



Photograph showing coast live oaks in eastern portion of proposed project impact area. Photograph taken looking west.



V:\2037\business\_development\proposals\2064902015\Proposals\100.259 Vivak Harris Oasis Center\gis\mxd\Attachment\_E\_Impact\_Area\_11x17L.mxd      Revised: 2016-01-19 By: jtrook



Legend

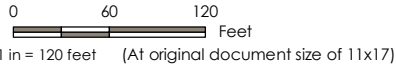
- Impact Area
- Impact Area - 100ft Buffer

Tree Type

- Coast Live Oak
- Toyon
- Western Sycamore

Vegetation Communities

- Arroyo Willow-Narrowleaf Willow-Fremont Cottonwood Thickets
- Coast Live Oak and Ornamental Tree Woodland
- Developed Land
- Wild oats grassland



Notes  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet  
2. Basemap: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location:      Project No.: 2064902015  
Orcutt, CA      Prepared by JT on 1/19/2016  
Tech. Review by JA on 1/19/2016

Client/Project:  
Luis Oasis Senior Center  
Biological Constraints Analysis  
Oasis Community Center Public Improvement Plan

Figure Number/Title:

**Attachment E**  
**Project Impact Area Map**