

Appendix B Biological Technical Report and MSHCP Consistency Analysis

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**Biological Technical Report and
MSHCP Consistency Analysis
for the
Corona City Park Revitalization Project**

Riverside County, California

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 117-310-001 and 117-301-010

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNPSEI	California Native Plant Society's Electronic Inventory
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
ECORP	ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ESA	Endangered Species Act
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IA	Implementing Agreement
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCV	Manual of California Vegetation
mph	miles per hour
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NEPSSA	Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Project	Corona City Park Revitalization Project
RCA	Regional Conservation Authority
SAA	Streambed Alteration Agreement
SSC	California Species of Special Concern
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

1.0 INTRODUCTION

ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) conducted a biological reconnaissance survey at an approximately 21-acre property for the Proposed Corona City Park Revitalization Project (Project) in the City of Corona, Riverside County, California. ECORP conducted the survey to identify any potential biological resources that could be affected by the Proposed Project, pursuant to the terms of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and in accordance with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The MSHCP provides information on plant and wildlife species of concern to the County of Riverside and outlines goals for their conservation. Information on the MSHCP can be found at www.rctlma.org (Riverside County Land Management Agency 2024). The Project will be subject to county, state, and federal regulations regarding compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), California ESA, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and California Fish and Game Code.

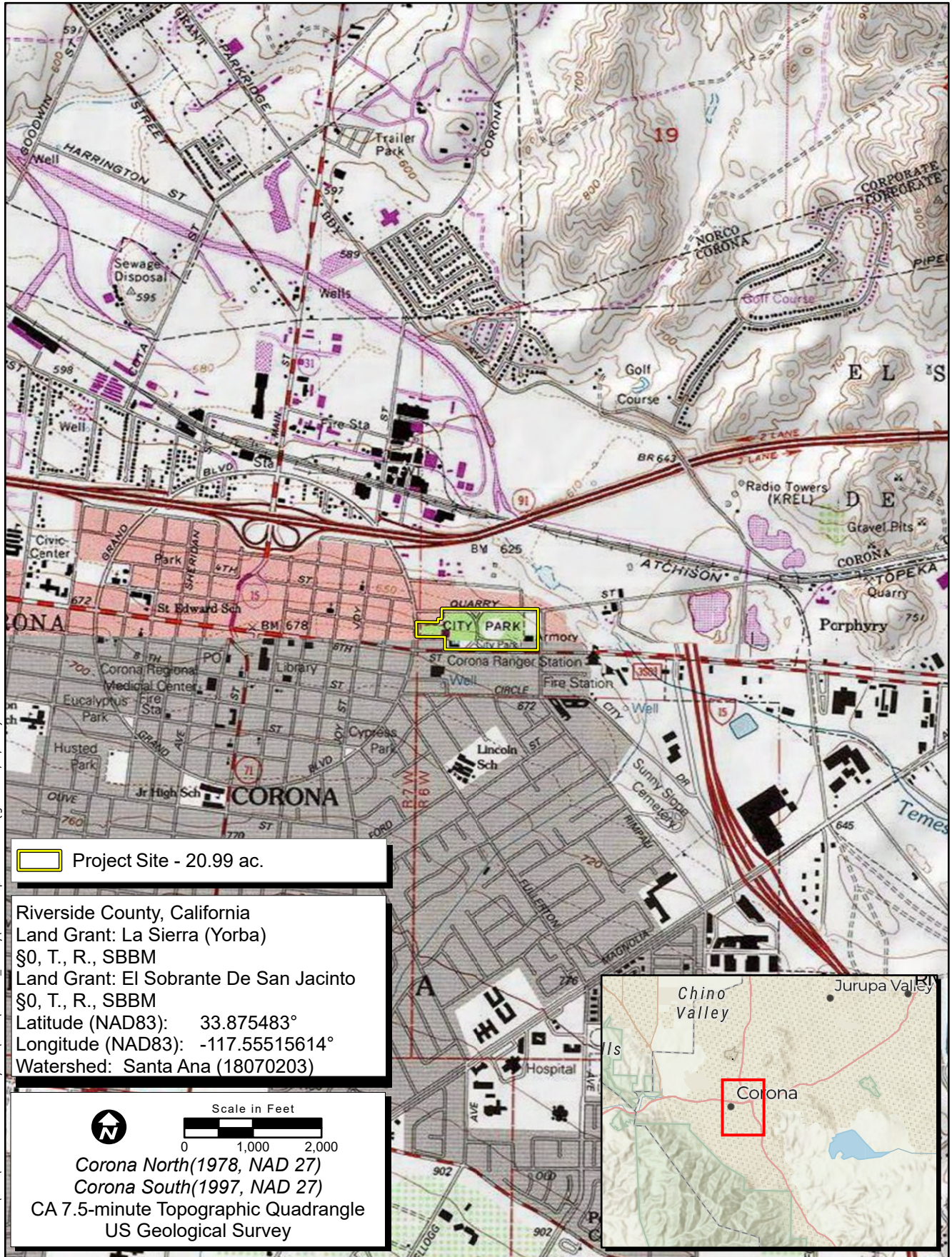
1.1 Project Location


The Project Site consists of approximately 21 acres of property located in Township 3 South, Range 6 West of the unsectioned La Sierra (Yorba) and the El Sobrante De San Jacinto Land Grants, as depicted on the Corona North and Corona South U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps (Figure 1). The Project Site contains multiple parcels: Assessor's Parcel Numbers 117-310-001 and 117-301-010. The Project Site is located at 930 East 6th Street and is between East Grand Boulevard, Quarry Street, Kress Court, East 6th Street, and Rimpau Avenue in the City of Corona (Figure 2).

The Project Site is located on the eastern side of the Santa Ana Canyon and the northeastern side of the Santa Ana Mountains. The Project Site is located less than 4 miles to the southeast of the now-dry Santa Ana River and approximately 1 mile northwest of the Temescal Canyon Wash. Elevations range from 640 to 682 feet (195 to 208 meters) above mean sea level. The Project Site currently functions as an urban park with various facilities (bathrooms, parking lot, picnic area, skate park, playgrounds, etc.) and contains patches of nonnative vegetation and landscaping.


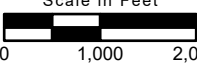
1.2 Project Description

The Proposed Project entails the redesign of Corona's oldest park known as City Park. City Park was listed on the Corona Register of Historic Places in 2001, as a historic district; therefore, additional design considerations and coordination is needed. The redesign includes the following new construction elements: a 72,000-square-foot 1-story community center as the primary structure that includes a basketball gym, banquet room with kitchen, fitness and dance exercise space, administration offices, classrooms, equipment storage rooms, outside stage area and exterior ramp/mezzanine walkway area extended to the gymnasium, a 1,000-square-foot restroom building, a 3,000-square-foot pool equipment building, an aquatic center including a 25-yard-long pool and a splash pad with an iconic theme representative of the City of Corona's heritage, a 2,000-square-foot mechanical service yard, outdoor landscaped learning spaces, retaining walls, playgrounds, canopy shade structures, sport fields, parking, and other general amenities such as pedestrian trails, benches, drinking fountains, secured trash containers, and security cameras.



 Project Site - 20.99 ac.

Riverside County, California
 Land Grant: La Sierra (Yorba)
 §0, T., R., SBBM
 Land Grant: El Sobrante De San Jacinto
 §0, T., R., SBBM
 Latitude (NAD83): 33.875483°
 Longitude (NAD83): -117.55515614°
 Watershed: Santa Ana (18070203)

 
 Scale in Feet
 0 1,000 2,000
 Corona North(1978, NAD 27)
 Corona South(1997, NAD 27)
 CA 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle
 US Geological Survey

Map Date: 4/25/2024
 Sources: ESRI, USGS

Figure 1. Project Vicinity



Figure 2. Project Location

2.0 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES REGULATIONS

ECORP conducted the biological reconnaissance survey to identify potential constraints to development and to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations regarding listed, protected, and sensitive species. The regulations are detailed below.

2.1 Federal Regulations

2.1.1 The Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal ESA protects plants and animals that are listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of endangered wildlife, where taking is defined as “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct” (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.3). For plants, this statute governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any endangered plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 U.S. Code 1538). Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a listed or proposed species, including plants or its critical habitat. Through consultation and the issuance of a biological opinion, the USFWS may issue an incidental take statement allowing take of the species that is incidental to an otherwise authorized activity provided the activity will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Section 10 of the ESA provides for issuance of incidental take permits where no other federal actions are necessary provided a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is developed.

2.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The federal MBTA implements international treaties between the United States and other nations devised to protect migratory birds, any of their parts, eggs, and nests from activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. As authorized by the MBTA, the USFWS issues permits to qualified applicants for the following types of activities: falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (i.e., rehabilitation, education, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), take of depredating birds, taxidermy, and waterfowl sale and disposal. The regulations governing migratory bird permits can be found in 50 CFR Part 13 General Permit Procedures and 50 CFR Part 21 Migratory Bird Permits. The State of California has incorporated the protection of birds of prey in Sections 3800, 3513, and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code.

2.1.3 Federal Clean Water Act

The federal Clean Water Act’s (CWA) purpose is to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.” Section 404 of the CWA prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the U.S. without a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The definition of Waters of the U.S. includes rivers, streams, estuaries, the territorial seas, ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Wetlands are defined as those areas “that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground

water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions” (33 CFR 328.3 7b). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acts as a cooperating agency to set policy, guidance, and criteria for use in evaluation permit applications and reviews USACE permit applications.

The USACE regulates *fill* or dredging of fill material within its jurisdictional features. *Fill material* means any material used for the primary purpose of replacing an aquatic area with dry land or changing the bottom elevation of a water body. Substantial impacts to wetlands may require an individual permit. Projects that only minimally affect wetlands may meet the conditions of one of the existing Nationwide Permits. A Water Quality Certification or waiver pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA is required for Section 404 permit actions; this certification or waiver is issued by the State Water Quality Control Board, administered by each of nine California Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

2.2 State and Local Regulations

2.2.1 California Endangered Species Act

The California ESA generally parallels the main provisions of the ESA but, unlike its federal counterpart, the California ESA applies the take prohibitions to species proposed for listing (called *candidates* by the state). Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the taking, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or in the regulations. Take is defined in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.” The California ESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects. State lead agencies are required to consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to ensure that any action they undertake is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in destruction or adverse modification of essential habitat.

2.2.2 Fully Protected Species

The State of California first began to designate species as *fully protected* prior to the creation of the federal and California ESAs. Lists of fully protected species were initially developed to provide protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction, and included fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Most fully protected species have since been listed as threatened or endangered under federal and/or California ESAs. The regulations that implement the Fully Protected Species Statute (California Fish and Game Code Section 4700) provide that fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time. Furthermore, CDFW prohibits any state agency from issuing incidental take permits for fully protected species, except for necessary scientific research.

2.2.3 Native Plant Protection Act

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1900-1913) was created with the intent to “preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State.” The NPPA is administered by CDFW. The Fish and Wildlife Commission has the authority to designate native plants as *endangered* or *rare* and to protect endangered and rare plants from take. The California ESA of

1984 (California Fish and Game Code Section 2050-2116) provided further protection for rare and endangered plant species, but the NPPA remains part of the California Fish and Game Code.

2.2.4 California Fish and Game Code

2.2.4.1 Streambed Alteration Agreement

Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code requires that a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration be submitted to CDFW for “any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake.” The CDFW reviews the proposed actions and, if necessary, submits to the Applicant a proposal for measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources. The final proposal that is mutually agreed upon by CDFW and the Applicant is the Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). Often, projects that require an SAA also require a permit from the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. In these instances, the conditions of the Section 404 permit and the SAA may overlap.

2.2.4.2 Migratory Birds

The CDFW enforces the protection of nongame native birds in Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Fish and Game Code. Section 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the possession or take of birds listed under the MBTA. These sections mandate the protection of California nongame native birds’ nests and make it unlawful to take these birds. All raptor species are protected from *take* pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 and are also protected at the federal level by the MBTA of 1918 (USFWS 1918).

2.2.4.3 Bats

Fish and Game Code Section 4150 defines a nongame mammal as a “mammal occurring naturally in California that is not a game mammal, fully protected mammal, or fur-bearing mammal”. *Take* (hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to do so; Fish and Game Code Section 86) of nongame mammals, including bats, is prohibited by Fish and Game Code Section 4150.

2.2.5 Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The Western Riverside County MSHCP is a comprehensive, multijurisdictional HCP focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The MSHCP identified 146 species, referred to as *Covered Species*, for which the federal and California ESAs *take* authorization has been granted to signatories to the plan as long as they comply with its requirements. Of the 146 Covered Species within the MSHCP, 118 are considered to be *adequately conserved*. The remaining 28 Covered Species will be considered adequately conserved when certain landmark conservation requirements are met during the course of future development. The goal of the MSHCP is to maintain the biological and ecological diversity within a rapidly urbanizing region while also improving the future economic development in the county by providing an efficient, streamlined regulatory process through which development can proceed in an efficient way.

The approval of the MSHCP and execution of the Implementing Agreement (IA) by the wildlife agencies allows signatories of the IA to issue *take* authorizations for all species covered by the MSHCP, including state- and federally listed species, as well as other identified sensitive species and/or their habitats. Each city of local jurisdiction will impose a development mitigation fee for projects within their jurisdiction. With payment of the mitigation fee to the County and compliance with the survey requirements of the MSHCP where required, full mitigation in compliance with CEQA, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the federal and California ESAs, will be granted. The development mitigation fee varies according to project size and description and is dependent on development density (Riverside County Ordinance No. 810.2). Payment of the mitigation fee and compliance with the requirements of Section 6.0 of the MSHCP are intended to provide full mitigation under CEQA, NEPA, and the California and federal ESAs for impacts to the species and habitats covered by the MSHCP, pursuant to agreements with USFWS, CDFW, and/or any other appropriate participating regulatory agencies as set forth in the IA for the MSHCP.

2.2.6 City of Corona Municipal Code, Chapter 12.22 (Community Urban Forest and Landscape Guidelines)

The City's Urban Forest Management Plan establishes guidelines and procedures "for the care and protection of trees to promote the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for all Corona residents, business owners and visitors." It also assists with enforcing the City's Community Urban Forest and Landscape Guidelines (Chapter 12.22 of the City Municipal Code). Section 9 of the Urban Forest Management Plan describes procedures for the designation and removal of Heritage Trees. Heritage Trees may be designated as such by the Community Services Department and Parks and Recreation Commission based on certain criteria (e.g., if the tree is of unique form or species).

2.2.7 California Environmental Quality Act Significance Criteria

Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines encourages local agencies to develop and publish the thresholds the agency uses in determining the significance of environmental effects caused by projects under its review. However, agencies may also rely upon the guidance provided by the expanded Initial Study checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Appendix G provides examples of impacts that would normally be considered significant. Based on these examples, impacts to biological resources would normally be considered significant if the Project 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 CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;

- 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;
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; and
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state HCP.

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. Substantial impacts would be those that would diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, state, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant according to CEQA because although the impacts would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish or result in the permanent loss of an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Literature Review

Prior to conducting the biological reconnaissance survey, ECORP biologists performed a literature review using the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2024a) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI; CNPS 2024) to determine the documented special-status plant and wildlife species in the vicinity of the Project Site. ECORP searched CNDDDB and CNPSEI records within the Project boundaries as depicted on USGS 7.5-minute "Corona North" and "Corona South" topographic quadrangles, and the surrounding seven topographic quadrangles: Ontario, Guasti, Fontana, Prado Dam, Riverside West, Black Star Canyon, Lake Mathews. The CNDDDB and CNPSEI contain records of reported occurrences of federally or state-listed endangered, threatened, proposed endangered or threatened species, California Species of Special Concern (SSC), and/or other special-status species or habitat that may occur within or in the vicinity of the Project Site. Additional information was gathered from the following sources and includes, but is not limited to:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) *Web Soil Survey* (NRCS 2024);
- State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California (CDFW 2024b);
- Special Animals List (CDFW 2024c);
- *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012);
- *A Manual of California Vegetation*, 2nd Edition (MCV; Sawyer et al. 2009); and
- Various online websites (e.g., CalFlora 2024).

Using this information and field observations, ECORP biologists generated a list of special-status plant and wildlife species that have potential to occur within the Project Site. For the purposes of this assessment, special-status species are defined as plants or animals that:

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

ECORP assessed special-status species reported for the region in the literature review or for which suitable habitat occurs within the Project Site for their potential to occur within the Project Site based on the following guidelines:

- **Present:** The species was observed onsite during a site visit or focused survey.
- **High:** Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project Site and a known occurrence has recently been recorded (within the last 20 years) within 5 miles of the area.
- **Moderate:** Habitat (including soils and elevation factors) for the species occurs within the Project Site and a documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within 5 miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within 5 miles of the Project Site; or a recently documented observation occurs within 5 miles of the area and marginal or limited amounts of habitat occurs within the Project Site.
- **Low:** Limited or marginal habitat for the species occurs within the Project Site and a recently documented observation occurs within the database search, but not within 5 miles of the area; a historic documented observation (more than 20 years old) was recorded within 5 miles of the Project Site; or suitable habitat strongly associated with the species occurs onsite, but no records or only historic records were found within the database search.
- **Presumed Absent:** Species was not observed during a site visit or focused surveys conducted in accordance with protocol guidelines at an appropriate time for identification; habitat (including soils and elevation factors) does not exist onsite; or the known geographic range of the species does not include the Project Site.

Note: Location information on some special-status species may be of questionable accuracy or unavailable. Therefore, for survey purposes, the environmental factors associated with a species' occurrence requirements may be considered sufficient reason to give a species a positive potential for occurrence. In addition, just because a record of a species does not exist in the databases does not mean it does not occur. In many cases, records may not be present in the databases because an area has not been surveyed for that particular species.

3.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Designated Critical Habitat

Biologists reviewed the USFWS online service for information regarding Threatened and Endangered Species Final Critical Habitat designation within California to determine if the Project Site is within any species' designated Critical Habitat (USFWS 2024a).

3.3 Aquatic Resources

ECORP biologists conducted a desktop review of the NRCS Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2024) and the corresponding USGS topographic maps to determine if there were any blue line streams or drainages that might potentially fall under the jurisdiction of either federal or state agencies within the Project Site.

3.4 Western Riverside County MSHCP Consistency Analysis

ECORP reviewed Project data to determine consistency with the MSHCP. Biologists queried the Riverside Conservation Authority (RCA) MSHCP Information Map to determine requirements for habitat assessment(s), potential focused survey(s), or other issues related to biological resources that could exist within the Project Site (RCA 2024).

Section 6.0 of the MSHCP also requires that an assessment of the Project be completed to identify any potential applicable Project-related effects on biological resources, including riparian/riverine areas, vernal pools, and fairy shrimp. In addition, the MSHCP requires that an Urban/Wildlands Interface analysis be conducted to address the indirect effects associated with locating proposed development in the proximity of MSHCP Conservation Areas.

3.5 Field Survey

3.5.1 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

Biologists conducted a reconnaissance survey by walking the entire Project Site, paying special attention to areas that could host sensitive vegetation communities or had the potential to provide suitable habitat for special-status species. The biologists documented the plant and wildlife species present within the Project Site and assessed the location and condition of the Project Site for the potential for it to provide habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species. The biologists recorded the data on a Global Positioning System unit, field notebooks, and/or maps, and took photographs during the survey to provide visual representation of the various vegetation communities within the Project Site. The biologists examined the Project Site to assess its potential to facilitate wildlife movement or function as a movement corridor for wildlife moving throughout the region. In addition, the biologists mapped any vegetation communities and land cover types present on the Project Site.

ECORP biologists inspected the vegetation communities and habitat conditions to confirm presence and habitat quality of the vegetation found onsite. Where appropriate, the biologists utilized descriptions of vegetation communities from the MCV second edition (Sawyer et al. 2009). Any deviations from standard vegetation classifications were made on best professional judgment when areas did not fit into a specific

habitat description provided by the MCV. Biologists mapped vegetation communities using field observations and aerial imagery.

ECORP recorded plant and wildlife species, including any special-status species that were observed during the survey. Plant nomenclature follows that of *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012). Wildlife nomenclature follows Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (2017), *Checklist of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2019), and the *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico* (Bradley et al. 2014).

4.0 RESULTS

The results of the literature review and field survey, including site characteristics, vegetation communities, wildlife, special-status species, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors) are summarized below.

4.1 Literature Review

4.1.1 Special-Status Plants and Wildlife

ECORP conducted the CNDDDB and CNPSEI searches on April 29, 2024. The database searches identified 66 special-status plant species and 55 special-status wildlife species that could occur within and/or near the Project Site. Biologists generated a list from the results of the literature review and evaluated the Project Site for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant or wildlife species on the list.

4.1.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Designated Critical Habitat

The Project Site is not located within any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat. The closest designated Critical Habitats are for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), located approximately 2.3 miles and 2.5 miles, respectively, to the northwest of the Project Site (USFWS 2024a).

4.2 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

ECORP biologists Carla Marriner and Chelsie Brown conducted the biological reconnaissance survey on May 15, 2024. The results of the biological reconnaissance survey, including site characteristics, plants and plant communities, wildlife, special-status species, and special-status habitats (including any potential wildlife corridors) are summarized below. Table 1 provides summarized weather conditions during the survey.

Table 1. Weather Conditions During the Survey								
Date	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (miles per hour)	
	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
5/15/2024	0745	1010	62	62	100	100	0-1	0-1

4.2.1 Site Characteristics and Land Use

The majority of the Project Site is urban/developed and includes various types of landscaping such as ornamental shrubs/trees planted throughout the site. The Project Site functions as an urban community park with facilities such as parking lots, bathrooms, picnic areas, playgrounds, skate park, volleyball court, basketball courts, city pool complex, light poles, and buildings.

Disturbances onsite include vehicle use, homeless encampments, and trash. The Project Site is surrounded by residential and/or commercial development on all sides.

There is one soil type within the Project Site: Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes. This soil type is well drained and has a parent material of alluvium derived from metasedimentary rock (NRCS 2024).

Appendix A provides representative photographs of the Project Site.

4.2.2 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

During the biological reconnaissance survey, ECORP biologists characterized the entirety of the Project Site as urban/developed (Figure 3). ECORP did not observe or map any natural vegetation communities.

The urban/developed classification includes areas where anthropogenic disturbance has resulted in permanent impacts, such as roads, sidewalks, buildings, and other development. Urban/developed is not a vegetation classification but rather a land cover type, and is not typically restricted to a known elevation. Vegetation observed in the Project Site is limited to landscaping and ornamental vegetation including native and nonnative shrubs and trees managed and maintained by the City.

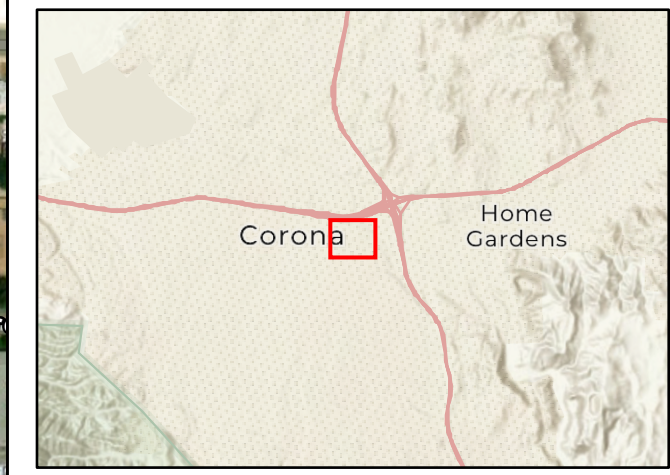
Small patches of nonnative forbs and grasses also occur within a portion of the site where appears that a building was demolished; however, these areas are too small to classify as their own vegetation community (i.e., they measure less than 0.25 acre).



Map Contents

- Project Site - 20.99 ac.
- Land Cover Types**
- Urban/Developed

Sources: Maxar, Esri



Location: N:\2024\2024-038 Corona City Park\MapS\Vegetation_and_LandCover\CCP_Vegetation_Communities_and_Land_Cover_Map_20240523_(Igalvez - 5/23/2024)

Map Date: 5/23/2024

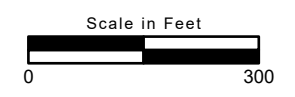


Figure 3. Land Cover Types

4.2.3 Plants

Plant species observed within the Project Site were generally characteristic of disturbed urban/developed areas and were mostly composed of native trees, nonnative, and ornamental vegetation. Nonnative plant species observed during the biological reconnaissance survey included Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), mock orange (*Pittosporum tobira*), Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), and brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.). Native plants observed within the Project Site included white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), hollowleaf annual lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Appendix B provides a full list of plant species observed on the Project Site.

4.2.4 Wildlife

The Project Site provides habitat for species adapted to disturbances and urban environments. Bird species observed during the reconnaissance survey include common raven (*Corvus corax*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*). ECORP observed two mammal species: California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) and domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*). Appendix C provides a full list of wildlife species observed on or immediately adjacent to the Project Site.

4.2.5 Potential for Special-Status Species to Occur within the Project Site

4.2.5.1 Special-Status Plants

A total of 66 special-status plant species appeared in the literature review and database searches (CDFW 2024a; CNPS 2024). ECORP generated a list from the results of the literature review and evaluated the Project Site for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant species on the list.

With various habitat types occurring within the nine-quadrangle search area, several species appeared in the literature review results that had no potential to occur within or near the Project Site due to elevational or habitat requirements. Additionally, biologists eliminated CNPS California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) 3 and 4 species from the analysis because these rankings are considered a review list and a watch list, respectively. Table 2 provides descriptions of the CNPS designations.

Table 2. California Native Plant Society Status Designations	
List Designation	Meaning
1A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2A	Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, but Common Elsewhere
2B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but More Common Elsewhere
3	Plants about which we need more information; a review list
4	Plants of limited distribution; a watch list
List 1B, 2, 3, and 4 extension meanings	
.1	Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2	Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

Notes: According to California Native Plant Society (Skinner and Pavlik 1994), plants on Lists 1B and 2 meet definitions for listing as threatened or endangered under Section 1901, Chapter 10 of the California Fish and Game Code (California Department of Fish and Game 1984). This interpretation is inconsistent with other definitions.

ECORP evaluated the special status plant species listed below for their potential to occur within the Project Site. No suitable habitat for these special status plant species occurs within the Project Site; therefore, the following species are presumed absent:

- chaparral sand-verbena (*Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Yucaipa onion (*Allium marvinii*) – CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species
- Munz’s onion (*Allium munzii*) – CRPR 1B.1, State Listed (Threatened), Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species
- San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*) – CRPR 1B.1, Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species
- marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) – CRPR 1B.1, State Listed (Endangered), Federally Listed (Endangered)
- Braunton’s milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) – CRPR 1B.1, Federally Listed (Endangered)
- Coulter’s saltbush (*Atriplex coulteri*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Malibu baccharis (*Baccharis malibuensis*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Nevin’s barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) – CRPR 1B.1, State Listed (Endangered), Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species

- intermediate mariposa-lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*) – CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species
- lucky morning-glory (*Calystegia felix*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Santa Barbara morning-glory (*Calystegia sepium* ssp. *binghamiae*) – CRPR 1A
- smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*) – CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species
- salt marsh bird's beak (*Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*) – CRPR 1B.2, State Listed (Endangered), Federally Listed (Endangered)
- San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) – CRPR 1B.1, State Listed (Endangered)
- Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*) – CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species
- long-spined spineflower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longispina*) – CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species
- California saw-grass (*Cladium californicum*) – CRPR 2B.2
- slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*) – CRPR 1B.1, State Listed (Endangered), Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species
- many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) – CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species
- Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*) – CRPR 1B.1, State Listed (Endangered), Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species
- Tecate cypress (*Hesperocyparis forbesii*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Gowen cypress (*Hesperocyparis goveniana*) – CRPR 1B.2, Federally Listed (Threatened)
- mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*) – CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species
- heart-leaved pitcher sage (*Lepechinia cardiophylla*) – CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species
- Parish's desert-thorn (*Lycium parishii*) – CRPR 2B.3
- Parish's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus parishii*) – CRPR 1A
- Jokerst's monardella (*Monardella australis* ssp. *jokerstii*) – CRPR 1B.1
- intermediate monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *intermedia*) – CRPR 1B.3
- Pringle's monardella (*Monardella pringlei*) – CRPR 1A
- aparejo grass (*Muhlenbergia utilis*) – CRPR 2B.2
- mud nama (*Nama stenocarpa*) – CRPR 2B.2. MSHCP Covered Species

- prostrate vernal pool navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*) – CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species
- chaparral nolina (*Nolina cismontane*) – CRPR 1B.2
- California beardtongue (*Penstemon californicus*) – CRPR 1B.2, MSHCP Covered Species
- Allen's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta aurea* ssp. *allenii*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Santiago Peak phacelia (*Phacelia keckii*) – CRPR 1B.3
- Brand's star phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*) – CRPR 1B.1, MSHCP Covered Species
- white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) – CRPR 2B.2
- chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*) – CRPR 2B.2
- salt spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*) – CRPR 2B.2
- prairie wedge grass (*Sphenopholis obtusata*) – CRPR 2B.2
- San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*) – CRPR 1B.2
- rigid fringepod (*Thysanocarpus rigidus*) – CRPR 1B.2

4.2.5.2 **Special-Status Wildlife**

The literature search documented 55 special-status wildlife species in the vicinity of the Project Site. ECORP generated a list from the results of the literature review and evaluated the Project Site for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status wildlife species on the list.

The Project Site is largely developed with patches of landscaping and nonnative vegetation, is situated within an urban environment surrounded by residential and commercial development and is subject to anthropogenic influences onsite on a daily basis. Based on these site conditions, no suitable habitat for the special-status wildlife species listed below occurs within the Project Site. The following species are, therefore, presumed absent:

- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) – CDFW Watch List Species, MSHCP Covered Species
- tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) – State Listed (Threatened), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) – CDFW Watch List, MSHCP Covered Species
- grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) – Federally Listed (Endangered), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*) – CDFW SSC
- golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – Fully Protected Species, MSHCP Covered Species

- California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*) – CDFW SSC
- Bell's sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli belli*) – CDFW Watch List, MSHCP Covered Species
- long-eared owl (*Asio otus*) – CDFW SSC
- orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*) – CDFW Watch List, MSHCP Covered Species
- coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) – State Listed (Candidate)
- San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*) – Federally Listed (Endangered)
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) – State Listed (Threatened), MSHCP Covered Species
- coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) – Federally Listed (Threatened), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*) – MSHCP Covered Species
- western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) – State Listed (Endangered), Federally Listed (Threatened) – MSHCP Covered Species
- San Diego banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus abbotti*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- yellow rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) – CDFW SSC
- red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) – State Listed (Endangered), Federally Listed (Endangered) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) – State Listed (Threatened), Federally Listed (Threatened) – MSHCP Covered Species
- white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) – Fully Protected Species, MSHCP Covered Species
- southwestern willow flycatcher, State Listed (Endangered) – Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species
- western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) – Federally Listed (Proposed Threatened) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) – CDFW Watch List, MSHCP Covered Species

- Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) – Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species
- arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – State Listed (Endangered), Fully Protected Species, MSHCP Covered Species
- yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*) – State Listed (Threatened), Fully Protected Species
- San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*) – MSHCP Covered Species
- San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- steelhead - southern California Distinct Population Segment (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 10) – Federally Listed (Endangered), State Listed (Candidate)
- osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – CDFW Watch List, MSHCP Covered Species
- Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) – Federally Listed (Threatened), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) – Federally Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species
- Santa Ana speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus* ssp. 8) – CDFW SSC
- coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*) – CDFW SSC
- yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*) – Federally Listed (Proposed Threatened), CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- Lawrence’s goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*) – USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern
- coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*) – CDFW SSC, MSHCP Covered Species
- two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) – CDFW SSC
- least Bell’s vireo – Federally Listed (Endangered), State Listed (Endangered), MSHCP Covered Species

Suitable bat roosting habitat occurs within trees (within foliage and/or in cavities) and building crevices on the Project Site. Therefore, ECORP analyzed the potential for special-status bat species to occur within the Project Site, as detailed in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Special Status Bat Species Potential for Occurrence			
Common Name/ Scientific Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>)	CDFW SSC	Roosts in rock crevices, caves, mines, buildings, bridges, and in trees. Generally in mountainous areas, lowland desert scrub, arid grasslands near water and rocky outcrops, and open woodlands.	Low. Potential roosting habitat in the trees and structures on the Project Site.
western mastiff bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	CDFW SSC	Roosts high above ground in rock and cliff crevices, shallow caves, and rarely in buildings. Occurs in arid and semiarid regions including rocky canyon habitats.	Presumed Absent. Project Site lacks suitable roosting habitat.
western yellow bat (<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>)	CDFW SSC	Found in valley foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. Roosts in trees, particularly palms. Forages over water and among trees.	Low. Potential low-quality roosting habitat within trees on the Project Site.
pocketed free-tailed bat (<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>)	CDFW SSC	Roosts in crevices of outcrops and cliffs, shallow caves, and buildings. Found along rugged canyons, high cliffs, and semiarid rock outcroppings.	Presumed Absent. Project Site lacks suitable roosting habitat.
big free-tailed bat (<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>)	CDFW SSC	Roosts in cliff crevices, and less often in buildings, caves, and tree cavities. Occurs in rocky areas of rugged and hilly country including woodlands, evergreen forests, river floodplain-arroyo habitats, and desert scrub.	Presumed Absent. Project Site lacks suitable roosting habitat.

Notes: CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; SSC = Species of Special Concern

There is a low potential for pallid bat and western yellow bat to occur within the trees and/or structures on the Project Site. Western mastiff bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, and big free-tailed bat are presumed absent based on the lack of suitable roosting habitat on the Project Site.

4.3 Raptors and Migratory Birds

Potential nesting habitat for migratory birds and raptors protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code was present on and adjacent to the Project Site in some of the larger trees and shrubs, within building crevices/eaves, and on light poles. Additionally, the open areas and ground could be suitable for some ground nesting species (e.g., mourning dove). Raptors typically breed between January and August, and songbirds and other passerines generally nest between March and August. There is potential for nesting to occur within the Project Site due to the presence of suitable nesting habitat.

4.4 Aquatic Resources

ECORP conducted a desktop review to identify potential streams and hydric soils within the Project Site. This entailed examination of the NRCS Soil Mapper (2024), National Wetland Inventory mapping (USFWS 2024b), and the USGS topographic mapping of the Project Site to aid in identifying potential jurisdictional waters. Additionally, biologists walked the property to look for signs of ordinary high-water mark as defined by the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Arid West Region Supplement)* (USACE 2008). ECORP did not observe aquatic resources within the Project Site during the reconnaissance survey.

4.5 Wildlife Movement Corridors, Linkages, and Native Wildlife Nursery Sites

The concept of habitat corridors addresses the linkage between large blocks of habitat that allow the safe movement of mammals and other wildlife species from one habitat area to another. The definition of a corridor is varied, but corridors may include such areas as greenbelts, refuge systems, underpasses, and biogeographic land bridges. In general, a corridor is described as a linear habitat, embedded in a dissimilar matrix, which connects two or more large blocks of habitat. Wildlife movement corridors are critical for the survivorship of ecological systems for several reasons. Corridors can connect water, food, and cover sources, spatially linking these three resources with wildlife in different areas. In addition, wildlife movement between habitat areas provides for the potential of genetic exchange between wildlife species populations, thereby maintaining genetic variability and adaptability to maximize the success of wildlife responses to changing environmental conditions. This is especially critical for small populations subject to loss of variability from genetic drift and effects of inbreeding. Naturally, the nature of corridor use and wildlife movement patterns varies greatly among species.

ECORP assessed the Project Site for its ability to function as a wildlife corridor. It is possible that the Project Site may play a minor role in local wildlife dispersal and foraging due to the presence of trees and a large area of turf grass. Common wildlife species including coyotes (*Canis latrans*), skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), and raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) may travel through the site and neighboring developed areas, but the Project Site does not provide connectivity between large areas of open space on a local or regional scale. Furthermore, the Project Site is surrounded by residential and commercial developments on all sides and is highly disturbed due to anthropogenic factors. Based on these factors, the Project Site does not function as a wildlife corridor.

ECORP also assessed the Project Site for its ability to function as a native wildlife nursery site. Suitable nesting habitat for bird species was documented within the Project Site; however, due to the level of disturbance within and adjacent to the Project Site, nursery site habitat for bird species (e.g., heron rookery) is not anticipated to occur. Suitable bat roosting habitat was observed within the Project Site, and there is potential for the structures and trees observed to serve as bat maternity roost sites during the bat maternity season (April 1 through August 31). Maternity roosts are considered protected as native wildlife nursery sites under CEQA.

5.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS

Impacts to sensitive biological resources resulting from construction activities are presented below.

5.1 Special-Status Species

The literature search documented 66 special-status plant species and 55 special-status wildlife species in the vicinity of the Project Site. Based on a lack of suitable habitat within the Project Site, no special-status plant species are anticipated to occur. Of the 55 special-status wildlife species identified in the literature review, two special-status bat species have a low potential to occur. The remaining 53 species are presumed absent due to a lack of suitable habitat.

Western yellow bat and pallid bat have a low potential to occur; both are CDFW SSCs. Suitable roosting habitat is present within the Project Site in the form of buildings and tree species (e.g., palm and eucalyptus trees). Given that the Project Site has an abundance of trees and is centrally located in a developed urban city, it likely serves as foraging habitat for bats. If bats are found to be roosting within the Project Site, direct impacts can occur in the form of mortality or roost abandonment. Roost abandonment during the maternity season could result in the mortality of flightless young, which could be a violation of California Fish and Game Code Section 4150 as well as a significant impact to a native wildlife nursery site under CEQA. Additionally, activities conducted outside of the maternity season that cause bats to leave a roost during daytime hours pose a mortality risk to individual bats. Indirect impacts from Project activities may also occur in the form of reduced prey base due to loss or modification of foraging habitat. This can be substantial as the potential consequences of traveling longer distances to forage include individual mortality or even failure of a maternity colony, as failure of individuals to gain sufficient weight may result in the inability to migrate, nurse, or hibernate without starving. Impacts to roosting bats would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2.

The large trees, shrubs, buildings, and light poles located within the Project Site could provide nesting habitat for nesting birds and raptors protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Ground-disturbing construction activities could directly affect nesting birds and other birds protected by the MBTA and their nests through habitat removal within the Project Site, and indirectly through increased noise, vibrations, and increased human activity if any tree or vegetation removal needs to occur during the bird breeding season (typically January 15 through August 31). Potential impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3.

5.2 Sensitive Natural Communities

ECORP did not observe sensitive natural communities within the Project Site; therefore, no impacts to sensitive natural communities are anticipated to result from the Proposed Project.

5.3 State or Federally Protected Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.

ECORP did not observe jurisdictional aquatic resources within the Project Site; therefore, no impacts to jurisdictional aquatic resources are anticipated to result from the Proposed Project.

5.4 Wildlife Corridors and Nursery Sites

The Project Site may provide space for local movements and foraging by common urban wildlife; however, it does not function as a wildlife corridor. ECORP identified suitable bat-roosting habitat within the Project Site in the form of buildings and trees. If bats are found roosting in these features during the bat maternity season (April 1 through August 31), these roosts would be considered native wildlife nursery sites and would be protected under CEQA. Direct impacts to occupied bat roosts could include removal or destruction that could result in direct mortality, indirect impacts from noise, dust, and vibration during Project construction that could result in roost abandonment and mortality of flightless young. Impacts to maternity bat roosts would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2.

5.5 Designated Heritage Trees

The Project Site hosts a number of large, primarily ornamental trees. A few native trees occur onsite as well. If any trees onsite are designated as Heritage Trees, per Chapter 12.22 of the City Municipal Code (Community Urban Forest and Landscape Guidelines), then the Project would be subject to the requirements of the Urban Forest Management Plan during Project construction.

5.6 Covered Roads (Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Section 2.11.2)

Quarry Street and East 6th Street to the north and south of the Project Site, respectively, are identified as MSHCP Covered Roads (RCA 2024). Impacts to these roads will not occur as part of Project implementation.

5.7 Habitat Conservation Plans and Natural Community Conservation Plans

The Project Site is located within the planning area for the Western Riverside MSHCP. The Project is not located within any Conservation Areas or within any species survey areas (RCA 2024).

5.7.1 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Structure

Section 6.0 of the MSHCP requires assessment of the potential effects from the Project on biological resources, including riparian/riverine areas, vernal pools, fairy shrimp, burrowing owl, and narrow endemic plant species. In addition, the MSHCP requires that an Urban/Wildlands Interface analysis be conducted in order to address the indirect effects associated with locating the proposed development in proximity of MSHCP Conservation Areas. These resources were assessed during the reconnaissance survey and are discussed below in relation to the Project.

5.7.1.1 Riparian/Riverine and Riparian Bird Habitat (MSHCP Section 6.1.2)

In accordance with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, ECORP performed a habitat assessment for riparian and riverine communities, vernal pools, and fairy shrimp. The MSHCP defines Riparian and Riverine resources as:

...lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent moss and lichens, which occur close to or depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; OR areas with fresh water flow during all or a portion of the year.

ECORP did not observe MSHCP Riparian/Riverine resources within the Project Site during the biological reconnaissance survey.

The MSHCP also requires habitat assessments/focused surveys for certain species identified under Section 6.1.2, including riparian birds and fairy shrimp. The results of reconnaissance survey determined that the Project Site does not contain suitable habitat for riparian bird species including southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and western yellow-billed cuckoo.

5.7.1.2 Vernal Pool, and Fairy Shrimp Habitat Assessment (MSHCP Section 6.1.2)

The MSHCP defines vernal pools as:

...seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three parameters (soils, vegetation and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season.

Based on the biological reconnaissance survey, there was no evidence of vernal pools or habitat to support listed fairy shrimp species within the Project Site. Due to the urban/developed nature of the Project Site, ECORP determined that vernal pool fairy shrimp has no potential to occur. Therefore, no additional surveys are required due to the lack of suitable habitat, and the Project is consistent with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP.

5.7.1.3 Narrow Endemic Plant Species (MSHCP Section 6.1.3)

ECORP reviewed the Riverside RCA MSHCP Information Map to determine if the Project Site was located within a Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA), in accordance with Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP. The Project Site is not located within a NEPSSA (RCA 2024). Therefore, the Project is consistent with Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP.

5.7.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (MSHCP Section 6.1.4)

The Project Site does not share a border with any adjacent MSHCP-designated conserved lands. Therefore, the Project is consistent with Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP.

5.7.1.5 **Additional Surveys (MSHCP Section 6.3.2)**

The RCA MSHCP Information Map was reviewed to determine if the Project Site was located with any MSHCP-designated survey areas. The Information Map revealed the Project Site is located outside of the survey areas for burrowing owls, amphibians, small mammals, Delhi-sands flower-loving fly, and other criteria species. Therefore, no additional surveys are required.

6.0 **MITIGATION MEASURES**

The following Mitigation Measures would reduce impacts to sensitive biological resources to a less than significant level.

BIO-1 Bat Habitat Assessment and Management Plan. If tree removal and/or building demolition will occur as part of the Project, a focused bat habitat assessment will be conducted by a bat biologist prior to commencement of tree removal and/or building demolition activities. If the bat biologist determines that only tree roosting habitat is present, then a Bat Management Plan will not be required. If the bat biologist determines that structure habitat is present, then a Bat Management Plan shall be prepared by a qualified bat biologist prior to the commencement of Project-related activities (including, but not limited to, structure removal or demolition, tree removal, grading, and vegetation removal) that will include specific avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to roosting bats. The Project-specific Bat Management Plan may include any of the following as necessary and appropriate: additional habitat assessments of inaccessible areas that would be directly or indirectly impacted during Project activities, emergence and/or acoustic surveys for bats during the maternity season (April 1 through August 31) to assess the potential for bat maternity roosts in the Project Site, and pre-construction surveys for roosting bats including acoustic monitoring. The Bat Management Plan shall also include recommendations to minimize impacts to roosting bats including the implementation of no-disturbance buffers, tree- and cliff-swallow nest removal protocols, passive exclusion of bats outside of the maternity and hibernation seasons (if impacts are unavoidable), and/or species-specific replacement alternative roosting habitat.

BIO-2 Tree Avoidance and Removal Process. If trees are scheduled to be removed (e.g., relocating) or modified (e.g., trimming) that were determined to be suitable for bat roosting as part of the Bat Habitat Assessment (BIO-1), these activities shall be scheduled during one of the seasonal periods of bat activity, listed below, and when evening temperatures are not below 45 °F and rain is not over 0.5 inch in 24 hours:

- September 1 to October 31 (preferred): This is after the maternity season but prior to winter torpor.
- February 15 to March 31: After winter torpor but prior to the start of the maternity season.

If trees with suitable bat roosting habitat are scheduled for removal or relocation outside of the maternity season, tree removal during the time periods and weather parameters described above using the two-step method shall be conducted:

- Prior to the two-step method, as much as feasible, vegetation and trees within the area that are not suitable for roosting bats will be removed first to provide a disturbance that might reduce the likelihood of bats using the habitat.
- Two-step tree removal will occur over two consecutive days under the supervision of a qualified bat biologist. On Day 1, small branches and small limbs containing no cavity, crevice or exfoliating bark habitat on habitat trees (or outer fronds in the case of palm trees), as identified by a qualified bat biologist are removed first, using chainsaws only (i.e., no dozers, backhoes). The following day (Day 2), the remainder of the tree is to be felled/removed. (The intention of this method is to disturb the tree with noise and vibration and branch removal on Day 1. This should cause any potentially present day-roosting bats to abandon the roost tree after they emerge for nighttime foraging. Removing the tree quickly the next consecutive day should avoid reoccupation of the tree by bats).

If tree removal/modification must occur during the maternity season (April 1 to August 31), a qualified bat biologist shall conduct a focused emergence survey(s) of the tree(s) within 48 hours of scheduled work. If a maternity roost is located, whether solitary or colonial, that roost will remain undisturbed until after the maternity season or until a qualified biological monitor has determined the roost is no longer active.

BIO-3 Preconstruction Survey for Nesting Birds: If ground-disturbing Project activities (e.g., grubbing, vegetation removal, grading, fence installation) are scheduled to occur during the nesting bird and raptor season (generally January 15 through August 31), a preconstruction nesting bird and raptor survey shall be conducted by a qualified avian biologist to ensure that active bird nests will not be disturbed or destroyed. The survey shall be completed no more than three days prior to initial ground disturbance. The nesting bird survey shall include the Project Site and adjacent areas where Project activities have the potential to affect active nests, either directly or indirectly, due to construction activity, noise, human activity, or ground disturbance.

If an active nest is identified, a qualified avian biologist shall establish an appropriately sized non-disturbance buffer around the nest using flagging or staking. Construction activities shall not occur within any non-disturbance buffer zones until the nest is deemed inactive by the qualified avian biologist.

If any special-status avian species is identified during the preconstruction survey and Project-related impacts are unavoidable, consultation with the appropriate agency (e.g., USFWS, CDFW) may need to occur to develop additional avoidance and minimization measures.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Field work conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the Project applicant or the applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the Project.

SIGNED: _____
Stacie Tennant
Senior Biologist and Project Manager
ECORP Consulting, Inc.

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____
Carla Marriner
Senior Biologist and Project Manager
ECORP Consulting, Inc.

DATE: _____

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Representative Site Photographs

Appendix B – Plant Species Observed

Appendix C – Wildlife Species Observed

Representative Site Photographs



Photo 1. View of Playground, Picnic Areas and Surrounding Landscaping within the Western Portion of the Project Site



Photo 2. View of Existing Buildings within the Western Portion of the Project Site



Photo 3. View of the Skate Park in the Southeastern Portion of the Project Site



Photo 4. View of Nonnative Forbs and Grasses within the Southeastern Corner of the Project Site



Photo 5. View of Volleyball and Basketball Courts within Northern Portion of the Project Site.



Photo 6. View of Turf Grass within the Central Portion of the Project Site with Light Poles, Ornamental Trees, and Onsite Parking Lot Visible in the Background



Photo 7. View of Ornamental Trees (primarily nonnative palm trees) within the Southern Portion of the Project Site



Photo 8. View of Trees within the Middle Portion of the Project Site Including Native Oak Trees

Plant Species Observed

Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
GYMNOSPERMS	
ARAUCARIACEAE	ARAUCARIA FAMILY
<i>Araucaria bidwillii</i> *	Bunya bunya
CUPRESSACEAE	CYPRESS FAMILY
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> *	Chinese juniper
PINACEAE	PINE FAMILY
<i>Cedrus deodara</i> *	Deodar cedar
<i>Pinus halepensis</i> *	Aleppo pine
<i>Pinus sp.</i> *	Pine
ANGIOSPERMS (DICOTS)	
ANACARDIACEAE	CASHEW FAMILY
<i>Schinus molle</i> *	Peruvian pepper tree
<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i> *	Brazilian pepper tree
ASTERACEAE	SUNFLOWER FAMILY
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	Bull thistle
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	Prickly lettuce
<i>Malacothrix sp.</i> *	Dandelion
<i>Sonchus asper</i> *	Spiny sow thistle
BETULACEAE	BIRCH FAMILY
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White alder
<i>Alnus sp.</i>	Alder
BIGNONIACEAE	TRUMPET-CREEPER FAMILY
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> *	Blue jacaranda
BRASSICACEAE	MUSTARD FAMILY
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *	Shortpod mustard
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i> *	London rocket
CHENOPODIACEAE	CHENOPOD FAMILY
<i>Salsola tragus</i> *	Russian thistle
EUPHORBIACEAE	SPURGE FAMILY
<i>Euphorbia cotinifolia</i> *	Smoke tree spurge

Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
FABACEAE	LEGUME FAMILY
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	Deerweed
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> *	Carob
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> *	Forest pansy redbud
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> *	Honey locust
<i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	Hollow leaf annual lupine
<i>Medicago sp.</i> *	Alfalfa
FAGACEAE	OAK FAMILY
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i> *	Holly oak
<i>Quercus suber</i> *	Cork oak
<i>Quercus virginiana</i> *	Southern live oak
LAURACEAE	LAUREL FAMILY
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> *	Camphor tree
MAGNOLIACEAE	MAGNOLIA FAMILY
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> *	Magnolia tree
MALVACEAE	MALLOW FAMILY
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> *	Australian flame tree
<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i> *	Primrose tree
<i>Malva parviflora</i> *	Cheeseweed mallow
MORACEAE	MULBERRY FAMILY
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i> *	Rusty-leaf fig
<i>Morus sp.</i> *	Mulberry tree
MYRTACEAE	MYRTLE FAMILY
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> *	bottlebrush
<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i> *	Gum tree
<i>Melaleuca decussata</i> *	Cross-leaved honey-myrtle
NYCTAGINACEAE	FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY
<i>Bougainvillea sp.</i> *	bougainvillea
OLEACEAE	OLIVE FAMILY
<i>Chionanthus retusus</i> *	Chinese fringe tree

Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i> *	Raywood ash
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.*	Ash
<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i> *	Shamel ash
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>	Modesto ash
PITTOSPORACEAE	PITTOSPORUM FAMILY
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> *	Mock orange
ROSACEAE	ROSE FAMILY
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> *	Ornamental pear tree
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i> *	Indian hawthorn
<i>Rosa chinensis</i> *	Chinese rose
SALICACEAE	WILLOW FAMILY
<i>Xylosma</i> sp.*	Brush holly
SAPINDACEAE	SOAPBERRY FAMILY
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> *	carrotwood
ULMACEAE	ELM FAMILY
<i>Ulmus americana</i> *	American elm
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> *	Chinese elm
VERBENACEAE	VERBENA FAMILY
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i> *	Creeping lantana
ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTS)	
AGAVACEAE	CENTURY PLANT FAMILY
<i>Agave</i> sp.	Agave
AMARYLLIDACEAE	AMARYLLIS FAMILY
<i>Crinum asiaticum</i> *	Tree crinum
<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i> *	Society garlic
ARECACEAE	PALM FAMILY
<i>Brahea armata</i> *	Mexican blue palm
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> *	Canary Island date palm
<i>Roystonea regia</i> *	Royal palm
<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i> *	Queen palm
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> *	Mexican fan palm

Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
ASPARAGACEAE	ASPARAGUS FAMILY
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora*</i>	Red yucca
POACEAE	GRASS FAMILY
<i>Bromus diandrus*</i>	Ripgut brome
<i>Bromus spp.*</i>	Brome grasses
<i>Leymus sp.</i>	wildrye
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass
STRELITZIACEAE	BIRD OF PARADISE FLOWER/PLANT FAMILY
<i>Strelitzia nicolai*</i>	Giant bird of paradise

Notes: *Not native to California

Wildlife Species Observed

Wildlife Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
AVES	BIRDS
Aegithalidae	Long-tailed Tits
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
Columbidae	Pigeons and Doves
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Corvidae	Jays and Crows
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven
Fringillidae	Finches
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch
Icteridae	New World Blackbirds
<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole
Mimidae	Mockingbirds and Thrashers
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern mockingbird
Picidae	Woodpeckers
<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	acorn woodpecker
Sturnidae	Starlings
<i>Sturnus vulgaris*</i>	European starling
MAMMALIA	MAMMALS
Canidae	Foxes, Wolves, and Coyotes
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	domestic dog
Sciuridae	Squirrels
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel

*Nonnative species