Table B.3.4-1. Special-Status Species that Could Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence in the Project Area	
			Downs Substation Expansion Site	Subtransmission Line Corridor
Plants				
Aliciella ripleyi Ripley's aliciella	Rank 2.3	Mojavean desert scrub (carbonate) at elevations between 305-1,950 m (1,000-6,400 ft); blooms May-July	Not likely to occur. Substation lacks suitable habitat.	Low. Corridor supports limited suitable habitat. This species is known from an undisclosed area of Poison Canyon; however, suitable soil types are not present near the subtransmission line.
Astragalus atratus var. *mensanus* Darwin Mesa milk-vetch	Rank 1B.1	Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland at elevations between 1,340-2,315 m (4,400-7,600 ft); usually in volcanic clay, gravelly soils; blooms April-June	Not likely to occur. Project area is well below the known elevation range for this species and does not contain suitable habitat.	Not likely to occur. Project area is well below the known elevation range for this species and does not contain suitable habitat.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. microns Shining milk-vetch	Rank 1B.2	Desert sand dunes at elevations between 770-1175 m (2,500-3,800ft); blooms March-June	Not likely to occur. Substation lacks suitable habitat.	Low. Subtransmission line contains marginal habitat but is outside of known distribution of this species.
Calochortus striatus Alkali mariposa-lily	Rank 1B.2, WEMO	Chaparral, chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows and seeps at elevations between 70-1,595 meters (230-5,200 ft); alkaline, mesic soils; blooms April-June	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.
Camissonia boothii ssp. *boothii* Booth's evening primrose	Rank 2.3	Joshua tree woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland at elevations between 900-2,400 m (2,950-7,875 ft); blooms April-September	Not likely to occur. Substation lacks suitable habitat.	Moderate. Subtransmission line contains suitable habitat.
Canbya candida Pygmy poppy	Rank 4.3	Joshua tree woodland, Mojave desert shrublands at elevations between 580-1,220 m (1,900-4,000 ft); blooms March-June.	Low. Substation contains poor suitable habitat.	Moderate. Subtransmission line contains suitable habitat.
Carlquistia muirii Muir's tarplant	Rank 1B.3	Chaparral (montane), lower and upper montane coniferous forest at elevations between 1,100-2,500 m (3,600-8,200 ft); granitic soils; blooms July-August	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.
Castela emoryi Emory's crucifixion-thorn	Rank 2.3 WEMO	Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub, playas at elevations between 90-670 m (295-2,200 ft); gravelly soils; blooms April-July	Not likely to occur. Substation lacks suitable habitat.	Low. Subtransmission line contains marginal habitat.

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Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence in the Project Area	
			Downs Substation Expansion Site	Subtransmission Line Corridor
Chamaesyce vallis-mortae *(Euphorbia vallis-mortae)* Death Valley sand plant	Rank 4.2	Mojavean desert scrub on sandy soils at elevations between 0-1,310 m (0-4,300 ft); blooms May-October	Low. Suitable habitat occurs throughout the project area.	Low. Suitable habitat occurs throughout the project area.
Cryptantha clokeyi Clokey's cryptantha	BLM, Rank 1B.1	Mojavean desert scrub at elevations between 800-1,280 m (2,600-4,200 ft); blooms in April	Not likely to occur. Project area is outside of known geographic range for this species.	Not likely to occur. Project area is outside of known geographic range for this species.
Deinandra arida Red Rock tarplant	BLM, SR, Rank 1B.2, WEMO	Mojavean desert scrub at elevations between 300-950 m (990-3,120 ft); clay, volcanic tuff; blooms April-November	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.
Deinandra mohavensis Mojave tarplant	BLM, SE, Rank 1B.3, WEMO	Chaparral, coastal scrub, riparian scrub at elevations between 640-1,600 m (2,100-5,250 ft); mesic areas; blooms June-January	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.
Erigeron aequifolius Hall's daisy	BLM, Rank 1B.3, WEMO	Broadleafed upland forest, lower and upper montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland at elevations between 1,500-2,440 m (4,900-8,000ft); rocky, granitic soils; blooms June-August	Not likely to occur. Project area is well below the known elevation range for this species and does not contain suitable habitat.	Not likely to occur. Project area is well below the known elevation range for this species and does not contain suitable habitat.
Eschscholzia minutiflora ssp. *twisselmannii* Red Rock poppy	BLM, Rank 1B.2	Mojavean desert scrub at elevations between 680-1,230 m (2,200-4,035 ft); volcanic tuff; blooms March-May	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.
Layia heterotricha Pale-yellow layia	BLM, Rank 1B.1	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland at elevations between 300-1,705 m (980-5,600ft); alkaline or clay soils; blooms March-June	Not likely to occur. Project area is outside of the known distribution of this species and does not contain suitable habitat.	Not likely to occur. Project area is outside of the known distribution of this species and does not contain suitable habitat.
Mentzelia tridentata Creamy blazing star	BLM, Rank 1B.3	Mojavean desert scrub at elevations between 700-1,160 m (2,300-3,800 ft); rocky, gravelly, sandy soils; blooms March-May	Not likely to occur. Substation lacks suitable habitat.	Low. Subtransmission line contains marginal habitat.
Penstemon fruticiformis var. *amargosae* Amargosa beardtongue	BLM, Rank 1B.3	Mojavean desert scrub at elevations between 850-1,400 m (2,800-4,600 ft); blooms April-June	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.

Table B.3.4-1. Special-Status Species that Could Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence in the Project Area	
			Downs Substation Expansion Site	Subtransmission Line Corridor
Phacelia nashiana Charlotte's phacelia	BLM, Rank 1B.2, WEMO	Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodlands at elevations between 600-2,200 m (2,000-7,200 ft); usually granitic, sandy soils; blooms March-June	Not likely to occur. Project area is outside of the known distribution of this species and does not contain suitable habitat.	Not likely to occur. Project area is outside of the known distribution of this species and does not contain suitable habitat.
Phacelia novenmillensis Nine Mile Canyon phacelia	BLM, Rank 1B.2, WEMO	Broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, upper montane coniferous forest at elevations between 1,645-2,640 m (5,400-8,600 ft); sandy or gravelly soils; blooms February-June	Not likely to occur. Project area is well below the known elevation range for this species and does not contain suitable habitat.	Not likely to occur. Project area is well below the known elevation range for this species and does not contain suitable habitat.
Psorothamnus arborescens var. *arborescens* Mojave indigo bush	Rank 4.3	Mojavean desert scrubin washes and on hills at elevations between 390-796 m (1,300-2,600 ft); blooms April-May.	Not likely to occur. Not observed during surveys of the proposed substation.	Low. Subtransmission line contains suitable habitat.
Saltugilia latimeri Latimer's woodland-gilia	BLM, Rank 1B.2	Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland at elevations between 400-1,900 m (1,300-6,200 ft); rocky, sandy, granitic soils; sometimes washes; blooms March-June	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in any portion of the project area.
Fish				
Siphateles bicolor mohavensis Mohave tui chub	FE, SE, WEMO	Requires deep pools, ponds, or slough-like areas and vegetation for spawning; adapted to alkaline, mineralized waters; endemic to Mojave River Basin	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the project area.
Reptiles				
Anniella pulchra pulchra Silvery legless lizard	SSC	A burrowing species associated with sandy or loose loamy soils with sparse vegetation. Chaparral, pine-oak woodland, washes, and streamside terraces are utilized. Also occurs in desert scrub. Elevated soil moisture is required.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the project area.

Table B.3.4-1. Special-Status Species that Could Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence in the Project Area	
			Downs Substation Expansion Site	Subtransmission Line Corridor
Elgaria panamintina Panamint alligator lizard	SSC	Inhabits areas near permanent water in canyons, damp gullies, and rocky areas; near dense vegetation	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the project area.
Gopherus agassizii Desert tortoise	FT, ST	Most common in desert scrub, desert wash, and Joshua tree habitats (creosote bush habitat with annual wildflower blooms preferred; require friable soils for burrow and nest construction	Low. Marginally suitable habitat occurs within disturbed creosote bush-white bursage scrub; site surrounded on three sides by developed/disturbed areas; not detected during focused surveys.	Present. This species is known to occur from the project area and suitable habitat occurs along, or adjacent to, most of the existing subtransmission line corridor with the exception of developed areas.
Birds				
Aquila chrysaetos Golden eagle	CFP,	Rolling hills, mountains, sage- juniper flats and deserts, secluded cliffs with overhanging ledges and large trees for nesting; open areas for foraging.	Low. No nesting habitat onsite; however, marginal foraging habitat occurs.	Moderate. Limited nesting habitat occurs along portions of the existing subtransmission line corridor; may forage throughout project area.
Asio otus Long-eared owl	SSC, WEMO	Riparian bottomlands grown to tall willows and cottonwoods, belts of live oak paralleling stream courses; require old nests of crows, hawks, or magpies for breeding	Low. Suitable nesting habitat does not occur; marginal foraging habitat available.	Low. Suitable nesting habitat does not occur; marginal foraging habitat available.
Athene cunicularia Burrowing owl	BLM, SSC, WEMO	Open, dry grasslands, deserts and ruderal areas with suitable small mammal burrows, especially those of California ground squirrels	High. Suitable habitat, including numerous potential burrows, occurs onsite.	High. Suitable habitat occurs along, or adjacent to, the entire existing subtransmission line corridor with the exception of a few developed areas.
Buteo regalis Ferruginous hawk	BLM	Nests in foothills or prairies; not known to breed in California; forages over a variety of open, treeless habitats; winter migrant in California.	Low. Marginal foraging habitat occurs onsite.	Moderate. Existing subtransmission line corridor supports suitable foraging habitat; recently identified just south of Inyokern.
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	WEMO	Stands with few trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian habitat, and oak savannah. Forages in adjacent grasslands and agricultural fields and pastures.	Low. Nesting habitat limited by surrounding development; may periodically utilize the site for foraging.	Moderate. Potential nesting habitat limited throughout entire existing subtransmission line corridor; however, may utilize open areas surrounding corridor for foraging; recently observed flying in area approximately five miles south of City of Ridgecrest (likely migrant).

Table B.3.4-1. Special-Status Species that Could Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence in the Project Area	
			Downs Substation Expansion Site	Subtransmission Line Corridor
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Breed on barren to sparsely vegetated flats and along shores of alkaline and saline lakes, reservoirs, ponds, river channels, and salt evaporation ponds.	Not likely to occur. Substation expansion site does not support suitable habitat.	Low. Species has been known to breed at Searles Lake adjacent to northeast portion of the existing subtransmission line corridor; however, recent declines in populations have been attributed to reductions in suitable habitat; specific project area does not support suitable habitat.
Charadrius montanus Mountain plover	SSC, BLM	Winters in short grasslands and agricultural fields. Breeds in short-grass prairies outside of California.	Not likely to occur. Substation expansion site does not support suitable habitat.	Low. Prime wintering habitat does not occur. However the bird may be an occasional winter forager in the project area.
Circus cyaneus Northern harrier	SSC	Breed and forage in a variety of open habitats that provide adequate cover, prey abundance, and perching sites.	Low. Substation expansion site does not provide suitable nesting habitat; marginal foraging habitat occurs.	Moderate. Existing subtransmission line corridor does not provide suitable nesting habitat; however, species may utilize entire area, particularly desert sink habitat in northeast portion, for foraging; recently detected at Inyokern sewage ponds.
Dendroica petechia brewsteri Yellow warbler	SSC, WEMO	Riparian plant associations; prefers willows, cottonwoods, aspens, sycamores, and alders for nesting and foraging	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the Project area.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur in the Project area.
Eremophila alpestris California horned lark	SSC	Open habitats, forages in bare dirt in short and/or sparse grassland and areas of scattered shrubs.	High. Suitable habitat occurs for this species that is fairly common in the region.	Present. Identified along the existing subtransmission line corridor during surveys.
Falco mexicanus Prairie falcon	WL	Annual grassland to alpine meadows, but is typically found in perennial grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, some agricultural fields and desert scrub areas.	Low. No suitable nesting habitat; however, may periodically utilize the site for foraging.	High. Rocky cliffs along the northeastern portion of the existing subtransmission line corridor provide suitable nesting habitat; may forage throughout the Project area.
Falco peregrinus anatum American peregrine falcon	CFP	Breeds near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water on high cliffs, dunes, mounds, buildings.	Low. No suitable nesting habitat; marginal foraging habitat occurs onsite.	Present. Breeding pair identified during April 2011 reconnaissance surveys within steep, rocky slopes in Poison Canyon, just north of Hwy 178.

Table B.3.4-1. Special-Status Species that Could Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence in the Project Area	
			Downs Substation Expansion Site	Subtransmission Line Corridor
Haliaeetus leucocephalus Bald eagle	SE, CFP	Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live trees with open branches; requires large bodies of water with abundant fish for feeding.	Low. No suitable nesting or foraging habitat; recently detected near Inyokern sewage ponds.	Low. No suitable nesting or foraging habitat; recently detected near Inyokern sewage ponds.
Lanius ludovicianus Loggerhead shrike	SSC, WEMO	Broken woodlands, savannah, pinyon and juniper woodland, Joshua tree woodland, desert scrub, oases; prefers open country for hunting and fairly dense shrubs and brush for nesting	High. Suitable habitat occur onsite.	Present. Species identified along the existing subtransmission line corridor during surveys.
Melozone crissalis eremophilus Inyo California towhee	FT, SE	Inhabits willow thickets growing at permanent springs or seepages in canyons; ranges into adjacent desert brushlands	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur onsite.	Not likely to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur onsite.
Toxostoma crissale Crissal thrasher	SSC	Occupies desert riparian, and scrub habitats with dense, low, shrubby vegetation.	Low. Site supports only marginal nesting habitat; may utilize site for foraging.	Moderate. Potential habitat occurs throughout adjacent areas of existing subtransmission line corridor where vegetation is relatively denser.
Toxostoma lecontei Le Conte's thrasher	SSC, WEMO	Primarily open desert wash, desert scrub, alkali desert scrub, and desert succulent scrub habitats; commonly nests in dense, spiny shrubs or densely branched cacti in desert wash habitat	Low. Site supports only marginal nesting habitat; may utilize site for foraging.	High. Suitable habitat occurs throughout portions of the existing subtransmission line corridor with the exception of developed areas.
Mammals				
Antrozous pallidus Pallid bat	BLM, SSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests; most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting	Moderate. May roost in abandoned houses and other structures nearby.	Moderate. Suitable roosting habitat occurs along northeastern portions of existing subtransmission line corridor.
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's big-eared bat	BLM, SSC	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats; most common in mesic sites; roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings	Moderate. May roost in abandoned houses and other structures nearby; may utilize site for foraging.	Moderate. Existing subtransmission line corridor does not support open water sources associated with roosting sites for this species; may infrequently utilize area for foraging

Table B.3.4-1. Special-Status Species that Could Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status	Habitat	Occurrence in the Project Area	
			Downs Substation Expansion Site	Subtransmission Line Corridor
Euderma maculatum Spotted bat	BLM, SSC	Occupies a wide variety of habitats from arid deserts and grasslands through mixed conifer forests; requires rocky crevices in cliffs or caves for roosting; feeds over water and along washes	Low. Species is known from region. May roost in abandoned houses and other structures.	Moderate. Species may utilize rocky cliffs along northeastern portions of existing subtransmission line corridor; limited foraging opportunities available.
Eumops perotis *Western Mastiff bat*	BLM, SSC	Occupies a wide variety of habitats from arid deserts and grasslands; requires rocky crevices in cliffs or caves for roosting; sometimes roosts in buildings.	Low. Species is known from region. May roost in abandoned houses and other structures.	Moderate. Species may utilize rocky cliffs along northeastern portions of existing subtransmission line corridor; limited foraging opportunities available.
Myotis ciliolabrum Western small-footed myotis	BLM, WEMO	Open habitats with rocks or caves for roosting	Low. Site does not support suitable roosting habitat; may infrequently forage at site.	Low. Species may utilize rocky cliffs along northeastern portions of existing subtransmission line corridor; limited foraging opportunities available
Myotis yumanensis Yuma myotis	BLM, WEMO	Open habitats with rocks or caves for roosting	Low. Site does not support suitable roosting habitat; may infrequently forage at site.	Low. Species may utilize rocky cliffs along northeastern portions of existing subtransmission line corridor; limited foraging opportunities available
Ovis canadensis nelson Nelson's bighorn sheep	BLM, WEMO	Prefer mountainous terrain above the desert floor; steep, rocky, open habitats.	Not likely to occur. Site does not support suitable habitat.	High. Rocky hills and areas near the base of the hills along northeastern portions of existing subtransmission line corridor support suitable habitat.
Taxidea taxus American badger	SSC	Expansive grassland with friable soils and adequate prey base	Moderate. Site supports marginal habitat; no suitable burrows identified during surveys.	High. Suitable habitat occurs throughout undeveloped areas of existing subtransmission line corridor; species has been previously recorded along western portions.
Vulpes macrotis arsipus Desert kit fox	Title 14		Moderate. Suitable habitat occurs on the site and in adjacent habitat. Presence of dogs and human disturbance may limit presence.	High. Suitable habitat occurs throughout undeveloped areas of existing subtransmission line corridor.
Xerospermophilus mohavensis Mohave ground squirrel	ST, WEMO	Open desert scrub, alkali scrub, and Joshua tree woodland; feeds in annual grasslands; prefers sandy to gravelly soils and avoids rocky areas	Low. Site supports marginal habitat, but is limited by ongoing human activities, including trash dumping and adjacent development.	Present. Identified along southern portion of existing subtransmission line corridor during surveys; many portions of the alignment supports suitable habitat.

Definitions Regarding Potential Occurrence:

Present:	Species or sign of its presence observed on the site
High:	Species or sign not observed on the site, but reasonably certain to occur on the site
Moderate:	Species or sign not observed on the site, but conditions suitable for occurrence
Low:	Species or sign not observed on the site, conditions marginal for occurrence
Not likely to occur:	Species or sign not observed on the site, conditions unsuitable for occurrence

STATUS CODES:

FE	Federally Endangered
FT	Federally Threatened
FC	Federal Candidate
SE	State Endangered
ST	State Threatened
SSC	California Species of Special Concern
FP	Fully Protected
WL	Watch List
CNPS	California Native Plant Society Listing
1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
2	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
.1	Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)
.2	Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)
.3	Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)