
Appendix C

Biological Resources Assessment

Biological Resources Assessment

Ventura Compressor Modernization Project

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1. Introduction

This report includes findings of a biological resources assessment conducted by South Environmental at 1555 North Olive Street in the City of Ventura (City), California at the site of the proposed Ventura Compressor Modernization Project (Project). The project site is entirely developed and currently functions as a compressor station owned and operated by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). This report identifies and assesses the potential impacts to sensitive or protected biological resources on the 8.42-acre Project site as well as the 2.53-acre off-site staging area, which totals approximately 11 acres (i.e. "Development Area"). Taking into account a 1,000-foot buffer from the Development Area, the total Study Area for biological resources includes 148 acres. This report indicates the regulations governing these resources, and discusses recommendations for avoiding or mitigating these impacts. The biological resources of the study area were assessed based on a literature review and a field site survey. This report is prepared in support of the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA).

Project Description

Location and Setting

As shown in Figure 1 below, the Development Area has a General Plan land use designation of "industry" and a zoning designation of "M-2- General Industrial Zone" and is located in the City of Ventura approximately 370 feet east of State Route (SR) 33. The Development Area is within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Ventura 7.5 Minute Topographical Quadrangle, and within Sections 32 and 33 of Township 03 North (03N) and Range 23 West (23W). As shown in Figure 2 below, the 8.42-acre Project site is located at 1555 North Olive Street (Assessor Parcel Number [APN] 0680142030) and is entirely developed and surrounded by developed land uses. Regional access to the Project site is via U.S. Route 101. Industrial uses surround the project site on the north, west, and south. A privately owned property (1675 North Olive Street, APN 0680090340) is located adjacent to the northwest corner of the Project site fronting North Olive Street.¹ The EP Foster Elementary School is located across North Olive Street to the east of the Project site. An approximately 2.53-acre temporary construction staging area is located in the west side of the

¹ Although APN 0680090340 is zoned and designated for industrial/manufacturing uses, the parcel appears to include a single-family residence on the northern half of the property (City of Ventura 2023). According to site reconnaissance and a Google Earth desktop analysis, the southern half of the APN 0680090340 includes a storage container, several ancillary non-habitable structures, and a vehicle storage/parking area (Google Earth 2023).

Figure 1: Regional Location

Figure 2: Project Vicinity

Project site. The Project site is approximately 900 feet east and the Staging Area is approximately 650 feet east of the Ventura River. Portions of the Study Area within the Ventura River, which is west of SR-33 and located within the unincorporated Ventura County. There is a strip of land owned by the City of Ventura immediately adjacent to the west of the staging area (see Figure 2) that is shown in the California Protected Areas Database (CPAD). According to Google Earth images and ESRI aerial photographs this area is a paved, private access for the adjacent industrial areas. This area shows up as Southern Pacific Railroad in the topographic (topo) map shown in Figure 1, but no railroad tracks are visible in this location and it does not currently have that use. The Ventura River Trail occurs as a narrow hiking trail further from the Project site at the edge of SR-33. Photographs of the study area are shown in Appendix A.

Proposed Development

The proposed Project includes installation of four reciprocating compressors (two gas engine driven with non-selective catalytic reduction emission control equipment and two electric motor driven). The four compressors would have an approximate combined 7,600 horsepower (HP), one emergency gas-fired generator engine with enclosure, a compressor building, an office building, and a warehouse building. The compressor building (approximately 10,458 square feet [SF]) will house the four compressors and will have a 64-foot-tall exhaust stack and overhead crane for maintenance. The office building (approximately 4,641 SF) and the warehouse building (approximately 5,459 SF) will be pre-engineered metal buildings (PEMBs). Additional ancillary equipment will be installed, which includes an emergency shutdown stack, compressor area oily waste tanks, waste oil storage tank, engine oil storage tank, oily waste storage tank, compressor area oil waste tanks and coolant storage tanks. The Project includes development of a stormwater component that includes sumps and catch pits, which will be interconnected with underground piping that will drain to an on-site detention pond.

The old compressor facility will be decommissioned approximately one year after the new facility is fully operational. The structures will be removed to the level of the foundation, which will remain in place in perpetuity. No road improvements, pipeline extensions, or other permanent off-site infrastructure will be necessary to construct the project.

2. Methodology

This biological resource assessment is based on information compiled through a field reconnaissance and a review of appropriate reference materials and literature regarding the biological resources of the region. A general biological field reconnaissance of plants and animals were conducted by South Environmental biologist James McNutt and the sources and literature referenced in this assessment are provided below in Section 5 Bibliography.

Preliminary Agency Consultation

South Environmental did not consult any agency prior to surveying the property or assessing the Project's potential effects on biological resources. The proposed Development Area is already developed and in an industrial area. This area does not require focused surveys due to lack of habitat and it is private property not within any agency jurisdiction or protected areas or parklands. Therefore, agency consultation was determined to be unnecessary to complete this assessment.

Literature Review and Records Search

The assessment of the Project began with a review of literature relating to the biological resources that are known to occur in the vicinity of the project. The CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) "Rarefind" query (CDFW, 2023a), the "Special Animals List" query (CDFW 2023b), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPSa; 2023) online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California were reviewed to identify special-status plants, animals, and natural communities that have previously been recorded in the USGS 7.5" Ventura quad in which the Project site is located, and the eight surrounding USGS 7.5"quads: White Ledge Peak, Matilija, Ojai, Saticoy, Oxnard, Oxnard OE W, and Pitas Point (USGS 2023a). For plants, online sources CalFlora (2023) and Jepson E-flora (2023) were queried for information on current and historic range including elevation. For animals, the California's Wildlife: Life History and Range were consulted (CDFW, 2023c) for information on the current range of wildlife. In addition, queries were conducted of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) for federally protected species (USFWS 2022a), the USFWS Designated and Proposed Critical Habitat maps (USFWS 2022b).

The following sources were consulted regarding the potential for wildlife movement corridors and water resources to occur on the study area:

- Google Earth online (Google 2023)

- California Protected Areas Database Map online (CPAD 2023)
- South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network for the South Coast Ecoregion (SC Wildlands 2006).
- National Wetlands Inventory online (USFWS 2022c)
- National Hydrography Dataset online (USGS 2022)

Google Earth online was used to assess the level of connectivity of habitat to the site. The foremost considerations were whether there was a direct connection of high-quality habitat to the Project site — without interference from development — and whether the connecting habitat linked to large habitat tracts.

Biological Resource Survey Methods

South Environmental biologist James McNutt conducted a field reconnaissance of the Development Area and a 1,000-foot buffer (study area) on Friday, February 3, 2023, during the afternoon over a period of one hour. The weather was fair with a temperature of 65° F, light wind (7-10 mph) and 25-35% humidity. The purpose of the reconnaissance was to record plants and animals observed on the Study Area, characterize and map plant communities, and identify other locally significant resources such as native trees or wildlife movement areas.

Plant Community Mapping

Plant communities were mapped over the entire Study Area. The communities were mapped by hand in the field using aerial photographs of the Development Area at an approximate 1:300' scale by delineating dominant plant and habitat types observed in the field. The areas were later digitized using ArcGIS Pro mapping software to calculate acreages and assess impacts from the Project. Plant community descriptions follow vegetation classifications in the Manual for California Vegetation online (CNPSb, 2023).

Plant and Animal Inventories

All plant and wildlife species observed during the surveys, as well as any diagnostic sign (call, tracks, nests, scat, remains, or other sign), were recorded in field notes. Binoculars and regional field guides were utilized for the identification of wildlife, as necessary. Since common names, except for birds, vary significantly between references, scientific names are included upon initial mention of each species; common names consistent throughout the report are employed thereafter.

Wildlife Movement Assessment

During the South Environmental field reconnaissance, the Development Area and surrounding 1,000-ft Study Area were assessed for their potential use as a wildlife corridor or habitat linkage. The level of disturbance of the site and surrounding areas by way of development including roads, house and commercial structures, fences, and lighting were noted as they pertain to the connectivity of the site to high-quality habitat. The Study Area was assessed for the presence of a corridor of linkage of habitat that connects the site to adjacent high-quality habitat. Included in this assessment of a corridor was potential stream areas or those with unique natural feature (e.g., rock outcrops) which wildlife are known to frequently use as habitat linkages.

3. Environmental Setting

Physical Characteristics

Geology and Landforms

Regionally, the Project site is in the foothills of the eastern Santa Ynez Mountains. The Project site is approximately 7,800 feet (1.5 miles) northeast of the Pacific Ocean. Locally, the Project site is located approximately 900 feet east of Ventura River, 1,600 feet (0.3 miles) southwest of Harry A Lyon Park, 3,700 feet (0.7 miles) northwest of Grant Park, and 3,400 feet (0.65 miles) north of Westpark Community Center. The Project site is underlain by historically active wash deposits adjacent to an active channel, and composed of unconsolidated sand, silt, and gravel. The northern portion of the Project site has undergone extensive soil remediation, which included excavations up to 40 feet and backfill with clean fill soil, with cement slurry and rock placed in the deeper excavations. Therefore, the northern portion of the Project site is underlain by artificial fill varying from 5 to 40 feet deep. Based on geotechnical borings drilled on site in the southern portion of the site, fill soils are typically 3 to 7 feet deep, with a localized area of fill to 12.5 feet. These fill soils consist predominantly of a layer of sandy clay overlying poorly graded sand and poorly graded gravel.

Topography and Climate

The elevation of the Project site increases slightly from south to north. The Project site is at an approximate elevation of 65 feet (National Geodetic Vertical Datum [NGVD] 29), situated on relatively flat to gently sloping topography toward the south-southwest. Average high and low temperatures for the City are 73°F and 60°F in the summer, respectively, and 65°F and 46°F in the winter, respectively. The region receives an average of 21 inches of precipitation per year, with no snowfall and rain occurring on an average of 29 days (about 4 weeks) per year (www.ncei.noaa.com, 2023).

Soils

According to the USDA Soils Database there are five soil complexes on the Study Area (USDA 2023), and they are shown in Figure 3:

- **Anacapa sandy loam, 2° to 9° slopes** occur in the central and eastern parts of the Project site. This is an alluvial flat soil that is well drained.
- **Garretson loam, 2° to 9° slopes** occur in the southern portion of the Study Area outside the Project site. This is found on alluvial fans and footslopes and is well drained.

Figure 3: Soils

- **Riverwash** occurs on a sliver of the western edge of the Study Area and outside the Project site. This is the streambed for Ventura River.
- **Sandy alluvial land** occurs in the western part of the Project site. This is a floodplain soil and is somewhat excessively drained.
- **Sorrento loam, 2° to 9° slopes** occur in the northeast part of the Project site. This is an alluvial fan soil and is well drained.

Aquatic Resources and Jurisdictional Features

According to the USGS National Watershed Boundary Dataset (USGS 2022c), the project site is part of the Lower Ventura River Watershed. The Ventura River includes a perennial stream and surrounding dense willow riparian areas that transitions to more riparian scrub closer to SR-33. The Ventura River is a dynamic river system with forested and shrub wetlands, a large floodplain, and riparian scrub along the edge of the floodplain. This river system supports a diversity of aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats. There are no water resources within the Project site or the staging area, but it is approximately 650 feet east of the Ventura River, which is contained in a channelized streambed at the western edge of the Study Area. The entire Development Area and 92% of the Study Area is developed, and no jurisdictional or aquatic features are present there or surrounding. The Project site is separated from the Ventura River by industrial development and SR-33 on the west and has no direct connection to the river.

Biological Characteristics

Plants

The plants observed on the Study Area were largely non-native ornamental and invasive species with a few ornamental native species planted on the site. Mostly ornamental species were observed along the boundary of the eastern Project site, whereas the remain portions of the Project site had a presence of non-native invasives. Plants within the Ventura River area of the Study Area were largely native and these same species were not observed outside the river area. Plants observed on the Project site and Study Area are listed in Table 1. Plant types with an asterisk (*) are considered non-native and invasive as defined by the California Invasive Plant Council. CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank.

Table 1. Summary of Plants on Project Site and Immediate Surroundings

Common name	Scientific name	Native/Non-Native	CRPR
Coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Native	--
mulefat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Native	--
California bricklebrush	<i>Brickelia californica</i>	Native	--

Ripgut brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>		
Birch leaf mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	Native	--
panic veldtgrass	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	*Non-Native	--
Canada horseweed	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	Native	--
English ivy	<i>Hedra helix</i>	*Non-Native	--
orange daylily	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Non-Native	--
foxtail barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	*Non-Native	--
sweet bay	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Non-Native	--
Laurel sumac	<i>Malosma laurina</i>	Native	--
yellow sweet clover	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Non-Native	--
sacred bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Non-Native	--
olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	*Non-Native	--
Canary Island date palm	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Non-Native	--
Indian hawthorn	<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	Non-Native	--
Red willow	<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Native	--
Arroyo willow	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Native	--
coast redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Native	--
sow thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Non-Native	--
St. Augustine grass	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	Non-Native	--
queen palm	<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	Non-Native	--
red seeded dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Non-Native	--
star jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Non-native	--
Mexican fan palm	<i>Washington robusta</i>	*Non-Native	--
yucca gigantea	<i>Yucca gigantea</i>	Non-Native	--
cactus	<i>Opuntia sp.</i>	Native	--

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover

No native plant communities or habitats occur on the Project site as it is entirely developed. Developed/disturbed areas occur throughout the Study Area except for the Ventura River, where arroyo willow thickets occurs at the western edge of the Study Area as shown in Figure 4 below and summarized in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Summary of Plant Communities on the Study Area

Community or Cover Type	Study Area (Acres)	Development Area (Acres)	Project Impacts (Acres)
Developed / Disturbed	136	11	11
Arroyo Willow Thickets	12	0	0
Total	148	11	11

Figure 4: Plant Communities and Land Cover

Developed/Disturbed

A developed and disturbed cover type is found on 136 acres (92%) of the Study Area, including the entire 11-acre Development Area. The cover type is made up of existing developments, including municipal facilities, commercial facilities, industrial facilities, residential houses, public school facilities, driveways, parking areas, and roadways. Some invasive and non-native vegetation was present within gravel and paved developed areas, and ornamental landscape communities made up lawns and decorative areas for developments and contained a diversity of non-native ornamental plants.

Among others at the canopy level, ornamental trees observed were lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), sweet bay (*Laurus nobilis*), olive (*Olea europaea*), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), and Yucca gigantea (*Yucca gigantea*). Among others, plants in the shrub layer included sacred bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*), star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), Mexican fan palm (*Washington robusta*), and cactus (*Opuntia sp.*). The herbaceous level included panic veldtgrass (*Ehrharta erecta*), Canada horessweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), English ivy (*Hedra helix*), orange daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*), sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), and red seed dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

Arroyo Willow Thickets

The Ventura River occurs on 12 acres (8%) of the Study Area on the west side of SR-33. Arroyo willow thickets occur as both riparian scrub and woodland, with dense willow thickets surrounding the stream and sparser tree and shrub cover with non-native grasses near SR-33. This community is dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and has red willow (*Salix laevigata*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), and bricklebush (*Brickellia californica*) in this denser area near the stream flow. The density of willows is less as you get further from the stream flow of the river and it becomes a riparian scrub area dominated by more sparse native shrubs listed above and includes birch leaf mountain mahogany as well as a diversity of non-native and invasive herbaceous cover between the shrubs such as ripgut brome, panic veldtgrass, foxtail barley, and tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*). This is a high-quality native riparian and aquatic habitat that supports a high diversity of plants and wildlife.

Wildlife

During the field visit by South Environmental on February 3, 2023, two common bird species were observed: common raven (*Corvus corax*) and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*). No reptiles, amphibians, or mammals were observed and there was no other indirect evidence of special-

status animals, for example, tracks, scat, carcasses, or bones at the site. Numerous wildlife occurs at the Ventura River based on the high-quality riparian and aquatic habitats, and the abundant iBird and iNaturalist records located there. A total of 108 bird species are recorded to iBird in Ventura River bottoms nearest the Project site and 235 birds are known to occur at the Ventura River Estuary downstream from the Project site. These same species would not be found on the developed/disturbed areas.

Special-Status Species Assessment

Special-Status Plants

The developed/disturbed portions of the Study Area, including the entire 11-acre Development Area, lack habitat for special-status plants and none are expected to occur in this land cover type. According to the literature review presented in Appendix B, there are 30 special-status plants known to occur in the region. No special-status plants were observed within the Development Area during the field visit and each special-status plant known within the region was assessed with no potential to occur in the developed/disturbed areas due to a lack of native habitats and the developed nature of this land cover type. No special-status plant species have been previously recorded to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) within the developed/disturbed areas and the Development Area is not within designated or proposed Critical Habitat for any plant species (CDFW 2023a; USFWS 2023b). No special-status species have the potential to occur in the developed/disturbed areas of the Project site because the area is entirely developed with bare, compacted soils that are graded, and special-status plants occur in native plant communities and habitats, which are absent from the Development Area. Only sparse non-native vegetation, occasional ornamental trees, and invasive vegetation occur within the Project site. The developed/disturbed portions of the Study Area do not support special-status plants and the existing development precludes special-status plants from establishing there in the future.

The arroyo willow thickets within the Ventura River, which occurs approximately 700 feet away from and entirely outside of the Development Area, have the potential to support the following special-status plants:

- Ventura marsh milk-vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*) is a federal and state endangered plant that is recorded in the CNDDDB within Ventura River near the Development Area. There is one record of this species from 1987 that does not have an accurate location information and is possibly extirpated. Nonetheless, the species has a low potential to ~~could~~ occur in the Ventura River due to the suitable habitat and past records of the species in the vicinity of the Study Area.
- Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*) has a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1B.1 indicating that it is rare throughout its range. There is a single occurrence

of this plant recorded to the CNDDDB within Ventura River near the Development Area. The exact location of the recorded occurrence is not known and is listed in the CNDDDB as in Ventura or the Ventura River. Based on the suitable habitat within the Ventura River and the past occurrence records of the species, it has ~~the~~ a high potential to occur in the Ventura River on the Study Area.

- White rabbit tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) has a CRPR of 2B.2 indicating it is common outside California but is rare in California. This species has a medium potential to occur in the Ventura River based on suitable habitat and known occurrence records in the region. This species has CNDDDB records within the Santa Clara River, approximately 7-miles from the Project site. Nonetheless, there is suitable habitat for the species in the Ventura River and there is a medium potential for this species to occur.

Special-Status Animals

The developed/disturbed portions of the Study Area, including the entire 11-acre Development Area, lack habitat for special-status animals; as a result, none are expected to occur in this land cover type. According to the literature analysis using the CNDDDB database and presented in Appendix B, there are 40 special-status animals known to occur in the region. No special-status animals were observed on the Development Area in this community during the field visit and no other evidence such as tracks, scat, carcasses, or bones of special-status animals were found. No special-status animals have been previously recorded in the CNDDDB on the developed and disturbed areas of the Study Area (CDFW 2023b). The nearest USFWS designated Critical Habitat is for southwestern willow flycatcher and it occurs within the Ventura River (discussed below) approximately 650 feet west of the Development Area. The Development Area is separated from the Ventura River by 650 feet of industrial development and SR-33 on the west and there is no habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher on the developed/disturbed portions of the Study Area, which includes the entire Project site. No special-status wildlife species were assessed with any potential to occur in the developed/disturbed areas because they are characterized by developments such as buildings and paved roads, and disturbed areas with bare, compacted soils that are graded, and special-status animals occur in native plant communities and habitats, which are absent. Only sparse non-native vegetation, occasional ornamental trees, and invasive vegetation occur within the Project site. The developed/disturbed areas do not support special-status animals and the existing developments preclude special-status animals from establishing there in the future. However, the vegetation, ornamental trees, and buildings provide opportunities for nesting birds and raptors protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Migratory Bird Protection Act (MBPA) to occur at the site; however, these would be limited to species that are found in urban areas, and special-status species would not occur.

The Ventura River is designated Critical Habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher and is characterized as southern California steelhead stream, a sensitive natural community according to the CDFW. The following special-status animals are known to occur in the Ventura River or have a high potential to occur in the aquatic habitat, or riparian woodlands and scrub:

- Foothill yellow legged frog (*Rana boylei*) – California Endangered (CE), state Species of Special Concern (SSC)
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) – Federal Threatened, SSC
- Coast range newt (*Taricha torosa*) - SSC
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) – California Threatened, SSC
- Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) - SSC
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) – Federal Endangered (FE), CE
- Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) - FE
- Steelhead – southern California DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 10) – FE, State Candidate for Endangered
- Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) – IUCN Endangered
- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus* pop. 1) – Candidate for Federal Endangered, IUCN Endangered
- Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*) - SSC
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) - SSC
- Two-stripe garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) - SSC

Sensitive Natural Communities

CDFW 2018 *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* defines sensitive natural communities as those that are "of limited distribution statewide or within a county or region and are often vulnerable to environmental effects of projects." CDFW considers a natural community sensitive if it has a Global or State rarity rank of 1-3, which includes communities that are vulnerable (G3/S3), imperiled (G2/S2), and critically imperiled (G1/S1). CDFW uses the alliances and groups described in the Manual of California Vegetation Online to characterize California's natural communities and provides the California Natural Communities List online (most current is dated September 9, 2020) to list the current global and state rarity rank for each natural community characterized in the Manual. The willow thickets in the Study Area have a G4/S4 rarity ranking and are therefore not considered a sensitive natural community by CDFW. The arroyo willow thickets do not have a Global and State Rarity ranking that would qualify it as CDFW designated natural community, but it is a riparian community that is considered valuable as wildlife habitat due to the typical species

diversity and abundance found in riparian areas. Generally, riparian areas are considered sensitive and of high biological value.

The Ventura River aquatic areas are considered a Sensitive Natural Community by CDFW according to the CNDDDB records and it is called southern California Steelhead Stream because the Southern California DPS population 10 occurs in the Ventura River at this location.

Protected Trees

Alterations or removal of protected trees require a permit as defined in the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO) and the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO). In the non-coastal zone, protected trees include all oaks and sycamores 9.5 inches in circumference or larger (measured at least 4.5 feet above ground), trees of any species with a historical designation, trees of any species 90 inches in circumference or larger, and most 9.5-inch in circumference or larger native trees that are located in the Scenic Resources Protection Zone. The Project site is in a non-coastal zone, and not within the Scenic Resources Protection Zone; additionally, no protected trees were observed on the Project site during the South Environmental Project site visit. No protected trees occur on the Project site or adjacent areas. Some protected species are likely to occur within the arroyo willow thickets, but these are 900-feet from the Project site.

Habitat Linkages and Wildlife Migration Corridors

The National Wetlands Inventory and CPAD data include parklands and protected native habitats as well as the river and stream systems (USFWS 2023b; CPAD 2023), which are areas of high importance for wildlife movement in the region. The Development Area is entirely developed and is surrounded by existing development. The vast majority of the Study Area is disturbed or developed land cover type except for the Ventura River that occurs 650 feet to the west of the Development Area. The nearest high quality habitat and wildlife migration area is within the arroyo willow thickets that occurs within the Ventura River, which is considered an essential, high-value habitat linkage that would be used by numerous fish and wildlife for migration. The County of Ventura Resource Management Agency has designated the Ventura River as a Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor (HCWC) that is essential for wildlife and plant dispersal and migration in the County. However, the 11-acre Development Area is separated from the arroyo willow thickets by 650 feet of industrial development and SR-33 on the west and has no direct connection to the river. There are no native habitats in the Study Area that could act as a linkage or wildlife migration corridor from the Development Area to/from the Ventura River.

According to CPAD, there is a City-owned strip of land immediately adjacent to the west of the staging area (see Figure 2). Google Earth images and ESRI aerial photographs of this area show a

paved, private access for the adjacent industrial areas. This area shows up as Southern Pacific Railroad in the topographic map (Figure 1), but no railroad tracks are visible in this location and it does not currently have that use. This City-owned area is not considered a wildlife corridor or movement area because it is highly developed and used for industrial purposes. Due to the lack of habitat on the 11-acre Development Area and the lack of a direct connection to existing movement areas in the Ventura River that are separated from the site by 650 feet of development, the Project site lacks habitat linkages and wildlife movement corridors.

4. Impacts Analysis

For the purposes of this report, impacts to protected biological resources are analyzed within the context of the regulatory setting, and more specifically the analysis will follow the questions pertaining to biological resources posed in Appendix G Checklist of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Below is an overview of the federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to protected biological resources on the Project site, and an analysis of impacts to those resources that may occur as a result of the Project.

Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 defines an endangered species as “any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.” A threatened species is defined as “any species which is likely to become an Endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.” Under provisions of Section 9(a)(1)(B) of the FESA, unless properly permitted, it is unlawful to “take” any listed species. “Take” is defined in Section 3(18) of FESA: “...harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” Further, the USFWS, through regulation, has interpreted the terms “harm” and “harass” to include certain types of habitat modification as forms of “take.” These interpretations, however, are generally considered and applied on a case-by-case basis and often vary from species to species. In a case where a property owner seeks permission from a federal agency for an action which could affect a federally listed plant or animal species, the property owner and agency are required to consult with USFWS pursuant to Section 7 of the FESA if there is a federal nexus, or pursuant to Section 10 of the FESA. Section 9(a)(2)(b) of the FESA addresses the protections afforded to listed plants.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects individuals as well as any part, nest, or eggs of any bird listed as migratory. In practice, federal permits issued for activities that potentially impact migratory birds typically have conditions that require pre-disturbance surveys for nesting birds. In the event nesting is observed, a buffer area with a specified radius must be established, within which no disturbance or intrusion is allowed until the young have fledged and left the nest, or it has been determined that the nest has failed. If not otherwise specified in the permit, the size of the buffer area varies with species and local circumstances (e.g., presence of busy roads, intervening topography, etc.), and is based on the professional judgment of a monitoring biologist. A list of migratory bird species protected under the MBTA is published by USFWS.

California Regulations

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. CEQA applies to certain activities of state and local public agencies. A public agency must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "project." A project is an activity undertaken by a public agency or a private activity which must receive some discretionary approval (meaning that the agency has the authority to deny the requested permit or approval) from a government agency which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment.

An Initial Study (IS) is prepared when a proposed action is determined to be a "project" under CEQA. The IS is a checklist that asks specific questions about the project's level of environmental impacts in many categories, including biological resources. The checklist includes a series of questions to determine the projects level of potential impacts in each of the categories. Potential level of impact includes: No Impacts, Less Than Significant Impact, Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated, and Potentially Significant Impact. For projects that have no impact or less than significant impact a Negative Declaration is prepared, for those with Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and for those with a Potentially Significant Impact prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) states that "all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation, will be protected or preserved."

The CDFW oversees the CESA, and reviews and analyzes petitions for the listing of species to CESA. CEQA is typically the driver of the CESA, and projects that are subject to CEQA and have the potential to significantly impact listed species (as determined in an Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report) must consult with CDFW to get an Incidental Take Permit. Similarly, if a species is listed to both the Federal Endangered Species Act and CESA, consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and CDFW will be required and could result in a Consistency Determination.

California Fish and Game Code Section 3500

Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code states that it is “unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.” Activities that result in the abandonment of an active bird of prey nest may also be considered in violation of this code. In addition, California Fish and Game Code, Section 3511 prohibits the taking of any bird listed as fully protected, and California Fish and Game Code, Section 3515 states that it is unlawful to take any non-game migratory bird protected under the MBTA.

California Migratory Bird Protection Act

The California Migratory Bird Protection Act (MBPA) was enacted in September 2019 to reinforce the MBTA at the state level. The MBPA states:

- “It is unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird as designated in the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 703 et seq.) before January 1, 2017, any additional migratory nongame bird that may be designated in that federal act after that date, or any part of a migratory nongame bird described in this section, except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under that federal act before January 1, 2017, or subsequent rules or regulations adopted pursuant to that federal act, unless those rules or regulations are inconsistent with this code.”

This section is inactive on January 20, 2025, and the following language below will be adopted:

- “It is unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird as designated in the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 703 et seq.), or any part of a migratory nongame bird described in this section, except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under that federal act.”

This section is operative starting on January 20, 2025.

Local Regulations

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decisions, as well as California courts, have confirmed the CPUC’s preemptory powers over matters of statewide concern, including utility project siting. As such, no local discretionary (e.g., rezone, land use) permits would be required because the CPUC has preemptive jurisdiction over the siting, construction, maintenance, and operation of natural gas facilities in California. This section identifies City land use plans and

regulations for informational purposes and to assist with environmental review, although the Project is not subject to local discretionary permitting.

Ventura County Protected Tree Ordinance

Alterations or removal of protected trees are subject to permits as defined in the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO) and the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO). The application for a permit is controlled by the ordinance (County of Ventura 2023) as follows:

- "...in the non-coastal zone, protected trees include all oaks and sycamores 9.5 inches in circumference or larger (measured at least 4.5 feet above ground), trees of any species with a historical designation, trees of any species 90 inches in circumference or larger, and most 9.5-inch in circumference or larger native trees that are located in the Scenic Resources Protection Zone. In the coastal zone, protected trees include trees that are considered Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, native trees, historic trees, and heritage trees. A permit is required even to alter a non-native tree or a non-native invasive tree species that is located in the coastal zone."

Project Impacts and Recommendations

For the purposes of this Project the impacts to biological resources will be assessed within the context of the questions found in Appendix G of CEQA.

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. No native plant communities or habitats occur on the Project site because it is entirely disturbed/developed. The proposed Project's direct impacts would occur in existing developed areas where no habitats occur. The disturbed/developed areas do not support special-status species due to lack of habitat, and the existing developments preclude special-status species from establishing there in the future. Native habitats do occur 700 feet west of the Project site within the arroyo willow thickets associated with the Ventura River, but the Project site is separated from this habitat by 700 feet of industrial developments and SR-33 on the west and has no direct connection to the river. Because the Project site and surrounding areas are developed and lack native habitats, no direct impacts to habitat would occur from the proposed Project. No special-status species are expected to occur at the Project site would more likely occur within the arroyo willow thickets approximately 700 feet away. Therefore, no direct impacts to special-status species would result from the Project.

Indirect impacts from noise, vibration, or lighting are not expected to result because the Project site is surrounded by existing developments and the nearest biological resources occur 700 feet to the west. The Project would not result in discharge or other impacts outside the site and the surrounding industrial areas would not be affected by the noise and vibrations. The 700 feet of industrial areas and SR-33 would provide a buffer between the Project indirect effects and the arroyo willow habitat within the Ventura River. Therefore, the Project would not result in indirect effects to habitat or special-status species.

However, trees adjacent to the Project and buildings on the Project site could provide potential nesting structures for birds protected by the MBTA, MBPA, and the California Fish and Game Code. If present at the time of Project activities, active nests, eggs, or young could be destroyed or otherwise disturbed to a point at which the young do not survive, which would be a violation of the MBTA, MBPA, and the California Fish and Game Code. In addition, indirect impacts from construction noise or vibration have the potential to disturb an active bird nest to the point of failure if the nest is within immediate proximity to Project construction activities, and this would also be a violation of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. To avoid impacts to active bird nests, eggs, or young, preconstruction nesting bird surveys and monitoring is required as described in Mitigation Measure Bio-1 below. With the incorporation of recommended BIO-1 the Project's potential impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

BIO-1: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey and Avoidance

- If possible, ground disturbing activities and vegetation removal (including tree trimming) should be timed to occur outside the bird nesting season (September 1 – January 31).
- If ground disturbing activities or vegetation removal (including tree trimming) are scheduled during the bird nesting season (February 1 – August 31) a preconstruction survey for nesting birds should be conducted within 72 hours prior to initiation of construction activities. The survey should be conducted by a qualified avian biologist with prior experience conducting nesting bird surveys for construction projects. The Study Area should include the Project site and a 100-foot buffer. If no active nests are found, no additional measures are required.
- If active nests are found the avian biologist will map the location and document the species and nesting stage. The avian biologist shall implement an avoidance buffer area appropriate to the species. The qualified avian biologist may change the avoidance buffer if field observations of bird behavior and biology to ensure the nest is unaffected by project activities, avoiding a risk of nest failure. The nest site shall be fenced and/or flagged in all directions, and this area shall not be disturbed until the nest becomes inactive.

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. The developed/disturbed areas of the Study Area including the Project site would not be considered a sensitive natural community because they are characterized by a lack native habitat. Therefore, no direct impacts would occur on sensitive natural communities because these communities do not occur in the impact areas.

The arroyo willow thickets within the Study Area in the Ventura River would be considered a sensitive natural community by the CDFW and the aquatic areas are considered southern steelhead stream, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife sensitive natural community. The arroyo willow thickets have a G4/S4 rarity ranking and would not technically meet the G/S ranking definition for sensitive natural community but are considered riparian habitat that is sensitive according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife due to its proximity to the Ventura River. The Project site is separated from the Ventura River by 700 feet of industrial development and SR-33 on the west and has no direct connection to the river. The separation and existing development act as a buffer to indirect impacts and would buffer the effects of noise and vibration or lighting that might result during Project construction. Therefore, the Project would not result in indirect impacts to sensitive natural communities or riparian areas.

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?

No Impact. There are no water resources, aquatic resources, or jurisdictional features within the Project site, but the Project site is 700 feet east of the Ventura River, which is contained in a channelized streambed on the west edge of the Study Area. The Project site is separated from the Ventura River by 700 feet of industrial development and SR-33 on the west and has no direct connection to the river. The Project will be constructed on an existing developed area, and no direct impacts to wetlands, aquatic resources, or jurisdictional resources would result from the Project.

The Ventura River includes a perennial stream and surrounding arroyo willow riparian areas that become more riparian scrub closer to SR-33. The Project site is separated from the Ventura River by 700 feet of industrial developments and SR-33 on the west and has no direct connection to the river. The separation and existing developments act as a buffer to impacts and this buffer ensures that the Project construction would not result in direct removal, filling, or hydrological interruption of the Ventura River.

Would the Project 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?

No Impact. The Project site is entirely developed and is surrounded by existing industrial development. There is no native plant community or habitat within 700 feet of the site. The nearest high-quality habitat and wildlife migration area is within the arroyo willow thickets that occurs approximately 700 feet west of the Project site. The arroyo willow thickets within the Ventura River are considered an essential, high value habitat linkage that would be used by numerous fish and wildlife for migration. However, the Project site is separated from the arroyo willow thickets by 700 feet of industrial development and SR-33 on the west and has no direct connection to the river. There are no native habitats on the Project site or Study Area that could act as a linkage or wildlife migration corridor from the Project site to the Ventura River. According to CPAD, there is a strip of land owned by the City of Ventura immediately adjacent to the west of the staging area (see Figure 2), but Google Earth images and ESRI aerial photographs of this area show a paved, private access for the adjacent industrial areas. This area shows up as Southern Pacific Railroad in the topo map shown in Figure 1 but no railroad tracks are visible in this location and it does not currently have that use. This City-owned area is not considered a wildlife corridor or movement area because it is highly developed and used for industrial purposes. Due to the lack of habitat on the site and the lack of a direct connection to existing movement areas in the Ventura River that are separated from the site by 700 feet of development, the Project site lacks habitat linkages and wildlife movement corridors. The separation and existing development act as a buffer to indirect impacts. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on habitat linkages or wildlife movement corridors, nor would it impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

Would the Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. The protected tree ordinance for the County of Ventura is the only local regulation pertinent to the Project site. No protected trees occur on the Project site or adjacent areas, and none would be impacted by the proposed Project.

Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The Project site is in an industrial area and is already developed. The site or surrounding areas are not included in any Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan, or any other approved habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on any adopted conservation plans.

Would Project create a substantial collision or electrocution risk for birds or bats?

No Impact. The Project proposes two new utility poles, which would replace existing utility poles within the Project site boundaries, and associated overhead utility line connections to off-site utility infrastructure. The vast majority of the Project would consist of constructing features on and close to the ground in an area that is already developed. Bird and/or bat electrocution risk associated with the Project is extremely low because only a single utility line would power the development and birds and bats would not be attracted to the area due to lack of habitat. The proposed Project would involve installing natural gas compressor infrastructure at the ground level, except for one 64-foot exhaust stack. The exhaust stack would be highly visible and would be located in an area with no habitat for birds, and where no foraging areas or water sources occur. Birds and bats would likely be deterred from the Development Area due to a lack of native plants, water sources, or other resources required for bird and bat natural history. Therefore, the exhaust stack would not pose a risk to birds or bats because they would avoid the area. The Project would have no impact as it relates to a substantial collision or electrocution risk for birds or bats.

Conclusion

The proposed Project would be constructed in an already developed area. No native plant communities or habitats on the Project site or within 700 feet and only development occurs. The nearest protected resource is the Ventura River where arroyo willow thicket habitat occurs over 700 feet west of the site and is separated from the Project site by 700 feet of industrial development and SR-33. Due to the urban/industrial setting and lack of native habitat or water resources on or adjacent to the Project site, the Project is not expected to result in any direct impacts to biological resources. Indirect impacts from noise, vibration, or lighting are not expected to result because the Project site is surrounded by existing developments and no biological resources occur within a 700-foot buffer study area surrounding the site. The Project would not result in discharge or other impacts outside the site and the surrounding industrial areas would not be effected by the noise and vibrations. The 700 feet of industrial areas and SR-33 would provide a buffer between the Project's indirect effects and the arroyo willow thickets within the Ventura River. However, the Project would be constructed adjacent to large ornamental trees and buildings will be removed that could provide habitat or nesting structure for birds protected by the MBTA, and nesting bird surveys and avoidance measures are proposed for the Project to avoid impacts. With the implementation of the nesting bird avoidance measures the Project would not result in any significant impacts to biological resources.

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Appendix A

Photograph Exhibit

Appendix B

Special-Status Species Analysis

Special-Status Species Analysis

Special-status species are those plants and animals that, because of their recognized rarity or vulnerability to various causes of habitat loss or population decline, are recognized by federal, state, or other agencies as under threat from human-associated developments. Some of these species receive specific protection that is defined by federal or state endangered species legislation. Others have been designated as special status based on adopted policies and expertise of state resource agencies or organizations with acknowledged expertise, or policies adopted by local governmental agencies such as counties, cities, and special districts to meet local conservation objectives. Special-status species include:

- Plants or wildlife listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, or are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered, under the federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act;
- Plants or wildlife that meet the definitions of rare or endangered under CEQA Guidelines Section 15380.
- Plants or wildlife covered under an adopted NCCP/HCP;
- Plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be rare, threatened, or endangered (List 1A, 1B and 2 plants) in California;
- Plants listed by the CNPS as plants in which there is limited information about distribution (List 3);
- Plants listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (Fish and Game Code 1900 et seq.);
- Wildlife designated by CDFW as species of special concern;
- Wildlife "fully protected" in California (California Fish and Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, and 5050); and
- Wildlife protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MTBA).

Federally-Protected Status

All references to Federally-protected species in this BRA include the most current published status or candidate category to which each species has been assigned by USFWS. For purposes of this assessment the following acronyms are used for Federal status species, as applicable:

FE	Federally-listed as Endangered
FT	Federally-listed as Threatened
FPE	Federally proposed for listing as Endangered
FPT	Federally proposed for listing as Threatened
FPD	Federally proposed for delisting
FC	Federal candidate species (former C1 species)

State-Protected Status

For the purposes of this BRA, the following acronyms are used for State status species, as applicable:

SE	State-listed as Endangered
ST	State-listed as Threatened
SR	State-listed as Rare
SCE	State candidate for listing as Endangered
SCT	State candidate for listing as Threatened
SFP	State Fully Protected
SSC	California Species of Special Concern

California Rare Plant Rank

The CNPS is a private plant conservation organization dedicated to the monitoring and protection of special-status species in California. CNPS has compiled an inventory comprised of the information focusing on geographic distribution and qualitative characterization of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered vascular plant species of California (CNPS 2018). The list serves as the candidate list for listing as Threatened and Endangered by CDFW. CNPS has developed six categories of rarity known as the California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR), of which Ranks 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B are particularly considered sensitive:

Rank 1A	Presumed extinct in California.
Rank 1B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.
Rank 2A	Presumed extinct in California, but more common elsewhere.
Rank 2B	Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
Rank 3	Plants about which we need more information – a review list.
Rank 4	Plants of limited distribution – a watch list.

The CNPS recently added “threat ranks” which parallel the ranks used by the CNDDDB. These ranks are added as a decimal code after the CNPS List (e.g., Rank 1B.1). The threat codes are as follows:

- .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);
- .3 Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known).

Potential to Occur Assessment

Special-status species that are **present** or are **high** or **medium** potential to occur within the parcel are based on one or more of the following:

- the direct observation of the species within the parcel during any field survey;
- a record reported in the CNDDDB; and
- the parcel is within known distribution of a species and contains appropriate habitat.
- present means the species is known to occur, high potential indicates the habitat is ideal and near known occurrences of the species, and medium indicates that the habitat may be less than ideal due to some lacking element but still usable by the species and within the known range.

Special-status species that are **low** potential) to occur are based on one of the following:

- the parcel has the general habitat types but lacks necessary habitat elements such as suitable microhabitat or soils; or
- the parcel is outside the known elevation range or distribution of the species, and has otherwise suitable habitats;

Special-status species that have no potential to occur on the parcel are labeled as **none** due to the absence of suitable habitat.

Special-Status Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	FESA	CESA	CRPR	Blooming Period	Elevation Low (ft)	Elevation High (ft)	Habitat	Micro Habitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i>	aphanisma	None	None	1B.2	Mar-Jun	0	1000	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub.	On bluffs and slopes near the ocean in sandy or clay soils.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> <i>var. milesianus</i>	Miles' milk-vetch	None	None	1B.2	Mar-Jun	0	1400	Coastal scrub.	Clay soils	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> <i>var. lanosissimus</i>	Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	FE	CE	1B.1	Jun-Oct	5	200	Marshes and swamps, coastal dunes, coastal scrub.	Within reach of high tide or protected by barrier beaches, more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. However, this species could occur in the Ventura River.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i>	Coulter's saltbush	None	None	1B.2	Mar-Oct	8	1560	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland.	Ocean bluffs, ridgetops, as well as alkaline low places. Alkaline or clay soils.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i>	south coast saltscale	None	None	1B.2	Mar-Oct	5	1300	Coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, playas, coastal dunes.	Alkali soils	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> <i>var. davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	None	None	1B.2	Apr-Oct	10	1510	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub.	Alkaline soil.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i>	late-flowered mariposa-lily	None	None	1B.3	Jun-Aug	1000	5400	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland.	Dry, open coastal woodland, chaparral; on serpentine	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	Plummer's mariposa-lily	None	None	4.2	May-Jul	330	5580	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley	Granitic, Rocky	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FESA	CESA	CRPR	Blooming Period	Elevation Low (ft)	Elevation High (ft)	Habitat	Micro Habitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
								and foothill grassland		
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	southern tarplant	None	None	1B.1	May-Nov	0	1575	Marshes and swamps, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools		None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i>	Orcutt's pincushion	None	None	1B.1	Jan-Aug	10	700	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes.	Sandy sites	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i>	salt marsh bird's-beak	FE	CE	1B.2	May-Oct	3	2500	Marshes and swamps, coastal dunes.	Limited to the higher zones of salt marsh habitat	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i>	umbrella larkspur	None	None	1B.3	Apr-Jun	390	6800	Cismontane woodland, chaparral.	Mesic sites	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i>	Ojai fritillary	None	None	1B.2	Feb-May	735	3730	Broadleafed upland forest (mesic), chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland.	Rocky sites. Sometimes on serpentine; sometimes along roadsides.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>	mesa horkelia	None	None	1B.1	Feb-Jul(Sep)	230	2660	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub	Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	California satintail	None	None	2B.1	Sep-May	0	3985	Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Meadows and seeps, Mojavean	Mesic	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FESA	CESA	CRPR	Blooming Period	Elevation Low (ft)	Elevation High (ft)	Habitat	Micro Habitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
								desert scrub, Riparian scrub		
<i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	None	None	1B.1	Feb-Jun	5	4005	Marshes and swamps, Playas, Vernal pools		None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. However, this species could occur in the Ventura River.
<i>Layia heterotricha</i>	pale-yellow layia	None	None	1B.1	May-Jun	300	5900	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland.	Alkaline or clay soils; open areas	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii</i>	Robinson's pepper-grass	None	None	4.3	Jan-Jul	5	2905	Chaparral, Coastal scrub		None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Lonicera subspicata var. subspicata</i>	Santa Barbara honeysuckle	None	None	1B.2	May-Aug	20	27	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub.		None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Malacothrix similis</i>	Mexican malacothrix	None	None	2A	Apr-May			Coastal dunes.	Coastal dunes.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca ssp. hypoleuca</i>	white-veined monardella	None	None	1B.3	(Apr)May-Aug(Sep-Dec)	165	5005	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland		None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Muhlenbergia utilis</i>	aparejo grass	None	None	2B.2	Oct-Mar	600	9100	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland.	Sometimes alkaline, sometimes serpentinite	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i>	Ojai navarretia	None	None	1B.1	May-Jul	567	2000	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland.	Openings in shrublands or grasslands.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FESA	CESA	CRPR	Blooming Period	Elevation Low (ft)	Elevation High (ft)	Habitat	Micro Habitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
<i>Navarretia peninsularis</i>	Baja navarretia	None	None	1B.2	Jul-Aug	915	7555	Lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland.	Wet areas in open forest.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Nolina cismontana</i>	chaparral nolina	None	None	1B.2	May-Jul	460	3600	Chaparral, coastal scrub.	Primarily on sandstone and shale substrates; also known from gabbro	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i>	white rabbit-tobacco	None	None	2B.2	(Jul)Aug-Nov(Dec)	0	6890	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Riparian woodland	Gravelly, Sandy	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. However, this species could occur in the Ventura River.
<i>Quercus dumosa</i>	Nuttall's scrub oak	None	None	1B.1	Feb-Mar	100	2100	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub.	Generally on sandy soils near the coast; sometimes on clay loam.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Sanford's arrowhead	None	None	1B.2	May-Oct(Nov)	0	2135	Marshes and swamps		None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	salt spring checkerbloom	None	None	2B.2	Mar-Jun	10	7800	Playas, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub.	Alkali springs and marshes.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i>	southern jewelflower	None	None	1B.3	May-Jul	1200	2200	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland.	Open, rocky areas.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.

Special-Status Animals

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
<i>Rana boylei</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog	Amphibians	None	Endangered	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_NT-Near Threatened	Southern Coast Ranges from Monterey Bay south through San Gabriel Mountains; west of the Salinas River in Monterey Co, south through Transverse Ranges, and east through San Gabriel Mountains. Historically may have ranged to Baja California.	Partly shaded shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Needs at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying and at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Could occur in the Ventura River.
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	Amphibians	Threatened	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Could occur in the Ventura River.
<i>Taricha torosa</i>	Coast Range newt	Amphibians	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Coastal drainages from Mendocino County to San Diego County.	Lives in terrestrial habitats and will migrate over 1 km to breed in ponds, reservoirs and slow moving streams.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Could occur in the Ventura River.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	Birds	None	Threatened	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_EN-Endangered NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California.	Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	Birds	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands	Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
					IUCN_LC-Least Concern USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	characterized by low-growing vegetation.	California ground squirrel.	
<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>	western snowy plover	Birds	Threatened	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes.	Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	western yellow-billed cuckoo	Birds	Threatened	Endangered	BLM_S-Sensitive NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List USFS_S-Sensitive	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems.	Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	Birds	Delisted	Delisted	CDF_S-Sensitive CDFW_FP-Fully Protected	Near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water; on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds; also, human-made structures.	Nest consists of a scrape or a depression or ledge in an open site.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	California black rail	Birds	None	Threatened	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_FP-Fully Protected IUCN_EN-Endangered NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays	Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>	Belding's savannah sparrow	Birds	None	Endangered	USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Inhabits coastal salt marshes, from Santa Barbara south through San Diego County.	Nests in Salicornia on and about margins of tidal flats.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	tidewater goby	Fish	Endangered	None	AFS_EN-Endangered IUCN_NT-Near Threatened	Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County to the mouth of the Smith River.	Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	unarmored threespine stickleback	Fish	Endangered	Endangered	AFS_EN-Endangered CDFW_FP-Fully Protected	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small Southern California streams.	Cool (<24 C), clear water with abundant vegetation.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10</i>	steelhead - southern California DPS	Fish	Endangered	Candidate Endangered	AFS_EN-Endangered	Federal listing refers to populations from Santa Maria River south to southern extent of range (San Mateo Creek in San Diego County).	Southern steelhead likely have greater physiological tolerances to warmer water and more variable conditions.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch bumble bee	Insects	None	None	IUCN_EN-Endangered	Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico.	Food plant genera include Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia, and Eriogonum.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i>	sandy beach tiger beetle	Insects	None	None		Inhabits areas adjacent to non-brackish water along the coast of California from San Francisco Bay to northern Mexico.	Clean, dry, light-colored sand in the upper zone. Subterranean larvae prefer moist sand not affected by wave action.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Coelus globosus</i>	globose dune beetle	Insects	None	None	IUCN_VU-Vulnerable	Inhabitant of coastal sand dune habitat; erratically distributed from Ten Mile Creek in Mendocino County south to Ensenada, Mexico.	Inhabits foredunes and sand hummocks; it burrows beneath the sand surface and is most common beneath dune vegetation.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1</i>	monarch - California overwintering population	Insects	Candidate	None	IUCN_EN-Endangered USFS_S-Sensitive	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico.	Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	Mammals	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_LC-Least Concern USFS_S-Sensitive	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.	Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	Dulzura pocket mouse	Mammals	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Variety of habitats including coastal scrub, chaparral and grassland in San Diego County.	Attracted to grass-chaparral edges.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i>	Mexican long-tongued bat	Mammals	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_NT-Near Threatened	Occasionally found in San Diego County, which is on the periphery of their range.	Feeds on nectar and pollen of night-blooming succulents. Roosts in relatively well-lit caves, and in and around buildings.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	Mammals	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc.	Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	hoary bat	Mammals	None	None	IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding.	Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	San Diego desert woodrat	Mammals	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego	Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock	None. The project site lacks dense canopies, rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes. The

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
						County to San Luis Obispo County.	outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	species has not been observed in the immediate area.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	Mammals	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.	Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Tryonia imitator</i>	mimic tryonia (=California brackishwater snail)	Mollusks	None	None	IUCN_DD-Data Deficient	Inhabits coastal lagoons, estuaries and salt marshes, from Sonoma County south to San Diego County.	Found only in permanently submerged areas in a variety of sediment types; able to withstand a wide range of salinities.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Anniella pulchra</i>	Northern California legless lizard	Reptiles	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern USFS_S-Sensitive	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation.	Soil moisture is essential. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Anniella spp.</i>	California legless lizard	Reptiles	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Contra Costa County south to San Diego, within a variety of open habitats. This element represents California records of <i>Anniella</i> not yet assigned to new species within the <i>Anniella pulchra</i> complex.	Variety of habitats; generally in moist, loose soil. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i>	Southern California legless lizard	Reptiles	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern USFS_S-Sensitive	Generally south of the Transverse Range, extending to northwestern Baja California. Occurs in sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Disjunct populations in the Tehachapi and Piute	Variety of habitats; generally in moist, loose soil. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. The soils are not moist here.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Project Site
						Mountains in Kern County.		
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	coastal whiptail	Reptiles	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland and riparian areas.	Ground may be firm soil, sandy, or rocky.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i>	San Bernardino ringneck snake	Reptiles	None	None	USFS_S-Sensitive	Most common in open, relatively rocky areas. Often in somewhat moist microhabitats near intermittent streams.	Avoids moving through open or barren areas by restricting movements to areas of surface litter or herbaceous veg.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	Reptiles	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_VU-Vulnerable USFS_S-Sensitive	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation.	Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	coast horned lizard	Reptiles	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i>	coast patch-nosed snake	Reptiles	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern	Brushy or shrubby vegetation in coastal Southern California.	Require small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	two-striped gartersnake	Reptiles	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_LC-Least Concern USFS_S-Sensitive	Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation.	Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.	None. The project site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.

