
Appendix 3-F
Biological Resources Technical Report

Biological Resources Assessment

Ventura Compressor Modernization Project – Ventura Steel Site Alternative

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Appendix A: Special-Status Species Analysis

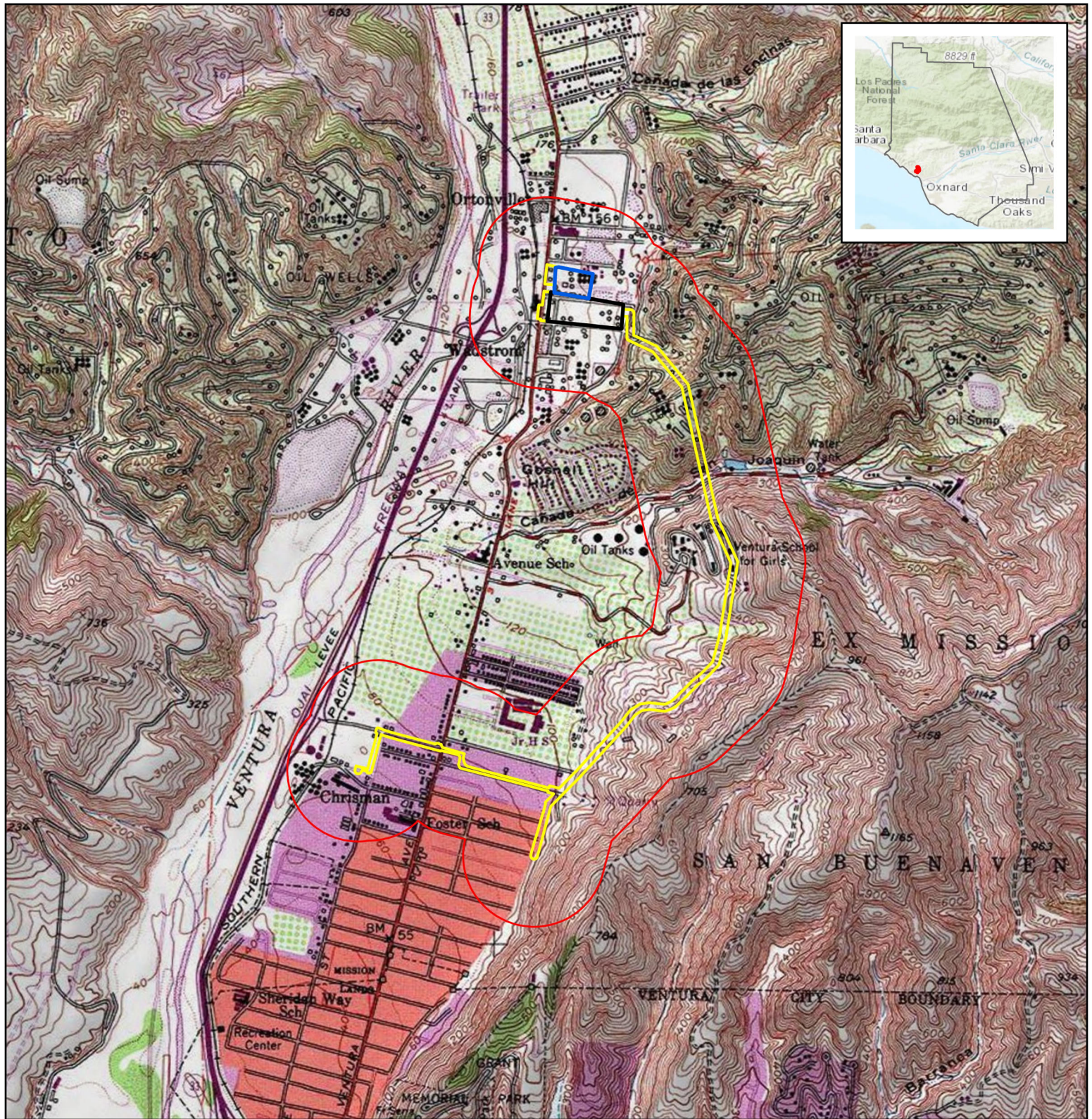
1. Introduction

This report includes the findings of a biological resources assessment conducted by South Environmental for the Ventura Compressor Modernization Project – Ventura Steel Site Alternative. The Ventura Steel Site Alternative is within the City of Ventura and within unincorporated areas of Ventura County, California. The Ventura Steel Site Alternative is an alternative compressor station location to the proposed Ventura Compressor Station site. The “Ventura Steel Site” is defined by where the compressor station would be constructed and operated (“Station Site”); where materials and equipment would be staged for construction (“Temporary Staging Area”); and the area where access routes and utility connections would be constructed (“Offsite Impact Area”).

This report identifies the potential for sensitive or protected biological resources on the Ventura Steel Site and a 1,000-foot buffer from the Ventura Steel Site Alternative, which constitutes the approximate 67 acres Study Area. The biological resources of the Study Area were assessed based on a literature review and a desktop analysis. No field survey was conducted for this assessment. This report also provides the regulatory environment governing biological resources within the Study Area.

Location and Setting

As shown in Figure 1, the Ventura Steel Site is located within both unincorporated Ventura County and City of Ventura (City) and is east of both the Ventura River and State Route (SR) 33. The Ventura Steel Site is within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Ventura 7.5 Minute topographical quadrangle, and within Sections 21, 22, 27, 28 and 33 of Township 03 North (03N) and Range 23 West (23W). As shown in Figure 2, the 67.06-acre Ventura Steel Site can be accessed from the Shell Road exit for SR 33 and is within an actively producing oil and gas field, City streets, and mountain foothill areas. Regional access to the Ventura Steel Site is via U.S. Route 101. City developments and mountain foothills are south of the Ventura Steel Site. Mountain foothills and open space are east of the Ventura Steel Site. The entire Ventura Steel Site and Study Area are outside of the Ventura County Coastal Zone.



Source: ESRI USA Topo Maps and World Topo Map 2025

Figure 1. Project Location Map

- Ventura Steel Site Station - Permanent Impact
- Ventura Steel Site Temporary Staging Area - Temporary Impact
- Ventura Steel Site Offsite Impact Area - Permanent Impact
- Study Area (1,000-Foot Buffer)

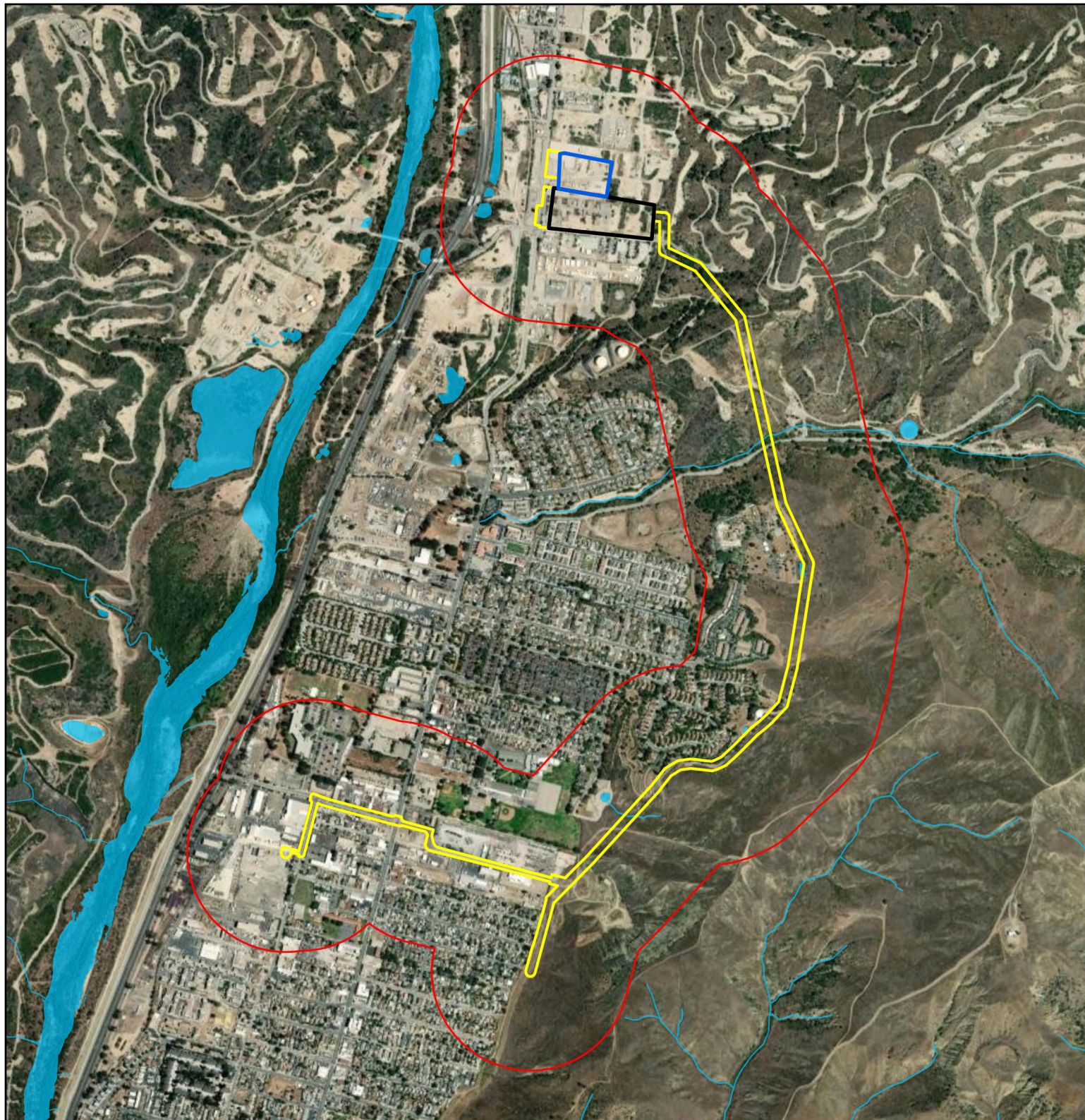
Project Site is within unincorporated and Ventura, California, in Ventura County on the USGS Ventura 7.5-minute quadrangle map in Sections 21,22,27,28,33 of Township 03 North and Range 23 West

Center Coordinate (Decimal Degrees):
Latitude: 34.3044915N Longitude: -119.3116339W



0 1,150 2,300 Feet
Scale: 1:24,000





Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery 2025

Figure 2. Site Vicinity

- Ventura Steel Site Station - Permanent Impact
- Ventura Steel Site Temporary Staging Area - Temporary Impact
- Ventura Steel Site Offsite Impact Area - Permanent Impact
- Study Area (1,000-Foot Buffer)
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI)

0 800 1,600 Feet
 Scale: 1:17,293



2. Methodology

This biological resource assessment is based on information compiled through a review of appropriate reference materials and literature regarding the biological resources of the region and a resultant desktop analysis. 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 the desktop analysis of the Ventura Steel Site or assessing the Ventura Steel Site Alternative's potential effects on biological resources. However, South Environmental prepared a Biological Resources Assessment for the Ventura Steel Site Alternative's preferred alternative (South Environmental 2024) and SoCalGas prepared and submitted a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) to the CPUC as part of the application process. CPUC has requested that SoCalGas provide a biological technical report for the three site alternatives to the preferred alternative must be assessed per the guidelines of CEQA. SoCalGas identified three alternatives.

Records Search

The assessment of the Ventura Steel Site and Study Area began with a review of literature relating to the biological resources that are known to occur in the vicinity of the Ventura Steel Site. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) "Rarefind" query (CDFW, 2025a), the "Special Animals List" query (CDFW 2025b), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS; 2025a) 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 quadrangle in which the Ventura Steel Site is located, and the seven surrounding USGS 7.5" quadrangles: White Ledge Peak, Matilija, Ojai, Saticoy, Oxnard, Oxnard OE W, and Pitas Point (USGS 2025a). For plants, online sources CalFlora (2025) and Jepson E-flora (2025) were queried for information on current and historic range including elevation. For animals, California's Wildlife: Life History and Range was consulted (CDFW, 2025c) 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 Environmental Conservation Online System for federally protected species (USFWS 2025a), the USFWS Designated and Proposed Critical Habitat maps (USFWS 2025b).

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 2025)
- BING Aerial “Bird’s Eye” (BING 2025)
- California Protected Areas Database (CPAD) Map online (CPAD 2025)
- South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network for the South Coast Ecoregion (SC Wildlands 2006).
- National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) online (USFWS 2025c)
- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) online (USGS 2025)

Google Earth online (Google 2025) and BING Aerial ‘Bird’s Eye’ (BING 2025) were 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 Ventura Steel Site — without interference from development — and whether the connecting habitat linked to large habitat tracts.

Biological Resource Survey Method

The assessment relies on a desktop review only, and no field survey was conducted per the guidance SoCalGas received from the CPUC. South Environmental biologist James McNutt conducted a desktop analysis of the Study Area in June 2025. The purpose of the desktop review was to identify the potential for special-status plants and animals on the Study Area, characterize and map plant communities, and identify other potentially significant resources such as potential jurisdictional resources, potential protected trees or wildlife movement areas.

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Mapping

Vegetation communities and land cover types were mapped over the entire Study Area. The plant communities were mapped by using BING Aerial ‘Bird’s Eye’ (BING 2025) over the Study Area to assess the composition and cover of the plant community and to identify the general habitat present such as coastal scrub, chaparral, woodlands, or development areas. The discernable plant communities were digitized using ArcGIS Pro mapping software to calculate acreages and assess impacts from the Ventura Steel Site Alternative/Limits of Disturbance. Plant community descriptions follow vegetation classifications in the Manual for California Vegetation online (CNPS, 2025b). Because no field survey was conducted the specific species of plants that occur are unknown and the species that we assume to be present are based on those we can identify in the literature and that are discernable in aerial and roadside photographs from BING Maps (BING 2025) and Google Earth (Google 2025).

Due to the fact that this biological resource assessment is based on a desktop analysis of literature resources and BING Aerial ‘Bird’s Eye’ images (BING 2025), plant and wildlife species were not surveyed or inventoried. However, existing literature such as from field guides and CNDDDB were

used to assess the potential for special-status species to occur as well as assess the condition of plant communities that would serve as habitat for the local wildlife and plants. It is reasonable to assume that the common plants and animals that are known to occur in the region would have a high potential to be found in intact native habitats in the Study Area.

Special Status Species Habitat Assessment

As described in full in Appendix A, 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:

- Species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (50 CFR § 17.12 [listed plants], 17.11 [listed animals] and various notices in the Federal Register [proposed species])
- Species that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA (61 FR § 40, February 28, 1996)
- Species listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California ESA (14 CCR § 670.5)
- Plants listed as rare or endangered under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.)
- Species that meet the definitions of rare and endangered under CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Section 15380 provides that a plant or animal species may be treated as “rare or endangered” even if not on one of the official lists.
- Plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be “rare, threatened or endangered in California” (California Rare Plant Rank 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B) as well as California Rare Plant Rank 3 and 4 plant species
- Species designated by CDFW as Fully Protected or as a Species of Special Concern
- Species protected under the Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

- Birds of Conservation Concern or Watch List species
- Bats considered by the Western Bat Working Group to be “high” or “medium” priority (Western Bat Working Group 2015)

Special-status species that are **present** or are **high** or **medium** potential to occur within the Study Area as reporting in Appendix A 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 Study Area 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. Because we have not observed the conditions on the Study Area and we are relying entirely on the desktop review, we must make assumptions about areas that may have disturbance or may have ideal, undisturbed habitat. To more accurately determine the potential a field survey would be required to determine the level of disturbances and ecological condition of the habitats present.

Special-status species that are **low** potential to occur as reported in Appendix A are based on one of the following:

- the Study Area has the general habitat types but lacks necessary habitat elements such as suitable microhabitat or soils; or
- the Study Area 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 Study Area are labeled as **none** in Appendix A due to the absence of suitable habitat.

Special-status species with a high or medium potential to occur are discussed in the body of the report as they are the species that are most likely to be within the Study Area and be affected by the Ventura Steel Site Alternative. Special-status species with a low or none potential to occur are discussed in Appendix A analysis only.

Native Wildlife Corridors Assessment

The Study Area was assessed based on a desktop analysis of literature resources and BING Aerial 'Bird's Eye' (BING 2025) images 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 to high-quality habitat. Included in the assessment was potential streams or areas with unique natural features (e.g., rock outcrops) that wildlife are known to frequently use as habitat linkages and movement areas.

3. Environmental Setting

Physical Characteristics

Geology and Landforms

Regionally, the Study Area is in the foothills of the western Topatopa Mountains. The surface geology geologic unit for the Study Area contains deposits from Holocene Epoch, the Pleistocene Epoch, and the Pliocene Epoch. According to Tan, Siang S., Jones, Terry A., and Clahan, Kevin, B. 2003, the formations include:

- **Undivided Holocene alluvial and colluvial deposits (Qha)** occur on valley floors and in the southern area of the Ventura Steel Site. The deposits include active stream deposits in hill slope areas. It is composed of unconsolidated sandy clay with some gravel.
- **Holocene to Pleistocene landslide deposits (Qls)** occur in the eastern area of the Ventura Steel Site, including the Station Area and Temporary Staging Area. It includes active landslides, is composed of weathered broken rocks, and it is extremely susceptible to renewed landslides.
- **Undivided Pleistocene stream terrace deposits (Qpt)** occur in the southern part of Offsite Impact Area of the Ventura Steel Site. It consists of consolidated clay sand, gravel, cobble, and some boulder size material.
- **Pliocene undivided Pico Formation (Tp)** occurs within the northeast part of the Ventura Steel Site, including the Station Site and Temporary Staging Area. It is composed of claystone, siltstone, or sandstone and is locally pebbly. It is generally susceptible to renewed landslides.

Locally, the Ventura Steel Station Site and Temporary Staging Area are located approximately 0.15 miles east of SH 33 and approximately 0.30 miles east of the Ventura River. The Station Site and Temporary Staging Area of the Ventura Steel Site are also approximately 255 feet east of the Ventura River Trail.

Topography and Climate

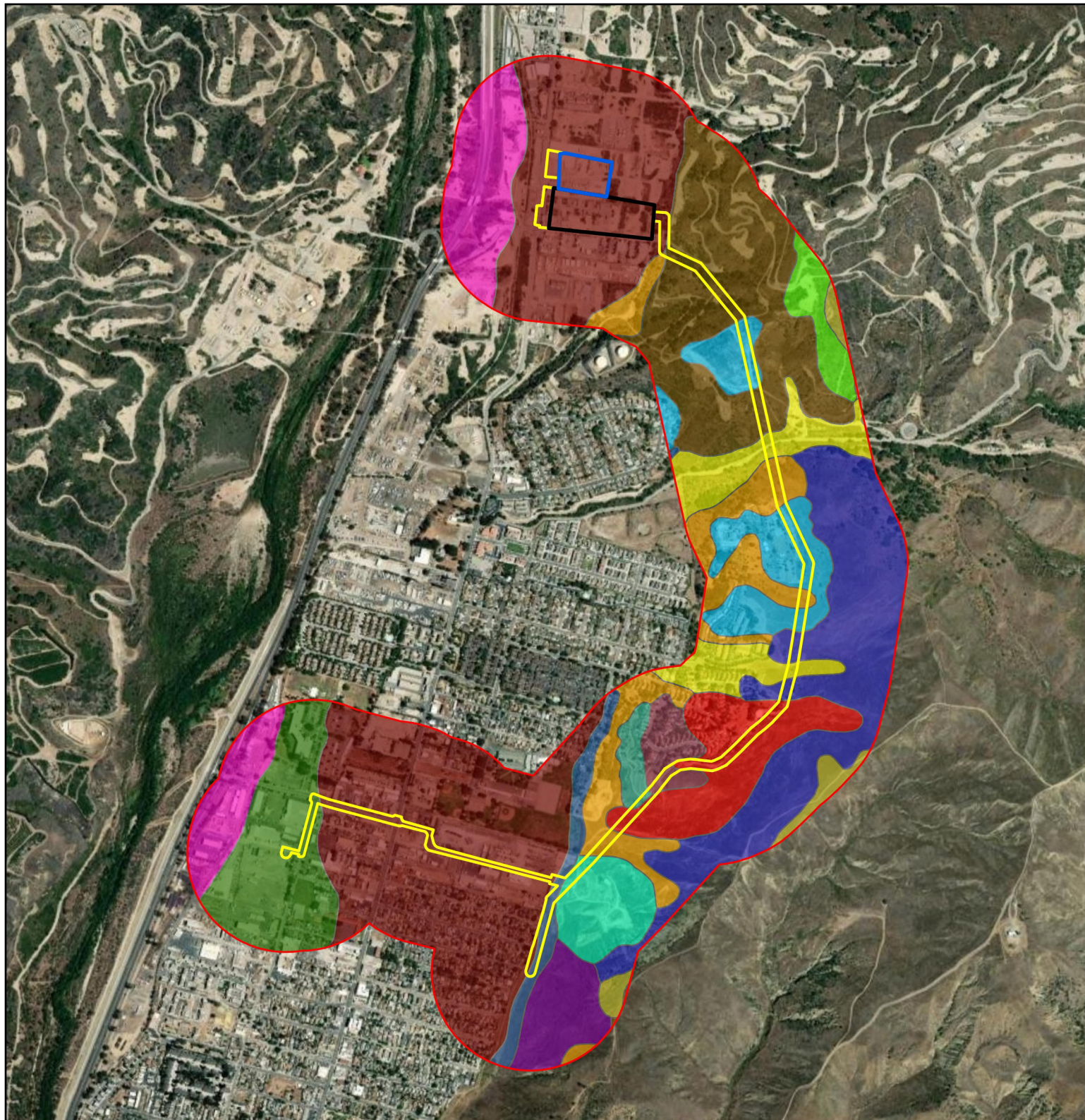
The Study Area has both high and low topographic areas that correspond to ridges and valleys of the western foothills of the Topatopa Mountains. It has an overall decline from east to west. The lowest elevation for Ventura Steel Site is within the southwestern corner of the Offsite Impact Area at approximately 67 feet average mean above sea level (amsl). The highest elevation for the Ventura Steel Site is approximately 515 feet amsl within the Offsite Impact Area near its northeast border.

The nearest weather station relative to the Ventura Steel Site is weather station ID: KCAVENTU459 – Cameron St. (WU 2025). The Cameron St. weather station is located near the intersection of Cameron Street and Seneca Street at a position that is approximately 0.75-miles south of the Station Site of the Ventura Steel Site. Average high and low temperatures for the Cameron St. weather station are 73 degrees Fahrenheit (°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 (WU 2025).

Soils

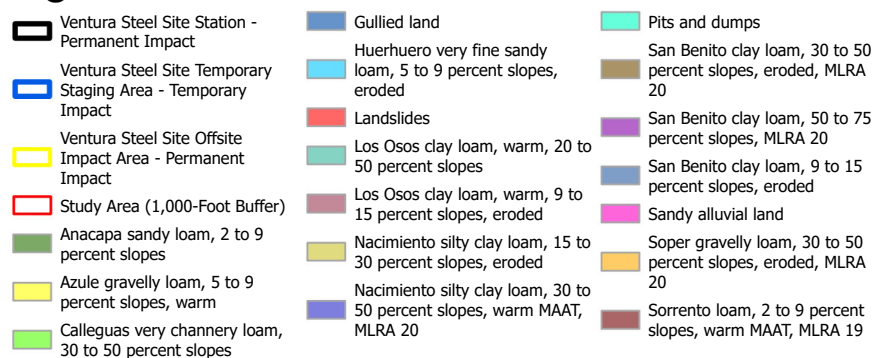
As shown in Figure 3, twelve soil types occur within the Ventura Steel Site based on U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS 2025) Soil Survey data sets:

- **Anacapa sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes**, occurs within the southwestern part of the Ventura Steel Site within Offsite Impact Areas. This is an fan soil that is well drained.
- **Azule gravelly loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, warm**, occurs within the central and northern parts of the Ventura Steel Site within Offsite Impact Areas. This is an alluvial fan soil that is well drained.
- **Huerhuero very fine sandy loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, eroded**, occurs within the central and northern parts of the Ventura Steel Site within an Offsite Impacts Area. This is a terrace and alluvial fan soil that is moderately well drained.
- **Landslides** occur within the southern parts of the Ventura Steel Site within an Offsite Impacts Area. This is a weakly consolidated residuum weathered from sedimentary rock and has no hydric soil rating.
- **Los Osos clay loam, warm, 20 to 50 percent slopes** occurs within the southern parts of the Ventura Steel Site within an Offsite Impacts Area. This is a hillslope soil that is well drained.
- **Los Osos clay loam, warm, 9 to 15 percent slopes, eroded** occurs within the southern parts of the Ventura Steel Site within an Offsite Impacts Area. This is a hillslope soil that is well drained.
- **Nacimiento silty clay loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, warm MAAT, MLRA 20** occurs within the central parts of the Ventura Steel Site within an Offsite Impacts Area. This is a mountain slope and hillslope soil that is well drained.
- **Pits and Dumps** occur within the southern part of the Ventura Steel Site within Offsite Impacts Areas. This is soil that has no hydric rating.



Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery 2025

Figure 3. Soils



0 800 1,600 Feet
Scale: 1:17,293



- **San Benito clay loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, eroded, MLRA 20** occurs within the southern Ventura Steel Site within Offsite Impacts Areas. This is a hills and mountain soil that is well drained.
- **San Benito clay loam, 9 to 15 percent slopes, eroded** occurs within the southern part of the Ventura Steel Site within Offsite Impacts Areas. This is a hills and mountain soil that is well drained.
- **Soper gravelly loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, eroded, MLRA 20** occurs within northern, central, and southern Offsite Impacts Areas just south of the Ventura Steel Site. This is a hills soil that is well drained.
- **Sorrento loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes, warm MAAT, MLRA 19**, occurs 1.) over all of the Station Site and Temporary Staging Area of the Ventura Steel Site and 2.) Offsite Impacts Areas in the southern part of the Ventura Steel Site. This is an alluvial fan soil that is well drained.

Aquatic Resources

According to the USGS National Watershed Boundary Dataset (USGS 2025c), the Ventura Steel Site is part of the Lower Ventura River Watershed (HU12).

According to the NHD (USGS 2025), there is a drainage that is within both the Ventura Steel Site and the Study Area that flows from northeast to southwest in a position that is generally parallels School Canyon Road. The NWI (USFWS 2025) also identifies the same drainage feature (Figure 2). Features within the NHD are verified jurisdictional resources and we assume this feature is present based on the database and literature review.

The NWI identifies additional potential jurisdictional features that are not within the NHD: three pooled water deposits within the northwestern study area, 2 pool water deposits within Offsite Impact Areas near the central Ventura Steel Site, and a drainage/pooled water area in the southern Ventura Steel Site and Study Area. Each one of these potential pooled water features and additional drainage identified by the NWI in the Study Area and/or Ventura Steel Site, but not by the NHD, cannot be validated with aerial imagery (BING 2025) (Figure 2). In all, the NWI identifies 4 potential jurisdictional water features on the Ventura Steel Site (Figure 2). Note that these features identified by the NWI are a result of topographical analysis and are not known to occur from direct observation or a field survey and it is possible that there are no jurisdictional features in these locations. The conclusion that can be made from a desktop analysis is that one of the four additional NWI water features appears to be present and verifiable based on best available information, and the others would require fieldwork to determine if they are present or absent. In the absence of a field survey and for the purposes of this assessment we will assume there are potential jurisdictional features where NWI

shows potential features, and these features represent the extent of all the features in the Study Area.

It is possible that additional jurisdictional features occur in the Study Area, and a field survey would be required to identify these potential features.

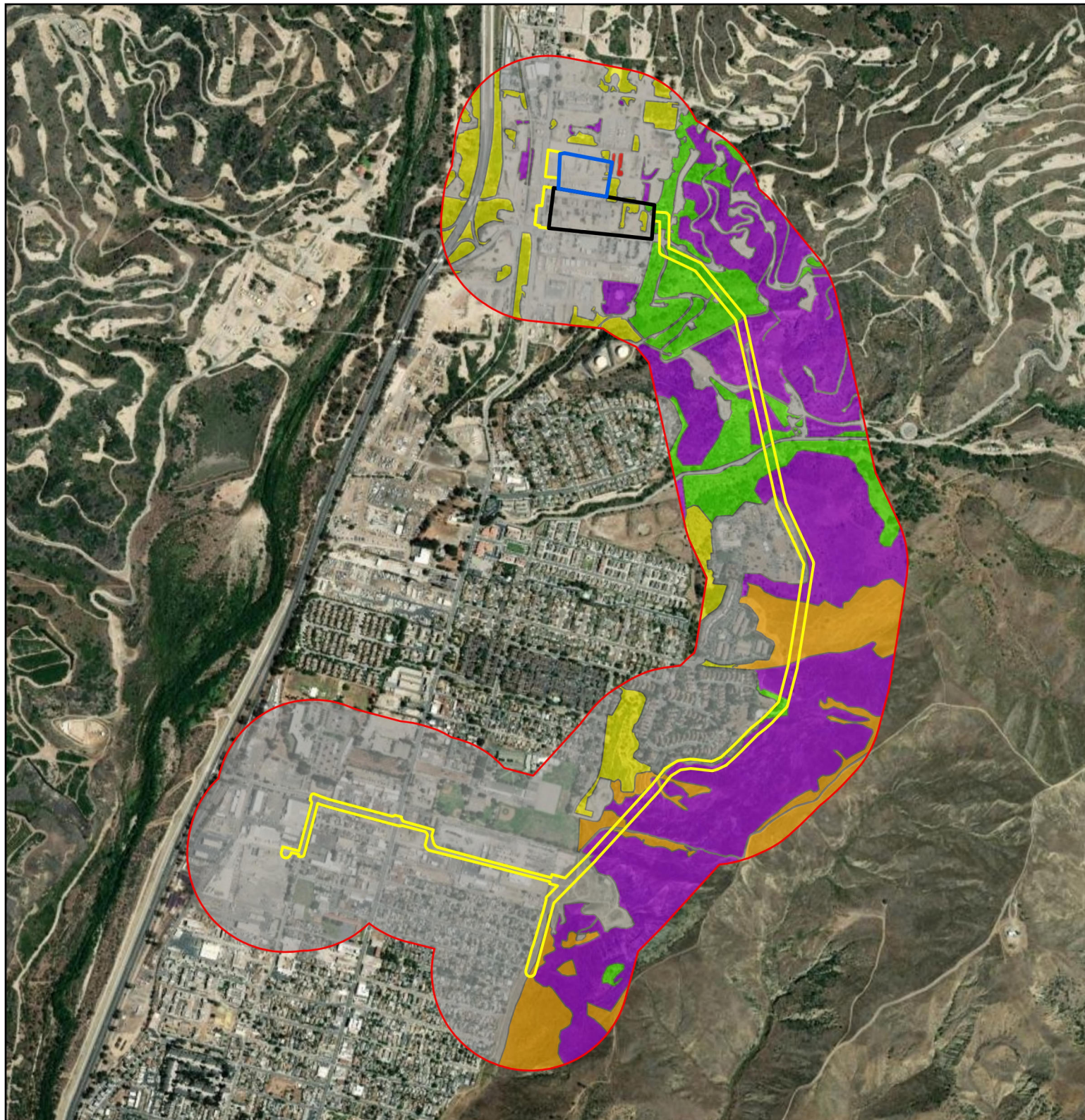
Biological Characteristics

Plants

Since this biological resource assessment is based on a desktop analysis of literature resources and aerial images, plant species were not surveyed or inventoried as occurring on the Ventura Steel Site. Based on past experiences in the region and the conditions observed in the aerial photographs, plants known to typically occur in this region include mulefat (*Baccharis pilularis*), birch leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), coastal wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum cinereum*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), and numerous others expected to be observed during a field survey.

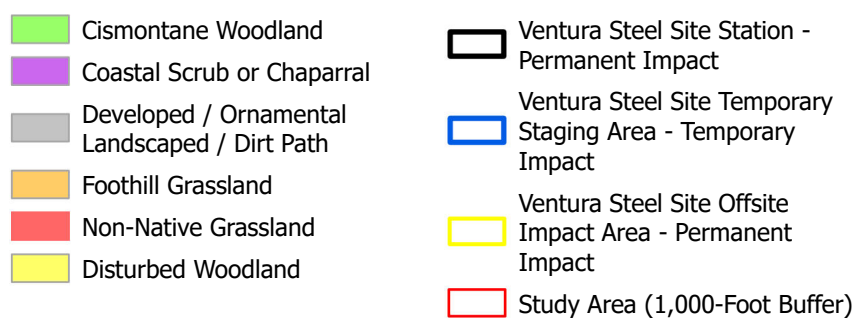
Vegetation Communities and Land Cover

General plant communities estimated from aerial imagery were mapped over the entire Study Area. The plant communities were mapped by using BING Aerial 'Bird's Eye' (BING 2025). The discernable plant communities were digitized using ArcGIS Pro mapping software to calculate acreages and assess impacts from the Ventura Steel Site Alternative. We provide general community types such as chaparral or woodlands, and we are unable to define the communities according to the dominant plant species because a field survey would be required to determine that level of detail.



Source: BING Aerial Imagery 2025

Figure 4. Plant Communities and Land Cover



0 800 1,600 Feet
Scale: 1:17,293



Table 2. Summary of Plant Communities on the Study Area

Community or Cover Type	Study Area (Acres)	Ventura Steel Station Site (Acres)	Ventura Steel Temporary Staging Area (Acres)	Offsite Impact Area (Acres)	Total Impacts
Cismontane Woodland	61.65	0.18	0	4.80	4.98
Coastal Scrub or Chaparral	217.19	0	0.03	9.04	9.07
Developed / Ornamental Landscaped / Dirt Path	426.75	8.76	4.57	14.15	27.48
Foothill Grassland	55.23	0	0	2.34	2.34
Non-Native Grassland	0.33	0	0	0	0
Disturbed Woodland	40.44	1.04	0.10	0	1.14
Total	801.60	9.98	4.70	30.33	45.01

Green highlighted communities indicate plant communities that may include native habitats

Cismontane Woodland

Cismontane Woodland communities are found on valley floors, ridges, and recessed areas that are *not* associated with jurisdictional drainages in the Study Area. The Cismontane Woodland communities comprise 61.65 acres of the Study Area, including 0.18 acres of the Station Site and 4.80 acres of the Offsite Impact Area. Based on biologists' observations of aerial imagery (Bing 2025), the Cismontane Woodland communities in the Study Area may contain native trees, native shrubs, and grasses with potential to support habitat for special-status species.

Coastal Scrub or Chaparral

Coastal Scrub or Chaparral communities are found on topographic ridges and edges of recessed areas that are *not* associated with jurisdictional drainages in the Study Area. The Coastal Scrub or Chaparral communities comprise 217.19 acres of the Study Area, including 0.03 acres of the Temporary Staging Area and 9.04 acres of the Offsite Impact Area. Based on biologists' observations of aerial imagery (Bing 2025), the Coastal Scrub or Chaparral communities in the Study Area may contain sporadic native trees, a dominance of native shrubs, and grasses with potential to support habitat for special-status species. The density of shrubs would vary, with chaparral typically have a denser shrub layer that is at times impenetrable on foot, and coastal scrub areas being characterized by less dense shrubs with varying degrees of space between the shrubs.

Developed / Ornamental Landscaped / Dirt Path

Developed / Ornamental Landscaped / Dirt Path land cover type is found on 426.75 acres of the Study Area including 8.76 acres of the Station Site, 4.57 acres of the Temporary Staging Area and 14.15 acres of the Offsite Impact Area. Based on biologists' observations of aerial imagery (Bing 2025), the land cover type is made up of existing buildings, driveways, parking areas, roadways, dirt

roadways, ornamental landscaping, and other structures. This land cover does not have the potential to support habitat for special-status species.

Foothill Grassland

Foothill Grassland communities are found within natural topographic ridges in the Study Area. It comprises 55.23 acres of the Study Area, including 2.34 acres of the Offsite Impact Area. Based on biologists' observations of aerial imagery (Bing 2025), the Foothill Grassland communities in the Study Area may contain both native and non-native herbaceous plants and sparsely populated native shrubs that have a potential to support habitat for special-status species.

Non-Native Grassland

Non-native grassland communities are found within oil and gas fields within the northern Study Area. It comprises 0.33 acres of the Study Area. Based on biologists' observations of aerial imagery (Bing 2025), the Foothill Grassland communities in the Study Area may contain mostly non-native herbaceous plants that have a low potential to support habitat for special-status species.

Disturbed Woodland

Disturbed woodland communities are found on topographic low areas that are not associated with waters jurisdictional drainages or the Ventura River and are not within the mountain foothills. The disturbed woodland communities are typically near, or adjacent to, developments in the Study Area. The disturbed woodland communities comprise 40.44 acres of the Study Area -- including 1.04 acres of the Station Site and 0.10 acres of the Temporary Staging Area. Based on biologists' observations of aerial imagery (Bing 2025), the disturbed woodland communities in the Study Area may contain native trees, native shrubs, and grasses, but lack the potential to support habitat for special-status species due to being in positions that are bordered by developments. It is also possible that there are ornamental species in the woodland due to the proximity to developments.

Wildlife

Because this biological resource assessment is based on a desktop analysis of literature resources and aerial images, wildlife species were not surveyed or inventoried as occurring on the Ventura Steel Site. Some common wildlife known to occur in the region include mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Great Basin fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*), Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), and western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*). Numerous others are expected to occur in the native habitats, including fish in the Ventura River and tributaries, amphibians, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, and dozens of birds.

Habitat Assessment

Special-Status Plants

According to the literature review presented in Appendix A, there are 30 special-status plants known to occur in the region (CDFW 2025a, CNPS 2025a, USFWS 2025a). Since this biological resource assessment is based on a desktop analysis of literature resources and aerial images, special-status species plants were not surveyed or inventoried as occurring on the Ventura Steel Site. The Study Area and Ventura Steel Site are not within designated Critical Habitat for any special-status plant species. (USFWS 2025b; CDFW 2025a).

According to the literature review presented in Appendix A, 20 of the 30 special-status plants known to occur in the region [the USGS 7.5-minute Ventura quadrangle in which the Ventura Steel Site is located, and the seven surrounding USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: White Ledge Peak, Matilija, Ojai, Saticoy, Oxnard, Oxnard OE W, and Pitas Point (USGS 2025a)] have a medium potential to occur on the Ventura Steel Site due to the presence of either Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, Cismontane Woodland, or Foothill Grassland habitat. No listed plants are expected to occur within the Study Area.

1. *Aphanisma* (*Aphanisma blitoides*) has a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1B.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 1.65-miles southwest of the Ventura Steel Site near the base of coastal scrub north of Highway 101. The record of this species is from 1967 (updated in 2012) and does not have accurate location information but is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
2. Miles' milk-vetch (*Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus*) has a CRPR of 1B.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 3.0 miles northwest of the Ventura Steel Site just west of Casitas Springs. The record is from 1945 (updated in 2017) and does not have accurate location information but is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
3. Coulter's saltbush (*Atriplex coulteri*) has a CRPR of 1B.2. The CNDDDB has a record of the species from 1963 (updated in 2012) approximately 1.48-miles west of the Ventura Steel Site near the base of coastal scrub north of Highway 101. The CNDDDB also has a record of the species from 2009 (updated in 2018) approximately 1.45-miles south of the Ventura Steel Site/Limit within Emma Wood State Beach. Each record does not have accurate location information, but the species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a

medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub habitat and Foothill Grassland in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.

4. South coast saltscale (*Atriplex pacifica*) has a CRPR of 1B.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 2.2 miles southwest of the Ventura Steel Site near the base of coastal scrub north of Highway 101. The record of this species is from 1972 (updated in 2012) and does not have accurate location information but is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
5. Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*) has a CRPR of 1B.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 7.9-miles southeast of the Ventura Steel Site in the vicinity of Ventura Road and Vineland Boulevard. The record of this species is from 2002 (updated in 2018) and does not have accurate location information but is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
6. Plummer's mariposa-lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) has a CRPR 4.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 10.82-miles northeast of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Ojai 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The record of this species is from 2008 (updated in 2009) and is in the NW/4SW/4 of Section 15, Township 05N, Range 22W. It is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
7. Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) has a CRPR of 1B.1. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 5.15-miles west of the Ventura Steel Site near a railroad and south of Highway 101. The record of this species is from 1997 (updated in 1998) and does not have accurate location information and is possibly extirpated in the area. Nonetheless, the species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, or Foothill grassland habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
8. Umbrella larkspur (*Delphinium umbraculorum*) has a CRPR of 1B.3. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 13.8-miles northwest of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS White Ledge Peak 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The record of this species is from 1964 (updated in 2005) and is within Murietta Canyon. It is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Cismontane Woodland or Chaparral habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
9. Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*) has a CRPR of 1B.1. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 6.68-miles northwest of the Ventura Steel Site within the Santa

Ynez Mountains in the USGS Pitas Point 7-minute quadrilateral. The record of this species is from 1902 (updated in 2016) and in the vicinity of Casitas Pass. It is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral, Cismontane Woodland, or Coastal Scrub habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.

10. California satintail (*Imperata brevifolia*) has a CRPR of 2B.1. The CNDDDB has a record of the species from 2010 (updated in 2012) approximately 11.3-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Matilija 7.-minute quadrilateral. The CNDDDB also has a record of the species from 2005 (updated in 2016) approximately 11.9- miles north of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Matilija 7.5' quadrilateral. Each record does not have accurate location information, but the species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral and Coastal Scrub in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
11. Pale-yellow layia (*Layia heterotricha*) has a CRPR of 1B.1. The CNDDDB has a record of the species from 2001 (updated in 2017) approximately 11.7-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Matilija 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The record does not have accurate location information, but the species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Cismontane Woodland, Coastal Scrub, and Foothill Grassland in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
12. Robinson's pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*) has a CRPR of 4.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 11.9-miles northeast of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Ojai 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The record of this species is unknown (updated in 2012) and the exact location is also unknown; however, it is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
13. Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*) has a CRPR of 1B.2. The CNDDDB has a record of the species from 2012 (updated in 2017) approximately 12.9-miles northwest of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Matilija 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The CNDDDB also has a record of the species from 2014 (updated in 2017) approximately 14.0-miles northwest of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Matilija 7.5-minute quadrilateral. Each record does not have accurate location information, but the species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral, Cismontane Woodland, and Coastal Scrub in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.

14. White-veined monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca ssp. hypoleuca*) has a CRPR of 1B.3. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 2.58-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site and south of Casitas Springs. The record of this species is from 1969 (updated in 2013) and is within the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 8, Township 03N, Range 23W. It is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Cismontane Woodland or Chaparral habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
15. Aparejo grass (*Muhlenbergia utilis*) has a CRPR of 2B.2. The CNDDDB has a record of the species from 1964 (updated in 2019) approximately 13.5-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Matilija 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The record is along the Murietta Canyon Trail west of Matilija Lake but does not have accurate location information. The species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral, Coastal Scrub, and Cismontane Woodland. in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
16. Ojai navarretia (*Navarretia ojaiensis*) has a CRPR) of 1B.1. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 4.4-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site and west of Casitas Springs. The record of this species is from 1999 (updated in 2008) and is within Coyote Creek Canyon below Casitas Dam. It is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral, Coastal Scrub, or Foothill Grassland habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
17. Chaparral nolina (*Nolina cismontana*) has a CRPR of 1B.2. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from an unknown date (updated in 2004) approximately 7.35-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains in the USGS Matilija 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The record does not have accurate location information, but the species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral and Coastal Scrub in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
18. White rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) has a CRPR 2B.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 6.75-miles southeast of the Ventura Steel Site along the Santa Clara River and just east of a Highway 101 bridge. The record of this species is from 2015 (updated in 2016) and is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral, Cismontane Woodland, or Coastal Scrub habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
19. Nuttall's scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*) has a CRPR of 1B.1. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from 2002 (updated in 2009) approximately 7.4-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site within the San Ynez Mountains in the USGS White Ledge Peak 7.5-minute quadrilateral. The record does not have accurate location information, but the species is

presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral and Coastal Scrub in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.

20. Salt spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*) has a CRPR of 2B.2. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 4.4-miles north of the Ventura Steel Site and north of Casitas Springs. The record of this species is from 1962 (updated in 1996) and the exact location is unknown. It is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Chaparral or Coastal Scrub habitat in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.

Special-Status Animals

According to the literature analysis using the CNDDDB database and presented in Appendix A, there are 40 special-status wildlife known to occur in the region (CDFW 2025a, CNPS 2025a, USFWS 2025a). This biological resource assessment is based on a desktop analysis of literature resources and aerial images; therefore, special-status species wildlife were not surveyed or inventoried as occurring on the Ventura Steel Site. The Study Area and Ventura Steel Site are not within designated Critical Habitat for any special-status animal species. Two special-status wildlife species have been previously recorded to the CNDDDB within the Ventura Steel Site vicinity: Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) and Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris Mexicana*).

According to the literature review presented in Appendix A, 12 of the 40 special-status animals known to occur in the region [the USGS 7.5-minute Ventura quadrangle in which the Ventura Steel Site is located, and the seven surrounding USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: White Ledge Peak, Matilija, Ojai, Saticoy, Oxnard, Oxnard OE W, and Pitas Point (USGS 2025a)] have a medium potential to occur on the Ventura Steel Site due to the presence of either Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, Cismontane Woodland, or Foothill Grassland, and/or a proximity to the Ventura River.

1. Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) is a California state candidate endangered species, BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN EN-Endangered, and USFWS BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from 1906 (updated in 2006) from an unknown location and is centered on the city of Ventura. Nonetheless, the species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, Foothill Grassland, and Cismontane Woodland habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
2. Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) is a CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from 2008 (updated in 2009) and is

approximately 3.70 miles east of the Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains. The species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, Foothill Grassland, or Cismontane Woodland habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.

3. Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a California state candidate endangered species, BLM_S-Sensitive, CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern, IUCN_EN-Endangered, and USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from 2017 (updated in 2017) approximately 1.05-miles south of the southern Ventura Steel Site in a position that is east of the Ventura River near Main Street. The species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral and Foothill Grassland habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site. This species is also known to occur in disturbed areas and could also use the Non-Native Grasslands if habitat conditions are present.
4. Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) is a California state threatened species and IUCN EN-Endangered. A CNDDDB record from 1949 (updated 2015) indicates that the species has potential to occur within the Ventura Steel Site. Other than that record, the nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from 2018 (updated in 2020) just west of the northern Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains. The species is presumed extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in habitats that contain ample *Antirrhinum*, *Phacelia*, *Clarkia*, *Dendromecon*, *Eschscholzia*, and *Eriogonum* genus species in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
5. Dulzura pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*) is a CDFW SSC-Species of Special Concern. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from an unknown date (updated in 2006) from an unknown location and is centered on the city of Weldon. Nonetheless, the species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Foothill Grassland in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
6. Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) is BLM_S-Sensitive and CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern. There is a CNDDDB records of the species from 1970 (updated in 2006) centered on the city of Weldon. The species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, Foothill Grassland, and Cismontane Woodland in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
7. American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) is CDF_S-Sensitive. There is a CNDDDB records of the species from 2017 (updated in 2018) with a nest on a power facility within

an industrial complex approximately 6.2-mile southeast of the southern Ventura Steel Site. The species is presumed to be extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, and Cismontane Woodland, habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site. This species is also known to occur in developed areas.

8. Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) is IUCN LC-Least Concern. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from 1905 (updated in 2007) approximately 12.1-miles northeast of the northern Ventura Steel Site north of Ojai and within the Topatopa Mountains. The species is presumed extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, and Cismontane Woodland habitats while using the Ventura River for resources in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
9. San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) is CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern. The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is from 1992 (updated in 1996) approximately 5.7-miles west of the northern Ventura Steel Site and south of Highway 101. The species is presumed extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
10. Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*) is a CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern. There are two CNDDDB records of the species from 2016 (updated in 2017) approximately 11.9-miles north of the northern Ventura Steel Site within the Topatopa Mountains. The species is presumed extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, and Cismontane Woodland habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
11. American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is a CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern and IUCN_LC-Least Concern. There are two CNDDDB records of the species from 2008 and 2009 at distances of approximately 2.3-miles north and 9.5-miles east of the Ventura Steel Site. The species is presumed extant in the area. The species has a medium potential to occur in Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, Foothill Grassland, and Cismontane Woodland habitats in both the Study Area and the Ventura Steel Site.
12. Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) is listed as a Candidate for threatened in California and is known to occur throughout the mountains of southern California, including the foothills on the Study Area. The species has a high potential to occur within any of the native plant communities in the Study Area that have suitable cover and prey species.

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 Ventura Steel Site Alternatives.” 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.

It is likely that the Foothill Grassland communities in the Study Area have dominant plants that are non-native; therefore, those communities are likely to be non-sensitive with no sensitivity ranking. The Cismontane Woodland communities on the Study Area are likely dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*); therefore, those communities are likely not sensitive communities with sensitivity rankings of G4/S4, however, there are a few associations that could be considered sensitive but they are typically associated with riparian areas, which are absent from the Study Area. If the Coastal Scrub or Chaparral communities on the Study Area are dominated by white sage (*Salvia apiana*), then those communities would be sensitive with a ranking of S3/G4. The Eucalyptus Groves, Avocado Groves, and all other land cover types on the Study Area do not have a sensitivity ranking and are not considered sensitive communities.

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 Ventura Steel Site and Study Area are in a non-coastal zone, and not within the Scenic Resources Protection Zone; however, it may contain oaks and sycamores 9.5 inches in circumference or larger (measured at least 4.5 feet above ground). Therefore, the Ventura Steel Site has potential to contain protected trees within the NCZO.

Native Wildlife Corridors and Nursery Sites

The NWI and CPAD data include parklands and protected native habitats as well as the river and stream systems (USFWS 2025b; CPAD 2025). The areas of the Ventura Steel Site that include Coastal Scrub or Chaparral, Foothill Grassland, and Cismontane Woodland habitats are connected to the north/northeast and east to high-quality habitat; therefore, they all can be considered habitat linkages and wildlife migration corridors. These habitats are part of a continuous block of high quality habitat in this foothill region north of the City of Ventura. This area provides ample opportunities for wildlife to move through the Ventura Steel Site and have access to large tracts of pristine habitat in the foothills as well as have access to the Ventura River and Pacific Ocean. It is expected that numerous wildlife would use the area for migration or movement between habitat areas.

Survey Results

As described previously, no surveys were conducted for the assessment in this report, and the assessment relied entirely on a desktop and literature review.

4. 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.

Clean Water Act Sections 404 and 401

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands. Activities in waters of the U.S. or wetlands regulated under this program include fill as a result of projects such as development, water resource projects (such as dams and

levees), infrastructure development and mining projects. Section 404 requires a permit before dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the U.S.

Section 401 of the CWA requires that any person applying for a federal permit or license which may result in a discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States (such as a Clean Water Act Permit under Section 404), must obtain a state water quality certification stating that the activity complies with all applicable water quality standards, limitations, and restrictions. No license or permit may be issued by a federal agency until certification required by section 401 has been Granted or waived.

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 project’s 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.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Act requires the adoption of water quality control plans (basin plans) that give direction to managing water pollution in California. The basin plans get adopted and administered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The plans incorporate the beneficial uses of the waters of the State and then provide objectives that should be met to maintain and protect these uses. Along with the Regional Water Boards, the State Water Resources Board can issue and enforce permits containing waste discharge requirements to maintain clean surface water and groundwater. Each basin plan identifies the specific beneficial uses of water in their region for the past, present, and future. These basin plans also all have objectives for which the plan clearly states steps that are being taken or will be taken to meet the objectives. These objectives are created for the purpose of keeping the water clean and safe to use beneficially. The Regional Board has the authority to give out permits for the purpose of waste disposal or waste assimilation.

Waters of the State (WSC) 401 Water Quality Certification

The RWQCB regulates activities pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA. Section 401 of the CWA specifies that certification from the State is required for any applicant requesting a federal license or permit including a Section 404 permit. The RWQCB’s delegated authority over Section 401 requires a Water Quality Certification consistent with the USACE of Engineers definition of waters of the US.

The State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State was adopted in April 2020 and put into effect statewide on May 28, 2020 (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] 2020a). The Water Boards define wetlands as follows:

“An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2)

the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation."

The Water Code defines Waters of the State of California (WSC) broadly to include "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state." In the 2020 state wetland definition, the State did not define non-wetland WSC, rather they are relying on regional characterizations of jurisdiction was delegated to the Regional Boards.

The following wetlands are WSC based on the 2020 Procedures:

1. Natural wetlands;
2. Wetlands created by modification of a surface water of the state; and
3. Artificial wetlands that meet any of the following criteria:
 - a. Approved by an agency as compensatory mitigation for impacts to other WSC, except where the approving agency explicitly identifies the mitigation as being of limited duration;
 - b. Specifically identified in a water quality control plan as a wetland or other water of the state;
 - c. Resulted from historic human activity, is not subject to ongoing operation and maintenance, and has become a relatively permanent part of the natural landscape; or
 - d. Greater than or equal to one acre in size, unless the artificial wetland was constructed, and is currently used and maintained, primarily for one or more of the following purposes (i.e., the following artificial wetlands are not WSC unless they also satisfy the criteria set forth in 2, 3a, or 3b):
 - i. Industrial or municipal wastewater treatment or disposal;
 - ii. Settling of sediment;
 - iii. Detention, retention, infiltration, or treatment of stormwater runoff and other pollutants or runoff subject to regulation under a municipal, construction, or industrial stormwater permitting program,
 - iv. Treatment of surface waters;
 - v. Agricultural crop irrigation or stock watering;
 - vi. Fire suppression;
 - vii. Industrial processing or cooling;
 - viii. Active surface mining – even if the site is managed for interim wetlands functions and values;
 - ix. Log storage;
 - x. Treatment, storage, or distribution of recycled water;
 - xi. Maximizing groundwater recharge (this does not include wetlands that have incidental groundwater recharge benefits); or
 - xii. Fields flooded for rice growing.

All artificial wetlands that are less than 1 acre in size and do not satisfy the criteria set forth in 2, 3.a, 3.b, or 3.c are not WSC.

State of California Fish and Game Code Section 1600

Fish and Game Code Section 1602 outlines the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) permitting process, and states:

- An entity shall not substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake

Fish and Game Code Section 1602 requires any entity (defined as any person, State or local governmental agency, or public utility) to notify the CDFW before beginning any activity that will do one or more of the following:

- substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of and river, stream, or lake, or
- substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or
- deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

A permit, known as a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, from CDFW is required to conduct any of the activities described above

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 Protect 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

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 Ventura Steel Site Alternative 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.”

5. Conclusion

Based on the literature review and desktop analysis in this report, portions of the Ventura Steel Site Alternative development and impact areas include native plant communities that are potential habitat for 20 special-status plants and 15-special-status animals. The impact areas could have protected trees such as oaks or sycamores. The presence of NWI features indicates that there are potential jurisdictional areas that cross the Ventura Steel Site Alternative impact areas. The Santa Clara River is immediately west of the Ventura Steel site and includes areas of Critical Habitat as well as wildlife movement areas, and the wildlife movement areas would also include the native habitat on and surrounding the Ventura Steel Site Alternative that could be impacted by the Ventura Steel Site Alternative. The Ventura Steel Site Alternative is located within an area with an abundance of protected biological resources.

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Appendix A

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 CNDDB; 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 Ventura Steel 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has coastal scrub habitat the species requires.
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i>	Miles' milk-vetch	None	None	1B.2	Mar-Jun	0	1400	Coastal scrub.	Clay soils	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has coastal scrub habitat the species requires.
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has coastal scrub habitat the species requires, however, this species is only known to occur in a single location in Oxnard and is not likely to occur in the Study Area.
<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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has coastal scrub and foothill grassland 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	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has coastal scrub habitat the species requires.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	None	None	1B.2	Apr-Oct	10	1510	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub.	Alkaline soil.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has coastal scrub 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 Ventura Steel Site
<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	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has cismontane woodland and riparian woodland habitat the species requires; however, the Ventura Steel Site is below the known elevation range for the species.
<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 and foothill grassland	Granitic, Rocky	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has cismontane woodland, riparian woodland, and foothill grassland habitat the species requires.
<i>Centromadia parryi ssp. australis</i>	southern tarplant	None	None	1B.1	May-Nov	0	1575	Marshes and swamps, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools		Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has foothill grassland habitat the species requires.
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula var. orcuttiana</i>	Orcutt's pincushion	None	None	1B.1	Jan-Aug	10	700	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes.	Sandy sites	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum ssp. 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 Ventura Steel 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 Ventura Steel Site
<i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i>	umbrella larkspur	None	None	1B.3	Apr-Jun	390	6800	Cismontane woodland, chaparral.	Mesic sites	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has cismontane woodland 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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has cismontane woodland or chaparral habitat the species requires; however, the Ventura Steel Site is below the known elevation range for the species.
<i>Horkelia cuneata var. puberula</i>	mesa horkelia	None	None	1B.1	Feb-Jul(Sep)	230	2660	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub	Gravelly (sometimes), Sandy (sometimes)	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, or chaparral 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 desert scrub, Riparian scrub	Mesic	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has coastal scrub or chaparral habitat the species requires.
<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 Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Layia heterotricha</i>	pale-yellow layia	None	None	1B.1	May-Jun	300	5900	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper	Alkaline or clay soils; open areas	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has cismontane woodland, coastal

Scientific Name	Common Name	FESA	CESA	CRPR	Blooming Period	Elevation Low (ft)	Elevation High (ft)	Habitat	Micro Habitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
								woodland, valley and foothill grassland.		scrub, or foothill grassland habitat the species requires.
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	Robinson's pepper-grass	None	None	4.3	Jan-Jul	5	2905	Chaparral, Coastal scrub		Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral or coastal scrub that the species requires.
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i> var. <i>subspicata</i>	Santa Barbara honeysuckle	None	None	1B.2	May-Aug	20	27	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub.		Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral, coastal scrub, or cismontane woodland that the species requires.
<i>Malacothrix similis</i>	Mexican malacothrix	None	None	2A	Apr-May			Coastal dunes.	Coastal dunes.	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>hypoleuca</i>	white-veined monardella	None	None	1B.3	(Apr)May-Aug(Sep-Dec)	165	5005	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland		Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral or cismontane woodland that 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	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral, coastal scrub, or cismontane woodland that 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral, coastal scrub, or foothill grassland that 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 Ventura Steel 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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral that the species requires; however, the Ventura Steel Site is below the known elevation range for the species.
<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	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral or coastal scrub that 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	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, or riparian woodland that the species requires.
<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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral or coastal scrub that the species requires.
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Sanford's arrowhead	None	None	1B.2	May-Oct(Nov)	0	2135	Marshes and swamps		None. The Ventura Steel 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,	Alkali springs and marshes.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral or coastal scrub that 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 Ventura Steel Site
								Mojavean desert scrub.		
<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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has chaparral that the species requires however, the Ventura Steel Site is below the known elevation range for the species.

Special-Status Animals

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel 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 Ventura Steel 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	Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires. Could occur in the Ventura River.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
						or emergent riparian vegetation.	have access to estivation habitat.	
<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.	Low. The Ventura Steel 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has the habitat the species requires. It is known to forage away from nesting in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	Birds	None	None	BLM_S-Sensitive CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_LC-Least Concern USFWS_BCC-Birds of Conservation Concern	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation.	Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has annual or perennial grasslands and scrublands characterized by low- growing vegetation.
<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 Ventura Steel 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	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has the habitat the species requires but likely lacks

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
							blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	the micro 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site has the habitat and is near the Ventura River; therefore, it has 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 Ventura Steel 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 Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	coastal California gnatcatcher	Birds	Threatened	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern NABCI_YWL-Yellow Watch List	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft in Southern California.	Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has the habitat the species requires; however nearby CNDDB records are within urbanized areas, and the species is possibly extirpated from the area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	bank swallow	Birds	None	Threatened	BLM_S-Sensitive IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert.	Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting hole.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site has the habitat the species requires; however nearby CNDDDB records are within urbanized areas, and the species is reported by the CNDDDB as extirpated from the area.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler	Birds	None	None	CDFW_SSC-Species of Special Concern IUCN_LC-Least Concern	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada.	Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site may lack riparian habitat.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>	California least tern	Birds	Endangered	Endangered	CDFW_FP-Fully Protected NABCI_RWL-Red Watch List	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California.	Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo	Birds	Endangered	Endangered	NABCI_YWL-Yellow Watch List	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft.	Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, Baccharis, mesquite.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site may lack riparian habitat.
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	Santa Ana sucker	Fish	Threatened	None	AFS_TH-Threatened IUCN_EN-Endangered	Endemic to Los Angeles Basin south coastal streams.	Habitat generalists, but prefer sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water, and algae.	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<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	Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
						County to the mouth of the Smith River.	and high oxygen levels.	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 Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.
<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 Ventura Steel 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro habitat the species requires.
<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 Ventura Steel 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 Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires.
<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	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
							and water sources nearby.	riparian areas and may occur within Eucalyptus Groves in the southern Study Area.
<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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro 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 Ventura Steel 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro habitat the species requires for roosting. Nearby water could be obtained from the Ventura River.
<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	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
						County to San Luis Obispo County.	outcrops, rocky cliffs, and slopes.	micro habitat the species requires.
<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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro 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 Ventura Steel 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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat but likely lacks the micro 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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat but likely lacks the micro 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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat but likely lacks the micro habitat the species requires.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro 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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro 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 Ventura Steel 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.	Low. The Ventura Steel Site lacks sandy washes with scattered low bushes.
<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.	Medium. The Ventura Steel Site may have the habitat and micro 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	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	None. The Ventura Steel Site lacks the habitat the species requires. Known to occur in the Ventura River riparian areas.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Taxonomic Group	FESA	CESA	Other Status	General Habitat	Microhabitat	Potential to Occur on Ventura Steel Site
					Concern USFS_S-Sensitive		beds and riparian growth.	

