APPENDIX B

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

Biological Resources Technical Report

for the

Park to Playa Trail

Prepared for

Alta Planning and Design
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Los Angeles, California 90013

Prepared by

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Biological Technical Report has been prepared to support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for the proposed Park to Playa Trail (hereafter referred to as the "project"). This information has been reported in accordance with accepted scientific and technical standards that are consistent with the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife (CDFW, formerly the California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG]).

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

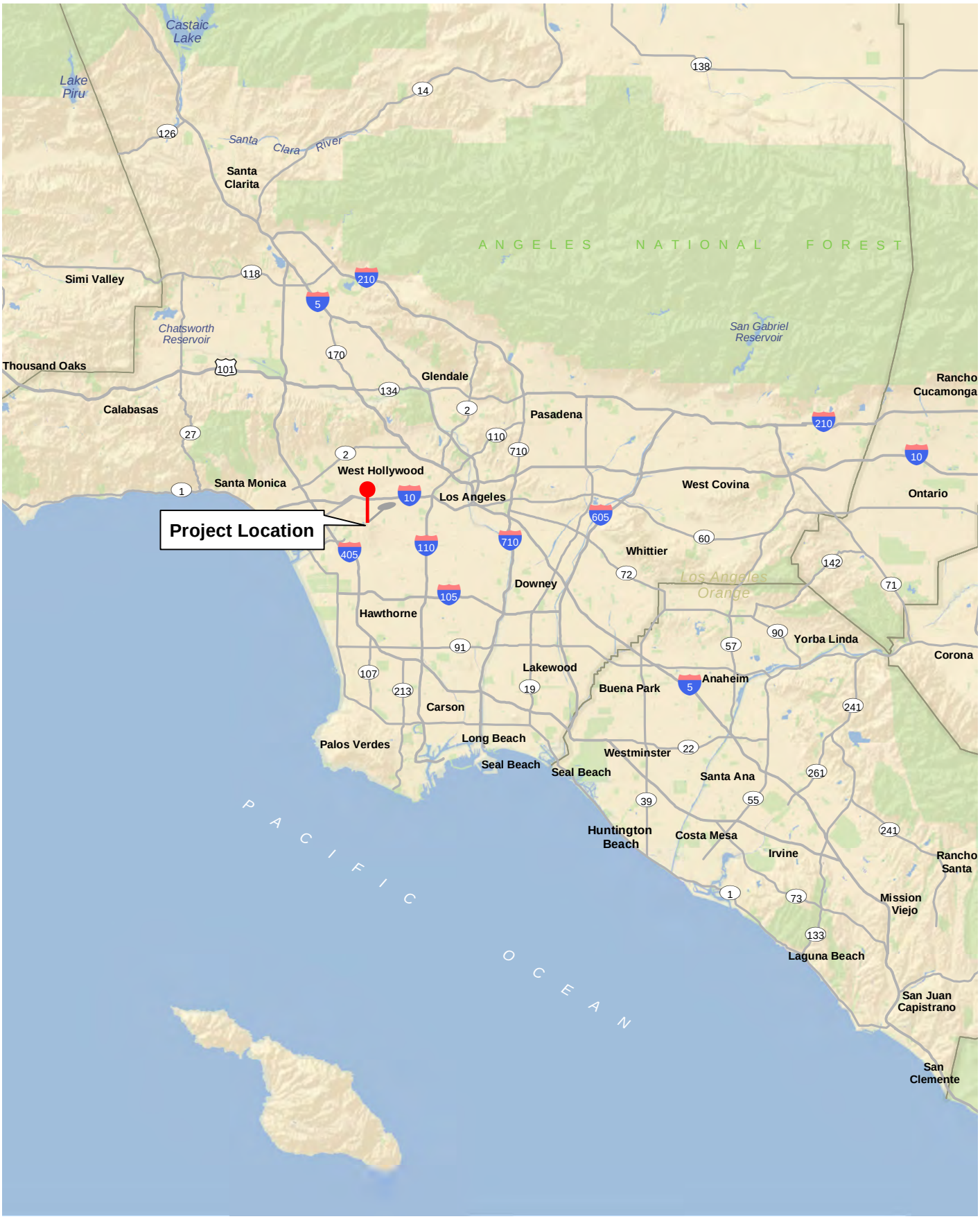
The Park to Playa Trail survey area is located in the Baldwin Hills area of the western section of Los Angeles County in the cities of Los Angeles and Culver City and in a portion of unincorporated Los Angeles County (Exhibits 1 and 2). Approximately seven miles of trails are primarily located in unincorporated County land, with the northern edge of the trail system in the City of Los Angeles and the western section in the City of Culver City. Jurisdictions surrounding the survey area include the City of Los Angeles to the north and east; the City of Inglewood to the south; and the City of Culver City to the west.

The survey area includes the Culver City Park, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA), Blair Hills Corridor, and Stocker Street Corridor. The KHSRA is an urban park that functions as open space and consists of undisturbed areas of native vegetation and landscaped areas with ornamental vegetation. The Blair Hills Corridor, between the KHSRA and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, includes a flood-control basin west of South La Cienega Boulevard; Culver City Park features multiple athletic fields; and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook is developed with an observation deck and a visitors center at the top of a hill. Land uses in the surrounding area include Jefferson Boulevard to the northwest; industrial uses to the northeast; single-family homes and residential neighborhoods to the east and to the west; oil production areas to the southeast; and industrial uses to the southwest. The survey area is located on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS') Beverly Hills, Hollywood, and Inglewood 7.5-minute quadrangles (Exhibit 3).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND VEGETATION

The Baldwin Hills are a group of northwest-to-southeast trending hills in the West Los Angeles area, generally following the Newport-Inglewood fault zone. The hills are defined by deep gullies and canyons, with the northern section of the hills having steeper slopes than the southern section. The northern section has maximum slope angles of 25 degrees and maximum heights of 200 feet. Elevations range from 70 feet above mean sea level (msl) at the Ballona Creek Bike Path (at the western end of the proposed trail alignment); 511 feet above msl at the top of the Eastern Ridgeline Trail in the KHSRA; 420 feet above msl at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook; nearly 500 feet above msl at the Western Ridgeline Trail in the KHSRA; and just over 400 feet above msl at the Stocker Street Corridor (where the Stocker Corridor Trail passes through the north-facing slopes of the Windsor Hills).

The Baldwin Hills are primarily used for active recreation; habitat restoration and preservation; and oil and gas production. Vegetation on the approximate 435-acre survey area includes a scattered and patchy distribution of various native and non-native vegetation types and other open areas as a result of the varied land uses on site. Vegetation in the survey area consists primarily of ornamental, sage scrub, ruderal, developed, chaparral, and disturbed communities (see Section 3.0, Existing Biological Resources). Soil types on the site include Hanford association, 2 to 5 percent slopes; Yolo association; Cropley association; Ramona-Placentia association, 2 to 5 percent slopes; and Pleasanton-Ojai association, 2 to 9 percent slopes (USDA 1969).



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Regional Location

Exhibit 1

Park to Playa Trail Project

N W E S

10 5 0 10 Miles

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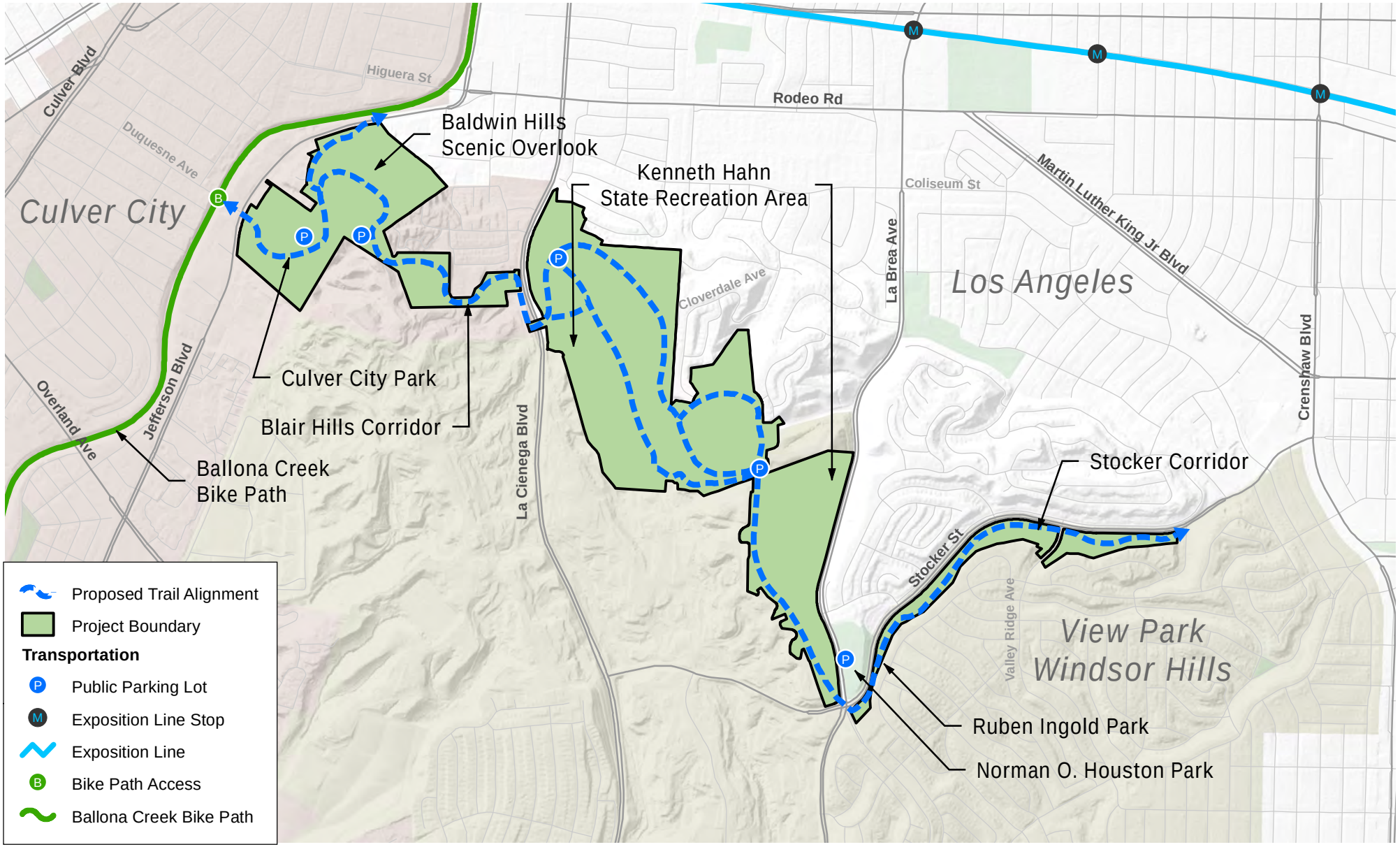

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Local Vicinity

Exhibit 2

Park to Playa Trail

N
W E
S

2,000 1,000 0 2,000

Feet

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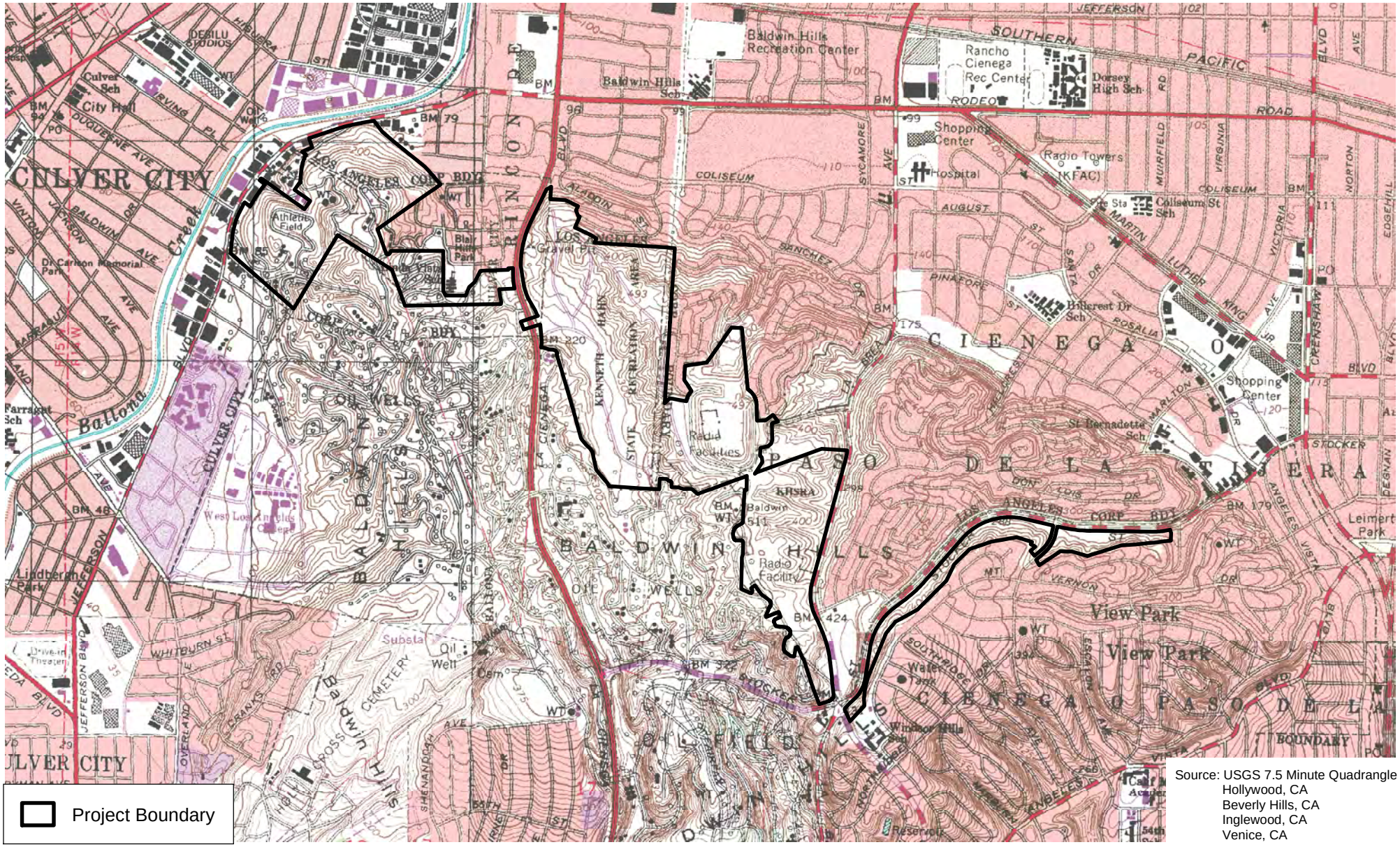

USGS Topographic Map

Exhibit 3

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet

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1.3 REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The survey area is located in the Los Angeles basin; which is generally flat with an average elevation of approximately 100 to 200 feet above msl. It consists primarily of extensively developed urban and residential areas. The only substantial remaining open space in the basin is the Baldwin Hills area, which has an average elevation of approximately 250 to 450 feet above msl. The Los Angeles basin is bound by the Santa Monica Mountains to the north; the San Gabriel Mountains to the northeast; the Santa Ana Mountains to the southeast; and the Pacific Ocean to the south and west and south. The Los Angeles basin is crossed by several watercourses, the largest of which are the Los Angeles River and the San Gabriel River, which generally maintain surface flows year-round.

1.3.1 Climate

Southern California is located in a Mediterranean climate, which is characterized by mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. There can also be dramatic differences in rainfall from year to year. Consequently, the vegetation types consist of drought-tolerant, woody shrubs and trees and annual, fall-sprouting grasses.

The temperature is moderated by the coastal influence of the Pacific Ocean, making for mild conditions through most of the year. In Culver City, the warmest month is August with an average high of approximately 79 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and an average low of 63°F, while the coolest month is December with a monthly average high of 65°F and an average low of 47°F (The Weather Channel 2012). The stable atmosphere creates cloudless conditions, giving the dry, summer subtropical climate many days of sunshine (Ritter 2007).

The most distinguishing characteristic of a Mediterranean climate is its seasonal precipitation. In Southern California, precipitation is characterized by brief, intense storms between November and March. It is not unusual for a majority of the annual precipitation to fall during a few storms in close proximity to each other. Average annual rainfall in Culver City is approximately 13.4 inches per year (U.S. Climate Data 2012). Rainfall patterns are subject to extreme variations from year to year and longer term wet and dry cycles. One of those dry cycles occurred in the 2007 season, with annual rainfall totaling approximately 4.4 inches (Weather Underground 2012).

1.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The objective of the proposed project is to create a regional trail system and greenway by linking together and improving existing trail segments and building new trail segments within a series of public parks and open spaces. Identity and wayfinding signage and markings, orientation signs/maps, and street crossing improvements are small but important improvements to allow users to follow the route. The proposed project includes a new parking area; some added user amenities (e.g., benches in strategic locations); and two additional shade structures to augment existing shade structures along the route. In some locations, split rail fencing may be used as a barrier between switchbacks; at closed volunteer trails; or at trailheads to frame entry points. Another major objective of the proposed project is to restore native coastal sage scrub habitat in existing disturbed or ornamental landscape areas along the route.

2.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGIES

BonTerra Consulting conducted a literature search to identify special status plants, wildlife, and vegetation types known to occur in the vicinity of the survey area. This included a review of the Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Inglewood, Los Angeles, South Gate and Venice USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2012) and the CDFG's CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFG CDFW 2012). In addition, the compendia of special status species published by the USFWS and CDFGCDFW were reviewed.

2.1 VEGETATION MAPPING AND GENERAL SURVEY

Vegetation mapping and general plant and wildlife surveys were conducted on April 12 and 16, 2012, by BonTerra Consulting Biologists David Hughes and Molly Peters. The purpose of the general surveys was to describe the vegetation present in the survey area and to evaluate the potential of the observed habitats to support special status species. Nomenclature for vegetation types generally follows that of the CDFG's 2010 *List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations.* Vegetation was mapped in the field on an aerial photograph at a scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet (1″=200′).

Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using keys in Baldwin et al. (2012). Plant species observed were recorded in field notes and are listed in Table A-1 of Appendix A. Taxonomy follows Baldwin et al. (2012) or current scientific journals for scientific and common names.

During the general survey, each habitat type was evaluated for its potential to support special status plant and wildlife species that are known or expected to occur in the region. Active searches for reptiles and amphibians included lifting, overturning, and carefully replacing rocks and debris. Birds were identified by visual and auditory recognition. Surveying for mammals occurred during the day and included searching for and identifying diagnostic signs, including scat, footprints, scratch-outs, dust bowls, burrows, and trails. All wildlife species observed were recorded in field notes and are listed in Table A-2 of Appendix A. Taxonomy and nomenclature for wildlife generally follows Stebbins (2003) for amphibians and reptiles, American Ornithologists' Union (1998) for birds, and Baker et al. (2003) for mammals.

2.2 FOCUSED SURVEYS

Focused survey reports that document the various surveys described below are included as Appendices B and C of this report.

2.2.1 Special Status Plant Species

Initial general surveys conclude that potentially suitable habitat present on the site warranted focused surveys for special status plants. Special status plant surveys were conducted to evaluate the presence or absence of potentially occurring special status plant species. An early spring plant survey was conducted by BonTerra Consulting Senior Botanist Robert Allen and BonTerra Consulting Restoration Ecologist David Hughes on April 29 and 30, 2012. A late spring plant survey was conducted by Consulting Botanist Pam DeVries, assisted by Otto Gasser on June 7 and 8, 2012. Meandering transects were used to survey all accessible portions of the on-site impact areas containing native habitats potentially suitable for special status species. Field notes were taken during the surveys. Botanical surveys were floristic in nature and conducted following the *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (CDFG 2009) and the California

Native Plant Society's (CNPS') Botanical Survey Guidelines (CNPS 2001). Prior to the field survey, a literature review was conducted to identify special status plants known from the general vicinity of the survey area. This included a review of the USGS' Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Los Angeles, South Gate, Inglewood, and Venice 7.5-minute quadrangles in the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG's) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFG 2012) and the CNPS' Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2012).

Target species consisted of special status plant species known to occur in the project region and with potentially suitable habitat present in the survey area. A total of 36 person-hours were used expended to complete the surveys. All potentially suitable habitats for special status plant species in the survey area were systematically surveyed during the site visits. Areas not accessible by foot were scanned with binoculars. All plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Prior to conducting the field surveys, reference populations of Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*), Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) and many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) were checked to confirm their flowering status and to verify that the surveys in the survey area were conducted during the appropriate blooming period. The location of each special status plant population found in the survey area was mapped using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using keys in Baldwin et al. (2012). Taxonomy follows Baldwin et al. (2012) for scientific and common names.

In conformance with CDFG guidelines (2000), all surveys were (1) were conducted during flowering seasons for the special status plants known from the area; (2) were floristic in nature; (3) were consistent with conservation ethics; (4) systematically covered all habitat types in the survey area; and (5) were well documented by the survey report. Reference populations were monitored to determine the appropriate survey time. A detailed description of the survey can be found in the plant survey report provided in Appendix B.

2.2.2 Special Status Wildlife Species

Initial general surveys conclude that potentially suitable habitat present on the site warranted focused wildlife surveys for one species: coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). This survey is discussed in greater detail below.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher were conducted during the breeding season (March 15 through June 30) in 2012. The current USFWS coastal California gnatcatcher survey protocol recommends six visits to all potentially occupied habitat areas during the morning hours for surveys conducted entirely within the breeding season (USFWS 1997). Following the USFWS protocols for the species, James Huelsman (USFWS permit No. T8827493-7) conducted six focused surveys in all habitat areas potentially occupied by the gnatcatcher, covering no more than 80 acres of potentially suitable habitat per day. Because all surveys were conducted during the gnatcatcher breeding season (March 15 through June 30), survey visits to each potentially occupied habitat were restricted to one visit per week. The first survey was divided into two separate days in order for the biologist to properly evaluate project boundaries as well as the quality and distribution of the habitat to be surveyed. Potentially suitable habitat was determined to be less than 80 acres, resulting in single day surveys for subsequent visits. Survey visits were conducted on May 17, 24, and 31 and June 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2012.

Weather conditions met USFWS survey protocol requirements designed to optimize gnatcatcher detections. Weather conditions that were too cold (less than 55°F), too hot (greater than 95°F), or too windy (greater than 15 miles per hour) were avoided. Surveys were conducted by slowly walking within and along the perimeter of coastal sage scrub stands while watching and listening for California gnatcatcher activity. Taped vocalizations were used conservatively to solicit a response from any gnatcatchers potentially present. The frequency of taped playback use varied with site conditions; including habitat patch size, topography, and ambient noise levels. A detailed description of the 2012 focused surveys can be found in the California gnatcatcher focused survey report provided in Appendix C.

2.3 OAK TREES

Oak trees in the unincorporated Los Angeles County portions of the survey area are protected by the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance. The northern section of the KHSRA is located in the City of Los Angeles and is subject to the City of Los Angeles Tree Ordinance. The western section of the survey area occurs within the City of Culver City and is not subject to any tree ordinance. Based on the determination from the initial general survey that no oak trees occur in or immediately adjacent to the project disturbance area, a tree survey was considered unwarranted and was therefore not conducted.

2.4 JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

A preliminary jurisdictional assessment was performed by BonTerra Consulting to identify potential jurisdictional resources in the survey area; review the potential for the project to impact these resources; and determine the need to acquire regulatory permit authorizations. Surveys were conducted by BonTerra Consulting Regulatory Specialist David Hughes on October 16, 2012. Jurisdictional resources include “waters of the U.S.” that are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), as well as “waters of the State” that are regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

BonTerra Consulting identified and assessed a total of six potential jurisdictional features that were in the vicinity of the proposed trail location. It should be noted that the regulatory agencies are responsible for a final determination as to whether the features described herein are under their respective jurisdiction; would be considered jurisdictional waters; and whether trail construction activities constitute an impact requiring a regulatory permit. A more detailed description of the methods and results of this preliminary jurisdictional assessment are provided in Appendix D.

3.0 EXISTING BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

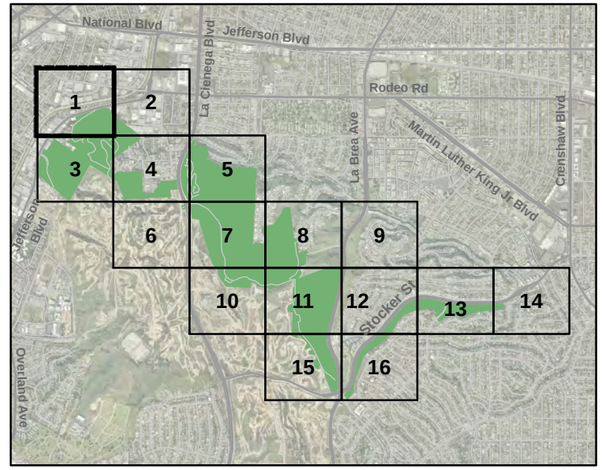
This section describes the biological resources that occur or potentially occur in the survey area or within nearby off-site areas associated with the proposed project. The following topics are discussed below: vegetation types; wildlife populations and movement patterns; special status vegetation types; and special status plant and wildlife species, either known to occur or potentially occurring in the survey area.

3.1 VEGETATION TYPES

This section describes the vegetation types and other areas that occur in the survey area (Exhibit 4). These include Coast Live Oak Woodland, California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub, California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral, Elderberry Scrub, Eucalyptus Grove, Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand, Giant Wild Rye Grassland, Annual Brome Grasslands, Toyon Chaparral, and Willow Thickets. Ruderal, Disturbed, Developed, Ornamental, and Open Water areas are also present in the survey area. A description of each vegetation type/other area is found below. Table 1 identifies the acreage for the vegetation types and other areas in the survey area.

TABLE 1
VEGETATION TYPES AND OTHER AREAS

Vegetation Type/Other Area	Total (acres)
Annual Brome Grasslands	43.5
California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub	72.1
California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed	35.2
California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral	0.6
Coast Live Oak Woodland	0.2
Elderberry Scrub	5.3
Eucalyptus Grove	0.3
Giant Wild Rye Grassland	0.5
Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand	0.5
Ruderal	60.3
Toyon Chaparral	12.3
Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed	1.7
Willow Thickets	1.5
Open Water	2.1
Ornamental	162.2
Disturbed	11.1
Developed	25.7
Total	**435.1**



Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 1
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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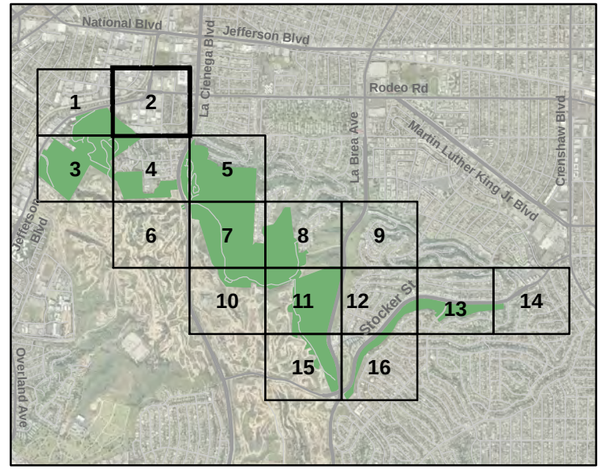

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- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 2
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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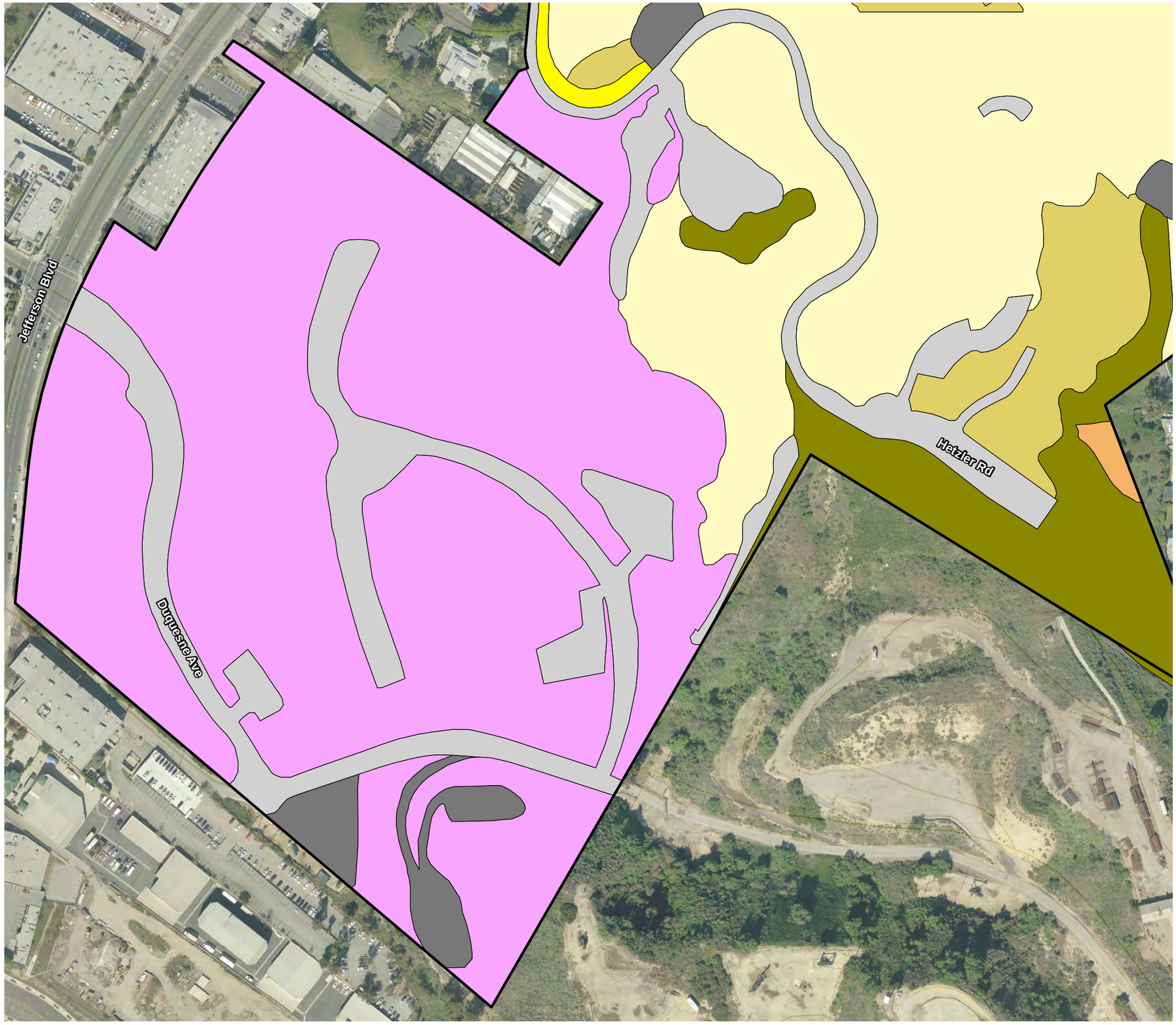

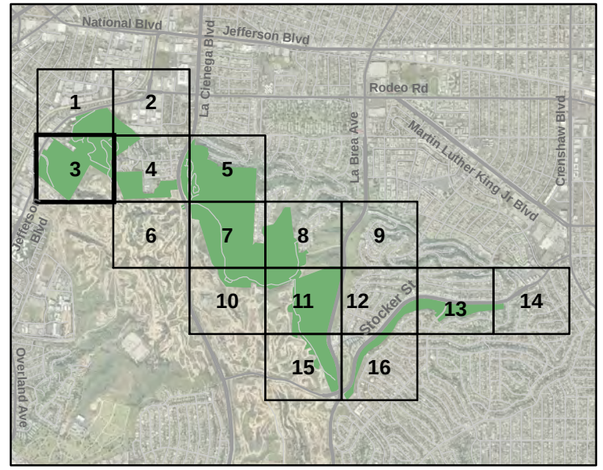

Project Boundary

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- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 3
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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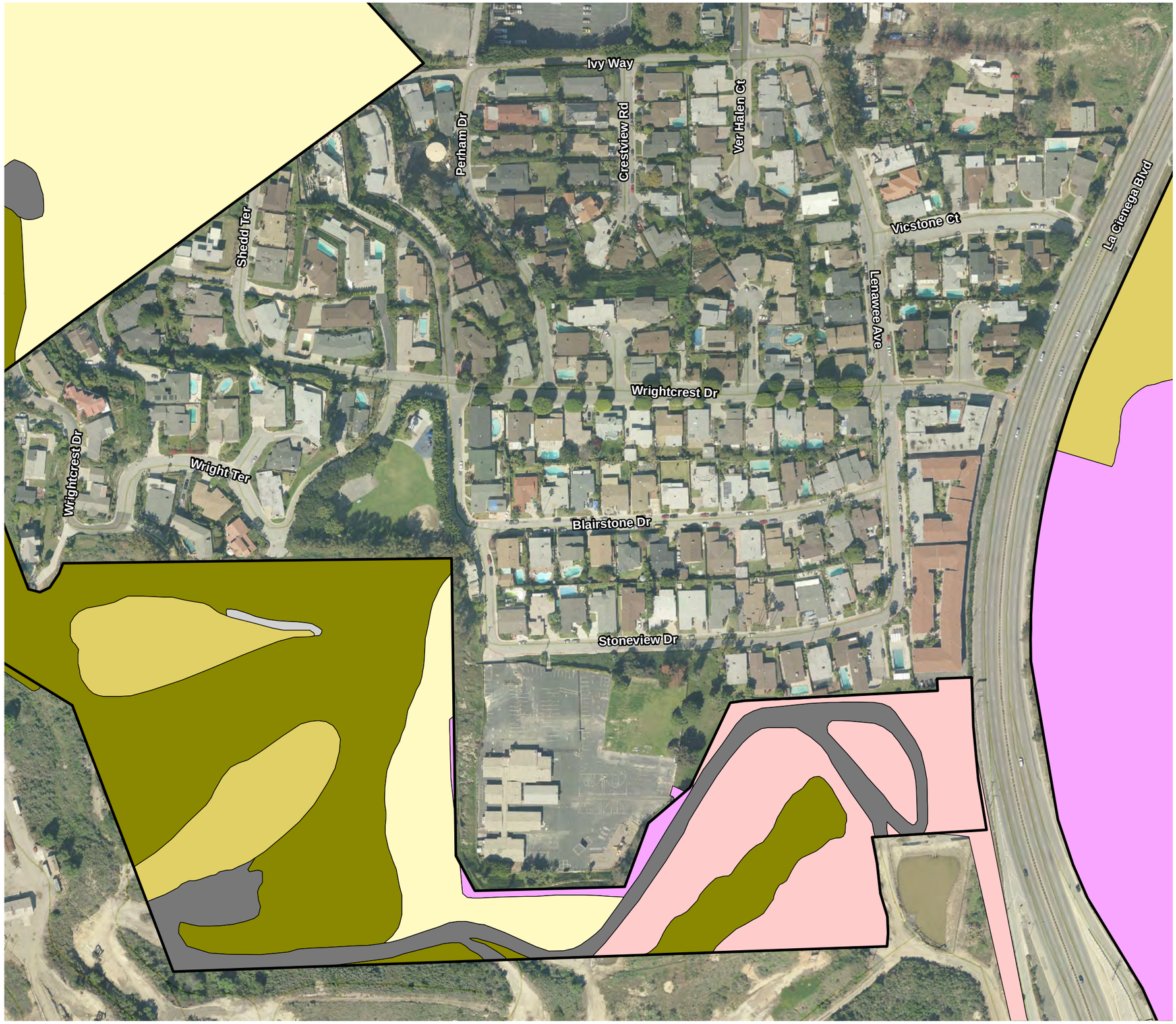

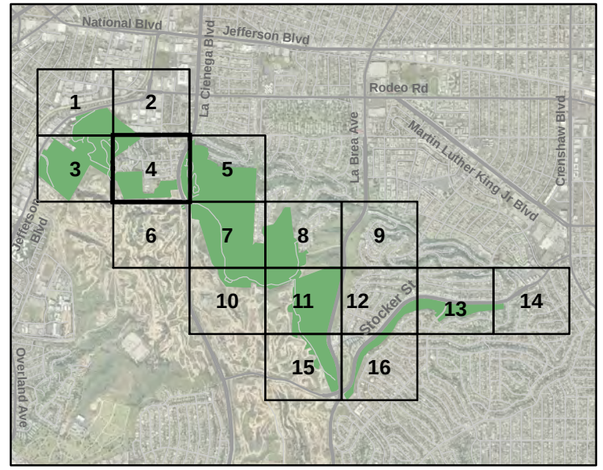

Project Boundary

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- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
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- Developed
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- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 4
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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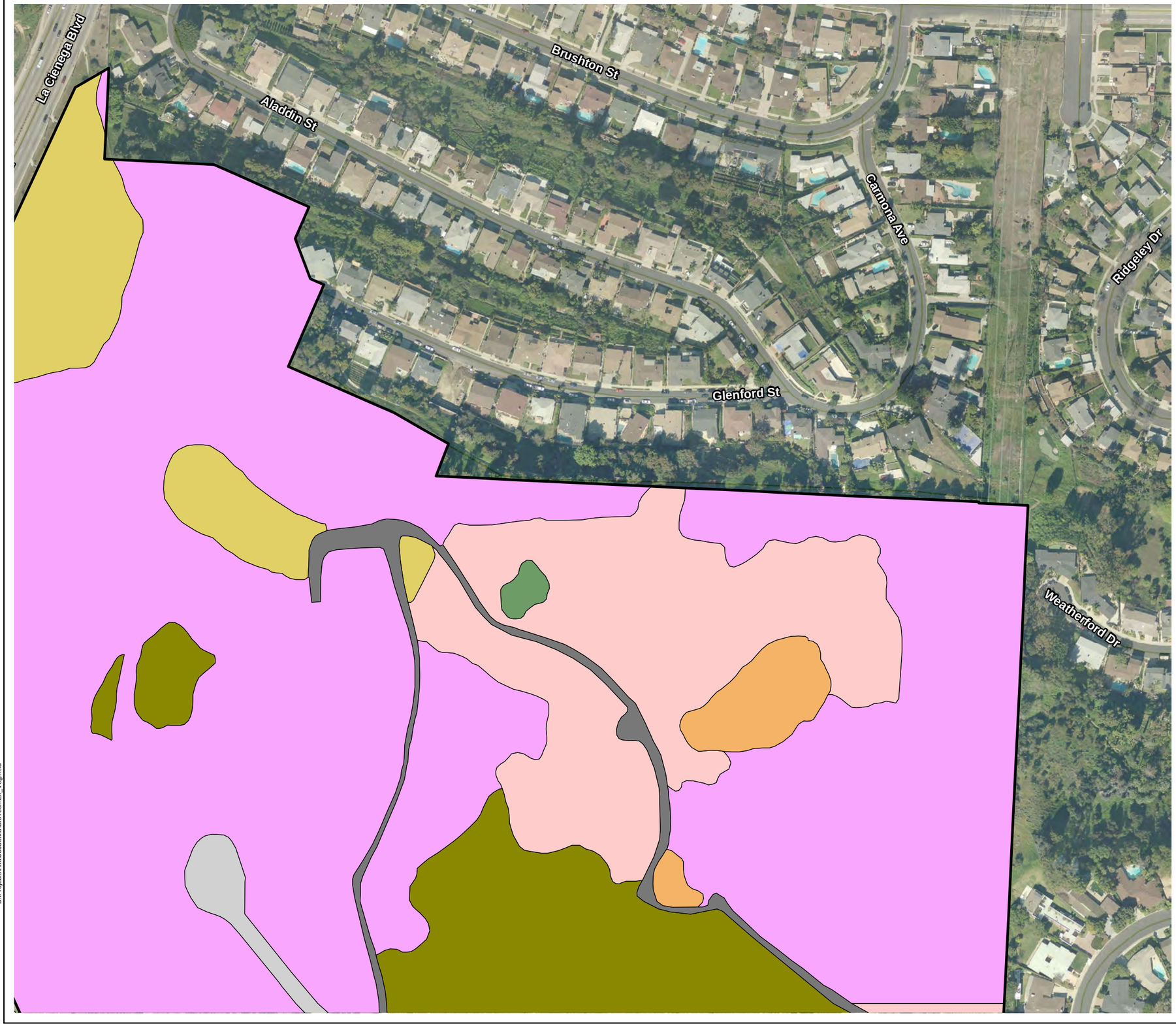

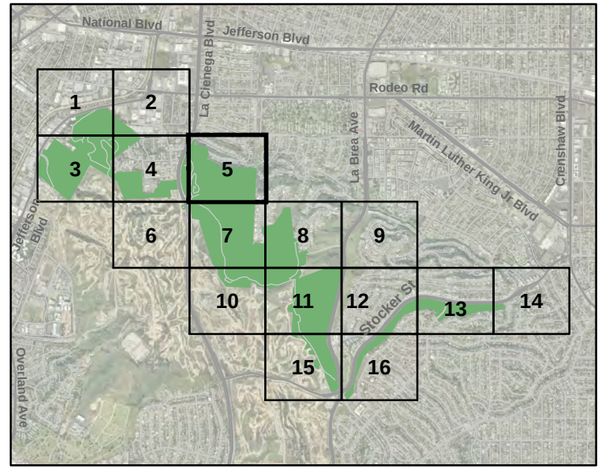

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- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 5
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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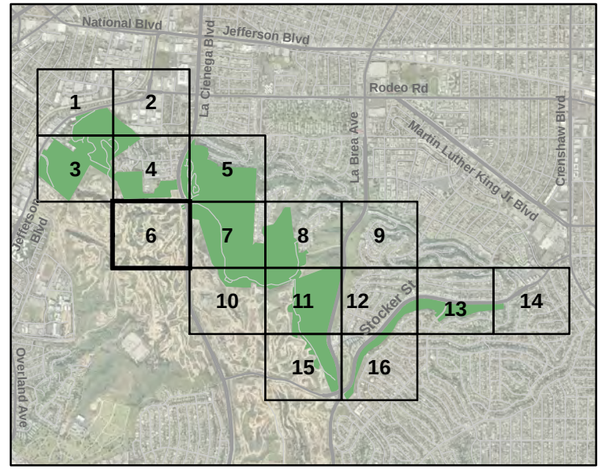

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- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 6
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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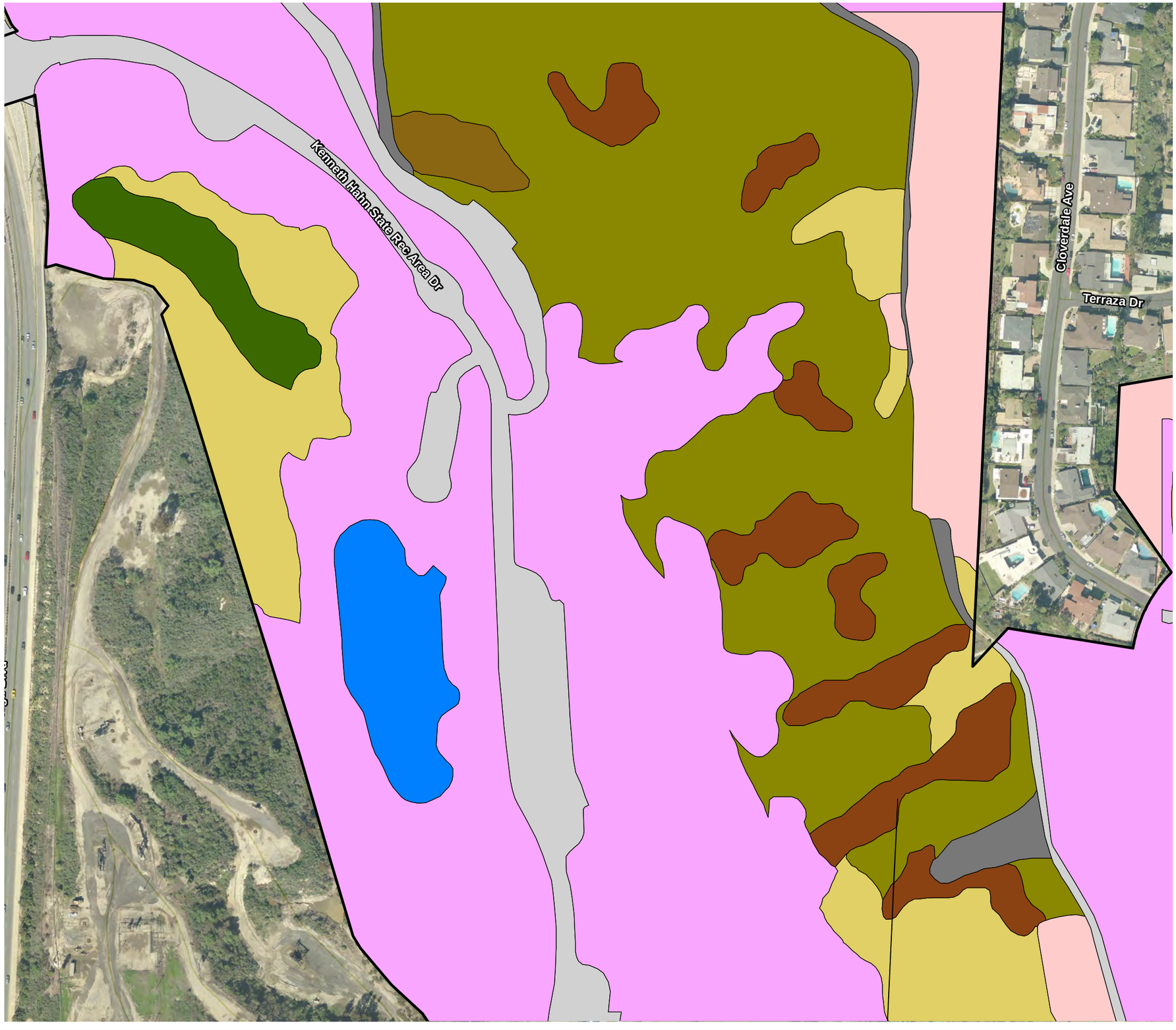

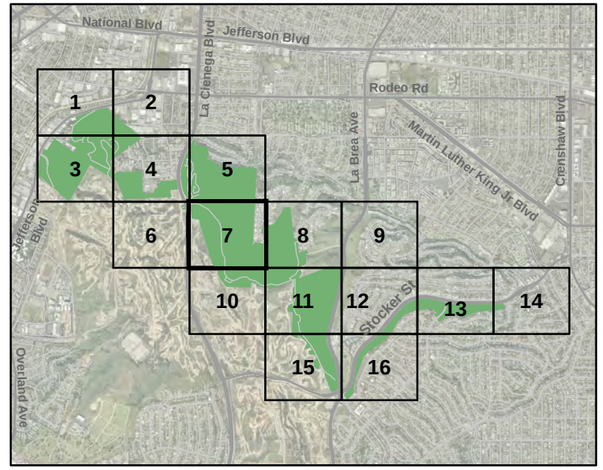

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- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 7
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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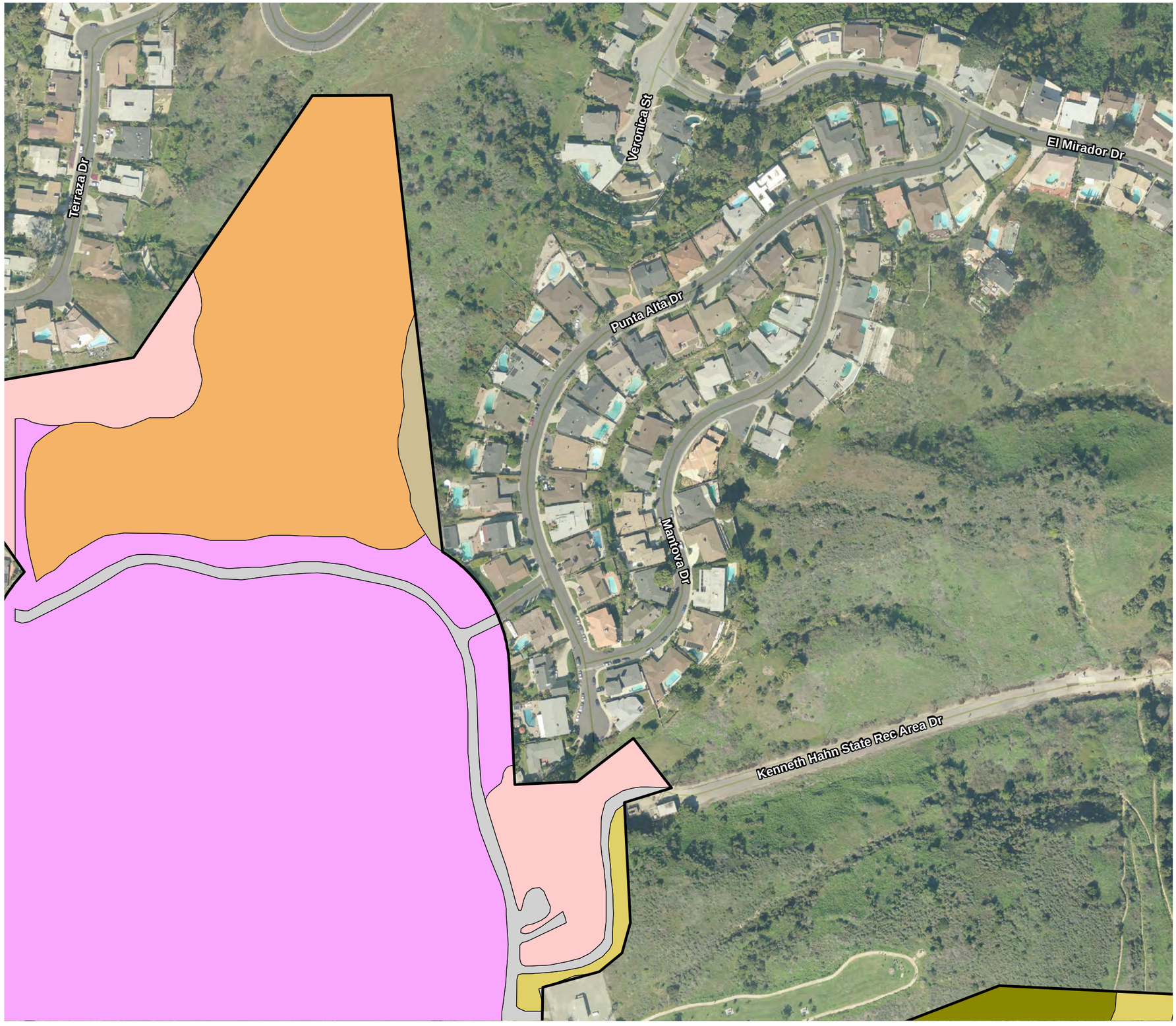

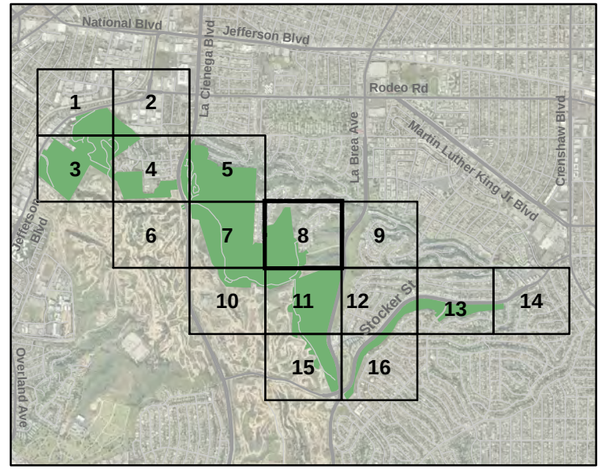

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 8
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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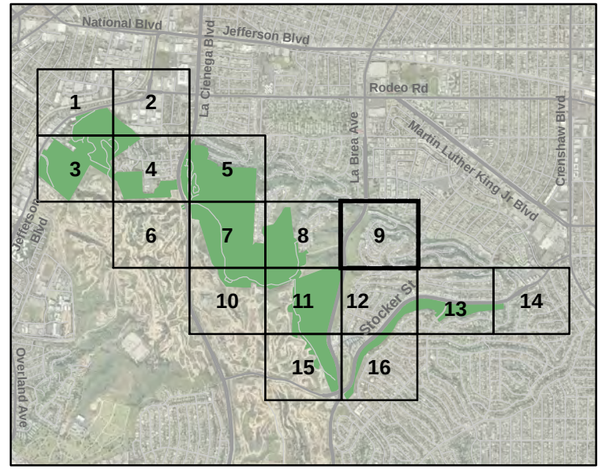

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 9
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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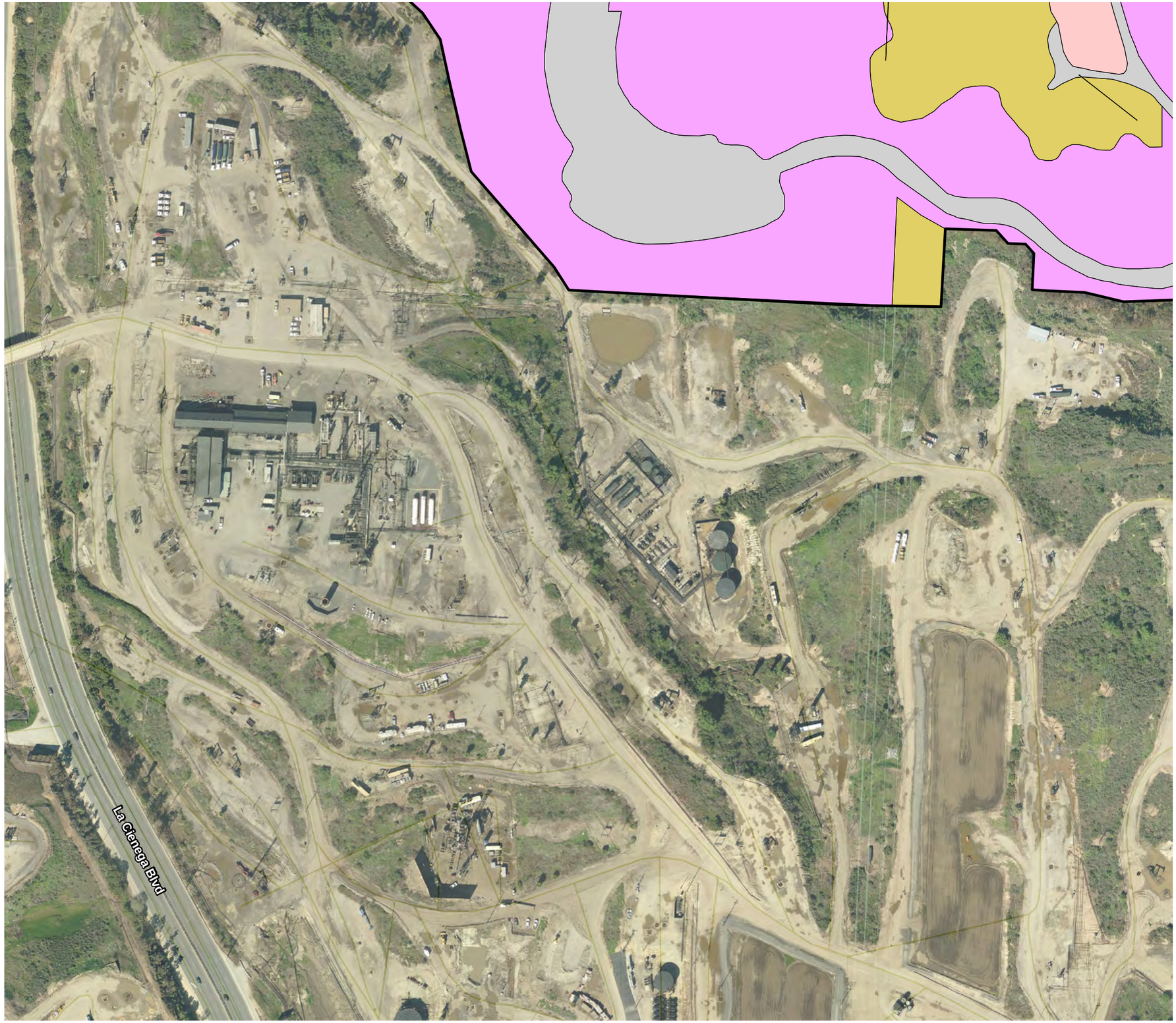

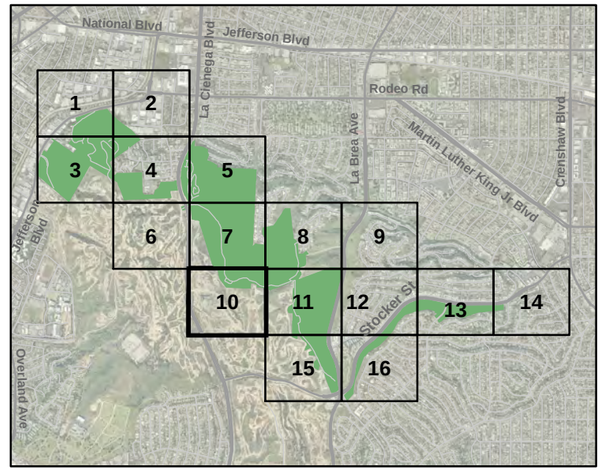

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 10
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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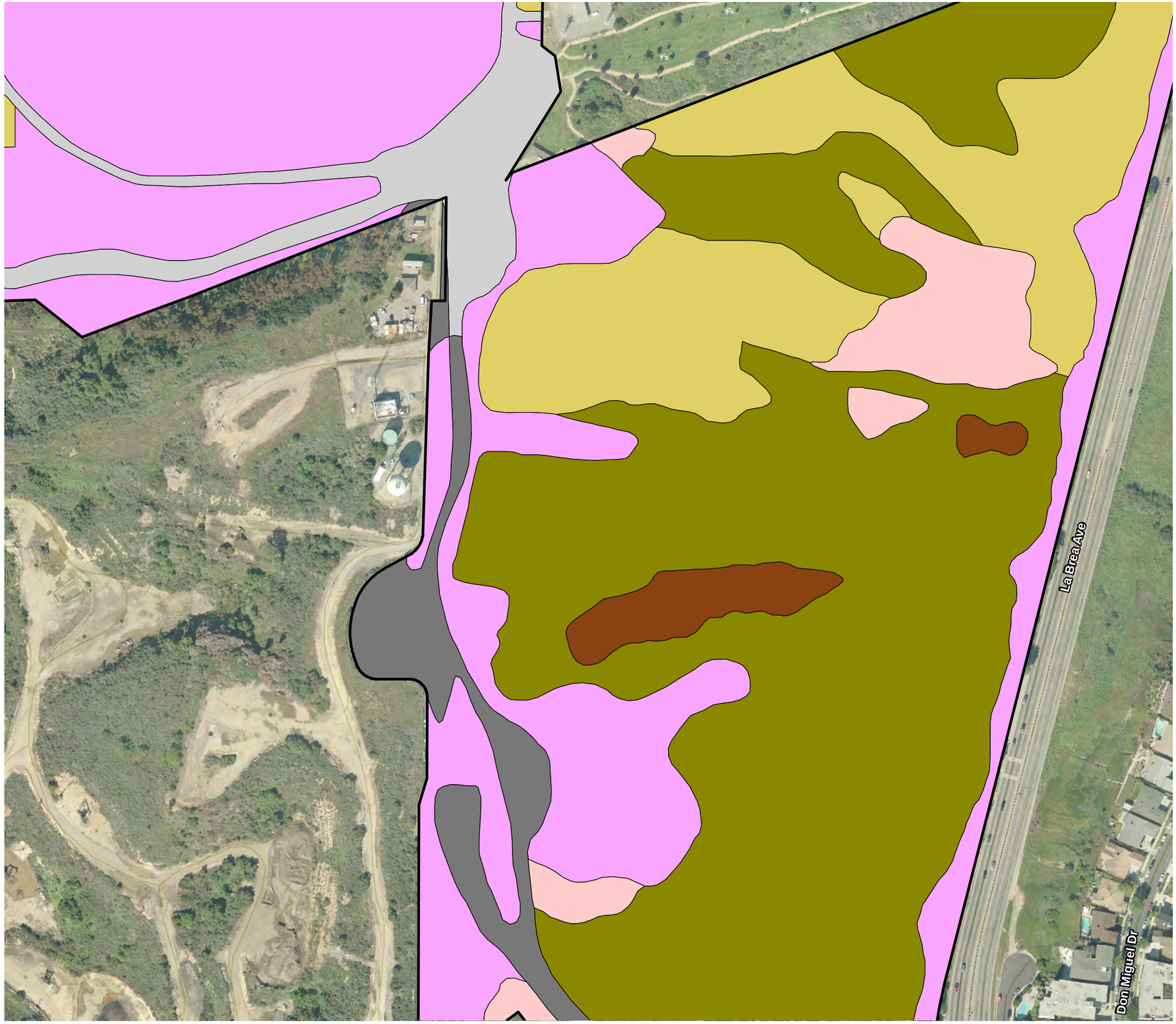

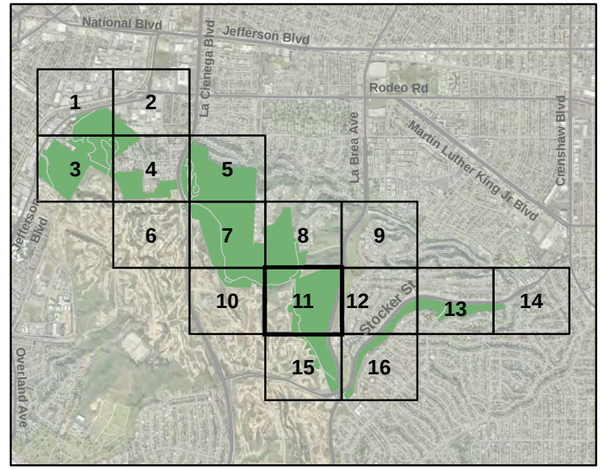

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 11
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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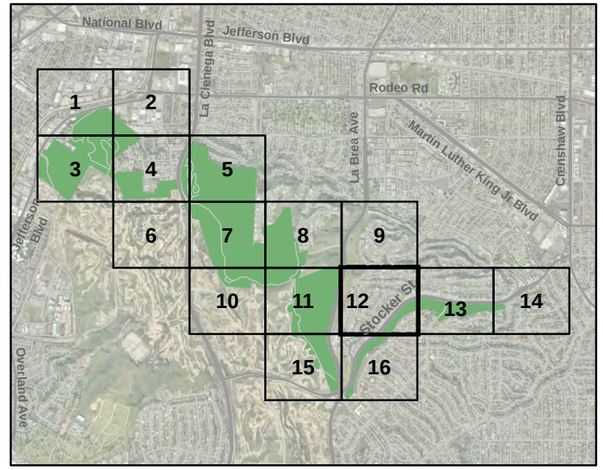

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 12
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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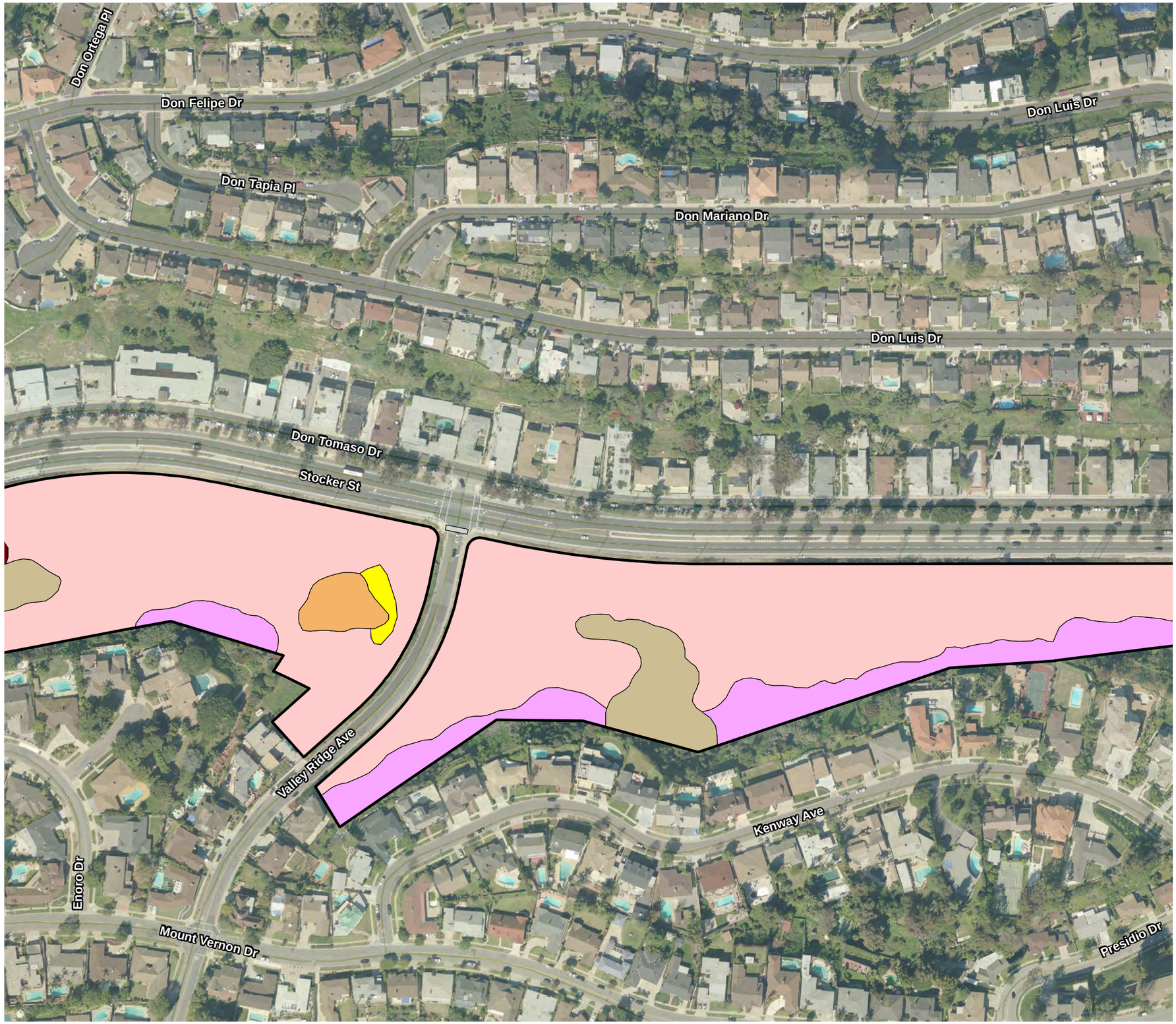

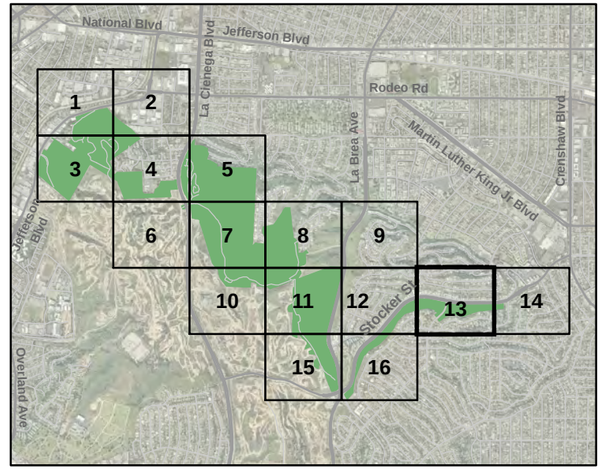

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 13
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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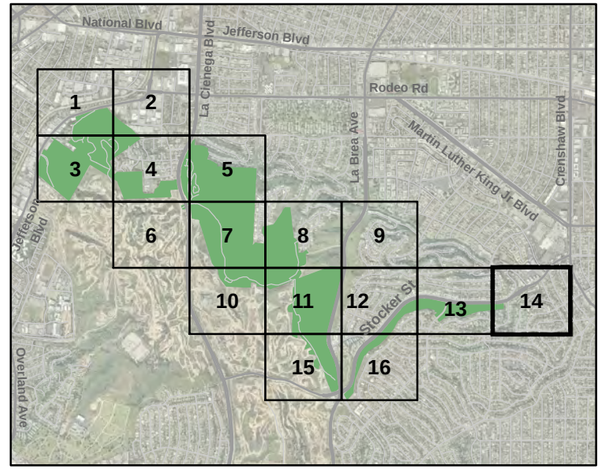

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 14
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

(Rev: 1-10-2013 CJS) Projects/Alta/J003/Graphics/BioTech/Ex3_Veg.pdf

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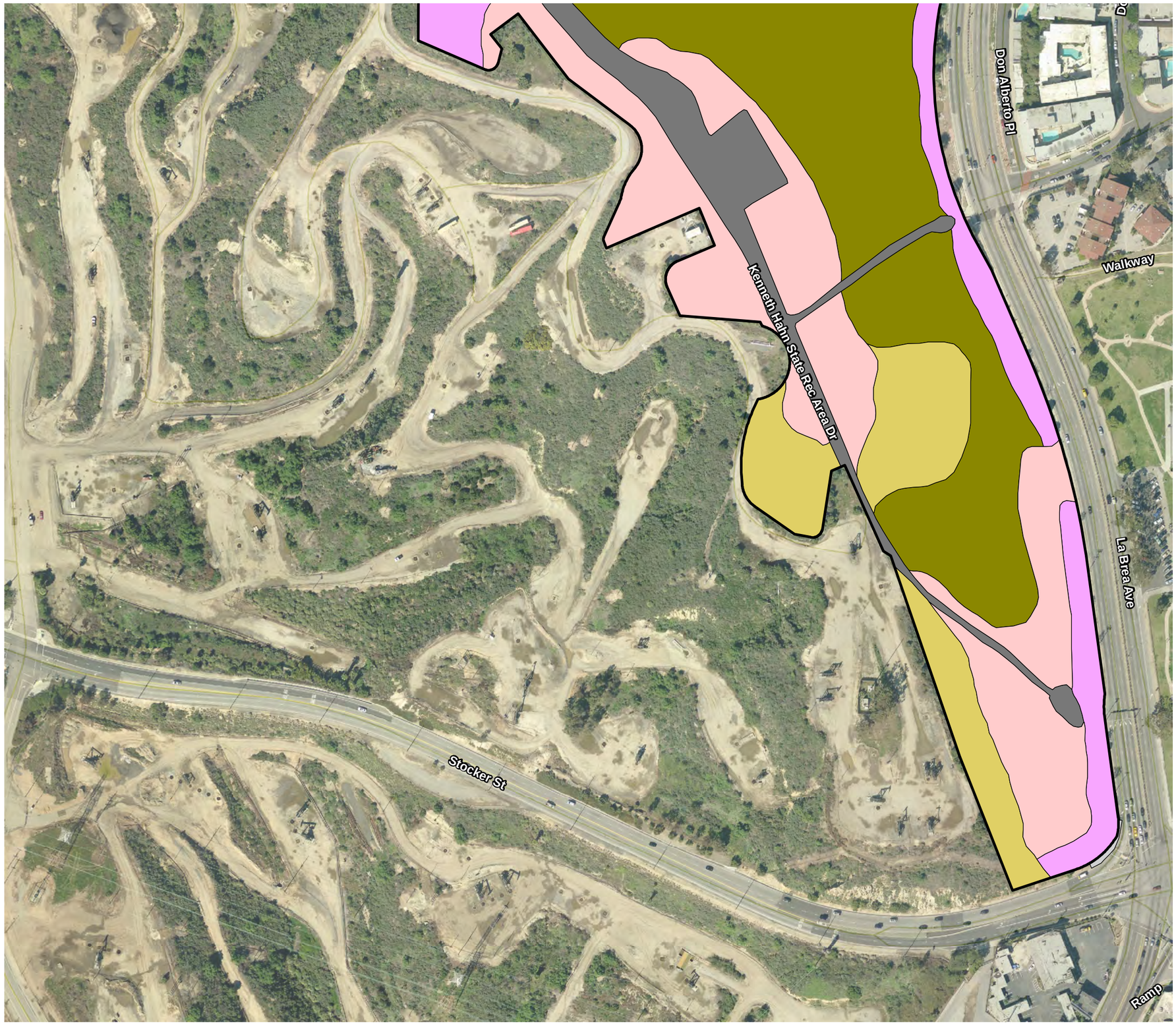

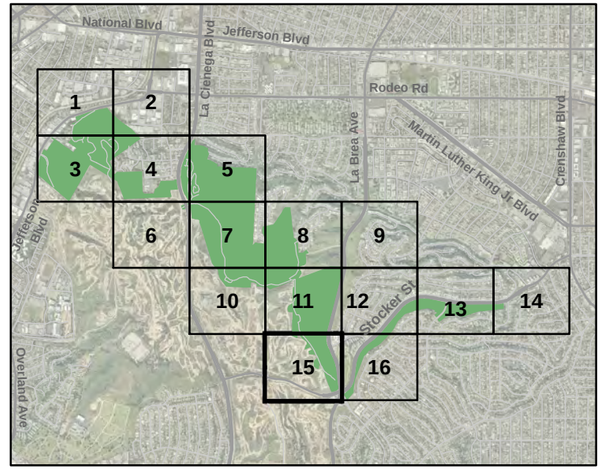

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 15
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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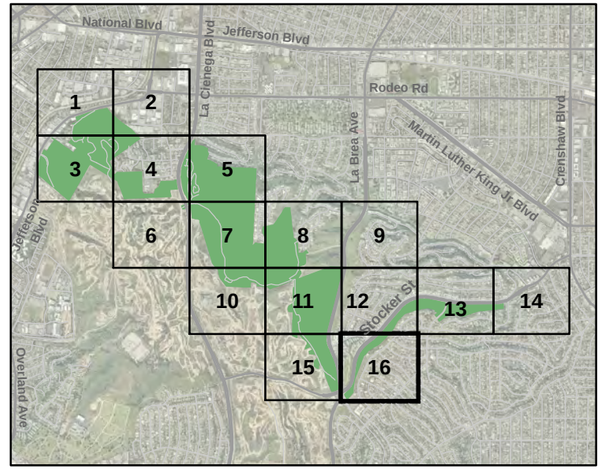

Project Boundary

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 4 – Map Sheet 16
Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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3.1.1 California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub

California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub occurs in several locations scattered throughout the survey area and is co-dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Additional common plant species present include sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). This vegetation type most closely resembles the Sawyer et al. (2009) description of the California sagebrush-California buckwheat series, and Holland's (1986) Riversidean sage scrub.

3.1.2 California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed

Disturbed California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub is located in patches in the Blair Hills portion of the survey area. The species composition generally resembles that of California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub, though due to apparent disturbance several non-native species have become established, including slender wild oats (*Avena barbata*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), hare barley (*Hordeum murinum* var. *leporinum*), and wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*).

3.1.3 Toyon Chaparral

Toyon chaparral is scattered in several locations throughout the survey area. This vegetation type is dominated by toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*); other common species include lemonade berry and California buckwheat.

3.1.4 California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral

This vegetation type is located in the northern portion of the KHSRA and contains the dominant species associated with California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub described above, along with substantial amounts of toyon.

3.1.5 Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed

This vegetation type occurs in small patches along the Stocker Corridor Trail portion of the survey area and consists of moderately dense toyon combined with ornamental vegetation such as eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* spp.), freeway iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), and cape honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*).

3.1.6 Elderberry Scrub

Elderberry scrub is located in the northeastern portion of the KHSRA. This vegetation type is intermixed with California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub and, in addition to the common species found in that vegetation type, elderberry scrub contains dense groupings of blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. c*aerulea*), generally on north-facing slopes.

3.1.7 Coast Live Oak Woodland

Coast live oak woodland occurs as a single stand of trees in the Western Ridgeline Trail section of the KHSRA portion of the survey area. This vegetation type is dominated by coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) and has an understory of non-native grassland species including brome grasses and wild oats.

3.1.8 Giant Wild Rye Grassland

Giant wild rye grassland is found in the Stocker Corridor Trail portion of the survey area. A single patch of dense giant wild rye (*Elymus condensatus*) is located southwest of the intersection of Stocker Street and Valley Ridge Avenue. This vegetation type consists of a monotypic stand of the single species giant wild rye.

3.1.9 Holly-leaved Cherry Stand

Holly-leaved cherry stands are found in two patches along the Stocker Corridor Trail portion of the survey area. These patches consist of moderately dense groupings of holly-leaved cherry trees (*Prunus ilicifolia*) with an understory of non-native grasses and herbaceous species. This vegetation type is not described as holly-leaved cherry woodland because these trees are found on an engineered and highly disturbed slope and are not found in alluvial soils that are typical of that vegetation type. Therefore, these patches are described as a holly-leaved cherry stand to differentiate this area from the naturally occurring woodland vegetation type.

3.1.10 Willow Thickets

Willow thickets occur in the extreme western portion of the KHSRA north of Gwen Moore Lake. This vegetation type is dominated by red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*), and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*).

3.1.11 Annual Brome Grasslands

Annual brome grasslands occur primarily along the Stocker Corridor Trail portion of the survey area and north of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. The dominant species in these areas are non-native annual grass species including soft chess, ripgut brome, hare barley and slender wild oats. Additional species include black mustard, tocalote (*Centauria melitensis*), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) and wild radish.

3.1.12 Eucalyptus Grove

Eucalyptus groves are found in several small groupings in the survey area, generally in the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook area. This vegetation type consists of dense groupings of various eucalyptus trees with little understory. They exhibit signs of opportunistic growth, as opposed to landscaped ornamental gum tree windrows.

3.1.13 Ruderal

Ruderal vegetation is scattered throughout the survey area. This vegetation type sometimes intergrades with non-native grassland. Ruderal vegetation on site is dominated by a mixture of herbs and grasses. Dominant species, which vary by patch, include shortpod mustard, rancher's fiddleneck, western sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), cheeseweed, ripgut brome, and wild oats. Other species present in lesser densities include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), white nightshade (*Solanum americanum*), London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), and foxtail barley.

3.1.14 Open Water

Open water occurs in Gwen Moore Lake in the northwestern portion of the KHSRA. The lake contains sparse emergent vegetation and lacks a tree canopy.

3.1.15 Ornamental

Ornamental vegetation is scattered throughout the survey area. It includes landscaping (e.g., crape myrtle [*Lagerstroemia indica*], day lily [*Hemerocallis fulva*], and turf grass) in the center median or roads; landscaped parks; and landscaped gum tree windrows (*Eucalyptus* sp.) adjacent to roads.

3.1.16 Disturbed

Disturbed areas are located throughout the survey area. These areas consist of unpaved bare ground and contain little to no vegetation. They have been disturbed by activities such as grading.

3.1.17 Developed

Developed areas occur throughout the survey area. This mapping unit consists of paved roads and utility structures that do not contain landscaped areas. No native vegetation is present in these areas.

3.2 WILDLIFE

Wildlife species observed or potentially occurring in the survey area are discussed below. All special status species mentioned below are discussed in greater detail in the Special Status Wildlife section (see Section 3.3.4 below).

3.2.1 Fish

In the survey area, the only natural water features are ephemeral drainages with no substantial water flow other than during rainfall events. As such, there are no connections between existing water features to any outflow or drainage that would direct water off site. At the southwest corner of the park lies Gwen Moore Lake and associated water features which occupy approximately three acres. The lake and associated features are all manmade and concrete lined.

Fish presence in the lake is limited to stocked fish species consisting of hatchery raised channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). It is also expected that western mosquitofish (G*ambusia affinis*) are present, as it is a common practice for County Vector Control Districts to stock urban areas such as this to reduce the amount of mosquitoes. It is also quite possible that some members of the *Centrachidae* family (e.g., sunfish and bass) could be present as well as a result of unauthorized stocking by local anglers. All potentially occurring fish are non-native species.

3.2.2 Amphibians

Amphibians require moisture for at least a portion of their life cycle and many require standing or flowing water for reproduction. Terrestrial species may or may not require standing water for reproduction. These species are able to survive in dry areas by aestivating (i.e., remaining beneath the soil in burrows or under logs and leaf litter, and emerging only when temperatures are low and humidity is high). Many of these species' habitats are associated with water and they emerge to breed once the rainy season begins. Soil moisture conditions can remain high throughout the year in some habitat types depending on factors such as amount of vegetation cover, elevation, and slope aspect. All habitats potentially suitable for amphibians were surveyed.

Considering the lack of natural water features and associated habitat, it is not likely that substantial populations of any amphibian species would be supported in the survey area. No amphibian species were observed during surveys. Common species that could potentially occur in the survey area in small numbers include Baja California chorus frog (*Pseudacris hypochondriaca)*, western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*), and American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeiana*).

3.2.3 Reptiles

Reptilian diversity and abundance typically varies with vegetation type and character. Many species prefer only one or two vegetation types; however, most species will forage in a variety of habitats. Most species occurring in open areas use rodent burrows for cover, protection from predators, and refuge during extreme weather conditions.

Although suitable reptile habitat exists, the park and associated habitat areas are isolated geographically due to surrounding development (residential and oil field). This being the case, species diversity and abundance are not expected to be very high. Reptile species observed during surveys include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), coachwhip (*Masticophus flagellum*), and red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). Other common species that could potentially occur in the survey area include side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), California kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula californiae*), and southern Pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus helleri*).

The coastal sage scrub and chaparral vegetation types in the survey area support various reptile species that use these areas during most seasons due to suitable soils for burrowing and suitable vegetation for cover. Typical species observed or expected in the sage scrub and chaparral areas include the western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, coast horned lizard, coastal western whiptail, southern alligator lizard, and southern Pacific rattlesnake.

Reptile use of the annual grassland vegetation type is expected to vary during the year. In addition to normal seasonal fluctuations in activity levels, the presence of most reptile species in these areas is likely to be determined by the growth stages of the grasses; more species are present when the grasses are mature, but the diversity declines considerably after disturbance. Reptile species observed or expected to occur in the grassland vegetation type include western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, southern alligator lizard, coachwhip, gopher snake, California kingsnake, and southern Pacific rattlesnake.

Woodland habitats support a moderate level of diversity of lizards and snakes. The side-blotched lizard and western fence lizard are typically the most common reptiles in these vegetation types. Other reptiles expected in these vegetation types in the survey area include the southern alligator lizard and gopher snake.

3.2.4 Birds

A variety of bird species are expected to be residents in the survey area using the habitats throughout the year. Other species are present only during certain seasons due to migration and/or breeding habits.

In the survey area, sage scrub vegetation supports bird populations composed of species adapted to the dense vegetation that typifies these areas. Although large numbers of individuals can often be found inhabiting these vegetation types, species diversity is usually low to moderate, depending on the season. A relatively high proportion of birds breeding in these habitats are year-round residents. Some species observed during the surveys include Bewick's

wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), and California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*).

Woodland and wash habitats are extremely important, providing food, cover, and breeding habitat for a wide variety of species throughout the year. Bird species observed that are expected to breed in these habitats in the survey area include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*).

The annual grassland vegetation type supports fewer bird species than most other vegetation types in the survey area. However, these areas do provide important habitat for a number of species. Mourning dove, black phoebe, and lesser goldfinch are year-long residents in these areas. Migratory birds are expected to use this vegetation type in the survey area either during the summer or winter.

Additional species with potential to occur in one or more of the vegetation types in the survey area include California quail (*Callipepla californica*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), and turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*).

3.2.5 Mammals

As with other taxonomic groups, the presence of different vegetation types in the survey area offers mammals a variety of habitats. This variety, in turn, has the potential to attract and support a diverse collection of mammals. However, due to fragmentation from other open spaces and lack of suitable corridors to connect them, it is not expected that large populations will be present, nor will the diversity be as great as other areas of this size and habitat type that have access to adjacent open space.

Small, ground-dwelling mammals observed or expected to occur in the survey area include the California pocket mouse (*Perognathus californicus*), California mouse (*Peromyscus californicus*), woodrat (*Neotoma* sp.), pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), and eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*).

Larger mammals, including both herbivores and carnivores, that were observed or are expected in the survey area include the striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and feral cat (*Felis catus*).

3.3 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

Wildlife corridors link together areas of suitable habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, transitions in vegetation, or human disturbance; the presence of these factors can contribute to fragmentation of open space by urbanization creating isolated "islands" of wildlife habitat. In the absence of linkages that allow movement among areas of suitable habitat, various studies have concluded that some wildlife species, especially larger and more mobile mammals, will not likely persist over time in fragmented or isolated habitat since it (i.e., fragmented or isolated habitat) prohibits the immigration of new individuals and genetic information (MacArthur and Wilson 1967; Soule 1987; Harris and Gallagher 1989; Bennett 1990). Corridors mitigate the effects of this fragmentation by (1) allowing animals to move among areas of remaining habitat, thereby permitting depleted populations to be replenished and promoting genetic exchange; (2) providing escape routes from fire, predators and human disturbances, thus reducing the risk that catastrophic events (such as fire or disease) will result

in population or local species extirpation; and (3) serving as travel routes for individual animals as they move in their home ranges in search of food, water, mates, and other necessary resources (Noss 1983; Farhig and Merriam 1985; Simberloff and Cox 1987; Harris and Gallagher 1989).

Wildlife movement activities usually fall into one of three movement categories: (1) dispersal (e.g., juvenile animals from natal areas or individuals extending range distributions); (2) seasonal migration; and (3) movement related to home range activities (e.g., foraging for food or water, defending territories, or searching for mates, breeding areas, or cover). A number of terms such as "wildlife corridor", "travel route", "habitat linkage", and "wildlife crossing" have been used in various wildlife movement studies to refer to areas in which wildlife move from one area to another. To clarify the meaning of these terms and to facilitate the discussion of wildlife movement, these terms are defined below.

- ***Travel route.*** A landscape feature (such as a ridgeline, drainage, canyon, or riparian strip) within a larger natural habitat area that is used frequently by animals to facilitate movement and to provide access to necessary resources (e.g., water, food, cover, den sites). The travel route is generally preferred because it provides the least amount of topographic resistance in moving from one area to another. It contains adequate food, water, and/or cover for wildlife moving between habitat areas and provides a relatively direct link between target habitat areas.
- ***Wildlife corridor.*** A piece of habitat, usually linear in nature, that connects two or more habitat patches that would otherwise be fragmented or isolated from one another. Wildlife corridors are usually bound by urban land areas or other areas that are unsuitable for wildlife. The corridor generally contains suitable cover, food, and/or water to support species and to facilitate wildlife movement while in the corridor. Larger, landscape-level corridors (often referred to as "habitat or landscape linkages") can provide both transitory and resident habitat for a variety of species.
- ***Wildlife crossing.*** A small, narrow area, relatively short in length and generally constricted in nature that allows wildlife to pass under or through an obstacle or barrier that otherwise hinders or prevents movement. Crossings typically are man-made and include culverts, underpasses, drainage pipes, and tunnels that provide access across or under roads, highways, pipelines, or other physical obstacles. These often represent "choke points" along a movement corridor, which may impede wildlife movement and increase the risk of predation.

It is important to note that wildlife corridors, as defined above, may not yet exist in a large open space area in which there are few or no man-made or naturally occurring physical constraints to wildlife movement. Given an open space area that is large enough to maintain viable populations of species and to provide a variety of travel routes (e.g., canyons, ridgelines, trails, riverbeds, and others), wildlife will use these "local" routes while searching for food, water, shelter, and mates and will not need to cross into other large open space areas. Based on their size, location, vegetative composition and food availability, some of these movement areas (e.g., large drainages and canyons) are used for longer lengths of time and serve as source areas for food, water and cover, particularly for small- and medium-sized animals. This is especially true if the travel route is within a larger open space area. However, once open space areas become constrained and/or fragmented as a result of urban development or construction of physical obstacles (such as roads and highways), the remaining landscape features or travel routes that connect the larger open space areas become corridors as long as they provide adequate space, cover, food, and water and do not contain obstacles or distractions (e.g., man-made noise, lighting) that would generally hinder wildlife movement.

In general, animals discussed in the context of movement corridors typically include the larger, more mobile species such as deer, bear, mountain lion, fox and coyote, and even some of the mid-size mammals such as raccoon, skunk, badger, and opossum. Most of these species have relatively large home ranges in which to move to find adequate food, water, and breeding and wintering habitat. It is therefore assumed that conclusions and discussions regarding movement corridors for these "indicator" species will, by virtue of their larger movement patterns, include movement corridors for many smaller, less mobile species (such as reptiles, amphibians, and rodents). Conversely, the movement of smaller, less mobile species (e.g., herpetofauna) is generally discussed within the context of local movement. Regional movement for these species occurs as gene flow over many generations and requires at least local movement of individuals to the edges of other individuals' home ranges.

Different bird species are likely to utilize movement corridors to a greater or lesser extent. Most bird species simply fly in more or less direct paths to the desired location. Conversely, some habitat-dependent species will not move very far from their preferred habitat types and are less inclined to fly over unsuitable habitat.

Ideally, a corridor should encompass a heterogeneous mix of habitats to accommodate the ecological requirements of the variety of species in any particular region. Most species typically prefer an adequate amount of vegetation cover during movement periods that serve as both a food source as well as protection from weather and potential predators. Drainages, riparian areas, and canyon bottoms typically serve as natural movement corridors because these features provide cover, food, and often water for a variety of species. Very few species will move across large expanses of open, uncovered habitat unless it is the only option available to them. For some species, habitat linkages and movement corridors should be able to support animals for a sustained period of time, not just for travel. Smaller or less mobile animals (such as rodents and reptiles) may require long periods to traverse a corridor, so the corridor must contain adequate food and cover for survival.

3.3.1 Regional Wildlife Movement

The Baldwin Hills is the largest area of open space in the Los Angeles basin project region. This open space is surrounded by the developed Los Angeles Basin on all sides. The Santa Monica Mountains are located north of the Los Angeles basin; the Pacific Ocean is to the west and south; and to the east and southeast are the Puente Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains, respectively. Because of the isolation of the Baldwin Hills from these surrounding areas of open space, most species inhabiting these separate ecosystems are not expected to venture across the wide expanse of urban development that separates these locations. However, animals living in the survey area may potentially use the various canyons, ridgelines, habitats and other linear features to travel locally within the hills of the site. Most large-scale regional wildlife movement between the Baldwin Hills and the open spaces beyond the Los Angeles basin is expected to be restricted to avian movement.

3.3.2 Local Wildlife Movement

The north-south trending hilltops and canyon gullies on the survey area may be used as a wildlife corridor by many small mammals and herpetofauna. Drainages on site, and adjacent to the site, including Ballona Creek, are largely cement bottom and generally lack native riparian vegetation; therefore, they are not expected to be highly utilized in terms of local corridors within or outside the survey area. Wildlife species expected to use the open spaces in the survey area for local movement include, but are not limited to, small- to medium-sized animals such as raccoons, rabbits, snakes and lizards.

3.4 SPECIAL STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The following section addresses special status biological resources observed, reported, or that have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the survey area. These resources include plant and wildlife species that have been afforded special status and/or recognition by federal and State resource agencies, as well as private conservation organizations. In general, the principal reason an individual taxon (i.e., species, subspecies, or variety) is given such recognition is the documented or perceived decline or limitations of its population size, geographic range, and/or distribution resulting in most cases from habitat loss. In addition, special status biological resources include vegetation types and habitats that are either unique, of relatively limited distribution in the region, or of particularly high wildlife value. These resources have been defined by federal, State, and local government conservation programs. Sources used to determine the special status of biological resources are as follows:

- ***Plants.*** Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. (CNPS 2010); the CNDDB (CDFG 2012); and various *Federal Register* notices from the USFWS regarding plant species' listing status.
- ***Wildlife.*** California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Database System (CDFG BDB 2012); the CNDDB (CDFG 2012); and various *Federal Register* notices from the USFWS regarding listing status of wildlife species.
- ***Habitats.*** The CNDDB (CDFG 2012).

Tables 2 and 3 later in this section respectively provide a summary of each special status plant and wildlife species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the survey area and include information on the definitions for the various status designations; the presence of suitable habitat; and the results of focused surveys.

3.4.1 Definitions of Special Status Biological Resources

Special status habitats are vegetation types, associations, or subassociations that support concentrations of special status plant or wildlife species; these habitats are of relatively limited distribution or are of particular value to wildlife. Although special status habitats are not afforded legal protection unless they support protected species, potential impacts on them may increase concerns and mitigation suggestions by resources agencies.

A federally listed Endangered species is a species facing extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its geographic range. A federally listed Threatened species is a species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The presence of any federally listed Threatened or Endangered species in an area proposed development leads to a CEQA finding of "significance" and (for wildlife or, where there is a federal nexus, for plants) requires consultation with the USFWS, particularly if development would result in "take" of the species or its habitat. The term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct. "Harm" in this sense can include any disturbance to habitats used by the species during any portion of its life history.

Proposed species are those officially proposed by the USFWS for addition to the federal Threatened and Endangered species list. Because proposed species may become listed as Threatened or Endangered prior to or during implementation of a proposed development project, they are treated here as though they are listed species.

The State of California considers an Endangered species to be a species whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy. A Threatened species is a species in such small numbers throughout its range that it is likely to become an Endangered species in the near future in the absence of special protection or management. A Rare species is one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become Endangered if its present environment worsens. The Rare designation applies to California native plants listed prior to the California Endangered Species Act. State-listed Threatened and Endangered species are fully protected against take unless an Incidental Take Permit is obtained from the wildlife agencies.

California Species of Special Concern is an informal designation that the CDFG uses for some declining wildlife species that are not State candidates. This designation does not provide legal protection, but signifies that the CDFG recognizes these species' special status. This report reflects recent changes that re-categorized several species from California Species of Special Concern to a status of "Watch List". This status refers to all taxa that were previously Species of Special Concern but no longer merit such status or that do not meet Species of Special Concern criteria but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status. Species which are only designated as Watch List are not included as "special status" in this document.

Sections 650 and 670.7 of the *California Code of Regulations* (CCR), and Section 2081 of the *California Fish and Game Code* dealing with California Fully Protected species state that these species "…may not be taken or possessed at any time and no provision of this code or any other law shall be construed to authorize the issuance of permit or licenses to take any fully protected" species, although take may be authorized for necessary scientific research. This language arguably makes the "Fully Protected" designation the strongest and most restrictive regarding the "take" of these species. In 2003, the code sections dealing with Fully Protected species were amended to allow the CDFG to authorize take resulting from recovery activities for State-listed species.

Special Plant and Special Animal are general terms that refer to all species the CNDDB is interested in tracking, regardless of their legal or protection status. This term includes species designated as any of the above terms, but also includes species that may be considered biologically rare; restricted in distribution; are declining throughout their range; are on the periphery of their range and are threatened with extirpation in California; are associated with special status habitats; or are considered by other State or federal agencies or private organizations to be sensitive or declining.

The California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR, formerly known as CNPS List), is a ranking system by the Rare Plant Status Review group[1] and managed by the CNPS and the CDFG. The CRPR summarizes information on the distribution, rarity, and endangerment of California's vascular plants. Plants with a CRPR of 1A are presumed extinct in California because they have not been seen in the wild for many years. Plants with a CRPR of 1B are Rare, Threatened, or Endangered throughout their range. Plants with a CRPR of 2 are considered Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California but are more common in other states. Plants with a CRPR of 3 require more information before they can be assigned to another rank or rejected; this is a "review" list. Plants with a CRPR of 4 are of limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California; this is a "watch" list. The CRPR Threat Rank is an extension added onto the CRPR to designate the level of endangerment by a 1 to 3 ranking (CNPS 2012). An extension of .1 is assigned to plants that are considered to be "seriously threatened" in California (i.e., over 80 percent of the occurrences threatened or having a high degree and immediacy of threat). Extension .2 indicates the plant is "fairly threatened" in California (i.e.,

[1] A group of over 300 botanical experts from the government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

between 20 and 80 percent of the occurrences threatened or having a moderate degree and immediacy of threat). Extension .3 is assigned to plants that are considered "not very threatened" in California (i.e., less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened or having a low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known). The absence of a threat code extension indicates plants lacking any threat information.

3.4.2 Special Status Vegetation Types

In addition to providing an inventory of special status plant and wildlife species, the CNDDB also provides an inventory of vegetation types that are considered special status by State and federal resource agencies, academic institutions, and various conservation groups (such as the CNPS). In addition to this inventory, oak woodlands are protected via Section 21083.4 of the *California Public Resources Code* (PRC), which was enacted by Senate Bill (SB) 1334 in 2004. Finally, all wetland and riparian vegetation types are also considered special status by (1) the CDFG in its capacity as a natural resource trustee for purposes of CEQA review and (2) Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), which protects "Waters of the U.S.", including those jurisdictional wetlands that are defined by the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Three vegetation types on site are considered special status: California sagebrush-California buckwheat scrub, coast live oak woodland, and willow thickets.

3.4.3 Special Status Plants

Several special status plant species have potential to occur in the vicinity of the survey area (i.e., the USGS Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Los Angeles, South Gate, Inglewood, and Venice 7.5-minute quadrangles). These species are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF THE SURVEY AREA

Species	Status			Habitat Suitability and Potential for Occurrence in the Survey Area
	USFWS	CDFG	CRPR	
Arenaria paludicola marsh sandwort	FE	SE	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's milk-vetch	FE	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. *lanosissimus* Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE	SE	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat; outside current known range; and negative focused survey results.
Astragalus tener var. *titi* coastal dunes milk-vetch	FE	SE	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Atriplex parishii Parish's brittlescale	–	–	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii* Davidson's saltscale	–	–	1B.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
California macrophylla round-leaved filaree	–	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF THE SURVEY AREA

Species	Status			Habitat Suitability and Potential for Occurrence in the Survey Area
	USFWS	CDFG	CRPR	
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa lily	–	–	4.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.
Calystegia sepium ssp. *binghamiae* Santa Barbara morning-glory	–	–	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Camissoniopsis lewisii [*Camissonia l.*] Lewis' evening-primrose	–	–	3	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis* southern tarplant	–	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.
Chaenactis glabriuscula var. *orcuttiana* Orcutt's pincushion	–	–	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Chenopodium littoreum coastal goosefoot	–	–	1B.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *maritimum* salt marsh bird's-beak	FE	SE	1B.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Dithyrea maritima beach spectaclepod	–	ST	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	–	–	1B.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur negative focused survey results.
Helianthus nuttallii ssp. *parishii* Los Angeles sunflower	–	–	1A	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat negative focused survey results.
Hordeum intercedens bobtail barley	–	–	3.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula* mesa horkelia	–	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.
Juglans californica Southern California black walnut	–	–	4.2	Suitable habitat present. Several individuals were identified on site in 3 locations.
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri* Coulter's goldfields	–	–	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Lepidium virginicum var. *robinsonii* Robinson's pepper-grass	–	–	1B.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.
Nama stenocarpum mud nama	–	–	2.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Nasturtium gambelii Gambel's water cress	FE	ST	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF THE SURVEY AREA

Species	Status			Habitat Suitability and Potential for Occurrence in the Survey Area
	USFWS	CDFG	CRPR	
Navarretia fossalis spreading navarretia	FT	–	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Navarretia prostrata prostrate vernal pool navarretia	–	–	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt grass	FE	SE	1B.1	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Phacelia ramosissima var. *austrolitoralis* south coast branching phacelia	–	–	3.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Phacelia stellaris Brand's star phacelia	FC	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.
Potentilla multijuga Ballona cinquefoil	–	–	1A	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum white rabbit-tobacco	–	–	2.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Ribes divaricatum var. *parishii* Parish's gooseberry	–	–	1A	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Sidalcea neomexicana salt spring checkerbloom	–	–	2.2	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino aster	–	–	1B.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not expected to occur due to negative focused survey results.
Symphyotrichum greatae Greata's aster	–	–	1B.3	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and negative focused survey results.

LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS) **State (CDFG)**

FE Endangered SE Endangered
FT Threatened ST Threatened
FC Federal Candidate

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

1A Plants Presumed Extinct in California
1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2 Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere
3 Plants About Which We Need More Information - A Review List
4 Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) Threat Code Extensions

None Plants lacking any threat information
.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 Fairly threatened in California (20-80% of occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
.3 Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened; low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Special status plant species known to occur or potentially occurring on the survey area is discussed in greater detail below. All State or federally listed plant species known to occur or potentially occurring in the region are also discussed regardless of potential to occur on site. Non-listed species without potential to occur in the survey area are not discussed further.

Marsh Sandwort

Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) is a federally and State-listed Endangered species and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between May and August (CNPS 2012). This stoloniferous herb (i.e., one that can reproduce by aboveground horizontal stems) occurs in boggy meadows and marshes at elevations between sea level and approximately 985 feet above msl (Jepson Flora Project 2012). It is considered to be extirpated from the San Francisco Bay, but it is known from the southern Central Coast (i.e., Nipomo Mesa), South Coast (i.e., the Santa Ana River), and Mexico (Jepson Flora Project 2012). This species has historically been reported in the vicinity of the site survey area (CDFG 2012, 1900 occurrence), but it is now presumed extinct in Los Angeles County (CNPS 2012). Suitable habitat for the marsh sandwort is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused plant surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Braunton's Milk-Vetch

Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) is a federally Endangered species and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between January and August (CNPS 2012). This perennial herb occurs in recently burned or disturbed areas, usually sandstone with carbonate layers, including chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland communities at elevations between 13 and 2,100 feet above msl (CNPS 2012). It is known to occur in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and Ventura Counties (CNPS 2012). The nearest reported occurrence is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat for Braunton's milk-vetch exists in the survey area, it was not observed during focused surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch

Ventura marsh milk-vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*) is a federally and State-listed Endangered species and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between June and October (CNPS 2012). This perennial herb occurs in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and marshes and swamps (edges, coastal salt or brackish) at elevations between 3 and 115 feet above msl (CNPS 2012). It is known to occur within the Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, and it is presumed extirpated in Los Angeles and Orange Counties (CNPS 2012). This species has been historically reported from Marina del Rey (CDFG 2012, 1995 record); however, this occurrence is presumed extirpated and all known extant populations are near Oxnard (Jepson Flora Project 2012). Suitable habitat for the Ventura marsh milk-vetch is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused plant surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Coastal Dunes Milk-Vetch

Coastal dunes milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *titi*) is a federally and State-listed Endangered species and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between March and May (CNPS 2012). This annual herb occurs most often in vernally mesic areas in sandy coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and mesic coastal prairie communities at elevations between sea level and 164 feet above msl (CNPS 2012). It occurs in Monterey County, and it is presumed extirpated in Los Angeles County (CNPS 2012). This species has been historically reported from vicinity of the site survey area (CDFG 2012, 1903 occurrence). Suitable habitat for the coastal dunes

milk-vetch is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused plant surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Round-Leaved Filaree

Round-leaved filaree (*California* [*Erodium*] *macrophylla*) is a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between March and May (CNPS 2012). This low-growing forb is found in open sites in grassland and shrubland at elevations between sea level and about 3,950 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). It occurs throughout California, Utah, and northern Mexico (Hickman 1993). The nearest occurrence for this species is approximately 13 miles northeast from of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat for this species exists in the survey area, round-leaved filaree was not observed during focused plant surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

Plummer's Mariposa Lily

Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) is a CRPR List 4.2 species. It typically blooms between May and July (CNPS 2012). This perennial herb occurs in coastal sage scrub and yellow pine forest vegetation types in dry rocky places and brush between sea level and approximately 5,000 feet above msl (Munz 1974). This species occurs in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties (CNPS 2012). The nearest occurrence for this species is approximately seven miles northwest from of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat for this species exists in the survey area, Plummer's mariposa lily was not observed during focused plant surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

Southern Tarplant

Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) is a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between May and November (CNPS 2012). This annual herb occurs in seasonally moist silty alkaline soils in salt marshes, alkali meadows, mesic grasslands, vernal pools, ditches, and coastal scrub between sea level and approximately 655 feet above msl (Jepson Flora Project 2012; Roberts 2008). It is known from the South Coast to northwestern Baja California, Mexico (Jepson Flora Project 2012). Despite a strong tolerance to soil disturbance, this subspecies has declined over the last half century and is now mostly extirpated from Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties and rare in San Diego County (Roberts 2008). The nearest occurrence is was reported approximately ten miles southeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat for this species exists in the survey area, southern tarplant was not observed during focused plant surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

Salt Marsh Bird's-Beak

Salt marsh bird's-beak (*Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*) is a federally and State-listed Endangered species and a CRPR List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between May and October (CNPS 2012). This hemiparasitic annual herb occurs in coastal salt marshes between sea level and approximately 33 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). It is known from the Central and South Coasts from Morro Bay to northern Baja California, Mexico (Hickman 1993); however, the last reported occurrence in the vicinity of the survey area was in 1980 (CDFG 2012). Suitable habitat for the salt marsh bird's beak is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Beach Spectaclepod

Beach spectaclepod (*Dithyrea maritima*) is a State-listed Threatened species and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between March and May (CNPS 2012). This perennial rhizomatous herb occurs in coastal dunes and sandy coastal scrub at elevations between approximately 10 and 165 feet above msl (CNPS 2012). It is known from the Central and South Coasts, but is presumed extirpated from Los Angeles County and Santa Catalina Island (CNPS 2012). This species has been historically reported from in approximately seven miles southwest of the survey area (CDFG 2012, 1934 occurrence). Suitable habitat for the beach spectaclepod is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Many-Stemmed Dudleya

Many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) is a CRPR List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between April and July (CNPS 2012). This perennial herb, from a corm (i.e., a swollen underground vertical plant stem similar to a bulb), occurs in heavy, often clayey, soils in coastal sage scrub and native grassland on coastal plains and sandstone outcrops between sea level and approximately 1,970 feet above msl (Jepson Flora Project 2012; Roberts 2008). It is known from the South Coast (Jepson Flora Project 2012). The nearest occurrence is was reported approximately eight miles northeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat exists in the survey area, many-stemmed dudleya was not observed during focused surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Mesa Horkelia

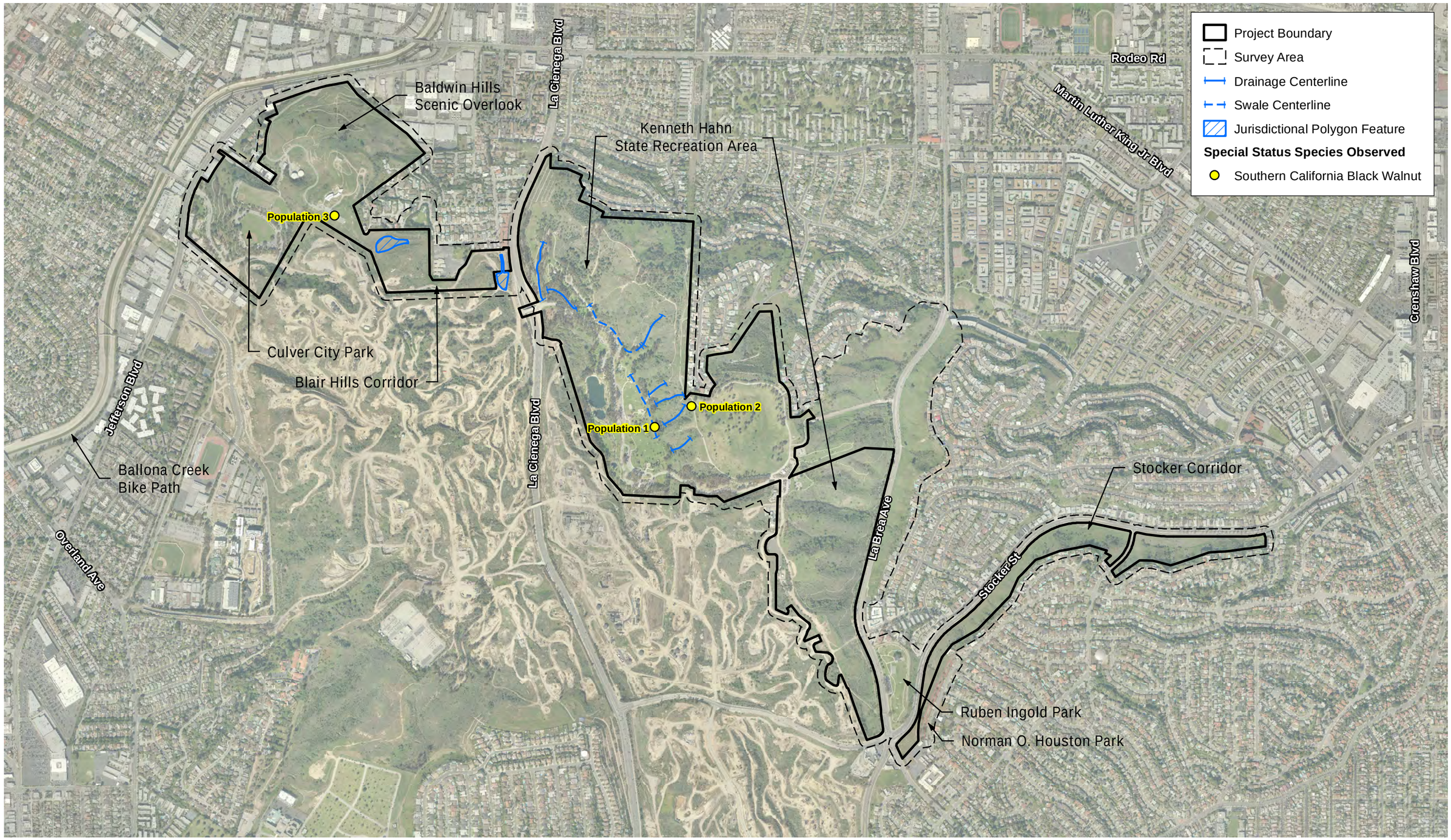
Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*) is a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between February and September (CNPS 2012). This perennial herb occurs in dry, sandy coastal chaparral and openings in oak woodland at elevations between approximately 230 to 2,855 feet above msl (Jepson Flora Project 2012; Roberts 2008). This subspecies is known from the Outer South Coast Ranges, the Peninsular Ranges, and the South Coast, especially the foothill edge of the Los Angeles Basin; mesa horkelia occurs more inland than the other varieties (Jepson Flora Project 2012). The nearest occurrence is was reported approximately seven miles northwest of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat exists in the survey area, mesa horkelia was not observed during focused plant surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

Southern California Black Walnut

Southern California black walnut *(Juglans californica* var. *californica*) is a CRPR List 4.2 species. This deciduous tree occurs on slopes and canyons at elevations between 160 and 2,950 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). It is endemic to Southwestern California, from Santa Barbara to San Diego Counties, and inland to western San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (CNPS 2012). A total of 12 Southern California black walnut trees were indentified on the survey area at 2 locations: the parking lot of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (6 trees) and in the KHSRA (6 trees), as shown on Exhibit 5.

Robinson's Pepper-Grass

Robinson's pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*) is a CRPR List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between January and July (CNPS 2012). This annual herb occurs in dry sandy or thin soils in coastal sage scrub and chaparral between sea level and approximately 1,640 feet above msl (Roberts et al. 2004; Hickman 1993). It is known from southwestern California and Baja California, Mexico (Hickman 1993). The most recent occurrence in the



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Special Status Biological Resources

Exhibit 5

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

1,200 600 0 1,200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 11-28-2012 CJS) Projects/Alta/J003/Graphics/BioTech/Ex_SSBioResources.pdf

vicinity of the project area was recorded approximately ten miles northeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat exists in the survey area, Robinson's pepper-grass was not observed during focused plant surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

Gambel's Water Cress

Gambel's water cress (*Nasturtium gambelii*) is a federally listed Endangered species, a State-listed Threatened species, and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between April and October (CNPS 2012). This rhizomatous herb occurs in marshes, streambanks, and lake margins between sea level and approximately 1,150 feet above msl (Jepson Flora Project 2012). It is known from the southern-central coast and South Coast to Mexico (Jepson Flora Project 2012). This species has been historically reported from the vicinity of the survey area was (CDFG 2012, 1904 occurrence). Suitable habitat for Gambel's water cress is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Spreading Navarretia

Spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) is a federally listed Threatened species and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms from April through June (CNPS 2012). This annual herb is typically found in vernal pools, playas with poor drainage, and other wet areas such as small drainages at elevations between 100 and 4,265 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). This species occurs in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, and San Diego Counties and in Baja California, Mexico (CNPS 2012). This species has been historically reported from the vicinity of the survey area (CDFG 2012, 1906 occurrence). Suitable habitat for spreading navarretia is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused plant surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

California Orcutt Grass

California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*) is a federally and State-listed Endangered species and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms from April to August (CNPS 2012). This annual herb is typically found in vernal pool habitats between sea level and approximately 2,050 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). This species is known to occur in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, and Ventura Counties, and in Baja California, Mexico (CNPS 2012). The nearest occurrence is approximately eight miles to the southeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Suitable habitat for California Orcutt grass is not present in the survey area, and this species was not observed during focused plant surveys. Consequently, this species is not expected to occur.

Brand's Star Phacelia

Brand's star phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*) is a federal candidate for listing and a CRPR List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between March and June (CNPS 2012). This annual herb occurs in open areas of coastal sage scrub at elevations between sea level and approximately 1,315 feet above msl (Jepson Flora Project 2012). It is known from the South Coast to Baja California, Mexico (Jepson Flora Project 2012). The nearest occurrence is approximately six miles northeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012). Although potentially suitable habitat for Brand's star phacelia exists in the survey area, this species was not observed during focused plant surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

San Bernardino Aster

San Bernardino aster (*Symphytrichum defoliatum*) is a CRPR List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between July and November (CNPS 2012). This perennial rhizomatous herb occurs in grasslands, seasonal or perennial wetlands, and disturbed places between sea level and approximately 6,725 feet above msl (Jepson Flora Project 2012; Roberts et al. 2004). This species is known from the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Bernardino Mountains, and the Peninsular Ranges (Jepson Flora Project 2012). This variety has been historically reported from to approximately three miles northeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012, 1902 occurrence). Although potentially suitable habitat for this species occurs in the survey area, San Bernardino aster was not observed during focused plant surveys and is therefore not expected to occur.

3.4.4 Special Status Wildlife

Many special status wildlife species have potential to occur in the vicinity of the survey area (Table 3). A brief description of these special status wildlife species and a discussion of their potential to occur in the survey area follow. Note that these species are grouped by taxon and listed alphabetically according to their scientific name.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF THE SURVEY AREA

Species	Status		Likelihood for On-Site Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFG	
Invertebrates			
Euphilotes battoides allyni El Segundo blue butterfly	FE	–	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Reptiles			
Actinemys [*Emys*] *marmorata pallida* western pond turtle	–	SSC	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Aniella pulchra pulchra silvery legless lizard	–	SSC	Moderate potential to occur; potentially suitable marginal habitat.
Phrynosoma coronatum ssp. *blainvillii* coast horned lizard	–	SSC	Moderate potential to occur; potentially suitable marginal habitat.
Salvador hexalepsis virgultea coast patch-nosed snake	–	SSC	Moderate potential to occur; potentially suitable marginal habitat.
Thamnophis hammondii ssp. two-striped garter snake	–	SSC	Not expected to occur; lack of potentially suitable habitat.
Birds			
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	–	SSC	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Charadrius alexandrines nivosus western snowy plover	FT	SSC	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Empidonax traillii extimus southwestern willow flycatcher	FE	SE	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF THE
SURVEY AREA

Species	Status		Likelihood for On-Site Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFG	
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus California black rail	–	ST, FP	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi Belding's savannah sparrow	–	SE	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Polioptila californica californica coastal California gnatcatcher	FT	SSC	Not expected to occur; negative focused survey results.
Riparia riparia bank swallow	–	ST	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Sternula antillarum browni California least tern	FE	SE, FP	Moderate potential to occur as fly-over due to proximity of site to adjacent San Gabriel River; Minimal, potentially suitable, marginal habitat for foraging occurs on site.
Mammals			
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	–	SSC	Limited potential to occur for foraging and roosting; potentially suitable foraging habitat; limited potentially suitable roosting habitat.
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	–	SSC	May occur for foraging; potentially suitable foraging habitat. Not expected to occur for roosting; no suitable roosting habitat.
Nyctinomops femorosaccus pocketed free-tailed bat	–	SSC	May occur for foraging; potentially suitable foraging habitat. Not expected to occur for roosting; no suitable roosting habitat.
Nyctinomops macrotis big free-trailed bat	–	SSC	May occur for foraging; potentially suitable foraging habitat. Not expected to occur for roosting; no suitable roosting habitat.
Microtus californicus stephensi south coast marsh vole	–	SSC	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Perognathus longimembris pacificus Pacific pocket mouse	FE	SSC	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Sorex ornatus salicornicus Southern California saltmarsh shrew	–	SSC	Not expected to occur; lack of suitable habitat.
Taxidea taxus American badger	–	SSC	No potential to occur; lack of sufficient habitat acreage and connectivity to potentially suitable habitat.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF THE
SURVEY AREA

Species	Status		Likelihood for On-Site Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFG	
LEGEND			
Federal (USFWS)		**State (CDFG)**	
FE Endangered		SE Endangered	
FT Threatened		ST Threatened	
		SSC Species of Special Concern	
		FP Fully Protected	
Note: No special status amphibian species have potential to occur within the region.			

Special status wildlife species known to occur or potentially occurring on the survey area is discussed in greater detail below. All State or federally listed species known to occur or potentially occurring in the region are also discussed regardless of potential to occur on site.

Invertebrates

El Segundo Blue Butterfly

El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) is a federally listed Endangered species. This subspecies occurs in disjunct locations in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties (USFWS 1998b). This subspecies occurs in sand dunes where coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*) grows. No suitable habitat occurs in the survey area. Therefore, El Segundo blue butterfly is not expected to occur.

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Reptiles

Silvery Legless Lizard

Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) is a California Species of Special Concern. It occurs in the Coast, Transverse, and Peninsular ranges from Contra Costa County south to Baja California, Mexico (Stebbins 2003). It is a small, secretive lizard that spends most of its life beneath the soil, under stones, logs, debris, or in leaf litter. The silvery legless lizard requires areas with loose, sandy soil, moisture, warmth, and plant cover. It occurs in chaparral, pine-oak woodland, beach, and riparian vegetation types at elevations ranging from sea level to about 5,100 feet above msl (Stebbins 2003). This species is naturally rare since it specializes in substrates with a high sand content, but is also threatened by grazing, off-road vehicle activity, sand mining, beach erosion, excessive recreational use of coastal dunes, and the introduction of exotic plants (Jennings and Hayes 1994). The survey area provides marginal potentially suitable marginal habitat for this species. Therefore, silvery legless lizard may occur on the survey area.

Coast Horned Lizard

Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum ssp. blainvillii*) is a California Species of Special Concern. The two former subspecies of the coast horned lizard (*P. c. blainvillii* and *P. c. frontale*) have been eliminated in current scientific literature (such as Stebbins 2003), based on recent scientific studies on this species. The coast horned lizard occurs throughout much of California, west of the desert and Cascade-Sierra Highlands south to Baja California, Mexico (Stebbins 2003). However, many of the populations in lowland areas have been reduced or eliminated due to urbanization and agricultural expansion (Stebbins 2003). It is a small, spiny, somewhat rounded lizard that occurs in scrubland, grassland, coniferous forests, and broadleaf woodland vegetation types. The coast horned lizard prefers open areas for basking and loose, friable soil for burrowing (Stebbins 2003). Three factors have contributed to its decline: loss of habitat, overcollecting, and the introduction of exotic ants. In some places, especially adjacent to urban areas, the introduced ants have displaced the native species upon which the lizard feeds (Fisher et al. 2002; Suarez and Case 2002; Suarez et al. 2000). In addition, this species is also threatened by fires, off-road vehicles, grazing and pets, especially domestic cats (Jennings and Hayes 1994). This species is known historically from Franklin Canyon, Hollywood, Compton, and Monterey Park approximately 9, 15, 17, and 16 miles from the survey area, respectively (CDFG 2012, 1916, 1953, 1952, and 1974 records). Potentially suitable marginal habitat is present on the site. Therefore, the Coast horned lizard may occur on the project site survey area.

Coast Patch-Nosed Snake

Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*) is a California Species of Special Concern. It ranges along the coast of California from San Luis Obispo County south into Baja California, Mexico. It occurs from sea level to about 7,000 feet above msl (Stebbins 2003). It inhabits open sandy areas and rocky outcrops in scrub, chaparral, grassland, and woodland vegetation types. This species is threatened by development, grazing, and fire control (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Potentially suitable marginal habitat for this species is present on the survey area. Therefore, coast patch-nosed snake may occur on the survey area.

Birds

Western Snowy Plover

Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) is a federally listed Threatened species and a California Species of Special Concern. The USFWS states that "The Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover is defined as those individuals that nest adjacent to or near tidal waters, and includes all nesting colonies on the mainland coast, peninsulas, offshore islands, adjacent bays, and estuaries" (USFWS 1993). In California, this subspecies nests primarily on dune-backed beaches, barrier beaches, and salt-evaporation ponds; on the coast, it forages on beaches, tide flats, salt flats, and salt ponds (Page et al. 1995). The Pacific coast populations of the western snowy plover breed from southern Washington south through Baja California, Mexico (USFWS 2005a). No suitable foraging or nesting habitat for this species is present in the survey area. Therefore, western snowy plover is not expected to occur on the survey area.

On September 29, 2005, the USFWS published a final critical habitat for the western snowy plover. This final rule designated 12,145 acres along the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. In California, critical habitat was designated in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Marin, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties (USFWS 2005a). The survey area is not located

within critical habitat for the western snowy plover; however, critical habitat is located at Playa Del Rey, approximately nine miles southwest of the survey area.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) is a federally and State-listed Endangered species. This subspecies was once considered a common breeder in coastal Southern California. However, this subspecies has declined drastically due to a loss of breeding habitat and nest parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). This species occurs in riparian habitats along rivers, streams, or other wetlands where dense growth of willows, Baccharis, arrowweed, tamarisk, or other plants are present, often with a scattered overstory of cottonwood (USFWS 1995). The survey area does not support enough cottonwood woodland and willow scrub habitats to constitute suitable nesting habitat for this species. Therefore, southwestern willow flycatcher is not expected to occur in the survey area.

On October 19, 2005, the USFWS published a final rule designating critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (USFWS 2005b). This final rule designated 120,824 acres in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah as critical habitat. Of that, 17,212 acres were designated in Kern, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Following lawsuits, the USFWS proposed a revised critical habitat designation on August 15, 2011. This proposed rule would cover 2,090 stream miles in California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico (USFWS 2011). The survey area is not located in areas designated as critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher.

California Black Rail

California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*) is a State-listed Threatened species and a California Fully Protected species. Black rails nest in salt marshes, shallow freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and flooded grassy vegetation (Eddleman et al. 1994). This subspecies is a year-round resident of a few coastal bays from Bodega Bay to northwestern Baja California, Mexico. The largest population is present in northern San Francisco Bay (Eddleman et al. 1994). It is also found inland at the Salton Sea and the lower Colorado River (Garrett and Dunn 1981; Eddleman et al. 1994). One historic record of the California black rail was recorded at Playa Del Rey, approximately eight miles from the survey area (CDFG 2012, 1928 record). No suitable habitat occurs on the survey area. Therefore, California black rail is not expected to occur.

Belding's Savannah Sparrow

Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*) is a State-listed Endangered species. The Belding's subspecies of the savannah sparrow is a resident of salt marshes from Goleta in Santa Barbara County south to El Rosario in Baja California, Mexico (Unitt 1984). Nesting habitat is usually dominated by pickleweed, with foraging often occurring far out into the marsh (Zembal et al. 1988). This species prefers the upper littoral zone of tidal marshes (i.e., areas flooded only by high spring or storm tides) (Unitt 1984). In the vicinity of the survey area, this species has been reported from Playa Del Rey (CDFG 2012). No suitable habitat occurs in the survey area. Therefore, Belding's savannah sparrow is not expected to occur.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher

Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) is a federally listed Threatened species and a California Species of Special Concern. This species occurs in most of Baja California's arid regions, but is extremely localized in the United States where it predominantly occurs in coastal regions of highly urbanized Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside,

and San Diego Counties (Atwood 1992). In California, this species is an obligate resident of several distinct subassociations of the coastal sage scrub vegetation type. Brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds and loss of habitat due to urban development has been cited as causes of the coastal California gnatcatcher population decline (Unitt 1984; Atwood 1990). This species has occurred in Culver City (approximately three miles from the survey area (CDFG 2012). The survey area provides sage scrub that would be considered potentially suitable habitat, and is generally within the gnatcatcher's current range. Focused surveys for this species were conducted in 2012, and this species was not detected (Appendix C). Therefore, coastal California gnatcatcher is not expected to occur in the survey area.

On December 19, 2007, the USFWS published a final rule revising critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher. The revised critical habitat designates 197,303 acres of land in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties, California. The survey area is not within the revised designated critical habitat for this species.

Bank Swallow

Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) is a State-listed Threatened species. This species breeds in riparian areas with vertical cliffs and banks with fine-textured sandy soil where it digs nesting holes (Zeiner et al. 1990a). Formerly more common as a breeder, it is estimated that only 110–120 colonies of this species remain in the State, primarily along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers in the northern Central Valley (CDFG 2012). Other colonies persist along the central coast from Monterey to San Mateo Counties and at several counties in Northern California (Remsen 1978; CDFG 2012). It was historically observed in Alhambra, approximately 17 miles northeast of the survey area (CDFG 2012, 1894 record). No suitable habitat occurs on the survey area. Therefore, bank swallow is not expected to occur.

California Least Tern

California least tern *(Sternula antillarum browni)* is a federally and State-listed Endangered species and a California Fully Protected species. This migratory tern nests on sandy beaches from April through August along the coast of California from San Francisco south to Baja California, Mexico (Thompson et al. 1997). Although little is known of the least tern's winter distribution, it primarily winters in South America (Thompson et al. 1997; AOU 1998). In recent years, terns have colonized islands created from dredged fill such as those at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Upper Newport Bay, and the Los Angeles Harbor. Breeding colonies in Los Angeles County in the vicinity of the project occur at Dockweiler State Beach (CDFG 2012). Potentially suitable foraging habitat occurs immediately adjacent to the survey area along the San Gabriel River. No suitable nesting habitat for this subspecies is present in the survey area. Potentially suitable marginal habitat for foraging occurs at the concrete-lined pond feature known as Kenneth Hahn Lake. Although this habitat is of poor quality for foraging least terns, they are known to occasionally visit similar inland water bodies such that there is potential for occurrence on-site at this location. California least tern also has moderate potential to occur as a fly-over due to adjacent suitable habitat areas.

Mammals

Pallid Bat

Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) is a California Species of Special Concern. This species occurs throughout California except for the high Sierra Nevada from Shasta to Kern Counties and in the northwestern portion of the state (Zeiner et al. 1990b). It most commonly occurs in mixed oak and grassland habitats. This large bat roosts in rock crevices and in tree cavities, especially in oaks. The pallid bat is very sensitive to disturbance at its roosting sites (CDFG BDB 2012). This

species is known historically near downtown Los Angeles and in Culver City, approximately six and three miles, respectively, from the survey area (CDFG 2012, 1932 and 1971 records). The survey area provides limited potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat for this species. Therefore, pallid bat may occur in the survey area for foraging and roosting.

Western Mastiff Bat

Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) is a California Species of Special Concern. The subspecies that occurs in Southern California is the California mastiff bat (*E. p. californicus*). The western mastiff bat, the largest bat in the United States, is a very wide-ranging and high-flying insectivore that typically forages in open areas with high cliffs. This species roosts in small colonies in crevices on cliff faces. It occurs in the southeastern San Joaquin Valley and Coastal Ranges from Monterey County southward through Southern California, and from the coast eastward to the Colorado Desert (Zeiner et al. 1990b). The western mastiff bat is found in many open semi-arid to arid habitats including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, palm oases, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban (Zeiner et al. 1990b). Threats to this species include loss of habitat due to development, drainage of marshes, and conversion of land to agriculture (Williams 1986). The survey area provides potentially suitable foraging habitat, but no suitable roosting habitat for the western mastiff bat. Therefore, the western mastiff bat may occur on the survey area for foraging, but is not expected to roost on the survey area.

Pocketed Free-Tailed Bat

Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*) is a California Species of Special Concern. This species is known to occur in areas with ponds or streams or in arid deserts that provide suitable foraging habitats. It primarily roosts in crevices in rugged cliffs, slopes, and tall rocky outcrops (Best et al. 1998). This bat occurs in the southwestern U.S. to southern-central Mexico (Best et al. 1998). The pocketed free-tailed bat has occurred in Inglewood, approximately 5 miles from the survey area (CDFG 2012). The survey area provides potentially suitable foraging habitat, but no suitable roosting habitat (coastal bluffs) for this species; therefore, the pocketed free-tailed bat may occur in the survey area for foraging, but is not expected to roost on the survey area.

Big Free-Tailed Bat

Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*) is a California Species of Special Concern. This species feeds primarily on moths caught while flying over water sources in suitable habitat in the southwestern United States. This species prefers rugged, rocky terrain and roosts in crevices in high cliffs or rocky outcrops (Zeiner et al. 1990b). In the vicinity of the survey area, this species has been reported from downtown Los Angeles, approximately ten miles from the survey area (CDFG 2012). The survey area provides potentially suitable foraging for this species, but lacks potentially suitable roosting habitat; therefore, the big free-tailed bat may occur in the survey area for foraging, but is not expected for roosting.

Pacific Pocket Mouse

Pacific pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*) is a federally Endangered species and a California Species of Special Concern. This subspecies historically occurred coastally from Los Angeles County south to San Diego County (USFWS 1994). This subspecies prefers coastal dune, coastal strand, and coastal sage scrub vegetation types with alluvial sands near the immediate coast (USFWS 1998b). All locations of this subspecies are known to occur within 2.5 miles of the coast. Currently, this species is only known to occur in four locations: one population in the Dana Point Headlands, two near San Mateo Creek in Camp Pendleton, and

one north of the Santa Margarita River (USFWS 1998a). This species has been extirpated from its previous known locations in El Segundo, approximately ten miles from the survey area (CDFG 2012, 1938 record). No suitable habitat occurs in the survey area; therefore, this subspecies is not expected to occur.

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

3.4.5 Oak Trees

The oak trees in the survey area in the coast live oak woodland vegetation type and scattered as individuals elsewhere on the site are subject to Section 22.56.2060 of the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (where located within unincorporated County) or the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code Chapter IV, Article 6 – Preservation of Protected Trees (where located within City of Los Angeles). Based on the determination from the initial general survey that no oak trees occur in or immediately adjacent to the project disturbance area, a tree survey was considered unwarranted. General areas of concentrated oaks can be assumed to occur within mapped oak woodlands. Other individual oak trees are expected to be sparsely dispersed throughout undisturbed portions of the survey area. One other locally protected tree, the Southern California black walnut, protected under the City of Los Angeles Tree Ordinance, was identified on the site in three locations as discussed in the walnut woodland discussion above and depicted on Exhibit 5. However, only Population 2 occurs within the City of Los Angeles.

3.4.6 Jurisdictional Resources

Impacts to jurisdictional waters are discussed below in Section 4.3, Direct Impacts.

A total of six potential jurisdictional features were identified and further assessed in the vicinity of the proposed trail location. These potential jurisdictional features are noted as Features A through F in Appendix D (specifically, Exhibits 2a, 2b, and 2c). It should be noted that the regulatory agencies are responsible for a final determination as to whether these features are under their respective jurisdiction. Each of these potential jurisdictional features is described further below.

Feature A (Appendix D: Exhibit 2a) is a soft-bottom and generally flat debris basin located southeast of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook parking lot in the Blair Hills. Vegetation in the basin consists of non-native grasses such as ripgut brome and wild oat grass, along with scattered native shrubs such as coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), giant wild rye (*Leymus condensatus*), and mule fat. The lowest point of this area contains a small standpipe inlet tower, and a concrete wall for scour protection was observed along the northern edge. These are interpreted as clear indications that this is a flood-control facility, though no channel was observed in this area (or any evidence of water marks) and no connections to any jurisdictional streambeds were noted. Project impacts would consist of constructing a 6-foot-wide at-grade natural surface pedestrian trail that would travel through approximately 295 linear feet of this facility.

Feature B (Appendix D: Exhibit 2a) is a retention basin and storm drain channel that enters an underground storm drain system before reaching the adjacent residential neighborhood to the north.

Feature C (Appendix D: Exhibit 2b) is a trapezoidal channel that is located adjacent at the western entrance to the KHSRA. Trail construction would occur outside and adjacent to the point where water would flow into an underground storm drain.

Feature D (Appendix D: Exhibit 2b) is a concrete-lined trapezoidal channel that is approximately 500 feet long before entering an underground storm drain system. This channel appears to collect water that flows off adjacent landscaped areas. The width of the flat bottom portion of the channel measures four feet while the width from the top of the bank measures ten feet. This feature was constructed in an upland area, is not connected to any natural streambeds, and does not convey "relatively permanent" flows as defined by the USACE. This channel is unvegetated.

Feature E (Appendix D: Exhibit 2b) is a swale that is located to the east of the KHSRA's northern parking lot. It is described as a swale because no evidence of an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) was observed, nor was there a definable streambed or bank. Therefore, the wetlands hydrology threshold for the USACE or SWRCB does not exist, nor does the stream threshold for CDFG.

Feature F (Appendix D: Exhibit 2c) is a swale that is located at the base of a hillside in the northeastern portion of the KHSRA. Similar to Feature E, there is no OHWM, streambed, or bank present, meaning that it would not likely be considered jurisdictional by the regulatory agencies.

Table 4 summarizes the findings of the preliminary assessment. Exhibit 5 depicts the locations of the potential jurisdictional features.

TABLE 4
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

Feature	Location	Jurisdictional*
A	Western Blair Hills	Yes
B	Eastern Blair Hills	Yes
C	Western Kenneth Hahn Park	No
D	Western Kenneth Hahn Park	No
E	Kenneth Hahn Park	No
F	Kenneth Hahn Park	No

* The jurisdictional determination listed above is based on the professional judgment of BonTerra Consulting. Regulatory agencies are responsible for a final determination on the whether these features are under their respective jurisdictions.

4.0 PROJECT IMPACTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The determination of impacts in this analysis is based on the ultimate disturbance limits of the project and maps of biological resources in the survey area. All construction activities—including staging, grading, and equipment areas—are contained within the impact areas. No off-site impact acreages are expected. Both direct and indirect impacts on biological resources have been evaluated. Direct impacts are those that involve the initial loss of habitats due to grading, construction-related activities, and fuel modification. Indirect impacts are those that would be related to impacts on the adjacent remaining habitat due to construction activities (e.g., noise, dust) or operation of the project (e.g., human activity, indirect lighting). Impacts associated with the proposed establishment of trails have been minimized by avoiding special status biological resources (e.g., mature trees and jurisdictional drainage features).

Biological impacts associated with the proposed project were evaluated with respect to the following special status biological issues:

- Federally or State-listed Endangered or Threatened plant or wildlife species.
- Non-listed species that meet the criteria in the definition of “Rare” or “Endangered” in the CEQA guidelines.
- Streambeds, wetlands, and their associated vegetation.
- Habitats suitable to support a federally or State-listed Endangered or Threatened plant or wildlife species.
- Species designated as California Species of Special Concern.
- Habitat, other than wetlands, considered special status by regulatory agencies (USFWS, CDFG, and Los Angeles County) or resource conservation organizations.
- Other species or issues of concern to regulatory agencies or conservation organizations (e.g., CNPS).

The actual and potential occurrence of these resources in the survey area was correlated with the significance criteria (discussed below) to determine whether the proposed project’s impacts on these resources would be considered significant.

4.2 SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form, which includes questions relating to biological resources. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if one or more of the following occurs:

- If the project has a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFG or USFWS.
- If the project has a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS.

- If the project has a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- If the project interferes substantially with the movement of any native or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impedes the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- If the project conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- If the project conflicts with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan.

Section 15065(a), Mandatory Findings of Significance, of the CEQA Guidelines states that a project may have a significant effect on the environment if "the project has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species".

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. The regional setting of the proposed project includes the Los Angeles Basin. Substantial impacts would be (1) those that would substantially diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource or (2) those that would obviously conflict with local, State or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally adverse but not significant because, although they would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish or result in the permanent loss of an important resource on a population- or region-wide basis.

Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines indicates that a lead agency can consider a non-listed species to be Rare or Endangered for the purposes of CEQA if the species can be shown to meet the criteria in the definition of Rare or Endangered. For the purposes of this discussion, the current scientific knowledge on the population size and distribution for each special status species was considered according to the definitions for Rare and Endangered listed in Section 15380 of CEQA Guidelines.

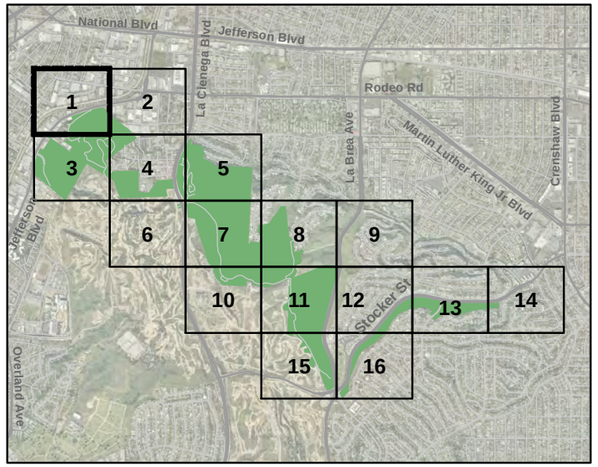
The actual and potential occurrence of these resources in the project vicinity was correlated with the significance criteria to determine whether the impacts of the proposed project on these resources would be significant.

Potential impacts are grouped below according to topic. The numbered mitigation measures in Section 5 directly correspond to those impacts found to be potentially significant below.

4.3 DIRECT IMPACTS

4.3.1 Vegetation Type Impacts

Vegetation types and other areas that will be impacted are listed in Table 5 and are illustrated on Exhibit 6. These totals include all trail grading impacts totaling approximately 13.2 acres. No impacts are proposed within the remaining 421.9 acres on site.



- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 1
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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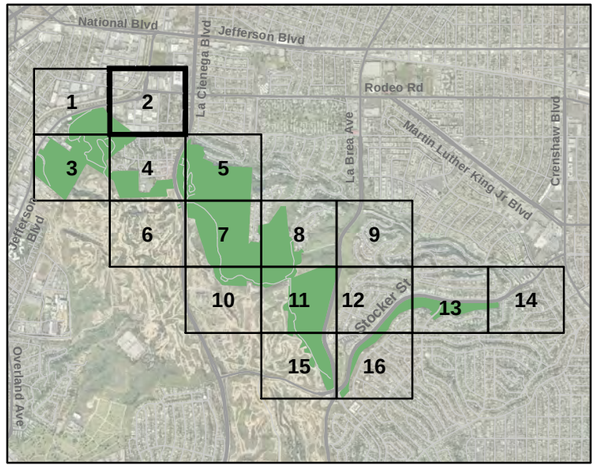

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 2
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

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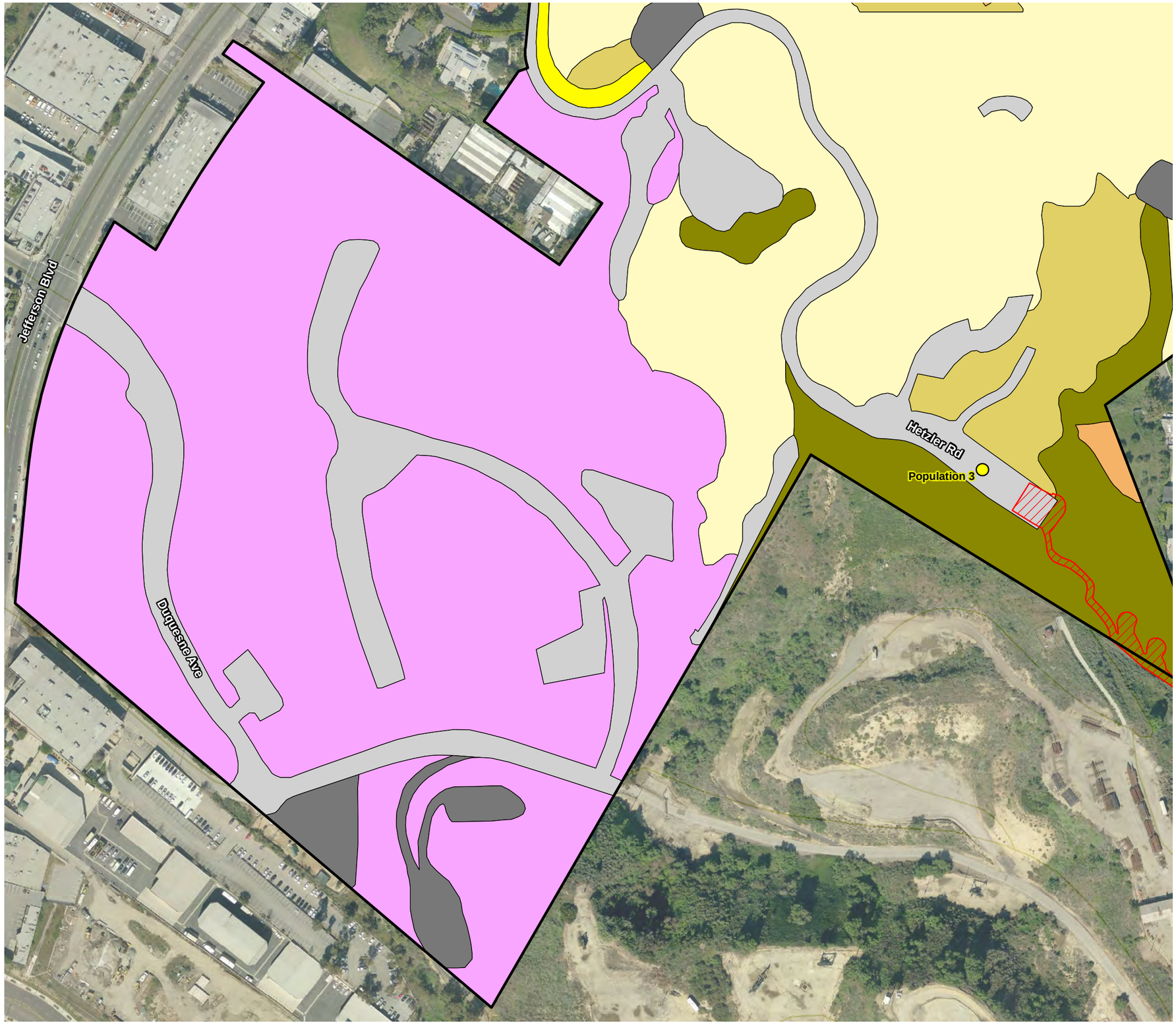

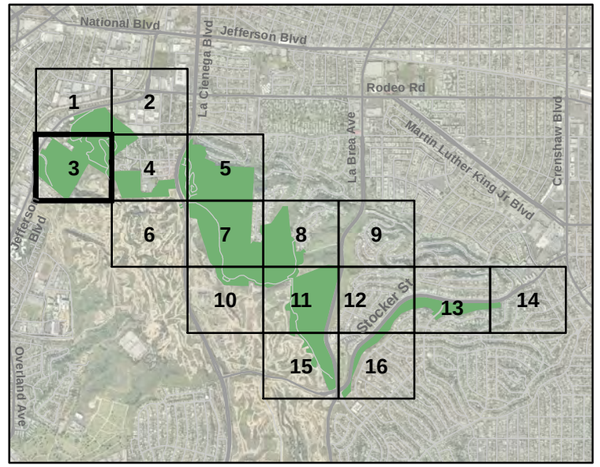

Project Boundary

Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

Drainage Centerline

Swale Centerline

Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Annual Brome Grasslands

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Developed

Disturbed

Elderberry Scrub

Eucalyptus Grove

Giant Wild Rye Grassland

Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand

Open Water

Ornamental

Ruderal

Toyon Chaparral

Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed

Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 3
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N
W E
S

0 200
Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

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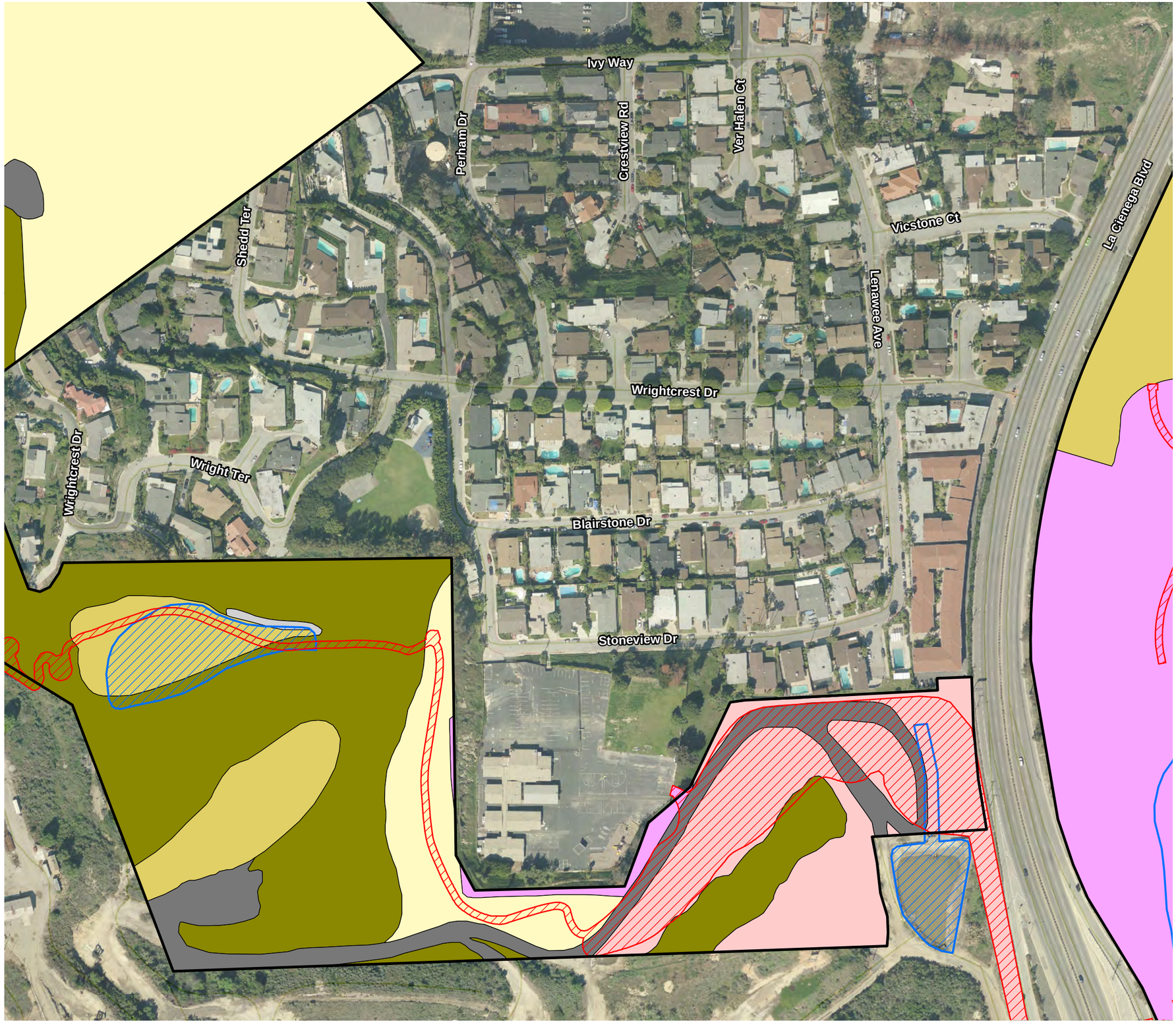

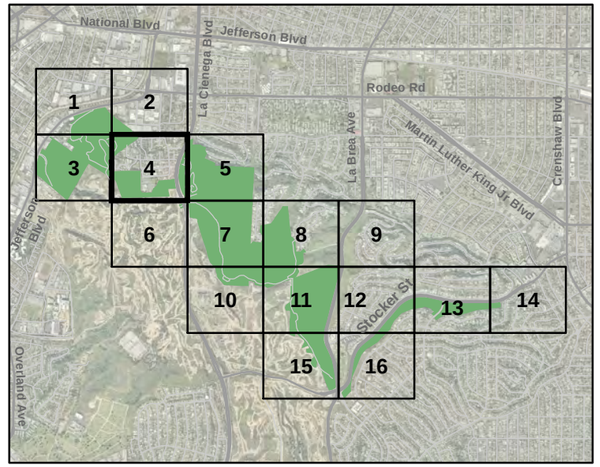

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 4
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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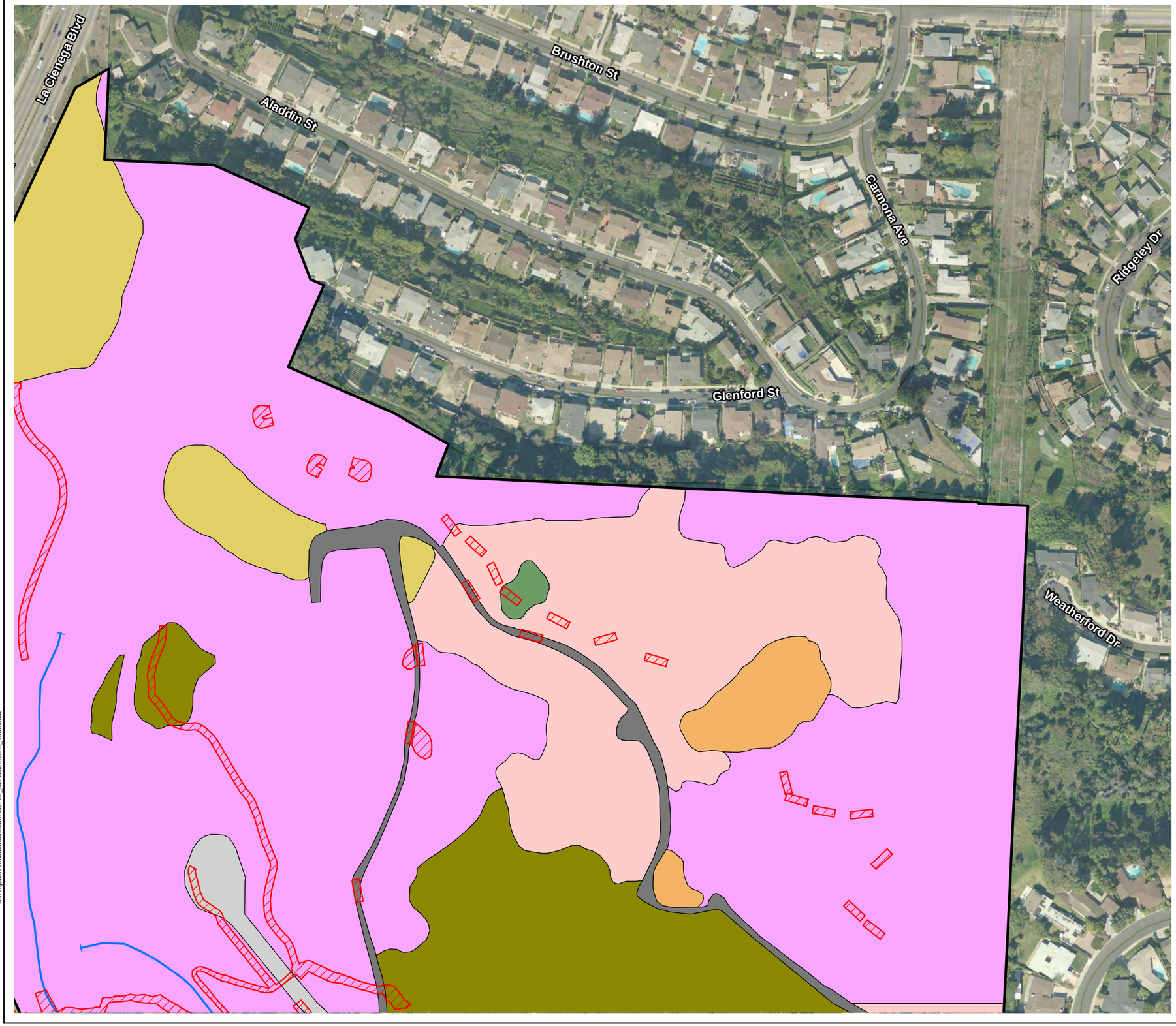

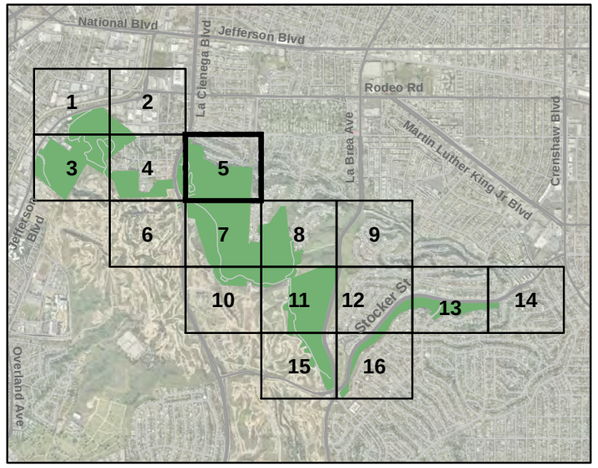

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 5
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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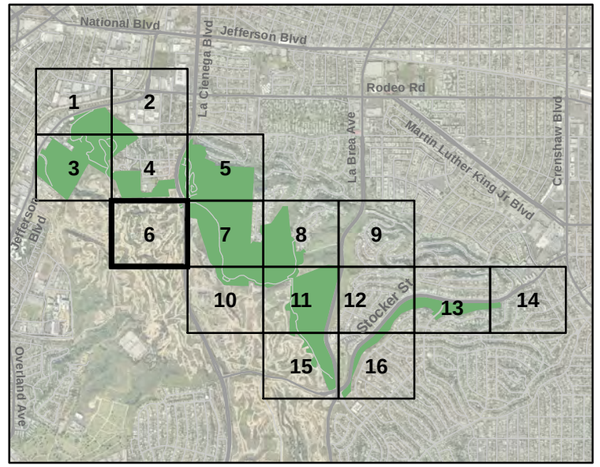

Project Boundary

Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

Drainage Centerline

Swale Centerline

Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Annual Brome Grasslands

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Developed

Disturbed

Elderberry Scrub

Eucalyptus Grove

Giant Wild Rye Grassland

Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand

Open Water

Ornamental

Ruderal

Toyon Chaparral

Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed

Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 6
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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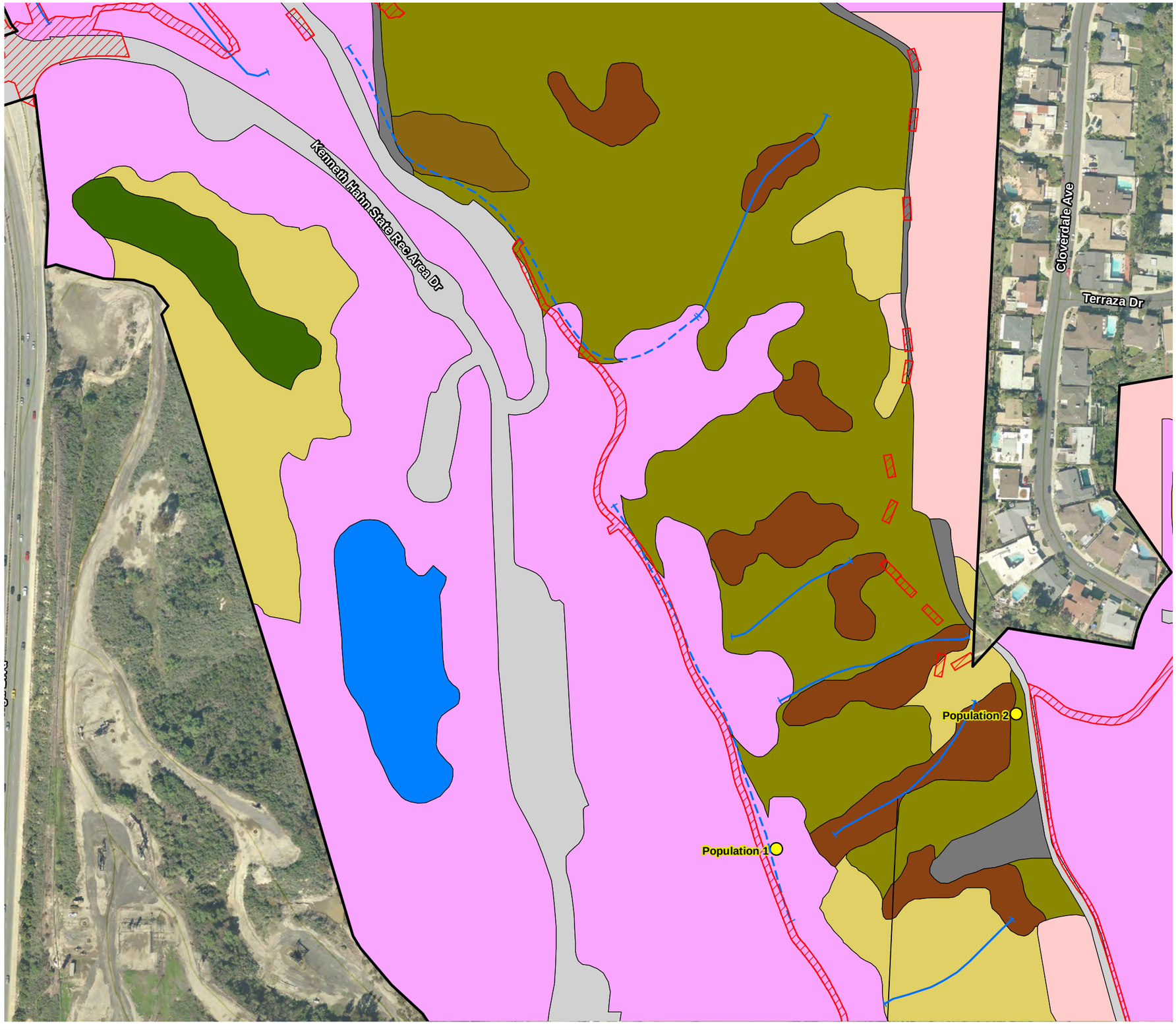

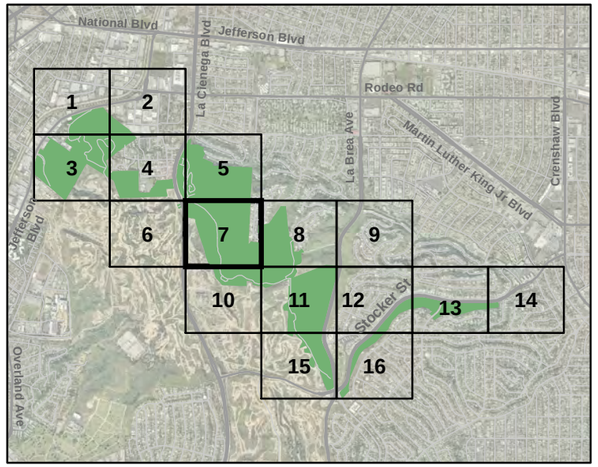

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 7
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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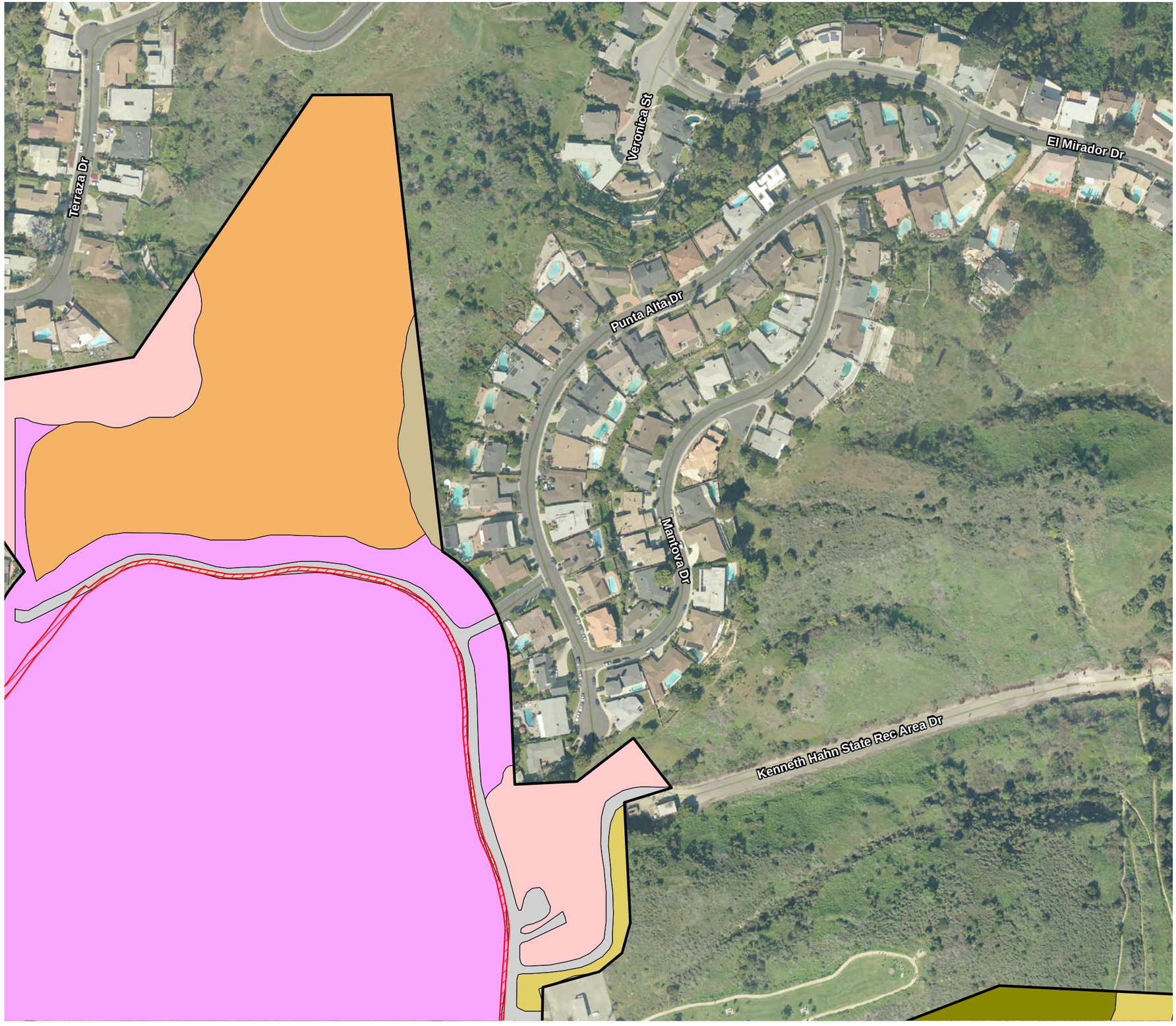

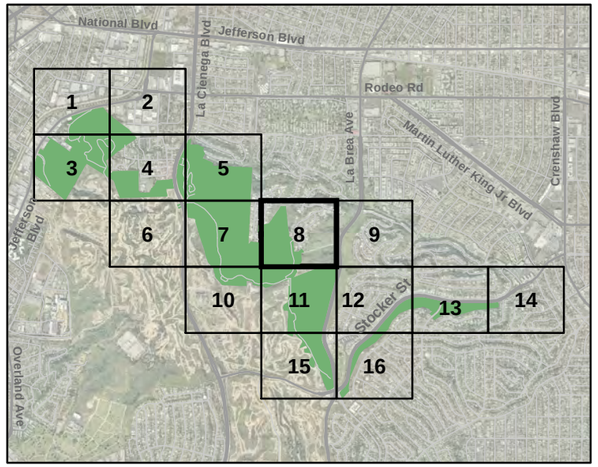

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 8
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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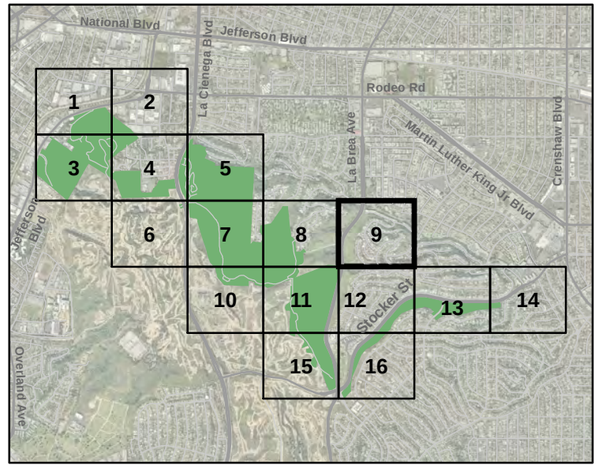

Project Boundary

Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

Drainage Centerline

Swale Centerline

Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 9
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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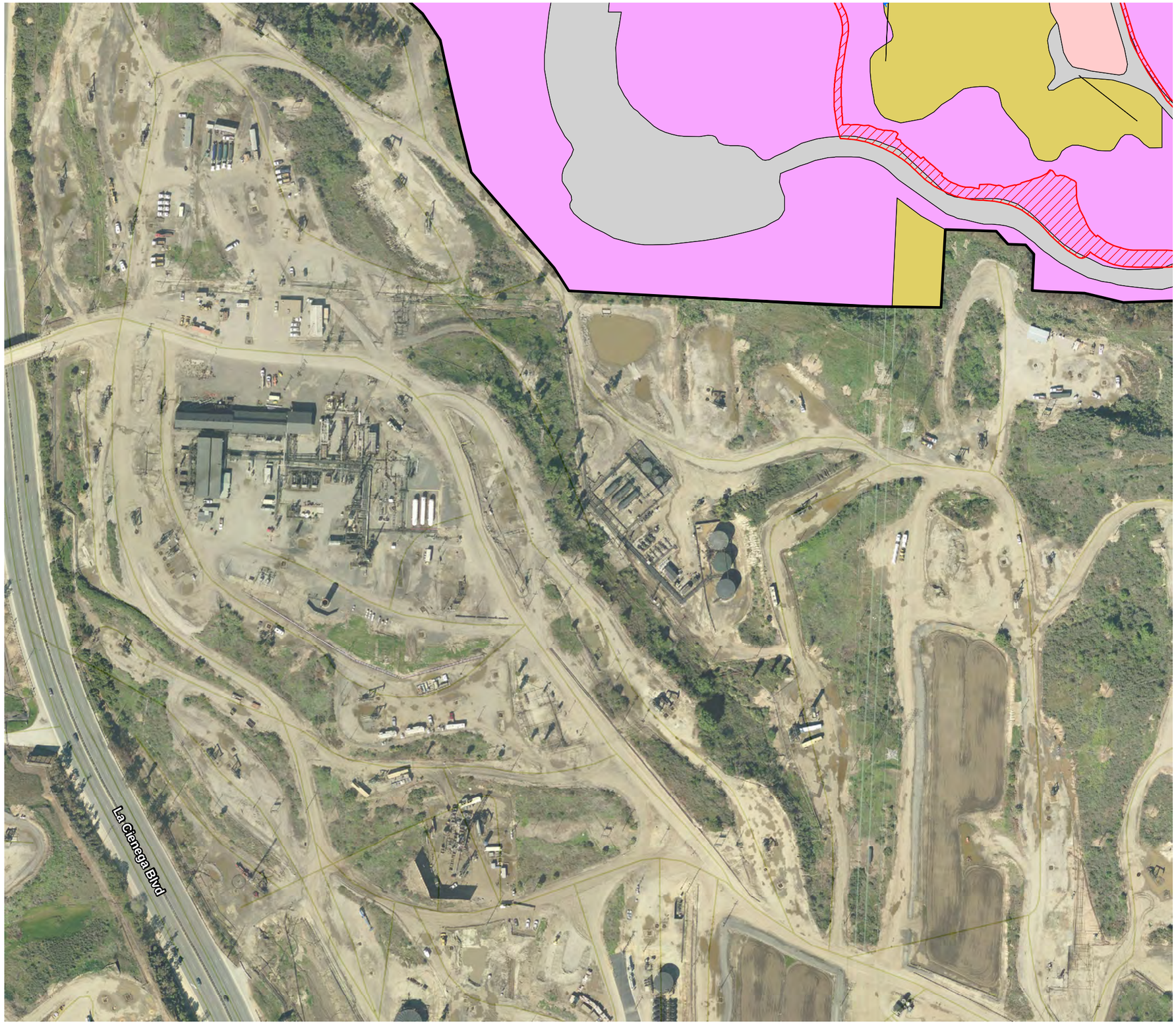

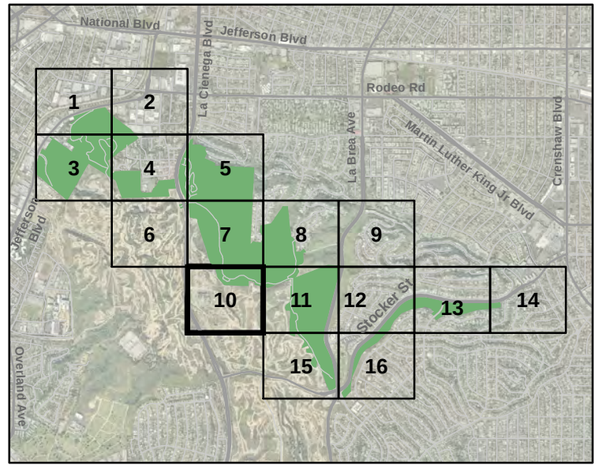

Project Boundary

Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

Drainage Centerline

Swale Centerline

Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Annual Brome Grasslands

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Developed

Disturbed

Elderberry Scrub

Eucalyptus Grove

Giant Wild Rye Grassland

Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand

Open Water

Ornamental

Ruderal

Toyon Chaparral

Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed

Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 10
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N
W E
S

0 200 Feet

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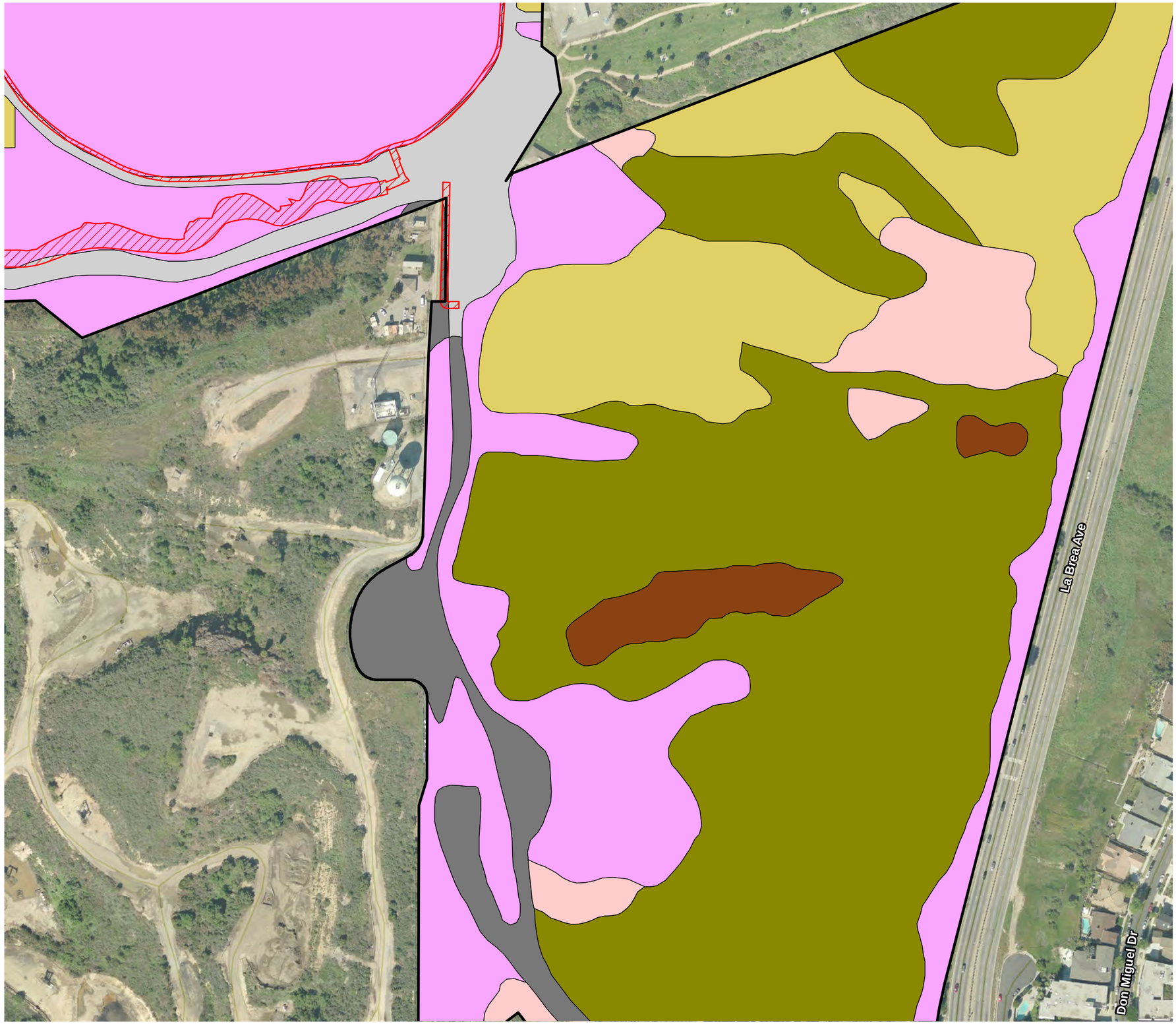

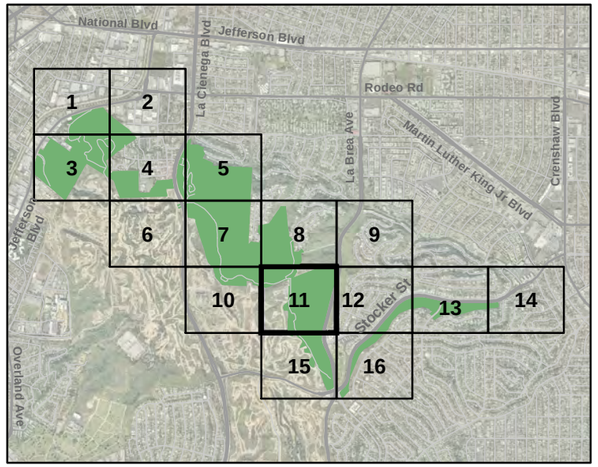

Project Boundary

Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

Drainage Centerline

Swale Centerline

Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Annual Brome Grasslands

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Developed

Disturbed

Elderberry Scrub

Eucalyptus Grove

Giant Wild Rye Grassland

Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand

Open Water

Ornamental

Ruderal

Toyon Chaparral

Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed

Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 11
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N
W E
S

0 200 Feet

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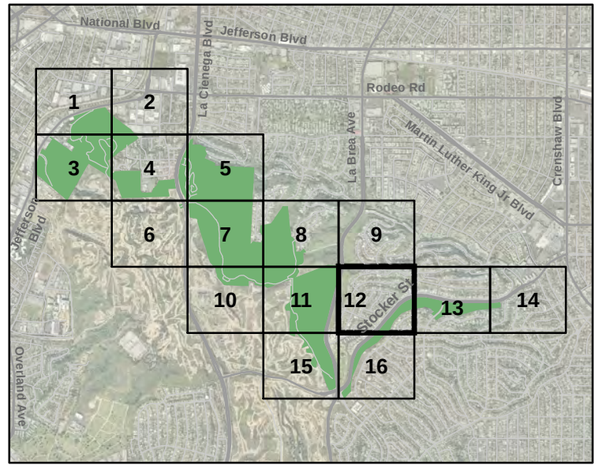

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 12
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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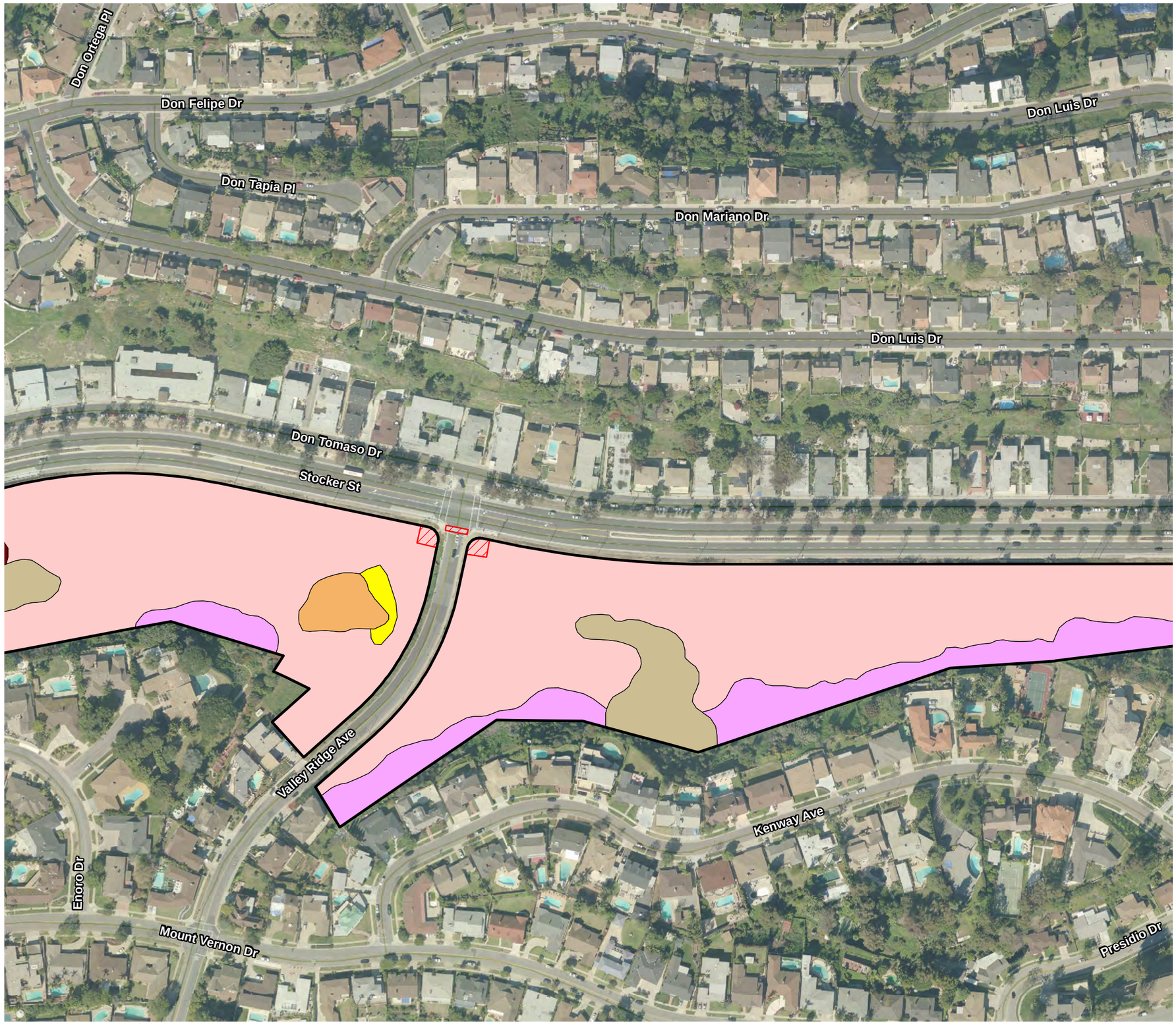

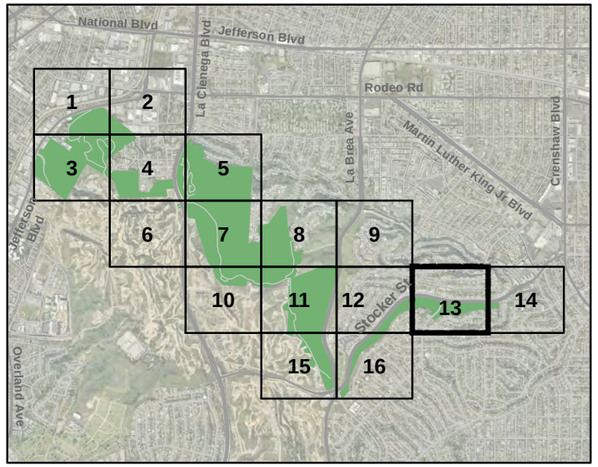

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 13
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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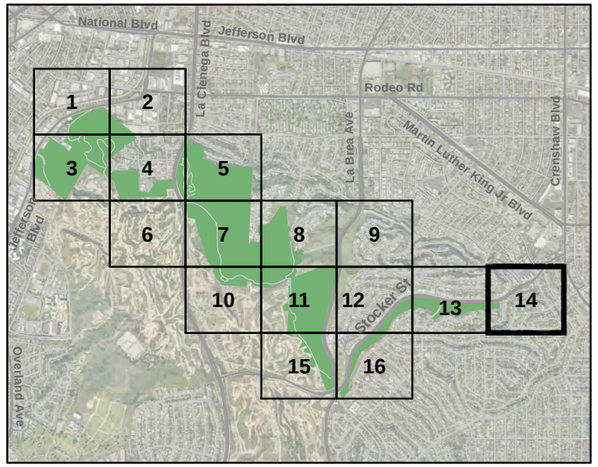

- Project Boundary
- Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

- Drainage Centerline
- Swale Centerline
- Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

- Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

- Annual Brome Grasslands
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed
- California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Elderberry Scrub
- Eucalyptus Grove
- Giant Wild Rye Grassland
- Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand
- Open Water
- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Toyon Chaparral
- Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed
- Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 14
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

Bonterra CONSULTING

(Rev: 1-10-2013 CJS) Projects/Alta/J003/Graphics/BioTech/Ex_BioResImpacts.pdf

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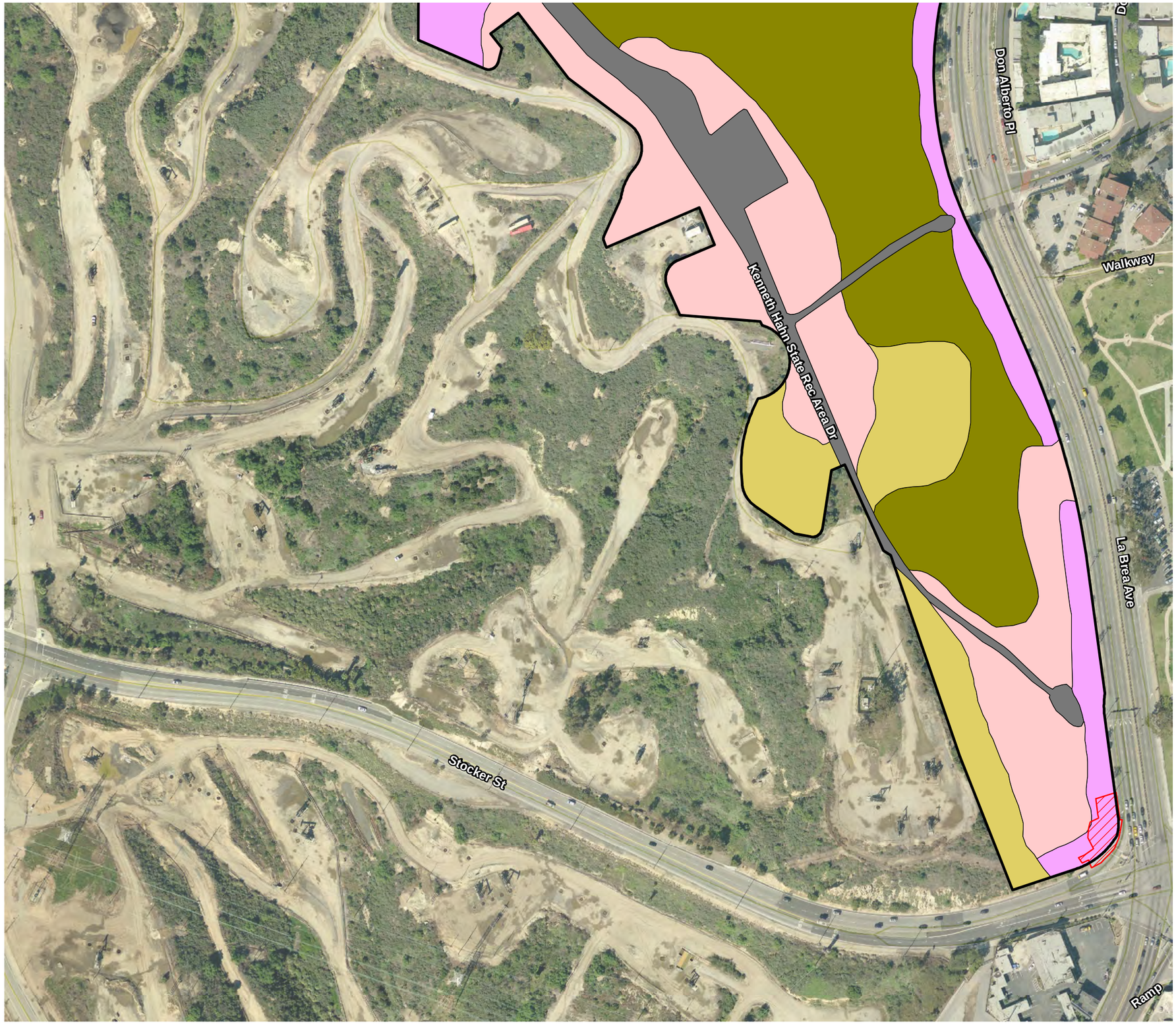

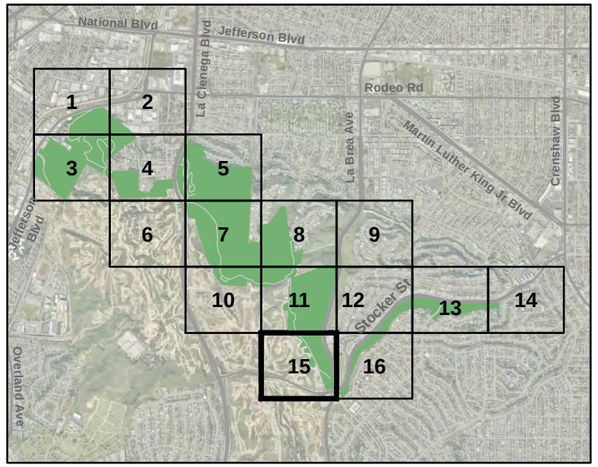

Project Boundary

Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

Drainage Centerline

Swale Centerline

Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

Annual Brome Grasslands

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed

California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Developed

Disturbed

Elderberry Scrub

Eucalyptus Grove

Giant Wild Rye Grassland

Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand

Open Water

Ornamental

Ruderal

Toyon Chaparral

Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed

Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 15
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

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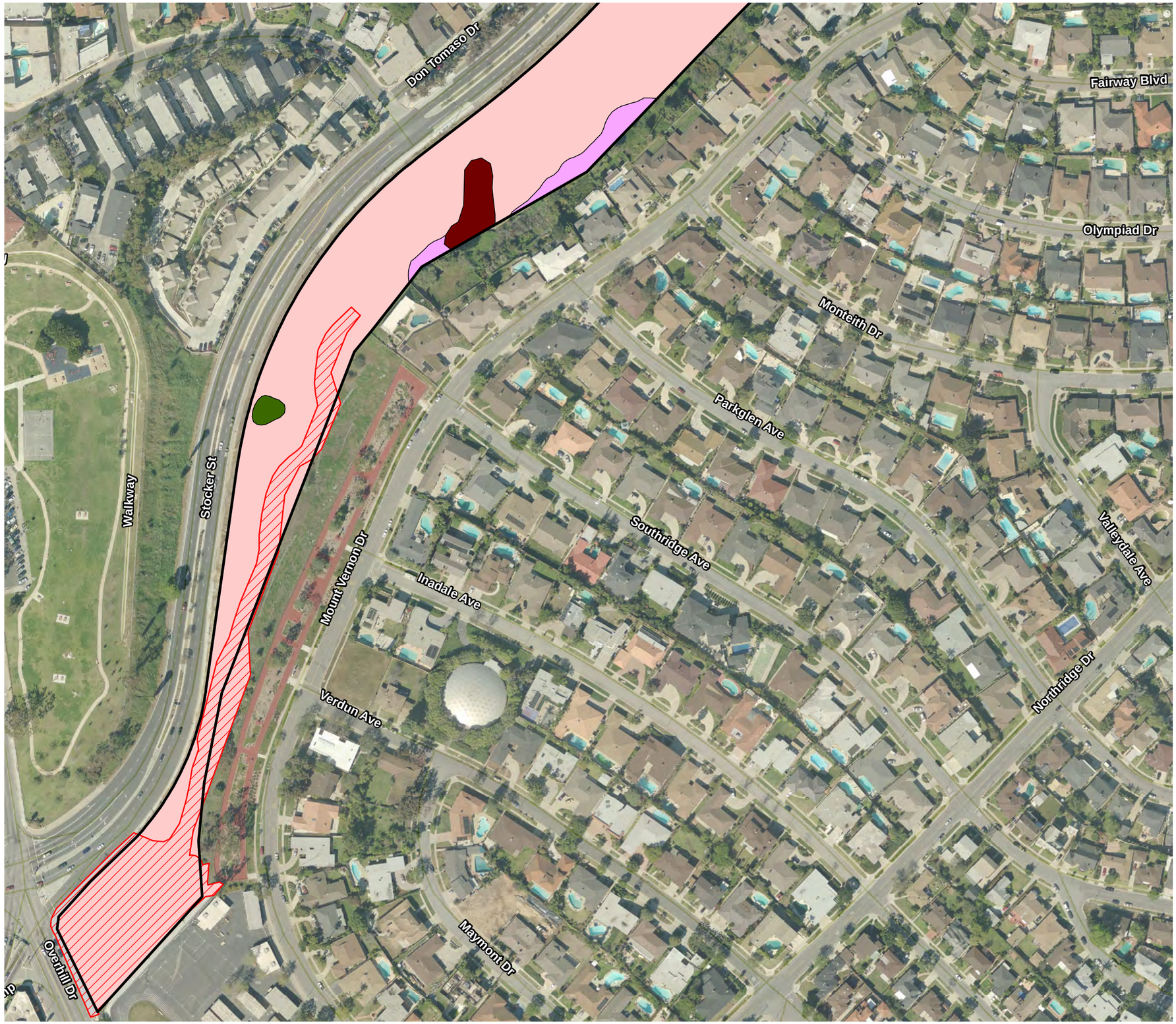

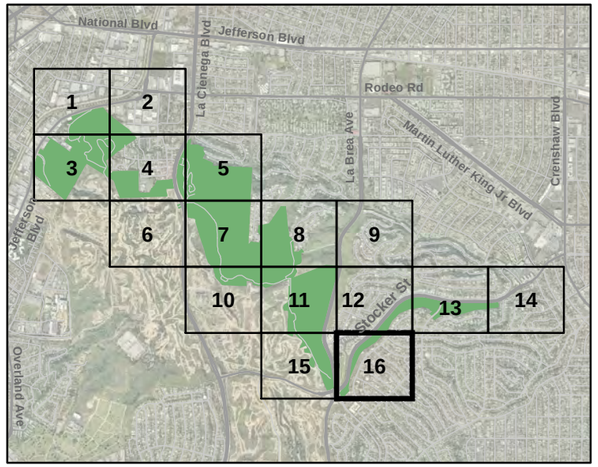

Project Boundary

Disturbance Areas

Jurisdictional Features

Drainage Centerline

Swale Centerline

Jurisdictional Polygon Feature

Special Status Species Observed

Southern California Black Walnut

Vegetation Types and Other Areas

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California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub

California Sagebrush-
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California Sagebrush-
California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Developed

Disturbed

Elderberry Scrub

Eucalyptus Grove

Giant Wild Rye Grassland

Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand

Open Water

Ornamental

Ruderal

Toyon Chaparral

Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed

Willow Thickets

Exhibit 6 – Map Sheet 16
Biological Resource Impacts

Park to Playa Trail

N W E S

0 200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 1-10-2013 CJS) Projects/Alta/J003/Graphics/BioTech/Ex_BioResImpacts.pdf

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TABLE 5
VEGETATION TYPES AND OTHER AREAS IMPACTED
BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Vegetation Type/Other Area	Survey Area		
	Unimpacted (acres)	Impacted (acres)	Total (acres)
Annual Brome Grasslands	43.2	0.3	43.5
California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub	71.4	0.7	72.1
California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed	35.0	0.2	35.2
California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Toyon Chaparral	0.6	0.0	0.6
Coast Live Oak Woodland	0.2	0.0*	0.2
Elderberry Scrub	5.3	0.0*	5.3
Eucalyptus Grove	0.3	0.0	0.3
Giant Wild Rye Grassland	0.5	0.0	0.5
Holly-Leaved Cherry Stand	0.5	0.0	0.5
Ruderal	54.6	5.7	60.3
Toyon Chaparral	12.3	0.0	12.3
Toyon Chaparral/Disturbed	1.7	0.0	1.7
Willow Thickets	1.5	0.0	1.5
Open Water	2.1	0.0	2.1
Ornamental	158.4	3.8	162.2
Disturbed	10.0	1.1	11.1
Developed	24.3	1.4	25.7
Total	**421.9**	**13.2**	**435.1**

*Impact is less than .05 acre resulting in rounding to 0 acres.

Below is a brief discussion of each vegetation type expected to be directly impacted by project implementation. Vegetation types not impacted are not discussed further.

Annual Brome Grasslands

Annual brome grasslands would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. Impacts on this vegetation type would be considered less than significant because (1) these areas are dominated by non-native annual grasses and forbs (mostly of European origin) that are indicators of significant previous site disturbance and (2) this association is common throughout Southern California. Therefore no mitigation would be necessary under CEQA.

California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub

California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. Impacts on this vegetation type would be considered significant (1) according to County standards; (2) due to the low remaining acreage of this vegetation type in Southern California and within the project region; (3) its CDFG listing as special status (CDFG 2010); and (4) its potential to support special status species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 1 would reduce this impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.

California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed

California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub/Disturbed would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. Impacts on the non-disturbed portions of this vegetation type would be considered significant (1) according to County standards; (2) due to the low remaining acreage of this vegetation type in Southern California and within the project region; (3) its CDFG listing as special status (CDFG 2010); and (4) its potential to support special status species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 1 would reduce this impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Coast live oak woodland would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. Impacts on this vegetation type would be considered significant due the limited distribution of this vegetation type in California and in the project region. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 2 would reduce this impact to a less than significant level under CEQA.

Elderberry Scrub

Elderberry scrub would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. Impacts on elderberry scrub would be considered adverse but less than significant because this vegetation type is considered relatively common in the project region. Therefore, no mitigation would be necessary under CEQA.

Ornamental/Ruderal

Ornamental/Ruderal areas would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. Impacts on these areas would be considered less than significant because these areas are considered to have a low biological value; therefore no mitigation would be necessary.

4.3.2 Wildlife Impacts

To assess impacts on wildlife, the total impact on vegetation types that provide habitat for that wildlife species was evaluated. A summary of impacts on vegetation types (i.e., wildlife habitat) that would be impacted as a result of project construction is shown in Table 5 in Section 4.3.1 above. The distribution of these vegetation types and relation to the project impact boundary is shown in Exhibit 6. The following discussion of wildlife impacts focuses on the common species occurring in the survey area. Impacts on special status wildlife species are discussed separately in Section 4.3.3 of this report.

General Habitat and Wildlife Loss

The proposed project would result in the loss of native habitat, which provides valuable nesting, foraging, roosting, and denning opportunities for a wide variety of wildlife species. Implementation of the proposed project would result in the loss of non-native habitats that provide lower quality wildlife habitat. These non-native habitats provide limited nesting, foraging, roosting, and denning opportunities for some species. Removing or altering habitats in the survey area would result in the loss of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and other animals of slow mobility that live in the proposed project's direct impact area. More mobile wildlife species now using the survey area would be forced to move into remaining areas of open space, consequently increasing competition for available resources in those areas. This situation would result in the loss of individuals that cannot successfully compete. The proposed project would impact a small quantity of higher value habitats, but most of the high-quality habitat would remain intact following project implementation. Project implementation would not

significantly reduce wildlife populations in the region, nor would it reduce any specific wildlife population in the region to below self-sustaining numbers. Therefore, project impacts on wildlife would be considered adverse, but less than significant and no mitigation is required. However, direct impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat would be reduced by implementation of Mitigation Measures 1 through 4.

Wildlife Movement and Habitat Fragmentation

The survey area's ability to support regional wildlife movement has been compromised by the extensive development that dominates the Los Angeles Basin. As a result, the survey area is expected to support local wildlife movement almost exclusively, with very little potential for regional wildlife movement. Development of the proposed project is not expected to further limit local wildlife movement on site due to the lack of any substantial obstructions resulting from project implementation. Furthermore, indirect effects on movement such as increased night lighting, increased noise, or other increases associated with increased human activity would be considered negligible and unlikely to further degrade the quality of the open spaces on site and other local travel routes used by wildlife in the survey area. Direct and indirect impacts, such as noise pollution and human activity, on the Baldwin Hills are considered adverse, but less than significant since the loss of local movement areas is expected to be temporary during construction, and would not have a substantial effect on regional wildlife populations. Therefore, no mitigation would be required.

4.3.3 Special Status Biological Resource Impacts

Special Status Plants

Of the special status plant species known to occur in the vicinity of the survey area, only one was observed during focused plant surveys: Southern California black walnut. Three small populations (less than 10 individuals each) of Southern California black walnut were observed in the survey area. Although considered a special status species, impacts on this species does not meet the significance criteria under CEQA because the impact would be negligible on regional population abundance and distribution. Therefore, no mitigation would be required. However, to ensure avoidance of Southern California black walnut trees and to further reduce potential impacts, Mitigation Measure 3 would require fencing to protect these trees.

Due to changes in climatic conditions from year to year, focused survey results are typically valid for no more than two years. Special status plant species identified as having potentially suitable habitat on site may potentially occur in 2014 or later. Impacts occurring after March 1, 2014, are therefore considered potentially significant under CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4, which requires focused plant surveys within the year prior to construction, would reduce the impact to less than significant.

Wildlife

The proposed project would result in the loss of potential habitat for eight special status wildlife species known to be present or potentially occurring in the survey area. The following discussion evaluates impacts on those wildlife species observed and those that may occur in the survey area. All listed species potentially occurring in the region are also discussed. For those species with potential to occur, potential impacts were evaluated for the habitat which the species is expected to occupy.

Invertebrates

The federally Endangered El Segundo blue butterfly is not expected to occur in the survey area due to lack of potentially suitable habitat. Therefore, there would be no impact on this species and no mitigation would be required under CEQA.

Reptiles

Special status reptile species were not detected on site; however several species may potentially occur, including silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard, and coast patch-nosed snake. Although the proposed project would impact potential habitat for these species, none of these species are listed as Threatened or Endangered by State or federal resource agencies. The loss of a small amount of potentially suitable marginal native habitat would be considered an adverse impact on these species, but would not be expected to substantially reduce regional populations. Therefore, project impacts on these special status reptile species would be considered adverse but less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

The western pond turtle and two-striped garter snake are not expected to occur in the survey area due to lack of suitable habitat. Therefore, there would be no impact on these species and no mitigation would be required.

Birds

Seven federally and/or State-listed Threatened or Endangered bird species occur in the project region: western snowy plover, southwestern willow flycatcher, California black rail, Belding's savannah sparrow, coastal California gnatcatcher, bank swallow, and California least tern. The western snowy plover, southwestern willow flycatcher, California black rail, Belding's savannah sparrow, and bank swallow are not expected to occur because the survey area lacks suitable habitat. California least tern has moderate potential to occur as a fly-over due to the proximity of the survey area to adjacent suitable habitat along the Ballona Creek channel. Although the survey area lacks open water typical of inland foraging terns, there is low potential for sporadic use of the concrete-lined pond feature as marginally suitable habitat for foraging. Project implementation would not result in the loss of any open water feature, and disturbance of construction is expected to be negligible and short in duration. Therefore, impacts on the California least tern are expected to negligible. The one remaining species, coastal California gnatcatcher, is not expected to occur due to lack of recorded sightings in the immediate vicinity and negative results of 2012 focused surveys. As a result, impacts to the coastal California gnatcatcher are not expected. Therefore, project implementation would not result in any measurable impacts on State or federally-listed bird species, and no mitigation would be necessary under CEQA.

One avian California Species of Special Concern, burrowing owl, potentially occurs in the region but is not expected to occur in the survey area due to lack of suitable habitat. Therefore there would be no impact on this species and no mitigation would be required.

Raptor species (e.g., red-tailed hawk) have potential to nest in the survey area. Should an active raptor nest (common or special status species) be found in the survey area, the loss of the nest would be considered a violation of the *California Fish and Game Code* (Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513). The loss of any active raptor nest occurring in the survey area would be considered significant. Additionally, the loss of active nests for any native bird species may be considered a violation of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Mitigation Measures 3 and 4 are provided to ensure that project implementation complies with Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the *California Fish and Game Code* and the MBTA. Impacts on these species

would be reduced to less than significant levels under CEQA with the implementation of these measures.

Mammals

Special status mammal species potentially present in the survey area include the pallid bat, western mastiff bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, and big free-tailed bat. None of these species are listed or proposed to be listed as State or federally Threatened or Endangered. If present, the proposed project may impact suitable habitat for these species. Although the loss of habitat would be considered an adverse impact, the acreage lost would be minimal; night lighting will not increase; and construction disturbance would be short in duration and would occur only during the day. As a result, the project would not be expected to substantially reduce regional populations of any of these species. Project impacts on special status mammal species would be considered adverse but less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

The pallid bat may also have limited potential to roost within or adjacent to the impact area. However, the survey area is not expected to provide substantial or important roosting habitat for this species. Project implementation would result in the loss of some marginal potential roosting habitat for the pallid bat, but would not be expected to substantially reduce regional populations. Therefore, impacts on this species would be considered adverse but less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

The Pacific pocket mouse is a federally listed Endangered species; however it is not expected to occur in the survey area due to lack of suitable habitat. Therefore, there would be no impact on this species and no mitigation would be required.

4.3.4 Oak Trees

No oak trees of city or county jurisdictional size within the impact alignment of the proposed trail were detected during general site surveys. Outside the trail alignment, but within the project boundaries, oak-dominated vegetation types were mapped as oak woodland while other unmapped individual oak trees occur scattered throughout potentially suitable habitat areas on site. As described above, the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance (CLAOTO) requires that all potential impacts to oak trees be preceded by an application to the County that includes a detailed Oak Tree Report, and that requires mitigation for impacts to oak trees (which may include the replacement of oak trees at a ratio of at least two to one [2:1]) (Los Angeles County 1988). Although impacts are not expected based on the proposed trail alignment, unforeseen potential direct impacts or encroachment upon jurisdictional trees would be considered potentially significant. To ensure the impacts on oak trees remain less than significant, Mitigation Measure 2 is proposed.

One grouping of approximately ten Southern California black walnut trees was identified within the City of Los Angeles. However, these trees occur outside the proposed project impact area and no impact is expected. Fencing around walnut trees, as recommended under Mitigation Measure 3 would prevent disturbance of the trees.

4.3.5 Jurisdictional Resources

As previously described, a total of six potential jurisdictional features were identified and assessed in the vicinity of the proposed trail location. These potential jurisdictional features are noted as Features A through F (see Exhibits 2a, 2b and 2c in Appendix D). However, direct impacts would occur only for Feature A (Appendix D: Exhibit 2a), a flat debris basin in the Blair Hills section of the survey area. A free-span pedestrian bridge is proposed over Feature D, a

concrete trapezoidal channel that may be considered to be a jurisdictional feature by the regulatory agencies. Table 6 below summarizes the findings.

TABLE 6
PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF
JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCE IMPACTS

Feature	Location	Jurisdictional*	Impacts
A	Western Blair Hills	Yes	Temporary impact for trail construction − 295 linear feet X 6 feet wide (0.04 acre)
B	Eastern Blair Hills	Yes	None Expected to Occur
C	Western Kenneth Hahn Park	No	None Expected to Occur
D	Western Kenneth Hahn Park	No	Free span bridge – None Expected to Occur
E	Kenneth Hahn Park	No	None Expected to Occur
F	Kenneth Hahn Park	No	None Expected to Occur

* The jurisdictional determination listed above is based on the professional judgment of BonTerra Consulting. Regulatory agencies are responsible for a final determination on the whether these features are under their respective jurisdictions.

As previously noted, it is the responsibility of the regulatory agencies to determine whether the features described in this report would fall within their jurisdiction. Therefore, it is recommended that staff members from these agencies be contacted to discuss the proposed project and arrange a field meeting, if necessary, to review site conditions and determine whether the features described herein are jurisdictional waters and whether they consider trail construction activities to constitute an impact. The need to acquire any regulatory permit authorizations will be determined from this consultation.

Based on the preliminary assessment, jurisdictional waters would be impacted by the project resulting in potentially significant impacts. A less than significant impact would be achieved through implementation of Mitigation Measure 7, which includes permit acquisition and replacement of impacted jurisdictional resources.

4.3.6 Significant Ecological Areas

The survey area is not located within a Significant Ecological Area (SEA), as designated by the County (County of Los Angeles 2011). The Ballona Wetlands SEA, located 3.3 miles southwest of the survey area, is the nearest SEA. The project would not impact this SEA; therefore, no mitigation would be required.

4.4 INDIRECT IMPACTS

Indirect impacts are those related to disturbance by construction (such as noise, dust, and urban pollutants); long-term use of the survey area; and the project's operational effect on the adjacent habitat areas. The indirect impact discussion below includes a general assessment of the potential indirect effects (increased dust and urban pollutants, night lighting, human activity, and noise) of the construction and operation of the proposed project.

4.4.1 Increased Dust and Urban Pollutants

Ground-disturbing activities would disturb soils and result in the accumulation of dust on the surface of the leaves of trees, shrubs, and herbs; excessive dust accumulation can impair plant respiratory function. This indirect effect from proposed trail construction would result in minor temporary ground disturbance and is therefore not expected to have a measureable impact on

plant populations. Therefore, the impact on plants would be considered adverse but less than significant and no mitigation would be required.

Additional impacts on biological resources in the area could occur as a result of changes in water quality and water velocity. Urban runoff from the survey area that contains residues and chemical products from construction equipment (temporary) or increased activity areas (i.e., cars, improper disposal of chemicals) (permanent) could have the potential to adversely affect water quality and, in turn, affect populations of wildlife species (including special status species) by (1) reducing the amount of available habitat; (2) smothering eggs of aquatic species (fish and amphibians); and (3) impacting other wildlife species that use riparian areas (amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals). Water quality could also be adversely affected by runoff of nutrients from urban development. These indirect effects are considered adverse; however, the limited and temporary nature of ground disturbance and use of construction equipment for the project would be considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

4.4.2 Night Lighting

The proposed project would not include the installation of new light sources along the Park to Playa Trail alignment. Also, the proposed trail improvements would not be constructed of reflective materials, such as glass, mirrors or glazing materials that may cause glare. No change in lighting levels at existing parks would occur with the project. Therefore, there would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

4.4.3 Human Activity

The proposed project would not involve housing or business development and, thus, would not lead to the introduction of permanent residents or employees into the survey area. An increase in the number of persons using the trail could be expected over time with the project and the proposed improvements, but this use would still be confined to a few hours during the daytime. The project would not create a permanent resident population. The increase in human activity would increase the disturbance of natural open space adjacent to the proposed project. Human disturbance could disrupt normal foraging and breeding behavior of wildlife that remain in the area adjacent to the proposed project which would, in turn, diminish the value of the habitat. Wildlife stressed by noise may be extirpated from the natural open space adjacent to the survey area, leaving only wildlife tolerant of human activity. Though this impact is considered adverse, the impact would be considered less than significant due to the current high recreational use of the survey area. Therefore, mitigation is not required.

4.4.4 Construction-Related Noise Impacts

Noise levels in the survey area would increase over present levels during construction of the proposed project. During construction, temporary noise impacts have the potential to disrupt foraging, nesting, roosting, and denning activities for a variety of wildlife species. Because most species in the project vicinity are not listed as Threatened or Endangered by State or federal resource agencies, these impacts are considered adverse but less than significant. Furthermore, compliance with local noise regulations and the construction noise mitigation measure listed in Section 4.12 of the IS/MND will further reduce impacts.

5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

This section focuses on the development of described mitigation measures for those potential project impacts that are found would be to be significant or potentially significant. Strategies to mitigate each impact to a level of less than significant are identified and described.

5.1 VEGETATION

5.1.1 Mitigation Measure 1 – California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub

The loss of California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub in the survey area is considered to be a significant impact. California Sagebrush-California Buckwheat Scrub shall be preserved or restored either on site or off site at a ratio determined by the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (LACDRP). The ratio will be no less than 1:1. Any habitat areas proposed for preservation in order to meet the 1:1 criterion shall be dedicated as permanent open space and preserved in perpetuity. If restoration is required to meet the 1:1 ratio, a California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub Restoration Program shall be implemented in accordance with a LACDRP-approved appropriate landscape palette. The restoration program shall be developed by a qualified Biologist and shall be submitted for review and approval to the LACDRP prior to issuance of grading permits. The BHRCA shall be responsible for plan implementation. Restoration shall consist of seeding and planting containers of appropriate sage scrub species. The detailed Restoration Program will include the following items:

- ***Responsibilities and Qualifications of the Personnel to Implement and Supervise the Plan.*** The responsibilities of the Landowner, Specialists, and Maintenance Personnel that will supervise and implement the Plan shall be specified.
- ***Site Selection.*** The site(s) for mitigation shall be determined by the BHRCA in coordination with the LACDRP or the local agency in which the property is located. The site shall be located in a dedicated open space area that is contiguous with other natural open space areas.
- ***Site Preparation and Planting Implementation.*** Site preparation shall include (1) protection of existing native species; (2) trash and weed removal; (3) native species salvage and reuse (i.e., duff); (4) soil treatments (i.e., imprinting, decompacting); (5) erosion-control measures (i.e., rice or willow wattles); and (6) seed mix application.
- ***Schedule.*** Establishment of restoration/revegetation sites shall be conducted between October 15 and January 30. Introduction of hydroseed mix and container plants shall occur immediately after the restoration sites are prepared.
- ***Maintenance Plan/Guidelines.*** The Maintenance Plan shall include (1) weed control; (2) herbivory control; (3) trash removal; (4) irrigation system maintenance; (5) maintenance training; and (6) replacement planting.
- ***Monitoring Plan.*** The Monitoring Plan shall include (1) qualitative monitoring (i.e., photographs and general observations); (2) quantitative monitoring (i.e., randomly placed transects); (3) performance criteria as approved by the resource agencies; (4) monthly reports for the first year and reports every other month thereafter; and (5) annual reports for five years, which will be submitted to the LACDRP. Monitoring will be conducted for five years.
- ***Long-Term Preservation.*** Long-term preservation shall ensure the mitigation site is not impacted by future development. A performance bond shall be secured before the plan is implemented, and the site shall be preserved as open space in perpetuity.

- ***Performance Standards.*** Performance standards shall be identified and shall apply to the revegetation of sage scrub. Revegetation shall be considered successful if the percent cover and species diversity of the restored and/or created habitat areas are similar to percent cover and species diversity of adjacent existing habitats, as determined by quantitative testing of existing and restored and/or created habitat areas.

In addition, earth-moving equipment shall not maneuver in areas outside the identified impact limits in order to avoid disturbing open space areas to remain undeveloped. Prior to ground disturbance, the Construction Supervisor and the Biologist shall mark the natural open space limits. These limits shall be identified on the grading plan. Construction limits shall be flagged in the field, and no earth-moving equipment shall be allowed in open space areas.

5.1.2 Mitigation Measure 2 – Coast Live Oak Woodland and Individual Oaks

The project shall be designed to avoid oak woodland and oak trees to the greatest extent practicable. If this impact cannot be avoided, the project shall follow the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance (CLAOTO) to obtain appropriate permits and shall create an inventory of the oak woodland and individual oak trees within the proposed development limits; this inventory shall be prepared by a Arborist that is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture prior to the removal of any on-site oak trees. The inventory shall include the diameter at breast height (dbh), height, canopy width, aesthetic rating, health rating, number of trunks, and appraisal value of each oak tree. Mitigation shall consist of a Tree Replacement Program and creation of oak woodland habitat.

The loss of on-site coast live oak trees (including heritage oak trees) shall be removed and shall be replaced at a ratio consistent with CLAOTO requirements but not less than 2:1. Impacts to heritage oak trees may be replaced at a ratio higher than 2:1 at the discretion of the County. Coast live oak trees that will have their protected area (as defined by CLAOTO) encroached upon by ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored annually for a period of two years to determine if encroachment has resulted in the death of any trees. Trees that die as a result of encroachment within their protected area require the same mitigation as impacted trees.

The exact numbers of trees required for replacement shall be determined by the County of Los Angeles in accordance with applicable provisions of the CLAOTO. The acreage of coast live oak woodland replacement shall be equal to the acreage impacted. If project construction can avoid impacting oak trees, the number of replacement trees will be reduced accordingly. Prior to any impact, appropriate permits must be obtained.

Prior to ground disturbance, orange snow fencing shall be installed around trees (outside the dripline) that would not be impacted by construction. Fencing shall be in place and inspected by the Biologist before ground-disturbing activities begin. This fencing shall remain in place throughout construction.

A Qualified Restoration Ecologist will prepare a Coast Live Oak Woodland Habitat Mitigation Plan, which shall include the following requirements:

- ***Responsibilities and Qualifications of the Personnel to Implement and Supervise the Plan.*** The responsibilities of the Landowner, Specialists, and Maintenance Personnel that would supervise and implement the Plan shall be specified.
- ***Site Selection.*** The mitigation site(s) shall be determined in coordination with the BHRCA and resource agencies. The site will be located in a dedicated open space area that is contiguous with other natural open space.

- ***Site Preparation and Planting Implementation.*** Site preparation shall include (1) protection of existing native species; (2) trash and weed removal; (3) native species salvage and reuse (i.e., duff); (4) soil treatments (i.e., imprinting, decompacting); (5) temporary irrigation installation; (6) erosion-control measures (i.e., rice or willow wattles); (7) seed mix application; and (8) planting of container plants.
- ***Schedule.*** *A* schedule shall be developed that includes planting in late fall and early winter, between October 15 and January 30.
- ***Maintenance Plan/Guidelines.*** The Maintenance Plan shall include (1) weed control; (2) herbivory control; (3) trash removal; (4) irrigation system maintenance; (5) maintenance training; and (6) replacement planting.
- ***Monitoring Plan.*** The Monitoring Plan shall include (1) qualitative monitoring (i.e., photographs and general observations); (2) quantitative monitoring (i.e., randomly placed transects); (3) performance criteria, as approved by the resource agencies; (4) monthly reports for the first year and reports every other month thereafter; and (5) annual reports, which shall be submitted to the resource agencies for three to five years. The site shall be monitored and maintained for five years to ensure successful establishment of oak woodland in the restored and created areas; however, if there is successful coverage prior to five years, the BHRCA may make a request to the County to be released from further monitoring requirements.
- ***Long-Term Preservation.*** Long-term preservation of the site shall ensure the mitigation site is not impacted by future development. A performance bond shall be secured prior to implementation of the plan and the site shall be preserved as open space in perpetuity.

The prepared plan will be submitted to the LACDRP for final approval prior to ground disturbance. The Plan will then be implemented within one year of the completion of rough grading activities.

5.2 SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES

5.2.1 Mitigation Measure 3 – Southern California Black Walnut Trees

The proposed project is not expected to impact Southern California black walnut trees. To ensure that no disturbance of Southern California black walnut trees occur and impacts remain less than significant, measures to protect these trees shall be implemented. Construction fencing will be placed at the dripline of all Southern California black walnut trees located on site and immediately adjacent to construction areas. Fencing will be approved by the Biologist prior to commencement of work activities in the adjacent areas.

5.2.2 Mitigation Measure 4 – Special Status Plant Surveys

Prior to continuance of construction beyond March 1, 2014, a pre-construction focused survey for special status plants shall be conducted within the year prior to preceding construction. The survey will occur within remaining suitable habitat of project impact areas to confirm the presence or absence of special status plants. If special status plant species are detected, the Biologist will determine the significance of the impact based on status of the species and the number of individuals impacted and shall suggest mitigation, if applicable. Mitigation for significant impacts onto special status plants will include a minimum 2:1 replacement.

5.3 SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

The proposed project would result in potential direct impacts on special status wildlife species with potential to occur in the survey area.

5.3.1 Mitigation Measure 5 – Nesting Birds

To ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Sections 3503, 3503.5., and 3513 of the *California Fish and Game Code,* construction shall be conducted outside the bird nesting season (August 16 to the end of February), if feasible, to avoid any potential disturbance of avian breeding activities.

If work is to be conducted during the general nesting season (March 1–August 15), then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified Biologist within three days prior to disturbance. If an active nest is located within or adjacent to the construction area and the Biologist determines that work activities may impact nesting, s/he will demarcate an appropriate buffer zone around the nest. The size of the buffer may vary depending on site features, the sensitivity of the species, and the type of construction activity, but will be designed to prevent disruption of nesting activity. Only limited construction activities (if any) will be approved by the Biological Monitor to take place within the buffer zone. The buffer zone restrictions will be suspended once the Biologist determines that nesting activity has ceased.

5.3.2 Mitigation Measure 6 – Nesting Raptors

The project has the potential to impact nesting raptors. Seven days prior to the onset of construction activities, a qualified Biologist shall survey within 500 feet of the project impact area for the presence of any active raptor nests (common or special status). Any nest found during survey efforts shall be mapped on the construction plans. If no active nests are found, no further mitigation is required.

If nesting activity is present at any raptor nest site, the active site shall be protected until nesting activity has ended to ensure compliance with Section 3503.5 of the *California Fish and Game Code.* (Nesting activity for raptors in the region normally occurs from February 1 to June 30.) To protect any nest site, the following restrictions on construction activities are required between February 1 and June 30 (or until nests are no longer active, as determined by a qualified Biologist): (1) clearing limits shall be established within a 500-foot buffer around any occupied nest, or as otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist and (2) access and surveying shall be restricted within 300 feet of any occupied nest, or as otherwise determined by a qualified Biologist. Any encroachment into the buffer area around the known nest shall only be allowed if a qualified Biologist determines that the proposed activity will not disturb the nest occupants. Construction during the non-nesting season can occur only at the sites if a qualified Biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest.

If an active nest is observed during the non-nesting season, the nest site shall be monitored by a qualified Biologist, and when the raptor is away from the nest, the Biologist will flush any raptor to open space areas. The Biologist will then remove the nest site so raptors cannot return to it.

5.4 JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

5.4.1 Mitigation Measure 7 – Jurisdictional Resources

State and Federal Regulatory Permit Authorizations

If project implementation will potentially impact jurisdictional waters, prior to the approval of the project plans and specifications, the BHRCA shall confirm that regulatory permit authorizations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or authorization to proceed without such permits have been obtained for the project. Mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional resources shall be based on both permanent and temporary impacts resulting from project construction as well as long-term maintenance that can be characterized as dredge or fill within "Waters of the U.S.", including wetlands, and/or "Waters of the State".

If permits are required by regulatory agencies the items discussed below may be required.

Jurisdictional Delineation Report

Prior to the submittal of the regulatory applications/notifications to the USACE (pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act [CWA], the RWQCB (pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA), and/or the CDFG (pursuant to Section 1600 of the *California Fish and Game Code*) seeking regulatory authorization to impact resources under their respective jurisdictions, the BHRCA shall have a formal Jurisdictional Delineation Report prepared for the affected area. The delineation will define the USACE jurisdictional boundaries pursuant to the requirements of the USACE's 2008 *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* and 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual.* The limits of CDFG jurisdiction generally extend from the top of bank to the top of bank along the channel/drainage, or to the outer limits of riparian vegetation (outer dripline), whichever is greater.

Jurisdictional Determination

Prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities, the BHRCA shall obtain approval of a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination from the USACE providing concurrence in the findings of the Jurisdictional Delineation Report.

California Rapid Assessment Method

Prior to the submittal of the regulatory applications/notifications, the BHRCA shall have a California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) survey completed by a qualified Biologist who has completed resource agency-approved CRAM training and has received CRAM certification. The results of the CRAM assessment will serve as a baseline data reference and site evaluation to be used to complete USACE, RWQCB, and CDFG permit applications and to develop success criteria for the development, implementation, and monitoring of a Habitat Mitigation Monitoring Plan (HMMP) if an HMMP is required to offset impacts to jurisdictional resources.

Habitat Replacement/Restoration

Prior to the approval of the project plans and specifications, the BHRCA shall confirm that the plans and specifications stipulate that a riparian Preservation/Restoration Program is approved by the resource agencies prior to the first action and/or permit that would allow for site disturbance. TheBHRCA or its consultants shall be required to plan, implement, monitor, and maintain a riparian Preservation/Restoration Program for the project. A Habitat Restoration Plan shall be developed by a qualified Biologist, which shall submitted to the resource agencies (i.e., the USACE, the CDFG, and the RWQCB) for review and approval. The BHRCA shall begin riaparian habitat restoration activities (e.g., soil preparation, seeding) no later than one year after issuance of the first permit allowing ground disturbance. Restoration shall consist of seeding with appropriate salt marsh species. A detailed restoration program shall contain the items listed below.

1. ***Responsibilities and Qualifications of the Personnel to Implement and Supervise the Plan.*** The responsibilities of the Landowner, Specialists, and Maintenance Personnel that would supervise and implement the plan shall be specified.
2. ***Site Selection.*** The mitigation site shall be determined in coordination with the BHRCA and the resource agencies. The site shall either be located in the Biological Study Area in a dedicated open space area, or suitable adjacent off-site open space shall be obtained/purchased. Selected sites shall not result in the removal of a biologically valuable resource (e.g., coastal sage scrub).
3. ***Site Preparation and Planting Implementation.*** The site preparation shall include (a) protection of existing native species; (b) trash and weed removal; (c) native species salvage and reuse (i.e., duff); (d) soil treatments (i.e., imprinting, decompacting); (e) temporary irrigation installation; (f) erosion-control measures (i.e., rice or willow wattles); (g) seed mix application; and (h) container species installation. Locally occurring native plants and seeds shall be used and shall include species present on site and in adjacent areas.
4. ***Schedule.*** A schedule shall be developed that includes planting to occur in late fall and early winter (i.e., between October 1 and January 30).
5. ***Maintenance Plan/Guidelines.*** The maintenance plan shall include (a) weed control; (b) herbivory control; (c) trash removal; (d) irrigation system maintenance; (e) maintenance training; and (f) replacement planting.
6. ***Monitoring Plan.*** The monitoring plan shall include (a) qualitative monitoring (i.e., photographs and general observations); (b) quantitative monitoring (i.e., randomly placed transects); (c) performance criteria, as approved by the resource agencies; (d) monthly reports for the first year and reports every other month thereafter; and (e) annual reports for five years, which shall be submitted to the resource agencies.
7. ***Long-Term Preservation.*** Long-term site preservation shall also be outlined in the conceptual mitigation plan to ensure the mitigation site is not impacted by future development. The BHRCA shall be fully responsible implementing the riparian restoration program until the restoration areas have met the success criteria outlined in the program. The BHRCA and the resource agencies (i.e., the USFWS, the CDFG, and the RWQCB) shall have final authority over mitigation area sign-off.

The mitigation area shall be monitored and maintained for five years to ensure successful restoration of riparian habitat in the restored and created areas. If performance criteria are met prior to completion of the five year period, the BHRCA will request resource agency approval to forego additional monitoring and maintenance.

The BHRCA shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this measure.

6.0 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Implementation of the mitigation measures listed above will mitigate biological resource impacts to a level that is considered less than significant.

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APPENDIX A

PLANT AND WILDLIFE COMPENDIA

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
***ANGIOSPERMAE* – FLOWERING PLANTS**
EUDICOTS
ADOXACEAE – MUSKROOT FAMILY
Sambucus nigra ssp. *caerulea* [*S. mexicana*] blue elderberry
AIZOACEAE – FIG-MARIGOLD FAMILY
*Carpobrotus edulis** freeway iceplant
ANACARDIACEAE – SUMAC FAMILY
Malosma laurina laurel sumac
Rhus integrifolia lemonade berry
Rhus ovata Sugar bush
Schinus molle Peruvian pepper tree
Schinus terebinthifolius Brazilian pepper tree
Toxicodendron diversilobum western poison oak
APIACEAE – CARROT FAMILY
Foeniculum vulgare sweet fennel
APOCYNACEAE – DOGBANE FAMILY
Asclepias californica California milkweed
Asclepias fascicularis narrow-leaf milkweed
Carrissa spp. Carissa
Nerium oleander common oleander
Trachelospermum jasminoides star jasmine
Vinca major greater periwinkle
ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY
Ambrosia confertiflora weak-leaved burweed
Ambrosia psilostachya western ragweed
Artemisia californica California sagebrush
Artemisia dracunculus tarragon
Baccharis pilularis ssp. *consanguinea* [*B. pilularis*] coyote bush
Baccharis salicifolia ssp. *salicifolia* [*B. salicifolia*] mule fat

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
*Bellis perennis**   English daisy
Bidens pilosa   common beggar-ticks
Carduus pycnocephalus ssp. *pycnocephalus**   Italian thistle
*Centaurea melitensis**   tocalote, Malta star-thistle
*Cirsium vulgare**   bull thistle
Corethrogyne filaginifolia [*Lessingia f.*]   California-aster
Deinandra fasciculata [*Hemizonia f.*]   fascicled tarweed
Dimorphotheca fruticosa [*Osteospermum f.*]*   trailing African daisy
Encilia californica   California brittlebush
Ericameria spp.   goldenbush
Erigeron canadensis [*Conyza c.*]   common horseweed
*Gazania linearis**   gazania
Glebionis coronaria [*Chrysanthemum coronarium*]*   garland daisy
Grindelia camporum   white-stem gumplant
*Hedypnois cretica**   Crete weed
Helianthus annuus   western sunflower
Helminthotheca echioides [*Picris e.*]*   bristly ox-tongue
Heterotheca grandiflora   telegraph weed
*Hypochaeris glabra**   smooth cat's ear
*Hypochaeris radicata**   rough cat's ear
Isocoma menziesii   coastal goldenbush
*Lactuca serriola**   prickly lettuce
Malacothrix saxatilis var. *tenuifolia*   slender-leaved malacothrix
Pseudognaphalium biolettii [*Gnaphalium bicolor*]   bicolored everlasting, Bioletti's cudweed
Pseudognaphalium californicum [*Gnaphalium c.*]   California everlasting

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
Pseudognaphalium canescens [*Gnaphalium c.*] everlasting
*Senecio vulgaris** common groundsel
*Silybum marianum** milk thistle
Sonchus asper ssp. *asper** prickly sow thistle
*Sonchus oleraceus** Common sow thistle
Stephanomeria virgata ssp. *virgata* tall wreath plant
*Taraxacum officinale** common dandelion
Xanthium strumarium cocklebur
BERBERIDACEAE – BARBERRY FAMILY
Berberis dictyota [*Berberis aquifolium* var. *d.*] California barberry
*Nandina domestica** heavenly bamboo
BIGNONIACEAE – BIGNONIA FAMILY
Jacaranda sp.* jacaranda
*Tecomaria capensis** cape honeysuckle
BORAGINACEAE – BORAGE FAMILY
*Echium candicans** pride of Madera
Phacelia ramosissima branching phacelia
BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY
*Brassica nigra** black mustard
*Hirschfeldia incana** shortpod mustard
Lepidium didymum [*Coronopus didymum*]* lesser swine crest
*Lobularia maritima** sweet alyssum
*Raphanus raphanistrum** jointed charlock
*Raphanus sativus** radish
CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY
*Opuntia ficus-indica** mission prickly-pear
Opuntia littoralis coastal prickly-pear

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
Opuntia oricola chaparral prickly-pear
CLEOMACEAE – SPIDERFLOWER FAMILY
Peritoma arborea [*Isomeris a.*] bladderpod
CARYOPHYLLACEAE – PINK FAMILY
Spergula sp. sand-spurry
CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
*Atriplex semibaccata** Australian saltbush
*Chenopodium album** lamb's quarters
*Salsola tragus** Russian thistle
CISTACEAE – ROCK-ROSE FAMILY
Cistus incanus [*C. creticus*]* Heywood cretan rock-rose
*Cistus purpureus** orchid rock-rose
CONVOLVULACEAE – MORNING-GLORY FAMILY
Calystegia macrostegia large-bracted morning-glory
*Convolvulus arvensis** bindweed
CRASSULACEAE – STONECROP FAMILY
Crassula connate pygmy-weed
*Crassula ovata** jade plant
CUCURBITACEAE – GOURD FAMILY
Marah macrocarpus wild cucumber
ERICACEAE – HEATH FAMILY
*Arbutus unedo** strawberry tree
EUPHORBIACEAE – SPURGE FAMILY
*Euphorbia peplus** petty spurge
*Euphorbia tiucalli** firestick plant
*Ricinus communis** castor bean
FABACEAE – LEGUME FAMILY
Acacia sp.* acacia
*Acacia longifolia** Sydney golden wattle
Acmispon americanus [*Lotus purshianus*] American lotus

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
Acmispon glaber var. *glaber* [*Lotus scoparius* var. *scoparius*] coastal deerweed
Acmispon strigosus [*Lotus s.*] strigose lotus
Bauhinia sp.* butterfly tree
*Lathyrus odoratus** sweet pea
Lupinus latifolius broadleaf lupine
Lupinus succulentus arroyo lupine
Lupinus truncates truncate lupine, collar lupine
*Medicago polymorpha** California burclover
*Melilotus alba** white sweetclover
*Spartium junceum** Spanish broom
*Tipuana tipu** rosewood tree
*Trifolium hirtum** rose clover
*Vicia villosa** hairy vetch
FAGACEAE – OAK/BEECH FAMILY
Quercus agrifolia coact live oak
Quercus berberidifolia California scrub oak
*Quercus ilex** holly oak
*Quercus virginiana** southern live oak
GERANIACEAE – GERANIUM FAMILY
*Erodium botrys** long-beaked filaree
*Erodium cicutarium** red-stemmed filaree
*Erodium moschatum** white-stemmed filaree
Geranium carolinianum Carolina geranium
Pelargonium sp.* garden geranium
GROSSULARIACEAE – GOOSEBERRY FAMILY
Ribes sanguineum redflower currant

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
JUGLANDACEAE – WALNUT FAMILY
Juglans californica Southern California black walnut
LAMIACEAE – MINT FAMILY
*Marrubium vulgare** common horehound
Salvia apiana white sage
Salvia leucophylla purple sage
Salvia mellifera black sage
Stachys sp. hedge nettle
MALVACEAE – MALLOW FAMILY
*Ceiba speciosa** silk-floss tree
*Malva nicaeensis** bull mallow
*Malva parviflora** cheeseweed
*Malva sylvestris** high mallow
MORACEAE – FIG FAMILY
*Ficus carica** edible fig
MYRSINACEAE – MYRSINE FAMILY
*Anagallis arvensis** scarlet pimpernel
MYRTACEAE – MYRTLE FAMILY
*Acca sellowiana** pineapple guava
Eucalyptus spp.* gum
*Leptospermum laevigatum** Australian tea tree
*Melaleuca leucondendron** caieput tree
NYCTAGINACEAE – FOUR-O'CLOCK FAMILY
Mirabilis laevis var. *crassifolia* [*M. californica*] wishbone bush
OLEACEAE – OLIVE FAMILY
Fraxinus velutina velvet ash
*Olea europaea** olive
ONAGRACEAE – EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY
Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia [*Camissonia c.*] beach evening-primrose

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
Oenothera elata ssp. *hirsutissima* great marsh evening-primrose
*Oenothera speciosa** showy-white evening-primrose
OXALIDACEAE – WOOD-SORREL FAMILY
*Oxalis corniculata** yellow sorrel
*Oxalis pes-caprae** Bermuda buttercup
PAPAVERACEAE – POPPY FAMILY
Eschscholzia californica California poppy
Romneya coulteri Coulter's matilija poppy
PASSIFLORACEAE – PASSION FRUIT FAMILY
*Passiflora caerulea** blue passion flower
PHRYMACEAE – LOPSEED FAMILY
Mimulus aurantiacus sticky monkeyflower
Mimulus aurantiacus var. *puniceus* red bush monkeyflower
PLANTAGINACEAE – PLANTAIN FAMILY
Penstemon sp. beardtongue
*Plantago lanceolata** English plantain
*Plantago major** common plantain
*Veronica persica** Persian speedwell
PLATANACEAE – SYCAMORE FAMILY
Platanus racemosa western sycamore
PLUMBAGINACEAE – LEADWORT FAMILY
Limonium californicum western marsh-rosemary
*Plumbago auricalata** cape plumbago
POLYGONACEAE – BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *fasciculatum* coastal California buckwheat
Eriogonum latifolium coast buckwheat
Polygonum aviculare ssp. *depressum* [*Polygonum arenastrum*]* common knotweed
*Rumex conglomeratus** whorled dock

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
*Rumex crispus** curly dock
RHAMNACEAE – BUCKTHORN FAMILY
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus Blue-blossom ceanothus
ROSACEAE – ROSE FAMILY
Cotoneaster sp. cotoneaster
Heteromeles arbutifolia toyon
*Prunus cerasifera** ornamental plum
Prunus ilicifolia hollyleaf cherry
Prunus lyonii Catalina cherry
*Prunus persica** peach
Pyrus sp. ornamental pear
Rosa californica California rose
RUBIACEAE – MADDER FAMILY
*Sherardia arvensis** field madder
SALICACEAE – WILLOW FAMILY
Salix exigua narrowleaf willow
Salix laevigata red willow
Salix lasiolepis arroyo willow
*Xylosma congestum** Shiny xylosma
SAPINDACEAE – SOAP BERRY FAMILY
Acer sp. maple
SCROPHULARIACEAE – FIGWORT FAMILY
Myoporum laetum myoporum
*Verbascum virgatum** wand mullein
SIMAROUBACEAE – QUASSIA FAMILY
*Ailanthus altissima** tree of life
SOLANACEAE – NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
Datura wrightii jimson weed
*Nicotiana glauca** tree tobacco

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
Solanum douglasii Douglas' nightshade
TROPAEOLACEAE – NASTURTIUM FAMILY
*Tropaeolum majus** garden nasturtium
VERBENACEAE – VERVAIN FAMILY
*Latana camara** Spanish flag
MONOCOTS
ARECACEAE – PALM FAMILY
*Phoenix dactylifera** date palm
POACEAE – GRASS FAMILY
*Arundo donax** giant reed
*Avena barbata** slender wild oat
Tribe Bambuseae bamboo
*Bromus diandrus** ripgut grass
*Bromus hordeaceus** soft chess
*Cortaderia selloana** pampas grass
*Cynodon dactylon** Bermuda grass
Elymus condensatus [*Leymus c.*] giant wild rye
Festuca perennis [*Lolium perenne, L. multiflorum*]* perennial ryegrass
Festuca sp. [*Vulpia* sp.] fescue
Hordeum murinum var. *leporinum** hare barley
*Lamarckia aurea** goldentop
Melica imperfect little California melic grass
*Pennisetum setaceum** crimson fountain grass
*Poa annua** annual bluegrass
Stipa lepida [*Nassella l.*] foothill needlegrass
Stipa miliacea [*Piptatherum miliacea*]* smilo grass
Stipa pulchra [*Nassella p.*] purple needlegrass

TABLE A-1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
GYMNOSPERMS
CUPRESSACEAE – CYPRESS FAMILY
Calocedrus decurrens California incense cedar
*Cedrus atlantica** atlas cedar
Cedrus deodara'* Deodar cedar
Hesperocyparis spp.* western cypress
Juniperus sp.* juniper
Thuja sp.* arborvitae
PINACEAE – PINE FAMILY
Larix sp. larch
Pinus canariensis Canary Island pine
Pinus halepensis Aleppo pine
Pinus radiate Monterrey pine
* non-native to the region it was found

TABLE A-2
WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
Reptiles
COLUBRIDAE – COLUBRID SNAKES
Masticophus flagellum coachwhip
EMYDIDAE – WATER AND BOX TURTLES
Trachemys scripta elegans red-eared slider
PHRYNOSOMATIDAE – ZEBRA-TAILED, FRINGE-TOED, SPINY, TREE, SIDE-BLOTCHED, AND HORNED LIZARDS
Sceloporus occidentalis western fence lizard
Birds
ACCIPITRIDAE – HAWKS
Buteo jamaicensis red-tailed hawk
Buteo lineatus red-shouldered hawk
AEGITHALIDAE – BUSHTITS
Psaltriparus minimus bushtit
ANATIDAE – WATERFOWL
Anas platyrhynchos mallard
ARDEIDAE – HERONS, BITTERNS, AND ALLIES
Nycticorax nycticorax black-crowned night heron
CARDINALIDAE – CARDINALS AND ALLIES
Pheucticus melanocephalus black-headed grosbeak
Passerina amoena lazuli bunting
CHARADRIIDAE – PLOVERS
Charadrius vociferous killdeer
COLUMBIDAE – PIGEONS AND DOVES
Columba livia rock pigeon*
Zenaida macroura mourning dove
CORVIDAE – CROWS AND JAYS
Aphelocoma californica western scrub-jay
Corvus brachyrhynchos American crow
Corvus corax common raven

TABLE A-2
WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
EMBERIZIDAE – SPARROWS AND JUNCOS
Junco hyemalis dark-eyed junco
Melospiza melodia song sparrow
Melozone [Pipilo] crissalis California towhee
Pipilo maculates spotted towhee
Zonotrichia leucophrys white-crowned sparrow
FALCONIDAE – FALCONS
Falco sparvarius American kestrel
FRINGILLIDAE – FINCHES
Carpodacus mexicanus house finch
Spinus [*Carduelis*] *psaltria* lesser goldfinch
HIRUNDINIDAE – SWALLOWS
Hirundo rustica barn swallow
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota cliff swallow
Stelgidopteryx serripennis northern rough-winged swallow
ICTERIDAE – BLACKBIRDS
Euphagus cyanocephalus Brewer's blackbird
Icterus cucullatus hooded oriole
*Molothrus ater** brown-headed cowbird
LARIDAE – GULLS AND TERNS
Larus occidentalis western gull
MIMIDAE – THRASHERS
Mimus polyglottos northern mockingbird
Toxostoma redivivum California thrasher
PARULIDAE – WARBLERS
Geothlypis trichas Common yellowthroat
PASSERIDAE – OLD WORLD SPARROWS
*Passer domesticus** house sparrow

TABLE A-2
WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
PHALACROCORACIDAE – CORMORANTS
Phalacrocorax auritus double-crested cormorant
PICIDAE – WOODPECKERS
Picoides nuttallii Nuttall's woodpecker
PTILOGONATIDAE – SILKY FLYCATCHER
Phainopepla nitens Phainopepla
RALLIDAE – RAILS
Fulica americana American coot
STURNIDAE – STARLINGS
*Sturnus vulgaris** European starling
TIMALIIDAE – WRENTITS
Chamaea fasciata Wrentit
TROCHILIDAE – HUMMINGBIRDS
Archilochus alexandri black-chinned hummingbird
Calypte anna Anna's hummingbird
Selasphorus sasin Allen's hummingbird
TROGLODYTIDAE – WRENS
Thryomanes bewickii Bewick's wren
Troglodytes aedon house wren
TURDIDAE – THRUSHES AND ROBINS
Sialia mexicana western bluebird
Turdus migratorius American robin
TYRANNIDAE – TYRANT FLYCATCHERS
Empidonax difficilis Pacific-slope flycatcher
Myiarchus cinerascens ash-throated flycatcher
Sayornis nigricans black phoebe
Tyrannus vociferans Cassin's kingbird
Mammals
FELIDAE – CATS
Felis catus feral cat

TABLE A-2
WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED

Species
GEOMYIDAE – POCKET GOPHERS
Thomomys bottae Botta's pocket gopher
LEPORIDAE – HARES AND RABBITS
Sylvilagus bachmani brush rabbit
MEPHITIDAE – SKUNKS
Mephitis mephitis striped skunk
SCIURIDAE – SQUIRRELS
Sciurus niger fox squirrel
Spermophilus beecheyi California ground squirrel
* non-native to the region it was found

APPENDIX B

RESULTS OF SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SURVEYS
LETTER REPORT

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November 29, 2012

Ms. Emily Duchon
Mr. Randy Anderson
Alta Planning and Design
448 South Hill Street, Suite 501
Los Angeles, California 90013

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL
emilyduchon@altaplanning.com
randyanderson@altaplanning.com

Subject: Results of Special Status Plant Surveys for the Park to Playa Trail Project, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Ms. Duchon and Mr. Anderson:

This Letter Report presents the findings of special status plant surveys conducted for a portion of the Park to Playa Trail Project (hereinafter referred to as "the Proposed Project") in Los Angeles County, California (Exhibit 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The objective of the Proposed Project is to create a regional trail system and greenway by linking together and improving existing trail segments and building new trail segments within a series of public parks and open spaces. Identity and wayfinding signage and markings, orientation signs/maps and street crossing improvements are small but important improvements to allow users to follow the route. The Proposed Project includes one new parking area; some added user amenities (e.g., benches in strategic locations); and two additional shade structures to augment existing shade structures along the route. In some locations, split rail fence may be used as a barrier between switchbacks, at closed volunteer trails, or at trailheads to frame entry points. Another major objective of the Proposed Project is to restore native coastal scrub habitat in existing disturbed or ornamental landscape areas along the route.

The western portion of the Park to Playa Trail, from Culver City to the coast at Playa del Rey is completed. Also known as the Ballona Creek Bike Path/Greenway, it follows a flood-control channel maintenance access road along the channelized Ballona Creek and ends near the eastern leg's western terminus. The corridor for the eastern portion of the trail that constitutes the current Proposed Project lies within Baldwin Hills, within Los Angeles County and the Cities of Los Angeles and Culver City. The Project area begins in Culver City Park, which is located to the east of the Ballona Creek Bike Path/Greenway and is owned and operated by the City of Culver City. Trails in this park connect to the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, owned and operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. From the overlook, the trail will extend east through the Blair Hills Corridor (i.e., land owned by the Baldwin Hills Conservation Authority); and the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) and the Stocker Corridor, both owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation but operated by Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. At the Stocker Corridor, the route will have connections to the City of Los Angeles' Norman O. Houston Park and Los Angeles County's Ruben Ingold Park.

The survey area includes the proposed project footprint plus a 100-foot buffer (where feasible) along the trail alignment to ensure adequate coverage of all potential project disturbance areas. The survey area is located on the U.S. Geological Surveys' (USGS') Beverly Hills, Hollywood, and Inglewood 7.5-minute quadrangles (Exhibit 2). Topography in the survey area includes approximately seven miles of hills, valleys, and development ranging in elevation from approximately 80 to 510 feet above mean sea level (msl). Vegetation types in the survey area consist of coastal sage scrub, toyon chaparral, elderberry scrub, eucalyptus woodland, mule fat scrub, native grassland, oak woodland, ornamental, ruderal, southern willow scrub, open water, willow forest, developed and disturbed areas. Soil types mapped in the survey area consist of Hanford association, 2 to 5 slopes; Yolo association; Cropley association; Romona-Placentia association, 2 to 5 percent slopes; and Pleasanton-Ojai association, 2 to 9 percent slopes (USDA 1969).

METHODS

Botanical surveys were floristic in nature and conducted following the *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (CDFG 2009) and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS') Botanical Survey Guidelines (CNPS 2001). Prior to the field survey, a literature review was conducted to identify special status plants known from the general vicinity of the survey area. This included a review of the USGS' Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Los Angeles, South Gate, Inglewood, and Venice 7.5-minute quadrangles in the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG's) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFG 2012) and the CNPS' Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2012).

For special status plant surveys, rainfall received in the winter and spring determines the germination of many annual and perennial herb species. The precipitation sensor nearest to the site is the Los Angeles-WSO Airport sensor (CDEC Station LAN), approximately 4.5 miles east of the Project site. The average precipitation from October to June for calendar years 2002–2011 was 11.87 inches (CDWR 2012). Rainfall in 2011–2012 (October–June) was 7.60 inches, which is 64 percent of average (CDWR 2012). The 2011–2012 winter season was drier than normal in the region, particularly in the early season when only 4.18 inches of precipitation were recorded between October 2011 and January 2012; most of this winter season's rain fell after February 2012.

In years of below-average rainfall, monitoring of reference populations is important in order to interpret survey results. Reference populations (Table 1) were monitored for annual and difficult-to-detect target species with potential to occur in the survey area to ensure that the scheduled surveys were comprehensive and conducted during these species' appropriate blooming period.

Target species consisted of special status plant species reported and/or known to occur in the project region and with potentially suitable habitat present in the survey area (Table 2). An early spring plant survey was conducted by BonTerra Consulting Senior Botanist Robert Allen and BonTerra Consulting Botanist David Hughes on April 29 and 30, 2012. A late spring plant survey was conducted by Consulting Botanist Pam De Vries, assisted by Otto Gasser on June 7 and 8, 2012. A total of 36 person-hours were used to complete the surveys. Suitable habitat for special status plant species in the survey area was systematically surveyed during the site visits. Areas not accessible by foot were scanned with binoculars, where feasible. All plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Global Positioning System (GPS) units were used to map locations of special status plant species in the survey area. Plant species were

identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using keys in Baldwin et al. (2012). Taxonomy follows Baldwin et al. (2012) for scientific and common names.

TABLE 1
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES REFERENCE POPULATIONS
CHECKED PRIOR TO FOCUSED SURVEYS

Species	Date Observed Flowering	Location
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's milk-vetch	April 23, 2012	Claremont
California macrophylla round-leaved filaree	Not observed in bloom	Lake Elsinore
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa lily	June 8, 2012	Tujunga Dam area
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis* southern tarplant	June 12, 2012	Riverside area
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	April 18, 2012	San Juan Capistrano

SURVEY RESULTS

Table 2 summarizes the survey results and characterizes the habitat suitability for each special status plant species known to occur in the vicinity of the survey area. One special status species was observed in the survey area: Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), discussed below. Representative photographs of the survey area and walnut trees are shown in Attachment A. A list of all plants observed during the 2012 surveys is included in Attachment B. CNDDB Field Survey Forms for the special status walnut trees are included as Attachment C.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES KNOWN TO OCCUR
IN THE SURVEY AREA VICINITY

Species	Status			Habitat Suitability Within the Survey Area and Survey Results
	USFWS	CDFG	CRPR	
Arenaria paludicola marsh sandwort	FE	SE	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's milk-vetch	FE	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. *lanosissimus* Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE	SE	1B.1	No suitable habitat present; outside current known range. Not observed.
Astragalus tener var. *titi* coastal dunes milk-vetch	FE	SE	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Atriplex parishii Parish's brittlescale	–	–	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii* Davidson's saltscale	–	–	1B.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
California macrophylla round-leaved filaree	–	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa lily	–	–	4.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.

TABLE 2 (Continued)
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES KNOWN TO OCCUR
IN THE SURVEY AREA VICINITY

Species	Status			Habitat Suitability Within the Survey Area and Survey Results
	USFWS	CDFG	CRPR	
Calystegia sepium ssp. *binghamiae* Santa Barbara morning-glory	–	–	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Camissoniopsis lewisii [*Camissonia l.*] Lewis' evening-primrose	–	–	3	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis* southern tarplant	–	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Chaenactis glabriuscula var. *orcuttiana* Orcutt's pincushion	–	–	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Chenopodium littoreum coastal goosefoot	–	–	1B.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *maritimum* salt marsh bird's-beak	FE	SE	1B.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Dithyrea maritima beach spectaclepod	–	ST	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	–	–	1B.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Helianthus nuttallii ssp. *parishii* Los Angeles sunflower	–	–	1A	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Hordeum intercedens bobtail barley	–	–	3.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula* mesa horkelia	–	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Juglans californica Southern California black walnut	**–**	**–**	**4.2**	**Suitable habitat present. Observed.**
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri* Coulter's goldfields	–	–	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Lepidium virginicum var. *robinsonii* Robinson's pepper-grass	–	–	1B.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Nama stenocarpum mud nama	–	–	2.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Nasturtium gambelii Gambel's water cress	FE	ST	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Navarretia fossalis spreading navarretia	FT	–	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Navarretia prostrata prostrate vernal pool navarretia	–	–	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt grass	FE	SE	1B.1	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Phacelia ramosissima var. *austrolitoralis* south coast branching phacelia	–	–	3.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Phacelia stellaris Brand's star phacelia	FC	–	1B.1	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Potentilla multijuga Ballona cinquefoil	–	–	1A	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum white rabbit-tobacco	–	–	2.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.

TABLE 2 (Continued)
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES KNOWN TO OCCUR
IN THE SURVEY AREA VICINITY

Species	Status			Habitat Suitability Within the Survey Area and Survey Results
	USFWS	CDFG	CRPR	
Ribes divaricatum var. *parishii* Parish's gooseberry	–	–	1A	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Sidalcea neomexicana salt spring checkerbloom	–	–	2.2	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino aster	–	–	1B.2	Potentially suitable habitat present. Not observed.
Symphyotrichum greatae Greata's aster	–	–	1B.3	No suitable habitat present. Not observed.

LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS) **State (CDFG)**

FE Endangered SE Endangered
FT Threatened ST Threatened
FC Federal Candidate

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

1A Plants Presumed Extinct in California
1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2 Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere
3 Plants About Which We Need More Information – A Review List
4 Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List

CRPR Threat Code Extensions

None Plants lacking any threat information
.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 Fairly threatened in California (20 – 80% of occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
.3 Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened; low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Note: Items in boldface type denote special status species that were observed in the survey area.

Southern California Black Walnut *(Juglans californica)*

Southern California black walnut has a CRPR of 4.2. This deciduous tree occurs on hillsides and canyons at elevations between approximately 100 and 2,950 feet above msl (Baldwin et al. 2012). It is known from the Outer South Coast Ranges, cultivated in the Santa Lucia Range, and southwestern California, excluding the Channel Islands and the San Bernardino Mountains (Baldwin et al. 2012). In the survey area, this species occurs in the parking lot of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and the Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area (Table 4; Exhibit 3).

TABLE 4
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLACK WALNUT
OCCURRENCE INFORMATION

Population	Number of Individuals	Location and Coordinates (WGS 84)	Phenology	Habitat and Associated Species
1	2	34.008234N; 118.368018 W At the base of the slope adjacent to the maintained recreation (turf) area.	100% vegetative	Transition between ornamental and disturbed coastal sage scrub with toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), gum tree (*Eucalyptus* sp.), and petty spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*).
2	4	34.008974N; 118.366442W At west side of the trail at the top of a steep slope.	75% fruiting; 25% vegetative	Coastal sage scrub with California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), wild oats (*Avena* sp.), and petty spurge.
3	6	34.015764N; 118.381838W In the parking area medians (planted); 2 individuals are located in native habitat immediately adjacent to the parking area.	100% vegetative	Coastal sage scrub (apparent restoration) with white sage (*Salvia apiana)*, Spanish clover *(Acmispon americanus*), and California aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*).

CONCLUSIONS

Southern California black walnut trees located on site can likely be avoided during construction. Therefore, mitigation for this species would consist of measures (e.g., the use of protective fencing) to protect the trees during the construction phase.

Although regional rainfall amounts were monitored to ensure the scientific adequacy of these focused surveys, there is always a potential for false negative survey results, especially in years of lower rainfall, as species could possibly be present on a site but may not be detectable at the time of the survey.

Due to changes in climatic conditions from year to year, focused surveys results are typically valid for no more than two years. Special status plant species identified as having potentially suitable habitat on site may potentially occur in 2014 or later. A pre-construction survey, to be conducted within the year prior, is recommended for special status plants with potential to occur to confirm their absence or presence within areas scheduled for construction after March 1, 2014. If special status plant species are observed, the Biologist will determine the significance of the impact based on status of the species and the number of individuals to be impacted and will recommend appropriate mitigation (i.e., avoidance, protection, or translocation), if applicable.

If you have any comments or questions, please call Marc Blain at (626) 351-2000.

Sincerely,

BONTERRA CONSULTING

Thomas E. Smith, Jr., AICP
Principal

Marc T. Blain
Associate, Biological Resources Manager

Enclosures: Exhibit 1 – Regional Location
Exhibit 2 – Local Vicinity
Exhibit 3 – Special Status Plants
Attachment A – Site Photographs
Attachment B – Plant Compendium
Attachment C – CNDDB Forms

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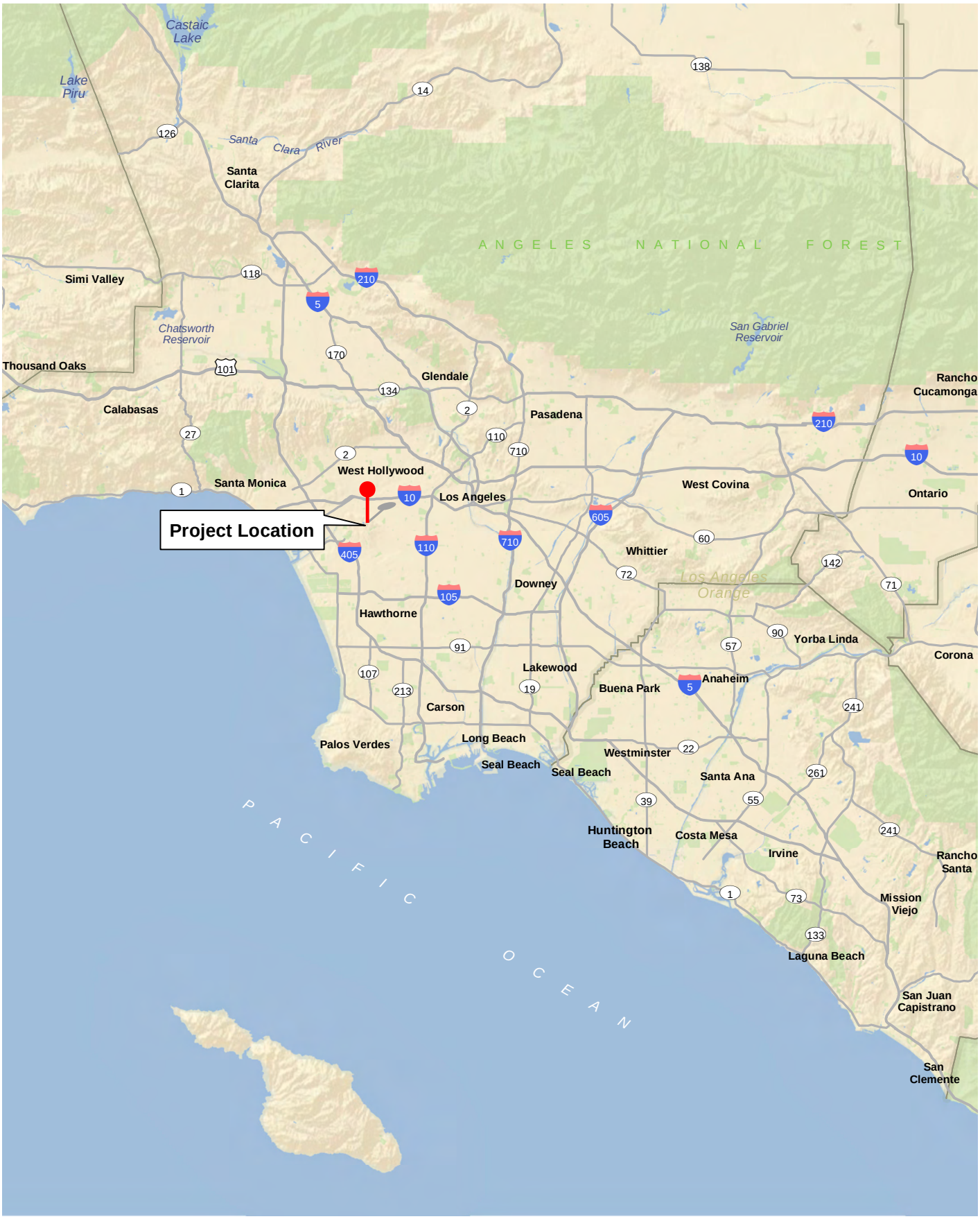

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Regional Location

Exhibit 1

Park to Playa Trail Project

N W E S

10 5 0 10 Miles

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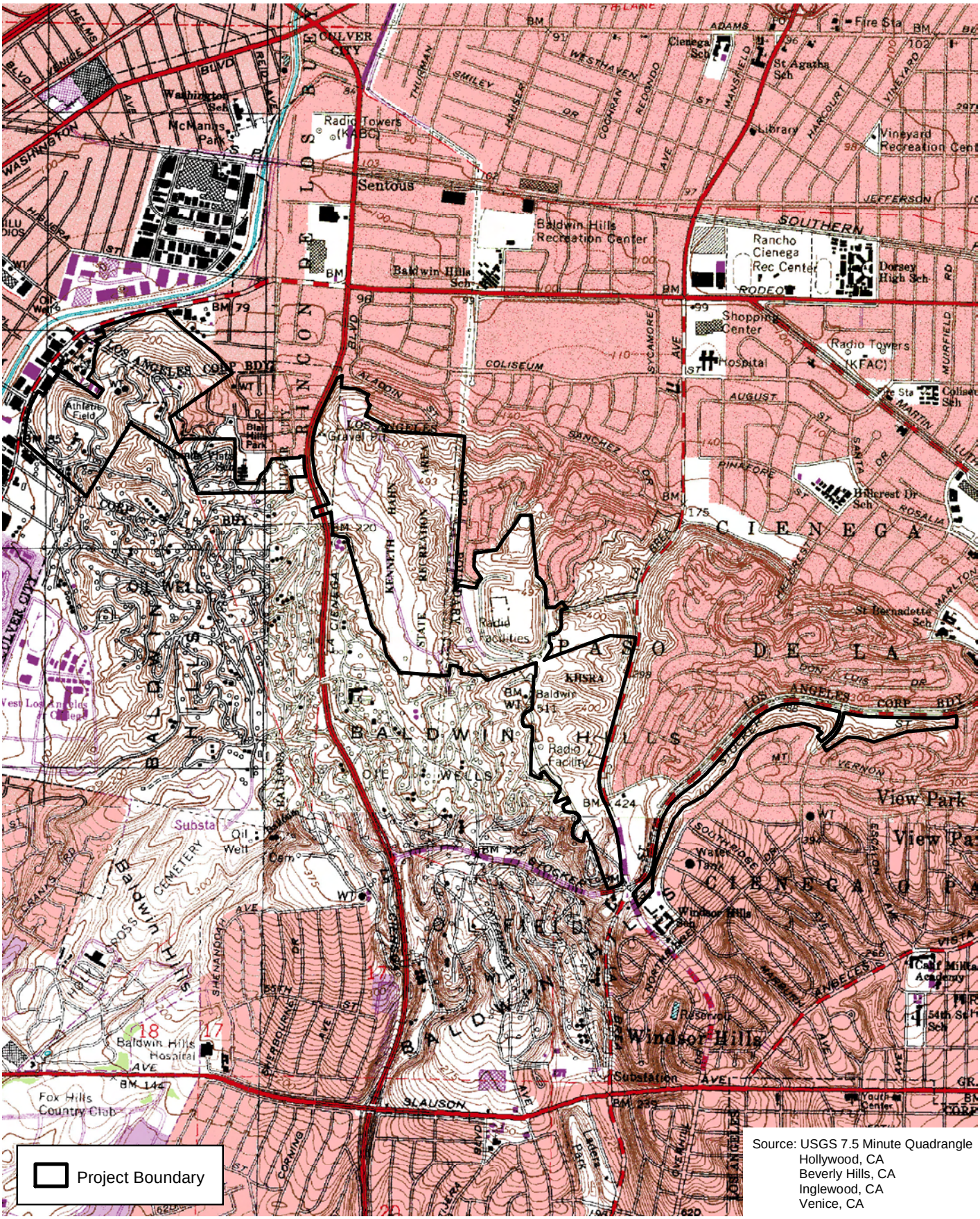

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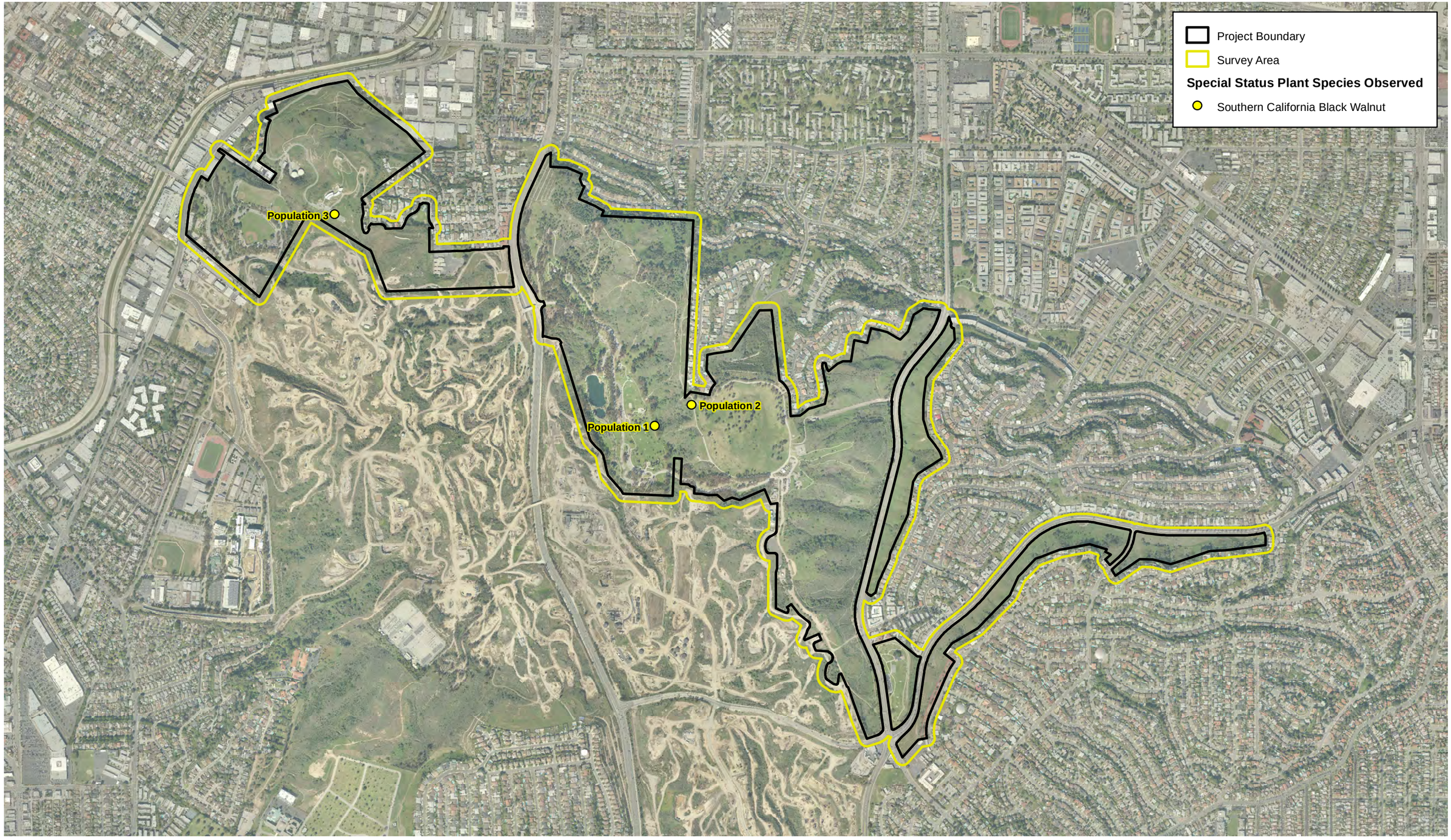
Local Vicinity

Exhibit 2

Park to Playa Trail Project

BonTerra CONSULTING



D:\Projects\Alta\J003\mxd\PlantReport\Ex_SSPlants.mxd

Special Status Plants

Exhibit 3

Park to Playa Trail Project

N W E S

1,200 600 0 1,200 Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev: 11-19-2012 JAZ) Projects/Alta/J003/Graphics/PlantReport/Ex3_SSPlants.pdf

ATTACHMENT A

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Representative photograph of coastal sage scrub communities.

Representative photograph of grassland communities.

Developed property with adjacent woodlands.

Existing developed trail within The Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area.

D:\Projects\Alta\J003\Graphics\ex_AttA1.ai

Site Photos

Attachment A-1

Park to Playa Trail Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

Ruderal vegetation surrounding the existing trail in the Stocker Cooridor.

Ornamental eucalyptus and pine trees.

Planted Southern California black walnuts within parking lot.

Southern California black walnut within coastal sage scrub.

D:\Projects\Alta\J003\Graphics\ex_AttA2.ai

Site Photos

Attachment A-2

Park to Playa Trail Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

(Rev 11/05/12 JAZ) Projects\Alta\J003\Graphics\PlantReport\Ex_AttA2.pdf

ATTACHMENT B

PLANT COMPENDIUM

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA DURING FOCUSED SURVEYS

Species	Common Name
GYMNOSPERMS	
CUPRESSACEAE – CYPRESS FAMILY	
Calocedrus decurrens	California incense-cedar
*Cedrus atlantica**	atlas cedar
*Cedrus deodara**	deodar cedar
Hesperocyparis spp.*	western cypress
Juniperus sp.*	juniper
Thuja sp.*	arborvitae
PINACEAE – PINE FAMILY	
Larix sp.	larch
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island pine
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo pine
Pinus radiata	Monterey pine
***ANGIOSPERMAE* – FLOWERING PLANTS**	
EUDICOTS	
ADOXACEAE – MUSKROOT FAMILY	
Sambucus nigra ssp. *caerulea* [*S. mexicana*]	blue elderberry
AIZOACEAE – FIG-MARIGOLD FAMILY	
*Carpobrotus edulis**	freeway iceplant
ANACARDIACEAE – SUMAC FAMILY	
Malosma laurina	laurel sumac
Rhus integrifolia	lemonade berry
Rhus ovata	sugar bush
*Schinus molle**	Peruvian pepper tree
*Schinus terebinthifolius**	Brazilian pepper tree
Toxicodendron diversilobum	western poison oak
APIACEAE – CARROT FAMILY	
*Foeniculum vulgare**	sweet fennel
APOCYNACEAE – DOGBANE FAMILY	
Asclepias californica	California milkweed
Asclepias fascicularis	narrow-leaf milkweed
Carissa sp.*	Carissa
*Nerium oleander**	common oleander
*Trachelospermum jasminoides**	star jasmine
*Vinca major**	greater periwinkle
ARALIACEAE – GINSENG FAMILY	
*Hedera helix**	English ivy
ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY	
Ambrosia confertiflora	weak-leaved burweed
Ambrosia psilostachya	western ragweed
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush
Artemisia dracunculus	tarragon

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA DURING FOCUSED SURVEYS (Continued)

Species	Common Name
Baccharis pilularis ssp. *consanguinea* [*B. pilularis*]	coyote brush
Baccharis salicifolia ssp. *salicifolia* [*B. salicifolia*]	mule fat
*Bellis perennis**	English daisy
*Bidens pilosa**	common beggar-ticks
Carduus pycnocephalus ssp. *pycnocephalus**	Italian thistle
*Centaurea melitensis**	tocalote, Malta star-thistle
*Cirsium vulgare**	bull thistle
Corethrogyne filaginifolia [*Lessingia f.*]	California-aster
Deinandra fasciculata [*Hemizonia f.*]	fascicled tarweed
Dimorphotheca fruticosa [*Osteospermum f.*]*	trailing African daisy
Encelia californica	California brittlebush
Ericameria sp.	goldenbush
Erigeron canadensis [*Conyza c.*]	common horseweed
*Gazania linearis**	gazania
Glebionis coronaria [*Chrysanthemum coronarium*]*	garland daisy
Grindelia camporum	white-stem gumplant
*Hedypnois cretica**	Crete weed
Helianthus annuus	western sunflower
Helminthotheca echioides [*Picris e.*]*	bristly ox-tongue
Heterotheca grandiflora	telegraph weed
*Hypochaeris glabra**	smooth cat's-ear
*Hypochaeris radicata**	rough cat's-ear
Isocoma menziesii	coastal goldenbush
*Lactuca serriola**	prickly lettuce
Malacothrix saxatilis var. *tenuifolia*	slender-leaved malacothrix
Pseudognaphalium biolettii [*Gnaphalium bicolor*]	bicolored everlasting, Bioletti's cudweed
Pseudognaphalium californicum [*Gnaphalium c.*]	California everlasting
Pseudognaphalium canescens [*Gnaphalium c.*]	everlasting
*Senecio vulgaris**	common groundsel
*Silybum marianum**	milk thistle
Sonchus asper ssp. *asper**	prickly sow thistle
*Sonchus oleraceus**	common sow thistle
Stephanomeria virgata ssp. *virgata*	tall wreath plant
*Taraxacum officinale**	common dandelion
Xanthium strumarium	cocklebur
BERBERIDACEAE – BARBERRY FAMILY	
Berberis dictyota [*Berberis aquifolium* var. *d.*]	California barberry
*Nandina domestica**	heavenly bamboo

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA DURING FOCUSED SURVEYS (Continued)

Species	Common Name
BIGNONIACEAE – BIGNONIA FAMILY	
Jacaranda sp.*	jacaranda
*Tecomaria capensis**	cape honeysuckle
BORAGINACEAE – BORAGE FAMILY	
*Echium candicans**	pride of Madera
Phacelia ramosissima	branching phacelia
BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY	
*Brassica nigra**	black mustard
*Hirschfeldia incana**	shortpod mustard
Lepidium didymum [*Coronopus didymum*]*	lesser swine cress
*Lobularia maritima**	sweet alyssum
*Raphanus raphanistrum**	jointed charlock
*Raphanus sativus**	radish
CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY	
*Opuntia ficus-indica**	mission prickly-pear
Opuntia littoralis	coastal prickly-pear
Opuntia oricola	chaparral prickly-pear
CLEOMACEAE – SPIDERFLOWER FAMILY	
Peritoma arborea [*Isomeris a.*]	bladderpod
CARYOPHYLLACEAE – PINK FAMILY	
Spergula sp.	sand-spurrey
CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY	
*Atriplex semibaccata**	Australian saltbush
*Chenopodium album**	lamb's quarters
*Salsola tragus**	Russian thistle
CISTACEAE – ROCK-ROSE FAMILY	
Cistus incanus [*C. creticus*]*	purple rock-rose
*Cistus purpureus**	orchis rock-rose
CONVOLVULACEAE – MORNING-GLORY FAMILY	
Calystegia macrostegia	large-bracted morning-glory
*Convolvulus arvensis**	bindweed
CRASSULACEAE – STONECROP FAMILY	
Crassula connate	pygmy-weed
*Crassula ovata**	jade plant
CUCURBITACEAE – GOURD FAMILY	
Marah macrocarpus	wild cucumber, chilicothe
ERICACEAE – HEATH FAMILY	
*Arbutus unedo**	strawberry tree
EUPHORBIACEAE – SPURGE FAMILY	
*Euphorbia peplus**	petty spurge
*Euphorbia tiucalli**	firestick plant
*Ricinus communis**	castor bean

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA DURING FOCUSED SURVEYS (Continued)

Species	Common Name
FABACEAE – LEGUME FAMILY	
Acacia sp.*	acacia
*Acacia longifolia**	Sydney golden wattle
Acmispon americanus [*Lotus purshianus*]	American lotus
Acmispon glaber var. *glaber* [*Lotus scoparius* var. *scoparius*]	coastal deerweed
Acmispon strigosus [*Lotus s.*]	strigose lotus
Bauhinia sp.*	butterfly tree
*Lathyrus odoratus**	sweet pea
Lupinus latifolius	broadleaf lupine
Lupinus succulentus	arroyo lupine
Lupinus truncatus	truncate lupine, collar lupine
*Medicago polymorpha**	California burclover
*Melilotus alba**	white sweetclover
*Spartium junceum**	Spanish broom
*Tipuana tipu**	rosewood tree
*Trifolium hirtum**	rose clover
*Vicia villosa**	hairy vetch, winter vetch
FAGACEAE – OAK/BEECH FAMILY	
Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak
Quercus berberidifolia	scrub oak, California scrub oak
*Quercus ilex**	holly oak
*Quercus virginiana**	southern live oak
GERANIACEAE – GERANIUM FAMILY	
*Erodium botrys**	long-beaked filaree
*Erodium cicutarium**	red-stemmed filaree
*Erodium moschatum**	white-stemmed filaree
Geranium carolinianum	Carolina geranium
Pelargonium sp.*	garden geranium
GROSSULARIACEAE – GOOSEBERRY FAMILY	
Ribes sanguineum	redflower currant
JUGLANDACEAE – WALNUT FAMILY	
Juglans californica	Southern California black walnut
LAMIACEAE – MINT FAMILY	
*Marrubium vulgare**	common horehound
Salvia apiana	white sage
Salvia leucophylla	purple sage
Salvia mellifera	black sage
Stachys sp.	hedge-nettle
MALVACEAE – MALLOW FAMILY	
*Ceiba speciosa**	silk-floss tree
*Malva nicaeensis**	bull mallow
*Malva parviflora**	cheeseweed
*Malva sylvestris**	high mallow

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA DURING FOCUSED SURVEYS (Continued)

Species	Common Name
MORACEAE – FIG FAMILY	
*Ficus carica**	edible fig
MYRSINACEAE – MYRSINE FAMILY	
*Anagallis arvensis**	scarlet pimpernel
MYRTACEAE – MYRTLE FAMILY	
*Acca sellowiana**	pineapple guave
Eucalyptus spp.*	gum
*Leptospermum laevigatum**	Australian tea tree
*Melaleuca leucondendron**	caieput tree
NYCTAGINACEAE – FOUR-O'CLOCK FAMILY	
Mirabilis laevis var. *crassifolia* [*M. californica*]	wishbone bush, California wishbone bush
OLEACEAE – OLIVE FAMILY	
Fraxinus velutina	velvet ash
*Olea europaea**	olive
ONAGRACEAE – EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY	
Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia [*Camissonia c.*]	beach evening-primrose
Oenothera elata ssp. *hirsutissima*	great marsh evening primrose
*Oenothera speciosa**	showy-white evening primrose
OXALIDACEAE – WOOD-SORREL FAMILY	
*Oxalis corniculata**	yellow sorrel
*Oxalis pes-caprae**	Bermuda buttercup, sour grass
PAPAVERACEAE – POPPY FAMILY	
Eschscholzia californica	California poppy
Romneya coulteri	Coulter's matilija poppy
PASSIFLORACEAE – PASSION FRUIT FAMILY	
*Passiflora caerulea**	blue passion flower
PHRYMACEAE – LOPSEED FAMILY	
Mimulus aurantiacus	bush monkeyflower
Mimulus aurantiacus var. *puniceus*	orange bush monkeyflower
PLANTAGINACEAE – PLANTAIN FAMILY	
Penstemon sp.	beardtongue
*Plantago lanceolata**	English plantain
*Plantago major**	common plantain
*Veronica persica**	Persian speedwell
PLATANACEAE – SYCAMORE FAMILY	
Platanus racemosa	western sycamore
PLUMBAGINACEAE – LEADWORT FAMILY	
Limonium californicum	western marsh-rosemary
*Plumbago auricalata**	cape plumbago
POLYGONACEAE – BUCKWHEAT FAMILY	
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *fasciculatum*	coastal California buckwheat
Eriogonum latifolium	coast buckwheat

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA DURING FOCUSED SURVEYS (Continued)

Species	Common Name
Polygonum aviculare ssp. *depressum* [*Polygonum arenastrum*]*	common knotweed
*Rumex conglomeratus**	whorled dock
*Rumex crispus**	curly dock
RHAMNACEAE – BUCKTHORN FAMILY	
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus	blue-blossom ceanothus
ROSACEAE – ROSE FAMILY	
Cotoneaster sp.	cotoneaster
Heteromeles arbutifolia	toyon, Christmas berry
*Prunus cerasifera**	ornamental plum
Prunus ilicifolia	holly-leaved cherry
Prunus lyonii	Catalina cherry
*Prunus persica**	peach
Pyrus sp.	ornamental pear
Rosa californica	California rose
RUBIACEAE – MADDER FAMILY	
*Sherardia arvensis**	field madder
SALICACEAE – WILLOW FAMILY	
Salix exigua	narrow-leaved willow
Salix laevigata	red willow
Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow
*Xylosma congestum**	shiny xylosma
SAPINDACEAE – SOAP BERRY FAMILY	
Acer sp.	maple
SCROPHULARIACEAE – FIGWORT FAMILY	
Myoporum laetum	myoporum
*Verbascum virgatum**	wand mullein
SIMAROUBACEAE – QUASSIA FAMILY	
*Ailanthus altissima**	tree of heaven
SOLANACEAE – NIGHTSHADE FAMILY	
Datura wrightii	jimson weed
*Nicotiana glauca**	tree tobacco
Solanum douglasii	Douglas' nightshade
TROPAEOLACEAE – NASTURTIUM FAMILY	
*Tropaeolum majus**	garden nasturtium
VERBENACEAE – VERVAIN FAMILY	
*Latana camara**	Spanish flag
ARECACEAE – PALM FAMILY	
*Phoenix dactylifera**	date palm
POACEAE – GRASS FAMILY	
*Arundo donax**	giant reed
*Avena barbata**	slender wild oat
Tribe *Bambuseae*	bamboo
*Bromus diandrus**	ripgut grass
*Bromus hordeaceus**	soft chess

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREA DURING FOCUSED SURVEYS (Continued)

Species	Common Name
*Cortaderia selloana**	pampas grass
*Cynodon dactylon**	Bermuda grass
Elymus condensatus [*Leymus c.*]	giant wild rye
Festuca perennis [*Lolium perenne, L. multiflorum*]*	perennial ryegrass
Festuca sp. [*Vulpia* sp.]	fescue
Hordeum murinum var. *leporinum**	hare barley
*Lamarckia aurea**	goldentop
Melica imperfecta	little California melic grass
*Pennisetum setaceum**	crimson fountain grass
*Poa annua**	annual bluegrass
Stipa lepida [*Nassella l.*]	foothill needlegrass
Stipa miliacea [*Piptatherum miliacea*]*	smilo grass
Stipa pulchra [*Nassella p.*]	purple needlegrass
* non-native to the region it was found	

ATTACHMENT C

CNDDB FORMS

Mail to:
California Natural Diversity Database
Department of Fish and Game
1807 13th Street, Suite 202
Sacramento, CA 95811
Fax: (916) 324-0475 email: CNDDB@dfg.ca.gov

Date of Field Work (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/07/2012

For Office Use Only
Source Code _____ Quad Code _____
Elm Code _____ Occ. No. _____
EO Index No. _____ Map Index No. _____

Reset

California Native Species Field Survey Form

Send Form

Scientific Name: *Juglans californica*

Common Name: southern California black walnut

Species Found? ☑ Yes ☐ No _____ If not, why?

Total No. Individuals 2 Subsequent Visit? ☐ yes ☑ no

Is this an existing NDDB occurrence? _____ Yes, Occ. # ☐ no ☑ unk.

Collection? If yes: _____ Number _____ Museum / Herbarium

Reporter: Pam De Vries
Address: P.O.Box 5173
Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222
E-mail Address: pdevries@frazmtn.com
Phone: (661) 242-1574

Plant Information

Phenology: 100 % vegetative _____ % flowering _____ % fruiting

Animal Information

_____ # adults _____ # juveniles _____ # larvae _____ # egg masses _____ # unknown

☐ wintering ☐ breeding ☐ nesting ☐ rookery ☐ burrow site ☐ other

Location Description ***(please attach map AND/OR fill out your choice of coordinates, below)***

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

County: Los Angeles Landowner / Mgr.: State of California
Quad Name: Hollywood Elevation: 317 feet
T____ R____ Sec ____, ____ ¼ of _____¼, Meridian: H☐ M☐ S☐ Source of Coordinates (GPS, topo. map & type): GPS
T____ R____ Sec ____, ____ ¼ of _____¼, Meridian: H☐ M☐ S☐ GPS Make & Model Garmin 76
DATUM: **NAD27** ☐ **NAD83** ☐ **WGS84** ☑ Horizontal Accuracy _____ meters/feet
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10 ☐ UTM Zone 11 ☐ ***OR*** Geographic (Latitude & Longitude) ☐
Coordinates: 34.008234N, 118/.368018W

Habitat Description (plants & animals) *plant communities, dominants, associates, substrates/soils, aspects/slope:*
Animal Behavior *(Describe observed behavior, such as territoriality, foraging, singing, calling, copulating, perching, roosting, etc., especially for avifauna):*

Transition between ornamental and disturbed coastal sage scrub, at base of slope, with Heteromeles arbutifolia, Eucalyptus sp., Euphorbia peplus

Please fill out separate form for other rare taxa seen at this site.

Site Information Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☑ Fair ☐ Poor

Immediate AND surrounding land use: Public park

Visible disturbances:

Threats:

Comments:

Determination: *(check one or more, and fill in blanks)*

- ☑ Keyed (cite reference): Baldwin 2012
- ☐ Compared with specimen housed at: _____
- ☐ Compared with photo / drawing in: _____
- ☐ By another person (name): _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Photographs: *(check one or more)*

	Slide	Print	Digital
Plant / animal	☐	☐	☑
Habitat	☐	☐	☐
Diagnostic feature	☐	☐	☐

May we obtain duplicates at our expense? yes ☑ no ☐

Mail to:
California Natural Diversity Database
Department of Fish and Game
1807 13th Street, Suite 202
Sacramento, CA 95811
Fax: (916) 324-0475 email: CNDDB@dfg.ca.gov

Date of Field Work (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/07/2012

For Office Use Only
Source Code _____ Quad Code _____
Elm Code _____ Occ. No. _____
EO Index No. _____ Map Index No. _____

Reset

California Native Species Field Survey Form

Send Form

Scientific Name: *Juglans californica*

Common Name: southern California black walnut

Species Found? ☑ Yes ☐ No _____ If not, why?

Total No. Individuals 4 Subsequent Visit? ☐ yes ☑ no

Is this an existing NDDB occurrence? _____ Yes, Occ. # ☐ no ☑ unk.

Collection? If yes: _____ Number _____ Museum / Herbarium

Reporter: Pam De Vries
Address: P.O.Box 5173
Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222
E-mail Address: pdevries@frazmtn.com
Phone: (661) 242-1574

Plant Information

Phenology: 25 % vegetative _____ % flowering 75 % fruiting

Animal Information

_____ # adults _____ # juveniles _____ # larvae _____ # egg masses _____ # unknown

☐ wintering ☐ breeding ☐ nesting ☐ rookery ☐ burrow site ☐ other

Location Description ***(please attach map AND/OR fill out your choice of coordinates, below)***

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

County: Los Angeles Landowner / Mgr.: State of California
Quad Name: Hollywood Elevation: 451 feet
T____ R____ Sec ____, ____ ¼ of _____¼, Meridian: H☐ M☐ S☐ Source of Coordinates (GPS, topo. map & type): GPS
T____ R____ Sec ____, ____ ¼ of _____¼, Meridian: H☐ M☐ S☐ GPS Make & Model Garmin 76
DATUM: **NAD27** ☐ **NAD83** ☐ **WGS84** ☑ Horizontal Accuracy _____ meters/feet
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10 ☐ UTM Zone 11 ☐ ***OR*** Geographic (Latitude & Longitude) ☐
Coordinates: 34.008974N, 118.366442W

Habitat Description (plants & animals) *plant communities, dominants, associates, substrates/soils, aspects/slope:*
Animal Behavior *(Describe observed behavior, such as territoriality, foraging, singing, calling, copulating, perching, roosting, etc., especially for avifauna):*

Along a park trail at edge of coastal sage scrub (top of a steep slope) with Artemisia californica, Avena sp., Euphorbia peplus

Please fill out separate form for other rare taxa seen at this site.

Site Information Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☑ Fair ☐ Poor

Immediate AND surrounding land use: Public park

Visible disturbances:

Threats:

Comments:

Determination: *(check one or more, and fill in blanks)*

- ☑ Keyed (cite reference): Baldwin 2012
- ☐ Compared with specimen housed at: _____
- ☐ Compared with photo / drawing in: _____
- ☐ By another person (name): _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Photographs: *(check one or more)*

	Slide	Print	Digital
Plant / animal	☐	☐	☑
Habitat	☐	☐	☐
Diagnostic feature	☐	☐	☐

May we obtain duplicates at our expense? yes ☑ no ☐

Mail to:
California Natural Diversity Database
Department of Fish and Game
1807 13th Street, Suite 202
Sacramento, CA 95811
Fax: (916) 324-0475 email: CNDDB@dfg.ca.gov

Date of Field Work (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/07/2012

For Office Use Only
Source Code _____ Quad Code _____
Elm Code _____ Occ. No. _____
EO Index No. _____ Map Index No. _____

Reset

California Native Species Field Survey Form

Send Form

Scientific Name: *Juglans californica*

Common Name: southern California black walnut

Species Found? ☑ Yes ☐ No _____ If not, why?

Total No. Individuals 6 Subsequent Visit? ☐ yes ☑ no

Is this an existing NDDB occurrence? _____ Yes, Occ. # ☐ no ☑ unk.

Collection? If yes: _____ Number _____ Museum / Herbarium

Reporter: Pam De Vries
Address: P.O.Box 5173
Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222
E-mail Address: pdevries@frazmtn.com
Phone: (661) 242-1574

Plant Information

Phenology: 100 % vegetative _____ % flowering _____ % fruiting

Animal Information

_____ # adults _____ # juveniles _____ # larvae _____ # egg masses _____ # unknown

☐ wintering ☐ breeding ☐ nesting ☐ rookery ☐ burrow site ☐ other

***Location Description* (please attach map *AND/OR* fill out your choice of coordinates, below)**

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

County: Los Angeles Landowner / Mgr.: State of California
Quad Name: Hollywood Elevation: 378 feet
T____ R____ Sec ____, ____ ¼ of _____¼, Meridian: H☐ M☐ S☐ Source of Coordinates (GPS, topo. map & type): GPS
T____ R____ Sec ____, ____ ¼ of _____¼, Meridian: H☐ M☐ S☐ GPS Make & Model Garmin 76
DATUM: **NAD27** ☐ **NAD83** ☐ **WGS84** ☑ Horizontal Accuracy _____ meters/feet
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10 ☐ UTM Zone 11 ☐ ***OR*** Geographic (Latitude & Longitude) ☐
Coordinates: 34.015764N, 118.381838W

Habitat Description (plants & animals) *plant communities, dominants, associates, substrates/soils, aspects/slope:*
Animal Behavior *(Describe observed behavior, such as territoriality, foraging, singing, calling, copulating, perching, roosting, etc., especially for avifauna):*

In parking area medians (planted) and in adjacent coastal sage scrub (reveg) with Salvia apiana, Acmispon americanus, Corerhrogyne filaginifolia

Please fill out separate form for other rare taxa seen at this site.

Site Information Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☑ Fair ☐ Poor

Immediate AND surrounding land use: Public park

Visible disturbances:

Threats:

Comments:

Determination: *(check one or more, and fill in blanks)*

- ☑ Keyed (cite reference): Baldwin 2012
- ☐ Compared with specimen housed at: _____
- ☐ Compared with photo / drawing in: _____
- ☐ By another person (name): _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Photographs: *(check one or more)*

	Slide	Print	Digital
Plant / animal	☐	☐	☑
Habitat	☐	☐	☐
Diagnostic feature	☐	☐	☐

May we obtain duplicates at our expense? yes ☑ no ☐

APPENDIX C

RESULTS OF FOCUSED SURVEYS FOR COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER

LEATHERMAN BIOCONSULTING, INC.
Biological Surveys, Management & Monitoring

August 10, 2012

Ms. Amber S. Oneal
BONTERRA CONSULTING
2 Executive Circle, Suite 175
Irvine, CA 92614

Subject: Results of California Gnatcatcher Survey for the Park to Playa Trails Project near Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Amber:

This letter reports the results of focused surveys to evaluate the presence or absence of the federally listed threatened California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) on the Park to Playa Trails Project near Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles County, California. The project site is located south of the I-10 Freeway between Jefferson Boulevard and South La Brea Avenue, adjacent to the communities of Baldwin Hills and Culver City. Habitat surveyed is bisected by South La Cienega Boulevard within the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park (to the west) and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (to the east). It occurs on the Beverly Hills and Hollywood USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle in Township 2 South, Range 14 West in portions of Sections 22 and 23 (Figure 1). Elevation ranged throughout the project area from 240 feet to 500 feet above mean sea level.

BACKGROUND

The California gnatcatcher was listed by the USFWS as a threatened species in 1993 (USFWS 1993). Historically it occurred in California from the Santa Clara River valley and northern San Fernando Valley south through the coastal foothills of San Diego County (Garrett and Dunn 1981). Habitat loss and fragmentation from expanding development and agriculture has been a major factor in the decline of this species in southern California (Atwood 1993). The USFWS originally designated critical habitat for the California gnatcatcher in 2000 (USFWS 2000); however, a proposal to revise the critical habitat was published in 2003 (USFWS 2003). The original critical habitat designation remains in effect until a final rule on the revised critical habitat designation is published. The USFWS has not developed a recovery plan for the California gnatcatcher.

The California gnatcatcher inhabits moderately dense stands of coastal sage scrub occurring on arid hillsides, mesas, and washes. Coastal sage scrub communities dominated by California sagebrush, California buckwheat, and white sage seem to be preferred by this species, but shrub composition in occupied areas across the species' range varies, as does shrub community structure (height, density,

etc.). Chaparral, riparian, and ruderal habitats may be used occasionally for dispersal and foraging, especially when these habitats are adjacent to occupied stands of coastal sage scrub. California gnatcatcher populations in inland areas usually occur in lower densities than in coastal sites, and generally occur in more open scrub habitats; as such, inland populations tend to have larger home ranges than coastal populations. California gnatcatcher elevational limit is as high as 2,640 ft., but most occurrences are well below that, with populations generally below 1,800 ft. in inland areas and below 1,350 in coastal habitats (Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

The California gnatcatcher is a resident (non-migratory) songbird that nests and forages in coastal sage scrub vegetation in southern California year-around. Territory size varies with season and locale. Territory size may increase by as much as 80% during the non-breeding season as pairs and individuals tend to wander more widely, and inland populations tend to have larger home ranges than coastal populations, as noted above. The breeding season generally occurs from March through July. Juvenile dispersal distances average less than 1.2 miles from natal territories, but have been documented up to nearly 6 miles.

EXISTING HABITAT

The Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area that comprise the survey area are surrounded by development that includes industrial/manufacturing to west, housing development to the north and east, and an active oil field (with patches of non-native grasslands and ruderal habitats) to the south. Several vegetation associations and open space habitats occur in the project area. Most of the habitat consists of coastal sage scrub with various non-native vegetation communities interspersed throughout the area. The coastal sage scrub is mostly restricted to the slopes in the open space portions of the parks. The quality of the coastal sage scrub habitat varies widely from high quality habitat that represents suitable habitat for the California gnatcatcher to low quality habitat that is considered marginally suitable. The coastal sage scrub within the site is dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), several species of sages (*Salvia* spp.) and brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*). The shallow drainages between the slopes and flat areas consist mostly of non-native annual grasslands and ruderal vegetation.

METHODS

Focused surveys were conducted by James Huelsman (USFWS permit # TE 827493-7). Survey methods followed the guidelines developed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conducting California gnatcatcher surveys. Surveys were aided in the field by the use of topographic maps and aerial photographs depicting the survey limits. Locations of special status species observed incidentally were recorded as waypoints using GPS technology (Garmin Etrex Venture, NAD83 UTM). The focus of the surveys was on the detection and identification of the California gnatcatcher, but all wildlife incidentally observed or detected on the project site was documented. A list of the species observed during the surveys is enclosed.

Surveys for the California gnatcatcher followed the current presence/absence protocol (USFWS 1997). Six surveys were conducted in all suitable habitat at least seven days apart between March 15 and June 30. Surveys were conducted between dawn and 1300 hours under suitable

weather conditions. The protocol allows coverage of 80 acres of suitable habitat per survey day, or a maximum rate of approximately 17 acres per hour, so with exception of the first survey, the entire site was surveyed in one day. The first survey was divided into two separate days. This provided the biologist time to figure out the project boundaries, evaluate the quality and distribution of the habitat to be surveyed, and find the best routes through the habitat. Surveys were conducted by walking slowly within and along the perimeter of coastal sage scrub stands while watching and listening for California gnatcatcher activity. Taped vocalizations were used conservatively to solicit a response from any gnatcatchers potentially present. The frequency of taped playback use varied with site conditions including habitat patch size, topography, and ambient noise levels. Survey dates, times and weather data for the focused California gnatcatcher surveys are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Dates, Times and Weather Conditions for California Gnatcatcher Surveys

DATE	TIME		WEATHER CONDITIONS		
	Start	Finish	Temp. (°F)	Ave. Wind (mph)	Cloud Cover
5/17/2012 Kenneth Hahn SRA	0600	1155	61 75	0-2 2-3	100% 0%
5/24/2012 Baldwin Hills SP	0600	0900	61 64	0-1 1-2	100% 50%
5/31/2012	0530	1300	59 70	0-1 2-4	100% 70%
6/7/2012	0530	1300	62 78	<1 2-4	0% 0%
6/14/2012	0540	1240	63 67	<1 2-4	100% 50%
6/21/2012	0530	1215	61 71	<1 2-4	100% 20%
6/28/2012	0545	1200	61 79	2-3 2-4	100% 0%

RESULTS

No California gnatcatchers were observed during any of the surveys. Therefore, we conclude that California gnatcatchers are not occupying the project site at this time.

A copy of this letter report will be sent to the USFWS per the conditions of my 10(a)(1)(A) permit. It has been a pleasure to conduct this survey effort for BonTerra Consulting. If you have any comments or questions regarding the information provided in this report you can reach me by phone at (714) 701-0863, or by email at bleathermanwlb@aol.com.

Sincerely,

LEATHERMAN BIOCONSULTING, INC.

Brian Leatherman
Principal Biologist

Enclosures

C:/…bonterra/BON.49 Baldwin Hills CAGN

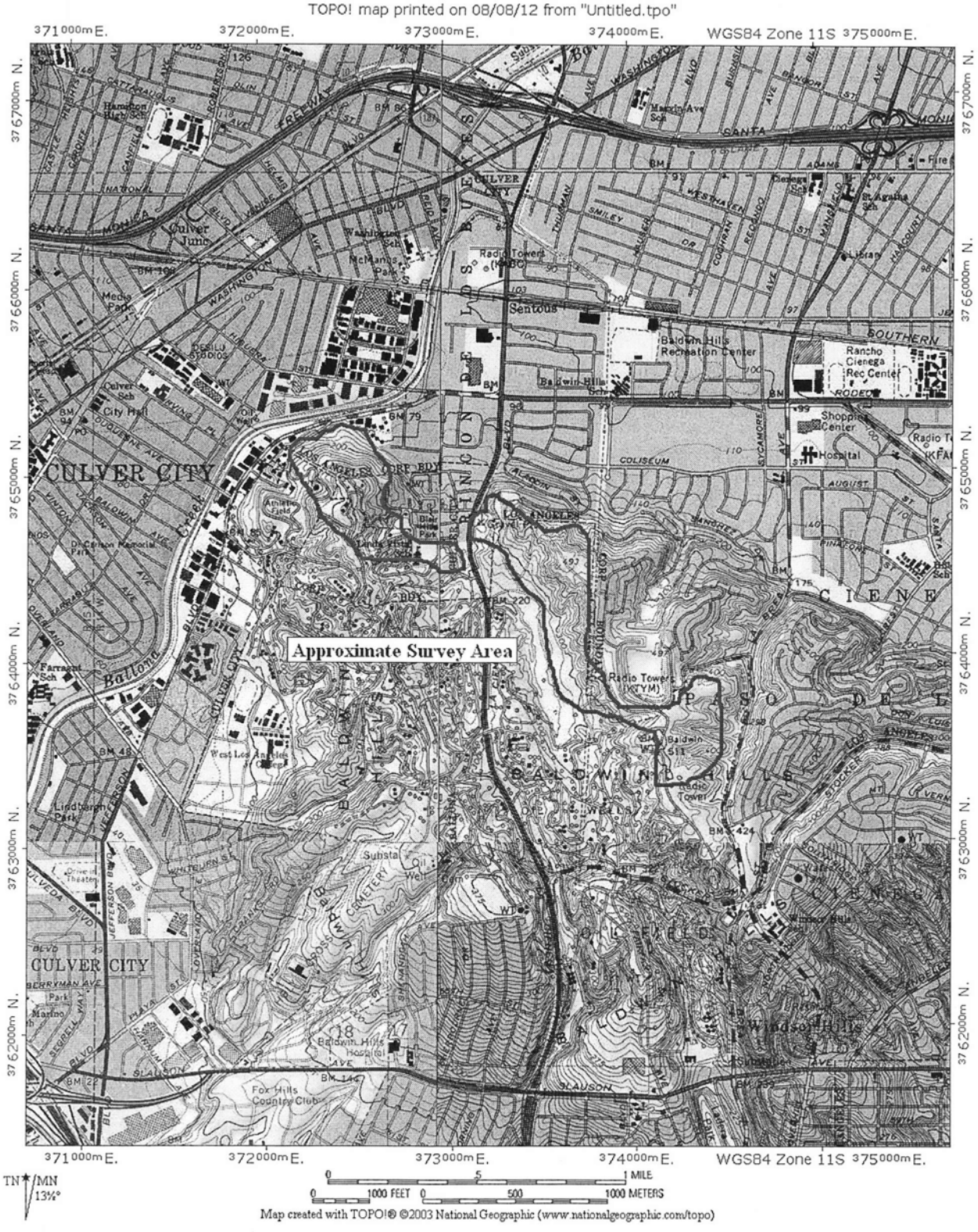
California Gnatcatcher Survey for the Baldwin Hills Park to Playa Trails Project

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work.

James Huelsman
Permit No. TE827493-7

9 AUG 2012
Date



Park to Playa Trail Project

California Gnatcatcher Survey Area

Figure 1

Leatherman BioConsulting,, Inc.
Source Map: TOPO!

↑ N

The following is a list of species observed or detected on the project site. Non-native species are indicated by an asterisk. Species on CDFG's Special Animals list are indicated by two asterisks. Other species may have been overlooked or inactive/absent because of the season (amphibians are active during rains, reptiles during summer, some birds (and bats) migrate out of the area for summer or winter, some mammals hibernate etc.). Taxonomy and nomenclature generally follow NABA (2002) for butterflies, Stebbins (2003) for amphibians and reptiles, AOU (1998) for birds, and Jones et al. (1992) for mammals.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
REPTILIA	**Reptiles**
Phrynosomatidae	**Phrynosomatids**
Sceloporus occidentalis biseriatus	Western fence lizard
Uta stansburiana	Side-blotched lizard
Colubridae	**Colubrids**
Masticophus flagellum	Coachwhip
AVES	**Birds**
Anatidae	**Geese and ducks**
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard
Accipitridae	**Raptors**
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered hawk
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed hawk
Falconidae	**Falcons**
Falco sparverius	American kestrel
Rallidae	**Rails and coots**
Fulica americana	American coot
Charadriidae	**Plovers**
Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer
Columbidae	**Pidgeons and doves**
* *Columba livia*	Rock dove
Zenaida macroura	Mourning dove
Trochilidae	**Hummingbirds**
Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird
Selasphorus sasin	Allen's hummingbird
Picidae	**Woodpeckers**
Picoides nuttallii	Nuttall's woodpecker
Tyrannidae	**Tyrant flycatchers**
Empidonax difficilis	Pacific-slope flycatcher
Sayornis nigricans	Black phoebe
Myiarchus cinerascens	Ash-throated flycatcher
Tyrannus vociferans	Cassin's kingbird
Corvidae	**Jays and crows**
Aphelocoma californica	Western scrub-jay
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow
Corvus corax	Common raven
Hirundinidae	**Swallows**
Stelgidopteryx serripennis	Northern rough-winged swallow
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Cliff swallow
Hirundo rustica	Barn swallow

Aegithalidae	**Bushtits**
Psaltriparus minimus	Bushtit
Troglodytidae	**Wrens**
Thryomanes bewickii	Bewick's wren
Troglodytes aedon	House wren
Turdidae	**Bluebirds and thrushes**
Sialia mexicana	Western bluebird
Turdus migratorius	American robin
Timaliidae	**Wrentits**
Chamaea fasciata	Wrentit
Mimidae	**Mockingbirds and thrashers**
Mimus polyglottis	Northern mockingbird
Toxostoma redivivum	California thrasher
Sturnidae	**Starlings**
* *Sturnus vulgaris*	European starling
Ptilogonatidae	**Silky flycatchers**
Phainopepla nitens	Phainopepla
Parulidae	**Wood warblers**
Geothlypis trichas	Common yellowthroat
Emberizidae	**Towhees and sparrows**
Pipilo maculatus	Spotted towhee
Pipilo crissalis	California towhee
Melospiza melodia	Song sparrow
Junco hyemalis	Dark-eyed junco
Cardinalidae	**Grosbeaks and buntings**
Pheucticus melanocephalus	Black-headed grosbeak
Passerina amoena	Lazuli bunting
Icteridae	**Blackbirds and orioles**
Euphagus cyanocephalus	Brewer's blackbird
* *Molothrus ater*	Brown-headed cowbird
Icterus cucullatus	Hooded oriole
Fringillidae	**Finches**
Carpodacus mexicanus	House finch
Carduelis psaltria	Lesser goldfinch
Passeridae	**Old world sparrows**
* *Passer domesticus*	House sparrow
MAMMALIA	**Mammals**
Leporidae	**Hares and rabbits**
Sylvilagus bachmani	Brush rabbit
Sciuridae	**Squirrels**
Spermophilus beecheyi	California ground squirrel
Sciurus griseus	Western gray squirrel
Geomyidae	**Pocket gophers**
Thomomys bottae	Botta's pocket gopher (burrows)
Mustelidae	**Weasels and allies**
Mephitis mephitis	Striped skunk
Felidae	**Cats**
* *Felis catus*	Feral cat

APPENDIX D

JURISDICTIONAL ASSESSMENT MEMO

BonTerra CONSULTING

MEMORANDUM

November 27, 2012

To: Randy Anderson
Alta Planning and Design

From: Tom Smith
David Hughes
BonTerra Consulting

Subject: Jurisdictional Assessment for the Park to Playa Project Site

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On October 16, 2012, BonTerra Consulting Regulatory Specialist David Hughes performed a site assessment to identify potential jurisdictional resources within the project site, review the potential for the project to impact these resources, and determine the need to acquire regulatory permit authorizations. Jurisdictional resources include "waters of the U.S." that are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as well as "waters of the State" that are regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

The survey area for this assessment included Culver City Park, open space areas surrounding the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Area, and the western half of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) (Exhibit 1). A total of six potential jurisdictional features were identified and assessed in the vicinity of the proposed trail location. These potential jurisdictional resource features are noted as Features A through F in Exhibits 2a, 2b and 2c. It should be noted that the regulatory agencies are responsible for a final determination as to whether these features are under their respective jurisdiction. Each of these potential jurisdictional features is described further below.

Feature A (Exhibit 2a) is a soft-bottom and generally flat debris basin located south of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook parking lot in the Blair Hills. Vegetation in the basin consists of non-native grasses such as ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and wild oat grass (*Avena* sp.), along with scattered native shrubs such as coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), giant wild rye (*Leymus condensatus*), and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). The lowest point of this area contains a small standpipe inlet tower and a concrete wall for scour protection was observed along the northern edge. These are interpreted as clear indications that this is a flood control facility, though no channel was observed in this area (or any evidence of water marks) and no connections to any jurisdictional streambeds were noted. The project would include a 6-foot-wide at-grade natural surface pedestrian trail that would travel through approximately 295 linear feet of this facility. Construction is expected to consist of compacting existing soil.

Feature B (Exhibit 2a) is a retention basin and storm drain channel that enters an underground storm drain system before reaching the adjacent residential neighborhood to the north. The proposed trail construction would occur to the north of the point where this channel goes underground and no impacts to this feature would occur. Therefore, no regulatory authorization would be required.

Feature C (Exhibit 2b) is a trapezoidal channel that is located adjacent to the western entrance of the KHSRA. Trail construction would occur outside of and adjacent to the point where water would flow into an underground storm drain. No impacts to this feature are expected to occur. Therefore, no regulatory authorization would be required.

Feature D (Exhibit 2b) is a concrete-lined trapezoidal channel that is approximately 500 feet long before entering an underground storm drain system. This channel appears to collect water that flows off of adjacent landscaped areas. The width of the flat bottom portion of the channel measures four feet while the width from the top of bank measures ten feet. This feature was constructed in an upland area, is not connected to any natural streambeds, and does not convey "relatively permanent" flows as defined by the USACE. Therefore, it is unlikely that regulatory agency staff would exert jurisdiction over this feature. In any case, the proposed construction of a free-span bridge over this feature may not be considered an impact because this channel is unvegetated and no discharge of fill materials in the channel is proposed.

Feature E (Exhibit 2b) is a swale that is located to the east of the northern parking lot at the KHSRA. It is described as a swale because no evidence of an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) was observed nor was a definable streambed or bank. Therefore, the wetlands hydrology threshold for the USACE or SWRCB does not exist nor does the stream threshold for CDFG. Regardless of this feature's potential to be a jurisdictional area, the proposed trail alignment passes adjacent to and outside of this swale. Therefore, no impacts are expected to occur and no regulatory authorization would be required.

Feature F (Exhibit 2c) is a swale that is located at the base of a hillside in the northeastern portion of the KHSRA. Similar to Feature E, there is no OHWM or streambed or bank present, meaning that it would not likely be considered jurisdictional by the regulatory agencies. Though there are ephemeral drainage features on the adjacent hillside, these drainage features exhibit no direct connection to the swale. In any case, the proposed trail alignment is located adjacent to and outside of this swale. Therefore, no impacts are expected to occur and no regulatory authorization would be required.

In summary, there are several potential jurisdictional features in the general vicinity of the proposed trail alignment within the survey area for this jurisdictional assessment report. However, direct impacts would occur only for Feature A, a flat debris basin in the Blair Hills. A free-span pedestrian bridge is proposed over Feature D, a concrete trapezoidal channel that may be considered to be a jurisdictional feature by the regulatory agencies. Table 1 summarizes the findings of this memo report.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES
PARK TO PLAYA TRAIL PROJECT

Feature	Location	Jurisdictional[a]	Impacts
A	Western Blair Hills	Yes	Temporary impact for trail construction − 295 linear feet X 6 feet wide (0.04 acre)
B	Eastern Blair Hills	Yes	None Expected to Occur
C	Western Kenneth Hahn Park	No	None Expected to Occur
D	Western Kenneth Hahn Park	No	Free span bridge - None Expected to Occur
E	Kenneth Hahn Park	No	None Expected to Occur
F	Kenneth Hahn Park	No	None Expected to Occur

[a] The jurisdictional determination listed above is based on the professional judgment of BonTerra Consulting. Regulatory agencies are responsible for a final determination on the whether these features are under their respective jurisdictions.

Recommendations

As noted above, it is the responsibility of the regulatory agencies to determine whether the features described in this report would fall within their jurisdiction. Therefore, it is recommended that staff members from these agencies be contacted to discuss the proposed project and arrange a field meeting, if necessary, to review site conditions and determine whether the features described herein are jurisdictional waters and whether they consider trail construction activities to constitute an impact. The need to acquire any regulatory permit authorizations will be determined from this consultation.

cc: Josephine Alido, BonTerra Consulting
Emily Duchon, Alta Planning and Design
Greg Maher, Alta Planning and Design

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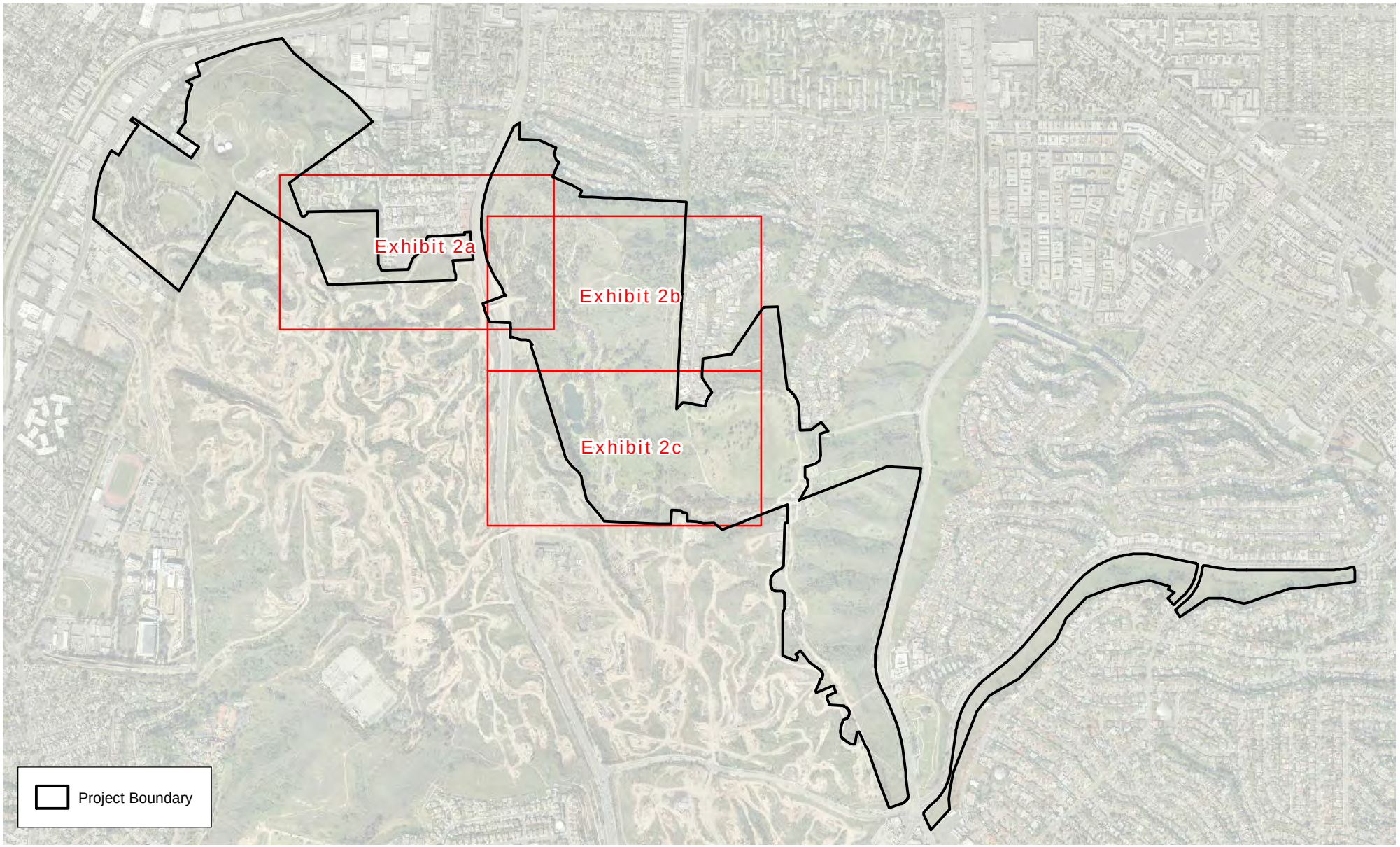

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Project Location

Exhibit 1

Jurisdictional Assessment for the Park-to-Playa Trail Project

N
W E
S

1,500 750 0 1,500

Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

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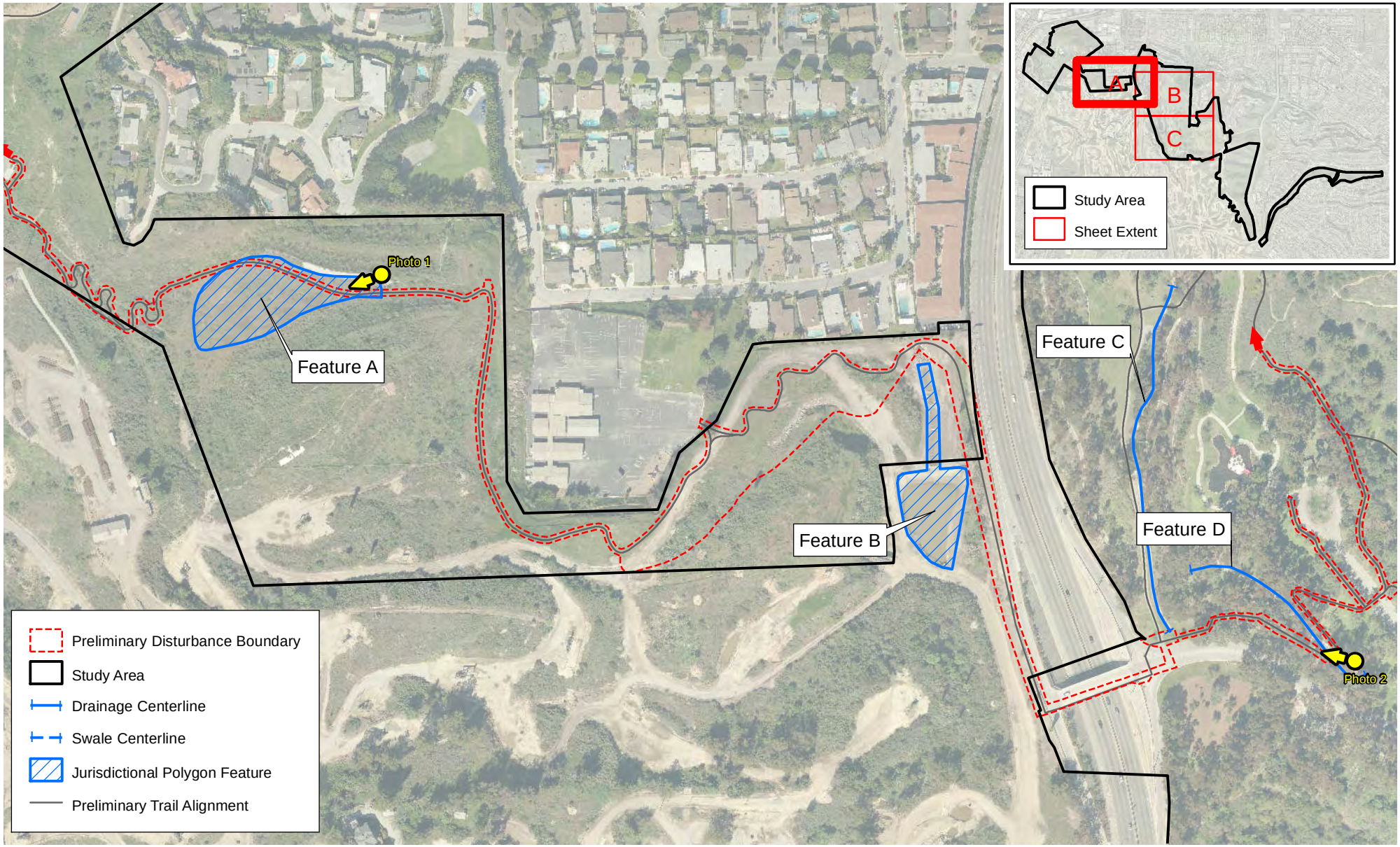

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Location of Potentially Jurisdictional Resources

Exhibit 2a

Jurisdictional Assesment for the Park-to-Playa Trail Project

N W E S

300 150 0 300 Feet

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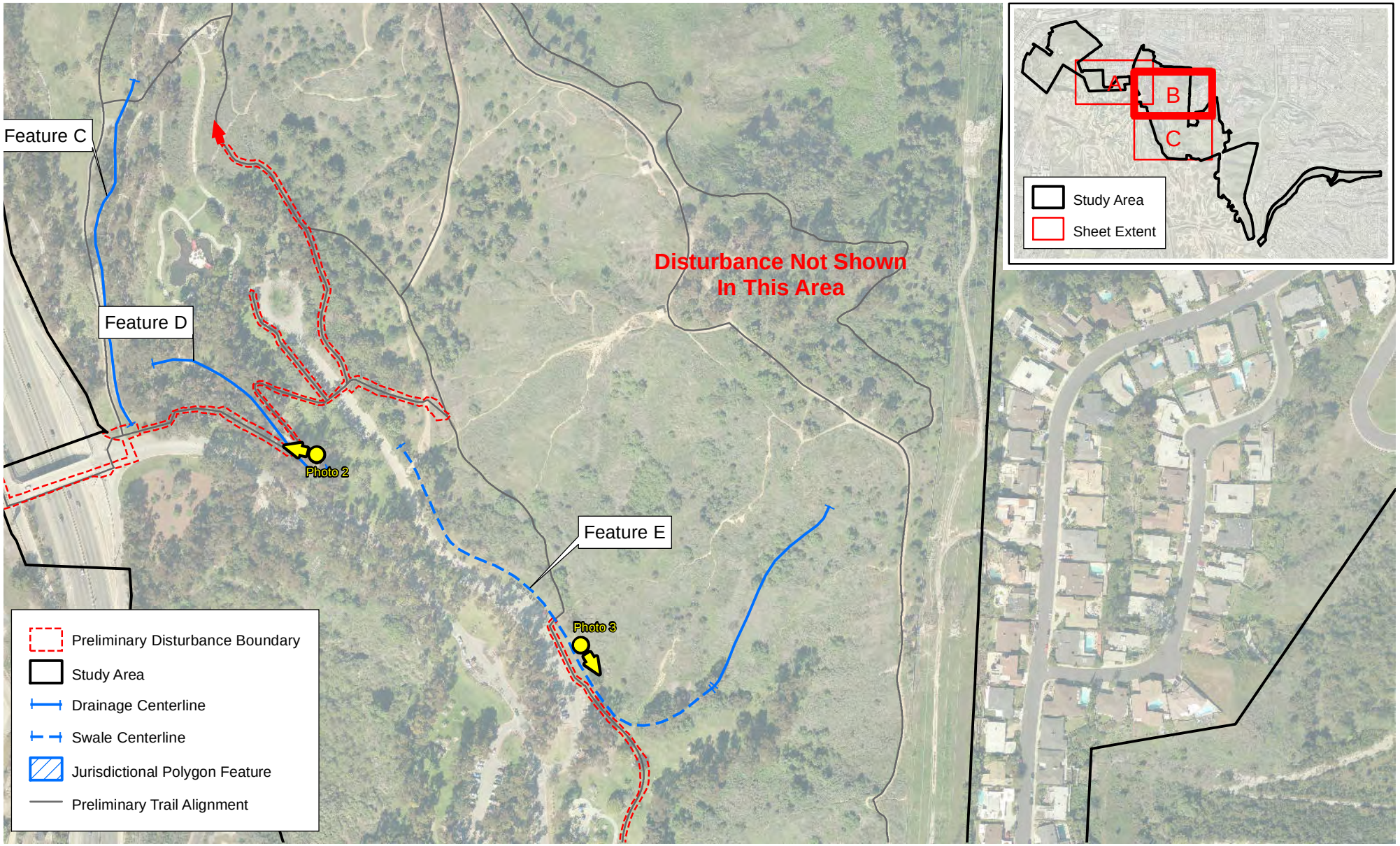

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Location of Potentially Jurisdictional Resources

Exhibit 2b

Jurisdictional Assesment for the Park-to-Playa Trail Project

N W E S

300 150 0 300

Feet

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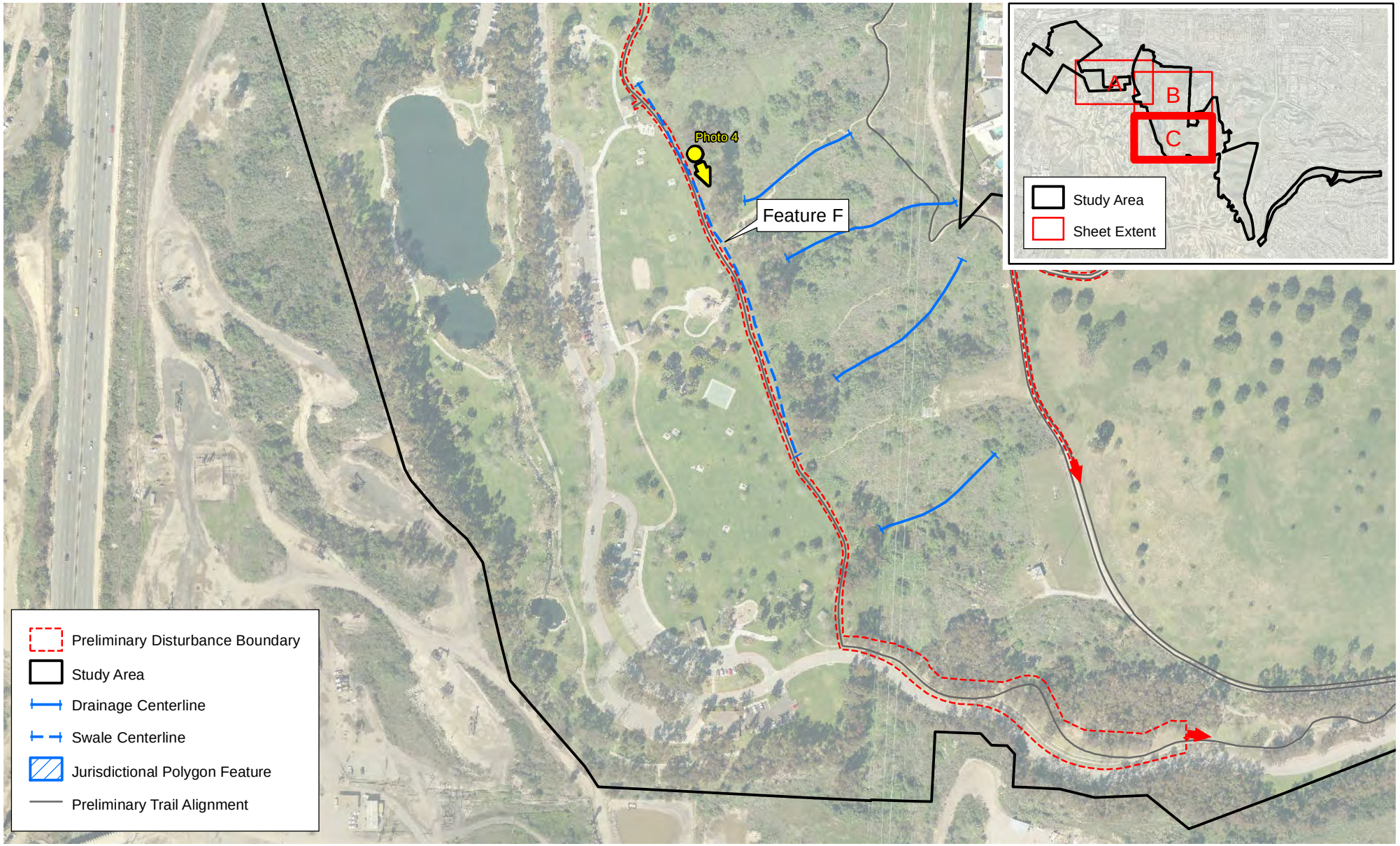

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Location of Potentially Jurisdictional Resources

Exhibit 2c

Jurisdictional Assesment for the Park-to-Playa Trail Project

N
W E
S

300 150 0 300

Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

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Photo Station 1. View of Feature A, facing west.

Photo Station 2. View of Feature D, facing northwest.

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Site Photographs

Exhibit 3a

Jurisdictional Assessment for the Park-to-Playa Trail Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

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Photo Station 3. View of Feature E, facing south. The proposed trail alignment is located to the right of the swale feature shown in the left part of the photo.

Photo Station 4. View of Feature F, facing south. The proposed trail alignment is located to the right of the swale feature shown in the center of the photo.

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Site Photographs

Exhibit 3b

Jurisdictional Assessment for the Park-to-Playa Trail Project

BonTerra CONSULTING

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