APPENDIX C
Biological Constraints Analysis Update

MEMORANDUM

November 25, 2014

To:
Collette L. Morse
Morse Planning Group

From:
Stacie Tennant
BonTerra Psomas

Subject: Biological Constraints Analysis Update for Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project

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The approximate 60.7-acre Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project is located in an unincorporated Los Angeles County West San Dimas Island, which is surrounded by the City of San Dimas. A Revised Biological Constraints Analysis Report was prepared for the Project on September 9, 2011 (Attachment A) and a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Recommendations Memorandum was prepared on April 11, 2012 (Attachment B). On October 8, 2014, a Scoping Initial Study/Environmental Checklist for Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project was prepared by Morse Planning Group (Morse 2014). Per the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist, an update to the 2011 biological survey was requested. BonTerra Psomas conducted a biological survey of the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project on October 30, 2014, to update BonTerra's 2011 Biological Constraints Analysis Report, which was submitted to Ahbe Landscape Architects. The purpose of the survey was to confirm the species composition and the previously mapped vegetation types on the Project site and to identify any significant differences between the conditions described in 2011 and the current site conditions.

Prior to the field survey, an updated literature review was completed to identify the known locations of federally and/or State-listed Threatened or Endangered species, or species otherwise designated as special status by State and local resource agencies and organizations that have the potential to occur on the Project site.

BonTerra Psomas Senior Biologists Jennifer Pareti and Allison Rudalevige conducted the October 30 survey. All species observed were recorded in field notes. Plants were identified using taxonomic keys, descriptions, and illustrations in Baldwin et al. (2012), Hickman (1993), Munz (1974), Abrams (1923, 1944, 1951), and Abrams and Ferris (1960). Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Baldwin et al. (2012), Hickman (1993), and current scientific journals for scientific and common names. Nomenclature for vegetation types generally follows that of *List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations, Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program* (CDFG 2010). Taxonomy and nomenclature for wildlife generally follows Crother (2012) for amphibians and reptiles, American Ornithologists Union (2013) for birds, and Wilson and Reeder (2005) for mammals.

RESULTS

Vegetation Types and Wildlife Habitat

The conditions on the Project site have not significantly changed since the 2011 survey and report. Vegetation communities and acreages reported from the 2011 survey are shown in Table 1 below and remain the same in 2014. Plants and wildlife observed during the October 2014 survey are similar to those observed and expected to be present as detailed in the 2011 report. The complete 2011 Biological Constraints Analysis Report is provided in Attachment A.

TABLE 1
EXISTING VEGETATION TYPES AND OTHER AREAS
ON THE PROJECT SITE

Vegetation Types/Other Areas	Acres
Coastal Sage Scrub	8.01
Non-native Grassland	2.48
Ruderal	1.67
Non-native Grassland/Ruderal	13.65
Ruderal/Coastal Sage Scrub	0.71
Ruderal/Non-native Grassland	0.48
Coast Live Oak Woodland	19.65
California Walnut Woodland/Coast Live Oak Woodland	4.97
Ornamental	5.08
Ornamental/Ruderal	0.06
Mixed Woodland (Coast Live Oak, California Walnut, Ornamental)	0.36
Coast Live Oak Tree	0.21
Western Sycamore Tree	0.02
Disturbed/Developed	3.51
Total	**60.86**

Special Status Biological Resources

A literature review was conducted prior to the October 2014 survey to update the section of the 2011 Biological Constraints Report that addresses special status biological resources observed, reported, or that have the potential to occur on the Project site (BonTerra 2011). These resources include plant and wildlife species that have been afforded special status and/or recognition by federal and State resource agencies and 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 jurisdictional drainages, regional linkages, and vegetation types and habitats that are either unique; that are of relatively limited distribution in the region; or that are 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 2014); the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2014a); various Federal Register notices from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding listing status of plant species; and the CDFW's *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List* (CDFW 2014c).
- **Wildlife** – The CNDDB (CDFW 2014a); various Federal Register notices from the USFWS regarding listing status of wildlife species; and the CDFW's *Special Animals List* (CDFW 2014b).
- **Habitats** – *List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations, Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program* (CDFG 2010).

Vegetation Types

Special status vegetation types are considered to be "depleted" habitats by the CDFW (CDFG 2010) and other resource agencies. They are typically protected by ordinance, code, or regulation under which conformance typically requires a permit or other discretionary action prior to impacting the habitat. Per the 2011 Biological Constraints Report, two special status vegetation types—coastal sage scrub and California walnut woodland/coast live oak woodland—occur on the Project site. However, in addition to these vegetation types, coast live oak woodland and mixed woodland would also be treated as special status vegetation types.

Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees were identified on the Project site and are subject to Section 22.56.2060 of the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance. Coast live oak, southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), and other tree species (i.e., willow [*Salix* spp.], western sycamore [*Platanus racemosa*], ornamental ash [*Fraxinus* sp.]) occur on the Project site and are protected under the City of San Dimas's Ordinance No. 1163 of Chapter 13.36 of the San Dimas Municipal Code, called the "Community Tree Management for the City of San Dimas". Under this ordinance, a Community Tree is defined as any City-owned tree that is located on any City-owned property. Under this ordinance, a City permit is required to plant, prune, root prune, thin, trim, or otherwise perform, cause, or allow an act of maintenance to occur on a Community Tree and prior to any form of alteration, construction, demolition, relocation or repair of a building that may result in the direct or indirect health of a Community Tree.

Plants and Wildlife

Special status plant and wildlife species known to occur in the Project site vicinity from the 2011 Biological Constraints Report are shown in Tables 2 and 3 below and remain the same in 2014. However, the following additional species were identified in the current literature review and are described (**boldfaced**) in the table below: Robinson's pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum* ssp. *menziesii*), arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).

TABLE 2
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES
KNOWN TO OCCUR OR POTENTIALLY OCCUR ON THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Status			Likelihood for Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFW	CRPR	
Androsace elongata ssp. *acuta* California androsace	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Asplenium vespertinum western spleenwort	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii* Davidson's saltscale	—	—	1B.2	May occur; limited suitable habitat is present.
California macrophylla round-leaved filaree	—	—	1B.1	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus catalinae Catalina mariposa lily	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa lily	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus weedii var. *intermedius* intermediate mariposa lily	—	—	1B.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis* southern tarplant	—	—	1B.1	Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES
KNOWN TO OCCUR OR POTENTIALLY OCCUR ON THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Status			Likelihood for Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFW	CRPR	
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	—	—	1B.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Horkelia cuneata ssp. *puberula* mesa horkelia	—	—	1B.1	Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.
Juglans californica Southern California black walnut	—	—	4.2	Observed throughout the site.
Lepidium virginicum* ssp. *menziesii **Robinson's pepper-grass**	**–**	**–**	**1B.2[a]**	**May occur; suitable habitat is present.**
Microseris douglasii ssp. *platycarpha* small-flowered microseris	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Phacelia hubbyi Hubby's Phacelia	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Quercus engelmannii Engelmann oak	—	—	4.2	May occur, suitable habitat is present.
Senecio aphanactis chaparral ragwort	—	—	2B.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino aster	—	—	1B.2	May occur; very limited suitable habitat is present.

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service; CDFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife; CRPR: California Rare Plant Rank
–: Not applicable/no listing status.

LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS)
FE Endangered
FT Threatened

State (CDFW)
SE Endangered
ST Threatened

CRPR
1A Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2A Plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere
2B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California But More Common Elsewhere
4 Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List

CRPR Threat Code Extensions
None Plants lacking any threat information
.1 Seriously Endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 Fairly Endangered in California (20–80% of occurrences threatened)
.3 Not Very Threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

[a] Based on new taxonomy, this subspecies' CRPR status is currently under review.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN TO OCCUR OR POTENTIALLY OCCUR ON THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Status		Likelihood of Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFW	
Fish			
Gila orcuttii **arroyo chub**	—	**SSC**	**Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.**
Amphibians			
Spea hammondii western spadefoot	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable habitat present.
Reptiles			
Emys marmorata western pond turtle	—	SSC	Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.
Phrynosoma blainvillii coast horned lizard	—	SSC	May occur; suitable habitat present.
Anniella pulchra pulchra silvery legless lizard	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable habitat present.
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea coast patch-nosed snake	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable habitat present.
Birds			
Aquila chrysaetos golden eagle (nesting and wintering)	—	FP	May occur; potentially suitable foraging but no suitable nesting habitat present.
Circus cyaneus northern harrier (nesting)	—	SSC	Expected to occur for foraging and may occur for nesting; suitable foraging habitat, limited nesting.
Elanus leucurus white-tailed kite (nesting)	—	FP	Expected to occur for foraging and may occur for nesting; suitable foraging habitat, limited nesting.
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl (burrow site, some wintering sites)	—	SSC	May occur; limited potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat present.
Lanius ludovicianus loggerhead shrike (nesting)	—	SSC	Expected to occur for foraging and may occur for nesting; suitable habitat present.
Polioptila californica californica coastal California gnatcatcher	FT	SSC	Not observed; limited suitable habitat present.
Vireo bellii pusillus **least Bell's vireo (nesting)**	**FE**	**SE**	**Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.**
Ammodramus savannarum grasshopper sparrow	—	SSC	May occur; limited potentially suitable nesting habitat.
Mammals			
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat.
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable foraging but no suitable roosting habitat.
Lasiurus xanthinus western yellow bat	—	SSC	Potentially suitable foraging habitat, no roosting habitat; may occur for foraging; not for roosting.
Nyctinomops fermorosaccus pocketed free-tailed bat	—	SSC	Potentially suitable foraging habitat, no suitable roosting habitat; may occur for foraging only.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN TO OCCUR OR POTENTIALLY OCCUR ON THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Status		Likelihood of Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFW	
Nyctinomops macrotis big free-tailed bat	—	SSC	Limited potentially suitable foraging habitat, no suitable roosting habitat; may occur for foraging only.
Taxidea taxus American badger	—	SSC	Not expected to occur; limited potentially suitable habitat present.

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service; CDFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS)
FE Endangered
FT Threatened

State (CDFW)
SE Endangered
FP Fully Protected
SSC Species of Special Concern

Other Considerations

Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Nesting Raptors

Vegetation on the Project site could support nesting birds. In addition, raptors have potential to nest in the large trees and pole/building structures on the Project site and in the immediate vicinity. The conclusions remain the same, and it is recommended that measures to avoid disturbance of nesting birds be implemented or that all Project activities be scheduled to avoid the nesting season (generally March 1 through September 15) of all birds that may potentially nest on the Project site. Therefore, if construction is initiated during the nesting bird season and raptor nesting season (generally February 1 to June 30), pre-construction surveys are recommended.

Jurisdictional Streambeds

A jurisdictional delineation was performed on October 30, 2014, and the results of the survey is provided under separate cover.

CONCLUSIONS

In general, site conditions have not changed and remain the same from the 2011 survey. The list of recommendations provided in the Revised Biological Constraints Analysis Report and the CEQA and NEPA Recommendations Memorandum remains the same, and the following recommendation is added:

- A tree inventory survey should be conducted. Coast live oak, southern California black walnut, and other trees occur on the Project site. To comply with Section 22.56.2060 of the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance and the City of San Dimas Ordinance No. 1163, it is recommended that a tree inventory survey be conducted by a Certified Arborist in order to gather data on all protected trees and to apply for the necessary permits prior to any impacts occurring.

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ATTACHMENT A

2011 BIOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS REPORT

BonTerra CONSULTING
COSTA MESA PASADENA
T: (626) 351-2000 F: (626) 351-2030 | 3452 E. Foothill Blvd., Suite 420
www.BonTerraConsulting.com | Pasadena, CA 91107

September 9, 2011

Mr. Evan Mather, RLA, ASLA
Ahbe Landscape Architects
8729 Washington Boulevard
Culver City, California 90232

VIA EMAIL AND MAIL
emather@ahbe.com

Subject: Revised Biological Constraints Analysis for the Proposed Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project, San Dimas, California

Dear Mr. Mather:

This letter report presents the findings of a biological reconnaissance survey conducted by BonTerra Consulting for the proposed Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project located in the City of San Dimas, California (hereafter referred to as the "project site"). The project entails site programming and concept design for the development of the Water Conservation Authority's Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space project. BonTerra Consulting is providing biological constraints reports that will identify any significant issues related to biological resources on the 60.9-acre property.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site includes land owned by the Water Conservation Authority (WCA) located in an unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County and land owned by and within the City of San Dimas (Exhibit 1). The eastern portion of the project site supports rugged, naturally vegetated hillsides that drain in a northwestern direction into Walnut Creek. Walnut Creek traverses the areas along the northern boundary of the project site in an east/west direction. The central portion of the project site was previously occupied by the Voorhis School for Boys and the Cal Poly Pomona (San Dimas Branch) campuses. To the north of the site are additional campus facilities now occupied by the Tzu Chi Foundation. The western portion of the project site is open space, with Walnut Creek traversing along the northwestern edge of the project site in this area. The project site is west of the Orange (State Route 57) freeway (Exhibit 2). Areas surrounding the project site are generally developed for residential purposes or are vacant and undeveloped.

The project location is shown on the USGS *San Dimas, CA* 7.5 Minute Quadrangles in Township 1 South; Range 9 West (*S.B.B.M*). The project site elevation ranges from approximately 650 to 910 feet above mean sea level (msl), with the areas of highest elevation along the eastern edge of the former campus site. The lowest elevations at the project site are within the stream bed of Walnut Creek in the northwestern portion of the site. Regional topography is shown as sloping toward the southwest.

METHODS

Prior to performing the reconnaissance survey, a literature review was conducted to identify special status plant and wildlife species (as determined by State, federal, and local resource agencies and organizations) that are known to occur in the general vicinity of the project site. The California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2011) and the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFG 2011) were reviewed. The literature review analyzed records from the USGS San Dimas quadrangle.

BonTerra Consulting Biologists Ann Johnston and Rebecca Tyra visited the project site on May 16, 2011, to perform general plant and wildlife surveys. All species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using keys in Hickman (1993) and Munz (1974). Taxonomy follows Hickman (1993) and current scientific data (e.g., scientific journals) for scientific and common names. Nomenclature for vegetation types generally follows that of *The Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program: List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities Recognized by the California Natural Diversity Database* (CDFG 2010). Taxonomy and nomenclature for wildlife generally follows Fisher and Case (1997) for amphibians and reptiles, American Ornithologists Union (2009) for birds, and Baker et al. (2003) for mammals.

SITE CONDITIONS

In the eastern portion of the project site, the small canyons and drainages are dominated by oak and walnut woodlands. The gentler trending slopes in these areas are dominated by coastal sage scrub, with small areas of ruderal vegetation due to previous disturbance of native vegetation types. The central portion of the project site is dominated by disturbed/developed areas were the structures and roads for the campus facilities are present. Surrounding many of these disturbed/developed areas are areas dominated by ornamental vegetation and ruderal vegetation. The northwestern portion of the project site is dominated by oak and walnut woodlands, while the southwestern portion of the site is dominated by a large expanse of non-native grassland. Vegetation types present throughout the project site are described below and illustrated on Exhibits 3A and 3B. Table 1 identifies the acreage for the vegetation types and other areas on the project site.

TABLE 1
EXISTING VEGETATION TYPES AND OTHER AREAS ON THE PROJECT SITE

Vegetation Type/Other Area	Acres
Coastal Sage Scrub	8.01
Non-native Grassland	2.48
Ruderal	1.67
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Mixed Woodland (Coast Live Oak, California Walnut, Ornamental)	0.36
Coast Live Oak Tree	0.21
Western Sycamore Tree	0.02
Disturbed/Developed	3.51
Total	60.86

Vegetation Types

Coastal Sage Scrub

Coastal sage scrub is present in small scattered patches in the western portion of the project site and in larger, contiguous areas in the eastern portion of the project site. This vegetation type is dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), bush monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and western poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Other species common in the open areas of the sage scrub canopy include common horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), fascicled tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculate*), wand mullein (*Verbascum virgatum*), tidy-tips (*Layia platyglossa*), phacelia (*Phacelia* sp.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), and common miner's-lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata* ssp. *perfoliata*).

Non-native Grassland

A large area of non-native grassland is present in the southwestern portion of the project site, with additional areas scattered within the central portion of the site. These areas include patches of dense annual grasses and forbs, dominated by various non-native species such as ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*), wild oats (*Avena* sp.), Mediterranean schismus (*Schismus barbatus*), and doc (*Rumex* sp.).

Ruderal

Ruderal areas are present with a patchy distribution throughout the project site. These areas have typically been disturbed by past vegetation clearing activities, often for fuel modification near structures, and are dominated by various weedy native and non-native plant species that have re-established. Plant species present in these areas include scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), radish (*Raphanus sativus*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), jimson weed (*Datura* sp.), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*).

Woodlands

The woodlands onsite are dominated by Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). The dominance of one species over the other varies on the project site, with the lower portions of the slopes closer to the creek bottom generally supporting a higher occurrence of oaks, while the walnuts generally occur on the upper margins of the slopes, with more direct exposure to light source. Other shrub species common to both trees in these mixed woodland settings include mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), western poison oak, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and hollyleaf redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*).

Ornamental

Ornamental landscaping is present on portions of the project site, mostly in association with the Voorhis School, Cal Poly Pomona campuses and adjacent Tzu Chi Foundation property. Additional ornamental landscaping occurs along the southern boundary of the project site, where plant and trees from adjoining residences have encroached upon the project site. Ornamental areas are those landscaped with non-native vegetation, including shrubs, trees, and vines planted for aesthetic purposes. Common tree species observed in these areas include ornamental ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), kaffir plum (*Harpephyllum caffrum*), Mexican fan palm

(*Washingtonia robusta*), ornamental pine (*Pinus* sp.), olive (*Olea europea*), Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), and gum (*Eucalyptus* sp.). Additional ornamental species present in these areas include century plant (*Agave americana*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), greater periwinkle (*Vinca major*), mission prickly-pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), and garden nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*).

Several native California tree species appear to have been planted on the project site, due to their location immediately adjacent to building sites on the property. In addition, several of these trees appear to have been pruned for their aesthetic value. These ornamental native trees include western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California black oak *(Quercus kelloggii*), and coast live oak.

It should be noted that due to the proximity of residential and campus properties to native habitat areas within the project site, non-native ornamental plants are also present to some degree in many native habitat areas, especially in moist canyon bottoms along Walnut Creek.

Disturbed/Developed

Disturbed/developed areas are generally devoid of vegetation and dominate the areas previously occupied by the Voorhis School and the Cal Poly Pomona campuses. These areas include vacant clearings with compacted soils, fuel modification areas with exposed soils that have been recently altered by mechanical activity, existing building, concrete building pads, parking lots, and paved roads.

Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife species observed or expected within the vegetation types on the project site are discussed below. All special status species mentioned below are discussed in greater detail in the Special Status Wildlife section.

Fish

Walnut Creek may have year-round water due to urban runoff, and may support habitat for native fish species. The non-native mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) is also expected to occur. This species is widely used by vector control for mosquito abatement.

Amphibians

Amphibians require moisture for at least a portion of their life cycle, and many require standing or flowing water for reproduction. The canyon bottoms of the project site provide suitable habitat for common amphibian species including the western toad (*Bufo boreas*) and Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris* [*Hyla*] *regilla*). The garden slender salamander (*Batrachoseps major major*) and black-bellied salamander (*Batrachoseps nigriventris*) may also be present in habitats associated with drainages and canyon bottoms.

Reptiles

Reptilian diversity and abundance typically varies with vegetation type and substrate characteristics. Many species occur in only one or two vegetation types; however, most will forage in a variety of situations. The vegetation types on the project site provide a variety of suitable habitat for varying reptile species. Common reptile species observed within the project site include the western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), and California striped racer (*Coluber lateralis lateralis*). Additional species expected to occur,

especially in the native habitats, include the side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), western skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus*), western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*), ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus*), and coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum*).

Birds

A variety of bird species are expected to reside in the project site throughout the year. Other species are present only during certain seasons. For example, the white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) likely occurs on the project site only during the winter season and then migrates north in the spring to breed during the summer.

Scrub vegetation types onsite support an avifauna that is comprised of species adapted to the dense, low vegetation that typifies these areas. Although large numbers of individuals can often be found to inhabit these vegetation types, species diversity is usually low to moderate. Year-round resident species observed or expected to occur in these habitats include California quail (*Callipepla californica*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), and rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*). Migratory birds expected to use this habitat include Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) (summer resident), and blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus)*, fox sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), and white-crowned sparrow (winter residents).

Grassland and ruderal areas support fewer bird species than most other vegetation types, though these species can often be numerous, especially during winter. Year-round residents and migrants to these habitats include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), American pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), and savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*).

Oak and walnut woodland vegetation types provide high-value habitat for birds throughout the year. Resident and migrant species observed or expected include California quail, Anna's hummingbird, Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), Hutton's vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), oak titmouse (*Baelophus inornatus*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), Bewick's wren, house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), western bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

Raptors expected to nest within the project site include the Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Additional raptors expected to during the winter season include the white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), and sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*). The turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), a scavenger, is expected to occur all year but not expected to nest onsite.

Mammals

Common mammals species observed or expected to occur onsite include the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), broad-footed mole (*Scapanus latimanus*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). The deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), California pocket

mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus*), and dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*) are expected to be present in native habitats onsite. Larger mammals potentially present include coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*).

Bats that may occur onsite for foraging and/or roosting include the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), California myotis *(Myotis californicus*), western pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus*), and Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*).

Wildlife Movement

Local wildlife movement within the project site is expected to occur within most of the naturally vegetated drainages that feed into Walnut Creek. Most of these drainages are oriented north to south, and connect with the east/west trending Walnut Creek and the unnamed tributary that parallels Walnut Creek in the westernmost portion of the project site. As a result, there is expected to be a general east-west trend to wildlife movement, with wildlife species using the side canyons at high elevations for nesting, denning, and foraging opportunities.

Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park and the open space associated with Puddingstone Reservoir are located approximately 850 feet from the eastern boundary of the project site. However, there are no effective wildlife crossings under San Dimas Avenue and the SR-57. Wildlife species capable of flight or traveling within high traffic/urban areas (coyotes, raccoons, etc.) may periodically make the crossing to the Bonelli/Puddingstone area; however, these conditions are perilous to these and other species that occur in both locations.

Regional movement to the west of the project site is expected to occur along Walnut Creek; however, the native vegetation and terrain becomes limited as the creek enters a more urbanized setting. Approximately 6,000 feet west of the project site, the creek and natural hillsides narrow to approximately 200 feet, where natural corridor travels for approximately 2,000 more feet to where it then enters a concrete-lined flood control facility. Wildlife habitat and movement from this point on, towards the San Gabriel River, is significantly compromised. Essentially isolating wildlife species within the Walnut Creek area to the east.

SPECIAL STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The following section addresses special status biological resources observed, reported, or that have the potential to occur in the project site. These resources include plant and wildlife species that have been afforded special status and/or recognition by federal and State resource agencies and 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 jurisdictional drainages, regional linkages, and 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 2011); the CNDDB (CDFG 2011); various Federal Register notices from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding listing status of plant species; and the CDFG's List of Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens.

- **Wildlife** – The CNDDB (CDFG 2011); various Federal Register notices from the USFWS regarding listing status of wildlife species; and the CDFG's List of Special Animals.

- **Habitats** – *List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities Recognized by the California Natural Diversity Database* (CDFG 2010).

The tables that follow provide a summary of each special status plant and wildlife species potentially occurring in the project site, including the presence/absence of suitable habitat.

SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

Many special status plant species are known to occur in the vicinity of the project site (i.e., *San Dimas* USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle). These species are summarized in Table 2. Those species that may occur onsite are discussed below.

TABLE 2
SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES
KNOWN TO OCCUR OR POTENTIALLY OCCUR IN THE PROJECT SITE

Species	Status			Likelihood for Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFG	CNPS	
Androsace elongata ssp. *acuta* California androsace	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Asplenium vespertinum western spleenwort	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii* Davidson's saltscale	—	—	1B.2	May occur; limited suitable habitat is present.
California [*Erodium*] *macrophylla* round-leaved filaree	—	—	1B.1	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus catalinae Catalina mariposa lily	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's mariposa lily	—	—	1B.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus weedii var. *intermedius* intermediate mariposa lily	—	—	1B.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Centromadia [*Hemizonia*] *parryi* ssp. *australis* southern tarplant	—	—	1B.1	Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	—	—	1B.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Horkelia cuneata ssp. *puberula* mesa horkelia	—	—	1B.1	Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.
Juglans californica var. *californica* Southern California black walnut	—	—	4.2	Observed throughout the site.
Microseris douglasii var. *platycarpha* small-flowered microseris	—	—	4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Phacelia hubbyi Hubby's Phacelia			4.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Quercus engelmannii Engelmann oak	—	—	4.2	May occur, suitable habitat is present.
Senecio aphanactis chaparral ragwort	—	—	2.2	May occur; suitable habitat is present.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum [*Aster bernardinus*] San Bernardino aster	—	—	1B.2	May occur; very limited suitable habitat is present.

LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS)
FE Endangered
FT Threatened
FC Candidate
SC Candidate

State (CDFG)
SE Endangered
ST Threatened
SR Rare

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

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Threat Rank Extensions
.1 Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)
.2 Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)
.3 Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

California Androsace (*Androsace elongata* ssp. *acuta*)

California androsace is a CNPS List 4.2 species. This annual herb typically blooms between March and June (CNPS 2011). It is found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal sage scrub, and dry grassy slopes below 1200 meters (Jepson 1993, CNDDB 2011). This androsace is known locally from Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. California androsace has potential to occur on the project site.

Western Spleenwort (*Asplenium vespertinum*)

Western spleenwort is a CNPS List 4.2 species. It typically blooms between February and June (CNPS 2011). This perennial herb occurs in rocky soils with chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats and is known locally from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, and San Diego counties (CNPS 2011). There is potential for Western spleenwort to occur in coastal sage scrub habitats onsite.

Davidson's Saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*)

Davidson's saltscale is a CNPS List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between April and October (CNPS 2011). This annual herb occurs in alkaline valleys in valley grassland and coastal sage scrub habitats (Munz 1974) and prefers coastal bluffs between sea level and approximately 650 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). In Southern California, this species occurs in Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and possibly Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties (CNPS 2011). According to a historical record from 1932, this species was observed in nearby La Verne (CDFG 2011). There is limited potential for Davidson's saltscale to occur in the alkaline coastal sage scrub habitats onsite.

Round-leaved Filaree (*California* [*Erodium*] *macrophylla*)

Round-leaved filaree is a CNPS List 1B.1 species. It typically blooms between March and May (CNPS 2011). This low-growing forb is found in open sites in grassland and shrubland at elevations between sea level and approximately 3,940 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). It occurs throughout California, Utah, and northern Mexico (Hickman 1993). In Southern California, this species occurs in Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties (CNPS 2011). According to a historical record from 1955, this species was observed in the San Jose Hills near Puddingstone Dam (CDFG 2011). There is potential for round-leaved filaree to occur in the open grassland and coastal sage scrub habitats onsite.

Catalina Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus catalinae*)

Catalina mariposa lily is a CNPS List 4.2 species. It typically blooms between March and June (CNPS 2011). This bulbiferous perennial herb occurs in heavy soils on open grassy slopes and openings in brush, in elevations between sea level and approximately 2,000 feet above msl. It is found in valley grassland and chaparral habitats from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County (Munz 1974). According to a historical record from 1945, this species has been documented in the Puente Hills region. There is potential for Catalina mariposa lily to occur in coastal sage scrub habitats onsite.

Plummer's Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus plummerae*)

Plummer's mariposa lily is a CNPS List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between May and July (CNPS 2011). This bulbiferous perennial herb occurs in dry rocky places and brush in elevations between sea level and approximately 5,000 feet above msl, in coastal sage scrub and yellow pine forest habitats (Munz 1974). In Southern California, this species occurs in

Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties (CNPS 2011). This species has been documented in the San Jose Hills at the southwestern edge of Forest Lawn Memorial Park, near Walnut (CDFG 2011). There is potential for Plummer's mariposa lily to occur in coastal sage scrub habitats onsite.

Intermediate Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*)

Intermediate mariposa lily is a CNPS List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between May and July (CNPS 2011). This bulbiferous perennial herb occurs in coastal sage scrub and valley grassland on dry rocky open slopes, on hills in elevations between sea level and approximately 2,000 feet above msl (Munz 1974, Hickman 1993). In Southern California, this species occurs in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside counties (CNPS 2011). This species has been documented near Elephant Hill in the northern Puente Hills of western Pomona (CDFG 2009). There is potential for intermediate mariposa lily to occur in coastal sage scrub habitats onsite.

Many-stemmed Dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*)

Many-stemmed dudleya is a CNPS List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between April and July (CNPS 2011). This perennial herb occurs in heavy clay soils in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and coastal plains at elevations between sea level and approximately 2,000 feet above msl (Hickman 1993, Munz 1974). In Southern California, this species occurs in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties (CNPS 2011). This species has been documented at several locations in the Puddingstone Reservoir/Bonelli Regional Park area (CDFG 2011). There is potential for many-stemmed dudleya to occur in scrub habitats onsite.

Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*)

Southern California black walnut is a CNPS List 4.2 species. It typically blooms between April and May and is locally common between sea level and approximately 4,500 feet above msl (Munz 1974). This deciduous tree is low-growing, usually has several trunks, and often occurs on slopes and in canyons within oak woodland habitats (Munz 1974). It is endemic to Southwestern California, from Santa Barbara to San Diego counties and inland to western San Bernardino and Riverside counties (CNPS 2011). This species occurs frequently throughout the project site.

Small-flowered Microseris (*Microseris douglasii* var. *platycarpha*)

Small-flowered microseris is a CNPS List 4.2 species. This annual herb typically blooms between March and May (CNPS 2011). This species typically occurs in grassy places throughout Southern California (Munz 1974) and prefers inland clay soils in grassland habitats, often near vernal pools or serpentine outcrops between sea level and approximately 3,275 feet above msl in elevation (Hickman 1993). This species has been documented in the Chino/Puente Hills region (Jepson Flora Project 2009). There is potential for small-flowered microseris to occur in clay grassland habitat onsite.

Hubby's Phacelia (*Phacelia hubbyi*)

Hubby's Phacelia is a CNPS List 4.2 species. It typically blooms between April and June (CNPS 2011). This annual herb occurs in gravelly, rocky, and talus soils with chaparral, grassland, and coastal scrub habitats in Kern, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties (CNPS 2011). There is potential for Hubby's phacelia to occur in coastal sage scrub and grassland habitats onsite.

Engelmann Oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)

Engelmann oak is a CNPS List 4.2 species. This evergreen tree typically blooms between April and May and occurs away from the coast on dry fans and foothills at elevations between sea level and approximately 4,000 feet above msl (Munz 1974). This semi-deciduous species is found from eastern Los Angeles County south to northwestern Baja California, Mexico, on alluvial fans and interior valleys in southern oak woodland, oak savannah, and chaparral habitats (Roberts 1995). This species has been documented historically in the San Dimas area and more recently in the Big Dalton Canyon/Glendora area (Jepson Flora Project 2009). There is potential for Engelmann oak to occur onsite in the woodland areas.

Chaparral Ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*)

Chaparral ragwort is a CNPS List 2.2 species. It typically blooms between January and April (CNPS 2011). This annual herb occurs in dry open places in coastal sage scrub and chaparral vegetation (Munz 1974). This species prefers drying alkaline flats at elevations between sea level and approximately 1,300 feet above msl (Hickman 1993). This species is known from scattered locations in western California, from the San Francisco Bay area south along the coast and through the Central Valley into Baja California, Mexico (Hickman 1993). In Southern California, this species occurs in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties (CNPS 2011). According to a historical record from 1932, this species was observed in the San Jose Hills near Puddingstone Dam (CDFG 2011). There is potential for chaparral ragwort to occur in open scrub habitats onsite.

San Bernardino Aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum* [synonym of *Aster bernardinus*])

San Bernardino aster is a CNPS List 1B.2 species. It typically blooms between July and November (Munz 1974). This rhizomatous herb prefers damp meadows and is generally found from approximately 100 to 3,500 feet above msl in freshwater marshes and coastal sage scrub habitats (Munz 1974). It is associated with meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and vernally mesic grasslands near ditches, streams, and springs (CNPS 2011). In Southern California, this species occurs in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and possibly San Luis Obispo counties (CNPS 2011). According to a historical record from 1896, this species was observed in the Pomona area (CDFG 2011). There is very limited potential for San Bernardino aster to occur in coastal sage scrub and mesic habitats onsite.

Special Status Wildlife

A total of 18 special status wildlife species that are known to occur or potentially occur in the area are listed in Table 3. Several of these species are State- and/or federally listed as Endangered and/or Threatened Species. The remaining species are considered to be “of concern” by the CDFG. Species with potential for occurrence are discussed below. Note that these species are listed taxonomically.

TABLE 3
SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES KNOWN TO OCCUR OR POTENTIALLY OCCUR ONSITE

Species	Status		Likelihood of Occurrence
	USFWS	CDFG	
Amphibians			
Spea [*Scaphiopus*] *hammondii* western spadefoot	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable habitat present.
Reptiles			
Actinemys marmorata pallida southwestern pond turtle	—	SSC	Not expected to occur; no suitable habitat present.
Phrynosoma coronatum [*blainvillii* population] coast [San Diego] horned lizard	—	SSC	May occur; suitable habitat present.
Anniella pulchra pulchra silvery legless lizard	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable habitat present.
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea coast patch-nosed snake	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable habitat present.
Birds			
Aquila chrysaetos golden eagle (nesting and wintering)	—	FP	May occur; potentially suitable foraging but no suitable nesting habitat present.
Circus cyaneus northern harrier (nesting)	—	SSC	Expected to occur for foraging and may occur for nesting; suitable foraging habitat, limited nesting.
Elanus leucurus white-tailed kite (nesting)	—	FP	Expected to occur for foraging and may occur for nesting; suitable foraging habitat, limited nesting.
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl (burrow site, some wintering sites)	—	SSC	May occur; limited potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat present.
Lanius ludovicianus loggerhead shrike (nesting)	—	SSC	Expected to occur for foraging and may occur for nesting; suitable habitat present.
Polioptila californica californica coastal California gnatcatcher	FT	SSC	Not Observed; limited suitable habitat present.
Ammodramus savannarum grasshopper sparrow	—	SSC	May occur; limited potentially suitable nesting habitat.
Mammals			
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat.
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	—	SSC	May occur; potentially suitable foraging but no suitable roosting habitat.
Lasiurus xanthinus western yellow bat	—	SSC	Potentially suitable foraging habitat, no roosting habitat; may occur for foraging; not for roosting.
Nyctinomops fermorosaccus pocketed free-tailed bat	—	SSC	Potentially suitable foraging habitat, no suitable roosting habitat; may occur for foraging only.
Nyctinomops macrotis big free-tailed bat	—	SSC	Limited potentially suitable foraging habitat, no suitable roosting habitat; may occur for foraging only.
Taxidea taxus American badger	—	SSC	Not expected to occur; limited potentially suitable habitat present.

LEGEND:

Federal (USFWS)
FT Threatened

State (CDFG)
FP Fully Protected
SCC Species of Special Concern

Western Spadefoot (*Spea* [*Scaphious*] *hammondii*)

The western spadefoot is a California Species of Special Concern. This species occurs in the Great Valley and bordering foothills in the Coast Ranges from Monterey Bay south to Baja California, Mexico (Stebbins 2003). From the Santa Clara River valley in Los Angeles and Ventura counties southward, an estimated 80 percent of habitat for this species has been lost (Stebbins 2003). The western spadefoot is primarily a species of the lowlands, frequenting washes, floodplains of rivers, alluvial fans, and alkali flats (Stebbins 2003). This species primarily inhabits grasslands, but does occur in other sparsely vegetated habitats (Zeiner et al. 1988). The western spadefoot breeds in quiet streams, vernal pools, and temporary ponds. This species is rarely observed outside of the breeding season. This species has been observed near Workman Hill in the Puente Hills (CDFG 2011). The project site provides potentially suitable habitat for this species; therefore, the western spadefoot may occur.

Southwestern Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata pallida*)

The southwestern pond turtle is a California Species of Special Concern. This subspecies of the western pond turtle (*Emys* [*Clemmys*] *marmorata*) occurs from approximately the San Francisco Bay area south through the Coast Ranges to northern Baja California, Mexico (Stebbins 2003). The western pond turtle is estimated to be declining throughout 75 to 80 percent of its range (Stebbins 2003). Its current range is similar to its historic range, but populations have become fragmented by agriculture and urban development. The southwestern pond turtle occurs primarily in freshwater rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, vernal pools, and seasonal wetlands. It requires basking sites such as logs, banks, or other suitable areas above water level. There are several reported occurrences of this species in the area; however, location information is sensitive and cannot be released to protect this species from collectors. The project site does not provide open water habitat substantial enough to be considered suitable habitat for this species. Therefore, the southwestern pond turtle is not expected to occur.

Coast [San Diego] Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum* [*blainvillii population*])

The coast [San Diego] horned lizard (*blainvillii* population) is a California Species of Special Concern. The two former subspecies of the coast horned lizard (*P. c. blainvillei* and *P. c. frontale*) have recently been eliminated in current scientific literature (Stebbins 2003). The coast horned lizard occurs throughout much of California, west of the desert and Cascade-Sierra highlands south to Baja California, Mexico (Stebbins 2003). Coast horned lizard is a small, spiny, somewhat rounded lizard that occurs in scrubland, grassland, coniferous forests, and broadleaf woodland vegetation types. The coast horned lizard prefers loose, friable soil for burrowing and open areas for basking (Stebbins 2003). Within the region, the coast horned lizard is known to occur in San Dimas Wash, Carbon Canyon, and Soquel Canyon (CDFG 2011). The project site provides suitable habitat for this species; therefore, the coast horned lizard may occur.

Silvery Legless Lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*)

The silvery legless lizard is a California Species of Special Concern. The silvery legless lizard 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 approximately 5,100 feet above msl (Stebbins 2003). The project site provides potentially suitable habitat for this species. Therefore, the silvery legless lizard may occur.

Coast Patch-nosed Snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*)

The coast patch-nosed snake is a California Species of Special Concern. The coast patch-nosed snake ranges along the coast of California from San Luis Obispo County south into Baja California, Mexico. It occurs from sea level to approximately 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 has been observed near the south end of Telegraph Canyon (CDFG 2011). The project site provides potentially suitable habitat for this species. Therefore, the coast patch-nosed snake may occur.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Golden eagle is a California Fully Protected species and is also protected by the Federal Bald Eagle Act. Habitat for this species generally consists of grasslands, deserts, savannas, and early successional stages of forest and shrub habitats. Broad expanses of open country are required for foraging while nesting is primarily restricted to rugged mountainous areas with large trees or on cliffs (Johnsgard 2001); they are generally absent from the immediate coast and urbanized areas (Garrett and Dunn 1981). The golden eagle is an uncommon resident throughout Southern California, except in the Colorado Desert and Colorado River where it is a casual winter visitor (Garrett and Dunn 1981). The project site provides limited foraging habitat but no suitable nesting habitat for this species. Therefore, the golden eagle may occur for foraging, but it is not expected to nest onsite.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Northern harrier is a California Species of Special Concern. It is a regular winter resident in marshes and fields throughout Southern California, but is very scarce as a local breeder (Garrett and Dunn 1981). This species nests on the ground in a variety of wetland and upland habitats (MacWhirter and Bildstein 1996). The northern harrier can be expected at any month of the year and can be seen foraging in scrub, riparian, and grassland vegetation types. While once a relatively common species during fall, winter, and spring in undeveloped areas of Los Angeles County, the northern harrier population is now greatly reduced and localized in distribution. The project site provides limited suitable foraging and limited suitable nesting habitat for this species. Therefore, the northern harrier is expected to occur for foraging, primarily in winter, and may occur to nest.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

White-tailed kite is a California Fully Protected species. This species is an uncommon to locally fairly common resident in coastal Southern California, and a rare visitor and local nester on the western edge of the deserts (Garrett and Dunn 1981). Kites nest primarily in oaks, willows, and sycamores and forage in grassland and scrub vegetation types. White-tailed kites show strong site fidelity to nest groves and trees. The white-tailed kite has been reported as fairly common in the area. The project site provides suitable foraging and limited suitable nesting habitat for this species. Therefore, the white-tailed kite is expected to occur for foraging, primarily in winter, and may occur to nest onsite.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

The burrowing owl is a California Species of Special Concern. Although the burrowing owl was recently proposed as a State Candidate for listing, the CDFG determined that the species did not warrant listing in consideration of its relatively stable populations in the Central and Imperial Valleys. However, this species is considered a species of local concern because it has declined

dramatically elsewhere, especially in coastal Southern California where it has been almost extirpated. In much of their range, burrowing owls breed and forage in grasslands and prefer flat to low rolling hills in treeless terrain. They are small owls that nest in burrows, typically in open habitats most often along banks and roadsides. The project site provides potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat for this species. Therefore, the burrowing owl may occur.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Loggerhead shrike is a California Species of Special Concern. Shrikes inhabit grasslands and other dry, open habitats (Yosef 1996). They can often be found perched on fences and posts from which prey items (e.g., large insects, small mammals, lizards) can be seen. It was considered to be a fairly common year-round resident in Southern California (Garrett and Dunn 1981), but has recently shown a decline in its coastal Southern California population (Small 1994, Shuford and Gardali 2008). The project site provides suitable foraging and nesting habitat for this species. Therefore, the loggerhead shrike is expected to occur for foraging and may nest onsite.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)

The coastal California gnatcatcher is a federally Threatened species and a California Species of Special Concern. This species occurs in most of Baja California, Mexico's arid regions, but this subspecies 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 subspecies is an obligate resident of coastal sage scrub vegetation types. This species is known to occur in multiple locations in the area including the Coyote Hills, Chino Hills, San Jose Hills, Telegraph Canyon, Tonner Canyon, Santa Fe Dam Regional Park, Schabarum Park, Bonelli Regional Park, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, and near Cal Poly Pomona (CDFG 2011). The project site provides limited suitable habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher.

On October 24, 2000, the USFWS published a revised final rule designating 197,650 acres of land as critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher in the Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Following the designation of critical habitat, several lawsuits were filed challenging various aspects of the designation. In response to these lawsuits, the critical habitat designation was vacated and the USFWS was instructed by the court to re-evaluate its previous position. A new final critical habitat designation was published on December 19, 2007, covering 197,303 acres; this is a reduction of 298,492 acres from the proposed 495,795 acres published April 24, 2003. The project site is not located within areas designated as critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, which are located east of the site and the SR-57.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

The grasshopper sparrow is a California Species of Special Concern. This sparrow is an uncommon and very local summer resident along the coastal slope of Southern California (Garrett and Dunn 1981). This is an inconspicuous bird of grasslands with an insect-like song; it is declining throughout North America due to loss of habitat and inhibition of fire (Vickery 1996). In the southwestern part of its breeding range, this sparrow prefers more lush areas with some shrub cover in arid grasslands (Vickery 1996). The project site provides a limited amount of potentially suitable habitat for this species. Therefore, the grasshopper sparrow may occur.

Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)

The pallid bat 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 occurs in a wide variety of habitats including grasslands, shrublands and woodlands, but is most common in open habitats with rocky areas for roosting (Zeiner et al. 1990b). Roosting habitat consists of caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally hollow trees and buildings (Whitaker 1980, Zeiner et al. 1990b). The pallid bat is very sensitive to disturbance at its roosting sites (CDFG 2011). This species has been reported in the cities of Azusa and San Dimas (CDFG 2011). The project site provides potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitats for this species. Therefore, the pallid bat may occur for foraging and roosting.

Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)

The western mastiff bat is a California Species of Special Concern. The subspecies that occurs in Southern California is the western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*). 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 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. 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). This species has been reported in the cities of Azusa, Pomona, Covina, La Verne, and Buena Park and in Yorba Linda Regional Park and Craig Regional Park (CDFG 2011). The project site provides potentially suitable foraging habitat, but no suitable roosting habitat. Therefore, the western mastiff bat may occur for foraging but not for roosting.

Western Yellow Bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*)

Western yellow bat is a California Species of Special Concern. Little is known about its habitat, but it is known to roost in leafy vegetation (Best et al. 1998). This species is associated with dry thorny vegetation of the Mexican Plateau, coastal western Mexico, and the deserts of the southwestern U.S. (Best et al. 1998). The project site provides potentially suitable foraging, but no suitable roosting habitat for this species; therefore, the western yellow bat may occur on the project site for foraging.

Pocketed Free-tailed Bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*)

Pocketed free-tailed bat 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 project site provides potentially suitable foraging but no suitable roosting habitat for this species; therefore, the pocketed free-tailed bat may occur on the project site for foraging only.

Big Free-tailed Bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*)

Big free-tailed bat 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 U.S. This species prefers rugged, rocky terrain and roosts in crevices in high cliffs or rocky outcrops (Zeiner et al. 1990b). The project site provides limited suitable foraging but no suitable roosting habitat for this species; therefore, the big free-tailed bat may occur on the project site for foraging only.

American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

This uncommon, permanent resident occupies a wide variety of habitats and ranges throughout the state except for the coastal redwood forests of the extreme northwest. It is most abundant in drier, open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soil (CDFG 2011). In Southern California, this species is most commonly associated with grasslands and other relatively open habitats with friable, uncultivated soils. This species has been observed in Covina, on Colima Road in the Puente Hills, and in San Dimas (CDFG 2011). The project site provides a limited amount of potentially suitable habitat for this species; however, the level of development and fragmentation of open spaces in the area are considered substantial enough that the American badger is not expected to occur.

Special Status Vegetation Types

Several vegetation types are considered to have special status by the State and federal resource agencies, academic institutions, and various conservation groups (such as the CNPS). Two such special status vegetation types, coastal sage scrub and walnut woodlands, were observed during the field visit.

Other Considerations

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Vegetation on the project site could support nesting birds. Due to recent interpretations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the expectations of many local and State agencies, it is recommended that measures to avoid disturbance of nesting birds be implemented or that all project activities be scheduled to avoid the nesting season (generally March 1 through September 15) of all birds that may potentially nest within the project site.

Nesting Raptors

Raptors have potential to nest in the large trees and pole/building structures on the project site and immediate vicinity. State regulations prohibit activities that "take, possess or destroy" any raptor nest or egg (*California Fish and Game Code* §3503, §3503.5, and §3513). Therefore, if construction is initiated during the raptor nesting season (generally February 1 to June 30), a pre-construction raptor survey is recommended.

Jurisdictional Streambeds

The project site contains several drainage features that are likely under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), and/or the CDFG. Any impacts to these features (including operation of vehicles within them or removal/trimming of associated vegetation) would require permits from these resource agencies.

BIOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of potential biological constraints to the proposed project and list of recommendations to ensure that the project is consistent with regulations protecting biological resources. It should be noted that biological constraints will likely be eliminated if all project activities take place within the areas containing ornamental, ruderal, non-native grassland, and disturbed/developed areas, without disturbing existing native vegetation and if project activities take place outside of the nesting bird season.

1. The need for ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal should be decided as soon as possible to determine if special status plant and wildlife surveys are necessary. Focused surveys can only be performed during selected periods of the year and early coordination with the project biologist will avoid potential construction delays.

2. Several special status plant species have the potential to occur at the project site. If project construction requires any ground disturbance a series of focused botanical surveys (up to three) would be necessary to coincide with the peak flowering periods of the various special status species. If focused surveys are necessary, it is recommended that the surveys focus on plant species listed by the CNPS as 1B.1, 1B.2, and 2.2. If found onsite within potential impact areas, mitigation may be required depending on the size of the population found. Because no State- or federally listed Threatened or Endangered plant species are expected to occur onsite, consultation with the resource agencies would not be required. Plants that are listed as 4.2 do not have the sensitivity status that warrants mitigation for impacts, unless deemed otherwise for select species (e.g., Southern California black walnut) by the lead agency.

3. Several special status wildlife species potentially occur onsite; however, only one of these is listed as Federally Threatened: coastal California gnatcatcher. Potentially suitable habitat for the gnatcatcher is present within the coastal sage scrub vegetation that is located primarily in the eastern portions of the project site. Because this species is a year-round resident of Southern California, focused surveys are recommended in areas containing potentially suitable habitat in order to determine its presence or absence from the project site. Impacts to this species can be avoided by working outside of the recognized breeding season (February 15 through August 30) and by avoiding removal of any potential nesting habitat at any point in the year. If this species occurs onsite and the project removes habitat for this species, approval from the USFWS would be required which would be considered a significant constraint to project implementation.

4. Potential impacts to other special status bird species that may nest onsite can be protected through compliance with the MBTA. It is recommended that any vegetation removal should occur between September 1 and January 31. If clearing occurs between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist should perform a pre-construction survey to detect any active nesting locations. If the biologist finds an active nest within the construction area and determines that the nest may be impacted, the biologist will delineate an appropriate buffer zone around the nest depending on the species and the type of construction activity. Any active nests observed during the survey will be mapped on an aerial photograph. A project/species specific foot buffer zone (determined by a biologist) is designated around a nest to allow construction to proceed while minimizing disturbance to the active nest. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities take place near active nest areas in order to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests shall occur.

5. The remaining special status wildlife (amphibians, reptiles, and mammals) that potentially occur onsite are listed as California Species of Special Concern. Although these species are not awarded special protection by the resource agencies, consideration should be give to avoid potential habitat for these species to the greatest extent practicable. The majority of these species are likely to occur with the scrub and woodland communities onsite. Avoiding these habitat type through project design will allow for more habitat to be retained onsite and available for these and other more common species known and expected to occur.

6. Invasive plants can have significant impacts to native vegetation types. It is suggested that the applicant prepare landscape plans that have been reviewed by a qualified biologist. The review shall ensure that no invasive, exotic plant species are used in any proposed landscaping adjacent to any open space and that suitable substitutes are proposed.

7. Lighting could inadvertently result in an indirect impact on the behavioural patterns of nocturnal and crepuscular (i.e., active at dawn and dusk) wildlife remaining in the project area. Wildlife present in these areas may already be somewhat acclimated to current lighting associated with adjacent development. However, the uses that could be allowed with the proposed project (i.e., parks and recreational areas, and trails) would include additional ambient lighting which could affect small, ground-dwelling animals that use the darkness to hide from predators, owls, and other specialized night foragers and wildlife that primarily move at night. Outdoor light should be designed and installed so that all direct rays are confined to the development areas and adjacent open space is protected from glare.

8. Prior to any ground disturbance on or near drainage features, a formal jurisdictional delineation would need to be completed to identify potential impacts to wetlands and riparian resources that may be subject to the permitting requirements of the USACE, LARWQCB, and/or the CDFG.

Please contact me at (714) 444-9199 with any questions related to this report.

Sincerely,

BONTERRA CONSULTING

Jo Ann M. Johnston
Principal

Enclosures: Exhibit 1 – Project Site Location
Exhibit 2 – Local Vicinity
Exhibits 3A and 3B – Vegetation Types

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Regional Location

Exhibit 1

Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project

N W E S

10 5 0 10 Miles

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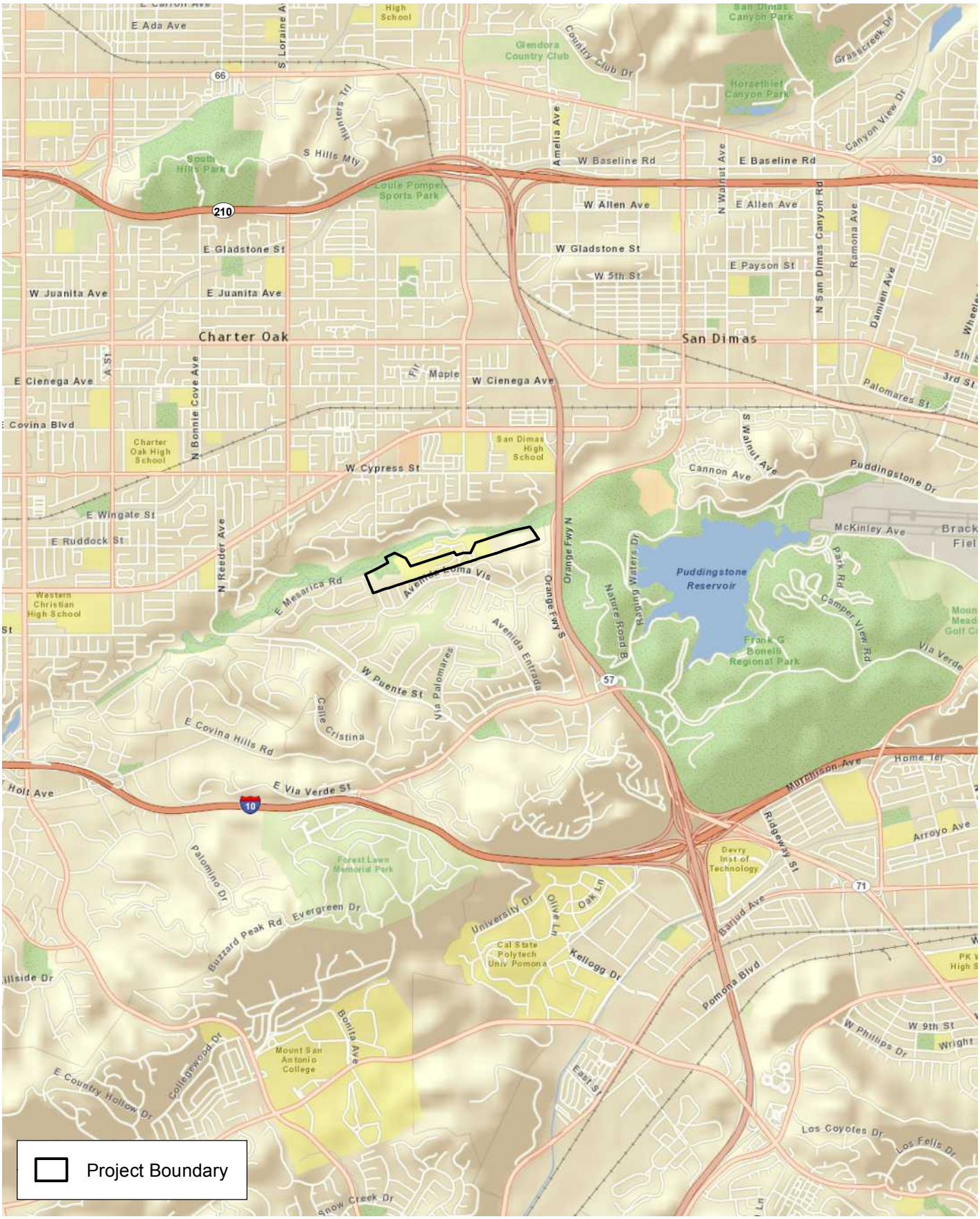

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Local Vicinity

Exhibit 2

Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project

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Feet

BonTerra CONSULTING

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Vegetation Types

- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Non-native Grassland
- Ruderal
- Non-native Grassland/Ruderal
- Ruderal/Coastal Sage Scrub
- Ruderal/Non-native Grassland
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- California Walnut Woodland/Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Ornamental
- Ornamental/Ruderal
- Mixed Woodland (Coast Live Oak, California Walnut, Ornamental)
- Coast Live Oak Tree
- Western Sycamore Tree
- Disturbed/Developed

Vegetation Types

Exhibit 3A

Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project

N W E S

200 100 0 200 Feet

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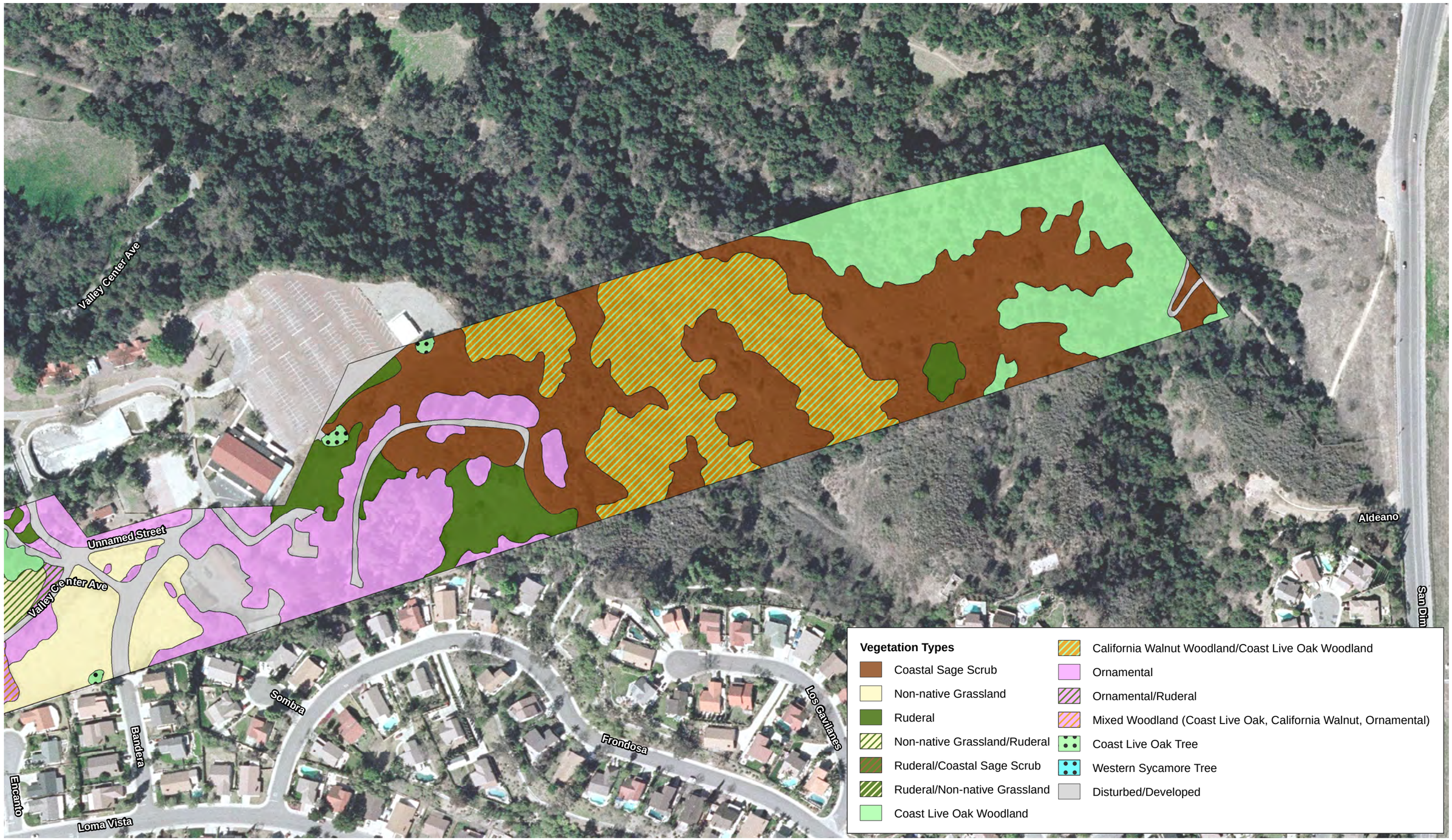

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Vegetation Types

Exhibit 3B

Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project

N W E S

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Feet

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ATTACHMENT B

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)
AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
RECOMMENDATIONS MEMORANDUM**

BonTerra CONSULTING

MEMORANDUM

April 11, 2012

To:
Evan Mather
AHBE Landscape Architects

From:
Tom Smith and
Josephine Alido

Subject: CEQA and NEPA Recommendations for Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project

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Based on our review of the proposed Conceptual Plan for the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project, which was presented to the community on February 29, 2012, we are providing you with recommendations on the compliance requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed site improvements.

Conceptual Plan

The Conceptual Plan that has been developed for the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project (see Exhibit 1) includes the following components:

1. Installation of a native plant buffer along the site boundary where residential properties and the Tzu Chi buildings abut the site.
2. Revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species.
3. Recreation of orchards and a community garden near Loma Vista Park
4. Pedestrian and vehicular access gates at Loma Vista Park.
5. Installation of a tree-lined driveway and pedestrian path as well as a native garden leading into the site at Loma Vista Park.
6. Vehicular egress and pedestrian and emergency traffic access on Calle Bandera gate.
7. Conversion of the former auto shop into a multi-purpose building (i.e., ranger residence, public restroom, outdoor gathering area, and meeting/classroom spaces).
8. Installation of a network of hiking trails defined by interpretive signs, benches, and trash receptacles as well as connections to the Antonovich Trail along the north side of Walnut Creek.
9. Installation of overlook areas along the trails.
10. Creation of three on-site parking areas.
11. Creation of a natural play area beside a proposed parking lot.
12. Installation of picnic areas near the recreated orchards, community garden, and trail junction.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA requires the evaluation and disclosure of the potential environmental changes that would accompany the implementation of a project prior to its approval by a public agency.

Review of the improvements in the Conceptual Plan indicates that, while some of the individual proposed site improvements may fall under a Statutory Exemption (Sections 15260 to 15285) or a Categorical Exemption (Sections 15300 to 15332) listed in the CEQA Guidelines (*California Code of Regulations* [CCR], Title 14), the adoption/approval of the overall Conceptual Plan (hereinafter, the "proposed project") by the Water Conservation Authority (WCA) and the City of San Dimas and implementation of all the planned improvements would be considered a "project" under CEQA and thus, subject to environmental review. As such, implementation of the project could require the preparation of either a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

An Initial Study (IS) would have to be prepared to analyze the nature and extent of potential impacts and whether the identified impacts could be mitigated to a less than significant level; if so, an MND could be used as the environmental documentation for the proposed project. If impacts identified in the IS would remain significant after implementation of applicable mitigation measures, an EIR would have to be prepared. However, due to the type of improvements proposed and environmental conditions on the project site, it is likely that impacts can be mitigated to less than significant levels; therefore, an IS/MND would suffice as the appropriate environmental documentation.

Preliminary Analysis

A preliminary analysis of the types of impacts the proposed project would create is provided in the table below, based on the various improvements that would be developed on site. Required studies and permits that would be needed in support of the CEQA documentation are also noted.

The analysis separates the impacts by the type of planned improvements (i.e., habitat restoration and native plant revegetation; proposed trails and trail amenities; use areas; and support facilities) since these improvements would have differing degrees of impact on the environment. This approach also allows the impacts and/or benefits of each type of improvement to be individually discussed rather than collectively addressed.

Habitat Restoration and Native Plant Revegetation improvements would include:

- Native Plant Buffer
- Revegetation of Disturbed Areas
- Native Garden

Proposed Trails and Trail Amenities would include:

- On-Site Trail Network (4- to 8-feet wide)
- Connections to Off-Site Trails
- Interpretive Signs
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles

- Overlook Areas
- Drinking Fountains
- Footbridge Connection to Antonovich Trail

Use Areas would include:

- Recreated Orchards
- Community Garden
- Multi-Purpose Building
- Natural Play Area
- Picnic Areas
- Expansion of Loma Vista Park

Support Facilities would include:

- Access Gates
- Oak Tree-Lined Driveway and Pedestrian Path
- Parking Lots
- Perimeter Fence

Please note that this analysis is based on our broad understanding of the proposed improvements at the site and limited on-site investigations and may change as refinements or more details on the proposals are developed.

IMPACTS OF PROPOSED SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Concept Plan

April 11, 2012

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE/ EXISTING SETTING	Potential Impacts by Type of Improvements			
	Habitat Restoration and Native Plant Revegetation	**Proposed Trails And Trail Amenities**	**Use Areas**	**Support Facilities**
Aesthetics • Site is largely vacant with a few abandoned structures. • Walnut Creek and natural open space areas along the creek are north of the site and Tzu Chi property.	• Return the areas at the site to more natural conditions. • No new light sources.	• Greater definition of on-site trails through minor grading and introduction of signs, benches, trash receptacles and overlook areas. • No new light sources.	• Building reuse. • Creation of gardens, picnic areas, and play areas. • Security lighting for multi-use building.	• Creation of paved areas. • Parking lot and driveway lighting.
Agriculture and Forest Resources • No Farmland, forests or agricultural uses on site.	• No impact to agriculture or forests.	• No impact to agriculture or forests.	• No impact to agriculture or forests.	• No impact to agriculture or forests.
Air Quality • Los Angeles County is a nonattainment area for ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and lead.	• Short-term emissions (associated with crews coming to the site and the use of small equipment). • No long-term emissions.	• Short-term construction emissions. • Long-term vehicle emissions from trail users that drive to the site.	• Short-term construction emissions. • Long-term vehicle emissions and stationary emissions from use and maintenance of the multi-purpose building and other site amenities/use areas.	• Short-term construction emissions. • No direct long-term vehicle emissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE/ EXISTING SETTING	Potential Impacts by Type of Improvements			
	Habitat Restoration and Native Plant Revegetation	**Proposed Trails And Trail Amenities**	**Use Areas**	**Support Facilities**
Biological Resources • The site supports native and introduced plant species, including Coastal Sage Scrub, Coast Live Oak Woodland, and California Walnut Woodland/ Coast Live Oak Woodland. • Special status plant and animal species may occur on the site. • The site includes drainages that are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the Los Angeles RWQCB.	• Removal of invasive species and revegetation with native plants would have beneficial impacts. • On-site revegetation and habitat restoration could serve as mitigation for the impacts associated with vegetation removal for proposed improvements.	• Trails following existing dirt roads will have minimal impact, but new trails requiring vegetation removal would require special status plant surveys. • Vegetation clearing should be scheduled outside the nesting season (which generally runs from March through September) to avoid impacts to nesting birds. • Focused surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher would be needed for trails that would disturb/remove coastal sage scrub vegetation at the eastern section of the site. • Regulatory permits would be required from the USACE, the CDFG, and the Los Angeles RWQCB for trails across or near drainages and for the footbridge across Walnut Creek at the northeastern end.	• Vegetation clearing would require focused plant surveys to determine impacts to special status plants. • Vegetation clearing should be scheduled outside the nesting season (which generally runs from March through September) to avoid impacts to nesting birds.	• Vegetation clearing would require focused plant surveys to determine impacts to special status plants. • Vegetation clearing should be scheduled outside the nesting season (which generally runs from March through September) to avoid impacts to nesting birds.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE/ EXISTING SETTING	Potential Impacts by Type of Improvements			
	Habitat Restoration and Native Plant Revegetation	**Proposed Trails And Trail Amenities**	**Use Areas**	**Support Facilities**
Cultural Resources • Three historic structures are present on site. • Archaeological resources may be present in the western and eastern thirds of the site. • Paleontological resources maybe present at the western third of the site.	• Revegetation activities are not likely to affect cultural resources, since these would occur on disturbed areas of the site and would involve limited grading.	• After vegetation clearing for proposed improvements at the western and eastern thirds of the site, an archaeologist would need to survey cleared areas to determine if any artifacts remain exposed on the surface. • A paleontologist would need to monitor grading at the western third of the site for vertebrate fossils that may be present in older Quaternary alluvium.	• Reuse of the historic structures is proposed • The proposed facilities would be located at the central section, which is highly disturbed and unlikely to contain archaeological and paleontological resources.	• These facilities would be located at the central section, which is highly disturbed and unlikely to contain archaeological and paleontological resources.
Geology and Soils • No earthquake faults cross the site. • Liquefaction and landslide hazards on site.	• Minor soil disturbance.	• Trail construction would need to consider liquefaction and landslide hazards on site.	• No liquefaction or landslide hazards are present in proposed use areas.	• No liquefaction or landslide hazards in areas proposed for support facilities.
Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and Climate Change • GHG emissions from intermittent maintenance activities at the site.	• Minimal GHG emissions from equipment used for revegetation.	• GHG emissions from construction activities. • GHG emissions from vehicle trips.	• GHG emissions from construction activities. • GHG emissions from vehicle trips and utility consumption.	• GHG emissions from construction activities.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials • Existing structures may contain lead and asbestos. • Site is located within a High Fire Hazard Zone.	• Short-term use of soil amendments.	• Limited hazardous material use for construction and maintenance of trail amenities. • Users would be exposed to fire hazards.	• Lead and asbestos abatement would be needed for building reuse. • Hazardous material use would be needed for reconstruction and maintenance of the multi-purpose building and use areas. • Users would be exposed to fire hazards.	• Hazardous material use for construction and maintenance of support facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE/ EXISTING SETTING	Potential Impacts by Type of Improvements			
	Habitat Restoration and Native Plant Revegetation	**Proposed Trails And Trail Amenities**	**Use Areas**	**Support Facilities**
Hydrology and Water Quality • Walnut Creek is located north of the site. • Several drainages flow southerly through the site into Walnut Creek.	• Revegetation would not affect local hydrology and water quality.	• Storm water pollutants could be generated by construction activities. • Minor changes in the existing drainage pattern would occur due to grading for trails. • Crossings at drainages and Walnut Creek.	• Storm water pollutants could be generated by construction activities. • Minor changes in the existing drainage pattern would occur due to grading for use areas.	• Storm water pollutants could be generated by construction activities. • Long- term storm water pollutants would be generated in parking areas.
Land Use and Planning • Underutilized and vacant land. • Site is designated as Low Density Residential in County Land Use Plan and zoned as Residential Planned Development on the County Zoning Map. • Site is designated as Open Space on the San Dimas Land Use Map.	• Revegetation would not conflict with existing or designated land uses.	• Trails would be consistent with the City's Open Space designation.	• Passive recreational uses would be consistent with the City's Open Space designation.	• Support facilities would not conflict with existing or designated land uses.
Mineral Resources • No mining activities or oils, gas, or geothermal wells on site.	• No impact.	• No Impact.	• Would preclude future mining activities.	• Would preclude future mining activities.
Noise • Intermittent noise from maintenance activities.	• Short-term construction noise. • No long-term noise impacts	• Short-term construction noise. • Vehicle and trail user noise. • Intermittent stationary noise from maintenance activities.	• Short-term construction noise • Vehicle and visitor noise impacts on adjacent residences. • Intermittent stationary noise from maintenance activities.	• Short-term construction noise • Vehicle and visitor noise impacts on adjacent residences. • Intermittent stationary noise from maintenance activities.
Population and Housing • No on-site residents, housing units, or businesses. • Intermittent maintenance visits.	• No direct users of natural areas.	• Short-term population on site by trail users.	• Short-term population on site by users of the multi-purpose building, gardens, picnic area, and play area. • Permanent residence of ranger on site. • Intermittent maintenance visits.	• Short-term use by pedestrians and vehicles.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE/ EXISTING SETTING	Potential Impacts by Type of Improvements			
	Habitat Restoration and Native Plant Revegetation	**Proposed Trails And Trail Amenities**	**Use Areas**	**Support Facilities**
Public Services • County Sheriff's Department provides police protection. • County Fire Station 141 is the nearest fire station.	• No demand for public services.	• Increase in site use would translate to a small incremental increase in demand for fire and police protection services.	• New structures and users would increase demand for police and fire protection.	• Increase in demand for fire and police protection services.
Recreation • Informal hiking trails throughout the site.	• Buffer and revegetation areas with no public access.	• Trail use by hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists within designated areas.	• Variety of recreational uses will be offered by different use areas and facilities.	• Support facilities not for recreational use.
Transportation and Circulation • Intermittent vehicle trips from maintenance activities at the site.	• Limited trip generation from short term planting activities. • No long-term vehicle trip generation.	• Short-term trip generation during construction. • Long-term trip generation and parking needs from trail users.	• Short-term trip generation during construction. • Trip generation and parking needs from users of multi-purpose building and use areas. • Traffic study would be needed to determine future roadway and intersection operations on Calle Bandera, Avenida Loma Vista, and other local roads; traffic analysis of egress/ingress options may be necessary.	• Short-term trip generation during construction. • No direct long-term trip generation.
Utilities • Utility systems are present at the central section of the site. • Water and sewer services were more likely to have been historically provided by private systems (i.e., wells and septic tanks).	• Irrigation water may be provided by water trucks until plant establishment.	• Water service needed for drinking fountains.	• Sewer and water services needed for ranger residence and public restrooms. • Permit from the Los Angeles RWQCB is needed for a new septic tank or connection to local sewer system would be needed. • Electrical power services needed.	• Electrical power services from existing lines would be needed.

USACE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; CDFG: California Department of Fish and Game; RWQCB: Regional Water Quality Control Board; GHG: greenhouse gas(es).

The analysis shows that limited impacts would occur from the proposed habitat restoration and revegetation elements of the proposed project. Trails at the eastern and western thirds of the site would impact sensitive biological and cultural resources in these areas. Use areas in the central section would generate impacts to adjacent residences, although a vegetated buffer is proposed along the site boundaries that abut residential properties and the Tzu Chi Foundation. A number of future studies would be needed to provide a more definitive analysis of impacts and the necessary mitigation. These include a Traffic, Parking and Access Study; a Jurisdictional Delineation; Noise modeling; and a Biological Resource Assessment (including focused surveys for sensitive plants and wildlife).

Our preliminary evaluation also indicates that potential impacts of the proposed Conceptual Plan are expected to be less than significant on most issue areas, except for:

- Biological resources,
- Cultural resources,
- Noise impacts, and
- Traffic impacts.

These impacts would have to be mitigated to less than significant levels for the project to qualify for an MND; otherwise, an EIR would be required.

Impact Reduction Strategies

Potential impacts can be reduced by adjusting some of the improvements in the Conceptual Plan. However, it should be noted that under CEQA, the reduction of impacts may not be necessary if the potential impact is considered less than significant without mitigation.

Strategies that could be used to reduce the impacts of the proposed improvements in the Conceptual Plan, as they are refined for construction, include those listed below.

- ***Size of Disturbance.*** A reduction in the size (area) of proposed improvements (disturbance footprints) would reduce impacts on biological and cultural resources and the overall natural environment.
- ***Protection of Native Vegetation.*** Leaving native vegetation undisturbed and locating improvements within previously disturbed areas or those areas that contain ruderal (weedy) or ornamental species would reduce impacts on sensitive biological resources.
- ***Avoidance of Oak Trees.*** Realignment of some trails to avoid the removal of oak trees would also avoid the need for an Oak Tree Permit and the need for tree replanting or replacement.
- ***Avoidance of Riparian Areas.*** Using bridges for trails that cross drainages or locating the footings of the footbridge over Walnut Creek away from the creek bed and banks and adjacent wetland areas would reduce impacts to riparian habitat and water resources and may eliminate the need for, or reduce the extent of, resource agency permits from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
- ***Avoidance of Nesting Birds***. To avoid conflicts with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald/Golden Eagle Protection Act, construction activities involving vegetation removal shall avoid the period from March 15th through September 15th.

- ***Avoidance of Impacts to the Coastal California Gnatcatcher.*** Impacts to this species (if determined to be present) can be avoided by working outside of the recognized breeding season (February 15 through August 30) and by avoiding removal of any potential nesting habitat at any point in the year. If this species occurs on site, the proposed improvement should be redesigned to avoid occupied habitat for this species and to avoid the need for a Take Authorization from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through Section 7 or Section 10 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA).
- ***Avoidance of Paleontologically Sensitive Areas.*** Limiting improvements at the western section of the project site that are overlain by older Quaternary Alluvial sediments (where sensitive paleontological resources may be present) will eliminate the need for paleontological resources monitoring.
- ***Preservation of Cultural Resources.*** Where sensitive archaeological resources are found after site clearing, capping of these resources prior to construction of the improvement would avoid the need for resource collection and mitigation.
- ***Design to Avoid Hazards.*** Designing the proposed improvements to blend with the natural environment and to avoid geologic and fire hazards would reduce user exposure to these hazards.

Future Environmental Reviews

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

BonTerra Consulting recommends that a CEQA Initial Study (IS) be prepared for the Draft Preferred Conceptual Plan (when available) to provide a more definitive analysis of potential project impacts. The IS would also allow for the identification of mitigation measures that would be needed to support the adoption of an MND and to avoid the need for an EIR. While the habitat restoration components of the proposed project are not likely to result in significant adverse impacts, new trails and trail amenities and new public use areas support more intensive activities that may lead to impacts that could be significant and adverse. Mitigation of impacts to reduce any such impacts to less than significant levels would be the main purpose of the IS. Completion of the IS would then allow for the appropriate CEQA documentation to be prepared and adopted and would thereby set the stage for project implementation.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the environmental review of projects that would be undertaken by federal agencies; that would occur on federal lands; or that would be funded by federal funds.

The project site is not owned by the federal government or under the control of any federal agency. Also, at this time, there are no known federal funds or grants that would be utilized to implement the proposed improvements. Therefore, compliance with NEPA is not required. However, should the City of San Dimas or the WCA elect to obtain federal funding to assist with project implementation in the future, NEPA compliance would be necessary prior to the release of funds by the federal agency. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which oversees the implementation of NEPA, allows individual federal agencies to adopt their own NEPA compliance guidelines. However, until such time that a federal funding agency is identified, the requirements for NEPA compliance - which may take the form of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) or an Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - cannot be specified.

Generally, for the proposed improvements to fall under a CE, they cannot affect federally listed Threatened or Endangered species or designated critical habitat or archaeological sites and historic properties. Consultation with the federal funding agency would be necessary to determine if the proposed improvements would be addressed under a CE or if an EA/FONSI would be needed.

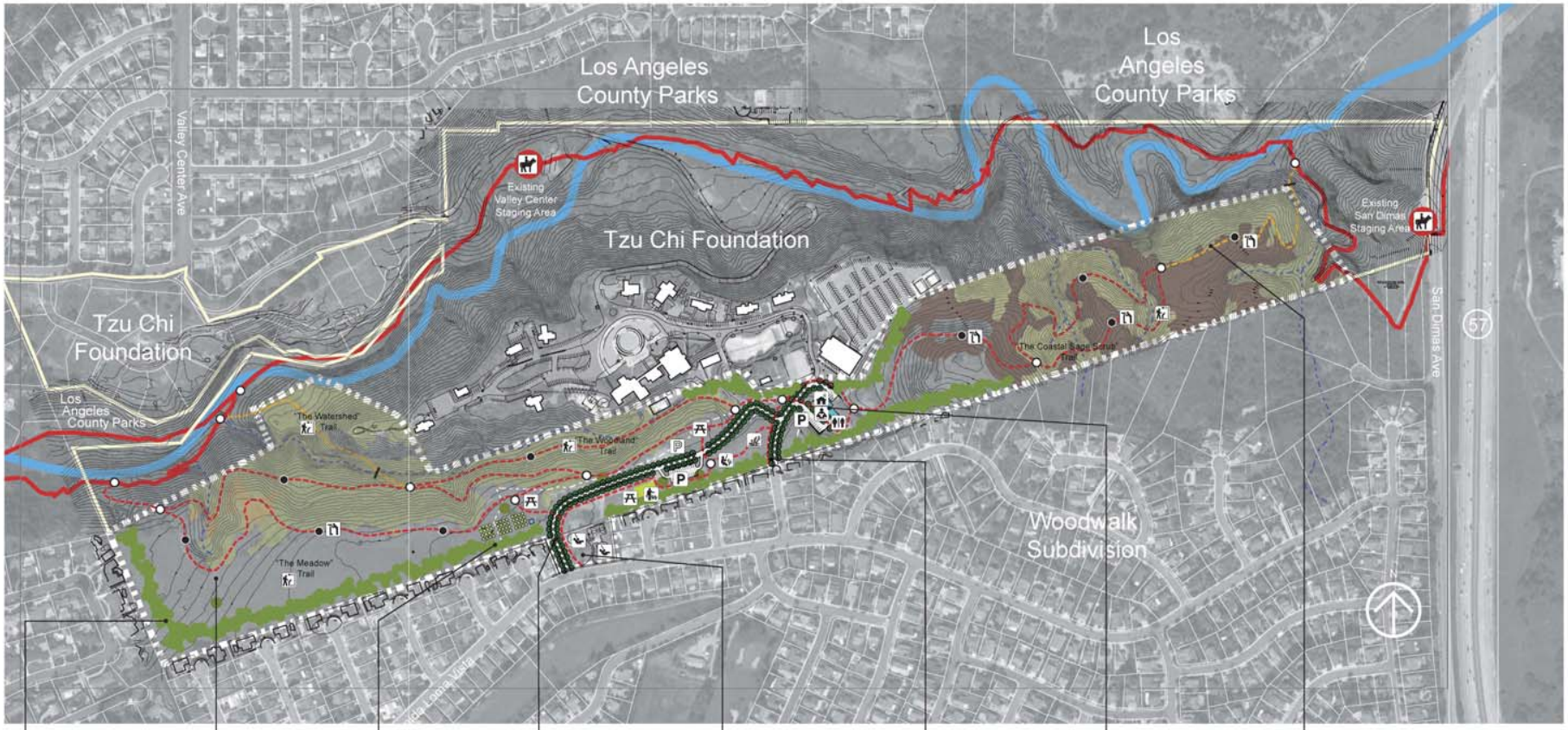
Should an EA be required by the federal funding agency, the research and analysis prepared for the IS/MND under CEQA can be readily reformatted and reused for the EA analysis, along with additional analyses and documentation required to comply with federal mandates (i.e., alternatives analysis, environmental justice impacts, and agency coordination). Therefore, any future NEPA documentation would be streamlined and would build upon the completed CEQA documentation.

PHASING AND PERMITTING OF IMPROVEMENTS

The implementation of the proposed improvements would require the issuance of permits from various public agencies. The permits and approvals from responsible and trustee agencies that would be necessary include:

- Water Conservation Authority (WCA) approvals of the improvements proposed on the parcel owned by WCA.
- City of Sam Dimas approval and issuance of building permits for the proposed improvements on the parcel owned by the City and for improvements at Loma Vista Park.
- County of Los Angeles approval and issuance of building permits for the proposed improvements within the parcels owned by the WCA and within the portion of the site within unincorporated County areas.
- Issuance of an Oak Tree Permit from the County for the removal and replacement of oak trees within County areas of the site.
- USACE, Los Angeles RWQCB, and CDFG permits for any work in or near jurisdictional areas and/or drainage channels and Walnut Creek.
- USFWS approval (Take Authorization through Section 7 or Section 10 of FESA) for removal of coastal sage scrub habitat if found to be occupied by the coastal California gnatcatcher.
- Los Angeles RWQCB discharge permit for use of a septic tank on site or annexation into the Los Angeles County Sanitation District 22 for extension of a sewer line into the site.
- Los Angeles County Fire Department approval of proposed site improvements.
- Southern California Edison (SCE) approval of electrical power connection.
- Golden State Water Company approval for water service to the site and extension of a water line to the site.

The time it takes for these agencies to review/process the permit applications and issue approvals/permits would serve as the main constraints to phasing the construction of the proposed improvements. Therefore, improvements that require fewer permits from various agencies or that can be readily approved can proceed earlier than others.



Native Plant Buffer. Shrubs, trees and groundcovers will be used to screen visibility into adjacent residential properties along the entire site boundary.

Areas of the site that have been disturbed from previous development and land uses will be planted with native plant species in an effort to recreate a native habitat on the site.

Orchards formerly found on site will be recreated to create community orchards with mandarins, navels, and blood orange varieties. A community garden is also proposed.

Loma Vista Entry Gate. In this alternative, access into the site will be provided through pedestrian and vehicular gates. See circulation plans for access alternatives.

Loma Vista Park. The existing park will be modified to incorporate a tree-lined entry drive and pedestrian path into the new park site. A native garden will surround the new path and drive and replace the former open lawn area.

Calle de Bandera Gate. In this alternative, vehicular egress from the site will be provided through this lock-able gate. Pedestrian and Emergency traffic will have access. See circulation plans for access alternatives.

The former Auto Shop will be converted into a multi-purpose building for the general public and WCA use. Program includes a ranger residence, a public bathroom, outdoor gathering and flexible meeting/ educational spaces.

A network of site trails will traverse the site highlighting vistas and natural resources of site. Access to and from the Antonovich Trail will be provided. Interpretive signage, benches and trash receptacles will be located along the trail system as hiker amenities.

Legend

- Antonovich Trail
- Walnut Creek
- Seasonal Tributary Drainage
- Multi-Purpose Trail
- Future Trail Connection
- Trail Amenity Area
- Trail Junctions
- Stream Crossing
- Building
- Ranger Residence
- Existing Native Specimen Tree
- Existing Native Habitat: Oak/Walnut Woodland
- Existing Native Habitat: Coastal Sage Scrub
- Native Vegetated Buffer
- Self Guided Educational Trail
- Overlook Area
- Native Plant Growing Area
- Existing Playground
- Natural Play Area
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Orchard
- Community Garden
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Restroom
- Horse Staging Area
- Overflow Parking
- Tree-lined Drive

Exhibit 1 – Conceptual Plan