

5.3 Biological Resources – Terrestrial

This section describes the applicable laws and policies relating to terrestrial biological resources, discusses the existing (baseline) terrestrial biological resources, including those located onshore and directly adjacent to the shore (i.e., immediate near-shore), and evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Project. Refer to Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*, for a discussion of marine biological resources.

5.3.1 Regulatory Framework

Federal

Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 protects plants, fish, and animals at risk of extinction, and classifies them as endangered or threatened (*federally listed species*). Other species are addressed in this law as *candidates* for listing, and although these are not afforded legal protection under the FESA, they typically receive special attention from federal and state agencies during the environmental review process. FESA Section 9 regulates the “take” (i.e., harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any of these activities) of federally listed species. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) may authorize “take” when it is incidental to, but not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful act. Under FESA Section 7, if a project has a *federal nexus* (i.e., occurs on federal land, is issued federal permits, or receives any other federal oversight or funding), the federal agency responsible for the project or for issuing a permit for the project must enter into an informal/formal consultation with USFWS to obtain, if possible, a Biological Opinion (BO) allowing for incidental “take” of the species in question. The BO identifies project changes and measures to avoid/reduce impacts. If a project is on private land and would not require any federal permits, the proponent must prepare a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) to address the impacts for USFWS approval, pursuant to FESA Section 10.

Under the FESA, critical habitat is designated at the time of listing of a species or within one year of listing. “Critical habitat” refers to habitat or a specific geographic area that contains the elements and features essential for the survival and recovery of the species in question. In the event that a project results in “take” or adverse effects to a species’ designated critical habitat, USFWS may require the project proponent to implement suitable mitigation to avoid/reduce such impacts. However, consultation for impacts to Critical Habitat is required only when a project has a federal nexus (i.e. occurs on federal land, is issued federal permits [e.g., USACE Section 404 Clean Water Act permit], or receives any other federal oversight or funding). If a Project does not have a federal nexus, critical habitat consultations are not required.¹

¹ As discussed in Section 2, *Introduction*, because West Basin intends to apply to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program, environmental review of the project must comply with CEQA-Plus requirements. Here, West Basin must comply with the federal ESA, and the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance would be designated as the non-federal representative for the Project.

Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) establishes national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and, where possible, restore or enhance the resources of the nation’s coastal zones. In accordance with Section 307(c) of the CZMA, after approval by the Secretary of Commerce of a state’s management program, any applicant for a required federal license or permit to conduct an activity in or outside of the coastal zone, affecting any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone of that state, shall provide in the application to the licensing or permitting agency a certification that the proposed activity complies with the enforceable policies of the state’s approved program and that such activity would be conducted in a manner consistent with the program. The federal government certified the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP) in 1977. The enforceable policies of that document are Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976. All documents are reviewed for consistency with these policies.

For all of the California coast, except San Francisco Bay, the state agency responsible for implementing the CZMA is the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The CCC is responsible for reviewing proposed federal and federally licensed or permitted activities to assess their consistency with the approved CCMP.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 USC Sections 703–712) makes it unlawful to pursue, capture, kill, or possess (or attempt to do these things) to any migratory bird or part, nest, or egg of any such bird listed in wildlife protection treaties between the United States, Great Britain, Mexico, Japan, and former Soviet Union countries, and authorizes the U.S. Secretary of the Interior (via the USFWS) to protect and regulate the taking of migratory birds. It establishes seasons and bag limits for hunted species and protects migratory birds, their occupied nests, and their eggs (16 USC Section 703; 50 CFR Parts 10 and 21).

Clean Water Act Section 401

Applicants for a federal license or permit for activities that may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Native American tribe with jurisdiction.² Such certification is based on a finding that the discharge would meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. Water Quality Certification must be based on a finding that the proposed discharge would comply with water quality standards, which are defined as numeric and narrative objectives in each RWQCB’s Basin Plan. Where applicable, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within the jurisdiction of multiple RWQCBs. The RWQCB jurisdiction extends to all waters of the state and all waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 requires that “any applicant for a federal permit for activities that involve a discharge to waters of the State, shall provide the federal permitting agency a certification from the State in which the discharge is proposed that states that the

² 33 U.S.C. Section 1341

discharge would comply with the applicable provisions under the federal Clean Water Act.” Therefore, before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would issue a Section 404 Permit, applicants must apply for and receive a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB.

Clean Water Act Section 404

CWA Section 404 requires that a permit be obtained from the USACE prior to the discharge of dredged or fill materials into any “waters of the United States or wetlands.” Waters of the US are broadly defined in the USACE regulations to include navigable waterways, their tributaries, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.³ Wetlands are defined as: “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that normally do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas”; refer to **Appendix 6, West Basin Ocean Water Desalination Project Terrestrial Habitat Assessment**. Wetlands that are not specifically exempt from Section 404 regulations (such as drainage channels excavated on dry land) are considered to be “jurisdictional wetlands.” In a recent Supreme Court Case, the Court acted to limit the USACE’s regulatory jurisdiction under CWA Section 404, as it applies to adjacent waters; refer to Appendix 6. Specifically, the Court ruled that waters that are non-navigable, isolated, and intrastate are not subject to the USACE jurisdiction; refer to Appendix 6. USACE is required to consult with the USFWS, Environmental Protection Agency, and RWQCB, among other agencies, in carrying out its discretionary authority under Section 404.

USACE grants two types of permits, individual and nationwide. Project-specific individual permits are required for certain activities that may have a potential for more than a minimal impact and necessitate a detailed application. The most common type of permit is a nationwide permit. Nationwide permits authorize activities on a nationwide basis unless specifically limited, and are designed to regulate, with little delay or paperwork, certain activities having minimal impacts. Nationwide permits typically take 2 to 3 months to obtain, whereas individual permits can take a year or more. To qualify for a nationwide permit, specific criteria must be met. If the criteria restrictions are met, permittees may proceed with certain activities without notifying USACE. Some nationwide permits require a pre-construction notification before activities can begin.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended in 1964, requires that all federal agencies consult with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), USFWS, and state wildlife agencies (i.e., California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) when proposed actions might result in modification of a natural stream or body of water. Federal agencies must consider effects that these projects would have on fish and wildlife development and provide for improvement of these resources. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act allows NMFS, USFWS, and CDFW to provide comments to USACE during review of projects under Section 404 of the CWA (concerning the discharge of dredged materials into navigable waters of the United States) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (obstructions in navigable waterways). NMFS

³ 33 CFR Section 328.3

comments provided under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act are intended to reduce environmental impacts to migratory, estuarine, and marine fisheries and their habitats.

State

California Coastal Act Section 30000 et seq.

California Coastal Act Chapter 3 contains policies to: protect water quality and the biological productivity of coastal waters (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 30231); avoid and minimize dredging, diking, and filling sediments (PRC Section 30233); and mitigate wetland impacts (PRC Section 30607.1). The California Coastal Act established the CCC and created a state and local government partnership to ensure that public concerns regarding coastal development are addressed.

In addition, under the California Coastal Act “environmentally sensitive area means any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments” (PRC Section 30107.5).

The California Coastal Act requires that jurisdictions protect “environmentally sensitive habitat areas” (ESHA). Specifically, PRC Section 30240 states that:

- ESHAs shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on such resources shall be allowed within such areas.
- Development in areas adjacent to ESHAs and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade such areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas.

The California Coastal Act generally protects ESHAs where they exist and also protects “against any significant disruption of habitat values.” California Coastal Act Section 30007.5 states that where there is a conflict between policies that it:

...be resolved in a manner, which on balance is the most protective of significant coastal resources. In this context, the Legislature declares that broader policies which, for example, serve to concentrate development in close proximity to urban and employment centers may be more protective, overall, than specific wildlife habitat and other similar resource policies.

California Code of Regulations Title 14

The CDFW administers California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Sections 2050 through 2098 to list California plants and animals declared as rare, threatened, and endangered.

California Endangered Species Act

State-listed threatened and endangered species are protected under provisions of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Activities that may result in “take” of individuals (defined in CESA as to “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill”) are regulated by the CDFW. Habitat degradation or modification is not included in the definition of “take” under CESA. Nonetheless, CDFW has interpreted “take” to include the

destruction of nesting, denning, or foraging habitat necessary to maintain a viable breeding population of protected species.

The State of California considers an endangered species as one whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy. A threatened species is considered as one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it is likely to become an endangered species in the near future in the absence of special protection or management. A rare species is one that is considered present in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. State threatened and endangered species are fully protected against take, as defined above.

The CDFW has also produced a Species of Special Concern list to serve as a species watch list. Species on this list are either of limited distribution or their habitats have been reduced substantially, such that a threat to their populations may be imminent. Species of special concern may receive special attention during environmental review, but they do not have formal statutory protection.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA Guidelines Section 15380 independently defines “endangered” and “rare” species separately from the CESA definitions. Under CEQA, “endangered” species of plants or animals are defined as those whose survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy, while “rare” species are defined as those who are in such low numbers that they could become endangered if their environment worsens. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) created six California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) in an effort to categorize degrees of concern for rare plant species. These include taxa which meet the criteria for listing under CESA, even if not currently included on any list, as described in Section 15380. All CRPR 1 and 2, and some Rank 3 and 4 plants, may fall under Section 15380.

Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513, 4700, 5050, and 5515

The CDFW administers the California Fish and Game Code. There are particular Fish and Game Code sections that are applicable to natural resource management. For example, Fish and Game Code Section 3503 makes it unlawful to destroy the nests or eggs of any birds that are protected under the MBTA. Furthermore, any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey, such as hawks, eagles, and owls) are protected under Code Section 3503.5, which makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy their nest or eggs. A consultation with CDFW would be required prior to the removal of any bird of prey nest that may occur on a survey area. Code Section 3511 lists fully protected bird species, where the CDFW is unable to authorize the issuance of permits or licenses to take these species. Examples of species that are state fully protected include golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*). Fish and Game Code Section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird as MBTA designated or any part of such migratory nongame bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under MBTA provisions. Code Section 4700, 5050, and 5515 designate fully protected species and prohibit any take of their habitat unless for scientific purposes.

Fish and Game Code Section 1602

Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. applies to all perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral rivers, streams, and lakes in the state. Fish and Game Code Section 1602 establishes a fee-based process to ensure that projects conducted in and around lakes, rivers, or streams do not adversely impact fish and wildlife resources, or, when adverse impacts cannot be avoided, ensures that adequate mitigation and/or compensation is provided. Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1602, a notification must be submitted to the CDFW for any activity that would divert or obstruct the natural flow or alter the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated biological resources) of a river or stream or use material from a streambed. This includes activities taking place within rivers or streams that flow perennially or episodically and that are defined by the area in which surface water currently flows, or has flowed, over a given course during the historic hydrologic regime, and where the width of its course can reasonably be identified by physical and biological indicators.

Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq.

The California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977 is incorporated into Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq. The Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq. designates rare, threatened, and endangered plants in the state of California to preserve, protect, and enhance these plants. Fish and Game Code Section 1930 et seq. designates significant natural areas, including refuges, riparian areas, and vernal pools.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Act is the principal law governing water quality regulation in California (California Water Code Section 13000 et seq.). It establishes a comprehensive program to protect water quality and the beneficial uses of water. The Porter-Cologne Act applies to surface waters, wetlands, and groundwater and to both point and nonpoint sources of pollution. Pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act, the policy of the state is as follows:

That the quality of all the waters of the State shall be protected;

That all activities and factors affecting the quality of water shall be regulated to attain the highest water quality within reason; and

That the State must be prepared to exercise its full power and jurisdiction to protect the quality of water in the State from degradation.

The RWQCB regulates discharges under the Porter-Cologne Act primarily through issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for point source discharges and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for nonpoint source discharges. Anyone discharging or proposing to discharge materials that could affect water quality (other than to a community sanitary sewer system regulated by an NPDES permit) must file a report of waste discharge. The Porter-Cologne Act applies to the Project since grading, filling, and other construction-related activities could affect the water quality of waters of the State.

Regional

There are no regional laws, ordinances, or regulations pertaining to terrestrial biological resources.

Local

As set forth by the California Government Code (CGC) Section 53091(d) and (e), West Basin would not be subject to compliance with local building and zoning ordinances, as the Project involves locating and constructing water-related facilities.

City of El Segundo General Plan

The *City of El Segundo General Plan* Conservation and Open Space and Parks Elements include concepts and guidelines to manage and preserve biological resources. The following goals, objectives, and policies pertain to the City's terrestrial biological resources:

Goal CN2: Assist in the maintenance of a safe and sufficient water supply and distribution system that provides for all the water needs within the community.

Policy CN2-11: Encourage, whenever appropriate and feasible, development techniques which minimize surface run-off and allow replenishment of soil moisture. Such techniques may include, but not be limited to, the on-site use and retention of storm water, the use of impervious paving material (such as walk-on-bark, pea gravel, and cobble mulches), the preservation of vegetative covers, and efficiently designed and managed irrigation systems.

Goal CN4: Protect the rare and endangered El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*).

Policy CN4-2: Protect the coastal habitat of the federally-endangered El Segundo blue butterfly.

Policy CN5-9: Increase the diversity of plant species to:

- Decrease risk of plant loss due to disease.
- Increase the resilience and adaptability of the landscape.
- Encourage the diversity of birds, insects, and micro-organisms necessary for a healthy urban ecosystem.

Objective OS1-5: Protect natural open space resources and associated habitat.

Policy OS1-5.2: Promote street trees and landscaping as a desirable feature of the quality of life in El Segundo, by including in the City's Zoning Ordinance a requirement for a minimum amount of landscaping for all multi-family residential, commercial, and industrial development projects.

City of El Segundo Municipal Code

El Segundo Municipal Code (ESMC) Section 10-3-11, *Rules and Regulations*, outlines the policies regarding vegetation removal and pollution in beach areas. This section requires that:

H. Flora and Turf: No person shall dig, remove, destroy, injure, mutilate, or cut any tree, plant, shrub, bloom or flower, or any portion thereof, growing on the beach. No person shall remove any wood, turf, grass, soil, rock, sand or gravel from the beach.

N. Pollution:

1. Oil:

- a. No person shall deposit, place, throw, divert, or in any manner dispose of, or cause or permit to be deposited, placed, thrown, diverted, or in any manner disposed of, any crude petroleum, refined petroleum, engine oil, or any oily byproduct thereof or any tar or any product containing tar, or any oily substance into the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or into or upon the waters of any lagoon, bay, inlet, or tributary thereof; or deposit, place, throw, divert, or in any manner dispose of any crude petroleum, refined petroleum, engine oil, or any oily byproduct thereof, or any tar, or any product containing tar, or any oily substance upon any beach, tideland, or submerged land, or any portion thereof.
 - b. No person shall deposit, place, throw, divert, keep, maintain, or in any manner dispose of, or cause or permit to be deposited, placed, thrown, diverted, kept, maintained, or in any manner disposed of any crude petroleum, refined petroleum, engine oil, or any oily byproduct thereof, or any tar, or any product containing tar or any oily substance into, along, or upon any land, premises, or place in such a manner that the same, or any portion thereof, may run or be transferred or carried to, or be in any manner deposited upon or conveyed to any beach, tideland or submerged land, or any portion thereof, or into or upon the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or into or upon the waters of any lagoon, bay, inlet, or tributary thereof.
- 2. Other:** No person shall deposit, place, throw, or in any manner dispose of any dead animal or any portion thereof, or any vegetable or animal matter, or any offal, night soil, manure, rubbish, trash, garbage, or any decaying or putrid matter, material or substance which might decay or become putrid, or any matter, material or substance which is or might become injurious to health or which is or might become a nuisance or offensive to the senses of any person coming in proximity thereto, into the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or into the waters of any lagoon, bay, inlet or tributary thereof, of, in, upon, or along any beach, tideland, or submerged land, or any portion thereof, or keep or maintain or cause or permit to be kept or maintained upon any premises or in or at any place, any article, substance, or thing hereinabove in this Section enumerated, in such manner that any such article, substance or thing, or any portion thereof may be transferred or carried to, or be in any manner deposited upon or conveyed to any beach, tideland, or submerged land, or any portion thereof, or into or upon the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or into or upon the waters of any lagoon, bay, inlet or tributary thereof.

In addition, ESMC Section 15-8-2, *Permitted Uses*, outlines the policies regarding preserving and protecting natural resources in Open Space (O-S) Zones. This section requires:

- B.** The preservation and conservation of natural resources, including, without limitation, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life and areas required to provide visual relief from intense urban development and growth.

City of El Segundo Local Coastal Program

The Project site is located within the city of El Segundo's Coastal Zone. Under California Coastal Act Section 30500, each local government within the California Coastal Zone must prepare or have the CCC prepare for it a Local Coastal Program (LCP). The City of El Segundo Local Coastal Program (LCP) was certified in 1982. It covers an approximately 50-acre area spanning approximately 0.8 mile in length and 200 yards in width at its widest point; this area is almost completely developed, with the exception of the narrow shoreline. Project construction and implementation are subject to compliance with the LCP and, by extension, with the California Coastal Act. There are no ESHAs in the El Segundo Coastal Zone, and thus California Coastal Act Section 30240 does not apply. California Coastal Act Section 30231, which addresses the protection of water quality and the biological productivity of coastal waters, is applicable to the Project; see Section 5.3.

City of El Segundo Tree Removal or Maintenance Permit

Pursuant to ESMC Sections 9-3-10 to 9-3-60, private persons seeking to remove a tree from or maintain a tree on public streets must obtain a permit through the City of El Segundo's Recreation and Parks Department. All removal or maintenance are borne by the permittee. Whenever a tree is removed or destroyed pursuant to any issued tree permit, the permittee must plant another tree, of the kind and size specified in the permit, to replace the one destroyed or removed, within 40 days after the permit is issued.

Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region: Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

The Los Angeles Region Basin Plan (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Los Angeles RWQCB in 1994. The Basin Plan's purpose is to preserve and enhance water quality and also protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters. As such, it designates the beneficial uses for surface and ground waters, sets objectives to protect those uses, and describes implementation procedures to protect all waters within the Los Angeles region. The Thermal Plan and Ocean Plan are incorporated into the Basin Plan by reference.

5.3.2 Environmental Setting

Regional and Local Setting

The Project site lies within the Los Angeles Plain subsection of the Southern California Coast Section, which is characterized by flat floodplains and terraces and very gently sloped alluvial fans with small areas of marine terraces. The proposed ocean water desalination facility site is located within the El Segundo Generating Station (ESGS) footprint; refer to Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-3. The desalination facility site is approximately 2.5 miles southwest of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and west of Interstate 405 (I-405), on the shore of southern Santa Monica Bay. The site is bordered by the Chevron Marine Terminal on the north, 45th Street in the city of Manhattan Beach on the south, Vista Del Mar and the Chevron Refinery on the east, and Santa Monica Bay on the west. The site is located on a gently sloping coastal terrace. Onshore portions of the screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge would be constructed within the ESGS's boundaries. No construction or operational activities are proposed on the narrow strip of

beach located immediately west of the desalination facility site. The locations of the water conveyance corridors and regional pump station optional sites are shown in Figure 3-5.

Extensive urban and industrial development throughout the region has replaced most of the natural communities, which are restricted to scattered open space preserves and other protected areas. Only small, isolated patches of natural vegetation and associated wildlife remain, as a result of heavy industrial development of the area, including a few small areas of ornamental plantings immediately east of the ESGS site. Other areas of vegetation within the ESGS site include several hillsides covered in ice plant (*Carpobrotus chilensis*) and landscape plantings located on the east and west sides of the ESGS.

Local Climate

Los Angeles County is located along the southern California coast and into the western Mojave Desert. Its climate ranges from generally cool winters and moderate summers along the coast to cool winters and warm to hot summers in the desert, with rainfall occurring almost entirely in the winter. Climatological data obtained for the city of El Segundo indicates the annual precipitation averages 13.15 inches per year. Almost all of the precipitation in the form of rain occurs in the months between November and April, with hardly any occurring between the months of April and October. The wettest month is February, with a monthly average total precipitation of 3.11 inches, and the driest month is July, with a monthly average total precipitation of 0.03 inch. The average minimum and maximum temperatures are 56.1 °F and 70.6 °F, respectively, with December being the coldest month (monthly average 48 °F) and August/September being the hottest (monthly average 77°F). Temperatures during the site field survey in November 2015 (see below) were in the mid-70s °F, with patchy cloud cover.

Insufficient rainfall resulted in severe drought conditions for much of Los Angeles County through 2016. Following above average rainfall in late 2016 through present, the West Basin service area is currently experiencing “abnormally dry” drought conditions.⁴

Topography and Soils

On-site surface elevation for areas that would support the desalination facility, and onshore screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge facilities range from sea level to approximately 115 feet above mean sea level and generally slope to the northwest. Soils within and adjacent to the survey area were researched prior to the field visit using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Custom Soil Resource Report for Los Angeles County, California, Southeastern Part (USDA 2015). According to the Custom Soil Resource Report, soils have not been mapped within the Project site. Desalination facility site soils have recently been identified as being within the limits of the Oceano soil mapping association and characterized as having very slow runoff, rapid permeability, and high susceptibility to wind erosion (CEC 2015).

⁴ Much of Southern California remains in “Abnormally Dry,” “Moderate Drought” or “Severe Drought” conditions as of February 8, 2018 (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>).

Biological Survey Methodology

Literature Review

Prior to conducting the field surveys, a literature review was conducted and records search for special-status⁵ biological resources potentially occurring on or within the vicinity of the Project area. Previously recorded occurrences of special-status plant and wildlife species and their proximity to the survey area were determined through a query of the CDFW's QuickView Tool in BIOS, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) RareFind 5, the CNPS Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, Calflora Database, compendia of special-status species published by CDFW, and the USFWS species listings.

Literature detailing biological resources previously observed in the vicinity of the survey area and historical land uses were reviewed to understand the extent of disturbances to the on-site habitats. Standard field guides and texts on special-status and non-special-status biological resources were reviewed for habitat requirements, as well as the following resources:

- USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey
- City of El Segundo Local Coastal Program
- USFWS critical habitat designations for Threatened and Endangered Species
- Habitat requirements for western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) and El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*)

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring within the survey area. Additional recorded occurrences of those species found on or near the survey area were derived from database queries. The CNDDDB ArcGIS database was used, in conjunction with ArcGIS software, to locate the nearest occurrence and determine the distance from the survey area.

The water conveyance corridors and regional pump station optional sites, as well as the off-site construction laydown/staging areas, are located in industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway rights-of-way (ROWs), which are devoid of natural vegetation and associated wildlife. The absence of natural vegetation in these areas was further verified through review of aerial photography. As such, a habitat assessment survey of the water conveyance corridors, regional pump station optional sites, and off-site construction laydown/staging areas was not deemed necessary. Therefore, these sites were not field surveyed.

Habitat Assessment and Field Survey

The extent and conditions of the plant communities found within the boundaries of the survey area were evaluated on November 2, 2015 (see Appendix 6). The survey area is shown in **Figure 5.3-1** and consisted of the ESGS site, including the ESGS North and ESGS South Sites, as well as a 250-foot buffer surrounding these areas, which included the immediate shoreline west of the

⁵ As used in this report, "special-status" refers to plant and wildlife species that are listed within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database or within the California Native Plant Society's Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

ESGS.⁶ Plant communities identified on aerial photography during the literature review were verified by walking meandering transects through the plant communities and along boundaries between plant communities. The plant communities occurring within the survey area were evaluated for their potential to support special-status plant and wildlife species. In addition, field staff identified any jurisdictional features, and any natural corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area. Additionally, an assessment was conducted of El Segundo blue butterfly habitat in the survey area on July 12, 2016, based on USFWS and CDFW consultation and recommendations for the Project.

Special attention was given to special-status habitats and/or undeveloped areas, which have higher potentials to support special-status flora and fauna species. Areas providing suitable habitat for special-status species were closely surveyed during the habitat assessment. Methods to detect the presence of these species included direct observation, aural detection, and signs of presence including tracks, scat, burrows, or other sign.

All plant and wildlife species observed, as well as dominant plant species within each plant community, were recorded. Wildlife detections were made through observation of scat, trails, tracks, burrows, nests, and/or visual and aural observation. In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, condition of on-site plant communities, and presence of potential jurisdictional drainage and/or wetland features were noted.

Soil Series Assessment

On-site and adjoining soils were researched prior to the field survey, as discussed above. In addition, a review of the local geological conditions and historical aerial photography was conducted to assess the ecological changes the survey area has undergone.

Plant Communities

Plant communities were mapped using 7.5-minute USGS topographic base maps and aerial photography. The plant communities were classified in accordance with Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, and Evens (2009), CDFW (2003), and Holland (1986); delineated on an aerial photography; and then digitized into GIS ArcView. The ArcView application was used to compute the area of each plant community in acres (AC); refer to Appendix 6.

Plants

Common plant species observed during the field surveys were identified in the field by visual characteristics and morphology and were recorded in a field notebook. Unusual and less familiar on-site plants were photographed and identified in the laboratory using taxonomical guides. Taxonomic nomenclature used in this study follows the 2012 Jepson Manual. Scientific names are provided immediately following common names of plant species (on first reference only).

⁶ It is noted that no onshore construction or operational activities would occur along the narrow strip of shoreline immediately west of the ESGS.

Wildlife

Wildlife species detected during field surveys by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other sign were recorded during surveys in a field notebook. Field guides used to assist with identification of species during surveys included *The Sibley Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America* (Sibley 2003) and *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2014) for birds, *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Stebbins 2003) for herpetofauna, and *A Field Guide to Mammals of North America* (Reid 2006); refer to Appendix 6. Although common names of wildlife species are fairly well standardized, scientific names are provided immediately following common names in this report (on first reference only).

Jurisdictional Areas

Aerial photography was reviewed prior to conduct of the habitat assessment field survey. The aerials were used to locate and inspect any potential natural drainage features and water bodies that may fall under the jurisdiction of USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, or CCC. In general, surface drainage features indicated as blue-line streams on USGS maps that are observed or expected to exhibit evidence of flow are considered potential riparian/riverine habitat and are also subject to state and federal regulatory authorities. No jurisdictional areas were present on the desalination facility site, water conveyance corridors, regional pump station optional sites, or off-site construction laydown/staging areas. The screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge located in the Pacific Ocean fall under jurisdiction of USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, CCC, USFWS, and NMFS; refer to Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources* and Section 5.9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*.

Plant Communities and Non-Vegetative Habitat Types

Two plant communities, restored coastal scrub and ornamental, and two non-vegetative habitat types, open water and sandy beach, were observed within the survey area; refer to Figure 5.3-1. In addition, one on-site land cover type is classified as developed. The vegetation communities are described in further detail below.

Restored Coastal Scrub

The restored coastal scrub plant community occurs along the slopes of the southwestern corner of the desalination facility site. This plant community is primarily composed of native vegetation, including common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), Menzies' goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), Douglas' nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), but also includes some non-natives, particularly Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), pine (*Pinus* sp.), New Zealand flax (*Phormium* sp.), and rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*). This community integrates into ornamental vegetation in the southeastern corner of the Project site. Water irrigation pipelines, which provide artificial irrigation, are present throughout this community.

Ornamental

Ornamental areas are present along the remainder of the slopes within the survey area, which are primarily found along the eastern half of the desalination facility site and along the entire length west of Vista Del Mar. These slopes are dominated by iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), particularly

in the southern half of the desalination facility site. Additional ornamental shrubs and trees, including Mexican fan palm, are present on the slopes in the northern half of the site.

Open Water

Open water is located in the Pacific Ocean located within the survey area. There are two basins on the western boundary of the ESGS. At the time of the survey, both basins were full of water. There is no vegetation associated with these basins. The Pacific Ocean is habitat used by several avian species that also frequent the onshore sandy habitat.

Sandy Beach

The sandy beach area is located between the desalination facility site and the Pacific Ocean. The beach is mostly bare and contains a jetty at its north end and a rocky slope along its eastern end (associated with a public bike trail). Silver beachweed (*Ambrosia chamissonis*) is growing sparsely in and around the rocky slope.

Developed

Developed areas generally consist of paved, impervious surfaces and include most of the desalination facility site except for the vegetated slopes. A small water quality basin is located near the southwest corner of the Project site. This basin is completely vegetated, but is otherwise surrounded by pavement and contains several water distribution pipes within it. In addition, within the general survey area, a paved public bike trail (Marvin Braude Coastal Bike Trail) is located immediately west of the desalination facility site.

The water conveyance corridor pipeline alignments generally follow existing paved roadway ROW and the regional pump station optional sites are vacant, but previously developed/disturbed.

Wildlife

Plant communities provide foraging habitat, nesting/denning sites, and shelter from adverse weather or predation. This section provides a discussion of those wildlife species observed, expected, or not expected to occur within the survey area. The discussion is to be used as a general reference and is limited by the season, time of day, and weather condition in which the survey was conducted. Wildlife observations were based on calls, songs, scat, tracks, burrows, and actual sightings of animals.

Fish

No fish were observed on or within the survey area. The on-site water quality basins are not associated with natural drainages and would not be expected to incidentally carry fish. Refer to Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*, for a discussion of marine fish in the Project vicinity. The surf line was not surveyed or otherwise examined for the presence of fish.

Amphibians

No amphibians were observed on or within the vicinity of the survey area. The on-site water quality basins are not associated with natural drainages and would not be expected to support any amphibian species, and there are no local amphibian species that would be able to survive, let

alone breed in, hypersaline and turbulent ocean conditions. Therefore, no amphibians are expected to occur and they are presumed absent within the survey area.

Reptiles

No reptiles were observed on or within the vicinity of the survey area. Because the survey area is along the beach, partially including the Pacific Ocean, and is otherwise surrounded by development on its remaining three sides, few reptile species would be expected to occur. The only reptilian species that would be expected to occur within the survey area include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*).

Birds

Six bird species were identified within the survey area during the habitat assessment, including brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), willet (*Tringa semipalmata*), Marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), Heermann's gull (*Larus heermanni*), and rock pigeon (*Columba livia*). The survey area provides foraging habitat for a small number of avian species, primarily shorebirds and raptors, and minimal cover outside of the vegetated slopes on the desalination facility site. Common avian species expected to occur within the survey area include black-bellied plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), sanderling (*Calidris alba*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga petechia*).

Nesting Birds

No nesting birds were detected during the field survey, which was conducted in November 2015, outside of the avian nesting season.⁷ The ornamental vegetation along the northern edge of the Project site presents marginal nesting habitat, but this area is also subject to continuous disturbance from the ESGS and from adjacent traffic along Vista Del Mar. In addition to the revegetated coastal sage scrub and ornamental vegetation, the abandoned structures within the Project site have the potential to provide suitable nesting opportunities for a limited number of avian species. Nesting activity within the Project site is expected to be minimal.

Mammals

No mammals were observed on or within the vicinity of the survey area. The survey area provides suitable habitat for a limited variety of mammalian species adapted to urban conditions. However, most mammal species are nocturnal and are difficult to observe during a diurnal field visit. The only mammalian species that would be reasonably expected to occur within the survey area are California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), which may occur on vegetated slopes or in the rocky slope/jetty.

Sensitive Biological Resources

The CNDDDB was queried for reported locations of listed and special-status plant and wildlife species, as well as sensitive natural plant communities in the Venice United States Geological

⁷ Passerine and raptor nesting season generally occurs between January 15 and August 31.

Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle, as well as the adjacent six quadrangles (Topanga, Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Inglewood, Redondo Beach, and Torrance). A search of published records of these species was conducted within this quadrangle using the CNDDDB RareFind 5 online software and CNDDDB QuickView Tool. The CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California supplied additional information regarding the distribution and habitats of vascular plants in the vicinity of the survey area. The habitat assessment was used to assess the ability of the on-site plant communities to provide suitable habitat for relevant special-status plant and wildlife species.

The literature search identified 23 special-status plant species, 68 special-status wildlife species, and 2 special-status habitats as having the potential to occur within the Venice quadrangle. Special-status plant and wildlife species were evaluated for their potential to occur within the survey area based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of suitable habitat, and known distributions. Special-status habitats were evaluated based on their identified presence or absence from the Project site. Biological resources determined to have the potential to occur within the general Project vicinity based on this record search are presented in **Table 5.3-1**, **Table 5.3-2**, and **Table 5.3-3** and are discussed in further detail below.

Special-Status Plant Species

Twenty-three special-status plant species have been recorded in the CNDDDB and CNPS in the Venice quadrangle and adjacent six quadrangles; refer to Table 5.3-1. Based on the results of the habitat assessment along with habitat requirements, availability and quality of habitat needed by each species, and known distributions, it was determined that all 23 special-status plant species are presumed absent from the survey area. There is no longer any naturally occurring vegetative habitat on the desalination facility site, although the onshore beach habitat is natural. All desalination facility site vegetation has been planted/restored. Therefore, no special-status plant species are expected to occur within the survey area. Similarly, no special-status plant species are expected to occur within the water conveyance corridors, regional pump station optional sites, or off-site construction laydown/staging areas, since these are in industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural vegetation.

**TABLE 5.3-1
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES**

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Abronia maritima</i> red sand-verbena	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Occurs on coastal dunes. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 328 feet. Blooming period is from February to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i> <i>aphanisma</i>	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Found in meadows and seeps, and riparian scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 1,000 feet. Blooming period is from February to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i> marsh sandwort	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Found in marshes and swamps. Found at elevations ranging from 5 to 560 feet. Blooming period is from May to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i> Braunton's milk-vetch	Fed: CA: CNPS:	END None 1B.1	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Occurs in recent burns or disturbed areas, usually on sandstone with carbonate layers. Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 2,100 feet. Blooming period is from January to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i> Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	Fed: CA: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	Grows in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, marshes, and swamps. Found at elevations ranging from 3 to 115 feet. Blooming period is from June to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The only known record has been extirpated.
<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>titi</i> coastal dunes milk-vetch	Fed: CA: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	Habitats include vernal mesic areas, sandy coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and mesic coastal prairie. Found at elevations ranging from 3 to 164 feet. Blooming period is from March to May.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The only known record has been possibly extirpated.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i> Coulter's saltbush	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Found in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Occurs in alkaline or clay soils on ocean bluffs, ridgetops, and alkaline low places. Found at elevations ranging from 5 to 1,510 feet. Blooming period is from March to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i> South coast saltscale	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Found in alkali soils in coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, playas, and coastal dunes. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 460 feet. Blooming period is from March to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Atriplex parishii</i> Parish's brittle-scale	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Usually found on drying alkali flats with fine soils in vernal pools, chenopod scrub, and playas. Found at elevations ranging from 80 to 6,235 feet. Blooming period is from June to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i> davidsonii</i> Davidson's saltscale	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Occurs in alkaline soils within coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 30 to 655 feet. Blooming period is from April to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
Common Name					
<i>Calandrinia breweri</i> Brewer's calandrinia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Sandy or loamy soils in disturbed sites burn areas of chaparral and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 30 to 4,005 feet. Blooming period is from January to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Calochortus catalinae</i> Catalina mariposa lily	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	In heavy soils, open slopes, openings in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 45 to 2,295 feet. Blooming period is from February to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> slender mariposa lily	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Shaded foothill canyons; often on grassy slopes within chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 1,045 to 3,280 feet. Blooming period is from March to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i> Plummer's mariposa lily	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Occurs on rocky and sandy sites, usually of granitic or alluvial material, within coastal scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest. Found at elevations ranging from 325 to 5,575 feet. Blooming period is from May to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Calystegia felix</i> lucky morning-glory	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 3.1	Occurs within meadows and seeps, and riparian scrub. Sometimes alkaline or alluvial soils. Found at elevations ranging from 95 to 705 feet. Blooming period is from March to September.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Calystegia peirsonii</i> Peirson's morning-glory	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.3	Occurs within chaparral, coastal scrub, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Often in disturbed areas, along roadsides, or in grassy, open areas. Found at elevations ranging from 95 to 4,920 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Camissoniopsis lewisii</i> Lewis' evening-primrose	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 3	Found in coastal bluff scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland in sandy or clay soils. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 984 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> southern tarplant	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Occurs in disturbed areas near coastal salt marshes, grasslands, vernal pools, and coastal sage scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 1,575 feet. Blooming period is from May to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> var. <i>blancheae</i> island mountain-mahogany	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.3	Found within chaparral and closed-cone coniferous forest. Found at elevations ranging from 95 to 1,970 feet. Blooming period is from February to May.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
Common Name					
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i> Orcutt's pincushion	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Occurs in sandy areas within coastal bluff scrub and coastal dunes. Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 328 feet. Blooming period is from January to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Chenopodium littoreum</i> coastal goosefoot	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Found within coastal dune habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 33 to 98 feet. Blooming period is from April to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The only known record has been extirpated.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i> salt marsh bird's-beak	Fed: CA: CNPS:	END END 1B.2	Limited to the higher zones of salt marsh habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 100 feet. Blooming period is from May to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i> San Fernando Valley spineflower	Fed: CA: CNPS:	Candidate END 1B.1	Grows in sandy coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 492 to 4,003 feet. Blooming period is from April to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The only known record has been extirpated.
<i>Cistanthe maritima</i> seaside cistanthe	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Occurs on sea bluffs and sandy sites within coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 15 to 985 feet. Blooming period is from February to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i> small-flowered morning-glory	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Occurs on wet clay soils and serpentine ridges within chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 95 to 2,430 feet. Blooming period is from March to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Deinandra minthornii</i> Santa Susana tarplant	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Occurs on sandstone outcrops and crevices within chaparral and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 915 to 2,495 feet. Blooming period is from July to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i> paniculate tarplant	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Occurs in coastal scrub, vernal pools, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 82 to 3,084 feet. Blooming period is from April to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Dichondra occidentalis</i> western dichondra	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Grows within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 164 to 1,640 feet. Blooming period is from January to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Dithyrea maritima</i> beach spectaclepod	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None THR 1B.1	Prefers coastal dunes and sandy coastal scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 164 feet. Blooming period is from March to May.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
Common Name					
<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>ovatifolia</i> Santa Monica dudleya	Fed: CA: CNPS:	THR None 1B.1	In canyons on volcanic or sedimentary substrates; primarily on north-facing slopes within chaparral and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 490 to 5,495 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> many-stemmed dudleya	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	In heavy, often clayey soils or grassy slopes within chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 45 to 2,590 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Dudleya virens</i> ssp. <i>insularis</i> island green dudleya	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Rocky soils within coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 15 to 985 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i> San Diego button-celery	Fed: CA: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	Occurs in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools in mesic soils. Found at elevations ranging from 66 to 2,034 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The only known record has been extirpated.
<i>Erysimum insulare</i> island wallflower	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.3	Habitats include coastal dunes and coastal bluff scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 984 feet. Blooming period is from March to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Erysimum suffrutescens</i> suffrutescent wallflower	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Prefers coastal bluff scrub, maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 492 feet. Blooming period is from January to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i>	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1A	Previously found in marshes and swamps (coastal salt and freshwater). Found at elevations ranging from 30 to 5,005 feet. Blooming period is from August to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Hordeum intercedens</i> vernal barley	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 3.2	Grows in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, vernal pools, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Grows at elevations ranging from 16 to 3,281 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> mesa horkelia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Occurs on sandy or gravelly sites within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 225 to 2,655 feet. Blooming period is from February to September.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> var. <i>decumbens</i> decumbent goldenbush	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Occurs in sandy soils, often in disturbed sites within chaparral and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 445 feet. Blooming period is from April to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Juglans californica</i> Southern California black walnut	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Found in slopes, canyons, and alluvial habitats with chaparral, coastal scrub, and cismontane woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 160 to 2,995 feet. Blooming period is from March to August.	No	Absent. Not observed.

Scientific Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
Common Name					
<i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i> southwestern spiny rush	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Habitats include coastal dunes, meadows and seeps, marshes, and swamps. Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 2,953 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Prefers playas, vernal pools, and coastal salt marshes and swamps. Found at elevations ranging from 3 to 4,003 feet. Blooming period is from February to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Leptosyne maritima</i> sea dahlia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 2B.2	Occurs within coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 15 to 490 feet. Blooming period is from March to May.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Lycium brevipes</i> var. <i>hassei</i> Santa Catalina Island desert-thorn	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 3.1	Occurs on coastal bluffs and slopes within coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 210 to 985 feet. Blooming period is June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>hypoleuca</i> white-veined monardella	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.3	Occurs on dry slopes within chaparral and cismontane woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 160 to 5,005 feet. Blooming period is from April to December.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i> mud nama	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 2B.2	Occurs on lake shores, river banks, and intermittently wet area within marshes and swamps. Found at elevations ranging from 15 to 1,640 feet. Blooming period is from January to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i> Gambel's water cress	Fed: CA: CNPS:	CTHR END 1B.1	Occurs in freshwater and brackish marshes at the margins of lakes and along streams, in or just above the water level. Found at elevations ranging from 15 to 1,085 feet. Blooming period is from April to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> spreading navarretia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	THR None 1B.1	Occurs in San Diego hardpan and San Diego claypan vernal pools and in swales and vernal pools, often surrounded by other habitat types. Found at elevations ranging from 95 to 2,150 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Navarretia prostrata</i> prostrate vernal pool navarretia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Grows in coastal scrub, vernal pools, meadows and seeps, and alkaline valley and foothill grassland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 3,970 feet. Blooming period is from April to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The only known record has been possibly extirpated.
<i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>denudata</i> coast woolly-heads	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Occurs in coastal dunes. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 330 feet. Blooming period is from April to September.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt grass	Fed: CA: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools. Found at elevations ranging from 45 to 2,165 feet. Blooming period is from April to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i> Lyon's pentachaeta	Fed: CA: CNPS:	END END 1B.1	Occurs in edges of clearings in chaparral, usually at the ecotone between grassland and chaparral or edges of firebreaks. Found at elevations ranging from 95 to 2,265 feet. Blooming period is from February to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Phacelia hubbyi</i> Hubby's phacelia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Occurs in gravelly, rocky areas and talus slope within chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 3,280 feet. Blooming period is from April to July.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Phacelia ramosissima</i> var. <i>australitoralis</i> south coast branching phacelia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 3.2	Found in chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and coastal salt marshes and swamps in sandy or sometimes rocky soils. Found at elevations ranging from 16 to 984 feet. Blooming period is from March to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Phacelia stellaris</i> Brand's star phacelia	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Prefers coastal dunes and coastal scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 3 to 1,312 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Potentilla multijuga</i> Ballona cinquefoil	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1A	Grows in brackish meadows and seeps. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 7 feet. Blooming period is from June to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. The only known record has been extirpated.
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i> white rabbit-tobacco	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 2B.2	Occurs in sandy, gravelly sites within riparian woodland, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and chaparral. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 6,890 feet. Blooming period is from July to December.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Quercus dumosa</i> Nuttall's scrub oak	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.1	Generally occurs on sandy soils near the coast, sometimes on clay loam, within closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 45 to 1,310 feet. Blooming period is from February to August.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i> salt spring checkerbloom	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 2B.2	Occurs in alkali springs and marshes. Found at elevations ranging from 45 to 5,020 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Spermolepis lateriflora</i> western bristly scaleseed	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 2A	Typically occurs in Sonoran desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 1,195 to 2,200 feet. Blooming period is from March to April.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Suaeda esteroa</i> estuary seablite	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Occurs in coastal salt marshes and swamps. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 16 feet. Blooming period is from May to January.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Suaeda taxifolia</i> woolly seablite	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 4.2	Occurs within coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, marshes, and swamps. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 164 feet. Blooming period is from January to December.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Symphotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.2	Occurs in vernal mesic grassland or near ditches, streams, and springs. Found at elevations ranging from 5 to 6,695 feet. Blooming period is from July to November.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Symphotrichum greatae</i> Greata's aster	Fed: CA: CNPS:	None None 1B.3	Occurs in mesic canyons with chaparral, cismontane woodland, broadleafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 980 to 6,595 feet. Blooming period is from June to October.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

NOTES:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Fed) - Federal

CTHR- Candidate Federal Threatened
 END- Federal Endangered
 THR- Federal Threatened
 Delisted- Removed from the Endangered Species List

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA) - California

END- California Endangered THR- California Threatened
 Delisted- Removed from the California Endangered Species List
 FP- California Fully Protected
 SSC- California Species of Special Concern WL- Watch List

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

California Rare Plant Rank

1A Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
 1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
 Plants About Which More Information is Needed – A Review List
 Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List

Threat Ranks

0.1- Seriously threatened in California
 0.2- Moderately threatened in California
 0.3- Not very threatened in California

**TABLE 5.3-2
 POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES**

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
	Fed:	None			
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	CA:	CEND	Requires open, fresh water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few miles of the colony.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Aglaothorax longipennis</i> Santa Monica shieldback katydid	CA:	None	Occurs nocturnally in chaparral and canyon stream bottom vegetation, in the Santa Monica Mountains of Southern California. Also inhabits introduced iceplant and native chaparral plants.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	CA:	WL	Resident in Southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral. Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> southern California legless lizard	CA:	SSC	Occurs in moist, warm, loose soil with plant cover. Moisture is essential. Can be found in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks, leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather often indicate suitable habitat. Often can be found under surface objects such as rocks, boards, driftwood, and logs.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	CA:	SSC	Occurs in deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	CA:	SSC	Found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland and riparian areas.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Athene cucularia</i> burrowing owl	CA:	SSC	Primarily a grassland species, but persists and even thrives in some landscapes highly altered by human activity. Occurs in open, annual, or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. The overriding characteristics of suitable habitat appear to be burrows for roosting and nesting and relatively short vegetation with only sparse shrubs and taller vegetation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> crotch bumble bee	CA:	None	Occurs from the California coast to the Sierra-Cascade crest and into Mexico. Utilizes plants in the Genera <i>Antirrhinum</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , <i>Clarkia</i> , <i>Dendromecon</i> , <i>Eschscholzia</i> , and <i>Eriogonum</i> .	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Brennania belkini</i> Belkin's dune tabanid fly	CA:	None	Inhabits coastal sand dunes of Southern California.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	CA:	THR	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, alfalfa, or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Carolella busckana</i> Busck's gallmoth	Fed: CA:	None None	Found in coastal scrub dunes.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> western snowy plover	Fed: CA:	THR SSC	Occurs on sandy beaches and salt pond levees and along the shores of large alkali lakes. Requires sandy or gravelly substrate for nesting.	No	High. Known to occur on both Dockweiler State Beach and Manhattan Beach.
<i>Cicindela gabbii</i> western tidal-flat tiger beetle	Fed: CA:	None None	Inhabits estuaries and mudflats along the coast of Southern California.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i> sandy beach tiger beetle	Fed: CA:	None None	Found in moist sand near the ocean in coastal dune habitat.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Cicindela senilis frosti</i> senile tiger beetle	Fed: CA:	None None	Inhabits marine shoreline, from central California coast south to salt marshes of San Diego, also found at Lake Elsinore.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> western yellow-billed cuckoo	Fed: CA:	THR END	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Coelus globosus</i> globose dune beetle	Fed: CA:	None None	Inhabits foredunes and sand hammocks immediately bordering the coast.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> pop. 1 monarch - California overwintering population	Fed: CA:	None None	Occurs in open fields and meadows dominated by milkweed. In winter, species can be found on the coast of Southern California in eucalyptus groves and at high altitudes in central Mexico.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i> San Bernardino ringneck snake	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Most common in open, relatively rocky areas. Often in somewhat moist microhabitats near intermittent streams.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher	Fed: CA:	END END	A rare to locally uncommon summer resident in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats (2,000 to 8,000 feet) in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. Most often occurs in broad, open river valleys or large mountain meadows with lush growth of shrubby willows.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Found in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, and irrigation ditches, with abundant vegetation, either rocky or muddy bottoms, in woodland, forest, and grassland. In streams, prefers pools to shallower areas. Logs, rocks, cattail mats, and exposed banks are required for basking. May enter brackish water and even seawater. Found at elevations from sea level to over 5,900 feet (1,800 m).	No	Presumed absent. The on-site ponds are artificial with no natural drainages to enter them. The surrounding area is entirely developed with no suitable habitat.
<i>Eucosma hennei</i> Henne's eucosman moth	Fed: CA:	None None	Endemic to the El Segundo dunes.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i> El Segundo blue butterfly	Fed: CA:	END None	Found approximately 1.4 miles north of the ESGS, at the Airport Preserve (west of the Los Angeles International Airport); and approximately 0.4 miles northeast of the ESGS at the Chevron Preserve, separated from the ESGS by the Chevron Refinery.	No	Moderate Potential. There is suitable habitat in the Project site's revegetated southern and southwestern slopes.
<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis</i> Palos Verdes blue butterfly	Fed: CA:	END None	Restricted to the cool, fog-shrouded, seaward side of Palos Verdes Hills, Los Angeles County.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> silver-haired bat	Fed: CA:	None None	Primarily a coastal and montane forest dweller, feeding over streams, ponds, and open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark, abandoned woodpecker holes, and rarely under rocks. Needs drinking water.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> hoary bat	Fed: CA:	None None	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i> California black rail	Fed: CA:	None THR; FP	Occurs in salt marshes, freshwater marshes, and wet meadows. Requires dense cover of upland vegetation to provide protection from predators.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat. This species is rare anywhere in southern California.
<i>Microtus californicus stephensi</i> south coast marsh vole	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Inhabits wet, coastal marsh habitats.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Occurs in a variety of arid areas in Southern California; pine-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, palm oasis, desert wash, desert riparian, etc. Roosts in rocky areas with high cliffs.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i> big free-tailed bat	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Need high cliffs or rocky outcrops for roosting sites. Feeds principally on large moths.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> steelhead - southern California DPS	Fed: CA:	END None	Perennial streams and rivers.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Onychobaris langei</i> Lange's El Segundo Dune weevil	Fed: CA:	None None	Found within the El Segundo dunes, Los Angeles County.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Panoquina errans</i> wandering (=saltmarsh) skipper	Fed: CA:	None None	Found in salt marsh, alkali meadow, and upland habitats.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
Common Name					
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i> Belding's savannah sparrow	Fed: CA:	None END	Year-round obligate resident of Southern California salt marshes. Particularly favors areas dominated by pickleweed.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i> California brown pelican	Fed: CA:	Delisted; FP	Found in estuarine, marine subtidal, and marine pelagic waters along the California coast.	Yes	High. Likely to fly over the site.
<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i> Pacific pocket mouse	Fed: CA:	END SSC	Occurs on loose sandy soils that support sparse coastal sage scrub, grassland, and ruderal habitats.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Poliophtila californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	Fed: CA:	THR SSC	Obligate resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>). This species generally occurs below 750 feet elevation in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet inland. Ranges from the Ventura County, south to San Diego County and northern Baja California and it is less common in sage scrub with a high percentage of tall shrubs. Prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus</i> El Segundo flower-loving fly	Fed: CA:	None None	Presumed extinct but recently discovered on Malaga Dunes, Los Angeles County.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Riparia</i> bank swallow	Fed: CA:	None THR	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Socalchemmis gertschi</i> Gertsch's socalchemmis spider	Fed: CA:	None None	Known from only two localities in Los Angeles County: Brentwood (type locality) and Topanga Canyon.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Sorex ornatus salicornicus</i> southern California saltmarsh shrew	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Occur in coastal salt marshes in Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> California least tern	Fed: CA:	END END; FP	Prefers broad, level expanse of open sandy or gravelly beach, dredge spoil and other open shoreline areas, and broad river valley sandbars.	No	Low. May occur along the shoreline.
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> Riverside fairy shrimp	Fed: CA:	END None	Restricted to deep vernal pools and ponds lying within annual grasslands.	No	Absent. Absence of natural water bodies at the developed industrial site
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	Fed: CA:	None SSC	Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Trigonoscuta dorothea</i> Dorothy's El Segundo Dune weevil	Fed: CA:	None None	Found within the El Segundo dunes, Los Angeles County.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status		Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Tryonia imitator</i> mimic tryonia (=California brackishwater snail)	Fed: CA:	None None	Found in coastal lagoons and areas where creek mouths join tidal marshes.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	Fed: CA:	END END	Primarily occupy Riverine riparian habitat that typically feature dense cover within 1 to 2 meters of the ground and a dense, stratified canopy. Typically associated with southern willow scrub, cottonwood-willow forest, mule fat scrub, sycamore alluvial woodlands, coast live oak riparian forest, arroyo willow riparian forest, or mesquite in desert localities. It uses habitat which is limited to the immediate vicinity of water courses, 2,000 feet elevation in the interior.	No	Presumed absent. There is no suitable habitat.

NOTES:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Fed) - Federal
 END- Federal Endangered
 THR- Federal Threatened
 Delisted- Removed from the Endangered Species List

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA) - California
 END- California Endangered THR- California Threatened CTHR-
 Candidate California Threatened
 Delisted- Removed from the California Endangered Species List
 FP- California Fully Protected
 SSC- California Species of Special Concern
 WL- Watch List

**TABLE 5.3-3
 POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT COMMUNITIES**

Community Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
Southern Coastal Salt Marsh	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Found in flat, protected waters usually within the protection of a barrier island, estuary, or along low-energy coastlines.	No	Absent.
Southern Dune Scrub	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Dynamic habitats that are affected by wave action, tides, wind, and trampling. They develop where there is a substantial amount of blown, dry sand. Plants consist of mostly prostrate herbs with creeping stems and long fleshy taproots.	No	Absent.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Sixty-eight special-status wildlife species have been reported in the Venice and surrounding six quadrangles; refer to Table 5.3-2. One species, California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), was observed within the survey area during the habitat assessment. However, the Project site does not provide suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species. Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of habitats needed by each special-status wildlife species, it was determined that the survey area has a high potential to support the following wildlife species:

- Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)

It was determined that the survey area has a moderate potential to support the following wildlife species:

- El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*)

It was determined that the survey area has a low potential to support the following wildlife species:

- California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*)

All remaining special-status wildlife species are presumed to be absent from the survey area based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of habitat needed by each species, and known distributions. Brief species accounts are provided below for those species determined to have a high potential to occur or that are considered present.

California Brown Pelican

California brown pelican is a CDFW fully protected subspecies of the brown pelican that has been delisted from both the federal and CESA lists (formerly endangered on both). It is a year-round resident of Los Angeles County. The brown pelican is found mostly offshore along coastal waters, but may also venture inland into large open waters; it is known to occur in inundated reservoirs throughout the county. It usually nests on the ground, in trees, or on cliffs along the Pacific Coast; refer to Appendix 6. However, the only breeding colonies of this subspecies along the California coast are located on Anacapa Island and Santa Barbara Island. The Project site is located along the California coast, where brown pelicans (as well as several other birds) can commonly be found foraging offshore; however, there is no suitable nesting habitat within the survey area. This species was observed flying over the Project site during the November 2015 habitat assessment field survey.

Western Snowy Plover

Western snowy plover is a federally threatened species that has also been designated by the CDFW as a species of special concern. It is a year-round resident in Los Angeles County, though it may become less common in the late spring and early summer. They are typically found on beaches, tidal flats, lagoon margins, and saline waters or salt-evaporation ponds. In Los Angeles County, they are found almost exclusively along the coast, although they are additionally well known to occur in the Lancaster area at the Piute Ponds and other waste treatment facilities. Snowy plover critical habitat is located north of this site on Dockweiler State Beach. Nests are typically built on barren or sparsely vegetated beaches and dunes. Along the Pacific Coast, snowy plovers may begin building nests as early as January but typically later in February, with the first eggs usually laid during the first or second week of March (Page et al. 2009). This species is known to occur at Dockweiler State Beach and to a lesser extent at Manhattan Beach and has a high potential to be present along the shoreline west of the desalination facility site. The shoreline within the survey area provides minimal nesting habitat for this species. However, because of a high level of human activity along these beach sections, western snowy plover is not expected to nest within the survey area.

El Segundo Blue Butterfly

El Segundo blue butterfly is a federally endangered species and is known to occur in the Project site's vicinity: approximately 1.4 miles north of the ESGS, at the Airport Preserve (west of the Los Angeles International Airport), and approximately 0.4 miles northeast of the ESGS, at the

Chevron Preserve, which is separated from the Project site by the Chevron Refinery. Between 2008 and 2009, the ESGS's southern and southwestern slopes were planted with a sage scrub seed mix that included coast buckwheat (*Erigonum parvifolium*), the host plant of the El Segundo blue butterfly. Based on an analysis of the quality and extent of on-site habitat, the presence of this species in nearby areas, and degree of urbanization in the area, El Segundo blue butterfly has a moderate potential to occur at the ESGS. It is noted that the coast buckwheat was artificially planted, as part of past ESGS improvements.

Special-Status Plant Communities

According to the CNDDDB, two special-status plant communities have been recorded in the Venice quadrangle: Southern Coastal Salt Marsh and Southern Dune Scrub; refer to Table 5.3-3. Neither of these communities, nor any other special-status plant community, is present on the Project site.

No special-status plant communities are expected to occur within the water conveyance corridors, regional pump station optional sites, or off-site construction laydown/staging areas, since these are in industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural vegetation.

Critical Habitat

The Project site is not located within federally designated critical habitat. However, western snowy plover designated critical habitat subunit 45C, Dockweiler South, is immediately north of the ESGS along Dockweiler State Beach (77 FR 36727-36869) and is located within the survey area; refer to **Figure 5.3-2**. In addition, subunit 45B, Dockweiler North, is approximately 2.5 miles north of the ESGS and subunit 45D, Hermosa State Beach, is approximately 3.25 miles to the south. No onshore construction or operational activities are proposed within either of these identified critical habitat areas. No other critical habitat is located within a 5-mile radius of the Project site.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas

Under the California Coastal Act, ESHAs are defined as “any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.” According to the City of El Segundo Local Coastal Program, there are no ESHAs in El Segundo's coastal zone (City of El Segundo 1980). However, the revegetated sage scrub mix along the ESGS's southern and southwestern slopes have a moderate potential to support the federally endangered El Segundo blue butterfly.

5.3.3 Significance Thresholds and Criteria

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form, includes questions pertaining to public services. The issues presented in the Environmental Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, the Project would have a significant adverse environmental impact to public services if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS (refer to Impact BIO 5.3-1).
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS (refer to Impact BIO 5.3-2).
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means (refer to Impact BIO 5.3-3).
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites (refer to Impact BIO 5.3-5).
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance (refer to Impact BIO 5.3-6).
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan (refer to Impact BIO 5.3-6).

Potentially Significant Impacts

CEQA Guidelines Section 15065(a)(1) states that a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment where there is substantial evidence that the project has the potential to: (1) substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; (2) cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; or (3) substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species. The environmental factors determined to be potentially affected by the Project, identified in the Notice of Preparation (see Appendix 1A), are analyzed below. Feasible mitigation measures are recommended, where warranted, to avoid or minimize the Project's significant adverse impacts.

5.3.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Special-Status Species

Impact BIO 5.3-1: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS?

This analysis is limited to those special-status species that, based on habitat requirements and known distribution, are expected to have moderate or high potential to occur on, or immediately adjacent to, each Project development site. Refer to Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*, for an analysis of the Project's potential impacts concerning marine biological resources.

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating each of the three primary elements of the Project, including offshore, coastal, and inland Project

components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.3-4** summarizes the impact significance conclusions.

**TABLE 5.3-4
 SUMMARY OF IMPACT BIO 5.3-1 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	Inland Conveyance Facilities
Impact BIO 5.3-1: Impacts on special-status species.			
Local Project			
Construction	LTSM	NI	NI
Operation	LTS	NI	NI
Regional Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	LTS	NI	NI

NOTES:

- NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed
- LTS = Less than Significant, no mitigation proposed
- LTSM = Less than Significant impact with mitigation

Local Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Special-Status Plant Species

The ESGS is developed and is surrounded by two plant communities: restored coastal scrub and ornamental. The habitat assessment field survey did not identify any special-status plant species at the ESGS. All vegetated areas within the survey area are manmade ornamental areas or areas that have been revegetated with a specific seed mix. Based on habitat requirements for specific species, the availability and quality of habitats needed by each special-status plant species, and the manmade nature of the on-site vegetation, it was determined that the desalination facility site does not provide suitable habitat that would support any of the special-status plant species known to occur in the its general vicinity. Therefore, Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not impact special-status plant species.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

One special-status wildlife species, California brown pelican, was observed within the survey area during the habitat assessment. Survey results also indicated that the survey area has a moderate potential to support El Segundo blue butterfly and high potential to support western snowy plover. All remaining special-status wildlife species have a low potential to occur or are presumed absent from the desalination facility site based on habitat requirements, availability and quality of habitat needed by each species, and known distributions.

El Segundo blue butterfly is a federally endangered species and is known to occur in the Project site’s vicinity: approximately 1.4 miles north of the ESGS, at the Airport Preserve (west of the

Los Angeles International Airport), and approximately 0.4 miles northeast of the ESGS, at the Chevron Preserve, and separated by the Chevron Refinery. The revegetated sage scrub mix along the ESGS's southern and southwestern slopes have a moderate potential to support El Segundo blue butterfly. Therefore, Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction at the ESGS South Site could result in direct construction-related impacts to El Segundo blue butterfly, if present during construction. Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction on the ESGS South Site shows that most of the suitable on-site habitat for the El Segundo blue butterfly, which is limited to the aforementioned revegetated slopes along the southern end of the site, would be temporarily or permanently destroyed by construction. This would result in the loss of habitat throughout all construction areas on these slopes, as well as the potential injury or mortality of any individual larvae, pupae, and/or adult butterflies if present in the area at the time of construction. There would be no direct impacts to the El Segundo blue butterfly expected from Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction at the ESGS North Site, and no indirect impacts expected (from either ESGS North or South Sites). It is noted that the ESGS's southern and southwestern slopes were artificially planted, as part of past ESGS improvements. Therefore, any disturbance occurring because of Project implementation would not result in displacement of native habitat.

Also, western snowy plover have a high potential to forage within portions of the survey area (which includes a 250-foot radius from the ESGS facility) located west of the ESGS fence line. This species is known to occur at Dockweiler State Beach to the immediate north of the survey area and, to a lesser degree, at Manhattan Beach to the immediate south. Additionally, this species has a high potential to be present along the shoreline west of the ESGS. Because of a high level of human activity along these beach sections, western snowy plover are not expected to nest within the survey area. Although construction activities would occur entirely within the ESGS, Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction could result in indirect construction-related impacts, such as excessive construction noise that could impact nests, during the nesting season for this avian species.

Compliance with **Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-9** would ensure that potential impacts to terrestrial species including nesting birds, the snowy plover, or the El Segundo blue butterfly would be avoided. Compliance with mitigation would uphold the *City of El Segundo General Plan* Conservation Element goals and policies to protect the El Segundo blue butterfly. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-9, and compliance with Coastal Act Sections 30240(a) and (b), would ensure that impacts to special-status wildlife species from Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species. Refer to Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-9, outlined below.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect any terrestrial wildlife or vegetation. Shorebirds in the vicinity of the barges and offshore construction equipment would not be adversely affected by the temporary presence of the equipment. The project facilities would be similar to normal shipping and recreational vessels on the ocean. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. These areas are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support native plants and wildlife. Therefore, Local Project desalinated water conveyance component construction and temporary use of off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not impact special-status species.

Mitigation Measures:

Implement Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-9 for construction-related impacts to the ESGS North Site and South Site and the screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge. No mitigation measures are required for construction-related impacts to the desalinated water conveyance components.

Local Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS. These operations would not differ substantially from current ESGS operations. Local Project ocean water desalination facility operations would not result in indirect impacts to special-status species. Therefore, Local Project ocean water desalination facility operation would result in less than significant impacts to special-status wildlife species.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

No terrestrial or avian species would be affected by the underwater operation of the intakes and discharge facilities. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components would be within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or below grade within roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support sensitive species. Therefore, operation of the Local Project desalinated water conveyance components would result in no impact to special-status species.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Regional Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Special-Status Plant Species

There are no special-status plant species at the ESGS. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not impact special-status plant species.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

No additional impacts to terrestrial biological resources would occur if the ocean water desalination facility is expanded to the Regional Project. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not impact special-status wildlife species.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect any terrestrial wildlife or vegetation. Shorebirds in the vicinity of the barges and offshore construction equipment would not be adversely affected by the temporary presence of the equipment. The project facilities would be similar to normal shipping and recreational vessels on the ocean. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance component construction and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and temporary use of off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not impact special-status species.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS. Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would not result in impacts to special-status species. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would result in less than significant impacts to status wildlife species.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

No terrestrial or avian species would be affected by the underwater operation of the intakes and discharge facilities.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations, including the regional pump station, would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or below grade within

roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support sensitive species. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would not impact special-status species.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Mitigation Measures:

The following mitigation measures apply to both the Local and Regional Projects, unless otherwise noted.

BIO-1: Prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, West Basin shall implement a WEAP to educate all construction personnel on the area's sensitive biological resources, environmental concerns, and mitigation. The WEAP must discuss the locations and types of sensitive biological resources on the Project site and adjacent areas, identify monitoring methods, and identify habitat protection measures.

BIO-2: During site mobilization, demolition, and construction, West Basin shall monitor the on-shore construction site sufficiently to ensure that sensitive species are avoided. The extent of monitoring shall be determined by a qualified biologist. The qualified biologist shall prepare monthly reports identifying monitoring results for the duration of the construction period.

BIO-3: During construction, all trash and food-related waste shall be placed in self-closing containers and removed from the site weekly or more frequently. Workers shall not feed wildlife or bring pets to the Project site.

BIO-4: West Basin shall implement the following measures during construction and operation to prevent the spread and propagation of nonnative, invasive weeds:

- Only weed-free straw, hay bales, and seed shall be used for erosion control and sediment barrier installations.
- Invasive non-native species shall not be used in landscaping plans or erosion control.
- Ongoing monitoring shall be conducted and control measures shall be rapidly implemented to ensure early detection and eradication of weed invasions.

BIO-5: Construction activities involving vegetation removal shall be conducted between September 1 and December 31. For construction occurs inside the nesting season between January 15 and August 31, West Basin shall conduct a pre-construction nesting avian species clearance survey in accordance with the following guidelines:

- a) At least one pre-construction survey shall be conducted within 72 hours preceding initiation of vegetation removal and construction activity. Additional follow-up surveys may be required if periods of construction inactivity exceed 3 weeks in any given area, an interval during which birds may establish a nesting territory and initiate egg laying and incubation.

- b) The survey shall cover all potential nesting habitat and substrate on the Project site and within 500 feet of its perimeter.
- c) If no active nests are identified, the construction work shall be allowed to proceed. The results of the clearance survey shall be documented in a report.
- d) If the qualified biologist finds an active nest during the survey and determines that the nest may be impacted, a no-disturbance buffer zone shall be established (protected areas around the nest). The size of the buffer shall be determined by the qualified biologist in consultation CDFW and USFWS, based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, and expected types of disturbance. These buffers are typically 300 feet from the nests of non-listed passerine species and 500 feet from the nests of raptors and listed species.
- e) Any active nests observed during the survey shall be mapped on an aerial photograph using GPS.
- f) If active nests are detected during the survey, the qualified biologist shall monitor all nests at least once per week to determine whether birds are being disturbed. Activities that might, in the opinion of the qualified biologist, disturb nesting activities (e.g., excessive noise, exposure to exhaust), shall be prohibited within the buffer zone until such a determination is made. If signs of disturbance or distress are observed, the qualified biologist shall immediately implement adaptive measures to reduce disturbance. These measures may include, but are not limited to, increasing buffer size, halting disruptive construction activities in the vicinity of the nest until fledging is confirmed, or placement of visual screens or sound dampening structures between the nest and construction activity, reducing speed limits, replacing and updating noisy equipment, queuing trucks to distribute idling noise, locating vehicle access points and loading and shipping facilities away from noise-sensitive receptors, reducing the number of noisy construction activities occurring simultaneously, placing noisy stationary construction equipment in acoustically engineered enclosures and/or relocating them away from noise-sensitive receptors, and/or reorienting and/or relocating construction equipment to minimize noise at noise-sensitive receptors.

BIO-6: Prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction clearance survey for western snowy plover on and in the vicinity of the Project site. This shall include a focused search for western snowy plover in suitable habitat within 500 feet of proposed construction activities. Western snowy plover shall be avoided by workers waiting for western snowy plover to leave an area before working in it. If western snowy plovers are observed nesting within 500 feet of construction activities, a minimum buffer of 500 feet shall be delineated around the nest and monitored until the nest is no longer considered active.

BIO-7: A qualified biologist shall be present during all vegetation removal and construction on or immediately adjacent to the open beach. The qualified biologist shall be familiar with the identification of western snowy plover. The qualified biologist shall be responsible for ensuring that no snowy plovers are present within the construction zone.

BIO-8: Prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, all work areas shall be visibly flagged or staked. Construction activities shall be limited to these approved work areas except with prior authorization from regulatory agencies. No construction activities

shall occur on the beach or in tidal waters without first receiving applicable permits and regulatory approvals from the USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, CCC, State Lands Commission, USFWS, and NMFS.

BIO-9: One year prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, an El Segundo blue butterfly focused survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within areas of the Project site containing suitable habitat supporting coast buckwheat during the adult flight season (mid-June to early September). The adult flight stage of this species can last as little as 4 days to as much as 2 weeks per individual. If this species is found, ground-disturbing activities shall not occur within these areas until West Basin consults with the USFWS and determines if avoidance measures are possible or if an incidental take permit is required prior to Project construction.

Riparian Habitat and Other Sensitive Communities

Impact BIO 5.3-2: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS?

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating coastal and inland Project components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.3-5** summarizes the impact significance conclusions. Offshore marine impacts are addressed in Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*.

**TABLE 5.3-5
 SUMMARY OF IMPACT BIO 5.3-2 RIPARIAN HABITAT**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	Inland Conveyance Facilities
Impact BIO 5.3-2: Impacts on riparian habitat.			
Local Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI
Regional Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI

NOTES:

NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed

Local Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction would occur entirely within the ESGS property. The ESGS’s industrial setting does not support riparian habitat or sensitive natural

communities. Therefore, Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not impact riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect any terrestrial habitat. Shorebirds in the vicinity of the barges and offshore construction equipment would not be adversely affected by the temporary presence of the equipment. The project facilities would be similar to normal shipping and recreational vessels on the ocean. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. These areas are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support native plants and wildlife. Additionally, the off-site construction laydown/staging sites would be restored to their original condition once construction is completed. Therefore, Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and use of the off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not impact riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility - ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS site boundary. The ESGS's industrial setting does not support riparian or sensitive natural communities. No impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

No riparian habitat would be affected by the underwater operation of the intakes and discharge facilities. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support riparian or sensitive natural communities. Local Project desalinated water conveyance pipelines operations would occur below the surface. Therefore, Local Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would not impact riparian or sensitive natural communities.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Regional Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction would occur entirely within the ESGS property. The ESGS's industrialized nature is not supportive of riparian habitat or other natural communities. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not impact riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect any terrestrial habitat. Shorebirds in the vicinity of the barges and offshore construction equipment would not be adversely affected by the temporary presence of the equipment. The project facilities would be similar to normal shipping and recreational vessels on the ocean. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components construction (including regional pump station) and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and temporary use of off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not impact riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS. The ESGS's industrial nature does not support riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would not impact riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

No riparian habitat would be affected by the underwater operation of the intakes and discharge facilities.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural

vegetation that would otherwise support riparian or sensitive natural communities. Regional Project desalinated water conveyance pipelines operations would occur below the surface. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would not impact riparian or sensitive natural communities.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Wetlands

Impact BIO 5.3-3: Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating coastal and inland Project components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.3-6** summarizes the impact significance conclusions. Offshore marine impacts are addressed in Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*.

**TABLE 5.3-6
 SUMMARY OF IMPACT BIO 5.3-3 WETLANDS**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	Inland Conveyance Facilities
Impact BIO 5.3-3: Impacts on wetlands.			
Local Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI
Regional Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI

NOTES:

NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed

Local Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction would occur entirely within the ESGS property. The ESGS’s industrial setting does not support federally protected wetlands. Therefore,

Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not impact federally protected wetland habitat as defined by Clean Water Act Section 404.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect any terrestrial wetlands. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance construction and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. These areas are devoid of natural vegetation and do not include federally protected wetland habitat. Additionally, the off-site construction laydown/staging sites would be restored to their original condition once construction is completed. Therefore, Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and use of the off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not impact federally protected wetland habitat.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS site boundary. The ESGS's industrial setting does not support wetland habitat. No impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Operation of the intake and discharge facilities would not affect riparian habitat. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support riparian or sensitive natural communities. Local Project desalinated water conveyance pipelines operations would occur below the surface. Therefore, Local Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would not impact riparian or sensitive natural communities.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Regional Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction would occur entirely within the ESGS property. The ESGS's industrial setting does not support federally protected wetlands. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not impact federally protected wetland habitat as defined by Clean Water Act Section 404.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect any terrestrial wetlands. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components and regional pump station construction and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and temporary use of off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not impact federally protected wetland habitat.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS. The ESGS's industrial nature does not support wetland habitat. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would not involve impacts to federally protected wetland habitat as defined by Clean Water Act Section 404.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Operation of the intake and discharge facilities would not affect riparian habitat. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW, which are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support riparian or sensitive natural communities. Regional Project desalinated water conveyance pipelines operations would occur below the surface. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would not impact wetlands.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Wildlife Movement

Impact BIO 5.3-4: The Project could interfere substantially with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating coastal and inland Project components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.3-7** summarizes the impact significance conclusions. Offshore marine impacts are addressed in Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*.

**TABLE 5.3-7
 SUMMARY OF IMPACT BIO 5.3-4 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	Inland Conveyance Facilities
Impact BIO 5.3-4: Impacts on wildlife movement.			
Local Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI
Regional Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI

NOTES:

NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed

Local Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

There are no migratory corridors within the ESGS, which is largely because of the regional setting’s highly urbanized and industrial nature. Therefore, Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not interfere with wildlife movement. No impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect wildlife movement. Shorebirds in the vicinity of the barges and offshore construction equipment would not be adversely affected by the temporary

presence of the equipment. The project facilities would be similar to normal shipping and recreational vessels on the ocean. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. There are no movement corridors within the Local Project desalinated water conveyance corridors or construction laydown/staging areas, which is largely because of the regional setting's highly urbanized and industrial nature. Therefore, Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and use of off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not interfere with wildlife movement. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility - ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS site boundary. These operations would not differ substantially from current ESGS operations. No wildlife movement corridors exist within the Local Project ocean water desalination facility site. No impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Operation of the intake and discharge facilities would not affect terrestrial or avian movement. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. There are no movement corridors within the Local Project desalinated water conveyance corridors, which is largely because of the regional setting's highly urbanized and industrial nature. Therefore, Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and use of off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not interfere with wildlife movement. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Regional Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

There are no migratory corridors within the ESGS, which is largely because of the regional setting's highly urbanized and industrial nature. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction would not interfere with wildlife movement. No impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction activities would not affect wildlife movement. Shorebirds in the vicinity of the barges and offshore construction equipment would not be adversely affected by the temporary presence of the equipment. The project facilities would be similar to normal shipping and recreational vessels on the ocean. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components (including regional pump station) construction and off-site construction laydown/staging areas would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW. These areas are devoid of natural vegetation that would otherwise support wildlife movement opportunities. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components construction and use of the off-site construction laydown/staging areas would not impact wildlife movement.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would occur primarily within enclosed buildings or below grade and entirely within the ESGS. As described previously, the ESGS property does not function as a wildlife corridor. Therefore, Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would not impact wildlife movement.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Operation of the intake and discharge facilities would not affect terrestrial or avian movement. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would occur within industrial and fully urbanized areas and/or within roadway ROW, which do not function as wildlife corridors. Regional Project desalinated water conveyance pipeline operations would occur below the surface, and the regional pump station would be sited at one of five urbanized

locations that are not supportive wildlife movement. Therefore, Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would not impact wildlife movement opportunities.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Local Policies or Ordinances

Impact 5.3-5: Would the Project could conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating coastal and inland Project components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.3-8** summarizes the impact significance conclusions. Offshore marine impacts are addressed in Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*.

**TABLE 5.3-8
 SUMMARY OF IMPACT BIO 5.3-5 LOCAL POLICIES OF ORDINANCES**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	Inland Conveyance Facilities
Impact BIO 5.3-5: Impacts on local policies or ordinances.			
Local Project			
Construction	LTS	NI	LTS
Operation	NI	NI	NI
Regional Project			
Construction	LTS	NI	LTS
Operation	NI	NI	NI
NOTES: NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed LTS = Less than Significant, no mitigation proposed			

Local Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility construction is not anticipated to require tree removal. However, if final design necessitates tree removal for construction, West Basin (or its designee) would be required to obtain a tree removal permit in compliance with ESMC Sections 9-3-10 through 9-3-60. Obtaining a tree removal permit under local policies or ordinances would ensure the Local Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Avoidance of shoreline areas would uphold ESMC Section 10-3-11 policies

regarding vegetation removal and pollution in beach areas and ESMC Section 15-8-2 policies regarding preserving and protecting natural resources in O-S Zones. A less than significant impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction is not anticipated to require tree removal. However, if final design necessitates tree removal for construction, West Basin (or its designee) would be required to obtain a tree removal permit in compliance with the municipal code of the appropriate local jurisdiction. Obtaining a tree removal permit under local policies or ordinances would ensure Local Project desalinated water conveyance components construction would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. A less than significant impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Local Project ocean water desalination facility operations would not require tree removal. No impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Operation of the intake and discharge facilities would not conflict with local ordinances affecting terrestrial wildlife or vegetation. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance components operations would not require tree removal. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Regional Project

Construction-Related Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility construction is not anticipated to require tree removal. However, if final design necessitates tree removal for construction, West Basin (or its designee) would be required to obtain a tree removal permit in compliance with ESMC Sections 9-3-10 through 9-3-60. Obtaining a tree removal permit under local policies or ordinances would ensure the Regional Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Avoidance of shoreline areas would uphold ESMC Section 10-3-11 policies regarding vegetation removal and pollution in beach areas and ESMC Section 15-8-2 policies regarding preserving and protecting natural resources in O-S Zones. A less than significant impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Offshore construction would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components construction is not anticipated to require tree removal. However, if final design necessitates tree removal for construction, West Basin (or its designee) would be required to obtain a tree removal permit in compliance with the municipal code of the appropriate local jurisdiction. Obtaining a tree removal permit under local policies or ordinances would ensure Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components construction would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. A less than significant impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would not require tree removal. No impact would occur.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

Operation of the intake and discharge facilities would not conflict with local ordinances affecting terrestrial wildlife or vegetation. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Regional Project desalinated water conveyance components operation would not require tree removal. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

Conservation Planning

Impact BIO 5.3-6: Would the Project could conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating coastal and inland Project components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.3-9** summarizes the impact significance conclusions. Offshore marine impacts are addressed in Section 5.11, *Marine Biological Resources*.

**TABLE 5.3-9
 SUMMARY OF IMPACT BIO 5.3-6 CONSERVATION PLANNING**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	Inland Conveyance Facilities
Impact BIO 5.3-5: Impacts on local policies or ordinances.			
Local Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI
Regional Project			
Construction	NI	NI	NI
Operation	NI	NI	NI
NOTES: NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed			

Local and Regional Projects

Construction-Related and Operational Impacts

All Project Components

Construction and operation of the Local and Regional Projects, including all aspects of the ocean water desalination facility, screened ocean intake and concentrate discharge, and desalinated water conveyance facilities would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan, as none exist in the Project area. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local and Regional Project Significance Determination:

No Impact.

5.3.5 Cumulative Impacts

For purposes of the biological terrestrial resources impact analysis, impacts are considered for cumulative development according to the related projects. Table 4-1, *Cumulative Projects List*, provides a list of past, present, and probable future development projects that have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts when combined with the proposed Ocean Water Desalination Project and is focused on the local onshore cumulative environment as well as the regional offshore environment. For the biological terrestrial resources impact analysis, related onshore projects in the Local and Regional Project area, determined to have the potential to interact with the proposed Project to the extent that a significant cumulative effect may occur, were considered.

As discussed further below, all Project impacts would be mitigated to less than significant levels, and the Project's contribution toward cumulative impacts is not considered to be cumulatively considerable.

The Local and Regional Project components would be sited in a predominantly developed region of Los Angeles County (commonly referred to as the "South Bay"), where terrestrial development is limited because of the region's highly urbanized and generally built-out nature. As a result, very few isolated patches of natural terrestrial vegetation and associated wildlife are present within the region. However, certain development projects considered for the cumulative impacts analysis may have a greater potential to support sensitive resources (e.g., onshore locations within proximity to the coastline) than others.

The Local and Regional Project components would be constructed within industrial and fully urbanized areas, including the ESGS site, and/or within roadway ROW. These areas are generally devoid of natural vegetation. From an operational standpoint, the Project components—excluding the ocean water desalination facility and regional pump station optional sites—would be located below ground. Further, the ocean water desalination facility and regional pump station would be contained within enclosed buildings, thereby reducing potential effects on surrounding biological resources (e.g., noise, human activity).

Cumulative impacts are primarily analyzed in terms of impacts to sensitive habitat and animal and plant species and the potential for a project to contribute to the loss of such resources on a larger local and/or regional scale, versus those direct or indirect impacts that may occur with development occurring on a specific property or site.

An evaluation of whether an impact on terrestrial biological resources would be cumulatively considerable must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into the larger local or regional context. Cumulatively considerable impacts are those that, along with impacts from other past, present, and planned Projects, substantially diminish or result in the loss of an important biological resource or are those that would conflict with local, state, and/or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts can be locally adverse but not cumulatively considerable because, although they would result in an adverse alteration of existing

conditions, they would not substantially diminish or result in the permanent loss of an important resource on a population- or region-wide basis.

As with the Local and Regional Project, cumulative development elsewhere within the region would have the potential to similarly result in adverse effects on terrestrial biological resources and/or interfere with migratory wildlife movement. However, as with the Local and Regional Projects, all cumulative development within the region would be subject to environmental and design review on a project-by-project basis pursuant to CEQA requirements, in order to evaluate potential impacts to terrestrial biological resources, including on a cumulative level. Similarly, all future development with the potential to impact biological resources would be required to demonstrate compliance with applicable federal and state regulatory requirements, including General Plan goals and policies of the affected jurisdiction intended to reduce and/or avoid potential adverse environmental effects. As such, cumulative impacts to terrestrial biological resources would be mitigated on a project-by-project level, and in accordance with the established regulatory framework, through the established regulatory review process.

As concluded in Section 5.3.4, *Impacts and Mitigation Measures*, above, Local and Regional Project construction and operations would result in less than significant impacts to special-status species with implementation of the identified Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-9. The Local and Regional Projects would have no impact on riparian habitat/other sensitive natural community and federally protected wetlands. Additionally, less than significant impacts would occur concerning potential interference with wildlife movement because there is a lack of habitat and the location of affected Project lands is within a highly urbanized environment. As appropriate, Local and Regional Project compliance with applicable municipal codes of the respective jurisdictions would ensure the Local and Regional Projects do not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The Project's potential impacts to El Segundo blue butterfly habitat would be avoided, and this impact is therefore considered neither significant nor "cumulatively considerable."

On a regional level, conservation plans are adopted with the intent of providing long-term protection and preservation of biological resources within a given region or area. The Local and Regional Projects would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation plan, as no such plan has been adopted for the Project area or surrounding vicinity. Therefore, no impact would occur. The Local and Regional Projects would not have the potential to contribute to a cumulative impact with any such adopted plans when considered with other development projects in the region.

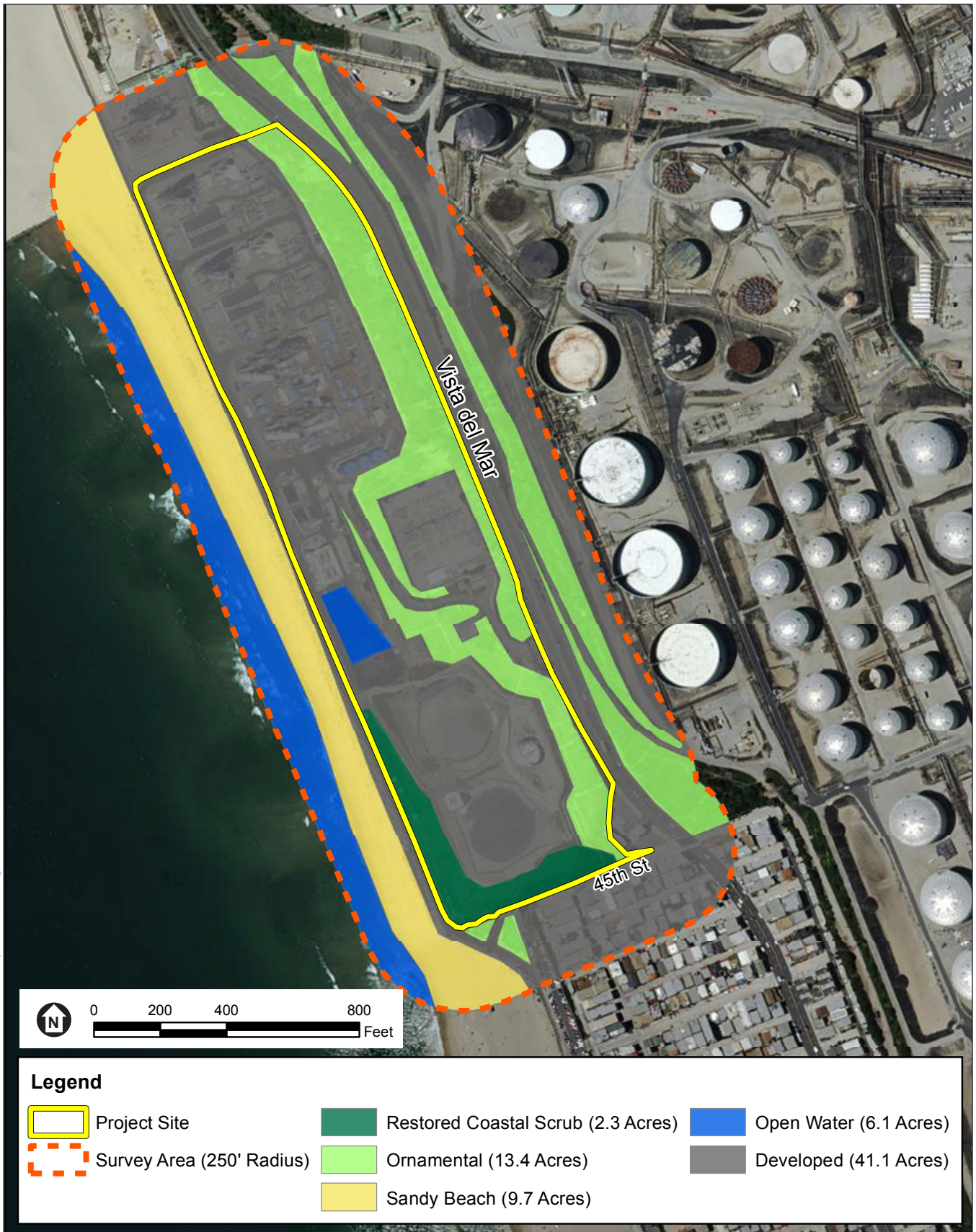
For the reasons above, Local and Regional Project contribution to cumulative impacts relative to terrestrial biological resources would be less than cumulatively considerable with mitigation incorporated.

5.3.6 Significant Unavoidable Impacts

No significant unavoidable impacts to terrestrial biological resources have been identified following implementation of the proposed Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-9.

5.3.7 Sources Cited

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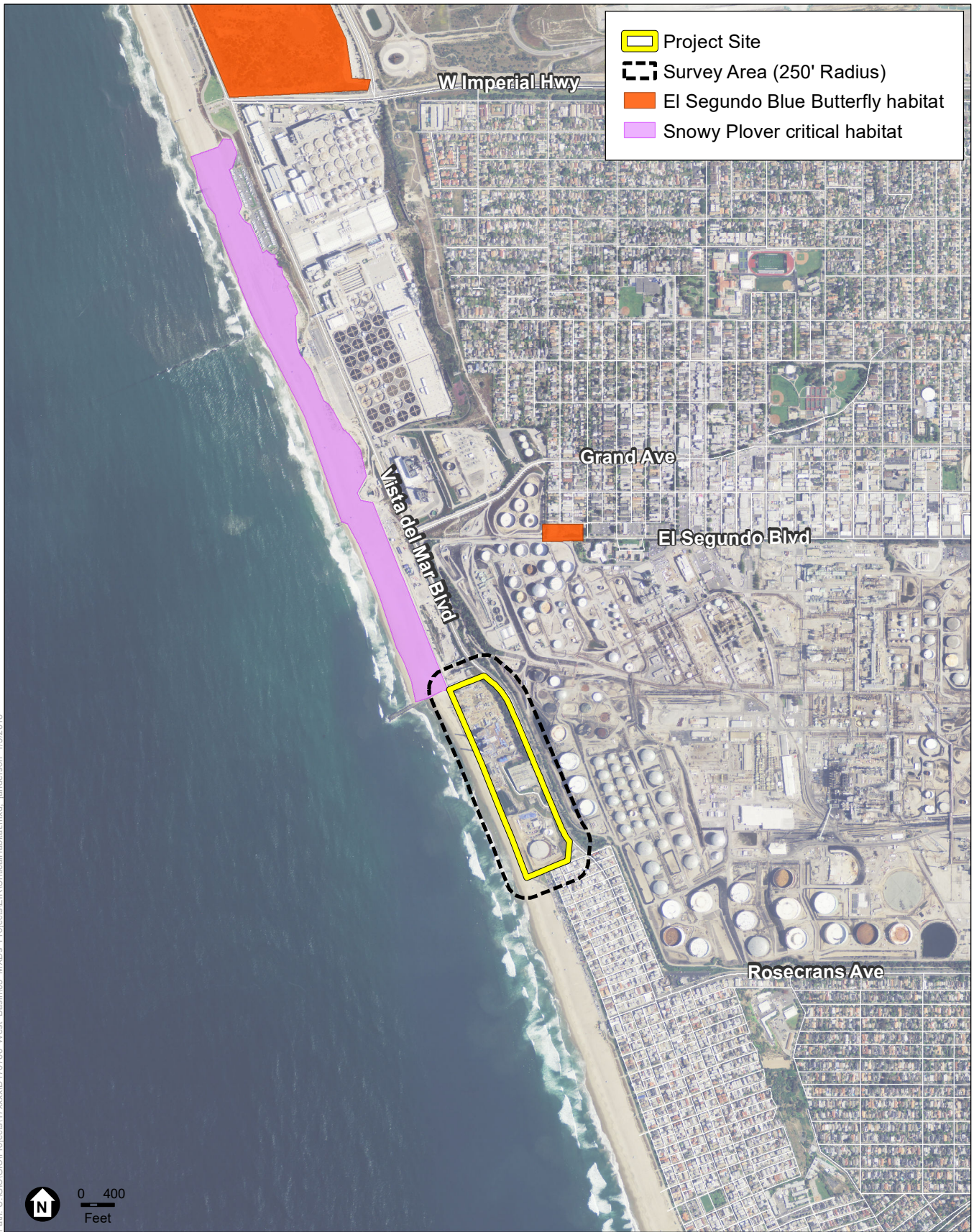


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SOURCE: Michael Baker International, 2016

West Basin Ocean Water Desalination Project

Figure 5.3-1
Vegetation (June 2017)



SOURCE: ESRI; USFWS, 2008

Chevron Marine Terminal 2010 EIR

Figure 5.3-2
Critical Habitat

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