

# GENERAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

**TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 19586**

**APN 0351-191-41**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA**

(USGS Telegraph Peak, CA Quad.; Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Section 1)

***Prepared for:***

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**Project No. RCA#2014-79**

*October 24, 2014*

**RCA**  
Associates LLC

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project proponent is proposing a tentative parcel map (TMP No. 19586) for a 5 acre site south of Phelan, CA and east of Wrightwood, CA (Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Section 1) (Figures 1, 2, and 3). The site currently supports a relatively undisturbed mixed desert shrub community typical of this portion of the San Gabriel Mountain Range. The common perennials observed were Joshua tree (*yucca brevifolia*), yucca (*yucca whipplei*), yellow-green matchweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), saltbush (*Atriplex*), scrub oak (*Quercus turbinella*), and beavertail cactus (*optuntia basilaris*). Annuals observed include schismus (*Schismus barbatus*), brome grasses (*Bromus sp.*), and ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*). No sensitive species were observed during general biological surveys conducted on October 20, 2014. Various sensitive species such as desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizzi*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) have been documented in the general region; however, none of these species have been documented within five miles of the site.

The site is about 5-miles south of the known distribution of the species and is not expected to support populations of the Mohave ground squirrel. The site is also in an area where tortoises have not been documented and is unlikely to support populations of the species. No suitable burrows were observed that could be utilized by burrowing owls; although, a pre-construction survey should be conducted prior to the start of any future site clearing activities to ensure owls have not moved on to the site since the October 2014 surveys. No sensitive habitats (i.e., blue-line channels, wetlands, etc.) or wildlife movement corridors were noted on the property.

## 1.0 PROJECT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The property is located at the northeast corner of Oil Well Road and Monte Vista Road, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Section 1 in San Bernardino County, California (Figures 1 and Figure 2). The site is approximately 5-acres in size and currently supports a relatively undisturbed native plant community (i.e., mixed desert shrub).

General biological surveys were conducted on the property on October 20, 2014 during which data on the existing biological conditions was recorded and the results of the survey are presented in this report. The site was also evaluated for the potential presence of sensitive species that are known to occur in the general region. The site is dominated by Joshua tree (*yucca brevifolia*), yucca (*yucca whipplei*), yellow-green matchweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), saltbush (*Atriplex*), scrub oak (*Quercus turbinella*), and beavertail cactus (*optuntia basilaris*) (Figure 3). See Section 4.0 for a more detailed discussion of the biological resources.

The proponent is proposing to subdivide the site into two parcels (2.42-acres & 2.44-acres) as part of Tentative Parcel Map No. 19586 (Figure 1). Elevations ranged from 4,305 to 4,330 feet (MSL) with a slight slope to the north (Figure 2). Soils consisted of sandy loam with small rocks present as well as ground cover consisting of mulched trees and shrubs. The site is bordered on the north, south, east and west by existing single family homes.

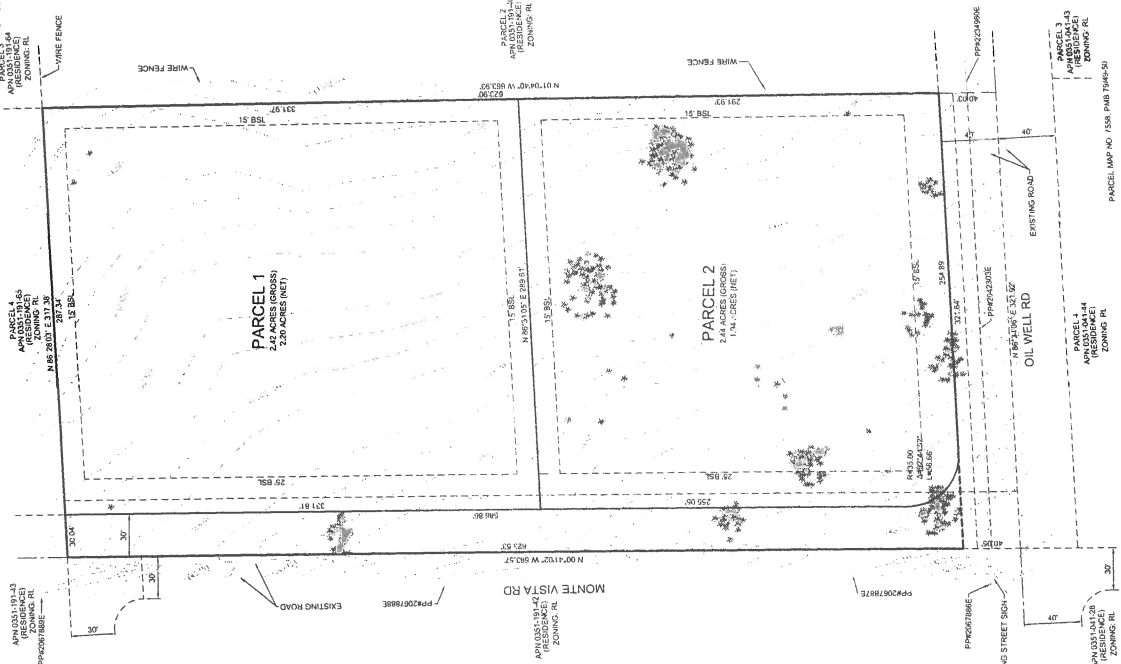
The USGS Telegraph Peak, CA Quadrangle does not show any blueline channels on the site, and no streams, desert washes or other water features were observed during the October 20, 2014 field investigations. No wildlife corridors bisect the property, and no sensitive wildlife species were observed during the general biological surveys. Although the site does support a native plant community, it is unlikely the site supports any sensitive species. The site is relatively small (5-acres) and is bordered on all four sides by single-family dwellings. Furthermore, there are no document observations of any special status species in the immediate area according to the California Natural Diversity Data Base (2014). Weather conditions during the October field investigations consisted of winds of 0 to 5 mph from the south, temperatures in the high 60's (°F) (AM) to low-70's (°F) (PM) with no cloud coverage.

# TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 19586

BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PARCEL 1, PARCEL MAP NO. 2865, PMB 26/17, IN THE SE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 1, T3N, R7W, S.B.M., IN THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HIGH DESERT MAPPING

SEPTEMBER, 2014



**BENCHMARK:**  
NO BENCHMARKS IN THE AREA, DERIVED FROM THE 1985 SECTION OF OIL WELL ROAD AND MONTE VISTA ROAD. CURRENT USGS QUADRANGLE MAP.

**ELEVATION:** 4332

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**  
PARCEL 1, PARCEL MAP NO. 2865, PMB 26/17



**OWNER:**  
ANDREW J. RABINOWITZ  
28 ECHO RUN  
IRVINE, CA 92614  
(949) 270-4222

**REPRESENTATIVE:**  
HIGH DESERT MAPPING  
16704 NEENACH ROAD  
IRVINE, CA 92614  
(714) 508-8555

**STATISTICS:**  
APR 03/19/14  
AREA 4.13 ACRES (NET)  
EXISTING ZONING: RL  
NO ZONE CHANGE IS PROPOSED

## LEGEND:

- ★ INDICATES JOSHUA TREE
- INDICATES GUY ANCHOR
- INDICATES EXISTING CONTOUR
- INDICATES EXISTING POWER POLE
- INDICATES EXISTING WIRE FENCE

**UTILITY SUPPLIERS:**  
WATER: NONE  
SEWER: NONE  
ELECTRIC: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON  
16988 BEAR VALLEY ROAD  
IRVINE, CA 92614  
(714) 211-3065  
TELEPHONE: VERIZON  
10005 LA PAZ DRIVE  
IRVINE, CA 92614  
(949) 211-3065  
CABLE TV: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
12400 BUSINESS CENTER DRIVE  
VICTORVILLE, CA  
DAS: NONE  
(PRIVATE PROPRIETARY)



FIGURE 1





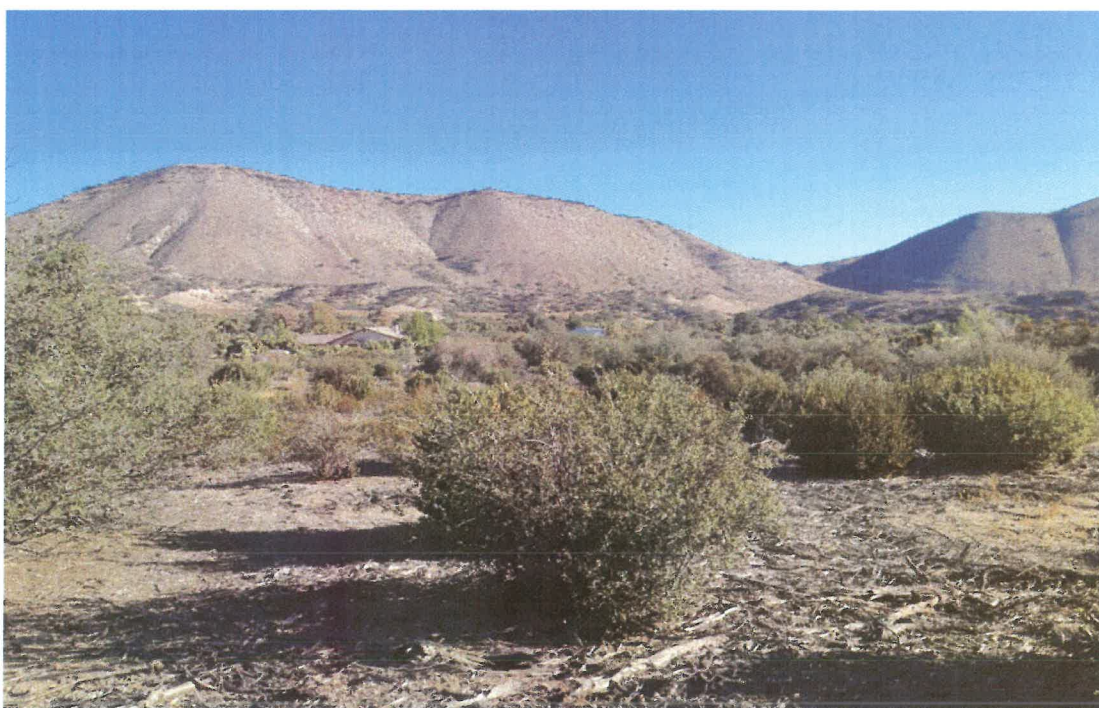
**FIGURE 2**  
**PROPERTY LOCATION**  
 (Tentative Parcel 19586)  
 (Source: USGS Telegraph Peak, CA)







CENTER OF SITE LOOKING EAST



CENTER OF SITE LOOKING NORTH

FIGURE 3  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITE  
(TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 19586)





CENTER OF SITE LOOKING WEST



CENTER OF SITE LOOKING SOUTH

FIGURE 3, cont.  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITE  
(TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 19586)



## 2.0 LITERATURE & RECORD REVIEW - SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

As part of the environmental process, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) data sources were reviewed to determine if any listed and/or sensitive species have been documented in the immediate area surrounding the site. The Federal Endangered Species Act provides protection for species of fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed by the US Government as threatened or endangered in the U.S., and the Act outlines procedures for Federal agencies to follow when evaluating projects which may jeopardize any listed species. In addition, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) provides protection to those species which are deemed to be threatened with a significant decline or extinction within California and the CESA provides CDFW with the responsibility of evaluating projects which may affect sensitive species.

Based on a general literature review, a search of USFWS and CDFG data bases, and a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), it was determined that there is only one sensitive wildlife species (coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) and six sensitive plant species that have been documented in the surrounding region within approximately five miles of the site (CNDDDB, 2014). Sensitive plants in the area include short-joint beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *brachyclada*), white bracted spine flower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*), lemon lilly (*Lilium parryi*), San Gabriel linanthus (*Linanthus concinnus*), rock sheep broomrape (*Orobancha valida* ssp. *valida*), and black bog-rush (*Schoenus nigracans*). Scientific nomenclature for this report is based on the following references: Hickman (1993), Munz (1974), Stebbins (2003), Sibley (2000) and Whitaker (1980). Table 1 (Appendix A) provides a detailed summary of the sensitive species listed above.

Following the data review, general biological surveys were performed on the site on October 20, 2014 during which the biological resources on the site and in the surrounding areas were documented by Randall C. Arnold, Jr. (biologist from RCA Associates, LLC) from 0700 to 1100 hours. As part of the surveys, the project site and the adjoining lands were evaluated for the presence of native habitats which could potentially support populations of sensitive species; however, no focused surveys were conducted for any sensitive species known to occur in the surrounding region.

### **3.0     METHODOLOGIES**

#### **General Vegetation and Wildlife**

General biological surveys were conducted on October 20, 2014 during which Randall C. Arnold, Jr. from RCA Associates, LLC walked meandering transects (i.e., “transects of opportunity”) throughout the site from about 0700 to 1100 hours. During the general surveys, data was collected on the plant species present on the site and in the immediate surrounding area and the wildlife species observed were also documented. Those plants which could not be identified in the field were collected and taken back to the lab for identification.

Birds which use the site and adjacent areas were identified by visual observations and sound; whereas, mammals were identified by scats, tracks, burrows, or direct observations. All plants and animals detected during the field investigations were recorded and are provided in compendium Tables 2 & 3 (Appendix A). The site was also evaluated for the presence of any sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands, streams, etc.) and any native habitats which could potentially support sensitive species.



#### 4.0 GENERAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

A mixed desert bush community covers the entire site and is relatively undisturbed. Most of the vegetation throughout the site consists of moderately tall shrubs (1 to 4 feet) and numerous bushes (6 to 8 feet). Several clusters of Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) were also noted. Scrub oak (*Quercus turbinella*), Joshua trees, and yucca (*Yucca whipplei*) were the most common perennials. (Appendix A, Tables 3). Other annuals scattered throughout adjacent areas included schismus (*Schismus barbatus*), and brome grasses (*Bromus sp.*). Figure 4 depicts the general biological resources present on the site and in the surrounding area.

Ravens (*Corvus corax*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), sage Sparrows (*Artemisiospiza*), Mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), and side blotched lizards (*Uta stansburiana*) were the only wildlife species observed during the October 2014 surveys. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*), which are the most common carnivore in the desert, occasionally traverse the site during hunting activities as indicated by the presence of scats and tracks. Other common species which may occur on the site include California ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), western whiptail lizards (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), and desert spiny lizards (*Sceloporus magister*) (Appendix A, Table 2). No distinct wildlife corridors were identified on the site or in the immediate surrounding area, and no breeding activities were observed among any of the wildlife observed.



FIGURE 4  
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MAP  
(TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 19586)  
N.T.S.



## **6.0 MITIGATION MEASURES**

No additional surveys or any mitigation measures are recommended at the present time, and the site is outside of the known distribution of the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel. However, CDFW will require a pre-construction survey for the burrowing owl. This species was not observed on the site; although, it is a mobile species and has been documented in the surrounding area. Owls could potentially occur on the site if suitable burrows become available and CDFW will need documentation that owls are not present on the site at the time of future development activities. As noted in Section 2.0, the coast horned lizard is the only special status wildlife species which has been recently observed in the surrounding area. Therefore, CDFW may require focused surveys be performed for the species in conjunction with pre-construction owl surveys.

If any sensitive species are identified during future surveys or other site activities, all on-site activities should cease and CDFW and USFWS (as applicable) should be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required for the individual species. CDFW and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the "take" of any sensitive species.

## 7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## **TABLES**

**(Note: See Appendix A for CNDDDB Table  
&  
Flora and Fauna Compendium Tables)**

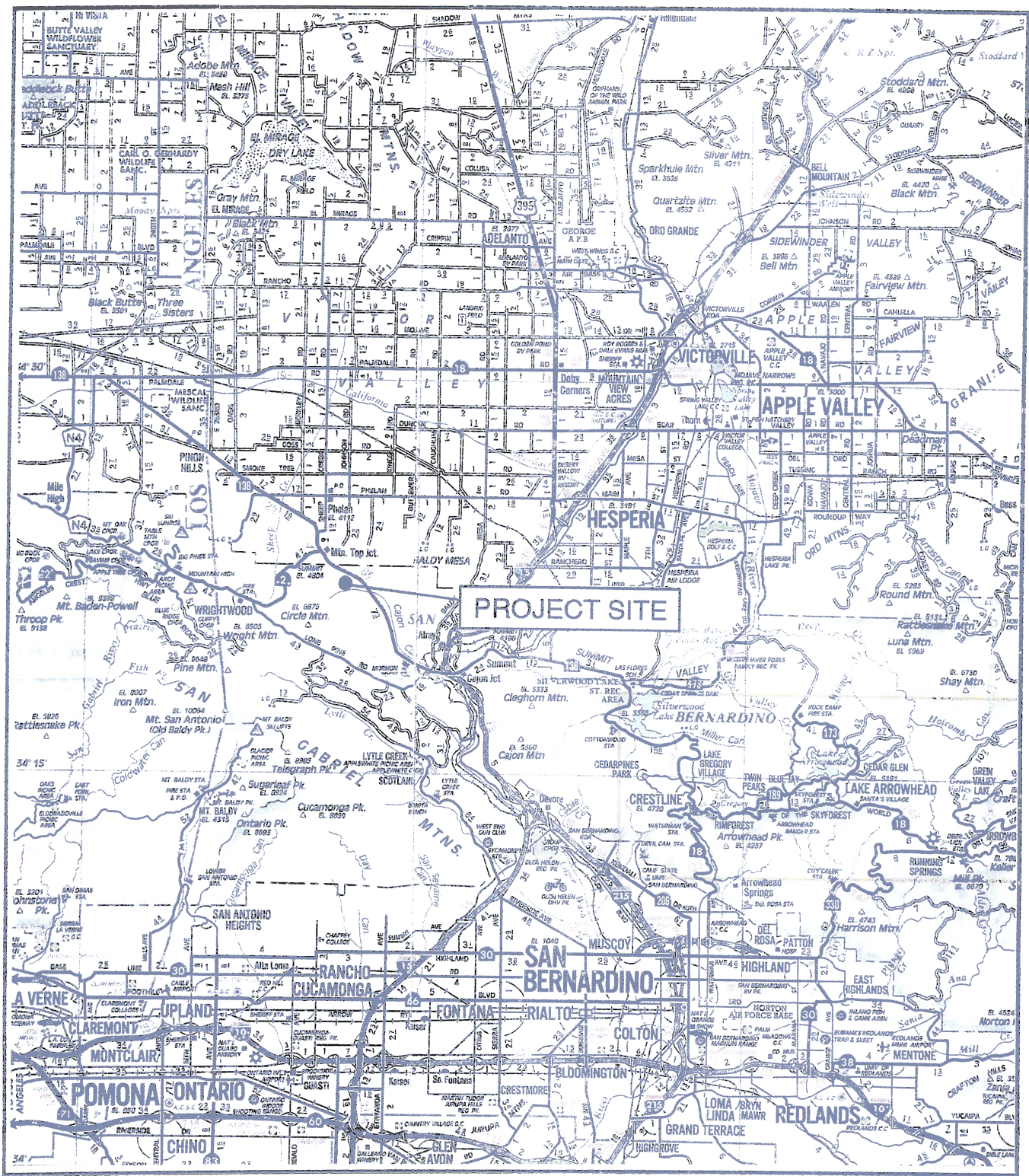
**FIGURES**

**Vicinity Map**

**Southern Range of the Mohave Ground Squirrel**

**Site Photographs**





# VICINITY MAP

(Tentative Parcel 19586)  
 (Source: ACSC Map Source, 2014)







SITE PHOTOGRAPHS  
(TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 19586)

**Appendix A**  
**CNDDDB Sensitive Species List**  
**&**  
**Flora and Fauna Compendium Tables**



**Table 1 - Federal and State Listed Species and State Species of Special Concern  
Occurring Within Five Miles of the Site.**

(Fed; T = Threatened; SC = Species of special concern; CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Data Base  
CNPS: California Native Plant Society)

Name	Listing Status	Habitat Requirements	Presence/Absence	Comments
Desert tortoise ( <i>Gopherus agassizii</i> )	Fed: T State: T	Desert scrub	Site is outside of known distribution of species.	No recorded occurrences within five mile radius (CNDDDB, 2014).
Mohave ground squirrel ( <i>Spermophilus mohavensis</i> )	Fed: None State: T	Desert scrub	Site is outside of known distribution of species.	No recorded occurrences within five mile radius (CNDDDB, 2014).
Burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	Fed: None State: None CDFW: SC	Various habitats	No owls of suitable burrows observed.	No recorded occurrences within five mile radius (CNDDDB, 2014).
Coast horned lizard ( <i>Phrynosoma blainvilli</i> )	Fed: None State: None CDFW: SC	Desert scrub	Site supports suitable habitat for the species, however none observed.	Occ. # 224 (1989) 3 –miles southwest of site.
White Bracted Spineflower ( <i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i> )	Fed: None State: None CNPS: List 1B.2	Desert scrub	Site not expected to support populations of the species.	Occ. #50 (2011) 5-miles southeast of site.
Short-joint beavertail ( <i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>brachyclada</i> )	Fed: None State: None CNPS: List 1B.2	Desert scrub	Site not expected to support populations of the species.	Occ. # 95(2006) 2-miles east of site..
Lemon lily ( <i>Lillium parryi</i> )	Fed: None State: None CNPS: List 1B.2	Desert scrub	Site not expected to support populations of the species.	Occ. # 128 (1992) 4-miles southwest of site.
San Gabriel linanthus ( <i>Linanthus concinnus</i> )	Fed: None State: None CNPS: 1B.2	Desert scrub	Site not expected to support populations of the species.	Occ. #18 (2004) 3-miles west of site.
Rock sheep broomrape ( <i>Orobancha validifolia</i> ssp. <i>Valida</i> )	Fed: None State: None CNPS: 1B.2	Desert scrub	Site no expected to support populations of the species.	Occ. #7 (1995) 3-miles southwest of site.
Black bog-rush ( <i>Schoenus nigrans</i> )	Fed: None State: None CNPS: List 2.2	Wetlands and bogs	Suitable habitat absent from site. Species does not occur on the site.	Occ. # 5 (2008) 5-miles south of the site.

**Table 2 - Plants observed on the site and in the immediate surrounding area.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
Yellow-green matchweed	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	On-site & ZOI.
Joshua tree	<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>	“
Brome grasses	<i>Bromus sp.</i>	“
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	“
Scrub oak	<i>Quercus turbinella</i>	“
Yucca	<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	“
Schismus	<i>Schismus barbatus</i>	“
Un-identified grasses	-----	“

**ZOI = Zone of Influence (surrounding area)**

**Table 3 - Wildlife observed on the site and those species expected to occur in surrounding area.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	On-site and in the ZOI.
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	“
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	“
Side-blotched lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	May occur on-site.
Western whiptail lizard	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	“
Desert spiny lizard	<i>Sceloporus magister</i>	“
Desert cottontail rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>	“
Coyotes	<i>Canis latrans</i>	“
California ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	“
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Surrounding area
Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californica</i>	On-site & ZOI
Gambel's quail	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	“

**ZOI = Zone of Influence (surrounding area)**

Note: The above Tables are not comprehensive lists of every plant or animal species which may occur in the area, but are a list of those common species which were identified on the site during the one-day survey or which are common in the region.

## **Appendix B**

### **Certification**



## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits, present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Fieldwork conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the project applicant or applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the project.

Date: 10-24-2014

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Randall Arnold  
Report Author

Field Work Performed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Randall Arnold  
Senior Biologist