# GENERAL BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

# PARCEL MAP NO. 19985

## SAN ANTONIO HEIGHTS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**(Township 1 North, Range 7 West, Section 19)**
**APN: 1003-281-08 & 09**

*Prepared for Applicant:*

**Arabian Wruir**
**939 W. Granada Court**
**Ontario, California 91762**

*Prepared by:*

**RCA Associates, Inc.**
**15555 Main Street, #D4-235**
**Hesperia, California 92345**
**(760) 596-0017**

**Principal Investigators:**
**Randall Arnold, President and Senior Biologist**
**Ryan Hunter, Environmental Scientist/Biologist**
**Lisa Cardoso, Wildlife Biologist**

RCA ASSOCIATES, INC

**Project: #2020-92BA**

**October 26, 2020**

# TITLE PAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date Report prepared:** | **October 26, 2020** |
| **Date Field Work Completed:** | **October 14, 2020** |
| **Report Title:** | **General Biological Resources Assessment** |
| **Assessor's Parcel Number:** | **1003-281-08 & 09** |
| **Principal Investigators:** | **Randall C. Arnold, Jr., Senior Biologist**<br>**Ryan Hunter, Environmental Scientist/Biologist**<br>**Lisa Cardoso, Wildlife Biologist** |
| **Contact Information:** | **Randall C. Arnold, Jr.**<br>**RCA Associates, Inc.**<br>**15555 Main Street, #D4-235**<br>**Hesperia, California 92345**<br>**(760) 596-0017**<br>rarnold@rcaassociatesllc.com<br>**www.rcaassociatesllc.com** |

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Baseline biological surveys were conducted on a 7.1-acre parcel located north of West 26th Street, near the northeast corner of Holly Drive and West 26th Street in the City of San Antonio Heights, San Bernardino County, California (Township 1 North, Range 7 West, Section 19, USGS Mount Baldy, California Quadrangle, 1956) (Figure 1, 2, and 3). Residential homes border the site to the west, east, and south with vacant land located to the north. The site is located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, and supports mountainous terrain and undisturbed habitat. Th primary vegetation consisted of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and our lord's candle (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). Due to the mountainous terrain and thick vegetation, the property was not accessible to walk or drive though, and a complete coverage of the property was not possible.

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. Following the data review, surveys were performed on the site on October 14, 2020, during which the biological resources on the site and in the surrounding areas were documented by biologists from RCA Associates, Inc. As part of the surveys, the property and adjoining areas were evaluated for the presence of native habitats which may support populations of sensitive wildlife species. The property was also evaluated for the presence of sensitive habitats including wetlands, vernal pools, riparian habitats, and jurisdictional areas.

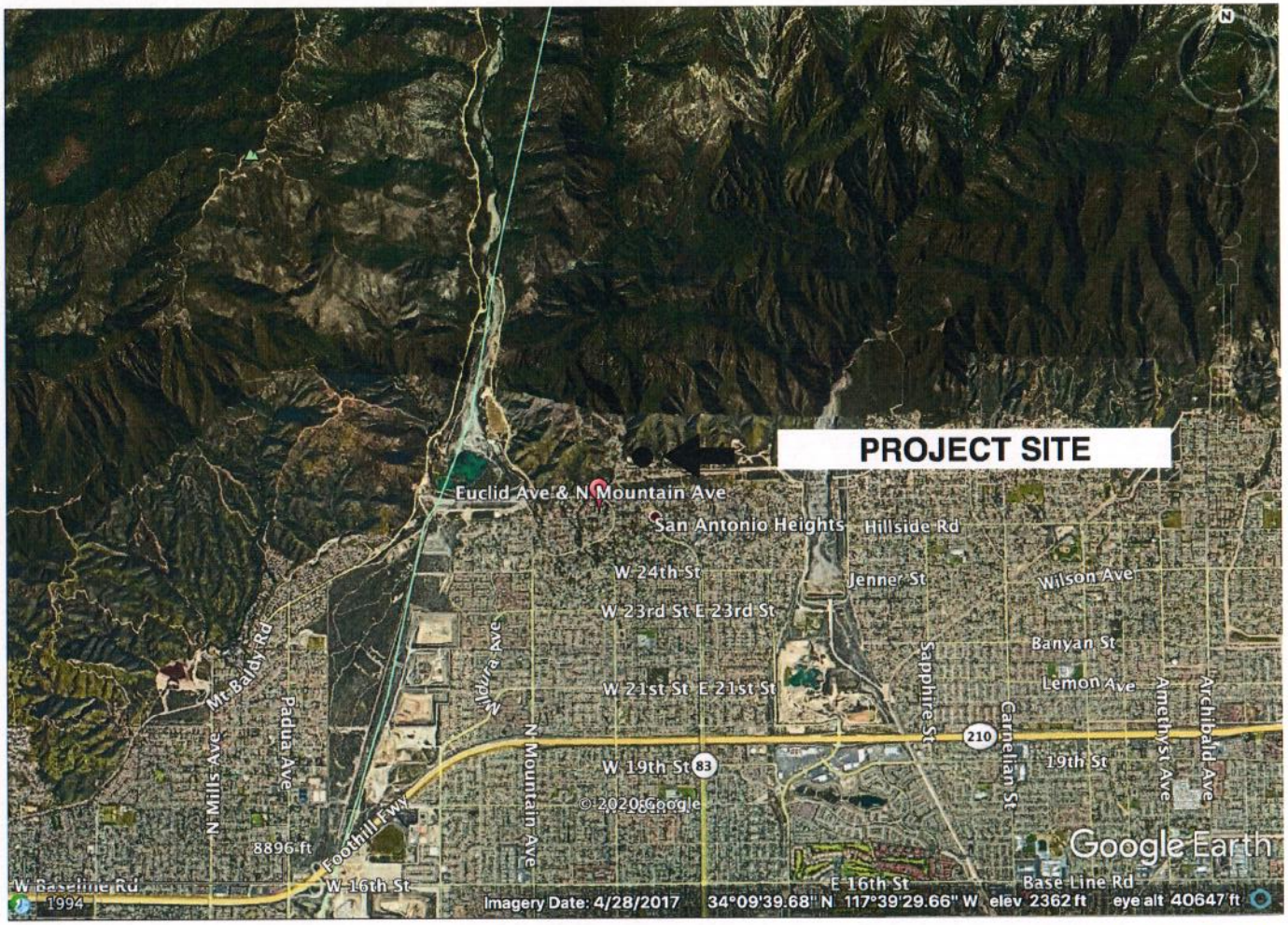



**FIGURE 1: REGIONAL EXHIBIT**

**RCA ASSOCIATES, INC.**
**SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH**

RCA ASSOCIATES, INC.


**FIGURE 2: VICINITY EXHIBIT**

**RCA ASSOCIATES, INC.**
**SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH**

RCA ASSOCIATES, INC.

WEST SIDE OF SITE LOOKING SOUTH EAST

WEST SIDE OF SITE LOOKING NORTH EAST

FIGURE 3
PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITE

WEST SIDE OF SITE LOOKING EAST

FIGURE 3, cont.
PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITE

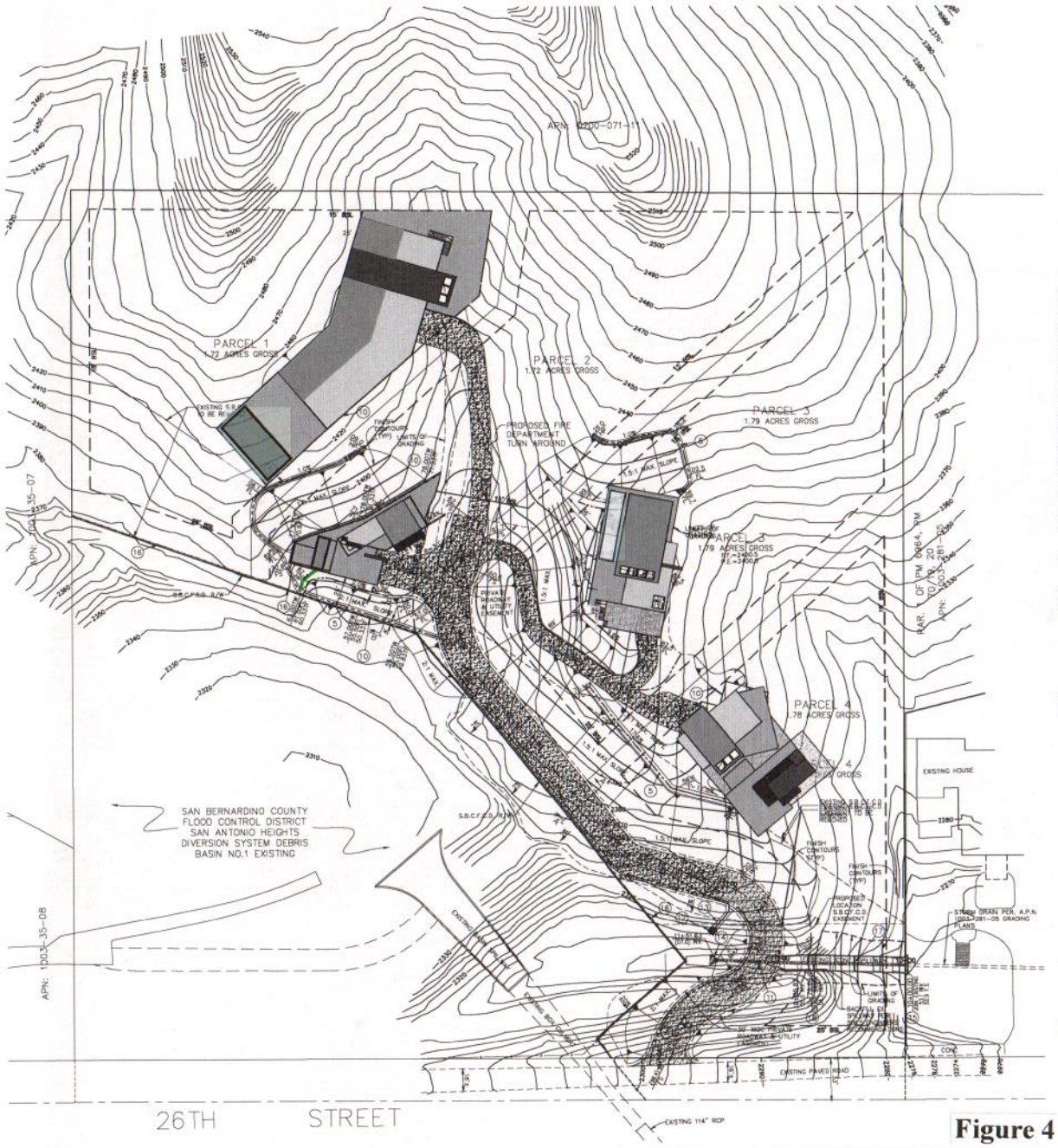



**Figure 4**

IN THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

# CONCEPTUAL GRADING PLAN

# PARCEL MAP NO. 19985

PARCELS 1 AND 2 OF PARCEL MAP NO. 14439, RECORDED IN PARCEL MAP BOOK 231, PAGES 10 & 11, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY.

SITETECH, INC. JUNE, 2020

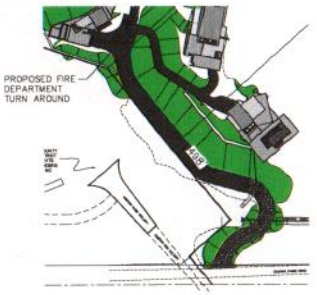
APPLICANT / OWNER:
ARABIAN WRUIR
939 W. GRANADA COURT
ONTARIO, CA 91762

ENGINEER/MAP PREPARER:
SITETECH, INC.
8061 CHURCH ST.
PO BOX 592
HIGHLAND, CA 92346
PH: (909) 864-3180

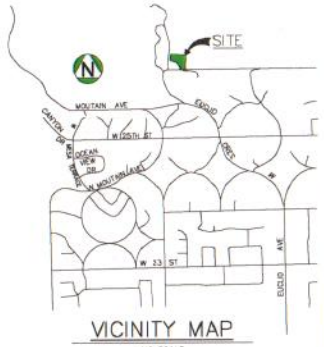
SCALE: 1"=50'

## CONSTRUCTION NOTES:

1. CONSTRUCT 26' WIDE CONCRETE ACCESS ROAD
2. CONSTRUCT 20' WIDE CONCRETE EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD
3. CONSTRUCT 15' WIDE CONCRETE DRIVEWAY
4. CONSTRUCT 24" WIDE BY 8" DEEP CONCRETE V-GUTTER
5. CONSTRUCT 36" WIDE BY 18" DEEP CONCRETE V-GUTTER
6. CONSTRUCT 24" THICK GROUTED ROCK RIP RAP
7. CONSTRUCT 6' WIDE BY 12" THICK GROUTED ROCK DOWN DRAIN
8. CONSTRUCT 10'X10' BY 18" THICK ROCK SPLASH PAD
9. CONSTRUCT 4' DEEP CUT-OFF WALL
10. CONSTRUCT 6' MAX HEIGHT RETAINING WALL
11. INSTALL 24" RCP 1350-D LOAD DRAIN PIPE
12. CONSTRUCT 5'X5' BY 12" THICK ROCK SPLASH PAD
13. CONSTRUCT 4' WIDE 12" DEEP CONCRETE DOWN DRAIN
14. CONSTRUCT HEADWALL PER S.B.CO. STD 209
15. REMOVE HEADWALL PER A.P.N. 1003-281-05 GRADING PLAN. JOIN R.C.P.-USE CONCRETE COLLAR PER S.B.C.F.C.D. STD. S.P. 167 AS NECESSARY.
16. REMOVE HEADWALL PER A.P.N. 1003-281-05 GRADING PLAN. JOIN R.C.P.-USE CONCRETE COLLAR PER S.B.C.F.C.D. STD. S.P. 167 AS NECESSARY.
17. CONSTRUCT CUT-OFF WALL PER SEPARATE PLANS
18. CONSTRUCT CONCRETE COLLAR PER S.B.C.F.C.D. STD. 167.




TRAVEL LENGTH DETAIL
SCALE: 1"=100'




VICINITY MAP
NO SCALE

COMPANIES AND AGENCIES SERVICING THIS PROJECT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TIME WARNER CABLE
1500 AUTO CENTER DRIVE
ONTARIO, CA. 91761
(714) 666-5401

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS
10768 E. FOOTHILL BLVD.
STE. # 170
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA. 91730
(866) 499-8080

ELECTRIC:
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO.
7951 REDWOOD AVE.,
FONTANA, CA. 92335
(800) 655-4555

SEWER:
ON SITE SEPTIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL

WATER:
SAN ANTONIO MUTUAL WATER CO.
139 N. EUCLID AVE.
UPLAND, CA. 91786
PH: (909) 982-4107

GAS:
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS
16231 VALLEY BLVD.
FONTANA, CA. 92335
(909) 427-2200

VERIZON
10740 E. FOOTHILL BLVD.
STE. # 130
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA. 91730
(909) 948-2427

LEGEND:

- 2380 – INDICATES EXISTING CONTOUR
- INDICATES STREET CENTERLINE
- INDICATES FLOW LINE
- INDICATES SLOPE FACE
- P.E. – INDICATES PAD ELEVATION
- F.F. – INDICATES FINISH FLOOR
- F.S. – INDICATES FINISH SURFACE
- F.L. – INDICATES FLOW LINE
- F.G. – INDICATES FINISH GRADE
- H.P. – INDICATES HIGH POINT
- INV – INDICATES INVERT ELEVATION
- T.W. – INDICATES TOP OF WALL
- T.F. – INDICATES TOP OF FOOTING

SEPTIC SYSTEM NOTES:

1. ALL SEPTIC SYSTEMS TO BE LOCATED 5' MIN. FROM PROPERTY LINE AND 50' FROM DRAINAGE EASEMENTS (S.B.C.D.E.)
2. THE SEPTIC SYSTEMS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE CONCEPTUAL AND SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND MODIFICATION AS BUILDING PLANS ARE PREPARED FOR EACH OF THE LOTS.

A.P.N.'S: 1003-281-08 & 1003-281-09

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER BERNHARD K. MAYER No. 36866 Exp. 6-30-20 CIVIL STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SITETECH INC.
8061 CHURCH ST. HIGHLAND CA 92346 PO BOX 592
PH: (909)864-3180, FAX: (909)864-0850

BERNHARD K. MAYER R.C.E. 36866 L.S. 7319 — 06/11/20 DATE

## 2.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Baseline biological surveys were conducted on a 7.1-acre parcel located north of West 26th Street, near the northeast corner of Holly Drive and West 26th Street in the City of San Antonio Heights, San Bernardino County, California (Township 1 North, Range 7 West, Section 19, USGS Mount Baldy, California Quadrangle, 1956) (Figure 1, 2, and 3). Residential homes border the site to the west, east, and south, with vacant land located to the north. The site is located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, where it features mountainous terrain and an undisturbed chaparral habitat.

The property supports an undisturbed mountain chaparral community consisting of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), hoaryleaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*), and our lord's candle (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). Table 1 provides a compendium of plants on the site and in the surrounding area.

Birds observed included California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and red-tail hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). No reptiles were observed on the site. Table 2 provides a compendium of wildlife species.

There were no mammals observed on site during the field investigations on October 14, 2020, although, Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are known to occur in the area and may traverse the site during hunting activities. Coyote scat was observed in different locations throughout the site. Table 2 provides a compendium of wildlife species.

In addition, no sensitive habitats (e.g., sensitive species critical habitats, etc.) have been documented in the immediate area according to the CNDDB (2020) and none were observed during the field investigations.

## 3.0 METHODOLOGIES

General biological surveys were conducted on October 14, 2020, during which biologists from RCA Associates, Inc. initially walked meandering pedestrian transects throughout the property site where accessible. During the surveys, data was collected on the plant and animal species present on the site. All plants and animals detected during the surveys were recorded and are provided in Tables 1 & 2 (Appendix A). The property was also evaluated for the presence of sensitive habitats (e.g., riparian areas, wetlands, etc.) as well as habitats which may support special status species. Scientific nomenclature for this report is based on the following references: Hickman (1993), Munz (1974), Stebbins (2003), Sibley (2000) and Whitaker (1980). Weather conditions consisted of wind speeds of 0 to 5 mph, temperatures in the high 80's (°F) (AM) with clear skies. The applicable methodologies are summarized below.

All of the transects were walked throughout the site and surrounding area (zone of influence), where possible, at a pace that allowed for careful documentation of the plant and animal present on the site. All plants observed were identified in the field and wildlife was identified through visual observations and/or by vocalizations. Tables 1 and 2 (Appendix A) provide a comprehensive compendium of the various plant and animal; species observed during the field investigations.

## 4.0 LITERATURE SEARCH

As part of the environmental process, a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2020) search was performed. Based on this review, it was determined that six special status species have been documented within the USGS Mount Baldy quadrangle. The following tables provide data on each special status species which has been documented in the area.

**Table 4-1: Federal and State Listed Species and State Species of Special Concern.**
E = Endangered; T = Threatened; SSC = Species of special concern; CNPS = California Native Plant Society, CNDDB = California Natural Diversity Data Base

| NAME | STATUS | HABITAT REQUIREMENTS | PRESENCE/ ABSENCE ON PROPERTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| **PLANTS** | | | |
| **Within Mount Baldy Quadrangle** | | | |
| San Gabriel manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa ssp. gabrielensis*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Rocky outcrops | Possible suitable habitat, but no San Gabriel Manzanita was observed. |
| Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) | Federal: Endangered<br>State: Endangered<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Sandy gravelly soils, washes, usually below 2,000 ft. Nearest the coast it may be found in coastal sage scrub or chaparral. Inland in the Transverse Range or Peninsular Range it occurs in chaparral, desert transition or foothill woodland. | No Nevin's barberry were found on the property nor are Nevin's barberry suspected to occur on the site. |
| Slender mariposa-lily (*Calochortus clavatus var. grazilis*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Rocky slopes, open areas | No Slender mariposa-lily were found on the property nor are Slender mariposa-lily suspected to occur on the site. |
| Plummer's mariposa-lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 4.2 | Dry rocky places | No Plummer's mariposa-lily were found on the property nor are Plummer's mariposa-lily suspected to occur on the site. |

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| Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.1 | Openings, chaparral, coastal sage scrub. | No Parry's spineflower were found on the property nor are Parry's spineflower suspected to occur on the site |
| Many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Chaparral, valley grassland, and coastal sage scrub | No Many-stemmed dudleya were found on the property nor are Many-stemmed dudleya suspected to occur on the site. |
| Robinson's pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 4.3 | Chaparral, coastal scrub | Possible suitable habitat, but no Robinson's pepper-grass was observed. |
| Lemon lily (*Lilium parryi*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Riparian, meadows | No Lemon lily were found on the property nor are Lemon lily suspected to occur on the site. |
| San Gabriel linanthus (*Linanthus concinnus*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Red fir forest, yellow pine forest | No San Gabriel linanthus were found on the property nor are San Gabriel linanthus suspected to occur. |
| Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha ssp. hallii*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.3 | Chaparral, Foothill Woodland, Yellow Pine Forest, Mixed Evergreen Forest, Valley Grassland | No Hall's monardella were found on the property nor are Hall's monardella suspected to occur on the site. |
| Woolly mountain-parsley (*Oreonana vestita*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.3 | Dry exposed gravel slopes and talus along ridge tops, 7500-11000 feet. | No Woolly mountain-parsley was found on the property nor is Woolly mountain-parsley suspected to occur on the site. |
| Rock Creek broomrape (*Orobanche valida spp. valida*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodland | No Rock Creek broomrape were found on the property nor are Rock Creek broomrape suspected to occur on the site. |
| White rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 2B.2 | Dry clearings, woodland edges, fields | No White rabbit-tobacco were found on the property nor are White rabbit-tobacco suspected to occur on the site |
| Greata's aster (*Symphyotrichum greatae*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.3 | Canyons | Possible suitable habitat, but no Greata's aster was observed. |

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| Rigid fringepod (*Thysanocarpus rigidus*) | Federal: None<br>State: None<br>CNPS: 1B.2 | Open dry places such as fields. | No Rigid fringepod were found on the property nor are Rigid fringepod suspected to occur. |

**Table 4-2: Special status wildlife and insects documented in the region (Source: CNDDB, 2020) or likely to occur in the region**

| NAME | STATUS | HABITAT REQUIREMENTS | PRESENCE/ABSENCE ON PROPERTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ANIMAL** | | | |
| **Within Mount Baldy Quadrangle** | | | |
| Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) | Federal: None<br>State: Candidate Endangered | Grasslands and shrublands. | No Crotch bumble bees were observed on the property, and the species is not expected to occur on the site. |
| Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Prefers open shrubby habitat on rocky slopes. Average habitat is fairly steep south facing slopes with about 50% cover of low shrubs. can also be found sparsely vegetated scrubland on hillsides, low growing serpentine chaparral, and along coastal bluffs. | None observed on the property, although there is marginal suitable habitat present. Low probability the species occur on the site. |
| Arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) | Federal: Endangered<br>State: None | Specialized habitat needs which include sandy streamsides with stable terraces for burrowing with scattered vegetation for shelter with areas of quiet waters. Inhabits washes, arroyoes, sandy riverbanks, riparian areas with willows, oaks, and cottonwoods. | No suitable habitat (riparian, etc.) observed and not expected to occur on the site. |
| Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Inhabits open areas of sandy soils and low vegetation in valleys, foothills, and semiarid mountains. | Marginal suitable habitat is present on the site; however, no coast horned lizards were observed during the surveys. |
| Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Inhabits coastal sand dunes, sandy washes, alluvial fans in sparsely vegetated areas with moist loose soils with plant cover. | No suitable habitat observed on the site and species not expected to occur on the site. |

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|---|---|---|---|
| California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, chaparral with open areas and areas with loose soil. | Minimal habitat present and not expected to occur on the site. |
| Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Found in hot and dry open areas with sparse foliage- chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas. | Suitable habitat present on the site; however, no whiptails observed. |
| San Gabriel Mountains elfin butterfly (*Callophrys mossii hidakupa*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Found in rocky outcrops, woody canyons and cliffs | Minimal habitat present but species was not observed on site. |
| San Gabriel slender salamander (*Batrachoseps gabrieli*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Associated with extensive rock talus on forested slopes, often near a stream above 3000 feet | No suitable habitat (i.e., streams, etc.) observed and not expected to occur on the site. |
| Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) | Federal: Threatened<br>State: None | Shallow portions of rivers and streams, where currents range from swift to sluggish. | No suitable habitat observed. |
| Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Inhabits stony soils above sandy desert fans and rocky areas within shrub communities such as coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral, desert wash, desert scrub, and annual grasslands. | Moderate suitable habitat observed, although none were observed. |
| Black swift (*Cypseloides niger*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Forage over open sky over mountains and coastal cliffs. Breeds near waterfalls. | Limited suitable habitat present but species not observed. |
| Arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Found in habitats characterized by slow moving water, mu or sand substrate, and depths greater than 40 cm. Have also been found in pools with gravel/cobble substrate. Found most common is streams with gradients of less than 2.5% slope and cool water, | Suitable habitat not observed on the site. |
| Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | A migratory species, they occupy forested areas where they roost in tree foliage, preferably older trees. | No suitable habitat observed on site and is not expected to occur on site. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Sagebrush scrub, chaparral. | Suitable habitat present but species not observed. |
| Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Inhabit rocky slopes and cliffs, canyon, washes, and alluvial fans. Preferring rugged and open habitats with grasses and forbs. | Suitable habitat not observed and not expected to occur on the site. |
| Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*) | Federal: None<br>State: Endangered | Frequents rocky streams and rivers with rocky substrate and open sunny banks in forests, chaparrals, and woodlands. | Suitable habitat not observed on the site. |
| Southern mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) | Federal: Endangered<br>State: Endangered | Inhabits lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, rocky streams in narrow canyons in the chaparral belt. | Suitable habitat not observed on the site. |
| Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Prefers open areas where there are ephemeral pools with sandy or gravelly soils in a variety of habitats including woodlands, grasslands coastal sage scrub, and chaparral. | Suitable habitat not observed and not expected to occur on the site. |
| Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Found in wet forests, oak forests chaparral, and grasslands. | Suitable habitat not observed on the site. |
| Two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondii*) | Federal: None<br>State: None | Found near water sources, often in rocky areas. Associated with coastal sage scrub, chaparral, brushland, and oak woodland. | Suitable habitat not observed on the site. |

## 5.0 RESULTS

### 5.1 General Biological Resources

The site supports a chaparral community typical of the region and is relatively undisturbed as depicted in Figures 3 and 5. Common species observed include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), hoaryleaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*), and our lord's candle (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). Table 1 provided a compendium of plants observed and those common in the region.

Birds observed included California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma california*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and red-tail hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). No reptiles were observed on the site. No mammals were observed during the field investigations although species likely to occur in the area include desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), and antelope ground squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*). Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are known to occur in the area and traverse the site during hunting activities. Coyote scat was observed in different locations throughout the site. Table 2 provides a compendium of wildlife species.

No distinct wildlife corridors were identified on the site or in the immediate area; however, some of the small canyons in the area may provide some movement corridors for species. No sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) were observed on the site during the field investigations.

### 5.2 Jurisdictional Waters and Riparian Habitat

No riparian vegetation (e.g., cottonwoods, willows, etc.) exist on the site or in the adjacent habitats, nor were any other sensitive habitats identified such as vernal pools, wetlands, or stream channels.


**FIGURE 5: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES EXHIBIT**

**SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH PRO**

RCA ASSOCIATES, INC.

## 6.0 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

### 6.1 General Biological Resources

Future development of the site will impact the general biological resources present on the site, and much of the vegetation will likely be removed during future ground disturbance activities and construction. Wildlife will also be impacted by development activities with many species displaced into adjacent habitats. Those species with limited mobility (i.e., small mammals and reptiles) will experience increases in mortality during the ground disturbance activities and during the construction phase. However, more mobile species (i.e., birds, large mammals) will be displaced into surrounding habitats and will likely experience minimal impacts. Loss of the vegetation present on the site is not expected to have a significant cumulative impact on the overall biological resources in the region given the amount of similar habitat in the surrounding region. In addition, no sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, critical habitats for sensitive species, etc.) will be impacted by the proposed project.

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Future development activities are expected to result in the removal of much of the vegetation from the parcel; however, cumulative impacts to the general biological resources (plants and animals) in the surrounding area are expected to be minimal. This assumption is based on the presence of similar habitat throughout the surrounding region. In addition, future development activities are not expected to impact any State or Federal listed or special status wildlife species (See Section 4.0; Table 4-1). However, if any sensitive wildlife species are observed on the property during future development activities, CDFW and USFWS (as applicable) should be contacted to discuss specific mitigation measures which may be required to minimize impacts to the individual species. CDFW and USFWS are the only agencies which can grant authorization for the "take" of any listed or special status species, and approve the implementation of applicable mitigation measures.

## 8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY


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## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits, presents 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 Randall Arnold and other biologists under his direction. 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: 10/26/2020 Signed: Randall Arnold

Field Work Performed By: Randall Arnold
President and Senior Biologist

Field Work Performed By: Ryan Hunter
Environmental Scientist/Biologist

Field Work Performed By: Lisa Cardoso
Wildlife Biologist

# Appendix A

## Tables and Figures

**Table 1 - Plants observed on the site and known to occur in the immediate surrounding area.**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Laurel sumac | *Malosma laurina* | Observed on site |
| California buckwheat | *Eriogonum fasciculatum* | Observed on site |
| California cudweed | *Pseudognaphalium californicum* | Observed on site |
| Yerba santa | *Eriodictyon californicum* | Observed on site |
| California sagebrush | *Artemisia californica* | Observed on site |
| Chamise | *Adenostoma fasciculatum* | Observed on site |
| Hoaryleaf ceanothus | *Ceanothus crassifolius* | Observed on site |
| Dodder | *Cuscuta cephalanthi* | Observed on site |
| Maltese Star thistle | *Centaurea melitensis* | Observed on site |
| Coastal goldenbush | *Isocoma menziesii* | Observed on site |
| Chapparral yucca | *Hesperoyucca whipplei* | Observed on site |

Note: The above list is not intended to be a comprehensive list of every plant which may occur on the site or in the zone of influence.

**Table 2 - Wildlife observed on the site during the field investigations.**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Location |
|---|---|---|
| California scrub jay | *Aphelocoma californica* | Observed on site |
| California quail | *Callipepla california* | Observed on site |
| Anna's hummingbird | *Calypte anna* | Observed on site |
| Black phoebe | *Saynoris nigricans* | Observed on site |
| House wren | *Troglodytes aedon* | Observed on site |
| Yellow rump warbler | *Setophaga coronata* | Observed on site |
| Red-tailed hawk | *Buteo Jamaicensis* | Surrounding area |
| White-crowned sparrow | *Zonotrichia leucophrys* | Observed on site |
| Cooper's hawk | *Accipiter cooperii* | Observed on site |
| American crow | *Corvus brachyrhynchos* | Observed on site |
| California towhee | Melozone crissalis | Observed on site |
| California quail | *Callipepla californica* | Heard on site |
| Coyote | *Canis latrans* | Expected to occur on site |

Note: The above Table is not a comprehensive list of every animal species which may occur in the area, but is a list of those common species which were identified on the site or which have been observed in the region by biologists from RCA Associates, Inc.

# Appendix B

# Regulatory Issues

## REGULATORY

The following provides a summary of federal and state regulatory jurisdiction over biological and wetland resources. Although most of these regulations do not directly apply to the site, given the general lack of sensitive resource, they provide important background information.

### Federal Endangered Species Act

The USFWS has jurisdiction over federally listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species. The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its implementing regulations prohibit the take of any fish or wildlife species that is federally listed as threatened or endangered without prior approval pursuant to either Section 7 or Section 10 of the ESA. ESA defines "take" as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Federal regulation 50CFR17.3 defines the term "harass" as an intentional or negligent act that creates the likelihood of injuring wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50CFR17.3). Furthermore, federal regulation 50CFR17.3 defines "harm" as an act that either kills or injures a listed species. By definition, "harm" includes habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures a listed species by significantly impairing essential behavior patterns such as breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding, or sheltering (50CFR217.12).

Section10(a) of the ESA establishes a process for obtaining an incidental take permit that authorizes nonfederal entities to incidentally take federally listed wildlife or fish. Incidental take is defined by ESA as take that is "incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of another wise lawful activity." Preparation of a habitat conservation plan, generally referred to as an HCP, is required for all Section 10(a) permit applications. The USFWS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) have joint authority under the ESA for administering the incidental take program. NOAA Fisheries Service has jurisdiction over anadromous fish species and USFWS has jurisdiction over all other fish and wildlife species.

Section 7 of the ESA requires all federal agencies to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species listed under the ESA, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of its habitat. Federal agencies are also required

to minimize impacts to all listed species resulting from their actions, including issuance or permits or funding. Section 7 requires consideration of the indirect effects of a project, effects on federally listed plants, and effects on critical habitat (ESA requires that the USFWS identify critical habitat to the maximum extent that it is prudent and determinable when a species is listed as threatened or endangered). This consultation results in a Biological Opinion prepared by the USFWS stating whether implementation of the HCP will result in jeopardy to any HCP Covered Species or will adversely modify critical habitat and the measures necessary to avoid or minimize effects to listed species.

Although federally listed animals are legally protected from harm no matter where they occur, the Section 9 of the ESA provides protection for endangered plants by prohibiting the malicious destruction on federal land and other "take" that violates State law. Protection for plants not living on federal lands is provided by the California Endangered Species Act.

**California Endangered Species Act**

CDFW has jurisdiction over species listed as threatened or endangered under Section 2080 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code. Section 2080 prohibits the take of a species listed by CDFW as threatened or endangered. The state definition of take is similar to the federal definition, except that Section 2080 does not prohibit indirect harm to listed species by way of habitat modification. To qualify as take under the state ESA, an action must have direct, demonstrable detrimental effect on individuals of the species. Impacts on habitat that may ultimately result in effects on individuals are not considered take under the state ESA but can be considered take under the federal ESA.

Proponents of a project affecting a state-listed species must consult with CDFW and enter into a management agreement and take permit under Section 2081. The state ESA consultation process is similar to the federal process. California ESA does not require preparation of a state biological assessment; the federal biological assessment and the CEQA analysis or any other relevant information can provide the basis for consultation. California ESA requires that CDFW coordinate consultation for joint federally listed and state-listed species to the extent possible; generally, the state opinion for the listed species is brief and references provisions under the federal opinion.

**Clean Water Act, Section 404**

The COE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulate the placement of dredged or fill material into "Waters of the United States" under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Waters of the United States include lakes, rivers, streams, and their tributaries, and wetlands. Wetlands are defined for regulatory purposes as "areas inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 328.3, 40 CFR 230.3).

The COE may issue either individual permits on a case-by-case basis or general permits on a program level. General permits are pre-authorized and are issued to cover similar activities that are expected to cause only minimal adverse environmental effects. Nationwide permits (NWP's) are general permits issued to cover particular fill activities. All NWP's have general conditions that must be met for the permits to apply to a particular project, as well as specific conditions that apply to each NWP.

**Clean Water Act, Section 401**

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires water quality certification and authorization of placement of dredged or fills material in wetlands and Other Waters of the United States. In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, criteria for allowable discharges into surface waters have been developed by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality. As such, proponents of any new project which may impair water quality as a result of the project are required to create a post construction storm water management plan to insure offsite water quality is not degraded. The resulting requirements are used as criteria in granting National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or waivers, which are obtained through the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Any activity or facility that will discharge waste (such as soils from construction) into surface waters, or from which waste may be discharged, must obtain an NPDES permit or waiver from the RWQCB. The RWQCB evaluates an NPDES permit application to determine whether the proposed discharge is consistent with the adopted water quality objectives of the basin plan.

**California Fish and Wildlife Code, Sections 1600-1616**

Under the California Fish and Wildlife Code, Sections1600-1616 CDFW regulates projects that divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake. Proponents of such projects must notify CDFW and enter into streambed alteration agreement with them.

Section 1602 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code requires a state or local government agency, public utility, or private entity to notify CDFW before it begins a construction project that will: (1) divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or the bed, bank, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; (2) use materials from a streambed; or (3) result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it can pass into any river, stream, or lake. Once the notification is filed and determined to be complete, CDFW issues a streambed alteration agreement that contains conditions for construction and operations of the proposed project.

**California Fish and Wildlife Code, Section 3503.5**

Under the California Fish and Wildlife Code, Section 3503.5, it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes (hawks, eagles, and flacons) or Strigiformes (owls). Take would include the disturbance of an active nest resulting in the abandonment or loss of young.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, hunting, killing, selling, purchasing, etc. of migratory birds, parts of migratory birds, or their eggs and nests. As used in the MBTA, the term "take" is defined as "to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect, kill, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect, or kill, unless the context otherwise requires." Most bird species native to North America are covered by this act.

**Sensitive Natural Communities**

The California Office of Planning and Research and the Office of Permit Assistance (1986) define project effects that substantially diminish habitat for fish, wildlife, or plants, or that disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community as significant impacts under CEQA.

This definition applies to certain natural communities because of their scarcity and ecological values and because the remaining occurrences are vulnerable to elimination. For this study, the term "sensitive natural community" includes those communities that, if eliminated or substantially degraded, would sustain a significant adverse impact as defined under CEQA. Sensitive natural communities are important ecologically because their degradation and destruction could threaten populations of dependent plant and wildlife species and significantly reduce the regional distribution and viability of the community. If the number and extent of sensitive natural communities continue to diminish, the status of rare, threatened, or endangered species could become more precarious, and populations of common species (i.e., not special status species) could become less viable. Loss of sensitive natural communities also can eliminate or reduce important ecosystem functions, such as water filtration by wetlands and bank stabilization by riparian woodlands for example.

**Protected Plants**

The California Desert Native Plant Act was passed in 1981 to protect non-listed California desert native plants from unlawful harvesting on both public and privately-owned lands. Harvest, transport, sale, or possession of specific native desert plants is prohibited unless a person has a valid permit. The following plants are under the protection of the California Desert Native Plants Act:

- Dalea spinosa (smoketree)
- All species of the genus Prosopis (mesquites)
- All species of the family Agavaceae (century plants, nolinas, yuccas)
- All species of Cactus
- Creosote Rings, ten feet in diameter or greater
- Joshua Trees

None of the above plants were present on the site.