

## Appendix A: Mitigation Monitoring Plan

The purpose of this Mitigation Monitoring Plan is to ensure effective implementation of mitigation measures identified by the Initial Study and imposed as part of Project approval.

This Mitigation Monitoring Plan includes:

- The mitigation measures that the Conservancy must implement as part of the proposed Project;
- The actions required to implement these measures;
- The monitoring requirements; and
- The timing of implementation for each measure.

### Minor Project Refinements

The Conservancy will ensure that any project variance or deviation from the procedures identified under the monitoring program is consistent with CEQA requirements; no project variance will be approved by the Conservancy if it creates new significant impacts. A variance should be strictly limited to minor project changes that will not trigger other permit requirements, that does not increase the severity of an impact or create a new impact, and that clearly and strictly complies with the intent of the mitigation measure. If a proposed change to the project has the potential for creating significant environmental effects, it will be evaluated to determine whether supplemental CEQA review is required. In some cases, a variance may also require approval by a CEQA responsible agency.

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Impact	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action
<b>Biological Resources</b>		
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife	<p><b>BIO-1: CVMSHCP Compliance.</b> All applicable avoidance and minimization measures as described in Section 4.4 of the CVMSHCP will be observed during trail and trailhead development and O&amp;M activities. For O&amp;M activities the Conservancy shall ensure that personnel are instructed to be alert for listed wildlife species. If a desert tortoise is spotted at any Project work area, activities adjacent to its location will be halted and the animal will be allowed to move away from the activity area. In addition, consistent with Section 7.3.4.2 of the CVMSHCP, the Lower Trailhead and associated facilities will be designed to be consistent with CVMSHCP Conservation Goals and Objectives, to avoid or minimize impacts to habitat occupied by Covered Species, and to discourage intrusion into environmentally sensitive areas. Interpretive facilities, access control, and signage will encourage proper resource usage, and adverse effects of passive recreation, such as trampling vegetation and erosion, will be minimized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During O&amp;M</li> </ul>
5.4(f) – Habitat Conservation Plans		
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife	<p><b>BIO-1A: Consistency Review for the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail.</b> Prior to designation and initiation of any trail work on the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail and associated trailhead and parking area, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will complete a consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on topics including, but not limited to, consistency with CVMSHCP general guidelines for development of perimeter trails, minimum requirements for trailhead facilities, and findings of a research program on the effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep described in Element 2 of CVMSHCP Section 7.3.3.2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During O&amp;M</li> </ul>
5.4(f) – Habitat Conservation Plans		
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife	<p><b>BIO-1B: Consistency Review for the West Deception Canyon and Biskra Palms Trails.</b> Prior to designation and initiation of any trail work on the West Deception Canyon Trail and Biskra Palms Trail and associated trailheads and parking areas, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will complete a CVMSHCP consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on topics including, but not limited to, consistency with CVMSHCP Guidelines for Public Access and Recreation on Reserve Lands and compliance with applicable Required Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures and Land Use Adjacency Guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During O&amp;M</li> </ul>
5.4(f) – Habitat Conservation Plans		
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife	<p><b>BIO-2: Limit Disturbance Areas.</b> At all work areas, mechanical disturbance of previously undisturbed habitats (including soils) will be limited to the minimum area necessary. Project disturbance areas will be sited on previously disturbed areas to the extent feasible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> </ul>

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Impact	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action
5.4(b) – Sensitive Vegetation		
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife	<p><b>BIO-3: Assign Project Biologist.</b> The Conservancy will assign one or more acceptable biologists (according to CVMSHCP requirements) to conduct pre-trail and trailhead development surveys and trail and trailhead development monitoring at all Project work areas where ground disturbance would occur, as described in Mitigation Measures BIO-4 and BIO-5. An "acceptable biologist" means a biologist whose name is on a list, maintained by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC), of biologists who are acceptable to CVCC, CDFW, and USFWS for purposes of conducting surveys for Covered Species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prior to trail and trailhead development</li> </ul>
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife 5.4(d) – Native or Migratory Wildlife	<p><b>BIO-4: Preconstruction Surveys.</b> An acceptable biologist (according to CVMSHCP requirements) will conduct pre-activity clearance surveys for desert tortoise and their burrows, Peninsular bighorn sheep, and other special-status species. Surveys for desert tortoise, Peninsular bighorn sheep will be conducted according to the avoidance and minimization measures in Section 4.4 of the CVMSHCP. Pre-activity surveys will be conducted no more than 7 days in advance of any ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities in any location. For construction activities planned between February 15 and November 15 at the Biskra Palms. Preconstruction surveys for nesting birds and burrowing owls will be in accordance with BIO-4A &amp; B.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Within 7 days of initiating ground-disturbing or vegetation-clearing trail and trailhead development activities</li> <li>■ Within 7 days of initiating ground-disturbing or vegetation-clearing maintenance activities</li> </ul>
5.4(a) – Special-Status Wildlife 5.4(d) – Native or Migratory Wildlife	<p><b>BIO-4 A: Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds.</b> Regardless of the time of year, nesting bird surveys shall be performed by a qualified avian biologist no more than 3 days prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities. Pre-construction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified avian biologist will make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If active nests are found during the pre-construction nesting bird surveys, a qualified biologist shall establish an appropriate nest buffer to be marked on the ground. Nest buffers are species specific and shall be at least 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors. A smaller or larger buffer may be determined by the qualified biologist familiar with the nesting phenology of the nesting species and based on nest and buffer monitoring results. Construction activities may not occur inside the established buffers, which shall remain on site until a qualified biologist determines the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. Active nests and adequacy of the established buffer distance shall be monitored daily by the qualified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ No more than 3 days prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities.</li> </ul>

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	<p>biologist until the qualified biologist has determined the young have fledged or the Project has been completed. The qualified biologist has the authority to stop work if nesting pairs exhibit signs of disturbance.</p>	
<p>5.4(a) – Special-Status Wildlife</p>	<p><b>BIO-4B: Preconstruction Surveys for Burrowing Owls.</b> No less than 60 days prior to the start of Project-related activities, a burrowing owl habitat assessment shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the specifications of the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (Department of Fish and Game, March 2012, or most recent version).</p> <p>If the habitat assessment demonstrates suitable burrowing owl habitat, then focused burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities. If burrowing owls are detected during the focused surveys, the qualified biologist and Project proponent shall prepare a Burrowing Owl Plan that shall be submitted to CDFW for review and approval prior to commencing Project activities. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, monitoring, relocation, minimization, and mitigation actions. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites, acres of burrowing owl habitat that will be impacted, details of site monitoring, and details on proposed buffers and other avoidance measures if avoidance is proposed. If impacts to occupied burrowing owl habitat or burrow cannot be avoided, the Burrowing Owl Plan shall also describe minimization and compensatory mitigation actions that will be implemented. Proposed implementation of burrow exclusion and closure should only be considered as a last resort, after all other options have been evaluated as exclusion is not in itself an avoidance, minimization, or mitigation method and has the possibility to result in take. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall identify compensatory mitigation for the temporary or permanent loss of occupied burrow(s) and habitat consistent with the “Mitigation Impacts” section of the 2012 Staff Report and shall implement CDFW-approved mitigation prior to initiation of Project activities. If impacts to occupied burrows cannot be avoided, information shall be provided regarding adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls. If no suitable habitat is available nearby, details regarding the creation and funding of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls shall also be included in the Burrowing Owl Plan. The Project proponent shall implement the Burrowing Owl Plan following CDFW and USFWS review and approval.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ No less than 60 days prior to the start of Project-related activities, a burrowing owl-habitat assessment shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the specifications of the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (Department of Fish and Game, March 2012, or most recent version).</li> <li>■ If burrowing owls are detected during the focused surveys, the qualified biologist and Project proponent shall prepare a Burrowing Owl Plan that shall be submitted to CDFW for review and approval prior to commencing Project activities.</li> <li>■ Preconstruction burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted no less than 14 days prior to</li> </ul>

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Impact	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action
	<p>Preconstruction burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted no less than 14 days prior to the start of Project-related activities and within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance, in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012 or most recent version). Preconstruction surveys should be performed by a qualified biologist following the recommendations and guidelines provided in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. If the preconstruction surveys confirm occupied burrowing owl habitat, Project activities shall be immediately halted. The qualified biologist shall coordinate with CDFW and prepare a Burrowing Owl Plan that shall be submitted to CDFW and USFWS for review and approval prior to commencing Project activities.</p>	<p>the start of Project-related activities and within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance, in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012 or most recent version).</p>
<p>5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife  5.4(d) – Native or Migratory Wildlife</p>	<p><b>BIO-5: Construction Monitoring.</b> An acceptable biologist (according to CVMSHCP requirements) will monitor construction activities, provide worker education programs, and supervise or perform other related actions. The Biological Monitor will be authorized to temporarily halt construction activities if needed to prevent potential harm to these and any other special-status species. Project activities may not disturb an active bird nest. If an active bird nest is located on or adjacent to the work site, a Biological Monitor will designate and flag an appropriate buffer area around the nest where construction activities will not be permitted. The buffer area will be based on the bird species and nature of the construction activity. The work supervisor will coordinate with the Biological Monitor on planned or ongoing construction activities and any specific pre-activity surveys or monitoring requirements for each activity in those areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During ground-disturbing or vegetation-clearing maintenance activities</li> </ul>
<p>5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife</p>	<p><b>BIO-6: Special-Status Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures.</b> The Project Biologist(s) and all workers shall regularly observe the work areas for desert tortoise and burrowing owl. The Project will adhere to avoidance and minimization measures for sensitive species as described in Section 4.4 of the CVMSHCP. For desert tortoise, installing exclusionary fencing per CVMSHCP guidelines for trailhead trail and trailhead development would be infeasible. Instead, if a desert tortoise is observed, it will be left to move away from the work site on its own. Burrowing owl measures include establishing appropriate buffers, depending on the season, where no trail and trailhead development or maintenance activities may occur; and coordinating with Wildlife Agencies on appropriate eviction/passive relocation procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During ground-disturbing or vegetation-clearing maintenance activities</li> </ul>
<p>5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife</p>	<p><b>BIO-7: Worker Training.</b> Employees will be trained to ensure that all workers on site (including contractors) are aware of all applicable mitigation measures for biological</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> </ul>

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	<p>resources. Specifically, workers will be required to (1) limit all activities to approved work areas; (2) report any desert tortoise, burrowing owl, or other special-status species, or bird nest observation in the work areas and access routes to the supervisor or Project Biologist; (3) avoid contact with any wildlife that may approach a work area, and be aware of potential venomous reptile bites from carelessness or unnecessary harassment; (4) pick up and properly dispose of any food, trash, or trail and trailhead development refuse; and (5) report any spilled materials (oil, fuel, solvent, engine coolant, raw concrete, or other material potentially hazardous to wildlife) to the supervisor or on-site Project Biologist(s). During the training, the instructor will briefly discuss special-status species that may occur in the work areas, their habitats, and requirements to avoid or minimize impacts. In addition, all workers will be informed of civil and criminal penalties for violations of the federal Endangered Species Act, California Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, relevant sections of the California Fish and Game Code, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During ground-disturbing or vegetation-clearing maintenance activities</li> </ul>
<p>5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife</p>	<p><b>BIO-8: Wildlife Avoidance.</b> Workers will not be permitted to feed, harm, approach, harass, or handle wildlife at any time, except to move animals out of harm’s way, and only as directed by a supervisor. Listed species will not be handled; if a desert tortoise enters a work area, it will not be disturbed and will be allowed to leave on its own. This condition will not exempt workers, including the Project Biologist(s), from any safety policies with regard to venomous reptiles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During ground-disturbing or vegetation-clearing maintenance activities</li> </ul>
<p>5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife</p>	<p><b>BIO-9: Trash, Refuse, Concrete, and Other Trail and trailhead development Materials.</b> All trash and food materials will be properly contained within vehicles or closed refuse bins while on any site, and will be regularly removed from the site (at least on a weekly basis) for proper disposal. All refuse from trail and trailhead development or maintenance activities will be removed from each work site upon completion of work. No raw cement, concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint, oil, solvents, or other petroleum products, or any other substances that could be hazardous to vegetation or wildlife resources, shall be disposed of on-site or allowed to spill onto soil. Cleanup of any spilled material shall begin immediately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During maintenance</li> </ul>
<p>5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife</p>	<p><b>BIO-10: Minimize Standing Water.</b> Water applied to dirt roads and trail and trailhead development areas for dust abatement shall use the minimal amount needed to meet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During maintenance</li> </ul>

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	safety and air quality standards, to prevent the formation of puddles, which could attract wildlife to trail and trailhead development sites.	
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife	<b>BIO-11: Water Storage.</b> All water containers (i.e., tanks or trailers) will be securely covered to prevent wildlife from entering the containers and becoming trapped.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During maintenance</li> </ul>
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife	<b>BIO-12: Speed Limit.</b> To minimize potential impacts to special-status wildlife, no vehicles will be permitted to exceed 25 mph while traveling on dirt access roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During maintenance</li> </ul>
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife 5.4(c) - Wetlands	<b>BIO-13: Streambed Avoidance.</b> A qualified biologist or hydrologist will identify the jurisdictional boundaries of the washes, ephemeral drainages, and wetlands located at the site. If jurisdictional areas are found to be located within the impact area, permits will be obtained from CDFW, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Colorado River Regional Water Control Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During operation</li> </ul>
5.4(a) – Special-Status Plants and Wildlife 5.4(c) - Wetlands	<b>BIO-13A: CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.</b> Prior to construction, the Project Sponsor shall obtain written correspondence from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stating that notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is not required for the Project, or the Project Sponsor should obtain a CDFW-executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources associated with the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prior to construction.</li> <li>■ During operation.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Resources</b>		
	<b>CR-1: Cultural Resource Public Education.</b> Trailhead signage and other public educational materials would be provided for all trails to inform the public about the need to respect and not disturb potential cultural resources found in the vicinity of these trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During operation</li> </ul>
	<p><b>CR-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Resources.</b> In the event of the unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials, the project contractor will immediately cease all work activities in the area (within approximately 50 feet) of the discovery until it can be evaluated by the qualified archaeologist. Construction will not resume until the qualified archaeologist has conferred with the landowner on the significance of the resource.</p> <p>If it is determined that the discovered archaeological resource constitutes a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA, or a historical resource under CEQA, avoidance and preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigation. If preservation in place is deter-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> <li>■ During operation</li> </ul>

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	<p>mined to be infeasible and data recovery through excavation is the only feasible mitigation available, a Cultural Resources Treatment Plan will be prepared and implemented by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with the landowner. The Cultural Resources Treatment Plan will provide for the adequate recovery of the scientifically consequential information contained in the archaeological resource.</p>	
<p>5.5(c) – Human Remains</p>	<p><b>CR-3: Assess and Treat Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains.</b> All human remains discovered are to be treated with respect and dignity. Upon discovery of human remains, all work within 50 feet of the discovery area must cease immediately, nothing is to be disturbed, and the area must be secured. The County Coroner’s Office must be notified within 24 hours. The Coroner has two working days to examine the remains after notification. The appropriate land manager or owner of the site is to be called and informed of the discovery. If the remains are located on federal lands, federal land managers, federal law enforcement, and the federal archaeologist must be informed as well, due to complementary jurisdiction issues. It is very important that the human remains, and the area around them, are undisturbed and the proper authorities called to the scene as soon as possible, as it could be a crime scene. The Coroner will determine if the remains are archaeological, historic or are of modern origin, and will determine if there are any criminal or jurisdictional needs to be addressed.</p> <p>If upon examination the Coroner determines that the remains are archaeological or historic-era, the Coroner will make recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the remains to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative. If the Coroner believes the remains to be those of a Native American, he/she shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by telephone within 24 hours. The NAHC will immediately notify the person it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) of the remains. The MLD has 48 hours to make recommendations to the landowner for treatment or disposition of the human remains. If the descendant does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the landowner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. If the landowner does not accept the descendant’s recommendations, the owner or the descendant may request mediation by the NAHC. According to the California Health and Safety Code, six (6) or more human burials at one (1) location constitute a cemetery (Section 8100), and willful disturbance of human remains is a felony (Section 7052).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During trail and trailhead development</li> </ul>





# **Appendix B-1**

## **CALIFORNIA NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE**



# Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



**Query Criteria:** Quad (Cathedral City (3311674) OR Cottonwood Basin (3311568) OR Desert Hot Springs (3311685) OR East Deception Canyon (3311683) OR Fried Liver Wash (3311588) OR Indian Cove (3411612) OR Indio (3311662) OR Joshua Tree South (3411613) OR Keys View (3311682) OR La Quinta (3311663) OR Malapai Hill (3311681) OR Morongo Valley (3411615) OR Myoma (3311673) OR Palm Springs (3311675) OR Rancho Mirage (3311664) OR Rockhouse Canyon (3311671) OR Seven Palms Valley (3311684) OR Thermal Canyon (3311661) OR Washington Wash (3311578) OR West Berdoo Canyon (3311672) OR Yucca Valley South (3411614))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> chaparral sand-verbena	PDNYC010P1	None	None	G5T2?	S2	1B.1
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S4	WL
<i>Acmispon haydonii</i> pygmy lotus	PDFAB2A0H0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T3	S3	WL
<i>Almutaster pauciflorus</i> alkali marsh aster	PDASTEL010	None	None	G4	S1S2	2B.2
<i>Ambrosia monogyra</i> singlewhorl burrobrush	PDAST50010	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> Southern California legless lizard	ARACC01060	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
<i>Asio otus</i> long-eared owl	ABNSB13010	None	None	G5	S3?	SSC
<i>Astragalus bernardinus</i> San Bernardino milk-vetch	PDFAB0F190	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i> Horn's milk-vetch	PDFAB0F421	None	None	GUT1	S1	1B.1
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>coachellae</i> Coachella Valley milk-vetch	PDFAB0FB97	Endangered	None	G5T1	S1	1B.2
<i>Astragalus preussii</i> var. <i>laxiflorus</i> Lancaster milk-vetch	PDFAB0F721	None	None	G4T2	S1	1B.1
<i>Astragalus sabulonum</i> gravel milk-vetch	PDFAB0F7R0	None	None	G4G5	S2	2B.2
<i>Astragalus tricarinatus</i> triple-ribbed milk-vetch	PDFAB0F920	Endangered	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC



**Selected Elements by Scientific Name**  
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**California Natural Diversity Database**



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b><i>Atriplex parishii</i></b> Parish's brittle scale	PDCHE041D0	None	None	G1G2	S1	1B.1
<b><i>Ayenia compacta</i></b> California ayenia	PDSTE01020	None	None	G4	S3	2B.3
<b><i>Boechea dispar</i></b> pinyon rockcress	PDBRA060F0	None	None	G3	S3	2B.3
<b><i>Boechea lincolnensis</i></b> Lincoln rockcress	PDBRA061M3	None	None	G4G5	S3	2B.3
<b><i>Bombus crotchii</i></b> Crotch bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	Candidate Endangered	G2	S2	
<b><i>Buteo regalis</i></b> ferruginous hawk	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
<b><i>Calileptoneta oasa</i></b> Andreas Canyon leptonetid spider	ILARAU6020	None	None	G1	S1	
<b><i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>munzii</i></b> San Jacinto mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D121	None	None	G3T3	S3	1B.2
<b><i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i></b> Palmer's mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D122	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Calochortus striatus</i></b> alkali mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D190	None	None	G3	S2S3	1B.2
<b><i>Caulanthus simulans</i></b> Payson's jewelflower	PDBRA0M0H0	None	None	G4	S4	4.2
<b><i>Chaetodipus fallax pallidus</i></b> pallid San Diego pocket mouse	AMAFD05032	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
<b><i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i></b> Parry's spineflower	PDPGN040J2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
<b><i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i></b> white-bracted spineflower	PDPGN040Z1	None	None	G4T3	S3	1B.2
<b><i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i></b> Townsend's big-eared bat	AMACC08010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
<b><i>Coryphantha alversonii</i></b> Alverson's foxtail cactus	PDCAC0X060	None	None	G3	S3	4.3
<b><i>Crotalus ruber</i></b> red-diamond rattlesnake	ARADE02090	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<b><i>Cymopterus multinervatus</i></b> purple-nerve cymopterus	PDAP10U0Q0	None	None	G4G5	S2	2B.2
<b><i>Cyprinodon macularius</i></b> desert pupfish	AFCNB02060	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	
<b><i>Cypseloides niger</i></b> black swift	ABNUA01010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
<b>Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland</b> Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland	CTT62300CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	



Selected Elements by Scientific Name  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b><i>Dinacoma caseyi</i></b> Casey's June beetle	IICOLX5010	Endangered	None	G1	S1	
<b><i>Dipodomys merriami collinus</i></b> Earthquake Merriam's kangaroo rat	AMAFD03144	None	None	G5T2?	S2	
<b><i>Ditaxis claryana</i></b> glandular ditaxis	PDEUP080L0	None	None	G3G4	S2	2B.2
<b><i>Ditaxis serrata var. californica</i></b> California ditaxis	PDEUP08050	None	None	G5T3T4	S2?	3.2
<b><i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i></b> slender-horned spineflower	PDPGN0V010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b><i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i></b> southwestern willow flycatcher	ABPAE33043	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S1	
<b><i>Eremarionta morongoana</i></b> Morongo (=Colorado) desertsnaail	IMGASB9070	None	None	G1G3	S1	
<b><i>Eremothera boothii ssp. boothii</i></b> Booth's evening-primrose	PDONA03052	None	None	G5T4	S3	2B.3
<b><i>Eriastrum harwoodii</i></b> Harwood's eriastrum	PDPLM030B1	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Erigeron parishii</i></b> Parish's daisy	PDAST3M310	Threatened	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<b><i>Eumops perotis californicus</i></b> western mastiff bat	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
<b><i>Euparagia unidentata</i></b> Algodones euparagia	IIHYMBC010	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
<b><i>Euphorbia abramsiana</i></b> Abrams' spurge	PDEUP0D010	None	None	G4	S2	2B.2
<b><i>Euphorbia arizonica</i></b> Arizona spurge	PDEUP0D060	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
<b><i>Euphorbia misera</i></b> cliff spurge	PDEUP0Q1B0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
<b><i>Euphorbia platysperma</i></b> flat-seeded spurge	PDEUP0D1X0	None	None	G3	S1	1B.2
<b><i>Falco mexicanus</i></b> prairie falcon	ABNKD06090	None	None	G5	S4	WL
<b><i>Gopherus agassizii</i></b> desert tortoise	ARAAF01012	Threatened	Threatened	G3	S2S3	
<b><i>Grusonia parishii</i></b> Parish's club-cholla	PDCAC0D2H0	None	None	G3G4	S2	2B.2
<b><i>Heuchera hirsutissima</i></b> shaggy-haired alumroot	PDSAX0E0J0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<b><i>Icteria virens</i></b> yellow-breasted chat	ABPBX24010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC



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<b><i>Imperata brevifolia</i></b> California satintail	PMPOA3D020	None	None	G3	S3	2B.1
<b><i>Jaffueliobryum rauli</i></b> Rau's jaffueliobryum moss	NBMUS97010	None	None	G4	S2	2B.3
<b><i>Jaffueliobryum wrightii</i></b> Wright's jaffueliobryum moss	NBMUS97020	None	None	G5	S2S3	2B.3
<b><i>Junco hyemalis caniceps</i></b> gray-headed junco	ABPBXA5021	None	None	G5T5	S1	WL
<b><i>Lanius ludovicianus</i></b> loggerhead shrike	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
<b><i>Lasiurus cinereus</i></b> hoary bat	AMACC05032	None	None	G3G4	S4	
<b><i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i></b> western yellow bat	AMACC05070	None	None	G4G5	S3	SSC
<b><i>Lilium parryi</i></b> lemon lily	PMLIL1A0J0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<b><i>Linanthus jaegeri</i></b> San Jacinto linanthus	PDPLM08030	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Linanthus maculatus ssp. maculatus</i></b> Little San Bernardino Mtns. linanthus	PDPLM041Y1	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Macrobaenetes valgum</i></b> Coachella giant sand treader cricket	IIORT22020	None	None	G1G2	S2	
<b><i>Marina orcuttii var. orcuttii</i></b> California marina	PDFAB2F031	None	None	G2G3T1T2	S2?	1B.3
<b><i>Matelea parvifolia</i></b> spear-leaf matelea	PDASC0A0J0	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
<b><i>Mentzelia tricuspis</i></b> spiny-hair blazing star	PDLOA031T0	None	None	G4	S2	2B.1
<b><i>Mesquite Bosque</i></b> Mesquite Bosque	CTT61820CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
<b><i>Mojave Riparian Forest</i></b> Mojave Riparian Forest	CTT61700CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b><i>Monardella robisonii</i></b> Robison's monardella	PDLAM180K0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<b><i>Muhlenbergia appressa</i></b> appressed muhly	PMPOA48020	None	None	G4	S3	2B.2
<b><i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i></b> brown-crested flycatcher	ABPAE43080	None	None	G5	S3	WL
<b><i>Myotis thysanodes</i></b> fringed myotis	AMACC01090	None	None	G4	S3	
<b><i>Nemacaulis denudata var. gracilis</i></b> slender cottonheads	PDPGN0G012	None	None	G3G4T3?	S2	2B.2



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<i>Neotoma albigula venusta</i> Colorado Valley woodrat	AMAFF08031	None	None	G5T3T4	S1S2	
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	AMAFF08041	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat	AMACD04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i> big free-tailed bat	AMACD04020	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Oliarces clara</i> cheeseweed owlfly (cheeseweed moth lacewing)	IINEU04010	None	None	G1G3	S2	
<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i> desert bighorn sheep	AMALE04013	None	None	G4T4	S3	FP
<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2</i> Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	AMALE04012	Endangered	Threatened	G4T3Q	S2	FP
<i>Paranomada californica</i> California cuckoo bee	IIHYM82010	None	None	G1	S1	
<i>Parnopes borregoensis</i> Borrego parnopes cuckoo wasp	IIHYM73010	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
<i>Perognathus longimembris bangsi</i> Palm Springs pocket mouse	AMAFD01043	None	None	G5T2	S1	SSC
<i>Petalonyx linearis</i> narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	PDLOA04010	None	None	G4	S3?	2B.3
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S4	SSC
<i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i> flat-tailed horned lizard	ARACF12040	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
<i>Piranga rubra</i> summer tanager	ABPBX45030	None	None	G5	S1	SSC
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G4G5T3Q	S2	SSC
<i>Polioptila melanura</i> black-tailed gnatcatcher	ABPBJ08030	None	None	G5	S3S4	WL
<i>Pseudorontium cyathiferum</i> Deep Canyon snapdragon	PDSCR2R010	None	None	G4G5	S1	2B.3
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> vermillion flycatcher	ABPAE36010	None	None	G5	S2S3	SSC
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
<i>Rana muscosa</i> southern mountain yellow-legged frog	AAABH01330	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	WL
<i>Saltugilia latimeri</i> Latimer's woodland-gilia	PDPLM0H010	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2



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<i>Selaginella eremophila</i> desert spike-moss	PPSEL010G0	None	None	G4	S2S3	2B.2
<i>Senna covesii</i> Cove's cassia	PDFAB491X0	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	ABPBX03010	None	None	G5	S3S4	SSC
<i>Southern Riparian Forest</i> Southern Riparian Forest	CTT61300CA	None	None	G4	S4	
<i>Sphaeralcea rusbyi var. eremicola</i> Rusby's desert-mallow	PDMAL140L1	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.2
<i>Stemodia durantifolia</i> purple stemodia	PDSCR1U010	None	None	G5	S2	2B.1
<i>Stenopelmatus cahuilensis</i> Coachella Valley jerusalem cricket	IIORT26010	None	None	G1G2	S2	
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i> southern jewelflower	PDBRA2G0B0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Thelypteris puberula var. sonorensis</i> Sonoran maiden fern	PPTHE05192	None	None	G5T3	S2	2B.2
<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i> Bendire's thrasher	ABPBK06050	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<i>Toxostoma crissale</i> Crissal thrasher	ABPBK06090	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i> Le Conte's thrasher	ABPBK06100	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<i>Trichinorhipis knulli</i> Knull's metallic wood-boring beetle	IICOLX1100	None	None	G1	S1	
<i>Uma inornata</i> Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	ARACF15010	Threatened	Endangered	G1Q	S1	
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S2	
<i>Wislizenia refracta ssp. refracta</i> jackass-clover	PDCPP09013	None	None	G5T5?	S1	2B.2
<i>Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus</i> Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	AMAFB05161	None	None	G5T2Q	S2	SSC
<i>Xylorhiza cognata</i> Mecca-aster	PDASTA1010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2

**Record Count: 120**



Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
<b>PLANTS</b>							
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> Chaparral sand-verbena	Annual or perennial herb; sand, about 250-5300 ft. elev.; San Jacinto Mtns, Inland Empire, adj. Colorado Des, Orange & San Diego cos; mostly alluvial fans and benches in w Riverside Co; dunes in deserts.	Jan-Sep	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: S2, 1B.1 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; marginally suitable habitat present, all trails are likely east of the species geographic range, not observed.			
<i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>coachellae</i> Coachella Valley milk-vetch	Annual/perennial herb; desert dunes, Sonoran Desert scrub; sandy areas; from 130 to 2200 ft. elev.	Feb-May	Fed: <b>END</b> BLM: none CA: S1, 1B.2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Low</b> ; minimally suitable sand habitat present in valley floor, known from within 3.5 miles.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.		
<i>Astragalus tricarinatus</i> Triple-ribbed milk-vetch	Perennial herb; exposed rocky slopes, canyon walls, alluvial fans; Whitewater Canyon, Mission Creek, and Morongo Canyon; 1500 to 5000 ft. elev.	Feb-May	Fed: <b>END</b> BLM: none CA: S2, 1B.2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Minimal</b> ; <b>Minimal</b> suitable habitat present, not known from the watershed and not expected to occur.			<b>Low</b> ; Marginally suitable habitat present, known from upper watershed.
<i>Ditaxis claryana</i> Glandular ditaxis	Perennial herb. Conflicting info. in literature. Sandy soils below about 350 ft. elev.; or rocky uplands & sandy washes to 3000 ft.; widely scattered, Sonoran Desert, Calif. to Ariz. and Mex.	Oct-Mar	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S2, 2B.2 MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.	<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys. Recent observation located within 3 about miles.	Minimal; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.	
<i>Euphorbia arizonica</i> Arizona spurge	Perennial herb; sandy flats; Borrego & Coachella Valleys are only Calif. sites; S and E to Texas, mainland Mexico, central Baja; from 160 to 1000 ft. elev.	Mar-Apr	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S3, 2B.3 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys. No recent records located within the vicinity.			
<i>Euphorbia platysperma</i> Flat-seeded spurge	Annual herb; desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub; sandy areas; from about 210 to 350 ft. elev.	Feb-Sep	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: S1, 1B.2 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys. No recent records located within the vicinity.			
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i> California satintail	Perennial rhizomatous herb; meadows, seeps, and riparian scrub within arid shrublands; about 0 – 3900 ft. elev.	Sep-May	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: S3, 2B.1 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; suitable mesic habitat present, not observed.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed.		

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
<i>Linanthus maculatus</i> Little San Bernardino Mtns. linanthus	Annual; sandy washes or dunes in desert shrubland habitats; Joshua Tree woodlands; about 600 - 6800 ft. elev.	Mar-May	Fed: none BLM: sensitive CA: S2, 1B.2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Minimal</b> ; outside of geographic range.	<b>Minimal</b> ; outside of geographic range.		<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable wash habitat is present, recent observation in region.
<i>Mentzelia tricuspidis</i> Spiny-hair blazing star	Annual; sandy or gravelly soil, slopes and washes, Mojavean Desert scrub; 500-4200 ft. elev.; desert mts, east Sonoran Desert, to Utah, Arizona.	Mar-May	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S2, 2B.1 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; marginally suitable habitat, not observed during surveys, nearest known populations more than 10 miles from Project areas.			
<i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> Slender cottonheads	Annual herb; coastal dunes, desert dunes, Sonoran Desert scrub; about 160-1300 ft. elev.	Apr-May	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S2, 2B.2 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; minimally suitable sand habitat present in valley floor, known from within 6 miles.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.		
<i>Petalonyx linearis</i> Narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant	Perennial shrub; sandy and rocky canyons in Sonoran and Mojavean Desert scrubs; below about 4,000 ft. elev.; Riv., San Diego, Imperial Cos., Ariz., Baja, Sonora, Mexico.	Mar-May	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S3, 2B.2 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys. On edge of geographical range.		<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable habitat present, nearest occurrence roughly 5 miles, not observed.	
<i>Selaginella eremophila</i> Desert spike-moss	Perennial herb; mountainous or hillside rock outcrops and crevices, about 600 - 3000 ft. elev.; lower desert-facing slopes of San Jacinto Mtns and adj. desert, to Texas and Baja	n/a	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S2S3, 2B.2 MSHCP: none	<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed, may be present in good rainfall years.			
<i>Senna covesii</i> Cove's cassia	Low, mostly herbaceous perennial; desert washes; Colorado Desert to Nevada, Arizona, and Baja; 740 - 4250 ft. elev.	Apr-Jun	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S3, 2B.2 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys. On edge of geographical range.			
<i>Xylorhiza cognata</i> Mecca-aster	Perennial herb; creosote bush scrub on slopes and bottoms of deep ravines in clay, rocky sand, and gravel; mostly known from Indio Hills and Mecca Hills; about 65 – 1300 ft. elev.	Jan-Jun	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S2, 1B.2 MSHCP: covered	<b>High</b> ; suitable habitat present. Recent record present in area. Possibly present in the area but overlooked.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.		

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>							
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	Occurs in open grassland and scrub habitats. This species is a ground nesting species. Food plant genera include <i>Antirrhinum</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , <i>Clarkia</i> , <i>Eschscholzia</i> , and <i>Eriogonum</i> . Coastal California, south into Mexico.	Feb-Oct	Fed: none BLM: none CA: CAN, S1S2 MSHCP: none	<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys, known within 5 miles.	<b>Low</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys, no recent occurrences in vicinity.		
<i>Dinacoma caseyi</i> Casey's June beetle	Found in sandy soils in desert wash and Mojavean desert scrub. Found only in two populations in a small area of southern Palm Springs.	Spring	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S1 MSHCP: covered	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present. Outside of geographical range.	<b>Low</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed during surveys.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present. Outside of geographical range.	
<i>Macrobaenetes valgum</i> Coachella giant sand treader cricket	Active dunes and windblown sand; apparently absent from stabilized sand; nocturnal; endemic to Coachella Valley area.	Spring	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S1S2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Low</b> ; minimally suitable sand habitat present in valley floor, known from 3.5 miles.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.		
<i>Parnopes borregoensis</i> Borrego parnopes cuckoo wasp	Known from San Diego, San Bernardino, and Inyo counties.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S1S2 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; suitable habitat present; not observed during surveys, no recent observations in region.			
<i>Stenopelmatus calhualaensis</i> Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket	Dunes, stabilized sand, sometimes gravelly sand or vacant lots with remnant native plants; endemic to western Coachella Valley area; active mostly nocturnally or during wet conditions after rains.	Year-around (when humid or moist)	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S1S2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Low</b> ; minimally suitable sand habitat present in valley floor, known from 3.5 miles.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.		
<b>REPTILES</b>							
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> Red-diamond rattlesnake	Chaparral, woodland, grassland, desert areas; prefers rocky areas with dense vegetation; Coastal CA east to Whitewater Canyon.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present, likely outside of geographic range.	Moderate; suitable habitat present; no sign observed during surveys, known from vicinity.		<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present, likely outside of geographic range.
<i>Gopherus agassizii</i> Mojave Desert tortoise	Colorado River west through California and Nevada; desert shrublands where soil is suitable for burrows.	Spring-Summer	Fed: <b>THR</b> BLM: none CA: <b>THR</b> , S2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Moderate</b> ; some suitable habitat, no sign observed during surveys, very	<b>Minimal</b> ; area is isolated from populations by development.		Moderate; some suitable habitat present, potential burrows were

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
				low densities in vicinity.			observed, very low densities in vicinity.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> Coast horned lizard	Species requires loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction, abundance of native ants or other insects, low, dense shrubs for refuge. Pacific coast to the deserts, south into Baja CA.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: SC, S3S4 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; some suitable habitat, no sign observed during surveys, very low densities in vicinity, at eastern edge of geographic range.			
<i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i> Flat-tailed horned lizard	Sandy desert washes, flats, and dunes; Coachella Valley southward to N Baja Calif.	Spring-summer	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: SC, S2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat, species likely extirpated from Coachella Valley.			
<i>Uma inornata</i> Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard	Sand, especially dunes, sandy hummocks, washes, stabilized sand flats; southern Colorado Desert, endemic to the Coachella Valley.	Warm season	Fed: <b>THR</b> BLM: none CA: <b>END</b> , S1 MSHCP: covered	<b>Low</b> ; minimally suitable sand habitat present in valley floor, known from 3.5 miles.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.		
<b>BIRDS</b>							
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	Species is most common in forests and woodland habitats but can be found nesting and hunting in suburban parks and neighborhoods; will nest in dense patches of large pines, oaks, or Douglas-firs.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: WL, S4 MSHCP: none	<b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat and multiple recent observations throughout the region. <b>Minimal</b> (nesting); no nesting habitat present.			
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	Resident in southern California coastal sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral. Frequents relatively steep, often rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: WL, S3 MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> ; no nesting habitat present, outside of species range.	<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable nesting habitat, recent records from vicinity.		<b>Minimal</b> ; no nesting habitat present, outside of species range.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden eagle	Nests in remote trees and cliffs; forages over shrublands and grasslands; breeds throughout W N America, winters to E coast.	Year-around	Fed: BGEPA BLM: Sensitive CA: FP, S3 MSHCP: none	<b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present. <b>Minimal</b> (nesting); no nesting habitat present.			
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing owl	Nests mainly in rodent burrows, usually in open grassland or shrubland; forages	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: SC, S3	<b>High</b> ; suitable foraging and nesting habitat present, multiple recent observations throughout the region.			

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
	in open habitat; increasingly uncommon in S Calif.; through W US and Mexico.		MSHCP: covered				
<i>Buteo regalis</i> Ferruginous hawk	Winters in open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and fringes of pinyon and juniper habitats.	Winter	Fed: none BLM: none CA: WL S3S4 MSHCP: none	<b>Low;</b> (foraging only) suitable foraging habitat present, winters in region.			
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> Prairie falcon	Nests on high cliffs, forages primarily over open lands; occurs throughout arid western US and Mexico.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: WL, S4 MSHCP: none	<b>High</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, multiple recent records throughout the region. <b>Minimal</b> (nesting); no suitable nesting habitat present.			
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead shrike	Woodlands, shrublands, open areas with scattered perch sites; widespread in N America; valley floors to about 7000 ft. elev.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC S4 MSHCP: none	<b>High;</b> suitable foraging and nesting habitat present, multiple recent records throughout the region.			
<i>Poliophtila melanura</i> Black-tailed gnatcatcher	Desert shrublands, gen. nests in shrub thickets along washes; occas. in open scrub (esp. in winter); Calif. Deserts, to W Texas, Baja, and central Mexico.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S3S4 MSHCP: none	<b>High;</b> suitable foraging and nesting habitat present, multiple recent records throughout the region.			
<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i> Bendire's thrasher	Joshua tree woodland, desert scrub; high cactus cover; mainly E Mojave Des in Calif. (scarce in W Mojave); American SW and mainl. Mexico; winters in S Arizona, New Mexico, and mainl. Mexico.	Spring - summer	Fed: none BLM: sensitive CA: S3 MSHCP: none	<b>Low;</b> marginal suitable foraging or nesting habitat present.	<b>Minimal;</b> no suitable nesting or foraging habitat present.	Low; marginal suitable foraging or nesting habitat present.	
<i>Toxostoma crissale</i> Crissal thrasher	Nests in dense brushy thickets of mesquite or other desert riparian shrubs; foraging in surrounding area; E Calif. To Texas, W mainland Mexico.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: covered	<b>Low;</b> marginal suitable nesting habitat present.	Low; marginal suitable nesting habitat present.		Moderate; suitable nesting and foraging habitat. nearby recent eBird records.
<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i> Le Conte's thrasher	Calif. Deserts, SW Central Val. & Owens Val., east to Utah, Arizona; open shrubland, often sandy or alkaline flats.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: covered	<b>High;</b> suitable habitat throughout, known from the Project vicinity.			

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
<b>MAMMALS</b>							
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid bat	Rock outcrops of shrublands, mostly below about 6000 ft. elev.; Calif, SW N Amer through interior Oregon and Washington; hibernates in winter.	Warm season	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: none	<b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed. <b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no suitable roosting sites present.			
<i>Chaetodipus fallax pallidus</i> Pallid San Diego pocket mouse	Open shrublands and sandy areas; deserts and desert-facing foothills, LA Co. south to N Baja Calif.	Spring and Fall	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3S4 MSHCP: none	<b>High</b> ; suitable habitat present, not observed. CNDDDB record adjacent to site.	High; suitable habitat present, not observed. CNDDDB record adjacent to site.		Moderate; suitable habitat present, not observed. No records within vicinity.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	Many habitats throughout Calif. And W N America, scattered populations in E; day roosts in caves, tunnels, mines; feed primarily on moths.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: CAN, S2 MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no caves, tunnels, or mines present. <b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed.			
<i>Dipodomys merriami collinus</i> Earthquake Merriam's kangaroo rat	Interior mtns and valleys near desert margin (Aguanga, San Felipe Valley, etc.), sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland vegetation in upland areas, sandy soils.	Spring-Summer	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S1S2 MSHCP: none	<b>Low</b> ; minimally suitable habitat present, not observed, two unconfirmed records in Coachella Valley, well outside of geographic range.			
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> Western mastiff bat	Lowlands (with rare exceptions); cent. and S Calif., S Ariz., NM, SW Tex., N Mexico; roost in deep rock crevices on high cliffs, forage over wide area	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: SC, S3? MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no high cliffs present. <b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed.			
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> Hoary bat	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense trees. Feeds on moths and requires water.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: S4 MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no large trees present for roosting. <b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed.			
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> Western yellow bat	Mexico and Cent. Amer., to S AZ; Riv., Imperial and San Diego Cos.; desert riparian and wash habitats; roosts in trees; evidently migrates from Calif. During winter.	Spring-summer	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: covered	<b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no desert riparian habitats present. <b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed.			
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i> Fringed myotis	Occurs in a wide variety of habitats. Habitats include pinyon-juniper, valley	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive	<b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no caves, tunnels, or mines present. <b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed.			

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
	foothill hardwood and hardwood-conifer woodlands. Forms maternity colonies and roosts in caves, mines, buildings, and crevices.		CA: S3 MSHCP: none				
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	Arid shrublands, esp. around rocky outcrops & crevices; cismontane Calif from San Luis Obispo to San Diego Co, and NW Baja Calif.	Year- around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3S4 MSHCP: none	<b>High</b> ; likely to be present, middens observed.			
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> Pocketed free-tailed bat	Deserts and arid lowlands, SW US, Baja Calif., mainland Mexico; Roost mainly in crevices of high cliffs; forage over water and open shrubland.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no high cliffs present. <b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed.			
<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i> Big free-tailed bat	Roosts in crevices of rocky cliffs, scattered localities in W N. Amer. Through Cent. Amer.; ranges widely from roost sites; often forages over water.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: none	<b>Minimal</b> (roosting); no high cliffs present. <b>Moderate</b> (foraging); suitable foraging habitat present, not observed.			
<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i> Desert bighorn sheep	Open shrublands and conifer forest, remote mountains; scattered populations in desert mountains and surrounding ranges, incl. San Bernardino Mtns. To the north.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: FP, S3 MSHCP: none	<b>High</b> ; suitable habitat is present and is assumed to be occupied. Numerous records in the immediate vicinity of the trail alignments.	<b>Minimal</b> ; suitable habitat is present but is within the range of the DPS, see Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS below.	High; suitable habitat is present and is assumed to be occupied. Numerous records in the immediate vicinity of the trail alignments.	
<i>Ovis canadensis nelson pop. 2</i> Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS	Open shrublands and conifer forest, San Jacinto Mountains in Riverside Co., south into the Peninsular Ranges in San Diego Co.	Year-around	Fed: <b>END</b> BLM: none CA: <b>THR</b> , FP, S2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Minimal</b> ; suitable habitat is present but is outside of the range of the DPS.	<b>High</b> ; suitable habitat is present and is assumed to be occupied. Numerous records in the immediate vicinity of the trail alignments.	Minimal; suitable habitat is present but is outside of the range of the DPS.	
<i>Perognathus longimembris bangsi</i> Palm Springs pocket mouse	Desert shrubland; Coachella Valley, Joshua Tree NM, to Borrego Valley.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: SC, S2S3 MSHCP: covered	<b>Low</b> ; marginal suitable habitat, known known records in the valley floors.			
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Mountains, deserts, interior valleys where burrowing animals are avail as	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none	<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable habitat present; no potential badger burrows observed.			

Species Name	Habitat Requirements	Activity Season	Conservation Status	Occurrence Potential by Trail			
				Biskra Palms	Cathedral Cove	Chuckwalla	West Deception
	prey and soil allows digging; throughout cent and W N America.		CA: SC, S3 MSHCP: none				
<i>Vulpes macrotis</i> Desert kit fox	Widespread, open desert lands; constructs below-ground dens; requires soil suitable for burrowing; primarily nocturnal; preys on small mammals.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: none CA: FP MSHCP: none	<b>Moderate</b> ; suitable habitat present, no kit fox burrow complexes observed.			
<i>Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus</i> Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel	Wind-blown sand and stabilized sand flats in Coachella Valley lowlands.	Year-around	Fed: none BLM: Sensitive CA: SC, S1S2 MSHCP: covered	<b>Low</b> ; minimally suitable sand habitat present in valley floor, known from 3.5 miles.	<b>Minimal</b> ; no suitable habitat present; not observed, no recent records from vicinity.		

General references (botany): Baldwin et al. 2012; CDFW 2023; CNPS 2023; CCH 2023,

General references (wildlife): American Ornithologists Union, 1998 (including supplements through 2013); Barbour and Davis 1969; Feldhammer et al., 2003; Garrett and Dunn, 1981; Hall, 1981; Jennings and Hayes, 1994; Stebbins, 2003; Wilson and Ruff, 1999, CDFW 2023, eBird 2023, iNaturalist 2023.

**Conservation Status**

**Federal designations (Fed):** (federal ESA, USFWS).

END: Federally listed, endangered.

THR: Federally listed, threatened.

Candidate: Sufficient data are available to support federal listing, but not yet listed.

Proposed: Formally proposed for federal status shown.

BGEPA: Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

**State designations (CA):** (CESA, CDFW)

END: State listed, endangered.

THR: State listed, threatened.

CAN: Candidate for State Listing

RARE: State listed as rare (applied only to certain plants).

SC: California species of special concern. Considered vulnerable to extinction due to declining numbers, limited geographic ranges, or ongoing threats.

WL: Species that were either previously listed as SC and have not been state listed under CESA; or were previously state or federally listed and now are on neither list; or are on the list of "Fully Protected" species.

FP: Fully protected. May not be taken or possessed without permit from CDFG.

**CDFW Natural Diversity Data Base Designations:** Applied to special-status plants and sensitive plant communities; where correct category is uncertain, CDFG uses two categories or question marks.

S1: Fewer than 6 occurrences or fewer than 1000 individuals or less than 2000 acres.

S2: 6-20 occurrences or 1000-3000 individuals or 2000-10,000 acres (decimal suffixes same as above).

S3: 21-100 occurrences or 3000-10,000 individuals or 10,000-50,000 acres (decimal suffixes same as above).

S4: Apparently secure in California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern, i.e., there is some threat or somewhat narrow habitat. No threat rank.



- S5: Demonstrably secure or ineradicable in California. No threat rank.
- SH: All California occurrences historical (i.e., no records in > 20 years).
- SX: Presumed extirpated in California.

**California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank designations.** Note: According to CNPS (<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/ranking.php>), plants ranked as CRPR 1A, 1B, and 2 meet definitions as threatened or endangered and are eligible for state listing. That interpretation of the state Endangered Species Act is not in general use.

- 1A: Plants presumed extinct in California.
- 1B: Plants rare and endangered in California and throughout their range.
- 2A: Plants presumed extinct in California but more common elsewhere in their range.
- 2B: Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California but more common elsewhere in their range.
- 3: Plants about which we need more information; a review list.
- 4: Plants of limited distribution; a watch list.

**California Rare Plant Rank Threat designations:**

- .1 Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
- .2 Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
- .3 Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened, or no current threats known)

**Definitions of occurrence probability:** Estimated occurrence probabilities are based on literature sources cited earlier, field surveys, and habitat analyses reported here.

*Present:* Observed on the site by qualified biologists.

*High:* Habitat is a type often utilized by the species and the site is within the known range of the species.

*Moderate:* Site is within the known range of the species and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used.

*Low:* Site is within the species' known range but habitat is rarely used, or the species was not found during focused surveys covering less than 100% of potential habitat or completed in marginal seasons.

*Minimal:* No suitable habitat on the site; or well outside the species' known elevational or geographic ranges; or a focused study covering 100% of all suitable habitat, completed during the appropriate season and during a year of appropriate rainfall, did not detect the species.

*Unknown:* No focused surveys have been performed in the region, and the species' distribution and habitat are poorly known.

Appendix B-3. Special-Status Species Not Addressed<sup>1</sup>

Latin Name	Common Name	Reason for Exclusion
<b>PLANTS</b>		
<i>Acmispon haydonii</i>	Pygmy lotus	No suitable dune habitat present
<i>Almutaster pauciflorus</i>	Alkali marsh aster	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Ambrosia monogyra</i>	Singlewhorl burrobrush	Outside of geographic range, previous waif occurrences extirpated from Coachella Valley.
<i>Astragalus bernardinus</i>	San Bernardino milk-vetch	No suitable Joshua tree, pinyon, or juniper woodland habitat present.
<i>Astragalus hornii</i> var. <i>hornii</i>	Horn's milk-vetch	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Astragalus preussii</i> var. <i>laxiflorus</i>	Lancaster milk-vetch	Outside of geographic range, only known from Lancaster and Edwards Air Force Base.
<i>Astragalus sabulonum</i>	Gravel milk-vetch	West of geographical range.
<i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Parish's brittle-scale	No vernal pool or playa habitat present.
<i>Ayenia compacta</i>	California ayenia	Well outside of geographic range.
<i>Boechera dispar</i>	Pinyon rockcress	Outside of elevational range of species. No suitable Joshua tree, pinyon, or juniper woodland habitat.
<i>Boechera lincolnensis</i>	Lincoln rockcress	Outside of elevation range of species.
<i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>munzii</i>	San Jacinto mariposa-lily	No montane coniferous forest or chaparral present.
<i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i>	Palmer's mariposa-lily	No montane coniferous forest present.
<i>Calochortus striatus</i>	Alkali mariposa-lily	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's jewelflower	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's spineflower	No chaparral, cismontane woodland, or coastal scrub habitat present.
<i>Chorizanthe xanti</i> var. <i>leucotheca</i>	White-bracted spineflower	No coastal scrub alluvial fan habitat present.
<i>Coryphantha alversonii</i>	Alverson's foxtail cactus	West of the geographic range.
<i>Cymopterus multinervatus</i>	Purple-nerve cymopterus	South of geographic range.
<i>Ditaxis serrata</i> var. <i>californica</i>	California ditaxis	North and west of the geographic range.
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	Slender-horned spineflower	No suitable chaparral, cismontane woodland or coastal scrub habitat present.
<i>Eremothera boothii</i> spp. <i>boothii</i>	Booth's evening-primrose	No suitable Joshua tree, pinyon, or juniper woodland habitat present.
<i>Eriastrum harwoodii</i>	Harwood's eriastrum	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Erigeron parishii</i>	Parish's daisy	No suitable pinyon or juniper habitat present.
<i>Euphorbia abramsiana</i>	Abrams' spurge	No suitable silty clay soils present
<i>Euphorbia misera</i>	Cliff spurge	No suitable rocky, coastal bluff scrub habitat present.
<i>Grusonia parishii</i>	Parish's club-cholla	No suitable Joshua tree woodland habitat present.
<i>Heuchera hirsutissima</i>	Shaggy-haired alumroot	Well outside of elevation range, above 4000 ft
<i>Jaffueliobryum raui</i>	Rau's jaffueliobryum moss	Outside of elevation range of species.

<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Reason for Exclusion</b>
<i>Jaffueliobryum wrightii</i>	Wright's jaffueliobryum moss	Outside of geographical range.
<i>Lilium parryi</i>	Lemon lily	Well outside of elevation range, above 4000 ft
<i>Linanthus jaegeri</i>	San Jacinto linanthus	Well outside of elevation range, above 7000 ft
<i>Marina orcuttii</i> var. <i>orcuttii</i>	California marina	Well outside of elevation range, above 3000 ft
<i>Matelea parvifolia</i>	Spear-leaf matelea	Lower limits of range, no records within 15 miles, no rocky canyon habitat.
<i>Monardella robisonii</i>	Robison's Monardella	No suitable pinyon or juniper woodland habitat present.
<i>Muhlenbergia appressa</i>	Appressed muhly	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Pseudorontium cyathiferum</i>	Deep Canyon snapdragon	Known in California only from the Deep Canyon area.
<i>Saltugilia latimeri</i>	Latimer's woodland-gilia	No chaparral, pinyon or juniper woodland habitat present.
<i>Sphaeralcea rusbyi</i> var. <i>eremicola</i>	Rusby's desert-mallow	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Stemodia durantifolia</i>	Purple stemodia	No suitable mesic habitat present, outside of geographic range.
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i>	Southern jewelflower	No chaparral, pinyon or juniper woodland, or coniferous forest habitat present.
<i>Thelypteris puberula</i> var. <i>sonorensis</i>	Sonoran maiden fern	No meadows or seeps present.
<i>Wislizenia refracta</i> ssp. <i>refracta</i>	Jackass-clover	Outside of geographic range and no suitable playas present.
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>		
<i>Calileptoneta oasa</i>	Andreas Canyon leptonetid spider	Locally endemic to Andreas Canyon.
<i>Eremarionta morongoana</i>	Morongo (=Colorado) desertsnaail	No suitable talus habitat present
<i>Euparagia unidentata</i>	Algodones euparagia	No suitable dune habitat
<i>Oliarces clara</i>	Cheeseweed moth lacewing	No suitable streams or open water sources present.
<i>Paranomada californica</i>	California cuckoo bee	Outside of geographical range of species.
<i>Trichinorhipis knulli</i>	Knul's metallic wood-boring beetle	Outside of geographical range of species.
<b>FISH</b>		
<i>Cyprinodon macularius</i>	Desert pupfish	No natural streams or springs present.
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	Outside of geographic range.
<i>Rana muscosa</i>	Southern mountain yellow-legged frog	Outside of geographic range.
<b>REPTILES</b>		
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i>	Southern California legless lizard	Outside of geographic range.

Latin Name	Common Name	Reason for Exclusion
<b>BIRDS</b>		
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared owl	No suitable nesting habitat present
<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	Black swift	No cliffs or waterfalls present.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern willow flycatcher	No dense riparian willow habitat present.
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-breasted chat	No dense riparian scrub and woodland present.
<i>Junco hyemalis caniceps</i>	Gray-headed junco	No suitable montane conifer forest present.
<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	Brown-crested flycatcher	No riparian habitat present.
<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Summer tanager	No riparian habitat present.
<i>Polioptila californica</i>	Coastal California gnatcatcher	Outside of geographical range of species.
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Vermilion flycatcher	No riparian habitat present.
<i>Setophaga brewsteri</i>	Yellow warbler	No riparian habitat present.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's vireo	No dense riparian willow habitat present.
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
<i>Neotoma albigula venusta</i>	Colorado Valley woodrat	Outside of geographic range.

<sup>1</sup> Special-status species reported from the region but not addressed in this report due to habitat or geographic range.

# Appendix B-4

## OBSERVED SPECIES LIST

Latin Name	Common Name
<b>VASCULAR PLANTS</b>	
<b>DICOTYLEDONS</b>	
SELAGINELLACEAE	SPIKE-MOSS FAMILY
<i>Selaginella bigelovii</i>	Bigelow spike moss
EPHEDRACEAE	EPHEDRA FAMILY
<i>Ephedra californica</i>	Desert tea, California ephedra
<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>	Nevada ephedra, desert tea
AMARANTHACEAE	AMARANTH FAMILY
<i>Tidestromia suffruticosa</i> var. <i>oblongifolia</i>	Honeysweet
APOCYNACEAE	DOGBANE FAMILY
<i>Asclepias subulata</i>	Rush milkweed
ASTERACEAE	ASTER FAMILY
<i>Acamptopappus sphaerocephalus</i>	Rayless goldenhead, desert goldenhead
<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	Annual bur-sage, annual sandbur
<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>	White bur-sage, burrobrush
<i>Ambrosia salsola</i>	Common burrobrush, cheesebush
<i>Baccharis sarothroides</i>	Broom baccharis
<i>Bebbia juncea</i>	Sweetbush
<i>Brickellia atractyloides</i>	Pungent brickellbush, spear-leaved brickellia
<i>Chaenactis fremontii</i>	Fremont pincushion
<i>Chaenactis xantiana</i>	Fleshy pincushion, Xantus's pincushion
<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	Brittlebush
<i>Isocoma acradenia</i>	Alkali goldenbush, desert isocoma
<i>Lepidospartum squamatum</i>	Scale-broom
<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>	Desert dandelion
<i>Monoptilon bellioides</i>	Desert star
<i>Palafoxia arida</i>	Spanish needles
<i>Perityle emoryi</i>	Emory's rock daisy
<i>Peucephyllum schottii</i>	Pygmy-cedar
<i>Pluchea sericea</i>	Arrow-weed
<i>Rafinesquia neomexicana</i>	Desert chicory
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>	Wire-lettuce, desert straw
<i>Xylorhiza tortifolia</i> var. <i>tortifolia</i>	Mojave-aster
BORAGINACEAE	BORAGE OR WATERLEAF FAMILY
<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>	Checker fiddleneck
<i>Cryptantha intermedia</i>	Common cryptantha
<i>Cryptantha maritima</i>	Guadalupe cryptantha, white hair cryptantha

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Emmenanthe penduliflora</i>	Whispering bells
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	Alkali heliotrope, salt heliotrope
<i>Phacelia campanularia</i>	Desert bluebells
<i>Phacelia crenulata</i>	Heliotrope phacelia
<i>Phacelia distans</i>	Common phacelia
<i>Phacelia minor</i>	Wild Canterbury bells
<i>Tiquilia palmeri</i>	Palmer's tiqulia
<i>Tiquilia plicata</i>	Fan-leaved tiqulia
BRASSICACEAE	MUSTARD FAMILY
* <i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Sahara mustard, wild turnip
<i>Caulanthus lasiophyllus</i>	California mustard
* <i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	London rocket
CACTACEAE	CACTUS FAMILY
<i>Cylindropuntia bigelovii</i>	Teddy-bear cholla
<i>Cylindropuntia echinocarpa</i>	Silver cholla
<i>Cylindropuntia ramosissima</i>	Pencil cholla
<i>Echinocereus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann hedgehog cactus
<i>Ferocactus cylindraceus</i>	California barrel cactus
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i> var. <i>basilaris</i>	Beavertail cactus
CHENOPODIACEAE	GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Four-wing saltbush
<i>Atriplex hymenelytra</i>	Desert holly
<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i>	Allscale saltbush
* <i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's quarters
* <i>Salsola tragus</i>	Russian thistle
CRASSULACEAE	STONECROP FAMILY
<i>Crassula connata</i>	Pygmy-weed
EUPHORBIACEAE	SPURGE FAMILY
<i>Croton californicus</i>	California croton
<i>Ditaxis lanceolata</i>	Narrow-leaved ditaxis
<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i>	Rattlesnake sandmat
<i>Euphorbia micromera</i>	Sonoran sandmat
* <i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor bean
FABACEAE	LEGUME FAMILY, PEA FAMILY
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	Deerweed
<i>Acmispon strigosus</i>	Strigose lotus
<i>Dalea mollis</i>	Silk dalea

Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Dalea mollissima</i>	Rust dalea
<i>Hoffmannseggia microphylla</i>	Small-leaved caesalpinia
<i>Lupinus arizonicus</i>	Arizona lupine
* <i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Sourclover, India sweetclover
<i>Olneya tesota</i>	Desert ironwood
<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>	Blue palo verde
<i>Prosopis glandulosa var. torreyana</i>	Honey mesquite, mesquite
<i>Psorothamnus arborescens</i>	Indigo-bush
<i>Psorothamnus emoryi</i>	Emory indigo-bush, dye-weed
<i>Psorothamnus schottii</i>	Indigo-bush
<i>Psorothamnus spinosus</i>	Smoke tree
<i>Senegalia greggii</i>	Catclaw, catclaw acacia
GERANIACEAE	GERANIUM FAMILY
* <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Redstem filaree
KRAMERIACEAE	RHATANY FAMILY, KRAMERIA FAMILY
<i>Krameria bicolor</i>	White rhatany
LAMIACEAE	MINT FAMILY
<i>Condea emoryi</i>	Desert lavender
<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	Chia
LOASACEAE	LOASA FAMILY, STICK-LEAF FAMILY
<i>Mentzelia involucreta</i>	Sand blazing star
<i>Petalonyx thurberi</i>	Sandpaper plant
MALVACEAE	MALLOW FAMILY
<i>Eremalche rotundifolia</i>	Desert fivespot
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	Globemallow, desert mallow
NYCTAGINACEAE	FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY
<i>Mirabilis laevis var. crassifolia</i>	California four o'clock
<i>Mirabilis laevis var. retrorsa</i>	Wishbone bush
ONAGRACEAE	EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY
<i>Camissoniopsis pallida</i>	Pale suncup
<i>Chylismia cardiophylla</i>	Heart-leaved camissonia
<i>Chylismia claviformis</i>	Clavate evening primrose
<i>Eremothera boothii</i>	Woody bottle-washer
<i>Eulobus californica</i>	California false mustard
PAPAVERACEAE	POPPY FAMILY
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy
<i>Eschscholzia minutiflora</i>	Small-flowered poppy



Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Eschscholzia parishii</i>	Parish's gold poppy
PLANTAGINACEAE	PLANTAIN FAMILY
<i>Antirrhinum confertiflorum</i>	Ghost flower
<i>Plantago ovata</i>	Desert plantain
POLEMONIACEAE	PHLOX FAMILY
<i>Aliciella latifolia</i>	Broad leaf gilia
<i>Eriastrum eremicum</i>	Desert woolly-star
<i>Gilia</i> sp.	Unid. annual
<i>Loeseliastrum matthewsii</i>	Desert calico
POLYGONACEAE	BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
<i>Chorizanthe brevicornu</i>	Brittle spineflower
<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i>	Skeleton weed
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>polifolium</i>	Mojave Desert California buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum gracile</i>	Slender wild buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum inflatum</i>	Desert trumpet
<i>Eriogonum pusillum</i>	Yellow turbans, puny buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum thomasii</i>	Thomas' wild buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum thurberi</i>	Thurber's wild buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum trichopes</i>	Little desert trumpet
RUBIACEAE	MADDER FAMILY, COFFEE FAMILY
<i>Galium stellatum</i>	Starry bedstraw
SOLANACEAE	NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimsonweed, tolguacha
<i>Lycium andersonii</i>	Anderson box-thorn
<i>Physalis crassifolia</i>	Thick-leaf ground-cherry
TAMARICACEAE	TAMARISK FAMILY
* <i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Athel tree
* <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Saltcedar, tamarisk
VISACEAE	MISTLETOE FAMILY
<i>Phoradendron californicum</i>	Desert mistletoe
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	CALTROP FAMILY
<i>Fagonia laevis</i>	Smooth-stem fagonia
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote bush
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>	
AGAVACEAE	CENTURY PLANT FAMILY, AGAVE FAMILY
<i>Agave deserti</i>	Desert agave

Latin Name	Common Name
ARECACEAE	PALM FAMILY
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	California fan palm
CYPERACEAE	SEDGE FAMILY
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	Olney's three-square bulrush
JUNCACEAE	RUSH FAMILY
** <i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i>	Southwestern spiny rush
POACEAE	GRASS FAMILY
* <i>Arundo donax</i> (?)	Giant reed
* <i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	Red brome
* <i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheat grass
* <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Salt grass
* <i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Foxtail barley
* <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Crimson fountain grass, African fountain grass
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
* <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Rabbitfoot grass
* <i>Polypogon viridis</i>	Water bentgrass
* <i>Schismus barbatus</i>	Mediterranean schismus
<i>Stipa capensis</i>	Cape ricegrass
<i>Stipa speciosa</i>	Desert needle grass
<b>VERTEBRATE ANIMALS</b>	
<b>REPTILES</b>	
IGUANIDAE	IGUANID LIZARDS
<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>	Desert iguana
<i>Sceloporus magister</i>	Desert spiny lizard
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	Side-blotched lizard
TEIIDAE	WHIPTAILS
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris tigris</i>	Great Basin whiptail
VIPERIDAE	VIPERS
<i>Crotalus mitchellii</i>	Speckled rattlesnake
<b>BIRDS</b>	
CATHARTIDAE	VULTURES
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey vulture
ACCIPITRIDAE	HAWKS, EAGLES, HARRIERS
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk
FALCONIDAE	FALCONS
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel

Latin Name	Common Name
PHASIANIDAE	GROUSE AND QUAIL
<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	Gambel's quail
COLUMBIDAE	PIGEONS AND DOVES
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian collared-dove
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning dove
APODIDAE	SWIFTS
<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	White-throated swift
TROCHILIDAE	HUMMINGBIRDS
<i>Calypte costae</i>	Costa's hummingbird
TYRANNIDAE	TYRANT FLYCATCHERS
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Ash-throated flycatcher
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Western kingbird
CORVIDAE	CROWS AND JAYS
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common raven
REMIZIDAE	VERDINS
<i>Auriparus flavipes</i>	Verdin
TROGLODYTIDAE	WRENS
<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Rock wren
MIMIDAE	MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern mockingbird
PTILOGONATIDAE	SILKY FLYCATCHERS
<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	Phainopepla
EMBERIZIDAE	SPARROWS, WARBLERS, TANAGERS
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped warbler
<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	Black-throated sparrow
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned sparrow
FRINGILLIDAE	FINCHES
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House finch
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Lesser goldfinch
<b>MAMMALS</b>	
LEPORIDAE	HARES AND RABBITS
<i>Lepus californicus deserticola</i>	Black-tailed jackrabbit
SCIURIDAE	SQUIRRELS
<i>Ammospermophilus leucurus</i>	Antelope ground squirrel

Latin Name	Common Name
<u>CRICETIDAE</u>	<u>RATS AND MICE</u>
<i>Neotoma sp.</i>	Wood rat
<u>CANIDAE</u>	<u>FOXES, WOLVES AND COYOTES</u>
<i>Canis familiaris</i>	Domestic dog
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote

Species introduced to California are indicated by an asterisk. Special-status species are indicated by two asterisks. This list includes only species observed on the site. Other species may have been overlooked or unidentifiable due to season (amphibians are active during rains, reptiles during summer, some birds (and bats) migrate out of the area for summer or winter, some mammals hibernate, many plants are identifiable only in spring). Plants were identified using keys, descriptions, and illustrations in Baldwin et al (2012). Plant taxonomy and nomenclature generally follow Baldwin et al. (2012). Wildlife taxonomy and nomenclature generally follow Stebbins (2003) for amphibians and reptiles, AOU (1998) for birds, and Wilson and Ruff (1999) for mammals.

**APPENDIX B-5**  
**PHOTO EXHIBIT**





Photo 1: Desert fan palm oasis woodland habitat present at the proposed Biskra Palms trail.



Photo 2: Sonoran mixed woody and succulent scrub habitat present at the proposed Biskra Palms trail.



Photo 3: Desert dry wash woodland habitat present at the proposed Biskra Palms trail.



Photo 4: Desert dry wash woodland habitat present at the proposed Cathedral Cove trail.





Photo 5: Desert dry wash woodland habitat present at the proposed Cathedral Cove trail.



Photo 6: Sonoran creosote bush scrub habitat at the proposed West Deception Canyon Trail.



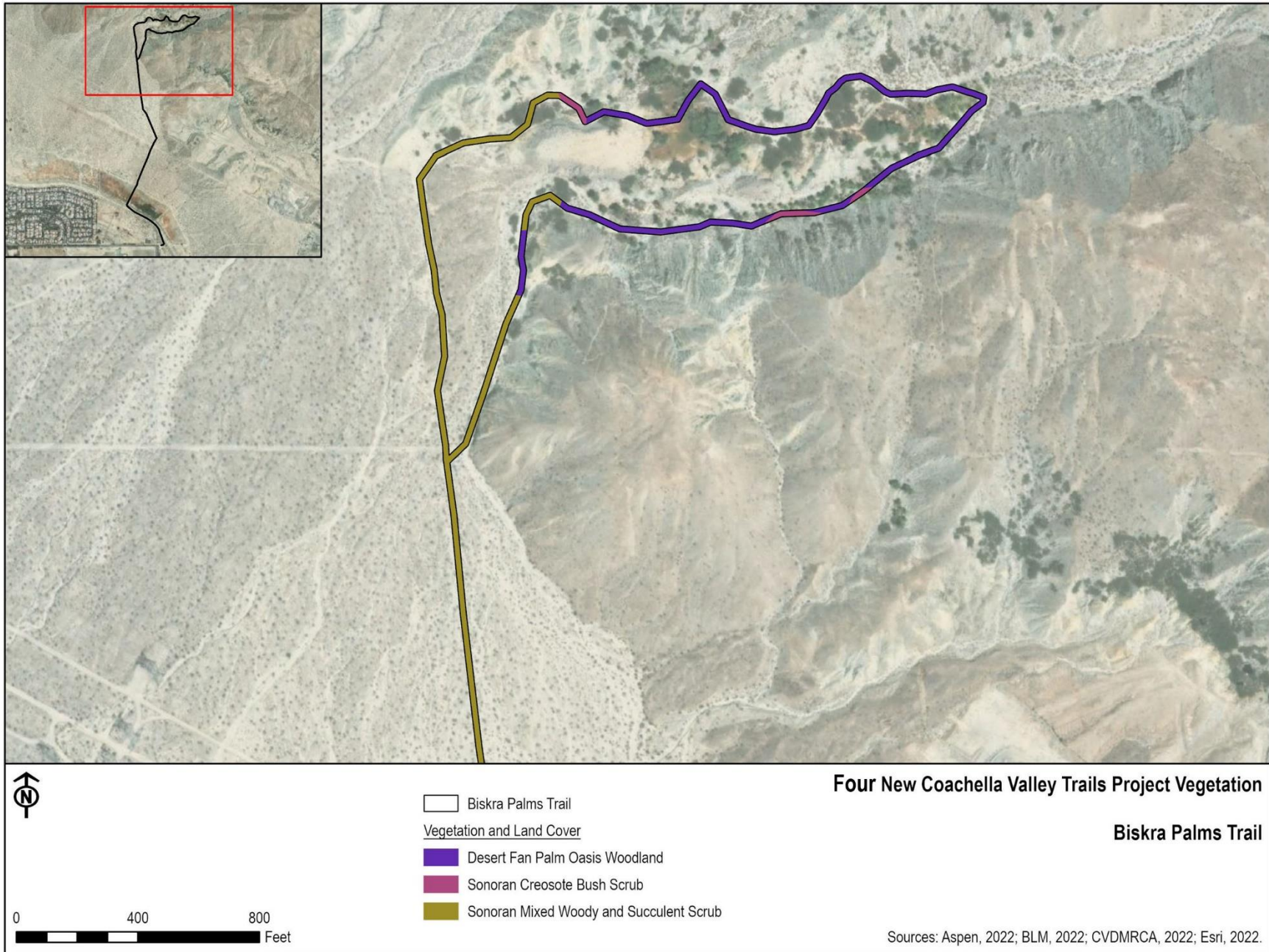
Photo 7: Mojave mixed woody scrub habitat at the proposed West Deception Canyon Tail.



Photo 8: Developed land cover at the proposed Chuckwalla-Overlook Connector Trail.

**APPENDIX B-6**  
**FIG. 3-1 THROUGH FIG. 3-4 (VEGETATION)**









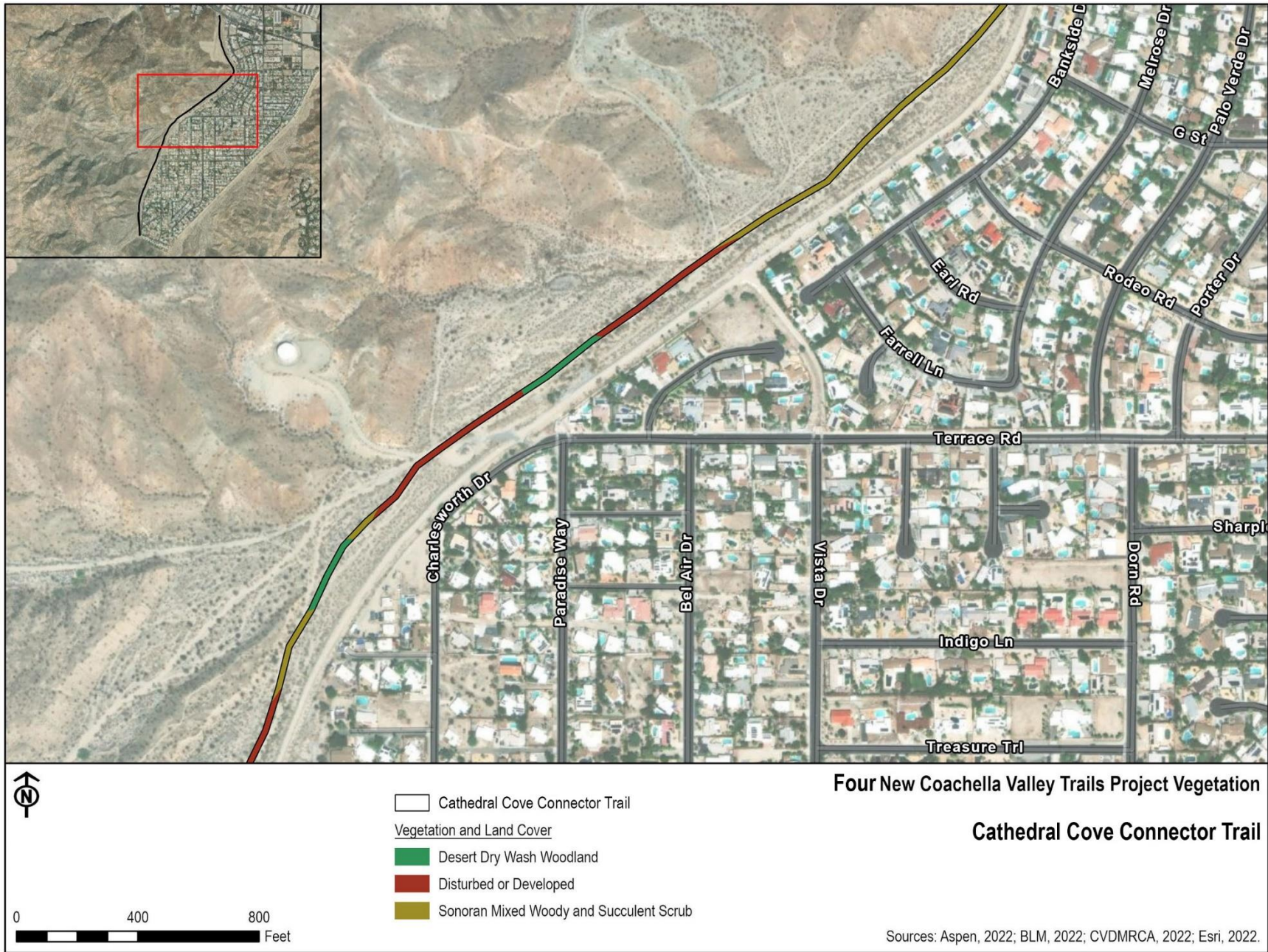




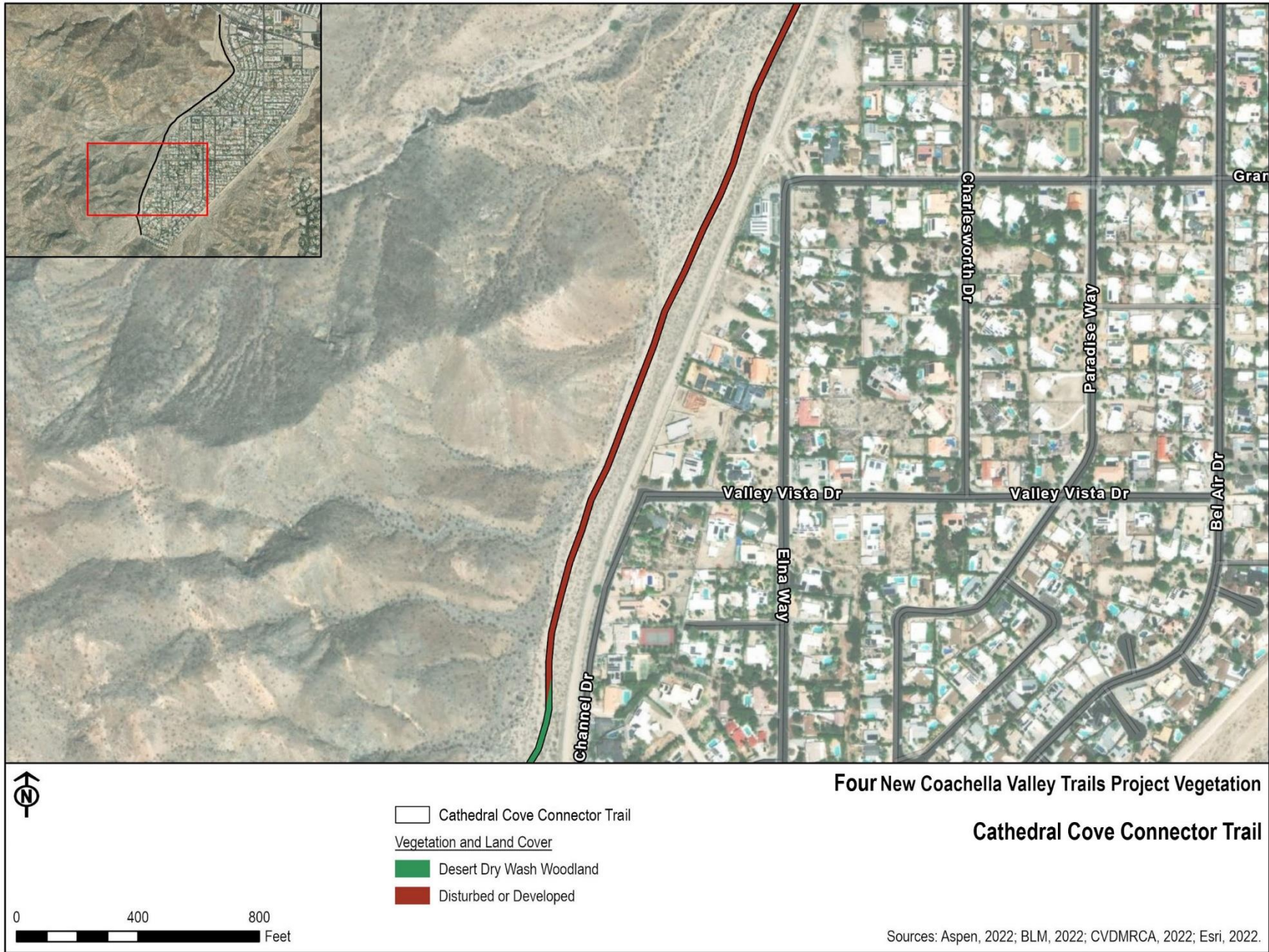








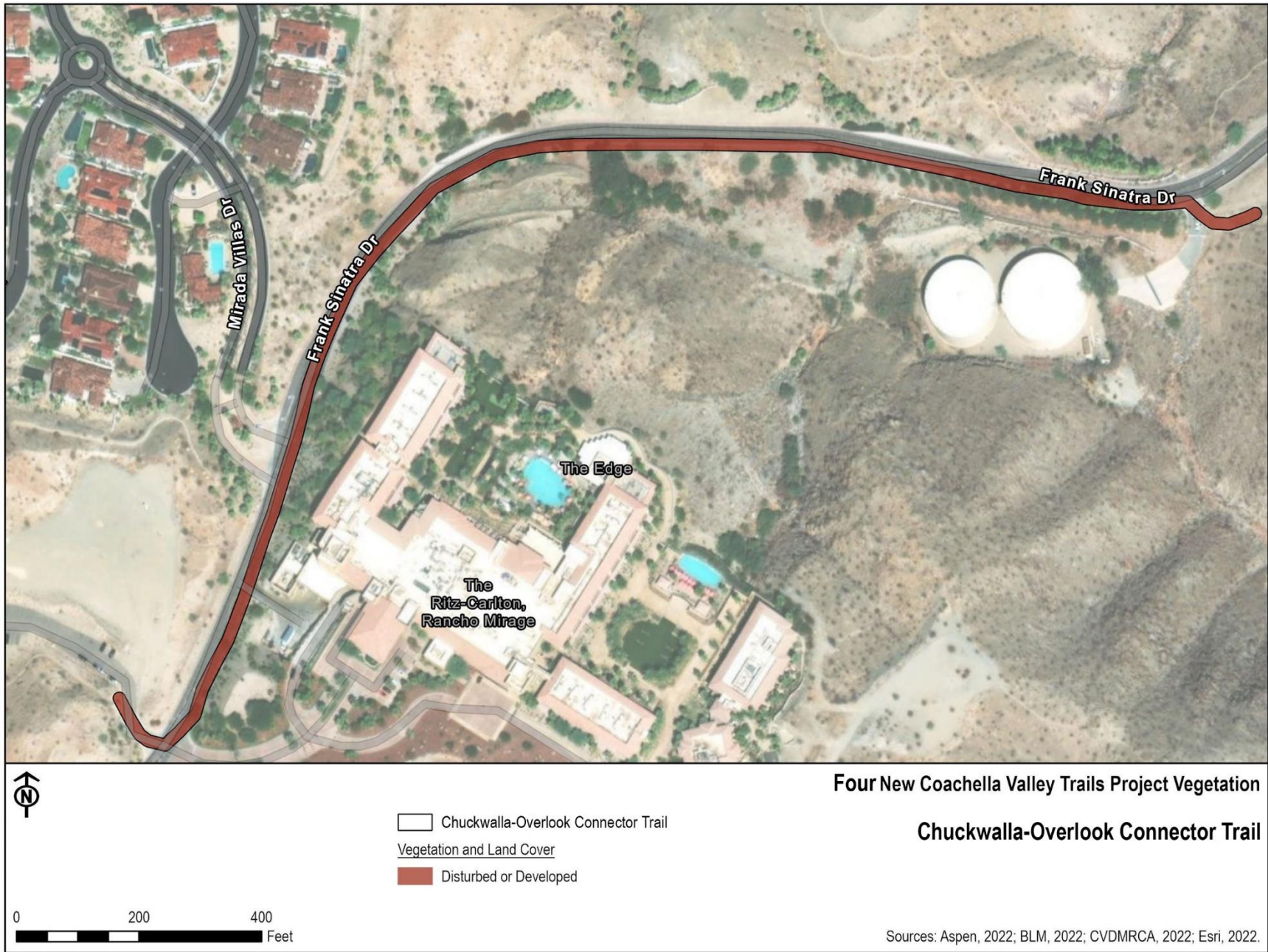




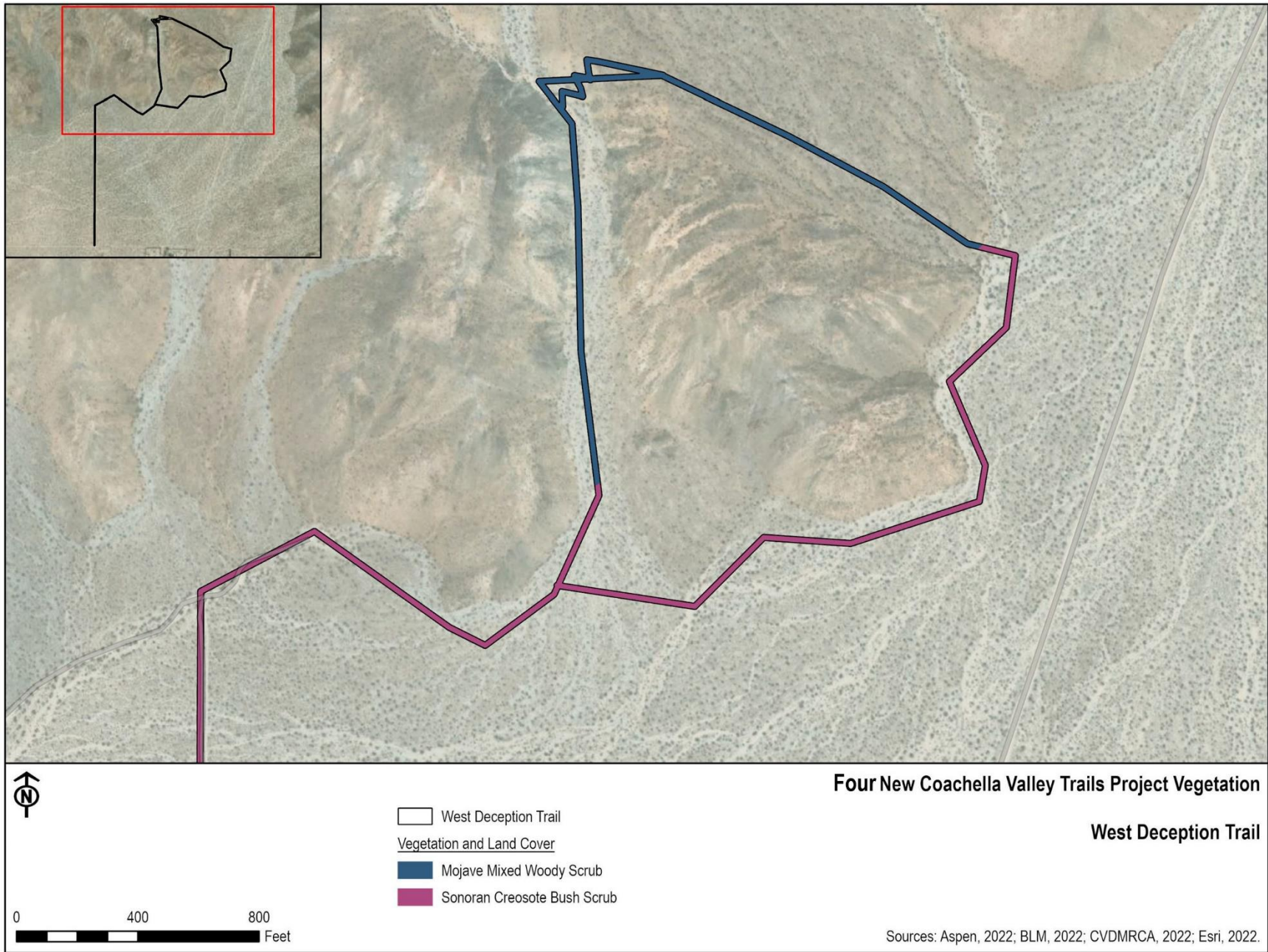
















**Appendix C**  
**REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION**  
**AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS**

State Mining and Geology Board Designation Report No. 13

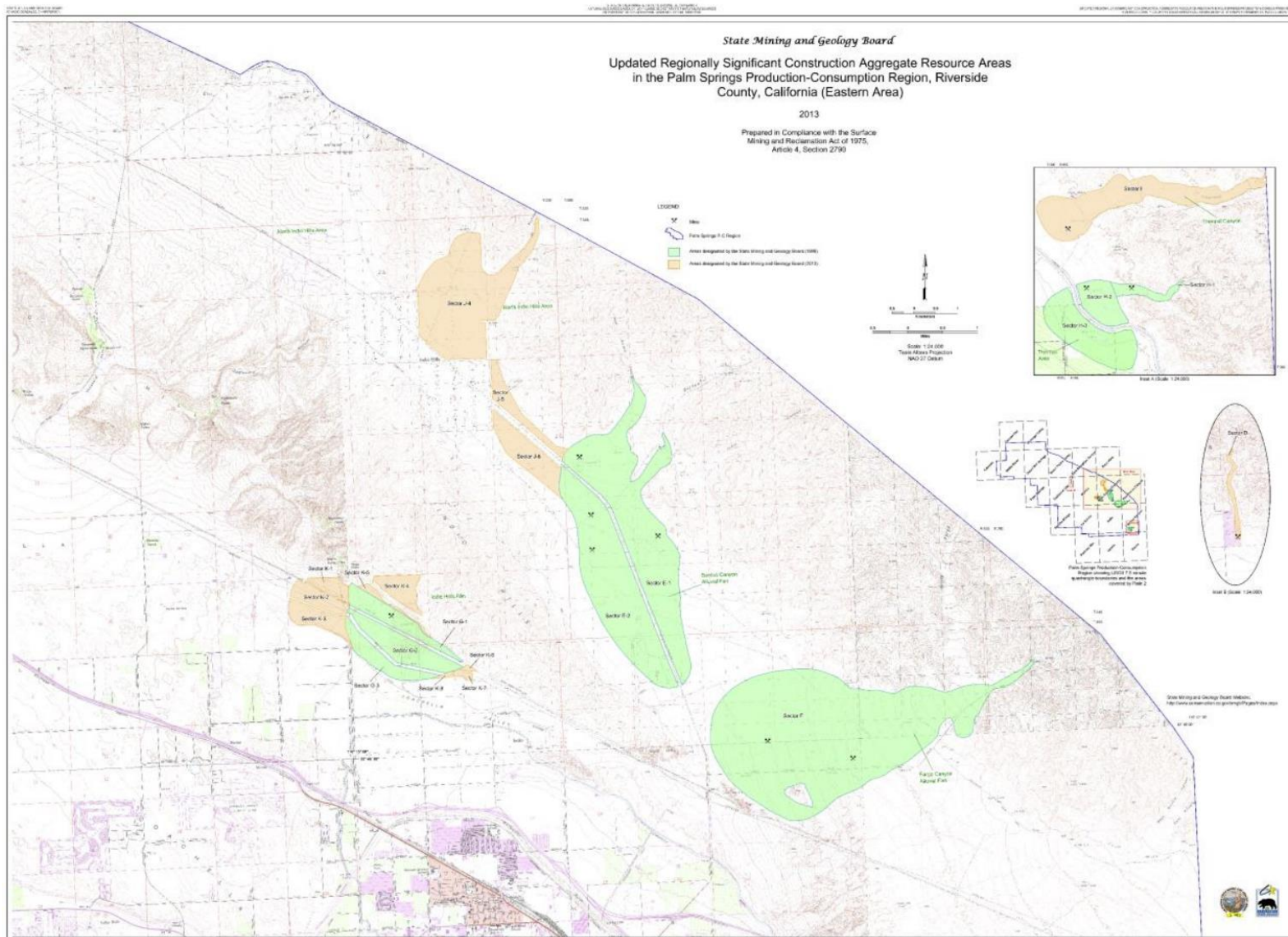


Figure 5. Updated regionally significant construction aggregate resource areas in the Palm Springs P-C Region, Eastern Area, Riverside County (Plate 2 in pocket). Shown are previously designated areas (light green), newly designated areas (light tan) and terminated designations (dark green).



## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

### 2.1. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, requiring implementation of mitigation as indicated by the checklist on the following pages that is "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated."

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources    | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services               |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions         |  |   |

### 2.2. Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation,

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (1) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards and (2) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jim Karpiak, Executive Director  
 Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

1-10-24  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# Appendix D

## Response to Comments

## 1.0 Overview of the Comment Process

The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared by the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) to assess the environmental impacts associated with the Four New Coachella Valley Trails Project (proposed Project). The Project consists of designating four new recreational trails in Coachella Valley for pedestrian use, as well as other non-motorized uses such as equestrian, dog walking, or mountain biking where these other uses are allowed under local ordinance or landowner regulations. These proposed recreational trails are on lands owned by various public or nonprofit entities, Metropolitan Water District (MWD), California State Parks (CASP), Cathedral City, City of Rancho Mirage, Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM), and private owners. This joint IS/MND is prepared for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with the CVMC as the Project's CEQA Lead Agency.

The IS/MND, dated January 2024, along with the Notice of Intent (NOI), OPR Summary Form, and Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal (NOC), were posted to the CEQAnet Web Portal on January 11, 2024, with the State Review Period ending on February 12, 2024.

The following comments were received directly by the CVMC:

- Cathedral City, dated January 23, 2024
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated February 14, 2024
- Bighorn Institute, dated February 16, 2024

In addition, a State Agency comment letter was posted to CEQAnet:

- State of California, Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), dated February 16, 2024

## 2.0 Summary of Each Comment and the CVMC Response

### 2.1 Cathedral City

**Comment:** The four new trails will be an amazing addition to Cathedral City and Coachella Valley.

**Response:** Accepted.

### 2.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

**Comment #1:**

The proposed trails are within the boundary of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), with three of the trails overlapping with Conservation Areas:

1. Cathedral Cove Connector Trail: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (SRSJM) Conservation Area.
2. West Deception Trail: Indio Hills/Joshua Tree National Park Linkage and West Deception Canyon Conservation Areas.
3. Biskra Palms Trail: East Indio Hills and Indio Hills Palms Conservation Areas.
4. Chuckwalla-Overlook Connector Trail: Does not overlap with a Conservation Area.

As a State Permittee signatory to the CVMSHCP, CVMC must comply with the terms and conditions of the CVMSHCP and adhere to the Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures set in Section 4.4 and the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines set in Section 4.5 of the CVMSHCP.

**Response:**

Project mitigation measures are identified to ensure that requirements of the CVMSHCP, Sections 4.4 and 4.5, are met. These are found in the IS/MND in Sections 1.5. Mitigation Measures, 5.4.2. Biological Resources-Results, and in the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Appendix A). These measures also identify coordination with the CVCC in ensuring consistency between these CVMSHCP sections and both trail development and use. In addition, the project identifies measures to protect adjacent lands and uses such as control of invasive species.

**Comment #2:**

The proposed Cathedral Cove Connector Trail would establish a two-mile extension of existing trails overlapping with the SRSJM Conservation Area on Riverside County Flood Control lands. The Cathedral City Cove Connector Trail is described in Section 7.3.3.2 Public Use and Trails Management on Reserve Lands within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area as a new perimeter trail. Perimeter trails are proposed to provide alternative hiking opportunities and reduce trail usage in more sensitive bighorn sheep habitat areas. The general guidelines set in Section 7.3.3.2.1 for development of perimeter trails must be met. In addition, the SRSJM Conservation Area has a trails management program with a focused research program to evaluate the effects of trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep. Specifically, Section 7.3.3.2.1 states that, "proposals to construct perimeter trails and other new trails will be deferred until the initial phase of the monitoring and research program has been completed."

**Response:**

The following mitigation measure has been added to those measures required to reduce or avoid potentially significant environmental effects of the project:

**BIO 1A: Consistency Review for the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail.** Prior to designation and initiation of any trail work on the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail and associated trailhead and parking area, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will complete a consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on topics including, but not limited to, consistency with CVMSHCP general guidelines for development of perimeter trails, minimum requirements for trailhead facilities, and findings of a research program on the effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep described in Element 2 of CVMSHCP Section 7.3.3.2.

**Comment #3:**

The West Deception Canyon Trail and Biskra Palms Trail are located within Conservation Areas. Construction and maintenance of trails in Conservation Areas must be consistent with the Species Conservation Goals and Conservation Objectives for Conservation Areas (Section 7.3.1). Additionally, the trails must be consistent with the guidelines described in Section 7.3.4.2 Guidelines for Public Access and Recreation on Reserve Lands. These guidelines include siting of trails to avoid sensitive areas, incorporating existing dirt roads into trail design, designing, and maintaining trails to reduce erosion, locating dog-friendly trails in areas with low habitat value, emphasize conservation of resources at trail kiosks and informational sites, and designing trail access on the edge of the conservation areas and that is consistent with conservation goals.

**Response:**

This project was designed to minimize and avoid impacts in a manner consistent with conservation area guidelines. These trails, utilizing old roads and existing undesignated social trails, are for pedestrian use, with other non-motorized uses such as equestrian, walking dogs or mountain biking if allowed under the local ordinances or regulations of the underlying agencies or landowners. Proposed trail construction is very minimal involving adding 200 feet of switchbacks along a ridge on the West Deception Canyon Trail to avoid soil erosion. The addition of trail markers and informational signage is to reduce trail proliferation, protect sensitive areas, and emphasize



protection of resources by the public. Trail maintenance will utilize trail crews with hand tools and will be the minimum necessary to protect resources. In addition, trail access is located on the edge of the conservation areas to minimize potential impacts.

In addition, the following mitigation measure has been added to ensure consistency with conservation area guidelines:

**BIO-2B: Consistency Review for the West Deception Canyon and Biskra Palms Trails.** Prior to designation and initiation of any trail work on the West Deception Canyon Trail and Biskra Palms Trail and associated trailheads and parking areas, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will complete a CVMSHCP consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on topics including, but not limited to, consistency with CVMSHCP Guidelines for Public Access and Recreation on Reserve Lands and compliance with applicable Required Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures and Land Use Adjacency Guidelines.

**Comment #4:**

The draft IS/MND additionally describes moderate habitat in the West Deception Canyon Trail area for Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus*), a Covered Species under the CVMSHCP. The USFWS recommends that CVMC coordinate with CVCC to ensure topsoil and/or seed salvage for Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus prior to any ground disturbance associated with the West Deception Canyon Trail.

**Response:**

Mitigation measure BIO-2B (see comment #3) is added to ensure consistency with the CVMSHCP, including address potential issues involving the Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus*).

## 2.3 Bighorn Institute

**Comment:**

The Cathedral Cove Connector Trail needs a no-dogs restriction as this trail provides access to trails where dogs are not permitted. Also, illegal trails are a concern west of Cathedral Cove and that this connector trail provides more access to that area. Signage and enforcement would be important to minimize illegal trails.

**Response:**

The following mitigation measure has been added to those measures required to reduce or avoid potentially significant environmental effects from the project:

**BIO 1A: Consistency Review for the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail.** Prior to designation and initiation of any trail work on the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail and associated trailhead and parking area, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will complete a consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on topics including, but not limited to, consistency with CVMSHCP general guidelines for development of perimeter trails, minimum requirements for trailhead facilities, and findings of a research program on the effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep described in Element 2 of CVMSHCP Section 7.3.3.2.

Any no-dogs restrictions resulting from this consistency review would be incorporated into the requirements for this trail. In addition, the project includes installation of trail markers and informational signage to reduce trail proliferation, protect sensitive areas, and emphasize protection of resources by the public. These informational materials would include both allowable and prohibited uses on the adjacent national monument lands, including the existing no-dogs restriction in this portion of monument.

## 2.4 State of California, Department of Fish and Wildlife

### **Comment #1**

The MND lacks an adequate discussion of proposed trail work at the West Deception Canyon Trail and the proposed trailhead and parking location for the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail. The MND indicates that “[v]acant and disturbed land on Bankside Drive would need to be acquired for parking and trailhead access.” The MND does not identify a specific location where parking and trailhead access is proposed for the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail.

### **Response:**

Text is added to Section 4.2.1. West Deception Trail, that trail construction and maintenance is very limited and outside of any streambeds (trail switchbacks on 200-feet of a slope outside of ephemeral streams). Two additional maps are include that depict the location of this trail improvement. In addition, clarification is provided in Section 4.2.4. Cathedral Cove Connector Trail, that the trailhead location is identified as APNS: 687-085-006 and 687-085-006 (see map) and is characterized as vacant and disturbed land on Bankside Drive that would need to be acquired for parking and trailhead access. These two parcels are highly disturbed.

### **Comment #2**

CDFW recommends that disturbance of occupied nests of migratory birds and raptors within the Project site and surrounding area be avoided any time birds are nesting on-site. CDFW considers the Mitigation Measure BIO-4, specifically as it relates to surveys for nesting birds, to be insufficient in scope and timing to reduce impacts to nesting birds to less than significant. To support CVMC in avoiding and reducing impacts to nesting birds to a level less than significant, CDFW recommends CVMC add to a revised MND the stand-alone mitigation measure below for nesting birds, and revise Mitigation Measure BIO-4 to be consistent with this new measure. This measure is:

**Bio 4-A: Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds.** Regardless of the time of year, nesting bird surveys shall be performed by a qualified avian biologist no more than 3 days prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities. Pre-construction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified avian biologist will make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If active nests are found during the pre-construction nesting bird surveys, a qualified biologist shall establish an appropriate nest buffer to be marked on the ground. Nest buffers are species specific and shall be at least 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors. A smaller or larger buffer may be determined by the qualified biologist familiar with the nesting phenology of the nesting species and based on nest and buffer monitoring results. Construction activities may not occur inside the established buffers, which shall remain on site until a qualified biologist determines the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. Active nests and adequacy of the established buffer distance shall be monitored daily by the qualified biologist until the qualified biologist has determined the young have fledged or the Project has been completed. The qualified biologist has the authority to stop work if nesting pairs exhibit signs of disturbance.

### **Response:**

This mitigation measure is added to the lists of applicable mitigation for the project and Mitigation BIO-4 is amended to reflect the addition of this new measure.

**Comment #3:**

CDFW considers Mitigation Measure BIO-4, specifically as it relates to burrowing owl surveys, to be insufficient in scope and timing to reduce impacts burrowing owls to less than significant. CDFW recommends that CVMC revise Mitigation Measure Bio-4 as follows:

**Bio-4B: Preconstruction Surveys for Burrowing Owls.** No less than 60 days prior to the start of Project-related activities, a burrowing owl habitat assessment shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the specifications of the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (Department of Fish and Game, March 2012, or most recent version).

If the habitat assessment demonstrates suitable burrowing owl habitat, then focused burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities. If burrowing owls are detected during the focused surveys, the qualified biologist and Project proponent shall prepare a Burrowing Owl Plan that shall be submitted to CDFW for review and approval prior to commencing Project activities. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall describe proposed avoidance, monitoring, relocation, minimization, and mitigation actions. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall include the number and location of occupied burrow sites, acres of burrowing owl habitat that will be impacted, details of site monitoring, and details on proposed buffers and other avoidance measures if avoidance is proposed. If impacts to occupied burrowing owl habitat or burrow cannot be avoided, the Burrowing Owl Plan shall also describe minimization and compensatory mitigation actions that will be implemented. Proposed implementation of burrow exclusion and closure should only be considered as a last resort, after all other options have been evaluated as exclusion is not in itself an avoidance, minimization, or mitigation method and has the possibility to result in take. The Burrowing Owl Plan shall identify compensatory mitigation for the temporary or permanent loss of occupied burrow(s) and habitat consistent with the "Mitigation Impacts" section of the 2012 Staff Report and shall implement CDFW-approved mitigation prior to initiation of Project activities. If impacts to occupied burrows cannot be avoided, information shall be provided regarding adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls. If no suitable habitat is available nearby, details regarding the creation and funding of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls shall also be included in the Burrowing Owl Plan. The Project proponent shall implement the Burrowing Owl Plan following CDFW and USFWS review and approval.

Preconstruction burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted no less than 14 days prior to the start of Project-related activities and within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance, in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012 or most recent version). Preconstruction surveys should be performed by a qualified biologist following the recommendations and guidelines provided in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. If the preconstruction surveys confirm occupied burrowing owl habitat, Project activities shall be immediately halted. The qualified biologist shall coordinate with CDFW and prepare a Burrowing Owl Plan that shall be submitted to CDFW and USFWS for review and approval prior to commencing Project activities.

**Response:**

Mitigation Bio-4B: Preconstruction Surveys for Burrowing Owls, is added to the lists of applicable mitigation for the project.

**Comment #4**

The proposed Cathedral Cove Connector Trail, located within and adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, is identified in CVMSHCP Figure 7-11 and in Section 7.3.3.2 (page 7-71) as a Perimeter Trail along its southwestern extent and a Perimeter Trail Corridor along its northeast extent. CVMSHCP Section 7.3.3.2 (page 7-70) indicates that for new perimeter trails proposed, “[a]ppropriateness of perimeter trails will be determined upon completion of the research program described in Element 2. If research results show that recreational trail use would not adversely impact bighorn sheep health, behavior, demography, and population sustainability and connectivity, construction of these perimeter trails could be initiated as soon as feasible, depending on funding availability and acquisition of easements or other authorizations, and completion of applicable NEPA and CEQA requirements.”

CDFW recommends that the designation of and any trail work associated with the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail is not implemented until the following items have occurred: 1) the research program has been finalized, and 2) CVMC has completed a consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC; Implementing Entity for the CVMSHCP) on Cathedral Cove Connector Trail and its consistency with the findings of the research program on recreational trail use and effects on Peninsular bighorn sheep, the perimeter trail guidelines, and the minimum requirements for trailhead facilities. To implement this, CDFW recommends adding the following mitigation measure:

**Bio 1A: Consistency Review for the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail.** Prior to designation and initiation of any trail work on the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail and associated trailhead and parking area, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will complete a consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on topics including, but not limited to, consistency with CVMSHCP general guidelines for development of perimeter trails, minimum requirements for trailhead facilities, and findings of a research program on the effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep described in Element 2 of CVMSHCP Section 7.3.3.2.

**Response:**

Mitigation Bio 1A: Consistency Review for the Cathedral Cove Connector Trail, is added to the lists of applicable mitigation for the project. CVCC has a Joint Trails Subcommittee that has vetted and approved all 4 trails. Trail implementation is to be addressed as part of this Joint Trails Subcommittee process, ensuring that commitments to MSHCP identified in the IS/MND are met. Trail implementation to be addressed as part of Joint Trails Subcommittee process will include not formally designating and opening the Coachella Cove Connector Trail to the public until results of the on-going research are implemented.

**Comment #5:**

To support CVMC in ensuring the Project’s consistency with Guidelines for Public Access and Recreation on Reserve Lands (Section 7.3.4.2) and compliance with CVMSHCP applicable Required Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures (Section 4.4) and Land Use Adjacency Guidelines (Section 4.5), CDFW recommends CVMC complete a consistency review with CVCC for both the West Deception Canyon Trail and Biskra Palms Trail prior to initiating trail work and designating these trails. CDFW recommends CVMC add the following mitigation measure to a revised MND:

**Bio-1B: Consistency Review for the West Deception Canyon and Biskra Palms Trails.** Prior to designation and initiation of any trail work on the West Deception Canyon Trail and Biskra Palms Trail and associated trailheads and parking areas, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will complete a CVMSHCP consistency review with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on topics including, but not

limited to, consistency with CVMSHCP Guidelines for Public Access and Recreation on Reserve Lands and compliance with applicable Required Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures and Land Use Adjacency Guidelines.

**Response:**

Mitigation Bio-1B: Consistency Review for the West Deception Canyon and Biskra Palms Trails, is added to the lists of applicable mitigation for the project. CVCC has a Joint Trails Subcommittee that has vetted and approved all 4 trails. Trail implementation is to be addressed as part of this Joint Trails Subcommittee process, ensuring that commitments to MSHCP identified in the IS/MND are met.

**Comment #6:**

Based on review of aerial imagery, sections of the proposed alignment of the West Deception Canyon and Biskra Palms Trails cross over areas with ephemeral streams where established trails do not appear to exist. The MND lacks details on what trail maintenance activities will be conducted over these areas. The Project and its associated trail work has the potential to change the bed, channel, or bank of a stream; therefore, CDFW recommends that CVMC submit a notification of streambed alteration. CDFW recommends that CVMC add the following mitigation measure to a revised MND:

**Bio-13A: CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.** Prior to construction, the Project Sponsor shall obtain written correspondence from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stating that notification under section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is not required for the Project, or the Project Sponsor should obtain a CDFW-executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing impacts to Fish and Game Code section 1602 resources associated with the Project.

**Response:**

Mitigation Bio-13A: CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Program, is added to the lists of applicable mitigation for the project. Text was added to Section 4.2.1. West Deception Trail, that trail construction is very limited and outside of any streambeds (trail switchbacks on 200-feet of a slope outside of ephemeral streams). This does not constitute a substantial revision to the identified mitigation, and no new, avoidable significant effects are identified.

The project also complies with the California Fish and Game Code Section 1602, as it does not contemplate substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow; or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake, including those that are dry for periods of time. This includes not depositing or disposing of debris, waste, or other material where it may pass into such river, stream, or lake. This compliance is in evidence in the description of the proposed project (social trails, minimal trail maintenance etc.). A contingency is provided in the IS/MND that Section 1602 compliance would be followed if it is determined that ephemeral streams are effected, however, this is not likely and not part of the proposed action.