

APPENDIX B

Biological Technical Report

Biological Technical Report for the Anita Street Improvement Project

Prepared for:

City of Laguna Beach
505 Forest Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Phone: 949.464.6615
Contact: Hannah Johnson



Prepared by:



30900 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite 100
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
Phone: 949.489.2700
Contact: Wade Caffrey

July 2022

This page intentionally left blank.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
TABLES	V
FIGURES	V
APPENDICES	V
ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS	VI
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 PURPOSE AND APPROACH.....	1
1.2 TERMS.....	1
1.3 PROJECT SITE LOCATION.....	1
1.4 REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	2
2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3
2.1 CURRENT CONDITIONS.....	3
3.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT	5
4.0 VEGETATION.....	7
4.1 LITERATURE REVIEW	7
4.1.1 Sensitive Plant Communities	7
4.1.2 Special Status Plants	7
4.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY.....	9
4.3 RESULTS.....	9
4.3.1 Vegetation Communities	9
4.3.2 Plants	11
4.3.3 Protected Trees	11
5.0 WILDLIFE	12
5.1 LITERATURE REVIEW	12
5.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY.....	13
5.3 RESULTS.....	13
5.3.1 Sensitive Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur	13
5.3.2 Critical Habitat.....	14
5.3.3 Wildlife Movement	14
5.3.4 Avian Nesting and Bat Roosts	15
6.0 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS	16
6.1 LITERATURE REVIEW	16
6.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY.....	16
6.3 RESULTS.....	17
6.3.1 Soils	17
6.3.2 Jurisdictional Waters.....	17
7.0 EDGE EFFECTS	19
8.0 THRESHOLD OF SIGNIFICANCE	20

9.0 SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION AND PROPOSED MITIGATION21

9.1 REGULATORY SETTING..... 21

9.2 IMPACTS TERMINOLOGY..... 21

9.3 THRESHOLD BIO-A..... 22

9.3.1 Sensitive Plant Species 22

9.3.2 Sensitive Wildlife Species..... 23

9.4 THRESHOLD BIO-B..... 23

9.5 THRESHOLD BIO – C 25

9.6 THRESHOLD BIO - D..... 25

9.7 THRESHOLD BIO – E..... 25

10.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS28

11.0 BMPS AND AVOIDANCE MEASURES RECOMMENDATIONS29

12.0 REFERENCES.....30

TABLES

Table 1: Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Observed within the Project Site

Table 2: Tree Inventory

Table 2: Potential Impacts to Vegetation Communities

FIGURES

Figure 1: Regional Location Map

Figure 2: Aerial Vicinity Map

Figure 3: USGS Topographic Map

Figure 4: Vegetation / Landcover

Figure 5a: CNDDDB Plant Occurrences

Figure 5b: CNDDDB Animal Occurrences

Figure 6: National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map

Figure 7: Soils Map

Figure 8: Continually Updated Shoreline Product

APPENDICES

Appendix A Site Photographs

Appendix B Plant and Wildlife Species Observed within the Project site

Appendix C Special Status Species Potential Occurrence Determination

ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BLM	United States Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
City	City of Laguna Beach
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	federal Clean Water Act
ESA	federal Endangered Species Act
FGC	Fish and Game Code
MCV	Manual of California Vegetation
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OHWM	Ordinary High-Water Mark
Project	Anita Street Improvement Project
PCH	Pacific Coast Highway
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SR-1	State Route 1
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VCS	VCS Environmental
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirement
WOS	Waters of the State
WOUS	Waters of the United States

1.0 INTRODUCTION

VCS Environmental (VCS) prepared this Biological Technical Report, which incorporates the findings from the general biological survey conducted on January 18, 2022. VCS prepared this report to support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for the Anita Street Improvement Project [herein after referred to as the “Project site”], with the City of Laguna Beach (City) as the lead agency.

1.1 Purpose and Approach

This report provides a summary of the conditions present during the January 18, 2022 general biological survey, an assessment of the potential presence of sensitive biological resources, and an analysis of the potential impacts to those resources with implementation of the Project. This report presents the current biological resources present within the Project site including habitat communities, potentially jurisdictional waters, and the potential occurrence of listed and special status plant and wildlife species. The potential biological impacts in view of federal, state, and local laws and regulations are also identified in this report. While general biological resources are discussed, the focus of this assessment is on those resources considered to be sensitive. The report also recommends, as appropriate, Best Management Practices (BMPs), avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts. This report was prepared based upon results of a literature review and field survey.

1.2 Terms

The following terms will be used throughout this document and are defined as follows:

- Project site: The approximately 0.2-acre property assessed during the general biological survey. Construction activities will occur only on a portion of the Project site and will not impact the entire Project site.
- Impact Area: The approximately 0.08-acre area within the Project site that will be permanently impacted by the Project.

1.3 Project Site Location

The Project is located at the southwesterly terminus of Anita Street in the City of Laguna Beach, Orange County, California. The Project site sits just northeast and elevated from the Pacific Ocean and slopes towards the ocean from the northeast portion of the site. The Project site is bordered by residential development to the north and south, the ocean to the southwest, and Gaviota Drive to the northeast; refer to [Figure 1, *Regional Location Map*](#) and [Figure 2, *Aerial Vicinity Map*](#).

The Project site is regionally accessible from Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) State Route 1 (SR-1) approximately 250 feet northwest of the Project site. The Project site is located on United State

Geological Survey (USGS), Laguna Beach, California, 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map (USGS 2015) [Figure 3, *USGS Topographic Map*].

1.4 Regional Environmental Setting

Regionally, the Project site is surrounded by a highly urbanized environment; however, despite the highly urbanized setting, areas of important biological significance are nearby. These areas include Laguna Canyon approximately 1 mile north of the Project site, and the Laguna beach State Marine Reserve and State Marine Conservation Area which are located within the ocean southeast of the Project site. Laguna Beach itself sits between sea level, and steep coastal hills that rise over 1,000 feet in elevation within as little as 2 miles from the coastline.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project involves the rehabilitation and upgrades to the existing Anita Street Lift Station to improve station maintenance access, reliability, robustness, and to improve the efficiency of operations and safety. Additionally, the project would replace the existing concrete stairs and enhance the existing public viewing areas to create a more visually appealing beach access to Anita Beach.

The Project would demolish the existing above ground lift station building, housing the station's electrical, control, and the standby generator which will be replaced with a below ground pump station wet well, valve vault, and generator vault. The wet well and valve vault (built into the pump station's wet well) will be approximately 20 - 25 feet deep, while the generator vault will be approximately 10 feet deep. The existing reinforced concrete building would be demolished, and the below ground wet well and dry pit will be back filled and abandoned in place.

The former location of the wet well building would be replaced with new cast in place concrete viewing platforms along the stairs to serve as viewing platforms for the public. Viewing platforms will be constructed in separate phases starting from the bottom of the beach access stairs.

As part of the proposed improvements a permanent lifeguard tower would be constructed into the slope area south of the existing stairway. The lifeguard tower would be designed based on the City of Laguna Beach Standard Lifeguard Tower Design. The lifeguard tower would house a single lifeguard and would be completely enclosed with a roof. The lifeguard tower would be situated above ground on a concrete caisson to overlook the shoreline. Access to the tower would be from its own separate stairs that would be located near the coastal access stairway landing at the shoreline.

The existing beach access stairs will be renovated to increase public safety, make it ADA compliant and to enhance public viewing opportunities. Proposed improvements include removal and replacement of existing handrails, trash cans, and curbs. A portion of the site will be re-graded to accommodate the proposed improvements for the beach access stairs. The existing non-native landscaping surrounding the beach access stairs will be removed along with any associated irrigation piping specified. The removed non-native landscaping would be replaced with drought tolerant and California Native Vegetation.

2.1 Current Conditions

The Project site is approximately 0.2 acres, however, only approximately 0.08 acres are planned to be impacted by the Project. The majority of the Project site is located between approximately 12 and 70 feet (4-21 meters) above mean sea level (MSL). The Project site is currently developed as a beach access stairway and pump station with landscaping that borders the stairway and pump station. Vegetation within the Project site consists of ornamental vegetation with a mix of native shrubs and grasses intermittently present. Surrounding land uses are mostly residential with a mix of commercial properties to the northeast. Anita Street Beach is located southeast and adjacent to the Project site and is used as a recreational area.

3.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT

The following is a list of the relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations that apply to protecting plant communities, plants, wildlife, and water quality from impacts within the Project site.

Agency/ Organization	Laws/Regulations	Notes
Federal	Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404	No jurisdictional Waters of the United States (WOUS) are present within the Project site and no impacts to jurisdictional Waters of the United States are anticipated.
	CWA Section 401	Jurisdictional WOUS and Waters of the State (WOS) are not present within the Project site and will not be impacted during Project activities.
	CWA Section 408	No facilities subject to Section 408 occur within the Project.
	Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)	Compliance with the MBTA will be achieved with pre-construction surveys for nesting birds during the nesting season within 3 days prior to initiation of work.
	Endangered Species Act (ESA)	No federally listed species were observed within the Project site during the January 18, 2022 survey.
State	Section 1600 of the Fish and Game Code (FGC)	Jurisdictional WOS are not present within the Project site and will not be impacted during Project activities.
	Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the FGC	These FGC sections offer protection of nesting birds, birds-of-prey, and migratory birds. Compliance will be maintained with a pre-construction survey for nesting birds during the nesting season within 3 days prior to initiation of work.
	Section 4150 of the FGC	Prohibits incidental or deliberate “take” of non-game mammals, including bats. No impacts to bats are anticipated as a result of Project activities.
	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and Water Discharge Requirements (WDR)	WOS and WOUS are not present within the Project site and will not be impacted during Project activities.

Agency/ Organization	Laws/Regulations	Notes
Local	Chapter 12.06 of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code	The Project site contains trees that could qualify as trees requiring tree removal permits if they are to be removed. Any tree that qualifies under Chapter 12.06 of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code would require permits for removal.
	General Plan, Open Space Conservation Element	The Project will comply with all measures listed in Section 3, Topic 1 of the Open Space Conservation Element. Additionally, the Project would be subject to Design Review to ensure that the Project is consistent with the City of Laguna Beach's General Plan.
	City of Laguna Beach Local Coastal Program (1993)	A Coastal Development Permit through the City Local Coastal Program and the California Coastal Commission may be necessary.

4.0 VEGETATION

4.1 Literature Review

4.1.1 Sensitive Plant Communities

Sensitive plant communities (sensitive habitats) as defined below, are of limited distribution statewide or within a county or region and are often vulnerable to environmental effects of projects. Sensitive habitats are often threatened with local extirpation and are therefore considered as valuable biological resources. Plant communities are considered “sensitive” by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) if they meet any of the following criteria listed below.

- The habitat is recognized and considered sensitive by CDFW, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or special interest groups such as CNPS.
- The habitat is under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA.
- The habitat is under the jurisdiction of the CDFW pursuant to Sections 1600 through 1612 of the FGC.
- The habitat is known or believed to be of high priority for inventory in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB).
- The habitat is considered regionally rare.
- The habitat has undergone a large-scale reduction due to increased encroachment and development.
- The habitat supports special status plant and/or wildlife species (defined below).
- The habitat functions as an important corridor for wildlife movement.

The most current version of CDFW’s List of California Sensitive Natural Communities indicates which natural communities are sensitive given the current state of the California classification (CDFW 2022a).

4.1.2 Special Status Plants

Species of plants are afforded “special status” by federal agencies, state agencies, and/or non-governmental organizations (e.g., USFWS, CDFW, CNPS, and United States Forest Service [USFS]) because of their recognized rarity, potential vulnerability to extinction, and local importance. These species typically have a limited geographic range and/or limited habitat and are referred to collectively as “special status” species. Plant species were considered “special status” species if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Taxa with official status under ESA, California Endangered Species Act (CESA), and/or the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA).
- Taxa proposed for listing under ESA and/or CESA.
- Taxa identified as sensitive, unique or rare, by the USFWS, CDFW, USFS, and/or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- Plants that meet the definition of rare or endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15380(b) and (d). Species that may meet the definition of rare or endangered include the following:
 - Species considered by CNPS and CDFW to be “rare, threatened or endangered in California” (California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 1A, 1B and 2; CNPS 2019). A majority of the CRPR 3 and CRPR 4 plant species generally do not qualify for protection under CESA and NPPA.
 - Species that may warrant consideration on the basis of local significance or recent biological information.
 - Some species included on the CNDDDB Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (CDFW 2021b).
- Considered a locally significant species, that is, a species that is not rare from a statewide perspective but is rare or uncommon in a local context such as within a county or region (CEQA §15125 (c)) or is so designated in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances. Examples include a species at the outer limits of its known range or a species occurring on an uncommon soil type.

Available literature and databases were reviewed regarding sensitive habitats and special status plant species. Special status plant species that have the potential to occur within the immediate region of the Project site were identified. Several agencies, including the USFWS, CDFW, and CNPS publish lists of particular taxa (species and subspecies) and the associated level of protection or concern associated with each. Reviewed and consulted literature and databases focused on the Project site and included the following sources listed below:

- The CNDDDB, a CDFW species account database that inventories status and locations of rare plants and wildlife in California, was used to identify any sensitive plant communities and special status plants that may exist within a two-mile radius of the Project site (CDFW 2022c).
- Online CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2022). A search for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Map Laguna Beach Quadrangle provided information regarding the distribution and habitats of special status vascular plants in the vicinity of the Project.
- A map of USFWS critical habitat to determine species with critical habitat mapped in the general vicinity of the Project (USFWS 2022a).

- The USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation online tool, which identifies species and critical habitat under USFWS jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the Project area (USFWS 2022b).
- Pertinent maps, scientific literature, websites, and regional flora and fauna field guides.

As noted previously, species occurrence and distribution information is often based on documented occurrences where opportunistic surveys have taken place; therefore, a lack of records does not necessarily indicate that a given species is absent from the Project site.

4.2 Field Methodology

The field survey was conducted within the Project site on January 18, 2022 by VCS biologists Chris Eljenholm and Carla Marriner. During the survey, the biologists walked the entirety of the Project site, paying special attention to those areas that could host sensitive vegetation communities or had the potential to provide suitable habitat for special status plant species. Plant species were identified using plant field and taxonomical guides, such as *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, second edition (Baldwin et al. 2012). All plant species encountered during the field survey were identified and recorded in field notes.

The vegetation communities and habitat conditions were inspected to confirm presence and habitat quality of the vegetation found onsite. Where appropriate, descriptions of vegetation communities from the *Manual of California Vegetation (MCV)* second editions (Sawyer et al. 2009) were also utilized. Any deviations from standard vegetation classifications were made on best professional judgment when areas did not fit into a specific habitat description provided by the *Manual*. Vegetation communities were mapped using field observations and utilizing aerial imagery.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Vegetation Communities

The majority of the Project site consists of ornamental landscaping and disturbed/developed vegetation/land covers. The Project site is bisected by a concrete beach access stairway. Ornamental landscaping surrounds the stairway and appears to be regularly maintained. Trees are present throughout Project site with the majority concentrated on the southeastern portion. The native vegetation cover within the Project site and the adjacent shoreline is low and undergoes heavy disturbance from human activity. Vegetation/land cover mapping and acreages for each vegetation community and land type within the Project site can be found in Table 1 below and the area depicted on [Figure 4, *Vegetation/Land Cover*](#).

Representative photographs of the Project site are included as [Appendix A, *Site Photographs*](#).

Table 1. Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Observed

Vegetation Community/Land Cover Type	Project Site (acres)
Disturbed/Developed	0.09
Ornamental Landscaping	0.11
Total	0.20

4.3.1.1 Disturbed/Developed

Approximately 0.09 acres of disturbed/developed land cover was mapped within the Project site. This land cover includes all the paved surfaces and building footprints that currently exist on the Project site, including the beach access stairway and the existing lift station that will be removed during project activities. This area lacks vegetation and is heavily used by pedestrians.

4.3.1.2 Ornamental Landscaping

Approximately 0.11 acres of ornamental landscaping landcover cover was mapped within the Project site. This area is highly disturbed through landscaping and maintenance yet hosts wide variety of species. While most of the species present within this land cover are non-native, some native species are also present at a low cover. Non-native species occurring within this land cover include American century plant (*Agave americana*), spineless yucca (*Yucca gigantea*), hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), coppery mesembryanthemum (*Malephora crocea*), natal plum (*Carissa macrocarpa*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), African asparagus fern (*Asparagus asparagoides*), candelabra aloe (*Aloe arborescens*), sow thistle (*Sonchus asper ssp. asper*), pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*), mission cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), sand heath (*Ceratiola ericoides*), cheeseweed mallow (*Malva parviflora*), blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), pink melaleuca (*Melaleuca nesophila*), sweet pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*), and black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*). Native species observed intermixed with the other non-native species include mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), senita cactus (*Loophocereus schottii*), prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*).

4.3.1.3 Special Status Vegetation Communities

The site does not support any sensitive vegetation communities. Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forests are reported in the CNDDDB approximately 2 miles northeast of the Project site, within Laguna Canyon. However, the habitat within the Project site is not suitable for Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest and this community was not detected during the general biological survey.

4.3.2 Plants

A total of 24 plant species were observed within the Project site during the general biological survey and are listed in Appendix B, *Plant and Wildlife Species Observed Within the Project Site*.

4.3.2.1 *Sensitive Plant Species with Potential to Occur*

Sensitive plant species include federally, or state listed threatened or endangered species and those species listed on CNPS's rare and endangered plant inventory. All special status plant species considered for occurrence within the Project site are either absent from the site or have a low potential to occur. Special status species were analyzed based on distribution, habitat requirements, and existing site conditions, and occurrence determinations are listed in Appendix C, *Special Status Species Potential*.

No sensitive plant species were observed within the Project site during the January 18, 2022 survey, and there is low potential for sensitive plant species to occur at the Project site; therefore, focused surveys are not warranted. An assessment of sensitive plant species and their potential to occur, as well as their federal/ state/local classifications, are listed in Appendix C.

4.3.3 Protected Trees

Laguna Beach Municipal Code Chapter 12.06 details the Tree Removal Permit Process for the City of Laguna Beach. This code states that privately maintained trees in the public right-of-way require a Category III tree removal permit from the City of Laguna Beach. Five trees on the Project site have potential to qualify as Protected Trees under Chapter 12.06 and are shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Tree Inventory

Tree ID Number	Species	Approximate DBH (inches)
1	Blue Gum	30
2	Ngaio	7
3	Ngaio	10
4	Ngaio	6
5	Italian Cypress	7

5.0 WILDLIFE

5.1 Literature Review

Species of wildlife are afforded “special status” by federal agencies, state agencies, and/or non-governmental organizations because of their recognized rarity, potential vulnerability to extinction, and local importance. These species typically have a limited geographic range and/or limited habitat and are referred to collectively as “special status” species. Wildlife species were considered “special status” species if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Taxa with official status under ESA or CESA.
- Taxa proposed for listing under ESA and/or CESA.
- Taxa designated a species of special concern by CDFW.
- Taxa designated a state fully protected species by CDFW.
- Taxa identified as sensitive, unique, or rare, by the USFWS, CDFW, USFS, and/or BLM.
- Taxa that meet the definition of rare or endangered under the CEQA §15380(b) and (d).
- Species considered locally significant; that is, a species that is not rare from a statewide perspective but is rare or uncommon in a local context such as within a county or region (CEQA §15125 (c)) or is so designated in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances. Examples include a species at the outer limits of its known range.

Special status wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the immediate region of the Project site were identified. Several agencies, including the USFWS and CDFW publish lists of particular taxa (species and subspecies) and the associated level of protection or concern associated with each. Reviewed and consulted literature and databases focused on the Project site and included the following sources listed below:

- The CNDDDB was used to identify any special status wildlife that may exist within a two-mile radius of the Project site (Figures 5a and 5b, *CNDDDB Occurrences*; CDFW 2022c). Both the Laguna Beach and San Juan Capistrano 24k Quads were included in the CNDDDB search. CNDDDB records are generally used as a starting point when determining what special status species, if any, may occur in a particular area. However, these records may be old, lack data not yet entered, and do not represent all the special status species that could be in that particular area.
- A map of USFWS critical habitat to determine species with critical habitat mapped in the general vicinity of the Project (USFWS 2022a).
- The USFWS’s Information for Planning and Consultation online tool, which identifies species and critical habitat under USFWS jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the Project area (USFWS 2022b).
- Pertinent maps, scientific literature, websites, and regional flora and fauna field guides.

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring within the Project site, as well as the surrounding area. Although the inventory list of special status wildlife species was not exhaustive of all species that might be of concern for the Project site, it provided a wide range of species that are representative of the wildland habitats in the area. Species occurrence and distribution information is often based on documented occurrences where opportunistic surveys have taken place; therefore, a lack of records does not necessarily indicate that a given species is absent from the Project site.

5.2 Field Methodology

The Project site is within the general distributional range of several special status wildlife species. The purpose of the January 18, 2022 general biological survey was to identify habitat areas that could be suitable for special status wildlife species and determine their potential for occurrence.

All wildlife species encountered visually or audibly during the field survey were identified and recorded in field notes. Signs of wildlife species including wildlife tracks, burrows, nests, scat and remains, were also recorded. Binoculars were used to aid in the identification of observed wildlife and in areas not accessible on foot. Wildlife field guides and photographs were used to assist with identification of wildlife species during the field survey, as necessary. A one-day survey cannot be used to conclusively determine presence or absence of a species; therefore, assessments of presence/absence and potential for occurrence were made based on presence of suitable habitat to support the species, diagnostic signs (burrows, scat, tracks, vocalizations, and nests), known records or occurrence within the area, known distribution and elevation range, and habitat utilization from the relevant literature.

5.3 Results

A total of six wildlife species or signs thereof were observed within the Project site during the field survey and are listed in Appendix B.

5.3.1 Sensitive Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur

Sensitive wildlife species include the following classifications: federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, California species of special concern, and fully protected and protected species (as designated by CDFW). Species with the potential to occur onsite were analyzed based on distribution, habitat requirements, and existing site conditions.

No special status animal species were observed within the Project site during the 2022 survey. Two special status species were considered to have at least a moderate potential to occur within the Project site but not observed during the general biological survey include:

- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), a CDFW Watch List species
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), a CDFW Watch List species

A complete list of sensitive wildlife species analyzed with potential to occur within the Project site are included in Appendix C. The two sensitive species noted above with at least moderate potential to occur are described in further detail below.

5.3.1.1 *Cooper's Hawk*

Coopers hawk is a Watch List species by CDFW meaning it was previously designated a "Species of Special Concern" but no longer qualifies as such. The Watch List status, in reference to this species, specifically applies to nesting Cooper's hawk and their associated habitat. This species typically inhabits woodlands and other forested areas but is commonly found in urban environments, especially when larger trees surround the area. Cooper's hawk typically nests near water and in deciduous trees or conifers, usually 10-80 feet above the ground. The Project site offers marginally suitable foraging habitat for the species; Cooper's hawk has a moderate potential to occur on the Project site.

5.3.1.2 *Osprey*

Osprey is a CDFW Watch List species. Similar to that of the Cooper's hawk, the Watch List status given to the Osprey specifically applies to nesting Osprey and their associated habitat. This species feeds primarily on live fish and therefore is usually found near water sources supporting populations of their prey. This species typically nests within large dead trees or atop manmade structures and platforms. Osprey nests are typically used year after year. Osprey have a moderate potential to occur within the Project site, most likely for foraging activities. No osprey nests were observed within the project site and there is low potential for Osprey to nest within the Project site. However, the surrounding residential buildings adjacent to the Project site have some potential to support nesting habitat for the species.

5.3.2 Critical Habitat

The USFWS's online service for information regarding Threatened and Endangered Species Final Critical Habitat designation within California was reviewed to determine if the Project site occurs within any species designated Critical Habitat. There is no USFWS designated Critical Habitat within 2 miles of the Project site.

5.3.3 Wildlife Movement

Wildlife corridors link together areas of suitable habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. The fragmentation of open space areas by urbanization creates isolated "islands" of wildlife habitat. Corridors effectively act as links between different populations of a species. An increase in a population's genetic variability is generally associated with an increase in a population's health.

Corridors mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation by:

- Allowing wildlife to move between remaining habitats, which allows depleted populations to be replenished and promotes genetic diversity;
- Providing escape routes from fire, predators, and human disturbances, thus reducing the risk that catastrophic events (such as fires or disease) will result in population or local species extinction; and
- Serving as travel routes for individual wildlife species as they move within their home ranges in search of food, water, mates, and other needs (Fahrig and Merriam 1985, Simberloff and Cox 1987, Harris and Gallagher 1989).

Wildlife movement activities usually fall into one of three movement categories:

- Dispersal (e.g., juvenile animals from natal areas, individuals extending range distributions);
- Seasonal migration; and
- Movements related to home range activities (foraging for food or water, defending territories, searching for mates, breeding areas, or cover)

The Project site is surrounded by urban development and likely does not support significant wildlife movement corridors. It is possible that the Project site may serve as a minor corridor for common urban wildlife species traveling from the beach into the urban areas to the east, however it is unlikely that any significant movement occurs through the area.

5.3.4 Avian Nesting and Bat Roosts

The Project site and the adjacent habitat urban areas have the potential to support various avian species and nests due to the presence of shrubs and trees in addition to building rooftops. Additionally, some avian species nest upon the ground and there is potential for ground nesting birds to use the Project site and the adjacent shoreline habitat. Biologists did not observe signs of nests, nesting activity or bat roosting within the Project site during the general biological survey.

6.0 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

6.1 Literature Review

The following sources were reviewed to determine the potential presence or absence of jurisdictional streams/drainages, wetlands, lakes, and their location within the watersheds associated with the Project site, and other features that might contribute to federal or state jurisdictional authority located within watersheds associated with the Project site:

- National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps (Figure 6, *National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Map*; USFWS 2022c). The NWI database indicates potential wetland areas based on changes in vegetation patterns as observed from satellite imagery. This database is used as a preliminary indicator of wetland habitats because the satellite data are not precise;
- USGS National Hydrography Dataset. Provides the locations of “blue-line” streams as mapped on 7.5-Minute Topographic Map coverage;
- Aerial Imagery;
- USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Maps; and
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Tide Datums

6.2 Field Methodology

During the field survey, the Project site was assessed for jurisdictional wetland WOUS, using the methodology published in the USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (USACE 1987) and the Arid West Supplement (USACE 2008). The Project site was also assessed for jurisdictional non-wetland WOUS, as determined through the observation of an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) which is defined as the “line on the shore established by the fluctuation of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.”

The following guidance documents were utilized in making this determination:

- Field Guide to OHWM Determinations in the Arid West (August 2008);
- Updated OHWM Datasheet for the Field Guide to OHWM Determinations in the Arid West (July 2010); and
- Ordinary High Flows and the Stage-Discharge Relationship in the Arid West Region (2011).

The Project site was assessed for jurisdictional WOS during the field survey using guidance from Section 1600 of the FGC and Brady and Vyverberg (2013), which defines a stream as “a body of water that flows perennially or episodically and that is defined by the area in which water currently flows, or has flowed, over a given course during the historic hydrologic course regime, and where the width of its course can reasonably be identified by physical or biological indicators”.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Soils

The United States Department of Agriculture NRCS (NRCS 2022) identifies 2 soil types present within the Project site, as shown in [Figure 7, Soils Map](#) and described below:

- **Myford sandy loam, 9 to 15 percent slopes:** Myford sandy loam makes up the majority of the soils within the Project site. This moderately well drained soil is derived from alluvium and has a very high runoff class. These soils are nonsaline to very slightly saline and have a water table more than 80 inches in depth.
- **Beaches:** A small area on the western edge of the Project site, but outside of the Project impact area, is considered Beach soils by NRCS. This soil is characterized by poorly draining soils that are typically moderate to strongly saline. The depth to water table varies greatly depending on the distance from the Ocean and can range from 0 to 72 inches.

6.3.2 Jurisdictional Waters

No Jurisdictional waters are present within the Project site. However, the Pacific Ocean is located west and adjacent to the Project site, which would be considered Jurisdictional Waters. A pipe is located within the Project site that conveys runoff from Gaviota Drive to the base of the bluff and empties out on the western portion of the project site, onto the beach. This feature was determined non-jurisdictional as underground storm drain structures that convey a low volume of urban runoff have not historically been considered Waters of the State; this feature would not be considered Waters of the United States.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers takes jurisdiction over tidal waterways. The extent of USACE jurisdiction within these areas extends to the mean high-water mark. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) maintains a Continually Updated Shoreline Product (CUSP). The CUSP references mean high-water to provide an estimate of the shoreline to assist with environmental studies, which can be seen in [Figure 8, Continually Updated Shoreline Product](#). The mean high-water mark near the Project is located west and outside of the Project site. Photos documenting a tide equivalent to the mean high water were taken, which is reported as 4.68 feet relative to the mean lower low water at the nearest National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) station, located at the Newport Bay Entrance. These photos are included in Appendix A.

7.0 EDGE EFFECTS

Edge effects are anthropogenic disturbances that occur to open space areas located adjacent to urban boundaries which cause negative impacts to the natural resources within the open space areas. Common edge effects include impacts from the introduction of invasive species, habitat fragmentation, pollution, erosion, and increased human activity. Additionally, increased human activity often includes higher frequencies of interactions between pets and wildlife.

Currently, the Project site experiences high volumes of human activity in the form of recreation. Anita Street Beach is a popular destination for beachgoers and the re-development of the project site will likely not cause an increase to the amount of human activity in the area. However, construction activities will be occurring near the beach and Pacific Ocean and without implementation of proper best management practices, may result in indirect impacts to these sensitive habitats.

8.0 THRESHOLD OF SIGNIFICANCE

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines is used by public agencies in determining whether a project may have a significant impact on biological resources. Under Appendix G, a project may have a significant impact on biological resources if it would:

Threshold BIO-A	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.
Threshold BIO-B	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive plant community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.
Threshold BIO-C	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
Threshold BIO-D	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery areas.
Threshold BIO-E	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
Threshold BIO-F	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan.

For the purposes of this impact analysis the following definitions apply:

- “Substantial adverse effect” means loss or harm of a magnitude which, based on current scientific data and knowledge would: (1) substantially reduce population numbers of a listed, candidate, sensitive, rare, or otherwise special status species; (2) substantially reduce the distribution of a sensitive plant community/habitat type; or (3) eliminate or substantially impair the functions and values of a biological resource (e.g., streams, wetlands, or woodlands) in a geographical area defined by interrelated biological

components and systems. In the case of this analysis, the prescribed geographical area is considered to be the region that includes the USGS topographic quadrangle for the Project site, namely Indio. For some species, the geographic area may extend to the vicinity of the Project site based on known distributions of the species. The vicinity of the project site also included Valerie USGS topographic quadrangle.

- “Conflict” means contradiction of a magnitude, which based on foreseeable circumstances, would preclude or prevent substantial compliance.
- “Rare” means: (1) that the species exists in such small numbers throughout all, or a significant portion of, its range that it may become endangered if its environment worsens; or (2) the species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and may be considered “threatened” as that term is used in the ESA.

9.0 SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION AND PROPOSED MITIGATION

9.1 Regulatory Setting

As mentioned above in Sections 4 and 5 of this report, sensitive species are provided protection by either Federal or State resource management agencies, or both, under provisions of the ESA and CESA.

There are a number of performance criteria and standard conditions that must be met as part of any review and approval of the proposed Project. These include compliance with all of the terms, provisions, and requirements with applicable laws that relate to Federal, State, and local regulating agencies related to potential impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species, wetlands, riparian habitats, and blue lined stream courses. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant because, although they would result in an adverse alteration of existing local conditions, they would not substantially diminish or result in the permanent loss of an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

9.2 Impacts Terminology

Potential impacts to biological resources that could result from implementation of the proposed Project are discussed in each of the Vegetation, Wildlife, and Jurisdictional Waters sections presented in this report.

Biological resources may be either directly or indirectly impacted by a project. Furthermore, direct and indirect impacts may be either permanent or temporary in nature. These impact categories are defined below. These terms will be used throughout the document.

- Direct Impact: Any loss, alteration, disturbance, or destruction of biological resources that would result from project-related activities is a direct impact. Examples include vegetation clearing, encroaching into wetlands, diverting natural surface water flows, and the loss of individual species and/or their habitats. Direct impacts are long-term.
- Indirect Impact: As a result of project-related activities, biological resources may also be affected in a manner that is not direct. Examples of indirect impacts include elevated noise, light, and dust levels, increased human activity, decreased water quality, erosion created by the removal of vegetation, and the introduction of invasive plants and unnatural predators (e.g., domestic cats and dogs). These indirect impacts may be both short-term and long-term in their extent.
- Permanent Impacts: All impacts that result in the long-term or irreversible removal of biological resources are considered permanent. Examples include constructing a building or permanent road on an area containing biological resources.
- Temporary Impacts: Any impacts considered to have reversible effects on biological resources can be viewed as temporary. Examples include the generation of fugitive dust during construction, removing vegetation, and either allowing the natural vegetation to recolonize or actively revegetating the Project site.

The determination of impacts in this analysis is based on both the proposed Project development plan and the biological values of the habitat and/or sensitivity of plant and wildlife species to be affected. Any recommended mitigation measures to address impacts are discussed below.

9.3 Threshold BIO-A

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated

9.3.1 Sensitive Plant Species

Development of the Project site would result in the direct removal of non-native and native plant species. The majority of the Project site has previously been disturbed and is regularly maintained. The majority of plant species present on the Project site are ornamental non-native species. The

Project site is generally not suitable for sensitive plant species that occur in the general vicinity of the Project. No sensitive species were observed during the January 18, 2022 general biological survey. Additionally, all sensitive plant species analyzed in Appendix C, are either absent from the Project site or have a low potential to occur within the Project site. No direct or indirect impacts to sensitive vegetation are expected to occur from Project activities.

9.3.2 Sensitive Wildlife Species

No special status wildlife species were observed within the Project site during the general biological survey. Additionally, no USFWS designated critical habitat is present on or near the Project site. However, two special status wildlife species have a moderate potential to occur within the Project site including Cooper's hawk and osprey. Although, it is likely that these species will only be using the Project site for foraging, there is the potential that either of these two species could nest within, or nearby, the Project site. Therefore, with the implementation of mitigation measure (MM) **BIO-1**, impacts to these species would be reduced to less than significant.

MM BIO-1: Vegetation removal activities shall be conducted outside the nesting season (September 1 to February 14 for songbirds; September 1 to January 14 for raptors) to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds. Any construction activities that occur during the season will require that all suitable habitats be thoroughly surveyed for the presence of nesting birds by a qualified biologist within three days prior to the commencement of vegetation clearing /ground disturbance activities depending on which season work falls within. If any active nests are detected, a buffer of 500 feet of an active threatened or endangered species or raptor nest, 300 feet of other sensitive species (non-listed), and 100 feet of most common species will be delineated, flagged, and avoided until the nesting cycle is complete. Established buffer sizes shall be increased or decreased based on the discretion of the qualified biologist to ensure that nesting activities are not disturbed. Active nests shall be periodically monitored by the qualified biologist until nesting activities have concluded.

9.4 **Threshold BIO-B**

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated

Potential impacts to vegetation communities/land cover due to implementation of the proposed Project includes the direct permanent impact of approximately 0.09 acres of land within the Project Impact Area, as shown on [Figure 4](#), and described in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Potential Impacts to Vegetation Communities

Vegetation Community/Land Cover Type	Project Impact Area (acres)
Disturbed / Developed	0.04
Ornamental Landscaping	0.04
Total	0.08

The impacts to disturbed/developed and ornamental landscaping would be considered less than significant, as these land covers do not represent CNDDDB or CDFW sensitive plant communities. Additionally, no riparian habitats are present on the Project site and therefore, no riparian vegetation will be impacted by Project activities. However, both the Anita Beach shoreline and Pacific Ocean contain coastal resources that are considered sensitive resources. The Project site is currently functioning as a beach access way and will continue to function as such after redevelopment. Therefore, human activity within the Project site is expected to remain the same and would not result in direct impacts to either the Anita Beach shoreline or Pacific Ocean. No direct impacts from increased human activity are anticipated from Project implementation. There could be the potential that construction activities associated with the Project could indirectly result in impacts to coastal resources. To avoid potential indirect construction impacts to coastal resources, the Project would be required to implement Mitigation Measure **BIO-2** which requires Best Management Practices be incorporated into construction activities. With implementation of Mitigation Measure **BIO-2**, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.

MM BIO-2: The project shall incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent impacts to water quality during project construction. Some recommended BMPs include:

- Water pollution and erosion control measures in accordance with Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements.
- Sandy portions of the beach will be protected and maintained during construction activities.
- Construction equipment will be stored offsite, away from sensitive coastal resources.
- Vehicles and equipment will be in proper working condition and will be checked regularly for leaks prior to use to ensure that there is no potential for fugitive emissions of motor oil, fuel, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, grease, or other hazardous materials.

- Equipment storage, fueling and staging areas will be located within upland areas with minimal risk of direct drainage onto the beach.
- Dust control measures, such as watering the project area during construction to reduce the impact of fugitive dust on the adjacent beach habitat.

9.5 Threshold BIO – C

Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated

The Project site does not contain any federally protected wetlands or other jurisdictional WOUS that would be subject to the conditions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; Therefore, no direct impacts are expected. The Anita Beach tidal zone is considered a Jurisdictional Water. There is Potential for indirect impacts to occur to the tidal zone from project construction activities. To avoid potential indirect construction impacts, the Project would be required to implement Mitigation Measure BIO-2 which requires the incorporation of Best Management Practices into construction activities. With implementation of Mitigation Measure **BIO-2** above, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.

9.6 Threshold BIO - D

Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact

As described in Section 5.3.3 above, the Project site may serve a minor function in local wildlife dispersal and foraging; however, due to surrounding development, and relatively small size of the Project site, it is unlikely that the Project supports any significant wildlife movement. Additionally, no native wildlife nursery sites were observed within the Project site. No impact to the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species is anticipated.

9.7 Threshold BIO – E

Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Chapter 12.06 of the Laguna Beach Municipal Code establishes protection of trees within the City. The ordinance requires a permit for any trees that fall into one of the three categories listed below:

Category 1: Trees listed on the City Heritage Tree List.

Category 2: Trees on a landscape plan approved through the Design Review process.

Category 3: Trees privately maintained in the public right-of-way.

The Project site contains five trees that have the potential to require tree removal permits under Chapter 12.06 of the City's Municipal Code. Details regarding the species and size of the trees within the Project site can be seen in Table 2 above. With the implementation of MM **BIO-4** below, the Project will not conflict with Chapter 12 of the City's Municipal Code.

Additionally, the City's General Plan, Open Space Conservation Element has policies implemented for development within blufftops and sandy portions of beaches. The Project will comply with all measures listed in *Section 3*, Topic 1 of the Open Space Conservation Element. Additionally, the Project would be subject to Design Review to ensure that the Project is consistent with the City of Laguna Beach's General Plan. With the implementation of MM **BIO-3** and **BIO-4**, the Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

MM BIO-3: The landscape plan for the project will include native species to Southern California, such as those found on the Project site (mulefat, senita cactus, prickly pear, saltgrass, and/or toyon).

MM BIO-4: Any tree planned to be removed during Project activities that falls within the public right-of-way and has a diameter at breast height (DBH) of greater than 6 inches may be required to obtain tree removal permits prior to their removal. If any trees are planned to be removed during construction activities, coordination with the City will be required and Tree Removal Permits may be obtained for the removal of any trees that meet the categories listed in Chapter 12.06 of the City of Laguna Beach Municipal Code.

Threshold BIO – F

Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local regional or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact

The Project does not lie within the boundaries of any adopted habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan and therefore would not conflict with any of the before mentioned plans.

10.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are defined as the direct and indirect effects of a proposed project which, when considered alone, would not be deemed a substantial impact, but when considered in addition to the impacts of related projects in the area, would be considered significant. “Related projects” refers to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects, which would have similar impacts to the proposed Project. CEQA deems a cumulative impact analysis to be adequate if a list of “related projects” is included in the EIR or the proposed project is consistent with an adopted general, specific, master, or comparable programmatic plan [Section 15130(b)(1)(B)]. CEQA also states that no further cumulative impact analysis is necessary for impacts of a proposed project consistent with an adopted general, specific, master, or comparable programmatic plan [Section 15130(d)].

The Project will be consistent with the City’s adopted General Plan and other local policies therefore, cumulative impacts would be considered less than significant.

11.0 BMPS AND AVOIDANCE MEASURES RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation of general BMPs is recommended to the extent practical. Key aspects of the BMPs are to clearly delineate the limits of disturbance, use properly maintained equipment, properly implement and monitor water quality BMPs, avoid use of chemicals near sensitive areas, develop procedures for minimizing the likelihood of spills and to control sediment, ensure worker safety, and minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources onsite including sensitive wildlife species.

Standard BMPs will be implemented including compliance with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and State Water Resources Control Board Stormwater requirements for the control of fugitive dust and management of water quality. The following project design features are recommended:

- Work area limits will be clearly defined and visible. All construction boundaries will be marked with flagging, staking, or fencing.
- Any litter or rubbish will be collected and disposed of in appropriate containers with lids to avoid attracting wildlife species to the Project site.
- Any night lighting shall be shielded and directed away from the ocean.
- Landscaped slopes and planters should be planted with drought tolerant plants to reduce erosion on the bluff from irrigation.
- No species of plants listed as moderate or high on the CAL-IPC inventory (Cal-IPC, 2022) will be planted within the landscaped areas of the Project.

12.0 REFERENCES

- Baldwin, B. G., D. H. Goldman, D. J. Keil, R. Patterson, T. J. Rosatti, and D. H. Wilken, editors. 2012. The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, second edition. University California Press, Berkeley.
- Brady, Roland H. III and Kris Vyverberg. 2013. Methods to Describe and Delineate Episodic Stream Processes on Arid Landscapes for Permitting Utility-Scale Solar Power Plants. California Energy Commission. Publication Number: CEC-500-2014-013.
- CDFW (California Department of Fish and Wildlife). 2022a. Natural Communities. VegCAMP, Biogeographic Data Branch. Accessed October 2021 from <<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities>>.
- 2022b. Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List. Natural Diversity Database. Dated January 2022.
- 2022c. RareFind, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). Retrieved from <<https://map.dfg.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx>>.
- 2022d. Fish and Game Code Section 1600-1616. Retrieved from <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FGC§ionNum=1602>.
- 2022e State and federally listed endangered, threatened, and rare plants of California. Natural Diversity Database. Dated October 2021.
- 2021f. Special Animals List. Natural Diversity Database. Dated October 2021.
- City of Laguna Beach. 1993. Open Space and Conservation Elements. Retrieved from <<https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/government/departments/community-development/planning-zoning/land-use-plans/general-plan>>
- CNPS (California Native Plant Society). 2022. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Retrieved October 2021 from <<http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>>.
- Google. 2022. Google Earth Pro Version 7.3.4. Accessed October 2021.
- NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). 2022. Web Soil Survey. U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Retrieved from: <<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>>.

Sawyer, John O., Todd Keeler-Wolf, and Julie M. Evens. 2009. A Manual of California Vegetation. 2nd ed. California Native Plant Society and California Department of Fish and Game. Sacramento, Calif.

USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers). 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Wetland Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1. Vicksburg, MS: Environmental Laboratory.

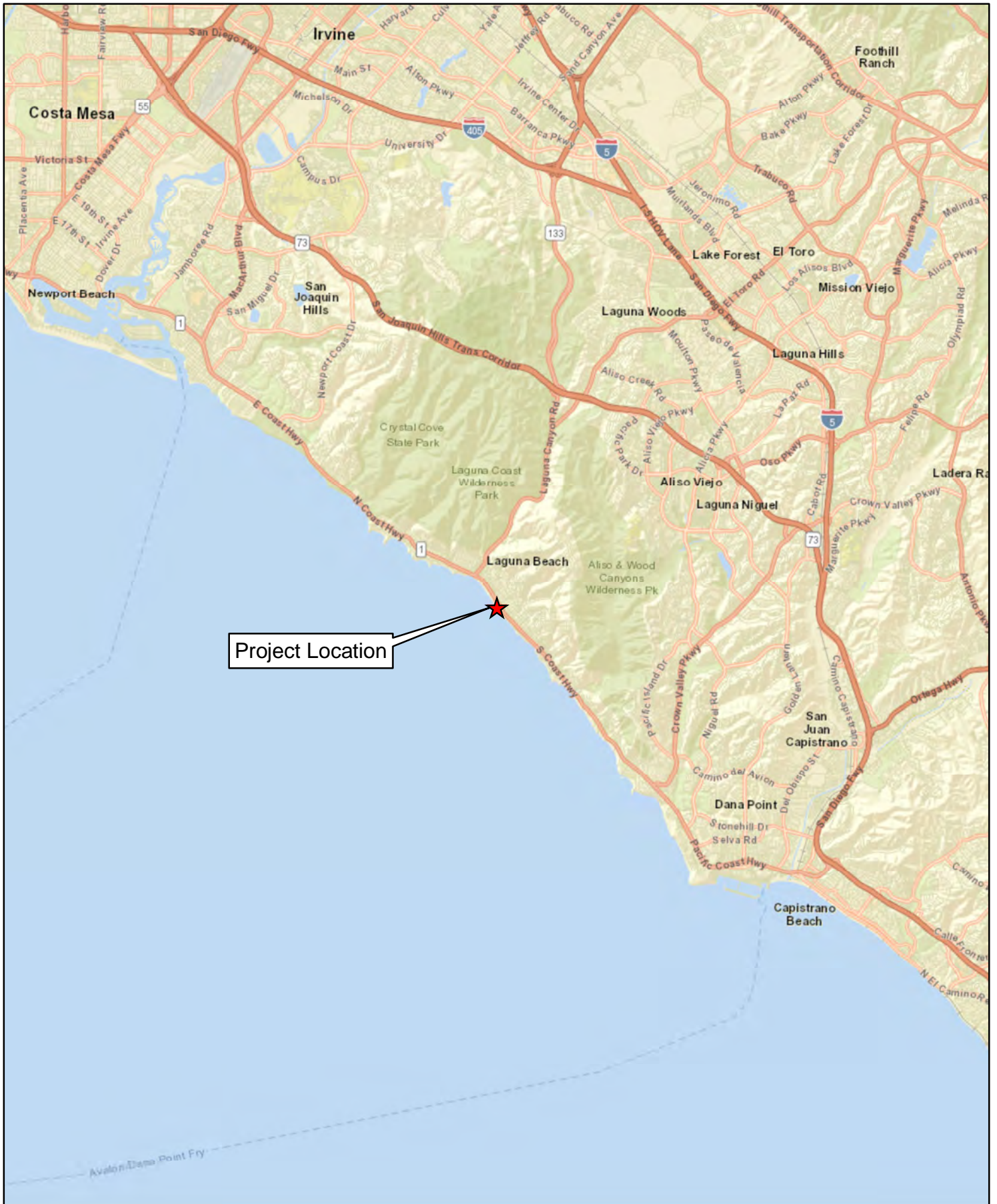
2008. Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0), ed. J. S. Wakeley, R. W. Lichvar, and C. V. Noble. ERDC/EL TR-08-28. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service). 2022a. Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species. Retrieved from <<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>>.

2022b. Information for Planning and Consultation. Retrieved from <<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>>.


2022c. National Wetlands Inventory. Wetlands Mapper. Retrieved from: <<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/mapper.html>>.

FIGURES



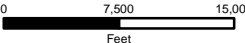
Project Location

Prepared By:



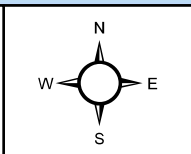
VCS Environmental

Map Created: February 2022
 Data Source: ESRI,
 City of Laguna Beach



0 7,500 15,000
 Feet

1:150,000




Anita Street Improvement Project

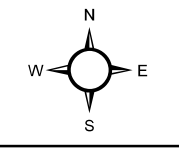
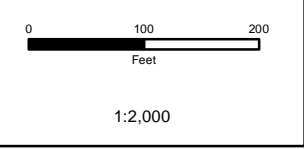
Figure 1 Regional Location Map



Project Site

Prepared By:

 VCS Environmental


Map Created: February 2022
 Data Source: ESRI,
 City of Laguna Beach




Anita Street Improvement Project

Figure 2 Aerial Vicinity Map

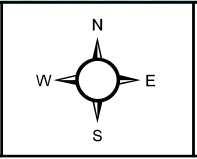


 Project Site

7.5-min Quadrangle: Laguna Beach
 Section: 25
 Township: T7S
 Range: R9W
 Meridian: San Bernardino
 State: California
 County: Orange

Prepared By:

 VCS Environmental
 Map Created: February 2022
 Data Source: ESRI, USGS
 City of Laguna Beach


0 1,000 2,000
 Feet
 1:24,000

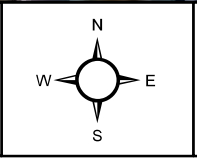
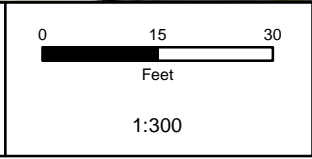


Anita Street Improvement Project
 Figure 3 USGS Topographic Map



Project Site
 Project Impact Area
Vegetation / Land Cover
 Disturbed / Developed
 Ornamental Landscaping

Prepared By:

 VCS Environmental
 Map Created: June 2022
 Data Sources: ESRI,
 GoogleEarth, NOAA

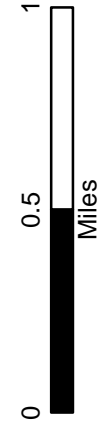
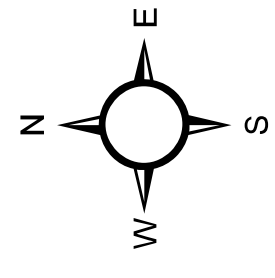


Anita Street
 Figure 4
 Vegetation Map

**CITY OF
LAGUNA BEACH
ANITA STREET
IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT**

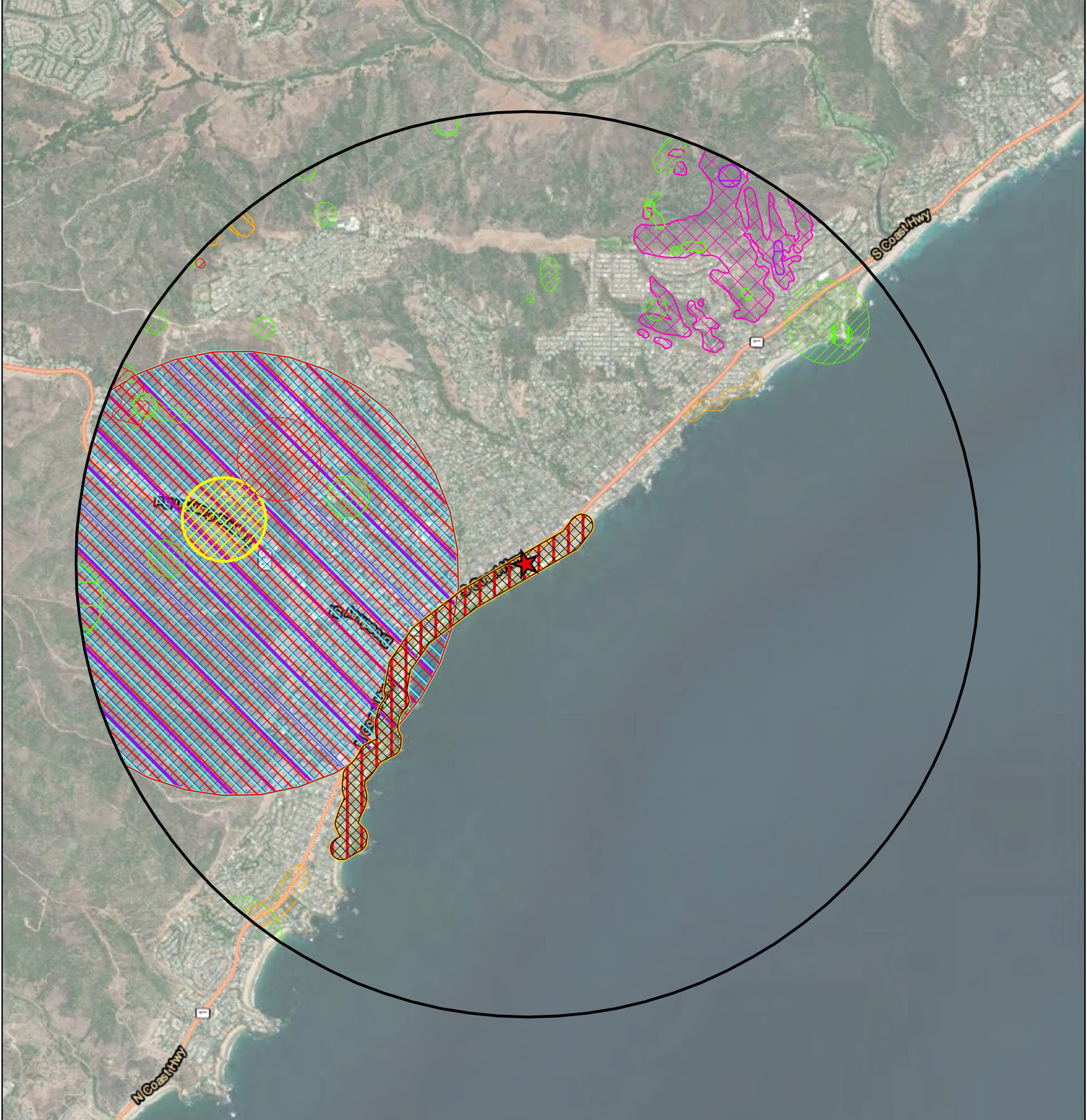
Figure 5a

**CNDDDB
Plant
Occurrences**



1:30,000

Map Date: February 2022
Data Sources: ESRI,
CDFW, USFWS



★ Project Location
□ 2-mile Buffer

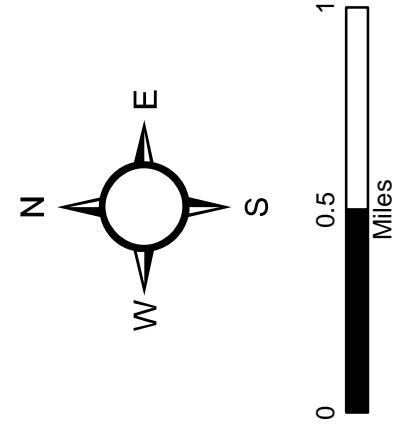
CNDDDB

Plant Occurrences

- Coulter's saltbush
- Davidson's saltscale
- Laguna Beach dudleya
- Orcutt's pincushion
- Parish's brittlescale
- Southern Coast Live Oak
- Riparian Forest
- aphanisma
- big-leaved crownbeard
- decumbent goldenbush
- intermediate mariposa-lily
- many-stemmed dudleya
- mesa horkelia
- prostrate vernal pool navarretia
- south coast saltscale
- summer holly

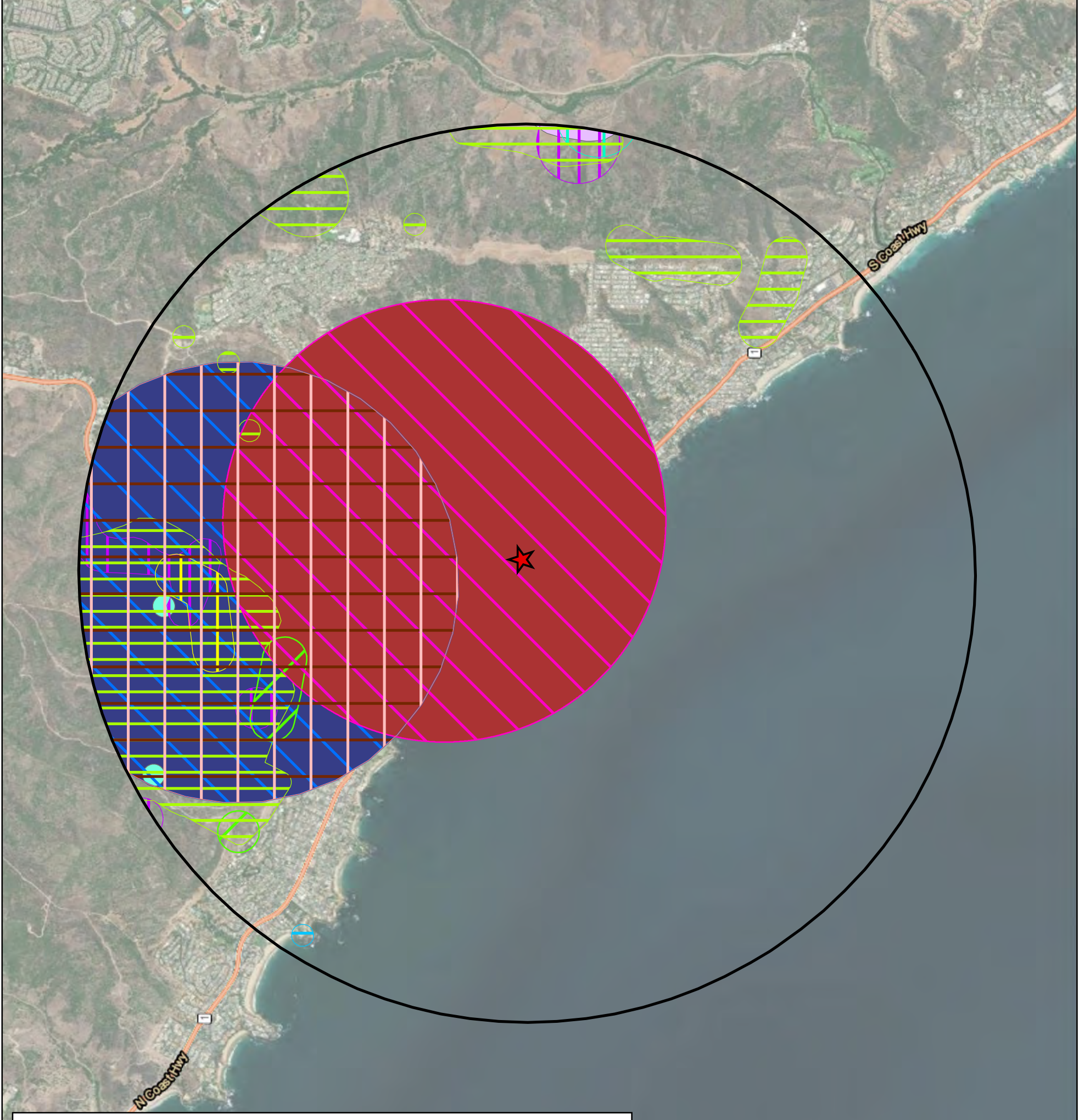
**CITY OF
LAGUNA BEACH
ANITA STREET
IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT**

**Figure 5b
CNDDDB
Animal
Occurrences**





1:30,000

Map Date: January 2022
Data Sources: ESRI,
CDFW, USFWS



★ Project Location
 2-mile Buffer
CNDDDB
Animal Occurrences
 Cooper's hawk
 Crotch bumble bee
 Southern California legless lizard
 coast horned lizard
 coastal California gnatcatcher
 coastal cactus wren
 least Bell's vireo
 monarch - California overwintering population
 orange-throated whiptail
 southern California rufous-crowned sparrow
 steelhead - southern California DPS
 western spadefoot
 tricolored blackbird
 western pond turtle

-  Project Site
-  Estuarine and Marine Wetland



Prepared By:

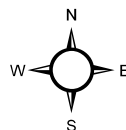


VCS Environmental

Map Created: February 2022
 Data Source: ESRI, USACE,
 City of Laguna Beach



1:500




Anita Street Improvements Project


Figure 6


National Wetlands Inventory
 (NWI) Map



 Project Site


Soil Type

 Beaches

 Myford Sandy Loam

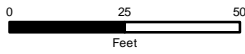
(Beaches)

Prepared By:



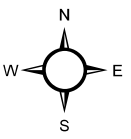
Map Created: February 2022
Data Source: ESRI, USDA
City of Laguna Beach

VCS Environmental



0 25 50
Feet

1:500




N
W E
S

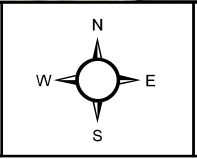
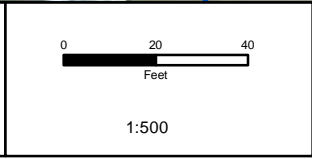
Anita Street Improvement Project

Figure 7 **Soils Map**



Project site
 CUSP

Prepared By: 
 Map Created: February 2022
 Data Sources: ESRI, GoogleEarth, NOAA
 VCS Environmental



Anita Street
 Continually Updated
 Shoreline Product
Figure 8

APPENDIX A

Site Photographs



Photo 1: View of the Project site from above the stairs at Anita Street and Gaviota Drive intersection; Ornamental Landscaping bordering the access route. Viewing southwest.



Photo 2: View of the inlet located within the northeast portion of the Project site, that connects to a storm drain located near the stairway on the southwest portion of the Project. Viewing southwest.



Photo 3: View of the typical ornamental landscaping and stairway with the lift station in the background. Viewing north.



Photo 4: View of the storm drain outlet at the bottom of the staircase located within the western portion of the Project site. Viewing northeast.



Photo 5: View of the tide line during a 4.5-foot tide based on the Mean Lower Low Water Tide Datum. Viewing northwest.



Photo 6: View of the lift station in the middle portion of the staircase. Viewing north.



Photo 7: View of the ornamental vegetation on the northwestern boundary of the Project site. Viewing northwest.



Photo 8: View of the ornamental vegetation in the southeastern portion of the Project site. Sizeable ngaio tree visible on the right-hand portion of the photograph. Viewing northeast.

APPENDIX B

Plant and Wildlife Species Observed within the Project Site

Plant Species Observed within the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name
Agavoideae	Agaves and Yuccas
<i>Agave americana</i> *	American century plant
<i>Yucca gigantea</i> *	Spineless Yucca
Aizoaceae	Ice Plant Family
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> *	Hottentot fig
<i>Malephora crocea</i> *	Coppery mesembryanthemum
Apocynaceae	Dogbane Family
<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i> *	Natal Plum
<i>Nerium oleander</i> *	Oleander
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> *	African asparagus fern
Asphodelaceae	Asphodelaceae
<i>Aloe arborescens</i> *	Candelabra Aloe
Asteraceae	Sunflower Family
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mulefat
<i>Sonchus asper ssp. asper</i> *	Sow thistle
Boraginaceae	Forget-Me-Not Family
<i>Echium candicans</i> *	Pride of Madeira
Cactaceae	Cactus Family
<i>Lophocereus schottii</i>	Senita Cactus
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> *	Mission cactus
<i>Opuntia littoralis</i>	Coast Prickly Pear
Cupressaceae	Cypress Family
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> *	Italian cypress
Ericaceae	Heather Family
<i>Ceratiola ericoides</i> *	Sand heath
Malvaceae	Mallow Family

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Malva parviflora</i> *	Cheeseweed mallow
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	Blue gum
<i>Melaleuca nesophila</i> *	Pink Melaleuca
Pittosporaceae	Cheesewood Family
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> *	Sweet Pittosporum
Poaceae	Grasses
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Saltgrass
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
Scrophulariaceae	Snapdragon or Figwort Family
<i>Myoporum laetum</i> *	Ngaio
Solanaceae	Potato or Nightshade Family
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> *	Black nightshade

* non-native and/or invasive species.

Wildlife Species Observed/Detected within the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name
Aves - Birds	
Charadriiformes	Gulls, Terns and Skimmers
<i>Larus sp.</i>	Gull
Corvidae	Jays, Magpies and Crows
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow
Parulidae	Wood Warblers and Relatives
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican
Tyrannidae	Tyrant Flycatchers
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Black Phoebe
Zosteropidae	White Eyes
<i>Zosterops simplex*</i>	Swinhoe's White-eye

* non-native species.

APPENDIX C

**Special Status Species
Potential Occurrence Determination**

This page intentionally left blank.

APPENDIX C

Special Status Species Potential Occurrence Determination

This table summarizes conclusions from analysis and a field survey regarding the potential occurrence of special status species within the Study Area. During the field survey, the potential for special status species to occur within the Project site was assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Present**: observed on the site during the field survey, or recorded on-site by other qualified biologists.
- **High potential to occur**: observed in similar habitat in the region by a qualified biologist, or habitat on the site is a type often utilized by the species and the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species.
- **Moderate potential to occur**: reported sightings in surrounding region, or the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used by the species.
- **Low potential to occur**: the site is within the known distribution and elevation range of the species but habitat on the site is rarely used by the species, or there are no known recorded occurrences of the species within or adjacent to the site.
- **Absent**: a focused study failed to detect the species or the site is outside the known distribution and elevation range of the species.
- **Unknown**: the species' distributional/elevation range and habitat are poorly known.

Even with field surveys, biologists assess the *probability* of occurrence rather than make a definitive conclusion about species' presence or absence. Failure to detect the presence of the species is not definitive and may be due to variable effects associated with fire, rainfall patterns, and/or season.

Special Status Species: Potential to Occur within the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
PLANTS				
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i>	Aphanisma	CRPR: 1B.2	Annual herb native to the coastline of Baja California and southern California, including the Channel Islands. This plant is adapted for saline environments and is usually found in sand or scrub near the coast. It is a succulent with thin, spreading stems with small green leaves that turns reddish in color with age. Elevation: <200 m Blooming period: June-September	Low. Project site lacks suitable soils. The species was not detected during biological survey.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i>	Coulter's saltbush	CRPR: 1B.2	It is native to coastal southern California and northern Baja California, where it is quite rare. It grows in areas of saline and alkaline soils, such as ocean bluffs. Elevation: < 500 meters Blooming period: March - October	Absent. Perennial species not detected during biological survey. Extensive Development has occurred in the vicinity of the CNDDDB occurrences.
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i>	south coast saltscale	CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb occurring in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and playas habitat. Elevation: < 300 meters Blooming period: March - October	Low. Project site lacks typical coastal bluff scrub habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Parish's brittle-scale	CRPR: 1B.1, FSS	Annual herb native to California and Baja California. Habitat includes alkaline soils, chenopod scrub, playas, and vernal pools. Elevation: < 470 meters Blooming period: June to October	Low. Project site lacks suitable habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> <i>var. davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	CRPR: 1B.2	Annual herb native to California and Baja California. Habitat includes alkaline soils, coastal bluff scrub, and coastal scrub. Elevation: < 200 meters Blooming period: April - October	Low. Project site lacks suitable coastal bluff scrub habitat. Not detected during biological survey.

Appendix C – Special Status Species Potential Occurrence
Anita Street Improvement Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Calochortus catalinae</i>	Catalina mariposa lily	CRPR: 4.2	The bulb is endemic to Southern California. It is native along the coastline in grasslands and open chaparral and woodlands habitats, especially on the Channel Islands and in the Santa Monica Mountains. Elevation: 15 – 700 meters Blooming period: (Feb)March – June	Low. Project site lacks suitable grassland and open chaparral habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Calochortus weedii</i> <i>var. intermedius</i>	Intermediate mariposa-lily	CRPR: 1B.2, FSS	Rocky hill and valley landscapes with chaparral, sage scrub, or grasslands. Elevation: < 680 meters Blooming period: May - July	Low. Project site lacks suitable chaparral and grassland habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	southern tarplant	CRPR: 1B.1,	Found in vernal wet areas such as edges of marshes and vernal pools, grasslands, vernal pools, coastal scrub, at edges of roads and trails, and in other areas of compacted, poorly drained, or alkaline soils where competition from other plants is limited, often due to disturbance. In California, known only from Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties. Also occurs in Mexico. Elevation: 0 – 480 meters (CNPS); < 200 meters (Jepson eFlora) Blooming period: May – November	Low. Project site lacks suitable habitat. Competition from ornamental non-native species is high in the area. Vernal wet areas are not present on the Project site. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i>	Orcutt's pincushion	CRPR: 1B.1, BLMS	Annual herb occurring in coastal bluff scrub (sandy) and coastal dunes. It is presumed extirpated in Orange County. Elevation: < 100 meters Blooming period: January -August	Low. Project site lacks suitable coastal bluff scrub and suitable sandy soils. Possibly extirpated from Laguna Beach. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Cistanthe maritima</i>	seaside cistanthe	CRPR: 4.2	Annual herb that inhabits coastal scrub habitats. This species grows and spreads very slowly and is typically found in coarse, well drained to sandy clay soils. Elevation: < 300 m	Low. Project site lacks suitable coastal scrub habitat. Occurrences have not been observed in the area since

Appendix C – Special Status Species Potential Occurrence
Anita Street Improvement Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Comarostaphylis diversifolia</i> ssp. <i>diversifolia</i>	summer holly	CRPR: 1B.2, BLMS	Blooming period: February to May Large evergreen shrub found on somewhat mesic slopes and occasionally sandstone ridges in chaparral, foothill, and coastal areas. Range extends from San Diego County to northern Baja below 2,100 feet. Elevation: 30 -790 meters Blooming period: April – June	1930's. Not detected during biological survey. Absent. Not observed during general biological survey.
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i>	San Diego tarplant (paniculate tarplant)	CRPR: 4.2	Occurs as a dominant or co-dominant plant in the herbaceous layer of grasslands, forblands, openings of coastal sage scrub and oak woodland. Often in sandy soils. Elevation: < 1320 meters Blooming period: (Mar) April – November (Dec)	Low. Project site lacks suitable herbaceous grassland and lacks sandy soils. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Dichondra occidentalis</i>	western dichondra	CRPR: 4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in understory of chaparral, other shaded areas below 1,800 feet and rock outcroppings, often after fire. Elevation: 50-500 meters Blooming period: (Jan)March – July	Low. Project site lacks suitable outcroppings and chaparral habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i>	many-stemmed dudleya	CRPR: 1B.2, BLMS, FSS.	Many-stemmed dudleya is often associated with clay soils in barrens, rocky places, and ridgelines as well as thinly vegetated openings in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and southern needlegrass grasslands on clay soils. Elevation: < 600 meters Blooming period: April – July	Low. Project site lacks suitable rocky outcroppings and clay soils. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Dudleya stolonifera</i>	Laguna Beach dudleya	CRPR: 1B.1, ST, FT	Perennial herb endemic to California. Distribution restricted to shaded north-facing sandstone outcrops, slopes, and canyon walls; primarily in coastal sage scrub habitat. Almost always co-occurs with mosses and lichens in a very thin layer of soil. Elevation: < 250 meters Blooming period: May-July	Low. Project site lacks suitable north facing sandstone outcrops. Not detected during biological survey.

Appendix C – Special Status Species Potential Occurrence
Anita Street Improvement Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Euphorbia misera</i>	cliff spurge	CRPR 2B.2	Perennial shrub occupying rocky slopes and coastal bluffs. Known from the South Coast, southern Channel Islands, and western Sonoran Desert to Baja California. Elevation: 10 - 500 meters (CNPS); < 500 m Blooming period: December - August(Oct)	Absent. Project site lacks suitable rocky slopes. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>	Palmer's grapplinghook	CRPR: 4.2	Palmer's grapplinghook is associated with clay and cobbly clay soils in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and scrub oak woodland. Elevation: 20 – 955 meters Blooming period: March to May	Absent. Project site lacks suitable soils and coastal sage scrub habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Hordeum intercedens</i>	vernal barley (also bobtail barley)	CRPR: 3.2	Annual herb native to California and Baja California. Habitat includes vernal pools; mesic grasslands; dry, saline streambeds; and alkaline flats. Known from the San Joaquin Valley, the outer South Coast Ranges, the Couth Coast, the Channel Islands, the Peninsular Ranges, and northwest Baja California. In Riverside County, vernal barley is found in the Domino, Willows and Traver soils series and is associated with alkali flats and flood plains within the alkali vernal plains community. Within this community vernal barley is primarily associated with alkali annual grasslands and vernal pools and to a lesser extent alkali scrub and alkali playa. Elevation: 5 – 1,000 meters	Absent. Project site lacks suitable habitat. No vernal pools or grasslands are present within the Project site. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> <i>var. puberula</i>	mesa horkelia	CRPR: 1B.1, FSS	Perennial herb native and endemic to California. Occurs in sandy or gravelly habitat within chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub. Elevation: 70 - 870 meters Blooming period: February – July (Sep)	Absent. This species does not occur within the Project site.
<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> <i>var. decumbens</i>	decumbent goldenbush	CRPR 1B.2	Perennial shrub. Occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub (sandy, often in disturbed areas) habitats. Elevation: 10 - 135 meters Blooming period: April – November	Absent. This species does not occur within the Project site.

Appendix C – Special Status Species Potential Occurrence
Anita Street Improvement Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Juglans californica</i> <i>var californica</i>	California black walnut / Southern California black walnut	CRPR: 4.2	Perennial deciduous tree endemic to California. Habitat includes alluvial substrates, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland. Threatened by urbanization, grazing, non-native plants, and possibly by lack of natural reproduction. Elevation: 30 - 900 meters Blooming period: March - August	Absent. This species does not occur within the Project site.
<i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i>	southwestern spiny rush	CRPR: 4.2,	The species range extends from Arizona to Baja and the central California coast. It is typically found in moist, saline, or alkaline areas within coastal, foothill, and desert regions. Elevation: 3 – 900 meters Blooming period: March (May) – June Fruiting time: Jun – Aug	Absent. Project site lacks suitable moist or alkaline areas. Not detected during the biological survey.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	CRPR: 1B.1, BLMS	Coulter's goldfields is associated with low-lying alkali habitats along the coast and in inland valleys. Most of the populations are associated with coastal salt marsh. In Riverside County, Coulter's goldfields occur primarily in highly alkaline, silty-clay soils in association with Traver, Domino and Willows soils. Most Riverside County populations are associated with the Willows soil series. Coulter's goldfields occur primarily in the alkali vernal plains community. Elevation: 1 – 1200 meters Blooming period: February – June	Absent. Project site lacks low lying alkali habitat.
<i>Lycium californicum</i>	coast desert-thorn (California box-thorn)	CRPR 4.2	Perennial shrub occurring in coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub habitats. Elevation: 5 - 150 meters Blooming period: (Dec) March, June, July, August	Absent. Project site lacks suitable habitat.
<i>Malacothrix saxatilis</i> var. <i>saxatilis</i>	cliff aster	CRPR: 4.2	Perennial herb endemic to California. This species grows in the central and southern coastal hills and mountain	Absent. Project site lacks suitable habitat.

Appendix C – Special Status Species Potential Occurrence
Anita Street Improvement Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i>	mud nama	CRPR 2B.2	ranges. Typically found in sand dunes and open spaces with fast draining soils. Elevation: < 330 m Blooming period: April-August	Absent. Project site lacks suitable marsh habitat and was not detected during biological survey.
<i>Navarretia prostrata</i>	prostrate vernal pool navarretia	CRPR: 1B.1	Found in sandy soil, often in association with sandy barrens and sandy openings in chamise chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and occasionally grasslands. Elevation: < 700 meters Blooming period: April - July	Low. Project site lacks suitable sandy soils.
<i>Pentachaeta aurea ssp. allenii</i>	Allen's daisy	CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb occurring in dry slopes and flats of valley grassland and southern oak woodland. This species is low water tolerant. Typically found at elevations less than 500 meters. Blooming period: March-June	Low. Project site lacks suitable grassland and southern oak woodland habitat.
<i>Phacelia ramosissima var. australitoralis</i>	south coast branching phacelia	CRPR 3.2	Perennial herb occurring in sandy, sometimes rocky, habitat including coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and coastal salt marshes. Elevation: 5 - 300 meters (CNPS) Blooming period: March – August	Low. Project site lacks suitable coastal dune habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Quercus dumosa</i>	Nuttall's scrub oak	CRPR: 1B.1, FSS	Typically occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, and coastal scrub. Occurs generally on sandy soils near the coast, sometimes on clay loam. Elevation: 15 – 400 meters Blooming period: February – April (May-August)	Absent. Does not occur within the Project site.
<i>Suaeda esteroa</i>	estuary seablite	CRPR 1B.2	Perennial herb occupying coastal salt marshes. Elevation: < 5 meters Blooming period: (May) July -October (January)	Absent. Project site lacks coastal marsh habitat.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Suaeda taxifolia</i>	woolly seablite	CRPR: 4.2	This species is a shrub that occurs within the coastline of southern California and Baja California. This species typically grows in saline habitats such as salt marshes, beaches, dunes and scrub. It inhabits alkaline and saline areas. Elevation: <15 m Blooming Period: Yearlong	Low. Project site lacks suitable dune habitat. Not detected during biological survey.
<i>Verbesina dissita</i>	Big-leaved crownbeard	CRPR: 1B.1, ST, FT	Semi-woody perennial shrub that is typically found on north-facing slopes of steep coastal hillsides and canyons. Prefers dense chaparral habitat, but also exists in coastal sage scrub and mixed chaparral. Elevation: < 200 meters Blooming period: (March) April-July	Absent. Project site lacks suitable habitat and is not located on a steep north facing slope. The species was not detected during the general biological survey.
<i>Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest</i>		S4 G5	This association is an open to locally dense riparian woodland dominated by coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>). It occurs in valley bottoms and outer floodplains along larger streams, in sandy soils or alluvium. On Crestridge, this association is restricted to well-developed but typically narrow drainages.	Absent. This habitat does not occur within the Project site.
INVERTEBRATES				
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch bumble bee	SCE	Uncommon species of coastal California east towards the Sierras; select food plant genera include <i>Antirrhinum</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , <i>Clarkia</i> , <i>Dendromecon</i> , <i>Eschscholzia</i> , <i>Eriogonum</i> . This species Also uses lotus, <i>Encelia</i> sp., milk weed, and non-native grassland. It does not prefer dense non-native vegetation. Nests in the ground but is not limited by compact soils unless no rodent burrows or crevices are present. Highly impacted by urbanization; unlikely to be found in fragmented habitats and more likely to be found in large undisturbed areas or sites with direct connections to large undisturbed areas.	Low. Project area is highly urbanized with little native flowering plant species. Project site lacks suitable grassland habitats and specific plant genera for the species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> pop. 1	monarch – CA overwintering population	FSS, FCE	Winter migrant along CA coast. Known to roost in eucalyptus trees. Usually encountered in lowland areas. Obligate milkweed host plant (primarily <i>Asclepias</i> spp.) during larval stage. Nectar and milkweed resources are often associated with riparian corridors. Overwinter in groves along the coast of California and Baja California, typically close to the coast, populated by a variety of tree species, including blue gum eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>), Monterey pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>), and Monterey cypress (<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>).	Low. the nearest occurrence is from 1990 and has since been extirpated.
FISH				
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10	steelhead – southern CA DPS	FE, AFS-EN	Anadromous species of salmon that reproduces within southern California watersheds. Steelhead trout hatch in gravel-bottomed, fast-flowing, well-oxygenated rivers and streams.	Absent. No streams are present within the Project site.
AMPHIBIANS				
<i>Spea hammondi</i> (also <i>Scaphiopus hammondi</i>)	western spadefoot toad	SSC, BLMS, IUCN: NT	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Rain pools which do not contain bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding.	Low. Project site lacks suitable woodland habitat and alluvial fans.
REPTILES				
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i>	Southern California legless lizard	SSC, FSS	Occurs in moist warm loose soil with plant cover. Moisture is essential. Occurs in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather often indicate suitable habitat.	Low. Project site is covered in dense vegetation and high cover of non-native ice plant species that limit the potential for occurrence.

Appendix C – Special Status Species Potential Occurrence
Anita Street Improvement Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i>	orange-throated whiptail	WL, FSS, IUCN:LC	Inhabits low-elevation coastal scrub, chaparral, and valley-foothill hardwood habitats. Prefers washes & other sandy areas with patches of brush & rocks. Perennial plants necessary for its major food-termites.	Low. Project site lacks suitable chaparral and valley foothill habitats.
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	SSC, BLMS, FSS, IUCN: VU	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams & irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 2000 meters in elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	Low. Project site lacks nearby aquatic habitat for the species such as ponds, marshes, rivers and streams.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	coast horned lizard	SSC, BLMS, IUCN:LC	The species can be found in various scrublands, grasslands, coniferous and broadleaf forests, and woodlands. It can range from the coast to elevations of 2,000 meters in the Southern California mountains. It is most common in mid-elevations of the coastal mountains and valleys within open habitat that offer good opportunities for sunning.	Low. Project site lacks suitable grassland/scrubland, forest/woodlands habitats.
BIRDS				
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	WL, IUCN:LC	Forest and woodland birds. These lanky hawks are a regular sight in parks, quiet neighborhoods, over fields, at backyard feeders, and even along busy streets if there are trees around.	Moderate. Project site contains some trees that may support foraging habitat for the species.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolor blackbird	CE, SSC, BLMS, BCC	Freshwater marshes. Suitable breeding habitat includes cattails and bulrushes.	Absent. Project site lacks suitable freshwater marsh habitat.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	WL	Found on moderate to steep, dry, grass-covered hillsides, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral and often occur near the edges of the denser scrub and chaparral associations. Preference is shown for tracts of California sagebrush.	Low. Project site lacks California sagebrush and does not contain suitable steep dry habitats. Nearest CNDDDB occurrence is approximately 1.3 miles northwest within the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

Appendix C – Special Status Species Potential Occurrence
Anita Street Improvement Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Potential for Occurrence within the Study Area
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i>	coastal cactus wren	SSC, BCC	Inhabits areas with thickets of chollas or prickly pear cacti that are tall enough for nesting activities. Typically, this is located within coastal sage scrub habitats. Usually occur below 460 meters elevation. These favored habitats are typically found on south facing slopes at the base of hillsides or in dry washes.	Low. Project site lacks thickets of chollas or prickly pear cacti. The nearest occurrence on CNDDDB is approximately 1 mile northwest of the Project site, adjacent to the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	WL, IUCN:LC	The species are found near any body of water: saltmarshes, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, estuaries, and even coral reefs. Their conspicuous stick nests are placed in the open on poles, channel markers, and dead trees, often over water.	Moderate. Project site is near the Pacific Ocean which provides good foraging habitat for the Osprey. Nesting potential for Osprey is moderate near Project site within the adjacent urban environment.
<i>Poliioptila californica californica</i>	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT, SSC	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub (CSS) below 835 meters in Southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas & slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	Low. Project site lacks suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. The nearest occurrence on CNDDDB is approximately 1.2 miles northwest of the Project, within the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo	FE, SE, IUCN:NT	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian, in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, baccharis or, mesquite.	Low. Project site lacks willow thickets and other suitable riparian habitats. The nearest occurrence on CNDDDB is approximately 1.9 miles east of the Project, within the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

Legend

Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listing Codes: federal listing is pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

FE = federally listed as endangered: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

FT = federally listed as threatened: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that is considered likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Listing Codes: state listing is pursuant to § 1904 (Native Plant Protection Act of 1977) and §2074.2 and §2075.5 (California Endangered Species Act of 1984) of the Fish and Game Code, relating to listing of Endangered, Threatened and Rare species of plants and animals.

SE = state listed as endangered: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that are in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of their range.

ST = state listed as threatened: any species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):

SSC = species of special concern: status applies to animals which 1) are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or 2) historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist. The CDFW has designated certain vertebrate species as “species of special concern” because declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats have made them vulnerable to extinction.

CE= Candidate Endangered.

FP = fully protected: animal species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for collecting these species for necessary scientific research and relocation of the bird species for the protection of livestock.

WL = watch list: these birds have been designated as “Taxa to Watch” in the *California Bird Species of Special Concern report* (Shuford and Gardali 2008). The report defines “Taxa to Watch” as those that are not on the current special concern list that (1) formerly were on the 1978 (Remsen 1978) or 1992 (CDFG 1992) special concern lists and are not currently listed as state threatened and endangered; (2) have been removed (delisted) from either the state or federal threatened and endangered lists (and remain on neither), or (3) are currently designated as “fully protected” in California.

United States Forest Service (USFS):

FSS = Forest Service sensitive: those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester that are not listed or proposed for listing under the ESA and for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by: (a) significant current or predicted downward trends in

population numbers or density or (b) significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.”

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):

BCC = USFWS bird of conservation concern: listed in the USFWS'S 2008 *Birds of Conservation Concern* report. The report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory non-game birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the ESA. While all of the bird species included in the report are priorities for conservation action, the list makes no finding with regard to whether they warrant consideration for ESA listing.

United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

BLMS = BLM sensitive: those plant and animal species on BLM administered lands and that are (1) under status review by the USFWS/NMFS; or (2) whose numbers are declining so rapidly that federal listing may become necessary, or (3) with typically small and widely dispersed populations; or (4) those inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats. BLM policy is to provide the same level of protection as USFWS candidate species.

American Fisheries Society: Listing of imperiled freshwater and diadromous fishes of North America prepared by the American Fisheries Society's Endangered Species Committee.

AFS-E= Endangered

AFS-TH= Threatened

AFS-V= Vulnerable

California Rare Plant Ranks (Formerly known as CNPS Lists): the CNPS is a statewide, non-profit organization that maintains, with CDFG, an Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California. In the spring of 2011, CNPS and CDFG officially changed the name “CNPS List” or “CNPS Ranks” to “California Rare Plant Rank” (or CPRP). This was done to reduce confusion over the fact that CNPS and CDFG jointly manage the Rare Plant Status Review Groups and the rank assignments are the product of a collaborative effort and not solely a CNPS assignment.

CRPR 1A - California Rare Plant Rank 1A (formerly List 1A): Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere. All of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 1A meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code and are eligible for state listing. It is mandatory that they be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.

CRPR: 1B - California Rare Plant Rank 1B (formerly List 1B): Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere. All of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 1B meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Secs. 2062 and

2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. It is mandatory that they be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.

CRPR: 2 - California Rare Plant Rank 2 (formerly List 2): Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere. All of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 2 meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. It is mandatory that they be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.

CRPR: 4 - California Rare Plant Rank 4 (formerly List 4): Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List. Very few of the plants constituting California Rare Plant Rank 4 meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and few, if any, are eligible for state listing. Nevertheless, many of them are significant locally, and CNPS and CDFG strongly recommend that California Rare Plant Rank 4 plants be evaluated for consideration during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Threat Ranks: The CNPS Threat Rank is an extension added onto the California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) and designates the level of endangerment by a 1 to 3 ranking with 1 being the most endangered and 3 being the least endangered. A Threat Rank is present for all California Rare Plant Rank 1B's, 2's, 4's, and the majority of California Rare Plant Rank 3's. California Rare Plant Rank 4 plants are seldom assigned a Threat Rank of 0.1, as they generally have large enough populations to not have significant threats to their continued existence in California; however, certain conditions exist to make the plant a species of concern and hence be assigned a California Rare Plant Rank. In addition, all California Rare Plant Rank 1A (presumed extinct in California), and some California Rare Plant Rank 3 (need more information) plants, which lack threat information, do not have a Threat Rank extension.

0.1 = seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2 = fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

Central/Coastal Orange County Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP): Species that are listed on the Central/Coastal orange County Natural Communities Conservation Plan Covered Species List.

Sources:

- CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2022)
- The Jepson Manual: *Vascular Plants of California*, second edition (Baldwin *et al.* 2012).
- RareFind, CDFW, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (CDFW 2022).
- State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California (CDFW, January 2022).
- State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California (CDFW, January 2022).

- Special Animals List (CDFW, January 2022).
- Life History Accounts (CDFW).
- Sensitive List (BLM)