Biological Resource Assessment for La Mesa Park
City of Santa Barbara Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project

To: The City of Santa Barbara
Parks & Recreation Department

By: SummitWest Environmental, Inc.

Final August 13, 2025

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PROJECT SUMMARY

SummitWest Environmental Inc. (SummitWest) completed biological surveys for rare plant species, special status wildlife species and habitats, vegetation communities and native grasslands, invasive plant species, and conducted coarse waters mapping, in support of the City of Santa Barbara's Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project (Project). These surveys were completed across approximately 36.778 acres comprising three parks; this Biological Resources Assessment (BRA), and the associated geospatial database, detail the findings for La Mesa Park.

In La Mesa Park, zero special status plant species, zero special status wildlife species, seven special status wildlife species' suitable habitats, four vegetation communities (including one sensitive community), two invasive plant species, and one water resource were mapped. Survey results and impact analysis and avoidance and mitigation measures are detailed below.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Santa Barbara Wildfire Resiliency Project, a collaboration between The Parks and Recreation Department and Fire Department, aims to improve the community's fire resilience and reduce the risk and severity of wildfires. To achieve this aim, the project intends to implement a comprehensive and sustainable reduction of hazardous fuels in the High Fire Hazard Areas of the City, in accordance with the objectives stated in the City's 2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP; City, 2021), and vegetation management goals in open space parks. The work area is approximately 36.778 total acres spread across three open spaces: Honda Valley Park, La Mesa Park, and Rattlesnake Canyon Trail Corridor (Figure 1). SummitWest conducted concurrent rare plant surveys, invasive plant surveys, vegetation community and native grassland mapping, and wildlife habitat assessments to identify resources that may be affected by Project activities. Isolated populations of noxious weeds that had not yet gone to seed were removed by hand for up to 60-minutes per park. Coarse waters mapping was also conducted. All Project activities are contingent on compliance with various local, state, and federal legislation.

1.1 Project Location and Setting

La Mesa Park is regionally located within the City of Santa Barbara on the southern coast of California. Santa Barbara is nestled between the Santa Ynez Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, resulting in a diverse topography of hills, valleys, and coastal plains (Figure 1). The Mediterranean climate of the City is characterized by mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. Frequent marine layers are present throughout the summer due to proximity to the ocean. Average temperatures are around the mid-60s°F in winter to the mid-70s°F in summer (NOAA, 1994; Western Regional Climate Center, 2024).

The City of Santa Barbara prioritizes sustainable development and land management, and promotes growth of natural resources as well as historic preservation. Key land uses within the City include

residential, parks and open space (including Goleta Slough Natural Reserve and Shoreline), commercial, institutional, and industrial (County, 2011; County, 2021).

La Mesa Park totals 6.885 acres and is located in the coastal interior zone of the High Fire Hazard Area within Santa Barbara County, approximately 1.4-miles southwest of Highway 101 (Figure 2). The Park is bordered by Meigs Road to the east and Oliver Road within 800 feet to the west. Land use of the surrounding area is residential development and open ocean. La Mesa Park is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Santa Barbara topographic quadrangle in Sections 28 and 29 of Township 4 North and Range 28 West, and Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 045-110-010, 045-110-014. La Mesa Park is centered at approximately 34.397979 latitude and -119.723343 longitude, and elevation of the park ranges from 100 to 160 feet above mean sea level (msl). La Mesa Park soil is made up of Lopez-Rock outcrop complex, 50-70% slopes, which is somewhat excessively drained and derived from Residuum weathered from siliceous shale, as well as Concepcion fine sandy loam, 2-9% slopes, which is moderately well drained and derived from mixed alluvium, parent material (USDA, 2024).

Figure 1. Regional Location Map

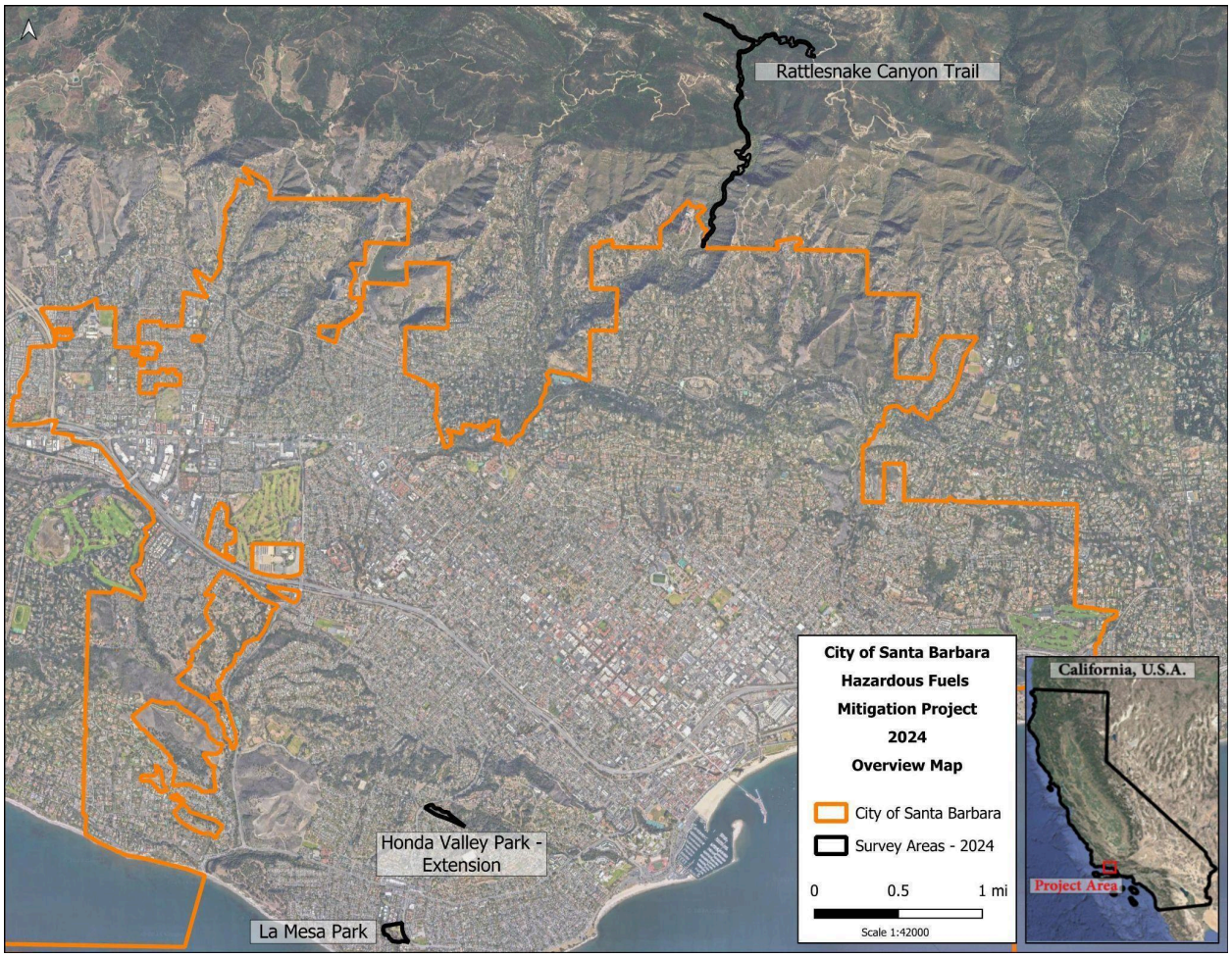


Figure 2. La Mesa Park Survey Area Map

1.2 Project Description

The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department is responsible for implementing the objectives stated in the CWPP. The Fire Department and the Parks and Recreation Department have historically not had the resources available to closely manage and maintain the High Fire Hazard Areas and specified Vegetation Management Units (VMUs) identified in the CWPP. These Departments jointly secured Wildfire Resilience Grants, awarded by the California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy), and CalFire, which provides funding for the Wildfire Resiliency Project, of which this report is a component.

Recognized CWPP VMUs have unique hazards, include or are adjacent to resources threatened by wildfire, have the potential for extreme fire behavior, and pose various challenges for fire protection. Before receiving the Conservancy and CalFire funding referenced herein, City fire crews responded to management needs on a short-term, as needed/quick response basis, without the necessary resources in place for a comprehensive response. Although the Parks and Recreation Department conducts

vegetation management activities to meet defensible space requirements, a comprehensive, sustainable approach is needed.

The Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project aims to reduce fire risk while avoiding disruption of the natural ecosystem via (1) maintaining defensible space around adjacent homes, (2) maintaining and improving the necessary fire access roads/fuel breaks to access High Fire Hazard Areas, (3) vegetation management targeted at high-fire risk invasive species removal and associated native plant restoration efforts, (4) fuel load reduction in at-risk areas, and (5) community outreach and education around fuels management. Site specific biological planning documents need to be in place before the aforementioned Project work can occur.

Vegetation management methods will be implemented on a site-specific basis, including but not limited to: vegetation lifting via hand cutting, weed whipping, tree removal focused on hazardous deadwood and high-fire risk invasive species, chipping, grazing, cutting of mosaic patterns to change the fuels continuity, active restoration (planting of container plants and/or seed application), and passive restoration (promoting the natural succession and recolonization by native/fire resilient species via selective maintenance).

2.0 REGULATORY OVERVIEW

For the objectives of this Biological Resources Assessment, special status botanical or wildlife species are those that are:

- Listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA)
- Listed as rare, threatened, endangered, or candidates for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- Designated as Fully Protected (FP), Species of Special Concern (SSC), or Watch List (WL) by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Listed as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), or Critically Endangered (CR) by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Designated as locally important by the City of Santa Barbara

Additionally, the evaluation of potential impacts on biological resources within the Project will be determined by considering the following legislation:

- FESA (USFWS, 1973)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA; USFWS, 1918)
- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA; USC, 1940)
- Clean Water Act (CWA; USC, 1972)
- CESA (CDFW, 1984)
- California Fish and Game Code (CFGC; CDFW, 1984)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB, 2019)
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code, 1969)
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, 1970)
- County of Santa Barbara General Plan (County, 2011)
- City of Santa Barbara Local Coastal Program Coastal Land Use Plan (City, 2019)
- City of Santa Barbara Urban Forest Management Plan (City, 2014)

2.1 Federal Regulations

Federal Endangered Species Act

The FESA (16 USC § 153 et seq.) safeguards flora and fauna that have been designated as endangered or threatened by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). According to Section 9 of the FESA, it is forbidden to engage in any activities that harm or cause "take" of endangered wildlife. "Take" encompasses actions such as to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct" (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.3). Harm as listed also encompasses habitat modification. Regarding botanical species, this law regulates actions such as removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying endangered plants on federal land, as well as removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying endangered plants on non-federal land, in deliberate defiance of state law (16 U.S. Code [USC] 1538).

Federal agencies are obligated to consult with the USFWS if their activities, inclusive of providing funding or approving permits, could negatively impact any listed or proposed listed plant or wildlife species or critical habitat (Section 7 of the FESA). With discourse and provision of a biological opinion, the USFWS has the authority to grant an incidental "take" permit (ITP), sanctioning the incidental "take" of a sensitive species or its habitat as a result of an otherwise authorized activity, as long as it will not endanger the species' continued survival. Section 10 of the ESA defines the procedure for issuing an ITP in cases where no other federal actions are required, as long as a habitat conservation plan (HCP) is established. Verification of whether the Project will affect sensitive species or their habitat depends on a thorough literature review of the Project area and/or field inspection by a qualified biologist.

No "take" of federally listed endangered or threatened species is proposed in this Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The MBTA, outlined in Section 703-711 of the 16 USC, is implemented by the USFWS. This Act administers international agreements between the United States and other countries created to safeguard migratory birds and their body parts, eggs, and nests from actions such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping. These actions are prohibited unless specifically allowed through regulations or obtained permits. The law currently applies to more than 1,000 species, including most native birds, and covers the destruction or removal of active nests of those species. The USFWS has the authority to grant permits for specific activities, including falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (rehabilitation, education, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), "take" of depredating birds, taxidermy, and waterfowl sale and disposal (50 CFR 13 and 50 CFR 21).

Bald and Gold Eagle Protection Act

The BGEPA, as specified in Section 668 of 16 USC, is implemented by the USFWS. The BGEPA is aimed at safeguarding both bald and golden eagles, and creates legal consequences for individuals who "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof." In the context of the BGEPA, "take" includes the activities to "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb."

Clean Water Act

The CWA (Title 33 USC Sections 1251-1376) offers direction for restoration and preservation of the "chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters," which included oceans, bays, rivers, perennial and non-perennial streams, lakes, ponds, and seasonal and perennial wetlands. Section 404 of the CWA forbids the discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States (U.S.) unless a

permit is administered by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The term "fill material" denotes any substance mainly used to replace an aquatic area with dry land or to modify the bottom elevation of a water body. The phrase "Waters of the U.S." encompasses rivers, streams, estuaries, the territorial seas, ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Perennial and intermittent creeks are considered Waters of the U.S. if they are hydrologically connected to other navigable, jurisdictional waters.

The USACE also enforces Executive Order 11990, which is a federal policy aimed at ensuring there is no overall reduction of wetland value or acreage. In support of the CWA, the USACE strives to prevent negative impacts and mitigate unavoidable negative impacts on existing aquatic resources. Any release of dredged or fill material into wetlands and waterways that impact Waters of the U.S. necessitates a permit from the USACE prior to commencing work. Achieving the goal of no overall reduction of wetland value or acreage is accomplished through avoidance and minimization measures to the utmost extent possible, as well as through compensatory mitigation measures that will generate or amplify similar habitats.

The USACE has the authority to grant an individual permit or a general permit. Significant effects to wetlands may necessitate obtaining an individual permit; however, projects with only minimal effects on wetlands may satisfy the criteria of one of the preexisting Nationwide Permits. Activities that necessitate a Section 404 permit require a Section 401 Water Quality Certification or waiver prior to receiving the Section 404 permit. This certification confirms compliance with state water quality standards, including beneficial uses (23 CCR § 3830, et seq), and is administered by the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) and by each of nine California RWQCB.

2.2 State and Local Regulations

California Endangered Species Act

CESA closely aligns with the statutes of the FESA, but CESA also applies "take" prohibitions to species that are state candidates for listing. CESA states that "all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation, will be protected or preserved." Additionally, under CESA, "take" is defined as "to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill" an individual of a species, but this description does not include indirect impacts to species such as "harm" or "harass," like the FESA does. CDFW is responsible for administration of CESA, and is dedicated to collaborating with individuals, agencies, and institutions to safeguard and conserve special status species and their habitats. CDFW has created lists of species categorized as California endangered, threatened, and candidate, and there is some overlap with the FESA lists.

CDFW has the authority to grant an ITP (CFGC section 2080.1), sanctioning the incidental "take" of a sensitive species as a result of an otherwise authorized activity, as long as it will not endanger the species' continued survival. Additionally, applying for an ITP involves prerequisites such as outlining measures to minimize potential "take", as well as detailing strategies for mitigating "take" of listed species. CESA stresses the importance of early discourse to prevent potential impacts on rare, endangered, and threatened species, and to create suitable mitigation measures to offset any loss of listed species caused by Project activities. Verification of whether the Project will affect sensitive species depends on a thorough literature review of the Project area and/or field inspection by a qualified biologist.

Another type of special status species designated by the CDFW is "Species of Special Concern" (SSC), which is a classification for species that act as indicators of regional habitat alterations or have potential to become future protected species. SSC are not granted any specific legal standing, other than distinct Sections of CFGC described below. Classification as SSC is helpful for management because it allows CDFW to consider these species when making decisions regarding the development of natural landscapes.

CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c) is a resource that tracks all species of concern, referred to as "special status species" regardless of their specific protection status. CDFW regards the species on this list as requiring the highest level of conservation.

No "take" of state listed endangered or threatened species or candidate species is proposed in this Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project.

California Fish and Game Code

- The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) (CFGC §§ 1900-1913) was established to determine which plant species qualify for state listing. Qualified species include those with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1A, 1B, and 2, which fulfill the requirements of sections 1901, Chapter 10 (NPPA) or sections 2062 and 2067 (CESA) of the CFGC. CDFW administers the NPPA and defines the standards that designate a species, subspecies, or variety of native plant as endangered or rare.
- Sections 1600-1616 of the CFGC regulate activities that may alter any part of "Waters of the State", which includes the flow, bed, banks, channel, or associated riparian areas of a river, stream, or lake. Specifically, Section 1602 of the CFGC necessitates that a Notification of Lake and Streambed Alteration shall be presented to CDFW for "any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake." This may include activities that will affect the edge of riparian vegetation connected to the banks. After reviewing the proposed Project activities, CDFW may submit measures for the Project to implement that are required to safeguard aquatic species and biological resources that may be impacted by the Project activities. The final resulting mutual

agreement between CDFW and the Project applicant is a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). Frequently, Projects requiring an SAA from CDFW will also require a CWA Section 404 Permit from the USACE, and the components of both may overlap.

- The CDFW ensures the safeguarding of nongame native birds in CFGC Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800. Additionally, Section 3513 of the CFGC forbids the ownership or "take" of birds listed under the MBTA. Together, these Sections sanction the preservation of almost all California nongame native birds, not exclusively special status birds, as well as their nests, eggs, and parts.
- CFGC Sections 3511 4700, 5050, and 5515 safeguard Fully Protected (FP) bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, and fish species, and forbid any harm, possession, or "take" of any of these species. An ITP may not be obtained from CDFW for FP species, so any Project activities that could impact FP species must be entirely avoided.

Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Central Coastal Basin

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1967 (California Water Code § 13000 et seq.) requires the SWQCB and the nine RWQCBs to establish water quality standards to preserve Waters of the State. These standards include defining beneficial uses, formulating descriptive and numerical water quality criteria, and outlining administrative strategies. For each RWQCB, specific water quality control plans are developed, delineating policies, objectives, and water management practices that align with the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. As mentioned in the Federal CWA section above, the RWQCB also issues Water Quality Certifications in accordance with Section 401 for all waters under federal authority. The SWQCB manages discharges and safeguards water quality of "isolated" Waters of the State through Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) (USC, 1972).

California Environmental Quality Act

The following guidelines derived from the Initial Study checklist within Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines were used to determine the degree of environmental impact imposed by the Project. Based on these standards, significant impact to biological resources can be assumed if the Project would:

- have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS;
- 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 CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;

- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; and
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP.

When assessing whether there will be significant impacts on a biological resource, it is crucial to consider both the resource and its role within the broader local or regional environment. A significant impact includes any impact that reduces or causes loss of a biological resource, or is inconsistent with any local, state, or federal mandates, objectives, or conservation plans. Occasionally, an impact may be locally significant due to negative modification of existing environments, but not significant per CEQA due to lack of considerable reduction or indefinite loss of that resource on a population- or region-wide basis.

City of Santa Barbara General Plan

The main purpose of the General Plan is to aid the City in becoming more sustainable, and to "enhance and preserve the City's critical ecological resources in order to provide a high quality environment necessary to sustain the City's ecosystem." The General Plan helps City officials, planners, and residents make informed decisions that ensures they are "efficiently and effectively managing and protecting…natural and physical resources." Environmental protection goals include initiatives to: create a climate change action plan; protect native trees (especially oaks); protect, maintain, and expand diverse native plant and wildlife habitats; and protect and restore creeks and riparian corridors. Specifically, biological resource policies include:

- 1.0 A set of land use suitability guidelines shall be developed for use in land planning and the environmental review process.
- 2.0 Redevelopment and renovation of the central City shall be encouraged in order to preserve existing resources.
- 3.0 Goleta Slough shall be preserved and restored as a coastal wetland ecosystem.
- 4.0 Remaining Coastal Perennial Grasslands and Southern Oak Woodlands shall be preserved, where feasible.
- 5.0 The habitats of rare and endangered species shall be preserved.
- 6.0 Intertidal and marine resources shall be maintained or enhanced.
- 7.0 Prime agricultural lands shall be conserved wherever possible and expansion of agricultural uses shall be allowed subject to maximizing compatibility with adjacent land uses and restricting effects on the environment.
- 8.0 The use of City-owned vacant properties for community gardens shall be encouraged.
- 9.0 The biotic resources of the Harbor shall be maintained, so far as possible within the framework of the Local Coastal Program (LCP) and other Harbor Restoration plans.
- 10.0 Programs shall be developed to maintain a productive urban biotic community.
- 11.0 Where Biological Resources policies conflict, the policy most protective of the natural environment shall prevail.

City of Santa Barbara Local Coastal Program Coastal Land Use Plan

The City of Santa Barbara Local Coastal Program (LCP) Coastal Land Use Plan (CLUP) describes the developmental and land use management standards within the coastal areas throughout the City of Santa Barbara. The LCP is the planning framework required by the California Coastal Act to equalize development with resource protection along the coast. The CLUP ensures responsible and sustainable land use while preserving the environment and its natural resources. Regulations for development activities and/or land uses and implementation measures that aid in protection of resources within the coastal zone are included within the CLUP.

City of Santa Barbara Urban Forest Management Plan

The main purpose of the City of Santa Barbara Urban Forest Management Plan (Plan) is to preserve, manage, and enhance urban forests throughout the City. The Plan can have the greatest influence on the approximately 20% of the urban forest that exists on City property. Together with the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department, Community Development Department, and Fire Department, the City is able to adequately manage urban forest landscapes. Municipal codes and Objectives within the Plan describe protective and implementation measures that promote maintenance and mitigation of impact to urban forests.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Literature Review

Prior to conducting fieldwork, SummitWest biologists performed a literature review of the Project areas using a 6-quad search of CDFW's Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS), the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; CDFW, 2024a; CDFW, 2024b), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants and Vegetation Alliance Manual (CNPS 2024a; CNPS 2024b). Other resources investigated include A Manual of California Vegetation, 2nd edition (Sawyer et al., 2009), Calflora (2024), Special Animals List (CDFW, 2024c), and State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California (CDFW, 2024d). These searches identified special status species and vegetative communities, notable water resources, and critical wildlife habitat with potential to occur in the Survey Area. Results of this review directed the scope and details of field surveys.

3.2 Reference Site Checks

In preparation for field surveys, SummitWest lead botanist Margaret Gallagher conducted one reference site check prior to the first round of botany surveys, and SummitWest support botanist Alex Aylard conducted one reference site check prior to the second round of botany surveys, to determine plant species' bloom windows, characteristics, and site-specific phenology. On April 6, 2024, Ms. Gallagher

visited five different sites known to contain the target species (34.51911, -119.75268; 34.51939, -119.75054; 34.47382, -119.73679; 34.27818, -119.31216; 34.2334 -119.1726) to obtain visual confirmation of the species and their associated habitats, and confirm the correct time of year to begin surveying for early- to mid-season blooming species. On June 24, 2024, Mr. Aylard visited five different sites known to contain the target species (34.51376, -119.80416; 34.5138056, -119.8041944; 34.497060, -119.716118; 34.421187, -119.867356; 34.757501, -120.514958) to obtain visual confirmation of the species and their associated habitats, and confirm the correct time of year to begin surveying for late-season blooming species.

3.3 Biological Reconnaissance Surveys

Biological reconnaissance surveys were completed by walking parallel and meandering transects ranging from 30 to 60 feet apart depending on terrain and visibility, to ensure comprehensive coverage of La Mesa Park. Botanists mapped all observed invasive plant species, rare plant species, and vegetation alliances utilizing existing protocols (CNPS, 2001; USFWS, 2000; CDFW, 2018). Ubiquitous and common invasives that have little likelihood of being controlled and were not on the target list were generally not mapped. Obvious ornamental plantings were not included in the plants lists and not mapped as weeds unless known to be invasive. No invasive plants were removed during surveys in La Mesa Park because they were either already fruiting or toxic. After surveys were completed, botanists determined and mapped areas recommended for invasive plant removal. Species noted as Group 1 for removal are those that are easily controlled and, either early or not yet established infestations, or aggressive spreaders with high invasiveness. Species noted as Group 2 for removal are those that are either somewhat established or a single occurrence and can be controlled fairly easily, or large and well-established but difficult to remove. Wildlife biologists mapped all observed sensitive species and their suitable habitat. Water resources observed were coarsely mapped when present, but jurisdictional delineations were not completed. All mapped occurrences and representative photographs were recorded utilizing ESRI Field Maps, with each species identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible. Percent of individuals in each life stage was recorded for special-status plant populations.

SummitWest wildlife biologist David Tafoya surveyed the site on April 22, 2024, and SummitWest botanist Margaret Gallagher surveyed the site on April 15, 2024 and July 17, 2024. Areas with limited access, dense poison oak populations, or dangerous terrain were surveyed utilizing binoculars instead of walking pedestrian transects.

3.4 Focused Surveys

SummitWest did not conduct any protocol-level follow-up surveys for sensitive species.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Literature Review

The comprehensive literature review revealed 42 special status wildlife and 27 special status plants with potential to occur throughout the Project or surrounding areas (Appendix D). Additionally, 198 invasive plant species were determined to have the potential to occur throughout the Project or surrounding areas. Sensitive vegetation alliances have not been previously mapped within the Project Area.

4.2 Reference Site Checks

During the first reference site check at five sites on April 6, 2024, one target species was observed in both budding and flowering states, one target species was observed in a vegetative state, and nine target species were not observed but are either able to be identified by foliage or have wide bloom windows. The lead botanist determined that the first round of botany surveys should commence in mid-April to ensure the highest probability of identifying all target species. During the second reference site check at five different sites on June 24, 2024, two target species were observed in a flowering state, and one target species was observed in both vegetative and budding states. The lead botanist determined that botany surveys for late-blooming species should begin in mid-July to ensure the highest probability of identifying all target species.

4.3 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

Federal, state, and local agencies necessitate an on-site evaluation of special status species presence or potential to occur before any Project activities may commence. Below SummitWest describes all special status and sensitive species and resources observed or with high potential to occur in the Survey Area. All determinations for potential occurrence were based on results of the literature review and results of the reconnaissance surveys, and are described in detail in Appendix D. The following categories were utilized to determine the potential for each special status species to occur in the Survey Area:

- **Present/Occurs:** Species or positive sign has been observed on-site during reconnaissance surveys
- **Likely:** Suitable habitat for the species is present on-site and the site is within the geographic range of the species, implying the species is highly likely to be present on site; and/or the species has been recorded on-site or within a two-mile (plants) or five-mile (wildlife) radius within the last twenty years (CDFW 2024a, CDFW 2024b, and CNPS 2024a, CNPS 2024b)
- **Unlikely:** Site may be within geographic range of the species, but suitable habitat for the species is minimal and/or the species has not been recorded on-site within the last twenty years (CDFW 2024a, CDFW 2024b, and CNPS 2024a, CNPS 2024b)
- **Does not Occur:** Species has not been observed on-site during reconnaissance surveys and suitable habitat for the species is not present on-site. Site is outside of geographical and elevational ranges of species.

Rare Plant Species

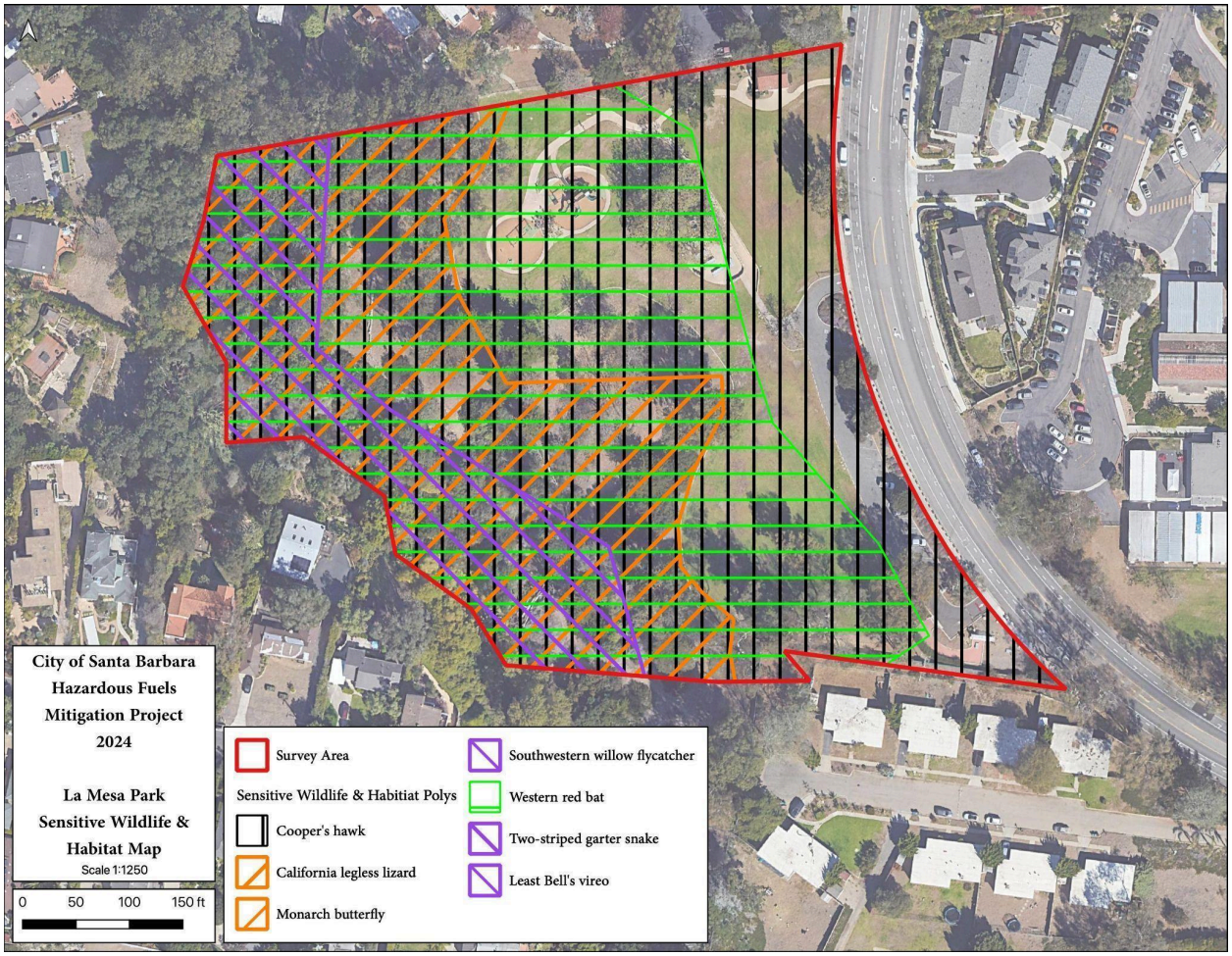
Although 27 special status plant species were revealed in the literature review as having potential to occur within the Project (Appendix D), zero special status plant species were observed or are considered to be Present/Occurs within the Survey Area. A compendium of all plant species observed during reconnaissance surveys can be found in Appendix B.

Special Status Wildlife Species and Habitat

Although 42 special status wildlife species were revealed in the literature review as having potential to occur within the Project (Appendix D), zero special status wildlife species were observed within the Survey Area. The Survey Area provides adequate habitat for nesting birds and is a known monarch overwintering site, per the Xerces Society Western Monarch Count Site ID 2771.

Suitable habitat was mapped for seven species, which are considered likely to occur in the Survey Area (Figure 3; Appendix D): Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii)*, California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), overwintering Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus* pop. 1), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus frantzii*), two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondii*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Representative photographs can be found in Appendix A. A compendium of all wildlife species observed during reconnaissance surveys can be found in Appendix C.

Figure 3. La Mesa Park Sensitive Wildlife and Habitat Map



Vegetation Communities

Five different vegetation alliances were observed within the Survey Area (Figure 4). One of these vegetation alliances (*Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade berry) Shrubland Alliance) is considered a sensitive community. Vegetation communities follow nomenclature of Sawyer et al. (2009), as updated by CDFW VegCAMP and the online edition hosted by CNPS (CNPS, 2024a).

***Avena spp. - Bromus sp*. (Wild oats and annual brome grasslands) Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance**

The wild oats and annual brome grassland herbaceous semi-natural alliance covers approximately 0.179 acres of the Survey Area (Figure 4). This alliance may include scattered shrubs and trees at low cover. Typical topography includes foothills, rangelands, and openings in woodlands. The canopy is open, with greater than 80% herbaceous understory comprised of many typical nonnative grassland species. Within this alliance in the Survey Area, common species include: wild oat (*Avena fatua*), ripgut grass (*Bromus*

diandrus), panic veldt grass (*Ehrharta erecta*), farmer's foxtail (*Hordeum murinum*), annual blue grass (*Poa annua*), and prickly sowthistle (*Sonchus asper*).

***Eucalyptus spp. - Ailanthus altissima - Robinia pseudoacacia* (Eucalyptus, tree of heaven, and black locust groves) Woodland Semi-Natural Alliance**

Eucalyptus, tree of heaven, and black locust groves semi-natural alliance covers approximately 0.841 acres of the Survey Area (Figure 4). These trees are often fast-growing and long-lived, with understories that can be depauperate due to allelopathic chemicals and debris accumulation. The canopy is open to continuous, with a sparse to intermittent shrub and herbaceous layer. Eucalyptus comprised approximately 35% cover at over 50 meters high, with approximately 20% herbaceous understory. Both the tree of heaven and black locust were not observed during the survey. This alliance is typically planted as trees, groves, and windbreaks; naturalized on uplands or bottomlands; and adjacent to stream courses, lakes, or levees. Within this alliance in the Survey Area, common species include ripgut brome, farmer's foxtail, blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), and lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*).

***Quercus agrifolia* (Coast live oak) Woodland Alliance**

The coast live oak woodland and forest alliance covers approximately 1.131 acres of the Survey Area (Figure 4). The canopy is open with trees greater than 30 meters tall and a sparse shrub and herbaceous layer. Typical topography includes canyon bottoms, slopes, and flats. Within this alliance in the Survey Area, common species include: English ivy (*Hedera helix*), christmas berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), coast live oak, and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). No special status species were observed within this alliance in the Survey Area.

***Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade berry) Shrubland Alliance**

Lemonade berry shrubland alliance covers approximately 0.903 acres of the Survey Area (Figure 4). The canopy is open to continuous with an open herbaceous layer and shrubs greater than 5 meters. Typical topography includes slopes and coastal bluffs. This shrubland alliance is a sensitive community with a status of G3S3. Status G3 represents a global rank of vulnerable and status S3 represents a state rank of vulnerable. In both cases, the alliance is at moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. Within this alliance in the Survey Area, common species include ripgut brome, lemonade berry, blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*; alternate name *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), and coast live oak (see representative photos in Appendix A).

Developed

Developed area covers approximately 3.831 acres of the Survey Area, and includes lawn, parking lot, paths, paved picnic area, playground, and landscaping.

Invasive Plant Species

The literature review revealed 198 invasive plant species have potential to occur throughout Santa Barbara County. During surveys at La Mesa Park, two invasive plant species were identified and mapped (Figure 5). These species include Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*; 2 points totalling 16 individuals) and castor bean (*Ricinus communis*; 1 polygon with 100 individuals).

Invasive species recommended as first priority (Group 1) and second priority (Group 2) for treatment were identified and mapped (Figure 6); there were no observations of first priority (Group 1) species. A comprehensive species compendium of all plants observed during reconnaissance surveys can be found in Appendix B.

Figure 4. La Mesa Park Vegetation Community and Native Grassland Map

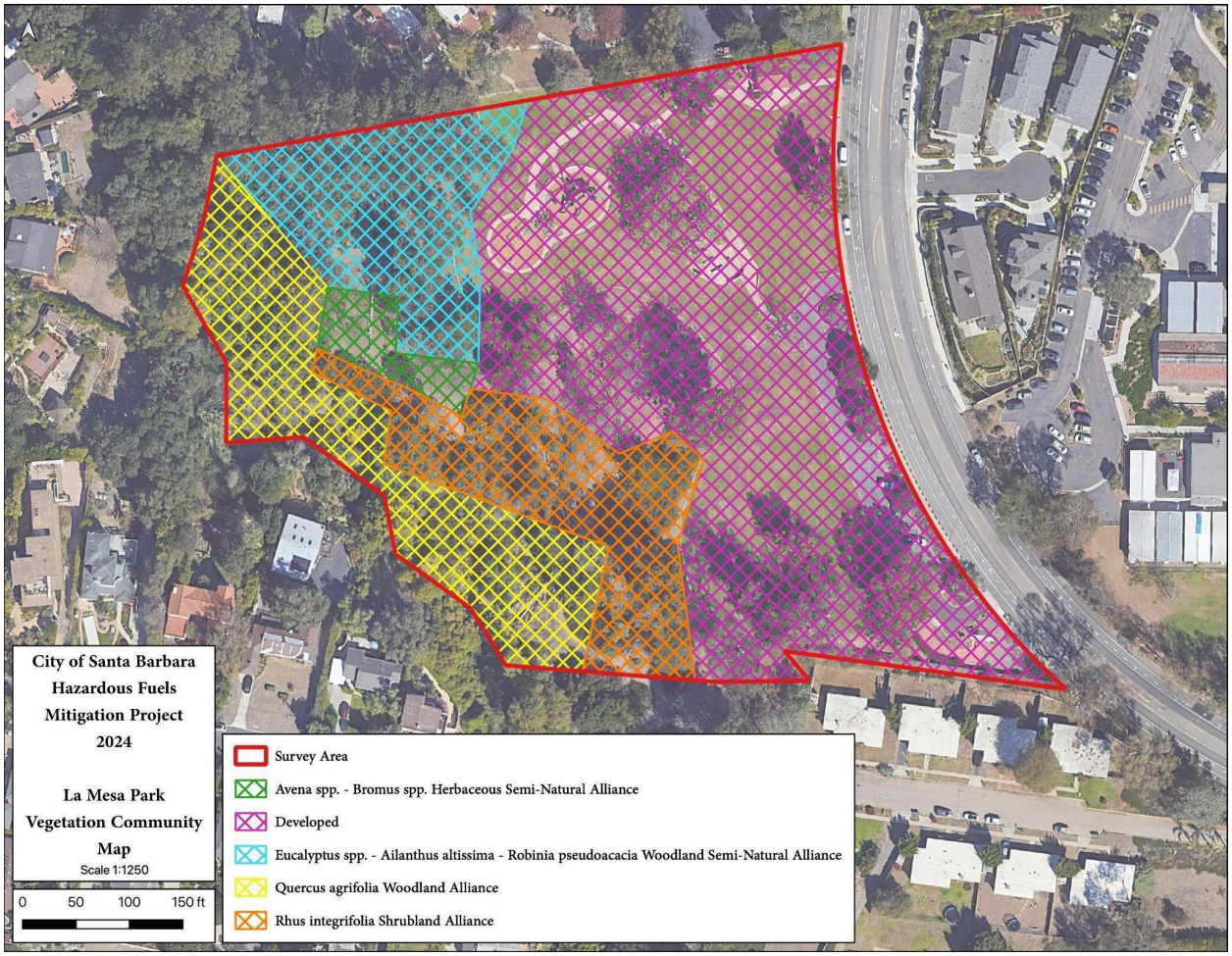


Figure 5. La Mesa Park Invasive Plant Map

Figure 6. La Mesa Park Invasive Plant Target Removal Map

4.4 Water Resources

A riparian corridor with an intermittent stream was observed within the Study Area, extending from the northwest to the southwest corners of the park (Figure 7). This stream is located on Santa Barbara Coastal Watershed Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 18060013, generally flows southeast, and exits out of the Survey Area to the Pacific Ocean (USGS 2024). The stream has vegetation characterized as having a relatively dense canopy made of mixed trees, including oaks, eucalyptus, and palms, and a somewhat open understory of mostly poison oak and ivy. The channel is generally rocky and sandy. Surveyors observed signs of wildlife using the riparian corridor, including nesting birds and an eastern fox squirrel. Representative photographs can be found in Appendix A.

Figure 7. La Mesa Park Water Resources Map

4.5 Wildlife Movement

La Mesa Park is not located within any known wildlife corridor or linkage. However, it is less than 1 mile southeast of Elings Park, which is considered a Core Area for habitat connectivity and restoration. Furthermore, this Core Area is adjacent to the Arroyo Burro, which is a creek and estuary that Santa Barbara recognizes is important to conserve to maintain habitat connectivity to the mountain areas north of the City. There is little direct evidence from SummitWest's single survey that wildlife species are using any drainages or culverts to move between La Mesa Park and these adjacent wild areas.

4.6 Habitat Conservation Plan

No Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan exists for this Project.

5.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS AND AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

5.1 Special Status Species

Any activities involving vegetation removal such as grazing, chain and hand saws, hand pushed or small riding mowers, and weed whips in sensitive vegetation communities could have a significant negative impact on the sensitive vegetation community *Rhus integrifolia* Shrubland Alliance (G3S3). Additionally, activities involving Project equipment movement and noise, or removal of special status wildlife habitat or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) could have a significant negative impact on special status wildlife species. To mitigate any potential impacts, the following mitigation and avoidance measures are recommended:

1. A Project-specific Worker Environmental Awareness Prevention (WEAP) Training shall be prepared by a biologist familiar with the Project and presented to all persons working on the Project. The WEAP will inform workers on all special status wildlife and plant species that may be present in the Project Area, and explain all mitigation and avoidance measures required to prevent and/or lessen impact. Instructions will also be given on how to proceed if an accidental injury occurs to a special status wildlife species or if damage occurs to an ESHA or special status plant species. A record of all personnel who attend the training will be maintained.
2. A general pre-activity survey for all special status wildlife and plant species must be completed within 10 days of Project work commencement.
3. Use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during any Project activity, including but not limited to:
    a. All equipment used on site shall be properly maintained such that no leaks of oil, fuel, or residues will occur. Additionally, supplies shall be on-hand to remedy any accidental spills in both the terrestrial and aquatic environments.
    b. All equipment used on site shall be properly operated to prevent extraneous dust or runoff.
    c. Food waste and other Project related trash shall be contained in secured waste bins and regularly removed from the Project site to prevent attraction of special status species.
    d. All Project equipment shall be thoroughly cleaned before entering and before leaving the site to prevent the spread of invasive species that may displace native wildlife or native plant species.
    e. A speed limit of 10 miles per hour (mph) shall be maintained by all vehicles and equipment to prevent direct strikes of special status species.
    f. Only designated areas shall be utilized for staging of equipment.
    g. The Work Area shall be delineated by the crew, and work shall not occur outside of these boundaries.
    h. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
    i. Firearms and pets are prohibited within the Project Area.
4. All Project activities shall occur within Project limits.

5. Any pesticides or herbicides necessary for Project activities shall only be used after an exemption from the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee is obtained.
6. During the Nesting Bird Season (February 1-September 30):
    a. Ideally, vegetation removal and initial ground disturbance shall occur outside of the nesting bird season.
    b. If work must occur during the nesting bird season, a survey for nesting birds within 500 feet of the Project must be completed within 72 hours of Project activities by a qualified biologist. If the Project area has been inactive for more than 7 days, the nesting bird survey shall be repeated.
        i. All nests observed shall have a no-disturbance buffer placed at the appropriate distance for the species (300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors, unless otherwise designated by the qualified biologist) until all young have fledged (are independent of the nest).
        ii. If nests are present, a weekly spot check shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to ensure avoidance and update fledge status.
7. A daytime survey for bat roosts must be completed within 10 days of Project work.
    a. Within the peak season (maternity season April 15-August 14), when bats are present, all potential roosting habitat shall endure exclusion or humane eviction procedures, implemented by a qualified bat biologist.
    b. If bat roosts are confirmed to be present within the Project area:
        i. And non-breeding or migratory bats are identified from February 15- April 14 or August 15-October 31 within a tree or structure that will be impacted by Project activities, the bats shall be passively excluded by a qualified bat biologist. Generally one-way doors or exclusion materials may be implemented. All bats must be confirmed to have departed the roost prior to work commencement.
        ii. And an occupied maternity roost is identified from April 15-August 14 and/or an occupied hibernation roost is identified from November 1-February 14, a no-disturbance buffer of an appropriate distance shall be implemented by the qualified bat biologist until the site is no longer occupied or Project activities in the area are completed.
            1. If the work must be completed within the no-disturbance buffer during these dates, a qualified biologist must be present for activities occurring within the buffer to ensure bats are not impacted by Project activities, including noise.
8. All open-ended Project materials such as pipes shall be capped to prevent wildlife entrapment or breeding.
9. If a special status wildlife species needs to be relocated out of the Project Area, a biologist qualified to handle and relocate that species must create and implement a relocation plan before work may continue in that area.

10. To the extent feasible, control invasive, non-native vegetation that threatens native trees in riparian areas and open space parks.
11. Any landscaping shall prevent the spread of invasive species and will prioritize planting of native species.
12. For tree pruning, follow guidelines set forth in the Urban Forest Management Plan (City, 2014).
13. Adhere to Biological Resource Policies ER11 and ER12.1 in the General Plan (County, 2011), and defensible space requirements and/or vegetation management plans in the CWPP (City, 2021).
14. All Project activities shall avoid removal of mapped special status plant species.
    a.
    b. If avoidance of direct impacts cannot be achieved, additional measures such as habitat creation, restoration, and/or enhancement activities will be required at a 4:1 ratio (area restored to area impacted) for permanent impacts or at a 1:1 ratio for temporary impacts. All mitigation sites shall be monitored for a period of no less than five years following completion.
        i. As outlined in Coastal Act Section 30240, Policy 4.1-13, "Where mature native trees (four inches [4"] in diameter or greater at four feet six inches [4'-6"] above grade in height) are substantially impacted or removed, they should be replaced at a minimum 10:1 ratio for oak trees and a minimum 5:1 ratio for all other native trees or other trees providing habitat for sensitive species." (City, 2019).
15. Any restoration planting sites should be maintained from invasive plant species, with species identification and hand removal, as needed.
16. Within habitat considered suitable for monarch overwintering season (generally October through March; Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Western Monarch Overwintering Science Priority Themes 23-019_02, 2023) large trees are subject to Coastal Act Section 30240 Lower, large ladder fuels shall be surveyed for the presence of monarchs, and may be removed if they are determined to be unoccupied by a biologist. Young eucalyptus may be removed to aid in fuels reduction. During the overwintering season with monarchs on site, work within the understory should aim to minimize noise disturbance.
17. If project constraints allow, a desirable long-term strategy for active restoration may be the following successional approach: (1) identify an open site adjacent to the area slated for future targeted vegetation removal. (2) Establish native woody vegetation in the adjacent area, and prevent predation and invasive plant species takeover. (3) Once woody vegetation is at a sufficient height for Monarch overwintering, strategically remove vegetation from the target area. This approach allows for a replacement of Monarch overwintering habitat with desirable vegetation, whilst minimising the potential habitat void created by the removal of undesirable vegetation.
18. Follow-up rare plant surveys by a qualified botanist are required if Project activities are not completed within 5 years of the initial surveys.

19. All burrows that are considered potential overwintering habitat or refuge for two-striped gartersnake (generally near associated vegetation of oak woodland, willow, coastal sage scrub, scrub oak, sparse pine, chaparral, and brushland) shall be flagged and avoided.

5.2 Water Resources

The stream and riparian corridor mapped within the Survey Area may be considered Other Waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of USACE and RWQCB under the CWA as well as a streambed per CDFW Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616. Full avoidance of the stream is recommended during all Project activities aside from removing dead and downed materials or invasive plant species (by hand removal), which will not impact the banks or channel of the drainage. If the Project will impact this stream, a Section 404 CWA permit and formal Jurisdictional Delineation for wetlands and Waters of the U.S. will be required to be submitted to the USACE. Additionally, a Streambed Alteration Agreement may be required from CDFW. If the Project requires general vegetation management within the stream, the following measures shall be followed:

A. To the extent feasible, all work near a creek shall be conducted when surface water is absent.
B. Vegetation shall not be thinned, removed, or pruned, nor shall dead wood be removed, within 50 feet of a creek channel when flowing water is present.
C. The only plants that can be removed from a creek bed (that is, below the line of the ordinary high water mark) are live or dead eucalyptus trees and dead native shrubs/trees that are deemed to be a fire hazard, and invasive exotics (including, but not limited to giant reed).
D. Cut stems, tree trunks or other vegetative debris shall not be dragged across a creek bed that contains riparian vegetation, wetlands, or surface water.
E. No trees shall be felled across a creek while there is flowing water.
F. No eucalyptus chipping or cut stems shall be left on the creek banks or any upper stream terrace, when present.
G. Chipped vegetation shall not be placed on creek banks, unless a qualified biologist determines that placement of the chipping would provide needed erosion protection without an adverse impact on aquatic habitats and water quality in the creek. Plant chippings can be spread outside the top of the bank.
H. Entities performing vegetation management activities within a stream shall notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. and shall obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) if determined to be necessary prior to initiating work within CDFW's jurisdiction. If not already completed, a jurisdictional delineation will be necessary to determine which areas fall under CDFW's jurisdiction.
    a. Any activity that would alter the banks or channel, aside from vegetation removal as described above in Section 5.2.C, within 50 feet of the Creek banks or channel may not occur until a Jurisdictional Delineation determines if an LSAA is necessary.

5.3 Wildlife Movement

It is not anticipated that the Project activities will adversely impact wildlife movement; therefore, no associated mitigation or avoidance measures are suggested.

5.4 Habitat Conservation Plan

Because Project activities within La Mesa Park will not occur within a Habitat Conservation Plan, no associated mitigation or avoidance measures are suggested.

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APPENDIX A - REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1. Suitable habitat within La Mesa Park for California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), legless lizard (*Anniella* spp.), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus frantzii*), two-striped gartersnake (*Thamnophis hammondii*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) observed during reconnaissance surveys on April 22, 2024.

Photo 2. Suitable habitat within La Mesa Park for overwintering Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus* pop. 1) observed during reconnaissance surveys on April 22, 2024.

Photo 3. *Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade berry) Shrubland Alliance (G3S3) observed in La Mesa Park during reconnaissance surveys on April 15, 2024.

Photo 4. Stream and riparian corridor observed in La Mesa Park during reconnaissance surveys on April 22, 2024.

APPENDIX B - BOTANICAL SPECIES COMPENDIUM

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native?
Ambrosia psilostachya	Western ragweed	Native
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	Native
Asparagus asparagoides	African asparagus fern	Not Native
Avena fatua	Wild oat	Not Native
Bromus catharticus var. *catharticus*	Rescue grass	Not Native
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut grass	Not Native
Bromus sitchensis var. *carinatus*	California brome	Native
Carpobrotus edulis	Freeway iceplant	Not Native
Chenopodium murale	Nettle leaf goosefoot	Not Native
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock	Not Native
Cotoneaster pannosus	Silverleaf cotoneaster	Not Native
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass	Not Native
Cyperus eragrostis	Tall cyperus	Native
Ehrharta erecta	Panic veldtgrass	Not Native
Elymus triticoides	Beardless wild rye	Native
Erigeron bonariensis	Flax-leaved horseweed	Not Native
Erigeron canadensis	Canada horseweed	Native
Erodium moschatum	Greenstem filaree	Not Native
Eucalyptus globulus	Blue gum	Not Native
Euphorbia peplus	Petty spurge	Not Native
Festuca myuros	Rattail sixweeks grass	Not Native
Fraxinus uhdei	Shamel ash	Not Native
Fumaria officinalis	Drug fumitory	Not Native
Gastridium phleoides	Nit grass	Not Native
Hedera canariensis	Canary Islands Ivy	Not Native
Hedera helix	English ivy	Not Native
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Christmas berry	Native
Hordeum murinum	Farmer's foxtail	Not Native
Lysimachia arvensis	Scarlet pimpernel	Not Native
Malva nicaeensis	Bull mallow	Not Native
Malva parviflora	Cheeseweed mallow	Not Native
Marah macrocarpa	Chilicothe	Native
Medicago polymorpha	California burclover	Not Native
Melilotus sp.	Sweetclover	Not Native
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda buttercup	Not Native

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native?
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island palm	Not Native
Pinus sp.	Pine	Variable; species dependent
Pittosporum crassifolium	Stiffleaf cheesewood	Not Native
Pittosporum undulatum	Mock orange	Not Native
Platanus racemosa	California sycamore	Native
Poa annua	Annual blue grass	Not Native
Poa pratensis subsp. *pratensis*	Kentucky blue grass	Not Native
Polygonum aviculare	Prostrate knotweed	Not Native
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum	Jersey cudweed	Not Native
Quercus agrifolia var. *agrifolia*	California live oak	Native
Raphanus sativus	Cultivated radish	Not Native
Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade berry	Native
Ricinus communis	Castor bean	Not Native
Rubus ursinus	California blackberry	Native
Rumex crispus	Curly dock	Not Native
Sambucus nigra subsp. *caerulea*	Blue elderberry (formerly *Sambucus mexicana*)	Native
Schinus molle	Peruvian pepper tree	Not Native
Sisyrinchium bellum	Western blue eyed grass	Native
Solanum americanum	American black nightshade	Native
Solanum douglasii	Douglas' nightshade	Native
Sonchus asper subsp. *asper*	Prickly sow thistle	Not Native
Spergularia rubra	Purple sand spurry	Not Native
Stellaria media	Chickweed	Not Native
Stipa lepida	Foothill needle grass	Native
Taraxacum officinale	Common dandelion	Not Native
Toxicodendron diversilobum	Poison oak	Native
Tropaeolum majus	Garden nasturtium	Not Native
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican fan palm	Not Native

APPENDIX C - WILDLIFE SPECIES COMPENDIUM

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native?
Adelpha californica	California sister	Native
Aphelocoma californica	California Scrub-jay	Native
Apis mellifera	Western honey bee	Not Native
Baeolophus inornatus	Oak Titmouse	Native
Bombus vosnesenskii	Yellow-faced bumble bee	Native
Calypte anna	Anna's Hummingbird	Native
Columba livia	Rock Pigeon	Native
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow	Native
Empidonax difficilis	Western Flycatcher	Native
Haemorhous mexicanus	House Finch	Native
Leiothlypis celata	Orange-crowned Warbler	Native
Lon melane	Umber skipper	Native
Melospiza melodia	Song Sparrow	Native
Melozone crissalis	California Towhee	Native
Papilio rutulus	Western tiger swallowtail	Native
Pieris rapae	Cabbage white	Not Native
Pipilo maculatus	Spotted Towhee	Native
Psaltriparus minimus	Bushtit	Native
Pseudacris regilla	Pacific chorus frog	Native
Sayornis nigricans	Black Phoebe	Native
Sceloporus occidentalis	Western fence lizard	Native
Sciurus niger	Eastern fox squirrel	Not Native
Selasphorus sasin	Allen's Hummingbird	Native
Setophaga coronata	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Native

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native?
Sialia mexicana	Western Bluebird	Native
Spinus psaltria	Lesser Goldfinch	Native
Sturnus vulgaris	European Starling	Not Native
Sylvilagus bachmani	Brush rabbit	Native
Thryomanes bewickii	Bewick's Wren	Native
Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove	Native

APPENDIX D - POTENTIAL TO OCCUR TABLES

Table 1. Occurrence Potential for Sensitive Status Plants within La Mesa Park

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[1]	Habitat	Bloom Window	Potential to Occur/Rationale
Arctostaphylos refugioensis	Refugio manzanita	1B.2	Sandstone outcrops in chaparral. 274-820 m.	Dec - Feb	**Does not occur.** Site is outside elevation range for species and no suitable habitat is present.
Astragalus didymocarpus var. *milesianus*	Miles' milk-vetch	1B.2	Coastal scrub, grassy areas near coast. Clay soils. 20-90 m.	Mar - May	**Unlikely.** Site is within elevation range and suitable habitat is present, but species has not been recorded within 80 miles in the last 20 years.
Atriplex coulteri	Coulter's saltbush	1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Ocean bluffs, ridgetops, as well as alkaline low places. Alkaline or clay soils. 3-460 m.	Mar - Oct	**Unlikely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range. Coastal scrub habitat is present, however alkaline or clay soils were not observed on site so suitable habitat may not be present. Species was recorded in 2022 approximately 9 miles away.
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii*	Davidson's saltscale	1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Alkaline soil. 10-200 m.	Apr - Oct	**Unlikely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range. Coastal scrub habitat is present; however, alkaline soils were not observed on site so suitable habitat may not be present. Species has not been observed within 120 miles in the last 20 years.
Baccharis plummerae ssp. *plummerae*	Plummer's baccharis	4.3	Rocky slopes near beach, sea bluffs, brushy canyons. < 1850 m.	Aug - Nov	**Likely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range and suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus fimbriatus	Late-flowered mariposa-lily	1B.3	Dry, open coastal woodlands and chaparral. 275-1905 m.	Jul - Aug	**Does not occur.** Site is outside of elevation range; minimal suitable habitat is present.
Calochortus palmeri var. *palmeri*	Palmer's mariposa-lily	1B.2	Meadows and vernally moist places in yellow-pine forest and chaparral. 710 - 2390 m.	May - Jul	**Does not occur.** Site is well outside of elevation range and no suitable habitat is present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[1]	Habitat	Bloom Window	Potential to Occur/Rationale
Calystegia sepium ssp. *binghamiae*	Santa Barbara morning-glory	1A	Coastal marshes and riverbanks. 0-20 m.	Apr - Jun	**Does not occur.** Site is outside of elevation range, no suitable marsh or swamp habitat is present, and species has not been observed within 130 miles in the last 20 years.
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis*	Southern tarplant	1B.1	Salt marshes, vernal pools, and vernally mesic coastal scrub and grasslands. 0-480 m.	Jun - Oct	**Likely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range for species; some suitable habitat may be present in the form of disturbed annual grasslands.
Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *maritimum*	Salt marsh bird's-beak	1B.2, FE, SE	Marshes and swamps, coastal dunes. Limited to the higher zones of salt marsh habitat. 0-10 m.	May - Oct	**Does not occur.** No suitable habitat is present and site is outside of elevation range.
Delphinium umbraculorum	Umbrella larkspur	1B.3	Moist oak forest and chaparral. 400-1600 m.	Apr - Jun	**Does not occur.** Site is outside of geographic and elevation range.
Fritillaria ojaiensis	Ojai fritillary	1B.2	Rocky slopes and river basins in chaparral, forests, and woodlands. 300-500 m.	Feb - May	**Does not occur.** Site is outside of geographic and elevation range (closest observation is over 6 miles away); minimal suitable habitat is present.
Horkelia cuneata var. *puberula*	Mesa horkelia	1B.1	Dry, sandy, coastal chaparral, coastal scrub, and cismontane woodlands. 70-870 m.	Mar - Jul	**Does not occur.** Site is within the geographic range but outside the elevation range of species. Suitable habitat is present.
Juncus luciensis	Santa Lucia dwarf rush	1B.2	Wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streams, and roadsides. 300-1900 m.	Apr - Aug	**Does not occur.** Site is within geographic range but outside elevation range of species. Some suitable habitat is present in the form of streamsides.
Lasthenia conjugens	Contra Costa goldfields	1B.1, FE	Vernal pools and wet meadows. 1-450 m.	Mar - Jun	**Does not occur.** No suitable habitat is present. The only observation recorded within 250 miles is from 1950.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[1]	Habitat	Bloom Window	Potential to Occur/Rationale
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri*	Coulter's goldfields	1B.1	Coastal salt marshes, playas, vernal pools. Usually found on alkaline soils in playas, sinks, and grasslands. 1-1220 m.	Apr - May	**Does not occur.** No suitable habitat is present although site is within geographic and elevation range.
Layia heterotricha	Pale-yellow layia	1B.1	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Alkaline or clay soils; open areas. 300-1705 m.	Apr - Jun	**Does not occur.** Site is outside of geographic and elevation range.
Lilium humboltdii ssp. *ocellatum*	Ocellated Humboldt lily	4.2	Oak canyons, chaparral, yellow-pine forest. < 1800 m.	May - Aug	**Likely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range; some suitable habitat is present.
Lonicera subspicata var. *subspicata*	Santa Barbara honeysuckle	1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. 5-825 m.	Apr - May	**Likely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range; suitable habitat is present.
Malacothrix saxatilis var. *arachnoidea*	Carmel Valley malacothrix	1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub. Rock outcrops or steep rocky roadcuts. 25 - 1036 m	May - Aug	**Unlikely.** Site is within elevation range but is 14 miles from the closest recorded observation. Coastal scrub habitat is present but no rocky outcrops or roadcuts.
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. *hypoleuca*	White-veined monardella	1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Dry slopes. 50-1525 m.	May - Oct	**Unikely.** Site is within elevation range and a small amount of potentially suitable oak woodland habitat is present, but it is just outside geographic range.
Nasturtium gambelii	Gambel's water cress	1B.1, FE, ST	Marshes and swamps. Freshwater and brackish marshes at the margins of lakes and along streams, in or just above the water level. 5-305 m.	May - Aug	**Does not occur.** No suitable habitat (marshes or swamps) present within site. Closest observation within 20 years is over 50 miles away.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[1]	Habitat	Bloom Window	Potential to Occur/Rationale
Pelazoneuron puberulum var. *sonorense*	Sonoran maiden fern	2B.2	Meadows and seeps. Along streams, seepage areas. 50-610 m.	Jan - Sep	**Likely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range and suitable streamside habitat is present.
Quercus dumosa	Nuttall's scrub oak	1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub. Generally on sandy soils near the coast; sometimes on clay loam. 15-400 m.	Mar - May	**Likely.** Site is within geographic and elevation range and suitable habitat is present.
Scrophularia atrata	Black-flowered figwort	1B.2	Calcium- and diatom-rich soils in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, riparian scrub, chaparral, and closed-cone coniferous forests. 10-500 m.	Apr - Jul	**Does not occur.** Site is within historical geographic range and mostly within elevation range, but CNDDB notes that the IDs for specimens found in the Santa Barbara area are questionable. No suitable habitat present.
Suaeda esteroa	Estuary seablite	1B.2	Marshes and swamps. Coastal salt marshes in clay, silt, and sand substrates. 0-5 m.	May - Oct	**Does not occur.** Site is outside of elevation range and no suitable habitat is present.
Thermopsis macrophylla	Santa Ynez false lupine	1B.3, SR	Chaparral. In open areas such as fuel breaks, after burns; on sandstone. 1000-1400 m.	May - June	**Does not occur.** Site is outside geographic and elevation range, and no suitable habitat is present.

[1]FE- Federally Endangered; SE- State Endangered; ST- State Threatened
California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR):
1A- Presumed extinct in California and rare/extinct elsewhere
1B.1- Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California
1B.2- Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly threatened in California
1B.3- Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; not very threatened in California
2B.2- Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; moderately threatened in California
4.2- Limited distribution; fairly threatened in California
4.3- Limited distribution; not very threatened in California

Table 2. Occurrence Potential for Sensitive Status Wildlife Species within La Mesa Park

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[2]	Potential to Occur and Rationale
Birds			
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk	WL	**Likely** – High suitability habitat throughout the park. Mixed riparian woodlands, as well as more open wooded areas with plenty of edge habitat and abundant prey. Including suitable breeding habitat.
Agelaius tricolor	Tricolored Blackbird	ST, SSC, BCC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present. There is a small patch of Arundo along the W edge of the park, but this species requires large stands of emergent vegetation, so breeding is unlikely there. And no foraging habitat is available .
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	Southern California Rufous-crowned Sparrow	WL	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper Sparrow	SSC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present, requires open grasslands with few trees and shrubs
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle	FP, WL	**Does Not Occur** – No suitable habitat present; nests in steep rocky canyons, forage in more open habitat
Artemisiospiza belli belli	Bell's Sparrow	WL	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing Owl	SSC, BCC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Charadrius nivosus nivosus	Western Snowy Plover	FT, SSC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Coturnicops noveboracensis	Yellow Rail	SSC, BCC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[2]	Potential to Occur and Rationale
Elanus leucurus	White-tailed Kite	FP	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	FE, SE	**Likely** - Potentially suitable habitat of moderate quality. During migration they can be found along riparian woodlands such as those at the W edge of the park. Less suitable for breeding SWFL, as they strongly prefer larger, dense stands of willows for breeding in California.
Eremophila alpestris actia	California Horned Lark	WL	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Falco mexicanus	Prairie Falcon	WL	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Gymnogyps californianus	California Condor	FE, SE, FP	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California Black Rail	ST, FP	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Nannopterum auritum	Double-crested Cormorant	WL	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi	Belding's Savannah Sparrow	SE, BCC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Rallus obsoletus levipes	Light-footed Ridgway's Rail	FE, SE, FP	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Riparia riparia	Bank Swallow	ST	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Sternula antillarum browni	California Least Tern	FE, SE, FP	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Vireo bellii pusillus	Least Bell's Vireo	FE, SE	**Likely** - Habitat suitability is moderate. Prefers shrub-dominated and woodland habitats with low vegetation, often in riparian areas along drainages

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[2]	Potential to Occur and Rationale
Amphibians			
Anaxyrus californicus	arroyo toad	FE, SSC	**Does not Occur** - No suitable habitat. Typically prefers more slow moving rivers and streams, with sandy terraces and adjacent upland habitat of lower hills, scattered vegetation and sandy, friable soils.
Rana boylii pop. 6	foothill yellow-legged frog - south coast DPS	FE, SE	**Unlikely** - Habitat suitability is low along the small stream at the W edge of the park. Prefers larger rivers/streams/wetlands, and the species is not known to occupy this part of its historic range any longer.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	**Unlikely** - Habitat suitability is low along the small stream at the W edge of the park. Prefers more permanent and slower moving waters.
Taricha torosa	Coast Range newt	SSC	**Unlikely** - Habitat suitability is limited and low quality due to the disturbance and fragmentation associated with this small riparian area in an urban setting.
Target Sensitive Reptiles			
Anniella pulchra	Northern California legless lizard	SSC	**Likely** - Suitability is moderate in the wooded and riparian areas of the park containing moist, loose soils with substantial leaf littler and debris.
Anniella spp.	California legless lizard	SSC	**Likely** - Suitability is moderate in the wooded and riparian areas of the park containing moist, loose soils with substantial leaf littler and debris.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	coastal whiptail	SSC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	FPT, SSC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[2]	Potential to Occur and Rationale
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	SSC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea	coast patch-nosed snake	SSC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Thamnophis hammondii	two-striped gartersnake	SSC	**Likely** – Suitable habitat is limited to the relatively small drainage on the W edge of the park, but the habitat is potentially suitable. The are found around bodies of water and prefer relatively dense riparian/wetland vegetation.
Invertebrates			
Bombus crotchii	Crotch's bumble bee	SCE	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Danaus plexippus plexippus pop. 1	monarch - California overwintering population	FC	**Likely** - Known overwintering habitat is present, likely due to the amount of old eucalyptus trees and the availability of nectaring plant types.
Fish			
Eucyclogobius newberryi	tidewater goby	FE	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10	steelhead - southern California DPS	FE, SCE	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present
Mammals			
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	SSC	**Unlikely** - They are typically found in arid or semi-arid environments,using rocky areas near water, roosting in cracks and crevices of rocky outcrops. The habitat here is dense riparian habitat in an urban setting without any obvious roosting habitat

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status[2]	Potential to Occur and Rationale
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	SSC	**Unlikely** - They will use a variety of different vegetation communities, including riparian and woodlands, but are usually found where there are caves or cave-like roosting habitat, preferring open roosting spaces in large rooms, and avoiding having to tuck themselves into small spaces like many other bats will.
Eumops perotis californicus	western mastiff bat	SSC	**Unlikely** - Strongly prefers more open landscapes; deserts to woodlands. Required roosting habitat containing verticle cliffs with at least 3 m of space to drop from in order to take flight.
Lasiurus frantzii	western red bat	SSC	**Likely** - Prefers riparian habitat with mixed broadleaf trees, including oaks, sycamore; roosting only in tree foliage.
Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	SSC	**Does Not Occur** - Outside known range
Nyctinomops macrotis	big free-tailed bat	SSC	**Does Not Occur** - No suitable habitat present

[2]FE- Federally Endangered; FT- Federally Threatened; FC- Federally Candidate; FPT- Federally Proposed Threatened;
SE- State Endangered; ST- State Threatened; SC- State Candidate;
SSC- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern; WL- CDFW Watchlist; FP- CDFW Fully Protected;
BCC- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern

APPENDIX E - CNDDB SUBMISSIONS

There are no observations requiring CNDDB submission for La Mesa Park