Biological Resources Analysis
Public Coastal Access Easement
7957 Princess Street
San Diego, CA, 92037

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INTRODUCTION

Robert A. Hamilton, president of Hamilton Biological, Inc. (Hamilton Biological) has prepared this Biological Resources Analysis as required by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) in association with establishing a trail within a public coastal access easement ("project site") at 7957 Princess Street in the neighborhood of La Jolla in the City of San Diego, San Diego County, California (the "City"). This report has been prepared in accordance with the *San Diego Municipal Code Land Development Code Biology Guidelines*, last amended February 1, 2018. The current report updates earlier Biological Resources Analyses that Hamilton Biological completed for the project dated July 30, 2018, and March 16, 2023.

The proposed action involves establishing a public trail through a private residential property, from the street down to La Jolla Caves beach, within an existing coastal access easement measuring 4 to 10 feet in width. The project site covers approximately 0.02 acre. This report evaluates the potential biological impacts of the project upon terrestrial resources on the project site itself, and within a larger "study area" consisting of the project site plus the adjacent shoreline and coastal waters within 100 meters. The study area, which includes part of La Jolla Bay/Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, represents the area of potential effect from project construction as well as the anticipated increase in public use of the adjacent shoreline and nearshore waters. The study area excludes areas above the shoreline that would not be made more accessible by the project. See Figures 1–3 on the following pages.

The goals of this study are: (1) to characterize the vegetation on the project site and in the study area; (2) to identify the plant and wildlife species present, or potentially occurring, on the project site and in the study area, with a focus on listed and otherwise sensitive species; and (3) to evaluate the potential biological effects of the proposed actions in the context of the applicable local, state, and federal planning regulations and policies.

This report describes the study's methods; reports on the observations made during site visits by project biologists; provides the results of the literature review; analyzes the potential impacts of the project on terrestrial biological resources; and analyzes the significance of impacts to terrestrial biological resources.

For analysis of the potential effects of the proposed project on marine resources, and recommendations for mitigating potentially significant impacts to marine resources, please see the accompanying report, dated June 9, 2025, prepared by Coastal Resources Management, Inc.


Pacific Ocean
N Torrey Pines Rd
University of California-San Diego
San Diego Fwy
La Jolla Village D
Gilman Dr
University City
Torrey Pines Rd
Rose Canyon Openspace
La Jolla
Soledad Natural Park
Marian Bear Openspace Pa
52
La Jolla Blvd
Jutland Dr
Bird Rock
Legend
Location
Figure 1. Location Map
N
0
0.5
1
Miles
Kilometers
0
0.5
1
2
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N
Date: 8/22/2022
Hamilton Biological
Oceanside
San Diego
Tijuana


Pacific Ocean
La Jolla Shores Beach
Kellogg Park
El Paseo Grande
Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve
La Jolla Shores Community Beach
Spindrift Golf Course
Paseo Do
Scripps, Ellen B Park
La Jolla Caves Beach
Torrey Pines Rd
Prospect St
Ivanhoe Ave
Herschel Ave
Eads Ave
Silverado St
Torrey Pines Rd
Bluebird Ln
Kline St
La Jolla
La Jolla Hts Nat Openspace
Encelia Dr
Pearl St
Pearl St
Bishop
Legend
Project Site
Study Area
Figure 2. Vicinity Map
N
0
1,000
2,000
Feet
Meters
0
250
500
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N
Date: 8/22/2022
Hamilton Biological
La Jolla
Torrey Pines Rd
La Jolla Scenic
La Jolla
La Jolla Country Club
Soledad Mountain
Soledad Natural Park

Figure 3. Site and Study Area

METHODS

On January 12, 2025, Hamilton Biological accessed the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (www.rareplants.cnps.org) and searched for sensitive plant species known from the La Jolla area.

On July 19, 2018, botanist James Bailey and biologist Robert Hamilton conducted a field visit from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. The temperature was 62° F; skies were hazy/sunny; and winds were 1–3 miles per hour. This survey was within the "colony active" period for Crotch's Bumble Bee (April to August) and within the CDFW-recommended parameters for wind (wind speed less than 8 mph), but the temperature was lower than the recommended 65–90° F.

On May 30, 2022, Bailey and Hamilton conducted a follow-up field visit from 11:25 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. The temperature was 65° F; skies were hazy/sunny; and winds were 4–8 miles per hour. This survey was within the "colony active" period for Crotch's Bumble Bee (April to August) and within CDFW-recommended parameters for temperature (65–90° F) and wind (wind speed less than 8 mph).

On July 9, 2023, Hamilton conducted a follow-up field visit from 10:05 to 10:45. The temperature was 65° F; skies were 100% overcast; and winds were in the range of 5–10 miles per hour. This survey was within the "colony active" period for Crotch's Bumble Bee (April to August) and marginally within CDFW-recommended parameters for temperature (65–90° F) and wind (wind speed less than 8 mph).

On August 19, 2022, Jeremy Huey of Oakum Solutions, Inc., accessed the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) and provided Hamilton Biological with a report on special-status plant and wildlife taxa recorded within 2 miles of the project site/study area. On June 9, 2025, Hamilton reviewed the current version of the CNDDB (2025a, 2025b, 2025c).

During the field visits, the botanist and/or biologist inspected the project site and the accessible southern shoreline of the study area. For evaluation of the marine portion of the study area, refer to Coastal Resources Management (2025). All plant species and all vertebrate wildlife species detected on the project site and within the study area were recorded. We examined the project site and study area for tracks, scat, and other sign. We characterized the ecological communities on the project site and in the study area, and evaluated the potential for wildlife to move through the project site and study area.

SETTING

In the following discussions, scientific names are provided only for plant species, and for wildlife species not recorded during the surveys. The attached species lists provide the scientific names of all species recorded during the surveys.

Topography and Surrounding Land Uses

The coastal access easement (project site) occupies a moderately steep, southwest-facing coastal bluff in an existing residential neighborhood. The easement lies within the yard of a residence at 7957 Princess Street. The elevation of the easement ranges from approximately 3 feet at the southwestern end to 53 feet at the northeastern end (where the easement transitions to an existing stairway associated with the residence, and from there continues up to the end of Princess Street, at approximately 65 feet elevation). Water drains across the property from northeast to southwest via sheet flow and a plastic conduit that collects water from the top of the slope and deposits it off-site into the Pacific Ocean. Toward the lower end of the easement part of the bluff has eroded. This erosion feature does not possess the defined bed and banks of a streambed.

The coastal access easement leads down to the rocky La Jolla Caves Beach, which lies within the Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) covering 1.04 square miles established by the State of California in January 2012 (Title 14, Code of California Regulations, Section 632 (b) (142)). A State Marine Reserve is a form of MPA that protects resources by prohibiting the recreational and/or commercial take of all marine resources. Non-consumptive activities, restoration, and permitted scientific research are allowed. A cross-interest Regional Stakeholder Group described the following rationale for recognizing the Matlahuayl SMR: "Protects an [*sic*] unique sheltered cove and varied reef structure and associated species, kelp forest and contiguous sandy bottom interface at the head of the La Jolla Submarine Canyon's southern branch. Current home to many large tame specimens of a wide variety of species" (California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife 2016).

Soils

A recent geotechnical investigation of the property describes formational soils on the property as "stiff to hard, mottled gray to yellow-brown, silty to fine sandy clay to clayey silt of the Point Loma Formation" (TerraCosta Consulting Group 2015, p. 3). Investigations by TerraCosta geologists, including borings, determined that "fill soils range from 6 inches to approximately 5 feet-9 inches in thickness, with the deeper fills concentrated on the southerly end of the study area."

Ecological Communities

Landscape/Rock

The project site/coastal access easement, covering approximately 800 square feet (0.02 acre), is vegetated mainly with exotic landscaping. The lowest (westernmost) part of the project site consists of bare rock subjected to regular salt-spray and possibly episodic wave action. See Figure 4 on the next page and Photos 1 and 2 on page 8.

The non-native species present include Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), Indian Hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*), Showy Honey-Myrtle (*Melaleuca nesophila*), Highway

Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), Russian Thistle (*Salsola australis*), Australian Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*), Century Plant (*Agave americana*), Jade Plant (*Crassula ovata*), and Common Sow Thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*). Small numbers of three widespread native plant species were observed adjacent to the easement: Bicolored Everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium biolettii*), Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), and Salt Grass (*Distichlis spicata*).

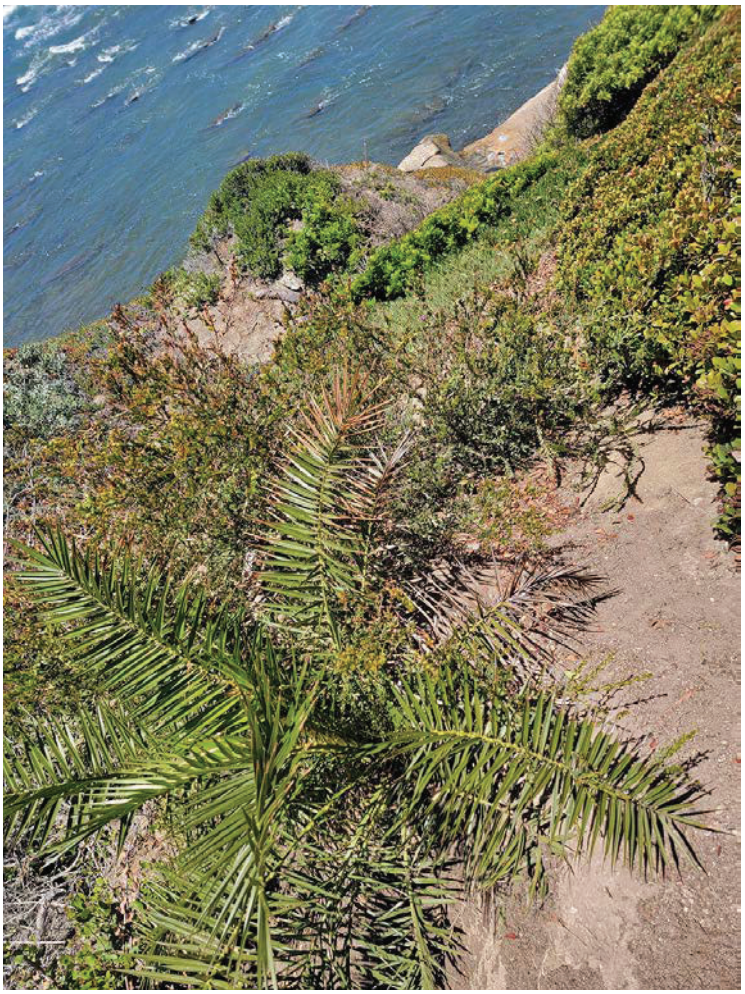


Photo 1. Showing the lower part of the project site as viewed facing northwest, down the slope toward the ocean. Visible are non-native Canary Island Date Palm, Indian Hawthorne, and Brazilian Pepper, and a small patch of native Salt Grass.

Photo: R. Hamilton, 5/30/22.

Photo 2. Showing the upper part of the project site as viewed facing east, up the slope toward the existing residence. Visible are non-native Highway Iceplant, Century Plant, Jade Plant, aloe (Aloe sp.), and Heart-leaved Iceplant (*Aptenia cordifolia*), and native Lemonade Berry at far right. *Photo: R. Hamilton, 5/30/22.*

Rock-and-Gravel Beach

The terrestrial portion of the study area, extending 100 meters up and down the coastline from the project site, consists of a rock-and-gravel beach. No vegetation was observed growing on the beach. See Photo 3 below.

Photo 3. Showing Western Gulls and Heermann's Gulls roosting on the rock-and-gravel beach in the study area, southwest of the project site. *Photo: Robert Hamilton, 5/30/22.*

Wildlife

Reptiles

No reptiles or amphibians were observed during the field surveys, but the widespread Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) and Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloperus occidentalis*) are expected to occur there. A small number of widespread snakes could also occur, such as the Pacific Gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer catenifer*) and California Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis californiae*). A handful of special-status reptile species have very low or low potential to occur on the site, as discussed in the Sensitive Biological Resources section.

BIRDS

Nineteen native bird species were recorded in the study area: Anna's Hummingbird, Black Oystercatcher, Heermann's Gull, Western Gull, Pelagic Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Snowy Egret, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, American Crow, Common Raven, Black Phoebe, Northern Mockingbird, House Finch, Song Sparrow, California Towhee, Hooded Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

None of the bird species detected or likely to occur in the study area is listed or recognized as California Species of Special Concern. The Brown Pelican is a California Fully Protected Species (taking or possession of individuals prohibited) and the Osprey and Peregrine Falcon are placed on a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Watch List of taxa that were previously designated as California Species of Special Concern, but that no longer merit that status. The Sensitive Biological Resources section discusses these and other species of conservation concern that may have potential to occur on the site.

MAMMALS

During the site visit on May 30, 2022, two California Ground Squirrels and the carcass of a Harbor Seal were observed within the study area. Other mammals with potential to occur on the site include the Coyote (*Canis latrans*) and Botta's Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys botta*).

SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

For this project "sensitive biological resources" include the following:

- A plant or animal that is currently listed by a state or federal agency as endangered, threatened, rare, protected, sensitive, or a Species of Special Concern, or federally listed critical habitat;
- a plant or animal that is currently listed by a state or federal agency as a candidate species or proposed for state or federal listing; or
- a locally designated or recognized species or habitat.

"Special-status species" that may have potential to occur on or adjacent to the site were identified through review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; 2025a, 2025b, 2025c) and searches of California Native Plant Society's Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (www.rareplants.cnps.org) and the Consortium of California Herbaria web page (www.ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium). Legal protection for special-status species varies widely, from the relatively comprehensive protection extended to species listed as threatened or endangered to no legal status at present.

The City's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations (ESL) defines sensitive biological resources as those lands included within the Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) as identified in the City of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Program

(MSCP) Subarea Plan (City of San Diego 1995), and other lands outside of the MHPA that contain wetlands; vegetation communities classifiable as Tier I, II, IIIA or IIIB; habitat for rare, endangered or threatened species; or narrow endemic species. The project site and study area lie outside of the MHPA.

Table A, starting on page 13, summarizes the results of the field surveys and literature search. Table A includes plant and wildlife species known to occur in the La Jolla area and that may have potential to occur on coastal bluffs or rock/gravel beaches. Table A provides columns for various relevant sensitivity ranking systems, and for "other status," as explained below.

Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listing Codes: The current federal listing status, as published in the Federal Register.

- **FE** **Federally Endangered.** "Take" of the species or disturbance of occupied habitat are prohibited unless specifically authorized.
- **FT** **Federally Threatened.** "Take" of the species or disturbance of occupied habitat are prohibited unless specifically authorized.
- **D** **Delisted.** Species formerly listed Endangered or Threatened.

State of California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Listing Codes: The current State listing status, as published in the "Endangered and Threatened Animals List," which the CNDDB updates and issues quarterly.

- **E** **Endangered**. "Take" of the species or disturbance of occupied habitat are prohibited unless specifically authorized.
- **T** **Threatened** (listed by State or Federal governments). "Take" of the species or disturbance of occupied habitat are prohibited unless specifically authorized.
- **R** **Rare** (State listing for plants).
- **C** **Candidate** for State listing.
- **P** **Proposed** for federal listing.
- **D** **Delisted.** Species formerly listed Endangered or Threatened.

Heritage Rank (NatureServe Element Rankings). The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) employs a "Heritage Ranking" methodology, maintained by NatureServe, under which species are given a Global rank (G-rank) that applies to the taxon's entire distribution, and a State rank (S-rank) that applies to the taxon's state distribution. For subspecies and varieties, there is also a "T" rank describing the global rank for the subspecies or variety. Taxa with rankings of G1, G2, G3, S1, S2, or S3 may be considered "sensitive" and potentially worthy of special consideration in resource planning. The NatureServe Element Rankings are explained below.

- **G1, Critically Imperiled,** referring to taxa at very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.
- **G2, Imperiled,** referring to taxa at high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.

- **G3, Vulnerable,** referring to taxa at moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors
- **S1, Critically Imperiled,** referring to taxa critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations) or because of factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state.
- **S2, Imperiled,** referring to taxa imperiled in the state because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state.
- **S3, Vulnerable,** referring to taxa vulnerable in the state due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation from the state.

Other Status. Additional designations relevant to CEQA review of the proposed project are described as follows.

- **FP** **Fully Protected** by the State of California. These species may not be taken or possessed at any time, although take may be authorized for necessary scientific research.
- **SSC** **Species of Special Concern**. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has designated certain species as Species of Special Concern because declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats have made them vulnerable to extinction. The goal of designating species as Species of Special Concern is to halt or reverse their decline by calling attention to their plight and addressing the issues of concern early enough to secure their long-term viability. Not all Species of Special Concern have declined equally; some species may be just starting to decline, while others may have already reached the point where they meet the criteria for listing as a Threatened or Endangered species under the State and/or Federal Endangered Species Acts.
- **CRPR** **California Rare Plant Ranks (Formerly California Native Plant Society Ranks).** Table A includes plant species with the following :
    - **1B.1**, referring to species considered to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat).
    - **1B.2**, referring to species considered to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; moderately threatened in California (20-80% of occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat).
    - **2B.2**, referring to species considered to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat).
    - **4.2**, referring to species of limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California, whose status should be monitored regularly; not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known).
- **NE** **Narrow Endemic.** Designated under the City Biology Guidelines.
- **Covered** **Covered Species.** Designated under the MSCP City Subarea Plan.

Table A. Special Status Species

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Plants							
Acanthomintha ilicifolia	San Diego Thorn-mint	FT	SE	G1/S1	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in clay openings in chaparral, coastal scrub, grassland, vernal pools. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Acmispon prostratus	Nuttall's Acmispon	—	—	G1G2/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in coastal dunes, sandy openings in coastal scrub; historical records from Pacific Beach, south of La Jolla.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Agave shawii var. *shawii*	Shaw's Agave	—	—	G2G3T2T3/S1	Covered; NE; CRPR 2B.1	Occurs on coastal bluffs; recent record (2016) of 3 small plants "likely planted" on bluff 0.8 mile south of project site (Calflora.org).	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Ambrosia pumila	San Diego Ambrosia	E	—	G1/S1	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in coarse substrates near drainages and in upland areas on clay slopes, sparse grasslands, river terraces, pools, and alkali playas. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Aphanisma blitoides	Aphanisma	—	—	G3G4/S2	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs on coastal bluffs and in coastal canyons. Historical collections from La Jolla area.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Arctostaphylos glandulosa ssp. *crassifolia*	Del Mar Manzanita	E	—	G5T2/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in sandy openings in coastal chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Arctostaphylos otayensis	Otay Manzanita	—	—	G5/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in chaparral, woodlands. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Astragalus deanei	Dean's Milkvetch	—	—	G1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in openings in chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Astragalus tener var. *titi*	Coastal Dunes Milkvetch	E	E	G2T1/S1	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in coastal dunes, sandy openings in coastal prairie. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Atriplex coulteri	Coulter's Saltbush	—	—	G3/S1S2	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs on coastal playas and in coastal sage scrub. Historical collections from La Jolla area.	Very low potential. This perennial herb likely would have been visible, if present.
Atriplex pacifica	South Coast Saltscale	—	—	G4/S2	CRPR 1B.2	Occurs on coastal playas and in coastal sage scrub. Historical collections from La Jolla area.	Very low potential. This annual herb likely would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Baccharis vanessae	Encinitas Baccharis	T	E	G1/S1	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in maritime chaparral, woodland. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Berberis nevinii	Nevin's Barberry	E	E	G1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in sandy or gravelly substrate in chaparral, coastal scrub, woodland. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Bloomeria clevelandii	San Diego Goldenstar	—	—	G2G3/S3	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in clay openings in chaparral, coastal scrub, grassland, vernal pools. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This bulbiferous herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Brodiaea filifolia	Thread-leaved Brodiaea	T	E	G2/S2	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in clay substrate in grassland, vernal pool, coastal scrub, chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This bulbiferous herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Brodiaea orcuttii	Orcutt's Brodiaea	—	—	G2/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in clay substrate in vernal pool, grassland, chaparral, woodland, coniferous forest. Historical collection from La Jolla, 4/20/32.	Absent. This bulbiferous herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Calamagrostis koelerioides (densa)	Fire Reedgrass	—	—	G2/S2	Covered	Occurs in meadows, slopes, dry hills.	Absent. Perennial grasslike herb would have been visible, if present.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Calochortus dunnii	Dunn's Mariposa Lily	—	R	G3/S3	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in gabbroic or rocky substrate in grassland, chaparral, coniferous forest. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This bulbiferous herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Caulanthus heterophyllus var. heterophyllus	Slender Pod Jewelflower	—	—	G4/–	Covered	Dry, open scrub, chaparral; appears after fire or disturbance. No records from coastal La Jolla.	Absent. Suitable habitat not present.
Ceanothus cyaneus	Lakeside Ceanothus	—	—	G2/S2	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in chaparral, coniferous forest. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Ceanothus verrucosus	Wart-stemmed Ceanothus	—	—	G2G3/S2?	Covered; CRPR 2B.2	Occurs in coastal scrub, maritime chaparral, and chaparral. No records from coastal La Jolla.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *maritimum*	Salt Marsh Bird's Beak	E	E	G4?T2/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in coastal dunes, marshes, swamps. No records from coastal La Jolla.	Absent. Site lacks potentially suitable habitat.
Cistanthe maritima	Seaside Calandrinia	—	—	G3G4/S3	CRPR 4.2	Occurs in coastal sage scrub. Known from Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, north of La Jolla.	Very low potential. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Clinopodium chandleri	San Miguel Savory	—	—	G2G3/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in chaparral, woodland, coastal scrub, grassland. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Corethrogyne filaginifolia var. *linifolia*	Del Mar Sand Aster	—	—	G4T1Q/S1	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in sandy openings in coastal scrub, maritime chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Cylindropuntia californica var. *californica*	Snake Cholla	—	—	G3T2/S1	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in sandy or sandy loam soils in chaparral, coastal sage scrub. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Deinandra conjugens	Otay Tarplant	T	E	G1G2/S1	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in clay soils in grassland, coastal scrub. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Dicranostegia orcuttiana	Orcutt's Bird's Beak	—	—	G3/S1	CRPR 2B.1	Occurs in coastal scrub habitat in the watersheds of the Sweetwater and Tijuana Rivers in California. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. Site lacks potentially suitable habitat.
Dichondra occidentalis	Western Dichondra	—	—	G3G4/S3S4	CRPR 4.2	Occurs in various communities. Historical collections from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. *blochmaniae*	Blochman's Dudleya	—	—	G3T2/S2	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs on coastal bluffs. Historical collections from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Dudleya brevifolia	Short-leaved Dudleya	—	—	G1/S1	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs on coastal bluffs. Known from Skeleton Canyon near UC San Diego.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Dudleya variegata	Variegated Dudleya	—	—	G2/S2	Covered; NE; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs on coastal bluffs. Historical collections from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Dudleya viscida	Sticky Dudleya	—	—	G2/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs on coastal bluffs, in coastal scrub, chaparral, woodland. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Ericameria palmeri var. *palmeri*	Palmer's Goldenbush	—	—	G4T2?/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in coastal scrub and chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Eryngium aristulatum var. *parishii*	San Diego Button-Celery	E	E	G5T1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools, grassland, coastal scrub. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Erysimum ammophilum	Coast Wallflower	—	—	G4/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in coastal dunes, sandy openings in coastal scrub, maritime chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Euphorbia misera	Cliff Spurge	—	—	G5/S2	CRPR 2B.2	Occurs on coastal bluffs and in coastal canyons. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Ferocactus viridescens	San Diego Barrel Cactus	—	—	G3?/S2S3	Covered; CRPR 2B.1	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, grassland, vernal pools. No records from coastal La Jolla.	Absent. This cactus would have been visible, if present.
Hesperocyparis forbesii	Tecate Cypress	—	—	G2/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs on clay, gabbroic, or metavolcanic soils in coniferous forest and chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrubby tree would have been visible, if present.
Heterotheca sessiliflora ssp. *sessiliflora*	Beach Goldenaster	—	—	G4T2T3/S1	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in various habitats. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Isocoma menziesii var. decumbens	Decumbent Goldenbush	—	—	G3G5T2T3/S2	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs on coastal bluffs and in coastal canyons. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Lepechinia cardiophylla	Heart-leaved Pitcher Sage	—	—	G3/S2S3	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in coniferous forest, chaparral, woodland. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Lepechinia ganderi	Gander's Pitcher Sage	—	—	G3/S3	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, grassland. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Lepidium virginicum var. *robinsonii*	Robinson's Peppergrass	—	—	G5T3/S3	CRPR 4.3	Occurs in various plant communities. Known from the La Jolla area.	Very low potential. This annual herb likely would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Leptosyne maritima	Sea Dahlia	—	—	G2/S1S2	CRPR 2B.2	Occurs on coastal bluffs and in coastal canyons. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Lycium californicum	California Boxthorn	—	—	G4/S4	CRPR 4.2	Occurs on coastal bluffs and in coastal canyons. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. *lanata*	Felt-leaf Monardella	—	—	G4T3/S3	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in chaparral, woodland. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Monardella viminea	Willowy Monardella	E	E	G1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in or near sandy washes in coastal scrub and riparian. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Navarretia fossalis	Spreading Navarretia	T	—	G2/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools, playas, marshes. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This annual herb would have been visible, if present, on 5/30/22.
Nolina interrata	Dehesa Beargrass	—	E	G1G2/S1S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs on gabbroic, metavolcanic, serpentine soils in chaparral, coastal scrub. Not records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Orcuttia californica	California Orcutt Grass	E	E	G1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. The site lacks the vernal pool habitat that this annual herb requires.
Packera ganderi	Gander's Ragwort	—	R	G2/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs on gabbroic outcrops in chaparral, burned areas. Not records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This perennial herb would have been visible, if present.
Pinus torreyana ssp. *torreyana*	Torrey Pine	—	—	G1T1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in chaparral, coniferous forest. Occurs in the La Jolla area, including on coastal bluffs.	Absent. This tree would have been visible, if present.
Pogogyne abramsii	San Diego Mesa Mint	E	E	G1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. The site lacks the vernal pool habitat that this annual herb requires.
Pogogyne nudiuscula	Otay Mesa Mint	E	E	G1/S1	Covered; CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in vernal pools. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. The site lacks the vernal pool habitat that this annual herb requires.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Rosa minutifolia	Small-leaved Rose	—	E	G2G3/S1	Covered; CRPR 2B.1	Occurs in coastal scrub, chaparral. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Sphaerocarpos drewiae	Bottle Liverwort	—	—	G1/S1	CRPR 1B.1	Occurs in shady spots in coastal sage scrub. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent. Suitable habitat absent, and this liverwort would have been visible, if present.
Suaeda taxifolia	Woolly Seablight	—	—	G4/S4	CRPR 4.2	Occurs in and around coastal wetlands. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Tetracoccus dioicus	Parry's Tetracoccus	—	—	G2G3/S2	Covered; CRPR 1B.2	Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub. No records from La Jolla area.	Absent. This shrub would have been visible, if present.
Invertebrates							
Bombas crotchii	Crotch's Bumble Bee	—	C	G2/S1S2	—	Occurs widely, but sparingly, in various native plant communities and occasionally in non-native vegetation. Recent record of three males in native scrub at Kate Sessions Memorial Park, 2.8 miles southeast of project site, on August 8, 2023 (www.inaturalist.org).	Low potential due to very small size of site (0.02 acre) consisting of exotic landscaping and rock; failure to detect species during three surveys conducted during the species' "colony active" period, two of which satisfied CDFW (2023) survey criteria for survey conditions (temperature was marginally too cool on the first survey in 2018). The survey effort exceeds the one person-hour per three acres of habitat recommended by CDFW (2023). Hamilton and Bailey have documented a total of 21 Crotch's Bumble Bees in California since 2019 (see www.inaturalist.org).
Branchinecta sandiegonensis	San Diego Fairy Shrimp	E	—	G2/S1	Covered	Occurs in vernal pools.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Streptocephalus woottoni	Riverside Fairy Shrimp	E	E	G1G2/S1	Covered	Occurs in vernal pools and other ephemeral pools.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Callophrys thornei	Thorne's Hairstreak	—	—	G3G4T2/S1	Covered	Occurs in Tecate Cypress forest and chaparral in the vicinity of Otay Mountain.	Absent. The project site is outside of the known range of this species and lacks suitable habitat.
Danaus plexippus	Monarch	PT	—	G4T1T2Q/S2	—	Occurs widely; requires milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) as a host plant. The overwintering population that is proposed for listing utilizes mature groves of eucalyptus and other trees near the coast.	Absent as an overwintering species due to lack of suitable habitat (i.e., groves suitable for roosting; milkweed plants). Occasional individuals are expected to utilize the site, as they occur widely in native and non-native vegetation.
Euphydryas editha quino	Quino Checkerspot	E	—	G4G5T1T2/ S1S2	—	Occurs in grasslands, scrub, chaparral with open ground, often cryptogamic crusts. Host plants include *Plantago erecta, P. patagonica, Collinsia concolor, Antirrhinum coulterianum*.	Absent. The project site is outside of the current range of this species and lacks suitable habitat.
Panoquina errans	Wandering Skipper Butterfly	—	—	G4G5/S2	—	Occurs in coastal areas with its food plant, *Distichlis spicata*.	Moderate potential. Could have been visible, if present. Only a small area of *Distichlis spicata* occurs on the site, so limited potential for the butterfly to also occur.
Amphibians							
Anaxyrus californicus	Arroyo Toad	E	—	G2G3/S2	Covered; SSC	Occurs in gravelly pools adjacent to sandy terraces, along streams and rivers.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Rana draytonii	California Red-legged Frog	T	—	G2G3/S2S3	Covered; SSC	Occurs in streams, ponds, lagoons; feeds in nearby riparian and upland areas. Requires dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation. May aestivate in burrows or other moist areas.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Spea hammondii	Western Spadefoot	PT	—	G2G3/S3S4	SSC	Breeds in vernal pools, ponds, streams. Aestivates underground in adjacent uplands.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Reptiles							
Actinemys pallida	Southwestern Pond Turtle	—	PT	G2G3/—	Covered; SSC	Occurs in streams, rivers, ponds with adjacent uplands for breeding.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Phrynosoma blainvillii	Coast Horned Lizard	—	—	G3G4/S3S4	Covered; SSC	Uncommon in coastal scrub, chaparral, and similar habitats.	Low potential; marginally suitable habitat at site.
Plestiodon skiltonianus interparietalis	Coronado Skink	—	—	G5T5/S2S3	—	Uncommon in coastal scrub, chaparral, and similar habitats.	Moderate potential; marginally suitable habitat at site.
Aspidoscelis hyperythra	Orange-throated Whiptail	—	—	G5/S2S3	Covered	Widespread in coastal sage scrub and similar habitats.	Very low potential; habitat at site generally unsuitable, and species unlikely to occur in developed areas.
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	Coastal Whiptail	—	—	G5T5/S3	SSC	Widespread in coastal sage scrub and similar habitats.	Low potential; marginally suitable habitat at site, but unlikely to occur in developed areas.
Anniella stebbinsi	So. California Legless Lizard	—	—	G3/S3	SSC	Occurs in a variety of habitats with sandy soil or deep leaf-litter.	Moderate potential; marginally suitable habitat at site.
Crotalus ruber	Red-diamond Rattlesnake	—	—	G4/S3	SSC	Widespread in coastal sage scrub and similar habitats.	Very low potential; potentially suitable habitat at site, but unlikely to occur in developed areas.
Diadophis punctatus similis	San Diego Ringneck Kingsnake	—	—	G5/S2?	—	Local in a variety of habitats.	Moderate potential; marginally suitable habitat at site.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea	Coast Patch-nosed Snake	—	—	G5T4/S2S3	SSC	Local in a variety of habitats.	Very low potential; marginally suitable habitat at site, but unlikely to occur in developed areas.
Birds							
Branta hutchinsii leucopareia	Aleutian Cackling Goose	D	—	G5T3/S3	Covered	Winters in open wetlands, moist grasslands, pastures, meadows; occasionally in city parks.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Pelecanus occidentalis	Brown Pelican	D	D	G4T3T4/S3	Covered; FP	A common resident along the coast of California. Nearest nesting is on Los Coronados Islands of northwestern Baja California. 1998 record of a copulating pair at La Jolla, but "no further evidence of nesting in San Diego County" (Unitt 2004).	Observed in the study area, where expected as a non-breeding resident, roosting on the shore and foraging in the shallow coastal waters.
Egretta rufescens	Reddish Egret	—	—	G4/—	Covered	Breeds and forages in coastal marshes.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Plegadis chihi	White-faced Ibis	—	—	G5/S3S4	Covered; SSC; nesting colony	Breeds in marshes with emergent vegetation. Forages in various types of wetland, flooded fields.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk	—	—	G5/S4	Covered	Nests in tall trees in woodlands and developed areas. Forages in various communities, including residential neighborhoods, where the species has become common in recent decades (Unitt 2004).	High potential to forage on and around the project site. Nesting habitat is lacking on the site.
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle	—	—	G5/S3	Covered; FP	Nests in remote areas on cliffs and in tall trees. Forages over extensive grassland, pasture, coastal scrub, chaparral, and other open habitats.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Buteo regalis	Ferruginous Hawk	—	—	G4/S3S4	Covered	Winters in extensive grasslands, rangelands, and other open areas in southern California. Does not nest in the region.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's Hawk	—	T	G5/S4	Covered; nesting	Historically nested in San Diego County. Now occurs mainly a spring and fall migrant, typically away from the coast.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Circus hudsonius	Northern Harrier	—	—	G4/S3S4	Covered; SSC; nesting	Nests in marshes, grasslands, rangeland; coastal scrub. Forages in various open habitats.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable nesting habitat for this species. Foraging or migrating birds could occur occasionally.
Elanus leucurus	White-tailed Kite	—	—	G5/S3S4	FP; nesting	Nests in and around marshes, grasslands, rangeland. Forages in various flat, open habitats.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Migrating birds could occur occasionally.
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	D	E	G5/S3	Covered; FP	In San Diego County, mainly a winter visitor to interior lakes, with small numbers now nesting in tall trees in such areas. Non-breeders rare along the coast.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable nesting habitat for this species. Migrating birds could occur occasionally.
Rallus obsoletus levipes	Light-footed Ridgway's Rail	E	E	G3T1/S2	Covered	Resident of coastal salt marshes, and occasionally freshwater marshes near the coast.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Charadrius montanus	Mountain Plover	T	—	G3T3/S3	Covered; SSC wintering	Historically wintered on plains and plowed fields lands in San Diego County, but now a very rare migrant (Unitt 2004).	Very low potential to occur during migration or winter on the rocky La Jolla Caves Beach.
Charadrius nivosus nivosus	Western Snowy Plover	T	—	G3T3/S2	Covered; SSC	Nests on protected sandy beaches and dunes in certain parts of San Diego County. Requires open sandy beaches for running.	Very low potential to occur during migration on the rocky La Jolla Caves Beach; not known or expected to nest or winter on this beach, or any other similarly rocky beach.
Numenius americanus	Long-billed Curlew	—	—	G4/S2	Covered; nesting	Winters in coastal wetlands and flooded fields in southern California. Does not nest in the region.	Moderate potential to occur on the rocky La Jolla Caves Beach, especially during migration.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Sterna antillarum browni	California Least Tern	E	E	G4T2T3Q/S2	Covered; FP; nesting	Nests on sandy beaches and exposed flats. Forages in estuaries, lagoons, and ocean waters.	Project site lacks suitable nesting habitat. High potential to forage in the shallow waters off La Jolla Caves beach.
Sterna elegans	Elegant Tern	—	—	G4/S3	Covered; FP; nesting	Nests on isolated beaches, dikes between salt ponds. Forages in estuaries, lagoons, and ocean waters.	Project site lacks suitable nesting habitat. High potential to forage in the shallow waters off La Jolla Caves beach.
Falco peregrinus anatum	American Peregrine Falcon	D	D	G4T4/S3S4	Covered; FP	Occurs regularly in a variety of habitats, especially along the coast; nests on buildings, bridges, cliffs.	Observed flying over study area on 5/30/22. No potential for nesting on the site or in the study area; species may nest on coastal cliffs in the general project vicinity, and is expected to fly over the site regularly, foraging.
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing Owl	—	C	G4/S2	Covered; burrow sites, some wintering sites	Occurs in pastures, rangelands, shortgrass grasslands, riprap, other open areas. Formerly a common resident in San Diego County; now mainly a rare winter visitor. Requires rodent burrows or similar refuges.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	E	E	G5T3T4/S3	Covered	Nests in dense riparian habitats along rivers, streams, edges of reservoirs. Widespread in migration, when found in many habitats, including parks and residential yards.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species. Could occur rarely in migration.
Vireo bellii pusillus	Least Bell's Vireo	E	E	G5T2/S3	Covered	Typically nests in riparian scrub or adjacent habitats; occasionally utilizes chaparral or even moist, weedy habitats.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis	Coastal Cactus Wren	—	—	G5T3Q/S2	Covered	Resident in mature cactus scrub.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Polioptila californica californica	Coastal California Gnatcatcher	T	—	G4G5T3Q/S2	Covered; SSC	Resident of coastal sage scrub and coastal bluff scrub. Known from the La Jolla area.	Absent from the site, which is vegetated mainly with non-native landscape plants not used by this species.
Sialia mexicana	Western Bluebird	—	—	G5/—	Covered	Widespread resident in parks, residential neighborhoods, pastures, meadows with nearby cavities for nesting. Increasingly found in urban areas, where they nest in bird boxes, arms of power poles and similar (pers. obs.). Known from the La Jolla Cove area.	Moderate potential to occur. The site is small and lacks suitable nesting substrate, but the species is common, widespread, and highly adaptable, so occurrence cannot be ruled out.
Aimophila ruficeps canescens	Southern California Rufous-crowned Sparrow	—	—	G5T3/S4	Covered	Resident in open coastal scrub and chaparral with grassy and rocky openings. Not known from coastal La Jolla.	Very low potential to occur due to lack of detection during site surveys and the marginal suitability of habitat on and around the project site.
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi	Belding's Savannah Sparrow	—	E	G5T3/S3	Covered	Resident in coastal marshes dominated by *Salicornia* spp.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Agelaius tricolor	Tricolored Blackbird	—	T	G1G2/S2	Covered; nesting colony	Nests in and around freshwater marsh with emergent vegetation; forages in expansive grasslands and rangelands. May be found in winter at parks and other areas with other blackbird species.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.
Mammals							
Puma concolor	Mountain Lion	—	—	G5/—	Covered	Widespread in backcountry areas of San Diego County and elsewhere in the region; occasional in suburban neighborhoods. Extirpated along the immediate coast.	Absent. The project site lies outside the current range of this species.
Taxidea taxus	American Badger	—	—	G5/S3	Covered; SSC	Extensive grasslands, rangelands, open scrublands.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat for this species.

Latin name	Common name	ESA	CESA	Heritage Rank	Other Status	Occurrence	Status on Site
Arctocephalus townsendi	Guadalupe Fur Seal	T	T	G1/S1	FP	Breeds almost entirely on Guadalupe Island off the central Baja California peninsula, with recent colonization of islands north to the northern Channel Islands off southern California.	Species does not breed in the local area, but the occasional animal could forage in the waters of the waters of the study area, and could rarely haul out on the shore. See the marine biology report.
Odocoileus hemionus	Southern Mule Deer	—	—	G5/—	Covered	Widespread in backcountry areas of San Diego County and elsewhere in the region; occasional in suburban neighborhoods. Extirpated along the immediate coast south of Torrey Pines area.	Absent. The project site lies outside the current range of this species.

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

The project site (coastal access easement) occurs within a gated, landscaped residential yard on a coastal cliff/bluff within a larger residential neighborhood, and does not appear to play an important role in regard to local or regional movement of wildlife.

The larger study area, consisting of a rock/gravel beach and nearshore waters, lies within a protected cove difficult to access on foot. Five-hundred feet southwest of the site lie the steep and impassable ocean cliffs of La Jolla. For these reasons, the study area does not appear to play an important role in regard to local or regional movement of wildlife.

REGULATORY SETTING

City Land Development Manual, Biology Guidelines

This report has been prepared in compliance with the City's Biology Guidelines, which were formulated by the Development Services Department (DSD) to aid in the implementation and interpretation of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations (ESL), San Diego Land Development Code (LDC), Chapter 14, Division 1, Section 143.0101 et seq, and the Open Space Residential (OR-1-2) Zone, Chapter 13, Division 2, Section 131.0201 et seq. Section III of the Guidelines (Biological Impact Analysis and Mitigation Procedures) also serve as standards for the determination of impact and mitigation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Coastal Act. These Guidelines are the baseline biological standards for processing Neighborhood Development Permits, Site Development Permits and Coastal Development Permits issued pursuant to the ESL.

Multiple Species Conservation Program

The project site lies within the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan Area, a comprehensive, long-term habitat conservation planning program that covers approximately 582,243 acres in southwestern San Diego County pursuant to the federal and California Endangered Species Acts and the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act.

The City of San Diego's MSCP Subarea Plan and Implementing Agreements were adopted by the City Council and approved by the wildlife agencies in 1997. The project site lies outside of the Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA), which represents the City's planned habitat preserve within the MSCP Subarea.

Federal and State Protections for Nesting Birds

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 implemented the 1916 Convention between the U.S. and Great Britain (for Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. Later amendments implemented treaties between the U.S. and Mexico,

the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia). At the heart of the MBTA is this language:

> Establishment of a Federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird." (16 U.S.C. 703)

The current regulatory interpretation is that any disruption of nesting by nearly any native bird species may represent a violation of the MBTA.

California Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 make it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Section 3503.5 explicitly provides protection for all birds of prey, including their eggs and nests. Section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird as designated in the federal MBTA.

Compliance with these regulations—through timing of construction to avoid the bird nesting season (February 1 to August 31) or, if construction occurs during the nesting season, conducting a pre-construction nesting bird survey and taking any necessary steps to avoid the disruption of nesting by any bird species—is expected.

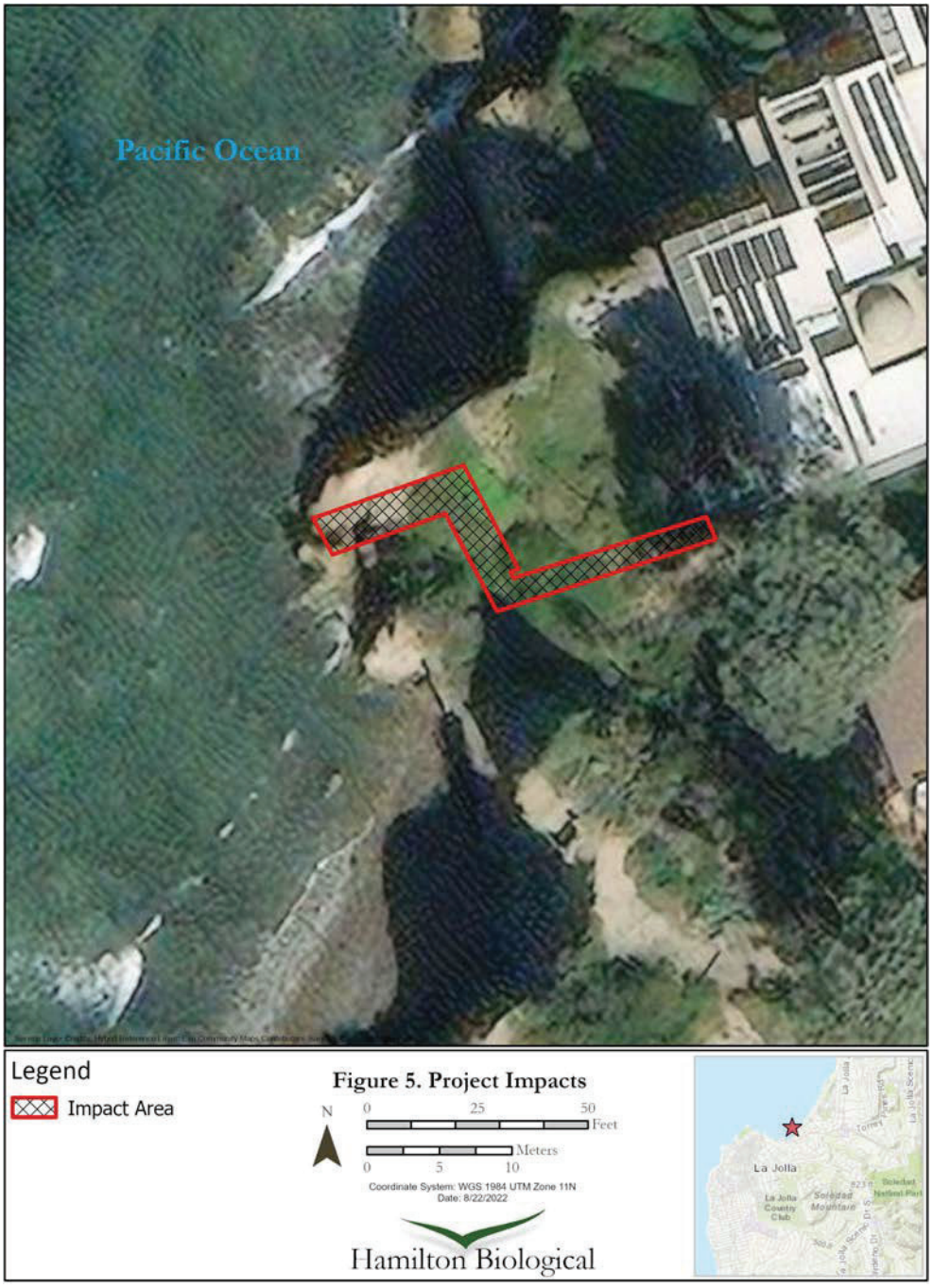
Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve

Per the Code of California Regulations, Title 14, Section 632(b)(142), La Jolla Caves Beach lies within the Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, a Marine Protected Area (MPA). Per Section 632(a)(1)(A), "it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a scientific collecting permit issued by the department pursuant to Section 650 or specific authorization from the commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes." Per Section 632(b)(142)(C), "Boats may be launched and retrieved only in designated areas and may be anchored within the reserve only during daylight hours." Non-consumptive activities, restoration, and permitted scientific research are allowed.

Anticipated Project Effects

The project site, covering approximately 800 square feet (0.02 acre) lies within a residential yard that is currently gated, where fill dirt was placed in the past and vegetated with non-native landscape plants. Small numbers of three widespread native plant species remain on the project site, but the 0.02 acre of impact is to "Disturbed,"

which is a Tier IV habitat under the City's Biology Guidelines. Implementation of the project will involve creating a trail through the residential yard (Figure 5, below).



Opening the gate to public access from dawn to dusk will allow for increased public presence on La Jolla Caves Beach. The magnitude of the increase in public use of La Jolla Coves Beach is expected to be moderated by a general scarcity of available public parking on nearby Princess Street and Spindrift Drive. Dogs will be prohibited on the beach, as discussed in the report by Coastal Resource Management (2025).

Potential Effects on Special-Status Species

The project site occupies a coastal bluff, where various rare plant species could have occurred historically, prior to grading of the site, placement of fill soil, and planting and irrigation of exotic landscaping, which converted the natural habitat to "Disturbed" habitat. No special-status plants were observed on the site during the three site visits. In the site's existing condition, very little potential remains for special-status plant species to persist there, and no potentially significant impacts to such species are identified. Furthermore, clearing away existing invasive exotic plants for creation of the trail would open up ground that could potentially be colonized by rare plants, along the margin of the trail, at some time in the future.

No special-status wildlife species were observed on the site during the two site visits, but the following special-status species are considered to have moderate potential to occur on the project site: Wandering Skipper Butterfly, Coronado Skink, Southern California Legless Lizard, San Diego Ringneck Snake, and Western Bluebird. Establishment of a trail through the project site would impact approximately 0.02 acre of mainly exotic landscape plants. If any of these non-listed wildlife species is present on the project site, the magnitude of the proposed impact is so limited as to be considered less than significant.

Within the wider study area, Brown Pelicans regularly fly over the site and likely roost on the rocky beach with some regularity. The potential for increased public access to reduce the frequency of pelicans roosting on the beach represents a less-than-significant impact to the Brown Pelican, as ample roosting habitat for the pelican exists throughout the La Jolla area and elsewhere along the coast of San Diego County. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in potentially significant impacts to the pelican.

Long-billed Curlews could roost on the rocky beach and/or forage in the intertidal area, but any such use is expected to be only occasional. Any potential decrease in use resulting from project implementation would not result in potentially significant impacts to the Long-Billed Curlew.

American Peregrine Falcons and Cooper's Hawks are expected to regularly fly over the site. Construction of the proposed trail, and increased public access to the study area, are not expected to substantially affect the occurrence of these species in the local area, and so no potentially significant impacts to the American Peregrine Falcon or Cooper's Hawk are identified.

Potential Effects on Species Without Special Status

This discussion refers mainly to bird species that potentially use La Jolla Caves Beach and the intertidal area, such as shorebirds feeding in the intertidal area and gulls roosting on the rocky beach. These species are not listed as threatened or endangered, and that have no other special status away from their nesting colonies. No potentially

significant impacts to species without special status are identified, because (a) the number of users is expected to increase only moderately due to project implementation; (b) no species listed as threatened or endangered is expected to regularly occur in the project area; and (c) surfgrass and other sensitive marine resources are difficult to access due to their low-and-subtidal habitat occurrence.

Potential Effects on Wildlife Movement

The project site occurs within a gated, landscaped residential yard on a coastal cliff/bluff within a larger residential neighborhood, and does not appear to play an important role in regard to local or regional movement of wildlife.

The larger study area, consisting of a rock/gravel beach and nearshore waters, lies within a protected cove difficult to access on foot. Five-hundred feet southwest of the site lie the steep and impassable ocean cliffs of La Jolla. For these reasons, the study area does not appear to play an important role in regard to local or regional movement of wildlife.

For these reasons, establishment of the trail and subsequent use of the trail by the public are not expected to have any potentially significant adverse effects upon wildlife movement.

Findings of Significance

Implementation of the proposed action would not result in any potentially significant impacts to non-marine biological resources.

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APPENDIX A

LISTS OF PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DETECTED

The following lists identifies plant and wildlife species detected on and adjacent to the project site by Hamilton Biological during the current study. Sources:

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* Denotes taxon not native to the study area.

VASCULAR PLANTS

SECTION: EUDICOTS

Aizoaceae – Iceplant Family

* *Aptenia cordifolia,* Heartleaf Iceplant
* *Carpobrotus edulis*, Highway Iceplant
* *Drosanthemum floribundum*, Pale Dewplant
* *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, Crystalline Iceplant
* *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*, Small-flowered Iceplant

Anacardiaceae - Sumac Family

Rhus integrifolia, Lemonade Berry
* *Schinus terebinthifolius*, Brazilian Pepper

Asteraceae - Sunflower Family

* *Argyranthemum frutescens,* Marguerite Daisy
* *Dimorphotheca fruticosa,* Trailing African Daisy
Pseudognaphalium biolettii, Bicolored Everlasting
* *Sonchus oleraceus*, Common Sow Thistle

Brassicaceae - Mustard Family

* *Hirschfeldia incana*, Shortpod Mustard

Caprifoliaceae - Goosefoot Family
* *Centranthus ruber*, Red Valerian

Chenopodiaceae – Goosefoot Family
* *Atriplex semibaccata*, Australian Saltbush
* *Chenopodium* sp., chenopodium
* *Salsola australis*, Russian Thistle

Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family
* *Crassula ovata,* Jade Plant

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family
* *Euphorbia maculata,* Spotted Spurge
* *Euphorbia peplus*, Petty Spurge
* *Euphorbia segetalis,* Corn Spurge

Fabaceae - Pea Family
* *Melilotus indicus*, Annual Sweetclover

Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family
* *Melaleuca nesophila*, Showy Honey-Myrtle
**Metrosideros excelsa*, New Zealand Christmas Tree

Oxalidaceae - Wood-Sorrel Family
* *Oxalis corniculata*, Creeping Wood-Sorrel

Rosaceae - Rose Family
* *Rhaphiolepis indica*, Indian Hawthorn

Scrophulariaceae – Figwort Family
* *Myoporum parvifolium*, Creeping Myoporum

Solanaceae - Nightshade Family
* *Nicotiana glauca*, Tree Tobacco

SECTION: MONOCOTS
Araceae - Palm Family
* *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, Calla Lily

Arecaceae - Palm Family
* *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm

Asparagaceae - Asparagus Family
* *Agave americana*, Century Plant

Asphodelaceae - Asphodel Family
* *Aloe* sp., aloe species

Dryopteridaceae - Wood Fern Family
* *Cyrtomium falcatum*, House Holly-fern

Nephrolepidaceae - Sword Fern Family
* *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, Fishbone Fern

Poaceae - Grass Family
* *Bromus diandrus*, Ripgut Brome
* *Bromus rubens*, Foxtail Brome
Distichlis spicata, Saltgrass
* *Polypogon monspeliensis*, Rabbitfoot Grass
* *Polypogon viridis*, Water Bent

Zamiaceae - Cycad Family
* *Ceratozamia* sp., cycad

VERTEBRATE WILDLIFE

CLASS AVES – BIRDS

Trochilidae - Hummingbird Family
Calypte anna, Anna's Hummingbird

Haematopodidae - Oystercatcher Family
Haematopus bachmani, Black Oystercatcher

Laridae - Gull Family
Larus heermanni, Heermann's Gull
Larus occidentalis, Western Gull

Phalacrocoracidae – Cormorant and Shag Family
Urile pelagicus, Pelagic Cormorant

Pelecanidae – Pelican Family
Pelecanus occidentalis, Brown Pelican

Ardeidae – Heron and Egret Family
Egretta thula, Snowy Egret

Pandionidae – Osprey Family
Pandion haliaetus, Osprey

Falconidae – Falcon and Caracara Family
Falco peregrinus, Peregrine Falcon

Corvidae – Crow, Raven, Jay and Ally Family
Corvus brachyrhynchos, American Crow
Corvus corax, Common Raven

Tyrannidae - Tyrant Flycatcher Family
Sayornis nigricans, Black Phoebe

Mimidae – Thrasher, Mockingbird, and Ally Family
Mimus polyglottos, Northern Mockingbird

Fringillidae - Finch Family
Haemorhous mexicanus, House Finch

Passerellidae - Sparrow Family
Melospiza melodia, Song Sparrow
Melozone crissalis, California Towhee

Icteridae – New World Blackbird Family
Icterus cucullatus, Hooded Oriole
Molothrus ater, Brown-headed Cowbird

Parulidae – New World Warbler Family
Leiothlypis celata, Orange-crowned Warbler

CLASS MAMMALIA – MAMMALS
Sciuridae – Squirrel Family
Otospermophilus beecheyi, California Ground Squirrel

Phocidae – True Seal Family
Phoca vitulina, Harbor Seal (carcass)