

3.0 CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

3.1 OVERVIEW

The *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines* Section 15088.5 requires:

- (a) A lead agency is required to recirculate an EIR when significant new information is added to the EIR after public notice of its availability... “significant new information” requiring recirculation includes, for example, a disclosure showing that:
 - (1) A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented.
 - (2) A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted that reduce the impact to a level of insignificance.
 - (3) A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the environmental impacts of the project, but the project’s proponents decline to adopt it.
 - (4) The draft EIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.
- (b) Recirculation is not required where the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in the adequate EIR.
- (c) If the revision is limited to a few chapters or portions of the EIR, the lead agency need only recirculate the chapters or portions that have been modified.
- (d) Recirculation of an EIR requires notice pursuant to Section 15087, and consultation pursuant to Section 15086.
- (e) A decision not to recirculate an EIR must be supported by substantial evidence in the administrative record.

New information is “significant” if, as a result of the additional information, “the EIR is changed in a way that deprives the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect.” *Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.* 864 P.2d 502, 510 (1993) (*Laurel Heights II*). *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088.5(a). Recirculation is not mandated when the new information merely clarifies, amplifies, or makes and insignificant modification to an adequate draft EIR. (*Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rancho Cordova*, 150 P.3d 709 (2007) (quoting *Laurel Heights II*, 864 P.2d at 510);

see also *Marin Mun. Water Dist. v. KG Land California Corp.*, 235 Cal.App.3d 1652, 1667 (1991) (citing *Sutter Sensible Planning v. Board of Supervisors* 122 Cal.App.3d 813 (1981)).

In response to written comments received, clarifications to the mitigation measures, and staff initiated text edits; changes have been made to the Draft EIR. Additional information has been identified in written comments to the Draft EIR and responded to in **Section 2.0, Responses to Comments**, of this Final EIR. These changes made since publication of the Draft EIR do not substantially affect the analysis contained in the Draft EIR, do not result in a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact identified in the Draft EIR and do not change the conclusions in any way.

All of the written comments to the Draft EIR, as well as these Corrections and Additions to the Draft EIR have been carefully reviewed to determine whether recirculation of the Draft EIR is required. All of the new information in these Corrections and Additions to the Draft EIR, and in the comments and in the responses to comments merely clarify or amplify or make insignificant modifications to an adequate Draft EIR. Therefore, the Draft EIR need not be recirculated prior to certification.

3.2 CHANGES TO THE DRAFT EIR

Changes to the Draft EIR are identified below by the corresponding Draft EIR section and subsection, if applicable, and the page number. Additions are in underline and deletions are shown in ~~striketrough~~ format.

Executive Summary

Page 1.0-14, in Table 1.0-1, Summary of Project Impacts and Recommended Mitigation Measures, under the subheading 4.2 Biological Resources, the table is revised as follows:

Project Impacts	Recommended Mitigation Measures	Residual Impacts
4.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CONTINUED)		
	<p>MM 4.2-8: <u>Efforts shall be made to avoid initiating construction or other site preparation during the active nesting season (typically March 1 through August 30). If such timing is not feasible, w</u>Within 30 days of ground-disturbing activities associated with construction or grading that would occur during the nesting/breeding season of native bird species potentially nesting on the site (typically March through August in the project region, or as determined by a qualified biologist), the applicant shall have weekly surveys conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active nests of bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the disturbance zone or within 300 feet (500 feet for raptors) of the disturbance zone. The surveys shall continue on a weekly basis, with the last survey being conducted no more than three days prior to initiation of disturbance work. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed, then additional pre-disturbance surveys shall be conducted so that no more than three days will have elapsed between the survey and ground-disturbing activities.</p>	
	<p>MM 4.2-8 (continued)</p> <p>If active nests are found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist in consultation with CDFG, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest shall be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers, and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to these nests occur. <u>CDFG may change the buffer radii at their discretion.</u></p>	
	<p>MM 4.2-9: A Slender Mariposa Lily Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to CDFG for review and approval prior to ground disturbance to occupied habitat. Upon approval, the plan will be implemented by the applicant or its designee. The plan will demonstrate the feasibility of enhancing or restoring slender mariposa lily habitat in selected areas to be managed as natural open space without conflicting</p>	

	<p>with other resource management objectives. Habitat enhancement or replacement will be at a 1:1 ratio (acres enhanced or restored: acres impacted).</p> <p>The plan will specify methods to collect propagules and introduce slender mariposa lily into these mitigation sites. Introductions will use source material (seeds or bulbs) from slender mariposa lily occurrences to be lost. The applicant or its designee will monitor the reintroduction sites for no fewer than five additional years to estimate slender mariposa lily survivorship (for bulbs) or seedling establishment (for seeded sites).</p> <p>Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning for slender mariposa lily. Monitoring reports will describe all enhancement or restoration measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe mariposa lily survival or establishment in quantitative terms.</p> <p><u>MM 4.2-9</u> To fully determine whether or not California gnatcatcher is present on site, focused surveys following USFWS protocol methodology shall be conducted within one year of proposed project implementation or other related site preparation activities. If no California gnatcatchers are observed or detected, no further actions would be required. However, if this species is recorded on site, project impacts could be significant. As such consultation with USFWS would be required. This may be necessary through Section 7 or as an incidental take permit in association with a Habitat Conservation Plan.</p>	
	<p><u>MM 4.2-10</u> Within one year of permitted site preparation activities or other actions that may disturb the ground or existing vegetation, a qualified biologist(s), approved by CDFG, shall conduct focused surveys for special-status plant species throughout the proposed project site. Surveys shall be timed such that the blooming period for each of the target species are covered.</p> <p><u>For each special-status plant species identified during the focused survey effort, a detailed Rare Plant Mitigation and Monitoring plan shall be submitted to CDFG for review and approval prior to ground disturbance to occupied habitat. Upon approval, each plan will be implemented by the applicant or its designee under the direction of a qualified biologist. Each plan will demonstrate the feasibility of enhancing or restoring habitat appropriate for that species in selected areas to be managed as natural open space without conflicting with other resource management objectives. Habitat enhancement or replacement will be at a 1:1 ratio (acres enhanced or restored: acres impacted). If multiple special-status plant species are found and occur in similar habitat, the same mitigation areas may be utilized for multiple species.</u></p> <p><u>Each plan will specify methods to collect seeds, bulbs, or propagules, as</u></p>	

	<p><u>appropriate, and introduce each species into the approved mitigation site(s). Introductions will use source material (seeds, bulbs, or propagules) from each species that would otherwise be lost. The applicant or its designee will have a qualified biologist monitor the reintroduction sites for no fewer than five years from the time of planting to estimate each species' survivorship or seedling establishment (for seeded sites).</u></p> <p><u>Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning for each species relocated. Monitoring reports will describe all enhancement, maintenance, or restoration measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe plant survival or establishment in quantitative terms for each species included in the mitigation effort. The plan shall also include success criteria satisfactory to CDFG and contingency actions should the success criteria not be met.</u></p>	
	<p>MM 4.2-4011 Prior to issuance of a grading permit, an Oak tree report shall be prepared and approved by the City of Santa Clarita. All oaks that will not be removed that are regulated under the City of Santa Clarita's Oak Tree Preservation and Protection Guidelines with driplines within 50 feet of land clearing (including brush clearing) or areas to be graded shall be enclosed in a temporary fenced zone for the duration of the clearing or grading activities. Fencing shall extend to the root protection zone (<i>i.e.</i>, the area at least 15 feet from the trunk or 5 feet beyond the drip line, whichever distance is greater). No parking or storage of equipment, solvents, or chemicals that could adversely affect the trees shall be allowed within 25 feet of the trunk at any time. Removal of the fence shall occur only after the project arborist or qualified biologist confirms the health of preserved trees.</p>	
	<p>MM 4.2-4112 Prior to the issuance of a grading permit for ground disturbance, construction, or site preparation activities, the applicant shall retain the services of a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys for western spadefoot <u>and vernal pool fairy shrimp</u> within the vernal pool and all other portions of the project site containing suitable breeding habitat. Surveys shall be conducted during a time of year when the species can be detected (<i>i.e.</i>, when the vernal pool is inundated).</p> <p>1. <u>A Habitat Creation and Monitoring Plan shall be prepared that outlines the specific design and implementation procedures to create a vernal pool and surrounding upland habitat suitable for western spadefoot breeding and other special-status resources associated with the vernal pool on site.</u> Under the direct supervision of the qualified biologist, western spadefoot vernal pool habitat shall be created within suitable natural site(s) on the project site outside of the proposed development envelope. The amount of occupied breeding habitat to be impacted by the project shall be replaced at a 1:1 ratio.</p>	

	<p>The actual relocation site design and location shall be approved by CDFG <u>and</u> USFWS. The location shall be in a suitable habitat as far away as feasible from the impacted area. The relocation pond(s) shall be designed so that they only support standing water for several weeks following seasonal rains, in order to <u>mimic the existing conditions of the vernal pool and such</u> that aquatic predators (<i>e.g.</i>, fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish) cannot become established. <u>Additionally, soils and plant materials from the existing vernal pool will be utilized in the substrate of the relocation pond. Utilization of the vernal pool substrate in the mitigation pond is done in an effort to include cysts from the exiting fairy shrimp population and seed base for the sensitive spreading navarretia.</u></p> <p>Terrestrial habitat surrounding the proposed relocation site shall be as similar in type, aspect, and density to the location of the existing ponds as feasible. No site preparation or construction activities shall be permitted in the vicinity of the currently occupied ponds until the design and construction of the pool habitat in preserved areas of the site has been completed and all western spadefoot adult, tadpoles, and egg masses detected are moved to the created pool habitat.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Based on appropriate rainfall and temperatures, generally between the months of February and April, the biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys in all appropriate vegetation types within the development envelope. Surveys will include evaluation of all previously documented occupied areas and a reconnaissance-level survey of the remaining natural areas of the site. All western spadefoot adults, tadpoles, and egg masses encountered shall be collected and released in identified or created relocation ponds described above. 3. The qualified biologist shall monitor the relocation-created vernal pool site for five years, involving annual monitoring during and immediately following peak breeding season so that surveys can be conducted for adults as well as for egg masses and larval and post-larval toads. Further, survey data will be provided to CDFG by the monitoring biologist following each monitoring period and a written report summarizing the monitoring results will be provided to CDFG at the end of the monitoring effort. Success criteria for the monitoring program shall include verifiable evidence of toad reproduction at the relocation site. 	
	<p>MM 4.2-1213 Prior to project construction, the applicant shall develop a relocation plan for coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, coastal whiptail, rosy boa, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and coast patch-nosed snake.</p>	

	MM 4.2-1314 Thirty days prior to construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct CDFG protocol surveys to determine whether burrowing owl is present at the site.	
	MM 4.2-1415 No earlier than 30 days prior to the commencement of construction activities, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active roosts of special-status bats are present on or within 300 feet of the project disturbance boundaries.	
	MM 4.2-1516 Any special-status species bat day roost sites found by a qualified biologist during pre-construction surveys conducted per MM 4.2-1519 , to be directly (within project disturbance footprint) or indirectly (within 300 feet of project disturbance footprint) impacted are to be mitigated with creation of artificial roost sites.	
	MM 4.2-1617 Thirty days prior to construction activities in grassland, scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riverbank, and agriculture habitats, or other suitable habitat a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit and San Diego desert woodrat.	
	MM 4.2-1718 Thirty days prior to construction activities in suitable habitat, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for American badger.	
	MM 4.2-1819 All lighting along the perimeter of natural areas shall be downcast luminaries with light patterns directed away from natural areas.	
	MM 4.2-1920 Plant palettes proposed for use on landscaped slopes, street medians, park sites, and other public landscaped and Fuel Modification Zone areas within 100 feet of native vegetation types shall be reviewed by a qualified restoration specialist to ensure that the proposed landscape plants will not naturalize and require maintenance or cause vegetation type degradation in the open space areas (River Corridor SMA, High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and natural portions of the Open Area).	

Page 1.0-29, in **Table 1.0-1, Summary of Project Impacts and Recommended Mitigation Measures**, under the subheading **4.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, the table is revised as follows:

Project impacts	Recommended Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
4.6 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS		
<p>The proposed Via Princessa East Extension project would not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was prepared for the proposed project to determine if there are any environmental conditions at the project site that would include the presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products into structures on the property or into the ground, groundwater, or surface water. No conditions were observed during site reconnaissance that would be expected to affect the project site and database searches did not identify any conditions that would affect the proposed project. The proposed project would not result in a significant impact related to human-made hazards.</p>	<p>Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are recommended. MM 4.6-1 Absent staff locating information which dispositively establishes that UXO <u>does not exist within the construction footprint, prior to commencing construction, the City will retain an expert who will (1) conduct a survey/search for UXO on the NTS property within the construction footprint, (2) eliminate any identified UXO, and (3) recommend safety protocols to be followed during construction of the roadway.</u></p>	<p>Less than significant <u>after mitigation</u></p>

Project Description

Page 3.0-4, under the subheading Land Use Designations and Zoning, the text is revised as follows:

The City's General Plan new Land Use Map, designates the project site as BP (Business Park) and UR5 (Urban Residential 5). The City's Zoning Map, shows that the project site is zoned Business Park, Business Park (Planned Development) and ~~Residential Low~~ Urban Residential uses.

Page 3.0-8, under the subheading Schedule, the text is revised as follows:

Construction activities are expected to commence ~~in~~ at such time as funding becomes available or development occurs. Once the funding for design and construction is available, the City will move forward with the design and environmental permitting. Project design and environmental permitting are projected to take approximately 24 months. Should development occur in the near future, clearing and grubbing of the area is expected to begin in May 2013 and last through August 2013. Construction of the project is expected to take approximately 30 months. Site grading and excavation would require cut and fill of 762,120 cubic yards on site, as estimated by the project applicant. ~~Grading and excavation is expected to begin in September 2013 and last through January 2015. Trenching for drainage and utilities is expected to begin in February 2015 and last through December 2015. Asphalt paving would follow in January 2016 and last through June 2016.~~

Page 3.0-8, a new subheading Design Measures Incorporated into the project is inserted as follows:

DESIGN MEASURES INCORPORATED INTO THE PROJECT

The proposed project would include one of the primary east-west arterials through the City of Santa Clarita. The proposed roadway would be approximately 1.2 miles in length, with right-of-way width of 116 feet, and would be designated as a Major Arterial Highway per the City of Santa Clarita's Master Plan of Arterial Highways. The project involves the construction of a new roadway segment between Golden Valley Road and the existing western terminus of Via Princessa Road near Sheldon Avenue.

During the public outreach process for the project and public review period for the Draft EIR, concerns were raised by residents in the project's vicinity related to existing traffic conditions on Isabella Parkway. Residents expressed their concerns related to traffic safety and excessive speeds on Isabella Parkway and suggested traffic calming or other safety measures be incorporated into the project.

Although improvements to Isabella Parkway, an intersecting street to Via Princessa, were not originally proposed nor required as part of this project, the following design measure may be incorporated into the

proposed project:

During the design phase of the proposed project, the City Traffic Engineer, in coordination with the direction of the City Council and support of the Isabella Parkway community, should evaluate the traffic patterns/conditions along Isabella Parkway, and if necessary, identify traffic/calming safety measures that may be placed along Isabella Parkway as part of the proposed project.

Air Quality

Page 4.1-10, Footnote 16 is revised as follows:

¹⁶ Southern California Association of Governments, “Regional Transportation Plan: Destination 2030,” <http://www.scag.ca.gov/rtp2004/2004/FinalPlan.htm>. Destination 2030 is a multi-modal Plan representing SCAG’s vision for a better transportation system, integrated with the best possible growth pattern for the Region over the Plan horizon of 2030. The Plan provides the basic policy and program framework for long term investment in our vast regional transportation system in a coordinated, cooperative and continuous manner. Transportation investments in the SCAG Region that receive State or federal transportation funds must be consistent with the RTP and must be included in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) when ready for funding.

Page 4.1-10, Footnote 17 is revised as follows:

¹⁷ Southern California Association of Governments, “Regional Transportation Improvement Program,” <http://www.scag.ca.gov/RTIP/rtip2006/adopted.htm>. 2006. The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) refers to the share of capital outlay improvement funds controlled by regional agencies (75 percent of State Transportation Improvement Program funds). (Note: The Federal Transportation Improvement Program is locally referred to as the 2006 RTIP.)

Page 4.1-18, Footnote 29 is revised as follows:

²⁹ Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Memorandum – Health Impacts of Low-Sulfur Diesel Production and Use, (2004) 2. The California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) assesses health risks from toxic substances, including those found in fuels. The American Lung Association of California (ALAC) and its 15 local associations work to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. This memorandum by OEHHA and the ALAC provides information on commonly used motor vehicle (diesel) fuel.

Page 4.1-18, Footnote 30 is revised as follows:

³⁰ California Air Resources Board, "Air Pollution – Particulate Matter Brochure," <http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/brochure/pm10.htm>. 2010. This brochure by CARB provides information on particulate matter, where it comes from, and what its affects are on human health.

Page 4.1-19, Footnote 32 is revised as follows:

³² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Lead in Paint, Dust, and Soil," <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadinfo.htm>. 2010. This brochure by the US EPA provides information on lead in the environment, what it is, where it comes from, where it is commonly found, and what its affects are on human health.

Page 4.1-21, Footnote 37 is revised as follows:

³⁷ South Coast Air Quality Management District, Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study in the South Coast Air Basin (MATES III) – Draft Report, 2008. ES-2. The Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study III (MATES III) is a monitoring and evaluation study conducted in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The study is a follow up to previous air toxics studies in the Basin and is part of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board's 2003-04 Environmental Justice Workplan.

Page 4.1-26, Footnote 38 is revised as follows:

³⁸ Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Guidance Manual for Preparation of Health Risk Assessments, 2003. The Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Guidance Manual for Preparation of Health Risk Assessments (OEHHA, 2003) (Guidance Manual) is a concise description of the algorithms, recommended exposure variates, and cancer and noncancer health values needed to perform a health risk assessment (HRA) under the Air Toxics Hot Spots Information and Assessment Act of 1987. The Guidance Manual also contains example calculations and an outline for a modeling protocol and a HRA report.

Biological Resources

Page 4.2-1, under the subheading Introduction, the text is revised as follows:

Threatened special status plant species; the loss of protected oak trees; the potential loss of a federally Threatened and Endangered fairy shrimp species, and additional non-listed special-status animal species; the loss of 0.51 acre of California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and 0.85 acre of US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional areas; and indirect impacts including increased lighting and glare,

increased landscaping irrigation and stormwater runoff, an increase in non-native plant and wildlife species, increased human activity and domestic animal presence, and increased erosion and dust resulting from construction and grading activities.

Implementation of mitigation measures required by this EIR would mitigate some, but not all, of the identified project-specific impacts to less than significant levels. Significant unavoidable impacts would occur due to the loss of vernal pool habitat and vernal pool-dependent federally-listed species. The project would also contribute to a significant unavoidable cumulative impact related to the ongoing loss of biological resources in the project region.

Page 4.2-3, **Table 4.2-1, Biological surveys Conducted on the Via Princessa Road Alignment Site**, the table is revised as follows:

**Table 4.2-1
Biological Surveys Conducted on the Via Princessa Road Alignment Site**

Taxonomic group/technical report	Consultant (and permit number if applicable)	Survey dates	General methods
Plant surveys and general biological surveys	Impact Sciences <u>Joe Decruyenaere</u>	April, May, and June 2010	Focused plant surveys were conducted throughout the site, excluding the SCE easement on April 6 and 20; within the vernal pool on May 18; and within the SCE easement on June 11. The surveys were floristic in nature and were conducted according to accepted scientific <u>CDFG and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recommended survey protocol methods for rare plants</u> . Vegetation types and plant species associations were also noted and their dominant species recorded at this time.
Jurisdictional delineation of waters and streambeds	Impact Sciences <u>Joe Decruyenaere</u>	April 2010	The on-site drainage system was delineated for jurisdictional resources; published USACE/CDFG delineation protocols were utilized in the field.
Fairy shrimp	Thomas Juhasz (TE-20890-0)	Ongoing commenced <u>May-December 2010 – April 2011</u>	Wet and dry season vernal pools surveys were conducted in the on-site vernal pool.
Coastal California gnatcatcher	Cooper Ecological Monitoring (TE-100008-1)	July–November 2010	A series of nine survey visits were conducted per <u>US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</u> protocol for California gnatcatcher.

Page 4.2-4, under the subheading Grasslands, the text is revised as follows:

Within both annual and perennial grasslands, subdominant and emergent herbaceous species ~~may~~ include common lomatium (*Lomatium utriculatum*), annual bur-sage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), California thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *californicum*), California aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*), coast goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), California cottonrose (*Logfia filaginoides*), Douglas’s silverpuffs (*Microseris douglasii*)

ssp. *douglasii*), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), everlasting nest-straw (*Stylocline gnaphaloides*), silverpuffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), slender combseed (*Pectocarya linearis* ssp. *ferocula*), valley popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys canescens*), Peirson's morning-glory (*Calystegia peirsonii*), turkey mullein (*Croton setigerus*), coastal bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus salsuginosus*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius* var. *scoparius*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), burclover (*Medicago polymorpha*), yellow sweet-clover (*Melilotus indicus*), winecup clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea* ssp. *quadrivulnera*), purple owl's-clover (*Castilleja exserta* ssp. *exserta*), wavy-leaf soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum* var. *pomeridianum*), blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*), splendid mariposa lily (*C. splendens*), butterfly mariposa lily (*C. venustus*), common goldenstar (*Bloomeria crocea*), and bluedicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*).

Page 4.2-6, under the subheading Chaparral formations, the text is revised as follows:

Chaparral communities on site are mapped on **Figure 4.2-1** as chamise chaparral (37.101.00) and hoaryleaf ceanothus chaparral (37.208.00).

Pages 4.2-6 through 4.2-7, under the subheading Riparian communities, the text is revised as follows:

Along drainages and swales, where higher soil moisture allows the growth of plant species not commonly seen elsewhere on site, distinct vegetation types have been delineated. These are not extensive and are not supported ~~relatively~~ by permanent or near permanent sources of surface water. Nevertheless, they represent vegetation types that are characteristic of headwater channels and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *fremontii*), and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) may achieve localized dominance along these features, especially in lower portions of the site. Elsewhere, vegetation ~~type~~ associations within drainages and swales ~~areas~~ are differentiated from that of upland areas by a greater cover of an assortment of species requiring higher moisture availability, including blue elderberry, skunk bush (*Rhus aromatica*), poison-oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), and giant wildrye (*Leymus condensatus*).

Page 4.2-7, under the subheading Vernal pool, the text is revised as follows:

A southern vernal pool (44.300.00) is present on site within a landslide depression surrounded by undulating terrain. Vegetation within the pool and along its banks is markedly distinct from the surrounding vegetation type and includes clustered tarplant, western marsh cudweed (*Gnaphalium palustre*), dwarf woolly-heads (*Psilocarphus brevissimus* var. *brevissimus*), vernal pool boisduvalia (*Epilobium pygmaeum*), ~~Moran's nosegay~~ spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), longstem spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), western toad rush (*Juncus bufonius* var. *occidentalis*), and annual hairgrass (*Deschampsia danthonioides*).

Page 4.2-9, under the subheading Birds, the text is revised as follows:

Of the bird species observed on site, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, merlin, peregrine falcon, osprey, Vaux's swift, Costa's hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird, Lawrence's goldfinch, and loggerhead shrike are included on the CDFG List of Special Animals. An additional three species have recently been identified as Los Angeles County Bird Species of Special Concern¹ due to declining and vulnerable populations in the County; these are greater roadrunner, vesper sparrow, and western meadowlark. These are discussed in greater detail in **subsection 6, Sensitive Biological Resources**.

Page 4.2-11, under the subheading Special-Status Plants, the text is revised as follows:

Special-status plants include those species that are state or federally listed as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered; federal Candidates for listing; proposed for state or federal listing; or included on ~~Lists~~ Rare Plant Ranks 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS Inventory). Plants included on the CNPS Inventory are classified as follows:

- ~~Lists~~ Rare Plant Rank 1A: plants presumed extinct in California
- ~~Lists~~ Rare Plant Rank 1B: plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
- ~~Lists~~ Rare Plant Rank 2: plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- ~~Lists~~ Rare Plant Rank 3: plants about which more information is needed—a review list
- ~~Lists~~ Rare Plant Rank 4: plants of limited distribution—a watch list

Based on a review of the CNDDDB and CNPS databases and the results of surveys conducted on the Via Princessa Road Alignment project site, a total of 23 special-status plant species were identified as occurring in the region².

Special-status plant species that were observed on the project site during focused surveys include Peirson's morning-glory (*Calystegia peirsonii*), ~~Moran's nosegay~~ spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), and slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*).

¹ Allen, LR *et al.* 2009. Los Angeles County's Sensitive Bird Species. *Western Tanager* 75(3). January/February 2009. The Western Tanager is a publication of Los Angeles Audubon; this edition of the publication provides extensive information and rankings regarding bird species in Los Angeles County at risk of extirpation (local extinction).

² For the purposes of this analysis, the project region is considered to be the 9-quad region containing the project site—USGS quads Mint Canyon, Green Valley, Sleepy Valley, Newhall, Oat Mountain, Warm Springs Mountain, Agua Dulce, San Fernando, and Sunland.

Page 4.2-12, under the subheading Special-Status Plants, the text is revised as follows:

Peirson's morning-glory is a CNPS ~~List~~ Rare Plant Rank 4.2 plant, typically found in chaparral, coastal scrub, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and grasslands. It is relatively common in annual grasslands on site; however, due to the low sensitivity status of the species, observations were not mapped.

~~**Moran's nosegay**~~ **Spreading navarretia** is a federally listed Threatened and CNPS ~~List~~ Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 species, reported from chenopod scrub, freshwater marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. This species is relatively common within the on-site vernal pool, and occurs nowhere else on the project site. Within Los Angeles County, the only other extant populations of this species are known from the Cruzan Mesa vernal pool complex, approximately 4 miles northeast of the project site.³

Slender mariposa lily is a CNPS ~~List~~ Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 plant, typically found in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and grasslands, often on clay or rocky soils. A population of this species is present within the foothill needlegrass grassland mapped on north-facing slopes, north of the vernal pool. In 2010, the on-site population comprised approximately 30 flowering individuals.

The special-status plant species identified in Table 4.2-2, Special-Status Plant Species Documented in the Project Area but not Observed on the Project Site, are known to occur in the project region and were target species of the focused plant surveys conducted on, and in the vicinity of, the Via Princessa project site. None of these species were observed on the project site. Although not detected during surveys conducted in spring 2010, the potential of some of these species to occur on the site in future seasons cannot be entirely ruled out.

³ Consortium of California Herbaria. 2010. Accession Results for *Navarretia fossalis*. Available at ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium. The Consortium of California Herbaria serves as a gateway to information from California vascular plant specimens that are housed in participant herbaria. The database includes over 2 million specimen records from over 30 institutions.

Pages 4.2-13 through 4.2-16, Table 4.2-2, Special-Status Plant Species Documented in the Project Area but not Observed on the Project Site, the table is revised as follows:

**Table 4.2-2
Special-Status Plant Species Documented in the Project Area but not Observed on the Project Site**

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS Lists <u>Status</u>	Habitat	Growth form Blooming period*	Potential to Occur on Site
Dicots						
Slender-horned spineflower <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	FE	SE	1B.1	Sandy soils in flood-deposited terraces and washes in alluvial scrub communities between 200 and 760 m msl	Annual herb April-June	None Low —flood terrace habitat is not present on the project site, <u>but this species has been recorded in other sandy habitats.</u>
Dicots (continued)						

Page 4.2-17, Footnote 5 is revised as follows:

⁵ ~~(Sawyer et al. 2009)~~ In the publication *A Manual of California Vegetation*, CNPS has adopted a definitive system for describing vegetation statewide. This standard vegetation classification has been accepted by state and federal agencies, and the principal unit is called "Alliance" (or series), which is a floristically defined vegetation type identified by its dominant and/or characteristic species. The 2009 2nd Edition of the Manual provides the background for CNPS's prominent scientific publication (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995, and Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf and Evens 2009).

Page 4.2-17, Footnote 6 is revised as follows:

⁶ ~~(Grossman et al. 1998)~~ In the publication *National Vegetation Classification Standard*, the Vegetation Subcommittee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee has responsibility for creating a federal vegetation classification standard. This document presents a process standard to be used to create a dynamic content standard for all vegetation types in the classification. The content standard constitutes a "data classification standard" which provides hierarchical groups and categories of vegetation to facilitate aggregation of local and regional vegetation inventory data to generate national statistics on vegetation resources.

Pages 4.2-18 through 4.2-19, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife, the text is revised as follows:

Based on a review of the CNDDDB, the Los Angeles Audubon list of Los Angeles County's Sensitive Bird Species, and the biological documentation prepared for the project site and the greater Via Princessa project area, a total of ~~5155~~ special-status wildlife species were identified that are known to occur in the project region or that may potentially utilize the project site during a sensitive phase of their life histories. Of these ~~5155~~ species, ~~2021~~ are not expected due to reasons of habitat unsuitability ~~or geographic range,~~ or results of focused protocol surveys. The remaining ~~3134~~ species that may potentially occur on site or that were directly observed during the course of surveys are vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), ~~San Diego fairy shrimp (*B. sandiegonensis*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*),~~ western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), rosy boa (*Charina trivirgata*), San Diego banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus abbottii*), San Bernardino ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus modestus*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Cooper's hawk, (*Accipiter cooperi*), sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter stroatis*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Bell's sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli belli*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*), Costa's

hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), Lawrence's goldfinch (*Carduelis lawrencei*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Coastal California gnatcatcher, (*Polioptila californica californica*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus ramona*), and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*).

Page 4.2-19, Footnote 10 is revised as follows:

¹⁰ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, 1987. This manual describes technical guidelines and methods using a multiparameter approach to identify and delineate wetlands for purposes of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Appendices of supporting technical information are also provided.

Pages 4.2-20 through 4.2-27, Table 4.2-3, Special-Status Wildlife Species Observed or Potentially Occurring on the Project Site, the table is revised as follows:

**Table 4.2-3
Special-Status Wildlife Species Observed or Potentially Occurring on the Project Site**

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Federal status	State status	Other lists	Habitat	Potential to occur on site
Crustaceans					
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT	—	—	Endemic to the grasslands of the central valley, central coast mountains, and south coast mountains in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt flow depression pools.	Presumed present Present — <u>Focused wet-season surveys for fairy shrimp identified this species in the vernal pool identified on site. Three additional rain pools were also surveyed, but no additional special-status invertebrates were identified. Suitable habitat is present within the vernal pools on site. Cysts of this genus have been collected from on-site habitat but not yet conclusively identified to species. Fairy shrimp surveys are ongoing as of February 2011.</u>
San Diego fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>	FE	—	—	Vernal pools on San Diego and Orange County mesas	Presumed present Absent —suitable habitat is present within the vernal pools on site. <u>Cysts of this genus have been collected from on-site habitat but not yet conclusively identified to species. Fairy shrimp surveys are ongoing as of February 2011. However, results of focused wet and dry season surveys in the identified vernal pool and additional rain pools did not detect this species.</u>
Riverside fairy shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	FE	—	—	Endemic to western Riverside, Orange, and San Diego Counties In areas of tectonic swales and slump basins in grassland and coastal scrub. Inhabit seasonal pools filled by winter/spring rains. Hatch in warm water later in the season.	Presumed present Absent —suitable habitat is present within the vernal pools on site. <u>Fairy shrimp surveys are ongoing as February 2011. However, results of focused wet and dry season surveys in the identified vernal pool and additional rain pools did not detect this species.</u>

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Federal status	State status	Other lists	Habitat	Potential to occur on site
Insects					
Monarch butterfly (wintering sites) <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	—	—	CDFG Special Animals List	Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (especially eucalyptus and Monterey cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. Winter Roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino County to Baja California, Mexico.	None —individuals of this species likely occur on site, however, the project site is outside this species' wintering range <u>and no suitable wintering habitat is present on site.</u>
Amphibians					
Reptiles					
Silvery legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	FSS	SSC	—	Leaf litter associates with sandy or loose loamy soil of high moisture content under sparse vegetation type	ModerateHigh —suitable habitat is present beneath oak trees and within <u>moist</u> sandy soils associated with drainage features on site.
Birds					
Cooper's hawk (nesting) <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	—	CDFG Watch List	—	Nests in open forests, groves, or trees along rivers, or low scrub of treeless areas. The wooded area is often near the edge of a field or water opening.	ModerateHigh —observed several times during Fall 2010, though nesting could not be confirmed at that time. Nesting habitat is present within trees on site.
<u>Sharp-shinned hawk (nesting)</u> <i>Accipiter stroatis</i>	=	CDFG Watch List	=	<u>Nests in deep forest. Forages in more open habitats during migration.</u>	Low —observed during Fall 2010, though this was expected to be a <u>migrant. Nesting does not typically occur in this part of the state and no suitable deep wooded areas present on site.</u>
<u>Osprey (nesting)</u> <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	=	CDFG Watch List	=	<u>Builds large stick nests, often over water. May occur along coast line, lakes, marshes, rivers, ponds, and reservoirs.</u>	Low —observed during Fall 2010, though this was expected to be a <u>migrant. Nesting does not typically occur in this part of the state and no suitable aquatic areas present on site.</u>
<u>Merlin (wintering)</u> <i>Falco columbarius</i>	=	CDFG Watch List	=	<u>Typically nests in open wooded areas in the most northern portions of the U.S. May winter in nearly any habitat type that supports enough prey items.</u>	Moderate to High —observed during Fall 2010, though only once. <u>Nesting does not occur in California, but several are known to winter in the region and suitable habitat is present on site.</u>
<u>Peregrine falcon (nesting)</u> <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Delisted	CDFG Fully Protected	=	<u>Most common along the coastline. Also occur inland and will nest on high perches such as cliffs, power pylons and other tall structures.</u>	Low —observed during gnatcatcher surveys on one occasion. <u>Likely forages in the area, but no suitable nesting habitat is present on site.</u>

Common name <i>Scientific name</i>	Federal status	State status	Other lists	Habitat	Potential to occur on site
Allen's hummingbird (nesting) <i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	=	=	USBC, AWL, ABC	Occurs primarily in coastal and riparian scrub and sometimes open woodland habitats; often near water. <u>May nest in any of these habitats.</u>	Present —observed and presumed to nest on site. Nesting habitat is present in all scrub communities on site.
Birds (continued)					
Lawrence's goldfinch (nesting) <i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>	BCC	—	USBC, AWL, ABC	Closely associated with oaks. Nests in open oak or other arid woodland and chaparral near water. Nearby herbaceous habitats used for feeding.	Moderate/High —observed on site and suitable nesting habitat is present within oak trees on site.
White-tailed kite (nesting) <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	—	CDFG Fully Protected	—	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	None — <u>this species may occur as an occasional forager, but</u> suitable riparian habitat is not available for nesting.
California horned lark <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	—	CDFG Watch List	LAA (coastal populations)	Frequents grasslands and other open habitats with low, sparse vegetation type.	Moderate — <u>few records of nesting in the project vicinity, but</u> suitable nesting habitat is present within grasslands on site.
Birds (continued)					
Coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	FT	SSC	USBC, AWL, ABC	Obligate permanent resident of coastal sage and alluvial scrub habitats below 800 m msl in Southern California.	Presumed absent Low —suitable habitat is present within scrub communities on site; however protocol surveys conducted for this species in summer and fall 2010 were negative, and the species is <u>was</u> presumed not to be present at that time. <u>Notwithstanding, results of focused surveys are only valid for one year so additional surveys would be required to fully determine presence/absence if the project is approved.</u>

Pages 4.2-35 through 4.2-36, under the subheading Special-status Plant Species, the text is revised as follows:

As shown in Table 4.2-2, above, the following special-status plant species were eliminated from further consideration because they were determined not to be potentially present on the project site based on existing habitat types and conditions: Braunton's milk-vetch, Nevin's barberry, white-bracted spineflower, Santa Susana tarplant, ~~slender-horned-spineflower~~, San Gabriel bedstraw, Newhall sunflower, Los Angeles sunflower, Ross's pitcher sage, Davidson's bushmallow, short joint beavertail, and Mt. Pinos onion.

Special-status plant species that were observed on the project site during the focused special-status plant surveys include Peirson's morning-glory, ~~Moran's nosegay~~ spreading navarretia, and slender mariposa lily.

Although focused rare plant surveys were conducted and some of the target species were not observed, some potential remains for them to occur in the future as differences in seasonal rainfall and other factors can affect whether or not individual plants germinate in a given season. The following special-status plant species are considered to have a low potential to be present on the site despite not having been detected during surveys in spring 2011~~14~~: round-leaved filaree, southern tarplant, slender-horned spine flower, San Fernando Valley spineflower, Parry's spineflower, Palmer's grapplinghook, Piute Mountains Navarretia, chaparral ragwort, Greata's aster, Plummer's mariposa lily, and California Orcutt grass. ~~Impacts to these species are discussed below~~ Because of the uncertainty of future occurrence and because the project is not expected to be initiated this year, additional focused surveys are recommended within one year of site preparation activities that would disturb existing vegetation. Mitigation Measure MM 4.2-10 provides information regarding the need for additional focused surveys. Should the results of these surveys be negative for any additional special-status plant species, they would be considered absent and impacts to these species would be considered less than significant. If any of these special-status plant species are identified on site, additional mitigation would be necessary. MM 4.2-10 also provides additional discussion regarding the necessity of a mitigation and monitoring plan should additional rare plants be detected.

The following discussion provides additional details regarding project impacts to those special-status plant species that have already been detected on site:

Peirson's morning-glory is a CNPS ~~List~~ Rare Plant Rank 4.2 plant. This species is typically found in chaparral, coastal scrub, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and grasslands. The proposed project would result in the loss of Peirson's morning-glory ~~from~~ on the project

site. While never abundant, Peirson's morning-glory occurs throughout the Via Princessa project area within grasslands. Given the low sensitivity status of the species, observations were not mapped. CNPS List 4 plants are not considered Rare from a statewide perspective, are not defined as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, are not eligible for state listing as Threatened or Endangered, and the vulnerability or susceptibility to threats on a statewide basis are considered low at this time,⁴ the loss of Peirson's morning-glory would therefore not be considered a substantial adverse effect on a special-status species. Nor would it be expected to reduce regional populations of the species to below self-sustaining numbers. Thus, impacts to Peirson's morning-glory would be less than significant.

Slender mariposa lily is a CNPS ~~List~~ Rare Plant Rank 1B plant. The proposed project would result in the loss or disturbance of 0.7 acre of foothill needlegrass grassland occupied by slender mariposa lily (see "Foothill needlegrass grassland," **Figure 4.2-1**). Given the sensitivity of this species, impacts to this species are considered significant. **Mitigation Measure MM 4.2-9~~10~~** would reduce impacts to this species to below a level of significance.

~~Moran's nosegay~~ **Spreading navarretia** is a federally listed Threatened and CNPS ~~List~~ Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 species, reported from chenopod scrub, freshwater marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. This species is relatively common within the on-site vernal pool, and occurs nowhere else on the project site. Within Los Angeles County, the only other extant populations of this species are known from the Cruzan Mesa vernal pool complex, approximately 4 miles northeast of the project site. The proposed project would result in the loss of all (0.19 acre) of ~~Moran's nosegays~~ spreading navarretia habitat on site. Cruzan Mesa is an active film making site and is regularly disturbed by filmmaking activities, and is therefore not suitable as a mitigation site for this species. Given the rarity of ~~Moran's nosegays~~ spreading navarretia and that no viable habitat is available in Los Angeles County for preservation; the project-related loss of this species is an unavoidable significant impact. Mitigation Measures MM 4.2-9 and 4.2-12 include the creation of a vernal pool mitigation site and relocation of sensitive plants. This is expected to reduce the degree of impact to spreading navarretia. However, because this methodology has not been proven to be successful, it is considered experimental. Therefore, even with implementation of these two mitigation measures the project-related impacts to spreading navarretia would still be considered significant and unavoidable.

⁴ CNPS, The CNPS California Rare Plant Ranks ~~Ranking~~ System. Available at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/ranking.php>. The California Rare Plant Ranks (formerly known as CNPS Lists) are in an effort to categorize degrees of concern regarding the distribution of rare flora in the State.

Page 4.2-36, under the subheading Protected Oak Trees, the text is revised as follows:

~~Although a detailed oak tree survey has not been conducted,~~ Based upon general biological surveys of the project site, ~~indicate that, based on the proposed grading plan~~ it has been determined that, a minimum of 12 oak trees may be removed for project construction. The removal of or encroachment to oak trees as a result of project construction would be considered a significant impact under both the City of Santa Clarita and CEQA.

Replacement oak trees would be planted in the number necessary to comply with the requirements stipulated in the Oak Tree Permit issued by the City. Compliance with the permit conditions and implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-1011** would reduce impacts to oak trees to ~~below less than a level of significant.~~ below less than a level of significant.

Page 4.2-37, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife Species, the text is revised as follows:

Certain special-status wildlife species that are known to occur in the project region were eliminated from further consideration in this analysis because the project site lacks suitable habitat to support the species as a resident or nesting species or because surveys have established that the species is not expected to utilize the project site. As shown in Table 4.2-3, these species include the following: monarch butterfly, Santa Ana sucker, unarmored threespine stickleback, arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace, arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, two-striped garter snake, western yellow-billed cuckoo, white-tailed kite, southwestern willow flycatcher, prairie falcon, ~~coastal California gnatcatcher,~~ and lodgepole chipmunk.

The following special-status wildlife species were observed during the course of various field surveys conducted on the project site: vernal pool fairy shrimp, ~~San Diego fairy shrimp, Riverside fairy shrimp,~~ western spadefoot, coastal whiptail, and loggerhead shrike.

Based on the presence of suitable habitat on the project site, it is reasonable to conclude that certain special-status species could potentially occur on site prior to grading or construction activities associated with project implementation. Although not observed during surveys, the following species could occur on the project site: silvery legless lizard, rosy boa, San Diego banded gecko, San Bernardino ringneck snake, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, Cooper's hawk, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, California gnatcatcher, grasshopper sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow, burrowing owl, oak titmouse, Costa's hummingbird, Lawrence's goldfinch, California horned lark, Allen's hummingbird, pallid bat, spotted bat, western mastiff bat, hoary bat, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, San Diego desert woodrat, southern grasshopper mouse, and American badger. For the purposes of the following analysis, these

species are presumed to occur on the project site.

Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*). ~~San Diego fairy shrimp (*B. sandiegonensis*); Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*).~~ Preliminary ~~Focused wet and dry-season~~ fairy shrimp survey results indicate that ~~at least one~~ vernal pool fairy shrimp species is present on the project site; ~~however,~~ because individuals of this species were encysted at the time of their discovery, a conclusive determination has not been made.⁵ ~~Provisionally, and for the purposes of this analysis, all three potentially occurring species are presumed to be present. Suitable habitat is present for each of these three fairy shrimp species within the on-site vernal pool.~~ Within Los Angeles County, the only other extant populations of ~~these~~ this species are known from the Cruzan Mesa vernal pool complex, approximately 4 miles northeast of the project site. The proposed project would result in the loss of all (0.19 acre) of vernal pool habitat present on site. Cruzan Mesa is an active film making site and is regularly disturbed by filmmaking activities, and is therefore not suitable as a mitigation site for these species. Given the rarity of these species and that no viable habitat is available in Los Angeles County for preservation; the project-related loss of these species is an unavoidable significant impact. Prior to any ground disturbing activities, the project proponent will need to comply with the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act, including either Section 7 consultation in conjunction with USACE 404 permit processing, for the take of a federally listed species or an incidental take permit in association with a Habitat Conservation Plan created for the site. In either case, it is anticipated the USFWS will require some form of mitigation to reduce impacts to this federally-listed species. Mitigation Measure MM 4.2-12 includes measures to reduce impacts to this listed species. Regardless, due to the unproven results of such efforts, implementation of this mitigation would not reduce impacts to vernal pool fairy shrimp to a less than significant level.

Page 4.2-38, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife Species, the text is revised as follows:

Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*). The western spadefoot is a Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species and a California Species of Special Concern. The species prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils in a variety of habitats, including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, and alkali flats. Western spadefoots ~~were~~ was observed on site in spring 2010 within the vernal pool, and the species has not otherwise been detected on site, although suitable conditions for this species exist in depressions elsewhere on the site. Depending on the number and extent of western spadefoot on the site that would be disturbed or removed, the loss of this species would be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation

⁵ ~~Juhasz, T. Email communication to Joe Decruyenaere, dated July 15, 2010.~~

Measure **MM 4.2-11 12** would reduce impacts to western spadefoot to a less than significant level.

Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*). The silvery legless lizard is a USDA Forest Service Sensitive Species and is designated by CDFG as a California Species of Special Concern. This species may be found in sparsely vegetated areas in a variety of habitats, including beach dunes, chaparral, California sagebrush scrub, oak woodlands, pine forests, pine-oak woodland, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Suitable habitat is present beneath oak trees and within sandy soils associated with drainage features on site, and construction-related activities could result in impacts to individual lizards. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-12-13** would reduce this impact to a level that is adverse but not significant.

Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*). The coastal whiptail is designated by CDFG as a California Special Animal. The coastal whiptail is found in a variety of habitats, primarily in areas where plants are sparse and there are open areas for running. The species is also found in woodland and streamside growth and avoids dense grassland and thick shrub growth. Coastal whiptails were observed during the course of various surveys conducted in 2009 and 2010 surveys, and the subspecies is considered to occur throughout the site. Construction-related activities could result in impacts to individual whiptails. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure MM 4.2-12-13** would reduce this impact to a level that is adverse but not significant.

Rosy boa (*Charina trivirgata*). The rosy boa is designated by CDFG as a California Special Animal. The rosy boa inhabits rocky shrubland and desert habitats and is attracted to oases and streams but does not require permanent water. Rosy boas were not observed during surveys conducted on the project site in 2010; however, suitable habitat is present on site. Construction-related activities could result in the direct impacts to individual animals. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-12-13** would reduce this impact to a level that is adverse but not significant.

Page 4.2-39, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife Species, the text is revised as follows:

Construction-related activities could result in the direct impacts to individual animals. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-12-13** would reduce this impact to a level that is adverse but not significant.

San Bernardino ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus modestus*). The San Bernardino ringneck snake is designated by CDFG as a California Special Animal. The ringneck snake is found in moist habitats, including woodlands, hardwood and conifer forest, grassland, sage scrub, chaparral, croplands, hedgerows, and gardens. San Bernardino ringneck snakes were not observed during surveys conducted on portions of the project area in 2010. Suitable habitat occurs at the project site in association with

drainages and other mesic habitats such as north-facing slopes and the vernal pool. Construction-related activities could result in direct impacts to individual animals. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-12-13** would reduce the impacts to the San Bernardino ringneck to a level that is adverse but not significant.

Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillei*). The coast horned lizard is listed as a California Species of Special Concern. The species is found in a wide variety of vegetation types with the requisite loose sandy soils, including California sagebrush scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland, and coniferous forest. Coast horned lizard was not observed on site during the 2010 surveys, but suitable habitat is present in many areas of the site. Construction-related activities could result in impacts to individual horned lizards. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-12-13** would reduce this impact to a level that is less than significant.

Coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*). The coast patch-nosed snake is listed as a California Species of Special Concern. It occupies desert scrub, coastal chaparral, washes, sandy flats, and rocky areas. Coast patch-nosed snakes were not observed during surveys conducted on the site in 2010. Suitable habitat occurs in association with scrub habitat on site, and coast patch-nosed snake is presumed to occur in areas supporting this habitat type. Construction-related activities could result in direct impacts to individual animals. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-12-13** would reduce this impact to the coast patch-nosed snake to a level that is adverse but not significant.

Page 4.2-40, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife Species, the text is added as follows:

California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*). This species is most commonly associated with coastal sage scrub habitat. Although focused surveys following USFWS protocol methods indicated California gnatcatcher was not present on site in 2010, both state and federal regulatory agencies typically consider the results of focused gnatcatcher surveys valid for one year. Additionally, since the time of the surveys, more California gnatcatchers have been identified in the area and suitable habitat is present on site. Therefore, since it would be uncertain if California gnatcatcher would be present when the project begins, impacts to this species could be potentially significant. Implementation Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-9** would determine if such impacts would occur and provides contingency actions should they be found on site.

Page 4.2-41, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife Species, the text is revised as follows:

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). The burrowing owl is a Bird of Conservation Concern and designated by CDFG as a California Species of Special Concern. In California, burrowing owls are

yearlong residents of flat, open, dry grassland and desert habitats at lower elevations. They can inhabit annual and perennial grasslands and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation type. Burrowing owl was not observed on site during 2010 survey; however, suitable habitat is present and construction-related activities could result in the loss or abandonment of active nests on site. Depending on the number and extent of this species' nests on the site that may be disturbed or removed, the loss of active nests could be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measures **MM 4.2-8** and **MM 4.2-~~13-14~~** would reduce impacts to nesting and wintering burrowing owls to a level that is adverse but not significant.

Page 4.2-43, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife Species, the text is revised as follows:

Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*); spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*); western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*); hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*). Bat surveys were not conducted on site; however, suitable roosting habitat for these species is present within trees on site. Should active bat roosts be present, construction-related activities could result in the direct loss or abandonment of active roost sites. Depending on the number and extent of roosts that may be disturbed or removed, impacts to special-status bat species could be significant. Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-~~14-15~~** requires that no earlier than 30 days prior to the commencement of construction activities, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine whether active roosts of special-status bats are present on or within 300 feet of the project disturbance boundaries. Should an active maternity roost be identified (the breeding season of native bat species in California generally occurs from April 1 through August 31), the roost shall not be disturbed and construction within 300 feet shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biological monitor, until the roost is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist. Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-~~15-16~~** requires the project applicant to prepare and implement a bat roost site creation plan that would establish alternative roost sites within suitable preserved open space located at an adequate distance from sources of human disturbance. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce this impact to a level that is not significant.

San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*). The San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit is listed as a California Species of Special Concern. The black-tailed jackrabbit occupies many diverse habitats, but is primarily found in arid regions supporting shortgrass habitats. San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit was not observed on site during 2010 surveys; however, the species may occur in suitable habitat throughout the site. Construction-related activities could result in impacts to individual black-tailed jackrabbit. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-~~16-17~~** would reduce this impact to a level that is adverse but not significant.

San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*). The San Diego desert woodrat is listed as a California Species of Special Concern. Desert woodrats are found in a variety of shrub and desert habitats and are primarily associated with rock outcroppings, boulders, cacti, or areas of dense undergrowth. Although not directly observed on site during 2010 surveys, this species is presumed to be present within appropriate habitat areas. Construction-related activities would result in the direct loss of individual woodrats or active woodrat nests (stick houses). Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-16** 17 would reduce the magnitude of impacts to the San Diego desert woodrat to less than significant.

Page 4.2-44, under the subheading Special-Status Wildlife Species, the text is revised as follows:

Southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus*). The southern grasshopper mouse is designated by CDFG as a California Species of Special Concern. The southern grasshopper mouse is found rangewide in low arid scrub and semi-scrub vegetation type, and the subspecies *O. t. ramona* (which is the subspecies designated as a California Species of Special Concern) occurs in grasslands and sparse coastal scrub habitats. This species has the potential to occur on site in scrub and grassland habitat. Should this species occur on site, construction-related activities could result in ~~direct~~ potentially significant impacts to the individual southern grasshopper mouse. In order to reduce impacts to this species, the project applicant would conduct biological monitoring during ground-disturbing activities, in an effort to salvage animals that may be discovered during construction activities. These measures will reduce impacts to southern grasshopper mouse individuals to the extent feasible and practicable; reducing impacts to a level that is less than significant.

American badger (*Taxidea taxus*). The American badger is listed as a California Species of Special Concern (CSC). Badgers are generally associated with dry, open, treeless regions, prairies and grasslands, low-intensity agriculture (e.g., pasture and dryland crops), drier open shrublands and forest, parklands, and cold desert areas. Badgers have not been observed on site; however, suitable habitat is present, and construction-related activities could result in impacts to individual American badgers. Potentially significant impacts to American badgers could occur without mitigation, depending on the number and extent of the species on site that may be disturbed or removed. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-17** 18 would reduce impacts to the American badger to a less than significant level.

Page 4.2-45, under the subheading Sensitive Plant Communities, the text is revised as follows:

Vernal pool. The project site contains one 0.19-acre vernal pool, which would potentially be entirely displaced by proposed project development. Because vernal pools are rare within the state and Los Angeles County, and because they provide habitat for highly endemic rare and endangered species, this impact is considered significant. Impacts to this vegetation type cannot be mitigated to a less than

significant level. However, because this habitat supports federally-listed species, consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service will either be required under Section 7 as there would be a nexus with US Army Corps of Engineers or as an incidental take through a Habitat Conservation Plan. In either or both cases, mitigation is required to make every attempt to minimize the impacts to the greatest extent feasible. Therefore, Mitigation Measure 4.2-12 is presented as a proposed mitigation to meet this requirement. Implementation of this measure would not reduce impacts to a less than significant level as creation of vernal pool habitats have not proven to be completely successful.

Page 4.2-46, under the subheading Section 401 Certification, the text is revised as follows:

The fill, removal, or disturbance of these jurisdictional resources would be a significant impact. Implementation of project Mitigation Measures **MM 4.2-1–MM 4.2-6**, and **MM 4.2-18–19** would reduce impacts to jurisdictional resources to below a level of significance.

Page 4.2-47, under the subheading Increased Light and Glare, the text is revised as follows:

Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-18–19** would reduce potential impacts resulting from increased light and glare to below a level of significance.

Page 4.2-48, under the subheading Increase in Populations of Non-Native Plant Species, the text is revised as follows:

Therefore, the impact on native biological resources as a result of increased non-native plant species is considered potentially significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM 4.2-19–20** would reduce the magnitude of impacts resulting from increased non-native plant populations to below a level of significance.

Pages 4.2-53 through 4.2-55, under the subheading Project Mitigation Measures, the text is revised as follows:

MM 4.2-8 Efforts shall be made to avoid initiating construction or other site preparation during the active nesting season (typically March 1 through August 30). If such timing is not feasible, wWithin 30 days of ground-disturbing activities associated with construction or grading that would occur during the nesting/breeding season of native bird species potentially nesting on the site (typically March through August in the project region, or as determined by a qualified biologist), the applicant shall have weekly surveys conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active nests of bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the

disturbance zone or within 300 feet (500 feet for raptors) of the disturbance zone. The surveys shall continue on a weekly basis, with the last survey being conducted no more than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance work. If ground-disturbing activities are delayed, then additional pre-disturbance surveys shall be conducted so that no more than 3 days will have elapsed between the survey and ground-disturbing activities.

If active nests are found, clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (500 feet for raptors) shall be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist in consultation with CDFG, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest shall be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to these nests occur. CDFG may change the buffer radii at their discretion.

~~MM 4.2-9 — A Slender Mariposa Lily Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to CDFG for review and approval prior to ground disturbance to occupied habitat. Upon approval, the plan will be implemented by the applicant or its designee. The plan will demonstrate the feasibility of enhancing or restoring slender mariposa lily habitat in selected areas to be managed as natural open space without conflicting with other resource management objectives. Habitat enhancement or replacement will be at a 1:1 ratio (acres enhanced or restored: acres impacted).~~

~~The plan will specify methods to collect propagules and introduce slender mariposa lily into these mitigation sites. Introductions will use source material (seeds or bulbs) from slender mariposa lily occurrences to be lost. The applicant or its designee will monitor the reintroduction sites for no fewer than five additional years to estimate slender mariposa lily survivorship (for bulbs) or seedling establishment (for seeded sites).~~

~~Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning for slender mariposa lily. Monitoring reports will describe all enhancement or restoration measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe mariposa lily survival or establishment in quantitative terms.~~

MM 4.2-9 To fully determine whether or not the California gnatcatcher is present on site, focused surveys following USFWS protocol methodology shall be conducted within one year of proposed project implementation or other related site preparation activities. If no California gnatcatchers are observed or detected, no further actions would be required. However, if this species is recorded on site, project impacts could be significant. As such, consultation with USFWS would be required. This may be necessary through Section 7 or as an incidental take permit in association with a Habitat Conservation Plan.

MM 4.2-10 ~~Prior to issuance of a grading permit, an Oak tree report shall be prepared and approved. All oaks that will not be removed that are regulated under the City of Santa Clarita's Oak Tree Preservation and Protection Guidelines with driplines within 50 feet of land clearing (including brush clearing) or areas to be graded shall be enclosed in a temporary fenced zone for the duration of the clearing or grading activities. Fencing shall extend to the root protection zone (i.e., the area at least 15 feet from the trunk or 5 feet beyond the drip line, whichever distance is greater). No parking or storage of equipment, solvents, or chemicals that could adversely affect the trees shall be allowed within 25 feet of the trunk at any time. Removal of the fence shall occur only after the project arborist or qualified biologist confirms the health of preserved trees.~~

Within one year of permitted site preparation activities or other actions that may disturb the ground or existing vegetation, a qualified biologist(s), approved by CDFG, shall conduct focused surveys for special-status plant species throughout the proposed project site. Surveys shall be timed such that the blooming period for each of the target species are covered.

For each special-status plant species identified during the focused survey effort, a detailed Rare Plant Mitigation and Monitoring plan shall be submitted to CDFG for review and approval prior to ground disturbance to occupied habitat. Upon approval, each plan will be implemented by the applicant or its designee under the direction of a qualified biologist. Each plan will demonstrate the feasibility of enhancing or restoring habitat appropriate for that species in selected areas to be managed as natural open space without conflicting with other resource management objectives. Habitat enhancement or replacement will be at a 1:1 ratio (acres enhanced or restored: acres impacted). If multiple special-status plant species are found and occur in similar habitat, the same mitigation areas may be utilized for multiple species.

Each plan will specify methods to collect seeds, bulbs, or propagules, as appropriate, and

introduce each species into the approved mitigation site(s). Introductions will use source material (seeds, bulbs, or propagules) from each species that would otherwise be lost. The applicant or its designee will have a qualified biologist monitor the reintroduction sites for no fewer than five years from the time of planting to estimate each species' survivorship or seedling establishment (for seeded sites).

Annual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to CDFG and will be made available to the public to guide future mitigation planning for each species relocated. Monitoring reports will describe all enhancement, maintenance, or restoration measures taken in the preceding year; describe success and completion of those efforts and other pertinent site conditions (erosion, trespass, animal damage) in qualitative terms; and describe plant survival or establishment in quantitative terms for each species included in the mitigation effort. The plan shall also include success criteria satisfactory to CDFG and contingency actions should the success criteria not be met.

MM 4.2-1011 Prior to issuance of a grading permit, an oak tree report shall be prepared and approved by the City of Santa Clarita. All oaks that will not be removed that are regulated under the City of Santa Clarita's Oak Tree Preservation and Protection Guidelines with driplines within 50 feet of land clearing (including brush clearing) or areas to be graded shall be enclosed in a temporary fenced zone for the duration of the clearing or grading activities. Fencing shall extend to the root protection zone (*i.e.*, the area at least 15 feet from the trunk or 5 feet beyond the drip line, whichever distance is greater). No parking or storage of equipment, solvents, or chemicals that could adversely affect the trees shall be allowed within 25 feet of the trunk at any time. Removal of the fence shall occur only after the project arborist or qualified biologist confirms the health of preserved trees.

MM 4.2-12 Prior to the issuance of a grading permit for ground disturbance, construction, or site preparation activities, the applicant shall retain the services of a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys for western spadefoot and vernal pool fairy shrimp within the vernal pool and all other portions of the project site containing suitable breeding habitat. Surveys shall be conducted during a time of year when the species can be detected (*i.e.*, when the vernal pool is inundated).

1. A Habitat Creation and Monitoring Plan shall be prepared that outlines the specific design and implementation procedures to create a vernal pool and surrounding upland habitat suitable for western spadefoot breeding and other special-status resources associated with the vernal pool on site. Under the direct supervision of the

qualified biologist, ~~western spadefoot~~ vernal pool habitat shall be created within suitable natural site(s) on the project site outside of the proposed development envelope. The amount of occupied breeding habitat to be impacted by the project shall be replaced at a 1:1 ratio. The actual relocation site design and location shall be approved by CDFG and USFWS. The location shall be in a suitable habitat as far away as feasible from the impacted area. The relocation pond(s) shall be designed so that they only support standing water for several weeks following seasonal rains, in order to mimic the existing conditions of the vernal pool and such that aquatic predators (*e.g.*, fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish) cannot become established. Additionally, soils and plant materials from the existing vernal pool will be utilized in the substrate of the relocation pond. Utilization of the vernal pool substrate in the mitigation pond is done in an effort to include cysts from the existing fairy shrimp population and seed base for the sensitive spreading navarretia.

Page 4.2-56, under the subheading Project Mitigation Measures, the text is revised as follows:

3. The qualified biologist shall monitor the ~~relocation-created~~ vernal pool site for five years, involving annual monitoring during and immediately following peak breeding season so that surveys can be conducted for adults as well as for egg masses and larval and post-larval toads. Further, survey data will be provided to CDFG by the monitoring biologist following each monitoring period and a written report summarizing the monitoring results will be provided to CDFG at the end of the monitoring effort. Success criteria for the monitoring program shall include verifiable evidence of toad reproduction at the relocation site.

MM 4.2-~~1213~~ Prior to project construction, the applicant shall develop a relocation plan for coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard, coastal whiptail, rosy boa, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and coast patch-nosed snake.

Pages 4.2-57 through 4.2-60, under the subheading Project Mitigation Measures, the text is revised as follows:

MM 4.2-~~1314~~ Thirty days prior to construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct CDFG protocol surveys to determine whether burrowing owl is present at the site. The surveys shall consist of three site visits and shall be conducted in areas dominated by disturbed habitat and grasslands, or if such habitats occur within 500 feet of a construction zone. If located, occupied burrows shall not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1

through August 31) unless a qualified biologist approved by CDFG verifies through non-invasive methods that either the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation or that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. If burrowing owls are detected but nesting is not occurring, construction work can proceed after any owls have been evacuated from the site using CDFG-approved burrow closure procedures and after alternative nest sites have been provided in accordance with the CDFG Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (10-17-95).

Unless otherwise authorized by CDFG, a 500-foot buffer, within which no activity will be permissible, will be maintained between project activities and nesting burrowing owls during the nesting season. This protected area will remain in effect until August 31 or at CDFG's discretion and based upon monitoring evidence, until the young owls are foraging independently.

MM 4.2-1415 No earlier than 30 days prior to the commencement of construction activities, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if active roosts of special-status bats are present on or within 300 feet of the project disturbance boundaries. Should an active maternity roost be identified (in California, the breeding season of native bat species is generally from April 1 through August 31), the roost shall not be disturbed and construction within 300 feet shall be postponed or halted, until the roost is vacated and juveniles have fledged. Surveys shall include rocky outcrops, caves, structures, and large trees (particularly trees 12 inches in diameter or greater at 4.5 feet above grade with loose bark or other cavities). Trees and rocky outcrops shall be surveyed by a qualified bat biologist (*i.e.*, a biologist holding a CDFG collection permit and a Memorandum of Understanding with CDFG allowing the biologist to handle bats). If active maternity roosts or hibernacula are found, the rock outcrop or tree occupied by the roost shall be avoided (*i.e.*, not removed) by the project. If avoidance of the maternity roost must occur, the bat biologist shall survey (through the use of radio telemetry or other CDFG approved methods) for nearby alternative maternity colony sites. If the bat biologist determines in consultation with and with the approval of CDFG that there are alternative roost sites used by the maternity colony and young are not present then no further action is required.

If a maternity roost will be impacted by the project, and no alternative maternity roosts are in use near the site, substitute roosting habitat for the maternity colony shall be

provided on, or in close proximity to, the project site no less than three months prior to the eviction of the colony. Large concrete walls (*e.g.*, on bridges) on south or southwestern slopes that are retrofitted with slots and cavities are an example of structures that may provide alternative potential roosting habitat appropriate for maternity colonies. Alternative roost sites must be of comparable size and proximal in location to the impacted colony. CDFG shall also be notified of any hibernacula or active nurseries within the construction zone.

If non-breeding bat hibernacula are found in trees scheduled to be removed or in crevices in rock outcrops within the grading footprint, the individuals shall be safely evicted, under the direction of a qualified bat biologist, by opening the roosting area to allow airflow through the cavity or other means determined appropriate by the bat biologist (*e.g.*, installation of one-way doors). In situations requiring one-way doors, a minimum of one week shall pass after doors are installed and temperatures should be sufficiently warm for bats to exit the roost because bats do not typically leave their roost daily during winter months in southern coastal California. This action should allow all bats to leave during the course of one week. Roosts that need to be removed in situations where the use of one-way doors is not necessary in the judgment of the qualified bat biologist in consultation with CDFG shall first be disturbed by various means at the direction of the bat biologist at dusk to allow bats to escape during the darker hours, and the roost tree shall be removed or the grading shall occur the next day (*i.e.*, there shall be no less or more than one night between initial disturbance and the grading or tree removal). These actions should allow bats to leave during nighttime hours, thus increasing their chance of finding new roosts with a minimum of potential predation during daylight.

If an active maternity roost is located on the project site, and alternative roosting habitat is available, the demolition of the roost site must commence before maternity colonies form (*i.e.*, prior to March 1) or after young are flying (*i.e.*, after July 31) using the exclusion techniques described above.

MM 4.2-~~1516~~ Any special-status species bat day roost sites found by a qualified biologist during pre-construction surveys conducted per **MM 4.2-~~1519~~**, to be directly (within project disturbance footprint) or indirectly (within 300 feet of project disturbance footprint) impacted are to be mitigated with creation of artificial roost sites. The project applicant shall establish (an) alternative roost site(s) within suitable preserved open space located at an adequate distance from sources of human disturbance.

MM 4.2-1617 Thirty days prior to construction activities in grassland, scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, riverbank, and agriculture habitats, or other suitable habitat a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit and San Diego desert woodrat.

If San Diego black-tailed jackrabbits are present, non-breeding rabbits shall be flushed from areas to be disturbed. Dens, depressions, nests, or burrows occupied by pups shall be flagged and ground-disturbing activities avoided within a minimum of 200 feet during the pup-rearing season (February 15 through July 1). This buffer may be reduced based on the location of the den upon consultation with CDFG. Occupied maternity dens, depressions, nests, or burrows shall be flagged for avoidance, and a biological monitor shall be present during construction. If unattended young are discovered, they shall be relocated to suitable habitat by a qualified biologist. The applicant shall document all San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit identified, avoided, or moved and provide a written report to CDFG within 72 hours. Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

If active San Diego desert woodrat nests (stick houses) are identified within the disturbance zone or within 100 feet of the disturbance zone, a fence shall be erected around the nest site adequate to provide the woodrat sufficient foraging habitat at the discretion of the qualified biologist in consultation with CDFG. Clearing and construction within the fenced area will be postponed or halted until young have left the nest. The biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when disturbance activities will occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to these nests will occur. If avoidance is not possible, the applicant will take the following sequential steps: (1) All understory vegetation type will be cleared in the area immediately surrounding active nests followed by a period of one night without further disturbance to allow woodrats to vacate the nest, (2) Each occupied nest will then be disturbed by a qualified wildlife biologist until all woodrats leave the nest and seek refuge off site, and (3) The nest sticks shall be removed from the project site and piled at the base of a nearby hardwood tree (preferably a coast live oak or California walnut). Relocated nests shall not be spaced closer than 100 feet apart, unless a qualified wildlife biologist has determined that a specific habitat can support a higher density of nests. The applicant shall document all woodrat nests moved and provide a written report to

CDFG.

All woodrat relocation shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in possession of a scientific collecting permit.

MM 4.2-1718 Thirty days prior to construction activities in suitable habitat, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey within the proposed construction disturbance zone and within 200 feet of the disturbance zone for American badger.

If American badgers are present, occupied habitat shall be flagged and ground-disturbing activities avoided within 50 feet of the occupied den. Maternity dens shall be avoided during the pup-rearing season (February 15 through July 1) and a minimum 200 foot buffer established. This buffer may be reduced based on the location of the den upon consultation with CDFG. Maternity dens shall be flagged for avoidance, identified on construction maps, and a qualified biologist shall be present during construction. If avoidance of a non-maternity den is not feasible, badgers shall be relocated either by trapping or by slowly excavating the burrow (either by hand or mechanized equipment under the direct supervision of the biologist, removing no more than 4 inches at a time) before or after the rearing season (February 15 through July 1). Any relocation of badgers shall occur only after consultation with CDFG. A written report documenting the badger removal shall be provided to CDFG within 30 days of relocation.

Collection and relocation of animals shall only occur with the proper scientific collection and handling permits.

MM 4.2-1819 All lighting along the perimeter of natural areas shall be downcast luminaries with light patterns directed away from natural areas.

MM 4.2-1920 Plant palettes proposed for use on landscaped slopes, street medians, park sites, and other public landscaped and Fuel Modification Zone areas within 100 feet of native vegetation types shall be reviewed by a qualified restoration specialist to ensure that the proposed landscape plants will not naturalize and require maintenance or cause vegetation type degradation in the open space areas (River Corridor SMA, High Country SMA, Salt Creek area, and natural portions of the Open Area).

Geology and Soils

Page 4.4-4, Footnote 1 is revised as follows:

¹ California Geological Survey, "Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California" Sacramento: 2007, p.3. The purpose of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act is to regulate development near active faults so as to mitigate the hazard of surface fault rupture. This report summarizes the various responsibilities under the Act and details the actions taken by the State Geologist and his staff to implement the Act.

Page 4.4-10, under the subheading City of Santa Clarita Unified Development Code, the text is revised as follows:

All grading and excavation must comply with Chapters 17.88 Grading Designation and Location 17.20 to 17.30 (Division 3) of the City of Santa Clarita Unified Development Code (UDC). Rules and regulations contained within these chapters provide for the control of excavation, grading, and earthwork construction, including fills or embankment activities. During the grading permit application process, the City Engineer may require engineering geological and soil reports, as well as seismic hazard zone studies be prepared for proposed developments. The engineering geological report would require an adequate description of the geology of the site, along with conclusions and recommendations regarding the effect of geologic condition of any proposed development. Soil reports would be required to characterize the existing soil resources on a site, and provide recommendations for grading and design criteria. Development in seismic hazard zone will require studies that evaluate the potential for seismically induced liquefaction, soil instability, and earthquake induced landslides to occur on a site.

Global Climate Change

Page 4.5-18, Footnote 25 is revised as follows:

²⁵ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis, (2007) 3, 100. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to provide an authoritative international statement of scientific understanding of climate change. The IPCC's periodic assessments of the causes, impacts, and possible response strategies to climate change are the most comprehensive and up-to-date reports available on the subject, and form the standard reference for all concerned with climate change in academia, government, and industry worldwide. Through three working groups, many hundreds of international experts assess climate change in this Fourth Assessment Report. The Report consists of three main volumes under the umbrella title Climate Change 2007, all available from Cambridge University Press, http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications

[ipcc fourth assessment report wg1 report the physical science basis.htm.](#)

Human-Made Hazards

Page 4.6-5, under the subheading Impact Analysis, the text is revised as follows:

The proposed project involves the construction and operation of a roadway extension on a previously undeveloped site. Operation of the proposed project would not include transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project in itself would not involve the use of hazardous materials, and would not increase the frequency or quantity of hazardous material transport along local roadways. However, there is the possible existence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) within the construction footprint of the roadway based upon the historical activities of NTS. The commenter references a map, which would show same, as well as prior litigation testimony which would identify the location of ordnance testing. To date, staff has not been able to locate the referenced map or testimony, but staff is continuing in efforts to locate same. The proposed project would not result in any new or increased impacts related to this issue. Consequently, there may be a significant impact with regard to unfound ordnance on the project site.

Mitigation Measures

~~No mitigation measures are required.~~

MM 4.6-1 Absent staff locating information which dispositively establishes that UXO does not exist within the construction footprint, prior to commencing construction, the City will retain an expert who will 1) conduct a survey/search for UXO on the NTS property within the construction footprint, 2) eliminate any identified UXO, and 3) recommend safety protocols to be followed during construction of the roadway.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Page 4.7-1, Footnote 1 is revised as follows:

¹ California Department of Water Resources, Groundwater Bulletin 118, Hydrologic Region South Coast, 2006. Bulletin 118 presents the results of 10 regional groundwater basin evaluations in California, along with recommendations for monitoring and managing the supply of groundwater throughout the State.

Page 4.7-1, Footnote 2 is revised as follows:

² Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Water Resources Division, Hydrology Manual, (2006) 21. This manual establishes the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' hydrologic design procedures and serves as a reference and training guide. This manual contains charts, graphs, and tables necessary to conduct a hydrologic study within the County of Los Angeles. Examples provide guidance on using the hydrologic methods. The primary purpose of this manual is to explain the steps involved in converting rainfall to runoff flow rates and volumes using Public Works' standards.

Page 4.7-10, Footnote 4 is revised as follows:

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Sedimentation Manual, Second Edition, 2006. This manual establishes the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' sedimentation design criteria. The procedures and standards contained in this manual were developed mostly by the Hydraulic/Water Conservation Division of Los Angeles County Department of Public Works as the need arose to design erosion control structures, sediment retention structures, and channels carrying sediment laden flows. These sedimentation techniques are applicable in the design of local debris basins, storm drains, retention and detention basins, and channel projects within Los Angeles County.

Land Use

Page 4.8-1, under the subheading Introduction, the text is revised as follows:

The project site is located in the City of Santa Clarita approximately 2 miles north of State Route 14 between Golden Valley Road in the west and Sheldon Avenue in the east. The City of Santa Clarita Land Use Map designates the project site as BP (Business Park) and UR5 (Urban Residential – minimum 19 dwelling units per acre, maximum 30 dwelling units per acre). The City's Zoning Map, shows that the project site is zoned for Business Park and ~~Residential Low~~ Urban Residential uses.

The City's ~~draft~~ Land Use Element (~~September 2010~~), which is being prepared as part of the City's ~~General Plan update (One Valley One Vision)~~, designates the project site as BP (Industrial) and UR5 (Urban).

Page 4.8-2, under the subheading City of Santa Clarita General Plan, the text is revised as follows:

The City of Santa Clarita adopted its General Plan in June 2011. The County of Los Angeles ~~is~~ adopted its Area Plan in November 2012.

Page 4.8-2, under the subheading City of Santa Clarita Unified Development Code, the text is revised as follows:

The Unified Development Code (UDC) establishes standards for zoning, subdivisions, and grading. The City of Santa Clarita adopted its first UDC in 1992 and adopted a comprehensive update of the UDC in June 2013. The UDC consists of ~~four~~ two sections: Subdivision, ~~General Procedures, and Zoning, and Grading.~~

Page 4.8-3, under the subheading Project Site, the text is revised as follows:

City of Santa Clarita Designations – ~~Draft~~ General Plan

The Land Use Element also notes that BP uses should provide substantial employment for the City and the Santa Clarita Valley, in general. Development intensity for the BP category is defined by a maximum floor area ratios (FARs) ranging between 0.5:1 and 1.5:1 of 2:1.⁶

Page 4.8-6, under the subheading Consistency with Land Use Map, the text is revised as follows:

As previously stated, the project site is designated for BP (Business Park) and UR5 (Urban Residential) uses by the City's adopted ~~and draft~~ Land Use Maps. Development of the proposed project would involve construction of a new roadway segment between Golden Valley Road and the existing roadway terminus near Sheldon Avenue, as described above.

Page 4.8-6, under the subheading City of Santa Clarita Unified Development Code, the text is revised as follows:

Grading activities would be conducted in compliance with Chapters ~~17.2686, 17.2787, 17.2888, 17.2989, 17.30, 17.8090,~~ and ~~17.90-95~~ of the Unified Development Code.

Noise

Page 4.9-1, under the subheading Introduction, the text is revised as follows:

The proposed project includes the development of a new roadway extension connecting the western terminus of Via Princessa to Golden Valley Road. This roadway would extend through land that is designated as Residential, Industrial under the existing City of Santa Clarita Land Use Map. During operation of the proposed project, noise levels are expected to be approximately 66.9 A-weighted decibels

⁶ FARs are used to describe the maximum building intensity for commercial and industrial uses. A floor area ratio is the ratio of building floor area to the total land area of the lot. For example, a 2-story building with a total floor area of 25,000 square feet situated on a lot with an area of 50,000s square feet would have a FAR of 0.5.

(dB(A)), which is ~~well~~ below the noise level thresholds for Residential and Industrial in the City's Land Use Compatibility Guidelines for Noise. Therefore, operational impacts due to implementation of the proposed project would be less than significant.

Page 4.9-3, Footnote 1 is revised as follows:

¹ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Highway Noise Fundamentals, (September 1980), 81. This document provides FHWA guidance on legislation, 23 CFR 772, noise fundamentals, analysis, and documentation of highway traffic noise and construction noise.

Page 4.9-6, Footnote 2 is revised as follows:

² California Department of Transportation, Technical Noise Supplement; A Technical Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, (October 1998), N51–N54. This manual contains Caltrans noise analysis procedures, practices, and other useful technical background information related to the analysis and reporting of highway and construction noise impacts and abatement. It supplements and expands on concepts and procedures referred to in the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, which in turn is required by federal regulations in 23CFR772.

Page 4.9-6, Footnote 3 is revised as follows:

³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, The Noise Guidebook, 21–23. This guidebook provides information on HUD's noise policy. It contains all the various reports, informational papers and other items that have been released by HUD over the past several years.

Page 4.9-6, Footnote 4 is revised as follows:

⁴ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Highway Noise Mitigation, (Springfield, Virginia: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, September 1980), p. 18. This document provides FHWA guidance on noise fundamentals, and methodology to reduce noise impacts from highway traffic noise and construction noise.

Page 4.9-10, the 'Source' note for Table 4.9-2 is revised as follows:

Source: Department of Transportation, United States of America, Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, FTA-VA-90-1003-06, May 2006, Chapter 12 Noises and

Vibration During Construction, p. 12-6 and 12-7. This report is the second edition of a guidance manual originally issued in 1995 which presents procedures for predicting and assessing noise and vibration impacts of proposed mass transit projects. All types of bus and rail projects are covered. Procedures for assessing noise and vibration impacts are provided for different stages of project development, from early planning before mode and alignment have been selected through preliminary engineering and final design. Both for noise and vibration, there are three levels of analysis described. The framework acts as a screening process, reserving detailed analysis for projects with the greatest potential for impacts while allowing a simpler process for projects with little or no effects.

Page 4.9-11, the 'Source' note for Table 4.9-3 is revised as follows:

Source: Federal Transit Administration, ~~Traffic~~ Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, Chapter 12, Noise and Vibration During Construction, 12-13, May 2006

Page 4.9-13, Footnote 6 is revised as follows:

⁶ Rudolf W. Hendriks, California Vehicle Noise Emission Levels, (Sacramento, California: California Department of Transportation, January 1987), NTIS, FHWA/CA/TL-87/03. This report presents criteria, methods, and analyses used to develop California vehicle noise emission levels for level roads and heavy truck emission levels on grades.

Page 4.9-14, Footnote 9 is revised as follows:

⁹ Dr. Alice H. Suter, "Administrative Conference of the United States: Noise and Its Effects, (November 1991)," <http://www.nonoise.org/library/suter/suter.htm>. 2004. This report presents an overview of noise and its effects on people. Special emphasis is placed on developments over the past decade, both in terms of noise conditions and noise effects research.

Page 4.9-21, Footnote 17 is revised as follows:

¹⁷ California Department of Transportation, Transportation Related Earthborne Vibrations (Caltrans Experiences), Technical Advisory, Vibration TAV-02-01-R9601, (2002) 10. This advisory is intended to enable district personnel to participate in assessing and screening routine vibration complaints as well as provide background information for the oversight of more complex studies. This advisory is also a useful source of information for developing contract specifications and oversight.

Transportation and Circulation

Page 4.10-2, under the subheading Methodology, the text is revised as follows:

For this analysis, the SCVCTM Interim Year setting is used to provide a comparison of conditions with and without the project. As noted above, the SCVCTM Long-Range Buildout forecasts based on the ~~proposed~~ OVOV plan are also provided to illustrate the ultimate traffic conditions in the area.

Page 4.10-5, the 'Source' note for Table 4.10-1 is revised as follows:

Source: Highway Capacity Manual 2000, Transportation Research Board, National Research Council. The Highway Capacity Manual, 3rd Edition is a collection of state-of-the-art techniques for estimating capacity and determining level of service for many transportation facilities and modes. The 3rd edition of this manual was updated in 2000 as Highway Capacity Manual 2000.

Page 4.10-18, under the subheading Project Impacts, the text is added as follows:

Design Measures Incorporated Into the Project

The proposed project would include one of the primary east-west arterials through the City of Santa Clarita. The proposed roadway would be approximately 1.2 miles in length, with right-of-way width of 116 feet, and would be designated as a Major Arterial Highway per the City of Santa Clarita's Master Plan of Arterial Highways. The project involves the construction of a new roadway segment between Golden Valley Road and the existing western terminus of Via Princessa Road near Sheldon Avenue.

During the public outreach process for the project and public review period for the Draft EIR, concerns were raised by residents in the project's vicinity related to existing traffic conditions on Isabella Parkway. Residents expressed their concerns related to traffic safety and excessive speeds on Isabella Parkway and suggested traffic calming or other safety measures be incorporated into the project.

Although improvements to Isabella Parkway, an intersecting street to Via Princessa, were not originally proposed nor required as part of this project, the following design measure may be incorporated into the proposed project:

During the design phase of the proposed project, the City Traffic Engineer, in coordination with the direction of the City Council and support of the Isabella Parkway community, should evaluate the traffic patterns/conditions along Isabella Parkway, and if necessary, identify traffic/calming safety measures that may be placed along Isabella Parkway as part of the proposed project.

Page 4.10-23, Footnote 4 is revised as follows:

⁴ California Department of Transportation, California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 2006
The California Department of Transportation has adopted the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (California MUTCD) to provide for uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices in California. This action was taken pursuant to the provisions of California Vehicle Code Section 21400 and the recommendation of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC).