

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	4.5-1
4.5.1 INTRODUCTION	4.5-1
4.5.2 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.....	4.5-1
4.5.3 METHODOLOGY.....	4.5-3
4.5.4 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	4.5-4
4.5.5 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA	4.5-18
4.5.6 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES	4.5-21
4.5.7 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.....	4.5-26
4.5.8 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION.....	4.5-27

FIGURES

Figure 4.5.1: Habitat Map	4.5-5
Figure 4.5.2: Tree Location Map.....	4.5-9
Figure 4.5.3: Jurisdictional Areas.....	4.5-19

TABLES

Table 4.5.A: Tree Survey Summary by Species.....	4.5-8
Table 4.5.B: Summary of Sensitive Species.....	4.5-13

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section assesses the effects of the proposed project on biological resources within the study area. Documents reviewed and incorporated as part of this analysis include the Biological Resources Assessment prepared for the proposed project (LSA Associates, Inc. 2004) (Appendix E). The assessment is based on a review of literature sources and surveys of the project site. Since the 1930s, the site has been used for oil extraction, processing, and other industrial activities. The 55-acre site is surrounded by a variety of commercial and industrial land uses as well as the privately-owned Sunnyside Cemetery and the Long Beach Municipal Cemetery immediately south of the project site. Virtually the entire site has been subject to severe disturbance by previous and ongoing industrial and petroleum processing activities. Approximately 30 acres of the site is covered by vegetation. The remainder of the site is occupied by man-made structures, storage tanks, roadways, pump jacks, fences, barren graded areas, and extensive debris piles, with little or no vegetation. Trash, piping, concrete and asphalt rubble, and debris also occur throughout most of the vegetated areas on site. As is typical of highly disturbed areas, most of the dominant plant species present in the vegetated areas are nonnative.

4.5.2 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Endangered and Threatened Species

The State and federal Endangered Species Acts prohibit the unauthorized “take” of species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the provisions of those acts. Because such species are not expected to occur on the project site, the specific provisions of the regulations implementing those acts are not discussed further.

Streambeds

Jurisdictional Waters of the United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into “Waters of the United States.” These waters include wetlands and nonwetland bodies of water that meet specific criteria. Corps regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is founded on a connection, or nexus, between the water body in question and interstate commerce. This connection may be direct, through a tributary system linking a stream channel with traditional navigable waters used in interstate or foreign commerce, or may be indirect, through a nexus identified in the Corps regulations. However, a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision held that the use of waters by migratory birds does not constitute an interstate commerce connection and that, in the absence of some other interstate “commerce connection,” isolated, nonwetland waters, such as the ponding area on the west side of the subject site, are not subject to Corps jurisdiction.

The discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S. requires a Section 404 authorization issued by the Corps. This authorization typically requires an application or notification that addresses specific information requirements and generally includes a project description, a delineation of the affected waters, and a mitigation proposal. Certain discharges can be authorized under an existing nationwide permit (NWP), which authorizes certain residential, commercial, and institutional developments, provided all specific and general NWP conditions are met. If a project is not eligible for authorization under an existing nationwide or general permit, an individual permit (IP) is required.

Any project that is authorized by the Corps, whether by NWP or IP process, must comply with applicable federal regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act (for protection of cultural resources), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board through the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

California Department of Fish and Game. The CDFG, through Sections 1601 and 1603 of the California Fish and Game Code provisions of the State of California Administrative Code, is empowered to issue agreements for any alteration of a river, streambed or lake where fish or wildlife resources may be adversely affected. Streams (and rivers) are defined by the presence of a channel bed and banks and at least an intermittent flow of water. CDFG regulates wetland areas only to the extent that those wetlands are part of a river, stream, or lake as defined by the CDFG.

Although the CDFG does not have a formal definition of a lake noted in its guidelines, a lake is defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Cowardin et al., 1979) as all wetlands and deepwater habitats with all of the following characteristics: (1) situated in a topographic depression or a dammed river channel; (2) lacking trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30 percent area coverage; and (3) total area exceeds 20 acres. Similar wetland and deepwater habitats totaling less than 8 ha are also classified in the Lacustrine system if an active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature makes up all or part of the boundary, or if the water depth in the deepest part of the basin exceeds 6.6 feet at low water. Therefore, according to this definition, the 0.005-acre ponding area on the west side of the study area would not classify as a lake and would not be subject to CDFG jurisdiction.

CDFG regulates wetland areas only to the extent that those wetlands are part of a river, stream, or lake as defined by CDFG.

Nesting Birds

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations and portions of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit the “take” of nearly all native bird species and their nests. While these laws and regulations were originally intended to control the intentional take of birds and/or their eggs and nests by collectors, falconers, etc., they can nevertheless be applied to incidental take, e.g., destroying an active nest by cutting down a tree. In some cases, it is possible to obtain permits for relocating or removing nests.

4.5.3 METHODOLOGY

Potential impacts to biological resources may be determined to be significant in accordance with the CEQA criteria as identified in Section 3.5.5 of this EIR. CEQA identifies the biological resources to be addressed as those that are sensitive species or habitats (as described by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or adopted plans, policies, and regulations), and wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In addition, conflicts with local ordinances such as a tree preservation policy, a Habitat Conservation Plan, or a Natural Community Conservation Plan may also be considered; however, there are no such ordinances or plans applicable to the project site. CEQA also considers the potential for the proposed project to interfere substantially with the wildlife movement or migratory corridors. Please see Section 3.5.5 of this EIR for more information regarding the CEQA thresholds of significance.

Not all wildlife and plant species are considered sensitive; in fact, the site is characterized overall by nonsensitive wildlife species and ornamental plant species that are common throughout the City and region. Potential impacts to common and ornamental species are not considered significant under CEQA. Although the site is characterized by common and ornamental species, the biological resources investigation has identified some sensitive resources on the site, as described below.

Potential sensitive species that may occur on site were identified based on the following criteria: (1) direct observation of the species on the property during one of the biological surveys conducted for this report; (2) sighting by other qualified and reputable observers; (3) record reported by the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB); or (4) property contains appropriate habitat and is within the known range of a given species. A variety of sources was used to establish the list of sensitive species potentially affected by the project. A foundation for the list of sensitive species within the study area is established by reviewing the CNDDDB and CNPS databases. However, these databases are not considered a complete list of identified species within a particular area and are frequently modified. Therefore, to refine and augment these lists, LSA utilized local experts with knowledge of the study area, reconnaissance surveys, and agency biologists.

Reconnaissance-level botanical and sensitive species surveys were conducted by LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) biologist Scott Holbrook during two site visits, on August 2 and 3, 1999, and subsequent visits by biologists Jim Harrison, Micaele Maddison, Mike Weller, Richard Erickson, and Marshall Iliff on March 25, 26, and 27 and April 12, 2003, to identify vegetation communities located within the proposed project site and to ascertain the presence or absence of sensitive plants and animals or the likelihood of their occurring in the proposed project area based on the availability of suitable habitat. An additional survey was conducted on February 13, 2004, by biologist Richard Erickson. These walkover surveys focused on identifying sensitive or significant biological resources that occur or could potentially occur on site, including habitat areas that could be suitable for sensitive species of wildlife. Vascular plant and vertebrate animal species encountered during these surveys were noted. A spring survey was conducted on site on June 9, 2003, from 10:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. by biologists Micaele Maddison and Elizabeth Scheinbach to determine whether the southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) was present within the project boundaries.

On September 15, 2003, LSA biologists Micaele Maddison and Nicole Carlier conducted a tree survey on the proposed project site. All trees with the potential to reach 16 feet or more at maturity (Ord. C-7642 Section 1, 1999; prior Code Section 7540) were identified, mapped, and measured in the survey. The height of each tree was visually estimated, and the diameter of the trunk was

measured approximately four feet from the ground. The trees were tagged with identification tags indicating the tree number. Trees not accessible by foot were not measured and were not tagged.

Due to the variability of the common names of plants, scientific names are included in the discussions of all plant species. Scientific names are generally omitted for animal names discussed elsewhere in the report because (1) the common names are virtually standardized for animal species, and (2) the scientific names for all plants and vertebrate animals observed in the study area during the surveys are included in the species lists in the Biological Resources Assessment prepared for the project (Appendix E).

4.5.4 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is characterized by areas of vegetation associated with past human activities on site. Ornamental species occur as a result of previous planting activities. Ponding and the subsequent growth of wetland-related species have occurred on site in association with the detention basin and a low-spot area near an oil well. Two bird species of special concern were observed on site, the loggerhead shrike and red-tailed hawk. There may also be active avian nests in shrubs and trees on site during the nesting season. Potential impacts to identified resources and possible unknown resources (occupied nests during the nesting season) are described below, and mitigation measures are identified to reduce those impacts that are considered to be significant.

Plant Communities and Habitat Types

As a result of extensive grading, dumping, and intensive industrial uses on the site over approximately 70 years, most of the native habitat elements that once occurred here have been displaced by nonnative species and common local weeds that are well adapted to disturbed soil conditions. Most of the vegetated area of the site is appropriately characterized as ruderal or annual grassland, with occasional patches of mulefat scrub and ornamental vegetation such as clusters of ornamental trees that were introduced for landscaping purposes. There are a few areas near the existing concrete retention basin that are dominated by cattail marsh. Figure 4.5.1, Habitat Map, shows the location of various habitat types on the project site.

Ruderal. The dominant elements found in the ruderal grassland community, which covers 0.03 acre of the study area, include a variety of nonnative herbaceous species including mustard (*Brassica* and *Hirschfeldia* spp.), wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), California burclover (*Medicago polymorpha*), white sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*), yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus indica*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), five-hook bassia (*Bassia hyssopifolia*), Russian-thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and castor bean (*Ricinis communis*), which are well adapted to disturbed soil conditions. Patches of Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) (also known as iceplant), a common nonnative succulent ground cover, are scattered through portions of the site. This disturbed ruderal community is of low habitat value to most local wildlife species and is not considered sensitive or significant as a biological resource by the resource agencies (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game).



FIGURE 4.5.1

LSA

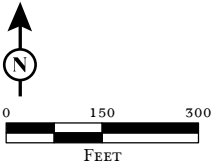
Legend

Project Limits

Habitat Type

- Cattail / Marsh
- Mulefat Scrub
- Developed
- Open Water

- Ornamental
- Ruderal
- Ruderal / Annual Grassland



SOURCE: Eagle Aerial, 2002.

Long Beach Sports Park
Habitat Map

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Mixed Ruderal/Annual Grassland. Most of the site (approximately 25.84 acres) is dominated by a mixture of ruderal and annual grassland habitat types. Nearly all the species in this community are of exotic origin. The dominant elements found in the annual grassland community include nonnative grasses such as wild oat (*Avena* spp.), foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*), hare barley (*Hordeum murinum* ssp. *leporinum*), and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). This habitat type is typically interspersed with the ruderal vegetation community and has low habitat value. This habitat type is not considered sensitive or significant as a biological resource.

Ornamental. A number of ornamental shrubs and trees occur in patches either scattered through the annual grassland and ruderal vegetation communities or around several of the structures. A few dozen tall blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) specimens and a few large date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), which were presumably introduced as landscape elements, form a broken canopy of nonnative woodland around several abandoned water tanks and pump jacks within the study area, as well as around several of the industrial buildings along the perimeter of the site. Other ornamental shrub and tree species scattered around the site include Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle*), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), Rustyleaf fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*), ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), passion flower (*Passiflora caerulea*), and hottentot-fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*). The ornamental area covers 1.99 acres on the site.

Mulefat scrub. There are several patches of mulefat scrub on the site, which amount to 1.40 acres of the study area. Although mulefat is classified as a hydrophytic according to the National List of plants that occur in wetlands, it is a FacW designation, which means that it occurs in wetlands 67 to 99 percent of the time. Only two of the patches on the project site are associated with a water source. One is on a steep slope adjacent to a ponding area in the west portion of the site and another is adjacent to an existing graded dirt access road that also ponds water. Otherwise, the patches are scattered on slopes throughout the site.

Developed. The developed area within the boundaries of the property (approximately 20.32 acres) consists of the multiple water tanks, pump jacks, and several industrial buildings or concrete foundations.

Roads. There are several existing graded dirt and paved roads, with associated parking and turnaround areas that bisect the site. This area amounts to 4.34 acres of the study area.

Open water. There are two patches of open water within the study area. One, which is 0.05 acre, is associated with a ponding area on the west side of the site, and the other, which is 0.31 acre, is associated with the retention basin in the middle of the site. The size of the area of open water will fluctuate given the amount and timing of rainfall.

Cattail marsh. There were two areas of cattail marsh associated with the retention basin within the study area. One occurs on sediment deposits on the concrete perimeter drainage, and the other is on a sediment deposit within the retention basin. The dominant species in this habitat type is broad-leaved

cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*). Another species that occurred in this habitat type was African umbrella-sedge (*Cyperus involucratus*). In addition, Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) occurs within the drainage. The total area of this habitat type within the study area is 0.19 acre.

On-Site Trees

The majority of the trees on the project site are eucalyptus, palm, and pepper species. These species are ornamental escapees from adjacent landscaping that grows on site without artificial irrigation. A large grove of mature eucalyptus trees is located on the slope adjacent to the existing detention basin and sandblasting tenant. Ornamental species such as peppers, eucalyptus, elms, and palms are not listed as federal or State endangered or threatened species and are not protected under the Endangered Species Act. Several Goodding willows (*Salix gooddingii*) were identified near the detention basin and in a pond area on the west side of the project site. Biological considerations related to the willows are addressed under the discussion of cattail marsh. Ornamental landscape trees planted in sidewalks and adjacent to buildings along Spring Street, California Avenue, and Orange Avenue include Elm species (*Ulmus sp.*), Hollywood Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa'*), and Brisbane Box (*Tristania conferta*). The location of each tree is indicated in Figure 4.5.2: Tree Location Map. A total of 222 trees representing 16 different species were identified on the project site. A summary of the trees identified in the survey is presented in Table 4.5.A: Tree Survey Summary by Species.

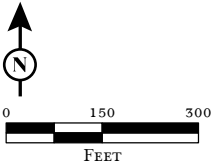
Table 4.5.A: Tree Survey Summary by Species



Common Name	Scientific Name	Quantity
Peruvian pepper	<i>Schinus molle</i>	59
Blue gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	52
Mexican fan palm	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	44
Chinese elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	15
Goodding's willow	<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	14
Canary Island date palm	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	13
Ash species	<i>Fraxinus species</i>	8
Rustyleaf fig	<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	5
Hollywood juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa'</i>	4
Elm species	<i>Ulmus sp.</i>	2
Brazilian pepper	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	1
Brisbane Box	<i>Tristania conferta</i>	1
Chinese flame tree	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	1
Cinnamon camphor	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	1
Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	1
Walnut species	<i>Juglans species</i>	1
Total		222



FIGURE 4.5.2

LSA



- Legend
-  Project Limits
 -  Tree

Long Beach Sports Park
Tree Map

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Wildlife

The proposed project site is characterized predominantly by disturbed/ruderal grassland habitat and considerable waste and debris. Wildlife species occurring within the project site are characteristic of those found in disturbed/ruderal areas. A list of animal species (including scientific names) observed during the reconnaissance level surveys in 1999 and 2003 are provided in Appendix B of the Biological Resources Assessment (Appendix E of this EIR).

Western toad and Pacific treefrogs are amphibians that were observed in suitable amphibian habitat and in the ponding areas on site during the surveys. Three reptile species were observed on site during the surveys: Western fence lizard, southern alligator lizard, and side-blotched lizard.

Disturbed/ruderal grassland located throughout the site provides foraging habitat for a variety of granivorous bird species and raptor species. Bird species observed on site include mourning dove, black phoebe, American crow, northern mockingbird, house finch, and house sparrow. Raptor species such as red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and American kestrel were observed over the site during the surveys. One pair of red-tailed hawks was observed nesting in the eucalyptus grove adjacent to the retention basin during the surveys. One pair of loggerhead shrikes was observed foraging and nesting in the vegetation adjacent to the retention basin during the surveys. Owls, such as the great horned owl and barn owl, were not observed; however, they may be present on site.

Mammalian species observed during the surveys include Beechey ground squirrel, Audubon cottontail, opossum, Botta pocket gopher, raccoon, feral cat and tracks of either coyote or domestic dog. The Beechey ground squirrel, Audubon cottontail, and Botta pocket gopher may serve as prey for raptor species. Tracks observed within one of the graded dirt access road were assumed to be those of striped skunk.

Wildlife Movement

Although the project site is used for local movement of wildlife, the site is isolated from larger expanses of native habitat, open space, and other potential wildlife movement areas. The extensive industrial and commercial development as well as the road network that surrounds the project site contribute to the isolation of the parcel. Therefore, the site does not provide a connection to wildlife areas, and the existing minimal local movement within the property by nonnative mammal species is considered less than significant.

The project site currently serves a relatively minor function as a stepover in the "Pacific Flyway" used by birds during migration, while the trees and vegetation on site do not support migratory birds. The plant species on the site are not different from species commonly found in the Long Beach area environment in local parks, backyards, and parkways.

Sensitive Biological Resources

Sensitive Species. Legal protection of sensitive species varies widely, from the comprehensive protection afforded species listed as endangered and/or threatened to no legal status at present. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), local agencies, and various special-interest groups (e.g., California Native Plant Society [CNPS]) publish

watch lists of declining species. These lists often describe the nature and perceived severity of the species decline. In addition, recently published findings and preliminary results of ongoing research provide a basis for consideration of species that are candidates for State and/or federal listing. Finally, species that are clearly not rare or threatened either statewide or regionally, but whose local populations are sparse, rapidly dwindling, or otherwise unstable, may be of "local interest."

For purposes of this discussion, the term "sensitive species" refers to those plants and animals occurring, or that have the potential to occur, on the property and are designated as endangered or rare (as defined by CEQA and its Guidelines), or of current local, regional, or State concern. These are species that are rare, locally restricted, or declining in a significant portion of their range. Inclusion in the sensitive species analysis for this property was based on the following criteria: (1) direct observation of the species on the property during one of the biological surveys conducted for this report; (2) record reported by the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB); or (3) property contains appropriate habitat and is within the known range of a given species. A variety of sources was used to establish the list of sensitive species potentially affected by the project. A foundation for the list of sensitive species within the study area is established by reviewing the CNDDDB and CNPS databases. However, these databases are frequently modified and are not considered a complete list of identified species within a particular area. Therefore, to refine and augment these lists, LSA utilized local experts with knowledge of the study area, reconnaissance surveys, and agency biologists.

Several sensitive plant and animal species were identified in the initial literature search that were subsequently excluded from further consideration because either the property lacks suitable conditions to support these species or the site is located well beyond their normal range. Other species that were not listed in the databases but were known to occur in the noncoastal Long Beach environs by local experts were added to the list of sensitive species.

For this section, sensitive species are broken down into those that are listed as endangered or threatened by the State and/or federal agencies and those that are not listed as such. Plant communities/habitats of concern are considered separately. Table 4.5.B summarizes the status of those sensitive species known to occur or potentially occurring on the property because of the availability of suitable habitat.

Sensitive Plant Species. No federally listed, State listed, proposed endangered, threatened, or sensitive plant species were observed on the site during the surveys. In addition to several on-site surveys, a review of existing literature and databases was conducted to identify any sensitive plant species that, even though not observed, may occur on the site under certain conditions. One federally and State listed as endangered plant species was identified in the literature review as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site. This species is salt marsh bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*), which is found in saline coastal situations such as coastal dunes, marshes, and swamps. No saline coastal conditions exist on the site; therefore, there is no habitat aside to support this species, and it is unlikely to occur. The literature search identified four additional sensitive plant species as potentially occurring within the study area, all of which are California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B. Parish's brittle scale (*Atriplex parishii*) typically occurs in chenopod scrub or vernal pools on playas. No chenopod scrub or vernal pools were

Table 4.5.B: Summary of Sensitive Species

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation ¹	Probability of Occurrence ²
SPECIES LISTED OR PROPOSED FOR LISTING				
VASCULAR PLANTS				
Salt marsh bird's-beak <i>Cordylanthus maritimus</i> ssp. <i>maritimus</i>	Coastal salt marshes & coastal dunes below 35 ft. elev. from San Luis Obispo County to Baja Calif. Known locally from Anaheim Landing (ca. 1983).	May–Oct.	Fed.: FE State: CE CNPS: 1B	Absent. Site lacks suitable conditions.
BIRDS				
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas.	Spring and fall	Fed.: FE State: CE	Low. Individuals may pass through the area, but site lacks suitable nesting or foraging habitat.
MAMMALS				
Pacific pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	Historically occupied open habitats on sandy soils along the coast from Los Angeles to the Mexican border. Now known from only four sites in Orange and San Diego Counties.	Mar.–Oct.	Fed.: FE State: CSC	Absent. Conditions on site are unsuitable for this species; native habitat is extremely limited, isolated, and highly degraded; no suitable soils.
SPECIES NOT LISTED NOR PROPOSED FOR LISTING				
VASCULAR PLANTS				
Parish's brittle scale <i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Alkali meadows, alkali flats, chenopod scrub, & vernal pools throughout cismontane So. Calif. to edges of deserts. Historically known from Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties to Baja Calif. Collected only once (1993) in Calif. since 1974.	Jun.–Oct.	Fed.: ** State: --- CNPS: 1B	Absent. Historic records of occurrences in Long Beach area. Currently presumed extirpated from region. No suitable habitat within study area.
Southern spikeweed <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	Coastal salt marsh margins, vernal mesic grasslands, vernal pools, often in ruderal, disturbed areas (ditches, road cuts, etc.).	Jun.–Nov.	Fed.: ** State: --- CNPS: 1B	Low. Suitable habitat is present but was not observed during spring surveys.
Prostrate navarretia	Coastal scrub and valley and foothill grasslands in alkaline soil	April–July	Fed.: ---	Absent. No suitable habitat within study area.

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation ¹	Probability of Occurrence ²
<i>Navaretia prostrata</i>	conditions. Vernal pools, mesic.		State: --- CNPS: 1B	
Coastal woolly-heads <i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>denudata</i>	Coastal strand and beaches, from Ventura County to northwest Mexico.	Apr.–Sep.	Fed.: --- State: --- CNPS: 2	Absent. No suitable habitat within study area.
INSECTS				
Sandy beach tiger beetle <i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i>	Inhabits areas adjacent to nonbrackish water along the coast of California from San Francisco Bay to northern Mexico. Micro habitat includes clean, dry, light-colored sand in the upper zone. Subterranean larvae prefer moist sand not affected by wave action.	Year-round	Fed.: - State: None	Low. Habitat appears to be unsuitable.
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Varied habitats throughout much of North and South America; milkweeds required for breeding.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CSA	Low. Occasional visitors are likely, but no overwintering roosts appear to be present.
REPTILES				
Silvery legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	Inhabits loose soil and humus from central California to northern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: ** State: CSC	Low. Habitat appears unsuitable.
San Diego horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i>	Wide variety of habitats including coastal sage scrub, grassland, riparian woodland; typically on or near loose sandy soils; coastal and inland areas from Ventura County to Baja Calif.	Apr. - Jul. (with reduced activity Aug. - Oct.)	Fed.: ** State: CSC	Low. Habitat appears unsuitable.
BIRDS				
Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Open fields with scattered trees, open woodland, scrub. Fairly common resident throughout Southern California	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC	Observed. Nesting shrikes observed on site during surveys.
White-Tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	Open country in South America and southern North America.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC	Low. Requires extensive grassland habitats for foraging.
Northern harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Grassland and marshy habitats in Southern California. Uncommon in open desert and brushlands.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC	Low. Requires extensive grassland habitats for foraging.
Sharp-shinned hawk	Primarily forests and woodlands of the Americas; species of	Sept. - April	Fed.: ---	Observed. Winter visitor; no nesting potential

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation ¹	Probability of Occurrence ²
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	concern only in nesting areas.		State: CSC	on the project site
Cooper's hawk <i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	Primarily forests and woodlands throughout North America.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC	Moderate. Habitat appears marginal.
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	Open country; breeds in the Holarctic Region and winters south to the tropics. Rare fall migrant and winter visitor to Southern California.	Fall & winter	Fed.: --- State: CSC	Moderate. Generally rare and local, but foraging birds may occur almost anywhere.
American peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Widespread but scarce and local throughout North America. Currently nests on buildings and bridges in the L.A. Basin.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: END	Low. May forage infrequently in the area. No suitable nesting habitat on site.
Western burrowing owl <i>Athene cucularia hypugea</i>	Grasslands and rangelands, usually occupying ground squirrel burrows. Resident over most of Southern California. Found in agricultural areas.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC	Low. Now very rare in the region.
California horned lark <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	Open grasslands and fields, agricultural areas, open montane grasslands. Southern California common resident in interior, common transient and winter visitant along coast, common summer resident.	Year-round	Fed.: C3c State: CSC	Low. Prefers extensive open grassland habitats.
Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Freshwater marshes, grasslands, and agricultural lands; coastal California, Central Valley, to Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: ** State: CSC	Low. Rare in the L.A. Basin. Prefers open grassland for foraging.
MAMMALS				
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Varied habitats in western North America.	Warmer months	Fed.: -- State: **	Low. Habitat appears unsuitable. Rare in urban areas.
Small-footed myotis <i>Myotis ciliolabrum = leibii</i>	Varied habitats throughout much of North America.	Warmer months	Fed.: -- State: **	Low. Habitat appears unsuitable. Rare in urban areas.

1. For a description of status designations, see Legend on following page.
2. Based on the following categories: **Absent; Low; Moderate; High; Observed.**

Legend: Status Designation

FEDERAL STATUS

FE	Federally listed as Endangered.
FT	Federally listed as Threatened.
PE	Federally proposed as Endangered.
PT	Federally proposed as Threatened.

Note: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has recently revised its classification system for candidate taxa (species, subspecies, and other taxonomic designations), as described below.

C	Certain species formerly designated as "Category 1" (C1) and a few "category 2" (C2) candidates for federal listing are now known as "Candidate." Refers to taxa for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has sufficient information available to support a proposal to list as Endangered or Threatened. Issuance of the proposal(s) is anticipated, but precluded at this time.
**	Species formerly designated as "category 1" (C1) or "Category 2" (C2) candidates for federal listing; not designated presently as "candidate" species, these C1 and C2 designations have been discontinued by the USFWS. The State now refers to these taxa as "species of Concern."
C3a	Species considered to be extinct.
C3b	Former federal candidate for listing as Endangered or Threatened, but which is not believed by the Service to represent a distinct taxa meeting the Endangered Species Act's definition of a "species". Species taxonomically invalid.
C3c	Former federal candidate for listing as Endangered or Threatened, but which has been determined by the Service to be too widespread and/or not threatened at this time.

STATE STATUS

CE	State listed as Endangered.
CT	State listed as Threatened.
CR	State listed as Rare.
CFP	California Fully Protected. Species legally protected under special legislation enacted prior to the California Endangered Species Act.
CCE	State candidate for listing as Endangered.
CCT	State candidate for listing as Threatened.
CSC	California Species of Special Concern. These are taxa with pops. Declining seriously or otherwise highly vulnerable to human developments.
CSA	Species included on the California Department of Fish and Game's list of "special Animals" of California. No specific designation assigned.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY LISTING

1A	List of plants that are presumed extinct in California.
1B	List of plants that are considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.
2	List of plants that are considered by CNPS to be Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
3	CNPS review list of plants suggested for consideration as Endangered but about which more information is needed.
4	CNPS watch list of plants of limited distribution, whose status should be monitored.

identified within the project boundaries. Therefore, this species is not anticipated to occur within the project boundaries. Prostrate navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*) occurs in various habitats, including coastal scrub, alkaline soils in valley and foothill grassland, or in mesic areas such as vernal pools. None of these habitats were identified within the project boundaries; therefore, this species is not expected to occur within the project boundaries. Coast woolly-heads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *denudata*) occurs within coastal dunes. None of the project limits are within coastal dunes. Therefore, this species is not anticipated to occur within the project boundaries. Southern spikeweed (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) occurs in the margins of marshes and swamps or in vernal mesic valley and foothill grassland. This species may occur in disturbed habitats and in tire rills of roads. Crumbled asphalt had been deposited on a portion of the roads within the southern portion of the site between the survey conducted in March and the focused survey for this species in June. This species could potentially have occurred within the areas where road maintenance occurred; however, the areas surrounding the road maintenance activities were surveyed extensively for this species during the focused survey during the optimal flowering period (April through September) and no occurrences of this species were noted on the project site; therefore, this species is not expected to occur on site.

In sum, several sensitive plant species were identified through the literature and database searches as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the specific conditions under which most of these species occur are not present on the project site. In addition, no federally listed, State listed, proposed endangered, threatened, or sensitive plant species were observed on site during multiple surveys.

Sensitive Wildlife Species. Two federally listed animal species were identified in the literature search as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site. One is the California least tern, a federally and State listed as endangered species. This species nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. The project site lacks suitable nesting or foraging habitat for this species. Therefore, it is not expected to occur on site. The other—the Pacific pocket mouse, which is federally listed as endangered—inhabits the narrow coastal plain from the Mexican border north to El Segundo. The habitat on site is unsuitable for this species as it is extremely limited, isolated, and highly degraded. In addition, the soils on site are unsuitable for this species. Therefore, this species is not expected to occur on site. The remaining sensitive species are identified in Table 4.5.B, the Summary of Sensitive Species.

Sensitive Habitats. Habitats are considered to be sensitive biological resources based on (1) federal, State, or local laws regulating their development; (2) limited distributions; and/or (3) the habitat requirements of sensitive plants or animals occurring on the site.

Wetlands and Streambeds. Streambeds and wetland areas are often regulated by both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as described below under “Regulatory Setting.” In addition, wetlands are of limited distribution and are often of high value to ecosystems. Thus, they are considered sensitive resources. The total length of the drainage course associated with the retention basin within the project site is

approximately 250 feet. The vegetation within the sediment deposits in this concrete-lined channel is cattail marsh, which totals 0.08 acre. The vegetation within the drainage area meets the federal criteria for wetlands and the CDFG's criteria for jurisdictional waters of the State. In addition, the retention basin associated with this drainage, which amounts to 0.41 acre, would be considered jurisdictional by both the federal and State agencies. Figure 4.5.3, Jurisdictional Areas, shows the location of jurisdictional wetlands on the project site.

The pond on the western portion of the project site appears to support some riparian vegetation. However, due to the isolation, small size, and shallowness of the pond, it would not be subject to Corps or CDFG jurisdiction.

4.5.5 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The project's effects on biological resources may be considered significant if they would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special interest species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local to other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites.
- Conflict with City policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan.

A ministerial permit will be required to remove all existing trees from City-owned property, including trees on the project site and trees in the City parkway.

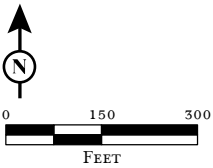
There is no adopted HCP, NCCP, or other habitat conservation plan in the City of Long Beach, therefore the project will not conflict with any such plans. The City of Long Beach has an adopted Local Coastal Program, however, the project site is not located in the Coastal Zone.



FIGURE 4.5.3

LSA

Legend



- Project Limits
- P Photo Location
- SP Sample Plot Location

Habitat Type (with Acreage)	
	Cattail / Marsh (0.19 AC)
	Mulefat Scrub (0.19 AC)
	Open Water (0.35 AC)

SOURCE: Eagle Aerial, 2002.

Long Beach Sports Park
Jurisdictional Areas

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4.5.6 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following discussion identifies quantitative and qualitative impacts to biological resources as a result of the proposed project.

Less Than Significant Impacts

Loss of Nonsensitive Habitat and Associated Species. The project will result in the loss of 27.84 acres of ruderal/annual grassland and ornamental plantings, as well as 20.3 acres of developed and barren areas on the remaining portions of the 55-acre site. In addition, 0.31 acre of open water and 0.19 acre of cattail marsh associated with the retention basin, as well as 0.05 acre of open water associated with the ponding area on the western side of the study area, will be removed by the installation of the proposed project.

The loss of disturbed, mostly nonnative, habitat and the associated reduction of locally common wildlife populations are not considered significant impacts because they do not substantially affect listed or candidate species, riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community, federally protected wetlands, or wildlife movement. The loss of open water and associated cattail marsh is considered less than insignificant due to the small size and isolation of the habitats.

Impacts Associated with Reclaimed Water Line Extension. The proposed project includes an extension of the reclaimed water line from its terminus at Walnut north of I-405 to the project site. The reclaimed water line will be constructed within existing roadways and will be located beneath roadway pavement. The construction and operation of the line will have a less than significant impact on biological resources.

Impacts to Migratory Birds. This area is expected to continue to serve a relatively minor function as a stopover in the "Pacific Flyway" used by birds during migration. Urban parks, residential backyards, and street trees all serve to support birds during migration. Therefore, given the extent of urban landscaping in Long Beach, the existence of larger parks with substantial water bodies, and the fact that the area will be redeveloped into a park-like facility, the loss of this habitat with respect to use by migratory birds is considered less than significant.

Loss of Existing Trees. As previously noted, removal of trees from City-owned property, including the project site and adjacent parkway areas, will require a ministerial permit. The tree species found on the project site are primarily ornamental escapees from adjacent landscaping that grow on site without artificial irrigation. Impacts and mitigation measures related to specific tree species are addressed elsewhere in this section. Grading of the project site will require removal of existing trees on the project site; however, the proposed project includes a Landscape Plan that calls for approximately 900 canopy trees and palms to be planted on site or along adjacent streets. (Refer to Figure 3.9.) Project site landscaping will result in a net increase of approximately 700 trees on the project site and, therefore, the proposed project will not create a significant adverse impact to the number of trees.

Potentially Significant Impacts

Within the context of the habitat loss described above, there are two types of impacts that are not considered significant under the significance threshold criteria listed above but nevertheless require mitigation to ensure compliance with State and federal regulations pertaining to loss of habitat on site.

Potential Disturbance of Nesting Birds. Nesting birds are protected during nesting by State law and/or by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. While loss of trees on the site is not considered a significant biological impact, destruction of active nests for most avian species is legally prohibited.

Species of Special Concern. A nesting pair of loggerhead shrike and a pair of red-tailed hawk were observed on the site. The loggerhead shrike is a California Department of Fish and Game species of special concern. These are taxa with populations that are declining seriously or otherwise highly vulnerable to human developments. The loggerhead shrike has declined over the last decade throughout southwestern California. While the decline in population in this region reflects the population decline for this species in much of the United States, the problem is more acute in coastal Los Angeles County, where few breeding pairs of loggerhead shrikes are known to exist.

Nesting pairs of red-tailed hawks, although protected during nesting by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, are widespread throughout North America, and their populations are maintaining healthy levels.

Loggerhead shrikes would potentially use the adjacent cemetery for foraging due to the open space, trees and other ornamental vegetation, and limited potential interaction with people.

Drainage Course Impacts Requiring Permits. Grading of the project will result in filling of 0.08 acre of riparian habitat in a concrete drainage course and 0.42 acre within the associated retention basin, both of which are subject to Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game jurisdiction. In addition, virtually all streambeds and associated plant communities are considered sensitive biological resources and are regulated by agencies as described in the Regulatory Setting Section. Therefore, impacts to these areas will require mitigation.

Sensitive Habitat, Wetlands. Wetlands are of limited distribution and are often of high value to ecosystems. Thus, they are considered sensitive resources. The total length of the drainage course associated with the retention basin within the project site is approximately 250 feet. The vegetation within the sediment deposits in this concrete-lined channel is cattail marsh, which totals 0.08 acre. The vegetation within the drainage area meets the federal criteria for wetlands and the CDFG's criteria for jurisdictional waters of the State. In addition, the retention basin associated with this drainage, which amounts to 0.41 acre, would be considered jurisdictional by both the federal and State agencies.

Proposed Wetlands Mitigation. The proposed wetlands mitigation site is located along the San Gabriel River adjacent to El Dorado Golf Course. (See Figure 4.4.5.) Most of the 8.5-acre mitigation site will be developed as wetlands, although a meandering bicycle and pedestrian trail system will

also be incorporated into the final design, as well as utility maintenance access as needed. A total of 0.6 acre of mitigation wetlands will be committed to mitigating for the proposed project; the remaining wetlands acreage may be used as mitigation for other projects.

It is contemplated that the water for the mitigation site will largely come from urban runoff resulting from irrigation of the El Dorado Golf Course. Reclaimed water is currently used to irrigate the course and due to the high nitrogen levels in the water, additional design features may be necessary. The final design of the mitigation wetlands will be prepared prior to and included in the Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit application.

A biological reconnaissance of the proposed mitigation area was conducted by LSA biologist Micaele Maddison on March 17, 2004. The proposed mitigation area is located in a City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) easement between El Dorado Golf Course, the San Gabriel River, Spring Street, and Willow Street in the City of Long Beach, California. The area is comprised of two separate areas, one on the north side of an existing pump house and associated concrete storage reservoir, and one in the area south of this pump house and associated reservoir. Although the north area could not be accessed during the on-site survey due to extensive fencing, both areas appear to be very similar in that they have mainly flat topography and sandy soils. Aside from the DWP lattice tower and chain-link fencing, the proposed mitigation site is surrounded by parkland dominated by ornamental landscaping.

The habitat on site is mainly nonnative annual grassland dominated by grasses and forbs, with some patches of ornamental trees. Due to previous grading for the installation of the DWP towers and associated fences and scattered trash and debris, the existing habitat condition on site is poor.

The animal species observed during the site visit are typical of developed parks and grassland areas, such as the American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). One raptor, a red tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), was observed perched on a lattice tower within the SCE easement. However, no nests were observed within any of the lattice towers at the time of the site visit.

No sensitive or special interest animal species (i.e., listed species, species proposed for listing, or candidate species) were observed or otherwise detected on site at the time of the site visit. The site does not contain, nor is it adjacent to, any suitable habitat for any sensitive species.

The adjacent San Gabriel River is a concrete-lined flood control channel. The mitigation site did not contain any federal or State jurisdictional areas. Waters of the U.S. were absent from the site; no water bodies having a perceptible ordinary high water mark (OHWM) were identified on site, and no wetland resources were observed. Also, no streambed or riparian habitat was present on site.

Based on the high level of disturbance associated with the previous construction of the San Gabriel River Channel and installation of the DWP towers, and the nonnative nature of the habitat within the boundary, the proposed mitigation installation is not expected to result in any significant impacts to biological resources, including jurisdictional areas (e.g., wetlands).

While the site appears to have reasonable suitability for wetlands mitigation, the final design of the mitigation site should include consideration of two site characteristics: (1) porous, sandy soils; and (2) any constraints imposed by the DWP lines on vegetation height. The site should be designed so that adequate water is available in the root zone of the plants and that trimming of trees is not necessary.

Comments Received During the Scoping Process

The NOP for the proposed project was released on January 13, 2004, and a public scoping meeting was held on February 23, 2004. Both oral and written comments regarding biological resources were received from the public. Written comments on biological resources were received from public agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (resource agencies). Oral and written comments on biological resources were received from organizations and citizens, and included:

- A request for a wet season survey of biological resources. A winter ornithological survey was conducted by Richard Erickson on February 13, 2004, to document the use of the site by wintering birds.
- A request that cumulative loss of habitat be addressed; please see cumulative discussion above.
- A request for consideration of the Pacific Flyway and wildlife corridors. A description of the Pacific Flyway and an explanation of wildlife corridors were included in the Biological Resources Assessment (Appendix E).

Freshwater Wetlands. The project site wetlands were referred to as the only freshwater wetlands in the City. While there are no protected freshwater wetlands in Long Beach in the Los Angeles River Watershed, there are existing freshwater wetlands in the DeForest Nature Trail area and Dominguez Gap retention basin, along with lakes in the Virginia Country Club and Scherer Park. Outside the Los Angeles River Watershed, in Long Beach, there are freshwater wetlands in the Heartwell Park lake, in the El Dorado Parks lakes (four in the regional park, two in the Nature Center, one in the community park, and two or three in the golf course), and a freshwater protected wetland at Sims Pond.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area. The site was also characterized as an “ESHA” or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area. ESHA is a term defined in Section 30107.5 of the California Coastal Act. The project site is not in the Coastal Zone and is not subject to the Coastal Act; however, potential impacts to sensitive species and habitats are addressed above and in the Biological Assessment.

Sensitive Species. The biological resources analysis addresses listed and nonlisted sensitive species. The term “sensitive species” refers to those plants and animals occurring or potentially occurring on the property and are designated as endangered or rare (as defined by CEQA Guidelines), or of current local, regional, or State concern. These are species that are rare, locally restricted, or declining in a significant portion of their range. The methodology for identifying potentially sensitive species is described above.

Pesticides. A concern was raised about the potential environmental impact of the use of pesticides to eliminate vectors displaced as a result of project grading. Vectors are rodents, insects, or arthropods, or other animals of public health significance capable of harboring or transmitting the causative agents of disease (e.g., plague, malaria) to humans. It is not standard procedure to apply pesticide to the property before or during grading, and it is not recommended or anticipated for the sports park project. Vector Control Specialists in the City Health and Human Services Department provide vector control services to the citizens of Long Beach. These services include control and elimination of insects and rodents that can transmit diseases and education on how to control them. To maintain rodent control, Vector Control staff routinely applies treatment to public properties such as shorelines, harbors, and parks. For rodent control on private property, the Vector Control Program offers rodent bait to the public.

Mitigation Measures

The proposed project's impact on biological resources is potentially significant before mitigation on nesting birds, wetlands, and loggerhead shrike habitat. The following mitigation measures are proposed:

- 4.5.1** Prior to issuance of any demolition or grading permits, a City of Long Beach Building Official shall verify that tree and shrub removal on the project site is allowed between August 1 to December 31, which is outside the normal nesting season for most raptors and other birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If it is necessary to conduct tree and shrub removal between January 1 and July 31, a qualified biologist must be retained by the City of Long Beach to survey the area for active nests prior to removal and to monitor the area during the removal process. In the event of discovery of active nests in an area to be cleared, protective measures shall be taken to avoid any impacts to the nests until the nesting activity is completed.
- 4.5.2** Prior to issuance of grading permits and, subject to the approval of the City of Long Beach Director of Planning and Building, project plans shall specify a native vegetation area adjacent to the southern boundary of the project site in order to create open habitat with isolated patches of dense shrubs suitable for nesting by the loggerhead shrike. The planting shall extend along the top and banks of the slope and shall not be less than 25 feet in width. The native vegetation area will be located adjacent to the cemetery, which may provide a suitable area for foraging. Plant material in the native vegetation area will include coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and needlegrass (*Nassella* sp.), as well as elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) planted in isolated clumps rather than uniformly. Understory species and any species that might be too invasive (e.g., mulefat, *Baccharis salicifolia*) will be avoided, as they would alter the open habitat quality of the potential nesting area.
- 4.5.3** Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the City of Long Beach Director of Planning and Building shall verify that authorization has been obtained from: (1) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under the Section 404 Permit program for the discharge of fill material into the jurisdictional drainages; and (2) the California Department of Fish Game (CDFG) under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code for the alteration of a streambed. In addition, standard conditions of the Corps permits require Section 401 water quality certification by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). In order to obtain

these authorizations, the City shall develop a mitigation plan subject to review and approval by the appropriate resource agencies (Corps, CDFG, and RWQCB) to compensate for the loss of the riparian habitat. (See Mitigation Measure 4.5.4.)

- 4.5.4** Prior to the issuance of certificates of occupancy, the City shall develop off-site mitigation for wetlands, including the restoration of 0.6 acre of riparian habitat (2:1 mitigation ratio for 0.08 acre of cattail marsh in the channel, and 1:1 mitigation ratio for the 0.41 acre of wetlands in the detention basin). The total wetlands mitigation requirement is 0.6 acre. The proposed mitigation site is located on the west bank of the San Gabriel River adjacent to El Dorado Park Golf Course and shall be made part of the Section 404 Permit required in Mitigation Measure 4.5.3. Off-site mitigation shall be constructed and maintained by the City of Long Beach, subject to verification by the Director of Planning and Building, in accordance with the mitigation plan approved by the appropriate resource agencies (Corps, CDFG, and RWQCB).
- 4.5.5** Prior to issuance of grading permits, project plans subject to the approval of the City of Long Beach Director of Planning and Building shall specify that the on-site stilling basin will be planted with California native wetland species. The stilling basin will be subject to routine maintenance and cleaning. The planting of native wetland species in the stilling basin is provided in addition to the 0.6-acre off-site mitigation area.

4.5.7 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The project's impact on riparian habitat is a small, incremental contribution to the loss of riparian/wetland habitat in the region that may be considered cumulatively significant when combined with the loss of other regional riparian resources. This contribution to cumulative impacts is offset by the mitigation measure above.

The project's impacts to disturbed ruderal and ornamental vegetation are not cumulatively considerable because these habitats are common, are not regionally sensitive, and do not support sensitive species.

The impacts to the nesting loggerhead shrikes within the project area will result in a contribution to a cumulative impact on this species. To create potential breeding habitat on the site for this species, coyote brush will be planted on a slope on the southwest portion of the site adjacent to the existing cemetery to create an open habitat with isolated patches of dense shrubs suitable for nesting by the loggerhead shrike (see Mitigation Measure 4.5.2). While the planting of native habitat on the southwestern portion of the site will provide some habitat for the loggerhead shrike in association with potential foraging habitat in the cemetery, continued breeding by this species may not occur. Therefore, the loss of breeding territory for the loggerhead shrike may not be fully mitigated and would result in a contribution to significant cumulative impacts.

4.5.8 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Mitigation Measures 4.5.1 through 4.5.5 will mitigate for jurisdictional impacts, as well as for the proposed project's contribution to cumulative impacts resulting from the loss of the pond on the western side of the project area, even though it is not jurisdictional. With the implementation of the above mitigation measures, there are no significant project-level impacts on biological resources. However, the proposed project will result in an unavoidable contribution to cumulatively significant impacts to the breeding territory of the loggerhead shrike.

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