



Federal Recognition

Endangered and Threatened Species

A federal Endangered Species (**FE**) is a species formally listed by the USFWS as facing extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its geographic range. A federal Threatened Species (**FT**) is one formally listed by the USFWS as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. “Take” of such a species or its habitat is prohibited by federal law without a special permit. Term “take”, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), means to harass, harm pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in such conduct. Harm is defined by the USFWS to encompass “an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures listed wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering” (50 CFR §17.3).

Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species

A proposed Threatened (**FPT**) or Endangered Species (**FPE**) is one officially proposed by the USFWS for addition to the federal Threatened or Endangered Species lists.

Species of Concern

A federal Species of Concern (**FSC**) is a species within an informal designation by the USFWS for some declining species that are not federal candidates for listing at this time. This designation does not provide legal protection but signifies that these species are recognized as special status by the USFWS.

Critical Habitat

The federal government defines critical habitat as the minimum amount of suitable breeding and foraging habitat occupied or potentially occupied by Threatened or Endangered Species that is deemed necessary to maintain present populations and to recover populations of the species to the point at which the species is no longer Threatened or Endangered. It does not necessarily include all suitable habitat (such as highly fragmented or isolated patches); however, it may contain highly degraded or altered habitat that can be restored, and it may include buffer zones of other habitats. Defined critical habitat for a species differs significantly from one species to another.

State of California Recognition

Endangered and Threatened Species

The State of California considers an Endangered Species (**SE**) one whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy. A Threatened Species (**ST**) is one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it is considered likely to become an Endangered Species in the near future in the absence of special protection or management. A Rare Species is one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. The designation “Rare Species” applies only to California native plants. State Threatened and Endangered Species include both plants and wildlife, but do not include invertebrates, and are legally protected against “take”, as this term is defined in the California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et seq.).

Species of Special Concern

Species of Special Concern (**SSC**) is an informal designation used by the CDFG for some declining wildlife species that are not officially listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare. This designation does not provide legal protection, but signifies that these species are recognized as sensitive by CDFG.

Fully Protected Species

Species that are California fully protected (**SFP**) include those protected by special legislation for various reasons, such as the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*).

Sensitive Plant Species

The California Native Plant Society (**CNPS**) is a statewide resource conservation organization that has developed an inventory of California’s sensitive plant species (Skinner and Pavlik 1994). This inventory is a summary of information on the distribution, rarity, and endangerment of California’s vascular plants. This rare plant inventory consists of four lists. CNPS presumes that List 1A plant species are extinct in California because they have not been seen in the wild for many years. CNPS considers List 1B plants as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered throughout their range. List 2 plant species are considered Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common in other states. Plant species on lists 1A, 1B, and 2 meet CDFG criteria for Endangered, Threatened, or Rare listing. Plant species for which CNPS requires additional information in order to properly evaluate their status are included on List 3. List 4 plant species are those of limited distribution in California whose susceptibility to threat is considered low at this time.

County of San Bernardino Recognition

Riparian Plant Conservation

The San Bernardino County Development Code, Chapter 5, Riparian Plant Conservation (1989), provides protection to riparian habitats growing on private land within the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. The removal of any vegetation within two hundred feet of the bank of a stream or in an area indicated as a protected riparian area on an overlay map or County Specific Plan, requires a tree or plant removal permit and is subject to environmental review. Streams include those shown on United States Geological Survey Quadrangle topographic maps as perennial or intermittent, blue or brown lines, and river wash areas. Pre-construction inspections shall include the verification of the presence of any riparian vegetation. Any necessary conditions of approval for removal of riparian vegetation may be imposed.

The following discussion provides a summary of the sensitive biological resources potentially occurring at the Project Area. The potential for a species to occur onsite is first based upon their known geographic ranges, elevational distributions, and preferred habitats. The actual potential for their occurrence ranking in the Project Area is based upon the presence of suitable habitat as determined by field surveys, and by habitat requirements documented in the literature.

Sensitive Biological Resources Potentially Occurring in Subarea 2

The sensitive biological resources described below are based on field observations and review of existing documents and databases described above and listed in Section 10, References, of this EIR.

Sensitive Natural Community and Other Habitats

One sensitive natural community, southern cottonwood riparian forest, was observed below the 566-foot inundation line and is described below.

Southern Cottonwood Riparian Forest. This natural community is a tall, open, broadleaved winter deciduous riparian forest dominated by Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), black cottonwood (*P. trichocarpa*), and several tree willows. In the Prado Basin area, this community is dominated by Fremont's cottonwood and black willow (*Salix goodingii*) with an understory of mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). This community, like other riparian communities, has become increasingly rare in Southern California due to pressures from flood control operations, land clearing and water diversion for human consumption. Southern cottonwood riparian forest is predominantly found within the riparian woodland areas along Chino Creek and Mills Creek in the southern portion of Subarea 2, as depicted in Exhibit 5.4-3, below the 566-foot inundation line.