Appendix F

LAX NORTHSIDE PLAN UPDATE

Biological Resources Technical Report

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report documents the findings of an evaluation of biological resources[1] conducted by URS Corporation (URS) for the proposed LAX Northside Plan Update (hereafter referred to as the Plan).

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is located in the southwestern portion of the County of Los Angeles, adjacent to Santa Monica Bay and 14 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles (Figure 1). Reference point coordinates for LAX are 33 degrees 56 minutes north latitude by 118 degrees 24 minutes west longitude. The LAX property is located entirely within the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, as depicted on U.S.G.S. Venice Quadrangle, within the boundaries of Township 2 South and Township 3 South and Range 14 West and Range 15 West of the San Bernardino Principal Meridian. The LAX property lies within the Sausal Redondo Land Grant Boundary, and is bordered to the north by Westchester Parkway, to the east by Aviation Boulevard, to the south by Interstate 105 and Imperial Highway, and to the west by Dockweiler State Beach. LAX encompasses approximately 3,350 acres with an average elevation of 125.5 feet above mean sea level (msl), and constitutes a large industrial district presently made up of the following facilities and uses:

- Four east/west runways
- 3.9 million square feet of domestic and international terminal space, including 145 narrow body equivalent gates and nine passenger terminals
- 200 acres of cargo area, including 1.9 million square feet of building space
- 384 acres of ancillary space, including 30 acres of LAWA administrative and support facilities
- 21,930 automobile parking spaces
- 900 acres of open space, including 302 acres of Los Angeles/El Segundo Dunes

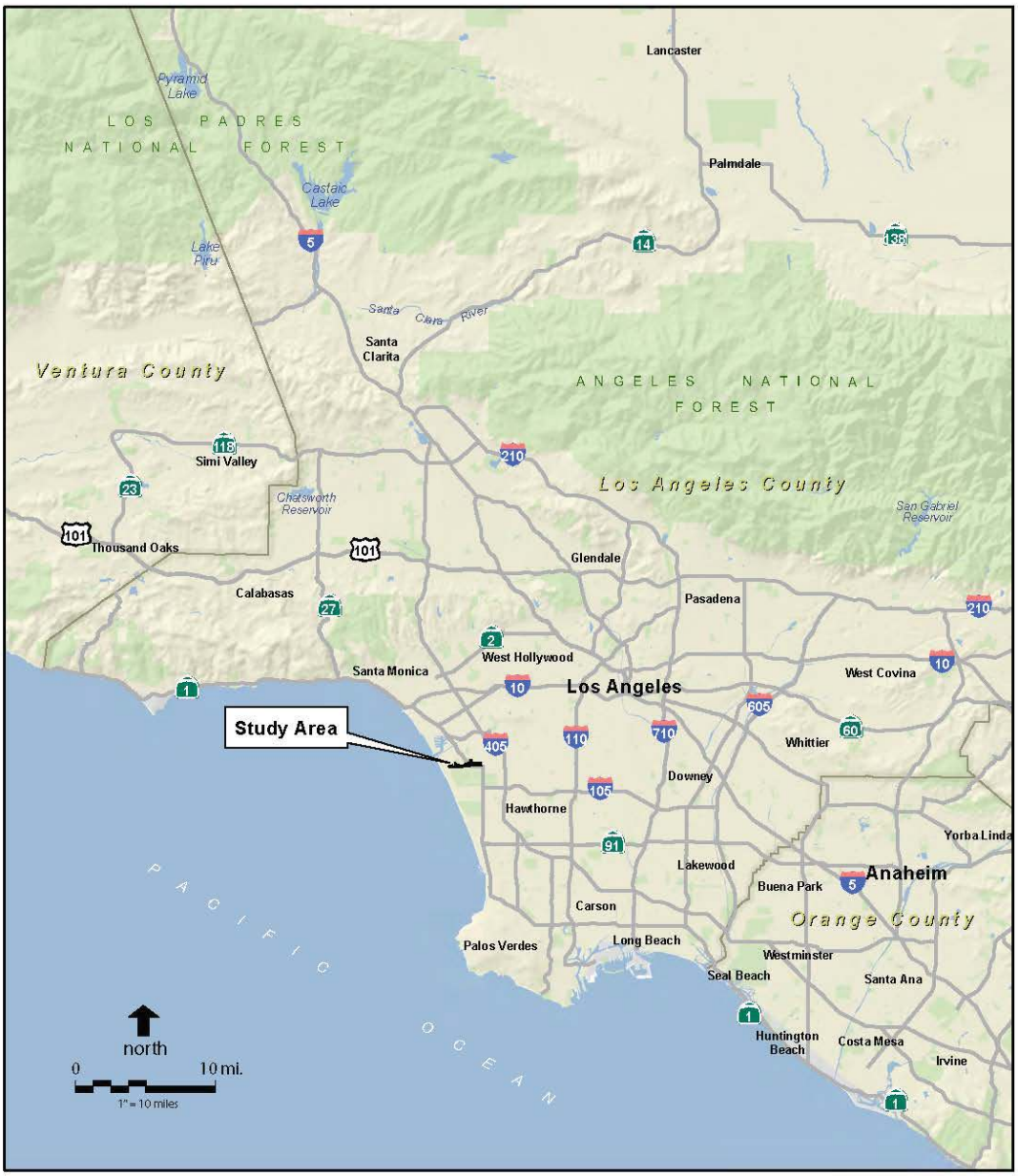
The intended use of this document is to disclose and evaluate habitat conditions and determine the potential for occurrence of common and special-status species[2] and their habitats[3] within the "Biological Resources Study Area" (BRSA), which includes the Plan's proposed ground disturbance footprint (Project site or footprint) and a 250-ft buffer around the Project site (Figure 2), to the maximum extent practical[4].

[1] For the purposes of this analysis, "biological resources" refers to the plants, wildlife, and habitats that occur, or have the potential to occur, within the Project's study area.

[2] For the purposes of this analysis, "special-status species" refers to any species that has been afforded special protection by federal, state, or local resource agencies (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game) or resource conservation organizations (e.g., California Native Plant Society). The term "special-status species" excludes those avian species solely identified under Section 10 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) for federal protection. Nonetheless, MBTA Section 10 protected species are afforded avoidance and minimization measures per state and federal requirements.

[3] A "habitat" is defined as the place, or type of locale where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.

[4] Where 100% pedestrian coverage of the study area was not possible due to limited access (e.g., fenced areas where access to private property or other physical barriers [vegetative cover, health and safety concerns, etc.]), field observations were made from the nearest appropriate vantage points via public right-of-ways with binoculars and/or via aerial photographic interpretation.



Regional Location	Biological Technical Report LAX Northside Plan Update	FIGURE 1

Biological Resources Study Area (BRSA)	Draft Environmental Impact Report LAX Northside Plan Update	FIGURE 2

2.0 METHODS

URS Biologists reviewed available information from resource management plans, and other technical documents containing information on locations and types of biological resources that have the potential to exist within the BRSA (United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] Critical Habitat Mapper and File data [USFWS 2011a] and the Carlsbad Field Office Species List for San Bernardino County 2011b]). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2012), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2012) file data were also queried for records of occurrence of special-status species and habitats within the Venice and Inglewood USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle Map (USGS 1981). The pertinent documents, scientific studies, and technical publications consulted include, but are not limited to, the following:

- City of Los Angeles, *LAX Master Plan Final EIS/EIR, Part 1, Volumes 1 - 5*, "Section 4.11, Endangered and Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna," 2004.
- City of Los Angeles, *LAX Master Plan Final EIS/EIR, Part 1, Volumes 1 - 5*, "Section 4.12, Wetlands," 2004.
- City of Los Angeles, *LAX Master Plan Final EIS/EIR, Part 1, Volumes 1 - 5*, "Section 4.10, Biotic Communities," 2004.
- Sapphos Environmental, Inc., *Biological Assessment Technical Report*, from City of Los Angeles, *LAX Master Plan Final EIS/EIR, Appendix J1*, 2001.
- City of Los Angeles, *LAX Master Plan Final EIR/EIS Appendices F-E*, "Biological Opinion from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service," 2004.
- Los Angeles World Airports, *LAX Master Plan Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) 2011 Annual Progress Report*, 2012.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Recovery Plan for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*)*, 1998.
- Environmental Science Associates, *Long-Term Habitat Management Plan for Los Angeles El Segundo Dunes*, June 23, 1994.
- Bon Terra Consulting, *Lewis' Evening-Primrose and California Spineflower Focused Surveys for the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Bradley West Project in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California*, 2009.

URS biologists conducted a site visit to assess general and dominant vegetation community types, community sizes, habitat types, and species present within communities. Community type descriptions were based on observed dominant vegetation composition and derived from the criteria and definitions of several widely accepted vegetation classification systems (Holland 1986, Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995). Plants were identified in the field to the lowest taxonomic level sufficient to determine positive identity, native/non-native, or rarity status. Plants of uncertain identity were subsequently identified from taxonomic keys (Baldwin, *et.al.* 2012). Scientific and common species names were recorded according to Baldwin *et.al.* (2012). The presence of a wildlife species was based on direct observation, wildlife sign (e.g., tracks, burrows, nests, scat, or vocalization). Field data compiled for wildlife species included scientific name, common name, and evidence of sign when no direct observations were made. Wildlife of uncertain distinctiveness was documented and subsequently identified from specialized field

guides and related literature (Burt and Grossenheider 1980, Halfpenny 2000, Sibley 2000, Elbroch 2003, and Stebbins 2003). URS conducted only a literature review of the Air Operations Area within Project site boundaries. At the request of the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), URS did not survey these areas of the Project site.

The BRSA was also assessed for its potential to support special-status species based on habitat suitability comparisons with reported occupied habitats. The following definitions were utilized to determine the need for subsequent surveys and to assess Project-related effects to special-status species:

Absent: Species distribution is restricted by substantive habitat requirements, which do not occur within the Project footprint, and no further survey or study is necessary to determine likely presence or absence of this species.

Low: Species distribution is restricted by substantive habitat requirements, which are negligible within the Project footprint, and no further survey or study is obligatory to determine likely presence or absence of this species.

Habitat Present: Species distribution is restricted by substantive habitat requirements, which occur within the Project footprint, and further survey or study may be necessary to determine likely presence or absence of species.

Present: Species or species sign were observed to be present in the Project footprint.

2.1 Special Aquatic Features

Information regarding jurisdictional aquatic features and the findings of the jurisdictional delineation analysis were conducted by Glen Lukos Associates (2012 unpublished data). Potential effects to aquatic features are defined as follows:

- Under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
- Under the jurisdiction of CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the Fish and Game Code;
- Under the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act;
- Wetlands as defined by the California Coastal Act (CCA); and
- Wetlands as classified by the USFWS and CDFW under the Cowardin, *et.al.* classification system.

Jurisdictional waters under the Clean Water Act, Waters of the United States, fall into two categories: wetlands and other waters. Wetlands include marshes, meadows, seep areas, floodplains, basins, and other areas experiencing inundation or saturation for a duration long enough to support vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions. Seasonally or intermittently inundated features, such as seasonal pools, are considered wetlands if the demonstrate hydric soils and support wetland vegetation. Seasonally inundated features that do not meet these wetlands characteristics are considered other waters of the United States. One potential aquatic resource area, the Argo Drainage Channel, was identified within the BRSA and is located along the southern boundary of and partially within Area 4, within the LAX Northside Airport Support District. The Argo Drainage Channel is not part of the proposed Project. Additionally, the proposed Project does not include any grading, construction, or introduction of new uses within 50 feet of the Argo Drainage Channel and would not impact the channel. Consequently, formal

delineation of the Argo Drainage Channel by the USACOE, RWQCB, and CDFW is not needed for the proposed Project.

3.0 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

URS biologists conducted a site visit of the BRSA on January 26, 2012. Weather conditions during the surveys included clear skies, temperatures ranging from 75–80°F and winds from 0 to 3 mph.

3.1 Vegetation Communities

Vegetation communities within the BRSA[5] include non-native grassland, ornamental, and unvegetated channel. Cover types include disturbed/developed (Table 1, Figure 3). Each of these communities and cover types is discussed below.

3.1.1 Non-native Grassland

Non-native grassland areas are characterized by a dense to sparse cover of annual grasses, often with interspersed native and non-native annual forbs (Holland, 1986). This habitat is a disturbance-related community most often found in old fields or openings in native scrub habitats. They favor fine-textured, usually moist clay soils that can become waterlogged during the winter rainy season and very dry during summer and fall. Typical grasses within the BRSA include ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Characteristic forbs include Australian saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*), Namaqualand daisy (*Dimorphotheca sinuata*), and broad-lobed filaree (*Erodium botrys*).

3.1.2 Ornamental

Ornamental areas are characterized by moderate to dense cover of non-native tree species. Within the BRSA, this type of vegetation community was found within the northwest section of the BRSA at approximately Rayford Drive and West 91st street. An estimated 75 to 100 planted bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis)* trees are present at this location. Other ornamental species were dispersed through the BRSA and were dominated by turf grasses and non-native trees including eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.) and Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*).

3.1.3 Unvegetated Channel[6]

Approximately 5.5 acres of the biological resources BRSA is classified as Unvegetated Argo Drainage Channel. This land use refers to portions of the Argo Drainage Channel where riparian and wetland vegetation has not become established.

[5] The surveyed project area is the Area of Potential Effect as shown in Figure 3.8-1 and its immediate vicinity.
[6] Glen Lukos Associates 2012 Unpublished Data.

3.2 Cover Type

3.2.1 Developed/Disturbed

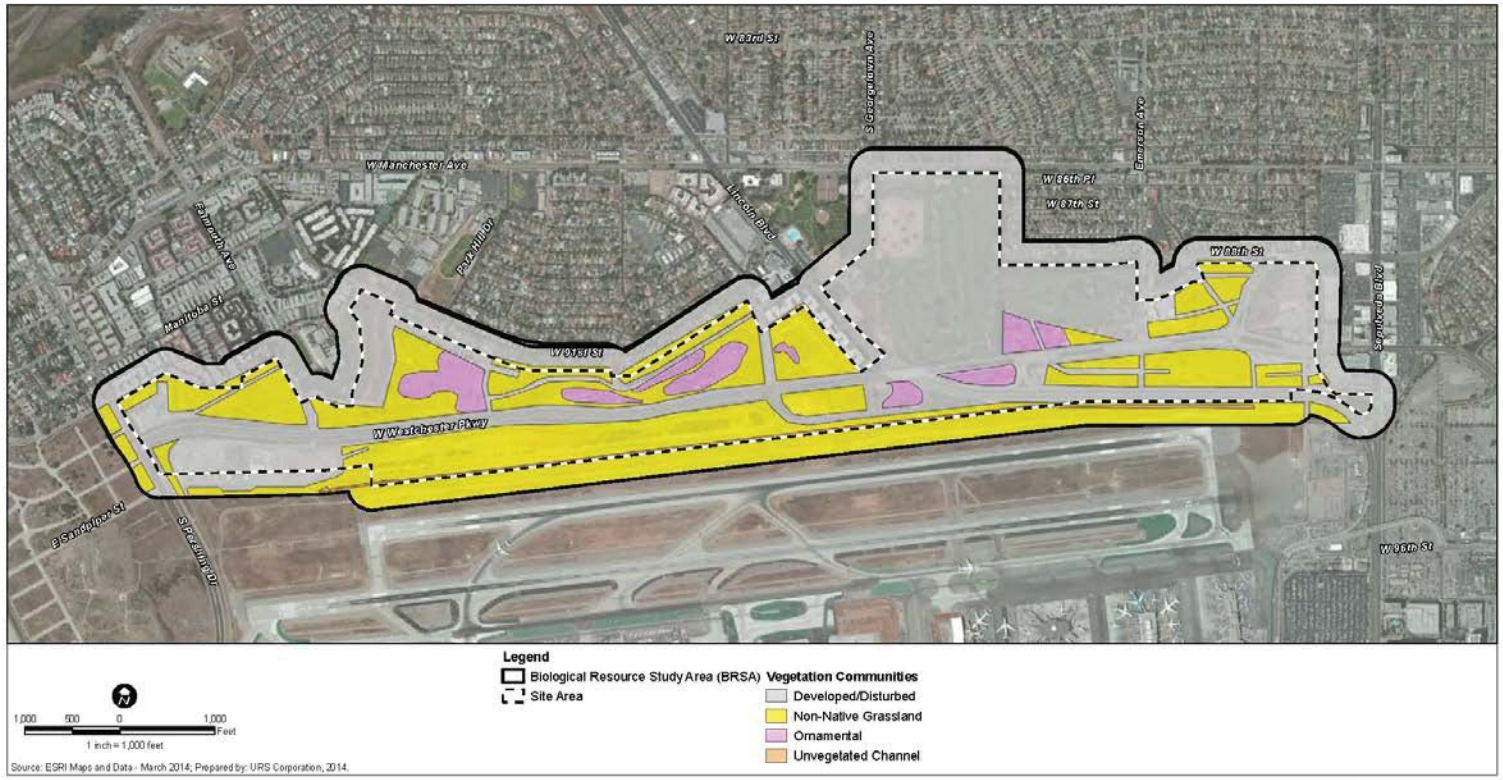
Disturbed/Developed lands within the BRSA include the runway areas, roadways, parking facilities, maintenance and airport operation buildings, residences and other private/public infrastructure with ornamental plantings. Species composition in developed communities within the BRSA varied; however, they were dominated by ornamental tree and shrub species.

Table 1

Vegetation Community / Land Cover Types Observed within the BRSA

Vegetation Community/Land Cover Type	Acreage
Non-native Grassland	203.3
Unvegetated Channel	5.5
Ornamental	25.8
Developed/Disturbed	365.8
Total	600.4

Source: URS Corporation, 2012.



Vegetation Communities	Biological Technical Report LAX Northside Plan Update	FIGURE 3

3.3 Plant and Wildlife Species

The primary type of wildlife that was observed within the BRSA included avian species adapted to developed, industrialized areas, including the American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The most common mammal species sign observed including the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*), coyote (*Canis latrans*) and skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). The non-native grasslands surrounding the BRSA provide habitat for bird species that forage in open grasslands including the western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), which was observed during the field visit. These areas also provide foraging for raptors including red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), both also observed during the field visit. The non-native grasslands also provide habitat for burrowing mammals including Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), signs of which were noted during the site survey. All plant and wildlife species observed within the BRSA are listed in Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2

Plant Species Observed within the BRSA

Scientific Name	Common Name
Gymnosperms	
Cupressaceae	**Cypress Family**
Cupressus sp.*	Cypress
Pinaceae	**Pine Family**
Pinus sp.*	Pine
Adoxaceae	**Muskroot Family**
Sambucus nigra ssp. *caerulea*	Blue Elderberry
Aizoaceae	**Fig-Marigold Family**
*Carpobrotus edulis**	Hottentot Fig
Anacardiaceae	**Sumac Family**
*Schinus terebinthifolius**	Brazilian Pepper Tree
Asteraceae (Compositae)	**Sunflower Family**
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Brush
*Bidens pilosa**	Common Beggar-Ticks
*Centaurea melitensis**	Tocalote/Maltese Star Thistle
*Centaurea solstitialis**	Yellow Star-Thistle
*Erigeron bonariensis [Conyza bonariensis]**	Flax-Leaved Horseweed
Deinandra fasciculata [Hemizonia fasciculata]	Fascicled Tarweed

*Dimorphotheca sinuata**	Namaqualand Daisy
*Hedera helix**	English Ivy
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph Weed
Pseudognaphalium californicum [Gnaphalium californicum]	California Everlasting
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum [Gnaphalium luteoalbum] *	Weedy Cudweed
*Sonchus oleraceus**	Common Sow Thistle
Stephanomeria virgata ssp. *virgata*	Tall Wreath Plant
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	**Mustard Family**
*Hirschfeldia incana**	Shortpod Mustard
*Lobularia maritima**	Sweet Alyssum
*Raphanus sativus**	Radish
Chenopodiaceae	**Goosefoot Family**
*Atriplex semibaccata**	Australian Saltbush
*Salsola tragus**	Russian Thistle
Crassulaceae	**Stonecrop Family**
Crassula connata	Pygmy-Weed
*Crassula ovata**	Jade
Euphorbiaceae	**Spurge Family**
*Chamaesyce nutans**	Eyebane / Large Spurge
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)	**Legume Family**
*Acacia baileyana**	Cootamundra Wattle
Acmispon americanus var. *americanus*	Spanish Lotus
Acmispon glaber [Lotus scoparius]	Deerweed
Lupinus truncatus	Truncate Lupine / Collar Lupine
*Medicago polymorpha**	California Burclover
*Melilotus indica**	Sourclover
Geraniaceae	**Geranium Family**
*Erodium moschatum**	White-Stemmed Filaree
Lauraceae	**Laurel Family**
*Laurus nobilis**	Bay Laurel
Magnoliaceae	**Magnolia Family**
Magnolia sp.*	Tulip Tree
Malvaceae	**Mallow Family**
*Malva parviflora*****	Cheeseweed
Myrtaceae	**Myrtle Family**

Eucalyptus sp.*	Gum
Nyctaginaceae	**Four-O'clock Family**
Bougainvillea sp.*	Bougainvillea
Oleaceae	**Olive Family**
Fraxinus sp.*	Ash
*Olea europaea**	Olive
Oxalidaceae	**Wood-Sorrel Family**
*Oxalis pes-caprae**	Bermuda Buttercup /Sour Grass
Plantaginaceae	**Plantain Family**
Nuttallanthus texanus [Linaria canadensis]	Blue Toadflax
*Plantago lanceolata**	English Plantain
Platanaceae	**Sycamore Family**
Platanus x hispanica	London Plane Tree
Plumbaginaceae	**Leadwort Family**
*Limonium perezii**	Perez's Sea-Lavender
Salicaceae	**Willow Family**
Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo Willow
Monocotyledones – Monocots	
Agavaceae	**Century Plant Family**
*Agave americana**	Century Plant
Arecaceae (Palmae)	**Palm Family**
*Phoenix canariensis**	Canary Island Palm
*Washingtonia robusta**	Mexican Fan Palm
Poaceae [Gramineae]	**Grass Family**
*Avena fatua**	Wild Oat
*Bromus diandrus**	Ripgut Grass
*Cortaderia selloana**	Pampas Grass
*Cynodon dactylon**	Bermuda Grass
*Echinochloa crus-galli**	Barnyard Grass
*Festuca pratensis**	Meadow Fescue
Hordeum murinum var. *leporinum**	Hare Barley

Note:
* = non-native species
Source: URS Corporation, 2012.

Table 3

Wildlife Species Observed within the BRSA

Scientific Name	Common Name
Insects	
Junonia coenia	Buckeye
Ochlodes sp.	Skipper
Plebejus acmon	Acmon Blue Butterfly
Birds	
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed Hawk
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow
Corvus corax	Common Raven
Falco sparverius	American Kestrel
Larus occidentalis	Western Gull
Melozone crissalis	California Towhee
Mimus polyglottos	Northern Mockingbird
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow
Psaltriparus minimus	Bushtit
Sayornis nigricans	Black Phoebe
Selasphorus rufus	Rufus Hummingbird
Setophaga coronata	Yellow-Rumped Warbler
Sturnella neglecta	Western Meadowlark
Tyrannus vociferans	Cassin's Kingbird
Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove
Zonotrichia leucophrys	White-crowned Sparrow
Mammals	
Canis latrans	Coyote (signs)
Canis familiaris	Domestic Dog (signs)
Felis catus	House Cat (signs)
Mephitis mephitis	Skunk (signs)
Thomomys bottae	Botta's Pocket Gopher (signs)

Source: URS Corporation, 2012.

3.4 Special-Status Plants

Eleven special status plant species are reported to occur within the USGS Venice and Inglewood 7.5-minute Quadrangle Map that includes the BRSA (Table 4). All of the 11 special-status plant species were determined to have a low potential for occurrence designation applied to them, and no further survey / study is obligatory to determine likely presence or absence of these species.

Table 4

Special-Status Plant Species Potential for Occurrence within the Project Footprint

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Habitat And Distribution**	**Flowering Season**	**Designation**	**Potential For Occurrence**
Coastal Dunes Milk-Vetch *Astragalus tener* var. *titi*	Moist sandy depressions near the coast, typically coastal bluffs and dunes below 15 meters above mean sea level.	Mar-May	FE SE	Absent
Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch *Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*	Coastal marshes or seeps below 30 meters above mean sea level.Within reach of high tide or protected barrier beaches in coastal salt marsh or sandy bluffs.	June-Oct	FE SE	Absent
Southern Tarplant *Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*	Valley and foothill grasslands, alkaline locales, and peripheral Salt Marsh are all utilized by the Southern Tarplant.	May-Nov	List 1B.1	Absent
Orcutt's Pincushion *Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *orcuttiana*	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes habitats with sandy soils. Found within 0 - 100 meters elevation.	Jan-Aug	CNPS 1B.1	Absent
Coastal Goosefoot *Chenopodium littoreum*	Occurs within coastal dunes from 10-30 meters elevation.	Apr-Aug	CNPS 1B.2	Absent
San Fernando Valley Spineflower *Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*	Sandy soil on flats and foothills in mixed grassland and chaparral communities. 90-425 m elevation.	Apr-Jun	FC SE	Absent
Beach Spectacle-Pod *Dithyrea maritime*	Coastal strand, coastal dunes and scrub, and sandy soils below 50 meters above mean sea level.	March-May	SE	Absent

Table 4

Special-Status Plant Species Potential for Occurrence within the Project Footprint

Common Name *Scientific Name*	Habitat And Distribution	Flowering Season	Designation	Potential For Occurrence
Coulter's Goldfields *Lasthenia glabrata ssp. Coulteri*	Occurs in marshes, swamps, playas and vernal pools. Found within 1 - 1220 meters elevation.	Feb-June	CNPS 1B.1	Absent
Prostrate Vernal Pool Navarretia *Navarretia prostrata*	Occurs in coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools/mesic. 15 - 1210 meters in elevation.	Apr-Jul	CNPS 1B.1	Absent
California Orcutt Grass *Orcuttia californica*	Vernal pools below 625 meters above mean sea level. Drying mud flats and valley grassland.	April-Aug	FE SE	Absent
San Bernardino Aster *Symphyotrichum defoliatum*	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grasslands near ditches, streams and springs. Found within 2 - 2040 meters elevation.	July-November	CNPS 1B.2	Absent

Notes:

Federal designations: (Federal Endangered Species Act, USFWS):

END = Federal-listed, endangered.

THR = Federal-listed, threatened.

CNPS Lists:

List 1B = Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low at this time

List 2 = Distributed in a limited number of occurrences, occasionally more if each occurrence is small

List 3 = Distributed in one to several highly restricted occurrences, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom reported

Source: URS Corporation, 2012.

3.5 Special-Status Wildlife

Eleven special status wildlife species are reported to occur within the USGS Venice and Inglewood Quadrangle Maps that includes the BRSA (Table 5). Ten special-status wildlife

species were determined to have a low potential for occurrence designation applied to them, and no further survey / study is obligatory to determine likely presence or absence of these species. One species, the Burrowing Owl (*Athena cunicularia hypugaea*) does have habitat present within the project area. An individual wintering Burrowing Owl located within the Plan boundaries was reported at the Argo Drainage Channel in fall 2011 by LAX personnel and again on December 1, 2011 by GLA biologists.[7] Although habitat exists on-site that would be suitable for Burrowing Owls, their presence or signs of their presence were not observed in the survey conducted for this proposed Project.

[7] Glen Lukos Associates 2012. Personal Communication.

Table 5

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence within the BRSA

Common Name *Scientific Name*	Habitat Description	Designation		Potential For Occurrence
		USFWS	CDFW	
Insects				
Euphilotes battoides allyni El Segundo Blue Butterfly	Coastal sand dunes that support populations of its food plant: coastal buckwheat.	None	SE	Absent
Reptiles				
Anniella pulchra California Legless Lizard	Coastal sand dunes	None	SSC	Absent
Birds				
Polioptila californica californica Coastal California Gnatcatcher	Occurs in coastal sage scrub vegetation on mesas, arid hillsides, and in washes and nests almost exclusively in California sagebrush.	FT	SSC	Absent
Athena cunicularia hypugaea Burrowing Owl	(Burrow sites and some wintering sites) Open annual grasslands or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Dependent upon burrowing mammals (especially California ground squirrel) for burrows.	None	SSC	Present
Aguila chrysaetos Golden Eagle	(Nesting and Wintering) Generally open country of the Temperate Zone worldwide. Nesting primarily in rugged mountainous country. Uncommon resident in southern California.	None	SSC	Absent
Falco peregrinus anatum American Peregrine Falcon	Breeds primarily in woodland, forest, and coastal habitats. Nonbreeding habitat occurs in riparian, coastal, and inland wetlands.	None	SSC	Absent

Table 5

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence within the BRSA

Common Name *Scientific Name*	Habitat Description	Designation		Potential For Occurrence
		USFWS	CDFW	
Sterna antillarum browni California least tern	Open ocean and a colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated flat substrate located along marine shores, estuarine shores, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas throughout the year as a seasonal visitor to waters offshore of Dockweiler State Beach.	FE	FE	Absent
Laterallus jamaicensis conturniculus California Black Rail	Tidal salt marshes associated with heavy growth of pickleweed; also occurs in brackish marshes or freshwater marshes at low elevations	None	FT	Absent
Empidonax extimus traillii Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Riparian acres with thick willow forests.	FE	SE	Absent
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus Western Snowy Plover	Sand spits, dune-backed beaches, beaches at creek and river mouths, and salt pans at lagoons and estuaries are the main coastal habitats for nesting. Can occur in man-made salt ponds and on estuarine sand and mud flats.	FT	None	Absent
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi Beldings Savannah Sparrow	Resides year-round in the salt marsh; it depends entirely on this ecosystem for nesting and foraging. It shows a particular affinity for the upper littoral region of the marsh, and nests preferentially in pickleweed *Salicornia virginica*.	None	FE	Absent

Table 5

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence within the BRSA

Common Name *Scientific Name*	Habitat Description	Designation		Potential For Occurrence
		USFWS	CDFW	
Mammals				
Perognathus longimenbris pacificus Pacific pocket mouse	Occurs on fine-grained, sand substrates in open coastal sage scrub, coastal dunes, coastal strand, and river alluvium habitats.	FE	None	Absent

Notes:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Designations:
FE = Federal Endangered
FT = Federal Threatened
PE = Proposed Endangered
PT = Proposed Threatened
FC = Federal Candidate
FSC = Species of Concern

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Designations:
SE = State Endangered
ST = State Threatened
SSC = State Species of Special Concern

Source: URS Corporation, 2012.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Special Status Avian Species

The Plan Area contains suitable habitat that has the potential to support Burrowing Owl and other nesting avian species, however no Burrowing Owls, active burrows or nests were observed during the URS field survey. An individual wintering Burrowing Owl located within the Plan boundaries was reported at the Argo Drainage Channel in fall 2011 by LAX personnel and again on December 1, 2011 by GLA biologists.[8] URS recommends that work be conducted outside of the breeding season to the maximum extent practicable. LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR mitigation commitment BC-9: Conservation of Faunal Resources and MBTA requires that prior to ground-disturbing activities within the Plan Area, a qualified biologist[9] shall conduct and submit a pre-construction burrowing owl, migratory nesting bird, and raptors survey report. The survey should occur prior to initiation of Plan activities and any occupied nests occurring within or adjacent to the Plan Area be delineated. To the maximum extent practicable, a minimum buffer zone from occupied nests should be maintained during physical ground-disturbing activities. Once nesting has been determined to cease, the buffer may be removed.

4.2 Special Aquatic Resource Areas

One potential aquatic resource area, the Argo Drainage Channel, was identified within the BRSA. The Argo Drainage Channel is not part of the proposed Project. Additionally, the proposed Project does not include any grading, construction, or introduction of new uses within 50 feet of the Argo Drainage Channel and would not impact the channel. Consequently, formal delineation of the Argo Drainage Channel by the USACOE, RWQCB, and CDFW is not needed for the proposed Project.

5.0 Mitigation Measures

The proposed Project will be developed in compliance with all statutory requirements to preclude significant impacts on biological resources. In addition, implementation of LAX Master Plan Commitments BC-1, BC-3, BC-9, and ET-3 and the Project Design Features would ensure that impacts relative to biological resources associated with the proposed Project would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures specific to the proposed Project are required.

[8] Glen Lukos Associates 2012. Unpublished data

[9] A qualified biologist is an individual with sufficient education and field experience in local California ecology and biology to adequately identify local plant and wildlife species.

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