4.3 Biological Resources

4.3.1 Introduction

This section summarizes the regulatory requirements that provide for the protection of biological resources, describes existing biological resources located within the Project site, and analyzes potential construction and operational impacts to biological resources for the proposed Project. The analysis of existing biological resources and potential impacts summarizes the information from the 2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report and the 2012 Tree Survey prepared by URS and included as Appendix G and Appendix F, respectively, to this document. Past assessments and studies used as reference documents for these reports include those included in the December 2004 LAX Master Plan EIR and accompanying Biological Assessment Technical Report.

4.3.2 Environmental Setting

4.3.2.1 Regulatory Framework

A review of the various federal, state, regional, and local government regulatory requirements was conducted to identify regulations that provide protection of biological resources. This section summarizes the various regulatory requirements that are relevant to the proposed Project.

4.3.2.1.1 Federal

Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) was enacted in 1973 and is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The ESA provides for the conservation of endangered or threatened species and conservation of the ecosystems in which they exist. Floral and faunal species that are listed as federally threatened, federally endangered, or are candidates for listing are protected under the ESA. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of species listed by the USFWS as endangered or threatened. As defined by the Federal Endangered Species Act, "taking" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in such conduct. In recognition that a "take" cannot always be avoided, the ESA includes a provision for incidental take of endangered and threatened species that occurs within the parameters of otherwise lawful activities.

Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) was enacted in 1918 and contains specific provisions that prohibit capturing, killing, or possessing any migratory bird or part, nest, or egg of such bird listed in wildlife protection treaties between the U.S. and Great Britain, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. LAX lies within the migratory path called the Pacific Flyway and open areas within airport boundaries may provide habitat for migratory birds. The MBTA protects any part, nest, or eggs of any bird listed as “migratory”. Construction practices have the potential to violate the MBTA and projects are required to undergo pre-disturbance surveys and biological monitoring for nesting birds and in the event that nesting is observed, a buffer area is established for protection during the construction process.

Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 150/5200-33B, Hazardous Wildlife Attractants On or Near Airports

FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-33B, *Hazardous Wildlife Attractants On or Near Airports*, provides guidance for airport operators and related parties about certain land uses that have the potential to attract hazardous wildlife on or near public-use airports. LAX is required to conduct Wildlife Hazard Assessments (WHAs) in accordance with the criteria set forth in Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 139, Certification of Airports, Subpart D.

Clean Water Act

Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act was established in 1972 to maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. It was also intended to provide a mechanism to regulate discharges of pollutants into the waters of the U.S. and gave the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) authority to implement pollution control measures such as setting wastewater and water quality standards. The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) enforce the federal Clean Water Act, including administration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or various discharges into waters of the U.S.[1]

Wetlands are afforded a high level of regulatory protection due to their role in providing important hydrologic functions such as flood storage, water quality enhancement, and groundwater recharge. Wetlands also provide important biological functions, including breeding, foraging, and resting for fish and other aquatic and upland wildlife species. Wetlands subject to United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction are defined by three parameters: (1) a predominance of wetland vegetation; (2) wetland soils; and (3) hydrology. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the "waters of the United States," which include wetlands. USACE and the USEPA jointly define wetlands as:

> Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

The USFWS defines wetlands in a different manner. This definition states:

> Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports hydrophytes, (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.[2]

[1] Clean Water Act §402
[2] Cowardin, L. M., V. Carter, F. C. Golet, E. T. LaRoe, Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States, 1979.

4.3.2.1.2 State

California Endangered Species Act

Sections 2050 through 2089 of the California Fish and Game Code comprise the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). CESA prohibits the taking, importation, or sale of state-listed endangered or threatened species except in compliance with permits or conditions specified in CESA. CESA also authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to issue permits for incidental take of endangered or threatened species by general development activities, provided that the proposed project will not jeopardize the continued existence of such species, and that any of the proposed project's negative effects on those species will be minimized and fully mitigated. Finally, whenever a project takes a considerable amount of open space that provides habitat for plants and animals, whether or not any of them are endangered or threatened, CDFW must be consulted through the CEQA process as a trustee agency. CESA authorizes CDFW to enter into a memorandum of understanding with individuals, public agencies, universities, zoological gardens, and scientific or educational institutions to import, export, take, or possess species for scientific, educational, or management purposes. LAWA, as the lead agency under CEQA, is required to consult with CDFW regarding the potential for the proposed Project to result in significant impacts on state-listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species.

Under CESA, some species are classified as “fully protected”, and “take” of these species is generally prohibited. In 2011, legislation amended the Fish and Game Code to allow “take” of fully protected species covered under approved natural community conservation plans.

California Native Plant Protection Act

Sections 1900 through 1913 of the California Fish and Game Code protect California native plants. The California Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) includes measures to preserve, protect, and enhance endangered and rare native plants. The NPPA definitions of endangered and rare differ from those contained in CESA; however, the list of native plants afforded protection by NPPA includes those listed as endangered and threatened under CESA. The NPPA specifies that no person shall import into this state, or take, possess, or sell within this state any endangered or rare native plant, except in compliance with provisions of NPPA. Individual landowners who have been notified by CDFW of the presence of a rare or endangered plant are required to notify CDFW at least ten days in advance of changing land uses to allow CDFW to salvage any endangered or rare native plant material.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Similar to the Federal MBTA, Sections 3503-3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code regulates the taking of migratory birds and their nests. As with the Federal MBTA, compliance with these codes requires pre-disturbance surveys and biological monitoring.

4.3.2.1.3 Local

City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element

The City of Los Angeles General Plan Conservation Element sets forth the following objectives, policies, and programs related to biological resources:

- Endangered Species
  - Objective: protect and promote the restoration, to the greatest extent practical, of sensitive plant and animal species and their habitats.
  - Policy 1: continue to require evaluation, avoidance, and minimization of potential significant impacts, as well as mitigation of unavoidable significant impacts on sensitive animal and plant species and their habitats and habitat corridors relative to land development activities.
  - Policy 2: continue to administer city-owned and managed properties so as to protect and/or enhance the survival of sensitive plant and animal species to the greatest practical extent.
  - Policy 3: continue to support legislation that encourages and facilitates protection of endangered, threatened, sensitive, and rare species and their habitats and habitat corridors.
- Fisheries
  - Objective: protect and restore ocean fisheries (habitats).
- Habitat
  - Objective: preserve, protect, restore and enhance natural plant and wildlife diversity, habitats, corridors, and linkages so as to enable the healthy propagation and survival of native species, especially those species that are endangered, sensitive, threatened, or species of special concern.
  - Policy 1: continue to identify significant habitat areas, corridors, and buffers and to take measures to protect, enhance, and/or restore them.
  - Policy 2: continue to protect, restore, and/or enhance habitat areas, linkages, and corridor segments, to the greatest extent practical, within city owned or managed sites.
  - Policy 3: continue to work cooperatively with other agencies and entities in protecting local habitats and endangered, threatened, sensitive, and rare species.
  - Policy 4: continue to support legislation that encourages and facilitates protection of local native plant and animal habitats.

City of Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinance

The City of Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinance (Ordinance No. 177,404) protects native Oak trees, California Sycamore, California Bay, and California Black Walnut trees. This ordinance applies to trees measuring greater than four inches in diameter and requires replacement of removed trees. Several occurrences of protected trees occur within the Project study area.

City of Los Angeles Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes Habitat Restoration Area (Ordinance 167,940)

Located within the vicinity of the Project site are the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, a designated Ecologically Sensitive Habitat Area within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo

Dunes Specific Plan area that contains the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat[3]. The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes Habitat Restoration Area was designated as such by the City of Los Angeles Ordinance 167,940, which refers to the area as the Dunes Habitat Preserve.

The El Segundo blue butterfly, a federally-listed endangered species, is not present within the Project site.[4] The El Segundo blue butterfly is present, however, within extant and restored Southern Foredune and Southern Dune Scrub habitats within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, approximately 800 feet from the nearest portion of the proposed Project area[5]. The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, managed by LAWA, support the largest of four remaining occupied habitats for the El Segundo blue butterfly. Within the 307-acre Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, the City has designated an approximately 200-acre Habitat Restoration Area pursuant to City Ordinance 167,940 for the long-term conservation of the El Segundo blue butterfly. There are currently 150.2 acres of occupied habitat for the El Segundo blue butterfly within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes.

The California gnatcatcher is not present within the Project site. In March 2013, four California gnatcatchers (*Polioptila californica californica*) were observed within the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Preserve located at the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes west of the LAX airfield operations area. To further ascertain the full extent of California gnatcatcher activity at the site, additional surveys were conducted in the coastal sand dune habitat that is located west of Pershing Drive, north of Imperial Highway, south of Waterview Street, and east of Vista del Mar. No gnatcatchers were observed in the north one-third of the Survey Area, which encompasses the dunes area directly west of the north airfield runways as well as the biological resources study area (BRSA) for the proposed Project. Within the central portion of the Survey Area, generally to the northwest, west, and southwest of the World Way West/Pershing Drive interchange and approximately 0.8 mile south of the Project site, one coastal California gnatcatcher family group (two adults and three fledglings) and two individual males were detected.[6] The portion of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Preserve located within the BRSA contains non-native grassland, which is not considered California gnatcatcher habitat.

The California Legless Lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), a California Species of Special Concern, is not present within the Project site. *A. pulchra* has been previously recorded in the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, with the first known detailed publication in the 1970s. In September 2013, a research paper published in *Brevoria* (a publication of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University) indicated that the species found at LAX in the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes is a separate species from *A. pulchra*, and that this new species, *A. stebbinsi*, may require similar protected status as *A. pulchra*.[7] However, the concurrence by the CDFW on the new species designation and/or the need for protected status has not occurred. The specimen described in the article as originating from LAX was collected from the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes in a location approximately 1,000 feet west of the western end of Area 4.

[3] City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes Specific Plan 1992, online at http://cityplanning.lacity.org/complan/specplan/pdf/LAXDUNES.PDF, accessed on February 2012.
[4] City of Los Angeles, LAX Master Plan Final EIS/EIR, 2004.
[5] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Recovery Plan for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*),1998.
[6] Glenn Lukos Associates, Biological Resources Technical Report for Los Angeles World Airports West Maintenance Project, 2013.
[7] Papenfuss, Theodore J., and James F. Parham, "Four New Species of California Legless Lizards (*Anniella*)," Brevoria, Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 536, Cambridge, MA, September 16, 2013,

Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan

The Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan contains provisions that protect public safety and welfare through responsible expansion of airports and adoption of land use measures that minimize exposure to noise and safety hazards within areas surrounding public use airports. Policy S-5 of the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan (ALUP) "prohibits uses which would attract large concentrations of birds, emit smoke, or which may otherwise affect safe air navigation."

4.3.2.2 Existing Conditions

This section summarizes information and data from the *2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report* and the *2012 Tree Survey* prepared by URS, included as Appendix G and Appendix F in this document. URS Biologists conducted a site visit to assess general and dominant vegetation community types, community sizes, habitat types, and species present within the BRSA. The BRSA includes the proposed Project site and a 250-foot buffer surrounding the Project site (**Figure 4.3-1**). Additionally, 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 were reviewed.

4.3.2.2.1 On-Site

Currently, the majority of the Project site is vacant and fenced off from the surrounding uses. Street pavement from former neighborhood streets remains on the vacant portions of the Project site, as well as vegetation that include shrubs, trees, and grasses. Other portions of the Project site are either currently developed (portions of Areas 1, 11, 12, 12 East, and 13) while some are currently used for temporary construction staging areas for airport support use (portions of Areas 4 through 9 and 11).

Flora

Vegetation Communities

Vegetation communities within the BRSA include non-native grassland, ornamental, and unvegetated channels, while the dominant cover type is disturbed/developed. Each of these vegetation communities is discussed below and summarized in **Table 4.3-1**. **Figure 4.3-2** shows the locations of the vegetation communities and cover type observed within the BRSA.

Table 4.3-1

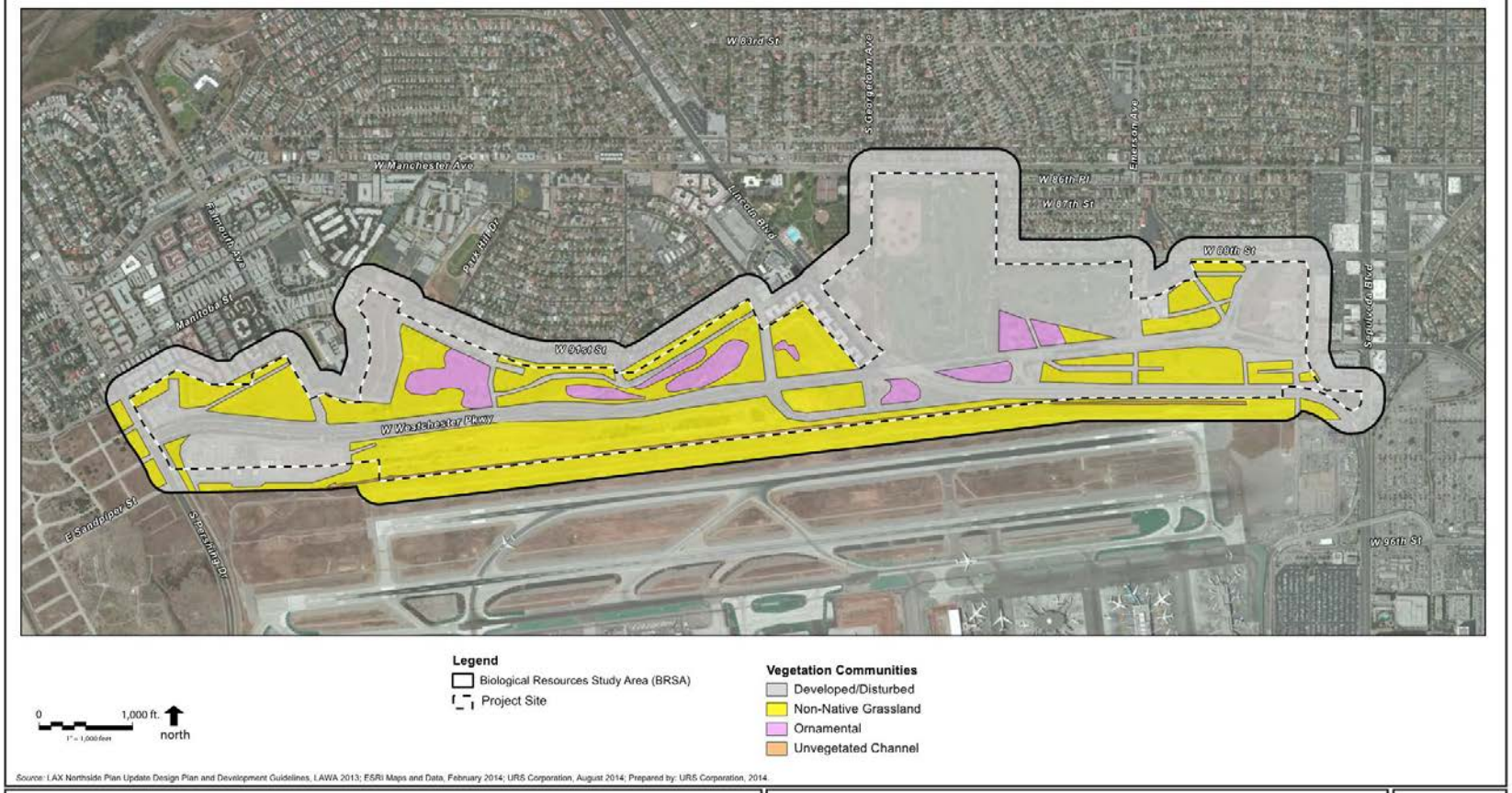
Vegetation Community/Land Cover Types Observed within the Biological Resources Study Area

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

Source: URS Corporation, 2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report (Appendix F), 2012.

Source: LAX Northside Plan Update Design Plan and Development Guidelines, LAWA 2013; ESRI Maps and Data, February 2014; URS Corporation, August 2014; Prepared by: URS Corporation, 2014.

Biological Resources Study Area (BRSA)	Draft Environmental Impact Report LAX Northside Plan Update	FIGURE 4.3-1



Vegetation Communities	Draft Environmental Impact Report LAX Northside Plan Update	FIGURE 4.3-2

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). The non-native grassland habitat is a disturbance-related community most often found in old fields or openings in native scrub habitats. Non-native grassland favors 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).

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 Area 2 in the vicinity of Rayford Drive and West 91st Street, with an estimated 75 to 100 Bay Laurel (Laurus nobilis) trees present at this location. Other ornamental plant species are dispersed through the BRSA and are dominated by turf grasses and non-native trees including eucalyptus (Eucalyptus sp.) and Mexican fan palm (Washingtonia robusta).

Mature Trees. LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Mitigation Measure BC- 3 requires the census and mapping of all mature trees with a diameter of at least eight inches at breast height (dbh) within the LAX Northside Planning Area of LAX which may be impacted as a result of construction activities. Tree surveys were conducted for the entire Project site on August 3, 2012 and August 9, 2012, and 187 qualifying trees (trees with a dbh of at least 8 inches) were recorded within the Project site (**Figure 4.3-3**). The 187 qualifying mature trees found at the Project site are summarized in **Table 4.3-2**, and the most common mature trees found at the Project site include: 53 sweet bay trees (Laurus nobilis); 34 eucalyptus or gum trees (Eucalyptus sp.); 19 Brazilian pepper trees (Schinus terebinthefolius). The most common mature palm tree species found in the Project site include 27 Mexican fan palms (Washingtonia robusta) and 5 Canary Island date palms (Phoenix canariensis). **Table 4.3-2** also includes information regarding the health condition and aesthetic rating for the trees inventoried during the survey.

For health condition, the health of each tree was assessed based on visual evidence of vigor such as the amount of foliage; leaf color and size; presence of branch or twig dieback; severity of insect infestation; the presence of disease, heart rot, fire damage, and mechanical damage; amount of new growth; appearance of bark; and rate of callous development over wounds. The tree's structural integrity was also evaluated with respect to branch attachment, branch placement, root health, and stability. In addition, the health assessment considered such elements as the presence of decay, weak branch attachments, and the presence of exposed roots due to soil erosion. Ratings are based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very poor and 5 being excellent (Appendix G).

Also, each tree was inspected and compared to an archetype tree of the same species. Tree aesthetics were evaluated with respect to overall form and symmetry, crown balance, branching pattern, and broken branches. The trees were similarly rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very poor and 5 being excellent (Appendix G).

Unvegetated Channel.[8] Approximately 5.5 acres of the BRSA is classified as Unvegetated Argo Drainage Channel. **Figure 4.3-4** illustrates the location of the Argo Drainage Channel with respect to the Project site. A portion of the Argo Drainage Channel is located in Area 4 of the LAX Northside Airport Support District. This land use refers to portions of the Argo Drainage Channel where riparian and wetland vegetation has not become established.

[8] Glenn Lukos Associates, Personal Communication, 2012.

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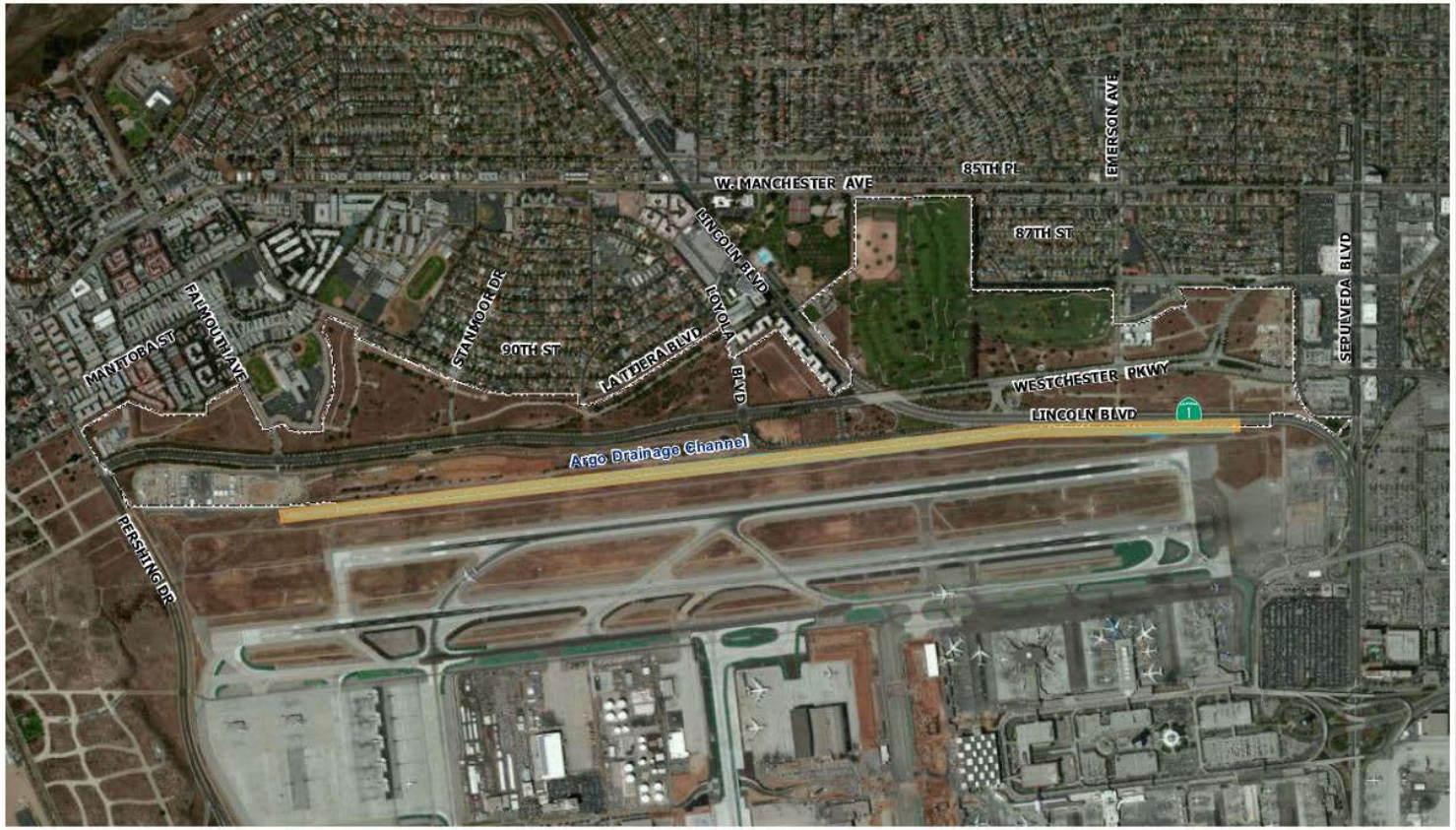
Source: LAX Northside Plan Update Design Plan and Development Guidelines, LAWA 2013; ESRI Maps and Data, February 2014; URS Corporation, August 2014; Prepared by: URS Corporation, 2014.

2012 Tree Survey Results	Draft Environmental Impact Report LAX Northside Plan Update	FIGURE 4.3-3



Source: National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), 2013; ESRI Maps and Data - February 2014; Prepared by: URS Corporation, 2014.

Argo Drainage Channel	Draft Environmental Impact Report LAX Northside Plan Update	FIGURE 4.3-4

Table 4.3-2

Summary of Mature Trees Within the Project Site

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Quantity on Project Site	Average DBH of Main Trunk (Inches)	Average Height (feet)	Average Canopy Diameter (feet)	Average Health Rating[a]	Average Aesthetic Rating[a]	Location within Project Site
Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* sp.)	1	10	20	15	4	3	Area 2
Camphor Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*)	4	20.4	37.5	52.5	3	3	Area 3, Area 6, Area 9
Gum (*Eucalyptus* sp.)	34	26.4	46.5	54.6	2.9	2.8	Area 2, Area 3, Area 6, Area 8, Area 9, Area 12A East
Ash (*Fraxinus* sp.)	4	32.3	47.5	43.8	3.5	3	Area 2, Area 12A East
Silk Oak (*Grevillea robusta*)	4	22	47.5	53.8	3	3.3	Area 9, Area 12A West
Sweet Bay (*Laurus nobilis*)	53	30.4	49.5	75.4	3.6	3.5	Area 2
Magnolia (*Magnolia* sp.)	7	18.6	32.9	47.9	3.1	3.3	Area 2, Area 9, Area 12A West
Olive (*Olea europaea*)	1	11.5	20	45	3	3	Area 2
Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*)	5	31.6	37	21	3.6	3.2	Area 2, Area 12A West
Pine (*Pinus* sp.)	15	26.7	50.7	58	3.1	3	Area 2, Area 12A West, Area 12A East
Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	5	27.2	48	53	3	3.2	Area 3, Area 12A West, Area 12A East
London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)	1	31.5	70	80	3	3	Area 2

Table 4.3-2

Summary of Mature Trees Within the Project Site

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Quantity on Project Site	Average DBH of Main Trunk (Inches)	Average Height (feet)	Average Canopy Diameter (feet)	Average Health Rating[a]	Average Aesthetic Rating[a]	Location within Project Site
Yew Pine (*Podocarpus macrophyllus*)	2	16.8	27.5	45	3	3	Area 2, Area 12A West
Holly Oak (*Quercus ilex*)	1	22.5	45	80	4	4	Area 2
Brazilian Pepper Tree (*Schinus terebinthefoilus*)	19	23.2	33.4	41.6	3.3	2.9	Area 2, Area 8, Area 12A East
Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)	4	18	36.3	67.5	2.8	2.8	Area 9, Area 12A West, Area 12A East
Mexican Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*)	27	18.9	55.1	18.5	3.3	3.1	Area 2, Area 3, Area 9, Area 12A West, Area 12A East

Notes:
DBH = Diameter at breast height
[a] Rating is based on a scale of 1 to 5 as follows:

1 = Very Poor
2 = Poor
3 = Fair
4 = Good
5 = Excellent

Source: URS Corporation, 2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report (Appendix F) and 2012 Mature Tree Survey (Appendix G), 2012.

Observed Plant Species

Table 4.3-3 lists the plant species observed at the Project site during the biological survey.

Fauna

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*), house cat (Felis catus), 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 wildlife species observed within the BRSA are listed in **Table 4.3-4**.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Special Status Plant Species

Eleven special-status plant species are reported to occur within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Venice and Inglewood 7.5-minute Quadrangle Map that includes the BRSA (**Table 4.3-5**). All of the 11 special-status plant species were determined to be absent within the BRSA, and no further survey/study is required to determine likely presence or absence of these 11 special-status plant species.

Table 4.3-3

Plant Species Observed within the Biological Resources Study Area

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**

Table 4.3-3

Plant Species Observed within the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name
*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**

Table 4.3-3

Plant Species Observed within the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name
*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
Bold text represents the family name.
Non-bold text represents the species within the family.
Source: URS Corporation, 2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report (Appendix F), 2012.

Table 4.3-4

Wildlife Species Observed within the Biological Resources Study Area

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 Biological Assessment Technical Report (Appendix F), 2012.

Table 4.3-5

Special-Status Plant Species Potential for Occurrence within the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name / Common Name	Habitat and Distribution	Flowering Season	Designation	Potential for Occurrence
Astragalus tener var. *titi* Coastal Dunes Milk-Vetch	Moist sandy depressions near the coast, typically coastal bluffs and dunes below 15 meters above mean sea level.	March - May	FE SE	Absent
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. *lanosissimus* Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch	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 - October	FE SE	Absent
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis* Southern Tarplant	Valley and foothill grasslands, alkaline locales, and peripheral Salt Marsh are all utilized by the Southern Tarplant.	May - November	List 1B.1	Absent
Chaenactis glabriuscula var. *orcuttiana* Orcutt's Pincushion	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes habitats with sandy soils. Found within 0 to 100 meters elevation.	January - August	CNPS 1B.1	Absent
Chenopodium littoreum Coastal Goosefoot	Occurs within coastal dunes from 10 to 30 meters elevation.	April - August	CNPS 1B.2	Absent
Chorizanthe parryi var. *fernandina* San Fernando Valley Spineflower	Sandy soil on flats and foothills in mixed grassland and chaparral communities. Found within 90 to 425 meters elevation.	April - June	FC SE	Absent
Dithyrea maritime Beach Spectacle-Pod	Coastal strand, coastal dunes and scrub, and sandy soils below 50 meters above mean sea level.	March - May	SE	Absent
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. Coulteri Coulter's Goldfields	Occurs in marshes, swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Found within 1 to 1220 meters elevation.	February - June	CNPS 1B.1	Absent
Navarretia prostrata Prostrate Vernal Pool Navarretia	Occurs in coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools/mesic. Found within 15 to 1210 meters in elevation.	April - July	CNPS 1B.1	Absent

Table 4.3-5

Special-Status Plant Species Potential for Occurrence within the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name / Common Name	Habitat and Distribution	Flowering Season	Designation	Potential for Occurrence
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt Grass	Vernal pools below 625 meters above mean sea level. Drying mud flats and valley grassland.	April - August	FE SE	Absent
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino Aster	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows, seeps, marshes, swamps, valley and foothill grasslands near ditches, streams, and springs. Found within 2 to 2040 meters elevation.	July - November	CNPS 1B.2	Absent

Notes:
CNPS = California Native Plant Society
Federal designations (Federal Endangered Species Act, USFWS):
END = Federal-listed, endangered.
THR = Federal-listed, threatened.
California Native Plant Society (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: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CNDDB website, online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/, accessed June 2012; California Native Plant Society, Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants website, online at http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/, accessed June 2012; and URS Corporation, 2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report (Appendix F), 2012.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Eleven special-status wildlife species are reported to occur within the USGS Venice and Inglewood Quadrangle Maps that includes the BRSA (**Table 4.3-6**). Ten special-status wildlife species were determined to have a low potential for occurrence within the BRSA, and no further survey or study is necessary to determine likely presence or absence of these special-status wildlife species. One Burrowing Owl (*Athena cunicularia hypugaea*) was observed in the vicinity of the Project site, along the Argo Drainage Channel in fall 2011 by LAX personnel and again on December 1, 2011 by biologists.[9] 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.

[9] Glen Lukos Associates. Personal Communication, 2012.

Special Aquatic Resource Areas

One potential aquatic resource area, the Argo Drainage Channel, was identified within the BRSA (**Figure 4.3-4**) 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 USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW is not needed for the proposed Project.

Table 4.3-6

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence within the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name/ Common 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

Table 4.3-6

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence within the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name/ Common name	Habitat description	Designation		Potential for occurrence
		USFWS	CDFW	
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
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 4.3-6

Special-Status Wildlife Species Potential for Occurrence within the Biological Resources Study Area

Scientific Name/ Common 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	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
FE Federal Endangered	SE State Endangered
FT Federal Threatened	ST State Threatened
PE Proposed Endangered	SSC State Species of Special Concern
PT Proposed Threatened	
FC Federal Candidate	
FSC Species of Concern	

Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CNDDB website, online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/, accessed June 2012 and URS 2011-2012 surveys.

4.3.2.2.2 Offsite Areas

El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Area

The El Segundo Blue Butterfly, a federally-listed endangered species, is not present within the proposed Project area[10]. The El Segundo Blue Butterfly is present, however, within extant and restored Southern Foredune and Southern Dune Scrub habitats within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, approximately 800 feet from the nearest portion of the Project site[11]. The El Segundo Blue Butterfly is endemic to coastal sand dunes that contain its host food plant, coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*). The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes occupy a 307-acre site immediately west of LAX (and the Project site).[12] The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, managed by LAWA, support the largest of four remaining occupied habitats for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly. Within the 307-acre Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, the City of Los Angeles has designated an approximately 200-acre Habitat Restoration Area pursuant to City Ordinance 167940 for the long-term conservation of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly. There are currently 150.2 acres of occupied habitat for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes.

In March 2013, four California gnatcatchers (*Polioptila californica californica*) were observed within the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Preserve located at the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo

[10] City of Los Angeles, LAX Master Plan Final EIS/EIR, 2004.
[11] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Recovery Plan for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*), 1998.
[12] Environmental Science Associates, Long-Term Habitat Management Plan for Los Angeles El Segundo Dunes, June 23, 1994.

Dunes west of the LAX airfield operations area. To further ascertain the full extent of California gnatcatcher activity at the site, additional surveys were conducted in the coastal sand dune habitat that is located west of Pershing Drive, north of Imperial Highway, south of Waterview Street, and east of Vista del Mar. No gnatcatchers were observed in the north one-third of the Survey Area, which encompasses the dunes area directly west of the north airfield runways as well as the BRSA for the proposed Project. Within the central portion of the Survey Area, generally to the northwest, west, and southwest of the World Way West/Pershing Drive interchange and approximately 0.8 mile south of the Project site, one coastal California gnatcatcher family group (two adults and three fledglings) and two individual males were detected.[13] The portion of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Preserve located within the BRSA contains non-native grassland, which is not considered habitat for the California gnatcatcher.

The California Legless Lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), a California Species of Special Concern, is not present within the Project site. *A. pulchra* has been previously recorded in the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes, with the first known detailed publication in the 1970s. In September 2013, a research paper published in *Brevoria* (a publication of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University) indicated that the species found at LAX in the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes is a separate species from *A. pulchra*, and that this new species, *A. stebbinsi*, may require similar protected status as *A. pulchra*.[14] However, the concurrence by the CDFW on the new species designation and/or the need for protected status has not occurred. The specimen described in the article as originating from LAX was collected from the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes in a location approximately 1,000 feet west of the western end of Area 4. This area is outside the BRSA for the proposed Project.

4.3.3 Impact Analysis

4.3.3.1 Methodology

This analysis focuses on the direct impacts associated with short-term and long-term habitat loss and creation, impacts to special status species, and indirect impacts. The impact analysis is based on existing conditions as summarized in Section 4.3.2.2 and described in detail in the 2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report, 2012 Tree Survey for LAX Northside and information gathered from previous studies of biological resources at the Project site and vicinity. The presentation of impacts is done by categories based on the City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds.

4.3.3.1.1 Literature Review

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 were reviewed, including the USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper and File data[15].The CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB),[16] and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants file data[17] were also queried for

[13] Glenn Lukos Associates, Biological Resources Technical Report for Los Angeles World Airports West Maintenance Project, 2013.
[14] Papenfuss, Theodore J., and James F. Parham, "Four New Species of California Legless Lizards (*Anniella*)," Brevoria, Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 536, Cambridge, MA, September 16, 2013
[15] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Critical Habitat Portal website, online at http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov/crithab/, accessed June 2012.
[16] California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CNDDB website, online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/, accessed June 2012.
[17] California Native Plant Society, Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants website, online at

records of occurrence of special-status species and habitats within the Venice and Inglewood USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle Map. 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, 2004:
  - Section 4.10 Biotic Communities,
  - Section 4.11 Endangered and Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna,
  - Section 4.12 Wetlands,
  - Appendix F-E Biological Opinion from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and
  - Appendix J1 Biological Assessment Technical Report (prepared by Sapphos Environmental, Inc., 2001).
- Los Angeles World Airports, *LAX Master Plan Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) 2011 Annual Progress Report*, 2011.
- 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 LAX Bradley West Project in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California*, 2009.

4.3.3.1.2 Site Surveys

In addition to a review of available published reports, 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.[18] 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.[19] Scientific and common species names were recorded according to Baldwin et al (2012).[20] The presence of a wildlife species was based on direct observation and wildlife signs (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.[21]

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http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/, accessed June 2012.

[18] Holland, R., Preliminary descriptions of the terrestrial natural communities of California, Unpublished document, California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Heritage Division, Sacramento, CA,1986 and Sawyer, J.O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens, A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition, 2009.

[19] Baldwin, B.G., D. H. Goldman, D. J. Keil, R. Patterson, T. J. Rosatti, and D. H. Wilken (eds.), The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition*,* 2012.

[20] *Ibid*.

[21] Burt, W.H. and R. P. Grossenheider, A Field Guide to Mammals: North America; North of Mexico, 1980; Halfpenny, J.C., Scats and Tracks of the Desert Southwest, A Field Guide to the Signs of 70 Wildlife Species, 2000; Sibley, D.A., National Audubon Society The Sibley Guide To Birds, 2000; Elbroch, M., Mammal Tracks & Sign, A Guide to North American Species, 2003; Stebbins, R.C., A Field Guide To Western Reptiles and Amphibians, 2003.

The study area 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 the potential proposed Project-related impacts to special-status species:

Absent: Species distribution is restricted by substantive habitat requirements, which do not occur within the Project site, 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 site, 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 site, 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 site.

4.3.3.1.3 Jurisdictional Determination

Information regarding jurisdictional aquatic features and the findings of the jurisdictional determination analysis were conducted by Glen Lukos Associates in 2012. Potential effects to aquatic features are defined as follows:

- Under the jurisdiction of the USACE 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 SWRCB pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act;
- Wetlands as defined by the CCA; and
- Wetlands as classified by the USFWS and CDFW under the Cowardin *et.al.* classification system.[22]

Jurisdictional waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act 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 they 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 drainage feature, the Argo Drainage Channel, is located partially within the Project site. 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 USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW is not needed for the proposed Project.

[22] Cowardin, L. M., V. Carter, F. C. Golet, E. T. LaRoe, Classification of wetlands and deep water habitats of the United States, 1979.

4.3.3.2 Significance Thresholds

According to the City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide, significant impacts to biological resource would occur if direct and indirect changes in the environment, which may be caused by the proposed Project, result in one or more of the following future conditions:

- The loss of individuals, or the reduction of existing habitat, of a state or federal listed endangered, threatened, rare, protected, or candidate species, or a Species of Special Concern or federally listed critical habitat;
- The loss of individuals or the reduction of existing habitat of a locally designated species or a reduction in a locally designated natural habitat or plant community;
- Interference with wildlife movement/migration corridors that may diminish the chances for long-term survival of a sensitive species;
- The alteration of an existing wetland habitat; or
- Interference with habitat such that normal species behaviors are disturbed (e.g., from the introduction of noise, light) to a degree that may diminish the chances for long-term survival of a sensitive species.

4.3.3.3 LAX Master Plan Commitments and Project Design Features

4.3.3.3.1 LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Commitments

As part of the LAX Master Plan, LAWA adopted a number of mitigation measures pertaining to biotic communities and endangered and threatened species. The mitigation measures listed below are relevant to the analysis of biological resources associated with the proposed Project.

- **Biotic Communities (MM-BC)-1: Conservation of State-Designated Sensitive Habitat within and Adjacent to the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Areas.** LAWA or its designee shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the state-designated sensitive habitats within and adjacent to the Habitat Restoration Area are conserved and protected during construction, operation, and maintenance.

  These steps shall, at a minimum, include the following:

  Implementation of construction avoidance measures in areas where construction or staging are adjacent to the Habitat Restoration Area. Prior to the initiation of construction of LAX Master Plan components to be located adjacent to the Habitat Restoration Area, LAWA or its designee shall conduct a pre-construction evaluation to identify and flag specific areas of state-designated sensitive habitats located within 100 feet of construction areas. Subsequent to the pre-construction evaluation, LAWA or its designee shall conduct a pre-construction meeting and provide written construction avoidance measures to be implemented in areas adjacent to state-designated sensitive habitats. Construction avoidance measures include erecting a 10-foot-high tarped chain-link fence where the construction or staging area is adjacent to state-designated sensitive habitats to reduce the transport of fugitive dust particles related to construction activities. Soil stabilization, watering or other dust control measures, as feasible and appropriate, shall be implemented to reduce fugitive dust emissions during construction activities within 2,000 feet of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Area, with a goal to reduce fugitive dust emissions by 90 to 95 percent. In addition, to the

extent feasible, no grading or stockpiling for construction activities should take place within 100 feet of a state-designated sensitive habitat. LAWA or its designee shall incorporate provisions for the identification of additional construction avoidance measures to be implemented adjacent to state-designated sensitive areas. All construction avoidance measures that address Best Management Practices shall be clearly stated within construction bid documents. In addition, LAWA shall include a provision in all construction bid documents requiring the presence of a qualified environmental monitor. Construction drawings shall indicate vegetated areas within the Habitat Restoration Area as "Off-Limits Zone."

Ongoing maintenance and management efforts for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Area. LAWA or its designee shall ensure that maintenance and management efforts prescribed in the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the Habitat Restoration Area shall continue to be carried out as prescribed.

- **MM-BC-3: Conservation of Floral Resources – Mature Tree Replacement.** LAWA or its designee shall prepare and implement a plan to compensate at a ratio of 2:1 for the loss of approximately 300 mature trees, which would occur as a result of implementation of the LAX Northside project. The plan shall include provisions to census and map all mature trees with a diameter of at least 8 inches at breast height, which may be removed due to implementation of the LAX Northside project. This information shall be gathered prior to initiation of construction. The plan shall include a program by which replacement (at a ratio of 2:1) of all impacted mature trees shall be included in plans prepared for landscape treatments within the Master Plan boundaries, which would then be implemented by LAWA. The species of newly planted replacement trees shall be local native tree species to the extent feasible. Each mitigation tree shall be at least a 15-gallon or larger specimen.
- **MM-BC-9: Conservation of Faunal Resources.** LAWA or its designee shall develop and implement a relocation and monitoring plan to compensate for the loss of 1.34 habitat units (0.3 habitat units + 1.04 habitat units) of occupied western spadefoot toad habitat and for the loss of western spadefoot toad individuals currently in the southwestern portion of the AOA. LAWA or its designee shall identify possible relocation sites in consultation with the CDFG and USFWS and shall develop and implement a monitoring plan to monitor the success of the relocated tadpoles for a period of not more than five years. LAWA or its designee shall relocate the western spadefoot toad population currently inhabiting three locations on the AOA. One potential site is the Madrona Marsh Nature Center in Torrance, 20 miles south of LAX, which supports several vernal pools and one large pond capable of supporting western spadefoot toads. Spadefoot toad experts suggest the best approach to accomplish relocation is to transport tadpoles and metamorphs only, as adults return to their birth site. Site preparation shall include confirmation by a permitted biologist that no predators, such as mosquitofish or bullfrogs, are present within the proposed relocation site or in waterways surrounding the relocation site. The CDFG has suggested that if the first relocation effort is not successful, another attempt should be made the following year. Therefore, western spadefoot toads shall be collected two consecutive years prior to construction activities taking place in existing occupied spadefoot toad habitat. In addition, since the western spadefoot toad is known to become reproductively mature within three years, an additional performance criterion shall be the identification of tadpoles at the relocation site between years three and four. The success criteria should be 50 percent survival of all tadpoles and metamorphs for the first, second, and third years following the last relocation. This shall be accomplished through a five-year monitoring plan, with bi-monthly monitoring between January 31 and June 1, to document the success of this relocation effort.

LAWA or its designee shall develop and implement a relocation and monitoring plan to compensate for the loss of 2.38 habitat units of occupied San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit habitat located within the AOA. LAWA or its designee shall relocate the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit population currently inhabiting the AOA. Relocation efforts shall be coordinated with CDFG. The San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit shall be captured on the AOA using live traps and shall be released into the Habitat Restoration Area. Compensation for the loss of 2.38 habitat units shall be the utilization of at least 2.38 habitat units within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes by the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit individuals relocated to the site. Black-tailed jackrabbit is currently absent for the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes. Opportunities for compensation for the loss of 2.38 habitat units include 13.52 habitat units from restoration of Non-Native Grassland/Ruderal habitat to a Valley Needlegrass Grassland; 14.4 habitat units from removal and restoration of 50 percent of the existing roadways to Southern Foredune; and 59.68 habitat units from restoration of Disturbed Dune Scrub/Foredune to Southern Foredune. LAWA or its designee shall implement a monitoring plan to monitor the success of the relocated individuals for a period of not more than five years. Performance criteria shall include confirmed success of survival for three years of the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit within the Habitat Restoration Area. This shall be accomplished through a quarterly monitoring plan to document the success or failure of this relocation effort.

LAWA or its designee shall compensate for the loss of areas utilized by loggerhead shrike currently located on the western airfield and composed of 10.83 habitat units (equivalent to 83.25 acres). Compensation for the loss of 10.83 habitat units of habitat utilized by the loggerhead shrike shall be the utilization of at least 10.83 habitat units within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes. Opportunities for compensation for the loss of 10.83 habitat units include 13.52 habitat units from restoration of Non-Native Grassland/Ruderal habitat to a Valley Needlegrass Grassland; 14.4 habitat units from removal and restoration of 50 percent of the existing roadways to Southern Foredune; and 59.68 habitat units from restoration of Disturbed Dune Scrub/Foredune to Southern Foredune. Compensation for the loss of at least 10.83 habitat units shall take place prior to construction. LAWA or its designee shall implement a monitoring program for a period of not more than five years. Performance criteria shall include the use of at least 10.83 habitat units of improved habitat by the loggerhead shrike for foraging and nesting. Monitoring shall take place quarterly for the first three years and biannually thereafter. Monitoring shall be timed appropriately to include monitoring during the breeding period, which is between February and June.

As a means of minimizing incidental take of active nests of loggerhead shrike, LAWA or its designee shall have all areas to be graded surveyed by a qualified biologist at least 14 days before construction activities begin to ensure maximum avoidance to active nests for loggerhead shrike. Construction avoidance measures shall include flagging of all active nests for loggerhead shrike and a 300 feet wide buffer area shall be designated around the active nests. A biological monitor shall be present to ensure that the buffer area is not infringed upon during the active nesting season, March 15 to August 15. In addition, LAWA or its designee shall require that vegetation clearing within the designated 300 feet buffer be undertaken after August 15 and before March 15.

LAWA or its designee shall conduct pre-construction surveys to determine the presence of individuals of sensitive arthropod species, the silvery legless lizard, the San Diego horned lizard, and the burrowing owl within the proposed area of impact within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes. Surveys will be conducted at the optimum time to observe these species. Should an individual be observed, they will be relocated to suitable habitat for that

species within the Habitat Restoration Area. Prior to construction, LAWA or its designee shall develop and implement a relocation plan to avoid the potential loss of individuals from the installation of navigational aids and associated service roads. Relocation efforts shall be undertaken by a qualified biologist, in coordination with CDFG.

- **MM-ET-3: El Segundo Blue Butterfly Conservation: Dust Control.** To reduce the transport of fugitive dust particles related to construction activities, soil stabilization, watering or other dust control measures, as feasible and appropriate, shall be implemented with a goal to reduce fugitive dust emissions by 90 to 95 percent during construction activities within 2,000 feet of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Area. In addition, to the extent feasible, no grading or stockpiling for construction activities should take place within 100 feet of occupied habitat of the El Segundo blue butterfly.

4.3.3.3.2 Project Design Features

The proposed Project includes Project Design Features intended to reduce potential impacts to biological resources, The following Project Design Features (PDFs) apply:

- **PDF Biological Resources (B)-1:** Required landscaping at the LAX Northside is designed to create a sustainable and functional urban landscape that prevents any unnecessary impact on adjacent uses.
- **PDF B-2:** The proposed LAX Northside Design Guidelines and Standards requires landscaping that unifies the Project site, is compatible with adjacent aircraft operation, is sustainable, and responds to the local plant palette.
- **PDF B-3:** The landscape palette requires native, drought-tolerant, and locally-native plants. Introduction of these species into the LAX Northside supports the preservation of plant species native to the Southern California region and local habitats.
- **PDF B-4:** Required landscaping at the LAX Northside is designed to avoid the proliferation of wildlife that might have a dire impact on the functioning of the airfield.
- **PDF B-5:** Plant materials are restricted to those that: 1) have a sparse to moderately dense foliage growth, 2) do not produce fruits or seeds, 3) and do not require extensive maintenance to maintain appropriate foliage.
- **PDF B-6:** Casting and spraying of seed for sod installation is prohibited to further reduce the possibility of attracting the presence of flocking birds.
- **PDF B-7:** Trees, small trees, and shrubs shall be planted at spacing of two times the full growth radius in order to prevent the development of a thick canopy that could attract birds that would be hazardous to airport operations.
- **PDF B-8:** A fenced and secured 100-foot wide landscape buffer is required on the northern edge of Area 2.
- **PDF B-9:** A 20-foot wide landscape buffer is required on the northern edge of Area 1.
- **PDF B-10:** Due primarily to the proximity to the adjacent airfield, plantings in the Airport Support District are required to be limited. Most plant material will be groundcover and shrubs, and will limit the amount of trees introduced to the area and will combine eighty (80) percent native and twenty (20) percent non-native plant materials.
- **PDF B-11:** Existing trees will be preserved when compatible with the proposed Project's landscape material palettes.

- **PDF B-12:** Existing streetscape and median materials will be preserved where they coexist with the proposed Project paseo.
- **PDF B-13:** Glare or light trespass is prohibited on any adjacent streets, or within any adjacent properties.
- **PDF B-14:** Lighting mounted above ten feet must incorporate a full cut-off shield fixture.
- **PDF B-15:** Service area lighting shall be contained within the service yard boundaries and enclosure walls.
- **PDF B-16:** No light spillover shall occur outside the service area.
- **PDF B-17:** Grading, construction, and structures are prohibited within 50 feet of the Argo Drainage Channel.

4.3.3.4 Project Impacts

Table 4.3-7 summarizes the biological resources impacted by the proposed Project's districts.

Table 4.3-7

Biological Resource Impacts by District

District	Non-Native Grasslands (acres)	Mature Trees	Sensitive Plant Species	Sensitive Wildlife Species	Aquatic Resources
LAX Northside Center District	75.74	125	None	None	None
Airport Support District	76.91	27	None	1[a]	None[b]
LAX Northside Campus District	21.51	35	None	None	None
Total	174.16	187	None	1	None

Notes:
[a] Burrowing owl has been observed on site in 2011.
[b] The proposed Project prohibits structures, construction, and grading within 50 feet of the Argo Drainage Channel. As a result, no impacts would occur.
Source: URS Corporation, 2012 Biological Assessment Technical Report (Appendix F) and 2012 Tree Survey (Appendix G), 2012.

4.3.3.4.1 Loss or Reduction of Federal, State, and Local Designated Habitats

Construction and Operations

On-Site Habitats

Development within the Project site will result in impacts to a total of 203.3 acres of non-native grasslands and 187 mature trees. The Project site is not part of a federal-, state-, or local-designated habitat. Therefore, development of the proposed Project would not result in the loss of individuals, or the reduction of existing habitat of a state or federal listed endangered, threatened, rare, protected, or candidate species, or a Species of Special Concern or federally

listed critical habitat and would not result in the loss of individuals or the reduction of existing habitat of a locally-designated species or a reduction in a locally designated natural habitat or plant community. Impacts related to on-site state, federal, and local species and habitats would be less than significant. Impacts are analyzed for each Project site District below.

LAX Northside Center District

Based on studies conducted by a licensed biologist and information obtained in the previously identified technical reports, no suitable habitat for any federal, state, or local listed endangered species was found within this district. Therefore, indirect impacts related to federal, state, or local listed endangered species during construction and operations would be less than significant.

The LAX Northside Center District contains developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, and ornamental vegetation communities. Area 12B within the LAX Northside Center District is currently vegetated with grass which will not change as part of the proposed Project. Areas 13, 12A East, 12A West, and 11 have all been previously disturbed and are regularly maintained by LAX, including regular mowing and disking of vegetation. These vegetation types are not locally-designated sensitive plant communities. In addition, there is no locally-designated plant species that was observed on-site within the LAX Northside Center District, nor was there suitable habitat present on-site for these species. Therefore, impacts related to loss or reduction of federal, state, and local designated habitats in the LAX Northside Center District would be less than significant.

LAX Northside Campus District

Based on studies conducted by a licensed biologist and information obtained in the previously identified technical reports, no suitable habitat for any federal, state, or local listed endangered species was found within this district. Therefore, indirect impacts related to federal, state, or local listed endangered species would be less than significant.

The LAX Northside Campus District contains developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, and ornamental vegetation communities. Area 12B within the LAX Northside Center District is currently vegetated with grass which will not change as part of the proposed Project. Areas 13, 12A East, 12A West, and 11 have all been previously disturbed and are regularly maintained by LAX, including regular mowing and disking of vegetation. These vegetation types are not locally-designated sensitive plant communities. In addition, there is no locally-designated plant species that was observed on-site within the LAX Northside Campus District, nor was there suitable habitat present on-site for these species. Therefore, impacts related to loss or reduction of federal, state, and local designated habitats in the LAX Northside Campus District would be less than significant.

LAX Northside Airport Support District

Based on studies conducted by a licensed biologist and information obtained in the previously identified technical reports, no suitable habitat for any federal, state, or local listed endangered species was found within Areas 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the LAX Northside Airport Support district.

Within this district, there was one observation of a burrowing owl on-site in 2011 on a portion of Area 4. No burrowing owls or signs of their presence were encountered during the site survey conducted for the proposed Project (Appendix F). Although there is the potential to affect the Burrowing Owl indirectly (a California listed special-status species), existing LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR mitigation commitments require that the presence of this species be evaluated and that a relocation plan be developed if it is found within the Project site. Implementation of this

commitment would ensure that no Burrowing Owl habitat is lost or reduced through evaluation and planning for relocation habitat if the species is present. Therefore, indirect impacts related to federal and state listed endangered species would be less than significant.

The LAX Northside Airport Support District contains developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, unvegetated channel, and ornamental vegetation communities. All Areas have been previously disturbed and are regularly maintained by LAX, including regular mowing and disking of vegetation. These vegetation types are not locally-designated sensitive plant communities. In addition, there is no locally-designated plant species that was observed on-site within the LAX Northside Airport Support District. Although suitable habitat may exist for the Burrowing Owl on a limited portion of Area 4, implementation of LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR mitigation measures would ensure that no habitat is lost or reduced, as discussed above. Therefore, impacts related to loss or reduction of federal, state, and local designated habitats in the LAX Northside Airport Support District would be less than significant.

Off-Site Habitats

LAX Northside Center District

The LAX Northside Center District is surrounded by previously disturbed and developed areas to the north, south, east, and west including residences in the Community of Westchester to the north, airport support uses in the LAX Northside Airport Support District to the south, commercial uses along Sepulveda Boulevard to the east, and multi-family apartments directly to the west. None of these adjacent off-site areas is a federal-, state-, or local-designated habitat area. Construction and operation of the proposed Project in the LAX Northside Center District would not result in the loss of individuals, or the reduction of existing habitat of a state, federal listed endangered, threatened, rare, protected, or candidate species, or a Species of Special Concern or federally listed critical habitat and would not result in the loss of individuals or the reduction of existing habitat of a locally-designated species or a reduction in a locally designated natural habitat or plant community. Therefore, impacts related to off-site state, federal, and local species and habitats would not occur.

LAX Northside Campus District

Areas to the north, south, and east of the LAX Northside Campus District are previously disturbed and do not contain any federal-, state-, or local-designated habitat areas. The nearest off-site locally-designated habitat is the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve, approximately 800 feet west from the nearest portion of the Project site, west of Area 1 in the LAX Northside Campus District. During construction of the proposed Project, there exists the potential for activities such as grading and excavation to create dust that may be carried into the sensitive Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve habitat. However, the nearest location to the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve is Area 1. The Jet Pets animal quarantine facility would remain in its existing location and configuration in Area 1. No construction would occur in this Area that could potentially impact the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve habitat. Additionally, the LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR includes mitigation commitments which specifically address dust from construction activities affecting the El Segundo Blue Butterfly habitat:

- **MM-ET-3: El Segundo Blue Butterfly Conservation: Dust Control.** To reduce the transport of fugitive dust particles related to construction activities, soil stabilization, watering or other dust control measures, as feasible and appropriate, shall be implemented with a goal to reduce fugitive dust emissions by 90 to 95 percent during construction activities within 2,000 feet of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Area. In addition, to

the extent feasible, no grading or stockpiling for construction activities should take place within 100 feet of occupied habitat of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly.

Construction activities would be temporary, would not occur in Area 1 closest to the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve, and would be designed to mitigate fugitive dust emissions by 90 to 95 percent per the LAX Master Plan EIR/EIS commitment. These restrictions and dust control measures would prevent impacts to the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat. Additionally, the California gnatcatcher and the California legless lizard have been detected in limited portions of the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes area outside the BRSA, approximately 0.8 mile south, and 1,000 feet west, respectively, of the Project site. These areas are subject to high noise levels from departing aircraft. Therefore, it is not anticipated that construction noise associated with development and use of the proposed Project would adversely affect the species. Although the California gnatcatcher and the California legless lizard have been observed within the dunes area south and west of the BRSA, respectively, no indirect impacts are anticipated to occur from implementation of the proposed Project. Therefore, construction impacts related to off-site federal, state, or local designated habitats would be less than significant.

Operation of the uses included in the proposed Project LAX Northside Campus District will not have significant impacts to any federal-, state-, or local-designated habitats. The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve, approximately 800 feet from the nearest portion of the Project site, is the closest locally-designated habitat area. The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve currently functions within the flight path of LAX and is subject to traffic noise from S. Pershing Drive. The increased traffic volumes on S. Pershing Drive resulting from the operation of the proposed Project would not generate noise louder than the noise generated by the existing or projected aircraft activity. Additionally, the existing Jet Pets facility in Area 1 would remain in its existing location and configuration and would not result in new operational impacts to the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve. As discussed, California gnatcatcher and the California legless lizard observed approximately 0.8 mile south and 1,000 feet west, respectively, of the BRSA have occupied an area with high noise levels from departing aircraft. Therefore, it is not anticipated that operation noise associated with development and use of the proposed Project would adversely affect the species. Additionally, no California gnatcatcher or California legless lizards have been observed within the Project site or the BRSA and suitable habitat does not exist for them in these areas. Therefore, operational impacts related to off-site federal, state, or local designated habitats would be less than significant.

LAX Northside Airport Support District

Areas to the north, south, and east of the LAX Northside Airport Support District are previously disturbed and do not contain any federal-, state-, or local-designated habitat areas. The nearest off-site locally-designated habitat is the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve, approximately 800 feet west from the nearest portion of the Project site, west of Area 4 in the LAX Northside Airport Support District. During construction of the proposed Project, there exists the potential for activities such as grading and excavation to create dust that may be carried into the sensitive Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve habitat. However, the nearest location to the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve is Area 4. The proposed Project would allow airport support uses to be developed in Area 4. Area 4 is already separated from the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve by the existing Pershing Drive. The proposed Project also requires development within Area 4 to be set back 50’ from Pershing Drive. Additionally, the LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR includes mitigation commitments which

specifically address dust from construction activities affecting the El Segundo Blue Butterfly habitat:

- **MM-ET-3: El Segundo Blue Butterfly Conservation: Dust Control.** To reduce the transport of fugitive dust particles related to construction activities, soil stabilization, watering or other dust control measures, as feasible and appropriate, shall be implemented with a goal to reduce fugitive dust emissions by 90 to 95 percent during construction activities within 2,000 feet of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Area. In addition, to the extent feasible, no grading or stockpiling for construction activities should take place within 100 feet of occupied habitat of the El Segundo Blue Butterfly.

Construction activities would be temporary, would be separated from the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve by the existing Pershing Drive and Project Design Features, and would be designed to mitigate fugitive dust emissions by 90 to 95 percent per the LAX Master Plan EIR/EIS commitment. These restrictions and dust control measures would prevent impacts to the El Segundo Blue Butterfly Habitat. Additionally, California gnatcatcher and California legless lizards have been detected in limited portions of the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes area outside the BRSA, approximately 0.8 mile south and 1,000 feet west, respectively, of the Project site. These areas are subject to high noise levels from departing aircraft. Therefore, it is not anticipated that construction noise associated with development and use of the proposed Project would adversely affect the species. Although the California gnatcatcher and the California legless lizard have been observed within the dunes area south and west, respectively, of the BRSA, no indirect impacts are anticipated to occur from implementation of the proposed Project. Therefore, construction impacts related to off-site federal, state, or local designated habitats would be less than significant.

Operation of the uses included in the proposed Project LAX Northside Airport Support District will not have significant impacts to any Federal, State or local designated habitats. The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve, approximately 800 feet from the nearest portion of the Project site, is the closest locally-designated habitat area. The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve currently functions within the flight path of LAX and is subject to traffic noise from S. Pershing Drive. The increased traffic volumes on S. Pershing Drive resulting from the operation of the proposed Project would not generate noise louder than the noise generated by the existing or projected aircraft activity. Additionally, the proposed Project would allow airport support uses in Area 4 that are the same as existing uses, which would not result in new operational impacts to the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve. Therefore, operational impacts related to off-site federal, state, or local designated habitats would be less than significant.

4.3.3.4.2 Interference with Wildlife Movement/Migration Corridors

Construction and Operations

LAX Northside Center District

The LAX Northside Center District is surrounded by urban development including residences in the Community of Westchester to the north, LAX airport support uses to the south, commercial uses along Sepulveda Boulevard to the east, and disturbed areas in the LAX Northside Campus District to the west. The LAX Northside Center District contains developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, and ornamental vegetation communities and 35 mature trees which could be removed as part of the proposed Project. Trees within the existing Westchester Golf Course

were not surveyed and will not be removed or disturbed as part of the proposed Project. The LAX Northside Center District does not serve as a movement corridor for wildlife or serve as a linkage between core habitats. Additionally, it is maintained by LAX In order to comply with FAA bird hazard reduction mandates for safe airport operation which includes regular mowing and disking of vegetation and trimming of trees to avoid the creation of thick canopies. As such, only marginal habitat for wildlife that utilize open grassland and tree habitat is present. The District does not support fisheries or nursery site habitats.

Although mature trees may be removed as part of the proposed Project, LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Commitment BC-3 requires compensation for the loss of mature trees at a ratio of 2:1. The species of newly planted replacement trees is required to be a local native tree species to the greatest extent feasible and trees are required to be 15-gallon or larger specimen. Additionally, the Project Design Features require landscaping in the LAX Northside Center District that consists of native and locally-native species. Although loss of vegetation on the Project site may have a short-term adverse impact on nesting migrant birds, implementation of LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Commitment BC-3 will ensure that any habitat that is removed is replaced. Therefore, impacts related to construction and operation interference with wildlife movement/migration corridors for the LAX Northside Center District would be less than significant.

LAX Northside Campus District

The LAX Northside Campus District is surrounded by urban development including residences in the Community of Westchester and Playa del Rey to the north, LAX airport support uses to the south, the Westchester Golf Course to the east, and the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat preserve to the west. The LAX Northside Campus District contains developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, and ornamental vegetation communities and 125 mature trees which could be removed as part of the proposed Project. The LAX Northside Campus District does not serve as a movement corridor for wildlife or serve as a linkage between core habitats. Additionally, it is maintained by LAX In order to comply with FAA bird hazard reduction mandates for safe airport operation which includes regular mowing and disking of vegetation and trimming of trees to avoid the creation of thick canopies. As such, only marginal habitat for wildlife that utilize open grassland and tree habitat is present. The District does not support fisheries or nursery site habitats.

Although mature trees may be removed as part of the proposed Project, LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Commitment BC-3 requires compensation for the loss of mature trees at a ratio of 2:1. The species of newly planted replacement trees is required to be a local native tree species to the greatest extent feasible and trees are required to be 15-gallon or larger specimen. Additionally, the Project Design Features require landscaping in the LAX Northside Campus District that consists of native and locally-native species. Although loss of vegetation on the Project site may have a short-term adverse impact on nesting migrant birds, implementation of LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Commitment BC-3 will ensure that any habitat that is removed is replaced. Therefore, impacts related to construction and operation interference with wildlife movement/migration corridors for the LAX Northside Campus District would be less than significant.

LAX Northside Airport Support District

The LAX Northside Airport Support District is surrounded by urban development including the disturbed LAX Northside Campus District and LAX Northside Center District to the north, the LAX North Airfield to the south, commercial uses along Sepulveda Boulevard to the east, and

the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat preserve to the west. The LAX Northside Airport Support District contains developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, unvegetated channel, and ornamental vegetation communities and 27 mature trees which could be removed as part of the proposed Project. The LAX Northside Airport Support District does not serve as a movement corridor for wildlife or serve as a linkage between core habitats. Additionally, it is maintained by LAX In order to comply with FAA bird hazard reduction mandates for safe airport operation which includes regular mowing and disking of vegetation and trimming of trees to avoid the creation of thick canopies. As such, only marginal habitat for wildlife that utilize open grassland and tree habitat is present. The District does not support fisheries or nursery site habitats.

Although mature trees may be removed as part of the proposed Project, LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Commitment BC-3 requires compensation for the loss of mature trees at a ratio of 2:1. The species of newly planted replacement trees is required to be a local native tree species to the greatest extent feasible and trees are required to be 15-gallon or larger specimen. Although loss of vegetation on the Project site may have a short-term adverse impact on nesting migrant birds, implementation of LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR Commitment BC-3 will ensure that any habitat that is removed is replaced. Therefore, impacts related to construction and operation interference with wildlife movement/migration corridors for the LAX Northside Airport Support District would be less than significant.

4.3.3.4.3 Alteration of an Existing Wetland Habitat

Construction and Operations

On-Site Habitats

LAX Northside Center District

This district does not contain existing wetland habitat as identified in the Biological Assessment Technical Report. Therefore, no impacts related to on-site wetlands during construction or operations will occur.

LAX Northside Campus District

This district does not contain existing wetland habitat as identified in the Biological Assessment Technical Report. Therefore, no impacts related to on-site wetlands during construction or operations will occur.

LAX Northside Airport Support District

One potential wetland habitat, the Argo Drainage Channel, has been identified within this district along the southern boundary and partially within Area 4. The proposed Project does not include any modifications to the Argo Drainage Channel. Additionally, construction, structures, and grading are prohibited within 50 feet of the Argo Drainage Channel. Indirect impacts during construction and operations associated with runoff will be minimized by a combination of federal and state regulation of water quality, the LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR mitigation commitments associated with water quality, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) (Refer to Section 4.8). Therefore, impacts related to alteration or other impacts to existing on-site wetland habitats would be less than significant.

Off-Site Habitats

LAX Northside Center District

This district is not adjacent to existing wetland habitat as identified in the Biological Assessment Technical Report. Therefore, no impacts related to off-site wetlands during construction or operations will occur.

LAX Northside Campus District

This district is not adjacent to existing wetland habitat as identified in the Biological Assessment Technical Report. Therefore, no impacts related to off-site wetlands during construction or operations will occur.

LAX Northside Airport Support District

One potential wetland habitat, the Argo Drainage Channel, has been identified within this district along the southern boundary and partially within Area 4. The proposed Project does not include any modifications to the Argo Drainage Channel. Additionally, construction, structures, and grading are prohibited within 50 feet of the Argo Drainage Channel. Indirect impacts during construction and operations associated with runoff will be minimized by a combination of federal and state regulation of water quality, the LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR mitigation commitments associated with water quality, and BMPs (Refer to Section 4.8). Therefore, impacts related to alteration or other impacts to existing off-site wetland habitats would be less than significant.

4.3.3.4.4 Interference with Habitat/Species Behavior

Interference with habitat/species behavior is an indirect impact. Although it does not result in direct loss of habitat, this impact considers the potential for the proposed Project to affect normal activities or behavior, or affect habitat quality in a manner that reduces value of the habitat for a species. Factors that could cause indirect impacts include lighting, noise, and dust that diminish chances for long-term survival of a sensitive species.

Construction and Operation

LAX Northside Center District

The LAX Northside Center District consists of developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, and ornamental land cover types and is maintained by LAX in order to comply with FAA mandates for safe airport operations, which includes regular mowing and disking of vegetation and trimming of trees. Results of the current biological survey and prior studies indicate that no sensitive species reside in the LAX Northside Center District or any adjacent areas. Therefore, impacts related to interference with habitat/species behavior would be less than significant.

LAX Northside Campus District

The LAX Northside Campus District consists of developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, and ornamental land cover types and is maintained by LAX in order to comply with FAA mandates for safe airport operations, which includes regular mowing and disking of vegetation and trimming of trees. Results of the current biological survey and prior studies indicate that no sensitive species reside in the LAX Northside Campus District; however the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat preserve located across Pershing Drive to the west of the LAX Northside Campus District within the BRSA supports El Segundo Blue Butterfly. California gnatcatcher and California legless lizards have been observed outside of and approximately 0.8

miles south, and 1,000 feet west, respectively, of the BRSA within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat preserve. Area 1 within the LAX Northside Campus District is located to the east of the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat across Pershing Drive. No construction or operational changes will occur on Area 1 adjacent to the Los Angeles/El Segundo Dues Habitat as the existing Jet Pets facility will remain in its existing location and configuration. LAX Master Plan EIR/EIS Commitments BC-1 and ET-3 require that fugitive dust be controlled during construction and operation to avoid any impacts to adjacent habitat. Additionally, the Project Design Features require light to be shielded and directed to avoid any potential light spillover impacts to adjacent habitat. Therefore, impacts related to interference with habitat/species behavior in the LAX Northside Campus District would be less than significant.

LAX Northside Airport Support District

The LAX Northside Airport Support District consists of developed/disturbed, non-native grassland, unvegetated channel, and ornamental land cover types and is maintained by LAX in order to comply with FAA mandates for safe airport operations, which includes regular mowing and disking of vegetation and trimming of trees. Results of the current biological survey and prior studies indicate that no sensitive species reside in the LAX Northside Airport Support District within Areas 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Within this district, there was one observation of a burrowing owl within Area 4 in 2011. No burrowing owls or signs of their presence were encountered during the site survey conducted for this analysis, and the Project site does not appear to be a breeding site for this species (Appendix F). Construction activities would include ground-disturbing equipment for grading and excavation which could impact potential habitat for the burrowing owl, a California species of special concern. As required under the LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR commitment BC-9: Conservation of Faunal Resources, pre-construction surveys to determine the presence of various sensitive wildlife species, including the Burrowing Owl, are required. Furthermore, if a member of this species is found, a plan must be developed to relocate it within the Habitat Restoration Area.

The Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat preserve located across Pershing Drive to the west of the LAX Northside Airport Support District within the BRSA supports El Segundo Blue Butterfly. California gnatcatcher and California legless lizards have been observed outside of and approximately 0.8 miles south, and 1,000 feet west, respectively, of the BRSA within the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat preserve. Area 4 within the LAX Northside Airport Support District is located to the east of the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes habitat across Pershing Drive. The proposed Project would allow airport support uses to continue in Area 4, which would have similar light, noise, and dust characteristics as existing conditions. LAX Master Plan EIR/EIS Commitments BC-1 and ET-3 require that fugitive dust be controlled during construction and operation to avoid any impacts to adjacent habitat. Additionally, the Project Design Features require light to be shielded and directed to avoid any potential light spillover impacts to adjacent habitat. Therefore, impacts related to interference with habitat/species behavior in the LAX Northside Airport Support District would be less than significant.

4.3.3.4.5 Transfer Program

The proposed Project would include flexibility to allow for transfers of floor area within Districts. While transfers of floor area within Districts would be permitted, the maximum proposed Project total of 2,320,000 square feet may not be exceeded. Floor area transfers would not result in new impacts related to biological resources. The applicable LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR

commitments and Project Design Features regarding tree replacement, dust mitigation, light shielding, and new landscaping would continue to apply resulting in less than significant impacts related to biological resources. As earth-disturbing activities would be similar to the proposed Project under the transfer program, impacts on listed and designated species, habitats, and plant communities would be similar. As building placement and volume would be similar to the proposed Project under the transfer program, impacts on wildlife movement/migration corridors and interference with habitat/species behavior would be similar. Implementation of the transfer program would therefore not cause or accelerate any adverse impacts to biological resources. In summary, floor area transfers would not alter the conclusions with regard to impacts to biological resources. Should uses be transferred within the Districts, the resulting impacts would be similar to those evaluated herein.

4.3.4 Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative study area related to biological resources includes the Project site and BRSA. For the El Segundo blue butterfly, California gnatcatcher, and California legless lizard, the study area is limited to the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes and for the Burrowing Owl the study area is the Argo Drainage Channel area due to the narrow habitat requirements for these species. The cumulative study area for nesting migratory birds includes any suitable nesting sites in the immediate vicinity of the Project site. The area surrounding the Project site is, and has long been, largely urbanized and there are few undeveloped areas that support sensitive biological resources. The nearest undeveloped areas are the Ballona Wetlands, Ballona Cree, and open space areas associated with the Playa Vista Project. As the Playa Vista Project is located on land previously disturbed and occupied by the former Hughes Aircraft Company and McDonnell Douglas Corporation, project impacts to biological resources were limited and mitigated to a level that is less than significant by an extensive habitat restoration program.

The majority of projects in the area surrounding the Project site would add or increase the intensity of development in an already urbanized setting. Projects in these urbanized settings would be sited on currently empty or already developed lots and are not generally considered a factor in reducing sensitive habitat or special status species populations. The proposed Project would not result in significant impacts related to biological resources. Related projects within LAX that may contribute to cumulative impacts to the Burrowing Owl, California gnatcatcher, California legless lizard, and El Segundo blue butterfly include the LAX Specific Plan Amendment Study; various proposed ongoing, and completed airside improvement projects; and the ongoing residential acquisition in Manchester Square. The ongoing Coastal Dunes Improvement Project would result in beneficial impacts to biological resources in the Los Angeles Airport/El Segundo Dunes preserve. Similar to the proposed Project, related LAX projects would have to comply with the LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR commitments listed above that would avoid and minimize potential impacts to biological resources. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to biological resources would be less than significant.

4.3.5 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 MM-BC-1, MM-BC-3, MM-BC-9, and MM-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.

4.3.6 Level Of Significance after Mitigation

The potential for construction impacts to biological resources is less than significant without mitigation. During operations, the proposed Project would have less than significant impacts to biological resources. No project-specific mitigation measures related to biological resources would be required, and impacts would remain less than significant.

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