4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section provides an overview of biological resources and evaluates impacts associated with the proposed project. Topics addressed will include existing vegetation, landscaping, biological resources, potential impacts to sensitive species (including migratory bird species), sensitive natural communities, and federally protected wetlands. This section was prepared utilizing information from a variety of sources, including the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) list of Federal Endangered and Threatened Species.

The proposed project is evaluated in terms of whether the implementation of the proposed project would result in the permanent loss of, or loss of access, to biological resources occurring within the West Adams CPA.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Federal

Federal Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act and subsequent amendments provide for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species; it also ensures that the activities of federal agencies will not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. At the federal level, the USFWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are responsible for administration of the Endangered Species Act.

Clean Water Act (CWA). At the federal level, the CWA (33 U.S.C. 1344) is the primary law regulating wetlands and waters. The CWA regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Waters of the United States include navigable waters, interstate waters, territorial seas, and other waters that may be used in interstate or foreign commerce. To classify wetlands for the purposes of the CWA, a three-parameter approach including the presence of hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils (subject to saturation/inundation) is used. All three parameters must be present, under normal circumstances, for an area to be designated as a jurisdictional wetland under the CWA.

Section 404 of the CWA establishes a regulatory program that provides that no discharge of dredged or fill material can be permitted if a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment or if the nation's waters would be significantly degraded. The Section 404 permit program is run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) with oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Executive Order for Wetland Protection. The Executive Order for the Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990) also regulates the activities of federal agencies with regard to wetlands. Essentially, this executive order states that a federal agency, such as the Federal Highway Administration, cannot undertake or provide assistance for new construction located in wetlands unless the head of the agency finds: 1) that there is no practicable alternative to the construction and 2) the proposed project includes all practicable measures to minimize harm.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 661-667e, March 10, 1994, as amended 1946, 1958, 1978, and 1995) requires that whenever waters or a channel of a stream or other body of water are proposed or authorized to be modified by a public or private agency under a federal license or permit, the federal agency must first consult with the USFWS and/or NOAA Fisheries Service and with the head of the agency exercising administration over the wildlife resources of the state where construction would occur (in this case the CDFG), with a view to conservation of birds, fish,

mammals, and all other classes of wild animals and all types of aquatic and land vegetation upon which wildlife is dependent.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The MBTA (16 U.S.C. Sections 703–711) includes provisions for the protection of migratory birds, including the non-permitted take of migratory birds, under the authority of the USFWS and the CDFG. The MBTA protects over 800 species, including geese, ducks, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, and many common species.

State

California Endangered Species Act. The CDFG is responsible for the administration of the California Endangered Species Act. Unlike the federal Endangered Species Act, there are no State agency consultation procedures under the California Endangered Species Act. For projects that affect both a State and federal listed species, compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act will satisfy the California Endangered Species Act if the CDFG determines that the federal incidental take authorization is "consistent" with the California Endangered Species Act. Projects that result in a take of a State-only listed species require a take permit under the California Endangered Species Act. The federal and/or State acts also lend protection to species that are considered rare enough by the scientific community and trustee agencies to warrant special consideration, particularly with regard to protection of isolated populations, nesting or den locations, communal roosts, and other essential habitat.

California Fish and Game Code Sections 3500 through 3705, Migratory Bird Protection. Sections 3500 through 3705 of the California Fish and Game Code regulate the taking of migratory birds and their nests. These codes prohibit the taking of nesting birds, their nests, eggs, or any portion thereof during the nesting season. Typically, the breeding/nesting season is from March 1st through August 30th. Depending on each year's seasonal factors, the breeding season can start earlier and/or end later.

The MBTA decrees that all migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) are fully protected. Under the act, taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds is unlawful. Projects that are likely to result in the taking of birds protected under the MBTA will require the issuance of take permits from the USFWS. Activities that would require such a permit would include, but not be limited to, the destruction of migratory bird nesting habitat during the nesting season when eggs or young are likely to be present. Under this Act, surveys are required to determine if nests will be disturbed and, if so, a buffer area with a specified radius around the nest would be established so that no disturbance or intrusion would be allowed until the young had fledged and left the nest. If not otherwise specified in the permit, the size of the buffer area would vary with species and local circumstances (e.g., presence of busy roads), and would be based on the professional judgment of the monitoring biologist.

State Agency Wetland Regulation. At the State level, wetlands and waters are regulated primarily by the CDFG and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs). The RWQCBs were established under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act to oversee water quality. The RWQCB also issues water quality certifications in compliance with Section 401 of CWA. In certain circumstances, the Coastal Commission or Bay Conservation and Development Commission may also be involved. Sections 1600-1607 of the Fish and Game Code require any agency that proposes a project that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of or substantially change the bed or bank of a river, stream, or lake to notify CDFG before beginning construction. If CDFG determines that the project may substantially and adversely affect fish or wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required. CDFG jurisdictional limits are usually defined by the tops of the stream or lake banks, or the outer edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is wider. Wetlands under jurisdiction of the ACOE may or may not be included in the area covered by a Streambed Alteration Agreement obtained from the CDFG.

Local

City of Los Angeles General Plan (General Plan). The General Plan addresses community development goals and policies relative to the distribution of land use, both public and private, and acts to protect large tracts of open space for habitat conservation, species protection, watershed maintenance, and other purposes. The General Plan integrates the Citywide elements and community plans, and gives policy direction to the planning regulatory and implementation programs.

The General Plan Framework (Framework), adopted December 1996 and amended in August 2001, is a more general, long-term, programmatic document, implemented by the various individual elements of the General Plan. Policies related to open space conservation and protecting the City's natural resources including biological resources, such as sensitive species, habitats, and wildlife movement corridors, are found in the Framework. The State requires that conservation and open space elements be included in city and county general plans. The latter is to address conservation, protection, development, utilization, and reclamation of natural resources. The former is to address the remaining natural and other open space resources. Polices related to the protection and conservation of natural resources including biological resources are found in the Conservation Element of the City's General Plan. The intent of the Conservation Element of the Framework is the conservation and preservation of natural resources, including (but not limited to) biological resources such as endangered species and habitats. The Conservation Element contains policies for avoidance and minimization of significant impacts to sensitive resources, protection, and conservation of habitats, and the establishment of habitat restoration and enhancement programs. Policies from the Conservation Element and General Plan Framework pertaining to biological resources are listed on **Table 4.4-1**.

Tree Preservation Ordinance. In response to the declining oak population in the City of Los Angeles, the City enacted an oak tree protection ordinance in 1982. Although the ordinance slowed the oak tree decline, the oak population and other native tree species continued to decline. In an effort to further slow the decline of native tree habitat, the City amended the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) in April 2006. The amended Native Tree Protection Ordinance became law on April 23, 2006. The law includes protection of all native oak tree species (*Quercus* spp), Western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), and California black walnut (*Juglans californica*).[1] Protected tree removal requires a removal permit by the Board of Public Works. Any act that may cause the failure or death of a protected tree requires inspection by the City's Urban Forest Division.

In addition, the City considers any non-native tree at least 12 inches in diameter a significant biological resource and every tree of this size and above removed must be replaced at a 1:1 ratio with a minimum of 24-inch box size tree. Further, under City o standard mitigation measures, a bond must be posted to guarantee the survival of the newly planted trees to assure the existence of continuously living trees for a minimum of three years from the date the bond was posted or the trees were replaced, planted, or relocated.

Heritage Trees. The City has identified a collection of trees with historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. The list of designated Heritage trees remains open for new designations and the Department of Recreation and Parks is responsible for the maintenance and protection of these trees.

City of Los Angeles Tentative Map Requirements. The Tentative Tract Map filing guidelines issued by the DCP state that, in addition to protected trees (addressed above), other trees (generally non-native) with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 12 inches or greater that are located within the proposed limits of disturbance be identified and mapped on a site plan, and that desirable "mature" trees be replaced at a 1:1 ratio.

[1]City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *Ordinance No. 177404*, March 2006, available at *http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/Other/ProtectedTreeOrd.pdf*, accessed February 13, 2012.

TABLE 4.4-1: RELEVANT GENERAL PLAN BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES GOALS OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal/Objective/Policy	Goal/Objective/Policy Description
GENERAL PLAN FRAMEWORK	
Goal 6A	An integrated Citywide/regional public and private open space system that serves and is accessible by the City's population and is unthreatened by encroachment from other land uses.
Objective 6.1	Protect the City's natural settings from the encroachment of urban development, allowing for the development, use, management, and maintenance of each component of the City's natural resources to contribute to the sustainability of the region.
Policy 6.1.1	Consider appropriate methodologies to protect significant remaining open spaces for resource protection and mitigation of environmental hazards, such as flooding, in and on the periphery of the City, such as the use of tax incentives for landowners to preserve their lands, development rights exchanges in the local area, participation in land banking, public acquisition, land exchanges, and Williamson Act contracts.
Policy 6.1.2	Coordinate City operations and development policies for the protection and conservation of open space resources, by: a. Encouraging City departments to take the lead in utilizing water re-use technology, including graywater and reclaimed water for public landscape maintenance purposes and such other purposes as may be feasible; b. Preserving habitat linkages, where feasible, to provide wildlife corridors and to protect natural animal ranges; and c. Preserving natural viewsheds, whenever possible, in hillside and coastal areas.
Policy 6.1.3	Reassess the environmental importance of the County of Los Angeles designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) that occur within the City of Los Angeles and evaluate the appropriateness of the inclusion of other areas that may exhibit equivalent environmental value.
Policy 6.1.4	Conserve, and manage the undeveloped portions of the City's watersheds, where feasible, as open spaces which protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources.
Policy 6.1.5	Provide for an on-site evaluation of sites located outside of targeted growth areas, as specified in amendments to the community plans, for the identification of sensitive habitats, sensitive species, and an analysis of wildlife movement, with specific emphasis on the evaluation of areas identified on the Biological Resource Maps contained in the Framework Element's Technical Background Report and Environmental Impact Report.
Policy 6.1.6	Consider preservation of private land open space to the maximum extent feasible. In areas where open space values determine the character of the community, development should occur with special consideration of these characteristics.
Policy 6.1.7	Encourage an increase of open space where opportunities exist throughout the City to protect wild areas such as the Sepulveda Basin and Chatsworth Reservoir.
CONSERVATION ELEMENT – ENDANGERED SPECIES	
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.
CONSERVATION ELEMENT – HABITATS	
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.

SOURCE: City of Los Angeles, *The Citywide General Plan Framework, An Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan*, re-adopted 2001.

EXISTING SETTING

Special Status Species and Habitats

Description of Habitats

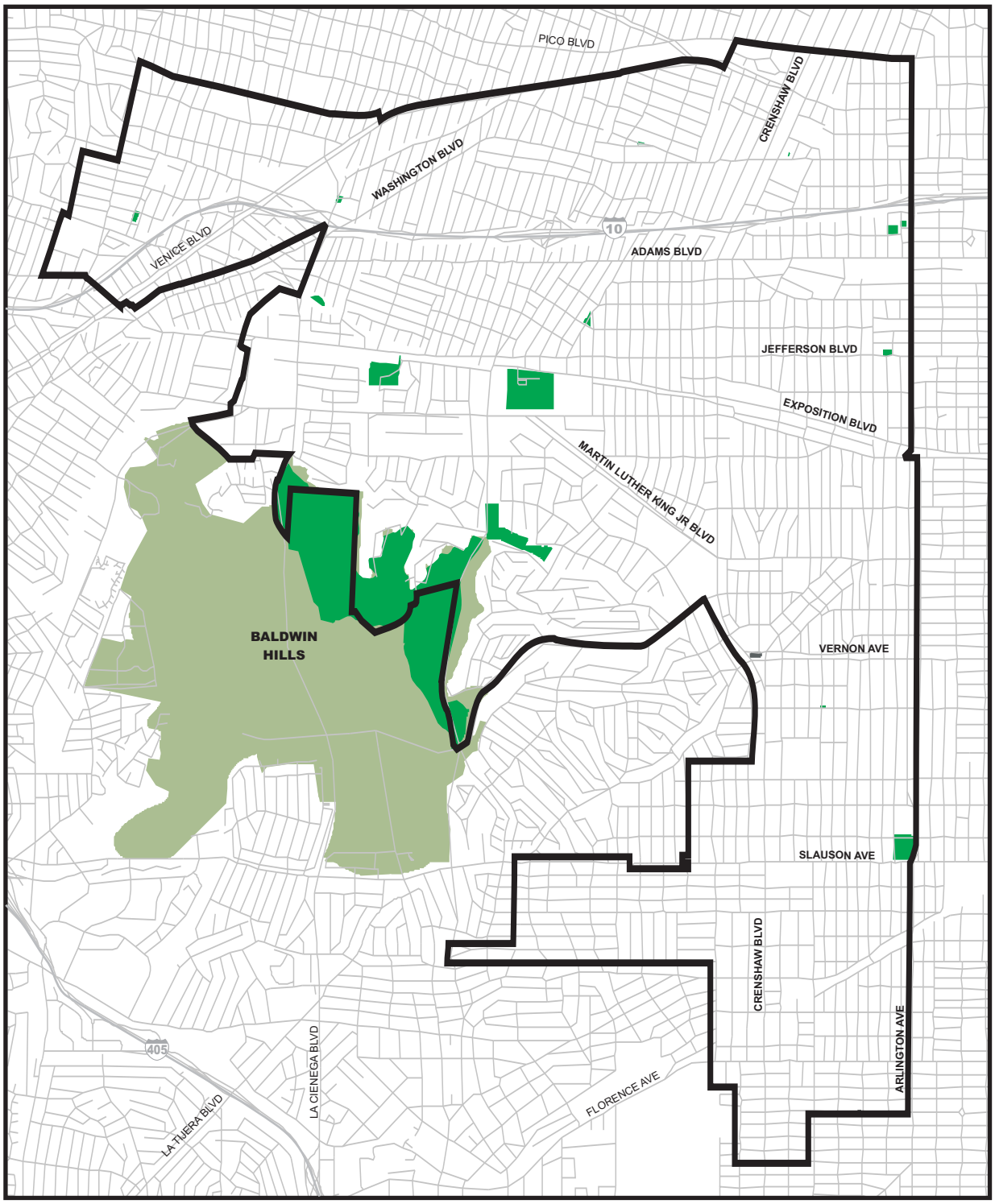
The West Adams CPA encompasses approximately 6,130 acres of land situated approximately seven miles southwest of Downtown Los Angeles and five miles northeast of Santa Monica Bay. Historically, natural habitats occupying the lands within the West Adams CPA included habitats such as annual and perennial grasslands, oak savannas and woodlands, riparian woodlands, seasonal wetlands, and seasonal and perennial streams and creeks. Over the last century, development from agriculture and urbanization has resulted in the loss or alteration of much of the natural habitats within the West Adams CPA. Many of these natural habitats have been replaced by urban development and vegetation that is mostly non-native, comprising both intentionally planted ornamental species and an array of non-native species, and seasonal and perennial waters and wetlands that have been drained, filled, or otherwise modified for development.

Though the majority of the West Adams CPA is currently occupied by residential, commercial, and industrial development, remnants of natural plant and animal habitat still exists. These habitats, shown in **Figure 4.4-1**, are located primarily within the open spaces areas (classified as publicly-owned parks and recreation lands), such as the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. The other parks and recreation lands within the West Adams CPA are completely developed with passive and active recreational facilities (e.g., picnic sites, barbecue pits, basketball courts, and tot lots), lawns and landscaped areas, and areas for parking.

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area represents one of the largest remaining expanses of natural open space in the Los Angeles Basin and is part of the larger Baldwin Hills. The Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is approximately 319 acres in size and is managed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. It is characterized by a series of hills running from north to south ascending to just over 500 feet above the coastal plain. The park includes natural habitats areas (e.g., coastal scrub, grassland, and riparian); lawns and landscaped areas; picnic sites; tot lots; a fishing lake, lotus pond, community center, restrooms, and more than seven miles of trails. Approximately 80 acres of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area lies within the southwest boundary of the West Adams CPA. Natural habitats found within the portion of park in the West Adams CPA include coastal scrub, grassland, and riparian. Seasonal and perennial waters and wetlands are also present. Each of these habitats has been degraded to varying degrees by urbanization, fragmentation, and invasion by non-native plants and animals. Other habitats, such as ruderal (weedy) and ornamental, also exist within the West Adams CPA. Habitats within the West Adams CPA are described in more detail below.

Coastal Scrub. The majority of the coastal scrub habitat within the West Adams CPA is limited to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, although patches of this habitat can also be found where it intergrades with grassland habitat immediately adjacent to the park along La Cienega Boulevard and South La Brea Avenue, as well as in the hills near Stocker Street. Within the West Adams CPA, this habitat has been substantially altered by development from agriculture and urbanization. Factors such as grazing, oil exploration, urban development, park landscaping, non-native species, improper irrigation practices, and trail establishment have affected the species composition of the coastal scrub habitat. Plant species found within this habitat in the West Adams CPA generally include a mixture of shrubs and herbs such as California sagebrush (*Artemesia californica*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California sunflower (*Encelia californica*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*).

Grassland. Grassland habitat is generally limited to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and areas immediately adjacent to the park within the West Adams CPA, occurring primarily on ridge tops and low saddle areas. This habitat is primarily comprised of non-native annual grasses interspersed with both native and non-native shrubs that generally thrive in areas surrounded by development. Common grass species found within the grassland habitat in the West Adams CPA include ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), foxtail



LEGEND:

- West Adams CPA
- Biological Resource Area
- Parks

SOURCE: City of Los Angeles, ESRI, and TAHA, 2012.

APPROX. SCALE

N

0 2,000 4,000 FEET

West Adams New Community Plan Environmental Impact Report

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

taha 2010-074

FIGURE 4.4-1

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE AREAS

barley (*Hordeum murinum*), wild oats (*Avena* spp.), and brome (*Bromus* spp.). Herbaceous annual and perennial forb species found include California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), filaree (*Erodium* spp.), mustard (*Brassica* spp.), and wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*).

Ruderal. Ruderal habitat is characterized by periodic or constant disturbances such as weed control, heavy vehicle use, disking, controlled or uncontrolled burning, or similar disruptive activities. This habitat is generally dominated by plant species that are highly adapted to disturbance. In many ways, ruderal habitat is similar to the grassland habitat described above; however, grasslands undergo fewer disturbances. Ruderal habitat is found interspersed throughout the West Adams CPA, along the boundaries of developed areas and roadways and on undeveloped/vacant lands. Species typically observed within this habitat include iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), wild radish, black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), and fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*).

Ornamental. Ornamental landscaping consists of areas supporting introduced or non-native trees, shrubs, flowers, and lawn. This habitat occurs in green belts, parks, and horticultural plantings throughout the West Adams CPA. Typical ornamental tree species include ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), blue gum (*Eucalyptus* spp.), Peruvian pepper trees, various palm trees (such as *Washingtonia* spp. and *Phoenix* spp.), and pine trees (*Pinus* spp.).

Communities and Species of Concern

Sensitive plants, plant communities, and animals that may occur within the West Adams CPA are listed in **Table 4.4-2**. This list was developed based on a search of the current database records in the vicinity of the West Adams CPA (e.g., CNDDB and CNPS Electronic Inventory records for the Inglewood, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 7.5 Minute Quadrangles) and review of the Framework Element of the Los Angeles General Plan and USFWS list of Federal Endangered and Threatened Species for the Inglewood, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangles.

There are 29 sensitive plants, three sensitive habitats or communities, and 27 sensitive animals that are known from or have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the West Adams CPA. Sensitive species occurrences within the West Adams CPA have been documented primarily from natural habitats that were once prevalent in the West Adams CPA, such as coastal scrub, grassland, and woodland habitats. Of the 29 sensitive plants, 10 plant species have occurrences documented in the CNDDB within the West Adams CPA. These species include marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), coastal dunes milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener var. titi*), Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*), Santa Barbara morning-glory (*Calystegia sepium ssp. binghamiae*), southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. australis), Los Angeles sunflower (*Helianthus nuttallii ssp. parishii*), Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*), Gambel's water cress (*Nasturtium gambelii*), and San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*). With the exception of southern tarplant, which was documented in 1957 and believed to be extinct, all of these occurrences were documented from 1899 to 1904 and are believed to be no longer present in the West Adams CPA.

The three sensitive habitats or plant communities documented in the CNDDB within the vicinity of West Adams CPA include California Walnut Woodland, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland. However, none of these communities have been documented within the West Adams CPA and none are expected to be present. In addition to the sensitive habitats or plant communities documented in the CNDDB and listed in **Table 4.4-2**, regulatory and resource agencies consider riparian habitats, seasonal and perennial waters, and wetlands sensitive. As previously discussed, these resources are documented from, or have the potential to occur, within West Adams CPA.

Of the 27 sensitive animals, 7 animals have occurrences documented in the CNDDB within the West Adams CPA. These species include monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), pallid bat (*Antrozus pallidus*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinerus*), and American badger (*Taxidea*

TABLE 4.4-2: SENSITIVE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE IN THE WEST ADAMS CPA AND VICINITY

Species/Community	Status /a/				Habitat Associations and Occurrence
	FESA	CESA	CNDDB	CNPS	
PLANT SPECIES					
Arenaria paludicola Marsh Sandwort	FE	SE	G1/ S1.1	1B.1	Marshes and swamps. Growing up through dense mats of *Typha, Juncus, Scirpus*, etc. In freshwater marsh. 10-170m. Blooms May-Aug. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1900 (record was last updated in 2007). Exact location is unknown; mapped by CNDDB as a best guess in the community of Cienega. This species is believed to be extirpated, as the area is now urban and no suitable habitat remains.
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's Milk-Vetch	FE	--	G2/ S2.1	1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Recent burns or disturbed areas; in stiff gravelly clay soils overlying granite or limestone. 4-640m. Blooms Feb-Jul. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1904 (record was last updated in 2002) in the vicinity of Cienega. Possibly extirpated.
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch	FE	SE	G2T1/ S1.1	1B.1	Coastal salt marsh. Within reach of high tide or protected by barrier beaches, more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs. 1-35m. Blooms Jun-Oct.
Astragalus tener var. titi Coastal Dunes Milk-Vetch	FE	SE	G1T1/ S1.1	1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. Moist, sandy depressions of bluffs or dunes along and near the pacific ocean; one site on a clay terrace. 1-50m. Blooms Mar-May. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1903 (record was last updated in 2003) in Hyde Park (near present day Inglewood); exact location not known. Possibly extirpated.
Atriplex parishii Parish's Brittlescale	--	--	G1G2/ S1.1	1B.1	Alkali meadows, vernal pools, chenopod scrub, playas. Usually on drying alkali flats with fine soils. 4-140m. Blooms Jun-Oct. Parish's brittlescale is presumed extirpated in Los Angeles County.
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii* Davidson's Saltscale	--	--	G5T2/ S2	1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Alkaline soil. 3-250m. Blooms Apr-Oct. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1902 (record was last updated in 2002); exact location is unknown and mapped in the vicinity of Cienega. Possibly extirpated.
California macrophylla Round-Leaved Filaree	--	--	G3/ S3.1	1B.1	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Clay soils. 15-1200m. Blooms Mar-May.
Calochortus plummerae Plummer's Mariposa Lily	--	--	G3/ S3.2	1B.2	Coastal scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Occurs on rocky and sandy sites, usually of granitic or alluvial material. Can be very common after fire. 90-1610m. Blooms May-Jul.
Calystegia sepium ssp. binghamiae Santa Barbara Morning-Glory	--	--	G5TH/ SH	1A	Coastal marshes. 0-30m. Blooms Apr-May. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1899 (record was last updated in 1996) near the town of Cienega, northeast of Baldwin Hills. Possibly extirpated.
Camissonia lewisii Lewis' Evening-Primrose	S	--	G2G3/ S	3	Coastal bluff scrub, Cismontane woodland, Coastal dunes, Coastal scrub, Valley and foothill grassland/sandy or clay. 0-300m. Blooms Mar-May (Jun).

TABLE 4.4-2: SENSITIVE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE IN THE WEST ADAMS CPA AND VICINITY

Species/Community	Status /a/				Habitat Associations and Occurrence
	FESA	CESA	CNDDB	CNPS	
Centromadia parryi ssp. *australis* Southern Tarplant	--	--	G4T2/ S2.1	1B.1	Marshes and swamps (margins), valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Often in disturbed sites near the coast; also in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass; also vernal pools. 0-425m. Blooms May-Nov. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1957 (record was last updated in 2003) on small brushy hill at northwest end of UCLA campus. Presumed extant.
Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus Salt Marsh Bird's-Beak	FE	SE	G4T2/ S2.1	1B.2	Coastal salt marsh, coastal dunes. Limited to the higher zones of the salt marsh habitat. 0-30m. Blooms May-Oct.
Dithyrea maritima Beach Spectaclepod	--	ST	G2/S2.1	1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Formerly more widespread in coastal habitats in So. Calif. Sea shores, on sand dunes, and sandy places near the shore. 3-50m. Blooms Mar-May.
Dudleya multicaulis Many-Stemmed Dudleya	--	--	G2/S2.1	1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. In heavy, often clayey soils or grassy slopes. 0-790m. Blooms Apr-Jul.
Helianthus nuttallii ssp. parishii Los Angeles Sunflower	--	--	G5TH/ SH	1A	Marshes and swamps (coastal salt and freshwater). Historical from southern California. 5-1675m. Blooms Aug-Oct. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1903 (record was last updated in 2005) from Cienega, between Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Clearing by burning in 1903 eventually caused extirpation at this site. Presumed to be extirpated.
Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula Mesa Horkelia	--	--	G4T2/ S2.1	1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy or gravelly sites. 70-810m. Blooms Feb-Jul (Sep).
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri* Coulter's Goldfields		--	G4T3/ S2.1	1B.1	Marshes and swamps (coastal salt), Playas, Vernal pools. 1-1220m. Blooms Feb-Jun. One CNDDB occurrence recorded from Hyde Park in 1901 (record was last updated in 1993). Possibly extirpated.
Nama stenocarpum Mud Nama	--	--	G4G5/ S1S2	2.2	Marshes and swamps. Lake shores, river banks, intermittently wet areas. 5-500m. Blooms Jan-Jul.
Nasturtium gambelii Gambel's Water Cress	FE	SE	G1/ S1	1B.1	Marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish). 5-330m. Blooms Apr-Oct. Nearly extinct in U.S. Known in CA from only four occurrences. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1904 (last updated in 2008) from the vicinity of Cienega. Presumed to be extirpated.
Navarretia fossalis Moran's Navarretia	FT	--	G2/ S2.1	1B.1	Vernal pools, chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas. San Diego hardpan & San Diego claypan vernal pools; in swales & vernal pools often surrounded by other habitat types. 30-1300m. Blooms Apr-Jun.
Navarretia prostrata Prostrate Navarretia	--	--	G2/ S2.1	1B.1	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Alkaline soils in grassland, or in vernal pools. 15-700m. Blooms Apr-Jul.
Nemacladus gracilis Slender Nemacladus	--	--	G3/ S3.3	4.3	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Sandy or gravelly places. 120-1900m. Blooms Mar-May.
Orcuttia californica California Orcutt Grass	FE	SE	G2/ S2.1	1B.1	Vernal pools. 15-660M. Blooms Apr-Jul.
Phacelia stellaris Brand's Star Phacelia	--	--	G1G2/ S1.1	1B.1	Coastal scrub, coastal dunes. Open areas. 5-1515m. Blooms Mar-Jun.

TABLE 4.4-2: SENSITIVE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE IN THE WEST ADAMS CPA AND VICINITY

Species/Community	Status /a/				Habitat Associations and Occurrence
	FESA	CESA	CNDDB	CNPS	
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum White Rabbit-Tobacco	--	--	G4/ S3.2	2.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Riparian woodland/sandy, gravelly. 0-2100m. Blooms (Jul) Aug-Nov (Dec).
Rorippa gambelii Gambel's Water Cress	--	--	G1/ S1.1	1B.1	Marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish). Blooms Apr-Sep.
Sidalcea neomexicana Salt Spring Checkerbloom	--	--	G4/ S2S3	2.2	Alkali playas, brackish marshes, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, Mojavean desert scrub. Alkali springs and marshes. 01500m. Blooms Mar-Jun.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino Aster	--	--	G3/ S3.2	1B.2	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, grassland. Vernally mesic grassland or near ditches, streams and springs; disturbed areas. 2-2040m. Blooms Jul-Nov. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1902 (record was last updated in 2005) from the community of Cienega. Possibly extirpated due to urbanization.
Symphyotrichum greatae Greata's Aster	--	--	G2/ S2.3	1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Mesic canyons. 800-1500m. Blooms Jun-Oct.
PLANT COMMUNITIES					
California Walnut Woodland	--	--	G2/ S2.1	--	Does not occur
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	--	--	G4/ S4	--	Does not occur
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	--	--	G4/ S4	--	Does not occur
INVERTEBRATE SPECIES					
Cicindela hirticollis gravida Sandy Beach Tiger Beetle	--	--	G5T2/ S1	--	Inhabits areas adjacent to non-brackish water along the coast of California from San Francisco bay to northern Mexico. Local historical occurrence in Redondo Beach is known to be extirpated. Clean, dry, light-colored sand in the upper zone. Subterranean larvae prefer moist sand not affected by wave action.
Cicindela senilis frosti Senile Tiger Beetle	--	--	G4T1/ S1	--	Endemic to California and adjacent Northern Mexico. Formerly this species occurred in coastal salt marshes and tidal mudflats as well as interior alkali mudflats from San Diego County north to Sonoma County and Lake County. Urbanization has apparently severely reduced or extirpated all but a few coastal populations
Danaus plexippus Monarch Butterfly	--	--	G5/ S3	--	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.
Tryonia imitator Mimic Tryonia (=California Brackishwater Snail)		--	G2G3/ S2S3	--	Inhabits coastal lagoons, estuaries and salt marshes, from Sonoma County south to San Diego County. Found only in permanently submerged areas in a variety of sediment types; able to withstand a wide range of salinities.

TABLE 4.4-2: SENSITIVE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE IN THE WEST ADAMS CPA AND VICINITY

Species/Community	Status /a/				Habitat Associations and Occurrence
	FESA	CESA	CNDDB	CNPS	
Socalchemmis gertschi Gertsch's Socalchemmis Spider	--	--	G1/ S1	--	Known from only two localities in Los Angeles County: Brentwood and Topanga Canyon.
Coelus globosus globose dune beetle	--	--	G1/ S1	--	Inhabitant of coastal sand dune habitat, from bodega head in Sonoma county south to enemata, Mexico. Inhabits foredunes and sand hummocks; it burrows beneath the sand surface and is most common beneath dune vegetation.
Carolella busckana Busck's Gallmoth	--	--	G1G3/ SH	--	Known from coastal sand dune locations.
FISH SPECIES					
Eucyclogobius newberryi Tidewater Goby	FE	--	G3/ S2S3 CSC	--	Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.
Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni Unarmored Threespine Stickleback	FE	SE	G5T1/ S1 FP	--	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small southern California streams. Cool (<24 C), clear water with abundant vegetation.
Oncorhynchus mykiss Southern Steelhead – Southern California ESU	FT	--	G5T2Q/ S2 CSC	--	Santa Maria River south to southern extent of the species range (San Mateo Creek in San Diego County). Likely have greater physiological tolerances to warmer water and more variable conditions.
REPTILE SPECIES					
Actinemys marmorata pallid Southwestern Pond Turtle	--	--	G3G4T2T3Q/ S2	--	Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types; below 6000 ft elev. Require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks. Need suitable nesting sites, food sources (plants, aquatic invertebrates, and carrion), and few predators (raccoons, introduced fishes, and bullfrogs).
Phrynosoma coronatum (*blainvillii population*) Coast (San Diego) Horned Lizard	--	--	G4G5/ S3S4 CSC	--	Inhabits coastal sage scrub and chaparral in arid and semi-arid climate conditions. Prefers friable, rocky, or shallow sandy soils.
BIRD SPECIES					
Athene cunicularia Burrowing Owl	--	--	G4/ S2 CSC burrow sites and some wintering sites	--	Found in open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1921 (last updated in 2003) from Hermon Hills, Los Angeles. No other location information given. Mapped as a 5 mile radius circle at the lat/ long coordinates given in MVZ records (max error distance given as 40 miles). Presumed extant.
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus Western Snowy Plover	FT nesting	--	G4T3/ S2 CSC nesting	--	Sandy beaches, salt ponds levees and shores or large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.

TABLE 4.4-2: SENSITIVE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE IN THE WEST ADAMS CPA AND VICINITY

Species/Community	Status /a/ FESA	CESA	CNDDB	CNPS	Habitat Associations and Occurrence
Empidonax traillii extimus Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	FE nesting	SE nesting	G5T1T2/ S1	--	Breeds in riparian woodlands, particularly those dominated by willows and cottonwoods. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1894 (last updated in 2005) no other location information given, mapped in the general vicinity of Los Angeles. Presumed extant.
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus California Black Rail	--	ST	G4T1/ S1	--	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows & shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that does not fluctuate during the year & dense vegetation for nesting habitat.
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi Belding's Savannah Sparrow	--	--	G5T3/ S3	--	Inhabits coastal salt marshes, from Santa Barbara South through San Diego County. Nests in pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*) on and about margins of tidal flats. Nests on the ground in natural depression or scrape, primarily in pickleweed habitat at the higher levels of the marsh, above the reach of the highest spring tides.
Polioptila californica californica Coastal California Gnatcatcher	FT	--	G3T2/ S2 CSC	--	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft in southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.
Sterna antillarum browni California Least Tern	FE nesting colony	SE nesting colony	G4T2T3Q/ S2S3 FP	--	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.
MAMMAL SPECIES					
Antrozous pallidus Pallid Bat	--	--	G5/S3 CSC	--	Arid deserts and grasslands, often near rocky outcrops and water. Usually roosts in rock crevice or building, less often in cave, tree hollow, mine, etc. Prefers narrow crevices in caves as hibernation sites. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1932 (record was last updated in 2006) in the general vicinity of Palms, near Culver City); however, the exact location is unknown. Presumed extant.
Eumops perotis californicus Western Mastiff Bat	--	--	G5T4/ S3 CSC	--	Found in many open, semi-arid to arid habitats. Habitats used include conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, and grasslands. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1921 (last updated in 2006). Mapped in the general vicinity of Palms, but exact location is unknown. Presumed extant.
Lasionycteris noctivagans Silver-Haired Bat	--	--	G5/ S3S4	--	Primarily a coastal and montane forest dweller feeding over streams, ponds and open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark, abandoned woodpecker holes and rarely under rocks. Needs drinking water.
Lasiurus cinereus Hoary Bat	--	--	G5/ S4	--	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water. One CNDDB occurrence recorded in 1939 (last updated in 2007) mapped as best estimate centered on Palms, near Culver City, but exact location is unknown. Presumed extant.

TABLE 4.4-2: SENSITIVE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE IN THE WEST ADAMS CPA AND VICINITY

Species/Community	Status /a/				Habitat Associations and Occurrence
	FESA	CESA	CNDDB	CNPS	
Microtus californicus stephensi South Coast Marsh Vole	--	--	G5T1T2/ S1S2 CSC	--	Tidal marshes in Los Angeles, Orange and Southern Ventura Counties.
Nyctinomops femorosaccus Pocketed Free-Tailed Bat	--	--	G4/ S2S3 CSC	--	Variety of arid areas in Southern California; pine-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, palm oasis, desert wash, desert riparian. Rocky areas with high cliffs.
Nyctinomops macrotis Big Free-Tailed Bat	--	--	G5/ S2 CSC	--	Low-lying arid areas in Southern California. Need high cliffs or rocky outcrops for roosting sites. Feeds principally on large moths.
Taxidea taxus American Badger			G5/ S4 CSC	--	Prefers open areas and may also frequent brushlands with little groundcover. When inactive, occupies underground burrow. One CNDDB occurrence (last updated in 2005) in vicinity Los Angeles; exact location is unknown. Presumed extant.

/a/Status Codes:
FESA (Federal Endangered Species Act of 1972, as amended): FE = Federally listed as Endangered; FT = Federally listed as Threatened; FD = Federally delisted (monitored for five years).
CESA (California Endangered Species Act): CE = State listed as Endangered CT = State listed as Threatened CR = State listed as Rare.
CNDDB (California Natural Diversity Database) G, T, S-rank CNDDB element rankings: The global rank (G-rank) is a reflection of the overall condition of an element throughout its global range, with G1 being the most rare and G5 being the least rare. Subspecies receive a T-rank attached to the G-rank. The state rank (S-rank) is a reflection of the overall condition of an element throughout California, sometimes with threat designation attached. CSC – California Species of Special Concern.
CNPS (California Native Plant Society): List 1A = Plants presumed extinct in California; List 1B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere; List 2 = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; List 3 = Plants about which we need more information – a review list; List 4 = Plants of limited distribution – a watch list Threat Ranks CNPS threat rank. Threat Ranks: 0.1 = Seriously threatened in California; 0.2 = Fairly threatened in California; 0.3 = Not very threatened in California. These ranks are extensions added onto the CNPS List.
SOURCE: California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Habitat Data Analysis Branch, *California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Rarefind [CD-ROM – Inglewood, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangles],* 2008; California Native Plant Society, Inventory of Rare And Endangered Plants Of California website, *http://cnps.site.aplus.net/cgi-bin/inv/inventory.cgi*, accessed February 14, 2012; City of Los Angeles, *Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report, State Clearing House No.: 94071030*, 1995; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, List of Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that Occur in or May be Affected by Projects in the Inglewood, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office website, *http://www.fws.gov/ventura/esprograms/listing%5Fch/*, accessed February 14, 2012.

taxus). Although these occurrences were documented from as early as 1984 (Southwestern Willow Flycatcher) to as late as 1991 (Burrowing Owl), all of these occurrences are presumed to be extant in the West Adams CPA.

Riparian Habitat

Within the West Adams CPA, riparian habitat is limited to small areas in the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Due to extensive hydrologic modification, riparian habitat along Ballona Creek and tributary streams is virtually nonexistent. Because no significant watercourses presently flow through the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and the existing riparian habitat is supported largely by landscape maintenance or its runoff or other runoff within the park, this habitat includes patches of only a limited number of plant species typically associated with riparian vegetation in the region, such as arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*).

Wetlands

Ballona Creek is the only significant watercourse within the West Adams CPA, although other waters and wetlands may be present in the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area portion of the West Adams CPA. Historically, Ballona Creek was a meandering stream, lined with dense riparian vegetation. However, as urban development moved west of Downtown Los Angeles, the creek became channelized. Today, Ballona Creek is constrained in underground culverts and open concrete channels. Such flood control structures provide no opportunity for the establishment of vegetation typically associated with watercourses in the region.

Migratory Birds

The movement and migration of wildlife species has been substantially altered due to habitat fragmentation over the past century. This fragmentation has most commonly been caused by development, which can result in large patches of land becoming inaccessible and forming a virtual barrier between undeveloped areas, or resulting in roads which, although narrow, may result in barriers to smaller or less mobile wildlife species. Habitat fragmentation results in isolated islands of habitat, which affects wildlife behavior, foraging activity, reproductive patterns, immigration and emigration or dispersal capabilities, and survivability.

Wildlife corridors play an important role in countering habitat fragmentation. A wildlife corridor is a linear landscape element which serves as a linkage between historically connected habitats or landscapes that are otherwise separated and is meant to provide avenues along which wildlife can travel, migrate, and meet mates; plants can propagate; genetic interchange can occur; populations can move in response to environmental changes and natural disasters; and individuals can re-colonize habitats from which populations have been locally extirpated.[2,3] Corridors can consist of a sequence of stepping-stones across the landscape (i.e., discontinuous areas of habitat such as isolated wetlands and roadside vegetation), continuous lineal strips of vegetation and habitat (e.g., riparian strips and ridge lines), or they may be parts of larger habitat areas selected for its known or likely importance to local wildlife.

Due to considerable residential, commercial, and industrial development within and surrounding the West Adams CPA and vicinity, including a network of busy roads, the West Adams CPA does not provide viable linkages or migration corridors between habitat areas. To the extent that small and fragmented patches of remnant habitats occur within the West Adams CPA, they have become virtual islands of habitat and provide limited opportunity for wildlife movement and exchange of genetic material. Wildlife movement between the West Adams CPA and other regional open space is likely to be very restricted (except for bird species) due to the lack of physical linkages and existing barriers (e.g., roads). Such movement is sporadic and very

[2]McEuen, A., *The Wildlife Corridor Controversy: A Review*, Endangered Species Update, Vol. 10, Nos. 11 & 12, October 1993.
[3]Beir, Paul and Steve Loe, *In My Experience: A Checklist for Evaluating Impacts to Wildlife Movement Corridors*, Wildlife Society Bulletin Vol. 20 No. 4, Winter 1992.

unlikely to result in a significant exchange in genetic material or linkage of the West Adams CPA to core habitat areas beyond the West Adams CPA limits. Therefore, the West Adams CPA does not act as a true wildlife corridor, movement pathway, or linkage of note between larger habitat areas for terrestrial wildlife; however, trees within the West Adams CPA could potentially support migratory birds.

Tree Preservation

There are 187 Heritage Trees within the West Adams CPA.[4] Of these, five are protected under the City of Los Angeles Tree Preservation Ordinance. The five tree species that are included in the City's Protected Tree Ordinance are the Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*), Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica*), and California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*).[5]

Habitat Conservation Plans

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), designated under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act, are federal planning documents required when a project will affect a species identified as listed, non-listed, or eligible under the act and detail how those impacts will be minimized, or mitigated; and how the HCP is to be funded. Currently, there are no species identified within the West Adams CPA that are protected by the Endangered Species Act and thus, no applicable HCPs.

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant impact related to biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native residents or migratory wildlife corridors or impeded the use of native wildlife nursery sites; and/or
- Conflict with any local polices or ordinance protection biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; and/or
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other adopted local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guidelines

In addition, based on the criteria set forth in the City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006), the determination of significance shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the following factors.

[4]City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Navigate LA website, *http://navigatela.lacity.org*, accessed February 15, 2012.

[5]City of Los Angeles, Urban Forestry Division website, *http://www.laparks.org/dos/forest/urbanforest.htm*, accessed February 15, 2012.

For impacts related to biological resources:

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

A project would normally have a significant impact on biological resources if it could 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;
- 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.

IMPACTS

The proposed project is the adoption of the West Adams New Community Plan and its implementing ordinances. These ordinances, which include standards and guidelines for projects within the West Adams CPA, include a Community Plan Implementation Overlay District (CPIO) containing several subdistricts throughout the plan area, as well as amendments to the existing Crenshaw Corridor Specific Plan. The proposed project further involves General Plan Amendments and zone changes to create consistency with the City's General Plan Framework Element, as well as create consistency between both planned and existing uses of parcels and their relationship to surrounding areas. Through implementation of the CPIO, the proposed project further restricts detrimental uses, incentivizes development in targeted areas, and provides development standards to ensure that new construction is consistent with neighborhood character, as well as corrects minor errors within the existing West Adams Community Plan. While there are biological resources within the West Adams CPA, they are subject to the federal, State, and local policies and guidelines mentioned above; therefore, the proposed West Adams New Community Plan and its implementing ordinances do not contain any specific guidelines that would affect biological resources.

Construction

The West Adams New Community Plan describes the capacity for future development for a portion of the City. While the proposed project includes a series of implementing ordinances, it is not an implementation plan in and of itself, and its adoption does not constitute a commitment to any project-specific construction. However, construction related to future capacity within the West Adams CPA would have the following potential effects.

Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Species

The majority of the West Adams CPA is fully urbanized, containing primarily residential, commercial, and industrial development. However, important plant and animal habitats still exist, primarily within the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area situated in the southwest boundary of the West Adams CPA (**Figure 4.4-1**, above). Many of the land use changes under the proposed project consist of General Plan Amendments to create consistency with Framework Land Use designations. However, the West Adams New Community Plan could potentially result in some development or infrastructure projects on undeveloped/vacant lands within the West Adams CPA. As most of this development would be infill of existing urban spaces, these projects are not expected to directly impact candidate, sensitive, or special status plant and animal species or habitats listed in **Table 4.4-2**, above. Similarly, areas which have the capacity for more intense development (transit-oriented development (TOD) areas located at Venice/National Boulevards, Jefferson/La Cienega Boulevards, La Brea/Farmdale Avenues and on Crenshaw Boulevard along the Crenshaw/LAX Corridor LRT) that would be allowed under the proposed project would not directly impact habitats which are considered significant for candidate, sensitive, or special status species. Furthermore, no changes in land use patterns would occur at the portion of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area that is located within the West Adams CPA. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

Riparian Habitat

As discussed, within the West Adams CPA, riparian habitat is limited to small areas in the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. No changes in land use patterns would occur at the portion of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area that is located within the West Adams CPA. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to riparian habitat.

Wetlands

Ballona Creek is the only significant water course in the West Adams CPA. The Ballona Creek in the West Adams CPA is a concrete-lined channel that does not support wetland flora or fauna. Although wetlands could potentially be located within the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area portion of the West Adams CPA, no changes in land use patterns would occur at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Most of the development under the proposed project would be infill of existing urban spaces. These projects are not expected to directly impact federally- or State-protected waters and wetlands that may be present on the undeveloped/vacant lands within the West Adams CPA.

In addition to existing City Codes, regulatory requirements, and policies, environmental review would be required under CEQA for any specific project that could adversely impact an area that supports protected waters and wetlands identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by ACOE, CDFG, or RWQCB. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to wetlands.

Migratory Birds

The West Adams CPA does not act as a true wildlife corridor, movement pathway, or linkage of note between larger habitat areas for terrestrial wildlife. However, trees within the West Adams CPA could potentially support migratory birds. Additionally, construction activities associated with potential projects in these areas could impact non-status nesting birds, which are protected by the MBTA and California Fish and

Game Code (refer to Regulatory Framework above), by removal or destruction of an active nest (defined as a nest with eggs or young being attended by one or more adults) or direct mortality or injury of individual birds. In order to mitigate this impact, all projects would be subject to the regulatory permitting process as required under the federal and State regulations related to the protection of migratory birds, as well as General Plan policies that protect wildlife habitat linkages and corridors.

As stated above, while the majority of the West Adams CPA currently encompasses residential, commercial, and industrial development, migratory bird species still exist. These habitats are located primarily on lands within Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area situated in the southwest boundary of the West Adams CPA (**Figure 4.4-2**). Many of the land use changes under the proposed project consist of General Plan Amendments to create consistency with Framework Land Use designations. However, the proposed project could potentially result in some development or infrastructure projects on undeveloped/vacant lands within the West Adams CPA.

The Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area would remain open space and no substantial changes in land use patterns are proposed as a result of the West Adams New Community Plan and implementing ordinances. As most of the new development in the West Adams Community Plan area would be infill of existing urban spaces, these projects are not expected to directly impact migratory bird species or habitats. Similarly, as mentioned above, TOD areas do not include areas that act as a true wildlife corridors, movement pathways, or linkages of note between larger habitat areas for terrestrial wildlife; however, trees within these TOD areas could potentially support migratory birds. Additionally, construction activities associated with potential projects in these areas could adversely impact non-status nesting birds, which are protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code (refer to Regulatory Framework above), by removal or destruction of an active nest (defined as a nest with eggs or young being attended by one or more adults) or direct mortality or injury of individual birds.

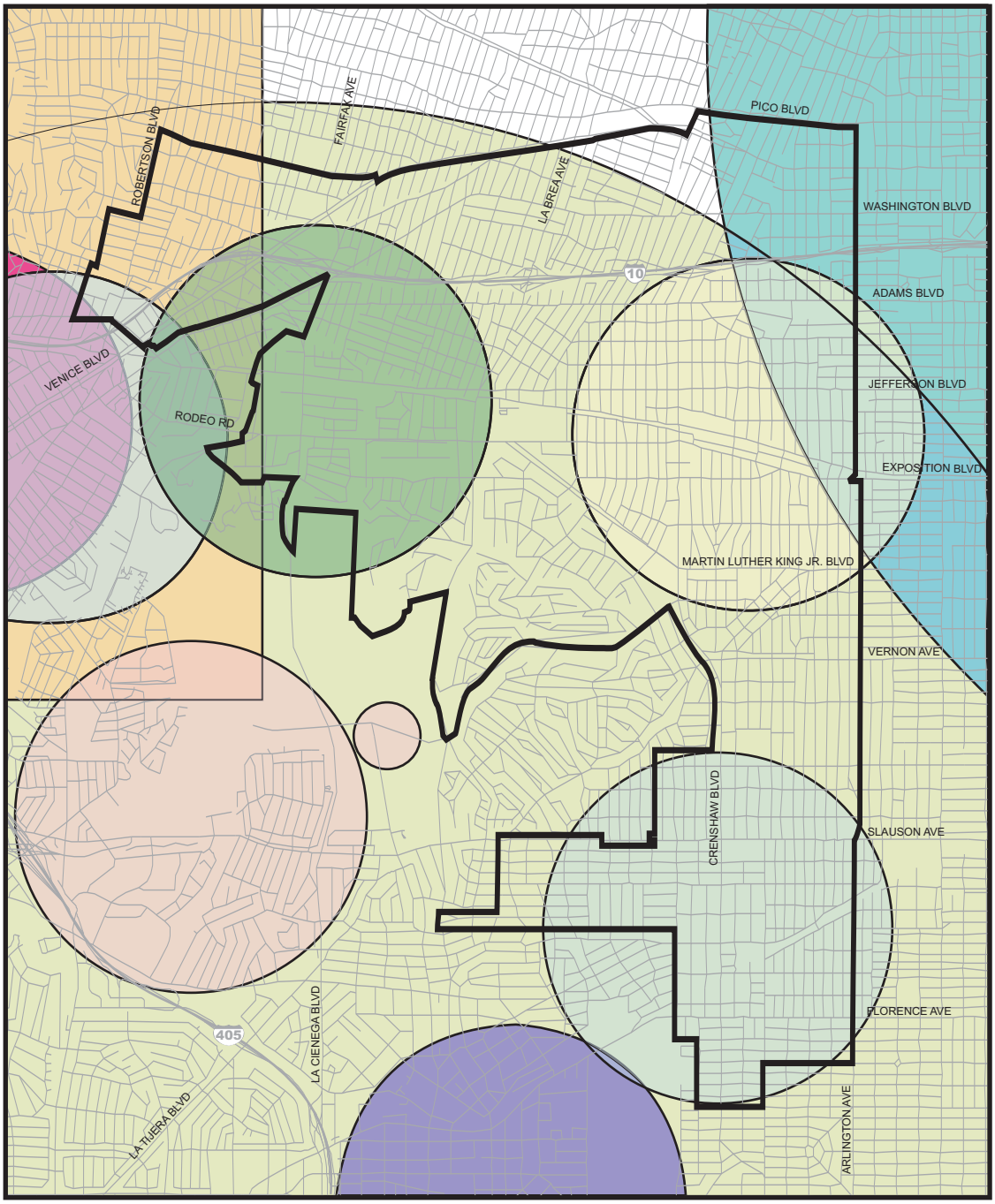
As required by the MBTA and CDFG Codes, construction activities from any projects (by-right or discretionary) that could occur as a result of the West Adams New Community Plan would be subject to conditions of approval by the City and applicable federal and State laws pertaining to the protection of nesting birds. In addition to existing City Codes, regulatory requirements, and policies, environmental review would be required under CEQA for any discretionary project that could impact movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species. Therefore, individual discretionary projects would undergo environmental review under CEQA and would be subject to the regulatory permitting process as required under the federal and State regulations related to the protection of migratory birds, as well as General Plan policies that protect wildlife habitat linkages and corridors. Additionally, construction activities associated with potential projects in these areas could impact protected native tree species, which are protected by the MBTA and CDFG Code (refer to Regulatory Framework above), by removal or destruction of an active nest (defined as a nest with eggs or young being attended by one or more adults) or direct mortality or injury of individual birds. Therefore, without mitigation, the proposed project would result in a significant impact related to migratory birds.

Tree Preservation

Many areas within the West Adams CPA are known to have protected tree species. Many of the land use changes under the proposed project consist of General Plan Amendments to create consistency with Framework Land Use designations. However, implementation of the proposed project could result in development or infrastructure projects on parcels that are adjacent to protected tree species. Specific development and infrastructure projects have the potential to result in the loss of protected trees within the West Adams CPA. Therefore, without mitigation, the proposed project would result in a significant impact related to tree preservation.

Habitat Conservation Plans

Currently, there are no species identified within the West Adams CPA that are protected by the Endangered Species Act and thus, no applicable HCPs. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to HCPs.



LEGEND:

- West Adams CPA
- Coastal dunes milk-vetch
- Coulter's goldfields
- Southern tarplant
- Monarch butterfly
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, Burrowing owl, American badger
- South coast marsh vole, Coastal California gnatcatcher
- Pocketed free-tailed bat, Southern tarplant, Spreading navarretia, Prostrate vernal pool navarretia
- Santa Barbara morning-glory, Braunton's milk-vetch, Davidson's saltscale, marsh sandwort, San Bernardino aster, Gambel's water cress, Los Angeles sunflower
- Hoary bat, Pallid bat, Western mastiff bat

APPROX. SCALE

N

0 0.4 0.8 MILES

SOURCE: Department of Fish and Game, Biogeographic Data Branch, California Natural Diversity Database, 2012.

FIGURE 4.4-2

CALIFORNIA NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE RESOURCES

Operations

Operation of the proposed project would not affect biological resources. Therefore, no further discussion of operational impacts is necessary.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Construction

The West Adams New Community Plan describes the capacity for future development for a portion of the City. While the proposed project includes a series of implementing ordinances, it is not an implementation plan in and of itself, and its adoption does not constitute a commitment to any project-specific construction. However, construction related to future capacity within the West Adams CPA would require the following mitigation measures.

Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Species

Impacts related to candidate, sensitive, or special status species and habitats would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Riparian Habitat

Impacts related to riparian habitats would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Wetlands

Impacts related to wetlands would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Migratory Birds

BR1 As a condition of approval for any Discretionary or "*Active Change Area Project*", as defined in Section 3.4 of the Project Description, the City shall require that in order to prevent the disturbance of nesting native and/or migratory bird species, all clearing of a project site should take place between September 1 and February 14. If construction is scheduled or ongoing during bird nesting season (February 15 to August 31), qualified biologists shall survey the area within 200 feet (or up to 300 feet, depending on topography or other factors, and 500 feet for raptors) of the construction activity to determine if construction would disturb nesting birds. If nesting activity is being compromised, construction shall be suspended in the vicinity of the nest until fledging is complete. This mitigation measure shall be implemented by a qualified biologist under contract with the project applicant(s). The project biologist should prepare a report detailing the results of the construction monitoring efforts. The report should be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) within two months of the completion of the monitoring activities.

Tree Preservation

BR2 As a condition of approval for any Discretionary or "*Active Change Area Project*", as defined in Section 3.4 of the Project Description, the City shall require that during the final design phase of the proposed project, and prior to the start of the demolition/construction phase, the project applicant shall submit a final landscape plan to the City of Los Angeles for approval by the City's Chief Forester and the Director of the Bureau of Street Services. The final landscape plan shall include provisions to either protect in place the existing protected trees in or adjacent to the project site, per the requirements of the City of Los Angeles Tree Preservation Ordinance.

Habitat Conservation Plans

Impacts related to HCPs would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Operations

No operational impacts related to biological resources would occur. No mitigation measures are required.

SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACTS AFTER MITIGATION

Construction

The West Adams New Community Plan describes the capacity for future development for a portion of the City. While the proposed project includes a series of implementing ordinances, it is not an implementation plan in and of itself, and its adoption does not constitute a commitment to any project-specific construction. However, construction related to future capacity within the West Adams CPA would have the following significance after mitigation.

Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Species

Impacts related to candidate, sensitive, or special status species were determined to be less than significant without mitigation.

Riparian Habitat

Impacts related to riparian habitats were determined to be less than significant without mitigation.

Wetlands

Impacts related to wetlands were determined to be less than significant without mitigation.

Migratory Birds

Impacts related to migratory birds were determined to be significant without mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **BR1** would reduce the impacts to less than significant.

Tree Preservation

Impacts related to tree preservation were determined to be significant without mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **BR2** would reduce the impacts to less than significant.

Habitat Conservation Plans

Impacts related to HCPs were determined to be less than significant without mitigation.

Operations

No operational impacts related to biological resources would occur.