

## APPENDIX E

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Biological Resources Assessment  
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***BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
SIERRA CANYON HIGH SCHOOL***

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# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED SIERRA CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

## INTRODUCTION

The 4.29-acre proposed Sierra Canyon High School property is located at the northern terminus of Lurline Avenue in the northwestern San Fernando Valley community of Chatsworth, in the City and County of Los Angeles. The property is bounded on the north by a Department of Water and Power open space corridor that parallels State Highway 118 (the Ronald Reagan Freeway), and on the west by an empty lot. Nashville Street defines the southwestern corner of the property, and the extension of Rinaldi Street defines the eastern and southeastern boundary of the project site. Grading of the future roadway is underway and all vegetation has been cleared within the right-of-way.

The property is relatively flat, sloping gradually upward from south to north with an elevation of 1081 ft at Nashville Street and 1150 ft at the highest point along the northern boundary. A sinuous 20-foot-high, 10- to 30-foot-wide embankment runs east-west through the property. There are no defined natural drainages, culverts, or other drainage improvements on the property. Existing structures on the property are a large two-story residence and attached garage, a swimming pool, pool house, and small gazebo. An entrance drive serving the existing residence enters the property off of Lurline Avenue. Adjacent and/or local land uses are primarily medium- to high-density residential on the east, south, and west, with the open space corridor and 118 Freeway to the north.

The proposed action is the construction of a private high school which will include an administration building, an education building, parking lot, gate house at the entrance, and a gymnasium with additional parking.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Assessments of the biological resources present on the property were made on 8 March 2002 and 7 November 2004 by Larry Munsey International biologists. The results of this survey are presented below.

### VEGETATION

The vegetation on the property is ruderal and ornamental (Figure 1). The northern portion of the site on the higher terrace is comprised almost entirely of landscaped ornamental plants (2.45 acres), as this area encompasses the existing residence and associated improvements and landscaping for that property. The southwestern portion of the site, which encompasses the lower terrace below the existing estate property, is comprised entirely of fallow fields (1.84 acres). Of the approximately 70 plant species recorded, 48 (69 percent) were ornamentals. The remaining 22 (31 percent) were ruderal plants or native trees (2 species). Seven of the 22 ruderals (32 percent) are natives, the rest being non-native; however, no native plant communities (e.g., chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley grassland) occur on the property.

### Native Plants

The only native tree species on the property are three Mexican elderberries (*Sambucus mexicanus*) and three California walnuts (*Juglans californica*). All but one of these trees are along the southern perimeter of the site. The other, a small walnut tree, is near the southern perimeter. No oak trees, including the California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) or valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), both of which are protected by the City of Los Angeles' Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance No. 153,478), are present on the project site; however, a mature valley oak is found just off-site on the DWP property. Several small clumps of laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), a native shrub, were found just off-site to the west. Horsetweed (*Conyza canadensis*), saw-toothed goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa* ssp. *grindelioides*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), rancher's fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii*), and caterpillar phacelia (*Phacelia cicutarium*) were the only native annuals found, and they were present only in small numbers in the ruderal association.

### Non-native Ruderals

Ruderal vegetation dominates the lower terrace and the western end of the upper terrace (Figure 1). Species typically found in the ruderal association are annuals and biennials. The most common species on the property were non-native grasses, with Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum murinum*), foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), and rip-gut grass (*Bromus diandrus*) dominant. Some wild oat (*Avena* sp.) was also present, and smilo grass (*Piptatherum miliaceum*) was common just below the slope separating the two terraces. Patchily or sparsely distributed non-grasses included tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), common sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), short-podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and Bermuda butter-cup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*). Other species were present in smaller numbers. Only five species found in this plant association (excluding the two native tree species) are native to the area (see above). It appears that these relatively flat ruderal areas persist because of frequent mowing, as no perennials were found away from the slopes and fence lines.

### Ornamental Association

Ornamental trees and shrubs have been planted extensively as landscaping in association with the house, pool area, Gazebo, entrance road, and pathways, as well as around the perimeter of the estate property. Theme trees in the landscaping scheme are eucalyptus, palms, pines and other conifers, figs, and pepper trees. Several large blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and one Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra*) are the tallest trees on the property and dominate the landscape when viewed from a distance. Approximately 57 percent of the property (2.45 acres), counting lawn areas, is landscaped with ornamentals (Figure 1). Of the 297 trees (trunk diameter equal to or greater than six inches at breast height) counted on the property, 135 are palms, 38 are figs or mulberries, 38 are cypress or junipers, 26 are pines or cedars, and 22 are eucalyptus. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the ornamental tree species located on the property.

**TABLE 1  
NATIVE AND ORNAMENTAL TREES ON-SITE**

Native to Site:		Chinese windmill palm	2
Mexican elderberry	3	Coral tree	2
California black walnut	3	Floss silk tree	2
Planted (Ornamental) :		Fruitless mulberry	2
Canary Island date palm	65	Mediterranean fan palm	2
Mexican fan palm	50	Peruvian pepper tree	2
Indian laurel fig	33	Weeping fig	2
Aleppo pine	21	Australian banyan	1
Italian cypress	20	Banana	1
Blue gum (eucalyptus)	17	California fan palm	1
Arizona cypress	16	Jacaranda	1
Queen palm	14	Lemon	1
Brazilian pepper tree	10	Lombardy poplar	1
Deodar cedar	5	Red ironbark (eucalyptus)	1
Red gum (eucalyptus)	4	Senegal date palm	1
Shamel ash	4	Shiny Xylosma	1
Carrot wood	3	Silk oak	1
Chinese elm	2	Tree-of-Heaven	1
Chinese juniper	2	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297</b>

### **WILDLIFE**

As expected, birds far outnumbered other vertebrate wildlife species identified on the property. Of 35 vertebrate species recorded, all but three were birds (see Appendix). The other three were mammals:

Beechey ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), and Audubon's cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). The coyote (*Canis latrans*) may also occur occasionally, and several species of rats and mice, both native and non-native, are likely to occur but are not likely to be detected without trapping. Two species of reptiles, the western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), were not recorded but should also be present on the property. The southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), and perhaps one or two snake species, could occur on the property as well but were not detected. The only amphibian species with the potential to occur on the site are the common black-bellied slender salamander (*Batrachoseps nigriventris*) and Pacific treefrog (*Hyla regilla*).

Bird distribution and abundance, however, is more complex. Birds can move easily from place to place with few physical barriers to impede their movement, and many species such as hawks, swifts, and swallows forage over large expanses of open land. Of the 32 species recorded during the survey, 18 are likely to breed on or in the vicinity of the property, five breed sparingly in coastal southern California and disperse widely to other areas, including the project site, eight are winter visitors, and one is a transient. The most common species observed were: mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). All recorded wildlife species, except for the fox squirrel, are native to the area. All species recorded on the property are listed in the appendix.

### SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Considered in this section are species of plants and wildlife known to be present, or having the potential to be present, on or within the vicinity of the project site that have been afforded special recognition by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations, principally due to the species' declining or limited population sizes, resulting in many cases from habitat modification or loss. Sources used to determine sensitivity status of biological resources include: **plants** -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 1997), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG 1998a), California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFG 2004), and California Native Plant Society (Tibor 2001); and **wildlife** -- USFWS (1997), CDFG (1998b), California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFG 2002), California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Database System (CDFG 1991), Jennings and Hayes (1994), CDFG and PRBO (in press), and Williams (1986).

### Definitions of Special Status Designations

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

A **proposed threatened or endangered species** is one officially proposed by the USFWS for addition to the federal threatened or endangered species lists.

The State of California considers an **endangered species** one whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy; a **threatened species** is one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it is considered likely to become an endangered species in the near future in the absence of special protection or management; and a **rare species** is one present in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. The designation "rare species" applies only to California native plants. State threatened and endangered species include both plants and wildlife -- but do not include invertebrates -- and are legally protected against "take", as this

term is defined in the California Endangered Species Act (California Fish & Game Code Section 2050 *et seq.*).

**Species of special concern** is an informal designation used by the CDFG for some declining wildlife species that are not officially listed as endangered, threatened, or rare. This designation does not provide legal protection, but signifies that these species are recognized as sensitive by CDFG.

Species that are **California fully protected** include those protected by special legislation for various reasons, such as the mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus caeruleus*).

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a statewide resource conservation organization that has developed an inventory of California's special status plant species (Tibor 2001). This inventory is a summary of information on the distribution, rarity, and endangerment of California's vascular plants. This rare plant inventory consists of four lists. CNPS presumes that **List 1A** plant species are extinct in California because they have not been seen in the wild for many years. CNPS considers **List 1B** plants as rare, threatened, or endangered throughout their range. **List 2** plant species are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common in other states. Plant species on lists 1A, 1B, and 2 meet CDFG criteria for endangered, threatened, or rare listing. Plant species for which CNPS requires additional information in order to properly evaluate their status are included on **List 3**. **List 4** plant species are those of limited distribution in California whose susceptibility to threat is considered low at this time.

#### **Special Status Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring on the Project Site**

One special status species is present on the site, the California black walnut. This species is a CNPS List 4 species (plants of limited distribution). Two of the trees are very small (trunk diameter about 6 inches), and the third is a small, multi-trunk tree with no trunks having a diameter greater than 8 inches. These trees are isolated from other California black walnuts by residential neighborhoods and a freeway and its right-of-way, and there are no known viable walnut woodlands in the area.

One former bird species of special concern, the sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) was recorded briefly on the site. This species was afforded special status only on its breeding grounds, the nearest of which are at high elevations in the San Gabriel Mountains at least 30 miles from the project site. The sharp-shinned hawk nests in the mountains, typically at elevations above 5,000 feet. It is a relatively common and widespread species in the lowlands and foothills in winter.

Several other wide-ranging bird species of current or former special concern (especially other birds of prey) may forage on the property occasionally; however, this site has no special affinity for any but the most common and widespread bird species that are adapted to surviving in highly disturbed ruderal and urban habitats.

#### **SPECIAL STATUS NATURAL COMMUNITIES**

No special status natural plant communities, such as wetlands, oak woodland, and habitat conservation planning areas, are found on the property. Nor does the property serve as a habitat buffer to any Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) or other natural areas.

#### **WILDLIFE DISPERSION**

The property does not serve as, nor is it a component of, a wildlife dispersion corridor. It is surrounded on three sides by existing residential communities and on the fourth side by a freeway and more residential development.

## **BIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES**

### **Thresholds of Significance**

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (as amended through January 1, 2000) is used by public agencies in determining whether a project may have a significant impact on biological resources. Under Appendix G, a project may have a significant impact on 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 by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in the City or regional plans, policies, or regulations by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance (e.g., oak trees or California walnut woodlands).
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

In addition, Section 15065(a) of the CEQA Guidelines establishes that a significant impact may occur if "[t]he project has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species..."

For purposes of this Draft EIR, the project is evaluated on the basis of the above criteria in determining whether or not it will cause a significant impact. An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be significant must consider the resource and how that resource fits into a regional or ecological context. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant because, although they would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish, or result in the permanent loss of, an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

The definition of "significant" depends on the resource in question. Significant impacts would be those that would diminish or result in the loss of an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, state, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant because, although they would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish, or result in the permanent loss of, an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

### **Site Development**

The proposed project would develop a high school campus over the site, of which the lower areas are currently unimproved. In order to accommodate the program within the site and utilize existing topography to minimize building heights and create a more uniform design, most existing vegetation will be removed during the course of site preparation and grading.

Much of the upper (northern) part of the site has already been developed, and new construction would occur over a largely improved area. As previously described in the Existing Conditions discussion, the project site is located in an urban area, but it also retains some rural character, as about 43 percent of the site is vacant and covered with largely ruderal vegetation, and, because its location is proximate to equestrian communities. As described in the Existing Conditions discussion, a total of 297 trees have been identified on the site, some of which have grown to over 100 feet tall. Although these ornamental trees were planted for the existing estate residence and are non-native, they are a defining feature of the site. New development would alter the site in two meaningful ways. First, development of the high school campus would occupy areas of the site that are currently vacant and largely unaltered. Approximately 10,800 cubic yards of grading will be required over the sloping embankment that runs east-west through the site, as would filling of some of the lower terrace, of which 2,400 cubic yards would require export for disposal off-site. Secondly, given the concentration of mature trees in the upper part of the site where the parking level, plaza, athletics building, and administration building would be located, most of these trees will be displaced by the project. Other vegetation throughout the site would be similarly cleared to make way for the project.

### **Impacts on Native Plant Communities**

There are no native plant communities on the site, only six small trees of two native species. These trees (three each of California black walnut and Mexican elderberry) are scattered throughout the landscaped portion of the property and do not constitute a native plant community. They do, however, represent a very small remnant of the natural plant communities that once were present in the northern San Fernando Valley before it was developed. The project would not result in adverse impacts on native plant communities.

### **Impacts on Special Status Plant Species**

One special status plant species has been identified on the site, the California black walnut. This is a CNPS List 4 species, meaning one that is of limited distribution but whose susceptibility to threat is considered low at this time. Because the three walnut trees are few, small in stature, and isolated from other trees of this species (and therefore, from a viable walnut woodland community), impacts from project construction on this species, while adverse, are considered less than significant.

### **Impacts on Special Status Wildlife**

No special status wildlife species are known to be resident on the site; although, a few special status bird species may use the property on occasion for feeding and perching (for example, hawks perch in the large trees and feed on rodents, large insects, and small birds), but none nest on the site or in the near vicinity. The loss of raptor perches provided by the trees on-site is not considered a significant impact because of the abundance of other similar trees (and perches) in the area.

### **Impacts on Wildlife Dispersion**

Wildlife corridors provide a vital link between two or more much larger areas of suitable habitat. To qualify as a wildlife corridor, a site must provide a critical connection between two or more such areas. Dispersion corridors are important for maintaining larger, genetically diverse populations (by allowing gene flow across the corridor), and for allowing seasonal access to fluctuating food and water sources. If a corridor is severed by a highway or a housing development the populations on either side become isolated. Gene flow is no longer possible. Entire populations may be cut off from a critical seasonal resource. Such is the case with the proposed Sierra Canyon High School site, which is isolated by surrounding residential neighborhoods and a freeway. As the property does not serve as a wildlife dispersion corridor, no significant adverse impacts are foreseen.

## Impacts on Ornamental Trees

Given that the proposed project involves 100 percent coverage of the existing site, it is presumed that most, if not all, of the 297 trees (those with trunks equal to or greater than six inches in diameter at breast height) will be removed during project construction. The only native trees impacted by the project are three elderberries and three California black walnut trees. The heavily landscaped property serves as an important local habitat for birds by providing shelter, nest sites, and food. The larger eucalyptus trees on the site are among the tallest trees in the area, and their dead limbs are used occasionally as perching sites by raptors (hawks and owls). However, the removal of the eucalyptus trees (or any other tall tree on the site) does not constitute a significant adverse impact because of the occurrence of similar landscaping with ornamental trees throughout much of the surrounding residential neighborhoods, as well as many other clusters of old, mature eucalyptus trees in the greater north San Fernando Valley area. The high school campus will also be landscaped with many of the same tree species, and upon maturity of the vegetation used in the landscaping, will also provide habitat for birds. Therefore, removal of roughly 297 ornamental trees, while a locally important adverse impact, would not be considered significant, as defined by CEQA (see Thresholds of Significance section, above).

## MITIGATION MEASURES

As with any development in the City of Los Angeles covering over 2,000 square feet or more of impervious surface area, the proposed high school project will be subject to the City's Landscape Ordinance (No. 170,978). The Landscape Ordinance contains a number of provisions concerning the planting of new trees and the replacement of trees removed to accommodate new development. Compliance with the Landscape Ordinance will be required as part of the project's Conditional Use Permit, regardless of whether or not the project creates a significant unmitigated impact as a result of tree loss. Provisions include the planting of one tree for every 500 square feet of landscaped area. The Landscape Ordinance distinguishes desirable trees (those requiring preservation, transplanting or replacement) from undesirable trees. Undesirable trees are those species that are less desirable from the standpoint of poor aesthetics, low value to wildlife, or inadequate conservation (e.g., high water requirements, low drought tolerance, poor provision of shade), and individuals of otherwise desirable trees that are in poor health or of poor quality.

- As partial mitigation for the loss of eucalyptus trees, an equivalent number of 24-inch boxed blue gum trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*) will be included in the landscape scheme. These trees, upon approaching maturity, will serve as observation posts for foraging hawks and other birds of prey.
- Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of CDFG's Fish and Game Code prohibit the take of any migratory non-game bird species (in accordance with the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act). If feasible, tree and brush removal prior to construction will take place outside the breeding season, September 1 to February 28/29, to avoid any nests with eggs or young that may be abandoned or destroyed. If vegetation clearing must take place during the breeding season, a qualified biologist will be retained 30 days prior to vegetation clearance to monitor on a weekly basis the protected native birds on the site for nesting activity. The last survey will be conducted no more than three days prior to initiation of vegetation clearance. If a nest with eggs or young is found or suspected, every effort will be made to avoid the area around the nest until the young have fledged. For most species, an area with a radius of 150 feet from the nest or suspected nest is to be avoided; for nesting raptors, the area of avoidance increases to 500 feet.

The Department of City Planning requires compliance with specific conditions concerning the removal of certain non-oak trees as part of the project approval process. These conditions are identified here as mitigation measures that will be imposed by the Department of City Planning as part of the CEQA process:

- Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, a plot plan prepared by a reputable tree expert as defined by Ordinance 153,478, indicating the location, size, type, and condition of all existing trees on the site shall be submitted for approval by the Department of City Planning and the Street Tree Division of the Bureau of Street Maintenance.
- The plan shall contain measures recommended by the tree expert for the preservation of as many

trees as possible. Mitigation measures such as replacement by a minimum of 24-inch box trees on the site, on a 1:1 basis (per the City's Landscape Ordinance), shall be required for the unavoidable loss of desirable trees on the site, and to the satisfaction of the Street Tree Division of the Bureau of Street Maintenance and the Advisory Agency.

- In addition to meeting the tree replacement requirements, the proposed landscaping plan shall meet all of the general goals of the Landscaping Ordinance, including a tree planting scheme that will provide sufficient shade to reduce heat attenuation around buildings and in the parking lot. Drip irrigation will be used wherever appropriate, and highly durable, drought tolerant species will be used to the maximum extent feasible. No other mitigation measures are identified or required, as the project will have a less than significant impact on plant life, wildlife, special status species, sensitive habitats or plant communities, locally protected species, regional or local conservation plans or wildlife corridors.

No other mitigation measures are identified or required, as the project will have a less than significant impact on plant life, wildlife, special status species, sensitive habitats or plant communities, locally protected species, regional or local plans conservation plans or wildlife corridors.

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**APPENDIX  
FLORAL AND FAUNAL COMPENDIA**

## INTRODUCTION TO FLORAL AND FAUNAL SURVEY

Floral components encountered during the survey were recorded in terms of relative abundance and host habitat type. Wildlife encountered on the site were recorded in terms of their seasonal status. Habitat designations used in this report are according to the classification system of Holland (1986). Floral taxonomy used in this report follows Hickman (1993) and, for sensitive species, Tibor (2001). Additional common plant names are taken from Munz (1974), Beauchamp (1986), Roberts (1989), Abrams (1923, 1944), and Abrams and Ferris (1951, 1960). Vertebrates identified in the field by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other signs are cited according to the nomenclature of Stebbins (2003) for amphibians and reptiles, AOU (1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2004) for birds, and Wilson and Ruff (1999) and Jameson and Peeters (2004) for mammals.

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**TABLE A-1  
FLORAL COMPENDIUM<sup>1</sup>**

LEGEND

HABITAT<sup>2</sup>

- R = Ruderal  
O = Ornamental

ABUNDANCE<sup>3</sup>

- c - common; a dominant species in the noted community; occurs in relatively high numbers (percent cover on the property is generally between 5 and 50 percent)
- f - frequent; occurs in moderate numbers, but not a dominant element of the noted community (percent cover on the property is generally between 1 and 5 percent)
- i - infrequent; occurs sporadically in the noted community; generally not an obvious or conspicuous component (percent cover on the property is generally less than 1 percent)
- o - occasional; occurs rarely, or only in a small portion of the noted community; often not apparent unless searched for (generally, only 1-2 individuals found)

STATUS

- \* Non-native

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- 1 This is not intended as an exhaustive listing of the vegetation occurring on the site; some annual herbs or very uncommon species may not have been detected by the field survey.
  - 2 Indicates habitat type (plant community) in which species most commonly occurs; species may occur in limited numbers or restricted localities in other communities.
  - 3 This is simply a gross indication of relative frequency of occurrence on the site. Quantitative sampling methods were not employed to arrive at these determinations.

**VASCULAR PLANTS**

Plant Community  
Ruderal | Ornamental

**GYMNOSPERMS**

**CUPRESSACEAE – CYPRESS FAMILY**

* <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>glabra</i> blue Arizona cypress	-	f	ornamental tree
* <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> Italian cypress	-	f	ornamental tree
* <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> var. <i>torulosa</i> twisted Chinese juniper	-	o	ornamental tree

**PINACEAE – PINE FAMILY**

* <i>Cedrus deodora</i> deodar cedar	-	i	ornamental tree
* <i>Pinus halepensis</i> Aleppo pine		f	ornamental tree

**ANGIOSPERMS (DICOTYLEDONS)**

**ANACARDIACEAE – SUMAC OR CASHEW FAMILY**

* <i>Schinus molle</i> Peruvian pepper tree	-	i	ornamental tree
* <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> Brazilian pepper tree	-	f	ornamental tree

**APOCYNACEAE – DOGBANE FAMILY**

* <i>Nerium oleander</i> oleander	-	o	
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**APOXACEAE – ELDERBERRY FAMILY**

<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> Mexican elderberry	i	-	native tree
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**ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY**

<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i> western ragweed	o	-	
* <i>Centaurea melitensis</i> tocalote	f	-	
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> bull thistle	i	-	
<i>Conyza canadensis</i> horseweed	i	-	
<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i> ssp. <i>grindelioides</i> saw-toothed goldenbush	i	-	
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i> telegraph weed	o	-	
* <i>Osteospermum</i> sp. African daisy	-	o	
* <i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> lavendar-cotton	-	i	
* <i>Senecio</i> sp.	o	-	

unidentified			
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> common sow thistle	f	-	
<b>BIGNONIACEAE – BIGNONIA FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> jacaranda	-	o	ornamental tree
<b>BOMBACACEAE – BOMBAX FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Chorisia speciosa</i> pink floss silk tree	-	i	ornamental tree
<b>BORAGINACEAE – BORAGE FAMILY</b>			
<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> rancher's fireweed	o	-	
<b>BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> short-podded mustard	f	-	
<b>CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> Indian-fig	-	i	
* unidentified climbing cactus (vine)	-	i	
<b>CRASSULACEAE – STONECROP FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Crassula argentea</i> jade plant	-	o	
<b>FABACEAE – LEGUME FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Erythrina caffra</i> coral tree	-	i	ornamental tree
<b>FLACOURTIACEAE –</b>			
* <i>Xylosma congestum</i> shiny xylosma	-	o	ornamental tree
<b>GERANIACEAE – GERANIUM FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> red-stemmed filaree	c	-	
* <i>Geranium</i> sp. geranium	-	i	
<b>JUGLANDACEAE – WALNUT FAMILY</b>			
<i>Juglans californica</i> California black walnut	i	-	native tree
<b>HYDROPHYLLACEAE – WATERLEAF FAMILY</b>			
<i>Phacelia cicutarium</i> caterpillar phacelia	o	-	
<b>LAMIACEAE – MINT FAMILY</b>			
* <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> horehound	o	-	

**MALVACEAE – MALLOW FAMILY**

\* *Malva parviflora*  
cheeseweed

f -

**MORACEAE – MULBERRY FAMILY**

\* *Ficus benjamina*  
weeping fig

- i ornamental tree

\* *Ficus microcarpa*  
Indian laurel fig

- f ornamental tree

\* *Ficus rubiginosa*  
Australian banyan

- o ornamental tree

\* *Morus alba*  
fruitless mulberry

- o ornamental tree

**MYRTACEAE – MYRTLE FAMILY**

\* *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*  
river red gum

- o ornamental tree

\* *Eucalyptus globulus*  
blue gum

- f ornamental tree

\* *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*  
red ironbark

- o ornamental tree

**NYCTAGINACEAE – FOUR O’CLOCK FAMILY**

\* *Bougainvillea* sp.  
bougainvillea

- f

**OLEACEAE – OLIVE FAMILY**

\* *Fraxinus uhdei*  
shamel ash

- i ornamental tree

\* *Ligustrum ovalifolium*  
privet

- o

**OXALIDACEAE – OXALIS FAMILY**

\* *Oxalis pes-caprae*  
Bermuda buttercup

- i

**PROTEACEAE – SILK OAK FAMILY**

\* *Grevillea robusta*  
silk oak

- o ornamental tree

**RUTACEAE – CITRUS FAMILY**

\* *Citrus limon*  
lemon

- o ornamental tree

**SALICACEAE – WILLOW FAMILY**

\* *Populus nigra*  
Lombardy poplar

- o ornamental tree

**SAPINDACEAE –**

\* *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*  
carrot wood

- i ornamental tree

**SIMAROUBACEAE – QUASSIA FAMILY**

\* *Ailanthus altissima*  
tree-of-heaven

- i ornamental tree

**SOLANACEAE – NIGHTSHADE FAMILY**

* <i>Datura wrightii</i> jimson weed	o	-	
* <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> tree tobacco	i	-	
* <i>Solanum</i> sp. nightshade shrub	-	i	

**ULMACEAE – ELM FAMILY**

* <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Chinese elm	-	i	ornamental tree
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**ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTYLEDONS)****ARACEAE – ARUM FAMILY**

* <i>Monstera deliciosa</i> split-leaf philodendron	-	o	
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**ARECACEAE – PALM FAMILY**

* <i>Chamaerops humilis</i> Mediterranean fan palm	-	o	ornamental tree
* <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> Canary Island date palm	-	f	ornamental tree
* <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> Senegal date palm	-	o	ornamental tree
* <i>Syagrus romanzoffianum</i> queen palm	-	f	ornamental tree
* <i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i> Chinese windmill palm	-	i	ornamental tree
* <i>Washingtonia filifera</i> California fan palm	-	o	ornamental tree
* <i>Washingtonia robusta</i> Mexican fan palm	-	c	ornamental tree

**LILIACEAE – LILY FAMILY**

* <i>Agapanthus africanus</i> blue lily-of-the-Nile	-	o	
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**MUSACEAE – BANANA FAMILY**

* <i>Musa paradisiaca</i> banana	-	i	ornamental tree
* <i>Strelitzia reginae</i> bird-of-paradise	-	i	

**POACEAE – GRASS FAMILY**

* <i>Avena</i> sp. wild oat	o	-	
* <i>Bromus diandrus</i> ripgut grass	c	-	
* <i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i> foxtail chess	c	-	
* <i>Piptatherum miliaceum</i> smilo grass	f	-	
* unidentified lawn grass	-	c	

## FAUNAL COMPENDIUM<sup>1</sup>

### LEGEND

#### SEASONALITY

- R - resident or found in vicinity year round
- W - present in winter only
- V - visitor from nearby areas
- M - migrant

#### STATUS

- \* non-native

**TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES**

	<b>Seasonal Status</b>
<b>BIRDS</b>	
<b>ARDEIDAE – HERONS</b>	
<i>Ardea alba</i> great egret	V
<b>CATHARTIDAE – NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>	
<i>Cathartes aura</i> turkey vulture	V
<b>ACCIPITRIDAE – HAWKS</b>	
<i>Accipiter striatus</i> sharp-shinned hawk	W
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> red-tailed hawk	R
<b>COLUMBIDAE – PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>	
<i>Zenaida macroura</i> mourning dove	R
<b>TROCHILIDAE – HUMMINGBIRDS</b>	
<i>Calypte anna</i> Anna's hummingbird	R
<i>Selasphorus</i> sp. rufous/Allen's hummingbird	M
<b>PICIDAE – WOODPECKERS</b>	
<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i> red-breasted sapsucker	W
<i>Picooides nuttallii</i> Nuttall's woodpecker	R
<i>Picooides pubescens</i> downy woodpecker	W
<i>Colaptes auratus</i> northern flicker	R
<b>TYRANNIDAE – TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i> black phoebe	R
<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i> Cassin's kingbird	R
<b>CORVIDAE – JAYS &amp; CROWS</b>	
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i> western scrub-jay	R
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> American crow	R
<b>HIRUNDINIDAE – SWALLOWS</b>	
<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i> violet-green swallow	V

<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> northern rough-winged swallow	V
<b>AEGITHALIDAE – BUSHTITS</b>	
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i> bushtit	R
<b>REGULIDAE – KINGLETS</b>	
<i>Regulus calendula</i> ruby-crowned kinglet	W
<b>TURDIDAE – THRUSHES</b>	
<i>Sialia mexicana</i> western bluebird	W
<i>Turdus migratorius</i> American robin	R
<b>MIMIDAE – THRASHERS</b>	
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i> northern mockingbird	R
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i> California thrasher	V
<b>BOMBYCILLIDAE – WAXWINGS</b>	
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i> cedar waxwing	W
<b>PARULIDAE – WOOD-WARBLERS</b>	
<i>Dendroica coronata</i> yellow-rumped warbler	W
<b>EMBERIZIDAE – TOWHEES, SPARROWS, &amp; JUNCOS</b>	
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i> spotted towhee	R
<i>Pipilo crissalis</i> California towhee	R
<i>Chondestes grammacus</i> lark sparrow	V
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> white-crowned sparrow	W
<i>Junco hyemalis</i> dark-eyed junco	W
<b>FRINGILLIDAE – FINCHES</b>	
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i> house finch	R
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i> lesser goldfinch	R
<b>MAMMALS</b>	
<b>SCIURIDAE – SQUIRRELS</b>	
<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i> Beechey ground squirrel	R

\* *Sciurus niger*  
eastern fox squirrel

R

**LEPORIDAE – HARES & RABBITS**

*Sylvilagus audubonii*  
Audubon's cottontail

R