

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

C. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A biological resources assessment for the proposed project was prepared in November 2004 by Larry Munsey International. The report encompasses the findings of a terrestrial survey of the site conducted on March 8, 2002 and November 7, 2004. This Draft EIR section incorporates the findings of this effort. The biological resources assessment is contained in its entirety in Appendix E of this Draft EIR.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

OVERVIEW OF SITE CONDITIONS

The 4.89-acre Sierra Canyon Secondary school site 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 overall project site is relatively flat, sloping gradually upward from south to north with an elevation of 1,081 feet at Nashville Avenue and 1,150 feet at the highest point along the northern boundary. A sinuous 15-foot-high, 10- to 30-foot-wide embankment runs east-west through the property and separates the upper and lower terraces. Existing structures on the site include a large two-story residence and attached garage, a swimming pool, pool house, and a small gazebo. The proposed extension of Rinaldi Street traverses the eastern and southeastern boundary of the property and is under separate City of Los Angeles ownership. The 2.41-acre Rinaldi Street extension right-of-way is not a part of the project site. Grading of the future roadway is underway and all vegetation has been cleared within the right-of-way. The entire project site is bounded on the north by a Department of Water and Power open space corridor that parallels State Highway 118 (the Ronald Reagan Freeway), on the west by an empty lot, and on the south and east by the future Rinaldi Street extension. 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 the 118 Freeway to the north.

VEGETATION

Vegetation Types

Vegetation on the site consists of ruderal and ornamental species as shown in **Figure IV.C-1, Vegetation Map**. The northern, or upper, part of the site is comprised almost entirely of landscaped ornamental plants, as this area encompasses the existing residence and associated improvements and landscaping for that property. The remainder of the site, which encompasses the vacant sloping part of the site and lower terrace below the existing estate property, is comprised entirely of fallow fields. Of the approximately 70 plant species recorded, 48 species (69 percent) were found to be ornamentals. The remaining 22 species (31 percent) were ruderal. Seven of the 22 ruderal species are natives, and the remaining 15 are non-native; however, no native plant communities (e.g., chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley grassland) occur on the site.

Figure IV.C-1 Vegetation Map

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. Horseweed (*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 IV.C-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, 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. 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 IV.C-1** provides a breakdown of the major tree species located on the site.

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

¹ SOURCE: Larry Munsey International, November 2004.

WILDLIFE

Birds far outnumber other vertebrate wildlife species on the site. Of 35 vertebrate species recorded during the biologists' survey, all but three were birds (see Appendix E to this Draft EIR for a complete faunal compendium of all wildlife species recorded, or expected to occur on a regular basis, on-site). The other three species were mammals. Specifically, the Beechey ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) were all observed on-site. 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 are also expected to be present on the site. The southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), and perhaps one or two snake species, could occur on the site 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 bird species recorded during the biologist's survey, 18 are likely to breed on or in the general vicinity of the site, five breed sparingly in coastal southern California and disperse widely to other areas, including the project site, seven are winter visitors, and one is a migrant. All recorded wildlife species (birds and mammals), except for the fox squirrel, are native to the area. The most common bird species observed on the site were: mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Table IV.C-2 provides a summary of state and federal agency designations for rare, threatened or endangered species (those accorded legal protection under the state or federal Endangered Species Act) and other special status (vulnerable or "at risk") species that are not accorded such legal protection. The presence or potential presence of sensitive plant and wildlife species (those 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) has been evaluated for the project site and immediate vicinity in accordance with these designations. Sources used to determine the sensitivity status of biological resources include the following:

Plant Life

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 1997)
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG 1998a)
- California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFG 2002)
- California Native Plant Society (Tibor 2001)

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 (2001)
- Williams (1986)

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.

TABLE IV.C-2 SENSITIVE SPECIES DESIGNATIONS	
Designation	Definition
Federal	
Endangered	Invertebrate, plant, or wildlife formally listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as facing extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its geographic range.
Threatened	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.
Proposed Threatened or Endangered	Officially proposed by the USFWS for addition to the federal threatened or endangered species lists.
State of California	
Endangered	Prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy. Includes both plants and wildlife, but does not include invertebrates. Legally protected against "take", as defined in the California Endangered Species Act (California Fish & Game Code Section 2050 <i>et seq.</i>).
Threatened	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. Includes both plants and wildlife, but does not include invertebrates. Legally protected against "take", as defined in the California Endangered Species Act (California Fish & Game Code Section 2050 <i>et seq.</i>).
Rare	Present in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. This designation applies only to California native plants.
Special Concern	Informal designation used by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for some declining wildlife species that are not officially listed as endangered, threatened, or rare. Does not provide legal protection, but signifies that these species are recognized as sensitive by CDFG.
Fully Protected	Includes those protected by special legislation for various reasons, such as the mountain lion (<i>Felis concolor</i>) and white-tailed kite (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>).
California Native Plant Society (CNPS)	
List 1A	Presumed extinct in California because they have not been seen in the wild for many years.
List 1B	Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere.
List 2	Rare or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
List 3	Additional information needed to properly evaluate status.
List 4	Plants of limited distribution, whose susceptibility to threat is considered low at this time.

One former bird species of special concern, the sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)¹ 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

¹ The California bird species of special concern has recently been revised. This species is no longer on the list.

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 site occasionally, however, the 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.

No special status natural plant communities, such as wetlands, oak woodland, and habitat conservation planning areas, are found on the site. Neither does the site serve as a habitat buffer to any County of Los Angeles Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) or other natural areas.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

THRESHOLD OF SIGNIFICANCE

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (as amended through January 1, 2003) 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, 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 it will cause a significant impact. An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be significant must also 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.

PROJECT IMPACTS

Site Development

The proposed project would develop a secondary 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 semi-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 school campus would occupy areas of the site that are currently vacant and largely unaltered. Approximately 19,800 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 10,500 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 Species and Sensitive Resources

There are no native plant communities on the site, only six small trees of two native species scattered within the landscaped community. These trees (three each of California black walnut and Mexican elderberry) are scattered throughout 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.

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 special status species, while adverse, are considered less than significant.

A few special status bird species may use the site 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.

The ornamental trees and shrubs used in the landscaping scheme also provide shelter and forage for a number of bird species, and as such, provide habitat, albeit non-native. However, there are a number of other similar such areas scattered throughout the San Fernando Valley, and the site does not stand out as especially unique in this regard. This impact is not considered significant.

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 of suitable habitat. 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 and gene flow is no longer possible. Under these conditions, entire populations can be cut off from a critical seasonal resource. Such is the case with the proposed Sierra Canyon Secondary School site, which is isolated by surrounding residential neighborhoods and a freeway to the north. As the site does not serve as a wildlife dispersion corridor, no significant impacts are foreseen.

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 walnuts. The larger eucalyptus trees on-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 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.

As with any development in the City of Los Angeles covering over 2,000 square feet or more of impervious surface area, the proposed school project would 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 would 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.

MITIGATION MEASURES

IV.C-1 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.

IV.C-2 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:

IV.C-3 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.

IV.C-4 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.

IV.C-5 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 plans conservation plans or wildlife corridors.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The project would be developed on what is essentially an isolated site and would not have any significant impacts on resources of a more regional concern. The project would not deplete or impact a natural plant community or sensitive species habitat that is limited in the local area or region, nor impede an identified wildlife corridor. Additional impacts on biological resources that could occur from the identified related projects would occur irrespective of the proposed project. The secondary school would be a neutral contributor to any significant cumulative conditions, as changes to overall site conditions would not rise to a level of significance with the proposed project, and any cumulative changes that could occur from other projects would be unchanged whether the proposed school project is built. As with the secondary school, other projects in the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch communities would result in site-specific impacts on those sites, some of which could be significant depending on the resources and conditions present at those locations. Although most of the related projects are located in highly urbanized settings, some properties may also retain some of the same semi-rural characteristics of the project site or may be adjacent to undeveloped open space. To the extent that any related projects would be built on undeveloped land containing natural habitat or sensitive species, or adjacent to large open space areas that could serve as a wildlife corridor, such projects could generate their own individual impacts on biological resources. The most significant of the identified related projects, the Porter Ranch Specific Plan development (Related Project No. 2), is located in the foothills north of SR-118 adjacent to the existing Porter Ranch community. Much of the undeveloped area in the Santa Susanna Mountains north of SR-118 contains suitable foraging habitat for sensitive species that could be impacted by future development. Such potential impacts, as well as any other potential impacts of this project, to terrestrial flora and fauna have been extensively studied by the Porter Ranch Specific Plan EIR. Any impacts would occur independent of the proposed project, and the contribution of the project to cumulative impacts would not be considered cumulatively considerable and thus, are less than significant.

Two related projects are located proximate to the site. Related Project No. 3 is a 7-unit single family subdivision southeast of the project and the Rinaldi Street extension. Like the lower part of the project site, this property is a fallow field comprised entirely of ruderal vegetation. This vegetation does not contain any sensitive plant or animal species, and no mature trees are located on the property. Consequently, any cumulative impacts that could occur with development of this adjacent site would neither compound nor increase the less than significant impacts of the secondary school project, such that they could rise to a level of significance. A second neighboring project is Related Project No. 11, a 40-unit subdivision located immediately northeast of the site. As with the proposed project, that project is bounded by residential development to the south and the freeway to the north. However, the project would not create any additional obstruction to a constrained open space area that follows the freeway immediately north of the site. This narrow area is not considered to be a wildlife corridor because the freeway and additional housing in the area effectively block any movement of wildlife through this area between the mountains and the mostly urbanized areas to the south. Therefore, neither the project by itself, or in combination with Related Project No. 11, would further constrain wildlife movement through the area, and thus cumulative impacts to a wildlife corridor would not occur.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Development of the secondary school campus would clear most existing vegetation on the 4.89-acre site and would remove up to 291 non-native ornamental trees which were planted for the existing residential property, as well as six small native trees within the landscaped component.

However, the project would not significantly impact any special status species, sensitive habitats or plant communities, locally protected species, regional or local habitat conservation plans or wildlife corridors. Consequently, the project would have a less than significant impact on biological resources.