

3.19 ANIMAL SPECIES

The analysis of impacts on animal species is based on the Natural Environment Study (NES) (January 2012).

3.19.1 REGULATORY SETTING

Many State and federal laws regulate impacts to wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) are responsible for implementing these laws. This section discusses potential impacts and permit requirements associated with wildlife not listed or proposed for listing under the state or federal Endangered Species Act. Species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered are discussed in Section 3.20. All other special-status animal species are discussed here, including CDFG fully protected species and species of special concern, and USFWS or NOAA Fisheries Service candidate species.

Federal laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife include the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Marine Life Protection Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

State laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife include the following:

- California Environmental Quality Act
- Sections 1601 – 1603 of the Fish and Game Code
- Section 4150 and 4152 of the Fish and Game Code

3.19.2 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Interstate 710 (I-710) Corridor Project Biological Study Area (BSA) supports suitable habitat for a variety of special-status wildlife species. Areas along the Los Angeles River south of the I-710/Willow St. interchange provide the most valuable wildlife habitat in the BSA. At times, this area hosts concentrations of large numbers of migratory birds, consisting of hundreds of species and thousands of individuals. Shorebirds, in particular, have been noted along the Los Angeles River.

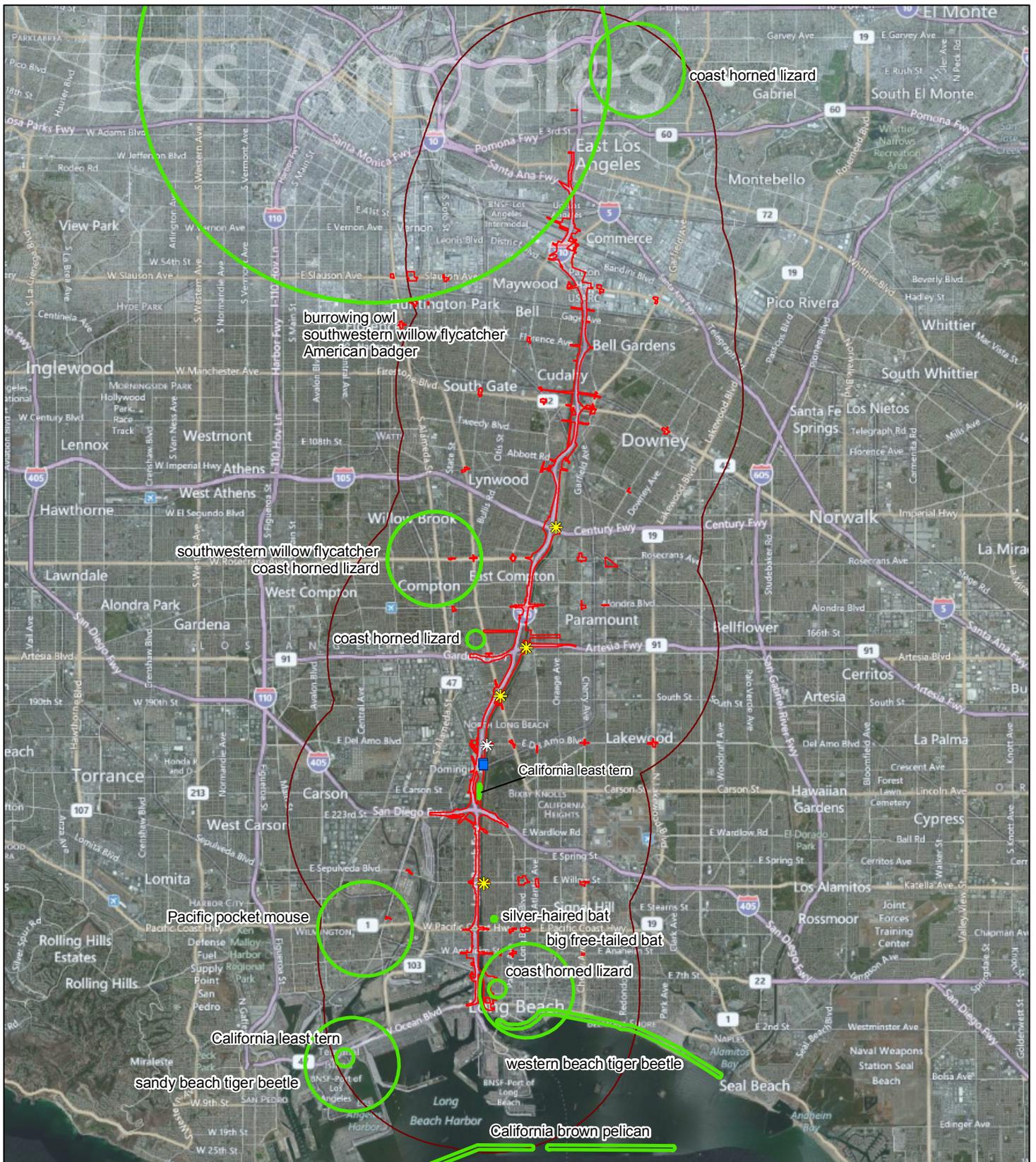
After a thorough literature review, it was determined that 123 special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur within the BSA. A total of 28 of these species are listed as federally and/or State-listed endangered or threatened, or proposed or delisted endangered or threatened, or are considered California Fully Protected (CFP) species by the State and are discussed further in Section 3.20, Threatened and Endangered Species. Locations of selected special-status animal species observed within the vicinity of the BSA are shown on Figure 3.19-1.

Of the remaining 95 species, 44 are considered to be absent due to lack of suitable habitat. Suitable habitat exists within the BSA for the remaining 51 special-status species, as described in more detail below. Further information on these species is summarized in Table 3.19-1, including status, habitat requirements, and potential for occurrence.

3.19.2.1 SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES REQUIRING SURVEYS

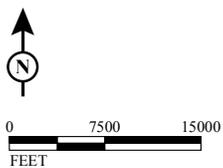
Focused surveys were conducted in 2009 for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and special-status bat species. Survey results were as follows:

- **Burrowing Owl:** Phase I and Phase II protocol surveys conducted for burrowing owl are described in Attachment C of the NES. Individual owls were observed south of the Compton Creek channel on two separate occasions (October and December 2009) using burrows approximately 150 feet from one another in an area with numerous burrows, south of the mouth of Compton Creek (see Figure 3.19-1). Although no pairs were observed, the area is large enough to support a pair. No other burrowing owls were found during the 2009 surveys. At this time, the burrowing owls found in the fall of 2009 are considered wintering individuals, likely to leave the BSA in the spring. The 2009 surveys demonstrate that open areas within the BSA do still provide habitat for burrowing owl, despite the much-reduced status of the species within the Los Angeles Basin.



LEGEND

- Biological Study Area
- Occurrences by Others Reported to CDFG (CNDDDB, 2011)
- Burrowing Owl Sighting (LSA, 2009)
- ✱ Specific occurrence of silver-haired bat
- ✱ Yuma myotis
- 3 Mile Buffer



SOURCE: Bing (2008); CNDDDB (2011)
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FIGURE 3.19-1

I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS
 Special-status Animal Species
 in Vicinity of the Biological Study Area

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Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| INVERTEBRATES | | | | | |
| Mimic tryonia (California brackish water snail) | <i>Tryonia imitator</i> | --/CSA | Inhabits coastal lagoons, estuaries, and salt marshes from Sonoma County to San Diego County. Found only in permanently submerged areas in a variety of sediment types; able to withstand a wide range of salinities. | A | Formerly occurred in Long Beach; but now apparently extirpated from the Los Angeles River. |
| Western tidal-flat tiger beetle | <i>Cicindela gabbii</i> | --/CSA | Dark-colored mud of estuaries and mudflats along the coast of Southern California and northern Baja California. | A | Formerly occurred in Wilmington and Long Beach; but now apparently extirpated from Los Angeles County. |
| Sandy beach tiger beetle | <i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i> | --/CSA | Inhabits clean, dry sand along the sea coast from the San Francisco Bay area to Baja California. | A | Formerly occurred in Terminal Island and Long Beach; but now apparently extirpated from Los Angeles County. |
| Western beach tiger beetle | <i>Cicindela latesignata latesignata</i> | --/CSA | Beaches and mudflats from Los Angeles County to northern Baja California. | A | Formerly occurred in San Pedro and Long Beach; but now apparently extirpated from Los Angeles County. |
| Senile tiger beetle | <i>Cicindela senilis frosti</i> | --/CSA | Known from dark-colored mud and dry saltpan in central and Southern California | A | Formerly occurred in Long Beach; but now apparently extirpated from Los Angeles County. |
| Globose dune beetle | <i>Coelus globosus</i> | --/CSA | Sand dunes along the Pacific Coast from Mendocino County to northern Baja California. | A | Suitable habitat is not present within the BSA. |
| Monarch butterfly (overwintering) | <i>Danaus plexippus</i> | --/CSA | Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino County to Baja California. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. | P | Suitable winter roost sites may be present in developed areas within and adjacent to the BSA. |
| Wandering skipper | <i>Panoquina errans</i> | --/CSA | Southern California coastal salt marshes. Requires moist salt grass for larval development. There are occurrences of this species east - southeast of the BSA from 1989 (Figure 6). | A | Probably occurred formerly, but there appears to be no suitable habitat remaining in the BSA. |

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| FISH | | | | | |
| Arroyo chub | <i>Gila orcuttii</i> | --/CSC | Perennial streams or intermittent streams with permanent pools; slow water sections of streams with mud or sand substrates; spawning occurs in pools. Native to Los Angeles, San Gabriel, San Luis Rey, Santa Ana, and Santa Margarita River systems; introduced in Santa Ynez, Santa Maria, Cuyama, and Mojave River systems and smaller coastal streams. | A | Still occurs in upper reaches of the Los Angeles River but apparently extirpated downstream. |
| Santa Ana speckled dace | <i>Rhinichthys osculus ssp. 3</i> | --/CSC | Primarily clear, well-oxygenated moving water (especially shallow, rocky riffles and runs) in the headwaters of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers. | A | Still occurs in upper reaches of the Los Angeles River but apparently extirpated downstream. |
| AMPHIBIANS | | | | | |
| Coast Range newt (Los Angeles County south) | <i>Taricha torosa torosa</i> | --/CSC | Southern populations are found on the coastal slope from Los Angeles to near the Mexican border. They generally inhabit mesic habitats such as oak woodland and require streams or pools for breeding. | A | Historical records from Long Beach and the Palos Verdes Peninsula; now extirpated from the Los Angeles Basin. |
| Western spadefoot | <i>Spea hammondi</i> | --/CSC | Grasslands and other relatively open habitats; requires pools (persisting for at least three weeks) for breeding; burrows in loose soils during dry season. Found in Central Valley and foothills, coast ranges, and inland valleys to northwestern Baja California. | A | Occurred historically, but now extirpated from the Los Angeles Basin. |
| REPTILES | | | | | |
| Southwestern pond turtle | <i>Actinemys marmorata pallida</i> | --/CSC | Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent water below 6,000 feet from the San Francisco Bay area south to northern Baja California. Absent from desert regions, except in the Mojave Desert along the Mojave River and its tributaries. Requires basing sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, or open mud banks. | A | Occurred formerly, but now extirpated from the lower Los Angeles River. |

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| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| San Diego horned lizard | <i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i> | --/CSC | Wide variety of habitats, including CSS, grassland, and riparian woodland; typically on or near loose sandy soils; coastal and inland areas from Ventura County to Baja California. | A | Previously known from the area, but now apparently extirpated from the lower Los Angeles River. |
| Coastal western whiptail | <i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> | --/CSA | Wide variety of habitats, including CSS, sparse grassland, and riparian woodland; coastal and inland valleys and foothills; Ventura County to Baja California. | P | May persist along the lower Los Angeles River, but unlikely to be found within the BSA. |
| Silvery legless lizard | <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i> | --/CSC | Fossorial. Inhabits loose soil and humus from central California to northern Baja California. | P | May persist along the lower Los Angeles River, but unlikely to be found within the BSA. |
| Rosy boa | <i>Lichanura trivirgata</i> | --/CSC | Inhabits rock outcrops and rocky shrublands from southwestern California to northern Baja California. | A | Presumably extirpated from the lower Los Angeles River. |
| San Bernardino ring-necked snake | <i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i> | --/CSA | Along drainage courses, in mesic chaparral and oak and walnut woodland communities. Moist habitats of southwestern California from approximately Ventura to Orange Counties. | P | Probably persists along the lower Los Angeles River, but unlikely to be found within the BSA although potential habitat is present. |
| Coast patch-nosed snake | <i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i> | --/CSC | Coastal chaparral, washes, sandy flats, and rocky areas from San Luis Obispo County to northwestern Baja California. | A | Presumably extirpated from the lower Los Angeles River. |
| South coast garter snake | <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i> ssp. | --/CSC | Occurs in marsh and upland habitats near permanent water with riparian vegetation; coastal slope from Ventura to San Diego Counties. | A | Occurred in the area historically, but now apparently extirpated from Los Angeles County. |
| Two-striped garter snake | <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> | --/CSC | Highly aquatic. Only in or near permanent sources of water. Streams with rocky beds supporting willows or other riparian vegetation. From Los Angeles County to northwestern Baja California. | P | May persist along the lower Los Angeles River, but unlikely to be found within the BSA although potential habitat is present. |

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| BIRDS | | | | | |
| Fulvous whistling-duck | <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Fresh and brackish shallow water and cultivated fields, primarily in tropical and subtropical regions around the world. | A | Probably nested formerly within the BSA but now essentially extirpated from California. |
| Brant | <i>Branta bernicla</i> | --/CSC | Cosmopolitan. Nests in Arctic tundra and winters primarily in coastal estuaries and lagoons in the temperate zone. | P | Probably a regular visitor within the BSA historically, but now a very rare visitor to the lower Los Angeles River channel. |
| Redhead | <i>Aythya Americana</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Freshwater marshes for nesting; also estuaries, bays, and lakes in winter. Breeds from Canada to Mexico and winters south to Central America. | P | Probably nested formerly within the BSA, but never confirmed. Now a rare visitor on the lower Los Angeles River and off-channel ponds. |
| American bittern | <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> | --/CSA | Nests in freshwater and brackish marshes across much of North America; winters south to Central America. | P | Formerly an uncommon nesting species within the BSA; now a scarce nonbreeding visitor. |
| Least bittern | <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Occurs locally in freshwater marshes across much of southern North America and northern South America. | P | Probably nested within the BSA formerly; now a rare visitor, at best. |
| Great blue heron | <i>Ardea herodias</i> | --/CSA (rookery site) | Rookeries consist of a colony of breeding animals. Usually nests in trees, but also on large bushes, poles, reed beds, and even on the ground. Frequents a wide range of wetland habitats at other times of year. Widespread in North America; winters to northern South America. | P, O | Probably nested within the BSA historically, but not known to do so currently. There are small rookeries along the San Gabriel River and in urban park lakes (such as Echo Park near downtown Los Angeles) in habitats similar to those found along the lower Los Angeles River. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Great egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | --/CSA (rookery site) | Occurs in a wide range of wetland habitats in much of the temperate and tropical zones worldwide. Nests primarily in trees. | P, O | Probably nested within the BSA historically, but not known to do so currently. There are small rookeries along the San Gabriel River in habitats similar to those found along the lower Los Angeles River. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |

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| Snowy egret | <i>Egretta thula</i> | --/CSA (rookery site) | Occurs in a wide range of wetland habitats throughout much of the Americas. Nests primarily in trees. | P, O | Probably nested within the BSA historically, but not known to do so currently. There are small rookeries along the San Gabriel River in habitats similar to those found along the lower Los Angeles River. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Black-crowned night-heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | --/CSA (rookery site) | Occurs in a wide range of wetland habitats in much of the temperate and tropical zones worldwide. Nests primarily in trees, sometimes in urban habitats. | P, O | Probably nested within the BSA historically, but not known to do so currently. Rookeries are known from urban residential areas near the lower San Gabriel River, and such rookeries could exist somewhere along the lower Los Angeles River. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| White-faced ibis | <i>Plegadis chihi</i> | --/CSA (rookery site) | Freshwater wetlands in temperate and tropical North and South America. Usually nests in emergent vegetation or low trees and shrubs over shallow water. | P, O | Probably nested formerly within the BSA, but never confirmed. Now a regular nonbreeding visitor, primarily in fall. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Wood stork | <i>Mycteria Americana</i> | --/CSC | Freshwater and brackish wetlands in southern North America and much of South America. | P | Formerly an occasional visitor from Mexico, where populations have declined so much that future occurrences are unlikely. |
| Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | --/CSA (nesting) | Estuaries, rivers, lakes, and marshes in much of the temperate and tropical world. Nests primarily on trees and other structures. | P, O | Not known to have nested within the BSA but the species is increasing as a breeder in coastal Southern California. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Northern harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Open country in the northern Temperate Zone worldwide. New World birds winter south to Central America. | P | Probably nested within the BSA formerly, but now only an uncommon visitor. |

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| Cooper's hawk | <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> | --/CSA (nesting) | Primarily forests and woodlands throughout North America. Nests in trees. | P, O | Seen regularly along entire river channel and may nest within the BSA. This species is now a rather common and widespread breeder in urban areas through the Los Angeles Basin. Populations of this and other urban raptor species may be checked in part by large-scale trapping and shooting by roller pigeon fanciers (documented by USFWS and CDFG). |
| Ferruginous hawk | <i>Buteo regalis</i> | --/CSA | Open country in western North America; north to Canada in summer and south to Mexico in winter. | A | Probably occurred regularly historically, and occasional visitors may still occur, but no suitable habitat for long-term presence. |
| Merlin | <i>Falco columbarius</i> | --/CSA | Open fields; breeds in the Holarctic Region and winters south to the tropics. Uncommon fall migrant and winter visitor to southwestern California. | P | Regularly forages within the BSA. This species has increased greatly as a wintering species in the Los Angeles Basin and regularly forages along the length of the Los Angeles River. |
| Lesser sandhill crane | <i>Grus canadensis Canadensis</i> | --/CSC | Nests in low-lying tundra and marshy areas from northeastern Siberia across northern North America. Winters primarily in agricultural fields and wet prairie in the southern United States and northern Mexico. | A | May have occurred historically, but habitat is now unsuitable within the BSA. |
| Mountain plover | <i>Charadrius montanus</i> | BCC/CSC | Nests in dry, open, prairies and grasslands in central North America; winters in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. | A | Probably a regular winter visitor historically, but no suitable remains within the BSA. |
| Whimbrel | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | BCC/-- | Circumpolar: nests in arctic and subarctic tundra and migrates for the rest of the year to fields and a wide range of wetland habitats in temperate and tropical areas around the world. | P | Uncommon transient along the lower Los Angeles River. |

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| Long-billed curlew | <i>Numenius americanus</i> | BCC/-- | Primarily nests on prairies and grassy meadows, near water, in interior western North America. Winters primarily along the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico coasts from the southern United States to Central America. | P, O | Scarce transient along the lower Los Angeles River. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Marbled godwit | <i>Limosa fedoa</i> | BCC/-- | Nests primarily on grasslands, marshes, and ponds in south-central Canada; winters on both coasts from the United States to Central America. | P, O | Uncommon transient along the lower Los Angeles River. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Roselaar's red knot | <i>Calidris canutus roselaari</i> | BCC/-- | Nests on barren tundra on Wrangle Island and in northwestern Alaska. Winter range and migratory routes poorly known, but may include the Pacific coast of Southern California. | P | The red knot is rare, but probably annual, as a fall transient (remaining into early winter as conditions allow) along the lower Los Angeles River, but there is no information on the subspecies of knots in Los Angeles County. |
| Short-billed dowitcher | <i>Limnodromus griseus</i> | BCC/-- | Nests on muskegs, wet meadows, and marshy coastal tundra from southern Alaska across North America to Labrador. Winters along both coasts from temperate North America to tropical South America. | P | Fairly common fall transient (mainly early July to mid-September) along the lower Los Angeles River. |
| Caspian tern | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | --/CSA (nesting) | Seacoast, bays, estuaries, lakes, marshes, and rivers around much of the world. | P | Nests at Terminal Island in Los Angeles Harbor and forages regularly in estuarine portions of the Los Angeles River and occasionally farther upstream. |
| Forster's tern | <i>Sterna forsteri</i> | --/CSA (nesting) | Nests in freshwater and salt marshes locally across temperate North America; winters from the coastal and southern United States through Central America. | P, O | This species is not documented as breeding in Los Angeles County, although small numbers occurred throughout the spring and summer at Willow St. in some years in the 1990s and early 2000s. Up to 140 birds, including begging juveniles, were along the river at Willow St. in late July 2000, but it is likely that these were dispersing family groups from the nearest breeding colonies in Orange County. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |

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|---------------------|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Elegant tern | <i>Thalasseus elegans</i> | --/CSA (nesting) | Strictly coastal; nests in Southern California and western Mexico and winters south to Chile. | P, O | Nests at Terminal Island in Los Angeles Harbor and forages regularly in estuarine portions of the Los Angeles River. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Black skimmer | <i>Rynchops niger</i> | BCC/CSC (nesting) | Nests primarily on sandy beaches, shell banks, and small islands in coastal areas locally from the southern United States to South America; more widespread otherwise, extending to bays, lagoons, and mudflats. | P | Nests at Terminal Island in Los Angeles Harbor and forages regularly in estuarine portions of the river. Birds were seen well upstream in Paramount (around Rosecrans) in July 2002 and July 2006. |
| Burrowing owl | <i>Athene cunicularia</i> | BCC/CSC (burrow and some wintering sites) | Open country in much of North and South America. | P, O | Former resident (e.g., in open fields at California State University, Dominguez Hills until the early 1980s). Occasional migrants and wintering birds still occur but believed to be extirpated as a nesting species within the BSA. Individual owls were observed south of the Compton Creek channel on two separate occasions (October and December 2009) (Appendix C). |
| Long-eared owl | <i>Asio otus</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Scarce and local in forests and woodlands throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere. Sensitive to human disturbance on nesting grounds. | A | Former resident in willow woodlands along the Los Angeles River; no suitable habitat remains within the BSA. |
| Short-eared owl | <i>Asio flammeus</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Open country, usually with tall grass, in scattered regions around the Northern Hemisphere. | A | Former winter visitor but not known to have nested in the Los Angeles Basin; now even rare as a nonbreeding visitor. |
| Costa's hummingbird | <i>Calypte costae</i> | BCC/CSA (nesting) | Primarily deserts, arid brushy foothills, and chaparral in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. | P | Probably occurs in small numbers as a transient and winter visitor (nearly year-round), but natural arid scrub breeding habitat is absent. May occasionally breed where the right mix of exotic flowering sages and other plants grow; flowering sages have been used extensively in landscaping along the banks of the lower Los Angeles River. |

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| Allen's hummingbird | <i>Selasphorus sasin</i> | BCC/CSA (nesting) | Chaparral, open oak woodland riparian woodland and residential areas on the breeding grounds from southwestern Oregon to southwestern California; primarily montane woodland on the wintering grounds in central Mexico. | P, O | Fairly common resident within the BSA. An abundant, adaptable, and increasing species throughout urban Southern California, and expected anywhere there is a mix of exotic flowering trees and shrubs. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Nuttall's woodpecker | <i>Picoides nuttallii</i> | BCC/CSA (nesting) | Oak, pine-oak, and riparian woodland in California and northwestern Baja California. | A | Occasional visitors may occur, but suitable habitat for nesting appears to be absent within the BSA. Generally scarce to uncommon in wooded parks and residential areas in the lower Los Angeles Basin. |
| Loggerhead shrike | <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> | BCC/CSC (nesting) | Open country in much of North America, but declining in many areas, including southwestern California. | P, O | Nested along the lower Los Angeles River in Long Beach and Cudahy as recently as 2002 and 2004, but now probably extirpated as a nesting species. Has greatly declined as a wintering species in the area as well, but one was seen by the consulting biologist south of East Florence Ave. in December 2009 (Appendix B). |
| California horned lark | <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> | --/CSA (nesting) | Open grasslands and fields, agricultural areas from northern coastal California to northwestern Baja California. | P | Probably bred as recently as the mid-1980s in open areas around Carson, but perhaps no longer breeds in coastal Los Angeles County. Now only a rare nonbreeding visitor. |
| Purple martin | <i>Progne subis</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Breeds locally in a wide range of habitats across much of North America; nests in cavities. Winters primarily in South America. | A | Nested historically in the Los Angeles Basin, but now believed to be extirpated as a nesting species in Los Angeles County. Occasional transient on the Los Angeles River in recent years. |
| Oak titmouse | <i>Baeolophus inornatus</i> | BCC/CSA (nesting) | Primarily oak woodland from southern Oregon to southern Baja California Sur. | A | Occasional visitors may occur, but suitable habitat for nesting is absent within the BSA. |

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|--|--|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Cactus wren | <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i> | BCC/-- | Primarily lowland arid scrub with cactus in Mexico and the southwestern United States. | A | May have occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat is present now. The nearest known populations are on the Palos Verdes Peninsula near San Pedro and in the Montebello Hills. |
| Clark's marsh wren | <i>Cistothorus palustris clarkae</i> | --/CSC | Local resident in freshwater marshes on the coastal slope from Los Angeles County to northwestern Baja California. | P | Perhaps a rare resident within the BSA; observed in the off-channel marsh south of the Del Amo St. crossing of the Los Angeles River in 2008. |
| California yellow warbler | <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i> | BCC/CSC (nesting) | Riparian woodland while nesting in the western United States and northwestern Baja California; more widespread in brushy areas and woodlands during migration and winter, when occurring from western Mexico to northern South America. | P, O | Formerly nested along much of the lower Los Angeles River—and still does so fairly commonly along the soft-bottom reach from the Griffith Park area downstream through the Glendale Narrows—but only marginally suitable nesting habitat remains within the BSA. Common migrant and rare winter visitor in the area. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B). |
| Saltmarsh common yellowthroat | <i>Geothlypis trichas sinuosa</i> | BCC/CSC | Nests primarily in brackish and freshwater marshes in the San Francisco Bay area and disperses, at least formerly, along the California coast as far as Humboldt Bay and San Diego. | P | Recorded historically in the Los Angeles Basin, but may no longer occur as frequently as it once did. |
| Yellow-breasted chat | <i>Icteria virens</i> | --/CSC | Riparian thickets of willows, brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in riparian woodland throughout much of western North America. Winters in Central America. | A | Nested formerly along the lower Los Angeles River, but suitable nesting habitat is now absent. Currently a scarce transient in the area. |
| Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow | <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> | --/CSA | Steep, rocky CSS and open chaparral habitats, particularly scrubby areas mixed with grasslands. From Santa Barbara County to northwest Baja California. | A | Probably never common along the lower Los Angeles River, and now all suitable habitat is gone. |

Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Lark sparrow | <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> | --/CSA (nesting) | Open situations with scattered bushes or trees. Breeds throughout much of western North America and winters from the southern United States to southern Mexico. | A | Occasional visitors may occur, but suitable nesting habitat is now absent within the BSA. |
| Large-billed Savannah sparrow | <i>Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus</i> | --/CSC | Nests in brackish marshes in the northern Gulf of California and disperses widely to littoral habitats from Southern California to western Mexico. | P | Once occurred commonly at the mouth of the Los Angeles River, but there are apparently no recent records. Given several recent records from Los Angeles Harbor to Playa del Rey, the occasional sighting near the mouth of the river is to be expected |
| Grasshopper sparrow | <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Grasslands of North America and northern South America. | A | Historically a regular nesting species in the vicinity of the BSA, but no suitable habitat remains. |
| Oregon vesper sparrow | <i>Poocetes gramineus affinis</i> | --/CSC | Nests in lower valleys and plains in western Washington, western Oregon, and extreme northwestern California. Winters almost exclusively in low elevation grasslands in central and Southern California. | A | Probably once a regular winter visitor in the vicinity of the BSA, but no suitable habitat remains. |
| Tricolored blackbird | <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> | BCC/CSC (nesting) | Open country in western Oregon, California, and northwestern Baja California. Nests primarily in freshwater marshes. | A | Formerly nested in the vicinity of the BSA, but has not been known to do so for many years. Still occurs as a nonbreeding visitor in the area (e.g., one observed along the Lower Los Angeles River on August 8, 2008). |
| Yellow-headed blackbird | <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> | --/CSC (nesting) | Nests in freshwater marshes in central-western North America and disperses to open cultivated land and marshes as far as southern Mexico. | A | Formerly nested in the vicinity of the BSA, but has not been known to do so for many years. Still occurs as a nonbreeding visitor in the area (e.g., birds seen along the Los Angeles River at Del Amo St. in September 2008 and September 2009). |

Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Lawrence's goldfinch | <i>Carduelis lawrencei</i> | BCC/CSA (nesting) | Oak woodland chaparral, riparian woodland, and other habitats in arid regions, but usually near water; from northern California to northern Baja California, but periodically wandering throughout much of western North America. | A | Occasional visitors may occur, but suitable habitat for nesting is absent within the BSA. |
| MAMMALS | | | | | |
| South coast marsh vole | <i>Microtus californicus stephensi</i> | --/CSC | Tidal marshes in Los Angeles, Orange, and southern Ventura Counties. | A | Probably occurred in the vicinity of the BSA historically, but there appears to be an insufficient amount of habitat at this time. However, it is unknown to what extent this subspecies might range into other coastal habitats. |
| San Diego desert woodrat | <i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> | --/CSC | Frequents poorly vegetated arid lands and is especially associated with cactus patches. Occurs along the Pacific slope from about San Luis Obispo County to northwest. Baja California. | A | Probably occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat remains. |
| Southern grasshopper mouse | <i>Onychomys torridus ramona</i> | --/CSC | Primarily open scrub habitats of southwestern California and northwestern Baja California. | A | Probably occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat remains. |
| San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit | <i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> | --/CSC | Open country of coastal Southern California and northern Baja California. | A | Occurred within the BSA historically, but has been extirpated from most of the Los Angeles Basin. |
| Southern California saltmarsh shrew | <i>Sorex ornatus salicornicus</i> | --/CSC | Coastal marshes in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties. Requires dense vegetation and woody debris for cover. | A | May have occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat remains. |
| California leaf-nosed bat | <i>Macrotus californicus</i> | --/CSC | Western United States and northwestern Mexico. In California, primarily occupies low-lying desert areas, roosting in caves, mines, and old buildings with warm, stable temperatures. Rarely uses bridges for roosting. Historic records extend west to near Chatsworth, Los Angeles County, but most populations from the California coastal basins are believed to be extirpated. | A | May have occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable roosting habitat is present in the vicinity of the BSA, and coastal California populations in general are presumed extirpated. |

Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Mexican long-tongued bat | <i>Choeronycteris Mexicana</i> | --/CSC | Uses a variety of habitats from the southwestern United States through Central America. In California, this species has been observed in San Diego County, likely as a seasonal migrant. Feeds on nectar and pollen of night-blooming succulents; may visit hummingbird feeders. Roosts in caves, mines, and occasionally buildings. Not known to use bridges for roosting. | A | Foraging and roosting habitat not present within the BSA. No known records in vicinity of BSA. |
| Western mastiff bat | <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> | --/CSC | Ranged historically throughout much of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. In California, most records are from rocky areas at low elevations. Occurs in many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc.; roosts in crevices in vertical cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels throughout southwestern California. May roost in tall bridges. | P | Although only marginally suitable roosting habitat is present in the BSA, numerous historic roosting areas exist in the Los Angeles Basin. In addition, foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River, and this species is known to forage over large distances from roost sites. |
| Pocketed free-tailed bat | <i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> | --/CSC | Varied habitats, but usually associated with high cliffs or rocky areas. Spotty distribution, ranging from Southern California and southwestern Arizona through central Mexico. Roosts primarily in cliffs/rock crevices; may use buildings for roosting. Rarely roosts in bridges. | P | Although roosting is unlikely within the BSA, foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River, and this species is known to forage over large distances from roost sites. Recorded from Harbor City and Inglewood. |
| Big free-tailed bat | <i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i> | --/CSC | Mainly inhabits rugged, rocky habitats in arid southwestern North America. Feeds principally on large moths. Roosts primarily in cliffs/rock crevices, and rarely in buildings, caves, and tree cavities. Not known to use bridges for roosting. | P | Although roosting is unlikely within the BSA, foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River, and this species is known to forage over large distances from a roost site. Recorded from Long Beach and Los Angeles. |

Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Western red bat | <i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i> | --/CSC | Ranges from southwestern Canada through the western United States and Middle America to South America. Forages over a wide range of habitats, but often associated with intact riparian habitat, and particularly with willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. Typically solitary, roosting in the foliage of trees or shrubs. Day roosts are commonly in edge habitats adjacent to streams or open fields, in orchards, and sometimes in urban areas. | P | Not known to use bridges for roosting but may roost in large-leaved trees along portions of the Los Angeles River and adjacent residential areas. Foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River. |
| Hoary bat | <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> | --/CSA | Widespread in North America (and Hawaii). Forages over a wide range of habitats, but prefers open habitats with access to water and trees for roosting. Typically solitary, roosting in the foliage of shrubs or coniferous and deciduous trees. Roosts are usually near the edge of a clearing. | P | Not known to use bridges for roosting but may roost in trees along portions of the Los Angeles River or in adjacent residential areas. Foraging habitat is present along the river. Recorded throughout the Los Angeles area. |
| Western yellow bat | <i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> | --/CSC | Varied habitats from the southwestern United States to southern Mexico; often associated with palms and desert riparian habitats. In Southern California occurs in palm oases and in residential areas with untrimmed palm trees. Roosts primarily in trees, especially the dead fronds of palm trees, though they have also been documented to roost under the leaves of deciduous trees such as cottonwoods. | P | Not known to use bridges for roosting but may roost in palms along portions of the Los Angeles River and adjacent residential areas. Foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River. Recorded from Garden Grove. |
| Townsend's big-eared bat | <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> | --/CSC | Ranges from southwestern Canada through the western United States to southern Mexico. Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other similar structures for roosting. Occasionally roosts in hollow spaces of bridges or buildings. Will occasionally roost in hollow trees. Highly sensitive to disturbance. | P | Known to occasionally roost in the hollow spaces of bridges. Foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River. |

Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| Spotted bat | <i>Euderma maculatum</i> | --/CSC | Found in widely scattered localities in western North America from southern British Columbia to central Mexico. Occurs in a range of habitats from arid, low desert habitats to high elevation conifer forests. Roosts in crevices and caves, usually high in fractured cliff/rock faces; not known to use bridges or buildings for roosting. Can forage over wide distances. | P | No known records and no roosting habitat in vicinity of BSA, but can travel widely when foraging. |
| Pallid bat | <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> | --/CSC | Varied habitats in western North America, including grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, deserts, and forest. Primarily day roosts in bridges, hollows or crevices of trees, or buildings. Occasionally roosts in mines, caves, and cliff/rock crevices. Night roosts may be more open sites, such as porches, open buildings, and bridges. | P | Known to frequently roost in bridges. Foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River. Recorded throughout the Los Angeles area, including Long Beach. |
| Silver-haired bat | <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> | --/CSA | Primarily associated with north temperate zone conifer and mixed conifer/hardwood forests across southern Canada and most of the United States. May be found in winter and during seasonal migration in lower, xeric habitats. Roosts mainly in hollows or crevices of trees, but may also roost in rock crevices, mines, or caves. May forage considerable distance from roosting area. | P, O (potential) | Rarely uses bridges for roosting, but may roost in trees within the BSA and forage along the Los Angeles River. Recorded from Bellflower and Long Beach. This species may be present at one bridge location within the BSA, but data collected during nighttime emergence and acoustic surveys was inconclusive (Appendix D). |
| Western small-footed myotis | <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i> | --/CSA | Found across much of North America, primarily in relatively arid wooded and brushy uplands near water. Individuals are known to roost singly or in small groups in cliff and rock crevices, buildings, concrete overpasses, caves, and mines. | P | Known to occasionally roost in bridges. Foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River. |

Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Long-eared myotis | <i>Myotis evotis</i> | --/CSA | Found throughout much of North America, in semiarid shrublands, chaparral, and agricultural areas, but is usually associated with coniferous forests. Roosts under exfoliating tree bark and in hollow trees, caves, mines, and crevices in cliffs/rocks. Sometimes roosts in buildings and bridges. | P | Known to occasionally roost in bridges. Foraging habitat is present along the Los Angeles River, and the species has been recorded as close as Arroyo Seco. |
| Fringed myotis | <i>Myotis thysanodes</i> | --/CSA | Range is patchy in western North America from sea level to 9,350 feet; most common at middle elevations. Appears to be most common in drier woodlands but is found in a wide variety of habitats including desert scrub, mesic coniferous forest, grassland, and sage-grass steppe. Roosts primarily in large trees and snags, as well as in caves and mines. Also roosts in buildings, rock crevices, cliff faces, and bridges. | A | May have occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat remains. No known records from the vicinity of the BSA. |
| Long-legged myotis | <i>Myotis volans</i> | --/CSA | Widespread in western North America, primarily in coniferous forests, but also occurs seasonally in riparian and desert habitats. Utilizes abandoned buildings, cracks in the ground, cliff crevices, exfoliating tree bark, and hollows within snags as summer day roosts; caves and mine tunnels are used as hibernacula. Commonly forages in and around the forest canopy. | A | May have occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat remains. No known records from the vicinity of the BSA. |
| Yuma myotis | <i>Myotis yumanensis</i> | --/CSA | Occurs in a variety of habitats in western North America, including riparian, arid scrublands and deserts, and forests. Optimal habitats are open forests and woodlands with sources of water over which to feed. Roosts in buildings, mines, caves or crevices; and under bridges. May occasionally roost in swallow nests. | P, O | Known to frequently roost in bridges. Observed roosting and foraging along the Los Angeles River from SR-91 to Willow St. during 2009 surveys (Figure 6 and Appendix D). This species was confirmed to be day roosting at two bridge locations and was observed foraging at another location during nighttime emergence and acoustic surveys. |

Table 3.19-1 Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status Federal/ State | General Habitat Description | Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed | Rationale |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| American badger | <i>Taxidea taxus</i> | --/CSC | Occurs throughout much of North America. Primary habitat requirements seem to be sufficient food and friable soils in relatively open uncultivated ground in grasslands, woodlands, and desert. | A | Probably occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat remains. |
| California sea lion | <i>Zalophus californianus</i> | --/-- protected under the MMPA | Occurs in Pacific coastal marine waters from Vancouver Island to the Galapagos Islands. | P, O | Rare in the BSA, but occasionally forages downstream in estuarine portions of the Los Angeles River. An individual was seen in September 2009 during wildlife surveys north of PCH. |

Source: I-710 Corridor Project Natural Environment Study, January 2012.

Habitat Present/Absent: Absent (A) - no habitat present and no further work needed. Habitat Present (P) – habitat is, or may be present. (O) – Based on the literature review and field surveys, the species has been observed within the BSA. Critical Habitat (CH) – Project footprint is located within designated critical habitat unit, but does not necessarily mean that appropriate habitat is present.

Status: Federal Endangered (FE); Federal Threatened (FT); Federal Proposed (FP, FPE, FPT); Federal Candidate (FC); Federally Delisted (FD); United States Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC); California Endangered (CE); California Threatened (CT); California Delisted (CD), California Fully Protected Species (CFP); California Species of Special Concern (CSC); California Special Plant (CSP), California Special Animal (CSA)

BSA = biological study area
 CDFG = California Department of Fish and Game
 CSS = coastal sage scrub
 ESU = Evolutionarily Significant Unit
 I-405 = Interstate 405
 PCH = Pacific Coast Highway
 SR-91 = State Route 91
 USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service

- **Special-Status Bat Species:** Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*) and silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) were the only bat species with special status that were identified during these surveys. Other common species of bats visually and acoustically detected within the BSA during nighttime emergence and acoustic surveys in 2009 included big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) and Mexican free-tailed bat. No sign or indication of a large group of bats, such as a large maternity colony, was observed during the daytime or nighttime surveys; however, smaller maternity colonies or groups of bats may be present in the structures along the Los Angeles River. Additionally, since bats are highly mobile species, there is potential for the bats to subsequently occupy any suitable crevices on site for day roosting.

3.19.2.2 OTHER SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES NOT REQUIRING SURVEYS

During the 2009 field surveys, the following 14 other special-status animal species were observed within the BSA: great blue heron, great egret, snowy egret, black-crowned night-heron, white-faced ibis, osprey, Cooper's hawk, long-billed curlew, marbled godwit, Forster's tern, elegant tern, Allen's hummingbird, loggerhead shrike, and California yellow warbler.

The following 33 species from the literature search were not found during the 2009 field surveys; however, some amount of habitat that may be suitable is present within the BSA for some of these species, as indicated in Table 3.19-1: monarch butterfly, coastal western whiptail, silvery legless lizard, San Bernardino ring-necked snake, two-striped garter snake, brant, redhead, American bittern, least bittern, wood stork, Northern harrier, merlin, whimbrel, Roselaar's red knot, short-billed dowitcher, Caspian tern, black skimmer, Costa's hummingbird, California horned lark, Clark's marsh wren, saltmarsh common yellowthroat, large-billed savannah sparrow, western mastiff bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, big free-tailed bat, western red bat, hoary bat, western yellow bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, pallid bat, western small-footed myotis, and long-eared myotis. Although these 33 species were not observed during surveys, surveys were not focused on these species. This is primarily because the project is not expected to have a substantial effect on the above species, mainly due to minimal habitat in the BSA. However, it is possible for these species to move onto the site prior to construction. While much of the habitat within the BSA is disturbed, developed, or degraded by the presence of nonnative species, some suitable habitat exists within the BSA for these species.

3.19.2.3 SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT (MMPA)

The California sea lion (*Zalophus Californianus*) is one of the most common and widespread marine mammals along the California coast. The California sea lion is not a federally listed

species or California species of special concern; however, it is protected under the MMPA and therefore is addressed in regard to potential effects from the I-710 Corridor Project.

The California sea lion is occasionally found within the BSA in the lower reaches of the Los Angeles River, primarily south of Ocean Blvd. Individuals occasionally stray upstream as far north as Willow St. (e.g., one seen by survey team north of Pacific Coast Hwy. on September 4, 2009), although the generally shallow depth and the lack of haul-out sites (low-lying docks, piers, platforms, or sandy shoreline beaches) limit their occurrence. Haul-out sites are necessary for seals for mating and giving birth, but not all haul-out sites are for reproduction. Other benefits of haul-out sites may include predator avoidance, thermal regulation, social activity, parasite reduction, and rest.

3.19.2.4 FISHERIES PROTECTED UNDER THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Despite the relatively disturbed nature of the Los Angeles River, portions of the Los Angeles River within the BSA still provide habitat for a number of fish species. These fish inhabit Queensway Bay and may occasionally move upstream to tidal and freshwater portions of the Los Angeles River. As explained in more detail in the Estuary Analysis (Attachment H of the NES), ichthyoplankton (fish eggs and larvae) in the Lower Los Angeles River varies both spatially and seasonally. Species occurring in greatest abundance include gobies (Gobiidae family), northern anchovy, slough anchovy (*Anchoa delicatissima*), and white croakers (*Genyonemus lineatus*). Other eggs and larvae occurring in the river include spotted turbot (*Pleuronichthys ritteri*), hornyhead turbot (*Pleuronichthys verticalis*), California lizard fish (*Synodus lucioceps*), and California tonguefish (*Symphurus atricaudus*). Overall, ichthyoplankton species richness and density is higher during the winter, primarily due to an increase in the number of cheekspot goby in the Los Angeles River.

3.19.2.5 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH)

EFH includes those waters and substrates necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. For the purpose of interpreting the definition of EFH, “waters” include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; “substrate” includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; “necessary” means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and “spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity” covers a species’ full life cycle.

The I-710 Corridor Project is located within the lower reaches of the Los Angeles River in an area designated as EFH by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (Erlandson, personal

communication, December 14, 2009). An *Estuarine Resources Environmental Assessment* (January 2010) was prepared for the I-710 Corridor Project and can be found in Appendix H of the NES. Previous studies were examined as well.

As a nursery site for numerous fish species, Queensway Bay (outside of the BSA) provides EFH for Coastal Pelagic Species (Northern anchovy [*Engraulis mordax*], Pacific sardine [*Sardinops sagax*], Pacific mackerel [*Scomber japonicus*], and jack mackerel [*Trachurus symmetricus*]) and Pacific Coast Groundfish (leopard shark [*Triakis semifasciata*], spiny dog fish shark [*Squalus acanthias*], and California sculpin [*Clinocottus recalvus*]). These species occasionally use Queensway Bay for reproduction and development and are included in the Coastal Pelagic Species and Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries Management Plans. However, the only one of these species that would be expected to occur within the lower reaches of the Los Angeles River is the northern anchovy. The majority of the anchovy population is expected to occur outside of the BSA in Queensway Bay and San Pedro Bay at depths greater than 12 feet.

3.19.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.19.3.1 PERMANENT IMPACTS

BUILD ALTERNATIVES.

BURROWING OWL. There would be no permanent impacts to burrowing owl under any of the build alternatives because the location where burrowing owls were observed is not within the permanent project footprint of the build alternatives. Alternatives 6A/B/C propose elevated roads at the locations where the burrowing owls were observed, and at the locations where burrows exist. The owls could be directly and indirectly affected by any of the alternatives if construction were to occur while the burrows were occupied. Direct permanent impacts to foraging habitat are also expected to result from any of the build alternatives. Indirect permanent impact to burrowing owl and suitable foraging habitat on adjacent lands may result from edge effects such as plant and animal infestations, litter, noise, and pollutants associated with vehicle use of the expanded I-710 freeway. Implementation of Alternatives 6A/B/C is not expected to substantially affect long-term use of the corridor by burrowing owls with incorporation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, as described later in Section 3.19.4.

SPECIAL-STATUS BAT SPECIES. Permanent impacts to bat species would be greater from implementation of Alternatives 6A/B/C, than from Alternative 5A, given the greater amount of roosting habitat permanently affected by Alternatives 6A/B/C. All build alternatives would include driving bridge pilings in the Los Angeles River at the 7th St., Anaheim St., and Pacific Coast Hwy. crossings, in addition to 17 other bridges (Willow St., Wardlow Rd.,

I-405, Del Amo Blvd., Long Beach Blvd., SR-91, Alondra Blvd., Imperial Hwy., I-710 as it crosses to west side of the Los Angeles River, Southern Ave., Firestone Blvd., Clara St., Florence Ave., Gage Ave., Randolph St., and Slauson Ave.). There will not be substantial loss of bat roosting habitat, as most of the existing bridges will be replaced and/or expanded. The widening and modification of bridge, culvert, and overhead structures, as well as construction of new structures, would more likely increase future potential roosting habitat under any of the proposed project alternatives. Permanent indirect impacts associated with human encroachment, such as the introduction of nonnative species and trash, would permanently contribute to the degradation of foraging habitat for special-status bats (including but not limited to Yuma myotis and silver-haired bat) in the vicinity. Implementation of any of the build alternatives is not expected to substantially affect long-term use of the structures by bats.

OTHER SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES NOT REQUIRING SURVEYS. Permanent impacts to all species would be greater from implementation of Alternatives 6A/B/C than from Alternative 5A, given the greater amount of natural habitat permanently affected by Alternatives 6A/B/C. Permanent impacts to other nonlisted special-status species, and migratory birds in general could occur in the form of direct mortality, habitat loss, and habitat fragmentation.

Fourteen special-status animal species (other than those listed as federally or State threatened or endangered, or State fully protected) were observed within the BSA during 2009 surveys. However, they have a low to moderate probability of regular occurrence. The remaining 22 species have a low to moderate occurrence probability and were not observed during field studies of 2009. All of these species have a low to moderate regular occurrence probability, are widespread in distribution, and are not State or federally listed as threatened or endangered.

New bridge structures could result in occasional bird strikes. However, direct mortality is not expected with implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures. The freight corridor in Alternatives 6A/B/C would be elevated along most of the lower portion of the Los Angeles River, and it includes an electrified overhead catenary system. This presents some potential for occasional bird strikes as birds leave the river to the west. However, the freight corridor and the attendant truck traffic, which will essentially parallel the Los Angeles River, will be highly visible and essentially continuous, reducing the likelihood of direct strikes. Because the overhead cables would be in line with, and directly over, the freight corridor traffic, at an approximate maximum height of 20 feet, which is a few feet above maximum truck heights, the overhead catenary system will likely not be an attractive

perching structure for raptors or other native migratory birds, and thus, not a substantial electrocution hazard.

Because habitat that may be suitable for these species is already fragmented in the BSA and covers small areas of the BSA, permanent impacts to these species with regard to habitat loss and habitat fragmentation are expected to be extremely minimal, if at all. Similarly, hydraulic changes to the Los Angeles River could alter the value of the habitat in the lower portion of the river. Potential hydraulic effects are associated with bridge modifications and the relocation of a segment of electrical transmission lines along the edge of the river. However, as analyzed in Section 3.8, the proposed modifications would mimic the existing pier configurations upstream and downstream, and there would be no substantial effects to the water surface elevation, velocity of flood flows, sedimentation, or scour in the vicinity of the new piers. Because there are no substantial effects at the location of the modifications, there are no substantial effects to downstream locations. Final design of channel modifications and associated hydraulic analysis would require USACE approval.

SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT. All build alternatives would include construction or expansion of 28 piers on four bridges over the lower Los Angeles River that could affect California sea lions. These include the 7th St. Bridge (seven piers), Anaheim St. (six piers), Pacific Coast Hwy. (six piers), and Willow St. (nine piers). A new bridge will be constructed over the lower Los Angeles River at 7th St., while Anaheim St., Pacific Coast Hwy., and Willow St. will be expanded.

Construction and expansion of the four bridges in the lower Los Angeles River would not alter long-term movement of California sea lions through the channel. Once construction is completed, the bridges would not impede the movement of California sea lions through the channel.

FISHERIES PROTECTED UNDER THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT. Construction and expansion of the bridges over the Los Angeles River would not alter long-term movement of fish through the channel.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT No permanent effects would occur to EFH except for a minimal permanent loss of channel bottom where the piles would be placed. Authorization from the NMFS would be necessary through informal Section 7 consultation with Caltrans on behalf of FHWA. A “may affect but not likely to adversely affect” determination is anticipated regarding effects to EFH.

NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE. Under Alternative 1, the I-710 Corridor Project would not be constructed. There would be no permanent impacts to animals from the No Build Alternative.

3.19.3.2 PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

No public health considerations were identified with regard to project impacts on animals.

3.19.4 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION AND/OR MITIGATION MEASURES

In addition to measures described in Section 3.16, Natural Communities, and Section 3.24, Construction Impacts, the following measures will be implemented by Caltrans to avoid and minimize impacts to special-status animal species.

- AS-1** New and renovated bridges will be designed to ensure the safety of birds flying up and down the Los Angeles River. Suitable fencing or other structural features on the sides of bridges would direct flying birds up and out of the way of traffic, as well as restrict litter and debris from falling into the Los Angeles River during regular operation.

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