

### **3.20 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

The analysis of impacts of the proposed project on threatened and endangered species is based on the *Natural Environment Study* (NES) (January 2012).

#### **3.20.1 REGULATORY SETTING**

The primary federal law protecting threatened and endangered species is the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA): 16 United States Code (USC), Section 1531, et seq. See also 50 CFR Part 402. This act and subsequent amendments provide for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Under Section 7 of this act, federal agencies, such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), are required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) to ensure that they are not undertaking, funding, permitting or authorizing actions likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Critical habitat is defined as geographic locations critical to the existence of a threatened or endangered species. The outcome of consultation under Section 7 is a Biological Opinion or an Incidental Take statement. Section 3 of FESA defines take as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect or any attempt at such conduct."

California has enacted a similar law at the state level, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), California Fish and Game Code, Section 2050, et seq. CESA emphasizes early consultation to avoid potential impacts to rare, endangered, and threatened species and to develop appropriate planning to offset project caused losses of listed species populations and their essential habitats. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is the agency responsible for implementing CESA. Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code prohibits "take" of any species determined to be an endangered species or a threatened species. Take is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." CESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects; for these actions an incidental take permit is issued by CDFG. For species listed under both FESA and CESA requiring a Biological Opinion under Section 7 of the FESA, CDFG may also authorize impacts to CESA species by issuing a Consistency Determination under Section 2080.1 of the Fish and Game Code.

Another federal law, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, was established to conserve and manage fishery resources found off the coast, as well as anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources of the United States, by exercising (A) sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing all fish

within the exclusive economic zone established by Presidential Proclamation 5030, dated March 10, 1983, and (B) exclusive fishery management authority beyond the exclusive economic zone over such anadromous species, Continental Shelf fishery resources, and fishery resources in special areas.

### **3.20.2 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

On April 16, 2009, and again on May 23, 2012, the USFWS provided a list of Federally listed endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species that may occur in the vicinity of the Interstate 710 (I-710) Corridor Project. Both lists are included in Appendix J of this Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

#### **3.20.2.1 PLANT SPECIES**

After a thorough literature review, it was determined that 13 plant species that are 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 have the potential to occur within the Biological Study Area (BSA). Suitable habitat does not exist within the BSA for any of these plant species; therefore, they are not discussed further in this section. Further information on these species is summarized in Table 3.20-1, including status, habitat requirements, and potential for occurrence.

#### **3.20.2.2 ANIMAL SPECIES**

After a thorough literature review, it was determined that 28 animal plant species that are Federally and/or State-listed endangered or threatened, or proposed or delisted endangered or threatened, or are considered CFP species by the State of California have the potential to occur within the BSA. Suitable habitat does not exist within the BSA for 25 of these animal species. With the exception of the green turtle, all other animal species lacking suitable habitat in the BSA are not discussed further in this section. The green turtle is excepted because downstream effects to this species warrant consideration. Further information on these species is summarized in Table 3.20-2, including status, habitat requirements, and potential for occurrence.

**GREEN TURTLE.** The green turtle is found in areas of southern California, including artificially warm water in south San Diego Bay and at the mouth of the San Gabriel River. Green turtles are most widely distributed in tropical ocean waters. Green turtles have been observed in the Long Beach area (particularly in the vicinity of the San Gabriel River mouth), but not within the I-710 Corridor Project BSA. The potential for this species to occur in the Los Angeles River is considered very low. No critical habitat has been designated for the green turtle outside of the Caribbean Basin.

**Table 3.20-1 Threatened and Endangered Plant Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed	Rationale
Marsh sandwort	<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	FE/CE/1B	Found in freshwater marshes from 3 to 170 meters (10 to 560 feet) elevation, where it grows up through dense mats of <i>Typha</i> , <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Scirpus</i> , etc. Known to presently occur only in San Luis Obispo County. Believed extirpated from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, and from the state of Washington. The last known record of this species in Riverside, San Bernardino, or Los Angeles Counties is from 1900. Blooms May–August.	A	Believed extirpated in Los Angeles County. Last record was 1900. Not observed in marsh habitat within the BSA during special-status plant surveys in 2009.
Braunton's milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	FE/--/1B	Considered a limestone endemic and dependent on fire. Usually on sandstone with carbonate layers following fire but may follow other disturbance and occur on stiff gravelly clay soils over granite. Typically associated with the fire-dependent chaparral habitat on limestone and on down-wash sites below 640 meters (2,100 feet) elevation. Known only from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and Ventura Counties. Blooms January–August.	A	No carbonates, stiff gravelly clay, or chaparral occur within the BSA.
Ventura marsh-milk vetch	<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i>	FE/SE/1B	Coastal salt marsh within reach of high tide or protected by barrier beaches, or more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs, below 1 to 35 meters (120 feet) elevation. Known only from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Believed extirpated from Los Angeles and Orange Counties.	A	No salt marsh or suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.

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Coastal dunes milk-vech	<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>titi</i>	FE/CE/1B	Moist, sandy depressions of coastal dunes and bluffs, or clay terrace, below 50 meters (160 feet) elevation. Known to occur only in Los Angeles County. Believed extirpated from Los Angeles County. May also be extirpated from San Diego County. Blooms March–May.	A	No coastal dunes, bluffs, or clay terraces occur within the BSA. Believed extirpated in Los Angeles County.
Coulter's saltbush	<i>Atriplex coulteri</i>	–/CFP/1B	Alkaline or clay soils in ocean bluffs and ridgetops and alkaline low places in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal sage scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands below 460 meters (1,500 feet) elevation. In California, known only from Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and San Diego Counties. Also occurs in Mexico. This species has been documented northeast of the I-710/405 interchange. Blooms March–October.	A	No alkaline or clay soils or suitable habitat occurs within the BSA. Not observed during surveys of area nearest to suitable habitat.
Nevin's barberry	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	FE/SE/1B	Gravelly wash margins in alluvial scrub, or coarse soils and rocky slopes in chaparral; typically 275 to 825 meters (900 to 2,700 feet) elevation; Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. Blooms March through June (evergreen shrub, survey year-round). Blooms March through June (evergreen shrub, survey year-round).	A	No alluvial scrub or chaparral within BSA. BSA is outside expected range of species.

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San Fernando Valley spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	FC/SE/1B	Sandy soils in coastal scrub, primarily in northeastern Western Transverse Ranges and San Gabriel Mountains at 3 to 1,220 meters (10 to 4,000 feet) elevation. Known only from Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Presumed extirpated from Orange County and the Los Angeles Basin. Blooms April through June (annual herb).	A	No sandy areas or coastal scrub within BSA. BSA is outside range of species.
Salt marsh bird's-beak	<i>Cordylanthus maritimus</i> ssp. <i>maritimus</i>	FE/CE/1B	Coastal dunes and salt marshes below 30 meters (100 feet) elevation. In California, known from Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties. Historical collections referred to this taxon from alkaline meadow in vicinity of San Bernardino Valley are intermediate to <i>C. maritimus</i> ssp. <i>canescens</i> . This species has been documented from approximately 2 miles west and east of the right-of-way north of the Long Beach Harbor. Also occurs in Mexico. Blooms May–October.	A	No dunes or salt marshes occur within the BSA.
Gambel's water cress	<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	FE/CT/1B	Marshes and swamps from five to 330 meters (20 to 1,100 feet) elevation. Currently believed to occur in California only in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. There are historical records from Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and San Bernardino Counties, although the San Diego County records may be based on misidentification of another species. Also occurs in Baja California. Blooms April–October.	A	Believed extirpated from Los Angeles County. Not observed in wet areas within the BSA during special-status plant surveys.

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Moran's navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	FT/--/1B	In vernal pools, playas, shallow freshwater marshes and similar sites at 30 to 1,310 meters (100 to 4,300 feet) elevation. In California, known only from Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. Also occurs in Mexico. Blooms April–June.	A	No vernal pools or other suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.
California Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	FE/CE1B	Vernal pools from 15 to 660 meters (50 to 2,200 feet) elevation. In California, known from Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. Also occurs in Mexico. This species has been documented from approximately one to two miles east of the proposed right-of-way in Downey. Blooms April–August.	A	No vernal pools occur within the BSA. Not observed in wet areas during special-status plant surveys.
Lyon's pentachaeta	<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	FE/CE/1B	Clay soils in edges of openings in fire-adapted coastal sage scrub and chaparral on saddles between hills, on the tops of small knolls, or in flat areas at the base of slopes, particularly where soil crust results in less competition from annual grasses, from 30 to 630 meters (100 to 2,100 feet) elevation. Occurs only in the Santa Monica Mountains in eastern Ventura and western Los Angeles Counties and in the western Simi Hills in Ventura County. Based on historical records, it once occurred on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and on Santa Catalina Island, but has not been seen at these locations since 1910 and 1855, respectively, and is assumed to be extirpated from those areas. This species has been	A	No clay habitats occur within the BSA. Believed to be extirpated from the area.

**Table 3.20-1 Threatened and Endangered Plant Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed	Rationale
			documented from approximately 2 miles west of the right-of-way north of the U.S. Naval Station Long Beach. Blooms March-August.		
Brand's star phacelia	<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	FC/--/1B	Sandy openings, sandy benches, dunes, sandy washes, or river floodplains in coastal sage scrub at five to 400 meters (20 to 1,300 feet) elevation. In western Riverside County, this species appears to be restricted to sandy washes and benches in alluvial floodplains. In California, known only from Los Angeles (believed extirpated), Riverside, and San Diego Counties. This species has been documented from approximately one to two miles east of the proposed right-of-way in Downey. Blooms March-June.	A	No sandy soils or other suitable habitat occurs within the BSA.

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. Species observed during surveys (O) – Based on the literature review the species has been observed within the area of 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); Federal Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) United States Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC); California Endangered (CE); California Threatened (CT); Fully Protected Species (CFP); California Species of Special Concern (CSC); California Special Plant (CSP), California Special Animal (CSA), California Native Plant Society (CNPS); 1A, Plants presumed extinct in California; 1B, Plants considered by CNPS to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, 2, Plants considered by CNPS to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; 3, Plants about which more information is needed – a CNPS review list; CNPS threat categories: 0.1-Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat); 0.2-Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat); 0.3-Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

**Table 3.20-2 Threatened and Endangered Animal Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Biological Study Area**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status Federal/ State</b>	<b>General Habitat Description</b>	<b>Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>					
Palos Verdes blue butterfly	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis</i>	FE/--	Restricted to the cool, fog-shrouded, seaward side of Palos Verdes Hills, Los Angeles County. Dependent upon host plant <i>Astragalus trichopodus</i> var. <i>lonchus</i> .	A	Outside known range of the subspecies.
<b>FISH</b>					
Mohave Tui chub	<i>Gila bicolor mohavensis</i>	FE/CE, CFP	Endemic to the Mojave River basin, adapted to alkaline, mineralized waters. Needs deep pools, ponds, or slough-like areas. Needs vegetation for spawning. Now extirpated from the botanic garden in Palos Verdes, where it was transplanted in 1970.	A	The BSA is outside range of the species.
Santa Ana sucker	<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	FT/CSC	Historic range includes the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana River drainage systems located in Southern California. An introduced population also occurs in the Santa Clara River drainage system in Southern California. Found in shallow, cool, running water.	A	Still occurs in upper reaches of the Los Angeles River but apparently extirpated downstream.

**Table 3.20-2 Threatened and Endangered 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
Southern steelhead (Southern California ESU)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	FE/CSC	This anadromous species requires small, low-flowing streams with gravel beds with protective cover and adequate food to complete its lifecycle. Historically occurred in larger coastal drainages from Point Conception to northern Baja California. The southernmost populations now appear to be in Malibu and San Mateo Creeks.	A	The BSA is outside the current range of the species.
Tidewater goby	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	FE/CSC	Found in shallow lagoons up to 15 feet in depth and lower stream reaches; they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels. Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon in San Diego County to the mouth of the Smith River, in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches.	A	Formerly occurred in Ballona Creek estuary but now apparently extirpated from Los Angeles County.
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>					
Arroyo toad	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	FE/CSC	Washes and arroyos with open water; sand or gravel beds, for breeding, pools with sparse overstory vegetation. Coastal and a few desert streams from Los Angeles County to Baja California.	A	Occurs in the headwaters of the Los Angeles River, but apparently never recorded on the river proper.

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California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT/CSC	Streams with slow-moving water and deep pools; dense, shrubby riparian vegetation at pool edges. Coastal streams from Marin County to northwestern Baja California, but extirpated from most of southwestern California.	A	May have occurred historically, but now extirpated from the Los Angeles Basin.
<b>REPTILES</b>					
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	FT/--	Worldwide in warm marine waters near shorelines such as lagoons and bays with beds of eelgrass, seaweeds, or mangroves; open ocean during dispersal and/or migration. Nests on sandy beaches along tropical coasts. In Southern California aggregations occur in areas with artificially warm water from power plant outfalls in south San Diego Bay and at the mouth of the San Gabriel River.	A	Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable foraging habitat (e.g., eelgrass beds) and source of warm water. May occasionally occur downstream from the BSA, in the vicinity of the mouth of the Los Angeles River.
<b>BIRDS</b>					
Aleutian cackling goose	<i>Branta hutchinsii leucopareia</i>	FD/--	Nests on the Aleutian Islands and winters primarily in cultivated fields in California.	P	Probably occurred regularly within the BSA in the past and may still do so occasionally.

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<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status Federal/ State</b>	<b>General Habitat Description</b>	<b>Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
California brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	FD/CD/ CFP	Nests on islands off Southern California and western Mexico and ranges along the immediate coast and varying distances at sea to Canada and southern Mexico.	P,O	Forages regularly in estuarine portions of the river. One along the river in Paramount in July 2008 was exceptionally far upriver. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B).
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	--/CSA (nesting), CFP	Open country in South America and southern North America. Nests in trees.	P	Probably nested within the BSA formerly, but now only a scarce visitor.
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	FD,BCC/ CE	Primarily near seacoasts, rivers, swamps, and large lakes throughout much of North America.	A	Probably never common within the BSA and now only a rare visitor (e.g., one observed along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach in November 2004); some birds found in coastal Los Angeles County in recent years originated as released birds on the Channel Islands.
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	--/CFP	Generally open country of the Temperate Zone worldwide. Uncommon resident in southwestern California.	A	Probably occurred regularly within the BSA historically, but now only very rarely.
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	FD,BCC/ CD/CFP	Widespread, but scarce and local throughout North America. Nests on buildings and bridges in the Los Angeles Basin.	P, O	Nests in the Port of Los Angeles and regularly forages within the BSA. Observed during biological surveys in 2009 (Appendix B).

**Table 3.20-2 Threatened and Endangered 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
California black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	BCC/CT, CFP	Shallow margins of fresh and saltwater marshes from central California to northern Baja California; very local in occurrence.	A	Probably occurred historically, but never confirmed within the BSA.
Light-footed clapper rail	<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>	FE/CE, CFP	Coastal salt marshes from Santa Barbara County to northern Baja California.	A	Former resident in the mouth of the Los Angeles River, but now extirpated from Los Angeles County.
Greater sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	--/CT,CFP	Nests in marshy areas across southern Canada and the northern United States. 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.
Western snowy plover (coastal population)	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	FT/CSC	Sandy beaches and dry mud or salt flats, Washington to western Mexico. Does not currently nest in coastal Los Angeles County.	A	No nesting habitat remains within the BSA but occasional visitors are seen along the lower Los Angeles River.
California least tern	<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>	FE/CE (nesting colony)/ CFP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates. Winters primarily off the Pacific coast of northern South America.	P	Nests at Terminal Island in Los Angeles Harbor and forages regularly in estuarine portions of the Los Angeles River. Recent sightings upstream have included juveniles and/or family groups foraging at Willow St., I-405, and off-channel ponds at the Dominguez Gap wetlands.

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal/ State	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed	Rationale
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	FC/CE	Breeds and nests in extensive stands of dense cottonwood and willow riparian forest along broad, lower flood bottoms of larger river systems. Widespread, but local, in western North America; very rare and local in California. Winters in South America.	A	Formerly a fairly common nesting species within the BSA, but no suitable habitat remains.
Willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	FE ( <i>E. t. extimus</i> )/ SE	Breeds primarily in moist brushy thickets and riparian woodland, especially with willow, across much of temperate North America; winters in Central and South America. The southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>E. t. extimus</i> ) is a rare and local breeder in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.	A	The southwestern willow flycatcher was once a common nesting species along the lower Los Angeles River, but the population is much reduced and suitable habitat for nesting now appears to be absent within the BSA. The subspecies <i>E. t. brewsteri</i> is an uncommon migrant along the lower Los Angeles River.
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE/CE	Formerly occurred in well-developed riparian areas from north-central California to Baja California. Now absent from northern portions of its range, but populations in Southern California are growing in response to intense management efforts. Winters primarily in western Mexico.	A	Formerly common along the lower Los Angeles River, but only marginally suitable habitat for nesting remains. Has recently been recorded at DeForest Park and the ponds south of Del Amo Ave., Long Beach, in winter and spring.

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal/ State	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed	Rationale
Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	--/CT (nesting)	Nests locally in near vertical river banks, primarily in temperate regions around the northern hemisphere; winters primarily in the tropics.	A	Nested historically in the Los Angeles Basin, but now believed to be extirpated as a nesting species in Los Angeles County. Scarce transient in recent years, mainly in late summer and early fall.
Coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Poliioptila californica californica</i>	FT/CSC	Inhabits CSS in low-lying foothills and valleys in cismontane southwestern California and northwestern Baja California.	A	Recorded thrice in recent years along the lower Los Angeles River, but suitable CSS habitat is no longer present within the BSA.
Belding's Savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>	--/CE	Coastal salt marshes from Santa Barbara County to northern Baja California.	A	Nested historically within the lower reaches of the Los Angeles River, but suitable nesting habitat is now absent.
<b>MAMMALS</b>					
Pacific pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	FE/CSC	Historically occupied open habitats on sandy soils along the coast from Los Angeles to the Mexican border. Now known from only four sites in Orange and San Diego Counties.	A	Collected from Wilmington in 1865 and probably occurred in the vicinity of the BSA at that time. Not recorded on the shores of San Pedro Bay since.
Lesser long-nosed bat	<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	FE/--	Occurs in Sonoran desert scrub, semi-desert grasslands and lower oak woodlands from Arizona and New Mexico to El Salvador, and has been recorded in southwestern California. Frugivorous and nectivorous; highly associated with plants such as agave, saguaro, and ocotillo as a source of food.	A	Foraging and roosting habitat not present within the BSA. No known records in vicinity of BSA.

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal/ State	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present or Absent/ Species Observed	Rationale
			Roosts in caves and mines; not known to use bridges for roosting. Capable of migrating long distances.		
Ringtail	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	--/CFP	Woody and rocky areas of the southwestern United States and most of Mexico.	A	May have occurred within the BSA historically, but no suitable habitat remains.

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

**CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN.** Numerous California brown pelicans were observed foraging adjacent to the BSA during wildlife surveys. The California brown pelican is found in estuarine, marine subtidal, and marine pelagic waters along western North America, including the California coast. Its breeding range in the United States is currently restricted primarily to Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands in southern California; small numbers have also recently started breeding at the south end of the Salton Sea. Although nesting is now restricted to southern California, small numbers of California brown pelicans can be found in Monterey County throughout the year. California brown pelicans do not breed in the BSA, but are a common postbreeding visitor to this part of Los Angeles County. Brown pelican numbers in a given area may vary greatly with the season. No critical habitat has been designated for the California brown pelican.

**AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON.** Two or more peregrine falcons were observed foraging within the BSA during biological surveys in 2009. This species nests in the Port of Los Angeles and regularly visits the BSA. Nest sites of the peregrine falcon are considered sensitive. Suitable nesting habitat in the form of tall bridges is located near the BSA. This species forages widely over a wide variety of open landscapes, including urban areas, agricultural lands, harbors, salt marshes, and grasslands. The proposed project is not expected to affect known nest sites or nesting pairs of the American peregrine falcon. No critical habitat has been designated for the American peregrine falcon.

**WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER.** One of the bird species associated with the Los Angeles River's riverine habitats is the western snowy plover, which has been observed along the lower Los Angeles River in the current decade, but only as an infrequent, nonbreeding visitor. Due to the lack of nesting habitat, the infrequency of foraging activity and measures for avoidance and minimization of construction impacts on foraging habitat, the proposed project is not expected to adversely affect the western snowy plover. The proposed revised designation of critical habitat for the Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover does not include any portion of the BSA.

**CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN.** The California least tern is a colonial breeder that nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay to Baja California. The California least tern nests at Terminal Island in the Port of Los Angeles. Foraging birds regularly visit the Los Angeles River mouth below the Queensway Bridge and occasionally upstream. California least terns are rare away from the estuarine portions of the Los Angeles River, but have been recorded north to I-5 and in off-channel ponds east of the river north of there. California least terns are typically present in California from the first week of April to the first week of September. No critical habitat has been designated for the California least tern.

### 3.20.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

#### 3.20.3.1 PERMANENT IMPACTS

##### **BUILD ALTERNATIVES.**

**GREEN TURTLE.** The I-710 Corridor Project build alternatives would not result in any permanent effects to green turtles, as these alternatives would not remove any foraging or breeding habitat, nor result in barriers to movement of green turtles.

Based on the level of potential effects, and the analysis provided in the Draft Biological Assessment that has been prepared for consultation with the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service, it is anticipated that the build alternatives may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the green turtle.

**CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN.** Permanent impacts to the California brown pelican 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 California brown pelican could occur in the form of direct mortality and habitat loss.

New bridge structures could result in occasional bird strikes. Direct mortality is not expected with implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures described in Section 3.19.4. In addition, it is likely that brown pelicans foraging in the area of the Los Angeles River are already habituated to relatively high ambient noise levels due to traffic on the I-710 freeway and connecting highways.

Out of the total 1,989.48 acres within the BSA, approximately 10.5 acres (0.53 percent) could be utilized as foraging habitat for the California brown pelican. This makes up a very small area compared to the potential foraging habitat in the harbor and ocean areas of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Concurrence from the CDFG that the I-710 Corridor Project would not result in take of any endangered, threatened, candidate or fully protected species would not be necessary with regard to California brown pelican because of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures to prevent take from occurring.

**AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON.** Permanent impacts to American peregrine falcon 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 American peregrine falcon could occur in the form of direct mortality and habitat loss.

New bridge structures could result in occasional bird strikes. However, direct mortality is not expected with implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures described in Section 3.19.4. Because habitat that may be suitable for foraging covers small areas of the BSA, permanent impacts to American peregrine falcon with regard to habitat loss is expected to be extremely minimal, if any.

Concurrence from the CDFG that the I-710 Corridor Project would not result in take of any endangered, threatened, candidate, or fully protected species would not be necessary with regard to American peregrine falcons, since the proposed avoidance and minimization measures will prevent take from occurring.

**CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN.** Permanent impacts to California least tern 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 California least tern could occur in the form of direct mortality and habitat loss.

New bridge structures could result in occasional bird strikes. However, direct mortality is not expected with implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures described in Section 3.20.4. Because habitat that may be suitable for foraging covers small areas of the BSA, permanent impacts to California least tern with regards to habitat loss are expected to be extremely minimal, if any. This species leaves California altogether for more than half of each year so that, other than long-term effects on fish populations (a found source for the species), there would be no effects when the species is absent.

Based on the level of potential effects, and the analysis provided in the Draft Biological Assessment that has been prepared for consultation with the USFWS, it is anticipated that the build alternatives may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the California least tern. Similarly, concurrence from the CDFG that the I-710 Corridor Project would not result in take of any endangered, threatened, candidate or fully protected species is not expected to be necessary with regard to California least tern, since the proposed avoidance and minimization measures will prevent take from occurring.

**NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE.** Under Alternative 1, the I-710 Corridor Project would not be constructed. There would be no permanent impacts to threatened or endangered species from the no build alternative.

**3.20.3.2 PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS**

No public health considerations were identified with regard to project impacts on threatened or endangered species.

**3.20.4 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND/OR MITIGATION MEASURES**

The avoidance and minimization measures described in Section 3.16, Natural Communities, and Section 3.2.4, Construction Impacts, will ensure that permanent effects to green turtle, California brown pelican, American peregrine falcon, and California least tern are absent or minimal from implementation of any of the proposed build alternatives.

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