

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES— Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

The initial review suggests that some significant biological changes could occur as a result of the future development, thus, the project could result in present potentially significant impacts to biological resources. These impacts will be analyzed and considered in the EIR.

IMPACTS ANALYSIS

SALE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAYA DEL REY AND MARINA DEL REY LOTS

Please see Appendix C for preliminary research on Biological Resources in the PDR area.

- a) **Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

If Cluster 9 of the PDR and/or the MDR lots were developed, the development could potentially affect *special status* invertebrates either directly or through habitat modifications. Special status species are defined as listed plant and animal species that receive specific protection defined in federal or state legislation (Endangered Species Act), and are formally designated as endangered, threatened or rare under state or federal legislation. Also included in this definition are species that have no formal listing status as threatened or endangered, but are regarded as locally “rare,” “sensitive,” or “species of concern” on the basis of adopted policies and expertise of federal, state or local resource agencies, or local organizations with acknowledged expertise, such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Species that meet the criteria of Section 15380 of the California Environmental Quality Act or the California Native Plant Protection Act are defined as special status species. In general, plants constituting CNPS List 1A, 1B or 2 meet the definitions of California Department Fish and Game Code Section 1901 (Native Plant Protection Act) and/or Sections 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act), and are protected as such. Following this definition, development of any of PDR sites could adversely affect burrowing owl, however, this impact is considered less than significant. Development at any of the project sites would not affect special status plant species.

Invertebrates

Several special status invertebrate species are known to occur southwest of the PDR sites near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). No host-plants (i.e., *Eriogonum parvifolium*) to support El Segundo butterfly, a federally endangered species, were observed at the MDR or PDR project sites.

The MDR lots support the globose dune beetle, a federal species of concern, on a small degraded central dune scrub plant community (Arnold, 2003). Portions of these lots were seeded with an ornamental non-native wildflower mix and are watered during the dry season. The introduction of non-native species, increased vegetation cover (especially on the degraded central dune scrub habitat inhabited by the beetle), and ground saturation (out of the normal rainy season period) are factors that currently affect the beetle. Future development of this site could represent a potentially significant impact to the globose dune beetle.

At the time of preparation of this Initial Study, it is unknown whether or not this potentially significant impact can be mitigated or what mitigation measures may need to be applied. Since it may be impossible to avoid impacts on this species, mitigation could involve habitat restoration or in-lieu funds to an on-going habitat restoration program within the general vicinity. This potential impact and appropriate mitigation measures will be considered further in the EIR along with consultation of regulatory agencies.

The PDR Samarkand site (Cluster 9) supports an abundance of eucalyptus trees, which potentially support the overwintering monarch butterfly, a California Department of Fish and Game special animal. “Special Animals” is a general term that refers to the California Department of Fish and Game’s California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) tracks, regardless of their legal or protection status. The term does not offer further protection beyond the legal or protection status that may apply. A focused survey for monarch butterfly will be conducted in the fall. Any potentially significant impacts from future project related development on the monarch butterfly will be analyzed further in the EIR. If additional surveys indicate that the impacts are significant, consultation with local regulatory agencies will be implemented and appropriate mitigation measures developed.

Burrowing owl

Construction activities and associated noise levels due to project development at any of the PDR sites could adversely affect burrowing owls by displacing them from the sites and adjacent areas. This impact is considered less-than-significant because (1) adjacent areas near the cliffs and nearby areas of the Ballona wetlands could provide habitat for these owls, (2) the burrowing owl is not a listed endangered or threatened species, and (3) if any owls are disturbed, the number would be extremely small due to the already disturbed nature of the sites. This impact will not be considered further in the EIR.

Special status plants

No suitable habitat is present for any special status plant species due to the disturbed nature of all the project sites, including urban landscaping and grading for well installation and abandonment, and presence of invasive plant species at the PDR and MDR project sites. There are no wetlands present to support Ventura marsh milk-vetch, southern tarplant, Coulter’s goldfields or Ballona cinquefoil. Although special status plant species that occupy coastal dune habitats have historically occurred within the project vicinity, these species (including San Fernando Valley spineflower, beach spectaclepod, Orcutt’s pincushion, and Brand’s phacelia) have low potential occurrence at the project sites. Because of the lack of suitable habitat and disturbed nature of all the project sites there is no need to consider special status plants in the EIR.

b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

If all project sites were developed, the development would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community. No riparian or other sensitive communities are present at the project sites and thus future development is unlikely to affect these communities. Southern coastal salt marsh and southern dune scrub, which are defined as sensitive communities by California Department of Fish and Game, are known to occur within the vicinity of the project sites. Southern dune scrub is found at the El Segundo Dunes just west of the runways at LAX, approximately two miles from the project area. Southern coastal salt marsh is found at the Ballona wetlands approximately

one-half mile north of the project area. A Bird Conservation area is approximately one mile northwest of the MDR project site. However, it is reported that this area does not support an important linkage for avian distribution (Los Angeles County, 1995). The project sites do not support sensitive communities. Thus, the proposed project would not impact these sensitive communities.

The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community. No significant impacts to vegetation communities are expected as a result of the proposed project. None of the lots support dominant native vegetation. All lots support-introduced species such as iceplant, English ivy, and grass.

- c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

If all project sites were developed, the development would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands. There are no wetlands or jurisdictional waters present on or directly adjacent to the project lots.

- d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

If all project lots were developed, the development would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. No wildlife movement corridors are present on any of the sites and no long-term significant impacts are expected to local and/or regional wildlife movement corridors as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project would not adversely affect the ecological connectivity of the El Segundo dune ecosystem and the Ballona wetlands. None of the sites provide wildlife movement corridors to either El Segundo Dunes or the Ballona wetlands. No jurisdictional waters are present on the sites and no impacts to jurisdictional waters are expected from the proposed project.

- e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

If all project lots were developed, the development would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The site on Saran Drive (Cluster 5) supports a large canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*). Since none of the lots proposed for developing are larger than one acre, a permit is not required for removal of the oak tree (City of Los Angeles, 1990). The PDR project sites are not located within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, thus the County Tree Ordinance (No. 11/29/99REV, amend Title 22) does not apply. Furthermore, the MDR sites, while located

within Los Angeles County, contain no trees. Therefore, the reasonably foreseeable development and removal of trees would not conflict with local ordinances and no impacts would result from the proposed project.

f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

If all project sites were developed, the development would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. The sites are not contained within any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, or other approved Habitat Plan Area, thus no impact would result to such plans.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES— Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

The initial review suggests that there is no potentially significant cultural resources impact that could not be mitigated by standard mitigation measures. These impacts and the appropriate mitigation measures will be considered in the EIR.