IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
D. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The analysis in this section is based upon the following technical reports. Copies of these reports are available in Appendix F.

- General Biological Assessment Northwest Corner of Sepulveda Boulevard & Rosecrans Avenue, City of El Segundo, TERACOR Resource Management (April 25, 2004)
- Wetlands Delineation for Honeywell Property Area "A", El Segundo, California, Dudek & Associates (February 16, 2004)
- Vernal Pool Habitat Assessment for Honeywell Property, El Segundo, California, Dudek & Associates (January 21, 2004).
- Results of Pacific Pocket Mouse Trapping Activities Associated with the 108 Acre Proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning and 43 Acre Proposed Plaza El Segundo Development Project, Peter H. Bloom, Zoologist (June 10, 2004)

Existing biological conditions for the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site were investigated through field surveys and a review of existing biological information and pertinent scientific literature. Literature reviewed in determining community names and vegetation associations and descriptions for the project area were derived from *The Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California* (Hickman, ed., 1993); *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986); and *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995). Additionally, the State of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was checked for information regarding the location of California's rare, threatened, endangered and otherwise sensitive plants, animals, and natural communities to determine if any were likely to occur on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is generally located in western Los Angeles County, in the City of El Segundo at the northeast corner of Sepulveda Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue (Figure II-2 in Section II, Project Description). The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is specifically located in Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 14 West, of the Venice, California 7.5 Minute Series USGS Topographic Quadrangle (Figure IV.D-1).

Figure IV.D-1, USGS Topographic Map

Available USGS topographic mapping consisted of two maps. One historic USGS map dated 1903 was reviewed for historical development patterns. The most recent USGS map was produced in 1964 and photo-revised in 1981. The existing conditions of the survey area were reviewed against this mapping to understand the topographic/stratigraphic alteration of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Topography on the site ranges from below 90 feet above mean sea level (msl) to approximately 150 feet msl.

The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site appears to have been completely disturbed at various times over a long history of industrial use. Substantive modification of natural topography and substrates has occurred on the site to direct all storm and nuisance flows inward toward detention basins. The west and south margins of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site were developed with office buildings, chemical plant facilities, access roadways, driveways, fencing, associated utility infrastructure and ornamental landscape areas.

There are existing railroad alignments on-site including a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway line and a Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) alignment both of which cross the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. The BNSF tracks are oriented in a northeast/southwest fashion, and continue past the site north into Inglewood and south into Manhattan Beach. The BNSF railway appears to have been constructed on 1) nearly natural ground and 2) on berms above the existing detention basins. The surface surrounding the tracks is a gravel bed. The slopes of the tracks are vegetated almost entirely of non-native invasive and ornamental plants. The northeast end of the railway zone appears to be constructed on natural ground and ground cover in this location consists of both native and invasive vegetation.

Field Surveys

A preliminary site assessment was conducted on August 3, 2003. General biological surveys were conducted on November 11, 2003, November 14, 2003, January 27, 2004, March 24, 2004, March 27, 2004 and April 12, 2004. Follow-on surveys related to specific conditions or species identified during the general biological survey and requiring more detailed information and analysis are discussed below. During each visit, the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site's biological resources were assessed for both general biological and specific support resources for several rare species with the potential to occur on-site or in the area. Weather conditions during surveys were suitable for identifying species and organisms. Vegetation communities were field mapped initially in November, 2003 and refined during subsequent visits to the property.

Field work was conducted on foot by all site investigators, through all habitat areas within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning site. Plants were identified in the field by Sam Reed and Michael C. Long. Reptile and amphibian species were inventoried by turning debris and scanning sunning and

foraging areas. Bird species were identified by call and by use of binoculars with nomenclature following Dunn[1]. Common mammals were identified by sight or sign evidence.

With regard to determining the presence of animal species, the assessment was habitat-based and in part predictive. The evaluation for presence for sensitive organisms included such variables as availability of support resources (e.g., rock outcrops, flowing water, specific host plants, nesting sites, etc.), the size of the property and the history of disturbance. The likelihood of potential occurrences is further predicated on the known distributions of species, and their overall habitat requirements and preferences.

Soils

Soils along the lower coastal plain of Los Angeles County primarily consist of two soil associations: the Oceano Association and the Marine Association. Which soils precisely occurred on-site prior to alteration and construction of detention basins has not been determined, but substrates on site were similar to the soil associations described below. Soils are derived from terrace deposits, both marine and non-marine, as well as from sand dune accumulations. The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is generally underlain by dune sand.

The Oceano Association occurs on the coastal plain of Los Angeles on 2 to 5 percent slopes, usually on dune like areas. It occurs within elevations from sea level to 100 feet above msl. The natural vegetation cover was coastal scrub, maritime chaparral chaparral, and annual forbs and grasses. The oceano soils are characterized as generally over 60 inches deep, excessively drained due to sandy composition, and are strongly acidic. These soils occur on Point Dume and south from Santa Monica to Torrance and San Pedro Bay. Natural sloughs and tidally influenced marshes are included in the association.

Marina Association soils are present on slopes between 2 and 15 percent. Marina soils are deeper than 60 inches, are somewhat excessively drained and have a medium acid loamy sand surface up to two feet thick. Substrata are light brown to pink in color and fertility is noted as low.

Vegetation and Plant Communities

The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is located within the California Floristic Province's Southwestern California region, specifically, within the South Coast subregion. The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site has undergone substantive alteration over many decades, and plant communities are either non-native or under represented in terms of diversity. Furthermore, plant communities appear to be mostly emergent[2] rather than relict[3]. This condition suggests that the

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[1] Dunn, Jon L., 1999, *Field Guide to the Birds of North America, National Geographic Society, Third Edition*.

[2] *Newly formed or prominent; www.merriam-webster.com*.

topographic alteration of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site has been profound and that re-colonization of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site by plants has occurred across most of the area. This conclusion is based upon the paucity of annual wildflower species in spring, the extent of non-native invasive plant coverage, the artificial topographic appearance of all "natural" areas, dominance of native colonial species such as deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*) and telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), and the known development history of the area.

The plant communities and areas are described below utilizing the classification system found in the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland, 1986; updated 1992); *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995); and *The Jepson Manual - Higher Plants of California* (Hickman, 1993). Vegetation communities noted with an asterisk (*) are either known or believed to be of high priority for inventory (CNDDB designation of "Highest Inventory Priority Community". These communities are depicted on Figure IV.D-2, Vegetation Communities, and photographs of existing vegetation conditions are shown in Figure IV.D-3.

Ruderal/Disturbed/Developed/Unvegetated (No CNDDB Code No.)

Ruderal/Disturbed areas include any area which has been substantially disturbed and supports little to no vegetation. These areas include paths, areas where high levels of mechanical activity were concentrated, dirt borrow areas, and dirt roads. While there is little to no vegetation present, small mammals and reptile and their predators may sometimes utilize these zones for basking, foraging, or similar activities.

Non-Native Grassland (CNDDB Code No. 42.000.00)

Non-native grassland mapped on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site contained a mix of grasses. Mapping distinctions between pampas grass (CNDDB Code No. 42.070.00) or other grassland associations were not possible. Grasses recorded within open areas of the assessment area included wild oat (*Avena barbata*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon)*, barley (*Hordeum murinum*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), Mediterranean grass (*Schimus* sp.), and fox tail fescue (*Vulpia myuros* var. *hirsuta)*. Habitat values were generally low in non-native grassland areas, particularly where larger invasive species were present. These plants provide little value to wildlife as compared to these less invasive and inhospitable grassland species and are generally considered detrimental to functional ecosystems and habitats.

[3] *A persistent remnant of an otherwise extinct flora or fauna or a kind of organism, www.merriam-webster.com.*

Figure IV.D-2, Vegetation Communities

Figure IV.D-3, Photographs of Vegetation Conditions

Non-Native Iceplant – Fig-Marigold (CNDDB Code No. 21.200.01)

Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) is widespread across the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, vigorously displacing and eliminating native dune and scrub vegetation. Few wildlife species derive benefit from its presence, although rats and ground squirrels consume the blossoms readily.

Deerweed Scrub (No Corresponding CNDDB Code No.)

Deerweed *(Lotus scoparius*) is a homogeneous and disturbance-related pioneer shrub in the coastal scrub vegetation community sub-types. A member of the Fabacae (Pea) family, it is a nitrogen-fixer and early pioneer plant whose presence indicates that a mechanically-disturbed area is likely to, over time, recover to become one of many scrub community types. Deerweed is a quasi-deciduous scrub which loses its leaves during drought and sometimes during winter, particularly dry winters. This sub-community could have been considered and mapped as disturbed Coastal Sage Scrub or Coastal bluff scrub, however, it was usually mixed with non-native grassland on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, and it lacked other scrub community constituents.

Dune Lupine – Goldenbush Scrub (CNDDB Code No. 32.160.00)*

Dune bush lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*) was concentrated in two subareas of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. The first subarea is immediately northeast of the parking lot adjacent to Sepulveda Boulevard. At this location the accompanying goldenbush *(Isocoma menziesii*) was scarce almost to the point of being absent. This pocket of dune bush lupine was located on a gentle gradient which appeared to be comprised of native soil and substrate, although that was not conclusively determined. Iceplant had, however, invaded this area, and so other community constituents were not detected. Subsequent disturbance related to demolition of nearby chemical plant structures and support buildings since initial mapping in the CNDDB may have eliminated goldenbush at this location entirely.

The other location of dune bush lupine occurs on the southern edge of UND 5[4]. At this location the community also contains iceplant, deerweed, and a few other shrubs and annual species, such as California croton (*Croton californica*), beach evening primrose (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*), and California sun cup (*C. bistorta*). The back sand dune environment has been either eliminated or, at best, arrested, in the area. The CNDDB classification as a "Highest Inventory Priority Community", therefore, may overstate the importance of the community detected and recorded on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

[4] *See Section IV.G, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of this EIR for locations of Unlined Natural Depressions (UNDs) within the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.*

Freshwater Marsh (human-induced) (CNDDB Code No. 52.100.01)

There is a small, human-induced marsh located at the northwest corner of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. The area appears to have been excavated to purposefully capture on-site runoff, and also receives tributary runoff from an ornamental landscape irrigation system located at the north frontage of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site along Sepulveda Boulevard. Species detected at that location included cattail (*Typha domingensis*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), curly dock (*Rumex crispis*), willow weed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), Parish's spike rush (*Eleocharis parishii*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus* sp.) and mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*). Most of the vegetation has died as a result of irrigation no longer being supplied to the area.

Coyote Brush Scrub (CNDDB Code No. 32.060.00)

Coyote brush appears to be another disturbance-related community type present on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. It is located in several basins where minor ponding encourages its development, as well as in upland areas on the margins of the basins. Coyote brush occurs in association with the non-native pampas grass in many locations on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

Coastal Scrub (Disturbed) (CNDDB Code No. 32.000.00)

Coastal scrub on-site is very limited in geographic extent and can be characterized as species poor and either disturbed or emergent. The highest quality coastal scrub on-site is located north of UND 1, on a human-constructed berm or slope at the edge of the Honeywell property. This subarea supports goldenbush, deerweed, Gnaphalium, telegraph weed, and common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*). Ecologically, the coastal scrub supports the highest number and diversity of reptiles and small mammal burrows observed across the survey area.

Mulefat Scrub (CNDDB Code No. 63.510.00)

Mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) occurs in small patches on-site which, for the most part, are not large enough to accurately map. One small mulefat scrub pocket, located at the northeast corner of the Air Products property, north of UND-5, was intermixed with coyote brush and was mapped accordingly. Evidence of minor ponding was noted at the northeast corner of the assessment area, but mechanical activity and unauthorized recreational activity (paintball games and targets) had both occurred recently and the ground surface was disturbed, which inhibited the hydrological field assessment of the area. Substrates were, however, extremely sandy and unconsolidated, therefore, prolonged ponding seems very unlikely.

Enough moisture and debris were, however, present in the extreme northeast corner of the property that two amphibians were detected. An adult western toad (*Bufo boreas*) and one slender garden salamander (*Batrachoseps pacificus major*) were found in a burrow and under debris, respectively.

Table IV.D-1 provides a list of the plant species identified during field surveys. Unless contained within natural areas, no attempt was made to inventory the species of ornamental trees and shrubs found within developed portions of the property. Where ornamental and/or invasive species were detected in natural habitat areas, specimens were usually identified to genus. Scientific names follow *The Jepson Manual*, 1993, and *Flora of the Santa Monica Mountains, California*, 2nd Edition, Raven, Thompson and Prigge, 1986. Common names are those which are generally utilized or have been taken from Flowering Plants: The Santa Monica Mountains, Coastal and Chaparral Regions of Southern California, Dale, 1986. The common name of the plant is followed by the scientific name in parenthesis.

Two potentially sensitive plant communities were identified within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site during the general biological assessment of the site: Dune Lapine – Goldenbush Scrub (identified in the CNDDB as "Highest Inventory Priority Community") and Freshwater Marsh (i.e., potential wetland). Two small degraded areas of Dune Lapine –Goldenbush Scrub were identified: one in the western portion of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site immediately northeast of the parking lot adjacent to Sepulveda Boulevard; and the second at the southern edge of UND-5. These areas are degraded and have been invaded by non-native plants such as iceplant. The diminished value, condition, and functionality of this habitat on-site indicates this area of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would not constitute a sensitive natural community on-site.

The general biological assessment also identified a marsh area (potential wetland habitat) at the northwest corner of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. A follow-on routine delineation of waters and wetlands under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) that may be located within the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site was conducted by Dudek & Associates in January, 2004. The purpose of this study was to determine whether jurisdictional waters were present within the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. All undeveloped parts of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning site that were initially determined in the general biological assessment to have potential for wetlands and waters of the U.S. were surveyed to identify the presence or absence and potential locations of jurisdictional waters. Wetland sampling points were selected based on the presence of hydrophytic vegetation or drainage pattern. Wetlands sampling points and the extent of wetland vegetation were mapped in the field using a Trimble Geoexplorer 3 Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receiver.

The jurisdictional wetlands delineation was conducted in accordance with the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (TR Y-87-1) (ACOE 1987); hydrology, vegetation, and soils were examined at potential wetland sites. Munsell Soil Color Charts were used to determine soil chroma and value, and the indicator status of the plant species was determined by referring to the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands (Reed 1988).

Soil pits were dug to depths of approximately 16 inches. Excavated soils were examined for evidence of hydric conditions, particularly low chroma values, mottling, and gleyed soils. Thirteen pits were excavated. The limits of wetland areas were mapped based on the similarity of vegetation and topography with the sampled areas.

Table IV.D-1
Flora Detected Within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site

- ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*)*
- fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)*
- annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*)
- coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
- horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*)*
- White everlasting (*Gnaphalium canescens* var. *microcephalum*)
- telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*)
- prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*)*
- common snow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*)*
- Russian thistle, tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*)*
- Parish's spikerush (*Eleocharis parishii*)
- California broom, common deerweed (*Lotus scorparius*)
- longleaf lupine (*Lupinus longifolius*)
- sourclover (*Melilotus indica*)*
- cheese weed (*Malva parviflora*)*
- beach evening primrose (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*)
- English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)*
- brome (*Bromus* sp.)
- Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)*
- Dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*)*
- bristlegrass (*Setaria* sp.)
- willow weed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*)
- arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*)
- lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)
- Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*)*
- mugwort (*A. douglasiana*)
- tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*)*
- cutleaf daisy (*Erigeron* sp.)
- everlasting (*Gnaphalium* sp.)
- smooth cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*)*
- bristly ox-tongue (*Pricris echioides*)*
- Australian saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*)*
- morning glory, bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)*
- California croton (*Croton californicus*)
- dune bush lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*)
- California burclover (*Medicago polymorpha*)
- broadleaf filaree (*Erodium botrys*)*
- Myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*)*
- fireweed, willow herb (*Epilobium* sp.)
- sea-lavendar, marsh-rosemary (*Limonium* sp.)*
- ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*)*
- barley (*Hordeum murinum*)*
- Forsskal, fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)*
- Mediterranean grass (*Schismus* sp.)*
- curly dock (*Rumex crispis*)*
- tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)*
- Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)*
- Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*)*
- mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*)
- crown daisy (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*)*
- cudweed (*Gnaphalium bicolor*)
- common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
- goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii var. vernonoides*)
- (*Stephanomeria* sp.)*
- lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*)*
- Umbrella sedge (*Cyperus squarrosus*)
- castorbean (*Ricinus communis*)*
- Lupine (*Lupinus* sp.)
- white sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*)*
- filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)*
- California sun cup (*Camissonia bistorta*)
- Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*)*
- slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*)*
- pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)*
- perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)*
- Natal grass (*Rhynchelytrum repens*)
- fox-tail fescue (*Volpia myuros* var. *hirsuta*)*
- fire-thorn (*Pyracantha angustifolia*)*
- southern cattail (*Typha domingensis*)

* denotes non-native

Three agencies would potentially have jurisdiction over wetlands: Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act the ACOE regulates discharges to waters of the United States. Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Act, RWQCB regulates surface waters. Under Section 1600-1607 of the California Fish and Game Code, CDFG regulates lakes, streams, and associated riparian vegetation.

Waters of the United States include navigable waters and their tributaries and wetlands. Wetlands under jurisdiction of ACOE are determined by the presence of the hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils as discussed above. ACOE jurisdiction does not extend to isolated, non-navigable, intrastate waters.

The jurisdictional reach of RWQCBs is generally coincident with the ACOE based on the Federal Clean Water Act. However, a RWQCB may take jurisdiction over additional areas lacking ACOE jurisdiction pursuant to the state Porter-Cologne Act, which regulates surface and subsurface waters. Areas with evidence of wetland hydrology, including vernal pools, are considered to be potentially under the jurisdiction of RWQCBs.

Fish and Game jurisdictional areas were determined in accordance with Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, which require that general plans be submitted to the CDFG if the project will: (1) divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream or lake designated by CDFG in which there is at any time an existing fish or wildlife resource or from which these resources derive benefit; (2) use material from the streambeds designated by CDFG; or (3) result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste or other material containing crumbled, flaked or ground pavement where it can pass into any river, stream or lake designated by CDFG.

A summary of the results of the wetlands determination is provided in Table IV.D-2. In the following table, "NW" refers to the northwest corner of the survey area, with "outer" referring to vegetation nearer to Sepulveda Boulevard and the northern border of the survey area and "inner" referring to a drainage to the east and south, separated from the outer drainage by a small ridge or berm planted with ornamental trees. For those areas which are identified as meeting all three wetlands criteria, a greater discussion is provided below. More information regarding the areas which do not meet the criteria for wetlands is provided in Appendix F.

Table IV.D-2
Summary of Wetland Determination Results

Location	Data Station	Wetlands Determination Criteria		
		Vegetation	Hydrology	Soils
NW (outer)	DS7	Yes	Yes	No
NW (outer)	DS8	Yes	Yes	Yes
NW (outer)	DS11	Yes	Yes	No
NW (inner)	DS9	Yes	Yes	Yes
NW (inner)	DS12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Source: Dudek & Associates				

Northwest Corner – Outer Drainage

An L-shaped drainage extending along the northern edge of the survey area and curving along the eastern edge of S. Sepulveda Boulevard is dominated by wetland plant species. The eastern end is dominated by cattail (*Typha* sp.); farther west, African umbrella plant (*Cyperus involucratus*) is dominant; towards the northwestern corner Olney's bulrush (*Scirpus americanus*) is dominant, even growing up the hillside; and an arroyo willow is near the southern end of this vegetation. Three points were sampled: among the cattail (DS11), Olney's bulrush (DS7), and arroyo willow (DS8). Each of these sites was dominated by wetland vegetation and had two secondary hydrology indicators (water-stained leaves and FAC-neutral test). Data Stations 8 and 12 also had gleyed mottles in the clayey soil, an indication of hydric soils.

The three ACOE wetlands criteria are present at Data Station 8; however, the wetland is isolated and not under the jurisdiction of the ACOE. The entire area meets the hydrology criterion for wetlands. The RWQCB–Los Angeles Region (LARWQCB) verbally indicated that this area may fall under the jurisdiction of LARWQCB. The dominance of wetter than facultative vegetation and the presence of water stained leaves are likely to be residual effects of excess runoff from Sepulveda Blvd., which stopped when the street was repaired in 2002, and onsite sprinkler irrigation, which was discontinued in late 2003. Surface waters may no longer occur at these locations. Futhermore, if surface waters are present, no impacts to regional water quality and/or beneficial uses would result from impacts to this isolated drainage. Because riparian vegetation does not occur along a stream channel at this location, CDFG does not have jurisdiction over this area.

Northwest Corner – Inner Drainage

A smaller drainage, apparently supplied by excess runoff from the berm to the west and from concrete surfaces in the developed areas to the south, supports a mixture of riparian, disturbed, and marsh vegetation. Vegetation includes pampas grass, cattail, willow herb *(Epilobium ciliatum* ssp. *ciliatum*), and arroyo willow with more pampas grass in the southern (upper) portion of the drainage and more cattail in the northern (lower) end. Both sampling points, beneath an arroyo willow (DS9) and among the cattails (DS12) had all three wetlands indicators, including gleyed mottling in the soil.

The three ACOE wetlands criteria are present in the entire drainage, but it is isolated and not under ACOE jurisdiction. The LARWQCB verbally indicated that this area may fall under the jurisdiction of LARWQCB. The wetlands hydrology is likely a residual artifact of discontinued onsite irrigation and internal drainage patterns, and impacts to it would not affect regional water quality and/or beneficial uses. This area would not fall under CDFG jurisdiction because it is isolated and lacks a natural streambed.

Based upon this assessment, approximately 0.18 acres of wetlands under the jurisdiction of the LARWQCB may exist within the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. No waters of the U.S. or waters of the State are present on the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

Wildlife

Wildlife values within the project site are considered to be moderately low. This assigned relative value is a result of various factors including but not necessarily limited to the following:

1. The natural condition of the El Segundo/Manhattan Beach area has been profoundly altered by many decades of urban development including construction of residential, commercial and industrial projects and related transportation infrastructure such as major roadways and railways;

2. The property, while open and somewhat natural in appearance in the basin areas and surrounding berms, is invaded with a prevalence of exotic vegetation which has displaced and nearly eliminated the native plant profile of the site;

3. Isolation of the property from larger more biologically productive properties which might have provided a source of floral and faunal replenishment following disturbances on-site;

4. An array of contaminant chemicals and substances in some areas on-site which are likely to be detrimental to wildlife utilization and reproductive processes;

5. Prevalence of more common forms of urban adapted wildlife on the property;

6. Substantive alteration of soils and substrates on-site and the direct negative effects to faunal elements and assemblages which likely have inhabited those substrates;

7. "Edge effects" which subject wildlife residing in a natural area within a larger urban environment to a number of detrimental consequences such as an increase in the number of predators and dangerous conditions (such as dogs, cats, children, automobiles, heavy equipment, and elevated numbers of skunks, opossums, rats, crows, and ravens); and

8. Disruption to and cessation of natural aeolian (wind driven) and shoreline related processes in the former sand dune ecosystem which was at one time the dominant and very unique habitat type in this coastal area..

At the same time, relict or remnant habitat areas in urban locations can support a range of wildlife species, often common and urban-adapted, but occasionally urban natural areas support pockets of unique habitat or rare wildlife sub-populations. Urban habitats can also provide "island" habitat to migratory avifauna in spring and autumn, and potentially sustain that migratory wildlife as it moves through inhospitable urban areas. Natural habitats also can receive and purify nuisance and storm water runoff when flows are directed or allowed to flow into or through them.

Though the habitat present within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is very disturbed, a number of species are either resident on-site or utilize it for foraging. Some species with higher mobility, such as Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), red-tail hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and great-horned owl (*Bubo virginiensis*) and a number of song birds, likely utilize the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site on a fairly regular basis. Other less common animals, such as loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), would not have been expected to occur within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site but were in fact detected during field surveys.

A variety of birds, mammals, and amphibians/reptiles were observed on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Table IV.D-3 summarizes the species that were actually observed. Non-native species have an asterisk (*) following their name. The common name is provided with the scientific name in parenthesis. Additional species that could occur on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, but were not observed, are provided in Appendix F.

Mammal diversity historically in coastal plains, dune complexes, and oceanside habitats in southern California is relatively high, particularly for those areas not affected by human disturbances. Areas which have undergone habitat conversion tend to exhibit lower abundance and diversity of ground-dwelling rodents. Larger mammals, such as coyote and common gray fox, are found infrequently or not at all due to the presence of humans and landscape modifications.

Over the course of the field study, site investigators directly observed individuals or detected sign (tracks, scat, nests, burrows) of several mammal species. These mammals included Audubon's cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys b. bottae*), and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*). Other mammal genera were detected, but not to species level. Larger more secretive mammals, such as bobcat or badger, no longer occur in the area due to human presence and lack of cover.

Table IV.D-3
Observed Wildlife Species

Birds[1]	
Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)	mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
rock dove (*C. livia*)	common raven (*Corvus corax*)
American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)	Common yellowthroat (*Geothypis trichas*)
western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)	Lincoln's sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*)
song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)	white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
rufous-side (spotted) towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)	American kestrel (*F. sparverius*)
house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)	lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)
northern rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx seripennis*)	barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)	northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)
Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)	burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)	Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)
black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*)	Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)
western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)	European starling* (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
Mammals[2]	
Audubon's cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii sanctidiegi*)	California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*)
Botta's pocket gopher* (*Thomomys b. bottae*)	coyote (*Canis latrans*)
raccoon (*Procyon lotor psora*)	striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis holzneri*)
house cat (*Felis catus*)	
Amphibians and Reptiles[3]	
western toad (*Bufo boreas*)	side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*)
western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)	

1. Birds were observed with 10x40 power binoculars and identified following Dunn, National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Third Edition updated to conform with changes in nomenclature consistent with the most recent American Ornithological Union checklist.
2. Records included herein were derived from field observations and literature.
3. Identification of amphibians and reptile species were made visually, with terminology following R.C. Stebbins (2003) A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians.

Several bat species are likely to forage over the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, and bats are increasingly considered sensitive due to habitat losses. Several species of bats, including the California myotis (*Myotis californicas*), western pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus***),** big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), and the Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) might forage for flying insects over and within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, but were not observed. None of the bat species which could forage in the area would be dependent upon resources that would be removed as part of project implementation.

Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

Biogeographic theory maintains that any habitat patch, or island, which experiences genetic isolation, will undergo eventual extinction if the habitat unit is too small to support genetic variability in any given species. In the South Bay area today, urban development has eliminated most movement

corridors and connective habitat. Assuming most connective habitat has been eliminated, the beach strand likely comprises connective habitat for certain habitat islands (e.g., Ballona wetlands/Playa Vista, LAX dunes, and the Palos Verdes Penninsula) on the coast in western Los Angeles County. Though not appropriate habitat for most terrestrial animal species, the coastline may serve to connect these otherwise isolated habitat areas, particularly for bird species or animals subject to flushing phenomena during storm events. "Flushing" refers to organisms which may become stranded on vegetative mats or debris during rain events which ultimately enter the Pacific Ocean and then wash to shore. The connection is vital not so that individual animals can move freely (although that can be true with predators like ringtails or bobcats) but so that genetic exchange and corresponding genetic variability can be achieved incrementally throughout the habitat through reproductive processes with less mobile organisms.

Southern California coastal habitats host a wide variety of marine and terrestrial mammals, fish, reptiles, birds, and insects. Habitat islands previously mentioned, however, have only a marginal relationship with the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Figure IV.D-4 depicts a portion of the South Bay area and illustrates how urbanized the area has become. Few organisms (and certainly only birds) in other natural areas would have ranges that might overlap the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, and those organisms would probably not be dependent on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site as a foraging resource. With the exception of song birds moving along the Pacific Flyway, the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, therefore, is unlikely to play a biogeographic role in the movement of animals through the region.

Sensitive Species[5]

Federal and State Protected Status

Protected sensitive species are usually classified by both state and Federal resource management agencies as threatened or endangered, under provisions of the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. Vulnerable or "at-risk" species which have been proposed or are being considered for listing as threatened or endangered or "species of special concern" are categorized administratively by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) uses various terminology and classifications to describe vulnerable species.

The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 defines an endangered species as "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range…." Threatened species are defined as "any species which is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range…."

[5] *As utilized in this EIR, the term "Sensitive Species" encompasses candidate, sensitive, and special status species, as referenced in Appendix G to the State CEQA Guidelines.*

Figure IV.D-4, Biogeographic Aerial, 2003

California's Endangered Species Act (CESA) defines an endangered species as "…a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease." The state defines a threatened species as "… a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required by this chapter. Any animal determined by the commission as rare on or before January 1, 1985 is a threatened species." Candidate species are defined as "…a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the commission has formally noticed as being under review by the department for addition to either the list of endangered species or the list of threatened species, or a species for which the commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to either list." Candidate species may be afforded temporary protection as though they were already listed as threatened or endangered at the discretion of the Fish and Game Commission. Unlike FESA, CESA does not include listing provisions for invertebrate species.

Table IV.D-4 depicts the federal and state listing status. It also provides a summary of the California Native Plant Society listing codes for sensitive flora.

Table IV.D-4
Federal and State Listing Status

DESIGNATION	CODE
Federal	
Federally listed as Endangered	FE
Federally listed as Threatened	FT
Proposed as Threatened	FPT
Proposed as Endangered	FPE
Federal Candidate	FC
Former Federal Candidate	FSC
State	
State Listed as Endangered	SE
State Listed as Threatened	ST
State Listed as Rare (Plants Only)	SR
California Species of Special Concern	CSC
Fully Protected	SFP
State Candidate for Endangered	SCE
State Candidate for Threatened	SCT
California Native Plant Society	
Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in CA and elsewhere	List 1B
Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in CA but more common elsewhere	List 2
Plants about which more information is needed – a review list	List 3
Plants of Limited Distribution – a watch list	List 4

Sensitive Plant Species

Endemic and rare flora occur with some regularly in the South Coast subregion in isolated populations. The analysis included a consideration of the potential for rare plants to occur on-site based on their distribution, habitat requirements, and requirements for specified soils, substrates and/or associated parent material, in light of the substantial disturbance factors present within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

The following presents a list of sensitive plant species which could potentially occur on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, based upon the site location and site conditions (soil, topography, etc.). However, none of these plant species were detected during surveys and the likelihood for them to occur on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is considered low, since they were not observed in several visits to the site during time frames when they would otherwise be expected to be observed. Appendix F provides an individual discussion on each of these sensitive plant species.

- California androsace (*Androsace elongate* ssp. *acuta)*
- Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*)
- Ventura marsh milk vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*)
- Coulter's saltbush (*Atriplex coulteri*)
- Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*)
- Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)
- Seaside calendrinia (*Calandrinia maritima*)
- Alkali mariposa lily (*Calochortus striatus*)
- Lewis's evening primrose (Camissonia lewisii)
- Salt marsh bird's beak (Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus)
- Many-stemmed dudleye (Dudleya multicaulis)
- Los Angeles sunflower (Helianthus nuttallii ssp. parishii)
- Southwestern spiny rush (Juncus acutus ssp. leopoldi)
- Aphanisma (*Aphanisma blitoides*)
- Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*)
- Coastal dunes milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *titi*)
- South Coast saltscale (*Atriplex pacifica*)
- Plummer's baccharis (*Baccharis plummerae*)
- Brewer's Calandrinia (*Calandrinia breweri*)
- Catalina mariposa lily (*Calochortus catalinae*)
- Santa Barbara morning glory (*Calystegia sepium* ssp. *binghamiae*)
- San Fernando Valley spineflower (Chorizanthe parryi var. Fernandina)
- Beach spectaclepod (Dithyrea maritime)
- Suffrutescent wallflower (Erysimum insulare ssp. suffrutescens)
- Vernal barley (Hordeum intercedens)
- Coulter's goldfields (Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri)

- Small flowered microseris (Microseris douglasii var. platycarpha)
- Coast wooly-heads (Nemacaulis denudata var. denudata)
- Brand's phacelia (Phacelia stellaris)
- Rayless ragwort (Senecio aphanactis)
- Estuary seablite (Suaeda esteroa)
- Prostrate navarretia (Navarretia prostrata)
- Gairdner's yampah (Perideridia gairdneri ssp. gairdneri)
- Ballona cinquefoil (Potentilla multijuga)
- Salt spring checkerbloom (Sidalcea neomexicana)
- Wooly seablite (Suaeda taxifolia)

Sensitive Animal Species

Mammals

The Pacific pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*) is the coastal subspecies of the little pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris*) and is the smallest of the subspecies. The Pacific pocket mouse feeds primarily on seeds, foraging in areas of sandy soils with sparse vegetative cover. Historical populations were found in coastal strands, sand dune habitats, ruderal vegetation on river alluvial soils and open coastal sage scrub found on marine terraces and is largely restricted to these community types. The species' reproductive cycle appears to be from April through June, with litters born from June through September.

The estimated historical distribution of the pocket mouse included coastal terraces of southern California from Marina del Rey south to Baja California, including the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Coastal development may have eliminated all of the Los Angeles County populations and most of the populations in Orange and San Diego counties. The Pacific pocket mouse was, however, believed to be extinct for nearly 20 years, until a previously unknown population was discovered in 1993 at the Dana Point headlands. A preliminary habitat assessment for Pacific pocket mouse was conducted by Philippe Vergne, Biologist (USFWS Permit No. TE068072-0 and CDFG MOU for PPM) and Samuel Reed, TERACOR, on April 12 2004, in areas where probable Heteromyid sign was detected. The Pacific pocket mouse listing status is FE, CSC.

Sandy substrates and soils on-site, as well as patches of non-native grassland and mixed native scrub/non-native grassland vegetation, were determined to be suitable for Pacific pocket mouse occupancy. Small mammal sign was observed over portions of the suitable habitat and some of that sign could be attributable to smaller mammal species including Pacific pocket mouse. These areas included the five unlined detention basins and surrounding berms, the Air Products property located north-northeast of UND-5, edges of the railroad tracks at the northeast end of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site and the large berm located at the northern edge of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Active demolition areas, the northwest corner of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, asphaltic services and irrigated ornamental landscape areas were identified as unlikely areas for the

presence of the Pacific pocket mouse. Overall, the probability of Pacific pocket mouse occurrence on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site was assessed to be low based on: (1) the overall rarity of the subspecies; (2) physical manipulation of substrates on-site over many decades; (3) isolation from known occupied areas; (4) possible rodent control activities which could have been conducted in the past; and (5) known presence of toxic substances on-site. Heteromyid/Cricetid burrow density was fairly low, scat was somewhat scarce, dust baths and movement areas were detected but were not common. Nonetheless, the presence of Pacific pocket mouse on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site could not be ruled out and a focused trapping program was recommended for areas considered suitable for Pacific pocket mouse occupation based on the considerations listed above.[6]

Therefore, a Pacific Pocket Mouse (PPM, *Perognathus longimembris pacificus*) habitat assessment and focused PPM Presence/Absence surveys were conducted by Zoologist Peter H. Bloom (USFWS Permit No. 787376-9 and CDFG MOU for PPM). The purpose of the survey was to conduct a habitat based site assessment for the PPM and conduct focused PPM trapping activities if suitable habitat was observed on site. A total of approximately 22.17 acres, located in UND 1 (2.5 ac.), UND 2 (1.24 ac.), UND 3 (.96 ac.), UND 4 (.76 ac.), UND 5 (7.81 ac.) and the Air Products Parcel (8.9 ac.) of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site were identified as potential PPM habitat based primarily upon the presence of sandy soil over much of the 22.17 acres. Virtually the entire 22.17 acres (> 98%) was dominated by ruderal vegetation with native specimens or stands of deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), and coyote bush (*Baccharis salicifolia*) in localized areas. Mediterranean grasses, ice plant, fountain grass and pampas grass covered large expanses. Coastal sage scrub habitat, the most important vegetation community in terms of the needs of the PPM, was non-existent. However, based on suitable habitat components for PPM such as sandy soils, sand dunes, sparsely vegetated areas, close proximity to the coastal strand and proximity to previously reported populations, presence/absence surveys were determined to be necessary to rule out occupancy.

Two separate five-day trapping events concentrated in suitable habitat patches were conducted within the 22.17 acres. The first five-day trapping period was initiated on May 21, 2004 and concluded May 26, 2004 while the second trapping event took place between May 28, 2004 and June 2, 2004. Traps were checked twice per day at approximately 6 a.m. and midnight. Weather conditions were mild with temperatures ranging from 59 at night to 85 degrees during the day. No precipitation or noticeable wind occurred during the two trapping intervals.

Small mammal trapping followed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocol. Standard size Sherman collapsible traps were placed in marginal to the most optimal potential habitat areas for the PPM in densities as close as 15' apart where soils and vegetation was optimal, to 150' apart where vegetation

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[6] *Samuel Reed, Principal. TERACOR Resource Management and Philippe Vergne, Permitted Biologist, "Focused Site Evaluation for the Pacific Pocket Mouse, Property Located at the Northeast Corner of Sepulveda Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue, in the City of El Segundo, California", letter dated April 19, 2004.*

and soil type was considered poor for use by PPM. All areas even remotely plausible as PPM habitat were trapped following FWS protocol. Debris fields, railroad tracks and other poor habitat indicators were avoided, but trapped along the periphery.

House mice (*Mus musculus*), an introduced species, and young California ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) were the only mammals captured in the traps. Given the level of trapping effort (1,815 trap nights) on 21 acres of land, the number of rodents captured was minimal. The limited rodent diversity and limited trap success suggests strongly that this a highly disturbed site that long ago lost most of its native rodent population. However, as evidenced by the number of burrows (1,000s) across the entire site, pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) numbers were extremely high. The red fox (*Vulpes fulva*), an introduced and very effective rodent predator, was observed on all 10 trapping days and harassed some of the traps nightly. A feral house cat (*Felis cattus*) was observed on one morning. Striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) were seen nightly.

The study concludes that the highly disturbed 22.17-acre site represents decades of intense industrial use evidenced by the predominance of non-native plants and animals. In addition, the area is impacted by major highways, and other large industrial complexes, suggesting isolation from any potential immigration by PPM. Given the results of 10 days of trapping efforts in the optimal time of the year and the degraded nature of the site in terms of natural habitats, the study concludes that the PPM does not occur at this location.

The Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*) is generally believed to occur in lower elevation grasslands and sage scrub. A different and larger genus, the California pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus*), is more common and likely to occur on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Most of its former range of habitats has been rendered uninhabitable or removed outright by development. Which subspecies of pocket mouse historically occurred on-site is not known, and it is not possible to be certain if either the Los Angeles or Pacific pocket mouse remain on the site. The species listing status for both is FSC, CSC. However, the on-site trapping program for PPM did not capture or otherwise detect any sign of either Los Angeles Pocket Mouse or California Pocket Mouse within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Therefore, these species would not be expected to occur at this location.

No evidence of the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus benneti*) or the San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) was found on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

Birds

Avian diversity in scrub habitats on the southern California coastal plain and dune complexes was probably moderate to moderately high at one time, particularly when in close proximity to coastal marshes, estuaries or other wetland system. Area development has substantially reduced the abundance and diversity of birds in the area of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Twenty-seven (27) species of birds were detected during surveys. Urban-adapted species were the most common on-site. These

bird species included house sparrow, American crow, European starling, northern mockingbird, and house finch.

The following sensitive species are known to occur in this region generally: coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), Bell's sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli belli*), and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). However, they were not detected on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site during multiple visits to the site and there is no reason to believe that they utilize the site.

The following sensitive species were either detected on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site or could potentially utilize the site based on the known distributions of species, and their overall habitat requirements and preferences[7]:

The white-tailed kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) is an active hunter in agricultural areas and often gravitates to disturbed areas to hunt. It is likely that they can be found in the vicinity of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site from time to time. They bear a superficial resemblance to gulls, and are sometimes mistaken as such. They hover expertly above the ground while hunting, and while common in fringe environments, generally prefer more remote nesting locations near open water. The white-tailed kite was not detected using the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning site and no evidence of nesting or foraging habitat was detected on site. However, to be conservative, based on known distribution of this species in this area, the general biological assessment concluded that the species could occasionally use the site. The species listing status is CSC.

The loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is a predatory songbird that is somewhat intolerant of human presence. Its preferred prey consists of larger insects, small lizards and small snakes, but the loggerhead shrike is considered an opportunistic forager. It generally prefers open areas of grassland, desert scrub, and coastal sage scrub, and nests in shrubs or small trees. It was detected utilizing the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. It is unlikely that the loggerhead shrike nests on-site due to the disturbance and lack of adequate cover. No evidence was present that would suggest that the species nests on site. The species listing status is CSC.

Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*) inhabits coastal salt marshes along the southern California coastline. It nests in pickleweed on and near the margins of tidal flats. The species could occur on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, based on known distribution of the species, but was not detected. No evidence was present that would suggest the species nests on site. No pickleweed habitat is located on the site. The species listing status is ST.

[7] *As noted above, the analysis of species on-site is, in part, predictive.*

All features considered suitable for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) use were investigated and conditions recorded in field notes and photography. Topographic rises and potential perching sites were investigated. Sign considered diagnostic of an active burrow include 1) wash on mounds and topographic rises, 2) wash near burrow entrances, 3) feathers on mounds or near burrows, 4) debris suitable for nest chamber lining such as dung, twigs, or trash dropped near potential burrow complexes, 5) prey remains (Coleoptera, Orthoptera, and small animals like lizards and mice), or 6) tracks.

One burrowing owl was observed in November 2003 foraging near UND-5, on the railroad tracks within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Focused surveys were not undertaken, because 1) the one sighting confirmed the species on the property, 2) there was a minimal amount of active burrow sign (see preceding paragraph) present on-site, and 3) focused survey work and/or monitoring will likely be required before any mechanical alteration of open areas on site is permitted and surveys conducted now would not be particularly useful. The sign observed included one pellet and wash near potential burrows. The sign suggested that more individuals could be present but were not likely. The one individual was not detected again through April 2004 and no additional sign was found. Conditions on site were considered somewhat suitable for the species, because there was a reasonable prey base, as well as human manufactured burrows in the form of stacked concrete slabs on the margins of dry basins. Both the federal and state governments have declined to list the species as threatened or endangered, which means it has no formal protective status at this time. However, burrowing owl nests are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Reptiles

Reptile use of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is probably low based on disturbance factors and the lack of native cover. Only two common species were detected; side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). The following sensitive reptile species are known to occur in this region generally: California rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata* all subspecies), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvilli or P. C. frontale*, both ssp.), coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*), western whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*), San Bernardino ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus modestus*), silvery legless lizard (*Aniella p. pulchra*), and two striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*). These species were not detected during multiple visits to the site and there is no reason to believe that they utilize the site. More information regarding each of these species is provided in Appendix F.

Amphibians

The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site is not very suitable for amphibian breeding, especially sensitive or rare amphibians which are not particularly resilient against human-induced disturbances. The basins in more natural areas on-site do not appear to contain standing water for any significant length of time, and chemicals and compounds found in substrates therein could be detrimental to successful amphibian reproduction on the property. Western toad (*Bufo boreas*) was detected in larval form in March 2004, in puddles and wet areas following rains and dust control watering efforts near

demolished buildings. Garden slender salamander was also detected following a rain event in the northeast corner of the Air Products property near a railway line. The following sensitive amphibian species are known to occur in this region generally: California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytoni*) and western spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus hammondi*). These species were not observed on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site during multiple visits to the site and there is no reason to believe that they utilize the site. More information on these species can be found in Appendix F.

Fish

There are no stream habitats on-site or adjacent to the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, therefore, no fish species could occur.

Invertebrates

The CNDDB lists several insect species which have the potential to occur in the general El Segundo area including Belkin's dune tabanid fly (*Brennania belkini*), Dorothy's El Segundo Dune weevil (*Trigonoscuta dorothea dorothea*), Henne's eucosman moth (*Eucosma hennei*), Globose dune beetle (*Coelus golbosus*), Mimic tryonia or California brackishwater snail (*Tryonia imitator*), Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphiloites batoides allyni),* Sandy beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela hirticollis gravida*), Tiger beetle (*Cicindela senilis frosti*), and Wandering or Saltmarsh skipper (*Panoquina errans*). These species were not detected on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site and are not anticipated to occur. Additional information regarding these species can be found in Appendix F.

Vernal Pools

The general biological assessment of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site identified the potential for ponding that could provide habitat for several species of fairy shrimp. Increasingly, several species of fairy shrimp, aquatic invertebrates which occur naturally in vernal pools, have been detected across Southern California in seemingly unlikely places, including degraded and polluted stock ponds, marshes, abandoned parking lots where water percolation is impeded by asphalt and other similar areas. Despite the near elimination of vernal pools that previously occurred with regularity across the Los Angeles Basin many decades ago, fairy shrimp have persisted in remote or isolated areas where development has not occurred. Conditions within the UNDs on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site were identified as structurally, hydrologically and biologically suitable for fairy shrimp to occur. The general biological assessment was unable to rule out the presence of fairy shrimp on-site and recommended follow up evaluations for the potential for fair shrimp to occur on-site.

A focused survey for vernal pool potential was undertaken by Dudek & Associates in January, 2004 (see Appendix F). This survey encompassed all undeveloped portions of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site to assess the potential for vernal pools. Examination was focused on the UNDs because these areas included the lowest topographic locations, with the best potential to support vernal pools.

Vernal pools are defined as "wetlands that seasonally pond in small depressions as a result of shallow, relatively impermeable layer (e.g., clay or other impervious soil or rock layer) that restricts downward percolation of water…. These seasonal ponds…provide habitat for indigenous, specialized assemblages of flora and fauna." (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1997). Based on these criteria, selected locations were examined for:

- inundated or saturated soils or evidence of prior inundation;
- clay soils or impervious soil layers; and
- vernal pool plant indicator species. Because of the timing of the survey, the search focused on dried annual plants from the previous year, particularly the relatively widespread woollyheads (*Psilocarpus* spp.), and the persistent and easily recognizable button-celery (*Eryngium* spp.) or skunkweek (*Navarettia* spp.)

No inundated areas or soils saturated in the upper 18 inches were encountered in the UNDs.

No clay soils were found. Soil texture was generally sand, loamy sand, or sandy loam. The finest textured soil layers, found in UND-1 and UND-2, were loamy clay and silty loam, respectively. One impervious layer, composed on cemented sands at a depth of three to six inches was found in UND-4; although this was at a low point with surface drainage patterns leading to it, the site did not support any wetland indicator species, nor was there any evidence of herbaceous vegetation that might be associated with vernal pools.

No vernal pool plant indicator species were identified. In general, the depressions were unvegetated, with non-native species such as pampas grass (Cortaderia selloana), hottentot fig (Carpobrotus edulis) and non-native grass seedlings typically dominating surrounding areas. Two areas were also specifically examined because of the presence of the wetland indicator species, arroyo willow (Salix laseolepis) and rabbit's foot grass (Polypogon monspeliensis).

Based upon the information gathered during the focused survey of conditions related to vernal pools discussed above, the report concludes that the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site has no potential to support vernal pools. A general examination of the entire site and focused examinations of hydrology, soils and vegetation in those areas with the highest potential to support vernal pools indicate that none of the necessary constituent elements of vernal pools are present on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.[8]

[8] *Dudek & Associates, Vernal Pool Habitat Assessment for Honeywell Property, El Segundo, California, January 21, 2004.*

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Threshold of Significance

According to the guidance provided in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning and Plaza El Segundo Development would have a significant impact if:

a. It has a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species (Table IV.D-3) in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

b. It has 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.

c. It has 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).

d. It interferes 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.

Project Impacts

Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning

The Proposed Circulation Element Update EIR provides guidance for analysis of potential impacts related to biological resources for later projects that would implement the proposed Circulation Element Update. The proposed connection of Park Place between Sepulveda Boulevard and Nash Street and connection of Park Place to Hughes Way via Allied Way through the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site and possible improvements to the Sepulveda Boulevard/Rosecrans Avenue intersection would constitute a project that implements the Circulation Element Update policies. Although these improvements are part of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning and are not being tiered from the Circulation Element Update EIR, the analysis presented below provides the general biological assessment of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans site identified in the guidance presented in the Proposed Circulation Element Update EIR, along with additional information regarding wetlands, vernal pools and sensitive species on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans site. The analysis demonstrates that construction of this component of the proposed Circulation Element Update would not result in new effects related to

biological resources that were not examined in the Program EIR for the proposed Circulation Element Update.

A general biological resources survey was conducted on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. This survey addressed vegetation and plant communities, types of wildlife present, wildlife corridors and habitat linkages, the likelihood of sensitive wildlife and plant species and the likelihood of vernal pools occurring within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. The following findings are provided in the general biological resource survey of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

Vegetation and Plant Communities

The general biological assessment identified a small, human-induced marsh at the northwest corner of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Subsequent investigation indicated that 0.18 acres of wetlands falling under the jurisdiction of the LARWQCB may be present in this area. Construction activities occurring within a wetland habitat, or loss of wetland habitat could represent a substantial adverse effect on a riparian habitat or sensitive natural community. Thus, impacts on wetlands resulting from potential future development within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would be potentially significant, subject to the findings of project-specific subsequent environmental analysis described under Subsequent Environmental Documentation and Mitigation Measures, below.

Wildlife

Field surveys of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site identified a number of native and non-native wildlife species that were either observed directly or inferred to utilize the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site by observation of the signs of occupation (burrows, tracks, scat, etc.). Most of these species are common in urban areas and with the exception of one (loggerhead shrike) would not be considered sensitive species. Impacts related to this species are discussed under Sensitive Species below. Impacts to other wildlife species that utilize the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site that could result from development of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would not represent a substantial adverse effect 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 and would therefore be less than significant.

Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

The Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site was assessed as unlikely to play any significant biogeographic role in the movement of animals through the region, with the exception of song birds moving along the Pacific Flyway, which would still be able to utilize the Site if it is developed. Thus activity associated with the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning would not have the potential to 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 impacts related to

wildlife corridors and habitat linkages would result from potential development on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site.

Sensitive Species

No sensitive plant species were identified on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site during any of the numerous field surveys that were conducted. Development of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would therefore not impact sensitive plant species.

No endangered mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or invertebrate species were detected on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. Development of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would therefore not impact endangered animal species.

One threatened bird species, two bird species of special concern and one bird species covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were either detected on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site or could potentially use the site, based on known distributions of species: white-tailed kite; loggerhead shrike; Belding's savannah sparrow; and burrowing owl. The Belding's savannah sparrow is listed as a State Threatened species. The white-tailed kite and loggerhead shrike are both listed as California Species of Special Concern. The burrowing owl has no formal protected status at this time, as both the state and federal governments have declined to list the species as threatened or endangered, but burrowing owl nests are covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Development activities associated with the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would have the potential to result in the following impacts to these species:

- Grading activities on-site will generate noise, which could be detrimental to wildlife utilization of remnant habitat areas over the construction life of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning. Noise-sensitive organisms, including the four sensitive bird species, may avoid using the areas adjacent to construction for foraging, reproduction and nesting/denning. No evidence was observed that any of the four bird species presently use the site for nesting. In addition, other than burrowing owl, the site does not contain suitable habitat for nesting for these species. Individual animals which attempt to utilize the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site may temporarily experience decreased mating and nest success due to interruption of calls and distraction from other mating and reproductive behaviors due to mechanical noise generation. The impact, however, is temporal in nature and would be less than significant as long as no endangered or threatened organisms are present on-site during the construction activity.

- Construction personnel have the potential to be destructive to all forms of plant and animal life. Small mammals and reptiles are particularly subject to disturbance from harassment, capture, or destruction. Such activities that affect the four sensitive species listed above could have a

substantial adverse effect on a species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species and would be significant.

- Grading and construction activities within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site could negatively affect increasingly rare organisms, including white tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl and Belding's savannah sparrow. These activities could have a substantial adverse effect on a species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species and would be significant.

Vernal Pools

Although the general biological assessment of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site identified the potential for vernal pools to occur within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, a follow on investigation ruled out this possibility. Development of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would therefore not affect this sensitive natural community and no impacts related to vernal pools would occur.

Plaza El Segundo

As discussed above, future development activities within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site would have the potential to result in significant impacts to biological resources as follows: (1) potential impacts related to wetlands; and (2) potential impacts to four sensitive bird species (white tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, Belding's savannah sparrow, burrowing owl).

Wetlands

The analysis provided below regarding potential jurisdictional wetlands within the Plaza El Segundo Development site is in accordance with the mitigation measures for the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning below that require site-specific evaluation of potential wetlands impacts and no further analysis of this issue beyond that set forth in the following paragraphs would be required for the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development. The analysis demonstrates that jurisdictional wetlands may exist within the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development site and could be impacted by the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development, which confirms the possibility of such impact that was identified in the Program EIR. Construction of this component of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning would therefore not result in new effects related to biological resources that were not examined in the Program EIR for the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning.

Based upon the assessment of potential jurisdiction wetlands within the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development site, approximately 0.18 acres of wetlands under the jurisdiction of the LARWQCB may exist within the site. No waters of the U.S. or waters of the State are present on the proposed Plaza El Segundo site. Therefore, construction of the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development would not impact any ACOE or CFDG jurisdictional wetland areas, but could potentially affect approximately

0.18 acres of LARWQCB jurisdictional wetlands. Construction activities occurring within a wetland habitat, or loss of wetland habitat could represent a substantial adverse effect on a riparian habitat or sensitive natural community. Thus, impacts on wetlands resulting from potential future development of the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development would be significant.

Sensitive Species

The analysis provided below regarding sensitive species within the Plaza El Segundo Development site is in accordance with the mitigation measures for the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning below that require site-specific evaluation of potential effects on sensitive species and no further analysis of this issue beyond that set forth in the following paragraphs would be required for the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development. The analysis demonstrates that sensitive species may exist within the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development site and could be impacted by the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development, which confirms the possibility of such impact that was identified in the Program EIR. Construction of this component of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning would therefore not result in new effects related to biological resources that were not examined in the Program EIR for the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning.

The four sensitive bird species detected on the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site or could potentially use the site (white-tailed kite; loggerhead shrike; Belding's savannah sparrow; and burrowing owl) could also occur on the proposed Plaza El Segundo site. Development activities associated with the proposed Plaza El Segundo Development would have the potential to result in the following impacts to these species:

- Grading activities on-site will generate noise, which could be detrimental to wildlife utilization of remnant habitat areas over the construction life of the Plaza El Segundo. Noise-sensitive organisms, including the four sensitive bird species, may avoid using the area around the construction site for foraging, reproduction and nesting/denning. No evidence was observed that any of the four bird species presently use the site for nesting. The proposed Plaza El Segundo Development would also not result in the loss of habitat for three of the four species (white tailed kite; loggerhead shrike and Belding's savannah sparrow). The proposed Plaza El Segundo Development could, however, involve construction activities in areas that may be suitable for occupation or nesting of burrowing owl. Individual animals which attempt to utilize the areas adjacent to the Plaza El Segundo Development may temporarily experience decreased mating and nest success due to interruption of calls and distraction from other mating and reproductive behaviors due to mechanical noise generation. The impact, however, is temporal in nature and would be less than significant as long as no endangered or threatened organisms are present on-site at the time construction activities are occurring.

- Construction personnel have the potential to be destructive to all forms of plant and animal life. Such activities that affect the four sensitive species listed above could have a substantial adverse effect on a species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species and would be significant.

- Grading and construction activities within the proposed Plaza El Segundo site could negatively affect increasingly rare organisms, including white tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, Belding's savannah sparrow and burrowing owl. These activities could have a substantial adverse effect on a species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species and would be significant.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning

The incremental effect of development of the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site, in conjunction with the effects of related projects expected to occur by 2012, would have the potential to result in cumulatively considerable effects to biological resources only to the extent that the related projects are located on sites containing sensitive biological resources. The City of El Segundo and surrounding communities are generally urbanized and do not contain substantial biological resources. However, two related projects (#1 - Marina Del Rey LCP and #2 - Playa Vista Phase II) would have some potential to affect biological resources, although these projects would also incorporate mitigation measures to minimize such impacts. In addition, the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning includes mitigation measures that would reduce impacts to biological resources to less than significant levels. As such, the effects of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning in conjunction with related projects would not be cumulatively considerable with respect to biological resources.

Plaza El Segundo

The incremental effect of development of the proposed Plaza El Segundo, in conjunction with related projects expected to occur by 2007, would have the potential to result in cumulatively considerable effects to biological resources only to the extent that the related projects are located on sites containing sensitive biological resources. The City of El Segundo and surrounding communities are generally urbanized and do not contain substantial biological resources. However, two related projects (#1 - Marina Del Rey LCP and #2 - Playa Vista Phase II) would have some potential to affect biological resources, although these projects would also incorporate mitigation measures to minimize such impacts. In addition, the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning includes mitigation measures that would reduce impacts to biological resources to less than significant levels. As such, the effects of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning in conjunction with related projects would not be cumulatively considerable with respect to biological resources.

SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Subsequent environmental documentation must be prepared for any proposed development project that includes the northwest corner of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site that has been identified as potentially containing 0.18 acres of jurisdictional wetlands area under the jurisdiction of LARWQCB. Impacts to any jurisdictional wetlands that may exist in this area must be examined, at the time the development project is proposed, in light of the Program EIR to determine whether a new Initial Study would be required to be prepared leading to either an EIR or Negative Declaration. The subsequent environmental documentation must address the following:

D-1 A site specific analysis must be conducted to determine whether the design of the proposed development project would impact any of the 0.18 acres identified as potential jurisdictional wetlands. This analysis shall be completed prior to the start of construction activities for any proposed development within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. If jurisdictional wetlands would be affected by the development project, measures shall be identified to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

Subsequent environmental documentation must also be prepared for any proposed development project within the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site to determine the presence/absence of sensitive species. This information must be examined, at the time the development project is proposed, in light of the Program EIR to determine whether a new Initial Study would be required to be prepared leading to either an EIR or Negative Declaration. The subsequent environmental documentation must address the following:

D-2 Site specific analysis of potential effects to four sensitive bird species (white tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl and Belding's savannah sparrow) must be conducted prior to the start of construction activities for any proposed development within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. If any of these sensitive species would be affected by the proposed development, measures must be identified to reduce impacts to these species to less than significant levels, including, but not limited to, on-site monitoring by a qualified biologist during grading and/or construction activities.

In the preparation of subsequent environmental documentation, as described above, it is not necessary to re-survey any area that has already been addressed in this EIR or may be surveyed in the course of preparing subsequent environmental documentation for later projects.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning

D-1 A site specific analysis must be conducted to determine whether the design of any proposed development project within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning site would impact any of the 0.18 acres identified as potential jurisdictional wetlands. This analysis must be completed prior to the start of construction activities for any proposed development within the

Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. If jurisdictional wetlands would be affected by the development project, measures must be identified to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

D-2 Site specific analysis of potential effects to four sensitive bird species (white tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl and Belding's savannah sparrow) must be conducted prior to the start of construction activities for any proposed development within the Sepulveda/Rosecrans Rezoning Site. If any of these sensitive species would be affected by the proposed development, measures must be identified to reduce impacts to these species to less than significant levels, including, but not limited to, on-site monitoring by a qualified biologist during grading and/or construction activities .

D-3 All construction personnel must receive copies of all pertinent mitigation measures to reduce impacts to general biological resources and must be instructed on avoiding adverse impacts to birds encountered on-site.

D-4 Prior to site remediation or construction grading on parts of the Site where burrowing owls may occur, a qualified biologist must be retained to conduct surveys for burrowing owl to determine if it is resident on-site. Surveys must be conducted no more than 30 days prior to commencement of such activities. If burrowing owl is determined to be resident, a qualified biologist must oversee site remediation and demolition activities in and around any semi-natural areas which could be occupied by burrowing owl. Proposed mitigation measures must be presented to the California Department of Fish and Game and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval to avoid directly harming the owl if it is present on-site during these activities.

Plaza El Segundo

D-5 All construction personnel must receive copies of all pertinent mitigation measures to reduce impacts to general biological resources and must be instructed on avoiding adverse impacts to birds encountered on-site.

D-6 Prior to site remediation or construction grading on parts of the Plaza El Segundo Site where burrowing owls may occur, a qualified biologist must be retained to conduct surveys for burrowing owl to determine if it is resident on-site. Surveys must be conducted no more than 30 days prior to commencement of such activities. If burrowing owl is determined to be resident, a qualified biologist must oversee site remediation and demolition activities in and around any semi-natural areas which could be occupied by burrowing owl. Proposed mitigation measures must be presented to the California Department of Fish and Game and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval to avoid directly harming the owl if it is present on-site during these activities.

D-7 Prior to issuance of building permits, evidence must be provided to the City of El Segundo that all necessary approvals for any wetland dredge/fill contemplated by such permit have been obtained from the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles Region or equivalent documentation, or a waiver stating that no permit is presently required pursuant to the regulations of that agency. If required, conditions for permit approvals by LARWQCB must include, but may not be limited to the following:

- Mitigation of any unavoidable impacts to wetland values and functions to the satisfaction of the permitting agency;
- Incorporation of buffers to the wetland areas;
- On-site treatment of runoff to improve water quality; and
- Compliance with best management practices during construction.

LEVEL OF IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION

Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning

With implementation of the mitigation measures listed above, impacts of the proposed Sepulveda/Rosecrans Site Rezoning related to biological resources would be less than significant.

Plaza El Segundo

With implementation of the mitigation measures listed above, impacts of the proposed Plaza El Segundo related to biological resources would be less than significant.