

5.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

5.3.1 Environmental Setting

Applicable Plans and Regulations

Federal and State Regulations

Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973, as amended, was promulgated to protect and conserve any species of plant or animal that is endangered or threatened with extinction and the habitats in which these species are found. "Take" of endangered species is prohibited under Section 9 of the FESA. "Take," as defined under the FESA, means to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct." Section 7 of the FESA requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on proposed federal actions which may affect any endangered, threatened or proposed (for listing) species or critical habitat that may support the species. Section 4(a) of the FESA requires that critical habitat be designated by the USFWS "to the maximum extent prudent and determinable, at the time a species is determined to be endangered or threatened." Critical habitat is formally designated by USFWS to provide guidance for planners/managers and biologists with an indication of where suitable habitat may occur and where high priority of preservation for a particular species should be given. Section 10 of the FESA provides the regulatory mechanism that allows the incidental take of a listed species by private interests and non-federal government agencies during lawful activities. Habitat conservation plans (HCP) for the impacted species must be developed in support of incidental take permits for nonfederal projects to minimize impacts to the species and develop viable mitigation measures to offset the unavoidable impacts.



Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States' commitment to four international conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia for the protection of shared migratory bird resources. The MBTA governs the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests. It prohibits the take, possession, import, export, transport, sale, purchase, barter, or offering of these activities, except under a valid permit or as permitted in the implementing regulations. USFWS administers permits to take migratory birds in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the MBTA.

Clean Water Act, Section 404

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into "waters of the U.S."¹ (including wetlands and nonwetland bodies of water that meet specific criteria). Pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), a permit is required for any filling or dredging within waters of the U.S. The permit review process entails an assessment of potential adverse impacts to Corps wetlands and jurisdictional waters, wherein the Corps may require mitigation measures. Where a

¹ "Waters of the United States," as it applies to the jurisdictional limits of the authority of the Corps under the Clean Water Act, includes: all waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; all interstate waters including interstate wetlands; all other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce; water impoundments; tributaries of waters; territorial seas; wetlands adjacent to waters. The terminology used by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act includes "navigable waters," which is defined at Section 502(7) of the Act as "waters of the United States including the territorial seas."

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federally listed species may be affected, a Section 7 consultation with USFWS may be required. If there is potential for cultural resources to be present, Section 106 review may be required. Also, where a Section 404 permit is required, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification would also be required from the regional water quality control board (RWQCB).

Clean Water Act, Section 401 and 402

Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA specifies that any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity that may result in any discharge into navigable waters shall provide the federal permitting agency a certification, issued by the state in which the discharge originates, that any such discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of the CWA. In California, the applicable RWQCB must certify that the project will comply with water quality standards. Permits requiring Section 401 certification include Corps Section 404 permits and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 402 of the CWA. NPDES permits are issued by the applicable RWQCB. The City of Torrance is within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles RWQCB (Region 4).

California Fish and Game Code, Section 1600

Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code requires that a project proponent notify the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) of any proposed alteration of streambeds, rivers, and lakes. The intent is to protect habitats that are important to fish and wildlife. CDFG may review a project and place conditions on the project as part of a streambed alteration agreement (SAA). The conditions are intended to address potentially significant adverse impacts within CDFG's jurisdiction.

California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) generally parallels the main provisions of the FESA and is administered by the CDFG. Its intent is to prohibit take and protect state-listed endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants. Unlike its federal counterpart, CESA also applies the take prohibitions to species petitioned for listing (state candidates). 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 the FESA, CESA does not include listing provisions for invertebrate species. Under certain conditions, CESA has provisions for take through a 2081 permit or memorandum of understanding (MOU). In addition, some sensitive mammals and birds are protected by the state as Fully Protected Species. California Species of Special Concern are species designated as vulnerable to extinction due to declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats. This list is primarily a working document for the CDFG's California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) project, which maintains a database of known and recorded occurrences of sensitive species. Informally listed taxa are not protected per se, but warrant consideration in the preparation of biological resources assessments.

City of Torrance

The City of Torrance has prepared an advisory management plan for the Madrona Marsh Preserve, a 50-acre natural vernal wetland in the City that is described in more detail below under *Plant Communities and Habitats*. The management plan, *Preserve Plant and Wildlife Management Goals, Objectives, and Measurable Outcomes*, which was approved by the City Recreation Commission, is included in Appendix E of this DEIR. Goals for management of plants and wildlife in the management plan include protect and enhance plant and animal habitat, and protect and enhance wildlife populations.

Existing Conservation Plans and Areas

No part of the City of Torrance is within the plan area of a natural community conservation plan (CDFG 2006) or a habitat conservation plan (USFWS 2009).

Significant Ecological Areas

Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) are ecologically important land and water systems that are valuable as natural communities, and are often important to the preservation of threatened or endangered species and the conservation of biological diversity in Los Angeles County. SEAs are areas where the county considers balancing new development with resource conservation important, and they are a means of identifying resources; they are not preserves. The Madrona Marsh Preserve was designated an SEA in 2005.

Plant Communities and Habitats

Nearly the entire City is built out with urban uses. There is existing wildlife habitat in two areas of the City: the 50-acre Madrona Marsh Preserve, at the northeast corner of Madrona Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard; and bluffs above Torrance Beach.

Madrona Marsh Preserve

The Madrona Marsh is a remnant of the last natural vernal wetland in Los Angeles County. It provides habitat for over 250 plant species, and houses more than 200 species of insects, 4 amphibian species, 6 reptile species, and 247 species of native migratory and resident birds. The Madrona Marsh Preserve includes four habitat associations: vernal marsh, vernal pool, alkaline margin, and back dune system.

Vernal Marshes are shallow depressions that fill with rainwater and runoff during the rainy season. The marshes are hydrologically connected at times, and tend to contain water for six to eleven months of the year. Characteristic plants include cattail (*Typha spp.*), tule (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), spike rush (*Elocharis macrostachya*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus squarrosus*).

Vernal Pools are isolated depressions that are flooded to a shallow depth with rainwater during the rainy season, and tend to dry out less than four months after the last rainstorm. Vernal pools support less vegetation than do vernal marshes, with typical plants including salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), and water fern (*Ceratopteris richardii*).

Alkaline Margin is the shallow edges of the vernal marsh that dries first. Salt in the water and minerals in the soil are deposited on the soil surface in this area. Plants in this habitat are adapted to eliminate excess salt. Typical plants of the alkali margin include saltgrass, mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), alkali mallow, toadrush (*Juncus bufonius*), spikeweed (*Hemizonia pungens*), cotton batting (*Gnaphalium stramineum*), and alkali heliotrope (*Heliotropium currasavicum*).

The **Back Dune System** is part of the El Segundo Dune System that occupied coastal areas along much of the Santa Monica Bay. The back dune system consists of fine, sandy soil that dries rapidly. Plants typical of the back dune system include dune buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*), rattle pod (*Astragalus tricopodus.*), bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*), deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*), Sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), and California sunflower (*Encelia californica*).



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Torrance Beach Bluffs

In 2003 a 0.75-acre part of the Torrance Beach bluffs was revegetated with native plants. The affected area had previously been vegetated with ice plant (*Caprobrotus edulis*). Species used in the revegetation included coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*), California sunflower, deerweed, and California festuca grass. The federally endangered El Segundo blue butterfly reappeared and colonized the habitat after the revegetation.

Sensitive Resources

Sensitive Natural Communities

Sensitive biological resources include vegetation types and habitats that are unique, of relatively limited distribution in a region, or of particularly high value to wildlife. These resources include a variety of plant and animal species that are specialized and endemic to—that is, only occur in—a particular habitat type. Due to loss and degradation of habitat, some of these species have been listed by federal and state government resource agencies as threatened or endangered. Species listed as threatened are those whose numbers have dropped to such low levels, and/or whose populations are so isolated, that the continuation of the species could be jeopardized. Endangered species are those with such limited numbers or subject to such extreme circumstances that they are considered in imminent danger of extinction.

Other government agencies and resource organizations also identify “sensitive” species as those that are naturally rare and have been locally depleted and put at risk by human activities. While not in imminent danger, sensitive species are considered vulnerable and can become candidates for future listing as threatened or endangered. These include plants identified as sensitive by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and wildlife considered as species of special concern, special animals, or fully protected species in California.

One sensitive natural community is listed by the CNDDDB as occurring in or near the City of Torrance (CDFG 2009). Southern coastal bluff scrub occurs along bluffs and steep slopes immediately along the coast. Native species include shrubs such as lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), California sunflower (*Encelia californica*), coast goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), and coastal boxthorn (*Lycium californica*).

Sensitive Plants

Sensitive plants for which occurrences are listed in or near Torrance on the CNDDDB are described below in Table 5.3-1. The data in the table were compiled from CNDDDB listings for three USGS topographic quadrangles: Torrance, Redondo Beach, and Inglewood. As shown in the table, 18 sensitive plant species have been recorded in or near the City.

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**Table 5.3-1
Sensitive Plant Species Potentially Occurring within the City of Torrance**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Listing Status		CNPS ¹ Designation
			Federal	State	
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i>	aphanisma	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. On bluffs and slopes near the ocean in sandy or clay soils.	None	None	1B.2
<i>Astragalus tener var. titi</i>	coastal dunes milk-vetch	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. Moist, sandy depressions of bluffs or dunes along and near the Pacific Ocean	FE	SE	1B.1
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i>	south coast saltscale	Coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, playas, chenopod scrub. Alkali soils.	None	None	1B.2
<i>Atriplex parishii</i>	Parish's brittlescale	Alkali meadows, vernal pools, chenopod scrub, playas. Usually on drying alkali flats with fine soils.	None	None	1B.2
<i>Atriplex serenana var. Davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Alkaline soil.	None	None	1B.2
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula var. orcuttiana</i>	Orcutt's pincushion	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. Sandy sites.	None	None	1B.1
<i>Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus</i>	salt marsh bird's-beak	Coastal salt marsh, coastal dunes. Limited to the higher zones of the salt marsh habitat.	FE	SE	1B.2
<i>Dithyrea maritima</i>	beach spectaclepod	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Sea shores, sand dunes, and sandy places near the shore.	None	ST	1B.1
<i>Dudleya virens ssp. insularis</i>	island green dudleya	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Rocky soils.	None	None	1B.2
<i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	Coastal salt marshes, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Usually found on alkaline soils in playas, sinks, and grasslands.	None	None	1B.1
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	Moran's navarretia	Vernal pools, chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas. San Diego hardpan and San Diego claypan vernal pools.	FT	None	1B.1
<i>Navarretia prostrata</i>	prostrate vernal pool navarretia	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Alkaline soils in grassland, or in vernal pools.	None	None	1B.1
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	Vernal pools.	FE	SE	1B.1
<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	Lyon's pentachaeta	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Edges of clearings in chaparral.	FE	SE	1B.1
<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	Brand's star phacelia	Coastal scrub, coastal dunes. Open areas.	FC	None	1B.1



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**Table 5.3-1
Sensitive Plant Species Potentially Occurring within the City of Torrance**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Listing Status		CNPS ¹ Designation
			Federal	State	
<i>Suaeda esteroa</i>	estuary seablite	Marshes and swamps. Coastal salt marshes in clay, silt, and sand soils.	None	None	1B.2
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i>	San Bernardino aster	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, coastal scrub, woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, grassland. Occurs in moderately moist grassland, or near ditches streams, springs, and disturbed areas.	None	None	1B.2

Sources: CNDDDB California Native Plant Society On-line Inventory.

¹ California Native Plant Society

Federal Designations

- FE Federally listed as "Endangered"
- FT Federally listed as "Threatened"
- FC Federal Candidate

State Designations

- SE State listed as "Endangered"
- ST State listed as "Threatened"
- SCS California Species of Special Concern
- SFP State Fully Protected Species
- SA Special Animal. Taxa of concern to the California Natural Diversity Data Base regardless of their current legal or protected status.
- 1A Plants presumed by CNPS to be extinct in California
- 1B Plants considered by CNPS to be rare or endangered in California and elsewhere
- 2 Plants considered by CNPS to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but which are more common elsewhere
- 3 Review list of plants suggested by CNPS for consideration as endangered, but about which more information is needed
- 4 Watch list of plants of limited distribution whose status should be monitored

Sensitive Wildlife

Sensitive animal species for which occurrences are listed in or near Torrance on the CNDDDB are described in Table 5.3-2. The data in the table were compiled from CNDDDB listings for the Torrance, Redondo Beach, and Inglewood quadrangles. After a portion of the slopes above Torrance Beach were revegetated with native dune scrub plant species, the federally endangered El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) colonized the new habitat.

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**Table 5.3-2
Sensitive Animal Species Potentially Present in Torrance and Vicinity**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Federal Status	State Status
INSECTS				
<i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i>	sandy beach tiger beetle	Inhabits areas adjacent to nonbrackish water along the coast of California from San Francisco Bay to northern Mexico. Clean, dry, light-colored sand in the upper zone.	None	None
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	monarch butterfly	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California. Roosts in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	None	None
<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i>	El Segundo blue butterfly	Occurs in remnant coastal dune habitat in southern California. Host plant is <i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i> ;	E	None
<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis</i>	Palos Verdes blue butterfly	Restricted to the cool, fog-shrouded, seaward side of Palos Verdes Hills. Host plant is <i>Astragalus trichopodus</i> var. <i>lonchus</i> (locoweed).	E	None
<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus terminatus</i>	El Segundo flower-loving fly	Presumed extinct but recently discovered on Malaga dunes, Los Angeles County. Perched dunes.	None	None
BIRDS				
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing owl	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent on burrowing mammals.	None	SCS
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	coastal California gnatcatcher	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2,500 ft in southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes.	T	SCS
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>	California least tern	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.	E	E
MAMMALS				
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	Many open, semiarid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	None	SCS
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	pocketed free-tailed bat	Variety of arid areas in southern California: pine-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, palm oasis, desert wash, desert riparian. Rocky areas with high cliffs.	None	SCS



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**Table 5.3-2
Sensitive Animal Species Potentially Present in Torrance and Vicinity**

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Habitat</i>	<i>Federal Status</i>	<i>State Status</i>
<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	Pacific pocket mouse	Inhabits the narrow coastal plains from the Mexican border north to El Segundo. Seems to prefer soils of fine alluvial sands near the ocean.	E	SCS
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Dig burrows.	None	SCS

Source: CNDDDB

FED: Federal Classifications

E Taxa listed as endangered
T Taxa listed as threatened
None Not designated as a sensitive species

STATE: State Classifications

E Taxa listed as endangered
T Taxa listed as threatened
SCS California Species of Special Concern.
None Not designated as a sensitive species

Sensitive Species occurring in Madrona Marsh Preserve

There are 101 species of plants and animals that occur in the Madrona Marsh Preserve and that have been granted some special protection or status, either by wildlife agencies (USFWS or CDFG), or organizations such as the Audubon Society or the California Native Plant Society. Sensitive species that occur in the Madrona Marsh Preserve are listed below in Table 5.3-3.

**Table 5.3-3
Madrona Marsh Species with Special Status (of Special Concern)**

<i>Status¹</i>	<i>FE</i>	<i>UFR</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>ST</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>SSC</i>	<i>AWL</i>	<i>SLC</i>	<i>CNPS/WL</i>	<i>CNPS/RL</i>
PLANTS										
Matilija Poppy									CNPS/WL	
Lewis's Evening Primrose										CNPS/RL
Nuttall's Scrub Oak		UFR		ST						
CRUSTACEANS										
Riverside Fairy Shrimp	FE									
San Diego Fairy Shrimp	FE									
INSECTS										
Red Harvester Ant								SLC		
Eufala Skipper								SLC		
AMPHIBIANS										
Western Toad								SLC		
Western Spadefoot Toad				ST		SSC				
Pacific Slender Salamander						SSC				

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**Table 5.3-3
Madrona Marsh Species with Special Status (of Special Concern)**

<i>Status</i> ¹	<i>FE</i>	<i>UFR</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>ST</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>SSC</i>	<i>AWL</i>	<i>SLC</i>	<i>CNPS/WL</i>	<i>CNPS/RL</i>
REPTILES										
Southern Alligator Lizard								SLC		
Western Fence Lizard								SLC		
California Legless Lizard				ST		SSC				
Coast Horned Lizard						SSC				
California Kingsnake								SLC		
Gopher Snake								SLC		
BIRDS										
Pied-billed Grebe					SP					
American White Pelican						SSC				
Least Bittern					SP	SSC				
American Bittern								SLC		
Mallard					SP					
Gadwall					SP					
Cinnamon Teal					SP					
Redhead						SSC				
Ruddy Duck					SP					
Turkey Vulture					SP					
Osprey					SP					
White-tailed Kite					SP					
Northern Harrier					SP	SSC				
Sharp-shinned Hawk					SP					
Cooper's Hawk					SP					
Red-shouldered Hawk					SP					
Red-tailed Hawk					SP					
American Kestrel					SP					
Merlin					SP					
Peregrine Falcon					SP					
American Coot					SP					
Killdeer					SP					
Whimbrel						SSC	AWL			
Long-billed Curlew							AWL			
Marbled Godwit							AWL			
Short-billed Dowitcher							AWL			
Wilson's Phalarope							AWL			
Elegant Tern						SSC	AWL			
Royal Tern						SSC				



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**Table 5.3-3
Madrona Marsh Species with Special Status (of Special Concern)**

Status¹	FE	UFR	SE	ST	SP	SSC	AWL	SLC	CNPS/WL	CNPS/RL
Black Tern						SSC	AWL			
Band-tailed Pigeon					SP		AWL			
Mourning Dove					SP					
Barn Owl					SP					
Short-eared Owl					SP	SSC	AWL			
Great Horned Owl					SP					
Burrowing Owl					SP	SSC				
Black Swift					SP	SSC	AWL			
Vaux's Swift						SSC				
White-throated Swift					SP		AWL			
Costa's Hummingbird							AWL			
Anna's Hummingbird					SP					
Calliope Hummingbird					SP		AWL			
Rufous Hummingbird							AWL			
Allen's Hummingbird					SP		AWL			
Downy Woodpecker					SP					
Olive-sided Flycatcher					SP		AWL			
Willow Flycatcher			SE		SP	SSC	AWL			
Black Phoebe					SP					
Loggerhead Shrike					SP	SSC				
Bell's Vireo	FE		SE		SP		AWL			
Hutton's Vireo					SP	SSC				
Western Scrub-Jay					SP					
American Crow					SP					
Common Raven					SP					
Horned Lark					SP	SSC				
Purple Martin						SSC				
Cliff Swallow					SP					
Barn Swallow					SP					
Bushtit					SP					
Marsh Wren					SP			SLC		
American Robin					SP					
Northern Mockingbird					SP					
Orange-crowned Warbler					SP					
Virginia's Warbler							AWL			
Lucy's Warbler					SP	SSC	AWL			
Hermit Warbler					SP		AWL			

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**Table 5.3-3
Madrona Marsh Species with Special Status (of Special Concern)**

<i>Status</i> ¹	<i>FE</i>	<i>UFR</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>ST</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>SSC</i>	<i>AWL</i>	<i>SLC</i>	<i>CNPS/WL</i>	<i>CNPS/RL</i>
Yellow Warbler					SP	SSC				
Canada Warbler							AWL			
Common Yellowthroat					SP					
Yellow-breasted Chat					SP	SSC				
California Towhee					SP			SLC		
Brewer's Sparrow							AWL			
Savannah Sparrow	FE		SE							
Song Sparrow								SLC		
Dickcissel							AWL			
Painted Bunting							AWL			
Western Meadowlark								SLC		
Yellow-headed Blackbird						SSC				
Red-winged Blackbird					SP					
Tri-colored Blackbird					SP	SSC	AWL			
Bullock's Oriole					SP					
Hooded Oriole					SP					
House Finch					SP					
American Goldfinch					SP					
Lawrence's Goldfinch					SP	SSC	AWL			
Total	4	1	3	3	61	27	27	12	1	1
Total species of special concern =	101									



¹ FE Federally Endangered
 UFR Under Federal Review
 SE State Endangered
 ST State Threatened
 SP State Protected (All Raptors and all Native Breeding Birds)
 SSC State Species of Special Concern (Locally Occurring Nesting)
 AWL Audubon Watch List
 SLC Species of Local Concern
 CNPS/WL California Native Plant Society Watch List
 CNPS/RL California Native Plant Society Review List

As shown above in Table 5.3-3, 101 sensitive species occur in the Madrona Marsh Preserve, including four species that are federally endangered, one that is federally threatened, three that are state endangered, and three that are state threatened.

Wildlife Movement Corridors

The City is situated on the Pacific Flyway, a bird migration route extending from the Arctic Circle through South America. Virtually the entire City is built out with urban uses; thus, there is little native habitat remaining in the City for regional overland movement of wildlife. Dominguez Channel, which passes through the northeastern part of the City, is an engineered channel with concrete sides and bottom, and is thus not

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expected to serve as a major or a regional wildlife corridor. The Dominguez Watershed Committee is considering restoration of the Dominguez Channel; thus, the Channel may one day function as, and be officially designated as, a wildlife corridor. The Torrance Beach Bluffs serve as a corridor between Redondo Beach and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) for the El Segundo Blue butterfly.

Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

There are two US Geological Survey blue-line streams in the City.

Dominguez Channel

The Dominguez Channel passes through the northeastern part of the City on its way southeastward to Los Angeles Harbor; the channel enters the City at the northern city limits west of Crenshaw Boulevard and exits the City just south of Artesia Boulevard. Dominguez Channel is the main drainage channel in the Dominguez Watershed, which occupies 133 square miles in southwestern Los Angeles County and is operated by the Los Angeles County Watershed Management Division. The channel is 15 miles long and extends generally northwest to southeast, originating in the City of Hawthorne and discharging into Los Angeles Harbor. The segment of the channel in the City of Torrance is built of reinforced concrete, is about 86 feet wide and 12 feet deep, and has a capacity of roughly 14,100 cubic feet per second (LACWMD 2004).

Torrance Lateral Drainage Channel

The Torrance Lateral drainage channel originates along Van Ness Avenue, extending southeastward till it exits the eastern City boundary near Torrance Boulevard, then discharging into the Dominguez Channel near Avalon Boulevard in the City of Carson (LACWMD 2004).

There are several USGS surface water bodies in the City; a number of these are on or near oil extraction facilities in the northeast part of the City (Maptech 1981). There are also vernal pools, a vernal marsh, and a sump in the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve comprising roughly 50 acres at the northeast corner of Sepulveda Boulevard and Madrona Avenue.

5.3.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project would:

- B-1 Have a substantial 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.
- B-2 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.
- B-3 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.

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- B-4 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.
- B-5 Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- B-6 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 initial study, included as Appendix A, substantiates that impacts associated with the following thresholds would be less than significant:

- Thresholds B-5 and B-6

These impacts will not be addressed in the following analysis.

5.3.3 Environmental Impacts

The following impact analysis addresses thresholds of significance for which the initial study disclosed potentially significant impacts. The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

IMPACT 5.3-1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WOULD NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT SENSITIVE SPECIES, SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES, RIPARIAN HABITATS, OR FEDERALLY PROTECTED WETLAND WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE. [THRESHOLDS B-1 (PART), B-2 (PART), AND B-3 (PART)]



Impact Analysis:

The Madrona Marsh Preserve is the last known remnant of the historic natural vernal wetland complex in Los Angeles County. The preserve contains four habitat associations: vernal marsh, vernal pool, alkaline margin, and back dune system; the back dune system is part of the former El Segundo Dune System that historically occupied coastal areas along much of the Santa Monica Bay. The Madrona Marsh Preserve would be designated as Public/Quasi-Public/Open Space by the general plan update. This designation provides for open space, land owned by public agencies and jurisdictions, and land owned by private entities for uses that serve the community, such as utilities. The Madrona Marsh Preserve would not be designated for development. Implementation of the proposed general plan update would not adversely affect sensitive natural communities, riparian habitats, federally protected wetlands, or sensitive species within the Madrona Marsh Preserve.

The bluffs above Torrance Beach that were revegetated with native plant species in 2003 would be designated Public/Quasi-Public/Open Space. The bluffs would not be designated for development, and the Public/Quasi-Public/Open Space designation would be consistent with preservation of the bluffs as open space. Implementation of the General Plan would not have a substantial adverse impact on sensitive species or sensitive natural communities on the revegetated bluffs.

The Dominguez Channel passes through the northeastern part of the City on its way southeast toward Los Angeles Harbor. It is the main drainage channel in the Dominguez Watershed, which occupies 133 square miles in southwestern Los Angeles County. The Dominguez Channel is owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). It is not under the jurisdiction of the City of Torrance and would not be designated for any type of land use by the proposed general plan update. Under the general

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plan update, the Dominguez Channel would remain as a drainage channel. The bottom and sides of the segment of the Dominguez Channel within the City of Torrance are built of reinforced concrete; therefore this segment is not native habitat or riparian habitat. Implementation of the general plan update would not result in development of the Dominguez Channel with land uses other than its current use as a storm drainage channel.

The Torrance Lateral drainage channel originates along Van Ness Avenue, extending southeast to the eastern City boundary near Torrance Boulevard, then discharging into the Dominguez Channel near Avalon Boulevard in the City of Carson (LACWMD 2004). The Torrance Lateral channel is operated by the LACFCD and is not under the jurisdiction of the City of Torrance (Budinger 2009). Therefore, implementation of the general plan update would not result in development of the Torrance Lateral channel with land uses other than the current use as a drainage channel.

IMPACT 5.3-2: THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON WILDLIFE MOVEMENT. [THRESHOLD B-4]

Impact Analysis: Nearly the entire City is built out with urban land uses, and there is little native habitat available for wildlife movement remaining in the City. Thus, there are no major or regional officially designated wildlife corridors passing through the City. The Madrona Marsh Preserve and the Torrance Beach Bluffs, which currently contain wildlife habitat, would each be designated as Public/Quasi-Public/Open Space in the general plan update. This designation provides for open space, land owned by public agencies and jurisdictions, and land owned by private entities for uses that serve the community, such as utilities. Therefore, these two areas would not be designated for development. The proposed designation would be consistent with preservation of these areas as wildlife habitat, and the general plan update would not adversely impact use of these areas for wildlife movement, such as by migrating birds. Developed land uses in the City contain ornamental landscaping including trees and shrubs. Such vegetation may be used by migrating birds protected by the MBTA.

The City lies within the Pacific Flyway, a bird migration route extending from the Arctic to South America. Two categories of birds use the Flyway: waterfowl, such as ducks and geese; and shorebirds (or waders) such as sandpipers, avocets, stilts, and plovers. Waterfowl using the Flyway would be most likely to use one place in the City, Madrona Marsh Preserve. Shorebirds using the Flyway would be most likely to use one place in the City, Torrance Beach. Both of these places would be designated as Public/Quasi-Public/Open Space in the general plan update, and would not be designated for development.

5.3.4 Relevant General Plan Update Policies

Land Use Element, Open Space Objective and Policies

- To preserve natural resource lands that contribute to the environmental quality of the City. (Objective CR.2)
 - Assign open space designations and apply preservation policies to significant natural habitat areas. (Policy CR.2.1)

Community Resources Element, Wildlife Habitat Objectives and Policies

- The preservation of unique and beneficial wildlife habitat in Torrance. (Objective CR.16)

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- Maintain the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. (Policy CR.16.1)
- Support the dual use of drainage detention and retention basins for open space, recreation, and/or wildlife habitat opportunities, and increased groundwater recharge as long as the above-mentioned secondary use does not conflict or interfere with the operation and maintenance of the primary function of flood control and drainage. (Policy CR.16.2)

5.3.5 Existing Regulations and Standard Conditions

- Federal Endangered Species Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Clean Water Act: Sections 401, 402, and 404
- California Fish and Game Code, Section 1600
- California Endangered Species Act

5.3.6 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Upon implementation of regulatory requirements and standard conditions of approval, the following impacts would be less than significant: 5.3-1 and 5.3-2.

5.3.7 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified and no mitigation is required.

5.3.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

No significant impacts have been identified.



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