California High-Speed Rail Authority

Palmdale to Burbank Project Section

Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix 3.7-C Supplemental Analysis of Tunneling Effects on Biological Resources

April 2024





The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of California.



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APPENDIX 3.7-C: SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSIS OF TUNNELING EFFECTS ON BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Since publication of the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), the following substantive changes have been made to this appendix:

- Table B-1 was updated to include a description of Montane Riparian habitat.
- Table B-3 was updated to include information on California Juniper Woodland.
- Table C-3 was consolidated to Table C-1 to include Special-Status Plant Communities. Table C-3, Potential Impacts on Special-Status Plant Communities from Groundwater Depletion, was removed, and subsequent tables were renumbered.

1 INTRODUCTION

This technical appendix describes the methods used to identify groundwater dependent species that could be potentially affected if tunnel construction in the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section of the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) results in a reduction in groundwater levels. These species are dependent on resources typically referred to as Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs), as defined further below. This appendix outlines the methods used to identify species that are known to be or that may be groundwater dependent, and to assess potential impacts through the application of habitat suitability models developed for the project section in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Forest Service. A description of the species habitat suitability modeling methods is included in Section 3.7 and presented in the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Report and its supplemental report (Authority 2020a, 2020b). Therefore, those methods are not repeated or discussed here. This supplemental analysis did not identify any additional species not previously modeled for habitat suitability. Consequently, no additional species habitat suitability models were developed as part of this assessment.

2 METHODS

The hydrology evaluation in Section 3.8 determined that hydrologic impacts from tunnel construction would occur within 1 mile of the centerline of the tunnels and would have a higher potential for effects in identified Moderate- and High- risk areas where the tunnels would encounter faults and high groundwater pressures (Figures 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6a, 6b in Attachment A). These risk areas were used in Section 3.7 to determine potential effects of tunneling on biological resources (specifically, habitat suitability models were run to calculate number of acres of suitable habitat that could be affected). Areas outside of Moderate- and Highrisk areas, but within 1 mile of the centerline, were identified as No-/Low- risk areas because effects in those areas are unlikely to occur. For the No-/Low- risk areas, the analysis notes whether suitable habitat for a species occurs, but the acres were not quantified.

The following sections describe the resource study area (RSA) for this assessment, how GDEs and associated biological resources are defined and identified, and the extent of biological and aquatic resources potentially affected.

2.1 Tunnel Construction Resource Study Area

A tunnel construction RSA was determined based on the hydrology evaluation set forth in Section 3.8 and is defined as the area within 1 mile of the centerline of each build alternative (i.e., a 2-mile-wide RSA centered on the centerline). Each figure in Attachment A illustrates the build alternative alignments and the tunnel construction RSA. The tunnel construction RSA extends from Soledad Canyon on the north to the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys on the west, Tujunga Wash (i.e., Tujunga Valley) on the south, and Big Tujunga Canyon to the east. Potential effects on GDEs within the tunnel construction RSA were evaluated as described further below.



2.2 Definition of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

A key component of the analysis of potential effects on GDEs (and associated biological resources) is how such resources are defined. Numerous, but generally similar, definitions of GDEs exist and are used in the literature. More recently, Eamus et al. (2006) proposed three simple primary classes of GDEs: (1) aquifer and cave ecosystems, (2) all ecosystems dependent on the surface expression of groundwater, and (3) all ecosystems dependent on the sub-surface presence of groundwater. Howard and Merrifield (2010) defined GDEs as "terrestrial, aquatic, and coastal ecosystems that require access to, replenishment or benefit from, or otherwise rely on sub-surface stores of water to function or persist." The U.S. Forest Service (2012) has defined GDEs in recent guidance as "ecosystems that are supported by groundwater, which include springs and seeps, cave and karst systems, phreatophytic 1 ecosystems, and in many cases, rivers, wetlands, and lakes." GDEs were also defined in 2014 under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act as "ecological communities of species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface." (23 CCR § 351(m)). Eamus et al (2016) recently published additional work further discussing the classification of GDEs. From the literature described above, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) defined GDEs for the purposes of this assessment as ecosystems requiring the surface expression of groundwater (e.g., springs, wetlands) or a species or species assemblage dependent upon subsurface availability of groundwater within the rooting depth of vegetation (e.g., woodlands, riparian habitats) (Eamus et al. 2016).

Identifying the location of GDEs is often difficult and time consuming; however, Eamus et al. (2016) provided a summary description of various techniques and methods for identifying the locations of GDEs in a landscape. These methods range from inferential methods (e.g., whether or not a stream/river flows all year, despite long periods of low or no rainfall), to geochemical indication (e.g., the use of isotopic analysis of water samples), to geomorphological indicators (e.g., soils that indicate groundwater dependence) to determine GDEs (Eamus et al. 2016). The Authority considered the various methods described and selected the use of biotic assemblages (e.g., the presence of unique aquatic and wetland plant species or unique assemblages which are known or suspected to be groundwater dependent) as a feasible method, considering the data available for the RSA. The discussions below provide additional information regarding how each of the types of biological resources within the RSA were evaluated in this context.

2.3 Determination of Groundwater Dependent Species and Resources

2.3.1 **Vegetation Communities**

Vegetation communities (identified for the purposes of Section 3.7 and as used in this analysis based on the California Wildlife Habitat Classification Scheme [CWHR]²) occurring in the tunnel construction RSA were evaluated to determine if they are groundwater dependent (Attachment B, Table B-1). Vegetation communities were considered to be groundwater dependent, or potentially groundwater dependent, if the dominant or codominant plant species in the communities were known to be phreatophytes. The primary source of information used to assess whether a particular dominant species was a phreatophyte was the plant rooting depth database (Groundwater Resource Hub 2021). Any species identified in the database as a documented California phreatophyte was assumed to be groundwater dependent.

For vegetation communities determined to be groundwater dependent in Table B-1, the amount of each community within Moderate- and High-risk areas was calculated.

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¹ Phreatophytic plants were defined by Robinson (1958) and prior researchers as "plants that depend for their water supply upon ground water that lies within reach of their roots."

² The California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System classification scheme is not a comprehensive vegetation classification scheme for California's terrestrial vegetation types; however, dominant or codominant plant species assemblages are reported for each type, allowing an assessment of groundwater dependence associated with each type.



2.3.2 Special-Status Plant Species

Special-status plant species with the potential to occur in the tunnel construction RSA (i.e., those species with modeled suitable habitat in the area) were evaluated to determine if they are groundwater dependent (Attachment B, Table B-2). Plant species were considered to be groundwater dependent, or potentially groundwater dependent, if they require wetland, aquatic, or riparian conditions to grow and persist, or to complete a growing season (for annual species). The primary source of information used to assess whether a particular plant was groundwater dependent was the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare Plants (CNPS 2021), unless otherwise noted in Table B-2. Any species identified in the inventory as occurring in wetland, aquatic, or riparian habitat was assumed to be groundwater dependent.

For all plant species determined to be groundwater dependent in Table B-2, the habitat suitability models developed for the project section were overlaid with the tunnel construction RSA and Moderate- and High-risk areas to determine the amount of modeled suitable habitat that could be adversely affected for each species.

2.3.3 Special-Status Plant Communities

Special-status plant communities (i.e., a more detailed subset of overall vegetation communities) within the tunnel construction RSA (as identified by the California Natural Diversity Database Rarity Rankings as described in Section 3.7) were evaluated to determine if they are groundwater dependent (Table B-3). Special-status plant communities were considered to be groundwater dependent if the dominant species are known to occur in wetlands and/or they are known to be phreatophytes. The primary source of information used to assess whether a particular dominant species was a phreatophyte was the plant rooting depth database (Groundwater Resource Hub 2021). Any species identified in the database as a documented phreatophyte was assumed to be groundwater dependent.

For all special-status plant communities determined to be groundwater dependent in Table B-3, any corresponding CWHR types associated with those special-status plant communities were overlaid with the tunnel construction RSA and Moderate-and High-risk areas to determine the amount of each CWHR type that could be adversely affected.

2.3.4 Special-Status Wildlife Species

Special-status fish and wildlife species with the potential to occur in the tunnel construction RSA were evaluated to determine if they are groundwater dependent (Attachment B, Table B-4). Fish and wildlife species were considered to be groundwater dependent, if they require wetland, aquatic, or riparian conditions to exist and complete a significant part or portion of their life cycle. The primary source of information used to assess whether a particular wildlife species could occur in wetland, aquatic, or riparian conditions was California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CDFW 2014), unless otherwise noted in Table B-4.

For all fish and wildlife species determined to be groundwater dependent in Table B-4, the habitat suitability models developed for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section (see Section 3.7.5.5) were overlaid with the tunnel construction RSA and Moderate- and High-risk areas to determine the amount of modeled suitable habitat that could be adversely affected for each species. For species solely dependent on aquatic habitats, all modeled suitable habitat within the Moderate- and High-risk areas was quantified and considered to be potentially affected. For species with both aquatic and upland life cycle requirements, areas of aquatic and riparian habitat were quantified and considered to be potentially affected.

3 RESULTS

As described above, biological resources potentially or known to be groundwater dependent were overlaid with Moderate- and High-risk areas to determine the extent of those resources potentially affected.



3.1 Vegetation Communities

The analysis described above documents that six general vegetation communities within the RSA meet the criteria described above and should be considered groundwater dependent. Of the vegetation communities considered groundwater dependent, all six overlap with No/Low-, Moderate- or High-risk areas (Attachment C, Table C-1). Table C-1 presents the acreages of vegetation communities that were identified as being dependent on groundwater and that occur within Moderate- or High-risk areas. Table C-1 also identifies whether or not vegetation communities occur in No-/Low-risk areas.

3.2 Special-Status Plant Species

The analysis described above documents that 15 special-status plant species occur in wetland, aquatic, or riparian habitat types in the RSA and therefore should be considered groundwater dependent. Of the species considered groundwater dependent, 13 have modeled suitable habitat that overlaps with the Moderate- or High-risk areas (Attachment C, Table C-2). Table C-2 presents the acreages of modeled suitable habitat that occurs within Moderate- or High-risk areas for species identified as being dependent on groundwater. Table C-2 also identifies whether or not they occur in No-/Low-risk areas.

3.3 Special-Status Plant Communities

The analysis documents that seven special-status plant communities have the potential to occur in the RSA and six of them meet criteria to be considered groundwater dependent. Attachment C, Table C-1, presents the acreages of habitat types that may support special-status plant communities identified as dependent on groundwater within Moderate- or High-risk areas. Table C-1 also identifies whether or not they occur in No-/Low-risk areas.

3.4 Special-Status Wildlife Species

The analysis documents that 27 special-status wildlife species may occur in groundwater dependent habitats and that they require those habitats to exist and complete a significant part or portion of their life cycle. Attachment C, Tables C-3 through C-7 present the acreages of habitat for groundwater dependent special-status wildlife species within Moderate- or High-risk areas. Tables C-3 through C-7 also identifies whether or not they occur in No-/Low-risk areas.

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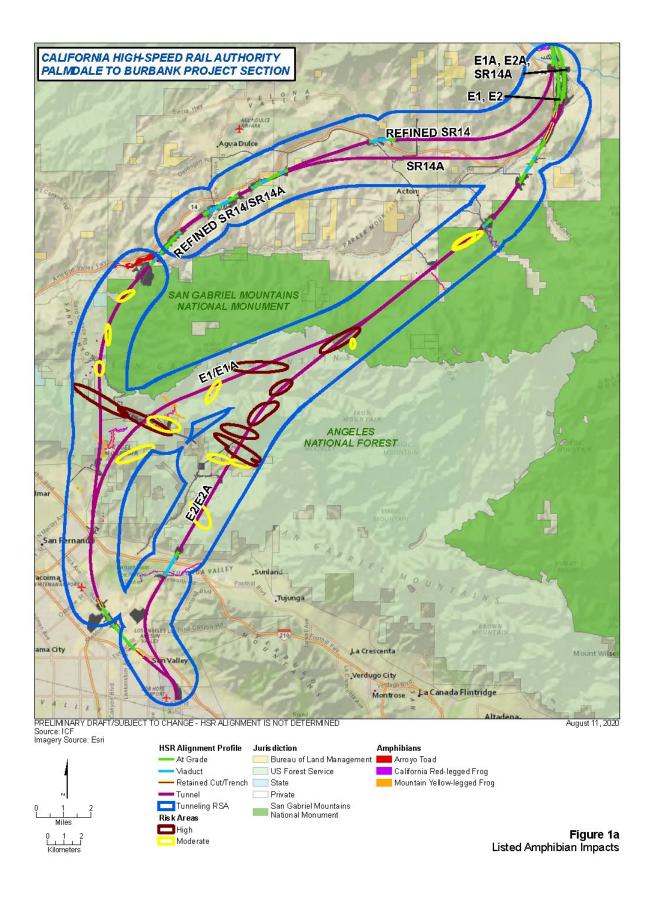


ATTACHMENT A. FIGURES

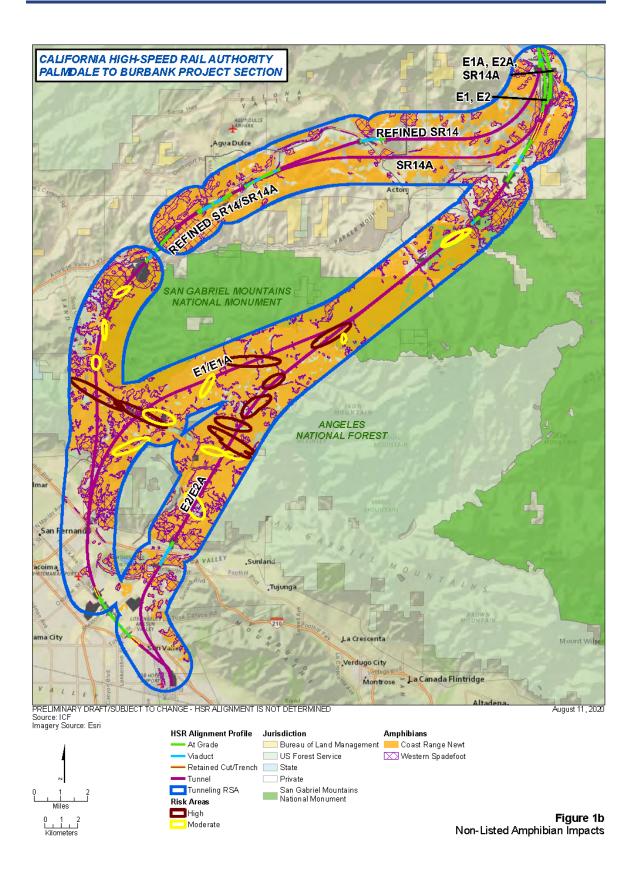


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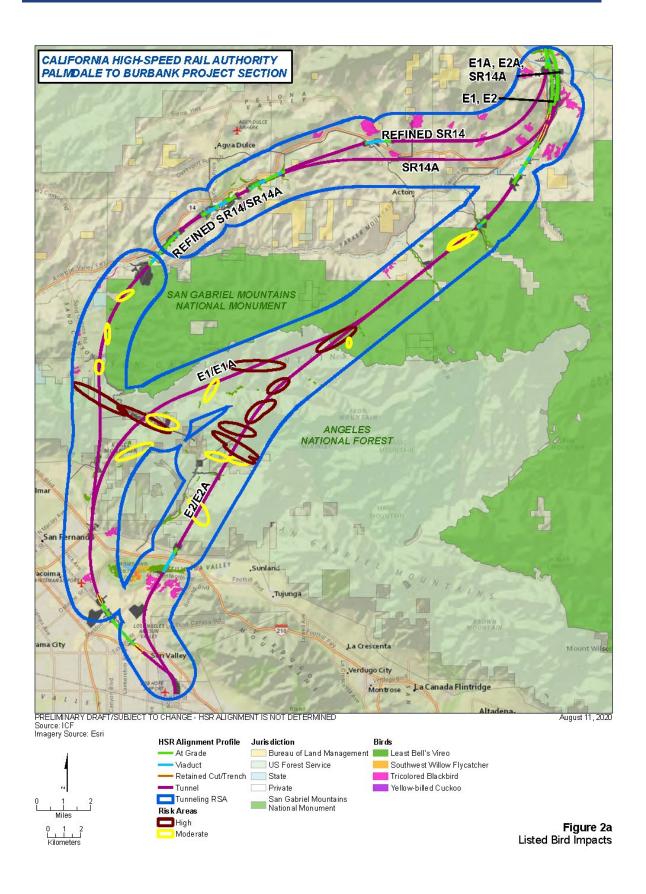




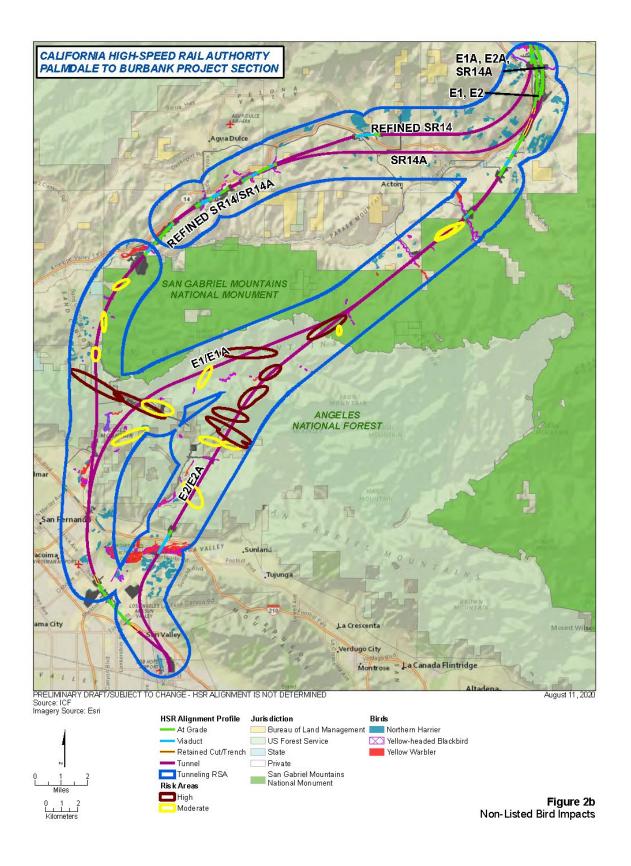




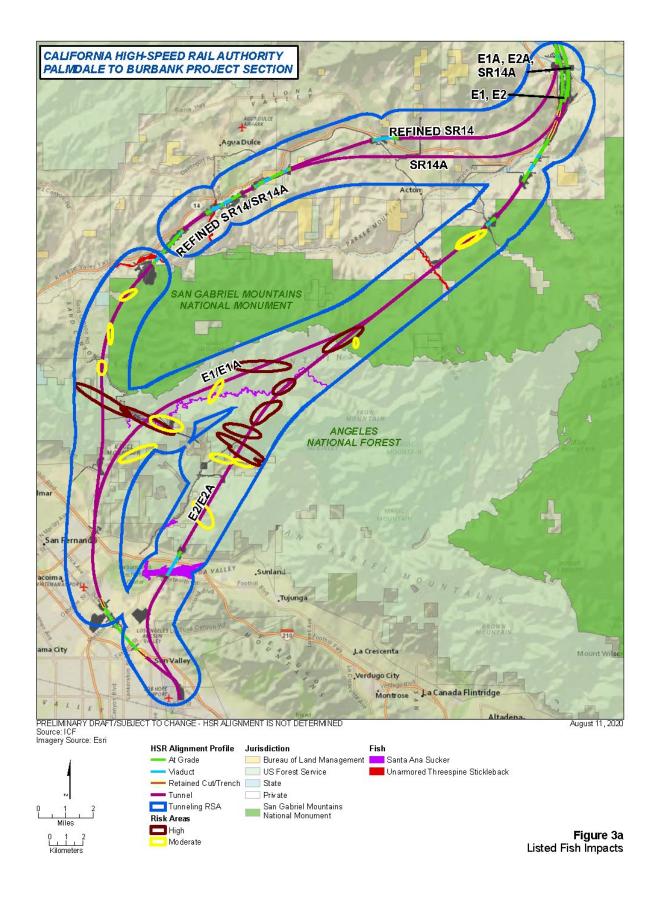




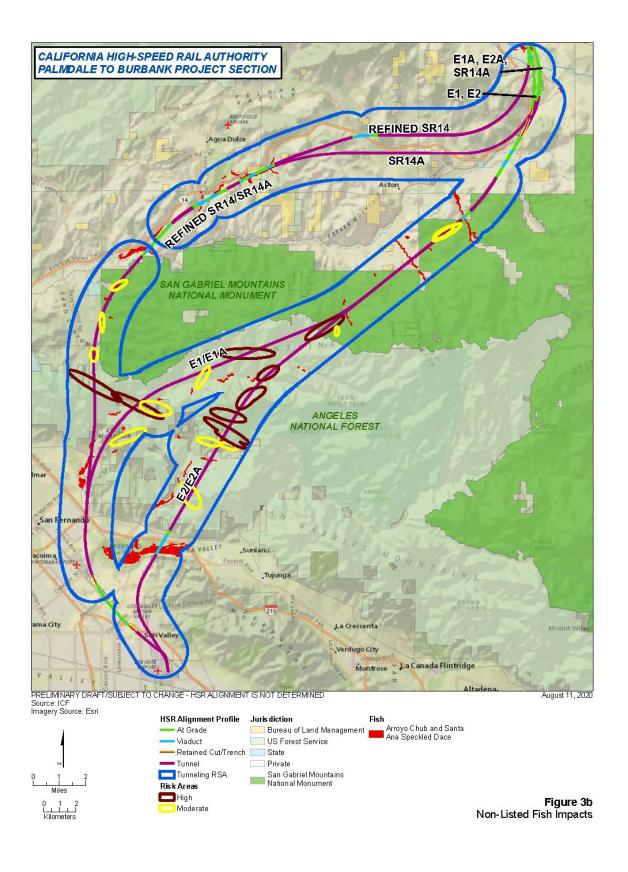




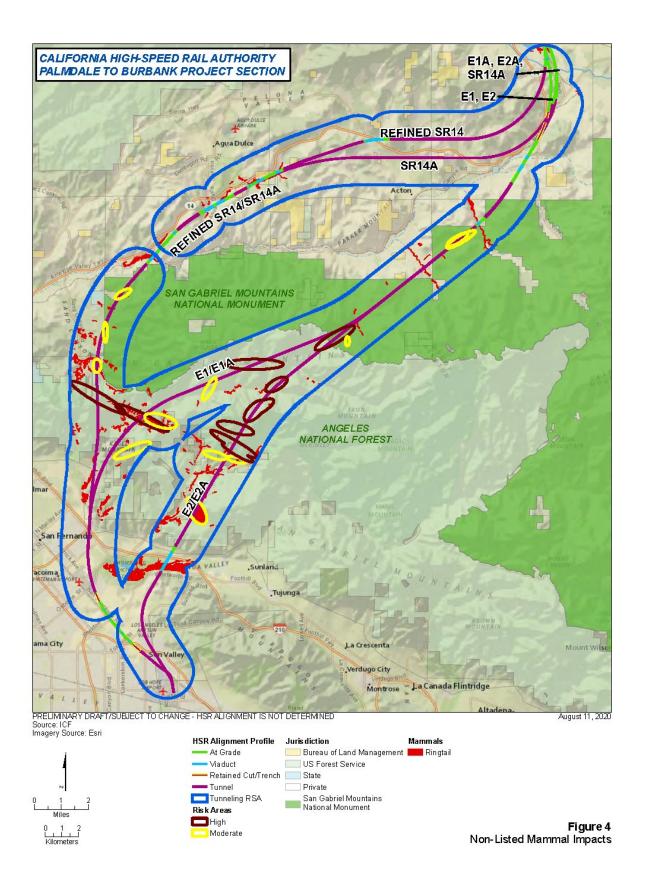




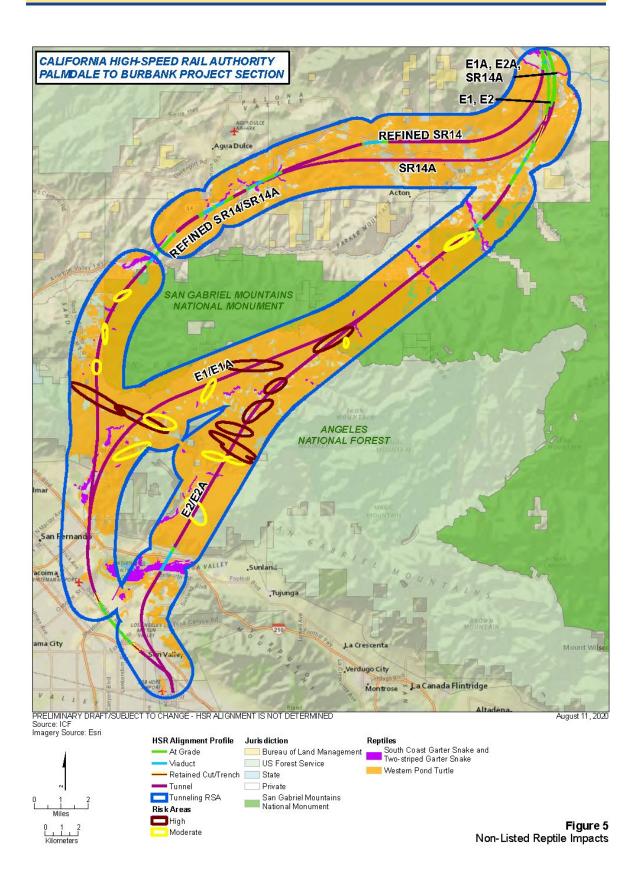




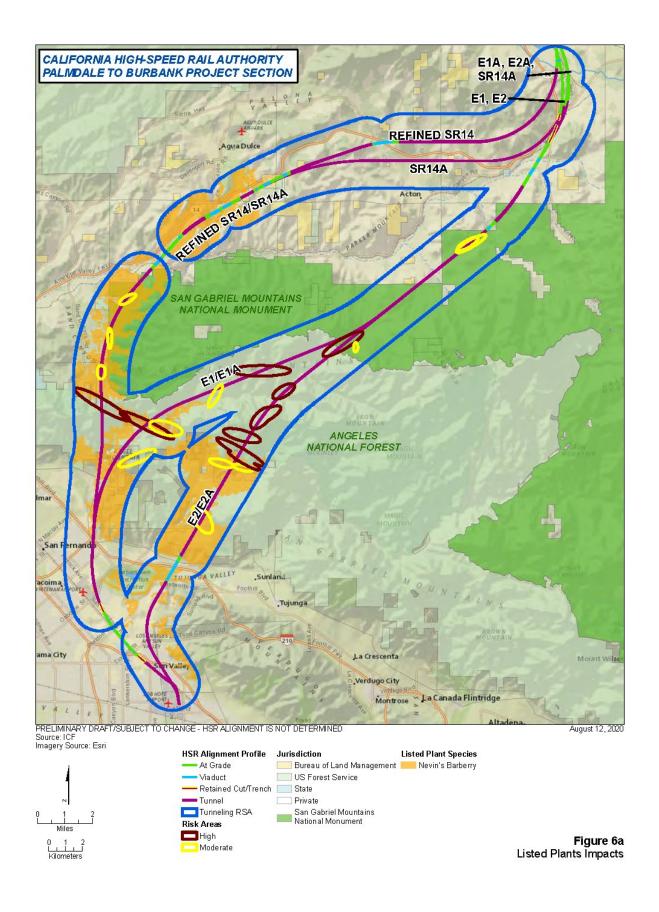




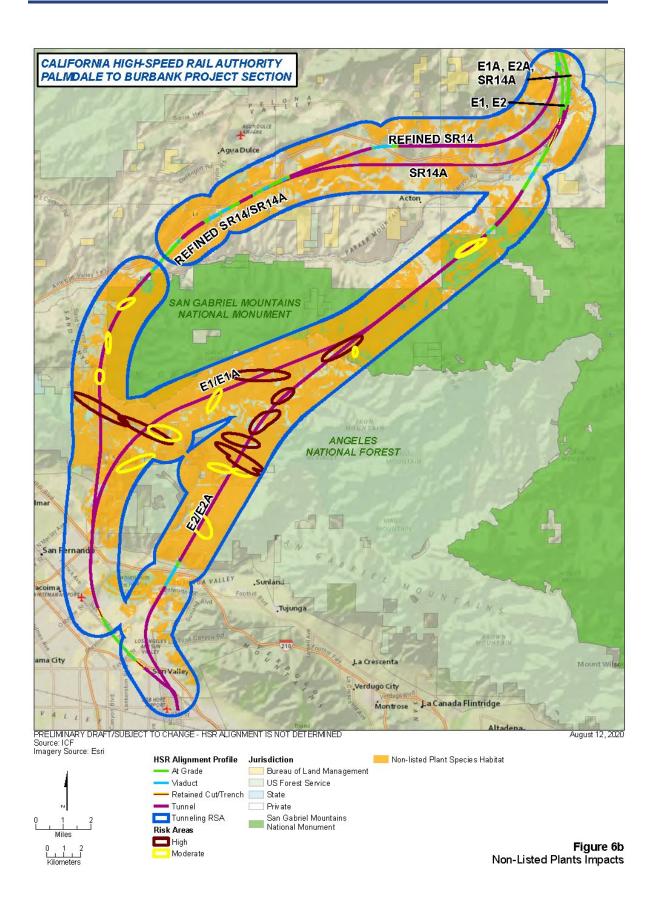














ATTACHMENT B. EVALUATION OF GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT RESOURCES



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Table B-1. Vegetation Communities within the Refined SR14, SR14A, E1, E1A, E2, and E2A Resource Study Areas

Vegetation Types (CWHR)	Dominant or Codominant Species	Groundwater Dependent ¹							
Tree-Dominated Habitats									
Coastal oak woodland (COW)	Coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia).	Yes. Coast live oak is listed as a California phreatophyte.							
Juniper (JUN)	California juniper (Juniperus californica) is dominant or codominant with Tucker oak (<i>Quercus john-tuckeri</i>). Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia) may be present at low cover, and there is often a shrub layer composed of Mojave Desert California buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>polifolium</i>), Nevada ephedra (<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>), and other shrub species.	No. Dominant or codominant species are not listed as California phreatophytes. Associated shrub species are also not listed as phreatophytes.							
Montane hardwood-conifer (MHC) ²	Bigcone Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga macrocarpa</i>) is dominant or codominant with canyon live oak (<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>) and coast live oak. The shrub layer is open and consists of hoar leaf ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus crassifolius</i>), scrub oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>), chamise (<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>), big-berry manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>), and other shrubs.	Yes. Although bigcone Douglas fir is not a phreatophyte, several of the codominant trees and associated shrub species are listed as phreatophytes.							
Valley foothill riparian (VRI)	Fremont cottonwood (<i>Populus fremontii</i>) is dominant or codominant with California sycamore (<i>Platanus racemosa</i>), Goodding's black willow (<i>Salix gooddingii</i>), and arroyo willow (<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>). The shrub layer is open to dense and includes mule fat (<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>), blue elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra ssp. Caerulea</i>), tarragon (<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>), and poison oak (<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>).	Yes. Cottonwood is listed as a California phreatophyte, and a majority of the codominant and associated shrub species are phreatophytes.							
Montane Riparian (MRI)	Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii), black cottonwood (P. trichocarpa), willow (Salix sp.), bigleaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), and California bay (Umbellularia californica) are typical dominants of MRI.	Yes. Cottonwood is listed as a California phreatophyte, and a majority of the codominant and associated shrub species are phreatophytes. Riparian areas are found associated with montane lakes, ponds, seeps, bogs, and meadows, as well as rivers, streams, and springs.							
Shrub-Dominated Habitats									
Chamise-redshank chaparral (CRC)	Chamise-redshank chaparral tends to occur on xeric, south-facing slopes with ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus sp.</i>), manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos sp.</i>), scrub oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>), and laurel sumac (<i>Malosma laurina</i>).	No. Chamise is listed as a phreatophyte in some locations, but not within a study conducted in the San Gabriel mountains (Hellmers et al. 1955). No other dominant or codominant species are listed as phreatophytes.							



Vegetation Types (CWHR)	Dominant or Codominant Species	Groundwater Dependent ¹
Coastal scrub (CSC)	California buckwheat is dominant or codominant in the cismontane stands with coastal sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>) and deerweed (<i>Acmispon glaber</i>). Transmontane stands include white bur sage, big sagebrush, creosote, and bladder sage (<i>Scutellaria mexicana</i>). Emergent trees may be present at low cover, including California juniper and Joshua tree.	No. Dominant and codominant species are not listed as phreatophytes.
Desert scrub (DSC)	Rubber rabbitbrush (<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>) or Creosote bush is generally dominant, with white bur sage, allscale saltbush (<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i>), Nevada ephedra, Anderson's desert-thorn (<i>Lycium andersonii</i>), and other desert shrub species.	No. Rubber rabbitbrush is listed as a phreatophyte; however, no other dominant or codominant species are phreatophytes. Overall, the community does not appear to be dominated by phreatophytes or codominated by a significant number of phreatophytes to be considered groundwater dependent.
Desert wash (DSW)	Desert wash is an open riparian shrubland up to 4 feet tall that occupies washes and drainages. Scalebroom (<i>Lepidospartum squamatum</i>) is dominant or codominant with mule fat, big sagebrush, and/or rubber rabbitbrush.	Yes. Scalebroom and several of the codominant species are phreatophytes.
Sagebrush (SGB)	Big sagebrush (<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>) is dominant in the shrub layer or codominant along with allscale saltbush, rubber rabbitbrush, and Mojave Desert California buckwheat or other low shrub species.	No. Big sagebrush is listed as a phreatophyte primarily on the basis of one study at a location in Washington (Klepper et al. 1985); however, review of this study does not indicate the species is described in the study as a phreatophyte. Allscale is also listed as a phreatophyte; however, no reference supporting the determination is provided in the Groundwater Resource Hub. Rubber rabbitbrush is listed as a phreatophyte (in part based on Klepper et al. 1985). Overall, the community does not appear to be dominated by phreatophytes or codominated by a significant number of phreatophytes to be considered groundwater dependent.
Mixed chaparral (MCH) ²	Tucker oak is dominant or codominant with California juniper, California buckwheat, interior goldenbush (<i>Ericameria linearifolia</i>), rubber rabbitbrush, and other shrub species.	No. The majority of dominant and codominant species are not listed as phreatophytes. Rubber rabbitbrush is listed as a phreatophyte (in part based on Klepper et al. 1985); however, overall the community does not appear to be dominated or codominated by a significant number of phreatophytes to be considered groundwater dependent.



Vegetation Types (CWHR)	Dominant or Codominant Species	Groundwater Dependent ¹			
Montane chaparral (MCP)	Characteristic species include hoaryleaf ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus crassifolius</i>), Eastwood manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i> ssp. <i>Glandulosa</i>), big-berry manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>), mountain mahogany (<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>), chamise, and scrub oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>). Occasional associates include canyon live oak and bigcone Douglas fir.	No. Hoaryleaf ceanothus is listed as a phreatophyte based on Hellmers et al (1955); however, the cited paper does not support this determination. Additionally, other dominant and codominant species are not listed as phreatophytes.			
Herbaceous Habitats					
Annual grassland (AGS)	Nonnative forbs, black mustard (<i>Brassica nigra</i>), Saharan mustard (<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>), short pod mustard (<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>), Russian thistle (<i>Salsola</i> tragus), tall tumbleweed mustards (<i>Sisymbrium spp.</i>), and annual grasses such as bromes (<i>Bromus spp.</i>), oats (<i>Avena spp.</i>), schismus (<i>Schismus spp.</i>), and mouse barley (<i>Hordeum murinum</i>) are typically dominant or codominant.	No. None of the species are listed as phreatophytes.			
Other Land Cover Types					
Barren (BAR)	Barren habitat is defined by the absence of vegetation.	Not applicable.			
Deciduous orchard/vineyard (DOR/VIN)	DOR/VIN represents agricultural land used for growing fruit or nut trees or vine crops.	Not applicable.			
Lacustrine (LAC)	LAC habitats are areas of open water and include freshwater ponds, lakes, and canals that are inundated by natural or artificial means.	Yes. All aquatic types are considered potentially groundwater dependent.			
Riverine (RIV)	RIV habitat consists of or intermittent or continually running water rivers and streams.	Yes. All aquatic types are considered potentially groundwater dependent.			
Urban (URB)	Not applicable.	Not applicable.			

Source: Authority, 2020a and 2020b

¹ The source for determining if a species is a phreatophyte was the Groundwater Resource Hub (2021) unless otherwise noted.



Table B-2. Special-Status Plants within the Refined SR14, SR14A, E1, E1A, and E2, and E2A Resource Study Areas

		Protection Status ¹			Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ²					
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	CRPR	Description of Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependent ³				
FESA-Listed Special-Status Plants										
Braunton's milk-vetch	Astragalus brauntonii	FE/FSS		1B.1	Between the Pacific Crest Trail and Vulcan Mine (Refined SR14/SR14A), within ANF along the SR 14/Little Tujunga Canyon Road interchange (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A) and Gold Creek Road (E2/E2A), between Pacoima Dam and the I-210/SR 118 interchange (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), on either side of the Big Tujunga Wash crossing (E2/E2A), and within the Boulevard Mine (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A) and CalMat Mine (E2/E2A) disposal sites	No. Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats not known to be groundwater dependent.				
Nevin's barberry	Berberis nevinii	FE/FSS	_	1B.1	Near Escondido Canyon Road north of SR 14 (Refined SR14), between Big Springs Road and Vulcan Mine (Refined SR14/SR14A), within ANF along Little Tujunga Canyon Road (all six Build Alternatives) and Gold Creek Road (E2/E2A), between Pacoima Dam and the I-210/SR 118 interchange (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), and within the Boulevard Mine (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A) and CalMat Mine disposal sites (E2/E2A).	Yes. Occurs in riparian habitats.				
Slender-horned spineflower	Dodecahema leptoceras	FE/FSS		1B.1	Between the Pacific Crest Trail and the I-210/SR 118 interchange (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), within the ANF along Little Tujunga Canyon Road (E1/E1A/E2/E2A) and Gold Creek Road (E2/E2A), and within the Big Tujunga Wash area (E2/E2A).	No. Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub, habitats not known to be groundwater dependent.				
Non-FESA-Listed Spe	ecial-Status Plants									
California androsace	Androsace elongata ssp. Acuta			4.2	CRC, MCH, COW, MHC, CSC, JUN, AGS	No. Occurs in a variety of habitat types but not known to occur in wetlands.				



	Scientific Name	Protection Status ¹			Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ²	
Common Name		Federal	State	CRPR	Description of Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependent ³
California satintail	Imperata brevifolia			2B.1	CRC, MCH, CSC, DSW, DSC, VRI	Yes. Occurs in meadows and seeps (often alkali) as well as riparian scrub habitats.
California spineflower	Mucronea californica			4.2	CRC, MCH, COW, CSC, AGS	No. Occurs in a variety of habitat types but not known to occur in wetlands.
California saw-grass	Cladium californicum			2B.2	VRI	Yes. Occurs in meadows and seeps, and marshes and swamps.
Chaparral ragwort	Senecio aphanactis			2B.2	CSC, CRC, MCH, VRI	No. Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub, habitats not known to be groundwater dependent.
Chickweed starry puncturebract	Sidotheca caryophylloides	FSS		4.3	MCH	No. Occurs in lower montane coniferous forest habitat, which is not known to be groundwater dependent.
Clokey's cryptantha	Cryptantha clokeyi	BLMS		1B.2	DSC.	No. Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub, which is not known to be groundwater dependent.
Club-haired mariposa lily	Calochortus clavatus var. clavatus			4.3	CRC, MCH, CSC, COW, MHC, AGS	No. Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Davidson's bush- mallow	Malacothamnus davidsonii			1B.2	CRC, MCH, COW, CSC, VRI	Yes. Occurs in riparian habitats.
Fragrant pitcher sage	Lepechinia fragrans			4.2	CRC, MCH	No. Occurs in chaparral habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Forest camp sandwort	Eremogone macradenia var. arcuifolia	FSS			MCH	No. Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland and coast scrub habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Greata's aster	Symphotrichium greatae	BLMS		1B.3	MHC, CRC, MCH, COW, VRI	Yes. Occurs in riparian woodland habitats (mesic microhabitats).
Lemon lily	Lilium parryi			1B.2	COW, MHC, VRI	Yes. Occurs in meadows and seeps and riparian forest.



		Protection Status ¹			Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ²	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	CRPR	Description of Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependent ³
Lemon's syntrichopappus	Syntrichopappus Iemmonii			4.3	CRC, MCH, JST, JUN	No. Occurs in chaparral, Joshua tree woodland, and pinyon and juniper woodlands, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Mason's neststraw	Stylocline masonii			1B.1	JUN	No. Occurs in chenopod scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Mesa horkelia	Horkelia cuneata var. puberula			1B.1	MCH, COW, MHC, CSC	No. Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Mojave paintbrush	Castilleja plagiotoma			4.3	SGB, MHC, JST, JUN	No. Occurs in a variety of habitats that are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Mt. Gleason's paintbrush	Castilleja gleasonii			1B.2	CRC, MCH, MHC, JUN	No. Occurs in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and pinyon and juniper woodland, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Ocellated lily	Lilium humboldtii ssp. Ocellatum			4.2	CRC, MCH, COW, MHC, CSC, VRI	Yes. Occurs in riparian woodland habitats.
Palmer's mariposa lily	Calochortus palermi var. palmeri			1B.2	VRI	Yes. Occurs in meadows and seep habitats.
Parry's spineflower	Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi			1B.1	CRC, MCH, CSC, COW, MHC, AGS	No. Occurs in a variety of habitat types but is not known to occur in wetlands.
Peirson's morning- glory	Calystegia peirsonii			4.2	CRC, MCH, COW, MHC, CSC, AGS	No. Occurs in a variety of habitat types but is not known to occur in wetlands.
Piute Mountains navarretia	Navarretia setiloba	BLMS		1B.1	COW, JUN, AGS	No. Occurs in cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothills grassland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Plummer's mariposa lily	Calochortus plummerae			4.2	CRC, MCH, MHC	No. Occurs in a variety of habitat types but is not known to occur in wetlands.



	Scientific Name	Protection Status ¹			Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ²		
Common Name		Federal	State	CRPR	Description of Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependent ³	
Pygmy poppy	Canbya candida			4.2	JST, DSC, SGB, JUN	No. Occurs in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.	
Rigid fringepod	Thysanocarpus rigidus			1B.2	JUN	No. Occurs in pinyon and juniper habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.	
Robbins' nemacladus	Nemacladus secundifloris var. robbinsii			1B.2	CRC, MCH, AGS	No. Occurs in chaparral and valley and foothills grassland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.	
Robinson's pepper- grass	Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii			4.3	CRC, MCH, CSC	No. Occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.	
Rock monardella	Monardella saxicola	FSS		4.2	CRC, MCH, MHC	No. Occurs in chaparral and valley and foothills grassland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.	
Sagebrush loeflingia	Loeflingia squarrosa var. artemisiarum	BLMS		2B.2	DSC	No. Occurs in desert dunes, great basin scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub in sandy habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.	
Salt spring checkerbloom	Sidalcea neomexicana	FSS		2B.2	CRC, MCH, CSC, MHC, DSC	Yes. Occurs in alkaline or mesic areas in a variety of habitats.	
San Bernardino aster	Symphyotrichum defoliatum	BLMS/ FSS		1B.2	COW, MHC, CSC, AGS	Yes. Occurs in meadows and seeps, and marshes and swamps.	
San Fernando Valley spineflower	Chorizanthe parryi var. Fernandina	FSS	SE	1B.1	CSC, AGS	No. Occurs in coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.	
San Gabriel bedstraw	Galium grande	BLMS/ FSS		1B.2	CRC, MCH, COW, MHC	No. Occurs in a variety of habitat types but is not known to occur in wetlands.	



		Protection Status ¹			Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ²	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	CRPR	Description of Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependent ³
San Gabriel manzanita	Arctostaphylos glandulosa ssp. Gabrielensis	FSS		1B.2	CRC, MCH	No. Occurs in rocky chaparral habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Short-joint beavertail	Opuntia basilaris var. brachyclada	BLMS/ FSS		1B.2	CRC, MCH, DSC, JST, JUN	No. Occurs in a variety of habitat types but is not known to occur in wetlands.
Slender mariposa lily	Calochortus clavatus var. gracilis	FSS		1B.2	CRC, MCH, CSC, AGS	No. Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats, which are not known to be groundwater dependent.
Sonoran maiden fern	Thelypteris puberula var. sonorensis	FSS		2B.2	LAC	Yes. Occurs in meadows and seeps (seeps, streams).
Southern California black walnut	Juglans californica	FSS		4.2	CRC, MCH, COW, MHC, CSC	Yes. Occurs in riparian habitats.
Southern tarplant	Centromadia parryi ssp. australis			1B.1	CRC, MCH, COW, MHC, CSC	Yes. Occurs in marshes and swamps, vernally mesic valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools.
Urn-flowered alumroot	Heuchera caespitosa	FSS		4.3	MRI, CSC, MHC	Yes. Occur in riparian forest.
White rabbit-tobacco	Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum			2B.2	CRC, MCH, COW, CSC, VRI	Yes. Occurs in riparian habitats.

Source: Authority, 2020a and 2020b

RSA = resource study area; SR = state route

¹ Status Code

^{0.1 –} Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened); 0.2 – Moderately threatened in California (20-80% of occurrences threatened); 0.3 – Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened); 1A = Presumed extinct in California; 1B = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere; 2B = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; 3 = A review list of plants about which more information is needed; BLMS = Bureau of Land Management sensitive; CRPR Status = California Rare Plant Rank; FE = federally endangered; FSS = U.S. Forest Service sensitive

² California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Code

AGS = annual grassland; BAR = barren; COW = coastal oak woodland; CRC = chamise-redshank chaparral; CSC = coastal scrub; DSC = desert scrub; DSW = desert wash; JST = Joshua tree; JUN = juniper; LAC = lacustrine; MCH = mixed chaparral; MHC = montane hardwood-conifer; MRI = montane riparian; SGB = sagebrush; VRI = valley footbill riparian

³A "groundwater dependent species" is defined as a species requiring the surface expression of groundwater (e.g., springs, wetlands) or a species dependent upon sub-surface availability of groundwater within the rooting depth of vegetation (e.g., woodlands, riparian habitats) (Eamus et al. 2016). Under this definition, species were considered to be groundwater dependent if they require aquatic or riparian conditions to exist and complete a significant part or portion of their life cycle. For plants, any species identified as occurring in mesic, wetland, riparian, or similar conditions in the California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2021) was assumed to be groundwater dependent.



Table B-3. Special-Status Plant Communities within the Refined SR14, SR14A, E1, E1A, and E2, and E2A Resource Study Areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	CNDDB Rarity Ranking ¹	Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ²	Groundwater Dependent⁵
California juniper woodland	Junipero californica	S3 and S4	JUN (considered sensitive if composed of S3 associations)	No. California Juniper is considered a dominant or codominant species, which are not listed as California phreatophytes.
Scalebroom scrub	Lepidospartum squamatum	S1 and S3 ³	DSW	Yes. Scalebroom is a California phreatophyte.
California sycamore woodlands	Platanus racemosa	S1 and S3 ³	VRI	Yes. California sycamore occurs in riparian habitats and is a California phreatophyte.
Fremont cottonwood forest	Populus fremontii	S3	VRI	Yes. Fremont cottonwood occurs in riparian habitats and is a California phreatophyte.
Bigcone Douglas fir forest	Pseudotsuga macrocarpa	S3	MHC	No. Bigcone Douglas fir is not known to be a phreatophyte.
Coastal Oak woodland	Quercus agrifolia	S4 ⁴	COW	Yes. Coast live oak is known to have very deep roots and is a California phreatophyte.
Black willow thickets	Salix gooddingii	S3	VRI	Yes. Black willow occurs in riparian habitats and is a California phreatophyte.

Source: Authority, 2020a and 2020b

¹ There are no special-status plant communities within the Refined SR14, E1, and E2 special-status plant RSAs that are ranked as S2 or S5.

² California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) Codes: COW = coastal oak woodland; MHC = montane hardwood-conifer; DSW = desert wash; VRI = valley foothill riparian; JST = Joshua tree

³ This community has a rarity ranking of S3, although some associations are S1.

⁴ Although Coastal Oak Woodland has an S4 rarity ranking, it is subject to preservation requirements of Section 22.56.2060 of the Los Angeles County Oak Ordinance (see Section Error! Reference source not found.). CNDDB = California Natural Diversity Database

⁵A "groundwater dependent community" is defined as a community requiring the surface expression of groundwater (e.g., springs, wetlands) or a community dependent upon sub-surface availability of groundwater within the rooting depth of vegetation (e.g., woodlands, riparian habitats) (Eamus et al. 2016). For plant communities, any community identified as occurring in mesic, wetland, riparian, or similar conditions, known to have deep roots which can intercept groundwater (i.e., oaks) and/or listed as a California phreatophyte (Groundwater Resource Hub 2021) was assumed to be groundwater dependent.



Table B-4. Special-Status Wildlife within the Refined SR14, SR14A, E1, E1A, and E2, and E2A Resource Study Areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protectio Federal	n Status¹ State	Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³					
Amphibians										
Arroyo toad ⁴	Anaxyrus californicus	FE	SSC	Soledad Canyon (Refined SR14/SR14A) and Arrastre Canyon (E1/E1A/E2/E2A).	Yes. Inhabit stream terraces and in channel margins. Require shallow water for breeding (USFWS 2014). May be dependent on groundwater to the extent habitats are fed by groundwater sources.					
California red- legged frog ⁴	Rana draytonii	FT	SSC	Una Lake (all six Build Alternatives), Soledad Canyon (Refined SR14/SR14A), Arrastre Canyon (E1/E1A/E2/E2A), within the ANF (all six Build Alternatives), and Big Tujunga Wash (E2/E2A). The California Red-legged Frog Habitat Assessment and Protocol Survey (Authority 2017b) determined California red-legged frogs are unlikely to occur at these areas due lack of known populations, lack of observed individuals, and the scarcity of suitable breeding habitat. However, the E1, E1A, E2, and E2A Build Alternative alignments would cross Arrastre Canyon Creek and Aliso Canyon Creek downstream from known populations of California red-legged frog and species presence has therefore been assumed in these downstream areas.	Yes. Inhabit permanent water sources. May be dependent on groundwater to the extent that permanent pools are fed by groundwater.					
Coast range newt	Taricha torosa		SSC	MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, MRI, VRI.	Yes. Inhabit permanent streams for breeding and predominately lay eggs in pools. May be dependent on groundwater to the extent that permanent pools are fed by groundwater.					
Southern mountain yellow- legged frog ^{3,4}	Rana muscosa	FE	SE	Within ANF (all six Build Alternatives), north of the I 220/SR 118 interchange (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), and north of the Big Tujunga Wash (E2/E2A).	Yes. Inhabit permanent streams. May be dependent on groundwater to the extent that permanent pools are fed by groundwater.					



		Protection Status ¹		Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal State		Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³
Western spadefoot	Spea hammondii	BLMS	SSC	DOR/VIN, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, MRI, VRI.	Yes, potentially. Inhabit stream and channel margins. Require shallow water for breeding. May be dependent on groundwater to the extent that their habitats are fed by groundwater sources.
Birds					
American peregrine falcon	Falco peregrinus anatum	Delisted	Delisted /FP	BAR, DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, MRI, VRI, LAC, URB.	No. Although peregrine falcons may forage within riparian or other habitats that may be dependent on groundwater, they are not exclusively limited to these habitats and have abundant habitat and range within the project area.
Bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Delisted/ FSS/ BGEPA/ BLMS	SE/FP	LAC, VRI.	No. Although bald eagles may perch in riparian trees, they nest generally in larger pine trees and forage in larger lakes.
California condor ⁴	Gymnogyps californianus	FE	SE/FP	Throughout Tehachapi and Southern California Mountains and foothill regions of the RSA. Foraging habitat is prevalent throughout the Refined SR14, SR14A, E1, E1A, E2, and E2A RSAs. Known to roost, forage, and loiter north of San Fernando within ANF. The build alternative footprint is a very small percentage of the species range. There is a lack of suitable nesting and roosting habitat proximal to the build alternative alignments.	No. Although condors may forage within riparian or other habitats that may be dependent on groundwater, they are not exclusively limited to these habitats and have abundant habitat and range within the project area.
Coastal California gnatcatcher ⁴	Polioptila californica	FT	SSC	Between Agua Dulce Canyon Road and the I-210/SR 118 interchange (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), and within the urbanized areas of the cities of Los Angeles and Burbank (all six Build Alternatives).	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.



Common Name	Scientific Name	Protectio Federal	n Status¹ State	Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³
Golden eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	BGEPA/ BLMS	FP	BAR, DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, LAC, MRI, VRI.	No. Although golden eagles may forage within riparian or other habitats that may be dependent on groundwater, they are not exclusively limited to these habitats and have abundant habitat and range within the project area.
Gray vireo	Vireo vicinior	BCC/FS S/BLMS	SSC	CRC, MCH, MCP, CSC, JST, JUN.	No. Although gray vireos may forage or nest within riparian or other habitats that may be dependent on groundwater, they are not exclusively limited to these habitats and have abundant habitat and range within the project area.
Least Bell's vireo ⁴	Vireo bellii pusillus	FT	SE	Near Lake Palmdale (all six Build Alternatives), between Big Springs Road and 0.75 mile east of Agua Dulce Canyon Road (Refined SR14), between 0.75 mile east of Agua Dulce Canyon Road and Vulcan Mine (Refined SR14/SR14A), south of the Pacoima Dam (Refined SR14/SR14A), within Aliso and Arrastre Canyons (E1/E1A/E2/E2A), along Crown Valley Road (E1/E1A), within ANF along Gold Creek Road (E2/E2A) and Little Tujunga Canyon Road, and within the Big Tujunga Wash (E2/E2A).	Yes. Least Bell's vireos inhabit and rely upon riparian woodlands that may be dependent on groundwater during summer and fall months.
Least bittern	Ixobrychus exilis		SSC	LAC, VRI.	Yes. Least bitterns inhabit permanent streams and wetlands. May be dependent on groundwater to the extent that permanent water sources are fed by groundwater.
Loggerhead shrike	Lanius Iudovicianus	BCC	SSC	DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, DSW, DSC, AGS, LAC, MRI, VRI.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Northern harrier	Circus cyaneus		SSC	AGS, LAC.	Yes. Northern harriers nest in patches of dense vegetation in habitats, including wet meadows, weedy borders of rivers and streams, and annual grasslands. Dense vegetation may be dependent on groundwater sources during summer and fall months and during droughts.

April 2024

California High-Speed Rail Authority



	_	Protectio	1	Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³
Southwestern willow flycatcher ⁴	Empidona traillii extimus	FE	SE	Near Lake Palmdale (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A/E2/E2A), between the proposed SR 14 overcrossing and 0.75 mile east of Agua Duce Canyon Road (Refined SR14), between 0.75 mile east of Agua Dulce Canyon Road and Vulcan Mine (Refined SR14/SR14A), south of Pacoima Dam (Refined SR14/SR14A), within Aliso and Arrastre Canyons (E1/E1A/E2/E2A), within ANF along Gold Creek Road (E2/E2A) and Little Tujunga Canyon Road (E2/E2A), and within the Big Tujunga Wash (E2/E2A).	Yes. Southwestern willow flycatcher inhabit riparian woodlands that may be dependent on groundwater.
Swainson's hawk ⁴	Buteo swainsoni	BLMS	ST	Along Sierra Highway in Palmdale (all six Build Alternatives), at the proposed Refined SR14 alignment crossing of the SR 14 freeway (Refined SR14), at the proposed Santa Clara River crossing (Refined SR14/SR14A), north of the I-210/SR 118 interchange (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), throughout the San Fernando Valley (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), along Angeles Forest Highway south of the SR 14/Sierra Highway intersection (E1/E1A/E2/E2A), within ANF along Soledad Canyon Road (E1/E1A/E2/E2A), near the Big Tujunga Wash (E2/E2A), and along Little Tujunga Canyon Road (E2/E2A).	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Tricolored blackbird	Agelaius tricolor	Stricolor BCC/ BLMS Near Lake Palmdale (all six Build Alternatives) within CalMat Mine (E2/E2A).		Near Lake Palmdale (all six Build Alternatives) and within CalMat Mine (E2/E2A).	Yes. Colonies of tricolored blackbirds may breed in freshwater marshes and lakes that could be dependent on groundwater.
Western burrowing owl	Athene cunicularia	BCC/ BLMS	SSC	DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.



	_	Protectio	n Status¹	Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³
White-tailed kite	Elanus leucurus	BLMS	FP	DOR/VIN, DSW, AGS, MRI, VRI.	No. Although white-tailed kites may forage within riparian or other habitats that may be dependent on groundwater, they are not exclusively limited to these habitats and have abundant habitat and range within the project area.
Western yellow- billed cuckoo ⁴	americanus S ea occidentalis be Ro Pa AN SR			Between the SR 14 overcrossing and 0.75 mile east of Agua Dulce Canyon Road (Refined SR14), between 0.75 mile east of Ague Dulce Canyon Road and Vulcan Mine (Refined SR14), south of Pacoima Dam (Refined SR14/SR14A), within the ANF along Little Tujunga Canyon Road (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A), and within the Big Tujunga Wash (E2/E2A).	Yes. Western yellow-billed cuckoos inhabit riparian woodlands that may be dependent on groundwater.
Yellow-breasted chat	Icteria virens		SSC	DSW, MRI, VRI.	Yes. Yellow-breasted chats inhabit riparian woodlands that may be dependent on groundwater.
Yellow-headed blackbird	Xanthocephalus		SSC	LAC, VRI.	Yes. Yellow-headed blackbirds breed almost exclusively in marshes with tall emergent vegetation.
Yellow warbler	Dendroica petechia brewsteri	BCC	SSC	DSW, MRI, VRI.	Yes. Yellow warblers inhabit riparian woodlands that may be dependent on groundwater.
Fish	,				
Arroyo chub	Gila orcuttii	FSS	SSC	DSW, MRI, VRI.	Yes
Santa Ana speckled dace			Yes		
Santa Ana sucker ⁴ Catostomus FT santaanae			Within ANF along Pacoima Wash (Refined SR14/SR14A/E1/E1A) and along Little Tujunga Canyon Road (E2/E2A), and within the Big Tujunga Wash (E2/E2A).	Yes	



		Protectio	n Status¹	Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³			
Unarmored threespine stickleback ⁴	Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni	FE	SE/FP	Along Agua Dulce Canyon Road (Refined SR14/SR14A), within Soledad Canyon (Refined SR14), and within Arrastre Canyon (E1/E1A/E2/E2A).	Yes			
Invertebrates								
San Emigdio blue butterfly	Plebulina emigdionis	FSS		DSW, DSC, JST, JUN	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.			
San Gabriel Mountains elfin butterfly	Callophrys mossii hidakupa	rallophrys mossii FSS CRC, MCH, MCF		CRC, MCH, MCP, MHC⁴	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.			
Vernal pool fairy shrimp ³	Branchinecta lynchi	FT		AGS	No. This species is dependent on rainwater filling vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, and ditches.			
Mammals								
American badger	Taxidea taxus	-	SSC	BAR, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.			
Fringed myotis	Myotis thysanodes	BLMS/ FSS		MHC, JUN	Yes. This species is dependent on groundwater because it relies on open water for foraging and drinking purposes.			
Mohave ground squirrel	Xerospermophilus mohavensis	BLMS	ST	DSW, DSC, JST	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.			
Mountain lion	Puma concolor		CE CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, COW, DSW, A JST, JUN, MRI, VRI.		No. Though mountain lions may occur within riparian or other habitats that may be dependent on groundwater, they are not exclusively limited to these habitats.			
Pallid bat	id bat Antrozous pallidus FSS/BL SSC MS		SSC	BAR, DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, MRI, VRI, URB.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.			



		Protectio	n Status¹	Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³
Ringtail	Bassariscus astutus		FP	COW, DSW, MRI, VRI.	Yes. In southern California, ringtails occur mainly in riparian woodlands that may be dependent on groundwater.
San Diego black- tailed jackrabbit	Lepus californicus bennettii	COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN		BAR, DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
San Diego desert woodrat	Neotoma lepida intermedia		SSC	BAR, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Southern grasshopper mouse	Onychomys torridus ramona		SSC	BAR, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, MRI, VRI.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Townsend's big- eared bat	Corynorhinus townsendii	FSS/ BLMS	SSC	BAR, DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, VRI, URB.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Western mastiff bat	Eumops perotis californicus	BLMS	SSC	BAR, DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, VRI, URB.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Western red bat	Lasiurus blossevillii		SSC	BAR, CSC, MHC, MRI, VRI.	Yes. This species is dependent on groundwater because it relies on open water for foraging and drinking purposes.
Western yellow bat	Lasiurus xanthinus		SSC	BAR, CSC, MHC, MRI, VRI.	Yes. This species is dependent on groundwater because it relies on riparian habitats for roosting, foraging, and drinking purposes.
Yuma myotis	Myotis yumanensis	BLMS		MCP, COW, JUN, MHC, MRI, VRI	Yes. This species is dependent on groundwater because it relies on open water for foraging and drinking purposes.
Reptiles					
Blainville's horned lizard	Phrynosoma blainvillii	BLMS	SSC	DOR/VIN, CRC, MHC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, MRI, VRI.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.



Common Name	Scientific Name	Protectio Federal	n Status¹ State	Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³
California glossy snake	Arizona elegans occidentalis		SSC	DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, LAC, MRI, VRI.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
California legless lizard	Anniella pulchra	FSS	SSC	CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, LAC, MRI, VRI.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Coast patch- nosed snake	Salvadora hexalepis virgultea		SSC BAR, DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, LAC MRI, VRI		No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Coastal rosy boa	Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca	FSS CSC, DS		CSC, DSC, JUN, CRC, MCH, AGS, DOR, VIN, COW, VRI.	No. Though coastal rosy boas occur are common in riparian forests, they are not dependent on them and can be found in drier habitats such as chaparral and mixed conifer woodland.
Coastal whiptail	Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri		SSC	DOR/VIN, CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, DSW, DSC, AGS, JST, JUN, LAC, MRI, VRI.	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
Desert tortoise ⁴	Gopherus agassizii	FT	ST	Between Avenue M and the California Aqueduct (all six Build Alternatives).	No. The specific habitat requirements for this species are not dependent on groundwater.
San Bernardino mountain kingsnake	Lampropeltis zonata parvirubra	FSS		CRC, MCH, MCP, JUN, MHC,MRI, VRI	Yes. Found in and along rocks or boulders near streams, lake shores, or wet meadows.
San Bernardino ringneck snake	Diadophis punctatus modestus	FSS		CRC, MCH, MCP, SGB, AGS, JUN, MHC, MRI, VRI	No. Though San Bernardino ringneck snakes prefer moist habitats, they are not dependent on them and can be found in drier habitats such as chaparral and mixed conifer woodland.
South coast garter snake	Thamnophis sirtalis		SSC	DSW, LAC, MRI, VRI.	Yes. Found in and along the edges of permanent streams, rivers, and lakes.
Two-striped garter snake	Thamnophis hammondii	FSS/ BLMS	SSC	DSW, LAC, MRI, VRI.	Yes. Found in and along the edges of permanent streams, rivers, and lakes.



		Protection		Known Habitat within RSA (FESA-Listed Species) or Associated CWHR Vegetation	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal	State	Community ² (Non-FESA-Listed Species)	Groundwater Dependence ³
Western pond turtle	Actinemys marmorata	FSS/ BLMS	SSC	MCH, MCP, SGB, CSC, MHC, COW, AGS, JST, JUN, LAC, MRI, VRI.	Yes. Require permanent water source.

Source: Authority, 2020a and 2020b

¹ Status Codes

BCC = USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern; BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; BLMS = BLM sensitive; CT = CDFW candidate for state threatened status; FE = federally endangered; FP = CDFW fully protected species; FSS = U.S. Forest Service sensitive; FT = federally threatened; SE = state endangered; SSC = CDFW California species of special concern; ST = state threatened;

² California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Codes

AGS = annual grassland; BAR = barren; COW =coastal oak woodland; CRC = chamise-redshank chaparral; CSC = coastal scrub; DOR/VIN = deciduous orchard/vineyard; DSC = desert scrub; DSW = desert wash; JST = Joshua tree; JUN = juniper; LAC = lacustrine; MCH = mixed chaparral; MCP = montane chaparral; MHC = montane hardwood-conifer; MRI = montane riparian; SGB = sagebrush; URB = urban; VRI = valley foothill riparian

³ For the purposes of this analysis, a "groundwater dependent species" is defined as a species requiring the surface expression of groundwater (e.g., springs, wetlands) or a species or vegetation community dependent upon sub-surface availability of groundwater within the rooting depth of vegetation (e.g., woodlands, riparian habitats) (Eamus et al. 2016). Under this definition, species were considered to be groundwater dependent if they require aquatic or riparian conditions to exist and complete a significant part or portion of their life cycle. For wildlife, any species meeting these conditions in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System (CDFW 2014) were assumed to be groundwater dependent.

⁴ Calflora (2021)



ATTACHMENT C. AREAS OF MODELED SUITABLE HABITAT FOR GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT RESOURCES WITHIN LOW, MODERATE- AND HIGH-RISK AREAS



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Table C-1. Potential Impacts on Vegetation Communities and Special-Status Plant Communities from Groundwater Depletion

CWHR Vegetation		Refi	ned SR14/SR14A					E1/E1A					E2/E2A		
Types ¹	ŀ	High	Мо	derate	Low	ŀ	High	Мо	derate	Low	I	High	Мо	derate	Low
(Special-Status Plant Community) ²	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
Desert wash (scalebroom scrub)	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y
Coastal oak woodland (coastal oak woodland)	10	0	16	0	Υ	0	0	61	0	Y	5	0	2	0	Υ
Freshwater emergent wetland	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	Y
Lacustrine	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ
Montane hardwood- conifer3	47	0	0	0	Υ	42	0	15	0	Y	130	45	4	100	Y
(bigcone Douglas fir forest)															
Montane riparian (Fremont cottonwood forest, California sycamore woodlands)	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y
Valley foothill riparian (black willow thickets)	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y	2	0	0	0	Y

¹ Vegetation classification uses California Wildlife Habitat Relationship types. Excludes the "Riverine" type, which is described and quantified separately within aquatic resources.

² Note that mapping of special-status plant communities is not available and therefore the total acres of all vegetation communities potentially supporting these communities is provided. Special-status plant communities which may occur in the overall habitat types are provided.

³ Montane Hardwood-Conifer and Montane Hardwood types are combined.

High = Acres of mapped vegetation types and mapped habitats potentially supporting special-status plant communities that overlap with the areas identified as High-risk.

Moderate = Acres of mapped vegetation types and mapped habitats potentially supporting special-status plant communities that overlap with the areas identified as Moderate-risk.

Low = Presence or absence of mapped vegetation types that overlap with the areas identified as Low-risk.



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Table C-2. Potential Impacts on Special-Status Plant Habitat from Groundwater Depletion

Species		Refine	d SR14/SF	R14A				E1/ E1A					E2/ E2A		
	ŀ	ligh	Mod	derate	Low	Н	ligh	Mod	derate	Low	Н	igh	Mo	derate	Low
	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
FESA-Listed S	pecial-Sta	tus Plants													
Nevin's barberry	70	0	198	63	Y	0	0	415	0	Y	33	0	101	0	Y
Non-FESA-List	ed Specia	ıl-Status Pla	nts												
California satintail	259	0	182	68	Y	361	0	1113	6	Y	1145	16	168	39	Y
California saw- grass	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Υ
Davidson's bushmallow	269	0	198	63	Y	361	0	1447	3	Y	1149	16	167	37	Υ
Greata's aster	301	0	145	49	Υ	360	0	1395	4	Υ	1116	17	171	39	Υ
Lemon lily	46	0	16	0	Υ	10	0	357	0	Υ	23	13	6	70	Υ
Ocellated lily	305	0	198	63	Υ	371	0	1447	3	Υ	1166	16	172	39	Υ
Palmer's Mariposa lily	291	0	129	55	Y	360	0	1038	5	Y	1109	17	169	39	Υ
Salt Spring checkerbloom	295	0	182	68	Y	371	0	1113	6	Y	1159	16	173	40	Y
San Bernardino aster	49	0	69	77	Y	21	0	409	0	Y	71	4	7	59	Y
Sonoran maiden fern	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Υ



Species		Refine	d SR14/SF	R14A				E1/ E1A					E2/ E2A		
	ŀ	ligh	Мос	lerate	Low	Н	igh	Мос	lerate	Low	Н	igh	Мо	derate	Low
	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
Southern California black walnut	305	0	198	63	Y	371	0	1447	3	Υ	1164	16	172	39	Υ
Southern tarplant	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Υ	2	0	0	0	Y
Urn-flowered alumroot	39	0	53	100	Y	21	0	52	0	Υ	66	5	6	80	Y
White rabbit- tobacco	269	0	198	63	Y	361	0	1447	3	Υ	1149	16	167	37	Y

High = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as High-risk.

Moderate = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as Moderate-risk.

Low = Presence or absence of mapped vegetation types that overlap with the areas identified as Low-risk.

ANF = Angeles National Forest; SGMNM =San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



Table C-3. Potential Impacts on Special-Status Amphibian Habitat from Groundwater Depletion

Species		Refine	ed SR14/SR	14A				E1/E1A					E2/E2A		
	ŀ	ligh	Мос	lerate	Low	Н	igh	Мос	lerate	Low	Hi	gh	Мо	derate	Low
	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
FESA-Listed	Special-S	tatus Amphi	bians												
Arroyo toad	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	N
California red-legged frog	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	1	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y
Southern mountain yellow- legged frog	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	7	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y
Non-FESA-Lis	sted Spec	ial-Status Aı	mphibians				•	<u>'</u>	•	•	•	•		1	•
Coast Range newt	324	0	127	98	Υ	324	0	822	9	Y	960	19	113	62	Y
Western spadefoot	49	0	69	77	Y	21	0	136	170	Y	74	4	10	71	Y

High = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as High-risk.

Moderate = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as Moderate-risk.

Low = Presence or absence of mapped vegetation types that overlap with the areas identified as Low-risk.

ANF = Angeles National Forest; SGMNM = San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



Table C-4. Potential Impacts on Special-Status Bird Habitat from Groundwater Depletion

Species		Refi	ned SR1	4/SR14A				E1/E1.	A				E2/E2	2A	
	Н	ligh	Mod	lerate	Low	Н	igh	Mod	lerate	Low	Н	igh	Mod	erate	Low
	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
FESA-Listed	Special-S	Status Bird	s												
Least Bell's vireo	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	2	0	0	0	Υ
Southwestern willow flycatcher	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y	2	0	0	0	Y
Tricolored blackbird	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y
Non-FESA-Lis	sted Spe	cial-Status	Birds												
Northern harrier	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	Υ
Yellow warbler	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	2	0	0	0	Y
Yellow- headed blackbird	0	0	0	0	Y	0	0	0	0	N	0	0	0	0	N

High = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as High-risk.

Moderate = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as Moderate-risk

Low=Presence or absence of mapped vegetation types that overlap with the areas identified as Low-risk.

ANF = Angeles National Forest.; SGMNM = San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



Table C-5. Potential Impacts on Special-Status Fish Habitat from Groundwater Depletion

Species		Refined	SR14/SI	R14A				E1/E1A					E2/E2A		
	Н	igh	Mod	lerate	Low	High		Moderate		Low	High		Mode	erate	Low
	Total ANF Lands (acres)	Lands in ANF	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
FESA-Listed Special-Status Fish															
Santa Ana sucker	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ
Unarmored threespine stickleback	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ
Non-FESA-Listed Special-Status	Fish														
Arroyo chub	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	2	0	0	0	Υ
Santa Ana speckled dace	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Υ	2	0	0	0	Υ

High = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as High-risk.

Moderate = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as Moderate-risk.

Low = Presence or absence of mapped vegetation types that overlap with the areas identified as Low-risk.

ANF = Angeles National Forest; SGMNM = San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



Table C-6. Potential Impacts on Special-Status Mammal Habitat from Groundwater Depletion

Species		Refined SR14/SR14A						E1/E1A		E2/E2A					
	High		Moderate		Low	High		Moderate		Low	Hi	gh	Moderate		Low
	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
FESA-Listed Special-Status Mammals ¹															
N/A															
Non-FESA-Listed Spo	ecial-Status	s Mammals	i												
Ringtail	10	0	16	0	Υ	0	0	357	0	Υ	7	0	2	0	Υ

¹No FESA-Listed special-status mammal species were identified as having potential habitat with the High or Moderate-risk areas.

High = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as High-risk.

Moderate = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as Moderate-risk.

Low = Presence or absence of mapped vegetation types that overlap with the areas identified as Low-risk.

ANF = Angeles National Forest; SGMNM = San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



Table C-7. Potential Impacts on Special-Status Reptile Habitat from Groundwater Depletion

Species		Refined	SR14/SR1	4A		l		E2/E2A							
	High		Moderate		Low	High		Moderate		Low	High		Moderate		Low
	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Total ANF Lands (acres)	SGMNM Lands in ANF (%)	Y/N
FESA-Listed Special-Status Reptiles ¹															
N/A															
Non-FESA-Listed Special-Status Reptiles															
South coast garter snake	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Y	2	0	0	0	Y
Two-striped garter snake	0	0	0	0	Υ	0	0	0	0	Y	2	0	0	0	Y
Western pond turtle	290	0	198	63	Υ	324	0	1484	6	Y	1142	16	215	51	Y

¹No FESA-Listed special-status reptile species were identified as having potential habitat with the High- or Moderate-risk areas.

High = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as High-risk.

Moderate = Acres of modeled habitat for a particular species that overlap with the areas identified as Moderate-risk.

Low = Presence or absence of mapped vegetation types that overlap with the areas identified as Low-risk.

ANF = Angeles National Forest; SGMNM = San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



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